

Table 11. Percent of Economic Characteristics by Tenure of Farm Operator: 1974

All Farms	All Farms			
	All farms	Full owners	Part owners	Tenants
Total farms, number..	100.0	61.6	27.1	11.3
Land in farms.....acres..	100.0	35.4	52.6	12.0
Value of land and build- ings.....dollars..	100.0	37.8	48.4	13.8
Market value of ma- chinery and equip- ment.....dollars..	100.0	41.5	45.5	13.0
Value of products sold.....dollars..	100.0	38.6	47.4	14.1
Crops and hay ..dollars..	100.0	27.7	54.7	17.7
Nursery and green- house pro- ducts....dollars..	100.0	59.9	26.6	13.5
Forest pro- ducts....dollars..	100.0	66.8	31.1	2.0
Livestock and livestock products,dollars..	100.0	43.7	44.7	11.5
Poultry and poul- try pro- ducts....dollars..	100.0	74.6	20.6	4.8

decline in the number of farms. Since 1935, the number of farms has declined by 4.5 million (table 12).

This large decrease in farms has been accompanied by significant changes in the tenure data over this period. Since 1935, the number of tenant-operated farms has decreased by 2.6 million farms, whereas, owner-operated farms have decreased only 1.8 million. In 1935, tenant farms represented 42 percent of all farms, but in 1974 they accounted for 11 percent. Between 1969 and 1974, owner-operated farms decreased by 325,000 and tenant-operated farms by 91,000.

A detailed discussion pertaining to the discontinuance of the "managed" classification can be found in the 1969 Census of Agriculture, volume II, chapter 3.

Full owners—The number of full-owner farms has decreased in each census since 1945. During this 30-year period, full-owner farms has declined by 1.9 million. Between 1969 and 1974, although the full-owner farms decreased by 282,000, the proportion of full-owner farms decreased only from 63 percent to 62 percent of all farms.

Part owners—Part-owner farms have become the most significant of the three tenure groups in the last 30 years; although the number of part owners has

declined in each of the last four censuses. Between 1969 and 1974, part-owner farms decreased by 43,000 farms.

In 1974, more than one-half of the land in farms was operated by part owners. The proportion has been increasing in each census since data have been available. Due to the high cost of farmland, leasing is still the most feasible means for most operators to expand their operations.

Tenants—The continuing decline in the number of tenant farms since 1935 may be attributed to the declining number of individuals entering agriculture, the substantial number of operators who have left agriculture for nonfarm employment and the sizeable number of tenants who have purchased land and become farm owners. In 1974, the number of tenant farms (262,000) and the percent of tenancy (11.3) were the lowest ever recorded in a census.

In the past 10 years, the number of tenants has decreased by nearly 50 percent. The rate of tenancy has declined from a high of 42 percent in 1930 and 1935 to a low of 11 percent in 1974. Between 1969 and 1974, tenants decreased by 91,000, of which about 11,000 were Black and other races. Land in farms operated by tenants decreased by more than 15 million acres, but the average size of farm increased from 390 acres to 467 acres.

Land ownership—In 1974, nearly two-thirds of all land in farms was operated by the owner and the remaining one-third was operated under a lease arrangement. Full owners operated 359 million acres. Part owners operated 279 million acres of owned land and another 257 million acres of leased lands. Tenants operated 122 million acres of leased land.

Nearly 291,000 farm operators reported 53 million acres rented to others in 1974.

It is interesting to note that the proportion of owned and leased land operated by part owners in 1974 is the same as that of 1945. The percentages were the same; 52 percent for owned land and 48 percent for leased land.

Farm Tenure—Farms With Sales of \$2,500 and Over

Farm and Operator Characteristics

Much of the data presented by tenure in this volume and in volume I, are limited to farms with sales of \$2,500 and over. This includes farms which have production potential for sales of \$2,500 and over. By definition, abnormal farms, regardless of the value of agricultural products sold, are not included in farms with sales of \$2,500 and over.

Number of farms—Farms with sales of \$2,500 and over in 1974 accounted for almost three-fourths of all farms. Over three-fifths of all full-owner farms, nine-tenths of all part-owner farms, and seven-eighths of all tenant farms had sales of \$2,500 and over (table 13).

Part-owner farms comprised one-third of these farms; however, they had 57 percent of the land in farms and 57 percent of the harvested cropland. The average size of part-owner farms is 3 times that of full-owner farms and almost twice the size of tenant farms. Data for land in farms and value of land and buildings by tenure are shown in table 14.

Geographic distribution—The distribution of farms with sales of \$2,500 and over among the various tenure groups and the types of rental arrangements vary by State and region. The proportion of full owners was highest in the Northeast region and lowest in the North Central region. In comparison, part owners were highest in the Northeast region and lowest in the South region, and tenants were highest in the North Central region and lowest in the Northeast region.

The rental arrangement by which tenants lease their land is often related to the use and type of the land rented. Cash-rental arrangements were common in all areas, but especially in the West where extensive acreages of pastureland are leased. Crop-share leasing is used extensively in the North Central States and in the South. In the share-type arrangements, the landlords, generally, share some of the costs of production.