



The most frequent method of renting farms is that of paying a share of the products as rent. In 1945, 37.1 percent of the tenant operators were classed as share tenants; 24.3 percent as share croppers; 7.4 percent paid both share and cash rent; while 21.6 percent paid cash rent only. The other 9.5 percent included those who paid a specified quantity of farm products, those who did not pay rent, and those whose method of paying rent was not ascertained.

Cash renting is most prevalent on the poorer lands, and near industrial centers, and in areas where livestock farming and the production of specialty crops are common. It is particularly prevalent in the Northeast, near the Great Lakes, in many parts of the southern Appalachians, Florida, Alabama, the Ozark and Ouachita Mountain areas, and in the area west of the 100th meridian. Cash renting increased in relation to other methods in the South during the war, particularly in Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, and Oklahoma.

Share renting is most prevalent in areas that produce staple crops as in the grain, tobacco, and cotton areas. In the South, where tobacco and cotton are the major cash crops, 55.7 percent of the share tenants were share croppers in 1945. The largest contiguous share-rent area, other than the cropper area, is located in the Panhandle of Oklahoma and Texas, in Kansas, eastern Colorado, and in southwestern Nebraska. Winter wheat is the chief crop in this area.

The counties where share-cash renting predominates are confined almost entirely to the cash-grain area, particularly westward from central Illinois, where a share of the grain production is paid for the use of the grain lands and cash is paid for the use of hay or pasture lands. This method of renting is usually associated with the better lands. Although the major changes during World War II in the kind of rent paid were an apparent marked decrease in the proportion paying share-cash rent and an increase in the proportion paying share rent, there were large decreases in the number of farm operators paying each kind of rent. A limited study of the Iowa schedules for 1945 indicates that the enumerators, in classifying renters, often failed to make a distinction between share and share-cash.

During the 25-year period, 1920-45, there was considerable change in the pattern showing the most frequent method of rental. The greatest change has been the increased area where cash renting is the most prevalent method. This increase has been at the expense of share renting. As cash renting is most prevalent in areas of low proportion of tenancy, there has not been a comparable increase in the percentage of tenants who pay cash rent. The area in which share-cash renters are most prevalent expanded in South Dakota and Nebraska, while the area in which share croppers predominate has expanded to some extent in the tobacco-producing parts of the country.