

distribution by economic class of farm, of selected resources for all poultry farms in the United States, and for poultry farms in the selected poultry subregions.

Comparisons by economic class between poultry farms and other types of farms are of limited usefulness because of the large expenditures for feed and other items used in production, on poultry farms. The total of specified expenditures on poultry farms are equivalent to about three-fourths of the total received from gross sales. This compares with about two-fifths for commercial farms as a group.

Size of poultry farms.—Specialized poultry farms are usually not very large from the standpoint of area. In most of the 16 selected subregions, poultry farms with less than 29 acres comprise one-half or more of all commercial farms under 29 acres in size. The average size of poultry farms decreases with the decrease in gross sales. Poultry farms in Class I averaged 163 acres of land per farm compared with only 51 acres for farms in Class VI. Accompanying the decrease in size of farm was an even greater decrease in the proportion of the land used in crops. Almost one-third of the land in Class I farms was in harvested crops compared with one-fifth for Class V farms and one-sixth in Class VI farms. The crops raised showed little change between economic classes of farms other than smaller average acreages—corn and hay were equally divided, and represented approximately half of the cropland harvested on farms in each economic class. Wide variations from this pattern are evident in the different subregions.

Table 22.—DISTRIBUTION OF ALL COMMERCIAL AND POULTRY FARMS BY SIZE OF FARM: 1954

Size of farm	All commercial farms in the United States	All poultry farms in the United States	Poultry farms in selected poultry subregions
Percent distribution by size of farm:			
Total number of farms.....	100	100	100
Under 10 acres.....	4	28	33
10 to 29 acres.....	11	18	21
30 to 69 acres.....	15	21	20
70 to 139 acres.....	23	20	15
140 to 259 acres.....	25	10	7
260 to 499 acres.....	14	4	2
500 acres and over.....	9	1	1
Average size of farms.....acres..	310	78	60

There are significant differences among the selected subregions in the distribution of poultry farms, of gross sales, and total investment by economic class of farm. (See Table 23.) In subregions 15 and 116, almost half of the poultry farms are in Economic Classes I and II; on the other hand, only one-fourth of the poultry farms in subregions 16, 33, and 119 are in these two economic classes. For the 16 selected subregions, more than 78 percent of the gross sales of all farm products on poultry farms are on farms in Economic Classes I and II. In subregions 2, 4, 15, 115, 116, and 117, four-fifths or more of the gross sales on poultry farms come from farms in Economic Classes I and II. Gross sales on poultry farms in Economic Classes IV, V and VI, represent less than 10 percent of the gross sales of all poultry farms except in subregions 4, 16, 18, 26, 33, 42, and 119.

The investment in land and buildings, livestock and poultry, and machinery on poultry farms in Economic Classes I and II, comprises 56 percent of the total investment on all poultry farms. Among the 16 selected subregions the proportion of the total investment on all poultry farms in Economic Classes I and II varies considerably. In subregion 116, more than half of the total investment is on farms in Economic Classes I and II; in subregion 42, farms in Economic Classes I and II have less than a fifth of the total investment on all poultry farms in the subregion.

Table 23.—PERCENT DISTRIBUTION OF POULTRY FARMS, GROSS SALES, AND TOTAL INVESTMENT, BY ECONOMIC CLASS OF FARM, FOR SELECTED SUBREGIONS: 1954

Item and subregion	Economic class of farm						
	Total	I	II	III	IV	V	VI
Number of poultry farms:							
Total, 16 selected subregions.....	100.0	11.7	25.2	23.1	18.9	14.5	6.6
Subregion 2.....	100.0	15.9	24.1	19.5	17.2	13.0	9.4
Subregion 3.....	100.0	9.8	21.6	21.0	19.7	18.0	9.9
Subregion 4.....	100.0	17.5	27.1	15.2	17.1	17.6	5.5
Subregion 5.....	100.0	11.5	28.8	22.3	18.7	11.3	7.4
Subregion 14.....	100.0	9.0	32.3	26.3	14.3	11.3	6.8
Subregion 15.....	100.0	17.0	37.2	19.6	11.8	8.4	6.1
Subregion 16.....	100.0	7.2	16.7	18.5	21.3	23.2	13.1
Subregion 18.....	100.0	14.8	17.6	19.5	21.8	17.6	8.7
Subregion 26.....	100.0	6.7	18.0	28.5	20.6	18.6	7.6
Subregion 33.....	100.0	4.1	18.7	24.3	23.8	19.1	9.9
Subregion 42.....	100.0	6.4	22.7	31.0	22.8	14.0	3.6
Subregion 82.....	100.0	7.5	27.1	29.0	20.7	10.7	5.0
Subregion 115.....	100.0	14.7	30.1	24.0	16.7	12.0	2.5
Subregion 116.....	100.0	24.3	23.4	22.1	15.0	11.4	3.8
Subregion 117.....	100.0	14.9	28.8	23.0	16.9	11.9	4.4
Subregion 119.....	100.0	7.6	17.7	21.7	25.2	19.3	8.6
Gross sales on poultry farms:							
Total, 16 selected subregions.....	100.0	47.6	30.9	13.3	5.7	2.2	0.4
Subregion 2.....	100.0	57.5	26.5	9.3	4.5	1.7	0.4
Subregion 3.....	100.0	39.8	34.4	14.7	7.3	3.1	0.7
Subregion 4.....	100.0	58.6	27.5	6.9	4.3	2.5	0.3
Subregion 5.....	100.0	40.5	37.4	13.7	5.9	2.0	0.5
Subregion 14.....	100.0	21.3	51.4	19.9	5.2	2.0	0.4
Subregion 15.....	100.0	55.9	32.4	8.2	2.5	0.9	0.2
Subregion 16.....	100.0	41.7	29.1	14.6	9.0	4.6	1.0
Subregion 18.....	100.0	56.3	21.9	11.6	7.1	2.7	0.5
Subregion 26.....	100.0	31.2	31.5	23.9	8.7	4.1	0.5
Subregion 33.....	100.0	22.4	36.9	22.9	11.6	5.1	1.1
Subregion 42.....	100.0	28.3	35.8	23.6	9.2	2.9	0.3
Subregion 82.....	100.0	31.3	38.2	20.9	7.4	1.8	0.4
Subregion 115.....	100.0	50.8	31.3	11.9	4.3	1.5	0.1
Subregion 116.....	100.0	70.5	17.9	7.5	2.7	1.1	0.1
Subregion 117.....	100.0	52.2	30.5	11.2	4.1	1.9	0.2
Subregion 119.....	100.0	39.8	29.3	16.3	9.9	3.0	0.8
Total investment in land and buildings, livestock and poultry, and machinery:							
Total, 16 selected subregions.....	100.0	25.7	29.9	20.1	12.5	8.2	3.6
Subregion 2.....	100.0	30.5	26.9	16.5	12.3	9.0	4.9
Subregion 3.....	100.0	25.3	24.0	18.8	13.4	13.4	5.2
Subregion 4.....	100.0	32.1	30.6	12.4	11.7	10.7	2.5
Subregion 5.....	100.0	19.8	32.5	19.3	14.2	7.7	6.5
Subregion 14.....	100.0	16.0	33.9	23.0	12.7	9.7	4.7
Subregion 15.....	100.0	28.2	42.5	16.1	6.6	4.5	1.9
Subregion 16.....	100.0	20.8	26.2	18.3	15.7	13.7	5.2
Subregion 18.....	100.0	33.4	22.3	16.3	15.9	8.3	4.0
Subregion 26.....	100.0	17.9	23.4	28.2	14.2	12.7	3.6
Subregion 33.....	100.0	10.7	25.1	21.4	21.3	14.1	7.2
Subregion 42.....	100.0	14.1	29.3	28.4	16.5	9.3	2.3
Subregion 82.....	100.0	17.6	34.5	24.7	13.9	7.0	2.4
Subregion 115.....	100.0	26.6	27.2	25.0	10.5	7.2	3.5
Subregion 116.....	100.0	49.6	21.8	14.7	8.1	4.7	1.1
Subregion 117.....	100.0	27.1	32.4	22.5	10.1	5.6	2.2
Subregion 119.....	100.0	18.7	24.4	20.9	20.6	10.9	4.5

Table 24.—OPERATORS OF POULTRY FARMS, BY TENURE OF OPERATOR: 1954

Item	All poultry farms in the United States	Poultry farms in selected poultry subregions
Number of farms.....	154, 251	56, 525
Farms operated by—		
Owners, part owners, and managers..... number.....	144, 381	53, 208
Percent of total.....	93.6	94.1
Tenants..... number.....	9, 870	3, 317
Percent of total.....	6.4	5.9