

TABLE 24.—PERCENT DISTRIBUTION OF TOTAL LAND FOR EACH ECONOMIC CLASS, BY TYPE OF FARM, FOR THE UNITED STATES: 1954

Type of farm	Total	Economic class of farm					
		I	II	III	IV	V	VI
All commercial farms.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Cash-grain.....	19.8	12.7	25.6	28.4	20.6	13.6	9.0
Cotton.....	6.3	6.0	4.0	4.2	7.1	11.6	16.2
Other field-crop.....	3.3	1.4	1.5	2.7	5.5	7.5	8.2
Vegetable.....	0.5	0.9	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.7
Fruit-and-nut.....	0.9	1.9	0.8	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.7
Dairy.....	9.4	2.3	8.5	13.4	14.4	12.7	10.4
Poultry.....	1.2	0.8	1.1	1.0	1.2	1.6	3.1
Livestock other than dairy and poultry.....	49.2	69.6	50.1	39.8	36.6	30.1	41.2
General:							
Primarily crop.....	2.1	1.7	1.9	2.0	2.4	3.0	3.0
Primarily livestock.....	1.1	0.2	0.7	1.5	2.0	2.0	1.6
Crop and livestock.....	5.2	1.5	4.6	7.5	8.5	6.5	4.0
Miscellaneous.....	1.0	1.0	0.9	0.7	1.0	1.4	1.7

The distribution of land in farms is affected by the different land requirements for farms in different parts of the country. Many of the livestock and cash-grain farms are in western regions where, because of limited rainfall, the yields of crops and pastures are low, and considerable acreages are required to provide an efficient farm organization. On many western livestock farms 20 or more acres are required to furnish pasture for one animal unit. In much of the western plains, wheat can be grown only in alternate years. Part of the land is "fallowed" each year to accumulate enough moisture for the next year's crop.

Although less than 10 percent of the livestock farms are in the West, these comprise 40 percent of the land in all livestock farms. The western region contains only about a tenth of the total number of cash-grain farms, but a fifth of the land in such farms is in the western region. Similarly, the average acreage of livestock farms in the West is several times the acreages in northern and southern regions. Cash-grain farms in the West average more than twice as large as those in other regions.

Of the 1,032 million acres of land in commercial farms in 1954, 25 percent was in Class I farms, about 60 percent in Classes II, III, and IV, and slightly less than 15 percent in Class V and VI farms (see table 25). But among types of farms, the proportion of the commercial farmland by economic class varies considerably. Among cash-grain farms, other field-crop farms, dairy farms, general livestock, and general crop and livestock farms, a relatively small proportion of the farmland is contained in Class I farms. On the other hand, about half of the acreage in vegetable and fruit-and-nut farms falls in Class I and more than a third of the land in livestock farms.

Of all land in Class I farms more than two-thirds is in livestock farms. Cash-grain farms contain about 13 percent and cotton farms 6 percent of the acreage in all Class I farms. No other type accounts for as much as 3 percent of the acreage in Class I farms.

Nationally, two-thirds of the commercial farms and three-fifths of the land in commercial farms are in Economic Classes II, III, and IV. A much higher proportion of the acreage, around three-fourths, is found in these classes on cash-grain, dairy, general livestock and general crop and livestock farms. In contrast, less than half the acreage is found in these classes on cotton, other field-crop, vegetable, and fruit-and-nut farms.

The land contained in Economic Classes V and VI ranged from a high of one-third of the land in cotton farms to a low of 9 percent for cash-grain farms.

TABLE 25.—PERCENT DISTRIBUTION OF TOTAL LAND IN FARMS FOR EACH TYPE OF COMMERCIAL 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.....	100.0	25.2	23.4	21.4	15.8	9.9	4.4
Cash-grain.....	100.0	16.1	30.2	28.5	16.4	6.8	2.0
Cotton.....	100.0	24.1	14.8	14.2	17.7	18.3	11.1
Other field-crop.....	100.0	11.1	10.8	17.5	26.8	22.8	10.9
Vegetable.....	100.0	50.0	13.1	10.5	10.4	9.1	7.0
Fruit-and-nut.....	100.0	49.4	18.9	12.1	9.3	7.0	3.3
Dairy.....	100.0	6.1	21.1	30.5	24.1	13.4	4.8
Poultry.....	100.0	17.8	22.5	18.9	15.7	13.4	11.7
Livestock other than dairy and poultry.....	100.0	35.6	23.8	17.3	11.8	7.9	3.6
General:							
Primarily crop.....	100.0	20.2	20.9	20.3	17.9	14.4	6.3
Primarily livestock.....	100.0	4.0	15.5	28.5	28.7	17.3	6.0
Crop and livestock.....	100.0	7.3	20.8	30.6	25.6	12.4	3.4
Miscellaneous.....	100.0	26.0	21.8	14.9	15.8	14.0	7.6

Table 26 shows the average acreage per farm for types of farms by economic class. These averages disclose the wide range in acreage found within each economic class of farm and the variation by type of farm. Within each type there is a correlation between size measured in acres and size measured by value of farm products sold. A decrease in average acreage is associated with a decrease in value of products sold for each type of farm. This relation of acreage to value, by type of farm, indicates that the classification by value of products sold provides a fairly good measure of size when dealing with different types of farms under widely different production conditions.

TABLE 26.—AVERAGE SIZE OF FARM FOR EACH TYPE OF COMMERCIAL 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.....	310.3	1,939.1	537.8	311.9	201.0	134.3	97.1
Cash-grain.....	380.1	1,494.7	558.9	363.5	260.1	167.9	121.8
Cotton.....	124.4	1,031.6	376.9	196.7	99.3	63.8	54.1
Other field-crop.....	91.6	667.5	236.5	123.9	79.0	65.7	54.5
Vegetable.....	146.6	636.1	139.3	98.1	78.0	66.9	52.4
Fruit-and-nut.....	119.3	453.6	120.6	72.6	53.8	43.0	46.8
Dairy.....	177.2	508.4	269.8	189.4	152.5	126.3	97.8
Poultry.....	78.1	162.9	94.9	79.7	68.7	55.9	51.3
Livestock other than dairy and poultry.....	730.7	4,539.0	996.5	576.0	417.7	291.3	183.6
General:							
Primarily crop.....	269.0	1,147.3	452.3	303.6	190.5	147.0	128.6
Primarily livestock.....	183.0	773.1	249.9	200.7	177.9	145.1	106.3
Crop and livestock.....	234.7	1,196.7	391.9	292.0	234.1	161.1	121.6
Miscellaneous.....	278.0	597.1	385.1	276.5	228.6	172.1	136.8