

Larger proportions of the farms in the higher economic classes than of the farms in the lower economic classes reported using commercial fertilizer. This was true in the case of each of the crops or groups of crops for which the information was obtained, on both the cash-grain and the livestock farms (table 63). For example, 77.0 percent of the Class I livestock farms reported using commercial fertilizer on corn, compared with 24.7 percent of the Class VI livestock farms.

TABLE 63.—PERCENT OF ALL COMMERCIAL FARMS REPORTING EXPENDITURES FOR COMMERCIAL FERTILIZER AND USE OF COMMERCIAL FERTILIZER ON SPECIFIED CROPS, BY TYPE AND ECONOMIC CLASS OF FARM, IN THE CORN BELT: 1954

Type and economic class of farm	Percent of all commercial farms						
	Farms reporting expenditures for commercial fertilizer and fertilizing material	Farms reporting commercial fertilizer used—					
		On hay and cropland pasture	On other pasture	On corn	On wheat	On fruits, vegetables, and potatoes	On other crops
All commercial farms.....	66.5	12.9	2.9	56.7	(NA)	1.3	(NA)
Cash-grain farms:							
Total.....	68.8	9.9	1.9	59.6	(NA)	1.0	(NA)
Class I.....	88.4	18.5	4.2	81.4	(NA)	2.1	(NA)
II.....	80.9	15.9	2.6	71.7	(NA)	1.3	(NA)
III.....	69.0	10.0	2.0	59.7	(NA)	0.9	(NA)
IV.....	62.2	6.5	1.5	52.9	(NA)	0.7	(NA)
V.....	60.8	5.1	1.2	51.2	(NA)	0.8	(NA)
VI.....	48.0	2.8	0.3	38.3	(NA)	0.9	(NA)
Livestock farms: ¹							
Total.....	65.4	14.5	3.5	55.8	(NA)	0.6	(NA)
Class I.....	84.9	23.6	5.9	77.0	(NA)	1.2	(NA)
II.....	80.2	19.7	4.4	70.6	(NA)	0.7	(NA)
III.....	69.0	14.9	3.6	58.8	(NA)	0.6	(NA)
IV.....	56.8	10.7	2.9	46.5	(NA)	0.5	(NA)
V.....	45.6	8.9	2.3	35.7	(NA)	0.5	(NA)
VI.....	31.0	5.0	1.3	24.7	(NA)	0.5	(NA)

NA Not available.

¹ Livestock other than dairy and poultry farms.

Commercial fertilizer was applied on 30.2 percent of all the cropland on commercial farms in the Corn Belt in 1954 (table 64). The percentage of cropland fertilized was highest in the Eastern Corn Belt (56.5 percent), and lowest in the Western Corn Belt (18.0 percent). There was relatively little difference between cash-grain farms and livestock farms in the percentage of cropland fertilized, except in the Northern Corn Belt where 29 percent of the cropland on livestock farms was fertilized compared with about 19 percent of the cropland on cash-grain farms. (Again, this situation in the Northern Corn Belt reflects the predominance of livestock farms in the eastern part and of cash-grain farms in the western part of the Northern Corn Belt.) Corn acreage accounted for half, or more than half, of the acreage fertilized in every region of the Corn Belt. In the Southern Corn Belt, about half of the acreage fertilized was in corn; in the Central Corn Belt about two-thirds; and in the Northern Corn Belt about three-fourths of the fertilized acreage was in corn. Of the total tonnage of fertilizer used on all crops, the proportion used on corn ranged from 49.3 percent in the Southern Corn Belt to 67.6 percent in the Northern Corn Belt.

In the Corn Belt as a whole only slightly more than half of the corn acreage was fertilized, but this practice differed considerably between regions, ranging from 91.7 percent of the corn acreage on

commercial farms in the Eastern Corn Belt down to 28.8 percent in the Western Corn Belt.

The average quantity of fertilizer applied per acre on corn, on all commercial farms in the Corn Belt, was 208 pounds (table 64). The average quantity applied per acre on all crops was 220 pounds. The quantity of fertilizer applied per acre on corn averaged highest on livestock farms in the Eastern Corn Belt (270 pounds), and lowest on cash-grain farms in the Western Corn Belt (148 pounds). In the Central and Northern Corn Belt, quantities of fertilizer applied per acre on other crops averaged higher than quantities applied on corn; but in the Eastern, Western, and Southern Corn Belt the rate of application on corn was about the same as on other crops.

TABLE 64.—USE OF COMMERCIAL FERTILIZER AND FERTILIZING MATERIAL ON COMMERCIAL FARMS, BY TYPE OF FARM, IN THE CORN BELT AND COMPONENT REGIONS: 1954

Region and type of farm	Total acres fertilized as a percentage of total cropland	Acres of corn fertilized as a percentage of total acres fertilized	Acres of corn fertilized as a percentage of corn acreage for all purposes	Fertilizer used on corn as a percentage of total tons of fertilizer used	Quantity of fertilizer used per acre (pounds)	
					Average for total acres fertilized	Average for corn fertilized
Total Corn Belt:						
All commercial farms.....	30.2	59.1	51.1	56.3	220	208
Cash-grain farms.....	30.5	59.7	51.1	57.9	220	214
Livestock farms ¹	29.4	60.9	49.8	58.3	218	208
Eastern Corn Belt:						
All commercial farms.....	56.5	54.4	91.7	54.2	254	254
Cash-grain farms.....	55.7	55.5	88.5	56.2	244	246
Livestock farms ¹	59.2	55.9	95.6	56.7	266	270
Central Corn Belt:						
All commercial farms.....	26.8	66.7	44.6	59.9	240	214
Cash-grain farms.....	27.6	66.6	45.7	59.9	258	232
Livestock farms ¹	26.4	67.8	44.1	61.2	222	200
Northern Corn Belt:						
All commercial farms.....	24.2	74.8	55.5	67.6	184	166
Cash-grain farms.....	18.6	75.0	45.0	70.7	182	172
Livestock farms ¹	29.0	78.0	63.8	71.4	184	168
Western Corn Belt:						
All commercial farms.....	18.0	58.5	28.8	58.3	158	158
Cash-grain farms.....	17.6	60.2	28.9	61.5	144	148
Livestock farms ¹	18.9	58.7	29.8	58.2	168	166
Southern Corn Belt:						
All commercial farms.....	33.4	50.7	59.4	49.3	212	208
Cash-grain farms.....	35.3	52.0	61.4	51.3	200	196
Livestock farms ¹	31.7	52.1	57.3	51.1	228	224

¹ Livestock other than dairy and poultry farms.

As with the percentage of farms reporting, the percentage of total cropland fertilized declines as we go from Class I to Class VI farms (table 65). Commercial fertilizer was used on 43.3 percent of the cropland on Class I cash-grain farms but on only 21.5 percent of the cropland on Class VI cash-grain farms. Corn represented close to two-thirds of the total acreage fertilized on all economic classes of farms. But the three lower economic classes fertilized a smaller proportion of their corn acreage than did the three higher economic classes. Also, in general, the quantities of fertilizer used per acre on corn and other crops were smaller on the lower economic classes of farms. For example, the average rate of application on corn was 186 pounds on Class VI livestock farms, compared with 242 pounds on Class I livestock farms.