

This region is also the leading flax-producing area in the United States. Considerable acreages of barley and oats are produced also. At one time the Red River Valley was well known for its potatoes but the relative importance of this crop has declined. Land use by subregions and economic class of farm is shown in tables 36, 37, 38, and 39.

In subregion 89, wheat was not the major crop in 1954; the acreage in wheat was exceeded by the acreage in barley. Wheat was relatively more important in 1954 in subregions 90, 91, and 105, as these areas have fewer alternative opportunities for land use. Flax and oats or barley were dominant crops in subregions 90 and 91. Some corn was produced, especially in subregion 91. Barley was the main competitor of wheat in subregion 105 but was less important than wheat in the other subregions.

The relative importance of summer-fallowing declines from west to east in the hard spring wheat region. The acreage of pasture per farm and the percentage of the total farm area that is in pasture vary significantly among subregions within the region. The Red River Valley cropland comprises almost the entire farm acreage. In subregions 90 and 91 approximately one-sixth of the land is in pasture and in subregion 105 about two-fifths of the land in cash-grain farms is in permanent pasture.

Farmers in the various economic classes have approximately the same type-of-cropping system. In each subregion there are differences which may have affected gross sales. In subregion 89 the Class VI farms were lower than the Class I farms in proportion of cropland in wheat and barley but much higher in the proportion of cropland in oats. In subregion 90 the Class VI farms were lower than farms in other classes in proportion of cropland in flax and higher in the proportion in oats. Class VI farms in subregion 91 were relatively lower in the percentage of the crop acreage in wheat and much higher in the percentage in oats than Class I farms. In subregion 105 the Class VI farms were relatively lower than other farms in the proportion of cropland in barley. These differences in the relative importance of various small grain crops may explain some differences in gross income.

Table 36.—LAND USE ON CASH-GRAIN FARMS IN SUBREGION 89, 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.....		13,280	363	2,552	4,679	3,540	1,678	468
Acreage per farm:								
All land.....	100	435	1,433	678	431	300	224	167
Cropland.....	100	378	1,324	614	376	247	171	105
Wheat.....	(NA)	80	307	136	80	48	32	13
Flax.....	70	46	165	81	43	28	20	10
Barley.....	88	83	328	143	82	51	31	17
Oats.....	71	40	74	52	42	33	26	21
Summer fallow.....	42	32	101	52	32	21	13	6
Land pastured.....	67	33	58	40	33	29	23	24

NA Not available.

Table 37.—LAND USE ON CASH-GRAIN FARMS IN SUBREGION 90, 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.....		24,389	191	3,151	8,154	8,617	3,358	918
Acreage per farm:								
All land.....	100	696	2,446	1,180	784	560	382	314
Cropland.....	100	535	1,976	944	604	419	284	220
Wheat.....	(NA)	159	570	275	180	127	83	67
Flax.....	78	70	330	142	81	47	35	16
Barley.....	74	64	276	121	71	49	30	23
Oats.....	71	34	75	49	38	31	20	16
Corn.....	32	11	58	22	14	7	3	1
Summer fallow.....	84	101	433	186	111	76	64	46
Land pastured.....	82	125	359	185	143	108	73	67

NA Not available.

Table 38.—LAND USE ON CASH-GRAIN FARMS IN SUBREGION 91 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.....		8,687	130	1,372	2,022	2,006	1,086	271
Acreage per farm:								
All land.....	100	569	2,097	930	607	426	293	234
Cropland.....	100	442	1,646	757	469	321	218	185
Wheat.....	(NA)	111	572	208	111	74	48	44
Oats.....	91	71	168	100	77	61	44	34
Corn.....	77	55	224	110	60	35	20	14
Flax.....	64	49	160	75	53	37	27	23
Summer fallow.....	40	24	114	44	24	15	11	13
Land pastured.....	82	105	341	150	116	85	60	36

NA Not available.

Table 39.—LAND USE ON CASH-GRAIN FARMS IN SUBREGION 105, BY ECONOMIC CLASS OF FARM: 1954

Item	Total	Economic class of farm					
		I	II	III	IV	V	VI
Number of farms.....	15,071	1,317	3,609	4,173	3,775	1,709	488
Acreage per farm:							
All land.....	1,304	3,281	1,785	1,179	761	524	408
Cropland.....	769	2,077	1,054	668	440	291	202
Wheat:							
Winter.....	65	381	101	21	7	3	1
Spring.....	215	366	282	228	155	103	69
Barley.....	65	225	97	45	28	17	13
Summer fallow.....	296	939	443	228	132	86	61
Land pastured.....	512	1,169	696	487	307	221	195

Livestock.—The kinds of livestock kept on farms is fairly uniform throughout the spring wheat region. (See tables 40, 41, 42, and 43.) The number of cattle on individual farms varies with the amount of pasture available. The typical poultry flock is small, kept mainly for production for home use. Average hog and sheep numbers per farm are small because many farmers do not keep them. However, the average number on farms reporting sheep and hogs is much larger than that shown as the average for all farms. This is especially true for sheep. Even milk-cow numbers are larger on many farms that have cows for the production of marketable quantities of dairy products. Many wheat farmers in the more arid parts do not keep cows for family use. The percentage of farmers reporting each class of livestock and the number per farm reporting are shown in tables 40 to 43.

Table 40.—LIVESTOCK ON CASH-GRAIN FARMS IN SUBREGION 89, 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.....		13,280	363	2,552	4,679	3,540	1,678	468
Livestock, number per farm:								
All cattle.....	67	13	24	20	15	11	7	3
Milk cows.....	56	4	3	4	4	3	2	1
Hogs.....	37	6	12	10	7	3	2	1
Sheep.....	9	6	11	11	6	3	4	1
Chickens.....	54	79	68	93	91	77	44	20
Gross sales of livestock and livestock products per farm.....dollars..	x x x	1,156	2,852	1,964	1,304	718	367	105
Investment in livestock per farm.....dollars..	x x x	1,710	3,052	2,563	1,893	1,288	873	383