

Within each of the subregions, the land-use pattern tends to be similar for all economic classes, with a few significant differences. The smaller farms (Class V and VI) have a higher proportion of land in permanent pasture. They also have a smaller proportion of the cropland in wheat. The relatively low acreage in wheat on Class VI farms in 1954 in subregion 103 was probably the result of a complete failure of the wheat crop in some localities. Failure of the major crop resulted in many farms being classified as Class VI (less than \$1,200 gross sales). Crop failure also accounts for the larger acreage for Class VI farms than for Class V farms, in subregion 103. Some oats were grown in all parts of the hard winter wheat region but the oat crop was less important in subregions 93 and 103 than in subregion 94.

Livestock.—Average livestock numbers per farm in the winter wheat region are more uniform among the subregions than is the land-use pattern. (See tables 17, 18, and 19.) Livestock is an additional source of income on many wheat farms. The typical livestock organization is to have enough cattle to utilize the native pasture and consume the available roughage. The cattle are mostly beef cattle but a few milk cows are kept to supply milk for the farm family. A small flock of chickens is usual. The average number of hogs and sheep per farm is very low. However, because a small percentage of farms have hogs or sheep, the number of animals per farm reporting is considerably larger than shown by the data in tables 16, 17, and 18.

The pattern of livestock numbers by economic class of farm is similar for all subregions. The large farms have more cattle but about the same number of milk cows per farm. In subregion 93, the large farms have more hogs than the smaller farms, reflecting the higher corn production compared with that in subregions 94 and 103. In general, sheep are found on the larger farms, usually on farms that can carry at least 100 ewes. Many flocks are much larger.

Table 16.—LIVESTOCK 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
Livestock, number per farm:								
All cattle.....	87	26	71	40	27	19	12	7
Milk cows.....	08	3	2	4	4	3	2	1
Hogs.....	43	10	22	17	10	6	3	2
Sheep.....	3	1	8	3	1	1	(2)	(2)
Chickens.....	79	113	102	123	123	111	77	47
Gross sales of livestock and livestock products per farm.....dollars..	x x x	1,725	6,867	3,272	1,736	946	420	156
Investment in livestock per farm.....dollars..	x x x	2,817	7,509	4,385	2,948	2,003	1,257	778

² Less than 0.5.

Table 17.—LIVESTOCK 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	301
Livestock, number per farm:								
All cattle.....	85	26	77	41	26	17	12	7
Milk cows.....	59	3	5	4	3	3	2	1
Hogs.....	24	3	6	5	3	2	2	1
Sheep.....	10	5	13	10	4	2	2	
Chickens.....	75	90	77	103	100	81	59	48
Gross sales of livestock and livestock products per farm.....dollars..	x x x	1,551	6,470	2,832	1,469	782	404	144
Investment in livestock per farm.....dollars..	x x x	2,282	6,486	3,544	2,290	1,503	1,042	617

Table 18.—LIVESTOCK 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
Livestock, number per farm:								
All cattle.....	75	36	94	50	33	21	12	8
Milk cows.....	52	2	2	3	3	2	1	1
Hogs.....	24	3	5	4	2	2	1	(2)
Sheep.....	3	3	14	5	2	1	2	(2)
Chickens.....	63	60	52	66	69	56	39	28
Gross sales of livestock and livestock products per farm.....dollars..	x x x	1,682	6,147	2,579	1,340	714	329	110
Investment in livestock per farm.....dollars..	x x x	3,040	7,933	4,275	2,794	1,805	1,033	665

² Less than 0.5.

Obviously, some of the operators of the smaller farms have not increased their volume of business by producing more livestock. Probably the lack of capital and the uncertainty of feed production are major reasons. Some of the farmers have intensive livestock enterprises. A few farmers are able to take advantage of the limited outlets for fluid milk and high-quality eggs in the area.

Pasturing wheat is a common practice in the hard red winter wheat region. The wheat, seeded early in the fall, frequently makes rapid growth especially on summer-fallow land. Moderate pasturing is not harmful and some growers feel it increases the yields in years of very rank growth. Grazing is done in both the fall and spring; in years of little snowfall it may continue through the winter. Some wheat growers buy feeders for grazing, others take in feeders for grazing on a rental or contract basis. The cattle and lambs make good gains on the lush growth of wheat when weather conditions are favorable and many are brought in for the purpose. Most of these feeder cattle and sheep were not included in the Census data because they usually are brought in after October 15, the approximate date of the 1954 Census.

LABOR USED

In spite of their relatively large size when measured in acres, gross sales, or capital investment, the wheat farms in the winter wheat regions are typically family farms. On many, the family provides nearly all of the labor; only the very largest hire a large amount of labor.

For the purpose of showing the amounts of labor used on cash-grain farms, all labor was converted to an average man-equivalent basis. This was done in order that more meaningful comparisons might be made between the different sizes of cash-grain farms and between cash-grain farms in different subregions. In the discussion and tables that follow, an adjustment is made for operators over 65 years old and for those who reported they worked at an off-farm job during the year. Operators under 65 years with no off-farm work were considered as one man-equivalent, even though wheat production is a seasonal job. The expenditure for hired labor was divided by an annual average wage for the locality in order to provide man-equivalents for the number of hired workers. The number of unpaid family workers was adjusted to take account of women and children and elderly persons included in the total. The procedure for estimating labor on man-equivalents is explained in detail in the Introduction.

Farm operators comprised slightly less than one man-equivalent per farm in each of the subregions, but made up the bulk of the labor force. (See table 19.) Hired labor was relatively unimportant when cash-grain farms were taken as a group. Sources of labor were quite similar for the three subregions as a whole.