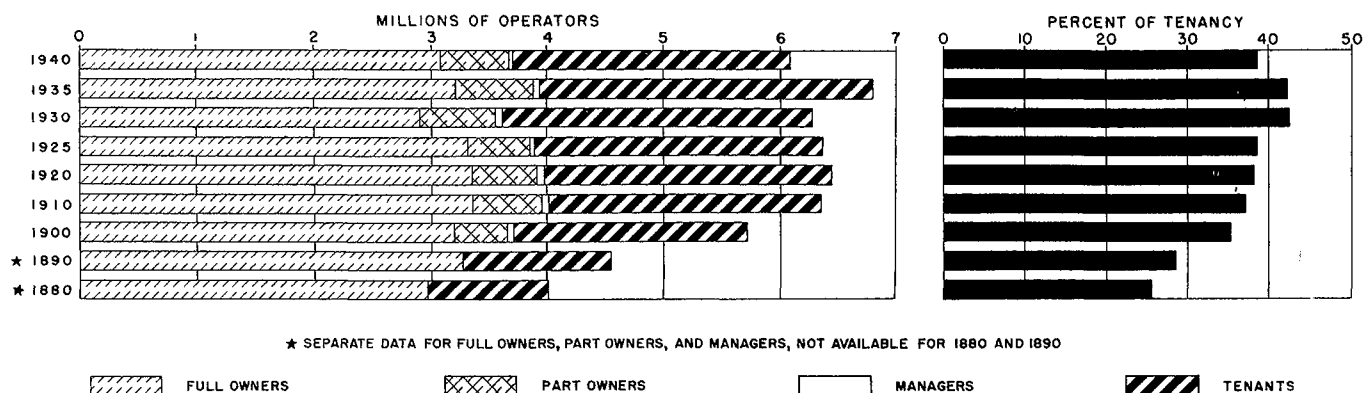
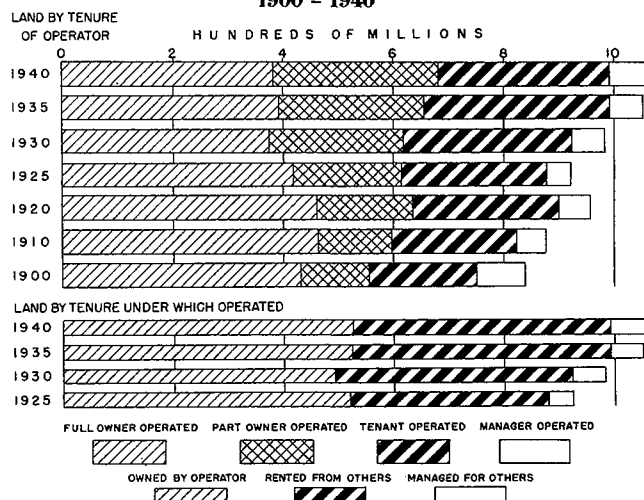


NUMBER OF FARM OPERATORS, BY TENURE, AND PERCENT OF TENANCY, FOR THE UNITED STATES:  
1880 - 1940



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.