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Who Owns the Land?

A preliminary report of a
U.S. Landownership Survey

U.S. Department
of Agriculture

Economics, Statistics
and Cooperatives
Service

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WHO OWNS THE LAND?

About 40 percent of the U.S. land area of 2.3 billion acres is owned by government -- Federal, State, and local, leaving 60 percent in private hands. Half of that privately owned land is owned by only 1 percent of the landowners. Over 80 percent is held by individuals or families. Ownership of farm and ranch land is less concentrated with 1 percent of owners holding about 30 percent of the land. Most owners are white, between the ages of 50 to 64, and are males. About 30 percent of the privately held land has been acquired since 1970. Few owners are foreigners.

PRELIMINARY SURVEY FINDINGS

These are among the preliminary results of a recent USDA survey of the ownership of privately held land. More than 37,000 individuals, partnerships, and corporations were surveyed in 1978 by the Economics, Statistics, and Cooperatives Service in an effort to find out more about 28.8 million owners of 1.25 billion acres of privately held U.S. land. The survey covered private farm and ranch land, other rural land, and urban land. As part of the survey, information was obtained about an estimated 6.2 million owners of 871 million acres of land in farms and ranches. In addition to privately held land, the Federal Government holds 762 million acres, State and local governments own another 136 million acres, and 51 million acres are held by, or are in trust for, American Indians.

WHY THE SURVEY?

The land and how its various owners use or abuse it is vitally important to the American public and decision-makers in government. ESCS will closely analyze the

data from the new survey to help the public better understand how decisions made by landowners affect the environment, food and fiber supplies, employment, distribution of wealth and income, resource development, and the competition for land and water resources. One important use of the coming analysis will be to help design government programs which affect land use, such as conservation, farm production, supply management, credit, and technical assistance programs. The ownership data can be correlated with soils and land use data, thereby providing information about ownership patterns on prime agricultural lands.

SEE TABLES AND CHARTS

Tables and charts accompanying this report give more detail and highlight data relationships on occupation of owners, type of owners, their race, age, sex, education, and residence, and how and when they acquired the land.

OCCUPATION

Farmers and farm managers are the largest single group of owners. They own almost half of all private noncorporate holdings and over half of land in farms and ranches (tables 1 and 3 and fig. 1). Retired people hold about 17 percent of all land and the same proportion of farm and ranch land. White collar occupations hold 14-15 percent and blue collar occupations 8-9 percent of all land as well as farm and ranch land. Farmers showed their highest proportion of ownership of both all land and land in farms in the Mountain States and Northern Plains. (See page 21 for list of States in each region.) However, they were the dominant landowning group in all regions (tables 2 and 4). White collar occupations hold about 20 percent of farmland in the Northeast, Appalachian, Southeast, and Southern Plains and less than 10 percent in the Lake, Northern Plains, and Mountain Regions.

TYPE OF OWNER

Sole proprietors and husbands and wives hold two-thirds of all privately held land (table 5 and fig. 2) and almost three-fourths of land in farms and ranches (table 7). Non-family corporations hold about 9.5 percent of all private land but only 2.4 percent of farm and ranch land. In the Pacific Region, nonfamily corporations own 23 percent of all land and 5 percent of farm and ranch land and in the Southeast 20 percent of all land and 4 percent of farm and ranch land, reflecting large timber holdings as well as larger scale farms and ranches in those regions (tables 6 and 8).

SIZE OF HOLDINGS

One percent of the ownership units (a unit could be an individual, a partnership, or a corporation) own about half of all the privately held land. Looking from the opposite direction, about 75 percent of the owners hold only about 3 percent of the land (table 9). However, many of these are owners of residential and commercial properties on small lots. Among owners of farm and ranch land, holdings are more evenly distributed. The percentage of acreage held

by the 1 percent largest owners of farm and ranch land is 29 percent nationwide and varies regionally from 8 percent in the Lake States to 41 percent in the Pacific Region (tables 11 and 12). Concentration is less pronounced in regions where crop farming predominates than where ranching or forestry is prevalent.

RACE

Over 90 percent of the private landowners are white and non-Hispanic; they own 97 percent of the land (table 13). Blacks, representing 4 percent of the owners, own just 1 percent of the private land. Percentage of acreage owned by non-Hispanic whites dips to about 95 percent in the Southeast and Delta where blacks hold 4-5 percent of the land and to 96 percent in the Southern Plains, Mountain, and Pacific Regions where Hispanics, Asians, and American Indians have somewhat larger holdings than in other parts of the country (table 14).

AGE

Almost 70 percent of the land is held by people over 50 years of age. Those under 35 own only about 6 percent (table 15 and fig. 3). In the Southeast, 41 percent of land is owned by the 50-65 age group and 33 percent by those over 65. The Lake States show the youngest pattern of ownership with about 40 percent of the land held by those under 50 (table 16).

SEX

Over 80 percent of the survey respondents were identified as males; however, this statistic does not fully recognize female ownership participation through husband-wife holdings and family partnerships (table 17). About a third of the private land is held by husbands and wives jointly (see table 5). The female share ranges from less than 10 percent in the Mountain and Lake regions to 20 percent in the Delta (table 18).

HOW ACQUIRED

Only about 18 percent of the private land was inherited, while 60 percent was purchased from nonrelatives; 16 percent was purchased from relatives (table 19 and fig. 4). Acquisition from relatives is most prevalent in the Northern Plains where over 40 percent of the land was either inherited or purchased from a relative. That proportion in the Pacific Region is only 23 percent. Conversely, purchase from nonrelatives ranges from 51 percent in the Northern Plains to 69 percent in the Pacific Region (table 20).

WHEN ACQUIRED

Almost 30 percent of the private land has been acquired since 1970 while about 15 percent has been in the same hands since the 1930's or before (table 21 and fig. 5). Although there are slight differences among regions, these proportions are similar over the Nation (table 22).

RESIDENCE

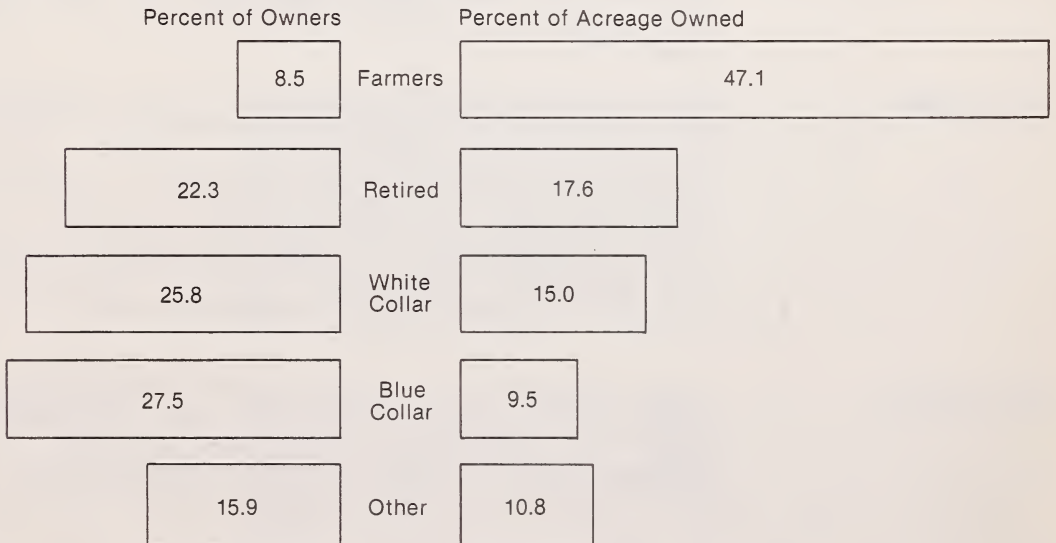
Over 90 percent of the owners (who hold 80 percent of the land) reside in the same county with their reported holdings. Only about one-tenth of 1 percent of the owners have residence or corporate headquarters in a foreign country (table 23 and fig. 6). The Southern Plains has the smallest proportion of land held by those residing in the same county while the Lake States have the largest proportion. Owners of 25 percent of the Southern Plains land reside in another county of the same State and owners of 10 percent of Mountain States land reside in another State (table 24).

EDUCATION

Level of formal education does not appear to be a major factor in landownership. The proportion of acres held by owners with 8 or fewer years of schooling is almost identical to that held by college graduates (table 25 and fig. 7). The proportion held by owners with 8 or fewer years of schooling ranges from 10 percent in the Pacific Region to 30 percent in Appalachia (table 26). The proportion owned by college graduates ranges from 11 percent in the Lake States to 28 percent in the Pacific Region.

Figure 1

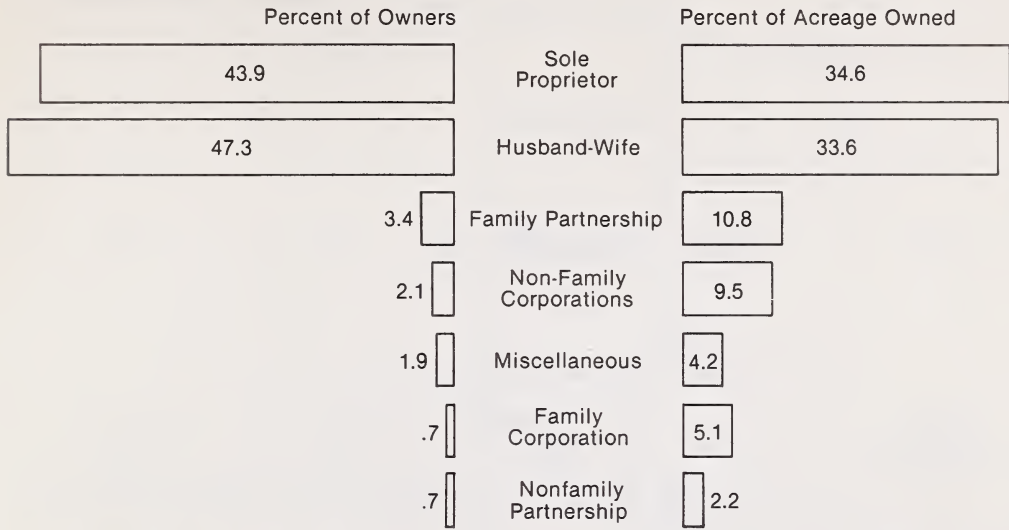
Occupation of Landowners



Other includes such occupations as military, homemaker, and unemployed. Source: 1978 ESCS Landownership Survey.

Figure 2

Type of Owner

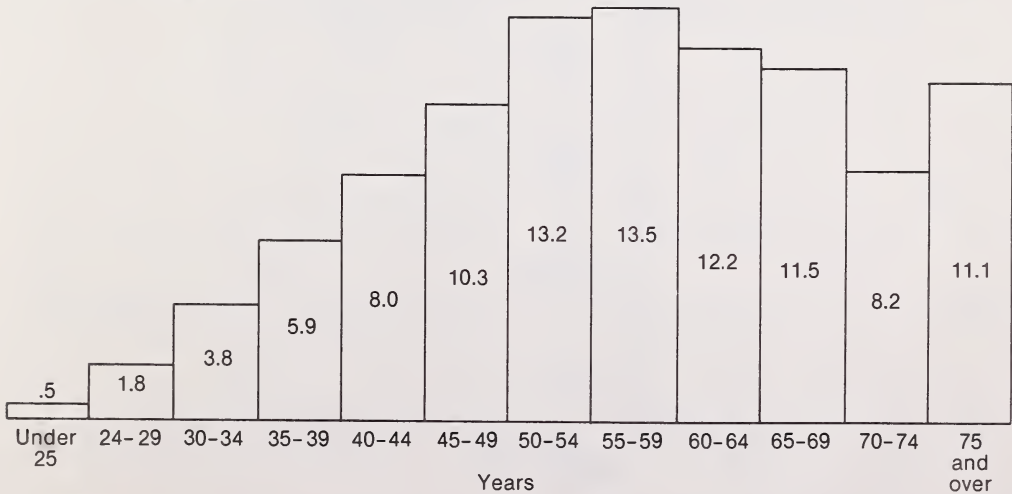


Source: 1978 ESCS Landownership Survey.

Figure 3

Age of Landowners

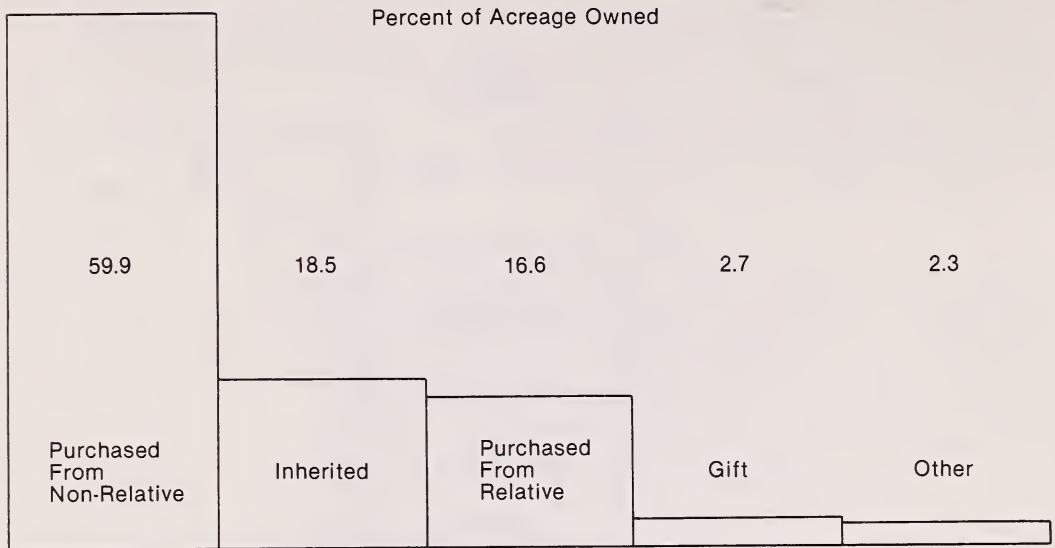
Percent of Acreage Owned



Source: 1978 ESCS Landownership Survey.

Figure 4

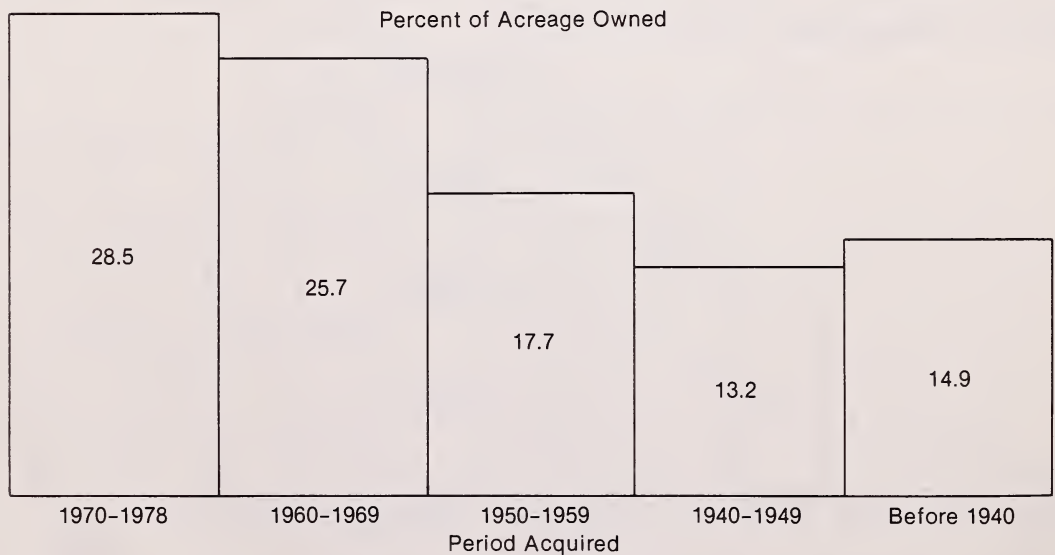
Method of Acquisition of Land



Source: 1978 ESCS Landownership Survey.

Figure 5

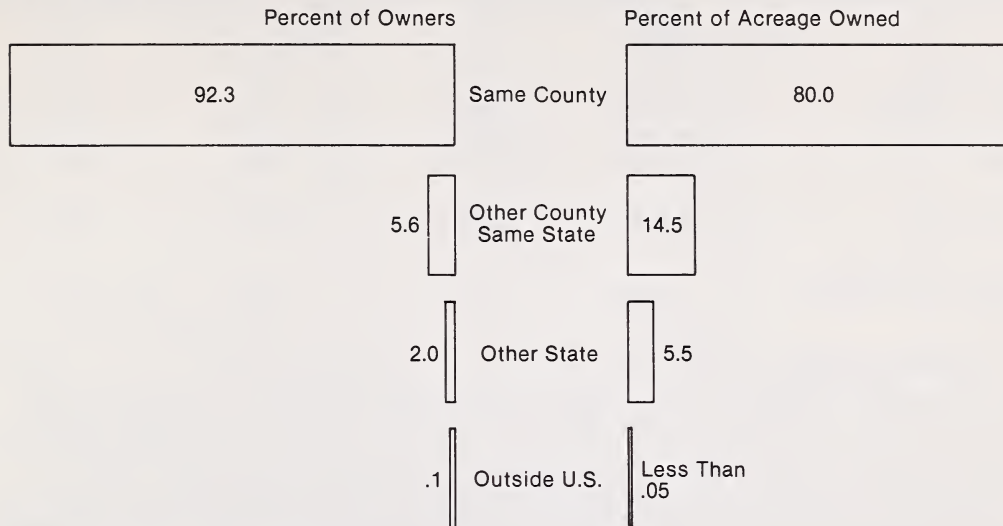
Period of Acquisition of Land



Source: 1978 ESCS Landownership Survey.

Figure 6

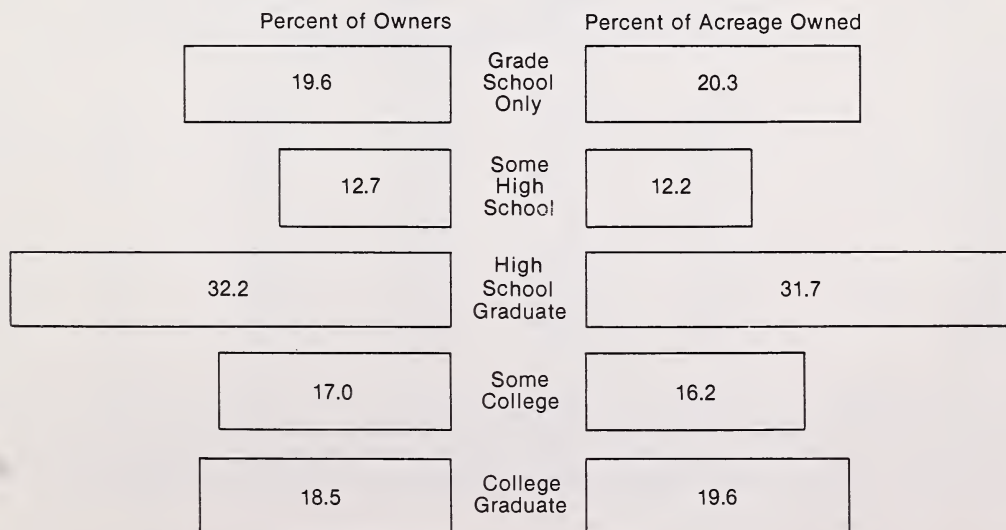
Residence of Landowner



Source: 1978 ESCS Landownership Survey.

Figure 7

Education of Landowner



Source: 1978 ESCS Landownership Survey.

Table 1--Occupation: Distribution of owners and acres owned, all land, by occupation, United States 1/

Occupation <u>2/</u>	Ownership units		Acres owned	
	Thous.	Pct.	Million acres	Pct.
Farming <u>3/</u>	2,326	8.5	492.6	47.1
White collar	7,106	25.8	157.3	15.0
Blue collar <u>4/</u>	7,553	27.5	99.0	9.5
Retired	6,125	22.3	184.3	17.6
Other	4,385	15.9	113.5	10.8
Subtotal	27,495	100.0	1,046.7	100.0
Corporations and large partnerships	1,327	--	203.3	--
Total	28,822	--	1,250.0 <u>5/</u>	--

-- = Not applicable

1/ Excluding Alaska. 2/ Sole owner or principal partner. 3/ Including farm managers and farm laborers. 4/ Including private household and service workers. 5/ Estimate of privately owned land area is based on expansion of 1978 ESCS Land-ownership Survey sample data. This estimate is 66 million acres less than the 1,316 million acre estimate developed by ESCS based on the residual land area after subtraction of acreages in Federal, State, local government, and Indian holdings. (H. Thomas Frey, "Major Uses of Land in the United States: Summary for 1974." Econ. Stat. Coop. Serv., U.S. Dept. Agr., Unpublished manuscript).

Source: 1978 ESCS Landownership Survey.

Table 2--Occupation: Regional distribution of acres owned, all land, by occupation 1/

Region <u>2/</u>	Occupation						Total
	Farming <u>3/</u>	White collar	Blue collar <u>4/</u>	Retired	Other		
Percent of acres							
Northeast	28.0	23.5	20.1	17.3	11.1		100.0
Lake	46.7	12.7	14.8	16.8	9.0		100.0
Corn Belt	41.4	13.7	11.3	22.1	11.5		100.0
Northern Plains	59.8	8.4	3.4	18.2	10.2		100.0
Appalachian	30.3	18.8	16.7	23.1	11.1		100.0
Southeast	27.6	22.2	12.6	23.4	14.2		100.0
Delta	32.3	17.0	11.3	25.4	14.0		100.0
Southern Plains	47.2	18.9	6.3	15.3	12.3		100.0
Mountain	70.6	8.9	4.3	7.9	8.3		100.0
Pacific	46.1	18.9	8.1	17.7	9.2		100.0
United States <u>5/</u>	47.1	15.0	9.5	17.6	10.8		100.0

1/ Not including corporations and large partnerships. 2/ List of States in each farm production region on page 21. 3/ Including farm managers and farm laborers. 4/ Including private household and service workers. 5/ Excluding Alaska.

Source: 1978 ESCS Landownership Survey.

Table 3--Occupation: Distribution of owners and acres owned, farm and ranch land, by occupation, United States 1/

Occupation <u>2/</u>	Ownership units		Acres owned	
	Thous.	Pct.	Million acres	Pct.
Farming <u>3/</u>	1,457	25.3	431.1	56.4
White collar	1,186	20.6	107.8	14.1
Blue collar <u>4/</u>	1,375	23.9	63.1	8.2
Retired	1,411	24.5	129.9	17.0
Other	325	5.7	32.7	4.3
Subtotal	5,754	100.0	764.6	100.0
Corporations and large partnerships	472	--	106.3	--
Total	6,226	--	870.9	--

-- = Not applicable.

1/ Excluding Alaska. 2/ Sole owner or principal partner. 3/ Including farm managers and farm laborers. 4/ Including private household and service workers.

Source: 1978 ESCS Landownership Survey.

Table 4--Occupation: Regional distribution of acres owned, farm and ranch land, by occupation 1/

Region	Occupation						Total
	Farming <u>2/</u>	White collar	Blue collar <u>3/</u>	Retired	Other		
Percent of acres							
Northeast	44.7	19.2	16.2	16.1	3.8		100.0
Lake	59.3	9.9	12.7	15.5	2.6		100.0
Corn Belt	48.0	13.8	10.4	22.6	5.2		100.0
Northern Plains	64.9	9.2	3.2	17.4	5.3		100.0
Appalachian	37.0	19.1	16.0	22.9	5.0		100.0
Southeast	36.5	20.6	13.5	23.6	5.8		100.0
Delta	41.1	17.5	12.9	23.8	4.7		100.0
Southern Plains	52.8	20.7	6.4	16.0	4.1		100.0
Mountain	77.5	8.2	3.6	7.5	3.2		100.0
Pacific	58.6	14.9	6.5	17.3	2.7		100.0
United States <u>4/</u>	56.4	14.1	8.2	17.0	4.3		100.0

1/ Not including corporations and large partnerships. 2/ Including farm managers and farm laborers. 3/ Including private household and service workers. 4/ Excluding Alaska.

Source: 1978 ESCS Landownership Survey.

Table 5--Type of landowner: Distribution of ownership units and acres owned, all land, by owner type, United States 1/

Owner type	Ownership units		Acres owned	
	Thous.	Pct.	Million acres	Pct.
Sole proprietor	12,653	43.9	432.1	34.6
Husband-wife	13,627	47.3	420.2	33.6
Family partnership	967	3.4	134.7	10.8
Nonfamily partnership	223	.7	27.3	2.2
Family corporation	194	.7	63.3	5.1
Nonfamily corporation	598	2.1	119.3	9.5
Miscellaneous	560	1.9	53.1	4.2
Total	28,822	100.0	1,250.0	100.0

1/ Excluding Alaska.

Source: 1978 ESCS Landownership Survey.

Table 6--Type of landowner: Regional distribution of acres owned, all land, by owner type

Region	Owner type							Misc.	Total
	Sole proprietor	Husband-wife	Family partnership	Nonfamily partnership	Family corporation	Nonfamily corporation			
	<u>Percent of acres</u>								
Northeast	28.9	42.0	7.2	2.5	2.2	14.1	3.1	100.0	
Lake	34.7	47.6	6.9	1.3	1.6	6.6	1.3	100.0	
Corn Belt	35.5	46.5	8.5	1.0	2.5	2.4	3.6	100.0	
Northern									
Plains	39.6	38.9	11.6	.9	4.7	1.3	3.0	100.0	
Appalachian	36.8	35.6	9.5	2.1	2.0	10.2	3.8	100.0	
Southeast	41.7	17.1	10.1	1.9	3.7	20.3	5.2	100.0	
Delta	39.8	23.0	10.7	2.0	4.9	15.4	4.2	100.0	
Southern									
Plains	40.4	29.1	14.3	1.9	2.8	4.2	7.3	100.0	
Mountain	26.5	28.7	12.9	3.5	13.9	10.9	3.6	100.0	
Pacific	21.8	27.0	11.0	5.1	6.7	23.5	4.9	100.0	
United States <u>1/</u>	34.6	33.6	10.8	2.2	5.1	9.5	4.2	100.0	

1/ Excluding Alaska.

Source: 1978 ESCS Landownership Survey.

Table 7--Type of landowner: Distribution of ownership units and acres owned, farm and ranch land, by owner type, United States 1/

Owner type	Ownership units		Acres owned	
	Thous.	Pct.	Million acres	Pct.
Sole proprietor	2,740	44.0	319.0	36.6
Husband-Wife	2,807	45.1	324.9	37.3
Family partnership	365	5.9	105.9	12.2
Nonfamily partnership	78	1.2	16.3	1.9
Family corporation	83	1.3	53.5	6.1
Nonfamily corporation	37	.6	21.2	2.4
Miscellaneous	116	1.9	30.1	3.5
Total	6,226	100.0	870.9	100.0

1/ Excluding Alaska.

Source: 1978 Landownership Survey.

Table 8--Type of landowner: Regional distribution of acres owned, farm and ranch land, by owner type

Region	Owner type							Total
	Sole proprietor	Husband-Wife	Family-partnership	Nonfamily-partnership	Family-corporation	Nonfamily-corporation	Misc.	
	<u>Percent of acres</u>							
Northeast	32.4	51.0	9.2	2.2	1.9	1.7	1.6	100.0
Lake	36.7	51.4	7.1	.6	1.8	1.2	1.2	100.0
Corn Belt	35.2	47.3	9.1	1.1	2.8	1.0	3.5	100.0
Northern Plains	39.5	38.8	11.6	.9	5.2	.9	3.1	100.0
Appalachian	40.9	40.0	11.7	1.9	1.8	.9	2.8	100.0
Southeast	52.1	22.7	12.0	2.0	3.1	4.1	4.0	100.0
Delta	44.5	30.1	13.4	1.5	4.7	2.2	3.6	100.0
Southern Plains	41.3	31.1	15.2	1.8	2.9	1.1	6.6	100.0
Mountain	26.8	31.8	13.9	2.9	16.7	5.6	2.3	100.0
Pacific	25.8	35.0	15.1	4.9	10.4	5.2	3.6	100.0
United States <u>1/</u>	36.6	37.3	12.2	1.9	6.1	2.4	3.5	100.0

1/ Excluding Alaska.

Source: 1978 Landownership Survey.

Table 9--Size of holdings: Distribution of ownership units and acres owned, all land, by size of holding, United States 1/

Size of holdings	Ownership units			Acres owned		
	Thous.	Pct.	Accum. pct.	Million acres	Pct.	Accum. pct.
Less than 10	22,352	77.55	77.55	40.9	3.3	3.3
10-49	2,905	10.08	87.63	69.3	5.5	8.8
50-69	520	1.80	89.43	30.1	2.4	11.2
70-99	726	2.52	91.95	59.4	4.7	15.9
100-139	556	1.93	93.88	64.0	5.1	21.0
140-179	494	1.71	95.59	78.1	6.2	27.2
180-259	428	1.49	97.08	91.9	7.4	34.6
260-499	484	1.68	98.76	170.9	13.7	48.3
500-999	220	.76	99.52	150.8	12.1	60.4
1,000-1,999	84	.29	99.81	113.5	9.1	69.5
2,000-2,999	22	.08	99.89	52.2	4.2	73.7
3,000-4,999	16	.06	99.95	58.7	4.7	78.4
5,000-9,999	9	.03	99.98	60.6	4.8	83.2
10,000 and over	6	.02	100.00	209.6	16.8	100.0
Total	28,822	100.00	--	1,250.0	100.0	--

-- = Not applicable.

1/ Excluding Alaska.

Source: 1978 ESCS Landownership Survey.

Table 10--Size of holdings: Regional concentration of landownership, all land

Region	Proportion of acreage held by:	
	Largest 5 percent of owners	Largest 1 percent of owners
	Percent	
Northeast	73	42
Lake	53	23
Corn Belt	52	21
Northern Plains	45	20
Appalachian	64	34
Southeast	79	53
Delta	71	45
Southern Plains	70	45
Mountain	91	65
Pacific	88	71
United States <u>1/</u>	75	48

1/ Excluding Alaska.

Source: 1978 ESCS Landownership Survey.

Table 11--Size of holdings: Distribution of ownership units and acres owned, farm and ranch land, by size of holding, United States 1/

Size of holdings	Ownership units			Acres owned		
	Acres	Thous.	Pct.	Accum. pct.	Million acres	Pct.
Less than 50	3,577	57.45	57.45	53.9	6.2	6.2
50-99	899	14.44	71.89	69.3	8.0	14.2
100-199	870	13.97	85.86	130.8	15.0	29.2
200-299	334	5.37	91.23	84.6	9.7	38.9
300-399	185	2.97	94.20	66.7	7.7	46.6
400-499	102	1.64	95.84	49.0	5.6	52.2
500-999	162	2.60	98.44	120.6	13.8	66.0
1,000-1,499	42	.68	99.12	55.8	6.4	72.6
1,500-1,999	18	.29	99.41	33.3	3.8	76.2
2,000-2,499	10	.16	99.57	25.2	2.9	79.1
2,500-2,999	6	.10	99.67	17.8	2.0	81.1
3,000-3,999	7	.11	99.78	25.3	2.9	84.0
4,000-4,999	4	.06	99.84	19.1	2.2	86.2
5,000-9,999	6	.10	99.94	47.6	5.5	91.7
10,000 and over	4	.06	100.0	71.9	8.3	100.0
Total	6,226	100.0	--	870.9	100.0	--

1/ Excluding Alaska.

Source: 1978 ESCS Landownership Survey.

Table 12--Size of holdings: Regional concentration of landownership, farm and ranch land

Region	Proportion of acreage held by:	
	Largest 5 percent of owners	Largest 1 percent of owners
	Percent	
Northeast	33	14
Lake	25	8
Corn Belt	27	9
Northern Plains	32	15
Appalachian	38	16
Southeast	46	23
Delta	45	21
Southern Plains	50	29
Mountain	66	34
Pacific	70	41
United States <u>1/</u>	51	29

1/ Excluding Alaska.

Source: 1978 ESCS Landownership Survey.

Table 13--Race: Distribution of owners and acres owned, all land, by race, United States 1/

Race	Ownership units		Acres owned	
	Thous.	Pct.	Million acres	Pct.
White, non-Hispanic	23,429	91.6	970.3	97.6
Black, non-Hispanic	1,059	4.1	9.9	1.0
Hispanic	786	3.1	7.3	.7
Asian or Pacific Islander	152	.6	1.2	.1
American Indian	103	.4	4.4	.5
Other	61	.2	1.1	.1
Subtotal	25,590	100.0	994.2	100.0
Corporations and large partnerships	1,327	--	203.3	--
No response	1,905	--	52.5	--
Total	28,822	--	1,250.0	--

-- = Not applicable.

1/ Excluding Alaska.

Source: 1978 ESCS Landownership Survey.

Table 14--Race: Regional distribution of acres owned, all land, by race

Region	Race						Total
	White, non-Hispanic	Black, non-Hispanic	Hispanic	Asian <u>1/</u>	American Indian	Other	
<u>Percent of acres</u>							
Northeast	99.3	0.4	0.2	<u>2/</u>	0.1	<u>2/</u>	100.0
Lake	99.5	.2	.1	<u>2/</u>	.1	0. <u>1</u>	100.0
Corn Belt	99.7	.1	<u>2/</u>	<u>2/</u>	.1	.1	100.0
No. Plains	99.5	<u>2/</u>	<u>2/</u>	<u>2/</u>	.5	<u>2/</u>	100.0
Appalachian	97.2	2. <u>5</u>	.2	<u>2/</u>	.1	<u>2/</u>	100.0
Southeast	94.9	4.4	.4	<u>2/</u>	.1	.2	100.0
Delta	94.4	5.4	<u>2/</u>	<u>2/</u>	.2	<u>2/</u>	100.0
So. Plains	96.5	.8	1. <u>6</u>	.1	1.0	<u>2/</u>	100.0
Mountain	96.5	<u>2/</u>	2.3	.1	.9	.2	100.0
Pacific	96.5	.1	1.5	1.1	.6	.2	100.0
United States <u>3/</u>	97.6	1.0	.7	.1	.5	.1	100.0

1/ Including Pacific Islanders. 2/ Less than .05 percent. 3/ Excluding Alaska.

Source: 1978 ESCS Landownership Survey.

Table 15--Age: Distribution of owners and acres owned, all land, by age of owners, United States 1/

Age	Ownership units		Acres owned	
	Thous.	Pct.	Million acres	Pct.
Under 35	3,903	15.6	59.1	6.1
35-49	6,879	27.5	235.1	24.2
50-64	8,521	34.1	378.8	38.9
65 and over	5,717	22.8	299.8	30.8
Subtotal	25,020	100.0	972.8	100.0
Corporations and large partnerships	1,327	--	203.3	--
No response	2,535	--	73.9	--
Total	28,882	--	1,250.0	--

-- = Not applicable.

1/ Excluding Alaska.

Source: 1978 ESCS Landownership Survey.

Table 16--Age: Regional distribution of acres owned, all land, by age of owners 1/

Region	Age (years)				Total
	Under 35	35-49	50-64	65 and over	
	<u>Percent</u>				
Northeast	8.2	27.5	39.3	25.0	100.0
Lake	9.1	30.2	36.4	24.3	100.0
Corn Belt	6.4	24.7	37.2	31.7	100.0
Northern Plains	6.2	23.2	39.2	31.4	100.0
Appalachian	6.0	24.1	37.7	32.2	100.0
Southeast	4.2	21.5	41.2	33.1	100.0
Delta	5.7	22.8	35.3	36.2	100.0
Southern Plains	4.8	19.6	38.9	36.7	100.0
Mountain	5.8	26.5	41.8	25.9	100.0
Pacific	5.1	23.2	40.4	31.3	100.0
United States <u>2/</u>	6.1	24.2	38.9	30.8	100.0

1/ Not including corporations and large partnerships. 2/ Excluding Alaska.

Source: 1978 ESCS Landownership Survey.

Table 17--Sex: Distribution of owners, and acres owned, all land,
by sex of landowners, United States 1/

Sex	Ownership units		Acres owned	
	Thous.	Pct.	Million acres	Pct.
Male	21,391	82.9	841.8	84.5
Female	4,400	17.1	154.5	15.5
Subtotal	25,791	100.0	996.3	100.0
Corporations and large partnerships	1,327	--	203.3	--
No response	1,704	--	50.4	--
Total	28,822	--	1,250.0	--

-- = Not applicable.

1/ Excluding Alaska.

Source: 1978 ESCS Landownership Survey.

Table 18--Sex: Regional distribution of acres owned, all land,
by sex of owners 1/

Region	Sex		
	Male	Female	Total
	<u>Percent of acres</u>		
Northeast	87.4	12.6	100.0
Lake	90.1	9.9	100.0
Corn Belt	82.9	17.1	100.0
Northern Plains	83.0	17.0	100.0
Appalachian	82.1	17.9	100.0
Southeast	80.3	19.7	100.0
Delta	80.0	20.0	100.0
Southern Plains	80.8	19.2	100.0
Mountain	90.9	9.1	100.0
Pacific	86.1	13.9	100.0
United States <u>2/</u>	84.5	15.5	100.0

1/ Not including corporations and large partnerships. 2/ Excluding Alaska.

Source: 1978 ESCS Landownership Survey.

Table 19--Method of acquisition: Distribution of acres owned, all land,
by method, United States 1/

Method	Acres owned	
	<u>Million acres</u>	<u>Pct.</u>
Purchased from nonrelative	690.5	59.9
Inherited	213.0	18.5
Purchased from relative	191.4	16.6
Gift	31.1	2.7
Other	26.3	2.3
Subtotal	1,152.3	100.0
No response	97.7	--
Total	1,250.0	--

-- = Not applicable.

1/ Excluding Alaska.

Source: 1978 ESCS Landownership Survey.

Table 20--Method of acquisition: Regional distribution of acres owned, all land,
by method

Region	Method of acquisition						Total
	<u>Purchased from:</u> <u>nonrelative</u>	<u>Inherited</u>	<u>Purchased from:</u> <u>relative</u>	<u>Gift</u>	<u>Other</u>		
	<u>Percent of acres</u>						
Northeast	67.7	12.4	15.9	2.1	1.9	100.0	
Lake	62.9	10.1	24.9	1.2	.9	100.0	
Corn Belt	59.9	18.7	18.7	1.4	1.3	100.0	
No. Plains	51.3	22.1	21.1	3.6	1.9	100.0	
Appalachian	56.6	20.7	19.0	1.9	1.8	100.0	
Southeast	63.1	20.4	11.9	2.3	2.3	100.0	
Delta	60.3	20.1	16.3	2.1	1.2	100.0	
So. Plains	52.8	29.2	11.9	3.7	2.4	100.0	
Mountain	64.8	12.6	16.0	2.5	4.1	100.0	
Pacific	69.1	12.0	10.8	4.7	3.4	100.0	
United States <u>1/</u>	59.9	18.5	16.6	2.7	2.3	100.0	

1/ Excluding Alaska.

Source: 1978 ESCS Landownership Survey.

Table 21--Period of land acquisition: Distribution of acres owned, all land, by period, United States 1/

Period	Acres owned	
	<u>Million acres</u>	<u>Pct.</u>
1970-78	328.8	28.5
1960-69	295.9	25.7
1950-59	204.2	17.7
1940-49	152.7	13.2
Before 1940	171.4	14.9
Subtotal	1,153.0	100.0
No response	97.0	--
Total	1,250.0	--

-- = Not applicable.

1/ Excluding Alaska.

Source: 1978 ESCS Landownership Survey.

Table 22--Period of land acquisition: Regional distribution of acres owned, all land, by period

Region	Period					
	1970-78	1960-69	1950-59	1940-49	Before 1940	Total
	<u>Percent of acres</u>					
Northeast	26.0	28.5	19.5	10.6	15.4	100.0
Lake	31.1	27.7	17.4	12.2	11.6	100.0
Corn Belt	31.0	28.0	18.3	12.2	10.5	100.0
No. Plains	28.9	26.4	18.1	16.6	10.0	100.0
Appalachian	29.7	24.0	18.0	13.1	15.2	100.0
Southeast	24.9	23.3	21.0	14.6	16.2	100.0
Delta	24.4	22.5	19.7	13.2	20.2	100.0
So. Plains	29.2	22.9	15.1	13.7	19.1	100.0
Mountain	29.7	27.0	16.8	12.6	13.9	100.0
Pacific	28.5	24.4	16.1	11.6	19.4	100.0
United States <u>1/</u>	28.5	25.7	17.7	13.2	14.9	100.0

1/ Excluding Alaska.

Source: 1978 ESCS Landownership Survey.

Table 23--Residence of landowners: Distribution of owners and acres owned, all land, by place, United States 1/

Place of residence <u>2/</u>	Ownership units		Acres owned	
	Thous.	Pct.	Million acres	Pct.
Same county	24,791	92.3	823.2	80.0
Other county, same State	1,491	5.6	148.6	14.5
Other State	539	2.0	56.9	5.5
Outside United States	26	.1	.4	<u>3/</u>
Subtotal	26,847	100.0	1,029.1	100.0
Corporations and large partnerships	1,327	--	203.3	--
No response	648	--	17.6	--
Total	28,822	--	1,250.0	--

-- = Not applicable.

1/ Excluding Alaska. 2/ Relative to land reported. 3/ Less than .05 percent.

Source: 1978 ESCS Landownership Survey.

Table 24--Residence of landowners: Regional distribution of acres owned, all land, by place

Region	Place of residence <u>1/</u>			Total
	Same county	Other county, same State	Out-of-State <u>2/</u>	
<u>Percent of acres</u>				
Northeast	86.2	8.1	5.7	100.0
Lake	87.6	9.5	2.9	100.0
Corn Belt	84.5	11.6	3.9	100.0
Northern Plains	78.3	14.3	7.4	100.0
Appalachian	86.1	10.3	3.6	100.0
Southeast	82.4	13.6	4.0	100.0
Delta	82.6	11.4	6.0	100.0
Southern Plains	70.5	25.3	4.2	100.0
Mountain	77.0	13.0	10.0	100.0
Pacific	74.4	21.2	4.4	100.0
United States <u>3/</u>	80.0	14.5	5.5	100.0

1/ Relative to land reported. 2/ Including foreign residence. 3/ Excluding Alaska.

Source: 1978 ESCS Landownership Survey.

Table 25--Educational level of landowners: Distribution of owners and acres owned, all land, by years of schooling, United States 1/

Years of schooling <u>2/</u>	Ownership units		Acres owned	
	Thous.	Pct.	Million acres	Pct.
8 or fewer	4,753	19.6	190.1	20.3
9-11	3,078	12.7	114.4	12.2
12	7,809	32.2	297.3	31.7
13-15	4,108	17.0	152.2	16.2
16 or more	4,479	18.5	184.5	19.6
Subtotal	24,227	100.0	938.5	100.0
Corporations and large partnerships	1,327	--	203.3	--
No response	3,268	--	108.2	--
Total	28,822	--	1,250.0	--

-- = Not applicable.

1/ Excluding Alaska. 2/ Sole owner or principal partner.

Source: 1978 ESCS Landownership Survey.

Table 26--Educational level of landowners: Regional distribution of acres owned, all land, by years of schooling

Region	Years of schooling						Total
	8 or fewer	9-11	12	13-15	16 or more		
	<u>Percent of acres</u>						
Northeast	16.6	14.6	33.3	14.9	20.6	100.0	
Lake	28.9	11.3	36.7	12.1	11.0	100.0	
Corn Belt	22.0	10.7	38.9	13.5	14.9	100.0	
Northern Plains	25.9	10.6	36.6	14.5	12.4	100.0	
Appalachian	30.6	14.6	26.4	11.7	16.7	100.0	
Southeast	18.4	18.7	24.0	16.0	22.9	100.0	
Delta	22.5	12.0	26.9	16.7	21.9	100.0	
Southern Plains	14.3	14.0	23.8	20.2	27.7	100.0	
Mountain	13.9	9.6	33.1	19.8	23.6	100.0	
Pacific	10.1	9.7	31.0	20.8	28.4	100.0	
United States <u>1/</u>	20.3	12.2	31.7	16.2	19.6	100.0	

1/ Excluding Alaska.

Source: 1978 ESCS Landownership Survey.

FARM PRODUCTION REGIONS

Northeast

Connecticut
 Delaware
 Maine
 Maryland
 Massachusetts
 New Hampshire
 New Jersey
 New York
 Pennsylvania
 Rhode Island
 Vermont

Lake

Michigan
 Minnesota
 Wisconsin

Corn Belt

Illinois
 Indiana
 Iowa
 Missouri
 Ohio

Northern Plains

Kansas
 Nebraska
 North Dakota
 South Dakota

Appalachian

Kentucky
 North Carolina
 Tennessee
 Virginia
 West Virginia

Southeast

Alabama
 Florida
 Georgia
 South Carolina

Delta

Arkansas
 Louisiana
 Mississippi

Southern Plains

Oklahoma
 Texas

Mountain

Arizona
 Colorado
 Idaho
 Montana
 Nevada
 New Mexico
 Utah
 Wyoming

Pacific

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