

off the farm and for work done by operators 65 years old and over. A farm operator was counted as a full man-equivalent unless he was 65 years old or over or unless he did some off-farm work in 1954. Farm operators 65 years of age and over were counted as 0.5 man-equivalent. Operators reporting specified amounts of off-farm work were converted to man-equivalents as follows:

Days work off the farm	Man-equivalent
1 to 99 days.....	0.85
100 to 199 days.....	.50
200 days or more.....	.15

Unpaid family workers, according to the Census, were members of the operator's family who did 15 or more hours of work on the farm during the week of September 26 to October 2 or during the week of October 24 to October 30, without receiving cash wages (see table 47, footnote 1). Each unpaid family worker reported by the Census was counted as 0.5 man-equivalent in the present study. This adjustment to man-equivalents takes into account the usually large proportion of women, children, and elderly persons in the unpaid family labor force.

The number of man-equivalents of hired workers was computed from the expenditure for hired wages reported in the Census. A composite average annual wage rate was determined for each economic subregion. In the Corn Belt the wage rates ranged from about \$1,600 to \$2,200. The total expenditure for hired labor in each subregion was divided by the estimated average annual wage rate in the subregion to obtain the man-equivalent number of hired workers.

The average quantity of all labor per commercial farm in the Corn Belt in 1954 was 1.3 man-equivalents. This amounts to the same as one man working full time at farmwork for a year and a second man working for about a third of the year. Most of the labor used was that of the farm operator (table 49). The labor of operators amounted to an average of 0.8 of a man-equivalent per farm, while the labor of unpaid family workers and of hired workers averaged 0.3 and 0.2 man-equivalents, respectively.

On the average, farm operators accounted for about two-thirds of all the labor resources on commercial farms in the Corn Belt in 1954. Unpaid members of the operator's family accounted for about a fourth, and hired workers for about a sixth of the work. The average quantity of total labor used per farm did not differ greatly between regions and types of farms in the Corn Belt. But it was highest on livestock farms in the Northern Corn Belt and lowest on cash-grain farms in the Eastern Corn Belt. Hired labor did not average more than 0.2 man-equivalent per farm in any region of the Corn Belt.

Large farms had more labor of all kinds than did small farms. The average quantity of total labor per commercial farm ranged from 2.4 man-equivalents on Class I cash-grain farms down to 0.8 man-equivalent on Class V and Class VI cash-grain farms and livestock farms (table 50). Classes IV, V, and VI farms had less operator labor as well as less unpaid family and hired labor per farm than that on Classes I, II, and III farms. Only on the large Class I farms did hired labor account for as much as half the labor used. On Class I cash-grain farms, hired labor averaged 1.2 man-equivalents per farm. On Classes IV, V, and VI farms, the quantity of hired labor was very small.

The factor 0.5 as a man-equivalent for unpaid family labor may be somewhat low. This may be especially true on farms where work is relatively light or highly mechanized. For jobs that are done by machine, a boy or girl or an elderly person can often accomplish practically as much as a man in the prime of life. The younger person generally requires more supervision than a mature person who is experienced. But many of the jobs on the farm are routine or mechanized, for example, feeding livestock, other livestock chores, milking cows, driving a tractor for plowing or cultivating, or hauling produce to market by automobile or

truck. It is believed, therefore, that the computed man-equivalent of unpaid family labor used in this study is rather conservative and that family labor is relatively even more important compared with hired labor than indicated by the data in tables 49 and 50. However, even if factors as much as a third larger had been used for unpaid family labor and for operators of age 65 and over, the estimated total labor per farm would have been increased by less than 0.2 of a man-equivalent. From the standpoint of labor used, it is clear that the typical farm in the Corn Belt is the family-sized farm.

TABLE 49.—LABOR FORCE OF FARM WORKERS EXPRESSED IN TERMS OF AVERAGE NUMBER OF MAN-EQUIVALENTS PER FARM, BY TYPE OF FARM, IN THE CORN BELT AND COMPONENT REGIONS: 1954

Region and type of farm	Average number of man-equivalents per farm			
	Total labor	Operator labor	Unpaid family labor	Hired labor
Total Corn Belt:				
All commercial farms.....	1.3	0.8	0.3	0.2
Cash-grain farms.....	1.2	0.8	0.3	0.1
Livestock farms ¹	1.3	0.8	0.3	0.2
Eastern Corn Belt:				
All commercial farms.....	1.2	0.7	0.3	0.2
Cash-grain farms.....	1.0	0.7	0.2	0.1
Livestock farms ¹	1.1	0.7	0.2	0.2
Central Corn Belt:				
All commercial farms.....	1.3	0.8	0.3	0.2
Cash-grain farms.....	1.2	0.8	0.2	0.2
Livestock farms ¹	1.3	0.8	0.3	0.2
Northern Corn Belt:				
All commercial farms.....	1.4	0.8	0.4	0.2
Cash-grain farms.....	1.2	0.8	0.3	0.1
Livestock farms ¹	1.5	0.9	0.4	0.2
Western Corn Belt:				
All commercial farms.....	1.3	0.8	0.3	0.2
Cash-grain farms.....	1.2	0.8	0.3	0.1
Livestock farms ¹	1.3	0.8	0.3	0.2
Southern Corn Belt:				
All commercial farms.....	1.2	0.8	0.3	0.1
Cash-grain farms.....	1.1	0.8	0.2	0.1
Livestock farms ¹	1.2	0.8	0.3	0.1

¹ Livestock other than dairy and poultry farms.

TABLE 50.—LABOR FORCE OF FARM WORKERS, EXPRESSED IN TERMS OF AVERAGE NUMBER OF MAN-EQUIVALENTS PER FARM, BY TYPE AND ECONOMIC CLASS OF FARM, IN THE CORN BELT: 1954

Type and economic class of farm	Average number of man-equivalents per farm			
	Total labor	Operator labor	Unpaid family labor	Hired labor
All commercial farms.....	1.3	0.8	0.3	0.2
Cash-grain farms:				
Total.....	1.2	0.8	0.3	0.1
Class I.....	2.4	0.9	0.3	1.2
II.....	1.4	0.9	0.3	0.2
III.....	1.2	0.8	0.3	0.1
IV.....	1.0	0.7	0.2	(Z)
V.....	0.8	0.6	0.2	(Z)
VI.....	0.8	0.7	0.1	(Z)
Livestock farms:¹				
Total.....	1.3	0.8	0.3	0.2
Class I.....	2.3	0.9	0.3	1.1
II.....	1.5	0.9	0.3	0.3
III.....	1.3	0.9	0.3	0.1
IV.....	1.2	0.8	0.3	0.1
V.....	0.8	0.6	0.2	(Z)
VI.....	0.8	0.7	0.1	(Z)

Z 0.05 percent or less.

¹ Livestock other than dairy and poultry farms.