

APPENDIX B

AGRICULTURAL DATA, SOURCES, AND METHODS¹

1. *Source.*—Data on the volume of agricultural production, number and types of farms, characteristics of ownership and tenure were obtained from records of the Agricultural Adjustment Agency. These records were obtained and analyzed for studies of the size of farm-operating and farm-ownership units and their use here was incidental to the major purpose for which they were obtained. Record data apply to the year 1940.

The base for these data was the "farm unit." The farm unit is a contiguous piece of land, all of which is operated by one single farmer and owned by one single owner who may or may not be the operator. One owner may have several such units, each with a different operator, and one operator may be farming several such units, each with a different owner. On the basis of these farm units, the operating units (a combination of farm units having the same operator) and ownership units (combinations of farm units owned by the same person or corporation) can be brought together. The former of these are called farms for purposes of this study, the latter are called ownership units.

The Agricultural Adjustment Agency data for each farm unit were recorded on cards and included the following: Location of unit, operator and owner, cross references to other farm units both owned and operated by the same man, total acres in the unit, and acreage by land-use classes, and yield of cotton, potatoes, and wheat. Land-use classes were: Range land, noncrop pasture, lanes and buildings, commercial orchard (including grapes), cotton, wheat for grain, rice, sugar beets, potatoes, commercial vegetables, barley for grain, wheat hay, other grain hay, grain sorghums, summer fallow, idle cropland, alfalfa, ladino, cropland pasture, and spaces for other soil-depleting and other nondepleting crops.

2. *Farm types.*—Farms were classified into 10 types on the basis of these data by specialists in farm management. These types and brief definitions of them in terms of types of land use are as follows:

(1) *Stock ranches.*—Units engaged in the production of livestock by means of range. Included units over 320 acres with 90 percent or more of the land in range, pasture, or hay, but not over 30 percent in hay.

(2) *Forage-consuming livestock.*—Mostly dairies and a few other producers of animal products. Included units with 30 percent or more of the cropland in hay and pasture combined and at least 10 percent in each of these, but with less than 50 percent of their land in field crops. (Classification had to be made without direct knowledge of the number or even the presence of livestock on the unit.)

¹ The collection of the data from the Agricultural Adjustment Agency records was supervised by J. Karl Lee and the analyses by Edwin E. Wilson, both of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, Berkeley. Credit for this material is due them, though responsibility for its use rests with the author.