

Section 1.—COTTON PRODUCTION BY ECONOMIC CLASS AND TYPE OF FARM

THE NATIONAL PICTURE

Information on the distributions by economic class of the number of farms reporting a crop, the acreage harvested, and the production, contributes notably to our knowledge of the overall structure of that crop production. Such data show in a general way the location of production and acreage with respect to the size of the farm and they are indicative of the income level of the farmers who grow the crop.

Table 3 shows this type of information for all farms reporting cotton in the United States during 1949 and 1954. Of the number of commercial farms reporting cotton, there was a considerable concentration in Classes V and VI in both 1949 and 1954. These classes, together with noncommercial farms, accounted for more than 60 percent of farms reporting cotton in 1954 and for more than 70 percent in 1949. This means that in 1954 three-fifths of the farm operators growing cotton had gross farm sales of less than \$2,500. As the noncommercial farms are presumed not to be primarily dependent upon agriculture for their income, this indicated low gross income from farming may not be important to them. But the large number of cotton producers found in Economic Classes V and VI does suggest that there is a concentration of farmers with low incomes from farming among the cotton farms. For all farms, the proportions classified as Classes V and VI were 30.1 in 1949 and 25.7 in 1954. It is thus evident that the concentration of these low-production commercial farms was almost twice as large among farms reporting cotton as among all farms, in both years.

An additional fact of interest is the significant decrease from 1949 to 1954 in the proportion that Economic Class VI and non-commercial farms were of all farms reporting cotton. These decreases were accompanied by significant increases for 1954 over 1949 in the proportions of all cotton-reporting farms in Economic Classes I through IV.

There was considerably less concentration of acreage and production on these low-production commercial and noncommercial farms. The striking fact in table 3 about acreage and production is their concentration, relative to numbers of farms reporting, on Economic Class I and Class II farms. The distributions of farms reporting cotton, cotton acreage, and cotton production by type of farm for the United States are shown in table 4 for 1949 and 1954. Cotton farms account for a preponderance of farms reporting, acres, and production in both years.

Other field-crop farms accounted for a much larger proportion of the farms growing cotton than any other commercial type largely because of a concentration of tobacco and peanut farms in parts of the Carolinas, Georgia, and Alabama, where the growing of cotton is also prevalent.

Perhaps the single outstanding fact brought out by the distributions in table 4 is that for more than a fourth of the commercial farms reporting, cotton is not the major source of farm income. These farms harvested about 16 percent of all cotton acreage in 1954 and accounted for about 14 percent of total cotton production.

The data in table 3 for economic class of farm reporting cotton are for all types of farms, while the data by type shown in table 4 are

TABLE 3.—PERCENT DISTRIBUTION OF FARMS REPORTING COTTON, ACRES OF COTTON HARVESTED, AND BALES OF COTTON PRODUCED, BY ECONOMIC CLASS OF FARM, FOR THE UNITED STATES: 1954 AND 1949

Item and year	All farms	Commercial farms by economic class							Noncommercial farms				
		Total	I	II	III	IV	V	VI	Total	Part-time	Residential	Abnormal	
Farms reporting:													
1954.....	100.0	84.8	2.5	4.8	10.0	21.7	28.0	17.8	15.2	11.1	4.1	(Z)	(Z)
1949.....	100.0	80.5	1.4	3.5	6.8	15.8	26.2	26.8	19.5	12.4	7.1		
Acres of cotton harvested:													
1954.....	100.0	96.1	23.3	16.3	16.1	19.1	15.5	5.7	3.9	3.2	0.6	0.2	0.2
1949.....	100.0	94.1	18.9	17.2	14.9	15.9	16.3	10.9	5.9	4.4	1.5	0.1	0.1
Bales of cotton produced:													
1954.....	100.0	97.5	37.8	14.8	12.8	15.9	12.5	3.7	2.5	2.0	0.3	0.2	0.2
1949.....	100.0	96.6	28.1	18.2	14.0	14.7	14.7	7.0	3.4	2.7	0.5	0.1	0.1

Z 0.05 percent or less.

TABLE 4.—PERCENT DISTRIBUTION OF FARMS REPORTING COTTON, ACRES OF COTTON HARVESTED, AND BALES OF COTTON PRODUCED, BY TYPE OF FARM, FOR THE UNITED STATES: 1954 AND 1949

Item and year	All farms	Type of commercial farm											Noncommercial farms					
		Total	Cash-grain	Cotton	Other field-crop	Vegetable	Fruit-and-nut	Dairy	Poultry	Other live-stock	General farms			Miscellaneous	Total	Part-time	Residential	Abnormal
											Crop	Live-stock	Crop and live-stock					
Farms reporting:																		
1954.....	100.0	84.8	1.7	60.9	10.0	0.2	0.2	1.5	0.8	2.5	3.6	0.2	3.1	0.2	15.2	11.1	4.1	(Z)
1949.....	100.0	80.5	0.8	54.9	11.5	0.3	0.2	1.2	0.7	2.7	3.3	0.3	4.0	0.4	19.5	12.4	7.1	(Z)
Acres of cotton harvested:																		
1954.....	100.0	96.1	2.8	79.8	3.0	0.3	0.2	1.0	0.4	2.2	3.8	0.1	2.5	0.1	3.9	3.2	0.6	0.2
1949.....	100.0	94.1	1.0	79.9	4.0	0.2	0.2	0.8	0.3	1.9	2.8	0.1	2.7	0.2	5.9	4.4	1.5	0.1
Bales of cotton produced:																		
1954.....	100.0	97.5	1.8	83.8	3.1	0.5	0.3	0.9	0.3	1.4	3.8	(Z)	1.6	0.1	2.5	2.0	0.3	0.2
1949.....	100.0	96.6	0.9	85.0	3.2	0.2	0.2	0.7	0.2	1.3	2.6	0.1	2.0	0.1	3.4	2.7	0.5	0.1

Z 0.05 percent or less.