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									
	r	II	III	IV	·v	VI				
	Percent of the total in the subregion									
Number of farms: Subregion 93 Subregion 94 Subregion 103	1. 4 1. 8 5. 9	19. 5 22. 4 26. 6	39. 1 37. 3 32. 9	28. 2 27. 2 21. 8	9. 6 9. 6 10. 3	2. 2 1. 7 2. 6				
Wheat production: Subregion 93 Subregion 94 Subregion 103	6. 8 7. 5 17. 3	36. 0 41. 2 41. 8	38. 3 35. 3 28. 4	15. 9 13. 3 9. 7	2. 7 2. 5 2. 5					

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

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

Item	Percent of farms								
	report- ing	Total	1	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 Cropland Wheat Oats Grain sorghum Land pastured Summer fallow	100 100 100 55 24 90 28	362 264 145 15 11 95	1, 163 861 497 46 51 295 36	580 435 254 22 18 142 21	353 260 142 15 10 90 12	226 157 80 11 7 66 6	166 106 47 7 6 56	122 67 27 5 4 54 2	

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

Item	Percent of farms								
	report- ing	Total	1	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 Cropland. Wheat. Grain sorghum Land pastured. Summer fallow	100 100 (NA) 68 82 71	820 607 223 115 212 142	2, 163 1, 534 569 394 639 327	1, 076 810 317 158 263 186	713 526 199 90 185 119	519 384 129 66 132 93	445 331 94 51 114 96	500 395 55 37 106 143	

NA Not available.