

OFF-FARM USE OF LABOR RESOURCES

Two types of data are available to indicate the extent to which operator and family labor resources on the various economic classes of cotton farms in the different regions are used in off-farm employment. These data are for operators of cotton farms classified by the days of off-farm work, and the percentage of farms for which off-farm income of the family exceeded the value of farm sales. The information relating to days of off-farm work is given in table 23. And those concerning the off-farm income of the family in relation to the value of farm sales are shown in table 24.

Questions frequently are raised as to whether the farm families on Classes V and VI farms represent, essentially, a welfare problem

rather than an economic problem in the organization and use of resources.

Few of the data in this report illumine the question of whether most of the families on Classes V and VI cotton farms represent welfare rather than economic problems. Data concerning the age distribution of operators are only partly applicable. These data, however, do not indicate, for those regions where there are appreciable numbers of these small farms, that most of them are in the hands of the aged.

The data on off-farm work of operators, and on the proportion of farms for which off-farm income exceeds farm sales, suggest that most families on Classes V and VI cotton farms are primarily dependent upon farming for their incomes.

TABLE 23.—PERCENT DISTRIBUTION OF OPERATORS OF COTTON FARMS BY DAYS OF WORK OFF FARM, BY ECONOMIC CLASS, BY REGIONS: 1954

Region and days worked off farm	Economic class of farm						Region and days worked off farm	Economic class of farm							
	All classes	I	II	III	IV	V		VI	All classes	I	II	III	IV	V	VI
REGION I							REGION VI								
Total.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
None.....	70.1	76.3	77.0	77.0	71.2	66.1	71.8	67.4	80.4	72.4	68.3	67.7	64.5	64.8	
1 to 99 days.....	22.0	8.0	9.9	15.5	20.5	23.1	28.2	23.5	9.5	22.1	25.1	23.4	17.1	35.2	
100 to 199 days.....	3.1	4.2	2.6	2.8	3.5	5.3	-----	3.9	7.1	1.6	2.8	3.8	8.3	-----	
200 days or more.....	3.9	11.5	10.4	4.7	4.7	5.5	-----	5.2	3.0	3.9	3.8	5.2	10.2	-----	
REGION II							REGION VII								
Total.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	
None.....	61.0	65.2	66.7	69.3	69.7	64.2	66.8	62.7	77.9	71.4	66.6	60.8	55.5	65.7	
1 to 99 days.....	29.7	8.7	21.1	15.1	25.2	27.7	33.2	25.3	11.7	17.4	24.1	26.2	26.2	34.3	
100 to 199 days.....	4.0	4.3	5.6	4.0	5.6	8.1	-----	5.2	2.4	3.0	4.2	6.5	7.4	-----	
200 days or more.....	5.3	21.7	6.7	11.6	8.6	10.0	-----	6.8	8.0	7.3	5.2	6.5	10.8	-----	
REGION III							REGION VIII								
Total.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	
None.....	67.0	77.8	79.0	72.3	69.4	63.3	69.0	72.7	82.1	79.2	77.7	63.8	48.5	90.0	
1 to 99 days.....	26.1	7.8	7.7	17.2	21.8	25.4	31.0	8.2	6.0	7.2	9.2	9.9	8.4	10.0	
100 to 199 days.....	3.4	6.3	3.9	4.9	4.5	5.7	-----	4.7	3.4	3.4	4.4	6.6	8.4	-----	
200 days or more.....	3.4	8.0	9.4	5.7	4.4	5.5	-----	14.3	8.4	10.2	8.8	19.8	34.8	-----	
REGION IV							REGION IX								
Total.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	
None.....	71.8	85.8	80.4	75.7	71.8	68.7	72.0	72.4	87.0	74.2	59.6	53.5	52.5	68.4	
1 to 99 days.....	22.1	7.8	13.4	17.1	21.8	23.7	28.0	17.4	9.5	17.4	23.6	26.3	22.6	31.6	
100 to 199 days.....	3.1	1.9	1.8	3.1	3.6	4.0	-----	4.1	1.2	3.3	7.3	8.6	9.1	-----	
200 days or more.....	3.0	4.4	4.5	4.0	2.8	3.6	-----	6.2	2.3	5.1	9.5	11.7	15.8	-----	
REGION V							REGION X								
Total.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	
None.....	60.2	82.8	76.4	71.2	66.6	64.2	59.1	66.4	82.5	67.5	57.9	38.1	35.3	81.1	
1 to 99 days.....	32.2	6.5	12.1	18.7	24.9	30.2	40.9	15.8	9.7	22.3	17.2	19.4	13.7	18.9	
100 to 199 days.....	3.7	0.9	4.5	4.2	5.0	7.8	-----	4.5	1.9	3.2	7.8	10.3	7.5	-----	
200 days or more.....	3.8	9.8	6.9	5.9	3.6	7.8	-----	13.3	5.9	7.0	17.1	32.2	43.5	-----	

TABLE 24.—PERCENT OF OPERATORS OF COTTON FARMS WITH OTHER INCOME OF FAMILY EXCEEDING VALUE OF FARM PRODUCTS SOLD, BY ECONOMIC CLASS OF FARM, BY REGIONS: 1954

Region	Economic class of farm						
	All classes	I	II	III	IV	V	VI
I.....	6.2	8.0	7.8	5.5	5.9	11.2	-----
II.....	9.8	8.7	14.4	12.6	13.3	19.9	-----
III.....	5.5	6.9	8.3	6.4	5.6	10.0	-----
IV.....	3.9	1.9	2.6	3.1	3.4	6.2	-----
V.....	7.6	2.8	4.9	7.6	6.7	17.9	-----
VI.....	6.8	2.4	3.4	6.5	5.9	14.3	-----
VII.....	9.5	5.6	4.9	6.0	10.0	18.0	-----
VIII.....	12.0	3.5	4.7	6.1	22.5	35.2	-----
IX.....	6.0	1.5	3.1	9.2	16.1	24.6	-----
X.....	11.6	2.6	5.0	14.4	32.8	53.3	-----
Total, 10 regions.....	6.2	2.7	4.3	5.8	6.5	15.8	-----

For example, two-thirds or more of the operators of Class VI farms in each region, except Region V, report no days of off-farm work. In Region V, 59 percent of these operators reported no days of off-farm work. For Class V farms about 80 percent of the operators in all regions, except Regions VIII and X—which have very few Class V farms—report less than 100 days of off-farm work. Generally speaking, from two-thirds to three-fourths of those who report less than 100 days of off-farm work did no off-farm work at all.

By definition, the value of farm sales for Class VI farms must exceed the total of family income from off-farm sources. This restriction does not, however, apply to Class V farms. In those regions—I through VII—where Class V farms are found in considerable numbers four-fifths or more of them report the value of farm sales as exceeding total family income from other sources. The value of farm sales on Class V farms is between \$1,200 and \$2,499. Data on the average level of sales from these farms will be found in Part VII of this report.