UNITED STATES CENSUS of AGRICULTURE : 1950

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE **U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**
CHARLES SAWYER, Secretary **CHARLES F. BRANNAN, Secretary**

SPECIAL REPORTS

LAND UTILIZATION

A GRAPHIC SUMMARY

Cooperative Report

VOLUME V PART 4

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 1952

USE OF LAND IN FARMS •

LAND OUTSIDE FARMS •

CHANGES IN LAND USE

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BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS
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DIVISION OF LAND ECONOMICS
ERNST WIECKING, *Head*
HUGH WOOTEN, *Section Leader*

SUGGESTED IDENTIFICATION

U. S. Bureau of the Census. *U. S. Census of Agriculture, 1950*
Vol. V. Part 4, Land Utilization—A Graphic Summary
U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C., 1952

For sale by the Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C.
or any of the Field Offices of the Department of Commerce, Price 45 cents

PREFACE

Part 4, "Land Utilization—A Graphic Summary," of Volume V of the reports of the 1950 Census of Agriculture, is one of the graphic summaries based largely on the reports of the 1950 Census. This report presents graphically some of the significant facts regarding uses being made of agricultural lands both inside and outside farm boundaries. It provides a graphic summary of changes and developments in the use of agricultural lands during the last half century.

This report has been prepared cooperatively by the Bureau of the Census, United States Department of Commerce, and the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, United States Department of Agriculture.

Plans for this cooperative report were made by Ray Hurley, chief of the Agriculture Division of the Bureau of the Census, and Buis T. Inman, assistant head of the Division of Land Economics, Bureau of Agricultural Economics. The report was prepared principally by James R. Anderson, Bureau of Agricultural Economics, and David H. Walter of the Bureau of the Census. R. D. Davidson, C. C. Haren, F. J. Marschner, and H. H. Wooten of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics contributed the following respective materials: Data on the use of land in Federal and State ownership, 50-year comparisons of cropland and classes of crops, land relief and other maps, and data and charts on major uses of land. Charles F. Frazier of the Bureau of the Census assisted in the preparation of graphic and other materials. Most of the maps and charts were prepared under the supervision of Clarence E. Batschelet, chief of the Geography Division of the Bureau of the Census. Robert F. Turnure of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics also assisted in the preparation of maps and charts.

DECEMBER 1952.

UNITED STATES CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE: 1950

REPORTS

Volume I.—Counties and State Economic Areas.—Statistics for counties include number of farms, acreage, value, and farm operators; farms by size, by color and tenure of operator; facilities and equipment, farm labor, and farm expenditures; livestock and livestock products; specified crops harvested; farms and farm characteristics for commercial farms; farms classified by value of farm products sold, by type of farm, and by economic class; and value of products sold by source.

Data for State economic areas include farms and farm characteristics by size of farm, by tenure of operator, by type of farm, and by economic class.

Volume I will be published in 34 parts as follows:

Part	State or States	Part	State or States
1	New England States:		South Atlantic—Continued
	Maine.	15	Virginia and West Virginia.
	New Hampshire.	16	North Carolina and South Carolina.
	Vermont.	17	Georgia.
	Massachusetts.	18	Florida.
	Rhode Island.		East South Central:
	Connecticut.	19	Kentucky.
2	Middle Atlantic States:	20	Tennessee.
	New York.	21	Alabama.
	New Jersey.	22	Mississippi.
	Pennsylvania.		West South Central:
	East North Central:	23	Arkansas.
3	Ohio.	24	Louisiana.
4	Indiana.	25	Oklahoma.
5	Illinois.	26	Texas.
6	Michigan.		Mountain:
7	Wisconsin.	27	Montana.
	West North Central:	28	Idaho.
8	Minnesota.	29	Wyoming and Colorado.
9	Iowa.	30	New Mexico and Arizona.
10	Missouri.	31	Utah and Nevada.
11	North Dakota and South Dakota.		Pacific:
12	Nebraska.	32	Washington and Oregon.
13	Kansas.	33	California.
	South Atlantic:	34	Territories and possessions.
14	Delaware, Maryland, District of Columbia.		

Volume II.—General Report.—Statistics by Subjects, United States Census of Agriculture, 1950.—Summary data and analyses of the data for States, for Geographic Divisions, and for the United States by subjects as illustrated by the chapter titles listed below:

Chapter	Title	Chapter	Title
I	Farms and Land in Farms.	VIII	Fruits and Nuts, Horticultural Specialties, Forest Products.
II	Age, Residence, Years on Farm, Work off Farm.	IX	Value of Farm Products.
III	Farm Facilities, Roads, Trading Center, Farm Equipment.	X	Size of Farm.
IV	Farm Labor and Farm Expenditures.	XI	Color, Race, and Tenure of Farm Operator.
V	Farm Taxes and Cash Rent.	XII	Economic Class of Farm.
VI	Livestock and Livestock Products.	XIII	Type of Farm.
VII	Field Crops and Vegetables.		

Volume III.—Irrigation of Agricultural Lands.—State reports with data for counties and drainage basins and a summary for the United States, including number of enterprises, irrigation works and equipment, source of water, new capital investment since 1940, cost of irrigation water, number of farms and acreage irrigated, and quantity of water used for irrigation purposes.

The State reports will be issued as separate parts of Volume III as follows:

Part	State	Part	State
1	Arizona.	10	Nebraska.
2	Arkansas and Oklahoma.	11	Nevada.
3	California.	12	New Mexico.
4	Colorado.	13	North Dakota and South Dakota.
5	Florida.	14	Oregon.
6	Idaho.	15	Texas.
7	Kansas.	16	Utah.
8	Louisiana.	17	Washington.
9	Montana.	18	Wyoming.

Volume IV.—Drainage of Agricultural Lands.—State reports with statistics for counties and a summary for the United States. One part only. Data on land in drainage enterprises, number and types of enterprises, cost of drainage, indebtedness, assessments, and drainage works.

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- Vermont
- Massachusetts
- Rhode Island
- Connecticut

Middle Atlantic:
- New York
- New Jersey
- Pennsylvania

East North Central:
- Ohio
- Indiana
- Illinois
- Michigan
- Wisconsin

West North Central:
- Minnesota
- Iowa
- Missouri
- North Dakota
- South Dakota
- Nebraska
- Kansas

South

South Atlantic:
- Delaware
- Maryland
- District of Columbia
- Virginia
- West Virginia
- North Carolina
- South Carolina
- Georgia
- Florida

East South Central:
- Kentucky
- Tennessee
- Alabama
- Mississippi

West South Central:
- Arkansas
- Louisiana
- Oklahoma
- Texas

West

Mountain:
- Montana
- Idaho
- Wyoming
- Colorado
- New Mexico
- Arizona
- Utah
- Nevada

Pacific:
- Washington
- Oregon
- California

FARM-PRODUCTION REGIONS

Northeast

New England:
- Maine
- New Hampshire
- Vermont
- Massachusetts
- Rhode Island
- Connecticut

Middle Atlantic:
- New York
- New Jersey
- Pennsylvania
- Delaware
- Maryland and District of Columbia

North Central

Corn Belt:
- Ohio
- Indiana
- Illinois
- Iowa
- Missouri

Lake States:
- Michigan
- Wisconsin
- Minnesota

Northern Plains:
- North Dakota
- South Dakota
- Nebraska
- Kansas

South

Appalachian:
- Virginia
- West Virginia
- North Carolina
- Kentucky
- Tennessee

Southeast:
- South Carolina
- Georgia
- Florida
- Alabama

Mississippi Delta:
- Mississippi
- Louisiana
- Arkansas

Southern Plains:
- Oklahoma
- Texas

West

Mountain:
- Montana
- Idaho
- Wyoming
- Colorado
- New Mexico
- Arizona
- Utah
- Nevada

Pacific:
- Washington
- Oregon
- California

INTRODUCTION

The first graphic summary of agriculture in the United States appeared as a section in the 1915 Yearbook of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. The stated purpose of that graphic summary was ". . . it enables the reader to locate at a glance the regions of production without a detailed study of a mass of figures." This graphic summary of 1915 was the beginning of a series which has maintained the original purpose of conveying by use of maps and graphs major distributional features and trends of agriculture in the United States. Later graphic summaries have had explanatory captions and summary statements to aid the user in locating significant phases of agriculture shown by the maps and graphs. With this publication these graphic summaries will have recorded nearly a half-century of agricultural change and development in the United States. Since the first graphic summary appeared, many changes in total agricultural output and notable regional shifts in the utilization of land resources have accompanied the growth and migration of population and the changing economy.

In the nineteenth century the settlement of new land played the leading role in the expansion of agricultural production, but in this century changes in technology have been more significant in increasing production than in the settlement of new land. The introductory remarks of the second graphic summary, published as a section of the 1921 Yearbook of Agriculture, recognized this transition with the following statement:

> The land in the United States suitable for agricultural use without irrigation, drainage, or heavy fertilization is nearly all occupied. Consequently, one of the great questions before the American people is how to maintain the supply of foods and fibers for the increasing population at that high level to which we are accustomed—should we cultivate the present area of arable land more intensively, or, like England, depend upon imports from foreign countries, or should the Nation embark upon extensive projects of reclamation?

Some 30 years later, with 45 million more people to feed and clothe at a level of living even higher than that of 1920, the answer to this question is taking shape. Imports of food and fiber constituted a proportionally smaller part of our total imports in 1950 than in 1920. The large-scale substitution of mechanical power for animal power, improved crop yields per acre, and increased livestock production per animal unit have been largely responsible for the additional agricultural production available for human consumption. In 1950, the land used for crops was only slightly greater than the land used for that purpose in 1920. Greatly accelerated use of lime and fertilizers, more attention to conservation practices, introduction of hybrid corn, greater use of high protein-yielding legume hay, and other plant-breeding improvements have been among the important means of intensifying agricultural production on the slightly more than 400 million acres of cropland that have been used for crops during the last 30 years. Reclamation of wet and dry lands has added cropland acreage, but at the same time land has been retired from crop production, because it was too rough, infertile, dry, or wet.

Although large increases in agricultural production on the land now in use for that purpose have already occurred, much remains for future accomplishment. Many improved practices already introduced have not been permanently established or have not become sufficiently widespread in use on the average farms to insure a continued upward trend in production per acre. More intensive use of cropland, improvement of pastures and grazing land, and better utilization of forests can all contribute considerably to an increased national output.

The last graphic summary based on the 1945 Census of Agriculture appraised the land-use accomplishments during World War II but the postwar period has brought other changes. Within this decade the farmers of the country produced unprecedented quantities of agricultural commodities with a greatly curtailed labor force. The years between World War I and World War II contributed numerous advances in agriculture which provided the background for this acceleration in production.

Scope, definitions, and explanations.—This graphic summary of land utilization, which is concerned with the major categories of land use, brings the graphic analysis of land utilization up to 1950. At mid-century, it seems appropriate to review the changes that have occurred during the last 50 years and to survey the present and prospective future utilization of our land resources. Therefore, some 50-year comparisons are attempted for the first time on a county-unit basis in the hope that they will give an historical perspective of major changes in land use during that period of time. Maps showing the distribution and changes in acreages devoted to intertilled and close-growing crops have also been introduced to the graphic summary for the first time. It is not within the scope of this summary to deal primarily with the distribution of crops and livestock and the changes that have occurred in the production of individual commodities. A selected number of maps and graphs on crops and livestock are included to aid in the use and interpretation of maps and graphs dealing with major land uses. A careful selection of illustrations was made in an attempt to present the most significant changes that are occurring as well as the present distribution of different land uses.

As this summary deals with the use of land outside of farms as well as with farm land, it was necessary to rely upon numerous sources of information in addition to the 1950 and other censuses of agriculture. Records of public land-owning and land-managing agencies, branches of State Governments, and other sources were consulted in the preparation of an inventory of major land uses by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

The maps, charts, and text employ terminology consistent with the various definitions contained in the 1950 Census of Agriculture. In describing and locating areas, commonly accepted geographical terms are used. In presenting data by States, farm-production regions or divisions have been employed in order to obtain more agriculturally related combinations of States than the geographic divisions employed by the Census. This division permits the presentation of significant regional differences in land use obscured by the Census division. Unless otherwise stated, the farm-production regions are employed throughout this graphic summary. In order to avoid confusion, the comparative grouping of Census geographic divisions and farm-production regions is included on the preceding page.