

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	(Z)	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	40,206,531	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	213,373,125	34.6	416,674,677,447	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>1</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>1</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>1</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>1</sup> .....	1,449,073	-	-	293,560,614	-	-	3,271,975,426	-	2,298	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.