Farms in Classes IV, V, and VI have a small amount of land and capital for economic family farm operation. The man-equivalent per farm indicates that many of the smaller farms either are operated by older persons or that the operator performs only part-time farmwork, for the man-equivalent of labor on Classes V and VI averaged less than one. The average Class I farms in subregion 103 required 2.5 man-equivalent as compared with 2 for subregions 93 and 94. In other respects, the labor requirements of the average farm in the various size groups are similar for the three subregions.

The size of farms as measured by gross sales is consistent with size determined by other measures. Size of business declines from Class I farms to Class VI farms regardless of the measure used.

One-half to two-thirds of the cash-grain farms in these subregions were in Economic Classes I, II, and III. Farms in these classes had a volume of sales of $5,000 or more, each. Only a small percentage of the farms in subregions 93 and 94 were Class I farms. Less than 2 percent of the cash-grain farms in subregions 93 and 94, and about 6 percent of the cash-grain farms in subregion 103, had total sales of $25,000 or more. Even in subregion 103, however, many of these Class I farms would not be considered as large-scale farms. Labor used on Class I farms in subregion 103 averaged only 2.5 man-equivalent per farm, in 1954.

The larger wheat farms, Class I to Class III, have investments of $50,000 to $185,000 each. Differences in size were greatest in terms of capital investment. The number of workers averaged from 1.1 to 2.5 man-equivalent while the acreage of farmland per farm ranged from 350 acres for Class III farms to more than 2,000 acres for the large Class I farms. Class I farms averaged more than 2,000 acres per farm in subregion 103. In the region as a whole, nearly three-fifths of the farms are in Classes II and III. The percentage distribution of farms by economic classes is shown in table 12.

Table 12.—Percentage Distribution of Cash-Grain Farms and of Wheat Production in the Hard Winter Wheat Region, by Economic Class of Farm: 1954

Item and subregion	Economic class of farm					
	I	II	III	IV	V	VI
	Percent of the total in the subregion					
Number of farms:						
Subregion 93	1.4	19.5	39.1	28.2	9.6	2.2
Subregion 94	1.8	22.4	37.3	27.2	9.6	1.7
Subregion 103	5.9	26.6	32.9	21.8	10.3	2.6
Wheat production:						
Subregion 93	6.8	36.0	38.3	15.9	2.7	.3
Subregion 94	7.5	41.2	35.3	13.3	2.5	.2
Subregion 103	17.3	41.8	28.4	9.7	2.5	.3

Crop and Livestock Organization

Land use and crops grown.—There are differences among the subregions in organization of the cash-grain farms. Farms in subregions 93 and 94 are more diversified than those in subregion 103. A higher percentage of the cropland is summer-fallowed in the western part than in the eastern part of the region. The northern part of subregion 93 produces more corn than wheat while the reverse is true in the southern part. Much of the corn throughout the area is sold as cash grain. The variations in yield from year to year are so large that farmers hesitate to keep enough livestock to consume the average crop of feed produced. In the southern part of subregion 103 (Texas, Oklahoma, and Kansas) grain sorghum is the strongest competitor with wheat for the use of cropland. The acreage of grain sorghum has been increasing in the northern part of the subregion since earlier maturing varieties have become available.

The most highly specialized wheat area is found in subregion 94 where 59 percent of the cropland is in wheat. (See tables 13, 14, and 15.) The very low summer-fallow acreage partly accounts for this but this subregion also has a small acreage in other crops. Subregion 93 emphasizes corn as an alternative to wheat because of fairly favorable annual rainfall, although here the corn crop frequently fails. The acreages of grain sorghum are increasing in this subregion. In subregion 103 the acreage of grain sorghum is large as grain sorghum is the best alternative for many of these farmers. The proportion of the farms that is in pastureland is quite uniform.

Table 13.—Land Use on Cash-Grain Farms in Subregion 93, by Economic Class of Farm: 1954

Item	Percent of farms reporting	Economic class of farm						
		Total	I	II	III	IV	V	VI
Number of farms		19,859	283	3,868	7,768	5,603	1,910	427
Acres per farm:								
All land	100	358	1,073	554	362	257	184	132
Cropland	100	258	801	403	264	180	125	75
Wheat	93	71	286	122	71	46	26	13
Corn	92	73	201	109	77	53	38	27
Grain sorghum	54	21	76	31	21	15	11	6
Land pastured	92	92	249	138	91	69	53	52
Summer fallow	50	64	122	56	29	18	13	8

Table 14.—Land Use on Cash-Grain Farms in Subregion 94, by Economic Class of Farm: 1954

Item	Percent of farms reporting	Economic class of farm						
		Total	I	II	III	IV	V	VI
Number of farms		23,140	413	5,179	8,630	6,294	2,233	391
Acres per farm:								
All land	100	362	1,103	580	353	226	166	122
Cropland	100	264	861	435	260	157	106	67
Wheat	100	145	497	254	142	80	47	27
Oats	55	15	46	22	15	11	7	5
Grain sorghum	24	11	51	18	10	7	6	4
Land pastured	90	95	295	142	90	66	56	54
Summer fallow	28	12	36	21	12	6	5	2

Table 15.—Land Use on Cash-Grain Farms in Subregion 103, by Economic Class of Farm: 1954

Item	Percent of farms reporting	Economic class of farm						
		Total	I	II	III	IV	V	VI
Number of farms		32,545	1,928	8,644	10,692	7,086	3,353	842
Acres per farm:								
All land	100	820	2,163	1,076	713	519	445	500
Cropland	100	607	1,534	810	526	384	331	395
Wheat	(NA)	223	569	317	199	129	94	55
Grain sorghum	68	115	394	158	90	66	51	37
Land pastured	82	212	639	263	185	132	114	106
Summer fallow	71	142	327	186	119	93	96	143

NA Not available.