

the past two decades. The proportion of farms reporting electricity increased from one-third in 1940 to three-fourths in 1950, and by 1954 the proportion had grown to over 90 percent. Farms reporting telephones also increased. In 1950 only 38.2 percent of the farms reported having telephones, compared with 65.0 percent in 1959. Reports of home freezers increased from 12.1 percent of all farms in 1950 to 32.2 percent in 1954, and in 1959 they were reported on 55.8 percent of the farms.

For commercial farms, managers reported the highest proportion of farms with telephones in all regions except the West. The proportion of manager farms with telephones ranged from 74.9 percent in the South to 94.4 percent in the Northeast. Full- and part-owner farms had about the same proportion of farms with telephones. Owner farms with telephones ranged from about 90 percent of the owner farms in the Northeast to about 55 percent in the South. Only 56.2 percent of the tenant farms in the United States had telephones. This was largely due to the low percent (24.1) of the tenant farms in the South with telephones.

The proportion of farms reporting ownership of home freezers was about the same for all regions for the different tenure groups, except in the South where the proportion for each tenure group was lower than in the other regions. For the entire United States, the range between tenure groups extended from 68.8 percent on part-owner farms to 50.8 percent on tenant farms. Most of this difference was due to the low proportion of tenant farms in the South (33.8 percent) reporting home freezers.

Kind of road on which farms are located.—Much progress has been made since 1950 in providing all-weather roads for farm families. For example, in 1930 only one-third of the farms reporting were located on hard-surfaced, gravel, shell, or shale roads. By 1940 this proportion had increased to nearly one-half and by 1959 it had increased to four-fifths.

In the Northeast, two-thirds of the farms were located on hard-surfaced roads, while the remaining one-third were evenly divided between improved roads (gravel, shell, or shale) and dirt roads. Only one-third of the farms in the North Central region were located on hard-surfaced roads, but over half were on improved roads and only one-tenth were on dirt roads. In the South about 40 percent of the farms were located on hard-surfaced roads, about 30 percent on improved roads and about 30 percent on dirt roads. In the West 54 percent of the farms were located on hard-surfaced roads, 28 percent on improved roads, and 18 percent on dirt roads.

In 1959 nearly three-fifths of the managers reported that their farms were located on hard-surfaced roads compared with two-fifths of the owner-operators and only one-third of the tenants. Two-fifths of the owners and tenants reported that their farms were located on improved roads, while a little less than one-fourth of the managers reported being located on improved roads. Twenty percent of both owner farms and manager farms and almost 25 percent of the tenant farms were on dirt roads.

PERCENT DISTRIBUTION OF FARMS IN EACH TENURE GROUP, BY KIND OF ROAD ON WHICH LOCATED, FOR THE UNITED STATES AND REGIONS: 1959

