

TABLE 16.—PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF TYPES AND ECONOMIC CLASSES OF FARMS IN EACH ACREAGE SIZE GROUP, IN THE CORN BELT: 1954

Type and economic class of farm	Acreage size group								
	All sizes	Under 30 acres	30 to 69 acres	70 to 139 acres	140 to 179 acres	180 to 259 acres	260 to 499 acres	500 to 999 acres	1,000 acres and over
	Percent 100.0	Percent 100.0	Percent 100.0	Percent 100.0	Percent 100.0	Percent 100.0	Percent 100.0	Percent 100.0	Percent 100.0
All commercial farms.....									
Cash-grain farms:									
Total.....	33.2	10.1	30.6	31.3	32.4	35.0	39.2	37.7	28.5
Class I.....	0.8			(Z)	(Z)	0.1	1.8	8.5	10.5
II.....	7.8		(Z)	0.5	4.1	11.4	18.0	17.0	12.1
III.....	11.3	(Z)	0.6	8.1	15.6	15.0	13.6	9.1	4.5
IV.....	7.8	0.3	8.1	13.3	8.9	6.5	4.7	2.6	1.0
V.....	4.3	3.8	16.4	7.7	3.3	1.8	0.9	0.4	0.3
VI.....	1.2	5.9	5.5	1.8	0.6	0.3	0.2	(Z)	0.1
Livestock farms: ¹									
Total.....	41.0	37.0	35.3	38.4	42.1	41.7	42.2	49.5	63.0
Class I.....	2.8	0.3	0.1	0.3	1.1	2.5	6.5	12.9	20.4
II.....	10.5	0.8	0.6	4.0	11.4	15.0	15.7	17.0	21.9
III.....	11.0	2.3	3.2	11.4	15.4	13.8	11.8	11.9	14.1
IV.....	8.4	7.3	9.7	11.8	9.2	6.9	5.9	5.8	4.7
V.....	5.0	13.8	13.4	7.6	3.8	2.7	1.8	1.7	1.4
VI.....	2.4	12.4	8.3	3.3	1.2	0.8	0.4	0.3	0.5

Z 0.05 percent or less.

¹ Livestock other than dairy and poultry farms.

A larger proportion of the Classes I, II, and III farms of the cash-grain type are in the 260 acres or over acreage groups than is true for Classes I, II, and III livestock farms. Also, a larger proportion of the cash-grain farms in Economic Classes IV, V, and VI are in the acreage sizes under 140 acres than is true for the livestock farms. This indicates that livestock production on the land has the effect of increasing the farm incomes from given acreages. In other words, in spite of the differences that may exist in the quality of land on cash-grain farms as compared with livestock farms, the cash-grain farms generally require larger acreages than livestock farms in this region to produce the same levels of value of products sold.

The distribution of economic classes of farms within acreage size groups is shown for cash-grain and livestock farms in table 16. Economic class is positively correlated with acreage size among both cash-grain and livestock farms. As the acreage of land in the farm is increased, the proportion of higher income economic classes of farms in these acreage sizes is increased. Among farms of less than 140 acres there are significantly fewer Classes I, II, and III cash-grain farms than there are livestock farms. Relatively few of the farms of large acreage are in the low income economic classes (Classes IV, V, and VI). However, there are enough exceptions to the positive correlation of economic class with acreage to indicate that a relatively large acreage is not enough alone to guarantee a large farm income. On the other hand, the occurrence of a significant number of Economic Classes II and III farms among farms of less than 140 acres indicates that a larger than average acreage of land is not always necessary for a moderately high level of farm sales if production can be increased by application of other inputs.

RESIDENCE AND TENURE OF FARM OPERATORS

Residence.—Practically all farmers in the Corn Belt live on the farms they operate. In the 1954 Census about 99 percent of the commercial farm operators gave information as to their residence. Only 4.9 percent of these reported their residence as not on the farm they operated (table 17). About 92 percent of all cash-grain farmers and about 96 percent of all livestock farmers in the Corn Belt had their homes on the farms they operated.

The proportion of operators not residing on their farms was highest among cash-grain farmers, ranging from 6.5 percent in the Eastern Corn Belt to 10.1 percent in the Western Corn Belt. The proportion of livestock farm operators not residing on their farms ranged from 2.9 percent in the Northern Corn Belt to 4.5 percent in the Southern Corn Belt.

Most farmers prefer to live on the farm they operate and find it advantageous from the economic standpoint. This is especially true for farmers who have livestock. As pointed out above, most of the cash-grain farms, as well as the livestock farms, have some livestock. On most of these farms, livestock of one or more kinds are on hand throughout the year. Livestock require attention every day, or practically every day, especially during the winter months and during periods such as at farrowing, calving, and lambing time. During the pasture season, beef cattle and sheep on pasture often need relatively little attention, but usually during this season there is work with other livestock, for example, milk cows, pigs, and chickens, or cattle or hogs being fattened, if such livestock are present, in addition to work on crops.

On farms where all crops are sold and no livestock are kept, there is little or no work on the farm during the winter months. Operators of such farms sometimes find it desirable or advantageous to reside with their families in a nearby village or town. Some operators, usually beginning farmers or single men, live on other farms, generally with relatives, near the farms they operate.

Residence on the farm operated was most common on Economic Class II and Class III farms of both cash-grain and livestock types (table 18). About 94 percent of the Class II cash-grain farm operators and 97 percent of the Class II and Class III livestock farm operators lived on their farms. The proportion of operators not residing on the farm operated was greatest among Class V and Class VI cash-grain farms (11.9 percent and 10.5 percent). Among livestock farms, Class I farms had the largest percentage of operators not residing on the farm operated (6.1 percent).

Tenure.—In 1954 approximately two-thirds of the commercial farms in the Corn Belt were operated by owners and part owners, about one-third were operated by tenants, and less than 1 percent were operated by managers. Full owners own all the land they operate. Part owners operate land that they own and also additional land that they rent from others. Managers operate farms for others and are paid a wage or salary for their services. Tenants rent from others or work on shares for others, all the land they operate.

Tenancy is generally greater among cash-grain farm operators than among livestock farm operators. This was true in every region of the Corn Belt in 1954 (table 17). That year, in the Corn Belt as a whole, 40.6 percent of the cash-grain farm operators and 29.4 percent of the livestock farm operators were tenants,