



Cotton Farms.—One out of every 10 commercial farms in 1959 was classified as a cotton farm. Only cash-grain; dairy; and livestock farms, other than dairy and poultry farms, exceeded the number of cotton farms. Cotton farms were located almost entirely in the South and in irrigated areas of the West. The greatest concentration was in the Mississippi Delta. Operators of cotton farms accounted for 61 percent of the farm operators growing cotton in 1959 and 82 percent of all cotton harvested. Cotton farms had less than 8 percent of the total cropland on commercial farms. Many of the cotton farms were small. Two-fifths contained less than 50 acres and almost three-fifths contained less than 100 acres. Approximately three-fifths had less than 50 acres of cropland harvested and only one-fourth had 100 or more acres of cropland harvested.

More than one out of five acres of cropland harvested on cotton farms was irrigated, and one-fifth of all irrigated cropland harvested was on cotton farms. However, more than 85 percent of the irrigated cropland on cotton farms was on the 29,000 cotton farms with a value of farm products sold of \$20,000 or more. The same 29,000 farms produced almost two-thirds of all cotton sold in 1959.

The sale of cotton accounted for 80 percent of all crops sold, and for 75 percent of all farm products sold from cotton farms. More than half of the cotton farms were tenant-operated and almost four-fifths of the tenants operated their farms under a crop-share arrangement. More than 36 percent of the cotton farms were operated by nonwhite operators, and more than one-half of all commercial farms operated by nonwhite operators were cotton farms.

The characteristics of the cotton farms with large (farms with sales of \$20,000 or more), medium (farms with sales of \$5,000 to \$19,999), and small (farms with sales of less than \$5,000) scale operations were quite different.

Item	All cotton farms	Cotton farms with sales of—		
		\$20,000 or more	\$5,000 to \$19,999	Less than \$5,000
Average acres of cropland harvested per farm.....	104.3	462.9	117.9	29.1
Percent of farms operated by tenants.....	52.5	32.4	44.8	59.6
Average value of all farm products sold per farm..... dollars..	10,150	53,105	9,039	2,277
Average sale of cotton per farm..... dollars..	7,608	39,008	6,711	1,888
Percent of farms with tractors (other than garden)...	57.9	97.1	85.7	38.7
Average number of tractors (other than garden) per farm.....	1.2	4.1	1.5	0.5
Average acres of cropland harvested per tractor (other than garden).....	89.0	114.2	77.0	62.7
Average acres of irrigated cropland harvested per farm.....	22.0	159.0	10.2	0.4
Percent distribution of irrigated cropland harvested. Average expenditure per farm for—	100.0	87.1	11.9	1.0
Machine hire..... dollars..	863	4,965	933	199
Hired labor..... dollars..	1,396	8,520	1,088	141
Gasoline and other petroleum fuel and oil for the farm business..... dollars..	565	2,919	552	114
Percent of farms reporting expenditures of—				
\$1,000 or more for machine hire.....	19.7	92.6	30.0	1.3
\$500 or more for hired labor.....	32.4	95.0	57.5	9.7
\$1,000 or more for hired labor.....	22.7	89.8	40.5	2.3
\$2,500 or more for hired labor.....	12.0	70.9	13.1	0.1
Percent of farms reporting use of commercial fertilizer.....	84.8	77.7	72.2	91.4
Pounds of fertilizer used per acre fertilized.....	307	268	321	370
Pounds of fertilizer used per acre of cotton fertilized.....	335	294	343	426