

Characteristics of farms by size—The proportion of the total acres of land in farms repre-

sented by cropland, pastureland, and woodland varies by size of farm,

TABLE 4. Percent of All Land in Farms Represented—by Total Cropland, Total Pastureland and Total Woodland, by Size of Farm, for the United States: 1964

Size of farm	Percent of all land in farms represented by		
	Total cropland	Total pastureland	Total woodland
All farms.....	39.1	56.7	13.1
Less than 10 acres.....	58.2	17.2	3.6
10 to 49 acres.....	55.1	37.0	18.6
50 to 99 acres.....	54.4	37.8	22.9
100 to 139 acres.....	55.8	36.9	22.9
140 to 179 acres.....	60.3	33.7	18.9
180 to 219 acres.....	59.1	34.2	20.7
220 to 259 acres.....	62.4	31.8	17.7
360 to 379 acres.....	62.2	32.0	16.8
380 to 499 acres.....	62.0	32.7	15.3
500 to 699 acres.....	59.5	35.6	14.9
700 to 999 acres.....	57.1	38.8	13.0
1,000 to 1,999 acres.....	50.4	46.2	11.4
2,000 acres or more.....	13.5	84.0	8.9

The value of land and buildings probably more accurately portrays the productivity of farms than do acres in the farm. The following

table shows the distribution of farms in each size of farm group, by value of land and buildings per farm.

TABLE 5. Farms in Each Size Group, Classified by Value of Land and Buildings per Farm, for the United States: 1964

Size of farm	Number of farms with a value of land and buildings of— (dollars)									
	Total	Less than 10,000	10,000 to 19,999	20,000 to 39,999	40,000 to 69,999	70,000 to 99,999	100,000 to 149,999	150,000 to 199,999	200,000 to 499,999	500,000 or more
Total.....	3,157,857	747,330	656,098	712,636	479,773	215,172	160,112	71,265	91,107	24,364
Under 10 acres.....	171,486	94,976	38,187	25,087	8,645	2,314	1,288	528	436	25
10 to 49 acres.....	642,541	324,883	167,091	100,164	32,609	8,570	4,983	1,826	2,013	402
50 to 99 acres.....	543,895	181,017	174,965	128,943	38,855	9,440	5,542	2,265	2,438	430
100 to 139 acres.....	324,076	61,404	100,064	103,823	42,171	7,725	4,799	1,442	2,238	430
140 to 179 acres.....	309,676	37,716	73,110	101,113	69,841	17,799	5,355	2,329	2,091	382
180 to 219 acres.....	192,311	17,229	34,700	62,222	48,131	17,820	7,754	1,957	2,069	429
220 to 259 acres.....	164,672	9,950	21,468	49,295	44,107	23,109	11,931	2,332	2,141	339
260 to 379 acres.....	298,067	12,747	29,525	78,929	78,456	45,037	33,863	11,675	6,724	1,111
380 to 379 acres.....	154,525	3,735	9,094	29,488	43,640	25,711	22,164	10,439	9,414	840
380 to 499 acres.....	124,562	2,241	4,589	18,776	35,002	18,870	19,759	10,581	12,961	1,783
500 to 699 acres.....	86,750	1,285	1,989	8,668	19,783	18,897	14,260	8,064	11,939	1,865
700 to 999 acres.....	145,296	147	1,316	6,128	18,533	19,940	28,414	17,827	36,663	16,328

Table 15 presents data showing the characteristics and importance of farms for each of the 12 size-of-farm groups for 1964.

Change in size of farm—The increase of farm size has been one of the significant developments in agriculture in the United States in the twentieth century. The number of farms has decreased rapidly in the last 30 years, but the acreage of land in farms has changed very little and the average size of farm has doubled since 1935.

TABLE 6. Average Size of Farm for the United States: 1850 to 1964

Year	Average size of farms (acres)	Year	Average size of farms (acres)	Year	Average size of farms (acres)	Year	Average size of farms (acres)
1964...	351.6	1940..	174.5	1920..	148.5 ¹	1880..	133.7
1959...	302.8	1935..	¹ 154.8	1910..	138.5	1870..	153.3
1954...	¹ 242.2	1930..	157.3	1900..	146.6	1860..	199.2
1950...	215.5	1925..	¹ 145.1	1890..	136.5	1850..	202.6
1945...	¹ 194.8						

¹Does not include data for Alaska and Hawaii.