

Table 19. Correctly Counted Farms by Type of Difference and Reason for Difference Between Census and Coverage Check Figures for Acres in Place

(Data may not add to totals due to rounding. Estimates are based on weighted subsample (phase II) results adjusted to census levels)

Type of difference and reason	Number of farms (thousands)	Land in farms (millions of acres)		
		According to census	According to coverage check	Net difference
Total.....	3,079	1,096.7	1,130.2	33.5
No difference in total acres.....	1,565	482.3	482.3	-
"Small" difference in total acres ¹	1,144	298.3	296.2	-2.1
Coverage check figure exceeds census figure.....	596	142.5	148.3	5.8
Census figure exceeds coverage check figure.....	549	155.7	147.9	-7.8
"Large" difference in total acres ¹	369	316.1	351.7	35.6
Coverage check figure exceeds census figure.....	257	152.2	220.2	68.0
One or more tracts omitted in census.....	160	83.0	133.9	50.9
Some or all of omitted tracts changed operator in 1964....	24	11.5	16.2	4.7
Omitted tracts did not change operator during 1964.....	136	71.5	117.7	46.2
Omitted tracts not used for crops in 1964.....	46	25.5	47.6	22.1
Omitted tracts used, at least in part, for crops in 1964.....	90	45.9	70.1	24.2
Acres for included tracts incorrectly reported.....	97	69.2	86.3	17.1
Census figure exceeds coverage check figure.....	113	163.9	131.5	-32.4
One or more tracts erroneously included in census.....	47	47.9	31.9	-16.0
Acres for included tracts incorrectly reported.....	67	116.0	99.6	-16.4

¹Differences are defined in terms of the size of the coverage check farm. A difference is defined as "large" if it exceeds:

5 acres for places having under 10 acres,
50 percent of the acreage for places having 10 to 99 acres,
and 50 acres for places having 100 acres or more.

A "small" difference is defined as one which is not large.

D. Other Results

1. Farm characteristics related to coverage and reporting error. Table 20 presents some results based on the coverage check area sample. Each farm in the area sample was classified in one of three "match status" classifications:

a. Missed in the census--No census questionnaire for a farm was found which accounted for any of the land in the area sample farm.

b. Enumerated in the census, complete match--A census questionnaire for a farm was found which accounted for essentially the same land as reported for the area sample farm, and the tenure classifications, i.e., full owner, part owner, manager, or tenant, were in agreement. Small differences between acres reported for the area sample farm and the census farm were allowed.

c. Enumerated in the census, partial match--All other cases for which some or all of the land in the area sample farm was accounted for on one or more census questionnaires for farms.

In table 20, the percentage distribution of farms by match status classification is shown for several different characteristics of farms and farm operators. These results show that several factors are associated with failure to find and enumerate farms and, once a farm is located, with failure to identify correctly the land included in the place.

Some types of farms most frequently missed were small farms (32.2 percent of the farms under

10 acres and 24.0 percent of the farms with 10 to 49 acres), farms in enumeration districts which were urban in character (25.3 percent), farms with non-resident operators (24.7 percent), and farms started in 1964 (22.6 percent). Farms operated by part owners and managers were less likely to be missed (5.9 percent) than those which were either tenant-operated (15.0 percent) or owner-operated (16.3 percent).

During the initial coverage check interview, each farm operator was asked whether a census questionnaire had been filled for his place. Of those who answered "no" to this question, an estimated 61.2 percent had actually been missed in the census.

Comparison of "complete matches" and "partial matches" shows clearly that the difficulty of determining total acres correctly increased in proportion to the number of separate tracts in the place, in proportion to the number of landlords, and in proportion to size of the place. Land changes during the census year (1964) also increased the likelihood that the census enumerator would get an incorrect figure for total acres. Farms operated by individuals were enumerated correctly more often than those operated by partnerships and other organizations, and fully owned farms were more often described correctly than partly owned or managed farms, with tenant farms occupying an intermediate position.

2. Evaluation of edit changes. In the computer edit of census schedules, information was checked