

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.

Year	Average size
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.

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

	Number of farms			Increase or decrease (-)		Percent change	
	1969	1964	1959	1964 to 1969	1959 to 1964	1964 to 1969	1959 to 1964
Total.....	1,733,683	1,817,440	2,067,063	-83,757	-249,623	-4.6	-12.1
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

	Total	Less than \$10,000	\$10,000 to \$19,999	\$20,000 to \$39,999	\$40,000 to \$69,999	\$70,000 to \$99,999	\$100,000 to \$149,999	\$150,000 to \$199,999	\$200,000 to \$499,999	\$500,000 and over
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