VOLUME II CHAPTER 7

Farm Facilities,
Farm Equipment,
Farm Expenditures,
Farm Labor, and Cash Rent

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Chapter 7. Farm Facilities and Equipment, Farm Expenditures, Farm Labor, and Cash Rent

**Introduction**—This chapter presents statistics collected in the 1964 Census of Agriculture on farm facilities and equipment, specified farm expenditures, farm labor, and cash rent paid by tenant-farm operators renting land on a cash basis. For comparative purposes, there are data from previous censuses.

Data for 1964, 1959, 1954, and 1950 are estimates based on reports from a sample of approximately 20 percent of the farms. When data are estimates based on a sample of farms, a headnote is provided for the table.

**Part 1—Farm Facilities and Equipment**

**Introduction**—The capacity of farm workers to produce has been directly related to the development and use of new and improved items of farm equipment and facilities. The productive capacity of the farm worker apparently changed very little from 1820 to 1850, during which time he produced farm products, on the average, for fewer than 5 persons. New inventions and resultant new equipment began to appear on the farm after 1850 and the farm worker was able to produce farm products for an increasing number of persons. By the turn of the twentieth century, he was producing for almost 7 persons. More than 8 persons were being provided food and other farm products by a farm worker in 1920; by 1930, the number had increased to almost 10. The productive capacity of the farm worker increased moderately to 1940 when it was almost 11 persons. With a rapid increase occurring during and immediately following World War II, over 15 persons were supplied by a farm worker in 1950. Further phenomenal increases occurred between 1950 and 1964. In 1954 a farm worker produced enough for 18 persons and in 1964, one person was producing for 33 persons.

More than half of the increase in the productivity of farm workers over the 145-year period came during the last decade. In connection with this recognition of the improved technology and increased specialization which have enabled farmers to provide increasing quantities of farm products with a decreasing number of farm workers, it should be noted that the decrease in the number of workers on the farm has been accompanied by an increase in the off-the-farm employment in the farm equipment and supplies industry. More than 20 million employed workers are involved in some way with agriculture on and off the farm including the 6 million workers on farms as well as the millions who develop, manufacture, and sell farm supplies, and provide services in connection therewith, and also the millions who serve to assemble, transport, process, and distribute farm products.

For a description of the procedures used in the enumeration and in the processing of statistics, and of the sampling procedure, and of data showing reliability of estimates based on the sample, see the introduction to this volume.

**Presentation of statistics**—The text and the summary tables are presented in this chapter in four parts: Part 1 deals with farm facilities and equipment; part 2, specified farm expenditures; part 3, farm labor; and part 4, cash rent.

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