

CHARACTERISTICS OF TYPE OF FARM BY ECONOMIC CLASS

The structure of farming today reflects the changes that have affected farmers so differently. Close attention to this structure is basic to an understanding of the problems confronting farmers and of the adjustments that are needed in a changing Nation.

Farm Operator Characteristics

**Color and tenure of operator.**—In 1954, 71 percent of the operators of commercial farms were owners, part owners, or managers. (See table 14.) This was an increase from 69 percent in

TABLE 14.—PROPORTION OF FARMS OPERATED BY OWNERS, PART-OWNERS, AND MANAGERS, AND CROPPERS, AND BY WHITE AND NONWHITE OPERATORS, FOR EACH TYPE OF FARM BY ECONOMIC CLASS, FOR THE UNITED STATES: 1954

Item	Total	Economic class of farm <sup>1</sup>					
		I	II	III	IV	V	VI
<b>FULL OWNERS, PART OWNERS, AND MANAGERS</b>							
All commercial farms, total.....	71.2	77.8	69.5	70.6	70.4	69.9	75.2
Cash-grain.....	67.2	70.3	58.5	62.0	70.0	77.9	81.8
Cotton.....	40.7	69.8	58.6	44.7	35.9	34.0	46.2
Other field-crop.....	56.7	80.8	68.0	47.6	45.6	58.6	74.1
Vegetable.....	82.9	78.5	82.2	81.2	85.3	84.9	82.9
Fruit-and-nut.....	95.7	95.7	94.6	95.3	96.4	96.5	96.1
Dairy.....	86.4	82.2	79.7	83.3	88.5	90.9	92.4
Poultry.....	93.6	91.4	93.3	94.3	93.9	94.1	93.4
Livestock other than dairy and poultry.....	80.4	71.7	66.4	74.7	84.4	89.2	91.8
General:							
Primarily crop.....	75.4	80.3	71.5	69.5	72.2	78.9	84.8
Primarily livestock.....	81.8	82.1	69.3	72.7	84.4	89.8	94.0
Crop and livestock.....	75.2	77.0	64.0	67.1	77.6	85.7	88.9
Miscellaneous.....	94.7	95.3	92.7	93.9	94.7	95.3	96.3
<b>White operators, total.....</b>							
Cash-grain.....	67.3	70.2	58.5	62.0	70.1	78.1	82.5
Cotton.....	54.4	69.9	58.9	50.4	49.0	51.7	61.7
Other field-crop.....	64.0	81.7	70.0	55.2	54.9	65.7	77.8
Vegetable.....	85.1	79.3	83.4	84.6	86.9	87.2	85.8
Fruit-and-nut.....	96.4	96.5	95.7	96.1	96.5	96.9	96.5
Dairy.....	86.5	82.1	79.7	83.3	88.6	90.9	92.6
Poultry.....	93.6	91.4	93.4	94.3	94.0	94.2	93.4
Livestock other than dairy and poultry.....	80.4	71.7	66.4	74.7	84.5	89.3	92.2
General:							
Primarily crop.....	78.2	80.2	71.9	71.6	77.2	82.7	86.8
Primarily livestock.....	81.8	82.1	69.2	72.7	84.4	89.8	94.0
Crop and livestock.....	75.2	76.8	64.0	67.1	77.6	85.9	89.4
Miscellaneous.....	95.3	95.6	93.4	95.0	95.3	95.8	96.6
<b>Nonwhite operators, total.....</b>							
Cash-grain.....	22.7	68.8	49.5	18.7	15.6	16.3	34.3
Other field-crop.....	30.9	64.7	30.3	16.4	20.5	35.5	67.3
All other types.....	68.6	78.9	74.1	60.6	57.0	67.1	76.9
<b>CROPPERS</b>							
All commercial farms, total.....	7.3	0.4	0.6	2.9	9.0	13.1	9.6
Cotton.....	28.7	1.4	3.5	16.5	32.5	37.6	25.0
Other field-crop.....	21.3	0.7	6.0	22.7	28.1	22.0	12.8
All other types.....	0.5	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.6	0.8	0.9
<b>White operators, total.....</b>							
Cash-grain.....	14.4	1.4	3.1	9.5	17.4	19.3	14.4
Other field-crop.....	14.7	0.6	4.4	14.9	18.8	16.3	9.9
All other types.....	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.6	0.7
<b>Nonwhite operators, total.....</b>							
Cash-grain.....	47.5	8.9	17.0	49.0	55.7	55.4	33.1
Other field-crop.....	44.5	1.7	34.2	54.7	53.0	40.4	25.9
All other types.....	10.2	0.1	2.0	10.8	19.0	12.1	6.4

1950. All tenants (including croppers) operated 29 percent of the commercial farms.

Ownership of the land is more common among operators of some types of farms than others. More than 90 percent of the operators of fruit-and-nut and poultry farms were included in the ownership group. The lowest proportions of owners are among cotton farmers (41 percent), other field-crop farmers (57 percent), and cash-grain farmers (67 percent). On all other types of farms the ownership ranged between 75 percent and 90 percent.

For all commercial farms as a group, the highest proportion of ownership is found among Class I farms (78 percent) followed closely by Class VI farms (75 percent). This varies considerably by type of farm, however. On vegetable farms, dairy farms, poultry farms, and other livestock farms, ownership is lowest among Classes I and II.

A much higher proportion of the white operators, than of nonwhite operators, were owners, part owners, and managers, in 1954: 76 percent for white operators compared with 29 percent for nonwhite operators. Among both white and nonwhite operators, ownership was lowest among operators of cotton and other field-crop farms. Among these types of farms, ownership was lowest for the intermediate classes and highest on Class I and Class VI.

The high proportion of tenancy among cotton and other field-crop farms and among nonwhite operators is influenced by the counting of cropper units as farms. Most of the croppers (95 percent) are found among cotton and other field-crop farms. (See table 15.) Also more than 90 percent of the nonwhite operators are found among these two types of farms.

Nearly half of the nonwhite operators on cotton and other field-crop farms were croppers in 1954. They were concentrated in the smaller economic classes of farms.

TABLE 15.—PERCENT DISTRIBUTION OF FARMS IN EACH TENURE AND COLOR GROUP BY TYPE AND ECONOMIC CLASS OF FARM, FOR THE UNITED STATES: 1954

Type and economic class of farm	Owners, part-owners, and managers	All tenants	Croppers	White operators	Nonwhite operators
<b>Type of farm:</b>					
All types.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Cash-grain.....	15.3	18.4	1.2	17.9	1.0
Cotton.....	9.0	32.5	62.3	10.0	67.1
Other field-crop.....	8.8	16.6	32.3	9.6	24.1
Vegetable.....	1.1	0.6	0.2	1.0	0.9
Fruit-and-nut.....	3.3	0.4	(Z)	2.7	0.8
Dairy.....	20.0	7.7	0.6	18.3	0.6
Poultry.....	6.1	1.0	0.3	5.1	0.3
Livestock other than dairy and poultry.....	23.6	14.2	0.8	23.0	1.8
General:					
Primarily crop.....	2.5	2.0	1.6	2.4	2.2
Primarily livestock.....	2.2	1.2	(Z)	2.1	0.1
Crop and livestock.....	6.5	5.3	0.6	6.7	0.7
Miscellaneous.....	1.5	0.2	0.1	1.2	0.4
<b>Economic class of farm:</b>					
All commercial farms.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Class I.....	4.4	3.1	0.2	4.4	0.5
Class II.....	13.2	14.3	1.2	14.9	1.2
Class III.....	21.1	21.6	8.6	22.9	6.3
Class IV.....	24.1	25.1	30.3	24.4	24.4
Class V.....	22.5	24.0	41.3	21.2	38.8
Class VI.....	14.7	12.0	18.4	12.2	28.8

Z Less than 0.05 percent.