

FARMERS AND FARM PRODUCTION

Residence of farm operators.—Most farm families live on the farm they operate. In 1954, only 6 percent of all commercial farm operators reported that they did not live on the farm (see table 16). The highest proportions of nonresident operators were on fruit-and-nut farms (15 percent), vegetable farms (12 percent), and cash-grain farms (11 percent). The lowest proportions of nonresident operators were on dairy, poultry, and general farms.

TABLE 16.—PERCENT OF NONRESIDENT OPERATORS FOR TYPE OF FARM BY ECONOMIC CLASS, FOR THE UNITED STATES: 1954

Type of farm	Total	Economic class of farm					
		I	II	III	IV	V	VI
All commercial farms	6.2	15.5	7.0	5.6	5.8	6.1	4.6
Cash-grain.....	11.0	16.2	9.0	9.0	12.1	14.2	11.6
Cotton.....	5.5	23.0	13.2	7.7	4.7	4.0	3.8
Other field-crop.....	5.2	18.0	7.2	3.9	4.1	5.7	5.5
Vegetable.....	12.2	33.8	14.6	10.1	9.2	9.1	6.0
Fruit-and-nut	15.5	21.1	16.9	17.2	15.4	13.2	5.4
Dairy.....	2.3	7.7	3.5	2.2	1.9	2.0	1.7
Poultry.....	2.9	8.2	3.3	2.6	2.5	2.2	1.6
Livestock other than dairy and poultry.....	6.9	12.2	6.2	5.8	7.0	8.5	5.2
General:							
Primarily crop.....	8.8	22.2	9.2	7.8	7.4	8.7	8.4
Primarily livestock.....	1.7	6.7	2.2	1.8	0.4	1.5	1.4
Crop and livestock.....	2.9	9.4	3.4	2.5	2.9	2.6	2.2
Miscellaneous.....	11.1	24.0	15.3	11.6	9.8	7.0	4.0

Among operators of each type of farm the proportion of non-residence was higher for Class I farms than for the smaller economic classes. Except for Class I, however, there is no strong relationship between residence of the operator and the value of farm sales.

A substantially higher proportion of the farmers on Class I farms lived away from their farms, where the major source of farm sales was from crops. A third of the operators of Class I vegetable farms and approximately a fifth of those on Class I cotton farms, other field-crop farms, fruit-and-nut farms, and general farms did not live on their farms in 1954. On Class I dairy and poultry farms, for example, only about 8 percent of the operators were nonresidents.

Work off the farm and other income.—The proportion of farm operators working off their farms 100 or more days, or reporting that family income from nonfarm sources exceeded the value of farm sales, was greater among the smaller economic classes of farms (see tables 17 and 18). These proportions were lowest among cotton and other field-crop farms and highest among fruit-and-nut and poultry farms. Fruit-and-nut farms also reported the highest proportion of nonresident operators and poultry farms were among the lowest.

Approximately half of the operators of Class V fruit-and-nut farms and two-fifths of those on poultry farms worked off their farms 100 or more days or had other income that exceeded farm sales. In contrast, only a tenth of the cotton and other field-crop farms so reported.

Age of operator.—The median age of operator increased with decreasing size (as measured by gross sales of farm products) for each type of farm (see table 19). On several types (cash-grain, dairy, other livestock, and general farms) the operators of Class I farms were older than those of Class II farms. The median age of Class VI farm operators was over 65 years on poultry farms and nearly 65 years on fruit-and-nut and general livestock farms.

TABLE 17.—OPERATORS WORKING OFF THE FARM 100 OR MORE DAYS AS PERCENTAGE OF OPERATORS REPORTING AS TO OFF-FARM WORK, FOR EACH TYPE OF FARM, BY ECONOMIC CLASS, FOR THE UNITED STATES: 1954

Type of farm	Total	Economic class of farm					
		I	II	III	IV	V	VI
All commercial farms	13.3	8.0	7.6	10.4	16.5	24.6	-----
Cash-grain.....	15.0	4.9	5.6	9.9	21.1	36.4	-----
Cotton.....	7.9	7.3	9.3	9.8	9.5	12.0	-----
Other field-crop.....	8.5	8.0	7.2	6.1	7.7	15.2	-----
Vegetable.....	15.4	8.1	9.7	14.6	23.2	31.5	-----
Fruit-and-nut	27.9	13.3	19.2	28.9	37.4	47.1	-----
Dairy.....	14.4	8.3	6.8	10.0	18.2	28.3	-----
Poultry.....	24.7	14.5	20.2	29.8	36.5	40.1	-----
Livestock other than dairy and poultry.....	13.7	6.1	6.3	8.6	18.4	33.9	-----
General:							
Primarily crop.....	16.0	8.2	7.9	11.6	17.8	30.4	-----
Primarily livestock.....	10.1	10.0	5.0	6.6	11.3	19.8	-----
Crop and livestock.....	10.3	5.1	4.5	6.6	12.2	20.8	-----
Miscellaneous.....	23.0	10.2	17.0	22.7	32.8	41.4	-----

TABLE 18.—PERCENTAGE OF FARMS WITH OTHER INCOME GREATER THAN THE VALUE OF FARM PRODUCTS SOLD, FOR EACH TYPE OF FARM, BY ECONOMIC CLASS, FOR THE UNITED STATES: 1954

Type of farm	Total	Economic class of farm					
		I	II	III	IV	V	VI
All commercial farms	10.8	4.6	4.4	6.4	12.6	24.3	-----
Cash-grain.....	10.4	1.9	2.2	4.6	14.0	33.3	-----
Cotton.....	6.3	2.8	4.4	5.8	6.5	11.3	-----
Other field-crop.....	6.5	3.1	2.9	3.4	5.3	13.4	-----
Vegetable.....	13.7	4.5	6.4	10.7	18.9	34.7	-----
Fruit-and-nut	26.1	7.1	13.2	24.1	36.5	53.8	-----
Dairy.....	10.1	5.4	3.6	4.8	11.5	26.2	-----
Poultry.....	23.3	9.8	16.0	25.7	34.7	45.5	-----
Livestock other than dairy and poultry.....	12.4	4.2	3.4	6.3	16.0	34.6	-----
General:							
Primarily crop.....	14.9	3.9	5.2	7.9	15.6	32.9	-----
Primarily livestock.....	7.7	7.8	1.9	2.8	8.0	19.6	-----
Crop and livestock.....	8.6	4.1	2.0	3.5	9.8	21.6	-----
Miscellaneous.....	23.6	7.5	14.7	20.9	32.7	48.5	-----

TABLE 19.—MEDIAN AGE OF OPERATOR FOR TYPE OF FARM BY ECONOMIC CLASS, FOR THE UNITED STATES: 1954

Type of farm	Total	Economic class of farm					
		I	II	III	IV	V	VI
All commercial farms	49.0	45.6	45.2	46.5	48.5	50.3	58.0
Cash-grain.....	47.3	44.0	43.9	45.6	49.0	50.6	59.6
Cotton.....	47.3	43.2	44.9	45.8	46.1	46.4	51.9
Other field-crop.....	46.2	44.8	44.1	44.3	43.8	40.4	54.2
Vegetable.....	50.3	44.8	47.0	47.9	50.1	51.6	57.3
Fruit-and-nut	54.8	50.6	52.5	54.3	55.7	55.5	63.4
Dairy.....	49.0	47.1	45.8	45.9	48.6	52.0	61.2
Poultry.....	53.9	45.7	47.7	50.4	53.3	57.0	65+
Livestock other than dairy and poultry.....	51.0	46.6	45.1	48.0	51.5	53.9	61.2
General:							
Primarily crop.....	49.2	46.3	45.0	46.4	47.7	50.7	59.4
Primarily livestock.....	50.9	46.3	43.1	45.2	50.7	56.2	64.8
Crop and livestock.....	48.7	45.7	43.6	45.2	49.2	53.0	60.0
Miscellaneous.....	53.5	50.0	50.4	51.0	52.4	54.6	61.9