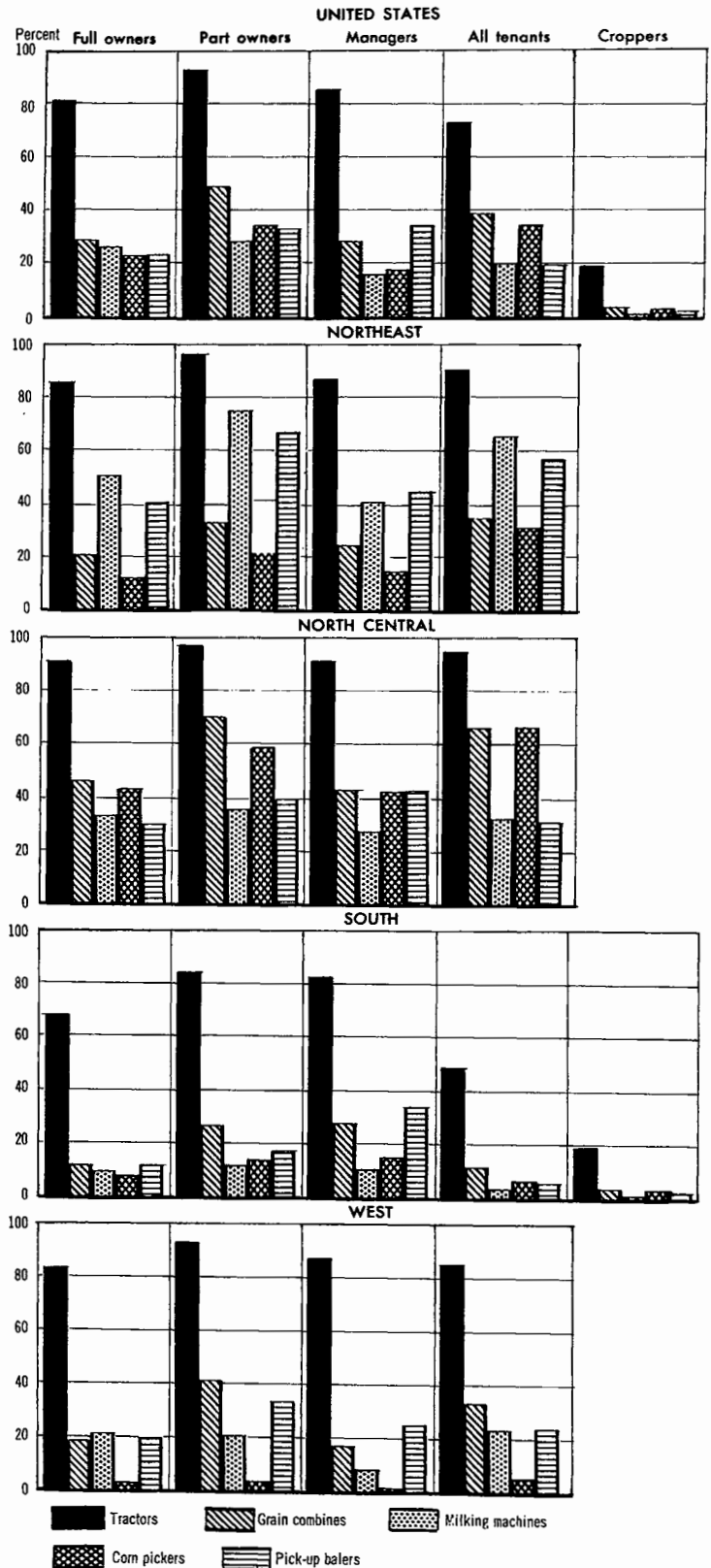


PERCENT OF COMMERCIAL FARMS REPORTING TRACTORS, GRAIN COMBINES, MILKING MACHINES, CORN PICKERS, AND PICK-UP BALERS, BY TENURE OF OPERATOR, FOR THE UNITED STATES AND REGIONS: 1959



**Specialized machines.**—Another indication of the intensity of mechanization is the use of specialized machines. In general, farms operated by part owners and tenants were the most mechanized. Tenant farms in the South, however, were an exception, for they were the least mechanized of any tenure group. The number of croppers in the South greatly reduces the proportion of tenants reporting specified machines, because croppers usually supply only their labor to the operation of the farm.

From 1950 to 1959 the number of commercial farms reporting grain combines increased by 39 percent, to 900,375 farms. Nearly 50 percent of the part owners and 40 percent of the tenants reported grain combines, while less than a third of the full owners and managers reported this equipment.

Milking machines were reported on 610,256 commercial farms in 1959. For the entire United States the proportion of farms within each tenure group reporting milking machines was fairly uniform. The percentage of farms reporting milking machines was nearly twice as large in the Northeast as in the other regions.

In 1959 corn pickers were reported on 712,486 commercial farms. This was an increase of 61 percent since 1950. There were 737,191 corn pickers reported on all commercial farms or just slightly over one corn picker per farm reporting. Part-owner and tenant-operated farms reported a higher percentage of corn pickers than either full-owner or manager-operated farms.

The mechanization of hay harvesting has been one of the most rapidly growing practices in agriculture. In 1959, 615,327 commercial farms reported pick-up balers, an increase of 235 percent over the number of commercial farms reporting balers in 1950. In addition to the pick-up balers, there were 266,353 commercial farms in 1959 that reported ownership of field-forage harvesters. However, these machines are used for the harvesting of corn silage as well as hay. Approximately one-third of the part-owner and manager-operated farms reported pick-up balers; this was 10 percent higher than either full-owner or tenant-operated farms. This difference reflects in part the greater emphasis on livestock operations on part-owner and manager-operated farms. All tenure groups in the Northeast reported a higher proportion of farms with balers than in the other regions.