



Table 10. Farm Characteristics and Tenure by Age of Farm Operator: 1974

Farms With Sales of \$2,500 and Over

	Total	Age of farm operator				
		Under 35 years	35 to 44 years	45 to 54 years	55 to 64 years	65 years and over
FARM CHARACTERISTICS						
All farm operators.....percent..	100.0	13.0	17.5	26.1	26.6	16.8
Land in farms.....percent..	100.0	10.6	18.0	28.8	26.7	15.9
Average size of farm.....acres..	482.7	393.7	496.6	532.9	485.1	455.8
Value of land and buildings.....percent..	100.0	12.2	19.6	29.4	25.7	13.1
Average per farm.....dollars..	169,946	159,519	190,052	191,875	163,854	132,793
Harvested cropland.....percent..	100.0	13.1	20.2	29.9	25.7	11.1
Average per farm.....acres..	168.1	169.2	194.4	193.1	162.0	110.8
Value of agricultural products sold.....percent..	100.0	12.4	20.8	30.7	25.4	10.7
Average per farm.....dollars..	39,547	37,804	47,082	46,554	37,725	25,093
Days worked off farm.....percent..	100.0	17.8	23.1	29.2	22.5	7.4
Chickens 3 months old and over.....percent..	100.0	9.6	20.4	34.6	25.7	9.7
Cattle and calves.....percent..	100.0	10.9	19.4	29.5	26.1	14.1
Hogs and pigs.....percent..	100.0	17.6	23.0	29.5	22.1	7.8
Corn harvested for all purposes.....percent..	100.0	14.9	22.0	30.3	23.9	8.9
Sorghum harvested for grain.....percent..	100.0	13.5	20.3	29.2	25.6	11.4
Wheat harvested.....percent..	100.0	11.6	18.6	29.7	27.4	12.7
Cotton harvested.....percent..	100.0	12.9	20.1	30.0	26.2	10.8
TENURE OF FARM OPERATOR						
All farm operators.....percent..	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Full owners.....percent..	53.4	35.2	44.9	50.1	58.8	72.9
Part owners.....percent..	33.3	32.6	41.0	39.1	32.1	19.1
Tenants.....percent..	13.3	32.2	14.1	10.8	9.1	8.0

percent of farm operators of races other than White were in the South. In 1974, the percentage of racial minorities in the South had decreased to 80 percent. There were 422 operators of minority race in the Northeast, 2,982 in the North Central, 47,204 in the South, and 8,763 in the West. In 1974, operators of Spanish origin were separately identified, although in data by race, operators of Spanish origin are included in the White category. There were 7,621 Spanish-origin operators in 1974; of these, almost 96 percent were located in the South and

West regions. Table 11 shows the percentage distribution of minority racial and ethnic groups by region.

More than one-half of the Black operators and more than two-fifths of the operators of Spanish origin operated farms with sales of less than \$2,500 compared with 28 percent of all farm operators who operated farms in this value of sales category. Almost one-half of Japanese, Chinese, and Filipino operators had farms with sales of \$40,000 or more while only one-fifth of all farms were at this value of sales level.

Table 11. Percent of Farms Operated by Selected Racial and Ethnic Groups: 1974

	United States	North-east	North Central	South	West
Total.....	100.0	0.7	4.9	76.1	18.3
Black.....	100.0	.3	2.4	96.7	.6
American Indian.....	100.0	1.8	18.0	56.8	23.4
Spanish origin.....	100.0	.4	3.7	49.4	46.5
Japanese, Chinese, or Filipino.....	100.0	.6	2.1	1.6	95.7
Other.....	100.0	5.8	30.2	17.5	46.5

The average size of farm operated by all selected racial and ethnic groups was 192 acres compared with 440 acres for all farms. These groups also harvested an average of 42 acres of cropland per farm compared with an all farm average of 131 acres. Table 12 shows some selected farm characteristics for all farms and farms operated by specified minority groups.

Occupation of farm operator—In 1974, 63 percent of all farm operators and almost 75 percent of those of farms with sales of \$2,500 and over reported their occupation to be farming. The North Central region, with 71.3 percent, had the largest proportion of operators whose occupation was farming. In the South, only 53.4 percent of all farm operators reported their occupation to be farming.

Farming was the principal occupation of less than 55 percent of full owners compared with 77 percent of part owners and 71 percent of tenants. The age group under 25 years and the groups over 55 years had higher than average proportions of operators whose occupation was farming. The age groups 25 to 34 years and 35 to 44 years contained the highest percentage of operators whose occupation was other than farming.

The percentage of both White and Black operators who reported farming to be their principal occupation was about the same as that for all farm operators. A significantly smaller proportion of American Indian, and "other" races of operators reported their occupation as farming. On the other hand, farming was the principal occupation of four-fifths of