

FARMS AND FARM CHARACTERISTICS

This is true for several reasons: (1) Maximum figures intended to serve for all type-of-farm groups in all States were used for the sampling errors in setting the limits of reliability. (2) The predicted limits of error presented ignore the complete enumeration of large farms. When large farms account for a substantial proportion of the item total in a class, the data on sampling reliability may overstate considerably the sampling variation. For example, in Arizona and Nevada about 80 percent of all sheep reported were on large farms. Consequently the sampling error of this item for most of the type-of-farm groups in these States is only about one-fifth of the value indicated in the tables below. This factor, of course, varies in importance from item to item and differently from type to type.

The estimated sampling reliability of the number of farms in any type-of-farm group given as reporting a specified item is shown in the following table. This table shows percentage limits, such that the chances are about 95 in 100 that the difference between the sample estimate and the number of farms reporting that would have been obtained from a tabulation for all farms would be less than the limit specified. However, most of the items would be expected to show a difference of less than one-half the percentage limit given in the table below:

If the estimated number of farms reporting in the type-of-farm class is—	Then the chances are about 95 in 100 that the estimated number would differ from the results of a complete tabulation by less than ¹ 2—
	Percent
100.....	110
500.....	51
1,000.....	36
2,500.....	23
5,000.....	16
10,000.....	11
25,000.....	7.2
50,000.....	5.2
100,000.....	3.6
500,000.....	1.6

¹ For estimated number of resident operators reporting kitchen sink with drain, mechanical refrigeration, and power-driven washing machine in the following States, the percent differences given should be multiplied by 7/4:

California	North Carolina
Indiana	Ohio
Iowa	Pennsylvania
Kansas	

² In the case of items for which the estimated number of farms reporting constitutes more than 50 percent of all farms in the class, more precise limits may be obtained by multiplying the percent difference given in the table by an appropriate factor as follows:

When farms reporting constitute (percent)—	Multiply given limit by—
50.....	0.75
75.....	.50
90.....	.30
95.....	.20

The magnitude of sampling errors in the estimated farm population figures by age group, for type-of-farm groups by States, may be determined from the following table:

If the estimated farm population in the age group—type-of-farm class is—	Then the chances are about 95 in 100 that the estimated farm population in the age group—type-of-farm class would differ from the results of a complete tabulation by less than—
	Percent
100.....	100
500.....	45
1,000.....	32
2,500.....	20
5,000.....	14
10,000.....	10
25,000.....	6.4
50,000.....	4.5
100,000.....	3.2
500,000.....	1.4

A majority of the estimated population figures would be expected to show a difference of less than one-half the percentage limit given in the table. Estimates of total population by type of farm have somewhat greater sampling reliability than the estimates by age group, and similarly for percentages derived from the data presented by age group.

Two tables are given below to assist in determining the general level of sampling reliability of estimated totals by type of farm for other items presented in this report. In table A, a list of the items is given, and the level of sampling reliability as shown in table B is indicated. By referring to table B, in the column for the level of sampling reliability designated in table A, percent limits according to the number of farms reporting may be obtained. As pointed out above, the percent limits indicated represent maximum figures intended to serve for all groups, and a majority of the estimates would be expected to show differences of less than one-half the stated limits. In using tables A and B, it should be noted that, in general, for States in which an item is reported relatively frequently the level of reliability in table B will tend to overestimate the sampling variation to a greater extent than when the item is reported relatively infrequently.

Table A.—INDICATED LEVEL OF SAMPLING RELIABILITY OF ESTIMATED STATE TOTALS BY TYPE OF FARM FOR SPECIFIED ITEMS

Item	Level of sampling reliability (refer to corresponding numbered column in table B)
Land in farms, acres.....	3
Cropland harvested, acres.....	2
Land pastured, acres.....	3
Value of implements and machinery, dollars.....	2
Work off farm, days.....	3
Cash wages paid, dollars.....	5
Expenditures, dollars:	
Purchase of livestock and poultry.....	6
Commercial fertilizer.....	4
Lime and other liming materials.....	3
Seeds, plants, bulbs, and trees.....	4
Feed bought for livestock, including dairy and poultry feed.....	4
Combindes (harvester-threshers), number.....	2
Motortrucks, number.....	2
Tractors, number:	
Total.....	2
Garden.....	17
Crawler.....	17
Other:	
With rubber tires on all wheels.....	2
With rubber tires on rear wheels only.....	7
With no rubber tires.....	4
Automobiles, number.....	2
Electric motors, number:	
Total.....	2
1 horsepower and over.....	2
Under 1 horsepower but at least 1/4 horsepower.....	2
Stationary gasoline engines, number.....	2
All mules and mule colts, number.....	2
All horses and colts, including ponies, number.....	3
All cattle and calves, number.....	3
Cows and heifers 2 years old and over, number.....	4
All hogs and pigs, number.....	2
Sows and gilts for spring farrowing, number.....	3
All sheep and lambs, number.....	2
All goats and kids, number.....	3
Cows and heifers milked, number.....	3
Milk produced, gallons.....	3
Whole milk sold, gallons.....	3
Cream sold, pounds of butterfat.....	4
Butter sold, pounds.....	4
Number of animals sold alive:	
Cattle.....	3
Hogs.....	3
Sheep.....	3
Number of animals butchered:	
Cattle.....	2
Calves.....	2
Hogs.....	3
Chickens on hand, number.....	3
Eggs produced, dozens.....	3
Chickens raised, number.....	3
Turkeys raised, number.....	2
Corn for all purposes, acres.....	2
Corn harvested for grain:	
Acres.....	2
Bushels.....	2
Oats threshed:	
Acres.....	2
Bushels.....	2
Barley threshed:	
Acres.....	2
Bushels.....	2

See footnotes at end of table.

Table A.—INDICATED LEVEL OF SAMPLING RELIABILITY OF ESTIMATED STATE TOTALS BY TYPE OF FARM FOR SPECIFIED ITEMS—Continued

Item	Level of sampling reliability (refer to corresponding numbered column in table B)
All wheat threshed:	
Acres.....	2
Bushels.....	2
All hay cut:	
Acres.....	2
Tons.....	2
Tobacco:	
Acres.....	3
Production, pounds.....	3
Cotton:	
Acres.....	3
Production, running square bales.....	3
Irish potatoes:	
Acres.....	5
Production, bushels.....	5
Sweetpotatoes and yams:	
Acres.....	5
Production, bushels.....	5
Value of vegetables grown for farm household(s) use, dollars.....	1
Vegetables harvested for sale, acres:	
Fresh beans.....	3
Cabbage.....	3
Tomatoes.....	3
Green peas.....	3
All other vegetables and melons.....	3
Land in fruit orchards, vineyards, and planted nut trees, acres.....	6
Apples:	
Trees of all ages, number.....	6
Quantity harvested, bushels.....	5
Peaches:	
Trees of all ages, number.....	4
Quantity harvested, bushels.....	4
Pears:	
Trees of all ages, number.....	4
Quantity harvested, bushels.....	4

¹ Five for groups in which the given type constitutes more than 10 percent of all factors.
² Two for dairy farms.
³ One for dairy farms.
⁴ Two for livestock farms.
⁵ Two for poultry farms.

Table B.—SAMPLING RELIABILITY OF ESTIMATED ITEM TOTALS FOR STATES BY TYPE OF FARM FOR SPECIFIED NUMBERS OF FARMS REPORTING, BY LEVELS

[See table A for designation of level for any item]

If the estimated total number of farms reporting in the type-of-farm group is—	Then the chances are about 95 in 100 that the estimated item total would differ from the results of a complete tabulation of the item for all farms by less than—						
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5	Level 6	Level 7
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
100.....	82	117	143	165	200	260	450
500.....	37	52	64	73	90	117	200
1,000.....	26	37	45	52	64	82	143
2,500.....	16	23	28	33	40	52	90
5,000.....	12	16	20	23	29	37	64
10,000.....	8.2	12	14	16	20	26	45
25,000.....	5.2	7.4	9.0	10	13	17	29
50,000.....	3.7	5.2	6.4	7.4	9.0	12	20
100,000.....	2.6	3.7	4.5	5.2	6.4	8.2	14
500,000.....	1.2	1.6	2.0	2.3	2.9	3.7	6.4

Presentation of data.—A State is the smallest geographic area for which the data given in this report are available. Table C presents a summary of data for the United States and gives many of the significant averages and percentages needed for an appraisal and analysis of the data. Maps and charts showing some of the important characteristics and relationships for farms for various types of farms are presented on pages XVIII to XXVII. Data by States are given in tables 1 to 17, inclusive. The States have been arranged in groups, by geographic divisions, in order to facilitate comparisons among States in the same general area.

The discussion which follows relates only to the United States. Since the farms in the various States differ from those of the United States as a whole, the conclusions for the United States would not apply to an individual State. The characteristics of farms in each type and the relative contribution of farms in each type to the total differ from State to State.

Vegetable farms represent 1.6 percent of all farms, contain only 0.7 percent of all land in farms and 1.1 percent of all cropland harvested. The average size of vegetable farms is only 83.2 acres and the average acreage of cropland harvested per farm is 40.2. Almost three-fifths of all vegetable farms have less than 20 acres of cropland harvested and only 7 percent have over 100 acres of cropland harvested. One out of 6 is less than 10 acres in size and 44 percent have an area of less than 30 acres. Seven out of ten are operated by owners. The average value of land and buildings on vegetable farms is \$9,739 and almost four-fifths of these farms have a value under \$10,000.

More than one-half of the vegetable farms report cash wages for hired labor and the amount of cash wages per farm reporting is higher for this type of farm than for any other type except horticultural-specialty farms. Expenditures for commercial fertilizers are reported for almost two out of three vegetable farms. The expenditure per farm reporting for commercial fertilizer of \$461 for these farms is greater than for any other type of farm except for fruit-and-nut farms.

On vegetable farms the acreage in vegetables harvested for sale represents slightly more than one-half of the acreage of cropland harvested, corn for all purposes represents almost one-seventh, and all hay represents almost one-ninth.

About two-thirds of the value of all vegetables sold is on farms classified as vegetable farms. On these farms, the sale of vegetables represents over 83 percent of the value of all farm products sold and the sale of all other crops (field crops) accounts for approximately 11 percent. The sale of all crops amounts to 95 percent of the sale of all farm products on these farms.

Fruit-and-nut farms represent 2.3 percent of all farms, contain less than 1 percent of all land in farms, and have 6.5 percent of the sales of all farm products. The average size of fruit farms is only 81.2 acres or only about 40 percent of the average size of all farms in the United States. Over one-half of all fruit-and-nut farms have an area under 30 acres. Farms under 10 acres in size represent nearly one-fifth of all farms of this type. The average acreage of cropland harvested per farm reporting for these farms is 35.9. However, 57.4 percent of all fruit-and-nut farms have less than 20 acres of cropland harvested and only 6.5 percent have over 100 acres.

The value of land and buildings per farm for fruit-and-nut farms exceeds that for all the other types except horticultural-specialty farms. The value per acre for fruit-and-nut farms is almost six times the per-acre value for all farms. While the value per farm for fruit-and-nut farms is \$18,879, more than 53 percent of these farms have an average value of less than \$10,000.

More than 87 percent of all fruit-and-nut farms are operated by owners. A higher percentage of these farms are operated by hired managers than for any other type except horticultural-specialty farms. The percentage of farm operators less than 35 years of age is lower for fruit-and-nut farms than for any other type of farm except horticultural-specialty farms. On the other hand, the percentage of farm operators 55 years old and over is higher for fruit-and-nut farms than for any other type of farm except poultry farms. The percentage of farm operators who have operated their farms 15 years or more is higher for fruit-and-nut farms than for any other type except horticultural-specialty farms.

One-third of the operators of fruit-and-nut farms work off their farms and more than 82 percent of these work 100 days or more off their farms during the year.

Over three-fourths of the fruit-and-nut farms report cash wages, the proportion being higher than for any other type of farm. Cash wages on fruit-and-nut farms represent over one-eighth of the cash wages reported for all farms.

More than one-half of the fruit-and-nut farms report expenditures for commercial fertilizer and the expenditure per farm reporting is greater for these farms than for any other type of farm.

A higher percentage of fruit-and-nut farms than of any other