

### Comparison of Test and Control Counties

Because the results (see p. 48) compare characteristics of the data-collection methods in the test and control counties, table 8 presents some of the important agricultural characteristics of the two areas

for 1959 and 1964. The ratios in the last two columns of the table indicate that farms in the test and control counties differ to varying extents on the characteristics shown. However, a major factor in the "per farm" differences between the two areas is the difference in average size of farm; that is, the "per acre" ratios are

**Table 8. COMPARISON OF AFPS TEST AND CONTROL COUNTIES FOR 16 SELECTED STATISTICS: 1959 AND 1964**

Statistics	Test counties		Control counties		Ratio of test to control	
	1959	1964	1959	1964	1959	1964
Number of farms.....	25,909	21,573	47,225	40,991	-	-
Acres in farms.....	5,132,943	5,011,498	7,591,237	7,453,362	-	-
Average size of farm in acres.....	198.1	232.3	160.7	181.8	1.233	1.278
Value of land and buildings:						
Average per farm.....	\$74,160	\$101,056	\$53,735	\$66,809	1.380	1.513
Average per acre.....	\$367.7	\$434.2	\$324.3	\$367.3	1.134	1.182
Value of all farm products sold:						
Average per farm.....	\$14,249	\$19,260	\$10,660	\$14,255	1.337	1.351
Average per acre.....	\$71.93	\$82.91	\$66.33	\$78.41	1.084	1.057
Value of all livestock and livestock products sold:						
Average per farm.....	\$8,060	\$9,039	\$6,780	\$8,007	1.189	1.129
Average per acre.....	\$40.69	\$38.91	\$42.19	\$44.04	.964	.884
Cropland harvested:						
Acres per farm.....	163.2	177.7	126.1	133.8	1.294	1.328
Percent of total acres.....	82.38	76.50	78.47	73.60	1.050	1.039
Feed for livestock and poultry:						
Dollars per farm.....	\$2,307	\$2,766	\$2,174	\$2,444	1.061	1.132
Dollars per acre.....	\$11.65	\$11.91	\$13.53	\$13.44	.861	.886
Corn harvested for grain:						
Bushels per acre.....	70.6	81.7	68.6	78.8	1.029	1.037
Soybeans harvested for beans:						
Bushels per acre.....	27.1	26.1	26.5	25.4	1.023	1.028
Vegetables harvested for sale (other than Irish and sweet potatoes):						
Sales per farms reporting.....	\$4,011	\$6,793	\$4,185	\$6,625	.958	1.025

Source: Preliminary Reports, 1964 Census of Agriculture, Series AC64-Pl. Some of the statistics shown are based on samples and are, therefore, subject to sampling error.

in general closer to unity than the "per farm" ratios. Regardless of differences between the areas for a given year, it seems from comparison of the two sets of ratios that the 1959 to 1964 trends in the two areas were generally similar as measured by the two enumerative methods.

### Interpretation of Results

The following point should be kept in view during interpretation of the results: Almost every characteristic of the followup stage of the AFPS was dependent on the editing rules by which incoming questionnaires were examined for completeness and consistency. A different set of editing rules might have produced changes in the proportion of questionnaires returned for followup, in the time required to complete the enu-

meration, in the average cost of obtaining a complete questionnaire, and in other characteristics of the enumeration.

### Cost Analysis

Table 9 shows cost data for the AFPS test counties and comparable figures for the control counties. The most striking difference between the two sets of figures is in the piece-rate earnings per hour: piece-rate enumerators in the test counties earned \$1.40 an hour on the average while those in the control counties earned an average of \$1.68 an hour. This difference is reflected in the figures for cost per A1. It was thought that piece-rate enumerators would average \$1.75 an hour, but evidently the pay rates were not set high enough. The source of data on hours worked is the enumerators' reports of the time they spent on the job.