

# CHAPTER II. Type of Organization

## Historical Background

The continuing trends toward increased specialization and larger-scale operations together with increased capital requirements has brought the need for many management adjustments in American agriculture. One of these adjustments for many farmers includes operating within an organizational structure best suited to meet tax, credit, and other management needs.

Since 1950 the average farm size has more than doubled, accompanied by a tenfold increase in the average investment in land and buildings. During the same period, the value of products sold per farm increased more than 3½ times.

Questions have been raised about the types of organizational structure which are being used to provide necessary planning and operational flexibility in this period of changing agriculture. Concern has also been expressed about the preservation of the "family farm" and the

impact that entry into agriculture by large conglomerate corporations may have upon other farm operators. This chapter deals with the types of farm organization as they relate to acres operated, value of agricultural products sold, and other measures of farm size.

Both the 1969 and 1974 censuses have obtained type of organization data for farms with sales of \$2,500 and over. This basic data provides information about the current structural organization of agricultural operations, but a longer period of time must elapse before meaningful trends can be clearly discerned.

## Source of Data

All data presented in this chapter are for farms with sales of \$2,500 and over. In general, the tables provide a summation of data previously published in Volume I, **State and County Data**, for the individual States; but for the most part, are presented in different formats and combinations.

## Presentation of Data

Type of organization data are presented in this chapter for four categories individual or family, partnership, corporation, and other. Summary statistics are presented as totals for the United States, 4 regions, 9 divisions, and 50 States. A small number of selected items are presented by State. Detailed data, such as farm characteristics, are presented only at the U.S. level. The text includes tables with average and percentage distributions for the United States.

## Other Published Data

Detailed farm characteristics for the various types of organization are available for each State. In addition, the number of farms and land in farms by type of organization are presented for each county in volume I. Table 1 provides the location and a brief description of the type of organization data available.

Table 1. **Other Published Data for Type of Organization: 1974**

	Geographic area	Time period	Farm classification	Subjects covered
<b>VOLUME I</b>				
<b>State Tables</b>				
14.....	State.....	1974 and 1969	Type of organization.....	Farms and land in farms
28.....	State.....	1974	Summary by type of organization.....	Farms and farm characteristics (land in farms, land use, value of land and buildings, tenures, specified operator characteristics, specified equipment, hired labor, farm expenditures, principal livestock and specified crops).
29.....	State.....	1974	Age of operator by type of organization.....	Farms and land in farms
30.....	State.....	1974	Size of farm by type of organization.....	Farms and land in farms
31.....	State.....	1974	Value of sales by type or organization.....	Farms and land in farms
32.....	State.....	1974	Standard industrial classification by type of organization.....	Farms and land in farms
33.....	State.....	1974	Standard industrial classification by value of sales by type of organization.....	Farms and land in farms
<b>County Table</b>				
2.....	County and State.....	1974 and 1969	Type of organization.....	Farms and land in farms
<b>VOLUME II</b>				
Part 2.....	United States.....	1974	Size of farm by type of organization.....	Farms and land in farms
Part 7.....	United States.....	1974	Value of sales by type of organization.....	Farms and land in farms
Part 8.....	United States.....	1974	Standard industrial classification by type of organization.....	Farms and land in farms