

TABLE 84.—PERCENT OF COMMERCIAL FARMS REPORTING SPECIFIED EXPENDITURES, IN THE CORN BELT: 1954

Type and economic class of farm	Specified farm expenditures					
	Machine hire	Hired labor	Feed	Gasoline and oil	Commercial fertilizer	Lime and liming material
All commercial farms.....	Percent 69.7	Percent 51.8	Percent 89.2	Percent 92.2	Percent 66.5	Percent 19.0
Cash-grain farms:						
Total.....	69.7	49.8	78.4	95.1	68.8	17.8
Class I.....	67.0	38.8	84.1	97.5	88.4	34.7
II.....	70.7	68.8	86.3	97.8	80.9	23.8
III.....	71.1	52.0	83.7	97.4	69.0	17.0
IV.....	69.7	39.6	74.4	95.2	62.2	14.8
V.....	68.2	29.5	63.3	89.6	60.8	13.9
VI.....	58.9	18.2	64.8	74.6	48.0	9.7
Livestock farms: ¹						
Total.....	70.3	56.0	95.7	91.8	65.4	20.9
Class I.....	70.6	87.0	98.3	98.0	84.9	30.9
II.....	73.0	70.8	97.7	97.6	80.2	25.9
III.....	74.1	57.4	96.9	96.8	69.0	21.4
IV.....	71.8	47.6	95.2	91.8	56.8	17.6
V.....	64.2	34.7	91.8	70.7	45.6	14.2
VI.....	45.6	21.6	87.5	59.9	31.0	9.7

¹ Livestock other than dairy and poultry farms.

Feed was the largest item of expenditure per commercial farm reporting (table 85). This was true for all commercial farms and for practically every economic class of cash-grain and livestock farms. Among the 89.2 percent of the commercial farms buying feed, the average expenditure for feed in 1954 was \$1,510. On cash-grain farms, this expenditure averaged \$2,134 on Class I farms, \$1,120 on Class II farms, \$696 on Class III farms, and \$193 on Class VI farms. On livestock farms the average expenditure for feed, by the 95.7 percent of the farmers who reported this expenditure, was \$2,117. On Class I livestock farms the average amount spent for feed was \$9,458. From this rather tidy sum, the average expenditures ranged downward to \$2,855 on Class II farms, and to \$293 on Class VI farms. A large part of the expenditure for feed by farmers in the Corn Belt is for oil meal, such as soybean meal or linseed meal, and for commercially mixed feeds, such as pig starter and poultry laying mash.

TABLE 85.—AVERAGE EXPENDITURE PER COMMERCIAL FARM REPORTING EACH SPECIFIED EXPENSE IN THE CORN BELT: 1954

Type and economic class of farm	Specified farm expenditures (dollars)					
	Machine hire	Hired labor	Feed	Gasoline and oil	Commercial fertilizer	Lime and liming materials
All commercial farms.....	242	575	1,510	525	489	165
Cash-grain farms:						
Total.....	251	475	725	574	552	188
Class I.....	575	2,474	2,134	1,712	2,192	427
II.....	325	663	1,120	868	840	233
III.....	253	289	696	570	465	175
IV.....	208	195	416	381	308	133
V.....	159	144	279	240	211	103
VI.....	109	95	193	157	134	88
Livestock farms: ¹						
Total.....	250	609	2,117	526	498	168
Class I.....	456	2,166	9,458	1,175	1,286	325
II.....	301	680	2,855	688	616	195
III.....	245	334	1,490	490	390	144
IV.....	202	237	893	353	273	111
V.....	154	104	529	230	199	100
VI.....	108	120	293	153	147	92

¹ Livestock other than dairy and poultry farms.

Hired labor was the second largest expenditure per farm reporting. Only about half the farms used hired labor, but on farms where it was used, it was generally a substantial expense. Hired labor was used to the largest extent on the larger farms. On Class I cash-grain farms, the average wage bill per farm reporting was \$2,474, and on Class I livestock farms it was \$2,166. On Class II and smaller farms, however, the average expenditure for hired labor was one of the smallest expenditure items reported.

Gasoline and oil constituted the third largest item of expenditure per farm reporting. This item averaged \$574 on cash-grain farms and \$526 on livestock farms. The range in size of the gasoline and oil bill per farm reporting among cash-grain farms was from \$157 on Class VI farms up to \$1,712 on Class I farms. Class for class, the average expenditure for gas and oil was smaller on livestock farms than on cash-grain farms.

The average expenditure for commercial fertilizer per farm reporting ranged from \$2,192 down to \$134 on the economic classes of cash-grain farms, and from \$1,286 down to \$147 on the economic classes of livestock farms. Expenditures for lime and liming material averaged smaller than any other specified expenses reported. The range on cash-grain farms was from \$427 on Class I farms to \$88 on Class VI farms.

The average bill for machine hire among the 69.7 percent of the farmers who reported this item was \$242. The size of this expenditure ran slightly lower on the livestock farms than it did on the corresponding classes of cash-grain farms.

The total amount of the 6 specified expenses on all commercial farms in the Corn Belt in 1954 was 2.1 billion dollars (table 86). About half of this was spent by livestock farmers, and about a fourth by cash-grain farmers. More than half of the expenditures among both cash-grain and livestock farms were made by the Class II and Class III farms. Expenditures for feed reached almost 1.1 billion dollars, or approximately half of the total specified expenditures. On cash-grain farms, the expenditure for feed was only slightly greater than the expenditure for gasoline and oil, but on livestock farms the expenditure for feed was relatively much greater. On all economic classes of farms except Class I, the total expense for commercial fertilizer was greater than the total expense for hired labor.

TABLE 86.—TOTAL SPECIFIED EXPENDITURES ON COMMERCIAL FARMS IN THE CORN BELT: 1954

Type and economic class of farm	Specified farm expenditures (thousand dollars)						
	Total	Machine hire	Hired labor	Feed	Gasoline and oil	Commercial fertilizer	Lime and liming material
All commercial farms.....	2,115,745	134,543	237,679	1,073,633	385,652	259,213	26,026
Cash-grain farms:							
Total.....	513,060	46,254	62,471	150,381	144,570	100,621	8,862
Class I.....	52,824	2,506	14,264	11,669	10,851	12,582	963
II.....	200,643	14,250	28,272	59,937	52,645	42,111	3,428
III.....	163,906	16,196	13,531	52,505	50,068	28,928	2,678
IV.....	68,643	8,986	4,785	19,232	22,524	11,896	1,222
V.....	23,289	3,682	1,447	5,995	7,313	4,366	486
VI.....	3,755	636	173	1,064	1,168	640	85
Livestock farms: ¹							
Total.....	1,106,354	67,446	111,498	661,732	157,793	106,420	11,464
Class I.....	314,408	7,321	42,812	211,060	26,144	24,801	2,281
II.....	393,190	18,342	40,249	233,017	56,054	41,301	4,227
III.....	244,907	17,108	18,120	136,464	44,804	25,443	2,908
IV.....	107,655	9,721	7,551	56,946	21,739	10,388	1,310
V.....	37,167	3,964	2,279	19,408	7,322	3,625	569
VI.....	9,027	930	488	4,848	1,731	862	169

¹ Livestock other than dairy and poultry farms.