

CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE: 1945

A higher level of production in 1944 than in 1939 was accomplished even though less hired labor was used. Much of the increase in production was due to the greater use of machinery (see chapters I and II), although relatively greater dependence was placed on family workers in 1944 than in 1939. In some of the cash-crop areas of the South, and especially in the tobacco areas, there were some shifts from wage hands to croppers and tenants in order to hold labor on the farm.

The greatest dependence on hired labor is in fruit, vegetable, and ranch areas. In Palm Beach County, Florida, the total sales of farm products in 1944 amounted to \$15,540,669. Of this total, \$11,386,535 represented the value of vegetables sold. Cash paid for farm labor in 1944 amounted to \$5,711,489 or more than one-third of the total receipts. In Fresno County, California, the total sales of farm products amounted to \$102,906,480, of which \$62,411,909 was for fruits and nuts. The wage bill was \$26,202,110, or more than one-fourth of the total sales. In California, the cash expended for farm labor amounted

to 21.6 percent of the total sales of farm products. Nearly one-sixth of the Nation's cash expenditures for farm labor was reported for California. Arizona and Nevada had slightly higher cash outlays for farm labor in relation to sales of products than did California.

The lowest expenditures for labor in relation to income were, in general, in the corn, cotton, and tobacco areas and in areas where the products for family living represented a high proportion of the total income. Although cotton and tobacco require large amounts of hand labor, the farms are small and money expenditures for labor are partly avoided by the use of croppers and share tenants.

Some of the lowest expenditures for labor in relation to income were in the North Central States where mechanization permits a farm family to handle a comparatively large acreage without dependence on outside help. In Iowa, the expenditures for labor amounted to only 4.9 percent of the total sales of farm products.

