

## Chapter IV.—MAJOR SOURCES OF INCOME FOR FARMS CLASSIFIED BY COLOR AND TENURE OF FARM OPERATOR

The major-source classification.—The term "major source of income," as used in this study and in the 1940 Census of Agriculture, refers to the classification of farms according to their major source of income in 1939. As explained in the definition quoted in chapter I, this classification was based on the *single largest value entry* for any of the ten value-of-products questions described in chapters I and III. In other words, if the entry for value of dairy products sold or traded was greater than any one of the entries for the other nine value-of-products questions, the farm was classified as a dairy farm. If the entries for two or more of the value questions were exactly the same, the farm was classified according to the one item which predominated, as to major source, in that locality. From this it follows that there are ten major-source classes corresponding to the ten sources of income already described in chapter III. For brevity, the term "subsistence farm" has been used to designate farms with farm products used by farm households as the major source of income in 1939. It was recognized, however, that many farms that fell in the "subsistence" class in the 1940 Census of Agriculture were not subsistence farms according to the common usage of that word.

Basic data on major sources of income.—The recorded 1940 Census totals, for the United States, on number of farms and value of all farm products sold, traded, or used by farm households for farms classified by major source of income are presented in text table VI which follows:

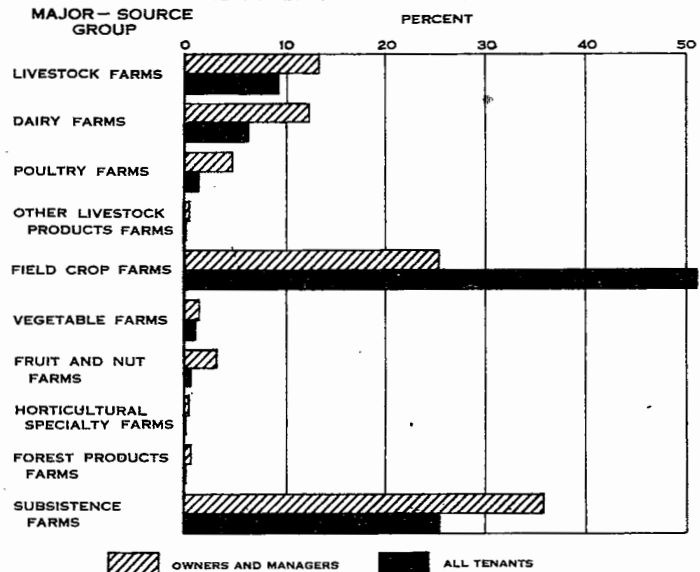
TABLE VI.—NUMBER OF FARMS AND VALUE OF ALL FARM PRODUCTS SOLD, TRADED, OR USED BY FARM HOUSEHOLDS FOR FARMS CLASSIFIED BY MAJOR SOURCE OF INCOME, 1939, FOR THE UNITED STATES: CENSUS OF 1940

MAJOR-SOURCE CLASSIFICATION	FARMS		VALUE (DOLLARS)	
	Number	Percent of all farms	Total	Average per farm
All classified farms.....	5,968,755	97.9	7,813,644,567	1,309
Subsistence farms <sup>1</sup> .....	1,942,729	31.9	699,917,286	360
All other classified farms.....	4,026,026	66.0	7,113,727,281	1,767
Livestock and livestock products farms.....	1,582,989	26.0	3,459,935,991	2,186
Livestock farms <sup>2</sup> .....	726,162	11.9	1,836,270,543	2,529
Livestock products farms <sup>3</sup> .....	856,827	14.1	1,623,665,448	1,895
Dairy farms.....	619,006	10.2	1,214,181,902	1,962
Poultry farms.....	217,570	3.6	359,087,849	1,650
Other livestock products farms <sup>3</sup> .....	20,251	0.3	50,385,687	2,468
Crop and forest products farms.....	2,443,037	40.1	3,653,791,290	1,496
Crop farms.....	2,419,737	39.7	3,627,852,248	1,499
Field crop farms <sup>4</sup> .....	2,186,986	35.9	3,016,168,444	1,379
Vegetable farms <sup>4</sup> .....	80,116	1.3	179,505,250	2,241
Fruit and nut farms.....	133,685	2.2	300,975,952	2,251
Horticultural specialty farms.....	18,950	0.3	131,202,603	6,924
Forest products farms.....	23,300	0.4	25,939,042	1,113

<sup>1</sup>Farms with farm products used by farm households as major source of income, 1939.  
<sup>2</sup>Excludes poultry farms, apiaries, and fur farms. <sup>3</sup>Includes farms with major source of income, 1939, from the sale of wool, mohair, meat, hides, etc., bees, honey, wax, or fur animals and pelts. See text. <sup>4</sup>Farms with major source of income, 1939, from the sale of Irish or sweet potatoes are included with "Field crop farms," not with "Vegetable farms."

These figures on major source of income, which relate to classified farms, are comparable with the data on sources of income for classified farms, shown in text table V of chapter III, and with the summary statistics on value of products presented in text table II of chapter I. These statistics on major source have been reclassified and retabulated by tenure groups in the North and West and by color-tenure groups in the South, according to the procedure already outlined in chapter II. The basic United States figures on numbers of farms by tenure groups will be found in text table I of chapter I.

PERCENT DISTRIBUTION OF NUMBER OF FARMS BY 10 MAJOR SOURCES OF INCOME, OWNERS AND MANAGERS COMPARED WITH ALL TENANTS, FOR THE UNITED STATES: CENSUS OF 1940



Arrangement of tables.—The general arrangement of the tables in this monograph was summarized in chapter III. In this chapter tables 13 to 19, inclusive, show figures for the complete color-tenure break-down for the United States and/or divisions, while tables 20 to 22, inclusive, present figures by States for the restricted color-tenure break-down. Tables 13 to 15, inclusive, give division figures for the combinations of major-source classes, such as "All crop and forest products farms," comparable with the State data given in tables 20 to 22. Tables 16, 18, and 19 show similar figures by divisions for the individual major-source classes such as "Field crop farms," "Fruit and nut farms," etc. Figures for the United States and the South only are shown for two of the individual major-source classes in table 17, viz, "Other livestock products farms" and "Forest products farms." Division figures are not presented for these two major-source classes because of their minor importance in most States.

Since the statistics on major source of income relate to "Classified farms," tables 1 and 9 in chapter III provide the