

than on the larger farms. Class VI farms have the lowest farm incomes (value of products sold) of all the economic classes of farms. But, by definition, these farms do not include any farms on which other sources of income exceeded the value of farm products sold nor any farms on which the operator worked 100 or more days at off-farm work. The proportion of operators not doing any off-farm work declines consistently as we go from Class I to Class V farms of both the cash-grain and livestock types. The percentage of farm operators working 100 or more days off the farm also increases as the size of farm decreases, exclusive of the Class VI farms. Approximately 28 percent of the Class V cash-grain farm operators and 21 percent of the Class V livestock farm operators worked 200 days or more off their farms in 1954.

It is rather significant that even among the larger economic classes of livestock farms, which ordinarily require some labor throughout the year, about 23 to 26 percent of the operators found time for some off-farm work. This may indicate that many operators of small farms could spend more time in such work than they now do, if the employment were available. From the standpoint of work on his own farm, the role of mechanization in freeing the farmer from long hours of manual labor is a decided factor in making more off-farm work possible.

### SIZE AND COMPOSITION OF LABOR FORCE

Family-operated farms are the prevailing and predominant kind in the Corn Belt. Upwards of 95 percent of the commercial farms in most of the belt reported some family or hired workers during the specified week of the 1954 Census (table 47). Farms reporting hired labor were only half as numerous as were farms reporting operator and family labor only. From 39 percent to 51 percent

TABLE 47.—NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF COMMERCIAL FARMS, BY KIND OF FARM WORKERS, BY TYPE OF FARM, IN THE CORN BELT AND COMPONENT REGIONS, IN SPECIFIED WEEK: 1954<sup>1</sup>

Region and type of farm	Farms reporting family and/or hired workers		Percentage distribution of farms reporting—				
	Farms reporting	Percent of all farms	Family and/or hired workers	Operator only	Unpaid family workers only	Operator and family workers only	Hired workers <sup>2</sup>
<b>Total Corn Belt:</b>							
All commercial farms.....	761,668	95.5	100.0	46.8	1.2	34.1	17.9
Cash-grain farms.....	247,924	93.7	100.0	50.8	1.2	30.0	18.0
Livestock farms <sup>3</sup> .....	315,891	96.7	100.0	46.1	1.1	33.0	19.8
<b>Eastern Corn Belt:</b>							
All commercial farms.....	165,476	93.3	100.0	49.3	1.5	30.4	18.8
Cash-grain farms.....	62,727	91.8	100.0	53.5	1.4	27.5	17.6
Livestock farms <sup>3</sup> .....	48,540	94.3	100.0	48.9	1.3	27.1	22.7
<b>Central Corn Belt:</b>							
All commercial farms.....	161,171	96.0	100.0	45.8	1.1	29.8	23.3
Cash-grain farms.....	65,109	94.3	100.0	48.7	1.1	25.8	24.4
Livestock farms <sup>3</sup> .....	70,230	97.4	100.0	43.7	1.1	31.0	24.2
<b>Northern Corn Belt:</b>							
All commercial farms.....	105,042	96.8	100.0	39.3	1.2	40.0	19.5
Cash-grain farms.....	25,879	94.2	100.0	45.8	1.2	34.3	18.6
Livestock farms <sup>3</sup> .....	39,778	98.0	100.0	39.0	0.9	38.2	21.9
<b>Western Corn Belt:</b>							
All commercial farms.....	178,902	96.1	100.0	46.1	1.1	37.0	15.8
Cash-grain farms.....	55,618	94.5	100.0	50.0	1.0	35.2	13.8
Livestock farms <sup>3</sup> .....	88,736	97.1	100.0	45.0	1.0	35.5	18.5
<b>Southern Corn Belt:</b>							
All commercial farms.....	151,077	96.0	100.0	51.0	1.2	35.4	12.5
Cash-grain farms.....	38,591	94.4	100.0	54.6	1.3	30.9	13.2
Livestock farms <sup>3</sup> .....	68,607	96.4	100.0	52.1	1.1	32.8	13.9

<sup>1</sup> The specified week for which information on farm labor was obtained in the 1954 Census was as follows for the States included or partly included in the Corn Belt: September 26-October 2 for Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, and Kentucky; October 24-30 for Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, and Missouri.

<sup>2</sup> Total of farms reporting hired workers and family workers and farms reporting hired workers only.

<sup>3</sup> Livestock other than dairy and poultry farms.

of the farms in the different regions of the Corn Belt reported operators only, with no family or hired workers. This percentage was highest in the Southern Corn Belt and lowest in the Northern Corn Belt. It was higher on cash-grain farms than on livestock farms. Operator and family workers only, with no hired workers, were reported on 34 percent of the farms. Only 18 percent of all the commercial farms reported hired workers, but this percentage ranged from about 24 percent on cash-grain farms in the Central Corn Belt down to 13 percent on cash-grain farms in the Southern Corn Belt.

The number of farms reporting expenditures for hired labor is greater than the number of farms reporting hired workers in the specified week of September or October. This is so because expenditures were reported for labor even if the labor were used for a very short time. The average number of hired workers during the specified week was approximately the same as the average number for the year in the Corn Belt States.

The proportion of farms reporting different kinds and combinations of farmworkers is related to economic class or size of farm (table 48). For example, only 13.2 percent of the Class I cash-grain farms reported operator labor only, but 70.5 percent of these farms reported hired workers. At the other extreme, 77.1 percent of Class VI cash-grain farms reported operator labor only, while only 2.8 percent reported hired workers. The largest percentages of farms reporting operator and family workers only were found in Classes II, III, and IV among both cash-grain and livestock farms. These are, in general, the most typical sizes and types of farms in the Corn Belt.

In order to make an estimate of the total quantity of labor on the various types and sizes of farms it is necessary to use a common denominator for the different kinds of labor. All labor reported was therefore converted to man-equivalents. A man-equivalent is taken to be an average full-time mature worker, or the equivalent of a man working full time for a year.

The total number of farm operators is the same as the number of farms. In converting the number of operators to man-equivalents, adjustments were made for the estimated man-years of work

TABLE 48.—NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF COMMERCIAL FARMS, BY KIND OF FARM WORKERS, BY TYPE AND ECONOMIC CLASS OF FARM, IN THE CORN BELT, IN SPECIFIED WEEK: 1954<sup>1</sup>

Type and economic class of farm	Farms reporting family and/or hired workers		Percentage distribution of farms reporting—				
	Farms reporting	Percent of all farms	Family and/or hired workers	Operator only	Unpaid family workers only	Operator and family workers only	Hired workers <sup>2</sup>
All commercial farms.....	761,668	95.5	100.0	46.8	1.2	34.1	17.9
<b>Cash-grain farms:</b>							
Total.....	247,924	93.7	100.0	50.8	1.2	30.0	18.0
Class I.....	6,381	98.2	100.0	13.2	0.5	15.8	70.5
II.....	60,101	96.9	100.0	37.0	1.0	29.7	32.4
III.....	85,871	95.3	100.0	49.9	1.1	33.9	15.1
IV.....	57,170	92.1	100.0	58.7	1.4	30.4	9.6
V.....	29,997	88.4	100.0	66.9	1.6	25.3	6.2
VI.....	8,404	84.5	100.0	77.1	1.2	18.9	2.8
<b>Livestock farms:<sup>3</sup></b>							
Total.....	315,891	96.7	100.0	46.1	1.1	33.0	19.8
Class I.....	22,481	99.0	100.0	18.7	0.6	17.5	63.3
II.....	82,089	98.2	100.0	36.8	0.7	32.8	29.7
III.....	92,167	97.5	100.0	45.6	1.1	37.7	15.0
IV.....	64,321	96.0	100.0	51.4	1.2	36.8	10.6
V.....	37,621	94.1	100.0	62.2	1.7	29.8	6.3
VI.....	17,212	91.2	100.0	73.7	1.4	21.7	3.2

<sup>1</sup> The specified week for which information on farm labor was obtained in the 1954 Census was as follows for the States included or partly included in the Corn Belt: September 26-October 2 for Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, and Kentucky; October 24-30 for Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, and Missouri.

<sup>2</sup> Total of farms reporting hired workers and family workers and farms reporting hired workers only.

<sup>3</sup> Livestock other than dairy and poultry farms.