

TABLE 35.—PERCENT OF COMMERCIAL FARMS IN EACH TYPE REPORTING SPECIFIED FARM MACHINES IN THE CORN BELT AND COMPONENT REGIONS: 1954

Region and type of farm	Tractors	Motor-trucks	Corn-pickers	Grain combines	Pickup hay balers	Field forage harvesters	Power feed grinders	Milking machines	Electric pig brooders
Total Corn Belt:	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
All commercial farms.....	89.8	51.1	58.8	50.3	18.0	7.6	38.0	24.4	8.0
Cash-grain farms.....	93.1	52.5	65.1	60.4	14.3	4.3	29.3	16.3	4.7
Livestock farms ¹	89.9	52.5	60.3	47.2	22.1	9.8	46.9	19.0	11.2
Eastern Corn Belt:									
All commercial farms.....	88.2	49.2	54.8	48.8	18.2	5.3	22.0	28.0	6.9
Cash-grain farms.....	91.9	49.1	60.5	56.6	14.6	3.2	16.4	19.8	3.7
Livestock farms ¹	87.6	55.0	57.8	47.2	21.2	6.5	28.8	20.3	11.5
Central Corn Belt:									
All commercial farms.....	92.7	53.3	71.1	58.0	20.4	7.6	42.8	23.7	10.1
Cash-grain farms.....	94.2	53.7	74.7	65.2	14.6	3.8	32.7	17.6	6.6
Livestock farms ¹	93.0	55.0	71.2	55.8	26.8	11.2	62.3	21.9	13.7
Northern Corn Belt:									
All commercial farms.....	91.8	53.0	63.6	50.0	23.4	11.5	41.8	48.2	10.4
Cash-grain farms.....	94.2	51.4	66.6	60.4	15.4	6.9	30.8	27.4	4.8
Livestock farms ¹	94.2	53.9	68.6	49.1	28.3	14.2	60.1	44.3	13.1
Western Corn Belt:									
All commercial farms.....	91.7	53.4	64.0	50.4	15.8	8.4	47.3	16.1	7.8
Cash-grain farms.....	93.8	55.8	67.2	59.4	12.6	4.9	38.0	11.3	4.3
Livestock farms ¹	91.6	53.6	65.4	47.1	18.3	10.7	53.2	13.7	10.6
Southern Corn Belt:									
All commercial farms.....	85.1	47.1	40.8	43.8	17.0	6.5	37.1	13.4	5.7
Cash-grain farms.....	91.6	51.9	52.5	60.1	15.1	4.6	31.6	7.9	3.6
Livestock farms ¹	83.8	45.8	39.7	37.7	19.3	7.1	40.0	7.5	7.9

¹ Livestock other than dairy and poultry farms.

Motortrucks were reported by about half the farmers, and were fairly evenly distributed among types of farms throughout the Corn Belt.

Pickup hay balers were reported on almost a fifth of all the farms. These machines save a great deal of labor in the harvesting and handling of hay.

Field forage harvesters were reported on nearly 8 percent of all commercial farms. This type of machine, which picks up and chops hay or other forage, is relatively new. It fits into the mechanization scheme and has been introduced on many farms, especially on livestock farms in the Northern, Central, and Western Corn Belt.

Power feed grinders were reported on a relatively large percentage of the farms, especially among the livestock farms. This reflects the heavy use of homegrown feeds in the Corn Belt. It is pointed out in a later section of this report that use of purchased mixed feeds on these farms is also great. The distribution of power feed grinders on farms in the United States is shown in figure 22. The Corn Belt has the heaviest concentration of these machines. They are most densely concentrated in northwestern Illinois, eastern and western Iowa, and eastern Nebraska.

Electric pig brooders are of many sizes and types. It is difficult therefore to obtain an average value per unit for this equipment. They were reported on 8 percent of the commercial farms in the Corn Belt. They were reported by almost 14 percent of the livestock farmers in the Central Corn Belt.

Milking machines were reported on 24.4 percent of all the commercial farms, but on only 16.3 percent of the cash-grain farms and 19 percent of the livestock farms. Milking machines were most frequently reported in the Northern Corn Belt, which borders on the dairy country of Minnesota and Wisconsin. In the Northern Corn Belt, milking machines were reported on 44.3 percent of the livestock farms and on 27.4 percent of the cash-grain farms.

For the Corn Belt as a whole, tractors, cornpickers, and grain combines were reported on larger percentages of the cash-grain farms than of the livestock farms. On the other hand, larger percentages of the livestock farms reported having pickup hay balers, field forage harvesters, power feed grinders, milking machines, and electric pig brooders. Motortrucks were reported by an equal proportion of the farmers on cash-grain and livestock farms.

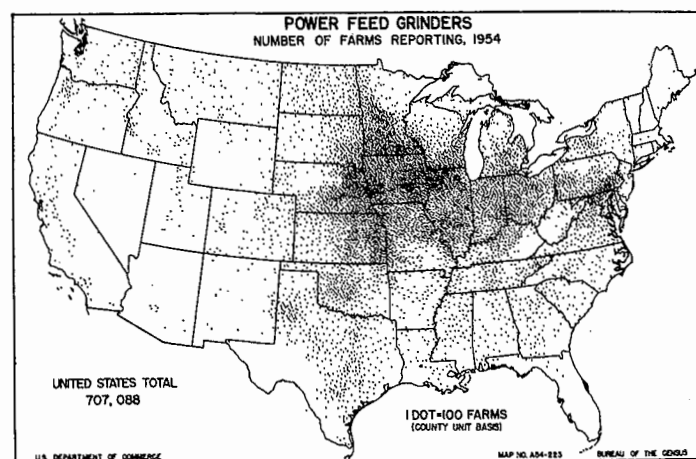


FIGURE 22.

Tractors were reported on 96 to 98 percent of all Economic Classes I, II, and III farms in the Corn Belt. Among the Classes IV, V, and VI farms the percentage of farmers having tractors was smaller (table 36). Only two-thirds of the Economic Class VI cash-grain farms and only half of the Economic Class VI livestock farms reported tractors.

For every one of the specified farm machines, the percentage of farms reporting these machines declines consistently from a relatively high figure on Economic Class I farms to a relatively low figure on Economic Class VI farms. For example, among the cash-grain farms, about 93 percent of the Class I farms had grain combines, but only 30 percent of the Class V farms and 15 percent of the Class VI farms had these machines. Similarly, for example, among livestock farms, pickup hay balers were reported on 44 percent of the Class I farms, on 23 percent of the Class III farms, and on only 3 percent of the Class VI farms.

The only exception to the rule that the percentage of farms reporting specified machines declines as we look from Class I to Class VI farms, is in the instance of milking machines. In this case, the percentage of farms reporting is smaller for Class I farms of both the cash-grain and livestock types than it is for the Class II and Class III farms. Apparently, the explanation is the relatively small percentage of Class I cash-grain and livestock farms that have dairy herds.