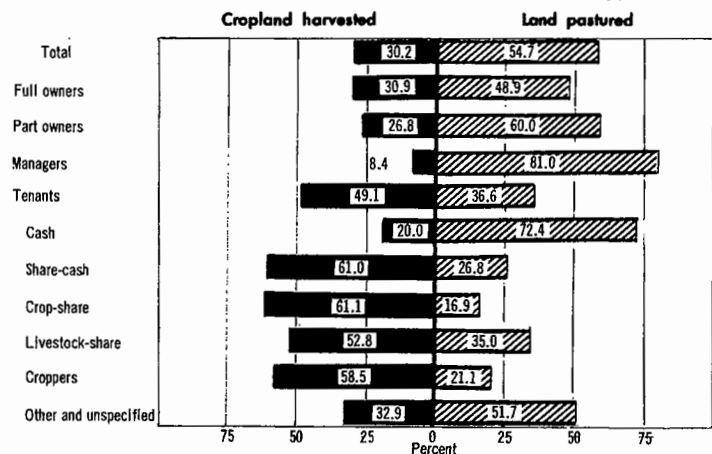


CROPLAND HARVESTED AND LAND PASTURED AS PERCENT OF LAND IN FARMS, BY TENURE OF OPERATOR, FOR COMMERCIAL FARMS, FOR THE UNITED STATES: 1959



Full owners used proportionately more of their land for feed crops than tenants and part owners. For full-owner-operated commercial farms, 53.1 percent of the harvested crop acreage was in hay and corn. For tenants, the proportion was 44.5 percent and for part owners, 40.6 percent. Livestock-share, cash, and share-cash tenants also used much of their land for the production of feed crops with hay and corn comprising 61.0 percent of the cropland harvested on livestock-share-tenant-operated commercial farms. For commercial farms operated by crop-share tenants, 71.4 percent of the cropland harvested acreage represented crops other than hay and corn, and for those operated by croppers, 61.4 percent of the cropland harvested was in crops other than hay and corn.

Commercial manager-operated farms reported only 8.4 percent of their land in harvested crops and 81.0 percent in pasture. A high proportion of manager-operated farms represents livestock operations. This included many of the livestock ranches in the West.

Part-owner-operated farms also had a high percentage (60.0 percent) of their land in pasture. The proportion of land from which crops were harvested was 26.8 percent for commercial part-owner farms and 30.9 percent for commercial full-owner farms with 48.9 percent of the land pastured.

Managers and full owners had much higher proportions of farms with no cropland harvested than tenants, largely because of the greater proportion of farms of the livestock types. Many dairy and livestock farms either depend on purchased feeds or on pasturing, or both. Of the manager- and full-owner operated commercial farms, 16.0 and 10.2 percent, respectively, reported no cropland harvested as compared with 2.6 percent for tenants. Among commercial tenant farms, cash and other and unspecified tenants accounted for most of the farms with no cropland harvested. These two classes of tenants were similar to full owners in the proportion of farms with no cropland harvested. Nearly all farms for the other classes of tenants reported cropland harvested. Even for livestock-share tenants the proportion with no cropland harvested was only 1.0 percent. Most livestock share-tenants are in the Corn Belt and grow feed crops which are marketed through livestock.

In respect to size-of-crop operations on commercial farms, managers reported the largest average acreage of cropland harvested with 396 acres per farm reporting as compared with a 191-acre average for part owners, 130 acres for tenants, and 84 acres for full owners. Croppers had the smallest average acreage of cropland harvested for commercial farms with an average of 27 acres and with over half the farms reporting less than 20 acres harvested.

Irrigation.—In general, relatively more managers and part-owner-operated commercial farms were irrigated than were farms of the other tenure groups. For the United States, manager-operated farms included 7.1 percent of the irrigated land in commercial farms. In Hawaii, the percentage was 8.4 percent and in Florida, the percentage was 29. More than one-fourth of all manager-operated farms were irrigated as compared with 10.2 percent of all farms. Of part-owner commercial farms, 11.7 percent were irrigated. These irrigated part-owner-operated farms comprised one-third of all irrigated commercial farms and accounted for 45 percent of all irrigated land in commercial farms. The proportion of crop-share tenants reporting irrigation was slightly higher than that for part owners but they accounted for only 10.5 percent of the irrigated land.

The distribution of irrigated farms by tenure varied considerably from area to area. In the West, where two-thirds of all irrigated farms and all irrigated land are located 84 percent of the irrigated commercial farms were owner-operated. In the South and in the North Central Division a larger percentage of the tenant-operated farms were irrigated than in the other parts of the Nation and tenants and part owners accounted for approximately 70 percent of the irrigated commercial farms. In the South, 54 percent of the irrigated tenant commercial farms were crop-share tenants. (Crop-share tenants comprised 29 percent of all commercial tenant-operated farms.) In the North Central Division where most of the irrigated farms were located in Nebraska and Kansas, share-cash and crop-share tenants were the principal classes of tenant-operated irrigated farms and represented 13 and 11 percent, respectively, of all irrigated commercial farms. In the northeast, full owners operated 50 percent of the irrigated commercial farms; part owners, 40 percent; tenants, 7 percent; and managers, 3 percent.

Conservation Practices.—Cover crops on commercial farms were reported by 15 percent of the part owners, by 12 percent of the managers, by 11 percent of the full owners, and by 11 percent of the tenants. Land farmed on the contour was reported by 14 percent of the part owners, by 12 percent of the tenants, and by 10 percent of the full owners. Much of the land farmed on the contour was in areas having a high proportion of tenant-operated farms. Systems of terraces on crop and pasture land were reported by 17 percent of the part owners, by 12 percent of the tenants, and by 12 percent of the full owners. Stripcropping for soil-erosion control, a practice concentrated in the northern Great Plains, was reported by 6 percent of the part owners, by 4 percent of the full owners, and by 3 percent of the tenants. Land in soil-improvement grasses and legumes and not harvested and not pastured was reported by 13 percent of the part owners, 10 percent of the full owners, and 6 percent of the tenants.

Use of Fertilizer and Lime.—A higher proportion of tenants than full owners reported the use of commercial fertilizer. More than 95 percent of the commercial cropper farms reported the use of commercial fertilizer. The more widespread use of commercial fertilizer on tenant-operated farms is the result, in part, of a higher proportion of tenant-operated farms having cropland harvested and, in part, of a higher proportion of tenant-operated farms having cotton and tobacco. Cropper-operated farms were predominantly cotton and tobacco farms (87 percent of the commercial cropper farms are of these types). There were wider differences between areas than between tenure groups in the proportion of farms reporting the use of commercial fertilizer. Much of the difference between tenure groups in the use of commercial fertilizer is related to difference in type of farm. For livestock-share tenant-operated farms, located mostly in the Corn Belt, the percentage reporting commercial fertilizer was 82 percent. For part-owner-operated commercial farms the percentage was 74 and for full owners, 68.