

The differences in the implications of these data for the 3 most western and 5 most eastern cotton-production regions seem significant.

For the 10 regions used in this report from 25 to 30 percent of farm operators are between the ages of 45 and 54. It seems reasonable to suppose that those in this age group would, in general, have attained most of their adjustments toward an efficient and productive farm business. In this perspective it is interesting to examine the distribution, among economic classes of farms, of operators in the 45-to-54 years of age group for the various regions.

In Regions I, II, III, and V from 61 to 83 percent of the operators in the age group 45 to 64 years are found on Class V and Class VI farms. From 0.6 percent to about 3 percent of operators in this age group are found on farms in Classes I and II in these regions.

Region IV, "The Mississippi Delta," has a substantially smaller proportion of farm operators in this age group in the two smallest size-of-business groups, and a much larger percentage are found on Classes I and II farms. The actual percentages here are 7 and 48 percent, respectively, for the 2 largest and the 2 smallest size-of-business groups.

For Regions VI and VII, just under one-third of the operators between 45 and 54 years of age are found on Classes V and VI farms, while 10 and 14 percent of the operators in this age group in these two regions have farms that fall in the 2 largest size-of-business groups.

In the three remaining regions strikingly larger percentages of operators in this age group are found on Classes I and II farms. Conversely very much smaller proportions are found on farms that fall in the two smallest size-of-business groups.

The picture with respect to the age composition of all operators of cotton farms and of the operators of farms in each of the economic classes is shown for each region in table 22. These data enable one to appraise, for each region, the proportionate age distribution of farm operators in various economic classes.

For example, in Region IV, 30 percent of the operators of Class IV farms are shown to be between 45 and 54 years of age. Operators in this age group account for 27 percent of all cotton-farm operators in the region. This age group is, therefore, somewhat more than proportionally represented among farms that fall in Economic Class IV.

The proportions of the smaller size-of-business groups of farms that are operated by persons in the older age groups is a statistic of some interest. For it frequently is, and has in this report been, assumed that future adjustments in resource use on cotton farms will significantly affect the number and characteristics of farms that are now in these economic classes.

It is interesting to observe that in Regions I through V from about 40 to 48 percent of Class VI farms have operators who are 55 years of age or older, and that in these same regions about 23 to 30 percent of the operators of Class V farms fall in this older age group. In each of these 5 regions, except Region IV, Classes V and VI farms account for from about 65 to more than 85 percent of all cotton farms. In Region IV these two smallest size-of-business groups comprise about 53 percent of all cotton farms.

The older group of operators account for substantially higher proportions of all operators of Classes V and VI cotton farms in the remaining regions. From the standpoint of the regions as a whole, however, these smaller size-of-business farms are of much less significance in these regions.

TABLE 22.—PERCENT DISTRIBUTION OF OPERATORS OF EACH ECONOMIC CLASS OF COTTON FARM, BY AGE, BY REGIONS: 1954

Region and age of operator	Economic class of farm						
	All classes	I	II	III	IV	V	VI
<b>REGION I</b>							
All age groups.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Under 25 years.....	3.1	1.2	2.9	2.2	3.6	3.5	
25 to 34 years.....	13.0	4.7	14.3	12.5	13.5	13.4	12.2
35 to 44 years.....	27.7	28.3	30.3	34.0	32.9	28.0	20.6
45 to 54 years.....	27.8	28.4	29.7	31.4	30.0	27.9	24.3
55 to 64 years.....	17.3	22.2	15.3	13.1	14.5	17.7	20.7
65 years and over.....	11.1	16.4	9.2	6.1	6.9	9.4	18.7
<b>REGION II</b>							
All age groups.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Under 25 years.....	2.2				1.8	2.1	2.6
25 to 34 years.....	9.9		13.3		8.5	9.4	11.1
35 to 44 years.....	25.3	27.3	23.9	33.3	33.8	29.6	19.0
45 to 54 years.....	27.2	27.3	27.2	36.2	32.5	30.0	23.0
55 to 64 years.....	21.2	40.9	29.5	13.0	15.3	18.4	25.3
65 years and over.....	14.2	4.5	6.1	9.0	7.2	8.8	21.1
<b>REGION III</b>							
All age groups.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Under 25 years.....	3.6	0.9	0.8	1.5	2.5	4.0	4.2
25 to 34 years.....	13.9	14.7	14.2	13.4	12.8	16.0	12.1
35 to 44 years.....	26.0	26.5	25.3	35.0	34.0	28.1	18.2
45 to 54 years.....	28.0	36.3	32.5	31.8	31.5	28.7	24.3
55 to 64 years.....	17.6	13.4	20.7	13.1	14.3	15.7	22.1
65 years and over.....	10.9	8.2	6.5	5.2	4.9	7.5	19.1
<b>REGION IV</b>							
All age groups.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Under 25 years.....	4.5	1.0	2.1	2.4	3.1	5.8	7.0
25 to 34 years.....	16.1	15.2	17.2	14.9	14.6	17.8	15.2
35 to 44 years.....	27.0	35.6	35.2	31.4	30.3	24.9	18.2
45 to 54 years.....	27.2	26.4	27.7	31.5	30.2	25.2	22.2
55 to 64 years.....	16.9	14.8	12.9	14.7	16.0	17.3	21.2
65 years and over.....	8.3	7.0	4.9	5.1	5.8	9.0	16.2
<b>REGION V</b>							
All age groups.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Under 25 years.....	2.2		1.0	0.7	2.4	2.3	2.5
25 to 34 years.....	8.4	20.7	7.1	12.1	11.0	9.5	5.7
35 to 44 years.....	21.5	31.7	26.9	29.0	28.5	23.7	15.0
45 to 54 years.....	31.8	24.5	35.4	33.0	34.3	34.0	28.7
55 to 64 years.....	24.5	20.7	22.1	17.3	18.3	22.0	30.4
65 years and over.....	11.6	2.4	7.5	7.0	5.5	8.5	17.7
<b>REGION VI</b>							
All age groups.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Under 25 years.....	2.8		2.6		3.5	2.1	4.0
25 to 34 years.....	14.9	16.7	20.1	15.0	15.4	15.8	7.7
35 to 44 years.....	24.2	30.9	34.8	29.7	23.0	24.9	8.2
45 to 54 years.....	28.2	36.3	22.2	26.2	35.3	23.4	27.4
55 to 64 years.....	21.5	13.6	15.3	20.9	18.4	22.6	33.2
65 years and over.....	8.4	2.5	5.0	4.7	5.8	9.3	22.1
<b>REGION VII</b>							
All age groups.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Under 25 years.....	2.1	1.4	1.4	2.2	2.4	2.1	2.1
25 to 34 years.....	12.5	14.8	14.3	15.7	12.3	11.4	7.3
35 to 44 years.....	25.0	29.0	31.4	28.8	25.9	21.9	15.3
45 to 54 years.....	29.1	32.1	31.2	28.9	31.3	27.2	23.6
55 to 64 years.....	21.2	16.8	16.4	17.5	19.8	25.5	28.4
65 years and over.....	10.1	5.3	5.3	6.9	8.3	11.9	23.3
<b>REGION VIII</b>							
All age groups.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Under 25 years.....	1.2	2.8	0.1		2.4	0.7	2.0
25 to 34 years.....	15.3	18.8	17.7		16.5	12.7	4.0
35 to 44 years.....	22.9	31.8	26.4	17.1	17.1	20.4	28.0
45 to 54 years.....	28.6	30.6	29.2	26.2	28.5	30.2	26.0
55 to 64 years.....	21.4	11.0	21.2	29.5	20.7	24.6	16.0
65 years and over.....	10.6	5.0	5.4	14.3	14.8	11.4	24.0
<b>REGION IX</b>							
All age groups.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Under 25 years.....	4.7	2.9	5.8	5.2	5.7	2.8	10.5
25 to 34 years.....	20.0	27.4	20.3	16.9	16.0	14.7	
35 to 44 years.....	28.0	35.4	29.4	25.8	18.5	18.7	15.8
45 to 54 years.....	26.7	24.8	28.6	26.6	24.7	27.3	15.8
55 to 64 years.....	13.2	7.6	11.6	18.7	22.2	20.5	26.3
65 years and over.....	5.6	1.9	4.3	6.8	12.9	16.0	31.6
<b>REGION X</b>							
All age groups.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Under 25 years.....	1.9	1.4	1.8	3.3	1.5	1.5	2.8
25 to 34 years.....	17.0	21.5	16.4	13.6	14.1	11.2	
35 to 44 years.....	28.9	33.6	31.2	25.5	22.4	19.2	
45 to 54 years.....	26.0	27.6	27.6	23.5	28.0	28.9	16.7
55 to 64 years.....	16.1	11.5	15.7	22.4	20.3	19.2	22.2
65 years and over.....	9.2	4.4	7.3	11.7	13.7	20.0	58.3