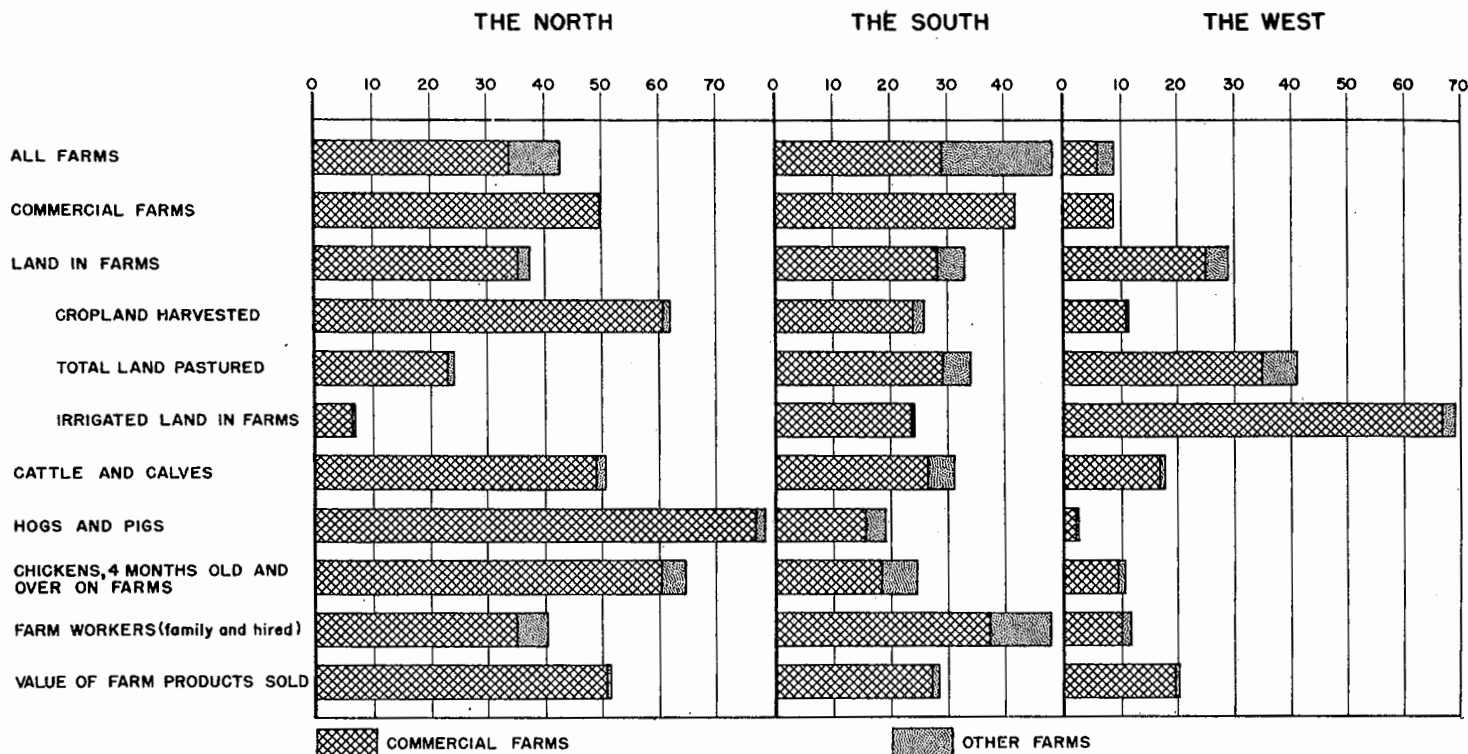


DISTRIBUTION OF SELECTED RESOURCES FOR THE UNITED STATES BY REGIONS AND BY COMMERCIAL AND OTHER FARMS WITHIN REGIONS: 1954

PERCENT OF UNITED STATES TOTAL



54C-162

Distribution of selected resources.—The distribution of some of the principal farm resources among regions and between commercial and other farms is shown by the accompanying chart. Several marked contrasts among regions are readily observable. These regional differences are an important and interesting feature of American agriculture. As this chart is studied, it is helpful to keep in mind that the total land area of the northern and southern regions each comprises about three-fifths of the total land area of the United States while the western region accounts for two-fifths of it.

The distribution of all farms shows that the South has nearly half of the United States total while less than a tenth of the farms are located in the West. It should also be noted that other farms, which consist of part-time, residential, and abnormal farms, account for a much greater number of the farms in the South than in the other two regions. Thus, about half of the commercial farms are in the North compared with about two-fifths in the South and less than a tenth in the West.

Land in farms is more evenly distributed among the three major regions than is the number of farms. The North has 38 percent of the total, the South has 33 percent, and the West has 29 percent. This means that a greater proportion of the total land area in the North and South is in farms than in the West. While nearly a third of all farms are other farms, it should be noted that only about a tenth of the land in farms is in other farms. This means that most of these other farms, except for abnormal farms, have very limited land resources.

Cropland harvested, which constitutes the most significant part of the land resources in farms, is strikingly concentrated in the North. More than three-fifths of the total acreage of cropland harvested is in this region. About a fourth of it is in the South and slightly more than a tenth is in the West.

Of the total acreage of land pastured, the West accounts for two-fifths of it, the South has about a third of the total, and the North about a fourth. Considerable variation in the quality of pasture exists among these three major regions. Cropland used only for good quality pasture largely grown in rotation with crops is more heavily concentrated in the North than in the other two regions. Woodland pasture in farms is found to a greater extent in the South and West.

Although there has been a marked increase in irrigated land in farms in the North and South in recent years, the 11 Western States still have nearly 70 percent of all irrigated land.

The concentration of three of the principal classes of livestock in the North is another significant fact in American agriculture. More than three-fourths of all hogs and pigs, nearly two-thirds of all chickens 4 months old and over on farms, and half of all cattle and calves are found in the North.

The number of all farmworkers both family and hired is largest in the South, which has nearly half of the total. Two-fifths of the farmworkers are on farms in the North and a tenth in the West. Workers on commercial farms are also slightly more numerous in the South than in the North.

This disparity between the distribution of human resources on American farms and the distribution of land and capital is further emphasized by the contrast in the distribution of the value of farm products sold. More than half of the total value of farm products sold comes from the North where only two-fifths of the farm workers reside. In the West, about a tenth of all farmworkers produced a fifth of the total value of farm products sold in the United States in 1954. On the other hand, the farmworkers of the South, which comprise nearly half of the United States total, produced less than three-tenths of the value of farm products sold in that year.