

FARMERS AND FARM PRODUCTION

Cash wages.—The expenditure for hired labor amounted to \$764 for the average commercial farm in 1955 and comprised about a tenth of the total farm expenses. Cash wages were a much more important expense on some types of farms than others. In general, cash-grain farms and types of farms having a major source of income from livestock products had relatively small expense for hired labor, amounting to 7 percent or less of the total expenses. (See table 45.) On farms with a major source of income from crops (except cash-grain farms) cash wages ranged from nearly a fifth to a fourth or more of the total farm expenses.

The farm expenses have been tabulated into two economic class groups—Classes I and II, which combine all farms with sales of farm products valued at \$10,000 or more, and Classes III, IV, V, and VI, a combination of commercial farms that had sales of farm products valued at less than \$10,000.

Cash wages comprised a higher proportion of total expenses on the larger economic classes of farms than on the smaller classes—14 percent and 7 percent, respectively, for all types taken together. A similar relationship existed between the two size groups for each type individually.

TABLE 45.—CASH FARM EXPENDITURES AS A PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL FARM EXPENDITURES, BY TYPE OF FARM, BY ECONOMIC CLASS OF FARM, FOR THE UNITED STATES: 1955

Expenditure by economic class of farm	All commercial farms	Type of farm											
		Cash-grain	Cotton	Other field-crop	Vegetable	Fruit-and-nut	Dairy	Poultry	Livestock other than dairy and poultry	General—			Miscellaneous
										Pri- marily crop	Pri- marily live- stock	Crop and live- stock	
ALL CLASSES													
Total expenditures.....	Percent 100.0	Percent 100.0	Percent 100.0	Percent 100.0	Percent 100.0	Percent 100.0	Percent 100.0	Percent 100.0	Percent 100.0	Percent 100.0	Percent 100.0	Percent 100.0	Percent 100.0
Cash wages.....	10.8	6.9	23.4	19.4	27.5	29.5	7.3	4.0	6.4	17.6	4.4	7.1	35.7
Machine hire and customwork.....	2.3	3.1	2.9	2.8	1.1	1.2	2.5	0.6	2.0	3.7	3.0	3.3	0.6
Livestock and poultry purchased.....	10.8	8.2	3.6	3.0	1.0	1.3	5.3	12.8	22.0	4.6	7.1	9.2	0.9
Feed for livestock and poultry.....	17.2	7.2	3.1	4.3	1.4	2.5	25.1	58.2	20.0	3.8	23.7	13.8	2.3
Seeds, plants, and trees.....	3.4	4.6	3.5	5.5	6.3	1.9	2.8	0.7	2.6	5.1	3.4	4.3	14.1
Commercial fertilizer and liming materials.....	5.4	6.8	7.0	11.2	9.8	6.8	4.2	1.2	3.9	9.2	4.6	6.7	4.2
Petroleum products, farm business share ¹	8.5	12.3	9.6	9.9	5.9	5.7	8.4	3.8	7.1	9.8	9.9	10.6	6.4
Repair and other operating costs for motor vehicles and farm machinery ²	6.1	9.5	7.0	6.7	4.9	4.5	5.8	2.0	5.3	6.4	6.3	7.5	3.1
Marketing costs.....	4.7	2.8	8.2	5.8	17.8	14.8	4.9	1.8	2.7	6.1	3.7	4.2	7.4
Miscellaneous current operating expense, not included elsewhere ³	6.9	6.6	7.6	7.8	8.6	11.4	7.4	4.0	6.2	9.3	6.8	7.0	8.0
Property taxes, farm business share ⁴	3.2	4.1	1.5	2.3	3.0	3.6	3.7	1.4	3.6	2.5	3.8	3.5	2.5
Interest, farm business share ⁵	2.3	2.5	2.4	2.2	1.5	1.6	2.6	1.3	2.5	1.9	2.2	2.4	1.2
Construction and land improvement ⁶	5.3	5.2	4.7	6.1	5.7	4.8	5.6	3.9	5.3	5.8	5.7	6.4	6.1
Purchase of motor vehicles, farm machinery and equipment ⁷	13.1	20.4	15.7	13.1	5.6	10.5	14.5	4.5	10.3	14.4	15.4	13.9	7.5
CLASSES I AND II													
Total expenditures.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Cash wages.....	14.2	9.1	27.4	29.3	30.7	32.2	11.8	5.0	7.7	21.2	8.3	10.4	42.0
Machine hire and customwork.....	1.7	2.6	2.8	2.2	1.0	0.8	1.4	0.4	1.3	3.3	1.7	2.4	0.2
Livestock and poultry purchased.....	13.7	8.5	3.2	3.0	0.7	1.6	5.6	12.5	29.1	5.2	6.9	13.1	0.8
Feed for livestock and poultry.....	18.2	6.7	1.8	2.3	1.0	2.0	30.8	61.3	20.4	2.4	25.1	13.5	0.7
Seeds, plants, and trees.....	3.1	4.6	3.4	6.2	4.7	1.3	2.3	0.5	2.1	4.6	2.9	3.5	15.0
Commercial fertilizer and liming materials.....	5.2	7.9	6.0	10.0	11.1	6.6	4.1	0.8	3.3	8.8	6.2	7.3	3.8
Petroleum products, farm business share ¹	6.2	10.8	7.9	5.7	4.2	4.7	5.4	2.6	5.2	7.8	7.1	7.6	4.9
Repair and other operating costs for motor vehicles and farm machinery ²	5.2	9.4	6.6	5.3	4.2	4.2	4.4	1.4	4.4	6.1	5.6	6.2	1.9
Marketing costs.....	5.2	3.0	8.8	6.7	21.3	17.4	4.7	1.7	2.5	8.3	3.6	4.5	7.8
Miscellaneous current operating expense, not included elsewhere ³	7.2	7.0	9.8	10.4	8.3	11.8	7.3	3.9	5.9	10.6	6.9	6.9	8.2
Property taxes, farm business share ⁴	2.7	3.5	1.5	2.5	2.2	3.4	2.7	1.1	3.1	2.1	3.0	2.8	2.1
Interest, farm business share ⁵	2.0	2.1	2.3	2.0	1.4	1.4	2.2	1.3	2.3	1.5	1.2	2.6	1.2
Construction and land improvement ⁶	4.9	5.7	5.1	6.4	4.3	4.7	5.2	3.6	4.3	5.8	6.4	6.7	6.4
Purchase of motor vehicles, farm machinery and equipment ⁷	10.5	18.9	12.4	8.0	5.1	8.1	12.1	4.0	8.4	12.4	15.1	12.6	4.8
CLASSES III THROUGH VI													
Total expenditures.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Cash wages.....	6.9	4.8	18.2	10.5	20.3	23.2	4.5	1.9	4.7	11.7	2.9	4.9	18.6
Machine hire and customwork.....	3.1	3.6	3.0	3.3	1.4	1.9	3.1	1.0	3.0	4.3	3.5	4.0	1.7
Livestock and poultry purchased.....	7.5	8.0	4.0	3.1	1.6	0.6	5.1	13.3	12.0	3.5	7.2	6.6	1.1
Feed for livestock and poultry.....	16.2	7.6	4.7	6.1	2.3	3.9	21.5	51.9	19.5	6.1	23.1	14.1	7.2
Seeds, plants, and trees.....	3.8	4.5	3.5	4.9	9.9	3.5	3.1	1.2	3.4	5.8	3.6	4.8	11.4
Commercial fertilizer and liming materials.....	5.6	5.6	7.3	12.2	7.2	7.4	4.2	2.0	4.9	9.6	4.0	6.4	5.1
Petroleum products, farm business share ¹	11.1	13.6	11.8	13.7	9.7	8.1	10.2	6.2	9.9	13.2	10.9	12.7	10.8
Repair and other operating costs for motor vehicles and farm machinery ²	7.2	9.6	7.4	7.9	6.4	5.3	6.6	3.4	6.6	6.8	6.6	8.5	6.5
Marketing costs.....	4.1	2.5	7.3	4.9	10.0	8.8	5.0	1.9	3.0	2.5	3.8	3.9	6.3
Miscellaneous current operating expense, not included elsewhere.....	6.5	6.2	4.8	5.4	9.4	10.4	7.5	4.2	6.6	7.1	6.8	7.0	7.3
Property taxes, farm business share ⁴	3.8	4.6	1.4	2.2	4.0	3.9	4.4	1.9	4.3	3.3	4.2	4.0	3.7
Interest, farm business share ⁵	2.6	3.0	2.5	2.3	1.5	2.0	2.8	1.3	2.6	2.5	2.6	2.3	1.2
Construction and land improvement ⁶	5.6	4.8	4.4	5.9	8.8	5.0	5.8	4.5	6.6	5.7	5.4	6.3	5.2
Purchase of motor vehicles, farm machinery and equipment ⁷	15.9	21.7	10.8	17.7	6.6	15.9	16.0	5.3	13.0	17.9	15.5	14.8	15.9

¹ Expenditures minus tax refunds. Includes expenditures attributable to uses other than farm business.

² Includes repairs, replacement parts, accessories, registration fees and insurance on vehicles. Includes expenditures attributable to uses other than farm business.

³ Medicine, disinfectants, pesticides, electricity, telephone service, insurance, hand tools, and miscellaneous farm business expenses (management services, recordkeeping, legal fees, advertising expenses, etc.).

⁴ Includes some property taxes on furniture and other household goods attributable to family living expenses.

⁵ Includes interest on debt contracted for family living expenses.

⁶ Excludes expenditures by landlords, excludes expenditures for construction and repair of operator's dwelling except for multi-unit tenant farms.

⁷ Purchase cost minus value of trade-in and sales. Includes expenditures attributable to uses other than farm business.