

CHAPTER I Continued

comparability, these farms were combined with owner-operated farms.

Prior to 1900, there was no separation of full owners and part owners and managers were not recognized as a separate tenure class.

Farm Managers

Since 1964, data for land managed for others has not been obtained and, therefore, managed farms can not be identified from the census data. Farms which would have been classified as managed in previous censuses have been counted as full owners, part owners, or tenants based on whether land operated was owned or rented.

In 1964 and in earlier censuses, a large proportion of the managed farms were actually operated by corporations or institutions. The characteristics of these farms were more typical of part-owner farms than of full owner farms or tenant farms. For comparative purposes, data for managed farms for prior censuses might best be combined with that of part-owner farms because of the similarity. See volume II, chapter 8 of the 1964 Census of Agriculture for a discussion of the comparability of data for farm managers for prior censuses.

Tenants

Data for 1974, for subclasses of tenants, have not been previously published in volume I. Based on data from special tabulations, characteristics by subclass of tenancy are shown in this chapter for all farms and for farms with sales of \$2,500 and over. Selected data are also shown for part-owner farms by subclass of tenancy based on the rental arrangements for the rented portion of their farm. In 1969, data for subclasses of tenants are available only for farms with sales of \$2,500 and over.

The subclassification of tenants in 1974 is essentially the same as that used since 1950, except that the subclass "croppers" was eliminated in 1964.

Land Owned and Rented

In 1974 and 1969, data for land owned, land rented from others, and land rented

to others are shown for all farms and for farms with sales of \$2,500 and over by tenure.

In 1964, data are available for only land owned for full owners, part owners, and tenants. Land rented to others was available only for all farm operators. For the 1959, 1954, and 1950 censuses, information was obtained for the total land owned by the farm operator, the total land rented from others, and the total land managed for others.

For the censuses of 1925 to 1945 and for 1900, data on owned and rented land were restricted to the land in the farm operated. Inquiries for acres owned and rented were not included in the 1920 census and data for the owned and rented portions of the part-owner farms are not available for the 1910 census (table 3).

Effect of Changes in Farm Definition

The tenure distributions have been affected, to a minor extent, by changes in the definition of a farm in the various censuses. The change in the 1974 definition was more restrictive than the definition used in 1969, 1964, and 1959, which in turn was more restrictive than the definition used for censuses before 1959. A summary of major characteristics of the places excluded in the 1974 census, that would have been counted using the 1959 definition, is available in part 1 of this volume.

Excluded Agricultural Operations

There were 152,110 agricultural operations that would have been counted as farms under the 1959 definition that were not farms under the 1974 definition. Of these places, 138,152 (90.8 percent) were full-owner operated places, 6,360 (4.2 percent) were part-owner operated places, and 7,598 (5.0 percent) were tenant operated places.

These excluded agricultural operations would have increased the farm count for farms with sales of less than \$2,500 by 19.8 percent. Farm count for full-owner operated places would have increased by 21.1 percent, part-owner operated places would have increased by 9.3 percent, and

Table 4. Agricultural Operations Excluded by Farm Definition: 1974

	Farms with sales of under \$2,500	Excluded agricultural operations	Percent excluded
All farm operators...	616,728	152,110	19.8
Full owners....	518,113	138,152	21.1
Part owners....	62,099	6,360	9.3
Tenants.....	36,516	7,598	17.2
White.....	587,973	143,748	19.6
Full owners....	495,552	130,802	20.9
Part owners....	58,619	5,914	9.2
Tenants.....	33,802	7,032	17.2
Black and other races.....	28,755	8,362	22.5
Full owners....	22,561	7,350	24.6
Part owners....	3,480	446	11.4
Tenants.....	2,714	566	17.3

tenant operated places would have increased by 17.2 percent (table 4).

Farm Tenure—All Farms

Farm and Operator Characteristics

Number of farms—Of the 2.3 million farms in 1974, 1.4 million were operated by full owners, 0.6 million were operated by part owners, and 0.3 million were operated by tenants. Part-owner farms accounted for only 27 percent of the farms, 53 percent of all land in farms, and 56 percent of the harvested cropland. In comparison, full-owner farms accounted for 62 percent of the farms, only 35 percent of the land in farms, and 29 percent of the harvested cropland. Tenant farms, which have been decreasing in importance over the years, accounted for 11 percent of the farms, 12 percent of the land in farms, and 15 percent of the harvested cropland (table 5).

In size and total productivity, part-owner farms have continued to be the most important of the tenure groups. In 1974, part owners operated 535 million acres of land which was more than the sum of 482 million acres operated by full owners and tenants. The proportion of the land in farms operated by part owners varies substantially by region. In the West, almost 59 percent of the land was operated by part owners of which a sizable portion was leased federal and State land. Table 6 shows the distribution of farms and land in farms for the tenure groups by region.