
CHAPTER III— COLOR AND TENURE OF FARM OPERATOR

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CHAPTER III—COLOR AND TENURE OF FARM OPERATOR

Introduction.—This chapter presents, by color and tenure of the farm operator, statistics collected in 1945 for the number, acreage, and value of farms (land and buildings) as of January 1 of that year and for the farm acreage classified according to use in 1944. Data are also given for the number, acreage, land utilization, and value for farms of various sizes in each color and tenure class, the size grouping being based on the total acreage in the individual farm. Information is given for the acreage and value of the owned and rented portions of part-owner operated farms. A similar break-down of the acreage in managed farms according to whether owned or rented by the employer makes possible a summarization of all land in farms by tenure under which operated.

Data presented herein by color and tenure of the farm operator represent totals for the United States, regions, divisions, and States. Statistics by counties are presented in volume I. The number of farms by color of the farm operator (Southern States only) and the number of farms by tenure are shown by minor civil divisions (townships, precincts, etc.) in minor civil division table 1 which is available by counties at the cost of making copies of the table.

Other data relating to the characteristics of the farm operator are presented in chapter IV. These include age, residence on or off the farm operated, the number of years the farm operator had been operating the farm he was occupying at the time of the census, and the number of days he had worked during the year preceding the census date at jobs other than the operation of his farm. Of these characteristics, only the age of the farm operator is classified by color and tenure. Closely

related subjects include farm population and farm labor presented in chapter V and farm facilities in chapter VI. Additional items classified by color and tenure of the farm operator, based on a sample of the farms enumerated in the 1945 Census, are included in a separate report.

Statistics by color and tenure of the farm operator represent only one of several methods for measuring the relative importance and characteristics of farms. The number, acreage, and value of farms classified by the total land area in each farm are presented in chapter II; the number of farms and the value of products sold or used by farm households classified by type of farm and by gross farm income are presented in chapter X; and the number of farms classified by cropland harvested in chapters I and II, by value of implements and machinery in chapters I and VI, by amount of cash wages paid in chapter V, and by number of tractors in chapter VI. Simple totals for the number, acreage, and value of farms as of the census date, and the farm acreage classified according to use for the preceding calendar year are presented in chapter I.

Color-tenure classification.—A classification of farm operators by tenure has been made at each census beginning with 1880, and a classification by color of farm operator, with cross-classification of color and tenure, has been made at each census since 1900. The classification has varied from census to census. The number of tenure classes has ranged from three in 1880 to nine in 1920, with eight in 1940 and 1945. The particular tenure classes included in the reports for each census and their relation to the 1945 classification are shown in table 1. In all years, the color classification has consisted

Table 1.—TENURE CLASSES INCLUDED IN THE REPORTS FOR EACH CENSUS, WITH THE NUMBER OF FARMS IN EACH CLASS: 1880 TO 1945

1945	1940	1935	1930	1925	1920	1910	1900	1890	1880
Full owners 3,301,361	Full owners 3,084,138	Full owners 3,210,224	Full owners 2,911,644	Full owners 3,313,490	Owners owning entire farm 3,366,510	Owners owning entire farm ¹ 3,354,897	Owners 3,148,548 Owners and tenants ¹ 53,299	Cultivated by owners 3,258,728	Cultivated by owners 2,994,308
Part owners 660,502	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 38,885	Managers 36,351	Managers 48,104	Managers 55,889	Managers 40,700	Managers 68,449	Managers 58,104	Managers 59,085		
All tenants 1,858,421	All tenants 2,361,271	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 402,175	Cash 514,438	(2)	Cash 489,210	Cash 393,452	Cash 480,009 (Includes stand- ing renters for North and West)	Cash 712,294 (Includes stand- ing renters)	Cash 751,665 (Includes standing renters and un- specified tenants)	Rented for fixed money value 454,659	Rented for fixed money rental 322,357
Share-cash 137,858	Share-cash 278,605	(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 694,928	Share 815,799	(2)	(2)	(2)	Share 1,117,721	Share 1,399,923			
Croppers (South only) 446,556	Croppers (South only) 541,291	Croppers (South only) 716,258	Croppers (South only) 776,278	Croppers (South only) 623,058	Croppers (South only) 561,091				
Other and unspecified 176,904	Other and unspecified 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 1910 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."

of two groups, white and nonwhite, with the nonwhite further classified according to race in all the decennial censuses. In the mid-decennial years (1945, 1935, and 1925), the color classification has been restricted to "white" and "nonwhite." The definitions and classifications which follow refer principally to the 1945 Census of Agriculture. Any significant changes or differences in these definitions and classifications for prior censuses are pointed out in this chapter. For the exact phrasing of the inquiries and of the instructions to enumerators for 1945, reference should be made to the facsimile of the 1945 Farm and Ranch Schedule shown in the Appendix.

A farm operator is the person who works a farm, performing the labor himself, or directly supervising it. If a farm is operated by two or more partners, the senior partner is considered the operator unless the junior partner is actually conducting the operations. When land is rented or cropped, the tenant, renter, or cropper is the operator even though the owner may exercise some supervision. If the farming operations are performed by a caretaker who merely carries out the instructions of his employer, the employer is the operator. However, a paid manager responsible for the farming operations is a farm operator. If a farm is operated for a corporation or institution, the superintendent, manager, supervisor, or other person directly responsible for the farming operations is the operator and, in each case, the operator was classified as a manager.

The number of farm operators, as shown, is identical with the number of farms and the terms "number of farm operators" and "number of farms" are used interchangeably. Infrequently a farm had no operator at the time of enumeration, as when a farm operated in 1944 was not to be operated in 1945 or when a tenant or manager had not yet been secured at the time of the census enumeration. In such cases, the farm was given a nominal operator. The tenure assigned was that under which the farm had been or would be operated and the color was assigned on the basis of the predominating color for farm operators of that tenure in that locality. Occasionally, the same individual operated two or more farms, as when a person operated one farm on his own account and another as a hired manager, or when a person managed several farms, each for a different employer. On the other hand, land may have been reported in the name of the owner but, after visitation by the Census enumerator, a part, or all of the land, may have been rented to one or more tenants. In plantation areas, the first of the year commonly represents a period of uncertainty, since settlement has usually been completed for the preceding crop year, but arrangements may not have been made for the coming year. It should be noted that the number of farm operators does not include persons such as landlords, employers of farm managers, or partners or relatives who may spend all or much of their time directing, supervising, or assisting the farm operator. If such persons are operating farms on their own account, they are included as farm operators. Neither does the number of farm operators include persons such as landlords, hired workers, relatives, or others who carried on some agricultural operations of their own on farms operated primarily by others.

A farm, for Census purposes, is an operating unit, not an ownership tract, and consists of all the land on which some agricultural operations are performed by one person. A farm may consist of a number of separate tracts, not necessarily adjacent, held under different tenures, as when one tract is owned and another is rented by the farm operator. When a landowner has several tenants, renters, or croppers, the land operated by each is considered a separate farm. Thus, on a plantation, the land operated by each cropper, renter, or tenant is a separate farm. Tracts of less than 3 acres are considered farms only if their agricultural products for the calendar year preceding the census date were valued at \$250 or more.

This definition is essentially the same as that used in previous censuses. Differences in definition have, in general, affected only the number of farms of under 3 acres. This group has never been particularly important, amounting to only 1.7 percent of all farms in 1945. In periods of high prices, everything being equal, more tracts of land of less than 3 acres would be included as farms than in periods of low prices. In 1945, there was a considerable increase over 1940 in the number of farms of under 3 acres. This marginal group included a large number of farms whose agricultural activities were limited to the production of items for family use, supplementing some other primary source of livelihood. Such farms characteristically have a high proportion of owner operators, and the tenants in this group are generally cash tenants.

Color of operator.—Farm operators are classified as "white" and "nonwhite." "White" includes Mexicans and "nonwhite" (designated as "other" on the schedule) includes Negroes, Indians, Chinese, Japanese, and all other nonwhite races.

Tenure of operator.—Farm operators were classified according to the tenure under which the operator controlled the land. Classification was made on the basis of replies to the following inquiries on the schedule:

Is the operator of this farm a paid manager?	Land in this farm OWNED BY OPERATOR (or by his employer if a managed farm)		Land in this farm RENTED FROM OTHERS			
	Acres owned	Value of land and buildings owned	Acres rented	Value of land and buildings rented	Method of rental (cash, share, share-cash, other)	All work stock and tractor power furnished by landlord?
11a	12a	13a	14a	15a	16a	17a
Yes or No	Acres	Dollars	Acres	Dollars		Yes or No

Owners own all, or a portion, of the land they operate.

Full owners own all the land they operate.

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

Enumerators were instructed to consider as "owned" the land which the operator or his wife held under title, homestead law, purchase contract, or as one of the heirs or trustees of an undivided estate. If no land was owned or leased, as when the operations were limited to livestock on open range, the operator was considered a full owner. There was a total of only 268 such operations recorded for the United States in 1945 (see chapter II). On Indian reservations, lands allotted to individual Indians were considered as owned whether the allotment was in fee, in trust, or merely the designation of a certain acreage as the place of residence or agricultural activity of the operator.

Managers operate farms for others and are paid wages or salaries for their services. Persons acting merely as caretakers or hired as laborers are not classified as managers.

A manager differs from a tenant in that his payments are relatively fixed and, unlike most tenants, he has no capital invested in the farm business. Therefore, he has fewer of the attributes of an entrepreneur. However, in some instances, he may receive a share of the products or a share of the profits in addition to his fixed wage. He differs from a caretaker or hired worker in that he usually has full control of the operations on the farm. Farms operated for institutions or corporations are usually considered managed even if no person was specifically designated as the farm manager. Similarly, operations representing grazing lands held or controlled by cooperative groups, such as grazing associations, are usually considered managed as are grazing lands in Indian reservations used for grazing reservation livestock. In the latter situation, the Indian agent was usually reported as the manager and such operations were generally included with the statistics for farms of white operators.

As managers often differ from caretakers or hired hands only in the degree of responsibility, the enumerator frequently had difficulty in determining the correct tenure classification. Consequently, this tenure group is less accurate than either the owner-operator or the tenant-operator group. All farm returns indicating managed operations were reviewed carefully in the Washington office to eliminate from this classification, insofar as possible, farms not representing managed operations. If there was an indication that the operator received a share of the products in lieu of a wage or that the use of the farm represented a privilege extended to the operator, then the operator was considered a tenant, not a manager. However, the

employer was considered to be the operator if the person reported as operator was referred to as "caretaker," "watchman," "hired hand," or the like, and the agricultural operations appeared to be for the employer. In like manner, if the operations as indicated by the value of products, crop acreage, inventory items, machinery, wages, and the like appeared insufficient to justify a paid manager and there was no indication that the person reported as operator might be employed principally to supervise or manage some larger operation of which the farm was only a part, the employer was considered the operator. An exception was made for farms for which the value of the property indicated probable need for a manager, as for example, country estates.

Tenants operate hired or rented land only.

A tenant is characterized by the fact that he does not own any of the land he operates. He may be closely supervised by his landlord or he may exercise independent management. He may have his livestock and equipment furnished, in whole or in part, by his landlord, he may rent them on a custom basis, or he may own these items. The contractual arrangements between landlords and tenants are extremely varied. At one extreme, a tenant differs from a hired worker only in that he is assigned a definite acreage to work and receives a share of the crop in lieu of a cash wage; at the other, he pays a cash rental and has full control of the land. In some instances, as under a long-term lease, he may even "own" the farm buildings.

Tenants were subdivided into five groups, depending upon the method of rental and whether or not the work power was furnished by the landlord.

Cash tenants pay a cash rental, such as \$4.50 per acre for the cropland or \$500 for the use of the whole farm.

This subgroup of tenants includes many whose rental was paid primarily for a place of residence. On most of these residential tracts, the agricultural operations amounted to little more than enough to qualify the place as a farm.

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

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

Croppers are share tenants to whom their landlords furnish all the work animals or tractor power in lieu of work animals.

In the 1945 and 1940 Censuses, the classification of croppers took into account that some croppers pay cash rent for such items as noncash crops while continuing to pay, or receive, a share of the cash crops. For these years all tenants paying a part of their rental in cash and a part on a share basis were classed as croppers if the work power was furnished by the landlord. This group of croppers was relatively unimportant amounting to only 10,823 in 1940, or 2.0 percent of all croppers. No separate count was made of such croppers for 1945. In the 1935 Census, no information was secured as to the method of paying rent, all tenants whose work animals were furnished by the landlord being classed as croppers. In 1930, 1925, and 1920, tenants paying, or receiving, a share of the crops were classed as croppers if the landlord furnished the work animals. The furnishing of tractor power was first taken into account in the 1940 Census.

If information either as to work power or method of rental was incompletely reported, an effort was made, at all censuses, to identify croppers (but not other kinds of tenants), especially when there was an appreciable number of such reports by one enumerator. In 1945, an examination of the returns which showed that work power was furnished, but the method of rental was not specified, indicated that nearly all such tenants were on multiple-unit operations (plantations). Consequently, in order to facilitate the coding procedure, all tenants with work power furnished, except those paying cash rental only, were classed as croppers. It is not believed that differences in definition of croppers or procedure for classifying croppers have had any appreciable effect on comparability of the data for the various censuses.

Traditionally, a cropper has been thought of as a hired worker who is paid a share of the crop in lieu of a cash wage. He differs from a wage hand in that his payment is not fixed but involves risk. The laws of some States define a share cropper as a tenant, others hold that he is a laborer. In most States, questions as to his tenure status are decided by the

courts on the basis of whether he has title to the crop and, upon harvest, pays the landlord a share, or whether the landlord retains title to the crop and, upon harvest, pays the cropper his share after deducting any advances in cash, credit, supplies, etc. Typically, a cropper works under close supervision, and the land assigned to him is often merely a part of a larger enterprise operated as a single economic unit. In the 1945 Census, reports were obtained for both the over-all operations of such multiple units, including plantations, and for each of the cropper or tenant subunits with a "home farm" report for any remainder not assigned to croppers or tenants. Statistics for 1945 on multiple units appear in a separate report. Not all croppers, however, are on multiple units, and not all tenants on multiple units are croppers.

In the Northern and Western States, share tenants whose landlords furnish the work power have few of the characteristics of the traditional cropper in the South. Therefore, data for croppers are shown separately only for the Southern States, as in former censuses, and are combined with the data for share tenants for all other States with one exception, viz, Missouri where croppers were shown separately for seven specified counties. (See volume I.) Summary figures for these seven southeastern Missouri counties are shown in table 2.

Table 2.—NUMBER, ACREAGE, AND VALUE OF CROPPER FARMS, BY COLOR OF OPERATOR, FOR SEVEN SOUTHEASTERN MISSOURI COUNTIES: 1930 TO 1945

[Croppers in Missouri are not included in the totals for croppers for the United States or for the South. The seven counties for which data are shown are Butler, Dunklin, Mississippi, New Madrid, Pemiscot, Scott, and Stoddard. County figures are given in vol. I.]

COLOR OF OPERATOR AND YEAR	Number of farms	All land in farms (acres)	Cropland harvested (acres)	Value of farms (land and buildings) (dollars)
Seven counties:				
Total croppers.....1945..	5,569	216,167	188,088	19,987,170
1940..	4,369	149,712	114,993	7,698,725
1935..	6,065	186,829	154,572	7,350,026
1930..	7,181	258,639	185,165	15,501,229
White.....1945..	3,896	178,916	153,456	16,405,835
1940..	2,896	125,671	95,745	6,417,379
1935..	3,669	139,221	110,809	5,245,597
1930..	4,232	172,272	126,861	10,661,401
Nonwhite.....1945..	1,671	37,251	34,632	3,581,355
1940..	1,473	24,041	21,238	1,281,346
1935..	2,396	47,608	43,663	2,106,429
1930..	2,949	66,367	58,304	4,839,828

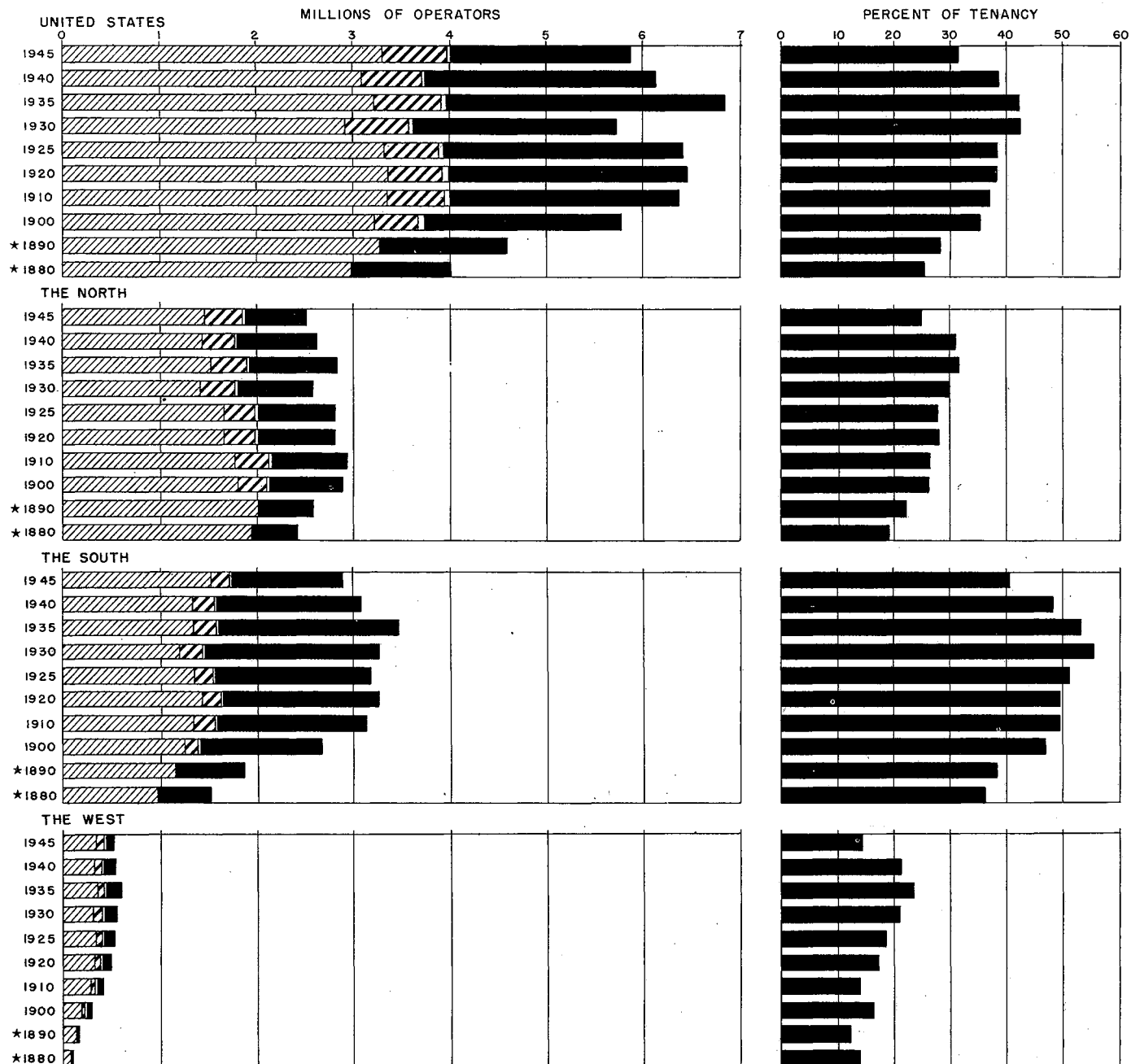
Other and unspecified tenants include those whose rental agreement was unspecified and those who could not be included in one of the other subgroups.

Other tenants include standing renters (i.e., those who pay a fixed quantity of produce such as "2 bales cotton"), and those whose rental consisted of "upkeep," "clearing," "labor," "free," and the like. Tenants paying taxes or other cash expenditures were considered as "cash" rather than "other" tenants. A large proportion of the tenants in this subgroup, however, represented tenants whose rental arrangement was unspecified or could not be determined as representing one of the other classifications.

Because of variations in rental arrangements, the tenants of a particular subgroup will not necessarily be entirely comparable for all areas. For example, some share tenants may have such items as all or part of the equipment, livestock, fertilizer, or seed furnished by the landlord and, therefore, pay a larger share as rent than a share tenant who owns or furnishes these items himself. Another example is cash tenants whose rentals are based primarily on the residence rather than on the agricultural possibilities of the land. In comparing the number of tenants in each subgroup for 1945 with those for 1940, consideration should be given to changes in the inquiry on method of rental. In 1945 the inquiry merely required the enumerator to indicate whether the method of rental was cash, share, share-cash, or other, while in 1940 the inquiry called for considerable detail as to the rental arrangement, asking for the amounts of cash and the particular shares of the crop and livestock or livestock production and, if other than cash or share, asking that the method of payment be specified. The determination of the particular subgroup was made on the basis of this detailed information. Thus, the classification for 1940 should be somewhat more accurate than that for 1945.

CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE: 1945

NUMBER OF FARM OPERATORS, BY TENURE, AND PERCENT OF TENANCY, FOR THE UNITED STATES AND REGIONS:
1880-1945

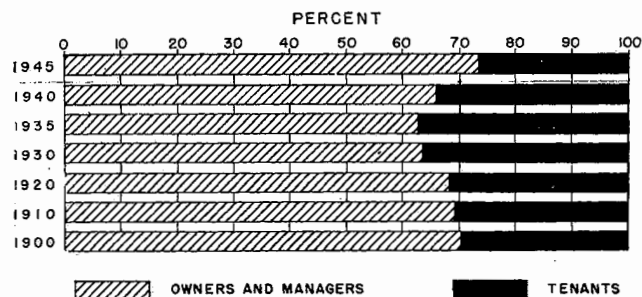


*SEPARATE DATA FOR FULL OWNERS, PART OWNERS, AND MANAGERS NOT AVAILABLE FOR 1880 AND 1890

FULL OWNERS
 PART OWNERS
 MANAGERS
 TENANTS
 PERCENT OF TENANCY

Data shown by color and tenure of the farm operator.—The items classified by color and tenure of the farm operator have varied from census to census. A count of farms by tenure of the operator is available from 1880 and by color of the operator from 1900. Beginning with 1900, the color and tenure classifications have included, in addition to a count of farms, a tabulation of all land in farms, the more important classes of land according to use, and the value of farms (land and buildings). For both the 1945 and 1940 Censuses, the entire land-use classification was tabulated by color and tenure of the farm operator. Separate acreage figures have been secured for the owned and rented portions of part-owner-operated farms beginning with the Census of 1925. (See table 15.) The value of the owned portion was determined for the first time in 1940.

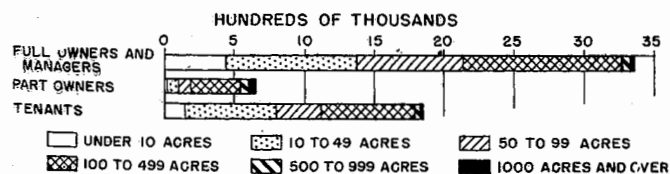
WHITE FARM OPERATORS—PERCENT DISTRIBUTION, BY TENURE, FOR THE UNITED STATES: 1900-1945



NONWHITE FARM OPERATORS—PERCENT DISTRIBUTION, BY TENURE, FOR THE UNITED STATES: 1900-1945



NUMBER OF FARMS, BY TENURE OF OPERATOR, BY SIZE OF FARM, FOR THE UNITED STATES: 1945



This information on the owned and rented portions of part-owner farms made it possible to determine the total acreage and value of farm land operated by owners and the total acreage and value rented by farm operators. In 1945, for the first time, land in managed farms was classified on the basis of whether such land was owned or rented by the employer. Consequently, a tabulation of all land in farms is presented for 1945 on the basis of whether the land was owned or rented. A cross-classification of farms by size and tenure is available for 1945, 1930, and 1925. (See table 14.) In censuses prior to 1945, the color and tenure tabulations have usually included a number of additional items. Only one of these additional items, viz, age of operator,

was tabulated by color and tenure of operator in 1945. Statistics for this item, with comparable data for earlier censuses, are shown in chapter IV. In this chapter, statistics for previous censuses are limited to those items, or subjects, for which 1945 data are shown.

The items presented by color and tenure of operator, other than number of farms (or farm operators), with brief descriptions of each item are as follows:

Land in farms includes all land owned or leased by the farm operator, including considerable areas of land not actually under cultivation and some land not even used for pasture or grazing, but all such land must have been under the control of the operator and must have been considered a part of his farm. Land grazed under permit is excluded, likewise any sizable tract of timberland or other nonagricultural land held as a separate business and not used for pasture or grazing.

Farm land, classified according to use in 1944, includes—

Cropland harvested.—Land from which crops were harvested or from which hay was cut or land in orchards in 1944.

Crop failure.—Land on which all crops (except orchards) were a complete failure in 1944.

Cropland, idle or fallow.—Cropland idle, in summer fallow, or in soil improvement crops only in 1944.

Cropland used only for pasture.—Land used only for pasture or grazing in 1944 that was plowed within past 7 years.

Woodland pastured.—All farm wood lots or timber tracts, natural or planted, and cut-over land with young growth, which had or would have value as wood or timber, which were pastured or grazed in 1944.

Pasture other than cropland and woodland.

Woodland not pastured.—All farm wood lots or timber tracts not pastured or grazed in 1944.

All other land.—Includes all wasteland, house yards, barnyards, feed lots, lanes, roads, ditches, etc.

In addition to these eight classes of land, the tables also present data for 1944 for four summary classifications, which are somewhat overlapping, as follows:

Total cropland.—Cropland harvested; crop failure; cropland, idle or fallow; and cropland used only for pasture.

Land used for crops.—Cropland harvested and crop failure.

Total pasture.—Cropland used only for pasture, woodland pastured, and pasture other than cropland and woodland.

Total woodland.—Woodland pastured and woodland not pastured.

Items for earlier censuses which are not strictly comparable with those shown for the 1945 Census are shown below:

Plowable pasture. for 1924 to 1939, includes land used only for pasture or grazing which could have been used for crops without additional clearing, draining, or irrigating, and differs from cropland used only for pasture for 1944 in that it includes land which may not have been plowed within 7 years preceding the census date.

Pasture other than plowable and woodland. for 1924 to 1934, differs from "pasture other than cropland and woodland" for 1944 in the same absolute amount that "plowable pasture" differs from "cropland used only for pasture." Data are not available for 1939.

Land available for crops. for 1924 to 1939, includes cropland harvested; crop failure; cropland, idle or fallow; and plowable pasture.

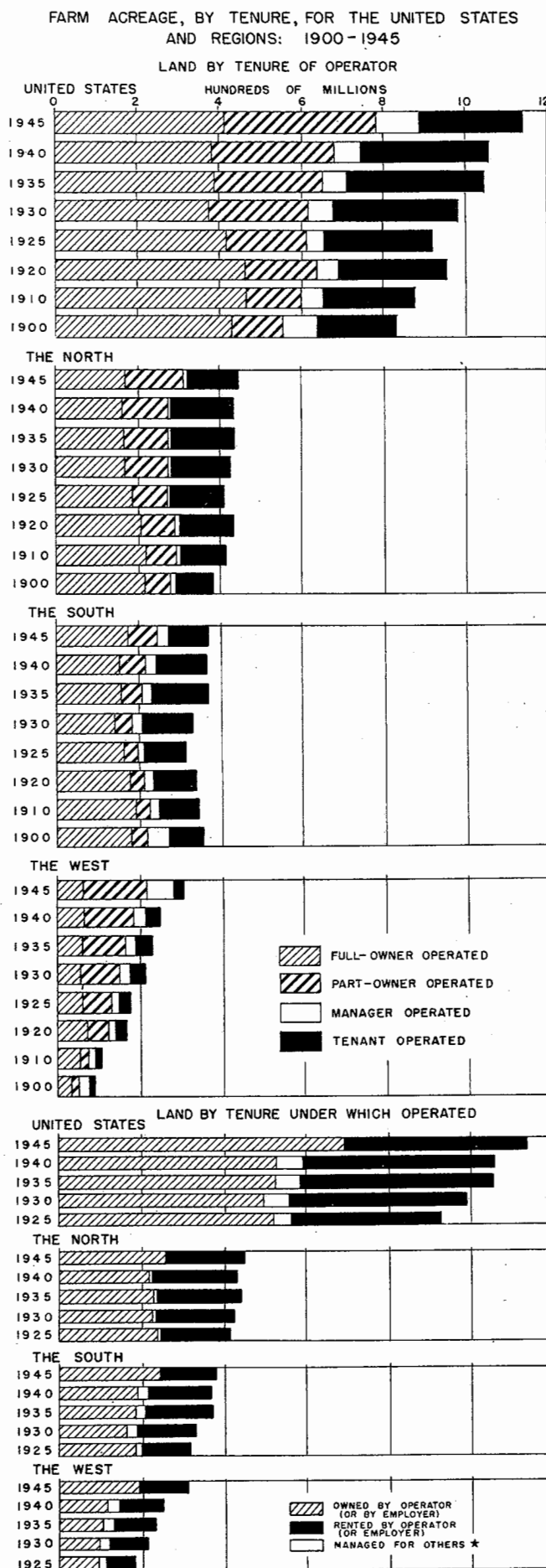
Improved land. for 1850 to 1920, in general, included land regularly tilled or mowed, land in pasture that had been cleared or tilled, land lying fallow, land in gardens, orchards, vineyards, and nurseries, and land occupied by buildings, yards, barnyards, etc.

Farms reporting.—The number of farms for which a specific item was reported. For example, of the 660,502 part owners in the United States in 1945, there were 644,511 who reported a crop of some kind harvested in 1944. If enumerators obtained complete reports, the remaining 15,991 farm operators in this tenure group harvested no crops in 1944.

Value of farms (land and buildings).—The market value of the real estate represented in the farm. Enumerators were asked to obtain from the farm operator his estimate of the current market value of the farm he was operating.

Owned land in farms is land in the operator's farm which he owns or, if a managed farm, that part which is owned by his employer.

Rented land in farms is land in the operator's farm which he rents from others or, if a managed farm, that part which is rented from others by his employer.



Presentation of the statistics.—The statistics are presented to provide an over-all picture for the United States, followed by information for regions, geographic divisions, and the several States. The data are arranged to facilitate comparison of one region, or one State, with another. Averages, percentages, and other derived data are provided as aids in using and interpreting the statistics. Comparable data from earlier censuses provide a measure of changes occurring from census to census. Data for earlier years are restricted to items classified by color and tenure in the 1945 Census, except for certain specified classes of farm land not strictly comparable with the 1945 classification. All such comparative data are shown for the United States. Only historical data for selected census years or for selected items are shown by States.

The tabular presentation consists of a series of summary tables presenting figures for the United States as a whole and for the South, followed by tables presenting data by regions, divisions, and States. The South is of especial importance in respect to color and tenure tabulations because of the concentration of nonwhite operators and tenants in that area. Also, croppers are shown as a separate class of tenants only for the Southern States. This class of tenant is relatively unimportant in other sections except for seven cotton-growing counties in southeastern Missouri. Table 2 presents summary figures for these counties. In the tables presenting State figures, the States are arranged in geographic order to facilitate comparisons among States in the same general area. An outline map showing the States and the geographic divisions and regions for which totals are shown appears in the Introduction to this volume.

Some of the tables provide for ready comparison of the 1945 Census data for selected items, while others bring together figures for several censuses. Thus, the same data may be found in several tables, depending upon the objective of the particular table. In general, the United States, or summary, tables permit the bringing together of more related data and the showing of more historical and derived data than is practicable in the division and State tables.

Bar charts and dot and cross-hatch maps supplement the tabular presentation. The bar charts present a graphic picture of the historical changes and comparisons by States. The maps were prepared on a county-unit basis and show the geographic distribution of farms of various tenures, the geographic variations in the proportion of farms operated by tenants and in farms of nonwhite operators, and the dominant type of tenancy in each area.

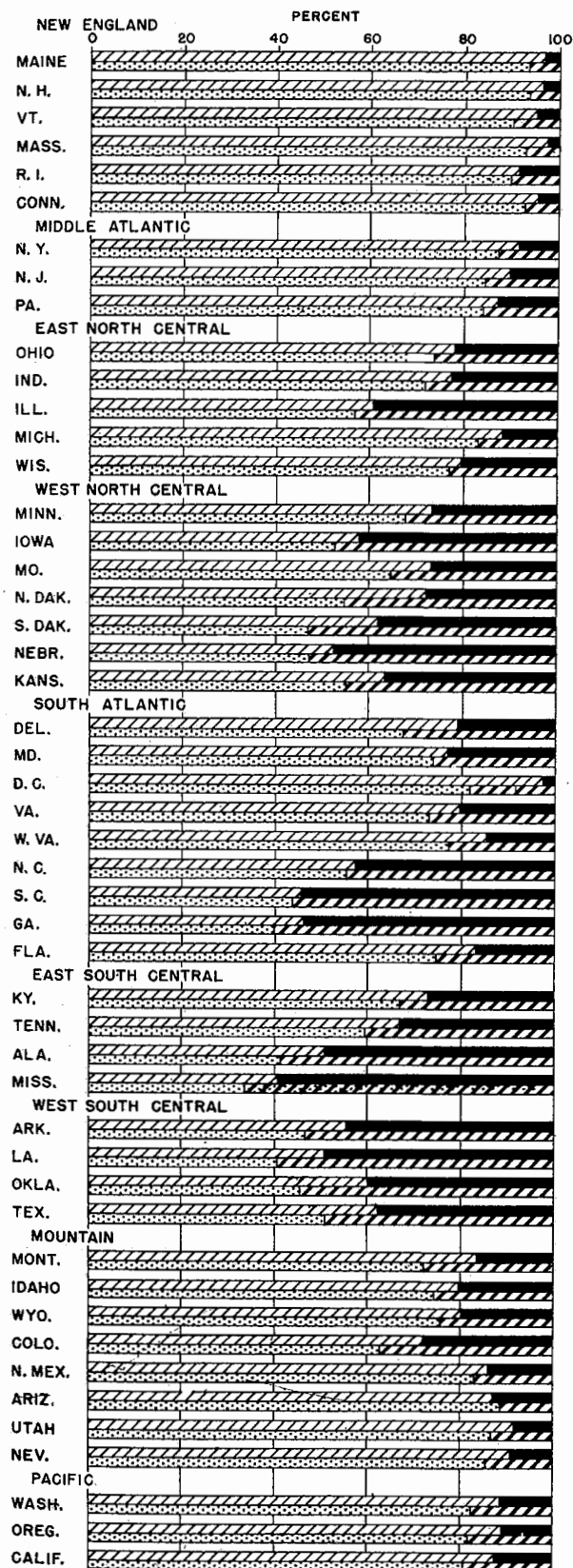
Changes in farms by color and tenure of the farm operator.—Although there were fewer farms in 1945 than in any census since 1900, there were a larger number of owner-operated farms than ever recorded by a prior census. The proportion of owner-operated farms was the highest since 1890. The increase in the proportion of owner-operated farms, which first became noticeable in the 1935 Census, has continued. The increase in the number of owner operators between 1940 and 1945 was equivalent to more than twice the net increase in the decade 1930 to 1940 but less than the increase in the first half of that decade when the total number of farms reached an all-time high. Both owner-operated and tenant-operated farms increased in size. Farms operated by full owners were larger, on the average, by 1.0 acre and farms operated by tenants by 3.3 acres. For part-owner farms the owned portion increased by 55.9 acres and the rented portion by 17.9 acres. In 1945, farms of full-owner operators averaged 1.4 more acres from which crops were harvested than in 1940 and tenant-operated farms averaged 9.1 more acres.

In the New England States, where farm ownership is general, owner-operated farms increased by 13.2 percent between 1940 and 1945 and represented 94.7 percent of all farms in 1945. Although there were only slightly more than half as many tenants in this area in 1945 as in 1940, the number of tenants was so insignificant that the decrease in tenant-operated farms could account for very little of the increase in owner-operated farms. Many of the farms in this area represent rural or suburban residences of individuals primarily dependent upon some other source of livelihood. Much of the increase in the number of farms was attributable to wartime conditions which encouraged the re-entry into production of farms previously idle and, because of the increase in price level, resulted in the inclusion

COLOR AND TENURE OF FARM OPERATOR

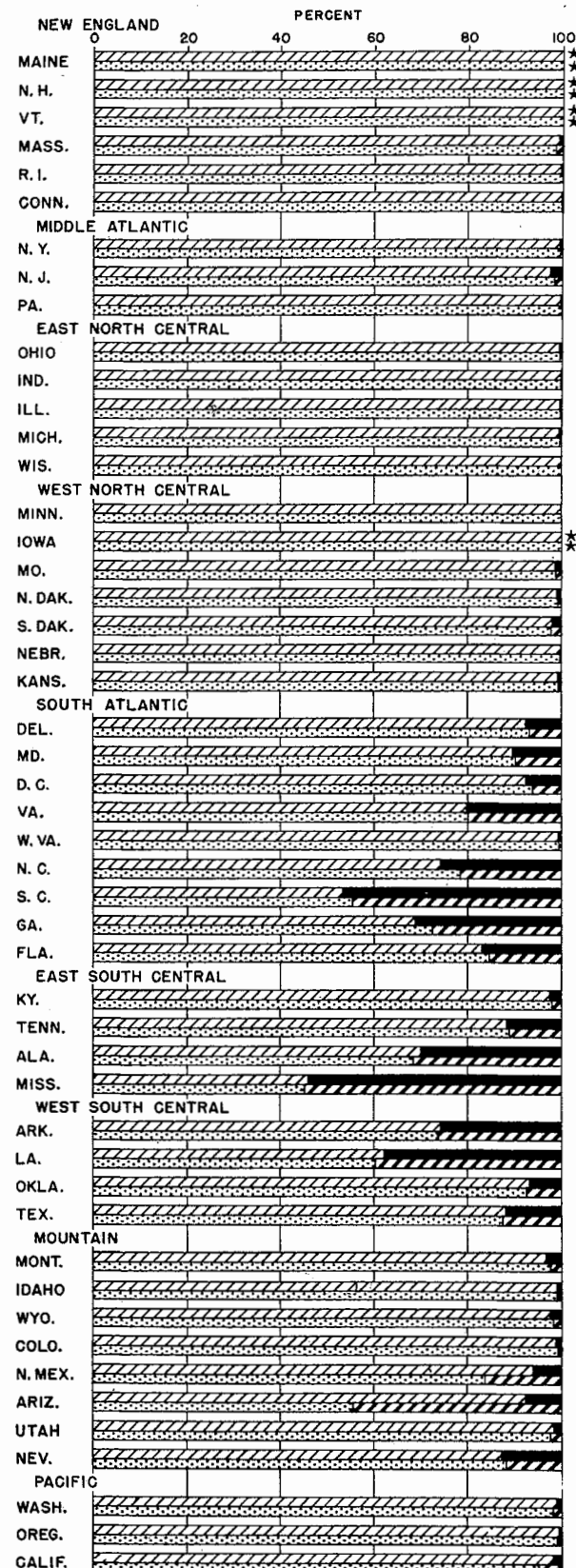
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PERCENT DISTRIBUTION OF FARM OPERATORS, BY TENURE,
BY STATES: 1945 AND 1940



OWNERS AND MANAGERS 1945 1940 TENANTS 1945 1940

PERCENT DISTRIBUTION OF FARM OPERATORS, BY COLOR,
BY STATES: 1945 AND 1940



★ NONWHITE 0.05 PERCENT OR LESS.

WHITE 1945 1940 NONWHITE 1945 1940

of more farms at or near the lower limits of production or acreage in respect to the minimum requirements of a farm under the Census definition. (See chapter I.) New farms of this character were not limited to the New England States. In other areas, however, there was generally a net loss in the number of farms as the loss in number through consolidation or other causes exceeded the number of new farms. As in the New England States, these new farms were predominantly owner-operated. Those not owner-operated were usually cash rented.

In the North Central States, there was a substantial decrease in the number of farms. In this area of mechanized agriculture, the decrease in farms between 1940 and 1945 ranged from less than 5 percent in the eastern Corn Belt to nearly 10 percent in Kansas. The loss in the number of farms in this area accounted for approximately one-half the decrease in the number of farms in the entire United States. However, in this area, the decrease in the number of tenant-operated farms exceeded the decrease in the total number of farms. The net results of these changes were (1) an increase of 4.0 percent in owner-operated farms, although the total number of farms decreased 5.3 percent, and (2) a decrease in the proportion of tenant-operated farms from 35.4 percent in 1940 to 29.1 percent in 1945. The proportion of tenancy recorded in 1945 was the lowest recorded in this area since 1910. Five factors merit mention as the explanation of the increase in the proportion of owner-operated farms, three of which tended toward an increase in the number of owner-operated farms and two toward a relatively smaller decrease in owner-operated farms than in tenant-operated farms. (1) Economic conditions were such as to encourage tenants and others to buy and operate farms. (2) The inclusion in 1945 of places with limited agricultural operations, which did not have sufficient production to be included in the 1940 Census, increased the number of owner-operated farms, as such places are usually owner-occupied. This factor was generally of less importance in this area than in others. (3) Some landlords took over the operation of farms left by tenants. (4) Owners generally had more at stake than tenants and, hence, were less likely to seek wartime industrial employment, or when securing nonfarm employment were apt to continue to operate their farm on a part-time basis with the assistance of members of their families. (5) Some owner operators, who otherwise would have rented their farms and retired, have continued to operate them.

The highest proportions of tenancy were recorded in areas with the most productive farm lands, such as the cash-grain areas in Illinois and Iowa. In these particular areas there were no significant changes in either the proportion of tenancy or in the proportion of land rented.

Throughout the North Central States, there were general decreases in cash tenants and increases in share tenants between 1940 and 1945. The greatest loss was in share-cash tenants. Only about one-half as many tenants in this subgroup were reported in 1945 as in 1940. The number of cash tenants decreased by 33.5 percent while the number of share tenants gained 7.9 percent. Although some of the loss in share-cash tenants may be the result of changes in the inquiries on farm tenure, enumerators in areas with a large number of share-cash tenants generally reported an appreciable number of share-cash tenants, indicating that rarely did they fail to recognize the existence of this subgroup.

In the North Central States, there was a decrease in the number of farm operators and a gain in both land in farms and in cropland harvested. The land in farms of operators who left farming for employment in industry or for service in the armed forces was taken over by farm operators who remained. These changes resulted in increases in the size of operations. There was an increase in the average size of both owner-operated and tenant-operated farms and an increase of one-sixth in the number of owner operators renting additional land. The average size of farms operated by full owners increased 5.9 acres and of those operated by tenants, 11.1 acres between 1940 and 1945.

Part-owner-operated farms in the North Central States not only increased in number but also increased 29.8 acres in average size. The Dakotas show the largest proportion of part-owner farms, with 38.1 percent of all farms in 1945, as compared with 27.7 percent in 1940. In this general area the

original holdings were too small for mechanized operations and the securing of more economic operational units was accomplished, in large part, through renting additional tracts. Many tenants and part owners in much of this area rent land from several landlords.

Less than one-half of the farmers in the United States are in the South, yet more than five-eighths of the tenants are in this area. The decrease in the number of tenant operators from 1940 to 1945 was greater for the South than for the North and West combined, although the decrease was proportionately less than for either of the other regions. The loss of tenants in the South occurred largely on multiple-unit farms, or plantations, with the land formerly operated by the tenant reverting to the "home farm."

Because of the general dependence upon hand labor, very little of the land in these former tenant farms could be operated by other tenants. Notwithstanding the large decrease in tenant operators, there was very little increase in the average size of tenant operations. While, in some areas, a considerable part of the land continued to be cultivated through increased mechanization and adjustment of farming operations to the available labor supply, the net result for the South as a whole was a loss (0.9 percent) in cropland harvested.

Shifts, on multiple units or plantations, from wage hands to croppers or tenants or from croppers or tenants to wage hands have pronounced effects on the data for farm tenure in the South. Increases or decreases in the number of tenants and croppers from one census to another result from these shifts. There was a decrease of 284,014 or 19.6 percent, in the number of tenant-operated farms in the South between 1940 and 1945. The greatest decline in the number of tenants occurred in the West South Central States where the proportion of tenancy decreased from 52.6 to 41.3 percent. In some areas, particularly in the tobacco-growing areas, there were increases in the number of tenants. In South Carolina, despite a marked loss in farm population, there was an increase of 3.6 percent in the number of tenants.

Croppers are the most numerous of the types of tenants in the Southern States, comprising 38.3 percent of all tenants in that area. In the South Atlantic Division, nearly as many croppers were reported in 1945 as in 1940. Cash tenants decreased proportionately less in the South than elsewhere.

Owner-operated farms in the South increased approximately 10 percent from 1940 to 1945, a proportionately greater increase than in the North and the West. The gain in owners, particularly in full owners, is largely the result of the large increase in small farms in this area. (See chapter II.)

Nearly one-fourth of the farm operators in the South are nonwhite. About the same proportionate changes occurred in white as nonwhite owners, although there are relatively few nonwhite owners. For tenants, on the other hand, the numerical decrease in white tenants was eight times as large as for nonwhite tenants. Moreover, there was a decrease in the number for all subgroups of white tenants, while there was an increase of 13.1 percent for nonwhite cash tenants and 4.9 percent for nonwhite share tenants.

In the West, as in other sections, there was a general increase of owner-operated farms, with much of this increase represented by farms having limited agricultural operations. This general increase was minimized by a decrease in the number of Indian-operated farms resulting from the difference in method of enumerating agricultural operations of Indian reservations. In 1945, land in an Indian reservation used by the Indians on a cooperative basis was reported as one farm with the Indian agent or person directly in charge as manager. However, individual returns were obtained when the Indians carried on their agricultural activities as independent operations. In previous censuses, as a general rule, an attempt was made to obtain returns for each Indian whose agricultural production was sufficient to meet the minimum requirements of a farm. In these censuses, the farm report for the reservation accounted for acreage used for agricultural purposes that was not allotted or assigned to Indians or not leased to others. This change in procedure resulted in the enumeration of approximately 11,000 fewer Indian-operated farms in 1945 than in 1940. Since land allotted or assigned to Indians is considered owned, this

loss was in nonwhite owner-operated farms. It also resulted in the inclusion in farm acreage of more Indian grazing land. This increased acreage accounts for some of the increase in land in managed farms and, as many of the cooperative or reservation returns were secured in the name of white managers, the increase is shown for white-operated rather than for nonwhite-operated farms. The greatest differences resulting from this change in procedure were in Arizona where approximately 7,000 fewer Indian operators were included in the Indian reservation returns and where about 8,600,000 more acres of grazing land in 1945 than in 1940 were included as land in farms, and in New Mexico where there were about 3,700 fewer Indian operators and approximately 3,250,000 more acres of grazing land included in the reports for Indian reservations. (See chapter I.)

The most significant change in the West was the large increase in grazing land in farms. Most of this increase is re-

flected in the part-owner and manager operations. Part-owner-operated farms increased by 8.6 percent and all land in this subgroup increased by 28.3 percent. Of this increase, 10,324,183 acres represented a gain in rented land. Managed farms in this area increased by 23.2 percent and the land in such farms more than doubled. The increase in land in these two tenure groups exceeded the total gain in acreage in all farms. Practically all of this increase represented grazing land, much of which was formerly open range. Changes in the administration and management of range land have brought under the control of individual operators increasing acreages of grazing land. Individual returns for the two years indicate that additional acreages of grazing land are being leased from the Federal Government, from the various States, and from railroads, oil companies, lumber companies, cattle and land companies, etc.

