

## 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>				
<b>State tables:</b>				
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.....	
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.	
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.
<b>County tables:</b>				
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.
<b>Volume II:</b>				
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.