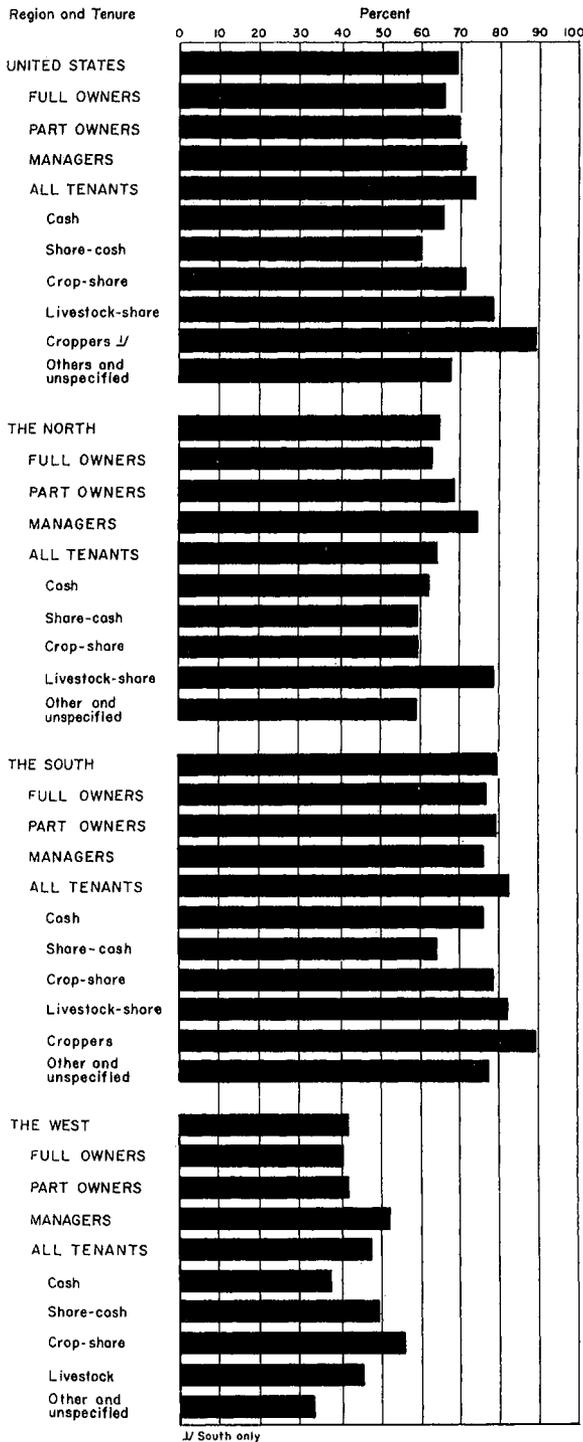


PERCENT OF FARMS USING COMMERCIAL FERTILIZER, BY TENURE, COMMERCIAL FARMS, UNITED STATES AND REGIONS: 1954



AVERAGE EXPENDITURE PER ACRE FOR COMMERCIAL FERTILIZER AND FERTILIZER MATERIAL, BY TENURE OF OPERATOR, COMMERCIAL FARMS, UNITED STATES AND REGIONS: 1954

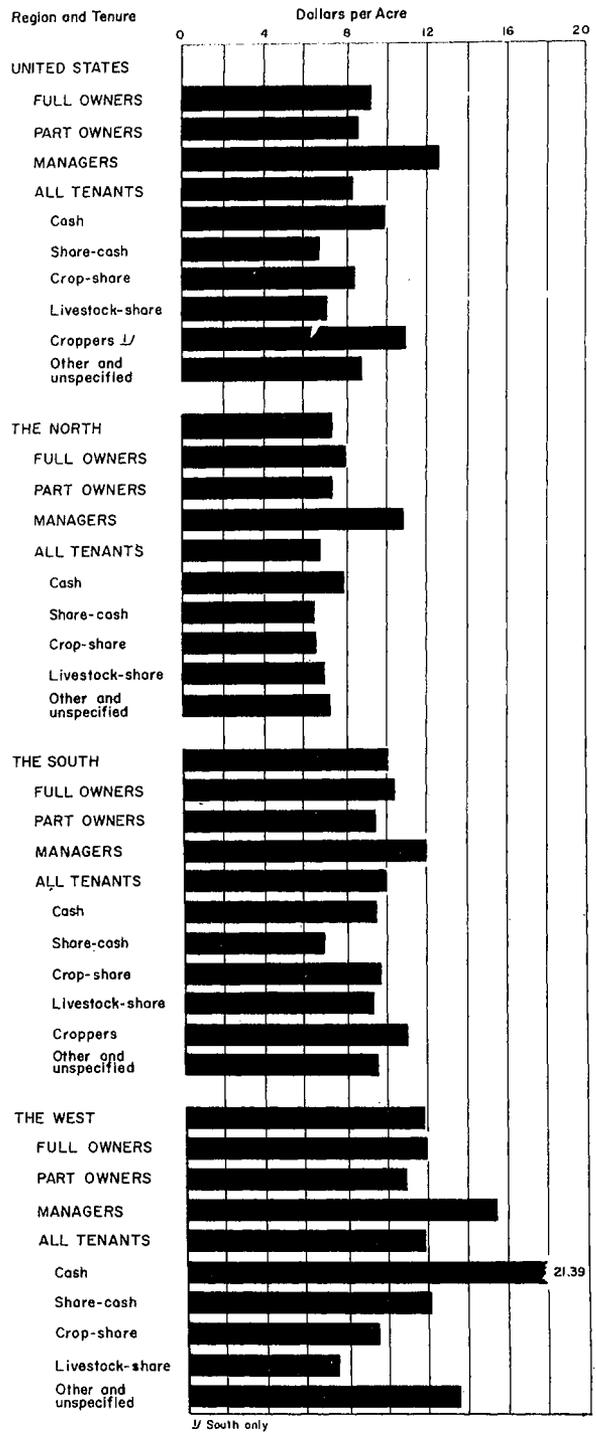


Figure 40.

Fertilizer use and tenure.—The increased use of commercial fertilizer also helps to account for the growth of agricultural production. The use of commercial fertilizer has more than trebled in the period 1940-54. In the United States 17,811,999 tons of fertilizer were purchased in 1954 for use on commercial farms. For those farms reporting fertilizer, the rate of application was 307 pounds per acre. In all three major areas of the United States (figure 40), a higher proportion of tenant farms reported the use of fertilizer than full owners, while croppers showed the highest percentage of all farms. Differences between tenure groups, however, are slight and perhaps could be explained by the differences in type of farm. There are wider

differences between areas than between tenure categories.

Leasing arrangements, to the extent that they dissociate costs and returns, may affect resource combinations. A tenant or landlord who bears the full cost of fertilizer and receives only a share of the increased productivity, will tend to apply less fertilizer, than if the costs were also shared per acre. In 1954, commercial cash tenants spent an average of \$9.97 per acre for commercial fertilizer and crop-share tenants spent \$8.39 per acre. To a certain extent the larger expenditure by cash tenants may be because, in the short run, the cash tenant receives all of the return resulting from increased production.

(Continued on page 190)