

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

