

Missouri but not as high as the proportions in Indiana and Illinois where cash-grain farming is more densely concentrated. Livestock farms constitute the largest single type of commercial farm in this country as a whole. This group made up 14.5 percent of the United States total of all farms. Of this number (694,636), 47 percent were in the Corn Belt (table 4). Livestock farms are the most common type in the belt, accounting for 35.2 percent of all the farms (table 5). This percentage for the total region is larger than that in the individual States of Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois, but is exceeded by the proportions in the States of Iowa and Missouri where livestock farms are relatively more prevalent than cash-grain farms.

The number of farms of each principal type in the different regions of the Corn Belt are shown in table 7. In terms of total number of commercial farms, the Western Corn Belt is the largest of the five regions into which the Corn Belt has been divided for the analysis on which this report is based. The order of rank of the other regions on the basis of numbers of commercial farms is as follows: Eastern, Central, Southern, and Northern Corn Belt. Most of the cash-grain farms are in the central and eastern regions. Livestock farms are the most concentrated in the western, central, and southern regions. Dairy farms are most numerous in the eastern and northern parts of the Corn Belt in the areas which are, in effect, a continuation of the Nation's major dairy regions of the Lake States and the Northeast. Most of the poultry farms in the Corn Belt are found in the eastern and southern parts of the region.

General farms are widely distributed throughout the Corn Belt but are relatively least numerous in the Central Corn Belt where farming tends to be more specialized (table 8). There are rela-

TABLE 8.—PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF COMMERCIAL FARMS, BY TYPE OF FARM, IN THE CORN BELT AND COMPONENT REGIONS: 1954

Type of farm	Corn Belt, total	Eastern Corn Belt	Central Corn Belt	Northern Corn Belt	Western Corn Belt	Southern Corn Belt
All commercial farms.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Cash-grain farms.....	33.2	38.5	41.1	25.3	31.6	26.0
Livestock farms <sup>1</sup> .....	41.0	29.0	42.9	37.4	49.0	45.2
Dairy farms.....	8.1	10.2	3.4	15.8	4.2	10.2
Poultry farms.....	2.4	3.8	1.7	2.1	1.4	3.0
General farms.....	14.2	15.8	10.3	18.8	13.2	14.6
Other field-crop farms.....	0.4	1.4	(Z)	0.2	0.2	0.1
Other commercial farms <sup>2</sup> .....	0.7	1.3	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.9

Z 0.05 percent or less.  
<sup>1</sup> Livestock other than dairy and poultry farms.  
<sup>2</sup> Cotton farms, vegetable farms, fruit-and-nut farms, and miscellaneous farms.

tively few farms of other types such as vegetable farms, fruit-and-nut farms, and horticultural-specialty farms. The few cotton farms are found in the southern part of Illinois and in southeastern Missouri. All of these minor types together accounted for less than 1 percent of all farms in the Corn Belt. In general, farming is more diversified in the southern and eastern parts of the belt than in other parts. This results mainly from the greater variation in topography and soil conditions in the eastern and southern portions.

Most of the other farms (noncommercial) are also found in the eastern and southern parts. Residential farms made up 12.7 percent of all farms in the Southern Corn Belt, but only 2.4 percent in the Northern Corn Belt. For the other regions of the Corn Belt the proportion of residential farms was between these two figures. Part-time farms made up 10 percent of all farms in both the Eastern and Southern Corn Belt. Part-time and residential farms are operated principally by families who have other occupations or sources of income or by retired farmers or other retired or semiretired persons.

ECONOMIC CLASS OF FARM

In this report, much of the analysis relates to economic classes of farms. The criteria used in determining economic class of farm are given in various reports of the 1954 Census of Agriculture.

Criteria for the economic classes of farms are as follows:

Class	Criteria	
	Value of farm products sold	Other
<b>COMMERCIAL FARMS</b>		
Class I.....	\$25,000 or more.....	None.
Class II.....	\$10,000 to \$24,999.....	None.
Class III.....	\$5,000 to \$9,999.....	None.
Class IV.....	\$2,500 to \$4,999.....	None.
Class V.....	\$1,200 to \$2,499.....	None.
Class VI.....	\$250 to \$1,199.....	Less than 100 days of off-farm work by operator, and income of operator and members of his family from nonfarm sources less than value of all farm products sold.
<b>OTHER FARMS</b>		
Part-time.....	\$250 to \$1,199.....	100 days or more of off-farm work by operator or income of farm operator and members of his family from nonfarm sources greater than value of all farm products sold.
Residential.....	Less than \$250.....	None.
Abnormal.....	Not a criterion.....	Institutional farms, experimental farms, grazing associations, community-project farms, etc.

The distribution of cash-grain and livestock farms by economic class in the different regions of the Corn Belt are shown in tables 9 and 10. The largest economic class in terms of numbers of farms included in the Corn Belt as a whole is Class III. These are farms with a value of sales of agricultural products, in 1954, amounting to \$5,000 and up to \$9,999. This group makes up 34.1 percent of all cash-grain farms in the Corn Belt and is fairly typical of the family-sized farms in this region. Also numerous are farms in Economic Classes II and IV. These farms are similar to the Class III farms, except that the Class II farms are somewhat larger, having total value of agricultural products sold from \$10,000 to \$25,000, and the Class IV farms are smaller, having sales ranging from \$2,500 up to \$4,999. These three groups account for 81 percent of all the cash-grain farms in the Corn Belt.

TABLE 9.—NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF CASH-GRAIN FARMS, BY ECONOMIC CLASS, IN THE UNITED STATES AND CORN BELT: 1954

Item and economic class of farm	United States	Corn Belt					
		Total	Eastern	Central	Northern	Western	Southern
<b>Number of farms:</b>							
Cash-grain farms, total	537, 974	264, 546	68, 300	69, 037	27, 469	58, 874	40, 866
Class I.....	21, 995	6, 496	1, 613	3, 221	406	867	389
II.....	110, 597	62, 004	14, 060	26, 210	6, 704	10, 808	4, 222
III.....	160, 337	90, 110	20, 448	24, 920	11, 302	22, 252	11, 188
IV.....	129, 042	62, 045	17, 363	10, 151	6, 011	16, 496	12, 024
V.....	82, 789	33, 944	11, 865	3, 520	2, 391	6, 718	9, 350
VI.....	33, 214	9, 947	2, 851	1, 015	655	1, 733	3, 693
<b>Percentage distribution of farms:</b>							
Cash-grain farms, total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Class I.....	4.1	2.5	2.4	4.7	1.5	1.5	1.0
II.....	20.6	23.4	20.6	38.0	24.4	18.4	10.3
III.....	29.8	34.1	29.9	36.1	41.1	37.8	27.4
IV.....	24.0	23.5	25.4	14.7	21.9	28.0	29.4
V.....	15.4	12.8	17.5	5.1	8.7	11.4	22.9
VI.....	6.2	3.8	4.2	1.5	2.4	2.9	9.0