

For 1954 and for 1950, estimates for part owners of the operated land represented by owned and rented lands, respectively, were made in connection with the tabulation of data on farm mortgage debt. These estimates are included in the totals published in part 5 of volume III of the 1954 Census of Agriculture reports and in part 8 of volume V of the 1950 reports. Similar estimates for 1959 will be included in part 4 of volume V of the 1959 Census of Agriculture reports.

For the censuses of 1925 to 1945, and for 1900, data on owned and rented lands are restricted to the land operated. Table 16 presents owned and rented lands, by tenure of the operator, for the United States, 1925 to 1959. Inquiries for acres owned and rented were not included in the 1920 census, and no separate tabulation of the owned and rented portions of part-owner farms is available for 1910.

Comparability of Color-Tenure Data for Alaska and Hawaii.—Alaska and Hawaii were not included in the mid-decennial censuses of 1954, 1945, 1935, and 1925. For Alaska, the report for 1910 provides no color or tenure classifications for the 222 farms reported. The 1950 agriculture report does not provide a color or race breakdown for the 525 farm operators reported for that year. For 1920 and 1930, there was no separate classification of farms of white and nonwhite operators by tenure. No separation of full owners and part owners was made until 1940 and at no time has there been a subclassification of tenants.

For Hawaii, the two-way classification of tenants, which for the conterminous United States had given way in 1910 to a more detailed classification was continued through 1920. No subclassification of tenants was made for Hawaii for 1930 or 1940. For 1930, in presenting tenure data by color of operator, full owners

and part owners were shown only as a combined total. In the race tabulations, beginning with 1940, Negro farm operators were not separately identified.

Comparability Affected by Changes in Definition of a Farm.—The tenure distributions have been affected to a minor extent by changes in the definition of a farm in the various censuses. The 1959 definition was more restrictive than that for 1954 and 1950, which in turn was more restrictive than the definition for prior censuses. A count of the places eliminated by the 1959 census, that would have been included under the 1954 and 1950 definition, and their distribution by tenure are presented in the Introduction to this volume.

The places eliminated by both the 1959 and 1950 changes in definition were marginal places with rather meager agricultural activities. The 1959 data indicate that such places are predominantly owner-operated with tenure distribution similar to farms other than commercial.

FARM TENURE, 1959

Full owners operated 57 percent of all farms in 1959.

Increasing Importance of Part-Owner-Operated Farms.—Part owners have become the dominant tenure group in the United States. The importance of this group is much greater than indicated by the number of farms operated, as part-owner-operated farms are larger than those operated by full owners and tenants. In 1959, part owners operated 22.5 percent of the farms, 44.8 percent of all land in farms, and 42.4 percent of all cropland.

