

the acreage during the 1920's. Some new cropland has been added during the last 40 years by drainage, clearing, irrigation, or by the conversion of pastureland to cropland. The acreage of added cropland has offset the area withdrawn from use as cropland because of ero-

sion, depletion of fertility, and conversion to pasture or other use. The added cropland is probably more productive than the land retired from use for crops, as part of it is in irrigated areas.

TABLE 3. Acres of Selected Crops Harvested for the United States: 1899 to 1964

Subject	1964	1959	1954	1949	1944	1939	1934	1929	1924	1919	1909	1899
	Million acres											
Land used for crops, total ¹	377	382	394	409	403	399	415	413	391	402	347	319
Cropland harvested.....	287	311	333	345	353	321	296	359	345	349	311	283
Land in summer fallow.....	37	31	29	26	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Land in soil improvement crops.....	29	16	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Crops harvested:												
Corn for grain.....	54	70	67	75	84	77	62	83	82	88	98	95
Wheat.....	48	50	51	71	58	51	42	62	51	73	44	53
All hay.....	65	64	70	67	73	61	63	68	75	71	68	62
Oats for grain.....	19	27	38	35	35	30	25	33	38	38	35	30
Soybeans.....	30	22	16	10	(NA)	4	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(²)	(²)	(NA)
Cotton.....	14	15	19	27	19	23	27	43	39	34	32	24
Sorghums for grain.....	11	15	11	6	9	5	2	4	4	4	2	(²)
Barley.....	10	14	13	9	12	12	6	13	7	6	8	4
Orchard fruits and grapes.....	4	4	4	4	5	5	6	6	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Vegetables for sale.....	3	3	4	4	4	3	4	3	(NA)	(NA)	1	(NA)
Dry field and seed peas.....	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	1	(²)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	1	1	1
Rye.....	2	1	1	1	2	4	2	3	4	8	2	2
Flaxseed.....	3	3	5	5	2	2	1	3	3	1	2	2
Rice.....	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	(²)
Irish potatoes.....	1	1	1	2	3	3	4	4	3	3	4	3
Cowpeas for peas.....	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	(NA)	2	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Peanuts for nuts.....	1	1	1	2	3	2	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	1	1	1
Dry field and seed beans.....	1	1	1	2	2	2	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	1	1	(²)
Tobacco.....	1	1	2	2	2	2	1	2	2	2	1	1
Sugarcane and sugar beets.....	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	(²)	(²)

NA Not available.
¹Cropland harvested, land in summer fallow, land in soil improvement crops, crop failure and cropland idle.
²Less than 500,000.

The data in tables 3 and 4 show the change in acres harvested, production, and yield per acre for the crops having approximately 1 million or more acres harvested. The acres of cropland harvested for 1959 and 1964 were significantly smaller than for prior censuses partly because of government control programs.

Since 1920, the expansion in crop production and in the quantity of crops marketed, while the acreage used for crops remained almost unchanged has resulted from many factors. The substitution of tractor for animal power not only added to total production but had a significant effect upon the quantity of crops marketed. The shift of the production of fuel for farm power from hay and grain fields to oil fields, oil refineries, and electric generators, as 8 million farm tractors and trucks replaced 23 million horses and mules, released 60 to 70 million acres, once used to produce feed for horses and mules, for other uses. The use of tractors, trucks, and other machines have contributed to the increase in crop production by improving the precision and timing of various tilling, planting, and harvesting operations and by permitting farmers to take advantage of favorable weather conditions.

Crop production has increased tremendously since 1940, even though the area used for crops has remained relatively stable. Most of the increase of crop production has occurred in the last 10 years. The increase in crop production has resulted largely from increases in

yield per acre although part of the increase has resulted from shifts in areas of production and from the change in the quality of land used for production.

There have been significant increases in yield per acre of many crops since 1950. These increases have resulted from the development and adoption of an increasing number of new technologies. In addition to the use of improved varieties, increased use of fertilizers, increased use of irrigation, and increased specialization in production, there has been an increasing use of a large number of cultural practices and other yield raising technologies. These include improved plant breeding to increase or stabilize yields by protecting plants against insects and disease; contour cultivation, strip cropping, terracing, summer fallowing, reduced tillage, improved scheduling of the application of irrigation water according to time and quantity applied, and use of plastic and other mulches to conserve or control water usage; control of weeds through the use of chemicals; narrow row planting of crops such as grain sorghum; the significant increase in the number of plants per acre of row crops; the early planting, especially in arid and semi-arid areas, of crops and of quick maturing varieties so that the growing is completed before the drought part of the season; inoculations of seeds; the use of high quality seeds; the increased use of existing, new and improved insecticides and pesticides; the chemical