

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
VOLUME I				
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.
VOLUME II				
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.