



Livestock-share class of tenants predominate in areas where feed grain and livestock production are concentrated. This is the predominating type of tenancy in parts of the North Central States.

Other and unspecified tenants include those paying a fixed quantity for farm products, those using the land rent free or for maintenance costs, as well as those tenants for whom the rental arrangement was not reported. They represented 11.9 percent of all tenants and operated 8.9 percent of the land operated by all classes of tenants.

CHANGES IN TENURE

Decrease in Tenancy.—Adjustments in operational arrangements to a changing agricultural situation have been bringing about substantial reductions in farm tenancy. The trend in farm tenancy has been downward for the past quarter century with rather large decreases within recent years. In 1959, farm tenancy was at the lowest level ever recorded in the 80-year period for which farm-tenure data have been collected by the census. In 1959, only one farm in five (19.8 percent) was tenant-operated. The proportion of farms operated by tenants was materially lower than 5 years earlier (24.0 percent in 1954) and less than half that of the peak reached about 1930 (42.4 percent). The 735,849 farms operated by tenants in 1959 was the smallest number reported by any census since farms operated by tenants were first counted in 1880 and over 2.1 million less than the number of farms operated by tenants in 1935.

Both relative and absolute losses in tenant-operated farms were especially large in the South. Accompanying a drop between 1954 and 1959 of nearly 29.0 percent in the total number

of all farms in the South, the decline in number of tenants was substantially larger amounting to 46.3 percent. The decrease in the number of croppers was even greater, amounting to 54.8 percent. The reduction in tenants, especially croppers and crop-share tenants, was very large in the older cotton-growing areas. In these areas, extending from South Carolina and Georgia westward to east Texas, croppers were only one-third as numerous in 1959 as at the beginning of the decade. The number of white croppers decreased by 70 percent. The major part of this reduction in number of tenants in the South occurred between 1954 and 1959.

Tenancy in the South has been traditionally very high among nonwhite farm operators. Large numbers of both white and nonwhite farm operators have left the farm but the exodus of nonwhite operators was proportionately greater than that of white operators. The South lost half of its nonwhite farm operators within less than a decade. The loss from 1954 to 1959 was especially large amounting to twice the loss during the first half of the decade. For every seven nonwhite farm operators in the South in 1920 there were two in 1959.

The proportion of farms operated by tenants has not changed as much since 1930 in the North Central States as in the South. The percentage of farms operated by tenants in these States was 22.2 in 1959 as compared with 47.1 percent in 1930. In other parts of the Nation outside of the South and the North Central States, tenancy has been lower and the changes have not been as large as in the South and the North Central States. In the New England and Middle Atlantic divisions only 1 out of 16 farms was tenant-operated in 1959. In the West, only 1 farm out of 8 was operated by a tenant in 1959.