

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 <sup>1</sup> | 1950      | 1959 to 1964             | 1954 <sup>1</sup> to 1959 | 1959 to 1964   | 1954 <sup>1</sup> 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.  
<sup>1</sup>Data 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 <sup>1</sup> ..... | 484,291         | 2,259,817             | 99,896          | (NA)                  | 384,395         | (NA)                  |
| 1950.....               | 488,530         | 2,451,013             | 78,110          | (NA)                  | 410,420         | (NA)                  |
| 1945 <sup>1</sup> ..... | 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 <sup>1</sup> ..... | 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 <sup>1</sup> ..... | 378,535         | 2,096,610             | 15,151          | 22,976                | 363,384         | 2,073,634             |
| 1920 <sup>1</sup> ..... | 288,772         | 1,600,287             | 20,350          | 33,613                | 268,422         | 1,566,674             |
| 1910 <sup>1</sup> ..... | 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.  
<sup>1</sup>Data for Alaska and Hawaii not included.