

**Table 16. Tenure and Characteristics of Operator and Type of Organization for All Farms and Farms Operated by Black and Other Races: 1997, 1992, and 1987**

[For meaning of abbreviations and symbols, see introductory text]

| Characteristics  | All farms          |            |            | Farms operated by Black and other races <sup>1</sup> |           |           |
|--|--------------------|------------|------------|--|-----------|-----------|
|  | 1997               | 1992       | 1987       | 1997   | 1992      | 1987      |
| <b>Tenure of operator:</b>   |                    |            |            |  |           |           |
| All operators  | 29 011 farms..     | 30 264     | 33 559     | 721  | 633       | 552       |
|  | 15 179 710 acres.. | 15 726 007 | 16 115 568 | 2 379 391  | 2 358 018 | 1 834 773 |
| Harvested cropland   | 20 445 farms..     | 21 282     | 24 027     | 542  | 474       | 433       |
|  | 4 895 633 acres..  | 4 734 673  | 4 597 476  | 53 792   | 43 412    | 35 836    |
| <b>Full owners</b>   |                    |            |            |  |           |           |
|  | 19 015 farms..     | 19 300     | 22 109     | 468  | 392       | 366       |
| Harvested cropland   | 5 118 187 acres..  | 4 855 129  | 4 893 148  | 2 315 094  | 2 279 028 | 1 772 234 |
|  | 12 220 farms..     | 12 275     | 14 651     | 330  | 282       | 276       |
|  | 918 756 acres..    | 833 254    | 948 249    | 17 287   | 12 900    | 11 398    |
| <b>Part owners</b>   |                    |            |            |  |           |           |
|  | 7 186 farms..      | 7 778      | 8 094      | 149  | 135       | 125       |
| Harvested cropland   | 7 598 442 acres..  | 8 183 783  | 8 414 543  | 45 199   | 56 842    | 49 426    |
|  | 6 016 farms..      | 6 480      | 6 734      | 122  | 109       | 106       |
|  | 2 769 767 acres..  | 2 711 623  | 2 550 973  | 24 232   | 21 078    | 18 257    |
| <b>Tenants</b>   |                    |            |            |  |           |           |
|  | 2 810 farms..      | 3 186      | 3 356      | 104  | 106       | 61        |
| Harvested cropland   | 2 463 081 acres..  | 2 687 095  | 2 807 877  | 19 098   | 22 148    | 13 113    |
|  | 2 209 farms..      | 2 527      | 2 842      | 90   | 83        | 51        |
|  | 1 207 110 acres..  | 1 189 796  | 1 098 254  | 12 273   | 9 434     | 6 181     |
| Percent of tenancy   | 9.7 percent..      | 10.5       | 10.0       | 14.4   | 16.7      | 11.1      |
| <b>Operators by place of residence:</b>                            |                    |            |            |  |           |           |
| On farm operated   | 22 618             | 23 979     | 26 757     | 491  | 443       | 412       |
| Not on farm operated   | 4 748              | 4 705      | 5 113      | 177  | 147       | 103       |
| Not reported   | 1 645              | 1 580      | 1 689      | 53   | 43        | 37        |
| <b>Operators by principal occupation:</b>                          |                    |            |            |  |           |           |
| Farming  | 15 465             | 16 491     | 17 654     | 426  | 364       | 320       |
| Other  | 13 546             | 13 773     | 15 905     | 295  | 269       | 232       |
| <b>Operators by days worked off farm:</b>                          |                    |            |            |  |           |           |
| None   | 12 363             | 12 848     | 13 268     | 270  | 251       | 220       |
| Any  | 15 079             | 15 691     | 18 561     | 418  | 344       | 295       |
| 1 to 49 days   | 1 634              | 1 630      | 2 026      | 43   | 31        | 28        |
| 50 to 99 days  | 875                | 815        | 999        | 43   | 16        | 13        |
| 100 to 149 days  | 925                | 1 007      | 1 158      | 34   | 23        | 12        |
| 150 to 199 days  | 1 721              | 1 798      | 2 048      | 43   | 66        | 42        |
| 200 days or more   | 9 924              | 10 441     | 12 330     | 255  | 208       | 200       |
| Not reported   | 1 569              | 1 725      | 1 730      | 33   | 38        | 37        |
| <b>Operators by years on present farm:</b>                         |                    |            |            |  |           |           |
| 2 years or less  | 1 319              | 1 515      | 1 891      | 60   | 59        | 44        |
| 3 or 4 years   | 2 113              | 2 469      | 2 576      | 84   | 77        | 57        |
| 5 to 9 years   | 4 788              | 4 720      | 6 451      | 165  | 111       | 87        |
| 10 years or more   | 17 180             | 17 948     | 18 560     | 309  | 281       | 278       |
| Average years on present farm                                      | 18.5               | 17.7       | 16.4       | 13.7   | 14.1      | 15.6      |
| Not reported   | 3 611              | 3 612      | 4 081      | 103  | 105       | 86        |
| <b>Operators by age group:</b>                                     |                    |            |            |  |           |           |
| Under 25 years   | 155                | 202        | 238        | 3  | 7         | 4         |
| 25 to 34 years   | 1 366              | 2 099      | 3 212      | 64   | 61        | 29        |
| 35 to 44 years   | 5 840              | 6 584      | 7 844      | 199  | 154       | 116       |
| 45 to 49 years   | 4 107              | 3 999      | 4 169      | 103  | 92        | 58        |
| 50 to 54 years   | 4 170              | 3 868      | 3 988      | 102  | 56        | 70        |
| 55 to 59 years   | 3 569              | 3 508      | 3 987      | 71   | 73        | 74        |
| 60 to 64 years   | 3 104              | 3 378      | 3 861      | 62   | 65        | 65        |
| 65 to 69 years   | 2 446              | 2 653      | 2 770      | 35   | 49        | 62        |
| 70 years and over  | 4 254              | 3 973      | 3 490      | 82   | 76        | 74        |
| Average age  | 54.2               | 53.1       | 51.6       | 50.6   | 51.4      | 54.4      |
| <b>Operators by sex:</b>   |                    |            |            |  |           |           |
| Male   | 25 488 farms..     | 27 097     | 30 577     | 616  | 555       | 510       |
|  | 14 548 988 acres.. | 15 139 994 | 15 674 448 | 2 372 860  | 2 339 818 | 1 827 405 |
| Female   | 3 523 farms..      | 3 167      | 2 982      | 105  | 78        | 42        |
|  | 630 722 acres..    | 586 013    | 441 120    | 6 531  | 18 200    | 7 368     |
| <b>Operators of Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino origin (see text)</b> |                    |            |            |  |           |           |
|  | 625 farms..        | 378        | 325        | 237  | 188       | 132       |
|  | 130 492 acres..    | 87 786     | 61 016     | 15 717   | 10 482    | 8 377     |
| <b>Operators not of Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino origin</b>        |                    |            |            |  |           |           |
|  | 24 777 farms..     | 22 529     | 24 321     | 408  | 312       | 252       |
| Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino origin not reported                   | 3 609              | 7 357      | 8 913      | 76   | 133       | 168       |
| <b>Type of organization:</b>                                       |                    |            |            |  |           |           |
| Individual or family (sole proprietorship)                         | 23 466 farms..     | 25 126     | 28 289     | 569  | 504       | 459       |
|  | 6 416 648 acres..  | 7 249 548  | 8 120 432  | 56 813   | 73 279    | 68 066    |
| Partnership  | 2 548 farms..      | 2 675      | 2 850      | 66   | 61        | 36        |
|  | 2 891 699 acres..  | 3 128 034  | 2 803 904  | 33 529   | 7 016     | 7 228     |
| Corporation  | 2 776 farms..      | 2 271      | 2 248      | 72   | 58        | 49        |
|  | 3 416 716 acres..  | 2 926 728  | 2 830 810  | 13 704   | 19 758    | 15 105    |
| <b>Family held:</b>  |                    |            |            |  |           |           |
| More than 10 stockholders  | 61 farms..         | 53         | 30         | 3  | 2         | -         |
|  | 108 780 acres..    | 128 256    | 89 557     | 698  | (D)       | -         |
| 10 or less stockholders  | 2 460 farms..      | 1 998      | 2 063      | 60   | 49        | 44        |
|  | 3 072 531 acres..  | 2 536 018  | 2 544 209  | 11 760   | 14 699    | 14 058    |
| <b>Other than family held:</b>                                     |                    |            |            |  |           |           |
| More than 10 stockholders  | 38 farms..         | 33         | 25         | 1  | 1         | 1         |
|  | 32 272 acres..     | 37 798     | 40 986     | (D)  | (D)       | (D)       |
| 10 or less stockholders  | 217 farms..        | 187        | 130        | 8  | 6         | 4         |
|  | 203 133 acres..    | 224 656    | 156 058    | (D)  | 4 238     | (D)       |
| Other—cooperative, estate or trust, institutional, etc.            | 221 farms..        | 192        | 172        | 14   | 10        | 8         |
|  | 2 454 647 acres..  | 2 421 697  | 2 360 422  | 2 275 345  | 2 257 965 | 1 744 374 |

<sup>1</sup>For classification of social and ethnic groups, see text.