

In subregion 93 farmers had considerable income from corn but the relative importance of wheat as a source of income varied little among the economic classes of farms. (Table 21 gives the sources of farm income in the winter wheat region.) In subregion 103 where grain sorghum is an important source of income, Class I farmers ranked lowest in percentage of gross sales from wheat and received more income from grain sorghum than from wheat. Farmers in the other five economic classes received more than half their income from wheat. Gross sales per crop acre are higher in the eastern part of subregion 103 because of the higher yields. Gross sales per crop acre (see table 21) indicate that the problem of the operators of the smaller farms involves not only the area of land farmed but also the level of production.

Table 21.—SOURCES OF FARM INCOME ON CASH-GRAIN FARMS IN THE HARD RED WINTER WHEAT REGION, AND FOR SUBREGION 94 BY ECONOMIC CLASS OF FARM: 1954

Item	Subregion			Economic class of farm for subregion 94					
	93	94	103	I	II	III	IV	V	VI
Number of farms.....	19,859	23,140	32,545	413	5,179	8,630	6,294	2,233	391
Sales per farm:									
Wheat.....dollars..	2,947	5,818	5,457	24,889	10,808	5,465	2,826	1,422	584
Corn.....do.....	1,913	19	51	68	30	20	8	9	22
Oats.....do.....	88	87	12	409	138	78	57	34	24
Grain sorghum.....do	505	73	2,421	538	131	54	39	36	3
Other crops.....do..	178	236	446	1,207	513	188	80	48	16
All crops.....do....	5,631	6,233	8,387	27,112	11,620	5,805	3,020	1,549	649
Livestock and livestock products.....dollars..	1,725	1,551	1,682	6,470	2,832	1,469	782	404	144
Gross sales.....do....	7,356	7,784	10,069	33,582	14,452	7,274	3,802	1,953	793
Percentage of gross sales from wheat.....	40	75	54	74	75	75	74	73	74
Gross sales per crop acre.....dollars..	28.57	29.51	16.60	39.01	33.23	27.93	24.28	18.43	11.83

FARM EXPENSES

Not all costs of operating farms were included on the 1954 Census Questionnaire, but the Census does provide data for some of the major cost items. These serve to indicate differences in cost of production by areas and by the size of business (see tables 22, 23, and 24).

Table 22.—SPECIFIED FARM EXPENDITURES ON CASH-GRAIN FARMS IN SUBREGION 93, BY ECONOMIC CLASS OF FARM: 1954

Item	Economic class of farm						
	Total	I	II	III	IV	V	VI
Average per farm:							
Cropland.....acres..	258	801	403	264	180	125	75
Machine hire.....dollars..	223	593	335	227	163	131	63
Gas and oil.....do.....	575	1,664	995	585	412	279	171
Hired labor.....do.....	161	1,523	354	119	69	46	11
Commercial fertilizer.....do	228	1,267	527	206	80	36	25
Feed bought.....do.....	440	1,240	743	449	298	170	76
Total.....do.....	1,627	6,287	2,864	1,586	1,022	662	346
Average per crop acre:							
Machine hire.....dollars..	0.86	0.74	0.83	0.86	0.91	1.05	0.84
Gas and oil.....do.....	2.23	2.08	2.25	2.22	2.29	2.23	2.28
Hired labor.....do.....	.62	1.90	.88	.45	.38	.37	.15
Commercial fertilizer.....do	.88	1.58	1.31	.78	.44	.29	.33
Total.....do.....	4.59	6.30	5.27	4.31	4.02	3.94	3.60

Subregion 103 has the highest specified expenditures per farm because the acreage farmed per operator is larger than in other subregions. However, costs per acre are considerably lower because the land is farmed less intensively in this more arid of the subregions.

Table 23.—SPECIFIED FARM EXPENDITURES ON CASH-GRAIN FARMS IN SUBREGION 94, BY ECONOMIC CLASS OF FARM: 1954

Item	Economic class of farm						
	Total	I	II	III	IV	V	VI
Average per farm:							
Cropland.....acres..	264	861	435	260	157	106	67
Machine hire.....dollars..	263	996	404	252	167	148	79
Gas and oil.....do.....	525	1,626	827	521	345	226	123
Hired labor.....do.....	241	1,082	489	181	103	55	26
Commercial fertilizer.....do	171	761	339	149	79	49	16
Feed bought.....do.....	580	1,690	948	570	359	256	132
Total.....do.....	1,780	6,655	3,007	1,673	1,053	734	376
Average per crop acre:							
Machine hire.....dollars..	1.00	1.16	0.93	0.97	1.07	1.39	1.17
Gas and oil.....do.....	1.99	1.77	1.90	2.00	2.21	2.13	1.83
Hired labor.....do.....	.91	1.95	1.13	.70	.66	.52	.39
Commercial fertilizer.....do	.65	.88	.78	.57	.51	.46	.24
Total.....do.....	4.55	5.76	4.74	4.24	4.45	4.50	3.63

Table 24.—SPECIFIED FARM EXPENDITURES ON CASH-GRAIN FARMS IN SUBREGION 103, BY ECONOMIC CLASS OF FARM: 1954

Item	Economic class of farm						
	Total	I	II	III	IV	V	VI
Average per farm:							
Cropland.....acres..	607	1,534	810	526	384	331	395
Machine hire.....dollars..	473	1,867	643	341	246	225	121
Gas and oil.....do.....	913	2,795	1,204	775	542	434	406
Hired labor.....do.....	504	2,905	713	272	176	107	125
Commercial fertilizer.....do	61	427	88	27	13	5	(^z)
Feed bought.....do.....	400	972	552	373	246	169	86
Total.....do.....	2,351	8,966	3,200	1,788	1,223	940	738
Average per crop acre:							
Machine hire.....dollars..	0.78	1.22	0.79	0.65	0.64	0.68	0.31
Gas and oil.....do.....	1.51	1.82	1.49	1.47	1.41	1.31	1.03
Hired labor.....do.....	.83	1.89	.88	.52	.46	.32	.32
Commercial fertilizer.....do	.10	.28	.11	.05	.03	.02	(^z)
Total.....do.....	3.22	5.21	3.27	2.69	2.54	2.33	1.66

^z Less than 50 cents or less than 0.5 cent.

In subregions 93 and 94, the cost per acre for machine hire was about the same for all economic classes of farms. In subregion 103 the smaller farms spent considerably less for this item; even for the smallest farms the average per acre of cropland is less than any other groups. In subregion 103 many of the Class VI farmers own a combine and spend little for machine hire.

The smaller expenditures for gas and oil per crop acre for the smaller farms in subregion 103 may reflect less intensive operation. It is possible that the operators of Class V and VI farms did not summer-till the soil as often as the operators of other classes of farms. Since the Class VI farms were also lowest in machine hire per crop acre, it is not likely that the saving in gas and oil was due to more custom work hired. It may be that the lower fuel consumption per acre reflects less tillage of the soil.

The amount of hired labor decreases with the decrease in acreage farmed. The smallest size groups hired only a little labor. The amount of feed bought is closely related to the number of livestock on the farm.

Use of commercial fertilizer in wheat production is a recent practice in the winter wheat region. Farmers in the eastern part have received a good response in higher yields. In the western part of the area the use of commercial fertilizer is not a common practice. In all three subregions commercial fertilizer is used more commonly on the large farms than on those with low gross sales. The figures for rate of application are not fully significant because the composition of the fertilizer was not known. The rate of application is rather uniform regardless of economic class of the farm. This may indicate that those farmers who use fertilizer are using the recommended quantities. (See table 25.)