

ECONOMIC CLASSES OF COMMERCIAL FARMS

This section of the report deals with the economic classes of commercial farms. Maps and charts are presented which show the distribution and characteristics of farms in each class.

Commercial farms were classified into six groups. Classes I through V were classified solely on the basis of the value of farm products sold. For class VI farms, in addition to the value of farm products sold, the days of off-farm work by the operator and the relationship of family income from nonfarm sources to income from sales of farm products were also taken into consideration. Data pertaining to the operator and the land he was operating relate to the date of the census, April 1, 1950; those pertaining to sales of farm products, days of off-farm work, and family income relate to the year 1949.

Commercial farms include all farms, except those classified as abnormal, with a value of sales of farm products amounting to \$1,200 or more. Commercial farms also include the farms with a value of farm products sold of \$250 to \$1,199 provided the operator worked off the farm less than 100 days and provided further that the income of the farm operator and members of his family received from nonfarm sources was less than the total value of all farm products sold. The criteria for the six economic classes which comprise commercial farms are given below:

Economic class of farm	Criteria	
	Value of farm products sold	Other
I.....	\$25,000 or more.....	None.
II.....	\$10,000 to \$24,999.....	None.
III.....	\$5,000 to \$9,999.....	None.
IV.....	\$2,500 to \$4,999.....	None.
V.....	\$1,200 to \$2,499.....	None.
VI.....	\$250 to \$1,199.....	Less than 100 days of off-farm work by operator, and income of operator and members of his family from nonfarm sources less than value of all farm products sold.

Criteria for the classification of part-time, residential, and abnormal farms are given on page 52 of this report. The six classes of commercial farms constituted 68.9 percent of all farms. The number of farms in each economic class is given below:

Economic class	United States	The North	The South	The West
All farms.....	5,379,250	2,267,083	2,650,803	461,364
Commercial farms.....	3,706,412	1,772,083	1,611,795	322,534
Class I.....	103,231	49,774	23,132	31,275
Class II.....	381,151	244,320	78,351	58,480
Class III.....	721,211	495,284	151,299	74,628
Class IV.....	882,302	486,088	324,191	72,023
Class V.....	901,316	331,254	510,317	59,745
Class VI.....	717,201	171,363	519,455	26,383
Other farms.....	1,672,838	495,000	1,039,008	138,830
Part-time.....	639,230	218,732	362,441	58,057
Residential.....	1,029,392	274,318	675,282	79,782
Abnormal.....	4,216	1,950	1,285	981

The classification of farms by economic class brings together, as a group, data for those farms which have roughly the same volume

of business as measured by gross income. Such a grouping makes possible an analysis of relationships between volume of business and the physical resources of farms as they relate to other farm characteristics.

All farms in the same economic class are grouped together regardless of the type of farm. For this reason, when there is a tendency for a given type of farm to fall within a certain economic class, that class will reflect the characteristics of the predominant type in the group. For example, cattle-feeding operations and cattle ranches tend to be in the upper economic classes, whereas tobacco and cotton farms tend to concentrate in classes V and VI. It will be helpful to keep this in mind when observing the relationships as shown in the maps and charts on the following pages.

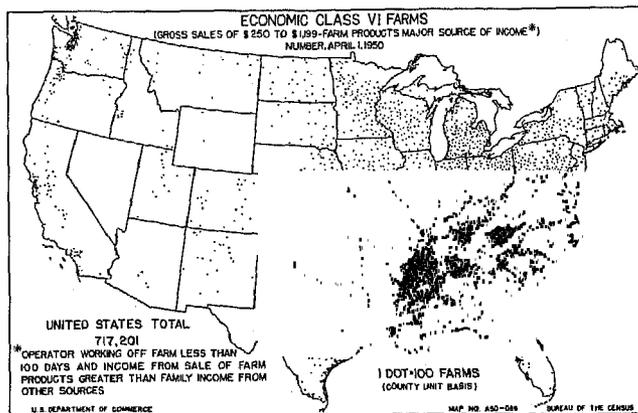
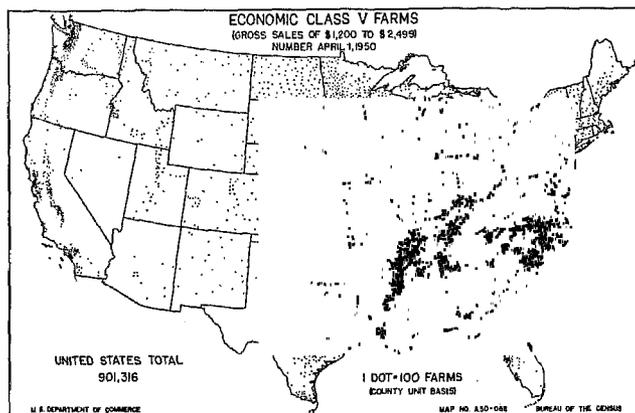
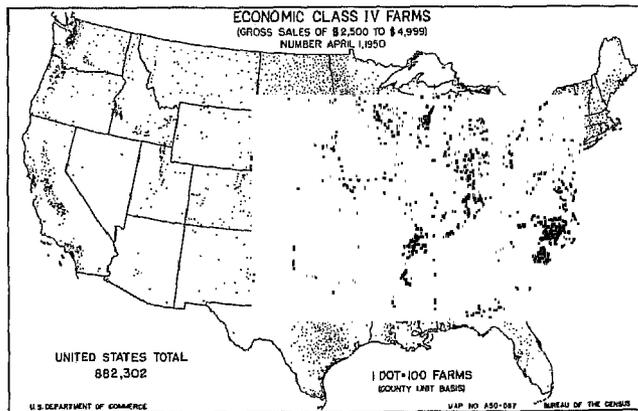
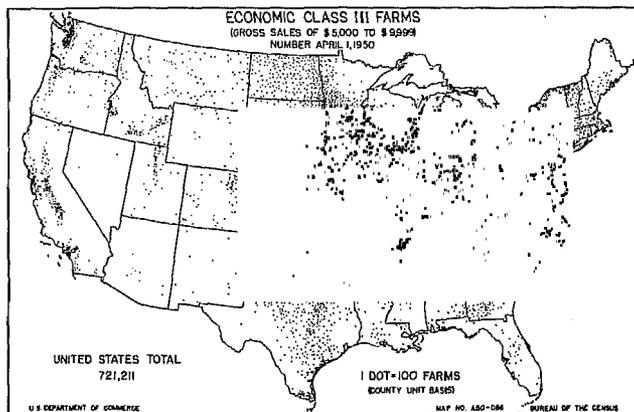
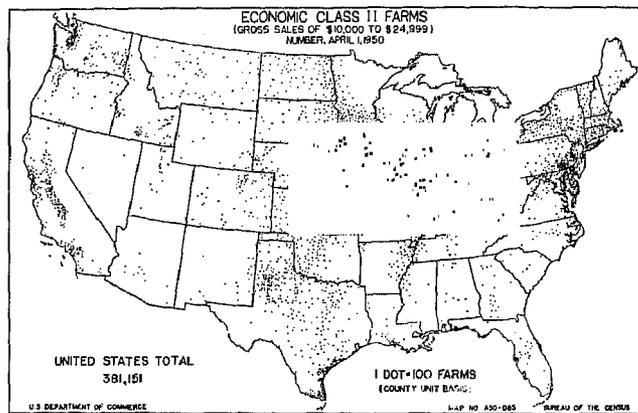
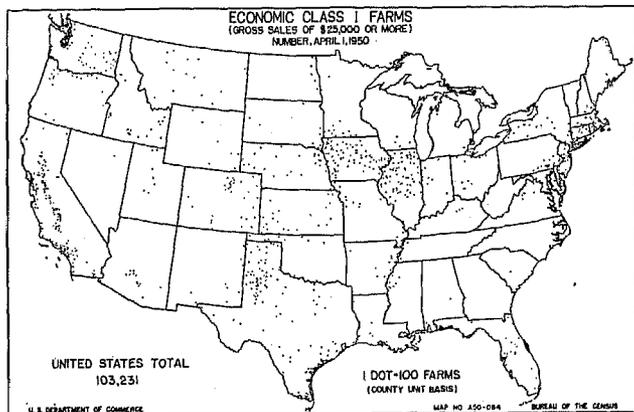
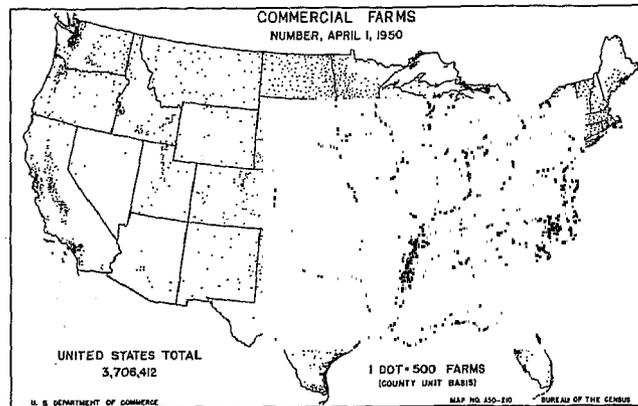
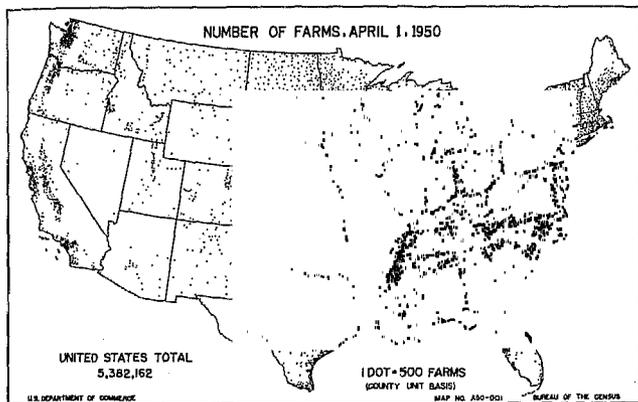
The maps on the opposite page show the distribution of all farms, commercial farms, and each of the six economic classes of commercial farms. The maps show the relative concentration rather than the specific number of farms.

The data were placed on the maps county by county. For all farms and for commercial farms, each dot represents 500 farms. However, a single dot in any county may represent any number from 250 to 749 farms. Any county with less than 250 farms is not represented. Thus, in areas where many of the counties have less than 250 farms, the dot maps will represent an understatement as to the total number of farms. For example, the State of Nevada had a total of 3,110 total farms in 1950 but a count of the dots would indicate that there were only 2,500.

The maps for individual economic classes of commercial farms also may understate the number of farms in certain areas. The economic classes most removed from the modal group frequently had less than 50 farms in a county and these would not be represented on the map.

Economic class I farms are concentrated most heavily in Illinois, Iowa, the High Plains area of Texas, and the irrigated areas of California. Since economic class I farms are less numerous than farms in the other classes, the number and distribution are less adequately shown for them than for the other economic classes.

Class II farms are concentrated largely in the Corn Belt States, although there are many of this class in the Plains States, in the Northeast, and in the Pacific Coast States. Class III farms are widely distributed in the North, while class IV farms are widely distributed throughout the entire country, with a heavy concentration in the tobacco sections of North Carolina and South Carolina. Class V farms are also widely distributed, with heaviest concentration in the Mississippi Delta cotton area, northern Alabama, central Tennessee and Kentucky, and the flue-cured tobacco areas of North Carolina and South Carolina. In the hilly upland sections of the South, class VI farms are more numerous than farms of any of the other commercial classes. Class VI farms are also numerous in the Mississippi Delta.



Throughout most of the Northern, the Mountain, and the Pacific States, middle-income farms (classes III and IV) predominate. Farms with extremes of either low or high incomes are in the minority. In most of the Southern States, however, class V and VI farms predominate.

In appraising agricultural data which show State and regional variation, it is necessary to keep in mind the fact that the statistics for the Southern States reflect the inclusion of cropper units as separate farms. Thus, a multiple-unit operation with six croppers will usually be counted as seven farms—the six cropper units plus the “home farm,” which consists of the land not assigned to croppers.

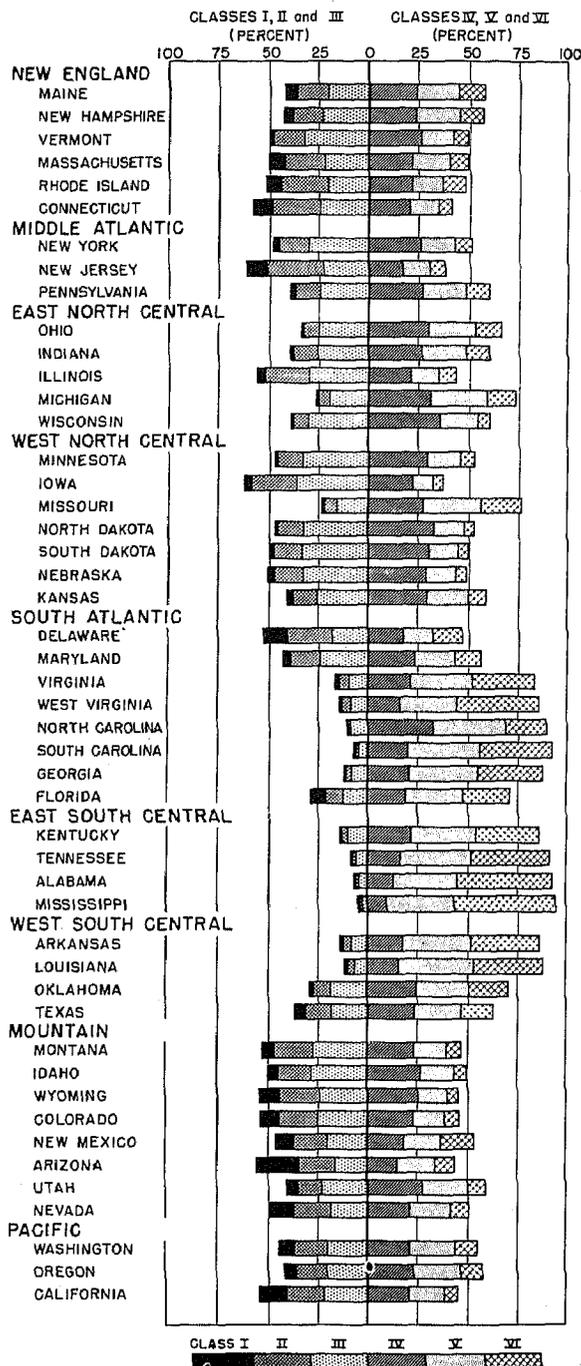
In areas where the cropper system is prevalent, the counting of cropper units as separate farms has two principal effects upon statistics by economic class of farm: (1) The number of farms in the three higher economic classes is reduced, and the number of farms in the three lower classes is increased. Nearly all cropper farms, and many of the “home farms” will tend to fall into the three lower economic classes. (2) The statistical procedure of counting cropper units as farms affects farm averages and the relationship between various items of farm resources. The maps on page 16 show the areas in which the cropper system is most prevalent. The effects of counting cropper units as separate farms should be kept in mind when comparing agricultural data for the multiple-unit area with those of other areas.

Limitations in the use of gross value of products sold as the classification criterion should be kept in mind when comparing different areas, or in evaluating the significance of data on the number of farms which fall within various economic classes. Types of farms that are characterized by high cash outlay per dollar of sales will have higher gross incomes associated with any given level of net income than will farm types having low cash outlay per dollar of sales. Poultry farms and livestock farms are examples of types having a high cash outlay per dollar of sales, while in general, cotton, tobacco, and cash-grain farms are examples of types characterized by low cash outlays per dollar of sales.

The chart on the opposite page shows that in most States, the farms in the three higher economic classes, those having \$5,000 or more gross sales in 1949, accounted for about three-fourths of the total value of farm products sold. In several of the South Atlantic and the East South Central States, the preponderance of low-income farms resulted in only about a third of the income being accounted for by the three higher income classes.

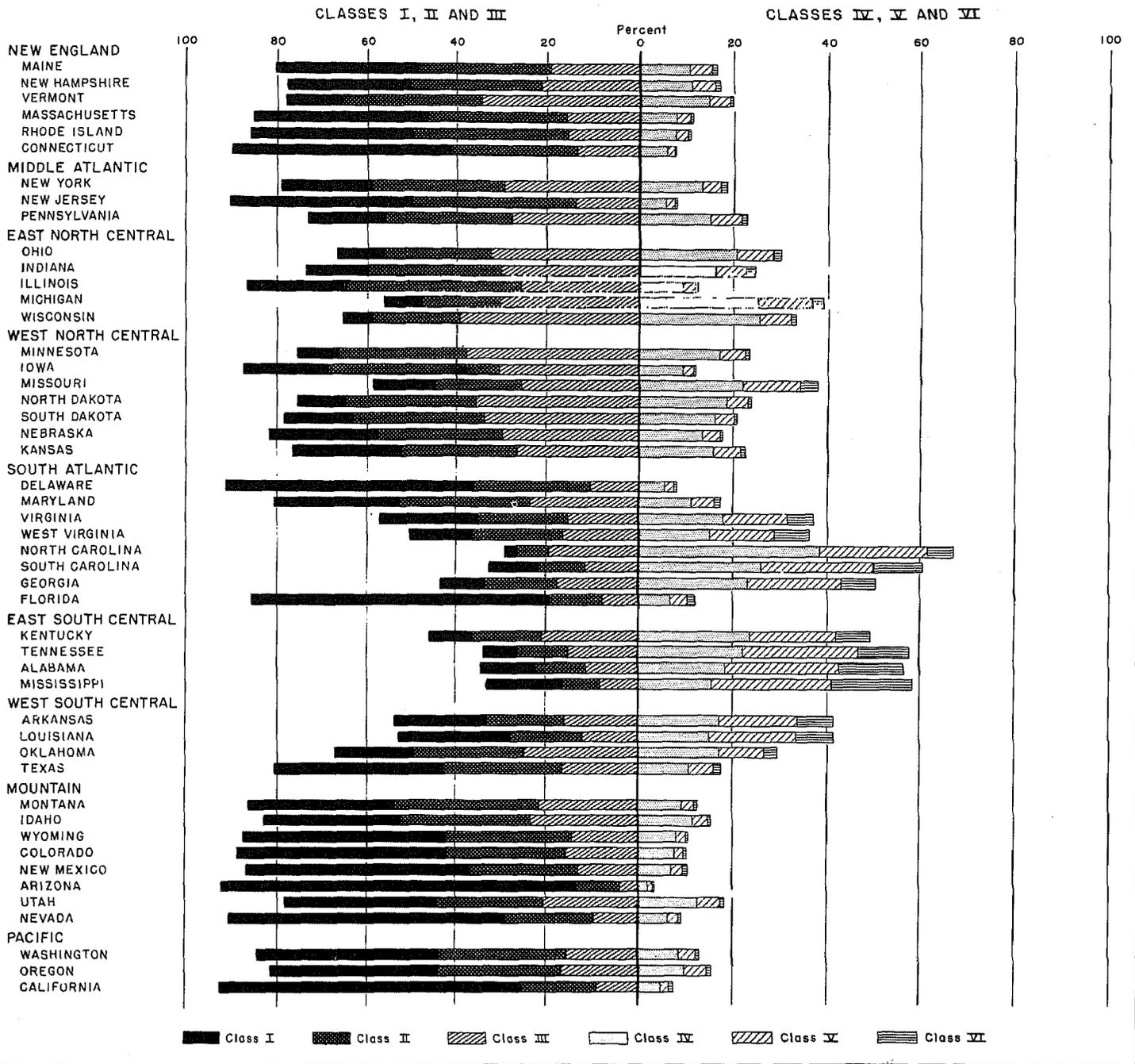
A comparison of the chart on this page with the one on the opposite page will show for each State the percentage of commercial farms represented by each economic class as compared with the percentage of total sales represented by that class. Mississippi represents one extreme, with less than 1 percent of the commercial farms in class I and 52 percent in class VI. California represents the other extreme, with 14 percent of the farms in class I and only 6 percent in class VI. In California, the class I farms accounted for 67 percent of the total value of farm products sold as compared with only 16 percent in Mississippi. In these two States, the reasons for the concentrations of low-income farms in one and high-income farms in the other can be found mainly in the history of their development and the system of farm organization rather than in the economic requirements of the prevailing type of farming.

PERCENT DISTRIBUTION OF COMMERCIAL FARMS BY ECONOMIC CLASS, BY STATES: CENSUS OF 1950



In Mississippi, the large number of low-income farms is related to the procedure of counting cropper units as farms. Thus, the data shows a lower average income per farm than if the count were in terms of operating units. If the recent trend toward mechanization in the production of cotton continues, the share

PERCENT DISTRIBUTION OF TOTAL VALUE OF ALL FARM PRODUCTS SOLD, BY ECONOMIC CLASS OF FARM, FOR COMMERCIAL FARMS, BY STATES: CENSUS OF 1950



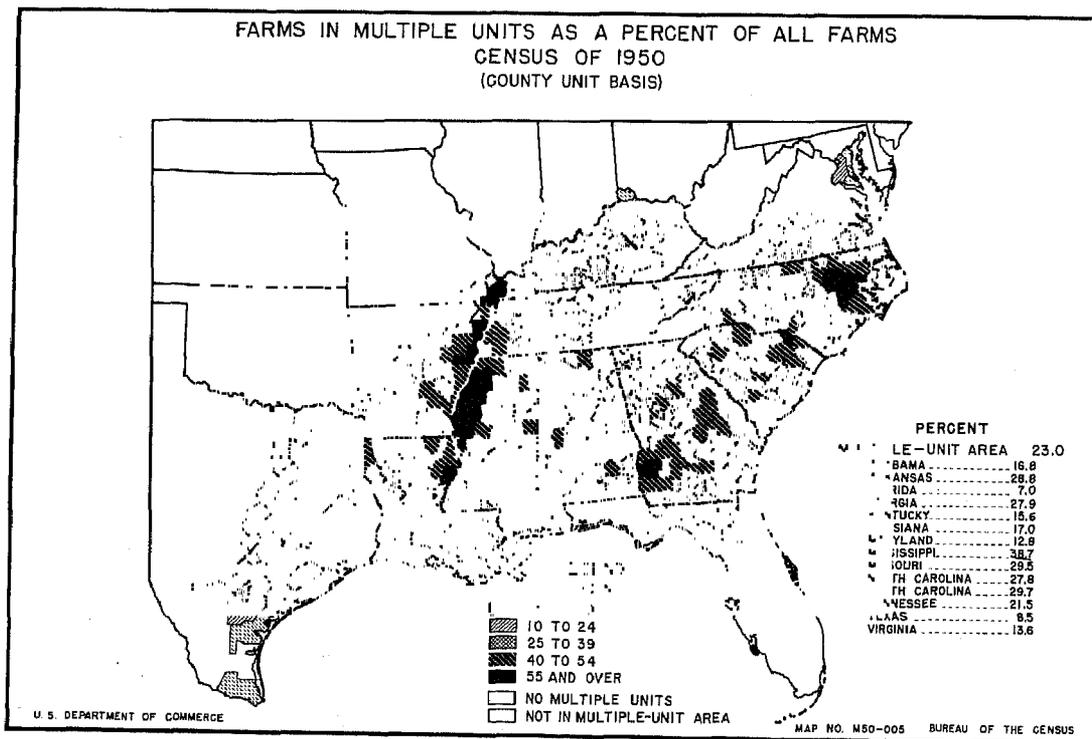
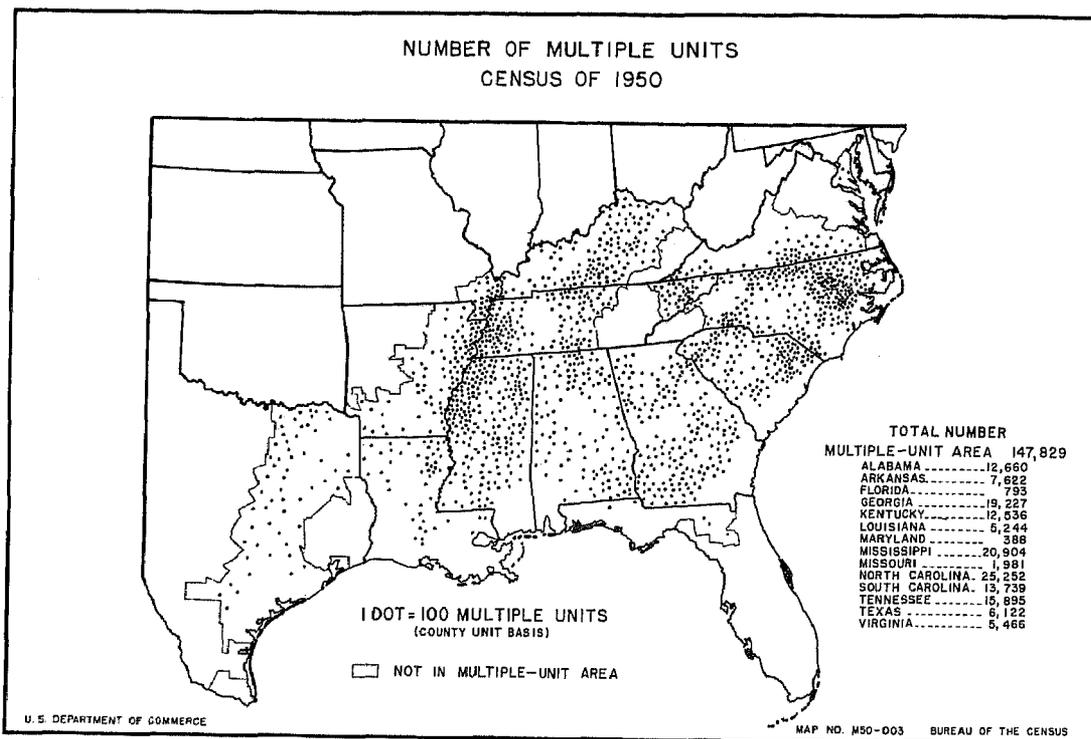
croppers on the larger holdings may be replaced by more wage labor and more equipment. The reported farms will therefore tend to become fewer and larger.

In California, class I farms are, in some instances, a continuing reflection of the large size of the original Spanish land grants. In the past, an adequate supply of seasonal workers has been an important factor in making it possible to maintain intact many of the large original land holdings. In recent years, rapid prog-

ress in the mechanization of many production operations has tended to offset a less plentiful supply of temporary workers.

Another factor contributing to the high proportion of farms in the higher economic classes in California is the adaptability of the irrigated land to crops of high value per acre, such as fruits, nuts, vegetables, cotton, and potatoes. Thus, a farm need not be large in area to have a gross income sufficient to place it in economic class I or II.

A GRAPHIC SUMMARY

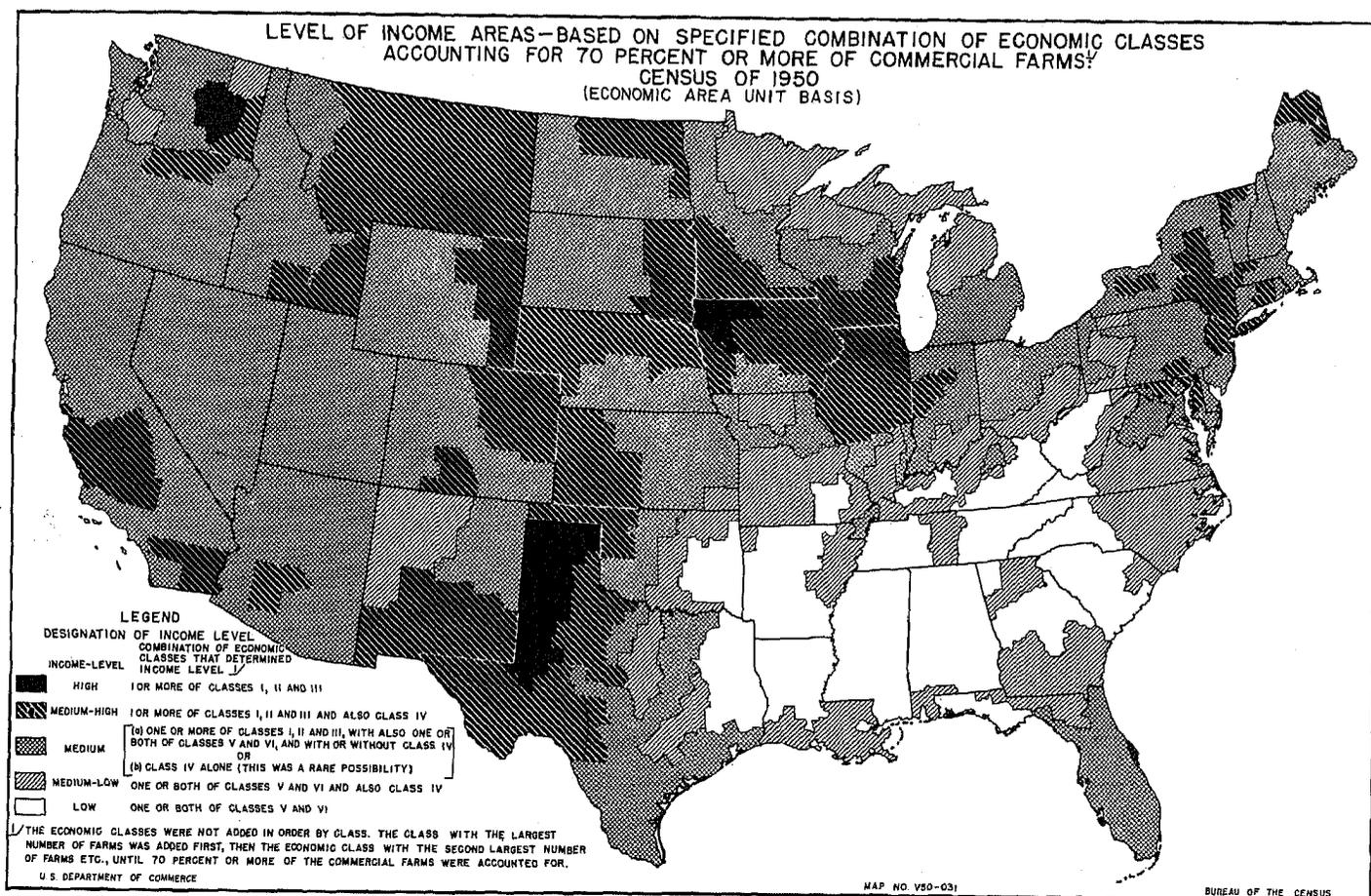


The above maps showing the location and concentration of multiple units are included here to help the reader interpret the other charts and maps where the data are influenced by the prevalence of share-cropper farms. Statistical averages for all farms are affected in direct proportion to the percentage of all farms represented by farms in multiple units.

A multiple-unit operation or multiple unit is a landlord holding of two or more subunits (Census-defined farms) one of which may consist of land not assigned to croppers or other tenants (home farm), but the other subunit or subunits must represent land assigned to croppers. Land assigned to tenants other than

croppers was not considered a part of a multiple-unit operation. In a multiple-unit operation, the landlord generally supervises the tenants and maintains central control in respect to the use of the cropland, the use of machinery, and the purchase of fertilizer, seed, feed, and other supplies.

Multiple units are most heavily concentrated in areas where a high percentage of the cropland is in cotton, tobacco, or peanuts. For the entire area in which multiple-unit data are available there were 147,829 multiple-unit operations. These multiple-unit operations included 470,264 subunits which were counted as farms in the 1950 Census of Agriculture.



If farms with high gross incomes are the most numerous in a given area, it is likely that the entire community has a high level of living. Conversely, if most of the farms are in the low-income groups, it is likely that the entire community has a low level of living. Each State economic area was classified by income levels by grouping the economic class having the largest number of farms with the economic class having the next largest number of farms and so on until 70 percent or more of the commercial farms in the area were accounted for. High gross income does not always result in high net income. Furthermore, the data are based on reports representing only one year's operation. These limitations should be kept in mind when interpreting the above map.

Only five State economic areas qualified as high-income areas. Two of these are adjacent areas in northwestern Iowa, two others are adjacent areas in the High Plains and Panhandle of Texas, and the fifth is the Palouse area of Washington.

In State Economic Areas 1a and 2a of northwestern Iowa, livestock farms and cash-grain farms (corn and soybeans) predominate. The most common size of farm, based on land area, is the quarter-section farm. The land is productive. The high value of sales is partly due to the sale of purchased feeder cattle. Expenditures for purchase of livestock and poultry represented approximately a fifth of the gross value of farm products sold in 1949.

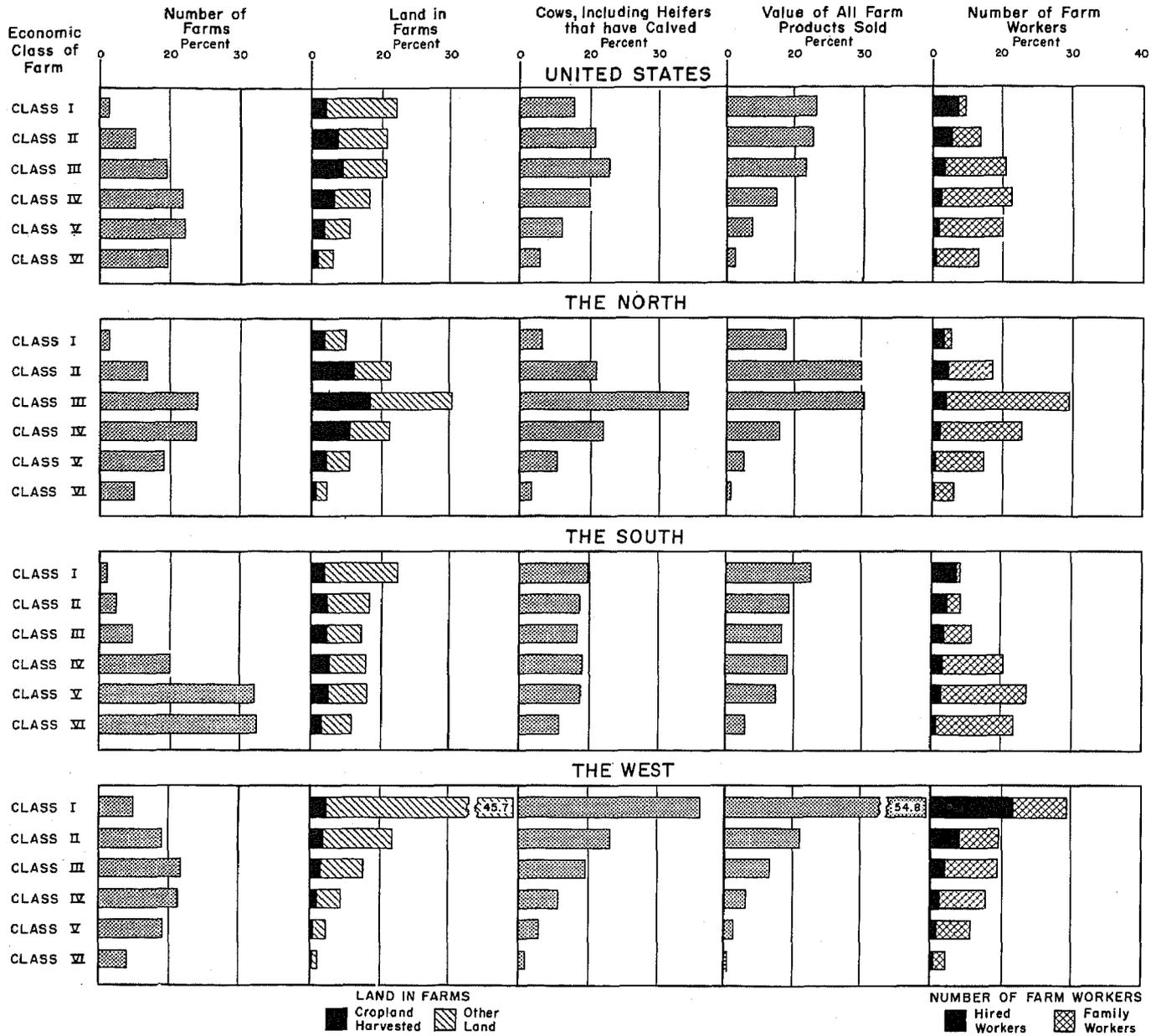
Of the two State economic areas of high income in Texas, State Economic Area 4 has many large wheat farms and livestock ranches and Area 5 has many cotton farms where the productivity and volume of business has been increased through pump irrigation.

In the Palouse area of Washington, (State Economic Area 7a) large wheat farms predominate. The large number of crawler tractors and the amount of tractor-drawn equipment used in this area, along with the consolidation of farms into larger operating units, attest to the predominance of large productive farms. About half of the farms in this area are more than 1,000 acres in size.

The areas of medium-high farm income are more widespread. Some of these areas have highly productive land, for example, northern Illinois, southern Wisconsin; most of Iowa, southwestern Minnesota, and Aroostook County, Maine. Other areas of medium-high farm income such as Montana and the fringe areas immediately west of the 100th meridian have land low in productivity but farm size and the type of farming are well adjusted to the physical environment. The areas of medium-high income in California, Arizona, and New Mexico have highly developed irrigation.

The areas classified as low income have a predominance of farms in economic classes V and VI. These areas comprise one almost continuous area including the whole or parts of all the Southern States with the exception of Delaware and Maryland. This low-income area also includes a part of Missouri. Small acreages and the low level of mechanization on the cotton and tobacco farms accounts for this concentration of low-income farms. Some of the land is of low productivity, but highly productive land such as that represented by State Economic Area 1 in Mississippi is also included. If the classification of farms in the South were available on a multiple-unit basis, fewer areas would fall in the low-income classification.

PERCENT DISTRIBUTION OF THE NUMBER OF FARMS, LAND IN FARMS, NUMBER OF COWS, VALUE OF ALL FARM PRODUCTS SOLD, AND NUMBER OF FARM WORKERS, BY ECONOMIC CLASS OF FARM, FOR THE UNITED STATES AND REGIONS: CENSUS OF 1950



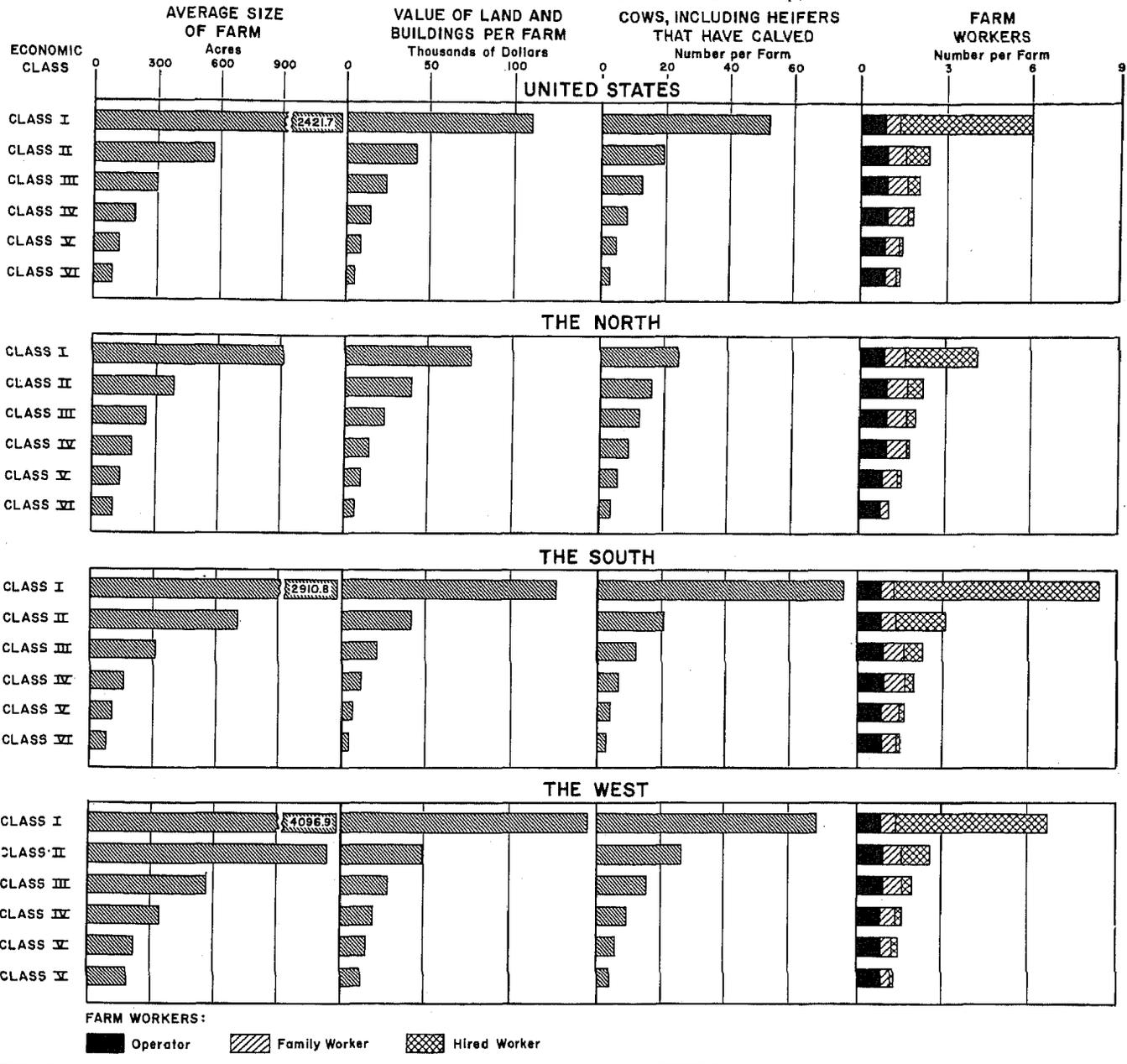
In 1950, farms in the three higher gross income groups (\$5,000 or more) accounted for about 75 percent of the value of all farm products sold from commercial farms. These same farms had only 44 percent of the workers on commercial farms. The remaining 56 percent of the workers were found on farms in the three lower economic classes, which produced 25 percent of the value of farm products sold from commercial farms.

A comparison between the three higher and the three lower economic classes shows that farms in the three higher income classes contained only two-thirds of the land in commercial farms while they accounted for 75 percent of the value of all farm products sold by commercial farms.

The same general pattern which was observed for the United States as a whole also prevailed for the three major geographic regions. There are, however, significant regional differences. The West has a larger proportion of farms in the three higher economic classes than any other region. In the South, the proportion of farms in the three lower economic classes is influenced by the prevalence of the share-cropper system of tenure. This consideration must be kept in mind when evaluating the relationships between land in farms and value of sales and between proportion of workers and value of sales for the three lower economic classes in the South.

LAND IN FARMS, VALUE OF LAND AND BUILDINGS, NUMBER OF COWS, AND NUMBER OF FARM WORKERS - AVERAGES PER FARM IN EACH ECONOMIC CLASS OF FARM, FOR COMMERCIAL FARMS, FOR THE UNITED STATES AND REGIONS: CENSUS OF 1950

(Averages Based on Total Commercial Farms in Each Group)



The above chart shows that, without exception, the extent of resources controlled by farms in each economic class becomes progressively smaller for successively lower income classes. A further indication of the relationship between the resources controlled and the economic class of farm may be observed in the progressive narrowing of the difference in the extent of each resource controlled between each successively lower economic class. This relationship would be expected because the value of sales intervals, by which economic classes are defined, become progressively smaller from class I to class VI. Furthermore, there is no upper limit in the income range for class I farms, whereas all other classes have fixed upper and lower limits.

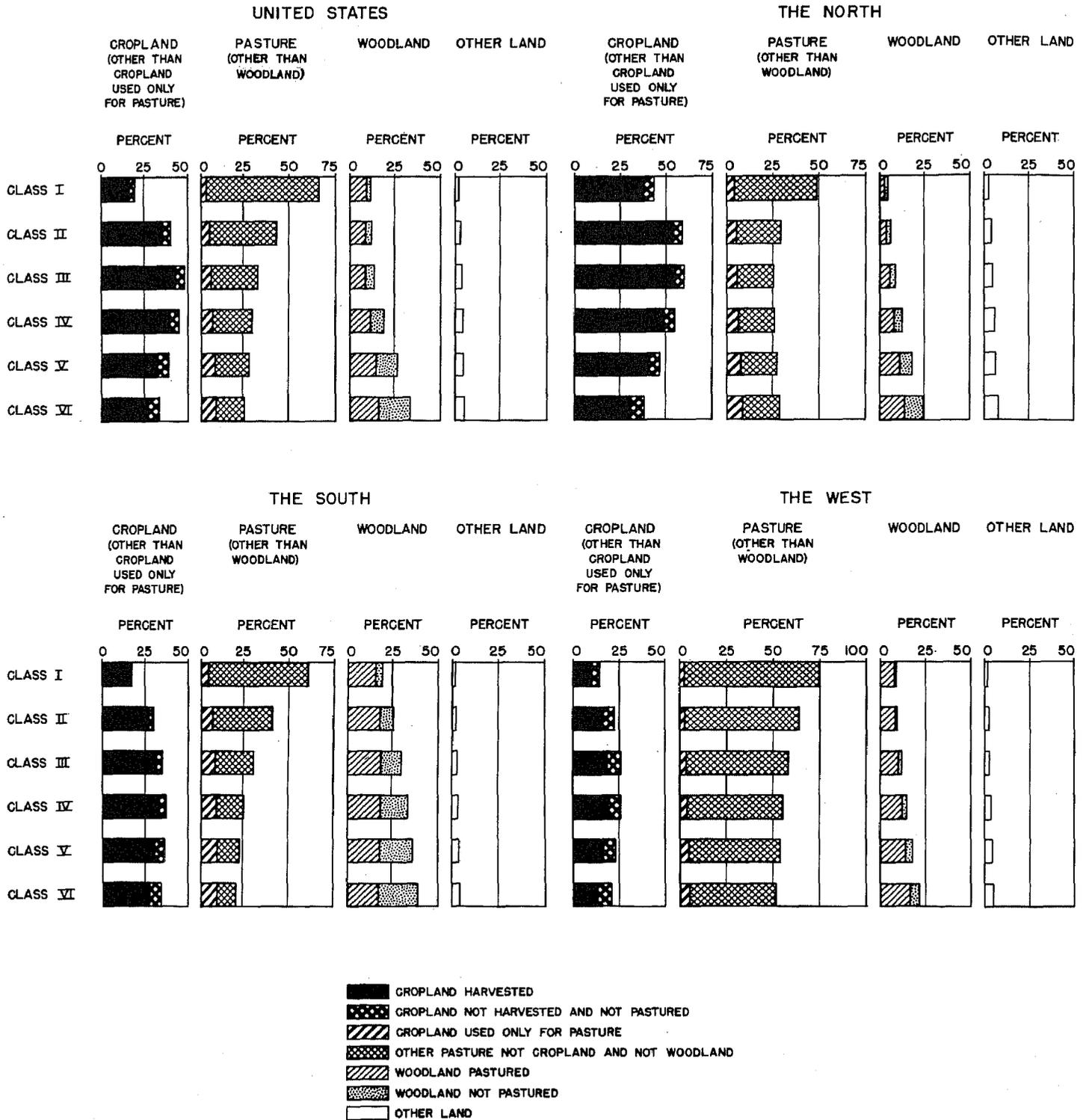
Each economic class of farm in the West shows a larger number of acres per farm than its counterpart in the North and

in the South. This results from the inclusion of much low-capacity grazing land in all economic classes in the West. In the South, farms in economic classes V and VI are smaller in average acreage than the farms of the same classes in the other regions. Many farms of these classes in the South are cotton and tobacco farms operated by share croppers. Most of the land in these farms is cropland, since little land in other use categories is assigned to croppers.

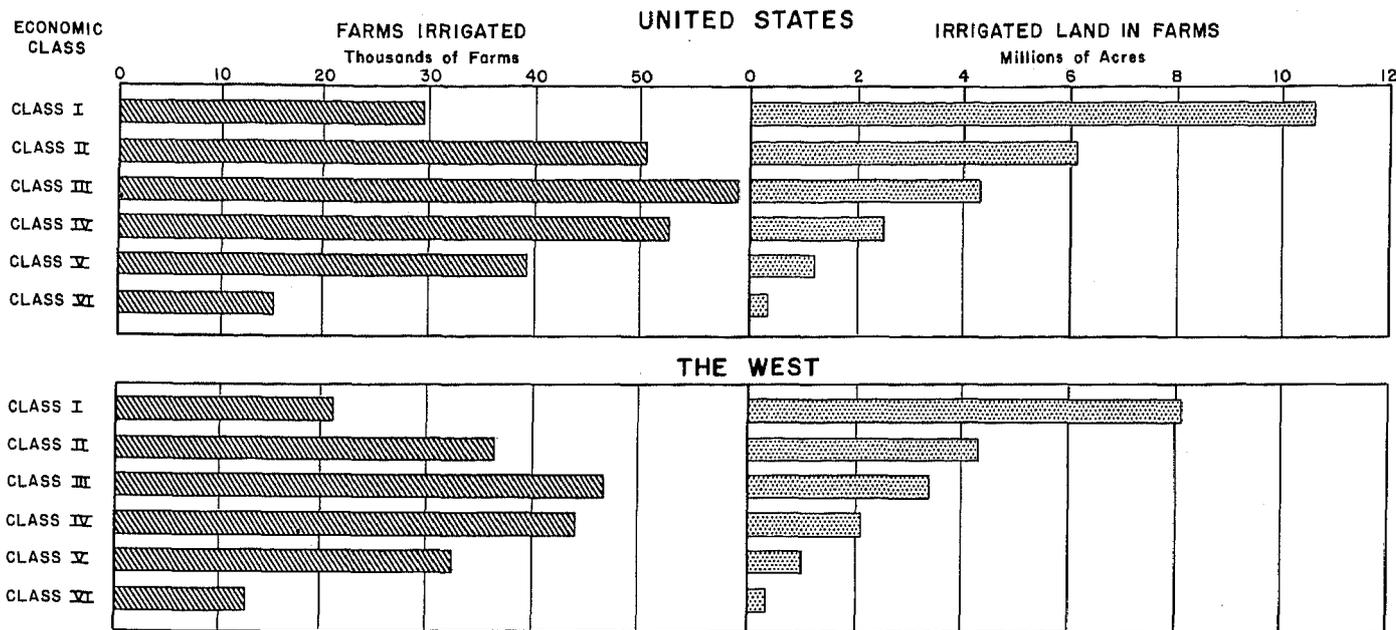
The average number of workers per farm and the ratio between hired and family workers indicate that economic class I farms in all regions, and class II farms in the South are operated largely by hired labor. All other economic classes in each of the regions have more family workers than hired workers. This indicates that they are primarily family-operated farms.

A GRAPHIC SUMMARY

PERCENT DISTRIBUTION OF THE MAJOR USES OF LAND BY ECONOMIC CLASS OF FARM, FOR THE UNITED STATES AND REGIONS: CENSUS OF 1950



NUMBER OF FARMS REPORTING IRRIGATION AND ACREAGE OF LAND IRRIGATED.
BY ECONOMIC CLASS OF FARM, FOR THE UNITED STATES AND THE WEST:
CENSUS OF 1950



The chart on the opposite page indicates that a higher proportion of the land is in woodland and a lower proportion in pasture in the lower than in the higher economic classes of farms. The percentage of total land represented by cropland varies somewhat by regions. There is a sharper drop in the percentage of the land in cropland for the lower economic classes in the North than in the South and the West.

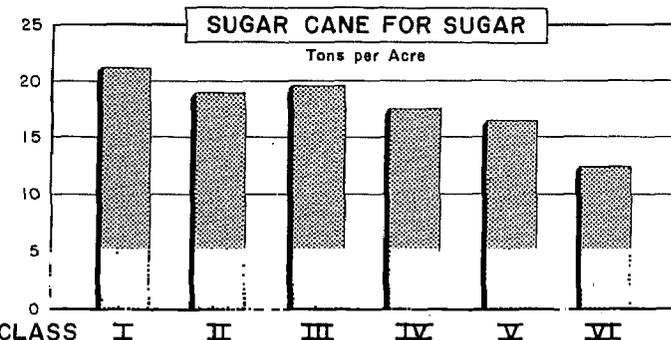
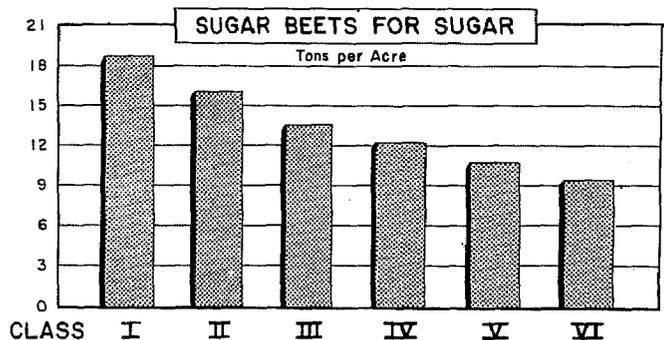
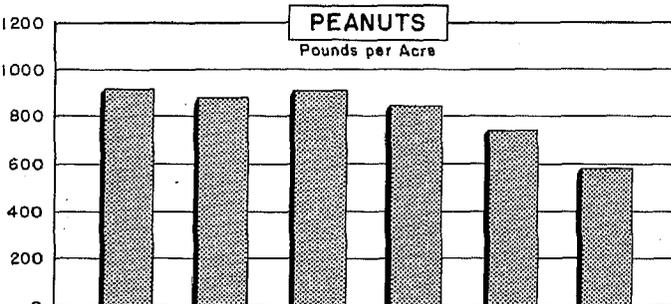
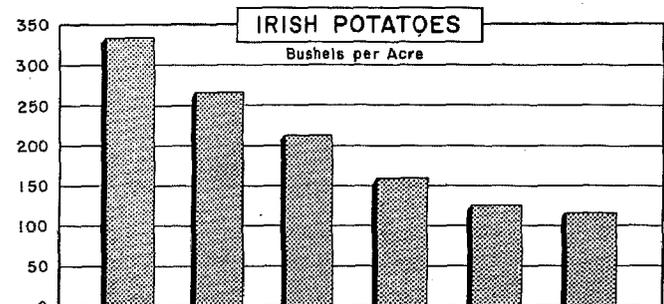
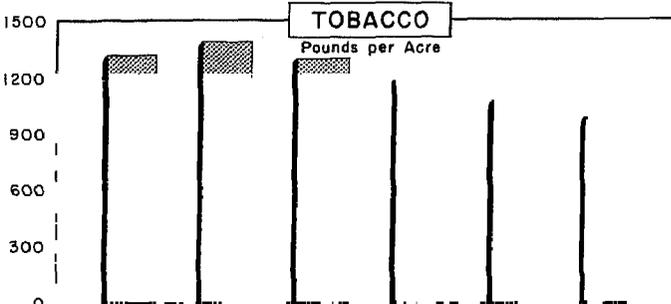
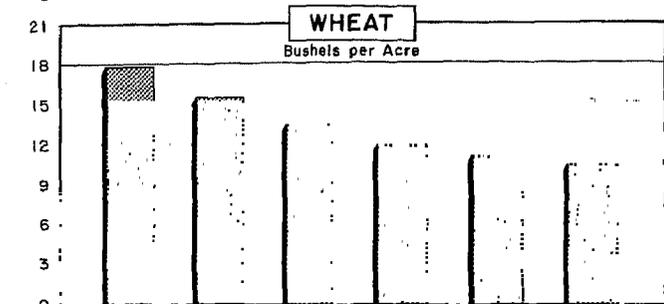
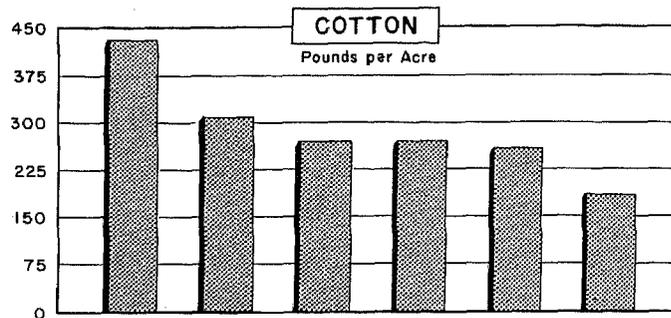
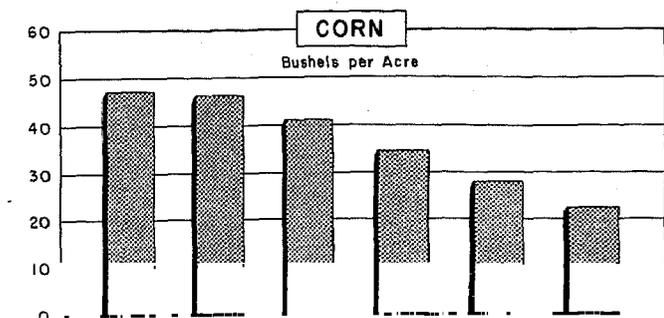
Farms in classes I and II have a high proportion of land in pasture, partly because many livestock farms and ranches, which usually have a wide spread between gross income and net income, are classified in these groups.

The lower economic classes of commercial farms, in all regions,

appear to have lower quality land resources as indicated by the relatively high proportion of land in woodland and other land.

For the United States, economic classes I, II, and III account for about 56 percent of the commercial farms reporting irrigation and 84 percent of the land irrigated. About 40 percent of the irrigated land is in class I farms. A factor contributing to the high proportion of irrigated land in class I farms is the high proportion of livestock farms other than dairy and poultry in this group. These farms have considerable acreages of irrigated wild hay. The relatively large number of class I, II, and III farms in California also accounts for many of the irrigated farms in the higher class groups.

YIELD PER ACRE OF SPECIFIED CROPS, BY ECONOMIC CLASS OF FARM, FOR COMMERCIAL FARMS, FOR THE UNITED STATES: CENSUS OF 1950



For most crops, there is a consistent lowering of yield per acre from farms in class I through farms in class VI. This relationship seems to be consistent from State to State as well as for the United States as a whole. The United States figures are influenced to some extent by the general level of yields in major areas of production.

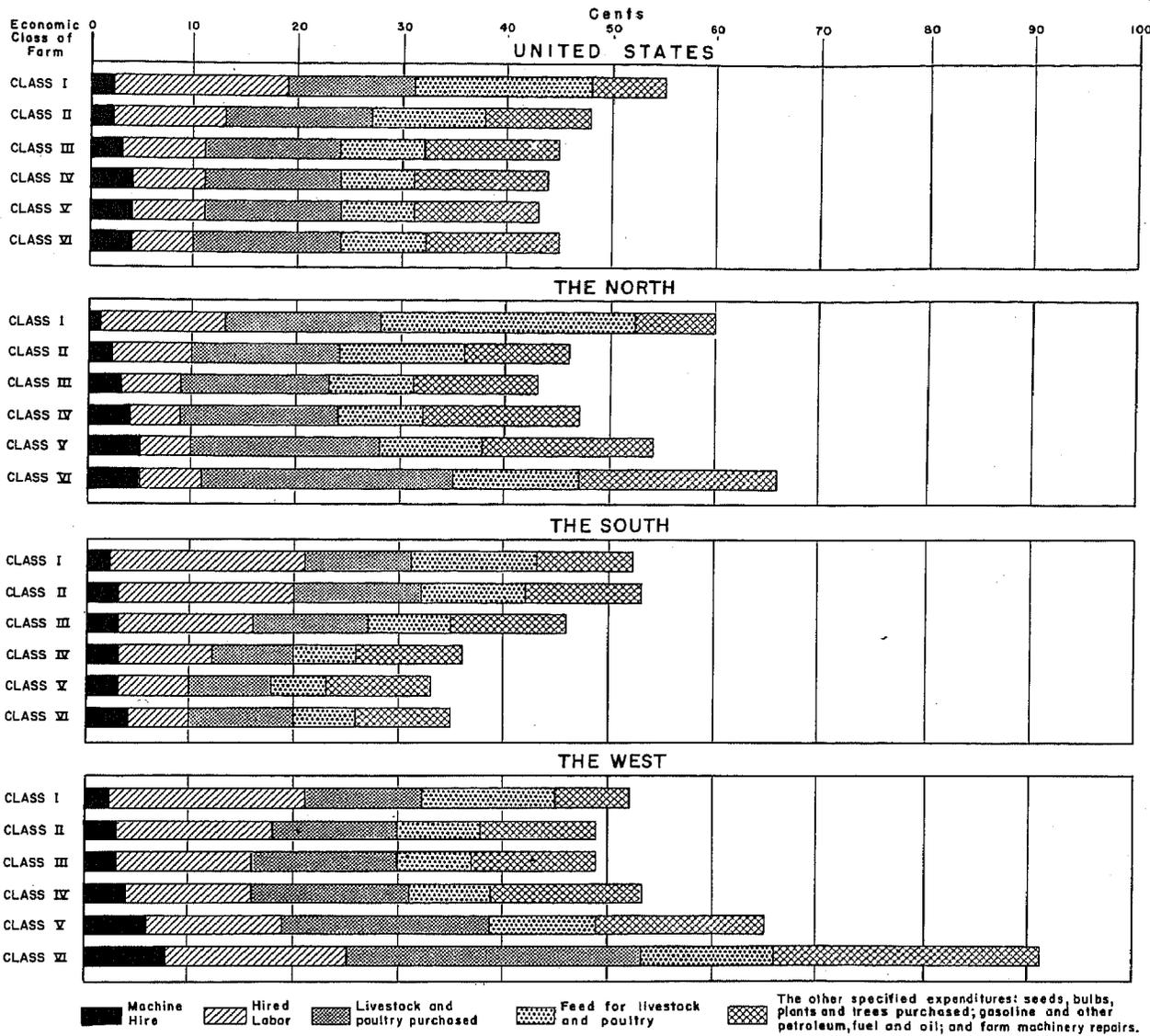
The data on crop yields indicate that the lower economic classes of farms may have less productive land. Operators on these farms probably also follow less intensive land-management practices and are slower to adopt yield-increasing technological advancements. It is possible that a few highly productive farms were included with the lower economic classes because of temporary crop failure or of the building up of livestock inventories.

A few examples will show the consistent downward trend of

crop yields per acre as related to economic class of farm:

State	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV	Class V	Class VI
Corn (bushels per acre)						
Illinois.....	61	57	51	44	38	32
Georgia.....	22	20	17	15	14	13
Minnesota.....	45	45	44	41	38	36
Kansas.....	38	34	30	25	22	20
Winter wheat (bushels per acre)						
Pennsylvania.....	20	25	24	22	22	20
Ohio.....	25	25	24	23	22	20
Kansas.....	14	12	11	9	8	7
Oklahoma.....	16	14	12	10	9	7

SPECIFIED EXPENDITURES PER DOLLAR OF FARM PRODUCTS SOLD, BY ECONOMIC CLASS OF FARM FOR COMMERCIAL FARMS, FOR THE UNITED STATES AND REGIONS: CENSUS OF 1950



In comparing specified expenditures per dollar of sales for the various economic classes, it is well to keep in mind the items of cost not included. Chief among these are: (1) All capital charges, which include interest, depreciation, and land charges; (2) expenditures for fertilizers and pesticides; and (3) allowance for returns to operator for his own and unpaid family labor.

The type of farming probably influences the total of the expenditures per dollar of sales to a greater extent than does the economic class of farm. No clear-cut pattern emerges from these data with respect to the relationship between the total of the specified expenditures per dollar of sales for the various economic classes. A fairly sharp break between the three upper and three lower economic classes in the South is apparent. In large measure, this is due to the importance of the labor of the operator and his family in the organization characteristics of small farms.

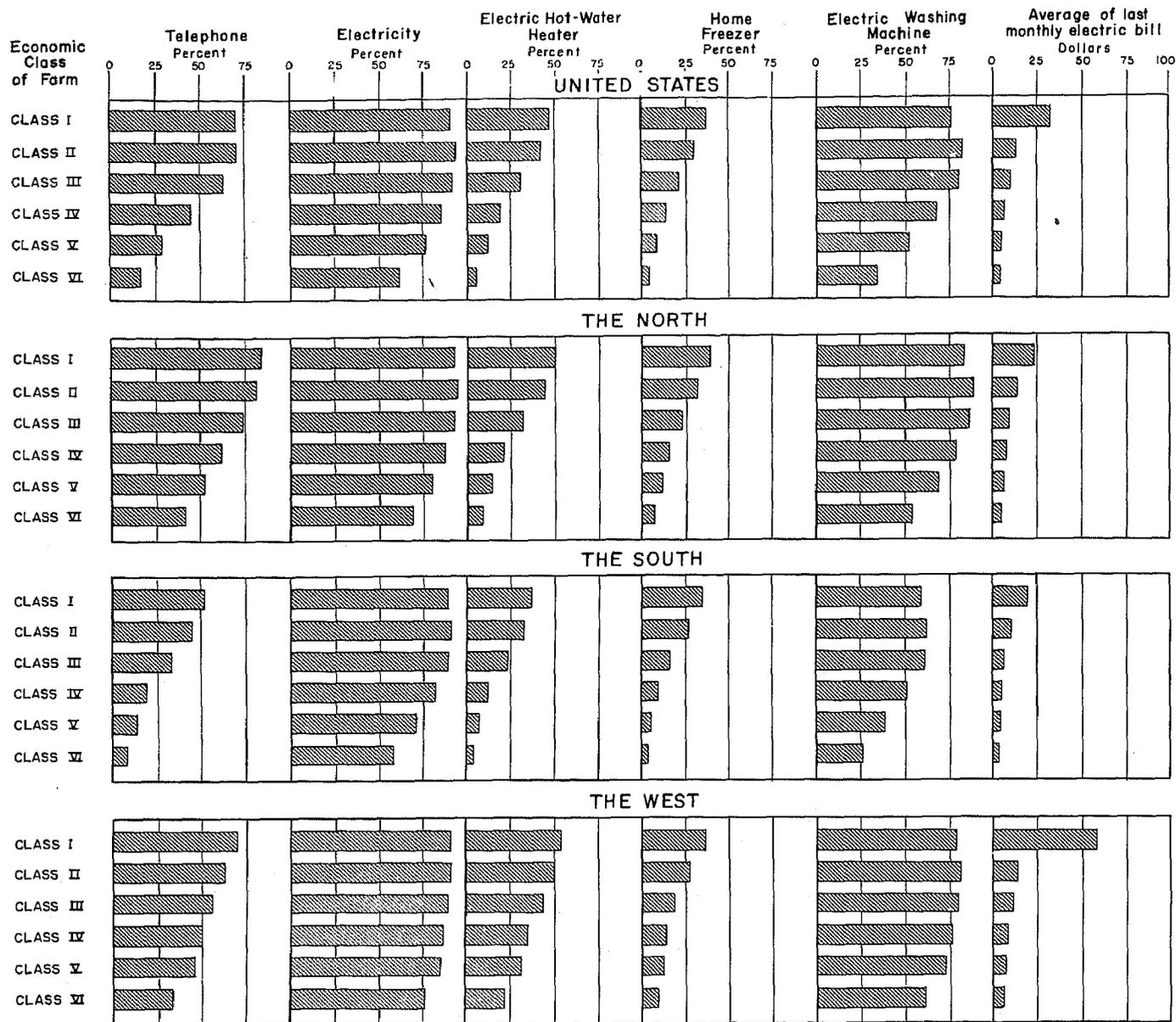
Among the specified items of expenditure, hired labor shows the most consistent relationship to economic class of farm. For

the country as a whole, these data show that class I farms spend twice as much or more per dollar of sales for hired labor as do farms in class III, IV, V, or VI, and 50 percent more than farms in class II.

Farms in the North exhibit the same pattern of relationships between economic classes with respect to expenditures for hired labor as that shown for the country as a whole.

The higher level of expenditure for hired labor in the South and West than that in the North may be explained by the pre-dominance of cash crops having high seasonal labor requirements. In the West, all economic classes show higher expenditures for hired labor per dollar of sales than do class I farms in the North. This is true also of the three higher economic classes in the South. The Census procedure of enumerating share-cropper farms as separate farms results in the exclusion from labor costs of the value of the cropper's share of production. This fact is of some significance in areas of the South where the share-cropper system is prevalent.

PERCENT OF FARMS REPORTING TELEPHONE, ELECTRICITY, ELECTRIC HOT-WATER HEATER, HOME FREEZER, ELECTRIC WASHING MACHINE, AND AVERAGE OF LAST MONTHLY ELECTRIC BILL, BY ECONOMIC CLASS OF FARM, FOR COMMERCIAL FARMS, FOR THE UNITED STATES AND REGIONS: CENSUS OF 1950

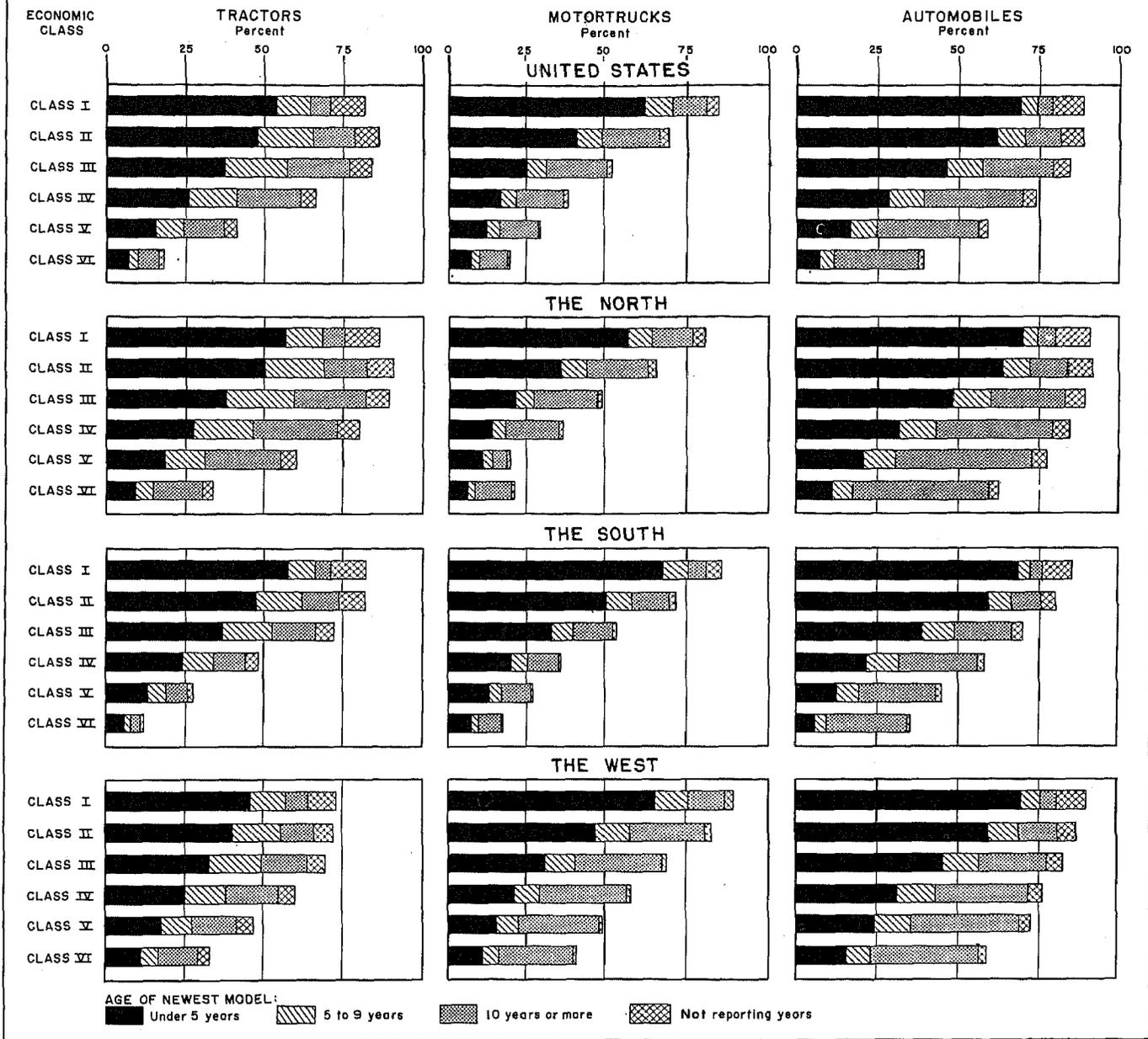


More farms in each economic class have electricity than have a telephone. Electricity is needed for convenience and safety and as a means of lighting even on the lowest economic class of farms. A telephone seems to be regarded as less of a necessity on many farms, even though it enables farmers to carry on certain business transactions without leaving the farm.

The items of electrical equipment which are in use and the amount of current consumed are good measures of the extent to which the homes and farms are equipped with modern conveni-

ences. A greater percentage of the farms in the higher economic classes than in the lower economic classes are equipped with electric hot-water heaters, home freezers, and washing machines. Farms in class I have a higher monthly electric bill because electricity is used for power and refrigeration, as well as for lighting. It is less likely that class VI farms that have electricity can afford to use it for many purposes other than for lighting. In the West, many farms with higher incomes use electric power for pumping irrigation water.

PERCENT OF FARMS REPORTING TRACTORS, MOTORTRUCKS AND AUTOMOBILES, BY AGE OF NEWEST MODEL, BY ECONOMIC CLASS OF FARM, FOR COMMERCIAL FARMS, FOR THE UNITED STATES AND REGIONS: CENSUS OF 1950

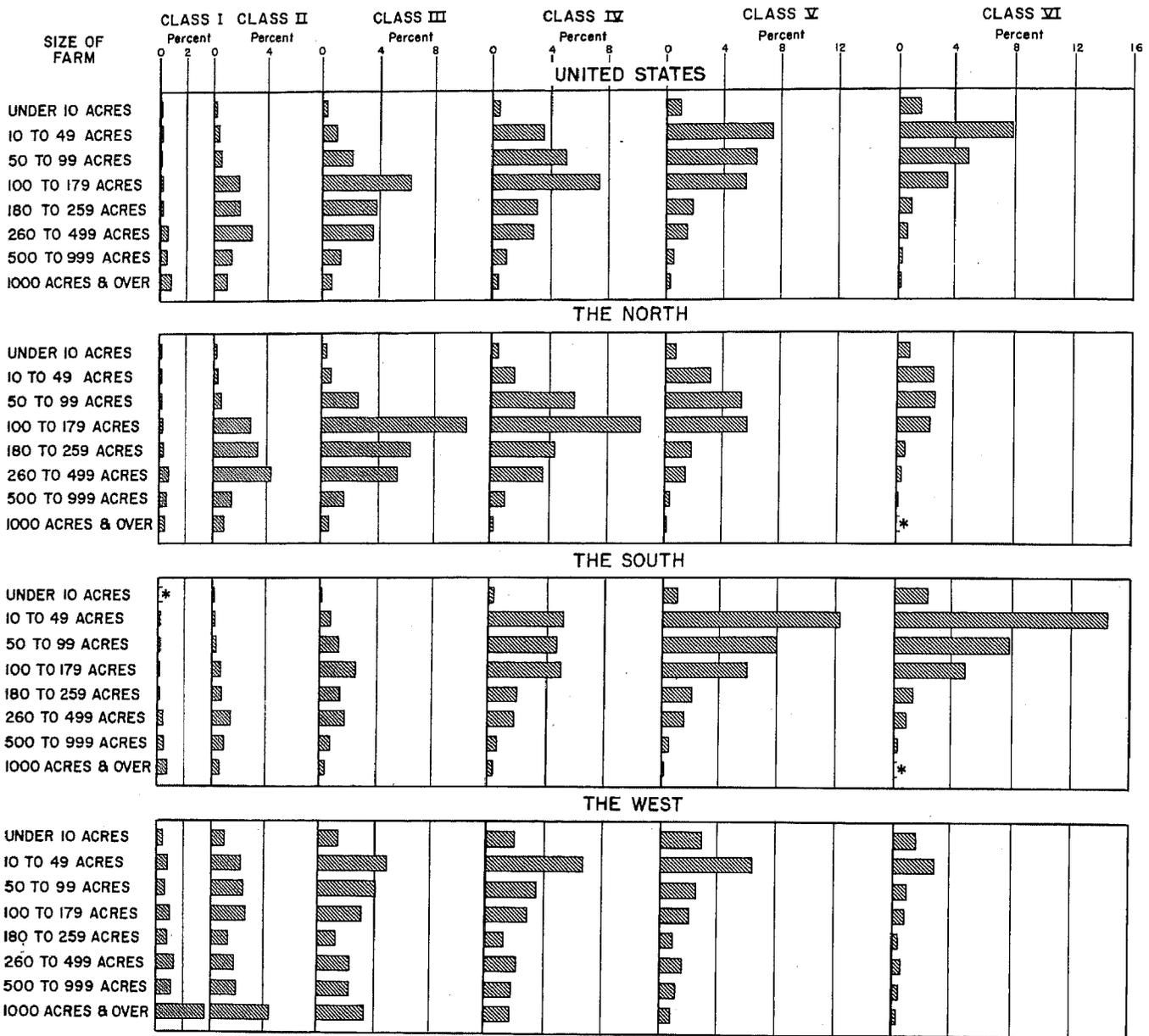


Farms in the lower economic classes are less well equipped than farms in the higher economic classes both in terms of the proportion of the farms which have a tractor, motortruck, or automobile, and in the age of these items. However, as shown in the table below, most of the farms with these items are in

economic classes III, IV, and V, because of the larger number of farms in these classes. Thus, a large potential market for replacements exists among the lower-income farms, particularly for used tractors or for new tractors adapted to small-scale operations.

Economic class	Com- mer- cial farms (number)	Number of commercial farms reporting age of newest model								
		Tractors			Motortrucks			Automobiles		
		Under 5 years	5 to 9 years	10 or more years	Under 5 years	5 to 9 years	10 or more years	Under 5 years	5 to 9 years	10 or more years
I.....	103,231	55,501	11,419	6,502	65,833	8,034	9,797	71,963	4,836	4,834
II.....	381,151	183,777	67,583	47,775	157,778	32,093	69,638	237,534	31,188	43,263
III.....	721,211	270,597	142,862	142,345	180,876	46,624	140,169	334,457	78,901	157,032
IV.....	882,302	229,431	134,756	177,059	151,592	42,643	140,608	249,094	97,533	272,911
V.....	901,316	141,613	74,602	120,596	114,214	34,747	111,904	147,637	75,503	282,605
VI.....	717,201	47,768	22,511	45,761	50,601	19,408	66,984	51,544	33,667	185,759

PERCENT DISTRIBUTION OF COMMERCIAL FARMS BY SIZE AND ECONOMIC CLASS OF FARM, FOR THE UNITED STATES AND REGIONS: CENSUS OF 1950



* Less than 0.1 percent.

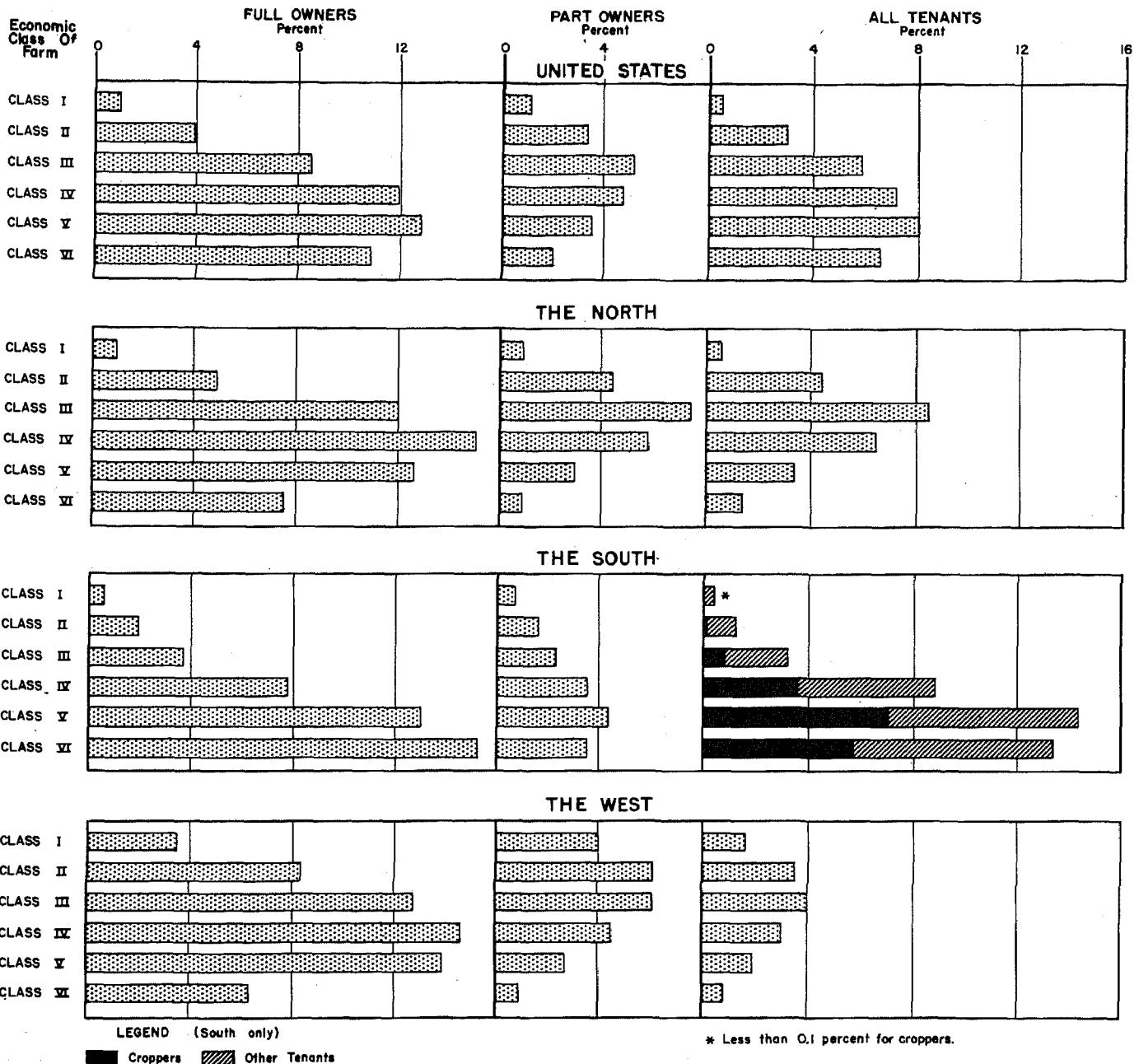
The above chart shows for each region, the percentage distribution of all commercial farms among 48 economic class-of-farm and size-of-farm groups. Each group within a region is directly comparable with any of the other class-and-size groups within the same region. In the North, the size groups that include the quarter-section farms in classes III and IV are the most significant groups. In the South, the farms are smaller. In that region, the class V and VI farms in the size group of 10 to 49 acres are the most numerous, followed in order by class V and VI farms in the size groups of 50 to 99 acres and 100 to 179 acres. In the West, there is a widespread even distribution of the farms among the class-size groups. This is because of the great variety of resources, conditions, and types of farms found in the West.

The higher economic classes of farms tend to have a greater percentage of farms in the larger size groups. However, gross

Economic class	Number of farms	Percent distribution of farms by size of farm						
		Under 10 acres	10-49 acres	50-99 acres	100-179 acres	180-259 acres	260-499 acres	500 acres and over
All commercial farms.....	3,706,412	3.7	20.6	19.2	24.7	11.9	12.0	7.9
Class I.....	103,231	3.6	5.6	4.7	8.7	8.7	21.6	47.1
Class II.....	381,151	2.3	4.3	5.9	18.2	19.5	27.7	22.2
Class III.....	721,211	1.6	5.7	11.3	32.5	19.4	18.6	10.8
Class IV.....	882,302	2.1	15.3	21.5	31.0	12.9	11.6	5.6
Class V.....	901,316	4.1	30.4	25.8	23.0	7.8	6.3	2.6
Class VI.....	717,201	8.0	40.4	25.1	17.2	4.9	3.3	1.2

income on some types of farms such as poultry farms, is not dependent on the number of acres in the farm. Also, farms large in acreage but with low quality land may have small gross incomes.

PERCENT DISTRIBUTION OF COMMERCIAL FARMS BY TENURE OF OPERATOR AND BY ECONOMIC CLASS OF FARM, FOR THE UNITED STATES AND REGIONS: CENSUS OF 1950



The above chart shows for each region, the percentage distribution of all commercial farms among 18 class-of-farm and tenure-of-operator groups. Each group within a region can be directly compared with any of the other class and tenure groups within the same region.

In the North, full owners are most numerous in classes IV and V while part owners and tenants are most numerous in classes III and IV. In the South, all tenure groups are concentrated largely in classes IV, V, and VI. Since cropper units are counted as farms, a higher proportion of the farms in the South fall in the lower-income classes. These cropper units augment the numbers in the low-income tenant groups. Also, the

separation of these cropper units from their associated operating units places many of the full-owner and part-owner home farms in the lower-income classes. If data were available for the South on a full operating-unit basis (croppers not counted as separate farms), a larger proportion of the farms would fall in the three upper economic classes than is indicated by the chart above.

The West has a higher proportion of farms in classes I, II, and III than either the North or the South. Full-owner farms predominate in nearly all classes. The large farms in California, the big wheat farms of the Northwest, and the cattle ranches scattered throughout the Intermountain States account for the greater proportion of the higher economic classes of farms in the West.

A GRAPHIC SUMMARY

TYPES OF COMMERCIAL FARMS

This section of the report presents information on the characteristics of the 3.7 million commercial farms in the United States by type of farm.

The classification of commercial farms by type was made on the basis of the relationship of the value of sales from a particular source, or sources, to the total value of all farm products sold from the farm. In some cases, the type of farm was determined on the basis of the sale of an individual farm product, such as cotton, or on the basis of closely related products, such as dairy products. In other cases, the type was determined on the basis of sales of a broader group of products such as corn, sorghums, small grains, field peas, field beans, cowpeas, and soybeans. In order to be classified as a particular type, sales or anticipated sales of a product or a group of products had to represent 50 percent or more of the total value of farm products sold from the farm.

The types of commercial farms together with the product or group of products that had to represent 50 percent or more of the total sales for the farm to be so classified, are as follows:

Type of farm	Product or group of products amounting to 50 percent or more of the value of all farm products sold
Cash-grain.....	Corn, sorghums, small grains, field peas, field beans, cowpeas, and soybeans.
Cotton.....	Cotton.
Other field-crop.....	Peanuts, Irish potatoes, sweetpotatoes, tobacco, sugarcane, sugar beets for sugar, and other miscellaneous crops.
Vegetable.....	Vegetables.
Fruit-and-nut.....	Berries and other small fruits, and tree fruits and nuts.
Dairy.....	Milk and other dairy products. The criterion of 50 percent of the total sales was modified in the case of dairy farms. A farm for which the value of sales of dairy products represented less than 50 percent of the total value of farm products sold was classified as a dairy farm if: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Milk and other dairy products accounted for 30 percent or more of the total value of products, and (b) Milk cows represented 50 percent or more of all cows, and (c) Sales of dairy products, together with the sales of cattle and calves, amounted to 50 percent or more of the total sales.
Poultry.....	Chickens, eggs, turkeys, and other poultry and poultry products.
Livestock other than dairy and poultry.	Cattle, calves, hogs, sheep, goats, wool, mohair, goat milk, and products from animals slaughtered on the farm, provided the farm did not already classify as a dairy farm.
General.....	Farms were classified as general when the value of products from one source or group of sources did not represent as much as 50 percent of the total of the value of all farm products sold. Separate figures are given for three types of general farms: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Primarily crop. (b) Primarily livestock. (c) Crop and livestock. Primarily crop farms are those for which the sale of one of the following crops or groups of crops—vegetables, fruits and nuts, cotton, cash grains, or other field crops—did not amount to 50 percent or

Type of farm
General—Continued

Product or group of products amounting to 50 percent or more of the value of all farm products sold

Primarily crop farms—Continued
more of the value of all farm products sold, but for which the value of sales for all these groups of crops represented 70 percent or more of the value of all farm products sold.

Primarily livestock farms are those which could not be classified as dairy farms, poultry farms, or livestock farms other than dairy and poultry, but on which the sale of livestock and poultry and livestock and poultry products amounted to 70 percent or more of the value of all farm products sold.

General crop and livestock farms are those which could not be classified as either crop farms or livestock farms, but on which the sale of all crops amounted to at least 30 percent but less than 70 percent of the value of all farm products sold.

Miscellaneous..... This group of farms includes those which had 50 percent or more of the total value of products accounted for by sale of horticultural products; or sale of horses; or sale of fur animals; or sale of forest products; or sale of bees, wax, and honey.

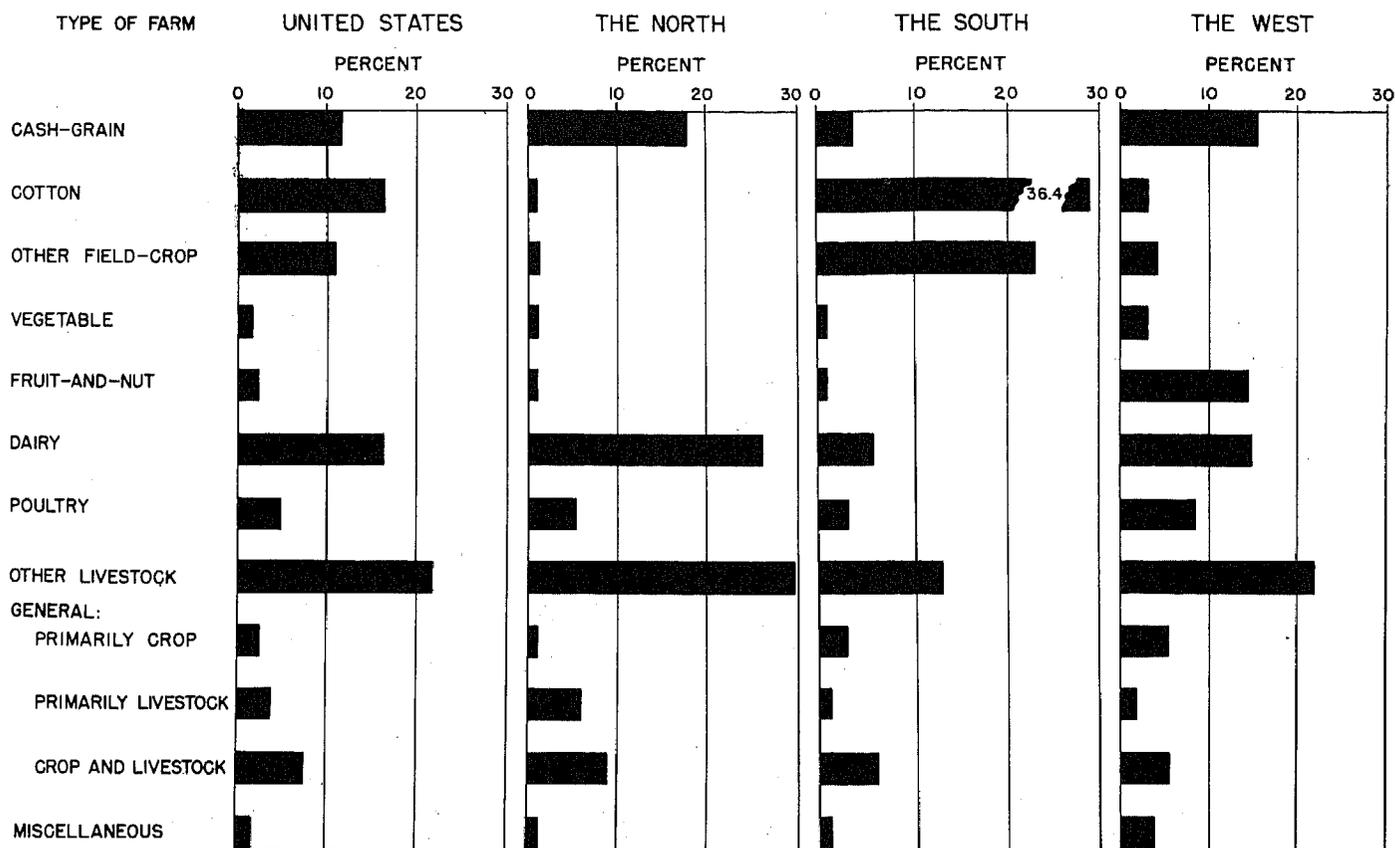
The above types were selected because they provided a classification meaningful to large areas of the United States both as to number of farms, and as to the kind of farming followed. Relatively unimportant types as to number, such as forest-product farms, horse farms, etc., were grouped as miscellaneous since the main purpose in classifying these was to exclude them from the other types.

Cotton farms were classified separately from other field-crop farms because they constitute such a large proportion of the total farms. A separation of cotton farms also makes the data more useful in areas where cotton competes with peanuts or tobacco as a cash crop. Usually it is possible to identify the crops accounting for the other field-crop farms because, in most areas, only one of the crops included in this group is grown.

The table below shows the number of farms in each type for the United States and the three major regions.

Type of farm	United States	The North	The South	The West
All farms.....	5,379,250	2,267,083	2,650,803	461,364
Commercial farms.....	3,706,412	1,772,083	1,611,795	322,534
Cash-grain.....	430,389	318,356	62,455	49,578
Cotton.....	609,307	13,524	586,095	9,688
Other field-crop.....	409,421	21,780	374,617	13,024
Vegetable.....	46,415	18,053	18,740	9,622
Fruit-and-nut.....	82,178	16,784	18,979	46,415
Dairy.....	602,093	461,209	92,697	48,187
Poultry.....	175,876	94,413	54,071	27,392
Livestock other than dairy and poultry.....	806,080	526,298	209,206	70,486
General:				
Primarily crop.....	84,569	16,970	50,443	17,156
Primarily livestock.....	134,666	106,799	22,861	5,006
Crop and livestock.....	275,050	158,001	99,332	17,717
Miscellaneous.....	50,368	19,896	22,209	8,263
Other farms.....	1,672,838	495,000	1,039,008	138,830
Part-time.....	639,230	218,732	362,441	58,057
Residential.....	1,029,392	274,318	675,282	79,792
Abnormal.....	4,216	1,950	1,285	981

PERCENT DISTRIBUTION OF COMMERCIAL FARMS BY TYPE, FOR THE UNITED STATES AND REGIONS: CENSUS OF 1950



Of the 12 types of commercial farms, only 1 type, livestock farms other than dairy and poultry, ranks among the 3 most numerous types in all of the 3 major regions. Nationally, this type accounts for more of the commercial farms than any other type. Cotton farms rank second in number, followed closely by dairy farms. For the country as a whole, cash-grain and other field-crop farms rank fourth and fifth, respectively. These five types account for a little more than three-fourths of all commercial farms in the United States.

Regionally, there are some important variations from the National pattern. In the North, livestock farms other than dairy and poultry represent the most numerous type. Dairy farms and cash-grain farms occupy second and third places, respectively. In the South, cotton farms are the most numerous, while other field-crop farms and livestock farms rank second and third, respectively. These three types make up almost three-fourths of the commercial farms in the South.

The great diversity which characterizes the Western States results in somewhat less uniformity of farm type than is found in the North and the South. Two-thirds of the Western farms, however, are represented by four farm types. Livestock farms other than dairy and poultry are substantially more numerous than any other type. Cash-grain, dairy, and fruit-and-nut farms are each of almost equal numerical importance in the West. These types rank second, third, and fourth, respectively, in number of farms for that region.

The extent of specialization in farming in the various States is shown by the percentage of all commercial farms represented by the four most important types in each State. In only

15 States does a single type of farm account for 50 percent or more of all commercial farms, indicating that there is considerable variation in the types of farms in most States.

Dairy farms rank first in number in most of the northeastern States, and in Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Washington, and Oregon. These States have favorable growing conditions for pasture and hay, favorable climate for dairy cattle, and large nearby markets for fluid milk and other dairy products.

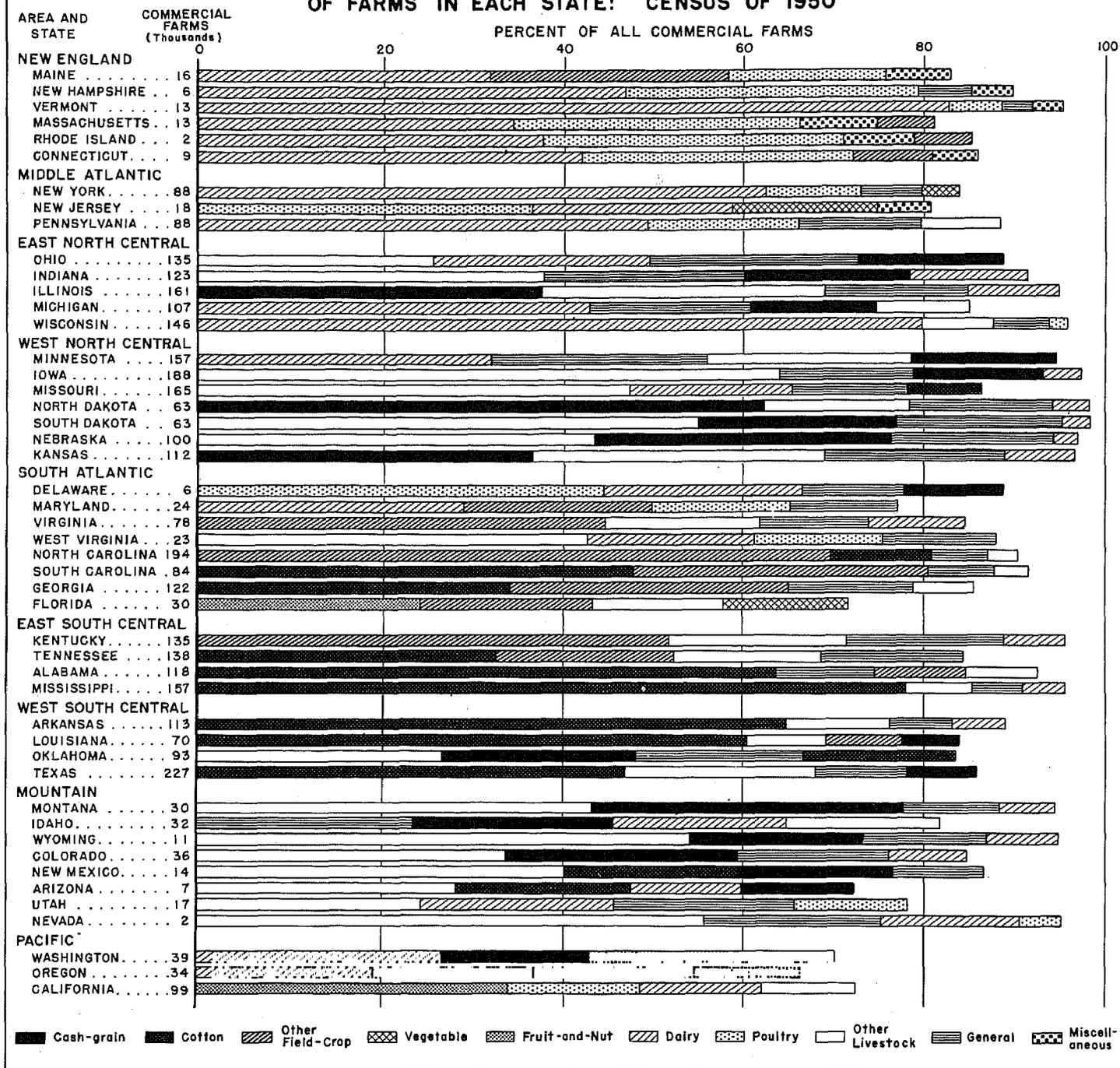
Cotton farms are the most important type numerically in most of the Southern States. The Mississippi River Flood Plains of Missouri, Arkansas, Mississippi, and Louisiana are favorably situated for continued production of cotton. The land is fertile and level, and is adapted to mechanization. The yield of nearly 1 bale per acre in this area is in contrast to the yield of one-fifth to one-third bale per acre in much of the Southern Uplands.

Cattle raising is becoming more important in the South but in most of these States, the percentage of farms on which livestock provides the chief source of income is still small.

Cash-grain farms are the most numerous type in Illinois, where corn and soybeans are the important cash crops, and in North Dakota and Kansas, where wheat is the chief cash crop. In many of the other States in which wheat is an important crop, cash-grain farms rank second in numerical importance.

Livestock farms other than dairy and poultry are the most numerous type of farm in 15 States. In the Mountain States, these farms are cattle and sheep ranches, while in the North Central States, most of them are farms that specialize in feeding operations.

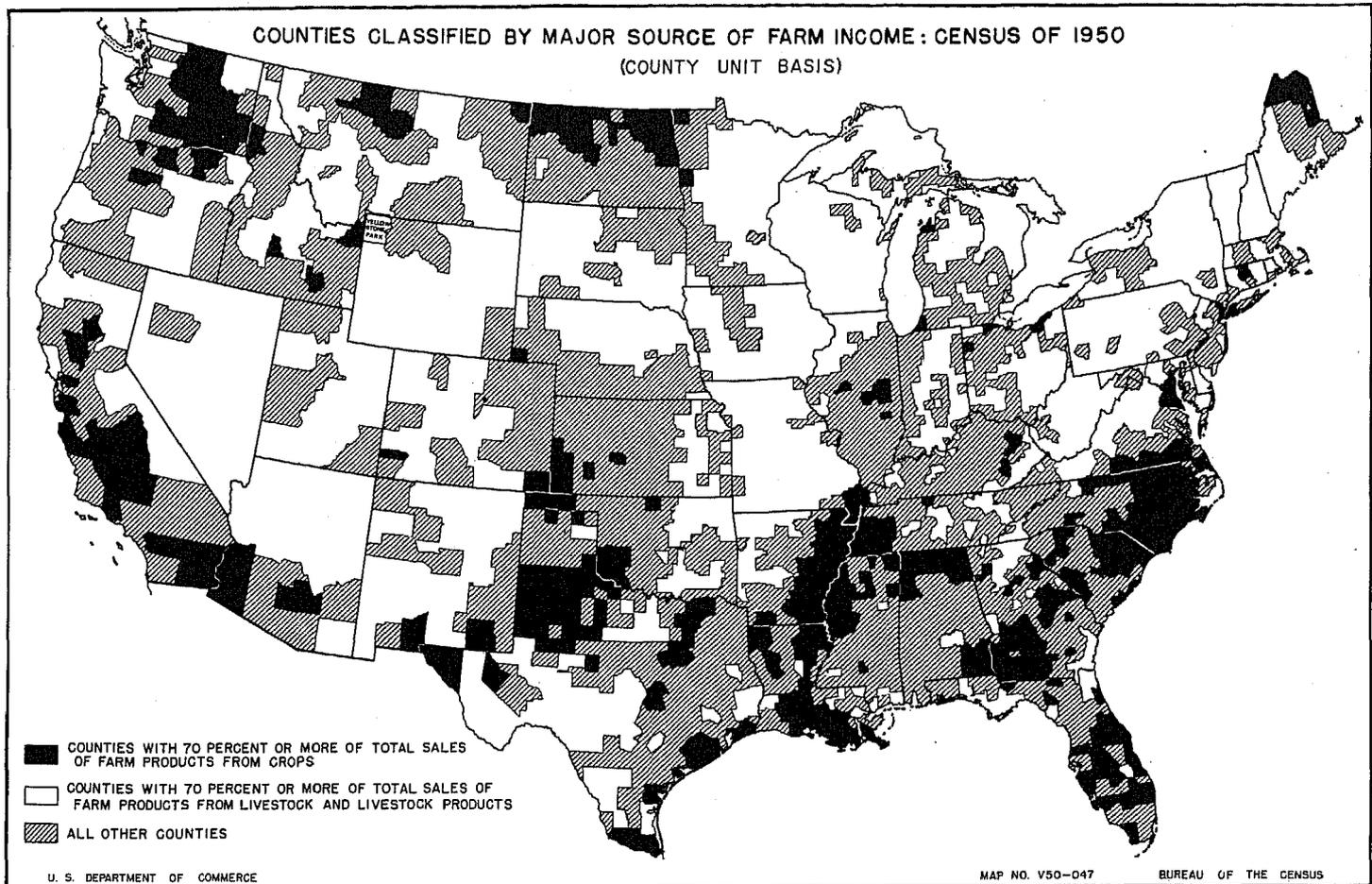
PERCENT OF ALL COMMERCIAL FARMS REPRESENTED BY THE FOUR MOST IMPORTANT TYPES OF FARMS IN EACH STATE: CENSUS OF 1950



In 41 States, the four leading types of farms comprise 80 percent or more of all commercial farms. The other seven States—those in which the four leading types account for less than four-fifths of the commercial farms—include Florida, Maryland, and five Western States in which irrigation is important. Florida has many areas highly specialized in a single crop or enterprise, such as citrus fruits, vegetables, sugarcane, or livestock. Maryland also has several specialized areas—the tobacco area of southern Maryland, the vegetable and poultry areas of the Delmarva Peninsula, and the dairy areas of the northern counties. Diversification in the five Western States is due to (a) the existence of specialized areas, such as the Palouse wheat area of Washington, Oregon, and Idaho, and the Wenatchee apple area along the Columbia River; and (b) the predominance

of irrigated farming. Areas of highly developed irrigation produce a wide variety of products. In such areas, individual farms are frequently highly specialized and several types of farms often exist in the same local area.

The existence of several farm types in an area may indicate diversification. However, in such areas, the individual farm types may be composed of highly specialized farms with a large proportion of the sales from a single source. On the other hand, diversification may exist in an area even though only four or fewer types of farms account for nearly all the farms in the area. For example, in a diversified area such as Ohio, a single source of income may represent only slightly more than half the total income on a large proportion of the farms of a given type.



Counties in which crop sales represent 70 percent or more of the total value of farm products sold are identified as cash-crop areas. In Aroostook County, Maine, the cash crop is potatoes; in North Dakota and Montana, wheat; in the High Plains of Texas and in southwestern Oklahoma, the cash crops are cotton and wheat; in the upper Mississippi River Delta, cotton and rice; in the lower Mississippi River Delta in Louisiana, rice and sugarcane; in southern Georgia, peanuts, tobacco, and cotton; and in eastern Virginia, North Carolina, and South Carolina, primarily flue-cured tobacco.

The extensive cash-crop area in Washington and Oregon embraces the Palouse wheat area and the irrigated fruit section on the eastern slope of the Cascades. The California cash-crop areas have a wide variety of crops—fruits, nuts, vegetables, cotton, potatoes, rice, and barley. The Imperial Valley produces large quantities of alfalfa, flaxseed, and vegetables.

The area joining the States of Kansas, Colorado, Oklahoma, and Texas—the Dust Bowl of the drought period—is devoted to wheat production. Other cash-crop areas are more localized. The kinds of crops in these areas are varied, for example, grass seed in Jefferson County in central Oregon; potatoes in a small area of southern and eastern Idaho; fruits and berries in Berrien County in southwestern Michigan; and shade-grown tobacco in Hartford County, Connecticut.

Relatively few livestock are kept in these well recognized cash-crop areas. The entire agricultural economy in these areas is greatly influenced by the high degree of dependence on cash crops. In most of them the need for seasonal labor is great.

Farms in the areas shown in white in the above map are dependent upon the sale of livestock and poultry and their products.

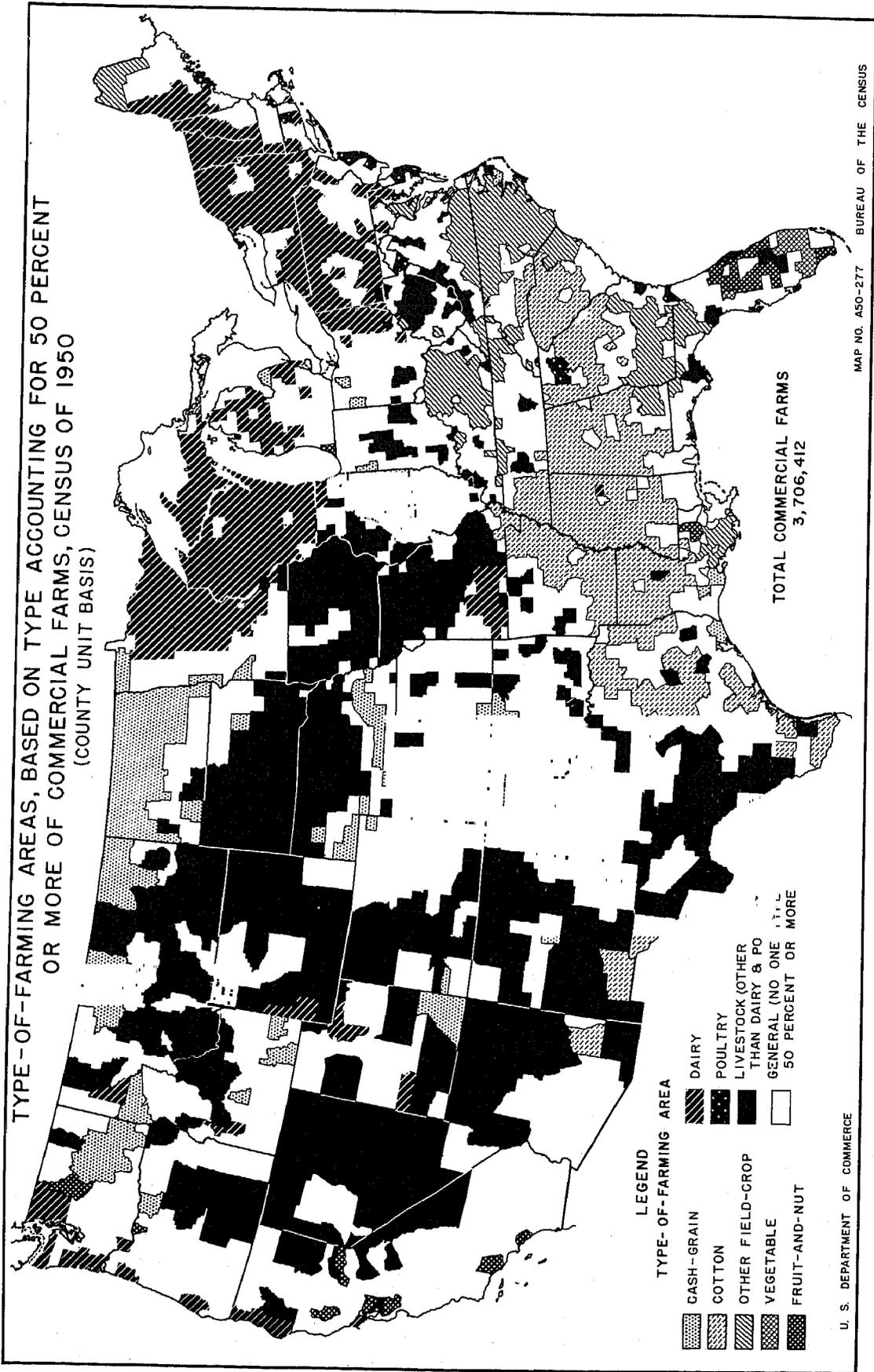
The kind of livestock farming followed in these areas has many variations. On the Pacific Coast, dairying provides the major source of income; in the Edwards Plateau of Texas, sheep and goats provide more income than cattle; in the remainder of the West, cattle ranching is prevalent. The ranch areas are interspersed with small irrigated areas where livestock are fattened on locally grown feed and much of the income from livestock represents sales of cattle and sheep for slaughter.

Throughout the Corn Belt, many livestock farms have both cattle and hogs and much of the income from livestock enterprises represents sales of fattened cattle which were purchased from the ranges as feeders. In most of the livestock areas of Minnesota, Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey, and the New England States, the sale of whole milk is the most important source of income. In parts of the New England States, in the Delmarva Peninsula, and in northern Georgia, sales of poultry and eggs make up most of the value of farm products sold.

In the livestock areas of Iowa, northern Missouri, and central Indiana, a high proportion of the land is productive cropland. Only a small percentage of the land is used for pasture. Many of the cattle sold represent fattened cattle bought as feeders. Home-grown corn and oats are the main sources of grain feed. Supplemental protein feeds are purchased.

The areas in which there is a closer balance between the sale of crops and the sale of livestock and poultry and their products represent areas of mixed farming. In the Great Plains area, income from wheat and cattle is about equally divided. In the South, these areas tend to be those of low productivity with a high proportion of part-time and residential farms.

A GRAPHIC SUMMARY



In a country as large as the United States, and with as varied climatic and soil conditions, many different type-of-farming areas are found. The type of farming that predominates in an area at a given time represents the current phase of farmers' continuing adjustments toward what is economically best suited to the area. Custom, past experience, and other factors prevent this from working out completely. Specialization is often greatest in the areas with restricted economic alternatives. Such restricted economic alternatives may result when a certain crop far surpasses any other in profitability even though good yields may be obtained from several others. The Mississippi Delta which is highly specialized in cotton production is such an area. At the opposite extreme are the highly specialized livestock areas of the range States where, without irrigation, the range land is not adaptable to any other use than that of grazing.

The extent and kind of specialization in farming can be shown by classifying the counties on the basis of the type of farm which comprises 50 percent or more of the commercial farms. When half or more of the commercial farms in a county are of the same type, a relatively high degree of specialization is indicated. On this basis of classifying counties, several distinct type-of-farming areas stand out in the United States.

The map on the opposite page gives the location of the counties or areas in which a given type of farm predominates over all other types. Dairy farming predominates in many of the Northern States, in southwestern Missouri, and in some areas of the northern Pacific Coast. In many of these areas, plentiful rainfall and cool summers make good growing conditions for hay and pasture. Cool weather in these sections facilitated the early development of the butter and cheese industry by lengthening the period that milk could be kept sweet. Large nearby urban centers provide a ready market for dairy products. An additional factor contributing to the predominance of dairy farms in these areas is the large proportion of farm land best suited for pasture and hay. In some dairy areas, much of the land is too rolling to be used for continuous cultivation without subjecting it to excessive erosion.

Cash-grain wheat farms predominate in the Palouse area of Washington and Idaho, in part of the northern half of Montana, in most of North Dakota, and in parts of the Southern Great Plains area of Nebraska, Kansas, Colorado, western Oklahoma, and the Texas Panhandle. Because of the limited rainfall, these areas are better suited to wheat and other small grains than to other crops. In most of these areas, a large part of the annual rainfall comes during the critical growing season.

The cash-grain area of central Illinois is accounted for by farms specializing in the production and sale of corn, oats, and soybeans. The proximity to Chicago and other central markets and the high proportion of land suited to continuous cultivation place corn and soybeans high on the scale of economic advantage. Little land in this area finds its best use in pasture or hay, and this minimizes the incentive for feeding cattle. The high productivity of the land has induced some persons to continue ownership in the area and others to acquire ownership for investment purposes. This latter has led to a high proportion of tenant operators with a tendency to favor cash-crop farming over livestock farming.

The Cotton Belt extends across almost the entire southern part of the United States. Cotton requires a long growing season but it is adapted to a wide range of soils. The labor requirements are high and it returns a relatively high gross income per acre even in the low-yield areas. In much of the South, cotton is the only crop that will return a satisfactory income, under the existing pattern of farm organization.

Other field-crop farms consist primarily of potato farms in Aroostook County, Maine; tobacco farms in Kentucky, Tennessee, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, and South Carolina; tobacco and peanut farms in Georgia and Florida; peanut farms in Alabama and in limited areas of Virginia and North Carolina; and sugarcane farms in Louisiana. These field crops are rigid in their requirements as to soil and climate. With present favorable tobacco prices, tobacco could compete favorably with other crops in additional areas of the South were it not for the restriction of acreage through control programs that are based on historical use of the land.

Livestock farms other than dairy and poultry predominate in large areas of the range States because the land is best suited to grazing. They predominate in the Corn Belt section of the North Central States because of the large production of feed grains which are fed on the farms where grown.

Counties where fruit-and-nut farms are the predominant type are found principally in Florida and California. In most States, fruit areas are limited to small portions of a county adjacent to lakes or to small areas with favorable air drainage. Usually the number of such farms is less than 50 percent of the farms in the county.

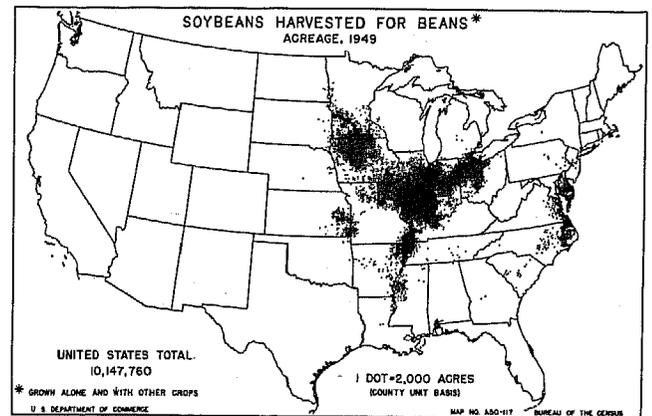
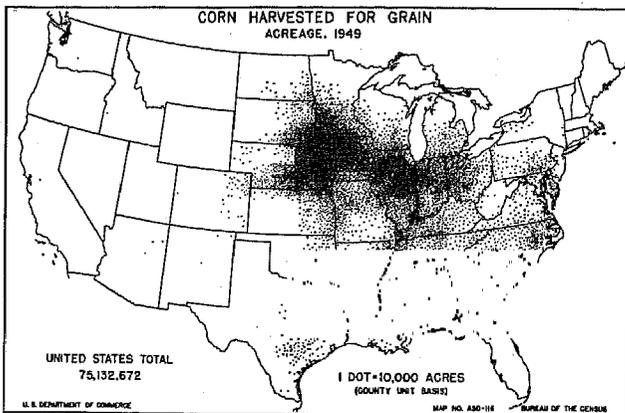
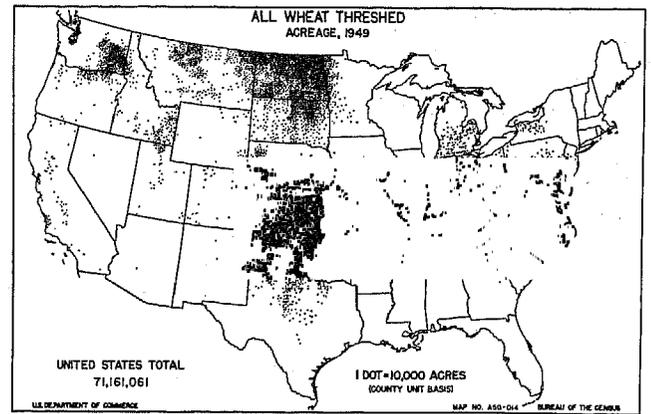
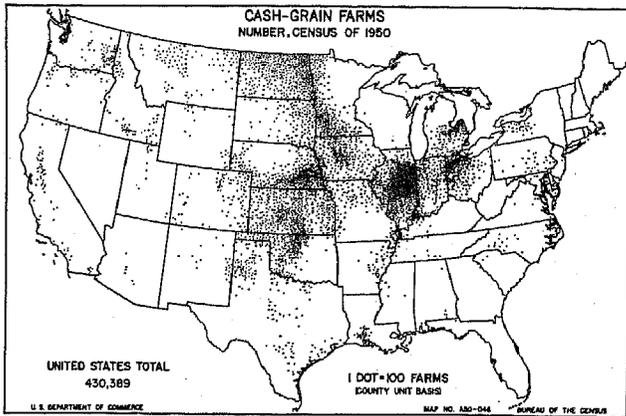
Areas in which poultry farms are numerous enough to classify the counties as such are primarily in the Northeast, in parts of West Virginia, in northern Georgia, and in counties adjacent to Seattle and San Francisco. Poultry farms are concentrated in these areas partly because of favorable nearby market outlets for eggs and poultry, and because much of the land is not well adapted to the production of crops. In such areas, poultry production represents the most profitable use of labor and other resources available on these farms. Specialized poultry farms are not so numerous in relation to sales of poultry and eggs mainly because poultry is a side-line enterprise on a large percentage of the farms.

Vegetables are produced in many sections of the country but only in some counties in Florida are vegetable farms numerous enough to represent 50 percent or more of the commercial farms.

General type-of-farming areas are those in which no single type accounts for as many as 50 percent of the commercial farms. There are more counties in this classification than in any other. In some parts of the Nation, general type-of-farming areas are in the transition zone between two specialized type-of-farming areas, such as the zone between the small grain and the livestock areas, or between the tobacco and the cotton areas. In other areas, such as in Michigan, Indiana, and Ohio, there is a variety of economic opportunities in the kind of farming that may be followed. The many industrial centers create good markets, land resources are varied, and much of the land has a wide range of adaptability. In the irrigated areas of the West, several types of farms prevail because the plentiful water supply widens the choices in the type of farming one may follow.

Individual farms in the general type-of-farming areas tend to be one or the other of the specialized types. Most farmers tend to emphasize one enterprise rather than to have several of equal importance. Because of the suitability of the land to a wide range of crops, the choices a farmer has in the kind of farming he wishes to follow are greater in the "general" farm area than in the more specialized type-of-farming areas.

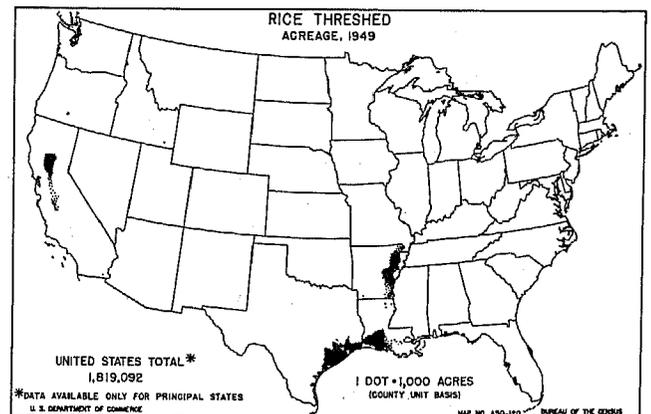
The accompanying type-of-farming map differs in some areas from those based on earlier agricultural censuses because of difference in classification criteria. For a full explanation of the difference in criteria, reference may be made to Chapter XIII, "Type of Farm," Volume II, of the 1950 Census of Agriculture reports.



The maps on this and the opposite page show the distribution of cash-grain, cotton, and other field-crop farms. Adjacent to the map showing the distribution of farms of a given type are maps showing the distribution of the acreage in crops that determined the type. These maps help to explain the distribution of farms by type more specifically. For example, a cash-grain farm is one on which the value of sales from corn, sorghums, small grains, soybeans, cowpeas, and dry field beans and peas was equal to 50 percent or more of the total value of all farm products sold. Cash-grain farms in one area, therefore, may be primarily wheat farms; in another area, they may be primarily corn and soybean farms; and in other areas, they may represent one of the other crops listed.

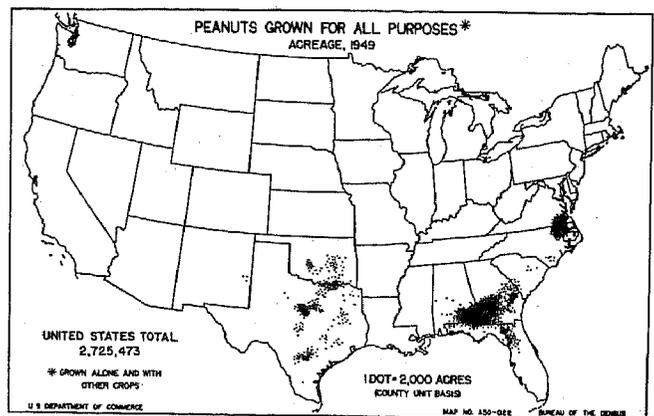
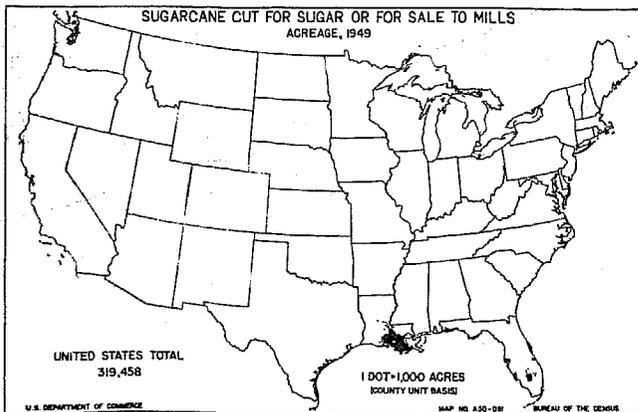
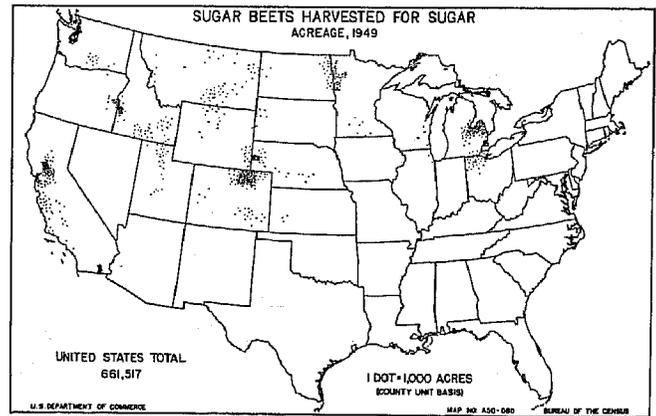
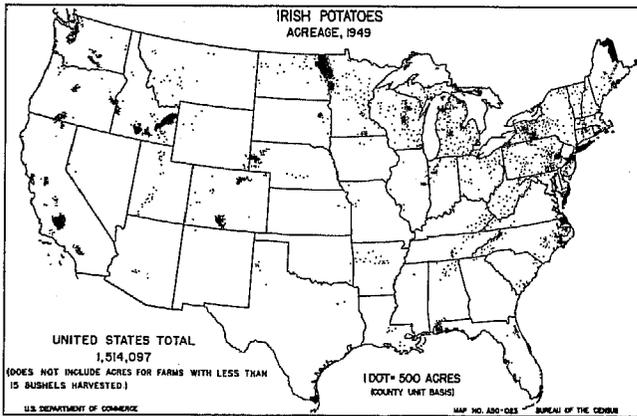
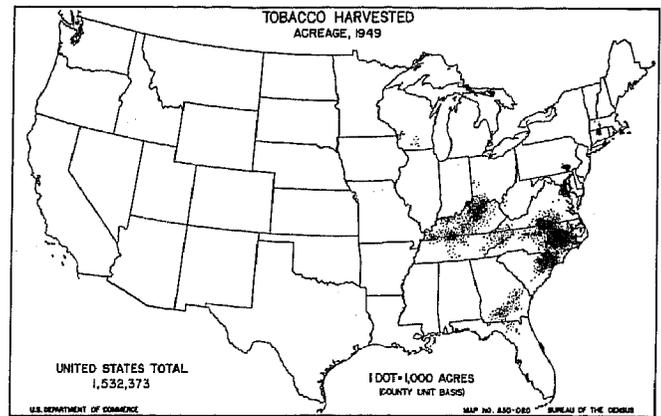
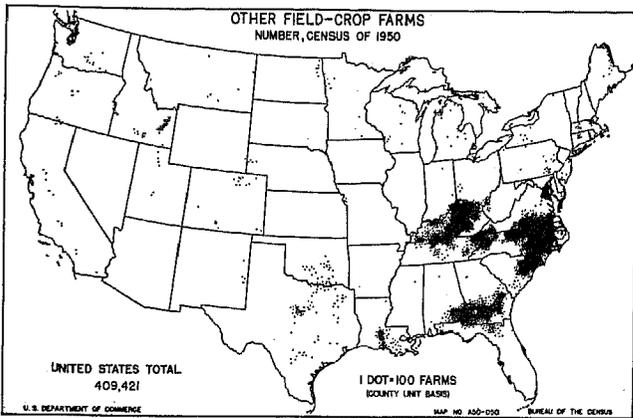
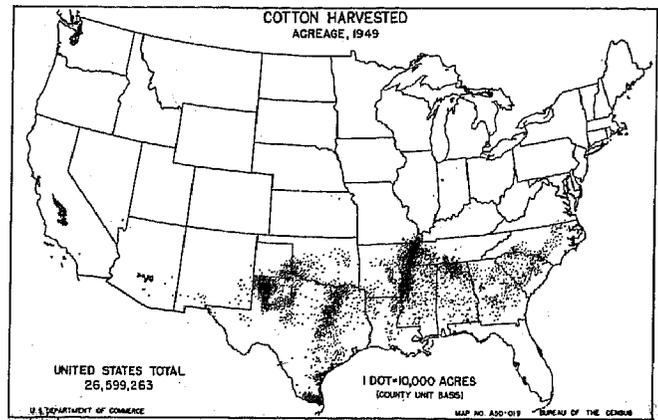
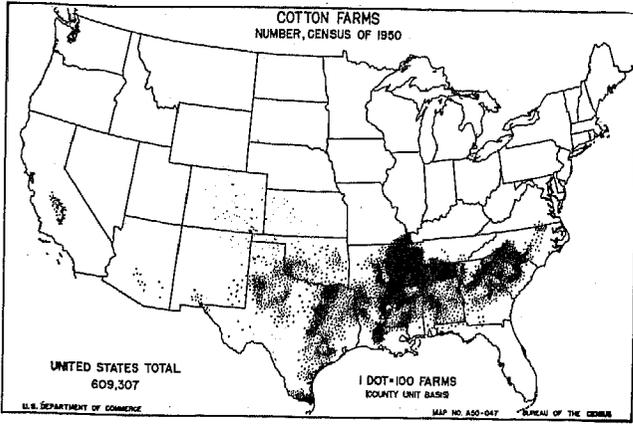
Cotton farms were classified on the basis of only one crop—cotton. Therefore, the map showing cotton farms should correspond closely with the one showing acreage of cotton harvested. Variations between the two maps in the concentration of dots are due, in large part, to the difference from one area to another in average size of farm, and to differences among areas in the proportion of the total cotton acreage in the county that is accounted for by farms of other types.

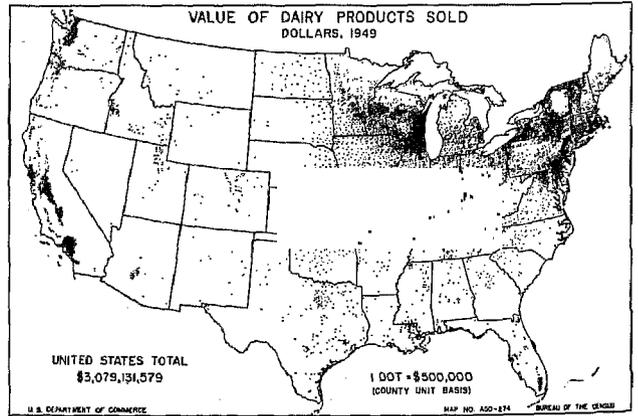
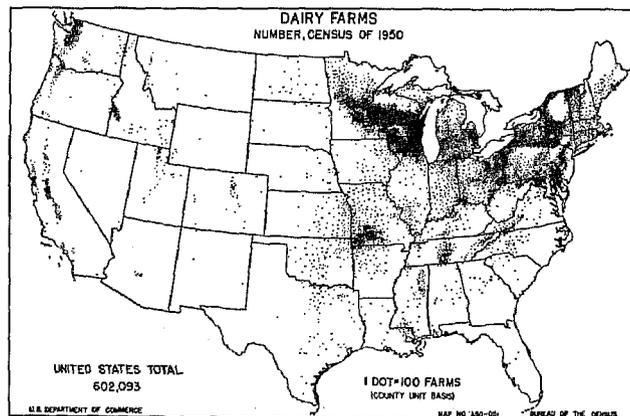
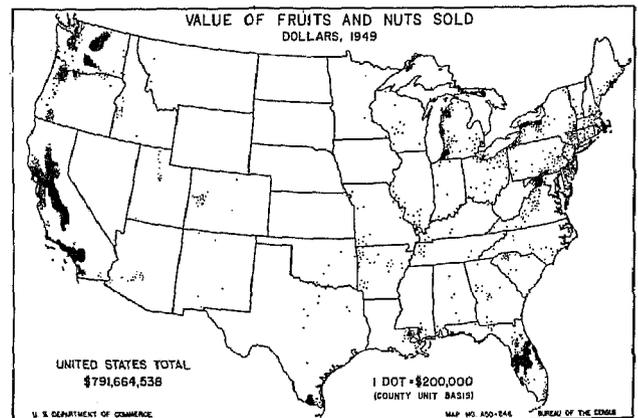
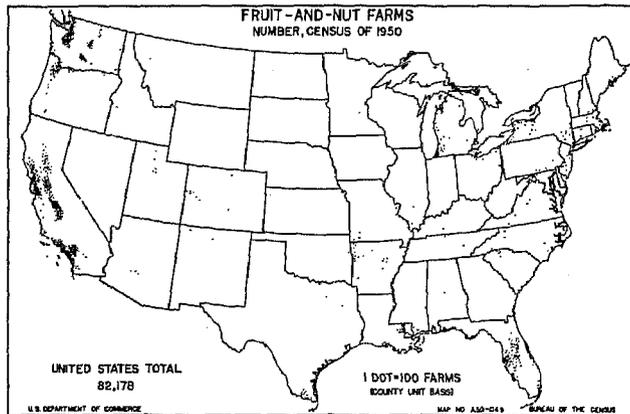
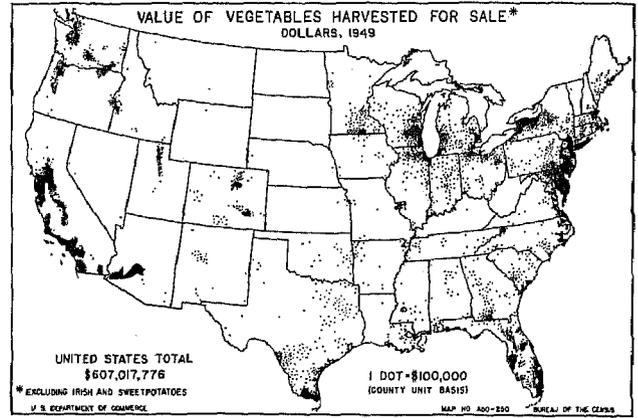
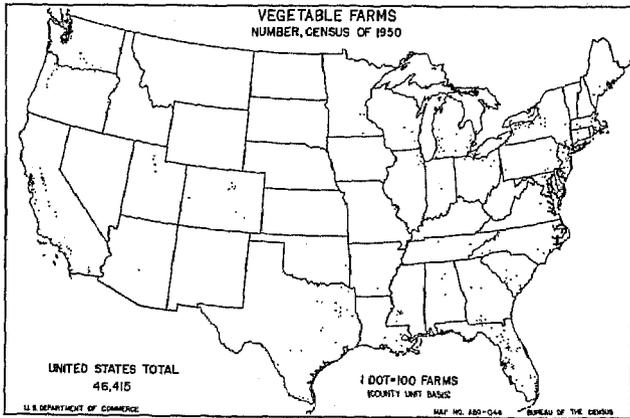
Farms were classified as "other field-crop" farms whenever the value of sales of potatoes, tobacco, sugar beets for sugar, sugarcane for sugar, peanuts, and other specialty field crops, individually or combined, represented 50 percent or more of the total value of all farm products sold. No one area has all of these crops. Each crop tends to be predominant in the areas where it is grown. As an illustration, other field-crop farms are likely to represent potato farms in Maine, tobacco farms in North Carolina, peanut farms in Alabama, and sugar beet or potato farms in Idaho. The distribution of the crops which determined the other field-crop



type will indicate what kind the other field-crop farms are likely to be in a given area.

In some areas, both sugar beets and Irish potatoes are grown commercially. In some instances, therefore, it is not possible to determine from the accompanying maps which of these two crops is primarily responsible for classifying the other field-crop farms. In general, it will be seen that concentrations of both sugar beet and potato acreages are shown for those areas north and west of Texas and Oklahoma which show concentrations of other field crop farms. The same situation is true for the Red River Valley area of Minnesota and North Dakota. In Aroostook County, Maine, all of the other field-crop farms represent potato farms.





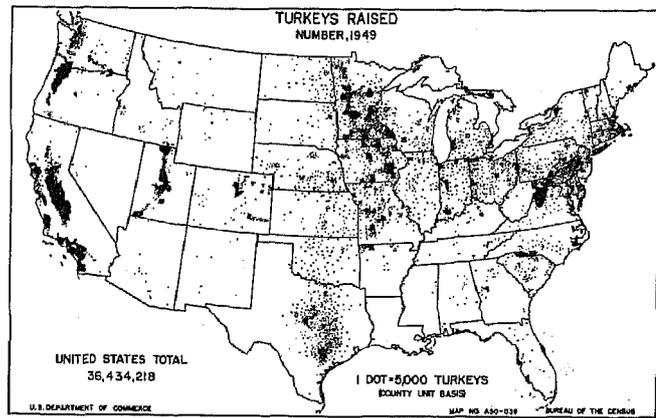
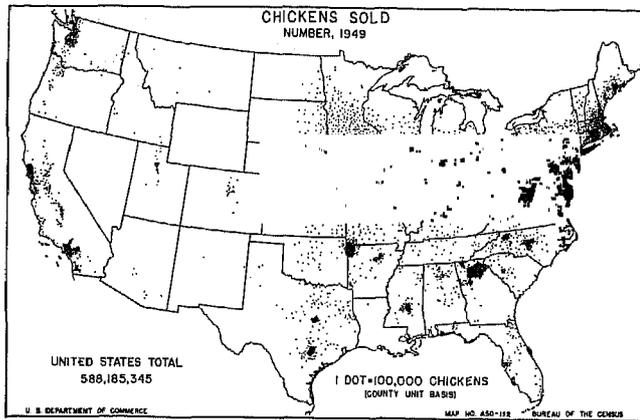
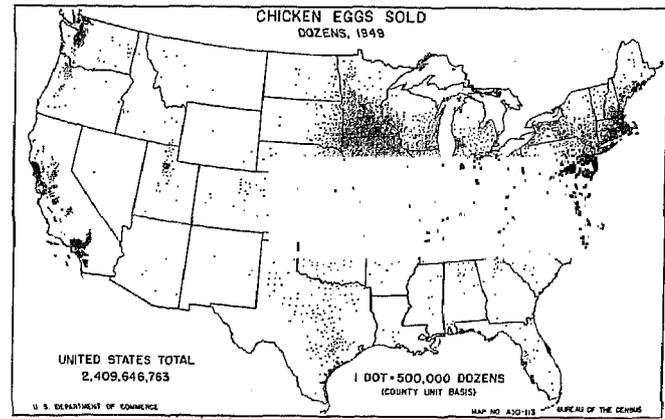
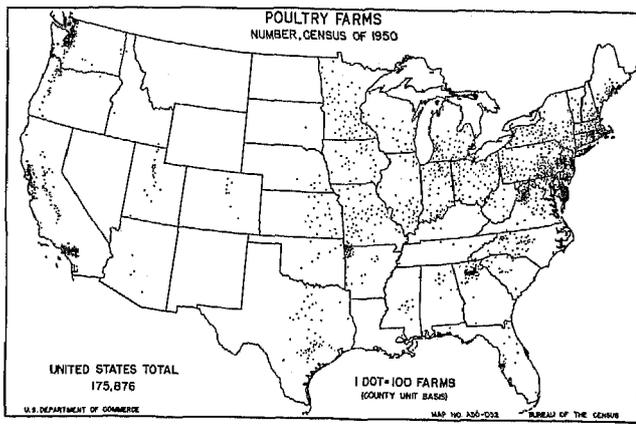
Important localized areas of vegetable farms exist in many States across the Nation. This is shown even more clearly on the map in the opposite column showing value of vegetables harvested for sale. A study of the latter map outlines particular areas of concentration in the Lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas, southwest Arizona, the area adjacent to San Francisco Bay, the Long Island area, and numerous others which are not so clearly indicated on the map showing the distribution of vegetable farms. In a number of areas, production of vegetables is a secondary or side-line enterprise on the farm. This is especially true for farms that produce such canning crops as tomatoes, sweet corn, and green peas.

Fruit-and-nut farms, like vegetable farms, are one of the less numerous farm types in the United States. Concentrated areas of these farms are found, however, in California, Oregon, Washington, Michigan, New York, Florida, and Texas.

In a few instances, the dot map for value of fruits and nuts sold shows some additional areas of concentrated commercial production not shown on the map showing the distribution of fruit-and-nut farms. Fruit production on a commercial scale is restricted to areas that have favorable conditions with respect to temperature, air drainage, and soil moisture.

The principal areas of concentration for dairy farms are the Northeast, the Lake States, and the Pacific Coast States. Smaller areas of concentration are the lower Snake River area of Idaho, southwestern Missouri, and the Central Basin of Tennessee.

Dairy products were sold on 37 percent of all the farms in 1949, but only 11 percent of all commercial farms were classified as dairy farms. Counties with less than \$250,000 in value of dairy products sold are not represented on the map showing the value of dairy products sold.



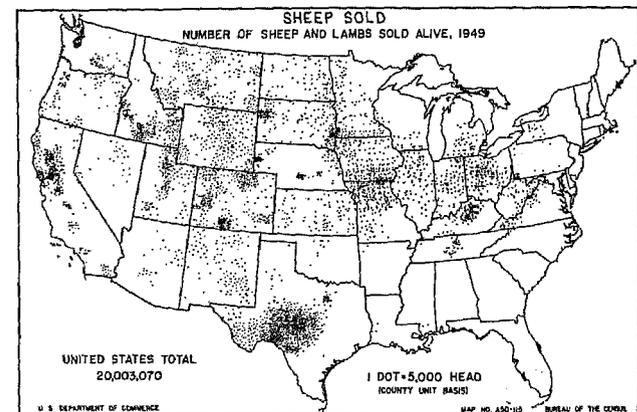
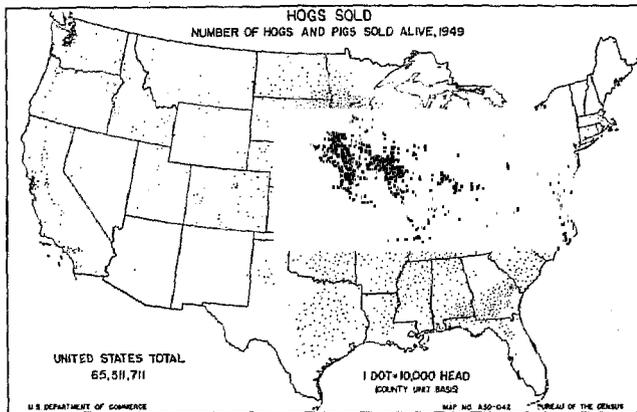
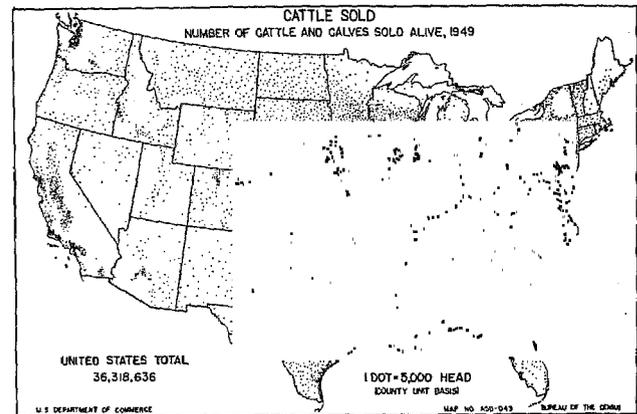
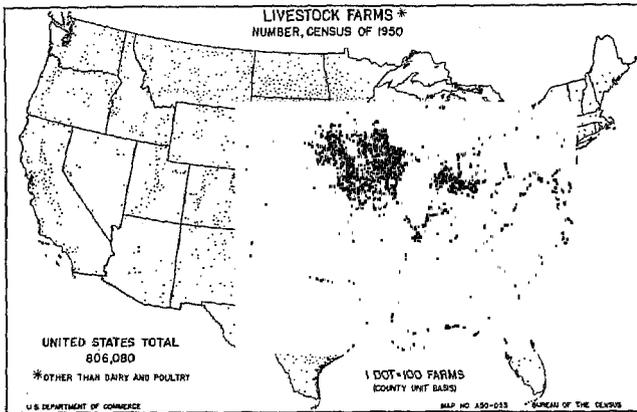
The dot maps above indicate the location and the areas of concentration for poultry farms and for the production of the three principal items associated with this farm type. In terms of numbers, specialized poultry farms are one of the less numerous farm types in the United States. Only 3.3 percent of all commercial farms were classified as poultry farms, but many farms not classified as poultry farms sell some poultry products. Poultry or eggs were sold on 51 percent of all commercial farms in 1949.

In general, poultry farms are most numerous in the northeastern quarter of the United States. In this broad region, particular areas of concentration are shown in New Jersey, the Delmarva Peninsula, southeastern Pennsylvania, and in the three southern New England States. In the southeastern quarter of the United States, poultry farms appear principally in widely scattered clusters which mark areas that have become important in commercial broiler production. In the West, except for notable concentrations in California and western Oregon and Washington, poultry farms are scarce.

Sales of eggs are fairly evenly distributed throughout the Northeastern and the North Central States. The uniform distribution of sales of eggs throughout the Corn Belt States with a sparse

distribution of poultry farms shows that poultry is an important though secondary enterprise on many farms. Heavy concentrations of egg sales are found near large east coast and west coast cities.

The map for chickens sold shows more areas of concentration in the northeastern quarter than in any other part of the United States. The several areas with heavy concentration of sales are the leaders in broiler production. Broiler production is concentrated in local areas because it is a highly specialized and commercialized enterprise. The original establishment of the industry in the well-known areas such as the Delmarva Peninsula, the Shenandoah Valley, and northern Georgia may have been related to the efforts of county extension workers, enterprising feed dealers, and to favorable locations with respect to market outlets and transportation. Many feed dealers furnish both the baby chicks and the feed, and also perform some of the marketing functions. Thus, a farmer may supply the labor and housing and receive a portion of the net profit as his pay after the broilers have been sold. Turkey production also is highly concentrated in widely scattered local areas.



Farms that depend primarily upon sales of livestock and livestock products other than dairy and poultry comprise the most numerous farm type in the United States. Although farms of this type are to be found throughout the country, the areas of greatest concentration are in Iowa, northern Missouri, and western Illinois. Areas of almost equal concentration but of smaller geographic scope are in central Indiana, southwestern Ohio, and northeastern Nebraska. The dot maps on number of cattle and calves sold, hogs and pigs sold, and sheep and lambs sold indicate, in a general way, the kind of livestock farm that predominates in each area.

The centers of concentration for livestock farms are the feed-grain production areas in which fattening of hogs and cattle is the dominant farm enterprise. Livestock farms in other parts of the country may vary from vast ranches in the arid West, which require 40 acres or more per animal unit, to farms in some areas of the South, which occasionally have improved pastures that will carry an animal unit on 1 or 2 acres. Because of the large acreages required per animal unit in the Western States, livestock farms are sparsely distributed even though they are the most important type in the region from the standpoint of numbers.

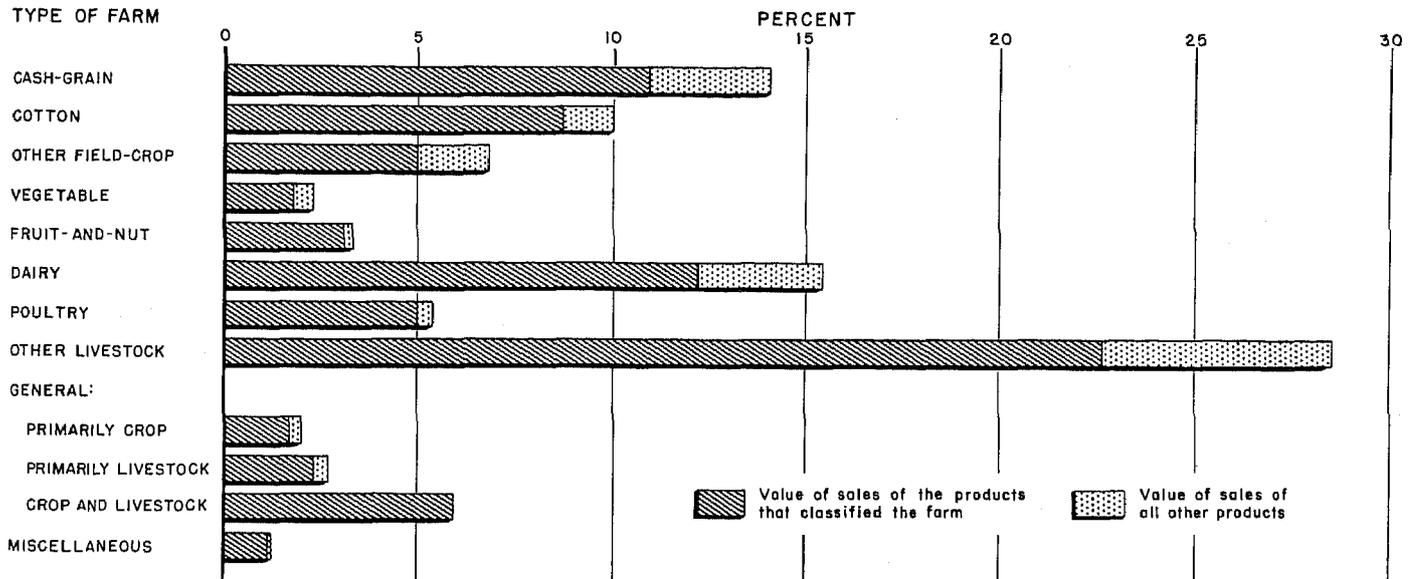
Sales of cattle and calves show a more uniform distribution throughout the United States than do sales of any other com-

modity. This is occasioned partly by the inclusion of dairy calves and cattle in the sales data. For this reason, New England, which has very few livestock farms, shows considerable numbers of cattle and calves sold. The areas with large numbers of cattle and calves sold are the feeding areas rather than the wide areas of range lands.

Hogs are the leading grain-consuming type of livestock. Hog sales, therefore, are heavily concentrated in the great grain-producing areas of the Corn Belt. The areas of lesser density in the Coastal Plains of the southeast from southeastern Virginia to Alabama reflect in large part the utilization of peanuts for pork production.

The range areas in which most of the sheep are raised show a relatively higher concentration of sheep and lamb sales than does the Corn Belt. Many of the sheep and lambs sold from the range go directly to slaughter without additional feeding. Thus, a higher percentage of the sheep and lambs than of the cattle are sold as grass-fattened. In years with unfavorable range conditions, the range lambs are shipped to grain-feeding areas before final sale for slaughter. The largest contiguous area of concentration of sheep and lamb sales is found in the Edwards Plateau area of Texas.

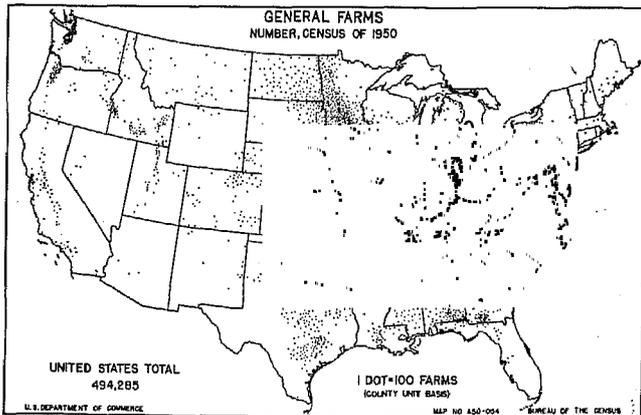
PERCENT DISTRIBUTION OF THE VALUE OF FARM PRODUCTS SOLD, AND THE RELATIVE IMPORTANCE OF THE PRODUCT OR GROUP OF PRODUCTS DETERMINING TYPE, BY TYPE OF FARM, FOR COMMERCIAL FARMS, FOR THE UNITED STATES: CENSUS OF 1950



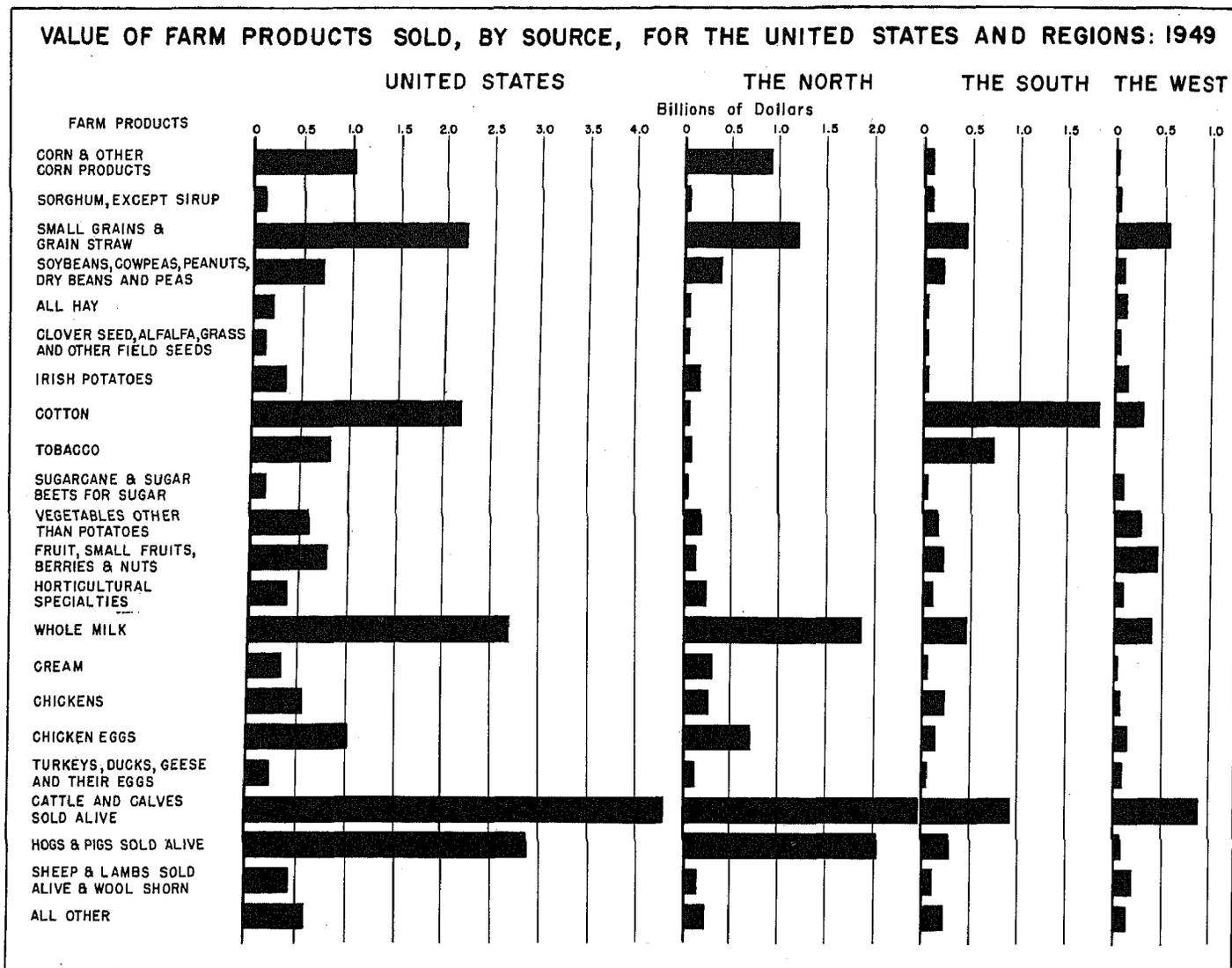
The adaptability of a given area to the production of two or more crop or livestock commodities will occasion large numbers of general farms. This would seem to explain the concentrations of general farms in Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio, and in the irrigated valleys of the West.

Five of the 12 farm types accounted for three-fourths of the total value of farm products sold on commercial farms in 1949. Of these types, livestock farms other than dairy and poultry contributed the greatest part. Dairy farms were second and cash-grain farms, third, followed by cotton farms with about 10 percent of the value of all farm products sold, and other field-crop farms with about 7 percent. Among the more important crops which are represented in the other field-crop farms are tobacco, sugarcane, sugar beets, peanuts, and potatoes.

The consistently high ratio of total sales accounted for by the products which determined the type indicates that all farm types are relatively specialized with respect to the product or products which determined the type. The degree of specialization varies considerably from area to area. For example, dairy farms in New York State are much more highly specialized in milk production than are dairy farms in Ohio. In Ohio and several other North Central States, many of the dairy farms have hogs, poultry, or cash-grain crops as secondary but relatively important enterprises.



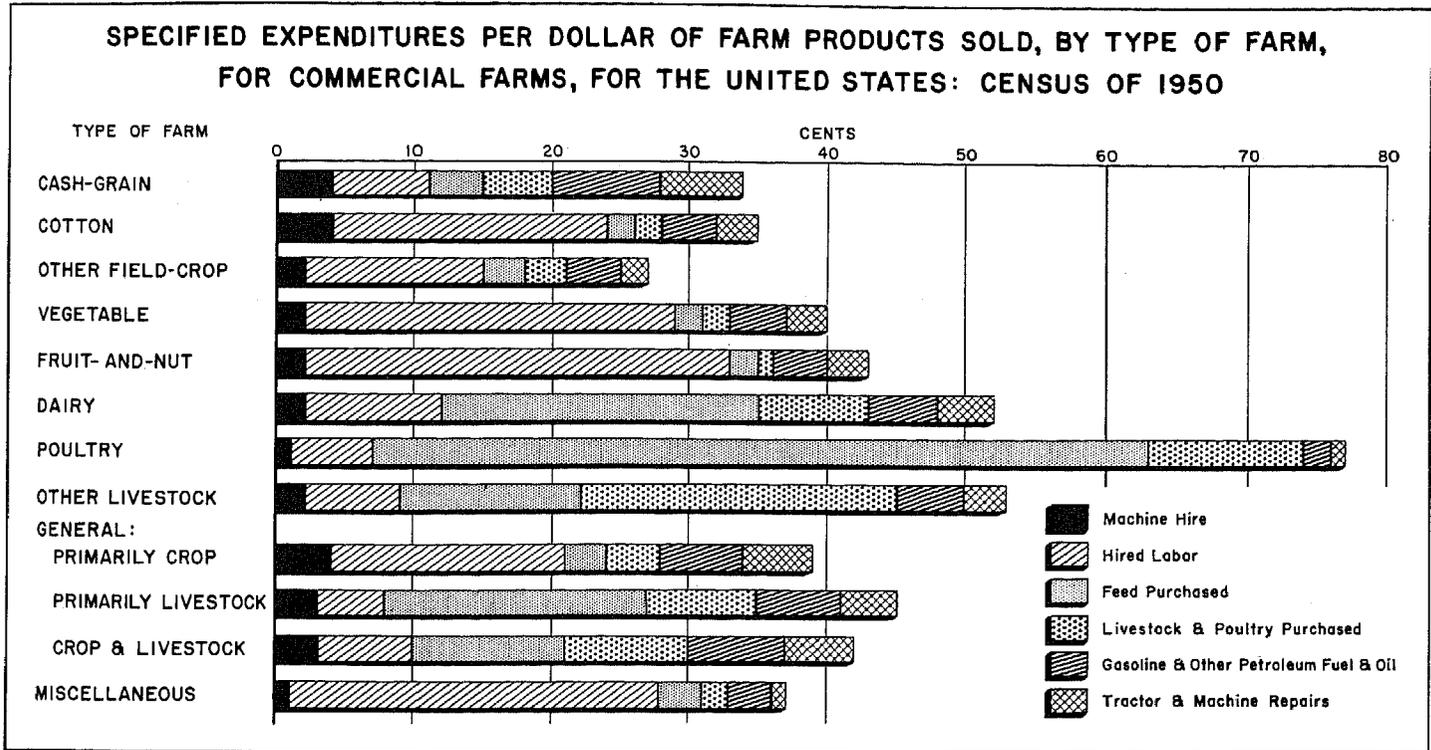
General farms are those for which none of the specified commodities or commodity groups accounted for as much as 50 percent of gross farm sales. General farms are among the most numerous type of farm in the United States. Relatively heavy concentrations are found in areas that are transitional between the more specialized type of farming areas. For example, large numbers of general farms are found on the fringes of the wheat areas, on the margins of the Cotton Belt, and near the edges of the dairy areas.



Most of the value of farm products sold is derived from a few major items. In the North, these items are corn, small grains, whole milk, cattle and calves, and hogs and pigs. In the South, they are cotton, tobacco, and cattle and calves. In the North, the value of livestock and poultry and their products accounted for about three-fourths, and in the South, for only about one-third, of the value of all farm products sold. The South is predominantly a cash-crop region, whereas the North has more livestock because of the extensive pasture and large amount of forage production.

The West shows a wide diversity as to source of income partly because of the great size of its 11 component States. Irrigation and a favorable climate in a part of the area make possible a

wider range of crops. There is a high degree of specialization, however, in most of the 11 Western States. Since the various areas of the West specialize in different enterprises, the entire region appears to be diversified. Cash-grains are grown principally in the Columbia Basin of Washington, Oregon, and Idaho, and in northern Montana. Citrus fruits are important in Arizona and southern California, grapes and peaches in California, and apples in Oregon and Washington. Sales of dairy products represent an important source of farm income in the areas near the large cities. In the Mountain States and in parts of California, sales of cattle and calves represent an important part of the total value of farm products sold.



The items of expenditure shown on the above chart do not include all farm costs. Among the more important omitted items of cash outlays are fertilizer, spray materials, packaging materials, interest on indebtedness, and taxes. The proportion of total costs represented by the specified expenditures varies from one type of farm to another.

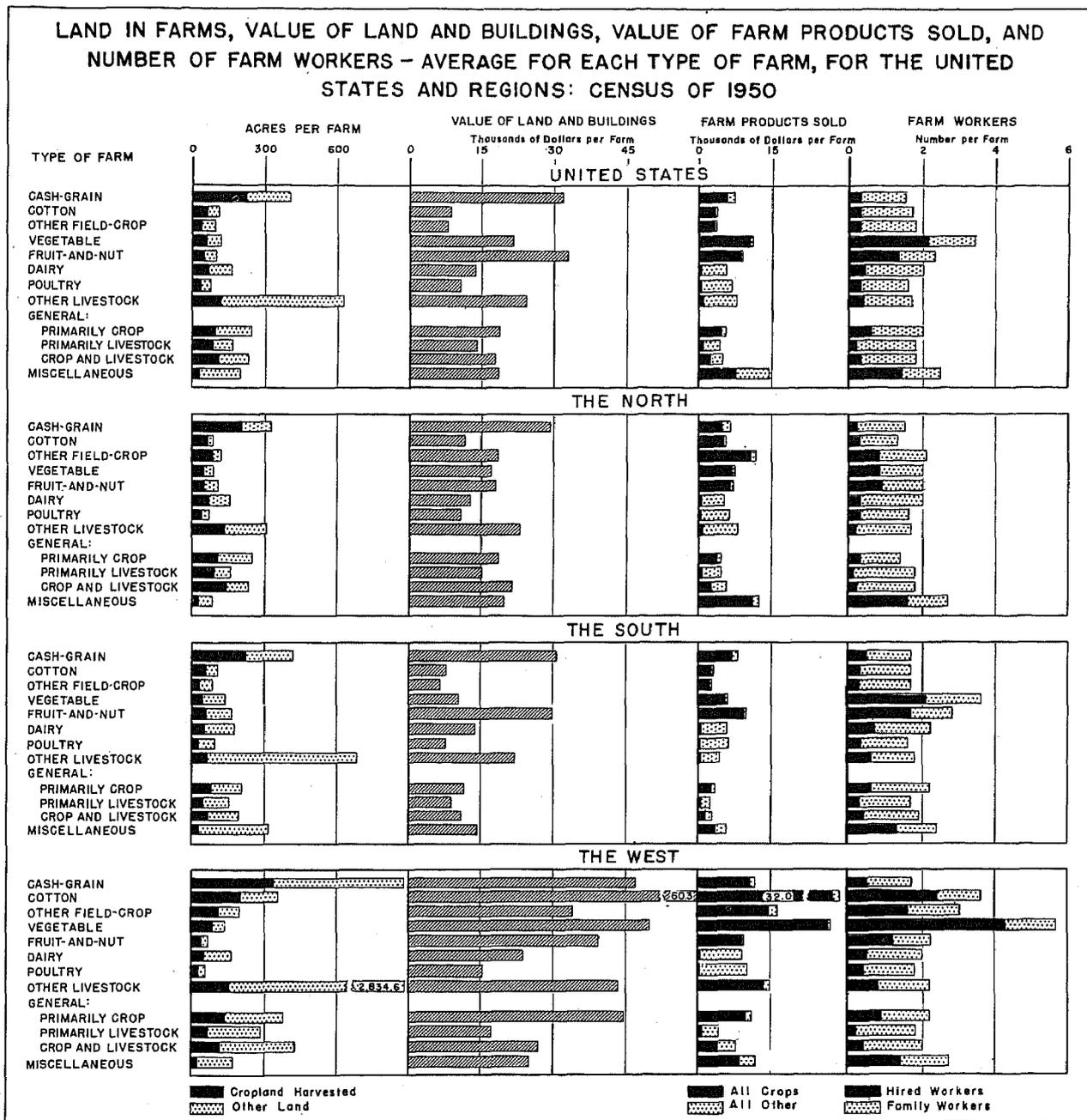
In general, hired labor is the most important of the specified expenditures for those types of farms that are dependent primarily upon income from crops, while purchased feed is the most important expenditure on many of the farms that depend principally upon sale of livestock or livestock products.

Among the crop farms, cash-grain farms stand out because of their relatively low level of expenditure for hired labor. Production operations are more completely mechanized on cash-grain farms than on farms of any other major type. The degree of

dependence upon family labor, and the relative adaptability of production operations to mechanization, determine the ranking of the different types of crop farms with respect to this relative measure of expenditures for labor.

Dairy and poultry farms have far higher expenditures for purchased feed than for any other item. The low level of expenditure for hired labor reflects the fact that these types of farms depend principally upon the labor of the operators and unpaid members of their families.

The largest single item of expenditure shown for "other livestock" farms is livestock purchased. For these farms, purchased feed ranks second in amount of expenditure. Many of the farms of this type are livestock feeder farms on which most of the livestock is purchased. On nearly all of these farms supplemental protein feeds are purchased.



Averages per farm are greatly influenced by data for the modal group of farms, and data for the few farms that are extremely large. This should be kept in mind in comparing the various types for acreage per farm, value of land and buildings per farm, or any other farm resource per farm. The distribution of each type of farm by size, as measured by acres per farm, may be observed in the chart on page 50, and by size, as measured by economic class, in the chart on page 51.

The variations from one type to another in acres per farm are due partly to differences in quality of land, partly to differences in the value per acre of the crops grown, and partly to the differences in the adaptation of the type to mechanized farming. All of these are associated with geographic location.

The large acreage per farm for "other livestock" farms in the South and in the West reflects the influence of range land of low carrying capacity. The "other livestock" farms in the North are smaller because they include many livestock operations of the

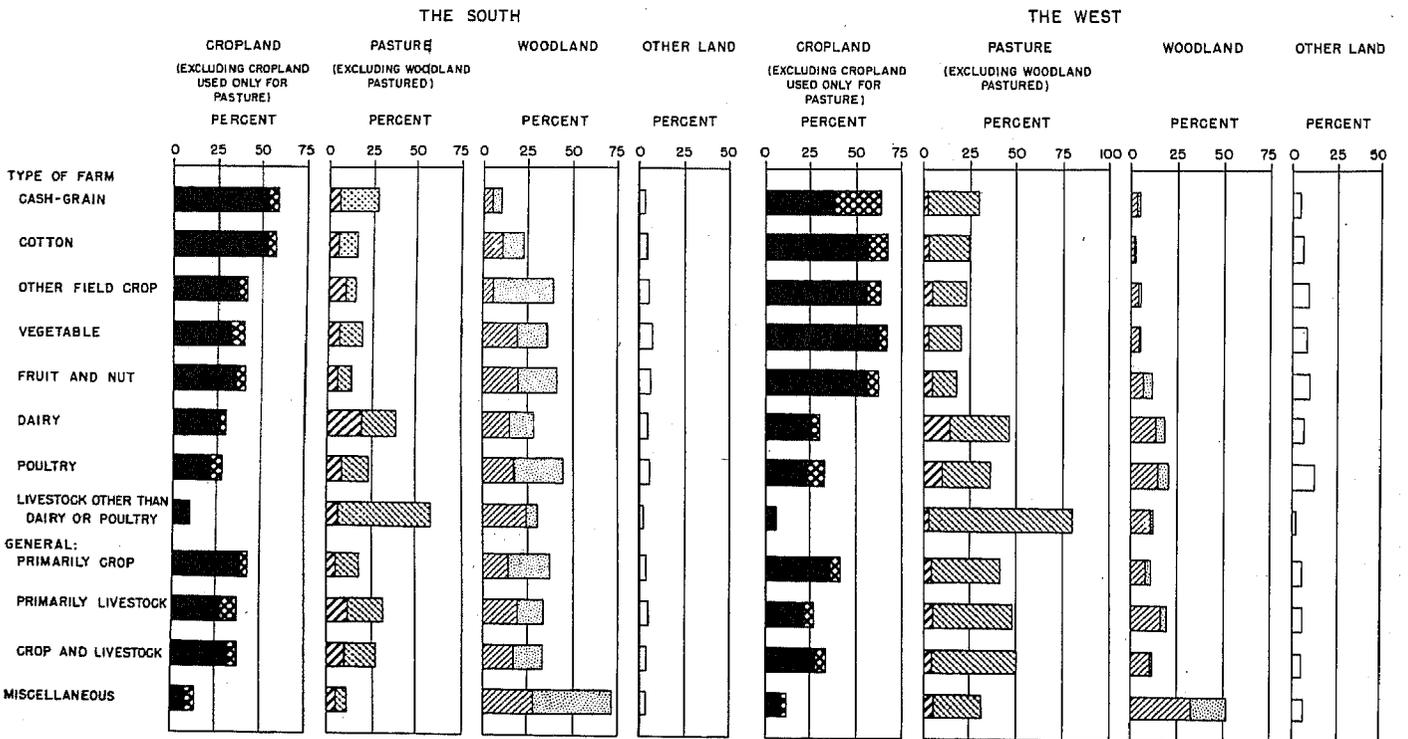
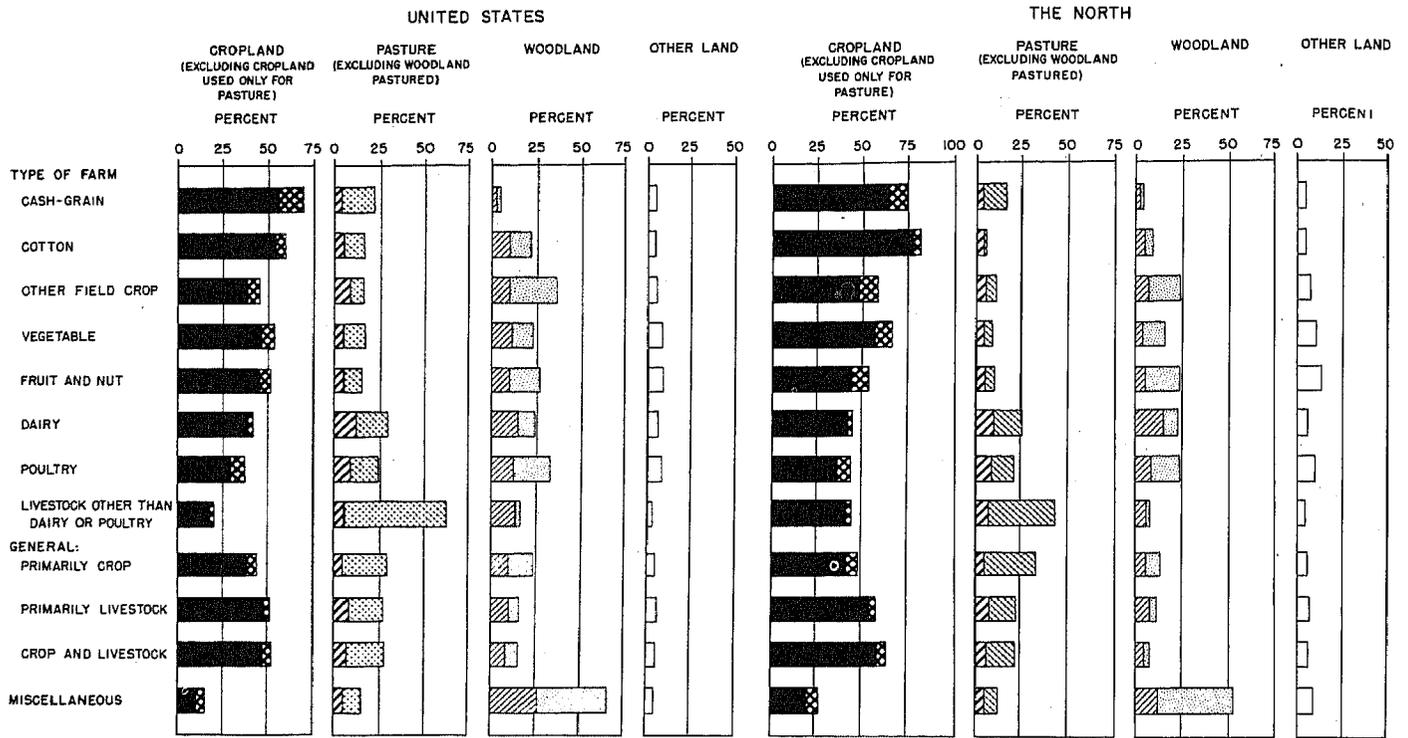
feeder type. Cash-grain farms are large in acreage because they are adapted to large-scale mechanization. In the North, cash-grain farms are largely a mixture of wheat farms and corn-soybean farms and therefore smaller than those in the West, where they are nearly all wheat farms.

The value of land and buildings per farm varies by type of farm partly because of the variation in acres per farm, partly because the value of land and buildings does not represent the same proportion of total farm investment for each of the types, and partly because of the difference in quality of land resources.

The total number of workers per farm represents the workers on the farm during the week preceding the enumeration. The variations in number of hired workers shown are due more to the relative number of large-scale farms included in the type than to any significant relationship of type of farm to the number of workers per farm.

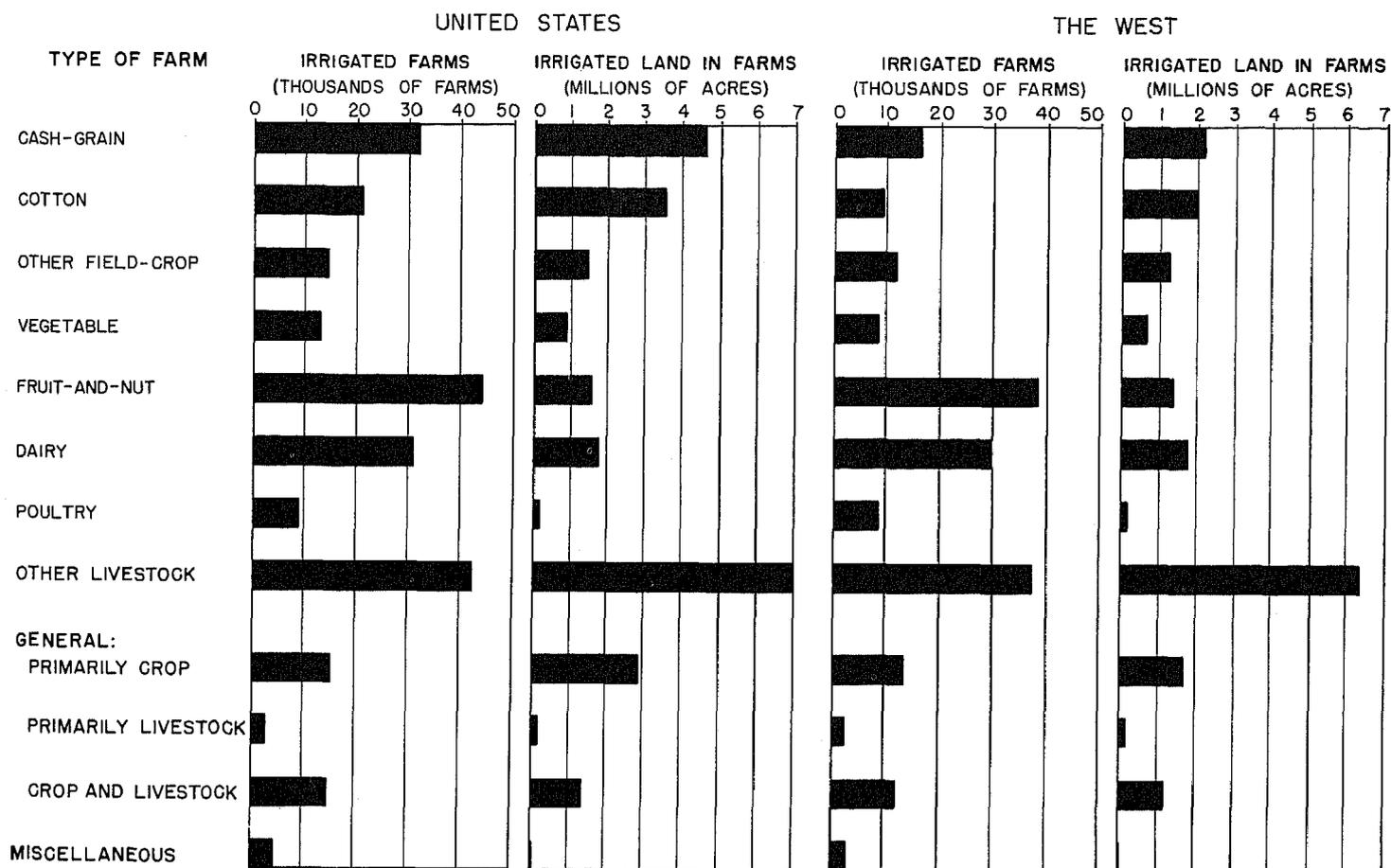
A GRAPHIC SUMMARY

PERCENT DISTRIBUTION OF MAJOR USES OF LAND IN FARMS BY TYPE OF FARM FOR COMMERCIAL FARMS, FOR THE UNITED STATES AND REGIONS: 1950



- CROPLAND HARVESTED
- CROPLAND NOT HARVESTED AND NOT PASTURED
- CROPLAND USED ONLY FOR PASTURE
- OTHER PASTURE (NOT CROPLAND AND NOT WOODLAND)
- WOODLAND PASTURED
- WOODLAND NOT PASTURED
- OTHER LAND (HOUSE LOTS, ROADS, WASTELAND, ETC.)

ACREAGE OF IRRIGATED LAND BY TYPE OF FARM, FOR COMMERCIAL FARMS, FOR THE UNITED STATES AND THE WEST: CENSUS OF 1950



The chart on the opposite page indicates that there are significant relationships between types of farm and patterns of land utilization. Differences are due, in part, to the varying needs of the major farm types but probably even more significant is the fact that the basic land resources differ by regions. If all of the land is well adapted to crop production, there is a tendency to put all or nearly all of it into crops. A farm thus favorably located will be, in most instances, some type of crop farm, or a livestock farm based on feed crops. Farms with a high proportion of land adapted only to grazing tend to be dairy farms or livestock farms other than dairy and poultry. Dairy farming is not adapted to areas of low-capacity grazing land except near large cities, where continuous supplemental feeding is profitable. A dairy herd must be kept close to the main headquarters where the cows are milked whereas a beef herd need not be returned to the headquarters except at infrequent intervals.

The proportion of farm land that is woodland depends primarily upon geographic location. There is little woodland in cash-grain farms in the North and West because these farms are in nonforested areas. Most of the cash-grain farms shown for the South also are similarly located in the nonforested plains area of western Texas and Oklahoma. Farms of most of the other types in the South show a high proportion of woodland because they are located in areas originally forested. Thus, nearly all of the nontillable land in farms in the South is woodland.

Four types of farms—fruit-and-nut, livestock farms other than dairy and poultry, cash-grain, and dairy—account for the greatest number of irrigated farms. Land in livestock farms, cash-grain farms, and cotton farms makes up more than three-fifths of the irrigated land in farms.

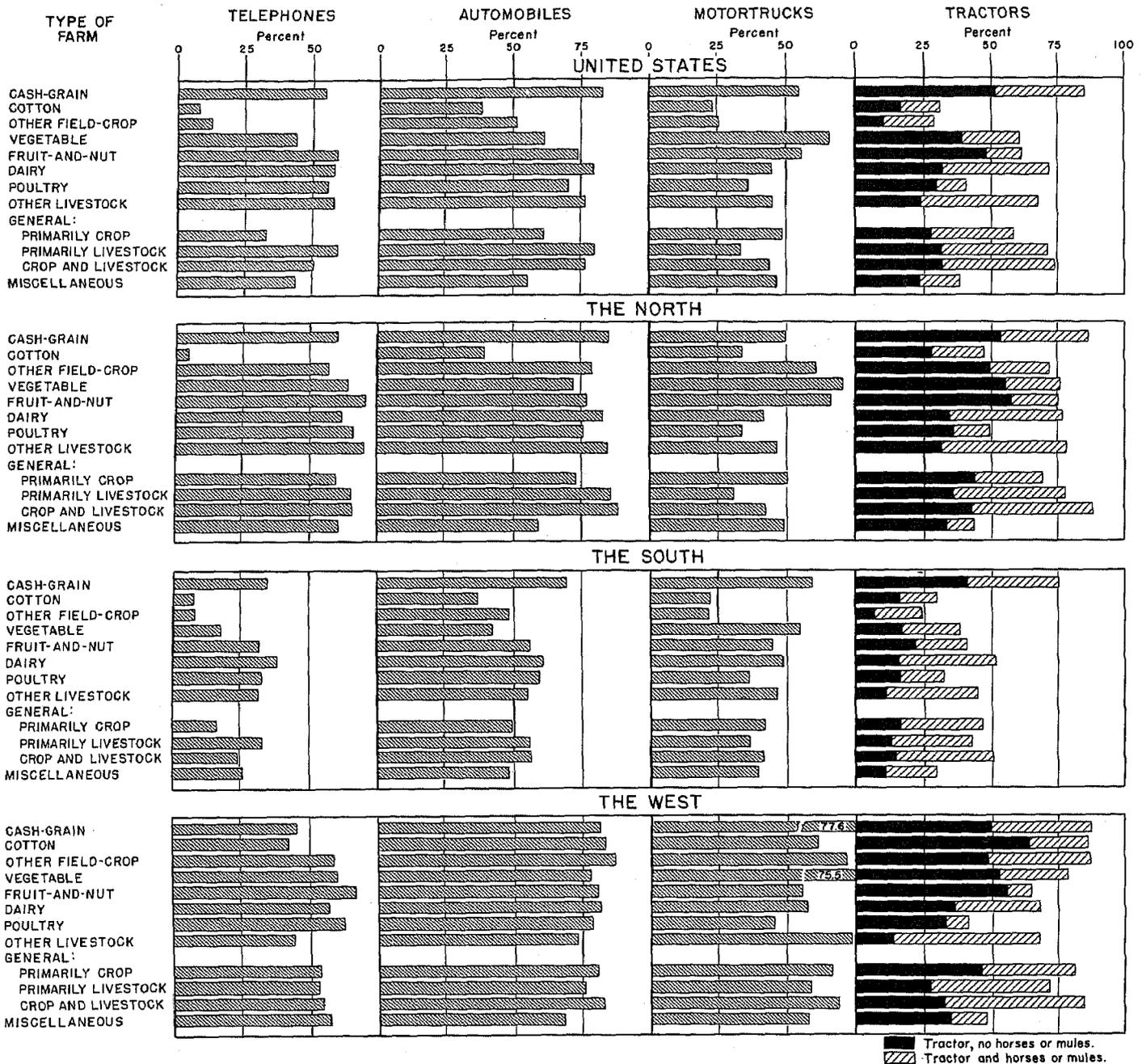
Livestock farms other than dairy and poultry account for a large proportion of the acreage irrigated. Much of the land irrigated on livestock ranches is wild hay land for which the only irrigation works available are the diversion dams which are used to flood the hay lands during the spring thaw and early spring months.

Many of the irrigated cash-grain farms are specialized rice farms which are found clustered in three specific areas—eastern Arkansas, the Gulf Coast area of Louisiana and Texas, and the Sacramento Valley of California. About one and a half million acres of the irrigated land in cash-grain farms in 1950 was in the rice-producing area of Arkansas, Louisiana, and Texas. These areas use irrigation not because of insufficient rainfall, but because of the specific needs of rice production.

Cotton farms account for a large acreage of irrigated land because of the expansion of cotton production in the irrigated areas of the West. Many of the cotton farms are large in total acreage and with increasing mechanization, it has become easier to expand the acreage of cotton. In the High Plains of Texas, irrigation has been brought about by pumping underground water. The large farms in that area have thus greatly increased their productivity. Similarly, the great expansion in cotton acreage in California has been made possible through the continued development of irrigation.

Irrigated fruit-and-nut farms account for a large proportion of the irrigated farms but for a much smaller proportion of the irrigated land in farms. Fruit farming is an intensive type of operation. A 50-acre fruit or nut orchard represents a large investment.

PERCENT OF FARMS REPORTING TELEPHONES, AUTOMOBILES, MOTORTRUCKS, AND TRACTORS, BY TYPE OF FARM, FOR COMMERCIAL FARMS, FOR THE UNITED STATES AND REGIONS: CENSUS OF 1950



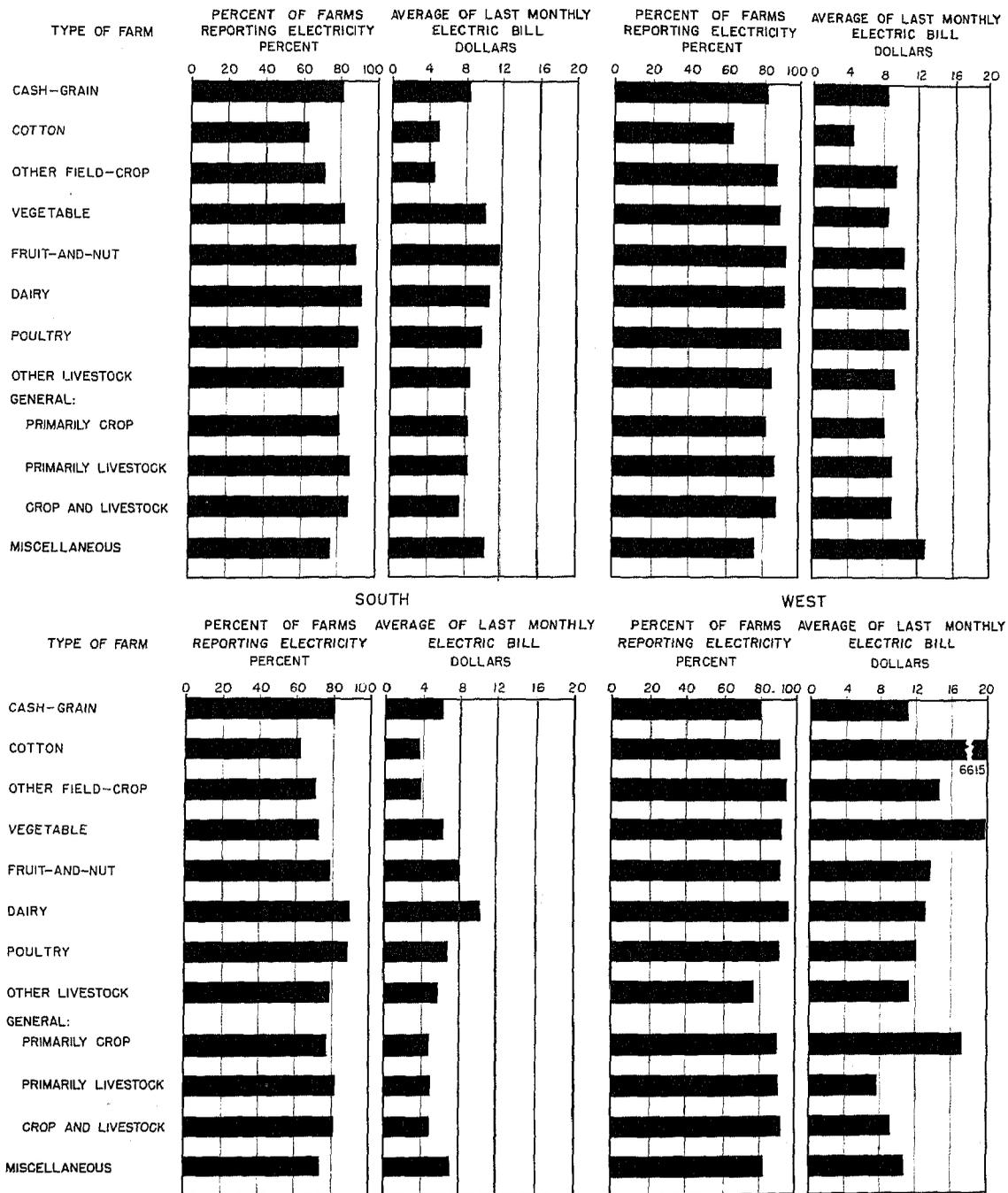
The percentage of commercial farms reporting telephones shows greater variations among geographic regions than among types of farms within each region. Only 17 percent of the commercial farms in the South have a telephone, as compared with 65 percent in the North and 53 percent in the West. The low percentage of cotton and other field-crop farms reporting telephones in the South may be explained in part by the large number of low-income cropper farms. The other types of farms in the South show a higher percentage with telephones although lower than the corresponding types in the North and in the West. The cotton farms shown for the North are located in the southeastern corner of Missouri and in southern Illinois.

In the South, all types of farms show a smaller percentage of

farms reporting automobiles than do corresponding types in the North and the West. The percentage of farm operators having neither an automobile nor a motortruck is greater than that of the other two regions. Nearly one-fourth of the operators of most types of commercial farms and about half of the operators of cotton farms own no means of motor transportation.

A motortruck is more essential to farm operations in most of the West than in the North and the South. In large parts of the West, the farms not in irrigated districts are far apart and at great distance from markets for their products or from sources of their supplies. Also, a high proportion of the farms are in the higher economic classes and thus have a sufficient volume of business to warrant ownership of a motortruck.

PERCENT OF FARMS REPORTING ELECTRICITY AND AVERAGE OF LAST MONTHLY ELECTRIC BILL, BY TYPE OF FARM, FOR COMMERCIAL FARMS, FOR THE UNITED STATES AND REGIONS: CENSUS OF 1950



Electric current from a power line is available to nearly all except the remotest rural areas of the United States. A high proportion of the farms of all types report electricity. Cotton farms generally have the lowest percentage of farms reporting electricity, largely because of the high proportion of croppers in this type. Livestock farms in the West show a relatively low proportion of farms reporting electricity because many are located in remote areas where cost of service from a power line would be prohibitive.

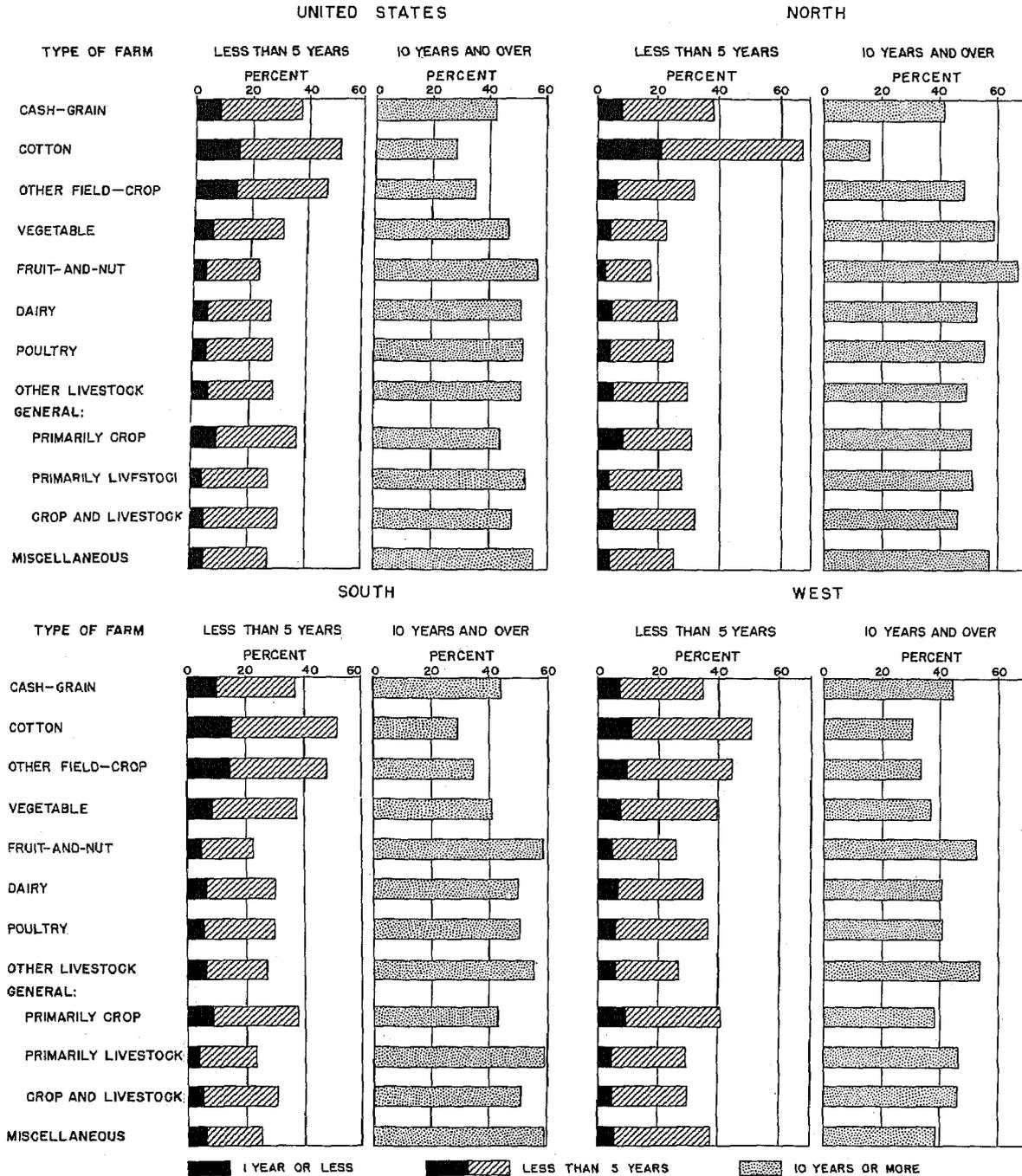
The amount of electricity used on a farm increases as electrical appliances and equipment are added. The uniformly high

average of the monthly electric bill in the North indicates that the use of electrical equipment on farms is widespread. In the South, there is a significant relationship between type of farm and amount of the monthly electric bill. In this region, electricity is used only for lights on many farms. For those types of farms which use electricity in the farm business, the average consumption is greater. Dairy, vegetable, fruit-and-nut, and poultry farms use electricity for cooling and refrigeration.

In the West, the amount of electricity used is greatest on the types of farms where electricity is the source of power for pump irrigation.

A GRAPHIC SUMMARY

**YEARS ON FARM—PERCENT OF OPERATORS REPORTING,
BY TYPE OF FARM FOR COMMERCIAL FARMS,
FOR THE UNITED STATES AND REGIONS:
CENSUS OF 1950**



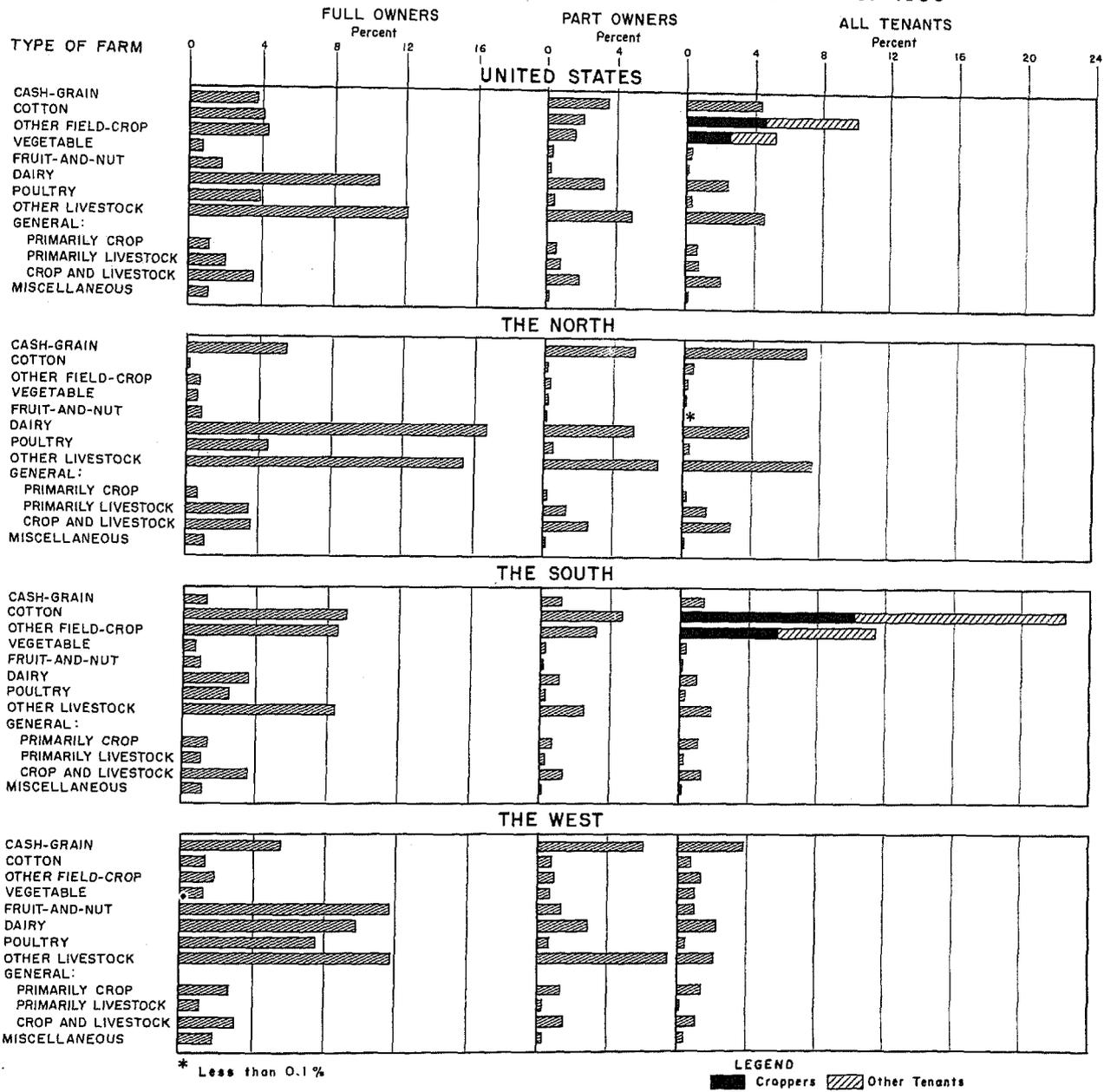
The rate of turnover in operators is highest on cotton farms, with that on other field-crop farms a close second. The high proportion of the operators of these two types that had resided on their farms less than 5 years is related to the large percentage of croppers in the South. Croppers do not own their own work-power. They usually own little other equipment and can move easily at the end of any crop year. Part of the turnover among croppers results from moves from one unit to another on the same plantation.

Operators on other types of farms move less frequently. Tenancy is lower on such types of farms as fruit-and-nut, dairy,

poultry, and livestock farms other than dairy and poultry, because of the relatively large investment in improvements and capital items other than land and buildings.

In addition to the above considerations, the turnover of operators is due to three principal factors: (1) The transfer of ownership in a farm to a son or to a buyer, (2) the desire of a tenant to rent or buy another farm better adapted to his needs, and (3) unsatisfactory landlord-tenant relationships. It should be kept in mind that many farms are owned as an investment and will continue to be tenant operated, while others will be tenant operated only in the interim between ownership transfer.

PERCENT DISTRIBUTION OF COMMERCIAL FARMS BY TENURE OF OPERATOR AND TYPE OF FARM, FOR THE UNITED STATES AND REGIONS: CENSUS OF 1950



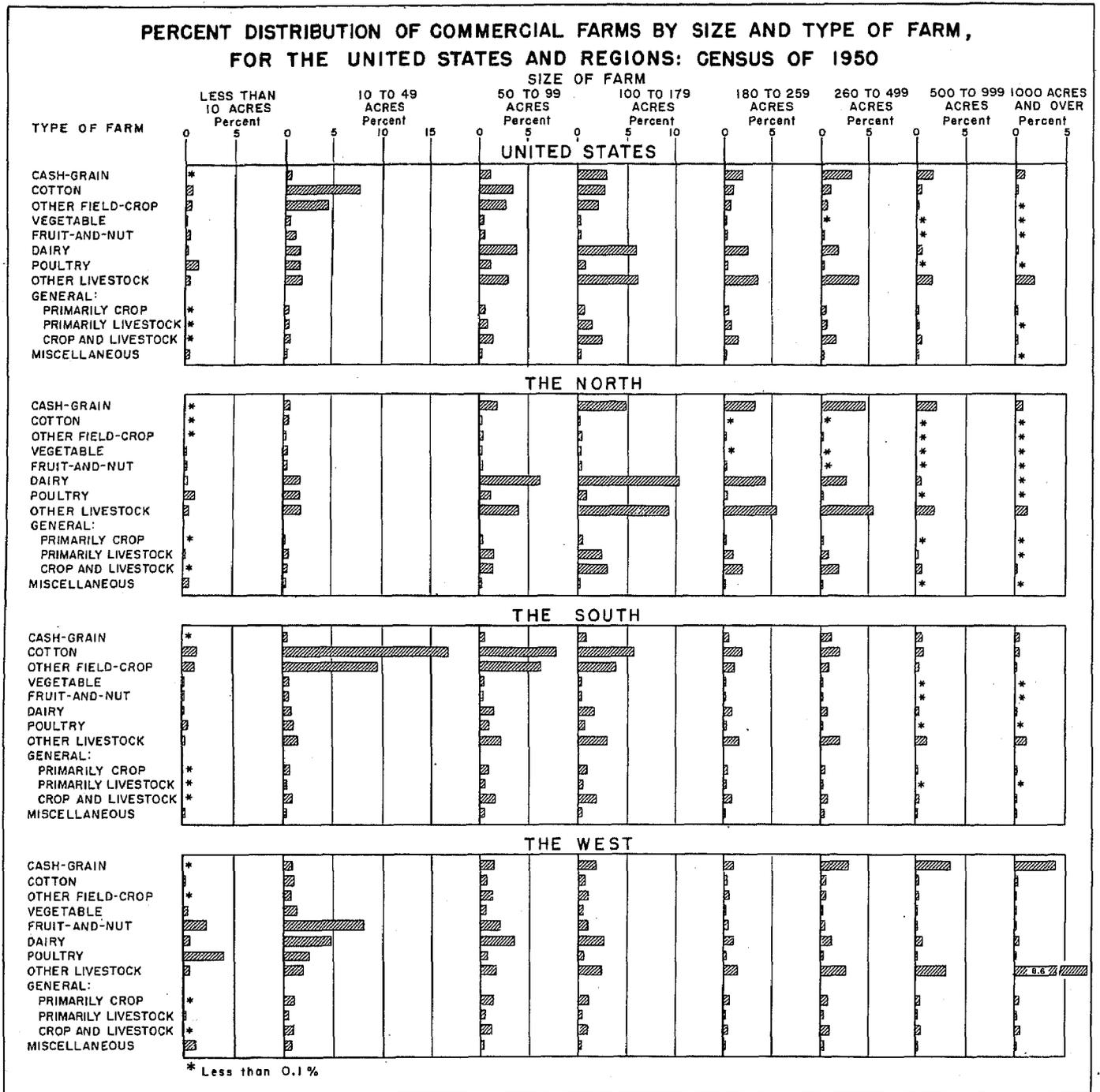
The above chart shows the percentage distribution of all commercial farms among 36 type-of-farm and tenure-of-operator groups. Each group within a region is directly comparable with all the other groups for that region.

Dairy farms and livestock farms other than dairy and poultry operated by full owners are the most numerous in the North. In the South, cotton and other field-crop farms operated by tenants are the most numerous. In the West, farms operated by full owners predominate for all types except cash-grain farms.

Cash-grain, cotton, and other field-crop farms are types better adapted to tenant operations for several reasons: (1) It is easier for a tenant to move to another farm when the opportunity arises if he does not have a large investment in livestock. If a tenant who is a livestock farmer were to move, he would need to find a farm with adequate buildings for his livestock. (2) Owners who plan to rent their farms over a considerable length

of time tend to restrict their investment in buildings and other improvements which might deteriorate rapidly under tenant operation of the farm. Thus, there is a tendency on the part of both tenant and owner to keep a tenant-operated farm equipped for a cash-crop type of farming rather than for livestock farming. (3) For cash-grain farms, the investment in farm machinery is large and many tenants prefer to put their available resources in machinery adequate for a large acreage of rented land rather than to invest in small farms of their own. (4) Cotton and other field-crop farms show a high proportion of tenant-operated farms partly because of the cropper system of producing cotton and tobacco.

Many farms classified as tenant operated are merely in the process of ownership transfer. On many farms, a son or other relative of the family may be renting the farm with the intention of eventual ownership.



Farms of a given type tend to fall within certain size groups when sorted on the basis of both type and size of farm.

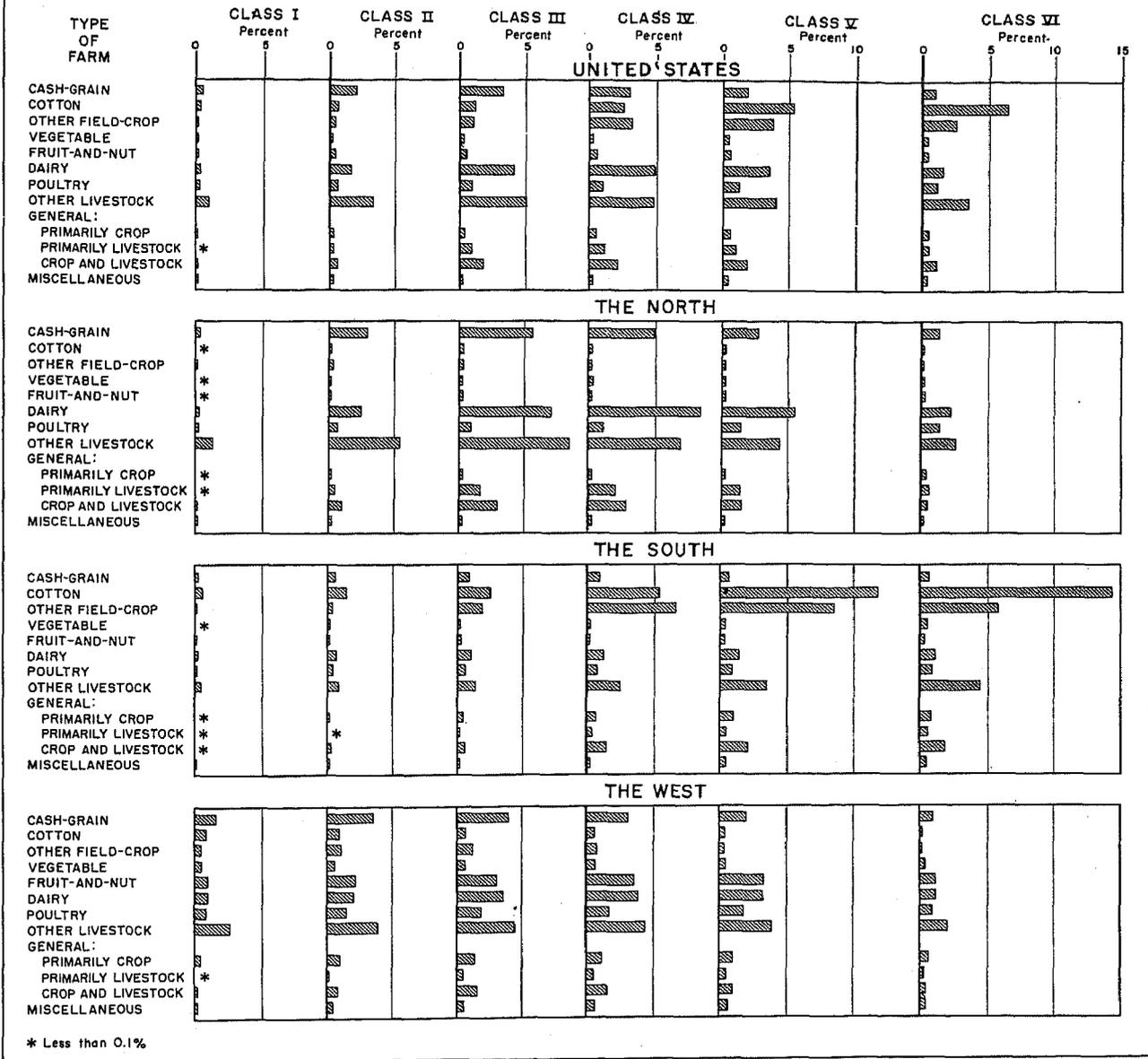
In the North, dairy farms of 100 to 179 acres in size are the most numerous. They comprise about 10 percent of the commercial farms. In the South, cotton farms that range from 10 to 49 acres in size are most numerous. Cotton farms of this size represent 17 percent of all commercial farms in that region. In the West, two type and size groups are closely matched for top rank as to numbers. Cattle and sheep ranches (other livestock farms) of 1,000 acres or more in size represent 8.6 percent, and fruit-and-nut farms of 10 to 49 acres in size represent about 8 percent of all commercial farms in the West.

In the North, the predominance of the 160-acre farm contributes much to the 100- to 179-acre group having the greatest number of

farms. In most of the North Central States, the 160-acre farm is the most frequent size for most of the prevailing types. In the South, the predominance of farms of 10 to 49 acres results from high labor requirements of the cash crops grown (cotton and tobacco), and from the tenure arrangements under which these crops are grown.

The West has no uniform pattern. In the Pacific Northwest, the cash-grain wheat farms are large as a result of farm consolidation which started almost as soon as homesteading was completed. Crawler tractors and tractor-drawn equipment require large investments in farm machinery and considerable acreage is needed to make a satisfactory economic unit. The cattle and sheep ranches of the Mountain States spread over vast areas of low-producing land. In the citrus areas of Arizona and California, most of the farms are relatively small.

PERCENT DISTRIBUTION OF COMMERCIAL FARMS BY ECONOMIC CLASS AND TYPE OF FARM, FOR THE UNITED STATES, AND REGIONS: CENSUS OF 1950



For the United States as a whole, the cash-grain farm is the only type in which at least half of the farms are in the three higher economic classes. Among major types, those having next highest percentages of farms in the three higher economic classes are livestock farms other than dairy and poultry and dairy farms. The types having the smallest proportion of farms in the higher economic classes are cotton farms and other field-crop farms.

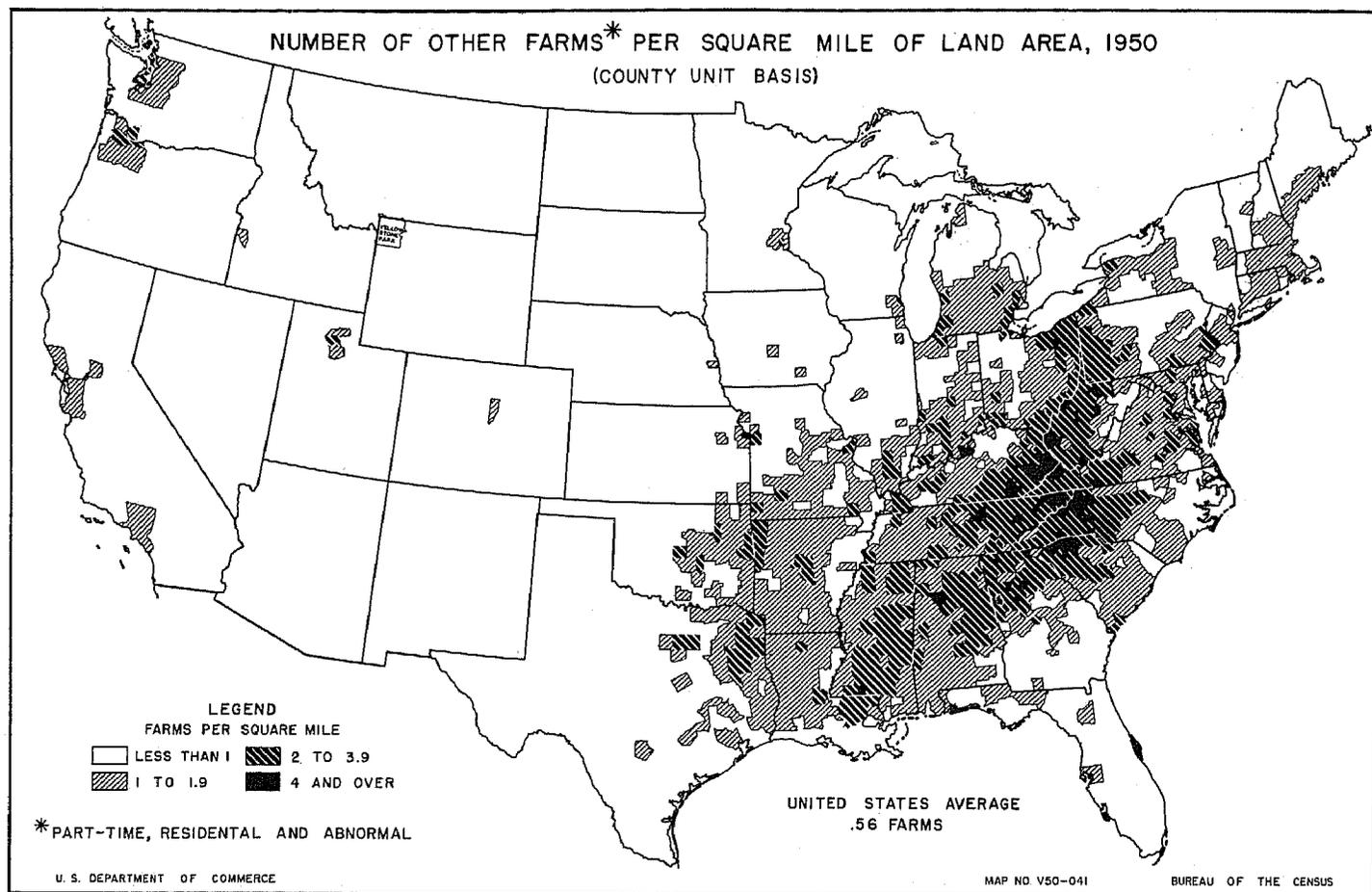
There are some significant differences among regions with respect to the proportions of various types of farms that fall within the higher or lower economic classes. In the North, for example, a larger proportion of other field-crop farms than of any other type is in the three higher economic classes. However, other field-crop farms are relatively unimportant as to number.

A little more than half of the other livestock farms and nearly half of the cash-grain farms in the North are in the higher economic classes.

In the South, low-income farms predominate in all types. Cash-grain and dairy farms in this region had the largest proportions of their number in the higher economic classes.

In contrast, 6 of the 12 farm types in the West had 50 percent or more of their number in the three higher economic classes. Two of these were the cotton and other field-crop farms, each with about 70 percent of their number in the three top classes. The other four types were cash-grain, livestock other than dairy and poultry, vegetable, and general crop farms.

OTHER FARMS (PART-TIME, RESIDENTIAL, AND ABNORMAL)



"Other farms" are composed of part-time, residential, and abnormal farms. These were separated from the commercial farms in order to make the data for both groups more useful.

Part-time farms have the same income range as the class VI commercial farms. Part-time farms were excluded from the class VI group when the operator reported 100 days or more of off-farm work in 1949 and when the nonfarm income received by the operator and members of his family exceeded the value of farm products sold. Thus, the classification of a part-time farm is based partly on the scale of farm operations as reflected in value of sales and partly on off-farm economic activity and income of the operator and his family.

Residential farms were classified solely on the one criterion—less than \$250 value of farm products sold. Days of off-farm work and nonfarm income could have been used, along with value of products sold, as criteria for classifying residential farms, but it was not considered likely that farm income of less than \$250 would, in many cases, be greater than other income. Use of only one criterion simplified the work of classification and gave the desired result.

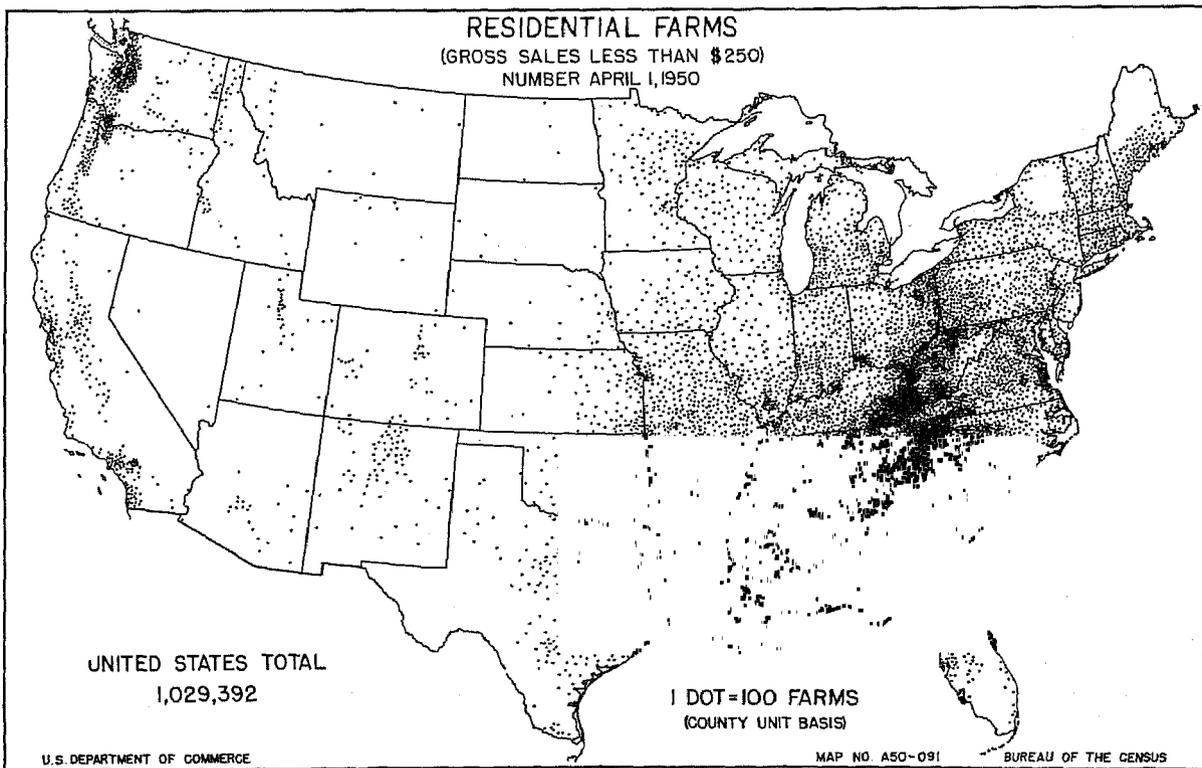
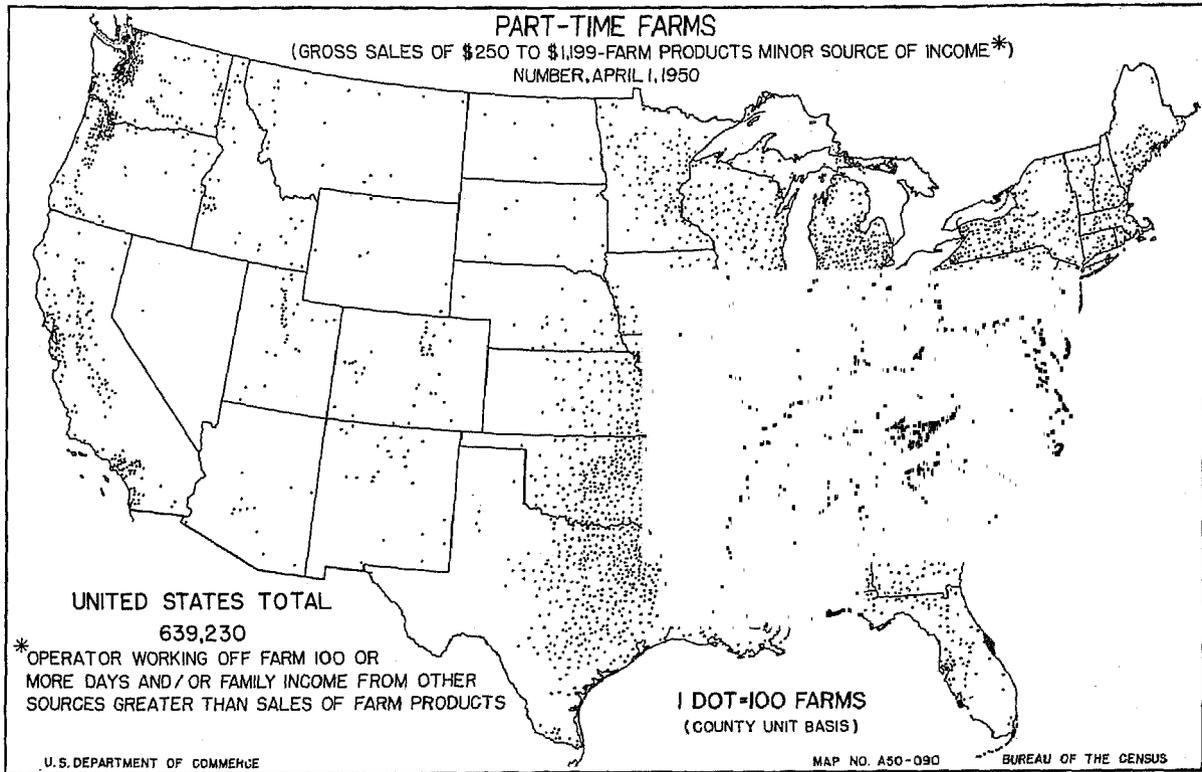
Only 65 percent of the farms classified as residential reported sales of farm products. The other 35 percent reported farm products for home use but no surplus for sale. A residential farm, therefore, is what the term indicates, i. e., primarily a place for the operator and his family to live. The agricultural activities carried on may provide much of the family's food and some

other items of living such as fuel, but these are incidental to other sources of income on most of the places.

Abnormal farms consist of public and private institutional farms, experiment farms, grazing associations, Indian reservations, etc. These farms could have been included with any of the six commercial classes, the part-time, or the residential farms if they had been classified by value of sales, work off the farm, and nonfarm income. These farms are few in number but some of them are large in size.

A better understanding of the organization of agriculture in the United States is made possible by having part-time and residential farms classified separately. These farms have often been included among the lower classes of commercial farms in studies of low income in agriculture. Since the operators on part-time and residential farms are engaged primarily in off-farm work, non-farm business, or are retired, they are often not greatly concerned about increasing their farm income. By classifying these farms in a separate group, a better analysis of the low-income commercial farms and the development of programs for their improvement is made possible.

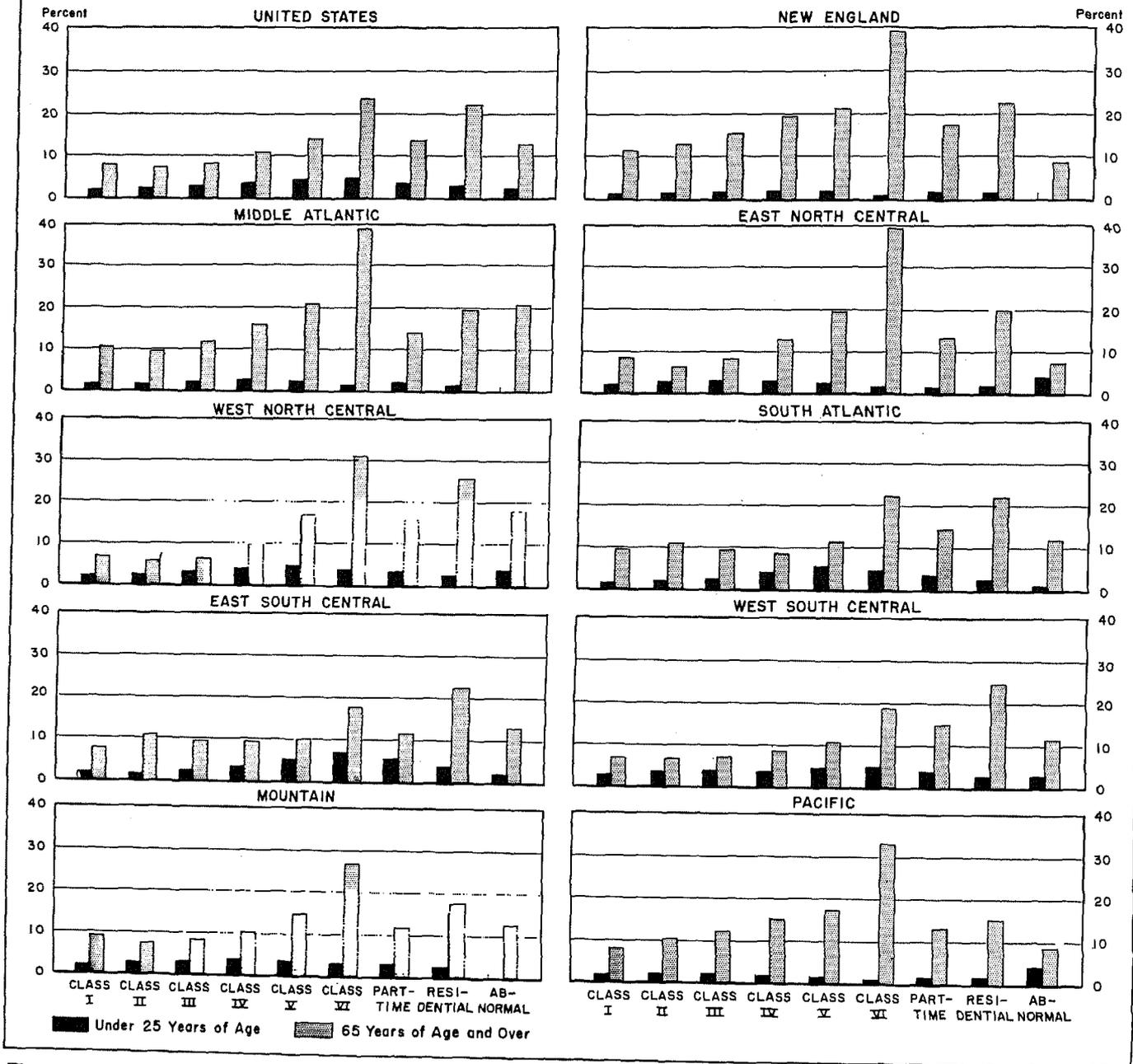
The maps and charts on the following pages show the geographic distribution, the contribution to the Nation's agricultural resources, and the characteristics of part-time and residential farms, in terms of individual farm resources, equipment, and facilities.



The above maps show that part-time and residential farms are much more numerous in the Southern States than in any other part of the country. Only slight concentrations of residential farms are found near large metropolitan centers probably because most of the residential places in the metropolitan fringes do not have enough agricultural production to qualify as farms. In western North Carolina, many of the operators of part-time and residential farms are employed in the textile mills and other industries. The concentrations in Kentucky and West Virginia are related to employment in the coal mines.

In the rural areas of the South, large numbers of part-time and residential farms are also occupied by persons who are in retirement on the land, by persons who work in the forest industries, or by farmers who have most of their land operated by croppers. If the "home-farm" portion of a multiple-unit operation had sales of less than \$250, the home farm was classified as residential. However, the number of "home farms" classified as residential is small, as evidenced by the low number of part-time and residential farms in areas in which the concentration of multiple-units is greatest. (See page 16.)

AGE OF OPERATOR - PERCENT UNDER 25 YEARS OF AGE AND PERCENT 65 YEARS OF AGE AND OVER, BY ECONOMIC CLASS OF FARM FOR THE UNITED STATES AND DIVISIONS: CENSUS OF 1950



The lower economic classes of farms have a higher percentage of operators under 25 years of age or over 65 years of age than do farms in the higher economic classes.

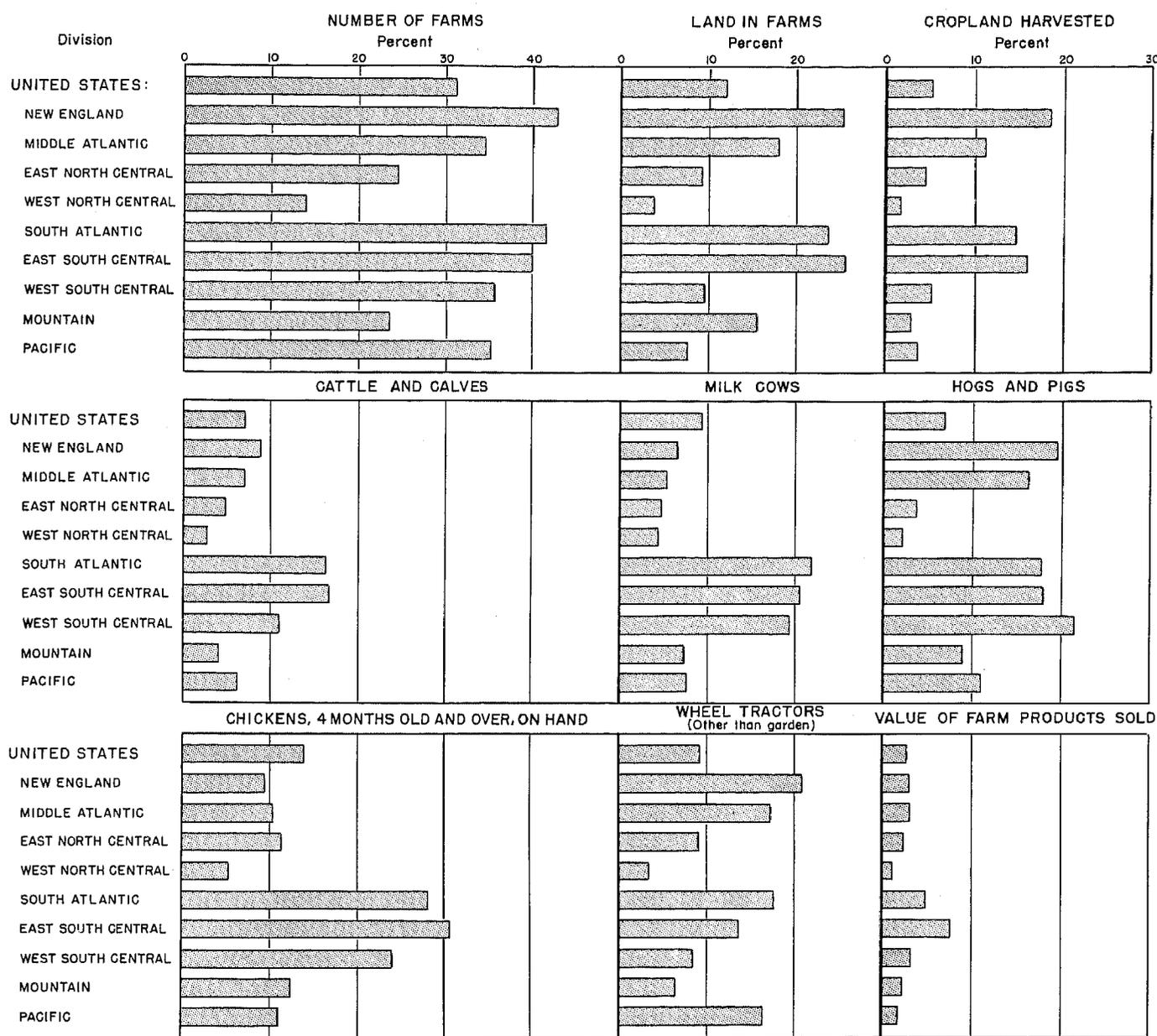
Most operators under 25 have not yet had sufficient time to accumulate the necessary capital and experience to operate a large farm. Many persons 65 years of age and over who have family-operated large farms continue to farm in their later years, but on a reduced scale. Many of those who were on the larger farms have accumulated savings and are able to retire from farming by the time they reach 65 years of age, while more of those on the

less-productive farms are forced to continue farming for a livelihood.

The age distribution for operators of part-time farms is much like that for the operators of the middle economic classes of commercial farms. The operators of residential farms, however, have an age pattern more like that for operators of the lower economic classes of commercial farms. More than a fifth of the operators of residential farms were 65 years of age and over.

Persons who have retired from active work, or who are unable to work, constitute a higher proportion of the operators on residential farms than on farms of the other economic classes.

PERCENT OF TOTALS FOR ALL FARMS REPRESENTED BY TOTALS FOR PART-TIME, RESIDENTIAL, AND ABNORMAL FARMS, FOR SELECTED RESOURCES, FOR THE UNITED STATES AND DIVISIONS: CENSUS OF 1950

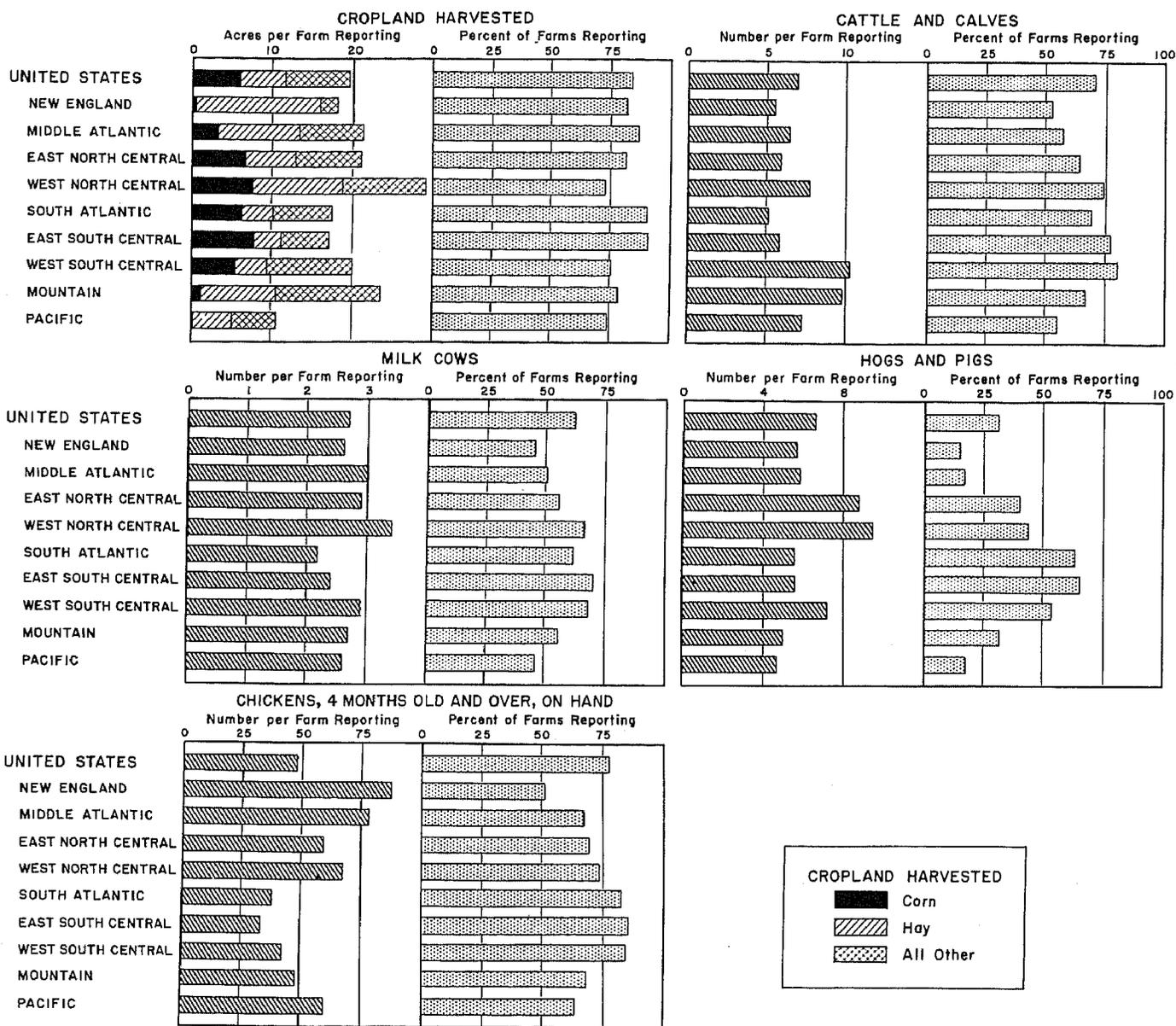


Other farms (part-time, residential, and abnormal farms) constitute almost one-third of the farms in the United States. The percentage of the total number of farms represented by "other farms" varies from 14 percent in the West North Central States to 43 percent in New England. As these farms accounted for only 2.5 percent of the value of farm products sold in 1949, they are insignificant in terms of production for the market. The small amount of farm products sold, in comparison with the amount of resources on these farms, indicates that production was largely for home use.

In general, the land in "other farms" probably is of lower productive capacity than that in commercial farms. This is suggested by the fact that cropland harvested on "other farms" represents only 5 percent of the United States total whereas all land in these farms represents about 12 percent of the total.

A high proportion of the farms in the South Atlantic and East South Central divisions are in the group consisting of part-time, residential, and abnormal farms. About two out of every five farms in these divisions were so classified. They account for about one-fourth of the land in farms and about one-sixth of the cropland harvested.

PART-TIME FARMS - AVERAGES PER FARM REPORTING, AND PERCENT OF FARMS REPORTING, FOR SELECTED RESOURCES, FOR THE UNITED STATES AND DIVISIONS: CENSUS OF 1950



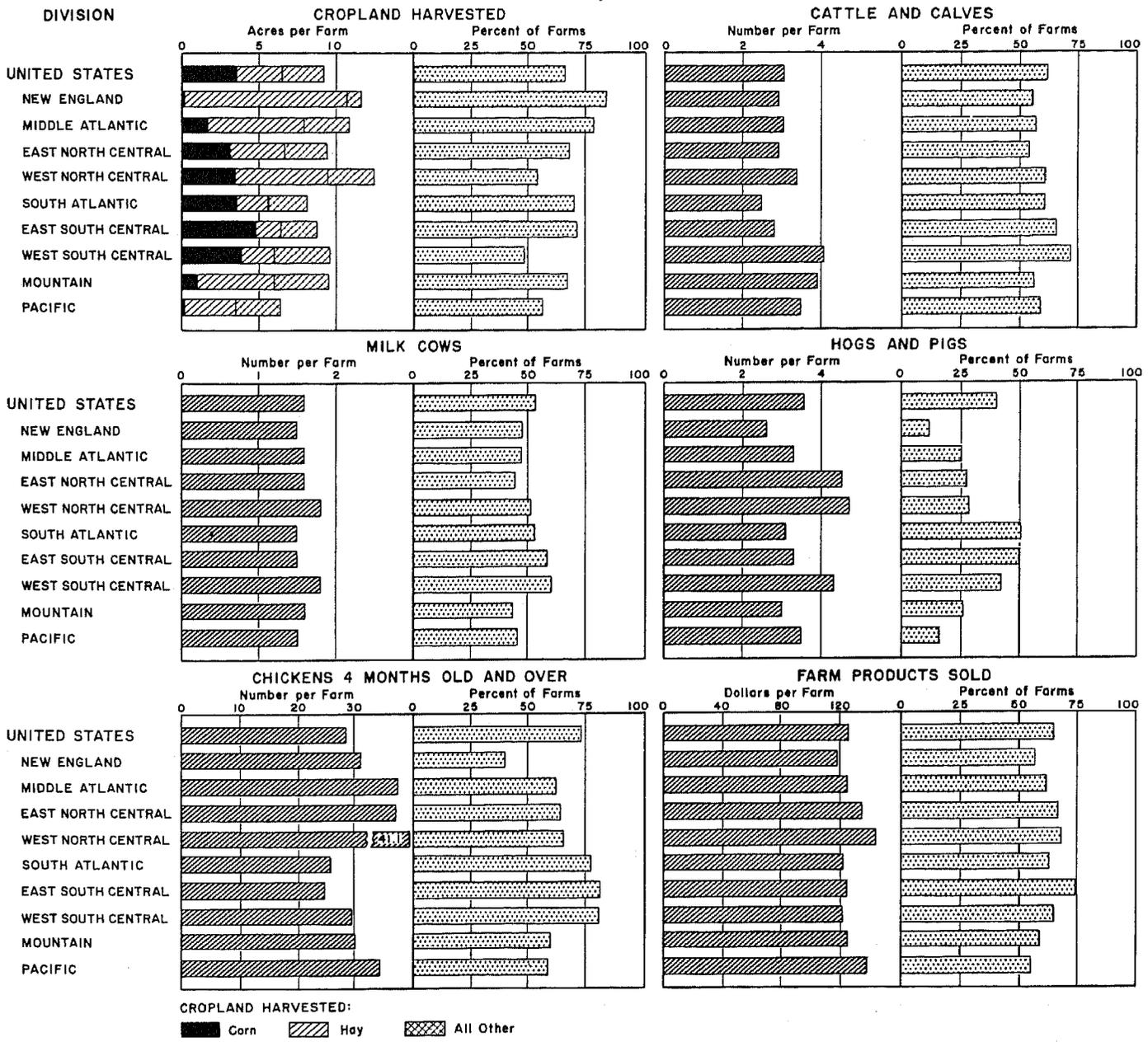
Part-time farms are a little smaller in average size than class VI farms and relatively fewer of them report crops harvested and livestock kept. Operators of part-time farms are generally younger than those of class VI farms.

The production for sale on part-time farms is sufficient to make a significant contribution to the family cash income. The more than 600,000 part-time farm operators in the country represent a group that is probably in a fairly favorable economic position, especially during periods of good employment opportunities. They

may make adjustments either in their farming operations or in their nonfarm activities, depending upon their personal desires and general economic conditions.

Many part-time farms have more than one farm enterprise, as more than half of them report each of the specified farm resources excepting hogs and pigs. Data on the percentages of these farms that have just one farm enterprise and that have two or more enterprises are not available.

RESIDENTIAL FARMS - AVERAGES PER FARM REPORTING AND PERCENT OF FARMS REPORTING, FOR SELECTED RESOURCES, FOR THE UNITED STATES AND DIVISIONS: CENSUS OF 1950

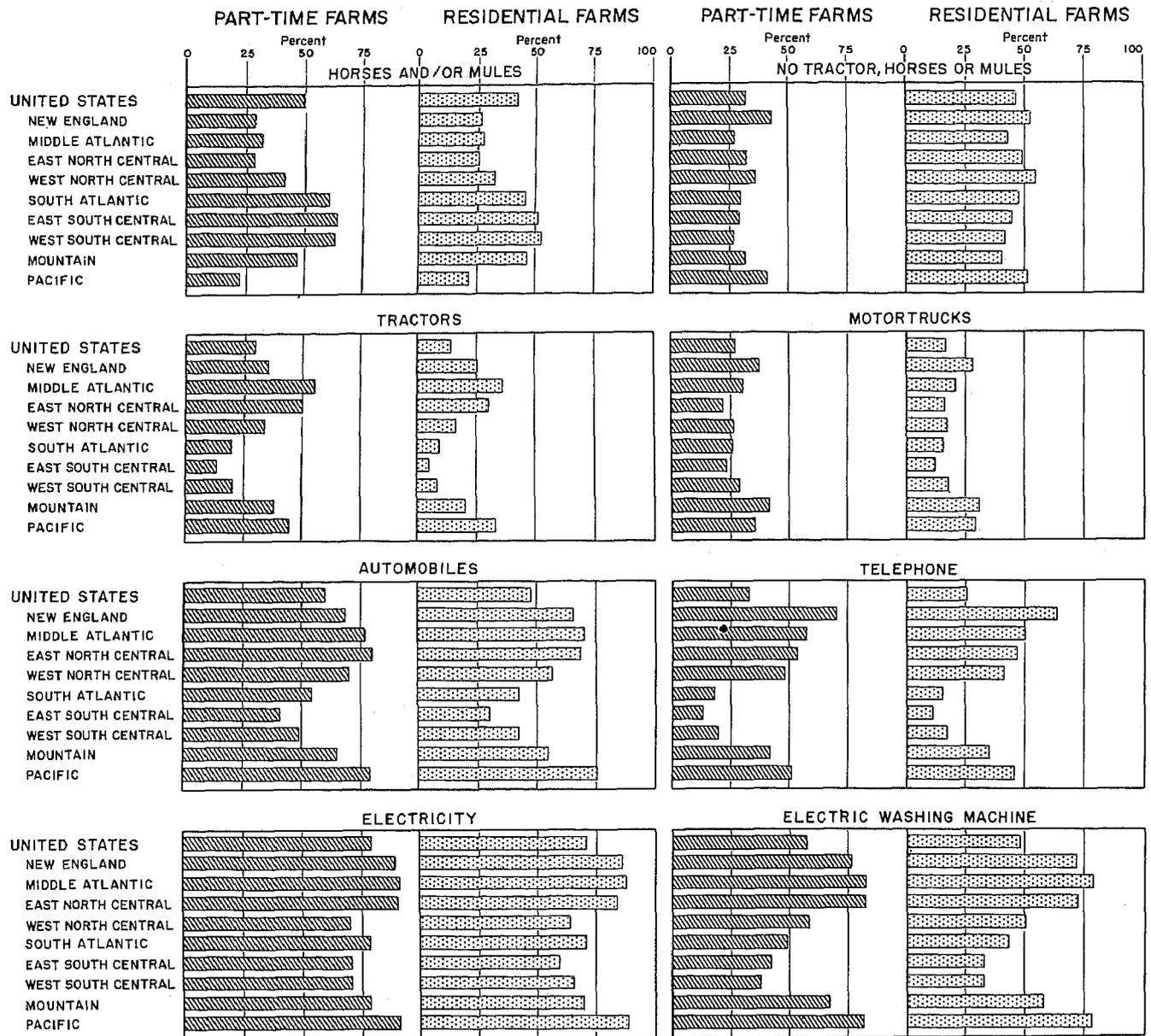


Residential farms are small, averaging only about two-thirds the size of part-time farms. About two-thirds of the cropland is used for corn and hay, leaving an average of about 3 acres per farm for other crops. In New England, about 90 percent of the cropland harvested in residential farms was used for hay. In the South, corn was the predominant crop on residential farms. In the other divisions, hay was the leading crop in acreage. These crops provide feed for the few livestock kept.

In contrast with part-time farms, a much smaller percentage of the residential farms report specified resources. Chickens are found more often than other livestock on residential farms.

For the United States, the value of farm products sold from residential farms was only \$127 per farm reporting. About a third of these farms had no farm products sold. Most of the operators of residential farms are engaged in nonfarm work or have nonfarm income, and farm production is principally for home use.

PERCENT OF PART-TIME AND RESIDENTIAL FARMS REPORTING SPECIFIED WORK POWER, EQUIPMENT AND FACILITIES, FOR THE UNITED STATES AND DIVISIONS: CENSUS OF 1950



The sizable percentage of the part-time and residential farms having no tractor, horses, or mules, is evidence that many of the operators on these farms have restricted operations. Those without work power of any kind comprise nearly a third of the part-time farms and nearly half of the residential farms.

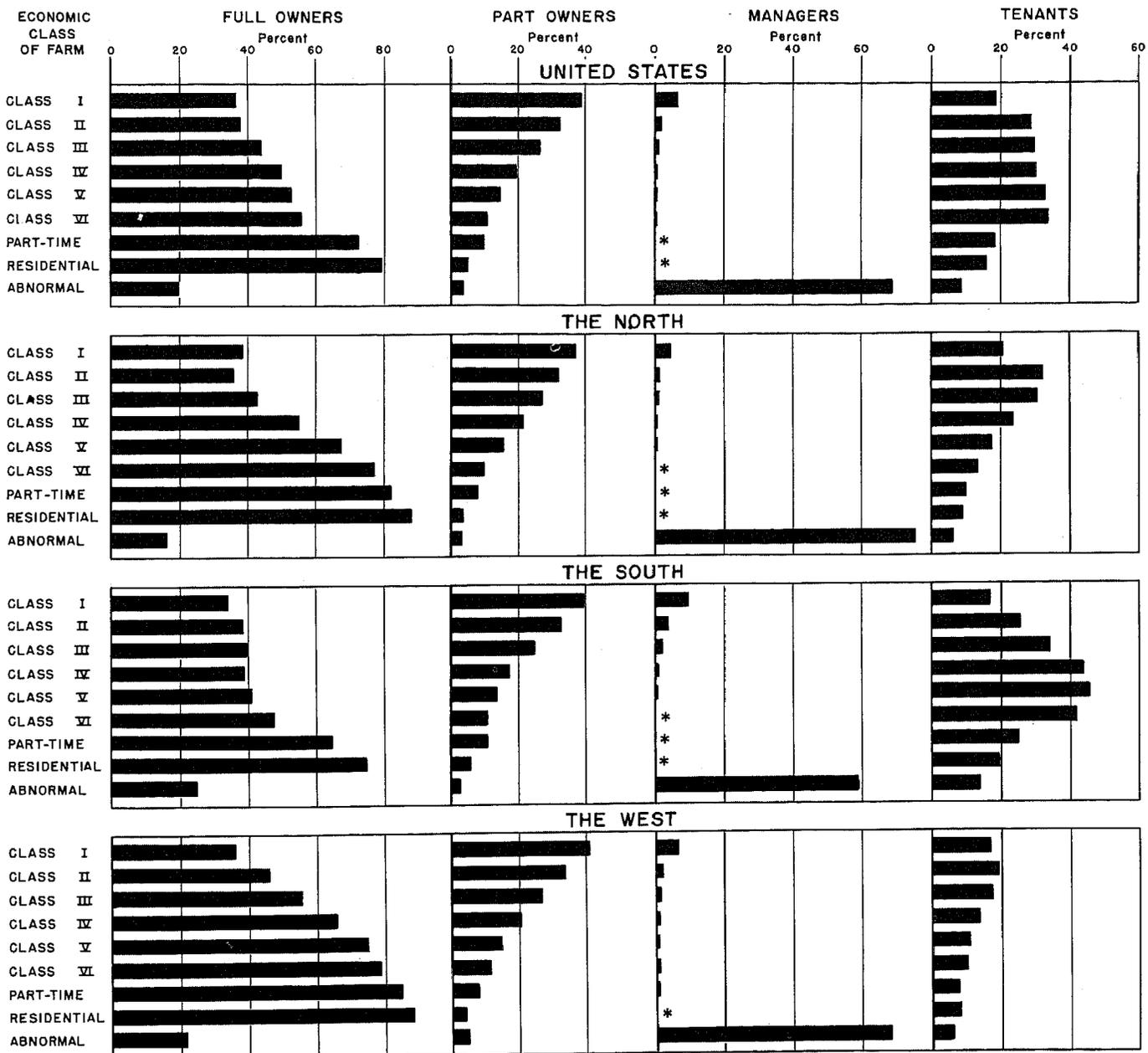
Many part-time and residential farm operators have no motor transportation. For each of these classes, the addition of the percentage of farms having a motortruck and the percentage having an automobile, without adjustment for duplication, totals only 87 percent for the part-time farms and only 85 percent for the residential farms. Those without any motor transportation probably would represent close to one-half of the residential farm operators, after allowing for those who have both an automobile and a motortruck.

During the last two decades, electricity has been extended into

nearly all rural areas of the country. The cost of electricity has been reduced to a point where even the low income groups find they can afford it. There is little variation among the geographic divisions in the percentage of farms having electricity. But there is a large variation among divisions in the percentage of the farms reporting an electric washing machine. It is recognized that some farm operators may have other types of power washing machines but data are not available on these.

For both part-time farms and residential farms, the percentage reporting an electric washing machine was lower than that for most of the classes of commercial farms. These facts suggest that, in general, the level of living of most of the families on part-time and residential farms is lower than that for those on most commercial farms and lower than one would expect if these families have opportunities for nonfarm employment.

PERCENT DISTRIBUTION OF FULL OWNERS, PART OWNERS, MANAGERS AND TENANTS, BY ECONOMIC CLASS OF FARM, FOR THE UNITED STATES AND REGIONS: CENSUS OF 1950



* Less than 0.05 percent.

The percentage of all operators represented by full owners increases as the gross farm income decreases. Thus, the percentage of operators who are full owners is highest for the residential farms.

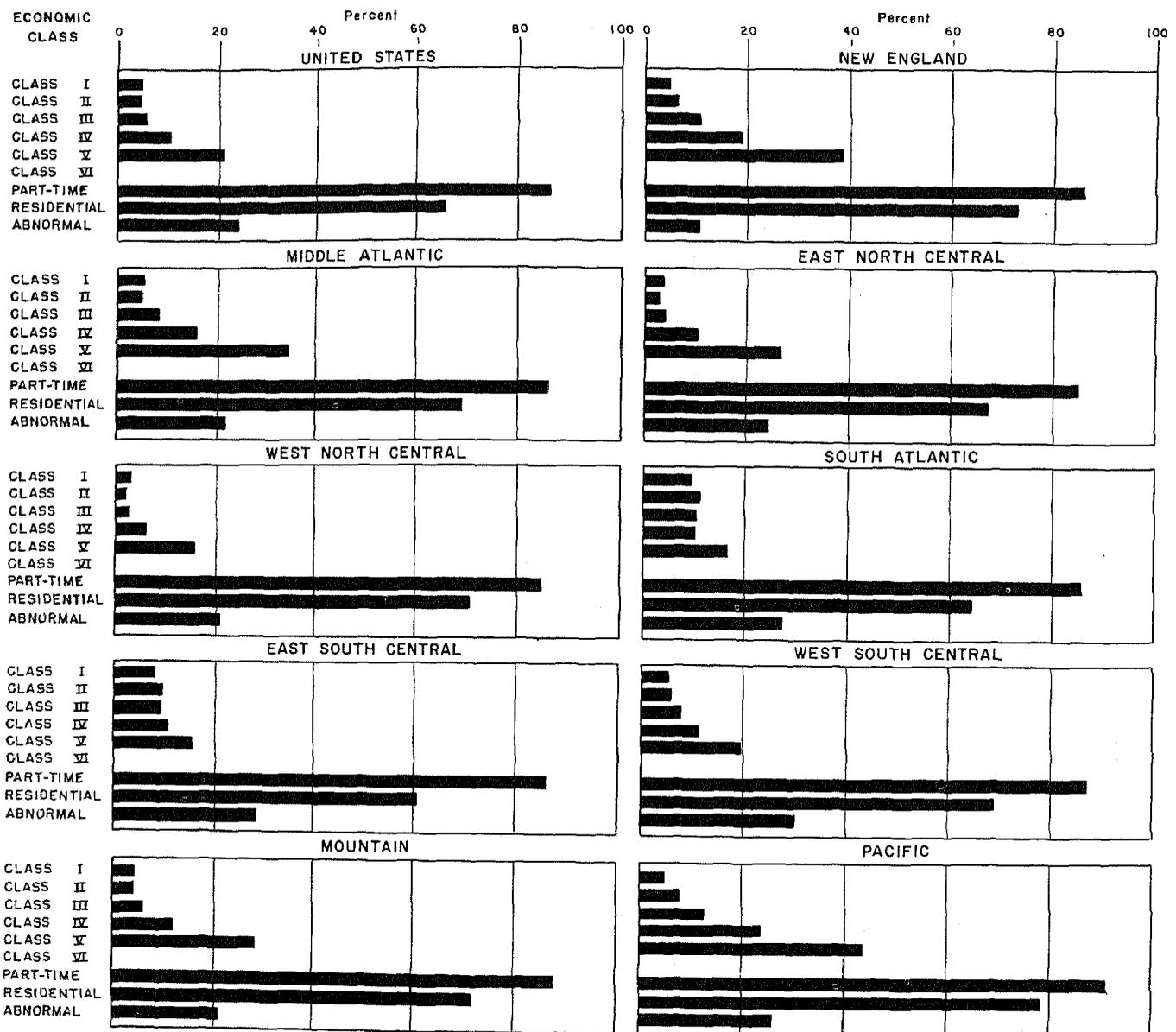
The percentage of operators who are part-owners presents a reversed pattern and decreases sharply from class I to class VI and further for the part-time and residential farms.

Most of the abnormal farms are operated by managers. These

farms comprise institutional farms, experiment farms, grazing associations, Indian reservations, etc.

There are relatively few tenants on the part-time, residential, and abnormal farms. Except for fewer tenants on class I farms, the tenant operators are evenly distributed among the economic classes of commercial farms. Some distinct regional differences are apparent, however. In the North and West, the percentage of tenancy for commercial farms decreases as gross income becomes smaller. In the South, the reverse is true.

PERCENT OF FARM OPERATORS REPORTING THAT OTHER INCOME OF FAMILY EXCEEDED VALUE OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS SOLD, BY ECONOMIC CLASS OF FARM, FOR THE UNITED STATES AND DIVISIONS: CENSUS OF 1950



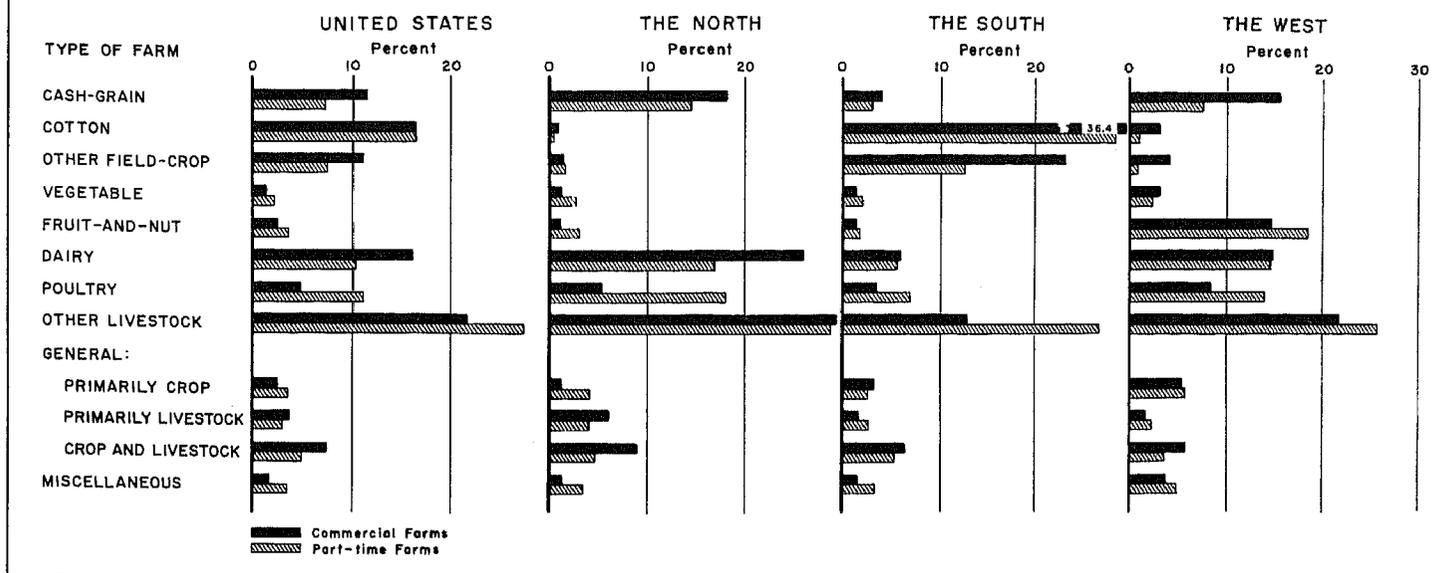
Questions 218 through 221, as they appeared on the 1950 Census of Agriculture Questionnaire, are presented on the opposite page to permit a better interpretation of the above chart. The chart shows the percentage for each economic class of farm for which the operator reported "Yes" to question 221.

The value of farm products sold ranged from \$250 to \$1,190 per farm on both the class VI commercial farms and the part-time farms. Farms falling within this income range were classified as part-time if the operator reported that he worked 100 days or more at off-farm jobs or businesses, or if he answered "Yes" to question 221. The chart indicates that about 85 percent of the operators of part-time farms in the United States reported that the nonfarm income of members of their households exceeded the value of products sold from their farms. For a farm to be

classified as part-time, the operator must have reported either 100 or more days of off-farm work in 1949, or family income from nonfarm sources greater than the value of farm products sold. Thus, if only 85 percent of the operators reported that family income from other sources was greater, it is evident that the remaining 15 percent must have reported 100 days or more of off-farm work in 1949.

Any farm having less than \$250 sales of farm products in 1949 was classified as "residential" unless it was an "abnormal" farm. The high percentage of operators of residential farms not answering "Yes" to question 221 may be due, in part, to a failure of the respondent to understand the question, and in part, to an extremely low total income on the farm.

COMPARISON OF THE PERCENT DISTRIBUTION OF COMMERCIAL FARMS AND PART-TIME FARMS, BY TYPE OF FARM, FOR THE UNITED STATES AND REGIONS: CENSUS OF 1950



OFF-FARM WORK AND OTHER INCOME:

218. How many days did you work (1) None last year off your farm? Include work at a nonfarm job, business, profession, or on someone else's farm. (Check one) (2) 1 to 49 days (3) 50 to 99 days (4) 100 to 199 days (5) 200 days or more (Do not include exchange work.)

219. Did any other member of your family living with you have a nonfarm job, business, profession, or work on someone else's farm last year? No Yes

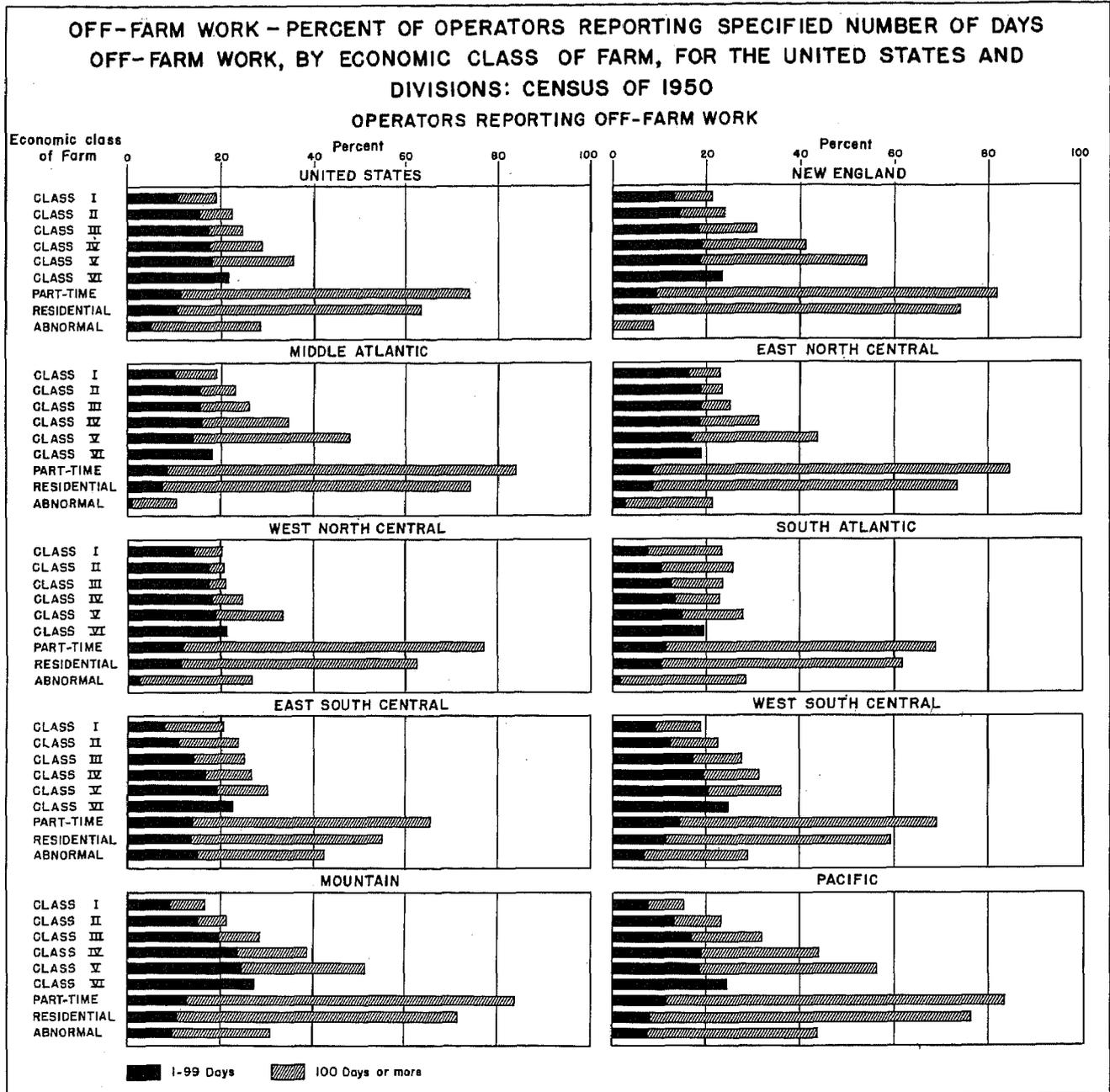
220. Did you have any income last year from any of the following sources—sale of products from land rented out, cash rent, boarders, old age assistance, pensions, veterans' allowances, unemployment compensation, interest, and help from members of your family? No Yes

221. Was the income which you and your family received from work off the farm and from other sources (listed in questions 218, 219, and 220) greater than the total value of all agricultural products sold from your place last year? No Yes

Of the group of farms designated "other farms," only the part-time farms were classified by type. Only a count of the different types of part-time farms is available. The proportion of all part-time farms represented by each of the various types is shown in the accompanying chart.

A small poultry flock, a small acreage of vegetables or fruits, or a few head of livestock are ideal enterprises for part-time farms. That these enterprises are somewhat favored by part-time farmers is indicated by the fact that the proportion of these farms which classify as vegetable, fruit-and-nut, poultry, other livestock, and miscellaneous farms is greater than the proportion of commercial farms classified as such.

Basic data for this chart is available by States in table 51, Chapter XIII, Volume II, of the reports of the 1950 Census of Agriculture.



In the three geographic divisions of the South, only about half of the part-time farms were classified as such because the operator reported 100 or more days of off-farm work. Only about two-thirds reported any off-farm work. This means that at least one-third of the part-time farms in these divisions were so classified because the family income from nonfarm sources was greater than the value of farm products sold. In the other divisions, the number of days of off-farm work by the operator was the factor

which determined the classification for a much higher proportion of the part-time farms.

About one-half of the operators of residential farms reported 100 or more days of off-farm work. Operators of residential farms who did not report 100 or more days of off-farm work may have or may not have stated that the other sources of income were greater than the sales of products of their farms. About two-thirds of the operators on residential farms reported that the other income was greater.