

TABLE 12.—SPECIFIED FARMS AND FARM-OPERATOR CHARACTERISTICS, BY TYPE AND BY ECONOMIC CLASS FOR COMMERCIAL FARMS, FOR THE UNITED STATES: 1950 AND 1954

Economic class and type of farm	Median age of operator (years)	Owners, part-owners, and managers (percent)	Working off farm 100 days or more (percent)	Other income greater than farm sales (percent)	Residing on farm operated—percent total residence (percent)	Farms reporting	
						Tractors, excluding garden (percent)	Tractors with no horses or mules (percent)
<b>Commercial farms by economic class:</b>							
All commercial farms.....1950.....	47.6	69.1	9.1	9.1	95.2	57.9	27.4
.....1954.....	49.0	71.2	13.0	10.8	93.8	71.1	45.3
Class I.....1950.....	46.1	81.7	8.1	4.0	84.0	84.8	38.3
.....1954.....	45.6	77.8	7.8	4.6	84.5	91.0	54.5
Class II.....1950.....	45.2	71.3	6.3	4.2	93.5	88.2	43.8
.....1954.....	45.2	69.5	7.4	4.4	93.0	92.4	62.8
Class III.....1950.....	45.5	70.3	7.0	5.3	95.5	85.0	39.5
.....1954.....	46.5	70.6	10.2	6.4	94.4	89.3	59.3
Class IV.....1950.....	46.9	70.0	11.0	10.2	95.5	67.9	30.8
.....1954.....	48.5	70.4	16.2	12.6	94.2	76.0	47.1
Class V.....1950.....	47.9	67.1	17.4	20.7	95.6	41.9	20.7
.....1954.....	50.3	69.9	24.4	24.3	93.0	56.3	34.4
Class VI.....1950.....	53.3	68.4			96.5	18.5	9.3
.....1954.....	58.0	75.2			95.4	32.4	18.8
<b>Commercial farms by type:</b>							
Cash-grain.....1950.....	44.1	62.2	9.8	7.2	88.4	85.2	51.2
.....1954.....	47.3	67.2	14.6	10.4	89.0	91.8	69.7
Cotton.....1950.....	44.7	38.3	5.4	6.0	96.3	30.8	16.3
.....1954.....	47.3	40.7	7.9	6.3	94.5	41.6	25.7
Other field-crop.....1950.....	44.2	53.3	5.8	6.1	96.4	28.2	9.8
.....1954.....	46.2	56.6	8.4	6.5	94.8	44.0	17.9
Vegetable.....1950.....	48.6	78.5	11.5	11.1	90.4	56.9	38.9
.....1954.....	50.3	82.9	15.2	13.7	87.8	74.9	55.2
Fruit-and-nut.....1950.....	54.0	93.9	21.5	19.8	87.6	59.2	48.1
.....1954.....	54.8	95.7	27.7	26.1	84.5	65.7	55.1
Dairy.....1950.....	48.7	85.0	10.2	9.3	98.0	71.5	31.5
.....1954.....	49.0	86.4	14.0	10.1	97.7	85.4	55.9
Poultry.....1950.....	54.4	92.7	18.2	21.6	97.7	35.8	29.0
.....1954.....	53.9	93.6	24.1	23.3	97.1	46.9	35.8
Livestock other than dairy and poultry.....1950.....	49.7	78.9	9.5	9.8	94.8	67.8	24.1
.....1954.....	51.0	80.4	13.4	12.4	93.1	80.6	44.7
<b>General:</b>							
Primarily crop.....1950.....	47.1	71.5	9.6	10.4	93.2	57.4	27.3
.....1954.....	49.2	75.4	15.8	14.9	91.2	75.9	46.4
Primarily livestock.....1950.....	50.4	80.2	7.0	7.7	98.6	70.6	31.2
.....1954.....	50.9	81.8	9.8	7.6	98.3	84.6	50.0
Crop and livestock.....1950.....	47.6	73.6	6.7	7.3	97.7	73.7	31.6
.....1954.....	48.7	75.2	10.1	8.5	97.1	88.5	54.9
Miscellaneous.....1950.....	52.1	92.6	18.1	20.4	90.6	29.1	23.2
.....1954.....	53.5	94.7	22.4	23.5	88.9	47.2	28.9

**Tenure of operator.**—On Class I and Class II farms, the proportion of tenancy increased. This may indicate that many of the younger farmers are renting their land and equipment, and using any cash reserves to increase the scope of their operations rather than investing in ownership. Increasing ownership among the smaller economic classes of farms is associated with the overall decline in tenancy, particularly among croppers on cotton and tobacco farms. Also, an increasing proportion of the smallest economic classes of farms are probably serving as retirement units for elderly persons who own their farms. Three-fourths of the Class VI farms were owned, in full or in part, in 1954. This is the highest proportion for any economic class except Class I.

There was an increase in the proportion of operators that were full and part owners for each type of farm. In general, this increase was smallest among types already predominantly owner operated. On the other hand, cotton and other field-crop farms—types that have a relatively high proportion of tenant operators—showed only small increases in farms operated by owners and part owners.

**Off-farm work and other income.**—The proportion of commercial farm operators working off their farms 100 or more days and those having a family income from off-farm sources exceeding the value of farm sales, increased substantially between 1950 and

1954. These increases took place among each economic class, except Class I, and for each type of farm. A much higher proportion of the operators on the smaller economic classes worked off the farm and had a greater off-farm income than sales from the farm.

The types of farms differ considerably in respect to the proportions of each type that reported 100 or more days of off-farm work and other income exceeding sales. For example, approximately a fourth of the fruit-and-nut and poultry farms reported these items compared with less than 10 percent of the cotton and other field-crop farms.

**Residence of farm operator.**—Virtually all (94 percent) of the farm operators live on the farms they operate. The proportion of nonresident landlords is highest among Class I farms, about 15 percent. The smaller economic classes show small difference in respect to residence, having only about 5 percent nonresident operators. By type of farm, the proportion of nonresident operators ranges from a high of 15 percent on fruit-and-nut farms to a low of 2 to 3 percent on dairy, poultry, and general livestock farms.

Nonresident operators increased between 1950 and 1954 among each economic class except Class I and among each of the types of farms.