

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	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 36,851	Managers 49,104	Managers 55,889	Managers 40,700	Managers 68,449	Managers 58,104	Managers 59,085		
All tenants 2,361,271	All tenants 2,885,155	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) 623,058	Croppers (South only) 561,091				
Other 213,138	(²)	(²)	(²)	Standing renters (South only) 104,996 Unspecified 63,165	(Standing renters included with cash tenants) Unspecified 113,995	(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 1939 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.