

FARMERS AND FARM PRODUCTION

Section 5.—LABOR RESOURCES AND USE

For two chief reasons the characteristics and the utilization of labor on cotton farms are of special importance.

First, it represents the input of the human agent in cotton farming. Second, the extent to which labor is combined with other resources, in patterns that are economically and technically effective, determines the levels of income from farming that are available to the people on cotton farms.

This report provides several types of data on labor resources and use: (1) The age composition of the operators of cotton farms; (2) the days of off-farm work by operators of cotton farms; (3) the proportion of cotton farms for which off-farm income of the family exceeds the value of farm sales; (4) the man-equivalents of all labor and its percentage distributions by type of worker; (5) the distributions of expenditures for hired labor; and (6) acres of cropland and acres of cotton harvested per man-equivalent.

AGE OF OPERATOR

Information relating to the distribution of farm operators by age groups by economic class of farm, and data concerning the proportions of farms in each economic class that are operated by persons in each age group, are useful in analyzing the characteristics of the labor resource on cotton farms.

Data concerning the distribution of farm operators of each age group among economic classes of farms are found in table 21.

For most regions about 3 percent of all operators of cotton farm are under 25 years of age. In Regions I through V more than 7 and usually nearer 80 percent of farm operators under 25 years of age are found on farms in Economic Classes V and VI. These are farms that had gross sales of between \$250 and \$2,500 in 1954. It would seem reasonable to infer that a number of these young operators would be relatively receptive to opportunities for non-farm work and/or to adjustments that would permit an increase in the size of their farm business.

In Regions I through V about one-eighth of all operators of cotton farms are between 25 and 35 years of age. Most of these also are on Class V and Class VI farms. They would appear to face problems of adjustment similar to those of operators under 25 years of age.

In Regions VI and VII about 40 and 35 percent, respectively, of operators under 25 years of age are found on Classes V and VI farms. Nearly one-third of the operators from 25 to 35 years old also operate Class V or VI farms.

For the remaining 3 regions small percentages of the younger age groups of farm operators are found on the 2 smallest size-of-business groups.

TABLE 21.—PERCENT DISTRIBUTION OF OPERATORS OF COTTON FARMS IN EACH AGE GROUP, BY ECONOMIC CLASS OF FARM, BY REGIONS: 1954

Region and age of operator	Economic class of farm						
	All classes	I	II	III	IV	V	VI
REGION I							
All age groups.....	100.0	0.5	2.2	7.7	25.8	36.3	27.5
Under 25 years.....	100.0	0.2	0.9	7.3	18.4	42.6	30.8
25 to 34 years.....	100.0	0.2	2.4	7.4	26.8	37.4	25.8
35 to 44 years.....	100.0	0.5	2.4	9.5	30.5	36.7	20.4
45 to 54 years.....	100.0	0.5	2.3	8.8	27.9	36.5	24.0
55 to 64 years.....	100.0	0.6	1.9	5.8	21.6	37.3	32.8
65 years and over.....	100.0	0.7	1.8	4.2	16.1	30.9	46.3
REGION II							
All age groups.....	100.0	0.1	0.5	1.8	11.9	39.9	45.8
Under 25 years.....	100.0	0.1	0.4	1.6	9.7	37.7	52.6
25 to 34 years.....	100.0	0.1	0.6	1.6	11.4	44.7	41.7
35 to 44 years.....	100.0	0.1	0.4	2.4	15.9	46.8	34.4
45 to 54 years.....	100.0	0.1	0.5	2.4	14.3	43.8	38.9
55 to 64 years.....	100.0	0.1	0.6	1.1	8.6	34.6	55.0
65 years and over.....	100.0	(Z)	0.2	1.1	6.0	24.7	68.0
REGION III							
All age groups.....	100.0	0.3	1.0	4.0	19.1	40.6	35.0
Under 25 years.....	100.0	0.1	0.2	1.6	13.1	45.1	39.9
25 to 34 years.....	100.0	0.3	1.0	3.9	17.6	46.7	30.5
35 to 44 years.....	100.0	0.3	0.9	5.4	25.0	43.9	24.5
45 to 54 years.....	100.0	0.4	1.1	4.6	21.6	41.7	30.6
55 to 64 years.....	100.0	0.2	1.1	3.0	15.6	36.3	43.8
65 years and over.....	100.0	0.2	0.6	1.9	8.5	27.8	61.0
REGION IV							
All age groups.....	100.0	2.3	4.7	11.9	28.2	39.5	13.4
Under 25 years.....	100.0	0.5	2.2	6.3	19.5	50.9	20.6
25 to 34 years.....	100.0	2.2	5.1	11.0	25.5	43.6	12.6
35 to 44 years.....	100.0	3.1	6.1	13.8	31.6	36.4	9.0
45 to 54 years.....	100.0	3.3	4.8	13.8	31.4	36.7	11.0
55 to 64 years.....	100.0	2.1	3.6	10.4	26.7	40.4	16.8
65 years and over.....	100.0	2.0	2.8	7.2	19.5	42.5	26.0
REGION V							
All age groups.....	100.0	1.0	2.4	6.9	16.4	32.6	40.7
Under 25 years.....	100.0	0.5	1.0	2.1	17.7	34.4	44.8
25 to 34 years.....	100.0	2.4	2.0	9.8	21.4	37.0	27.4
35 to 44 years.....	100.0	1.4	3.0	9.5	21.8	35.9	28.4
45 to 54 years.....	100.0	0.7	2.7	7.1	17.8	34.8	36.9
55 to 64 years.....	100.0	0.8	2.2	4.8	12.3	29.3	50.6
65 years and over.....	100.0	0.2	1.6	4.2	7.7	24.0	62.3
REGION VI							
All age groups.....	100.0	2.1	9.7	22.2	30.0	22.7	13.3
Under 25 years.....	100.0	0.3	9.3	27.9	23.3	32.5	7.0
25 to 34 years.....	100.0	2.3	13.1	22.4	31.2	24.1	6.9
35 to 44 years.....	100.0	2.6	13.9	27.2	28.6	23.2	4.5
45 to 54 years.....	100.0	2.7	7.6	20.5	37.5	18.8	12.9
55 to 64 years.....	100.0	1.3	6.9	21.6	25.7	23.9	20.6
65 years and over.....	100.0	0.6	5.8	12.4	20.7	25.3	35.2
REGION VII							
All age groups.....	100.0	2.7	10.0	21.2	30.7	25.2	10.2
Under 25 years.....	100.0	1.7	6.8	22.1	34.5	24.7	10.2
25 to 34 years.....	100.0	3.2	11.4	26.6	30.0	22.8	6.0
35 to 44 years.....	100.0	3.2	12.5	24.4	31.7	22.0	6.2
45 to 54 years.....	100.0	3.0	10.7	21.1	33.2	23.7	8.3
55 to 64 years.....	100.0	2.1	7.7	17.5	28.7	30.2	13.8
65 years and over.....	100.0	1.4	5.2	14.6	25.5	29.6	23.7
REGION VIII							
All age groups.....	100.0	16.6	25.6	21.7	16.9	14.2	5.0
Under 25 years.....	100.0	42.5	1.9	37.0	9.3	9.3	1.3
25 to 34 years.....	100.0	20.5	29.8	18.3	18.3	11.8	6.1
35 to 44 years.....	100.0	23.0	29.5	16.2	12.6	12.6	6.1
45 to 54 years.....	100.0	17.7	26.2	19.8	16.8	15.0	4.5
55 to 64 years.....	100.0	8.6	25.3	29.8	16.3	16.3	3.7
65 years and over.....	100.0	7.9	13.1	29.0	23.5	15.2	11.3
REGION IX							
All age groups.....	100.0	28.5	39.6	16.1	9.8	5.3	0.7
Under 25 years.....	100.0	17.4	48.5	17.7	11.8	3.1	1.5
25 to 34 years.....	100.0	37.3	38.6	13.0	7.4	3.7	0.4
35 to 44 years.....	100.0	35.0	40.5	14.4	6.3	3.4	0.4
45 to 54 years.....	100.0	26.5	42.6	16.1	9.0	5.4	0.4
55 to 64 years.....	100.0	16.4	35.0	22.7	16.4	8.2	1.3
65 years and over.....	100.0	9.5	30.2	19.4	22.3	14.9	3.7
REGION X							
All age groups.....	100.0	37.6	26.1	17.2	11.7	5.8	1.6
Under 25 years.....	100.0	28.8	25.1	30.1	9.1	4.6	2.3
25 to 34 years.....	100.0	47.4	25.2	13.8	9.7	3.9	0.4
35 to 44 years.....	100.0	43.5	28.3	15.2	9.1	3.9	1.0
45 to 54 years.....	100.0	38.6	26.8	15.1	12.2	6.3	2.1
55 to 64 years.....	100.0	26.8	25.4	23.9	14.8	7.0	2.0
65 years and over.....	100.0	17.9	20.6	21.7	17.4	12.6	9.8

Z 0.05 percent or less.