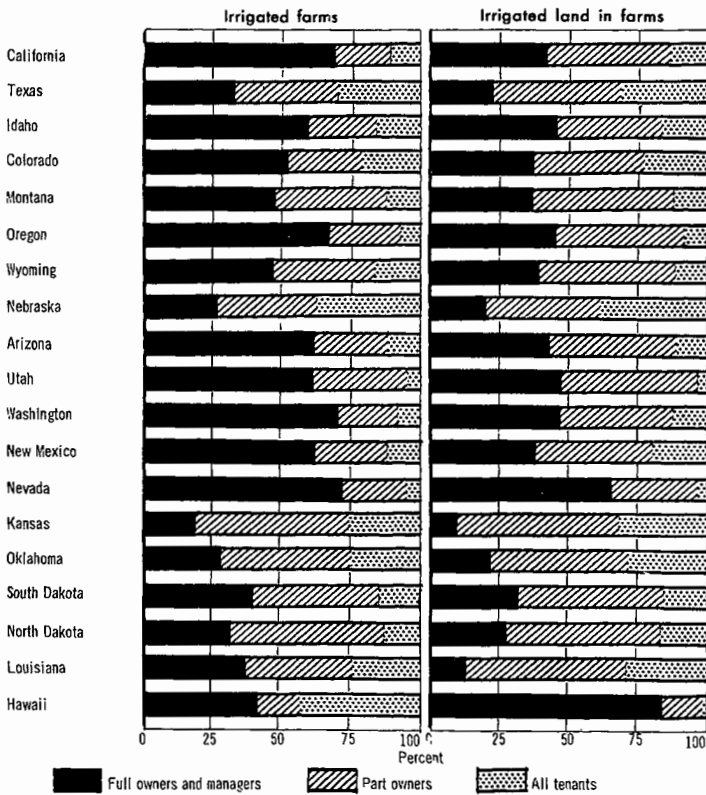


tenure form in areas where stripcropping is heavily practiced, and part owners reported 56.1 percent of the stripcropped acreage in the United States. Tenants reported only 17.3 percent of the stripcropping acreage.

Terracing was more widely reported than any other land-use practice. Of the 32.1 million terraced acres, about two-thirds were in the South. Terraces are widely used in the wheat-producing areas from central Texas to southern Nebraska both as a moisture-conserving practice and as a soil-conservation practice. Part owners reported 42.2 percent of the terraced acreage followed by full owners with 37.0 percent and tenants with 19.1 percent.

**PERCENT DISTRIBUTION OF IRRIGATED FARMS AND IRRIGATED LAND IN FARMS, BY TENURE OF OPERATOR, FOR THE 17 WESTERN STATES, LOUISIANA, AND HAWAII: 1959**



**Irrigated farms and acreage.**—In 1959, 313,217 farms in the United States reported a total of 33.4 million acres under irrigation. This was 3.0 percent of all farmland, and an increase of 3.6 million acres since 1954. Commercial farms reported 96.5 percent of the irrigated land. In 1959, 44.6 percent of the commercial irrigated farms were operated by full owners; however, they operated only 27.8 percent of the irrigated land. In contrast, part owners accounted for 33.5 percent of the commercial irrigated farms but operated 45.1 percent of the irrigated land. Managers operated 1.9 percent of the irrigated farms and 7.1 percent of the irrigated land. Tenants accounted for 20 percent of both irrigated farms and irrigated land.

**Regional variations.**—In the West, relatively arid conditions make irrigation considerably more important than in the more humid eastern regions of the United States. The most extensive areas of irrigation are found in California, Colorado, Nevada, Arizona, Idaho, Nebraska, and the High Plains area of Texas.

In 1959, the tenure of operators of irrigated farms varied widely among the 17 Western States, Louisiana, and Hawaii. In California, Nevada, Oregon, and Washington, over two-thirds of the irrigated farms were operated by full owners and managers, and one-tenth or less were operated by tenants. In the mid-western States of Kansas and Nebraska, full owners and managers operated about one-fifth and one-fourth of the irrigated farms, respectively. Part owners operated less than one-third of the irrigated farms in the 19 States as a whole, ranging from less than one-sixth in Hawaii to more than half in Kansas.

The tenure pattern of irrigated land is somewhat different from the tenure pattern of irrigated farms. In the 19 States as a whole the largest proportion of irrigated land was reported by part owners, who operated 44.3 percent of the irrigated land compared with 36.1 percent operated by full owners. This was the usual pattern in all States except Idaho, Utah, Washington, Nevada, and Hawaii, where full owners reported the largest proportion of irrigated land. In general, the irrigated land operated by tenant farmers was in the same proportion as the number of farms they operated.

In Hawaii the full-owner and manager group and tenants reported about the same proportion of irrigated farms. Both groups accounted for about 42.5 percent. However, full owners and managers operated 84.7 percent of the land, while the tenants operated only 1.6 percent. This reflects the wide use of irrigation on farms of all sizes and the great disparity in size of farms of tenant farmers and the large sugar and pineapple plantations operated by full owners and managers.