

In 1954, 41.5 percent of the corn grown on commercial farms in the Corn Belt was sold. On cash-grain farms the quantity sold was 71.5 percent of the crop produced, but on livestock farms only 14.9 percent of the corn crop was sold. Some of the corn is sold directly to other farmers in the community who need more feed, but most of the sales are made to local elevators and other buyers who, in turn, sell to farmers, terminal market buyers, or to commercial feed mixers. In recent years considerable quantities have been sold to the Government. Eventually, the major portion of all the corn sold is fed to livestock.

An estimated 96 percent of the total crop of soybeans produced on commercial farms in the Corn Belt in 1954 was sold. A small part of the crop was kept for seed on the farms where grown, but a large share of the seed used by farmers is of improved varieties grown by a relatively few certified seed growers and other producers. Less than 1 percent of the soybeans produced in the Corn Belt are fed directly to livestock. By far the largest part of the crop is sold for processing into oil and meal. The major uses of soybean oil are in the production of shortening, margarine, and other edible products; some soybean oil is used in paints and varnishes and other nonfood products. Most of the soybean meal is used for livestock feed. Soybean meal is the leading protein concentrate feed in the United States and large quantities are used on livestock farms in the Corn Belt.

About 90 percent of the wheat produced on commercial farms in the Corn Belt in 1954 was sold. Cash-grain farmers sold 92.7 percent of their production and livestock farmers 87.5 percent. Most of the wheat used for feed in the belt is fed to poultry.

A smaller percentage of the rye than of the wheat produced was sold (63.1 percent), but the difference between types of farms was greater in the case of rye. A relatively large percentage of the rye is kept for seed on the farms where grown, to be used for seeding rye for cover crop, green manure, or supplementary pasture, as well as for grain. About a fourth of the oat crop and a little more than a third of the barley crop were sold. Cash-grain farms sold a larger proportion of their production of these crops than did livestock farms.

Only relatively small percentages of the principal hay crops—alfalfa hay and clover-timothy hay—were sold on either cash-grain or livestock farms, but the percentage sold was larger on the cash-grain farms. This was true also for lespedeza hay, small-grain hay, and other hay.

In 1954, corn accounted for 43.7 percent, soybeans for 25.3 percent, wheat for 16 percent, and oats for 5 percent of the total value of all crops sold on commercial farms in the Corn Belt (table 61). Sales of all other crops accounted for only 10 percent

of the total farm receipts from crops sold. Corn accounted for more than half of the total value of all crops sold in the Central Corn Belt. Also, in the Northern and Western Corn Belt the value of corn sales amounted to almost half of the value of all crops sold. In the Southern Corn Belt, however, sales of soybeans and wheat were relatively greater than sales of corn, on both livestock and cash-grain farms. In the Eastern Corn Belt the value of corn sold was larger than that of either soybeans or wheat on cash-grain farms, but it was less than the value of either soybeans or wheat sold on livestock farms. Sales of oats made up a relatively small percentage of the total value of all crops sold in all regions. Oats were relatively most important as a cash crop in the Northern Corn Belt and relatively least important in the Southern and Eastern Corn Belt. Other crops which accounted for a total of 10 percent of the value of crops sold on all commercial farms were relatively most important in the Northern Corn Belt and relatively least so in the Central Corn Belt.

TABLE 61.—PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF VALUE AMONG CROPS SOLD, BY TYPE OF FARM, IN THE CORN BELT AND COMPONENT REGIONS: 1954

Region and type of farm	Percentage distribution of value of—					
	All crops sold	Corn sold	Soybeans sold	Wheat sold	Oats sold	Other crops sold
Total Corn Belt:						
All commercial farms.....	100.0	43.7	25.3	16.0	5.0	10.0
Cash-grain farms.....	100.0	48.7	26.7	14.7	4.8	5.1
Livestock farms ¹	100.0	36.2	28.1	21.4	6.2	8.1
Eastern Corn Belt:						
All commercial farms.....	100.0	37.7	26.7	20.5	2.7	12.4
Cash-grain farms.....	100.0	47.0	29.5	16.7	3.1	3.7
Livestock farms ¹	100.0	18.3	32.1	39.4	2.4	7.8
Central Corn Belt:						
All commercial farms.....	100.0	54.2	31.7	4.5	5.9	3.7
Cash-grain farms.....	100.0	55.6	32.3	4.9	5.5	1.7
Livestock farms ¹	100.0	50.2	33.9	3.8	7.5	4.6
Northern Corn Belt:						
All commercial farms.....	100.0	48.7	26.6	1.4	8.1	15.2
Cash-grain farms.....	100.0	51.6	27.8	1.5	8.6	10.5
Livestock farms ¹	100.0	46.2	30.5	1.6	8.5	13.2
Western Corn Belt:						
All commercial farms.....	100.0	47.3	8.7	25.7	5.9	12.4
Cash-grain farms.....	100.0	49.7	8.1	27.9	5.0	9.3
Livestock farms ¹	100.0	45.2	12.3	24.6	8.5	9.4
Southern Corn Belt:						
All commercial farms.....	100.0	18.0	34.0	33.2	2.8	12.0
Cash-grain farms.....	100.0	23.9	36.6	30.5	2.7	6.3
Livestock farms ¹	100.0	11.2	37.5	38.9	3.0	9.4

¹ Livestock other than dairy and poultry farms.