

FARMERS AND FARM PRODUCTION

The largest farms have somewhat less income per total crop acre than the medium-sized farms but much more than the two groups of smaller farms. Here again, the small farms fail to use their resources as effectively as the larger farms, and total incomes are exceedingly small—less than one-third of the income per crop acre of the group.

Table 61.—SOURCES OF FARM INCOME ON DAIRY FARMS, BY ECONOMIC CLASS OF FARM, FOR THE GULF COAST AREA: 1954

Item	Economic class of farm						
	Total	I	II	III	IV	V	VI
Number of farms.....	2,730	53	431	996	900	240	50
Gross sales—							
Per farm.....dollars..	7,040	40,586	14,028	6,816	3,876	1,971	813
Per crop acre.....do..	121	107	128	141	104	72	30
Percent of gross sales from dairy products.....	89	82	90	90	80	82	82
Sales per farm:							
Milk.....dollars..	6,240	33,041	12,586	6,154	3,447	1,619	666
Cattle and calves.....do..	413	2,775	748	344	270	213	103
Hogs.....do..	43	489	100	20	22	33	4
Poultry products except eggs.....dollars..	8	64	12	7	5	—	8
Eggs.....do..	48	392	77	50	28	6	8
Sheep.....do..	8	181	8	(Z)	8	—	—
Other livestock and livestock products.....dollars..	4	109	3	1	1	2	2
Total, livestock and livestock products.....dollars..	6,704	37,051	13,534	6,576	3,781	1,873	791
Field crops.....do..	206	2,957	330	182	67	75	21
Other crops ¹do..	70	578	164	58	28	23	1
Total crops ¹do..	276	3,535	494	240	95	98	22

Z Less than 0.50.

¹ Includes horticultural and forest products.

The largest expense item is for feed, hired labor comes second (Table 62). Specified expenses per crop acre are much lower on the small than on the large farms. The large farms averaged but \$54 expenses per \$100 income, whereas the small farms averaged \$83.

Table 62.—SPECIFIED FARM EXPENDITURES ON DAIRY FARMS, BY ECONOMIC CLASS OF FARM, FOR THE GULF COAST AREA: 1954

Item	Economic class of farm						
	Total	I	II	III	IV	V	VI
Number of farms.....	2,730	53	431	996	900	240	50
Average per farm:							
Machine hire.....dollars..	80	238	163	78	48	43	12
Hired labor.....do..	502	6,458	1,468	286	99	62	16
Feed.....do..	2,846	10,822	5,206	2,969	1,778	1,077	576
Gas and oil.....do..	266	1,614	601	226	145	91	30
Fertilizer.....do..	381	2,753	734	332	217	140	73
Lime.....do..	35	197	64	38	18	14	10
Total.....do..	4,110	21,982	8,236	3,929	2,305	1,433	717
Average per crop acre:							
Machine hire.....do..	9	17	13	6	3	2	1
Hired labor.....do..	49	29	48	62	48	39	21
Feed.....do..	4	4	6	5	4	3	1
Gas and oil.....do..	7	7	7	7	6	5	3
Fertilizer.....do..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Lime.....do..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total.....do..	70	57	74	80	61	49	26

Net income of these operators is not large. Production and sales of milk per cow are the lowest for any special dairy area (Table 63). The average price received per 100 pounds of milk is the highest of any area which indicates the type of market for fluid milk. Practically none is sold as cream. The quantity of whole milk used for manufactured dairy products is not known but the price received indicates that very little is used for other than fluid consumption. Alabama and Louisiana marketed 20 percent of the whole milk as manufactured products in 1954.

Table 63.—MEASURES OF INCOME AND EFFICIENCY LEVELS FOR DAIRY FARMS, BY ECONOMIC CLASS OF FARM, FOR THE GULF COAST AREA: 1954

Item	Economic class of farm						
	Total	I	II	III	IV	V	VI
Number of farms.....	2,730	53	431	996	900	240	50
Gross sales per farm.....dollars..	7,040	40,586	14,028	6,816	3,876	1,971	813
Specified expenses per farm.....dollars..	4,110	21,982	8,236	3,929	2,305	1,433	717
Gross sales less specified expenses per farm.....dollars..	2,930	18,604	5,792	2,887	1,571	538	96
Gross sales per man-equivalent.....	4,693	7,805	6,376	4,869	3,230	1,971	739
Total investment—							
Per farm.....dollars..	20,736	84,225	44,267	19,007	12,711	12,282	6,775
Per man-equivalent.....do..	13,824	16,197	20,121	13,641	10,592	12,282	6,159
Per \$100 gross sales.....do..	296	207	316	281	326	614	847
Percent of sales of dairy products from cream.....(Z)	(Z)	(Z)	(Z)	(Z)	(Z)	(Z)	(Z)
Milk sales per cow:							
Dollars.....	198	316	246	195	148	96	61
Pounds (milk equivalent).....	3,671	4,858	4,451	3,031	2,981	2,122	1,040

Z Less than 0.5 percent.

Some fertilizer was used by a larger proportion of the smaller farms than any other economic subregion, and the rate of application of those using fertilizer was higher (Table 64). Most of the farms used the same rate of application and only the two groups of farms at the extremes of the economic class showed much variation from the average.

Table 64.—USE OF FERTILIZER AND LIME ON DAIRY FARMS, BY ECONOMIC CLASS OF FARM, FOR THE GULF COAST AREA: 1954

Item	Economic class of farm						
	Total	I	II	III	IV	V	VI
Number of farms.....	2,730	53	431	996	900	240	50
Fertilizer:							
Percent of farms using.....	81	83	85	84	80	73	70
Tons used per farm reporting.....	10	78	19	9	6	4	2
Acres upon which used per farm reporting.....	43	234	81	39	26	18	11
Average per acre fertilized:							
Pounds.....	480	619	481	453	452	408	335
Cost.....dollars..	10.88	14.15	10.75	10.10	10.48	11.25	9.08
Lime:							
Percent of farms using.....	21	34	24	27	15	8	10
Acres upon which used per farm reporting.....	28	82	49	22	17	28	5
Average per acre limed:							
Pounds.....	1,078	2,341	2,076	1,667	2,299	2,000	2,000
Cost.....dollars..	6.17	7.10	5.41	6.24	6.88	6.18	20.00