changes in farm partnerships 1974 to 1976

the facsimile below shows the lead inquiry for the survey of farm or ranch partnership operations. of the 143,400 partnership operations selected for the survey, slightly less than 61,700 responded “no” to this inquiry. that is, 43 percent of the farm partnerships operating in 1974 were no longer operating as partnerships in 1976.

of farm partnerships that were no longer operating in 1976, approximately 11,300 of these dissolved during 1975. the facsimile below shows the inquiry for disposition of 1974 operations. unfortunately, the report form did not ask for additional information for operations that were not operating as farm partnerships in 1975. pilot studies revealed that many of the operations that were reported as partnerships in the 1974 census were never formal partnerships. some respondents interpreted such operations as growing broilers under contract or producing commodities under a landlord-tenant arrangement as partnerships. others were unsure how to report family-operated farms. one could hypothesize that approximately 11,000 formal partnerships dissolved during 1974 and that some 39,000 of the operations reported as partnerships during the 1974 census of agriculture never were formal partnerships. table 2 shows expanded results by year for all selected cases.

table 2 also indicates that most of the reporting differences probably occurred in the north central and south regions. each of the four regions showed at least a 2-to-1 ratio of out-of-scope cases between 1975 and 1974. the north central region accounted for 52 percent of all cases in the survey; however, it accounted for over 56 percent of the out-of-scope cases. of the 34,630 selected cases no longer operating in 1976 in the north central region, 84 percent did not operate as partnerships in 1975 either. in the south approximately 44 percent of the selected cases were no longer operating as partnerships during 1976. of the 19,300 cases that dissolved by 1976 in the south, 16,000 were not partnerships during 1975 either. in comparison of the approximately 7,000 cases selected in the northeast, over 77 percent were still operating as partnerships in 1976. how-