

CHAPTER I Continued

Bureau of Land Management of the U.S. Department of Interior and used under permit were not included as land in farms. That land totaled approximately 170 million acres in 1974. However, grazing lands leased to farm and ranch operators by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management and by State and local governments were included as land in farms. That land totaled approximately 17 million acres in 1974.

Land-Use Classification, 1850 to 1920

From 1850 to 1920, land in farms was classified as improved or unimproved. Improved land included land in crops; pasture that had been cleared or tilled; fallow land; orchards, nurseries, vineyards, and gardens; and land occupied by buildings.

From 1879 to 1919, cropland harvested was the sum of the acreages of individual crops harvested (see table 3).

Land in Farms by Use

The acreage in each farm was allocated by the farm operator among the various land-use categories. Any acreage which had two or more uses during the year was classified by the first use listed on the report form. For example, if a crop was harvested from an acreage and the same acreage was then pastured, the acreage was included as land from which crops

were harvested but not as cropland pasture.

Uses for All Farms

The section of report form 74-A2 that requested information on land use from farms with sales under \$2,500 is shown in facsimile of section 6.

Cropland harvested—This category (also referred to as harvested cropland) included land from which crops were harvested, land from which hay (including wild hay) was cut, and land in small fruits, orchards, vineyards, nurseries, and greenhouses. Land from which two or more crops were harvested was to be counted only once. However, in the crop sections the acreage of each crop was individually counted. (See volume II, part 6, for further discussion of double cropping.) (Item 1 of section 6 on form 74-A2 is comparable with item 2a of section 18 on form 74-A1.)

Cropland used only for pasture or grazing—Farm operators were to include all land used only for pasture or grazing that could have been used for crops without additional improvement, and all land planted to crops that was pastured before the crops reached maturity. All cropland used for rotation pasture and land in government diversion programs that was pastured was to be included.

However, cropland that was pastured before or after crops were harvested was not to be included. (Item 2 of section 6 on form 74-A2 is comparable with item 2b of section 18 on form 74-A1.)

All other cropland—This classification included cropland used only for soil improvement crops, land on which all crops failed, cultivated summer fallow, idle cropland, and land planted with crops to be harvested after the year covered by the census. (Item 3 of section 6 on form 74-A2 is comparable with the sum of items 2c, 2d, 2e, and 2f of section 18 on form 74-A1.)

Woodland—Woodland included natural or planted woodlots or timber tracts and cutover and deforested land with young growth which had or would have value for wood products. Land covered by sagebrush or mesquite was to be reported as other pasture or other land. (Item 4 of section 6 on form 74-A2 is comparable with items 3a plus 3b of section 18 on form 74-A1.)

All other land—All other land for all farms included pastureland other than cropland and woodland pasture; rangeland; land occupied by buildings, roads, ditches, and ponds; and wasteland. This classification is comparable with the sum of the figures in prior censuses for other pasture and all other land. (Item 5

Table 3. Farms, Land in Farms, and Land Use: 1850 to 1974

| All Farms | Farms | | | | Acres | | | | Average | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|----------------------|---|---------|---------------|------------------------------|---|---------|--------------------------------------|----------|
| | Total | Percent of all farms | Increase or decrease (-) from preceding census ¹ | | Total | Percent of all land in farms | Increase or decrease (-) from preceding census ¹ | | Per farm (based on all report-farms) | Per farm |
| | | | Farms | Percent | | | Number | Percent | | |
| Land in farms..... | | | | | | | | | | |
| United States 1974.. | 2,314,013 | 100.0 | -416,237 | -15.2 | 1,017,030,357 | 100.0 | -45,862,144 | -4.3 | 439.5 | 439.5 |
| United States 1969.. | 2,730,250 | 100.0 | -427,607 | -13.5 | 1,062,892,501 | 100.0 | -47,294,499 | -4.3 | 389.3 | 389.3 |
| United States 1964.. | 3,157,857 | 100.0 | -552,646 | -14.9 | 1,110,187,000 | 100.0 | -13,320,574 | -1.2 | 351.6 | 351.6 |
| United States 1959.. | 3,710,503 | 100.0 | -1,076,522 | -22.6 | 1,123,507,574 | 100.0 | -38,033,722 | -3.3 | 302.8 | 302.8 |
| conterminous United States 1954.. | 4,782,416 | 100.0 | -599,746 | -11.1 | 1,158,191,511 | 100.0 | -374,341 | (2) | 242.2 | 242.2 |
| United States 1950.. | 5,388,437 | 100.0 | -477,007 | -8.1 | 1,161,419,720 | 100.0 | 16,950,488 | 1.5 | 215.5 | 215.5 |
| conterminous United States 1945.. | 5,859,169 | 100.0 | -237,630 | -3.9 | 1,141,615,364 | 100.0 | 80,762,990 | 7.6 | 194.8 | 194.8 |
| United States 1940.. | 6,102,417 | 100.0 | -715,551 | -10.5 | 1,065,113,774 | 100.0 | 6,337,263 | .6 | 174.5 | 174.5 |
| conterminous United States 1935.. | 6,812,350 | 100.0 | 523,702 | 8.3 | 1,054,515,111 | 100.0 | 67,744,095 | 6.9 | 154.8 | 154.8 |
| United States 1930.. | 6,295,103 | 100.0 | -82,992 | -1.3 | 990,111,984 | 100.0 | 62,451,664 | 6.8 | 157.3 | 157.3 |
| conterminous United States 1925.. | 6,371,640 | 100.0 | -76,703 | -1.2 | 924,319,352 | 100.0 | -31,564,363 | -3.3 | 145.1 | 145.1 |
| United States 1920.. | 6,453,991 | 100.0 | 86,841 | 1.4 | 958,676,612 | 100.0 | 77,085,390 | 8.8 | 148.5 | 148.5 |
| United States 1910.. | 6,366,044 | 100.0 | 624,130 | 10.9 | 881,431,469 | 100.0 | 40,206,551 | 4.8 | 138.5 | 138.5 |
| United States 1900.. | 5,739,657 | 100.0 | 1,172,731 | 25.7 | 841,201,546 | 100.0 | 215,373,155 | 34.6 | 146.6 | 146.6 |
| conterminous United States 1890.. | 4,564,641 | 100.0 | 555,734 | 13.9 | 623,218,619 | 100.0 | 87,136,784 | 16.3 | 136.5 | 136.5 |
| conterminous United States 1880.. | 4,008,907 | 100.0 | 1,348,922 | 50.7 | 536,081,835 | 100.0 | 128,346,794 | 31.5 | 133.7 | 133.7 |
| conterminous United States 1870.. | 2,659,985 | 100.0 | 615,908 | 30.1 | 407,735,041 | 100.0 | 522,503 | .1 | 153.3 | 153.3 |
| conterminous United States 1860.. | 2,044,077 | 100.0 | 595,004 | 41.1 | 407,212,538 | 100.0 | 113,651,924 | 38.7 | 199.2 | 199.2 |
| conterminous United States 1850.. | 1,449,073 | 100.0 | - | - | 293,560,614 | 100.0 | - | - | 202.6 | 202.6 |

¹Except for 1964 and 1969, data represent differences for conterminous United states.

