

## Land Diverted and Federal Programs

The 1969 census data indicates there were 1,130,000 farms reporting 53.3 million acres of land diverted under Federal farm programs. Of these farms with diverted acres, 851,000 reported receiving \$1.9 billion in government payments. Over one-half of the farms with diverted acres and about three fifths of the acres diverted were on farms in the North Central States. The size distribution for acres diverted for all farms are shown in table 5.

**Table 5. Percent Distribution of Farms by Acres Diverted**

|                         | United States | The Northeast | The North Central | The South | The West |
|-------------------------|---------------|---------------|-------------------|-----------|----------|
| Total.....              | 100.0         | 100.0         | 100.0             | 100.0     | 100.0    |
| 1 to 9 acres.....       | 22.3          | 37.5          | 14.3              | 33.5      | 22.7     |
| 10 to 19 acres.....     | 20.4          | 27.6          | 18.8              | 23.2      | 12.0     |
| 20 to 39 acres.....     | 27.3          | 23.7          | 30.4              | 24.1      | 16.5     |
| 40 to 79 acres.....     | 16.2          | 8.1           | 20.6              | 10.1      | 15.6     |
| 80 to 119 acres.....    | 5.9           | 1.7           | 7.4               | 3.6       | 8.4      |
| 120 to 199 acres.....   | 4.2           | 1.0           | 4.9               | 2.9       | 8.8      |
| 200 to 399 acres.....   | 2.6           | 0.4           | 2.6               | 2.0       | 8.8      |
| 400 acres and over..... | 1.1           | 0.1           | 1.0               | 0.8       | 7.1      |

During the processing of the data, no effort was made to impute for land diverted or for government payments or to reconcile the two data items. It was apparent during the processing of the data that some farm operators mistakenly reported their total allotted acreage in place of the diverted acreage. Because of the wide range in the acres a farm operator was allowed to divert under the program options, it was not feasible to check closely

the data reported or to detect errors which were within acceptable limits. Thus, there probably is an understatement in the number of farms with diverted acres reported. At the same time there may be an overstatement of the acreage diverted for those farms which did report.

According to the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service of the Department of Agriculture, for 1969, there were 58 million acres of cropland withheld from production under specified programs. This acreage included some land which was devoted to substitute crops. Also, farms with all acreage idle under Federal programs during 1969 were not included in census data. The acreage withheld under each Federal program provides some indication of what constitutes the diverted acreage reported in the census.

|                               | Millions of acres |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|
| Total cropland withheld ..... | 58.0              |
| Conservation reserve .....    | 3.4               |
| Feed grains .....             | 39.1              |
| Corn .....                    | 27.2              |
| Sorghums for grain .....      | 7.5               |
| Barley .....                  | 4.4               |
| Wheat .....                   | 11.1              |
| Cropland conversion .....     | 0.5               |
| Cropland adjustment .....     | 3.8               |