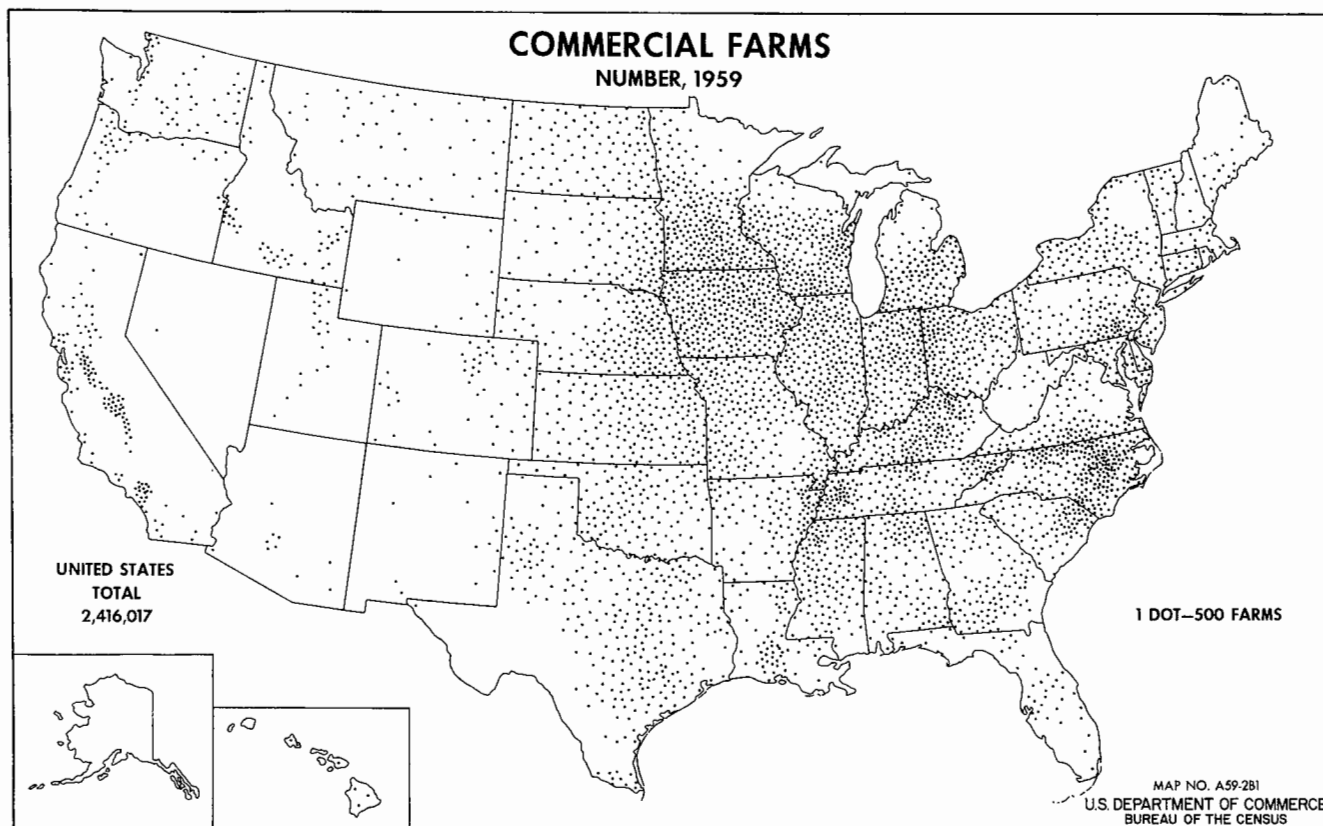


CHARACTERISTICS OF COMMERCIAL FARMS, 1959

Commercial Farms.—For 1959, commercial farms were divided into six classes on the basis of the value of farm products sold. The variations in the size of operations for the farms comprising these six classes were very great—the farms varied in value of

farm products sold from \$50 to more than \$2,500,000. There are also great differences in the contribution of the various economic classes of farms to total agricultural production. For example, the sale of agricultural products from the 102,000 Class I farms exceeds the sales of agricultural products from the more than 1,600,000 Class IV, V, and VI farms.



Nearly two-thirds of all farms reported by the 1959 Census of Agriculture were classified as commercial farms. Almost half of all commercial farms in the United States were located in the Corn Belt, Lake States, and Northern Plains States. The Corn Belt States alone had nearly a fourth of all commercial farms.

Among the States, Iowa had the largest number of commercial farms with 154,329.

The relative importance for 1959 of the various classes of farms in terms of organization, resources used, and output is indicated by the following data.

Economic class of farm	Number of farms, total	Percent distribution by economic class							
		Number of farms	Land in farms	Cropland harvested	Hired farm workers	Tractors (other than garden)	Fertilizer used	Expenditures for 6 items ¹	Value of all farm products sold
Commercial farms, total.....	2,416,017	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Class I.....	102,099	4.2	25.8	15.0	37.5	10.0	23.4	39.3	32.8
Class II.....	210,402	8.7	17.0	17.3	18.4	13.8	17.3	19.3	19.1
Class III.....	483,004	20.0	22.0	27.9	18.8	25.8	23.5	19.9	22.8
Class IV.....	653,881	27.1	19.3	24.3	14.3	27.1	19.3	13.5	16.0
Class V.....	617,677	25.6	12.1	12.4	8.8	18.1	12.5	6.7	7.7
Class VI.....	348,954	14.4	3.8	3.0	2.1	5.2	4.2	1.4	1.6

¹ Includes feed for livestock and poultry; purchase of livestock and poultry; machine hire; hired labor; seeds, bulbs, plants, and trees; and gasoline and other petroleum fuel and oil for the farm business.