

Cropland Harvested

About 322 million acres were in harvested crops in 1954. This was slightly less than a third of the total land in farms. The proportion of the land that was in harvested crops varied among types of farms and between economic classes within each type (see table 28). Approximately half or more of the total land was in harvested crops on cash-grain, cotton, vegetable, and general farms. Between a third and two-fifths of the land in other field-crop, fruit-and-nut, and dairy farms, was harvested cropland—only a fourth of the land in poultry farms and 15 percent of the land in livestock farms.

TABLE 28.—CROPLAND HARVESTED AS A PERCENT OF TOTAL LAND IN FARMS FOR EACH TYPE OF FARM, BY ECONOMIC CLASS OF FARM, FOR THE UNITED STATES: 1954

Type of farm	Total	Economic class of farm					
		I	II	III	IV	V	VI
All commercial farms.....	31.1	18.8	35.8	40.0	36.2	28.7	21.3
Cash-grain.....	54.5	47.5	57.8	58.2	54.1	47.2	36.7
Cotton.....	50.6	54.3	57.1	54.7	52.4	45.8	33.9
Other field-crop.....	36.3	49.4	48.1	40.6	36.4	28.5	20.8
Vegetable.....	46.9	51.4	54.5	47.3	39.5	33.5	27.8
Fruit-and-nut.....	37.0	36.2	41.9	41.5	35.4	30.6	23.2
Dairy.....	38.1	32.0	42.7	42.2	37.9	30.2	22.0
Poultry.....	26.0	30.6	28.7	26.8	25.6	22.7	17.1
Livestock other than dairy and poultry.....	15.4	7.5	19.4	23.3	20.5	15.4	12.7
General:							
Primarily crop.....	41.6	46.7	47.6	42.2	40.6	33.8	24.3
Primarily livestock.....	46.8	31.9	58.4	54.6	46.3	35.7	24.4
Crop and livestock.....	47.0	35.6	53.4	52.8	45.9	36.7	26.7
Miscellaneous.....	8.2	10.2	7.1	7.4	7.8	7.7	7.7

For most types of farms the larger farms and the smaller farms have less of the land in harvested crops. This results in a slightly higher proportion of the cropland than of the total land being found among the medium-sized Classes II, III, and IV farms. Four-fifths or more of the cropland is accounted for by these classes for cash-grain, dairy, general livestock, and general crop and livestock farms (see table 29). Half or more of the cropland is found on Classes II, III, and IV farms for each of the other types, with the exception of vegetable and fruit-and-nut farms. For these two types, half or more of the cropland is in Class I farms. About 70 percent is accounted for by Classes I and II together. Economic Classes V and VI account for a smaller proportion of the cropland than of the total land in farms for each type of farm.

Cash-grain farms and livestock farms accounted for a third and a fourth, respectively, of the harvested cropland (see table 30). Cotton farmers and dairy farmers each used about a tenth of the cropland. With the exception of general crop and livestock farms which accounted for 8 percent of the cropland, no other type accounted for as much as 4 percent. Cash-grain farms and livestock farms taken together accounted for more than half of the cropland harvested in each Economic Classes I through IV and two-fifths of the cropland in Class V and Class VI farms. On Class VI farms, however, a higher proportion of the cropland was accounted for by cotton farms.

The average acreage of cropland harvested per farm is largest on cash-grain farms and lowest on poultry farms (see table 31). Except for cash-grain farms, livestock farms and general crop and livestock farms had a larger average acreage in crops harvested than any of the types that had a major source of income from sales of crops.

TABLE 29.—PERCENT DISTRIBUTION OF TOTAL ACREAGE OF CROPLAND HARVESTED 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	15.2	26.9	27.4	18.4	9.1	3.0
Cash-grain.....	100.0	14.0	32.1	30.4	16.3	5.9	1.3
Cotton.....	100.0	25.8	16.7	15.3	18.3	16.5	7.4
Other field-crop.....	100.0	15.0	14.3	19.6	26.8	17.9	6.8
Vegetable.....	100.0	54.8	15.2	10.6	8.8	6.5	4.2
Fruit-and-nut.....	100.0	48.3	21.4	13.6	8.9	5.7	2.1
Dairy.....	100.0	5.1	23.7	33.8	24.0	10.6	2.8
Poultry.....	100.0	20.9	24.8	19.5	15.5	11.7	7.7
Livestock other than dairy and poultry.....	100.0	17.4	29.9	26.1	15.6	7.9	3.0
General:							
Primarily.....	100.0	22.6	23.9	20.6	17.5	11.7	3.7
Primarily livestock.....	100.0	2.7	19.3	33.2	28.4	13.2	3.2
Crop and livestock.....	100.0	5.5	23.6	34.3	25.0	9.7	1.9
Miscellaneous.....	100.0	32.2	19.0	13.4	15.0	13.2	7.2

TABLE 30.—PERCENT DISTRIBUTION OF TOTAL ACREAGE OF CROPLAND HARVESTED 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.....	34.7	31.9	41.4	38.5	30.7	22.3	15.6
Cotton.....	10.3	17.4	6.4	5.7	10.2	18.6	25.8
Other field-crop.....	3.8	3.8	2.0	2.7	5.5	7.5	8.0
Vegetable.....	0.7	2.5	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.5	1.0
Fruit-and-nut.....	1.1	3.6	0.9	0.6	0.5	0.7	0.8
Dairy.....	11.5	3.9	10.1	14.2	15.0	13.4	10.8
Poultry.....	1.0	1.3	0.9	0.7	0.8	1.2	2.5
Livestock other than dairy and poultry.....	24.3	27.8	27.1	23.2	20.7	21.0	24.5
General:							
Primarily crop.....	2.8	4.1	2.5	2.1	2.6	3.6	3.5
Primarily livestock.....	1.7	0.3	1.2	2.0	2.6	2.4	1.8
Crop and livestock.....	7.9	2.9	6.9	9.9	10.7	8.4	5.1
Miscellaneous.....	0.3	0.6	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.4	0.6

TABLE 31.—AVERAGE ACREAGE OF CROPLAND HARVESTED PER 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.....	102	398	201	129	76	41	23
Cash-grain.....	207	710	323	211	141	79	45
Cotton.....	63	560	215	108	52	29	18
Other field-crop.....	33	329	114	50	29	19	11
Vegetable.....	69	327	76	46	31	22	15
Fruit-and-nut.....	44	164	51	30	19	13	11
Dairy.....	67	163	115	80	58	38	22
Poultry.....	20	50	27	21	18	13	9
Livestock other than dairy and poultry.....	113	341	193	134	86	45	23
General:							
Primarily crop.....	112	536	215	128	77	50	31
Primarily livestock.....	86	246	146	110	82	52	26
Crop and livestock.....	124	426	209	154	107	59	32
Miscellaneous.....	23	61	27	20	18	13	11