

The relative importance or magnitude of different items among the specified expenses was not the same on all economic classes of farms. Among cash-grain farms, the item accounting for the largest percentage of the total specified expenses was hired labor on Class I farms, feed on Class II and Class III farms, and gasoline and oil on Classes IV, V, and VI farms (table 87). Among livestock farms, feed accounted for the largest percentage of the specified expenditures on all economic classes of farms. Expenditures for machine hire and for fuel were larger percentages of the total on the lower economic classes than on the higher economic classes of farms, while expenditures for hired labor were larger percentages of the total on the higher economic classes.

TABLE 87.—PERCENTAGE COMPOSITION OF TOTAL SPECIFIED EXPENDITURES ON COMMERCIAL FARMS, BY ECONOMIC CLASS, IN THE CORN BELT: 1954

Type and economic class of farm	Percentage composition of specified farm expenditures						
	Total	Machine hire	Hired labor	Feed	Gasoline and oil	Commercial fertilizer	Lime and liming material
All commercial farms.....	100.0	6.4	11.2	50.7	18.2	12.3	1.2
Cash-grain farms:							
Total.....	100.0	9.0	12.2	29.3	28.2	19.6	1.7
Class I.....	100.0	4.7	27.0	22.1	20.5	23.8	1.8
II.....	100.0	7.1	14.1	29.9	26.2	21.0	1.7
III.....	100.0	9.9	8.3	32.0	30.5	17.6	1.6
IV.....	100.0	13.1	7.0	28.0	32.8	17.3	1.8
V.....	100.0	15.8	6.2	25.7	31.4	18.7	2.1
VI.....	100.0	16.9	4.6	28.1	31.1	17.0	2.3
Livestock farms: ¹							
Total.....	100.0	5.2	10.1	59.8	14.3	9.6	1.0
Class I.....	100.0	2.3	13.6	67.1	8.3	7.9	0.7
II.....	100.0	4.7	10.2	59.3	14.3	10.5	1.1
III.....	100.0	7.0	7.4	55.7	18.3	10.4	1.2
IV.....	100.0	9.0	7.0	52.9	20.2	9.6	1.2
V.....	100.0	10.7	6.1	52.2	19.7	9.8	1.5
VI.....	100.0	10.3	5.4	53.7	19.2	9.5	1.9

¹ Livestock other than dairy and poultry farms.

The total specified expenditures per commercial farm in 1954 are shown by economic class of farm for each region of the Corn Belt in table 88. The average for all commercial farms was \$2,654. The largest average expenditure per commercial farm for the specified items was in the Central Corn Belt (\$3,230). The Western Corn Belt ranked second with an average total expenditure per farm of \$2,703. The largest average expenditure for any group of farms was \$16,324 on Class I farms in the Southern Corn Belt. Average expenditures on Class II and Class III farms, which are rather typical of much of the Corn Belt, were between \$1,700 and \$3,800 for cash-grain farms in the various regions, and between \$2,300 and \$5,400 for livestock farms.

TABLE 88.—AVERAGE OF TOTAL SPECIFIED EXPENDITURES PER COMMERCIAL FARM IN THE CORN BELT AND COMPONENT REGIONS: 1954

Type and economic class of farm	Corn Belt, total	Eastern Corn Belt	Central Corn Belt	Northern Corn Belt	Western Corn Belt	Southern Corn Belt
	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars
All commercial farms.....	2,654	2,582	3,230	2,597	2,703	2,101
Cash-grain farms:						
Total.....	1,939	1,927	2,372	1,881	1,696	1,621
Class I.....	8,132	9,407	7,608	7,339	7,559	9,284
II.....	3,236	3,489	3,136	3,097	3,051	3,711
III.....	1,819	1,935	1,754	1,749	1,705	2,051
IV.....	1,106	1,098	1,053	1,076	1,047	1,261
V.....	686	654	647	612	666	775
VI.....	378	326	392	348	341	436
Livestock farms: ¹						
Total.....	3,387	3,412	4,125	3,161	3,593	2,484
Class I.....	13,846	13,647	12,238	11,347	16,177	16,324
II.....	4,708	5,068	4,606	4,143	4,638	5,365
III.....	2,591	2,766	2,623	2,352	2,603	2,759
IV.....	1,607	1,647	1,683	1,516	1,688	1,602
V.....	929	892	923	890	943	948
VI.....	478	478	461	456	516	466

¹ Livestock other than dairy and poultry farms.

Information was not obtained in the 1954 Census on expenditures for livestock and poultry purchased. This expense item is relatively important on many Corn Belt farms, especially on those farms where feeder cattle and feeder sheep are sizable enterprises. Information obtained on this item in the 1950 Census showed that it was somewhat larger than the expenditures for feed purchased in the Corn Belt as a whole. The distribution of expenditures for livestock and poultry bought on farms in the United States in 1949 is shown in figure 36. The concentration of expenditures for livestock purchases was relatively heavy in the Corn Belt, and especially in parts of the Western and Central Corn Belt.

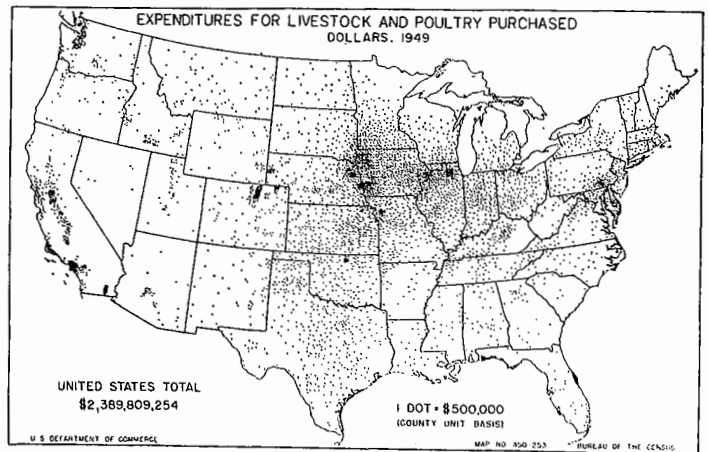


FIGURE 36.