

Table 41.—LIVESTOCK 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.....		24,380	191	3,151	8,154	8,617	3,358	918
Livestock, number per farm:								
All cattle.....	74	26	74	43	31	20	10	5
Milk cows.....	04	5	3	6	6	5	3	1
Hogs.....	41	5	15	9	6	4	1	1
Sheep.....	9	7	32	15	8	4	1	1
Chickens.....	62	54	47	66	64	53	35	18
Gross sales of livestock and livestock products per farm.....dollars..	x x x	1,215	4,434	2,381	1,526	869	363	155
Investment in livestock per farm.....dollars..	x x x	2,866	8,404	4,912	3,520	2,251	1,165	618

Table 42.—LIVESTOCK 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	2,906	1,086	271
Livestock, number per farm:								
All cattle.....	76	30	78	50	35	22	12	6
Milk cows.....	56	4	2	3	4	4	3	1
Hogs.....	45	14	50	27	16	9	4	1
Sheep.....	16	9	71	18	10	5	1	4
Chickens.....	67	101	94	127	121	94	54	37
Gross sales of livestock and livestock products per farm.....dollars..	x x x	1,698	8,591	3,326	1,935	1,001	439	126
Investment in livestock per farm.....dollars..	x x x	3,513	10,253	6,023	4,067	2,545	1,338	688

Table 43.—LIVESTOCK ON CASH-GRAIN FARMS IN SUBREGION 105, 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.....		15,071	1,317	3,609	4,173	3,775	1,709	488
Livestock, number per farm:								
All cattle.....	68	36	68	48	40	24	13	8
Milk cows.....	51	2	1	2	3	3	2	1
Hogs.....	32	4	5	4	5	4	2	1
Sheep.....	5	5	15	8	4	2	(%)	(%)
Chickens.....	65	46	48	47	55	47	23	21
Gross sales of livestock and livestock products per farm.....dollars..	x x x	1,329	2,749	1,840	1,458	805	341	131
Investment in livestock per farm.....dollars..	x x x	3,196	7,200	5,171	4,316	2,665	1,407	697

% Less than 0.5.

It is significant that in each subregion the number of milk cows and chickens per farm is highest in the middle economic groups, Classes II to IV. It is probable that some of the operators of these farms keep milk cows and chickens to provide some food for the family and to help reduce cash expenses for family living. Products not needed by the family are sold. Class I farmers probably feel less need for limiting cash expenditures for family living; but Class V and VI farmers who may have the greatest need for additional income and for limiting living costs, also have

fewer milk cows and chickens. The large percentage of farmers in the youngest and oldest age groups may explain partly the small number of cows and chickens on the small farms. The beginning operators may be handicapped by a shortage of capital while the operators over 65 years may not wish to be burdened with livestock chores.

LABOR USED

Most of the labor used on cash-grain farms in this region is supplied by the farm families (see table 44). With the exception of the relatively small number of Class I farms, the organization of most farms is planned around the farm family. (Many of the Class I farms would be classified as family farms.) Hired labor constitutes only a small part of the labor force on all except the Class I farms.

Table 44.—LABOR FORCE ON CASH-GRAIN FARMS IN THE HARD SPRING WHEAT REGION, AND FOR SUBREGION 90 BY ECONOMIC CLASS OF FARM: 1954

Item	Subregion				Economic class of farm for subregion 90					
	89	90	91	105	I	II	III	IV	V	VI
Total man-equivalent...	1.4	1.4	1.3	1.3	3.0	1.8	1.5	1.2	1.0	1.0
Operator.....	.9	.9	.8	.8	.9	.9	.9	.8	.8	.8
Unpaid family help.....	.3	.3	.3	.2	.4	.5	.4	.3	.2	.2
Hired.....	.2	.2	.2	.3	1.7	.4	.2	.1	(%)	(%)
Operators by age:										
All operators, percent..	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Under 25 years do.....	2	3	4	4	2	2	3	3	5	4
25-34 years do.....	17	20	24	20	20	19	23	20	15	10
35-64 years do.....	69	68	62	64	73	74	69	68	61	59
65 years and over do..	12	9	10	12	5	5	5	9	19	27

% Less than 0.05.

On most farms all the operators' labor is allocated to the farm business as opportunities for off-farm work are very limited. There was considerable difference in the amount of labor hired on Class I farms in the four subregions. The man-equivalent of hired labor for Class I farms was by subregion as follows: subregion 89, 2.3; subregion 90, 1.7; subregion 91, 1.5; and subregion 105, 1.1. Labor requirements per acre are higher in the Red River Valley than in Montana, for Montana farmers use larger machinery than is generally used on more diversified farms. Subregion 89, with the smallest farms when measured in acres of land, had the largest number of workers per farm. The amount of family help used was about the same for subregions 89, 90, and 91, but was smaller for all economic classes in subregion 105. Less diversification and greater seasonality of the work may be the reasons for less unpaid family help per farm in subregion 105.

The percentage of farm operators that are under 35 years of age is low relative to the percentage in other age groups in all subregions and is lower in subregion 89 than in the other subregions. This is true for all economic classes of farms. It indicates that in the coming years either the rate of decrease in number of farms will be abnormally high or that an unusually high percentage of the farms will be operated by older men. The percentage of operators of Class VI farms who are 65 is high especially in subregion 105 where 37 percent of Class VI operators are more than 65 years of age.