

PART 2. TYPE OF FARM ORGANIZATION

GENERAL INFORMATION

Background

The trend toward specialization and larger-scale operations, together with increased capital requirements have brought many management adjustments in American agriculture. Since 1950, the average farm operator has four-fifths more acreage and more than five times the investment in land and buildings. During the same period, the value of products sold per farm increased by almost 2½ times. The changes have been the result of technology, which has made it possible for farm operators to operate larger farms, along with the incentives to maintain or increase income.

Many questions have been raised as to what kind of management or organizational structure can best handle the increased responsibilities which are required in this period of rapidly changing agriculture. Is the individually operated farm (proprietorship), which has been the dominant type of farm organization, still the most effective type? If efficiency is the main goal of the Nation's agriculture, are there other alternatives such as partnerships or corporations?

In an effort to provide some basic data on the current status of organizational structure in agriculture, the 1969 Census of Agriculture obtained data for type of organization for farms with sales of \$2,500 and over. These basic data should provide some answers to many of the questions concerning the structural organization of agriculture.

Source of Data

All data shown in this part of chapter 3 are for class 1-5 farms. In general, the tables provide a summation of data previously

published in volume I, area reports for the individual States; however, several additional tabulations were made for this report.

Data on type of organization have not been collected in prior censuses of agriculture; hence, no historical data are shown.

Presentation of Statistics

Type of organization data are presented in this chapter for the following five categories: (1) Individual or family, (2) partnership, (3) corporation—10 shareholders, or fewer, (4) corporation—more than 10 shareholders, and (5) other. Summary statistics are presented as totals for the United States, for four major regions, for nine geographic divisions, and for each of the 50 States. A small number of selected items have been shown by State; however, most data, such as the characteristics of farms, are shown only for the United States. Included in the text are a number of tables showing averages and percentage distributions for the United States.

Other Published Data for 1969

Detailed farm characteristics for the various types of organizations are shown in this chapter for the United States. Similar data are shown for each State in volume I, area reports. In addition, the number of farms and land in farms by type of organization are shown for each county in volume I. The following table provides the location and a brief description of the type of organization data available elsewhere for the 1969 Census of Agriculture.

Table 1. Other Published Data for Type of Organization: 1969

Where found	Geographic area for which available	Period	Classification	Subject covered
Volume I:				
State table 12.....	State.....	1969.....	Class 1-5 farms: color and type of organization.....	Farms and land in farms.
State table 24.....	State.....	1969.....	Class 1-5 farms: by type of organization.....	Farms and farm characteristics (land in farms, land use, value of land and building, tenures, specified operator characteristics, specified equipment, hired labor, specified farm expenditures, principal livestock and specified crops).
State table 25.....	State.....	1969.....	Age of operator by type of organization.....	Farms and land in farms.
State table 26.....	State.....	1969.....	Size of farm by type of organization.....	Farms and land in farms.
State table 27.....	State.....	1969.....	Class of farm by type of organization.....	Farms and land in farms.
State table 28.....	State.....	1969.....	Type of farm by type of organization.....	Farms and land in farms.
State table 29.....	State.....	1969.....	Specified type of farm by class by type of organization.....	Farms and land in farms.
State table 30.....	State.....	1969.....	Large-scale farms by type by color-tenure.....	Farms and land in farms.
County table 12.....	County and State.....	1969.....	Class 1-5 farms, color and type of organization.....	Farms and land in farms.
Volume II:				
Chapter 2.....	United States.....	1969.....	Size of farm by type of organization.....	Farms and land in farms.
Chapter 3.....	United States.....	1969.....	Age of operator by type of organization.....	Farms and land in farms.
Chapter 3.....	United States.....	1969.....	Year began by type of organization.....	Farms, land in farms, residence and market value of products sold.
Chapter 7.....	United States.....	1969.....	Class of farm by type of organization.....	Farms and land in farms.
Chapter 8.....	United States.....	1969.....	Type of farm by type of organization.....	Farms and land in farms.