

CHAPTER I Continued

of the smaller irrigated farms. The irrigated farms with sales of \$2,500 and over numbered 34,600 less than all irrigated farms. However, 32,547 farms of this difference is accounted for by the farms having less than 50 acres irrigated. While irrigated farms with sales under \$2,500 and abnormal farms comprise 14.6 percent of all irrigated farms, they account for only 1.8 percent of all irrigated land.

The 1974 Census of Agriculture enumerated 236,733 farms with irrigated land in the 50 States. Of the total number of irrigated farms, 202,133 (85.4 percent) were farms with sales of \$2,500 and over. Irrigated farms counted in 1974 were 7.9 percent less than figures shown in the 1969 Census of Agriculture and 20.4 percent less than the 1964 Census of

Agriculture. Irrigated farms with sales of \$2,500 and over in 1974 showed decreases of 5.2 percent and 12.2 percent respectively, from the 1969 and 1964 censuses.

The States with the largest concentrations of irrigated farms, in proportion to the total number of farms, are located in the Western half of the United States.

The 17 Western States and Louisiana account for 83.1 percent of all irrigated farms. California, Texas, and Nebraska account for 45.8 percent of the irrigated farms in the West.

The 30 Eastern States, Alaska, and Hawaii, account for 16.9 percent of irrigated farms. Florida, Arkansas, North Carolina, Georgia, and Kentucky account for 51.0 percent of the irrigated farms in the East.

The number of farms applying water to crops or pasture can vary considerably from year-to-year due to uncontrollable conditions such as climate. The availability of water for irrigation depends on the quantity and timing of precipitation or on the fluctuation in the ground water table. Rain or the lack of it during the growing season determines the need for artificial application of water. The East Atlantic Coastal States and Midwestern States have the largest variation in year-to-year irrigation, while arid States of the Southwest consistently irrigate. The 1974 census collected data on the year and acres last irrigated for farms which irrigated during the period 1970 through 1973, but did not irrigate in the 1974 census year. Table 2 compares the 1974 data to similar data collected in the 1969 census.

Table 2. Farms Not Irrigated During Census Year but Reporting Irrigation in the Previous 4 Years: 1974 and 1969

Farms With Sales of \$2,500 and Over	Not irrigated in 1974 but irrigated between 1970 and 1973		Farms not irrigated in 1969 but irrigated between 1965 and 1968	Farms With Sales of \$2,500 and Over	Not irrigated in 1974 but irrigated between 1970 and 1973		Farms not irrigated in 1969 but irrigated between 1965 and 1968
	Farms	Acres			Farms	Acres	
United States.....	8,666	348,359	18,839	WEST NORTH CENTRAL--Con.			
REGIONS				South Dakota.....	108	9,488	156
Northeast.....	476	14,221	1,169	Nebraska.....	241	14,127	744
North Central.....	1,232	64,503	3,246	Kansas.....	224	12,762	458
South.....	5,053	170,453	9,364	SOUTH ATLANTIC			
West.....	1,905	99,182	5,060	Delaware.....	25	1,869	35
DIVISIONS				Maryland.....	39	1,154	89
New England.....	103	3,603	229	Virginia.....	337	5,439	825
Middle Atlantic.....	373	10,618	940	West Virginia.....	18	232	23
East North Central.....	408	12,827	1,080	North Carolina.....	943	12,010	2,219
West North Central.....	824	51,676	2,166	South Carolina.....	178	4,969	331
South Atlantic.....	2,463	48,895	5,269	Georgia.....	598	11,301	977
East South Central.....	1,063	16,826	1,394	Florida.....	325	11,921	770
West South Central.....	1,527	104,732	2,701	EAST SOUTH CENTRAL			
Mountain.....	655	47,718	1,565	Kentucky.....	814	4,510	869
Pacific.....	1,250	51,464	3,495	Tennessee.....	144	1,942	260
NEW ENGLAND				Alabama.....	31	1,640	111
Maine.....	27	2,073	46	Mississippi.....	74	8,734	154
New Hampshire.....	5	76	20	WEST SOUTH CENTRAL			
Vermont.....	29	688	26	Arkansas.....	223	13,676	352
Massachusetts.....	18	301	59	Louisiana.....	127	12,140	236
Rhode Island.....	2	16	6	Oklahoma.....	299	16,784	411
Connecticut.....	22	449	72	Texas.....	878	62,132	1,702
MIDDLE ATLANTIC				MOUNTAIN			
New York.....	144	4,420	358	Montana.....	252	19,411	442
New Jersey.....	79	2,575	237	Idaho.....	87	4,287	329
Pennsylvania.....	150	3,623	345	Wyoming.....	48	3,688	97
EAST NORTH CENTRAL				Colorado.....	148	10,937	293
Ohio.....	81	1,566	206	New Mexico.....	61	5,889	127
Indiana.....	51	1,200	212	Arizona.....	26	1,654	83
Illinois.....	47	2,436	195	Utah.....	26	1,462	175
Michigan.....	175	5,513	340	Nevada.....	7	390	19
Wisconsin.....	54	2,112	127	PACIFIC			
WEST NORTH CENTRAL				Washington.....	323	12,188	573
Minnesota.....	47	1,886	150	Oregon.....	329	11,328	743
Iowa.....	20	877	217	California.....	586	26,136	2,152
Missouri.....	132	10,052	294	Alaska.....	6	278	1
North Dakota.....	52	2,484	147	Hawaii.....	6	1,534	26