

GENERAL EXPLANATION Continued

partnerships with three partners have written agreements. However, over 50 percent of partnerships with four partners or more, have written agreements. Detailed characteristics on partnerships by type of agreement can be seen in table 29.

Related and Nonrelated Partnerships

Of the 81,738 on-going partnership concerns, 75,660 (92.6 percent) were related partnerships. That is, at least half of the members of the partnership were related by blood or marriage and 6,078 (7.4 percent) were nonrelated partnerships. For survey purposes, nonrelated partnerships are defined as partnerships where less than half of their members are related by blood or marriage.

Nonrelated partnerships tend to be slightly smaller than the average partnership, 816 acres compared with 936 acres. Additionally, the sale of agricultural products from nonrelated partnerships is smaller than the average partnership, \$68,603 compared with \$84,730, respectively. Tables 33 and 34 show detailed characteristics for related partnerships by age differences of oldest and youngest partner, while table 35 shows detailed characteristics for nonrelated partnerships.

Household Characteristics of Partners

The survey obtained estimates for household characteristics of partners for up to five principal partners. There were 80,904 partnerships with less than 6 partners and 187,385 partners involved.

Eighty-two percent of these partners headed their households. However, the number of household heads does decline as the number of partners in the partnership increases. Of the 123,550 partners in partnerships with 2 partners, 106,302 (86.0 percent) headed their households. At the other end of the spectrum, only 60 percent of the 3,710 partners in partnerships with 5 partners headed their households.

The sale of agricultural products from farm partnerships tends to be the principal source of income for 130,595 partners and their families, or 69.7 per-

cent of the 187,385 partners. For partnerships with two partners, the sale of agricultural products from farm partnerships was the principal source of income for 72 percent of the partners. This demographic measure also declined as the number of partners in the partnership increased. In fact, the sale of agricultural products for farm partnerships was the principal source of income for slightly less than 50 percent of the 3,710 partners in partnerships with five partners.

As a rule, it appeared that the operating of 936 acres per partnership was enough to keep most partners busy. In fact, over 71 percent of the partners spent more than 50 percent of their work time on the partnership farm or ranch. Further, less than 27 percent of the partners worked off the farm 100 or more days.

Only 23,861 (12.7 percent) of farm partnership partners are engaged in other farming or ranching operations. However, the survey does not provide measure as to

how many of these partners were engaged in the same farming operation.

Tables 25 thru 38 show household characteristics of farm partners by subject.

Age of Partners

All respondents were asked to provide an age for the partners in their partnership, for up to five principal partners. The average age of partners involved were:

Partnerships with two partners	50.0
Average age of oldest partner	58.2
Average age of other partner	41.9
Partnerships with three partners	48.8
Average age of oldest partner	62.4
Average age of other partners	42.0
Partnerships with four partners	47.5
Average age of oldest partner	60.6
Average age of other partners	43.1
Partnerships with five partners	47.7
Average age of oldest partner	64.0
Average age of other partners	43.7
Partnerships with six partners and over	47.2
Average age of oldest partner	60.6
Average age of other partners	43.8

Table 7. Farms by Type of Partnership Agreement

(1974 partnerships operating in 1976)

	Total	Type of agreement			
		Legal document	Other written	Oral	Other
Partnership farms.....number..	81,738	17,083	7,715	56,558	382
.....percent..	100.0	20.9	9.4	69.2	.5
Partnership farms with--					
2 partners.....number..	61,775	11,267	5,778	44,396	334
.....percent..	100.0	18.2	9.4	71.9	.5
3 partners.....number..	13,423	3,173	1,234	8,997	19
.....percent..	100.0	23.6	9.2	67.0	.1
4 partners.....number..	4,964	1,946	558	2,436	24
.....percent..	100.0	39.2	11.2	49.1	.5
5 partners and over.....number..	1,576	697	145	729	5
.....percent..	100.0	44.2	9.2	46.3	.3

Table 8. Partnerships by Related and Nonrelated Partners

(1974 partnerships operating in 1976)

	Farms	Land in farms		Value of agricultural products sold	
		Average per Acres	Average per farm (acres)	Value (\$1,000)	Average per farm (dollars)
Partnerships.....	81,738	76,471,483	936	6,925,672	84,730
Related.....	75,660	71,512,831	945	6,508,701	86,026
Nonrelated.....	6,078	4,958,652	816	416,971	68,603

Table 9. Partnerships With Household Characteristics by Number of Partners

(1974 partnerships operating in 1976)

	Total	2 partners	3 partners	4 partners	5 partners
Partnerships.....	80,904	61,775	13,423	4,964	742
Partners.....	187,385	123,550	40,269	19,856	3,710
Household head.....	153,711	106,302	32,488	12,694	2,227
Partnership provides principal income.....	130,595	89,021	27,603	12,124	1,847
Partners working 50 percent and over on farm.....	133,188	91,913	27,353	12,203	1,719
Partners working off farm 100 days and over.....	49,791	30,413	11,011	6,957	1,410
Partners involved in another farm.....	23,861	14,936	5,719	2,643	563