

The average yields per acre harvested for grain in 1954 for the 4 principal crops on all commercial farms in the Corn Belt were as follows: Corn, 46.6 bushels; soybeans, 22.1 bushels; wheat, 25.3 bushels; and oats, 36.3 bushels (table 58). The largest yields of corn were obtained in the Central Corn Belt (57.4 bushels), but yields in the Eastern and Northern Corn Belt were almost as high. Corn yields averaged only 27.2 bushels in the Southern Corn Belt, or less than half of those in the Central, Eastern, and Northern Corn Belt.

TABLE 58.—AVERAGE YIELD PER ACRE HARVESTED OF PRINCIPAL CROPS, BY TYPE OF FARM IN THE CORN BELT AND COMPONENT REGIONS: 1954

Region and type of farm	Corn harvested for grain	Soybeans harvested for beans	Wheat threshed or combined	Oats threshed or combined
Total Corn Belt:	<i>Bushels</i>	<i>Bushels</i>	<i>Bushels</i>	<i>Bushels</i>
All commercial farms.....	46.6	22.1	25.3	36.3
Cash-grain farms.....	46.1	22.5	25.2	35.4
Livestock farms ¹	47.4	22.3	25.4	37.0
Eastern Corn Belt:				
All commercial farms.....	57.2	23.8	28.9	43.6
Cash-grain farms.....	56.0	23.6	29.1	43.0
Livestock farms ¹	59.4	24.5	29.2	45.5
Central Corn Belt:				
All commercial farms.....	57.4	26.2	31.0	38.9
Cash-grain farms.....	56.0	26.1	31.5	37.4
Livestock farms ¹	59.5	26.8	29.4	40.8
Northern Corn Belt:				
All commercial farms.....	57.1	21.4	11.3	37.6
Cash-grain farms.....	53.6	21.4	11.0	35.6
Livestock farms ¹	60.4	21.8	12.2	38.7
Western Corn Belt:				
All commercial farms.....	34.1	23.3	20.5	30.7
Cash-grain farms.....	32.8	22.8	20.7	29.4
Livestock farms ¹	35.8	24.3	20.1	31.8
Southern Corn Belt:				
All commercial farms.....	27.2	14.8	29.1	36.0
Cash-grain farms.....	27.1	15.2	29.8	35.3
Livestock farms ¹	28.9	15.5	28.6	36.7

¹ Livestock other than dairy and poultry farms.

Yields of soybeans and wheat also were highest in the Central Corn Belt. The lowest average yield of soybeans was in the Southern Corn Belt (14.8 bushels), and the lowest average yield of wheat was in the Northern Corn Belt (11.3 bushels). The average yield of oats was highest in the Eastern Corn Belt (43.6 bushels), and lowest in the Western Corn Belt (30.7 bushels).

In every region of the Corn Belt the average yields of corn, soybeans, and oats were higher on livestock farms than on cash-grain farms in the respective regions. This appears to reflect a generally higher level of fertility of soils on livestock farms, brought about by the more frequent use of legumes and meadow crops in crop rotations, and by larger and more regular applications of livestock manure.

Yields of wheat averaged slightly higher on livestock farms than on cash-grain farms in the Corn Belt as a whole, but wheat yields were higher on cash-grain farms than on livestock farms in the Central, Western, and Southern Corn Belt. This may indicate that on livestock farms in these regions wheat was not given as high a priority among crops in the choice of land as it was given on cash-grain farms.

Yields per acre of the principal crops are strikingly correlated with economic class of farm (table 59). Yields are highest on the Class I farms, somewhat lower (but still above average) on the Class II farms, somewhat below average on the Class III farms, and so on down to the Class VI farms, which had the lowest yields. The higher levels of yield on the economic classes of farms with

larger income, coupled with the larger acreages of the principal crops on these farms, intensify the relative income-producing power of these farms. The higher yields on the larger income economic classes of farms are caused in part by the relatively high level of natural fertility of soils on these farms, but perhaps to a larger extent they are the result of superior management practices, heavier application of fertilizer, and other improved production techniques.

TABLE 59.—AVERAGE YIELD PER ACRE HARVESTED OF PRINCIPAL CROPS, BY TYPE AND 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
	<i>Bushels</i>	<i>Bushels</i>	<i>Bushels</i>	<i>Bushels</i>
All commercial farms.....	46.6	22.1	25.3	36.3
Cash-grain farms:				
Total.....	46.1	22.5	25.2	35.4
Class I.....	59.2	27.8	40.4	44.1
II.....	53.1	25.0	27.0	38.8
III.....	43.2	21.0	24.1	33.9
IV.....	35.9	17.7	22.5	30.6
V.....	31.2	14.6	22.7	29.0
VI.....	25.6	11.5	21.3	27.1
Livestock farms:¹				
Total.....	47.4	22.3	25.4	37.0
Class I.....	58.0	26.7	28.3	44.6
II.....	52.2	23.9	26.8	39.6
III.....	43.7	19.8	24.2	34.5
IV.....	36.4	18.3	22.0	30.8
V.....	30.0	12.6	19.9	29.2
VI.....	25.5	11.2	19.2	27.6

¹ Livestock other than dairy and poultry farms.

CROP SALES

The value of crops sold from commercial farms in the Corn Belt in 1954 was approximately 2.5 billion dollars. This was about a fifth of the total value of crops sold by all commercial farms in the United States that year. Sales of crops accounted for somewhat more than a third of the total value of all farm products sold by commercial farms in the Corn Belt.

Crops contributing the largest share of receipts from crops sold in the Corn Belt are corn, soybeans, wheat, and oats. Sales of corn and oats are made by farmers who grow more of these feed crops than is needed on their farms. Most of the cash-grain farms as well as the livestock farms have some livestock. The average size of herds or flocks is generally smaller on cash-grain farms than on livestock farms. Soybeans for beans are grown as a cash crop on all farms that grow them. Wheat is grown primarily as a cash crop on both livestock and cash-grain farms. Differences between cash-grain and livestock farms as to sales of crops produced are reflected by the percentages of crops sold (table 60).

TABLE 60.—QUANTITY SOLD AS A PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL PRODUCTION, FOR SPECIFIED CROPS IN THE CORN BELT, BY TYPE OF FARM: 1954

Type of farm	Percentage of crops sold						
	Corn	Wheat	Oats	Barley	Rye	Alfalfa hay	Clover-timothy hay ¹
All commercial farms.....	41.5	90.4	25.9	35.3	63.1	10.3	6.4
Cash-grain farms.....	71.5	92.7	49.2	58.1	70.1	16.9	12.2
Livestock farms ²	14.9	87.5	12.4	17.7	67.7	6.3	3.1

¹ Clover, timothy, and mixtures of clover and grasses cut for hay.

² Livestock other than dairy and poultry farms.