

FARMERS AND FARM PRODUCTION

TABLE 4.—NUMBER OF FARMS IN THE UNITED STATES AND IN THE CORN BELT, BY BROAD ECONOMIC CLASS AND TYPE OF FARM: 1954

Broad economic class and type of farm	United States, total	Corn Belt	
		Total	Percent of United States
All farms.....	4,783,021	927,921	19.4
Commercial farms, total ¹	3,327,617	797,259	24.0
Cash-grain farms.....	537,838	264,546	49.2
Livestock farms ²	604,636	326,662	47.0
Dairy farms.....	548,763	64,774	11.8
Poultry farms.....	154,267	19,204	12.4
General farms.....	347,466	113,335	32.6
Other field-crop farms.....	367,771	3,212	0.9
Other commercial farms ³	676,886	5,526	0.8
Other farms, total.....	1,455,404	130,662	9.0
Part-time farms.....	574,575	62,017	10.8
Residential farms.....	878,136	68,205	7.8
Abnormal farms.....	2,693	440	16.3

¹ The numbers of commercial farms in the United States, listed in this table, are estimated from a sample of farms on the State economic area basis. Numbers of commercial farms in the United States by economic class within types are estimated from a sample of farms on the economic subregion basis. These different methods of estimation explain the slight differences in numbers of cash-grain farms and of livestock farms shown for the United States in this table and tables 1, 9, and 10.

² Livestock other than dairy and poultry farms.

³ Cotton farms, vegetable farms, fruit-and-nut farms, and miscellaneous farms.

A main explanation for the shift in numbers of these two types of farms in this period is provided by the index numbers of prices received by farmers. While the index number of prices received for all farm products sold in the United States was practically the same in 1954 as in 1949, the index number of prices received for all crops in 1954 was 108 percent of that in 1949. Prices of feed grains and hay in 1954 were 116 percent of the 1949 level. On the other hand, the index number of prices received for meat animals and for livestock and livestock products was 94 (1949=100).

In the Corn Belt, in 1954, 85.9 percent of all farms were classified as commercial farms compared with 69.6 percent in the United States (table 5). Cash-grain farms numbered 28.5 percent and livestock farms 35.2 percent of all Corn Belt farms. Dairy farms and poultry farms comprised 7 percent and 2.1 percent, respectively, of the total. As with cash-grain farms and livestock farms, the Corn Belt had a relatively greater concentration of general farms than the United States as a whole. In the Corn Belt, as

TABLE 5.—PERCENT OF FARMS IN EACH BROAD ECONOMIC CLASS AND TYPE, FOR THE UNITED STATES AND CORN BELT: 1954

Broad economic class and type of farm	United States	Corn Belt
	Percent	Percent
All farms.....	100.0	100.0
Commercial farms, total.....	69.6	85.9
Cash-grain farms.....	11.2	28.5
Livestock farms ¹	14.6	35.2
Dairy farms.....	11.6	7.0
Poultry farms.....	3.2	2.1
General farms.....	7.3	12.2
Other field-crop farms.....	7.7	0.3
Other commercial farms ²	14.2	0.6
Other farms, total.....	30.4	14.1
Part-time farms.....	12.0	6.7
Residential farms.....	18.4	7.4
Abnormal farms.....	0.1	(Z)

Z, 0.05 percent or less.

¹ Livestock other than dairy and poultry farms.

² Cotton farms, vegetable farms, fruit-and-nut farms, and miscellaneous farms.

outlined for the present study, the proportions of cash-grain and livestock farms are higher than in most of the individual five Corn Belt States. The percentage distribution of cash-grain, livestock, and other types of farms in States of the North Central Region of the country is shown in table 6.

Cash-grain farms account for 11.2 percent of all the farms in the United States and 49.2 percent of these are in the Corn Belt. The percentage of farms classified as cash-grain farms in the Corn Belt as a whole was higher than the proportions shown for Iowa and

TABLE 6.—NUMBER OF ALL COMMERCIAL FARMS, AND NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF SPECIFIED TYPES OF FARMS, IN THE UNITED STATES AND SPECIFIED STATES: 1954

State	Commercial farms by type				Percentage distribution			
	Total commercial	Cash-grain	Livestock ¹	Other types	Total commercial farms	Cash-grain farms	Livestock farms	Other types
United States.....	3,327,617	637,838	604,636	2,095,143	100.0	16.2	20.9	63.0
Ohio.....	123,457	35,626	28,714	59,117	100.0	28.9	23.3	47.9
Indiana.....	115,182	39,395	36,496	39,291	100.0	34.2	31.7	34.1
Illinois.....	147,801	69,293	43,830	34,675	100.0	46.9	29.7	23.5
Iowa.....	178,238	40,097	104,799	33,342	100.0	22.5	58.8	18.7
Missouri.....	140,307	20,465	59,821	60,021	100.0	14.6	42.6	42.8
Minnesota.....	146,527	33,956	28,040	84,531	100.0	23.2	19.1	57.7
Wisconsin.....	135,064	3,904	10,327	120,833	100.0	2.9	7.6	89.5
Michigan.....	98,161	21,441	10,400	66,320	100.0	21.8	10.6	67.6
North Dakota.....	59,546	38,992	7,740	12,814	100.0	65.5	13.0	21.5
South Dakota.....	59,796	18,322	28,081	13,393	100.0	30.6	47.0	22.4
Nebraska.....	94,153	34,613	42,127	17,413	100.0	36.8	44.7	18.5
Kansas.....	102,626	54,174	25,410	22,942	100.0	52.8	24.8	22.4
Kentucky.....	122,784	4,932	16,090	101,762	100.0	4.0	13.1	82.9

¹ Livestock other than dairy and poultry farms.

TABLE 7.—NUMBER OF FARMS IN EACH REGION OF THE CORN BELT, AND PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION AMONG REGIONS, BY BROAD ECONOMIC CLASS AND TYPE OF FARM: 1954

Broad economic class and type of farm	Corn Belt, total	Eastern Corn Belt	Central Corn Belt	North-ern Corn Belt	West-ern Corn Belt	South-ern Corn Belt
	Number of farms:					
All farms.....	927,921	221,145	182,559	114,627	205,807	203,603
Commercial farms, total.....	797,259	177,280	167,845	108,569	186,176	157,389
Cash-grain farms.....	264,546	68,300	69,037	27,469	68,874	40,866
Livestock farms ¹	326,662	51,480	72,070	40,608	91,307	71,137
Dairy farms.....	64,774	18,145	5,661	17,128	7,744	16,096
Poultry farms.....	19,204	6,698	2,882	2,329	2,538	4,757
General farms.....	113,335	27,934	17,354	20,442	24,599	23,006
Other field-crop farms.....	3,212	2,423	72	205	337	175
Other commercial farms ²	5,526	2,300	769	388	717	1,352
Other farms, total.....	130,662	43,865	14,714	6,058	19,721	46,304
Part-time farms.....	62,017	22,352	6,970	3,170	9,161	20,364
Residential farms.....	68,205	21,306	7,655	2,805	10,470	25,909
Abnormal farms.....	440	147	89	83	90	31
Percentage distribution of farms:						
All farms.....	100.0	23.8	19.7	12.4	22.2	22.0
Commercial farms, total.....	100.0	22.2	21.1	13.6	23.4	19.7
Cash-grain farms.....	100.0	25.8	26.1	10.4	22.3	15.4
Livestock farms ¹	100.0	15.8	22.1	12.4	28.0	21.8
Dairy farms.....	100.0	28.0	8.7	26.4	12.0	24.8
Poultry farms.....	100.0	34.9	15.0	12.1	21.7	20.3
General farms.....	100.0	24.6	15.3	18.0	10.5	5.4
Other field-crop farms.....	100.0	75.4	2.2	6.4	10.5	5.4
Other commercial farms ²	100.0	41.6	13.9	7.0	13.0	24.5
Other farms, total.....	100.0	33.6	11.3	4.6	15.1	35.4
Part-time farms.....	100.0	36.0	11.2	5.1	14.8	32.8
Residential farms.....	100.0	31.3	11.2	4.1	15.4	38.0
Abnormal farms.....	100.0	33.4	20.2	18.0	20.5	7.0

¹ Livestock other than dairy and poultry farms.

² Cotton farms, vegetable farms, fruit-and-nut farms, and miscellaneous farms.