

SIZE OF BUSINESS

There is a wide range in the size of cash-grain farms among parts of the spring wheat region. (See tables 31, 32, 33, and 34.) In the Red River Valley of North Dakota and Minnesota, the farms average one-third the acreage in the wheat farms in subregion 105 in Montana and are considerably smaller than those in the Dakotas (subregions 90 and 91). When measured by total investment, the Red River Valley farms rank lower than those in subregion 105, but higher than those in subregions 90 and 91. In terms of man-equivalent, the farms in subregion 89 rank highest, because of more intensive farming and greater diversification.

The relationship of the size of farm business in subregion 89 to the economic class is fairly typical of the pattern in other subregions. The smaller farmers as a group are seriously handicapped by lack of resources. It is doubtful that the farm operator can use his time efficiently on the small-size units.

Table 31.—SIZE OF CASH-GRAIN FARMS IN SUBREGION 89, BY ECONOMIC CLASS OF FARM: 1954

| Item | Economic class of farm | | | | | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------|---------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| | Total | I | II | III | IV | V | VI |
| Number of farms..... | 13,280 | 363 | 2,552 | 4,679 | 3,540 | 1,678 | 468 |
| Total acres per farm..... | 435 | 1,433 | 678 | 431 | 300 | 224 | 167 |
| Crop acres per farm..... | 378 | 1,324 | 614 | 376 | 247 | 171 | 105 |
| Capital investment per farm: | | | | | | | |
| Land and buildings..... | | | | | | | |
| dollars..... | 31,144 | 111,605 | 52,429 | 30,562 | 19,731 | 12,965 | 6,376 |
| Livestock..... | 1,710 | 3,052 | 2,563 | 1,893 | 1,288 | 873 | 383 |
| dollars..... | 11,748 | 30,104 | 16,724 | 11,785 | 9,377 | 7,002 | 4,954 |
| Machinery..... | | | | | | | |
| dollars..... | 44,602 | 144,851 | 71,716 | 44,240 | 30,396 | 20,840 | 12,213 |
| Total..... | | | | | | | |
| Man-equivalent per farm..... | 1.4 | 3.6 | 1.7 | 1.4 | 1.2 | 1.0 | 0.9 |

Table 32.—SIZE OF CASH-GRAIN FARMS IN SUBREGION 90, BY ECONOMIC CLASS OF FARM: 1954

| Item | Economic class of farm | | | | | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------|---------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| | Total | I | II | III | IV | V | VI |
| Number of farms..... | 24,389 | 191 | 3,151 | 8,154 | 8,617 | 3,358 | 918 |
| Total acres per farm..... | 696 | 2,446 | 1,180 | 785 | 560 | 382 | 313 |
| Crop acres per farm..... | 535 | 1,976 | 944 | 604 | 419 | 284 | 220 |
| Capital investment per farm: | | | | | | | |
| Land and buildings..... | | | | | | | |
| dollars..... | 23,926 | 88,320 | 43,480 | 26,619 | 18,384 | 12,366 | 10,292 |
| Livestock..... | 2,856 | 8,404 | 4,912 | 3,520 | 2,251 | 1,165 | 618 |
| dollars..... | 11,663 | 29,415 | 17,957 | 12,957 | 10,430 | 7,819 | 6,364 |
| Machinery..... | | | | | | | |
| dollars..... | 38,445 | 126,139 | 66,349 | 43,096 | 31,065 | 21,350 | 17,274 |
| Total..... | | | | | | | |
| Man-equivalent per farm..... | 1.4 | 3.0 | 1.8 | 1.5 | 1.2 | 1.0 | 1.0 |

Table 33.—SIZE OF CASH-GRAIN FARMS IN SUBREGION 91, BY ECONOMIC CLASS OF FARM: 1954

| Item | Economic class of farm | | | | | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------|---------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| | Total | I | II | III | IV | V | VI |
| Number of farms..... | 8,687 | 130 | 1,372 | 2,022 | 2,908 | 1,086 | 271 |
| Total acres per farm..... | 599 | 2,097 | 930 | 607 | 426 | 293 | 234 |
| Crop acres per farm..... | 442 | 1,646 | 757 | 469 | 321 | 218 | 185 |
| Capital investment per farm: | | | | | | | |
| Land and buildings..... | | | | | | | |
| dollars..... | 25,503 | 87,190 | 44,989 | 26,995 | 17,930 | 11,340 | 8,915 |
| Livestock..... | 3,513 | 10,253 | 6,023 | 4,067 | 2,545 | 1,338 | 688 |
| dollars..... | 10,024 | 24,323 | 15,457 | 11,197 | 9,326 | 6,343 | 4,474 |
| Machinery..... | | | | | | | |
| dollars..... | 39,640 | 121,766 | 66,469 | 42,259 | 29,801 | 19,021 | 14,077 |
| Total..... | | | | | | | |
| Man-equivalent per farm..... | 1.3 | 2.6 | 1.6 | 1.4 | 1.2 | 1.0 | 1.0 |

Table 34.—SIZE OF CASH-GRAIN FARMS IN SUBREGION 105, BY ECONOMIC CLASS OF FARM: 1954

| Item | Economic class of farm | | | | | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------|---------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| | Total | I | II | III | IV | V | VI |
| Number of farms..... | 15,071 | 1,317 | 3,600 | 4,173 | 3,775 | 1,709 | 488 |
| Total acres per farm..... | 1,304 | 3,281 | 1,786 | 1,179 | 761 | 524 | 408 |
| Crop acres per farm..... | 769 | 2,077 | 1,054 | 668 | 440 | 291 | 202 |
| Capital investment per farm: | | | | | | | |
| Land and buildings..... | | | | | | | |
| dollars..... | 45,177 | 137,276 | 65,182 | 35,546 | 22,253 | 14,096 | 11,335 |
| Livestock..... | 3,927 | 7,281 | 5,172 | 4,314 | 2,675 | 1,410 | 871 |
| dollars..... | 12,220 | 23,472 | 15,125 | 11,515 | 9,476 | 7,079 | 5,636 |
| Machinery..... | | | | | | | |
| dollars..... | 61,324 | 168,020 | 85,479 | 51,375 | 34,404 | 22,585 | 17,842 |
| Total..... | | | | | | | |
| Man-equivalent per farm..... | 1.3 | 2.2 | 1.5 | 1.3 | 1.1 | 0.9 | 0.8 |

The distribution of cash-grain farmers by economic class is shown by subregions in table 35. Also, the percentage of total wheat produced by cash-grain farms in each economic class is shown. The percentage of farmers in Classes IV, V, and VI is considerably higher than in the hard winter wheat region (see table 12). More than half of the farms are in Classes III and IV while more than half the farms are in Classes II and III in the hard winter wheat region. In subregion 105, the percentage of farms in Classes I and II is materially higher than in the other subregions in the hard spring wheat region. The Classes V and VI farms produce a small percentage of the wheat in the subregions because of relatively small wheat acreages and low yields.

Table 35.—PERCENT DISTRIBUTION OF CASH-GRAIN FARMS AND WHEAT PRODUCED, BY ECONOMIC CLASS FOR THE HARD SPRING WHEAT REGION: 1954

| Item and subregion | Economic class of farm | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------|------|------|------|------|-----|
| | I | II | III | IV | V | VI |
| Percent of total in the subregion | | | | | | |
| Number of farms: | | | | | | |
| Subregion: | | | | | | |
| 89..... | 2.7 | 19.2 | 35.3 | 26.7 | 12.6 | 3.5 |
| 90..... | .8 | 12.9 | 33.4 | 35.3 | 13.8 | 3.8 |
| 91..... | 1.5 | 15.8 | 33.6 | 33.5 | 12.5 | 3.1 |
| 105..... | 8.7 | 23.9 | 27.9 | 25.0 | 11.3 | 3.2 |
| Wheat production: | | | | | | |
| Subregion: | | | | | | |
| 89..... | 12.2 | 36.8 | 33.4 | 13.9 | 3.4 | .3 |
| 90..... | 4.5 | 28.3 | 38.3 | 22.8 | 5.3 | .8 |
| 91..... | 9.2 | 33.8 | 33.6 | 18.8 | 4.0 | .6 |
| 105..... | 35.6 | 35.5 | 18.0 | 8.5 | 2.1 | .3 |

CROP AND LIVESTOCK ORGANIZATION

Land use and crops grown.—Although the Red River Valley and the States of North Dakota, South Dakota, and Montana are generally recognized as comprising the spring wheat region, other crops are grown here. Cash-grain farms in subregions 89, 90, and 91 are diversified. The fact that acreage allotments for wheat were in effect in 1954 may have had a greater effect on land use in this than in the hard winter wheat region. Notwithstanding an increase during the last 5 years in acreage of cropland per farm in each subregion, the acreage of wheat in 1954 in each was less than in 1949.

| Crop acres per farm: | Subregion | | | |
|----------------------------|-----------|-----|-----|-----|
| | 89 | 90 | 91 | 105 |
| 1954..... | 378 | 535 | 442 | 769 |
| 1949..... | 358 | 504 | 425 | 721 |
| Acreage in wheat per farm: | | | | |
| 1954..... | 80 | 159 | 111 | 281 |
| 1949..... | 110 | 212 | 150 | 329 |