

The number of farms in each of the size of farm groups under 260 acres has decreased, while the number of farms in the size groups over 260 acres has increased. Many small farms have ceased operation and the land in many of these has been incorporated into

other farms. New technology and mechanization have accelerated the consolidation of farms. The inclusion of additional grazing land in the Western States has contributed to the increase in the number of farms 1,000 acres and over.

TABLE 7 Farms and Percent Change in Number of Farms, by Size of Farm, for the United States: 1964, 1959, 1954, and 1950

Size of farm	Number of farms				Increase or decrease (-)		Percent change	
	1964	1959	1954 ¹	1950	1959 to 1964	1954 ¹ to 1959	1959 to 1964	1954 ¹ to 1959
Total.....	3,157,857	3,710,503	4,782,416	5,388,437	-552,646	-1,078,522	-14.9	-22.6
Under 10 acres.....	182,581	244,328	484,291	488,530	-61,747	-243,558	-25.3	-50.3
10 to 49 acres.....	637,434	813,216	1,212,831	1,479,596	-175,782	-401,629	-21.6	33.3
10 to 29 acres.....	(NA)	(NA)	713,335	855,000	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
30 to 49 acres.....	(NA)	(NA)	499,496	624,596	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
50 to 69 acres.....	211,398	258,195	346,323	427,025	-46,797	-88,280	-18.1	-25.5
70 to 99 acres.....	331,032	399,795	517,740	621,050	-68,763	-118,098	-17.2	-22.8
100 to 139 acres.....	324,652	394,505	491,458	579,244	-69,852	-97,063	-17.7	-19.8
140 to 179 acres.....	308,288	378,003	461,651	523,659	-69,715	-83,805	-18.4	-18.2
180 to 219 acres.....	191,254	225,576	257,189	275,049	-34,322	-31,670	-15.2	-12.3
220 to 259 acres.....	164,188	188,899	206,509	212,344	-24,711	-17,655	-13.1	-8.5
260 to 499 acres.....	451,301	471,547	482,246	478,170	-20,246	-10,850	-4.3	-2.2
500 to 999 acres.....	210,437	200,012	191,697	182,297	10,425	8,268	5.2	4.1
1,000 acres and over.....	145,292	136,427	130,481	121,473	8,865	5,818	6.5	4.5
1,000 to 1,999 acres.....	85,000	79,101	(NA)	(NA)	5,899	(NA)	7.5	(NA)
2,000 acres and over.....	60,292	57,326	(NA)	(NA)	2,966	(NA)	5.2	(NA)

NA Not available.
¹Data for Alaska and Hawaii not included.

The number of farms under 10 acres in size has been declining since 1945. The discontinuance of farming by the operators of small farms and part-time farmers, the change in definition of a farm between the 1954 and the

1959 census, the almost complete disappearance of sharecropper farms in the South, etc. have contributed to the 70 percent decline in farms under 10 acres in size since 1945.

TABLE 8. Farms Under 10 Acres in Size, With Land in Farms, for the United States: 1880 to 1964

Year	Under 10 acres		Under 3 acres		3 to 9 acres	
	Number of farms	Land in farms (acres)	Number of farms	Land in farms (acres)	Number of farms	Land in farms (acres)
1964.....	182,581	778,000	59,686	(NA)	122,895	(NA)
1959.....	244,328	1,052,591	79,083	(NA)	165,245	(NA)
1954 ¹	484,291	2,259,817	99,896	(NA)	384,395	(NA)
1950.....	488,530	2,451,013	78,110	(NA)	410,420	(NA)
1945 ¹	594,561	2,805,435	98,966	141,252	495,595	2,664,183
1940.....	509,347	2,679,405	37,022	52,334	472,325	2,627,071
1935 ¹	570,831	3,057,166	35,573	51,269	535,258	3,005,897
1930.....	361,999	1,922,230	44,244	63,210	317,755	1,859,020
1925 ¹	378,535	2,096,610	15,151	22,976	363,384	2,073,634
1920 ¹	288,772	1,600,287	20,350	33,613	268,422	1,566,674
1910 ¹	335,043	(NA)	18,033	(NA)	317,010	(NA)
1900.....	268,446	1,481,899	41,882	79,508	226,564	1,402,391
1890.....	150,194	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
1880.....	139,241	(NA)	4,352	(NA)	134,889	(NA)

NA Not available.
¹Data for Alaska and Hawaii not included.