

A STATISTICAL DELIMITATION OF LAND-USE REGIONS IN OKLAHOMA

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ABSTRACT

The use of Bureau of Census county data makes possible the delimitation of generalized land-use regions having boundaries whose values are capable of quantitative expression and throughout which there is similarity of several conditions. This paper consists of the presentation of a map showing such regions in Oklahoma in 1930.

Those counties having more than two-thirds of all harvested crop acreage in the leading crop were designated as one-crop counties. On this basis, a wheat region was found to be located in the northwestern part of the state, extending from Kingfisher and Major Counties, inclusive, to Kansas and thence westward through the panhandle. There were ten counties in this area. The three southwestern-most counties were found to form a region where more than two-thirds of the harvested cropland was in cotton.

Those counties in which the acreage of the leading crop was less than two-thirds of that of all harvested crops were classified according to crop combinations into cotton and grains, mixed grains, and corn and hay types. Forty-five counties were of the cotton and grains type. These extended from Arkansas to the Texas panhandle and, except for the three cotton counties, from the Red River to as far north as Roger Mills, Payne, and Sequoyah Counties, inclusive. There were seventeen mixed grains counties occupying most of the northeastern part of the state or lying between the wheat and the cotton and grains counties. Only Washington and Nowata Counties were of the corn and hay type.

The counties were also classified according to acreage of "productive" farmland (cropland and cleared pasture) per farm, and lines of 40, 120, and 360 acres were drawn. From McCurtain County, with less than 40 acres of "productive" farmland per farm, the acreage increased toward the north and west to over 360 in the panhandle and adjoining counties.

Finally, counties were classified according to percentages of total area in "productive" farmland, and lines of 33 1/3 percent and 66 2/3 percent were drawn. The Ouachita and Ozark counties of the eastern part of the state had less than one-third, and the western counties had more than two-thirds of their total area in "productive" farm-land.

Oklahoma counties were classified according to all of the above conditions of land-use, and fourteen types of counties resulted, each type differing from all others in one or more respects. When the types were plotted on a map, it was possible to observe the distribution of kinds of crops, acres of "productive" farmland per farm, or percentages of total area in "productive" farmland for the entire state or to observe the association of all three conditions in groups of counties.