

**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.