

GENERAL EXPLANATION Continued

closest rival; the South with 888 acres per farm. The declines of land in partnerships were:

	Acres	
United States	124,479,156	163,387,960
Northeast	2,278,170	2,745,685
North Central	41,086,757	56,129,075
South	39,724,567	51,962,378
West	41,389,662	52,550,822

Partnership farms made up 8.6 percent of the 1.7 million farms with sales of \$2,500 and over in 1974. These farms were 60.9 percent larger than the average farm with sales of \$2,500 and over, 859 acres compared to 534 acres. The average value of land and buildings on partnership farms was \$284,936 per farm compared to \$182,231 per farm for farms with sales of \$2,500 and over; and in terms of sales, partnership farms averaged almost \$77,500 per farm compared to only \$47,549 for all such farms.

Changes in Farm Partnerships 1974 to 1976

The facsimile below shows the lead inquiry for the Survey of Farm or Ranch Partnership Operations. Of the 143,400 partnership operations selected for the survey, slightly less than 61,700 responded "No" to this inquiry. That is, 43 percent of the farm partnerships operating in 1974 were no longer operating as partnerships in 1976.

Of farm partnerships that were no longer operating in 1976, approximately 11,300 of these dissolved during 1975. The facsimile below shows the inquiry for disposition of 1974 operations. Unfortunately, the report form did not ask for additional information for operations that were not operating as farm partnerships in 1975. Pilot studies revealed that many of the operations that were reported as partnerships in the 1974 census were never formal partnerships. Some

respondents interpreted such operations as growing broilers under contract or producing commodities under a landlord-tenant arrangement as partnerships. Others were unsure how to report family-operated farms. One could hypothesize that approximately 11,000 formal partnerships dissolved during 1974 and that some 39,000 of the operations reported as partnerships during the 1974 Census of Agriculture never were formal partnerships. Table 2 shows expanded results by year for all selected cases.

Table 2 also indicates that most of the reporting differences probably occurred in the North Central and South regions. Each of the four regions showed at least a 2-to-1 ratio of out-of-scope cases between 1975 and 1974. The North Central region accounted for 52 percent of all cases in the survey; however, it accounted for over 56 percent of the out-of-scope cases. Of the 34,630 selected cases no longer operating in 1976 in the North Central region, 84 percent did not operate as partnerships in 1975 either. In the South approximately 44 percent of the selected cases were no longer operating as partnerships during 1976. Of the 19,300 cases that dissolved by 1976 in the South, 16,000 were not partnerships during 1975 either. In comparison of the approximately 7,000 cases selected in the Northeast, over 77 percent were still operating as partnerships in 1976. How-

Table 1. Farms, Land in Farms, Value of Land and Buildings, and Value of Agricultural Products Sold

Farms With Sales of \$2,500 and Over	(1974 census data)				
	Total	Individual or family	Partnership	Corporations	Other
Farms.....number..	1,695,047	1,517,573	144,969	28,656	3,849
Land in farms.....acres..	905,640,107	678,081,579	124,479,156	96,781,155	6,298,217
Average size of farms.....acres..	534	447	859	3,377	1,636
Value of land and buildings.....\$1,000..	308,889,631	241,235,783	41,306,927	24,555,940	1,790,981
Average per farm.....dollars..	182,231	158,962	284,936	856,921	465,311
Average per acre.....dollars..	341	356	332	254	284
Value of agricultural products sold.....\$1,000..	80,598,305	54,516,408	11,231,940	14,425,607	424,350
Average per farm.....dollars..	47,549	35,923	77,478	503,406	110,249

<p>1. Was the farm or ranch operated by the persons listed on the address label operated as a partnership (including family partnership) in 1976?</p>	<p>021</p> <p>1 <input type="checkbox"/> Yes - Complete items 2 through 11</p> <p>2 <input type="checkbox"/> No - SKIP to item 12</p>
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<p>12a. Was the farm or ranch operated as a partnership in 1975?</p>	<p>220</p> <p>1 <input type="checkbox"/> Yes - Answer b</p> <p>2 <input type="checkbox"/> No - Complete item 13 and return the form</p>
<p>b. Why was the partnership dissolved?</p> <p>Mark (X) one answer; then complete item 13 and return the form.</p>	<p>221</p> <p>1 <input type="checkbox"/> Incorporated 222</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Number of shareholders . . . _____</p> <p>2 <input type="checkbox"/> Changed to sole proprietorship</p> <p>3 <input type="checkbox"/> Discontinued business</p> <p>4 <input type="checkbox"/> Other - Describe</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>