



OFF-FARM EMPLOYMENT AND PART-TIME FARMING

Off-farm employment has an important effect on the standard of living of many farm families throughout the United States. In 1959 two-thirds of the farm operators reported that they or some member of their family living with them received income from sources other than the farm they operated. Of the farm operators themselves, nearly one-third reported working off their farms 100 or more days during the year.

Considerations entering into tenure arrangements are quite different for farm operators who are dependent on off-farm employment than for operators who are entirely dependent on their own farming operations for their income. For example, the individual with a full-time nonfarm job, who owns and operates a small acreage because he prefers to live in the country and en-

gages in farming to supplement his income, is in a much different situation than the full-time owner-operator who is striving to acquire title to his land. The part-time farmer is not affected by adverse farm product prices to the same extent as the full-time farmer, because the part-time farmer may be able to continue to meet his mortgage payments from nonfarm income.

Farm operators with other employment and other income include (1) those farmers who work at nonfarm jobs during slack seasons, (2) farmers who supplement their farm income with continuous part-time nonfarm jobs, (3) persons employed full time at nonfarm jobs who have sufficient agricultural production to qualify as farmers; and (4) persons retired from either farm or nonfarm employment who live on the land and add to their retirement income with some farm output.