
CHAPTER III.- COLOR, TENURE, AND RACE OF FARM OPERATOR

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CHAPTER III.—COLOR, TENURE, AND RACE OF FARM OPERATOR

Introduction.—This chapter presents, by color, tenure, and race of the farm operator, statistics collected in the 1940 Census of Agriculture for number and acreage of farms and for values of specified classes of farm property. Data are presented by tenure for each color, and by tenure for each race classification. The statistics presented include, in addition to number of farms and all land in farms, the land classified according to use in 1939. The specified classes of farm property for which values are given are (1) land and buildings, (2) buildings, and (3) implements and machinery. Supplemental information for part owners is given for the acreage and value of the land and buildings for the owned and for the rented portions. Supplemental information for cash tenants and for part owners renting on a cash basis is given for the amount of cash rent paid. Certain of these data are also shown for irrigated farms in 20 States.

Comparative data, when available, are shown for earlier census years although much of such comparative data are shown only for the United States as a whole. Census data were first classified by the tenure of farm operator in 1880. For that census and that of 1890 only the number of farms were classified by tenure. Classifications by color and by race of the farm operator and interclassifications by color and tenure were first made in the Census of 1900. The classifications and interclassifications by tenure, color, and race, and the items available by these classifications have varied from census to census. Comparative data for previous censuses are presented in the 1940 Census of Agriculture Reports only for those classifications and those items for which 1940 Census data are shown.

Data for the continental United States (comprising the 48 States and the District of Columbia) have been summarized in tables 1, 2, 4, 8, and 10 to 16, inclusive. Because of the relatively high concentration of tenants and of nonwhite operators in the southern part of the United States, data are also presented for "the South" as a whole in tables 3, 5, and 9. The South, as here used, consists of 16 States and the District of Columbia and comprises the South Atlantic, East South Central, and West South Central Divisions. Data for each of the 48 States, the District of Columbia, and for the 9 geographic divisions, or groups of States, are presented in the remaining tables. In these latter tables, the classification by tenure and the interclassifications by color and tenure and by race and tenure have been restricted for some of the areas because of the relative unimportance of some of the classes in these areas. Most of the data presented in this chapter by tenure, color, and race of the farm operator are shown simply as State totals in chapter I, and by size of farm in chapter II of this volume. Some of the data presented here by color and by tenure are also presented by counties in the First Series State Bulletins and in volume I.

Other data by color and tenure of the farm operator are presented in this volume in chapter IV, Farm mortgages and farm taxes; chapter V, Work off farm, age, and years on farm; and in chapter VI, Cooperation, labor, expenditures, machinery, facilities, and residence. Some of these other data are also presented by counties in the Second Series State Bulletins and in volume I.

Farm operators.—A "farm operator," according to the Census definition, is a person who operates a farm, either performing the labor himself or directly supervising it. The Census definition of a farm (see chapter I) is on the basis of operating units, rather than ownership tracts. A farm may consist of a number of separate tracts and these may be held under different tenures, as when one tract is owned and another tract is rented by the farm operator. Similarly, when a landowner

has several tenants, renters, or croppers, the land operated by each is considered a separate farm. Therefore, the number of farm operators, for all practical purposes (see discussion following under "Tenure of operator"), is identical with the number of farms and these items are used interchangeably.

Farms reporting.—Not all items included in this chapter were reported by every farm. For example, less than one-half of all farms have woodland. The number of farms for which specified items were reported are given in the tables under the term "farms reporting."

Color and race of farm operator.—The color and race classification of farm operators was made by the enumerator. The schedule inquiry was as follows:

4. Color or race: [Place a check (✓) in proper block]

11. White, including Mexican	22. Negro	23. Indian	24. Chinese	25. Japanese	26. Other (specify) _____
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The race tabulations include a break-down of the "other" group into the races represented therein. In the classification by color it will be noted that "white" includes Mexicans; "non-white" includes Negroes, Indians, Chinese, Japanese, and other nonwhite races.

Tenure of operator.—Each farm was classified according to the tenure under which the operator controlled the land, on the basis of replies to the following three inquiries on the schedule:

9. Do you operate this farm for others as hired manager? _____ (Yes or No)

10. How many acres in this farm do you own? _____ Acres.

11. How many acres in this farm do you rent from others? _____ Acres.

The sum of Questions 10 and 11 must equal Question 12, unless operated by a hired manager.

The enumerator was instructed to consider as owned, land which the operator or his wife held under title, homestead law, purchase contract, or as one of the heirs or as trustee of an undivided estate. If both an owned and a rented tract were farmed by the same operator, these were to be considered as one farm even though the tracts were not contiguous and each was locally called a farm. If, however, one tract of land was managed for another, it was to be reported as a separate farm. Farm operators were classified into four major tenure groups:

Full owners own all the land they operate.

Part owners own a part and rent from others the rest of the land they operate.

Managers operate farms for others and receive wages or salaries for their services. Persons acting merely as caretakers or hired laborers were not classed as managers. Farms operated for institutions or corporations were considered to be managed even where no person was specifically indicated as being employed as the farm manager.

Tenants operate hired or rented land only.

If a farm operator used land to which he did not hold title, and did not lease, this was not permitted to affect his tenure classification. If wild hay was cut or other crops harvested from land neither owned nor leased by the operator, such land was to be included in the farm acreage and considered as though owned provided the operator owned any of the land in the farm. If he did not own any of the land in the farm such land was to be considered as rented. Range lands used by the operator, but neither owned nor leased by him, were not considered a part of the farm and did not enter into the determination of the tenure of the farm operator. If the farm represented livestock grazing on open range and no land was owned or leased, the

operator was considered a full owner. There was a total of only 489 such operations recorded in the United States in 1940. Indian operators whose holdings consisted of allotted lands were considered as owners whether the allotted land represented allotment in fee or trust, or merely a simple designation of a certain acreage as the place of residence or agricultural activity of the operator.

Tenant operators were subclassified into five groups, depending upon the contractual arrangement with the landlord, as indicated by replies to the following inquiries on the schedule:

<p>7. What does the landlord furnish as his share in the operation of this farm?</p> <p>(a) Work animals (All, Part, or None)</p> <p>(b) Tractor power (All, Part, or None)</p> <p>(c) Fertilizer (All, 1/2, etc., or None)</p> <p>(d) Seed (All, 1/2, etc., or None)</p> <p>(e) Other (Name and give share)</p>	<p>8. What did you agree to pay as rent for the year?</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>If cash, give total amount, explaining for what paid, as \$330 for entire farm, \$30 for 15 acres pasture, \$75 for 25 acres hay land, etc.</p> <p>If share of crops or of animal increase, give kind and report share in fractions, as 1/2 corn, 1/3 young animals, 1/4 cotton, etc.</p> <p>If definite quantity, give kind and report in bushels, pounds, etc., as 600 bushels wheat, 4 bales cotton, etc.</p> <p>If other rent, specify, as upkeep of farm, keep of landlord, etc.</p>
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Cash tenants pay a cash rental, such as \$4.50 per acre for the cropland or \$500 for the use of the whole farm. Included under this classification were those reporting a fixed sum of money; those whose rentals were stipulated to be made in cash but the amount not given; and those whose payments were closely akin to cash, such as farm real-estate taxes, board for landlord, expenditures for repairs and for upkeep of the farm. Upkeep of the farm, with no indication that this represented a cash expenditure, was not considered as cash rent.

Share-cash tenants pay a part of their rental in cash and part as a share of crops or livestock production.

Share tenants pay a share only of either the crops or livestock production, or both.

Croppers have been defined as share tenants to whom their landlords furnish all of the work animals, or tractor power in lieu of work animals. Croppers are shown separately only for the southern States except for a few additional specified counties for which data are shown in table 7.

Other tenants include those whose rental agreement was unspecified and those who did not fall definitely into one of the other subclasses. Standing renters, i. e., those paying a stated amount of farm products for use of the farm, as 3 bales of cotton or 500 bushels of corn, were included in this subclass.

The contractual arrangements between landlords and tenants are extremely varied. Although each of the above subclasses of tenants represents in general a particular type of arrangement, the extent and nature of the items furnished by the landlord and of the rental paid may vary considerably within the subclass. For this reason tenants of a particular subclass will not necessarily be entirely comparable for all areas. Except for the amount of cash rent paid by cash tenants and by part owners renting entirely on a cash basis no data were tabulated as to the nature and extent of the items furnished by the landlord or as to the kind and amounts of the rentals paid. In some instances, cash tenants paid their entire rental on the basis of the cropland; in others, the rental appeared to be primarily for use of the farm as a place of residence. This latter was particularly true around urban centers and in industrial and mining areas. For share-cash tenants the cash rental is often for the buildings or for pasture or hay land, the crops being rented on a share basis. However, share-cash tenants represent all sorts of share and cash rental combinations.

Croppers, as in former censuses, are published separately only for the southern States. In the northern and western States many of the share tenants whose landlords furnished the work animals were sons of the landlord. Therefore, the basis used for classifying croppers in the southern States was not generally applicable to the northern and western States. In the cotton-growing counties in southeast Missouri, however, the situation is much like that of the other upper Mississippi Delta counties. Therefore, supplemental data for croppers in these counties are given in table 7. The United States totals,

as shown in the summary and division and State tables, are restricted to croppers in the southern States and therefore do not include those shown for these seven Missouri counties. The furnishing of tractor power, in lieu of work animals, was taken into account for the first time in the 1940 Census in determining cropper operations. Also in the 1940 Census a slight change in the rental agreements in several of the cropper areas was recognized and taken into account in classifying cropper farms. This change was the practice of charging a cash rental for noncash crops such as corn, with the cash crop such as cotton or tobacco remaining on a share basis. Where the amount of cash was relatively small, and in all other respects the tenant was a cropper, the operator was classed as a "cropper" rather than as a "share-cash tenant." The number of such croppers was relatively small. Figures for this class of cropper are given by States in table 6.

"Other tenants," as classified for the 1940 Census, include standing renters and tenants whose rental agreement was such that they did not fall into any of the other subclasses of tenants, also those for which the method of payment was unspecified and was not determinable.

The particular tenure classes for which data were classified and the basis of classification have varied somewhat from census to census. The particular tenure classes included in the reports for each census in their relation to the 1940 classification are given in table 1. In tables 8, 10 to 12, and 14 to 16, in which are presented summary data for the United States as a whole, comparable data are presented for the earlier census years. Footnotes call attention to those classes for which the data are not considered as being entirely comparable. Classes that are not considered reasonably comparable are, in general, omitted from these tables.

In the Censuses of 1880 and 1890 only two major tenure classes, owners and tenants, were recognized, and all tenants were classed either as renting for a fixed money rental or as renting for a share of the products. Part owners and managers were first classified in the Census of 1900. The subclasses of tenants have varied considerably from census to census.

In the historical tables, comparative figures are shown for cash tenants from 1910. Since tenants whose rentals were unspecified were included with cash tenants for 1900, 1890, and 1880, no data for cash tenants are shown for those years. The 1910 data for cash tenants are not strictly comparable since they include standing renters. In the 1920 Census although data for standing renters were tabulated separately, they were published separately only for the southern States; therefore, cash tenants for that year include standing renters for the North and West. Data for share-cash tenants were tabulated separately only for the 1940, 1920, and 1910 Censuses. Comparative data for share tenants are available only for 1920. In 1910 share tenants included croppers and prior to 1910 share tenants also included share-cash tenants.

Croppers were classified separately for the first time in the 1920 Census and data for this class have been secured at each succeeding census. For these censuses croppers have been shown as a separate subclass of tenants for the South only. In the Censuses of 1920, 1925, and 1930 croppers were defined as share tenants whose landlords furnished the work animals. For the Census of 1935, the schedule carried no inquiry in regard to the method of paying rent and, therefore, croppers for that year included all tenants whose landlords furnished the work animals. The furnishing of tractor power was not taken into account in classifying croppers until the Census of 1940.

Most croppers work under close supervision, and the land assigned each cropper by his landlord is often merely a part of a larger agricultural enterprise operated as a single working unit in respect to a central farm headquarters, to the control of labor, and to the managerial and supervisory functions. Such a multiple-farm unit, generally designated as a plantation, may include operations of share tenants and standing renters as well as that of croppers. A part or all of the farm implements and machinery and domestic animals may be furnished the croppers or tenants and these may or may not be left in their possession. Cash or credit advances may be made by the landlord to or for the croppers or tenants, and he may make expenditures for them for labor and fertilizer. In many such cases the crops will be marketed by the landlord. In many instances, the croppers or tenants and their families are also wage hands on the "home farm" of the plantation.

TABLE 1.—TENURE CLASSES INCLUDED IN THE REPORTS FOR EACH CENSUS, WITH THE NUMBER OF FARMS IN EACH CLASS: 1880 TO 1940

1940	1935	1930	1925	1920	1910	1900	1890	1880
Full owners 5,084,138	Full owners 5,210,224	Full owners 2,911,644 ¹	Full owners 3,313,490	Owners owning entire farms 3,366,510	Owners owning entire farms ¹ 3,354,897	Owners 3,148,648 Owners and tenants ¹ 53,299	Cultivated by owners 3,269,728	Cultivated by owners 2,984,306
Part owners 615,039	Part owners 688,867	Part owners 656,750	Part owners 554,842	Owners hiring additional land 558,580	Owners renting additional land 593,825	Part owners 451,376		
Managers 56,851	Managers 48,104	Managers 55,889	Managers 40,700	Managers 68,449	Managers 58,104	Managers 59,085		
All tenants 2,361,271	All tenants 2,865,155	Tenants 2,664,365	Tenants 2,462,608	Tenants 2,454,804	Tenants 2,354,676	Tenants 2,024,964	Rented 1,294,913	Rented 1,024,601
Cash 514,458	(²)	Cash 489,210	Cash 395,452	Cash 480,009 (Includes stand- ing renters for North and West)	Cash 712,294 (Includes stand- ing renters)	Cash 751,665 (Includes stand- ing renters and unspecified ten- ants)	Rented for fixed money value 454,659	Rented for fixed money rental 322,357
Share-cash 278,805	(²)	(²)	(²)	Share-cash 127,822	Share-cash 128,466	Share 1,273,299 (Includes share- cash tenants)	Rented for share of products 840,254	Rented for share of products 702,244
Share 815,799	(²)	(²)	(²)	Share 1,117,721	Share 1,399,923			
Croppers (South only) 541,291	Croppers (South only) 716,256	Croppers (South only) 776,278	Croppers (South only) 623,038	Croppers (South only) 561,091				
Other 211,138	(²)	(²)	(²)	Standing renters (South only) 104,996 Unspecified 63,165	(Standing renters included with cash tenants) Unspecified 113,993	(Included with cash tenants)	(Included in above tenant classes)	(Included in above tenant classes)

¹ "Owner and tenant" farms were operated jointly by the owner and a tenant working for a share of the products. This tenure class was recognized in the instructions to enumerators for both the 1910 and 1900 censuses. Inasmuch as the number of such cases was very limited and the owner was often a parent and the tenant a son, this class was consolidated in the 1930 reports with farms operated by their owners.

² For 1935, all tenants other than croppers were published as "Other tenants"; for 1930 and 1925, all tenants other than cash tenants and croppers were published as "Other tenants."

Some believe croppers ought not to be considered as tenants but as hired hands receiving a share of the crop in lieu of a wage, and that the land worked by each cropper ought to be considered as a part of the landlord's farm rather than as a separate farm. There are several reasons why it is not desirable to do this. A cropper differs from a wage hand in that his payment is not fixed but involves risk and therefore he partakes somewhat of the nature of an entrepreneur. The laws of some States define sharecroppers as tenants, others hold that sharecroppers are laborers, and in still others their status hinges on whether they pay or receive a share of the crop. Also, many cropper operations are not a part of a multiple-farm unit. Where the cropper operations are a part of a plantation set-up there is often but little difference between the croppers and the share tenants or standing renters on the same plantation. In considering each cropper operation as a separate farm, it was possible to retain comparability with previous censuses. If croppers had been considered as other than farm operators, labor and other statistics would also have been upset. However, in order to make possible a statistical treatment of each plantation operation as a unit and to avoid the danger of duplications and omissions in the returns, a Plantation or Multiple-Farm Unit Schedule was used in the southern States to supplement the information obtained for the individual farms included in the plantation.

Data are shown for "Other tenants" for 1920 and 1910 although the data are not strictly comparable. Those for 1920 exclude standing renters for the northern and western States and those for 1910 exclude all standing renters.

Farms, farm acreage, and specified farm values.—Data presented in this chapter by color, tenure, and race of farm operator include the number of farms (identical with the number of farm operators), all land in farms, 6 classes of farm land according to use in 1939, the value of the farm (land and buildings), the value of the buildings alone, and the value of implements and machinery used in the operation of the farm. Each of the 6 classes of land according to use are defined and discussed in chapter I of this volume.

The 6 classes are:

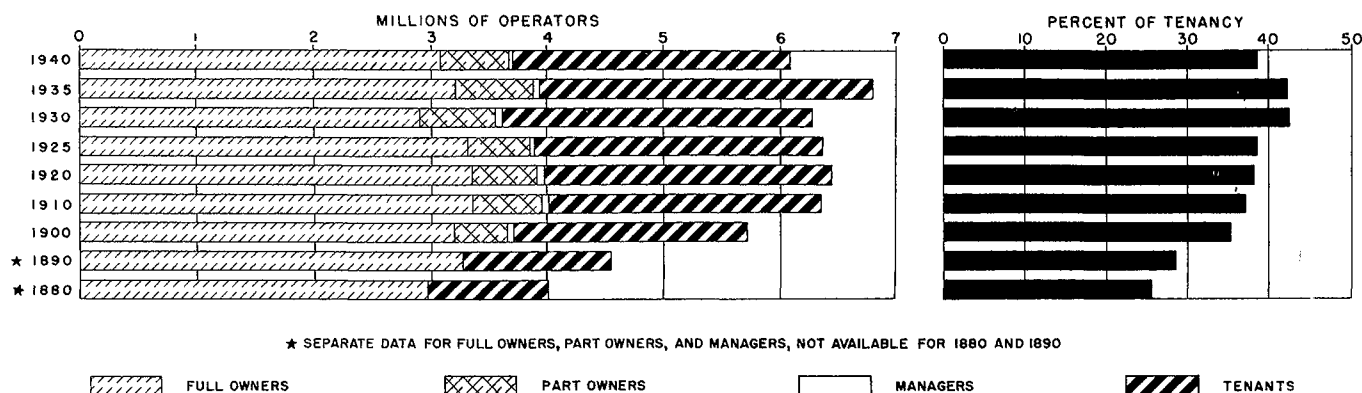
Cropland harvested—land from which crops were harvested in 1939.
Crop failure—land from which no crop was harvested in 1939 because of crop failure or destruction.
Cropland idle or fallow—cropland lying idle or in summer fallow in 1939.
Plowable pasture—land used only for pasture or grazing in 1939 which could be plowed and used for crops without additional clearing, drainage, or irrigation.
Woodland.
All other land.

Comparative data for number of farms are available by tenure for all censuses from 1880. With a few exceptions, comparative data for the number, acreage, and value of farms and for the value of buildings and of implements and machinery are available by color and tenure from 1900, and for specified classes of land according to use from 1925. The values for buildings and for implements and machinery are available for 1925 by tenure but not by color. These values were not secured for 1935. For 1925 cropland harvested, plowable pasture, and the value of farms are available for the United States as a whole by tenure but not by color. Comparative data for crop failure and cropland idle or fallow are available only for the Census of 1935. (Chapter III, p. 137, or p. 3, bulletin)

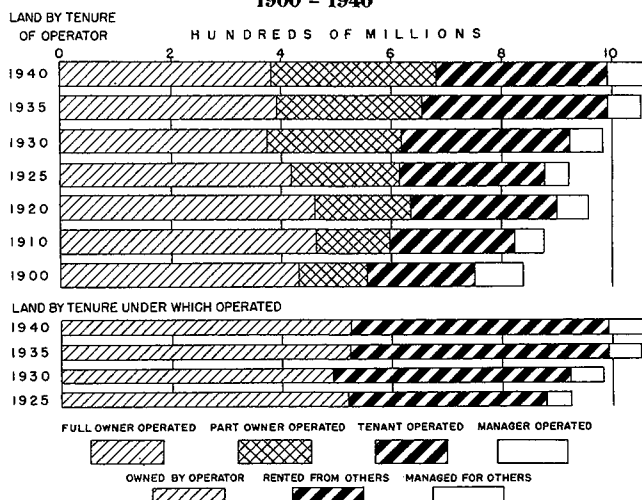
Separate acreage figures have been secured for the owned and rented portions of part-owner-operated farms beginning with the Census of 1925. The value of the owned portion was secured for the first time in the Census of 1940. These data make it possible to determine the total acreage and value of farm land operated by the owner and the total acreage and value of farm land rented by the operator. The value of the rented portion is secured by taking the difference of the value of the owned portion and the value of the entire farm.

Farms and farm acreage by tenure of the farm operator.—Of the 6,096,799 farms in the United States on April 1, 1940, owners operated 60.7 percent; managers, 0.6 percent; and tenants, 38.7 percent. Although there were fewer farms in 1940 than in 1930 there were more owner operators. Much of the increase in owner operators was in the southern States. However, 29 of the 48 States showed net increases for the decade in the number of owner operators. The largest decreases in owner-operated farms were in the northern Great Plains.

**NUMBER OF FARM OPERATORS, BY TENURE, AND PERCENT OF TENANCY, FOR THE UNITED STATES:
1880 - 1940**



**FARM ACREAGE, BY TENURE, FOR THE UNITED STATES:
1900 - 1940**



The relative importance of the principal tenures from 1880 is shown in the accompanying charts. The decade 1930 to 1940 is the first to show a decrease in tenancy. The 1935 Census showed a decrease in the percentage of tenancy, but not in the number of tenants. The 1940 Census showed a decline both in percentage and number. In 1940 there were 11.4 percent fewer tenants than in 1930. The decrease in tenancy was due largely to fewer tenants in the southern States. In most of the northern and western States the proportion of tenant-operated farms continued to increase. However, there was little change in the proportion of tenancy in the northeastern and Middle Atlantic States, and in the eastern Corn Belt. The largest increases in tenancy were in the northern Great Plains. In North Dakota the proportion of tenant-operated farms increased from 35.1 percent to 45.1 percent and in South Dakota, from 44.6 percent to 53.0 percent.

For the United States as a whole, owner-operated farms average larger than tenant-operated farms. For the North and West, except for the Mountain States, however, tenant-operated farms tend to be larger than owner-operated farms. In these areas tenant operators, even though their capital is more limited, operate larger acreages than owners. Much of the capital of owner operators is tied up in land and buildings.

Tenant operations in the South represent, in general, an entirely different situation than for the North and West. Many tenants in the South have little or no working capital, as indicated by the large proportion of cropper operators. Also, in this general area, cotton and tobacco are the principal cash crops, both requiring much hand labor. For these reasons tenant-operated farms in the South tend to be small. The proportion of tenancy is high in this area amounting to 48.2 percent of all farm operators. Approximately 44.9 percent of all

cropland harvested in the southern States is on farms of tenants or croppers. Although less than one-half of the farms in the United States are in the South more than three-fifths of the tenants are in this area. Until 1935 each census showed, for the South, smaller farms on an average and a higher proportion of tenancy. The larger holdings were in process of being broken down into smaller units operated by tenants and croppers. In the past decade the tendency has been in the opposite direction, small farms being consolidated into larger units operated by the owner. A very large proportion of the decrease in tenant-operated farms has been in the number of croppers.

Of all owner operators, 10.1 percent were renting additional land on April 1, 1940. These part owners operated larger acreages, on an average, than either full owners or tenants. Part-owner-operated farms are most prevalent in the States west of the Mississippi River, particularly in the Great Plains section. Although there were somewhat fewer farms in this class in 1940 than in 1930 they included a larger acreage.

On April 1, 1940, there were 36,351 managed farms in the United States or 0.6 percent of the total number of farms. However, these contained 6.3 percent of all the farm land. Managed farms are very diverse as to type, many representing country estates and institutions on which often there is little in the way of agricultural operations. They also include many large corporation farms having extensive agricultural operations. For a considerable number of operations, it was not easy for the enumerator to distinguish whether or not they were managed. This was particularly true where a caretaker or hired laborer did most of the farming operations with varying degrees of supervision on the part of the employer. Enumerators were instructed that, "Caretakers and hired laborers should not be confused with managers. Usually a hired manager is not employed unless the returns received from the farm justify such employment. A caretaker who has the use of land in payment, or partial payment, for his services should be considered as a tenant." The comparability of data for managed farms from one census to another may have been affected to a considerable extent by the way these borderline cases have been handled.

Of the subclasses of tenants, share tenants, exclusive of croppers, are the most prevalent group comprising 34.5 percent of all tenants in the United States. Croppers are second in importance representing 22.9 percent of the total, followed by cash tenants with 21.8 percent and by share-cash with 11.8 percent of the total. Share tenants and cash tenants are important groups in all States. Share tenants, exclusive of croppers, are the dominant type of tenant in Kentucky, Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, and most of the Great Plains and Mountain States. Croppers are the dominant type of tenant in most of the southern States and comprise 37.3 percent of all tenants in that area. Cash tenants are the dominant type of tenant in most of the leading dairy States, including Wisconsin, Minnesota, and all of the New England and the Middle Atlantic States, and in West Virginia, the Pacific States, Arizona, and Nevada. Share-cash tenants are of especial importance in the Corn Belt and in the eastern Great Plains and are the dominant type in Iowa, Illinois, Nebraska, and South Dakota.

Specified farm values by tenure of the farm operator.—When comparing the specified values of farm property by tenure of the farm operator it should be kept in mind that these do not represent the comparative investments of operators of the different tenures. Often much of the implements and machinery as well as the land and buildings are furnished to tenants by their landlords. This is particularly true of croppers and may explain why the percentage of croppers reporting implements and machinery is so much lower than for the other tenure groups. The implements and machinery, being furnished by the landlord, were probably kept at the plantation headquarters and would therefore be reported on the "home farm."

For most States, both the per farm and per acre values of land and buildings averaged higher for tenant-operated farms than for owner-operated farms, although the per farm value of owner-operated farms averaged higher for the United States as a whole. This apparently anomalous situation results because most of the tenants in the United States are in the South and the tenant farms in that general area tend to be small. The buildings for owner-operated farms generally had a higher average value than for tenant-operated farms. Also the value of implements and machinery averaged higher for owners than for tenant-operated farms.

Part-owner-operated farms, being larger, had higher average values per farm than did full owners. Generally, the value per acre, however, was lower for farms of part owners than for farms of full owners. This difference may be due, in part, to a tendency on the part of a few part-owner operators to report the value of the owned portion as the total value of the farm. The inquiry in regard to the value of the owned portion of part-owner-operated farms, included on the 1940 Farm and Ranch Schedule, is believed to have reduced but not to have entirely eliminated this tendency. The per farm values for managed farms generally exceeded by far those for all of the other tenure classes.

The relative average values of land and buildings and of implements and machinery for the various subclasses of tenant farms varied considerably from State to State. For most States farms operated by share-cash tenants had higher values, on an average, than did farms of share tenants and these, except in the South, generally averaged higher than farms of cash tenants. Cropper farms had much lower values on an average than did other tenant farms.

Farms, farm acreage, and specified farm values by color and tenure, and by race and tenure of the farm operator.—On April 1, 1940, there were 719,071 nonwhite farm operators in the United States. These nonwhite farm operators were classed by tenure and are presented by divisions and States in table 21. White operators by tenure are shown in table 20. Data for farm acreage and specified farm values are presented by tenure for white and for nonwhite operators in tables 22 and 23 for each of the southern States and for each geographic division. Only totals for white and for nonwhite operators are shown in these tables for each of the northern and western States. Farms by race of operator with nonwhite races classified by tenure are presented by divisions and States in table 26. Farm acreage and specified farm values for each of the nonwhite races are presented by divisions and States in tables 27 to 30, inclusive. In these tables, the data for each race are presented by tenure for each State where 50 or more farm operators of that race were reported. Data by color and by race of the farm operator with comparative data from 1900 are presented for the United States in tables 8, 10 to 12, and 14.

Nonwhite farm operators comprised 11.8 percent of the total of all farm operators in 1940. The number of nonwhite farm operators recorded at this census was the smallest ever recorded since census data were first secured by color of the farm operator in 1900. The 1910 Census showed an increase in the number of nonwhite operators of nearly 20 percent over the number recorded in 1900. In the decade which followed there was a slight increase, but each census since 1920 has shown a decline. The northern and western States, however, continued to show an increase in number of nonwhite operators through 1935 but a decline was recorded in the Census of 1940. Most of the decline in number of nonwhite operators for the country,

as a whole, since 1920 was in the decade 1930 to 1940 when the number of nonwhite operators dropped 196,999, or 21.5 percent. White operators increased 0.1 percent during that decade. The decline in the number of nonwhite operators was largely in the South and resulted almost entirely from the loss of Negro tenants, particularly croppers.

Most of the nonwhite operators are in the States designated as "the South." In these States approximately one-fourth of all operators were nonwhite and nearly all the nonwhite operators were Negroes. In Mississippi more than one-half of all farm operators were nonwhite. In the northern and western States only 1.3 percent of all farm operators was classed as nonwhite. In these States, in general, Indians comprised a relatively larger proportion of the total nonwhite operators than in the South. In the West North Central States approximately 2 out of 5 nonwhite operators were Indians, and in the Mountain States about 16 out of 17 were Indians. In the Pacific States the number of Japanese operators exceeded that of Indian operators.

In most areas, farms of nonwhite operators averaged much smaller in size than did farms of white operators. The average values per farm of land and buildings, of buildings only, and of implements and machinery, were also lower than for farms of white operators. Relatively few nonwhite operators were owners. The proportion of tenancy was 71.9 percent for nonwhite operators as compared with 34.3 percent for white operators.

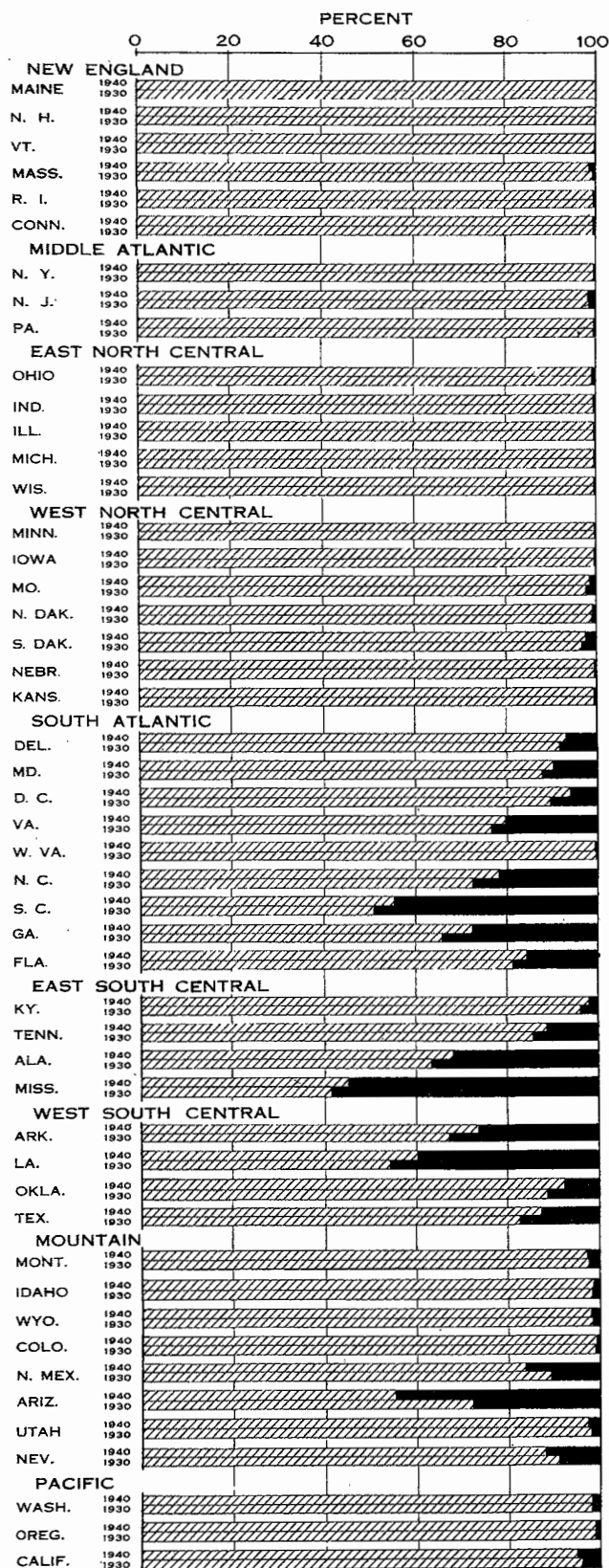
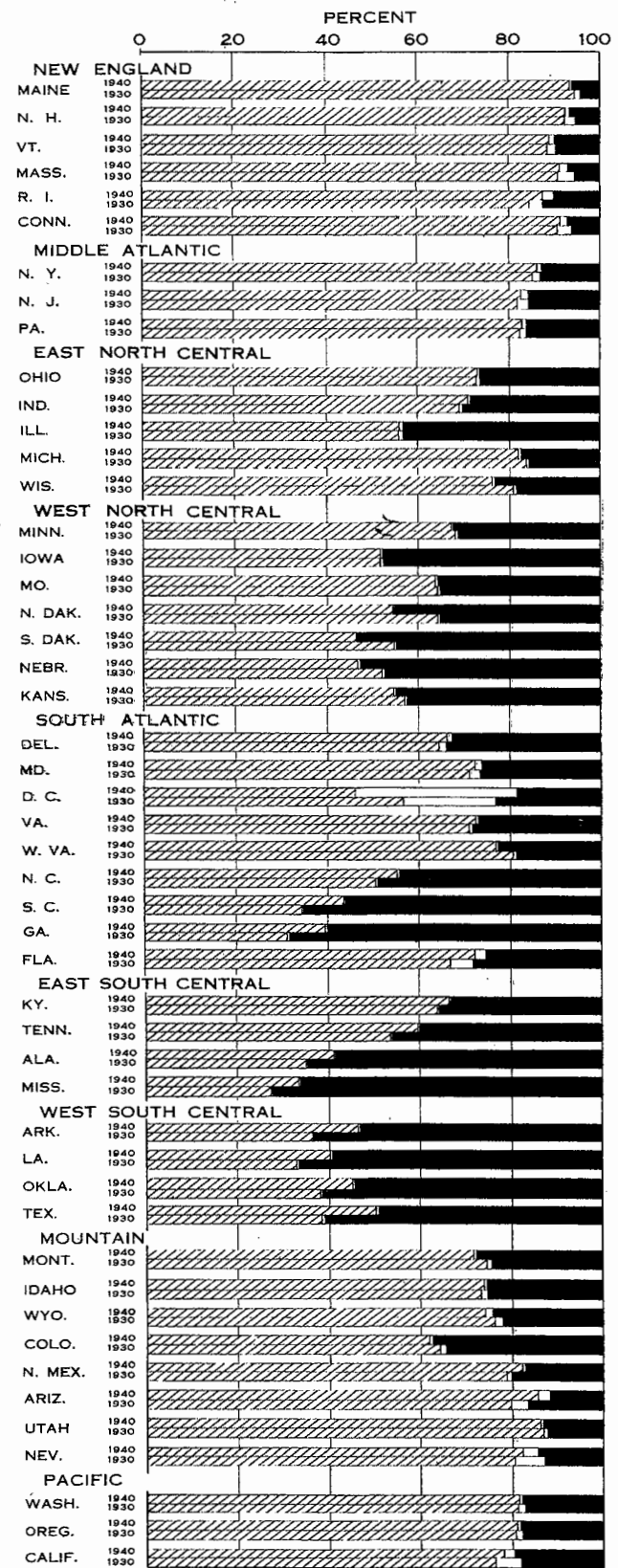
Negro farm operators accounted for approximately 19 out of 20 nonwhite farm operators in the United States. Since such a large proportion of the nonwhite operators are Negroes the comparisons given above for nonwhite operators apply, in general, to Negro farm operators.

In 1940 there were 29,742 farms in the United States operated by Indians. Each census has shown an increase in the number of Indian operators, except that of 1920. In that year the fewer number of Indian operators recorded was largely attributed to a difference in the method of enumerating Indian reservations, many reservation groups being enumerated as single farms in that year. Comparability of data for other census years may also be affected somewhat for a few areas by differences in the enumeration. Consequently the figures may not, in all instances, necessarily represent changes in the number of Indians actually engaged in farming. More than 5 out of 6 Indian operators were classed as owners. In this connection it should be pointed out that allotted Indian lands were considered as owned whether the allotment was in fee, in trust, or merely a simple designation of a certain acreage as the place of residence or agricultural activity of the operator. Also, each Indian having sufficient livestock operations on unallotted reservations, National forests, and public domain to classify as a farm, but with no allotted or rented land, was classed as an owner operator. Arizona, New Mexico, Oklahoma, North Carolina, and South Dakota, in the order named, led in the number of Indian farm operators. These 5 States accounted for 76.3 percent of all Indian farm operators in the United States.

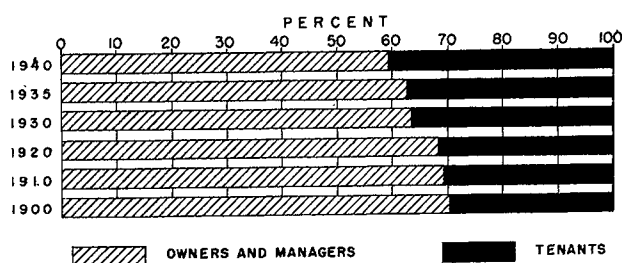
Of the 6,978 Japanese farm operators in the United States, 5,135 were in California, 706 in Washington, 290 in Colorado, and 277 in Oregon, and they comprised 76.3, 46.8, 72.1, and 44.5 percent, respectively, of the total nonwhite farm operators in these States. Most of the Japanese farm operators were tenants. The Japanese-operated farms were, in general, small, averaging only 50 acres, but with most of the land used for crops. The per acre value of these farms averaged considerably higher in most instances than did other farms in the same area. The number of Japanese farm operators recorded in the Census of 1940 was 19.5 percent higher than in 1930 and was greater than that recorded for any previous census.

Each census has shown a decline in the number of Chinese farm operators, only 327 being reported in the United States in 1940. Most of these were tenants. The Chinese-operated farms averaged only 83.2 acres of which 60.9 were cropland harvested.

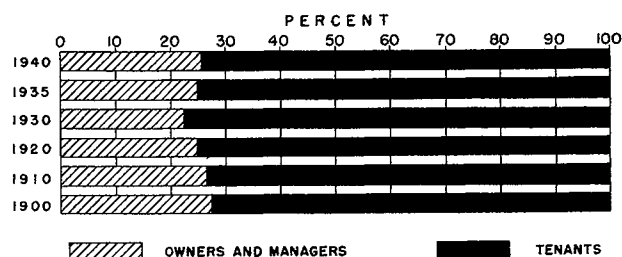
Data for nonwhite races, other than those already mentioned, were first secured in the Census of 1930. In 1940 these "Other nonwhite" operators included 210 Filipinos, 19 Koreans, 3 Hawaiians, 1 Oriental Indian, and 1 Siamese. In 1930 there were 56 Filipino farm operators, 30 Koreans, and 1 Hawaiian.

ALL FARM OPERATORS - PERCENT DISTRIBUTION,
BY COLOR, BY STATES: 1940 AND 1930ALL FARM OPERATORS - PERCENT DISTRIBUTION,
BY TENURE, BY STATES: 1940 AND 1930

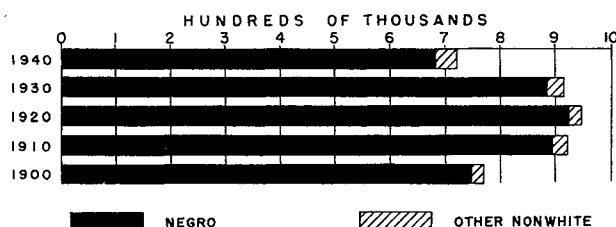
**WHITE FARM OPERATORS—PERCENT DISTRIBUTION,
BY TENURE, FOR THE UNITED STATES: 1900–1940**



**NONWHITE FARM OPERATORS—PERCENT DISTRIBUTION,
BY TENURE, FOR THE UNITED STATES: 1900–1940**



**NUMBER OF NEGRO AND OTHER NONWHITE
FARM OPERATORS, FOR THE UNITED STATES:
1900–1940**



Owned and rented portions of farms operated by part owners.—The acreage and value of the owned and rented portions of part-owner-operated farms are presented for the United States in table 15 and by divisions and States in table 24. The proportions of owned and rented land in part-owner farms varied considerably for the various States. For the United States as a whole the acreage in the rented portion exceeded the acreage of the owned portion. However, the value of the rented portion was less than that of the owned. The average value of the owned portion was \$25 per acre and of the rented portion \$16 per acre. The lower value of the rented land may be attributed in part to a greater amount of improvements and of cropland on the owned portion. The rented acreage on part-owner-operated farms, particularly in the western Great Plains and in the Mountain and Pacific States, included a high proportion of grazing lands.

The break-down of the part-owner-operated farms into the owned and rented portions makes possible a classification of

all farm lands according to the tenure under which they are operated. Farm lands operated by the owner, consisting of land in farms of full owners plus the land in the owned portion of part-owner-operated farms, amounted to 49.7 percent of the total farm land in the United States. The value of this land, including the buildings thereon, amounted to 56.1 percent of the value of all farms. Land rented by the farm operator, comprising land in farms of tenants and the rented portions of part-owner-operated farms, accounted for 44.1 percent of all farm land and to 39.6 percent of the value of all farms. The remaining farm land, that operated by managers, represented 6.3 percent of the total acreage and 4.3 percent of the total value. Farm land operated by the owner had an average value of \$35.81 per acre as compared with \$28.52 for that rented by the farm operator.

Cash rent.—The cash rent paid or payable by cash tenants and by part owners renting on a cash basis is shown for the United States in table 16 and by divisions and States in tables 31 and 32. Cash rent for irrigated farms is shown in tables 18 and 34. The schedule called for the rent paid for the year. This presumably referred to the current year, but the enumerator was not instructed as to whether the question referred to 1940, 1939, or to some other 12-month period. The average rentals per acre varied greatly from State to State. In some areas, particularly near urban centers, farms were rented primarily for residential use and in such areas the per acre rentals were high. Also, in some areas, the rented land was mostly cropland, while in others it consisted only of pasture, or it was mostly rough or waste land.

The differences in the per acre rentals for land rented by part owners and that rented by tenants may be attributed largely to differences in the land and to the fact that part owners often rent land on which there are no buildings. The per acre values of the rented portion of part-owner-operated farms were generally lower than for the owned portion and also lower than for tenant-operated farms in the same area. The difference in the per acre rentals for land rented by part owners and for land rented by tenants was most pronounced in the western part of the Great Plains, and also, in the Mountain and Pacific States. In these areas much of the land rented by part owners was grazing land, while for most tenant operators the farms included considerable cropland and also farm buildings.

Variations in the cash rent per \$100 of value may be due in part to differences in the general level of investment returns for the different sections of the country; to values attributable to other than the rental income from the property, such as values attributable to the presence of minerals; to differences in taxes; and to differences in improvements, since the rental usually takes into account depreciation or upkeep of such improvements.

Irrigated farms by tenure of the operator.—Irrigated farms by tenure of the operator are discussed briefly along with the presentation of tables 17 and 18.

Maps.—Several maps presented in this chapter show the geographic distribution of farm operators by tenure, color, and race. These maps were prepared on a county unit basis. Thus, for the dot map showing the number of nonwhite farm operators, where the scale of one dot equals 500 operators, any county having as many as 250 nonwhite operators but less than 750 received one dot. Counties having less than 250 nonwhite operators received no dots. Thus for Kentucky, although there was a total of 5,547 nonwhite operators, only 2 dots were required as only 2 counties had as many as 250 nonwhite operators.