

Private ownership .-- In 1959 slightly over 75 percent of the farms, including 60 percent of the farmland, were owned by owner-operators. The remaining owners were nonoperating landlords, corporations, and a small number of tenants who rented out all of the land they owned. The disparity between the proportion of owner-operators and the proportion of land owned by them is primarily due to the large number of full owners with smaller than average farms used as part-time or part-retirement farms. Full owners accounted for 57.1 percent of the farms, but they owned only 33.8 percent of the farmland. On the other hand, part owners owned a slightly larger proportion of land than of farms. They owned 22.5 percent of the farms and 25.4 percent of the farmland. These general relationships held for each of the four regions as well as for the United States as a whole. The largest difference in proportion of farms owned and land owned was in the West, where full owners accounted for 61.6 percent of the farm operators, but owned only 17.6 percent of the farmland.

In the 1959 census information about nonoperator landlords was obtained indirectly from the tabulated data of the four major tenure groups. Thus, it was impossible to determine the number of nonoperator landlords because some owned more than one farm and some rented farms had more than one landlord. However, it was possible to obtain the total amount of land owned by nonoperator landlords. For the United States as a whole, nonoperator landlords owned 30.8 percent of the farmland. Among the regions, the proportion ranged from 14.1 percent in the Northeastern region to 36.5 percent in the North Central region.