

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.