

## Facsimile of Section 7, Form 69-A1

Section 7 - Was CONTOUR PLANTING, STRIPCROPPING, or TERRACING in use on this place in 1969?

<input type="checkbox"/> Yes - Complete this section			
<input type="checkbox"/> No - Go to Section 8	1. Grain or row crops farmed on the contour .....	083	Acres
	2. Stripcropping systems to control erosion .....	084	Acres
	3. Cropland and pastureland having terraces .....	085	Acres

### Cropland Used for Grain or Row Crops Farmed on the Contour

Crops are planted on the contour when the rows or strips are laid out at right angles to the natural slope of the land. Generally, alternate strips or rows of different crops are used to retard soil and water losses. The usual arrangement is to alternate row crops with close seeded crops. The growing of crops on the contour is a widely used soil-conservation practice in the West North Central and the West South Central States. Contour farming also is a common practice in parts of Illinois, Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, and in parts of the cotton-producing area of the South.

The inquiry regarding cropland used for grain or row crops farmed on the contour was included on the report form for class 1-5 farms in the 1969 census for all States. A similar inquiry was included in the 1964 Census of Agriculture for all States except Alaska; in the 1959 census for all States except Hawaii and Alaska; and in the 1954 census for all States except Florida, Hawaii, and Alaska.

Cropland used for grain or row crops farmed on the contour was reported by 9 percent of the class 1-5 farms in the United States. The acreage farmed on the contour amounted to 14.6 million acres, or 6 percent of the cropland harvested on all class 1-5 farms. The acreage of cropland for grain or row crops farmed on the contour, which increased from 18.1 million acres reported for 1954 to almost 20.5 million acres in 1959, and showed a small decrease to 20.3 million acres in 1964, declined almost 28 percent between 1964 and 1969. The number of farms with cropland used for grain or row crops farmed on the contour and the acreage so used for the last four censuses is as follows:

	<u>1969</u>	<u>1964</u> <sup>1</sup>	<u>1959</u> <sup>2</sup>	<u>1954</u> <sup>3</sup>
Number of farms .....	147,396	250,344	258,676	241,535
Number of acres .....	14,572,224	20,254,349	20,495,749	18,099,133
Average acres per farm .....	98.9	80.9	79.2	74.9
Percent of total farms .....	8.5	13.8	12.5	11.5

<sup>1</sup>Data for Alaska not included.

<sup>2</sup>Data for Alaska and Hawaii not included.

<sup>3</sup>Data for Alaska, Florida, and Hawaii not included.

The sizeable decline in acreage of cropland used for grain or row crops farmed on the contour between 1964 and 1969 can be largely attributed to changes in farming practices, although part of the difference may be the result of the change in enumeration procedure from 1964.

Grain and row crops are concentrated on cash-grain and livestock farms. In 1969, over two-thirds of the cropland used for grain and row crops farmed on contour were on cash-grain farms and livestock farms other than poultry and dairy. Data by type of farm are shown in table 2.

**Table 2. Cropland Used for Grain and Row Crops Farmed on the Contour by Type of Farm: 1969 and 1964**

	Farms reporting		Acres	
	<u>1969</u>	<u>1964</u>	<u>1969</u>	<u>1964</u>
United States, total.	147,396	250,344	14,572,224	20,254,349
Cash-grain.....	31,925	45,977	4,645,275	5,883,458
Tobacco.....	3,769	14,400	72,742	231,123
Cotton.....	5,490	23,475	1,048,842	2,564,849
Other field crop.....	1,938	3,120	263,335	327,537
Vegetable.....	788	1,005	51,689	69,931
Fruit and nut.....	541	858	27,170	34,218
Poultry.....	2,006	6,565	97,770	221,837
Dairy.....	25,769	45,175	1,287,537	2,123,645
Livestock other than poultry and dairy.....	60,737	77,517	5,483,840	6,142,808
Livestock ranches.....	1,473	3,076	114,601	326,462
General.....	12,406	27,925	1,454,589	2,282,171
Miscellaneous.....	554	1,251	24,834	46,310

Data presented in chapter 7, of this volume indicate that the larger and more productive farms account for a large proportion of acreage involved in land-improvement practices. Three-fifths of the land reported as farmed on the contour was on farms with farm sales of \$20,000 and over. The following table shows data for the three land-use practices by class 1-5 farms.

	Percent distribution of acreage		
	<u>Farmed on the contour</u>	<u>In strip-cropping</u>	<u>Having terraces</u>
Total .....	100.0	100.0	100.0
Class 1 .....	30.5	21.6	25.8
Class 2 .....	29.6	35.0	27.6
Class 3 .....	23.3	28.4	24.4
Class 4 .....	11.5	11.1	14.4
Class 5 .....	5.2	3.9	7.9