

Wheat was produced on slightly more than a third of all the commercial farms in the Corn Belt. Most of this is winter wheat. Soft red winter wheat is the kind most generally grown in the Eastern and Southern Corn Belt and hard red winter wheat is grown mainly in the Central and Western Corn Belt. The range in percentage of farms reporting wheat was from 4.6 percent of the livestock farms in the Northern Corn Belt to 73.1 percent of the cash-grain farms in the Eastern Corn Belt. Wheat was a relatively unimportant small grain in comparison with oats in the Northern Corn Belt, but in the Eastern Corn Belt wheat was produced on more farms than was oats. The Northern Corn Belt is not well adapted to production of winter wheat, because of frequent losses from winter killing. On the other hand, this area is not as well adapted to spring wheat as the area to the northwest of the Corn Belt.

Barley was grown on relatively few farms, especially in the Central Corn Belt. In the Northern Corn Belt, which is the part best adapted to production of malting barley, 13.2 percent of the cash-grain farmers reported growing barley in 1954.

Rye was grown for grain on only 4.3 percent of the commercial farms and mainly in the eastern, southern, and western portions of the Corn Belt. On some additional farms rye was grown as a winter cover crop or for fall and spring pasture.

Flax was an important cash crop in the extreme northwestern part of the Corn Belt, particularly in Economic Subregion 87, in Minnesota and South Dakota. In this part of the Northern Corn Belt, flaxseed threshed or combined was reported in 1954 on more than half the farms in about a dozen counties.

Only 4.1 percent of the commercial farmers in the Corn Belt reported red clover seed harvested in 1954. The number of Corn Belt farmers producing red clover seed has declined as competition with seed producers in other parts of the country has increased. However, 9 percent of the cash-grain farms in the Eastern Corn Belt and 6.4 percent of the cash-grain farms in the Southern Corn Belt reported red clover seed harvested.

Irish potatoes were reported on a fifth of the commercial farms in the Corn Belt in 1954. Most of the potatoes grown in the Corn Belt are for household use on the farms where grown. Twenty years ago, more than half the farmers produced some potatoes for home use or for sale. During the last 20 years, potato production has become increasingly concentrated on farms of specialized growers in a relatively few areas in about a dozen States—all outside of the Corn Belt—while potato production as a small enterprise has been discontinued on a large proportion of farms throughout the country. Only in the Southern Corn Belt

did more than 25 percent of the farmers report potatoes harvested for home use or for sale, in 1954.

Vegetable production for sale was reported on only 2.1 percent of all the commercial farms in the Corn Belt. Sweet corn, tomatoes, watermelons, and green peas are some of the leading vegetable crops in terms of acreage and value of production. Farms reporting vegetables harvested for sale were relatively most numerous in the Eastern and Northern Corn Belt.

Land in fruit orchards, vineyards, and nut trees was reported on 5.2 percent of the commercial farms, not including those that had less than 20 trees or grapevines. Farmers reporting this item were found in small numbers throughout the Corn Belt, but were relatively fewest on cash-grain farms in all regions. The principal fruits grown were apples, grapes, peaches, pears, cherries, and plums. The principal nut trees were black walnuts and pecans.

On both the cash-grain and livestock farms larger percentages of the Classes I, II, and III farms than of the Classes IV, V, and VI farms produced corn for grain, soybeans for beans, and wheat, oats, barley, and rye for grain (table 52). In general, the percentage of farms reporting these crops declines from class to class as we go from Class I farms to Class VI farms. On cash-grain farms, corn harvested for grain was reported on 98.9 percent of the Class I farms, but on only 81.2 percent of the Class VI farms. On livestock farms, corn for grain was reported on 94.5 percent of the Class I farms and on only 48.8 percent of the Class VI farms. Only 34.5 percent of the Class VI cash-grain farms grew soybeans for beans and only 22.7 percent of the Class VI livestock farms grew oats for grain.

The relatively small proportions of Class V and Class VI farms reporting corn and other principal crops can be explained largely by the land-use pattern on these smaller income classes of farms. As shown above (table 27), these farms had a significantly smaller proportion of their total farm acreage in cropland harvested and a larger proportion in cropland used only for pasture, cropland neither harvested nor pastured, woodland pastured, and pasture other than cropland or woodland than was the case for the larger income classes of farms.

Soybeans cut for hay were reported on larger percentages of the Classes IV, V, and VI farms than of the Classes I, II, and III farms. This may have been related to the presence more frequently on the smaller farms of small tracts of cropland that are relatively inconvenient for combining or other grain harvesting operations. In other cases it may reflect a more frequent occurrence on small farms of insufficient quantities of perennial or biennial legume hays, such as alfalfa and clover.

TABLE 52.—PERCENT OF FARMS REPORTING SPECIFIED CROPS, BY ECONOMIC CLASS OF FARM, IN THE CORN BELT: 1954

Type and economic class of farm	Corn harvested for grain	Soybeans harvested for beans	Wheat threshed or combined	Oats threshed or combined	Barley threshed or combined	Rye threshed or combined	Soybeans cut for hay	Red clover seed harvested	Irish potatoes harvested	Vegetables harvested for sale	Land in fruit orchards, etc. <sup>1</sup>
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
All commercial farms.....	87.6	41.2	35.6	72.4	5.6	4.3	2.0	4.1	20.0	2.1	5.2
Cash-grain farms:											
Total.....	95.2	65.5	50.1	72.2	5.4	5.1	1.8	4.8	15.0	2.1	3.6
Class I.....	98.9	86.5	64.7	80.7	5.6	9.4	0.8	5.7	7.5	5.0	4.8
II.....	98.6	80.6	50.1	83.6	5.7	5.4	1.0	6.3	10.5	3.1	3.5
III.....	97.2	68.5	50.7	79.6	6.0	5.4	1.5	5.4	15.0	1.9	3.3
IV.....	94.4	57.5	52.7	67.7	5.4	4.8	2.1	4.4	16.9	1.4	3.8
V.....	88.2	49.3	47.1	49.8	4.0	4.6	3.1	2.6	18.9	1.6	3.8
VI.....	81.2	34.5	29.1	34.0	1.8	2.9	3.5	0.7	22.6	1.6	3.5
Livestock farms: <sup>2</sup>											
Total.....	85.8	26.8	24.9	74.8	5.2	3.8	1.4	3.5	21.4	1.0	5.5
Class I.....	94.5	36.2	29.4	86.3	6.7	5.3	0.4	3.7	11.0	2.3	5.5
II.....	95.7	38.2	28.8	89.6	6.2	4.2	0.7	4.6	16.2	1.2	5.3
III.....	92.8	29.2	28.0	85.0	5.9	4.2	1.1	4.2	21.7	0.8	5.3
IV.....	82.8	20.6	24.5	70.2	4.9	3.6	1.9	3.0	24.9	0.6	5.8
V.....	65.9	11.9	16.0	45.2	3.0	2.9	2.8	1.5	26.7	0.8	6.2
VI.....	48.8	6.2	6.7	22.7	1.3	1.4	3.1	0.5	31.6	0.7	5.5

<sup>1</sup> Land in bearing and nonbearing fruit orchards, groves, vineyards, and planted nut trees.

<sup>2</sup> Livestock other than dairy and poultry farms.