

PART 1. FARM EQUIPMENT

GENERAL INFORMATION

Historical Background

Mechanization has been one of the more important aspects of the technological revolution in agriculture. Mechanization, which is generally considered to have begun with the invention of the reaper in the 1800's, has continued at an ever increasing rate. The development and improvement of farm equipment has been one of the more important factors in the rapidly increasing productivity of the farm worker. Farm employment was at an all-time high of 13.6 million persons in 1910; it has decreased to 4.6 million in 1969. In 1910, a single farm worker was able to provide food and farm products for seven other persons, but in 1969 each farm worker provided for 45 other persons. From 1964 to 1969, this productivity increased from 33 persons to 45.

Source of Statistics

In addition to the statistics collected in the 1969 Census of Agriculture, presented in this part of the chapter with data from previous censuses, selected statistics from Current Industrial

Reports published by the Industry Division of the Bureau of the Census are shown for comparative purposes.

Other Published Data

Data on farm equipment for the 1969 Census of Agriculture, in addition to those published in this chapter, are provided elsewhere as indicated in table 1. Data for prior censuses of agriculture for items not included in this chapter are in the published reports for those censuses.

DEFINITIONS AND EXPLANATIONS

Reporting Forms and Instructions

Farm equipment items for which 1969 data are available refer to specific items of equipment normally kept on the individual farm and used for the farm business in 1968 or 1969, regardless of ownership. Respondents were also asked to identify equipment by date of manufacture according to one of two classifications—1964 or earlier and 1965 or later.

It should be noted that no definitions or instructions concerning equipment other than those appearing in the census forms and in the Leaflet Guide were provided for the farm operator. Essentially, the interpretation of the questions was left to the farm operators. Each farm operator had to decide for himself how to count or classify the various equipment items.

In prior censuses, the enumerators were provided with an instruction book which included some definitions for problem items. As a result, enumerated censuses tended to produce somewhat more consistency in the reporting of equipment items.

The estimated market value of all machinery and equipment was obtained in 1969 for the first time since 1945. This estimated value was to include not only the value of the specified items, for which numerical counts were obtained, but also the value of all other machinery and equipment usually kept on the farm and used for the farm business.

In 1969, the report forms for farms with sales of \$2,500 and over and for farms with sales of less than \$2,500 asked for information about machinery and equipment. The A1 form used for class 1-5 farms covered five items just as they appeared on the A2 form, two items in greater detail, and two additional items. The facsimiles of the machinery and equipment sections of the two 1969 report forms are presented on page 6.

Table 1. Other Published Data for Equipment: 1969

Where found	Geographical area for which available	Period	Classification
<u>Volume I</u>			
<u>State tables:</u>			
6.....	State.....	1969-1959	<u>All farms</u> Total farms
9.....	State.....	1969	Total farms
<u>Class 1-5 farms</u>			
15.....	State.....	1969-1959	Total class 1-5 farms
24.....	State.....	1969	Tenure of operator and type of organization
25.....	State.....	1969	Age of operator
26.....	State.....	1969	Farms by size
27.....	State.....	1969	Farms by economic class
28.....	State.....	1969	Type of farm
29.....	State.....	1969	Type of farms by economic class
30.....	State.....	1969	Large-scale farms by type
<u>County tables:</u>			
6.....	County and State.....	1969-1964	<u>All Farms</u> Total farms
<u>Class 1-5 farms</u>			
15.....	County and State.....	1969-1964	Total class 1-5 farms
<u>Volume II:</u>			
Chapter 2,3,7,8...	United States.....	1969	Total class 1-5 farms by classification of respective chapters