

# 1964 <sup>OF</sup> UNITED STATES CENSUS AGRICULTURE

FARMS  
FARM CHARACTERISTICS  
LIVESTOCK AND PRODUCTS  
CROPS  
FRUITS  
VALUES



VOLUME II CHAPTER 1

## Farms and Land in Farms

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Reports for the 1964 Census of Agriculture

#### Preliminary reports

These six page reports, issued for each county and State, contain totals for farms, farm acreage, farm operators, land in farms classified by use, land-use practices, equipment and facilities, expenditures, use of agricultural chemicals, poultry, livestock, poultry and livestock products, and crops harvested, including fruits and nuts, nursery and greenhouse products, and forest products.

#### VOLUME I. STATE AND COUNTY STATISTICS

A separate part will be issued for each State, Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Virgin Islands.

#### VOLUME II. GENERAL REPORT

Statistics by subject will be presented, with totals for the U.S. regions, geographic divisions, and States.

#### VOLUME III. SPECIAL REPORTS

These reports will present data for supplementary surveys for farm workers, hired farm workers, and for the 1965 Sample Survey of Agriculture.

The statistics printed in this report supersede statistics shown in preliminary reports—Series AC64-P1.

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# Chapter 1. Farms and Land in Farms

**Introduction**—Statistics are presented in this chapter on the number of farms, land in farms and its major uses, and the value of land and buildings. Our Nation's land resources are limited, and competition for the uses of land resources by industry and cities is increasing. Recent trends in urbanization and increased demands for more recreational areas along with changes in land uses caused by mechanization and specialization in agriculture, and increased world food requirements, increase the need for statistics on the extent and uses of our land resources. Statistics presented in this chapter reflect the extent and locations of actual changes in numbers of farms and utilization of land resources over a period of years, as well as the effects of various governmental and other programs on land use.

**Sources of data**—The data presented are from the 1964 Census of Agriculture with comparative data from the 1959 Census of Agriculture. Several summary tables present data for each census since 1850. The totals for number of farms, land in farms, and land use represent a summation of replies to inquiries on questionnaires filled for each farm. The value of farm land and buildings for 1950 through 1964 are estimates based on reports for only a sample of farms.

The introduction to the volume contains a description of (a) the procedures used in the enumeration; (b) the methods used in processing the statistics and (c) the sample and procedures used for making estimates therefrom. The introduction also contains tables showing the reliability of any estimates based on a sample.

**Presentation of statistics**—Statistics are presented as totals for the United States, for the

North, the South, the West, and for each of the 50 States. An outline map showing the States and the three regions appears in the Introduction. Averages and percentages are provided as aids in using and analyzing the statistics for the United States and for regions.

In presenting totals for the United States, data for most items are presented for all earlier census years for which comparable data are available. For regions and States comparable data are confined to selected items and limited to data from the 1959 Census of Agriculture.

Differences in the inquiries included in the various censuses, modifications in wording of specific inquiries, and changes in the instructions or definitions, or in the procedures followed in collecting and compiling the data affect their comparability. In presenting statistics for earlier census years, headnotes or footnotes are often used to indicate any significant lack of comparability.

**Other published data for 1964**—Data by counties and States for number of farms, land in farms, land use, and value of land and buildings may be found in volume I, parts 1 to 50, for individual States.

Data for these items also appears in other chapters of this volume: by age of farm operator in chapter 5; by economic class of farm in chapter 6; by size of farm in chapter 3; by tenure of operator in chapter 8; and by type of farm in chapter 10. Data by these classifications may also be found for each State in volume I.

The following table provides a description and location of other published data available elsewhere.

TABLE 1. Other Published Data for Land in Farms, Land Use, and Value of Land and Buildings

Where found	Geographical area for which available	Period	Classification	Subjects covered
<b>VOLUME I</b>				
State table 1..	State.....	1930-1964.....	All farm operators.....	Farms, land in farms, land use, and value.
State table 2..	State.....	1930-1964.....	Farms by size.....	Farms, land in farms, land use.
State table 3..	State.....	1930-1964.....	Farms by color and tenure of operator.....	Farms, land in farms, cropland harvested.
State table 17..	State.....	1964.....	Farms by economic class of farm.....	Farms, land in farms, land use, and value.
State table 18..	State.....	1964.....	Commercial farms by tenure of operator.....	Farms, land in farms, land use, and value.
State table 19..	State.....	1964.....	Farms by age of operator.....	Farms, land in farms, land use, and value.
State table 20..	State.....	1964.....	Farms by size.....	Farms, land in farms, land use, and value.
State table 21..	State.....	1964.....	Farms by type.....	Farms, land in farms, land use, and value.
State table 22..	State.....	1964.....	Commercial farms by type.....	Farms, land in farms, land use, and value.
State table 23..	State.....	1964.....	Large scale farms.....	Farms, land in farms, land use, and value.
State table 24..	State.....	1959 and 1964.....	Farms operated by cash and share-cash tenants.....	Farms, land in farms, and value.
State table 25..	State.....	1964.....	Farms by tenure of operator and year began operations.....	Farms, land in farms, and value.
County table 1..	County and State.....	1959 and 1964.....	All farm operators.....	Farms, land in farms, land use, and value.
County table 3..	County and State.....	1959 and 1964.....	Farms by size.....	Farms, land in farms, cropland harvested.
County table 4..	County and State.....	1959 and 1964.....	Farms by tenure (color tenure for the South).....	Farms, land in farms, cropland harvested.
County table 5..	County and State.....	1964.....	Commercial farms.....	Farms, land in farms, cropland harvested, and value.
<b>VOLUME II</b>				
Chapter 3.....	United States and regions.....	1964.....	Farms by size.....	Farms, land in farms, land use, and value.
Chapter 6.....	United States and regions.....	1964.....	Farms by economic class of farm.....	Farms, land in farms, land use, and value.
Chapter 8.....	United States and regions.....	1959 and 1964.....	Farms by tenure.....	Farms, land in farms, land use, and value.
Chapter 10.....	United States and regions.....	1964.....	Farms by type.....	Farms, land in farms, land use, and value.

Some totals for 1959 for number of farms, land in farms, and land use are estimates based on reports for only a sample of farms. Totals based on reports for a sample of farms will differ slightly from totals tabulated from reports of all farms. Headnotes to the tables will indicate which data are estimates based on reports for only a sample of farms.

Value of land and buildings for 1964 and 1959, except for data for Alaska in 1959, were obtained for a sample of farms. In this chapter averages and total value of land and build-

ings have been calculated for all farms. In volume I, only averages per farm and per acre are shown. An explanation of procedures used to obtain these values will be found in this text under the paragraph "Value of land and buildings."

**Other published data for prior censuses**—In general, except for United States summary tables, data for regions and States for censuses prior to 1959 can be found in volume II of the 1959 Census of Agriculture. The following table provides a guide for locating such data.

TABLE 2. **Other Published Data From Censuses Prior to the 1964 Census of Agriculture**

Where found	Geographic area for which available	Period	Classification	Subjects covered
<b>1959 VOLUME I</b>				
County table 1...	County and State.	1959 and 1954.	All farms . . . . .	Farms, land in farms, land use, and value.
State table 1 . . . .	State . . . . .	1930 to 1959 . .	All farms . . . . .	Farms, land in farms, land use, and value.
State table 2 . . . .	State . . . . .	1930 to 1959 . .	All farms by size . . . . .	Farms, land in farms, land use.
State table 3 . . . .	State . . . . .	1930 to 1959 . .	All farms by color and tenure . . . . .	Farms, land in farms, cropland harvested.
<b>1959 VOLUME II, CHAPTER I</b>				
Table 9 . . . . .	Region and State.	1949 to 1959 . .	All farms . . . . .	Farms, land in farms, land area, and value.
Table 10 . . . . .	Region and State.	1949 to 1959 . .	All farms . . . . .	Land use.
Table 11 . . . . .	Region and State.	1949 to 1959 . .	All farms . . . . .	Farms reporting by land use.
Table 12 . . . . .	Region and State.	1949 to 1959 . .	All farms . . . . .	Farms, totals for cropland, pasture, and woodland.
Table 13 . . . . .	Region and State.	1949 to 1959 . .	Major uses of land . . . . .	Land in farms, and land not in farms by use.
Table 14 . . . . .	Region and State.	1949 to 1959 . .	All farms . . . . .	Farms by acres of cropland harvested.
Table 15 . . . . .	Region and State.	1959 and 1954 . .	All farms . . . . .	Percent of land in farms by use.
Table 16 . . . . .	Region and State.	1959 and 1954 . .	All farms . . . . .	Percent of farms reporting by land use.
Table 17 . . . . .	Region and State.	1959 and 1954 . .	All farms . . . . .	Average acres per farms reporting by use.
Table 18 . . . . .	17 Western States.	1959 and 1954 . .	All farms . . . . .	Cropland, other than cropland harvested, by use.

**History of census inquiries on farms, land in farms, land use and farm values**—The first nationwide census of agriculture providing data on the number of farms, land in farms, and value of land and buildings was taken in 1850. (The census of 1840 was restricted to the enumeration of specified agricultural products, and various classes of farm animals.) The classification of land use, comparable to that of most recent censuses, was first used in 1925. Prior to 1925, land in farms was classified either as improved or unimproved.

## DEFINITIONS AND EXPLANATIONS

The descriptive terms and explanations refer principally to the 1964 Census of Agriculture, although, in general, they are applicable to earlier censuses. The definitions and explanations include instructions found on the questionnaire, and the more essential instructions and procedures for enumerating and processing questionnaires as outlined in the enumerator's and office processing manuals. For the exact wording of the inquiries and instructions on the questionnaires, see the facsimile of the 1964 agriculture questionnaire in the Introduction of this volume.

Definitions having a general application such as those for "a farm," "farms," "farms reporting," and "farm operators," and factors influencing the accuracy of the data are also given in the Introduction.

The definition of a census farm has been modified from time to time; however, the definition of a farm for 1964 was the same as used in 1959. An explanation of the various changes in definitions used in past censuses is given in the Introduction.

**Land area**—The approximate land area includes all land in farms and land not in farms, including cities, forests, etc. The approximate land area figures for individual States used in this chapter for 1964 differ slightly from those appearing in volume I of the 1964 Census of Agriculture and the 1959 Census of Agriculture reports. The differences result from the recalculation of areas, changes in political boundaries, and actual changes in land area resulting from changes in the number or size of reservoirs, lakes, etc.

**Land in farms**—The land to be included in each farm was determined by inquiries on the questionnaire and by instructions to enumerators

and farm operators. For the 1964 Census of Agriculture, the enumerator and farm operator were instructed to report for each farm operator, the number of acres owned, then the number of acres rented or worked on shares, the number of acres managed for others, and lastly, the number of acres rented or leased to others. The acres owned, plus the acres rented or worked on shares, plus acres managed for others, minus acres rented or leased to others was designated as "acres in the place" or "acres in the farm." A facsimile of the section of the questionnaire containing inquiries used to determine the area of each farm is shown below.

Section 2.—OWNERSHIP		→ A	
<b>OWNED LAND</b> First we would like to ask you about the ownership of the land and buildings you are using.		Acres	V11
3. How many acres do you own? (If no land is owned, mark X in the square for "None.")		None <input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>LAND RENTED OR LEASED FROM OTHERS</b> (Include all land and tracts of land rented or leased by you and by your partners, regardless of where located. Include any separate fields, meadows, pastureland, woodland, and wasteland.)		Acres	V12
4. How many acres do you rent from others? (Include acres worked on shares; also include leased Federal, State, and railroad land, and land you use without paying any rent. Do not include land used under a grazing permit.)		None <input type="checkbox"/>	
(If "None," mark X and skip to question [5].)			
a. What is the name and mail address of each landlord and the number of acres rented or worked on shares for each?		Acres	
Name of landlord			
Mail address (Post office and State)			
Name of landlord			
Mail address (Post office and State)			
Name of landlord			
Mail address (Post office and State)			
<b>LAND MANAGED FOR OTHERS</b>		Acres	V13
[5] How many acres do you operate for others as a hired manager? (Enter the name and mail address of employer under question 4a.)		None <input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>LAND RENTED OR LEASED TO OTHERS</b> (Include any separate fields, hayland, and pastureland rented to others. Include land worked on shares by others. Do not include land leased to the Government under the Soil Bank.)		Acres	V14
6. How many acres do you rent to others? (Include land rented to others by you and your partners.)		None <input type="checkbox"/>	
(If "None," mark X and skip to question [7].)			
a. Of the acres rented to others, how many are owned by you (or your partners)?		None <input type="checkbox"/>	
b. What is the name and address of each tenant and the number of acres rented to each?		Acres	
Name of tenant			
Mail address (Post office and State)			
Name of tenant			
Mail address (Post office and State)			
<b>ACRES IN THIS PLACE</b>		Acres in this place	V15
[7] Adding acres owned and acres rented from others, then subtracting acres rented to others, we get (Question 3 plus question 4 plus question 5 minus question 6.)			
This is all the land operated by you even though part of it may be located elsewhere or in other counties. The remaining questions (except those in Section 12) of this report, refer to the total acres of land reported for this question.			

The entry in "acres in this place" often included land not under cultivation and land not used for grazing. Land in farms included idle cropland, woodland, or wasteland. The acreage of these kinds of land was retained as part of the land in the farm unless the acreage was extremely large and had no relation to the agricultural operations on the farm. Places containing only idle land, woodland, or wasteland, with no agricultural operations or agricultural use of the land, such as pasture, were excluded from the final tabulations. Places with large acreages owned by various lumber or paper-product companies were not included as farms. Where there were agricultural operations on a place, but the place included large acreages of land (woodland or wasteland) held for strictly

nonagricultural use, the excess nonagricultural land was subtracted from the total acreage in the place during office processing. Generally, this procedure was used only in cases involving 10,000 or more acres of nonagricultural land and the nonagricultural land represented in excess of 90 percent of the land reported in the farm.

If a farm (by definition) in 1959 contained 1,000 acres or more of nonagricultural land and less than 10 percent of the total acreage in the place was used for agricultural purposes, the nonagricultural land in excess of the acres used for agricultural purposes was excluded from the farm area. In applying the rule, land used for crops, pasture, or grazing, and land rented to others were considered to be used for agricultural purposes. It is estimated that under this office procedure about 2 million acres of land, mainly woodland, was deleted from agriculture questionnaires in 1959. The difference in office processing accounted for some increase from 1959 to 1964 in the amount of land in woodland not pastured on farms of 2,000 acres or more in the southeastern States.

All grazing land was to be included as land in farms provided it was part of a farm. Grazing lands in national forests administered by the U.S. Forest Service and used under permit were not included as land in farms. These lands totaled approximately 60 million acres in 1964. Likewise, rangelands administered by the Bureau of Land Management of the U.S. Department of Interior and used under permit are not included as land in farms. These grazing lands totaled approximately 148 million acres in 1964. Grazing lands leased to farm and ranch operators by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management and grazing land owned by States and local governments are included as land in farm. Land leased to farm operators by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management totaled approximately 18 million acres in 1964.

Grazing lands other than land used under permit, operated by grazing associations were included as land in farms operated by the person chiefly in charge of conducting the business of the grazing association. A similar procedure was used in 1964 for the various units of the national grasslands used by grazing associations. The national grasslands totaled approximately 3.9 million acres in 1964 and most of this acreage was in North Dakota and South Dakota.

All land in Indian reservations used for growing crops or grazing livestock was included as land in farms. Land in Indian reservations that

was not on farms operated by individual Indians or was not rented or leased to non-Indian farm operators was to be reported in the name of the cooperative group that used the land. (See Introduction for a description of the enumeration of land in Indian reservations.)

**Major uses of land**—The total land area of the United States and of each of the States has been classified by major use, on the basis of census data for land in farms, and for land not in farms on the basis of estimates made by the Natural Resource Economics Division, Economic Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture.

**Land not in farms**—These data were obtained by subtracting the area of land in farms from the approximate land area. The estimates of "grazing land not in farms" include federally owned lands administered under the Taylor Grazing Act and grazed under permit, grazing lands included in national forests and grazed under permit, and any other public and privately owned grazing lands not included as "land in farms." The livestock carrying capacity of most of the grazing or rangeland not in farms is relatively low and a large proportion of this land provides only seasonal grazing. The total of 293 million acres of grazing land not in farms included approximately 208 million acres of grazing land in national forests and lands administered by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management, and used under a permit. These 208 million acres of grazing lands provided 19.1 million animal unit months of grazing in 1964. Users with permits, paid fees totaling \$6.5 million for the use of these grazing lands in 1964. These grazing lands provided less than one percent of the feed requirements of livestock in the United States in 1964.

"Woodland not grazed" represents only a part of the commercial forest area as large areas of forests are not included in farms.

"Other land not in farms" includes land occupied by cities and towns, roads, railways, airports, parks, reservoirs of less than 40 acres, wildlife refuges, lands used by the military services, ungrazed desert, open swamp, rock, and other land of low surface value.

**Land in farms according to use in 1964**—Land in farms was classified according to use in 1964. The acreage in each farm was allocated by the farm operator among the various land-use categories only once, and any acreage which had two or more uses during the year was classified according to its most important use. For example, if a crop was harvested from an acreage and the same acreage was then pastured, the acreage was included as land from which crops were harvested and not as

cropland pastured. A facsimile of the land-use section of the questionnaire appears below.

Section 4.—LAND USE AND IRRIGATION THIS YEAR, 1964		F	
223. Acres in this place (copy acres from question 7) →		Acres	V01
CROPLAND			
We would like to ask you several questions regarding the use of the land in this place during 1964.			
224. How many acres of land were in fields and tracts from which crops were harvested (including hay cut) this year? None <input type="checkbox"/>		Acres	V02
(Obtain this area by adding the acres in the fields or tracts from which one or more crops were harvested or hay was cut this year, acres in nonbearing and bearing planted fruit trees, nut trees and grapevines, and acres in nurseries and greenhouse products.)			
Check answer to question 224 by answering questions a, b, and c below			
a. Add acres of all crops (with * in Section 3) and enter total here	Acres	→	V03
b. From how many acres of land were two crops harvested this year?	Acres	→	V04
c. Subtract the acres for b from a and enter difference here (the entry should not differ from acres in question 224 by more than 5 acres)	Acres	→	V05
225. How many acres of cropland were used only for pasture (or grazing) this year? None <input type="checkbox"/>		Acres	V12
226. How many acres of cropland were in cultivated summer fallow this year? None <input type="checkbox"/>		Acres	V13
227. How many acres of cropland were used only for soil-improvement grasses, cover crops, and legumes not harvested and not pastured this year? None <input type="checkbox"/>		Acres	V14
(Include cropland in grass or legume crops not harvested and not pastured or grazed, in the Soil Bank, feed grain, and wheat programs.)			
228. On how many acres did all crops fail this year? None <input type="checkbox"/>		Acres	V15
(Do not include land in fruit or nut trees.)			
229. How many acres of cropland were idle this year? None <input type="checkbox"/>		Acres	V16
(Include as woodland all woodlots and timber tracts under cover and deteriorated land which has value for wood products and has not been improved for pasture.)			
WOODLAND		Acres	V20
230. How many acres of woodland were pastured (or grazed) this year? None <input type="checkbox"/>		Acres	V20
231. How many acres of woodland were not pastured (or grazed) this year? None <input type="checkbox"/>		Acres	V30
OTHER LAND		Acres	V40
232. How many acres were in other pasture (not cropland pasture and not woodland pasture)? None <input type="checkbox"/>		Acres	V30
(If None, mark * and skip to question 233.)			
a. Of this other pasture, how many acres do you consider to be improved pasture? None <input type="checkbox"/>	Acres	→	V31
(Improved by liming, fertilizing, seeding, irrigating, draining, and controlling weeds and brush.)			
b. Of this other pasture, how much do you consider to be rangeland predominantly grass? None <input type="checkbox"/>	Acres	→	V32
c. Of this other pasture, how much do you consider to be rangeland predominantly brush or browse? None <input type="checkbox"/>	Acres	→	V33
233. How many acres were in house lots, barn lots, lanes, roads, ditches, and wasteland? None <input type="checkbox"/>		Acres	V40
Add these acres (questions 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, and 233) and enter total here →			

**Cropland harvested**—This includes land from which crops were harvested; land from which hay (including wild hay) was cut; and land in small fruits, orchards, vineyards, nurseries, and greenhouses. Land from which two or more crops were harvested was to be counted only once. The entry for cropland harvested was obtained directly from the farm operator and then verified by the census enumerator by adding the acreages of each crop harvested and subtracting from this total the acres of land from which two or more crops were harvested. This check was repeated for each farm during office processing through the use of a computer editing program.

**Cropland used only for pasture**—The farm operator and enumerator were instructed to include all land used only for pasture or grazing that could have been used for crops without additional improvement, and all land planted to crops that were hogged off, pastured, or grazed before the crops reached maturity. All cropland used for rotation pasture and land in government feed grain or wheat diversion programs which were pastured under special permit were also to be included. Enumerators were in-



structed not to include cropland that was pastured before or after crops were harvested.

**Cropland not harvested and not pastured**—This class includes cultivated summer fallow, cropland used only for soil-improvement crops, land on which all crops failed, and land planted to crops to be harvested after the year covered by the census and idle cropland. Data for this class were obtained by summarizing data obtained through the use of three questions on the agriculture questionnaire in some States and four questions in other States. The questions and the subclasses were as follows:

**Cultivated summer fallow**—This land use was obtained for the 17 Western States in the conterminous United States. The acreage of cultivated summer fallow is negligible in other States. The farm operator and enumerator were instructed to report as fallow all cropland that was plowed and cultivated or on which the growth of weeds was controlled through the use of herbicides, but was left unseeded for the 1964 harvest for the purpose of controlling weeds and conserving moisture.

**Cropland in soil improvement grasses and legumes**—This classification includes cropland used only for cover crops to control erosion or to be plowed under for improving the soil. A large part of the acres of cropland taken out of production under the provision of the 1964 Feed Grain Program are included in this classification. The agriculture questionnaire contained a separate inquiry for this item for the first time in 1959. For the 1954 Census, cropland in soil improvement crops was included with "Land on which all crops failed," under the heading, "Cropland used only for crops not harvested and not pastured" for the 31 Eastern States. For the 1950 census, land in this classification was grouped with "Idle land" and "Land on which all crops failed" under the heading "Other cropland." For the censuses, 1925 to 1945, it was included under the heading, "Idle or fallow," or "Other cropland."

**Other cropland not harvested and not pastured**—This classification was used only for the 1959 census and included in the classification, idle cropland and land on which all crops failed.

**Crop failure**—This classification includes land on which crops were planted for harvest, but were not harvested because of drought; damage by hail, insects, or disease; or because of shortage of labor, low prices, etc. Land in orchards, groves, or vineyards

on which the crop failed was included in cropland harvested and not in crop failure. For 1959, crop failure was included under the classification, "Other cropland not harvested or not pastured"; in 1954, under "Cropland used for crops not harvested and not pastured"; and in 1950, with idle land and land in soil-improvement crops under the classification "Cropland not accounted for." The agriculture questionnaire contained a separate inquiry for the States in the conterminous United States for this item for the censuses from 1924 to 1944.

**Idle land**—This classification included land that had been used for crops but was idle in 1964. Idle land was included in "Other cropland not harvested and not pastured" for the 1959 census. It was a separate land-use classification for the 1954 census. For the 1950 census, idle land was included with crop failure and land for soil-improvement crops under the heading "Cropland not accounted for"; and grouped with fallow land under the heading "Cropland idle or fallow" in the censuses of 1925 to 1945 for the conterminous United States.

**Woodland pastured and woodland not pastured**—These classification were identical for all years 1924 to 1964 except for 1939 when the two classifications were combined as woodland.

**Woodland pastured**—This includes all woodland used for pasture or grazing during the census year. Woodland was defined to include wood lots or timber tracts, natural or planted, and cutover and deforested land with young growth which has or will have value for wood products. Farm operators and enumerators were instructed to exclude land covered by sagebrush or mesquite from woodland. Such land was to be reported as other pasture or other land.

**Woodland not pastured**—This category also includes land in the Soil Bank which had been planted in trees and land planted in trees to be grown as Christmas trees.

**Other pasture**—All land, other than cropland and woodland, used for pasture or grazing was designated other pasture.

This item for the States in the conterminous United States was qualified as "Not cropland and not woodland," from 1949 to 1964; "Not cropland plowed within 7 years and not woodland," for 1944; and "Not plowable and not woodland," for 1924 to 1934. For 1939, it was included as "Other land." Separate data for other pasture are not available for Alaska prior

to 1950, and for Hawaii prior to 1940. Information is presented in table 3 for the various combinations of data required for censuses for

1924 to 1964 to obtain comparable data for total cropland, cropland pasture, and other pasture.

**TABLE 3. Items Needed to Obtain Comparability of Data for Earlier Census Years with Those for 1964, for Total Cropland, Cropland Pastured, and Other Pasture (not Cropland and not Woodland)**

Census year	Most nearly comparable item, each Census (as shown in Table 5)		To obtain more complete comparability with 1964 the following adjustments would be needed	
	Item as shown in this report	United States total (acres)	Add <sup>1</sup>	Subtract <sup>1</sup>
<b>CROPLAND, TOTAL</b>				
1964...	Cropland, total.....	434,232,200	.....	.....
1959...	Cropland, total.....	448,087,341	.....	.....
1954 <sup>2</sup> ...	Cropland, total.....	459,648,961	.....	.....
1949...	Cropland, total.....	478,315,094	.....	.....
1944 <sup>2</sup> ...	Cropland, other than cropland pasture not plowed within 7 years.	450,694,226	Cropland used only for pasture not plowed within 7 years.	.....
1939...	Land available for crops.....	530,555,551	.....	Flowable pasture other than cropland pastured (except Alaska).
1934 <sup>2</sup> ...	Land available for crops.....	513,913,969	.....	Flowable pasture other than cropland pastured.
1929 <sup>2</sup> ...	Land available for crops.....	522,395,804	.....	Flowable pasture other than cropland pastured.
1924 <sup>2</sup> ...	Land available for crops.....	505,027,400	.....	Flowable pasture other than cropland pastured.
<b>CROPLAND PASTURED</b>				
1964...	Cropland used only for pasture.....	57,418,864	.....	.....
1959...	Cropland used only for pasture.....	65,516,598	.....	.....
1954 <sup>2</sup> ...	Cropland used only for pasture.....	66,069,838	.....	.....
1949...	Cropland used only for pasture.....	69,487,805	.....	.....
1944 <sup>2</sup> ...	Cropland used only for pasture plowed within 7 years.	47,449,184	Cropland used only for pasture not plowed within 7 years.	.....
1939 <sup>2</sup> ...	Flowable pasture.....	131,379,940	.....	Flowable pasture other than cropland pastured.
1934 <sup>2</sup> ...	Flowable pasture.....	98,579,038	.....	Flowable pasture other than cropland pastured.
1929 <sup>2</sup> ...	Flowable pasture.....	109,159,914	.....	Flowable pasture other than cropland pastured.
1924 <sup>2</sup> ...	Flowable pasture.....	113,567,498	.....	Flowable pasture other than cropland pastured.
<b>OTHER PASTURE (NOT CROPLAND AND NOT WOODLAND)</b>				
1964...	Other pasture, not cropland and not woodland.	490,306,987	.....	.....
1959...	Other pasture, not cropland and not woodland.	466,224,802	.....	.....
1954 <sup>2</sup> ...	Other pasture, not cropland and not woodland.	459,878,925	.....	.....
1949...	Other pasture, not cropland and not woodland.	416,802,416	.....	.....
1944 <sup>2</sup> ...	Other pasture not cropland plowed within 7 years and not woodland.	481,016,668	.....	Cropland used only for pasture not plowed within 7 years.
1939 <sup>2</sup> ...	Other land; house lots, roads, wasteland, etc., and pasture other than plowable and woodland.	393,543,673	Flowable pasture other than cropland pastured.	House lots, roads, wasteland, etc.
1934 <sup>2</sup> ...	Other pasture, not plowable and not woodland.	311,225,652	Flowable pasture other than cropland pastured.	.....
1929 <sup>2</sup> ...	Other pasture, not plowable and not woodland.	269,672,710	Flowable pasture other than cropland pastured.	.....
1924 <sup>2</sup> ...	Other pasture, not plowable and not woodland.	217,687,145	Flowable pasture other than cropland pastured.	.....

<sup>1</sup>No Census data available for these items.

<sup>2</sup>Data for Alaska and Hawaii not included.

**Improved pasture**—For 1964 pastureland that had been limed, fertilized, seeded, had weeds or brush controlled since 1960; or was irrigated during 1964; or had an established effective system of drainage was to be considered improved pasture. Data was obtained for improved pasture in 1954 and 1959; however, no year or time limitations were used in the instruction to farm operators or enumerators. Improved pasture composes one subclass of other pasture.

**Rangeland predominantly grass**—This classification, first used for 1964, includes unimproved other pasture often called meadow or prairie. It includes other pasture with vegetation comprised mostly of bunchgrass, shortgrass, buffalograss, bluestem, bluegrass, switchgrass, sandgrass, lovegrass, etc.

**Rangeland predominantly brush or browse**—This classification, first used for 1964, includes unimproved other pasture with vegetation comprised mostly of desert shrubs, sagebrush, mesquite, greasewood, mountain browse, juniper pinon, salt brush, cactus, etc.

**All other land**—This item refers to all land not included in any of the preceding land-use classes and includes land occupied by houses or other buildings; lanes, roads, ditches; land in ponds; and wasteland.

In addition to the classification of land in farms according to use, data for three summary classes are presented as follows:

**Cropland, total**—This class includes cropland harvested, cropland used only for pasture, and cropland not harvested and not pastured.

**Land pastured, total**—This class includes cropland used only for pasture, woodland pastured, and other pasture.

**Woodland, total**—This class includes woodland pastured and woodland not pastured.

**Land-use classifications 1850 to 1920**—From 1850 to 1920, all land in farms was classified as "improved" and "unimproved." In general, improved land included land in crops; land in pasture that had been cleared or tilled; land lying fallow; land in orchards, nurseries, vineyards, and gardens; and land occupied by buildings.

Cropland harvested for 1879 to 1919 was obtained by adding the acreages of the individual crops harvested for these censuses. Data for 1850 to 1964 are presented in table 4 for land-use classifications where comparable data exists.

**Problems in reporting land-use by the farm operator**—In reporting land in his farm according to the use made of it during the census year, the operator was asked to differentiate between classes of land for which the dividing line was not always clear and could not always be determined on a uniform basis. Although the wording of the inquiries, the definitions given, and the instructions were aimed at clarifying the intent of the inquiries, many decisions were left to the judgment of the respondents and enumerators.

Land in fruit orchards, for example, was to be reported as cropland harvested, regardless of whether fruit was harvested. Abandoned orchards were to be reported as idle cropland. At what point an orchard becomes abandoned was left for the respondent or the census enumerator to decide. Land in permanent pasture could be reported as cropland pasture if the decision was made that the land could be used for crops. Pastureland with scattered trees or brush could be reported either as woodland pastured or as other pasture.

Changes in the wording of questions or the adding of additional questions to the census questionnaire may have also caused differences in the reported classification of the same land from census to census. For example, the inclusion of inquiries requiring the classification of unimproved other pasture as rangeland predominately grass or as rangeland predominately brush and browse may have resulted in reducing the acreage reported as cropland pasture and woodland pasture and increased the acreage of other pasture.

Generally, the use of land was accepted as reported by the farm operator and the census enumerator. Changes were made only when there was an obvious error or additional information elsewhere on the agriculture questionnaire indicated the classification should be changed.

**Office processing of data for land in farms and land use, 1964**—In general, the overall procedures used in the processing of the data for the 1964 census were similar to those used for previous censuses. The computer editing program checked the mathematical consistencies of acreage figures for each farm and automatically corrected or adjusted these figures

when necessary. For questionnaires having incomplete or no land-use data reported, the computer was instructed to impute these data on the basis of a farm of a similar size in the same area. This procedure was also used in cases where there were large errors in the reported acreages. Changes made during the edit by the computer were reviewed and significant errors were corrected. (For a more detailed explanation of the computer and clerical processing, see the introduction to this volume.)

**Value of land and buildings**—In 1964, the value of land and buildings was obtained for only a sample of all farms. (See the Introduction for a description of this sample.) Separate values were obtained for owned land, land rented from others, land managed for others, and land rented to others. A facsimile of the value inquiries on the questionnaire follows:

(35) About how much would the land and the buildings sell for—		(1) Acres	(2) Total value
None			
<input type="checkbox"/>	a. Land and buildings owned by you? (Copy acres from question 3.)	\$	(x) V21
<input type="checkbox"/>	b. Land and buildings rented from others? (Copy acres from question 3.)	\$	(x) V22
<input type="checkbox"/>	c. Land and buildings managed for others? (Copy acres from question 3.)	\$	(x) V23
<input type="checkbox"/>	d. Land and buildings rented to others? (Copy acres from question 3.)	\$	(x) V24

The farm operator and census enumerator were instructed to report the present market and not the assessed value. The value of nonagricultural buildings, such as stores, filling stations, cotton gins, sugar mills, restaurants, hospitals, dormitories, and administrative offices were to be excluded. The value of processing plants, except cotton gins and sugar mills, used to prepare farm produce for sale from the farm was to be included.

It was not always possible to obtain the value of land and buildings for all farms for which this value was to be reported. Some respondents were reluctant to estimate the value of their holdings, claiming that they were not in a position to make accurate estimates. Some farm operators inherited their farms, and others had acquired them in the distant past. Parts of many farms were acquired piecemeal and others had been subdivided since they were purchased. Some respondents were willing to estimate the value of the portion of their operation that they owned, but were unwilling to estimate the part rented from others. Nevertheless, in most cases, the value was estimated and reported by the farm operator. The total value of land and buildings for the farms was calculated during the computer processing.

For 1964, the value of land and buildings was to be obtained for all farms with 1,000 acres or more; all farms with a value of \$100,000 or more of farm products sold, and a 20

TABLE 4. All Land in Farms and Specified Uses of Land, for the United States:  
Censuses of 1850 to 1964

[Figures for regions and States in tables 12 to 16]

Subject		Farms				Acres					
		Number	Percent of all farms	Increase or decrease (-) from preceding census <sup>1</sup>		Total	Percent of all land in farms	Increase or decrease (-) from preceding census <sup>1</sup>		Average	
				Number	Percent			Number	Percent	Per farm (based on all farms)	Per farm reporting
Land in farms.....	U. S. 1964....	3,157,857	100.0	-552,646	-14.9	1,110,187,000	100.0	-13,320,574	-1.2	351.6	351.6
	U. S. 1959....	3,710,503	100.0	-1,078,522	-22.6	1,123,507,574	100.0	-38,033,722	-3.3	302.8	302.8
	conterminous U. S. 1954....	4,782,416	100.0	-599,746	-12.1	1,158,191,511	100.0	-374,341	(2)	242.2	242.2
	U. S. 1950....	5,388,437	100.0	-477,007	-8.1	1,161,419,720	100.0	16,950,488	1.5	215.5	215.5
	conterminous U. S. 1945....	5,859,169	100.0	-237,630	-3.9	1,141,615,364	100.0	80,762,990	7.6	194.8	194.8
	U. S. 1940....	6,102,417	100.0	-715,551	-10.5	1,065,113,774	100.0	6,337,263	0.6	174.5	174.5
	conterminous U. S. 1935....	6,812,350	100.0	523,702	8.3	1,054,515,111	100.0	67,744,095	6.9	154.8	154.8
	U. S. 1930....	6,295,103	100.0	-82,992	-1.3	990,111,984	100.0	62,451,664	6.8	157.3	157.3
	conterminous U. S. 1925....	6,371,640	100.0	-76,703	-1.2	924,319,352	100.0	-31,564,363	-3.3	145.1	145.1
	U. S. 1920....	6,453,991	100.0	86,841	1.4	958,676,612	100.0	77,085,390	8.8	148.5	148.5
	U. S. 1910....	6,366,044	100.0	624,130	10.9	881,431,469	100.0	40,206,551	4.8	138.5	138.5
	U. S. 1900....	5,739,657	100.0	1,172,731	25.7	841,201,546	100.0	215,373,155	94.6	146.6	146.6
	conterminous U. S. 1890....	4,564,641	100.0	555,734	13.9	623,218,619	100.0	67,136,784	16.3	136.5	136.5
	conterminous U. S. 1880....	4,008,907	100.0	1,348,922	50.7	536,081,835	100.0	128,346,794	31.5	133.7	133.7
	conterminous U. S. 1870....	2,659,985	100.0	615,908	30.1	407,735,041	100.0	522,503	0.1	153.3	153.3
	conterminous U. S. 1860....	2,044,077	100.0	595,004	41.1	407,212,538	100.0	113,651,924	38.7	199.2	199.2
	conterminous U. S. 1850....	1,449,073	100.0	-	-	293,560,614	100.0	-	-	202.6	202.6
Cropland harvested <sup>2</sup> .....	U. S. 1964....	2,701,694	85.6	-499,621	-15.6	286,891,974	25.8	-24,584,167	-7.9	90.9	106.2
	U. S. 1959....	3,201,315	86.3	-907,341	-22.1	311,476,141	27.7	-21,585,230	-6.5	83.9	97.3
	conterminous U. S. 1954....	4,104,241	85.8	-630,157	-13.3	332,870,479	28.7	-11,528,101	-3.3	69.6	81.1
	U. S. 1949....	4,738,230	87.9	-629,092	-11.7	344,564,497	29.7	-8,467,215	-2.4	63.9	72.7
	conterminous U. S. 1944....	5,363,490	91.5	-349,765	-6.1	352,865,765	30.9	31,623,335	9.8	60.2	65.8
	U. S. 1939....	5,713,255	93.7	-655,933	-10.3	321,434,288	30.2	25,618,254	8.7	52.7	156.2
	conterminous U. S. 1934....	6,369,188	93.5	407,496	6.8	295,624,176	28.0	-63,617,915	-17.7	43.4	46.4
	conterminous U. S. 1929....	5,961,692	94.8	(NA)	(NA)	359,242,091	36.4	14,692,824	4.3	57.1	60.3
	conterminous U. S. 1924....	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	344,549,267	37.3	-4,054,462	-1.2	54.1	(NA)
	conterminous U. S. 1919....	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	348,603,729	36.5	37,310,347	12.0	54.1	(NA)
	conterminous U. S. 1909....	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	311,293,382	35.4	28,075,102	9.9	48.9	(NA)
	conterminous U. S. 1899....	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	283,218,280	33.8	63,512,716	28.9	49.4	(NA)
	conterminous U. S. 1889....	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	219,705,564	35.3	53,518,980	32.2	48.1	(NA)
	conterminous U. S. 1879....	(NA)	(NA)	-	-	166,186,584	31.0	-	-	41.5	(NA)
Cropland pastured:											
Cropland used only for pasture.....	U. S. 1964....	1,204,316	38.1	-303,298	-20.1	57,418,864	5.2	-8,097,734	-12.4	18.2	47.7
	U. S. 1959....	1,507,614	40.6	-335,784	-18.2	65,516,598	5.8	-724,944	-1.1	17.7	43.5
	conterminous U. S. 1954....	1,842,661	38.5	-272,339	-12.9	66,069,838	5.7	-3,262,006	-4.7	13.8	35.9
	U. S. 1949....	2,115,708	39.3	3470,465	28.6	69,487,805	6.0	321,882,660	346.1	12.9	32.8
Cropland used only for pasture plowed within 7 years.....	conterminous U. S. 1944....	1,644,535	28.1	3-1,646,052	3-50.0	47,449,184	4.3	3-83,930,756	3-63.9	8.1	28.9
Plowable pasture.....	conterminous U. S. 1939....	3,290,587	54.0	425,793	14.9	131,379,940	12.4	32,800,902	33.3	21.5	39.9
	conterminous U. S. 1934....	2,864,794	42.1	159,818	5.9	98,579,038	9.3	-10,580,876	-9.7	14.5	34.4
	conterminous U. S. 1929....	2,704,976	43.0	140,497	5.5	109,159,914	11.1	-4,407,584	-3.9	17.4	40.4
	conterminous U. S. 1924....	2,564,519	40.2	-	-	113,567,498	12.3	-	-	17.8	44.3
Cropland not harvested and not pastured.....	U. S. 1964....	1,332,646	42.2	235,920	21.5	89,921,362	8.1	18,826,760	26.5	28.5	67.5
	U. S. 1959....	1,096,726	29.6	-194,725	-15.0	71,094,602	6.3	10,224,931	16.8	19.2	64.8
	conterminous U. S. 1954....	1,289,674	27.0	-262,538	-16.9	60,708,644	5.2	-3,398,900	-5.3	12.7	47.1
	U. S. 1949....	1,552,212	28.8	(NA)	(NA)	64,262,792	5.5	13,728,267	27.2	11.9	41.3
	conterminous U. S. 1944....	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	50,379,277	4.4	-27,129,396	-35.0	8.6	(NA)
	conterminous U. S. 1939....	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	77,508,673	7.3	-42,202,082	-35.3	12.7	(NA)
	conterminous U. S. 1934....	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	119,710,755	11.4	65,716,956	121.7	17.6	(NA)
	conterminous U. S. 1929....	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	53,993,799	5.5	7,083,164	15.1	8.6	(NA)
	conterminous U. S. 1924....	(NA)	(NA)	-	-	46,910,635	5.1	-	-	7.4	(NA)
Cultivated summer fallow <sup>4</sup> .....	17 States 1964....	225,259	7.1	29,604	15.1	36,980,931	3.3	6,262,004	20.4	11.7	164.2
	17 States 1959....	195,655	20.2	-18,756	-8.7	30,718,927	4.4	2,087,524	7.3	31.7	157.0
	17 States 1954....	214,411	18.2	7,370	3.6	28,631,403	4.1	3,016,860	11.8	24.3	133.5
	17 States 1949....	207,041	15.9	(NA)	(NA)	25,614,543	3.7	(NA)	(NA)	19.6	123.7
With no cropland harvested <sup>4</sup> .....	17 States 1959....	2,934	3.0	-3,115	-51.5	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
	17 States 1954....	6,049	0.5	631	11.6	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
	17 States 1949....	5,418	0.4	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	-	-	(NA)	(NA)
Other cropland not harvested and not pastured.....	conterminous U. S. 1954....	1,140,171	23.8	-269,646	-19.1	32,077,241	2.8	-6,415,760	-16.7	6.7	28.1
	conterminous U. S. 1949....	1,409,817	26.2	(NA)	(NA)	38,493,001	3.3	(NA)	(NA)	7.2	28.7
Total for 31 States <sup>5</sup> .....	31 States 1954....	902,370	25.0	-232,148	-20.5	18,411,700	4.0	-6,101,255	-24.9	5.1	20.4
	31 States 1949....	1,134,518	27.8	(NA)	(NA)	24,512,955	5.2	(NA)	(NA)	6.0	21.6
Land used only for crops not harvested and not pastured (soil-improvement crops, new seedlings, and crop failure) <sup>5</sup> .....	31 States 1954....	305,850	8.5	(NA)	(NA)	4,953,061	1.1	(NA)	(NA)	1.4	16.2
With no cropland harvested <sup>5</sup> .....	31 States 1954....	19,991	0.6	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Idle cropland <sup>5</sup> .....	31 States 1954....	696,498	19.3	(NA)	(NA)	13,458,639	3.0	(NA)	(NA)	3.7	19.3
Soil-improvement crops.....	U. S. 1964....	706,944	22.4	(NA)	(NA)	28,545,234	2.6	(NA)	(NA)	9.0	40.4
	conterminous U. S. 1959....	330,191	8.9	(NA)	(NA)	16,375,535	1.5	(NA)	(NA)	4.4	49.6
Other cropland.....	U. S. 1959....	738,489	19.9	(NA)	(NA)	24,000,140	2.1	(NA)	(NA)	6.5	32.5
Crop failure.....	U. S. 1964....	157,504	5.0	(NA)	(NA)	6,296,009	0.6	(NA)	(NA)	2.0	40.0
	conterminous U. S. 1944....	385,727	6.6	-218,677	-36.2	10,297,172	0.9	-10,282,845	-50.0	1.8	26.7
	conterminous U. S. 1939....	604,404	9.9	-644,848	-51.6	20,580,017	1.9	-43,101,760	-67.7	3.4	34.1
	conterminous U. S. 1934....	1,249,252	18.3	697,930	126.6	63,681,777	6.0	50,975,194	401.2	9.3	51.0
	conterminous U. S. 1929....	551,322	8.8	(NA)	(NA)	12,706,583	1.3	-311,366	-2.4	2.0	23.0
	conterminous U. S. 1924....	(NA)	(NA)	-	-	13,017,949	1.4	-	-	2.0	(NA)
Cropland, idle.....	U. S. 1964....	581,453	18.4	(NA)	(NA)	18,099,188	1.6	(NA)	(NA)	5.7	31.1
Cropland, idle or fallow.....	conterminous U. S. 1944....	1,107,224	18.9	-544,995	-33.0	40,082,105	3.5	-16,846,551	-29.6	6.8	36.2
	conterminous U. S. 1939....	1,652,219	27.1	-379,747	-18.7	56,928,056	5.4	899,678	1.6	9.3	34.5
	conterminous U. S. 1934....	2,031,966	29.8	647,374	46.8	56,028,978	5.3	14,741,762	35.7	8.2	27.6
	conterminous U. S. 1929....	1,384,592	22.0	(NA)	(NA)	41,287,216	4.2	7,394,530	21.8	6.6	29.8
	conterminous U. S. 1924....	(NA)	(NA)	-	-	33,892,686	3.7	-	-	5.3	(NA)

See footnotes at end of table.

**TABLE 4. All Land in Farms and Specified Uses of Land, for the United States:  
Censuses of 1850 to 1964—Continued**

[Figures for regions and States in tables 12 to 16]

Subject	Farms					Acres					
	Number	Percent of all farms	Increase or decrease (-) from preceding census <sup>1</sup>		Total	Percent of all land in farms	Increase or decrease (-) from preceding census <sup>1</sup>		Average		
			Number	Percent			Number	Percent	Per farm (based on all farms)	Per farm reporting	
Woodland pastured.....	U. S. 1964.....	954,693	30.2	-145,037	-13.2	82,209,659	7.4	-10,358,564	-11.2	26.0	86.1
	U. S. 1959.....	1,099,730	29.6	-401,040	-26.7	92,568,223	8.2	-28,740,935	-23.7	24.9	84.2
	conterminous U. S. 1954.....	1,500,401	31.4	-196,041	-11.6	121,151,635	10.5	-13,563,340	-10.1	25.3	80.7
	U. S. 1949.....	1,696,910	31.5	179,612	11.8	135,133,592	11.6	39,639,729	41.7	25.1	79.6
	conterminous U. S. 1944.....	1,516,830	25.9	(NA)	(NA)	95,075,246	8.3	(NA)	(NA)	16.2	62.7
	conterminous U. S. 1934.....	2,186,106	32.1	254,738	13.2	108,095,711	10.3	22,773,811	26.7	15.9	49.4
	conterminous U. S. 1929.....	1,931,368	30.7	153,484	8.6	85,321,900	8.6	8,617,954	11.2	13.6	44.2
	conterminous U. S. 1924.....	1,777,884	27.9	-	-	76,703,946	8.3	-	-	12.0	43.1
Woodland not pastured.....	U. S. 1964.....	973,519	30.8	-213,216	-18.0	63,766,772	5.7	-7,869,294	-11.0	20.2	65.5
	U. S. 1959.....	1,186,735	32.0	-191,486	-13.9	71,636,066	6.4	-4,547,227	-6.0	19.3	60.4
	conterminous U. S. 1954.....	1,377,651	28.8	-272,213	-16.5	75,820,772	6.5	-9,278,663	-10.9	15.9	55.0
	U. S. 1949.....	1,650,882	30.6	-39,328	-2.3	85,426,913	7.4	13,838,252	19.4	15.9	51.7
	conterminous U. S. 1944.....	1,689,192	28.8	(NA)	(NA)	71,261,183	6.2	(NA)	(NA)	12.2	42.2
	conterminous U. S. 1934.....	1,909,067	28.0	297,869	18.5	77,379,254	7.3	12,755,429	19.7	11.4	40.5
	conterminous U. S. 1929.....	1,611,198	25.6	-25,442	-1.6	64,623,825	6.5	-2,443,390	-3.6	10.3	40.1
	conterminous U. S. 1924.....	1,636,640	25.7	-	-	67,067,215	7.3	-	-	10.5	41.0
Other pasture:											
Not cropland and not woodland.....	U. S. 1964.....	1,488,254	47.1	-126,688	-7.8	490,306,987	44.2	24,082,185	5.2	155.3	329.5
	U. S. 1959.....	1,614,942	43.5	-383,129	-19.2	466,224,802	41.5	4,904,558	1.1	125.7	288.7
	conterminous U. S. 1954.....	1,996,849	41.8	-65,594	-3.2	459,878,925	39.7	44,229,405	10.6	96.2	230.3
	U. S. 1949.....	2,063,076	38.3	-865,370	-29.6	416,802,416	35.9	-65,367,148	-13.6	77.4	202.0
Improved pasture.....	U. S. 1964.....	502,217	15.9	(NA)	(NA)	36,099,022	3.3	12,853,925	55.3	11.4	71.9
	U. S. 1959.....	357,437	9.6	-29,754	-7.7	23,366,793	2.1	6,031,516	34.8	6.3	65.4
	conterminous U. S. 1954.....	387,191	8.1	-	-	17,335,277	1.5	-	-	(2)	44.7
Not cropland plowed within 7 years and not woodland.....	conterminous U. S. 1944.....	2,927,813	50.0	(NA)	(NA)	481,016,668	42.1	(NA)	(NA)	82.1	164.3
Not plowable and not woodland.....	conterminous U. S. 1934.....	2,019,431	29.6	254,428	14.4	311,225,652	29.5	41,552,942	15.4	45.7	154.1
	conterminous U. S. 1929.....	1,765,003	28.1	153,078	9.5	269,672,710	27.3	51,985,565	23.9	42.9	152.8
	conterminous U. S. 1924.....	1,611,925	25.3	-	-	217,687,145	23.6	-	-	34.2	135.0
Other land:											
House lots, roads, wasteland, etc.....	U. S. 1964.....	2,802,715	88.8	(NA)	(NA)	39,671,382	3.6	-5,319,760	-11.8	12.6	14.2
	U. S. 1959.....	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	44,991,142	4.0	2,435,125	5.8	12.1	(NA)
	conterminous U. S. 1954.....	4,276,159	89.4	-415,429	-8.9	41,691,218	3.6	-3,572,766	-7.9	8.7	9.7
	U. S. 1949.....	4,695,184	87.1	-999,185	-11.3	45,741,705	3.9	1,695,943	3.9	8.5	9.7
	conterminous U. S. 1944.....	5,290,773	90.3	(NA)	(NA)	43,568,041	3.8	(NA)	(NA)	7.4	8.2
	conterminous U. S. 1934.....	6,003,964	88.1	1,252,653	26.4	43,900,525	4.2	-856,252	-1.9	6.4	7.3
	conterminous U. S. 1929.....	4,751,311	75.6	(NA)	(NA)	44,756,777	4.5	-13,076,869	-22.6	7.1	9.4
	conterminous U. S. 1924.....	(NA)	(NA)	-	-	57,833,646	6.3	-	-	9.1	(NA)
House lots, roads, wasteland, etc., and pasture other than plowable and woodland <sup>7</sup> .....	conterminous U. S. 1939.....	5,222,744	85.7	-	-	393,543,673	37.1	38,417,496	10.8	64.5	75.4
Cropland:											
Total <sup>8</sup> .....	U. S. 1964.....	2,907,265	92.1	-524,279	-15.3	434,232,200	39.1	-13,855,141	-3.1	137.5	149.4
	U. S. 1959.....	3,431,544	92.5	-992,604	-22.5	428,087,341	39.9	-12,085,243	-2.6	120.8	130.6
	conterminous U. S. 1954.....	4,418,915	92.4	-627,748	-12.4	459,648,961	39.7	-18,188,977	-3.8	96.1	104.0
	U. S. 1949.....	5,046,663	193.8	-521,155	-9.4	478,315,094	41.2	327,143,712	36.0	88.8	194.7
Cropland other than cropland pasture not plowed within 7 years <sup>9</sup> .....	conterminous U. S. 1944.....	5,567,818	95.0	-423,485	-7.1	450,694,226	39.5	-79,436,817	-15.0	76.9	80.9
Land available for crops <sup>10</sup> .....	U. S. 1939.....	5,991,303	198.3	(NA)	(NA)	530,555,551	49.8	16,217,074	3.2	86.9	188.5
	conterminous U. S. 1934.....	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	513,913,969	48.7	-8,481,835	-1.6	75.4	(NA)
	conterminous U. S. 1929.....	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	522,395,804	52.9	17,368,404	3.4	83.1	(NA)
	conterminous U. S. 1924.....	(NA)	(NA)	-	-	505,027,400	54.6	-	-	79.3	(NA)
Land pastured, total.....	U. S. 1964.....	2,448,026	77.5	-397,762	-14.0	629,935,510	56.7	5,625,887	0.9	199.5	257.3
	U. S. 1959.....	2,845,788	76.7	-753,151	-20.9	624,309,623	55.6	-24,561,321	-3.8	168.3	219.4
	conterminous U. S. 1954.....	3,596,951	75.2	-448,973	-11.1	647,100,398	55.9	27,404,059	4.4	135.3	179.9
	U. S. 1949.....	4,045,924	175.2	-388,962	-8.8	621,423,813	53.5	-3,844,759	-0.6	115.3	153.2
	conterminous U. S. 1944.....	4,434,886	75.7	(NA)	(NA)	623,541,098	54.6	(NA)	(NA)	106.4	140.6
	conterminous U. S. 1934.....	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	517,900,401	49.1	53,745,877	11.6	76.0	(NA)
	conterminous U. S. 1929.....	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	464,154,524	47.0	56,195,935	13.8	73.8	(NA)
	conterminous U. S. 1924.....	(NA)	(NA)	-	-	407,958,589	44.1	-	-	64.0	(NA)
Woodland, total.....	U. S. 1964.....	1,594,920	50.5	-283,640	-15.1	145,976,431	13.1	-18,227,858	-11.1	46.2	91.5
	U. S. 1959.....	1,878,560	50.6	-510,555	-21.4	164,204,289	14.6	-33,288,162	-16.9	44.3	87.4
	conterminous U. S. 1954.....	2,388,256	49.9	-347,505	-12.7	196,972,407	17.0	-22,842,003	-10.4	41.2	82.5
	U. S. 1949.....	2,735,761	150.8	56,018	2.1	220,560,505	19.0	53,477,981	32.2	40.9	180.3
	conterminous U. S. 1944.....	2,679,743	45.7	-222,413	-7.7	166,336,429	14.6	29,158,771	21.3	28.4	62.1
	conterminous U. S. 1939.....	2,902,156	47.6	(NA)	(NA)	137,177,658	12.9	-48,297,307	-26.0	22.5	47.3
	conterminous U. S. 1934.....	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	185,474,965	17.6	35,529,240	23.7	27.2	(NA)
	conterminous U. S. 1929.....	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	149,945,725	15.2	6,174,564	4.3	23.8	(NA)
	conterminous U. S. 1924.....	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	143,771,161	15.6	-23,959,633	-14.3	22.6	(NA)
	conterminous U. S. 1919.....	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	167,730,794	17.5	-23,134,759	-12.1	26.0	(NA)
	conterminous U. S. 1909.....	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	190,865,553	21.7	(NA)	(NA)	30.0	(NA)
	conterminous U. S. 1879.....	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	190,255,744	35.5	30,945,567	19.4	33.2	(NA)
	conterminous U. S. 1869.....	(NA)	(NA)	-	-	159,310,177	39.1	-	-	34.9	(NA)
Improved land <sup>11</sup> .....	conterminous U. S. 1920.....	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	503,073,007	52.6	24,621,257	5.1	78.0	(NA)
	conterminous U. S. 1910.....	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	478,451,750	54.4	63,953,263	15.4	75.2	(NA)
	conterminous U. S. 1900.....	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	414,451,487	49.4	56,881,732	15.9	72.2	(NA)
	conterminous U. S. 1890.....	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	357,616,755	57.4	72,845,713	25.6	78.3	(NA)
	conterminous U. S. 1880.....	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	284,771,042	53.1	95,849,943	50.7	71.0	(NA)
	conterminous U. S. 1870.....	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	188,921,099	46.3	25,810,379	15.8	71.0	(NA)
	conterminous U. S. 1860.....	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	163,110,720	40.1	50,078,106	44.3	79.8	(NA)
	conterminous U. S. 1850.....	(NA)	(NA)	-	-	113,032,614	38.5	-	-	78.0	(NA)

NA Not available. <sup>2</sup> Less than 0.05 percent. <sup>3</sup> Except for 1964-1959, data represent differences for the conterminous United States. <sup>4</sup> Prior to 1924, the total acreage of crops for which figures are available, except for 1919 when 14,502,932 acres of corn cut for forage were excluded as most of this was probably duplicated in the acreage of corn harvested for grain. <sup>5</sup> Much of the change from 1944 to 1949 and from 1939 to 1944 due to change in definition. See text. <sup>6</sup> Data are for 17 States for which a separate inquiry was included on the questionnaire. Cultivated summer fallow is negligible in other States. See table 15 for States included. <sup>7</sup> Data are for 31 States for which separate inquiry was carried for land used only for crops not harvested and not pastured. <sup>8</sup> Much of the change from 1944 to 1949 due to change in definition. See text. <sup>9</sup> Includes pasture other than plowable and woodland; also wasteland, house lots, barnyards, feed lots, lanes, roads, etc. <sup>10</sup> Cropland harvested, cropland used only for pasture, and cropland not harvested and not pastured. <sup>11</sup> Cropland harvested, cropland used only for pasture, cropland plowed within 7 years, and cropland not harvested and not pastured. <sup>12</sup> Cropland harvested; crop failure; cropland, idle or fallow; and plowable pasture. <sup>13</sup> Nominally includes all land regularly tilled or mowed; land in pasture that has been cleared or tilled; land lying fallow; land in gardens, orchards, vineyards, and nurseries; and all land occupied by buildings, yards, barnyards, etc. See text.

percent sample of the remaining farms. Based on a special compilation for a sample comprising every tenth county, the value of land and buildings was not reported for any of the items for which it was required for 5 percent of the farms.

For 1964, the value of land and buildings was supplied by an agricultural statistician or was imputed by the use of the computer when the value was not reported. These values were imputed on the basis of another farm of similar size, economic class, and tenure in the same area. The analysis of the supplying of the value of land and buildings in a sample comprising every tenth county indicated that approximately 7 percent of the total value of all land and buildings in the U.S. was imputed through the use of the computer. The published data represent totals for all farms. For 1964 in calculating the average value per farm, the aggregate dollar value was divided by the number of farms in the sample. The average value per acre was calculated by dividing the aggregate dollar value by the total land in farms for the farms in the sample.

For the 1959, 1954, and 1950 Censuses of Agriculture, the value of land and buildings was obtained for only a sample of the farms. (The sample for these censuses comprised all farms of 1,000 or more acres and approximately one-fifth of the remaining farms). However, the value of land and buildings for these censuses was tabulated only for farms for which the value was reported where required for land and buildings owned, land and buildings rented from others, land and buildings managed for others, and the value of land and buildings rented to others. For the 1959 census, the value of land and buildings was tabulated for only 81 percent of the farms. In order to obtain the total value of land and buildings it was necessary to make calculations (ratio estimates) to provide estimates of the total value. The percentage of usable reports was less for large farms than for small farms. Inasmuch as the average value per acre is generally less for the larger farms than for the smaller farms, the total value of land and buildings was obtained by calculating total value by size-of-farm groups.

For the 1959 census, calculations by size-of-farm groups were made separately for farms of 1,000 acres or more (and farms with total value of farm products sold of \$100,000 and over) and farms less than 1,000 acres in size. The actual procedure for calculating the total value in 1959 was as follows: The average value per acre of farms for each size-of-farms group within each State part of an agricultural subregion

was calculated for the group of farms with value of land reported. This average value per acre for each size group was multiplied by the total acres for all farms in the size group in the State part of the agricultural subregion to obtain the estimated total value for all farms in that size group. Estimated value of State parts of the subregions and for States was obtained by adding the estimated value of farms for all size groups. The average value per farm and per acre for each State was obtained by dividing the estimated value of all farms by the number of farms or by the total acres of land in farms.

For the 1954 census, the value of land and buildings was calculated for each county. For each county, total value was calculated separately for large and for all other farms. Large farms included all farms of 1,000 acres or more, and for some States, those meeting certain additional criteria of largeness. To estimate the value of large farms, the average value per acre for those for which value of land and buildings was reported was multiplied by the total land in all large farms in the county. The value of the farms other than large in each county was obtained by multiplying the average value per acre for those farms for which value was reported by the total acres of land in farms for farms other than large farms. County and State totals for the value of land and buildings were obtained by adding the calculated value of large farms and farms other than large farms.

For the 1950 census, the procedure for calculating the total value of land and buildings differed somewhat from that used in 1954. For 1950, the calculations were made for each State. The total value for each of 37 States was obtained by multiplying all land in farms by the average per acre obtained for the farms for which value of land and buildings was reported. For the 11 Mountain and Pacific States, the estimate was obtained by calculating the value of land and buildings for each size-of-farm group and then adding the calculated value for all size-of-farm groups.

The ratio calculations for total value of land and buildings made for the 1959, 1954, and 1950 censuses, as described above, provide more accurate estimates of total value of land and buildings than totals calculated by using the average value per acre or per farm for only the farms for which the value of land and buildings was reported. The differences between the average value of land and buildings as calculated by using the procedures outlined and the average value calculated for the farms for which the value of land and buildings was reported are as follows for the 48 States comprising the conterminous United States.



Subject	Average value per farm			Average value per acre		
	1959	1954	1950	1959	1954	1950
Average value of land and buildings for farms for which values of land and buildings were reported .....	\$33,173	\$19,761	\$13,911	\$120.43	\$84.82	\$66.75
Calculated average value of land and buildings weighted by size-of-farm groups .....	\$34,825	\$20,405	\$13,983	\$115.15	\$84.25	\$64.96

The value of land and buildings has been obtained for each census beginning in 1850. The value shown for 1945 and prior censuses represent totals obtained by adding the value of land and buildings for all farms. The value figures shown for each census represent the market value on the census date, although specific instructions for reporting the amount for which the land and buildings would sell were first given for the 1900 census. Prior to that time, the inquiries asked for "cash value" or merely "value," without further specifications. Except for 1870, the values presented in this chapter for each census are the same as shown in the reports for that census. The 1870 figures are the same as those carried in the reports for the 1880 census and subsequent censuses and represent an adjustment of the original figures to a gold basis. These figures were approximately one-fifth less than the figures published in the report for the 1870 census.

## CHANGE IN FARMS

**Change in number of farms**—In 1964, the number of farms was 550,000 less than in 1959 and 1,600,000 less than in 1954. The 3.2 million farms in 1964 represent the smallest number of farms recorded for any census since 1870. In 1850, the first census for which a count of farms was made, there were 1,449,073 farms, or one farm for each 16 persons living in the United States. With the growth of population and westward migration, the number of farms increased at a rate faster than the growth of the total population until 1880 when there were more than 4 million farms or 12.5 persons per farm. By 1910, the number of farms had increased to over 6.3 million, but the ratio of farms to population increased to one farm for every 14.5 persons.

From 1910 to 1930, the number of farms remained relatively unchanged, ranging from 6.4

TABLE 5. **Farms, all Land in Farms, and Value of Farms, for the United States: 1850 to 1964**

[Data for value of farms in the conterminous United States for 1964, 1959, 1954, and 1950 are based on reports for only a sample of farms. See text. Figures for regions and States in table 12]

Year	Number of farms				All land in farms				Value of farms (land and buildings)				Approximate land area	
	Total	Increase or decrease (-) from previous census <sup>1</sup>		Acres	Increase or decrease (-) from previous census <sup>1</sup>		Total (dollars)	Increase or decrease (-) from previous census <sup>1</sup> (percent)	Average per farm (dollars)	Average per acre (dollars)	Acres <sup>2</sup>	Percent in farms		
		Number	Percent		Acres	Percent								
1964.....	3,157,857	-552,646	-14.9	1,110,187,000	-13,320,574	-1.2	159,931,664,979	23.6	50,646	143.81	2,266,272,640	49.0		
1959.....	3,710,503	-1,078,522	-22.6	1,123,507,574	-38,033,722	-3.3	129,005,414,000	32.2	34,826	115.08	2,268,378,240	49.5		
1954.....	4,782,416	-599,746	-11.1	1,158,191,511	-374,341	(2)	97,582,918,000	29.7	20,405	84.25	1,903,824,640	60.8		
1950.....	5,388,437	-477,007	-8.1	1,161,419,720	16,950,488	1.5	75,462,427,000	62.2	14,005	64.97	2,273,406,080	51.1		
1945 <sup>3</sup> .....	5,859,169	-237,630	-3.9	1,141,615,364	80,762,990	7.6	46,388,925,560	37.9	7,917	40.63	1,905,361,920	59.9		
1940.....	6,102,417	-715,551	-10.5	1,065,113,774	6,337,263	0.6	33,758,367,972	2.4	5,532	31.69	2,274,943,360	46.8		
1935 <sup>4</sup> .....	6,812,350	523,702	8.3	1,054,515,111	67,744,095	6.9	32,858,844,012	-31.4	4,823	31.16	1,903,216,640	55.4		
1930.....	6,295,103	-82,992	-1.3	990,111,984	62,451,664	6.8	47,994,475,975	-3.2	7,624	48.47	2,272,798,720	43.6		
1925 <sup>5</sup> .....	6,371,640	-76,703	-1.2	924,319,352	-31,564,363	-3.3	49,467,647,287	-25.4	7,764	53.52	1,903,216,640	48.6		
1920.....	6,453,991	86,841	1.4	958,676,612	77,085,390	8.8	66,446,345,611	90.6	10,295	69.31	2,272,824,320	42.2		
1910.....	6,366,044	624,130	10.9	881,431,469	40,206,551	4.8	34,884,925,036	109.5	5,480	39.58	2,272,898,560	38.8		
1900.....	5,739,657	1,172,731	25.7	841,201,546	215,373,155	34.6	16,674,677,447	25.1	2,905	19.82	2,273,070,720	37.0		
1890 <sup>5</sup> .....	4,564,641	555,734	13.9	623,218,619	87,136,784	16.3	13,279,252,649	30.2	2,909	21.31	1,903,337,600	32.7		
1880 <sup>5</sup> .....	4,008,907	1,348,922	50.7	536,081,835	128,346,794	31.5	10,197,096,776	37.0	2,544	19.02	1,903,337,600	28.2		
1870 <sup>5</sup> .....	2,659,985	615,908	30.1	407,735,041	522,503	0.1	7,444,054,462	12.0	2,799	18.26	1,903,337,600	21.4		
1860 <sup>5</sup> .....	2,044,077	595,004	41.1	407,212,538	113,651,924	38.7	6,645,045,007	103.1	3,251	16.32	1,903,337,600	21.4		
1850 <sup>5</sup> .....	1,449,073	-	-	293,560,614	-	-	3,271,975,426	-	2,258	11.14	1,884,375,680	15.6		

<sup>1</sup> Less than 0.05 percent.

<sup>2</sup> Data for Alaska and Hawaii not included.

<sup>3</sup> Changes in land area represent changes in boundaries, changes due to construction of reservoirs, to drainage of lakes and swamps, etc., except for 1940 when a complete re-measurement of the United States was made.

<sup>4</sup> Does not include value of land and buildings for Hawaii.

<sup>5</sup> Does not include value of land and buildings for Alaska.

<sup>6</sup> Value of gold -- approximately 1/5 less than reported currency values published in the 1870 report.

million in 1910 to 6.3 million in 1930. Since 1935, the number of farms has been declining. The 1935 census recorded an all time high of 6.8 million farms. By 1940 the number of farms had decreased to 6.1 million. This downward trend in the number of farms continued at an accelerated rate until 1959, with a decline of nearly 4 percent between 1940 and 1945, slightly more than 8 percent between 1945 and 1950, over 11 percent from 1950 to 1954, and 22.6 percent from 1954 to 1959. The rate of decline slowed somewhat from 1959 to 1964, when there was a decrease of about 15 percent.

During the period since 1930, while the number of farms decreased almost 50 percent, the total population of the United States has increased more than 50 percent. This same relationship is also indicated by the data for average number of persons per farm. There is now about one farm for every 60 persons in the United States. There was one farm for every 20 persons in 1930. Average acres of land in farms and of cropland harvested per capita have also decreased during this 35 year period. In 1930, there were 8 acres of land in farms per person; in 1964 there were less than 6 acres per person. The average acreage of cropland harvested per person in 1964 was about one half the average for 1930.

In the Eastern States, the abandonment of some of the poor agricultural lands, particularly in the more mountainous areas, and the diversion of farm lands to other uses, have resulted in a substantial decrease in the number of farms. The New England States, as a group, lost over one-fourth of their farms and 1.5 million acres of farmland from 1959 to 1964. In the States in the Middle Atlantic Division, the decline in number of farms ranged from 17 percent in Pennsylvania to 31 percent in New Jersey.

The largest decrease in the number of farms from 1959 to 1964 occurred in the South where there was a loss of 270,000 or almost 17 percent of the farms from 1959 to 1964. A large part of the change in the South resulted from the disappearance of share-tenant and cropper farms. In 1964, there were 113,000 fewer farms operated by tenants in the South than in 1959. In five years, the decrease in the number of farms operated by crop-share tenants totaled almost 101,000.

Consolidation of smaller farms into larger operating units has been an important factor contributing to the large net decrease in the number of farms since 1920. In 1920, the average size was 148 acres with 54 acres of cropland harvested. By 1964, the average size

TABLE 6. **Total Population and Average Number of Persons per Farm, with per Capita Data for Land in Farms, Cropland Harvested, and Value of Farm Products Sold, for the United States: 1850 to 1964**

Item and census year	Number of persons <sup>1</sup> (1,000)	Average number of persons per farm	Average per capita		
			Land in farms (acres)	Cropland harvested <sup>2</sup> (acres)	Value of farm products sold (dollars)
<b>Total population:</b>					
1964 .....	191,463	60.63	5.8	1.5	184
1960 .....	179,323	48.33	6.3	1.7	170
1954 <sup>3</sup> .....	161,763	33.82	7.2	2.1	152
1950 .....	151,326	28.08	7.7	2.3	147
1945 <sup>3</sup> .....	139,583	23.82	8.2	2.5	116
1940 .....	132,165	21.66	8.1	2.4	<sup>3</sup> 51
1935 <sup>3</sup> .....	127,057	18.65	8.3	2.3	(NA)
1930 .....	123,203	19.57	8.0	<sup>3</sup> 2.9	<sup>3</sup> 90
1925 <sup>3</sup> .....	115,402	18.11	8.0	3.0	(NA)
1920 .....	106,022	16.43	9.0	<sup>3</sup> 3.3	(NA)
1910 .....	92,228	14.49	9.6	<sup>3</sup> 3.4	(NA)
1900 .....	76,212	13.28	11.0	<sup>3</sup> 3.7	(NA)
1890 <sup>3</sup> .....	62,980	13.79	9.9	3.5	(NA)
1880 <sup>3</sup> .....	50,189	12.51	10.7	3.3	(NA)
1870 <sup>3</sup> .....	39,818	14.97	10.2	(NA)	(NA)
1860 <sup>3</sup> .....	31,443	15.38	13.0	(NA)	(NA)
1850 <sup>3</sup> .....	23,192	16.00	12.7	(NA)	(NA)

NA Not available.

<sup>1</sup> Figures for 1910 to 1964 relate to April 1, those for earlier years to June 1. Figures for decennial years are based on the decennial censuses with adjustments to obtain comparability; those for other years are estimates. Figures for 1940 to 1964 include members of Armed Forces overseas, for earlier years the number of persons in the Armed Forces overseas was not available, but the number was probably negligible. Figures for 1870 include adjustments for under enumerations in Southern States.

<sup>2</sup> Prior to 1924, based on total acreage of crops harvested.

<sup>3</sup> Data for Alaska and Hawaii not included.

had increased to 351.6 acres with 106.2 acres of cropland harvested. Since 1959, the average size of farms has increased almost 50 acres or about 16 percent.

**Effect of definitions and procedures on number of farms**—Changes in the total number of farms from census to census have been affected by changes in definitions and procedures. The definition of a farm was the same in 1964 and 1959.

The definition of a farm in 1964 and in 1959 was as follows: Places of less than 10 acres were counted as farms if the estimated sales of agricultural products for the year amounted to at least \$250. Places of 10 acres or more were counted as farms if the estimated sales of agricultural products for the year amounted to at least \$50. Places having less than the \$50 or \$250 minimum estimated sales were also counted as farms if they could normally be expected to produce agricultural products in sufficient quantity to meet the requirements of the definition.



For changes in the definition of a farm and for a statement of the effect of procedures used for enumeration and office processing upon the number of farms, reference should be made to the introduction.

**Use of land in 1964**—The land area of the 50 States totals 2,266 million acres, of which 1,110 million acres or 49 percent was included in farms in 1964. Of the remaining 1,156 million acres not included in farms, an estimated additional 293 million acres were grazed by livestock in 1964. If the uses of land in farms and the uses of land not in farms were combined the total use of the land area in 1964 would be as follows:

Cropland, including cropland used only for pasture . . . . .	434 million acres
Pasture and grazing land (including woodland and forest land pastured or grazed) . . . . .	866 million acres
Forest and woodland not pastured or grazed . . . . .	507 million acres
Other land, total . . . . .	460 million acres

Data on land use refer only to land area and do not reflect the great variations in the quality of the land having various uses. The quality of the various kinds of cropland varies from use to use and area to area and also within areas. Cropland used only for pasture supplies more feed per acre than other pasture and grazing land; however, the quality of cropland pasture also varies greatly from farm to farm and area to area. There are similar variations in the productivity of woodland and forest land.

Of the total cropland in 1964, there were 287 million acres from which crops were harvested, 57 million acres pastured, and 90 million acres of cropland not harvested and not pastured. Cropland not harvested and not pastured comprised 37 million acres of cultivated summer fallow (17 States), 29 million acres of soil-improvement crops, 6 million acres on which all crops failed, and 18 million acres of idle land or land planted in crops for future harvest.

The total 923 million acres of all pasture and grazing land includes 57 million acres of cropland used only for pasture, 866 million acres of woodland pasture and other pasture and grazing lands. Pasture and grazing lands in farms account for 630 million acres of the total 923 million acres of all pasture.

The total woodland and forest land amounts to 589 million acres which includes 82 million acres of woodland and forest land pastured or grazed and 507 million acres not pastured or grazed. Woodland in farms totals 146 million

acres while woodland and forest land not in farms totals 443 million acres. This 589 million acres of woodland and forest land does not include forest land in parks, wildlife refuges, etc., nor does it include an estimated 140 million acres of woodland and forest land not in farms which was pastured or grazed in 1964.

A large proportion of the Nation's agriculture comes from the land used for crop production. The total cropland in 1964 amounted to 434 million acres or one-fifth of the total land area. Total cropland included the 57 million acres of cropland used only for pasture.

Cropland harvested comprised two-thirds of the total cropland in farms in 1964. The distribution of cropland harvested varies greatly from region to region and State to State. For the United States, one-fourth of the land in farms is in cropland harvested; however, the proportion by State varies from 67 percent in Illinois to less than 2 percent in New Mexico and Alaska.

Cropland used only for pasture totaled 57 million acres in 1964 or 5 percent of the land in farms. Most of this pastureland is in rotation, with crops, although some of it may be in transition between cropland and a state of non-cropland use, which may be followed by reversion to other pasture or to woodland.

Cropland not harvested and not pastured in 1964 comprised 37 million acres of cultivated summer fallow, 29 million acres in soil-improvement crops, 6 million acres of crop failure, and 18 million acres of idle cropland and land on which crops were planted for harvest after 1964.

The practice of summer fallowing is associated with the growing of wheat in the drier areas of the major wheat-producing areas. The accumulation of soil moisture and the consequent improvement in yields per acre results from having the land lie idle for a crop season and by cultivating it or using methods to keep it free from weeds. Cultivated summer fallow is confined almost entirely to the wheat producing areas of the Great Plains and the Western States.

Woodland in farms totaled 146 million acres in 1964 or 13 percent of the total land in farms. About 80 million acres of the woodland is located in the South. Most of the woodland and forest land in West is not included as land in farms.

Of the total woodland in farms, 82 million was pastured or grazed in 1964. The produc-

tivity of this kind of pasture varies greatly as it includes cutover forest land once used for crops or open pasture in the process of reverting to forest land, and woodland, brush and scrub land, etc.

Pastureland other than cropland and woodland amounted to 490 million acres in 1964. This represented over two-fifths of the total land in farms for the United States, but over 70 percent of the land in farms in the West. About 36 million acres of the other pasture has been improved by liming, fertilizing, irrigating, draining, reseeding, or by controlling weeds.

In 18 selected Western States, having 439 million acres of the total 490 million acres of other pasture, about 5 percent of the pasture was considered improved, 74 percent to be rangeland predominantly grass, and 21 percent to be rangeland predominantly brush or browse in 1964.

**Change in land use**—The changes in the major uses of land in the United States were significantly different during the period prior to 1920 and the period since 1920. The period prior to 1920 was marked by the settlement and development of lands west of the Mississippi River and the clearing of forest lands. From 1900 to 1920, cropland other than that used for pasture increased from 319 million acres to 402 million acres. The expansion of cropland was accompanied by a decrease in grazing land. Grazing land, in total, was reduced about 65 million acres from 1900 to

1920. However, grazing land not in farms decreased about 107 million acres. Part of this grazing land was converted to cropland and part of the grazing land not in farms in 1900 was included as land in farms by 1920. Clearing of wooded and forest land also was a factor during this period as cropland and nonwooded pastureland increased in the Eastern States and in parts of the Pacific Northwest.

In the period since 1920, there have not been dramatic changes in the major land uses. Cropland other than that used for pasture has fluctuated from 415 million acres to 377 million acres. Land developed and improved through drainage, irrigation, and clearing of forests has about equaled the acreage of cropland reverting to permanent pasture and woodland plus the acreage of land converted to non-agricultural uses through the expansion of cities, highways, parks, airports, etc.

Land used for pasture and grazing has declined about 143 million acres since 1920. The decrease in pasture and grazing land accounts for much of the total change in land used for agriculture. Considerable acres of grazing lands not in farms have gradually become part of the pastureland in farms, as more public lands have been included in farms. (Grazing lands leased by farm operators, are included as land in farms; grazing lands under permit are not included as land in census farms. In 1964, leased Federal grazing lands totaled over 18 million acres.)

TABLE 7 Major Uses of Land in the United States: 1890 to 1964

Subject	1964	1959	1954 <sup>1</sup>	1950	1945 <sup>1</sup>	1940	1930	1920	1910	1900
Approximate land area <sup>2</sup> .....acres..	2,266,272,640	2,268,378,240	1,903,824,640	2,273,406,080	1,905,361,920	2,274,943,360	2,272,798,720	2,272,824,320	2,272,898,560	2,273,070,720
Land in farms.....acres..	1,110,187,000	1,123,507,574	1,158,191,511	1,161,419,720	1,141,615,364	1,065,113,774	990,111,984	958,676,612	881,431,469	841,201,566
Land not in farms.....acres..	1,156,085,640	1,144,870,666	745,633,129	1,111,986,360	763,746,556	1,209,829,586	1,282,686,736	1,314,147,708	1,391,467,091	1,431,869,174
Proportion of total land area.....percent..	51.0	50.6	39.2	48.9	40.1	53.2	56.4	57.8	61.2	63.0
Grazing land <sup>3</sup> .....acres..	293,054,000	327,803,000	4352,639,000	5402,150,000	6428,129,000	1504,000,000	1578,000,000	1661,000,000	1739,000,000	1768,000,000
Woodland and forest land not grazed <sup>4</sup> .....acres..	442,879,000	428,893,000	238,310,000	334,804,000	185,733,000	1219,000,000	1208,000,000	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Other land <sup>5</sup> .....acres..	420,153,000	391,140,000	154,684,000	375,033,000	149,885,000	1121,000,000	1132,000,000	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Land used for agriculture, total <sup>6</sup> .....acres..	1,403,241,000	1,451,310,574	1,510,830,511	1,563,569,720	1,569,744,000	1,565,000,000	1,565,000,000	1,617,000,000	1,618,000,000	1,607,000,000
Proportion of total land area.....percent..	61.9	63.9	79.4	68.8	82.4	182.1	182.2	185.0	185.0	184.4
Cropland other than used only for pasture.....acres..	376,813,336	382,570,743	393,579,123	408,827,289	403,245,042	1398,751,103	1415,334,931	1402,000,000	1347,000,000	1319,000,000
Proportion of total land area.....percent..	16.6	16.8	20.7	18.0	21.2	120.9	121.8	121.1	118.2	116.8
Land used for pasture and grazing.....acres..	922,985,000	952,112,623	999,740,000	1,023,573,813	1,051,670,000	1,065,000,000	1,042,000,000	1,066,000,000	1,121,000,000	1,131,000,000
Proportion of total land area.....percent..	40.7	41.9	52.5	45.0	55.2	155.9	154.7	156.0	158.9	159.4
Land used for agriculture and forestry <sup>7</sup> .....acres..	1,846,120,000	1,880,203,574	1,749,140,511	1,898,373,720	1,755,477,000	1,784,000,000	1,773,000,000	1,777,000,000	1,780,000,000	1,782,000,000
Proportion of total land area.....percent..	81.5	82.8	91.9	83.5	92.1	193.6	193.2	193.4	193.5	193.6

NA Not available.  
<sup>1</sup>Data for Alaska and Hawaii not included.  
<sup>2</sup>Changes in land area represent changes in boundaries, changes due to the construction of reservoirs, to drainage of lakes and swamps, etc., except for 1940 when a complete remeasurement of the United States was made.  
<sup>3</sup>Estimates of Economic Research Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture. Grazing land not in farms consists of land used chiefly for grazing and includes open or nonforested grazing land, idle grassland in first decades, forest and woodland and shrub and brush grazing land in all years.  
<sup>4</sup>Includes some public and private land usable for grazing which is not necessarily grazed every year, but excludes areas of grass and other forage of value for grazing in military reservations, national parks, natural wild life areas, etc., for which permits were not issued for grazing livestock.  
<sup>5</sup>In addition to the estimated nonfarm acreage grazed, there were probably 15 to 20 million acres of nonfarm land having some forage value not used for grazing for various reasons.  
<sup>6</sup>Includes areas containing forage suitable for grazing (not legally closed to grazing), whether actually grazed or not in 1944.  
<sup>7</sup>Land in farms and grazing land not in farms.  
<sup>8</sup>Land in farms, grazing land not in farms, and woodland and forests not in farms.

Since 1900 all land in farms has increased 269 million acres. Most of this increase resulted from the transfer of grazing lands not in farms to farms. Much of this increase in land in farms since 1890 occurred in the 17 Western States of the conterminous United States. New settlement which continued until about 1920 account for a part of the increase. Since 1920, half or more of the increase has resulted from the adding of approximately 100 million acres of Federal, State, and Indian reservation land to the area reported in census farms. Changes in the method of controlling grazing rights and modification of census definitions and procedures rather than the increase of underdeveloped lands account for most of the increase of land in farms since 1920.

Land in farms declined 13 million acres or 1.2 percent from 1959 to 1964. This compares with a loss of 38 million acres (3.3 percent) between 1954 and 1959. Over 11 million acres of the decrease occurred in the South and resulted largely from the transfer of land in farms to forest land or to land to be used for forest purposes and to the abandonment or non-operation of farms. A 6 million acre decrease in land in farms in the North between 1959 and 1964 resulted largely from the discontinuance of farm operations and the transfer of land to urban and other nonfarm uses. Much of the 4 million acre increase in the Western States resulted from the inclusion of additional grazing lands as land in farms in 1964.

Total cropland decreased almost 14 million acres between 1959 and 1964, more than one-half of the decrease occurred in the South. A decrease of 8 million acres in cropland used only for pasture probably accounts for more than one-half of the 14 million acre decrease in total cropland. The decrease in cropland resulted in part from the abandonment or non-operation of farms, the conversion of cropland to permanent pastureland, the conversion and reversion of some cropland to woodland or to other noncropland use, and in the conversion of some cropland to such nonfarm uses as highways, cities, parks, suburban homesites, etc. Part of the decrease in cropland used only for pasture in the Western States may have resulted from differences in reporting by the respondent, caused by the inclusion of additional inquiries for the classification of other pasture in 1964.

The acreage of cropland harvested in 1964 is 72 million acres or 20 percent less than the acreage for 1929, and 66 million acres less than at the end of World War II. Since World War II, the acreage of cropland harvested has

decreased 34 million acres in the South. Much of this decrease in the South was the result of the shift in cotton acreage westward, the decrease in corn acreage, the abandonment of marginal farms, and the conversion of farmland to woodland. The more gradual decline in acreage since 1945 in the North has been the result of abandonment of cropland to nonagricultural uses and the advent of government programs (Soil Bank and Feed Grain Program) in the last decade. In the West, there has been no significant change in the cropland harvested acreage since 1945.

The acreage of cropland harvested declined over 25 million acres or 7.9 percent from 1959 to 1964. Almost all of the decrease was the result of farmer participation in the government Feed Grain Program and drought conditions in several of the Great Plains States. In the United States there was a decrease of more than 31 million acres of feed grains harvested in 1964 (corn, sorghums, oats and barley). This decrease was only partially offset by a 7 million acre increase in soybean acreage. The decrease in acreage of cropland harvested was 16 million acres in the Northern States, mainly in the Corn Belt States, and there was an 8 million acre decrease in the South. In the West, the decrease of 1.6 million acres of cropland harvested was mainly the result of drought and consequent crop failure.

For the United States, there was a decrease of 18 million acres or 11 percent in the acreage of woodland in farms from 1959 to 1964. Over 10 million of this occurred in the South where a considerable acreage of cropland and pastureland reverted to forest land. Much of the decrease of woodland in the South is the result of the transfer of lands once in farms to places that no longer qualify as farms. Of the total decrease in woodland, 10 million acres was woodland pastured and 8 million acres, woodland not pastured. Some of the decrease in the acreage of woodland pastured in the West resulted from the classification of land, considered as woodland pasture in 1959, as other pasture (rangeland predominantly brush or browse).

Since 1900, the total area (farm and non-farm) used for pasture and grazing has declined 208 million acres; and since 1944, the area decreased 129 million acres. The total pasture and grazing land in farms has increased about 6 million acres since 1944. At each succeeding census more of the rangeland in the Western States has been included as land in farms. This partially accounts for the decrease in grazing lands not in farms and the increase in pastureland in farms.

**TABLE 8. Farms, all Land in Farms, Cropland Harvested, and Value of Farms, by Regions: Censuses of 1850 to 1964**

Region and year	Number of farms			All land in farms					Cropland harvested <sup>1</sup>				Value of farms (land and buildings) <sup>2</sup>				
	Total	Increase or decrease (-)		Acres	Increase or decrease (-)		Percent of total land area <sup>3</sup>	Average acreage per farm	Acres	Percent increase or decrease (-)	Percent of all land in farms	Average acreage per farm (all farms)	Total (dollars)	Percent increase or decrease (-)	Average per farm (dollars)	Average per acre (dollars)	
		Number	Percent		Acres	Percent											
UNITED STATES																	
1964.....	3,157,857	-552,646	-14.9	1,110,187,000	-13,320,574	-1.2	49.0	351.6	286,891,974	-7.9	25.8	90.9	159,931,665,000	(NA)	50,646	143.81	
1959.....	3,710,503	(NA)	(NA)	1,123,507,574	(NA)	(NA)	49.5	302.8	311,476,141	(NA)	27.7	83.9	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	
1954.....	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	
1950.....	5,388,437	(NA)	(NA)	1,161,419,720	(NA)	(NA)	51.1	215.5	344,564,497	(NA)	29.7	63.9	75,462,427,000	(NA)	14,005	64.97	
1945.....	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	
1940.....	6,102,417	(NA)	(NA)	1,065,113,774	(NA)	(NA)	46.8	174.5	321,434,288	(NA)	30.2	52.7	33,758,367,972	(NA)	5,532	31.69	
1935.....	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	
1930.....	6,295,103	(NA)	(NA)	990,111,984	(NA)	(NA)	43.6	157.3	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	47,994,475,975	(NA)	7,624	48.47	
1925.....	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	
1920.....	6,453,991	87,947	1.4	958,676,612	77,245,143	8.8	42.2	148.5	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	66,446,345,611	90.5	10,295	69.31	
1910.....	6,366,044	626,387	10.9	881,431,469	40,229,923	4.8	38.8	138.5	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	34,884,925,036	(NA)	5,480	39.58	
1900.....	5,739,657	1,175,016	25.7	841,201,546	217,982,927	35.0	37.0	146.6	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	
CONTINUOUS UNITED STATES																	
1964.....	3,152,611	-551,283	-14.9	1,105,873,106	-14,284,683	-1.3	58.2	350.8	286,708,067	-7.9	25.9	90.9	159,432,430,000	23.6	50,572	143.92	
1959.....	3,703,894	-1,078,522	-22.6	1,120,157,789	-38,033,722	-3.3	58.9	302.4	311,285,249	-6.5	27.8	84.0	128,987,659,000	32.2	34,825	115.15	
1954.....	4,782,416	-599,746	-11.1	1,158,191,511	-374,341	(2)	60.8	242.2	332,870,479	-3.3	28.7	69.6	97,582,918,000	29.7	20,405	84.25	
1950.....	5,382,162	-477,007	-8.1	1,158,565,852	16,950,488	1.5	60.9	215.3	344,398,550	-2.4	29.7	64.0	75,260,606,000	62.2	13,983	64.96	
1945.....	5,859,169	-237,630	-3.9	1,141,615,364	80,762,990	7.6	59.9	194.8	352,865,765	9.8	30.9	60.2	46,388,925,560	37.9	7,917	40.63	
1940.....	6,096,799	-715,551	-10.5	1,060,852,374	6,337,263	0.6	55.7	174.0	321,242,430	8.7	30.3	52.7	33,641,738,726	2.4	5,518	31.71	
1935.....	6,812,350	523,702	8.3	1,054,515,111	67,744,095	6.9	55.4	154.8	295,624,176	-17.7	28.0	43.4	32,858,844,012	-31.4	4,823	31.16	
1930.....	6,288,648	-82,992	-1.3	986,771,016	62,451,664	6.8	51.8	156.9	359,242,091	4.3	36.4	57.1	47,879,838,358	-3.2	7,614	48.52	
1925.....	6,371,640	-76,703	-1.2	924,319,352	-31,564,363	-3.3	48.6	145.1	344,549,267	-1.2	37.3	54.1	49,467,647,287	-25.4	7,764	53.52	
1920.....	6,448,343	86,841	1.4	955,883,715	77,085,390	8.8	50.2	148.2	348,603,729	12.0	36.5	54.1	66,316,002,602	90.6	10,284	69.38	
1910.....	6,361,502	624,130	10.9	878,798,325	40,206,551	4.8	46.2	138.1	311,293,382	9.9	35.4	48.9	34,801,125,697	109.5	5,471	39.60	
1900.....	5,737,372	1,172,731	25.7	838,591,774	215,373,155	34.6	44.1	146.2	283,218,280	28.9	33.8	49.4	16,614,647,491	25.1	2,896	19.81	
1890.....	4,564,641	555,734	13.9	623,218,619	87,136,784	16.3	32.7	136.5	219,705,564	32.2	35.3	48.1	13,279,252,649	30.2	2,909	21.31	
1880.....	4,008,907	1,348,922	50.7	536,081,835	128,346,794	31.5	28.2	133.7	166,186,584	(NA)	31.0	41.5	10,197,096,776	37.0	2,544	19.02	
1870.....	2,659,985	615,908	30.1	407,735,041	522,503	0.1	21.4	153.3	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	7,444,054,462	12.0	2,799	18.26	
1860.....	2,044,077	595,004	41.1	407,212,538	113,651,924	38.7	21.4	199.2	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	6,645,045,007	103.1	3,251	16.32	
1850.....	1,449,073	-	-	293,560,614	-	-	15.6	202.6	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	3,271,575,426	-	2,258	11.14	
THE NORTH																	
1964.....	1,479,581	-235,860	-13.7	415,069,162	-6,370,506	-1.5	70.8	280.5	181,200,399	-8.3	43.7	122.5	71,082,390,000	15.1	48,042	170.77	
1959.....	1,715,441	-327,651	-16.0	421,439,668	-13,037,299	-3.0	71.7	245.7	197,514,215	-4.9	46.9	115.1	61,761,140,000	28.6	36,003	146.55	
1954.....	2,043,092	-224,974	-9.9	434,476,967	-6,350,936	-1.4	73.9	212.7	207,611,565	-0.1	47.8	101.6	48,025,056,000	24.9	23,506	110.54	
1950.....	2,268,066	-215,512	-8.7	440,827,903	-6,887,304	-1.5	74.9	194.4	207,887,638	-2.1	47.2	91.7	38,455,289,000	51.4	16,955	87.23	
1945.....	2,483,578	-96,381	-3.7	447,715,207	12,626,930	2.9	76.1	180.3	212,322,529	13.8	47.4	85.5	25,401,414,030	34.3	10,228	56.74	
1940.....	2,579,959	-239,509	-8.5	435,088,277	-6,864,248	-1.6	73.9	168.6	186,535,945	12.4	42.9	72.3	18,909,130,951	-0.6	7,329	43.46	
1935.....	2,819,468	257,683	10.1	441,952,525	16,243,097	3.8	75.2	156.8	166,026,942	-22.2	37.6	58.9	19,024,668,079	-32.7	6,748	43.05	
1930.....	2,561,785	-179,458	-6.5	425,709,428	11,526,961	2.8	72.4	166.2	213,342,951	1.1	50.1	83.3	28,253,801,121	-9.6	11,029	66.37	
1925.....	2,741,243	-22,163	-0.8	414,182,467	-18,089,484	-4.2	70.5	151.1	211,022,423	-0.1	50.9	77.0	31,260,011,152	-27.9	11,404	75.47	
1920.....	2,763,406	-127,212	-4.4	432,271,951	18,788,695	4.5	73.5	156.4	211,182,836	7.5	48.9	76.4	43,326,743,178	83.2	15,679	100.23	
1910.....	2,890,618	16,545	0.6	413,483,256	30,724,693	8.0	70.4	143.0	196,468,085	6.8	47.5	68.0	23,650,151,375	96.4	8,182	57.20	
1900.....	2,874,073	291,682	11.3	382,758,563	63,428,044	19.9	65.1	133.2	183,952,270	23.5	48.1	64.0	12,041,146,126	25.3	4,190	31.46	
1890.....	2,582,391	188,284	7.9	319,330,519	44,362,722	16.1	54.3	123.7	148,940,419	37.0	46.6	57.7	9,608,967,691	21.1	3,721	30.09	
1880.....	2,394,107	667,434	38.7	274,967,797	73,008,144	36.1	46.8	114.9	108,732,156	(NA)	39.5	45.4	7,932,884,489	32.7	3,314	28.85	
1870.....	1,726,673	389,573	29.1	201,959,653	32,978,518	19.5	34.4	117.0	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	5,978,826,418	40.6	3,463	29.60	
1860.....	1,337,100	409,749	44.2	168,981,135	51,131,810	43.4	23.5	126.4	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	4,251,961,938	92.7	3,180	25.16	
1850.....	927,351	-	-	117,849,325	-	-	26.5	127.1	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	2,206,731,928	-	2,380	18.73	
THE SOUTH																	
1964.....	1,372,732	-273,217	-16.6	346,228,336	-11,219,750	-3.1	61.8	252.2	68,535,247	-8.8	19.8	49.9	52,068,384,000	33.5	37,931	150.11	
1959.....	1,645,949	-670,658	-29.0	357,448,086	-28,840,914	-7.5	63.7	217.2	75,173,269	-13.2	21.0	45.7	39,011,497,000	32.0	23,702	109.14	
1954.....	2,316,607	-335,816	-12.7	386,289,000	-6,926,174	-1.8	68.7	166.7	86,589,832	-10.4	22.4	37.4	29,549,362,000	28.7	12,755	76.50	
1950.....	2,652,423	-228,712	-7.9	393,215,174	15,420,461	4.1	69.9	148.2	96,598,960	-5.6	24.6	36.4	22,955,349,000	74.6	8,654	58.38	
1945.....	2,881,135	-126,035	-4.2	377,794,713	7,626,252	2.1	67.1	131.1	102,338,942	-0.9	27.1	35.5	13,148,834,055	35.3	4,564	34.80	
1940.....	3,007,170	-414,753	-12.1	370,168,461	-6,037,740	-1.6	65.7	123.1	103,289,490	1.4	27.9	34.3	9,716,128,097	11.2	3,231	26.25	
1935.....	3,421,923	198,107	6.1	376,206,201	33,119,783	9.7	66.9	109.9	101,897,290	-6.9	27.1	29.8	8,736,858,459	-29.2	2,553	23.22	
1930.....	3,223,816	92,398	3.0	343,086,418	18,897,019	5.8	61.0	106.4	109,505,307	7.1	31.9	34.0	12,343,593,204	7.0	3,829	35.98	
1925.....	3,131,418	-75,246	-2.3	324,189,399	-25,932,434	-7.4	57.7	103.5	102,243,034	-6.3	31.5	32.7	11,539,207,263	-23.9	3,685	35.59	
1920.....	3,206,664	109,117	3.5	350,121,833	-4,331,027	-1.2	62.3	109									

**TABLE 8. Farms, all Land in Farms, Cropland Harvested, and Value of Farms, by Regions: Censuses of 1850 to 1964—Continued**

Region and year	Number of farms			All land in farms					Cropland harvested <sup>1</sup>				Value of farms (land and buildings) <sup>2</sup>			
	Total	Increase or decrease (-)		Acres	Increase or decrease (-)		Per- cent of total land area <sup>3</sup>	Aver- age acre- age per farm	Acres	Per- cent in- crease or de- crease (-)	Per- cent of all land in farms	Aver- age acre- age per farm (all farms)	Total (dollars)	Per- cent in- crease or de- crease (-)	Aver- age per farm (dol- lars)	Aver- age per acre (dol- lars)
		Number	Per- cent		Acres	Per- cent										
THE WEST																
1964.....	305,544	-43,569	-12.5	348,889,502	4,269,682	1.2	31.2	1,141.9	37,156,328	-4.2	10.6	121.6	36,780,891,000	(NA)	120,383	105.39
1959.....	349,113	(NA)	(NA)	344,619,820	(NA)	(NA)	30.7	987.1	38,788,657	(NA)	11.3	111.1	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
1954.....	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
1950.....	467,948	(NA)	(NA)	327,376,643	(NA)	(NA)	29.2	699.6	40,077,899	(NA)	12.2	85.6	14,051,789,000	(NA)	30,029	42.92
1945.....	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
1940.....	515,288	(NA)	(NA)	259,857,036	(NA)	(NA)	23.1	504.3	31,608,853	(NA)	12.2	61.3	5,133,108,924	(NA)	9,962	19.75
1935 <sup>1</sup> .....	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
1930.....	509,502	(NA)	(NA)	221,316,138	(NA)	(NA)	19.7	434.4	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	7,397,081,650	(NA)	14,518	33.42
1925 <sup>1</sup> .....	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
1920.....	483,921	106,042	28.1	176,282,828	62,787,475	55.3	15.7	364.3	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	7,962,947,526	105.2	16,455	45.17
1910.....	377,879	132,686	54.1	113,495,353	17,088,721	17.7	10.1	300.3	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	3,881,342,466	(NA)	10,271	34.20
1900.....	245,193	(NA)	(NA)	96,406,632	(NA)	(NA)	8.6	393.2	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
THE WEST-- CONTINUOUS AREA																
1964.....	300,298	-42,206	-12.3	344,575,608	3,305,573	1.0	45.8	1147.4	36,972,421	-4.2	10.7	123.1	36,281,656,000	28.6	120,822	105.26
1959.....	342,504	-80,213	-19.0	341,270,035	3,844,491	1.1	45.3	996.4	38,597,765	-0.2	11.3	112.7	28,215,022,000	41.0	82,379	82.68
1954.....	422,717	-38,956	-8.4	337,425,544	12,902,769	4.0	44.8	798.2	38,669,082	-3.1	11.5	91.5	20,008,500,000	44.5	47,334	59.30
1950.....	461,673	-32,783	-6.6	324,522,775	8,417,331	2.7	43.1	702.9	39,911,952	4.5	12.3	86.5	13,849,968,000	76.7	30,000	42.68
1945.....	494,456	-15,214	-3.0	316,105,444	60,509,808	23.7	41.9	639.3	38,204,294	21.6	12.1	77.3	7,838,677,475	56.3	15,853	24.80
1940.....	509,670	-61,289	-10.7	255,595,636	19,239,251	8.1	33.9	501.5	31,416,995	13.4	12.3	61.6	5,016,479,678	-1.6	9,843	19.63
1935.....	570,959	67,912	13.5	236,356,385	18,381,215	8.4	31.4	414.0	27,699,944	-23.9	11.7	48.5	5,097,317,474	-30.0	8,928	21.57
1930.....	503,047	4,068	0.8	217,975,170	32,027,684	17.2	28.9	433.3	36,393,833	16.3	16.7	72.3	7,282,444,033	9.2	14,477	33.41
1925.....	498,979	20,706	4.3	185,947,486	12,457,555	7.2	24.7	372.7	31,283,810	10.6	16.8	62.7	6,668,428,872	-14.9	13,364	35.86
1920.....	478,273	104,936	28.1	173,489,931	62,627,722	56.5	23.0	362.7	28,285,497	45.1	16.3	59.1	7,832,604,517	106.3	16,377	45.15
1910.....	373,337	130,429	53.7	110,862,209	17,065,349	18.2	14.7	296.9	19,496,356	23.7	17.6	52.2	3,797,543,127	193.4	10,172	34.25
1900.....	242,908	97,030	66.5	93,796,860	46,514,627	98.4	12.4	386.1	15,756,166	61.7	16.8	64.9	1,294,479,856	18.2	5,329	13.80
1890.....	145,878	62,155	74.2	47,282,233	21,087,981	80.5	6.3	324.1	9,746,079	88.2	20.6	66.8	1,094,942,690	180.1	7,506	23.16
1880.....	83,723	35,511	73.7	26,194,252	9,975,166	61.5	3.5	312.9	5,179,858	(NA)	19.8	61.9	390,884,441	121.4	4,669	14.92
1870.....	48,212	13,548	39.1	16,219,086	3,501,419	27.5	2.2	336.4	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	176,533,175	150.4	3,662	10.88
1860.....	34,664	27,952	416.4	12,717,667	8,053,434	172.7	2.0	366.9	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	70,488,320	711.2	2,033	5.34
1850.....	6,712	-	-	4,664,213	-	-	0.8	694.9	(NA)	-	(NA)	(NA)	8,688,932	-	1,295	1.86

NA Not available. Z Less than 0.05 percent.

<sup>1</sup>Prior to 1924, the data relate to the total acreage of crops for which figures are available, except for 1919 when 14,502,932 acres of corn cut for forage were excluded (as most of this was probably duplicated in the acreage of corn harvested for grain).

<sup>2</sup>The total value for 1959, 1954, and 1950 was based on the average value per acre for farms in the sample, for which value of land and buildings was reported. The average value per farm and per acre was based on the total value of all farms. The value for 1964 are estimates based upon reports for a sample of farms. See text.

<sup>3</sup>Percentages for 1964 and 1959 are based on land areas as shown in table 13. Percentages for earlier years are based on land areas as published in census reports for those years. United States land areas, for earlier years, are shown in table 6.

The acreage of all pastureland in farms increased more than 5 million acres since 1959. All of this increase occurred in the West as there were small decreases in the acreage in the North and South. Within the various classifications of pasture, cropland used only for pasture decreased 8 million acres, woodland pasture decreased 10 million, and other pasture (not cropland and not woodland) increased 24 million acres. Part of the increase in other pasture resulted from the inclusion of additional grazing lands as land in farms and from the reporting of cropland or woodland pasture (as classified in 1959) as other pasture in 1964. About 8 million acres of the increase was in the South and 12 million acres was in the West.

The acreage of improved pasture increased 12.8 million acres or 55 percent from 1959 to 1964. In all but three States, there were significant increases in acreages of other improved pasture. In the West and Southwest, increases resulted largely from brush control and reseeding.

**Changes in the value per farm**—The total value of farm land and buildings in 1964 was about \$160 billion, or an average of \$50,646 per farm. The total value in 1964 was double the total value in 1950 and almost 10 times the total value in 1900. On a per-farm basis, the average value of land and buildings in 1964 was two and one-half times that of 1954 and nine times that of 1940.

The total value of farm land and buildings has increased significantly in each census since 1940. The total value also increased at a rapid rate in the period from 1850 to 1920. The total values declined from a high of \$66 billion in 1920 to \$33 billion in 1935. It was not until 1950 that the total value exceeded that for 1920. The decline in value between 1920 and 1935 was largely the result of falling prices. The increase in total value of farm land and buildings in the 50 years between 1850 and 1900 was due mainly to the increasing acreage of land in farms as settlement pushed westward and the lengthening of the railway network brought new land areas within the reach of farm product markets.

The change in the total value of land and buildings and the average value per farm and per acre from census to census are affected by changes in price level as well as changes in the physical assets themselves. No fully satisfactory index is available to use for removing the entire effect of the changes in price level from census to census. The following table indicates the approximate level of the value of farm land and buildings at 1964 prices for the period 1850 to 1964. The value at 1964 prices has been calculated by dividing the value of farm land and buildings for each census year by the index of wholesale prices for that year (1964 base equals 100).

The computed value of land and buildings at constant 1964 prices indicates more accurately the growth and change in the value

TABLE 9. **Value of Land and Buildings at 1964 Prices and as Reported by the Census for the United States: 1850 to 1964**

Census year	Index of wholesale prices 1964=100	Value at 1964 prices			Value as reported by the census		
		Total value (millions of dollars)	Average value per farm (dollars)	Average value per acre (dollars)	Total value (millions of dollars)	Average value per farm (dollars)	Average value per acre (dollars)
1964 . . .	100.0	159,932	50,646	143.81	159,932	50,646	143.81
1959 <sup>1</sup> . . .	100.1	128,876	34,791	114.97	129,005	34,826	115.08
1954 <sup>2</sup> . . .	92.4	105,609	22,083	91.18	97,583	20,405	84.25
1950 . . .	86.4	87,340	16,209	75.20	75,462	14,005	64.97
1945 <sup>3</sup> . . .	57.6	80,536	13,745	70.54	46,389	7,917	40.63
1940 . . .	42.8	78,874	12,925	74.04	33,758	5,532	31.69
1935 <sup>3</sup> . . .	43.6	75,365	11,062	71.47	32,859	4,823	31.16
1930 . . .	47.1	101,898	16,187	102.91	47,994	7,624	48.47
1925 . . .	56.3	87,865	13,790	95.06	49,468	7,764	53.52
1920 . . .	84.1	79,008	12,241	82.41	66,446	10,295	69.31
1910 . . .	38.4	90,846	14,271	103.07	34,885	5,480	39.58
1900 <sup>3</sup> . . .	30.5	54,672	9,525	64.98	16,675	2,905	19.82
1890 <sup>3</sup> . . .	30.5	43,538	9,538	69.87	13,279	2,909	21.31
1880 <sup>3</sup> . . .	35.4	28,805	7,186	53.73	10,197	2,544	19.02
1870 <sup>3</sup> . . .	47.2	15,771	5,930	38.69	7,444	2,799	18.26
1860 <sup>3</sup> . . .	33.1	20,076	9,822	49.31	6,645	3,251	16.32
1850 <sup>3</sup> . . .	33.9	9,652	6,661	32.86	3,272	2,258	11.14

<sup>1</sup> Data for Hawaii not included.

<sup>2</sup> Data for Alaska and Hawaii not included.

<sup>3</sup> Data for Alaska not included.

of farm land and buildings than the value reported in current prices in the census. For example, in the period since 1940 the census values indicate the average value per farm increasing more than 9 times; however, in constant 1964 dollars the average per farm increased less than four times. The change in the value of farm land and buildings has proceeded at different rates, in the various regions. The regional figures indicate the steady western movement, characterizing the expansion of agriculture during the last 100 years. By 1870, the settlement of the West had hardly begun and the Southern States had neither recovered from the Civil War nor changed from the hand-labor system of cotton production. Hence, in 1870 four-fifths of the value of land and buildings was concentrated in the northern and eastern part of the United States. By 1920, the proportion of value in the North had dropped to 65 percent, and by 1964 the proportion had declined to less than 45 percent.

TABLE 10. **Percent Distribution of Land in Farms and Value of Land and Buildings for the North, the South, and the West: 1850 to 1964**

Census year	United States, total	Percent distribution of land in farm			Percent distribution of value of land and buildings		
		North	South	West	North	South	West
1964 .....	100.0	37.4	31.2	31.4	44.4	32.6	23.0
1959 <sup>1</sup> .....	100.0	37.5	31.8	30.7	47.9	30.2	21.9
1954 <sup>2</sup> .....	100.0	37.5	33.4	29.1	49.2	30.3	20.5
1950 .....	100.0	38.0	33.9	28.2	51.0	30.4	18.6
1945 <sup>2</sup> .....	100.0	39.2	33.1	27.7	54.8	28.3	16.9
1940 .....	100.0	40.8	34.8	24.4	56.0	28.8	15.2
1935 <sup>2</sup> .....	100.0	41.9	35.7	22.4	57.9	26.6	15.5
1930 .....	100.0	43.0	34.7	22.4	58.9	25.7	15.4
1925 <sup>2</sup> .....	100.0	44.8	35.1	20.1	63.2	23.3	13.5
1920 .....	100.0	45.1	36.5	18.4	65.2	22.8	12.0
1910 .....	100.0	46.9	40.2	12.9	67.8	21.1	11.1
1900 .....	100.0	45.5	43.0	11.5	72.5	19.7	7.8
1890 <sup>2</sup> .....	100.0	51.2	41.2	7.6	72.4	19.4	8.2
1880 <sup>2</sup> .....	100.0	51.3	43.8	4.9	77.8	18.4	3.8
1870 <sup>2</sup> .....	100.0	49.5	46.5	4.0	80.3	17.3	2.4
1860 <sup>2</sup> .....	100.0	41.5	55.4	3.1	64.0	35.0	1.1
1850 <sup>2</sup> .....	100.0	40.1	58.3	1.6	67.5	32.3	0.3

<sup>1</sup> Data for Hawaii not included.

<sup>2</sup> Data for Alaska and Hawaii not included.

The West in 1870 accounted for less than 3 percent of the total value of land and buildings,

but by 1964, the West accounted for over one-fifth of the total value. In the West the relation of land values to total land in farms has been greatly affected by increased acreage of low value per acre Federal grazing lands since 1900. Variations in the rate of growth in the different parts of the country have been large. The extent of settlement, the type of agriculture, the scale of farming, the availability of credit, the development of irrigation, industrialization, and price fluctuations for various farm products have affected the rate of growth among regions and among States.

In 1964, almost 90 percent of the farms were reported to have a value of land and buildings of less than \$100,000. Two-thirds of the farms had values of less than \$40,000 and almost one-fourth had values of less than \$10,000. These proportions, as shown in the table below, varied significantly in the various regions.

TABLE 11. **Percent Distribution of Farms by Value of Land and Buildings**

Value of land and buildings	United States	The North	The South	The West
Total .....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Less than \$10,000 .....	23.7	14.8	36.7	8.1
\$10,000 to \$19,999 .....	20.8	19.8	23.3	14.6
\$20,000 to \$39,999 .....	22.6	25.6	19.1	23.4
\$40,000 to \$69,999 .....	15.2	19.6	9.6	18.9
\$70,000 to \$99,000 .....	6.8	9.0	3.8	9.6
\$100,000 to \$149,000 .....	5.1	6.2	3.0	8.5
\$150,000 to \$199,000 .....	2.3	2.4	1.5	4.8
\$200,000 to \$499,000 .....	2.9	2.3	2.2	8.4
\$500,000 or more .....	0.8	0.2	0.7	3.7

In the West, only 8 percent of the farms had farm values of less than \$10,000, whereas 25 percent had farm values of \$100,000 or more. It should be noted that these regional differences are directly related to the size of farm and the average value of land and buildings per acre in each of the regions. The average size of farm for the North, South, and West is 280.5, 252.2, and 1,141.9 acres respectively; and the average value per acre is \$170.77, \$150.11, and \$105.39, respectively.