



**Table 8. Farms, Land in Farms, Cropland Harvested, Value of Farms, Regions: 1850 to 1969—Continued**

	Number of farms			All land in farms					Cropland harvested <sup>1</sup>				Value of farms (land and buildings) <sup>2</sup>			
	Total	Increase or decrease (-)		Acres	Increase or decrease (-)		Per cent of total land area <sup>3</sup>	Average acreage per farm	Acres	Per cent increase or decrease (-)	Per cent of all land in farms	Average acreage per farm	Total (dollars)	Per cent increase or decrease (-)	Average per farm (dollars)	Average per acre (dollars)
		Number	Per cent		Acres	Per cent										
<b>West</b>																
1969.....	265,101	-40,443	-13.2	331,486,223	-17,403,279	-5.0	29.6	1,250.4	37,577,152	1.1	11.3	141.7	41,668,299,779	13.3	157,179	125.70
1964.....	305,544	-43,569	-12.5	348,889,502	4,289,682	1.2	31.2	1,141.9	37,156,328	-4.2	10.6	121.6	36,780,891,000	30.4	120,383	105.39
1959.....	349,113	-73,604	-17.4	344,619,820	7,194,276	2.1	30.7	987.1	38,788,657	0.3	11.3	111.1	28,215,022,000	41.0	87,379	82.68
1954 <sup>4</sup> .....	422,717	-45,231	-9.7	337,425,544	10,048,901	3.1	44.8	798.2	38,669,082	-3.5	11.5	91.5	20,008,500,000	42.4	47,334	59.30
1950.....	467,948	-26,508	-5.4	327,376,643	11,271,199	3.6	29.2	699.6	40,077,899	4.9	12.2	85.6	14,051,789,000	79.3	30,029	42.92
1945 <sup>4</sup> .....	494,456	-20,832	-4.0	316,105,444	56,248,408	21.6	41.9	639.3	38,204,294	20.9	12.1	77.3	7,838,677,475	52.7	15,853	24.80
1940.....	515,288	-55,671	-9.8	259,857,036	23,500,651	9.9	23.1	504.3	31,608,853	14.1	12.2	61.3	5,133,108,924	0.7	9,962	19.75
1935 <sup>4</sup> .....	570,959	61,457	12.1	236,356,385	15,040,247	6.8	31.4	414.0	27,699,944	-23.9	11.7	48.5	5,097,317,474	-31.1	8,928	21.57
1930.....	509,502	10,523	2.1	221,316,138	35,368,652	19.0	19.7	434.4	36,393,833	16.3	16.7	72.3	7,397,081,650	10.9	14,518	33.42
1925 <sup>4</sup> .....	498,979	15,058	3.1	185,947,486	9,664,658	5.5	24.7	372.7	31,283,810	10.6	16.8	62.7	6,668,428,872	-16.3	13,364	35.86
1920.....	483,921	106,042	28.1	176,282,828	62,787,475	55.3	15.7	364.3	28,285,497	45.1	16.3	59.1	7,962,947,526	105.2	16,455	45.17
1910.....	377,879	132,686	54.1	113,495,353	17,088,721	17.7	10.1	300.3	19,496,356	23.7	17.6	32.2	3,881,342,466	199.8	10,271	34.20
1900.....	245,193	99,315	68.1	96,406,632	49,124,399	103.9	8.6	393.2	15,756,166	61.7	16.8	64.9	1,294,479,856	18.2	5,329	13.80
1890 <sup>4</sup> .....	148,878	62,155	74.2	47,282,233	21,087,981	80.5	6.3	324.1	9,746,079	88.2	20.6	66.8	1,094,942,690	180.1	7,506	23.16
1880 <sup>4</sup> .....	83,723	35,511	73.7	26,194,252	9,975,166	61.5	3.5	312.9	5,179,858	(NA)	19.8	61.9	390,884,441	121.4	4,669	14.92
1870 <sup>4</sup> .....	48,212	13,548	39.1	16,219,086	3,501,419	27.5	2.2	336.4	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	176,533,175	150.4	3,662	10.88
1860 <sup>4</sup> .....	34,664	27,952	416.4	12,717,667	8,053,454	172.7	2.0	366.9	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	70,488,320	711.2	2,033	5.54
1850 <sup>4</sup> .....	6,712	-	-	4,664,213	-	-	0.8	694.9	(NA)	-	(NA)	(NA)	8,688,932	-	1,295	1.86

<sup>1</sup>Prior to 1924 the data relate to the total acreage of crops for which figures are available, except for 1919 when 14,502,932 acres of corn cut for silage were excluded (as most of this was probably duplicated in the acreage of corn harvested for grain).  
<sup>2</sup>The total value for 1959, 1954, and 1950 was based on the average value per acre for farms in the sample for which the value of land and buildings was reported. The average value per farm and per acre was based on the total value of all farms. The values for 1964 are estimates based upon reports for a sample of farms.  
<sup>3</sup>Percentages for 1969 and 1964 are based on land areas as shown in table 12. Percentages for earlier years are based on land areas as published in census reports for those years. United States land areas are shown in table 5.  
<sup>4</sup>Data for Alaska and Hawaii not included.

**Land Use: Class 1-5 Farms**

Total cropland in these farms increased by 30 million acres. This appears to have been largely the result of differences in reporting between 1969 and 1964, rather than to an overall increase in cropland. There was a tendency to report more land as cropland pasture and less as other pasture in 1969. A few States, notably Arkansas, did have an increase in both total cropland and cropland harvested due to clearing additional land for growing soybeans. Also, there was a decrease of about 5 million acres of total cropland in farms with sales of less than \$2,500 in sales. It seems reasonable to assume that some of that 5 million acres shifted to farms with sales of \$2,500 and over.

Cropland harvested decreased by 7 million acres. The largest changes from 1964 were a decrease of 9 million acres in hay crops harvested and an increase of 8 million acres in soybeans harvested for beans.

Cropland pasture increased by 25 million acres to 69 million acres in 1969. Cropland in cover crops decreased by 8 million acres and cropland on which all crops failed, by about 0.5 million acres. Cropland in cultivated summer fallow increased by 9 million acres over 1964, accompanied by an increase of 75 thousand farms reporting summer fallow. Some of the increase is undoubtedly due to having summer fallow on the report form for all States in 1969, rather than for only 17 Western States in 1964. Cropland idle increased by 11 million acres, possibly including some land that had been classified as in cover crops in 1964.

All pastureland decreased by about 6 million acres from 1964, to 500 million acres in 1969. Cropland pasture increased by 25 million acres. Woodland pasture decreased by 10 million acres, and other pasture decreased by 21 million acres.

The acreage of improved pasture increased 14 million acres, or 48 percent from 1964 to 1969. In 24 States there were

significant increases in acreages of other improved pasture. In the West and Southwest increases resulted largely from brush control and reseeding.

Woodland decreased by 16 million acres: 10 million acres in woodland pastured and 6 million acres in woodland not pastured. All other land (land in lots, roads, ponds, wasteland, etc.) increased by about 3 million acres.

**VALUE OF FARMLAND AND BUILDINGS**

The total value of farmland and buildings in 1969 was about \$207 billion, or an average of \$76 thousand per farm.

The total value of farmland and buildings has increased significantly in each census since 1940. The total value also increased at a rapid rate in the period from 1850 to 1920. The total value declined from a high of \$66 billion in 1920 to \$33 billion in 1935. It was not until 1950 that the total value exceeded that for 1920. The decline in value between 1920 and 1935 was largely the result of falling prices throughout the economy. The increase in total value of farmland and buildings in the 50 years between 1850 and 1900 was due mainly to the increasing acreage of land in farms as settlement pushed westward, and to the lengthening of the railway network which brought new land areas within the reach of farm product markets.

The changes in the total value of land and buildings and the average value per farm and per acre from census to census are affected by changes in price level as well as changes in the physical assets themselves. No fully satisfactory index is available to use for removing the effect of the changes in price level from census to census. The following table indicates the approximate level of the value of farmland and buildings at 1969 prices for the period 1850 to 1969.