

FARMERS AND FARM PRODUCTION

The average acreage per farm, however, tends to conceal the extreme variations in acreage that exist within each economic class. Table 27 shows the frequency distribution of the number of farms grouped by acreage size for each type of farm by economic class. Although the average acreage of land for Class I farms was more than 1,000 acres for cash-grain, cotton, livestock, general crop, and general crop and livestock farms, most of the farms are considerably smaller. More than half of the Class I farms in each of these types have from 220 to 999 acres. A majority of Class I vegetable and fruit-and-nut farms have less than 220 acres, and more than half of the Class I poultry farms have less than 100 acres. Half of the Class I farms of under 10 acres were poultry farms in 1954. Nearly half of the Class I farms of 1,000 or more acres were livestock farms and almost a third were cash-grain farms.

Among farms in the median range in value of products sold (Classes II, III, and IV), certain acreage-size groups tend to predominate. Most of the cash-grain, livestock, and general farms in Classes II, III, and IV, are in the groups between 100 and 500

acres. Cotton and other field-crop farms are heavily concentrated in the acreage-size groups between 10 and 220 acres. Over half of the dairy farms fall in the size group between 100 and 220 acres, while a majority of poultry and fruit-and-nut farms have less than 50 acres.

A higher proportion of Economic Classes V and VI are in the smaller acreage groups for each type of farm. However, the relationship between acreage and value of sales is not so direct as might be expected. For each type of farm, except cash-grain farms, the modal acreage-size group (the one containing the largest number of farms) is the same for Class V and VI farms as for Classes II, III, and IV. This indicates the wide variation in the quality of land and the proportion that is suitable for growing crops and grasses even among farms of basically the same type of farming. It is also related to differences in the extent to which these groups of farmers have taken advantage of new techniques that are aimed to increase yields per crop acre and per animal unit.

TABLE 27.—NUMBER OF FARMS IN SPECIFIED ACREAGE-SIZE GROUPS FOR EACH TYPE OF COMMERCIAL FARM BY ECONOMIC CLASS, FOR THE UNITED STATES: 1954

Economic class and acreage size	All commercial farms	Number of farms by type											
		Cash-grain	Cotton	Other field-crop	Vegetable	Fruit-and-nut	Dairy	Poultry	Livestock other than dairy or poultry	General—			Miscellaneous and unclassified
										Primarily crop	Primarily livestock	Crop and livestock	
<b>All classes</b> .....	3,327,889	537,974	525,463	367,733	32,581	82,096	548,767	154,251	694,888	80,039	63,197	203,843	37,057
Under 10 acres.....	145,400	1,015	29,104	31,721	2,880	10,660	5,664	40,633	11,232	265	560	460	11,206
10 to 49 acres.....	622,021	26,731	230,445	143,547	13,311	39,436	44,210	46,461	45,054	11,267	4,861	10,761	6,837
50 to 99 acres.....	580,060	66,159	015,395	90,276	6,835	14,368	115,105	29,829	85,003	17,911	13,290	32,305	4,184
<b>100 to 219 acres</b> .....	1,026,664	170,801	97,360	74,553	5,752	10,535	255,593	20,607	237,889	27,136	30,006	83,727	6,705
220 to 499 acres.....	642,333	174,119	44,144	22,100	2,412	4,623	109,867	8,562	186,476	15,634	12,211	57,634	4,561
500 to 999 acres.....	182,550	63,933	13,120	4,091	822	1,510	15,116	1,577	60,101	5,021	1,781	13,650	1,828
1,000 acres and over.....	127,361	35,216	5,895	1,445	569	964	3,222	582	69,133	2,805	488	5,306	1,736
<b>Class I</b> .....	134,064	21,995	15,239	5,585	3,751	10,675	11,698	13,137	39,835	3,784	592	3,292	4,481
Under 10 acres.....	4,340	5	15	180	10	55	370	2,102	233			10	1,670
10 to 49 acres.....	7,693	5	15	180	295	1,666	616	3,292	424			10	1,190
50 to 99 acres.....	7,124	21	80	340	585	2,366	564	2,019	672	50	20	30	377
<b>100 to 219 acres</b> .....	19,127	454	1,392	1,297	1,020	3,254	2,059	3,118	5,224	460	101	335	413
220 to 499 acres.....	40,199	5,385	5,589	1,813	930	1,830	4,309	1,805	15,297	1,244	291	1,313	393
500 to 999 acres.....	24,807	6,630	4,593	1,198	463	853	2,602	548	5,817	1,036	115	789	163
1,000 acres and over.....	30,774	9,500	3,570	767	448	651	1,178	253	12,168	994	65	815	376
<b>Classes II, III, and IV</b> .....	1,967,807	399,976	188,761	177,342	15,958	48,573	386,279	84,741	410,772	44,627	42,232	144,063	18,483
Under 10 acres.....	41,451	35	435	5,486	710	4,090	1,104	20,330	2,510	5	60	40	6,646
10 to 49 acres.....	225,573	3,810	59,529	66,975	6,891	26,675	15,474	24,591	10,962	3,505	1,151	2,745	3,265
50 to 99 acres.....	279,516	31,296	39,971	43,376	3,785	9,131	67,061	17,240	34,840	8,665	7,145	15,470	1,536
<b>100 to 219 acres</b> .....	705,813	133,096	50,310	43,089	3,112	5,541	197,732	16,259	153,475	16,446	22,455	61,701	2,597
220 to 499 acres.....	495,825	153,254	28,893	15,357	1,077	2,307	91,880	5,217	126,418	11,092	9,747	48,380	2,203
500 to 999 acres.....	133,767	53,794	7,479	2,448	284	544	11,161	844	39,375	3,380	1,335	11,529	1,093
1,000 acres and over.....	85,862	24,691	2,144	611	99	285	1,867	260	48,692	1,534	338	4,198	1,143
<b>Classes V and VI</b> .....	1,226,018	116,003	321,463	184,806	12,872	22,848	150,790	56,373	238,281	31,628	20,373	56,488	14,093
Under 10 acres.....	99,609	980	28,669	26,235	2,160	6,515	4,190	18,201	8,489	260	500	420	2,990
10 to 49 acres.....	389,655	22,916	170,901	76,392	6,125	11,095	28,120	18,578	33,668	7,762	3,710	8,005	2,382
50 to 99 acres.....	294,020	34,842	65,344	46,560	2,465	2,871	47,480	10,570	49,491	9,196	6,125	16,806	2,271
<b>100 to 219 acres</b> .....	301,724	37,251	45,658	30,167	1,620	1,740	55,802	7,230	70,190	10,230	7,450	21,691	3,695
220 to 499 acres.....	106,309	15,480	9,662	4,930	405	486	13,068	1,540	44,761	3,298	2,173	7,941	1,965
500 to 999 acres.....	23,976	3,509	1,048	445	75	113	1,353	185	14,409	605	330	1,332	672
1,000 acres and over.....	10,725	1,025	181	77	22	28	177	69	8,273	277	85	293	218