

February 1996

E.B. 96-03

The Return of Agricultural Lands to Forest

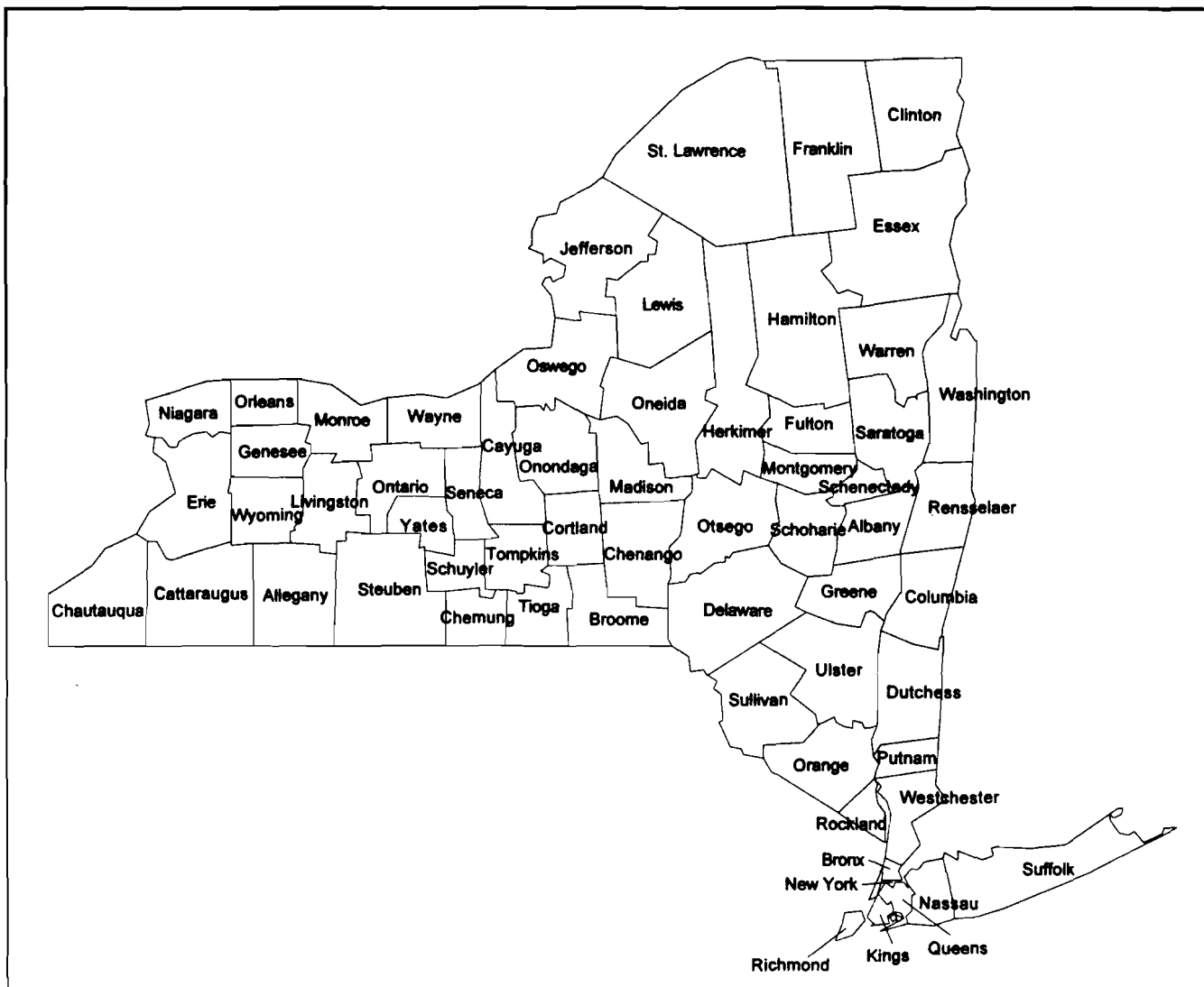
Changing Land Use in the Twentieth Century



Bernard F. Stanton

Nelson L. Bills

Department of Agricultural, Resource, and Managerial Economics
College of Agriculture and Life Sciences
Cornell University
Ithaca, NY 14853-7801



It is the Policy of Cornell University actively to support equality of educational and employment opportunity. No person shall be denied admission to any educational program or activity or be denied employment on the basis of any legally prohibited discrimination involving, but not limited to, such factors as race, color, creed, religion, national or ethnic origin, sex, age or handicap. The University is committed to the maintenance of affirmative action programs which will assure the continuation of such equality of opportunity.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
Purpose	1
Historical Perspective on Farm Numbers and Land in Farms	2
USDA Estimates of Changes in Land Use in New York State.....	3
Land Area in Farms by County, 1910	5
Land Area in Farms by County, 1992	5
Land Area in Woodland, Parks, and Unimproved, 1910	8
Land Area Mostly Wooded or Parks, Both Private and Government Owned, 1992.....	8
Land Use in the Twenty-First Century.....	11
Bibliography.....	130
Appendix.....	131

Maps

Map 1. Percent of land area in farms, 1910	6
Map 2. Percent of land area in farms, 1992	7
Map 3. Percent of land area in woodland, unimproved and parks, 1910.....	9
Map 4. Percent of land area mostly woodland, parks, government and privately owned, 1992	10

Figures

Figure 1. Farming trends for all counties, NYS, 1910-92	13
Figure 2. Farming trends for Albany County, 1910-92	15
Figure 3. Farming trends for Allegany County, 1910-92.....	17
Figure 4. Farming trends for Broome County, 1910-92.....	19
Figure 5. Farming trends for Cattaraugus County, 1910-92	21
Figure 6. Farming trends for Cayuga County, 1910-92	23
Figure 7. Farming trends for Chautauqua County, 1910-92	25
Figure 8. Farming trends for Chemung County, 1910-92.....	27
Figure 9. Farming trends for Chenango County, 1910-92	29
Figure 10. Farming trends for Clinton County, 1910-92	31
Figure 11. Farming trends for Columbia County, 1910-92	33

	<u>Page</u>
Figure 12. Farming trends for Cortland County, 1910-92	35
Figure 13. Farming trends for Delaware County, 1910-92	37
Figure 14. Farming trends for Dutchess County, 1910-92	39
Figure 15. Farming trends for Erie County, 1910-92	41
Figure 16. Farming trends for Essex County, 1910-92	43
Figure 17. Farming trends for Franklin County, 1910-92	45
Figure 18. Farming trends for Fulton County, 1910-92	47
Figure 19. Farming trends for Genesee County, 1910-92	49
Figure 20. Farming trends for Greene County, 1910-92	51
Figure 21. Farming trends for Hamilton County, 1910-92	53
Figure 22. Farming trends for Herkimer County, 1910-92	55
Figure 23. Farming trends for Jefferson County, 1910-92	57
Figure 24. Farming trends for Lewis County, 1910-92	59
Figure 25. Farming trends for Livingston County, 1910-92	61
Figure 26. Farming trends for Madison County, 1910-92	63
Figure 27. Farming trends for Monroe County, 1910-92	65
Figure 28. Farming trends for Montgomery County, 1910-92	67
Figure 29. Farming trends for Nassau County, 1910-92	69
Figure 30. Farming trends for Niagara County, 1910-92	71
Figure 31. Farming trends for Oneida County, 1910-92	73
Figure 32. Farming trends for Onondaga County, 1910-92	75
Figure 33. Farming trends for Ontario County, 1910-92	77
Figure 34. Farming trends for Orange County, 1910-92	79
Figure 35. Farming trends for Orleans County, 1910-92	81
Figure 36. Farming trends for Oswego County, 1910-92	83
Figure 37. Farming trends for Otsego County, 1910-92	85
Figure 38. Farming trends for Putnam County, 1910-92	87
Figure 39. Farming trends for Queens County, 1910-92	89
Figure 40. Farming trends for Rensselaer County, 1910-92	91
Figure 41. Farming trends for Rockland County, 1910-92	93
Figure 42. Farming trends for St. Lawrence County, 1910-92	95
Figure 43. Farming trends for Saratoga County, 1910-92	97

	<u>Page</u>
Figure 44. Farming trends for Schenectady County, 1910-92.....	99
Figure 45. Farming trends for Schoharie County, 1910-92	101
Figure 46. Farming trends for Schuyler County, 1910-92	103
Figure 47. Farming trends for Seneca County, 1910-92	105
Figure 48. Farming trends for Steuben County, 1910-92	107
Figure 49. Farming trends for Suffolk County, 1910-92	109
Figure 50. Farming trends for Sullivan County, 1910-92.....	111
Figure 51. Farming trends for Tioga County, 1910-92	113
Figure 52. Farming trends for Tompkins County, 1910-92.....	115
Figure 53. Farming trends for Ulster County, 1910-92.....	117
Figure 54. Farming trends for Warren County, 1910-92.....	119
Figure 55. Farming trends for Washington County, 1910-92.....	121
Figure 56. Farming trends for Wayne County, 1910-92	123
Figure 57. Farming trends for Westchester County, 1910-92	125
Figure 58. Farming trends for Wyoming County, 1910-92	127
Figure 59. Farming trends for Yates County, 1910-92	129

Tables

Table 1. Farm numbers, land in farms, and improved land in NYS, census data, 1850-1992	2
Table 2. Changes in land use in NYS, USDA estimates, selected years, 1950-1992.....	4
Table 3. Changes in land use in NYS, selected years, 1910-1992.....	12
Table 4. Changes in land use in Albany County, selected years, 1910-1992.....	14
Table 5. Changes in land use in Allegany County, selected years, 1910-1992	16
Table 6. Changes in land use in Broome County, selected years, 1910-1992	18
Table 7. Changes in land use in Cattaraugus County, selected years, 1910-1992	20
Table 8. Changes in land use in Cayuga County, selected years, 1910-1992	22
Table 9. Changes in land use in Chautauqua County, selected years, 1910-1992	24
Table 10. Changes in land use in Chemung County, selected years, 1910-1992	26
Table 11. Changes in land use in Chenango County, selected years, 1910-1992	28
Table 12. Changes in land use in Clinton County, selected years, 1910-1992.....	30
Table13. Changes in land use in Columbia County, selected years, 1910-1992.....	32
Table 14. Changes in land use in Cortland County, selected years, 1910-1992	34

	<u>Page</u>
Table 15. Changes in land use in Delaware County, selected years, 1910-1992	36
Table 16. Changes in land use in Dutchess County, selected years, 1910-1992	38
Table 17. Changes in land use in Erie County, selected years, 1910-1992	40
Table 18. Changes in land use in Essex County, selected years, 1910-1992	42
Table 19. Changes in land use in Franklin County, selected years, 1910-1992	44
Table 20. Changes in land use in Fulton County, selected years, 1910-1992	46
Table 21. Changes in land use in Genesee County, selected years, 1910-1992	48
Table 22. Changes in land use in Greene County, selected years, 1910-1992	50
Table 23. Changes in land use in Hamilton County, selected years, 1910-1992	52
Table 24. Changes in land use in Herkimer County, selected years, 1910-1992	54
Table 25. Changes in land use in Jefferson County, selected years, 1910-1992	56
Table 26. Changes in land use in Lewis County, selected years, 1910-1992	58
Table 27. Changes in land use in Livingston County, selected years, 1910-1992	60
Table 28. Changes in land use in Madison County, selected years, 1910-1992	62
Table 29. Changes in land use in Monroe County, selected years, 1910-1992	64
Table 30. Changes in land use in Montgomery County, selected years, 1910-1992	66
Table 31. Changes in land use in Nassau County, selected years, 1910-1992	68
Table 32. Changes in land use in Niagara County, selected years, 1910-1992	70
Table 33. Changes in land use in Oneida County, selected years, 1910-1992	72
Table 34. Changes in land use in Onondaga County, selected years, 1910-1992	74
Table 35. Changes in land use in Ontario County, selected years, 1910-1992	76
Table 36. Changes in land use in Orange County, selected years, 1910-1992	78
Table 37. Changes in land use in Orleans County, selected years, 1910-1992	80
Table 38. Changes in land use in Oswego County, selected years, 1910-1992	82
Table 39. Changes in land use in Otsego County, selected years, 1910-1992	84
Table 40. Changes in land use in Putnam County, selected years, 1910-1992	86
Table 41. Changes in land use in Queens County, selected years, 1910-1992	88
Table 42. Changes in land use in Rensselaer County, selected years, 1910-1992	90
Table 43. Changes in land use in Rockland County, selected years, 1910-1992	92
Table 44. Changes in land use in St. Lawrence County, selected years, 1910-1992	94
Table 45. Changes in land use in Saratoga County, selected years, 1910-1992	96
Table 46. Changes in land use in Schenectady County, selected years, 1910-1992	98

Table 47. Changes in land use in Schoharie County, selected years, 1910-1992	100
Table 48. Changes in land use in Schuyler County, selected years, 1910-1992	102
Table 49. Changes in land use in Seneca County, selected years, 1910-1992	104
Table 50. Changes in land use in Steuben County, selected years, 1910-1992	106
Table 51. Changes in land use in Suffolk County, selected years, 1910-1992	108
Table 52. Changes in land use in Sullivan County, selected years, 1910-1992	110
Table 53. Changes in land use in Tioga County, selected years, 1910-1992	112
Table 54. Changes in land use in Tompkins County, selected years, 1910-1992	114
Table 55. Changes in land use in Ulster County, selected years, 1910-1992	116
Table 56. Changes in land use in Warren County, selected years, 1910-1992	118
Table 57. Changes in land use in Washington County, selected years, 1910-1992	120
Table 58. Changes in land use in Wayne County, selected years, 1910-1992	122
Table 59. Changes in land use in Westchester County, selected years, 1910-1992	124
Table 60. Changes in land use in Wyoming County, selected years, 1910-1992	126
Table 61. Changes in land use in Yates County, selected years, 1910-1992	128

THE RETURN OF AGRICULTURAL LANDS TO FOREST

Changing Land Use in the Twentieth Century

by

Bernard F. Stanton
Nelson L. Bills*

During much of the twentieth century, agricultural lands in the Northeast, painstakingly carved out of the forest by its early settlers primarily in the 18th and 19th centuries, have slowly been reverting to their natural state. It has been a slow and gradual process as what were once hay fields and pasture, when left untended, sprouted brush, then small trees and, over time, woodland that can again reclaim the title of forest. As the end of the 20th century approaches, land in farms has decreased from occupying nearly 75 percent of the state's land area in 1900 to less than 25 percent in the 1990s. Dramatic changes in land use have occurred in a relatively short time span. One wonders what this bodes for the century ahead.

Purpose

This report seeks to summarize the major changes in land use for New York State during the 20th century as owners and operators of commercial farms have ceased to be the primary users of natural resources in the state. Over the years, more and more of the land base has left farming because it could not compete effectively with other uses. This report will look carefully at the changes which have occurred both for the state as a whole and in individual counties, based primarily on data from the Census of Agriculture.

Four key points have been chosen as a base for reference: 1910, 1940, 1969, and 1992. Each was a census year. 1910 marked the beginning of what has often been referred to as "the golden age of agriculture". Aggregate demand and supplies of agricultural products were in approximate balance. Farm prices stabilized and increased between 1910 and 1914. Farmers reduced their debts, and land prices rose. The decade of 1910-19, which included World War I, was one of the most prosperous for farmers in the century. But it was followed by two of the darkest decades for farmers. Agricultural depression started in the '20s as both commodity prices and land prices fell. Many farmers could not pay their debts or their taxes.

By 1940 the general economic depression of the thirties was ending and World War II was at hand. Mechanical power was replacing horse power on farms and new agricultural technology was waiting to be put in place. Thirty years later, in 1969, the quiet agricultural revolution had largely occurred. Farm numbers were greatly reduced. The industrialization of agriculture was now under way. More products were produced on fewer acres with much less labor. The most recent agricultural census available is for 1992. It provides a bench mark of agriculture and land use in the last decade of the century.

* Emeritus Professor and Professor, respectively, Department of Agricultural, Resource, and Managerial Economics, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY.

Historical Perspective on Farm Numbers and Land in Farms

During much of the 19th century, land was still being cleared for farming. Farm numbers and land in farms increased each decade until 1880. The first comprehensive Census of Agriculture was not conducted until 1850, so that official records start with that year. Settlement in much of New York, however, did not occur until after the Revolutionary War when the lands of the Iroquois Nations became available. Almost all of the cropland and pasture had to be cleared by human and animal power. Roads had to be constructed, villages established, and a rural infrastructure created. So the slow, steady increase of land in farms is not surprising. Land in farms, at 23.8 million acres in 1880, included 78 percent of the state's land area, a surprising amount given the terrain of the Adirondacks, Catskills, and Tug Hill.

Farm numbers peaked in 1880, as did land in farms and "improved land", essentially land that had been cleared for pasture or cropland. As the data in Table 1 suggest, farm numbers and land in farms were quite stable from 1870 to 1910. Some land that was called "improved" in 1880 had already reverted to woodland or "unimproved" by the start of the 20th century. Average land values, as reported in successive census years, gradually increased in the last half of the 19th century and then fell between 1890 and 1900, reflecting reduced commodity prices in the 1890s.

Table 1. Farm Numbers, Land in Farms, and Improved Land in New York State, Census Data, 1850-1992

Census Year	Farm Numbers	Land in Farms	Improved Land or Total Cropland*
<i>Million acres</i>			
1850	170,600	19.1	12.4
1860	197,000	21.0	14.4
1870	216,300	22.2	15.6
1880	241,100	23.8	17.7
1890	226,200	22.0	16.4
1900	226,700	22.6	15.6
1910	215,600	22.0	14.8
1920	193,200	20.6	13.2
1930	159,800	18.0	10.5
1940	153,200	17.2	10.2
1950	124,800	16.0	8.5
1960	82,400	13.5	7.1
1970	51,900	10.1	6.1
1978	43,100	9.5	5.9
1987	37,700	8.4	5.4
1992	32,300	7.5	4.9

Source: Census of Agriculture.

* Improved land included all land from which crops were harvested including pasture from which hay could have been harvested. Cropland was substituted for "improved land" in the Census of Agriculture in 1925.

The twentieth century was characterized by declines in farm numbers and land in farms in each decade. The largest reductions occurred in the 1920s and the 1950s and 1960s. But the circumstances were strikingly different even though land in farms decreased by more than 2.5 million acres in each of these three decades.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Land value per acre</u>	<u>Average size of farm</u>
1850	\$29.00	112.1
1860	38.30	106.5
1870	45.89	102.6
1880	44.08	98.7
1890	44.08	97.1
1900	39.21	99.9

The Twenties -- In 1920 the boom of the war years was followed by a bust. Those on-the-hill farms with the poorest land struggled to hang on but were often forced to give up when loans were foreclosed. Willing buyers for these farms did not appear, and some land abandonment followed. In response to these difficulties, the State of New York made a number of special purchases like the lands of the Pharsalia Game Refuge in 1926 and 1927. In 1931 the State of New York passed by popular vote a constitutional amendment to acquire and reforest a million acres over a 15-year period.

The 1950s and 1960s -- In contrast, the economic conditions outside agriculture in the 1950s and '60s were more favorable in rural areas. All-weather roads were extended into rural areas and made commuting to work in nearby villages and cities a possibility while still living on a farm and renting or selling the best cropland to neighboring farmers. Between 1950 and 1970, farm numbers decreased by nearly 73,000, and land in farms was reduced by almost 6 million acres. Mechanization allowed one worker to do what two or more had done before and with much less human effort. Total agricultural output increased as capital and technology replaced land and labor.

The 1970s and 1980s -- In the years since 1970, farm numbers and land in farms have continued to decline but at a much slower pace. In 1992 land in farms made up only 25 percent of the state's area, with cropland down to 16 percent. In the span of one century, the primary land owners were no longer farmers but were large numbers of other individuals, including many former farmers, living in the country, holding land for their private enjoyment and for a wide range of different uses.

USDA Estimates of Changes in Land Use in New York State

After each of the agricultural censuses since 1950, the USDA has made estimates of changes in land use for individual states and the country as a whole. The data for rural areas is based on summaries of census records and provides good indicators of the direction and rates of change in land use. As is suggested by the data in Table 2, most of the land moving out of cropland and pasture has been reverting to brush, trees and forest in the years since 1950.

Table 2. Changes in Land Use in New York State, USDA Estimates, Selected Years, 1950-1992

Description	1950	1969	1987	1992
<u>Rural Uses:</u>	<i>Thousand acres</i>			
Forest Land, Outside Parks	11,742	14,897	16,226	16,291
Cropland	6,906	6,276	5,254	4,568
Grassland Pasture	4,705	1,295	1,005	1,292
Rural Parks, Wildlife Refuges	2,660	3,103	3,154	3,047
Rural Transportation and Farmsteads	<u>727</u>	<u>742</u>	<u>582</u>	<u>546</u>
Total Rural	26,740	26,313	26,221	25,744
<u>Urban and Other:</u>	3,581	4,008	4,100	4,579
Total Area	30,321	30,321	30,321	30,323
Sources:	Wooten, H.H. 1953. <i>Major Uses of Land in the United States</i> . Techn. Bull. 1082, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, DC. Frey, H.T. 1973. <i>Major Uses of Land in the United States: Summary for 1969</i> . AER 247, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, DC. Daugherty, A.B. 1991. <i>Major Uses of Land in the United States, 1987</i> . AER 643, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, DC. Daugherty, A.B. 1995. <i>Major Uses of Land in the United States, 1992</i> . AER 723, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, DC.			

Forest land outside of parks made up almost 37 percent of the state's land area in 1950. Together with parks and wildlife refuges it accounted for 45.5 percent. Cropland amounted to almost 23 percent, and together with pasture added up to 38 percent. Forest land has steadily grown in importance in the second half of the century. By 1987 more than half of the land area was in forest land, not counting the parks. Presently, forest land, combined with parks and wildlife refuges, makes up 64 percent of the state's land area. Cropland and grassland pasture, combined, only account for 19.3 percent of the total.

A common reference point for discussions of land use in the densely populated Northeast is the area devoted to developed uses. However, measurements of these uses are problematic due to definitional problems and the way that settlement occurs on the landscape. A key definition is "urban" land. The urban acreage reported in USDA estimates follows the methods used with the decennial Population Census; the urban population is counted as residents of incorporated places with a population of 2,500 or more and additional densely settled "urbanized area" which is adjacent to these incorporated places. Since 1950, few municipalities in New York have annexed additional land, but urban acreage increases as the census measures new urbanized area.

This approach means that urban land cannot be synonymous with what most observers would want to identify as "developed" land in New York. Missed are the numerous villages and

hamlets with a population under 2,500; more importantly, an accounting is not made for rural land conversions which occur in tracts or on building lots as linear development occurs along roads and highways. These tracts and lots are usually much larger than the footprint of a residence or commercial building. For purposes here, we approximate this additional converted acreage, along with small villages and hamlets, with the category "urban and other" in Table 2. It is the aggregate of census-defined urban land and other miscellaneous land uses.

Regardless of definitions, one of the common expectations when looking at the aggregates for land use in New York State is that the growth in "urban" land area since 1950 should be much larger. But the 4.6 million acres of urban land, or 13.5 percent of the state's land area in 1992, is a considerable area in its own right. For example, the combined area of the urban counties of the Southeast -- Suffolk, Nassau, New York City's five counties, Westchester and Rockland -- is only 1.354 million acres or 4.5 percent of the state's area, assuming it is all urban, which it is not. In estimating the urban areas in each of the state's 62 counties after the 1992 Census of Agriculture, our total for the state, based on these individual county estimates, provided a similar total, between 4.1 and 4.2 million acres.

Land Area in Farms by County, 1910

Most of the land area in New York State was in farms in 1910 except for the metropolitan areas around New York City and the Adirondack Mountains. In much of central and western New York, 90 percent of each county's area was included in farms as counted in the census. The adjacent counties of Livingston and Wyoming had more than 95 percent of their area in farms. Erie County, including Buffalo and the surrounding industrial towns, was 86 percent in farms. Monroe County, home of Rochester, was 93 percent in farms while Onondaga, with Syracuse, was nearly 88 percent land in farms.

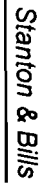
All the counties which include large areas of the Adirondacks -- Hamilton, Essex, Franklin, Warren, Lewis, and Herkimer -- had less than 60 percent of their area in farms. In 1910 both Nassau and Suffolk had important agricultural areas largely devoted to horticultural crops. All of the upstate counties that had less than 80 percent of their land area in farms had large areas of mountainous terrain which had proven too difficult to farm with horses or oxen. Farming was clearly the primary use of the state's land area at the start of the "golden age of agriculture".

Land Area in Farms by County, 1992

In contrast to 1910, land in farms in New York State had fallen from 72.2 percent of the area to 24.7 percent in 1992. Much of the land area in the eastern third of the state was no longer in the hands of farmers. In many counties, farmland was down to less than 15 percent of the total. Commercial farming was now concentrated on the most productive lands not used by homes or industrial development. Farming is still important in a number of Hudson Valley counties (Washington, Rensselaer, Columbia, Dutchess and Orange), but most of the land area is controlled by nonfarm owners.

The counties with 40 percent or more of their land area still in farms are largely located in the central and western parts of the state. Only seven counties remain with more than half the land area in farms. A combination of highly productive soils and modest urban pressure on land

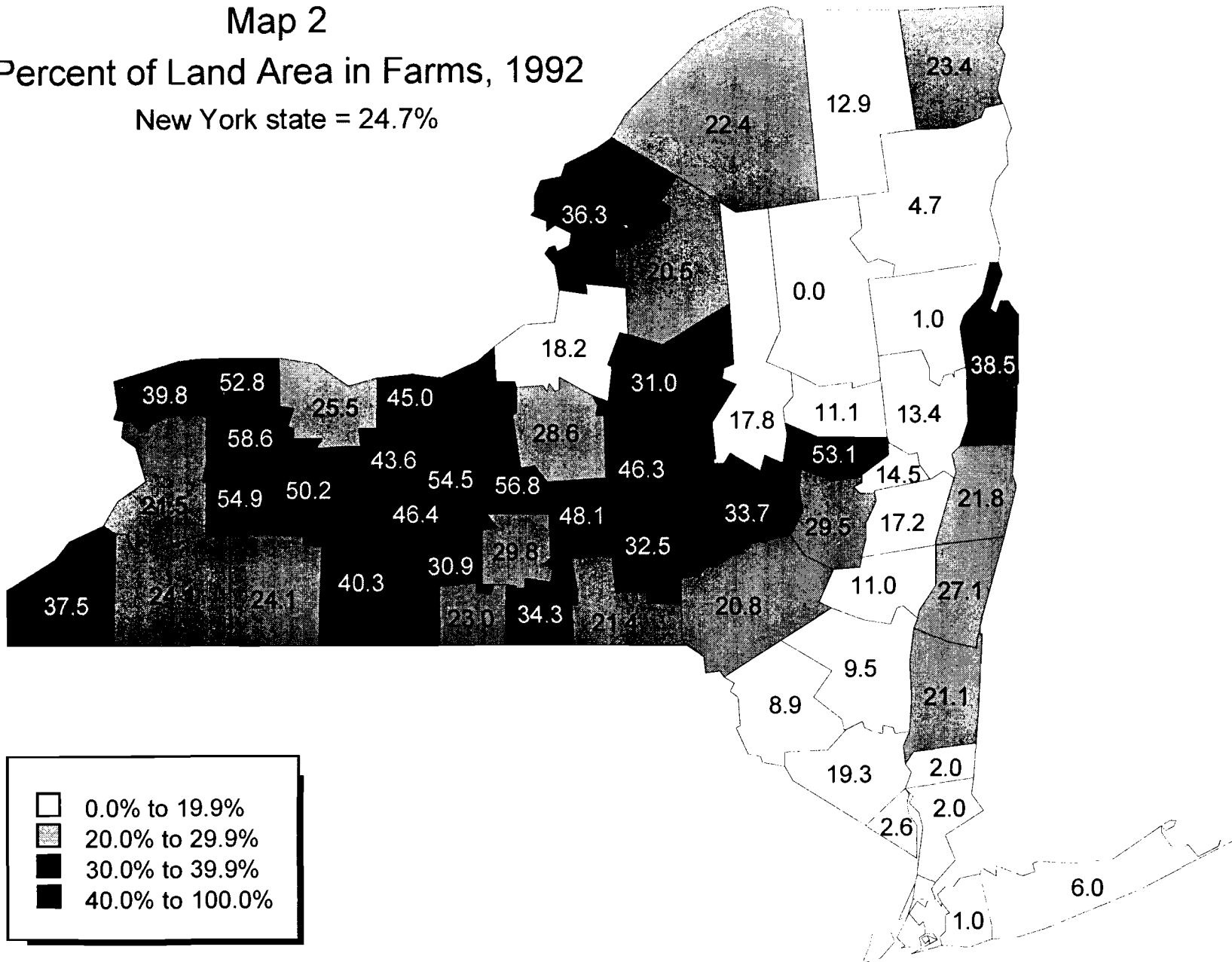
၈



Map 2

Percent of Land Area in Farms, 1992

New York state = 24.7%



values are important reasons for these results. On the map, Montgomery County seems unusual compared to its neighbors but is largely located in a belt of excellent soils which includes parts of Herkimer, Oneida and Madison Counties as well.

Land Area in Woodland, Parks, and Unimproved, 1910

Using the census data obtained in 1910, estimates of the combination of farm woodland and unimproved pasture was added to land in parks to get an estimate of the forested and unimproved land in each county. For the state as a whole, this amounted to 47.5 percent of the total area. In many counties much of this land was a part of individual farms. In northern New York most of the land had a forest cover extending as far south as Fulton County just north of the Mohawk River.

The influence of the rough terrain of the Catskills, Tug Hill and parts of the Southern Tier is evident in Map 3. Despite their proximity to New York City, important areas of Putnam, Rockland and Westchester Counties also remained in forest because of the rocky, rough landscapes. Many of the counties that have high proportions of land in farms in 1992 were the same ones that had less than 25 percent of their land in woodland and parks in 1910.

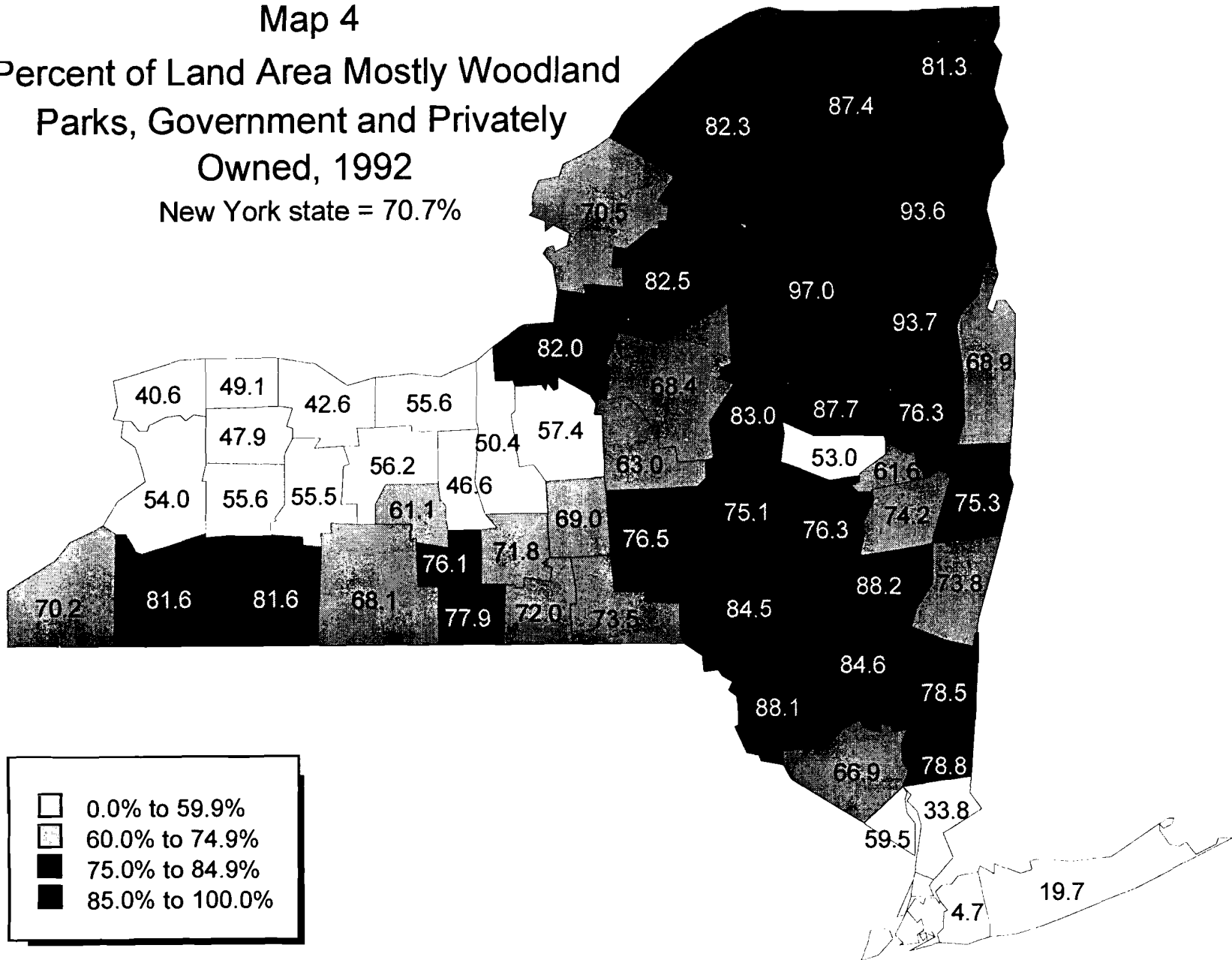
Land Area Mostly Wooded or Parks, Both Private and Government Owned, 1992

Estimates of land that is mostly wooded, regardless of public or private ownership, were made for individual counties in 1992. State-owned land as a percent of county area was obtained from the New York State Office of Real Property Services and is provided in the Appendix. State-owned land has increased throughout the 20th century, both as a result of the reforestation efforts in the 1920s and 1930s and the desire to add to the public park lands which had begun in the 19th century. In some counties like Hamilton (71 percent), Essex (45 percent), Herkimer (40 percent), Warren (34 percent), and Fulton (32 percent), the state is easily the largest landowner. Even in urban Rockland County, 30 percent is state-owned land. The largest federal tracts are generally identified, but a similar listing of all areas of federal ownership was not available.

In the Adirondack counties, more than 80 percent of the land area is wooded, according to our estimates. Included are the forest lands owned and operated by private and publicly owned corporations and used for lumber, paper and pulp operations. Besides the publicly owned lands, there are many privately held tracts, both large and small, for personal and recreational uses. Most of the farms in the North Country include large woodlots and unimproved pasture which is partially brush or wooded. The Catskill Mountain counties -- Delaware, Greene, Sullivan, and Ulster -- are more than 80 percent wooded as well. Here the proportion of publicly owned land is much less than in the Adirondacks. Individuals have been buying properties for nonfarm purposes in these counties for many years. At one time this was a popular area for boarding houses and summer vacations for urban dwellers. In recent years this type of business has diminished in importance. Former farmlands increasingly revert to brush and trees unless new owners make concerted efforts to maintain open space and views across the valleys.

There are large numbers of rural people who are landowners and commute on a regular basis to and from work. Many of the lands they own are likely to be included in the "mostly woodland" percentages shown on Map 4. They do not have enough cropland or farm operations

Map 4
Percent of Land Area Mostly Woodland
Parks, Government and Privately
Owned, 1992
 New York state = 70.7%



to be counted by the census. If they rent some of the better land they own to farmers, that land is counted by the Census of Agriculture as part of the farm business of the man who operates it. As a consequence, much of the Hudson Valley land in areas like the Capital District is counted as mostly wooded. The immediate suburbs of Albany, Schenectady and Troy are treated as "urban". Those who live on the many tracts of land further out from the cities and intermingled with some farms are in settings where the majority of land is already in trees or is rapidly reverting to its natural state.

In 1992 nearly 71 percent of New York State was either forested, in parks and wildlife refuges, or was returning to brush and trees according to our estimates. State-owned lands accounted for 13.7 percent of the state's area. Urban land and other accounted for another 15.1 percent. Counting rural roads, farmsteads and federal lands as another 5 percent, and adding in the 21.2 percent of the state's area used for crops and pasture by farmers, the balance, or 45 percent, is privately owned and already forested or slowly reverting. Some of this land is now being used for commercial forestry; more of this use is likely in this decade and the century ahead.

Land Use in the Twenty-First Century

Tremendous changes in land use occurred in New York State during the twentieth century. Land moved rapidly out of farming and back into some stage of woodland or forest, especially in the second half of the century. With only 7.5 million acres in farms in 1992, the loss of farmland to either forest or urban development must come at a much slower pace in the coming century. More of the urban-suburban majority now recognize that open space has both extrinsic and intrinsic value. Finding acceptable ways to provide incentives for private property owners to maintain open vistas, prevent open fields from returning to brush and woodland, and encouraging commercial farmers to continue production in the valleys and along the hillsides may become more important, particularly to local governments.

As forested areas and suburban residences come closer and closer together, wildlife such as deer, woodchucks, and rabbits become an aggravation to gardeners and homeowners. Areas of open space instead of forest may become more and more desirable for both wildlife and homeowners. No doubt some new experiments in zoning or local government actions with respect to land use will emerge as more and more private property owners look for accommodation with each other and the wildlife "problem".

As the transition process from farmland to brush to forest begins to reach maturity in the next century, valuable hardwoods will again begin to become dominant in many counties in New York. One of the challenges for individual property owners, both farmers and their neighbors, will be to establish ways to use these valuable forest resources in both an economically and ecologically sound manner. As world populations continue to grow, our eastern hardwood forests will become increasingly valuable resources. Learning to manage a diverse mixture of small forested properties, including harvesting when appropriate, will be one of our challenges in the near future. Simply letting nature take its course may not be good enough. Local governments may have a special role in helping us to use and enjoy our growing forest resources wisely.

Table 3. Changes in Land Use in New York State, Selected Years, 1910-1992

<u>Description</u>	<u>1910</u>	<u>1940</u>	<u>1969</u>	<u>1992</u>
Farm numbers	215,600	153,200	51,900	32,300
<u>Agriculture</u>	<i>Million acres</i>			
Improved land/cropland ¹	14.84	10.24	6.08	4.88
Farm woodland	4.44	3.02	2.19	1.54
All other/unimproved	<u>2.75</u>	<u>3.91</u>	<u>1.88</u>	<u>1.04</u>
Total land in farms	22.03	17.17	10.15	7.46
<u>Other Uses</u>				
Roads, urban ²	1.23			4.58
Parks and privately owned	<u>7.35</u>			<u>18.28</u>
Total land area	30.61			30.32
		<i>Percent of land area</i>		
Improved land/cropland	48.7			15.9
All land in farms	72.2			24.4
Mostly forested: government and private ownership	47.5			70.7

Source: Census of Agriculture, Ag. Econ. Rpt. 723.

¹ Improved land in 1910; cropland 1940 to present.

² Estimated as 5% in 1910 and 15% in 1992.

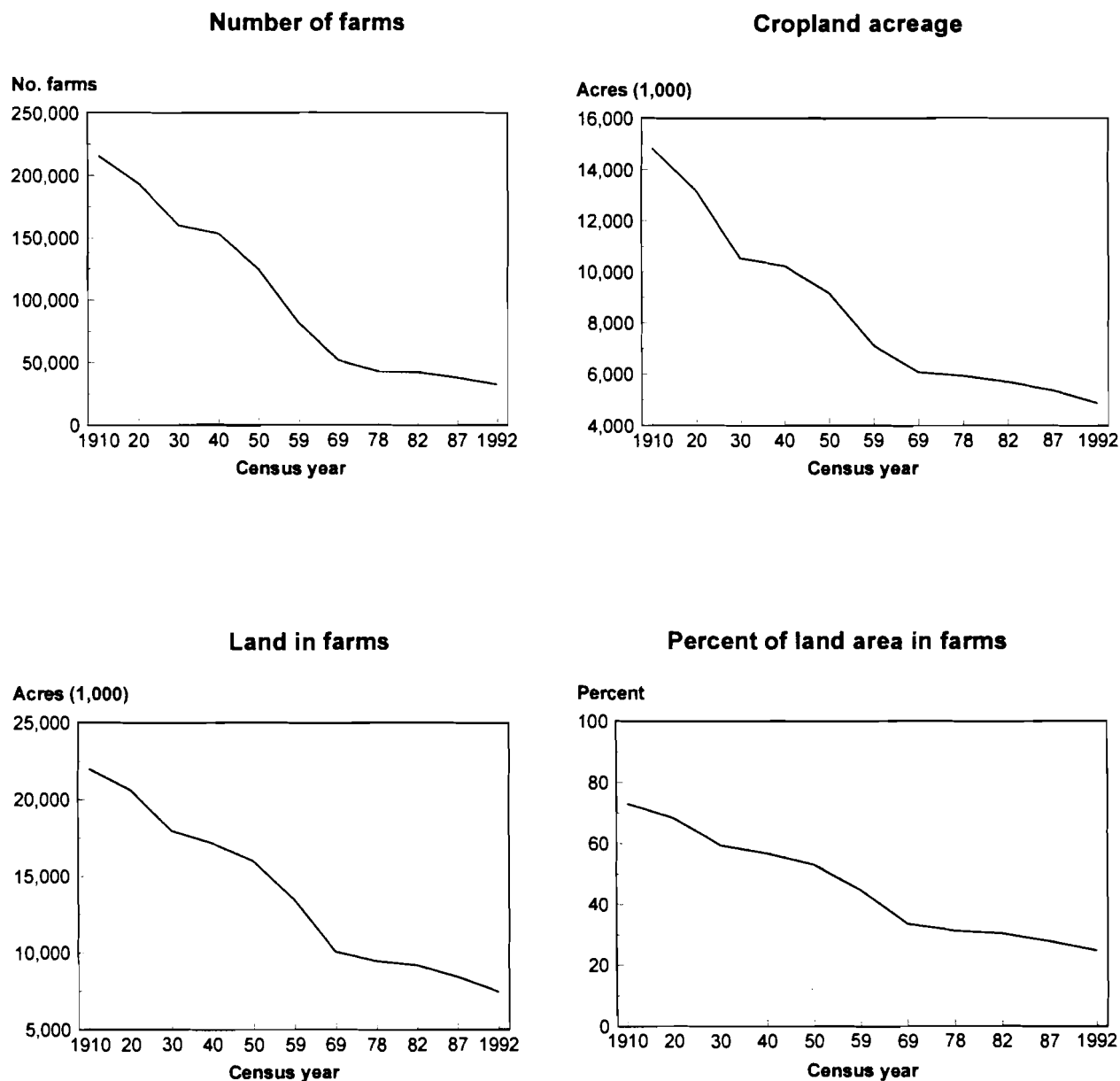
New York State

Land in farms in New York State grew steadily each decade in the 19th century until it peaked in 1880 at 78 percent of the land area. In 1890 it had dropped back to 22 million acres where it remained until 1910. It then decreased modestly in each succeeding decade until 1950 when land in farms accounted for only 53 percent of the state's land area. Mostly forested lands, both state and privately owned, accounted for 47.5 percent of the land area in 1910. Subsequently, this has grown to include more than 70 percent of the state's area in the 1990s.

Information for each of the state's counties, where there has been commercial farming in 1910 and subsequent census years, is provided in a series of graphs and a table with the same format as the one above. The data for the four graphs come from an agricultural census each decade. Most of the graphs show declining numbers and percentages during this century. However, the rates of change are quite different from county to county.

In a number of cases there were increases, especially in land in farms, between 1930 and 1940. In the early years of the 1930s, many individuals who could not find work returned to the land to try to make a meager living. The census of 1935 showed a marked increase in both the number of farms and land in farms from 1930. These numbers subsequently fell again, in most cases, before 1940.

The numbers in Tables 3-61 are based primarily on data taken directly from the Census of Agriculture in each of the four years. Other uses are residuals in 1910 and 1992, with approximations made for roads and urban areas using maps and personal knowledge of individual counties.

Figure 1. Farming Trends for All Counties, New York State, 1910-92

Source: U.S. Census of Agriculture.

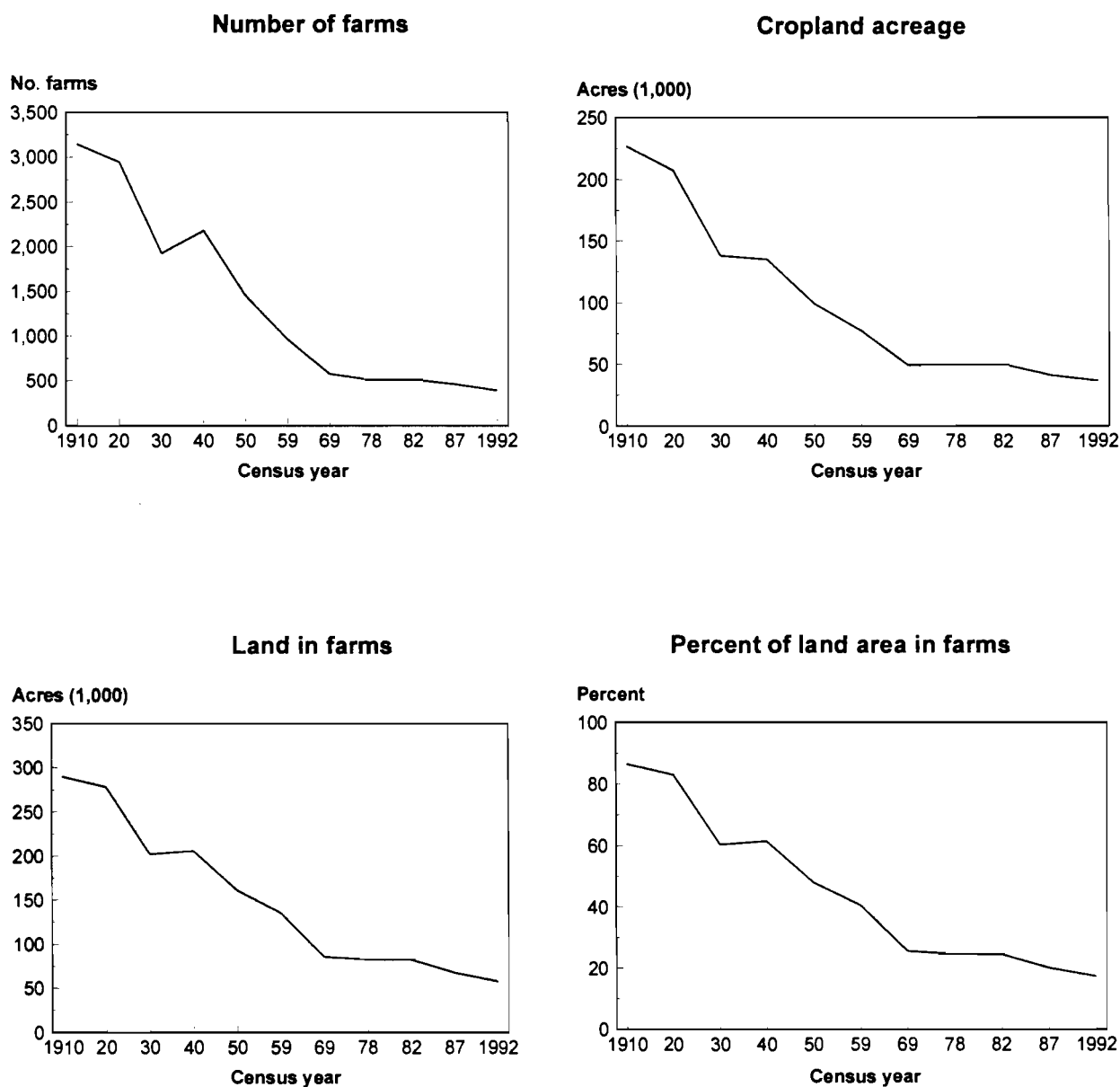
Table 4. Changes in Land Use in Albany County, Selected Years, 1910-1992

<u>Description</u>	<u>1910</u>	<u>1940</u>	<u>1969</u>	<u>1992</u>
Farm numbers	3,146	2,177	574	391
<u>Agriculture</u>	<i>Thousand acres</i>			
Improved land/cropland ¹	226.9	135.2	49.1	36.4
Farm woodland	45.6	33.3	18.6	13.8
All other/unimproved	<u>17.3</u>	<u>37.5</u>	<u>18.4</u>	<u>7.7</u>
Total land in farms	289.8	206.0	86.1	57.9
<u>Other Uses</u>				
Roads, urban ²	16.8			50.5
Parks and privately owned	<u>29.8</u>			<u>228.0</u>
Total land area	336.4			336.4
	<i>Percent of land area</i>			
Improved land/cropland	67.3	39.8	14.6	10.8
All land in farms	85.9	60.6	25.6	17.2
Mostly forested: government and private ownership	27.6			74.2
Source: Census of Agriculture.				
¹ Improved land in 1910; cropland 1940 to present.				
² Estimated as 5% in 1910 and 15% in 1992.				

Albany County

Since 1910 land in farms has dropped substantially as large areas in the southwestern parts of the county have reverted to brush, trees and forest. In the 1990s the northeastern corner of the county is primarily urban and suburban. An important part of the exodus from agriculture occurred in the 1920s and then again immediately after World War II. Commercial farming exists in pockets alongside rural neighbors who commute to work, primarily in the Capital District. Albany ranks 45th out of 56* counties in 1992 with agricultural sales of \$16 million. Much of the rural land is in small tracts, privately owned, and held for private enjoyment as rural residences. Land in farms accounted for 86 percent of the county's area in 1910 and only 17 percent in 1992.

* In making comparisons, only the 56 counties with some land in farms are considered. The five counties in New York City and Hamilton County are not included when looking at agricultural sales in 1992.

Figure 2. Farming Trends for Albany County, 1910-92

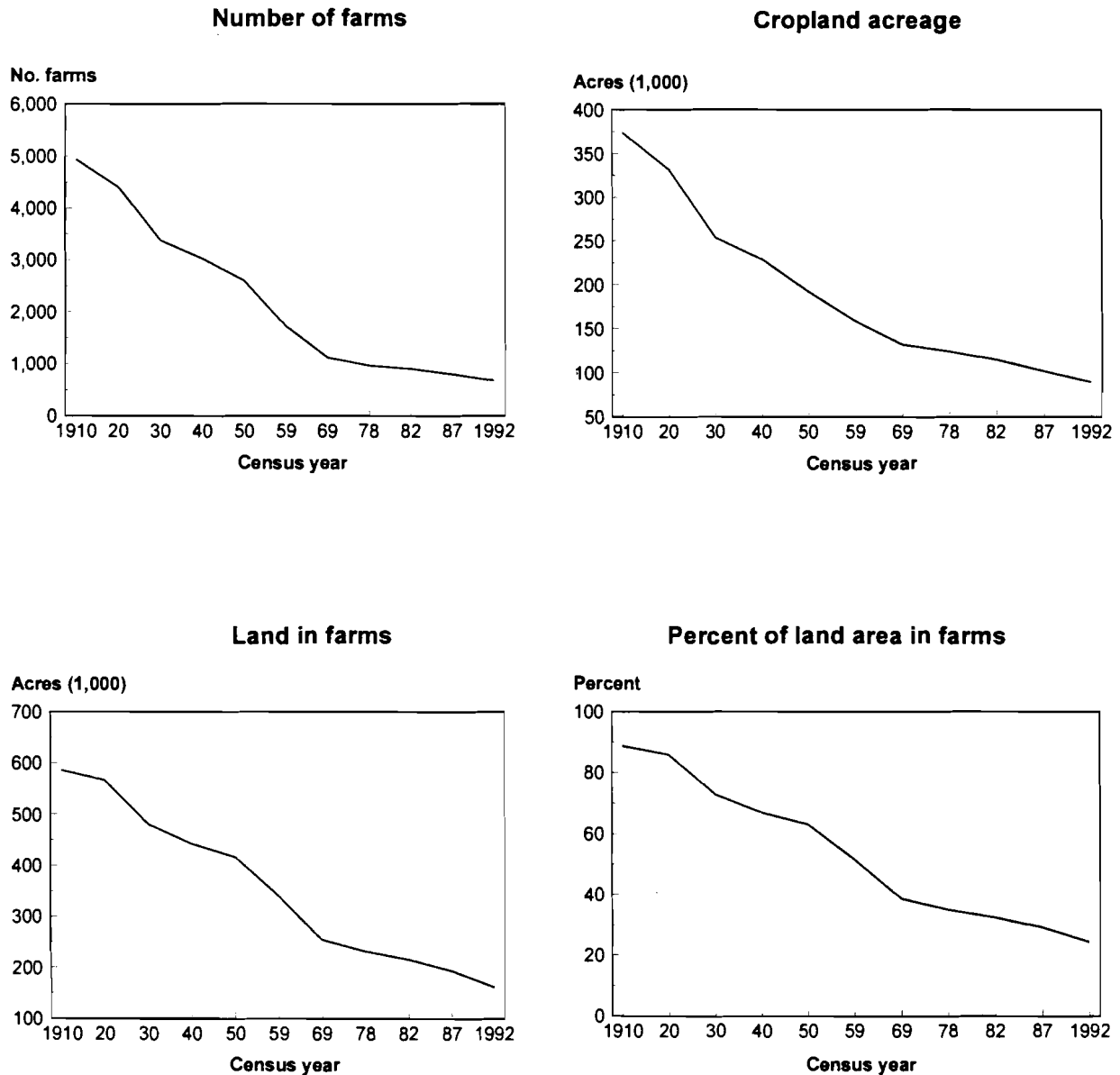
Source: U.S. Census of Agriculture.

Table 5. Changes in Land Use in Allegany County, Selected Years, 1910-1992

<u>Description</u>	<u>1910</u>	<u>1940</u>	<u>1969</u>	<u>1992</u>
Farm numbers	4,937	3,018	1,112	682
<u>Agriculture</u>	<i>Thousand acres</i>			
Improved land/cropland ¹	373.9	229.5	132.3	89.8
Farm woodland	117.2	78.6	70.6	46.4
All other/unimproved	<u>94.5</u>	<u>134.0</u>	<u>51.6</u>	<u>25.4</u>
Total land in farms	585.6	442.1	254.5	161.6
<u>Other Uses</u>				
Roads, urban ²	20.1			33.5
Parks and privately owned	<u>64.5</u>			<u>475.1</u>
Total land area	670.2			670.2
	<i>Percent of land area</i>			
Improved land/cropland	55.8	34.2	19.7	13.4
All land in farms	87.4	65.9	38.0	24.1
Mostly forested: government and private ownership	41.2			81.6
Source: Census of Agriculture.				
¹ Improved land in 1910; cropland 1940 to present.				
² Estimated as 3% in 1910 and 5% in 1992.				

Allegany County

This county has always been one of the most rural in the state and was widely settled in the early 1800s. At the turn of the century, nearly 90% of the county's area was a part of a farm. Improved land on these farms, anything which was cropped, cut for hay or had been cleared for pasture, never equalled 60 percent of the land area. By 1940 as tractors began to replace horses, cropland accounted for only one-third of the land area, while land in trees, forest and brush became more dominant. In the 1990s commercial farms are found in the broader valleys and the northwestern part of the county. A little over 8 percent of the land area is in state-owned reforestation projects. Allegany ranks 38th among the 56 counties in value of agricultural products sold in 1992 (\$31 million).

Figure 3. Farming Trends for Allegany County, 1910-92

Source: U.S. Census of Agriculture.

Table 6. Changes in Land Use in Broome County, Selected Years, 1910-1992

<u>Description</u>	<u>1910</u>	<u>1940</u>	<u>1969</u>	<u>1992</u>
Farm numbers	4,017	2,851	765	517
<u>Agriculture</u>	<i>Thousand acres</i>			
Improved land/cropland ¹	302.0	182.0	72.5	52.3
Farm woodland	86.6	74.8	42.9	28.6
All other/unimproved	<u>22.9</u>	<u>67.3</u>	<u>38.4</u>	<u>17.0</u>
Total land in farms	411.5	324.1	153.8	97.9
<u>Other Uses</u>				
Roads, urban ²	22.8			68.5
Parks and privately owned	<u>22.3</u>			<u>290.2</u>
Total land area	456.6			456.6
	<i>Percent of land area</i>			
Improved land/cropland	66.9	40.0	15.9	11.5
All land in farms	91.2	71.3	33.7	21.4
Mostly forested: government and private ownership	28.9			73.5

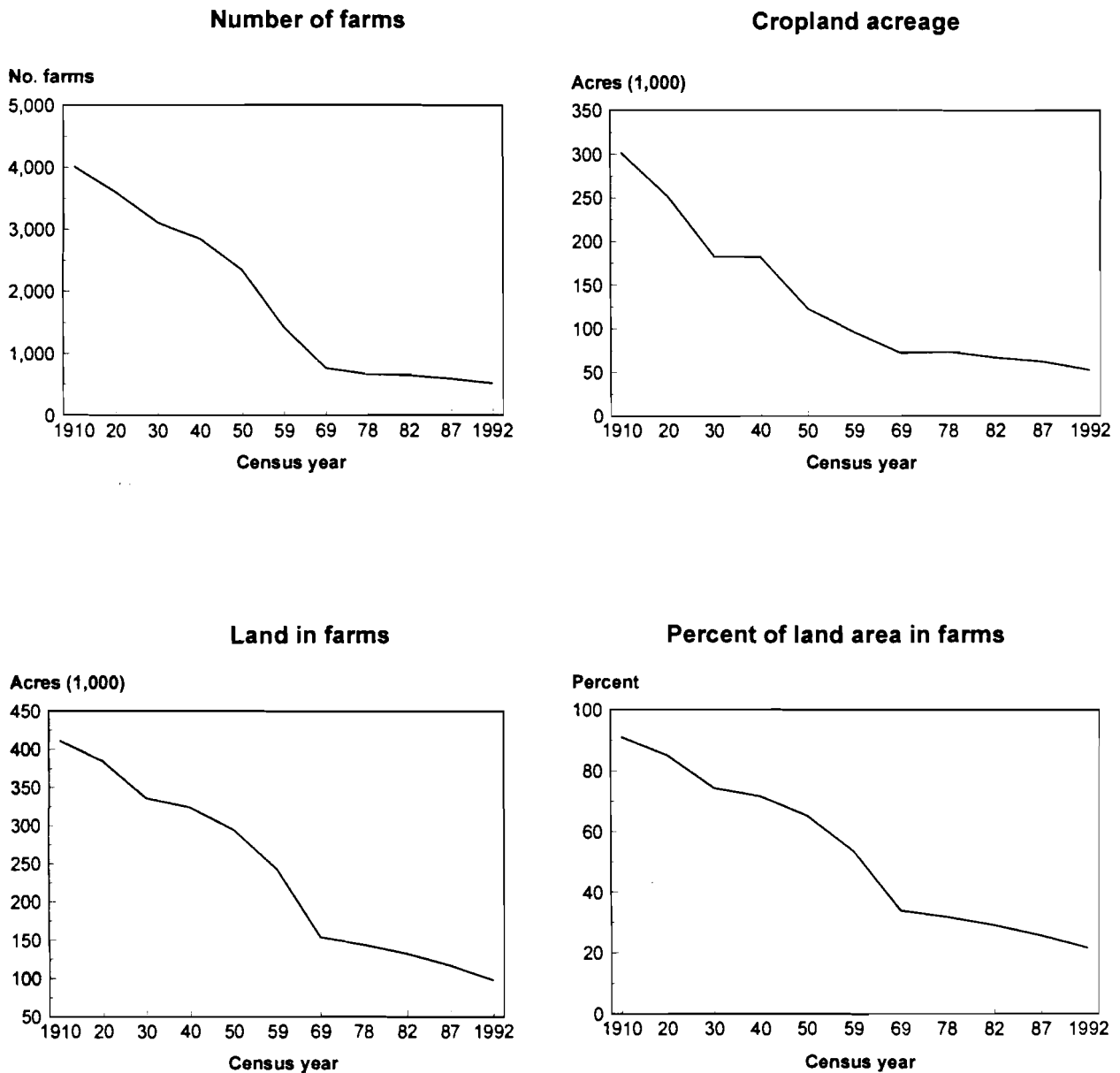
Source: Census of Agriculture.

¹ Improved land in 1910; cropland 1940 to present.

² Estimated as 5% in 1910 and 15% in 1992.

Broome County

In 1910 most of Broome County was in farms -- more than 91 percent of the total area. Urbanization had begun but did not dominate the landscape, nor does it in the 1990s, especially on the northern and eastern sides of the county. Improved land and cropland accounted for two-thirds of the area in 1910 but was already reduced to 40 percent by 1940 as horse-powered agriculture declined in importance. With all-weather roads and off-farm jobs available, the number of farms fell rapidly in the post-war years. Cropland in 1992 accounted for only 11.5 percent of the land area as more and more land has reverted to brush, trees and forest. Commercial agriculture is now a smaller player in the county economy. Agricultural sales of \$25 million in 1992 put the county 42nd out of 56 in the state.

Figure 4. Farming Trends for Broome County, 1910-92

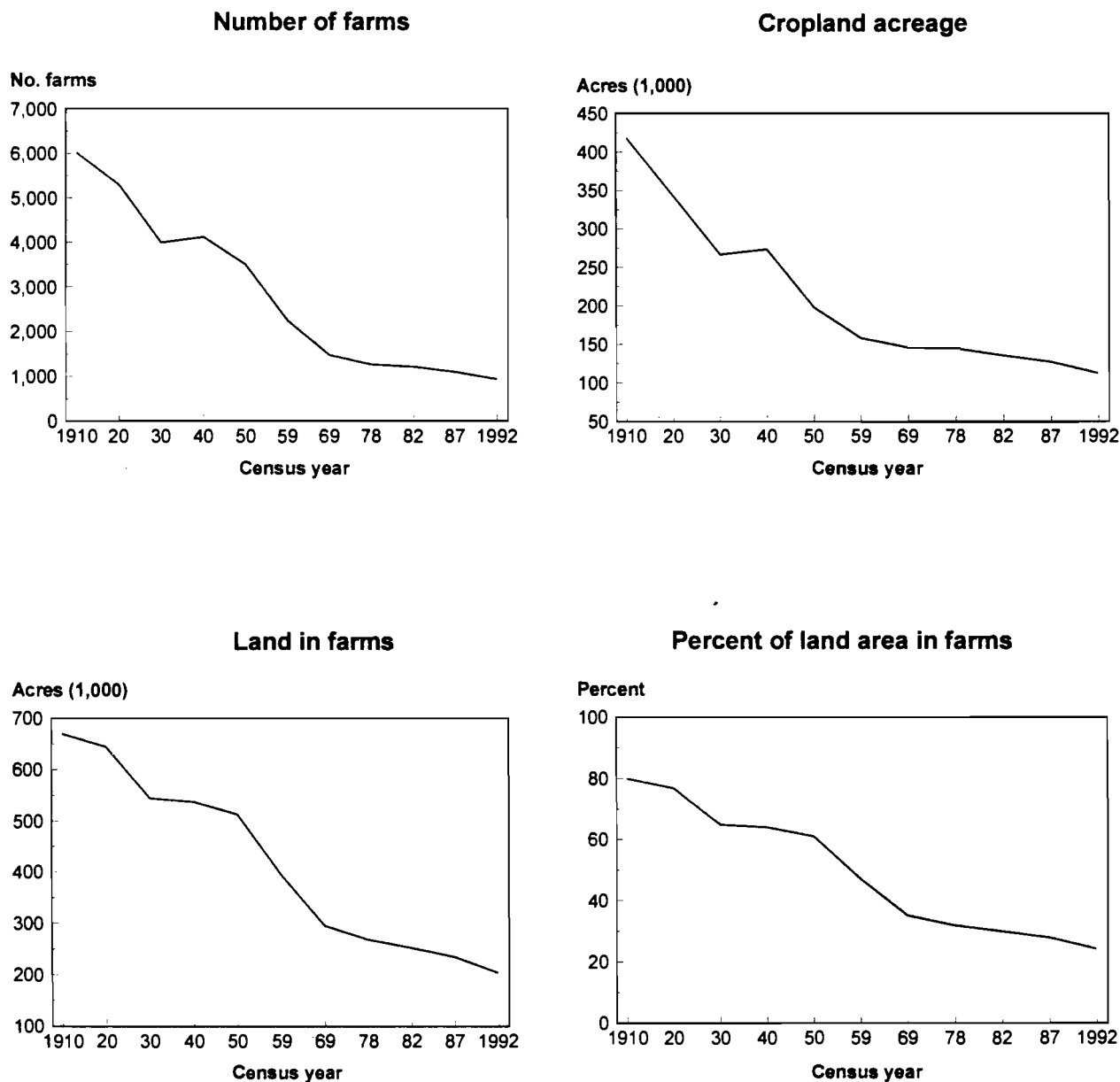
Source: U.S. Census of Agriculture.

Table 7. Changes in Land Use in Cattaraugus County, Selected Years, 1910-1992

<u>Description</u>	<u>1910</u>	<u>1940</u>	<u>1969</u>	<u>1992</u>
Farm numbers	6,017	4,124	1,475	941
<u>Agriculture</u>	<i>Thousand acres</i>			
Improved land/cropland ¹	418.3	273.4	145.9	112.9
Farm woodland	159.8	99.1	83.7	57.6
All other/unimproved	<u>91.9</u>	<u>165.0</u>	<u>66.0</u>	<u>33.6</u>
Total land in farms	670.0	537.5	295.6	203.7
<u>Other Uses</u>				
Roads, urban ²	25.3			42.2
Parks and privately owned	<u>148.2</u>			<u>597.6</u>
Total land area	843.5			843.5
	<i>Percent of land area</i>			
Improved land/cropland	48.7	32.0	17.3	13.4
All land in farms	77.9	62.9	35.0	24.1
Mostly forested: government and private ownership	47.4			81.6
Source: Census of Agriculture.				
¹ Improved land in 1910; cropland 1940 to present.				
² Estimated as 3% in 1910 and 5% in 1992.				

Cattaraugus County

Cattaraugus is the eighth largest county in the state in physical area and includes both an Indian reservation and the Allegany State Park within its borders. State lands account for 12.2 percent of the area. Land in farms in 1910 amounted to 78 percent of the total, most of the rest that was settled. Improved land for crops or pasture never accounted for 50 percent of the area. Land in farms decreased gradually in the 1920s and '30s but more rapidly after World War II. In the 1990s commercial farming is associated with land in the broader valleys, especially in the northeastern and western sides of the county. As trees and forests across the county mature, these natural resources may become more important commercially to their owners. Agricultural sales in 1992 of \$56 million placed the county 21st out of 56 in the state and remain an important source of county income.

Figure 5. Farming Trends for Cattaraugus County, 1910-92

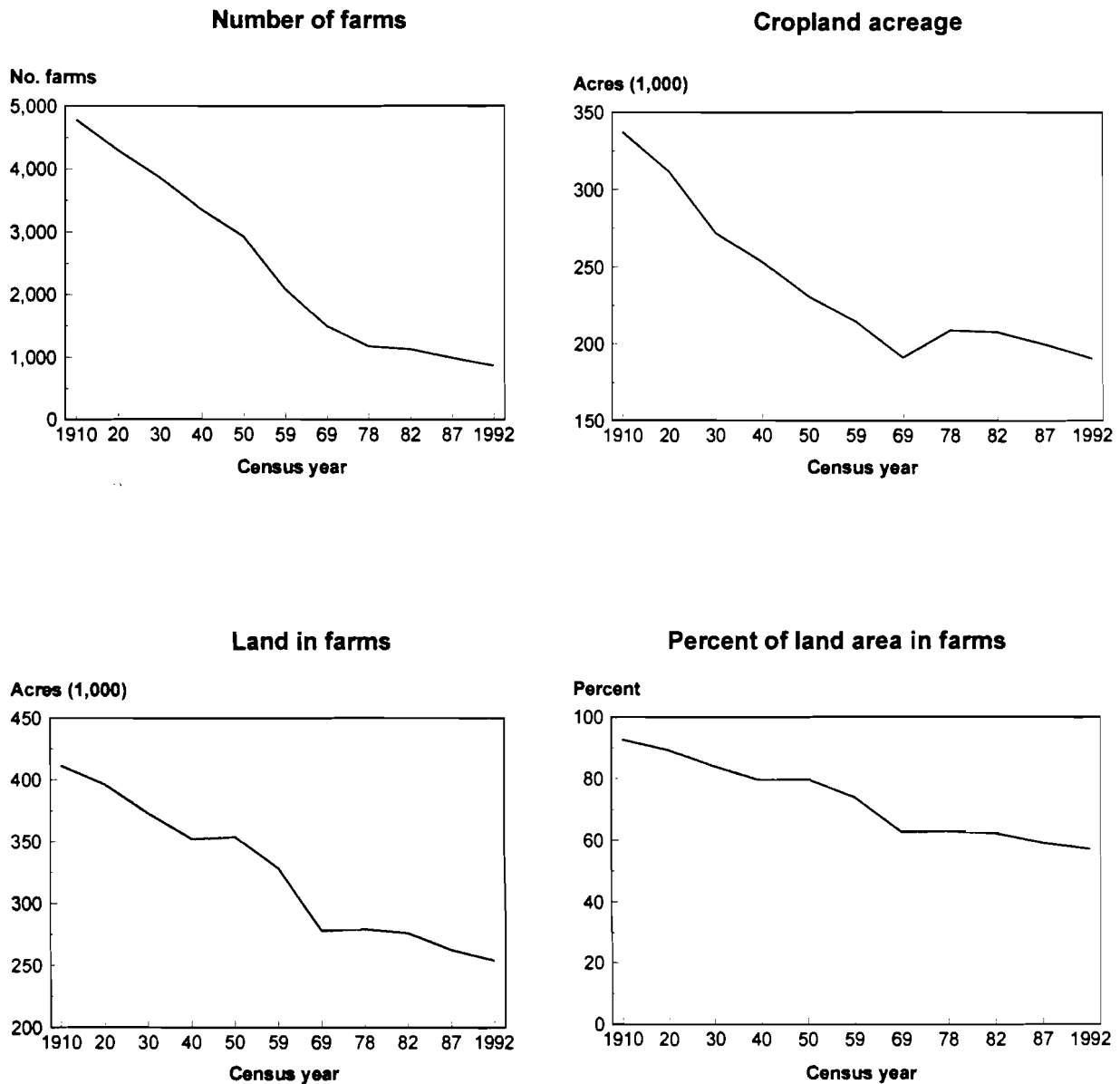
Source: U.S. Census of Agriculture.

Table 8. Changes in Land Use in Cayuga County, Selected Years, 1910-1992

<u>Description</u>	<u>1910</u>	<u>1940</u>	<u>1969</u>	<u>1992</u>
Farm numbers	4,785	3,359	1,495	873
<u>Agriculture</u>	<i>Thousand acres</i>			
Improved land/cropland ¹	337.4	253.4	191.1	190.5
Farm woodland	44.4	36.8	45.1	33.8
All other/unimproved	<u>29.4</u>	<u>61.8</u>	<u>41.8</u>	<u>29.7</u>
Total land in farms	411.2	352.1	278.0	254.0
<u>Other Uses</u>				
Roads, urban ²	17.8			31.3
Parks and privately owned	<u>17.8</u>			<u>161.5</u>
Total land area	446.8			446.8
	<i>Percent of land area</i>			
Improved land/cropland	75.0	56.6	42.8	42.6
All land in farms	91.4	78.7	62.2	56.8
Mostly forested: government and private ownership	20.5			50.4
Source: Census of Agriculture.				
¹ Improved land in 1910; cropland 1940 to present.				
² Estimated as 4% in 1910 and 7% in 1992.				

Cayuga County

Cayuga is a long, narrow county which includes some of the most productive agricultural lands in the state. In 1910 more than 91 percent of its area was included in farms; 75 percent was in crops, cut for hay or cleared for pasture. During this century, areas used for crops have been reduced sharply in all counties primarily because only the more productive, easily tilled soils can compete in the national market. Cayuga is one of but five counties in 1992 which continues to have more than 40 percent of its land area in crops and well over 50 percent of the land area in farms. It is noteworthy that between 1969 and 1992 the land area in crops held essentially constant, and that may well be expected to continue into the 21st century. In 1992 this county ranked 4th out of 56 counties with agricultural sales of \$94 million, and it is one of the key agricultural counties of the state.

Figure 6. Farming Trends for Cayuga County, 1910-92

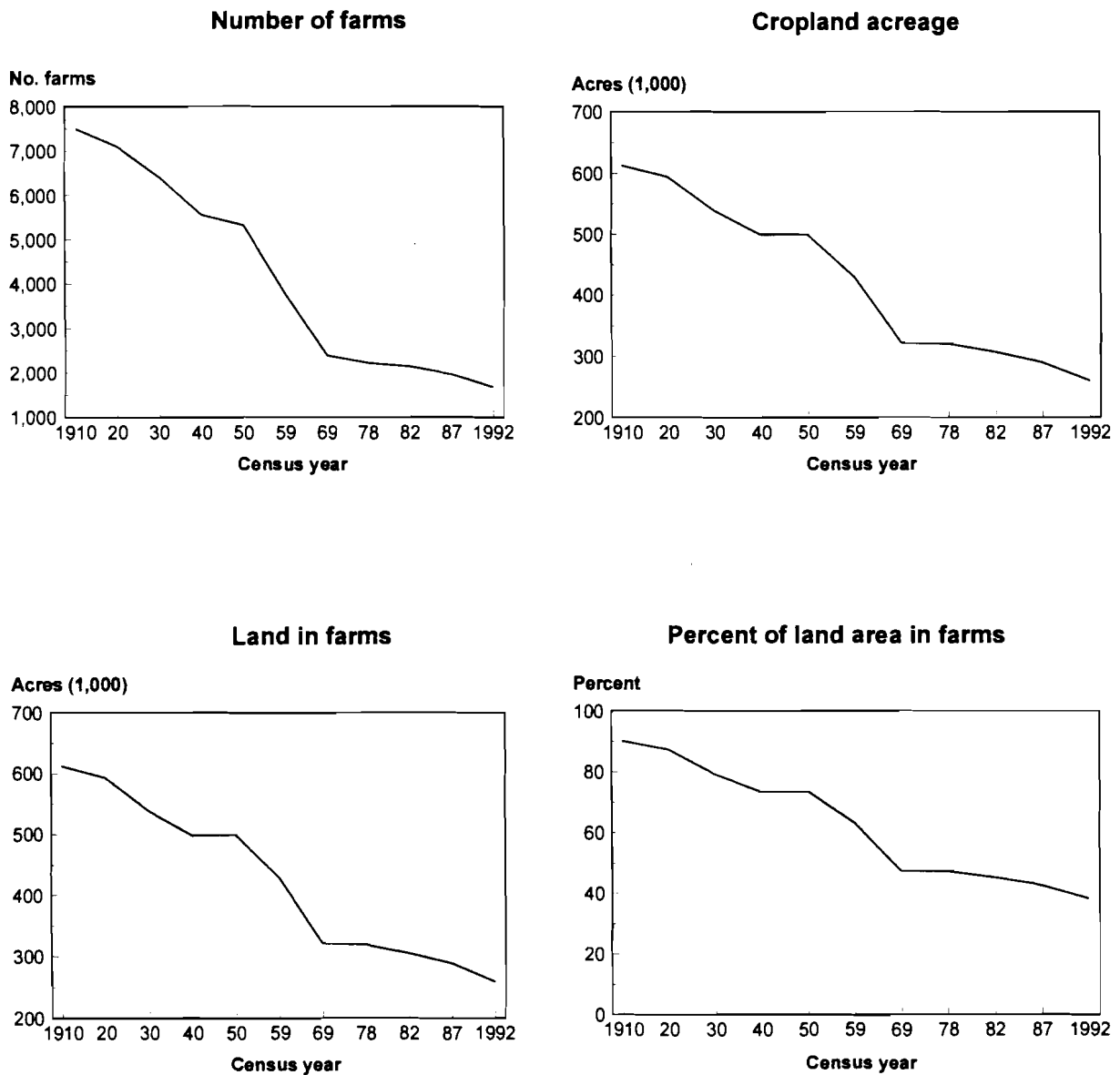
Source: U.S. Census of Agriculture.

Table 9. Changes in Land Use in Chautauqua County, Selected Years, 1910-1992

<u>Description</u>	<u>1910</u>	<u>1940</u>	<u>1969</u>	<u>1992</u>
Farm numbers	7,500	5,573	2,392	1,679
<u>Agriculture</u>	<i>Thousand acres</i>			
Improved land/cropland ¹	4.7	279.7	174.7	157.7
Farm woodland	122.3	92.0	85.7	61.7
All other/unimproved	<u>90.0</u>	<u>127.3</u>	<u>61.8</u>	<u>40.1</u>
Total land in farms	613.0	499.0	322.2	259.5
<u>Other Uses</u>				
Roads, urban ²	27.7			48.4
Parks and privately owned	<u>50.9</u>			<u>383.7</u>
Total land area	691.6			691.6
		<i>Percent of land area</i>		
Improved land/cropland	58.6	40.5	25.3	22.8
All land in farms	89.6	72.2	46.6	37.5
Mostly forested: government and private ownership	38.1			70.2
Source: Census of Agriculture.				
¹ Improved land in 1910; cropland 1940 to present.				
² Estimated as 4% in 1910 and 7% in 1992.				

Chautauqua County

Chautauqua is the 13th largest county in the state in terms of physical area and is ranked 6th out of 56 counties in the value of agricultural sales -- \$88 million in 1992. It includes within its borders the vineyards bordering Lake Erie and the hill-and-valley land characteristics of much of the Southern Tier. In 1910 almost 90 percent of the area was included in farms, of which nearly 60 percent was counted as improved land for crops and pasture by the census. By 1940 part of the hill land had already reverted to brush and trees and another portion went out after World War II when paved highways allowed off-farm jobs to become primary sources of income for many former farm families. Reductions in cropland were small between 1969 and 1992, suggesting that most of the adjustments in land use of the 20th century have already occurred. Trees and forests are now dominant in many parts of the county.

Figure 7. Farming Trends for Chautauqua County, 1910-92

Source: U.S. Census of Agriculture.

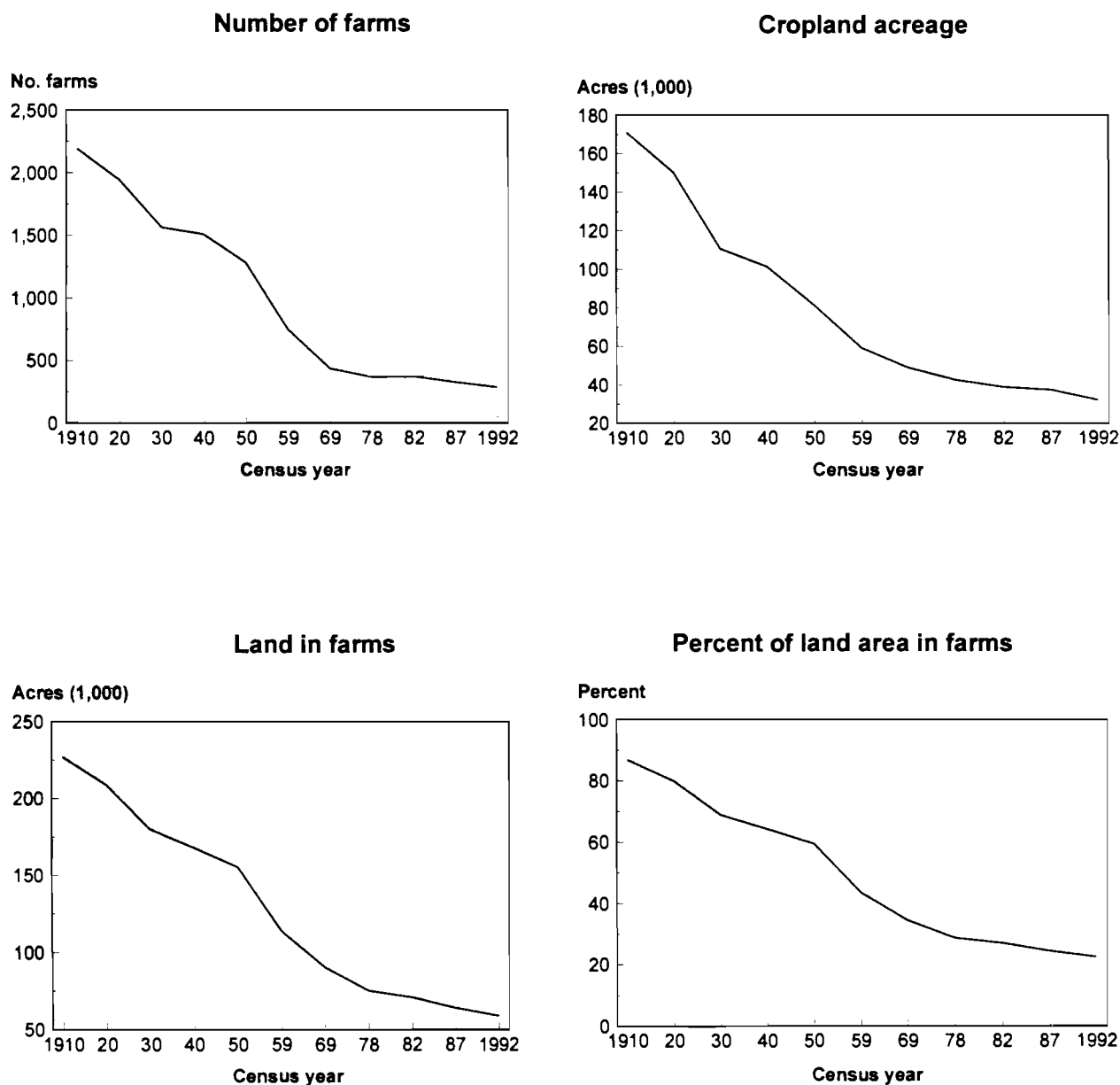
Table 10. Changes in Land Use in Chemung County, Selected Years, 1910-1992

<u>Description</u>	<u>1910</u>	<u>1940</u>	<u>1969</u>	<u>1992</u>
Farm numbers	2,193	1,508	432	285
<u>Agriculture</u>	<i>Thousand acres</i>			
Improved land/cropland ¹	171.0	101.4	48.9	32.2
Farm woodland	49.2	36.0	25.6	17.0
All other/unimproved	<u>6.6</u>	<u>30.8</u>	<u>15.8</u>	<u>9.8</u>
Total land in farms	226.8	168.2	90.3	59.0
<u>Other Uses</u>				
Roads, urban ²	13.3			26.6
Parks and privately owned	<u>25.5</u>			<u>180.0</u>
Total land area	265.6			265.6
	<i>Percent of land area</i>			
Improved land/cropland	65.6	38.5	18.4	12.1
All land in farms	87.1	63.8	34.0	23.0
Mostly forested: government and private ownership	30.6			77.9

Source: Census of Agriculture.

¹ Improved land in 1910; cropland 1940 to present.² Estimated as 5% in 1910 and 10% in 1992.**Chemung County**

Chemung is one of the smallest counties in the state in physical area, 48th out of 57, and is also one of the smallest in terms of agricultural sales in 1992 -- \$12 million, ranking 47th. In 1910, however, 87 percent of the county's land area was in farms, of which over 65 percent was "improved", cleared for crops, or pasture. The shift out of farming at the turn of the century to a combination of urban, suburban and rural forested areas occurred both before and after World War II. In the 1920s and '30s, the hill lands in the north and east began to revert to trees and brush. In the '50s, with improved roads, driving to work from rural residences and former farms became much more common. In 1992 less than 23 percent of the county's area remained in farms and additional areas may yet be incorporated into suburbia, especially as commercial farming exists in pockets surrounded by non-farm neighbors.

Figure 8. Farming Trends for Chemung County, 1910-92

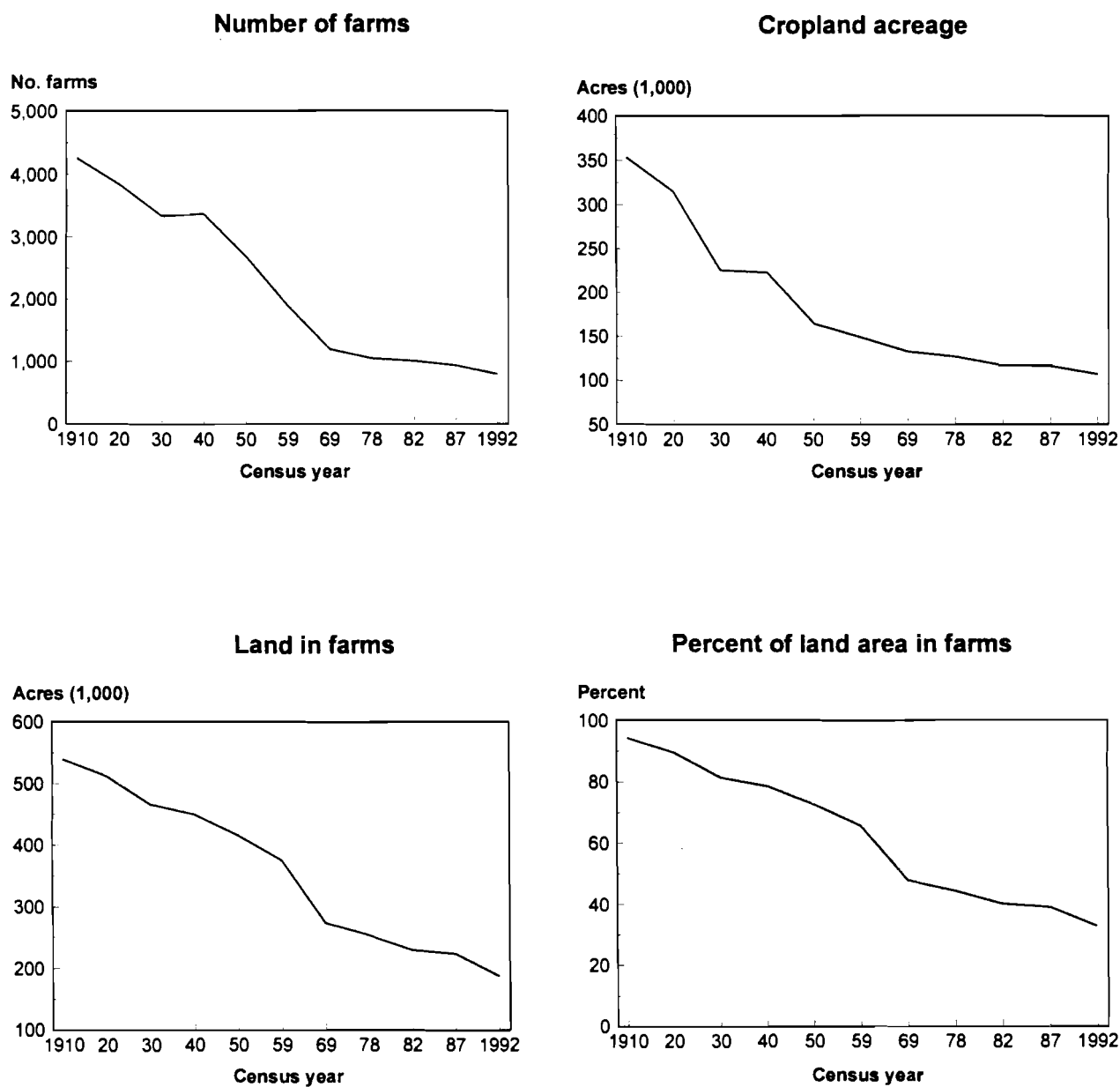
Source: U.S. Census of Agriculture.

Table 11. Changes in Land Use in Chenango County, Selected Years, 1910-1992

<u>Description</u>	<u>1910</u>	<u>1940</u>	<u>1969</u>	<u>1992</u>
Farm numbers	4,258	3,371	1,196	796
<u>Agriculture</u>	<i>Thousand acres</i>			
Improved land/cropland ¹	353.5	222.8	132.6	106.7
Farm woodland	102.5	86.4	75.3	49.9
All other/unimproved	<u>83.0</u>	<u>141.1</u>	<u>65.9</u>	<u>31.4</u>
Total land in farms	539.1	450.2	273.8	188.0
<u>Other Uses</u>				
Roads, urban ²	17.3			28.9
Parks and privately owned	<u>21.5</u>			<u>361.0</u>
Total land area	577.9			577.9
	<i>Percent of land area</i>			
Improved land/cropland	61.8	38.3	22.9	18.5
All land in farms	94.2	77.5	47.4	32.5
Mostly forested: government and private ownership	35.9			76.5
Source: Census of Agriculture.				
¹ Improved land in 1910; cropland 1940 to present.				
² Estimated as 3% in 1910 and 5% in 1992.				

Chenango County

Throughout the 20th century, Chenango County has remained a rural county where agriculture and forest lands have dominated land use. In 1910 more than 94 percent of the land area was in farms, with 62 percent counted as "improved land", cleared for crops or pasture. By 1940 cropland accounted for less than 40 percent of the county as large areas on the eastern side of the county were reforested or had reverted to trees and brush. Almost 14 percent of the county is state owned, reflecting the shift out of farming in the '20s and '30s. Another major shift out of farming occurred in the '50s and '60s with the introduction of tractor power to replace horses, and improved roads which allowed commuting to work. In the 1990s commercial farming follows the broader valleys and the more productive lands in the north and east. Land in farms still accounts for nearly one-third of the area. Agricultural sales of \$56 million in 1992 ranked the county 22nd out of the state's 56 counties.

Figure 9. Farming Trends for Chenango County, 1910-92

Source: U.S. Census of Agriculture.

Table 12. Changes in Land Use in Clinton County, Selected Years, 1910-1992

<u>Description</u>	<u>1910</u>	<u>1940</u>	<u>1969</u>	<u>1992</u>
Farm numbers	3,608	2,753	917	488
<u>Agriculture</u>	<i>Thousand acres</i>			
Improved land/cropland ¹	207.5	178.9	127.7	85.6
Farm woodland	118.8	80.7	82.9	47.8
All other/unimproved	<u>124.1</u>	<u>142.8</u>	<u>32.8</u>	<u>25.0</u>
Total land in farms	450.3	402.5	243.4	158.4
<u>Other Uses</u>				
Roads, urban ²	20.3			40.7
Parks and privately owned	<u>207.0</u>			<u>478.5</u>
Total land area	677.6			677.6
	<i>Percent of land area</i>			
Improved land/cropland	30.9	26.4	18.8	12.6
All land in farms	67.1	59.4	35.9	23.4
Mostly forested: government and private ownership	66.4			81.3

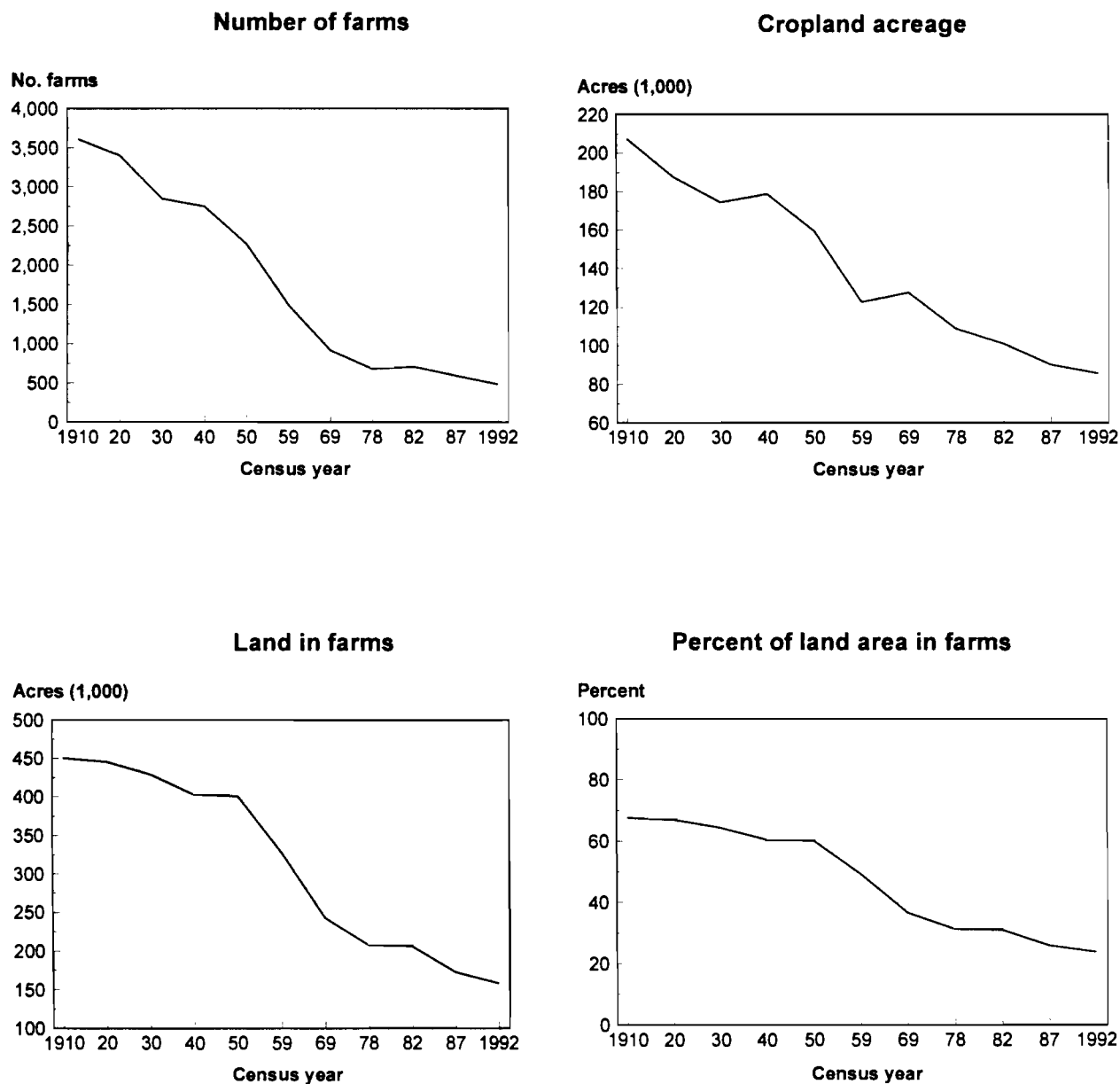
Source: Census of Agriculture.

¹ Improved land in 1910; cropland 1940 to present.

² Estimated as 3% in 1910 and 6% in 1992.

Clinton County

Clinton, in the northeastern corner of the state, includes a part of the Adirondack plateau as well as a stretch of shoreline along Lake Champlain. In 1910 two-thirds of the area was included in farms, but only 31 percent was counted as "improved", cleared for pasture or crops. Unlike many other sections of the state, much of this total continued as cropland until 1940. Land in farms dropped more rapidly after World War II with the advent of mechanical power and tractors replacing horses. Most of the commercial agriculture is found in the northern and eastern sides of the county in the 1990s. Much of the land was never cleared of trees in 1910, and the area in trees has grown over the years. About 10.5 percent of the area is included in the state's forest preserve or in reforestation projects. In 1992 agricultural sales amounted to \$57 million, and Clinton County ranked 17th among the 56 counties.

Figure 10. Farming Trends for Clinton County, 1910-92

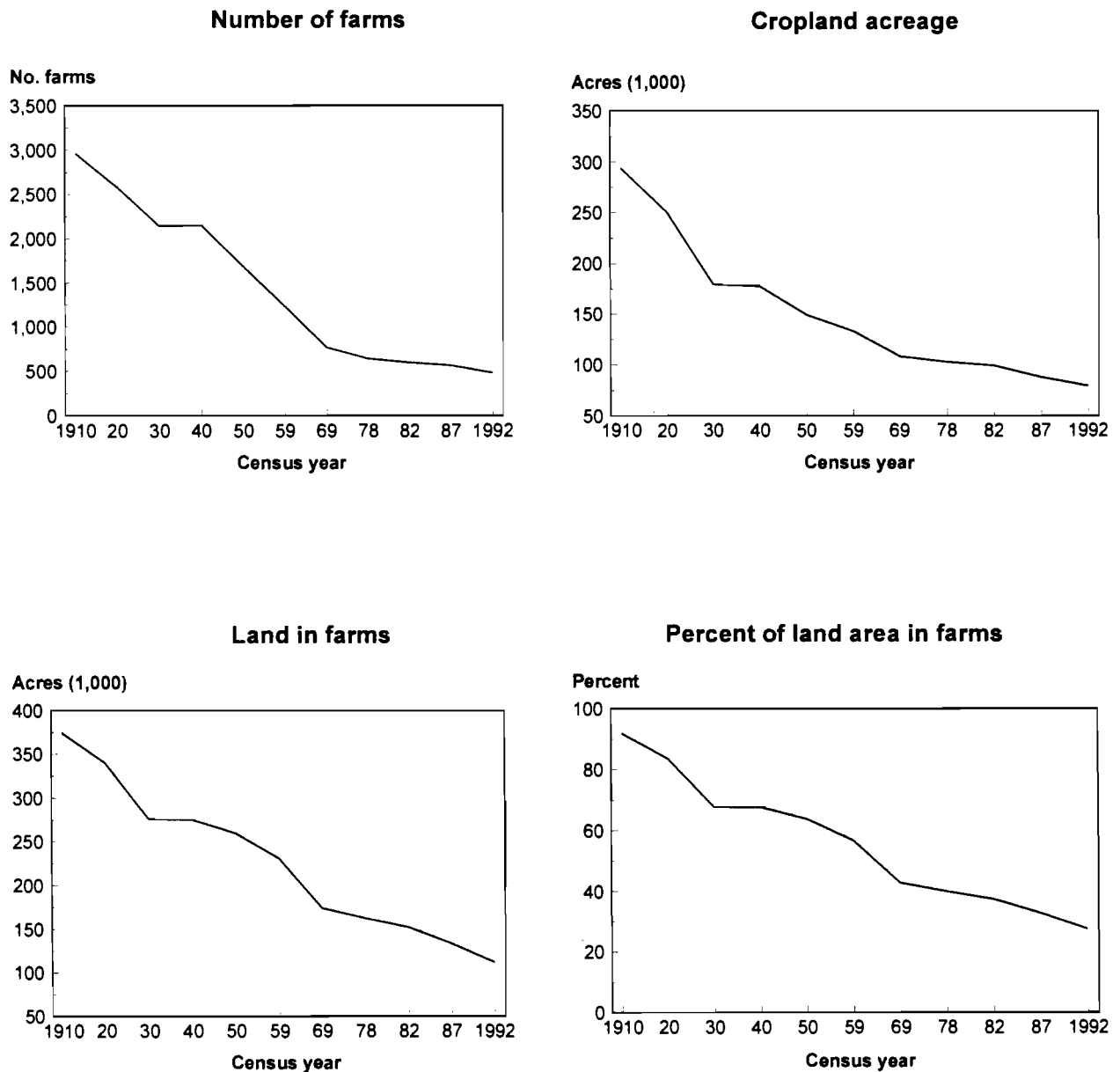
Source: U.S. Census of Agriculture.

Table 13. Changes in Land Use in Columbia County, Selected Years, 1910-1992

<u>Description</u>	<u>1910</u>	<u>1940</u>	<u>1969</u>	<u>1992</u>
Farm numbers	2,963	2,153	768	484
<u>Agriculture</u>	<i>Thousand acres</i>			
Improved land/cropland ¹	294.1	177.6	108.4	79.4
Farm woodland	59.8	50.1	40.9	18.9
All other/unimproved	<u>20.5</u>	<u>48.0</u>	<u>25.1</u>	<u>13.7</u>
Total land in farms	374.4	275.7	174.4	112.0
<u>Other Uses</u>				
Roads, urban ²	16.5			28.9
Parks and privately owned	<u>22.1</u>			<u>272.1</u>
Total land area	413.0			413.0
	<i>Percent of land area</i>			
Improved land/cropland	71.3	43.2	26.2	19.2
All land in farms	90.8	67.0	42.2	27.1
Mostly forested: government and private ownership	24.8			73.8
Source: Census of Agriculture.				
¹ Improved land in 1910; cropland 1940 to present.				
² Estimated as 4% in 1910 and 7% in 1992.				

Columbia County

On the eastern side of the Hudson River, Columbia County in 1910 had 91 percent of its area in farms, of which 71 percent had been cleared for crops or pasture. By 1940 the rougher hill lands were already reverting to brush and trees with two-thirds of the land area remaining in farms. In the years after World War II, reductions in cropland continued as the more productive land was consolidated into a smaller number of farms. This trend has continued into the 1990s with only a little more than 27 percent of the land area remaining in farms. Agriculture remains an important part of the county's economy, generating more than \$55 million of agricultural sales in 1992 ranking it 23rd out of the state's 56 counties. More and more of the land area is in trees and forest, largely held by rural residents who commute to work or use the lands for recreation or private enjoyment.

Figure 11. Farming Trends for Columbia County, 1910-92

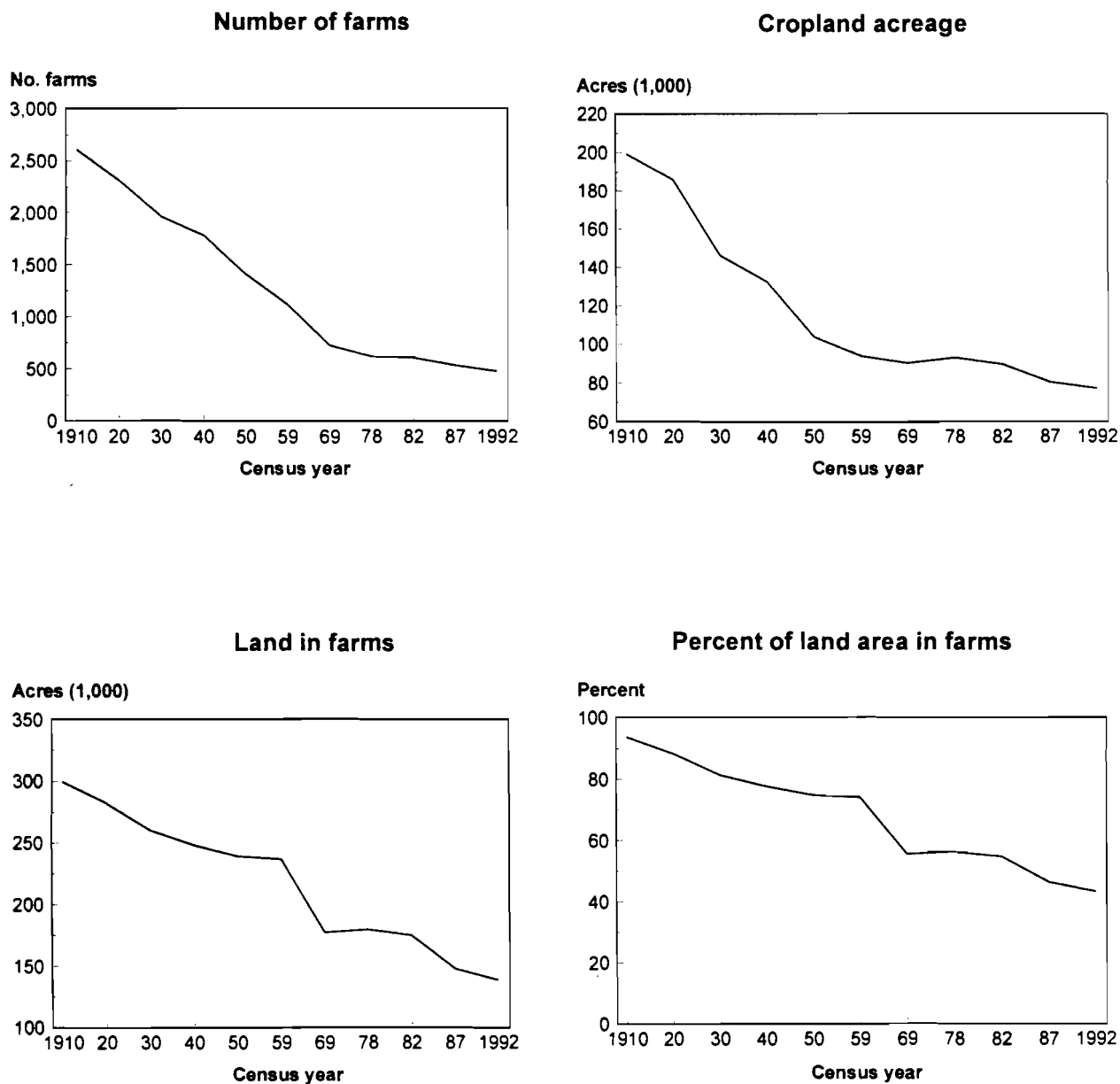
Source: U.S. Census of Agriculture.

Table 14. Changes in Land Use in Cortland County, Selected Years, 1910-1992

<u>Description</u>	<u>1910</u>	<u>1940</u>	<u>1969</u>	<u>1992</u>
Farm numbers	2,610	1,787	726	478
<u>Agriculture</u>	<i>Thousand acres</i>			
Improved land/cropland ¹	199.3	132.6	90.4	77.1
Farm woodland	55.9	43.1	42.3	33.0
All other/unimproved	<u>44.5</u>	<u>72.4</u>	<u>44.8</u>	<u>28.5</u>
Total land in farms	299.7	248.1	177.5	138.6
<u>Other Uses</u>				
Roads, urban ²	12.9			22.5
Parks and privately owned	<u>8.7</u>			<u>160.2</u>
Total land area	321.3			321.3
	<i>Percent of land area</i>			
Improved land/cropland	61.9	41.3	28.1	24.0
All land in farms	93.1	77.2	55.2	43.1
Mostly forested: government and private ownership	34.0			69.0
Source: Census of Agriculture.				
¹ Improved land in 1910; cropland 1940 to present.				
² Estimated as 4% in 1910 and 7% in 1992.				

Cortland County

Cortland is one of the smaller counties in the state. Most of its area was cleared and included as parts of farms. In 1910 land in farms included 93 percent of the county's area, and 62 percent of the area was cleared for crops and pasture. The hill lands on the eastern side of the county began to drop out of farming in the 1920s and '30s. About 13 percent of the county was reforested and became state lands, but 77 percent of the land area was still in farms in 1940, well above average for the state. Substantial consolidation of land holdings occurred in the years following World War II, with commercial agriculture remaining strong on the western side of the county and in the wider valleys. In 1992 agricultural sales were over \$43 million and land in farms accounted for 43 percent of the area, well above average compared to the rest of the state.

Figure 12. Farming Trends for Cortland County, 1910-92

Source: U.S. Census of Agriculture.

Table 15. Changes in Land Use in Delaware County, Selected Years, 1910-1992

<u>Description</u>	<u>1910</u>	<u>1940</u>	<u>1969</u>	<u>1992</u>
Farm numbers	5,044	3,738	1,456	716
<u>Agriculture</u>	<i>Thousand acres</i>			
Improved land/cropland ¹	469.8	285.2	157.0	96.7
Farm woodland	238.0	182.8	121.1	61.3
All other/unimproved	<u>60.3</u>	<u>174.3</u>	<u>85.7</u>	<u>34.1</u>
Total land in farms	768.1	642.3	363.8	192.1
<u>Other Uses</u>				
Roads, urban ²	27.7			46.2
Parks and privately owned	<u>127.7</u>			<u>685.2</u>
Total land area	923.5			923.5
	<i>Percent of land area</i>			
Improved land/cropland	50.7	30.3	17.0	10.5
All land in farms	82.8	68.3	39.4	20.8
Mostly forested: government and private ownership	46.1			84.5

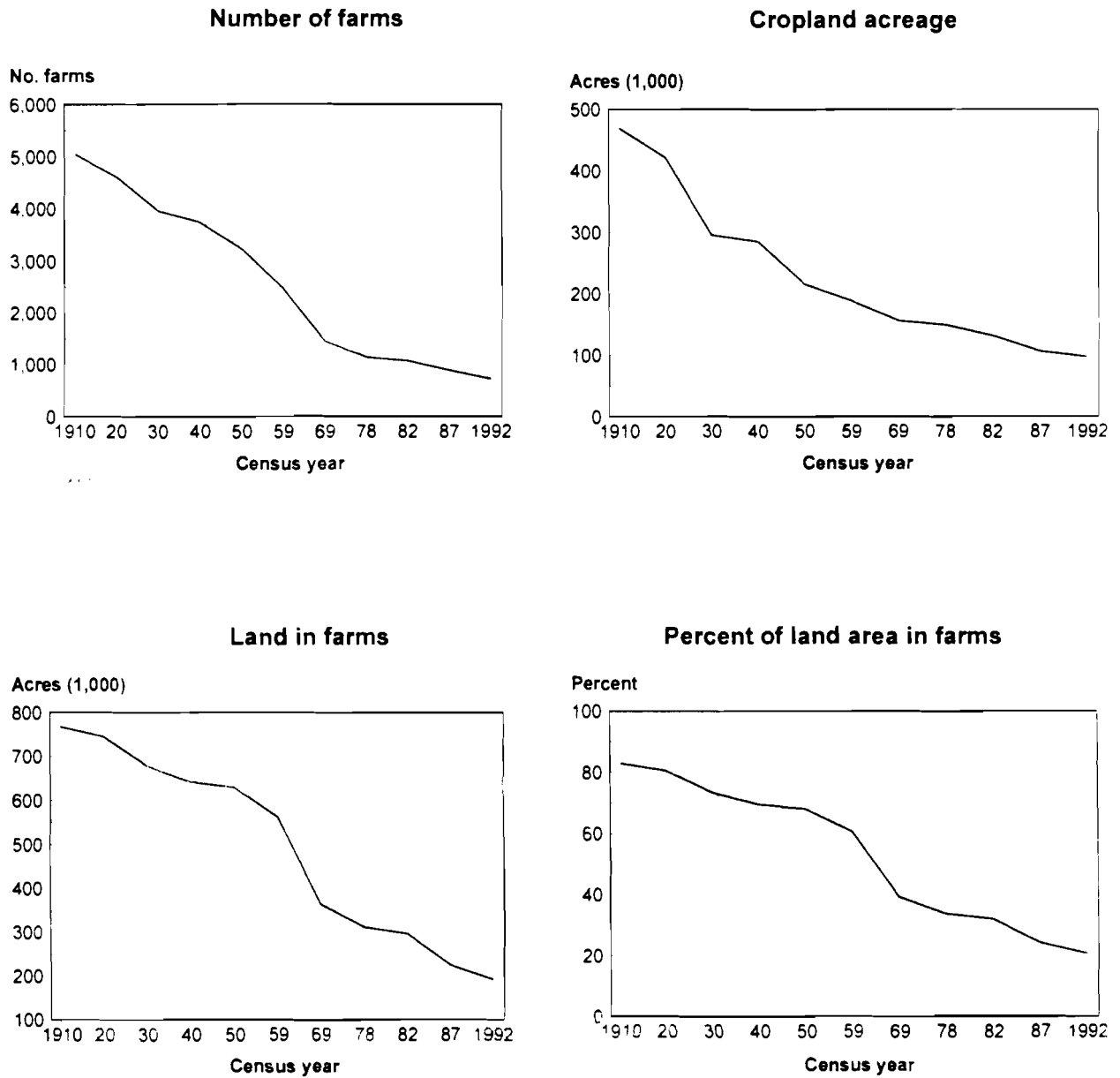
Source: Census of Agriculture.

¹ Improved land in 1910; cropland 1940 to present.

² Estimated as 3% in 1910 and 5% in 1992.

Delaware County

An important part of the county is part of the Catskill mountain plateau. Originally, most of the county was settled and the land area included as parts of farms. By 1910 nearly 83 percent of the land area was still in farms and over 50 percent had been cleared for crops and pasture. Relatively large areas of trees and forest were a part of most farms. By 1940 the "improved" land that had been cleared in the southwestern parts of the county was reverting rapidly to trees and brush. The switch from horses to mechanized agriculture after the War made the small irregular fields of the hillsides less competitive. Between 1940 and 1969 land in farms dropped substantially, with more commercial agriculture tied to the broader valley floors. In the 1970s and '80s, the rural character of the county continued, but urban and suburban buyers of land became more important in influencing land prices and the amount of land in farming. Once one of the largest dairy producing counties in the state, it remains important but has dropped out of the top ten. Agricultural sales in 1992 were \$51 million, ranking it 25th out of 56 counties.

Figure 13. Farming Trends for Delaware County, 1910-92

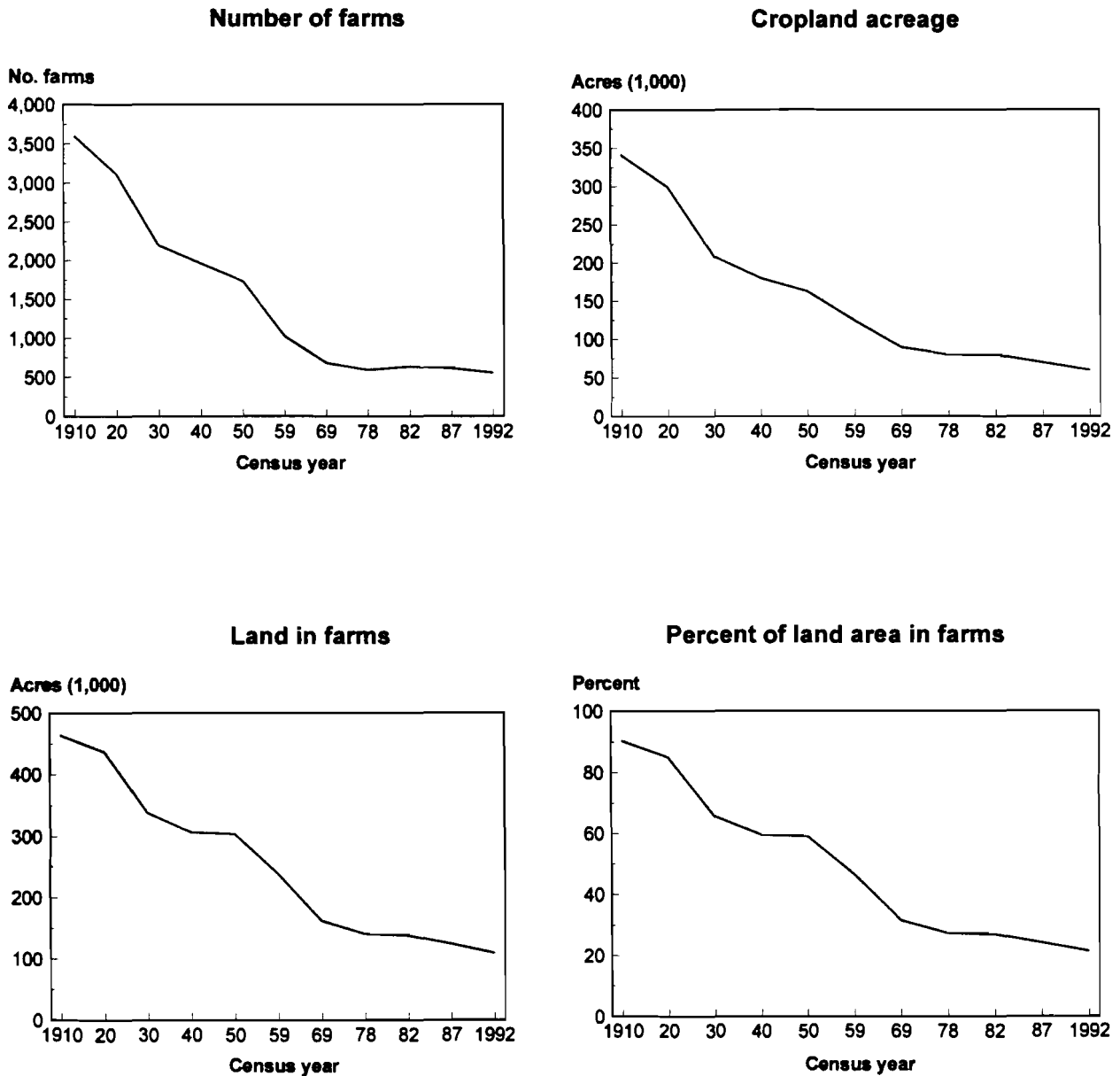
Source: U.S. Census of Agriculture

Table 16. Changes in Land Use in Dutchess County, Selected Years, 1910-1992

<u>Description</u>	<u>1910</u>	<u>1940</u>	<u>1969</u>	<u>1992</u>
Farm numbers	3,600	1,958	683	554
<u>Agriculture</u>	<i>Thousand acres</i>			
Improved land/cropland ¹	341.5	179.8	89.7	59.9
Farm woodland	82.5	61.5	34.7	27.2
All other/unimproved	<u>40.2</u>	<u>65.6</u>	<u>37.7</u>	<u>22.6</u>
Total land in farms	464.2	306.9	162.1	109.7
<u>Other Uses</u>				
Roads, urban ²	26.0			52.1
Parks and privately owned	<u>30.3</u>			<u>358.7</u>
Total land area	520.5			520.5
	<i>Percent of land area</i>			
Improved land/cropland	66.2	34.4	17.2	11.5
All land in farms	90.0	58.8	31.1	21.1
Mostly forested: government and private ownership	29.4			78.5
Source: Census of Agriculture.				
¹ Improved land in 1910; cropland 1940 to present.				
² Estimated as 5% in 1910 and 10% in 1992				

Dutchess County

Dutchess was essentially a rural county at the turn of the century with 90 percent of its land area in farms in 1910. But the influence of New York City and its residents has always been important, providing many city residents with second homes in Dutchess County. The amount of "improved" land or cropland dropped rapidly between 1910 and 1940, from two-thirds to about one-third of the county's land area. Farms were consolidated into larger units in the post-war years. More of the southwestern part of the county became a part of suburbia, with much of the commercial agriculture remaining in the north and east. By 1992 land in farms was down to 21 percent of the area as non-farm owners continued to compete successfully for the use of open space for recreation and second homes. Agricultural sales were \$33 million in 1992, placing the county 34th out of 56 in the state.

Figure 14. Farming Trends for Dutchess County, 1910-92

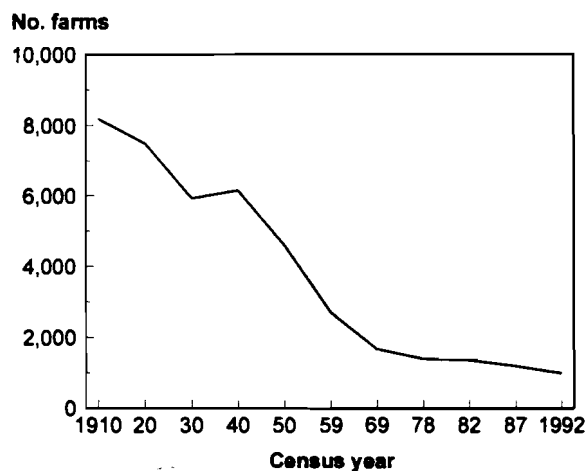
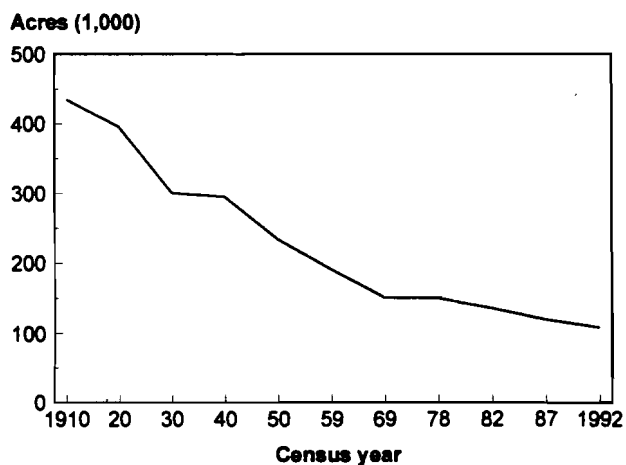
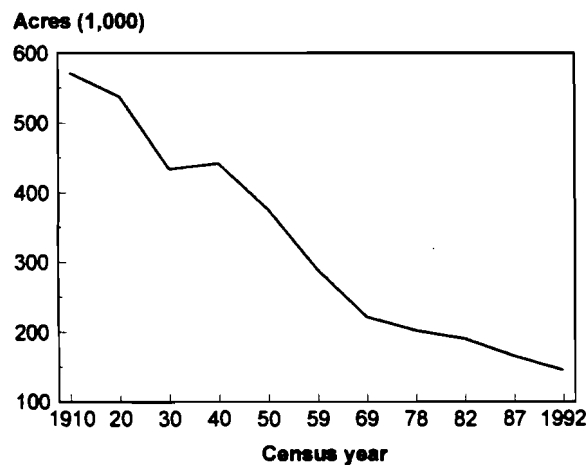
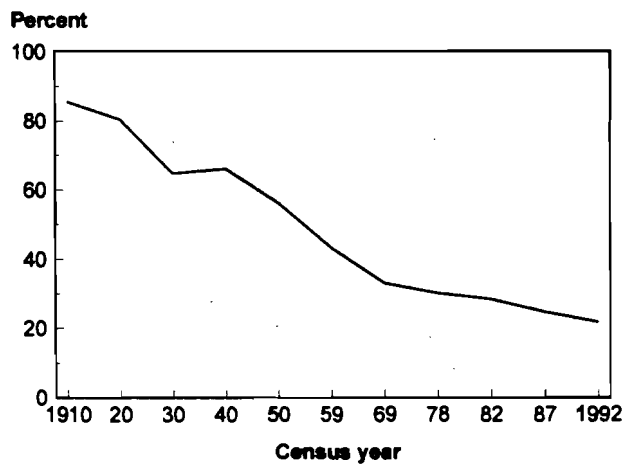
Source: U.S. Census of Agriculture.

Table 17. Changes in Land Use in Erie County, Selected Years, 1910-1992

<u>Description</u>	<u>1910</u>	<u>1940</u>	<u>1969</u>	<u>1992</u>
Farm numbers	6,344	6,171	1,680	995
<u>Agriculture</u>	<i>Thousand acres</i>			
Improved land/cropland ¹	434.9	295.7	151.1	108.5
Farm woodland	74.7	51.9	40.0	22.3
All other/unimproved	<u>61.8</u>	<u>94.7</u>	<u>31.1</u>	<u>14.9</u>
Total land in farms	571.4	442.3	222.2	145.7
<u>Other Uses</u>				
Roads, urban ²	67.7			203.2
Parks and privately owned	<u>38.3</u>			<u>328.5</u>
Total land area	677.4			677.4
	<i>Percent of land area</i>			
Improved land/cropland	65.7	43.8	22.3	16.0
All land in farms	86.3	65.6	32.8	21.5
Mostly forested: government and private ownership	25.8			54.0
Source: Census of Agriculture.				
¹ Improved land in 1910; cropland 1940 to present.				
² Estimated as 10% in 1910 and 30% in 1992.				

Erie County

Erie is one of the larger counties in the state in terms of area and also in population with the state's second largest city, Buffalo, holding that distinction throughout the twentieth century. Land in farms accounted for 86 percent of the land area in 1910 with over 6300 individual units, many of which were less than 100 acres in size. As was true in much of the rest of the state, land in farms dropped to a little over 65 percent of the land area by 1940 as some of the less productive soils on the eastern side of the county reverted to trees and brush. There were almost as many farms counted in 1940 as in 1910, unusual compared to the rest of the state. Many were part-time operations as opportunities to work in industry and commute became available. Both land in farms and cropland dropped dramatically in the 1950s and '60s. Farm numbers were cut by a factor of four. Urban and suburban areas spread rapidly. This trend continued into the 1990s with less than 22 percent of the land area still in farms; more and more land is in trees and brush. Commercial agriculture is still important in the county with agricultural sales of \$71 million in 1992, ranking it 13th among the 56 upstate counties. Horticultural products are the most important items.

Figure 15. Farming Trends for Erie County, 1910-92**Number of farms****Cropland acreage****Land in farms****Percent of land area in farms**

Source: U.S. Census of Agriculture.

Table 18. Changes in Land Use in Essex County, Selected Years, 1910-1992

<u>Description</u>	<u>1910</u>	<u>1940</u>	<u>1969</u>	<u>1992</u>
Farm numbers	2,274	1,604	285	195
<u>Agriculture</u>	<i>Thousand acres</i>			
Improved land/cropland ¹	146.9	89.8	32.2	28.4
Farm woodland	152.5	86.5	34.3	21.1
All other/unimproved	<u>59.6</u>	<u>36.6</u>	<u>9.5</u>	<u>5.5</u>
Total land in farms	359.0	212.9	76.0	55.0
<u>Other Uses</u>				
Roads, urban ²	23.3			46.7
Parks and privately owned	<u>784.4</u>			<u>1,065.0</u>
Total land area	1,166.7			1,166.7
	<i>Percent of land area</i>			
Improved land/cropland	12.5	7.7	2.8	2.4
All land in farms	30.6	18.2	6.5	4.7
Mostly forested: government and private ownership	85.4			93.6

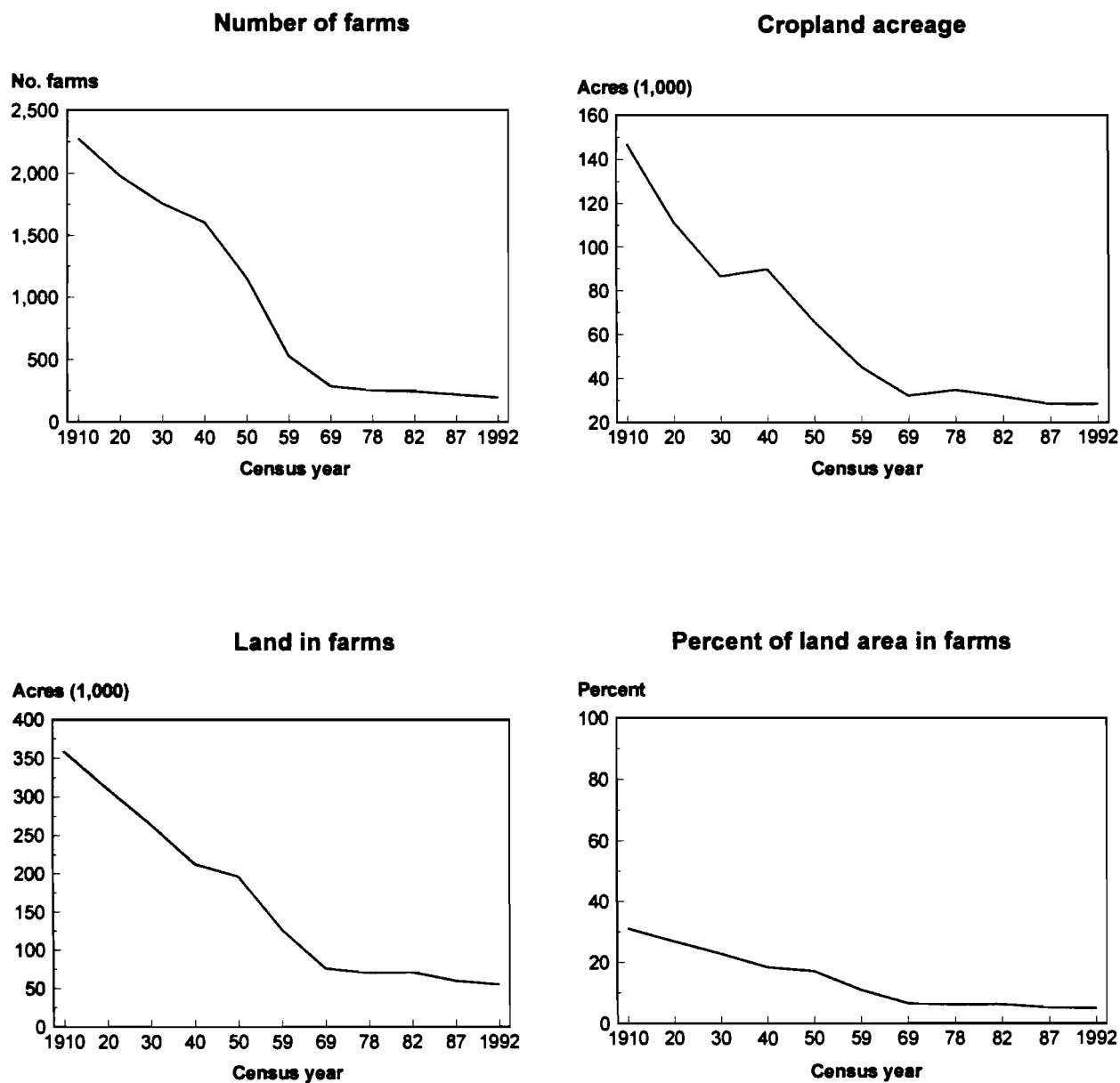
Source: Census of Agriculture.

¹ Improved land in 1910; cropland 1940 to present.

² Estimated as 2% in 1910 and 4% in 1992.

Essex County

Essex is the second largest county in the state in terms of physical area, accounting for 3.8 percent of the total. A large part of the county is part of the Adirondacks. Over 525,000 acres are included in the state's Forest Preserve and make up 45 percent of the county's area. In 1910 land in farms accounted for over 30 percent of the county's area, mostly in the eastern half of the county. Relatively little land was cleared for crops and pasture, 12.5 percent of the total in 1910. In 1940 there were still 1600 farms counted by the census, but land in farms had shrunk to 18 percent of the area. By 1969 both land in farms and farm numbers dropped substantially with much of the area reverting to trees and forest. In 1992 less than 5 percent of the county's area was in farms; agricultural sales amounted to \$8.4 million. Most of the land area in the county was in forest, brush or trees.

Figure 16. Farming Trends for Essex County, 1910-92

Source: U.S. Census of Agriculture.

Table 19. Changes in Land Use in Franklin County, Selected Years, 1910-1992

<u>Description</u>	<u>1910</u>	<u>1940</u>	<u>1969</u>	<u>1992</u>
Farm numbers	3,673	2,761	778	512
<u>Agriculture</u>	<i>Thousand acres</i>			
Improved land/cropland ¹	199.8	150.4	103.5	81.1
Farm woodland	108.0	53.1	44.9	36.4
All other/unimproved	<u>121.6</u>	<u>134.3</u>	<u>38.6</u>	<u>20.8</u>
Total land in farms	429.4	337.8	187.0	138.3
<u>Other Uses</u>				
Roads, urban ²	32.1			53.6
Parks and privately owned	<u>609.7</u>			<u>879.3</u>
Total land area	1,071.2			1,071.2
	<i>Percent of land area</i>			
Improved land/cropland	18.6	14.0	9.7	7.6
All land in farms	40.0	31.3	17.5	12.9
Mostly forested: government and private ownership	78.4			87.4

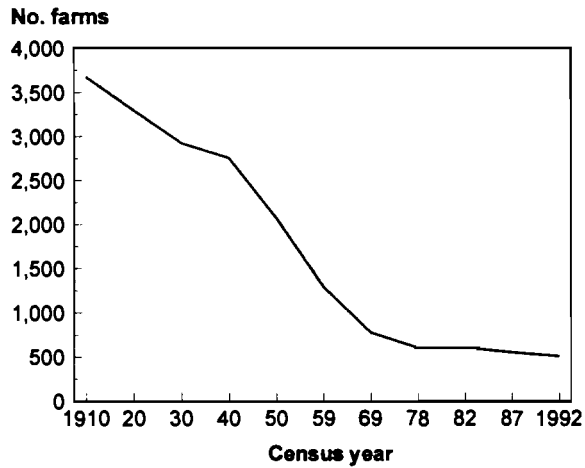
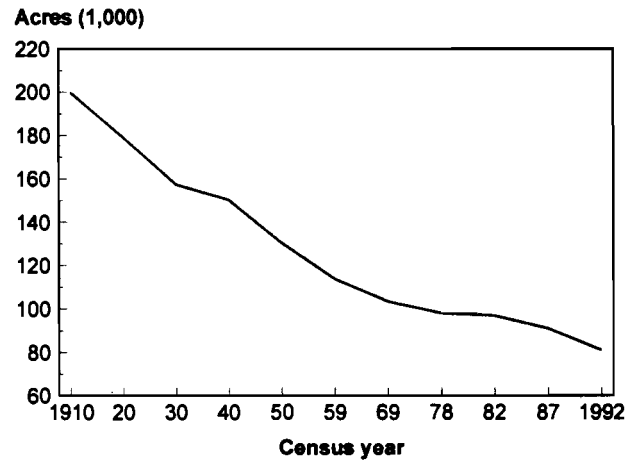
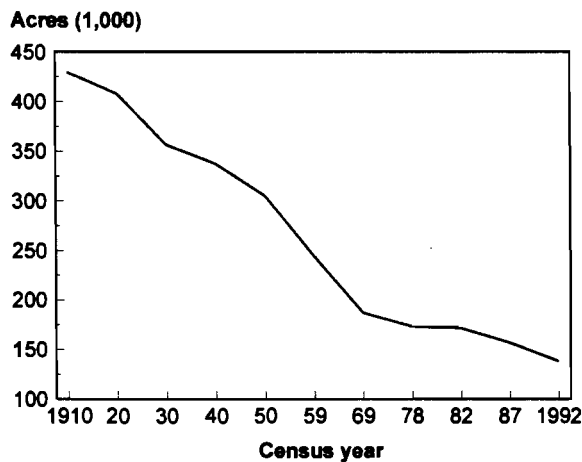
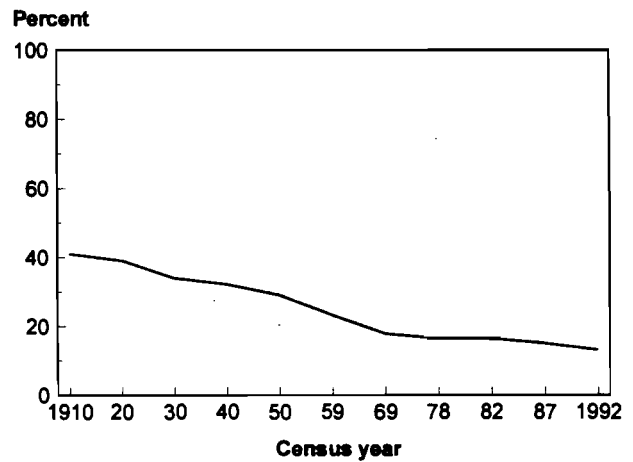
Source: Census of Agriculture.

¹ Improved land in 1910; cropland 1940 to present.

² Estimated as 3% in 1910 and 5% in 1992.

Franklin County

Franklin, with more than one million acres of area, is the 4th largest county in the state. Much of the southern part of the county is part of the Adirondacks, including 268,000 acres of state-owned lands. In 1910 40 percent of the county's land area was in farms, largely in the northern towns. Improved land, essentially all lands cleared for crops and pasture, were but 18.6 percent of the area. By 1940 farm numbers had dropped by 900 units but cropland still accounted for 150,000 acres. After World War II, many farms went out of business as tractors replaced horses and farm size doubled. Between 1969 and 1992 farm consolidation has continued but at a slower pace. Commercial farming is concentrated in the northern third of the county. In 1992 agricultural sales equalled nearly \$48 million, ranking Franklin 30th among 56 counties.

Figure 17. Farming Trends for Franklin County, 1910-92**Number of farms****Cropland acreage****Land in farms****Percent of land area in farms**

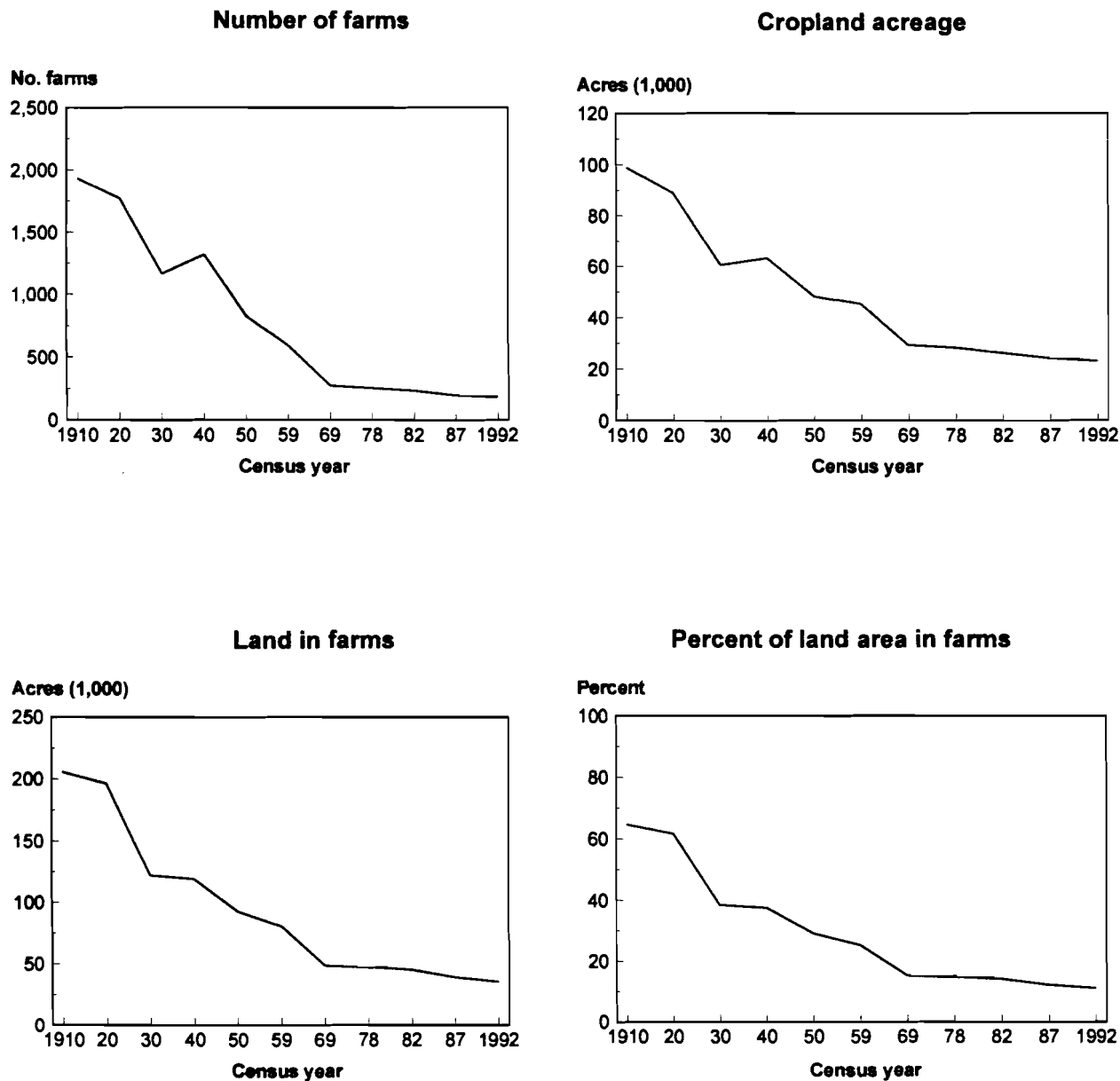
Source: U.S. Census of Agriculture.

Table 20. Changes in Land Use in Fulton County, Selected Years, 1910-1992

<u>Description</u>	<u>1910</u>	<u>1940</u>	<u>1969</u>	<u>1992</u>
Farm numbers	2,545	1,323	271	184
<u>Agriculture</u>	<i>Thousand acres</i>			
Improved land/cropland ¹	98.8	63.4	29.4	23.4
Farm woodland	69.2	30.8	13.2	7.1
All other/unimproved	<u>37.8</u>	<u>25.0</u>	<u>6.1</u>	<u>4.8</u>
Total land in farms	205.8	119.2	48.7	35.3
<u>Other Uses</u>				
Roads, urban ²	9.6			15.9
Parks and privately owned	<u>103.4</u>			<u>267.6</u>
Total land area	318.8			318.8
	<i>Percent of land area</i>			
Improved land/cropland	29.9	19.9	9.2	7.3
All land in farms	62.3	37.5	15.3	11.1
Mostly forested: government and private ownership	66.0			87.7
Source: Census of Agriculture.				
¹ Improved land in 1910; cropland 1940 to present.				
² Estimated as 3% in 1910 and 5% in 1992.				

Fulton County

This relatively small county includes part of the Adirondack plateau. In 1910 land in farms included 62 percent of its land area, of which nearly 30 percent had been cleared for crops and pasture. By 1940 land in farms had shrunk dramatically as some of the poorer lands were reforested by the state or abandoned to brush and trees. Cropland had decreased to less than 10 percent of the county's area by 1969 as farm numbers decreased dramatically, and this trend continued between 1969 and 1992 although the rate of decrease slowed. Over 30 percent of the county is now a part of the Forest Preserve or in other state lands. Agricultural sales amounted to \$10 million in 1992, one of the smallest in importance of the upstate counties.

Figure 18. Farming Trends for Fulton County, 1910-92

Source: U.S. Census of Agriculture.

Table 21. Changes in Land Use in Genesee County, Selected Years, 1910-1992

<u>Description</u>	<u>1910</u>	<u>1940</u>	<u>1969</u>	<u>1992</u>
Farm numbers	3,250	2,487	1,029	545
<u>Agriculture</u>	<i>Thousand acres</i>			
Improved land/cropland ¹	235.3	191.2	148.8	144.5
Farm woodland	29.2	26.6	22.5	15.2
All other/unimproved	<u>24.7</u>	<u>45.7</u>	<u>25.3</u>	<u>12.0</u>
Total land in farms	289.2	263.5	196.6	171.7
<u>Other Uses</u>				
Roads, urban ²	12.8			22.4
Parks and privately owned	<u>18.6</u>			<u>126.5</u>
Total land area	320.6			320.6
		<i>Percent of land area</i>		
Improved land/cropland	74.1	59.6	46.4	45.1
All land in farms	91.1	82.2	61.3	53.6
Mostly forested: government and private ownership	22.6			47.9

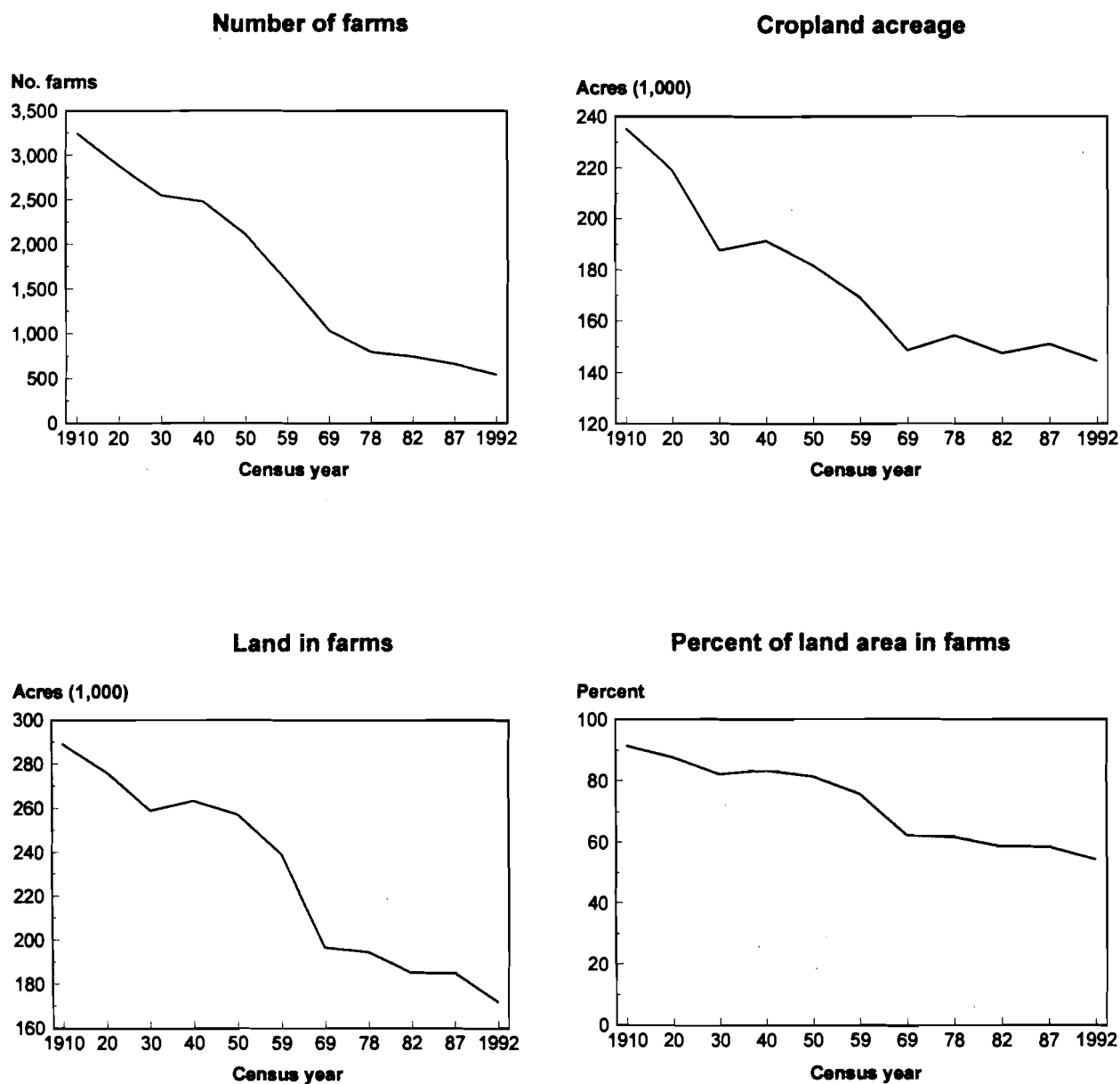
Source: Census of Agriculture.

¹ Improved land in 1910; cropland 1940 to present.

² Estimated as 4% in 1910 and 7% in 1992.

Genesee County

Genesee is one of the smaller counties in area in the state, but it is one of the more important counties in commercial agriculture. In 1910, 91 percent of the land area was in farms and 74 percent had been cleared for crops and pasture. By 1940 land in farms had decreased to 82 percent of the total, but farming was still the central industry of the county. Between World War II and 1969, farm numbers were reduced to about 1,000 as mechanization and farm consolidation eliminated the less fertile and marginal fields from production. Commercial farming continued to be important in all parts of the county, as is true in the 1990s. Cropland is holding steady at 45 percent of the land area; only Seneca County has a slightly higher percentage in 1992. Agricultural sales were \$71 million in 1992, ranking Genesee 12th out of 56 counties.

Figure 19. Farming Trends for Genesee County, 1910-92

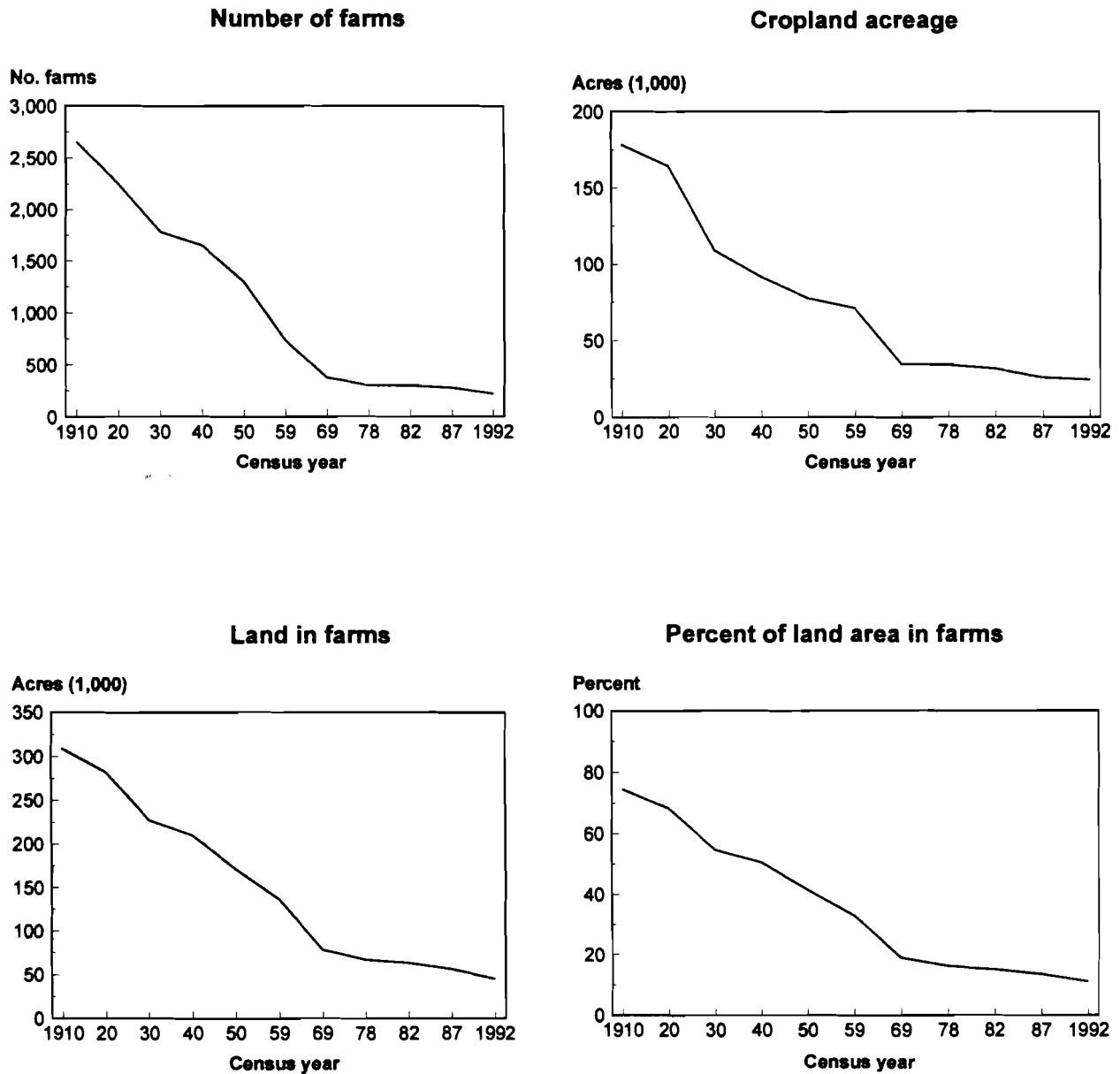
Source: U.S. Census of Agriculture.

Table 22. Changes in Land Use in Greene County, Selected Years, 1910-1992

<u>Description</u>	<u>1910</u>	<u>1940</u>	<u>1969</u>	<u>1992</u>
Farm numbers	2,654	1,653	377	222
<u>Agriculture</u>	<i>Thousand acres</i>			
Improved land/cropland ¹	178.3	91.5	34.5	24.4
Farm woodland	83.9	58.4	26.0	14.5
All other/unimproved	<u>46.9</u>	<u>60.0</u>	<u>18.8</u>	<u>6.9</u>
Total land in farms	309.1	209.9	79.3	45.8
<u>Other Uses</u>				
Roads, urban ²	12.5			25.1
Parks and privately owned	<u>96.5</u>			<u>347.2</u>
Total land area	418.1			418.1
	<i>Percent of land area</i>			
Improved land/cropland	43.3	21.9	8.3	5.8
All land in farms	75.1	50.2	19.0	11.0
Mostly forested: government and private ownership	54.4			88.2
Source: Census of Agriculture.				
¹ Improved land in 1910; cropland 1940 to present.				
² Estimated as 3% in 1910 and 6% in 1992.				

Greene County

Much of the western part of Greene County is part of the Catskills. In 1910 land in farms included 75 percent of the county's area and 43 percent had been cleared for crops and pasture. By 1940 at the end of the depression years, 1,000 farms and 100,000 acres were no longer in agriculture, much of the land reverting to brush, trees and forest. Another major exodus from farming occurred in the 1950s and '60s. Much of the landscape did not lend itself to mechanization; only 19 percent of the county's area was in farms in 1969. Further exits occurred, but at a slower pace in the years up to 1992. Commercial farms are scattered in some of the valleys and in the east. Agricultural sales in 1992 were \$8.1 million, one of the smallest amounts among the upstate counties.

Figure 20. Farming Trends for Greene County, 1910-92

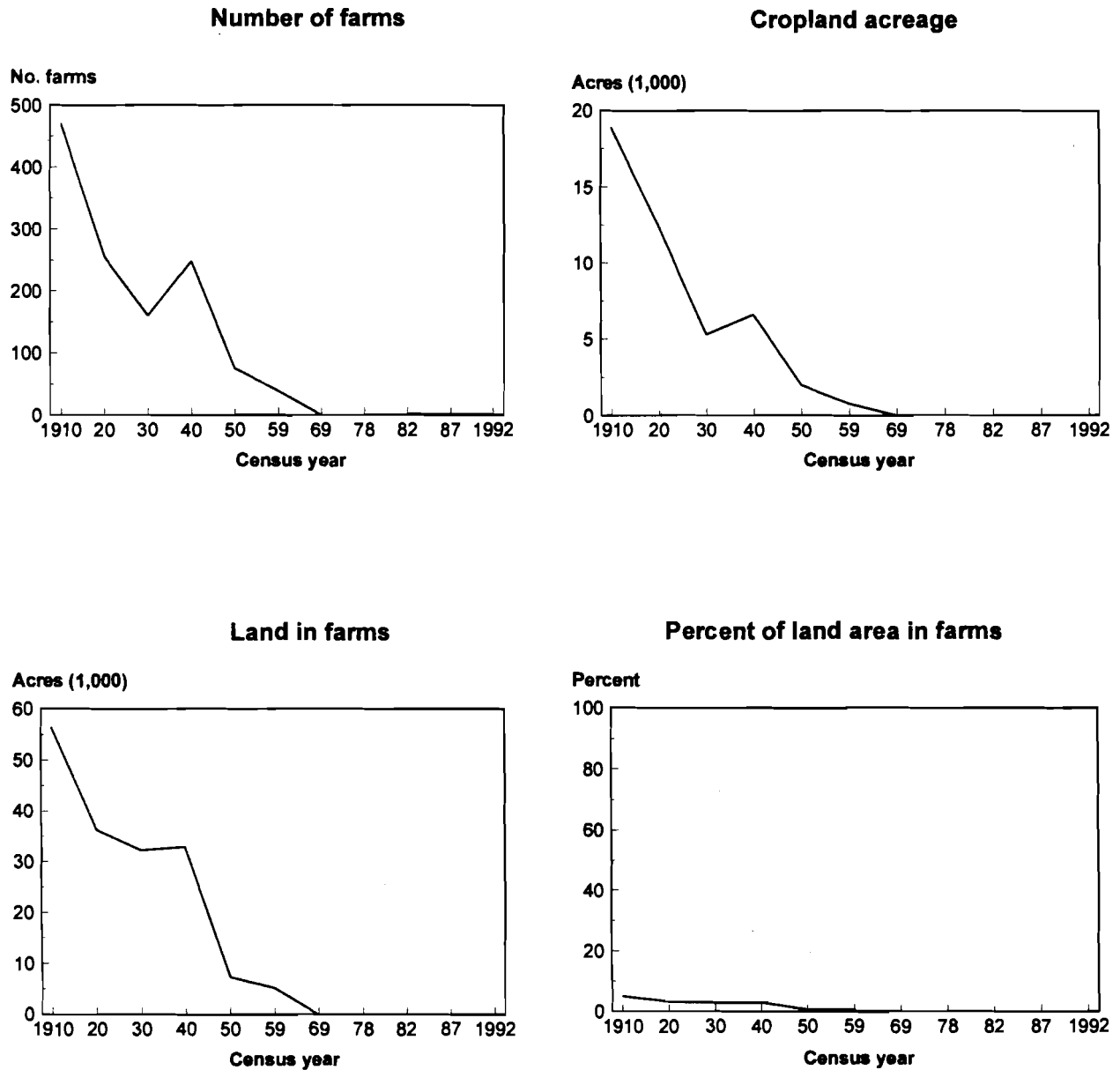
Source: U.S. Census of Agriculture.

Table 23. Changes in Land Use in Hamilton County, Selected Years, 1910-1992

<u>Description</u>	<u>1910</u>	<u>1940</u>	<u>1969</u>	<u>1992</u>
Farm numbers	470	248	0	0
<u>Agriculture</u>		<i>Thousand acres</i>		
Improved land/cropland ¹	18.9	6.6	0	0
Farm woodland	30.8	21.4	0	0
All other/unimproved	<u>6.8</u>	<u>4.9</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total land in farms	56.5	32.9	0	0
<u>Other Uses</u>				
Roads, urban ²	21.8			32.6
Parks and privately owned	<u>1,009.7</u>			<u>1,055.4</u>
Total land area	1,088.0			1,088.0
		<i>Percent of land area</i>		
Improved land/cropland	1.7			0
All land in farms	5.2			0
Mostly forested: government and private ownership	92.9			97.0
Source: Census of Agriculture.				
¹ Improved land in 1910; cropland 1940 to present.				
² Estimated as 2% in 1910 and 3% in 1992.				

Hamilton County

Hamilton is the third largest county in the state and is located in the heart of the Adirondacks. In 1910 there were 470 farms reported in the census, with 56,500 acres in farms. This amounted to about 5 percent of the land area. Most of the land area was never cleared for farming and remained in forest and park land. By 1940 there were still 248 farms reported with nearly 33,000 acres reported in farms. In 1969 no farms were reported and all of the former farmland was used for recreation, rural homes or had reverted to forest. Over 71 percent of the county's area is state owned, largely a part of the Forest Preserve.

Figure 21. Farming Trends for Hamilton County, 1910-92

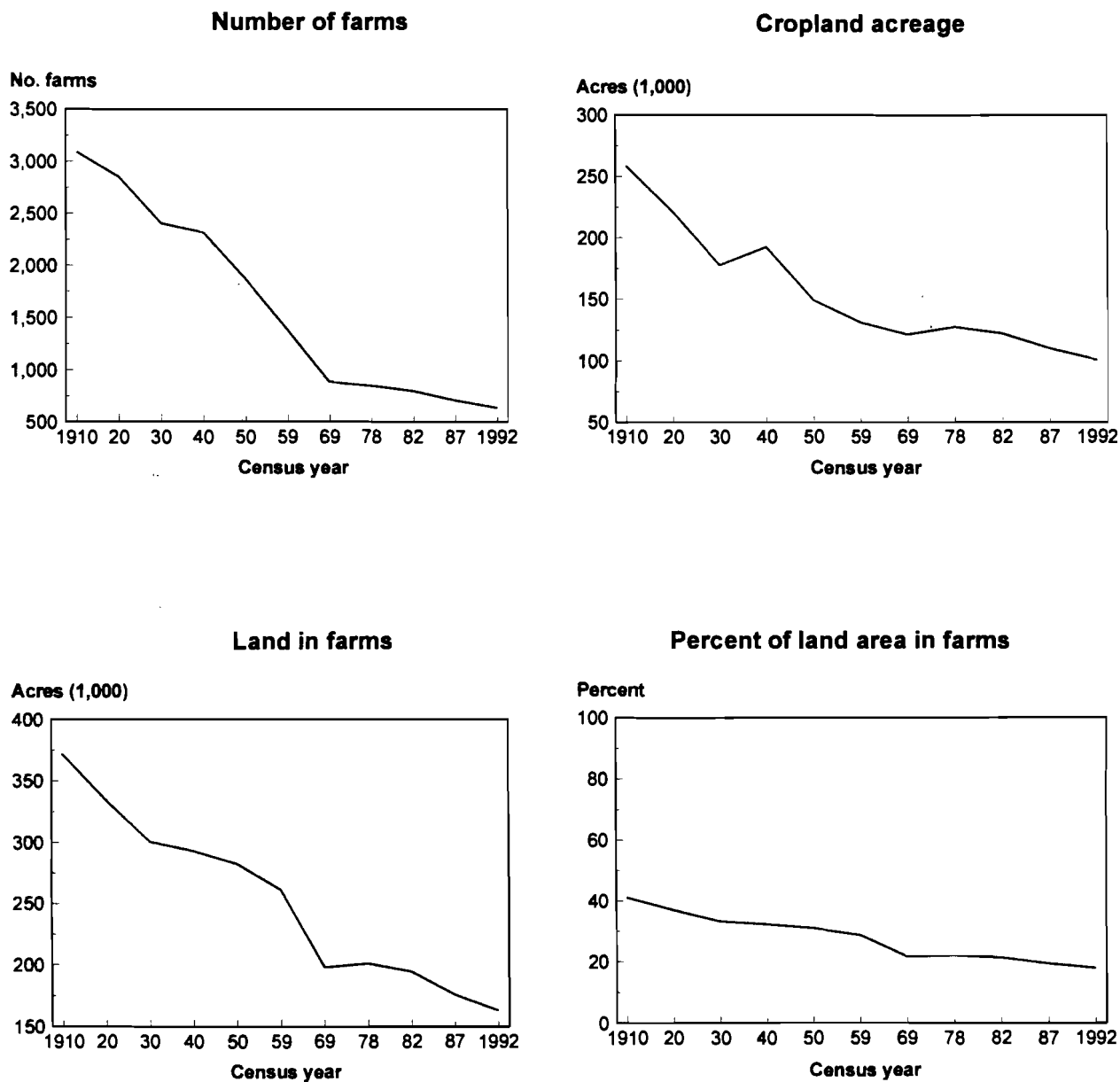
Source: U.S. Census of Agriculture.

Table 24. Changes in Land Use in Herkimer County, Selected Years, 1910-1992

<u>Description</u>	<u>1910</u>	<u>1940</u>	<u>1969</u>	<u>1992</u>
Farm numbers	3,092	2,316	885	636
<u>Agriculture</u>	<i>Thousand acres</i>			
Improved land/cropland ¹	258.6	192.8	121.8	100.9
Farm woodland	76.4	38.4	32.2	35.0
All other/unimproved	<u>37.0</u>	<u>61.6</u>	<u>44.4</u>	<u>27.2</u>
Total land in farms	372.0	292.8	197.9	163.1
<u>Other Uses</u>				
Roads, urban ²	27.5			55.1
Parks and privately owned	<u>518.7</u>			<u>7.0</u>
Total land area	918.2			918.2
	<i>Percent of land area</i>			
Improved land/cropland	27.7	20.9	13.2	11.0
All land in farms	39.8	31.7	21.6	17.8
Mostly forested: government and private ownership	68.8			83.0
Source: Census of Agriculture.				
¹ Improved land in 1910; cropland 1940 to present.				
² Estimated as 3% in 1910 and 6% in 1992.				

Herkimer County

This county is one of the most unusual in the state, in that it runs such a long distance from south to north. It is bordered by Hamilton, Fulton and Montgomery counties on the east. Thus, much of the northern portion of the county is in the Adirondacks and the south is a part of the relatively fertile escarpment country and Mohawk Valley. Even at the beginning of the century only 40 percent of the land area was in farms. Most of the northern part of the county was never cleared of forest and had few towns or hamlets. By 1940 there were 192,000 acres of cropland accounting for 21 percent of the county's area. Like most other counties, farm numbers were more than cut in half between 1940 and 1969. Farms consolidated with commercial farming concentrated in the south. In 1992 more than 100,000 acres of cropland continued to be farmed, a modest reduction from 1969. Almost 40 percent of the county is state owned, largely a part of the Forest Preserve. In 1992 agricultural sales were \$51 million, ranking Herkimer County 27th among the state's 56 upstate counties.

Figure 22. Farming Trends for Herkimer County, 1910-92

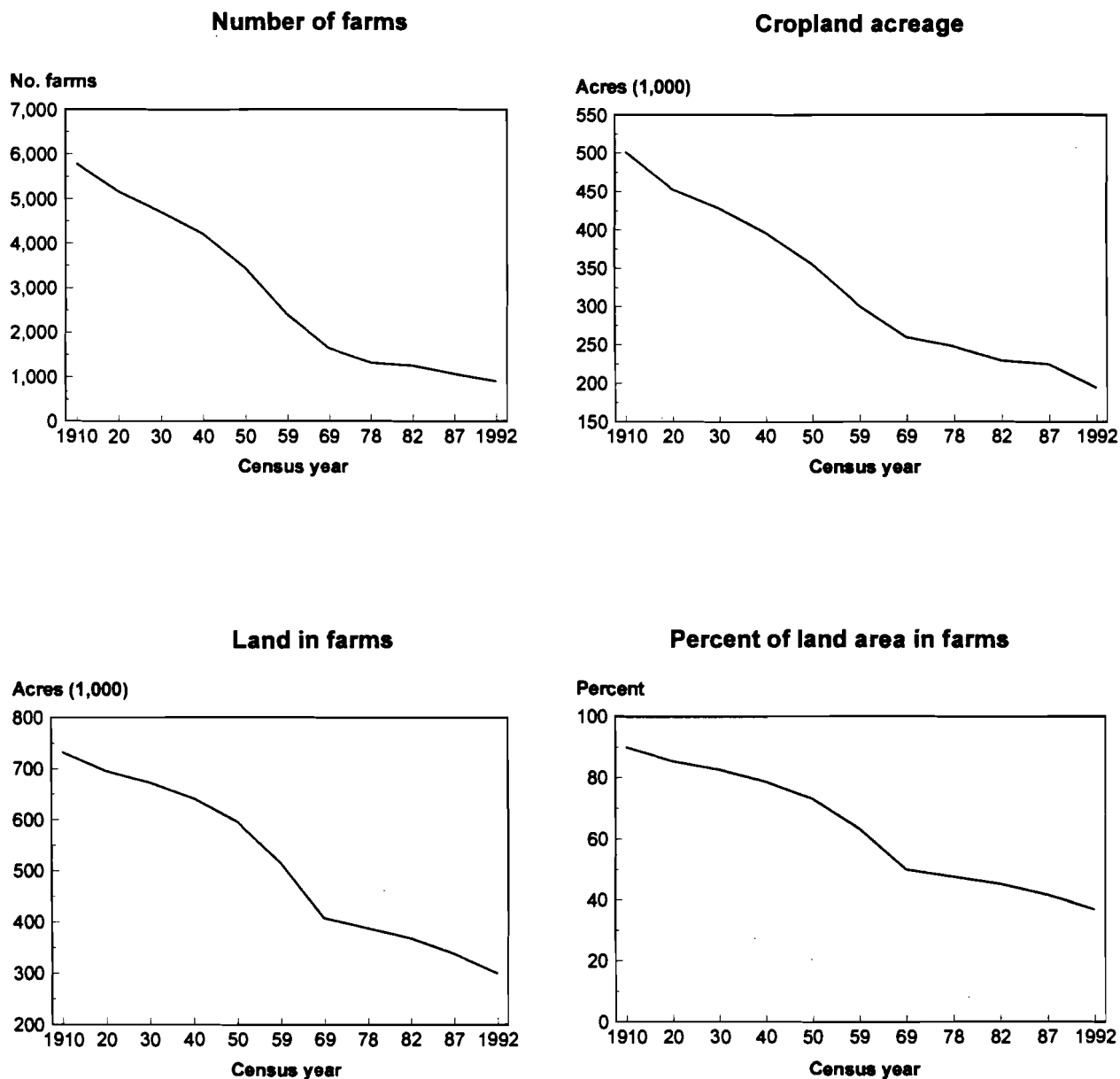
Source: U.S. Census of Agriculture.

Table 25. Changes in Land Use in Jefferson County, Selected Years, 1910-1992

<u>Description</u>	<u>1910</u>	<u>1940</u>	<u>1969</u>	<u>1992</u>
Farm numbers	5,778	4,205	1,633	894
<u>Agriculture</u>	<i>Thousand acres</i>			
Improved land/cropland ¹	501.4	396.2	260.0	194.2
Farm woodland	85.6	61.6	60.1	49.5
All other/unimproved	<u>145.9</u>	<u>184.2</u>	<u>87.4</u>	<u>56.9</u>
Total land in farms	732.9	642.0	407.5	3.6
<u>Other Uses</u>				
Roads, urban ²	24.8			49.7
Parks and privately owned	<u>70.4</u>			<u>477.8</u>
Total land area	828.1			828.1
		<i>Percent of land area</i>		
Improved land/cropland	61.5	47.9	31.4	23.5
All land in farms	89.9	77.6	49.2	36.3
Mostly forested: government and private ownership	36.4			70.5
Source: Census of Agriculture.				
¹ Improved land in 1910; cropland 1940 to present.				
² Estimated as 3% in 1910 and 6% in 1992.				

Jefferson County

Jefferson borders Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River on the west and is the state's ninth largest county. Much of the county was cleared originally and laid out in farms. In 1910 land in farms included 90 percent of the county's area and 61.5 percent was in crops or pasture. By 1940 some of the less productive land was returned to brush and trees; cropland then accounted for 48 percent of the land area and nearly 400,000 acres. Between 1940 and 1969 farm numbers fell from over 4,200 to 1,633 as the shift from farming with horses to tractors and mechanization occurred. Land in farms still accounted for 49 percent of the county's area, but more land was returning to trees and forest. In 1992 there were still nearly 200,000 acres of cropland in use, only exceeded by two other counties in the state. Agricultural sales were \$76 million in 1992, ranking it 9th among the 56 upstate counties.

Figure 23. Farming Trends for Jefferson County, 1910-92

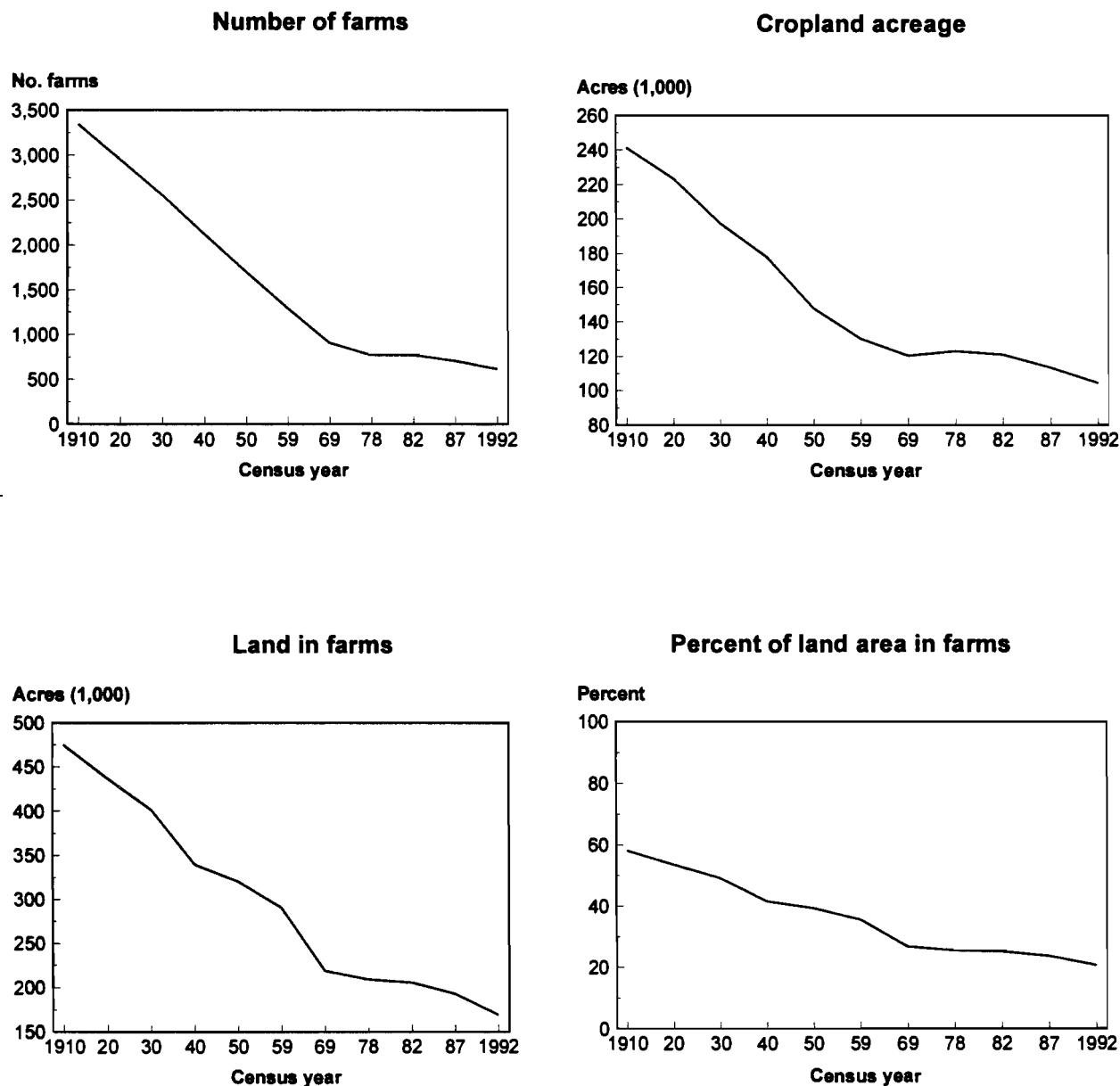
Source: U.S. Census of Agriculture.

Table 26. Changes in Land Use in Lewis County, Selected Years, 1910-1992

<u>Description</u>	<u>1910</u>	<u>1940</u>	<u>1969</u>	<u>1992</u>
Farm numbers	3,343	2,126	905	617
<u>Agriculture</u>	<i>Thousand acres</i>			
Improved land/cropland ¹	241.4	177.9	120.2	104.3
Farm woodland	111.1	61.6	56.8	39.7
All other/unimproved	<u>122.5</u>	<u>1.3</u>	<u>42.1</u>	<u>26.3</u>
Total land in farms	475.0	339.8	219.1	169.3
<u>Other Uses</u>				
Roads, urban ²	24.8			41.3
Parks and privately owned	<u>326.6</u>			<u>615.8</u>
Total land area	826.4			826.4
	<i>Percent of land area</i>			
Improved land/cropland	29.7	21.5	14.5	12.6
All land in farms	58.4	41.1	26.5	20.5
Mostly forested: government and private ownership	67.8			82.5
Source: Census of Agriculture.				
¹ Improved land in 1910; cropland 1940 to present.				
² Estimated as 3% in 1910 and 5% in 1992.				

Lewis County

Lewis County includes within its borders an important part of the Tug Hill area on the west which was never cleared for farming and part of the Adirondacks on the east. The Black River Valley running through the center of the county is the center of its rural population and commercial agriculture. In 1910 more than 58 percent of its land area was laid out in farms with almost 30 percent cleared for crops and pasture. The depression years of the 1920s and '30s reduced farm numbers by more than 1,200 and land in farms to 41 percent of the area. Farm consolidation and mechanization came quickly after the War, pushing more of the marginal lands out of production. Only 26 percent of the land area and 120,000 acres of cropland remained in 1969. In 1992 further reductions in farm numbers and cropland occurred but at a slower rate. Farming is concentrated in the Black River Valley; 20 percent of the land area remains in farms. In 1992 agricultural sales amounted to \$62 million, placing Lewis 15th among the state's counties in value of agricultural output.

Figure 24. Farming Trends for Lewis County, 1910-92

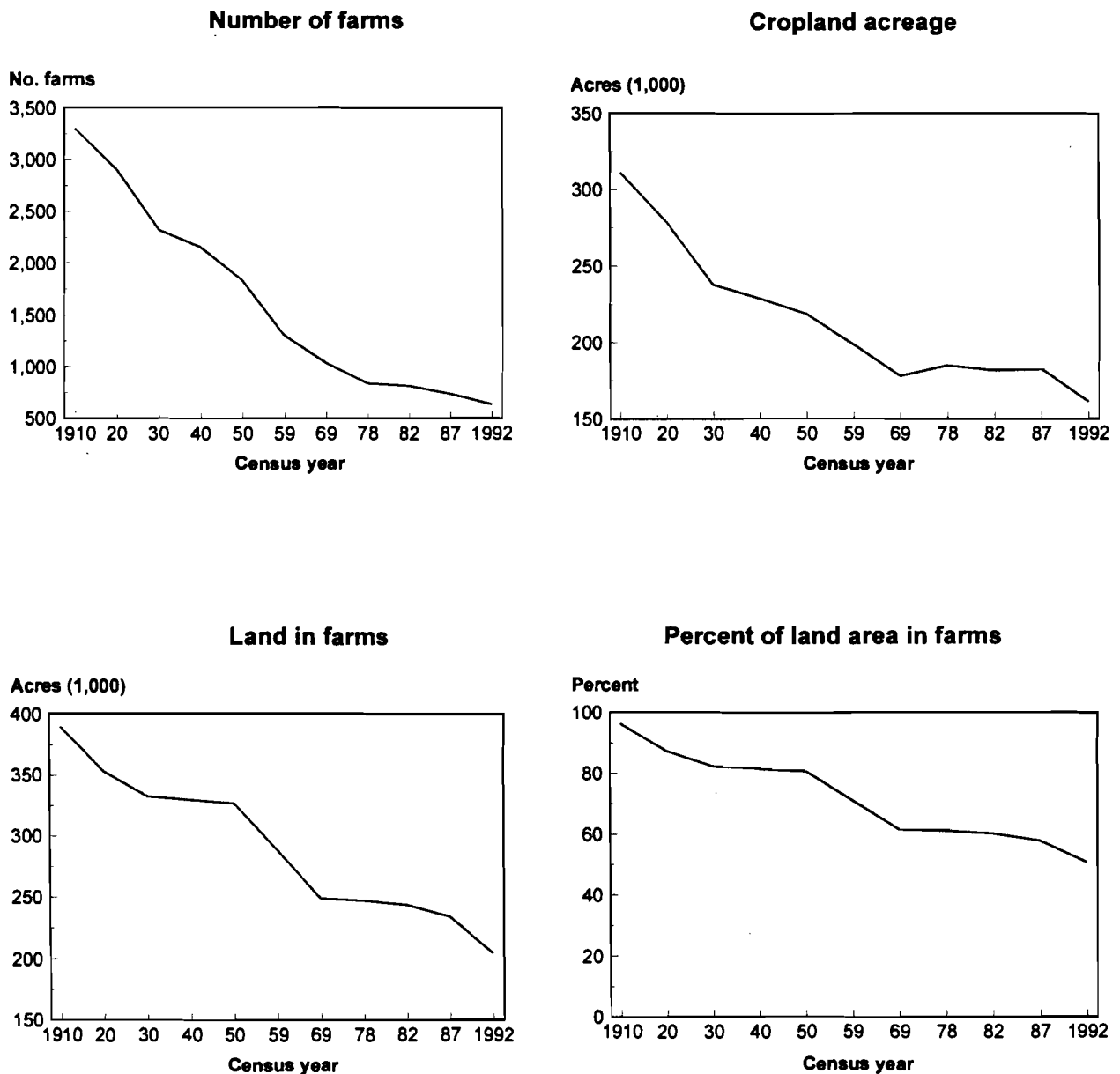
Source: U.S. Census of Agriculture.

Table 27. Changes in Land Use in Livingston County, Selected Years, 1910-1992

<u>Description</u>	<u>1910</u>	<u>1940</u>	<u>1969</u>	<u>1992</u>
Farm numbers	3,298	2,155	1,038	636
<u>Agriculture</u>	<i>Thousand acres</i>			
Improved land/cropland ¹	311.0	228.9	178.3	161.3
Farm woodland	61.1	43.8	39.0	26.3
All other/unimproved	<u>17.4</u>	<u>57.2</u>	<u>32.0</u>	<u>17.5</u>
Total land in farms	389.5	329.9	249.3	205.1
<u>Other Uses</u>				
Roads, urban ²	12.3			20.4
Parks and privately owned	<u>6.5</u>			<u>182.9</u>
Total land area	408.4			408.4
		<i>Percent of land area</i>		
Improved land/cropland	77.0	56.1	43.7	39.5
All land in farms	95.3	80.8	61.0	50.2
Mostly forested: government and private ownership	20.8			55.5
Source: Census of Agriculture.				
¹ Improved land in 1910; cropland 1940 to present.				
² Estimated as 3% in 1910 and 5% in 1992.				

Livingston County

Livingston is basically a rural county through which the Genesee River runs north to Lake Ontario. In 1910 almost all of the county's land was laid out in farms (95 percent) with 77 percent cleared for crops and pasture. In the 1920s and '30s, some of the farmland in the south and east reverted to brush and trees, but 81 percent of the area was still in farms in 1940. Cropland accounted for 56 percent of the area. Major reductions in farm numbers occurred after the War as more people began to commute to off-farm jobs while still living on land where there had once been farms. In 1969 only 61 percent of the land area was in farms with 44 percent in cropland. Farm consolidation and reductions in land in farms continued in the 1970s and '80s but at a slower pace. In 1992, almost 40 percent of the land area was in cropland, one of the higher percentages in the state. Agricultural sales in 1992 were \$61 million, ranking Livingston 17th among the 56 upstate counties.

Figure 25. Farming Trends for Livingston County, 1910-92

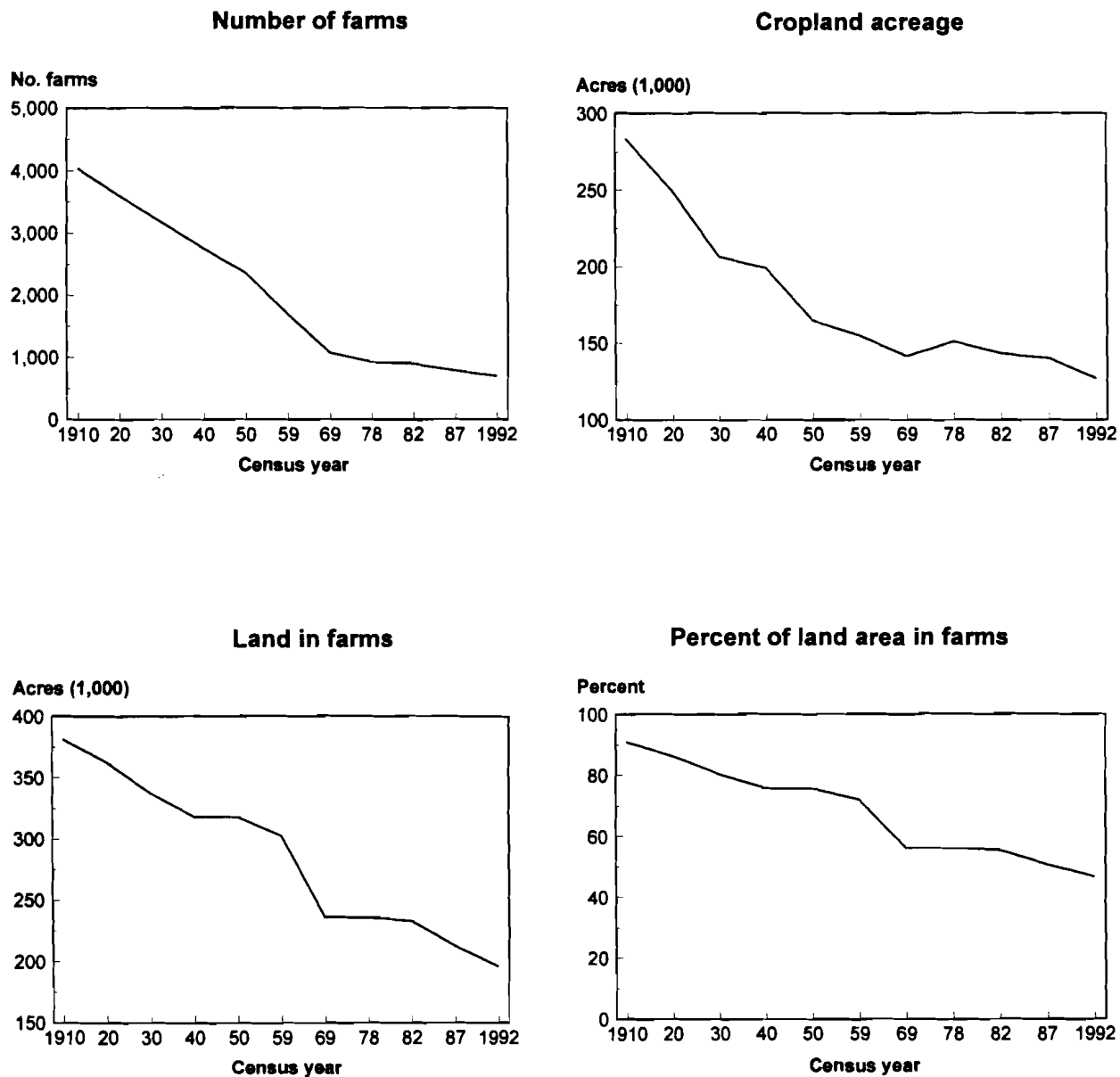
Source: U.S. Census of Agriculture.

Table 28. Changes in Land Use in Madison County, Selected Years, 1910-1992

<u>Description</u>	<u>1910</u>	<u>1940</u>	<u>1969</u>	<u>1992</u>
Farm numbers	4,042	2,752	1,075	699
<u>Agriculture</u>	<i>Thousand acres</i>			
Improved land/cropland ¹	283.3	199.3	141.3	126.8
Farm woodland	54.4	42.2	41.6	34.7
All other/unimproved	<u>43.6</u>	<u>76.6</u>	<u>53.1</u>	<u>34.1</u>
Total land in farms	381.4	318.2	236.0	195.6
<u>Other Uses</u>				
Roads, urban ²	16.9			29.6
Parks and privately owned	<u>24.5</u>			<u>197.6</u>
Total land area	422.8			422.8
	<i>Percent of land area</i>			
Improved land/cropland	68.1	47.1	33.4	30.0
All land in farms	91.7	75.2	55.8	46.3
Mostly forested: government and private ownership	29.0			63.0
Source: Census of Agriculture.				
¹ Improved land in 1910; cropland 1940 to present.				
² Estimated as 4% in 1910 and 7% in 1992.				

Madison County

Madison, near the center of the state, was largely cleared of forest and laid out in farms in the 19th century. In 1910 land in farms included 92 percent of the county's area; 68 percent was used for crops or pasture. The depression years of the '20s and '30s saw some of the rougher lands in the southern half of the county revert to brush and trees; more than 20,000 acres were reforested and became state property. After the War farm numbers were greatly reduced as farms were mechanized and consolidated into areas with the most productive soils. There were still 141,000 acres in cropland in 1969 although land in farms had dropped to 56 percent of the area. By 1992 there were still fewer farms counted by the census, but reductions in cropland and land in farms were more modest. The northern part of the county is somewhat influenced by urbanization but much of the county remains rural. Commercial agriculture is important; in 1992 agricultural sales were \$68 million, 14th highest in the state.

Figure 26. Farming Trends for Madison County, 1910-92

Source: U.S. Census of Agriculture.

Table 29. Changes in Land Use in Monroe County, Selected Years, 1910-1992

<u>Description</u>	<u>1910</u>	<u>1940</u>	<u>1969</u>	<u>1992</u>
Farm numbers	5,971	4,129	1,085	511
<u>Agriculture</u>	<i>Thousand acres</i>			
Improved land/cropland ¹	344.1	252.8	123.7	95.8
Farm woodland	25.0	20.2	12.2	6.8
All other/unimproved	<u>16.2</u>	<u>34.4</u>	<u>20.5</u>	<u>7.6</u>
Total land in farms	385.3	307.3	156.4	110.2
<u>Other Uses</u>				
Roads, urban ²	34.6			151.2
Parks and privately owned	<u>12.2</u>			<u>170.7</u>
Total land area	432.1			432.1
	<i>Percent of land area</i>			
Improved land/cropland	81.4	58.7	28.6	22.2
All land in farms	90.8	71.3	36.2	25.5
Mostly forested: government and private ownership	12.4			42.8

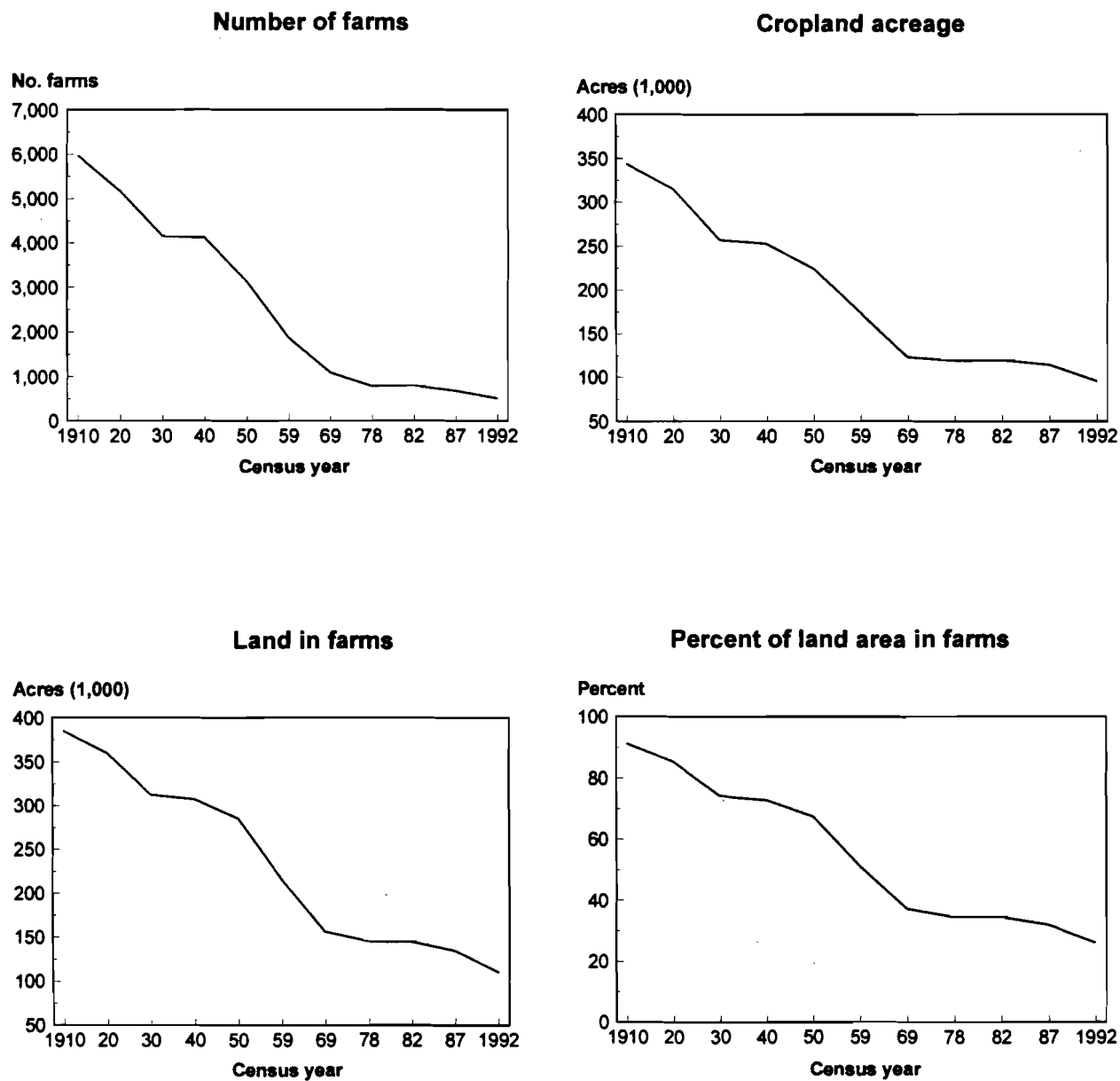
Source: Census of Agriculture.

¹ Improved land in 1910; cropland 1940 to present.

² Estimated as 8% in 1910 and 35% in 1992.

Monroe County

The city of Rochester and the surrounding metropolitan area have come to dominate economic activity in Monroe County in the twentieth century. In 1910 commercial agriculture was an important source of revenue and industry for this major trading center. Land in farms accounted for 91 percent of physical area. Crops and pasture covered more than 81 percent of the land area. Trees and forest were largely woodlots on farms. By 1940 farm numbers were cut by 1,800 and land in farms had been reduced to 71 percent of the area. Farming was still a major activity with many small, full-time fruit and vegetable operations. After World War II suburbanization competed for good farm land on all sides of the city. Farming continued to be important in the western and southern parts of the county. Only 36 percent of the county's area was in farms in 1969. Further growth of the metropolitan area has reduced land in farms to 25 percent of the total in 1992. More than 95,000 acres are still counted as cropland. Agricultural sales amounted to \$42 million in 1992, ranking the county 33rd in the state.

Figure 27. Farming Trends for Monroe County, 1910-92

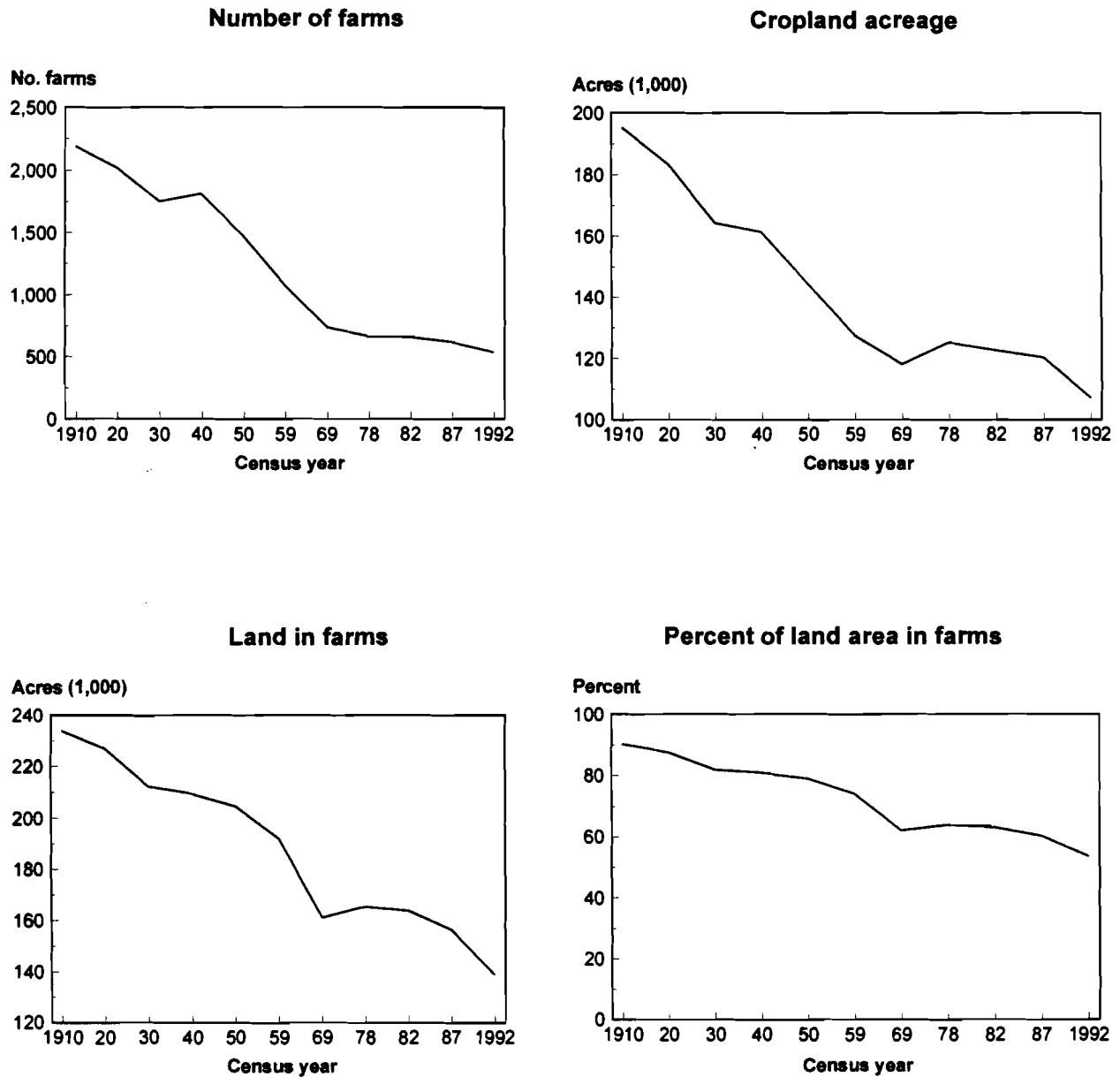
Source: U.S. Census of Agriculture.

Table 30. Changes in Land Use in Montgomery County, Selected Years, 1910-1992

<u>Description</u>	<u>1910</u>	<u>1940</u>	<u>1969</u>	<u>1992</u>
Farm numbers	2,189	1,813	735	537
<u>Agriculture</u>	<i>Thousand acres</i>			
Improved land/cropland ¹	195.3	161.3	118.1	107.1
Farm woodland	25.0	21.3	18.0	17.3
All other/unimproved	<u>13.7</u>	<u>26.9</u>	<u>25.2</u>	<u>14.4</u>
Total land in farms	234.0	209.5	161.3	138.8
<u>Other Uses</u>				
Roads, urban ²	7.8			15.7
Parks and privately owned	<u>19.4</u>			<u>106.7</u>
Total land area	261.2			261.2
	<i>Percent of land area</i>			
Improved land/cropland	76.7	61.6	45.2	41.0
All land in farms	91.9	80.0	61.8	53.1
Mostly forested: government and private ownership	22.2			53.0
Source: Census of Agriculture.				
¹ Improved land in 1910; cropland 1940 to present.				
² Estimated as 3% in 1910 and 6% in 1992.				

Montgomery County

Montgomery is one of the state's smallest counties in physical area but one with a continuously strong agricultural base. Most of the county was settled late in the 18th and early 19th centuries. In 1910 nearly 92 percent of the land area of the county was in farms with 77 percent cleared and used for crops and pasture. By 1940 after the depression years, 80 percent of the land was still in farms, of which 62 percent was considered cropland. Farm numbers remained large at more than 1,800. Farms were consolidated in the '50s and '60s as mechanization continued to eliminate the smaller, rougher fields. In 1969 farms accounted for 62 percent of all the area, and 45 percent was cropland, one of the three highest percentages in the state. Commercial agriculture continued to be the most important industry in the much of the county in 1992. Farm numbers declined slowly in the '70s and '80s. While many acres have reverted to brush and trees during this century, it is among the lowest in the eastern half of the state. Agricultural sales in 1992 were almost \$50 million, 29th in rank in the state but relatively large given the small area of the county.

Figure 28. Farming Trends for Montgomery County, 1910-92

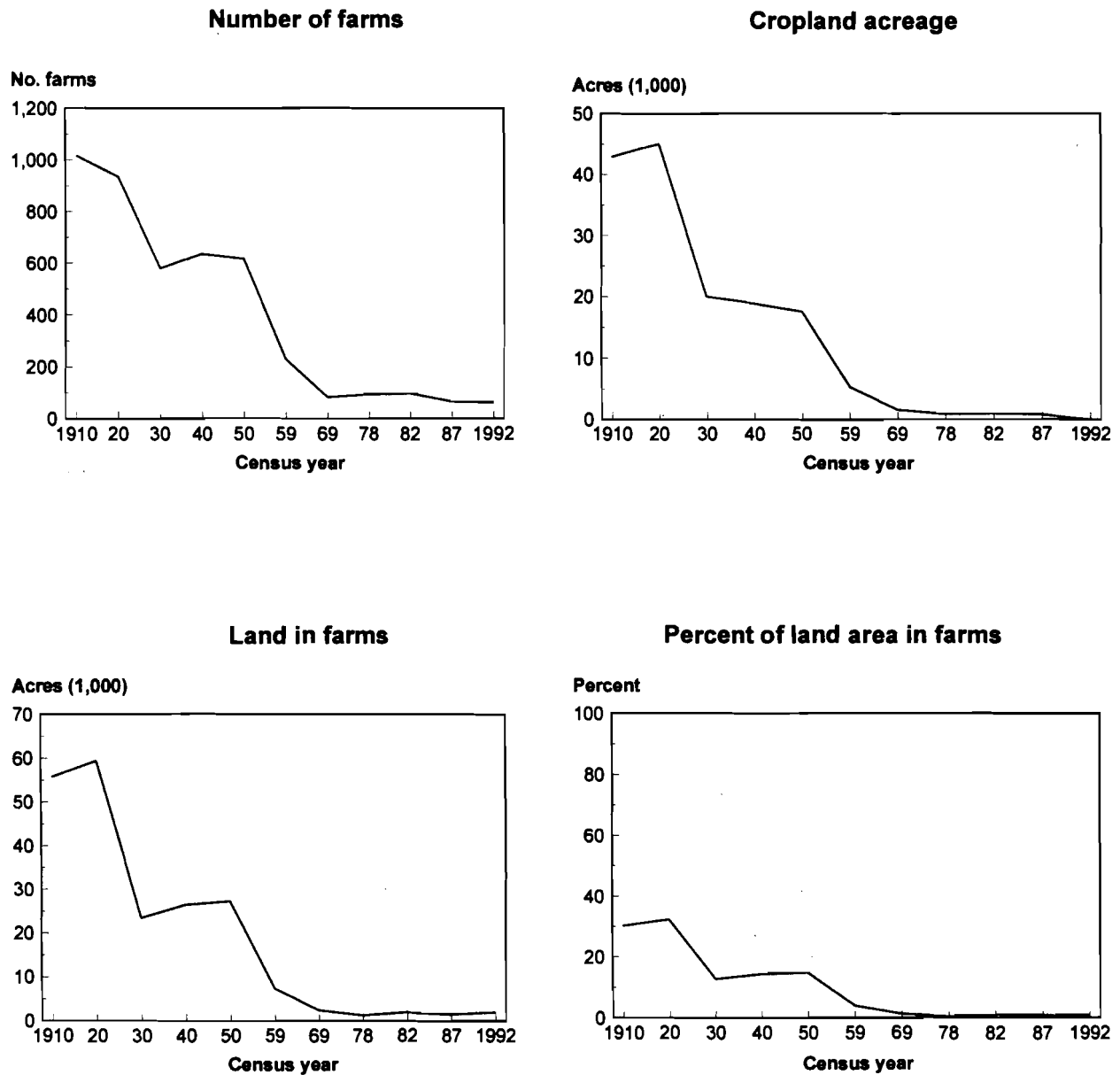
Source: U.S. Census of Agriculture.

Table 31. Changes in Land Use in Nassau County, Selected Years, 1910-1992

<u>Description</u>	<u>1910</u>	<u>1940</u>	<u>1969</u>	<u>1992</u>
Farm numbers	1,017	636	83	62
<u>Agriculture</u>	<i>Thousand acres</i>			
Improved land/cropland ¹	42.9	18.9	1.6	.4
Farm woodland	10.7	3.2	.4	.7
All other/unimproved	<u>2.2</u>	<u>4.4</u>	<u>.4</u>	<u>.8</u>
Total land in farms	55.8	26.5	2.4	1.9
<u>Other Uses</u>				
Roads, urban ²	92.3			175.4
Parks and privately owned	<u>36.5</u>			<u>7.3</u>
Total land area	184.6			184.6
	<i>Percent of land area</i>			
Improved land/cropland	24.5	9.8	0.9	0.2
All land in farms	31.8	13.8	1.3	1.0
Mostly forested: government and private ownership	26.7			4.7
Source: Census of Agriculture.				
¹ Improved land in 1910; cropland 1940 to present.				
² Estimated as 50% in 1910 and 95% in 1992.				

Nassau County

During the 20th century Nassau County has changed from a suburban to an urban county as the metropolitan New York area has dominated the use of land and open space. Farming was still an important use of space at the turn of the century. The agricultural census counted 1,017 farms in 1910, and they used 32 percent of the land area in the county. By 1940 there were still 636 farms using 26,500 acres; many of these operators were also working off-farm. In 1969 a few farms still remained, largely producing horticultural crops for the surrounding urbanized markets. In 1992 there were 62 farms counted on 1 percent of the land area. Agricultural sales amounted to \$2 million.

Figure 29. Farming Trends for Nassau County, 1910-92

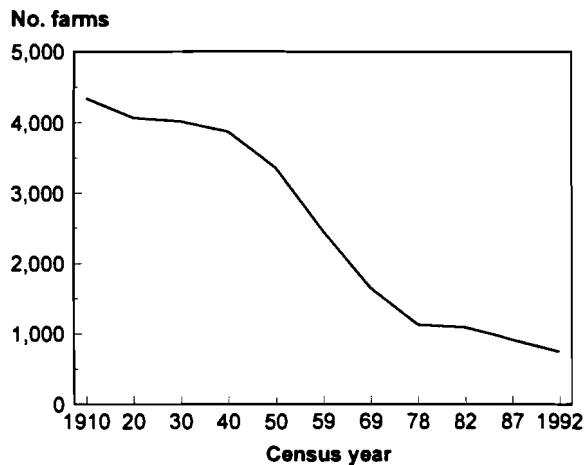
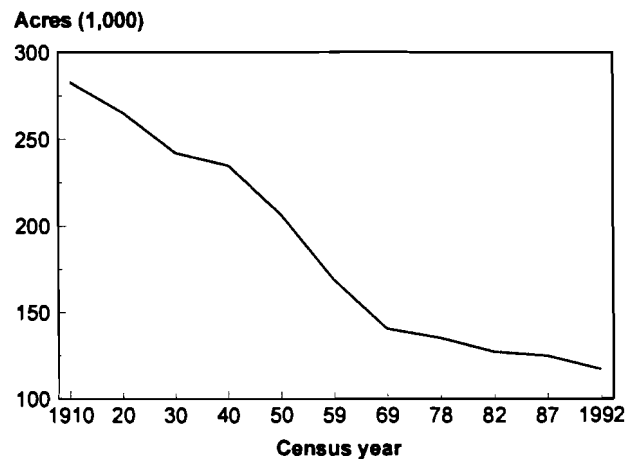
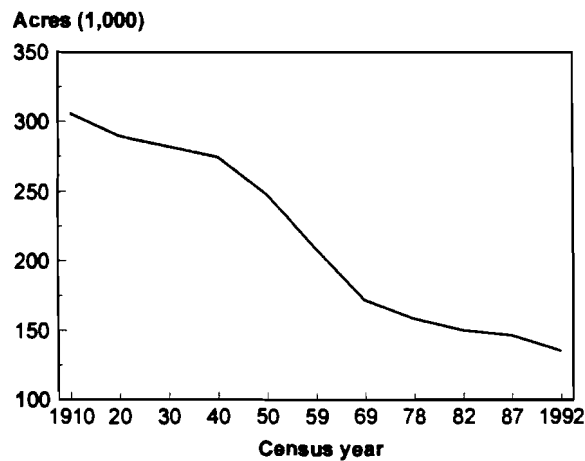
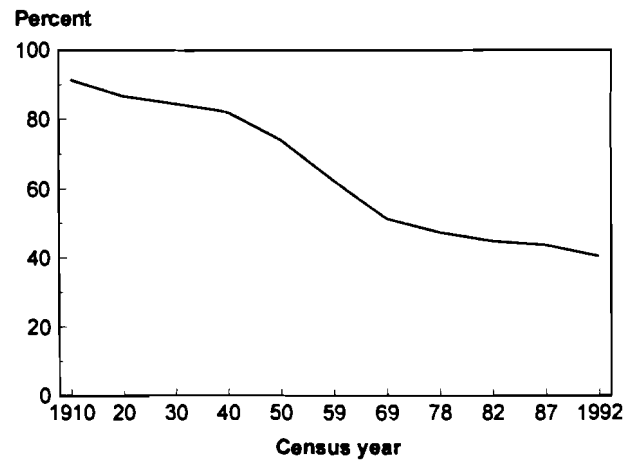
Source: U.S. Census of Agriculture.

Table 32. Changes in Land Use in Niagara County, Selected Years, 1910-1992

<u>Description</u>	<u>1910</u>	<u>1940</u>	<u>1969</u>	<u>1992</u>
Farm numbers	4,346	3,871	1,654	749
<u>Agriculture</u>	<i>Thousand acres</i>			
Improved land/cropland ¹	282.8	234.9	140.3	117.1
Farm woodland	16.4	15.4	11.8	9.0
All other/unimproved	<u>6.6</u>	<u>24.4</u>	<u>19.8</u>	<u>9.4</u>
Total land in farms	305.8	274.7	171.9	135.5
<u>Other Uses</u>				
Roads, urban ²	20.4			85.2
Parks and privately owned	<u>14.5</u>			<u>120.0</u>
Total land area	340.7			340.7
	<i>Percent of land area</i>			
Improved land/cropland	84.6	68.9	41.2	34.4
All land in farms	91.5	80.5	50.5	39.8
Mostly forested: government and private ownership	11.0			40.6
Source: Census of Agriculture.				
¹ Improved land in 1910; cropland 1940 to present.				
² Estimated as 6% in 1910 and 25% in 1992.				

Niagara County

Niagara County, in the northwestern corner of the state, bordering Lake Erie, has a favorable climate for agriculture, especially fruits and vegetables. In 1910 almost 92 percent of the county's land area was in farms with 84.6 percent described as improved land, the highest such percentage in the state. By 1940 land in farms had dropped to a little more than 80 percent of the county's area, and cropland dropped to 69 percent, still higher than any other location. Farm numbers remained high and the units were quite small, averaging 71 acres. By 1969 substantial changes had occurred; numbers were more than cut in half and land in farms was down to a little over 50 percent of the area. Suburban sprawl and urbanization had begun to use more land. In 1992 land in farms still accounted for about 40 percent of the total, of which cropland was a large share. Agricultural sales were \$46 million, giving Niagara County a rank of 31st among the upstate counties.

Figure 30. Farming Trends for Niagara County, 1910-92**Number of farms****Cropland acreage****Land in farms****Percent of land area in farms**

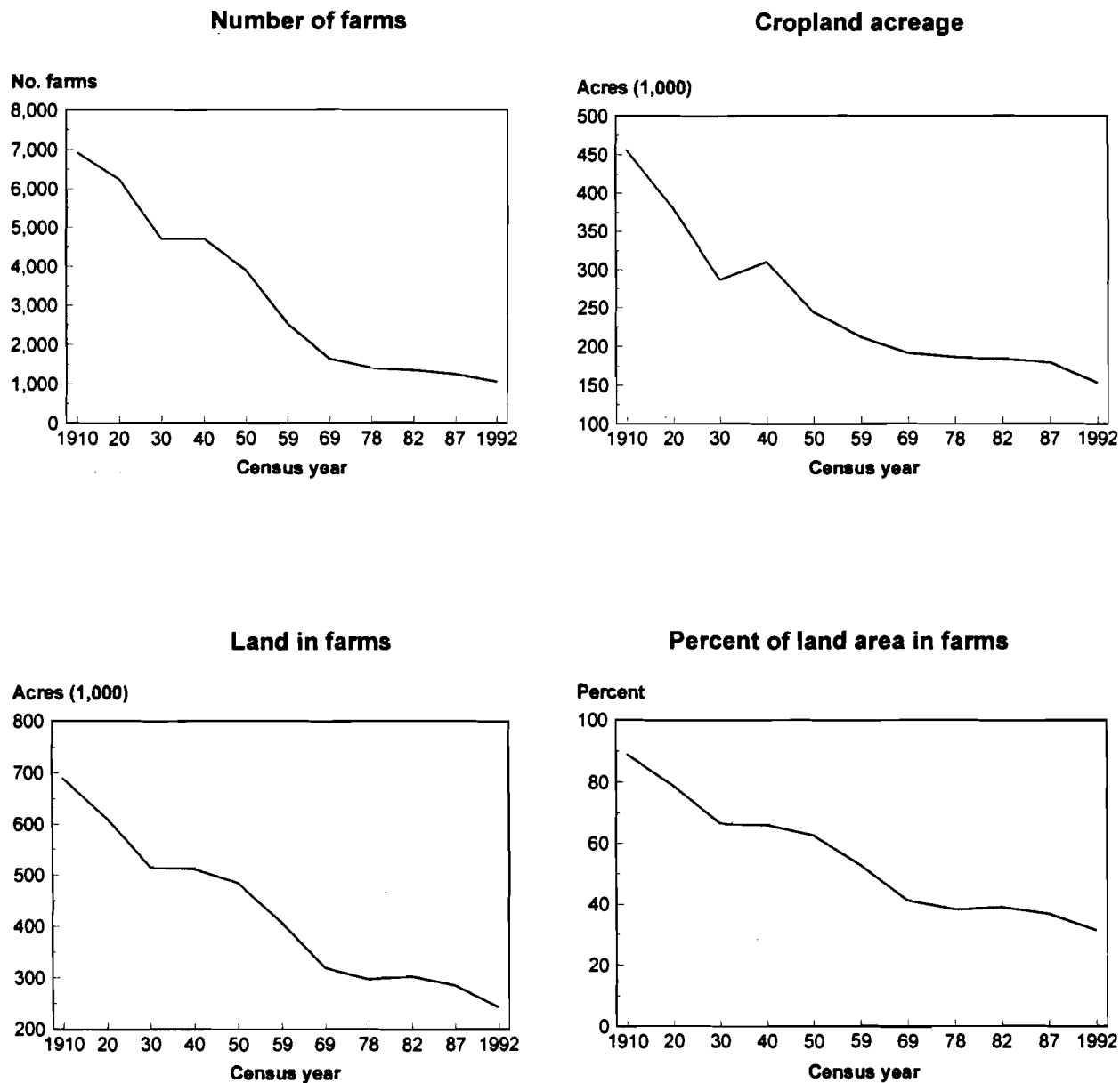
Source: U.S. Census of Agriculture.

Table 33. Changes in Land Use in Oneida County, Selected Years, 1910-1992

<u>Description</u>	<u>1910</u>	<u>1940</u>	<u>1969</u>	<u>1992</u>
Farm numbers	6,929	4,706	1,626	1,051
<u>Agriculture</u>	<i>Thousand acres</i>			
Improved land/cropland ¹	456.6	309.8	192.1	153.6
Farm woodland	114.2	72.7	63.9	51.0
All other/unimproved	<u>119.6</u>	<u>129.9</u>	<u>63.8</u>	<u>38.0</u>
Total land in farms	690.4	512.4	319.8	242.6
<u>Other Uses</u>				
Roads, urban ²	39.2			94.0
Parks and privately owned	<u>53.4</u>			<u>446.4</u>
Total land area	783.0			783.0
	<i>Percent of land area</i>			
Improved land/cropland	57.1	39.4	24.5	19.6
All land in farms	86.3	65.2	40.8	31.0
Mostly forested: government and private ownership	36.7			68.4
Source: Census of Agriculture.				
¹ Improved land in 1910; cropland 1940 to present.				
² Estimated as 5% in 1910 and 12% in 1992.				

Oneida County

Oneida is one of the state's larger counties, 11th in physical area. On the north it includes part of the Adirondacks as well as the upper Mohawk Valley and some of the escarpment country in the south. In 1910 there were more than 6,900 farms covering 86 percent of the total land area in the county. Only 57 percent of the land area was cleared for crops and pasture. From early days, forest and unimproved land occupied about one-third of the landscape. By 1940 farm numbers dropped by 2,200, and land in farms was down to 65 percent of the area as marginal cropland and pasture began to revert to brush and trees. After the War, further consolidation occurred rapidly with cropland down to less than 25 percent of the area and all land in farms at 41 percent in 1969. In the 1970s and '80s farm numbers continued to decline but at a slower rate. State reforested areas, forest preserve and other government-owned lands accounted for nearly 64,000 acres in 1990. Agricultural sales are still important; in 1992 they equalled \$75 million, ranking Oneida 10th among the counties.

Figure 31. Farming Trends for Oneida County, 1910-92

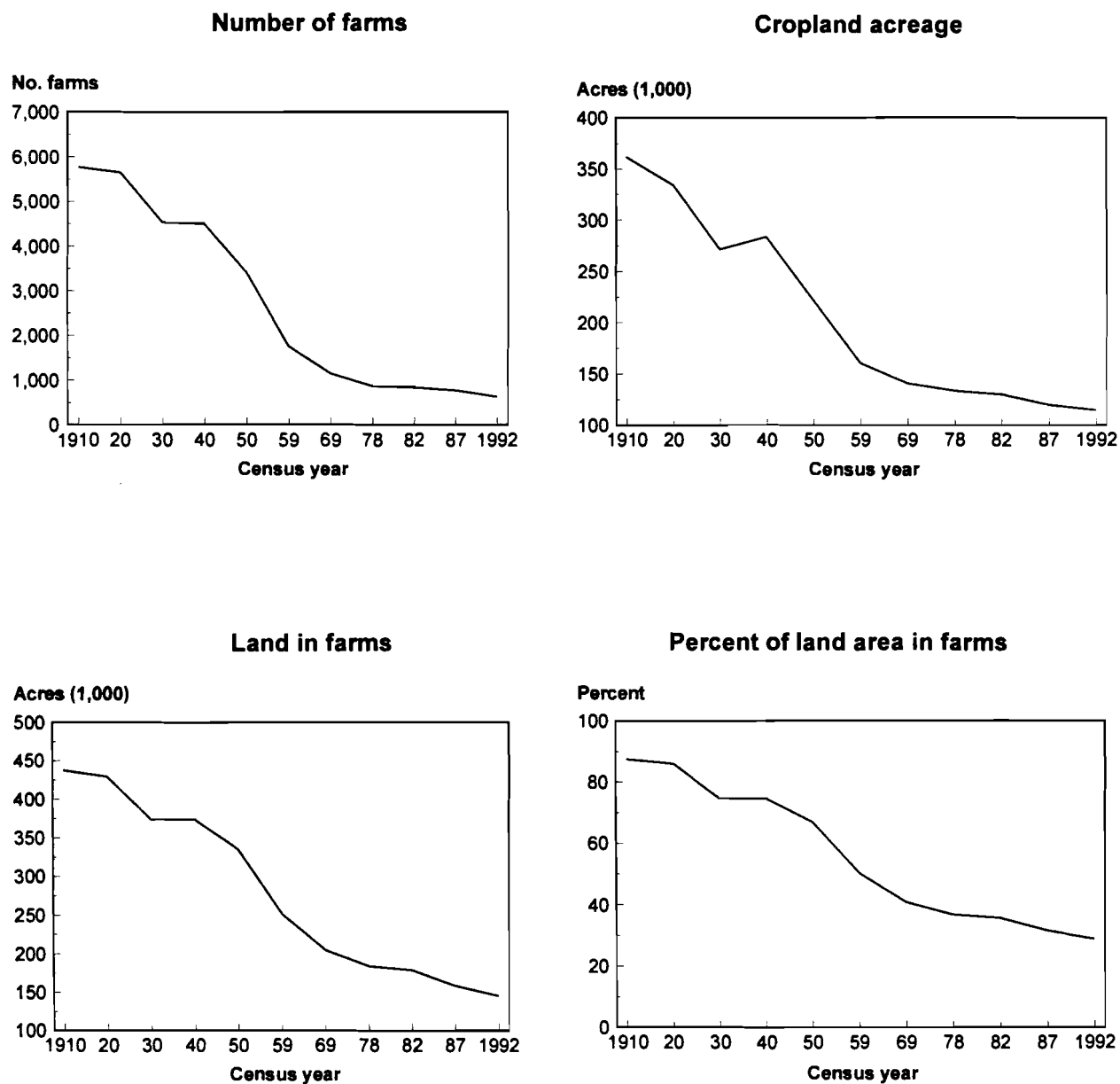
Source: U.S. Census of Agriculture.

Table 34. Changes in Land Use in Onondaga County, Selected Years, 1910-1992

<u>Description</u>	<u>1910</u>	<u>1940</u>	<u>1969</u>	<u>1992</u>
Farm numbers	5,770	4,490	1,159	636
<u>Agriculture</u>	<i>Thousand acres</i>			
Improved land/cropland ¹	362.2	284.2	141.1	114.6
Farm woodland	44.6	38.6	27.4	15.7
All other/unimproved	<u>30.9</u>	<u>50.5</u>	<u>36.5</u>	<u>15.0</u>
Total land in farms	437.7	373.3	205.0	145.3
<u>Other Uses</u>				
Roads, urban ²	30.5			101.6
Parks and privately owned	<u>39.6</u>			<u>260.9</u>
Total land area	507.8			507.8
	<i>Percent of land area</i>			
Improved land/cropland	72.5	56.1	27.8	22.6
All land in farms	87.6	73.6	40.4	28.6
Mostly forested: government and private ownership	22.7			57.4
Source: Census of Agriculture.				
¹ Improved land in 1910; cropland 1940 to present.				
² Estimated as 6% in 1910 and 20% in 1992.				

Onondaga County

Onondaga is an important regional distribution center and a growing metropolitan area. In 1910 commercial agriculture was still central to the county's economic well-being. Land in farms accounted for more than 87 percent of the physical area. Land cleared for crops and pasture occupied 72.5 percent. Farm numbers dropped in the 1920s and '30s as the rougher, less productive fields reverted to brush and trees. Most of the land remained as part of farms (over 73 percent of the area). Land for crops remained high, at 56 percent of the area in 1940. After the War, farm numbers decreased rapidly and suburban areas on all sides of Syracuse claimed open space. Consolidation of farms and mechanization reduced cropland to 141,000 acres in 1969. By 1992 cropland had declined further but at a slower rate than between 1950 and 1969. The metropolitan area continued to expand with more open space now owned by non-farm families. In 1992 agricultural sales equalled \$62 million, emphasizing that agriculture was still an important contributor to the county's economy.

Figure 32. Farming Trends for Onondaga County, 1910-92

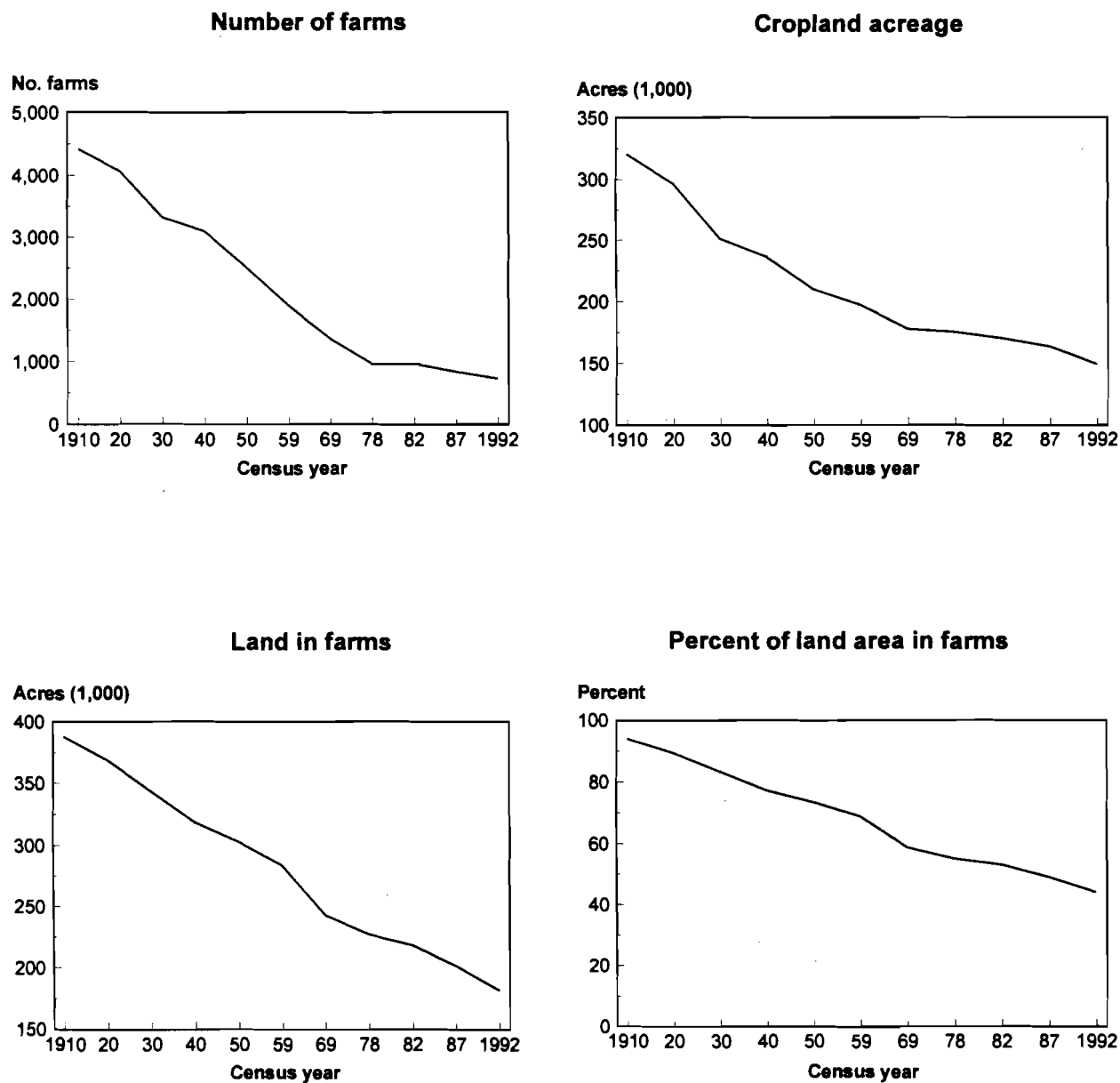
Source: U.S. Census of Agriculture.

Table 35. Changes in Land Use in Ontario County, Selected Years, 1910-1992

<u>Description</u>	<u>1910</u>	<u>1940</u>	<u>1969</u>	<u>1992</u>
Farm numbers	4,416	3,093	1,364	725
<u>Agriculture</u>	<i>Thousand acres</i>			
Improved land/cropland ¹	320.5	236.8	178.1	149.1
Farm woodland	47.4	35.7	30.7	17.0
All other/unimproved	<u>20.1</u>	<u>46.5</u>	<u>33.9</u>	<u>15.5</u>
Total land in farms	388.0	319.0	242.7	181.6
<u>Other Uses</u>				
Roads, urban ²	16.7			33.3
Parks and privately owned	<u>11.8</u>			<u>201.6</u>
Total land area	416.5			416.5
	<i>Percent of land area</i>			
Improved land/cropland	77.0	57.0	42.8	35.8
All land in farms	93.2	76.8	58.3	43.6
Mostly forested: government and private ownership	19.0			56.2
Source: Census of Agriculture.				
¹ Improved land in 1910; cropland 1940 to present.				
² Estimated as 4% in 1910 and 8% in 1992.				

Ontario County

Ontario is a little smaller than average in physical area but contains relatively large areas of productive soils for agriculture. It is primarily a rural county but in the northwest is now strongly influenced by the Rochester metropolitan area. In 1910 essentially all of the county's land was in farms (93 percent of the physical area). More than three-fourths had been cleared and used for crops and pasture. Horses were the major source of power on farms and for transportation. Hay was an export from farms to New York and other cities. By 1940 the depression had reduced farm numbers by 1,300 and land in farms was down to 77 percent of the area; cropland to 57 percent. After the War, substantial consolidation occurred; farm size increased with mechanization. Land in farms still accounted for 58 percent of the area. In the 1970s and '80s, land in farms continued to decrease but at a slower pace. Cropland now accounts for about 35 percent of the land area. Suburban areas are of greater importance in the northern towns. In 1992 agricultural sales were \$56 million, ranking Ontario County 20th among the counties.

Figure 33. Farming Trends for Ontario County, 1910-92

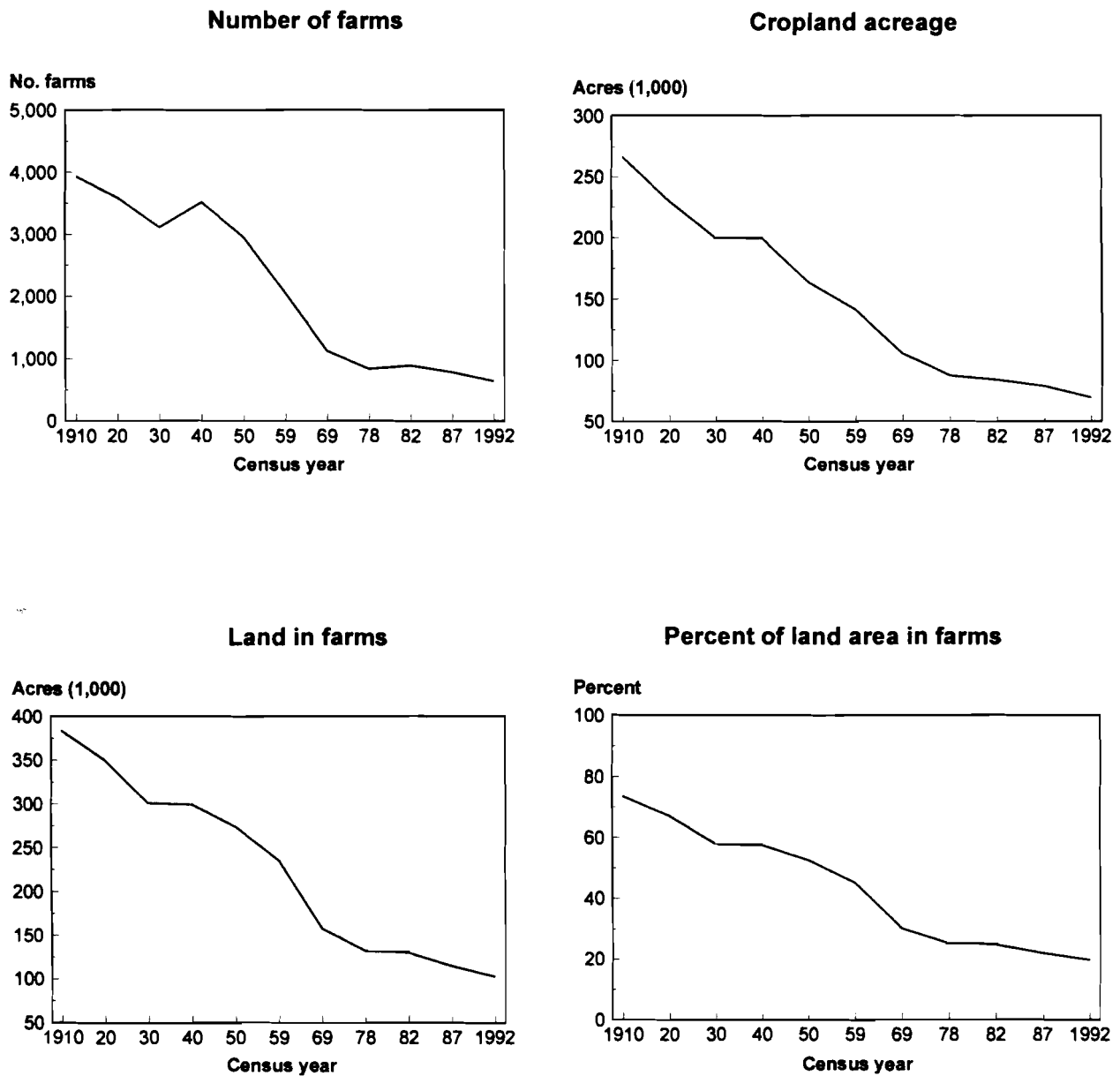
Source: U.S. Census of Agriculture.

Table 36. Changes in Land Use in Orange County, Selected Years, 1910-1992

<u>Description</u>	<u>1910</u>	<u>1940</u>	<u>1969</u>	<u>1992</u>
Farm numbers	3,935	3,513	1,124	641
<u>Agriculture</u>	<i>Thousand acres</i>			
Improved land/cropland ¹	266.3	199.6	105.7	69.6
Farm woodland	69.2	36.2	22.7	17.8
All other/unimproved	<u>48.6</u>	<u>64.1</u>	<u>28.8</u>	<u>15.3</u>
Total land in farms	384.1	299.9	157.2	102.7
<u>Other Uses</u>				
Roads, urban ²	42.6			106.6
Parks and privately owned	<u>106.2</u>			<u>232.6</u>
Total land area	532.9			532.9
	<i>Percent of land area</i>			
Improved land/cropland	49.9	37.6	19.8	13.1
All land in farms	72.0	56.5	29.5	19.3
Mostly forested: government and private ownership	42.0			66.9
Source: Census of Agriculture.				
¹ Improved land in 1910; cropland 1940 to present.				
² Estimated as 8% in 1910 and 20% in 1992.				

Orange County

Orange is a Hudson River Valley county which was among the first settled in the state. On the west are the Shawangunk Mountains and on the south and east another area of high hills and rocky outcrops that is state park land shared with Rockland County. In 1910 land in farms covered 72 percent of the county's area, average for the state, but a much lower percentage than many counties, reflecting the mountainous areas and some urbanization around Newburgh and Middletown. By 1940 cropland amounted to about 200,000 acres, more than 37.5 percent of the land area. Farming had declined little in terms of numbers and area between 1910 and 1940 in comparison to many upstate counties. A large exodus from farming occurred in the 1950s and '60s. Nearly half the cropland was lost, partly to suburban developments, partly to the requirements of tractors and mechanized agriculture. Proximity to the New York metropolitan area influenced land prices and led to some rapid rises and falls in the 1970s and '80s. Commercial farming is still important in the 1990s with fruit, vegetables and dairy operations. Agricultural sales in 1992 were \$75 million, ranking the county 11th in the state.

Figure 34. Farming Trends for Orange County, 1910-92

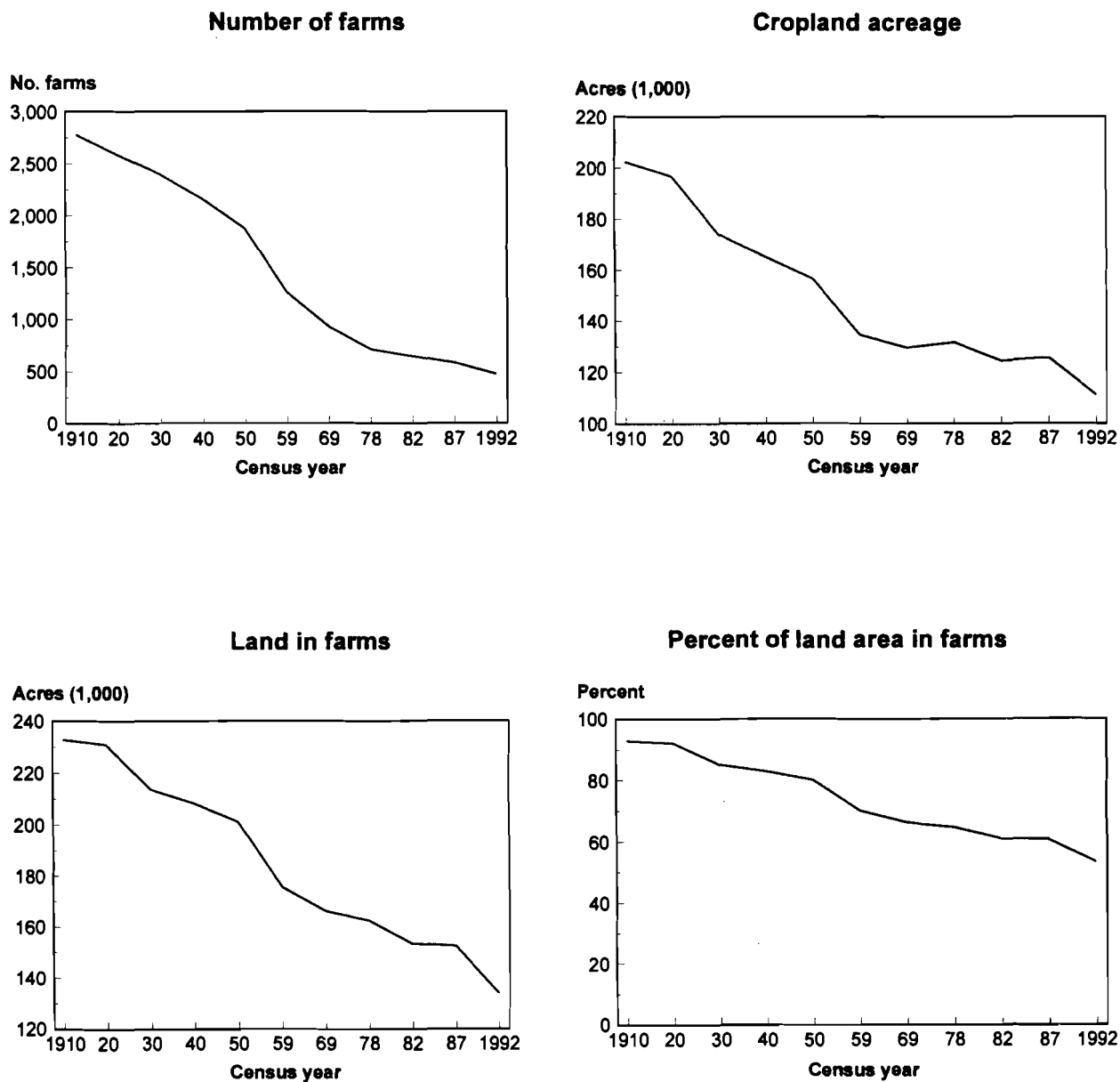
Source: U.S. Census of Agriculture.

Table 37. Changes in Land Use in Orleans County, Selected Years, 1910-1992

<u>Description</u>	<u>1910</u>	<u>1940</u>	<u>1969</u>	<u>1992</u>
Farm numbers	2,780	2,161	928	469
<u>Agriculture</u>	<i>Thousand acres</i>			
Improved land/cropland ¹	202.4	165.3	129.6	111.3
Farm woodland	16.3	15.0	14.1	13.6
All other/unimproved	<u>14.2</u>	<u>27.9</u>	<u>22.5</u>	<u>9.0</u>
Total land in farms	232.9	208.2	166.2	133.9
<u>Other Uses</u>				
Roads, urban ²	10.1			17.7
Parks and privately owned	<u>10.4</u>			<u>101.8</u>
Total land area	253.4			253.4
	<i>Percent of land area</i>			
Improved land/cropland	79.9	65.2	51.1	43.9
All land in farms	91.9	82.2	65.6	52.8
Mostly forested: government and private ownership	16.1			49.1
Source: Census of Agriculture.				
¹ Improved land in 1910; cropland 1940 to present.				
² Estimated as 4% in 1910 and 7% in 1992.				

Orleans County

Orleans is one of the state's smallest counties and is located on the south shore of Lake Ontario, between Niagara Falls and Rochester. It remains primarily a rural county with commercial agriculture a major source of economic activity. In 1910 almost 92 percent of its land area was in farms. Crops and pasture accounted for 80 percent of the total. By 1940 farm numbers had decreased by 600 units but land in farms still accounted for 82 percent of the area, third highest in the state. After the War, more than half of the farms went out of business as former operators commuted to off-farm jobs or moved to town. Cropland still accounted for more than 51 percent of the land area in 1969. In the 1970s and '80s, farm numbers continued to dwindle but at a slower rate. Cropland still accounted for 44 percent of the land area; only two counties had higher proportions. Agricultural sales in 1992 were \$52 million, ranking Orleans 24th among the counties but making it relatively more important if some correction is taken for the small physical area compared with many other counties.

Figure 35. Farming Trends for Orleans County, 1910-92

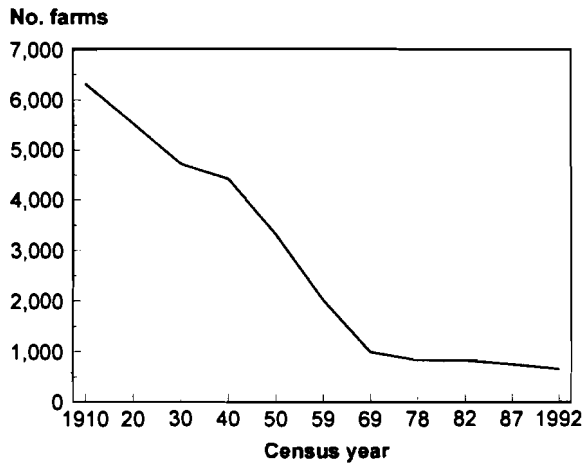
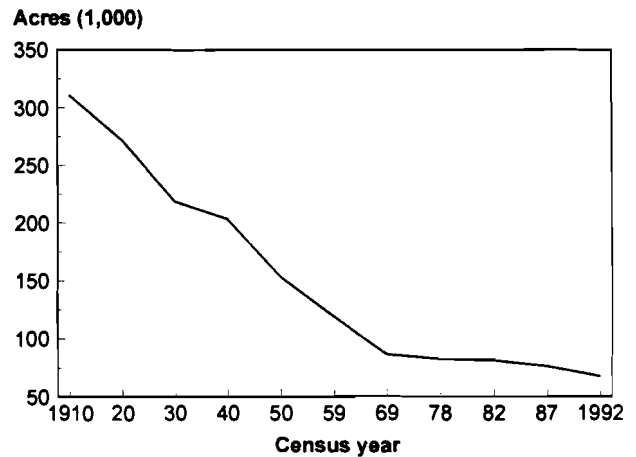
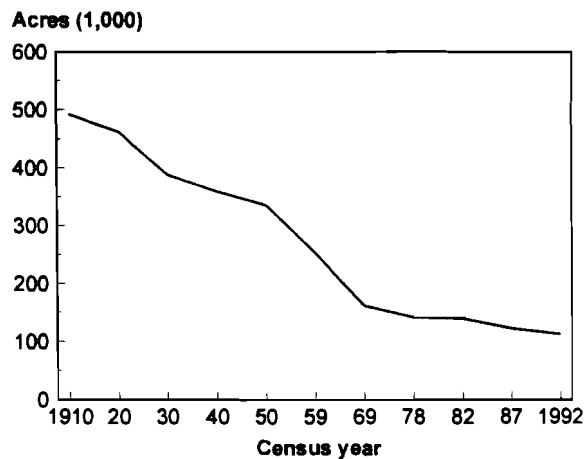
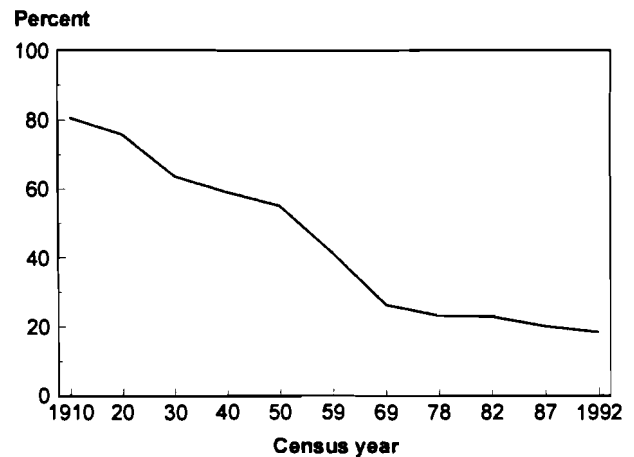
Source: U.S. Census of Agriculture.

Table 38. Changes in Land Use in Oswego County, Selected Years, 1910-1992

<u>Description</u>	<u>1910</u>	<u>1940</u>	<u>1969</u>	<u>1992</u>
Farm numbers	6,319	4,426	1,000	659
<u>Agriculture</u>	<i>Thousand acres</i>			
Improved land/cropland ¹	311.0	203.5	87.2	67.8
Farm woodland	110.5	60.2	40.5	28.7
All other/unimproved	<u>70.5</u>	<u>96.1</u>	<u>33.6</u>	<u>15.8</u>
Total land in farms	492.0	359.8	161.3	112.3
<u>Other Uses</u>				
Roads, urban ²	24.7			43.2
Parks and privately owned	<u>1.5</u>			<u>461.7</u>
Total land area	617.2			617.2
	<i>Percent of land area</i>			
Improved land/cropland	50.3	32.8	14.1	11.0
All land in farms	79.6	58.1	26.1	18.2
Mostly forested: government and private ownership	45.6			82.0
Source: Census of Agriculture.				
¹ Improved land in 1910; cropland 1940 to present.				
² Estimated as 4% in 1910 and 7% in 1992.				

Oswego County

Oswego borders Lake Ontario on the west and includes part of the Tug Hill area on the east. It is a county of many different soil types and conditions. In 1910 land in farms accounted for almost 80 percent of the county's area. Only 50 percent of the land area had been cleared for crops and pasture, suggesting large amounts of forest and unimproved land. By 1940 an important part of the agricultural adjustment had occurred, with only 58 percent of the area remaining in farms and cropland taking 33 percent. Even larger adjustments occurred after the War. Farm numbers dropped to 1,000, with land in farms down to 26 percent of the area. In the 1970s and '80s, additional land moved out of farming, some to suburbanization but most to private owners for rural living and recreation. Agricultural sales in 1992 were \$31 million, placing the county 37th out of 56 counties.

Figure 36. Farming Trends for Oswego County, 1910-92**Number of farms****Cropland acreage****Land in farms****Percent of land area in farms**

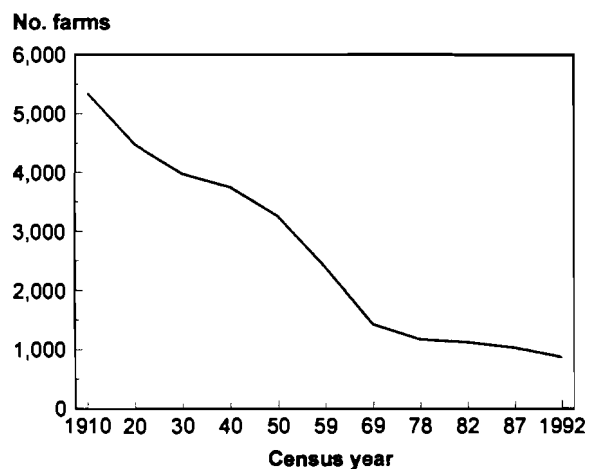
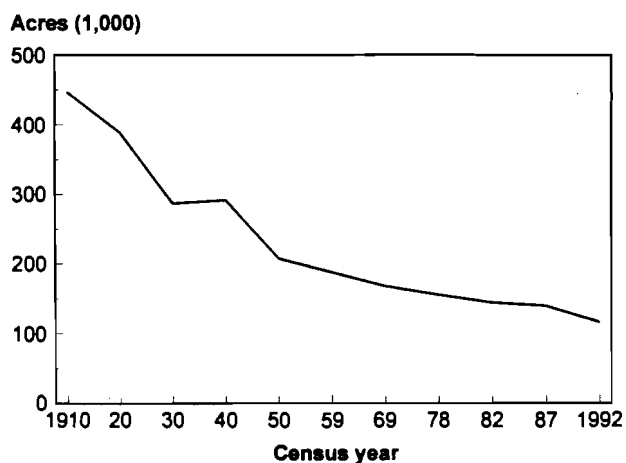
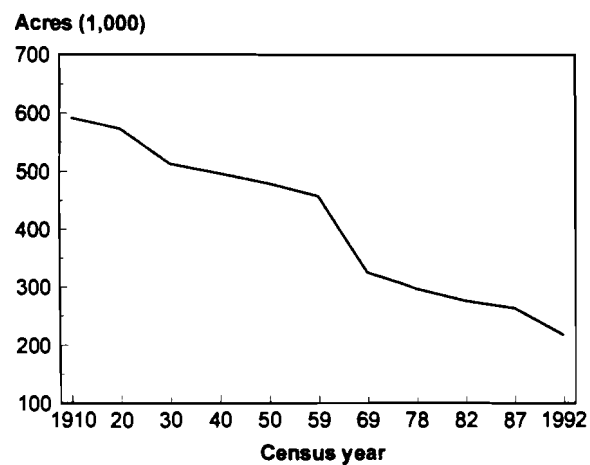
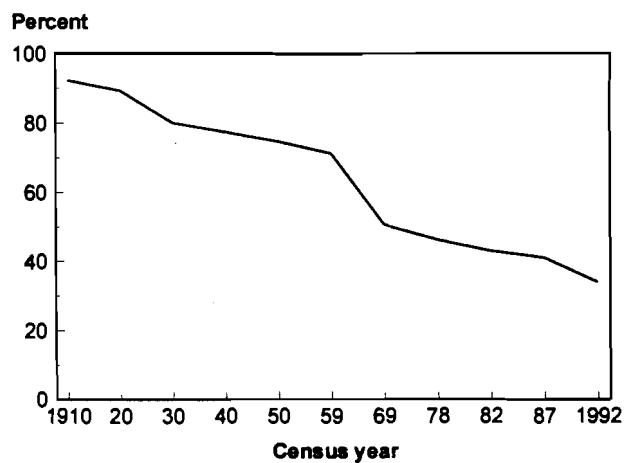
Source: U.S. Census of Agriculture.

Table 39. Changes in Land Use in Otsego County, Selected Years, 1910-1992

<u>Description</u>	<u>1910</u>	<u>1940</u>	<u>1969</u>	<u>1992</u>
Farm numbers	5,346	3,752	1,427	867
<u>Agriculture</u>	<i>Thousand acres</i>			
Improved land/cropland ¹	446.7	291.6	168.1	116.4
Farm woodland	120.1	96.1	84.7	61.5
All other/unimproved	<u>25.7</u>	<u>108.8</u>	<u>72.8</u>	<u>40.4</u>
Total land in farms	592.5	496.5	325.6	218.3
<u>Other Uses</u>				
Roads, urban ²	19.5			45.4
Parks and privately owned	<u>36.5</u>			<u>384.8</u>
Total land area	648.5			648.5
	<i>Percent of land area</i>			
Improved land/cropland	69.2	45.0	25.9	17.9
All land in farms	91.8	76.6	50.2	33.7
Mostly forested: government and private ownership	28.1			75.1
Source: Census of Agriculture.				
¹ Improved land in 1910; cropland 1940 to present.				
² Estimated as 3% in 1910 and 7% in 1992.				

Otsego County

Otsego is one of the hill-and-valley counties of the Eastern Plateau. It was largely settled by the early 1800s. In 1910 almost 92 percent of the land area was in farms. Substantial forest and unimproved land was incorporated in these farms. Crops and pasture accounted for 69 percent of the area. By 1940 large quantities of land once used for crops and pasture (150,000 acres) had reverted to brush and trees. Land in farms accounted for nearly 77 percent of the area. The state acquired some 16,000 acres for reforestation. In the years after the War, farm numbers were more than cut in half; farm size increased and the rougher fields, not easily mechanized, were no longer cropped. Still 50 percent of the land area was in farms in 1969. In the 1970s and '80s, land in farms continued to decrease at a somewhat faster pace than in counties to the west. While the county remains rural in character with no major cities, some urban influences on land prices have begun to appear. In 1992 agricultural sales were \$58 million, placing the county 18th in rank in the state.

Figure 37. Farming Trends for Otsego County, 1910-92**Number of farms****Cropland acreage****Land in farms****Percent of land area in farms**

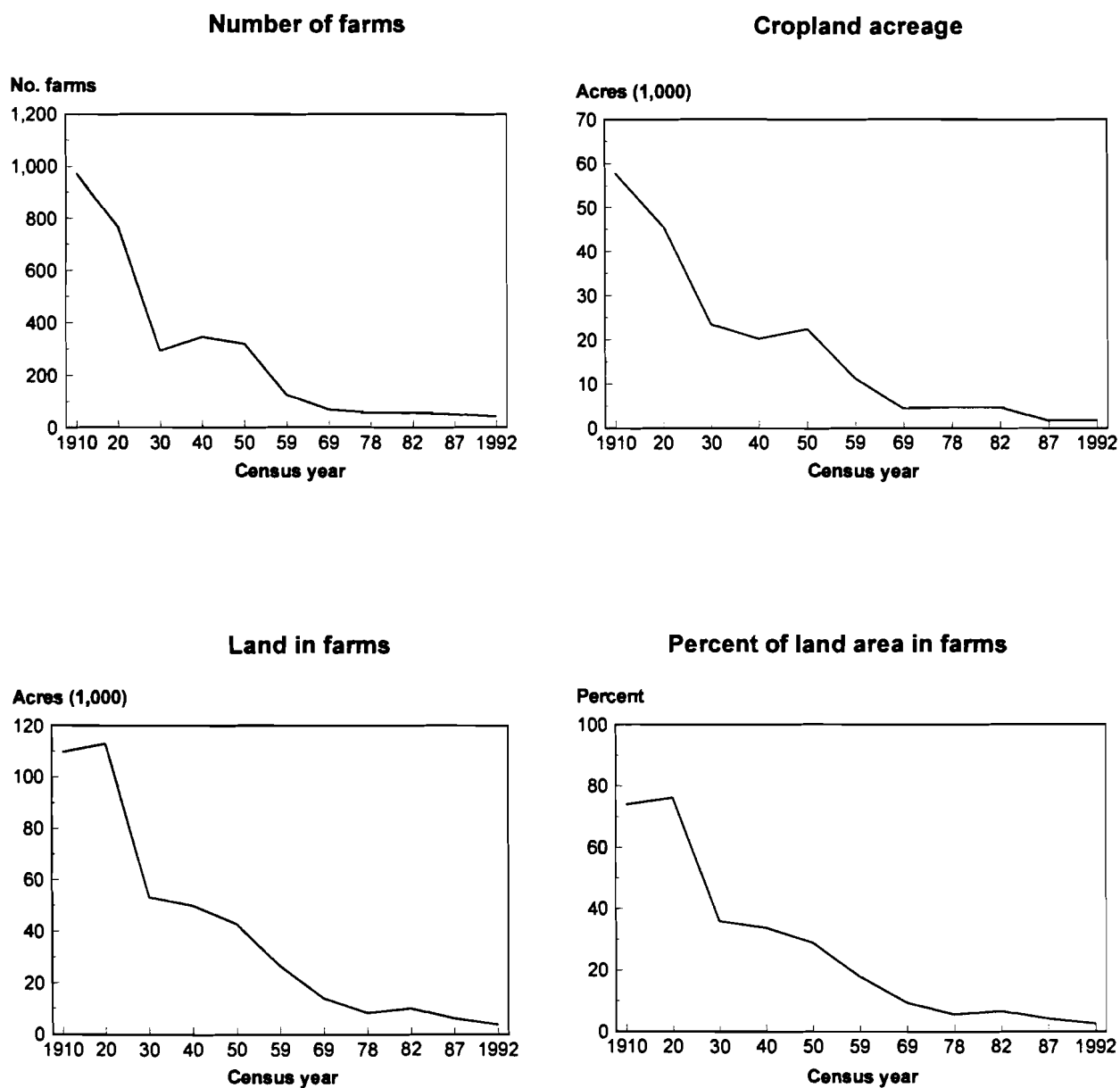
Source: U.S. Census of Agriculture.

Table 40. Changes in Land Use in Putnam County, Selected Years, 1910-1992

<u>Description</u>	<u>1910</u>	<u>1940</u>	<u>1969</u>	<u>1992</u>
Farm numbers	973	346	69	42
<u>Agriculture</u>	<i>Thousand acres</i>			
Improved land/cropland ¹	57.8	20.2	4.5	1.8
Farm woodland	34.1	17.2	5.5	1.3
All other/unimproved	<u>17.9</u>	<u>12.5</u>	<u>3.9</u>	<u>.7</u>
Total land in farms	109.7	49.9	13.9	3.8
<u>Other Uses</u>				
Roads, urban ²	7.4			29.6
Parks and privately owned	<u>30.9</u>			<u>114.6</u>
Total land area	148.0			148.0
	<i>Percent of land area</i>			
Improved land/cropland	38.8	13.4	3.0	1.2
All land in farms	73.6	33.2	9.4	2.6
Mostly forested: government and private ownership	56.0			78.8
Source: Census of Agriculture.				
¹ Improved land in 1910; cropland 1940 to present.				
² Estimated as 5% in 1910 and 20% in 1992.				

Putnam County

Putnam is a small county in area and is relatively close to New York City. In 1910 land in farms amounted to nearly 74 percent of its area; crops and pasture were less than 40 percent. The rocky, rough terrain did not lend itself well to commercial farming, and much of the land returned to brush and trees in the 1920s and '30s. Land in farms amounted to 33 percent of the area by 1940. Many of the 346 farms were already part-time businesses. In the post-war years, land in farms was further reduced to less than 10 percent of the total by 1969. Large parts of the land area are in trees and park land. In 1992 less than 3 percent of the area remained in farms and agricultural sales were a little less than \$2 million.

Figure 38. Farming Trends for Putnam County, 1910-92

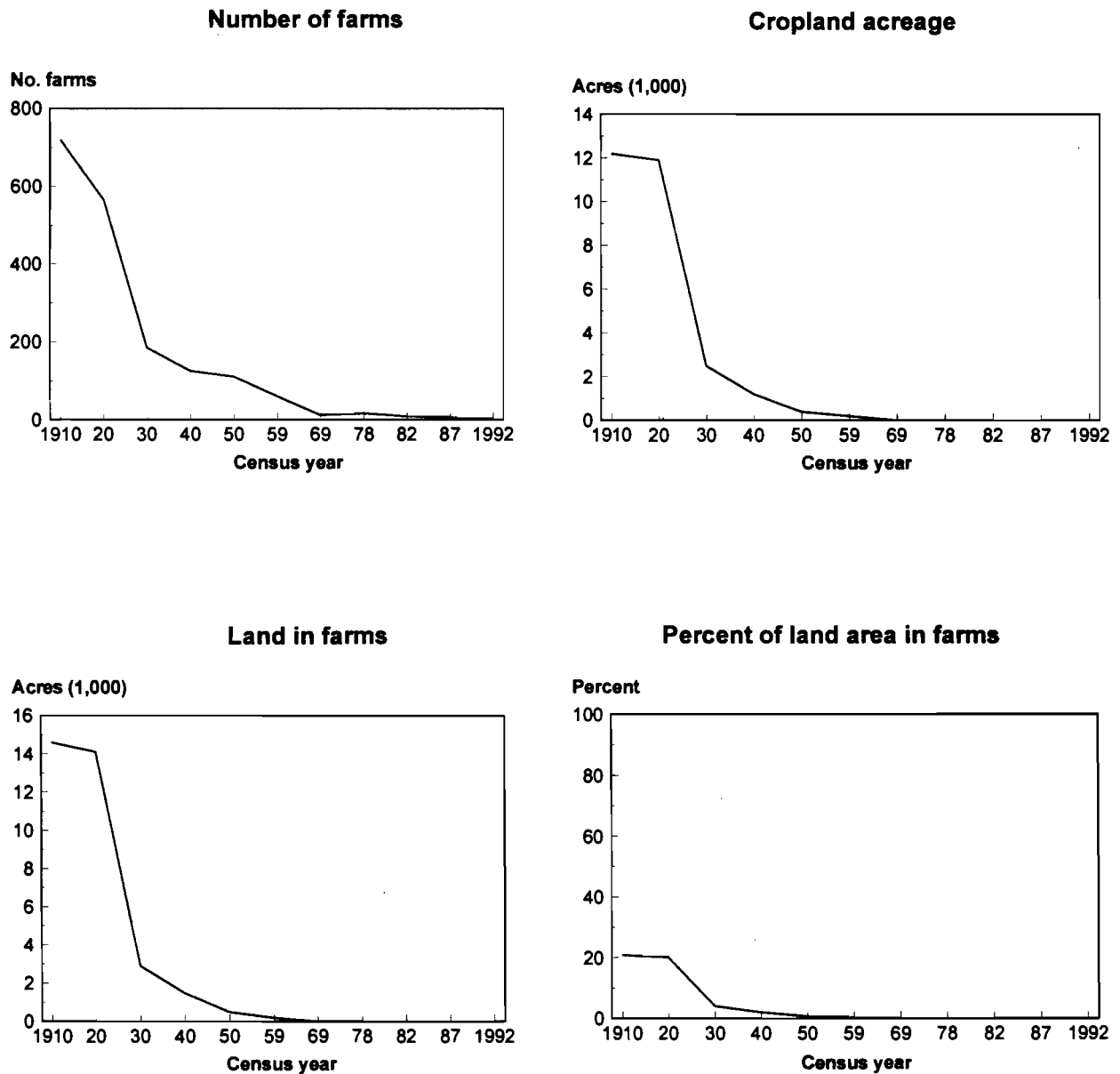
Source: U.S. Census of Agriculture.

Table 41. Changes in Land Use in Queens County, Selected Years, 1910-1992

<u>Description</u>	<u>1910</u>	<u>1940</u>	<u>1969</u>	<u>1992</u>
Farm numbers	720	126	12	0
<u>Agriculture</u>		<i>Thousand acres</i>		
Improved land/cropland ¹	12.2	1.2	.14	0
Farm woodland	1.0	.1	.10	0
All other/unimproved	<u>1.4</u>	<u>.2</u>	<u>.20</u>	<u>0</u>
Total land in farms	14.6	1.5	.17	
<u>Other Uses</u>				
Roads, urban ²	41.5			
Parks and privately owned	<u>13.0</u>			<u>0</u>
Total land area	69.1			
		<i>Percent of land area</i>		
Improved land/cropland	18.2	1.8		0
All land in farms	21.7	2.1		0
Mostly forested: government and private ownership	22.3			0
Source: Census of Agriculture.				
¹ Improved land in 1910; cropland 1940 to present.				
² Estimated as 60% in 1910 and 100% in 1992.				

Queens County

Queens is one of the five counties making up New York City. At the turn of the century there were still some farms within the borders of the city. In the 1910 census, Queens had 720 farms which accounted for 22 percent of the county's area. In 1940 farm numbers were down to 126 and these averaged only 12 acres in size. By 1969 there were 12 farms listed but agriculture was essentially gone within the City's borders except for production of a few specialty crops.

Figure 39. Farming Trends for Queens County, 1910-92

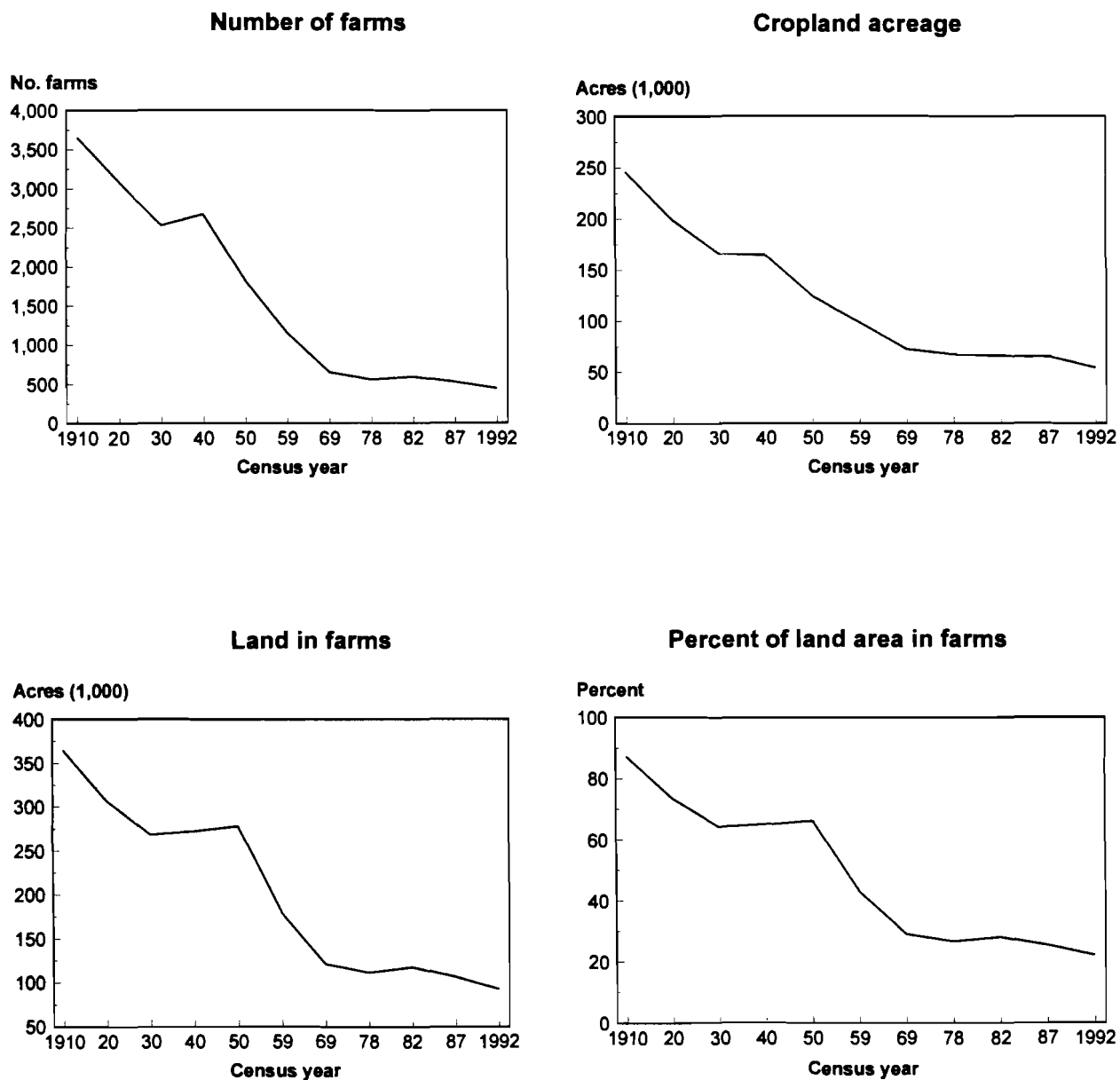
Source: U.S. Census of Agriculture.

Table 42. Changes in Land Use in Rensselaer County, Selected Years, 1910-1992

<u>Description</u>	<u>1910</u>	<u>1940</u>	<u>1969</u>	<u>1992</u>
Farm numbers	3,654	2,675	649	444
<u>Agriculture</u>	<i>Thousand acres</i>			
Improved land/cropland ¹	245.7	164.5	72.5	53.9
Farm woodland	76.6	63.7	29.9	24.4
All other/unimproved	<u>43.2</u>	<u>44.0</u>	<u>19.3</u>	<u>14.4</u>
Total land in farms	365.5	272.2	121.7	92.7
<u>Other Uses</u>				
Roads, urban ²	21.3			51.1
Parks and privately owned	<u>39.1</u>			<u>282.1</u>
Total land area	425.9			425.9
	<i>Percent of land area</i>			
Improved land/cropland	57.9	38.7	17.0	12.7
All land in farms	86.1	64.0	28.6	21.8
Mostly forested: government and private ownership	37.3			75.3
Source: Census of Agriculture.				
¹ Improved land in 1910; cropland 1940 to present.				
² Estimated as 5% in 1910 and 12% in 1992.				

Rensselaer County

Rensselaer is one of the Hudson Valley counties settled originally by the Dutch and bears the name of its early patroon. By 1910 land in farms accounted for 86 percent of the area with 58 percent of the area cleared for crops and pasture. In the 1920s and '30s, a substantial area reverted to brush and trees as owners of marginal farms sought work in other pursuits. Land in farms dropped to 64 percent of the area in 1940. In the years after the War there was an even more rapid exodus encouraged by the combination of all-weather roads to commute to work and the shift to tractors and mechanized agriculture. In 1969 only 649 farms were counted in the census accounting for 28 percent of the land area. In the 1970s and '80s, the rate of exodus slowed, but farm consolidation continued. Land in farms accounted for only 22 percent of the county's area in 1992. Large areas of the county had returned to woodland, much of it held by non-farm residents commuting to work in the Capital District. In 1992 agricultural sales were \$26 million, ranking Rensselaer County 41st out of the state's 56 counties.

Figure 40. Farming Trends for Rensselaer County, 1910-92

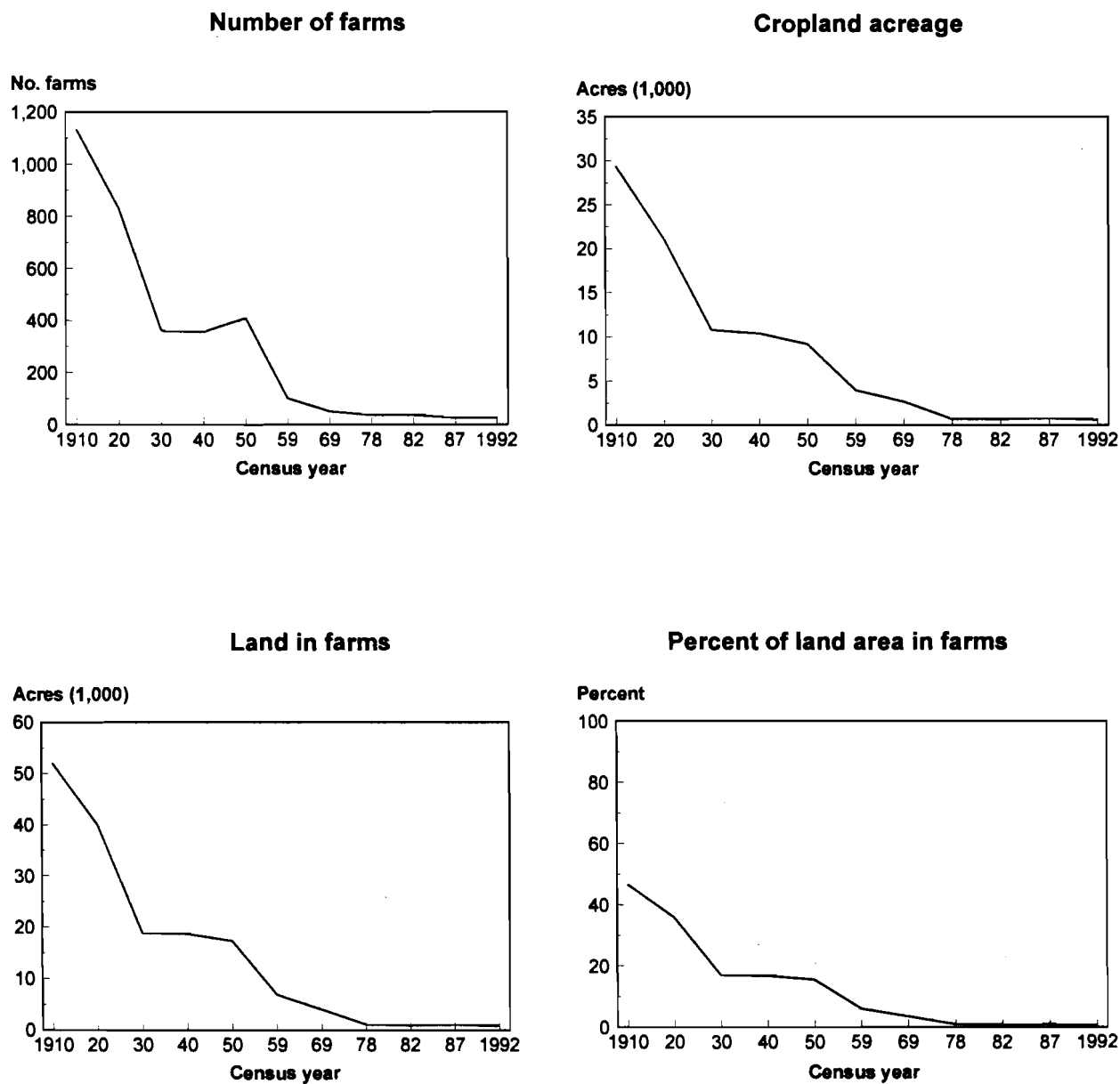
Source: U.S. Census of Agriculture.

Table 43. Changes in Land Use in Rockland County, Selected Years, 1910-1992

<u>Description</u>	<u>1910</u>	<u>1940</u>	<u>1969</u>	<u>1992</u>
Farm numbers	1,133	355	50	27
<u>Agriculture</u>	<i>Thousand acres</i>			
Improved land/cropland ¹	29.4	10.4	2.7	.6
Farm woodland	16.7	5.3	.9	.2
All other/unimproved	<u>6.0</u>	<u>3.0</u>	<u>.4</u>	<u>.1</u>
Total land in farms	52.1	18.7	4.0	.9
<u>Other Uses</u>				
Roads, urban ²	28.2			45.1
Parks and privately owned	<u>32.5</u>			<u>66.8</u>
Total land area	112.8			112.8
	<i>Percent of land area</i>			
Improved land/cropland	26.1	9.1	2.4	0.5
All land in farms	46.2	16.4	3.6	0.8
Mostly forested: government and private ownership	48.9			59.5
Source: Census of Agriculture.				
¹ Improved land in 1910; cropland 1940 to present.				
² Estimated as 25% in 1910 and 40% in 1992.				

Rockland County

Rockland County is well named. On the west and north, important areas are incorporated into the state park system; most of this land was never suited for farming. In 1910 about 46 percent of the county's land area was in farms and 26 percent had been cleared for crops and pasture. By 1940 the 1,133 farms in 1910 had shrunk to 355, and land in farms had decreased to 16 percent of the area. A combination of relatively poor land for agriculture and urbanization led to a relatively rapid move out of farming. After World War II, the suburbanization of the county continued. Farms accounted for only 3.6 percent of the land area in 1969 and less than 1 percent in 1992. Horticultural crops are about all that remain in agriculture in the 1990s.

Figure 41. Farming Trends for Rockland County, 1910-92

Source: U.S. Census of Agriculture.

Table 44. Changes in Land Use in St. Lawrence County, Selected Years, 1910-1992

<u>Description</u>	<u>1910</u>	<u>1940</u>	<u>1969</u>	<u>1992</u>
Farm numbers	8,224	6,236	2,190	1,367
<u>Agriculture</u>	<i>Thousand acres</i>			
Improved land/cropland ¹	542.2	448.0	304.5	225.1
Farm woodland	160.0	141.8	127.3	107.1
All other/unimproved	<u>359.3</u>	<u>335.6</u>	<u>111.7</u>	<u>64.5</u>
Total land in farms	1,061.5	925.4	543.5	396.7
<u>Other Uses</u>				
Roads, urban ²	53.1			88.6
Parks and privately owned	<u>656.8</u>			<u>1,286.1</u>
Total land area	1,771.4			1,771.4
	<i>Percent of land area</i>			
Improved land/cropland	31.3	25.3	17.2	12.7
All land in farms	61.4	52.2	30.7	22.4
Mostly forested: government and private ownership	66.4			82.3

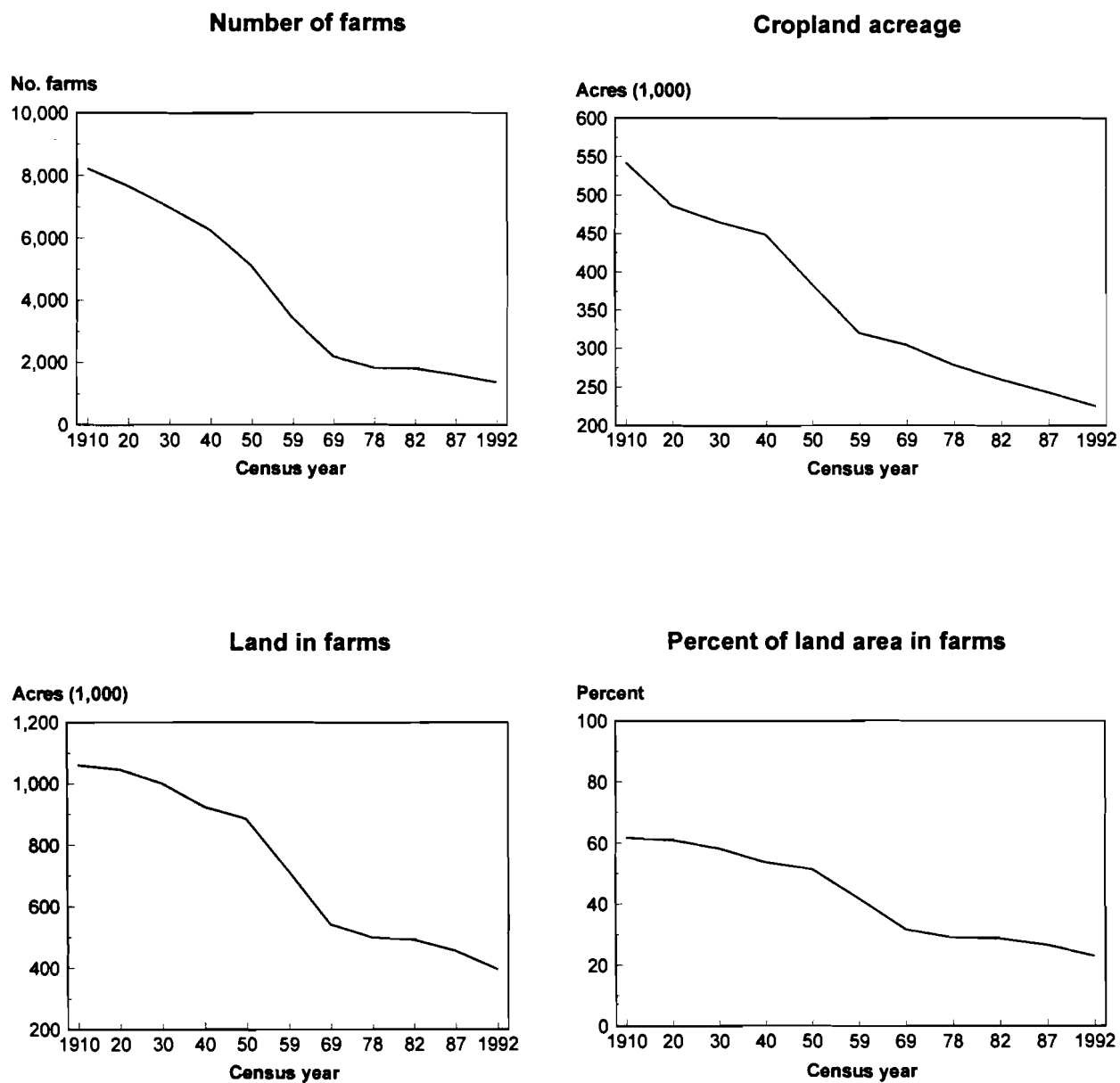
Source: Census of Agriculture.

¹ Improved land in 1910; cropland 1940 to present.

² Estimated as 3% in 1910 and 5% in 1992.

St. Lawrence County

St. Lawrence is the largest county in the state containing 5.8 percent of the land area. Much of the southeastern part is in the Adirondacks and was never cleared for farming. In 1910 land in farms accounted for 61 percent of the total area, with land used for crops and pasture making up 31 percent of the total. In the depression years of the 1920s and '30s, land in farms dropped modestly but proportionately less than in other parts of the state. In 1940 land in farms still accounted for 52 percent of the total. After the War, farm numbers dropped rapidly as farms consolidated and horses were replaced by tractors. By 1969 land in farms had dropped to 31 percent of the county's area, and cropland was a little more than 300,000 acres. During the 1970s and '80s, further reductions in farm numbers occurred. Cropland was down to 225,000 acres in 1992 and a little more than 22 percent of the area was in farms. Agricultural sales in 1992 were \$94 million, third largest in the state. Commercial agriculture is still a key industry in the county's economy. Forestry is a major industry, along with recreation.

Figure 42. Farming Trends for St. Lawrence County, 1910-92

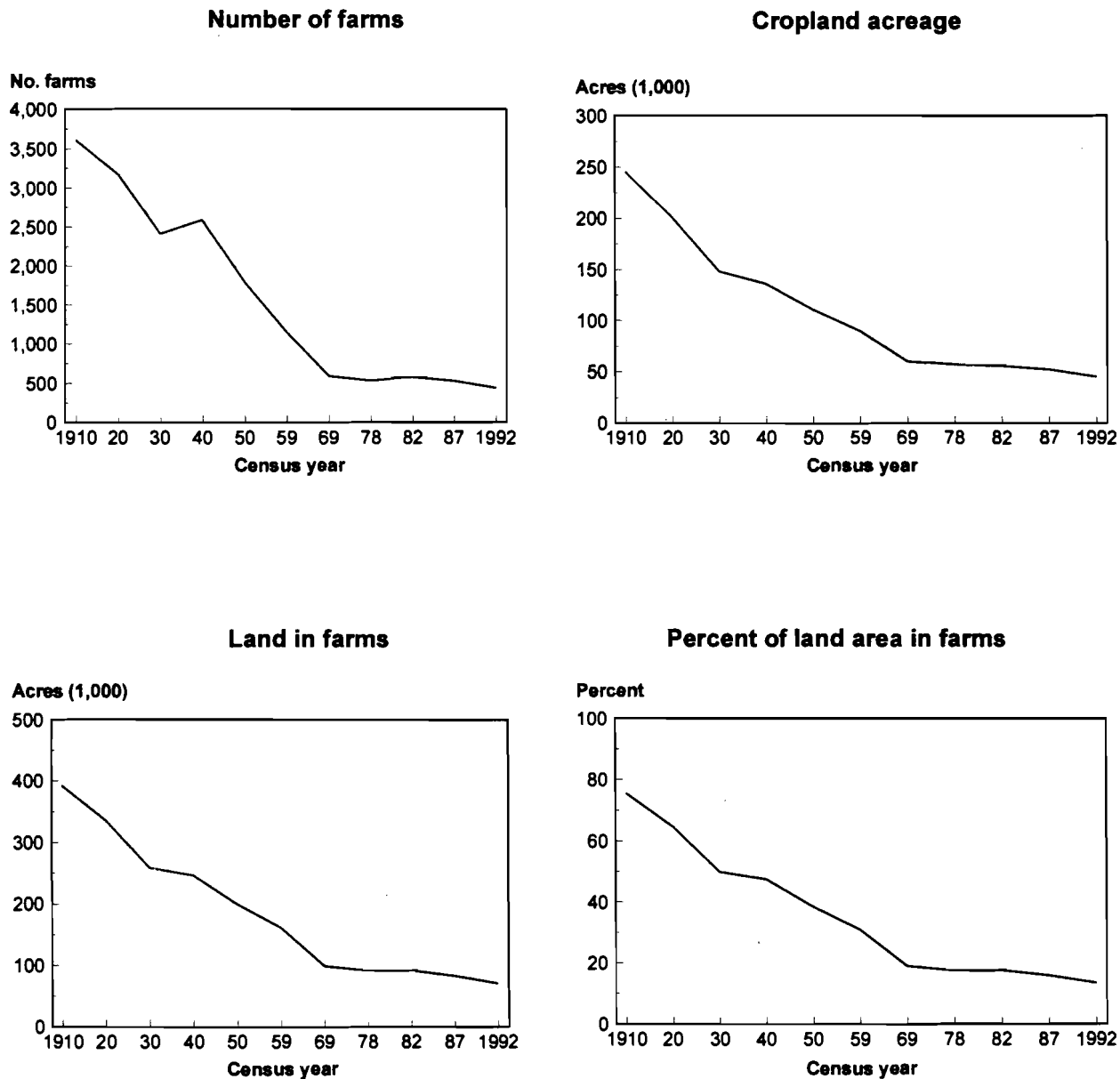
Source: U.S. Census of Agriculture.

Table 45. Changes in Land Use in Saratoga County, Selected Years, 1910-1992

<u>Description</u>	<u>1910</u>	<u>1940</u>	<u>1969</u>	<u>1992</u>
Farm numbers	3,611	2,591	595	443
<u>Agriculture</u>	<i>Thousand acres</i>			
Improved land/cropland ¹	245.7	136.5	60.4	45.3
Farm woodland	1.0	62.3	25.5	15.8
All other/unimproved	<u>46.5</u>	<u>48.3</u>	<u>13.2</u>	<u>9.3</u>
Total land in farms	392.2	247.1	99.1	70.4
<u>Other Uses</u>				
Roads, urban ²	26.2			78.5
Parks and privately owned	<u>105.1</u>			<u>374.6</u>
Total land area	523.5			523.5
		<i>Percent of land area</i>		
Improved land/cropland	46.6	26.2	11.5	8.7
All land in farms	74.5	47.4	18.9	13.4
Mostly forested: government and private ownership	48.1			76.3
Source: Census of Agriculture.				
¹ Improved land in 1910; cropland 1940 to present.				
² Estimated as 5% in 1910 and 15% in 1992.				

Saratoga County

Saratoga borders the Hudson River on the east and includes a part of the Adirondacks on the north and west. By 1910 a little less than 75 percent of its area was in farms and less than 50 percent was cleared for crops and pasture. In the succeeding 30 years, land in farms dropped to 47 percent of the total, and large areas reverted to brush and trees. Farming was further consolidated into the best adapted areas in the 1950s and '60s. By 1969 land in farms was down to 19 percent of the total, and cropland had shrunk to 60,000 acres. Good all-weather roads allowed residents to commute to work at jobs in the Capital District and suburbanization of southern towns in the county had begun. In 1992 only 13 percent of the land area remained in farms as cropland shrank to 45,000 acres. Much of the land area is returning to forest, of which state lands and some forest preserves account for 6-7 percent. Agricultural sales in 1992 were \$24 million.

Figure 43. Farming Trends for Saratoga County, 1910-92

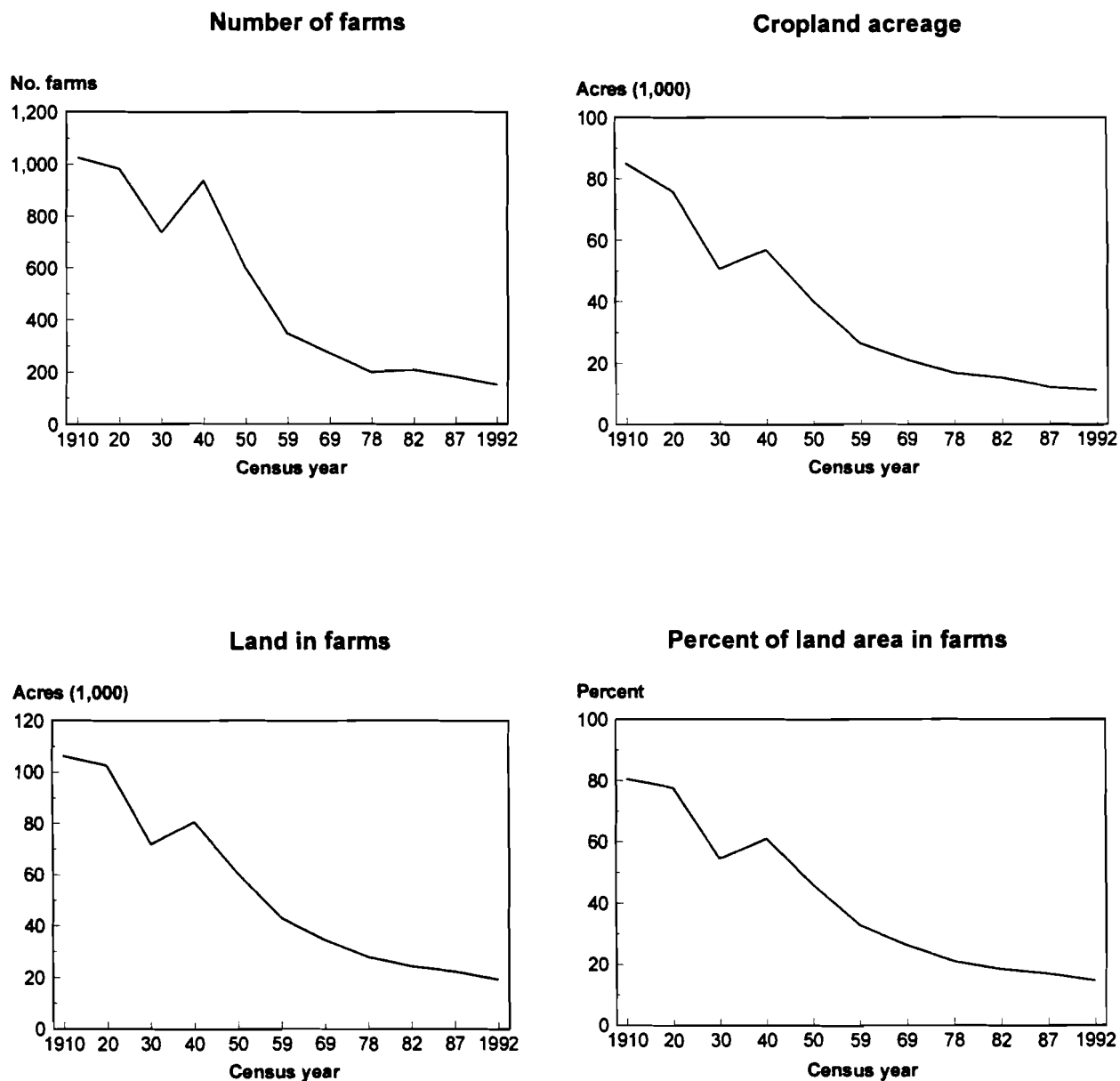
Source: U.S. Census of Agriculture.

Table 46. Changes in Land Use in Schenectady County, Selected Years, 1910-1992

<u>Description</u>	<u>1910</u>	<u>1940</u>	<u>1969</u>	<u>1992</u>
Farm numbers	1,027	938	274	151
<u>Agriculture</u>	<i>Thousand acres</i>			
Improved land/cropland ¹	85.1	56.8	21.1	11.2
Farm woodland	14.3	12.4	6.8	5.5
All other/unimproved	<u>6.9</u>	<u>11.3</u>	<u>6.7</u>	<u>2.5</u>
Total land in farms	106.3	80.5	34.6	19.2
<u>Other Uses</u>				
Roads, urban ²	13.2			39.7
Parks and privately owned	<u>12.9</u>			<u>73.5</u>
Total land area	132.4			132.4
	<i>Percent of land area</i>			
Improved land/cropland	64.6	42.5	15.9	8.5
All land in farms	80.6	60.2	26.1	14.5
Mostly forested: government and private ownership	25.8			61.6
Source: Census of Agriculture.				
¹ Improved land in 1910; cropland 1940 to present.				
² Estimated as 10% in 1910 and 30% in 1992.				

Schenectady County

Schenectady County is the smallest of the upstate counties except for Rockland. Bordering the Mohawk River, it was settled early and the county seat was an early industrial center in the state, home to General Electric and American Locomotive. In 1910 agriculture was still important; 81 percent of the total area was in farms. Between 1910 and 1940 farm numbers were reduced by less than 100, and 60 percent of the county's area was still in farms just before the War. Commuting to jobs in town from farms was already well established. After the War, land in farms dropped rapidly and demand for land for suburban and country living increased apace. Only 26 percent of the land area was in farms in 1969. By 1992 only 151 units were counted as farms, and the majority were part-time businesses. Only 11,000 acres of cropland remained. Agricultural sales were \$12 million in 1992, largely from farms in the western part of the county.

Figure 44. Farming Trends for Schenectady County, 1910-92

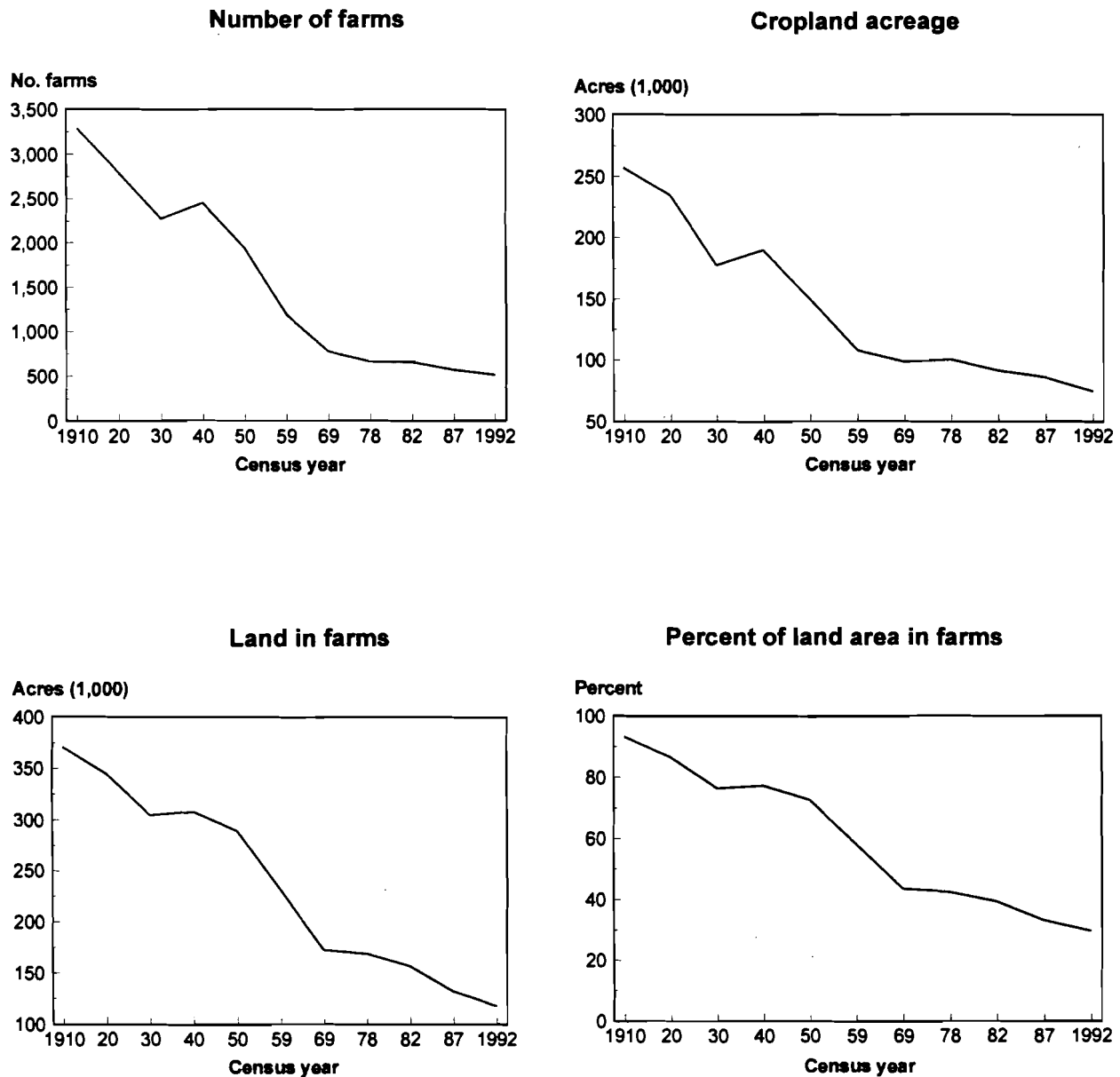
Source: U.S. Census of Agriculture.

Table 47. Changes in Land Use in Schoharie County, Selected Years, 1910-1992

<u>Description</u>	<u>1910</u>	<u>1940</u>	<u>1969</u>	<u>1992</u>
Farm numbers	3,238	2,453	774	516
<u>Agriculture</u>	<i>Thousand acres</i>			
Improved land/cropland ¹	257.1	189.8	98.9	74.7
Farm woodland	73.9	60.8	40.7	26.9
All other/unimproved	<u>40.1</u>	<u>57.2</u>	<u>33.2</u>	<u>16.2</u>
Total land in farms	371.1	307.8	172.8	117.8
<u>Other Uses</u>				
Roads, urban ²	12.0			20.0
Parks and privately owned	<u>15.2</u>			<u>261.5</u>
Total land area	399.3			399.3
		<i>Percent of land area</i>		
Improved land/cropland	62.6	47.5	24.8	18.7
All land in farms	90.3	76.9	43.3	29.5
Mostly forested: government and private ownership	32.4			76.3
Source: Census of Agriculture.				
¹ Improved land in 1910; cropland 1940 to present.				
² Estimated as 3% in 1910 and 5% in 1992.				

Schoharie County

This county in the Eastern Plateau region was among the counties widely settled at the beginning of the 19th century. In 1910 more than 90 percent of the land area was in farms and 63 percent had been cleared for crops and pasture. In the 1920s and '30s land in farms decreased to 77 percent of all the area, but only the poorest hill soils had reverted to brush and trees. After the War, farm numbers and land in farms declined more rapidly. Surviving cropland in 1969 amounted to 99,000 acres and land in farms was down to 43 percent of the area. In the 1970s and '80s, additional acres left agriculture, mostly for use by private owners for recreation and their own enjoyment. Commercial farming is concentrated in the Schoharie Valley and the higher lime soils in the northwestern towns. Land in farms accounts for 30 percent of the county's area in 1992. Agricultural sales that year were \$30 million. Schoharie remains a largely rural county, strongly influenced by the Capital District in the northeast.

Figure 45. Farming Trends for Schoharie County, 1910-92

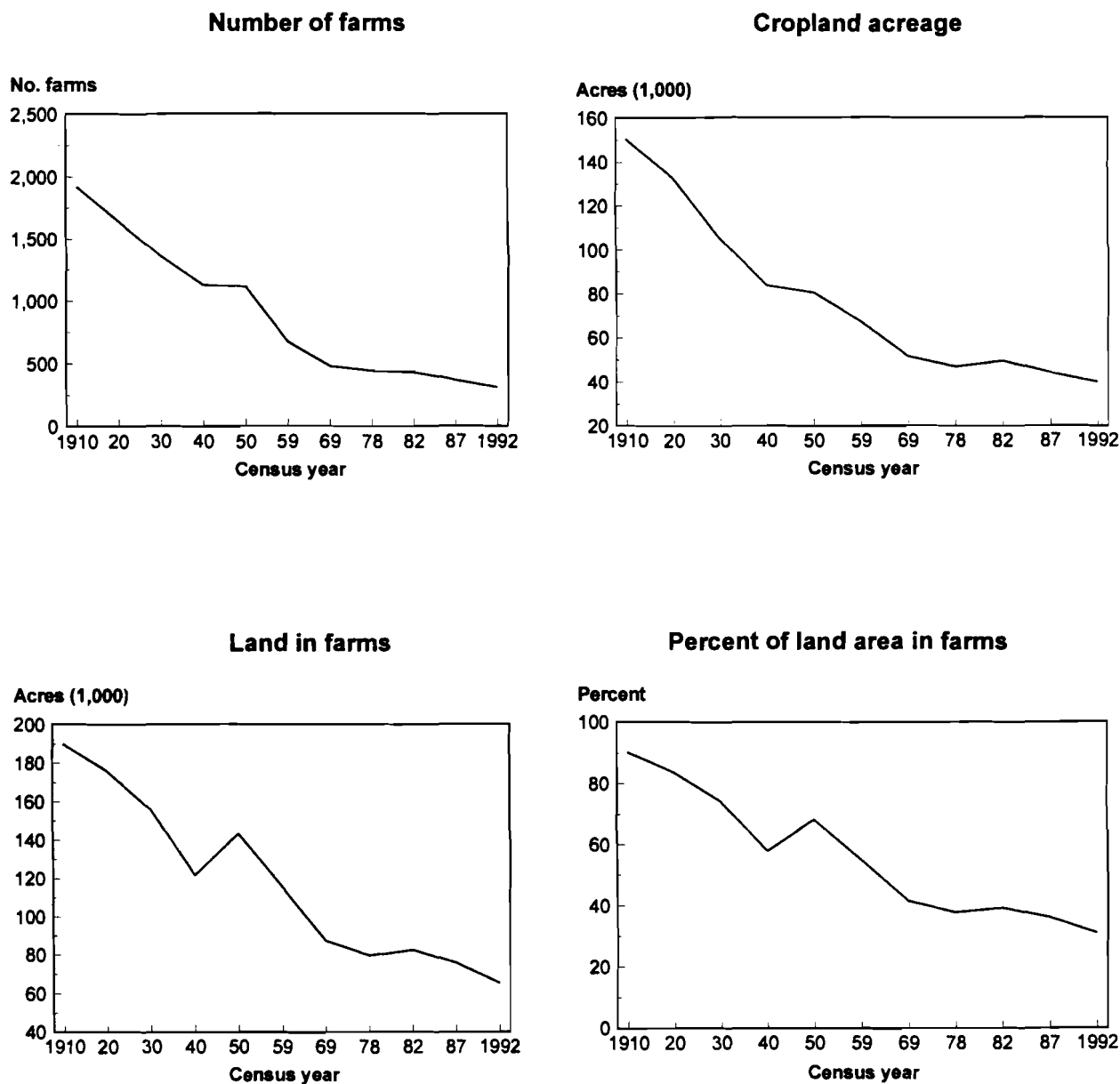
Source: U.S. Census of Agriculture.

Table 48. Changes in Land Use in Schuyler County, Selected Years, 1910-1992

<u>Description</u>	<u>1910</u>	<u>1940</u>	<u>1969</u>	<u>1992</u>
Farm numbers	1,920	1,126	482	312
<u>Agriculture</u>	<i>Thousand acres</i>			
Improved land/cropland ¹	150.5	83.8	51.7	39.9
Farm woodland	32.4	18.1	16.5	13.6
All other/unimproved	<u>7.1</u>	<u>19.7</u>	<u>19.3</u>	<u>11.8</u>
Total land in farms	190.0	121.6	87.5	65.3
<u>Other Uses</u>				
Roads, urban ²	6.3			10.6
Parks and privately owned	<u>14.7</u>			<u>135.1</u>
Total land area	211.0			211.0
	<i>Percent of land area</i>			
Improved land/cropland	70.0	39.6	24.5	18.9
All land in farms	88.4	57.4	41.5	30.9
Mostly forested: government and private ownership	25.7			76.1
Source: Census of Agriculture.				
¹ Improved land in 1910; cropland 1940 to present.				
² Estimated as 3% in 1910 and 5% in 1992.				

Schuyler County

This small county in the Southern Tier of the state surrounds Seneca Lake at its southern end. In 1910 land in farms accounted for 88 percent of the total area with 70 percent cleared for crops and pasture. By 1940 some major changes had occurred because of the tough economic times in the 1920s and '30s. Land in farms dropped to 57 percent of the total, and cropland was down to 40 percent. Substantial areas of hill land in the northeast and southwest were abandoned and reverted to trees and brush. After the War, farm numbers were more than cut in half and only the more productive cropland was retained in the surviving units. Land in farms still accounted for 42 percent of the area in 1969. The federal government took over one block of land in the northeast, the Hector Grazing Area. In 1992 land in farms occupied 31 percent of the land area with 40,000 acres in cropland. Trees and forest dominate the landscape with pockets of fruit farms and dairy remaining. Agricultural sales were \$13 million in 1992, one of the smaller totals in the state.

Figure 46. Farming Trends for Schuyler County, 1910-92

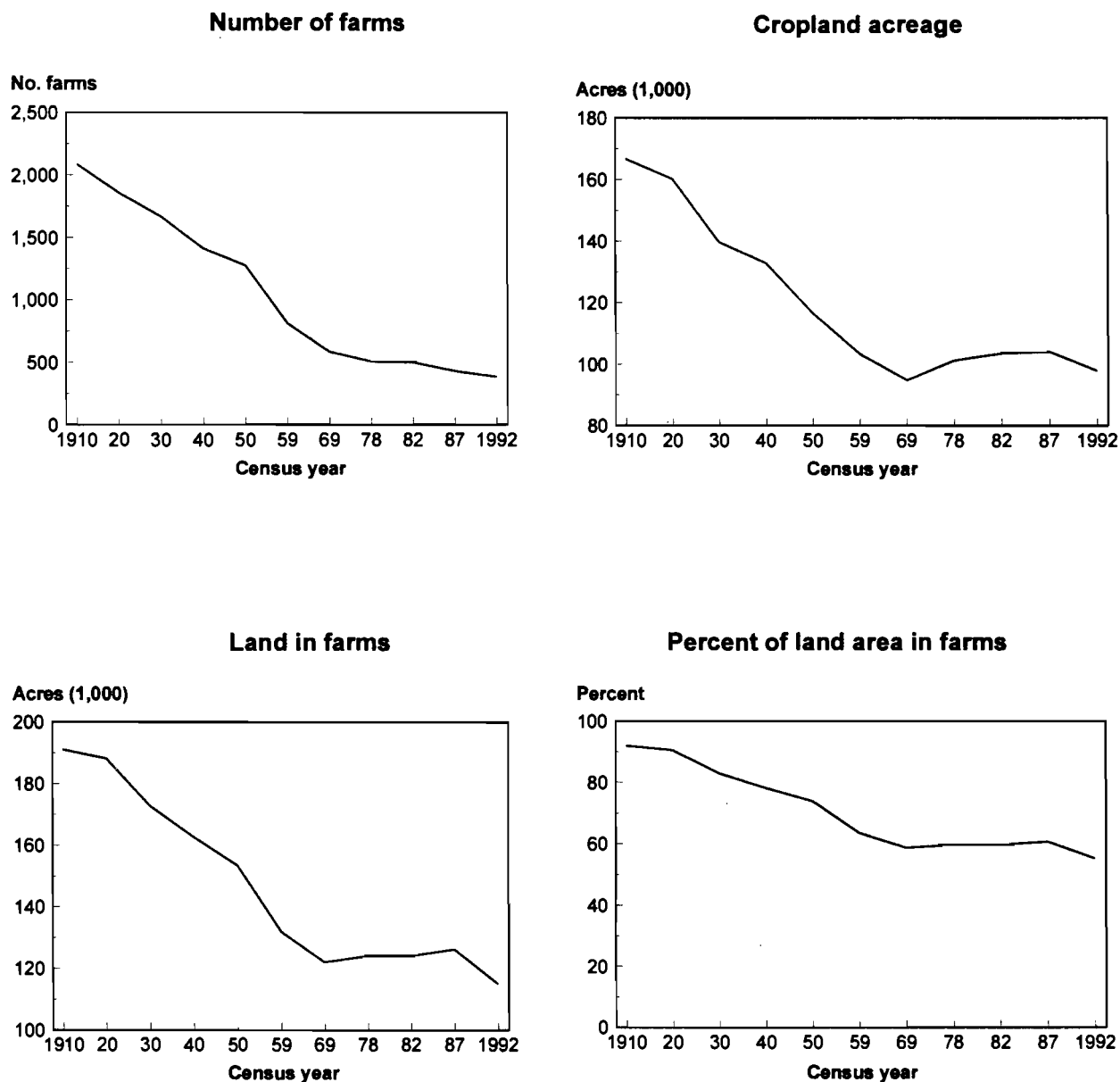
Source: U.S. Census of Agriculture.

Table 49. Changes in Land Use in Seneca County, Selected Years, 1910-1992

<u>Description</u>	<u>1910</u>	<u>1940</u>	<u>1969</u>	<u>1992</u>
Farm numbers	2,085	1,413	585	386
<u>Agriculture</u>	<i>Thousand acres</i>			
Improved land/cropland ¹	166.7	133.0	94.9	97.9
Farm woodland	17.8	12.3	12.5	10.7
All other/unimproved	<u>6.6</u>	<u>17.4</u>	<u>14.7</u>	<u>6.5</u>
Total land in farms	191.1	162.7	122.1	115.1
<u>Other Uses</u>				
Roads, urban ²	8.4			14.8
Parks and privately owned	<u>11.7</u>			<u>81.3</u>
Total land area	211.2			211.2
	<i>Percent of land area</i>			
Improved land/cropland	77.5	63.0	44.9	46.4
All land in farms	88.9	77.0	57.8	54.5
Mostly forested: government and private ownership	17.1			46.6
Source: Census of Agriculture.				
¹ Improved land in 1910; cropland 1940 to present.				
² Estimated as 4% in 1910 and 7% in 1992.				

Seneca County

This county, like its southern neighbor, Schuyler, is one of the state's smallest in area. It lies largely between Seneca and Cayuga Lakes; in the center of the county are two relatively large military installations. In 1910 land in farms included 89 percent of the land area, and crops and pasture accounted for 77.5 percent of the total. During the agricultural depression years of the '20s and '30s, land in farms dropped to 77 percent of the total, and cropland amounted to 133,000 acres in 1940. By 1969 land in farms was down to 58 percent of total area and cropland to 95,000 acres. Over the next two decades, however, cropland actually increased to 98,000 acres, one of the few counties to have this occur. Land in farms in 1992 still accounted for 55 percent of the total area, only neighboring Cayuga had a higher proportion. Agricultural sales in 1992 were \$32 million, 36th in the rank of counties, but relative to the size of the county a positive showing for agriculture.

Figure 47. Farming Trends for Seneca County, 1910-92

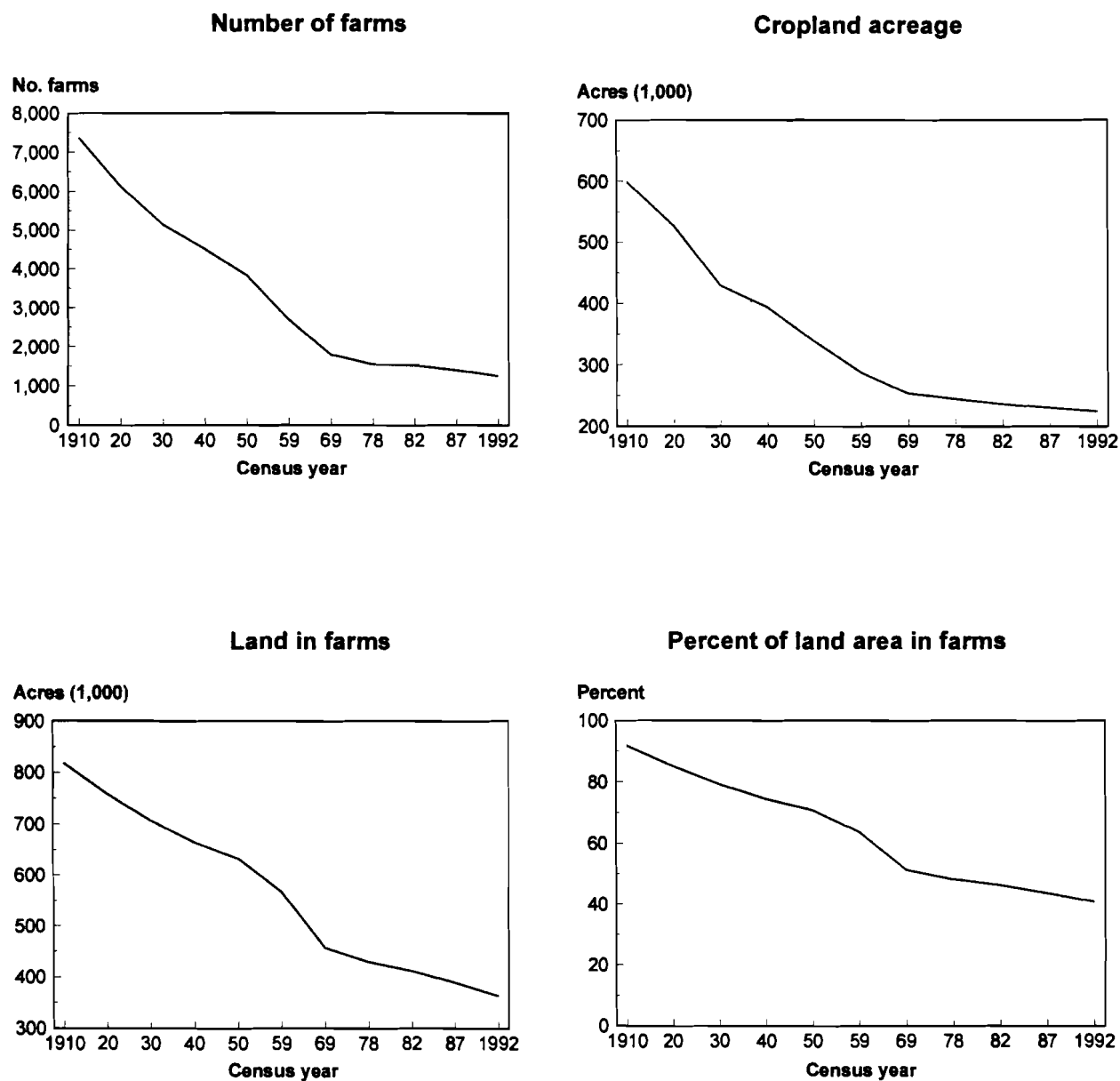
Source: U.S. Census of Agriculture.

Table 50. Changes in Land Use in Steuben County, Selected Years, 1910-1992

<u>Description</u>	<u>1910</u>	<u>1940</u>	<u>1969</u>	<u>1992</u>
Farm numbers	7,363	4,513	1,799	1,254
<u>Agriculture</u>	<i>Thousand acres</i>			
Improved land/cropland ¹	599.3	394.8	253.6	224.7
Farm woodland	168.4	135.0	121.5	89.6
All other/unimproved	<u>50.7</u>	<u>134.2</u>	<u>81.9</u>	<u>49.0</u>
Total land in farms	818.4	664.0	457.0	363.3
<u>Other Uses</u>				
Roads, urban ²	27.1			63.2
Parks and privately owned	<u>57.1</u>			<u>476.1</u>
Total land area	902.6			902.6
	<i>Percent of land area</i>			
Improved land/cropland	66.8	43.8	28.1	24.9
All land in farms	91.3	73.7	50.6	40.3
Mostly forested: government and private ownership	30.6			68.1
Source: Census of Agriculture.				
¹ Improved land in 1910; cropland 1940 to present.				
² Estimated as 3% in 1910 and 7% in 1992.				

Steuben County

This is the ninth largest county in physical area and the biggest in the Southern Tier. In 1910 over 91 percent of the county's area was in farms and two-thirds was in crops or pasture. By 1940, there was a drop in farm numbers of more than 2,800 as important areas of the hills and higher plateau began to revert to brush and trees. Land in farms declined to 74 percent of the area. In the post-war years, farm numbers were sharply reduced again as tractors replaced horses and commercial agriculture became more heavily concentrated in the wider valleys and the northwestern part of the county. In 1969 land in farms still included more than 50 percent of the county's area, highest in the Southern Tier and above average for the state as a whole. Further losses of farms and land in farms occurred in the '70s and '80s; in 1992 land in farms was down to 40 percent, but cropland amounted to nearly 225,000 acres, the second largest total in the state. Agricultural sales were \$82 million in 1992, seventh highest of the counties.

Figure 48. Farming Trends for Steuben County, 1910-92

Source: U.S. Census of Agriculture.

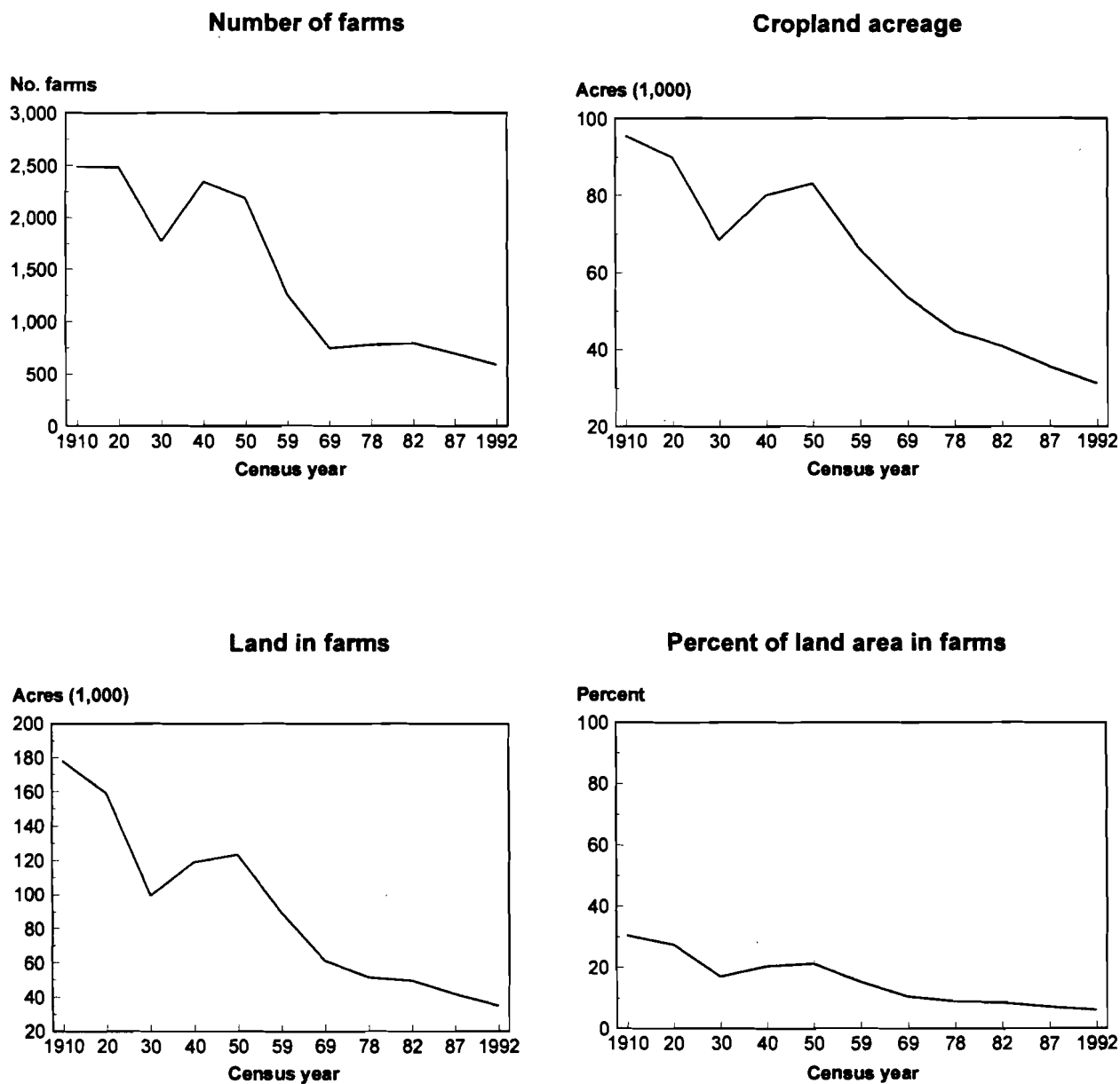
Table 51. Changes in Land Use in Suffolk County, Selected Years, 1910-1992

<u>Description</u>	<u>1910</u>	<u>1940</u>	<u>1969</u>	<u>1992</u>
Farm numbers	2,491	2,344	743	587
<u>Agriculture</u>	<i>Thousand acres</i>			
Improved land/cropland ¹	95.6	80.1	53.6	31.2
Farm woodland	58.4	22.8	3.4	1.7
All other/unimproved	<u>24.1</u>	<u>16.1</u>	<u>4.5</u>	<u>2.5</u>
Total land in farms	178.1	119.0	61.5	35.4
<u>Other Uses</u>				
Roads, urban ²	208.1			445.9
Parks and privately owned	<u>208.3</u>			<u>113.2</u>
Total land area	594.5			594.5
		<i>Percent of land area</i>		
Improved land/cropland	16.2	13.6	9.0	5.2
All land in farms	30.1	20.2	10.3	6.0
Mostly forested: government and private ownership	35.0			19.7

Source: Census of Agriculture.

¹ Improved land in 1910; cropland 1940 to present.² Estimated as 35% in 1910 and 75% in 1992.**Suffolk County**

This large county on the eastern end of Long Island remains a major agricultural county despite its growth in importance as a population center. In 1910 land had been going out of agriculture for some time. Only 30 percent of the land area remained in farms with 16 percent used for crops. An important part of the land in farms continued though the depression years. Cropland in 1940 had declined from 16 percent of the county's area in 1910 to 13.6 percent (80,000 acres). In the post-war years, commercial farming was further compressed into the most productive areas of the north and south forks on the eastern end of the island. Major efforts were undertaken by the county government to halt the loss of open space. In 1969 land in farms was down to 10 percent of the area; in 1992 only 6 percent remained. This high-value cropland is used intensively, primarily for horticultural specialties. Agricultural sales in 1992 were \$134 million, the largest in the state.

Figure 49. Farming Trends for Suffolk County, 1910-92

Source: U.S. Census of Agriculture.

Table 52. Changes in Land Use in Sullivan County, Selected Years, 1910-1992

<u>Description</u>	<u>1910</u>	<u>1940</u>	<u>1969</u>	<u>1992</u>
Farm numbers	3,851	2,778	647	306
<u>Agriculture</u>	<i>Thousand acres</i>			
Improved land/cropland ¹	192.9	119.4	48.3	30.6
Farm woodland	194.9	87.0	26.3	17.3
All other/unimproved	<u>63.4</u>	<u>47.9</u>	<u>18.1</u>	<u>8.1</u>
Total land in farms	451.2	254.3	92.7	56.0
<u>Other Uses</u>				
Roads, urban ²	25.1			43.9
Parks and privately owned	<u>151.1</u>			<u>527.5</u>
Total land area	627.4			627.4
	<i>Percent of land area</i>			
Improved land/cropland	30.0	18.9	7.6	4.9
All land in farms	70.4	40.3	14.8	8.9
Mostly forested: government and private ownership	65.3			88.1

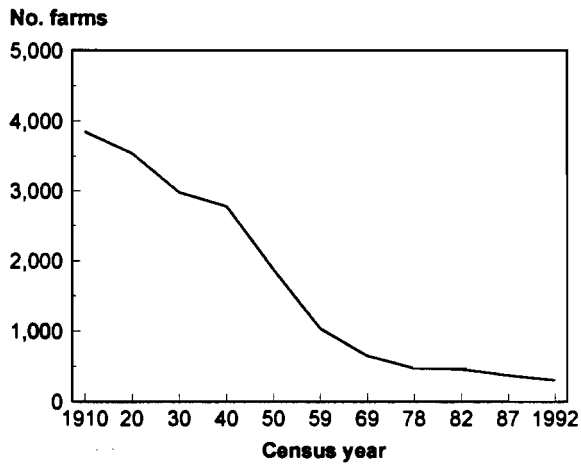
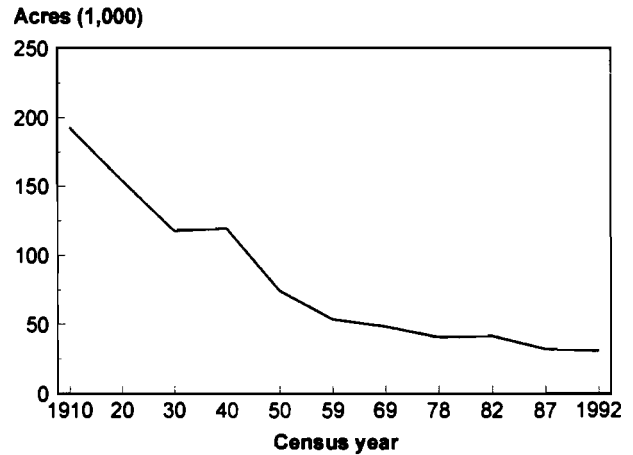
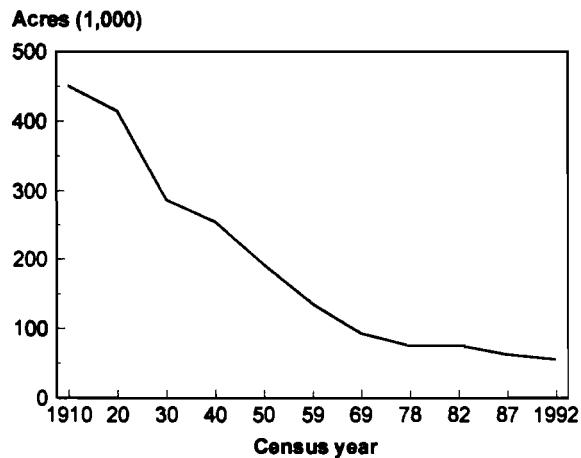
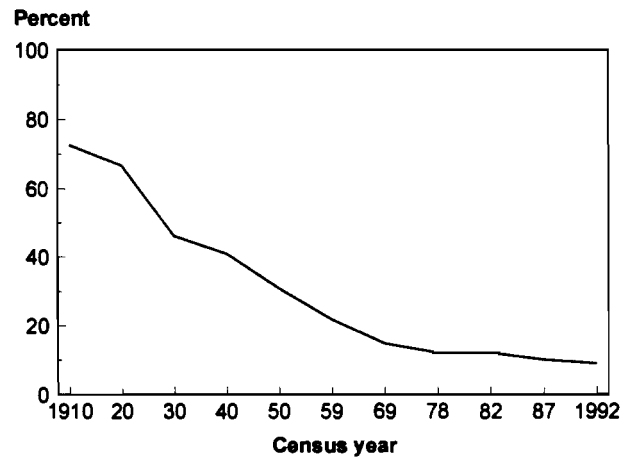
Source: Census of Agriculture.

¹ Improved land in 1910; cropland 1940 to present.

² Estimated as 4% in 1910 and 7% in 1992.

Sullivan County

This relatively large county includes part of the Catskill mountains and the plateau country nearby. In 1910 only 70 percent of the total area was in farms, and of that only 30 percent had been cleared for crops or pasture. Forest and woodland have been the primary uses of land throughout the century. In the 1920s and '30s, cropland was reduced to 19 percent of the total area as farm numbers declined by 1,000 and land in farms dropped to 40 percent. The shift out of farming continued in the 1950s and '60s with land in farms down to 15 percent in 1969. More and more of the former farms were held by private owners, many of whom used them as second residences. By 1992 cropland had declined to 30,000 acres and land in farms was down to 9 percent. Those remaining were in scattered pockets; the once important poultry industry was sharply reduced. Agricultural sales were \$21 million, one of the smaller totals among upstate counties.

Figure 50. Farming Trends for Sullivan County, 1910-92**Number of farms****Cropland acreage****Land in farms****Percent of land area in farms**

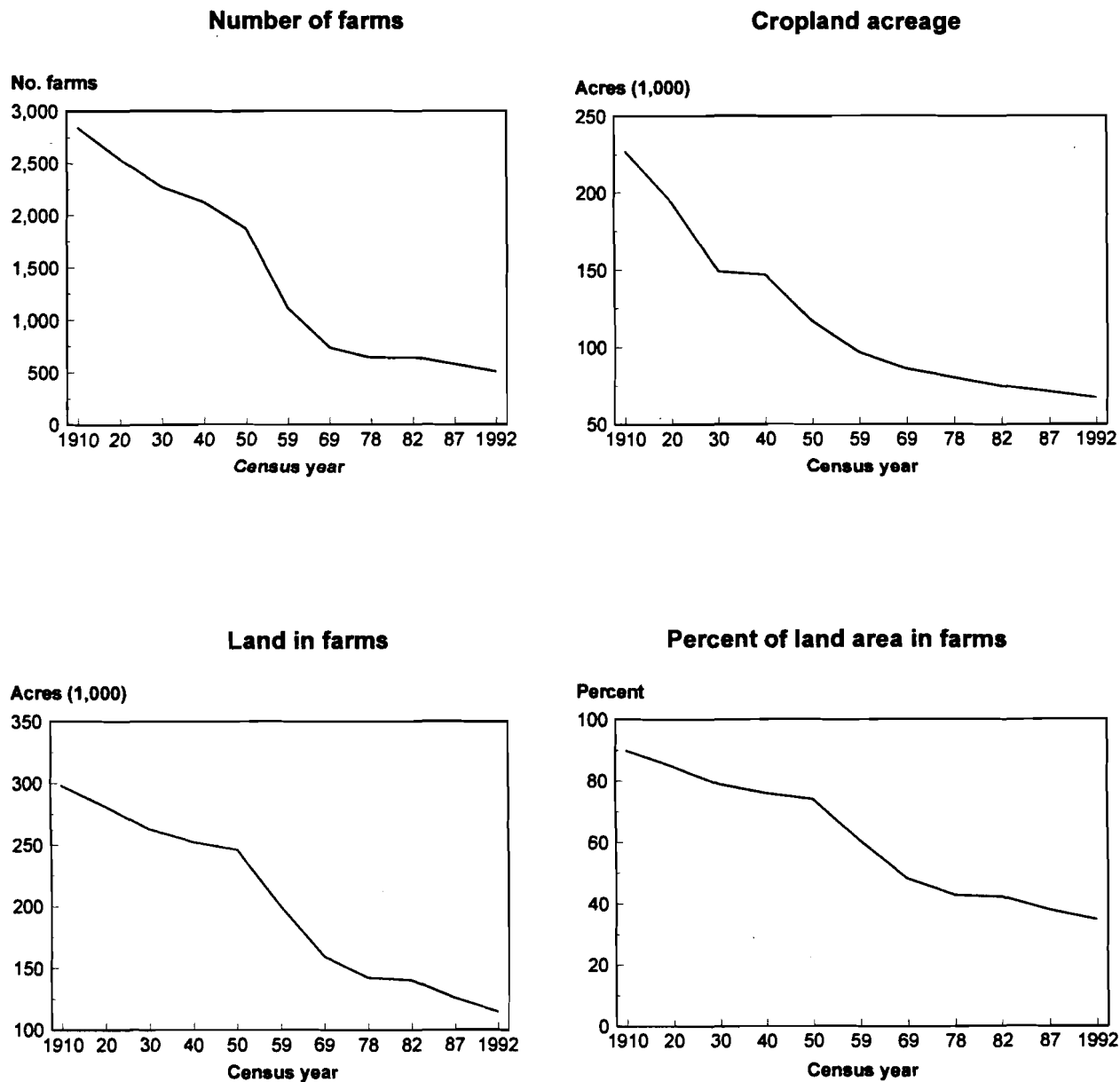
Source: U.S. Census of Agriculture.

Table 53. Changes in Land Use in Tioga County, Selected Years, 1910-1992

<u>Description</u>	<u>1910</u>	<u>1940</u>	<u>1969</u>	<u>1992</u>
Farm numbers	2,844	2,127	734	507
<u>Agriculture</u>	<i>Thousand acres</i>			
Improved land/cropland ¹	227.4	147.2	86.3	67.2
Farm woodland	61.2	52.3	43.6	30.9
All other/unimproved	<u>9.9</u>	<u>52.7</u>	<u>29.7</u>	<u>16.8</u>
Total land in farms	298.5	252.2	159.6	114.9
<u>Other Uses</u>				
Roads, urban ²	13.4			26.8
Parks and privately owned	<u>23.5</u>			<u>193.7</u>
Total land area	335.4			335.4
	<i>Percent of land area</i>			
Improved land/cropland	68.3	43.8	25.7	20.0
All land in farms	89.7	75.1	47.6	34.3
Mostly forested: government and private ownership	28.2			72.0
Source: Census of Agriculture.				
¹ Improved land in 1910; cropland 1940 to present.				
² Estimated as 4% in 1910 and 8% in 1992.				

Tioga County

This largely rural county is located in the Southern Tier between two more heavily urbanized counties, Chemung and Broome, and is strongly influenced by them. Commercial agriculture in the 1990s is largely concentrated in the wider valleys. In 1910 land in farms included 90 percent of the total area. Crops and pasture were found on 68 percent of the total. In the depression years, farm numbers declined by 700, and cropland dropped to 147,000 acres as the less productive hill land reverted to trees or brush. More dramatic reductions in farmland occurred in the 1950s and '60s with less than 50 percent of the area in farms and only 86,000 acres of cropland in 1969. The losses of land in farms continued in the 1970s and '80s but at a slower rate. In 1992 only 34 percent of the area was still in farms, with cropland down to 67,000 acres. Agricultural sales were \$31 million in 1992, ranking the county 39th in the state.

Figure 51. Farming Trends for Tioga County, 1910-92

Source: U.S. Census of Agriculture.

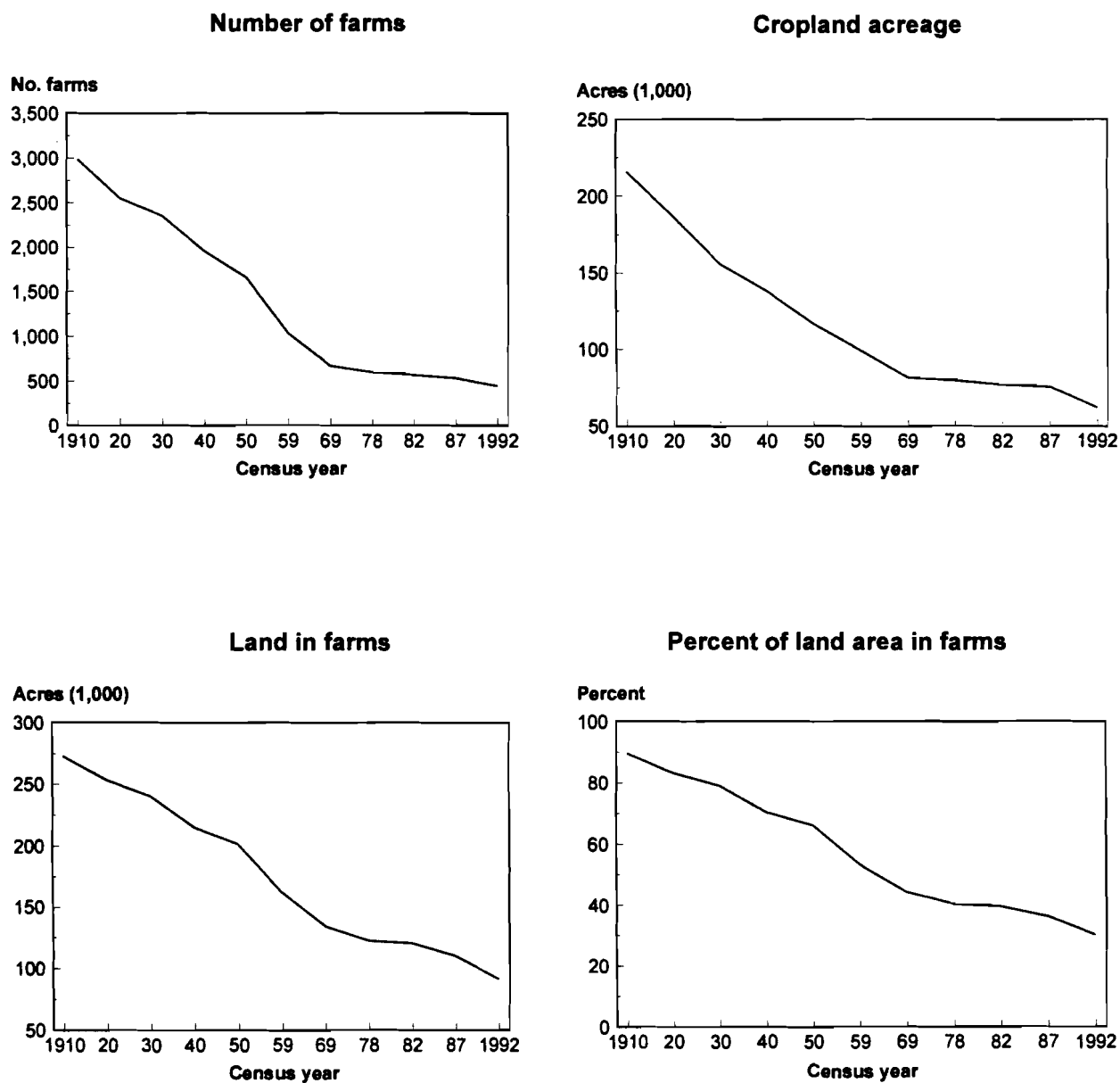
Table 54. Changes in Land Use in Tompkins County, Selected Years, 1910-1992

<u>Description</u>	<u>1910</u>	<u>1940</u>	<u>1969</u>	<u>1992</u>
Farm numbers	2,988	1,966	669	441
<u>Agriculture</u>	<i>Thousand acres</i>			
Improved land/cropland ¹	215.7	138.2	81.5	62.4
Farm woodland	41.4	33.5	29.2	16.9
All other/unimproved	<u>15.9</u>	<u>43.4</u>	<u>24.4</u>	<u>12.5</u>
Total land in farms	273.0	215.1	135.1	91.8
<u>Other Uses</u>				
Roads, urban ²	12.3			24.7
Parks and privately owned	<u>23.2</u>			<u>192.0</u>
Total land area	308.5			308.5
	<i>Percent of land area</i>			
Improved land/cropland	70.8	44.0	26.4	20.2
All land in farms	89.6	68.5	43.8	29.8
Mostly forested: government and private ownership	26.1			71.8

Source: Census of Agriculture.

¹ Improved land in 1910; cropland 1940 to present.² Estimated as 4% in 1910 and 8% in 1992.**Tompkins County**

This county at the southern end of Cayuga Lake includes some highly productive soils in its northern towns but also large areas of hill lands, typical of the Southern Tier, in the south. In 1910 land in farms included 90 percent of the total area with 70 percent in crops or pasture. By 1940 the depression years had reduced land in farms to 69 percent of the area with 1,000 fewer farms and much less land in crops. Farm numbers dropped sharply again in the 1950s and '60s with land in farms in 1969 down to 44 percent of the area. In 1992 cropland reported was only 20 percent of the area, and land in farms, 30 percent. Much of the land in the southern half of the county was now forested; commercial farming remained strong on the better soils in the north. Agricultural sales in 1992 were \$51 million, ranking Tompkins County 27th in the state. Nearly 10 percent of the land area is in state reforestation projects and park land.

Figure 52. Farming Trends for Tompkins County, 1910-92

Source: U.S. Census of Agriculture.

Table 55. Changes in Land Use in Ulster County, Selected Years, 1910-1992

<u>Description</u>	<u>1910</u>	<u>1940</u>	<u>1969</u>	<u>1992</u>
Farm numbers	5,022	3,286	761	433
<u>Agriculture</u>	<i>Thousand acres</i>			
Improved land/cropland ¹	242.3	132.3	54.4	39.4
Farm woodland	207.3	104.2	25.0	18.7
All other/unimproved	<u>47.1</u>	<u>43.6</u>	<u>12.2</u>	<u>11.5</u>
Total land in farms	496.7	280.1	91.6	69.6
<u>Other Uses</u>				
Roads, urban ²	36.5			73.0
Parks and privately owned	<u>197.2</u>			<u>587.8</u>
Total land area	730.4			730.4
	<i>Percent of land area</i>			
Improved land/cropland	33.2	18.1	7.4	5.4
All land in farms	68.1	38.3	12.5	9.5
Mostly forested: government and private ownership	61.8			84.6

Source: Census of Agriculture.

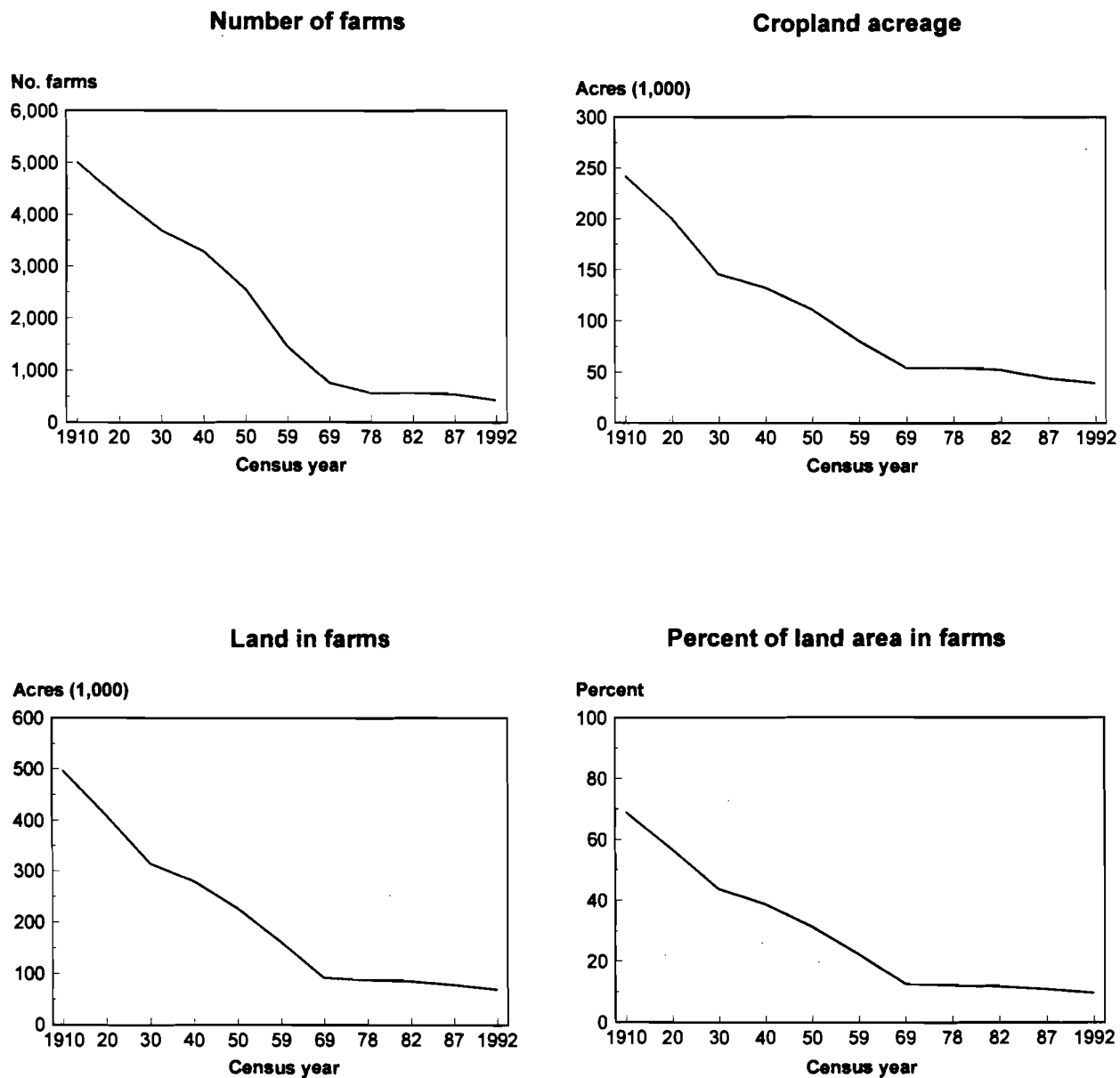
¹ Improved land in 1910; cropland 1940 to present.

² Estimated as 5% in 1910 and 10% in 1992.

Ulster County

This large county, 12th in physical area, incorporates the highest mountains of the Catskills and lands surrounding some of New York City's water supplies. In 1910 land in farms included 68 percent of the physical area, but land cleared for crops and pasture was only 33 percent of the total. Much of the land in farms returned to trees and brush in the 1920s and '30s. Land in farms was down to 38 percent of the area in 1940; cropland to 18 percent. Farm numbers dropped from nearly 3,300 in 1940 to 761 in 1969. The remaining land in farms was largely concentrated in the Rondout Valley, the fruit belt along the Hudson, and in the south of the county.

Land in farms was 12.5 percent of the total area in 1969 and 9.5 percent in 1992. Losses of farmland were modest in the 1970s and '80s, with farm numbers down to 433. Most of the county is forested, with 23 percent in the forest preserve or parklands. Agricultural sales in 1992 were \$51 million, 26th in rank among the counties.

Figure 53. Farming Trends for Ulster County, 1910-92

Source: U.S. Census of Agriculture.

Table 56. Changes in Land Use in Warren County, Selected Years, 1910-1992

<u>Description</u>	<u>1910</u>	<u>1940</u>	<u>1969</u>	<u>1992</u>
Farm numbers	1,865	1,096	58	57
<u>Agriculture</u>	<i>Thousand acres</i>			
Improved land/cropland ¹	1.2	41.1	4.0	1.6
Farm woodland	114.9	57.7	5.2	3.6
All other/unimproved	<u>35.2</u>	<u>20.9</u>	<u>1.4</u>	<u>.6</u>
Total land in farms	250.3	119.7	10.6	5.8
<u>Other Uses</u>				
Roads, urban ²	17.0			34.0
Parks and privately owned	<u>3.4</u>			<u>527.9</u>
Total land area	567.7			567.7
	<i>Percent of land area</i>			
Improved land/cropland	17.8	7.3	0.7	0.3
All land in farms	44.5	21.2	1.9	1.0
Mostly forested: government and private ownership	79.4			93.7

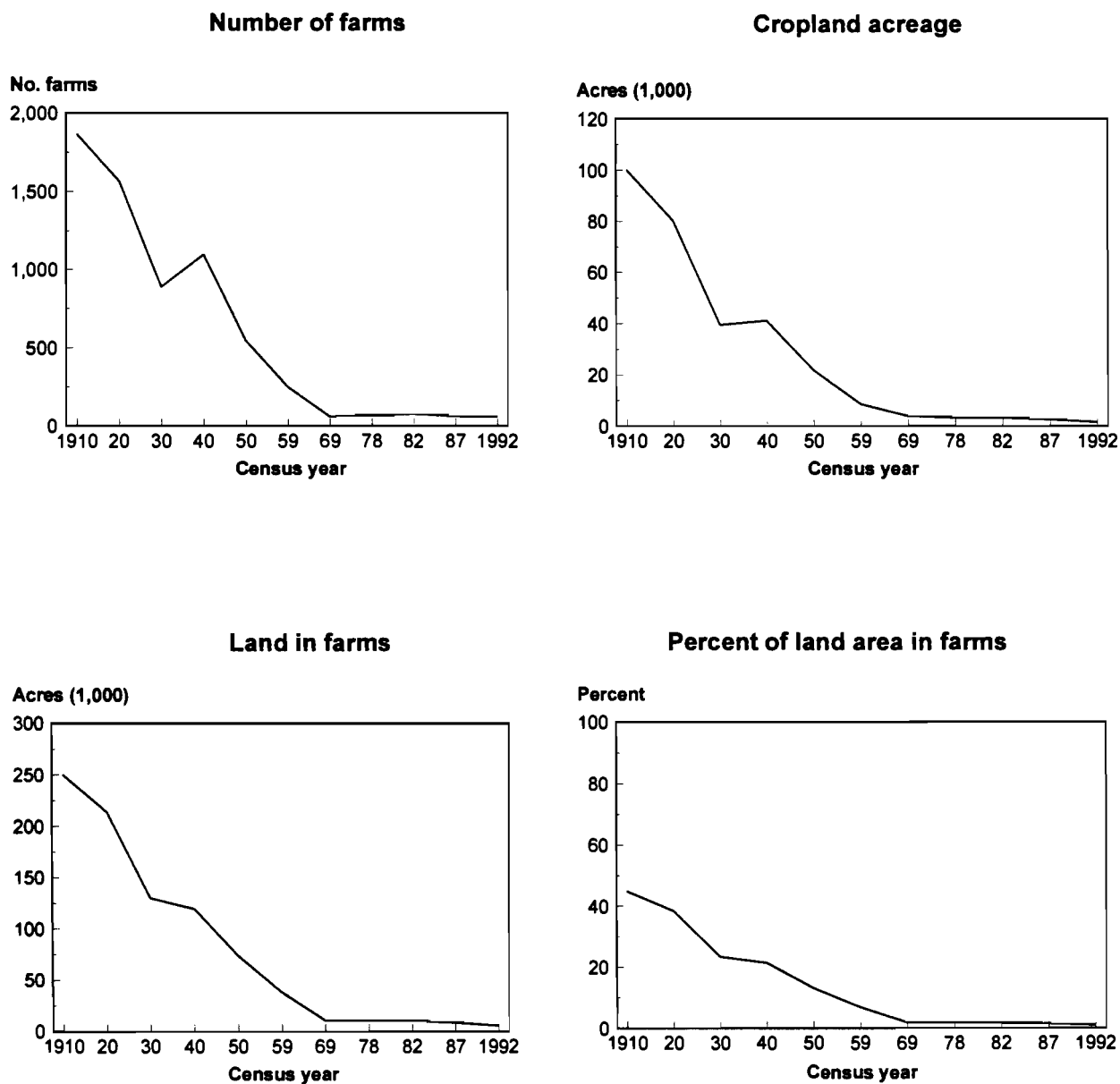
Source: Census of Agriculture.

¹ Improved land in 1910; cropland 1940 to present.

² Estimated as 3% in 1910 and 6% in 1992.

Warren County

This is one of the eastern Adirondack counties, with Lake George along much of its eastern border. In 1910 land in farms included 44 percent of the total area; and in crops or pasture about 18 percent. Large areas of most farms were woodland or woodland pasture. By 1940 the depression years had reduced farm numbers and land in farms substantially. Little of the land cleared for crops was suitable for mechanized farming. Thus, in 1969 only 58 farms were reported in the census and land in farms was down to 10,600 acres. In 1992 there were 57 farms still reporting, accounting for only 5,800 acres, about 1 percent of the land area. The state's forest preserve includes 185,000 acres, about 33 percent of the county's land area. Trees and forest dominate the county's landscape except for the urbanized area extending from Lake George to Glens Falls.

Figure 54. Farming Trends for Warren County, 1910-92

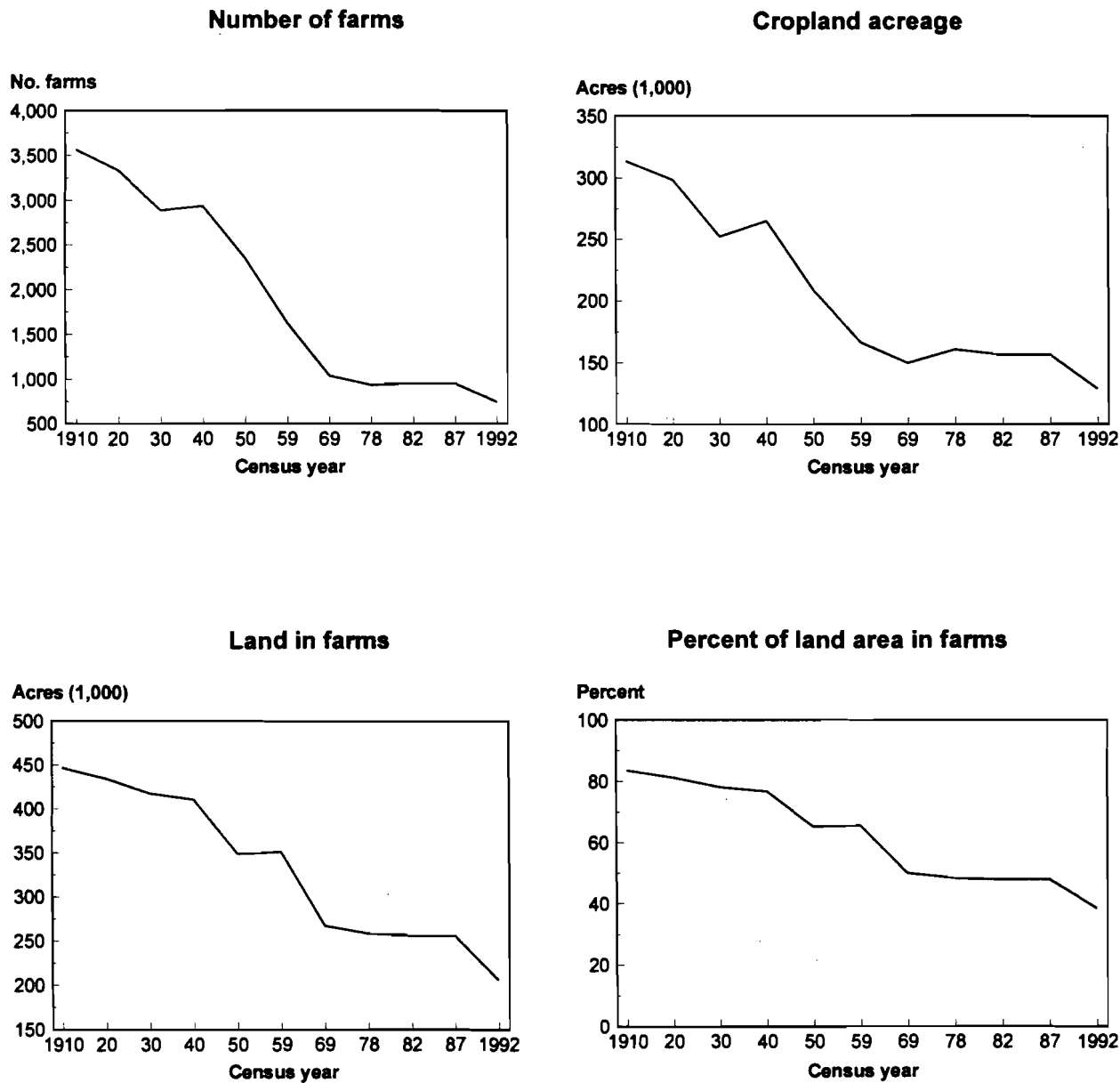
Source: U.S. Census of Agriculture.

Table 57. Changes in Land Use in Washington County, Selected Years, 1910-1992

<u>Description</u>	<u>1910</u>	<u>1940</u>	<u>1969</u>	<u>1992</u>
Farm numbers	3,564	2,934	1,038	745
<u>Agriculture</u>	<i>Thousand acres</i>			
Improved land/cropland ¹	313.6	265.0	150.0	128.8
Farm woodland	93.6	78.4	63.8	46.3
All other/unimproved	<u>39.3</u>	<u>67.0</u>	<u>53.5</u>	<u>30.9</u>
Total land in farms	446.5	410.4	267.3	206.0
<u>Other Uses</u>				
Roads, urban ²	21.4			37.5
Parks and privately owned	<u>67.1</u>			<u>291.5</u>
Total land area	535.0			535.0
	<i>Percent of land area</i>			
Improved land/cropland	58.5	49.5	28.0	24.1
All land in farms	83.3	76.6	50.0	38.5
Mostly forested: government and private ownership	37.4			68.9
Source: Census of Agriculture.				
¹ Improved land in 1910; cropland 1940 to present.				
² Estimated as 4% in 1910 and 7% in 1992.				

Washington County

This strong agricultural county borders the Hudson River on the west and Vermont on the east. Like the other Hudson River Valley counties, it was largely settled in the 18th century. In 1910 land in farms included 83 percent of the area and 59 percent was in crops or pasture. During the 1920s and '30s most of the land stayed in agriculture (77 percent of the area) and the transition from horses to tractors had already begun. In the 1950s and '60s, farm numbers dropped by 1,900, and land in farms decreased to 50 percent of the area. Cropland was confined to 28 percent in 1969, a higher proportion than in most counties in the eastern part of the state. By 1992 the loss in cropland was modest as further farm consolidation took place and land in farms dropped to 38.5 percent of the county's area. State forest lands amount to 24,000 acres, largely in the north near Lake George. Agricultural sales were \$81 million, ranking Washington County 8th among the state's counties.

Figure 55. Farming Trends for Washington County, 1910-92

Source: U.S. Census of Agriculture.

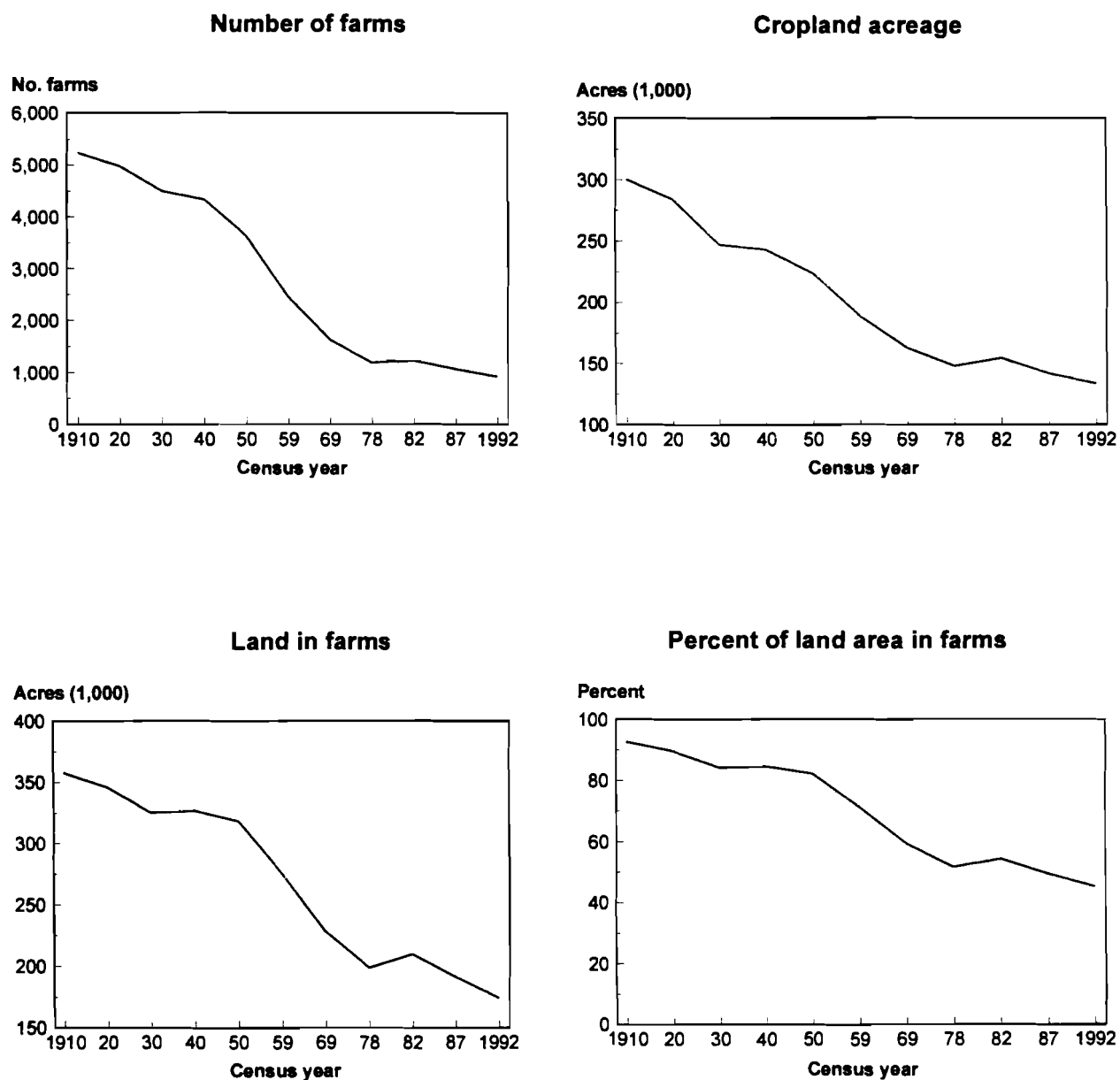
Table 58. Changes in Land Use in Wayne County, Selected Years, 1910-1992

<u>Description</u>	<u>1910</u>	<u>1940</u>	<u>1969</u>	<u>1992</u>
Farm numbers	5,237	4,334	1,624	919
<u>Agriculture</u>	<i>Thousand acres</i>			
Improved land/cropland ¹	300.3	242.6	162.6	133.6
Farm woodland	31.6	30.4	31.3	22.7
All other/unimproved	<u>26.0</u>	<u>54.0</u>	<u>34.7</u>	<u>18.3</u>
Total land in farms	357.9	327.0	228.8	174.6
<u>Other Uses</u>				
Roads, urban ²	15.5			38.8
Parks and privately owned	<u>14.6</u>			<u>174.6</u>
Total land area	388.0			388.0
	<i>Percent of land area</i>			
Improved land/cropland	78.3	62.4	42.0	34.4
All land in farms	93.3	84.2	59.0	45.0
Mostly forested: government and private ownership	18.6			55.6

Source: Census of Agriculture.

¹ Improved land in 1910; cropland 1940 to present.² Estimated as 4% in 1910 and 10% in 1992.**Wayne County**

Wayne is one of the smaller counties of the state, located south of Lake Ontario and increasingly influenced on the west by metropolitan Rochester. During most of the 20th century it has been a rural county. In 1910 land in farms included 93 percent of the area of the county. Land cleared and used for crops and pasture amounted to 78 percent of the land area, one of the highest percentages in the state; only neighboring Orleans and Monroe Counties had higher percentages. In the succeeding three decades, land in farms remained high. In 1940 land in farms made up 84 percent of the land area; the areas less well adapted to mechanization reverted to brush and trees. Between 1940 and 1969 farms numbers decreased rapidly as substantial consolidation occurred. Average farm size increased from 75 to 141 acres. Land in farms decreased to 59 percent of the area. In the 1970s and '80s, these trends continued but at a slower pace. Land in farms dropped to 45 percent of the area, but remained one of the five highest percentages among the state's counties. Agricultural sales in 1992 were \$90 million, ranking Wayne fifth as well.

Figure 56. Farming Trends for Wayne County, 1910-92

Source: U.S. Census of Agriculture.

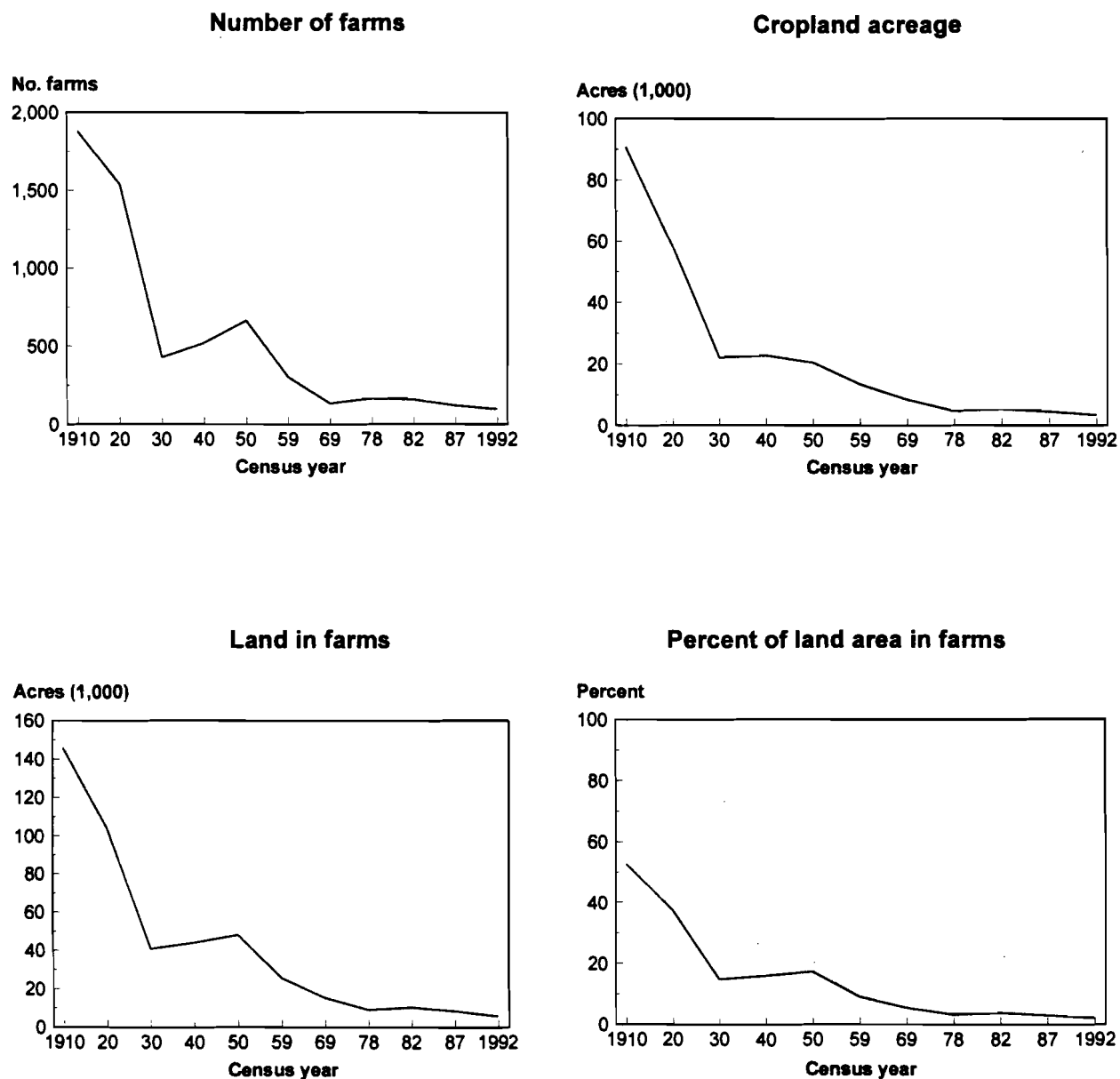
Table 59. Changes in Land Use in Westchester County, Selected Years, 1910-1992

<u>Description</u>	<u>1910</u>	<u>1940</u>	<u>1969</u>	<u>1992</u>
Farm numbers	1,880	518	133	97
Agriculture	<i>Thousand acres</i>			
Improved land/cropland ¹	90.7	22.7	8.4	3.4
Farm woodland	31.5	9.7	2.7	1.1
All other/unimproved	<u>23.6</u>	<u>11.9</u>	<u>4.1</u>	<u>1.2</u>
Total land in farms	145.8	44.3	15.2	5.7
Other Uses				
Roads, urban ²	70.9			184.3
Parks and privately owned	<u>66.8</u>			<u>93.5</u>
Total land area	283.5			283.5
	<i>Percent of land area</i>			
Improved land/cropland	31.6	8.2	3.0	1.2
All land in farms	50.9	15.9	5.4	2.0
Mostly forested: government and private ownership	43.0			33.8

Source: Census of Agriculture.

¹ Improved land in 1910; cropland 1940 to present.² Estimated as 25% in 1910 and 65% in 1992.**Westchester County**

East of the Hudson and just north of New York City, Westchester, like Long Island, was one of the areas settled in the 1600s. Agriculture became less and less important in the county's economy in the 19th century. By 1910 there were still 1,880 farms reporting in the census and 51 percent of the land area consisted of farms. Crops and pasture were reported on more than 90,000 acres, 31 percent of the land area. The combination of agricultural depression and suburbanization led to a major exodus from farming in the '20s and '30s. In 1940 only 16 percent of the land area was still reported in farms and cropland was reported on 23,000 acres. By 1969 the remaining farms were largely in horticulture or had become parts of estates with some livestock. They made up only 5.4 percent of the area. In 1992 there were 97 units reported as farms on 5,700 acres. Agricultural sales amounted to \$7 million, a small part of the county's economy.

Figure 57. Farming Trends for Westchester County, 1910-92

Source: U.S. Census of Agriculture.

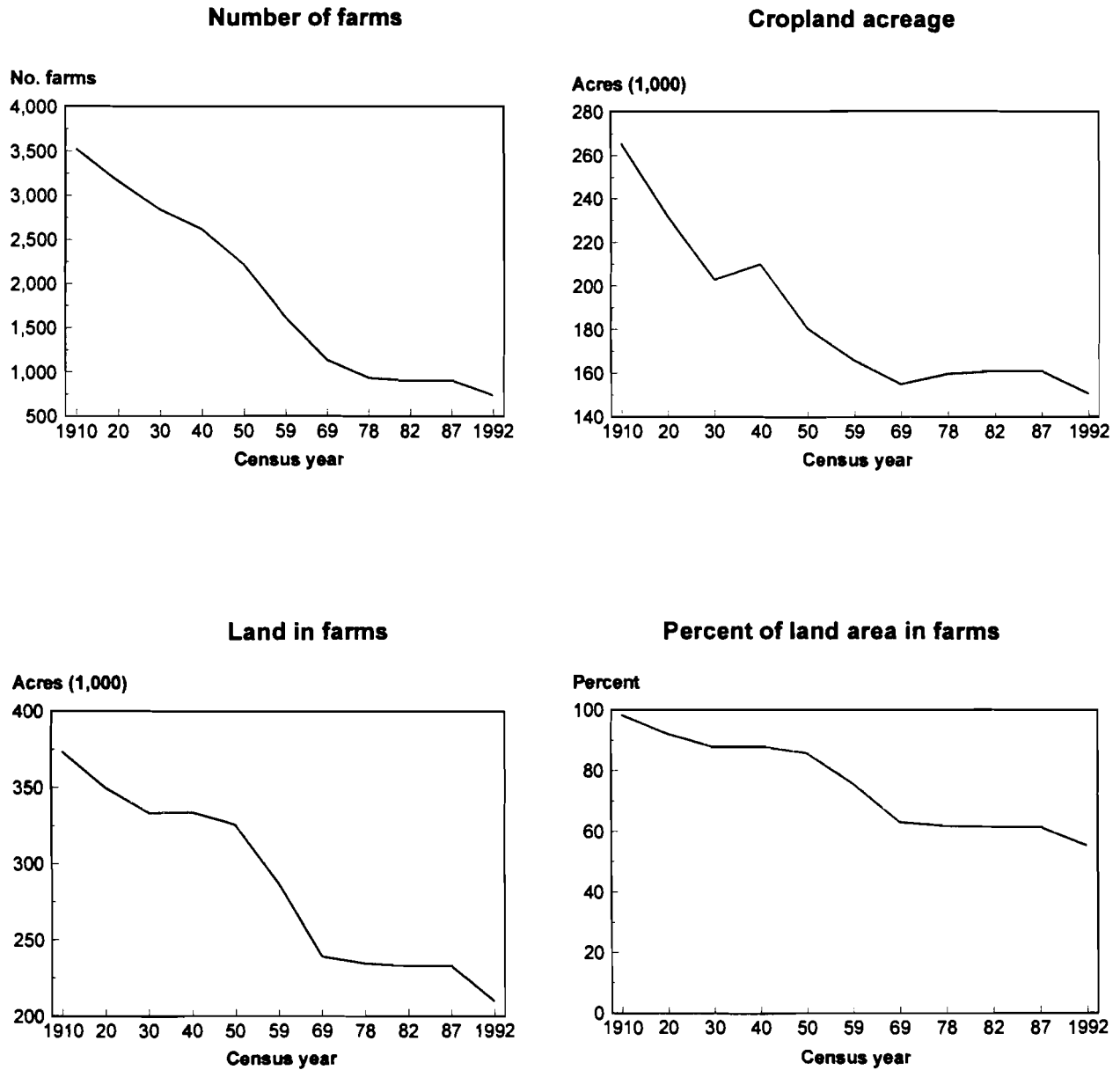
Table 60. Changes in Land Use in Wyoming County, Selected Years, 1910-1992

<u>Description</u>	<u>1910</u>	<u>1940</u>	<u>1969</u>	<u>1992</u>
Farm numbers	3,529	2,616	1,140	736
<u>Agriculture</u>	<i>Thousand acres</i>			
Improved land/cropland ¹	265.4	210.0	155.1	150.6
Farm woodland	57.5	48.7	45.5	33.7
All other/unimproved	<u>50.5</u>	<u>74.9</u>	<u>38.8</u>	<u>25.6</u>
Total land in farms	373.4	333.6	239.4	209.9
<u>Other Uses</u>				
Roads, urban ²	7.6			19.1
Parks and privately owned	<u>1.5</u>			<u>153.5</u>
Total land area	382.5			382.5
		<i>Percent of land area</i>		
Improved land/cropland	69.0	54.9	40.5	39.4
All land in farms	97.0	87.2	62.6	54.9
Mostly forested: government and private ownership	28.6			55.6

Source: Census of Agriculture.

¹ Improved land in 1910; cropland 1940 to present.² Estimated as 2% in 1910 and 5% in 1992.**Wyoming County**

Wyoming remains one of the most rural and important agricultural counties in the state, despite the influence of Buffalo and Rochester to the west and north. In 1910 land in farms was reported in the census to account for 97 percent of the county's area, the highest in the state. Crops and pasture were reported as using 69 percent of the area with the balance in woodland and unimproved areas. By 1940 farm numbers had decreased by more than 900. Land in farms accounted for 87 percent of the area, still the highest in the state. Cropland included 210,000 acres. Farm numbers were more than cut in half after World War II. Cropland dropped to 155,000 acres in 1969 as only land well suited to tractors and mechanization was used. Land in farms, at 63 percent of the area, now ranked second to Orleans County. In the 1970s and '80s, further decreases in cropland and land in farms occurred but they were modest. In 1992 there were still 150,000 acres of cropland in use, almost 40 percent of the land area. Land in farms included 55 percent of the county, now ranked second to Cayuga County. Agricultural sales in 1992 were \$105 million, second only to Suffolk County. Agriculture is central to the economy of much of the county.

Figure 58. Farming Trends for Wyoming County, 1910-92

Source: U.S. Census of Agriculture.

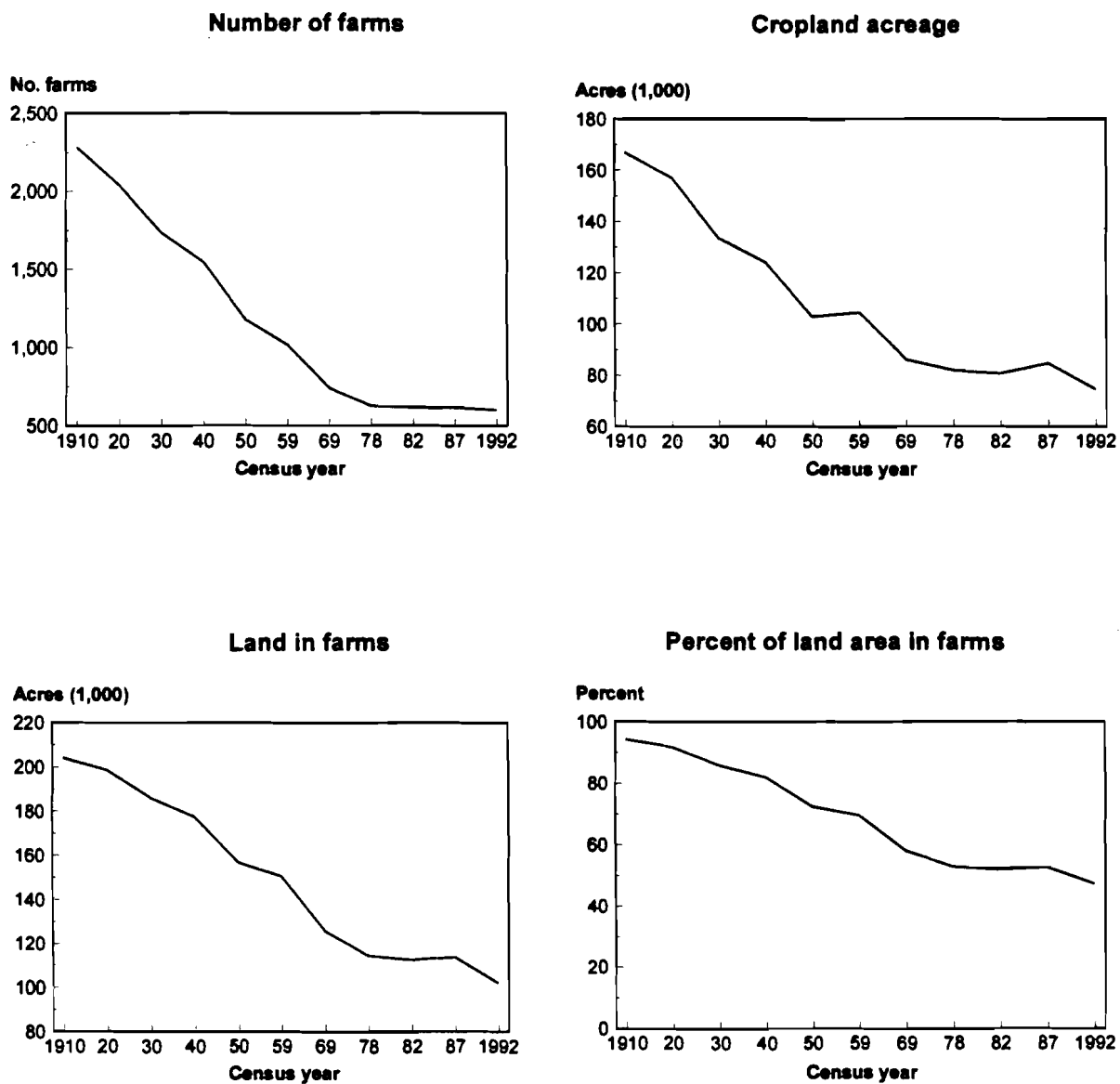
Table 61. Changes in Land Use in Yates County, Selected Years, 1910-1992

Description	1910	1940	1969	1992
Farm numbers	2,283	1,548	741	602
Agriculture	<i>Thousand acres</i>			
Improved land/cropland ¹	166.9	124.2	86.2	74.5
Farm woodland	29.0	22.0	20.2	17.8
All other/unimproved	<u>8.3</u>	<u>31.3</u>	<u>19.0</u>	<u>9.7</u>
Total land in farms	204.2	177.5	125.4	102.0
Other Uses				
Roads, urban ²	6.6			11.0
Parks and privately owned	<u>8.9</u>			<u>106.7</u>
Total land area	219.7			219.7
	<i>Percent of land area</i>			
Improved land/cropland	76.0	56.4	39.2	33.9
All land in farms	93.0	80.6	57.1	46.4
Mostly forested: government and private ownership	21.0			61.1

Sources: Census of Agriculture.

¹ Improved land in 1910; cropland 1940 to present.² Estimated as 3% in 1910 and 5% in 1992.**Yates County**

Yates, bordered on the east by Seneca, on the south by Keuka, and on the west by Canandaigua Lakes, is a true Finger Lakes county. In 1910 land in farms encompassed 93 percent of the county. Cropland and pasture accounted for 76 percent of the area; farming was the central business of the county. The agricultural depression years of the 1920s and '30s reduced land in farms to 81 percent of the area in 1940 and decreased farm numbers by 700, with some of the rougher land in the south returning to brush and trees. After World War II, farm numbers were cut in half and average farm size increased by 50 percent. Land in farms in 1969 included 57 percent of the county's area, one of the higher percentages in the state. By 1992 farm numbers had decreased to about 600 but the rate of decrease was much smaller than in the post-war years. Cropland in this small county still accounted for 34 percent of the area, primarily in the northern and eastern towns of the county. Agricultural sales in 1992 were \$33 million, a little below average compared to other counties but a good rank given its physical size.

Figure 59. Farming Trends for Yates County, 1910-92

Source: U.S. Census of Agriculture.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Conklin, H.E. and R.E. Linton. The Nature and Distribution of Farming in New York State. NYS Off. Plan. Coord. 1969.
- Daugherty, A.B. Major Uses of Land in the United States: 1987. Agr. Econ. Rpt. 643. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, DC. 1991.
- Daugherty, A.B. Major Uses of Land in the United States: 1992. Agr. Econ. Rpt. 723. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, DC. 1995.
- Frey, H.T. Major Uses of Land in the United States: Summary for 1969. Agr. Econ. Rpt. 247. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, DC. 1973.
- Frey, H.T. and R.W. Hexem. Major Uses of Land in the United States: 1982. Agr. Econ. Rpt. 535. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, DC. 1985.
- Knoblauch, W., L. Putnam, B. Stanton, N. Merrill. Census of Agriculture Highlights, New York State, 1992. EB94-26. Department of Agricultural, Resource, and Managerial Economics, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY. 1994.
- NYS Office of Planning Coordination. New York State Development Plan I. State of New York, Albany. 1971.
- Stanton, B.F. and L.M. Plimpton. People, Land and Farms: 125 Years of Change in the Northeast. Northeast Agricultural Leadership Assembly. 1979.
- Vesterby, M., R.E. Heimlich, and K.S. Krupa. Urbanization of Rural Land in the United States. Agr. Econ. Rpt. 673. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, DC. 1994.
- Wooten, H.H. Major Uses of Land in the United States. Tech. Bull. 1082. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, DC. 1953.

APPENDIX

State-Owned Land as a Percent of County Area, New York State, 1993

<u>County</u>	<u>Area in Acres</u>	<u>Total State Acres</u>	<u>Percent State Owned</u>
Albany	335,360	14,046	4.19
Allegany	660,480	54,831	8.30
Broome	455,040	11,180	2.46
Cattaraugus	835,840	101,773	12.18
Cayuga	444,800	14,786	3.32
Chautauqua	680,960	23,369	3.43
Chemung	263,040	2,779	1.06
Chenango	574,080	80,153	13.96
Clinton	667,520	70,223	10.52
Columbia	408,320	8,802	2.16
Cortland	320,000	40,963	12.80
Delaware	921,600	65,213	7.08
Dutchess	514,560	14,800	2.88
Erie	669,440	2,563	0.38
Essex	1,155,840	525,230	45.44
Franklin	1,050,880	268,254	25.53
Fulton	318,080	102,467	32.21
Genesee	316,800	8,165	2.58
Greene	414,720	82,461	19.88
Hamilton	1,101,440	783,063	71.09
Herkimer	906,240	363,089	40.07
Jefferson	814,720	41,623	5.11
Lewis	821,120	149,626	18.22
Livingston	405,120	18,355	4.53
Madison	419,840	28,116	6.70
Monroe	424,320	7,320	1.73
Montgomery	258,560	10,324	3.99
Nassau	183,680	6,801	3.70
Niagara	336,640	11,156	3.31
Oneida	780,160	63,711	8.18
Onondaga	501,760	33,023	6.58
Ontario	412,160	4,786	1.16
Orange	528,640	53,286	10.08
Orleans	250,240	3,128	1.25
Oswego	610,560	44,387	7.27
Otsego	642,560	22,950	3.57
Putnam	147,840	13,239	8.95
Rensselaer	419,200	11,946	2.85
Rockland	112,000	34,133	30.48
Saratoga	518,400	33,392	6.44
St. Lawrence	1,745,920	262,521	15.04
Schenectady	131,840	1,465	1.11
Schoharie	399,360	36,587	9.16
Schuyler	210,560	22,895	10.87
Seneca	209,280	6,566	3.14
Steuben	893,440	29,012	3.25
Suffolk	583,040	50,233	8.62
Sullivan	624,640	35,437	5.67
Tioga	332,160	10,674	3.21
Tompkins	305,260	29,462	9.65
Ulster	723,840	167,972	23.21
Warren	564,480	191,953	34.01
Washington	535,040	28,282	5.29
Wayne	387,200	7,934	2.05
Westchester	280,320	8,345	2.98
Wyoming	380,800	10,493	2.76
Yates	216,960	8,064	3.72
New York	30,321,280	4,138,245	13.65

Source: New York State Office of Real Property Services.

OTHER A.R.M.E. EXTENSION BULLETINS

No. 95-19	Dairy Farm Business Summary Eastern New York Renter Summary 1994	Stuart F. Smith Linda D. Putnam
No. 95-20	Seneca County's Local Governments: Opportunities for Intergovernmental Cooperation, Needs for Educational and Technical Assistance	David Kay Duane Wilcox
No. 95-21	Farm Income Tax Management and Reporting Reference Manual	Stuart F. Smith Charles H. Cuykendall
No. 95-22	Income Tax Implications for Farmers Receiving New York City Watershed Agricultural Program Payments	John M. Thurgood
No. 95-23	New York Economic Handbook 1996 Agricultural Situation and Outlook	A.R.M.E Staff
No. 95-24	Bee Economics A Computer Model for Economic Analysis of Beekeeping Operations	Lois Schertz Willett Nicholas W. Calderone Malcome T. Sanford
No. 96-01	Fruit Farm Business Summary Lake Ontario Region New York 1994	Gerald B. White Alison M. DeMarree Linda D. Putnam
No. 96-02	Micro DFBS A Guide to Processing Dairy Farm Business Summaries in County and Regional Extension Offices for Micro DFBS Version 3.2	Linda D. Putnam Wayne A. Knoblauch Stuart F. Smith