

FIELD TRACTORS BY SIZE OF FARM

Many farms, small in terms of acreage, are difficult to mechanize economically. This is particularly true of those that are general in type and have low incomes. Many small fruit and vegetable farms, and other types having intensive production enterprises require much field work per acre and are economically suitable for tractor power and tractor equipment. Many small part-time farms are effectively equipped with tractors and tractor equipment. Although the machinery investment per acre for part-time farms may appear unreasonably high, from the standpoint of income both on and off the farm it may be quite reasonable.

In 1954 more than a third of all farms in the United States were under 50 acres in size. This group had 11 percent of all the tractors reported that year. At the other end of the scale, farms of 500 or more acres represented 6.7 percent of all farms and had 17.2 percent of the total number of field tractors. Almost 60 percent of all field tractors reported were on farms having from 100 to 499 acres.

Small farmers reported field tractors in all regions. Field tractors were relatively numerous on small farms in the Southern and Western States, and relatively numerous on large farms in the Great Plains and Western States.

FIELD TRACTORS BY TENURE OF OPERATOR

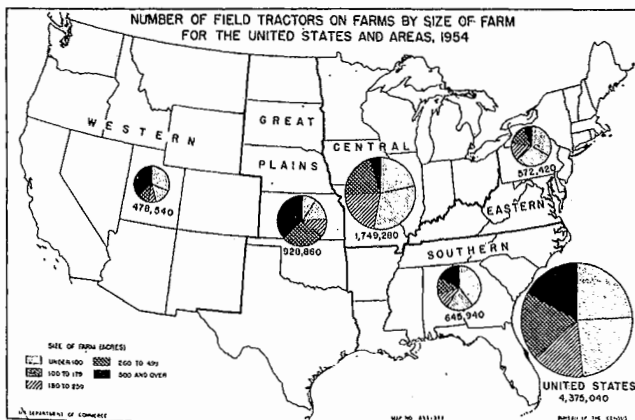
Farm owners, part owners, and farm managers operated 76 percent of all farms in 1954, and tenants of all classes operated 24 percent. The share tenant and cropper group represented 62 percent of all tenants. Within each tenure group are both small and large farms. Farmers in each group have access to custom operators for major field operations.

NUMBER OF FARMS REPORTING TRACTORS AND AVERAGE NUMBER OF TRACTORS PER FARM, BY TENURE, UNITED STATES: 1954

Tenure	Farms reporting tenure		Percentage reporting tractors	Average number of tractors per farm reporting
	Number	Percent distribution		
Full owners.....	2,760,840	57.4	52.7	1.4
Part owners.....	871,780	18.1	80.3	1.8
Managers.....	22,220	0.5	80.9	3.4
All tenants.....	1,150,860	23.9	53.1	1.6
Cash tenants.....	169,500	3.3	45.7	1.6
Share-cash tenants.....	165,000	3.4	92.2	1.8
Share tenants and croppers.....	716,700	14.9	47.9	1.6
Other and unspecified tenants.....	109,660	2.3	38.7	1.5
Total.....	4,805,700	100.0	57.9	1.6

PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF NUMBER OF FARMS AND NUMBER OF FIELD TRACTORS, BY SIZE OF FARM, FOR UNITED STATES AND AREAS: 1954

Size of farm (total acres)	United States		Area									
			Eastern		Southern		Central		Great Plains		Western	
	Farms	Tractors	Farms	Tractors	Farms	Tractors	Farms	Tractors	Farms	Tractors	Farms	Tractors
Under 50 acres.....	35.6	10.7	38.3	14.0	53.0	18.8	21.0	7.9	18.5	3.9	46.4	19.6
60 to 99 acres.....	18.0	13.4	22.2	18.6	21.4	20.7	18.3	13.7	10.5	5.3	11.4	11.4
100 to 179 acres.....	19.8	24.3	22.2	30.8	13.3	20.0	29.5	31.5	17.4	14.2	12.0	15.4
180 to 259 acres.....	9.8	15.2	8.3	14.0	5.2	10.9	16.4	21.3	11.2	11.8	4.4	6.9
260 to 499 acres.....	10.1	19.2	6.0	15.8	4.3	11.8	12.6	20.5	22.0	28.1	7.5	11.4
500 to 999 acres.....	4.0	8.2	1.6	4.6	1.9	9.6	1.9	4.1	12.7	15.8	6.6	11.1
1,000 acres and over.....	2.7	9.0	0.4	2.2	1.0	8.2	0.3	1.0	7.8	20.9	11.7	24.2
Total.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0



The owner group contains a large number of small farms, many of which are low-income places, and many of which are

part-time farms for families who work off the farm. Because of the large number of small units in this group it is not surprising that only 53 percent of such farms reported one or more tractors in 1954. Part-owner farms are owned farms with additional rented land. Renting additional land is one way of increasing size of farm and making the unit more suitable for tractor power and tractor equipment. More than 80 percent of the farms in this group reported having tractors in 1954. Full-owner and part-owner farms are important tenure types in all regions of the United States.

Manager and share-cash tenant farms are found in a limited way in each of the five areas shown, and tend to be larger than average in size. A high percentage of farms in each of these groups reported tractors in 1954. Share tenants and croppers are important groups in all regions. Many farms of these types of tenure are small in size. In 1954 less than half reported tractors.