

west of the Mississippi River. From 1900 to 1920, cropland other than that used for pasture increased from 319 million acres to 402 million acres. The expansion of cropland was accompanied by a decrease in grazing land. Grazing land, in total, decreased about 65 million acres from 1900 to 1920. However, grazing land not in farms decreased about 112 million acres. Part of this grazing land was converted to cropland and part of the grazing land not in farms in 1900 was included as land in farms by 1920. Clearing of wooded and forest land also was a factor during this period as cropland and nonwooded pastureland increased in the Eastern States and in parts of the Pacific Northwest.

In the period since 1920, there have not been any dramatic changes in the major land uses. Cropland other than that used for pasture has fluctuated from 415 million acres to 371 million acres. Land developed and improved through drainage, irrigation, and clearing of forests has about equaled the acreage of cropland reverting to permanent pasture and woodland plus the acreage of land converted to nonagricultural uses through the expansion of cities, highways, parks, airports, etc.

Land used for pasture and grazing has declined about 169 million acres since 1920. The decrease in pasture and grazing land accounts for much of the total change in land used for agriculture. Considerable acreages of grazing lands not in farms have gradually become part of the pastureland in farms, as more public lands have been included in farms. (Grazing lands leased by farm operators are included as land in farms; grazing lands under permit are not included as land in census farms. In 1969, Federal grazing lands used under permit totaled over 217 million acres.)

Since 1900, all land in farms has increased 222 million acres. Most of this increase resulted from the transfer of grazing lands not in farms to farms. Much of this increase in land in farms since 1900 occurred in the 17 Western States of the conterminous United States. New settlement, which continued until about 1920 accounted for a part of the increase. Since 1920, half or more of the increase has resulted from the adding of

approximately 100 million acres of Federal, State, and Indian reservation land to the area reported in the census. Changes in the method of controlling grazing rights and modification of census definitions and procedures rather than farm acquisition of underdeveloped lands account for most of the increase of land in farms since 1920.

Land in farms declined 47 million acres, or 4.2 percent, from 1964 to 1969. This compares with a loss of 13 million acres, 1.2 percent between 1959 and 1964. Over 13 million acres of the decrease occurred in the South, resulting largely from the transfer of land in farms to forest land and to farms ceasing operations. A 16 million acre decrease in land in farms in the North between 1964 and 1969 resulted largely from the discontinuance of farm operations and the transfer of land to urban and other nonfarm uses.

Total cropland increased 25 million acres between 1964 and 1969. Some of this increase is probably due to differences in interpretation of the various land-use categories by the farm operators, who completed the vast majority of the report forms for 1969, as compared with the census enumerators in the 1964 census. Cropland used only for pasture increased 31 million acres, compared to an 8 million acre decrease between 1959 and 1964. If the same form and procedures had been used in 1969 as in 1964, it is likely that some of this land would have been reported as improved pasture and some as acres of hay harvested.

The acreage of cropland harvested in 1969 was 273 million acres, 14 million acres less than 1964. There was a decrease of 13 million acres of hay. As noted in the text of volume I, acres of soybeans and acres of hay were underreported. Some of the land reported as land from which hay was harvested in 1964 was probably reported as cropland pasture in 1969.

The acreage of woodland in farms decreased by 34 million acres from 1964 to 1969. Over 20 million acres of this occurred in the South where a considerable acreage of woodland formerly in farms has been taken over by commercial timber companies.

Table 7. Major Use of Land, United States: 1900 to 1969

	1969	1964	1959	1954 ¹	1950	1945 ¹	1940	1930	1920	1910	1900
Approximate land area ²acres (1,000)..	2,263,680	2,266,273	2,268,378	1,903,825	2,273,406	1,905,362	2,274,943	2,272,799	2,272,824	2,272,899	2,273,071
Land in farms.....acres (1,000)..	1,063,346	1,110,187	1,123,508	1,158,192	1,161,420	1,141,615	1,065,114	990,112	958,677	881,431	841,202
Land not in farms.....acres (1,000)..	1,200,334	1,156,086	1,144,836	745,633	1,111,986	763,747	1,209,830	1,282,687	1,314,148	1,391,467	1,431,869
Proportion of total land area.....percent..	53.0	51.0	50.6	39.2	48.9	40.1	53.2	56.4	57.8	61.2	63.0
Grazing land ³acres (1,000)..	287,678	293,054	327,803	435,639	402,150	428,129	504,000	578,000	661,000	739,000	768,000
Woodland and forest land not grazed ³acres (1,000)..	476,262	442,879	428,893	238,310	334,804	185,733	219,000	208,000	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Other land ³acres (1,000)..	436,394	420,153	391,140	154,684	375,033	149,885	121,000	132,000	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Land used for agriculture ⁷acres (1,000)..	1,351,024	1,403,241	1,451,311	1,510,831	1,563,570	1,569,744	1,565,000	1,565,000	1,517,000	1,518,000	1,507,000
Proportion of total land area.....percent..	59.7	61.9	63.9	79.4	68.8	82.4	82.1	82.2	85.0	85.0	84.4
Cropland other than that used only for pasture.....acres (1,000)..	370,827	376,813	382,571	393,579	408,827	400,245	398,751	415,335	402,000	347,000	319,000
Proportion of total land area.....percent..	16.4	16.6	16.8	20.7	18.0	21.2	20.9	21.8	21.1	18.2	16.8
Land used for pasture and grazing.....acres (1,000)..	896,631	922,985	952,113	999,740	1,023,574	1,051,670	1,065,000	1,042,000	1,066,000	1,121,000	1,131,000
Proportion of total land area.....percent..	39.6	40.7	41.9	52.5	45.0	55.2	55.9	54.7	56.0	58.9	59.4
Land used for agriculture and forestry ⁸acres (1,000)..	1,827,286	1,846,120	1,880,204	1,749,141	1,898,374	1,755,477	1,784,000	1,773,000	1,777,000	1,780,000	1,782,000
Proportion of total land area.....percent..	80.7	81.5	82.8	91.9	83.5	92.1	93.6	93.2	93.4	93.5	93.6

¹Data for Alaska and Hawaii not included.

²Changes in land area represent changes in boundaries, changes due to the construction of reservoirs, to drainage of lakes and swamps, etc., except for 1940 when a complete re-measurement of the United States was made.

³Estimates of Economic Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture. Grazing land not in farms consists of land used chiefly for grazing and includes open or nonforested grazing land, idle grassland in first decades, forest and woodland and shrub and brush grazing land in all years.

⁴Includes some public and private land usable for grazing which is not necessarily grazed every year, but excludes areas of grass and other forage of value for grazing in military reservations, national parks, natural wildlife areas, etc., for which permits were not issued for grazing livestock.

⁵In addition to the estimated nonfarm acreage grazed, there were probably 15 to 20 million acres of nonfarm land having some forage value not used for grazing for various reasons.

⁶Includes areas containing forage suitable for grazing (not legally closed to grazing), whether actually grazed or not in 1944.

⁷Land in farms and grazing land not in farms.

⁸Land in farms, grazing land not in farms, and woodland and forests not in farms.