

Section 3.—TENURE OF COTTON FARMS

Detailed analysis of the type of tenure, by which operators of cotton farms control the land resources they use, and of the economic implications of such tenure arrangements, is not an important purpose of this report. But the tenure characteristics of cotton farms have some effect on the interpretation of data relating to land use, to production expenses, and to investment on cotton farms, and the tenure of operator has some influence upon the mobility of labor and other resources employed on farms. Therefore, tenure arrangements of the operators of cotton farms will be briefly examined.

PROPORTION OF COTTON FARMS OPERATED BY CROPPERS

The legal status of croppers varies from State to State. Typically, the cropper is one who supplies only the labor input for the farming operation. The landlord typically provides the land and the power and equipment used, and makes most of the managerial decisions. Crops produced on cropper operations are usually divided equally between the cropper and the landlord. The cropper usually pays for half the fertilizer used.

Because of these facts the cropper is often treated, in economic analysis, as a farm laborer rather than as a farm operator; but a farm laborer who shares directly some of the short-term risks associated with the farm business.

In Census statistics, however, croppers are considered as farm operators. The principal objective here, in examining the proportions of cotton farms operated by croppers, is to bring out the facts concerning the influence of cropper operations on (1) land use, expenses, and investment for various economic classes of

cotton farms, and (2) the probable mobility of labor and land resources on various size-of-business groups of cotton farms.

Given the facts concerning the typical cropper operation it would seem evident that: (1) The land associated with cropper operations would tend to be very largely cropland, (2) livestock enterprises would be at a minimum, and (3) to the extent that the landlord does not operate a farm, or if he does, to the extent that his farm falls in a different economic class from that of the cropper, production expenses and investment in machinery and equipment may be understated in those economic classes where croppers are found. Also, statistics for the economic class in which the landlords are found may overstate production expenses, and reflect investment in machinery and equipment that is not fully related to the operation with which it is statistically associated.

Because of investments in land and/or farm machinery and equipment by farm operators other than croppers, it would seem reasonable to infer that, with other considerations being equal, there would be a higher degree of mobility with respect to other employment opportunities among croppers than among other types of operators. The relatively rapid decline in numbers of croppers seems to strengthen such an inference. It follows, also, that the land resources used by croppers may be more readily available than those controlled by operators of other tenure statuses for use in future adjustments which entail increased land resources per farm.

With these facts in mind, it is interesting to examine the data in table 12 concerning the proportions of farms operated by croppers for the various economic classes of cotton farms in the 10 designated production regions.

TABLE 12.—PERCENT DISTRIBUTION OF ALL COMMERCIAL FARM OPERATORS, AND COTTON FARM OPERATORS IN EACH ECONOMIC CLASS OF FARM, BY COLOR AND TENURE OF OPERATOR, BY REGIONS: 1954

Region and item	Percent distribution								Region and item	Percent distribution							
	All commercial farms	Cotton farms by economic class of farm								All commercial farms	Cotton farms by economic class of farm						
		All classes	I	II	III	IV	V	VI			All classes	I	II	III	IV	V	VI
<b>REGION I</b>																	
All farm operators.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	All farm operators.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	
White.....	59.8	38.8	98.3	92.8	58.8	41.0	37.6	27.5	White.....	63.0	54.0	97.9	91.6	77.4	62.2	53.7	45.7
Nonwhite.....	40.2	61.2	1.7	7.2	41.2	59.0	62.4	72.5	Nonwhite.....	37.0	46.0	2.1	8.4	22.6	37.8	46.3	54.3
Owners, part owners, and managers.....	51.7	38.3	88.9	76.3	44.7	30.3	34.6	45.0	Owners, part owners, and managers.....	52.6	42.2	81.7	66.5	46.0	38.9	38.0	47.4
White.....	77.6	57.6	98.0	97.5	81.9	70.7	58.9	34.5	White.....	80.4	71.5	97.4	91.5	89.4	81.2	75.4	60.3
Nonwhite.....	22.4	42.4	2.0	2.5	18.1	29.3	41.1	65.5	Nonwhite.....	19.6	28.5	2.6	8.5	10.6	18.8	24.6	39.7
All tenants except croppers.....	26.2	32.3	9.8	17.5	30.4	34.0	31.6	33.7	All tenants except croppers.....	26.0	30.9	16.8	25.8	32.7	29.5	30.7	31.9
White.....	46.5	31.2	100.0	79.2	49.5	34.6	30.3	22.2	White.....	49.8	46.5	100.0	95.4	81.7	60.5	47.4	32.9
Nonwhite.....	53.5	68.8	-----	20.8	50.5	65.4	69.7	77.8	Nonwhite.....	50.2	53.5	-----	4.6	18.3	39.5	52.6	67.1
Croppers.....	22.0	29.4	1.4	6.2	24.9	35.7	33.8	21.3	Croppers.....	21.4	26.9	1.5	7.7	21.3	31.5	31.2	20.7
White.....	33.8	22.7	100.0	73.7	28.8	21.9	22.6	21.2	White.....	36.1	35.2	100.0	80.5	45.0	40.4	33.5	32.1
Nonwhite.....	66.2	77.3	-----	26.3	71.2	78.1	77.4	78.8	Nonwhite.....	63.9	64.8	-----	19.5	55.0	59.6	66.5	67.9
<b>REGION II</b>																	
All farm operators.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	All farm operators.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	
White.....	71.3	48.1	100.0	93.9	81.7	50.9	48.1	45.6	White.....	50.3	44.0	98.6	93.0	72.9	46.3	30.5	27.7
Nonwhite.....	28.7	51.9	-----	6.1	18.3	49.1	51.9	54.4	Nonwhite.....	49.7	56.0	1.4	7.0	27.1	53.7	69.5	72.3
Owners, part owners, and managers.....	62.2	38.1	95.7	93.9	71.6	38.2	31.0	42.2	Owners, part owners, and managers.....	31.4	25.3	68.1	45.7	29.3	23.8	18.9	29.4
White.....	89.5	72.5	100.0	93.5	92.5	81.2	77.9	65.0	White.....	80.0	72.9	98.8	93.3	86.0	73.5	65.1	54.0
Nonwhite.....	10.5	27.5	-----	6.5	7.5	18.8	22.1	35.0	Nonwhite.....	20.0	27.1	1.2	6.7	14.0	26.5	34.9	46.0
All tenants except croppers.....	17.1	25.7	4.3	6.1	9.6	23.3	26.3	26.7	All tenants except croppers.....	25.7	26.4	29.3	47.6	43.6	27.4	20.9	17.4
White.....	54.6	44.4	100.0	100.0	76.4	50.3	49.9	37.8	White.....	61.1	58.0	98.5	94.3	81.1	55.4	39.7	34.4
Nonwhite.....	45.4	55.6	-----	-----	23.6	49.7	50.1	62.2	Nonwhite.....	38.9	42.0	1.5	5.7	18.9	44.6	60.3	65.6
Croppers.....	20.6	36.2	-----	-----	18.7	38.5	42.7	31.1	Croppers.....	42.9	48.3	2.6	6.7	27.1	48.7	60.1	53.2
White.....	30.0	25.2	-----	-----	42.9	21.1	25.2	26.0	White.....	22.1	21.3	93.5	81.3	45.5	27.8	16.5	11.0
Nonwhite.....	70.0	74.8	-----	-----	57.1	78.9	74.8	74.0	Nonwhite.....	77.9	78.7	6.5	18.7	54.5	72.2	83.5	89.0
<b>REGION III</b>																	
All farm operators.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	All farm operators.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	
White.....	59.8	38.8	98.3	92.8	58.8	41.0	37.6	27.5	White.....	63.0	54.0	97.9	91.6	77.4	62.2	53.7	45.7
Nonwhite.....	40.2	61.2	1.7	7.2	41.2	59.0	62.4	72.5	Nonwhite.....	37.0	46.0	2.1	8.4	22.6	37.8	46.3	54.3
Owners, part owners, and managers.....	51.7	38.3	88.9	76.3	44.7	30.3	34.6	45.0	Owners, part owners, and managers.....	52.6	42.2	81.7	66.5	46.0	38.9	38.0	47.4
White.....	77.6	57.6	98.0	97.5	81.9	70.7	58.9	34.5	White.....	80.4	71.5	97.4	91.5	89.4	81.2	75.4	60.3
Nonwhite.....	22.4	42.4	2.0	2.5	18.1	29.3	41.1	65.5	Nonwhite.....	19.6	28.5	2.6	8.5	10.6	18.8	24.6	39.7
All tenants except croppers.....	26.2	32.3	9.8	17.5	30.4	34.0	31.6	33.7	All tenants except croppers.....	26.0	30.9	16.8	25.8	32.7	29.5	30.7	31.9
White.....	46.5	31.2	100.0	79.2	49.5	34.6	30.3	22.2	White.....	49.8	46.5	100.0	95.4	81.7	60.5	47.4	32.9
Nonwhite.....	53.5	68.8	-----	20.8	50.5	65.4	69.7	77.8	Nonwhite.....	50.2	53.5	-----	4.6	18.3	39.5	52.6	67.1
Croppers.....	22.0	29.4	1.4	6.2	24.9	35.7	33.8	21.3	Croppers.....	21.4	26.9	1.5	7.7	21.3	31.5	31.2	20.7
White.....	33.8	22.7	100.0	73.7	28.8	21.9	22.6	21.2	White.....	36.1	35.2	100.0	80.5	45.0	40.4	33.5	32.1
Nonwhite.....	66.2	77.3	-----	26.3	71.2	78.1	77.4	78.8	Nonwhite.....	63.9	64.8	-----	19.5	55.0	59.6	66.5	67.9
<b>REGION IV</b>																	
All farm operators.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	All farm operators.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	
White.....	71.3	48.1	100.0	93.9	81.7	50.9	48.1	45.6	White.....	50.3	44.0	98.6	93.0	72.9	46.3	30.5	27.7
Nonwhite.....	28.7	51.9	-----	6.1	18.3	49.1	51.9	54.4	Nonwhite.....	49.7	56.0	1.4	7.0	27.1	53.7	69.5	72.3
Owners, part owners, and managers.....	62.2	38.1	95.7	93.9	71.6	38.2	31.0	42.2	Owners, part owners, and managers.....	31.4	25.3	68.1	45.7	29.3	23.8	18.9	29.4
White.....	89.5	72.5	100.0	93.5	92.5	81.2	77.9	65.0	White.....	80.0	72.9	98.8	93.3	86.0	73.5	65.1	54.0
Nonwhite.....	10.5	27.5	-----	6.5	7.5	18.8	22.1	35.0	Nonwhite.....	20.0	27.1	1.2	6.7	14.0	26.5	34.9	46.0
All tenants except croppers.....	17.1	25.7	4.3	6.1	9.6	23.3	26.3	26.7	All tenants except croppers.....	25.7	26.4	29.3	47.6	43.6	27.4	20.9	17.4
White.....	54.6	44.4	100.0	100.0	76.4	50.3	49.9	37.8	White.....	61.1	58.0	98.5	94.3	81.1	55.4	39.7	34.4
Nonwhite.....	45.4	55.6	-----	-----	23.6	49.7	50.1	62.2	Nonwhite.....	38.9	42.0	1.5	5.7	18.9	44.6	60.3	65.6
Croppers.....	20.6	36.2	-----	-----	18.7	38.5	42.7	31.1	Croppers.....	42.9	48.3	2.6	6.7	27.1	48.7	60.1	53.2
White.....	30.0	25.2	-----	-----	42.9	21.1	25.2	26.0	White.....	22.1	21.3	93.5	81.3	45.5	27.8	16.5	11.0
Nonwhite.....	70.0	74.8	-----	-----	57.1	78.9	74.8	74.0	Nonwhite.....	77.9	78.7	6.5	18.7	54.5	72.2	83.5	89.0

## FARMERS AND FARM PRODUCTION

TABLE 12.—PERCENT DISTRIBUTION OF ALL COMMERCIAL FARM OPERATORS, AND COTTON FARM OPERATORS IN EACH ECONOMIC CLASS OF FARM, BY COLOR AND TENURE OF OPERATOR, BY REGIONS: 1954—Continued

Region and item	Percent distribution								Region and item	Percent distribution																
	All commercial farms	Cotton farms by economic class of farm						All commercial farms		Cotton farms by economic class of farm																
		All classes	I	II	III	IV	V			VI	All classes	I	II	III	IV	V	VI									
<b>REGION V</b>									<b>REGION VIII</b>																	
All farm operators.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	All farm operators.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	All farm operators.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
White.....	80.0	57.0	100.0	96.2	84.7	70.8	57.7	42.9	White.....	99.6	99.7	98.9	99.6	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	White.....	99.7	99.8	99.9	99.9	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Nonwhite.....	20.0	43.0	---	3.8	15.3	29.2	42.3	57.1	Nonwhite.....	0.4	0.3	1.1	0.4	---	---	---	---	Nonwhite.....	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.4	---	---	---	---
Owners, part owners, and managers.....	76.6	56.1	75.8	70.3	57.6	53.1	49.5	61.0	Owners, part owners, and managers.....	81.9	80.8	85.1	80.0	83.3	78.0	75.5	79.6	Owners, part owners, and managers.....	99.8	99.9	99.4	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
White.....	66.6	53.3	100.0	95.9	90.0	83.4	73.4	49.0	White.....	0.2	0.1	0.6	---	---	---	---	---	White.....	0.2	0.1	0.6	---	---	---	---	---
Nonwhite.....	13.0	33.7	---	4.1	10.0	16.6	26.6	51.0	Nonwhite.....	99.8	99.9	99.4	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	Nonwhite.....	99.8	99.9	99.4	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
All tenants except croppers.....	16.7	28.4	18.6	27.9	29.3	28.3	29.8	27.5	All tenants except croppers.....	17.5	18.4	14.9	18.7	16.3	20.9	21.8	20.4	All tenants except croppers.....	17.5	18.4	14.9	18.7	16.3	20.9	21.8	20.4
White.....	66.6	53.3	100.0	96.8	84.3	68.7	52.3	38.8	White.....	98.6	99.0	96.3	98.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	White.....	98.6	99.0	96.3	98.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Nonwhite.....	33.4	46.7	---	3.2	15.7	31.3	47.7	61.2	Nonwhite.....	1.4	1.0	3.7	2.0	---	---	---	---	Nonwhite.....	1.4	1.0	3.7	2.0	---	---	---	---
Croppers.....	6.6	15.5	5.6	1.8	13.1	18.7	20.6	11.5	Croppers.....	0.6	0.8	---	0.4	0.4	1.1	2.6	---	Croppers.....	0.6	0.8	---	0.4	0.4	1.1	2.6	---
White.....	34.0	30.1	100.0	100.0	62.5	38.0	27.9	20.5	White.....	100.0	100.0	---	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	---	White.....	100.0	100.0	---	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	---
Nonwhite.....	66.0	69.9	---	---	37.5	62.0	72.1	79.5	Nonwhite.....	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	Nonwhite.....	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
<b>REGION VI</b>									<b>REGION IX</b>																	
All farm operators.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	All farm operators.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	All farm operators.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
White.....	89.7	79.3	97.0	97.4	91.8	81.4	72.7	48.8	White.....	99.7	99.8	100.0	99.9	100.0	99.7	98.1	95.2	White.....	99.7	99.8	100.0	99.9	100.0	99.7	98.1	95.2
Nonwhite.....	10.3	20.7	3.0	2.6	8.2	18.6	27.3	51.2	Nonwhite.....	0.3	0.2	(Z)	0.1	---	0.3	1.9	4.8	Nonwhite.....	0.3	0.2	(Z)	0.1	---	0.3	1.9	4.8
Owners, part owners, and managers.....	63.5	41.7	63.1	43.6	35.5	32.8	41.9	67.1	Owners, part owners, and managers.....	67.3	52.9	56.2	48.6	54.1	55.4	57.5	66.7	Owners, part owners, and managers.....	99.8	99.9	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	98.9	92.9
White.....	91.8	76.6	100.0	98.5	92.9	82.2	74.9	44.1	White.....	0.2	0.1	---	---	---	---	---	---	White.....	0.2	0.1	---	---	---	---	---	---
Nonwhite.....	8.2	23.4	---	1.5	7.1	17.8	25.1	53.9	Nonwhite.....	99.8	99.9	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	Nonwhite.....	99.8	99.9	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
All tenants except croppers.....	32.5	50.2	33.9	52.5	56.0	57.8	50.1	24.4	All tenants except croppers.....	32.1	45.3	42.6	50.0	44.5	42.8	35.4	23.8	All tenants except croppers.....	99.7	99.8	99.9	100.0	100.0	99.2	98.2	100.0
White.....	88.9	84.4	100.0	97.5	93.0	86.3	74.2	53.8	White.....	99.7	99.8	99.9	100.0	100.0	99.2	98.2	100.0	White.....	99.7	99.8	99.9	100.0	100.0	99.2	98.2	100.0
Nonwhite.....	11.1	15.6	---	2.5	7.0	13.7	25.8	46.2	Nonwhite.....	0.3	0.2	0.1	---	---	0.8	1.8	---	Nonwhite.....	0.3	0.2	0.1	---	---	0.8	1.8	---
Croppers.....	4.0	8.1	3.0	3.9	8.4	9.4	8.0	8.5	Croppers.....	0.6	1.8	1.3	1.4	1.5	1.8	7.1	9.5	Croppers.....	0.6	1.8	1.3	1.4	1.5	1.8	7.1	9.5
White.....	63.9	61.3	---	83.3	80.0	49.1	51.7	72.2	White.....	97.6	96.1	100.0	93.8	100.0	100.0	90.9	100.0	White.....	97.6	96.1	100.0	93.8	100.0	100.0	90.9	100.0
Nonwhite.....	36.1	38.7	100.0	16.7	20.0	50.9	48.3	27.8	Nonwhite.....	2.4	3.9	---	6.2	---	9.1	---	---	Nonwhite.....	2.4	3.9	---	6.2	---	9.1	---	---
<b>REGION VII</b>									<b>REGION X</b>																	
All farm operators.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	All farm operators.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	All farm operators.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
White.....	96.9	94.4	99.8	99.7	99.2	96.7	92.2	76.6	White.....	96.4	98.0	99.4	98.2	97.8	96.0	92.6	94.7	White.....	96.4	98.0	99.4	98.2	97.8	96.0	92.6	94.7
Nonwhite.....	3.1	5.6	0.2	0.3	0.8	3.3	7.8	23.4	Nonwhite.....	3.6	2.0	0.6	1.8	2.2	4.0	7.4	5.3	Nonwhite.....	3.6	2.0	0.6	1.8	2.2	4.0	7.4	5.3
Owners, part owners, and managers.....	65.4	50.9	70.5	61.7	50.7	46.9	48.8	52.8	Owners, part owners, and managers.....	85.5	79.6	77.6	75.9	81.2	88.0	85.2	86.8	Owners, part owners, and managers.....	96.7	98.1	99.3	97.9	98.8	95.9	94.8	93.9
White.....	98.3	97.0	99.8	99.8	99.7	98.8	96.1	84.6	White.....	3.3	1.9	0.7	2.1	1.2	4.1	5.2	6.1	White.....	96.7	98.1	99.3	97.9	98.8	95.9	94.8	93.9
Nonwhite.....	1.7	3.0	0.2	0.2	0.3	1.2	3.9	15.4	Nonwhite.....	1.7	3.0	0.2	0.2	0.3	1.2	3.9	15.4	Nonwhite.....	3.3	1.9	0.7	2.1	1.2	4.1	5.2	6.1
All tenants except croppers.....	29.6	40.0	28.5	35.9	44.8	44.1	38.2	29.6	All tenants except croppers.....	14.3	19.5	21.4	23.5	18.1	10.9	13.3	10.5	All tenants except croppers.....	94.9	97.4	99.5	99.3	93.2	96.7	77.8	100.0
White.....	97.3	96.1	100.0	99.4	99.2	98.0	95.3	76.1	White.....	5.1	2.6	0.5	0.7	6.8	3.3	22.2	---	White.....	94.9	97.4	99.5	99.3	93.2	96.7	77.8	100.0
Nonwhite.....	2.7	3.9	---	0.6	0.8	2.0	4.7	23.9	Nonwhite.....	5.1	2.6	0.5	0.7	6.8	3.3	22.2	---	Nonwhite.....	5.1	2.6	0.5	0.7	6.8	3.3	22.2	---
Croppers.....	5.0	9.1	1.0	2.4	4.5	9.0	13.0	17.6	Croppers.....	0.2	0.9	1.0	0.7	0.7	1.1	1.5	2.6	Croppers.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
White.....	74.9	72.3	100.0	100.0	94.1	79.5	68.2	53.7	White.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	White.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Nonwhite.....	25.1	27.7	---	---	5.9	20.5	31.8	46.3	Nonwhite.....	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	Nonwhite.....	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Z 0.05 percent or less.

It will be observed that, from an overall standpoint, croppers are an important tenure type only in Regions I through V of the humid climatic belt. In the most westerly of these, Region V, croppers account for only 15 percent of all cotton farm operators. In the other four regions of this climatic belt they account for from 27 to 48 percent of all operators. The most significant fact brought out is the large percentages of all operators in the three smallest size-of-business groups that are croppers in Regions I through IV. It will be recalled that these regions contain a preponderance of all small size-of-business cotton farms.

Croppers are a relatively unimportant group in the five remaining regions. They do account for about 13 and 18 percent, respectively, of Class V and Class VI farms in Region VII; while in Region VI they account for from 8 to 9 percent of the two smallest size-of-business groups of farms.

## TENANTS OTHER THAN CROPPERS

The proportions, among various regions, of the large farms that are operated by tenants other than croppers provide some indication of the extent to which land for moderate to large size farm

businesses is available, and attractive to persons with limited capital.

Both relatively and absolutely small proportions of the operators of Class I and Class II farms in Regions I and II are found in this tenure category. In Region II a very small proportion of Class III farms are in this tenure group.

At the other extreme, a relatively high proportion of larger farm business groups are found in this tenure group in Regions IV and IX (the Mississippi Delta and the High Plains of Texas, respectively). In Region X (the irrigated West) the proportion of tenants other than croppers is low, but the proportions of Class I and II farms found in this tenure group are substantially above the percentage for all farms. In Region VI, a substantial 34 percent of Class I farms are found in this group, while the percentages of Classes II and III farms there are larger than those for all farms.

In Regions III, V, and VII the percentages of Classes I and II farms operated by tenants other than croppers are smaller than the proportion of all farms found in the tenure group. For Region VIII, there are less than proportional percentages of both Classes I and III farms in this tenure group.