



Almost one-third (31.7 percent) of the Nation's farms were operated by tenants in 1945. The highest percentage of tenancy was found in the South, and the lowest percentages in the Northeast and West.

The percentage of tenancy varied widely among the regions and States and within the States. The percentages in the 4 main regions were 40.4 for the South, 29.1 for the North Central Region, 14.5 for the West, and 8.6 for the Northeast. Mississippi had the highest percentage of any State, with 59.3 percent; Massachusetts had the lowest, with 2.6 percent. In Mississippi, in several counties more than 90 percent of the farms were operated by tenants, while in several other counties of this State less than 5 percent of the farms were operated by tenants.

A high percentage of tenancy is associated with areas where staple cash crops—cotton, corn, wheat, and tobacco—are grown and in the South it is also associated with areas of a high percentage of nonwhite farm population. In the Mississippi Delta, where nonwhite share croppers are found in largest numbers and

where cotton is the cash crop, there was a very high percentage of tenancy. Other areas with a relatively high percentage are the Black Prairie of Alabama and Mississippi, the upper Coastal Plains of Alabama, Georgia, South Carolina, and North Carolina, and the central part of the Corn Belt. The States along the 100th meridian comprise the largest contiguous area with a moderate percentage of tenancy. A low percentage of tenancy occurs in areas of dairying, livestock production, fruit and vegetable production, and part-time farming.

In the plantation areas of the South, ownership units are much larger than operating units. There, a tenure system has been developed that provides a relatively high degree of supervision by the resident landlord over the farming operations of the tenants. In the Corn Belt and in the States along the 100th meridian, absentee ownership is more prevalent than in the South and tenants are accustomed to exercising greater responsibility in the operation of their farms.