

CHAPTER IV, SECTION A Continued

144,000 farms reported 8 million acres limed and 15 million tons of lime used.

Although the census figures show a sizable drop in tonnage, the National Limestone Institute, Inc. estimates that in 1974, 28 million tons of agricultural limestone were used in the United States. This tonnage is down less than a million tons from the Institute's 1969 estimate.

Some of this difference may be due to underreporting or failure to report in the census. No attempt was made during processing to identify and impute for those reports not responding to the question.

The 1974 Census of Agriculture shows 15 million tons of lime were used on farms with sales of \$2,500 and over. A large portion of the 28 million tons reported used by the Institute would be used on many of the 617,000 farms having sales of less than \$2,500, on places too small to qualify as census farms, and used in residential landscaping and gardening and golf courses.

States in the North Central Region accounted for 44 percent of the acreage limed on farms with sales of \$2,500 and over, but because of a heavier rate of application per acre, these States account for 58 percent of the total tons used. Illinois, Iowa, and Missouri were the three leading States. They accounted for 36 percent of the total tons used on these farms.

Of the 144,000 farms with sales of \$2,500 and over reporting the use of lime, over two-thirds used less than 100 tons in 1974. About 3 percent of the farms used 500 tons or more. Table 13 shows that the distribution of farms by the tonnage of lime used varies by region.

The tons of lime and liming materials used on farms with sales of \$2,500 and over in 1974 were 20 percent less than in 1969 while the acreage limed decreased 18 percent (table 14). This decrease was largely the result of decreases of use in Illinois, Missouri, North Carolina, and Texas.

Table 13. Percent of Farms by Tons of Lime Used: 1974

	United States	North East	North Central	South	West
Total.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1 to 49 tons...	46.1	63.3	34.0	55.0	64.1
50 to 99 tons..	22.6	20.4	25.5	19.8	14.4
100 to 199 tons	18.0	11.4	22.9	14.2	9.7
200 to 499 tons	10.9	4.3	14.6	8.5	8.4
500 to 999 tons	1.9	.5	2.4	1.8	2.0
1,000 tons and over.....	.5	.1	.6	.7	1.4

Table 14. Lime and Liming Materials Used: 1954 to 1974

	Farms		Lime and liming materials (tons)	
	Number	Percent increase or decrease (-) over preceding census	Total	Percent increase or decrease (-) over preceding census
Farms With Sales of \$2,500 and Over				
1974.....	144,553	-44.9	14,916,535	-20.0
1969.....	262,122	-27.0	18,650,044	-12.9
1964.....	359,193	6.9	21,402,874	28.2
1959.....	336,017	-5.7	16,697,436	16.1
1954.....	356,152	-	14,382,368	-