

These data do not measure net income. The specified expenditures do not include any fixed costs, nor all operating costs.

**Efficiency levels of farm operation.**—Various data on size of farm, capital investment, amount of labor, gross sales and specified expenses, although inadequate for a complete analysis, provide information on the differences in efficiency of farm operation for peanut farms in various areas and also for different size of farms. Both gross sales and gross sales minus specified expenses per man-equivalent were higher in the Virginia-North Carolina area than in either of the other two peanut areas (see Table 58). There was not a great deal of difference in investment per man-equivalent in the Virginia-North Carolina and Georgia-Alabama-Florida areas; the investment in the Oklahoma-Texas area was about 50 percent more than in either of these two areas.

The investment per crop acre was more than twice as much in the Virginia-North Carolina area as in either of the other two areas. On the other hand crop acres per man-equivalent was only one-third as great in the Virginia-North Carolina area as in the Oklahoma-Texas area. Average yield of peanuts per acre in the Virginia-North Carolina area was almost twice the yield in the Georgia-Alabama-Florida area and more than four times the yield in the Oklahoma-Texas area. As indicated before, yield of peanuts in the Oklahoma-Texas area was especially low in 1954. Low yields reduced average income per farm and also the relative efficiency of farms for this area.

In each of the peanut areas, as the gross farm income increased the investment per man-equivalent increased. This same relationship existed for crop acres per man-equivalent. This means that on the larger farms more capital was associated with a unit of labor. A unit of labor was also able to handle a larger unit of

production. Both labor and capital were used more efficiently on the larger farms. The capital investment per \$100 of sales was less than half on the large farms as on the small farms. Both gross sales and net sales per man-equivalent were much greater on the large farms than on the small farms.

#### SUMMARY AND PROBLEMS

Specialized peanut farms vary considerably in volume of business and size in the various production areas. There are fewer small peanut farms than tobacco farms. About 25 percent in the Virginia-North Carolina region, 45 percent in the Georgia-Alabama-Florida region, and 66 percent in Oklahoma and Texas were Classes V and VI farms. These farms had sales of less than \$2,500 in 1954. About 35 percent of the farms in Virginia-North Carolina were in Classes I, II, and III having sales of over \$5,000 in 1954. In Georgia-Alabama-Florida area only 22 percent had sales of \$5,000 or more.

In the Virginia-North Carolina area the average size of farm in 1954 was 83 acres compared to 164 acres in the Georgia-Alabama-Florida area and 213 acres in the Oklahoma-Texas area. In each area about half of the total land area was in cropland.

In the Virginia-North Carolina area in 1954, 17 percent of the farmers had less than 5 acres of peanuts and only 7 percent had more than 25 acres. In the Georgia-Alabama-Florida area, 5 percent of the farmers had less than 5 acres, and 30 percent had more than 25 acres. In the Oklahoma-Texas area, only 1 percent of the farmers had less than 5 acres in peanuts, and 70 percent had more than 25 acres.

Peanut farms are diversified. Although peanuts were the main source of income on the majority of the farms in the two areas, they contributed less than 50 percent of the average gross income on most groups of farms. Peanut farms tend to be operated intensively with a high percentage of the cropland in row crops. Corn is the most important crop acreage-wise in the Virginia-North Carolina and the Georgia-Alabama-Florida areas.

In both the Virginia-North Carolina and Georgia-Alabama-Florida peanut areas, tobacco was grown on a number of farms. On some farms, tobacco contributed more than 50 percent of the gross income so these farms were included in the other field-crop group. In this analysis there was no way to separate tobacco from peanut farms in these areas.

Cotton is important in all of the areas. About one-fourth of the harvested cropland in the Virginia-North Carolina and Georgia-Alabama-Florida areas is devoted to peanuts compared to slightly more than 55 percent in the Oklahoma-Texas area.

Hogs are an important enterprise on peanut farms in the Virginia-North Carolina and Georgia-Alabama-Florida areas, but not on farms in the Oklahoma-Texas area. Beef cattle are important on most of the farms in Oklahoma-Texas area. They tend to be important only on the larger farms in the other two areas.

With the exception of the larger farms, the labor force on peanut farms is made up mostly of family labor. The proportion of operators working off farms varies by areas. Of the peanut farmers working off the farm the majority worked less than 100 days per year.

Color of operator and percent tenancy also vary by areas. In the Virginia-North Carolina area in 1955, only 44 percent of the operators were white and 63 percent of all operators were classified as tenants. In the Georgia-Alabama-Florida area, 62 percent of the operators were white and 57 percent were tenants. There were no nonwhite operators in the one peanut subregion summarized in the Oklahoma-Texas area; 38 percent of the operators were classified as tenants.

TABLE 58.—SELECTED MEASURES OF EFFICIENCY ON OTHER FIELD-CROP FARMS IN SPECIFIED PEANUT SUBREGIONS, BY ECONOMIC CLASS OF FARM: 1954

Item	All farms	Economic class of farm					
		I	II	III	IV	V	VI
Virginia-North Carolina (subregion 21)							
Gross sales per man-equivalent...dollars..	3,228	8,765	5,685	3,980	2,681	1,651	836
Net sales per man-equivalent...dollars..	2,359	6,140	3,755	2,993	2,032	1,149	542
Gross sales per \$1,000 invested...dollars..	464	553	493	504	452	350	216
Investment per \$100 of gross sales dollars..	216	181	203	198	221	285	404
Total investment per man-equivalent dollars..	6,971	15,868	11,553	7,908	5,951	4,730	3,868
Investment per crop acre.....dollars..	280	224	266	292	284	258	311
Crop acres per man-equivalent.....	25	71	43	27	21	18	12
Pounds of peanuts per acre.....	1,521	1,601	1,853	1,599	1,383	1,203	1,097
Georgia-Alabama-Florida (subregion 41)							
Gross sales per man-equivalent...dollars..	2,534	3,149	4,588	3,640	2,488	1,512	718
Net sales per man-equivalent...dollars..	1,463	998	2,542	2,128	1,586	913	324
Gross sales per \$1,000 invested...dollars..	393	480	518	466	367	303	182
Investment per \$100 of gross sales dollars..	254	206	193	214	272	330	550
Total investment per man-equivalent dollars..	6,440	6,476	8,862	7,805	6,781	5,005	3,929
Investment per crop acre.....dollars..	107	105	89	107	118	108	99
Crop acres per man-equivalent.....	60	62	99	73	57	47	40
Pounds of peanuts per acre.....	793	979	944	912	736	650	483
Oklahoma-Texas (subregion 96)							
Gross sales per man-equivalent...dollars..	2,000	10,722	7,599	4,416	2,558	1,418	646
Net sales per man-equivalent...dollars..	1,286	9,046	5,887	3,095	1,620	823	320
Gross sales per \$1,000 invested...dollars..	187	1,102	298	242	197	144	116
Investment per \$100 of gross sales dollars..	535	91	336	412	509	695	862
Total investment per man-equivalent dollars..	10,711	9,740	25,593	18,193	12,072	9,871	5,678
Investment per crop acre.....dollars..	138	135	203	146	129	142	127
Crop acres per man-equivalent.....	77	72	126	125	100	70	44
Pounds of peanuts per acre.....	354	3,013	1,100	413	316	301	226