

FARMERS AND FARM PRODUCTION

TABLE 38.—PERCENT OF COMMERCIAL FARMS REPORTING, BY TYPE OF WORK POWER AND NUMBER OF TRACTORS,¹ BY TYPE AND ECONOMIC CLASS OF FARM, IN THE CORN BELT: 1954

Type and economic class 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
All commercial farms.....	7.4	3.1	22.2	67.3	89.5	100.0	43.4	43.1	13.5
Cash-grain farms:									
Total.....	5.9	1.3	16.0	76.8	92.8	100.0	40.9	43.9	15.2
Class I.....	1.9	0.3	22.2	75.6	97.8	100.0	2.3	19.3	78.4
II.....	2.4	0.4	16.2	81.0	97.3	100.0	12.6	56.4	31.0
III.....	3.7	0.5	15.5	80.3	95.8	100.0	35.1	53.3	11.6
IV.....	6.4	1.2	16.2	76.2	92.4	100.0	59.8	35.1	5.1
V.....	12.4	2.8	15.8	69.0	84.8	100.0	78.0	19.4	2.6
VI.....	24.5	11.4	13.2	50.9	64.2	100.0	87.4	11.2	1.4
Livestock farms: ²									
Total.....	6.7	3.9	27.4	62.0	89.4	100.0	41.9	43.9	14.2
Class I.....	1.7	0.9	35.1	62.3	97.4	100.0	6.2	30.2	54.6
II.....	2.3	0.7	26.7	70.3	96.9	100.0	18.6	69.3	22.1
III.....	3.0	1.5	27.4	68.1	95.5	100.0	40.4	60.6	9.0
IV.....	6.7	4.1	30.0	59.2	89.2	100.0	63.0	32.5	4.5
V.....	16.1	9.7	25.0	49.2	74.2	100.0	79.8	18.4	1.8
VI.....	31.7	19.9	17.5	30.9	48.4	100.0	88.3	10.9	0.8

¹ Farms reporting tractors, other than garden tractors.

² Livestock other than dairy and poultry farms.

1 tractor than reported 2 tractors. Farms having 3 or more tractors were relatively most numerous in the Central and Northern Corn Belt.

Use of tractors is more universal among the larger than among the smaller farms (table 38). About 97 to 98 percent of the Economic Class I and Class II farms, of the cash-grain and livestock types, reported tractors; among the Class V and Class VI farms the proportions ranged from about 48 to 85 percent. The largest proportion of farmers having tractors but no horses or mules were on Class II and Class III farms, on both cash-grain and livestock types. The larger farms also usually had both tractors and horses or mules more frequently than did the smaller farms. Among the livestock farms in each economic class, there were larger percentages of farms having both tractors and horses or mules than there were among cash-grain farms in the respective economic classes. Farms having horses or mules and no tractors were relatively uncommon among all economic classes, but the proportion was about 11 percent of the Class VI cash-grain farms and about 20 percent of the Class VI livestock farms. The proportion of farms reporting 1 tractor, 2 tractors, or 3 or more tractors was strongly correlated with size of farm. The small farms were generally in the 1-tractor group and the larger farms were in the 2-tractor or 3-or-more-tractor groups.

The average value of total investment in machinery and equipment per farm was more than \$15,000 on Economic Class I cash-grain farms (table 39), but it was consistently less on the smaller sized economic classes, ranging down to \$2,404 on cash-grain farms of Economic Class VI. The investment in machinery and equipment per farm averaged highest on commercial farms in the Central Corn Belt, but on the basis of economic class groups it was highest on the Class I cash-grain farms in the Southern Corn Belt and lowest on Class VI livestock farms in that region.

The total investment in machinery and equipment (not including household equipment) on all commercial farms in the Corn Belt was estimated at 4.8 billion dollars (table 40). The Western, Central, and Eastern Corn Belt regions each accounted for over a billion dollars of this total. The bulk of the capital investment usually is found on Class II and Class III farms, although these are not always the groups with the most numerous farms (tables 9 and 10). The total value of capital investment on Class V and Class VI farms in the Corn Belt is relatively small, but in the case of cash-grain farms it is more than the total investment on the large Class I farms in all regions except the Central Corn Belt, and in the case of livestock farms it is greater than the capital value on Class I farms in the Southern Corn Belt.

TABLE 39.—ESTIMATED AVERAGE VALUE OF TOTAL INVESTMENT IN MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT, PER COMMERCIAL FARM, IN THE CORN BELT AND COMPONENT REGIONS: 1954

Type and economic class of farm	Corn Belt, total	East-ern Corn Belt	Central Corn Belt	North-ern Corn Belt	West-ern Corn Belt	South-ern Corn Belt
	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars
All commercial farms.....	5,986	5,913	6,697	6,407	6,066	4,937
Cash-grain farms:						
Total.....	6,400	6,180	7,186	6,635	6,250	5,500
Class I.....	15,025	15,674	14,432	15,147	14,898	17,408
II.....	9,019	9,233	8,800	9,216	8,899	9,654
III.....	6,482	6,550	6,262	6,546	6,529	6,694
IV.....	4,901	4,802	4,741	4,924	5,075	4,931
V.....	3,659	3,630	3,483	3,741	3,786	3,649
VI.....	2,404	2,185	2,518	2,730	2,553	2,413
Livestock farms: ¹						
Total.....	6,313	6,390	7,309	6,884	6,399	4,810
Class I.....	12,774	14,655	12,516	12,608	12,016	13,392
II.....	8,482	8,909	8,464	8,719	8,195	8,352
III.....	6,198	6,270	6,339	6,349	6,260	5,748
IV.....	4,606	4,470	4,890	4,868	4,857	4,146
V.....	3,256	3,278	3,491	3,335	3,583	2,976
VI.....	2,050	1,958	2,228	2,268	2,370	1,877

¹ Livestock other than dairy and poultry farms.

TABLE 40.—ESTIMATED VALUE OF TOTAL INVESTMENT IN MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT ON COMMERCIAL FARMS IN THE CORN BELT AND COMPONENT REGIONS: 1954

Type and economic class of farm	Corn Belt, total	Eastern Corn Belt	Central Corn Belt	North-ern Corn Belt	Western Corn Belt	South-ern Corn Belt
	1,000 dollars	1,000 dollars	1,000 dollars	1,000 dollars	1,000 dollars	1,000 dollars
All commercial farms.....	4,772,390	1,048,209	1,124,087	695,590	1,127,593	777,001
Cash-grain farms:						
Total.....	1,693,157	422,074	496,130	182,244	367,050	224,750
Class I.....	97,604	25,281	45,485	6,150	12,017	6,772
II.....	559,197	129,816	230,658	61,785	96,179	40,750
III.....	584,138	133,936	156,051	73,978	145,275	74,898
IV.....	304,113	83,377	48,121	29,600	83,721	59,294
V.....	124,194	43,435	12,259	8,944	25,434	34,123
VI.....	23,910	6,230	2,555	1,788	4,424	8,913
Livestock farms: ¹						
Total.....	2,062,172	328,959	526,764	279,561	584,702	342,186
Class I.....	290,079	50,752	101,270	32,831	80,974	24,253
II.....	708,749	115,069	223,060	103,968	187,819	78,833
III.....	585,904	84,101	131,173	93,980	175,662	100,982
IV.....	308,496	46,801	50,515	38,456	95,797	76,927
V.....	130,235	25,509	16,703	8,324	34,799	44,901
VI.....	38,709	6,728	4,044	1,996	9,652	16,290

¹ Livestock other than dairy and poultry farms.