

# ALABAMA AGRICULTURE

*Its Resources and Their Use*



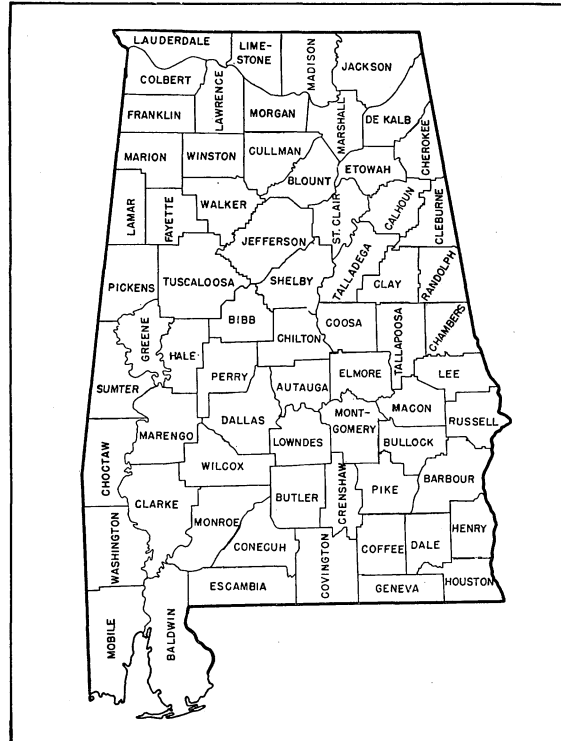
# FOREWORD

THIS PUBLICATION presents some pertinent facts about Alabama's agriculture, which is diverse, produces many varied products, and is affected by many physical, economic, and social forces.

Presented briefly herein by narrative, graphs, and pictures are some of the more important facts relative to the agriculture of the State. Data for the maps and charts were obtained largely from the United States Census reports.

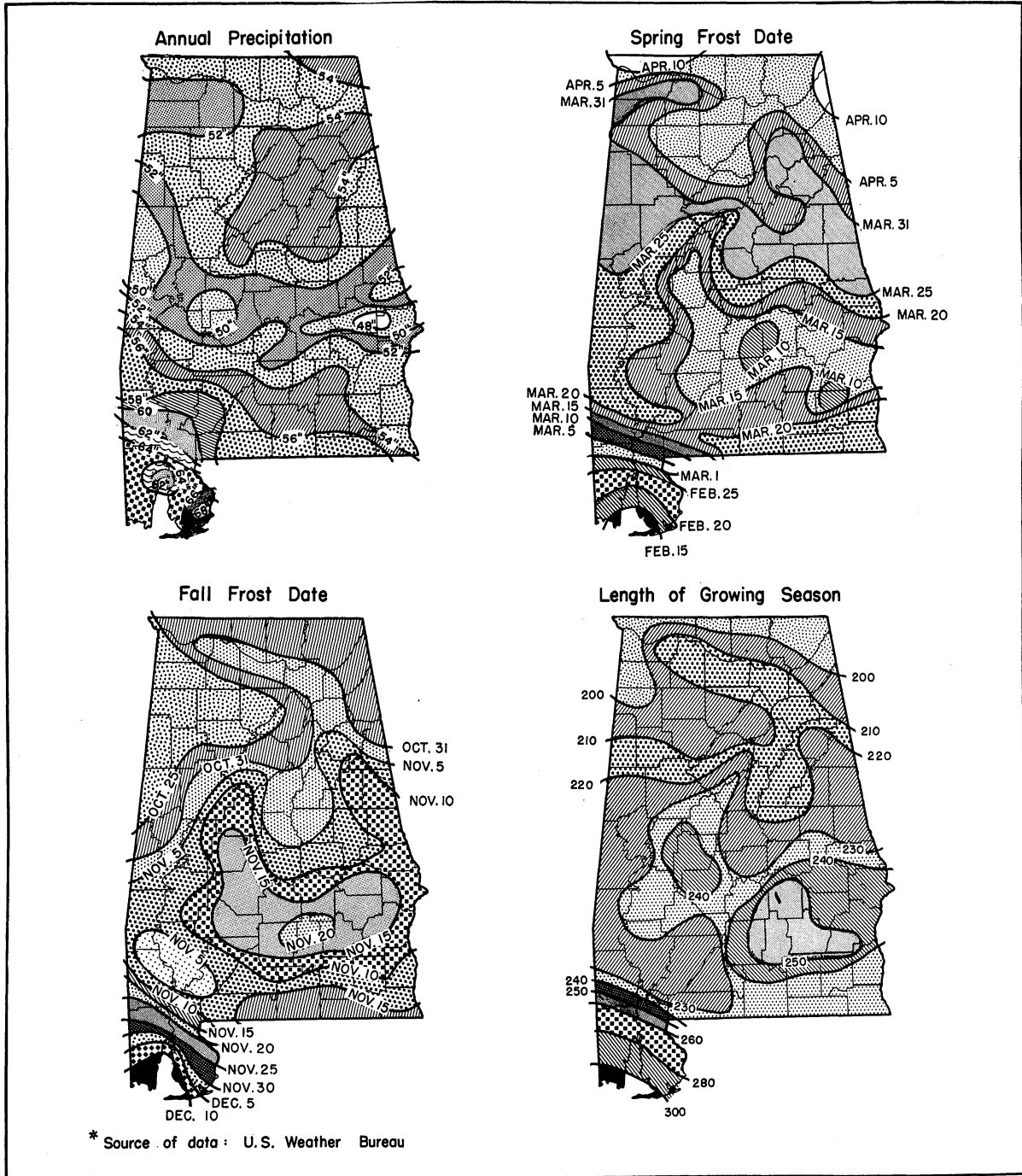
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- ALABAMA STATE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, Montgomery, Ala.



KEY TO COUNTIES

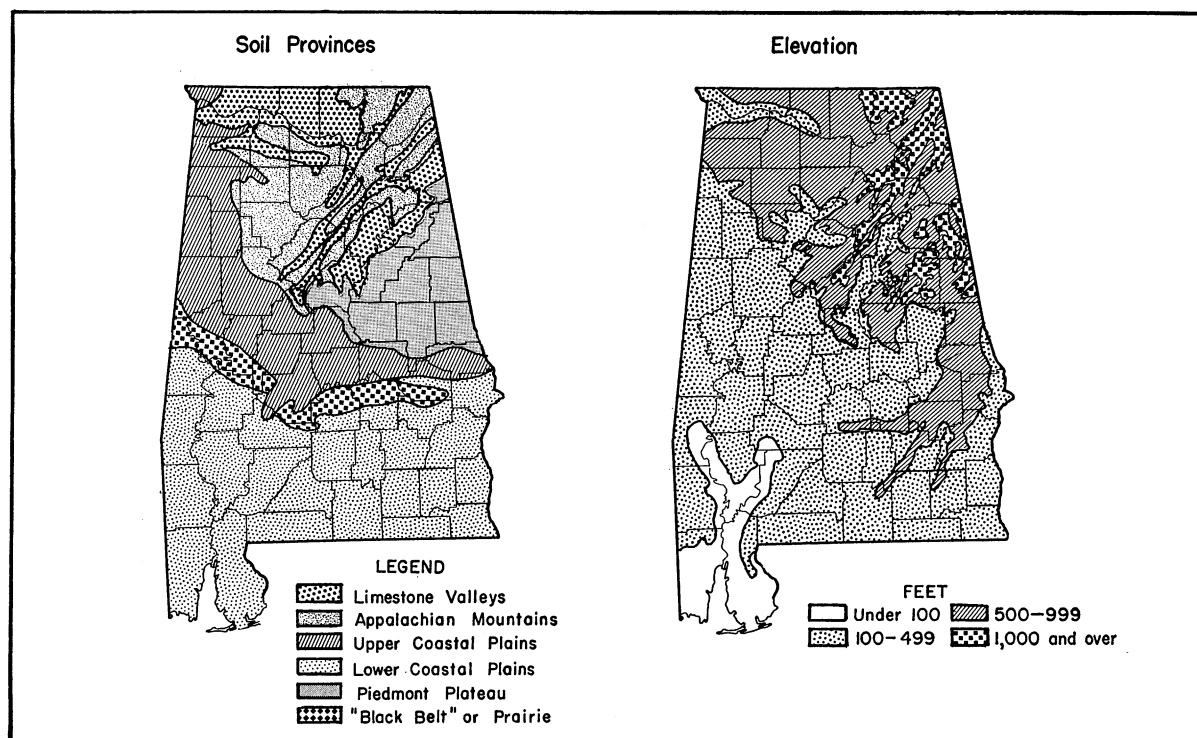
# CLIMATE\*



Alabama has a climate ranging from temperate in the north to subtropical in the south. The growing season averages about 200 days in the northern part of the State, 240 days in the central, and 300 to 320 days near the Gulf Coast. The average annual minimum temperature varies from about 5° above zero in the northern

part to about 30° above at the Coast. Average annual precipitation, largely rainfall, is ample for most crops, but is not uniformly distributed throughout the seasons nor is it uniform in amount throughout the State. It averages about 50 inches in the northern part and 60 inches in the Gulf Coast Area.

# SOILS and TOPOGRAPHY



Alabama has more varied geological formations than any other southern state. There are six broad soil provinces with approximately 300 soil types. They vary in fertility and texture, ranging from deep sands to heavy clays. Some of the sandy soils are so deficient in organic matter that they are almost sterile; others are highly productive. The clay soils range from types that are heavy, plastic, sticky, and poorly drained to permeable clays that are easily worked and highly productive. Some soils are more responsive to fertilization and good management than others. Erosion control problems are more serious on some soils than on others.

Elevations range from sea level in southwestern Alabama to more than 1,600 feet in the northeastern part of the State. The average elevation is about 600 feet. The highest point is in Cheaha State Park in Cleburne County, which rises to an altitude of 2,407 feet.

A brief discussion of soils and topography in the various provinces follows:

1. **LIMESTONE VALLEY** soils are considered good. They vary in color from gray to brown and red. Texture ranges from sandy loams to clay loams. The soils generally are well drained and, in the main, they occupy nearly level to undulating topography.

2. **APPALACHIAN MOUNTAIN** soils are gray to brown silt and fine sandy loams. They are well drained and are easy to till where topography is not too rugged. The soils respond readily to good management and high fertilization rates.

3. **UPPER COASTAL PLAIN** soils are extremely variable in type and texture. They are largely sandy, but stiff red and gray clay soils occur in some sections. The strongest soils occur in the river terraces and flood plains that cut across the area. Soils in the area generally are well drained.

4. **LOWER COASTAL PLAIN** soils are variable in quality. Heavy soils that occur occasionally seldom make first class farm land in their natural condition. Other soils are nearly pure sand. There are some stretches of land that are as productive as any in the State.

5. **PIEDMONT PLATEAU** soils are brown to red in color. They are the oldest soils in the South. The rolling, variable topography presents a problem of erosion control where row crops are grown.

6. **BLACK BELT** soils are predominantly heavy clays. They range in color from gray to red to black. The gray and black lands are lime soils. These soils are well suited to grassland farming. Topography is nearly level to gently rolling.

# TYPE of FARMING AREAS

The State is divided into nine major farming areas based on variations in soils, topography, elevation and climate. Other factors affecting types of farming include the proportion of total land area in farms, proportion of farm land in crops, tenure, and relative importance of crop and livestock enterprises.

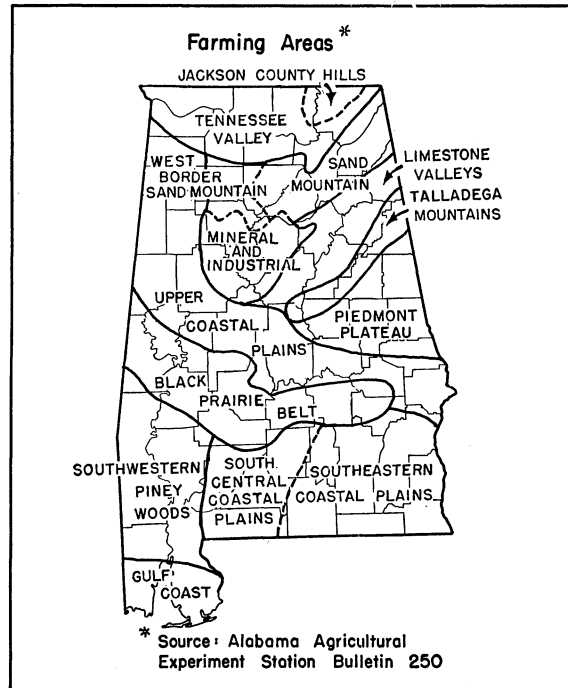
1. **TENNESSEE AND LIMESTONE VALLEYS.** Level lands in these areas were organized into plantations at an early date. The existence of heavy soils, reasonably level topography, and numerous large holdings have encouraged mechanization. Cotton, corn, and hay are the principal harvested crops. Yields of cotton and corn are relatively high. With proper management, much of the area will produce excellent pasture and forage crops.

2. **SAND MOUNTAIN.** This area includes all of the Appalachian Mountain region in Alabama. Farms are small and, as a rule, farmers are relatively self-sufficient in food and feed production. Farmers are industrious and thrifty. On an acreage basis, cotton, corn, and hay crops predominate with oats, sweetpotatoes, Irish potatoes, and vegetables for sale being next in importance. Cotton yields are higher than in any other area of the State. Poultry, poultry products, hogs, and dairying are becoming increasingly important as cash crops. The limited farming of the mineral and industrial portion of the Sand Mountain area is largely of a self-sufficing or part-time nature.

3. **TALLADEGA MOUNTAINS.** Rough and rugged topography characterizes the Talladega Mountain area. Agriculture is of little importance. Most of the area is in timber.

4. **PIEDMONT PLATEAU.** Much of the Piedmont is not suitable for row crops. In recent years some of the land that was discarded from crop production because of erosion has been converted to pasture. Fencing, filling ditches, some leveling and re-terracing, as well as fertilizing, liming, and seeding are often necessary to reclaim such land. Roughage-consuming livestock are best adapted to the area. Commercial broiler production has been started recently in certain localities. A large part of the rural population works in cotton mills or in other non-farm industries.

5. **UPPER COASTAL PLAINS.** Some parts of the area are almost level, whereas others are rugged and hilly with farming carried out in small, irregular fields. Cotton, corn, oats, and hay are the principal harvested crops. Parts of this area are suited to mechanization. Beef and dairy cattle, as



well as hogs, are becoming increasingly important as sources of income.

6. **BLACK BELT.** Large holdings of land are typical of the Black Belt. With good management, excellent pastures are possible that provide grazing for 9 months or more. Johnson, Dallis, and Bermuda grass, Caley peas, white and other clovers are the principal pasture plants. The Black Belt area has long been the major beef- and milk-producing area of Alabama.

7. **SOUTHWESTERN PINEY WOODS.** Good farming tracts are few. Topography varies from flatwoods to rugged hills; forests cover most of the area.

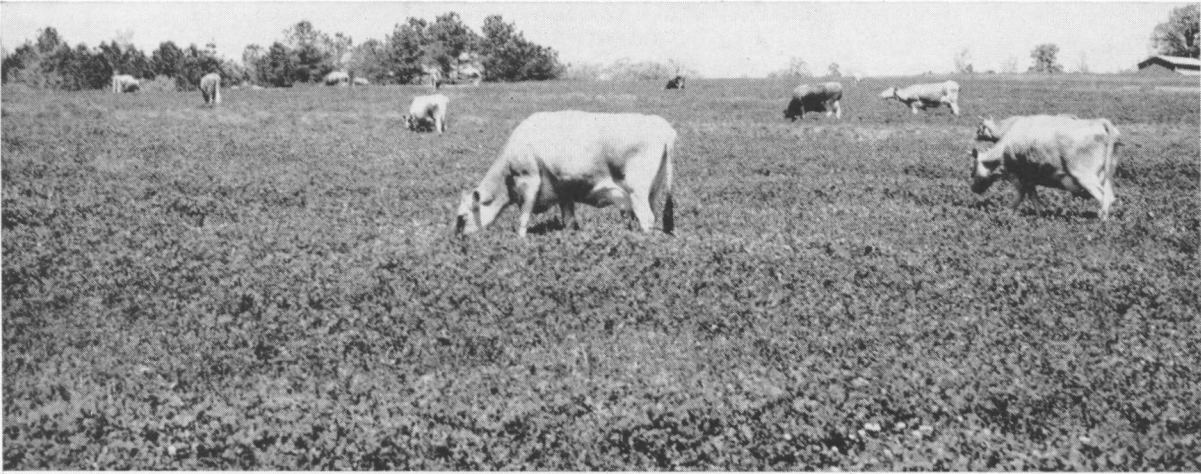
8. **LOWER COASTAL PLAINS.** In the eastern part of the lower coastal plains, peanuts, hogs, and cotton are the most important products. Also produced are corn, hay, and some vegetables, principally melons in Houston and Geneva counties. Topography ranges from nearly level to rolling; use of tractors and tractor equipment is common. The western part of the area is similar to the eastern part except that topography is slightly rougher. A larger percentage of the land is in woods, and fewer acres of peanuts are grown.

9. **GULF COAST.** The long growing season in this area favors production of Irish and sweetpotatoes, and other vegetables for market. Two or more crops are frequently grown on the same land. Early Irish potatoes, heavily fertilized, are often followed by soybeans. Livestock production on an intensive basis is practiced in parts of the area.



Top: An increasingly common sight in Alabama—good cattle grazing improved clover-grass pastures. Center: Combining peanuts from windrow. Mechanization of pea-

nut production is on the increase. Bottom: Harvesting cotton with mechanical pickers is often practical on farms where cotton is produced on sufficiently large tracts.

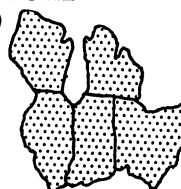
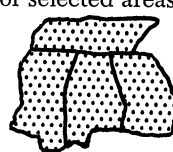


Top: Forage crops such as these are possible on most Alabama soils if fertilizers, lime, and good management practices are used. Center: Hogs fit well into operations

on farms having relatively high corn yields. Here hogs are grazing alfalfa. Bottom: Harvesting of corn with mechanical pickers is becoming a more common practice.

## BASIC DATA *on* ALABAMA'S AGRICULTURE\*

(Compared to averages for selected areas)



	Alabama	Ala., Miss., Ga., and Tenn.	East North Central	United States
Number of farms (average per state)	211,512	223,179	177,081	112,128
Acres per farm	99	98	126	215
Per cent of farms less than 100 acres	77	75	48	56
Per cent:				
Land in farms	64	68	73	61
Land rented	35	32	38	35
Tenants	41	41	19	27
White farm operators	73	72	100	89
Operators working off farm 100 days or more	23	21	25	23
Per cent of farms with:				
Electricity	68	67	92	78
Telephone	8	11	60	38
Tractor	18	19	69	47
Location on hard surface road	23	20	40	31
Per cent of farm land used for:				
Crops (includes cropland used only for pasture)	35	37	63	36
Pasture (includes cropland and woods pastured)	34	33	30	54
Woods	47	44	17	19
Per cent of harvested cropland in corn	43	39	36	24
Yield of corn per acre, bushels	18	20	51	37
Per cent of harvested cropland in cotton	32	29	0	8
Yield of cotton per acre, pounds lint	214	241	--	278
Number of livestock per farm:				
All cattle and calves	6	6	14	14
Milk cows	2	2	6	4
All hogs and pigs	5	5	18	10
Chickens	27	28	72	64
Sales per farm:				
Crops	\$848	\$943	\$1,497	\$1,820
Livestock and livestock products	401	501	3,053	2,250
Forest products	47	49	14	25
Total	\$1,296	\$1,493	\$4,564	\$4,095
Value, farm land, buildings, per acre, 1952	\$60	\$69	\$167	\$82
Index of farm real estate values, 1952 (1912-14 = 100)	321	294	211	211
Taxes levied on farm real estate per acre, 1950	\$ 0.25	\$ 0.34	\$ 1.41	\$ 0.64
Taxes levied on farm real estate per \$100 full value, 1950	\$ 0.53	\$ 0.60	\$ 0.96	\$ 1.01
Rate of interest (per cent) charged on outstanding farm mortgage debt, 1948	5.5	5.2	4.4	4.6
Cost per \$100 insurance, farmers' mutual fire insurance, 1947-49	\$ 0.74	\$ 0.52	\$ 0.25	\$ 0.25
Farm wage rate per day without board or room, 1951	\$ 3.70	\$ 3.70	\$ 6.80	\$ 5.00
Farm wage rate per hour without board or room, 1951	\$ 0.50	\$ 0.50	\$ 0.92	\$ 0.77

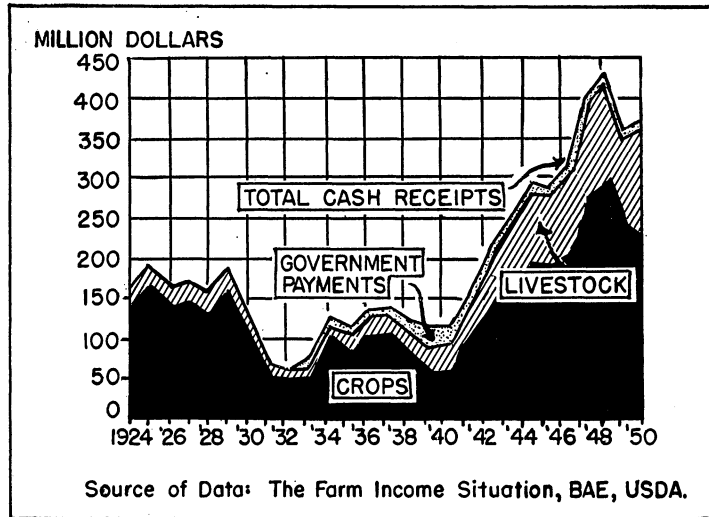
\* Based on 1950 Census and various USDA reports.



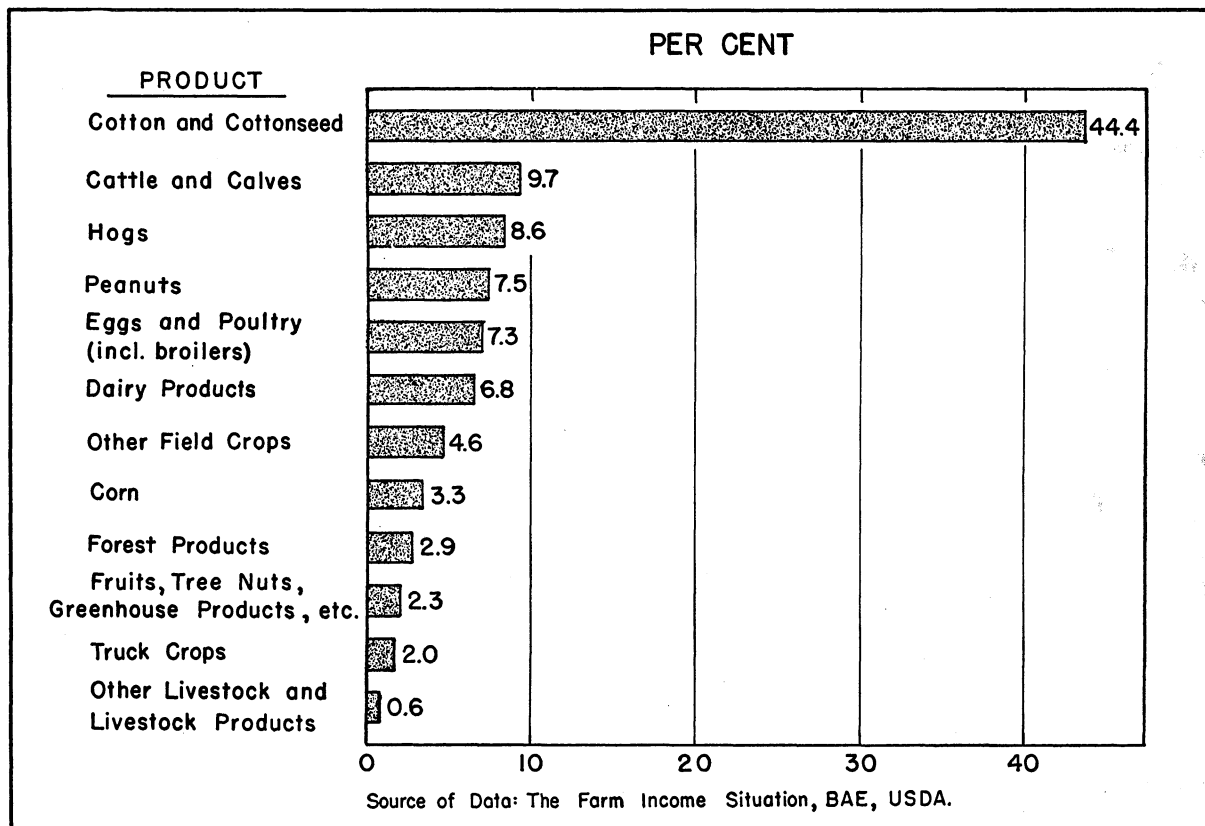
## CASH FARM INCOME ALABAMA, 1924-50

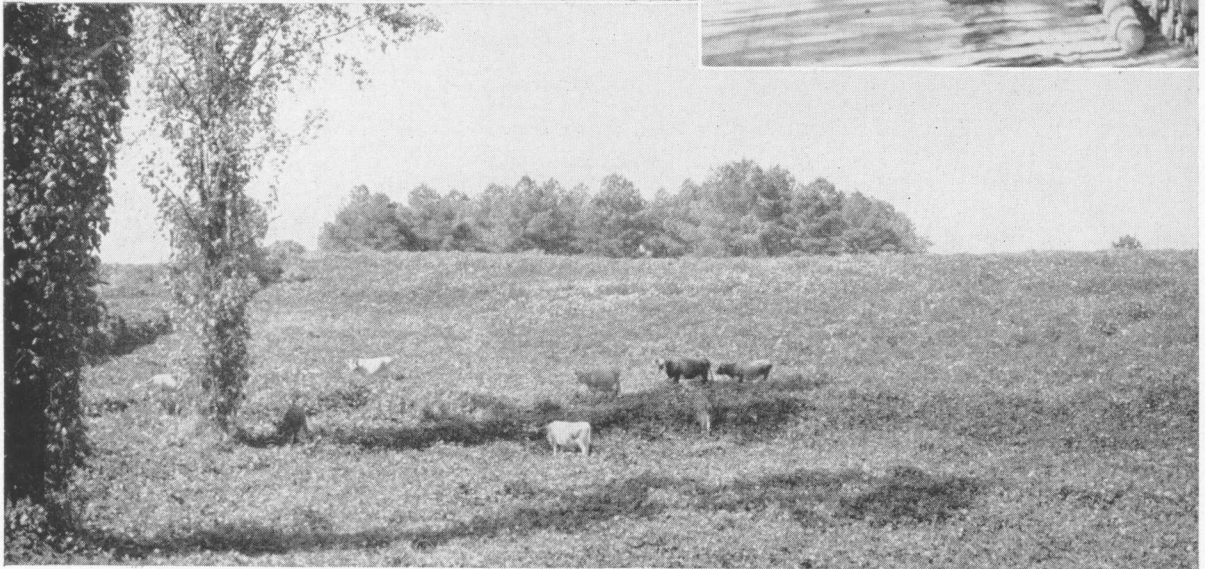
Sales of crops make up the largest proportion of Alabama's farm income. However, the proportion of income from livestock and livestock products has increased in recent years. In 1950, sales of livestock and livestock products made up 36 per cent of total receipts, while in the late 1920's they made up less than 15 per cent of the total.

Income from cotton and cottonseed in Alabama averaged 44 per cent of all receipts during the 1946-50 period. Sales of livestock and livestock products averaged 33 per cent of the total for this period. Peanuts, corn, and other field crops made up 15 per cent of the total.



## PERCENTAGE of TOTAL SALES from VARIOUS FARM PRODUCTS, ALABAMA, AVERAGE 1946-50





**Top left:** Early Irish potatoes is an important commercial crop in the Gulf Coast Area. **Top right:** Pulpwood, sawlogs, and fence posts here are products of thinning. Cen-

**ter left:** Dusting peanuts for insects and diseases. **Bottom:** Kudzu is especially valuable as a forage plant during long periods of dry weather in the summer.



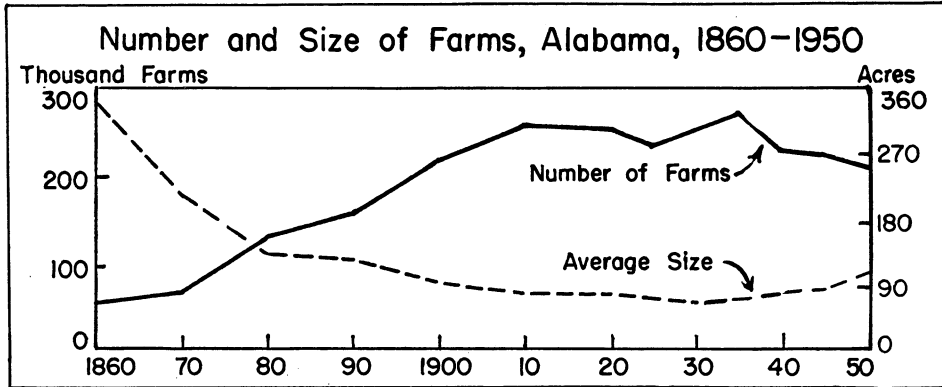
**Top:** As insurance against droughts, irrigation of pastures and other crops is being practised on numbers of farms in Alabama. **Center:** Seed production and processing

have become important in State's agriculture. **Bottom:** Local production of hybrid seed corn is keeping pace with increasing proportion of acreage planted to hybrids.

# TRENDS

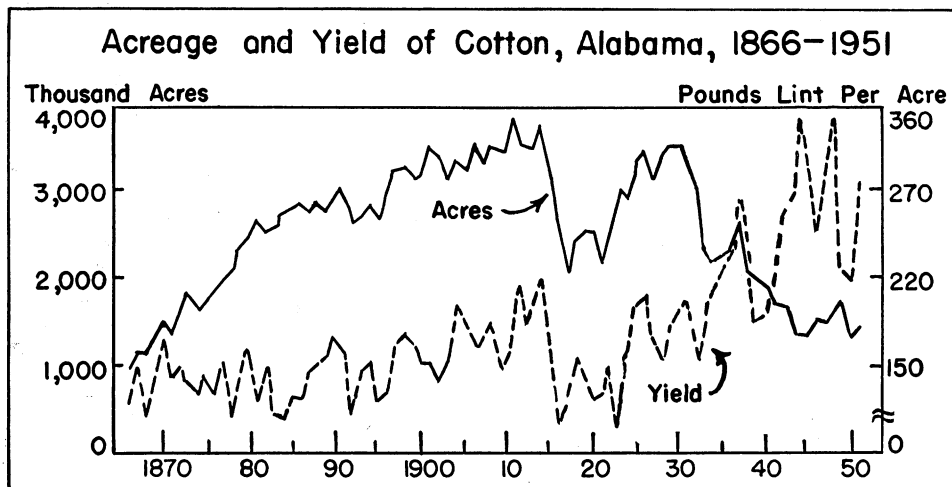
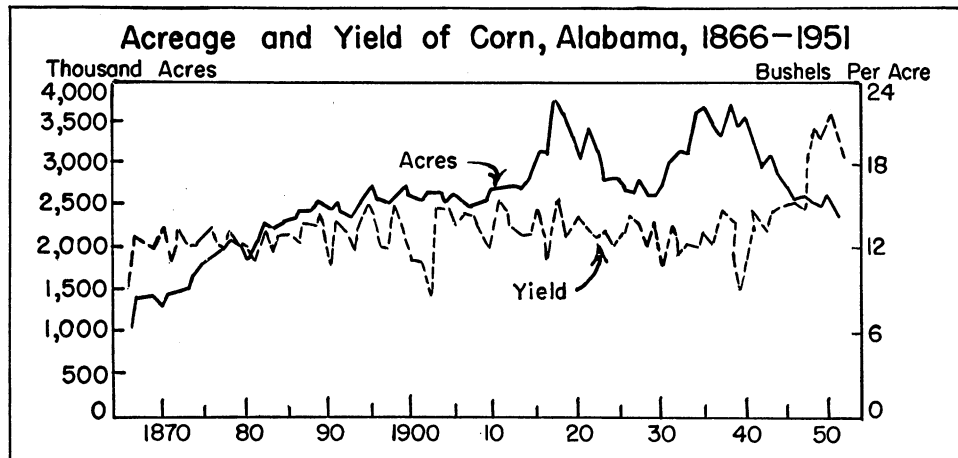
Alabama's agriculture, like that of other states, has changed from early times. Use of land, crops, yields, livestock, and farming methods have been

influenced by scientific and technological developments, demand changes for farm products, and other factors. The following show these changes:



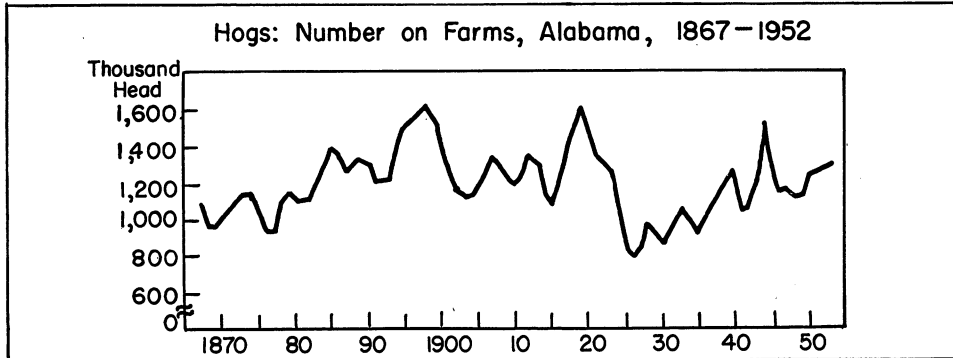
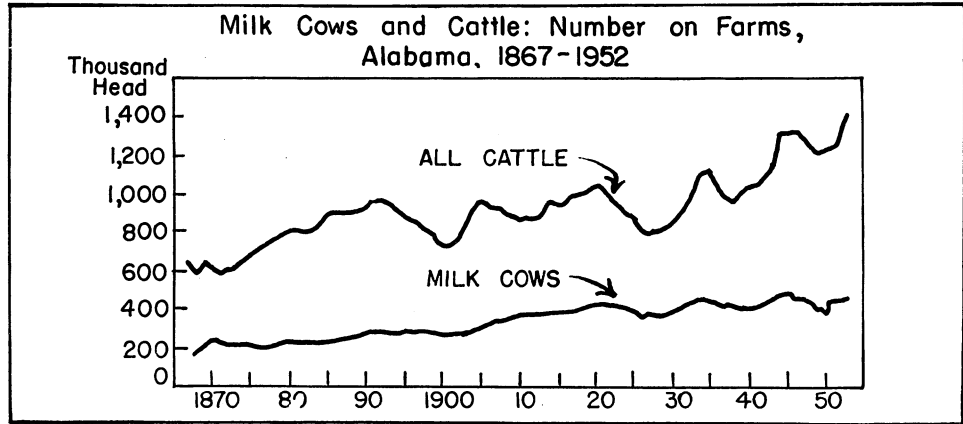
In general, since 1860 the number of farms in Alabama has increased and the average size has decreased. However, since 1930 the average size of farms has increased. In 1935, Alabama had 273,455 farms. In 1950, the number was 211,512—a 23 per cent decrease in 15 years. The average size farm in 1950 was 99 acres.

The trend in Alabama's acreage of corn was upward until 1940. Average yields changed little from 1866 to the mid-1940's. In recent years, corn yields have increased due to the use of adapted hybrids, high fertilization rates, thick spacing, and other improved practices.



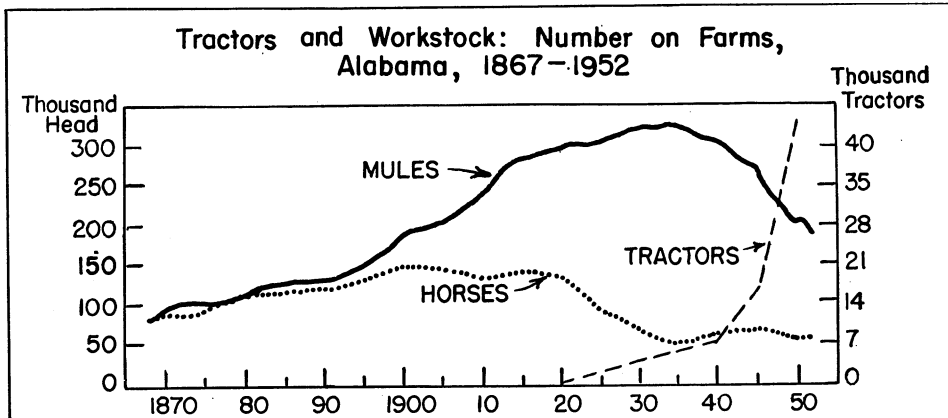
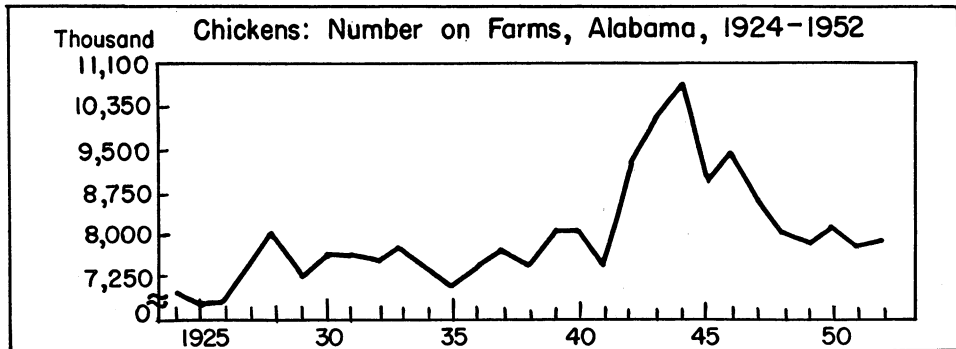
From about 1915 to 1935 the acreage of cotton moved in an opposite direction to the acreage of corn. Prior to 1915 the acreages of both cotton and corn increased in Alabama. Since 1935, in general, the acreages of corn and cotton have declined.

The long-time upward trend in numbers of all cattle in Alabama has been greater than that of milk cows. In 1950, there were approximately 1.3 million head of cattle and calves on Alabama farms. Of this number more than 365,000 were milk cows.



Numbers of hogs on Alabama farms have fluctuated from a low of about 775,000 in 1926 to a high of 1,640,000 in 1898. Some increase in numbers has occurred in recent years.

Except during the war-time period, the number of chickens on Alabama farms has increased very little since 1925. However, commercial broiler production (not shown) has increased from 3 million broilers in 1939 to approximately 17 million in 1951.

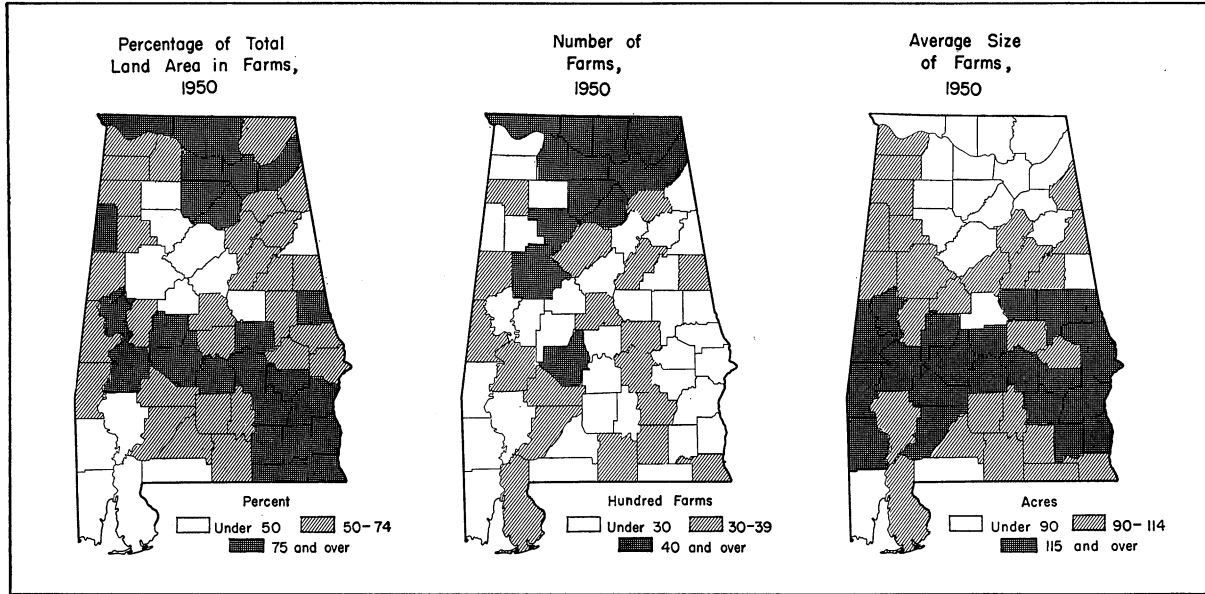


Tractors are taking the place of work stock on many Alabama farms. This change has not occurred as rapidly as in certain other areas of the United States. However, in recent years tractor numbers have increased greatly. There are still possibilities for further mechanization on many farms.

# FARM CHARACTERISTICS

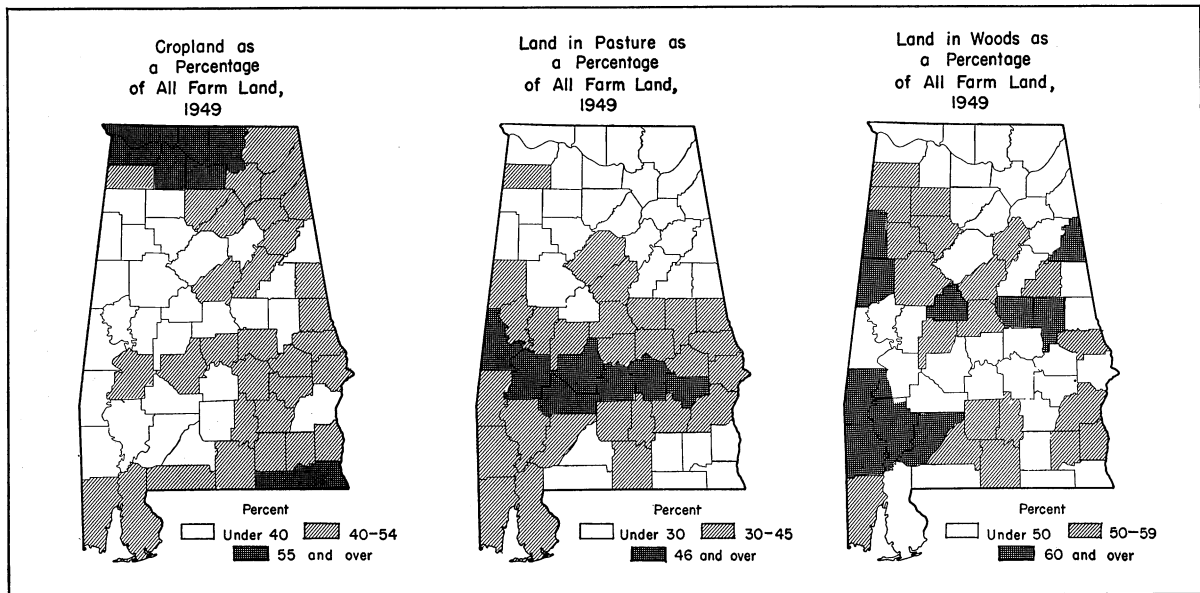
Maps on the following pages illustrate on a county basis the State's distribution of farms, use of farm land, crop yields, livestock production patterns, other

related facts and points of interest. (To locate counties by name, see the key map with county names on the inside of the front cover.)



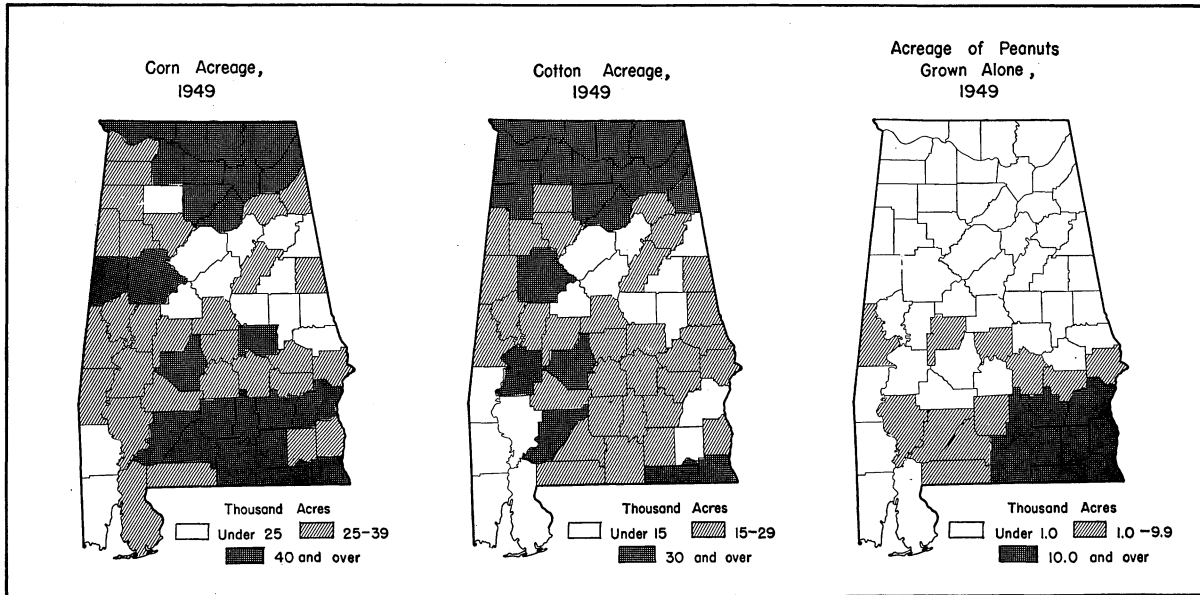
The greatest proportion of land in farms is found in the northern, southeastern, and central parts of Alabama. Counties in the north-central portion of the State have

the greatest number of farms. Average size of farms in this area is considerably below that found through south-central Alabama.



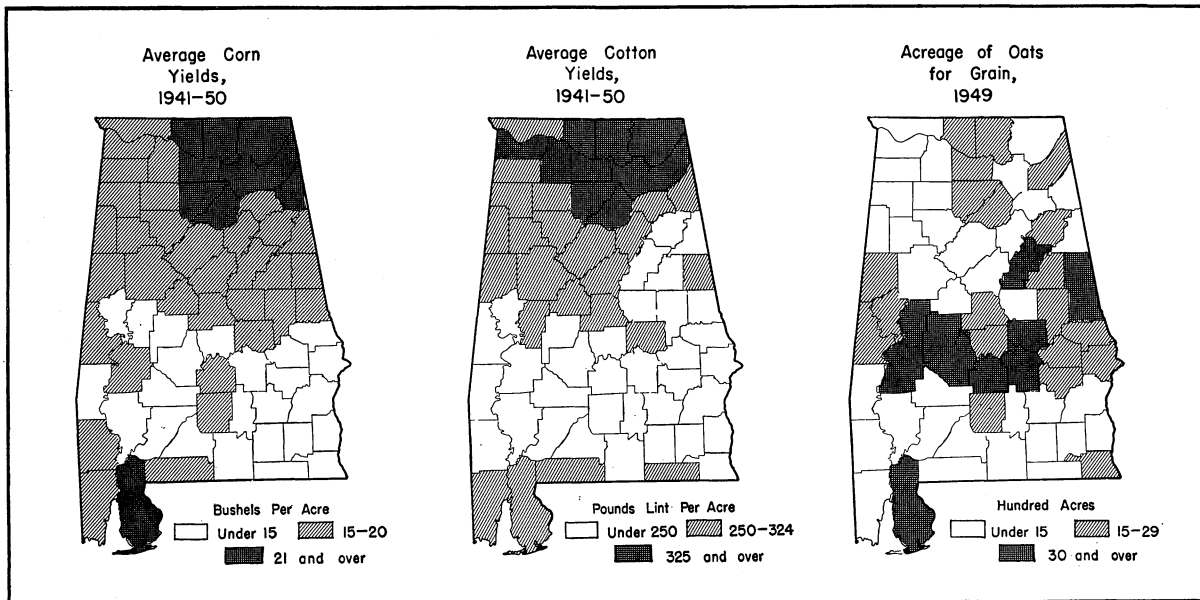
Counties in the northwestern and southeastern parts of the State have the highest percentages of farm land in crops. Use of land for pasture predominates in the

Black Belt as compared to other areas. Highest proportions of farm land in woods are found in southwestern Alabama and in certain central Alabama counties.



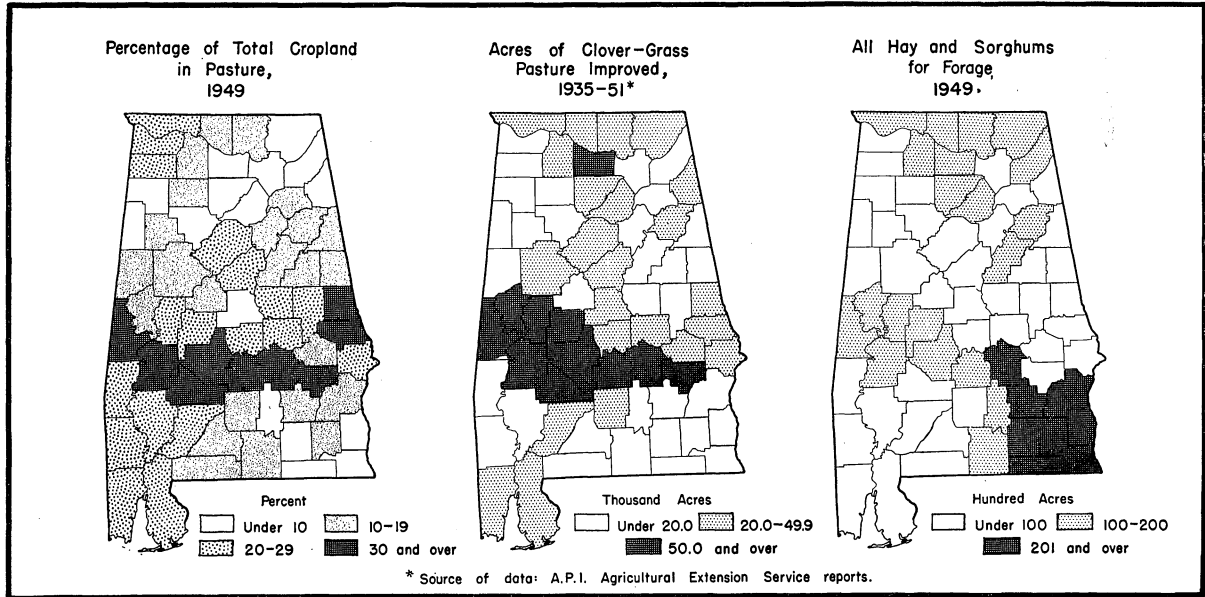
Corn is the principal feed and food grain grown in Alabama. It is produced in all counties, but the highest acreages in 1949 were in northern and southeastern counties. Also, to some extent cotton is grown in all parts of the State. In 1949, counties with the greatest acreages of cotton were in northern Alabama. Boll wee-

vil infestation and weather damage during the picking season make cotton production extremely hazardous near the Gulf Coast where heavy rainfall occurs during the 4-month period, June to September. Peanut production is concentrated in southeastern Alabama where soils, climate, markets, and other factors are most favorable.



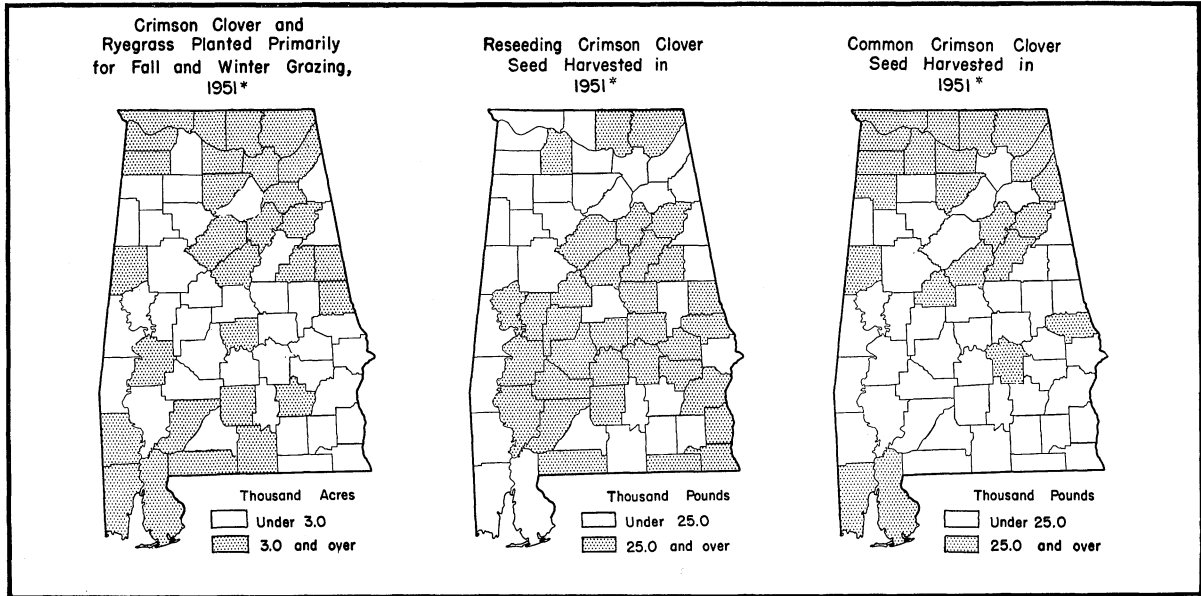
Except for Baldwin County, Alabama's average corn yields for 1941-50 period were highest in the eastern parts of the Tennessee Valley and Sand Mountain areas. Average cotton yields also were highest in these areas. Cotton yields are less variable in northern Alabama than in other parts of the State. In 1949, the greatest acre-

ages in oats for grain were located in certain Piedmont and Black Belt counties and in Baldwin County. Wheat production is of minor importance. Acreages of soybeans harvested (not shown) are greatest in Baldwin County where they are produced following an early crop of commercial Irish potatoes.



Natural advantages have encouraged the development of pastures in the Black Belt Area of the State. In this area are found the highest percentages of cropland (as classified by the United States Census) in pasture as well as the greatest acreages of improved clover-grass pasture. The concentration of hay production in southeast-

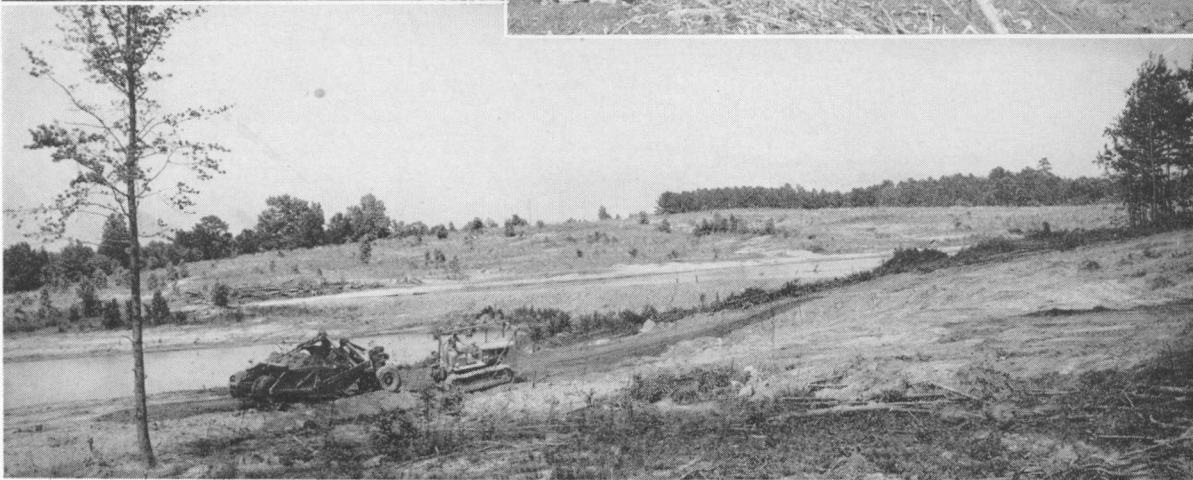
ern Alabama is the result of saving peanut vines for hay. Since about 1940, acreage devoted to perennial hay crops, such as alfalfa and lespedeza, has expanded. Acreages planted in annual hay crops have decreased since 1940. Alabama farmers have used about a million acres annually for hay crops since 1940.



Alabama is one of the South's leading crimson clover-producing states. Plantings for grazing and/or seed production are fairly well scattered. Crimson clover-ryegrass mixtures for grazing were reported planted in all Alabama counties in 1951. Plantings of crimson clover alone for grazing were heaviest in central Alabama.

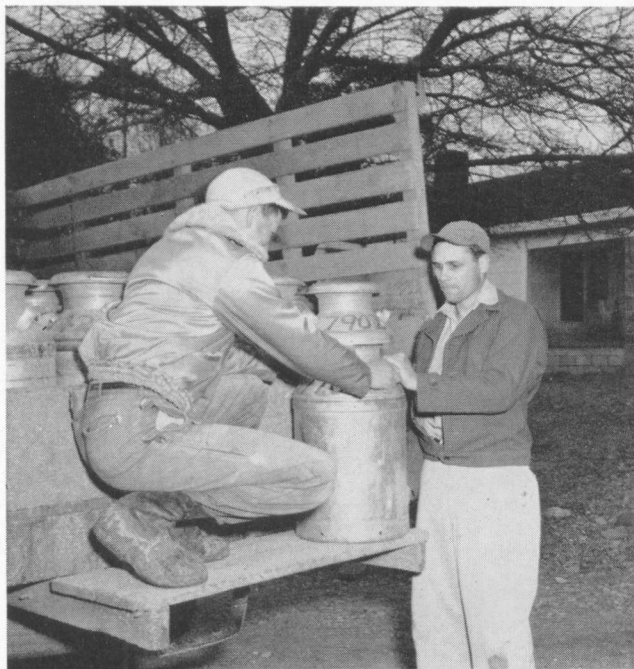
Crimson clover is also used primarily for grazing in combination with small grains, lespedeza sericea, and certain other crops. Seed from annual or common crimson clover were harvested principally in northern Alabama and in Gulf Coast Area. Reseeding crimson clover seed were harvested primarily in central Alabama counties.





Top: Here is a common practice in Alabama—plowing under a winter legume crop. Center left: Treated fence posts are important in the State's growing livestock in-

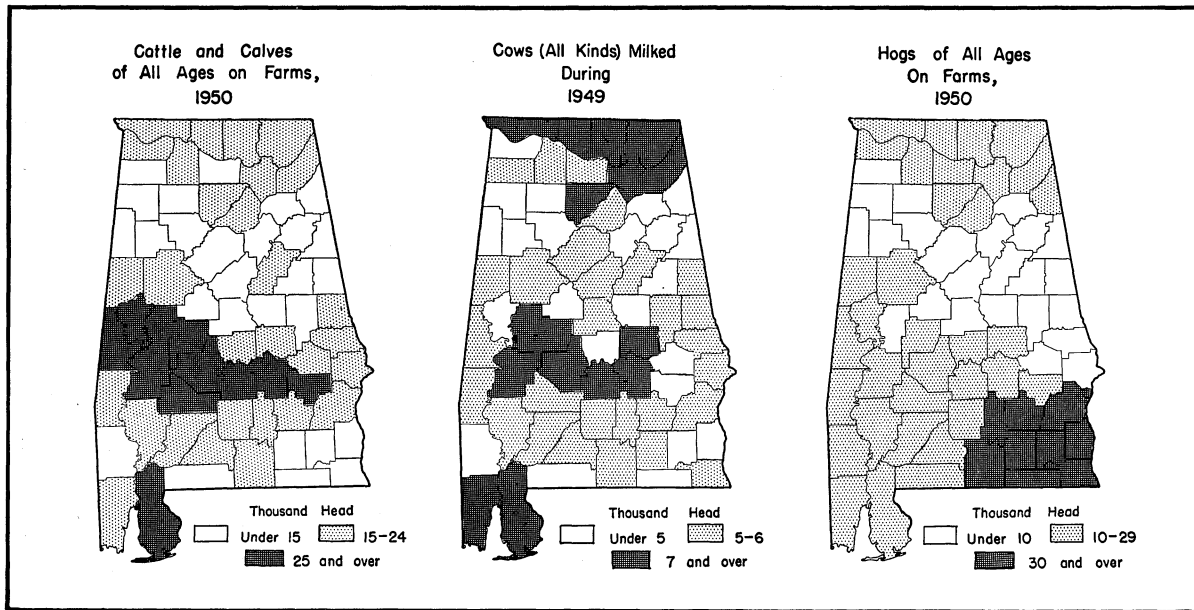
dustry. Center right: Bulldozers are used for clearing land. Bottom: Alabama has many farm ponds to conserve water for livestock, irrigation and for fishing.



Top left: Milk is collected daily along many milk routes in Alabama. Top right: A typical springtime scene is combining crimson or white clover seed. Bottom: From

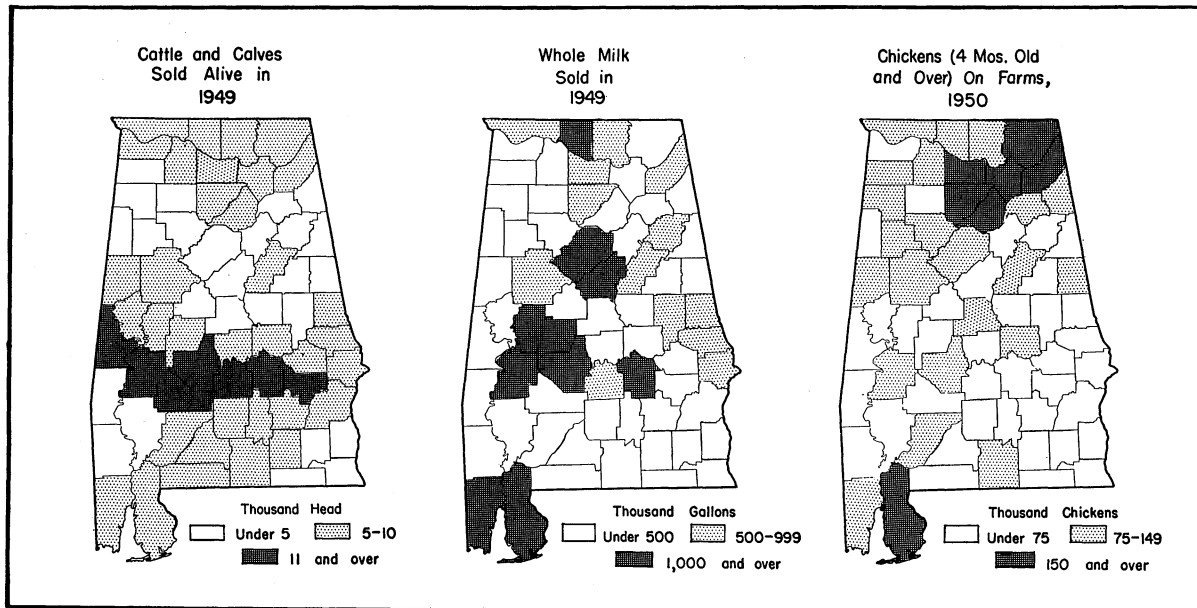
the Tennessee Valley to southern Alabama, harvest time is marked by long lines of cotton wagons, the whirl of gin saws, and bales piled around neighborhood gins.

# FARM CHARACTERISTICS



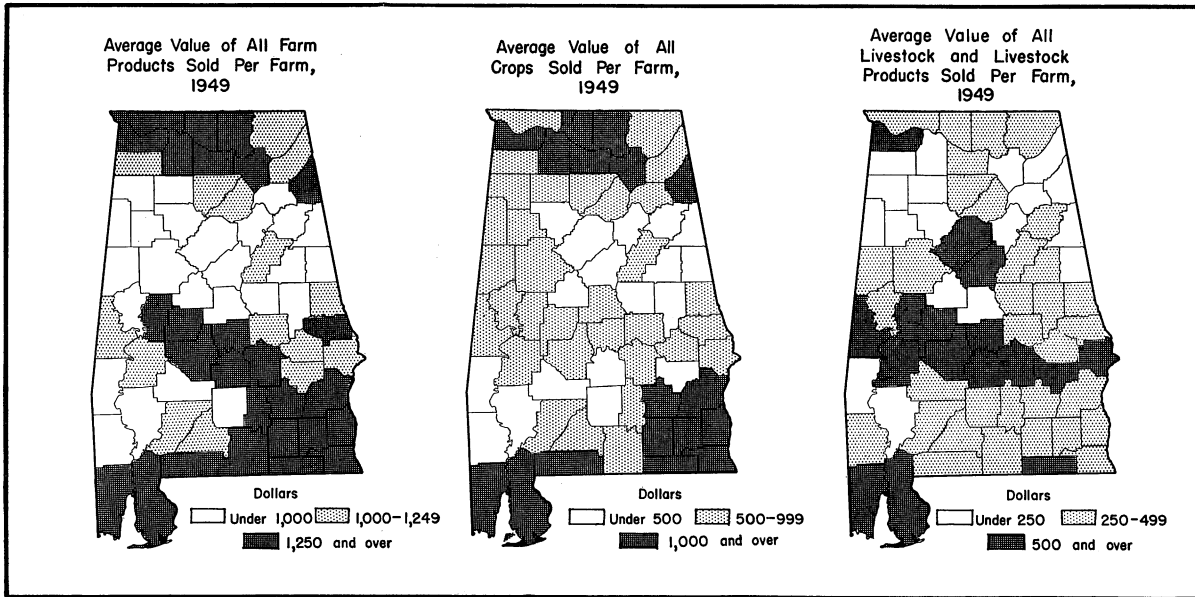
The distribution of cattle and calves on Alabama farms is closely associated with the pattern of pasture land. Most dairy cows in Alabama are kept to produce milk for home use. However, cows milked are found in largest numbers in certain counties in the Tennessee Valley, Sand

Mountain, Black Belt, and Gulf Coast areas. Hogs are most numerous in the commercial peanut-producing section of the State. In terms of animal units, total livestock population in relation to harvested crop acres is greatest in the Black Belt and in southwestern Alabama.



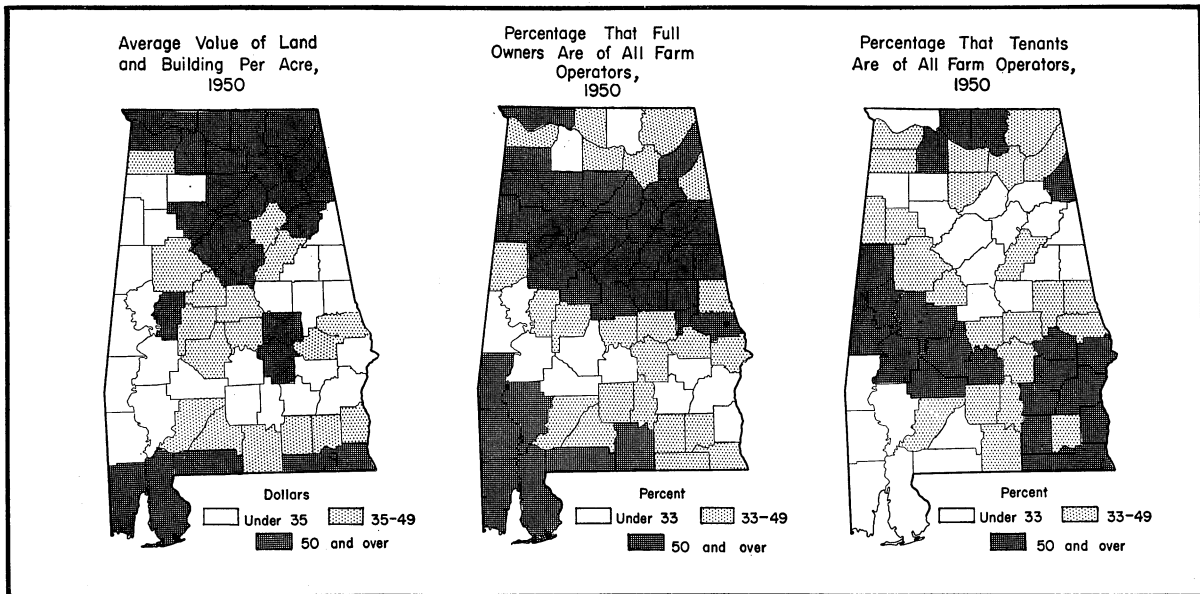
In 1949, approximately 439,000 head of cattle and/or calves were reported sold from more than 80,000 Alabama farms. Sales of cattle and calves were highest in the Black Belt. Sales of whole milk in 1949 were highest in certain Black Belt counties and in counties close to the Birmingham and Mobile markets. Chickens were most

numerous on Sand Mountain and in Baldwin County. Egg production and egg sales were relatively greater in northern than in southern Alabama. Turkey production (not shown) was of major importance in the following counties of the State: Fayette, Jefferson, Talladega, and Montgomery.



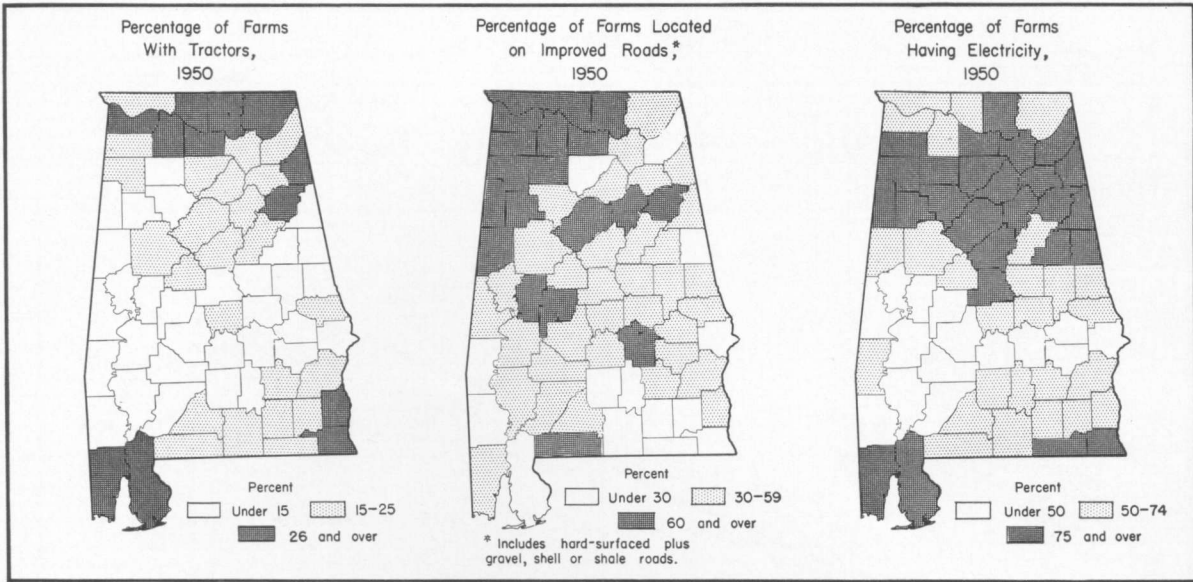
The average value of all farm products sold per farm in Alabama was \$1,296 in 1949. Sales of crops were greatest in the Tennessee Valley, the peanut section, and the Gulf Coast. Sales of livestock and livestock products were, in general, greatest in the Black Belt Area of the State. On many farms the products produced and used

by the farm family are of considerable value. These include vegetables, fruits, meats, milk, butter, eggs, firewood, and many others. A larger percentage of the value of farm products produced was used on farms where produced by farm families in southwestern Alabama and in most central counties than in other sections.



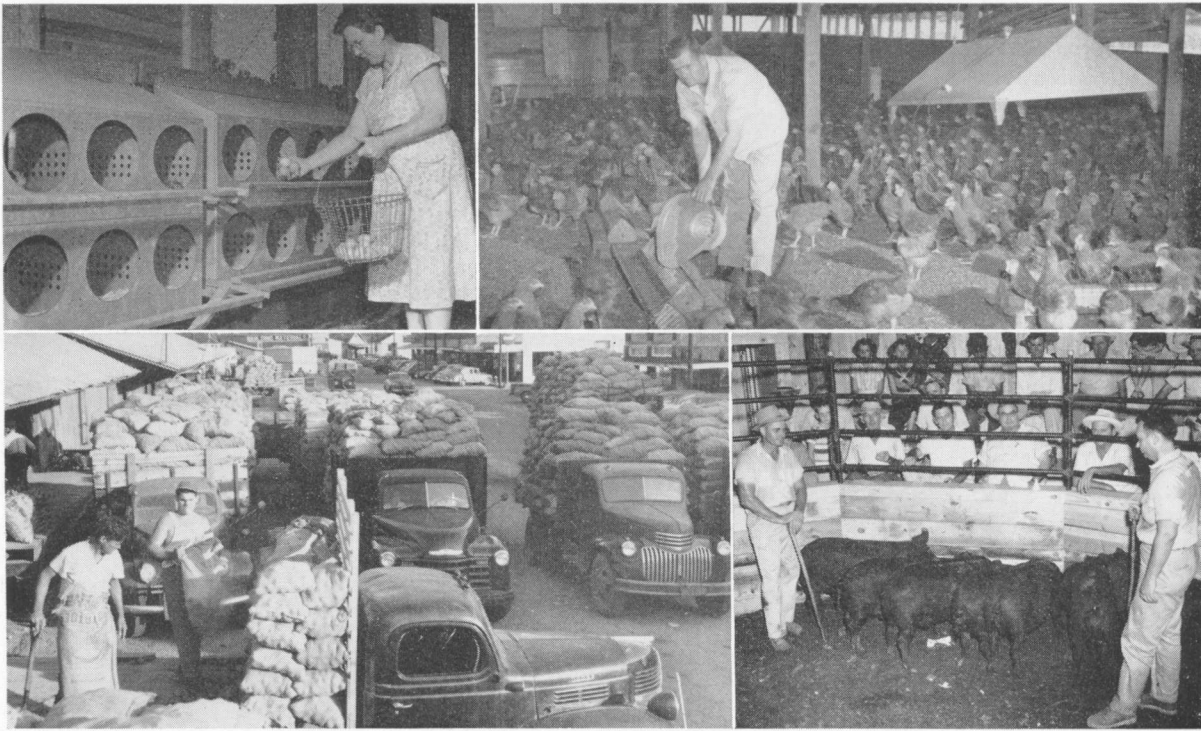
The average value of land and buildings per acre varied considerably between and within Alabama counties in 1950. The highest proportions of farmers that were full owners were found in the north-central and southwestern parts of the State. In 1950, out of 211,512 farm operators, 87,613, or 41 per cent, were tenants. Of the

total number of tenants, about 28 per cent was croppers. The prevalence of tenants varied widely by geographic areas; the Black Belt, an area of heavy concentration of Negroes, had the highest percentage of tenancy. The southwestern section and certain counties in central and eastern parts had the lowest percentage of tenants.



The percentage of Alabama farms with tractors in 1950 varied from 5 to 45 per cent on a county basis. Topography, color of operator, kind of farming operation, and many other factors have influenced the rate of adoption of tractors as a source of power. In general, the highest

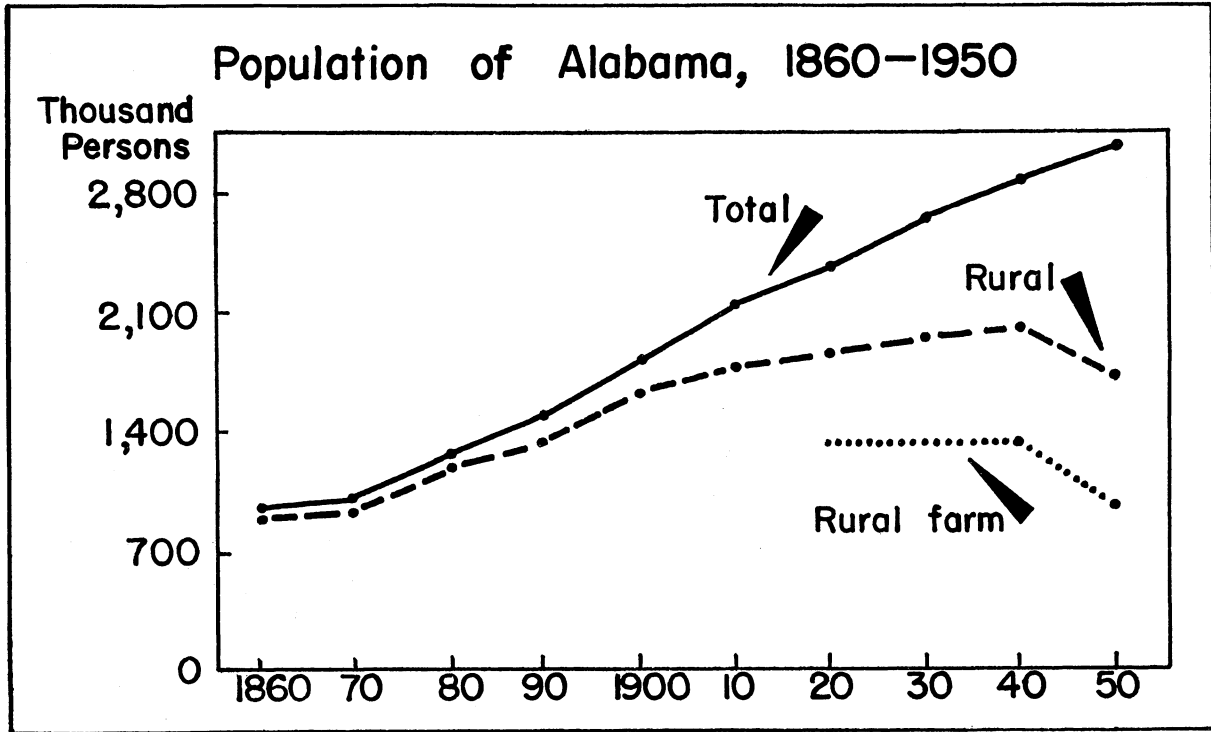
percentages of farms located on improved roads were found in northwestern Alabama. Percentages of farms reporting electricity in 1950 varied from 28 to 91 per cent; highest percentages were in counties in the northern part of the State.



Top left: Commercial egg production is becoming increasingly important in certain areas. Top right: Feeding broilers that will soon be on their way to market. Bottom

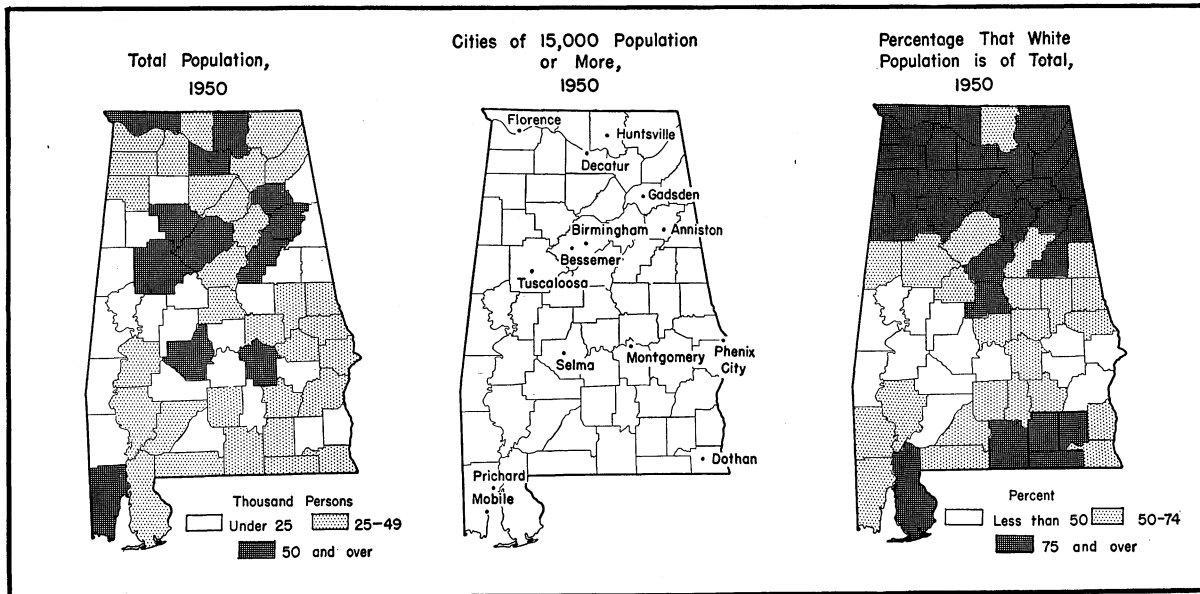
left: Early Irish potato marketing time in the Gulf Coast Area. Bottom right: Selling hogs at one of the many auction markets in the State.

# POPULATION



Alabama population increased from less than 2 million in 1900 to over 3 million in 1950; 90 per cent was

rural in 1900 as compared to 56 per cent in 1950. Since 1940 rural and rural-farm populations have declined.

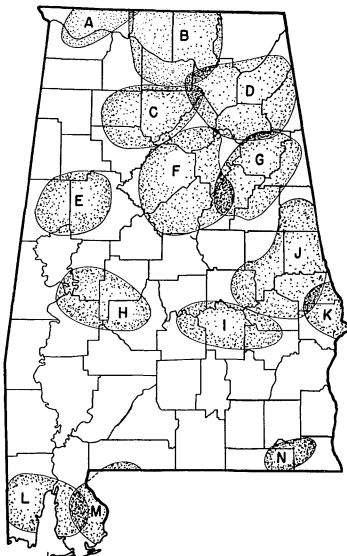


Counties with the largest cities, usually associated with industrial development, naturally have the largest total population. These urban areas afford excellent oppor-

tunities for marketing many farm products produced in the State. With few exceptions, counties in northern Alabama have the highest percentages of white population.

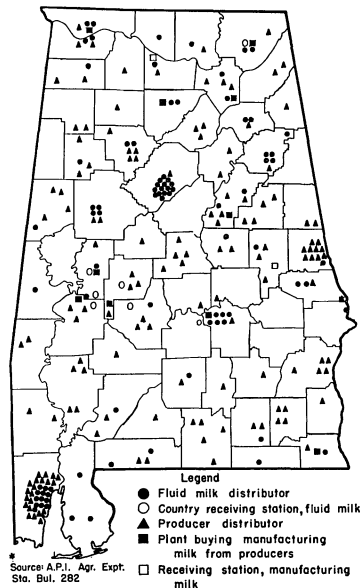
# MARKETS

Major Fluid Milk Sheds in Alabama, 1951\*



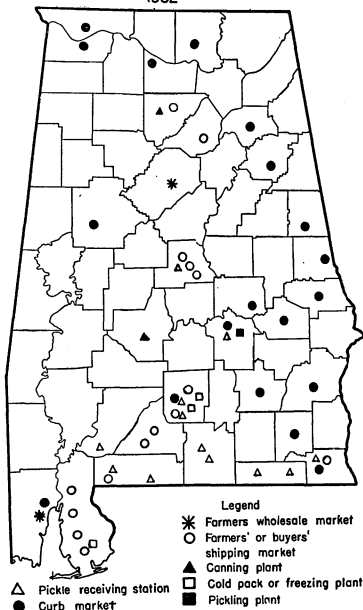
\* Source: A.P.I. Agricultural Experiment Station Bulletin 282

Milk Plants, Receiving Stations, and Producer-Distributors, Ala., Dec. 1949\*

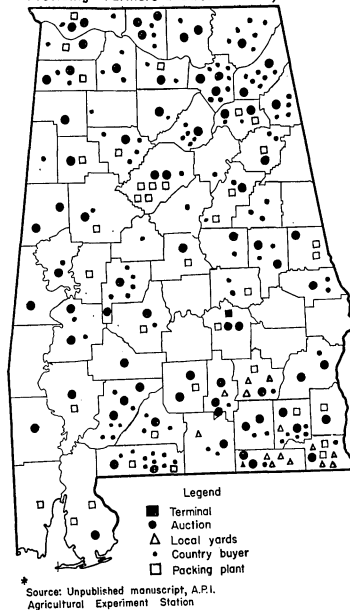


\* Source: A.P.I. Agr. Expt. Sta. Bul. 282

Fruits and Vegetable Markets, Alabama, 1952



Livestock Marketing Agencies in Alabama Providing Farmers a Direct Market, 1951\*



\* Source: Unpublished manuscript, A.P.I. Agricultural Experiment Station

Fluid milk sheds shown above are: (A) Tri-cities; (B) Huntsville-Decatur-Birmingham; (C) Cullman-Jasper; (D) Gadsden-Sand Mountain markets; (E) Tuscaloosa; (F) Birmingham (local); (G) Anniston-Talladega; (H) Black Belt receiving stations-Selma; (I) Montgomery-Burkeville (receiving station)-Dothan; (J) Opelika-Auburn-Valley; (K) Columbus, Ga.-Phenix City; (L) Mobile; (M) Pensa-

cola, Fla.; (N) Dothan. In December 1949, fluid milk was being purchased regularly by about 80 Alabama milk distributors and at 7 country receiving stations. Major fruit and vegetable markets are located where fruit, berries, and truck crops are of commercial importance. Highest numbers of livestock auction markets are in southeastern and northern parts of the State.

## OTHER RESOURCES

**WATER SUPPLY.** Alabama is one of 19 classified as "soft-water states." In addition to its large rivers and numerous small streams, the State has various underground water sources. Good, pure water is available at low costs for almost every farm and city in the State.

**TRANSPORTATION.** Alabama ranks high in miles of navigable streams for inland water transportation. It also has splendid port facilities at Mobile. Railroads serve every important section of the State. There is an excellent network of hard-surfaced roads with considerable expansion planned and in process. Forty-six per cent of all farms are located on improved roads.

**ELECTRIC POWER.** Alabama is among the leading southern states in production of electric power. Rural electrification has proceeded rapidly. According to the Census, 68 per cent of all Alabama farms had electricity in 1950. However, the Rural Elec-

trification Administration reports that 90 per cent of all Alabama farms have electricity available.

**MINERALS.** Alabama is rich in mineral resources. Coal is the most important. Next in importance is iron ore. Others are limestone, sand, gravel, marble, clays, kaolin, graphite, bauxite, sandstone, oil, and mineral waters.

**MANUFACTURING.** Alabama has made rapid progress in increasing the number of manufacturing industries in the State. Cast iron is one of the leading manufactured products. Others include steel and steel products, textiles, lumber and allied groups, chemicals, foods, railway, building stone, clay products, paper, and fertilizer.

**SCHOOLS.** Consolidated elementary and high schools are available throughout the State. Attendance is compulsory from 7 to 16 years of age. There are many private, denominational schools, and several normal schools, state colleges, and universities.

## TAXES and FARM WAGE RATES

In general, taxes levied on farm real estate in Alabama are low as compared to other states. In all years for the period shown in the following table, Alabama taxes per acre were below U. S. average.

TAXES ON FARM REAL ESTATE, ALABAMA AND U. S.,  
SPECIFIED YEARS

Year	Alabama		U. S.	
	Dollars per acre	Dollars per \$100 full value	Dollars per acre	Dollars per \$100 full value
1909-13	0.09	0.60	0.21	0.50
1920	.19	.82	.51	.79
1925	.21	.81	.56	1.07
1930	.25	.98	.57	1.30
1935	.21	1.07	.37	1.15
1940	.20	.93	.38	1.22
1945	.22	.65	.41	.90
1948	.23	.51	.57	1.00
1949	.24	.56	.61	1.10
1950	.25	.53	.64	1.01

Source: "Taxes Levied on Real Estate in 1950," BAE, U.S.D.A.

Personal as well as real property is taxed in Alabama. Taxes are due October 1, but no penalty for non-payment is incurred until after January 1.

Homesteads to the extent of \$2,000 assessed value are exempt from State taxes provided the homestead does not exceed 160 acres in size.

Alabama has a net income tax similar to the Federal income tax but with lower rates. Single persons must file if their net income from salaries, wages, interest, rents, business or profession, or other sources is \$1,500 or more, and married persons living with husband or wife must file if net income is \$3,000 or more. Itemized deductions similar to those allowed by the Federal government or a standard deduction is allowed. Rates range from 1½ per cent on the first \$1,000 or fraction of net income (above exemptions of \$300 for each dependent and deductions) to 5 per cent on net income over \$5,000.

Farm wage rates vary by locality, basis of payment, and kind of work. In general, farm wage rates in Alabama are somewhat lower than the United States average. In 1951, the composite farm wage rate in Alabama was \$0.43 per hour. The United States average was \$0.63. Without board and room, the rate per day was \$3.70 in Alabama as compared to the \$5.00 United States average for 1951.



# The FUTURE

The future of Alabama agriculture is promising. Progress is being made. Many opportunities exist, however, for additional improvements. Agricultural production can be increased. Use of land, labor, capital, and "know-how" can be made more efficient.

With livestock, particularly beef, dairying, and hogs, expansion is taking place. In certain areas, broiler production has become important in recent years. Pastures are being developed. Land is being improved by use of adapted legumes and grasses, liberal applications of proper fertilizers, and improved cultural practices. A greater number of livestock means that farmers are taking advantage of the long growing season for pastures and other crops.

Livestock are also helping to make for fuller use of labor, buildings, machinery, and equipment.

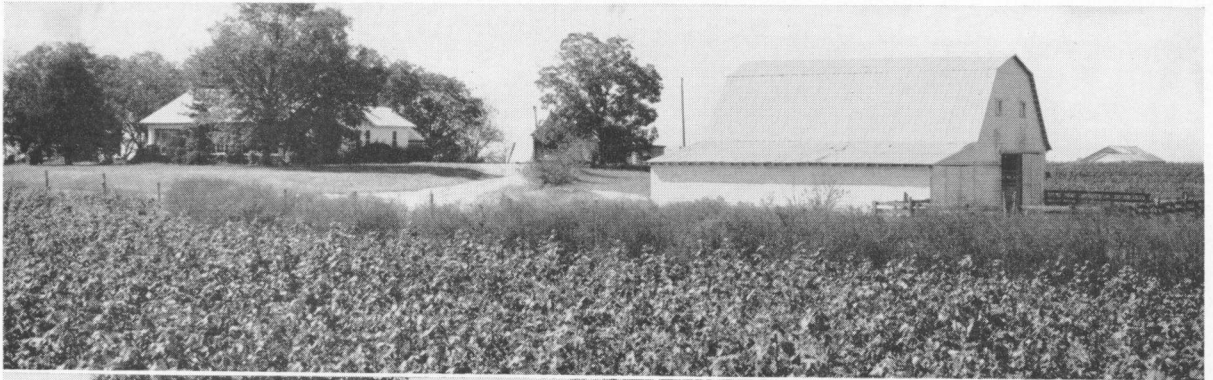
Progress is being made in the field of crop production. In 1940, less than 1 per cent of the State's corn acreage was planted with hybrid seed. In 1952, this acreage amounted to 39 per cent of the total. Yields and quality of cotton are also being improved. Mechanization and numerous other technological and scientific developments are being put to use on Alabama farms.

These steps forward, together with prospects for sufficient markets and fair returns on products produced, indicate an encouraging future for Alabama agriculture.



Through 4-H Clubs and Chapters of Future Farmers of America, thousands of Alabama's farm youth have caught

the spirit of a new, upsurging agriculture. To them the future is pastures, livestock plus cash row crops.



Top and center: Comfortable, well-equipped farm homes and good farm buildings are a part of thorough-going farm operations in Alabama, where opportunities await

enterprising people. Bottom: Cover crops, contours, terraces on an east-central Alabama farm. Most land in the State requires conservation measures.



