

NUMBER OF FARMS AND LAND IN FARMS

United States 1950-64

By States 1960-64

January 17, 1964

DECREASE IN NUMBER OF FARMS CONTINUES
1964 TOTAL 28 PERCENT UNDER 10 YEARS EARLIER

The number of farm operational units decreased in 1963 in most States, bringing the national total to 3,481,000--3 percent under the previous year. For 1964 the total is expected to again decrease nearly 3 percent, or about 100,000 farms, continuing the trend with little change of pace. The table below showing estimated totals for 48 States since 1950 reflects one phase of the great changes occurring in the Nation's farming. The preliminary estimate for 1964 of about 3,474,000 farms is 28 percent under the 4,784,000 operated in 1954 and 38 percent under the number operated in 1950. 98

Changes in total land in farms have been much smaller than in the number of operational units. The 1,160 million acres of land in farms in 1963 in 48 States is only about 4 percent less than totals estimated for 1954 and 1950. For 1964 the total is expected to decline at about the same rate as in other recent years. The average size of farm has greatly increased through out recent years, rising from 316 acres per farm in 1962 to 325 acres in 1963 and an indicated 332 acres in 1964.

The changes in national totals for farm numbers and farm land fail to reveal many of the differences in State trends that are presented in State estimates on pages 2 and 3. State data are shown for 1960-64 to bring up to date the series of estimates beginning with 1910 published in Statistical Bulletin 316, Number of Farms and Land in Farms, June 1962. Other SRS reports showing farm production trends have shown that farm production has been maintained or increased by smaller numbers of workers operating the decreased number of farms. The year 1963 brought record crop output, exceeding the previous high of 1960. Many farms discontinued since 1950 have been smaller units of low total production and most farm land of high productive value is farmed with increased care.

Number of Farms and Land in Farms, U. S. 1950-64 1/

Year	Number of farms	Land in farms (000 acres)	Year	Number of farms	Land in farms (000 acres)
1950	5,647,800	1,202,019	1957	4,371,700	1,191,340
1951	5,427,600	1,203,500	1958	4,232,900	1,184,944
1952	5,197,500	1,204,930	1959	4,097,300	1,179,158
1953	4,983,600	1,205,740	1960	3,949,000	1,174,065
1954	4,798,200	1,206,355	1961	3,811,000	1,169,410
1955	4,653,800	1,201,900	1962	3,688,000	1,164,645
1956	4,514,100	1,197,070	1963	3,572,700	1,159,660
			1964 2/	3,474,400	1,155,235

1/ Excluding Alaska and Hawaii. See State data on pages 2 and 3.

2/ Preliminary.

Number of Farms, by States, 1960-1964

State	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964 <u>1</u> /
Maine	19,000	18,400	17,700	17,000	16,300
New Hampshire	7,000	6,600	6,200	5,800	5,500
Vermont	13,300	12,800	12,400	12,000	11,600
Massachusetts	13,000	12,300	11,700	11,000	10,400
Rhode Island	1,600	1,500	1,400	1,300	1,200
Connecticut	9,400	8,900	8,500	8,100	7,700
New York	88,000	84,000	80,000	76,000	72,000
New Jersey	15,800	15,200	14,600	13,800	13,000
Pennsylvania	106,000	101,000	96,000	92,000	88,000
Ohio	149,000	144,000	139,000	134,000	130,000
Indiana	134,000	130,000	126,000	124,000	122,000
Illinois	159,000	155,000	151,000	148,000	144,000
Michigan	118,000	114,000	111,000	108,000	105,000
Wisconsin	138,000	136,000	133,000	130,000	127,000
Minnesota	156,000	154,000	152,000	149,000	147,000
Iowa	184,000	181,000	178,000	174,000	171,000
Missouri	180,000	175,000	170,000	165,000	162,000
North Dakota	56,000	55,000	53,000	51,500	50,500
South Dakota	58,400	57,300	56,200	55,100	54,000
Nebraska	93,000	90,000	88,000	86,000	84,000
Kansas	110,000	107,000	105,000	103,000	101,000
Delaware	5,600	5,500	5,400	5,200	5,000
Maryland	27,200	26,400	25,600	24,600	23,600
Virginia	105,000	100,000	96,000	92,000	89,000
West Virginia	47,000	44,000	42,000	40,000	38,000
North Carolina	212,000	205,000	200,000	198,000	195,000
South Carolina	86,000	81,000	77,000	72,000	68,000
Georgia	112,000	105,000	100,000	95,000	92,000
Florida	50,000	48,000	47,000	43,000	39,000
Kentucky	161,000	155,000	150,000	147,000	144,000
Tennessee	169,000	164,000	159,000	156,000	154,000
Alabama	122,000	115,000	109,000	103,000	100,000
Mississippi	144,000	134,000	125,000	119,000	114,000
Arkansas	101,000	95,000	90,000	86,000	82,000
Louisiana	80,000	77,000	74,000	71,000	68,000
Oklahoma	103,000	99,000	95,000	91,000	88,000
Texas	240,000	232,000	224,000	216,000	210,000
Montana	32,000	31,600	31,200	30,800	30,400
Idaho	37,200	36,800	36,500	36,300	36,300
Wyoming	10,500	10,200	10,000	9,800	9,600
Colorado	37,000	36,000	35,000	34,000	33,000
New Mexico	18,200	17,400	16,700	16,100	15,600
Arizona	8,200	7,900	7,600	7,300	7,000
Utah	19,000	18,200	17,400	16,700	16,000
Nevada	2,600	2,500	2,400	2,300	2,200
Washington	56,000	55,000	54,000	53,000	52,000
Oregon	47,000	46,500	45,500	45,000	44,500
California	108,000	104,000	102,000	98,000	95,000
48 States	3,949,000	3,811,000	3,688,000	3,572,700	3,474,400
Alaska	400	400	400	400	400
Hawaii	6,800	6,800	6,800	6,700	6,600
United States	3,956,200	3,818,200	3,695,200	3,579,800	3,481,400

1/ Preliminary.

Land in Farms, by States, 1960-1964

State	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964 ^{1/}
	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
	<u>acres</u>	<u>acres</u>	<u>acres</u>	<u>acres</u>	<u>acres</u>
Maine	3,400	3,350	3,300	3,250	3,180
New Hampshire...	1,250	1,220	1,190	1,150	1,120
Vermont	3,210	3,170	3,100	3,100	3,050
Massachusetts ...	1,250	1,230	1,200	1,170	1,130
Rhode Island ...	145	140	135	130	125
Connecticut	1,100	1,070	1,050	1,020	990
New York	14,300	14,100	13,900	13,700	13,500
New Jersey	1,460	1,440	1,410	1,370	1,330
Pennsylvania ...	12,300	12,100	11,900	11,700	11,500
Ohio	19,200	19,000	18,800	18,600	18,400
Indiana	19,400	19,300	19,200	19,100	19,000
Illinois	30,700	30,600	30,500	30,400	30,300
Michigan	15,400	15,100	14,800	14,500	14,300
Wisconsin	22,200	22,100	22,000	21,800	21,600
Minnesota	32,400	32,400	32,400	32,400	32,400
Iowa	34,700	34,700	34,700	34,700	34,600
Missouri	34,700	34,600	34,500	34,400	34,400
North Dakota ...	42,100	42,100	42,100	42,100	42,100
South Dakota ...	45,400	45,400	45,200	45,100	45,000
Nebraska	48,200	48,200	48,200	48,100	48,100
Kansas	50,200	50,100	50,100	50,000	49,900
Delaware	800	790	780	770	760
Maryland	3,750	3,700	3,650	3,600	3,550
Virginia	13,500	13,400	13,300	13,200	13,100
West Virginia ...	6,700	6,600	6,500	6,400	6,200
North Carolina ..	17,900	17,600	17,400	17,400	17,200
South Carolina ..	10,000	9,800	9,700	9,300	9,000
Georgia	22,000	21,400	21,000	20,400	20,100
Florida	17,400	17,000	16,800	16,200	15,900
Kentucky	18,000	17,800	17,700	17,700	17,600
Tennessee	16,800	16,600	16,400	16,200	16,200
Alabama	17,200	16,900	16,600	16,300	16,000
Mississippi	19,800	19,500	19,200	18,900	18,600
Arkansas	17,700	17,600	17,500	17,400	17,300
Louisiana	11,000	10,800	10,600	10,400	10,200
Oklahoma	37,400	37,400	37,400	37,400	37,400
Texas	154,000	154,000	154,000	154,000	154,000
Montana	66,700	66,800	66,800	66,700	66,700
Idaho	15,300	15,300	15,300	15,300	15,300
Wyoming	36,100	36,000	36,000	35,900	35,800
Colorado	41,000	41,000	41,000	41,000	41,000
New Mexico	51,800	51,800	51,800	51,700	51,700
Arizona	45,000	45,000	45,000	45,000	45,000
Utah	13,600	13,600	13,600	13,600	13,600
Nevada	9,200	9,200	8,700	8,900	8,900
Washington.....	18,200	18,200	18,200	18,200	18,200
Oregon	21,200	21,200	21,200	21,200	21,200
California	39,000	39,000	38,800	38,800	38,700
^{4/8} States	1,174,065	1,169,410	1,164,645	1,159,660	1,155,235
Alaska ^{2/}	900	900	900	920	920
Hawaii	2,600	2,600	2,600	2,600	2,600
United States	1,177,565	1,172,910	1,168,145	1,163,180	1,158,755

^{1/} Preliminary. ^{2/} Exclusive of grazing land leased from U.S. Government, Alaska farmland totals about 80,000 acres.

Basis for the Statistical Reporting Service Estimates of Number of Farms

The estimates of the number of farms by years published by the Statistical Reporting Service are benchmarked on the quinquennial Census of Agriculture with adjustments for incompleteness. The annual estimates between Census Years are based upon expansions and projections from the Statistical Reporting Service June enumerative surveys, data from State farm censuses in a limited number of States, indications derived from various inquiries made by the Service, and extension of trends.

Post-Census analyses by the Bureau of the Census indicated that the count of the number of farms was short by about 8 percent in both 1954 and 1959. Additional analysis indicated that some places covered by Whole Farm Soil Bank contracts were not considered farms in the 1959 enumeration. An analysis of these special studies is shown in the General Report of the Bureau of the Census and allowance for such incompleteness or difference in definition is made in the estimates of the Statistical Reporting Service.

Annual State farm censuses yield counts of numbers of farms in 12 States, 10 of which are in the North Central Region. Changes shown by these surveys are the principal basis for the Statistical Reporting Service estimates in these States. Some of these censuses may be less inclusive than the U.S. Census with respect to farms that are marginal either in size or in sales of farm products, hence the changes indicated may tend to understate the reduction occurring in the number of such marginal farms.

The annual enumerative surveys made by the Statistical Reporting Service provide indications of the number of farms in operation at the time the surveys are conducted. Beginning with small samples in 1957 these surveys are being expanded with resulting gains in dependability of indications. In 1963 the number of area segments enumerated in 28 States was about 10,500. In 1963, enumeration also was expanded to represent 48 States with some area segments in each State and a national total of 12,350 segments. Variability in the enumerative data is of course greater for individual States than for all States combined, and the data are necessarily interpreted with regard to sample size, consistency, and trends in the individual States.

In addition to the data from the Census and enumerative surveys, there are various collateral data which shed light upon the direction and extent of change in number of farms. The regular mail surveys conducted by the Statistical Reporting Service in estimating crop and livestock numbers provide comparisons of size of reporting farms. In some States, data are available on the number of farms selling milk, or the number of producers of other commodities produced commercially.

Estimates of land in farms represent the places defined as farms in the number of farms estimates. As in the Census of Agriculture, these estimates of farm land exclude Government owned land grazed on a permit or fee basis but include land leased from the Government for grazing purposes. In Alaska this type of land represents about 840,000 acres of the total, leaving about 80,000 acres of other land, averaging about 200 acres per farm.

Estimates of number of farms and land in farms for 1964 are to a large extent based on extension of previous trends. They are published by States on a preliminary basis and are subject to revision as results of enumerative surveys, State farm censuses and the U.S. Federal Census of 1964 become available. With each Federal Census, the annual estimates of the Statistical Reporting Service are revised to bring the series in line with the results of the Census, with appropriate adjustments for under-enumeration.