

LABOR USED

For subregion 110 as a whole, the farm operators and their families comprise approximately 60 percent, and hired workers, 40 percent of the total labor force. Unpaid family labor is less important in this subregion than in the other major wheat regions. (See table 60.)

Table 60.—LABOR FORCE ON CASH-GRAIN FARMS IN SUBREGION 110, BY ECONOMIC CLASS OF FARM: 1954

Item	Economic class of farm						
	Total	I	II	III	IV	V	VI
Total man-equivalent...	1.7	2.4	1.3	1.1	0.9	0.7	0.6
Operator.....	.9	.9	.9	.8	.7	.5	.6
Unpaid family help.....	.2	.2	.1	.2	.2	.2	(*)
Hired.....	.6	1.3	.3	.1	(*)	(*)	(*)
Operators by age:							
All operators...percent..	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Under 25 years...do....	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	3.0	-----
25-34 years...do....	17.0	19.0	18.0	15.0	9.0	12.0	4.0
35-64 years...do....	71.0	74.0	73.0	69.0	70.0	61.0	37.0
65 years and over...do..	11.0	6.0	8.0	15.0	20.0	24.0	59.0

* Less than 0.05.

The Class I farms average 1,462 crop acres per farm, and have a man-equivalent of 2.4 per farm. Actually several hired men are used during the period when field operations are performed. Many operators of farms in other economic classes have part-time work off the farms; one-third of the operators work more than 100 days off the farm and another 15 percent work 1 to 99 days off the farm. Approximately half of the farmers on the smaller farms perform off-farm work.

A very small percentage of the farm operators are under 25 years of age. Compared with the other wheat regions, the percentage of operators under 25 years old is small and the percentage in the 25-to-34-year group is relatively large. The percentage of operators 65 years of age for Class VI farms is the largest for any region. Many of the operators of these small farms may be semi-retired.

FARM MECHANIZATION AND HOME CONVENIENCES

Farms here are highly mechanized. Nearly all have automobiles, motortrucks, and tractors. Most farmers have only one combine, yet relatively little is spent for machine hire. Many operators of small farms hire their combining performed. (See table 61.)

Table 61.—FARM MECHANIZATION AND HOME CONVENIENCES ON CASH-GRAIN FARMS IN SUBREGION 110, BY ECONOMIC CLASS OF FARM: 1954

Item	Economic class of farm						
	Total	I	II	III	IV	V	VI
Number of farms.....	9,109	3,346	3,303	1,233	775	325	127
Number per farm:							
Automobiles.....	1.4	1.8	1.2	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.7
Motortrucks.....	2.2	3.3	1.9	1.3	1.1	1.0	.7
Tractors.....	2.0	2.7	1.9	1.6	1.2	1.2	1.0
Combines.....	1.1	1.5	1.0	.7	.6	.4	.4
Percent of farms reporting:							
Automobiles.....	93	98	95	88	81	86	72
Motortrucks.....	94	99	96	91	88	72	57
Tractors.....	96	99	97	95	89	89	69
Combines.....	82	96	84	67	62	42	41
Field storage harvestors..	4	5	4	1	2	-----	4
Telephones.....	82	91	85	74	64	59	56
Electricity.....	96	98	96	95	93	86	76
Television sets.....	45	54	46	36	22	24	32
Piped water in home.....	92	97	94	86	83	75	75
Home freezer.....	64	80	66	46	38	26	20

Modern home facilities are more prevalent in the white wheat subregion than in the other wheat subregion. This may be related to the small percentage of farmers in the low-income groups; however, this area had power lines in rural areas at an earlier date than most other wheat regions and this fact has probably influenced the proportion of farms with electricity. The Class VI farms rank much higher in percentage of farmers reporting modern home facilities than Class VI farms in other wheat regions.

GROSS FARM INCOME

The average gross income for all cash-grain farms in the white wheat region was the highest for any wheat subregion, in 1954. This would probably be true for most years, for the farms are large and the yields are relatively high. Livestock is a very minor source of income. More than half of the income is derived from wheat even on farms having the lowest gross income (see table 62).

Table 62.—SOURCES OF FARM INCOME ON CASH-GRAIN FARMS IN SUBREGION 110, BY ECONOMIC CLASS OF FARM: 1954

Item	Economic class of farm						
	Total	I	II	III	IV	V	VI
Number of farms.....	9,109	3,346	3,303	1,233	775	325	127
Sales per farm:							
Wheat.....dollars.....	19,161	37,986	12,176	4,264	2,028	1,038	411
Other crops.....do.....	5,433	10,174	3,575	1,979	1,250	604	274
All crops.....do.....	24,594	48,160	15,751	6,243	3,278	1,642	685
Livestock and livestock products.....do..	1,440	2,344	1,196	795	447	209	98
Gross sales...do.....	26,043	50,504	16,947	7,038	3,725	1,851	783
Percentage of gross sales from wheat.....	74	75	72	61	54	56	52
Gross sales per crop acre.....dollars.....	32.92	34.58	30.02	29.10	24.33	18.54	20.97

FARM EXPENSES

Specified farm expenditures merely indicate the level of some cost items; total cost of operation would be much higher. The total cost of operation for these large farms is high, but the cost per acre compares favorably with that of most other areas. Machine hire, and gas and oil costs per acre, go up as the size of farm decreases, but hired labor costs per acre decline with the decrease in acreage. Total costs per acre for the specified expenses are approximately the same for all economic classes of farms except Class VI (see table 63).

Table 63.—SPECIFIED FARM EXPENDITURES ON CASH-GRAIN FARMS IN SUBREGION 110, BY ECONOMIC CLASS OF FARM: 1954

Item	Economic class of farm						
	Total	I	II	III	IV	V	VI
Average per farm:							
Machine hire...dollars	369	451	393	280	171	188	132
Gas and oil.....do....	1,199	2,039	906	549	398	285	169
Hired labor.....do....	1,038	3,480	862	206	190	62	66
Commercial fertilizer.....do....	953	1,878	545	311	221	87	72
Feed bought.....do....	455	687	303	275	170	181	143
Total.....do.....	4,614	8,535	3,099	1,621	1,150	803	582
Average per crop acre:							
Machine hire, dollars...	0.47	0.31	0.69	1.15	1.11	1.87	3.22
Gas and oil.....do....	1.51	1.39	1.60	2.26	2.59	2.83	4.12
Hired labor.....do....	2.07	2.38	1.52	.85	1.24	.62	1.61
Commercial fertilizer.....do....	1.20	1.28	.96	1.28	1.43	.87	1.77
Total.....do.....	5.25	5.36	4.77	5.54	6.37	6.19	10.72