

FARM EXPENSES

As in other wheat regions machine hire was the highest in the subregions having the largest acreages per farm. (See tables 47, 48, 49, and 50.) Frequently operators of the larger farms own one or two combines but hire additional machines to speed up harvest. In the localities of high hail risk, the harvesting of wheat is completed as rapidly as possible. Some of the larger operators have found that they can hire the combining for less cost than if they operated their own machines.

Expenditures per crop acre for gas and oil may be expected to decline with a decrease in intensity of operation. However, only in subregion 105 is there a correlation between size of farm and the cost of fuel and oil per acre. Here the larger farms had considerably lower costs per crop acre than the smaller farms.

The amount spent per crop acre for hired labor was approximately twice as large in subregion 89 as in the other subregions. The amount spent per acre for hired labor was highest on the largest farms. This is to be expected for the operators of small farms do not have enough work to employ hired help.

Table 47.—SPECIFIED FARM EXPENDITURES ON CASH-GRAIN FARMS IN SUBREGION 89, BY ECONOMIC CLASS OF FARM: 1954

Item	Economic class of farm						
	Total	I	II	III	IV	V	VI
Average per farm:							
Cropland.....acres..	378	1,324	614	376	247	171	105
Machine hire.....dollars..	198	622	287	193	144	128	86
Gas and oil.....do.....	833	2,781	1,302	844	575	380	236
Hired labor.....do.....	490	4,608	1,021	337	144	82	14
Commercial fertilizer.....do.....	273	1,656	537	235	122	62	34
Feed bought.....do.....	286	698	542	281	186	104	37
Total.....do.....	2,080	10,365	3,689	1,890	1,171	766	407
Average per crop acre:							
Machine hire.....dollars..	0.52	0.47	0.47	0.51	0.58	0.75	0.82
Gas and oil.....do.....	2.21	2.10	2.12	2.24	2.33	2.22	2.25
Hired labor.....do.....	1.30	3.48	1.66	.90	.58	.48	.13
Commercial fertilizer.....do.....	.72	1.25	.87	.62	.50	.36	.32
Total.....do.....	4.75	7.30	5.12	4.27	3.99	3.81	3.52

Table 48.—SPECIFIED FARM EXPENDITURES ON CASH-GRAIN FARMS IN SUBREGION 90, BY ECONOMIC CLASS OF FARM: 1954

Item	Economic class of farm						
	Total	I	II	III	IV	V	VI
Average per farm:							
Machine hire.....dollars..	168	578	259	167	150	120	126
Gas and oil.....do.....	857	2,702	1,425	963	711	473	342
Hired labor.....do.....	322	3,248	872	322	174	86	81
Commercial fertilizer.....do.....	48	593	147	47	22	6	5
Feed bought.....do.....	172	772	314	197	135	79	35
Total.....do.....	1,567	7,893	3,017	1,696	1,192	764	589
Average per crop acre:							
Machine hire.....dollars..	0.31	0.29	0.27	0.28	0.36	0.42	0.57
Gas and oil.....do.....	1.60	1.37	1.51	1.60	1.70	1.67	1.55
Hired labor.....do.....	.60	1.64	.92	.53	.42	.30	.37
Commercial fertilizer.....do.....	.09	.30	.16	.08	.05	.02	.02
Total.....do.....	2.60	3.60	2.86	2.40	2.53	2.41	2.51

Table 49.—SPECIFIED FARM EXPENDITURES ON CASH-GRAIN FARMS IN SUBREGION 91, BY ECONOMIC CLASS OF FARM: 1954

Item	Economic class of farm						
	Total	I	II	III	IV	V	VI
Average per farm:							
Cropland.....acres..	442	1,646	757	460	321	218	185
Machine hire.....dollars..	244	971	388	250	184	158	97
Gas and oil.....do.....	812	2,558	1,337	862	640	388	306
Hired labor.....do.....	293	2,660	735	260	113	80	66
Commercial fertilizer.....do.....	35	289	86	33	15	4	4
Feed bought.....do.....	299	1,019	497	353	198	152	50
Total.....do.....	1,683	7,497	3,043	1,758	1,150	782	523
Average per crop acre:							
Machine hire.....dollars..	0.55	0.59	0.51	0.53	0.57	0.72	0.52
Gas and oil.....do.....	1.83	1.55	1.76	1.83	1.99	1.78	1.65
Hired labor.....do.....	.66	1.61	.97	.55	.35	.36	.35
Commercial fertilizer.....do.....	.07	.17	.11	.07	.04	.01	.02
Total.....do.....	3.11	3.92	3.35	2.98	2.95	2.87	2.54

Table 50.—SPECIFIED FARM EXPENDITURES ON CASH-GRAIN FARMS IN SUBREGION 105, BY ECONOMIC CLASS OF FARM: 1954

Item	Economic class of farm						
	Total	I	II	III	IV	V	VI
Average per farm:							
Machine hire.....dollars..	386	1,156	472	333	213	194	144
Gas and oil.....do.....	1,004	2,129	1,298	974	698	459	330
Hired labor.....do.....	579	2,506	862	373	156	84	48
Commercial fertilizer.....do.....	43	181	67	27	12	4	1
Feed bought.....do.....	142	313	195	141	86	54	28
Total.....do.....	2,154	6,285	2,894	1,848	1,165	795	551
Average per crop acre:							
Machine hire.....do.....	0.50	0.56	0.45	0.50	0.48	0.67	0.71
Gas and oil.....do.....	1.31	1.02	1.23	1.46	1.59	1.58	1.63
Hired labor.....do.....	.75	1.21	.82	.56	.35	.29	.24
Commercial fertilizer.....do.....	.06	.09	.06	.04	.03	.01	(?)
Total.....do.....	2.62	2.88	2.56	2.56	2.45	2.55	2.58

z Less than 0.05 cent.

Because of the decline in the importance of expenditures for hired labor, the total cost per crop acre for specified expenses decreases as the size of farm decreases in subregions 89, 90, and 91. However, the total cost per crop acre does not decline with the change in size of farm in subregion 105 where the lower hired labor per acre on the smaller farms is offset by higher costs for gas and oil.

The use of commercial fertilizer is not common except in the Red River Valley where about half the farmers reported its use (see table 51). In the other areas, less than 15 percent of farmers reported the use of fertilizer. The percentage of farmers in the lower-income groups who use fertilizer is very low. Probably many do not have the capital to buy fertilizer and others probably lack information on which to make a decision to adopt a relatively new practice. The higher percentage of older farmers in these groups may be related to the small percentage of farmers reporting the use of fertilizer. The rate of application reported is rather uniform among the economic classes in subregions 89 and 90. The use of commercial fertilizer in the other two subregions is not a common practice.