

crop was tabulated as "nonirrigated" if none of the reported acres harvested for the crop was reported irrigated. The "partly irrigated" category included the crop acreage from those farms where only part of acres harvested of the specified crop was reported irrigated. The average yield per acre was computed for the acres harvested of each specified crop for each category. In most cases, particularly in the western part of the United States, the differences in average yields on wholly irrigated and nonirrigated acreage were striking.

To provide an overall view of the effect of irrigation, data are presented in table 5 concerning acreage yield indexes for the 17 Western States and Louisiana and for the 30 Eastern States, Alaska, and Hawaii. In computing the indexes, the U.S. average yield per acre for each specified crop was used as the base figure and set equal to 100. The index of average yields was then computed for the average yield of that portion of the crops that was wholly irrigated and the portion that was not irrigated for each of the two areas.

It is obvious that irrigation has a much greater effect on average production in the West than in the East. However, the percentage indexes vary considerably by crop and area.

Another measure of the effect of irrigation is the value of products produced on irrigated farms versus nonirrigated farms. In 1974, the total market value of products sold from all farms amounted to \$81.5 billion. Farms with sales of \$2,500 and over accounted for \$80.6 billion, or 99.0 percent of the total value of agricultural products. Table 19 provides detailed information for value of products sold from nonirrigated farms and from irrigated farms as well as selected expenditures for the same groups. The data in table 6 present the highlights.

Table 5. Index of Average Yield for Specified Harvested Crops From Wholly Irrigated Land: 1974

(U.S. average yield - 100)

Farms With Sales of \$2,500 and Over

	U.S. average yield per acre		Index for 17 Western States and Louisiana		Index for 30 Eastern States, Alaska, and Hawaii	
	Average yield	Index	Crop wholly irrigated	Crop non-irrigated	Crop wholly irrigated	Crop non-irrigated
Alfalfa hay.....tons..	2.6	100	154	67	115	105
Corn for grain.....bushels..	71.7	100	143	79	124	98
Corn for silage.....tons, green..	10.7	100	153	52	153	108
Sorghum for grain.....bushels..	43.0	100	164	85	149	109
Wheat.....bushels..	26.9	100	170	91	104	123
Barley.....bushels..	37.5	100	164	80	150	115
Oats.....bushels..	47.2	100	118	77	123	116
Soybeans for beans.....bushels..	23.9	100	123	98	112	100
Dry field and seed beans.....100-lb bags..	13.6	100	136	44	95	92
Alfalfa seed.....pounds..	240	100	183	33	8	22
Cotton.....bales..	.9	100	156	61	117	95
Tobacco.....pounds..	1986	100	-	42	106	100
Irish potatoes.....hundredweight..	236.1	100	118	66	103	84
Sugar beets for sugar.....tons..	18.5	100	116	62	89	73
Vegetables, sweet corn, or melons for sale.....dollars..	762	100	156	49	136	47
Land in orchards.....dollars..	676	100	122	57	78	84

Table 6. Percent of Selected Items on Nonirrigated and Irrigated Farms: 1974

Farms With Sales of \$2,500 and Over

	Farms	Acres (1,000)		Total production expenses (\$1,000)	Total value of agricultural products sold (\$1,000)
		All land, excluding cropland	Total cropland		
United States, total.....	1,695,047	905,640	412,998	59,855,727	80,598,305
Nonirrigated farms.....	1,492,914	702,914	339,018	43,200,876	58,680,299
Percent of total.....	88.1	77.6	82.1	72.2	72.8
Irrigated farms.....	202,133	202,726	73,980	16,654,851	21,918,006
Percent of total.....	11.9	22.4	17.9	27.8	27.2
17 Western States and Louisiana, total.....	563,385	605,563	212,270	28,064,847	35,887,169
Percent of United States.....	33.2	66.9	43.1	46.9	44.5
Nonirrigated farms.....	396,498	420,460	148,531	14,463,000	18,306,804
Percent of the 18 States.....	70.4	69.4	70.0	51.5	51.0
Irrigated farms.....	166,887	185,103	63,739	13,601,847	17,580,365
Percent of the 18 States.....	29.6	30.6	30.0	48.5	49.0
30 Eastern States, Alaska, and Hawaii, total.....	1,131,662	300,077	200,728	31,790,881	44,711,135
Percent of United States.....	66.8	33.1	40.6	53.1	55.5
Nonirrigated farms.....	1,096,416	282,454	190,487	28,737,877	40,373,494
Percent of the 32 States.....	96.9	94.1	94.9	90.4	90.3
Irrigated farms.....	35,246	17,623	10,241	3,053,004	4,337,641
Percent of the 32 States.....	3.1	5.9	5.1	9.6	9.7

Of the \$80.6 billion of agricultural products sold from farms with sales of \$2,500 and over, irrigated farms accounted for \$21.9 billion, or 27.2 percent. This \$21.9 billion worth of products results from only 11.9 percent of the farms, 17.9 percent of the cropland, and 22.4 percent of land in farms..

These figures also vary considerably between East and West. The 17 Western

States and Louisiana account for 44.5 percent of the \$80.6 billion worth of agricultural products sold, while the other States account for 55.5 percent. The West accounted for \$35.9 billion worth of agricultural products. Of this amount, 49.0 percent came from irrigated farms. In the East, irrigated farms accounted for only 9.6 percent of the \$44.7 billion of agricultural products sold.