

TABLE 36.—PERCENT OF COMMERCIAL FARMS IN EACH TYPE, BY ECONOMIC CLASS, REPORTING SPECIFIED FARM MACHINES, IN THE CORN BELT: 1954

Type and economic class of farm	Tractors	Motor-trucks	Corn-pickers	Grain combines	Pickup hay balers	Field forage harvesters	Power feed grinders	Milking machines	Electric pig brooders
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
All commercial farms.....	89.8	51.1	58.8	50.3	18.6	7.6	38.0	24.4	8.0
Cash-grain farms:									
Total.....	93.1	52.5	65.1	60.4	14.3	4.3	29.3	16.3	4.7
Class I.....	98.1	89.7	94.6	92.6	35.7	16.1	47.9	17.3	14.2
II.....	97.4	70.7	86.3	82.6	22.8	7.8	40.2	25.7	8.8
III.....	96.0	53.8	73.2	67.3	15.3	4.2	32.5	19.9	4.6
IV.....	92.7	42.6	54.4	48.8	9.2	2.2	23.2	10.1	2.2
V.....	85.6	35.2	33.4	20.9	4.8	.9	14.7	4.7	1.3
VI.....	66.2	23.5	15.0	15.4	3.3	.9	8.1	1.9	1.0
Livestock farms: ¹									
Total.....	89.9	52.5	60.3	47.2	22.1	9.8	45.9	19.0	11.2
Class I.....	97.6	80.9	86.9	76.2	44.2	36.8	70.1	17.4	22.7
II.....	97.0	65.8	80.7	68.6	33.3	15.8	59.8	25.9	17.9
III.....	95.7	52.0	68.9	52.3	22.6	7.7	50.9	25.3	10.9
IV.....	89.8	43.7	48.2	33.2	14.2	3.6	37.1	14.5	6.3
V.....	75.8	36.8	25.6	16.4	6.9	1.6	22.7	6.0	4.0
VI.....	50.0	26.3	11.0	7.1	3.3	.9	10.9	2.1	1.1

¹ Livestock other than dairy and poultry farms.

Farmers who do not have their own machines for handling grain and hay depend on hiring such machines on a custom-work basis, or they depend on exchange work, or they use less mechanized methods that require more labor.

The intensity of mechanization on Corn Belt farms is indicated by the percentage of farms that report various types and combinations of types of work power (table 37). Tractors were reported on approximately 90 percent of all commercial farms in the Corn Belt. Sixty-seven percent of the farms had tractors but no horses or mules. Only 3.1 percent of the commercial farms reported horses and/or mules and no tractor. Horses or mules were found on a substantial number of farms, however, as 22.2 percent of all commercial farms reported having one or more tractors and horses or mules. On 7.4 percent of the farms, no tractor, horses, or mules were reported. The region with the largest percentage of farms reporting no tractor or animal power was the Eastern Corn Belt, where 10.6 percent of the farms thus reported. Farmers who do not have their own tractors or horses or mules generally have

their fieldwork done by custom operators, or neighbors, or they rent power units. On relatively very few farms the land is all in hay or pasture, and no land is plowed or cultivated. Farms of this type require little or no mechanical power.

The high degree of mechanization, as indicated by the use of tractors, is general throughout the Corn Belt on cash-grain and livestock farms and on other commercial types. It is most intensive in the Central, Northern, and Western Corn Belt. The Southern Corn Belt has the largest percentage of farms using horses or mules and no tractor. In that region, 7 percent of the commercial farms reported horse or mule power only, and 30 percent reported horses and/or mules in addition to tractors. For the Corn Belt as a whole, about as many farms reported 2 tractors as reported 1 tractor. Only 13.5 percent of the farms had 3 tractors or more. In the Central and Northern Corn Belt, more than 50 percent of the farmers reported 2 tractors, while from 28 to 34 percent (approximately) reported only 1 tractor. In the Southern and Eastern Corn Belt more farms reported

TABLE 37.—PERCENT OF COMMERCIAL FARMS REPORTING, BY TYPE OF WORK POWER AND NUMBER OF TRACTORS,¹ BY TYPE OF FARM, IN THE CORN BELT AND COMPONENT REGIONS: 1954

Region and type of farm	Percentage distribution of farms reporting—				Farms reporting tractors, as a percent of all commercial farms	Percentage distribution of farms reporting—			
	No tractor, horses, or mules	Horses and/or mules and no tractor	Tractor and horses or mules	Tractor and no horses or mules		Any tractors	1 tractor	2 tractors	3 or more tractors
Total Corn Belt:									
All commercial farms.....	7.4	3.1	22.2	67.3	89.5	100.0	43.4	43.1	13.5
Cash-grain farms.....	5.9	1.3	16.0	76.8	92.8	100.0	40.9	43.9	15.2
Livestock farms ²	6.7	3.9	27.4	62.0	89.4	100.0	41.9	43.9	14.2
Eastern Corn Belt:									
All commercial farms.....	10.6	2.6	12.3	74.5	86.8	100.0	48.1	39.7	12.2
Cash-grain farms.....	7.7	1.1	9.6	81.6	91.2	100.0	46.6	40.6	12.8
Livestock farms ²	11.2	2.8	15.1	70.9	86.1	100.0	45.9	40.6	13.5
Central Corn Belt:									
All commercial farms.....	6.3	1.5	17.1	75.1	92.2	100.0	29.3	51.5	19.2
Cash-grain farms.....	5.2	0.9	13.2	80.7	93.9	100.0	28.4	50.9	20.7
Livestock farms ²	5.5	1.8	21.2	71.5	92.7	100.0	27.8	52.8	19.4
Northern Corn Belt:									
All commercial farms.....	5.0	1.7	23.0	70.3	93.3	100.0	33.5	50.8	15.7
Cash-grain farms.....	5.2	0.7	15.4	78.7	94.1	100.0	31.2	50.1	18.7
Livestock farms ²	4.0	2.0	25.9	68.1	93.9	100.0	32.1	51.2	16.7
Western Corn Belt:									
All commercial farms.....	5.8	2.8	28.9	62.5	91.4	100.0	42.9	44.2	12.9
Cash-grain farms.....	4.9	1.5	22.2	71.4	93.7	100.0	44.2	42.6	13.2
Livestock farms ²	5.4	3.3	34.0	57.3	91.4	100.0	39.5	46.2	14.3
Southern Corn Belt:									
All commercial farms.....	8.3	7.1	30.1	54.5	84.6	100.0	62.4	30.0	7.6
Cash-grain farms.....	5.9	2.7	22.5	68.9	91.5	100.0	55.0	34.8	10.2
Livestock farms ²	8.2	8.7	34.9	48.2	83.1	100.0	64.3	28.4	7.3

¹ Farms reporting tractors, other than garden tractors.
² Livestock other than dairy and poultry farms.