

PIKE COUNTY, KY.

Pike County is in the extreme eastern part of Kentucky. It is shaped somewhat like a wedge, one face of which is adjacent to West Virginia and the other to Virginia. Most of the area is rough to mountainous. It contains approximately 498,560 acres (779 square miles) of which 318,209 acres, or 63.8 percent, were recorded as being in farms on January 1, 1935. In 1930, the total population of the county was 63,267 inhabitants, of which 59,891, or 94.7 percent, were classed as rural. Pikeville, the county seat, contained all of the 3,376 urban persons. Slightly less than one-half of the rural population was identified as rural-farm. Males 10 years old and over engaged in gainful occupations numbered 15,240, of which 9,565 were employed in nonagricultural pursuits distributed as follows:

	Number	Percent
Nonagricultural.....	9,565	100.0
Forestry and fishing.....	57	0.6
Extraction of minerals ¹	6,220	65.0
Manufacturing and mechanical industries.....	841	8.8
Building.....	382	4.0
Lumber and furniture.....	158	1.7
Other manufacturing and mechanical.....	301	3.1
Transportation.....	830	8.7
Trade.....	745	7.8
Public service.....	86	0.9
Professional service.....	349	3.6
Domestic and personal service.....	228	2.4
Industry not specified.....	209	2.2

¹ Practically all coal.

Most of the farms in this county in the 1930 type classification were classified as self-sufficing—where the value of the farm products used by the family was 50 percent or more of the total value of all products of the farm.

The 6,390 farms in the county recorded by the Farm Census of 1935 averaged approximately 50 acres in size and \$868 in total value, though the median size was only 25 acres and the median value \$500. The average value per acre was \$17.42. All but six of the operators of these farms were classed as "white" so the question of color does not materially affect the statistics. Tenure, however, is important as full owners numbered 3,855, or 60.3 percent of the total farm operators, part owners 391, or 6.1 percent, and tenants 2,143, or 33.5 percent.

Farm operators who had income from off-farm work numbered 2,717, and represented 42.5 percent of the total number of operators. Nearly all of these part-time farmers were engaged in nonagricultural work while employed off their farms. Farms in the control

of operators with off-farm work averaged 40 acres in arithmetic size and 20 acres in median size as compared with 57 acres and 30 acres respectively for farms whose operators had no off-farm work. Farms of the former were nearly \$200 lower than the latter in arithmetic average value but had the same median value.

The average size of family (number of persons per occupied dwelling) was relatively high in this county, being 5.6 on farms whose operators performed outside work and 5.3 on farms whose operators did no outside work. Eleven percent of the farms in the former group had persons living on them who had moved from a nonfarm home within the previous 5 years and these persons represented 6 percent of the total population as compared with corresponding percentages of 5 and 3 for the latter group of farms. One-half (51 percent) of the part-time farmers had been operating their farms less than 5 years as compared with 39 percent for the other group.

Nearly two-thirds (1,749, or 64.4 percent) of the part-time farmers worked off their farms at least 100 days, while 560, or 20.6 percent, worked less than 50 days, and 408, or 15 percent, worked from 50 to 99 days. Within a particular time group, the medians are usually considerably smaller than the corresponding arithmetic averages. As between time groups, the farms do not vary greatly either as to average size or average value or to median size or median value. As the time spent off the farm increased, a progressive decrease is noted in the proportion of the farms showing new-comers from nonfarm places and in the proportion of the operators who had been on their farms less than 5 years.

Only 39.7 percent of the full-owner operators worked off their farms as compared with 50.9 percent for part-owner operators and 46 percent for tenants. However, if the part-time group alone is considered, 71.7 percent of the full owners worked off their farms 100 or more days as contrasted with 50.8 percent of the part owners and 55.7 percent of the tenants. Farms of full-owner and part-owner part-time farmers each had a smaller median size than farms of operators in the corresponding tenure class who had no off-farm work, whereas farms of part-time tenant-operators had the same median size as the non-part-time farms. Families were somewhat larger on the part-time farms for the two classes of owners but smaller on the tenant farms than for the remaining group of farms.

PIKE CO., KENTUCKY

