

# Part 2

## SIZE OF FARM

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## PART 2. SIZE OF FARM

### MEASURES OF SIZE

The size of a farm can be measured in a number of ways; those most commonly used are either the area covered or the value of products sold. Data presented in this part of the chapter are for farms classified by acres of land in the farm.

Other measures of size, in addition to the value of farm products sold, are acres of cropland harvested, the value of land and buildings, the value of machinery and equipment, labor requirements, and expenditures. A description of the types and locations of data from the 1969 census for some of these other size indicators is shown in table 1, "Other Published Data for Size of Farm."

Farms have been classified by acres of land in the farm in each census since 1860. Acreage has been a convenient method of measuring the size of farm operations and, at first glance, a seemingly uniform method. However, the productivity of land is not uniform from one section of the country to another, as there are wide variations in topography, climate, and in soil types. Comparing the natural productivity of an acre of rangeland in an arid area of the West to an acre of corn land in the corn belt, or to an acre of tobacco in the South, is certainly not a valid comparison of the potential contribution to agricultural production.

In addition to the natural differences in land, the widespread and large-scale substitution of capital inputs for farmland in recent years has made the size classifications even less meaningful for comparative purposes. Technological developments in agriculture, along with increased mechanization, have made possible substantial increases in crop and livestock output. Such

developments have made it possible to have cattle feedlots which have gross sales of millions of dollars on places of less than 100 acres and to have irrigated vegetable farms with sales in excess of \$3,000 per acre.

The differences in the productivity of land in various areas of the country, and various types of farms, need to be considered when using data for classifications of farms based on physical area alone.

### DESCRIPTION OF COVERAGE

#### Presentation of Statistics

Data are presented for the United States, for the four regions, for the nine geographic divisions, and for the 50 States. Separate data are provided for all farms and for those farms with sales of \$2,500 or more (class 1-5). Data are provided, when available, from the 1964 census for comparative purposes for most tables. Historical data from censuses prior to 1964 are shown for tables presenting totals for the United States only. An extensive amount of historical data by size of farm can be found for each State in volume II, chapter 5, 1959 Census of Agriculture.

#### Other Size Data Published for 1969

The data given in table 34 for the United States have been published for each State in State table 26 of volume I for the 1969 Census of Agriculture. Data by size of farm for States and counties may also be found in volume I, parts 1 to 50 for individual States. Table 1 provides a guide to other data on size of farms published in 1969 census volumes.

**Table 1. Other Published Data for Size of Farm: 1969**

Where found	Geographical area for which available	Period	Classification	Subjects covered
<b>Volume I</b>				
<u>State tables:</u>				
2.....	State.....	1959 to 1969.....	<u>All farms</u> Total farms.....	Farms, land in farms, cropland harvested, irrigated land. Number of farms.
9.....	State.....	1969.....	Selected economic class groups.....	Number of farms.
11.....	State.....	1959 to 1969.....	<u>Class 1-5 farms</u> Total class 1-5 farms.....	Farms, land in farms: farms, land in farms, and cropland harvested for farms with harvested cropland; farms, land in farms, and irrigated land for farms with irrigated land. Number of farms.
24.....	State.....	1969.....	Farms by tenure of operator and type of organization.	Number of farms.
25.....	State.....	1969.....	Farms by age of operator.....	Number of farms.
26.....	State.....	1969.....	Farms by size.....	Farms and farms characteristics.
27.....	State.....	1969.....	Farms by economic class.....	Number of farms.
28.....	State.....	1969.....	Farms by type.....	Number of farms.
29.....	State.....	1969.....	Farms by type and economic class.....	Number of farms.
30.....	State.....	1969.....	Large-scale farms by type.....	Number of farms.
<u>County tables:</u>				
2.....	County and state.....	1964, 1969.....	<u>All farms</u> Total farms.....	Farms, land in farms, and land use.
10.....	County and state.....	1964, 1969.....	<u>Class 1-5 farms</u> Total class 1-5 farms.....	Farms, land in farms, and land use.
<u>Volume II:</u>				
Chapter 7.....	United States.....	1964, 1969.....	<u>All farms and class 1-5 farms</u> Farms by economic class.....	Number of farms.
Chapter 8.....	United States.....	1964, 1969.....	Farms by type.....	Number of farms.

## DEFINITIONS AND EXPLANATIONS

Definitions and explanations which have particular significance to this part of the chapter have been included in part 1 of this chapter. Definitions and explanations of a more general application are included in chapter 1.

## HISTORY OF CLASSIFICATION OF FARMS BY SIZE

The first classification of farms by size based on total acres in the farm was made in 1880. For the censuses of 1860 and 1870, acres of improved land rather than total acres in the farm were used as the basis of classification. The classification has been changed several times to make improvements and to make adjustments because of increases in farm size. Table 2 shows the most frequently used size-of-farm groups from 1880 to 1969.

Table 2. Size of Farm Groups: 1880 to 1969

	1969	1964	1959	1954	1935, 1940, 1945, 1950	1920, 1925, 1930	1880 to 1910
Under 3 acres.....					X	X	X
3 to 9 acres.....					X	X	X
Under 10 acres.....	X	X	X	X			
10 to 19 acres.....					X	X	X
10 to 29 acres.....				X			
20 to 29 acres.....					X		
10 to 49 acres.....	X	X	X				
20 to 49 acres.....						X	X
30 to 49 acres.....				X	X		
50 to 69 acres.....	X	X	X	X	X		
50 to 99 acres.....						X	X
70 to 99 acres.....	X	X	X	X	X		
100 to 139 acres.....	X	X	X	X	X		
100 to 174 acres.....						X	X
140 to 174 acres.....					X		
140 to 179 acres.....	X	X	X	X	X		
175 to 179 acres.....					X		
175 to 259 acres.....						X	X
180 to 219 acres.....	X	X	X	X	X		
220 to 259 acres.....	X	X	X	X	X		
260 to 379 acres.....		X			X		
260 to 499 acres.....	X		X	X		X	X
380 to 499 acres.....		X			X		
500 to 699 acres.....		X			X		
500 to 999 acres.....	X		X	X		X	X
700 to 999 acres.....		X			X		
1,000 acres and over...				X	X		X
1,000 to 1,999 acres...	X	X	X				
1,000 to 4,999 acres...					X		
2,000 acres and over...	X	X	X				
5,000 acres and over...					X		

Other size groups have been used separately or in combination with those shown.

The size groupings remained unchanged from 1880 to 1930, except for changes in the size group, 1,000 acres and over. For 1920 and 1925 the grouping of farms 1,000 acres and over was divided into two size groups—1,000 to 4,999 acres and 5,000 acres and over. For 1930 the grouping 5,000 acres and over was further divided into two groups—5,000 to 9,999 acres and 10,000 acres and over.

A revised size-of-farm grouping was established in 1935. These 17 groups were continued in 1940 and 1945 to provide comparative data for earlier censuses. In both the 1945 and 1950 censuses, these 17 groups were reduced to form 12 size groups for use in classifying most of the major items covered by the census. Since 1950, there have been minor changes in the size groups used from census to census. In order to provide historical data, brackets or footnotes have been used to indicate comparable data.

For the 1959, 1964, and 1969 censuses, special tabulations provided data for farms of 2,000 acres or more, by size of farm groups. In 1959 and 1964, the largest size group was limited to 10,000 acres and over; in 1969, this was extended to 30,000 acres and over.

Prior to 1900, the number of farms was the only statistic available by size of farm. From 1900 to 1935, the size of farm data published included not only a count of farms, but also data for all land in farms and the more important classes of land according to use. For the 1945 to the 1969 censuses, published data by size of farm included farms; land in farms classified according to use; the number of livestock and poultry; farm equipment; the production or sale of livestock, poultry, livestock products, and poultry products; the acreage and production of crops; farm expenditures, etc. Table 3 presents the number of farms for the size of farm groups used from 1880 to 1969.

Table 3. Farms by Size, 1880 to 1969; by Acres of Improved Land: 1860 and 1870

	Total	Under 3 acres	3 to 9 acres	10 to 29 acres	30 to 49 acres	50 to 99 acres	100 to 499 acres	500 to 999 acres	1,000 or more acres
Total land in farms									
1969.....	2,730,250	78,868	83,243	(473,465)		459,942	1,268,127	215,659	150,946
1964.....	3,157,857	59,686	122,895	(637,434)		542,430	1,439,683	210,437	145,292
1959.....	3,710,503	79,083	165,245	(813,216)		657,990	1,658,530	200,012	136,427
1954 <sup>1</sup> .....	4,782,416	99,896	384,395	713,335	499,496	864,063	1,899,053	191,697	130,481
1950.....	5,388,437	78,110	410,420	855,000	624,596	1,048,075	<sup>2</sup> 2,068,466	182,297	121,473
1945 <sup>1</sup> .....	5,859,169	98,966	495,595	945,608	708,796	1,157,320	2,166,208	173,777	112,899
1940.....	6,102,417	37,022	472,325	(1,782,061)		1,291,328	<sup>2</sup> 2,255,396	163,711	100,574
1935 <sup>1</sup> .....	6,812,350	35,573	535,258	1,241,431	882,164	1,444,007	2,417,803	167,452	88,662
1930.....	6,295,103	44,244	317,755	(2,002,115)		1,375,198	<sup>2</sup> 2,315,403	159,723	80,665
1925 <sup>1</sup> .....	6,371,640	15,151	363,384	(2,038,692)		1,421,078	2,326,155	143,852	63,328
1920.....	6,453,991	<sup>3</sup> 21,158	<sup>3</sup> 270,348	<sup>4</sup> (2,013,516)		1,475,005	<sup>2</sup> 2,456,729	149,826	67,409
1910 <sup>1</sup> .....	6,361,502	18,033	317,010	(1,918,499)		1,438,069	2,494,461	125,295	50,135
1900.....	5,739,657	41,882	226,564	(1,664,797)		1,366,167	2,290,561	102,526	47,160
1890.....	4,564,641	(150,194)		(1,168,327)		1,121,485	2,008,694	84,395	31,546
1880.....	4,008,907	4,352	134,889	(1,036,323)		1,032,810	1,695,983	75,972	28,578
Improved land									
1870.....	2,659,985	6,875	172,021	294,607	847,614	754,221	565,054	15,873	3,720
1860 <sup>5</sup> .....	2,044,077	(NA)	54,676	162,178	616,558	608,878	487,041	20,319	5,364

<sup>1</sup>Data for Alaska and Hawaii not included.

<sup>2</sup>Included farms of 100 acres or more for Hawaii.

<sup>3</sup>Data for Alaska not available.

<sup>4</sup>Included 62 farms for Alaska, in the under 50 acres size group.

<sup>5</sup>For 1860, the classification is for "farms containing 3 acres or more". The number of farms in the various classes adds to 1,955,014, which is 89,063 less than the total number of farms.

## CHANGES IN SIZE OF FARM

### All Farms

Significant decreases in the numbers of farms, accompanied by a substantial increase in farm size, has characterized American agriculture since 1935. Since 1935, the average size of farms has more than doubled from 154.8 acres in 1935 to 389.5 acres in 1969 (table 4). During the same period, the number of farms has dropped from a high of 6.8 million in 1935 to 2.7 million in 1969, while the acres of land in farms has changed very little.

Table 4. Average Size of Farm for the United States: 1850 to 1969

	Average size of farms (acres)		Average size of farms (acres)		Average size of farms (acres)
1969.....	389.5	1940.....	174.5	1900.....	146.6
1964.....	351.6	1935 <sup>1</sup> .....	154.8	1890 <sup>1</sup> .....	136.5
1959.....	302.8	1930.....	157.3	1880 <sup>1</sup> .....	133.7
1954 <sup>1</sup> .....	242.2	1925 <sup>1</sup> .....	145.1	1870 <sup>1</sup> .....	153.3
1950.....	215.5	1920.....	148.5	1860 <sup>1</sup> .....	199.2
1945 <sup>1</sup> .....	194.8	1910.....	138.5	1850 <sup>1</sup> .....	202.6

<sup>1</sup>Alaska and Hawaii not included.

Since 1964, the average size of farms has increased 38 acres or over 10 percent. At the same time, the number of farms decreased 13.5 percent and land in farms decreased 4.2 percent. Even though the average size of farms varies considerably by State and geographic area, an increase in average size was reported for 47 of the 50 States in the 5-year period.

The number of farms with 500 acres and over has shown a steady increase since 1935, from 256,000 to 367,000 in 1969. The land accounted for by these farms has increased from 424 million acres to 726 million acres and in 1969 represented over 70 percent of all land in farms, as compared to about 40 percent in 1935. This increase in numbers of larger farms and the proportion of all farmland in such farms has been the result of farm consolidation and, for some States in the West, the inclusion in the census of additional Federal and other grazing lands in farms and ranches. However, there was essentially no change in the proportion of land in farms with 500 acres and over between 1964 and 1969.

Almost 60 percent of the total decrease in the number of farms between 1964 and 1969 occurred on farms with less than 100 acres. Since 1950, every size group below 220 acres has shown a considerable drop in the number of farms in each census. Table 5 indicates the historical changes in the number of farms in the various size groups.

Table 5. Farms by Size of Farm for the United States: 1935 to 1969

	Number of farms							
	1969	1964	1959	1954 <sup>1</sup>	1950	1945 <sup>1</sup>	1940	1935 <sup>1</sup>
Total.....	2,730,250	3,157,857	3,710,503	4,782,416	5,388,437	5,859,169	6,102,417	6,812,350
1 to 9 acres.....	162,111	182,581	244,328	484,291	488,530	594,561	509,347	570,831
10 to 49 acres.....	473,465	637,434	813,216	1,212,831	1,479,596	1,654,404	1,782,061	2,123,595
50 to 69 acres.....	177,028	211,398	258,195	346,323	427,025	472,415	510,585	581,352
70 to 99 acres.....	282,914	331,032	399,795	517,740	621,050	684,905	780,743	862,655
100 to 139 acres.....	278,752	324,652	394,505	491,458	579,244	633,851	688,479	754,076
140 to 179 acres.....	263,012	308,288	378,003	461,651	523,659	565,958	621,578	683,941
180 to 219 acres.....	165,209	191,254	225,576	257,189	275,049	282,839	279,577	294,309
220 to 259 acres.....	141,733	164,188	188,899	206,509	212,344	210,376	206,759	212,238
260 to 499 acres.....	419,421	451,301	471,547	482,246	478,170	473,184	459,003	473,239
500 to 999 acres.....	215,659	210,437	200,012	191,697	182,297	173,777	163,711	167,452
1,000 to 1,999 acres..	91,039	84,999	79,101	130,481	121,473	112,899	100,574	88,662
2,000 acres and over..	59,907	60,293	57,326					

<sup>1</sup>Data for Alaska and Hawaii not included.

Although the number of farms in the under-10-acres size group has decreased in each census since 1945, the rates of change have varied from census to census more than for most other size groups. Changes in this group are attributed to the changes in the definition of a farm between 1954 and 1959, the relative completeness of each census enumeration, and to changes in census procedures, in addition to actual changes in the number of such places with agricultural operations.

The number of farms in the under-10-acre category declined about 11 percent between 1964 and 1969. Within that group, the number of farms with less than 3 acres increased by a third and the farms with 3 to 9 acres decreased about a third. Table 6 provides the number of farms in the under-10-acre group since 1880.

Table 6. Land in Farms for Farms Under 10 Acres, United States: 1880 to 1969

Year	Under 10 acres		Under 3 acres		3 to 9 acres	
	Number of farms	Land in farms (acres)	Number of farms	Land in farms (acres)	Number of farms	Land in farms (acres)
1969.....	162,111	567,589	78,968	93,443	83,243	474,146
1964.....	182,581	778,000	59,686	(NA)	122,895	(NA)
1959 <sup>1</sup> .....	244,328	1,052,591	79,083	(NA)	165,245	(NA)
1954 <sup>2</sup> .....	484,291	2,259,817	99,896	(NA)	384,395	(NA)
1950.....	488,530	2,451,013	78,110	(NA)	410,420	(NA)
1945 <sup>2</sup> .....	594,561	2,805,435	98,966	141,252	495,595	2,664,183
1940.....	509,347	2,679,405	37,022	52,334	472,325	2,627,071
1935 <sup>2</sup> .....	570,831	3,057,166	35,573	51,269	535,258	3,005,897
1930.....	361,999	1,922,230	44,244	63,210	317,755	1,859,020
1925 <sup>2</sup> .....	378,535	2,096,610	15,151	22,976	363,384	2,073,634
1920 <sup>2</sup> .....	288,772	1,600,287	20,350	33,613	268,422	1,566,674
1910 <sup>2</sup> .....	335,043	(NA)	18,033	(NA)	317,010	(NA)
1900.....	268,446	1,481,899	41,882	79,508	226,564	1,402,391
1890.....	150,194	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
1880.....	139,241	(NA)	4,352	(NA)	134,889	(NA)

NA Not available.

<sup>1</sup>Change in definition had a significant influence on the count of farms in the 3-to-9 acres group.

<sup>2</sup>Data for Alaska and Hawaii not included.

A significant part of the increase since 1964 in the number of farms with less than 3 acres may be due to a combination of differences in enumeration and processing procedures. In 1969, some respondents reported all land rented out, but at the same time reported the ownership of some poultry or livestock. In these cases, one acre and the livestock which were reported were retained and counted as a census farm if the value of products sold or normally expected to be sold, would qualify the operation as a farm. In prior censuses, the census enumerators were, in general, instructed to include the livestock owned by the landlord on the census report for the tenant.

**Class 1-5 Farms**

The total number of farms with sales of \$2,500 and over decreased less than 5 percent, compared to a 13-percent decrease for all farms. In size, class 1 to 5 farms were significantly larger, averaging almost 530 acres, in comparison to 390 acres for all farms.

Since 1950, the average size of class 1 to 5 farms has increased from 407 acres to 529.7 in 1969.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Average size</u>
1969 .....	529.7
1964 .....	507.8
1959 .....	454.8
1954 .....	421.1
1950 .....	407.0

Changes in the size-of-farm distribution for class 1 to 5 farms are generally similar to those for all farms, except that the number of farms with 500 acres and over has increased at a slightly higher rate. Class 1 to 5 farms of 500 acres and over increased 7 percent since 1964, as compared to an increase of about 3 percent for all farms. Table 7 provides data which indicated the changes in size from 1959 to 1969.

**Table 7. Farms and Percent Change in Number of Farms by Size of Farm for the United States: 1959 to 1969**

	<u>Number of farms</u>			<u>Increase or decrease (-)</u>		<u>Percent change</u>	
	<u>1969</u>	<u>1964</u>	<u>1959</u>	<u>1964 to 1969</u>	<u>1959 to 1964</u>	<u>1964 to 1969</u>	<u>1959 to 1964</u>
	Total.....	1,733,683	1,817,440	2,067,063	-83,757	-249,623	-4.6
1 to 9 acres.....	53,331	47,411	47,361	5,920	50	12.5	0.1
10 to 49 acres.....	130,523	155,270	193,857	-24,747	-38,587	-15.9	-19.9
50 to 69 acres.....	65,950	69,269	83,776	-3,319	-14,507	-4.8	-17.3
70 to 99 acres.....	137,691	145,555	177,811	-7,864	-32,256	-5.4	-18.1
100 to 139 acres.....	170,027	185,401	230,654	-15,374	-45,253	-8.3	-19.6
140 to 179 acres.....	192,782	215,126	272,430	-22,344	-57,304	-10.4	-21.0
180 to 219 acres.....	130,942	145,559	176,401	-14,617	-30,842	-10.0	-17.5
220 to 259 acres.....	121,017	134,977	159,083	-13,960	-24,106	-10.3	-15.2
260 to 499 acres.....	379,693	390,529	411,713	-10,836	-21,184	-2.8	-5.1
500 to 699 acres.....	205,041	111,343	183,526	13,679	7,836	7.1	4.3
700 to 999 acres.....							
1,000 to 1,999 acres..							
2,000 acres and over..	88,274	79,690	74,961	8,584	4,729	10.8	6.3
	58,412	57,291	55,490	1,121	1,801	2.0	3.2

**Table 8. Farms in Each Size Group by Value of Land and Buildings Per Farm for the United States: 1969**

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Less than \$10,000</u>	<u>\$10,000 to \$19,999</u>	<u>\$20,000 to \$39,999</u>	<u>\$40,000 to \$69,999</u>	<u>\$70,000 to \$99,999</u>	<u>\$100,000 to \$149,999</u>	<u>\$150,000 to \$199,999</u>	<u>\$200,000 to \$499,999</u>	<u>\$500,000 and over</u>
Total.....	1,733,683	99,522	174,329	370,405	380,471	220,627	198,305	103,480	148,397	38,147
1 to 9 acres.....	53,331	24,027	10,438	10,824	5,112	1,401	784	355	358	32
10 to 49 acres.....	130,523	26,388	31,952	36,654	20,013	6,865	4,558	1,704	2,007	382
50 to 69 acres.....	65,950	9,055	17,709	21,902	9,920	2,942	2,272	941	1,011	198
70 to 99 acres.....	137,691	12,586	29,504	52,840	28,258	7,140	3,380	1,681	1,954	348
100 to 139 acres.....	170,027	10,507	28,853	63,381	44,511	11,583	6,132	1,830	2,686	544
140 to 179 acres.....	192,782	7,547	22,353	58,013	61,200	27,217	10,054	2,926	2,796	676
180 to 219 acres.....	130,942	3,241	10,789	33,675	41,103	21,330	13,937	3,351	2,853	663
220 to 259 acres.....	121,017	2,151	7,106	25,975	34,825	23,365	18,604	5,099	3,227	665
260 to 499 acres.....	379,693	3,587	12,230	53,109	92,295	70,594	72,154	38,445	33,912	3,367
500 to 999 acres.....	205,041	373	2,636	11,418	34,039	34,597	40,604	27,337	47,676	6,361
1,000 to 1,999 acres....	88,274	59	716	2,145	7,455	10,712	18,905	13,208	26,753	8,321
2,000 acres and over....	58,412	1	43	469	1,740	2,881	6,921	6,603	23,164	16,590

**CHARACTERISTICS OF FARMS BY SIZE**

**General**

Detailed data showing various farm characteristics for 12 size groups are provided for class 1 to 5 farms in table 34 for the United States. Although detailed analysis of data at the national level is difficult because of the combining of different types of farms from various areas of the country, there are relationships which appear to be significant.

Size-of-farm data, in terms of acres, when related to other measures of size or productivity, provide a picture of the complexity of the nation's agriculture.

The value of land and buildings, when compared by size of farm, shows a wide range in value within the same size group and, thus, indicates to some degree the variations in the productivity of land. Value comparisons are shown in table 8.

Similar wide variations are found when size-of-farm data are compared by economic class of farm. As shown in table 9, only 29.0 percent of the farms with less than 100 acres have sales of \$10,000 or more, as compared to 55.3 percent of those with 100 to 499 acres, or to 81.3 percent of those with 500 acres and over.

**Table 9. Farms in Each Size Group by Economic Class of Farm for the United States: 1969**

	Total	Class 1	Class 2	Class 3	Class 4	Class 5
Total.....	1,733,683	221,690	330,992	395,472	390,425	395,104
1 to 9 acres.....	53,331	5,670	6,041	7,251	13,186	21,183
10 to 49 acres.....	130,523	10,033	11,229	18,222	33,792	57,247
50 to 69 acres.....	65,950	3,771	5,357	8,717	17,294	30,811
70 to 99 acres.....	137,691	5,820	9,669	20,526	41,238	60,438
100 to 139 acres.....	170,027	7,178	15,916	35,246	52,708	58,979
140 to 179 acres.....	192,782	9,135	26,946	49,878	55,689	51,134
180 to 219 acres.....	130,942	8,580	25,078	36,913	33,247	27,124
220 to 259 acres.....	121,017	10,380	28,269	35,180	27,063	20,125
260 to 499 acres.....	379,693	55,664	105,730	99,716	71,578	47,005
500 to 999 acres.....	205,041	51,645	54,804	51,645	31,837	15,310
1,000 to 1,999 acres...	88,274	26,759	25,228	22,733	9,533	4,021
2,000 acres and over...	58,412	27,055	16,925	9,445	3,260	1,727

Class 1 to 5 data by size of farms also indicate there are differences in the type and use of land in the various size groups. Table 10 shows that farms with less than 1,000 acres have less than one-fifth of their land in pasture, as compared to more than one-third for farms with 1,000 to 1,999 acres and almost four-fifths for farms with 2,000 acres and over.

**Table 10. Percent of Land in Farms Represented by Total Cropland, Harvested Cropland, Pastureland Other Than Cropland Pasture, and Woodland by Size of Farm for the United States: 1969**

	Total cropland	Harvested cropland	Pastureland other than cropland pasture	Woodland
Total.....	45.5	28.4	47.0	8.5
1 to 9 acres.....	50.7	41.0	4.5	2.1
10 to 49 acres.....	71.9	48.9	9.3	8.9
50 to 69 acres.....	72.1	45.4	11.8	12.7
70 to 99 acres.....	73.6	46.3	12.3	12.0
100 to 139 acres.....	71.5	44.5	14.4	14.0
140 to 179 acres.....	73.2	47.4	14.4	12.2
180 to 219 acres.....	71.1	45.5	15.9	14.4
220 to 259 acres.....	72.2	47.7	15.7	13.1
260 to 499 acres.....	71.7	47.2	17.2	12.3
500 to 999 acres.....	67.7	42.5	22.9	10.8
1,000 to 1,999 acres...	56.4	33.9	36.2	8.4
2,000 acres and over...	16.9	9.7	79.0	5.0

The type of product produced is closely related to the size of farm. For many commodities, the scale of production which is necessary to provide an adequate economic unit seems to dictate the acreage of land which is necessary. For example, over 50 percent of the total cash-grain sold was from farms of 500 acres and over; whereas, farms having less than 180 acres account for over 50 percent of the tobacco. Almost half of the

poultry sales are from farms that are under 100 acres in size. For nursery and greenhouse products, about half of the sales are from farms of less than 50 acres.

Table 11 indicates differences in the proportion of farm products sold by various size-of-farm groups among the farm regions.

For example, in the South, about three-fifths of the cotton is sold from farms having less than 1,000 acres; whereas, in the West, farms with less than 1,000 acres sell only a little more than one-third of the cotton. These differences reflect not only the productivity of the land, but also the amount of capital input used in production processes.

#### Farms of 2,000 Acres and Over

Table 22 presents data showing the characteristics of farms with 2,000 acres and over for seven size groups for the United States. Data are provided for all farms and for class 1 to 5 farms. In table 21, data are shown by State for the major land-use items for 12 size groups ranging from 2,000 acres to 30,000 acres and over.

The 59,907 farms of 2,000 acres and over account for 455 million acres of land or about 45 percent of all land in farms. Indian reservations and grazing associations account for about 50 million acres. Leased Federal and State lands account for another 40 to 45 million acres. The 7,951 farms that were 10,000 acres or more in size account for 260 million acres, of which 180 million acres are located in the West. Two-thirds of the 1969 farms having 30,000 acres and over are in the West.

Since 1964, there has been a decrease of less than 1 percent in the number of farms of 2,000 acres and over. For farms of 10,000 acres and over, the decrease has been about 5 percent. Land in these farms decreased 3.7 percent.

Over 97 percent of the farms with 2,000 acres and over are included in class 1 to 5 farms. Of the 1,495 farms with 2,000 acres and over which are not included in the class 1 to 5 totals, 629 are abnormal farms and excluded by definition. These are especially significant for the 20,000 acres and over size group, as they account for a large proportion of the 52 million acre difference between all farms and class 1 to 5 farms.