

Farms in Economic Classes I, II, and III are the larger farms. On the basis of the number of farms, Classes I, II, and III farms operate a much larger proportion of the farmland, have more capital, produce a larger share of the tobacco, and receive a larger proportion of the gross farm income. However, the proportion of the man-equivalents of labor used on these farms is not much greater than the proportion that the number of these farms comprise of all commercial farms.

Class I, II, and III farms comprise 17 percent of the farms, but produce 34 percent of the tobacco in the flue-cured area; in the Burley area, they comprise 8 percent of the farm, but produce 27 percent of the tobacco; in the Southern Maryland area, they represent 30 percent of the farms, but produce 54 percent of the tobacco; and in the dark-fired and air-cured tobacco areas they represent 6 percent of the farms, but produce 17 percent of the tobacco (see Table 11).

Variation in Types of Farming in Specified Tobacco Areas

The production of tobacco is highly specialized, and, in the various production areas, the proportion of farmers receiving a

TABLE 10.—NUMBER OF COMMERCIAL FARMS IN THE UNITED STATES AND DISTRIBUTION OF OTHER FIELD-CROP FARMS IN SELECTED TOBACCO AREAS, BY ECONOMIC CLASS OF FARM: 1954

| Area | Number of farms | Percent distribution of farms by economic class | | | | | |
|--|-----------------|---|------|------|------|------|------|
| | | I | II | III | IV | V | VI |
| United States, all commercial farms..... | 3,327,889 | 4.0 | 13.5 | 21.2 | 24.4 | 22.9 | 14.0 |
| Other field-crop farms: | | | | | | | |
| Flue-cured tobacco..... | 166,232 | .2 | 1.7 | 14.8 | 41.6 | 32.5 | 9.2 |
| Burley tobacco..... | 104,645 | .1 | 1.2 | 6.7 | 20.3 | 36.1 | 35.6 |
| Southern Maryland tobacco..... | 4,546 | .8 | 7.1 | 22.0 | 35.8 | 27.6 | 6.7 |
| Dark-fired and air-cured tobacco..... | 18,143 | .1 | .6 | 5.4 | 26.0 | 43.1 | 24.8 |
| Total, four tobacco areas..... | 203,566 | .2 | 1.6 | 11.4 | 32.9 | 34.3 | 19.6 |

major portion of their income from tobacco is often quite high. For the four major types of tobacco, the proportion of commercial farms classified as other field-crop farms varied from a high of 70 percent in the flue-cured areas to a low of 35 percent in Southern Maryland (see Table 12). The second most important type of farm in the flue-cured area was cotton farms. Livestock farms, other than dairy or poultry, were the second most important type of farm in each of the other areas.

Tenure of Operator

The tobacco farms are characterized by a high percentage of tenancy and a large number of nonwhite operators in some of the areas. In 1954, nonwhite operators operated 36 percent of the subregion flue-cured tobacco farms, 26 percent of the Southern Maryland tobacco farms, but only 2 percent of the Burley tobacco farms (see Table 13). Tenants operated 56 percent of the flue-cured farms, 28 percent of the Burley farms, 38 percent of the Southern Maryland farms, and 36 percent of the dark-fired and air-cured farms.

TABLE 11.—SELECTED RESOURCES ON OTHER FIELD-CROP FARMS IN SELECTED TOBACCO AREAS AND DISTRIBUTION AMONG VARIOUS ECONOMIC CLASSES OF FARMS: 1954

| Item | All farms | | Percent distribution by economic class of farm | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|---------|--|------|------|------|------|----------|
| | Unit | Total | I | II | III | IV | V | VI |
| Flue-cured tobacco | | | | | | | | |
| Number of farms..... | Number..... | 166,232 | 0.2 | 1.7 | 14.8 | 41.6 | 32.5 | 9.2 |
| All land in farms..... | Thousand acres..... | 11,114 | 2.2 | 5.7 | 22.3 | 39.0 | 24.7 | 5.5 |
| Total cropland..... | Thousand acres..... | 5,097 | 1.9 | 6.0 | 24.0 | 41.5 | 22.4 | 4.3 |
| Production of tobacco..... | Million pounds..... | 943 | 1.4 | 5.5 | 27.1 | 43.9 | 19.0 | 2.5 |
| Gross sales..... | Million dollars..... | 614 | 2.0 | 6.4 | 27.9 | 43.2 | 18.4 | 2.3 |
| Total capital invested..... | Million dollars..... | 1,778 | 1.6 | 5.8 | 24.9 | 41.6 | 21.8 | 4.3 |
| Man-equivalent of labor..... | Number..... | 250,456 | 1.4 | 3.2 | 19.1 | 42.3 | 27.1 | 6.9 |
| Burley tobacco | | | | | | | | |
| Number of farms..... | Number..... | 104,645 | 0.1 | 1.2 | 6.7 | 20.3 | 36.1 | 35.6 |
| All land in farms..... | Thousand acres..... | 8,315 | .9 | 3.2 | 11.2 | 25.3 | 34.8 | 24.6 |
| Total cropland..... | Thousand acres..... | 4,316 | 1.3 | 4.2 | 14.1 | 27.0 | 33.0 | 20.2 |
| Production of tobacco..... | Million pounds..... | 334 | 1.2 | 6.5 | 19.4 | 31.6 | 28.3 | 13.0 |
| Gross sales..... | Million dollars..... | 226 | 1.8 | 7.1 | 19.5 | 31.0 | 28.3 | 12.4 |
| Total capital invested..... | Million dollars..... | 1,017 | 2.0 | 6.8 | 17.0 | 26.7 | 30.0 | 17.5 |
| Man-equivalent of labor..... | Number..... | 116,600 | .5 | 2.2 | 8.7 | 22.4 | 34.1 | 32.0 |
| Southern Maryland tobacco | | | | | | | | |
| Number of farms..... | Number..... | 4,546 | 0.8 | 7.1 | 22.0 | 35.8 | 27.6 | 6.7 |
| All land in farms..... | Thousand acres..... | 467 | 2.6 | 15.2 | 33.4 | 29.5 | 16.1 | 3.2 |
| Total cropland..... | Thousand acres..... | 233 | 3.0 | 16.7 | 33.9 | 28.8 | 14.6 | 3.0 |
| Production of tobacco..... | Million pounds..... | 37 | 4.2 | 19.6 | 32.4 | 29.7 | 12.5 | 1.5 |
| Gross sales..... | Million dollars..... | 18 | 5.6 | 22.2 | 33.3 | 31.0 | 28.3 | 11.1 (Z) |
| Total capital invested..... | Million dollars..... | 109 | .9 | 16.5 | 31.2 | 30.3 | 18.3 | 2.8 |
| Man-equivalent of labor..... | Number..... | 5,828 | 1.9 | 14.3 | 27.9 | 34.0 | 17.7 | 4.3 |
| Dark-fired and air-cured tobacco | | | | | | | | |
| Number of farms..... | Number..... | 18,143 | 0.1 | 0.6 | 5.4 | 26.0 | 43.1 | 24.8 |
| All land in farms..... | Thousand acres..... | 1,571 | .4 | 3.1 | 11.6 | 31.1 | 37.7 | 16.2 |
| Total cropland..... | Thousand acres..... | 912 | .5 | 3.4 | 11.7 | 33.0 | 37.2 | 14.1 |
| Production of tobacco..... | Million pounds..... | 74 | 1.9 | 2.6 | 13.6 | 37.3 | 35.1 | 9.5 |
| Gross sales..... | Million dollars..... | 45 | 2.2 | 2.2 | 15.6 | 37.8 | 33.3 | 8.9 |
| Total capital invested..... | Million dollars..... | 169 | .6 | 4.1 | 13.0 | 32.5 | 37.3 | 12.4 |
| Man-equivalent of labor..... | Number..... | 19,890 | .2 | 1.5 | 7.2 | 29.7 | 39.8 | 21.7 |

Z 0.05 percent or less.

TABLE 12.—NUMBER AND PERCENT DISTRIBUTION OF COMMERCIAL FARMS, BY TYPE OF FARM IN SELECTED TOBACCO AREAS: 1954

| Item | Flue-cured tobacco area | Burley tobacco area | Southern Maryland tobacco area | Dark-fired and air-cured tobacco area | Total, four areas |
|---|-------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Number of commercial farms..... | 238,218 | 189,794 | 12,907 | 37,831 | 478,810 |
| Percent of commercial farms classified as— | | | | | |
| All farms..... | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| Field-crop farms other than vegetable and fruit-and-nut, total..... | 85.3 | 59.5 | 39.1 | 53.9 | 71.4 |
| Other field-crop..... | 69.8 | 55.1 | 35.0 | 48.0 | 61.4 |
| Cash-grain..... | 1.6 | 3.0 | 4.1 | 4.8 | 2.4 |
| Cotton..... | 13.9 | 1.4 | | 1.1 | 7.6 |
| Vegetable farms..... | .4 | .6 | 2.1 | .1 | .5 |
| Fruit-and-nut farms..... | .2 | .7 | 1.0 | .9 | .5 |
| Dairy farms..... | 1.2 | 9.2 | 15.1 | 9.7 | 5.4 |
| Poultry farms..... | 1.4 | 4.0 | 7.8 | 3.0 | 2.7 |
| Livestock farms other than dairy or poultry..... | 4.6 | 14.6 | 25.0 | 13.3 | 9.8 |
| General farms, total..... | 6.0 | 10.3 | 7.1 | 18.3 | 8.8 |
| Primarily crop..... | 4.0 | 2.1 | 1.1 | 5.1 | 3.3 |
| Primarily livestock..... | .1 | 1.1 | 1.8 | 1.0 | .6 |
| Crop and livestock..... | 1.9 | 7.1 | 4.2 | 12.2 | 4.9 |
| Miscellaneous..... | .9 | 1.1 | 2.2 | .8 | 1.0 |