

Gross Sales Per Acre

The value of farm products sold per acre of total land in farms is shown for types and economic classes of farms in table 39. For commercial farms as a group, the sales per acre averaged \$24 in 1954. The average for all commercial farms is weighted heavily by cash-grain and other livestock farms. Many of these farms are located in semiarid western regions where production per acre is relatively low. The average sale per acre was \$12 for livestock farms and \$22 for cash-grain farms in 1954.

Gross sales per acre were highest on vegetable, fruit-and-nut, and poultry farms, averaging more than \$100 per acre. All other types ranged between \$25 and \$50 per acre.

Gross sales per acre decreased with decreasing size of farm. For commercial farms as a group, Class I farms had sales per acre about 4 times greater than Class VI farms. For some types of farms, however, the differential between the larger and smaller economic classes was much greater.

TABLE 39.—VALUE OF ALL FARM PRODUCTS SOLD PER ACRE OF TOTAL LAND IN FARMS, BY TYPE OF COMMERCIAL FARM BY ECONOMIC CLASS OF FARM, FOR THE UNITED STATES: 1954

Type of farm	Total	Economic class of arm					
		I	II	III	IV	V	VI
	Dol-lars	Dol-lars	Dol-lars	Dol-lars	Dol-lars	Dol-lars	Dol-lars
All commercial farms.....	24	30	28	23	18	14	8
Cash-grain.....	22	31	26	20	15	11	6
Cotton.....	40	68	41	35	34	28	14
Other field-crop.....	47	89	63	56	47	29	15
Vegetable.....	110	159	111	72	45	26	13
Fruit-and-nut.....	121	145	133	108	76	47	17
Dairy.....	37	99	53	37	25	15	8
Poultry.....	123	303	166	92	55	34	13
Livestock other than dairy and poultry.....	12	13	15	13	9	6	4
General:							
Primarily crop.....	27	57	30	22	18	12	6
Primarily livestock.....	30	51	57	36	21	13	8
Crop and livestock.....	24	40	36	25	16	12	7
Miscellaneous.....	47	119	39	25	15	11	5

Yield of Corn Per Acre Harvested

Yields of corn per acre by type and economic class of farm substantiate the differentials in gross productivity shown previously. Corn is the most widely grown crop in the United States. Its acreage surpasses that of any other crop. It is a relatively important crop on most types and economic classes of farms. Most farmers do not sell corn, except for incidental sales; they grow it for feed. Thus, for most types of farms, corn has relatively small influence in determining either the type or the economic class. Exceptions, of course, are the cash-grain and general farms on which corn is an important cash crop. The yield of corn in a particular year influences the number of livestock purchased, fed, and sold on livestock farms.

The yield of corn per acre harvested is shown for each type of farm, by economic class, in table 40. The average yield for all commercial farms was 40 bushels per acre in 1954. As would be expected, yields were higher than average on types of farms on which corn for feed or for sale was an important enterprise—cash-grain, dairy, other livestock, general livestock, and general crop and livestock farms. Yields were lowest on cotton, other field-crop, and general crop farms.

On each type of farm, however, yields of corn were highest on Economic Class I farms and decreased for each successively

smaller economic class. Yields on Class VI farms were approximately half those realized on Class I farms.

TABLE 40.—YIELD PER ACRE OF CORN HARVESTED FOR GRAIN, BY TYPE OF COMMERCIAL FARM AND BY ECONOMIC CLASS OF FARM, FOR THE UNITED STATES: 1954

Type of Farm	Total	Economic class of farm					
		I	II	III	IV	V	VI
	Bushels	Bushels	Bushels	Bushels	Bushels	Bushels	Bushels
All commercial farms.....	40	54	50	41	31	24	18
Cash-grain.....	45	58	52	42	36	32	26
Cotton.....	14	23	17	16	14	12	10
Other field-crop.....	23	41	31	25	22	21	20
Vegetable.....	34	47	41	35	30	23	18
Fruit-and-nut.....	36	42	38	35	34	26	19
Dairy.....	48	55	55	50	43	33	25
Poultry.....	38	49	40	34	33	31	26
Livestock other than dairy and poultry.....	45	57	51	42	34	28	22
General:							
Primarily crop.....	27	42	35	28	22	20	17
Primarily livestock.....	47	63	58	50	39	33	26
Crop and livestock.....	41	54	52	41	31	25	21
Miscellaneous.....	23	25	30	21	21	20	17

Gross Sales Per \$100 of Capital Investment

For commercial agriculture as a whole, gross sales averaged \$22 in 1954 for each \$100 of capital invested in land, buildings, livestock, and machinery (see table 41). At this rate it takes approximately 4 years of gross farm sales to equal in value the capital invested in agriculture.

TABLE 41.—VALUE OF ALL FARM PRODUCTS SOLD PER \$100 OF CAPITAL INVESTED IN LAND AND BUILDINGS, LIVESTOCK, AND MACHINERY, BY TYPE OF COMMERCIAL 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
	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars
All commercial farms.....	22	35	23	19	17	14	9
Cash-grain.....	17	24	18	16	13	10	7
Cotton.....	31	36	26	27	31	29	19
Other field-crop.....	33	45	33	34	33	26	17
Vegetable.....	36	46	29	23	17	12	8
Fruit-and-nut.....	28	37	20	21	16	10	6
Dairy.....	25	40	28	24	20	14	9
Poultry.....	54	112	66	43	27	16	8
Livestock other than dairy and poultry.....	18	30	19	15	11	8	5
General:							
Primarily crop.....	21	30	20	18	17	11	7
Primarily livestock.....	20	36	26	21	16	12	8
Crop and livestock.....	18	29	21	18	15	12	8
Miscellaneous.....	40	72	32	23	17	11	7

Sales per unit of investment were highest on poultry farms. In general, sales per unit of investment were higher on farms having a major source of income from crops than from livestock types. Cash-grain farms were the only notable exception to this; they averaged only \$17 per unit of investment.

Sales per unit of investment decrease with decreasing size. The differentials are large for some types. Class I poultry farms, for example, had sales per unit of investment nearly 15 times greater than Class VI farms of this type. In contrast, the differentials between economic classes of cotton farms were relatively small.