

**CHAPTER II**  
**AGE, RESIDENCE, YEARS ON**  
**FARM, WORK OFF FARM**

(63)

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## CHAPTER II.—AGE, RESIDENCE, YEARS ON FARMS, WORK OFF FARM

**Introduction.**—This chapter presents statistics relating to operators of farms and to off-farm work by members of the operator's family. The figures for operators are shown for classifications based upon the following characteristics: Age; place of residence (whether on or off the farm operated); number of years on their present farms, and for those who reported a recent date, the month they began to operate their present farms; and the number of days farm operators worked off their farms in 1954. Data are also included regarding off-farm work by members of the operator's family; nonfarm income received by the farm operator and his family; and the relationship of nonfarm income received by the farm operator's family to the total value of agricultural products sold. Statistics are included for each group to show commercial and other farms by tenure, with color and tenure for the Southern States. Derived data are provided to aid in the use of the data.

**Source of data.**—The data presented are from the 1954 Census of Agriculture with comparative data for earlier Censuses. In 1954, the inquiries relating to operator's age, number of years on farm, and residence of farm operator were asked of all farm operators. The number of days operators worked off their present farms, and inquiries about nonfarm income received by the operator and members of his family in 1954 were asked for only a sample of farms. Most of the data

presented in this chapter, however, are based on reports for only a sample of farms. The only exceptions include average age of operator, average number of years on present farm, and certain data for residence of farm operator. These exceptions are based on reports for all farm operators.

Data based on estimates for only a sample of farms were obtained from a selected sample of approximately 20 percent of all farm operators. In the presentation of these sample data, an appropriate note appears at the heading of each table. Estimates based on a sample of farms are subject to sampling errors, and are not expected to completely agree with similar data tabulated for all farms. A discussion of the sampling method used and statistical tables giving the reliability of estimates based on a sample of farms may be found in the Introduction to this volume.

**Presentation of statistics.**—The statistics are presented for the United States, for 3 major regions, for 9 geographic divisions, and for each of the 48 States. An outline map showing the regions, geographic divisions, and the States for which data are presented appears in the Introduction to this volume.

This chapter contains 28 tables, 18 of which present data for the United States and, in some instances, for major geographic regions. The remaining 10 tables contain data for divisions and States. The tabular presentation is supplemented by maps and charts.

### OTHER PUBLISHED DATA FOR AGE, RESIDENCE, YEARS ON FARM, WORK OFF FARM, 1954 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE

Where found	Geographic area for which available	Period	Source and kind of data
Volume I.—Counties and State Economic Areas. Parts 1 to 33.	Counties and State.	1954 and 1950	County Table 1.—Number of farm operators residing and not residing on farm operated.
			County Table 5.—Number of farm operators reporting off-farm work and nonfarm income of family excluding value of farm products sold.
	Economic Areas and State.	1954 and 1950	Economic Area Table 2.—Number of farm operators reporting off-farm work and nonfarm income for each economic class of commercial farms and for part-time, residential, and abnormal farms.
			Economic Area Table 5.—Number of farm operators reporting off-farm work and nonfarm income for each type of commercial farms and for miscellaneous and unclassified farms.
			Economic Area Table 8.—Number of farm operators reporting off-farm work and nonfarm income for each tenure of operator for commercial farms and for other farms.
	State only.....	1920 to 1954	State Table 4.—State totals for the number of farm operators reporting age, residence, year began operation of present farm, off-farm work, and nonfarm income for each tenure of operator for commercial farms and for other farms for 1954.
State Table 5.—State totals showing the number of farm operators classified by age, residence, month and year began operation of present farm, and off-farm work for 1954 with comparative data from earlier Censuses to 1920.			

**Other published data.**—County data from the 1954 Census of Agriculture are available in Volume I for farm operators classified by residence, off-farm work, and by relationship of nonfarm income to the value of farm products sold. No county data have been published for 1954 for age of operator and number of years on present farm. The above table summarizes the kind and source of other published data from the 1954 Census Reports for the related items presented in this chapter.

Additional data for each of the subjects presented in this chapter are also included in other chapters of Volume II. Chapter X contains data by tenure with color and tenure for the Southern States. Data by economic class of farm are presented in Chapter XI and by type of farm in Chapter XII.

**Comparability of 1954 data with earlier Censuses.**—Comparability of data for the various Census periods is influenced by changes in the wording of the inquiries, the instructions or definitions, or in the procedures used to collect and process the statistics. In presenting statistics from earlier years, headnotes, footnotes, and the wording in the stub or in the column headings are used to indicate any significant lack of comparability. The text discussion for the various items gives further information as to the comparability of data. The inquiries for the Censuses of 1954 and 1950 were essentially the same for the various items for which data are presented in this chapter.

The comparability of data for Censuses prior to 1950 and for the 1950 and 1954 Censuses is affected by the change in the definition of a farm beginning with the 1950 Census. It was estimated that 150,000 to 170,000 of the decrease of 477,007 farms from 1945 to 1950 was the result of the change in farm definition. Most of the 150,000 to 170,000 places were country residences and part-time farms with small acreages, few livestock, and very small production of farm products. This decrease in number of farms because of a change in the farm definition affected primarily the count of farms.

DEFINITIONS AND EXPLANATIONS

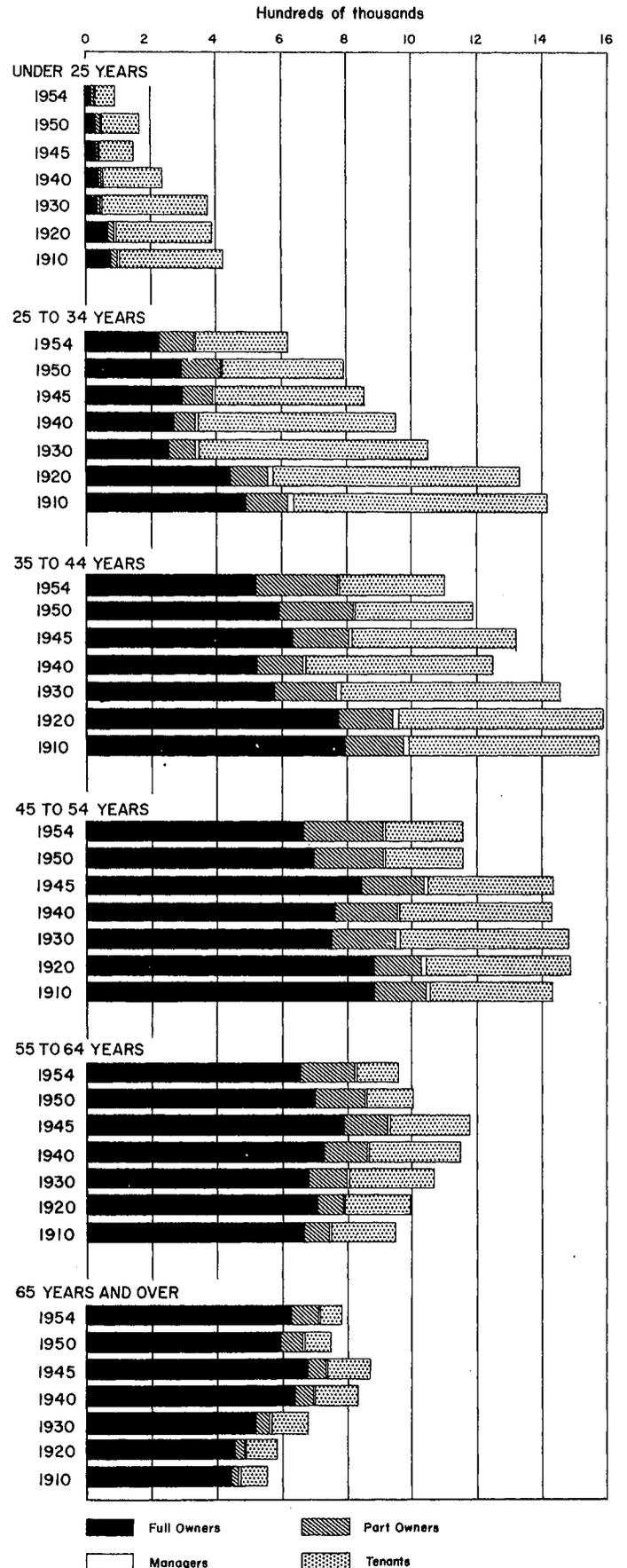
Definitions having a general application, such as those for "a farm," "farms reporting," "operators reporting," and factors influencing the reliability of the data are discussed in the Introduction to this volume.

**Farm operators.**—A "farm operator" is a person who operates a farm either performing the labor himself or directly supervising it. He may be an owner, a hired manager, or a tenant. If he rents land to others or has land cropped for him by others, he is listed as the operator of only the acreage which he retains. In the case of a partnership, the characteristics were tabulated for one member only. The number of farm operators is considered the same as the number of farms.

**Croppers.**—Croppers are tenants whose landlords furnish all the work power. The landlords either furnish all of the work animals or furnish tractor power in lieu of work animals. Traditionally, a cropper provides his own labor and sometimes that of his family, shares in the risk of production and receives a share of the crop in return for his labor. Croppers generally work under close supervision of the landowners or their agents and the land assigned to them is often a part of a larger enterprise operated as a single unit. The information on croppers in this chapter relates only to the Southern States.

**Age of operator.**—Farm operators in each tenure group (color-tenure for the South) were classified by age into six groups. Data on farm operators by age groups represent

AGE OF FARM OPERATORS—NUMBER OF OPERATORS REPORTING, BY TENURE, FOR THE UNITED STATES: 1910 TO 1954



estimates based upon tabulations for a sample of approximately 20 percent of the farms. Therefore, in a few cases, the data for average age of farm operators and the distribution of farm operators by age groups are not fully consistent because of sampling variability. The average age of farm operators was not based on a sample of the farms but was calculated by dividing the total of the ages of all farm operators reporting age by the total number of operators for which age was reported.

A distribution of farm operators by age and by color and tenure has been made for each decennial Census, beginning with 1910, and for the mid-decennial Census of 1945. No information on age of operator was obtained in the Censuses of 1925 and 1935. The Censuses of Population for 1890 and for 1900 included a classification of occupants of farm homes by age groups. Although these data for earlier Censuses are on a slightly different basis, the data on age distribution of each tenure class are reasonably comparable with those for other Censuses.

In 1954, the average age of farm operators in the United States was 49.6 years as compared with an average age of 48.3 years in 1950. Between 1950 and 1954, the proportion of farm operators in the age group 65 or more years, increased from 14.8 percent of all operators in 1950 to 16.6 percent in 1954. During the same period, the percentage of farm operators in the under-35-years-of-age group decreased from 18.9 percent to 15.1 percent. The percentage of farm operators in the older age groups is increasing, while the percentage in the younger age group is decreasing. The proportion of operators in the middle age groups has remained relatively constant from 1950 to 1954. Operators of farms with limited agricultural production are slightly older than operators of farms with greater agricultural production. Some of the changes in the distribution of farm operators by age for 1954 and 1950, as compared with 1945 and earlier Censuses, may be the result of changes in the number of farms resulting from the change in the definition of a farm.

**Residence of farm operator.**—Farm operators were classified by residence on the basis of whether or not they lived on the farm operated. The inquiry in 1954 and 1950 was: "Do you live on this place? . . .  No  Yes." This inquiry was made of all farm operators and the replies were tabulated separately to show the number of farms reporting "No," those reporting "Yes," and the number of farms not reporting. Some of the data for residence of farm operator represent totals for all farm operators, and the remaining data represent estimates based on tabulations for only a sample of farms.

Some of the operators not living on the farm operated may have been living on other farms. When a farm operator rented land from others, or worked land on shares for others, and had the use of a dwelling as part of the rental arrangement, enumerators were instructed to consider the dwelling as a part of the farm operated. The dwelling assigned might have been on a tract other than that assigned for crops. Since some operators live on their farms only a portion of the year, comparability of the figures for various Censuses may be influenced slightly by the difference in the dates of enumeration.

Some farm operators live in nearby urban areas and go to their farms day by day or when necessary. These operators were considered as living on their farms if there were also some agricultural operations carried on at the residence. In Utah, where many farm operators live in villages and operate farms outside the villages, 17.2 percent of the oper-

TABLE 1.—RESIDENCE OF FARM OPERATORS, FOR THE UNITED STATES: 1940 TO 1954

[Figures for divisions and States in Table 21]

Item and year	Number of operators	Percent of all operators	Percent of operators reporting as to residence
All farm operators.....1954....	4,782,416	100.0	xxx
.....1950....	5,382,162	100.0	xxx
.....1945....	5,859,169	100.0	xxx
.....1940....	6,096,799	100.0	xxx
Residence:			
Reporting residence.....1954....	4,682,081	97.9	100.0
.....1950....	5,250,506	97.6	100.0
.....1945....	5,796,734	98.9	100.0
.....1940....	5,819,920	95.5	100.0
On farm operated.....1954....	4,392,205	91.8	93.8
.....1950....	4,982,330	92.6	94.9
.....1945....	5,459,841	93.2	94.2
.....1940....	5,506,322	90.3	94.6
Not on farm operated.....1954....	289,876	6.1	6.2
.....1950....	268,176	5.0	5.1
.....1945....	336,893	5.7	5.8
.....1940....	313,598	5.1	5.4
Not reporting residence.....1954....	100,335	2.1	xxx
.....1950....	131,656	2.4	xxx
.....1945....	62,435	1.1	xxx
.....1940....	276,879	4.5	xxx

ators reporting as to residence in 1954 were reported as not residing on their farms.

Farm activities in some areas are restricted to short, but rather definite periods, especially for such crops as wheat and other small grains. In such cases, the operator may live at a considerable distance from his land, being on his farm only during the seeding and harvesting seasons.

TABLE 2.—FARM OPERATORS REPORTING RESIDENCE ON OR OFF FARM FOR SELECTED COUNTIES:<sup>1</sup> 1954 AND 1950

State, county, and type of agriculture	All farm operators (number)		Operators residing on farm operated (number)		Operators not residing on farm operated				Operators not reporting residence (number)	
	1954	1950	1954	1950	Number		Percent of operators reporting residence		1954	1950
					1954	1950	1954	1950		
CASH-GRAIN										
<b>Kansas:</b>										
1 Finney.....	726	739	524	527	189	199	26.5	27.4	13	13
2 Ford.....	1,299	1,146	978	955	318	155	24.5	14.0	3	36
3 Gray.....	672	619	500	522	161	79	24.4	13.1	11	18
4 Hamilton.....	406	350	240	207	160	113	40.0	35.3	6	30
5 Meade.....	638	635	470	476	162	155	25.6	24.6	6	4
6 Ness.....	885	884	673	749	205	108	23.3	12.6	7	27
7 Rush.....	972	996	748	818	215	156	22.3	16.0	9	22
8 Russell.....	941	1,065	658	862	204	183	23.7	17.5	79	20
9 Scott.....	479	369	312	290	160	70	33.9	19.4	7	9
10 Stevens.....	436	426	275	303	154	121	35.9	28.5	7	2
11 Thomas.....	731	755	534	537	189	191	26.1	26.2	8	27
<b>Montana:</b>										
12 Daniels.....	609	588	414	462	191	118	31.6	20.3	4	8
13 Hill.....	899	959	693	741	193	185	21.8	20.0	13	33
14 Sheridan.....	965	981	717	731	236	234	24.8	24.2	12	16
<b>Oklahoma:</b>										
15 Cimarron.....	559	616	378	421	166	177	30.5	29.6	15	18
16 Klawns.....	1,642	1,870	1,291	1,600	342	248	20.9	13.4	9	22
17 Texas.....	1,156	1,260	886	931	249	316	21.9	25.3	21	13
<b>Texas:</b>										
18 Childress.....	706	785	553	646	151	123	21.4	16.0	2	16
19 Deaf Smith.....	674	721	498	518	173	189	26.2	26.7	13	14
20 Hansford.....	421	311	204	198	214	101	51.2	33.8	3	12
21 Oohiltree.....	466	439	287	286	176	148	38.0	34.1	3	5
<b>Washington:</b>										
22 Grant.....	1,090	538	859	479	224	51	20.7	9.6	7	8

TABLE 2.—FARM OPERATORS REPORTING RESIDENCE ON OR OFF FARM FOR SELECTED COUNTIES:<sup>1</sup> 1954 AND 1950—Continued

	State, county, and type of agriculture	All farm operators (number)		Operators residing on farm operated (number)		Operators not residing on farm operated				Operators not reporting residence (number)		
		1954	1950	1954	1950	Number		Percent of operators reporting residence		1954	1950	
						1954	1950	1954	1950			
COTTON												
23	Arizona:											
	Pinal.....	1,047	1,168	703	924	332	215	32.1	18.9	12	29	
24	California:											
	Kern.....	2,304	2,599	1,767	2,073	503	460	22.2	18.2	34	66	
25	Texas:											
	Cameron.....	2,836	3,564	2,114	2,855	570	487	21.2	14.6	152	222	
	Dawson.....	1,101	1,229	860	1,120	231	78	21.2	6.5	10	31	
	Duval.....	652	711	464	476	173	178	27.2	27.2	15	57	
	Hall.....	747	951	502	787	150	162	20.2	17.1	5	2	
	Hidalgo.....	4,072	5,314	3,115	3,813	858	1,176	21.6	23.6	99	325	
30	Knox.....	837	887	648	742	179	110	21.6	12.9	10	35	
31	Reeves.....	322	241	156	137	158	83	50.3	37.7	8	21	
32	San Patricio.....	888	938	683	753	191	168	21.9	18.2	14	17	
33	Starr.....	1,023	1,233	746	706	269	272	26.5	27.8	8	255	
34	Willacy.....	865	946	616	704	237	196	27.8	21.8	12	46	
LIVESTOCK, DAIRY, AND POULTRY												
35	Utah:											
	Emery.....	718	747	474	632	238	85	33.4	11.9	6	30	
	Iron.....	465	510	212	279	235	212	52.6	43.2	18	19	
	Juab.....	337	349	132	105	200	196	60.2	65.1	5	48	
	Millard.....	1,094	1,133	837	494	243	599	22.5	54.8	14	40	
	Sanpete.....	1,363	1,570	971	826	372	646	27.7	43.9	20	98	
	Washington.....	637	706	419	546	196	136	31.9	19.9	22	24	
41	Texas:											
	Jack.....	843	888	607	733	228	149	27.3	16.9	8	6	
	Webb.....	277	327	110	149	166	168	60.1	53.0	1	10	
	Young.....	960	1,130	736	942	215	167	22.6	15.1	9	21	
CASH-GRAIN AND COTTON												
44	Oklahoma:											
	Jackson.....	1,572	1,630	1,143	1,393	409	216	26.4	13.4	20	21	
45	Tillman.....	1,415	1,724	1,022	1,314	384	382	27.3	22.5	9	28	
CASH-GRAIN AND LIVESTOCK SPECIALTY												
46	Colorado:											
	Baca.....	934	999	620	731	303	248	32.8	25.3	11	20	
	Kiowa.....	443	493	272	316	154	166	36.2	34.4	17	11	
	Kit Carson.....	1,085	1,067	828	893	242	151	22.6	14.5	15	23	
49	Oklahoma:											
	Harper.....	694	814	535	665	153	142	22.2	17.6	6	7	
CITRUS												
50	California:											
	Orange.....	4,593	5,713	3,383	4,144	1,122	1,461	24.9	26.1	88	108	
51	Ventura.....	1,856	2,049	1,434	1,644	383	385	21.1	19.0	39	20	
52	Florida:											
	Brevard.....	1,017	705	721	497	286	186	28.4	27.2	10	22	
	Broward.....	408	423	211	252	193	148	47.8	37.0	4	23	
	Dade.....	1,527	1,301	1,195	1,028	322	246	21.2	19.3	10	27	
	De Soto.....	505	496	326	366	161	117	33.1	24.2	18	13	
	Hardee.....	1,114	1,188	832	952	248	222	23.0	18.9	34	14	
57	Highlands.....	583	396	289	267	275	102	48.8	27.6	19	27	
58	Indian River.....	683	446	379	308	299	114	44.1	27.0	5	24	
59	Lake.....	2,920	1,711	1,368	1,215	1,518	422	52.8	25.8	44	74	
60	Manatee.....	804	831	608	663	188	157	23.6	19.1	8	11	
61	Orange.....	2,726	1,780	1,700	1,374	1,001	333	37.1	19.5	25	73	
62	Pinellas.....	758	789	577	625	174	122	23.2	16.3	7	22	
63	Polk.....	4,020	3,256	2,277	2,343	1,535	719	40.3	23.5	208	194	
64	St. Lucie.....	735	515	358	345	358	157	50.0	31.3	19	13	
65	Seminole.....	789	541	615	406	167	116	21.4	22.2	7	19	
VEGETABLES												
66	Florida:											
	Palm Beach.....	874	851	577	586	288	267	33.3	32.1	9	18	
MIXED TYPES												
67	California:											
	Imperial.....	1,633	2,131	1,182	1,556	427	529	26.5	25.4	24	46	

<sup>1</sup>Includes counties with 150 or more nonresident farm operators in 1954, provided these represented 20 percent or more of all operators in the county.

Data as to residence of the farm operator have been obtained for the last four Censuses beginning with 1940. Table 2 presents data for the residence of farm operators for counties with 150 or more nonresident farm operators in 1954 when these represented 20 percent or more of all operators in the county. These counties have been grouped according to the most important type or types of commercial farms operated by nonresident operators.

#### Years on present farm (year began operation of present farm).—

The data for years on present farm reflect the stability of operators on particular farms. It should be noted that the number of years does not refer to the total years of farm experience. For a farm operator who moved from another farm, the years on his present farm represent only part of his experience as a farmer. Likewise, a son who succeeds his father as operator of a particular farm may have had considerable previous farm experience.

Data relating to years on present farm were secured on the basis of the inquiry:

15. When did you begin to operate this place? . . . (Month) (Year)  
(Do not report month if you began to operate this place before 1933.)

The data obtained from this inquiry are presented under two headings, as follows: (a) Operators by years on present farm, and (b) operators by year began operation of present farm. When the data are presented in terms of the replies to the questionnaire inquiry, the term, "year of occupancy" or "month of occupancy" is used. For comparison of the data with those for prior Censuses, the data are expressed as "years on present farm." For the 1954 Census, data are presented by two-month periods for those operators who began to operate their present farms from January and February 1953, through September 1954, or later.

Information on years on farm has been obtained for each Census beginning with 1910. County data were published for 1940 and 1945. In the Censuses of 1954, 1950, 1930, and 1925, the inquiry called for the month as well as the year of occupancy. For 1945, 1940, and 1935 the inquiry called for only the year of occupancy. Instead of asking for the year of occupancy, the questionnaire for 1920 and 1910 asked for the number of years and months the operator had operated the farm occupied at the time of the Census.

The data presented in this chapter on years on the present farm for 1954 are not fully comparable with those for other Censuses. For each Census, the data on years on farm have been summarized by years-on-present-farm groups. The number of years or months comprising these years-on-present-farm groups has not always been the same because of changes in the dates of the Census enumeration. Major years-on-farm groups used for compiling the data are: Less than 5 years, 5 to 9 years, 10 to 14 years, and 15 or more years. The less-than-5-year group has been subdivided into single-year groups. The selection of farm operators to be included in each years-on-farm group has generally been made on the basis of the calendar year in which the farm operator began to operate his present farm. However, the starting dates for the Census enumerations have been January 1, April 1, April 15, and October and November for the Censuses taken since 1910. Thus, for the year in which the Census was taken, the elapsed time from the beginning of the year and the date of the Census enumeration has been 0, 3, 3½, and 9-10 months for the various Censuses. Likewise, the elapsed time from the date of the Census enumeration to the end of a specific calendar year would vary from Census to Census. The differences in the elapsed time from the date of the Census enumeration are shown in Table 3 for each years-on-farm group, for each Census since 1910. In

Table 3.—YEARS ON FARM AS CLASSIFIED FOR EACH CENSUS, WITH THE NUMBER OF OPERATORS IN

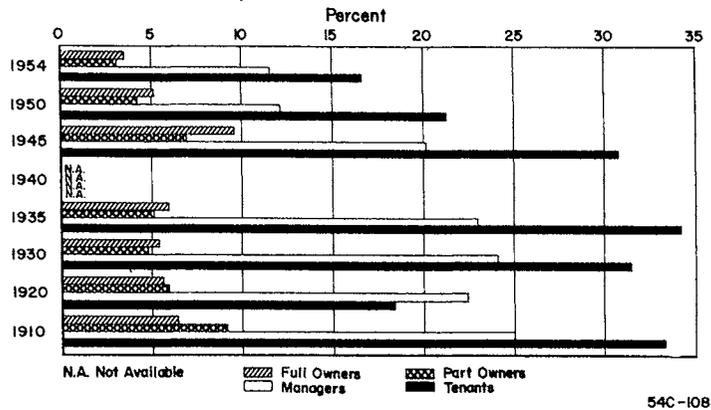
EACH CLASSIFICATION: 1910 TO 1954

[Each period includes the entire time up to the next period following. Data for 1954 and 1950 are based on reports for only a sample of farms. See text.]

Census date	Item	Years on farm, based on calendar years from Census date																	
		Less than 5 years					5 to 9 years					10 to 14 years					15 years and over		
		1 year or less <sup>1</sup>	1 year	2 years	3 years	4 years													
Oct.-Nov. 2, 1954	Year of occupancy.....		1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946	1945	1944	1943	1942	1941	1940 and earlier		
	Operators reporting.....	309,075	251,881	234,057	263,038	261,959	1,171,866					715,041					1,772,447		
	Percent of operators reporting.....	6.6	5.4	5.0	5.6	5.6	25.1					15.3					38.0		
	Years and months from Census date.....	12 mo. or less	10 mo. or less.	10 to 22 mo.	22 to 34 mo.	34 to 46 mo.	3 yr. 10 mo. to 8 yr. 10 mo.					8 yr. 10 mo. to 13 yr. 10 mo.					13 yr. 10 mo. or more.		
		1,010,935 or 21.6%																	
Apr. 1, 1950	Year of occupancy.....		1950	1949	1948	1947	1946	1945	1944	1943	1942	1941	1940	1939	1938	1937	1936	1935 and earlier	
	Operators reporting.....	471,320	271,150	449,529	380,204	377,863	376,812	1,011,185					636,542					1,554,745	
	Percent of operators reporting.....	9.3	5.4	8.9	7.5	7.5	7.4	20.0					12.6					30.7	
	Years and months from Census date.....	12 mo. or less	3 mo. or less.	3 to 15 mo.	15 to 27 mo.	27 to 39 mo.	39 to 51 mo.	4 yr. 3 mo. to 9 yr. 3 mo.					9 yr. 3 mo. to 14 yr. 3 mo.					14 yr. 3 mo. or more.	
		1,855,558 or 36.7%																	
Jan. 1, 1945	Year of occupancy.....		1945	1944	1943	1942	1941	1940	1939	1938	1937	1936	1935	1934	1933	1932	1931	1930	1929 and earlier
	Operators reporting.....		901,705	425,098	384,666	311,466	404,166	955,527					609,496					1,727,927	
	Percent of operators reporting.....		15.7	7.4	6.7	5.4	7.1	16.7					10.6					30.2	
	Years and months from Census date.....		1 yr. or less.	1 to 2 yr.	2 to 3 yr.	3 to 4 yr.	4 to 5 yr.	5 to 10 yr.					10 to 15 yr.					15 yr. and over.	
		2,427,101 or 42.4%																	
Apr. 1, 1940	Year of occupancy.....		1940	1939	1938	1937	1936	1935	1934	1933	1932	1931	1930	1929	1928	1927	1926	1925 and earlier	
	Operators reporting.....		441,830	556,506	449,568	381,145	318,094	943,401					685,728					1,828,775	
	Percent of operators reporting.....		7.9	9.9	8.0	6.8	5.7	16.8					12.2					32.6	
	Years and months from Census date.....		3 mo. or less.	3 to 15 mo.	15 to 27 mo.	27 to 39 mo.	39 to 51 mo.	4 yr. 3 mo. to 9 yr. 3 mo.					9 yr. 3 mo. to 14 yr. 3 mo.					14 yr. 3 mo. and over.	
		2,147,143 or 38.3%																	
Jan. 1, 1935	Year of occupancy.....		1935	1934	1933	1932	1931	1930	1929	1928	1927	1926	1925	1924	1923	1922	1921	1920	1919 and earlier
	Operators reporting.....		1,197,204	521,572	445,805	348,027	396,566	1,080,447					781,973					1,905,648	
	Percent of operators reporting.....		17.9	7.8	6.7	5.2	5.9	16.2					11.7					28.5	
	Years and months from Census date.....		1 yr. or less.	1 to 2 yr.	2 to 3 yr.	3 to 4 yr.	4 to 5 yr.	5 to 10 yr.					10 to 15 yr.					15 yr. and over.	
		2,909,174 or 43.6%																	
Apr. 1, 1930	Year of occupancy.....		1930	1929	1928	1927	1926	1925	1924	1923	1922	1921	1920	1919	1918	1917	1916	1915 and earlier	
	Operators reporting.....		706,691	298,520	1,013,354			937,717					795,803					1,596,159	
	Percent of operators reporting.....		11.7	4.9	16.8			15.5					13.2					26.4	
	Years and months from Census date.....		1 yr. or less.	1 to 2 yr.	2 yr. to 4 yr. 3 mo.			4 yr. 3 mo. to 9 yr. 3 mo.					9 yr. 3 mo. to 14 yr. 3 mo.					14 yr. 3 mo. and over.	
		2,707,133 or 44.8%																	
Jan. 1, 1925	Year of occupancy.....		1925	1924	1923	1922	1921	1920	1919	1918	1917	1916	1915	1914	1913	1912	1911	1910	1909 and earlier
	Operators reporting.....		1,150,056	539,034	443,571	366,859	485,040	539,342		342,462		333,487		529,741			1,488,887		
	Percent of operators reporting.....		18.5	8.7	7.1	5.9	7.8	8.7		5.5		5.4		8.5			23.9		
	Years and months from Census date.....		1 yr. or less.	1 to 2 yr.	2 to 3 yr.	3 to 4 yr.	4 to 5 yr.	5 to 7 yr.		7 to 9 yr.		9 to 11 yr.		11 to 15 yr.			15 yr. and over.		
		2,984,560 or 48.0%							1,215,291 or 19.5%										
Jan. 1, 1920	Year of occupancy <sup>3</sup> .....		1919	1918	1917	1916	1915	1914	1913	1912	1911	1910	1909	1908	1907	1906	1905	1904 and earlier	
	Operators reporting.....		660,713	898,019	1,397,958			1,086,458					2,184,391						
	Percent of operators reporting.....		10.6	14.4	22.4			17.4					35.1						
	Years and months from Census date.....		1 yr. or less.	1 to 2 yr.	2 to 5 yr.			5 to 10 yr.					10 yr. and over.						
		2,956,690 or 47.5%																	
Apr. 15, 1910	Year of occupancy <sup>3</sup> .....		1910	1909	1908	1907	1906	1905	1904	1903	1902	1901	1900	1899	1898	1897	1896	1895 and earlier	
	Operators reporting.....		1,000,293	627,860	1,371,607			992,468					1,802,540						
	Percent of operators reporting.....		17.3	10.8	23.7			17.1					31.1						
	Years and months from Census date.....		1 yr. or less.	1 to 2 yr.	2 to 5 yr.			5 to 10 yr.					10 yr. and over.						
		2,999,760 or 51.8%																	

<sup>1</sup>Includes some farm operators moving after the Census date. The 1950 Census figure includes 15,025 operators reporting April 1950 or later; and the 1945 Census figure includes 238,210 operators reporting in 1945. See text. <sup>2</sup>Starting dates for the 1954 Census enumeration varied by States and areas. November 1, 1954, was used as the Census date in determining years on farm. See text. See map in Introduction for actual starting dates in each State and area. <sup>3</sup>Based on number of years and months on farm as operator.

PERCENT OF FARM OPERATORS ON PRESENT FARMS 1 YEAR OR LESS, BY TENURE: 1910 TO 1954



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TABLE 4.—MONTH OF OCCUPANCY FOR FARM OPERATORS WHO BEGAN OPERATION OF THEIR PRESENT FARM SINCE SEPTEMBER 1953, FOR THE UNITED STATES: CENSUS OF 1954

[Data are based on reports for only a sample of farms. See text. Figures for divisions and States in Table 25]

Month	Operators reporting	Percent distribution
September 1953 to date of enumeration, total.....	339,565	100.0
1953—September and October.....	30,490	9.0
November and December.....	57,194	16.8
1954—January and February.....	113,429	33.4
March and April.....	69,991	20.6
May and June.....	23,127	6.8
July and August.....	17,454	5.1
September or later.....	27,880	8.2
Approximate 12-month period:		
November 1953 through date of enumeration.....	309,075	91.0
September 1953 through August 1954.....	311,685	91.8

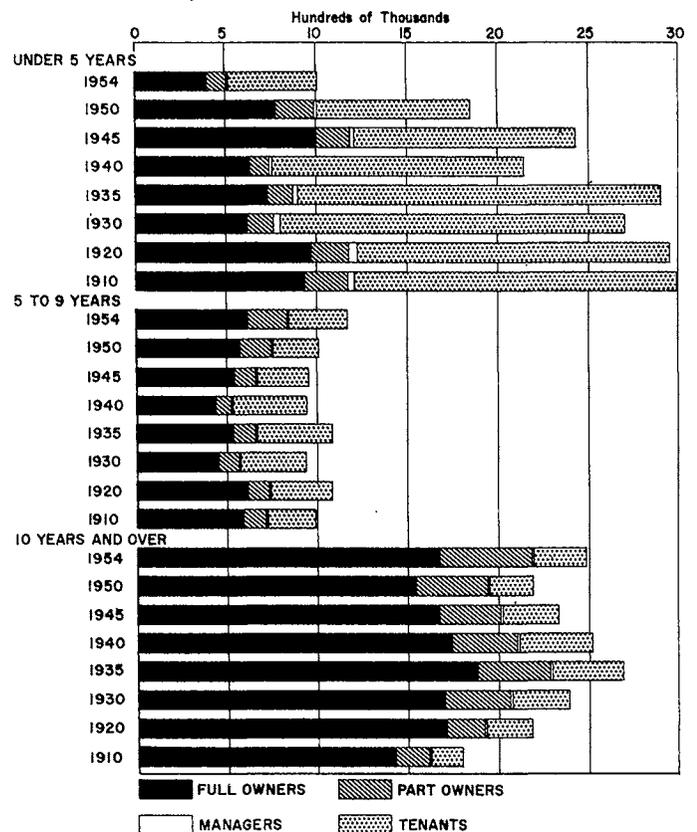
Table 3, the columns show the years-on-farm groups. For each Census year are shown: (a) The year of occupancy represented by each column; (b) the exact period included in the classification, expressed as years and months from the Census date, as well as an indication of how these periods relate to the calendar years; (c) the United States total for each classification; and (d) the proportion of all farm operators represented in each classification. The particular column, in which each total is entered, indicates the years-on-farm group in which this particular classification is shown in the tables.

The difference between Censuses in elapsed time from the date of the Census enumeration affects the comparability of data much more for the years-on-farm groups under 5 years than for the years-on-farm groups of 5 to 9 years, 10 to 14 years, and 15 or more years.

For 1954, the average year of occupancy for the United States was 1940 as compared with 1937 for the 1950 Census. This average was calculated by dividing the sum of the years of occupancy for all farms reporting by the total number of operators reporting. The resulting quotients are shown as whole numbers, all fractions being dropped. For 1954, a United States average of 1940 for year began operation of present farm was determined for the above calculation. This average was subtracted from 1954 to establish 14 as the average number of years on present farm for the United States.

The average year of occupancy and average number of years on present farm have been obtained for each Census

YEARS ON FARM - NUMBER OF OPERATORS REPORTING, BY TENURE, FOR THE UNITED STATES: 1910 TO 1954



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beginning with 1940. Because of the variation in the dates of the Census enumerations, that is, October-November for 1954, April 1 for 1950 and 1940, and January 1 for 1945, the average number of calendar years on present farm is not strictly comparable. For 1954, a calculated average of 14 years actually means 13 years 10 months to 14 years 10 months, while for 1950 and 1940, a calculated average of 13 years actually means 12 ¼ years to 13 ¼ years on present farm prior to Census date. For 1945, an average of 13 years means 13 years up to, but not including, 14 years.

**Off-farm work.**—Farm operators reporting off-farm work vary from those who supplement their farm incomes with odd or spare-time jobs to those operators who have regular nonfarm jobs and use the farm to either supplement their regular income or as a rural residence. The operators with odd or spare-time jobs usually consider their nonfarm employment to be of secondary importance, and they may work part-time on someone else's farm, or work at seasonal nonfarm jobs.

Many persons who may be employed in cities or have other regular nonfarm jobs, are living in rural areas as a way of life and may have sufficient agricultural activities to qualify their places as farms. Some of these operators may be only producing agricultural products for home use, while others may be using the farm to supplement their regular nonfarm income. Many of the operators in this group are undoubtedly using their nonfarm income as a source of capital in the process of expanding their farming operations.

The questionnaire for both the 1954 and the 1950 Censuses of Agriculture carried the following four inquiries to determine the extent to which farm operators were dependent upon off-farm work and income from sources other than the farm operated.

**Section XI.—OFF-FARM WORK AND OTHER INCOME**

**1.]** How many days this year did you work off your farm? Include work at a nonfarm job, business, profession, or on someone else's farm. (Check one) . . . (Do not include exchange work. Include days you expect to work off your farm before Jan. 1, 1955.)

1. <input type="checkbox"/> None	2. <input type="checkbox"/> 1 to 49 days
3. <input type="checkbox"/> 50 to 99 days	4. <input type="checkbox"/> 100 to 199 days
5. <input type="checkbox"/> 200 days or more	

(a) Did any other member of your family living with you have a non-farm job, business, profession, or work on someone else's farm this year? . . .  No  Yes

(b) Have you any income this year from any of the following sources—sale of products from land rented out, cash rent, boarders, old-age assistance, pensions, veterans' allowances, unemployment compensation, interest, dividends, profits from nonfarm business, and help from members of your family? . . .  No  Yes

If "None" for question 1 and "No" for both questions (a) and (b), skip to question 12.]

Will the income which you and your family receive from work off the farm and from other sources (listed in questions (a) and (b)) be greater than the total value of all agricultural products sold or to be sold from your place this year? . . .  No  Yes

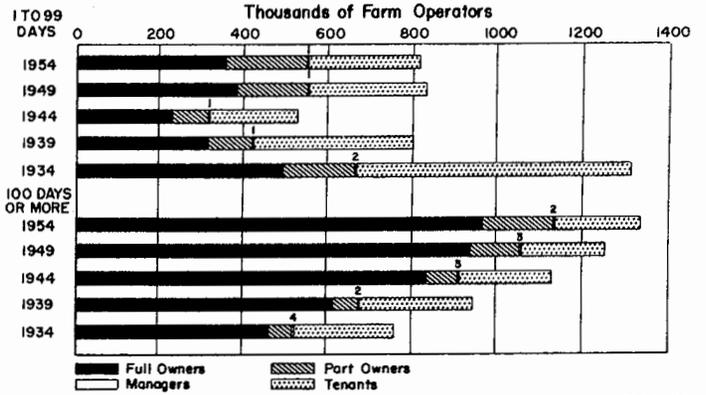
Of the farm operators reporting as to work off their farms in 1954, 45.7 percent reported some off-farm work, 17.4 percent reported 1 to 99 days, 6.5 percent reported 100 to 199 days, and 21.8 percent reported 200 or more days of off-farm work.

For 1950, 39.9 percent of the operators reported some work off their farms, and 18.0 percent worked 200 or more days off their farms.

Information on work off the farm by farm operators has been obtained for each Census beginning with 1930. The wording of the inquiry has varied somewhat for the different Censuses. In 1940, the inquiry covered the total number of days the operator worked off the farm for pay or income, with supplemental inquiries for: (a) The number of days spent at farm work not connected with the farm operated and (b) the number of days spent at nonfarm jobs, businesses, or professions. The 1935 Census inquiry specified "work for pay or income not connected with the farm you operate." The 1930 inquiry specified "work for pay at jobs not connected with the farm you operated." The enumerator was instructed to omit exchange labor for each Census except 1940. No instructions were given concerning the reporting of exchange labor for 1940.

For the 1935, 1940, 1950, and 1954 Censuses, data are shown for farm operators reporting "none" for days of work off farm. The proportion of the farm operators for whom the inquiry regarding off-farm work was not reported varied from 1.4 percent in 1954 to 7.8 percent for 1939.

**NUMBER OF FARM OPERATORS REPORTING WORK OFF THEIR FARMS, BY NUMBER OF DAYS, BY TENURE, FOR THE UNITED STATES: 1935 TO 1954**



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**Relationship of income from nonfarm sources to value of farm products sold.**— The inquiries on the 1954 Census of Agriculture regarding income from nonfarm sources are given above and were the same as those for the 1950 Census.

The primary purpose for the inquiries listed under (a) and (b) above was to obtain more accurate replies for the inquiries on off-farm work by the farm operator, and on other income of the family in relation to the value of agricultural products sold. For 1954, 15.9 percent of all farm operators reported other members of their family performed off-farm work. During the same period, 27.9 percent of the farm operators reported that they had income from the sale of products from land rented out, cash rent, boarders, old-age assistance, pensions, veterans' allowances, unemployment compensation, interest, dividends, profits from nonfarm business, and help from members of their family.

For 1954, 29.8 percent of the farm operators reported that the income which they and their family received from work off their farm and other sources was greater than the total value of agricultural products sold from their farm. This percentage was approximately the same for the 1950 Census of Agriculture. For a more detailed analysis regarding work off the farm by farm operator and members of his family and the importance of income from nonfarm sources to farm operators, see Part 9 of Volume III of the reports for the 1954 Census of Agriculture.