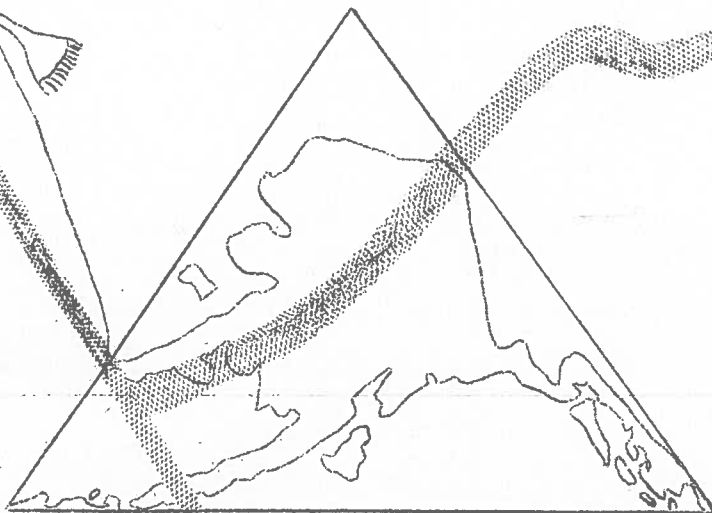


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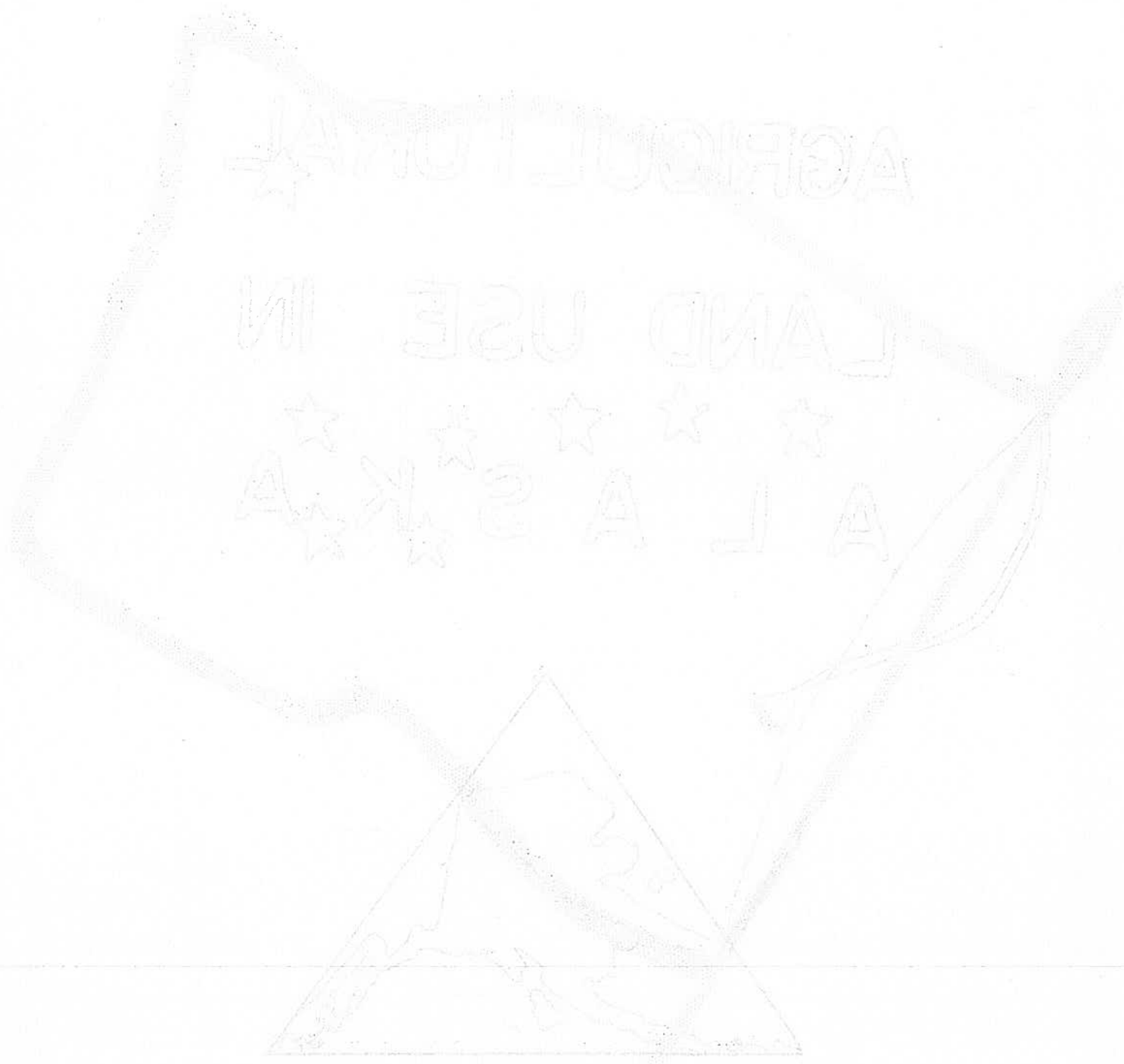
in cooperation with the

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Agricultural Research Service

Palmer, Alaska

September, 1954



AGRICULTURAL

LAND USE IN

ALASKA

ALASKA AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION
In cooperation with the
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Palmer, Alaska
September, 1934

AGRICULTURAL LAND USE IN ALASKA

A STUDY OF ALASKA BY AREAS

FOREWORD

THIS STUDY SHOULD DO MUCH TO DISPEL MANY MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT THE STATISTICS OF FARMING IN ALASKA. IT SHOULD BE OF PARTICULAR USEFULNESS TO LEGISLATORS AND ADMINISTRATORS SEARCHING FOR RELIABLE DATA BY FARMING AREAS.

THE AUTHORS WERE GRANTED PRIVILEGES IN USE OF RAW CENSUS DATA AND HAVE UTILIZED ALL AVAILABLE SECONDARY SOURCES OF APPLICABLE INFORMATION WHILE MAKING THEIR ANALYSIS.

IT SHOULD BE POINTED OUT THAT NEARLY FIVE YEARS HAVE PASSED SINCE THE ENUMERATION OF THESE DATA. MUCH HAS HAPPENED TO ALASKAN AGRICULTURE DURING THE INTERIM. HOWEVER, THIS SOURCEBOOK IS A VALUABLE ADDITION TO OUR INFORMATION ON THE WAY AGRICULTURE IS DEVELOPING.

DON L. IRWIN

DIRECTOR
ALASKA AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION

THE STUDY GROUP... ABOUT THE STATISTICS... OF PARTICULAR USEFULNESS... ARRANGING FOR RELEASE...

THE AUTHORS WERE GREATLY... DATA... INFORMATION...

THIS GROUP WOULD... THE INFORMATION... HOWEVER...

THE AUTHORS WERE GRATEFUL... AND HAVE... INFORMATION...

IT SHOULD BE POINTED OUT... THE INFORMATION... HOWEVER, THIS...

Don L. Davis

PLEASE PRINT YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS...

PREFACE

AGRICULTURAL GROWTH IN ALASKA HAS FOLLOWED THE DEVELOPMENT OF OTHER INDUSTRIES RATHER THAN PRECEDED IT. THUS IT HAS NOT PARALLELED THE WESTWARD EXPANSION OF THE CONTINENTAL UNITED STATES. THE GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION OF THE TERRITORY, ITS SPARSE POPULATION, AND ITS HIGH COSTS OF DEVELOPMENT AND OF PRODUCTION HAVE LIMITED AND EVEN PROHIBITED FARMING PURSUITS IN AREAS PHYSICALLY CAPABLE OF AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT. BUT PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE IN COMMERCIAL FARMING. INCREASED MARKET DEMAND HAS FOLLOWED SUBSTANTIAL INCREASES IN POPULATION AND URBAN PURCHASING POWER. THIS IN TURN WAS PRIMARILY DUE TO ENLARGED MILITARY AND MILITARY-RELATED CONSTRUCTION AND TO OTHER PROGRAMS IN THE TERRITORY. COSTS OF AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES SHIPPED TO ALASKA HAVE ALSO INCREASED. THESE DEVELOPMENTS HAVE HEIGHTENED INTEREST IN POSSIBILITIES AND IN PROSPECTS FOR EXPANDED AGRICULTURAL LAND USE IN THE TERRITORY. INVESTIGATIONS SINCE WORLD WAR II HAVE BEEN MADE TO DETERMINE AREAS SUITABLE FOR AGRICULTURE BASED ON PHYSICAL CONDITIONS AND AVAILABLE MARKETS. ALTHOUGH LAND USED FOR AGRICULTURE IN ALASKA ACCOUNTS FOR ONLY ABOUT 0.1 PERCENT OF THE TOTAL LAND AREA, THIS REPRESENTS A SIGNIFICANT NUCLEUS FOR AGRICULTURAL GROWTH.

THE PUBLISHED CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE FOR ALASKA PRESENTS AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS ON THE BASIS OF JUDICIAL DIVISIONS. STUDIES MADE FROM TIME TO TIME BY THE AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION, OTHER AGENCIES, AND INDIVIDUALS USUALLY HAVE BEEN PRIMARILY CONCERNED WITH SPECIFIC AREAS OF THE TERRITORY. A MAJOR PURPOSE OF THE PRESENT STUDY HAS BEEN TO PRESENT CENSUS AND OTHER DATA ON LAND USE IN A MANNER PROVIDING A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF AGRICULTURE IN ALASKA. TO ACHIEVE THIS OBJECTIVE, THE ORIGINAL SCHEDULES FOR THE 1939 AND 1950 CENSUSES OF AGRICULTURE WERE EXAMINED. LAND USE AND RELATED DATA WERE GROUPED INTO EIGHT MAJOR AREAS OF ALASKA. SEVEN AREAS WERE DELINEATED ON THE BASIS OF SIMILAR CHARACTERISTICS OR AGRICULTURAL CONDITIONS SURROUNDING A GROUP OF FARMS. THE SCATTERED AGRICULTURE OF THE LARGE REMAINING PART OF THE TERRITORY IS TREATED UNDER THE AREA HEADING "ALL OTHER".

THE BUREAU OF CENSUS, DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, PERMITTED USE OF UNPUBLISHED ALASKAN DATA FOR MOST OF THIS STUDY. MANY HELPFUL SUGGESTIONS WERE MADE BY MEMBERS OF THE LAND AND WATER SECTION, PRODUCTION ECONOMICS RESEARCH BRANCH, AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE, AND COMMENTS WERE RECEIVED ON CERTAIN OF THE SECTIONS FROM IRVING SENZEL AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT, DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR.

SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENT IS MADE TO HUGH H. WOOTEN, UNDER WHOSE DIRECTION THE STUDY WAS CONDUCTED, AND TO JAMES R. ANDERSON WHO HAS MATERIALLY ASSISTED IN THE ANALYSIS AND IN THE PRESENTATION OF CENSUS MATERIAL.

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MAJOR AREAS
OF ALASKA

AGRICULTURAL LAND USE IN ALASKA

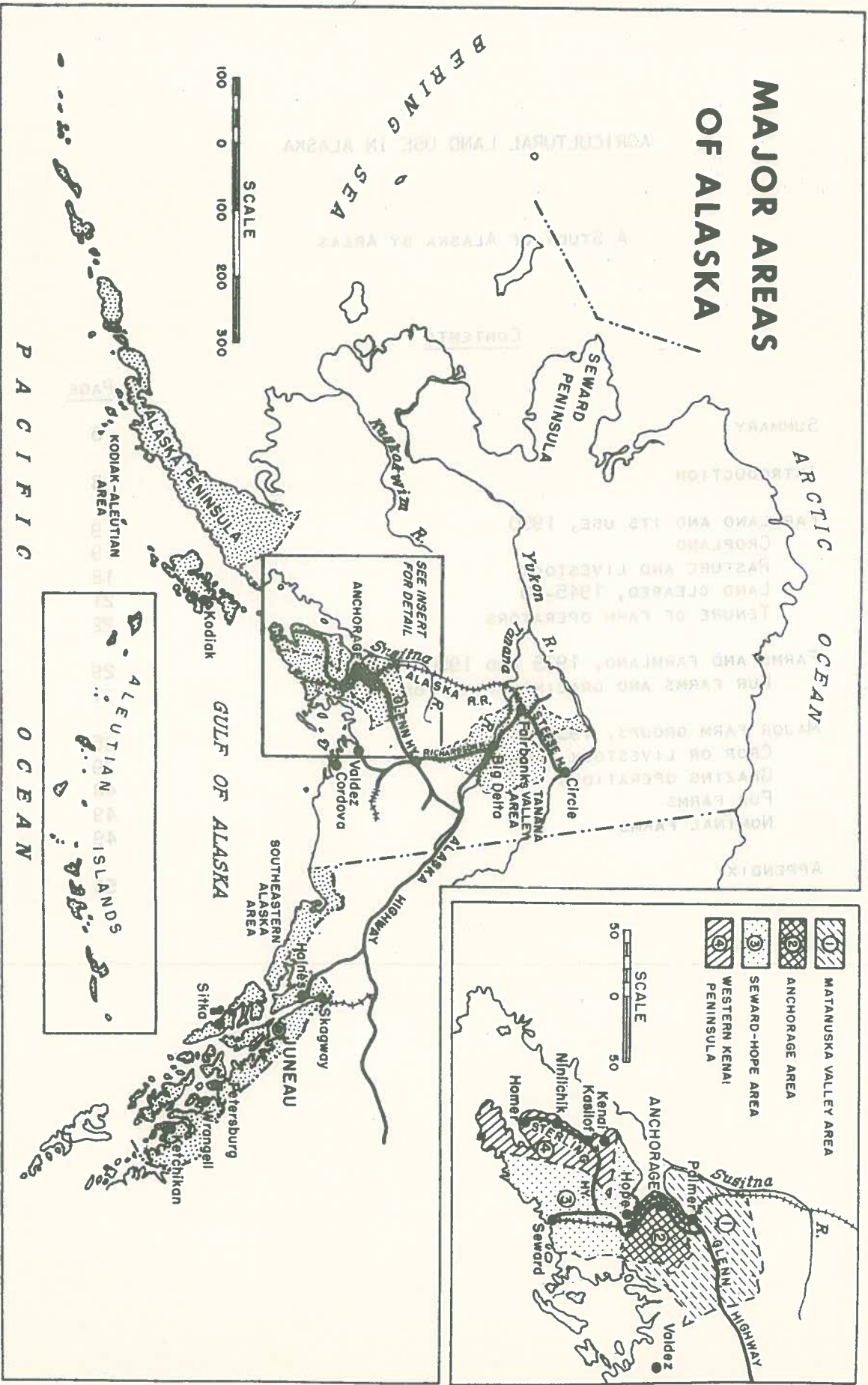
A STUDY OF ALASKA BY AREAS

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MAJOR AREAS OF ALASKA



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SUMMARY

THIS REPORT ON THE AGRICULTURE OF ALASKA IS BASED MAINLY ON INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THE 1939 AND 1950 CENSUSES OF AGRICULTURE.

IN 1939, FARMS NUMBERED 623; IN 1950, THE NUMBER HAD DROPPED TO 525. FARM- LAND DECREASED FROM 1,775,752 ACRES IN 1939 TO 421,799 IN 1950. INCLUDED AMONG THE DECLINING NUMBER OF FARMS WERE THREE LARGE GRAZING OPERATIONS, CONTAINING 672,000 ACRES IN 1939 AND 353,000 IN 1950. ALSO INCLUDED WERE 164 FUR FARMS OF 1,042,253 ACRES IN 1939 AND 18 SUCH FARMS OF 1,101 ACRES IN 1950. EXCLUDING FUR FARMS AND GRAZING OPERATIONS, THE NUMBER OF OTHER FARMS INCREASED - FROM 456 IN 1939 TO 504 IN 1950. ACREAGE IN THESE FARMS INCREASED FROM 61,499 TO 67,698. IN CENTRAL ALASKA BETWEEN THE KENAI PENINSULA AND FAIRBANKS, THE NUMBER OF THESE OTHER FARMS INCREASED, AS DID THE FARMLAND THEY CONTAINED. IN THE REST OF ALASKA DECREASES OCCURRED. A NUMBER OF SMALL FARMS WERE CONSOLIDATED IN THE MATANUSKA VALLEY.

ON FARMS OTHER THAN FUR FARMS AND GRAZING OPERATIONS, THE MAIN CHANGE IN LAND USE IN THE 10 YEARS WAS A DECREASE IN HARVESTED CROPLAND AND AN INCREASE IN PASTURE. HARVESTED CROPLAND WAS CONCENTRATED ON A SMALLER NUMBER OF FARMS IN 1949 THAN IN 1939. IN BOTH YEARS THE MATANUSKA VALLEY HAD TWO-THIRDS OF THE HARVESTED CROPLAND. IN THE LATER YEAR LESS LAND WAS OCCUPIED BY SMALL GRAINS GROWN FOR GRAIN AND MARSH, PRAIRIE, AND OTHER WILD GRASS HAY. ALTHOUGH ACREAGES OF TAME HAY AND FORAGE INCREASED, THE TOTAL HARVESTED ACREAGE OF FEED CROPS DECLINED 24 PERCENT. POTATO ACREAGE INCREASED. AN INCREASING NUMBER OF OPERATORS NOW WORK AWAY FROM THEIR FARMS AND SPECIALIZE IN POTATO OR VEGETABLE PRODUCTION. THIS HAS RESULTED IN MORE INTENSIVE USE OF CROPLAND. IT MAY PARTIALLY ACCOUNT FOR THE DROP IN ACREAGE OF ANIMAL FEEDS.

ACREAGE IN PASTURE, OTHER THAN THAT OF GRAZING OPERATIONS AND FUR FARMS, INCREASED. THE NUMBER OF FARMS REPORTING PASTURE DECREASED. INCREASES IN PASTURE OCCURRED IN THE MATANUSKA VALLEY, THE WESTERN KENAI PENINSULA, THE TANANA VALLEY, AND THE SOUTHEASTERN ALASKA AREAS. ALL OF THESE, EXCEPT THE SOUTHEASTERN ALASKA AREA, HAD LARGER NUMBERS OF CATTLE. AS DAIRY FARMING EXPANDED, MORE ANIMAL FEEDS WERE IMPORTED, MORE CROPS WERE GROWN FOR SILAGE, AND MORE PASTURE WAS USED.

ABOUT A FOURTH OF THE CROPLAND WAS IDLE, MAINLY IN THE MATANUSKA VALLEY, THE TANANA VALLEY, AND THE WESTERN KENAI PENINSULA AREAS. RECENTLY CLEARED LAND THAT WAS NOT YET SUITABLE FOR PLANTING MAKES UP PART OF THIS IDLE CROPLAND. IN THE MATANUSKA VALLEY AND TANANA VALLEY AREAS, ABOUT HALF OF THE IDLE CROPLAND WAS ON 10 FARMS. OPERATORS OF THESE FARMS REPORTED AN UNUSUALLY HIGH PROPORTION OF THE FARMLAND AS CROPLAND.

HOMESTEADING IS AN IMPORTANT MEANS WHEREBY PUBLIC LAND IN ALASKA CAN BE TRANSFERRED TO PRIVATE OWNERSHIP. MANY HOMESTEADERS HAVE NO INTENTION OF FARMING. ONLY ABOUT A SEVENTH OF THE 991 UNPATENTED HOMESTEAD TRACTS UPON WHICH SETTLERS WERE PRESUMABLY ESTABLISHING FARMS WERE REPORTED AS FARMS IN 1950.

ON THE BASIS OF BROAD DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS, FARMS REPORTED BY THE 1950 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE MAY BE CLASSIFIED INTO FOUR MAJOR GROUPS -- 332 CROP OR LIVESTOCK FARMS, 3 GRAZING OPERATIONS, 11 FUR FARMS, AND 179 NOMINAL FARMS.

CROP OR LIVESTOCK FARMS REPORTED MOST OF THE HARVESTED CROPLAND, NEARLY ALL OF THE LIVESTOCK OTHER THAN SHEEP, AND \$1,505,130 VALUE OF FARM PRODUCTS SOLD IN 1949 (96 PERCENT OF THE ALASKA TOTAL). OF THOSE FARMS REPORTING \$1,200 OR MORE FARM PRODUCTS SOLD, A SIXTH WERE DAIRY FARMS, A SIXTH WERE POTATO FARMS, AND A SEVENTH WERE POULTRY FARMS. ALTHOUGH THESE FARM TYPES ACCOUNT FOR LESS THAN HALF OF ALL CROP OR LIVESTOCK FARMS, THEY REPRESENTED FOUR-FIFTHS OF THE SALES OF FARM PRODUCTS FROM CROP OR LIVESTOCK FARMS. HALF OF THE SALES WERE MADE FROM DAIRY FARMS.

THE 170 CROP OR LIVESTOCK FARMS IN THE MATANUSKA VALLEY AREA ACCOUNTED FOR HALF OF THE SALES OF FARM PRODUCTS FROM ALL CROP OR LIVESTOCK FARMS. THIS INCLUDED HALF OF ALL SALES FROM DAIRY FARMS, THREE-FOURTHS OF THE SALES FROM POTATO FARMS, AND TWO-FIFTHS OF THE SALES FROM POULTRY FARMS. THE TANANA VALLEY AREA HAD 46 CROP OR LIVESTOCK FARMS AND REPRESENTED A SEVENTH OF ALL SALES FROM CROP OR LIVESTOCK FARMS. THE 44 GENERALLY SMALL CROP OR LIVESTOCK FARMS IN SOUTHEASTERN ALASKA REPORTED A FIFTH OF THE SALES MADE FROM CROP OR LIVESTOCK FARMS. HALF OF THESE FARMS WERE DAIRY OR POULTRY FARMS. THE WESTERN KENAI PENINSULA AREA IS COMPARATIVELY LITTLE DEVELOPED AT PRESENT. IT HAS ONLY 27 SMALL-SCALE CROP OR LIVESTOCK FARMS.

EXTENSIVE AREAS IN THE KODIAK-ALEUTIAN AREA PHYSICALLY ARE SUITABLE FOR GRAZING. THREE GRAZING OPERATIONS REPORTED BY THE CENSUS CONTAINED 352,970 ACRES OF NON-WOODLAND PASTURE. SUPPLEMENTAL DATA SHOWS THAT EIGHT OTHER SHEEP OR CATTLE OPERATIONS IN THE AREA CONTAINED AN ESTIMATED 135,788 ACRES OF GRAZING LAND.

MOST FUR FARMS WERE LOCATED IN THE SOUTHEASTERN ALASKA AREA. OPERATORS OF THESE FARMS REPORTED NEARLY ALL OF THE FUR ANIMALS ON ALASKAN FARMS. THEY SOLD LIVE FUR ANIMALS OR PELTS VALUED AT \$36,749 IN 1949.

NOMINAL FARMS WERE THOSE FARMS WITH LESS THAN 2 ACRES OF HARVESTED CROPLAND AND LESS THAN \$150 VALUE OF FARM PRODUCTS SOLD. ALTOGETHER, OPERATORS OF THESE 179 FARMS REPORTED ONLY 35 ACRES OF HARVESTED CROPLAND, A FEW CATTLE AND POULTRY, AND \$1,007 RECEIVED FROM THE SALE OF FARM PRODUCTS IN 1949. OF THESE FARMS, 111 WERE ON THE KENAI PENINSULA AND 34 OTHERS WERE IN THE TANANA VALLEY AREA. A NUMBER OF RESIDENTIAL UNITS AND 76 RECENTLY ESTABLISHED HOMESTEADS WERE INCLUDED.

SOILS, CLIMATE, AND TERRAIN ARE SUITABLE FOR FURTHER AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MATANUSKA VALLEY, THE TANANA VALLEY, AND THE WESTERN KENAI PENINSULA AREAS. HIGHWAYS CONNECT FARMS IN THESE AREAS WITH ANCHORAGE AND FAIRBANKS. THE INCREASE IN POPULATION IN THE LAST DECADE WAS GREATEST IN THE "RAILBELT" REGION IN WHICH THESE AREAS LIE. MOST OF THE MILITARY INSTALLATIONS AND PERSONNEL ARE ALSO IN THIS REGION. THUS LOCAL DEMAND HAS INCREASED.

MATERIAL ADVANCES IN AGRICULTURE HAVE BEEN MADE IN ALASKA ALTHOUGH LARGE AMOUNTS OF LABOR AND CAPITAL MUST BE EXPENDED TO CHANGE UNDEVELOPED AREAS INTO PRODUCTIVE FARMS. THE RISK INVOLVED IN ESTABLISHING FARM ENTERPRISES HAS RESULTED IN A LACK OF OUTSIDE INVESTMENT CAPITAL. INCREASED COMMERCIALIZED FARMING HAS BROUGHT FARM OPERATORS A STANDARD OF LIVING THAT IS COMPARABLE WITH NON-AGRICULTURAL STANDARDS, THUS PROVIDING A BASIS FOR A MORE PERMANENT AGRICULTURE. IN THE 1940'S THERE WAS A CHANGE TOWARD A GREATER CONCENTRATION OF FARMS IN OR ADJACENT TO THE "RAILBELT" REGION. OPERATORS OF MORE ISOLATED SUBSISTENCE FARMS FOUND NONAGRICULTURAL INCOMES MORE ATTRACTIVE. MANY OPERATORS IN AGRICULTURAL AREAS WHO DID NOT HAVE SUFFICIENT CAPITAL TO ATTAIN

FULL-TIME COMMERCIAL FARM OPERATIONS HAD CHANGED TO PART-TIME FARMING, EMPHASIZING SINGLE-CROP OR LIVESTOCK SPECIALTIES. BETTER BREEDS OF LIVESTOCK AND MORE SATISFACTORY VARIETIES OF CROPS FOR ALASKAN CONDITIONS HAVE BEEN INTRODUCED. MARKETING AND FARM-MANAGEMENT STUDIES HAVE BROUGHT OUT BETTER WAYS OF OPERATING. ALTHOUGH FARM COMMODITIES SHIPPED FROM THE 48 STATES WILL CONTINUE TO COMPETE STRONGLY WITH LOCAL PRODUCE IN THE ALASKAN MARKET, THE GREATER ECONOMIES OF PRODUCTION AND THE INCREASED SCALE OF SPECIALIZED FARM OPERATIONS MAY BE EXPECTED TO RESULT IN AN EXPANDING VOLUME OF ALASKAN FARM PRODUCTS SOLD TO THE ALASKAN MARKET.

AGRICULTURAL LAND USE IN ALASKA

A STUDY OF ALASKA BY AREAS

BY

ROBERT J. COFFMAN, FORMERLY AGRICULTURAL ECONOMIST,
PRODUCTION ECONOMICS RESEARCH BRANCH, AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

AND

HUGH A. JOHNSON, HEAD, DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS,
ALASKA AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION

INTRODUCTION

AGRICULTURE IN ALASKA IS VIEWED WITH INCREASING INTEREST AND CONCERN AS PROBLEMS OF STATEHOOD, STRATEGIC LOCATION, AND HIGH COSTS OF FARM PRODUCTS CONFRONT THE TERRITORY. THE CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE CONTAINS MUCH INFORMATION CONCERNING ALASKA. IT WAS BELIEVED THAT THIS INFORMATION COULD BE CLARIFIED BY SHOWING AGRICULTURAL CHARACTERISTICS FOR SIGNIFICANT FARMING AREAS SUCH AS THE MATANUSKA VALLEY, THE TANANA VALLEY, AND THE KENAI PENINSULA. ALSO THAT SEPARATING FARMS INTO MAJOR FARM GROUPS ON THE BASIS OF BROAD DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS WOULD MORE CLEARLY SHOW THE ROLE OF THESE FARMS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF AGRICULTURE IN THE TERRITORY AND IN THE CHANGES THAT OCCURRED BETWEEN 1939 AND 1950.

THE EIGHT MAJOR AREAS USED FOR THIS STUDY ARE AS FOLLOWS: THE MATANUSKA VALLEY, THE TANANA VALLEY, THE WESTERN KENAI PENINSULA, THE SOUTHEASTERN ALASKA, THE KODIAK-ALEUTIAN, THE ANCHORAGE, THE SEWARD-HOPE, AND THE "ALL OTHER" AREAS. THE MAP ON PAGE 4 DELINEATES THESE AREAS.

BECAUSE THE STUDY REPORTED HERE WAS BASED PRIMARILY ON THE CENSUSES OF AGRICULTURE FOR 1939 AND 1950, THE TERMS USED CONFORM TO CENSUS DEFINITIONS. THESE TERMS ARE DEFINED AND EXPLAINED IN THE INTRODUCTORY SECTIONS OF THE PUBLISHED CENSUSES OF AGRICULTURE FOR ALASKA. DEFINITIONS OF A FARM, FARM OPERATOR, LAND RENTED FROM OTHERS, AND LAND IN FARMS, USED IN COMPILING CENSUS DATA, ARE CONTAINED IN THE APPENDIX. IN USING THIS REPORT, THESE DEFINITIONS MUST BE KEPT IN MIND. CENSUS DEFINITIONS PROVIDE DATA UNIFORM WITH THOSE ENUMERATED IN THE 48 STATES. BUT THESE DATA MAY BE MISLEADING WHEN CONSIDERING AGRICULTURE IN ALASKA ALONE. THE READER'S CONCEPT OF A FARM MAY NOT CONFORM TO THE CENSUS DEFINITION CONCERNING ALASKAN FARMS. BUT IT IS FELT THAT THIS REPORT WILL CLARIFY SOME OF THE PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED IN USING CENSUS INFORMATION ON ALASKAN AGRICULTURE.

FARMLAND AND ITS USE, 1950

IN 1950 THE 525 FARMS IN ALASKA WERE LARGELY CONCENTRATED IN THREE AREAS. THE MATANUSKA VALLEY, THE TANANA VALLEY, AND THE WESTERN KENAI PENINSULA AREAS ACCOUNTED FOR NEARLY THREE-FOURTHS OF ALL FARMS IN ALASKA. MORE THAN TWO-THIRDS WERE WITHIN 100 MILES OF ANCHORAGE. FARMS IN THE TANANA VALLEY WERE CLUSTERED AROUND FAIRBANKS AND THE NORTHERN END OF THE RICHARDSON HIGHWAY. NEARLY HALF THE POPULATION OF ALASKA IS CONCENTRATED IN OR NEAR THESE THREE AREAS. LOCAL MARKETS AND AVAILABILITY OF RAIL AND HIGHWAY TRANSPORTATION HAVE INFLUENCED AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN ALASKA.

TOTAL ACREAGE REPORTED IN FARMS IN 1950 AMOUNTED TO 421,799 ACRES. THE THREE AREAS LISTED ABOVE HAD NEARLY THREE-FOURTHS OF THE FARMS. THE KODIAK-ALEUTIAN AREA, HOWEVER, BECAUSE OF THE LARGE ACREAGES OF PUBLIC LAND LEASED FOR GRAZING, HAD MORE THAN THREE-FOURTHS OF THE TOTAL ACREAGE REPORTED AS FARMLAND (FIG.1). BUT MORE THAN 87 PERCENT OF THE 12,385 ACRES OF CROPLAND WAS IN THE MATANUSKA VALLEY, THE WESTERN KENAI PENINSULA, AND THE TANANA VALLEY AREAS. ACREAGE REPORTED AS FARMLAND INCREASED IN THESE AREAS. IN OTHER AREAS MORE REMOTE FROM POPULATION CENTERS AND TRANSPORTATION OR OTHER PUBLIC FACILITIES IT DECREASED. FROM 1939 TO 1949 ACREAGE OF CROPLAND INCREASED CONSIDERABLY IN THE MATANUSKA VALLEY AND THE WESTERN KENAI PENINSULA AREAS. 1/ IN THESE TWO AREAS, AND IN THE TANANA VALLEY AREA ACREAGES OF PASTURE AND NUMBERS OF CATTLE INCREASED ALSO. OF THE 366,028 ACRES IN PASTURE, ABOUT 95 PERCENT WAS PUBLICLY OWNED RANGELAND LEASED BY CATTLE AND SHEEP RANCHERS IN THE KODIAK-ALEUTIAN AREA.

CROPLAND

THE 1950 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE REPORTED 12,385 ACRES OF CROPLAND IN ALASKA. 2/ OF THIS, 7,266 ACRES WERE IN THE MATANUSKA VALLEY AREA, 2,039 ACRES IN THE TANANA VALLEY AREA, AND 1,438 ACRES IN THE WESTERN KENAI PENINSULA AREA. THESE THREE AREAS ACCOUNTED FOR MORE THAN FOUR-FIFTHS OF ALL CROPLAND REPORTED IN ALASKA IN 1949 (TABLE 1). OF THE TOTAL CROPLAND, 6,450 ACRES WERE HARVESTED, 248 ACRES WERE IN CROPS THAT FAILED, 3,238 ACRES WERE IDLE, AND 2,449 ACRES WERE PASTURED.

HARVESTED CROPLAND

THE 1950 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE REPORTED 6,450 ACRES OF HARVESTED CROPLAND IN ALASKA, 71 PERCENT OF WHICH WAS IN THE MATANUSKA VALLEY AREA. IN THIS AREA ONLY WAS ACREAGE OF HARVESTED CROPLAND HIGHER IN 1949 THAN IN 1939. FOR THE TERRITORY AS A WHOLE, ACREAGE OF HARVESTED CROPLAND DROPPED FROM 7,305 IN 1939 TO 6,450 IN 1949 (TABLE 2).

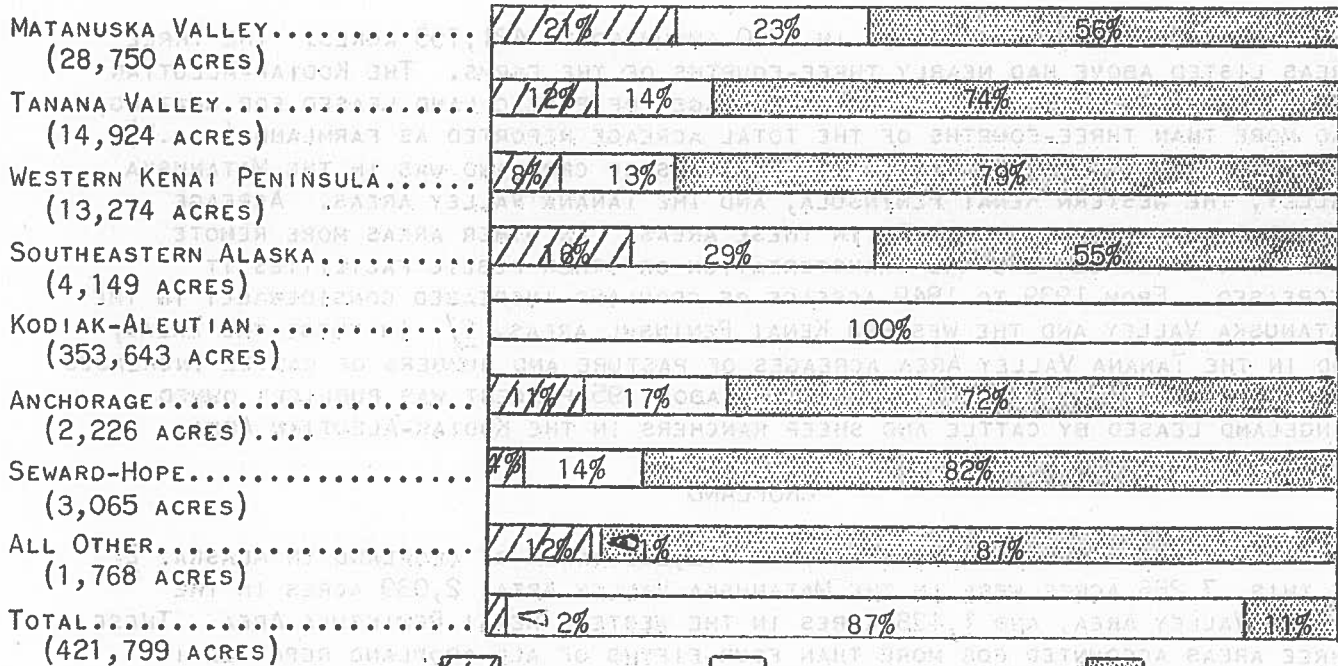
ABOUT 59 PERCENT OF THE FARMS IN ALASKA HAD HARVESTED CROPLAND IN 1949 COMPARED TO 75 PERCENT IN 1939. IN THE MATANUSKA VALLEY, THE PERCENTAGE OF FARMS REPORTING HARVESTED CROPLAND WAS CONSIDERABLY HIGHER THAN THE AVERAGE FOR ALASKA AS A WHOLE IN BOTH YEARS.

1/ THE 1950 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE WAS TAKEN AS OF APRIL 1, 1950. ALTHOUGH INVENTORY ITEMS ENUMERATED RELATE TO APRIL 1, 1950, LAND USE DATA AND SALES FROM FARM PRODUCTION RELATE TO THE CALENDAR YEAR OF 1949. CONSEQUENTLY, BOTH 1949 AND 1950 ARE REFERRED TO IN THIS STUDY ON DATA FROM THE 1950 CENSUS.

2/ TOTAL CROPLAND INCLUDES HARVESTED CROPLAND, CROPLAND ON WHICH CROPS FAILED, IDLE CROPLAND, AND CROPLAND USED ONLY FOR PASTURE.

FARMLAND USE

By Areas, Alaska, 1949



TYPE LAND: CROPLAND PASTURED OR GRAZED* OTHER

UNPUBLISHED DATA FROM THE BUREAU OF THE CENSUS *INCLUDES CROPLAND AND WOODLAND PASTURED

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE NEG. 54(10)-545 AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE

FIGURE 1. ALMOST ALL LAND REPORTED BY THE CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE IN THE KODIAK-ALEUTIAN AREA IN 1950 WAS REPORTED AS PASTURELAND. THAT AREA ACCOUNTS FOR MORE THAN FOUR-FIFTHS OF THE TOTAL ACREAGE REPORTED AS FARMLAND IN ALASKA. BECAUSE OF THIS THE PERCENTAGE OF LAND PASTURED OR GRAZED FOR ALASKA AS A WHOLE IS HIGH. THE MATANUSKA VALLEY AND SOUTHEASTERN ALASKA AREAS SHOW A SIGNIFICANT PERCENTAGE OF FARMLAND REPORTED AS CROPLAND, OTHER THAN CROPLAND USED FOR PASTURE.

TABLE 1. CROPLAND BY MAJOR AREAS, ALASKA, 1949 1/

AREA	TOTAL	HAR-VESTED	FAILED	IDLE	PAS-TURED
	ACRES	ACRES	ACRES	ACRES	ACRES
MATANUSKA VALLEY	7,266	4,566	121	1,187	1,392
TANANA VALLEY	2,039	1,017	54	725	243
WESTERN KENAI PENINSULA	1,438	276	54	657	451
SOUTHEASTERN ALASKA	885	351	10	297	227
KODIAK-ALEUTIAN	46	31	0	0	15
ANCHORAGE	338	129	9	113	87
SEWARD-HOPE	136	26	0	99	11
ALL OTHER	237	54	0	160	23
TOTAL	12,385	6,450	248	3,238	2,449

1/ UNPUBLISHED DATA FROM THE 1950 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE USED BY PERMISSION OF THE BUREAU OF THE CENSUS.

TABLE 2. HARVESTED CROPLAND, BY MAJOR AREAS, ALASKA, 1949 AND 1939 1/

AREA	1949			1939		
	FARMS REPORT-ING	CROPLAND HARVESTED	PERCENT-AGE OF TOTAL CROPLAND HARVESTED	FARMS REPORT-ING	CROPLAND HARVESTED	PERCENT-AGE OF TOTAL CROPLAND HARVESTED
	NUMBER	ACRES	PERCENT	NUMBER	ACRES	PERCENT
MATANUSKA VALLEY	164	4,566	70.8	219	4,398	60.2
TANANA VALLEY	43	1,017	15.8	30	1,253	17.1
WESTERN KENAI PENINSULA	30	276	4.3	36	431	5.9
SOUTHEASTERN ALASKA	30	351	5.4	98	585	8.0
KODIAK-ALEUTIAN	2	2/	2/	4	123	1.7
ANCHORAGE	17	129	2.0	23	270	3.7
SEWARD-HOPE	18	57	0.9	32	100	1.4
ALL OTHER	6	54	0.8	26	145	2.0
TOTAL	310	6,450	100.0	468	7,305	100.0

1/ UNPUBLISHED DATA REPORTED BY THE 1950 AND 1939 CENSUSES OF AGRICULTURE USED BY PERMISSION OF THE BUREAU OF THE CENSUS.

2/ INCLUDED WITH THE SEWARD-HOPE AREA.

ACREAGE OF CEREAL CROPS OR LEGUMES HARVESTED FOR GRAIN OR FOR SEED IN ALASKA DECREASED FROM 1,869 ACRES IN 1939 TO 755 IN 1949 (TABLE 3). THE DECLINE IN ACREAGE OF HAY AND FORAGE RESULTED LARGELY FROM A DECREASE IN REPORTED ACREAGES OF MARSH, PRAIRIE, AND OTHER WILD GRASSES CUT FOR HAY. AN INCREASED LOCAL DEMAND FOR POTATOES RESULTED IN A SIZABLE INCREASE IN ACREAGE OF POTATOES -- FROM 388 ACRES IN 1939 TO 1,030 IN 1949. ACREAGES OF VEGETABLES AND SMALL FRUITS ALSO INCREASED DURING THE 1940'S.

THUS, FROM 1939 TO 1949 THERE WAS A MAJOR SHIFT IN CROPS GROWN IN ALASKA. SMALL GRAINS DECLINED IN IMPORTANCE AND PRODUCTION OF POTATOES INCREASED. NEARLY HALF OF THE REPORTED DECLINE IN CROPLAND HARVESTED SINCE 1939 IS ACCOUNTED FOR BY A DECREASE IN THE REPORTED ACREAGE OF WILD HAY. MUCH OF THIS HAY WAS CUT FROM LAND NOT SUITED TO OTHER CROPS. SEVERAL OTHER CONDITIONS ALSO CONTRIBUTED TO THE REPORTED DECLINE IN HARVESTED CROPLAND. OPERATIONS WERE DISCONTINUED ON MANY ISOLATED FARMS. THE LARGE TURNOVER OF FARM OPERATORS AFFECTED THE USE OF CROPLAND. HIGH NONAGRICULTURAL WAGES INDUCED MANY FARM OPERATORS TO WORK THEIR FARMS ON A PART-TIME BASIS. AS A RESULT ACREAGES OF HARVESTED CROPLAND ON THESE FARMS DECLINED.

IN ALASKA, HARVESTED CROPLAND IS CONCENTRATED ON RELATIVELY FEW FARMS. IN 1949, ONLY THREE-FIFTHS OF THE FARMS REPORTED ANY CROPLAND HARVESTED. OF THOSE REPORTING, THE THIRD HAVING MORE THAN 20 ACRES OF CROPLAND HARVESTED PER FARM ACCOUNTED FOR 80 PERCENT OF THE CROPLAND HARVESTED. ANOTHER THIRD REPORTED 5 ACRES OR LESS OF HARVESTED CROPLAND (TABLE 4). IN 1939, THREE-FOURTHS OF THE FARMS HAD CROPLAND HARVESTED, BUT ONLY A FOURTH OF THESE HAD MORE THAN 20 ACRES EACH. THEY REPRESENTED 71 PERCENT OF THE CROPLAND HARVESTED. ABOUT TWO-FIFTHS OF THE FARMS WITH HARVESTED CROPLAND HAD 5 ACRES OR LESS IN 1939. THIS INDICATES A GREATER CONCENTRATION OF HARVESTED CROPLAND ON FEWER FARMS IN 1949 THAN IN 1939.

BETWEEN 1939 AND 1949, THE NUMBER OF FARMS IN THE MATANUSKA VALLEY AREA REPORTING MORE THAN 20 ACRES OF HARVESTED CROPLAND DECREASED FROM 91 TO 80. HOWEVER, INCREASED AVERAGE HARVESTED CROPLAND PER FARM RESULTED IN A TOTAL NET INCREASE OF ABOUT 600 ACRES OF HARVESTED CROPLAND IN THESE FARMS. IN THE WESTERN KENAI PENINSULA AND THE TANANA VALLEY AREAS, THE NUMBER OF FARMS HAVING MORE THAN 20 ACRES OF HARVESTED CROPLAND PER FARM AND TOTAL CROPLAND HARVESTED IN THESE FARMS DECLINED BETWEEN 1939 AND 1949. DECREASES IN NUMBERS OF FARMS AND IN ACREAGE ALSO OCCURRED FOR FARMS REPORTING BETWEEN 11 AND 20 ACRES OF HARVESTED CROPLAND PER FARM. BUT IN THE TANANA VALLEY AREA, A LARGER NUMBER OF FARMS REPORTED LESS THAN 11 ACRES OF HARVESTED CROPLAND IN 1949 THAN IN 1939. HARVESTED ACREAGES ON THESE FARMS ALSO INCREASED. THE WESTERN KENAI PENINSULA AREA SHOWED INCREASES ONLY IN FARMS REPORTING BETWEEN 6 AND 10 ACRES OF HARVESTED CROPLAND. IN ALL OTHER AREAS, THE NUMBER OF FARMS AND THE ACREAGES OF HARVESTED CROPLAND IN THESE FARMS DROPPED BETWEEN THE CENSUS YEARS.

IDLE CROPLAND

IN 1949, 3,238 ACRES, A FOURTH OF ALL CROPLAND, WERE REPORTED BY THE CENSUS AS IDLE CROPLAND. THIS IS A HIGH PROPORTION OF THE CROPLAND. BUT ACREAGE REPORTED AS IDLE CROPLAND IN 1949 MAY HAVE INCLUDED SOME LAND NOT GENERALLY CONSIDERED IDLE CROPLAND. THIS ACREAGE WAS DETERMINED FROM ANSWERS TO THIS QUESTION, WHAT LAND IN THE FARM, OTHER THAN HARVESTED ACREAGE OR LAND ON WHICH CROPS HAD FAILED THAT WAS NOT PASTURED OR GRAZED IN 1949, COULD BE PLOWED FOR CROPS WITHOUT ADDITIONAL CLEARING OR DRAINING? UNDER THIS DEFINITION RECENTLY CLEARED LAND NOT SUITABLE FOR CULTIVATION AT PRESENT COULD BE INCLUDED. ALSO INCLUDED MAY HAVE BEEN LAND WHICH THE OPERATOR HOPED TO PLOW IN THE FUTURE ALTHOUGH IT HAD NOT PREVIOUSLY BEEN USED FOR CROPS.

TABLE 3. ACREAGE OF SPECIFIED CROPS HARVESTED IN ALASKA, 1949 AND 1939

CROPS HARVESTED	1949	1939
	ACRES	ACRES
CEREALS OR LEGUMES HARVESTED FOR GRAIN OR FOR SEED:		
MIXED GRAINS	163	88
WHEAT	204	527
OATS	333	527
BARLEY	55	654
PEAS	---	73
TOTAL	755	1,869
HAY AND FORAGE CROPS:		
TAME HAY AND FORAGE ^{1/}	4,014	3,659
MARSH, PRAIRIE, AND OTHER WILD GRASSES CUT FOR HAY	193	609
ROOT CROPS FOR FORAGE ^{2/}	---	33
MATURE CROPS GRAZED OR HOGGED OFF ^{2/}	---	325
TOTAL	4,207	4,626
OTHER FIELD CROPS:		
POTATOES	1,030	388
TOTAL CEREALS OR LEGUMES HARVESTED FOR GRAIN OR FOR SEED, HAY AND FORAGE CROPS, AND OTHER FIELD CROPS	5,992	6,883
TOTAL SMALL FRUITS, VEGETABLES, ORCHARD FRUITS	221	174
OTHER HARVESTED ACREAGES	237	248
TOTAL HARVESTED CROPLAND	6,450	7,305

^{1/} INCLUDES TAME OR CULTIVATED HAY AND SMALL GRAINS CUT FOR HAY IN 1939, AND TAME AND CULTIVATED GRASS CUT FOR HAY AND MIXED GRAINS CUT FOR HAY AND SILAGE IN 1949.

^{2/} DATA NOT REPORTED IN 1949, BUT ACREAGES FOR THESE ITEMS ARE PROBABLY INCLUDED IN ACREAGES OF OTHER HAY OR FORAGE CROPS OR IN OTHER HARVESTED CROP ACREAGES.

TABLE 4. FARMS REPORTING AND CROPLAND HARVESTED, BY SPECIFIED CROPLAND HARVESTED ACREAGE PER FARM AND BY MAJOR AREAS, ALASKA, 1949 AND 1939 1/

AREA AND ITEM	UNIT	TOTAL		5 OR LESS		6 TO 10		11 TO 20		OVER 20	
		1949	1939	1949	1939	1949	1939	1949	1939	1949	1939
ACREAGE PER FARM											
MATANUSKA VALLEY											
FARMS REPORTING	NUMBER	164	219	23	42	28	23	33	63	80	91
CROPLAND HARVESTED	ACRES	4,566	4,398	59	75	217	192	536	981	3,754	3,150
TANANA VALLEY											
FARMS REPORTING	NUMBER	43	30	24	7	7	5	3	8	9	10
CROPLAND HARVESTED	ACRES	1,017	1,253	48	18	56	35	41	127	872	1,073
WESTERN KENAI PENINSULA											
FARMS REPORTING	NUMBER	30	36	15	19	6	3	4	6	5	8
CROPLAND HARVESTED	ACRES	276	431	28	39	41	22	53	93	154	277
SOUTHEASTERN ALASKA											
FARMS REPORTING	NUMBER	30	98	22	77	1	5	1	7	6	9
CROPLAND HARVESTED	ACRES	351	585	38	88	3/	38	3/	109	284	350
KODIAK-ALEUTIAN											
FARMS REPORTING	NUMBER	2	4	1	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
CROPLAND HARVESTED	ACRES	2/	123	3/	3/	0	3/	0	3/	3/	3/
ANCHORAGE											
FARMS REPORTING	NUMBER	17	23	10	10	3	5	3	3	1	5
CROPLAND HARVESTED	ACRES	129	270	20	21	25	48	54	47	3/	154
SEWARD-HOPE											
FARMS REPORTING	NUMBER	18	32	18	24	0	6	0	2	0	0
CROPLAND HARVESTED	ACRES	57	100	26	33	0	44	0	3/	0	0
ALL OTHER											
FARMS REPORTING	NUMBER	6	26	2	19	2	3	1	2	1	2
CROPLAND HARVESTED	ACRES	54	145	3/	41	3/	20	3/	3/	3/	3/
TOTAL											
FARMS REPORTING	NUMBER	310	468	115	199	47	51	45	92	103	126
CROPLAND HARVESTED	ACRES	6,450	7,305	229	316	361	405	715	1,423	5,145	5,161

1/ UNPUBLISHED DATA FROM THE 1950 AND 1939 CENSUSES OF AGRICULTURE USED BY PERMISSION OF THE BUREAU OF THE CENSUS.
 2/ INCLUDED WITH THE SEWARD-HOPE AREA.
 3/ INCLUDED IN AREA AND ALASKA TOTALS.

THREE AREAS HAD A PREDOMINANT PART OF THE TOTAL CROPLAND AND ALSO OF IDLE CROPLAND IN 1949 (TABLE 1). THE MATANUSKA VALLEY, THE TANANA VALLEY, AND THE WESTERN KENAI PENINSULA AREAS ACCOUNTED FOR 87 PERCENT OF ALL CROPLAND AND 79 PERCENT OF IDLE CROPLAND IN ALASKA.

THE MATANUSKA VALLEY AREA HAD 1,187 ACRES OF IDLE CROPLAND IN 1949 -- MORE THAN A THIRD OF ALL IDLE CROPLAND IN ALASKA. IN THIS AREA 173 OPERATORS REPORTED 7,266 ACRES OF CROPLAND, OF WHICH ABOUT A SIXTH WAS IDLE CROPLAND ON 65 FARMS (TABLE 5). THIS LARGE ACREAGE OF IDLE CROPLAND CANNOT BE ATTRIBUTED MAINLY TO NEW UNITS OR TO THE TURNOVER OF OPERATORS. ONLY 17 OF THE 65 OPERATORS WHO REPORTED IDLE CROPLAND BEGAN OPERATING THEIR PRESENT FARMS AFTER 1947. THEY ACCOUNTED FOR ONLY ABOUT A SIXTH OF ALL IDLE CROPLAND IN THE AREA. THE 65 FARMS REPORTING IDLE CROPLAND IN THE MATANUSKA VALLEY HAD ABOUT AS MUCH CROPLAND PER FARM AS DID ALL FARMS IN THE AREA, BUT THE AVERAGE OF HARVESTED CROPLAND WAS SMALLER.

MORE SIGNIFICANT IS THE FACT THAT 6 OF THE 65 FARMS, EACH HAVING 50 ACRES OR MORE OF IDLE CROPLAND, ACCOUNTED FOR ALMOST HALF OF THE IDLE CROPLAND IN THE MATANUSKA VALLEY. SEVENTY-TWO PERCENT OF THE FARMLAND IN THESE 6 FARMS WAS REPORTED AS CROPLAND. THIS PERCENTAGE COMPARES WITH THE 28 PERCENT FOR ALL FARMS REPORTING IDLE CROPLAND AND THE 26 PERCENT FOR ALL FARMS REPORTING CROPLAND. A COMPARISON OF CROPLAND HARVESTED AS A PERCENTAGE OF LAND IN FARMS SHOWS 12 PERCENT FOR FARMS WITH 50 OR MORE ACRES OF IDLE CROPLAND. IT ALSO SHOWS 12 PERCENT FOR ALL FARMS REPORTING IDLE CROPLAND AND 16 PERCENT FOR ALL FARMS REPORTING CROPLAND (THIS INCLUDES FARMS THAT MAY HAVE REPORTED NO HARVESTED CROPLAND). THUS THE PROPORTION OF HARVESTED CROPLAND ON FARMS WITH 50 ACRES OR MORE OF IDLE CROPLAND DOES NOT DIFFER GREATLY FROM THAT OF ALL FARMS REPORTING CROPLAND. HOWEVER, THE PROPORTION OF LAND REPORTED AS CROPLAND ON THESE FARMS IS MUCH GREATER.

IDLE CROPLAND REPORTED IN THE WESTERN KENAI PENINSULA AREA DIFFER CONSIDERABLY FROM THAT OF THE MATANUSKA VALLEY. IN THIS AREA, 55 FARMERS REPORTED 657 ACRES OF IDLE CROPLAND OR NEARLY HALF OF ALL CROPLAND IN THE AREA. ON THESE 55 FARMS, NINE-TENTHS OF THE CROPLAND WAS IDLE, AND 43 OF THE FARMERS REPORTED ALL THEIR CROPLAND IDLE (TABLE 6). MORE THAN TWO-THIRDS OF THE FARMS ON WHICH IDLE CROPLAND WAS REPORTED WERE STARTED BY THEIR PRESENT OPERATORS AFTER 1947. HALF OF THEM WERE UNPATENTED HOMESTEADS.

ON A NUMBER OF FARMS IN THE WESTERN KENAI PENINSULA AREA WHICH HAD IDLE CROPLAND, A SIGNIFICANT RELATIONSHIP EXISTS BETWEEN THE IDLE CROPLAND REPORTED AND LAND CLEARED SINCE 1945. TWENTY-FIVE OF THE 55 FARMS WITH IDLE CROPLAND INDICATED IDENTICAL ACREAGES OF IDLE CROPLAND AND RECENTLY CLEARED LAND. THIS ACREAGE TOTALLING 118 ALSO WAS THE ENTIRE CROPLAND ON THESE FARMS. SEVENTEEN OF THE FARMS WERE SETTLED BY THEIR PRESENT OPERATORS IN 1949 OR 1950. MOST OF THE OTHERS WERE BEGUN AFTER 1945. RECENTLY CLEARED LAND MAY HAVE BEEN REPORTED AS IDLE CROPLAND ON A RELATIVELY LARGE PROPORTION OF THE FARMS. BUT MORE THAN HALF OF THE IDLE CROPLAND IN THE AREA (356 ACRES) WAS ON 13 FARMS ON WHICH NO LAND HAD BEEN CLEARED SINCE 1945. ABOUT A THIRD OF ALL IDLE CROPLAND IN THE AREA WAS ON 3 OF THESE FARMS.

IN THE TANANA VALLEY AREA, 63 FARMERS REPORTED CROPLAND. ALL IDLE CROPLAND WAS IN 31 OF THESE FARMS. ALSO IN THESE FARMS WERE 34 PERCENT OF THE LAND IN FARMS ON WHICH CROPLAND WAS REPORTED, 42 PERCENT OF THE CROPLAND, AND 10 PERCENT OF THE CROPLAND HARVESTED (TABLE 7). THIS INDICATES THAT A LARGER PERCENTAGE OF LAND WAS REPORTED AS CROPLAND ON FARMS HAVING IDLE CROPLAND, AND THAT THE PERCENTAGE OF HARVESTED CROPLAND WAS CONSIDERABLY LOWER ON THESE UNITS.

TABLE 5. FARMLAND AND CROPLAND IN FARMS REPORTING 50 ACRES OR MORE OF IDLE CROPLAND, IN ALL FARMS REPORTING IDLE CROPLAND, AND IN ALL FARMS REPORTING CROPLAND, MATANUSKA VALLEY AREA, 1949 ^{1/}

ITEM	FARMS NUMBER	LAND IN FARMS ACRES	CROPLAND		
			TOTAL ACRES	HARVESTED ACRES	IDLE ACRES
FARMS REPORTING: 50 ACRES OR MORE OF IDLE CROPLAND	6	1,167	838	140	550
IDLE CROPLAND	65	9,871	2,754	1,219	1,187
CROPLAND	173	27,965	7,266	4,566	1,187

^{1/} UNPUBLISHED DATA FROM THE 1950 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE USED BY PERMISSION OF THE BUREAU OF THE CENSUS.

TABLE 6. FARMLAND AND CROPLAND IN FARMS REPORTING IDLE CROPLAND, CLASSIFIED BY YEAR OPERATOR BEGAN ON PRESENT FARM, AND IN ALL FARMS REPORTING CROPLAND, WESTERN KENAI PENINSULA AREA, 1949 ^{1/}

ITEM	FARMS NUMBER	LAND IN FARMS ACRES	CROPLAND		
			TOTAL ACRES	HARVESTED ACRES	IDLE ACRES
FARMS REPORTING: IDLE CROPLAND BY PERIOD OPERATIONS BEGAN:					
1948-50	38	5,135	416	3	409
1945-47	9	736	171	17	136
BEFORE 1945	8	859	133	21	112
TOTAL	55	6,730	720	41	657
CROPLAND	80	9,846	1,438	276	657

^{1/} UNPUBLISHED DATA FROM THE 1950 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE USED BY PERMISSION OF THE BUREAU OF THE CENSUS.

ABOUT 30 PERCENT OF THE IDLE CROPLAND IN THE AREA WAS LOCATED ON 8 FARMS WHOSE OPERATORS HAD BEGUN OPERATIONS AFTER 1947. ANOTHER 33 PERCENT WAS FOUND ON 10 UNITS BEGUN BY THEIR PRESENT OPERATORS BETWEEN 1945 AND 1947. ON THESE 18 FARMS, 95 PERCENT OF THE CROPLAND WAS REPORTED AS IDLE. FOUR AREA FARMS HAD 367 ACRES OF IDLE CROPLAND OR 51 PERCENT OF ALL IDLE CROPLAND REPORTED IN THE TANANA VALLEY AREA. IN THESE 4 FARMS WERE 610 ACRES OF FARMLAND, OF WHICH 373 ACRES WERE CROPLAND. PRACTICALLY ALL OF THIS LAND WAS IDLE. AS IN THE MATANUSKA VALLEY, THE RATIO OF CROPLAND TO TOTAL FARMLAND WAS EXCEPTIONALLY HIGH ON A FEW FARMS HAVING A HIGH PROPORTION OF THE IDLE CROPLAND.

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN IDLE CROPLAND AND LAND CLEARING SINCE 1945 IN THE TANANA VALLEY AREA IS SIMILAR TO THAT IN THE WESTERN KENAI PENINSULA AREA. CROPLAND ON 20 OF THE 31 FARMS THAT HAD IDLE CROPLAND IN THE AREA TOTALLED 229 ACRES. OF THESE 185 ACRES WERE IDLE AND 26 ACRES WERE HARVESTED. THESE SAME FARMERS INDICATED 176 ACRES OF LAND CLEARED SINCE 1945. THUS IT APPEARS THAT RECENTLY CLEARED LAND ON A NUMBER OF FARMS WAS REPORTED AS IDLE CROPLAND. ALSO, RECENTLY CLEARED LAND ACCOUNTED FOR A LARGE PROPORTION OF THE TOTAL CROPLAND ON THESE FARMS. BETWEEN 1945 AND 1949, AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION PROGRAM PAYMENTS WERE MADE ON THE CLEARING OF APPROXIMATELY 911 ACRES IN THE FAIRBANKS AREA TO FROM 14 TO 32 OPERATORS YEARLY.

AFTER STUDYING IDLE CROPLAND BY AGRICULTURAL AREAS, THE FOLLOWING CONCLUSIONS APPEAR TO BE WARRANTED. THREE AREAS -- THE MATANUSKA VALLEY, THE WESTERN KENAI PENINSULA AND THE TANANA VALLEY AREAS -- HAD MOST OF THE IDLE CROPLAND REPORTED IN ALASKA IN 1950. IDLE CROPLAND REPORTED FOR THE WESTERN KENAI PENINSULA AND THE TANANA VALLEY AREAS IS CONCENTRATED ON FARMS WHOSE OPERATORS HAD BEGUN OPERATING THEM SHORTLY BEFORE THE 1950 CENSUS WAS TAKEN. MUCH MORE OF THE IDLE CROPLAND REPORTED FOR MATANUSKA VALLEY FARMS WAS ON FARMS WHOSE OPERATORS HAD BEEN FARMING LONGER. ALSO, IN BOTH THE MATANUSKA VALLEY AND THE TANANA VALLEY AREAS, ABOUT HALF OF THE IDLE CROPLAND WAS ON A VERY FEW FARMS. FURTHERMORE, THESE FEW FARMERS WHO REPORTED LARGE ACREAGES OF IDLE CROPLAND HAD UNUSUALLY LARGE ACREAGES OF CROPLAND COMPARED TO ALL LAND IN THEIR FARMS. FINALLY, IDLE CROPLAND REPORTED ON A NUMBER OF FARMS IN THE WESTERN KENAI PENINSULA AND THE TANANA VALLEY AREA MIGHT HAVE BEEN LARGELY LAND CLEARED BETWEEN 1945 AND 1950, WHICH WAS REPORTED AS IDLE CROPLAND BY THE 1950 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE.

TABLE 7. FARMLAND AND CROPLAND IN FARM REPORTING 50 ACRES OR MORE OF IDLE CROPLAND, IN ALL FARMS REPORTING IDLE CROPLAND, AND IN ALL FARMS REPORTING CROPLAND, TANANA VALLEY AREA, 1949 1/

ITEM	FARMS	LAND IN FARMS	CROPLAND		
			TOTAL	HARVESTED	IDLE
	NUMBER	ACRES	ACRES	ACRES	ACRES
FARMS REPORTING:					
50 ACRES OR MORE OF IDLE CROPLAND	4	610	373	5	367
IDLE CROPLAND	31	4,401	848	98	725
CROPLAND	63	12,934	2,039	1,017	725

1/ UNPUBLISHED DATA FROM THE 1950 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE USED BY PERMISSION OF THE BUREAU OF THE CENSUS.

PASTURE AND LIVESTOCK

PASTURELAND REPORTED BY THE 1950 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE FOR ALASKA TOTALED 366,028 ACRES. THREE LARGE GRAZING OPERATIONS IN THE KODIAK-ALEUTIAN AREA ACCOUNTED FOR 352,970 ACRES OF THIS. TOTAL ACREAGE REPORTED IN PASTURE IN 1939 WAS 616,396 ACRES, OF WHICH 602,900 WERE IN THE KODIAK-ALEUTIAN AREA. IN 1939, 2,247 ACRES OF PASTURELAND WERE REPORTED ON 13 FUR FARMS. BY 1949, THIS ACREAGE HAD DROPPED TO 89 ACRES ON 3 FARMS.

THE LARGE DECREASE IN PASTURELAND ON GRAZING OPERATIONS REPORTED BY THE CENSUS PROBABLY DOES NOT REFLECT A TRUE CHANGE IN ACREAGE ACTUALLY PASTURED. IN 1939, EXCEPT FOR SMALL ACREAGES OF CROPLAND, ALMOST THE ENTIRE ACREAGE ON THREE LARGE GRAZING OPERATIONS LEASED FROM THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WAS REPORTED AS PASTURELAND. IN 1950, MUCH SMALLER ACREAGES WERE REPORTED AS TOTAL FARMLAND AND AS PASTURELAND ON THESE OPERATIONS. "IN THE 1939 CENSUS THE ACREAGES REPORTED FOR SOME FUR FARMS (AND GRAZING OPERATIONS) WERE THE TOTAL AREAS OF ISLANDS LEASED FROM THE GOVERNMENT AND ALTHOUGH THESE AREAS WERE SOMETIMES FAR IN EXCESS OF THE ACREAGES NECESSARY FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF THE NUMBER OF FUR ANIMALS, CATTLE, OR SHEEP REPORTED, IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE TO DISTRIBUTE THE ACREAGE BETWEEN LAND ACTUALLY USED AND LAND NOT USED. THEREFORE, THE LAND IN FARMS REPORTED FOR 1939 FAR EXCEEDS THAT REPORTED FOR 1950."^{3/} ALSO, A NUMBER OF OTHER RELATIVELY LARGE GRAZING OPERATIONS WERE IN EXISTENCE IN THE KODIAK-ALEUTIAN AREA IN 1949. ON THESE OPERATIONS SIZABLE NUMBERS OF SHEEP AND CATTLE WERE GRAZED.^{4/} NO FORMAL LEASING ARRANGEMENTS WERE IN EFFECT FOR MOST OF THE ACREAGE IN THESE OPERATIONS IN 1949. INCLUSION OF ESTIMATED PASTURE ACREAGES OF THESE OTHER GRAZING OPERATIONS PLACES THE 1949 PASTURED ACREAGE OF THE KODIAK-ALEUTIAN AREA AT AROUND 500,000 ACRES. THIS WAS ONLY A FIFTH LESS THAN THE ACREAGE REPORTED BY THE CENSUS IN 1939.

BY EXCLUDING THE ACREAGE OF PASTURE IN GRAZING OPERATIONS AND FUR FARMS, THE ACREAGE OF PASTURE IN OTHER ALASKAN FARMS INCREASED FROM 11,249 TO 12,969 ACRES (TABLE 8). INCREASES IN ACREAGE OF PASTURELAND OCCURRED IN THE MATANUSKA VALLEY, THE TANANA VALLEY, THE WESTERN KENAI PENINSULA, AND THE SOUTHEASTERN ALASKA AREAS. APPROXIMATELY TWO-FIFTHS OF ALL FARMS, OTHER THAN GRAZING OPERATIONS AND FUR FARMS, REPORTED PASTURELAND. ON SUCH FARMS, 2,447 ACRES OF CROPLAND WERE USED FOR PASTURE IN 1949, ABOUT HALF OF WHICH WERE IN THE MATANUSKA VALLEY AREA. ALSO INCLUDED WERE 7,030 ACRES OF WOODLAND PASTURE, OF WHICH 4,415 ACRES WERE IN THE MATANUSKA VALLEY, AND 1,141 ACRES IN THE WESTERN KENAI PENINSULA AREA. ALTHOUGH AN INCREASE IN PASTURELAND OCCURRED IN THE TANANA VALLEY AREA, A LARGE PART OF THAT ACREAGE WAS ON FARMS ON WHICH NO LIVESTOCK WERE REPORTED. IN THAT AREA, ONLY 4 FARMS WERE REPORTED TO HAVE CATTLE OR SHEEP. THESE FARMS HAD 632 ACRES OF PASTURELAND OR ABOUT A THIRD OF ALL PASTURELAND REPORTED. THE REMAINING 1,426 ACRES OF REPORTED PASTURELAND WERE ON 23 FARMS. THIS APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN MAINLY LAND THAT EITHER HAD BEEN USED FOR PASTURE AT SOME TIME IN THE PAST OR THAT WAS THOUGHT SUITABLE FOR USE AS PASTURE.

^{3/} UNITED STATES BUREAU OF THE CENSUS, 1950 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE, V.1-pt. 31.1, P. VIII.

^{4/} UNPUBLISHED DATA FROM THE ALASKA AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION INDICATES THAT, IN ADDITION TO THE GRAZING OPERATIONS REPORTED BY THE CENSUS IN 1949, 8 OTHER GRAZING OPERATIONS IN THE KODIAK-ALEUTIAN AREA HAD AN ESTIMATED ACREAGE OF 135,788 ACRES, ON WHICH SHEEP AND CATTLE WERE PASTURED.

TABLE 8. TOTAL PASTURELAND IN GRAZING OPERATIONS, FUR FARMS, AND ALL OTHER FARMS, BY MAJOR AREAS, ALASKA, 1949 AND 1939 ^{1/}

AREA	ACREAGE OF PASTURELAND IN -							
	ALL FARMS		GRAZING OPERATIONS ^{4/}		FUR FARMS ^{5/}		ALL OTHER FARMS ^{6/}	
	1949 ^{2/}	1939 ^{3/}	1949	1939	1949	1939	1949	1939
	ACRES	ACRES	ACRES	ACRES	ACRES	ACRES	ACRES	ACRES
MATANUSKA VALLEY	6,729	5,856	0	0	0	12	6,729	5,844
TANANA VALLEY	2,058	808	0	0	0	0	2,058	808
WESTERN KENAI PENINSULA	1,746	1,246	0	0	23	115	1,723	1,131
SOUTHEASTERN ALASKA	1,211	2,368	0	0	61	1,485	1,150	883
KODIAK-ALEUTIAN	353,449	604,368	352,970	602,900	0	634	479	834
ANCHORAGE	377	716	0	0	5	1	372	715
SEWARD-HOPE	435	660	0	0	0	0	435	660
ALL OTHER	23	374	0	0	0	0	23	374
TOTAL	366,028	616,396	352,970	602,900	89	2,247	12,969	11,249

^{1/} UNPUBLISHED DATA FROM THE 1950 AND 1939 CENSUSES OF AGRICULTURE USED BY PERMISSION OF THE BUREAU OF THE CENSUS.

^{2/} INCLUDES CROPLAND PASTURED, WOODLAND PASTURED, AND ALL OTHER PASTURELAND.

^{3/} INCLUDES LAND USED SOLELY FOR PASTURE OR GRAZING AND WOODLAND PASTURED OR GRAZED.

^{4/} EXTREMELY LARGE HOLDINGS ON WHICH PRACTICALLY ALL OF THE ACREAGE WAS REPORTED AS GRAZING LAND.

^{5/} INCLUDES 9 COMMERCIAL FUR FARMS REPORTED IN 1950, AND 9 OTHER FARMS ON WHICH FUR ANIMALS WERE THE PRINCIPAL AGRICULTURAL ENTERPRISE.

^{6/} IN THIS GROUP ARE INCLUDED FARMS THAT MORE NEARLY CONFORM WITH THE USUAL CONCEPT OF FARMS AND FARMLAND.

DISTRIBUTION OF CATTLE AND CALVES AMONG THE MAJOR AREAS AS REPORTED BY THE CENSUS IS SHOWN IN TABLE 9. IN THE MATANUSKA VALLEY AREA, 1,254 HEAD OF CATTLE AND CALVES WERE REPORTED, AN APPRECIABLE INCREASE BETWEEN 1939 AND 1950. THE TOTAL NUMBER OF CATTLE REPORTED ON FARMS OTHER THAN GRAZING OPERATIONS AND FUR FARMS REMAINED ALMOST THE SAME IN 1950 AS IN 1939. UNPUBLISHED DATA FROM THE ALASKA AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION SHOWS ESTIMATES OF 2,100 HEAD OF CATTLE IN THE KODIAK-ALEUTIAN AREA IN 1950, MANY OF WHICH WERE ON GRAZING OPERATIONS NOT ENUMERATED BY THE CENSUS. IF THESE ADDITIONAL CATTLE NUMBERS HAD BEEN INCLUDED IN THE FIGURE FOR 1950, THE KODIAK-ALEUTIAN AREA WOULD SHOW A 32-PERCENT INCREASE BETWEEN 1939 AND 1950. ALASKA AS A WHOLE WOULD SHOW AN INCREASE OF ABOUT 12 PERCENT.

THE 1939 CENSUS REPORTED 17,076 SHEEP IN ALASKA, OF WHICH 14,804 WERE IN THE KODIAK-ALEUTIAN AREA, 1,611 IN THE MATANUSKA VALLEY AREA, AND MOST OF THE REST IN THE ANCHORAGE AREA. IN 1950, ONLY 6,046 SHEEP WERE REPORTED BY THE CENSUS. THESE WERE MAINLY IN THE KODIAK-ALEUTIAN AREA. THE ALASKA EXPERIMENT STATION ESTIMATED 8,600 SHEEP IN THAT AREA IN 1950, AND EVEN INCLUDING THIS ESTIMATE, SHEEP NUMBERS FOR ALASKA AS A WHOLE DROPPED ABOUT 50 PERCENT. THIS IS EVIDENCE OF THE HEAVY SHEEP LOSSES DURING WORLD WAR II AND THE RELATIVELY HEAVY SLAUGHTER FOR MEAT.

TABLE 9. CATTLE REPORTED ON GRAZING OPERATIONS, FUR FARMS, AND ALL OTHER FARMS, BY MAJOR AREAS, ALASKA, 1950 AND 1939-1/

AREA	CATTLE REPORTED ON							
	ALL FARMS		GRAZING OPERATIONS		FUR FARMS		ALL OTHER FARMS	
	1950	1939	1950	1939	1950	1939	1950	1939
	NUMBER	NUMBER	NUMBER	NUMBER	NUMBER	NUMBER	NUMBER	NUMBER
MATANUSKA VALLEY	1,254	1,007	0	0	0	0	1,254	1,007
TANANA VALLEY	178	154	0	0	0	0	178	154
WESTERN KENAI PENINSULA	133	120	0	0	0	7	133	113
SOUTHEASTERN ALASKA	443	651	0	0	3	2	440	649
KODIAK-ALEUTIAN	2/142	1,596	2/117	1,462	0	123	25	111
ANCHORAGE	26	152	0	0	0	0	26	152
SEWARD-HOPE	49	48	0	0	0	0	49	48
ALL OTHER	11	21	0	0	0	0	11	21
TOTAL	2,236	3,749	117	1,462	3	132	2,116	2,155

1/ UNPUBLISHED DATA FROM THE 1950 AND 1939 CENSUSES OF AGRICULTURE USED BY PERMISSION OF THE BUREAU OF THE CENSUS.

2/ THE ALASKA EXPERIMENT STATION ESTIMATES AN INCREASED NUMBER OF CATTLE IN THE KODIAK-ALEUTIAN AREA, MOST OF WHICH WERE ON GRAZING OPERATIONS THAT DID NOT FALL WITHIN THE CENSUS DEFINITIONS FOR FARMS OR RANCHES IN 1950.

LAND CLEARED, 1945-50

THE 1950 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE REPORTED 2,637 ACRES CLEARED BETWEEN 1945 AND THE CENSUS ENUMERATION IN APRIL 1950. OF THE 525 FARM OPERATORS IN ALASKA IN 1950, 302 REPORTED CLEARING LAND ON THEIR FARMS (TABLE 10). ABOUT TWO-FIFTHS OF ALL LAND CLEARED SINCE 1945 WAS IN THE MATANUSKA VALLEY AREA WHERE 117 OPERATORS HAD CLEARED 1,090 ACRES. IN THE TANANA VALLEY AREA 841 ACRES HAD BEEN CLEARED. THE WESTERN KENAI PENINSULA AREA FOLLOWED WITH 378 ACRES, AND THE ANCHORAGE AREA WITH 196 ACRES. TWO-THIRDS OF THE OPERATORS IN THE MATANUSKA VALLEY REPORTED LAND CLEARED SINCE 1945. IN THE TANANA VALLEY AREA THREE-FOURTHS OF THE OPERATORS SO REPORTED. APPROXIMATELY THREE-FIFTHS OF THE OPERATORS IN THE WESTERN KENAI PENINSULA AND THE ANCHORAGE AREAS ALSO REPORTED LAND CLEARED SINCE 1945.

HOW MUCH OF THE ACREAGE CLEARED SINCE 1945 HAS BEEN USED FOR CROPS AND HOW MUCH FOR PASTURE CANNOT BE DETERMINED. BUT THERE ARE INDICATIONS THAT MUCH LAND RECENTLY CLEARED ON NEWLY HOMESTEADED OR SETTLED FARMS WAS IN TURN REPORTED AS IDLE CROPLAND, EVEN THOUGH IT MAY NOT HAVE BEEN PRESENTLY SUITABLE FOR CROPPING. IN MANY INSTANCES, HOMESTEADERS WHO HAD NO DEFINITE PLANS FOR DEVELOPING FARMS CLEARED LAND TO COMPLY WITH THE HOMESTEAD REQUIREMENTS. THIS IS PARTICULARLY EVIDENT IN THE WESTERN KENAI PENINSULA AND THE TANANA VALLEY AREAS.

TABLE 10. LAND CLEARED SINCE 1945, BY MAJOR AREAS, ALASKA, 1950 ^{1/}

AREA	OPERATORS REPORTING	LAND CLEARED
	NUMBER	ACRES
MATANUSKA VALLEY	117	1,090
TANANA VALLEY	61	841
WESTERN KENAI PENINSULA	67	378
SOUTHEASTERN ALASKA	18	57
KODIAK-ALEUTIAN	0	0
ANCHORAGE	14	196
SEWARD-HOPE	19	32
ALL OTHER	6	43
TOTAL	302	2,637

^{1/} UNPUBLISHED DATA FROM THE 1950 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE USED BY PERMISSION OF THE BUREAU OF THE CENSUS.

TENURE OF FARM OPERATORS^{5/}

COMPARISON OF THE TENURE OF FARM OPERATORS REPORTED BY THE CENSUSES OF AGRICULTURE FOR ALASKA IN 1939 AND 1950 SHOWS THAT BETWEEN THESE YEARS THE NUMBER OF OWNER OPERATORS INCREASED AND THAT OF TENANT OR MANAGER OPERATORS DECREASED (TABLE 11). IN 1950, 85 PERCENT OF THE 525 OPERATORS WERE FULL OWNERS (INCLUDING OPERATORS ON UNPATENTED HOMESTEAD FARMS). 10 PERCENT WERE PART OWNERS, AND THE REST WERE EITHER TENANTS OR MANAGERS. A RELATIVELY LARGE NUMBER OF TENANT-OR MANAGER-OPERATED FUR FARMS WERE REPORTED IN 1939. MORE THAN HALF OF ALL FARMLAND IN ALASKA WAS LOCATED ON THESE FARMS. ALSO, LARGE ACREAGES WERE REPORTED BY A FEW TENANT-OR MANAGER-OPERATED GRAZING OPERATIONS IN BOTH 1939 AND 1950. CONSEQUENTLY, IT IS NECESSARY TO SEPARATE OUT FUR FARMS AND GRAZING OPERATIONS TO FIND THE TENURE STATUS OF OPERATORS ON ALL OTHER FARMS THAT MORE NEARLY CONFORM TO THE USUAL CONCEPT OF FARMS.

THE NUMBER OF FULL OWNERS OF FARMS OTHER THAN FUR FARMS AND GRAZING OPERATIONS INCREASED FROM 339 IN 1939 TO 431 IN 1950. THEY REPRESENTED 74 PERCENT OF ALL OPERATORS OF SUCH FARMS IN 1939 COMPARED WITH 86 PERCENT IN 1950. ACREAGE IN FARMS OPERATED BY FULL OWNERS ALSO INCREASED FROM 40,034 TO 52,269 ACRES -- FROM 65 PERCENT OF ALL ACREAGE IN 1939 TO 77 PERCENT IN 1950. ALTHOUGH THE NUMBER OF PART OWNERS DECREASED BETWEEN 1939 AND 1950, ACREAGE IN FARMS OPERATED BY PART OWNERS INCREASED FROM 8,037 TO 9,405 ACRES. THIS INCREASE IN OWNERSHIP MAY BE ATTRIBUTED PARTLY TO THE RELATIVELY LARGE NUMBER OF UNPATENTED HOMESTEAD OPERATORS INCLUDED AS FULL OWNERS IN 1950.

A COMPARISON IS MADE BETWEEN TYPE OF TENURE FOR ALL FARMS AND THAT FOR FARMS OTHER THAN FUR FARMS AND GRAZING OPERATIONS FOR THE VARIOUS AREAS (TABLE 12). BOTH FULL AND PART OWNERS WERE HEAVILY CONCENTRATED IN THE MATANUSKA VALLEY AREA, WHICH HAD ABOUT A THIRD OF THE FULL OWNERS AND THREE-FOURTHS OF THE PART OWNERS OF FARMS OTHER THAN FUR FARMS AND GRAZING OPERATIONS. IN MOST OTHER AREAS FULL OWNERS OPERATED MOST OF THE FARMS OTHER THAN FUR FARMS AND GRAZING OPERATIONS. ABOUT A FOURTH OF THE FULL OWNERS IN 1950 WERE OPERATORS OF UNPATENTED HOMESTEADS LOCATED LARGELY IN THE TANANA VALLEY AND THE WESTERN KENAI PENINSULA AREAS. IN BOTH YEARS, THE RELATIVELY SMALL NUMBER OF TENANT OR MANAGER OPERATORS OF FARMS OTHER THAN FUR FARMS AND GRAZING OPERATIONS WERE FAIRLY WELL DISTRIBUTED AMONG THE MAJOR AREAS. IN 1939 THE NUMBER OF TENANT-OPERATED FARMS IN THE SOUTHEASTERN ALASKA AND THE KODIAK-ALEUTIAN AREAS WAS HEAVILY INFLUENCED BY FUR FARM OPERATIONS.

^{5/} TENURE OF ALL OPERATORS WAS REPORTED BY THE CENSUS UNDER THE HEADINGS OF FULL OWNERS, PART OWNERS, TENANTS, AND MANAGERS. FULL OWNERS IN 1950 INCLUDED OWNERS (OWNING THEIR ENTIRE FARMS), HOMESTEADERS ON UNPATENTED HOMESTEADS, AND A COMBINATION OF THE TWO. BUT IN 1939, NO DISTINCTION WAS MADE BETWEEN OWNED FARMS AND UNPATENTED HOMESTEADS IN REPORTING FULL OWNERS. PART OWNERS IN 1950 INCLUDED OWNER-TENANTS, OWNER-HOMESTEADER-TENANTS, AND HOMESTEADER-TENANTS. AGAIN, IN 1939, NO DISTINCTION WAS MADE BETWEEN THESE SUBCLASSIFICATIONS OF PART OWNERS. IN BOTH YEARS THE CENSUS REPORTED AS TENANTS ALL OPERATORS WHO RENTED LAND FROM PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS OR LEASED ACREAGE FROM THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT. IN BOTH YEARS THOSE WHO MANAGED FARMS FOR OTHER INDIVIDUALS WERE REPORTED AS MANAGER OPERATORS, ALTHOUGH THE FARMS MAY HAVE BEEN OWNED, RENTED, OR LEASED. CENSUS DATA DO NOT SHOW FARMS ORIGINALLY HOMESTEADED BUT WHICH, BY THE CENSUS DATE, WERE OWNED BY THEIR OPERATORS. IN 1950, IT WAS ONLY POSSIBLE TO SEPARATE THE FARMS THAT WERE UNPATENTED HOMESTEADS.

TABLE 11. SEPARATION OF FUR FARMS AND GRAZING OPERATIONS FROM ALL FARMS, BY TENURE OF OPERATOR, ALASKA, 1950 AND 1939^{1/}

TENURE OF OPERATOR AND YEAR	ALL FARMS		FUR FARMS ^{2/}		GRAZING OPERATIONS ^{3/}		ALL OTHER FARMS ^{4/}	
	NUMBER	ACRES	NUMBER	ACRES	NUMBER	ACRES	NUMBER	ACRES
FULL OWNERS								
1950	445	53,105	<u>5/</u>	<u>5/</u>	0	0	431	52,269
1939	397	43,522	<u>5/</u>	<u>5/</u>	0	0	339	40,034
PART OWNERS								
1950	50	9,405	<u>5/</u>	<u>5/</u>	0	0	50	9,405
1939	74	8,044	<u>5/</u>	<u>5/</u>	0	0	73	8,037
TOTAL								
1950	495	62,510	14	836	0	0	481	61,674
1939	471	51,566	59	3,495	0	0	412	48,071
TENANTS								
1950	20	202,137	<u>6/</u>	<u>6/</u>	<u>6/</u>	<u>6/</u>	15	1,872
1939	125	1,197,567	<u>6/</u>	<u>6/</u>	<u>6/</u>	<u>6/</u>	27	7,399
MANAGERS								
1950	10	157,152	<u>6/</u>	<u>6/</u>	<u>6/</u>	<u>6/</u>	8	4,152
1939	27	526,619	<u>6/</u>	<u>6/</u>	<u>6/</u>	<u>6/</u>	17	6,029
TOTAL								
1950	30	359,289	4	265	3	353,000	23	6,024
1939	152	1,724,186	105	1,038,758	3	672,000	44	13,428
GRAND TOTAL								
1950	525	421,799	18	1,101	3	353,000	504	67,698
1939	623	1,775,752	164	1,042,253	3	672,000	456	61,499

1/ UNPUBLISHED DATA FROM THE 1950 AND 1939 CENSUSES OF AGRICULTURE USED BY PERMISSION OF THE BUREAU OF THE CENSUS.

2/ INCLUDES 9 COMMERCIAL FUR FARMS REPORTED IN 1950 AND 9 OTHER FARMS ON WHICH FUR ANIMALS WERE THE PRINCIPAL AGRICULTURAL ENTERPRISE.

3/ LARGE FARMS ON WHICH PRACTICALLY ALL ACREAGE WAS REPORTED AS PASTURELAND.

4/ IN THIS GROUP ARE INCLUDED COMMERCIAL, PART-TIME AND RESIDENTIAL FARMS. THESE FARMS MORE NEARLY CONFORM TO THE USUAL CONCEPT OF FARMS AND FARMLAND.

5/ INCLUDED IN THE TOTAL FOR FULL OWNERS AND PART OWNERS.

6/ INCLUDED IN THE TOTAL FOR TENANTS AND MANAGERS.

TABLE 12. ALL FARMS AND ALL FARMS OTHER THAN FUR FARMS AND GRAZING OPERATION, BY TENURE OF OPERATOR, BY MAJOR AREAS, ALASKA, 1950 AND 1939^{1/}

AREA	ALL FARMS												
	FULL OWNERS					TENURE OF OPERATOR							
	OWNERS ^{2/}		UN-PATENTED HOME-STEADERS	OWNER-PATENTED HOME-STEADERS	OWNER-TENANTS	OWNER-UN-PATENTED HOME-STEADERS-TENANTS	TENANTS	MANAGERS					
1950	1939	1950	1939 ^{3/}	1950	1950	1939 ^{3/}	1950 ^{4/}	1950	1939	1950	1939		
Num- BER	Num- BER	Num- BER	Num- BER	Num- BER	Num- BER	Num- BER	Num- BER	Num- BER	Num- BER	Num- BER	Num- BER		
TOTAL	182	231	124	153	11	3	37	66	0	5	4	2	8
MATANUSKA VALLEY	80	31	36	22	33	2	3	1	2	3	7	1	1
TANANA VALLEY	110	44	59	41	44	2	2	0	0	2	2	1	1
WESTERN KENAI PENINSULA	68	166	43	87	12	4	2	5	1	5	65	1	9
SOUTHEASTERN ALASKA	9	41	2	7	2	0	0	0	0	3	31	2	3
KODIAK-ALEUTIAN	21	27	14	21	4	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	4
ANCHORAGE	46	37	30	35	10	1	2	0	0	1	1	2	1
SEWARD-HOPE	9	46	6	31	2	1	0	0	0	0	14	0	0
ALL OTHER	525	623	314	397	118	13	46	74	4	20	125	10	27
TOTAL	180	228	122	151	11	3	37	56	0	5	4	2	7
MATANUSKA VALLEY	80	31	36	22	33	2	3	1	2	3	7	1	1
TANANA VALLEY	108	33	57	33	44	2	2	0	0	2	0	1	0
WESTERN KENAI PENINSULA	57	71	39	58	10	3	2	4	1	1	6	1	3
SOUTHEASTERN ALASKA	6	11	2	3	2	0	0	0	0	2	7	0	1
KODIAK-ALEUTIAN	20	23	13	17	4	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	4
ANCHORAGE	45	36	29	35	10	1	2	0	0	1	0	2	1
SEWARD-HOPE	8	23	5	20	2	1	0	1	0	0	2	0	0
ALL OTHER	504	456	303	339	116	12	46	73	4	15	27	8	17
TOTAL	ALL FARMS OTHER THAN FUR FARMS AND GRAZING OPERATIONS												

1/ UNPUBLISHED DATA FROM THE 1950 AND 1939 CENSUSES OF AGRICULTURE USED BY PERMISSION OF THE BUREAU OF THE CENSUS.
 2/ IN THIS CATEGORY ARE THOSE OPERATORS WHO OWNED THEIR ENTIRE FARMS IN 1950.
 3/ ALL UNPATENTED HOMESTEAD TENURE REPORTED AS OWNER TENURE IN 1939.
 4/ INCLUDES OPERATORS WHO HOMESTEADED PART OF THEIR FARMS AND RENTED THE REST.

TABLE 13. ACREAGE IN FARMS OTHER THAN FUR FARMS AND GRAZING OPERATIONS, BY TYPE OF TENURE AND BY MAJOR AREAS, ALASKA, 1950 AND 1939^{1/}

AREA AND YEAR	ACREAGE					
	OWNED OR BEING HOMESTEADED					
	IN FARMS	TOTAL	OWNED	BEING HOME-STEADED	RENTED	MANAGED
	ACRES	ACRES	ACRES	ACRES	ACRES	ACRES
MATANUSKA VALLEY						
1950	28,420	25,471	23,718	1,753	1,709	1,240
1939	26,400	22,486	2/	2/	2,011	1,903
TANANA VALLEY						
1950	14,924	12,193	7,313	4,880	631	2,100
1939	9,244	6,278	2/	2/	908	2,058
WESTERN KENAI PENINSULA						
1950	13,091	12,607	7,359	5,248	324	160
1939	4,835	4,835	2/	2/	0	0
SOUTHEASTERN ALASKA						
1950	3,774	3,561	2,738	823	53	160
1939	6,181	5,070	2/	2/	792	319
KODIAK-ALEUTIAN						
1950	643	228	53	175	415	0
1939	6,336	379	2/	2/	5,491	466
ANCHORAGE						
1950	2,221	1,901	1,276	625	160	160
1939	3,118	1,850	2/	2/	295	973
SEWARD-HOPE						
1950	3,017	2,502	1,964	538	183	332
1939	3,033	2,723	2/	2/	0	310
ALL OTHER						
1950	1,608	1,608	1,396	212	0	0
1939	2,352	2,004	2/	2/	348	0
TOTAL						
1950	67,698	60,071	45,817	14,254	3,475	4,152
1939	61,499	45,625	2/	2/	9,845	6,029

^{1/} UNPUBLISHED DATA FROM THE 1950 AND 1939 CENSUSES OF AGRICULTURE USED BY PERMISSION OF THE BUREAU OF CENSUS.

^{2/} BREAKDOWN NOT AVAILABLE FROM 1939 CENSUS DATA.

SEVERAL POINTS MAY BE MADE CONCERNING LAND TENURE ON FARMS OTHER THAN FUR FARMS AND GRAZING OPERATIONS (TABLE 13). IN 1939, ACREAGE OWNED OR BEING HOMESTEADED REPRESENTED 74 PERCENT OF THE 61,499 ACRES IN FARMS OTHER THAN FUR FARMS AND GRAZING OPERATIONS. BY 1950, THAT PERCENTAGE HAD INCREASED TO 89 PERCENT OF A TOTAL OF 67,698 ACRES. OF THIS, 68 PERCENT WAS OWNED AND 21 PERCENT WAS UNPATENTED HOMESTEAD ACREAGE. BETWEEN 1939 AND 1950 ACREAGE OWNED OR BEING HOMESTEADED INCREASED FROM 45,625 TO 60,071 ACRES. INCREASES OCCURRED IN THE MATANUSKA VALLEY, WESTERN KENAI PENINSULA, TANANA VALLEY AND ANCHORAGE AREAS. IN 1950 THE RATIO OF FARMLAND ACREAGE OWNED TO UNPATENTED HOMESTEAD ACREAGE WAS 7.6 TO 2.4. THE PROPORTION OF LAND OWNED OR BEING HOMESTEADED WHICH WAS UNPATENTED HOMESTEAD ACREAGE IN 1950 VARIED CONSIDERABLY AMONG AREAS. PERCENTAGES WERE 42 PERCENT IN THE WESTERN KENAI PENINSULA AREA, 40 PERCENT IN THE TANANA VALLEY AREA, 23 PERCENT IN THE SOUTHEASTERN ALASKA AREA, AND 7 PERCENT IN THE MATANUSKA VALLEY AREA. IN 1939, 16 PERCENT OF THE TOTAL ACREAGE IN FARMS OTHER THAN FUR FARMS AND GRAZING OPERATIONS WAS RENTED OR LEASED, AND 10 PERCENT WAS MANAGED. BY 1950, ONLY 5 PERCENT WAS RENTED OR LEASED AND 6 PERCENT WAS MANAGED.

HOMESTEADS

FEDERALLY OWNED LAND IN ALASKA HAS BEEN ACQUIRED BY PRIVATE OWNERS UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE HOMESTEAD LAW, PARTICULARLY SINCE WORLD WAR II. SOME OF THESE HOMESTEAD TRACTS ARE BEING DEVELOPED INTO FARMS. MANY MORE SHOW LITTLE EVIDENCE OF AGRICULTURAL USE. THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT REPORTED 991 UNPERFECTED HOMESTEAD ENTRIES PENDING AS OF JUNE 30, 1950. THEY CONTAINED A TOTAL OF 117,191 ACRES.^{6/} IN APRIL 1950, THE CENSUS REPORTED AS FARMS OR PARTS OF FARMS ONLY 135 UNPATENTED HOMESTEAD TRACTS WHICH TOTALED 14,269 ACRES (TABLE 12). THIS INDICATES THAT ABOUT A SEVENTH OF THE UNPERFECTED HOMESTEAD ENTRIES WERE REPORTED BY THE BUREAU OF THE CENSUS AS FARMS (TABLE 14).

MANY UNPERFECTED HOMESTEAD TRACTS, ESPECIALLY THOSE ENTERED UNDER VETERANS' PROVISIONS OF THE HOMESTEAD LAW, MAY NEVER BECOME FARMS UNDER PRESENT HOMESTEADERS. THE VETERANS' CLAUSE OF THE HOMESTEAD LAW PROVIDES A MINIMUM OF 7 MONTHS BETWEEN ENTRY AND PATENT WITH NO CULTIVATION REQUIREMENTS. IT HAS BEEN AN INCENTIVE FOR SPECULATION. UNDER THIS PROVISION THOUSANDS OF ACRES OF PUBLIC LAND HAVE BEEN TRANSFERRED TO PRIVATE OWNERS WHO APPARENTLY HAVE NO AGRICULTURAL AMBITIONS.^{7/}

HOMESTEADING IN SOUTHERN ALASKA HAS INCREASED SINCE WORLD WAR II.^{8/} THE ANCHORAGE LAND OFFICE^{9/} REPORTED 231 UNPERFECTED HOMESTEADS IN 1945 AND THE NUMBER INCREASED ALMOST YEARLY TO 661 IN 1953. HOMESTEAD PATENTS INCREASED FROM 9 IN 1945 TO 129 IN 1953.

6/ UNITED STATES BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT, REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT, STATISTICAL APPENDIX, 1950, P. 23.

7/ UNITED STATES BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT, PAPERS PRESENTED AT THE SEMINARS ON ALASKA, 1950, PP. III-VI, 2, 12-14.

8/ SOME PREVAILING TRENDS IN HOMESTEADING ACTIVITY IN ALASKA ARE INDICATED BY THE STATISTICAL APPENDICES TO REPORTS OF THE COMMISSIONER OF THE GENERAL LAND OFFICE AND REPORTS OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT, 1945 THROUGH 1953. BECAUSE OF THE DIFFERENT ACCOUNTING PERIODS FOR THE VARIOUS STAGES OF HOMESTEAD ACTIVITY REPORTED AND THE DIFFERENCE IN REQUIRED PERIODS OF PATENT COMPLIANCE WHICH VARY FROM 7 MONTHS TO 5 YEARS, ONE CANNOT GET A SEPARATE YEAR-BY-YEAR RECORD OF HOMESTEADING. HOWEVER, DATA FOR A 6-YEAR PERIOD APPEARS TO GIVE REASONABLY ACCURATE INDICATIONS OF TREND.

9/ THE ANCHORAGE LAND OFFICE HAS JURISDICTION OF THE AREA SOUTH OF THE ALASKA RANGE. THIS REGION INCLUDES THE MATANUSKA VALLEY AND ANCHORAGE AREAS AS WELL AS BOTH AREAS OF THE KENAI PENINSULA AND THE SOUTHEASTERN ALASKA AREA.

TABLE 14. NUMBER AND ACREAGE OF UNPERFECTED HOMESTEAD ENTRIES PENDING AND UNPATENTED HOMESTEADS REPORTED AS FARMS, ALASKA, 1950

UNPERFECTED HOMESTEAD ENTRIES PENDING ^{1/}			UNPATENTED HOMESTEADS REPORTED AS FARMS ^{2/}		
LAND OFFICE	ENTRIES	ACREAGE	AREA	HOMESTEADS	ACREAGE
	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>ACRES</u>		<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>ACRES</u>
ANCHORAGE	726	87,160	MATANUSKA VALLEY	14	1,753
			WESTERN KENAI PENINSULA	46	5,248
			SOUTHEASTERN ALASKA	17	838
			KODIAK-ALEUTIAN	2	175
			ANCHORAGE	5	625
			SEWARD-HOPE	11	538
			ALL OTHER	3	212
			TOTAL	98	9,389
FAIRBANKS	265	30,031	TANANA VALLEY	37	4,880
ALASKA TOTAL	991	117,191	ALASKA TOTAL	135	14,269

^{1/} REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT, STATISTICAL APPENDIX, 1950, TABLE 19, P. 23 AS OF JUNE 30, 1950.

^{2/} UNPUBLISHED DATA FROM THE 1950 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE USED BY PERMISSION OF THE BUREAU OF THE CENSUS. INCLUDES ALL UNPATENTED HOMESTEAD TRACTS AS OF APRIL 1, 1950, BOTH THOSE REPORTED AS ENTIRE FARMS AND THOSE REPORTED AS PARTLY HOMESTEADED AND PARTLY OWNED OR RENTED FARMS.

TABLE 15. HOMESTEAD ENTRIES, ALASKA, 1948-53 ^{1/}

LAND OFFICE	UNIT	ORIGINAL	FINAL	ENTRIES	NET CHANGE
		ENTRIES ALLOWED ^{2/}	ENTRIES APPROVED ^{3/}	CANCELLED, RELINQUISHED, OR WITHDRAWN ^{4/}	IN UNPERFECTED ENTRIES PENDING ^{5/}
ANCHORAGE	NUMBER	1,362	640	437	+ 285
	ACRES	161,694	74,958	6/	6/
FAIRBANKS	NUMBER	657	164	298	+ 195
	ACRES	71,108	17,565	6/	6/

^{1/} REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT, STATISTICAL APPENDICES OF 1947 THROUGH 1953. DATA BASED ON FISCAL YEARS.

^{2/} STATISTICAL APPENDICES 1948, TABLE 36; 1949, TABLE 35; 1950, TABLE 34; 1951, TABLE 34; 1952, TABLE 34; 1953, TABLE 31.

^{3/} STATISTICAL APPENDICES 1948, TABLE 37; 1949, TABLE 36; 1950, TABLE 35; 1951, TABLE 35; 1952, TABLE 35; 1953, TABLE 32.

^{4/} NET DIFFERENCE BETWEEN ORIGINAL ENTRIES AND FINAL ENTRIES APPROVED ON A 6-YEAR AVERAGE, ADJUSTED FOR UNPERFECTED ENTRIES PENDING AT THE END OF EACH FISCAL YEAR.

^{5/} JUNE 30, 1947 TO JUNE 30, 1953. STATISTICAL APPENDICES 1947, TABLE 19; 1948, TABLE 19; 1949, TABLE 20; 1950, TABLE 19; 1951, TABLE 19; 1953, TABLE 16.

^{6/} AVERAGE SIZE OF ENTRIES DROPPED WITHOUT FINAL APPROVAL AND UNPERFECTED ENTRIES PENDING ARE APPROXIMATELY THE SAME AS THOSE OF ORIGINAL ENTRIES ALLOWED AND FINAL ENTRIES APPROVED.

DURING THIS PERIOD THE AVERAGE PATENTED HOMESTEAD CONTAINED 116 ACRES. BETWEEN 1948 AND 1953, 696 PATENTS WERE GRANTED IN THE AREA UNDER JURISDICTION OF THE ANCHORAGE LAND OFFICE, AND 81,012 ACRES OF PUBLIC LAND WERE TRANSFERRED TO PRIVATE OWNERSHIP. AS SHOWN IN TABLE 15, LESS THAN A THIRD OF THE HOMESTEAD ENTRIES RECORDED IN THE ANCHORAGE OFFICE BETWEEN 1948 AND 1953 WERE DROPPED WITHOUT COMPLETION OF PATENT REQUIREMENTS. ALMOST HALF OF THE ORIGINAL ENTRIES IN THAT PERIOD WERE APPROVED FOR PATENT. A FOLLOW-UP IN 1953 OF 529 HOMESTEAD ENTRIES MADE IN OR CLOSE TO THE MATANUSKA VALLEY BETWEEN 1945 AND 1950, SHOWS MUCH THE SAME FINAL DISPOSITION OF ENTRIES. SLIGHTLY LESS THAN HALF OF THESE ENTRIES WERE PATENTED AND A LITTLE MORE THAN A THIRD WERE DROPPED WITHOUT FINAL APPROVAL. 10/

IN CONTRAST WITH HOMESTEADING ACTIVITY UNDER JURISDICTION OF THE ANCHORAGE OFFICE, REPORTS OF THE FAIRBANKS OFFICE INDICATE A SMALLER NUMBER OF HOMESTEADS IN BOTH 1945 AND 1953. THE NUMBER OF UNPERFECTED ENTRIES INCREASED FROM 163 IN 1945 TO 392 IN 1953. THE ISSUE OF PATENTS IN THE AREA OF THE FAIRBANKS OFFICE INCREASED FROM 5 IN 1945 TO 34 IN 1953, AND AVERAGED APPROXIMATELY 108 ACRES. BETWEEN 1948 AND 1953, 180 PATENTS WERE ISSUED ON 19,463 ACRES OF PUBLIC LAND. ALMOST HALF OF THE HOMESTEAD ENTRIES IN THIS REGION APPARENTLY WERE DROPPED BEFORE PATENT REQUIREMENTS WERE ATTAINED (TABLE 15). ABOUT A FOURTH OF THE ORIGINAL ENTRIES WERE FINALLY APPROVED FOR PATENT.

COMPARISON OF THE REPORTS FROM THE TWO LAND OFFICES BETWEEN 1945 AND 1953 SHOWS THAT THE NUMBER OF UNPERFECTED HOMESTEAD ENTRIES PENDING INCREASED FROM 231 TO 661 FOR THE ANCHORAGE OFFICE AND FROM 163 TO 393 FOR THE FAIRBANKS OFFICE. THE RATIO BETWEEN UNPERFECTED ENTRIES REPORTED BY THE ANCHORAGE OFFICE AND THOSE REPORTED BY THE FAIRBANKS OFFICE WAS 5.9 TO 4.1 IN 1945, AND 6.3 TO 3.7 IN 1953. THIS INDICATES THAT AN INCREASINGLY LARGER PROPORTION OF THE HOMESTEADING ACTIVITY IS TAKING PLACE UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE ANCHORAGE OFFICE; AND A HIGHER PERCENTAGE OF ENTRIES IN THAT DISTRICT ARE FINALLY APPROVED FOR PATENT (TABLE 15).

FARMS AND FARMLAND, 1939 AND 1950

THE NUMBER OF FARMS REPORTED BY THE CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE DECREASED FROM 623 IN 1939 TO 525 IN 1950. REPORTED ACREAGE IN THESE FARMS DECLINED FROM 1,775,752 TO 421,799 ACRES (TABLE 16). THESE CHANGES ARE NOT GOOD INDICATORS OF AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN ALASKA BECAUSE OF DIFFERENCES IN CLASSIFICATION OF FARMS AND FARMLAND AND THE LARGE DECREASE IN ACREAGE OF PUBLIC LAND LEASED FOR GRAZING AND FUR FARMING WHICH WAS REPORTED AS FARMLAND.

IN GENERAL, THE NUMBER OF FARMS INCREASED IN ACRES LYING WITHIN THE "RAILBELT" REGION 11/ AND DECREASED IN AREAS ISOLATED OR AWAY FROM THAT REGION. THIS IS TRUE OF INCREASES IN THE WESTERN KENAI PENINSULA AND THE TANANA VALLEY AREAS, AND OF DECREASES IN THE SOUTHEASTERN ALASKA, THE KODIAK-ALEUTIAN, AND THE "ALL OTHER" AREAS. THE KODIAK-ALEUTIAN AREA HAD NINE-TENTHS OF THE TOTAL FARMLAND REPORTED IN 1939, AND ALTHOUGH MORE THAN NINE-TENTHS OF THE DECLINE OF 1,353,953 ACRES OCCURRED IN THIS AREA, IT STILL ACCOUNTED FOR MORE THAN FOUR-FIFTHS OF THE TOTAL ACREAGE IN 1950. THE MATANUSKA VALLEY, THE TANANA VALLEY, AND THE WESTERN KENAI PENINSULA AREAS EACH HAD REPORTED INCREASES IN FARMLAND WHILE ALL OTHER AREAS SHOWED DECREASES.

10/ UNPUBLISHED DATA FROM THE ANCHORAGE LAND OFFICE.

11/ THE REGION EXTENDING NORTHWARD FROM SEWARD ON THE KENAI PENINSULA TO FAIRBANKS, WHICH IS MORE OR LESS CENTERED ON THE ALASKA RAILROAD, IS REFERRED TO AS THE "RAILBELT" REGION.

THE DECREASE IN THE NUMBER OF FARMS BETWEEN 1939 AND 1950 MAY BE ATTRIBUTED TO SEVERAL FACTORS. INCREASED COSTS OF LIVING AND GREATER OPPORTUNITY FOR NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT HAVE ENCOURAGED MANY FARM OPERATORS TO ENGAGE LARGELY IN NONFARM WORK. IN SOME AREAS, SMALL HOLDINGS WERE CONSOLIDATED TO PROVIDE THE LARGER FARMS NECESSARY FOR EFFICIENT OPERATION. THE NUMBER OF FUR FARMS DECREASED SHARPLY, PARTICULARLY AMONG THE ISLANDS OF SOUTHEASTERN ALASKA, SOUTH CENTRAL ALASKA, AND ON THE ALEUTIAN ISLANDS.

IN THE MATANUSKA VALLEY AREA, THE NUMBER OF FARMS DECREASED FROM 231 TO 182. HOWEVER, THE ACREAGE IN THESE FARMS INCREASED FROM 26,800 TO 28,750 ACRES. THIS WAS THE ONLY AREA IN WHICH THE AVERAGE SIZE OF FARM INCREASED BETWEEN 1939 AND 1950. WITH A SOMEWHAT ENLARGED FARMING AREA AND A LESSER CONCENTRATION OF FARMS IN THE AREA, THE INCREASE IN AVERAGE SIZE REPRESENTS A SIGNIFICANT CONSOLIDATION OF SMALL 40- OR 80- ACRE FARMS INTO FARM UNITS OF A SIZE NECESSARY FOR MORE EFFICIENT COMMERCIAL OPERATION.

ONE OF THE LARGEST INCREASES IN NUMBERS OF FARMS OCCURRED ON THE KENAI PENINSULA -- 66 IN THE WESTERN KENAI PENINSULA AREA AND 9 IN THE SEWARD-HOPE AREA. THIS WAS IN LARGE PART THE RESULT OF RECENT HOMESTEADS. IN THE WESTERN KENAI PENINSULA AREA, ACREAGE OF FARMLAND INCREASED BY MORE THAN 500 ACRES. THERE WERE FEWER FARMS AROUND HOMER IN 1950 THAN IN 1939. BUT ALONG THE WEST COAST OF THE PENINSULA, WHERE IN 1939 THERE WERE ONLY 11 FARMS, IN 1950 THERE WERE 86. IT IS DOUBTFUL WHETHER MANY OF THE NEW FARMS ON THE KENAI PENINSULA WILL CONTRIBUTE SIGNIFICANTLY TO FARM PRODUCTIVITY IN ALASKA. MOST OF THEM WERE CLASSIFIED AS ABNORMAL FARMS ON THE BASIS THAT THEY WERE TOO RECENTLY ESTABLISHED TO HAVE MUCH AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITY. IN 1950, FARMS IN THE SEWARD-HOPE AREA WERE FAIRLY WELL GROUPED AROUND SEWARD, AT THE NORTHWESTERN END OF KENAI LAKE, AND NEAR HOPE. A DECLINE IN FARMLAND WAS REPORTED FOR THIS AREA.

FARMS IN THE TANANA VALLEY AREA INCREASED FROM 31 TO 80 BETWEEN 1939 AND 1950. ACREAGE IN THESE FARMS ROSE FROM 9,244 TO 14,924 ACRES. IN 1939, MOST OF THE FARMS WERE WITHIN 15 MILES OF FAIRBANKS. BY 1950, THE RADIUS HAD BEEN SLIGHTLY ENLARGED AND MANY NEW FARMS HAD BEEN STARTED ALONG THE RICHARDSON HIGHWAY BETWEEN FAIRBANKS AND BIG DELTA. ALMOST HALF OF THE FARMS REPORTED IN THIS AREA IN 1950 SHOWED LITTLE AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITY. MANY OF THEM WERE RECENTLY HOMESTEADED TRACTS.

SOUTHEASTERN ALASKA HAD 98 FEWER FARMS IN 1950 THAN IN 1939. THE MANY FUR FARMS SCATTERED THROUGHOUT THE ISLANDS HAD DECREASED CONSIDERABLY BY 1950, AND MOST OTHER FARMS IN THE AREA WERE CONCENTRATED NEAR THE PRINCIPAL TOWNS. ACREAGE REPORTED AS FARMLAND DECREASED BY 30,625 ACRES, AND THE AVERAGE SIZE OF FARM DECLINED FROM 209 TO 61 ACRES.

ONLY A FEW OF THE FARMS REPORTED BY THE CENSUS FOR THE KODIAK-ALEUTIAN AREA IN 1939 REMAINED IN 1950, AND MOST OF THESE WERE ON KODIAK ISLAND. IN 1939, 41 WIDELY DISPERSED FARMS, INCLUDING A CONSIDERABLE NUMBER OF FUR FARMS, WERE REPORTED BETWEEN THE TOWNS OF KODIAK AND ATTU. AS INDICATED ON PAGE 17 SOME OF THIS DECREASE IN NUMBERS MAY HAVE BEEN DUE TO THE UNCERTAIN TENURE SITUATION OF SOME GRAZING LEASES IN 1949. ACREAGE OF FARMLAND IN THE AREA DECREASED FROM 1,620,377 ACRES IN 1939 TO 353,643 ACRES IN 1950. MOST OF THE TOTAL FARM ACREAGE REPORTED BY THE CENSUS FOR ALASKA IN BOTH YEARS WAS IN THIS AREA.

IN THE ANCHORAGE AREA FEWER FARMS WERE REPORTED IN 1950 THAN IN 1939, ALTHOUGH SEVERAL NEW ONES HAD APPEARED ALONG THE PALMER HIGHWAY. BOTH FARMLAND AND FARM

PEOPLE WERE APPARENTLY ABSORBED IN THE INCREASED CONSTRUCTION AND OTHER NONAGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE AREA.

THERE IS A MARKED CONTRAST AMONG AREAS IN AVERAGE SIZE OF FARM (TABLE 16). BECAUSE OF THE LARGE ACREAGE IN THE KODIAK-ALEUTIAN AREA, TO SPEAK OF AN AVERAGE FARM FOR ALASKA AS A WHOLE HAS LITTLE MEANING. THE SHARP DOWNWARD CHANGES IN THE AVERAGE SIZE FOR SEVERAL AREAS ARE MAINLY DUE TO ELIMINATION OF A FEW LARGE FARMS REPORTED IN 1939. MOST OF THEM WERE LEASED OR RENTED. IT WAS DIFFICULT TO CLASSIFY MANY OF THESE LARGE FARMS AS FARMS OR FARMLAND BECAUSE ONLY RESTRICTED AGRICULTURAL OPERATIONS WERE CARRIED ON.

FUR FARMS AND GRAZING OPERATIONS

FUR FARMING WAS PRACTICED ON A RELATIVELY EXTENSIVE SCALE IN ALASKA DURING 1939 AND PREVIOUS YEARS BUT BY 1950 IT HAD ALMOST CEASED TO EXIST. SALES OF LIVE ANIMALS OR PELTS DROPPED FROM MORE THAN \$288,000 TO ABOUT \$40,000. IN 1939, FUR ANIMALS WERE REPORTED AS THE PRINCIPAL AGRICULTURAL ENTERPRISE ON 164 FARMS. IN 1950 THERE WERE ONLY 18 SUCH INSTANCES.^{12/} THE DECLINING MARKET FOR FURS, THE INCREASED COST OF LIVING AND OF FUR FARM OPERATIONS, AND THE INCREASED OPPORTUNITIES FOR HIGHER INCOMES FROM NONAGRICULTURAL SOURCES HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO THE DECREASE IN FUR FARMING.

THE DECLINE IN FUR FARMING IN ALASKA HELPS TO ACCOUNT FOR THE DECREASE IN NUMBERS AND ACREAGE OF ALL FARMS BETWEEN 1939 AND 1950 (TABLE 17). IN MANY INSTANCES WHEN AN ENTIRE ISLAND WAS LEASED OR USED BY ONE FUR-FARM OPERATOR IN 1939, THE WHOLE AREA OF THE ISLAND WAS REPORTED AS FARMLAND, EVEN THOUGH LITTLE OR NO AGRICULTURAL USE WAS MADE OF MOST OF THE AREA. AS A RESULT, THE 164 FUR FARMS IN 1939 WERE REPORTED AS HAVING 1,042,253 ACRES OF FARMLAND, OR ABOUT THREE-FIFTHS OF THE TOTAL FARMLAND REPORTED IN THAT YEAR.^{13/} THIRTY-SEVEN OF THESE FUR FARMS EXCEEDED 1,000 ACRES IN SIZE. IN 1939 MOST OF THE FUR FARMS WERE IN THE SOUTHEASTERN ALASKA, THE KODIAK-ALEUTIAN, AND THE "ALL OTHER" AREAS. OF THE 623 FARMS REPORTED IN 1939, 120 HAD NO CROPLAND AND NO PASTURELAND. NINETY-EIGHT OF THE 120 FARMS WERE FUR FARMS. THESE FARMS ALONE ACCOUNTED FOR MORE THAN A MILLION ACRES OF FARMLAND REPORTED BY THE 1939 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE. MOST OF THIS LARGE ACREAGE WAS IN THE KODIAK-ALEUTIAN AREA. BY 1950, THE 18 FUR FARMS REMAINING CONTAINED A TOTAL OF 1,101 ACRES. NONE EXCEEDED 170 ACRES IN SIZE. TWO-THIRDS OF THESE FARMS WERE IN SOUTHEASTERN ALASKA.

AN ADDITIONAL SMALL GROUP OF FARMS SHOULD BE SEPARATED FROM THE TOTAL NUMBER OF FARMS REPORTED. THESE ARE THE VERY LARGE GRAZING OPERATIONS ON WHICH THE PRINCIPAL ENTERPRISE WAS RAISING SHEEP OR CATTLE, AND ON WHICH PRACTICALLY ALL OF THE ACREAGE WAS REPORTED AS PASTURELAND. THERE WERE THREE SUCH GRAZING OPERATIONS IN BOTH 1939 AND 1950, ALL OF WHICH WERE IN THE KODIAK-ALEUTIAN AREA. THESE UNITS REPORTED 672,000 ACRES IN 1939 AND 353,000 ACRES IN 1950.

EXCLUDING FUR FARMS AND LARGE GRAZING OPERATIONS FROM THE TOTAL NUMBER OF FARMS REPORTED BY THE CENSUS, THE NUMBER OF ALL OTHER FARMS INCREASED FROM 456 TO 504. FARMLAND IN THESE FARMS INCREASED FROM 61,499 TO 67,698 ACRES (TABLE 17). THESE

^{12/} THE NUMBER OF FUR FARMS IN 1950 INCLUDED 9 COMMERCIAL FUR FARMS AND 9 OTHER FARMS ON WHICH FUR ANIMALS WERE THE PRINCIPAL AGRICULTURAL ENTERPRISE.

^{13/} OF THE NUMBER AND ACREAGE OF FUR FARMS REPORTED IN 1939, 97 WITH 1,038,168 ACRES WERE RENTED OR LEASED.

TABLE 16. FARMS, BY MAJOR AREAS, ALASKA, 1950 AND 1939 1/

AREA	NUMBER OF FARMS				CHANGE BETWEEN 1939 AND 1950
	FARMS	PERCENTAGE OF ALL FARMS	FARMS	PERCENTAGE OF ALL FARMS	
	1950		1939		
	NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER	PERCENT	
MATANUSKA VALLEY	182	34.7	231	37.1	- 49
TANANA VALLEY	80	15.2	31	5.0	+ 49
WESTERN KENAI PENINSULA	110	21.0	44	7.1	+ 66
SOUTHEASTERN ALASKA	68	13.0	166	26.6	- 98
KODIAK-ALEUTIAN	9	1.7	41	6.6	- 32
ANCHORAGE	21	4.0	27	4.3	- 6
SEWARD-HOPE	46	8.7	37	5.9	+ 9
ALL OTHER	9	1.7	46	7.4	- 37
TOTAL	525	100.0	623	100.0	- 98

AREA	ACREAGE IN FARMS					
	PERCENT ACREAGE OF TOTAL ACREAGE		PERCENT ACREAGE OF TOTAL ACREAGE		CHANGE BETWEEN 1939 AND 1950	
	ACRES	PERCENT	ACRES	PERCENT	ACRES	PERCENT
MATANUSKA VALLEY	28,750	6.8	26,800	1.5	+ 1,950	+ 7.3
TANANA VALLEY	14,924	3.5	9,244	0.5	+ 5,680	+61.4
WESTERN KENAI PENINSULA	13,274	3.2	12,706	0.7	+ 568	+ 4.5
SOUTHEASTERN ALASKA	4,149	1.0	34,774	2.0	- 30,625	-88.1
KODIAK-ALEUTIAN	353,643	83.9	1,620,377	91.2	-1,266,734	-78.2
ANCHORAGE	2,226	0.5	3,132	0.2	- 906	-28.9
SEWARD-HOPE	3,065	0.7	19,313	1.1	- 16,248	-84.1
ALL OTHER	1,768	0.4	49,406	2.8	- 47,638	-96.4
TOTAL	421,799	100.0	1,775,752	100.0	-1,353,953	-76.2

AREA	AVERAGE SIZE OF FARMS					
	ACREAGE	PERCENTAGE OF AVERAGE ACREAGE OF ALL FARMS		ACREAGE	PERCENTAGE OF AVERAGE ACREAGE OF ALL FARMS	
		ACRES	PERCENT		ACRES	PERCENT
					CHANGE BETWEEN 1939 AND 1950	
MATANUSKA VALLEY	158	19.7	116	4.1	+ 42	
TANANA VALLEY	187	23.3	298	10.5	-111	
WESTERN KENAI PENINSULA	121	15.1	289	10.1	-168	
SOUTHEASTERN ALASKA	61	7.6	209	7.3	-148	
KODIAK-ALEUTIAN	39,294	4,893.4	39,521	1,386.7	-227	
ANCHORAGE	106	13.2	116	4.1	- 10	
SEWARD-HOPE	67	8.3	522	18.3	-455	
ALL OTHER	196	24.4	1,074	37.7	-878	
AVERAGE OF ALL FARMS	803	100.0	2,850	100.0	-2,047	

1/ UNPUBLISHED DATA FROM THE 1950 AND 1939 CENSUSES OF AGRICULTURE USED BY PERMISSION OF THE BUREAU OF THE CENSUS.

TABLE 17. SEPARATION OF FUR FARMS AND GRAZING OPERATIONS FROM ALL FARMS, BY MAJOR AREAS, ALASKA, 1950 AND 1939

AREA AND YEAR	ALL FARMS			FUR FARMS 2/			GRAZING OPERATIONS 3/			ALL OTHER FARMS 4/		
	NUMBER	ACRES	NUMBER	ACRES	NUMBER	ACRES	NUMBER	ACRES	NUMBER	ACRES	NUMBER	ACRES
MATANUSKA VALLEY												
1950	182	28,750	5/	5/	0	0	5/	5/	5/	5/	5/	5/
1939	231	26,800	5/	5/	0	0	5/	5/	5/	5/	5/	5/
WESTERN KENAI PENINSULA												
1950	110	13,274	5/	5/	0	0	5/	5/	5/	5/	5/	5/
1939	44	12,706	5/	5/	0	0	5/	5/	5/	5/	5/	5/
TOTAL												
1950	292	42,024	4	513	0	0	288	41,511	0	0	288	41,511
1939	275	39,506	14	8,271	0	0	261	31,235	0	0	261	31,235
TANANA VALLEY												
1950	80	14,924	0	0	0	0	80	14,924	0	0	80	14,924
1939	31	9,244	0	0	0	0	31	9,244	0	0	31	9,244
SOUTHEASTERN ALASKA												
1950	68	4,149	11	375	0	0	57	3,774	0	0	57	3,774
1939	166	34,774	95	28,593	0	0	71	6,181	0	0	71	6,181
KODIAK-ALEUTIAN												
1950	9	353,643	0	0	3	353,000	6	643	0	0	6	643
1939	41	1,620,377	27	942,041	3	672,000	11	6,336	0	0	11	6,336
TOTAL												
1950	157	372,716	11	375	3	353,000	143	19,341	0	0	143	19,341
1939	238	1,664,395	122	970,634	3	672,000	113	21,761	0	0	113	21,761
ANCHORAGE												
1950	21	2,226	6/	6/	0	0	6/	6/	0	0	6/	6/
1939	27	3,132	6/	6/	0	0	6/	6/	0	0	6/	6/
SEWARD-HOPE												
1950	46	3,065	6/	6/	0	0	6/	6/	0	0	6/	6/
1939	37	19,313	6/	6/	0	0	6/	6/	0	0	6/	6/
ALL OTHER												
1950	9	1,768	6/	6/	0	0	6/	6/	0	0	6/	6/
1939	46	49,406	6/	6/	0	0	6/	6/	0	0	6/	6/
TOTAL												
1950	76	7,059	3	213	0	0	73	6,846	0	0	73	6,846
1939	110	71,851	28	63,348	0	0	82	8,503	0	0	82	8,503
GRAND TOTAL												
1950	525	421,799	18	1,101	3	353,000	504	67,698	0	0	504	67,698
1939	623	1,775,752	164	1,042,253	3	672,000	456	61,499	0	0	456	61,499

CONTINUED

TABLE 17. SEPARATION OF FUR FARMS AND GRAZING OPERATIONS FROM ALL FARMS, BY MAJOR AREAS, ALASKA, 1950 AND 1939 1/

CONTINUED-

- 1/ UNPUBLISHED DATA FROM THE 1950 AND 1939 CENSUSES OF AGRICULTURE USED BY PERMISSION OF THE BUREAU OF THE CENSUS.
- 2/ INCLUDES 9 COMMERCIAL FUR FARMS REPORTED IN 1950, AND 9 OTHER FARMS ON WHICH FUR ANIMALS WERE THE PRINCIPAL AGRICULTURAL ENTERPRISE.
- 3/ EXTREMELY LARGE FARMS ON WHICH PRACTICALLY ALL OF THE ACREAGE WAS REPORTED AS PASTURELAND.
- 4/ IN THIS GROUP ARE INCLUDED COMMERCIAL, PART-TIME, AND RESIDENTIAL FARMS. THESE FARMS MORE NEARLY CONFORM TO THE USUAL CONCEPT OF FARMS AND FARMLAND.
- 5/ INCLUDED IN THE TOTAL FOR THE MATANUSKA VALLEY AND WESTERN KENAI PENINSULA AREAS.
- 6/ INCLUDED IN THE TOTAL FOR THE ANCHORAGE, SEWARD-HOPE, AND ALL OTHER AREAS.

FARMS AVERAGED ABOUT 134 ACRES IN BOTH 1939 AND 1950. THE FARMS OF THE MATANUSKA VALLEY, THE TANANA VALLEY, AND THE WESTERN KENAI PENINSULA AREAS, ARE NOW SEEN IN MORE NEARLY TRUE PERSPECTIVE IN TERMS OF BOTH NUMBER AND ACREAGE OF FARMS. IN 1950, THESE THREE AREAS ACCOUNTED FOR 368 FARMS, OR THREE-FOURTHS OF THOSE OTHER THAN FUR FARMS AND GRAZING OPERATIONS. THEY ALSO ACCOUNTED FOR 56,435 ACRES, OR FOUR-FIFTHS OF THE FARMLAND IN SUCH FARMS. IN 1939 THESE AREAS HAD TWO-THIRDS OF THE FARMS AND TWO-THIRDS OF THE FARMLAND.

MAJOR FARM GROUPS, 1950

IN THE FIRST TWO PARTS OF THIS REPORT, AGRICULTURAL LAND USE AND RELATED CHARACTERISTICS WERE PRESENTED LARGELY AS REPORTED BY THE 1950 AND 1939 CENSUSES OF AGRICULTURE. DATA WERE SHOWN BY EIGHT SUBDIVISIONS OF ALASKA. THIS WAS DONE TO DELIMIT CERTAIN GENERALLY RECOGNIZED AGRICULTURAL AREAS HAVING CHARACTERISTICS THAT DIFFER FROM THOSE OF OTHER AREAS IN WHICH AGRICULTURE IS AT PRESENT UNIMPORTANT. COMPARISONS WERE MADE BETWEEN 1950 AND 1939 DATA FOR THESE AREAS.

FOR THIS PART OF THE REPORT THE AUTHORS HAVE DIVIDED ALL FARMS REPORTED BY THE 1950 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE INTO FOUR MAJOR GROUPS ON THE BASIS OF DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS. THESE GROUPS ARE THEN DISCUSSED IN TERMS OF THEIR ROLE IN THE AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE TERRITORY. THE FOUR MAJOR GROUPS ARE DESIGNATED AS CROP OR LIVESTOCK FARMS, GRAZING OPERATIONS, FUR FARMS, AND NOMINAL FARMS. SPECIFIC CHARACTERISTICS OF THESE GROUPS ARE SHOWN IN TABLE 18.

A SMALL NUMBER OF VERY LARGE LEASED OR MANAGED FARMS WERE REPORTED BY THE 1950 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE IN WHICH ALMOST THE ENTIRE ACREAGE WAS PASTURELAND. THESE FARMS, WHICH ACCOUNTED FOR MORE THAN FOUR-FIFTHS OF ALL FARMLAND IN 1950, ARE DESIGNATED GRAZING OPERATIONS. FARMS HAVING LESS THAN 2 ACRES OF HARVESTED CROPLAND AND LESS THAN \$150 VALUE OF FARM PRODUCTS SOLD IN 1949 ARE REFERRED TO AS NOMINAL FARMS. THESE INCLUDE A NUMBER OF RECENTLY ESTABLISHED HOMESTEADS AND MANY RESIDENTIAL FARMS WHOSE OPERATORS DEPEND PRIMARILY ON OFF-FARM WORK FOR THEIR LIVELIHOOD. FARMS ON WHICH FUR ANIMALS ARE THE MAJOR ENTERPRISE AND FROM WHICH WAS REPORTED \$150 OR MORE VALUE OF PRODUCTS SOLD (OR 2 OR MORE ACRES OF HARVESTED CROPLAND) ARE DISCUSSED UNDER THE HEADING OF FUR FARMS. ALTHOUGH FUR FARMING IS NOT AS IMPORTANT IN ALASKA NOW AS IT WAS IN THE PAST, IT IS A DISTINCT AND SEPARATE SEGMENT OF ALASKAN AGRICULTURE. CROP OR LIVESTOCK FARMS INCLUDE ALL FARMS REPORTING 2 OR MORE ACRES OF HARVESTED CROPLAND OR \$150 OR MORE VALUE OF FARM PRODUCTS SOLD IN 1949, EXCEPT FOR THOSE FARMS CLASSIFIED AS GRAZING OPERATIONS OR FUR FARMS. THIS GROUP OF FARMS ACCOUNTS FOR NEARLY ALL OF THE HARVESTED CROPLAND, ALMOST ALL LIVESTOCK OTHER THAN SHEEP AND FUR ANIMALS, AND 96 PERCENT OF THE TOTAL VALUE OF FARM PRODUCTS SOLD IN 1949 (TABLE 18).

CONSIDERABLE VARIATION OCCURS IN THE DISTRIBUTION OF ALL FARMS AMONG THE AREAS OF ALASKA AS WELL AS AN UNEVEN DISTRIBUTION OF THE MAJOR FARM GROUPS (FIG. 2). CROP AND LIVESTOCK FARMS ARE CONCENTRATED IN THE MATANUSKA VALLEY, WHICH HAS A THIRD OF ALL FARM CLASSIFICATIONS IN ALASKA. ALL OF THE GRAZING OPERATIONS ARE IN THE KODIAK-ALEUTIAN AREA, AND FUR FARMS ARE CONCENTRATED IN THE SOUTHEASTERN ALASKA AREA. NOMINAL FARMS ARE LOCATED LARGELY IN THE TWO AREAS OF THE KENAI PENINSULA AND THE TANANA VALLEY AREA. THE WESTERN KENAI PENINSULA AREA HAD A FIFTH OF ALL FARMS IN ALASKA. THREE-FOURTHS OF THESE WERE NOMINAL FARMS.

TABLE 18. NUMBER, ACREAGE, AND SPECIFIC AGRICULTURAL CHARACTERISTICS OF FARMS, BY MAJOR GROUPS, ALASKA, 1950^{1/}

ITEM	UNIT	TOTAL	CROP OR LIVESTOCK FARMS		GRAZING OPERATIONS	FUR FARMS	NOMINAL FARMS
			2/	3/			
FARMS FARMLAND	NUMBER ACRES	525 421,799	332 49,524	3 353,000	11 530	179 18,745	
HARVESTED CROPLAND FARMS REPORTING ACREAGE	NUMBER ACRES	310 6,450	272 6,382	1 33	2 6	35 35	
PASTURELAND FARMS REPORTING ACREAGE	NUMBER ACRES	218 366,028	189 12,574	3 353,031	2 8	24 423	
LIVESTOCK							
CATTLE AND CALVES							
FARMS REPORTING ON FARMS	NUMBER	170	156	3	1	10	
SHEEP AND LAMBS	NUMBER	2,236	2,083	120	9	33	
FARMS REPORTING ON FARMS	NUMBER	10	7	3	0	0	
HOGS AND PIGS	NUMBER	6,046	288	5,758	0	0	
FARMS REPORTING ON FARMS	NUMBER	32	32	0	0	0	
POULTRY	NUMBER	1,201	1,201	0	0	0	
FARMS REPORTING ON FARMS	NUMBER	173	154	1	2	16	
FUR BEARING ANIMALS	NUMBER	21,324	20,912	76	11	336	
FARMS REPORTING ON FARMS	NUMBER	23	5	0	11	7	
FARM PRODUCTS SOLD	NUMBER	4,777	481	0	4,170	126	
FARMS REPORTING VALUE	DOLLARS	341	308	3	11	19	
		1,571,931	1,505,130	29,045	36,749	1,007	

-CONT INUED

TABLE 18. NUMBER, ACREAGE, AND SPECIFIC AGRICULTURAL CHARACTERISTICS OF FARMS, BY MAJOR GROUPS, ALASKA, 1950 1/

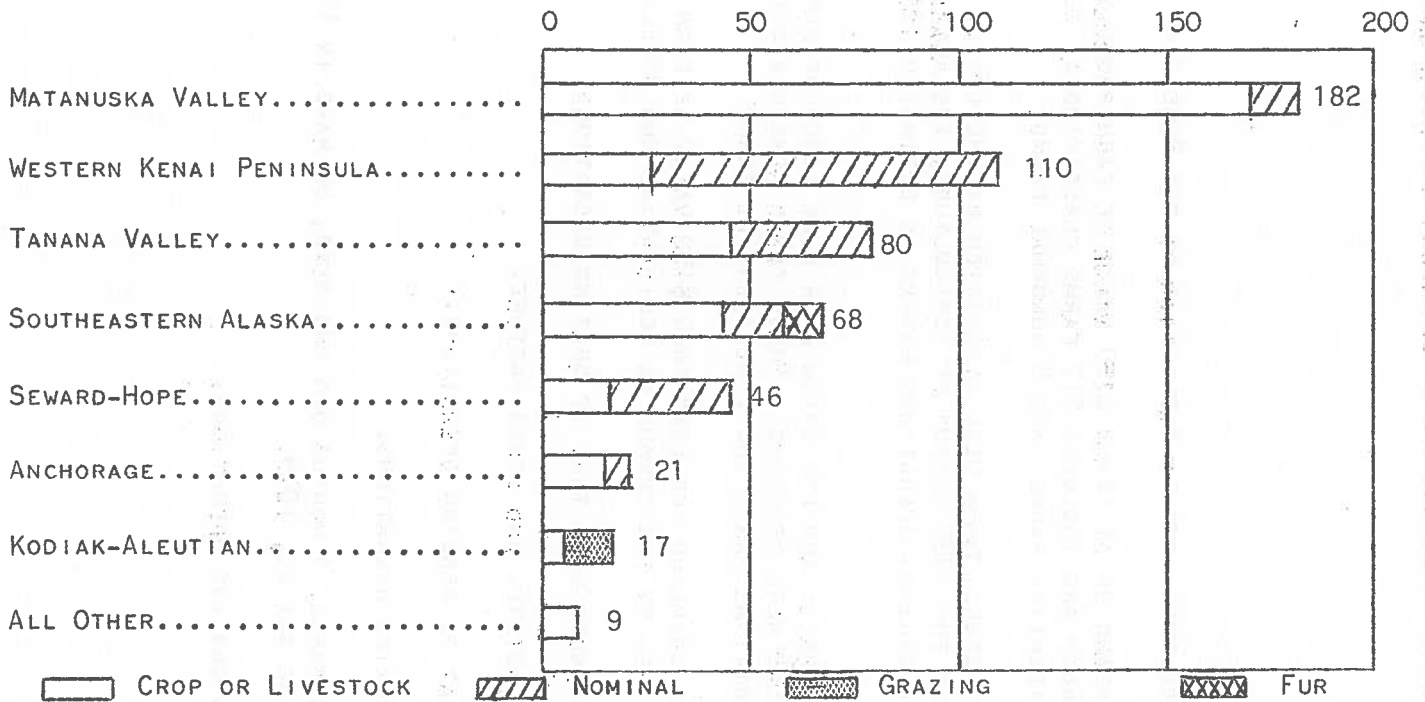
CONTINUED -

- 1/ UNPUBLISHED DATA FROM THE 1950 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE USED BY PERMISSION OF THE BUREAU OF THE CENSUS.
- 2/ FARMS HAVING 2 OR MORE ACRES OF HARVESTED CROPLAND OR AT LEAST \$150 VALUE OF FARM PRODUCTS SOLD IN 1949 OTHER THAN GRAZING OPERATIONS AND FUR FARMS. IN THIS GROUP ARE INCLUDED 217 FARMS CLASSIFIED AS COMMERCIAL BY THE 1950 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE, 58 PART-TIME FARMS, 52 RESIDENTIAL FARMS, AND 5 ABNORMAL FARMS.
- 3/ LARGE FARMS ON WHICH MOST OF THE ACREAGE WAS PASTURE. THESE WERE CLASSIFIED BY THE CENSUS AS 3 COMMERCIAL FARMS. IN ADDITION TO THE 3 GRAZING OPERATIONS REPORTED BY THE 1950 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE, THE ALASKA AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION PROVIDED INFORMATION ON 8 OTHER GRAZING OPERATIONS HAVING AN ESTIMATED 135,788 ACRES, MOST OF WHICH IS ASSUMED TO BE GRAZED.
- 4/ FARMS ON WHICH FUR ANIMALS WERE THE MAJOR ENTERPRISE AND FOR WHICH 2 OR MORE ACRES OF HARVESTED CROPLAND OR AT LEAST \$150 VALUE OF FARM PRODUCTS SOLD IN 1949 WERE REPORTED. THESE FARMS WERE CLASSIFIED BY THE 1950 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE AS 9 COMMERCIAL FARMS, 1 PART-TIME FARM, AND 1 RESIDENTIAL FARM.
- 5/ FARMS REPORTING LESS THAN 2 ACRES OF HARVESTED CROPLAND AND LESS THAN \$150 VALUE OF FARM PRODUCTS SOLD IN 1949. IN THIS GROUP ARE INCLUDED 96 FARMS CLASSIFIED BY THE CENSUS AS RESIDENTIAL AND 83 CLASSIFIED AS ABNORMAL.
- 6/ ACREAGE OF HARVESTED CROPLAND IN FUR FARMS INCLUDED WITH THAT OF GRAZING OPERATIONS.
- 7/ INCLUDES CROPLAND USED FOR PASTURE, WOODLAND PASTURE, AND OTHER PASTURE.
- 8/ PASTURE ACREAGE OF FUR FARMS INCLUDED WITH THAT OF GRAZING OPERATIONS.
- 9/ CATTLE ON FUR FARMS INCLUDED WITH THOSE ON GRAZING OPERATIONS.
- 10/ INCLUDES FARMS REPORTING A TOTAL OF 20,278 CHICKENS, 4 MONTHS OLD AND OVER, ON HAND IN 1950; 628 TURKEYS RAISED, 1949; 243 DUCKS RAISED, 1949; AND 175 GEESE RAISED, 1949.
- 11/ POULTRY ON FUR FARMS INCLUDED WITH POULTRY ON GRAZING OPERATIONS.

DISTRIBUTION OF FARMS

BY AREAS AND MAJOR GROUPS, ALASKA, 1950

NUMBER OF FARMS



UNPUBLISHED DATA FROM THE BUREAU OF THE CENSUS, IN ADDITION, 8 GRAZING OPERATIONS ARE INCLUDED WHICH DID NOT MEET THE CENSUS DEFINITION FOR FARMS

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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FIGURE 2. CROP OR LIVESTOCK FARMS ARE CONCENTRATED IN THE MATANUSKA VALLEY. GRAZING OPERATIONS ARE LOCATED ENTIRELY IN THE KODIAK-ALEUTIAN AREA, AND MOST FUR FARMS ARE IN THE SOUTHEASTERN ALASKA AREA. NOMINAL FARMS ARE HEAVILY CONCENTRATED IN THE TWO AREAS OF THE KENAI PENINSULA AND THE TANANA VALLEY AREA. NOMINAL FARMS ARE HEAVILY CONCENTRATED IN THE TWO AREAS OF THE KENAI PENINSULA AND THE TANANA VALLEY AREA. THESE ARE AREAS IN WHICH RECENT SETTLEMENT HAS TAKEN PLACE.

CROP OR LIVESTOCK FARMS

LAND USE CHARACTERISTICS

CROP OR LIVESTOCK FARMS IN ALASKA ARE FOUND IN FOUR PRINCIPAL CONCENTRATIONS. THESE ARE IN THE MATANUSKA VALLEY AREA, THE TANANA VALLEY AREA, THE SOUTHEASTERN ALASKA AREA, AND THE TWO AREAS ON THE KENAI PENINSULA. HALF OF ALL 332 CROP OR LIVESTOCK FARMS WERE IN THE MATANUSKA VALLEY, AND EACH OF THE OTHER THREE CONCENTRATIONS ACCOUNTED FOR APPROXIMATELY A SEVENTH OF ALL SUCH FARMS (TABLE 19). MORE THAN HALF OF THE FARMLAND IN CROP OR LIVESTOCK FARMS WAS IN THE MATANUSKA VALLEY. ABOUT A FIFTH WAS IN THE TANANA VALLEY AREA. FARMS OF SOUTHEASTERN ALASKA AND THE KENAI PENINSULA CONTAINED CONSIDERABLY LESS FARMLAND THAN THESE OTHER TWO AREAS.

THE 332 CROP OR LIVESTOCK FARMS HAD 49,524 ACRES OF FARMLAND. OF THIS, 10,923 ACRES (ABOUT A FIFTH) WERE REPORTED AS CROPLAND, 28,198 ACRES (APPROXIMATELY HALF) AS WOODLAND, AND THE REMAINING 10,403 ACRES AS LAND OTHER THAN CROPLAND OR WOODLAND (TABLE 19). TOTAL CROPLAND CONSISTED OF 6,382 ACRES OF HARVESTED CROPLAND, 2,312 ACRES OF CROPLAND PASTURED, 2,053 ACRES OF IDLE LAND, AND 176 ACRES PLANTED TO CROPS THAT HAD FAILED. MORE THAN TWO-THIRDS OF THE HARVESTED CROPLAND WAS REPORTED IN THE MATANUSKA VALLEY AND ABOUT A SIXTH WAS IN THE TANANA VALLEY AREA. HALF OF THE 2,053 ACRES OF IDLE CROPLAND WAS FOUND IN THE MATANUSKA VALLEY, AND A FOURTH WAS IN THE TANANA VALLEY AREA. TOTAL PASTURED ACREAGE AMOUNTED TO 12,574 ACRES. THIS WAS ABOUT A FOURTH OF ALL LAND IN CROP OR LIVESTOCK FARMS. MORE THAN THREE-FOURTHS OF ALL WOODLAND IN FARMS AND TWO-THIRDS OF ALL LAND OTHER THAN CROPLAND AND WOODLAND WAS NOT PASTURED.

VALUE OF FARM PRODUCTS SOLD AND TYPES OF FARMS

THE VALUE OF FARM PRODUCTS SOLD BY CROP OR LIVESTOCK FARMS IN 1949 IS AN INDICATION OF COMMERCIAL FARMING ACTIVITY IN ALASKA. TOTAL VALUE OF FARM PRODUCTS SOLD FROM THE 332 CROP OR LIVESTOCK FARMS WAS \$1,505,130. THE MATANUSKA VALLEY AREA ACCOUNTED FOR ABOUT HALF OF ALL SALES, THE SOUTHEASTERN ALASKA AREA HAD A FIFTH, AND THE TANANA VALLEY AREA SLIGHTLY MORE THAN A SEVENTH (TABLE 20). AVERAGE VALUE OF FARM PRODUCTS SOLD PER FARM IN THE THREE AREAS WAS \$4,353 FOR THE MATANUSKA VALLEY, \$6,846 FOR THE SOUTHEASTERN ALASKA AREA, AND \$5,101 FOR THE TANANA VALLEY AREA. OF THE 40 FARMS FOR WHICH \$10,000 OR MORE SALES OF FARM PRODUCTS EACH WERE REPORTED, 33 WERE IN THESE THREE AREAS. FOR ONLY 31 OF THE 72 FARMS IN OTHER AREAS OF ALASKA WERE SALES OF FARM PRODUCTS AMOUNTING TO \$1,200 OR MORE REPORTED. AMONG ALL CROP AND LIVESTOCK FARMS, 28 OPERATORS HAD SALES OF LESS THAN \$250 EACH, AND 24 OTHERS REPORTED NO FARM PRODUCTS SOLD IN 1949.

OFF-FARM WORK BY FARM OPERATORS IS OF SIGNIFICANCE IN AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN ALASKA. SUCH ACTIVITIES ARE NOT CONFINED TO FARMS WITH LOW VALUES OF FARM PRODUCTS SOLD. OF ALL 332 CROP OR LIVESTOCK FARM OPERATORS, 130 WORKED AWAY FROM THEIR FARMS 100 OR MORE DAYS A YEAR. AMONG THESE 130, 16 REPORTED SALES OF FARM PRODUCT RANGING FROM \$5,000 TO \$24,999, AND 44 HAD FARM SALES RANGING FROM \$1,200 TO \$4,999. ANOTHER 42 REPORTED SALES OF FROM \$250 TO \$1,199 (TABLE 21). IN ADDITION TO THE 130 OPERATORS, 49 OPERATORS WORKED OFF THEIR FARMS BETWEEN 1 AND 99 DAYS. OF THESE 49 OPERATORS, 5 HAD SALES OF FARM PRODUCTS RANGING BETWEEN \$10,000 AND \$24,999. THE AMOUNT OF OFF-FARM WORK OR PART-TIME ACTIVITY IS GREATER FOR OPERATORS WHO REPORTED LOWER VALUES OF FARM PRODUCTS SOLD (TABLE 21). A FIFTH OF THE OPERATORS WITH SALES RANGING FROM \$17,500 TO \$24,999 WORKED AWAY FROM THEIR FARMS FOR PART OF THE YEAR. THIS COMPARES WITH A THIRD OF THE OPERATORS HAVING SALES OF \$5,000 TO \$9,999, THREE-FIFTHS OF THOSE REPORTING SALES BETWEEN \$1,200 AND \$2,499, AND FOUR-FIFTHS OF THOSE WITH SALES BETWEEN \$1 AND \$249.

TABLE 19. NUMBER AND ACREAGE OF CROP OR LIVESTOCK FARMS, BY LAND USE AND BY MAJOR AREAS, ALASKA, 1950 ^{1/}

AREA AND ITEM	UNIT	TOTAL	CROPLAND				WOODLAND			OTHER LAND		
			TOTAL	HAR-VESTED	IDLE	FAILED	PAS-TURED	PAS-TURED	NON-PAS-TURED	PAS-TURED	PAS-TURED	NON-PAS-TURED
MATANUSKA VALLEY												
FARMS REPORTING	NUMBER	170	166	162	61	23	72	72	72	121	40	138
ACREAGE	ACRES	27,193	7,201	4,564	1,155	109	1,373	4,336	11,089	922	3,645	
TANANA VALLEY												
FARMS REPORTING	NUMBER	46	42	36	18	11	10	8	35	10	22	
ACREAGE	ACRES	10,579	1,780	1,010	527	54	189	645	5,209	1,158	1,787	
WESTERN KENAI PENINSULA												
FARMS REPORTING	NUMBER	27	26	23	6	0	14	13	12	5	10	
ACREAGE	ACRES	3,448	753	269	77	0	407	1,037	1,091	131	436	
SOUTHEASTERN ALASKA												
FARMS REPORTING	NUMBER	44	21	20	7	2	5	10	21	9	16	
ACREAGE	ACRES	2,875	605	340	53	2	208	491	938	419	422	
KODIAK-ALEUTIAN												
FARMS REPORTING	NUMBER	5	1	1	0	0	1	2	1	2	1	
ACREAGE	ACRES	593	2	2	0	0	2	2	2	2	2	
ANCHORAGE												
FARMS REPORTING	NUMBER	15	14	12	5	2	7	4	11	0	9	
ACREAGE	ACRES	1,781	271	124	51	2	87	285	864	0	361	
SEWARD-HOPE												
FARMS REPORTING	NUMBER	17	14	12	7	0	1	0	14	1	8	
ACREAGE	ACRES	1,447	60	20	30	0	2	0	717	2	246	
ALL OTHER												
FARMS REPORTING	NUMBER	8	7	6	3	0	2	0	5	0	4	
ACREAGE	ACRES	1,608	237	54	160	0	2	0	1,306	0	65	
TOTAL												
FARMS REPORTING	NUMBER	332	291	272	107	38	112	109	220	67	208	
ACREAGE	ACRES	49,524	10,923	6,382	2,053	176	2,312	6,824	21,374	3,438	6,965	

^{1/} UNPUBLISHED DATA FROM THE 1950 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE USED BY PERMISSION OF THE BUREAU OF THE CENSUS.

^{2/} ACREAGE INCLUDED IN AREA AND ALASKA TOTALS.

TABLE 20. CROP OR LIVESTOCK FARMS AND VALUE OF FARM PRODUCTS SOLD, BY SPECIFIED VALUE OF SALES PER FARM AND BY MAJOR AREAS, ALASKA, 1950 1/

AREA	FARMS BY VALUE OF FARM PRODUCTS SOLD PER FARM						VALUE OF FARM PRODUCTS SOLD DOLLARS						
	\$25,000 OR MORE	\$17,500	\$10,000	\$5,000	\$2,500	\$1,200		\$250	\$1	ZERO			
TOTAL FARMS NUMBER	NUMBER	NUMBER	NUMBER	NUMBER	NUMBER	NUMBER	NUMBER	NUMBER	NUMBER	NUMBER	NUMBER	NUMBER	NUMBER
MATANUSKA VALLEY	0	3	16	41	31	25	35	11	8				739,960
TANANA VALLEY	2/	4		4	8	8	10	6	6				234,665
WESTERN KENAI PENINSULA	0	0	0	3/	9		13	4/5					28,353
SOUTHEASTERN ALASKA	5/	6	4	7	6	5	8	5	3				301,214
KODIAK-ALEUTIAN	0	0	0	3	0	0							21,550
ANCHORAGE	15				3/	4							99,352
SEWARD-HOPE	17	2/	7		3/	4	8	4	0				51,381
ALL OTHER	8				3/	4							28,655
TOTAL	332	5	9	26	59	50	81	28	24				1,505,130
TOTAL	DOLLARS	VALUE OF FARM PRODUCTS SOLD										DOLLARS	
1,505,130	246,588	189,470	329,396	419,503	178,824	89,456	48,241	3,652	0				

1/ UNPUBLISHED DATA FROM THE 1950 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE USED BY PERMISSION OF THE BUREAU OF THE CENSUS.
 2/ FARMS REPORTING \$10,000 - 25,000 OR MORE
 3/ FARMS REPORTING \$1,200 - 9,999.
 4/ FARMS REPORTING 0 - \$ 249.
 5/ FARMS REPORTING \$17,500 - 25,000 OR MORE.
 6/ FARMS REPORTING 0 - \$1,199.

TABLE 21. OFF-FARM WORK REPORTED BY OPERATORS OF CROP OR LIVESTOCK FARMS BY SPECIFIED VALUE OF FARM PRODUCTS SOLD PER FARM, ALASKA, 1950 ^{1/}

VALUE OF FARM PRODUCTS SOLD PER FARM	OPERATORS REPORTING BY DAYS WORK OFF-FARM			
	TOTAL	NONE ^{2/}	1-99	100 OR MORE
	NUMBER	NUMBER	NUMBER	NUMBER
\$25,000 OR MORE	5	5	0	0
17,500 - \$24,999	9	7	1	1
10,000 - 17,499	26	21	4	1
5,000 - 9,999	59	39	6	14
2,500 - 4,999	50	22	6	22
1,200 - 2,499	50	21	7	22
250 - 1,199	81	25	14	42
1 - 249	28	5	6	17
ZERO	24	8	5	11
TOTAL				

^{1/} UNPUBLISHED DATA FROM THE 1950 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE USED BY PERMISSION OF THE BUREAU OF THE CENSUS.

^{2/} INCLUDES A SMALL NUMBER OF OPERATORS NOT REPORTING INFORMATION ON OFF-FARM WORK.

TABLE 22. CROP OR LIVESTOCK FARMS BY TYPE FOR FARMS REPORTING \$1,200 OR MORE VALUE OF FARM PRODUCTS SOLD IN 1949, BY SPECIFIED VALUE OF SALES PER FARM AND BY DAYS WORK OFF FARM BY OPERATOR, ALASKA, 1950 ^{1/}

ITEM	FARMS REPORTING \$1,200 OR MORE VALUE OF SALES BY TYPE										FARMS REPORTING LESS THAN \$1,200 VALUE OF SALES
	TOTAL FARMS ^{2/}	POTATO	POTATO-VEGE-TABLE	VEGE-TABLE	DAIRY	POULTRY	HOG	OTHER LIVE-STOCK ^{3/}	GENERAL	NUMBER	
VALUE OF FARM PRODUCTS SOLD PER FARM	NUMBER	NUMBER	NUMBER	NUMBER	NUMBER	NUMBER	NUMBER	NUMBER	NUMBER	NUMBER	NUMBER
\$25,000 OR MORE	5	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0
17,500 - \$24,999	9	2	0	1	4	1	1	0	0	0	0
10,000 - 17,499	26	2	0	4	15	2	1	0	2	2	0
5,000 - 9,999	59	16	2	2	26	12	0	0	1	1	0
2,500 - 4,999	50	18	1	7	2	14	2	1	5	5	0
1,200 - 2,499	50	19	2	5	4	13	0	5	2	2	0
250 - 1,199	81										81
1 - 249	28										28
ZERO	24										24
TOTAL	332	57	5	19	56	42	4	6	10	133	
WORK OFF-FARM BY OPERATOR											
NONE ^{4/}	153	24	2	15	45	18	2	3	6	38	
1-99 DAYS	49	11	2	1	4	6	0	0	0	25	
100 DAYS OR MORE	130	22	1	3	7	18	2	3	4	70	
TOTAL	332	57	5	19	56	42	4	6	10	133	

^{1/} UNPUBLISHED DATA FROM THE 1950 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE USED BY PERMISSION OF THE BUREAU OF THE CENSUS.
^{2/} AMONG THESE FARMS ARE SEVERAL WHICH WOULD ORDINARILY BE CONSIDERED ABNORMAL FARMS. FOR PURPOSES OF THIS STUDY, THESE FARMS WERE TYPED ACCORDING TO CENSUS TYPE-OF-FARM CLASSIFICATION.
^{3/} OTHER THAN DAIRY, POULTRY, HOG, AND FUR FARMS.
^{4/} INCLUDES A SMALL NUMBER OF FARMS WHOSE OPERATORS DID NOT REPORT INFORMATION ON OFF-FARM WORK.

TYPES OF CROP OR LIVESTOCK FARMS ^{14/} REPORTING SALES OF FARM PRODUCTS OF \$1,200 OR MORE ARE SHOWN IN TABLE 22, CLASSIFIED BY VALUE OF FARM PRODUCTS SOLD. ALSO, THE INCIDENCE OF OFF-FARM WORK BY OPERATORS OF THESE VARIOUS FARM TYPES IS GIVEN. THE ONLY FARMS REPORTING \$25,000 OR MORE IN SALES WERE DAIRY FARMS. OF THE 56 DAIRY FARMS, 50 HAD SALES OF FARM PRODUCTS AMOUNTING TO \$5,000 OR MORE. SEVEN DAIRY OPERATORS WORKED AWAY FROM THEIR FARM FOR 100 OR MORE DAYS A YEAR, AND 4 OTHERS FOR 1 TO 99 DAYS.

SECOND IN IMPORTANCE IN TERMS OF FARM PRODUCTS SOLD WAS POTATO FARMING. THE LARGEST PROPORTION OF 57 POTATO FARMERS REPORTED FARM SALES OF BETWEEN \$1,200 AND \$9,999. MORE THAN HALF OF THE 57 POTATO FARMERS WORKED AWAY FROM THEIR FARMS FOR PART OF THE YEAR; 22 WORKED OFF THEIR FARMS FOR 100 OR MORE DAYS A YEAR. TWENTY-FOUR VEGETABLE OR POTATO-VEGETABLE FARMERS REPORTED FARM PRODUCT SALES RANGING FROM \$1,200 TO \$9,999. ABOUT A THIRD OF THESE OPERATORS WORKED OFF THEIR FARMS FOR A PART OF THE YEAR. POULTRY WAS THE MAJOR ENTERPRISE ON 42 OF THE 332 CROP OR LIVESTOCK FARMS. ALMOST THREE-FIFTHS OF THE POULTRY FARM OPERATORS WORKED AWAY FROM THEIR FARMS A PART OF THE YEAR, AND MOST OF THEM WERE AWAY FOR 100 OR MORE DAYS. THE FEW HOG-FARM OPERATORS IN ALASKA (MAINLY GARBAGE FEEDERS) REPORTED A RELATIVELY HIGH VALUE OF SALES. SALES FROM BEEF OR OTHER LIVESTOCK FARMS OTHER THAN GRAZING OPERATIONS RANGED FROM \$1,200 TO \$2,499. OPERATORS OF GENERAL FARMS REPORTED SALES OF \$1,200 TO \$17,499.

THE INCIDENCE OF OFF-FARM WORK BY OPERATORS OF DAIRY, POTATO, OR POULTRY FARMS IS PRESENTED BY VALUE OF SALES CLASSIFICATION (TABLE 23). FARM PRODUCTS SOLD FROM FARMS HAVING THESE MAJOR ENTERPRISES WERE THE HIGHEST IN DOLLAR VALUE OF ALL FARM ENTERPRISES IN ALASKA; TOTAL SALES BY THESE THREE GROUPS ACCOUNTED FOR FOUR-FIFTHS OF ALL FARM PRODUCTS SOLD FROM CROP OR LIVESTOCK FARMS. ALMOST HALF OF ALL CROP OR LIVESTOCK FARMS WERE ONE OF THESE THREE TYPES. EXAMINATION OF THE RELATIONSHIP OF VALUE OF FARM PRODUCTS SOLD TO INCIDENCE OF OFF-FARM WORK SHOWS THAT THE LOWER THE VALUE OF FARM PRODUCTS SOLD THE LARGER THE NUMBER OF OPERATORS WHO WORK OFF-FARM. THE INCIDENCE OF OFF-FARM WORK ON DAIRY FARMS IS RELATIVELY LOW COMPARED TO THE INCIDENCE ON POTATO AND POULTRY FARMS.

FARM PRODUCTS SOLD FROM CROP OR LIVESTOCK FARMS AMOUNTED TO \$1,505,130 IN 1949. DAIRY FARMS ACCOUNTED FOR 49 PERCENT OF THE SALES, POTATO FARMS FOR 17 PERCENT, POULTRY FARMS FOR 14 PERCENT, AND VEGETABLE FARMS FOR 8 PERCENT (TABLE 24).

TWO-THIRDS OF ALL DAIRY FARMS, THREE-FOURTHS OF ALL POTATO FARMS, AND TWO-FIFTHS OF ALL POULTRY FARMS IN ALASKA WERE IN THE MATANUSKA VALLEY AREA. AMONG THE 170 CROP OR LIVESTOCK FARMS IN THE MATANUSKA VALLEY WERE 44 POTATO FARMS, 35 DAIRY FARMS, AND 17 POULTRY FARMS. DAIRY FARMS ACCOUNTED FOR ALMOST HALF OF THE SALES OF FARM PRODUCTS, POTATO FARMS FOR ABOUT A FOURTH, AND POULTRY OPERATIONS FOR ABOUT A TENTH. MORE THAN TWO-FIFTHS OF THE FARM OPERATORS IN THE AREA WORKED AWAY FROM THEIR FARMS FOR 100 DAYS OR MORE A YEAR, AND ANOTHER TENTH WORKED OFF THEIR FARMS FOR A SMALLER PART OF THE YEAR. INCLUDED IN THE 43 PERCENT OF ALL 170 OPERATORS IN THE AREA WHO WORKED OFF THEIR FARMS MORE THAN 100 DAYS A YEAR WERE 11 PERCENT OF THE DAIRY OPERATORS, 45 PERCENT OF THE POTATO PRODUCERS, AND 65 PERCENT OF THE POULTRY RAISERS. MOST OF THE FARMS, INCLUDING ALL DAIRY FARMS, WERE NEAR PALMER. IN THE WESTERN PART OF THE AREA, 22 CROP OR LIVESTOCK FARMS WERE IN THE LOCALITY OF WASILLA. ONLY 6 FARMERS AROUND WASILLA, MOST OF WHOM GREW POTATOES, HAD FARM PRODUCT SALES OF \$1,200 OR MORE. NO FARMERS THERE REPORTED SALES OF MORE THAN \$9,000. THE LOW VALUE OF SALES REFLECTS THE RELATIVELY RECENT ESTABLISHMENT OF PRESENT FARMING UNITS IN THE WESTERN PART OF THE AREA. ELEVEN UNPATENTED HOMESTEAD TRACTS, 8 OF WHICH WERE IN THE WASILLA LOCALITY, WERE OPERATED AS FARMS IN THE MATANUSKA VALLEY AREA IN 1950.

^{14/} AMONG THESE FARM TYPES ARE SEVERAL FARMS THAT WOULD ORDINARILY BE CONSIDERED ABNORMAL FARMS. BUT IN TERMS OF FARM PRODUCTS SOLD TO THE MARKET, THESE ARE AS IMPORTANT AS OTHER FARMS REPORTING FARMS PRODUCTS SOLD.

TABLE 23. OFF-FARM WORK REPORTED BY OPERATORS OF DAIRY, POTATO, AND POULTRY FARMS, BY SPECIFIED VALUE OF FARM PRODUCTS SOLD PER FARM, ALASKA, 1950 ^{1/}

VALUE OF FARM PRODUCTS SOLD PER FARM	OPERATORS REPORTING DAYS WORK OFF-FARM											
	DAIRY FARMS				POTATO FARMS				POULTRY FARMS			
	TOTAL	NONE	1-99	100 OR MORE	TOTAL	NONE	1-99	100 OR MORE	TOTAL	NONE	1-99	100 OR MORE
	NUM- BER	NUM- BER	NUM- BER	NUM- BER	NUM- BER	NUM- BER	NUM- BER	NUM- BER	NUM- BER	NUM- BER	NUM- BER	NUM- BER
\$25,000 OR MORE	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
17,500 - \$24,999	4	0	0	2	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	0
10,000 - 17,499	15	2	1	2	1	1	0	2	1	1	0	0
5,000 - 9,999	26	2	3	16	9	3	4	12	5	0	0	7
2,500 - 4,999	2	1	0	18	4	4	10	14	7	0	0	7
1,200 - 2,499	4	2	0	19	9	2	8	13	4	5	4	4
TOTAL	56	45	4	7	57	24	11	22	42	18	6	18

^{1/} UNPUBLISHED DATA FROM THE 1950 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE USED BY PERMISSION OF THE BUREAU OF THE CENSUS.

^{2/} INCLUDES A SMALL NUMBER OF OPERATORS NOT REPORTING INFORMATION ON OFF-FARM WORK.

STATE OF ALASKA
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER
SITKA, ALASKA

OPERATORS REPORTING DAYS WORK OFF-FARM

DAIRY FARMS POTATO FARMS POULTRY FARMS

NONE 1-99 100 OR MORE

NUM- NUM- NUM- NUM- NUM- NUM- NUM- NUM- NUM- NUM- NUM- NUM- NUM-
BER BER BER BER BER BER BER BER BER BER BER BER BER

TOTAL TOTAL TOTAL TOTAL TOTAL TOTAL TOTAL TOTAL TOTAL TOTAL TOTAL TOTAL TOTAL

TABLE 23. OFF-FARM WORK REPORTED BY OPERATORS OF DAIRY, POTATO, AND POULTRY FARMS, BY SPECIFIED VALUE OF FARM PRODUCTS SOLD PER FARM, ALASKA, 1950

TABLE 24. CROP OR LIVESTOCK FARMS AND VALUE OF FARM PRODUCTS SOLD, BY TYPE OF FARM REPORTING \$1,200 OR MORE VALUE OF SALES AND BY MAJOR AREAS, ALASKA, 1950 1/

AREA	FARMS REPORTING \$1,200 OR MORE VALUE OF SALES BY TYPE										FARMS REPORTING LESS THAN \$1,200 VALUE OF SALES		
	TOTAL FARMS 2/	POTATO	POTATO VEGETABLE	VEGETABLE	DAIRY	POULTRY	HOG	OTHER LIVE-STOCK 3/	GENERAL	NUMBER	NUMBER	NUMBER	NUMBER
MATANUSKA VALLEY	170	44	3	7	35	17	0	3	7	54	739,960		
TANANA VALLEY	46	7	1	5	3	5	2	0	1	22	234,665		
WESTERN KENAI PENINSULA	27	0	0	0	3	3	0	1	2	18	28,353		
SOUTHEASTERN ALASKA	44	0	0	4	12	11	0	1	0	16	301,214		
KODIAK-ALEUTIAN	5	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	2	21,550		
ANCHORAGE	15	2	1	1	0	2	2	1	0	6	99,352		
SEWARD-HOPE	17	2	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	12	51,381		
ALL OTHER	8	2	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	3	28,655		
TOTAL	332	57	5	19	56	42	4	6	10	1331	505,130		

VALUE OF FARM PRODUCTS SOLD

DOLLARS DOLLARS DOLLARS DOLLARS DOLLARS DOLLARS DOLLARS DOLLARS DOLLARS DOLLARS

TOTAL 1,505,130 258,602 22,281 120,622 741,078 210,779 38,671 12,218 48,986 51,893

1/ UNPUBLISHED DATA FROM THE 1950 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE USED BY PERMISSION OF THE BUREAU OF THE CENSUS.
 2/ AMONG THESE FARMS ARE SEVERAL THAT WOULD ORDINARILY BE CONSIDERED ABNORMAL FARMS. FOR PURPOSES OF THIS STUDY, THESE FARMS WERE TYPED ACCORDING TO THE CENSUS TYPE-OF-FARM CLASSIFICATION.
 3/ OTHER THAN DAIRY, HOG, POULTRY, AND FUR FARMS.

IN THE TANANA VALLEY AREA, THE 46 OPERATORS OF CROP OR LIVESTOCK FARMS REPORTED \$234,665 OF FARM PRODUCTS SOLD IN 1949. THIS WAS ABOUT A SEVENTH OF ALL SALES BY CROP OR LIVESTOCK FARMS IN ALASKA. FARM PRODUCTS SOLD FROM DAIRY FARMS ACCOUNTED FOR TWO-THIRDS OF THE AREA SALES. THOSE SOLD FROM POTATO AND VEGETABLE FARMS MADE UP ABOUT A FIFTH OF THE SALES. POULTRY FARM SALES REPRESENTED ALMOST A TWELFTH OF ALL SALES. THE FARMS OF THE AREA INCLUDED 13 POTATO OR VEGETABLE FARMS, 5 POULTRY FARMS, 3 FARMS HAVING DAIRYING AS THE MAJOR ENTERPRISE, SEVERAL HOG FARMS, AND 22 OTHER CROP OR LIVESTOCK FARMS. HALF OF THE FARM OPERATORS WORKED ON THEIR FARMS FULL TIME. MOST OF THE OTHERS WORKED AWAY AT LEAST 100 DAYS A YEAR. ABOUT TWO-THIRDS OF THE OPERATORS OF POTATO, VEGETABLE, OR POULTRY FARMS WORKED ON THEIR FARMS FULL TIME.

ALL BUT 12 OF THE 46 CROP OR LIVESTOCK FARMS IN THE TANANA VALLEY AREA WERE LOCATED WITHIN 16 MILES OF FAIRBANKS. THESE FARMS INCLUDED ALL DAIRY FARMS, ALL POTATO FARMS, AND ALL VEGETABLE FARMS, COMBINED SALES OF WHICH ACCOUNTED FOR MORE THAN FOUR-FIFTHS OF THE TOTAL VALUE OF FARM PRODUCTS SOLD IN THE AREA DURING 1949. THE REMAINING 12 FARMS WERE LOCATED ALONG THE RICHARDSON HIGHWAY BETWEEN MILE 23 AND MILE 70. MOST OF THEM WERE NEWLY ESTABLISHED UNITS, AND HALF WERE UNPATENTED HOMESTEADS. INCLUDED AMONG THESE FARMS WERE THREE POULTRY FARMS AND SEVERAL OTHER POTATO-VEGETABLE OR GENERAL FARMS. NONE OF THE OPERATORS OF THE 12 FARMS REPORTED MORE THAN \$4,000 SALES IN 1949, ONLY 5 REPORTED MORE THAN \$1,000 SALES, AND A FEW HAD NO SALES. TWO-THIRDS OF THE OPERATORS ALONG THE RICHARDSON HIGHWAY WORKED AWAY FROM THEIR FARMS FOR A PART OF THE YEAR. HALF OF THEM WERE AWAY FOR 100 OR MORE DAYS.

THE 44 CROP OR LIVESTOCK FARMS ON THE KENAI PENINSULA INCLUDED A SMALL NUMBER OF DAIRY, POULTRY, OR OTHER LIVESTOCK FARMS. MANY OF THE REMAINING CROP OR LIVESTOCK FARMS NOT CLASSIFIED BY TYPE HAD A FEW CATTLE OR POULTRY AS THE PRICIPAL AGRICULTURAL ENTERPRISE. THE VALUE OF FARM PRODUCTS SOLD BY DAIRY FARM OPERATORS ACCOUNTED FOR ALMOST TWO-THIRDS OF THE \$79,734 FARM PRODUCT SOLD FROM THE WESTERN KENAI PENINSULA AND THE SEWARD-HOPE AREAS IN 1949. POULTRY FARMERS REPORTED ANOTHER TENTH OF THE TOTAL FARM SALES. OF ALL 44 OPERATORS, SLIGHTLY MORE THAN A THIRD WORKED AWAY FROM THEIR FARMS FOR 100 OR MORE DAYS. ALMOST ANOTHER THIRD WORKED OFF THEIR FARMS BETWEEN 1 AND 99 DAYS. IN THE VICINITY OF HOMER WERE 13 FARMS. THESE INCLUDED 3 DAIRY FARMS AND SEVERAL POULTRY AND BEEF CATTLE OPERATIONS. BETWEEN NINILCHIK AND KENAI WERE 14 FARMS. THEY INCLUDED A FEW POULTRY FARMS AND SEVERAL GENERAL FARMING OPERATIONS. IN THE SEWARD-HOPE AREA, 13 FARMS WERE LOCATED AROUND SEWARD. SEVERAL WERE FOUND AROUND COOPERS LANDING NEAR THE NORTHWESTERN END OF KENAI LAKE, AND 4 OTHERS, INCLUDING SEVERAL POULTRY FARMS, WERE NEAR HOPE. ABOUT A FOURTH OF THE FARMS ON THE KENAI PENINSULA WERE UNPATENTED HOMESTEAD TRACTS. A THIRD OF THESE WERE NEAR HOMER. ANOTHER THIRD WERE FARTHER NORTH ON THE WESTERN SIDE OF THE PENINSULA IN THE GENERAL VICINITY OF KENAI AND KASILOF.

IN THE SOUTHEASTERN ALASKA AREA, 44 CROP OR LIVESTOCK FARMERS REPORTED \$301,214 WORTH OF FARM PRODUCTS SOLD IN 1949. THIS WAS SECOND ONLY TO SALES IN THE MATANUSKA VALLEY AREA. TWELVE OF THE 44 WERE DAIRY FARMS AND 11 WERE PRIMARILY POULTRY OPERATIONS. ALMOST TWO-THIRDS OF ALL FARM PRODUCTS SOLD IN THE AREA WERE REPORTED BY DAIRY OPERATORS. ABOUT A FOURTH OF THE SALES WERE FROM POULTRY ENTERPRISES. IN ADDITION TO THESE IMPORTANT TYPES OF FARMS, 4 VEGETABLE FARMERS REPORTED \$28,770 VALUE OF FARM PRODUCTS SOLD IN 1949. OPERATORS OF 10 FARMS IN THE AREA, INCLUDING 7 DAIRY FARMS, EACH REPORTED FARM SALES OF \$10,000 TO MORE THAN \$25,000 IN 1949. AMONG THE 44 OPERATORS OF THE AREA, 11 WORKED AWAY FROM THEIR FARMS FOR 100 OR MORE DAYS A YEAR, AND 8 OTHERS WORKED AWAY BETWEEN 1 AND 99 DAYS. MOST DAIRY FARMERS OPERATED THEIR FARMS FULL TIME. FOURTEEN OF THE FARMS IN THE AREA, INCLUDING 5 DAIRY AND 3 POULTRY FARMS, WERE WITHIN 16 MILES OF JUNEAU. SEVEN OF THE FARMS WERE NEAR KETCHIKAN, AND 5 WERE NEAR WRANGELL. A FEW WERE AROUND PETERSBURG, SITKA, AND HAINES. AMONG THE 44 CROP OR LIVESTOCK FARMS IN SOUTHEASTERN ALASKA, 6 UNPATENTED HOMESTEAD TRACTS WERE REPORTED AS FARMS OR PARTS OF FARMS.

IN 1950 MOST CROP OR LIVESTOCK FARMS IN THE KODIAK-ALEUTIAN AREA, OTHER THAN GRAZING OPERATIONS, WERE PRIMARILY SMALL LIVESTOCK OPERATIONS. ALL OF THESE FARMS WERE LOCATED NEAR THE TOWN OF KODIAK. SEVERAL WERE UNPATENTED HOMESTEADS. ABOUT THREE-FIFTHS OF THE \$21,550 SALES OF FARM PRODUCTS FROM CROP OR LIVESTOCK FARMS WERE REPORTED BY OPERATORS WHOSE MAJOR ENTERPRISE WAS POULTRY RAISING. HALF OF THE OPERATORS IN THE AREA WORKED AWAY FROM THEIR FARMS FOR 100 OR MORE DAYS A YEAR.

THE FEW CROP OR LIVESTOCK FARMS IN THE ANCHORAGE AREA INCLUDED SEVERAL HOG FARMS UTILIZING GARBAGE FROM LOCAL MILITARY INSTALLATIONS. A FEW POULTRY FARMS WERE INCLUDED AS WERE 4 POTATO OR VEGETABLE FARMS. OF THE \$99,352 SALES REPORTED BY OPERATORS OF THE AREA IN 1949, SALES FROM HOG FARMS ACCOUNTED FOR ABOUT A THIRD. SALES FROM POTATO FARMS ACCOUNTED FOR SLIGHTLY LESS THAN A THIRD, AND THOSE FROM VEGETABLE AND POULTRY FARMS FOR ABOUT A SEVENTH EACH. TWO-THIRDS OF THE OPERATORS IN THE ANCHORAGE AREA WORKED AWAY FROM THEIR FARMS FOR A PART OF THE YEAR. HALF OF THE OPERATORS WORKED AWAY FOR 100 OR MORE DAYS A YEAR.

EIGHT WIDELY SCATTERED CROP OR LIVESTOCK FARMS WERE LOCATED IN THE "ALL OTHER" AREA IN 1950. THESE INCLUDED DAIRYING, POTATO, AND VEGETABLE PRODUCTION AS MAJOR ENTERPRISES. ABOUT HALF OF THE \$28,655 SALES OF FARM PRODUCTS REPORTED FOR THE AREA WAS ACCOUNTED FOR BY SALES FROM FARMS HAVING VEGETABLE ENTERPRISES. MOST OPERATORS OF FARMS IN THE "ALL OTHER" AREA REPORTED NO OFF-FARM WORK.

GRAZING OPERATIONS

THE LARGE AND PREDOMINATELY PASTURED ACREAGES OF A SMALL NUMBER OF GRAZING OPERATIONS IN THE KODIAK-ALEUTIAN AREA MAKE UP A DISTINCT SEGMENT OF ALASKAN AGRICULTURE. AMONG THE FARMS REPORTED BY THE 1950 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE WERE THREE SUCH OPERATIONS WITH A TOTAL OF 353,000 ACRES (TABLE 18). IN 1950, OPERATORS OF THESE LARGE FARMS REPORTED AS FARMLAND ONLY THE ACREAGE WHICH HAD VALUE FOR GRAZING (OR CROPLAND). THEY DID NOT INCLUDE LARGE AREAS INCLUDED UNDER LEASE WHICH HAD NO GRAZING VALUE. 15/ ON THESE THREE GRAZING OPERATIONS, ALL BUT 30 ACRES OF CROPLAND WERE REPORTED AS NON-WOODLAND PASTURE. UNPUBLISHED DATA FROM THE ALASKA AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION PROVIDES INFORMATION ON 8 OTHER LARGE LIVESTOCK OPERATIONS IN THE AREA HAVING AN ESTIMATED 135,788 ACRES. 16/ BECAUSE GRAZING LEASES WERE NOT IN EFFECT FOR MOST OF THIS ACREAGE, THE ESTIMATED ACREAGE IS ASSUMED TO BE GRAZING LAND USED IN THE 8 OPERATIONS.

THUS, THERE WERE 488,758 ACRES OF GRAZING LAND IN THESE 11 GRAZING OPERATIONS IN THE KODIAK-ALEUTIAN AREA. THREE OF THE OPERATIONS HAD SHEEP AS THE MAJOR ENTERPRISE. THE OTHERS WERE BEEF CATTLE OPERATIONS. APPROXIMATELY 6,500 SHEEP AND 1,700 HEAD OF CATTLE WERE LOCATED ON THE 11 GRAZING OPERATIONS. SIX OF THE GRAZING OPERATIONS WERE ON KODIAK OR ADJACENT ISLANDS. THE OTHERS WERE ON ISLANDS SCATTERED SOUTHWESTWARD ALONG THE ALEUTIAN CHAIN. ALL ACREAGE IN THESE OPERATIONS WAS PUBLIC LAND, EITHER HELD UNDER LEASE OR USED WITHOUT FORMAL LEASING ARRANGEMENT.

15/ THE CENSUS "LAND IN FARMS" DEFINITION IS GIVEN IN THE APPENDIX.

16/ MOST OF THE ACREAGE IN THESE OPERATIONS WAS UTILIZED BY OPERATORS WHO HAD NO FORMAL LEASING AGREEMENT WITH THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR. BY CENSUS DEFINITION OF FARMLAND, SUCH ACREAGE WOULD BE EXCLUDED FROM THE ENUMERATION AS WOULD BE LIVESTOCK NUMBERS GRAZING ON THAT ACREAGE.

FUR FARMS

THE 1950 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE REPORTED 11 FARMS HAVING FUR ANIMALS AS THE MAJOR ENTERPRISE WHICH SOLD FARM PRODUCTS TO THE VALUE OF \$150 OR MORE IN 1949 (TABLE 18). FUR FARMING IN ALASKA DECLINED CONSIDERABLY BETWEEN 1939 AND 1950. THE 1939 CENSUS REPORTED FOR THAT YEAR 164 FUR FARMS CONTAINING MORE THAN A MILLION ACRES OF FARMLAND (TABLE 17). ALTHOUGH IN 1950 FUR FARMS WERE RELATIVELY FEW, THESE FEW HAVE DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERISTICS IN COMMON. FOR THAT REASON THEY WERE SEPARATED FROM OTHER FARMS. IN 1950 NEARLY ALL FUR FARMS WERE IN SOUTHEASTERN ALASKA. PRACTICALLY NONE OF THE 530 ACRES IN FUR FARMS WAS USED FOR CROPLAND OR PASTURE.

MINK WAS THE PRINCIPAL FUR ANIMAL RAISED. SALES OF LIVE MINK OR PELTS ACCOUNTED FOR THE \$36,749 VALUE OF FARM PRODUCTS SOLD BY OPERATORS OF FUR FARMS IN 1949. FIVE SUCH OPERATORS REPORTED SALES RANGING BETWEEN \$2,500 AND \$17,499. THREE OTHERS HAD SALES OF FROM \$1,200 TO \$2,499 EACH. THE 11 FUR FARMERS RAISED 4,085 MINK, 75 FOXES, AND 10 OTHER FUR-BEARING ANIMALS IN 1949. ON FARMS OTHER THAN FUR FARMS, 411 MINK, 36 FOXES, AND 160 OTHER FUR-BEARING ANIMALS WERE RAISED IN 1949. FUR ANIMALS OTHER THAN MINK AND FOXES RAISED WERE MARTIN, RABBITS, AND CHINCHILLAS. ONLY 4 OPERATORS REPORTED OFF-FARM WORK. THESE OPERATORS WORKED AWAY FROM THEIR FARMS LESS THAN 100 DAYS A YEAR.

NOMINAL FARMS

IN 1950, 179 FARMERS REPORTED LESS THAN 2 ACRES OF HARVESTED CROPLAND THE PREVIOUS YEAR AND LESS THAN \$150 VALUE OF FARM PRODUCTS SOLD. THESE FARMS ARE DESIGNATED AS NOMINAL FARMS. WOODLAND AND OTHER LAND NOT USED FOR CROPLAND OR PASTURE ACCOUNTED FOR NINE-TENTHS OF THE 18,745 ACRES IN NOMINAL FARMS. OF THE 1,424 ACRES OF CROPLAND REPORTED, 1,183 ACRES WERE IDLE, 71 ACRES HAD BEEN PLANTED TO CROPS THAT HAD FAILED, 135 ACRES WERE PASTURED AND 35 ACRES WERE HARVESTED (TABLE 25). LIVESTOCK REPORTED ON NOMINAL FARMS WERE 33 HEAD OF CATTLE ON 10 FARMS, 336 CHICKENS OR OTHER POULTRY ON 16 FARMS, AND 126 FUR-BEARING ANIMALS ON 7 FARMS. ONLY 19 OF THE 179 NOMINAL FARMS SOLD FARM PRODUCTS IN 1949. TOTAL VALUE OF PRODUCTS SOLD WAS \$1,007 (TABLE 26).

THREE-FIFTHS OF THE OPERATORS OF THESE NOMINAL FARMS WORKED AWAY FROM THEIR FARMS 100 DAYS OR MORE A YEAR. ANOTHER FIFTH WORKED AWAY BETWEEN 1 AND 99 DAYS. EIGHTY-NINE OF THE NOMINAL FARMS WERE BEGUN BY THE PRESENT OPERATORS IN 1949 OR 1950, AND 40 WERE STARTED IN 1947 OR 1948. NEARLY HALF OF THE RECENTLY ESTABLISHED FARMS WERE UNPATENTED HOMESTEADS.

NOMINAL FARMS WERE CONCENTRATED MAINLY ON THE KENAI PENINSULA AND NEAR FAIRBANKS. THE KENAI PENINSULA ACCOUNTED FOR 111 OR TWO-THIRDS OF ALL NOMINAL FARMS. OF THESE, 82 WERE IN THE WESTERN KENAI PENINSULA AREA AND 29 WERE IN THE SEWARD-HOPE AREA. AMONG THE NOMINAL FARMS IN THE WESTERN KENAI PENINSULA AREA, 35 WERE UNPATENTED HOMESTEADS. OF THE OPERATORS, 56 HAD SETTLED ON THEIR PRESENT FARMS IN 1949 OR 1950. TWENTY-FOUR NOMINAL FARMS IN THIS AREA REPORTED IDENTICAL ACREAGES OF LAND CLEARED SINCE 1945, TOTAL CROPLAND, AND IDLE CROPLAND. INCLUDING THESE 24, ALL CROPLAND WAS REPORTED AS IDLE ON 42 FARMS. ONLY 54 OPERATORS OF NOMINAL FARMS REPORTED CROPLAND. MOST OF THE NOMINAL FARMS IN THE WESTERN KENAI PENINSULA AREA WERE IN THE NORTHERN PART OF THE AREA NEAR KENAI AND KASILOF. A LARGE PROPORTION OF OPERATORS IN THE WESTERN KENAI PENINSULA AREA HAD RECENTLY ESTABLISHED THEIR PRESENT FARMS. BUT IN THE SEWARD-HOPE AREA OPERATORS OF NOMINAL FARMS AS A RULE HAD LONGER TENURE ON THEIR FARMS. IN THIS AREA THE PROPORTION OF UNPATENTED HOMESTEADS WAS SMALLER. THE AVERAGE SIZE OF NOMINAL FARMS IN THE AREA WAS 56 ACRES COMPARED WITH 118 ACRES FOR THE WESTERN KENAI PENINSULA AREA.

TABLE 25. NUMBER AND ACREAGE OF NOMINAL FARMS, BY LAND USE AND BY MAJOR AREAS, ALASKA, 1950 1/

AREA AND ITEM	UNIT	TOTAL 2/	CROPLAND			WOODLAND		OTHER LAND	
			TOTAL	HAR- VESTED	IDLE	FAILED	PAS- TURED	PAS- TURED	NON- PAS- TURED
MATANUSKA VALLEY									
FARMS REPORTING	NUMBER	12	7	2	4	2	4	1	11
ACREAGE	ACRES	1,557	65	3/	32	3/	19	3/	1,249
TANANA VALLEY									
FARMS REPORTING	NUMBER	34	21	7	13	0	5	1	33
ACREAGE	ACRES	4,345	259	7	198	0	54	3/	3,183
WESTERN KENAI PENINSULA									
FARMS REPORTING	NUMBER	82	54	7	49	4	2	4	77
ACREAGE	ACRES	9,666	685	7	580	54	3/	127	7,591
SOUTHEASTERN ALASKA									
FARMS REPORTING	NUMBER	14	12	8	6	2	2	2	12
ACREAGE	ACRES	904	272	8	242	3/	3/	3/	591
KODIAK-ALEUTIAN									
FARMS REPORTING	NUMBER	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
ACREAGE	ACRES	4/	0	0	0	0	0	4/	0
ANCHORAGE									
FARMS REPORTING	NUMBER	6	5	5	4	0	0	1	5
ACREAGE	ACRES	445	67	5	62	0	0	3/	363
SEWARD-HOPE									
FARMS REPORTING	NUMBER	29	21	6	19	0	1	0	26
ACREAGE	ACRES	1,618	76	6	69	0	3/	0	1,236
ALL OTHER									
FARMS REPORTING	NUMBER	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
ACREAGE	ACRES	4/	0	0	0	0	0	0	4/
TOTAL FARMS REPORTING	NUMBER	179	120	35	95	8	14	9	164
ACREAGE	ACRES	18,745	1,424	35	1,183	71	135	234	14,213
									54
									2,820

1/ UNPUBLISHED DATA FROM THE 1950 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE USED BY PERMISSION OF THE BUREAU OF THE CENSUS.
 2/ NOMINAL FARMS REPRESENT ALL FARMS IN ALASKA REPORTING LESS THAN 2 ACRES OF HARVESTED CROPLAND AND LESS THAN \$150 VALUE OF FARM PRODUCTS SOLD IN 1949.
 3/ INCLUDED IN AREA AND ALASKA TOTAL ACREAGE.
 4/ INCLUDED IN ALASKA TOTAL ACREAGE.

TABLE 26. SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS OF NOMINAL FARMS, BY MAJOR AREAS, ALASKA, 1950 ^{1/}

AREA	ALL NOMINAL FARMS		OPERATORS BY DAYS WORK OFF-FARM			UNPAT- ENTED HOME- STEADS	FARMS ESTAB- LISHED BY PRE- SENT OPERATOR		VALUE OF FARM PRODUCTS SOLD	LIVESTOCK ^{4/} AND FUR ANIMALS			LAND CLEARED SINCE 1945			
	NUMBER	NUMBER	NONE	1-99	100 OR MORE		NUMBER	NUMBER		CATTLE	POULTRY	FUR ANI- MALS		NUMBER	NUMBER	ACRES
MATANUSKA VALLEY	12	1	1	10	3	4	5	102	7	20	8	37				
TANANA VALLEY	34	6	3	25	24	15	13	125	0	9	0	203				
WESTERN KENAI PENINSULA	82	16	27	39	35	56	13	302	3	93	29	229				
SOUTHEASTERN ALASKA	14	2	2	10	7	4	2	220	4	76	19	10				
KODIAK-ALEUTIAN	1															
ANCHORAGE	6	1	1	6	0	2	2	110	16	55	32	66				
ALL OTHER	1															
SEWARD-HOPE	29	6	4	19	7	8	5	148	3	83	38	18				
TOTAL	179	32	38	109	76	89	40	1,007	33	336	126	563				

^{1/} UNPUBLISHED DATA FROM THE 1950 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE USED BY PERMISSION OF THE BUREAU OF THE CENSUS.

^{2/} ALL FARMS REPORTING LESS THAN 2 ACRES OF HARVESTED CROPLAND AND LESS THAN \$150 VALUE OF FARM PRODUCTS SOLD IN 1949.

^{3/} INCLUDES SEVERAL FARMS ON WHICH THE OPERATORS DID NOT REPORT INFORMATION ON DAYS WORK OFF-FARM.

^{4/} NO SHEEP OR HOGS WERE REPORTED.

IN THE TANANA VALLEY AREA 34 NOMINAL FARMS HAD AN AVERAGE SIZE OF 128 ACRES. OF THESE NOMINAL FARMS, 24 WERE UNPATENTED HOMESTEADS. ALMOST HALF WERE SETTLED BY THE PRESENT OPERATOR IN 1949 OR 1950. ANOTHER THIRD WERE BEGUN IN 1947 OR 1948. TWENTY-FIVE OF THE OPERATORS WORKED AWAY FROM THEIR FARMS AT LEAST 100 DAYS A YEAR. MOST OF THE NOMINAL FARMS IN THE TANANA VALLEY AREA WERE LOCATED ALONG THE RICHARDSON HIGHWAY BETWEEN BIG DELTA AND FAIRBANKS.

IN ADDITION TO THESE CONCENTRATIONS, THERE WERE 34 NOMINAL FARMS IN OTHER AREAS OF ALASKA. THESE WERE MAINLY IN THE MATANUSKA VALLEY AND SOUTHEASTERN ALASKA. OF THE 34, 26 OPERATORS WORKED AWAY FROM THEIR FARMS 100 DAYS OR MORE A YEAR.

Year	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960
Number of farms	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Number of operators	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Number of acres	1280	1280	1280	1280	1280	1280	1280	1280	1280	1280	1280	1280	1280	1280	1280
Number of operators working away 100 days or more	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25
Number of farms settled by present operator	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24
Number of farms begun in 1947 or 1948	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Number of farms begun in 1949 or 1950	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10

U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1957

APPENDIX

TERMS USED 17/

A FARM.--FOR THE 1950 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE, PLACES OF 3 OR MORE ACRES WERE COUNTED AS FARMS IF THE VALUE OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS IN 1949 EXCLUSIVE OF HOME GARDENS, AMOUNTED TO \$150 OR MORE. THE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS COULD HAVE BEEN EITHER FOR HOME USE OR FOR SALES. PLACES OF LESS THAN 3 ACRES WERE COUNTED AS FARMS ONLY IF THE VALUE OF SALES OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS IN 1949 AMOUNTED TO \$150 OR MORE. PLACES OPERATED IN 1949 FOR WHICH THE VALUE OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS IN 1949 WAS LESS THAN THESE MINIMA BECAUSE OF CROP FAILURE OR OTHER UNUSUAL SITUATION AND PLACES OPERATED IN 1950 OR 1949 FOR THE FIRST TIME WERE COUNTED AS FARMS IF NORMALLY THEY COULD BE EXPECTED TO PRODUCE THESE MINIMUM QUANTITIES OF FARM PRODUCTS.

ALL THE LAND UNDER THE CONTROL OF ONE PERSON OR PARTNERSHIP WAS INCLUDED AS ONE FARM. CONTROL MAY HAVE BEEN THROUGH OWNERSHIP, HOMESTEAD LAW, OR THROUGH LEASE OR RENTAL ARRANGEMENTS.

THE CENSUS ENUMERATOR WAS NOT GIVEN THE DEFINITION OF A FARM. HE WAS INSTRUCTED TO OBTAIN AN AGRICULTURE QUESTIONNAIRE FOR EVERY PLACE THAT THE OPERATOR CONSIDERED A FARM, FOR EVERY PLACE OF 3 OR MORE ACRES WHETHER OR NOT IT WAS CONSIDERED A FARM, AND FOR CERTAIN SPECIALIZED OPERATIONS REGARDLESS OF THE SIZE OF THE PLACE. THE SPECIALIZED OPERATIONS INCLUDE GREENHOUSES AND HOTOUSES, PLACES WITH 100 OR MORE POULTRY OR ON WHICH 300 OR MORE DOZEN EGGS WERE PRODUCED IN 1949, AND PLACES WITH 10 OR MORE FUR-BEARING ANIMALS. THUS, AGRICULTURE QUESTIONNAIRES WERE FILLED FOR MORE PLACES THAN THOSE THAT QUALIFIED AS FARMS. THE DETERMINATION AS TO WHICH REPORTS WERE TO BE INCLUDED IN THE TABULATIONS AS REPRESENTING FARMS WAS MADE DURING THE PROCESSING OF THE QUESTIONNAIRES IN WASHINGTON. THIS PROCEDURE WAS FOLLOWED SO THAT UNIFORM CRITERIA COULD BE APPLIED.

FOR THE 1939 AND EARLIER CENSUSES OF AGRICULTURE, THE DEFINITION OF A FARM WAS SOMEWHAT MORE INCLUSIVE. CENSUS ENUMERATORS WERE PROVIDED WITH THE DEFINITION OF A FARM. THEY WERE INSTRUCTED TO FILL REPORTS ONLY FOR THOSE PLACES THAT MET THE CRITERIA. FOR THE CENSUSES OF 1929 AND 1939, FARMS FOR CENSUS PURPOSES INCLUDED PLACES OF 3 OR MORE ACRES ON WHICH THERE WERE AGRICULTURAL OPERATIONS AND PLACES OF LESS THAN 3 ACRES WITH AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS FOR HOME USE OR FOR SALE VALUED AT \$250 OR MORE. FOR PLACES OF 3 OR MORE ACRES, NO MINIMUM QUANTITY OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION WAS REQUIRED FOR PURPOSES OF ENUMERATION. FOR PLACES UNDER 3 ACRES ALL AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS VALUED AT \$250 OR MORE MAY HAVE BEEN FOR HOME USE OR FOR SALE. THE ONLY REPORTS EXCLUDED FROM THE TABULATIONS WERE THOSE TAKEN IN ERROR AND A FEW WITH VERY LIMITED AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, SUCH AS A SMALL HOME GARDEN, A FEW FRUIT TREES, A VERY SMALL FLOCK OF CHICKENS, OR THE LIKE.

FARM OPERATORS.--A "FARM OPERATOR" IS A PERSON WHO OPERATES A FARM, EITHER PERFORMING THE LABOR HIMSELF OR DIRECTLY SUPERVISING IT. HE MAY BE AN OWNER, A HIRED MANAGER, OR A TENANT. IF HE RENTS LAND TO OTHERS, HE OPERATES ONLY THAT LAND WHICH HE RETAINS. IN CASE OF A PARTNERSHIP, ONLY ONE MEMBER OF THE PARTNERSHIP WAS INCLUDED AS THE FARM OPERATOR. THE NUMBER OF FARM OPERATORS IS CONSIDERED THE SAME AS THE NUMBER OF FARMS.

LAND RENTED FROM OTHER.--LAND USED RENT-FREE WAS TO BE INCLUDED IF THE OPERATOR HAD SOLE USE OF THE LAND. ALSO, LAND RENTED OR LEASED UNDER OTHER ARRANGEMENTS WAS INCLUDED. PUBLIC GRAZING LAND USED WITHOUT RENTAL WAS NOT TO BE INCLUDED.

LAND IN FARMS.--The acreage designated "LAND IN FARMS" INCLUDES CONSIDERABLE AREAS OF LAND NOT ACTUALLY UNDER CULTIVATION AND SOME LAND NOT USED FOR PASTURE OR GRAZING, BUT ALL SUCH LAND MUST HAVE BEEN UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE OPERATOR AND CONSIDERED A PART OF HIS FARM.

IN THE 1939 CENSUS ACREAGES REPORTED FOR SOME FUR FARMS. (AND GRAZING OPERATIONS) WERE THE TOTAL AREAS OF ISLANDS LEASED FROM THE GOVERNMENT AND ALTHOUGH THESE AREAS WERE SOMETIMES FAR IN EXCESS OF THE ACREAGES NECESSARY TO MAINTAIN THE NUMBER OF FUR ANIMALS, CATTLE, OR SHEEP REPORTED, IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE TO DISTRIBUTE THE ACREAGES BETWEEN LAND ACTUALLY USED AND LAND NOT USED. THEREFORE, LAND IN FARMS REPORTED FOR 1939 FAR EXCEEDS THAT REPORTED FOR 1950.

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