

# This document is discoverable and free to researchers across the globe due to the work of AgEcon Search. 

## Help ensure our sustainability. Give to AgEcon Search

AgEcon Search
http://ageconsearch.umn.edu
aesearch@umn.edu

Papers downloaded from AgEcon Search may be used for non-commercial purposes and personal study only. No other use, including posting to another Internet site, is permitted without permission from the copyright owner (not AgEcon Search), or as allowed under the provisions of Fair Use, U.S. Copyright Act, Title 17 U.S.C.


## Major Uses of Land and Water in the United States With Special Reference to Agriculture

## Summary for 1964

## PREFACE

This report continues the series on the major uses of land and water in the United States published at 5-year intervals by the Economic Research Service and its predecessor agencies. As in earlier publications in the series, this one brings together data from many sources to form a summary account of the extent and distribution of land used for crops, pasture and range, forest, and other purposes. Acreages irrigated and dry-farmed, acreages drained, and other information on water-use practices are also included, since land and water uses are closely related in agriculture.

Among the chief sources of data used are reports and records of the following: The Bureau of the Census, U. S. Department of Commerce; The Economic Research Service, Forest Service, Statistical Reporting Service, and Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, all of USDA; and the Bureau of Land Management and the Geological Survey, U. S. Department of the Interior. Numerous other Federal and State agencies also contributed data needed to complete the land-and water-use profile of the country. The summary is based chlefly on the 1964 Census of Agriculture, but more recent information on cropland was available and was incorporated in the section on cropland.

Although data from the various sources were classified with the objective of maintaining comparability with estimates presented in previous reports of the series, this objective was not always attained. Comparability of estimates is affected by the sources, purposes, and consequently, the characteristics of the available data, which vary significantly over time. For example, data on major land uses from the Conservation Needs Inventory were used in 1959, but data required to maintain strict comparability were not available from this source in 1964. It is believed, however, that estimates in this report and those of earlier reports are reasonably comparable at the national level and generally comparable at the regional level. In some instances, the State-byState estimates are less reliable. The reader should also keep in mind that the available data on major land uses do not fully convey the highly dispersed pattern of uses, the innumerable relationships between uses, or the wide variation in land quality and intensity of use, particularly in relatively small areas.

Concerning water use, the Water Resources Council's National Assessment of Water and Related Land Resources also describes current and projected agricultural water uses. In addition, it presents a much more detailed account of water uses in areas outside of agriculture than does this publication, which has special reference to agriculture. Information provided in the National Assessment includes an inventory of both withdrawal and nonwithdrawal uses in the 17 major water resources of the contiguous States, as well as Alaska, Hawaii, and Puerto Rico. Problems concerning water supply, water quality control, drainage, irrigation and flood protection are covered at the national level. The base year for the National Assessment is 1965 and the projections apply to 1980, 2000, and 2020.

It is not possible here to give adequate recognition to all State and Federal workers who aided significantly in this study. The agencies and references cited indicate to a limited extent the sources consulted. The authors would be remiss, however, if they did not acknowledge the contribution of Hugh $H$. Wooten, formerly Leader of Land Use Investigations in the Economic Research Service and predecessor agencies and senior author of several reports in this series. He had already performed such difficult tasks as identifying sources of information, developing methods, and solving fundamental problems associated with reconciling conflicting data. Although retired, his guidance and counsel were frequently sought as the study progressed, and his response was always gracious and helpful.

Statistics were not always kept for all 50 States. In this report, "United States" means all 50 States; where applicable, " 48 States" means the 48 contiguous States.

Cover photo, courtesy of Soil Conservation Service, USDA.

## CONTENTS

Page
Summary ..... $v$
The country as a whole ..... 1
Agricultural land uses ..... 3
Nonagricultural land uses ..... 3
Trends in major land uses ..... 5
Water supply and use ..... 6
Characteristics and distribution of major land uses ..... 7
Cropland ..... 9
Major uses of cropland ..... 9
Cropland uses by regions ..... 12
Trends in major uses of cropland ..... 13
Trends in cropland used for crops by regions ..... 14
Types of crops harvested annually ..... 17
Pasture and range resources ..... 18
Grassland pasture and range ..... 20
Cropland used only for pasture ..... 21
Forest pasture and range ..... 21
Pasture and range productivity ..... 21
Changes in pasture and range acreages ..... 23
Forest land ..... 24
Special and miscellaneous uses ..... 25
Special use areas in 1964 ..... 25
Rate of growth of special uses ..... 27
Miscellaneous other land ..... 29
Major uses of land by class of ownership ..... 29
Water and agriculture ..... 31
The role of water in agriculture ..... 31
Water use in agriculture and basic relationship to other uses and supply ..... 32
The water situation in the Western States ..... 33
The water situation in the humid-area States ..... 34

## CONTENTS--Continued

Page
Irrigation ..... 34
Factors influencing the growth of irrigation ..... 34
Use of irrigated land in the West ..... 35
Use of irrigated land in the humid-area States and Hawaii ..... 37
Trends in irrigated acreages in the West ..... 38
Trends in irrigated acreage in humid-area States and Hawaii ..... 42
Sources of irrigation water in the West ..... 42
Sources of water in the humid-area States and Hawaii ..... 43 ..... 43
Drainage ..... 43
Factors affecting the future of drainage ..... 44 ..... 44
Uses of drained agricultural land ..... 44
Trends in drainage ..... 44 ..... 44
Location of existing and potential drained land ..... 46 ..... 46
Literature cited ..... 48
Definitions and explanations ..... 49
Appendix ..... 53

## SUMMARY

Nearly three-fifths of the land area of the United States is used to produce crops and livestock. More than one-fifth is ungrazed forest land; less than 3 percent is in urban and related intensive uses. Areas designated primarily for parks, recreational or wildlife refuges, and various public installations and facilities account for about 5 percent. The rest--12 percent--is mainly desert, swamp, tundra, and other land of limited surface use.

One-fifth of the land area is classified as cropland, but not all is used for crops each year. In 1964, the acreage used for crop production totaled 335 million acres, or 75 percent of the cropland base. The total includes 292 million acres from which crops were harvested, 6 million acres on which crops failed, and 37 million acres of cultivated summer fallow. Of the acreage harvested, 31 million were irrigated. The acreage used for crops was 23 million fewer than in 1949 and 45 million fewer than a decade earlier.

Livestock grazed on 922 million acres in 1964, or 41 percent of the land; some of this land is also used for other purposes. About 640 million acres of grassland and other nonforested areas are used primarily for grazing. The remainder consisted of 57 million acres (in 1964) of cropland used only for pasture and 225 million acres of forest land grazed. The total acreage grazed was 22 million acres less in 1964 than in 1959 , due mainly to a decrease in the acreage of forest land grazed. About one-third of the feed for livestock comes from pasture and grazing land.

Including acreage used for multiple purposes, one-third of the area of the United States is forested. The size of the area has not greatly changed in recent years, but important changes in the relative proportions of forest and other major uses have occurred at regional and local levels. Reversion of cropland and pasture to forest continues in many commercial forest areas of the East and South, offset only partially by the expansion of urban and other special uses on forest land in these regions. In contrast, land clearing for pasture improvement has made substantial inroads on the noncommercial forest acreage of the West.

Special uses of land, exclusive of those classified as agricultural, occupy 164 million acres and continue to increase in importance as the Nation's population grows. One-third of the special use acreage is in urban and transportation uses. The rest is in parks and wildife refuges, national defense and military reservation areas, flood control, and other generally extensive public uses. An additional 9 million acres, classified as agricultural, are in farmsteads and farm roads and lanes.

Each year about 1 million additional acres are occupied by urban places, transportation areas, artificial reservoirs, and miscellaneous other intensive uses.

Much of the land shifting to intensive special uses is cropland, but the total includes grassland, forest land, and wasteland as well.

During 1959-64, the area in extensive public facilities, such as parks, wildlife refuges, national defense holdings, and Federal flood-control lands, increased almost 15 million acres-an average of 3 million acres annually. However, more than 10 million of the increase is attributable to the establishment of wildife refuges on public domain land in Alaska. Apart from this unusual increase, land shifted to extensive special uses at an average annual rate approaching 1 million acres.

Three-fifths of the land area of the United States is in private ownership and two-fifths is owned by Federal, State, and local governments. More than 99 percent of the cropland, 70 percent of the grassland pasture, and 56 percent of the forest land are in private ownership. Large acreages of grassland and forest land and a large proportion of the area in special and miscellaneous uses are publicly owned.

Concerning water resources, the 48 -State annual renewable supply of 30 inches of average precipitation is equivalent to about 4.50 billion acre-feet, or 402 billion gallons per day over an average year. About 70 percent (3.15 billion acre-feet) of the precipitation is consumed in place to support forest, range, and other vegetation, including nonirrigated farmland. The balance of 30 percent ( 1.35 billion acre-feet) is runoff or streamflow, supporting such nonwithdrawal uses as power generation, waste dilution, navigation, and recreation. It can be withdrawn along the way for various municipal, industrial, or agricultural purposes and then returned, to the extent it is not consumed in these processes.

Water consumption is then a measure of net depletion of streamflow and ground water. About 304 million acre-feet of streamflow and ground water were withdrawn for all purposes in 1965. Roughly 30 percent ( 87 million acre-feet) was consumed in the sense of not being available for withdrawal again. Agricultural irrigation accounted for 41.4 percent of all withdrawals but, because of a high rate of consumptive use ( 60 percent), represented 82.7 percent of the total consumption or net depletion. This consumption occurred on about 37.8 million acres of irrigated farmland in 1965, of which 34.9 million acres were concentrated in the western mainland regions or States. There were about 2.7 million acres of irrigated farmland in the eastern regions in 1965 and around 150,000 acres in Hawaii. Irrigated farmland has been increasing annually 8.51 percent in the East, 1.78 percent in the West, and 1.18 percent in Hawaii. The national rate of increase in irrigated farmland is 1.85 percent.

# MAJOR USES OF LAND AND WATER IN THE UNITED STATES With Special Reference to Agriculture 

SUMMARY FOR 1964

## By

H. Thomas Frey, Geographer, Orville E. Krause, Agricultural Economist, and Clifford Dickason, Agricultural Economist Natural Resource Economics Division Economic Research Service

## THE COUNTRY AS A WHOLE

In this publication, the available statistics on the major uses of land and water have been sumarized for one point in time. By comparison with similar studies for previous periods, significant changes and trends in use also have been documented. The findings are presented briefly at the national level of aggregation and then treated in more detall at the regional level. State-byState acreages for each major use are shown in the appendix tables.

The dynamic processes of land and water utilization continually change the landscape of America. When European explorers and colonists first arrived in what is now the United States, the natural cover of vegetation, undisturbed by use in the economic sense, consisted of approximately one-half forest, onethird grass, and the rest desert shrub and tundra. During the centuries that followed, settlers progressively occupied, in varying degree, all but the most inhospitable areas. In establishing homes and means of livelihood, they cleared forests for crops, pastures, building sites, and timber products; converted grassland to cultivated fields; created cities, roads, and railroads; and developed and altered the distribution of water resources. As the population increased, the intensity of land and water use also increased. Changes in demand for particular products were accompanied by changes in the use of land and water resources. Now, after three centuries of settlement and development, one-fifth of the land area is used for crops and one-twelfth is in various special uses such as cities, roads, and parks. These uses have grown primarily at the expense of forested and natural grassland areas, although irrigated crops and most special uses, such as parks and urban areas, have made inroads on the acreages of arid and other normally low-value land. Despite these decreases, acreages of grassland, forest, and miscellaneous other land remain large.

## MAJOR USES OF LAND, UNITED STATES, 1964



Figure 1

Table 1.--Major uses of land, United States, 1964

| Land use | : Acreage | : Percentage of total |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| ${ }^{\text {Million acres }}$ Percent |  |  |
| Cropland, including land in rotation | 444 | 19.6 |
| Grassland pasture and range 1/. . | 640 | 28.3 |
| Forest land 2/ | 732 | 32.3 |
| Special uses 3/ | 173 | 7.6 |
| Miscellaneous other land 4/ | 277 | 12.2 |
| Total land area 5/... | 2,266 | 100.0 |

1/ Excludes cropland used only for pasture.
2/ Excludes 30 million acres in special uses.
3/ Urban and transportation areas, areas used for recreation and wildife purposes, public installations and facilities, farmsteads, and farm roads.
4/ Marshes, open swamps, bare rock areas, desert, tundra, and other land generally having low value for agricultural purposes.
5/ Includes streams and canals less than $1 / 8$ mile wide; and ponds, lakes, and reservoirs less than 40 acres in area.

The U.S. land area totals approximately 2, 266 million acres. 1/ The distribution among uses of this acreage is shown in table 1 and figure 1.

## Agricultural Land Uses

Land used for agricultural purposes totals 1,318 million acres, or 58 percent of the land area (table 2). This total includes cropland, grassland pasture and range, forested pasture and range, and areas occupied by farmsteads and farm roads and lanes. It does not include ungrazed forest land or areas with no reported use, even though these types of area often occur near or are otherwise associated with land used for crop and livestock production. If forest land not grazed is included, the total used for agricultural purposes is 81 percent.

Approximately 78 percent of the land in agricultural use is in farms, although only 49 percent of the total land area of the country is in farms (table 3). All of the cropland and the most productive pasture are in farms. Substantial acreages of forest land, both grazed and ungrazed, are counted as being in farms, but much of the forest land, including some large tracts owned or managed by farm operators but associated only loosely with agricultural operations, is not enumerated as land in farms. Similarly, a large proportion of land in the special and miscellaneous use category is outside farm boundaries.

Agricultural land not in farms totals 293 million acres and consists entirely of grazing land including grassland, brush-browse, and forested grazing land. A large proportion is federally owned, mainly in grazing districts and National Forest system range allotments. Privately owned grazing land not in farms is predominantly forest land, frequently in large tracts. Grazing land not in farms is usually located near farm areas and associated with them in terms of operation and management.

## Nonagricultural Land Uses

Forest land exclusive of the acreage grazed or reserved for parks and other special uses totals 507 million acres. However, one-third of the total land area--762 million acres--is forest land. About two-thirds of this larger acreage is classified as commercial forest by the U. S. Forest Service. The remainder is classified as noncommercial because of low productivity or, in the case of some public lands, because of legal reservation for recreation and other nontimber uses. Both commercial and noncommercial forest land characteristically provide watershed and wildife protection and as noted above, many areas provide recreational opportunities and forage for livestock as well.

1/ Includes all dry land temporarily or partially covered with water, such as marshland, swamps, and river flood plains; streams, sloughs, estuaries, and canals less than $1 / 8$ mile wide; and lakes, reservoirs, and ponds less than 40 acres in area. Data supplied by the U. S. Bureau of the Census.

Table 2.--Agricultural and nonagricultural uses of land, United States, 1964

| Major land use | Acreage | Percentage of total |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Million acres | Percent |
| Agricultural: |  |  |
| Cropland: | 444 | 19.6 |
| Cropland used for crops 1/--------------: | (335) | (14.8) |
| Soil improvement crops and idle cropland-: | (52) | (2.3) |
| Cropland used only for pasture-----------: | (57) | (2.5) |
| Grassland pasture and range 2/------------: | 640 | 28.3 |
| Forest land grazed--- | 225 | 9.9 |
| Farmsteads, farm roads | 9 | . 4 |
| Total agricultural land | 1,318 | 58.2 |
| Nonagricultural: |  |  |
|  | 507 | 22.4 |
| Special uses: | 164 | 7.2 |
| Urban and other built-up areas 4/- | (55) | (2.4) |
| Primarily for recreation parks and wildife 5/ | (76) | (3.4) |
| Public installations and facilities 6/-- | (33) | (1.5) |
|  | 277 | 12.2 |
| Total nonagricultural land | 948 | 41.8 |
| Total land area | 2,266 | 100.0 |

1/ Cropland harvested, crop failure, and cultivated summer fallow.
2/ Excludes cropland used only for pasture.
3/ Excludes 28 million acres of reserved forest land and 2 million acres of unreserved forest land duplicated mainly in parks and other special use areas. It was not feasible to eliminate some overlap that exists because of multiple use.

4/ Urban and town areas; highway, road, and railroad rights-of-way; and airports.

5/ National and State parks and related recreational areas, National and State wildife refuges, and National Forest wilderness and primitive areas.

6/ National defense (including military reservations and other land administered by Department of Defense), Federal flood control, Federal industrial (AEC land, etc.), and State institutional areas.
7/ Marshes, open swamps, bare rock areas, deserts, tundra, and other land generally having low value for agricultural purposes.

Table 3.--Major uses of land in farms and not in farms, United States, 1964

| Major Use | : Land in farms |  | : Land not in farms |  | : Total |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | :Acreage | :Percent- <br> : age of <br> : total | Acreage <br> : | Percent- <br> : age of <br> : total | Acreage |
|  | $\begin{aligned} & \hline \text { Million } \\ & : \text { acres } \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | Percent | Million acres | Percent | Million acres |
| Agricultural uses of land: : | : |  |  |  |  |
| Cropland------------------: | 444 | 100 | --- | -- | 444 |
| Grassland pasture and range: | : 490 | 77 | 150 | 23 | 640 |
| Woodland grazed------------: | : 82 | 36 | 143 | 64 | 225 |
| Farmsteads, farm roads-----: | : 9 | 100 | --- | --- | 9 |
| Total agricultural land--: | : 1,025 | 78 | 293 | 22 | 1,318 |
| Nonagricultural land: : | : |  |  |  |  |
| Forest land not grazed-----: | : 64 | 13 | 443 | 87 | 507 |
| Special uses--------------: | : --- | - | 164 | 100 | 164 |
| Other land----------------: | 21 | 8 | 256 | 92 | 277 |
| Total nonagricultural land: | : 85 | 9 | 863 | 91 | 948 |
| Total land area : | $: 1,110$ | 49 | 1,156 | 51 | 2,266 |

Special uses, exclusive of those classified as agricultural, now occupy 164 million acres of land and continue to increase in importance as the Nation's population increases. Some of the special uses are intensive while others are extensive. One-third of the acreage is in urban and transportation areas which generally compete more directly with cropland than do other special uses. The rest is in parks, wildife areas, national defense areas, and other generally extensive uses.

Approximately 12 percent of the Nation's land area consists of marshes, bare rocks, deserts, and tundra. Although now virtually worthless for agricultural purposes, these areas may have value for minerals, wildife, and other purposes. About 213 million acres in this miscellaneous category is Alaskan tundra.

## Trends in Major Land Uses

Recent changes in the use of land, for the most part, have followed trends established in the 1950's or earlier (table 4). Between 1959 and 1964, the total cropland acreage decreased from 458 to 444 million acres, some 3 percent. Cropland used for crops, mainly as a result of acreage diversion programs, declined even more rapidly--from 358 to 335 million acres. The acreage of permanent grassland pasture and range increased 7 million acres. This increase is associated with a continuing movement of land from crop to pasture use and to land clearing and reclassification activities. Among the nonagricultural uses, the total acreage of forest land decreased 15 million acres, due largely
to reclassification in Alaska but land in special uses increased sharply. Trends in major land uses are summarized in figures 2 and 3.

Table 4. --Trends in major uses of land, United States, 1950-64

| Land use | 1950 |  | 1954 | : | 1959 | : | 1964 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | : . . . . . . - Million acres $-\ldots . . . . . . .$. |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Cropland 1/---------------: | 478 |  | 466 |  | 458 |  | 444 |
| Grassland pasture and range $2 /$ | 632 |  | 634 |  | 633 |  | 640 |
|  | 740 |  | 745 |  | 747 |  | 732 |
| (grazed) ---------------2: | (319) |  | (301) |  | (245) |  | (225) |
| Special areas 4/-----------: | 138 |  | 143 |  | 157 |  | 173 |
| Miscellaneous Other land 5/: | 285 |  | 285 |  | 276 |  | 277 |
| Total 6/--------------: | 2,273 |  | 2,273 |  | 2,271 |  | 2,266 |

1/ Cropland harvested, crop failure, cropland idle or fallow, and cropland used only for pasture. Cropland and pasture acreages for 1950 relate to the previous year.

2/ Grassland and other nonforested pasture and range.
3/ Exclusive of forest land in parks, wildife refuges, and other special use areas.

4/ Includes such uses as urban areas, highways and roads, parks, wildlife areas, military reservations, and farmsteads.

5/ Includes deserts, swamps, bare rock, tundra, and similar areas generally having low value for agricultural purposes.

6/ Decreases in the land area mainly represent increases in the water area of artificial reservoirs. Changes in methods of area measurement used by the Bureau of the Census together with revisions for Alaska also account for much of the decrease after 1959.

## WATER SUPPLY AND USE

Precipitation in the 48 States averages 30 inches annually--the equivalent of 4,700 million acre-feet per year. In the 48 States, approximately 70 percent of precipitation reaching the ground is returned to the atmosphere through evaporation and transpiration. Part of the moisture returned by transpiration is first used productively by commercial crops. The remaining 30 percent of precipitation constitutes the natural runoff, amounting to an average of about 1,350 million acre-feet per year. A substantial fraction of this runoff is available for irrigation and other uses. In addition, large reservoirs of ground water can be tapped and used. In 1965, 347 million acre-feet of water were withdrawn from surface and ground sources for all uses, including 130 million acre-feet for crop irrigation.

## LAND UTILIZATION, UNITED STATES, 1950-64



* urban and other built areas, highmays. railroado. airports, parks and other land. A excluoesforested areas reserved for parks and other special uses.
- incluocs crassland pasture and range, private and pualic.
i cropland planted cropland in summer fallow, soil improvement crops, land aeing prepared for crop sand idle.

Figure 2
The geographic distribution of runoff in the 48 States is uneven--some areas have much precipitation and runoff, while others have little. Yearly precipitation and runoff also vary widely in some regions. The greatest variability is found in the North Central and the Southwestern portions of the Nation. The adverse effects of droughts are particularly felt in areas using a high proportion of the available water supply each year.

## CHARACTERISTICS AND DISTRIBUTION OF MAJOR LAND USES

Land used primarily for agricultural production (cropland and nonforested grazing land) accounts for nearly half of the Nation's land area. Forest land accounts for about one-third and other land one-fifth, but the proportions vary greatly across the country. Variations in physical conditions account for many of the differences, particularly among agricultural and forestry uses. Large portions of some regions are suitable only for grazing and other extensive uses. Physical conditions on a high proportion of the area in other regions permit a choice between crops, pasture, and forestry, with the most profitable usually predominating (table 5, fig. 4). Throughout all regions, of course, physical conditions affect such characteristics as specific vegetative composition and yields, as well as the relative proportions of area in most uses. The influence of such variables as ownership characteristics, management practices, and location relative to other economic activities is also discernible in the use pattern.

Table 5.--Major uses of land by regions, United States, 1964.


1/ Includes cropland harvested, idle, and used only for pasture; crop failure, cultivated summer fallow, and soil-improvement crops.
2/ Includes open permanent pasture in farms and grassland range not in farms.
3/ Total forest land area as reported by the U. S. Forest Service, preliminary table, September 1967, excluding reserved woodland and forest areas in National and State parks and other special use areas. Because of multiple use, some overlaps occur in acreages between forest land, special use, and other areas that were not feasible to eliminate.
4/ Includes cities and towns of 1,000 or more population, highway and railroad rights-of-way, airports, National and State parks, wildife refuges, wilderness areas, national defense lands, Federal flood-control areas, farmsteads, feedlots, ditches, farm roads and lanes, swamps, bare rock, deserts, and tundra.
5/ Remeasurement after the 1960 census showed land area of 1,900 million acres for the 48 contiguous States, and 2,266 million acres for the Nation.
6/ Less than 0.5 percent.


Figure 3

## CROPLAND

## Major Uses of Cropland

In 1964, the 48 States had 444 million acres in cropland, of which only 292 million acres ( 66 percent) were harvested for crop production (table 6, fig. 5). The 152 million acres of nonharvested cropland reflect climatic conditions, management practices, crop characteristics, or Federal farm programs.

Cropland on which crops failed is largely associated with hazards of weather, although insects and diseases may also cause failure. Generally, crop failure is only about 2 or 3 percent of the acreage of crops harvested, although this varies across the country, and has been considerably higher in years of widespread drought. In the Great Plains, droughts are the chief cause of crop failure, although hail and grasshoppers are also significant. East of the Mississippi River, crop failure is largely associated with excessive moisture-floods or local waterlogged low spots, although local droughts are not uncommon.

Cultivated summer fallow is widespread in the semiarid regions of the country where small grains are produced, largely without irrigation. In these areas, rainfall is usually insufficient for a crop each year. Increases in yields


Figure 4

Table 6.--Major uses of cropland, 48 States, selected years

| Cropland use | : 1954 | 1959 | 1964 | 1965 | 1966 | 1967 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | - . . . - - Million acres - . . . . - |  |  |  |  |  |
| Harvested | 339 | 317 | 292 | 291 | 288 | 302 |
| Crop failure | 13 | 10 | 6 | 8 | 6 | 8 |
| Cultivated summer fallow | 28 | 31 | 37 | 37 | 37 | 32 |
| Total used for crops | 380 | 358 | 335 | 336 | 331 | 342 |
| Soil improvement and idle | 19 | 33 | 52 | 48 | 51 | 35 |
| Cropland used for pasture | 66 | 66 | 57 | 58 | 57 | 59 |
| Total croplan | 465 | 457 | 444 | 442 | 439 | 436 |

## MAJOR USES OF CROPLAND, SELECTED YEARS 48 STATES



## Figure 5

result from fallowing land for a year before small grains are planted. The fallow land is cultivated to control weeds and help conserve soil moisture. For purposes of the cropland series in table 6, "cultivated summer fallow" refers to cropland in 17 western States that was plowed and left unseeded for harvest in the current year, although it may be seeded in the fall for harvest the following year. In this area, this is done to accumulate enough soil moisture to produce a crop. Some acreage diverted from crop production under Federal farm programs is in cultivated summer fallow. Other types of summer fallow ordinarily found east of the Mississippi, such as crops planted only for soil improvement or cropland left idle all year, are not included in cultivated summer fallow.

These three uses (cropland harvested, failed, and summer fallow) are aggregated to form the "cropland used for crops" data series which was developed as an estimate of the number of acres of cropland directly allocated to crop production each year (table 6). It is an annual indication of cropland acreage as an input in the agricultural production process. To compute cropland used for crops, the acreage on which crops failed and in cultivated summer fallow is added to the acreage harvested, on the assumption that this is the actual total number of acres required to achieve the smaller harvested acreage.

In 1964, cropland "used only for soil improvement crops" not harvested or pastured, plus "idle cropland" amounted to 52 million acres, or about 12 percent
of the total. Much of the Federal farm program diverted acreage is found in these categories. Some cropland is put in soil improvement crops for a year or two before it is replanted to crops for harvest. This use of cropland in humid areas is similar to cultivated summer fallow in subhumid areas, but it is to improve productivity by controlling weeds, conserving moisture, and increasing organic matter in the soil. A small amount (around 5 percent) of total cropland in the country is idle each year for various reasons. Some land is unharvested in a given year because it is planted to a crop such as sugarcane, which takes longer than a year to develop to harvest stage. In other cases, a crop is planted during the year for harvest the following year, but no crop is harvested from the land during the year of planting. Some land is sporadically idled in local areas due to excessive moisture, drought, or inclement weather at planting time. Other cropland is left idle when operators choose to work off the farm. Near growing cities much land is idle, subject to actual or potential demand for urban development.

Much of the nonharvested cropland (summer fallow, soil improvement, and idle) was shifted out of production in compliance with Federal farm programs. Starting in 1956, there have been various programs to divert crop acreages from production to idle but soil-conserving uses. These include the annual programs (acreage reserve, wheat, cotton, and feed grains) and the longer range programs (Conservation Reserve, Cropland Adjustment, and Cropland Conversion) which contracted to divert crop acreages to conserving uses for periods up to 10 years. The "use" distribution of diverted cropland is not known, as the acreage is not identical to the total acreage of unharvested cropland. In 1964, for example, cropland acreage diverted under annual and long-term programs was about 55 million acres, while the combined acreage of summer fallow, soil improvement, and idle was 89 million acres. Moreover, over time, some unknown acreage of land diverted from production under long-term programs is no longer classed as cropland.

And finally, "cropland used only for pasture" amounted to 57 million acres (13 percent of total cropland) in 1964. Most of this land is in the regular rotation and regularly returns to the harvested category. Some of this acreage, however, has become uneconomic for production and may remain in pasture indefinitely.

## Cropland Uses by Regions

Of the Nation's total cropland of 444 million acres in 1964, three-fourths was used for crops, about an eighth for soil improvement only or left idle, and an eighth was used as pasture (table 7). These proportions, however, varied in some of the regions and even more so among the States. Half of the regions (the Northeast, Lake States, and Corn Belt in the East, and the Mountain and Pacific in the West) had about the same proportions of cropland in each use as for the Nation as a whole, except the Pacific Region where cropland pasture acreage was double that for the soil improvement and idle categories.

In the Appalachian Region, however, only 52 percent of the cropland was used for crops, while 33 percent was used for pasture and 15 percent was in the soil improvement only or idle category. In the Southeast Region, less than twothirds was used for crops while the remaining cropland was about equally divided

Table 7.--Cropland uses by regions, United States, 1964 1/

| Region | Cropland used for crops 2/ | Cropland in soil improvement crops or idle | Cropland pasture | Total cropland |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| :--------------------1,000 acres-- |  |  |  |  |
| Northeast--------: | 14,016 | 2,598 | 2,559 | 19,173 |
| Lake States-------: | 34,301 | 6,450 | 4,219 | 44,970 |
| Corn Belt---------: | 72,003 | 11,519 | 11,228 | 94,750 |
| : |  |  |  |  |
| Northern Plains---: | 86,236 | 8,448 | 4,159 | 98,843 |
| Appalachian-------: | 14,994 | 4,432 | 9,457 | 28,883 |
| Southeast--------: | 11,845 | 3,442 | 3,593 | 18,880 |
| Delta States------: | 11,845 3,593 18,880 |  |  |  |
| Southern States---: | 34,126 | 6,383 | 8,937 | 49,446 |
| Southera States . 34,126 6,383 |  |  |  |  |
| Mountain | 33,886 | 4,707 | 4,574 | 43,167 |
| Pacific | 19,925 | 1,762 | 3,764 | 25,451 |
| 48 Stat | 334,823 | 51,615 | 57,363 | 443,801 |
| Alaska | 17 | 3 | 4 | 24 |
| Hawaii | 305 | 14 | 52 | 371 |
| U. S. total---: | 335, 145 | 51,632 | 57,419 | 444,196 |

1/ See appendix table 21 for data by States.
2/ Includes cultivated summer fallow.
between the noncropped categories of cropland. Cropland used for crops in the South Central part of the country (Delta States and Southern Plains) amounted to two-thirds or more of the total cropland. In the Delta States, however, 24 percent of the cropland was used for pasture, compared with 18 percent in the Southern Plains and only 13 percent for the Nation.

## Trends in Major Uses of Cropland

Total cropland acreage has been trending downward since 1950. It rose to 480 million acres by 1920 and then held near that level until 1950, except for a brief drop in the late $30^{\prime} s$ and early $40^{\prime} s$ associated with drought and wartime manpower shortages. In recent years, total acreage decreased from 478 million acres in 1950 to 436 million acres in 1967, or a total decrease of 9 percent in 17 years. The average annual decrease was almost 2.5 million acres a year, or only 0.5 percent.

Significant changes in land use, however, have been obscured by the slight total downtrend. Foremost has been the improvement of land for crops and grassland pastures with drainage, flood control, irrigation, and brush clearing. Substantial shifts have been made among uses in some regions, in line with the trend toward concentrating cropland on fertile and nearly level areas, and shifting hilly and eroded land to grass and trees.

Also, while total cropland acreage has declined only moderately, significant shifts have occurred among its various categories, namely, (1) cropland harvested, (2) crop failure, (3) summer fallow, (4) soil improvement crops only, and idle cropland, and (5) cropland used only for pasture. These shifts have been associated largely with the impact of Federal programs designed to divert crop acreage to idle but soil-conserving uses. Total diversion ranged from 14 million acres in 1956, the first year, up to 65 million acres in 1962 , the highest point. Some 41 million acres were diverted in 1967.

Although acreage harvested in 1967 rose appreciably above the previous year, the trend in recent years has generally been downward. From 1954 to 1966, the acreage harvested decreased from 339 million acres to 288 million acres or a decline of 15 percent (table 6). This decrease of 51 million acres was partly offset by increases in the nonharvested categories so that total cropland decreased only 26 million acres. The land uses to which diverted acreage can be put (summer fallow, soil improvement, and idle) increased from 47 million acres in 1954 to 88 million acres in 1966, or an increase of 41 million acres in these nonharvested categories. Most of the increase occurred in soil improvement and idle acreage, but some was accounted for by a 9 -million-acre increase in summer fallow. Some diverted acreage, such as that planted to trees, is no longer classed as cropland. As a result of these land-use shifts, only two-thirds of the total cropland was harvested in 1966, compared with three-fourths in 1954.

These trends, however, were reversed, at least temporarily, in 1967 when cropland harvested rose to 302 million acres, or 5 percent above 1966. To build up depleted feed grain and wheat stocks, the diverted acreage goals of the farm programs were lowered to draw on the reservoir of cropland in nonharvested uses. Harvested acreage in 1967 was up 14 million acres from 1966, while the acreage of summer fallow, soil improvement, and idle cropland showed significant decreases. The harvest in 1967 rose to 69 percent of the total cropland acreage, but was still well below the 1954 ratio of 73 percent.

Trends in Cropland Used for Crops by Region
Cropland used for crops consists of the sum of cropland harvested, cropland failed, and cultivated summer fallow acreages in the 48 States (table 6 and fig. 6). This total acreage is considered to be the cropland required to be allocated each year to achieve the acreage of cropland harvested.

Cropland used for crops comprised 330 million acres in 1910 and trended steadily upward to 384 million acres in the predrought year of 1931. Acreage then continued below that level until the end of World War II, with an increase in 1949 to an all-time record high of 387 million acres. Wheat acreage in that year, in response to favorable prices, reached an all-time high of 84 million seeded acres, or an increase of 12 million acres in 3 years' time. With the establishment of wheat acreage allotments in 1950, acreage decreased somewhat, but stayed around the 380 million-acre level until the cropland diversion program was initiated in 1956. From this point, the acreage trended downward to 331 million acres in 1966, a decrease from 1954 of 49 million acres, or 13 percent.


Figure 6
During these same years, however (1954-66), productivity per acre increased about 3 percent a year due to increased inputs (fertilizers, pesticides, etc.), improved technology, and shifts out of lower-grade land. By 1966, productivity per acre for the 48 States was 36 percent greater than in 1954, so that total production increased 20 percent in spite of a 13 -percent decrease in acreage during that period.

Compared with the national downtrend, however, there was considerable variation among the regions (table 8 and fig. 7). There was relatively little decline in the Mountain and Pacific Regions where irrigated projects have not only improved old cropland, but have also developed some new cropland. Cropland used for crops in 1966 was down from 1954 only 6 and 4 percent, respectively, in these regions. In contrast, the decrease in the Eastern regions was greater than the national average. The Northeast was down 17 percent, the Appalachian down 26 percent and the Southeast down 40 percent from 1954. These decreases were associated with the reversion of cropland to other uses in many areas because of isolation, small size, adverse topography, and relatively low productivity. A long-time downtrend continued in the Southern Plains where cropland used for crops in 1966 was down 22 percent from 1954. In some parts of the region, soil moisture is inadequate even for dryland farming which is widely used in the Northern Plains, so cropland has been gradually reverting to other uses. Cropland used for crops in the Corn Belt and Northern Plains, accounting for about half of the Nation's acreage, decreased only about 10 percent from 1954 to 1966.

Table 8.--Cropland used for crops, by regions, 1950-66 1/

| Year |  | $\begin{aligned} & \text { : Lake: } \\ & \text { : States: } \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | Corn Belt | $\begin{aligned} & \text { :Northern: } \\ & \text { : Plains } \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Appa- } \\ & \text { : lachian: } \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | Southeast | $\begin{aligned} & \text { : Delta: } \\ & \text { :States }: \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | Southern Plains |  | Pacific | $\begin{gathered} 48 \\ \text { States } \end{gathered}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | $:$ |  |  |  |  | -Milli | n acres-- |  |  |  |  |
| 1950-.-- | : 17.1 | 37.5 | 77.2 | 93.3 | 21.1 | 18.7 | 15.3 | 41.7 | 35.2 | 20.2 | 377.3 |
| 1951---- | : 17.0 | 37.7 | 77.4 | 93.8 | 21.2 | 18.7 | 15.4 | 43.4 | 35.9 | 20.6 | 381.1 |
| 1952--- | : 16.9 | 37.4 | 77.8 | 93.8 | 20.8 | 19.0 | 15.1 | 41.8 | 36.6 | 20.8 | 380.0 |
| 1953---- | : 16.8 | 37.6 | 78.8 | 94.0 | 20.6 | 18.9 | 14.9 | 41.3 | 35.8 | 20.8 | 379.5 |
| 1954---- | : 16.6 | 37.6 | 79.4 | 95.5 | 20.0 | 17.6 | 14.8 | 41.5 | 36.2 | 20.7 | 379.9 |
| 1955---- | : 16.4 | 37.6 | 79.5 | 94.6 | 19.9 | 17.3 | 14.3 | 41.4 | 36.2 | 20.5 | 377.7 |
| 1956---- | : 15.9 | 37.4 | 78.5 | 92.8 | 18.9 | 16.1 | 13.7 | 38.9 | 35.7 | 20.8 | 368.7 |
| 1957---- | : 15.7 | 36.4 | 77.2 | 90.1 | 17.5 | 15.1 | 13.2 | 37.3 | 35.2 | 20.5 | 358.2 |
| 1958---- | : 15.5 | 36.0 | 76.9 | 90.4 | 17.2 | 13.7 | 12.5 | 36.8 | 35.3 | 20.5 | 354.8 |
| 1959---- | : 15.2 | 36.7 | 78.8 | 90.2 | 17.4 | 14.6 | 13.1 | 37.6 | 34.4 | 20.5 | 358.5 |
| 1960--- | : 14.9 | 35.8 | 78.4 | 91.5 | 17.1 | 13.3 | 12.8 | 37.2 | 34.1 | 20.2 | 355.3 |
| 1961---- | : 14.5 | 35.3 | 71.6 | 86.9 | 16.1 | 12.7 | 12.8 | 35.8 | 33.8 | 20.1 | 339.6 |
| 1962---- | : 14.2 | 33.3 | 70.7 | 85.3 | 15.4 | 11.9 | 12.7 | 34.4 | 33.9 | 19.4 | 331.2 |
| 1963---- | : 14.2 | 34.5 | 72.5 | 87.1 | 15.2 | 12.1 | 13.1 | 34.8 | 34.0 | 19.8 | 337.3 |
| 1964---- | : 14.0 | 34.3 | 72.0 | 86.2 | 15.0 | 11.9 | 13.5 | 34.1 | 33.9 | 19.9 | 334.8 |
| 1965---- | : 13.8 | 34.1 | 72.7 | 86.8 | 14.8 | 11.3 | 13.6 | 34.8 | 34.5 | 20.0 | 336.4 |
| 1966 2/- | : 13.8 | 33.5 | 72.6 | 86.0 | 14.7 | 10.5 | 13.5 | 32.5 | 33.9 | 19.9 | 330.9 |

1/ Cropland used is the sum of the acreage of land from which one or more crops were harvested plus acreages of crop failure and summer fallow.
2/ Preliminary.


## Figure 7

Despite decreased acreages, all regions except the Northeast and Appalachian had a total 1966 production well above 1954 because of marked increases in productivity per acre.

## Types of Crops Harvested Annually

Annual estimates of the total acreage of crops harvested are compiled from several sources. The principal acreages harvested are as reported in Crop Production and other reports issued by the Statistical Reporting Service. Acreages of fruits and planted nuts, vegetables for home use, and some minor crops are based mainly on Census of Agriculture reports.

It will be noted that the total acreage of crops harvested somewhat exceeds the acreage of cropland harvested as shown in table 2. For instance in 1967,
the total acreage of crops harvested amounted to 309 million acres, including the acreage of fruits and nuts and of farm gardens. However, because some land yields more than one crop a year, the actual acreage of cropland harvested in 1967 amounted to only 302 million acres. The 7 million acres of land that was double-cropped included such cases as the planting of soybeans for harvest following the winter wheat or oats harvest, or the production of more than one crop a year on land in the southernmost vegetable production areas with very long growing seasons.

Associated with the impact of the several acreage diversion programs, besides other technical and economic factors, the pattern of land use by major crops shifted significantly in recent years. From 1959 to 1964, the total acreage harvested decreased from 324 million acres to 298 million acres, a decline of 26 million acres or 8 percent (table 9 and appendix table 29 showing the trend by crop).

Contrary to the trend in the total, however, the "food crops" group gained 7 million acres, or 7 percent during this period. The increase was accounted for by a continuation of the uptrend in soybeans. The remainder of the "food crops" group showed only small and offsetting changes.

The "feed crops" group showed a sharp decrease of 31 million acres, or 15 percent from 1959 to 1964. The decline was all accounted for by the decrease in feed grains-hay acreage actually showed a slight increase. During this period, corn acreage dropped 20 percent, oats 29 percent, barley 31 percent, and sorghums 17 percent. By 1964, total feed grain acreage was only 34 percent of total crops harvested, compared with 44 percent in 1959.

A small decrease in the "other crops" group during this period (1.7 million acres) was mainly accounted for by a l-million-acre decrease in cotton acreage.

Since 1964, some trends have changed in response to changes in farm programs designed to increase wheat and feed grain production in order to build up depleted stocks. In 1967, total crops harvested increased to 308 million acres, or 3 percent greater than in 1964. The "food crops" group increased more than 17 million acres from 1964 to 1967 , with the increase about evenly divided between wheat and soybeans. The "feed crops" group acreage, however, remained practically unchanged, as the 7 -million-acre increase in corn and sorghum acreage was offset by decreases in oats, barley, and hay acreages. In contrast, the "other crops" group showed a sharp decrease from 1964 to 1967, mainly accounted for by a drop in cotton acreage from 14.1 million acres to only 8.1 million acres in 1967. The decline in cotton acreage was mainly due to acreage allotments which were decreased to lower surpluses, but greater than usual abandonment in 1967 also contributed to the downtrend.

## PASTURE AND RANGE RESOURCES

Livestock grazing occurs on 922 million acres, or 41 percent of the land area (table 10). Approximately 640 million acres of permanent grassland and other nonforested areas are used more or less exclusively for grazing. The rest

Table 9.--Types of crops harvested annually, 48 States, 1954-67 1/

| Type | : 1954 | 1959 | 1964 | 1966 | 1967 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | :------------ Million acres |  |  |  |  |
| Food crops |  |  |  |  |  |
| Food grains | 58.8 | 54.8 | 53.3 | 53.0 | 62.1 |
| Other food crops | : 33.4 | 38.2 | 46.5 | 52.3 | 55.2 |
| Total | : 92.2 | 93.0 | 99.8 | 105.3 | 117.3 |
|  | : |  |  |  |  |
| Feed crops : |  |  |  |  |  |
| Feed grains - | : 152.3 | 143.5 | 111.2 | 109.8 | 113.3 |
|  | : 72.5 | 66.3 | 67.3 | 65.1 | 64.7 |
|  | : 224.8 | 209.8 | 178.5 | 174.9 | 178.0 |
| Other crops | : 29.8 | 21.8 | 20.1 | 15.0 | 13.1 |
|  | : 346.8 | 324.6 | 298.4 | 295.2 | 308.4 |

1/ See appendix table 29 for individual crop acreages and sources of data.
consists of 57 million acres of cropland used only for pasture and 225 million acres classified as forest pasture and range. 2/ Most pasture and other grazing land is used for some period each year, but the acreage varies depending on weather and available forage.

Of the total pasture and range, 630 million acres were enumerated as land in farms. Pasture and range in farms includes all of the cropland pasture, 490 million acres or 77 percent of the permanent grassland pasture, and 82 million acres or 36 percent of the forest land grazed. Most grazing land in farms is in private, State, and Indian ownership. About 10 percent of the Federal range, consisting mainly of scattered areas grazed under lease and portions of the National Grasslands, is also included in farms.

2/ These totals do not include the acreage of planted crops on which grazing occurs for brief periods before or after crops are harvested. Examples of this type of grazing are fall and winter pasturage of small grains, and afterharvest pasturage of hay.

Also excluded are areas totaling 58 million acres in Federal grazing districts and National Forest system range allotments characterized by little or no use for grazing. However, these areas are intermingled and managed with areas classified as usable or suitable for grazing. Since livestock range over or have access to these areas in the course of utilizing the more productive areas, they form an important part of the total range environment.

Table 10.--Pasture and range by type and region, United States, 1964

| Region | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Cropland } \\ & \text { pasture } \\ & \text { 1/ } \end{aligned}$ | ```Grassland !pasture and range 2/``` | ```Forest land: pasture and range 3/``` | Acreage | $\operatorname{tal} 41$ <br> Percentage of land area |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | $-1,000$ | acres |  | -Percent- |
| Northeast--------: | 2,559 | 7,110 | 3,573 | 13,242 | 12 |
| Lake States------: | 4,219 | 8,485 | 6,937 | 19,641 | 16 |
| Corn Belt--------- | 11,228 | 20,335 | 12,179 | 43,742 | 26 |
| Northern Plains--: | 4,159 | 80,675 | 2,300 | 87,134 | 45 |
| Appalachian------: | 9,457 | 10,778 | 8,356 | 28,591 | 23 |
| Southeast--------: | 3,593 | 12,564 | 18,773 | 34,930 | 28 |
| Delta States-----: | 4,873 | 9,433 | 27,428 | 41,734 | 45 |
| Southern Plains--: | 8,937 | 118,378 | 26,381 | 153,696 | 72 |
| Mountain---------: | 4,574 | 314,399 | 85,327 | 404,300 | 74 |
| Pacific-------- | 3,764 | 54, 307 | 32,568 | 90,639 | 44 |
| 48 States------: | 57,363 | 636,464 | 223,822 | 917,649 | 48 |
| Alaska-----------: | 4 | 2,772 | 367 | 3,143 | 1 |
| Hawaii----------: | 52 | 1,203 | 331 | 1,586 | 38 |
| U. S. total--: | 57,419 | 640,439 | 224,520 | 922,378 | 41 |

1/ Mainly cropland in rotation which is used some years for cultivated crops and other years for pasture.

2/ Excludes cropland used for pasture.
3/ Used or usable for grazing.
4/ Excludes 58 million acres in Federal grazing districts and National Forest sys̄tem range allotments characterized by little or no use for grazing.

The 293 million acres of grazing land not in farms includes 150 million acres of grassland and other nonforested areas, and 143 million acres of forest land. More than 200 million acres of the grazing land not in farms is federally owned, mainly in Federal grazing districts and National Forest system range allotments. These areas are grazed under a permit rather than lease arrangement and, as such are not enumerated as land in farms. Much of the non-Federal grazing land not in farms consists of forest industry and other large holdings in the South.

## Grassland Pasture and Range

Grassland pasture and range consists mainly of tame and native grasses and legumes but also includes shrub and brushland not classified as forest. Of the 490 million acres in farms, 397 million are improved and unimproved grassland, including 36 million improved between 1960 and 1964, and 93 million are predominantly brush and browse. The latter statistic applies only to the 17 Western States where, overall, a little more than one-fifth of the nonforested
pasture in farms is classified as brush and browse. The proportion is much higher in several individual States, however. In general, the proportion of brush and browse on the nonforested pasture and range not in farms equals or exceeds that on adjacent acreages in farms.

Grazing of grassland pasture and range is the predominant primary use of land in the Mountain Region and Southern Plains and the predominant agricultural use in the Pacific Region, Alaska, and Hawaii as well. Among the major pasture types, grassland pasture predominates in all regions except the Southeast and Delta States. Grazing of this varied cover type accounts for more than half the area in the Mountain Region and Southern Plains; 41 percent in the Northern Plains where a larger proportion of the area is used for crops; and 27 percent in the Pacific Region where forestry predominates. These four regions have 566 million acres, or 88 percent, of the permanent grassland pasture and range acreage. In other regions (excluding Hawaii) the proportion of area in grassland pasture ranges from 12 percent in the Corn Belt to less than 1 percent in Alaska. Three-tenths of the land in Hawaii is grazed, but due to the State's small size it contributes little to the total grassland pasture acreage.

Cropland Used Only for Pasture
Cropland used only for pasture, the smallest component of the grazing acreage, occupies between 2 and 3 percent of the land nationally and comprises 6 percent of the total pasture and range acreage. Cropland used only for pasture can be cultivated without further improvement and is considered to be in the crop rotation. Much of it is of high quality. In some instances, however, it is difficult to differentiate--in terms of either quality or use character-istics--between cropland used only for pasture and permanent grassland pasture. About half of the 57 million acres of cropland pasture is concentrated in the Corn Belt, Southern Plains, and Appalachian Regions. As a percentage of total pasture and range, cropland pasture is particularly high in the Appalachian Region and relatively high in the Corn Belt, Lake States, and Northeast. Substantial acreages of cropland are pastured in other regions, but their relative importance is diminished by large acreages of permanent grassland and forest land grazed.

## Forest Pasture and Range

The 225 million acres of forest pasture and range is an approximation of the amount of open forest, cutover areas, land reverting to forest, and similar areas which have grass or other forage growth pastured to some extent. Forest pasture is the predominant type of grazing in the Southeast and Delta Regions and exceeds cropland pasture acreages in all regions except the Northern Plains and Appalachian Region. The larger aggregate acreages are located in the 11 Western States and in the South and Southwest.

Pasture and Range Productivity
Forage production per acre varies widely among the different types of pasture and range. Cropland pasture is by far the most productive type. An acre of cropland pasture on the average produces five to six times as much forage as an acre of farm grassland pasture and roughly 25 times the feed from an average
acre of nonfarm pasture and range. 3/ However, compared with most crops, even the more productive grazing types represent extensive use of land. Thus, although the total acreage of pasture and range occupies triple the acreage in crops, it normally contributes only a third of the total feed consumed by all livestock (1).

The inherent productivity of private and other non-Federal grassland pasture or, since the two are roughly coextensive, permanent grassland pasture in farms is indicated by its potential for crop use. According to the Conservation Needs Inventory (CNI) conducted in 1957-59 (12), about one-fourth of the permanent grassland in non-Federal ownership (or in farms) is suitable for regular cultivation or would be after application of feasible corrective measures. Another tenth has marginal cropland potential. The remaining two-thirds is characterized by topographic, soil, or climatic conditions which preclude its use for crops. Regionally, the CNI revealed that more than 70 percent of the non-Federal grassland pasture in the humid eastern portion of the country is suitable or marginal for cultivation while more than 70 percent in the West is unsuitable for cultivation. In general, the same physical conditions which limit its use for crops also limit the natural forage producing capability of the land and act as a deterrent to pasture and range improvement.

Most of the grassland range in Federal ownership is distributed in semiarid portions of the 11 Western States and, as are counterpart acreages of nonFederal range in these areas, is characterized by low productivity. Not uncommonly, the physical limitations to grazing on federally-owned land are even more severe than those on adjacent non-Federal range. This characteristic difference developed over time as the better land was transferred gradually from the public domain to private ownership.

From the standpoint of total livestock feed production the contribution of the Federal range, including both grassland and forest land, is small. In the Mountain and Pacific Regions, however, the Federal range provides about oneeighth of the livestock feed utilized and higher proportions locally (7). Here, many ranchers depend on the public range as a source of feed or as a seasonal source of feed that supplements or complements other feed supplies.

The natural forage producing capacity of forest pasture and range is strongly influenced by characteristics of the forest such as species composition and density of stand, as well as by underlying physical factors. Forage values are relatively high on open stands of longleaf slash pine in such areas as the Delta Region where climatic conditions permit grazing throughout the year. In contrast, the upland hardwoods of the region do not produce much forage, especially when protected from fire, although large acreages are grazed as a consequence of their location in or near farms. Similarly, a high proportion

3/ Rogers, R. O., and Barton, G. T., 1960. Our Farm Production Potential, 1975. U. S. Dept. Agr. Inform. Bull. 233, 14 pp., illus. p. 6.

4/ Underscored numbers in parentheses refer to items in the Literature Cited, p. 48.
of the ponderosa pine, aspen, pinion-juniper, and other relatively open forest types of the West has value for seasonal grazing but thick-growing types such as fir, spruce, and lodgepole pine have little utility for grazing. Type conversion from nonforage species to grasses in many portions of the semiarid Southwest has resulted in some increased livestock grazing capacity. An example of this is the juniper control and conversion projects in the Salt and Verde River drainages. This type of treatment results not only in improved range forage production, but also increased efficiency in use of available water and better control of erosion.

## Changes in Pasture and Range Acreages

The combined acreage of the three major types of pasture and range decreased 22 million acres ( 2 percent) from 1959 to 1964, thus continuing a well-established trend (table 11). Acreages of cropland pasture and forest grazing land decreased 9 and 20 million acres respectively, but a partially offsetting increase of 7 million acres occurred in the acreage of grassland pasture and range.

Grassland pasture, the largest component of the grazing acreage, generally declined or changed little in regions east of the Plains States, but increased throughout the West, Alaska, and Hawail. In the better farming areas of the East, maintenance of the cropland base, some shifts of pasture to forest, and expansion of urban and other special uses precluded increases in the grassland pasture acreage. In the poorer farming areas, additions to the grassland pasture acreage were usually more than offset by reversion to forest and increases in special uses.

The total area in the 17 Western States, Alaska, and Hawail classified as grassland pasture and range increased 13 million acres between 1959 and 1964. Approximately 9 million acres (more than two-thirds of the increase) were added in the Southern Plains and the increase is attributed to a shift of cropland to pasture, land clearing, and some reclassification of forest land. The acreage was enlarged in the Northern Plains by smaller shifts of cropland to pasture, and in several other areas of the West by land clearing. In Alaska, grassland pasture expanded mainly on previously unused land.

The acreage of grassland pasture in farms was 24 million acres higher in 1964 than in 1959, but the acreage not in farms decreased 17 million acres. Regional

Table 11.--Changes in pasture and range, United States, 1950-64

| Type | : 1950 | 1954 | 1959 | 1964 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | :----------Million acres |  |  |  |
| Cropland used only for pasture | 69 | 66 | 66 | 57 |
| Grassland pasture and range--- | 632 | 634 | 633 | 640 |
| Woodland grazed-..-- | 319 | 301 | 245 | 225 |
| Total pasture and range | $: 1,020$ | 1,001 | 944 | 922 |

increases in the acreage of grassland pasture in farms were especially large in the 17 Western States, due partly to land clearing and shifts of cropland to pasture. Another major factor was the inclusion of certain federally owned grazing areas not previously enumerated as land in farms. Census coverage of State and Indian land also may have been more complete.

Smaller increases in the acreage of grassland pasture in farms occurred in the South and Southeast. In some areas, increases in this class are associated with declining cropland acreages. In the Lower Mississippi Valley and Florida, land improvement activities and expanded census coverage were important factors. No overall gain in grassland pasture occurred in the South, however, as the nonfarm acreage available and suitable for grazing declined.

Cropland used only for pasture decreased sharply between 1959 and 1964, after remaining stable for nearly a decade. All regions showed decreases except the Mountain Region. These regional decreases are associated with the decrease of cropland and the increase of grassland pasture in farms in most regions.

Forest pasture and range continued a long-term decline during 1959-64. In the Mountain and Pacific Regions, reclassification activities by administering agencies substantially reduced the acreage of usable Federal range, although the total acreage under management for grazing did not change greatly. This reduction is reflected mainly in the estimates of forest land grazed. Clearing and reclassification of woody vegetation reduced the forested grazing acreage still further in the Mountain and Pacific Regions and were primary causes of a large decrease in the Southern Plains. In the eastern United States, total acreages of forest land grazed remained fairly stable, but generally declined as a percentage of total forest land. Throughout much of the East, the potential for forest land grazing inherent in increasing forest land acreages was offset by increasing stand density and changes in feeding practices. The acreage of forest land grazed in farms declined 10 million acres nationally with decreases occurring in all regions. As a percentage of total forest land in farms, however, there was little change regionally or nationally.

A trend of gradual improvement of grassland pasture by brush clearing, reseeding, fertilization, and shifting of cropland to pasture continued during 1959-64. These yield-increasing activities were accompanied by the removal of some areas of low productivity from grazing use. Thus, although the total acreage of pasture and range decreased, the overall quality of the remaining acreage increased.

## FOREST LAND

Using a total for 1963 of 759 million acres of forest land (rather than the total of 762 million used in this report), the Forest Service classified 509 million acres, or two-thirds, as commercial, i.e., suitable and available for the growing of continual crops of industrial timber products (14). The remaining 250 million acres were classified as noncommercial because of inherent low timber-producing capacity or, as in the case of some public lands, because of legal reservation for recreation and other nontimber uses. Large acreages of forest land in the Alaskan interior for which survey statistics are not yet available, are also included in the noncommercial acreage.

The total forest land acreage is about equally divided between the 31 Eastern States and the 17 Western States, Alaska, and Hawaii. In contrast, the proportions classified as commercial and noncommercial forest in the two regional groupings are strikingly dissimilar. In the 31 Eastern States, 97 percent of the forest land is classified as commercial, while in the remaining 19 States only 40 percent is of commercial quality. Exclusive of Alaska, however, the average for the Western States is 54 percent. In addition to having disproportionately large shares of the commercial forest land, individual eastern regions also have the largest proportions of their total land area classed as forest (table 5).

Except for acreage changes resulting from reclassification, the total acreage of forest land has not changed greatly in recent years. Substantial acreages of noncommercial forest in the Southern Plains, parts of the West and Alaska, have been cleared or reclassified to other use classes. In contrast, the commercial forest acreage is increasing rapidly in many areas of the South and East. Some of the changes in forest land are also referred to in other sections on agricultural and special uses of land.

Although most of the forested area is generally considered to be used primarily for forestry, it typically serves multiple purposes. For example, forest land provides watershed protection and wildife habitat. Many areas are used for grazing, recreation, or other purposes as well. Forest land exclusive of the acreage grazed and areas used primarily for other purposes totals approximately 507 million acres.

## SPECIAL AND MISCELLANEOUS USES

Agricultural and forestry activities are largely absent on 450 million acres, or one-fifth of the land area. Special uses, including urban and other builtup areas, parks, wildlife, defense, institutional, and some other uses occupy 38 percent ( 173 million acres) of this acreage. A still larger portion, 62 percent, is characterized by little or no economic surface use. The former often competes with agricultural uses for land, while the latter in some instances represents a potential source of additional agricultural land.

Special Use Areas in 1964
The special uses of land specified in table 12 occupy 173 million acres, or nearly 8 percent of the total land area of the country. Urban and transportation areas, the most intensive uses, account for 55 million acres or one-third of the total in this category. Federal and State parks take 32 million acres scattered across the country. National Forest wilderness and primitive areas occupy 15 million acres. Relatively large acreages have been set aside for wildlife refuges and national defense purposes. Various other extensive-type public facilities plus an estimated 9 million acres in farmsteads, farm roads, and farm lanes contribute to the special use acreage.

Land in special-purpose uses, like that used for agriculture and forestry, is distributed unevenly between regions and States as shown in appendix table 27. Some of the reasons are more obvious than others. Acreages in urban places

Table 12.--Special-use areas, United States, estimates for 1964

| Special use area | Acreage | Percentage of total |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | $\underline{1,000 ~ a c r e s ~}$ | Percent |
| Nonagricultural: |  |  |
| Intensive uses: |  |  |
| Urban area | 29,268 | 16.9 |
| Highways and roads | 21,169 | 12.2 |
|  | 3,298 | 1.9 |
| Airports---------------------------- : | 1,520 | . 9 |
| Total | 55,255 | 31.9 |
| Extensive uses: |  |  |
| National parks----------------------: | 25,975 | 15.0 |
| State parks--- | 5,918 | 3.4 |
| Wilderness and primitive are | 14,617 | 8.5 |
| Federal wildife refuges---------- | 22,398 | 12.9 |
| State wildiffe refuges-------------: | 6,602 | 3.8 |
| National defense areas | 23,599 | 13.6 |
| Flood control land | 6,171 | 3.6 |
| Federal industrial lands----------- | 2,110 | 1.2 |
| State institutional and other uses-: | 1,338 | . 8 |
| Total | 108,728 | 62.8 |
| Total nonagricultural lands--- | 163,983 | 94.7 |
| Agricultural: |  |  |
| Farmsteads - | 7,334 | 4.2 |
| Farm roads and lanes | 1,840 | 1.1 |
| Total agricultural special use lands | 9,174 | 5.3 |
| Total special use areas-n-.-.-. : | 173,157 | 100.0 |

Note: Definitions and procedures are given in footnotes to appendix table 27 showing special use areas by States.
are closely related to population densities and are largest in the most populous States. Federally owned areas held for flood-control purposes are distributed mainly along the Mississippi, Missouri, and Ohio Rivers and their tributaries. The sizes of various flood-control projects are in proportion to the flood problems in these areas. Similarly, acreages in farmsteads and farm roads are related to the number of farms and area in farms.

The bases for the distributional patterns of most other special uses are more complex, but several generalizations can be made. The varying quantities of land used for rural transportation purposes in different areas reflect the influences of both population densities and historical land settlement patterns. The latter is usually the predominant factor. For example, regardless of population densities, most larger acreages are in States with rectangular land divisions, particularly those in the better agricultural areas of the country.

The acreages in parks, wildlife areas, and, to a lesser extent, national defense areas, are concentrated in the Western States and Alaska because large public domain holdings are available for these uses, and in the less productive areas of the East. Many areas used for these purposes were selected because of special-site characteristics. Others, particularly some State parks and wildlife areas, entered State ownership more or less by chance and then were designated to the special use deemed appropriate. National defense areas differ mainly in that locational aspects were more likely stressed in the selection process and a larger proportion is characterized by high value and intensive use.

The relative proportions of cropland, pasture, range, forest, and other land absorbed by individual special uses are not well established but are known to vary substantially. As urban and transportation areas expand into rural areas, they may progressively occupy or isolate land in other uses in existing proportions; but, where a choice is possible, preference is normally shown for level and fertile land. The distribution of urban and transportation acreages in relation to other uses also indicates that a proportionately larger share of land moving to intensive uses is from cropland than from other major uses. In contrast, only a small proportion of land in parks, wildlife areas, and other extensive special uses was formerly used for crops. These uses are usually established on pasture and forest land or, frequently, on areas not previously used for any purpose.

Rate of Growth of Special Uses
According to available statistics, the area in special uses grouped in table 13 increased almost 17 million acres, or an average of 3.4 million acres annually during 1959-64. Most individual uses specified in table 12 also increased. 5/ Among intensive uses, the urban area increased from an estimated 27.2 to $29 . \overline{3}$ million acres-an annual growth rate of about 420,000 acres. The growth rate

[^0]cannot be compared directly with the rate of 550,000 acres estimated for the 1950's (18, p. 9) as data adequate for comparison are available only for years of the Censuses of Population. However, the evidence generally indicates that, in terms of acreage occupied, urban areas expanded at a somewhat slower rate after 1959.

Rural transportation areas increased from 25.2 to 26.0 million acres, or about 160,000 acres annually during the same period. Construction of new highways such as the National System of Interstate and Defense Highways, which occurred at a somewhat accelerated rate relative to 1959 and earlier, accounts for 141,000 acres of the total. The remainder is attributable to a small increase in the acreage in airports. In contrast, estimates of the area in railroad rights-of-way continue to show a slight but persistent decline.

Separate estimates were not made for rural areas used for such purposes as industrial, commercial, and nonfarm residential sites; mining areas; clay, sand, and stone quarries; cemeteries; and golf courses. Areas of artificial reservoirs are also omitted from the special use acreage tabulations as they have been deducted from the land area figure already. However, an average of 420,000 acres per year are taken for reservoirs annually. By combining an allowance for moninventoried uses and reservoirs with the nearly 600,000 acres absorbed by urban and transportation uses, it is estimated that about 1.0 million acres of all kinds of land are now shifting to intensive special uses each year. This rate is largely unchanged from 1950-60.

Table 13.--Changes in special use areas, United States, 1959-64


A net increase of almost 15 million acres occurred in the acreage of extensivetype public acreages (recreation and wildlife and public installations and facilities), an average of 3 million acres yearly. However, more than 10 million acres of the increase resulted from the establishment of wildife refuges on public domain land in Alaska. Apart from this unusual increase and considering certain classification changes, land shifted to extensive special uses at an average annual rate approaching 1 million acres, or 5 million in the period, the same as in the 1950 's. Acreages in park, wildlife, Federal flood control, Federal industrial, and State institutional holdings all increased during 1959-64, but the total was partially offset by the disposal of $0.8 \mathrm{mil}-$ lion acres held for national defense purposes. The estimated acreage in farmsteads and farm roads, the only special uses classified as agricultural, also declined as a consequence of the decrease in the number of farms and land in farms.

## Miscellaneous Other Land

Except for minor acreages in special uses that were not inventoried, the remaining 277 million acres of the Nation's land resources consist largely of swamps, marshes, bare rock areas, desert, tundra, and similar areas. Acreages of miscellaneous land are relatively large in arid portions of the West and several Atlantic and Gulf Coastal areas but particularly large in Alaska, which has 213 million acres, or three-fourths of the total. Although characterized by little or no economic surface use, these areas generally have utility for wildlife purposes and some have value for minerals. From the standpoint of potential use, inroads will continue to be made for special purposes, while limited areas will be irrigated or otherwise reclaimed for agriculture. Johnson and Jorgenson (5) have estimated that 50 to 60 million acres of unclassified land in Alaska has some potential for grazing, although most of this acreage is adapted to reindeer rather than domestic livestock.

## MAJOR USES OF LAND BY CLASS OF OWNERSHIP

The land resources of the United States are classified by major ownership and use classes in table 14. About three-fifths of the land area is privately owned and two-fifths publicly owned.

The Federal acreage comprises mainly the residual of the original public domain, but it also includes 53 million acres acquired by purchase and other means. Almost half ( 47 percent) of the Federal land is distributed in the 11 Western States and an equal amount is located in Alaska. Grazing is the primary use of 159 million acres of grassland and a secondary use on 63 million acres of forest land. Livestock range over an additional 59 million acres, mainly forest, which have little or no economic use for grazing but which are intermingled and managed with the usable Federal range. Other major uses of Federal land are forest land (including forest land grazed), 37 percent; special uses, 12 percent; and miscellaneous land including desert, tundra, etc., 30 percent.

State and local governments have accumulated landholdings of varying size through such means as grants of land from the Federal Government, tax-reversion, purchase, gift, and escheat. These publicly administered areas are

Table 14.--Major classes of land by use and ownership, United States, 1964

| Ownership | Cropland | : Grassland : : pasture : and range: | Forest <br> land 1/ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Special use } \\ & \text { and } \\ & \text { other land } \end{aligned}$ | Total <br> land <br> area |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | -M | acr |  |  |
| Federal-- | : 0.4 | 157.7 | 282.0 | 325.6 | 765.7 |
| State and othe public 2/--. | : 2.4 | 39.4 | 37.4 | 43.1 | 122.3 |
| Indian 3/-- | 2.6 | 32.5 | 12.9 | 2.4 | 50.4 |
| Private 4 / | 438.8 | 410.8 | 429.6 | 48.7 | 1,327.9 |
| Total 4/ | : 444.2 | 640.4 | 761.9 | 419.8 | 2,266.3 |

1/ Includes reserved forest in parks and other special uses.
2/ Excludes State-grant land in process of transfer from the Federal public domain to the State of Alaska.

3/ Trust land held by tribes and individual Indians. About 4.7 million acres of federally-owned land, located mainly in Alaska, are also used by Indians.

4/ Federal, State, local government, and Indian land acreages were obtained from public records and reports. Private land is the rest of the land area in each major use.
distributed somewhat more evenly than Federal land, but are still characterized by a high degree of concentration. The larger acreages are located mainly, but not exclusively in the Western States. State and local governments hold land for forests, parks, wildlife areas, watershed protection, highway and road rights-of-way, institutional uses, and other specific purposes. Most Western States also own relatively large acreages without specific use designations. About 41 million acres in the category, including 39 million acres of grassland, are used for grazing.

Nearly 70 percent of the Indian land, or 35 million acres, is used by Indian farmers and livestock operators for farming and grassland pasture and range. In addition, there are about 13 million acres of Indian forest land, most of which is also used for grazing. Indian land, like publicly owned land, is concentrated in the Western States. Private land exclusive of that in Indian ownership totals 1,328 million acres, or 58 percent of the land area. Included in this privately owned land are 99 percent of the Nation's total cropland, 64 percent of the grassland pasture, 56 percent of the forest land, and 12 percent of the miscellaneous land. As these percentages indicate, a large proportion of the land with relatively favorable attributes is in private ownership.

Excluding cropland used for pasture, private and other non-Federal grassland pasture and range total about 482 million acres for the 50 States. An additional 161 million acres of private and other non-Federal woodland and forest
are used for grazing. Federal range classified as usable or suitable for grazing totals 222 million acres, of which about seven-tenths is grassland and the rest forest and woodland. Thus, 865 million acres, including both private and public land, are classed as pasture and range. Of the total acreage, 640 million acres are grassland or nonforest, and 225 million acres woodland and forest.

## WATER AND AGRICULTURE

## The Role of Water in Agriculture

The interaction of land and water use greatly affects agriculture, and over time, man has become increasingly able to alter the balance of that interaction.

Most water used by crops in fields comes from direct replenishment of soil moisture by rain or snow. Some precipitation enters rivers and streams as runoff. The proportion of precipitation absorbed by the soil is generally increased by land treatment.

Land treatment is defined by the U.S. Soil Conservation Service as "Use of land within its capabilities and the application of soil and water conservation measures and practices, singly or in combination." Included under this definition are contour-farming, terracing, reforestation, and other practices recommended in farm and ranch planning. In 1964, land treatment was practiced on approximately 475 miliion acres, or 28 percent of the total cropland, pasture and grazing land, and forest and woodland of the 48 contiguous United States. ${ }^{-}$

From 109 to 125 million acres, or about 6 to 7 percent, of the U.S. land area lies in the flood plains of rivers and streams. Surveys by the U.S. Department of the Army Corps of Engineers indicated that in 1959, 50 million acres received some flood protection. Some 49 million acres of rural land, almost half of which lies in the Mississippi Valley, received varying degrees of protection. Of this acreage, 54 percent was protected against the maximum flood of record; 20 percent was protected against floods of about 10 -year frequency; and the rest, or 26 percent, was protected to a limited degree against floods.

Irrigation was used on 37 million acres in 1964 to take the place of, or to supplement, precipitation. Water for irrigation is taken from, or diverted into, many natural and manmade bodies of water. The competitive relation between land and water for space can be critical in some areas. According to a report by Martin and Hanson (6), reservoirs and natural lakes with 5,000-acre-feet storage capacity or more for agricultural and other uses occupied 14.8 million acres in 1963. These data are for surface areas at a maximum controllable water level. From 1954 to 1963, the average yearly increase in the surface area of all large reservoirs combined was about 420,000 acres.

In 1964, agricultural uses of water were facilitated through more than 2.2 million small structures occupying some $2,900,000$ acres when filled to capac-

6/ All subsequent figures are for the 48 contiguous States, unless noted otherwise.
ity. 7/ These smaller structures included $2,156,000$ farm ponds, small reservoirs, and pit tanks on private land, and 66,000 of the same on Federal property. 8/ Although the net effect of such reservoirs is helpful to the agricultural process, land area taken over by reservoirs is frequently land area previously devoted to agriculture. Thus, land use and water use are seen to be mutually interacting in still another way.

Water Use in Agriculture and Basic Relationship to Other Uses and Supply
Rainfall in the 48 States averages 30 inches a year. Some 70 percent is evaporated or tranepired by plants. Out of this comes the largest agricultural water use-nonirrigated crop, pasture, and forest production. The rest, or roughly 1,350 million acre-feet, is the longrun available water supply for diversion from streams and replenishing water pumped from wells.

The proportion of rainfall that becomes available water supply in streams and ground-water reservoirs is influenced by land treatment and drainage. The best estimates are that, on an overall national basis, recently installed and prospective future land treatment measures do not diminish water supplies by more than 1 or 2 percent.

Data are not available for an appraisal of the effects of drainage on water supply. As in land treatment, recently installed prospective drsinage may result in only small changes in overall national water supply. This is because of the recent emphasis in draining existing farmlands and improving drainage systems, rather than reclaiming extensive wetland areas through large drainage projects as in earlier years.

Recent unpublished preliminary estimates of the U.S. Geological Survey for the 50 States place the proportion of water withdrawn for irrigation in 1965 at nearly 37.2 percent of a total of 347 million acre-feet withdrawn from ground and surface sources for all purposes (fig. 8). Based on the acreage irrigated in 1964 as reported by the Census of Agriculture, and the quantity of water applied per irrigated acre from the 1965 U.S. Geological Survey estimate, approximately 109 million acre-feet of water were used for irrigation in 1964. Use of water in rural homes, including farm homes, stock water, and other farm uses, accounted for only some 4 million acre-feet.

Water can be reused if adequate quality is maintained or restored. Therefore, a comparison between water supply and use should be in terms of consumptive use, defined as withdrawn water not returning to any supply source. The U.S. Geological Survey's recent preliminary estimate of consumptive use for 1965 is nearly 87 million acre-feet. Irrigation is much more significant on a consumptive-use basis, accounting for almost 85 percent of the total. These estimates exclude evaporation from water surfaces. Even if this were included, annual depletion of the overall water supply of 1.35 billion acre-feet would probably be less than 10 percent.

Not all of the water supply is available for withdrawal or consumptive uses. Some must be left in streams for navigation, recreation, and waste dilution.

[^1]

Figure 8
Further, as variations in streamflow do not fully conform to the needs of man, increasing uses of water require additional capacity of storage reservoirs with rising storage costs and more surface evaporation losses per acre-foot of additional water.

Finally, both supplies and patterns of use vary in different parts of the country. Thus, it is necessary to appraise water use in agriculture on a regional and local basis.

The Water Situation in the Western States
The area corresponding approximately to the 17 Western States has a long-term annual water supply of roughly 375 million acre-feet, less than 30 percent of the total supply. Yet this same area supports almost 90 percent of all irrigation and accounts for over 84 percent of all water consumption. Further, nearly two-thirds of the water supply in this region is in the Pacific Northwest and northern California. Even in these areas much of the supply is in the form of seasonal peak flows requiring extensive storage works for fuller use.

Considerable ground-water supplies are available for additional irrigation development in parts of the Northern Great Plains, notably in Nebraska, Kansas, and Oklahoma. The greatest pressure on water resources is in the Southwestern States, a region extending from western Texas through southern California and northward through Colorado, Utah, and Nevada. Considerable depletion of ground water has taken place within this area.

Pressures on water supplies in the southern California area may be eased by long-distance conveyance from more water-plentiful regions. In a more limited way, developing remaining surface supplies may relieve some pressure on ground water in other parts of the Southwest; but further irrigation development from surface water sources will generally involve higher costs. At any rate, these developments are unlikely to alter radically the water situation in the West in the foreseeable future.

## The Water Situation in the Humid-Area States

The 31 Eastern States have roughly 1 billion acre-feet of the national annual water supply of 1.35 billion acre-feet. In the East, gross water use for irrigation and withdrawals for other rural uses are relatively minor. Yet they account for a considerable part of total consumptive use. Taking the East as a whole, water use for current irrigation and potential increases seems relatively minor, compared with the available supplies. Nevertheless, sharp conflicts over water between agriculture and other interests may arise on a local basis, particularly with recreational interests on small headwater streams and in draining areas that support wildlife. The quality standards for irrigation water, developed for Western conditions, will need to be modified in the East, where impurities resulting from urban uses are more important.

## IRRIGATION

Factors Influencing the Growth of Irrigation
Irrigated acreage in the 50 States has grown from less than 8 million acres at the turn of the century to more than 37 million in 1964 (fig. 9). Despite the pinch on water supplies in some areas, irrigated acreage appears certain to expand both in the East and West in the coming decades. Perhaps the most basic determinants of the rate of expansion will be future population levels, per capita demand for agricultural products, and relative costs and returns of meeting the Nation's agricultural needs by irrigation compared to alternative means. The latter will be influenced by technology of water use in agriculture. Where such major export crops as cotton, wheat, and rice are grown under irrigation, export levels will influence irrigation. In the subhumid Great Plains, and to some degree in all humid States, interest in irrigation is likely to continue to fluctuate with the weather. Public policy in water law and water development will also be an important determinant, particularly in the West. For guidance of both the individual irrigator and public policy, a prime need is a better basic knowledge of crop response to soil moisture.

The trend of development in irrigation is affected by other factors, also. Among these are development costs, prices and marketing outlets for irrigated crops, agricultural programs, public irrigation development policy, availability of land, and the current level of rainfall. The last of these factors has opposite effects upon different regions, depending upon the dryness of climate. In the relatively humid areas, a temporary decline from normal annual rainfalls tends to speed irrigation development; but in the perennially water-scarce areas a decline from normal annual precipitation tends to force a decline in acreage irrigated.


Figure 9
Use of Irrigated Land in the West
Uses of irrigated land in the 17 Western States in 1964 are shown in figure 10. In terms of acreage, hay and pasture are the most important uses. Land from which hay was cut, some 8.2 million acres, made up about 29.8 percent of 27.4 million acres of irrigated cropland harvested in the West. In addition, the major part of 5.8 million acres of irrigated land not harvested was used for pasture.

Irrigated cropland used primarily for production of harvested livestock feed (hay, sorghum, corn, oats, and other grains, excluding wheat, barley, and rice) accounted for about 50.7 percent of all irrigated cropland harvested. Irrigated farmland used primarily for pasture or harvested livestock feed accounted for about 59.2 percent of all irrigated farmland in the West. Small grains grown primarily for human consumption (wheat and rice), or partly for human consumption (barley), made up over 19 percent of the irrigated land harvested. The remaining 30.2 percent harvested contained the most valuable irrigated land, in terms of annual value per acre of crop production. Most significant in this group, because of the crops' high value, was the acreage in tree fruits and vineyards, in vegetables, and in Irish potatoes. These three crop groups constituted 12.0 percent of the irrigated Western cropland harvested. Production of these perishables in California alone occupied 7.6 percent of the West's irrigated cropland harvested. Arizona and New Mexico's production of them occupied 0.6 percent.


Figure 10
Cotton, important both in total acreage irrigated and in value per acre, made up 12.8 percent of the West's irrigated cropland harvested. Most of the 5.4 percent remaining was in sugarbeets, dry field and seed beans, and clover and alfalfa seed.

In 1959-64, substantial increases occurred in acreages of irrigated hay, cotton, sorghums, wheat, corn, and sugarbeets. Rice acreage increased by 12 percent. Irrigated acreage decreased for barley, oats, rye, vegetables for sale, and dry field and seed beans.

Most of the increases in irrigated cotton acreage and to a significant degree, the gains in sorghum, corn, and wheat, appear to be associated with the expansion of irrigation in the Great Plains Region. There, 79.2 percent of the West's irrigated sorghum and 66.1 percent of the irrigated corn acreages were found. Over 62.4 percent of the West's irrigated cotton and about 54.8 percent of the irrigated wheat acreages were in that region, also.

Significance of Western Irrigation --Irrigated cropland harvested amounted to slightly more than 21 percent of cropland harvested in the Western States in 1964. Still, nearly all cropland harvested was irrigated in Arizona and Nevada, over 81 percent in California, 74 percent in Utah, about 65 percent in Wyoming, about 57 percent in Idaho, and 76 percent in New Mexico.

The importance of western irrigation is much greater than would be suggested by the above comparisons. First, yields per irrigated acre are often several times those obtained for the same crop grown without irrigation. In 1954, for example, yields of irrigated cotton in the West averaged about two and one-half times the average U.S. yield of all nonirrigated cotton. USDA estimated for 1954 that irrigated pasture in the West yielded about 10 times as many pounds of forage per acre as nonirrigated pasture throughout the United States.

High-value crops, combined with higher yields per acre, are concentrated on irrigated land. Irrigated cropland harvested made up less than 11 percent of the total cropland harvested in the United States in 1964 . Yet, 40.9 percent of the total U.S. acreage in orchards and vineyards and over 34.6 percent of the acreage of vegetables harvested for sale was on irrigated land in the 17 Western States.

Finally, irrigated feed crops and pasture play a significant part in stabilizing the western livestock industry by providing a dependable feed base that permits more effective use of the extensive pasture areas. Irrigation also aids the growth of large-scale livestock finishing operations near western population centers.

## Use of Irrigated Land in the Humid-Area States and Hawaii

Approximately 1.7 million of the 3.7 million acres of irrigated land in the 31 humid-area States in 1964 were in the Delta States. Use of irrigated land in these States-Mississippi, Arkansas, and Louisiana--differs sharply from that in the other humid-area States. Three crops dominate--rice, cotton, and soybeans--but are minor irrigated crops in the other States (figures 11 and 12).

The leading irrigated crops for the remaining 28 humid-area States are highvalue specialty crops, such as vegetables, citrus, potatoes, tobacco, berries, and nursery crops. Pasture, which generally falls sharply in grazing capacity in midsummer, is an important irrigated crop in the eastern States. Irrigation of corn, hay, other feed crops, and cotton is not yet widespread. In 1964, there were 3.3 million acres of irrigated cropland harvested in the humid-area States.

Most of the eastern irrigated land and leading irrigated crops are concentrated in a few States. In 1964, Florida accounted for 60.1 percent of all irrigated land in the 28 eastern States outside of the Delta States. This included practically all of the citrus crops irrigated, 93.5 percent of all irrigated tree fruits, and 38.9 percent of the irrigated vegetables. New Jersey accounted for another 13.2 percent of the vegetables irrigated in the 28 States.


Figure 11

Sugarcane dominates on irrigated land in Hawaii, accounting for about 89 percent of approximately 70,000 acres of irrigated land harvested in 1964 and about 95 percent of all irrigated cropland in the State. Pineapples accounted for 4.1 percent of irrigated cropland harvested. Vegetables made up 4.0 and alfalfa 0.3 percent--the latter is a decrease from 2 percent in 1959.

Trends in Irrigated Acreages in the West
Irrigated acreages in the West expanded by 6.2 million acres from 1954-64, compared with 7.5 million in the preceding 10 years. These totals for the West are the sums of divergent regional trends. Of the 6.2-million-acre expansion in Western irrigation that occurred from 1954 to 1964, some $3.9 \mathrm{mil-}$ lion, or 63 percent, took place in four States--Texas, Nebraska, California, and Kansas (table 15). In the eight Western Mountain States, total expansion in irrigation was only 1.6 million acres in the same period. One of these States-Arizona--reported a decline in irrigated land of 5 percent in 1954.

The divergent regional trends in Western irrigation are due to many factors, such as rainfall variations, climate, and public irrigation development policy. A full analysis of the dynamic interaction of these factors is beyond the scope of this report, but some highlights are noted.

Trends in irrigation differed for the four major western regions for the 25year period, 1939-64 (table 16). The rapid rise of irrigation in the Southern Great Plains resulted largely from the availability of ground water at reasonable cost. From 1949 to 1959, this upward trend was reinforced by a severe


Figure 12
drought that gripped the region from the early part of the 1950 's with no substantial relief until 1957. More favorable rainfall since 1957 was partly responsible for the slower rate of expansion of irrigation in the Southern Plains from 1954 to 1959. Nearly full development of some of the areas with moderate pumping lifts, lower prices for wheat and grain sorghum, and acreage restrictions were other important contributing factors.

The increases in irrigation in the Northern Great Plains and in the Southern Plains show some similarities. Both are subhumid to semiarid regions with large ground water reserves. In both regions, irrigation is relatively new and was stimulated by large-scale public development programs of surface water resources.

Compared with the Great Plains, the Mountain States are less favored with ground water; and, in general, surface sources are more fully developed. Lack of rainfall appears largely responsible for the net decline of irrigated acreage in the Mountain States from 1949 to 1954. Future irrigation expansion

Table 15.--Irrigated land in farms, 17 Western States and United States, selected years

| State and region | Irrigated land in farms $1 /$ |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 1939 | 1944 | 1949 | $1954$ | $1959:$ | 1964 |
| :- - . - . - - Million acres$\qquad$ |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| North Dakota ---------- | 20 | 23 | 35 | 38 | 48 | 51 |
| South Dakota ----------: | 54 | 53 | 78 | 90 | 116 | 130 |
| Nebraska -------------- | 474 | 632 | 876 | 1,171 | 2,078 | 2,169 |
| Kansas - | 83 | 96 | 139 | 332 | 762 | 1,004 |
| Northern Pla | 631 | 804 | 1,128 | 1,631 | 3,003 | 3,354 |
| Oklahoma | 4 | 2 | 34 | 108 | 198 | 302 |
| Texas -- | 895 | 1,320 | 3,132 | 4,707 | 5,656 | 6,385 |
| Southern Plains | 899 | 1,322 | 3,166 | 4,815 | 5,854 | 6,687 |
| Montana | 1,588 | 1,555 | 1,717 | 1,891 | 1,875 | 1,893 |
| Idaho ---------------- | 1,895 | 2,026 | 2,137 | 2,325 | 2,577 | 2,802 |
| Wyoming ---------------: | 1,284 | 1,354 | 1,432 | 1,263 | 1,470 | 1,571 |
| Colorado -------------- | 2,468 | 2,699 | 2,872 | 2,263 | 2,685 | 2,690 |
| New Mexico ------------ | 436 | 535 | 655 | 650 | 732 | 813 |
| Arizona -------------- | 575 | 736 | 964 | 1,177 | 1,152 | 1,125 |
| Utah | 911 | 1,124 | 1,138 | 1,073 | 1,062 | 1,092 |
| Nevada | 756 | 674 | 727 | 567 | 543 | 824 |
| Mountain ------------ | 9,913 | 10,703 | 11,642 | 11,208 | 12,095 | 12,811 |
| Washington | 494 | 520 | 589 | 778 | 1,007 | 1,150 |
| Oregon --- | 1,030 | 1,129 | 1,307 | 1,490 | 1,384 | $1,608$ |
| California | 4,276 | 4,952 | 6,438 | 7,048 | 7,396 | 7,599 |
| Pacific | 5,800 | 6,601 | 8,334 | 9,317 | 9,787 | 10,356 |
| 17 Western States | $17,243$ | 19,430 | 24,271 | 26,971 | 30,739 | 33,208 |
| Humid-area States | $740$ | $1,109$ | $1,517$ | $2,581$ | $2,284$ | $3,704$ |
| Hawali | $\underline{2 /}$ | 2/ | 117 | 2/ | 141 | 144 |
| U.S. total 3/-- | 17,983 | 20,539 | 25,905 | 29,5524 | 33,164 | 37,056 |

1/ Totals do not add because of rounding.
ㅎ/ $/$ Not available.
$\frac{3}{3} /$ Excludes Alaska. Irrigated acreage in Alaska in 1964 was 158 acres.
4/ Excludes Hawaii in 1954.
Source: U. S. Census of Agriculture, 1940, 1950, 1959, and 1964.

Table 16.--Increase in irrigation, 4 Western regions, specified periods

| Region | : 1939-1944 | : 1944-1949: | 1949-1954 | : 1954-1959 | : 1959-1964 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | : |  | ,000 acres - |  |  |
| Southern Plains- | 423 | 1,843 | 1,650 | 1,038 | 833 |
| Northern Plains- | 173 | 325 | 503 | 1,372 | 351 |
| Mountain------- | 790 | 939 | -434 | 887 | 720 |
| Pacific | 801 | 1,732 | 982 | 470 | 569 |
| Total 1/-..... | : 2,188 | 4,839 | 2,700 | 3,767 | 2,473 |

1/ Because of rounding, figures do not add to totals shown. Source: Census of Agriculture, 1950, 1954, 1959, 1964.

Table 17.--Irrigated land in farms by regions, 31 humid-area States, selected years 1/

| Region | Irrigated land in farms |  |  | Increase, 1964 over 1954 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | : 1954 | 1959 | 1964 |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| Northeast | 188, 178 | 205,751 | 279,824 | 91,646 |
| Lake States | 50,879 | 87,031 | 128,803 | 77,924 |
| Corn Belt | 69,300 | 87,474 | 129,658 | 60,358 |
| Appalachian | 84,591 | 117,543 | 175,404 | 90,813 |
| Southeas | 490,347 | 489,535 | 1,311,596 | 821,249 |
| Delta States | 1,698,171 | 1,296,348 | 1,678,364 | -19,807 |
| Total 1/ | : 2,581,466 | 2,283,682 | 3,703,649 | 1,122,183 |

1/ Because of rounding, figures do not add to totals shown.
Source: Census of Agriculture, 1954, 1959, and 1964.
will be limited by water supplies, particularly in New Mexico, Arizona, Utah, and Nevada.

In the Pacific States, availability of substantial ground and surface water and large public projects favored growth of irrigation. The trend, however, is slowing with near full development of the less costly surface sources and fuller use of ground water. Further growth of irrigation in the Pacific States will be determined mostly by public policy concerning large-scale State and Federal water projects.

## Trends in Irrigated Acreage in Humid-Area States and Hawaii

While still small in comparison with the West, irrigation in the 31 humid States expanded from about 2.6 to 3.7 million acres from 1954 to 1964 (table 17). In Hawaii, the rate of expansion was more moderate.

An increase of 821,000 acres occurred in the Southeastern States between 1954 and 1964, mainly due to an increase in citrus irrigation in Florida.

In other parts of the Eastern States, irrigation generally continued to expand from 1954 to 1964. The slow rate of expansion from 1954-59 seems to have resulted largely from more rainfall then, contrasted with the scanty rainfall in the early 1950 's.

Sources of Irrigation Water in the West
Land irrigated with water from farm sources and irrigation organizations--Water supply for Western irrigation comes either from farm sources or from projects operated by supply organizations, such as irrigation districts and mutual and commercial companies. In 1949-59, farm sources increased in importance over organization sources. In 1959, farm sources supplied water for over 58 percent of irrigation land in the West, compared with a maximum of 49 percent in 1950. Much of this trend is due to the rapid expansion of well irrigation in the Great Plains, notably in Texas, Nebraska, and Kansas.

Of 33.2 million acres irrigated in the 17 Western States in 1964 , more than 7.5 million acres were served entirely or in part with water supplies developed by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation.

Land irrigation by ground and surface sources--The proportion of 1 and irrigated by ground water has increased steadily since 1900 and was estimated in 1959 at 45 percent of all land irrigated in the West. $9 /$ The percentage of water supplies coming from ground-water sources is considerably smaller, as much of the ground-water irrigation is in subhumid regions where water applications per acre are less than in arid regions. Further, water lost in conveyance is generally much less with ground-water irrigation than with irrigation from surface sources.

9/ The rest of this section is based on (9), 1959. The 1964 Census of Agriculture did not include information on these subjects.

In 1959, about 95 percent of the land served by ground water received that water from farm sources. Water furnished by supply organizations was mostly surface water. Yet ground water made up 40 percent of water supplied by organizations in Arizona, 6 percent of the same in Oregon, and 10 percent in California.

Seven western States irrigated more than half of their irrigated agricultural land with ground water in 1959. In three of these--Nebraska, Kansas, and Okla-homa--ground-water supplies permit considerable additional irrigation development. In the remaining four--California, Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona--supplies permit little new net development of ground water as a long-term, dependable irrigation source. Serious problems of lowered ground-water levels and contamination by saline water have already been encountered in these four States.

## Sources of Water in the Humid-Area States and Hawail

Outside the 17 Western States, Louisiana, and Hawaii, little water for irrigation is sold. The Census Survey of Irrigation in Humid Areas (9, 1959, Vol. 5) in the 30 remaining contiguous States reported less than 2 percent of some 1.87 million acres served by irrigation or drainage organizations or municipal water systems. Some 66 percent of the irrigated area was served by ground-water sources and 32 percent by surface sources, generally developed on individual farms.

The proportion of acreage irrigated by ground-water sources varied consider-ably--ranging from 81 percent in the Delta States (excluding Loulsiana) to 26 percent in the Appalachian States. Nearly two-thirds of the irrigated land in the Corn Belt and from one-half to three-fifths of the irrigated acreages In Northeast, Southeast, and Lake States were served with ground water.

In Louisiana, irrigation organizations are an important source of water. They accounted for over 22 percent of the nearly 485,000 acres irrigated in 1959. Farm ground sources served 51 percent, and surface sources served 27 percent of the irrigated lands. An estimated 84 percent of land irrigated by organizations was served from surface sources and the rest from ground water.

In Hawaif, 62 percent of some 142,000 acres irrigated in 1959 were supplied by irrigation organizations. Farm surface sources provided for slightly over half of the remaining land irrigated. Farm ground water was used on 18 percent of the total irrigated area.

## DRAINAGE

The limited space devoted here to drainage in comparison with irrigation reflects the amount of data reported for the two practices, not their relative significance. The acreage of farmland drained for the 48 States is not known with certainty, but was estimated at 155 million in 1959 (16). This was almost five times the acreage irrigated, and it included some of the Nation's most valuable farmlands.

Much the same factors influencing the future of irrigation will also influence the future of drainage. An example is the demand for agricultural products, and the relative costs of meeting the Nation's food production needs by drainage or other alternative means. Costs of drainage per acre compare favorably with costs per acre of Western irrigation from surface sources of water and are competitive with well-irrigation costs per acre and with most humid-area irrigation cost. Crop yields on drained lands versus irrigated lands are also relevant, of course. As described below, there is a considerable supply of land on which agricultural production could be made feasible or increased by drainage.

Public policy, particularly with respect to watershed protection and conservation incentive payments, will influence the extent of future drainage. Flood protection and irrigation development will also influence the future of drainage, because much flood plain land has drainage problems, and because removing excess water is often an essential complement to irrigation.

## Uses of Drained Agricultural Land

Although a census was never made of crops grown on lands improved by drainage, some generalizations are possible. At least 80 percent of the drained agricultural land is used for harvested crops. From location maps of land in drainage projects, the following appraisal is made of principal crops growa under drainage.

In the Corn Belt probably the most widespread use of drained land is growing livestock feed, principally corn and soybeans. These crops are also grown in areas with considerable drained land that lies outside the Corn Belt. North of the Corn Belt, in the extensive drained areas of southern Michigan and Minnesota, forage crops are more frequently grown.

Truck and fruit crops are important on drained lands. These are found on the Atlantic Coast from New York through Delaware, in parts of North Carolina, in much of southern Florida, along much of the Gulf Coast of Louisiana and Texas and in the Rio Grande Valley. Truck and fruit crops are also grown on drained land in central and southern California.

Cotton is grown extensively on drained land mainly in the Mississippi Valley and in California where drainage and irrigation are combined. This is similar to rice, a crop grown entirely under irrigation primarily in Arkansas, Louisiana, Texas, and California, where drainage is used in conjunction with irrigation.

## Trends in Drainage

Land in drainage projects grew from less than 7 million acres at the turn of the century to 102 million acres in 1960. Available statistics are not quite comparable for these two dates and intervening dates, however. The totals presented in figure 13 include drained acreage in swamps, wasteland, and drained irrigated land through 1940, but exclude these categories in 1950 and


Figure 13
1960. Growth was most rapid in the first quarter of the century, with another spurt of growth in the 1940-50 decade. In 1960, 92.3 million acres in drainage projects were drained and used for agricultural production.

Lands included in the census reports are limited to drainage projects of 500 or more acres and consist primarily of group undertakings. $10 /$ In addition to these group drainage projects, perhaps another 55 to 60 million acres had been drained by individual farmers up to 1960, excluding about 5 million acres of drained land in irrigation projects.

The drained agricultural area within projects increased by approximately 5.3 million acres during 1950-59, but considerably more drainage was accomplished outside of projects. Farmers, with the assistance of USDA's Agricultural Conservation Program, did work on 16.9 million acres in the same period. This total, consisting of open and enclosed drainage and shaping of land for drainage, was more than twice the increase in irrigated land during the same period.

10/ See Census of Agriculture (9, 1959, Vol. 4, p. XVI). The equivalent designation used in the 1950 Census Report was "Drainage Enterprise."

Assistance on drainage was given on 21,000 additional acres in Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, and offshore possessions. More recent data show an additional 7.2 million acres drained under this program from 1959 to 1965 (8).

Assistance under the Agricultural Conservation Program is confined to existing cropland and improved pasture, and is not permitted for the purpose of bringing new land into production. Therefore, no new large-scale drainage has resulted from this program. Much of the program has been for on-farm drainage and improving drainage works, with little area expansion under drainage projects.

Location of Existing and Potential Drained Land
Land in drainage projects drained and used for agriculture in 1960 was distributed as follows:


Source: U. S. Census of Agriculture (9, 1959, Vol. 4). For State data, see appendix table 25.

The greatest concentration of land in drainage projects was in the Corn Belt, followed by the Lake States and Delta States. These three regions accounted for 77 percent; Texas, 6 percent; and Florida, 5 percent of all land in drainage projects.

Five States--Indiana, Minnesota, Michigan, Ohio, and Iowa--contained about half the 1960 total of drained land within drainage projects.

Although it does not include all drainage development, location of lands drained under the Agricultural Conservation Program indicates the location of
drainage activities in recent years. The regional distribution of all types of drainage under the Agricultural Conservation Program from 1950 through 1964 was as follows:

| Region | $\begin{gathered} 1,000 \text { acres } \\ (10 \text {-year total) } \end{gathered}$ |
| :---: | :---: |
| Northeast - . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . - | 747 |
| Lake States . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . - | 4,103 |
| Corn Belt - . . . - . . . . - . . . . - - | 5,663 |
| Northern Plains . . . . . . . . . . . . . . - | 1,683 |
| Appalachian . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . - | 1,543 |
| Southeast - . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . - | 2,059 |
| Delta States - . . . . . . . . . . . . - | 5,177 |
| Southern Plains . . . . . . . . . . . . . - | 558 |
| Mountain - . . . . . . . . . . . . . . - | 725 |
| Pacific - . . . . - . . . - - . - . - - | 1,848 |
| 48 States - . . . . - . . . . . - . - - | 24,106 |

Source: U. S. Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service. For 1950-58, unpublished summaries. For 1964, see Statistical Summary, 1964 (9). Includes enclosed and open drainage, and shaping and grading of land for surface drainage. For State data, see appendix table 25.

For land in organized drainage projects, the Corn Belt leads in recent drainage installed under the Agricultural Conservation Program. The Delta States are second and the Lake States third. Of all land drained under the program from 1950 to 1964, 74 percent was in the Corn Belt, Delta, and Lake States; and another 13 percent in California, South Carolina, North Carolina, and North Dakota.

Estimates from the nationwide USDA sample survey of conservation needs indicated that in 1958 there were some 60 million acres of cropland on which excess water was still a dominant problem. The three leading regions that contained 70 percent of the estimated total cropland area with drainage problems were the Corn Belt, Lake States, and Delta States.

Outside these three regions, six States had an estimated 1 to 2 million acres ( 14 percent) of the Nation's cropland with drainage problems: Texas, North Carolina, California, Tennessee, North Dakota, and New York.

In addition to land presently used for agriculture, there is a considerable fertile but undeveloped land area in the United States that could be farmed if adequately drained. Much of this undeveloped land area would require clearing. An article by Wooten and Jones on the his tory of drainage enterprises (19) estimated that some 20 million acres could be developed through drainage. of this total, about 7 million acres are in the Delta States and another 7 to 8 million in the Coastal Plain of the Southeast.

## LITERATURE CITED

1. Allen, George, and Devers, Margaret. 1966. Supplement for 1967 to Livestock-Feed Relationships, 1909-63. U. S. Dept. Agr. Statis. Bul. 337 (Supp.) 32 pp.
2. Anderson, J. R., and Dill, H. W., Jr. 1961. Land Clearing and Drainage in Eastern North Carolina. U. S. Dept. Agr. ARS 43-127, 47 pp. illus.
3. Frey, H. Thomas.
4. State-Owned Rural Land 1962: Acreage, Distribution, and Use. U. S. Dept. Agr. Statis. Bul. 360. 11 pp.
5. Hughes, W. F., and Magee, A. C.
6. Some Economic Effects of Adjusting to a Changing Water Supply. Tex. Agr. Expt. Sta. Bul. 966.
7. Johnson, Hugh A., and Jorgenson, Harold T. 1963. The Land Resources of Alaska. 551 pp. University Publishers, New York.
8. Martin, R. O. R., and Hanson, R. L. 1966. Reservoirs in the United States. U. S. Geol. Survey Water Supply Paper 1838. 115 pp .
9. Upchurch, M. L. 1963. Public Grazing Lands in the Economy of the West. In Land and Water Use, Amer. Assoc. Adv. Sci. Pub. 73. Washington, D. C.
10. U. S. Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, Program Analysis Division.
11. Agricultural Conservation Program. Statistical Summary, 1964. 124 pp. Washington, D. C.
12. U. S. Bureau of the Census. 1911-67. United States Census of Agriculture. 1910; 1920; 1930; 1940; 1950; 1954; 1959; 1964. Washington, D. C.
13. U. S. Bureau of Land Management. 1965. Public Land Statistics, 1965. Washington, D. C.
U. S. Department of Agriculture.
14. Land Water Potentials and Future Requirements of Water. In Water Resources Activities in the United States, 86th Cong. 1st Sess. (1959), Senate Com. Print 12, pursuant to Senate Resolution 48, 73 pp., illus. Washington, D. C.
15. 
16. Basic Statistics of the National Inventory of Soil and Water
Conservation Needs. U. S. Dept. Agr. Statis. Bul. 317 .
17. 
18. Changes in Farm Production and Efficiency. A Summary Report. U. S. Dept. Agr. Statis. Bul. 233, rev., 17 pp. illus.
19. 
20. Timber Trends in the United States. Forest Res. Report 17.
21. 
22. Crop Production. Crop Rprt. Bd. Issued annually. Washington, D. C.
23. U. S. Department of the Army, Corps of Engineers.
24. Floods and Flood Control. In Water Resources Activities in the United States, 86th Cong. 2d Sess. (1960), Senate Com. Print 15, pursuant of Senate Resolution 48, 77 pp., illus. Washington, D. C.
25. Wooten, Hugh H., and Anderson, James R.
26. Major Uses of Land in the United States. Summary for 1954. U. S. Dept. Agr. Inform. Bul. 168.
27. Wooten, Hugh H., Gertel, Karl, and Pendleton, William C.
28. Major Use of Land and Water in the United States. Summary for 1959. U. S. Dept. Agr. Econ. Rpt. 13.
29. Wooten, Hugh H., and Jones, Lewis A.
30. The History of Our Drainage Enterprises. In U. S. Dept. Agr. Yearbook, (Water, 1955): 478-491, illus.

DEFINITIONS AND EXPLANATIONS OF LAND USE CLASSES

Cropland,--Total cropland includes cropland used for crops, cropland used only for pasture, cropland in soil-improvement crops, and idle cropland. The acreage used only for pasture may also be included with the acreage of other pasture and grain types if the acreage of all land used for pasture is desired.

Cropland used for crops is made up of three components-acreage of cropland harvested (land from which one or more crops were harvested), crop failure, and cultivated summer fallow. Data on soil-improvement crops not harvested or pastured and idle cropland is not included, as the cropland-used-for-crops series shows land area in crops or in preparation for crops the following year.

Idle and fallow cropland and cropland used only for pasture are usually considered in the crop-rotation system as land that is used for crops, though not necessarily in each year. Fallow land often is cultivated to conserve moisture and kill weeds in preparation for crops. Much of the idle land is left unplanted for a year or two only, although some of it is the poorer cropland that represents abandonment for crop purposes.

The series on cropland used for crops is based on the series of principal crops harvested and crop losses of the Statistical Reporting Service (SRS) and its predecessors, and on the data from the censuses of agriculture. The acreages of cropland harvested were used for the censuses taken at 5-year intervals from 1925 to 1964. Interpolations were made for the intervening years, based on the SRS and former Bureau of Agricultural Economics (BAE) series on principal crops harvested. For earlier years, the former BAE series on principal crops harvested and acreages of specified crops harvested reported by the 10 -year censuses were used, and adjustments made for crops not reported. Additions were made to the acreage of cropland harvested reported by the $1950,1954,1959$, and 1964 censuses to cover some of the undernumeration of cropland harvested that was indicated by postenumeration surveys.

Acreages of crop failure as given in census reports were used for census years from 1925 to 1945 and interpolations for intervening years were based on the crop losses or differences between planted and harvested acreages of principal crops as estimated by the former BAE. Acreages of crop failure for recent years are based chiefly on crop losses as reported by the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS, now Consumer and Marketing Service) and SRS, except for 1964, when these data were included in the Census of Agriculture. Reported acreages of crop losses are adjusted for the replanting of part of the acreage on which winter wheat is abandoned. Hayland that produced nothing but pasture in some dry seasons is not included in crop failure in recent years.

Estimates of acreage of cultivated summer fallow were made only for the geographic divisions lying west of the Mississippi River. From 1945 to 1948, estimates of fallow were based chiefly on acreages seeded to wheat on summer fallow land, as estimated by the former BAE and according to data issued by the Great Plains Council. For 1949 and subsequent years, estimates of fallow were based partly on the 1950 , 1954, 1959, and 1964 Censuses of Agriculture, estimates of wheat seeded on summer fallow made by AMS and SRS, and information obtained from the Great Plains Council. For 1967, estimates of cultivated summer fallow, as well as idle cropland, cropland in soil-improvement crops only, and cropland pasture were based on data collected on the SRS June enumerative survey. Estimates for years before 1945 were built up from fragmentary data available in BAE and the Production Economics Research Branch, Agricultural Research Service.

Pasture and range.--Estimates of the acreage of all pasture and grazing land include open permanent pasture in farms, cropland used only for pasture, farm woodland, or forest land pastured, and all land grazed not in farms. Grazing land not in farms is part grassland, part shrubs and other nonforest growth, and part forest land.

In the study reported here, pasture and range is classified in two different ways. One breakdown includes grassland pasture and grazing land and forest
pastured or grazed. The second breakdown separates pasture in farms from grazing land not in farms.

Grassland pasture and range.--Grassland pasture and grazing land includes all land used primarily for pasture and grazing, exclusive of the forest pastured or grazed. It includes the shrub and brushland types of pasture and grazing land such as sagebrush, scattered mesquite, and some other shrub types in the West, and some scattered brushland pasture in the East, and all tame and wild or native grasses and legumes and other forage used for pasture or grazing.

Forest range. - Only rough approximations can be made of the total acreage of forest not in farms which contains some areas that have forage subject to grazing or that have value for grazing at some time during the year. Forest land actually grazed, or useful for grazing, consists principally of open forest, cutover areas, abandoned fields, brush-grown pasture, and other land within forested areas that has grass or other forage growth.

In the Northern States, the forest areas grazed, or subject to grazing, usually include forest land adjacent to farms in the Corn Belt, the Lake States, and the Northeastern States. Much of the forest land in the Missouri Ozark area is subject to grazing. The acreage of forest land grazed in New England and other sections of the Northeast includes abandoned fields and brush-grown pastures.

In the Southern States, the forest lands estimated to be subject to grazing, or useful for grazing, contain areas covered by switch cane, abandoned fields (not reforested), cutover land, and grass and other forage areas within forests, such as the open longleaf-slash pine belt of the Coastal Plain, the Arkansas Ozark area, and some semiprairie, open grassland, savanna, and marshland areas in Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, and Texas.

The chief forest areas in the Western States that are subject to or useful for grazing include arid woodlands, brush and shrub lands, woodland-grasslands, open forests like ponderosa pine forests, and some cutover areas that have grass or other forage growth.

Land use and cover classes of land grazed and in open grassland, shrubs, and forest are not always mutually exclusive. Grassland includes some brushland, while forest land includes many areas of open grass and other forage.

Pasture and range in farms.--Farm pasture consists of grassland and other nonforested pasture (not cropland and not woodland), and pastured forest. (Cropland used only for pasture is included as a part of the cropland area in arriving at the total acreage of cropland available for crops).

Improved pasture ordinarily is in tame grasses and legumes, either seeded or natural growth, but may include native forage. All classes usually have had improvement or conservation practices applied, such as weed and brush control, seeding or reseeding, either artificial or natural, fertilization, drainage, and irrigation.

Range not in farms,--Grazing land not in farms comprises the open grassland and shrub grazing lands and the forest area grazed. Most of the grazing land not
in farms is public land in the Western States, and privately owned forest land in the South.

Forest land.--Forest land as defined by the U. S. Forest Service includes (1) lands that are at least 10 -percent stocked by trees of any size and capable of producing timber or other wood products, or of influencing the climate or the water regime; (2) land from which the trees described in (1) have been removed to less than 10 percent stocking and which have not been developed for other use; (3) forested areas; and (4) chaparral areas.

Land that is grazed and that bears sparse forest growth-only 10 to 30 percent covered by trees--or from which the forest has been removed to less than 10percent stocking but which has not been developed for uses other than timber production, or for pasture, may in some areas overlap the acreages reported by farmers as open pasture and grazing land in farms (grassland pasture, or pasture other than cropland and forest land).

Most of the available forest land in the East, North, and South is commercial, whereas about two-thirds of such forest land in the Great Plains and half of that in the West is classed as noncommercial. Noncommercial forest includes inaccessible alpine ranges, chaparral, mesquite, pinion-juniper, and semiarid shrub and brush growth.

Special-use areas. - The special uses in this report include areas for highway, road, and railroad rights-of-way, airports, farmsteads, farm roads and lanes, urban and town areas; parks, wilderness, and primitive areas; wildife refuges, national defense areas, flood-control areas; and State-owned land held for institutional sites and miscellaneous other uses, such as National Guard camps and rifle ranges, fairgrounds, airports, radio stations, flood-control areas, and watershed-protection areas.

Special uses of rural land for which estimates are not available include those for industrial and comercial sites in rural areas, mining areas, clay, sand, and stone quarry sites, powerline rights-of-way, cemeteries, and golf courses. Areas in rural villages and small towns with populations of 100 to 1,000 are not included in urban and town areas. At present, the acreage in these villages and towns is included in other major uses of land such as forest, grazing, farm, and other land. Separation would call for revision of accepted major land use areas of many counties and States.

Water area in large reservoirs is not included among the special uses of land as the approximate land area of the United States excludes all natural or artificial water bodies of 40 acres or more.

Miscellaneous other areas.--Miscellaneous unaccounted-for areas not found among other major uses include marshes, sand dunes, bare rock areas, deserts, and tundra.

## APPENDIX

Tables
Table 18.--Major uses of land, United States, 1964


Table 18.--Major uses of land, United States, 1964--Continued

$1 /$ Land used for crops or in the rotation in 1964. Includes a 2 -percent upward adjustment in census reported acreage of cropland to compensate for normal underenumeration.

2/Grassland and other nonforested pasture in farms, excluding cropland used only for pasture, plus estimates of open or nonforested grazing land not in farms.
3/Woodland and forest, excluding reserved woodland and forest areas and some unreserved areas duplicated in parks and other special uses. All duplication could not be eliminated because of multiple use between forestry and other classes. The total woodland and forest acreage as of September 1967, was approximately 762 million acres according to the continuing forest inventory of the U.S. Forest Service.
4/Urban and town areas, highway and railroad rights-of-way, airports, National and State Parks, wildlife refuges, national defense areas, flood control areas, and other special-use areas.

5/Miscellaneous areas with low agriculture use value, such as marshes, open swamps, bare rocks, desert, and tundra.

6/Revised land areas for 1960 supplied by the Bureau of the Census. Includes all dryland and land temporarily or partially covered with water, such as marshland, swamps, and river flood plains; streams, sloughs, estuaries, and canals less than $1 / 8 \mathrm{mile}$ wide; and lakes, reservoirs, and ponds less than 40 acres in area.

Table 19.--Major uses of land in farms, by regions and States, 1964


See footnotes at end of table.

Table 19.--Major uses of land in farms, by regions and States, 1964--Continued


I/ Total adjusted upward about 2 percent to compensate for underenumeration. Includes cropland harvested, crop failure, cultivated summer fallow, cropland in soil-improvement and cover crops, idle cropland, and cropland used only for pasture.

2/ Open permanent pasture (not cropland and not woodland).
3/ Other land includes farmsteads, farm roads and lanes, ditches, and wasteland. The acreage of other land in farms was reduced to compensate for the upward adjustment in total cropland.
4/ Source: U.S. Census of Agriculture, 1964.

Table 20.--Major uses of land not in farms, by regions and States, 1964


See footnotes at end of table.

Table 20.--Major uses of land not in farms, by regions and States, 1964--Continued

| State and region | : | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Pasture and } \\ & \text { range } 1 / \end{aligned}$ | Forest land not grazed 2/ | $\begin{gathered} \text { Other land } \\ \text { 3/ } \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Total } \\ & \text { 4/ } \end{aligned}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | - . - . . . . . . - - - 1,000 acres - . . . . . . - . . . |  |  |  |  |
| Mississippi.. | .: | $\begin{aligned} & 2,915 \\ & 9,605 \\ & 7,763 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 8,266 \\ & 6,058 \\ & 6,628 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 1,376 \\ & 1,164 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 12,557 \\ & 16,827 \end{aligned}$ |
| Arkansas.... |  |  |  |  |  |
| Louisiana. | : |  |  | $\begin{aligned} & 1,164 \\ & 4,097 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 16,827 \\ & 18,488 \end{aligned}$ |
| Delta States. | 20,283 |  | 20,952 | 6,637 | 47,872 |
| Oklahoma..Texas.... | $\begin{array}{r} 3,680 \\ 14,594 \end{array}$ |  | $\begin{aligned} & 1,719 \\ & 3,855 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 2,674 \\ & 8,146 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 8,073 \\ 26,595 \end{array}$ |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Southern Plains. | 18,274 |  | 5,574 | 10,820 | 34,668 |
| Montana. . | : | 10,802 | 9,489 | $\begin{aligned} & 7,061 \\ & 6,278 \end{aligned}$ | 27,35237,611 |
| Id.aho... |  | 21,376 | 9,9572,723 |  |  |
| Wyoming. . |  | $15,698$ |  | $\begin{aligned} & 6,278 \\ & 6,786 \end{aligned}$ | 25,207 |
| Colorado.. |  |  | $\begin{aligned} & 2,723 \\ & 8,588 \end{aligned}$ | 4,439 | 28,169 |
| New Mexico |  | 22,533 | 1,634 | 5,911 | 30,07832,121 |
| Arizona. |  | 19,072 | 4,648 | 8,401 |  |
| Nevada. |  | $\begin{aligned} & 28,120 \\ & 47,597 \end{aligned}$ | 1,356 | 10,381 | 32,121 39,857 |
|  | : |  | 2,651 | 9,598 | 39,857 59,846 |
| Mountain. | : | 180,340 | 41,046 | 58,855 | 280,241 |
| Wa.shington. |  | $\begin{array}{r} 3,153 \\ 20,877 \\ 15,589 \end{array}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 15,398 \\ & 16,749 \\ & 23,244 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 5,060 \\ 3,439 \\ 24,340 \end{array}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 23,611 \\ & 41,065 \\ & 63,173 \end{aligned}$ |
| Oregon.. |  |  |  |  |  |
| California. |  |  |  |  |  |
| Pacific.. |  | 39,619 | 55,391 | 32,839 | 127,849 |
| 48 States. |  | 290,772 | 324,454 | 178,469 | 793,695 |
| Alaska. |  | $\begin{array}{r} 1,370 \\ 300 \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 117,758 \\ 1,279 \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 241,430 \\ 254 \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 360,558 \\ 1,833 \end{array}$ |
| Hawaii. |  |  |  |  |  |
| U.S. Total.. | : | 292,442 | 443,491 | 420,153 | 1,156,086 |

$1 /$ Forested and nonforested pasture and grazing land including some acreages classified as usable for grazing but not necessarily grazed each year.

2/Excludes reserved forest land in parks and other special uses.
3/Other land not in farms includes special-use areas such as cities, parks, wildife refuges, national defense areas, flood-control areas, airports, part of the area in highway and road rights-of-way, and miscellaneous other land.
4/ Total land areas shown in appendix table 18 minus land in farms as reported by the U.S. Census of Agriculture, 1964.

Table 21.--Major uses of cropland, by regions and States, 48 States, 1964


See footnotes at end of table.

Table 21.--Major uses of cropland, by regions and States, 1964--Continued


1/ Includes cropland harvested, crop failure, and cultivated summer fallows. An upward adjustment in the acreage of cropland harvested reported (9, 1964) was made to conform to the estimates of acreages of crops harvested as reported (15, 1965) and other 1965 and 1966 SRS crop reports. Includes cropland harvested--291,538,000 acres; crop failure--6,229,000 acres; and cultivated summer fallow-36,984,000 acres.

2/ Includes cropland not harvested and not pastured. Adjusted upward from Census levels to compensate for underenumeration of Conservation Reserve whole farms.

3/
Cropland in the rotation is used some years for crops and other years for pasture. Acreages are as reported by the Census of Agriculture ( 2,1964 ).
4/ Includes cropland available for crops in rotation and cropland used only for pasture.

Table 22.--Pasture in farms, by type, region and State, United States, 1964


Table 22.--Pasture in farms, by type, region and State, 1964--Continued

| State and region | Cropland used only for pasture | Open permanent pasture | Forest land pasture | Total |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| Mississippi........ | : 1,294 | 3,717 | 3,843 | 8,854 |
| Arkansas...... | 1,840 | 2,373 | 2,922 | 7,1355,462 |
| Louisiana....... | 1,739 | 2,004 | 1,719 |  |
| Delta States. | 4,873 | 8,094 | 8,484 | 21,451 |
| Oklahoma............. | 1,951 | 18,449 | 3,413 | 23,813 |
| Texas.. | 6,986 | 94,581 | 10,042 | 111,609 |
| Southern Plains. | 8,937 | 113,030 | 13,455 | 135,422 |
| Montana. | 1,031 | 47,377 | 1,870 | 50,278 |
| Idaho... | 696 | 7,434 | 1,138 | 9,268 |
| Wyoming. . | 567 | 32,937 | 581 | 34,085 |
| Colorado. | 1,120 | 25,063 | 1,436 | 27,619 |
| New Mexico. | 385 | 41,189 | 3,232 | 44,806 |
| Arizona.. | 142 | 31,935 | 5,292 | 37,369 |
| Utah... | - 442 | 9,661 | 762 | 10,865 |
| Nevada. | 191 | 9,441 | 38 | 9,670 |
| Mountain.. | 4,574 | 205,037 | 14,349 | 223,960 |
| Washington. | 784 | 6,741 | 3,052 | 10,577 |
| Oregon....... | 927 | 11,577 | 2,632 | 15,136 |
| California............. | 2,053 | 20,450 | 2,804 | 25,307 |
| Pacific. | 3,764 | 38,768 | 8,488 | 51,020 |
| 48 States.. | 57,363 | 487,352 | 82,162 | 626,877 |
| Alaska.. | 4 | 1,752 | 17 | 1,773 |
| Hawaii. ............... | 52 | 1,203 | 31 | 1,286 |
| U.S. Total..... | 57,419 | 490,307 | 82,210 | 629,936 |

Source: U.S. Census of Agriculture, 1964.

Table 23.--Pasture and range by type, region, State, United States, 1964


Table 24.--Federal pasture and range by type, United States, 1964

| State and region $\begin{aligned} & \text { : } \\ & \\ & \\ & :\end{aligned}$ | Grassland range 1/ | Forest and Woodland 2/ | Other range $3 /$ | Total <br> Federal <br> range 4/ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| : |  |  |  |  |
| : - - . - - . - - 1,000 acres - . . . . . . . . - |  |  |  |  |
| North Dakota..........: | 958 | 109 | 165 | 1,232 |
| South Dakota..........: | 1,158 | 246 | 804 | 2,208 |
| Nebraska............... | 346 | 79 | 11 | 436 |
| Kansas................ : | 113 |  | -- | 113 |
| Northern Plains....: | 2,575 | 434 | 980 | 3,989 |
| Oklahoma.............. | 67 | 170 | 30 | 267 |
| Texas.................. | 148 | 593 | 57 | 798 |
| Southern Plains....: | 215 | 763 | 87 | 1,065 |
| Montana. . | 8,605 | 3,558 | 4,521 | 16,684 |
| Idaho.................. | 14,218 | 2,594 | 7,617 | 24,429 |
| Wyoming. . . . . . . . . . . . . | 18,192 | 2,532 | 3,936 | 24,660 |
| Colorado.............. | 7,733 | 6,174 | 6,988 | 20,895 |
| New Mexico. | 12,363 | 6,957 | 3,278 | 22,598 |
| Arizona............... | 15,520 | 6,302 | 4,060 | 25,882 |
| Utah.................. | 14,315 | 10,711 | 6,131 | 31,157 |
| Nevada. . . . . . . . . . . . . | 40,738 | 7,999 | 4,833 | 53,570 |
| Mountain. | 131,684 | 46,827 | 41,364 | 219,875 |
| Washington............ | 595 | 1,217 | 3,074 | 4,886 |
| Oregon................... | 13,349 | 6,621 | 3,999 | 23,969 |
| California............ | 8,143 | 3,957 | 8,088 | 20,188 |
| Pacific. | 22,087 | 11,795 | 15,161 | 49,043 |
| 17 Western States....: | 156,561 | 59,819 | 57,592 | 273,972 |
| 31 Eastern States....: | 108 | 3,039 | 1,265 | 4,412 |
| 48 States | 156,669 | 62,858 | 58,857 | 278,384 |
| Alaska. | 1,896 | 210 | -- | 2,106 |
| Hawaii. | -- | -- | -- | -- |
| U.S. Total. | 158,565 | 63,068 | 58,857 | 280,490 |

l/ An approximation of grassland, shrub, and bushland (not classified as forest) used or usable for livestock grazing.
2/ An approximation of open forest land range used or usable for grazing.
3/ Densely forested and other areas in National Forest system range allotments and Federal grazing districts having little utility for grazing but which form part of the total range environment.

4/
Approximate range assembled from data of the principal Federal land administering agencies.

Table 25.--State land used for farming and grazing, United States, 1962 I/

| State and region | Farming | Grazing ${ }^{\text {/ }}$ | Total |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | - - - | 1,000 acres | - - - |
| North Dakota......... | 79 | 834 | 91 |
| South Dakota.......... | 1 | 1,525 | 1,526 |
| Nebraska............. | 306 | 1,325 | 1,631 |
| Kansas. | -- |  | 1,631 |
| Northern Plains.... | 386 | 3,684 | 4,070 |
| Oklahoma............... | 555 | 269 | 824 |
| Texas 3/ | 41 | $574$ | 615 |
| Southern Plains.... | 596 | 843 | 1,439 |
| Montana............... . | 476 | 4,199 | 4,675 |
| Idaho. | 83 | 2,149 | 2,232 |
| Wyoming. | 206 | 3,441 | 3,647 |
| Colorado. | 130 | 2,750 | 2,880 |
| New Mexico. | 116 | 10,731 | 10,847 |
| Arizona.... | 212 | 8,684 | 8,896 |
| Utah................ | 1 | 2,456 | 2,457 |
| Nevada. . . . . . . . . . . . . | -- | -- | -- |
| Mountain........... | 1,224 | 34,410 | 35,634 |
| Washington Oregon. California. | 146 | 1,261 | 1,407 |
|  | 6 | 647 | 653 |
|  | 14 | 85 | 99 |
| Pacific. | 166 | 1,993 | 2,159 |
| 17 Western States.... <br> 31 Eastern States.... | 2,372 | 40,930 | 43,302 |
|  | 188 | 92 | , 280 |
| 48 States. | 2,560 | 41,022 | 43,582 |
| Alaska................. <br> Hawaii | -- | -- | -- |
|  | 67 | 338 | 405 |
| U.S. Total. | 2,627 | 41,360 | 43,987 |
| 1/ Includes land le <br> 2/ Includes both gr <br> 3/ A large proporti for which information | and la and for additi mplete, | nstitutions ture and ra lion acres used for g | $\mathrm{d} \text { in } \mathrm{Tex}$ |


$\frac{1}{2} /$ All forest land in farms as reported by the U.S. Census of Agriculture, 1964.
2/ Total forest land, including reserved areas, as of Sept. 1967, continuing forest inventory of the U.S. Forest Service.

Table 27.--Land in special-use areas, by regions and States, United States, 1964


Table 27.--Land in special-use areas, by regions and States, United States, 1964--Continued


I/ Areas occupied by incorporated and unincorporated places of 1,000 or more population: 1960 estimates as repgrted by the Economic Research Service (18) were extended on the basis of population estimates for 1964 and the calculated urban population--qrea ratio existing in 1960 . Several million additional acres that are occupied by villages and towns with populations below 1,000 are included in other major uses of land, such as forest grazing, farm, and other land.

2/ Estimates for highways were derived by applying average right-of-way widths reported by State highway departments to the mileage in different highway systems reported by the Bureau of Public Roads. Estimates for railroad rights-of-way are based on State-by-State changes in mileage reported by the Interstate Commerce Commission. Estimated for rural nonmilitary airports based on information on airports operational in 1960 supplied by the Federal Aviation Agency with allowances for airports subsequently activated and enlarged.

3/ Includes areas in the National Park System, State Parks, and related recreation areas, and National Forest wilderness and primitive areas. Based on reports of the National Park Service and Forest Service, unpublished data supplied by the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, U.S. Dept. of Interior, and records and reports of numerous State Park administering agencies. Excludes, in most instances, parks in urban places and water areas larger than 40 acres.

4/ As reported by the U S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Does not include areas under the primary jurisdiction of another agency or land leased for wildife purposes. Excludes game ranges in Arizona, Montana, and Nevada totaling 4.6 million acres that are reported as grazing land. Estimates of the acreage in State wildlife areas are based on an inventory of the acreage and use of State-owned land (3), unpublished data supplied by the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, USDI, and data from State agencies.

5/ As reported by the Bureau of Land Management (10). Flood-control lands consisting of 6.2 million acres are administered for flood control and reservoir purposes by the corps of Engineers. Federal industrial areas of 2.1 million acres are Atomic Energy Commission lands. National defense land administered by the Department of Defense, totals about 23.6 million acres. Includes limited areas classified as urban or built-up that were not feasible to separate for purposes of this publication.

6/ As reported in State-owned Rural Lands, 1962 (3). Includes State-owned rural land held for educatiōnal, welfare, correctional, and other institutionai purposes, and miscellaneous uses such as National Guard Camps, fairgrounds, State-owned airports, radio stations, and watershed-protection areas.

7/ Estimates are calculcated on the basis of State-by-State number of farms and acreage of other land in farms.
8/ The following hot included: Reservoirs, non-Federal industrial and commercial sites, mining areas; clāy, sand, and stone quarries; powerline rights-of-way; cemeteries; and golf courses.

Table 28.--Cropland used for crops and crop production per acre, 48 States, selected periods and years


Includes cropland from which one or more crops were harvested. Acreages are based on data from ( 9 , 1911-67) and the annual estimates of crops harvested by SRS and predecessor agencies. Cropland used for soil-improvement crops that was not harvested or pastured and idle cropland are not included. Acreages in farm gardens, minor crops, and small farm orchards are only partially included in cropland harvested in some years.

2/ Estimates based on acreages reported by ( $2,1925-45$; 1964), and annual estimates of crop losses by SRS and predecessor agencies. Acreage in hay that produced nothing except pasture in some dry seasons is not included in acreage losses.

3/ Estimates were made only for land west of the Mississippi River. From 1945 to 1948, estimates were based on acreages estimated by the former Bureau of Agricultural Economics and on data issued by the Great Plains Council. For 1949 and subsequent years, estimates were based on (2, 1950, 1954, 1959, 1964); estimates of wheat seeded. on summer fallow made by AMS, (now SRS) and data issued annually before 1955 by the Great Plains Council.

4/ Index numbers computed from unrounded data.
5/ Preliminary.


Table 30.--Irrigated land in farms, 31 humid-area States, 1939-64


Source: U.S. Census of Agriculture, 1940, 1950, 1959, and 1964.

Table 31.--Comparative estimated rates of change in 1964 and 1967 in irrigated land in farms, United States, based on 1939-64 trends, by water resource regions

| Water resource region (See fig. 14) | 1964 census year |  |  | 1967 current estimate |  |  | Acreage distribution in 1967 2/ (percent) |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Total $:$ Annual change I/acres $:$$:$ Acres $: ~ P e r c e n t ~$ |  |  | Total acres | Annual change $I /$ <br> Acres $:$ Percent |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| New England............... | 47 | 2 | 3.45 | 52 | 2 | 4.00 | 1.2 |
| Delaware and Hudson......: | 224 | 23 | 11.17 | 308 | 31 | 11.17 | 7.4 |
| Chesapeake Bay............ | 59 | 5 | 8.47 | 74 | 5 | 7.24 | 1.8 |
| Southeast................. | 1,151 | 93 | 8.71 | 1,478 | 118 | 8.71 | 35.7 |
| Eastern Great Lakes......: | 37 | 2 | 7.09 | 45 | 3 | 6.50 | 1.1 |
| Western Great Lakes...... | 69 | 5 | 7.30 | 84 | 5 | 5.84 | 2.0 |
| Ohio....................... | 57 | 6 | 11.21 | 78 | 8 | 11.21 | 1.9 |
| Cumberland................. | 2 | 3/ | 11.21 | 2 | 3/ | 11.21 | 0.1 |
| Tennessee.................. | 11 | 1 | 11.21 | 14 | 1 | 11.21 | 0.3 |
| Upper Mississippi........ | 85 | 7 | 8.97 | 106 | 7 | 7.07 | 2.6 |
| Lower Mississippi........: | 681 | 47 | 7.37 | 843 | 58 | 7.37 | 20.3 |
| Lower Missouri...........: | 25 | 2 | 8.69 | 31 | 2 | 6.89 | 0.8 |
| Lower Arkansas-White-Red.: | 827 | 58 | 7.46 | 1,026 | 71 | 7.46 | 24.8 |
| Eastern mainland. | 3,275 | 257 | 8.51 | 4,141 | 310 | 8.51 | 10.2 |
| Upper Missouri............: | 6,391 | 115 | 1.83 | 6,737 | 115 | 1.02 | 18.3 |
| Upper Arkansas-White-Red.: | 2,976 | 257 | 6.99 | 3,645 | 238 | 6.99 | 10.0 |
| Western Gulf............... | 5,621 | 181 | 1.03 | 6,164 | 181 | 3.02 | 16.8 |
| Upper Rio Grande-Pecos...: | 1,390 | 24 | 1.75 | 1,462 | 24 | 1.66 | 4.0 |
| Colorado................... | 2,887 | -21 | -0.75 | 2,807 | -29 | -1.03 | 7.7 |
| Great Basin. . . . . . . . . . . : | 2,192 | 51 | 2.38 | 2,366 | 62 | 2.77 | 6.4 |
| Pacific Northwest.........: | 5,259 | 105 | 2.04 | 5,587 | 112 | 2.04 | 15.3 |
| Central Pacific...........: | 6,889 | 121 | 1.78 | 7,252 | 121 | 1.69 | 19.8 |
| South Pacific............ | 672 | -18 | -2.66 | 607 | -23 | -3.73 | 1.7 |
| Western mainland. | 34,277 | 668 | 1.98 | 36,627 | 668 | 1.86 | 89.8 |
| 48 States | 37,552 | 774 | 2.10 | 40,768 | 774 | 1.95 | 100.0 |
| Hawaii. | 143 | 1 | 1.02 | 148 | 2 | 1.12 | 0.4 |
| U.S. Total (excluding Alaska) | 37,6954/ | 775 | 2.05 | 40,916 | 775 | 1.94 | 100.0 |

I/ All annual regional acreage increases are individually rounded to nearest 1,000 acres and may not add exactly to totals.

2/ Percentages of components of Eastern mainland add to 100, as do those of Western mainland. The percentage figures shown for the total Eastern mainland and for Western mainland were calculated as percentages of total mainland area. Hawaii's irrigated acreage was calculated as a percent of the United States, excluding Alaska.

3/ Less than 1,000 acres.
4/ Add 158 acres for Alaska in 1964.


| State and region | Net area drained and <br> used for agriculture, <br> drainage projects, <br> 1960 Total area drained <br> under Agricultural <br> Conservation Program,  <br> $:$ $1950-64 \mathrm{I}$ |  : Net area drained and   <br> State and region Total area drained   <br>  used for agriculture, under Agricultural  <br>  drainage projects, Conservation Program,  <br>  $:$ 1960  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | - - - - - 1,000 acres - - - - - | - - - - - - l, l,000 acres - - . - - - - |
| Maine... | (2) 21 | South Carolina.......: 338 1,117 |
| New Hampshire..... | (2) 7 | Georgia...............: 93 |
| Vermont. . . . . . . . . . | (2) 41 | Florida................: 4,856 507 <br> Alabama..............: 66 292 |
| Massachusetts. | (2) 12 | Alabama.................: 292 |
| Rhode Island... | $\begin{array}{ll}\text { (2) } & 1 \\ \text { (2) }\end{array}$ | Southeast........: 5,353 2,059 |
| Connecticut.. | $\begin{array}{rr}\text { (2) } \\ 50 & 225\end{array}$ | Mississippi...........: 3,040 1,725 |
| New Jersey. | 11 43 | Arkansas.............: 4, 4,681 1,736 |
| Pennsylvania.. | (2) 198 | Iouisiana............: 7, 1,111 1716 |
| Delaware. | 341 |  |
| Maryland. . | 350154 | Delta States.......: 14,832 5,177 |
| Northeast.. | 752747 | $\begin{array}{lrr}\text { Oklahoma............ } & & 134 \\ \text { Texas............... } & 5,691 & 89 \\ \end{array}$ |
| Michigan........... | 9,877 1,364 | Southern Plains.....: 5,825 558 |
| Wisconsin......... | 584550 |  |
| Minnesota. | 10,561 2,189 | Montana. . . . . . . . . . . . 60 |
| Lake States. | 21,022 4,103 | $\begin{array}{lrr}\text { Idaho..............: } & 111 \\ \text { Wyoming...........: } & 24 & 162 \\ \end{array}$ |
| Ohio.. | 8,809 1,278 | Colorado.............: 55  <br> New Mexico..........: 32 151 |
| Indiana. | 11,054 1,249 | Arizona...............: 20 |
| Illinois. | 5,564 593 | Utah.................: 67 |
| Iowa. | 6,871 1,114 | Nevada...............: 41 |
| Missouri. | 3,097 1,429 | Mountain............: 725 |
| Corn Belt.. | 35,395 5,663 | Washington............: 241 |
| North Dakota. | 1,641753 | $\begin{array}{ll}\text { Oregon................ } 271 & 491 \\ 1,006\end{array}$ |
| South Dakota.. | 659 337 | California...........: 1 , 1,911 1,006 |
| Nebraska. | 739 267 | Pacific.............: 2,423 1,848 |
| Kansas. | 373 |  |
| Northern Plains. | 3,412 1,683 | I/ Total drainage is sum of enclosed and open drainage, and shaping |
| Virginia.............. | $93-218$ | and grading of land for surface drainage. Drainage under the Agricultural Conservation Program is generally carried out outside active |
| West Virginia...... | (2) 27 | cultural Conservation Program is generally carried out outside active drainage projects. Therefore, the overlap is minor. |
| North Carolina. | 1,320879 | 2/ ${ }^{\text {draine }}$ |
| Kentucky........... | 889 277 | 5/ None reported. |
| Tennessee.......... | $591 \quad 142$ | Sources: Census of Agriculture (16, 1959, Vol. 4) and Agri- |
| Appalachian. | 2,893 1,543 | Ulural Stabilization |


[^0]:    5/ See Wooten, et al. (18, table 20) and Wooten and Anderson (17, table 30) for comparative data on special uses of land in 1950-59.

[^1]:    7/ Source: U. S. Bureau of the Census.
    ㅎ/ Source: U. S. Forest Service and U. S. Bureau of Land Management.

