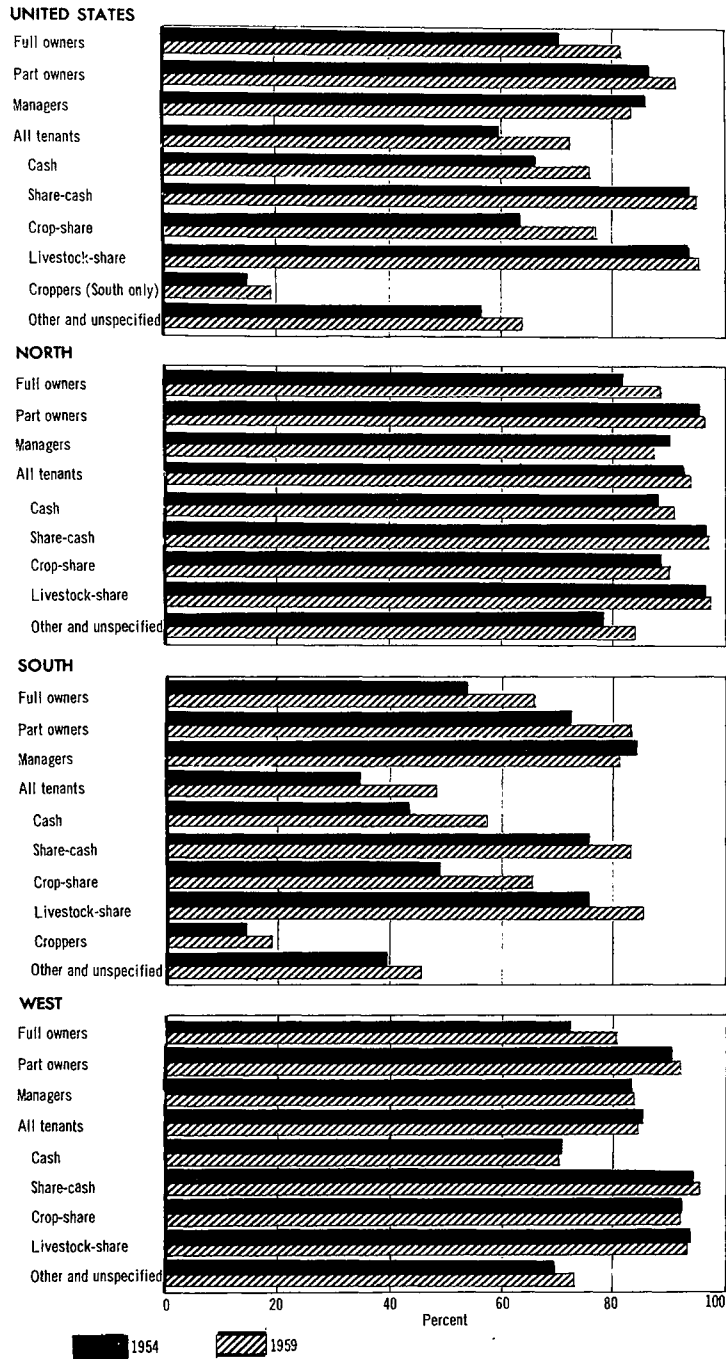


PERCENT OF COMMERCIAL FARMS REPORTING TRACTORS (OTHER THAN GARDEN), BY TENURE OF OPERATOR, FOR THE UNITED STATES AND REGIONS: 1954 AND 1959

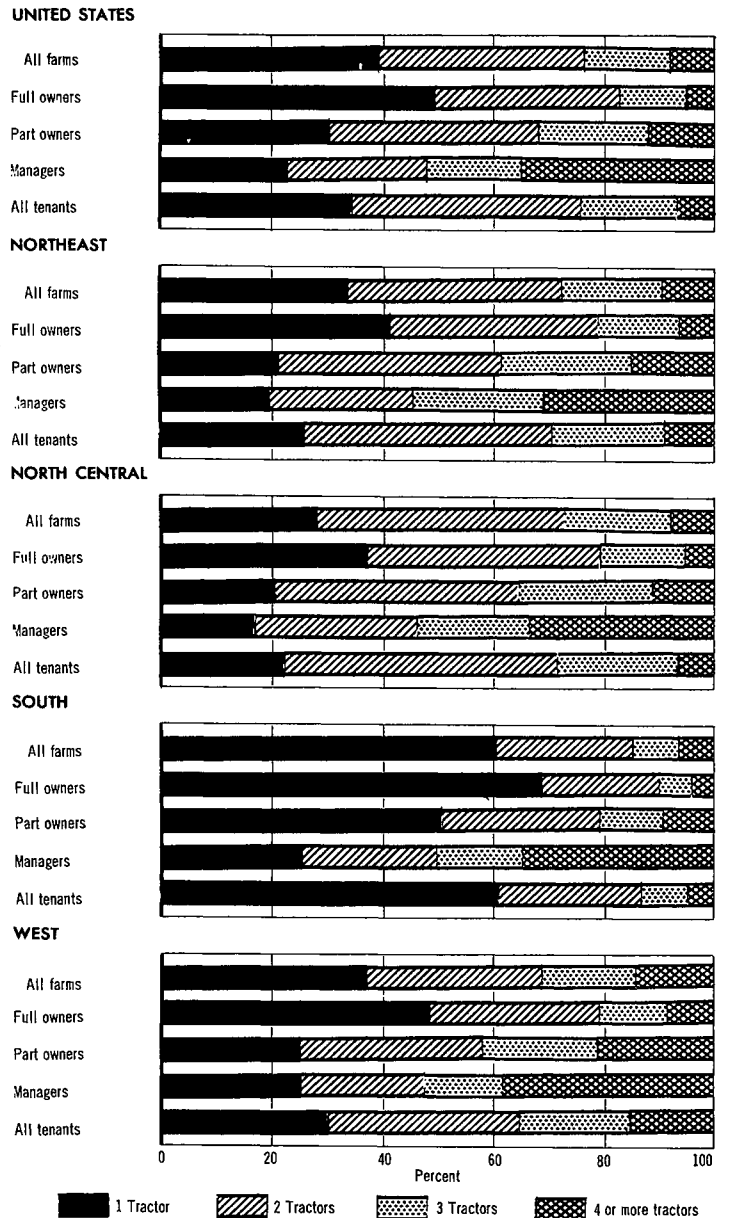


EQUIPMENT

Great strides have been made in the last two decades in the mechanization of farm production. U.S. Department of Agriculture estimates show that power and machinery represented only 10 percent of the total inputs in farm production in 1940. By 1959 this had climbed to 22 percent. Increased utilization of such equipment as tractors, grain combines, corn pickers, hay balers, and milking machines has greatly expanded output per farmworker.

Increase in power.—One indication of the increased substitution of mechanical power for animal power is the rapid expansion in

PERCENT DISTRIBUTION OF COMMERCIAL FARMS REPORTING, BY NUMBER OF TRACTORS (OTHER THAN GARDEN), BY TENURE OF OPERATOR, FOR THE UNITED STATES AND REGIONS: 1959



the number of tractors on farms. Since 1950 the number of farm tractors of all kinds has risen by 42.4 percent. In 1959 there were 5,138,921 tractors on all farms of the United States, and an average of 2.1 tractors per commercial farm. The geographic distribution of tractors, however, is not proportional to the number of farms. A greater concentration is found in the North Central region than in other regions, while there are slightly fewer tractors than farms in the South.

The larger operations of part owners and managers are primarily responsible for the higher proportion of the farms in these two groups reporting tractors than either full owners or tenants.

In addition to the very high proportion of farms that reported tractors in 1959, the number of farms that reported more than one tractor is evidence of the intensity of mechanization. Within each tenure group more farms reported two or more tractors than reported only one. This general pattern existed for the United States and each of the regions except the South.