

FARMERS AND FARM PRODUCTION

TABLE 23.—CLASS OF WORK POWER: PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF FARMS BY TYPE AND BY SPECIFIED ECONOMIC CLASSES, FOR THE UNITED STATES: 1954

Percentage distribution by type of farm	Total	Economic class of farm			Percentage distribution by type of farm	Total	Economic class of farm		
		I	II, III, and IV	V and VI			I	II, III, and IV	V and VI
Total all types	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0					
No tractor, horses or mules.....	14.9	6.9	9.1	25.1	Poultry	100.0	100.0	100.0	
No tractor, and 1 or more horses and/or mules.....	14.0	2.3	6.3	27.6	No tractor, horses or mules.....	41.9	30.5	38.5	
Tractor and horses and/or mules.....	25.8	36.3	29.5	18.7	No tractor, and 1 or more horses and/or mules.....	11.2	4.3	10.2	
Tractor and no horses or mules.....	45.3	54.5	55.1	28.5	Tractor and horses and/or mules.....	11.0	16.3	12.3	
Cash-grain	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	Tractor and no horses or mules.....	35.8	48.9	39.0	
No tractor, horses or mules.....	6.3	1.5	3.9	15.6	Livestock, other than dairy or poultry	100.0	100.0	100.0	
No tractor, and 1 or more horses and/or mules.....	2.0	0.4	0.8	6.3	No tractor, horses or mules.....	8.8	2.3	4.1	
Tractor and horses and/or mules.....	22.0	37.9	22.5	17.4	No tractor, and 1 or more horses and/or mules.....	10.7	4.4	4.8	
Tractor and no horses or mules.....	69.7	60.1	72.8	60.7	Tractor and horses and/or mules.....	35.9	49.0	38.9	
Cotton	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	Tractor and no horses or mules.....	44.6	44.3	52.2	
No tractor, horses or mules.....	29.3	1.7	22.4	34.7	General, primarily crop	100.0	100.0	100.0	
No tractor, and 1 or more horses and/or mules.....	29.1	0.4	12.7	40.1	No tractor, horses or mules.....	10.9	2.0	6.4	
Tractor and horses and/or mules.....	15.9	37.1	22.4	11.0	No tractor, and 1 or more horses and/or mules.....	13.2	0.4	0.8	
Tractor and no horses or mules.....	25.7	60.8	42.5	14.1	Tractor and horses and/or mules.....	29.5	38.0	34.6	
Other field-crops	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	Tractor and no horses or mules.....	46.4	59.7	52.2	
No tractor, horses or mules.....	23.3	1.8	17.6	29.4	General, primarily livestock	100.0	100.0	100.0	
No tractor, and 1 or more horses and/or mules.....	32.8	1.5	23.7	42.4	No tractor, horses or mules.....	6.0	2.5	2.7	
Tractor and horses and/or mules.....	26.1	32.1	35.2	17.2	No tractor, and 1 or more horses and/or mules.....	9.2	0.3	4.3	
Tractor and no horses or mules.....	17.8	64.6	23.5	11.0	Tractor and horses and/or mules.....	28.8	34.3	29.6	
Vegetable	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	Tractor and no horses or mules.....	56.0	62.8	63.4	
No tractor, horses or mules.....	14.0	2.8	8.4	24.2	General, crop and livestock	100.0	100.0	100.0	
No tractor, and 1 or more horses and/or mules.....	11.2	1.0	4.6	22.2	No tractor, horses or mules.....	3.6	1.1	2.2	
Tractor and horses and/or mules.....	19.7	24.2	22.2	15.2	No tractor, and 1 or more horses and/or mules.....	7.8	0.8	2.5	
Tractor and no horses or mules.....	55.1	72.0	64.8	38.3	Tractor and horses and/or mules.....	33.7	46.0	34.4	
Fruit-and-nut	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	Tractor and no horses or mules.....	54.9	52.1	60.9	
No tractor, horses or mules.....	28.8	9.8	27.1	41.4	Miscellaneous	100.0	100.0	100.0	
No tractor, and 1 or more horses and/or mules.....	5.5	0.7	3.2	12.7	No tractor, horses or mules.....	37.9	35.2	39.3	
Tractor and horses and/or mules.....	10.5	17.1	10.3	7.9	No tractor, and 1 or more horses and/or mules.....	14.9	2.2	9.3	
Tractor and no horses or mules.....	55.1	72.4	59.4	38.0	Tractor and horses and/or mules.....	18.3	17.9	19.9	
Dairy	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	Tractor and no horses or mules.....	28.0	44.8	31.5	
No tractor, horses or mules.....	6.5	6.8	3.1	15.1					
No tractor, and 1 or more horses and/or mules.....	8.1	2.0	3.8	19.7					
Tractor and horses and/or mules.....	29.4	39.2	31.7	23.0					
Tractor and no horses or mules.....	55.9	52.1	61.4	42.2					

Class of Work Power

Some indication of the level of mechanization practiced by types and economic classes of farms may be gained from data on class of work power. Tractors are more common to some parts of commercial agriculture than others and there remains considerable difference in the extent to which they now constitute the sole source of power.

"Horseless farming" is much more a reality on cash-grain farms than most other types (see table 23). Three-fifths of even the smaller economic classes of farms reported a tractor and no horses or mules.

In general, Class I farms of each type are highly dependent on tractors as the only source of power. The same is true for Classes II through IV for several types; namely, cash-grain, vegetable, fruit-and-nut, dairy, and general farms.

Many of the smaller economic classes of farms had neither tractors nor work stock. This was most common on fruit-and-nut farms and poultry farms. It was also common on cotton and other field-crop farms, largely influenced by the fairly high pro-

portion of cropper operators included in the smaller economic classes.

For several types of farms, cash-grain, dairy, other livestock, general livestock, and general crop and livestock farms, a higher proportion of the farms in Classes II through IV than in Class I reported tractors and no work stock.

Land in Farms

Of the total land area in the United States, encompassing about 3 million square miles, 60.8 percent is in farms. In 1954, the land in farms totaled 1,158 million acres of which 1,032.5 million acres, or 89 percent, was in commercial farms.

Nearly half of the land in commercial farms was in livestock farms and about a fifth was in cash-grain farms (see table 24). These two types, which comprise 37 percent of the commercial farm numbers, accounted for more than two-thirds of the land in commercial farms in 1954. If general livestock and general crop and livestock farms are included, the proportion of the land in farms of the livestock and cash-grain types exceeds three-fourths of the land in all commercial farms.