SIXTEENTH CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES: 1940

AGRICULTURE

ABANDONED OR IDLE FARMS

Number and acreage, with classification of those reporting acreage by cause of nonoperation and by year of abandonment

Statistics for counties and a summary for the United States

A special study

Prepared under the supervision of
ZELLMER R. PETTET
Chief Statistician for Agriculture

UNITED STATES
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE
WASHINGTON : 1943
BUREAU OF THE CENSUS

J. C. CAPT, Director (Appointed May 28, 1944)
WILLIAM LANE AUSTIN, Director (Retired January 31, 1941)
PHILIP M. HAUSER, Assistant Director

Agriculture—ZELLMER R. PETTET, Chief Statistician.
SHERMAN S. SLICK, Assistant Chief Statistician.
Technical Staff—Warder B. Jenkins, Chief.
Farm Information—Hilton E. Robison, Principal Statistician.
Field Crops—Hubert L. Collins, Principal Statistician.
Cotton—Henry L. Rasor, Statistician.
Livestock—Edward C. Paxton, Principal Statistician.
Poultry—Carl R. Nyman, Statistician.
Values and Farm Income—Irvin Holmes, Senior Statistician.
Editing and Personnel—Glenn D. Simpson, Statistician.
Drainage—Roger D. Marron, Principal Engineer.
Irrigation—Milo B. Williams, Principal Engineer.
           Paul A. Ewing, Consultant.

Administrative Service—F. R. PITMAN, Acting Chief.
Basic Materials—RAY HURLEY, Chief Statistician.
Business—JOHN ALBRIGHT, Chief Statistician.
Geography—CLARENCE E. BATSHELET, Geographer.
Information and Publications—A. W. VON STRUYVE, Acting Chief.
Machine Tabulation—RALPH E. GALLOWAY, Chief.
Manufactures—THOMAS J. FITZGERALD, Chief Statistician.
Population—LEON E. TRUESBELL, Chief Statistician.
State and Local Government—EDWARD R. GRAY, Chief Statistician.
Vital Statistics—HALBERT L. DUNN, Chief Statistician.
LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
BUREAU OF THE CENSUS
Washington, D. C. April 30, 1945

SIR:

I transmit herewith a special compilation from the Census of Agriculture Returns of the Sixteenth Decennial Census entitled "Abandoned or Idle Farms." The study gives information on the number and acreage of abandoned or idle farms, with classification of those reporting acreage by cause of nonoperation and by year of abandonment, with statistics for counties and with a summary for the United States.

Provision for the Sixteenth Decennial Census was made in the Act providing for the Fifteenth and subsequent Decennial Censuses. This recording of the abandoned or idle farms represents one of the expedients used by the Bureau of the Census for enumeration control. Enumerators were instructed as follows: "Farms not operated in 1930 and on which no operations are contemplated in 1940, if used for agricultural purposes (including grazing) within the past 10 years, are to be recorded on the Abandoned or Idle Farm List."

The collection and compilation of these statistics and the preparation of this report were under the supervision of Z. R. Pettet, Chief Statistician for Agriculture, assisted by Sherman S. Slick, Assistant Chief Statistician, and Hilton E. Robison, Principal Statistician. Acknowledgment is due C. E. B. Holland for tabulation of the data, Lois Hutchison for the assembling of the data and preparation of tables, and H. A. Tucker for the arrangement and presentation.

Respectfully,

J. C. CAPT,
Director of the Census

Hon. JESSE H. JONES,
Secretary of Commerce
SIXTEENTH CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES: 1940

REPORTS ON AGRICULTURE, IRRIGATION, AND DRAINAGE

Volume I.—Statistics by Counties for Farms and Farm Property, with Related Information for Farms and Farm Operators; Livestock and Livestock Products; and Crops (six parts).

Part 1.—New England, Middle Atlantic, and East North Central States
Part 2.—West North Central States
Part 3.—South Atlantic States

Part 4.—East South Central States
Part 5.—West South Central States
Part 6.—Mountain and Pacific States

Volume II.—Statistics by Counties for Value of Farm Products, Farms Classified by Major Source of Income, and Farms Classified by Total Value of Products (three parts).

Part 1.—Northern States
Part 2.—Southern States
Part 3.—Western States


Chapter I.—Farms and Farm Property
Chapter II.—Size of Farms
Chapter III.—Color, Tenure, and Race of Farm Operators
Chapter IV.—Farms and Mortgages and Farm Taxes
Chapter V.—Work Off Farm, Age, and Years on Farm

Chapter VI.—Cooperation, Labor, Expenditures, Machinery, Facilities, and Residence
Chapter VII.—Livestock and Livestock Products
Chapter VIII.—Field Crops and Vegetables
Chapter IX.—Fruits and Nuts, and Horticultural Specialties
Chapter X.—Value of Farm Products

United States Summary Bulletins.—Statistics for the United States, Geographic Divisions, and States in condensed form as follows:

First Series Summary—Number of Farms, Uses of Land, Values, Principal Classes of Livestock and Livestock Products; and Specified Crops Harvested.

Second Series Summary—Farm Mortgages, Taxes, Labor, Expenditures, and Miscellaneous Farm Information; Oats and Mohair; and Fruits, Vegetables, and Minor Crops.

Third Series Summary—Value of Farm Products, Farms Classified by Major Source of Income, and Farms Classified by Total Value of Products.

Territories and Possessions.—Farms and Farm Property, Livestock and Livestock Products, and Crops (one volume).

(Separate agricultural bulletins are available for Hawaii and Puerto Rico.)

Territories:
Alaska
Hawaii
Possessions:
American Samoa
Guam
Puerto Rico
Virgin Islands of the United States

Irrigation of Agricultural Lands.—Statistics by Drainage Basins and by Counties for 80 Irrigation States and a Summary for the United States (one volume).

Twenty Separate State Maps Showing Irrigation by Drainage Basins.
A Separate Composite Map Showing Irrigation by Drainage Basins.

Drainage of Agricultural Lands.—Statistics for 80 Drainage States with County Data for 36 States and a Summary for the United States (one volume).

A Separate Map of the United States Showing Location of Land in Drainage Enterprises for 36 States.

SPECIAL STUDIES AND MONOGRAPHS

Special Poultry Report.—Statistics by Geographic Divisions and States for Poultry of All Kinds on Hand and Raised; by Counties for Chickens and Chicken Egg Production by Number of Chickens on Hand; and by Counties for Farms Reporting Chickens and Turkeys Raised by Numbers Raised (one volume).

Cows Milked and Dairy Products.—Number of Cows Milked, Milk Produced, Disposition of Dairy Products, and Number of Cows Kept Mainly for Milk Production, Classified by Number of Cows Milked, by Counties, with Related Data for Other Classes of Livestock and Livestock Products for the States and also for the United States (one volume).

Special Cotton Report.—Cotton Harvested by Number of Bales Harvested, and by Counties, with Acreage and Production of Cotton, and Value of Farm Products (one volume).

Special Cross-line Acreage Report.—Farms Reporting and Acreage by Place of Enumeration and by Location of Acreage, with Relationship to All Farms, by Counties: 1940 and 1930 (one volume).

Drainage Monograph.—A Comparison of Agriculture Within and Outside of Drainage Enterprises in the Alluvial Lands of the Lower Mississippi Valley (paper bound).

Irrigation Monograph.—A Tabular and Graphic Presentation of Specified Irrigation Census Statistics (paper bound).

1 Agriculture volumes I and II and the volumes "Irrigation of Agricultural Lands" and "Drainage of Agricultural Lands" are comprised of State bulletins. Separate bulletins for each State are available. Separate chapters of Agriculture volume III are also available.
CONTENTS

Introduction--------------------------------------------------------------- 1
Definition of abandoned or idle farms---------------------------------- 1
Number and size of abandoned farms------------------------------------ 1
Abandoned or idle farms by cause of nonoperation----------------------- 1
Chart—Abandoned or idle farms by cause of nonoperation for the United States: 1940----------------------------- 2
Abandoned or idle farms by year of abandonment------------------------ 2
Chart—Abandoned or idle farms by year of abandonment for the United States: 1940--------------------------------- 2
Appraisal of the statistics------------------------------------------- 3
Dot map—Abandoned or idle farms-------------------------------------- 3
Facsimile—Abandoned or idle farm list-------------------------------- 232

TABLES

Table 1.—Abandoned or idle farms—Number and acreage, with classification of those reporting acreage, by cause of nonoperation and by year of abandonment; and average acreages; by divisions and States: Census of 1940------ 4
Table 2.—Abandoned or idle farms—Percent distribution of farms and acreage, by cause of nonoperation and year of abandonment; by divisions and States: Census of 1940--------------------------------- 10
Table 3.—Abandoned or idle farms—Number and acreage, with classification of those reporting acreage by cause of nonoperation and by year of abandonment, by counties: Census of 1940-------------------------------------------------- 14

V