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## Fifty Years of South Dakota Agriculture

Ray F. Pengra

Gabriel Lundy

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FIFTY YEARS  
OF  
SOUTH DAKOTA AGRICULTURE

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By

Ray F. Pongra and Gabriel Lundy

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AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS  
SOUTH DAKOTA STATE COLLEGE  
COLLEGE STATION, SOUTH DAKOTA

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## Introduction

Eastern and southeastern areas of South Dakota were settled and farming well established (at the start of this report) in 1900. Western South Dakota was in the development or transition stage from wide open range in the west river district to partly settled in the central portions of the state. Black Hills communities were settled due to mining and lumbering activities within that portion of the west river area. The west river district consisting of nearly 25 million acres in total area had only 4800 farms or ranches in 1900. Ranch headquarters were usually located at sources of water either near streams or springs. Irrigation along the streams dates back to about 1880 and was largely used to raise forage crops to winter the stock pastured on the open range.

The range land of west river South Dakota was opened to homesteading and in 1907 and 1908 there were a great many entries filed. At that time homesteads were limited to 160 acres and tar paper shacks of homesteaders appeared on a great majority of the westriver quarter sections. There was little information available regarding climatic conditions and farming possibilities within this sub-humid area and congressmen based their decisions as to limitation on size on experience in farming in the more humid states within the central Mississippi valley. It was not realized until later that a farm of 160 acres in the semi-arid west was wholly inadequate to provide a farm family with a living. The census of 1910 caught homesteading at its height with an increase in Area I over 1900 of more than 17,000 farms (see page 4 for location of areas). The size of homestead entries was later increased to 320 acres

but even that acreage was not sufficient on which to make a living. Following the limited rainfall of 1911 when few crops were raised in the west river area homesteaders departed in large numbers.

### Historical Setting

White men had contacts with what is now South Dakota several centuries before this study begins. Daniel G. Duluth may have visited northeastern South Dakota in 1679. He was French and France had claimed the region eight years earlier. LeSueur and his men may have visited Sioux Falls between 1683 and 1700. About that time, 1701, the Missouri and Big Sioux rivers first were shown on maps.

From January 1 to May, 1743, the Verendrye party of four was in western and central South Dakota and buried a lead plate at Fort Pierre. About 1750 the Sioux first began to arrive from Minnesota in large numbers, driving earlier tribes out. They occupied all the region and until 1862 the position of the Dakota tribes changed very little.

The first permanent white resident was Pierre Dorion, 1777-1810. A half dozen explorers in the 1790's made the Missouri River fairly well known in St. Louis before Lewis and Clark's expedition of 1804-1806. In 1803 Napoleon sold the land included in the Louisiana Purchase, which included nearly all of South Dakota, to the United States for \$15,000,000 or 2¢ an acre.

Fur traders increasingly came into the region or passed through it as they sought furs in Montana, Wyoming, and beyond. The fur trade was at its highest development, 1820-1850. By 1850 thousands of traders and soldiers had visited the area. Continuous settlement existed at Fort

Pierre after 1817.

The Sioux uprising in Minnesota in August 1862 brought many soldiers into the Dakotas and delayed white settlement a half decade or more. East River South Dakota was part of Minnesota territory from 1849 to 1858, but when Minnesota became a state in 1858 the part within the present limits of Dakota remained unorganized until Dakota territory was created, March 2, 1861. At that time 2000 or so white settlers lived mainly at Yankton, Vermillion, Sioux Falls and in southeastern South Dakota. By 1870, 11,776 white settlers lived in what is now South Dakota, together with twice that number of Sioux. The great Dakota Boom began in 1877 and by 1885 the white population mounted to nearly 250,000 in the South Dakota part. By 1890 it was 348,600 with seven urban places having a combined population of 28,555. Donald D. Parker.

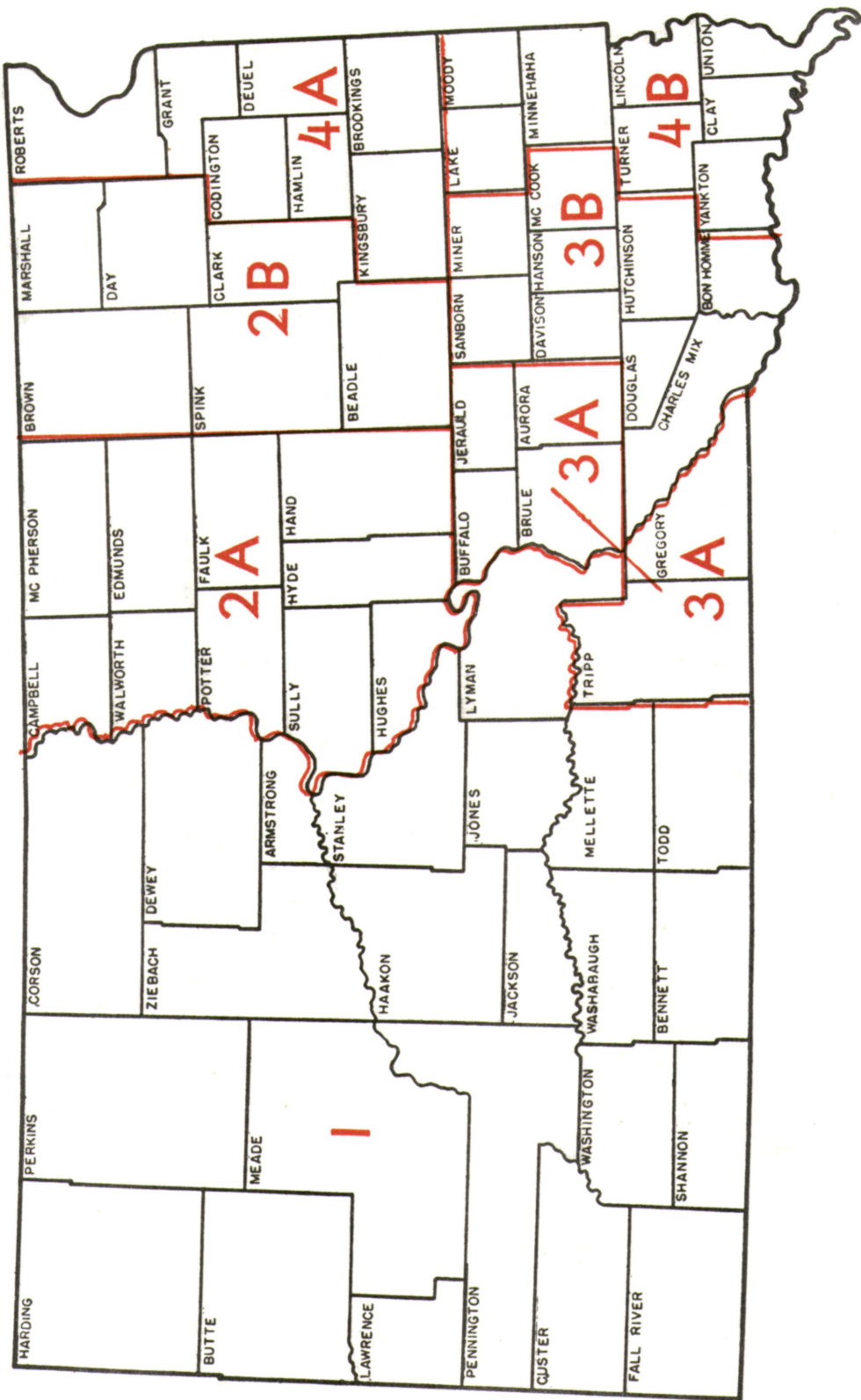
#### Economic Areas of South Dakota

Figure I outlines the economic areas of South Dakota as established by the Bureau of the Census of the U.S. Department of Commerce.

Data included in this report has been grouped, largely, on the basis of the economic areas as units with the intention of presenting the historical data covering the past 50 years as well as showing the development of the central and western portions of the state from open range land to the point where the bulk of the acreage is privately owned.



Census Economic Areas of South Dakota



## Population Trends in South Dakota

South Dakota is primarily an agricultural state. Urban population has increased during the past decade due, in part, to increased service to agriculture and increased activity in processing agricultural products. Federal activity of the Reclamation Service as well as the Army Air Base at Rapid City have made major contributions to increased urban numbers in the 1950 census. The apparent gain in urban population from one census to the next is often misleading. For example six communities listed as rural in 1940 with a total population in 1940 of 11,304 were listed as urban in 1950 since each had increased in size to exceed 2500. As a result the 11,304 rural residents of 1940 were listed as urban residents in 1950 without any actual change in residence.

In Table I is listed the total population of the state as well as urban and rural numbers for each census from 1870 to date. The numbers reported for the years 1870 and 1880 represent the numbers living in Dakota territory within the limits of what is now the state of South Dakota as well as a small part of Nebraska. Total population of the state has shown an increase each census year except for 1940. The reduction in rural population is, in part, the result of a reduction in number and an increase in size of farms as well as improvement in mechanization of farm work in reducing the needed labor force.

## Source of the Data

The data included in this bulletin are taken from the various U. S. Census reports from 1900 to 1950.

In some cases reported data are not strictly comparable from one census report to the next due to difference in the dates enumeration was made, difference in terms used and variation in instructions given to enumerators different years. Attempt has been made to secure most nearly comparable data available from one census report to the next. The enumeration dates vary from January 1st to June 1st.

Table 1. Population of South Dakota, Urban and Rural: 1870 to 1950

Census Date	The State			Urban Territory	Rural Territory	Percent of total		
	Population	Increase over preceding census No.	Per cent			Urban	Rural	
1950 (Apr. 1)	652,740	9,779	1.5	25	216,157	436,583	33.1	66.9
1940 (Apr. 1)	642,961	-49,888	-7.2	19	158,087	484,874	24.6	75.4
1930 (Apr. 1)	692,849	56,302	8.8	16	130,907	561,942	18.9	81.1
1920 (Jan. 1)	636,547	52,659	9.0	14	101,872	534,675	16.0	84.0
1910 (Apr. 15)	583,888	182,318	45.4	13	76,469	507,419	13.1	86.9
1900 (June 1)	401,570	52,970	15.2	9	40,936	360,634	10.2	89.8
1890 (June 1)	348,600	250,332	254.7	7	28,555	320,045	8.2	91.8
1880 (June 1)	*98,268	86,492	734.5	2	7,208	91,060	7.3	92.7
1870 (June 1)	*11,776	-----	-----	-	-----	11,776	---	100.0

\* Population of that part of Dakota territory which now comprises South Dakota and a small part of Nebraska.

### Rural Population Per Square Mile of Land Area

The greatest percentage change in numbers of rural population per square mile of land area occurred in areas I and 3A between 1900 and 1910. This change was largely the result of homesteaders from eastern districts moving into central and western South Dakota. There was relatively little change in rural population from 1900 in the eastern and southeastern counties of the state.

Table 2. Rural Population South Dakota and Economic Area 1900-1950

	1900	1910	1920	1930	1940	1950
State	360,634	507,419	534,675	561,942	484,874	436,583
Area 1	47,906	103,333	102,571	122,344	105,086	88,828
2A	37,560	53,613	54,526	61,476	50,497	46,796
2B	51,112	71,518	74,882	74,772	65,393	55,404
3A	16,211	40,687	47,110	46,434	37,678	31,630
3B	63,178	79,883	86,954	87,608	75,192	71,590
4A	61,765	71,292	76,353	76,061	65,635	60,350
4B	82,902	87,093	92,279	93,247	85,393	81,985

Table 3. Rural Population Per Square Mile of Land in Farms in South Dakota and Economic Area 1900-1950

	1900	1910	1920	1930	1940	1950
State	12.1	12.5	9.9	9.9	7.9	6.2
Area 1	14.2	9.2	4.7	5.4	3.9	2.6
2A	7.4	9.1	7.2	7.3	5.9	5.0
2B	8.5	11.0	11.3	10.9	9.6	7.9
3A	8.5	12.7	11.2	9.9	8.1	6.2
3B	13.0	16.1	16.9	16.6	14.3	13.4
4A	14.4	15.4	16.2	15.7	13.5	12.0
4B	19.4	20.7	22.2	21.7	19.8	19.1

## Land Area and Land in Farms

Estimates of land area by counties was revised just prior to the 1940 census and as a result minor changes were made in the reported area figures from previous reports. The 1940 estimates of 48,983,040 acres for the state are used in this report for data since 1940 only.

In 1900 only 38.8 per cent of the land area of the state was in farms. By 1950 the area of land in farms was 91.4 per cent of the total area. The greatest percentage increase occurred in the western and central part of the state. In 1900 land in farms in Area 1 amounted to only 2,162,316 acres. By 1950 Area 1 had 21,706,809 acres of land in farms or more than ten times the acreage of 1900. The increase in central South Dakota land in farms was also quite extensive but in the eastern and south eastern counties there was relatively little change during the 50 years indicating that the eastern portion of the farming districts were well settled and farms established as early as 1900.

Between 1900 and 1910 in Area 1 there was an increase of 17,160 farms accompanied by a marked decrease in size of farm units. This increase of over 17,000 farms consisted of homesteaders settling on tracts of 160 acres over a major portion of the west river area. All homesteaders appear to have been listed as full owners regardless of whether or not they had made final proof. It soon became apparent that a farm of 160 acres was far from adequate for a settler and following the dry year of 1911 there was almost a stampede to get out of western South Dakota and "Back to God's Country" as many of the homesteaders commented. Many who had proved up on their homesteads either sold to neighbors who were able to stay or mortgaged their holdings for what

they could get and used the cash to pay their moving expenses. Many others who had not made final proof abandoned their homesteads and departed. Later size of homestead entries were increased to 320 acres and additional marginal land was filed on under the liberalized law. In 1944 the General Land Office reported only 328,000 acres of land within the state on which homestead entries had not been filed.

Table 4. Land Area of South Dakota in Acres and Square Miles  
State and Economic Areas

	<u>Land Area</u>	
	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Square Miles</u>
State	48983040	76536
Area 1	24882560	38879
Area 2A	6282240	9816
Area 2B	4707200	7355
Area 3A	3331200	5205
Area 3B	3546880	5542
Area 4A	3367680	5262
Area 4B	2865280	4477

Table 5. Acres of Land in South Dakota Farms, State and Economic Areas, 1900-1950

	1900	1910	1920	1925	1930	1935	1940	1945	1950
State Total	19070616	26016892	34636491	32017986	36470083	37101871	39473584	43031964	44785529
Area 1	2162316	7206949	13872137	11764062	14449106	15666697	17412407	20021385	21706809
2A	3263503	3767999	4858064	4661182	5405984	5133915	5505836	5893013	5955375
2B	3840370	4156664	4235962	4018827	4386959	4212920	4344884	4445883	4489047
3A	1224310	2057098	2702033	2774026	2994110	2936517	2984424	3255992	3245784
3B	3108084	3169996	3288402	3271593	3382309	3337468	3365715	3457587	3426132
4A	2743406	2960761	3013835	2888856	3099417	3064215	3101267	3175862	3216733
4B	2728627	2697425	2666058	2639440	2752198	2750139	2759051	2782242	2745649

### Acres of South Dakota Land in Farms as a Per Cent of Land Area

In 1900 there was less than nine per cent of the land area of the west river district included in farms. The great bulk of this land was open range at that time. Homesteaders increased the percentage to 28.8 in 1910 and by 1950 87.2 per cent of the land in Area I was in farms. Area 3A likewise shows a marked change from 1900 to 1910 also due to homesteaders. Eastern areas show little change; Area 4B had 95.3 per cent of the land area in farms in 1900 and 95.8 per cent in 1950.



Table 6. Rural Population of South Dakota Per Square Mile of Land Area by State and Economic Areas, 1900-1950

	1900	1910	1920	1930	1940	1950
State	4.7	6.6	7.0	7.3	6.3	5.7
Area 1	1.2	2.6	2.6	3.1	2.7	2.3
2A	3.8	5.5	5.6	6.3	5.1	4.8
2B	6.9	9.6	10.1	10.1	8.8	7.5
3A	3.1	7.8	9.0	8.9	7.2	6.1
3B	11.4	14.4	15.7	15.8	13.6	12.9
4A	11.7	13.6	14.5	14.5	12.5	11.5
4B	18.5	19.5	20.6	20.8	19.1	18.3

Table 7. Acres of South Dakota Land in Farms as Per Cent of Land Area By State and Economic Areas, 1900-1950

	1900	1910	1920	1925	1930	1935	1940	1945	1950
State	38.8	52.9	70.4	65.1	74.1	75.4	80.6	87.9	91.4
Area 1	8.6	28.8	55.4	47.0	57.8	62.6	70.0	80.5	87.2
2A	51.7	59.7	77.0	73.9	85.7	81.4	87.6	93.8	94.8
2B	80.7	87.4	89.0	84.5	92.2	88.5	92.3	94.4	95.4
3A	36.6	61.5	80.7	82.9	89.5	87.8	89.6	97.7	97.4
3B	87.7	89.4	92.7	92.3	95.4	94.1	94.9	97.5	96.6
4A	81.5	88.0	89.5	85.8	92.1	91.0	92.1	94.3	95.5
4B	95.3	94.2	93.1	92.2	96.1	96.1	96.3	97.1	95.8

Harvested Acres of Main Crops and Percentage Cropland  
Acreage is of Total Land in Farms

The percentage cropland harvested is of total land in farms has shown relatively little change during the 50 years. The percentage of land in farms harvested is a good indication of the type of farming for which each area is best adapted. The west river area is largely range land with hay acreage constituting the largest percentage of farm land harvested. Central South Dakota shows the largest percentage of land in farms in small grains while eastern and southeastern areas have a relatively larger percentage in row crops. This is particularly true in the corn belt within the southeastern corner of the state.

Table 8. South Dakota Harvested Acres and Percent of Acres in Each Crop of Total Land in Farms, State and Economic Areas, 1899-1949

State	Acres Rounded to Nearest Thousand																	
	1899	1909	1919	1924	1929	1934	1939	1944	1949									
	Harv. Acres % (000)	Harv. Acres % (000)	Harv. Acres % (000)	Harv. Acres % (000)	Harv. Acres % (000)	Harv. Acres % (000)	Harv. Acres % (000)	Harv. Acres % (000)	Harv. Acres % (000)	Harv. Acres % (000)								
Corn	1196	6	2038	8	2756	8	4815	15	5095	14	2239	6	2684	7	3839	9	4015	9
Sorghum	**	**	26	*	11	*	16	*	1072	3	473	1	1072	3	482	1	148	*
Total-Row Crops	1196	6	2038	8	2782	8	4826	15	5111	14	2712	7	3756	10	4321	10	4163	9
All Wheat	3985	20	3217	13	3891	11	2364	7	3539	10	154	*	2098	5	3038	7	3928	9
Oats	691	4	1559	6	1839	6	2799	9	2272	6	263	1	1598	4	2856	6	2827	6
Barley	300	2	1115	4	755	2	789	3	2061	6	203	1	1407	3	1699	4	1056	2
Rye	39	*	14	*	463	1	236	1	230	1	21	*	624	2	375	1	263	1
Total-Small Gr.	5015	26	5907	23	6948	20	6188	20	8102	23	641	2	5727	14	7968	18	8074	18
Alfalfa	13	*	66	*	462	1	710	2	879	2	250	1	189	*	349	1	574	1
Wild Hay	2066	11	2914	11	3689	11	2940	9	2340	6	819	2	1781	5	3050	7	3366	8
Total-Hay	2079	11	2980	11	4151	12	3650	11	3219	8	1069	3	1970	5	3399	8	3940	9
Grand Total	8290	43	10925	42	13881	40	14664	46	16432	45	4422	12	11453	29	15688	36	16177	36
Area 1																		
Corn	12	1	152	2	146	1	467	4	651	5	87	1	138	1	225	1	240	1
Sorghum	**	**	9	*	5	*	6	*	143	1	45	*	143	1	94	*	43	*
Total-Row Crops	12	1	152	2	155	1	472	4	657	5	132	1	281	2	319	1	283	1
All Wheat	20	1	74	1	208	2	235	2	795	6	349	2	794	4	1058	4	1058	4
Oats	12	*	95	1	54	*	147	1	193	1	48	*	188	1	188	1	122	1
Barley	1	*	14	*	23	*	69	1	318	2	106	1	239	2	239	2	109	1
Rye	**	**	1	*	47	*	22	*	42	*	20	*	71	*	71	*	20	*
Total-Small Gr.	33	1	184	2	332	2	473	4	1348	9	523	3	1292	7	1309	6	1309	6

Table 8. (Continued)

Acres Rounded to Nearest Thousand

	1899	1909	1919	1924	1929	1934	1939	1944	1949
	Harv. Acres % (000)	Harv. Acres % (000)	Harv. Acres % (000)	Harv. Acres % (000)	Harv. Acres % (000)	Harv. Acres % (000)	Harv. Acres % (000)	Harv. Acres % (000)	Harv. Acres % (000)
Alfalfa	11 *	40 1	197 2	280 2	401 3		28 *	87 *	114 1
Wild Hay	143 7	666 9	1167 8	831 7	585 4	222 1	448 2	1130 6	1251 5
Total-Hay	154 7	706 10	1364 10	1111 9	986 7	222 1	476 2	1217 6	1365 6
Grand Total	199 9	1042 14	1851 13	2056 17	2991 21	354 2	1280 7	2828 14	2957 13
<u>Area 2A</u>									
Corn	72 2	127 3	208 4	516 11	556 10	36 *	200 4	350 6	317 5
Sorghum	**		3 *	3 *	5 *	43 1	160 3	74 1	32 1
Total-Row Crops	72 2	127 3	211 4	519 11	561 10	79 1	360 7	424 7	349 6
All Wheat	446 14	599 16	674 14	649 14	987 18		495 9	789 13	1132 19
Oats	37 1	94 2	135 3	258 5	171 3		141 3	342 6	313 5
Barley	27 1	93 2	151 3	174 4	404 8		198 4	345 6	167 3
Rye	3 *	1 *	163 3	34 1	33 1		39 1	53 1	24 *
Total-Small Gr.	513 16	787 21	1123 23	1115 24	1595 30		873 16	1529 26	1636 27
Alfalfa	**	1 *	20 *	41 1	70 1		1 *	4 *	43 1
Wild Hay	491 15	614 16	903 19	739 16	576 11	38 1	519 9	718 12	864 14
Total-Hay	491 15	615 16	923 19	780 17	646 12	38 1	520 9	722 12	907 15
Grand Total	1076 33	1529 40	2257 46	2414 52	2802 52	117 2	1753 32	2675 45	2892 48
<u>Area 2B</u>									
Corn	99 3	181 4	305 7	691 17	669 15	229 5	385 9	543 12	506 11
Sorghum	**	**	3 *	1 *	1 *	61 1	159 4	55 1	14 *
Total-Row Crops	99 3	181 4	308 7	692 17	670 15	290 6	544 13	598 13	520 11
All Wheat	1110 29	1148 27	1295 31	862 21	985 23		637 15	864 19	992 22
Oats	85 2	206 5	271 6	416 10	315 7		315 7	567 13	462 10

Table 8. (Continued)

Acres Rounded to Nearest Thousand

	1899	1909	1919	1924	1929	1934	1939	1944	1949
	Harv.	Harv.	Harv.	Harv.	Harv.	Harv.	Harv.	Harv.	Harv.
	Acres %	Acres %	Acres %	Acres %	Acres %	Acres %	Acres %	Acres %	Acres %
	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)
Barley	69 2	326 8	211 5	260 7	445 10		211 5	286 7	180 4
Rye	13 *	1 *	163 4	74 2	51 1		134 3	55 1	81 2
Total-Small Gr.	1277 33	1681 40	1940 46	1612 40	1796 41		1297 30	1772 40	1715 38
Alfalfa	**	1 *	31 1	51 1	79 2		19 *	38 1	110 3
Wild Hay	403 10	527 13	437 10	344 9	303 7	107 3	231 5	352 8	359 8
Total-Hay	403 10	528 13	468 11	395 10	382 9	107 3	250 5	390 9	469 11
Grand Total	1779 46	2390 57	2716 64	2699 67	2848 65	397 9	2091 48	2760 62	2704 60
<u>Area 3A</u>									
Corn	71 6	216 10	386 14	625 22	627 21	50 1	251 8	385 12	442 14
Sorghum	**	**	6 *	1 *	2 *	51 2	195 7	121 3	32 1
Total-Row Crops	71 6	216 10	392 14	626 22	629 21	101 3	446 15	506 15	474 15
All Wheat	121 10	140 7	251 9	125 5	197 7		136 5	173 5	235 7
Oats	15 1	97 5	99 4	192 7	171 6		69 2	148 5	169 5
Barley	5 *	20 1	22 1	56 2	158 5		187 6	238 7	155 5
Rye	2 *	1 *	36 1	10 *	33 1		42 1	61 2	27 1
Total-Small Gr.	143 11	258 13	408 15	383 14	559 19		434 14	620 19	586 18
Alfalfa	**	3 *	55 2	80 3	70 2		3 *	8 *	51 1
Wild Hay	163 13	285 14	454 17	389 14	315 11	34 1	204 7	344 11	389 12
Total-Hay	163 13	288 14	509 19	469 17	385 13	34 1	207 7	352 11	440 13
Grand Total	377 30	762 37	1309 48	1478 53	1573 53	135 4	1087 36	1478 45	1500 46
<u>Area 3B</u>									
Corn	372 12	586 18	712 22	1001 30	1026 30	581 17	522 15	800 23	963 28
Sorghum	**	**	1 *	**	1 *	166 5	254 8	90 3	15 *
Total-Row Crops	372 12	586 18	713 22	1001 30	1027 30	747 22	776 23	890 26	978 28

Table 8. (Continued)

Acres Rounded to Nearest Thousand

	1899	1909	1919	1924	1929	1934	1939	1944	1949
	Harv.	Harv.	Harv.	Harv.	Harv.	Harv.	Harv.	Harv.	Harv.
	Acres %	Acres %	Acres %	Acres %	Acres %	Acres %	Acres %	Acres %	Acres %
	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)
All Wheat	684 22	455 14	638 19	222 7	274 8	188 6	143 4	195 6	
Oats	132 4	315 10	317 10	571 17	435 13	177 5	378 11	493 14	
Barley	22 1	120 4	39 1	57 2	167 5	269 8	418 12	275 8	
Rye	111 3	2 *	5 *	22 1	17 *	115 3	105 3	58 2	
Total-Small Gr.	949 30	892 28	999 30	872 27	893 26	749 22	1044 30	1021 30	
Alfalfa	**	13 *	89 3	123 4	104 3	20 1	30 1	73 2	
Wild Hay	363 12	384 13	303 9	287 9	222 7	169 5	201 6	206 6	
Total-Hay	363 12	397 13	392 12	410 13	326 10	169 5	231 7	279 8	
Grand Total	1684 54	1875 59	2104 64	2283 70	2246 66	916 27	2165 63	2278 66	
Area 4A									
Corn	90 3	135 5	245 8	562 20	567 18	424 14	568 18	540 17	
Sorghum		*	2 *	1 *	1 *	44 1	31 1	7 *	
Total-Row Crops	90 3	135 5	247 8	563 20	568 18	468 15	599 19	547 17	
All Wheat	919 33	668 23	651 22	236 8	262 8	240 8	248 8	262 8	
Oats	166 6	266 9	387 13	574 20	461 15	438 14	592 19	546 17	
Barley	69 3	331 11	241 8	142 5	363 12	159 5	100 3	121 4	
Rye	6 *	5 *	40 1	64 2	48 2	197 6	18 *	46 1	
Total-Small Gr.	1160 42	1270 43	1319 44	1016 35	1134 37	1034 33	958 30	975 30	
Alfalfa	**	**	18 1	38 1	62 2	38 1	71 2	89 3	
Wild Hay	260 10	252 8	273 9	220 8	243 8	133 4	236 8	236 7	
Total-Hay	260 10	252 8	291 10	258 9	305 10	133 4	307 10	325 10	
Grand Total	1510 55	1657 56	1857 62	1837 64	2007 65	601 19	1864 59	1847 57	

Table 8. (Continued)

Area 4B	Acres Rounded to Nearest Thousand									
	1899	1909	1919	1924	1929	1934	1939	1944	1949	
	Harv. acres % (000)	Harv. acres % (000)	Harv. acres % (000)	Harv. acres % (000)	Harv. acres % (000)	Harv. acres % (000)	Harv. acres % (000)	Harv. acres % (000)	Harv. acres % (000)	Harv. acres % (000)
Corn	480 18	640 24	755 28	954 36	998 36	832 29	756 27	970 35	1006 27	
Sorghum			1 *	**	**	62 2	79 3	15 *	3 *	
Total-Row Crops	480 18	640 24	756 28	954 36	998 36	894 31	835 30	985 35	1009 27	
All Wheat	685 25	135 5	175 7	35 2	40 1		53 2	28 1	52 2	
Oats	243 9	484 18	577 22	641 24	527 19		410 15	643 23	721 19	
Barley	105 4	211 8	67 2	30 1	206 8		276 10	73 3	48 1	
Rye	4 *	2 *	8 *	8 *	7 *		77 3	11 *	8 *	
Total-Small Gr.	1038 38	832 31	827 31	714 27	780 28		816 30	755 27	829 22	
Alfalfa	1 *	7 *	54 2	96 4	94 3		80 3	112 4	94 2	
Wild Hay	244 9	187 7	153 6	131 5	96 4		68 2	68 2	61 2	
Total-Hay	245 9	194 7	207 8	227 9	190 7		148 5	180 6	155 4	
Grand Total	1763 65	1666 62	1790 67	1895 72	1968 71	1010 35	1799 65	1920 68	1993 53	

\* Less than .5 per cent.

\*\* Less than 500 harvested acres.

### Number of South Dakota Farms

There was an increase of more than 25,000 farms in the state between 1900 and 1910. Here again homesteaders will account for the most of the change as more than 17,000 were in the west river area and 4,000 in Area 3A. The reduction in number of farms between 1910 and 1920 was the result of homesteaders selling their small holdings or abandoning them due to the fact that 160 acres was wholly inadequate to support a family. Aside from the above mentioned decade there was a consistent increase in number of farms from 1900 to 1935. From 1935 to date there has been a constant reduction in numbers as farm acreages have been adjusted to more economical sized units.



Table 9. Number of South Dakota Farms, State and Economic Area, 1900-1950

	1900	1910	1920	1925	1930	1935	1940	1945	1950
State Total	52622	77644	74637	79537	83157	83303	72454	68705	66452
Area 1	4800	21960	15717	16528	18781	18465	13697	12216	11061
2A	5961	7267	7431	8599	9156	9200	7897	7431	7185
2B	8576	9884	10678	10899	11382	11544	10352	9822	9541
3A	2628	6824	6530	7198	7053	6709	5569	5197	4874
3B	9396	10455	11242	12276	12270	12287	11243	10782	10576
4A	9419	9455	10420	10615	11065	11342	10572	10272	10404
4B	11842	11799	12619	13422	13450	13756	13124	12985	12811

### Size of South Dakota Farms

Average size of farms was reduced in 1910 due to the small size of homestead farms. Changes in size of farms over the central and western areas of the state have been, in part, due to general economic conditions but in the main has been an attempt to adjust to economical sized units that would support a farm family with the type of farming for which each area is best adapted. In 1950 the size of western South Dakota farms was more than five times the size in 1910. In the eastern areas there has been little change.

Table 10. Size of South Dakota Farms, State and Economic Areas, 1900-1950

	1900	1910	1920	1925	1930	1935	1940	1945	1950
State Total	363.1	335.1	464.1	402.6	438.6	445.4	544.8	626.3	674.0
Area 1	450.0	328.2	882.6	711.8	769.3	848.5	1271.3	1638.9	1962.4
2A	547.5	518.5	653.8	542.1	590.4	558.0	697.2	793.0	828.9
2B	447.8	420.5	396.7	368.7	385.4	364.9	419.7	452.6	470.5
3A	465.9	301.5	413.8	385.4	424.5	437.7	535.9	626.5	665.9
3B	330.8	303.2	292.5	266.5	275.7	271.6	299.4	320.7	324.0
4A	291.3	313.1	289.2	272.1	280.1	270.2	293.3	309.2	309.2
4B	230.4	228.6	211.3	196.7	204.6	199.9	210.2	214.3	214.3

### Number and Per Cent of Farms in Various Sized Groups

In Area I 59 per cent of the farms were in the 100-179 acre group in 1910. In 1950 only 7 per cent of the farms were in the same acreage group. This 7 per cent were largely Black Hills farms and the operators spent a portion of their time at other occupations as lumbering and mining as well as gardening for local nearby towns and cities. In Area I only 4 per cent of the farms in the west river area had 1000 acres or more in 1910 while in 1950 50 per cent of the farms were in this largest group classification.

This table emphasizes more definitely the shift within each economic area to adjust to size of farm units needed for support of a farm family.

Table 11. Number and Percent of Farms by Size South Dakota and Economic Area, 1900-1950

	1900		1910		1920		1925		1930		1935		1940		1945		1950	
	Num-ber	%	Num-ber	%	Num-ber	%	Num-ber	%	Num-ber	%	Num-ber	%	Num-ber	%	Num-ber	%	Num-ber	%
State Total	52622	100	77644	100	74637	100	79537	100	83157	100	83303	100	72454	100	68705	100	66452	100
Under 10A	539	1	440	1	425	1	770	1	968	1	1823	2	1269	2	1299	2	1404	2
10 - 49	1235	2	1489	2	1334	2	1961	3	2195	3	2645	3	2404	3	2149	3	2121	3
50 - 99	2214	4	2406	3	2381	3	3119	4	3038	4	3140	4	2670	4	2157	3	2219	3
100 - 179	16144	31	28396	36	16463	22	18715	23	18034	21	20033	24	15416	21	11572	17	10410	16
180 - 259	5504	11	8230	11	9576	13	10816	13	10739	13	9570	12	7990	11	7990	12	7988	12
260 - 999	24945	47	34509	44	39408	52	40325	51	42960	52	40542	48	35550	49	35240	51	33543	51
1000 and over	2041	4	2174	3	5050	7	3831	5	5223	6	5550	7	7155	10	8298	12	8767	13
Area 1	4800	100	22346	100	15717	100	16528	100	18781	100	18465	100	13697	100	12216	100	11061	100
Under 10A	202	4	108	1	74	1	63	0	99	1	205	1	194	1	138	1	154	1
10 - 49	180	4	210	1	187	1	275	2	414	2	529	3	470	3	374	3	302	3
50 - 99	137	3	460	2	339	2	382	2	547	3	568	3	415	3	296	3	231	2
100 - 179	1821	38	13261	59	2369	15	2968	18	3249	17	3397	19	1886	14	1143	9	751	7
180 - 259	122	3	1123	5	636	4	798	5	850	5	764	4	481	4	359	3	341	3
260 - 999	1840	38	6325	28	8831	56	9467	57	10160	54	9245	50	5649	41	4620	38	3791	34
1000 and over	498	10	859	4	3281	21	2575	16	3462	18	3757	20	4602	34	5286	43	5491	50
Area 2A	5961	100	7267	100	7431	100	8599	100	9156	100	9200	100	7897	100	7431	100	7185	100
Under 10A	56	1	19	0	23	0	42	1	66	1	170	2	55	1	55	1	64	1
10 - 49	29	0	53	1	50	1	126	1	100	1	159	2	94	1	63	1	84	1
50 - 99	62	1	99	1	58	1	179	2	112	1	128	1	120	2	69	1	75	1
100 - 179	1347	23	1367	19	581	8	683	8	715	8	1012	11	692	9	399	5	354	5
180 - 259	310	5	356	5	290	4	519	6	431	5	392	4	232	3	191	2	171	2
260 - 999	3623	61	4740	65	5392	72	6329	74	6749	73	6367	69	5402	68	5106	69	4775	67
1000 and over	534	9	633	9	1037	14	721	8	983	11	972	11	1302	16	1548	21	1662	23
Area 2B	8576	100	9884	100	10678	100	10899	100	11382	100	11544	100	10352	100	9822	100	9541	100
Under 10A	37	0	45	1	45	1	54	1	134	1	278	2	169	2	170	2	193	2
10 - 49	82	1	148	1	133	1	163	1	215	2	292	3	268	3	213	2	206	2
50 - 99	136	1	184	2	164	2	194	2	260	2	242	2	212	2	174	2	155	2
100 - 179	1841	22	1499	15	1626	15	1761	16	1579	14	2227	19	1606	15	1048	11	956	10

Table 11. (Continued)

	1900	1910	1920	1925	1930	1935	1940	1945	1950						
	Num-ber	Num-ber	Num-ber	Num-ber	Num-ber	Num-ber	Num-ber	Num-ber	Num-ber						
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%						
180 - 259	561	827	8	1317	12	1290	11	1108	10	879	9	818	8	761	8
260 - 999	5446	6827	69	7304	68	7613	67	7120	62	6759	65	6890	70	6717	70
1000 and over	473	354	4	247	2	291	3	277	2	459	4	509	5	553	6
Area 3A	2628	6824	100	6530	100	7053	100	6709	100	5569	100	5197	100	4874	100
Under 10A	14	10	0	26	0	41	1	86	1	61	1	53	1	89	2
10 - 49	13	74	1	88	1	105	1	128	2	104	2	103	2	108	2
50 - 99	53	203	2	109	2	199	3	151	2	102	2	81	2	83	2
100 - 179	874	3441	33	1476	23	1329	19	1475	22	870	16	573	11	492	10
180 - 259	96	473	3	742	11	761	11	527	8	380	7	362	7	295	6
260 - 999	1366	2447	52	3767	58	4278	60	3958	59	3524	63	3343	64	3063	63
1000 and over	212	176	3	322	5	340	5	384	6	528	9	682	13	744	15
Area 3B	9396	10455	100	11242	100	12270	100	12287	100	11243	100	10782	100	10576	100
Under 10A	50	65	1	71	1	155	1	287	2	221	2	262	2	205	2
10 - 49	190	231	2	216	2	366	3	413	3	423	4	359	3	380	3
50 - 99	430	330	3	385	3	406	3	422	3	380	3	343	3	382	4
100 - 179	2678	2762	28	2852	25	3244	26	3409	28	2769	25	1888	18	1729	16
180 - 259	1285	1734	14	2234	20	2504	21	2299	19	1820	16	1869	17	1784	17
260 - 999	4575	5228	49	5390	48	5517	45	5371	44	5481	49	5907	55	5913	56
1000 and over	188	105	2	94	1	78	1	86	1	149	1	154	2	183	2
Area 4A	9419	9455	100	10420	100	11065	100	11342	100	10572	100	10272	100	10404	100
Under 10A	32	43	0	34	1	178	2	284	3	178	2	165	1	206	2
10 - 49	159	203	2	204	2	362	3	392	3	409	4	322	3	348	3
50 - 99	327	284	4	301	3	371	3	440	4	358	3	293	3	371	4
100 - 179	3349	2097	36	2667	26	2715	24	3167	28	2567	24	2058	20	1963	19
180 - 259	1182	1483	12	1898	18	2154	20	1951	17	1762	17	1716	17	1777	17
260 - 999	4271	5266	45	5264	50	5228	47	5046	44	5206	49	5616	55	5628	54
1000 and over	99	79	1	52	0	57	1	62	1	92	1	102	1	111	1

Table 11. (Continued)

	1900		1910		1920		1925		1930		1935		1940		1945		1950	
	Num-ber	%	Num-ber	%	Num-ber	%	Num-ber	%	Num-ber	%	Num-ber	%	Num-ber	%	Num-ber	%	Num-ber	%
Area 4B	11842	100	11799	100	12619	100	13422	100	13450	100	13756	100	13124	100	12985	100	12811	100
Under 10A	148	1	150	2	152	1	299	2	295	2	513	4	391	3	456	3	493	4
10 - 49	582	5	572	5	456	4	625	5	633	5	732	5	636	5	715	6	693	5
50 - 99	1069	9	860	7	1025	8	1289	10	1143	9	1189	9	1083	8	901	7	922	7
100 - 179	4234	36	4047	34	4892	39	5462	41	5203	39	5346	39	5026	38	4463	34	4165	33
180 - 259	1948	17	2238	19	2617	21	2640	19	2749	20	2529	18	2436	19	2675	21	2859	22
260 - 999	3824	32	3902	33	3460	27	3097	23	3415	25	3435	25	3529	27	3758	29	3656	29
1000 and over	37	0	30	0	17	0	10	0	12	0	12	0	23	0	17	0	23	0

### Value of Farm Land Per Farm

Values per farm show much less change than values per acre. This was the result of an increase in size of farms to partly offset the variations in values per acre. Much of the change here again is due to general economic conditions and changes in the value of the dollar.



Table 12. Value Farm Land and Buildings Per Farm, South Dakota and Economic Areas  
1900-1950

	1900	1910	1920	1925	1930	1935	1940	1945	1950
State Total	4183	12945	33132	18071	15455	8305	6976	11124	20740*
Area 1	1756	4909	15917	9626	9068	6130	5343	8775	22082
2A	2457	16752	30588	18281	14841	7855	5460	9220	19153
2B	3510	20006	36916	21056	16283	8926	6304	10466	17878
3A	2857	10556	31053	17829	13591	6758	4759	9174	18213
3B	4642	17013	41615	21259	19064	8878	6738	10936	20052
4A	4601	14782	34453	18872	16057	8176	7606	10994	18057
4B	6122	15945	45299	22491	21279	11355	10761	15962	26411

\* From Area Sample Census

### Value Per Acre of South Dakota Farms

The extreme changes in values per acre have been, in part, the result of general economic conditions and in changes in the value of the dollar. Another factor that has operated to show major changes in values has been the result of the addition since 1900 of a relatively large portion of western South Dakota land that was of little value per acre. This land was fit only for range purposes and the limited rainfall of the area greatly reduces its income possibilities.

Prior to 1920 farm land throughout the entire country had shown a constant tendency to rise in value. It had been a good investment to purchase farm land and reap good dividends through the advance in value of the land. In 1920 it was not realized that the extreme high prices at that time were the result of war conditions stimulating both demand and prices of farm products during relatively favorable precipitation years. In 1920, values were entirely out of line with long-time income possibilities of the land and adjustments were necessary.

Table 13. Value Farm Land and Buildings Per Acre, South Dakota and Economic Areas,  
1900-1950

	1900	1910	1920	1925	1930	1935	1940	1945	1950
State Total	11.54	38.63	71.40	44.89	35.24	18.65	12.80	17.76	31.40*
Area 1	3.90	14.96	18.03	13.52	11.79	7.23	4.20	5.35	11.84
2A	4.49	32.31	46.79	33.73	25.14	14.08	7.83	11.63	23.16
2B	7.84	47.57	93.06	57.10	42.25	24.46	15.02	23.12	37.03
3A	6.13	35.02	75.05	46.26	32.01	15.44	8.88	14.64	28.02
3B	14.03	56.11	142.27	79.77	69.16	32.69	22.51	34.10	60.69
4A	15.80	47.21	119.12	69.34	57.32	30.26	25.93	35.56	57.18
4B	26.57	69.75	214.41	114.37	103.99	56.80	51.19	74.50	122.39

(Dollars)

\* From Area Sample Census

### Tenure of Farm Operators

The extreme changes in tenancy have been largely the result of general economic conditions. The increase in the number of full owners in 1910 especially in Areas I and 3A were the result of homesteaders moving in and that all homesteaders were apparently listed as full owners whether or not proof had been completed. The great increase in tenancy and corresponding decrease of owners from 1920 through 1940 was the result of farm foreclosures due to excess valuations in 1920 accompanied by large mortgage indebtedness based on inflated values. With the decrease in demand for farm produced goods after World War I accompanied by unfavorable weather conditions foreclosures reduced many owners to tenants as their farms were lost to creditors through foreclosures of delinquent loans. The recent increased demand, high prices and favorable growing conditions have resulted in many farmers being able to repurchase farm land and so reduce the former trend toward increased tenancy.

Table 14. South Dakota U. S. Census Data 1900-1950  
 Number and Percent of Farms by Tenure of Operator, South Dakota and Economic  
 Area, 1900-1950

	1900		1910		1920		1925		1930		1935		1940		1945		1950	
	Num- ber	%	Num- ber	%	Num- ber	%	Num- ber	%	Num- ber	%	Num- ber	%	Num- ber	%	Num- ber	%	Num- ber	%
State Total	52622	100	77644	100	74637	100	79537	100	83157	100	83303	100	72454	100	68705	100	66452	100
Full owners	25676	49	40405	52	27253	36	24768	31	22372	27	21425	26	15053	21	17329	25	20697	31
Part owners	14964	28	17579	22	20562	28	21392	27	23237	28	21027	25	18750	26	24898	36	25334	38
Managers	531	1	429	1	781	1	331	*	454	1	374	1	253	*	312	1	224	*
Tenants	11451	22	19231	25	26041	35	33046	42	37094	44	40477	48	38398	53	26166	38	20197	31
Area 1	4800	100	21960	100	15717	100	16528	100	18781	100	18465	100	13697	100	12216	100	11061	100
Full owners	3955	82	17488	80	7504	48	7191	43	6874	36	5957	32	3635	26	3241	26	3514	32
Part owners	380	8	3595	16	6107	39	5860	35	6421	34	6270	34	5302	39	6345	52	5835	53
Managers	162	4	85	*	189	1	77	1	118	1	98	1	76	1	103	1	95	1
Tenants	303	6	792	4	1917	12	3400	21	5368	29	6140	33	4684	34	2527	21	1617	14
Area 2A	5961	100	7267	100	7431	100	8599	100	9156	100	9200	100	7897	100	7431	100	7185	100
Full owners	2670	45	3372	46	1991	27	1623	19	1439	15	1561	17	890	11	1164	16	1616	23
Part owners	2600	43	2173	30	2908	39	3523	41	3840	42	3160	34	2685	34	3916	53	3727	52
Managers	56	1	39	1	116	2	30	*	43	1	35	1	24	*	29	*	26	*
Tenants	635	11	1683	23	2416	32	3423	40	3834	42	4444	48	4298	55	2322	31	1816	25
Area 2B	8576	100	9884	100	10678	100	10899	100	11382	100	11544	100	10352	100	9822	100	9541	100
Full owners	3097	36	3119	32	3274	31	2864	26	2400	21	2480	21	1615	16	2276	23	2988	31
Part owners	3413	40	3203	32	2860	27	2806	26	3073	27	2555	22	2423	23	3540	36	3781	40
Managers	82	1	62	1	110	1	68	1	79	1	52	1	26	*	32	*	34	*
Tenants	1984	23	3500	35	4434	41	5161	47	5830	51	6457	56	6288	61	3974	41	2738	29

Table 14. (Continued)

	1900		1910		1920		1925		1930		1935		1940		1945		1950	
	Num-ber	%	Num-ber	%	Num-ber	%	Num-ber	%	Num-ber	%	Num-ber	%	Num-ber	%	Num-ber	%	Num-ber	%
Area 3A	2628	100	6824	100	6530	100	7198	100	7053	100	6709	100	5569	100	5197	100	4874	100
Full owners	1106	42	4221	62	2294	35	1849	26	1470	21	1397	21	860	16	1033	20	1404	29
Part owners	1025	39	1165	17	2033	31	2253	31	2121	30	1754	26	1521	27	2130	41	2027	42
Managers	17	1	21	*	66	1	34	1	42	1	28	*	11	*	17	*	16	*
Tenants	480	18	1417	21	2137	33	3062	42	3420	48	3530	53	3177	57	2017	39	1427	29
Area 3B	9396	100	10455	100	11242	100	12276	100	12270	100	12287	100	11243	100	10782	100	10576	100
Full owners	4088	43	3673	35	3743	33	3506	29	3203	26	2986	24	2081	19	2381	22	3030	29
Part owners	2811	30	2682	26	2611	23	2751	22	3017	25	2930	24	2462	22	3367	31	3722	35
Managers	65	1	65	1	75	1	32	*	45	*	38	*	14	*	31	*	19	*
Tenants	2432	26	4035	38	4813	43	5987	49	6005	49	6333	52	6686	59	5003	47	3805	36
Area 4A	9419	100	9455	100	10420	100	10615	100	11065	100	11342	100	10572	100	10272	100	10404	100
Full owners	4947	52	3391	36	3681	35	3135	30	2791	25	2769	24	2211	21	2880	28	3713	36
Part owners	2473	26	2678	28	2146	21	2147	20	2445	22	2098	19	2159	21	2995	29	3260	31
Managers	50	1	63	1	104	1	37	*	36	*	40	*	35	*	46	*	9	*
Tenants	1949	21	3323	35	4489	43	5296	50	5793	53	6435	57	6167	58	4351	43	3422	33
Area 4B	11842	100	11799	100	12619	100	13422	100	13450	100	13756	100	13124	100	12985	100	12811	100
Full owners	5813	49	5141	43	4766	38	4600	34	4195	31	4275	31	3761	29	4354	34	4432	35
Part owners	2262	19	2083	18	1897	15	2052	15	2320	17	2260	16	2198	17	2605	20	2982	23
Managers	99	1	94	1	121	1	53	1	91	1	83	1	67	*	54	*	25	*
Tenants	3668	31	4481	38	5835	46	6717	50	6844	51	7138	52	7098	54	5972	46	5372	42

\* Less than .5 per cent.

### Acres of Land Operated By Tenure Classifications

Acres of land operated by part owners has increased more than the increase in the number of part owners. This is due to the fact that their farms have materially increased in size to a greater degree than for other tenure groups and as it became necessary to operate larger farms to secure economically sized farm units many farmers preferred to rent land rather than purchase additional acreage with added investment and risk involved in changing prices.

Table 15. Acres Operated by South Dakota Farmers by Tenure of Operator and Percent of Land in Farms, State and Economic Areas, 1900-1950

	1900	1910	1920	1925	1930	1935	1940	1945	1950
	Acres (000)	% Acres (000)	% Acres (000)	% Acres (000)	% Acres (000)	% Acres (000)	% Acres (000)	% Acres (000)	% Acres (000)
<u>State Totals</u>	19071 100	26017 100	34636 100	32018 100	36470 100	37102 100	39474 100	43032 100	44786 100
Full owners	7241 38	(19315 74)	9008 26	7455 23	6513 18	5824 16	4012 10	5091 12	7551 17
Part owners	7927 41	( )	15161 44	13482 42	15960 44	16284 44	19542 50	26579 62	27438 61
Owned land				6828 21	7623 21	7294 20	7340 19	12281 29	15230 34
Rented land				6654 21	8337 23	8990 24	12202 31	14299 33	12208 27
Managers	476 3	635 3	890 2	771 3	962 2	1109 3	642 1	1363 3	1763 4
Tenants	3426 18	6067 23	9577 28	10310 32	13035 36	13885 37	15278 39	9998 23	8033 18
<u>Area 1 Totals</u>	7207 100	13872 100	11764 100	14449 100	15667 100	17412 100	20021 100	21707 100	
Full owners	(6506 90)	3368 24	2919 25	2715 19	2158 14	1350 8	1537 8	2671 12	
Part owners	( )	8144 59	6535 55	7754 54	8928 57	11658 67	15131 76	15622 72	
Owned land			2999 25	3536 30		3645 23	3770 22	6332 32	
Rented land						5283 34	7888 45	8798 44	
Managers	376 5	495 4	567 5	744 5	915 6	502 3	1108 5	1558 7	
Tenants	325 5	1865 13	1744 15	3235 22	3666 23	3902 22	2245 11	1856 9	
<u>Area 2A Totals</u>	3768 100	4858 100	4661 100	5406 100	5134 100	5506 100	5893 100	5955 100	
Full owners	(2932 78)	994 20	715 15	598 11	584 11	387 7	541 9	928 16	
Part owners	( )	2330 48	2364 51	2865 53	2451 48	2593 47	3961 67	3877 65	
Owned land			1243 27		1174 23	1070 19	1940 33		
Rented land			1121 24		1277 25	1524 28	2020 34		
Managers	87 2	141 3	50 1	68 1	51 1	37 1	77 1	67 1	
Tenants	748 20	1393 29	1532 33	1895 35	2048 40	2488 45	1314 23	1083 18	



Table 15. (Continued)

	1900	1910	1920	1925	1930	1935	1940	1945	1950	
	Acres (000)	% (000)	Acres (000)	% (000)	Acres (000)	% (000)	Acres (000)	% (000)	Acres (000)	
<u>Area 2B Totals</u>	4157	100	4236	100	4387	100	4345	100	4446	100
Full owners	(2736	66)	1061	25	709	16	442	10	696	16
Part owners	(	)	1406	33	1540	35	1450	33	2143	48
Owned land			727	18	650	15	669	15	1123	25
Rented land			576	14	657	16	781	18	1020	23
Managers	45	1	78	2	36	1	22	1	33	1
Tenants	1376	33	1691	40	2103	48	2431	56	1574	35
	2057	100	2702	100	2994	100	2984	100	3256	100
<u>Area 3A Totals</u>			2774	100	2937	100	2984	100	3256	100
Full owners	(1534	75)	726	27	421	14	268	9	405	12
Part owners	(	)	1099	41	1224	41	1291	43	1922	59
Owned land			623	22	520	18	548	18	1015	31
Rented land			517	19	635	21	743	25	907	28
Managers	22	1	69	2	65	2	24	1	56	2
Tenants	501	24	809	30	1285	43	1401	47	873	27
	3170	100	3288	100	3382	100	3366	100	3458	100
<u>Area 3B Totals</u>			3272	100	3337	100	3366	100	3458	100
Full owners	(2021	64)	1015	31	747	22	461	14	536	15
Part owners	(	)	923	28	1061	31	1024	30	1440	42
Owned land			550	17	579	17	521	15	798	23
Rented land			357	11	468	14	503	15	642	19
Managers	45	1	37	1	36	1	21	1	41	1
Tenants	1104	35	1313	40	1538	46	1860	55	1441	42
			1491	45	1586	48	1860	55	1441	42
									39	1
									741	22
									1540	45
									798	23
									642	19
									41	1
									39	1
									1106	32

Table 15. (Continued)

	1900	1910	1920	1925	1930	1935	1940	1945	1950
	Acres %	Acres %	Acres %	Acres %	Acres %	Acres %	Acres %	Acres %	Acres %
	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)
<u>Area 4A Totals</u>	2961 100	3014 100	2889 100	3099 100	3064 100	3101 100	3176 100	3217 100	
Full owners	(1923 65)	921 31	738 25	607 20	590 19	464 15	663 21	891 28	
Part owners	( )	781 26	736 26	909 29	787 26	883 29	1237 39	1346 42	
Owned land			408 14		399 13	430 14	675 21		
Rented land			328 11		388 13	453 15	562 18		
Managers	24 1	38 1	24 1	10 *	14 *	14 *	22 1	8 *	
Tenants	1014 34	1275 42	1391 48	1574 51	1673 55	1740 56	1254 39	972 30	
<u>Area 4B Totals</u>	2697 100	2666 100	2639 100	2752 100	2750 100	2759 100	2782 100	2746 100	
Full owners	(1663 62)	922 35	797 30	717 26	719 26	640 23	713 25	694 25	
Part owners	( )	480 18	498 19	607 22	611 22	643 23	746 27	850 31	
Owned land			278 11		329 12	332 12	397 14		
Rented land			220 8		282 10	311 11	349 13		
Managers	36 1)	33 1	11 *	23 1	22 1	22 1	27 1	13 1	
Tenants	999 37	1231 46	1333 51	1405 51	1399 51	1455 53	1297 47	1188 43	

\* Less than .5 per cent.

## Livestock Numbers

Census reports on livestock numbers are not strictly comparable from one census report to the next due to the difference in date count was made. In 1900 the census was taken as of June 1. Later census report dates vary from January 1 to April 15. In so far as possible adjustment has been made for estimating numbers as of January 1 for all years since 1900. The numbers are given here for historical record and are not strictly comparable as an indication of actual change in numbers.

Table 16. Numbers of All Cattle on South Dakota Farms, State and Economic Areas 1900-1950

	1900 (000)	1910 (000)	1920 (000)	1925 (000)	1930 (000)	1935 (000)	1940 (000)	1945 (000)	1950 (000)
State Totals	1547	1330	2348	2022	1974	1632	1496	2544	2513*
Area 1	488	388	715	533	568	505	347	635	834
2A	213	143	309	261	253	148	182	346	354
2B	186	146	261	231	221	140	171	237	257
3A	94	107	228	213	177	93	140	243	246
3B	231	212	309	283	264	233	206	332	295
4A	112	131	235	225	215	168	193	276	240
4B	223	202	291	276	275	344	258	374	287

1900 Numbers of Livestock average of June 1st, other January.

\* Economic Areas Sample Census

Table 17. Numbers of Milk Cows on South Dakota Farms, State and Economic Areas 1900-1950

	1900 (000)	1910 (000)	1920 (000)	1925 (000)	1930 (000)	1935 (000)	1940 (000)	1945 (000)	1950 (000)
State Totals	270	370	337	243	488	456	456	345	345
Area 1	11	49	54	43	82	53	53	37	37
2A	31	41	35	25	61	51	51	41	41
2B	45	49	48	37	69	65	65	50	50
3A	21	28	20	13	41	36	36	21	21
3B	60	70	51	31	75	79	79	60	60
4A	38	57	64	52	79	81	81	66	66
4B	64	75	65	42	80	91	91	70	70

Sum of Area Totals do not always equal State Totals due to rounding

Table 18. Numbers of All Hogs and Pigs on South Dakota Farms, State and Economic Areas 1900-1950

	1900 (000)	1910 (000)	1920 (000)	1925 (000)	1930 (000)	1935 (000)	1940 (000)	1945 (000)	1950 (000)
State Totals	823	658	1954	2600	1499	544	553	1250	1365
Area 1	8	23	114	250	164	56	27	67	58
2A	28	59	188	325	131	33	29	125	97
2B	58	79	270	335	163	45	62	172	150
3A	38	64	227	287	136	32	50	96	98
3B	233	169	439	553	336	85	87	216	295
4A	83	56	209	277	163	55	95	182	186
4B	374	208	506	572	406	237	202	392	481

Table 19. Numbers of Sheep and Lambs on South Dakota Farms, State and Economic Areas 1900-1950

	1900 (000)	1910 (000)	1920 (000)	1925 (000)	1930 (000)	1935 (000)	1940 (000)	1945 (000)	1950 (000)
State Totals	775	501	844	644	1150	1320	1370	1771	889
Area 1	277	289	534	392	629	763	657	865	430
2A	138	36	57	44	108	98	179	173	90
2B	116	36	69	49	132	121	155	162	93
3A	48	10	20	18	42	25	58	75	32
3B	79	29	49	31	74	66	89	117	52
4A	64	54	62	51	98	99	139	163	105
4B	52	48	52	58	68	148	94	216	87

Sum of Area Totals do not always equal State Totals due to rounding.

Table 20. Value of Horses and Mules on South Dakota Farms, State and Economic Areas 1920-1950

	1920 (000)	1925 (000)	1930 (000)	1935 (000)	1940 (000)	1945 (000)	1950 (000)
State Totals	58688	34390	32969	26459	19112	11657	5400
Area 1	11295	6487	5790		3760	2768	1458
2A	7399	4637	3567		2365	1329	719
2B	9532	4893	5035		2479	1199	598
3A	4559	2776	2444		1284	918	404
3B	8725	5802	5477		2943	1859	844
4A	7377	4244	4607		2876	1501	695
4B	9800	5550	6049		3405	2074	682

Table 21. Value of All Cattle on South Dakota Farms, State and Economic Areas 1920-1950

	1920 (000)	1925 (000)	1930 (000)	1935 (000)	1940 (000)	1945 (000)	1950 (000)
State Totals	119981	61290	102373	26315	65495	166099	304417
Area 1	39223	15068	29522		15019	46192	99993
2A	15132	7607	12669		7813	23118	42245
2B	13004	6781	10770		7505	18168	30985
3A	10837	6315	8994		5763	15055	29384
3B	15202	9277	14494		8857	20979	37027
4A	11293	7011	10816		8637	17434	29572
4B	15291	9231	15108		11900	25152	35211

Sum of Area Totals do not always equal State Total due to rounding.

Table 22. Value of All Hogs and Pigs on South Dakota Farms, State and Economic Areas 1920-1950

	1920 (000)	1925 (000)	1930 (000)	1935 (000)	1940 (000)	1945 (000)	1950 (000)
State Totals	42998	37570	35147	2720	5706	36773	31475
Area 1	2150	2955	3428		224	1697	1373
2A	3656	4555	2856		278	3458	2241
2B	5728	4853	3798		651	4929	3558
3A	4755	4033	2977		446	2617	2303
3B	9791	8525	8243		875	6469	6584
4A	4938	3982	4123		1023	5377	4365
4B	11979	8668	9721		2208	12225	11050

Table 23. Value of All Sheep and Lambs on South Dakota Farms, State and Economic Areas 1920-1950

	1920 (000)	1925 (000)	1930 (000)	1935 (000)	1940 (000)	1945 (000)	1950 (000)
State Totals	10635	6476	9423	5146	10541	14970	16586
Area 1	7053	3911	5144		5196	6537	8120
2A	614	439	870		1261	1373	1679
2B	832	502	1084		1176	1358	1759
3A	236	183	336		418	650	575
3B	552	325	602		680	1147	877
4A	729	536	827		1077	1535	2041
4B	619	580	559		732	2370	1535

Sum of Area Totals do not always equal State Totals due to rounding.

Table 24. Value of All Chickens on South Dakota Farms, State and Economic Areas 1920-1950

	1920 (000)	1925 (000)	1930 (000)	1935 (000)	1940 (000)	1945 (000)	1950 (000)
State Totals	6126*	6045	6694	2154	2882	9451	6782
Area 1	517	618	718		253	769	508
2A	557	580	597		209	816	536
2B	952	794	874		360	1235	875
3A	563	566	565		228	697	495
3B	1339	389	1536		624	1937	1460
4A	835	823	909		459	1602	1229
4B	1362	1276	1494		750	2394	1678

Sum of Area Totals do not always equal State Totals due to rounding  
 \* 1920 value of all poultry.

Table 25. Number of Chickens on South Dakota Farms, State and Economic Areas 1900-1950

	1900 (000)	1910 (000)	1920 (000)	1925 (000)	1930 (000)	1935 (000)	1940 (000)	1945 (000)	1950 (000)
State Totals	5029	5251*	6642	7906	8546	5524	6233	8513	7204
Area 1	109	463	556	895	974	675	544	771	518
2A	210	428	558	747	781	442	463	760	584
2B	399	738	956	1044	1151	596	784	1112	960
3A	139	388	611	732	734	423	505	643	548
3B	754	1257	1504	1776	1890	1263	1351	1749	1526
4A	469	741	951	1073	1174	672	1001	1417	1314
4B	949	1238	1506	1639	1842	1454	1586	2061	1754

Sum of Area Totals do not always equal State Totals due to rounding.  
 \* 1910 Figures for all poultry.



## Horses and Tractors

The 1920 census was the first to list the number of tractors on farms and as county totals were not given that year area distribution was not possible. There has been a constant increase in numbers of tractors and a corresponding decrease in the number of work animals as tractors replaced horses and mules as a source of motive power. The number of horses and mules materially increased through 1920 and have decreased since. Since 1920 tractors have assumed a continued increase in importance as a source of farm power.

Table 26. Number of Tractors on South Dakota Farms, State and Economic Areas 1920-1950

	1920	1925	1930	1935	1940	1945	1950
State Total	12939	17426	33837		44154	62772	88541
Area 1		2388	8054		6428	8635	13000
2A		2441	5359		5044	7327	11063
2B		2920	4859		7032	10068	13489
3A		1335	2315		2839	4144	6015
3B		2760	4147		6610	9521	13703
4A		2192	3792		6856	10266	14625
4B		3390	5311		9335	12811	16646

Table 27. Number of Horses and Mules on South Dakota Farms, January 1st, State and Economic Areas, 1900-1950

	1900	1910	1920	1925	1930	1935	1940	1945	1950
State Total	487572	681786	832151	741409	632872	461490	342076	310831	173771
Area 1	126533	157683	223533	212562	173776	123008	84329	97394	63819
2A	55783	94291	121382	102359	76170	52641	43564	41080	21190
2B	72522	109137	121315	100780	87622	57905	42208	33113	16794
3A	19893	52502	69256	62670	50301	30348	25838	24057	13903
3B	66944	94127	104986	95137	87189	67364	49031	41028	21846
4A	63606	80148	91175	78355	74520	55959	45899	34869	18604
4B	82291	93898	100504	89546	83294	74265	51207	39290	17615

### Farm Facilities

Since 1930 there has been a constant increase in the number and per cent of farms having automobiles and trucks. The increase in the size of farms, reduction in available labor force and improved economic status of many farmers have all been important factors contributing to the increased use of motive power on farms.

The marked increase in the number of farms with electricity is largely the result of the intensive REA program during a period of generally favorable economic times during which farmers have had funds to take advantage of this important source of power.

Telephone service has likewise increased in numbers of farms with this service as well as in the percentage of farms being served.

Table 28. Number of South Dakota Farms Reporting Electricity and the Percent of All Farms Having Electricity by State and Economic Areas 1930-1950

	1930		1940		1945		1950	
	Farms Reporting	Percent of All Farms	Farms Reporting	Percent of All Farms	Farms Reporting	Percent of All Farms	Farms Reporting	Percent of All Farms
Area 1	793	4.2	2133	15.6	2849	23.3	5555	50.2
2A	893	9.8	1296	16.4	1920	25.8	4745	66.0
2B	1129	9.9	1412	13.6	2104	21.4	6568	68.8
3A	590	8.4	749	13.4	1030	19.8	2645	54.3
3B	1687	13.7	1963	17.5	2564	23.8	7341	69.4
4A	1269	11.5	1543	14.6	2745	26.7	8253	79.3
4B	2709	20.1	3749	28.6	5816	44.8	10791	84.2
State Total	9070	10.9	12845	17.7	19028	27.7	45898	69.1

Table 29. Number of South Dakota Farms Reporting Telephones and the Percent of All Farms Having Telephones by State and Economic Areas 1930-1950

	1930		1940		1945		1950	
	Farms Reporting	Percent of All Farms	Farms Reporting	Percent of All Farms	Farms Reporting	Percent of All Farms	Farms Reporting	Percent of All Farms
Area 1	4092	21.8	2590	16.9	2864	23.4	3863	34.9
2A	4542	49.6	2435	30.8	2974	40.0	3446	48.0
2B	6667	58.6	3045	29.4	4145	42.2	5404	56.6
3A	3910	55.4	2315	41.6	2677	51.5	2862	58.7
3B	9285	75.7	4878	43.4	6137	56.9	6941	65.6
4A	5706	51.6	3116	29.5	4153	40.4	5877	56.5
4B	10406	77.4	6442	49.1	8195	63.1	8828	68.9
State Total	44608	53.6	24821	34.3	31145	45.3	37221	56.0

Table 30. Number of South Dakota Farms Reporting Automobiles and the Percent of All Farms Having Automobiles by State and Economic Areas 1930-1950

	1930		1940		1945		1950	
	Farms Reporting All Farms	Percent of All Farms	Farms Reporting All Farms	Percent of All Farms	Farms Reporting All Farms	Percent of All Farms	Farms Reporting All Farms	Percent of All Farms
Area 1	13369	71.2	10152	74.1	8566	70.1	9532	86.2
2A	8119	88.7	6805	86.2	6681	89.9	6392	89.0
2B	10161	89.3	8821	85.2	8545	87.0	8328	87.3
3A	6205	88.0	4842	86.9	4584	88.2	4240	87.0
3B	11551	94.1	10208	90.8	9883	91.7	9720	91.9
4A	9907	89.5	9513	90.0	9317	90.7	9503	91.3
4B	12653	94.1	12171	92.7	12176	93.8	12040	94.0
State Total	71965	86.5	62512	86.3	59752	87.0	59755	89.9

Table 31. Number of South Dakota Farms Reporting Farm Trucks and the Percent of All Farms Having Farm Trucks by State and Economic Areas 1930-1950

	1930		1940		1945		1950	
	Farms Reporting All Farms	Percent of All Farms	Farms Reporting All Farms	Percent of All Farms	Farms Reporting All Farms	Percent of All Farms	Farms Reporting All Farms	Percent of All Farms
Area 1	3899	20.8	3471	25.3	5053	41.4	7322	66.2
2A	1955	21.4	1538	19.5	2574	34.6	4189	58.3
2B	1890	16.6	2129	20.6	3649	37.2	5345	56.0
3A	1318	18.7	844	15.2	1416	27.2	2257	46.3
3B	1619	13.2	1247	11.1	1837	17.0	3531	33.4
4A	1361	12.3	1899	18.0	2919	28.4	4664	44.8
4B	2443	18.2	2344	17.9	3039	23.4	4366	34.1
State Total	14485	17.4	13472	18.6	20487	29.8	31674	47.7

Table 32. Cash Paid for Feed for Livestock and Poultry on South Dakota Farms  
State and Economic Areas 1919-1949

	1919 (000)	1924 (000)	1929 (000)	1934 (000)	1939 (000)	1944 (000)	1949 * (000)
State Totals	16689	8737	12436	7843	24724	37707	
Area 1	2963	1135	1792	1776	3308	6377	
2A	1196	489	1088	504	1275	2511	
2B	1780	857	1475	485	2177	3781	
3A	2359	1301	1377	423	1606	2492	
3B	3988	1979	2552	1317	3738	5352	
4A	1704	598	1197	703	3655	5431	
4B	2700	2379	2954	2634	8965	11763	

\* Economic Areas

Table 33. Cash Paid for Farm Labor on South Dakota Farms, State and Economic  
Areas 1919-1949

	1919 (000)	1924 (000)	1929 (000)	1934 (000)	1939 (000)	1944 (000)	1949 (000)
State Totals	24122	15492	14647	5948	20351	25765	
Area 1	2428	1718	3131	1242	4222	5817	
2A	2628	1995	1352	431	2180	2975	
2B	5255	3498	2164	886	3496	4248	
3A	1684	1024	915	302	1326	1580	
3B	3684	1948	1957	454	2092	2883	
4A	3357	2139	1885	1078	2907	3633	
4B	5086	3170	3243	1555	4129	4628	

Sum of Area Totals do not always equal State Totals due to rounding.