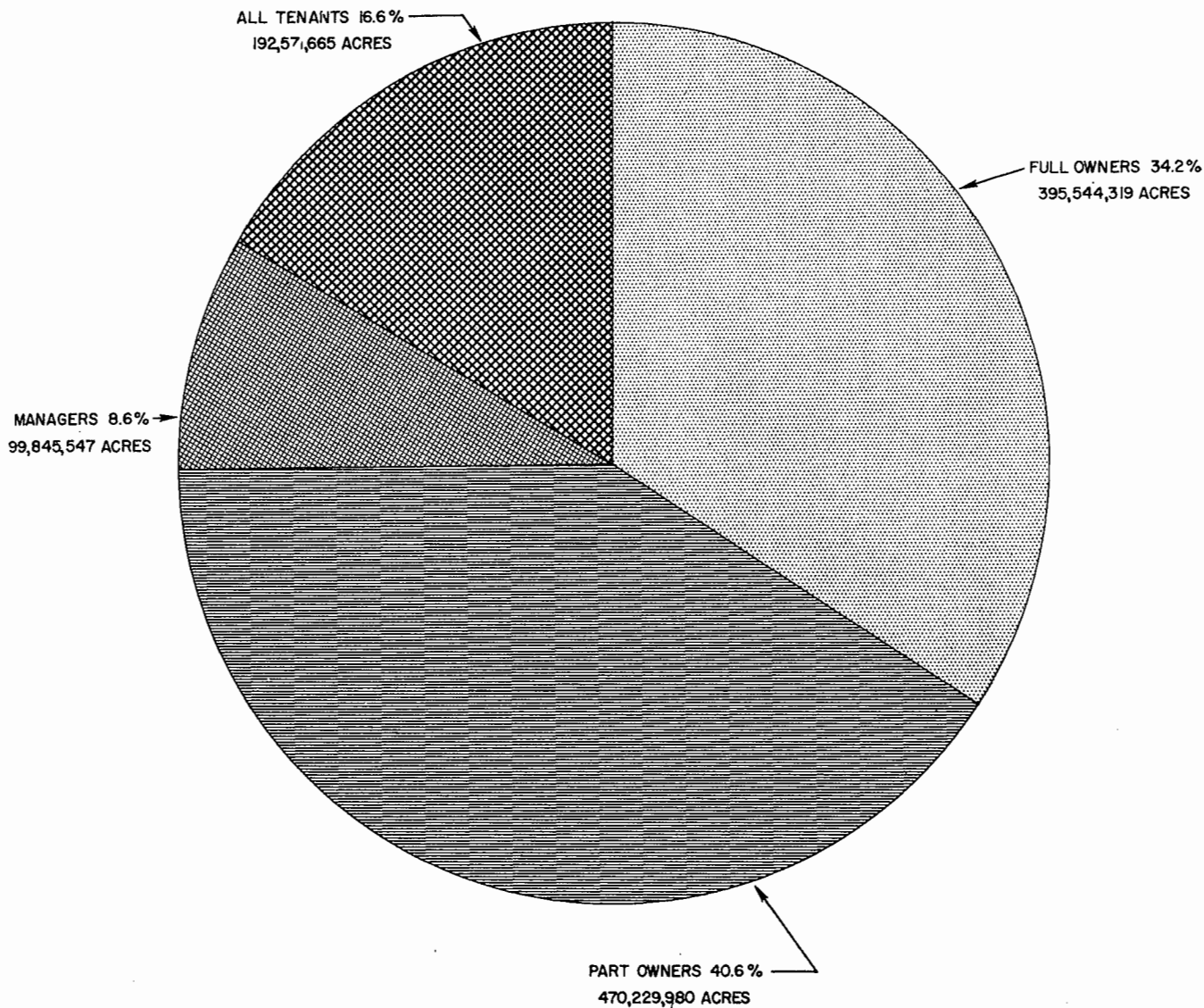


LAND IN FARMS, BY TENURE OF OPERATOR, FOR THE UNITED STATES: 1954



64C-121

Figure 5.

TENURE OF FARMLAND

Access to farmland.—Farm operators generally gain access to the services of land in two ways; first, in perpetuity through ownership and second, for a term through lease. About one-half of the farmland in the United States, in 1954, was in farms in which only one general method, either ownership or tenancy, was used by operators. However, part-owner farms, containing both owned land and rented land, occupy a larger portion of the farmland than any other single tenure type. This mixed tenure is currently increasing in importance both in terms of land in farms and in number of farms.

Land in farms is not, however, all of the same quality. Proportions of the land area alone do not show the relative produc-

tivity of the land in the various tenure groups. We find a high rate of tenancy in fertile regions such as the Corn Belt and the Delta. In the less fertile areas we find the more extensive livestock operations of managers. Some evidence of this quality differential by tenure is seen in the variation in the per-acre value of land.

It is estimated that 89.0 percent of the 1,160,043,854 acres of farmland is contained in commercial farms and the remainder in other farms. Commercial full-owner farms contained 28.5 percent of the total farmland; part-owner farms, 39.7 percent; manager farms, 5.2 percent; and tenant farms, 15.6 percent. Since commercial farms produce about 98 percent of the value of farm products sold, they account for a larger proportion of the products sold than of the farmland.