

TOTAL CROPLAND AND COTTON ACRES PER MAN-EQUIVALENT

Most of the information relating to measures of the relative efficiency with which resources are used on the various economic classes of farms is presented in Section 7. But data concerning the acres of cropland and of cotton harvested per man-equivalent are available in table 27.

In one region (Region IX) there are some special circumstances, which will be noted, but generally speaking, the acreage of cropland harvested per man-equivalent on farms of different economic classes, for a given region, is indicative of the relative efficiency with which the labor resource is used on the various size-of-business groups of farms.

Except for Region IX, there is a steady and substantial increase in cropland harvested per man-equivalent from Class VI through Class II farms for all regions. In Region IX, Class III farms have more cropland harvested per man-equivalent than do farms in Class II.

The extent as well as the fact of increased cropland harvested per unit of labor as between Class VI and Class II farms should be noted. For most regions, Class II farms have about 4 times as much cropland harvested per man-equivalent as do those farms in Economic Class VI. Even between Class III and Class II farms there is, for nearly all regions, a striking increase in cropland per man-equivalent. In 7 of the 10 regions, Class II farms have about 40 percent more acres of cropland per unit of labor than farms in Class III. In Region II, this difference between these two classes is about 38 percent. The differences in cropland acreage per man between classes within these regions seem large enough to suggest that labor is utilized more effectively on larger farms, up to those in Economic Class II.

In Region VII only about 10 percent more cropland is harvested per man on Class II than on Class III farms. Special circumstances, which are discussed later, prevail in Region IX.

While Class I farms are indicated to have much more cropland harvested per worker, in most regions, than do farms in Classes III through VI, there are several regions in which Class II farms indicate more cropland per worker than do those in the largest size-of-business group. This situation is shown to exist in Regions II, III, V, and VII. In Region IX, the acreage of cropland harvested per worker is practically the same for farms in Classes I and II. In the other five regions the acreage of cropland harvested per worker is higher on Class I than on Class II farms.

In the instance of Region IX, the High Plains of Texas, special circumstances require that the data of table 27 be carefully in-

terpreted. Although in this region there is considerable irrigated land, only on Class I farms does there appear to be enough irrigated land for all cotton to be grown under irrigation. The proportions that irrigated land account for of cotton acreage per farm for other economic classes decline rapidly from about 70 percent for Class II, to 25 percent for Class III, and to insignificant percentages for Classes IV through VI. Region IX has a semiarid climate which, in general, means that, in relatively frequent years, there is too little rainfall for good yields. The average yields for nonirrigated crops are, therefore, much lower than for those grown under irrigation. At the same time, both terrain and the period of its development for crop farming favor large-scale mechanized farming units in Region IX. These latter conditions, taken in conjunction with the lack of irrigated land and consequent relatively low output per acre, seem to explain the fact that Classes III and IV farms have larger acreages of cropland per worker in Region IX than do farms in Classes I and II.

TABLE 27.—ACRES OF CROPLAND HARVESTED AND ACRES OF COTTON HARVESTED PER MAN-EQUIVALENT FOR COTTON FARMS, BY ECONOMIC CLASS, AND BY REGIONS: 1954

Region	Economic class of farm						
	All classes	I	II	III	IV	V	VI
Acres of cropland harvested							
I.....	31.9	80.1	74.1	43.9	32.9	27.1	18.3
II.....	25.8	68.3	71.3	52.0	33.3	23.8	17.3
III.....	20.7	57.7	60.3	35.0	23.3	18.6	13.3
IV.....	26.1	78.4	63.0	34.5	17.8	11.3	8.5
V.....	33.3	62.7	70.3	51.0	36.6	25.7	17.6
VI.....	36.5	84.1	68.2	42.1	26.9	22.3	14.2
VII.....	80.6	82.7	112.1	99.5	80.0	57.5	32.5
VIII.....	40.9	49.1	43.8	32.9	27.1	18.2	10.0
IX.....	120.0	118.1	117.1	132.5	119.2	101.0	38.2
X.....	55.4	61.8	42.0	28.6	18.2	13.3	6.0
Acres of cotton harvested							
I.....	10.0	23.9	21.8	14.3	11.2	8.6	5.8
II.....	10.0	21.9	26.8	19.5	14.7	10.0	6.4
III.....	8.7	21.1	21.9	14.5	10.0	7.9	5.0
IV.....	12.8	30.6	25.6	17.0	10.6	7.3	5.4
V.....	17.3	30.3	33.9	27.1	20.0	14.3	8.3
VI.....	18.8	44.6	38.2	21.6	13.8	10.0	5.8
VII.....	39.4	36.9	54.6	50.0	40.7	29.2	15.8
VIII.....	23.5	27.3	25.0	21.0	15.7	11.8	6.7
IX.....	53.3	51.3	53.3	60.6	52.5	47.0	15.5
X.....	28.3	28.7	22.5	16.4	12.7	8.9	5.0