

for all commercial farms. For each economic class, cotton farms account for a preponderance of farms growing the crop, and even larger proportions of the acreage and production.

TABLE 5.—FARMS REPORTING COTTON, ACRES OF COTTON HARVESTED, AND COTTON PRODUCTION FOR COTTON FARMS AS A PERCENTAGE OF THE TOTAL FOR ALL COMMERCIAL FARMS REPORTING COTTON, FOR EACH ECONOMIC CLASS OF FARM, FOR THE UNITED STATES: 1954

Item	Economic class of farm						
	All classes	I	II	III	IV	V	VI
Farms reporting.....	72	71	62	54	62	78	88
Acres harvested.....	83	86	81	79	80	87	91
Bales harvested.....	86	86	85	81	84	91	94

THE PICTURE BY REGIONS

Data for the selected regions of this study which show the total number of farms, the number of farms reporting cotton, acres of cotton harvested, and bales of cotton produced, by economic class of farm and by type of farm are particularly useful in indicating the characteristics of cotton production. They make discernible a reasonably clear picture of: (1) The nature of the diverse agricultural economies in which cotton growing is carried on; (2) the role and relative importance of the cotton enterprise in the several regions and on different types of farms; (3) the structure, with respect to size of business, of the cotton-production industry in the regions.

Information of this kind for economic class of commercial farms and for types of noncommercial farms is shown in table 6.

The data relating to the number, and proportion, of all farms reporting cotton indicate the relative importance of cotton production in the agriculture of the region and show the relative importance of the enterprise to different size-of-business groups.

In Regions I, II, and III, the three humid regions east of the Mississippi River, cotton is grown on 74, 64, and 87 percent, respectively, of all commercial farms. This leaves little doubt that in these regions it is an extremely important enterprise. An examination of the proportions of the economic classes of commercial farms that report cotton presents some interesting implications. For example, in Region II, where 64 percent of all commercial farms report cotton, only about one-fourth of Economic Class I and Class II farms grow cotton, and only slightly more than one-third of Class III farms report the crop. To a less pronounced degree the same situation prevails in Region III. In Region I about the same proportion of Class III farms report cotton as of all commercial farms. But here too, smaller proportions of Economic Classes I and II farms report cotton than the proportion of all farms reporting cotton.

It is noteworthy that a larger proportion of the large farms in these areas do not grow cotton. Particularly for Regions II and III the general characteristics of the topography, and the effects of this upon the practicability of adopting labor-saving methods suggest that many of the larger farms may not find cotton as profitable as other enterprises. In this connection, data of table 7 show that in Regions I and II a large majority of the farms in Classes I through III that report cotton are not cotton farms. These same data reveal that in Region III where 89 percent of all commercial farms that report cotton are cotton farms, a majority of the farms reporting cotton in Classes I and II are not cotton farms.

A somewhat similar situation with respect to the proportions of farms in different economic classes that report cotton is found in

TABLE 6.—NUMBER OF FARMS, FARMS REPORTING COTTON, AND ACRES AND BALES OF COTTON HARVESTED, FOR COMMERCIAL FARMS, BY ECONOMIC CLASS AND FOR NONCOMMERCIAL FARMS, BY REGIONS: 1954

Region and item	All farms	Commercial farms by economic class							Noncommercial farms			
		Total	I	II	III	IV	V	VI	Total	Part-time	Residential	Abnormal
REGION I												
All farms, number.....	223,910	160,682	1,784	6,087	20,008	51,288	51,172	20,743	63,228	25,919	37,230	79
Percent distribution.....	100.0	71.8	0.8	2.7	9.2	22.9	22.9	13.3	28.2	11.6	16.6	(Z)
Farms reporting cotton, number.....	135,573	118,761	988	3,898	15,404	40,640	38,267	19,564	16,812	12,132	4,671	9
Percent of all farms.....	60.5	73.9	55.4	64.0	74.7	79.2	74.8	65.8	26.6	46.8	12.5	11.4
Percent distribution.....	100.0	87.6	0.7	2.9	11.4	30.0	28.2	14.4	12.4	8.9	3.5	(Z)
Acres of cotton harvested.....	1,580,374	1,608,759	109,658	161,345	280,983	485,708	349,322	121,743	71,615	60,087	11,132	396
Percent distribution.....	100.0	95.5	6.9	10.2	17.8	30.7	22.1	7.7	4.5	3.8	0.7	(Z)
Bales of cotton harvested.....	986,051	951,156	73,797	108,919	195,394	317,832	196,938	58,276	34,895	30,025	4,616	254
Percent distribution.....	100.0	96.5	7.5	11.0	19.8	32.2	20.0	5.9	3.5	3.0	0.5	(Z)
REGION II												
All farms, number.....	169,464	77,232	1,115	4,349	7,064	12,266	26,174	26,264	92,232	31,968	60,179	85
Percent distribution.....	100.0	45.6	0.7	2.6	4.2	7.2	15.4	15.5	54.4	18.9	35.5	(Z)
Farms reporting cotton, number.....	72,282	49,708	273	1,118	2,463	7,127	19,023	19,704	22,574	17,407	5,145	22
Percent of all farms.....	42.7	64.4	24.5	25.7	34.9	58.1	72.7	75.0	24.5	54.5	8.5	25.9
Percent distribution.....	100.0	68.8	0.4	1.5	3.4	9.9	26.3	27.3	31.2	24.1	7.1	(Z)
Acres of cotton harvested.....	692,432	579,074	13,770	30,955	46,426	124,512	228,017	135,394	113,358	98,914	14,215	229
Percent distribution.....	100.0	83.6	2.0	4.5	6.7	18.0	32.9	19.6	16.4	14.3	2.1	(Z)
Bales of cotton harvested.....	388,460	334,151	9,171	19,313	29,593	77,767	131,563	66,744	54,309	49,124	5,060	125
Percent distribution.....	100.0	86.0	2.4	5.0	7.6	20.0	33.9	17.2	14.0	12.6	1.4	(Z)
REGION III												
All farms, number.....	357,989	220,384	1,723	5,723	13,102	42,392	83,955	73,489	137,605	52,968	84,584	63
Percent distribution.....	100.0	61.6	0.5	1.6	3.7	11.8	23.5	20.5	38.2	14.7	23.5	(Z)
Farms reporting cotton, number.....	239,490	192,080	953	3,398	9,899	37,882	76,856	63,092	47,410	33,806	13,590	14
Percent of all farms.....	66.9	87.2	55.3	59.4	75.6	89.4	91.5	85.9	34.5	63.8	16.1	22.2
Percent distribution.....	100.0	80.2	0.4	1.4	4.1	15.8	32.1	26.3	19.8	14.1	5.7	(Z)
Acres of cotton harvested.....	2,507,604	2,324,630	122,869	150,780	252,504	629,820	790,406	378,251	182,974	152,016	29,905	1,053
Percent distribution.....	100.0	92.7	4.9	6.0	10.1	25.1	31.5	15.1	7.2	6.1	1.2	(Z)
Bales of cotton harvested.....	1,799,588	1,693,480	110,222	119,408	208,879	497,088	552,557	205,326	106,108	92,113	13,310	685
Percent distribution.....	100.0	94.1	6.1	6.6	11.6	27.6	30.7	11.4	5.9	5.1	0.7	(Z)