

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS
WASHINGTON, D. C.

June 12, 1939

MILK PRODUCTION JUNE 1, 1939

In spite of poor pastures in many areas, milk production increased seasonally during May, and on June 1 was approaching the seasonal peak of production at a record high level. Milk production per cow on June 1 in herds kept by crop correspondents averaged about the same as the record high June 1 production per cow at this season a year ago. With the number of milk cows on farms on June 1 probably nearly 2 percent greater than at this time last year, total milk production appears to have been up in about the same proportion. This represents a record high production of milk for June 1, both on a total and on a per capita basis. Looking ahead, however, with pastures in need of rain and carrying a smaller reserve of feed than usual and with prices not particularly favorable for liberal grain feeding, somewhat more than the usual seasonal decline in milk production may be in prospect as the summer advances.

The abundant supply of feed grain on farms appears to have been drawn on rather generally to offset the influence of poor pastures. On May 1, the quantity of grain fed per milk cow in herds kept by dairy correspondents averaged the highest for that date since 1931, and reports for June 1, available in a limited number of principal dairy states, indicate rather heavy feeding for that time of the year also.

In all major geographic regions, milk production per cow in herds kept by crop correspondents averaged very close to that of a year earlier, ranging from 2 percent lower in the Atlantic Coast regions to 1 percent higher in the Western group of states. In comparison with the 1928-37 average for that date, however, production per cow on June 1 this year was generally on a high plane, ranging from 3 percent above average in the East North Central group of states to 12 percent above in the Western group.

For the country as a whole, milk production per cow in herds kept by crop correspondents on June 1 averaged 17.98 pounds compared with 17.99 pounds a year ago and a 1928-37 average of 16.98 pounds for June 1. In these herds, 77.4 percent of the milk cows were reported milked, the same as on June 1, 1938, but otherwise the highest for that date in the 15 years of record.

DAIRY PASTURES, JUNE 1, 1939

Although late in developing this spring, pastures by June 1 were furnishing feed for milk cows in even the most northern sections of the United States, but in many areas dry weather had depleted moisture reserves and for the country as a whole the condition of dairy pastures, as reported by crop correspondents, on June 1 averaged the second lowest for that date in three-quarters of a century. While in the more important dairy areas the grass on June 1 was mostly furnishing fair pasturage, the low condition reflects a lack of reserve feed and a situation that may readily lead to a shortage of pasture feed in event of continued dry weather. Rather widespread rains in late May and early June checked pasture decline in many areas but any substantial improvement in conditions will be dependent on subsequent moisture.

In an area extending from Virginia north into New York and northwest into Indiana, pastures declined rather sharply during May as a result of dry weather, and apparently half of this area had no relief in the first week of June. In the far west, California pastures continued in poor condition and those in important dairy sections of Oregon and Washington declined rapidly in May, but have been helped by rains in early June.

Pastures were rather generally poor in a broad belt of territory from North Dakota to Texas and extending eastward into important dairy areas of Minnesota, Iowa and southern Wisconsin. Local areas of extreme drought existed in some of the Plains States.

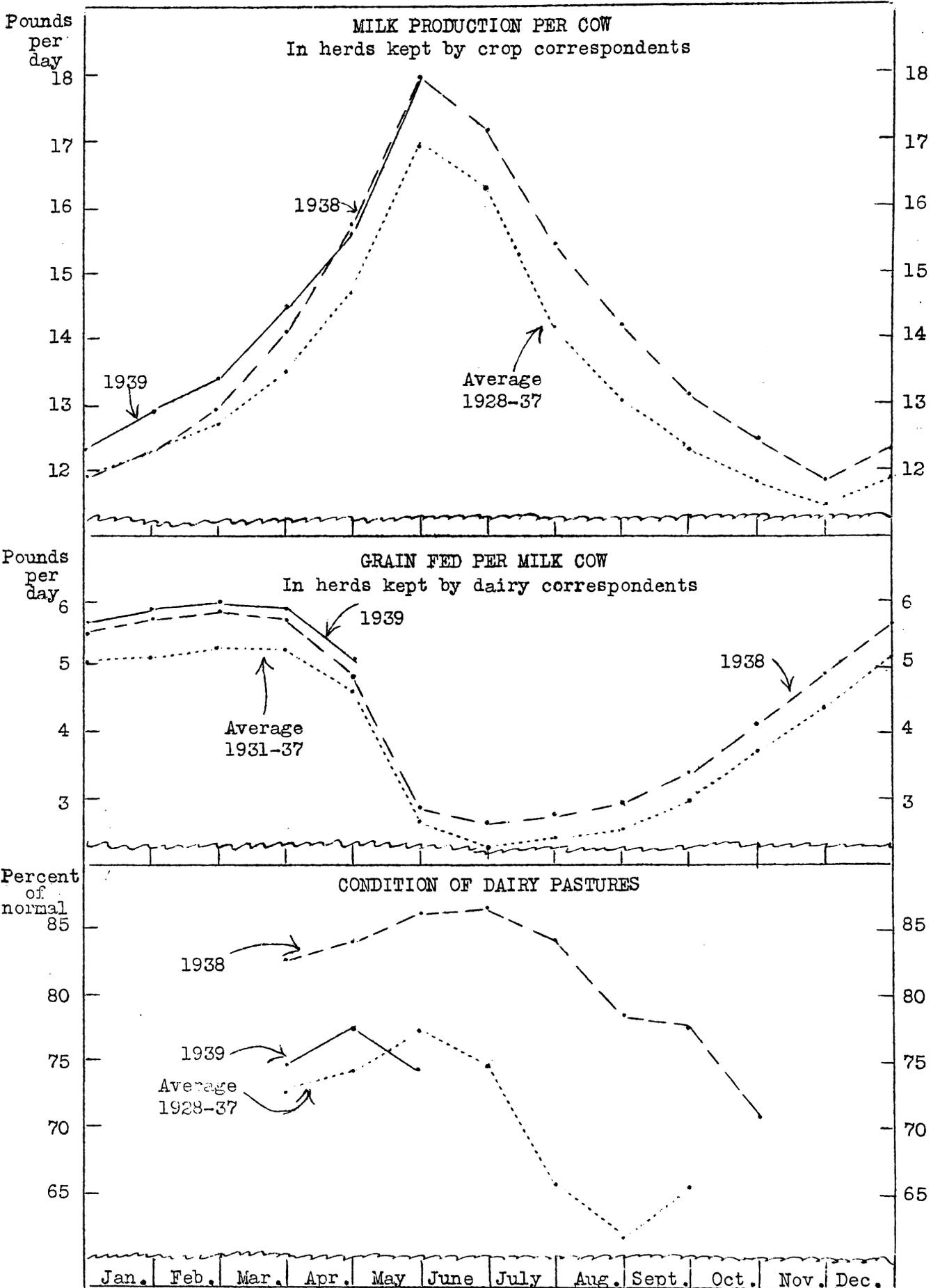
Moderate improvement in pastures during May occurred in the Central and Southern Mississippi Valley and in the Southeast as the result of above-normal rainfall. Over most of this area pastures were average or better on June 1.

In the country as a whole the condition of dairy pastures on June 1 averaged 74 percent of normal compared with 86 percent on the same date a year ago and June 1 averages of 77.3 percent in the period 1928-37, and 84.7 percent in the 1920-29 period prior to recent droughts.

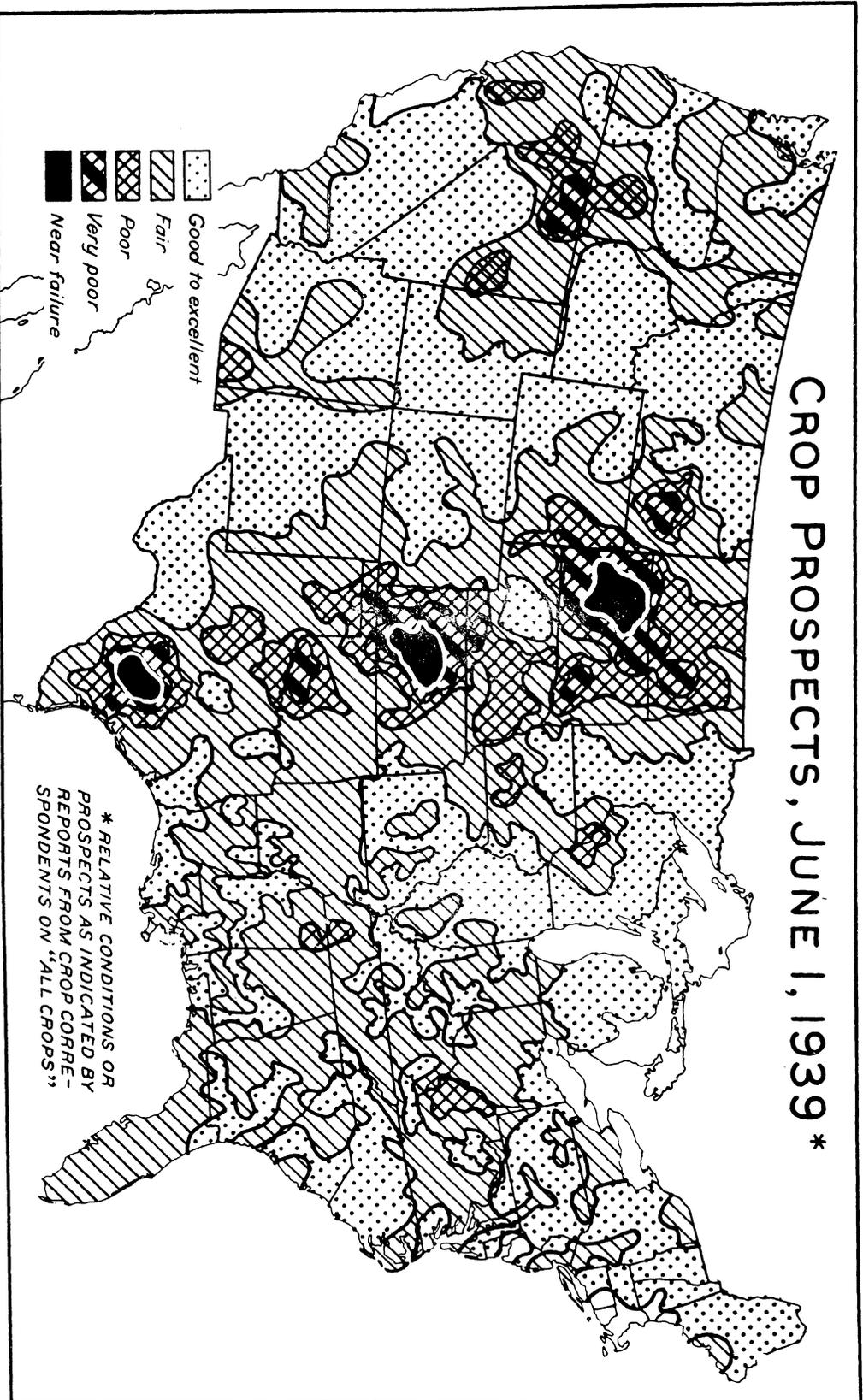
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CROP REPORTING BOARD
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MILK PRODUCED PER MILK COW IN HERDS KEPT BY CROP REPORTERS ^{1/}				
State	: June 1 : :(Avg.) 1928-37:	June 1 : 1937 :	June 1 : 1938 :	June 1
	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds
New Eng.	17.77	17.52	18.73	18.48
N.Y.	22.9	24.1	24.3	23.9
N.J.	21.6	21.5	22.0	21.8
Pa.	20.7	21.4	21.8	21.4
N. Atl.	20.87	21.65	22.10	21.79
Ohio	19.8	20.3	20.3	19.9
Ind.	17.7	17.9	19.1	18.3
Ill.	17.6	18.1	18.5	19.4
Mich.	22.3	22.7	22.0	22.7
Wis.	22.2	22.7	23.2	23.0
E. N. Cent.	20.44	21.00	21.10	21.12
Minn.	20.2	20.7	21.5	21.5
Iowa	18.0	18.8	19.5	19.3
Mo.	12.9	13.6	13.2	13.9
N. Dak.	15.9	16.4	18.7	18.5
S. Dak.	16.0	16.1	17.0	16.6
Nebr.	17.1	17.4	18.0	19.0
Kans.	16.9	17.2	18.0	17.6
W. N. Cent.	16.91	17.44	18.22	18.32
Md.	17.4	16.5	17.2	17.9
Va.	13.8	14.1	13.6	12.6
W. Va.	14.3	14.4	14.3	13.7
N. C.	12.7	12.6	13.1	13.4
S. C.	10.7	11.1	11.0	12.5
S. Atl.	12.48	12.56	13.16	12.96
Ky.	14.1	14.6	14.5	14.1
Tenn.	12.2	12.5	12.6	12.8
Miss.	9.0	8.5	8.7	8.6
Ark.	10.6	11.4	11.2	11.3
Okla.	13.1	13.2	14.2	14.5
Tex.	10.5	10.6	11.5	11.2
S. Cent.	11.24	11.31	11.83	11.92
Mont.	16.4	17.1	19.6	19.1
Idaho	20.4	20.3	21.5	22.2
Wyo.	15.4	16.2	17.4	18.2
Colo.	16.0	16.8	17.8	18.7
Wash.	22.1	23.4	23.2	23.0
Oreg.	20.3	20.8	21.9	20.9
Calif.	20.1	20.0	21.4	20.1
West	18.32	19.18	20.26	20.54
U. S.	16.98	17.39	17.99	17.98

^{1/} Averages obtained by dividing the reported daily milk production of herds kept by reporters by the total number of milk cows (in milk or dry) in these herds. The regional averages shown were based in part on records from less important dairy States not shown separately, as follows: South Atlantic, Delaware, Georgia, Florida; South Central, Alabama, Louisiana; Western, New Mexico, Arizona, Utah, Nevada.

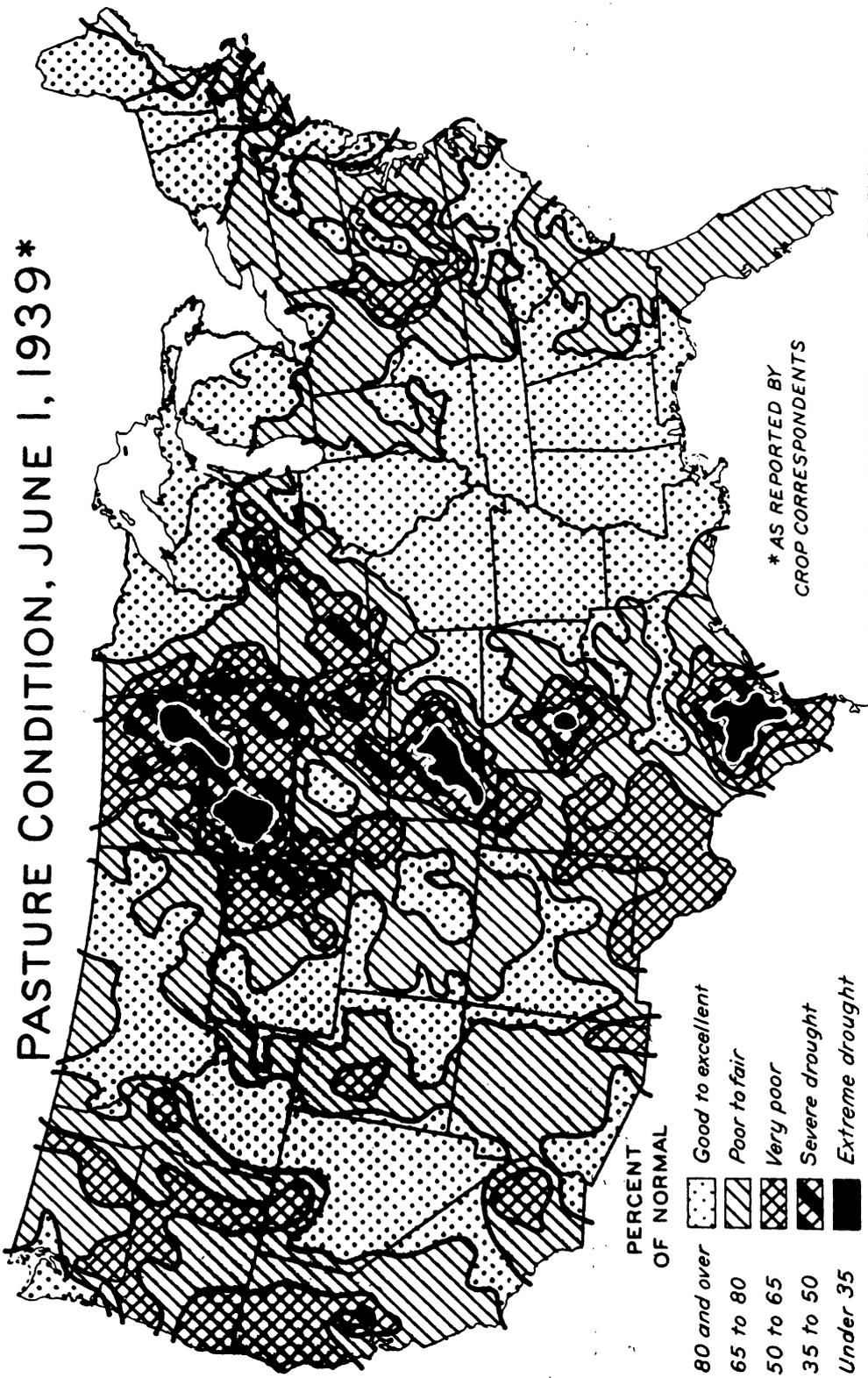


CROP PROSPECTS, JUNE 1, 1939 *



* RELATIVE CONDITIONS OR PROSPECTS AS INDICATED BY REPORTS FROM CROP CORRESPONDENTS ON "ALL CROPS"

PASTURE CONDITION, JUNE 1, 1939*



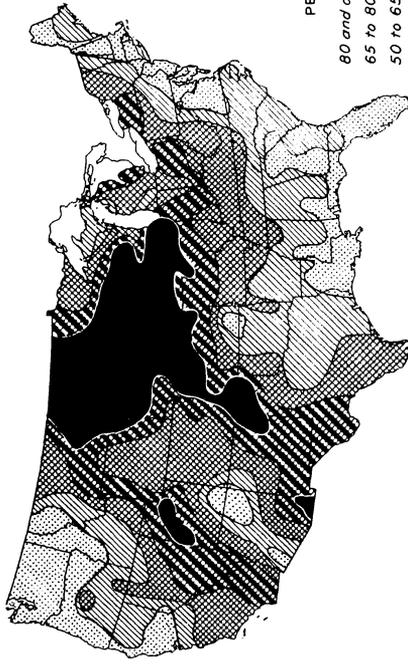
PERCENT OF NORMAL

- 80 and over  Good to excellent
- 65 to 80  Poor to fair
- 50 to 65  Very poor
- 35 to 50  Severe drought
- Under 35  Extreme drought

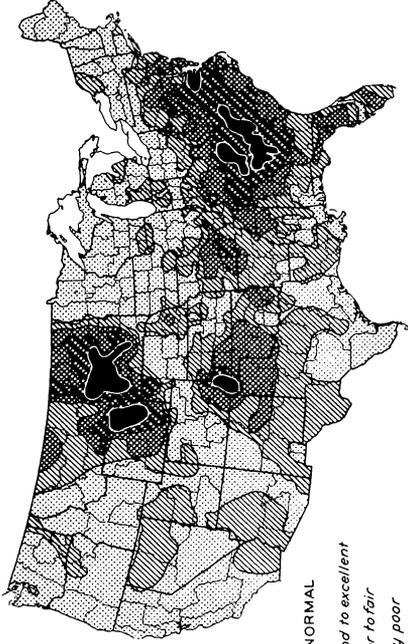
* AS REPORTED BY CROP CORRESPONDENTS

PASTURE CONDITION *

JUNE 1, 1934



JUNE 1, 1936

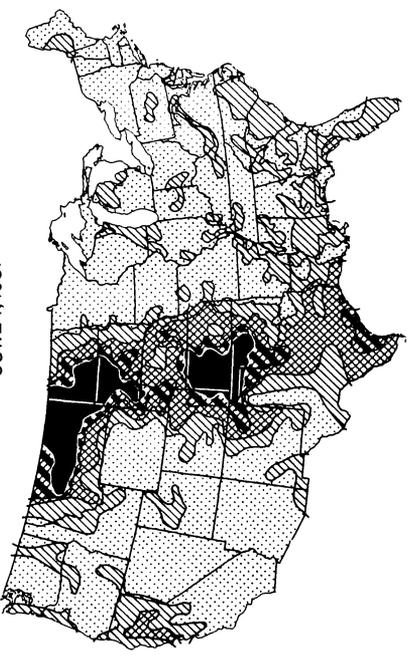


PERCENT OF NORMAL

80 and over	Good to excellent
65 to 80	Poor to fair
50 to 65	Very poor
35 to 50	Severe drought
Under 35	Extreme drought

* AS REPORTED BY CROP CORRESPONDENTS

JUNE 1, 1937



JUNE 1, 1938

