Reading Line Graphs

The graph shows how many people were living on farms in the United States during 1900-2000. You can see how dramatically the number has dropped!

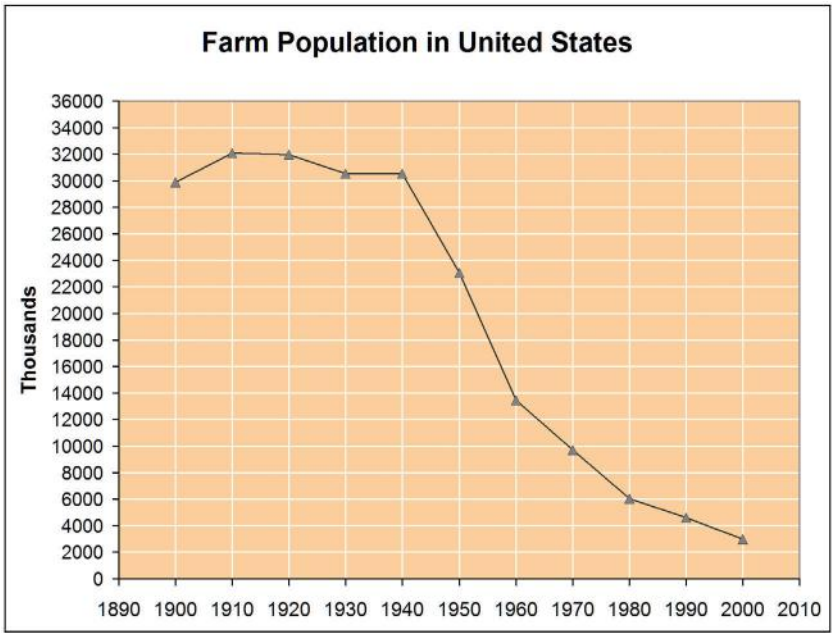
The question (a) in exercise 1 asks you to *estimate* the farm population in year 2010. Do it by tracing over the graph and continuing the graph in a natural way till the year 2010. The plain numbers listed in the table do not really help with estimation (without further mathematical tools).

Notice that the table lists the farm population in *thousands of people*. For example, in year 1970 there were 9712 thousand people—or 9,712,000 people—living on farms. In other words, you need to tag three zeros onto each of those numbers.

Note also that these numbers are actually *rounded* to the nearest thousand—no population remains an exact number of so many thousand people, year after year.

Year	Farm Population (thousands of people)
1900	29875
1910	32077
1920	31974
1930	30529
1940	30547
1950	23048
1960	13445
1970	9712
1980	6051
1990	4591
2000	2993

Source: Census of Agriculture



1. **a.** Consider the graph above. Estimate the U.S. farm population in the year 2010.

   b. In which two decades were the greatest drops in farm population?

   c. By how many people did the farm population decrease during those two decades (separately)?

   d. What was the first year when the farm population dropped below 10 million?

   e. When approximately did the farm population drop below 5,000,000?