

Table 4. Distribution of Fertilizer Used by Crop: 1974

Farms With Sales of \$2,500 and Over	Farms using fertilizer			Acres fertilized				Fertilizer used			
	Total	Percent of all farms	Percent of total	Total	Average per farm	Percent harvested	Percent of total	Total (tons)	Average per farm (tons)	Pounds per acre	Percent of total
United States, total.....	1,187,786	70.1	100.0	184,642,504	155.5	45.4	100.0	29,333,869	24.7	318	100.0
Cropland used only for pasture.....	129,819	7.7	10.9	7,492,920	57.7	11.4	4.1	1,080,389	8.3	288	3.7
Improved pasture.....	52,306	3.1	4.4	5,341,368	102.1	14.1	2.9	703,810	13.5	264	2.4
Field corn for all purposes.....	691,635	40.8	58.2	61,417,259	88.8	86.2	33.3	11,834,744	17.1	385	40.3
Sorghums for all purposes.....	85,921	5.1	7.2	9,623,417	112.0	65.9	5.2	1,010,597	11.8	210	3.4
Wheat.....	328,387	19.4	27.6	38,785,874	118.1	62.0	21.0	3,270,790	10.0	169	11.2
Oats.....	151,196	8.9	12.7	4,779,944	31.6	42.9	2.6	454,985	3.0	190	1.6
Barley.....	56,059	3.3	4.7	4,955,101	88.4	68.0	2.7	432,641	7.7	175	1.5
Rye.....	8,751	.5	.7	300,358	34.3	47.2	.2	41,636	4.8	277	.1
Rice.....	9,057	.5	.8	2,537,746	280.2	99.6	1.4	510,803	56.4	403	1.7
Other small grains.....	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	640,210	(NA)	29.5	.3	56,372	(NA)	176	.2
Soybeans for beans.....	163,210	9.6	13.7	14,785,316	90.6	30.9	8.0	1,728,123	10.6	234	5.9
Peanuts for nuts.....	19,835	1.2	1.7	1,059,395	53.4	78.0	.6	227,646	11.5	430	.8
Hay crops.....	199,662	11.8	16.8	10,061,006	50.4	19.3	5.4	1,462,985	7.3	291	5.0
Field seed crops.....	6,299	.4	.5	670,212	106.4	38.1	.4	127,639	20.3	381	.4
Cotton.....	63,200	3.7	5.3	9,733,967	154.0	80.3	5.3	1,673,987	26.5	344	5.7
Tobacco.....	151,008	8.9	12.7	838,242	5.6	99.5	.5	785,242	5.2	1,874	2.7
Irish potatoes.....	20,471	1.2	1.7	1,322,328	64.6	99.1	.7	698,750	34.1	1,057	2.4
Vegetables, sweet corn, or melons for sale...	42,496	2.5	3.6	2,669,419	62.8	86.9	1.4	1,091,912	25.7	818	3.7
Land in orchards.....	42,374	2.5	3.6	3,154,189	74.4	77.9	1.7	1,155,441	27.3	733	3.9
Berries for sale.....	5,120	.3	.4	79,836	15.6	69.9	.2	24,826	4.8	622	.1
Nursery and greenhouse products.....	15,626	.8	1.1	264,653	19.4	73.6	.1	119,258	8.8	901	.4
Sugar beets for sugar.....	11,803	.7	1.0	1,163,586	98.6	99.5	.6	275,394	23.3	473	.9
Other crops.....	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	2,342,335	(NA)	64.8	1.3	433,783	(NA)	370	1.5

Table 5. Dry and Liquid Fertilizer Used for Selected Crops: 1974

Farms With Sales of \$2,500 and Over

	Fertilizer used (tons)			Percent of total	
	Total	Dry	Liquid	Dry (tons)	Liquid (tons)
Total.....	24,948,222	18,574,575	6,373,647	74.5	25.5
Cropland pasture.....	1,080,389	988,115	92,274	91.5	8.5
Improved pasture.....	703,810	640,570	63,240	91.0	9.0
Corn for all purposes.....	11,834,744	8,167,805	3,666,939	69.0	31.0
Sorghum for all purposes.....	1,010,597	516,941	493,656	51.2	48.8
Wheat.....	3,270,790	2,390,208	880,582	73.1	26.9
Oats.....	454,985	425,286	29,699	93.5	6.5
Barley.....	432,641	327,394	105,247	75.7	24.3
Rice.....	510,803	465,418	45,385	91.1	8.9
Soybeans for beans.....	1,728,123	1,555,292	172,831	90.0	10.0
Cotton.....	1,673,987	1,164,645	509,342	69.6	30.4
Vegetables, sweet corn, or melons for sale...	1,091,912	879,655	212,257	80.6	19.4
Land in orchards.....	1,155,441	1,053,246	102,195	91.2	8.8

Table 6. Dry and Liquid Fertilizer by Amount Used: 1974

Farms With Sales of \$2,500 and Over

	Farms		Percent of use	
	Dry fertilizer	Liquid fertilizer	Dry fertilizer	Liquid fertilizer
Total.....	1,108,531	435,451	100.0	100.0
1 to 49 tons.....	1,015,284	408,977	91.6	93.9
50 to 99 tons.....	62,324	17,480	5.6	4.0
100 to 199 tons....	21,912	6,486	2.0	1.5
200 to 499 tons....	7,501	2,092	.7	.5
500 to 999.....	1,038		.1	
1,000 tons and over	472	416	(.2)	.1

for many crops. Information on extent and level of fertilizer use provides important measures of changes in farm technology as well as a basis for projection of changes in crop yields and crop production.

The data in table 8 show the number of farms reporting fertilizer has decreased in each of the last four censuses. Much of this decrease is accounted for by the decrease in total farms.

The tonnage of fertilizer used on farms with sales of \$2,500 and over increased over 11 percent from 1969 to 1974. The quantity of fertilizer used in 1974 was 68 percent more than the amount used 15 years earlier and 37 percent more than the amount used 10 years earlier. In addition, sources other than census data indicate that the primary plant nutrient content of commercial fertilizer

Table 7. Percent of Harvested Acres Fertilized for Selected Crops by Value of Sales: 1974

Farms With Sales of \$2,500 and Over

	Total	\$2,500 to \$9,999	\$10,000 to \$19,999	\$20,000 to \$39,999	\$40,000 to \$99,999	\$100,000 and over
Corn for all purposes.....	86.2	67.2	72.2	79.3	88.7	94.4
Sorghums for all purposes.....	65.9	40.3	48.2	59.4	70.3	77.5
Soybeans for beans.....	30.9	26.6	29.8	28.7	30.1	34.1
Wheat.....	78.0	53.8	65.9	74.4	79.7	84.2
Cotton.....	62.0	38.9	45.1	52.8	63.5	74.4
Tobacco.....	80.3	50.6	54.8	64.8	79.5	93.1
Irish potatoes.....	99.5	99.6	99.5	99.5	99.5	99.7
Hay crops.....	99.1	79.6	93.8	97.7	99.2	99.6
Field seeds.....	19.3	15.2	13.2	14.3	20.8	31.3
Vegetables, sweet corn, or melons for sale...	38.1	18.1	19.6	24.1	32.8	58.4
Berries.....	86.9	67.8	68.5	72.3	79.1	92.6
Land in orchards.....	69.9	37.3	53.3	68.1	71.8	83.7
	77.9	51.9	61.2	67.9	76.1	87.1

has been increasing at a rapid rate during this time period. Census data show that much of the additional tonnage of fertilizer used was the result of the large increase in the acres of certain crops planted since 1969. Some of the largest increases were in field corn, wheat, soybeans, and cotton. Table 9 shows

changes in total tons used on farms with sales of \$2,500 and over since 1954.

The use of liquid fertilizer increased on farms with sales of \$2,500 and over in 1974 to 6.8 million tons compared with 5.5 million tons used in 1969. Table 10 presents the changes in tonnage used for these farms since 1959.