

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
Machinery.....	11,748	30,104	16,724	11,785	9,377	7,002	4,954
Total.....dollars..	44,602	144,851	71,716	44,240	30,396	20,840	12,213
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
Machinery.....	11,663	29,415	17,957	12,957	10,430	7,819	6,364
Total.....dollars..	38,445	126,139	66,349	43,096	31,065	21,350	17,274
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
Machinery.....	10,024	24,323	15,457	11,197	9,326	6,343	4,474
Total.....dollars..	39,040	121,766	66,469	42,259	29,801	19,021	14,077
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
Machinery.....	12,220	23,472	15,125	11,515	9,476	7,079	5,636
Total.....dollars..	61,324	168,029	85,479	51,375	34,404	22,585	17,842
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