A STUDY OF NEGRO OPERATED FARMS IN OKLAHOMA

A STUDY OF NEGRO OPERATED FARMS IN OKLAHOMA

By

EARL T. ETTER

Bachelor of Arts

Panhandle Agricultural and Mechanical College

Goodwell, Oklahoma

1929

Submitted to the Department of Agricultural Economics

Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical College

In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements

for the Degree of

MASTER OF SCIENCE

1940

APPROVED BY:

Peter Nelson
In Charge of Thesis

Peter Nelson
Head, Department of Agricultural Economics

D. G. McIntosh
Dean of Graduate School

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Acknowledgement is hereby made of the invaluable advice and assistance received of Dr. Peter Nelson, Head of the Agricultural Economics Department of the Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical College, not only in the writing of this thesis but in all phases of the writer's graduate work.

Thanks also are due Professors Randall T. Klemme and Adlowe Larson of the Department of Agricultural Economics, and Miss Marjorie Hill, Assistant in the Department of Agricultural Economics, for their helpful suggestions following a reading of the manuscript.

The cooperation of staff members of the Oklahoma Agricultural Experiment Station and of Mr. E. A. Tucker, Cooperative Agent of the Department of Agricultural Economics and the Soil Conservation Service, in making available farm management data and other materials pertaining to Negro operated farms in Okfuskee and Muskogee counties is appreciated. Without the assistance rendered by Miss Ada B. Eden, Statistical Assistant, in supervising the tabulation and calculation of these basic data it would have been impossible to complete the study within the limited time available.

The services rendered by Mr. Albert Conley and Miss Tyana Marshall in connection with the mechanics of the study are gratefully acknowledged.

CONTENTS

TABLES

TABLES

TABLES

FIGURES

APPENDIX

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

From the time the first group of twenty Negro slaves were landed on the shores of colonial Virginia in 1619 to the present day the Negro has constituted an important element in the agricultural economy of the Nation. The Negro is inseparably linked to the economic development of agriculture in the southern section of the United States.

At the close of the Civil War the economic status of the Negro was changed from that of a farm laborer working under rigid restrictions to that of a citizen having the moral and legal right to exercise choice as to his endeavors. This abrupt change increased the degree of flexibility and mobility of a vast supply of farm labor and, at the same time, injected into the agricultural economy of the South potential competition to management of the farming industry. The freedom bestowed upon the Negro brought with it added responsibilities for self-support and the problem of carving a new niche for himself in a highly competitive society. The degree to which the Negro as an entrepreneur has supported himself and protected the resources it has fallen his lot to use is important not only to him but to society as a whole.

In 1930 more than 98 percent of the 882,850 Negro farm operators in the United States were situated in the South. Of this number 22,937 were farming in Oklahoma. Although this group of farm operators represents 11 percent of the State's total no study has been made dealing exclusively with the economics of Negro farming in Oklahoma. 1/

1/ Preliminary to this thesis, a special study was made of 51 Negro operated farms in the Boley area of Okfuskee County. A report of the preliminary study was published in an article entitled "A Study of Negro Farming in the Boley Area of Oklahoma," by Peter Nelson and Earl T. Etter, Current Farm Economics, Vol. 12, Nos. 5 and 6, October-December, 1939, Oklahoma Agricultural Experiment Station, Stillwater.

It is appropriate to inquire whether or not the Negro farmer constitutes a special problem in the State. Is the Negro farm operator associated with any particular type of farming? To what extent does the Negro depend upon the cotton patch for a livelihood? What, if any, are the special features of the Negro farm organization and what level of income is being earned by Negro farmers in Oklahoma? It is the purpose of this thesis to suggest answers to these and related questions.

The thesis is concerned exclusively with the Negro constituent in the operation of farms in Oklahoma and attempts no direct comparisons with other classes of operators.

Preliminary to the discussion of typical Negro operated farms, an explanation will be made of the relation of the Negro to the development of cotton production in the South and of the historical circumstances under which the Negro became established as an agriculturalist in the State of Oklahoma.

The Negro and Cotton Production

The circumstances under which the Negro was brought to America rendered survival and expansion of the slavery system dependent upon the development of agricultural enterprises adapted to the use of large numbers of slave laborers. From the date of the introduction of slavery, 1619, to the close of the eighteenth century slaves were used chiefly on tobacco, rice, and indigo plantations, but these industries were not of sufficient magnitude to provide the stimulus to the use of slave labor necessary to offset growing objections to the institution on moral grounds. Slavery as an institution was declining rapidly at the close of the eighteenth century.

The invention of the cotton gin in 1793 removed the chief obstruction to the expansion of cotton production and thereby gave rise to an

industry in connection with which slaves could economically be employed. From the close of the eighteenth century to the beginning of the Civil War the one outstanding phenomenon in the economic development of the South was the side-by-side expansion of slavery and the production of cotton. Whether or not slavery was responsible for the one crop system in the South, or vice versa, has been the subject of many discussions. As a matter of fact, it appears that neither cotton nor slavery can be said to be the causal influence. The system of cotton production which developed was dependent upon the Negro for labor and the result was a mutually dependent relationship between the cotton plantation and the Negro slave. The circularity of this relationship required the plantation operator to "produce more cotton to buy more slaves to produce more cotton to buy more slaves."

Side by side slavery and cotton production pushed westward from the Carolinas, through Georgia and Alabama, to the alluvial lands along the Mississippi Delta and the fertile bottom lands along the Red River. By 1860 cotton production was firmly established as far west as the great central plains region of Texas.[2/]

The Negro in the Indian Territory

The Indian as a Slave Owner.--The Negro came to Oklahoma under circumstances peculiar to this State alone. The first Negroes to enter the territory now included in Oklahoma were brought here by the Five Civilized Tribes during the first quarter of the nineteenth century.

The Five Civilized Tribes came from slave states where they had lived as semi-civilized people engaged largely in agricultural pursuits. The Creeks came from Georgia and Alabama, the Cherokees from Tennessee and Georgia, the Seminoles from Florida, and the Choctaws and Chickasaws from Alabama and Mississippi.

2/ Bogart, Ernest L., Economic History of the United States, pp. 137-138.

The following table shows the number of slaves owned by the principal slave owning tribes at or about the time of their removal to the Indian Territory.

Table 1. Numbers of Negro Slaves Owned by Principal Slave Owning Indian Tribes and Dates of Enumeration

Name of Tribe	Date of Enumeration	Number Negro Slaves
Choctaws	1831	512 1/
Eastern Creeks	1832	457 2/
Western Creeks	1833	498 3/
Eastern Cherokees	1835	1,592
Chickasaws	1837-38	1,156 4/

1/ Census enumeration before going to Territory.
2/ Census of Creeks east of Mississippi River.
3/ Creeks living in Territory.
4/ From Emigration Rolls.

SOURCE: Thoburn, Joseph and Wright, Muriel, Oklahoma, A History of the State and Its People, Vol. I, p. 297.

The fact that the slave owning Indian tribes were removed to the Indian Territory at such an early date brought the Negro to Oklahoma earlier than he would have arrived as a consequence of the general westward movement of the population. As early as 1839, at the conclusion of the emigration of the Cherokee and Chickasaw tribes, there were between 4,500 and 5,000 slaves in the Indian Territory. By 1847 the number of slaves in the Choctaw Nation had increased to about 2,000.[3/]

There are indications that slavery had become well established in the Indian Territory by the middle of the nineteenth century. The various tribes had by that time become engaged in agricultural pursuits

3/ Thoburn, Joseph and Wright Muriel, Oklahoma, A History of the State and Its People, Vol. I. p. 297.

on a fairly stable basis. Cotton was introduced early and soon became established as the principal cash crop.[4/] The early development of cotton production in the Indian Territory can be attributed chiefly to the availability of slave labor.

In addition to the culture of cotton the tribes engaged in the production of corn, oats, vegetables, and livestock. The Creeks were especially successful in developing a diversified type of agriculture to the point where appreciable quantities of corn and livestock were produced for market.[5/]

The Negro slave occupied a unique position with respect to his Indian owner and master. Having assimilated some of the learning of his former white master, the Negro was depended upon to teach to the Indian many ways of the Whites. It is noteworthy, also, that in certain of the tribes there was little aversion to intermarriage with the Negro. In the Creek, Seminole, and Cherokee Tribes, in particular, there existed a close social relationship between the two groups. The close association of the Negro slave with his Indian master proved of significance later when the lands owned by the Five Civilized Tribes were allotted individual members.

Status of The Freedmen and Allotments of Indian Lands.--It was inevitable that the inhabitants of the Indian Territory should become involved in the Civil War; it was natural that their sympathies were

---

4/ "There were several cotton gins in the Choctaw Nation as early as 1837, and a number of steamboats were loaded with cotton bales each year at landings a few miles above the mouth of the Kiamichi on the Red River." Ibid. p. 297.

5/ Marshall, Don A., Type-of-Farming Development in McIntosh, Muskogee and Wagoner Counties, Oklahoma, Unpublished Thesis, pp. 19-20.

with the South. The feeling of loyalty to the Southern cause, was, however, by no means unanimous. Soon after the outbreak of actual hostilities considerable numbers of the three northernmost tribes, the Cherokees, Creeks, and Seminoles, had aligned themselves with the Union. The Choctaws and Chickasaws remained almost solidly on the side of the Confederacy throughout the war.

The Indians suffered severe losses during the war, many of which were inflicted by opposing elements of their own race. This was especially true with regard to the three northern tribes. It is sufficient to say here that all of the tribes were actively engaged in hostilities and that several campaigns were waged in the Territory by major forces, in addition to innumerable minor engagements and skirmishes.

When the war closed in 1865, practically all of the property of the Indians had been destroyed or confiscated. Conditions in general were deplorable. Production of crops had virtually ceased, and most of the livestock had been killed or driven off. Practically all orderly activities were disrupted by the war. Many of the former slave owners returned from the war to find their plantation homes in ruins and their properties confiscated by the former slaves. Bitter hatred existed between the factions into which the Cherokees, Creeks, and Seminoles had divided themselves. Tribes and factions of tribes who had joined the Confederacy had forfeited their former holdings by renouncing allegiance to the Union, and were, therefore, uncertain as to their status.

This, briefly, was the situation confronting representatives of the Five Civilized Tribes and officials of the Federal Government who undertook to negotiate the terms of peace at the Council held at Ft. Smith, Arkansas on September 8, 1865. Terms of peace could not be

agreed upon at the Ft. Smith Council, and arrangements were made to meet the following spring in Washington, D. C.

Proceedings of the Council at Washington in the spring of 1866 were fraught with outbursts of the dissensions still existing between factions of the tribes. After lengthy debate, treaties finally were signed with representatives of each of the Five Civilized Tribes setting forth the terms under which peace was to be restored and rights to lands redefined. The first of the treaties, which were referred to generally as the "Treaties of 1866," was signed by the Seminoles on March 21, 1866. The last of the five treaties was signed by the Cherokees on July 19, 1866.[6/]

While the Treaties of 1866 differed as to details, their provisions substantially were as follows:

1. Slavery was entirely abolished.
2. The freedmen were given tribal rights, varying from full and unqualified tribal membership to membership under restrictions as to the right to hold office in the tribal government, and the like.
3. Certain of the original Indian lands were ceded to the Government in return for which the tribes were to receive annuities.

The provisions of the Treaties of 1866 affecting the freedmen laid the foundation for the future of the Negro as an agriculturist in the State of Oklahoma. The treaty with the Seminoles, for example, provided that slavery was to be entirely abolished, and that the freed slaves were to be placed upon an equal footing with the remainder of the people. This probably describes the most liberal condition under which the freed Negro slaves were incorporated into the membership of the Indian tribes.

6/ Thoburn and Wright, Op. Cit. pp. 390-397

Former slaves of the Choctaws, Chickasaws, and Cherokees were granted tribal rights under certain definite restrictions which meant lack of complete incorporation into tribal membership.

The importance of the status of the freedmen with respect to membership in an Indian tribe and citizenship under the tribal government was forcibly brought to light in the last decade of the nineteenth century when the Dawes Commission, appointed by President Cleveland in 1892, set to work to persuade the citizens of the Five Civilized Tribes to abandon their tribal government and take individual allotments of land. The movement to make individual allotments of Indian lands gained support and finally in 1898 work was begun on the preparation of final rolls of members of the Indian tribes and freedmen in order to determine who might be eligible to receive allotments. Eligibility to share in the land allotments, of course, depended upon the status of an individual as to citizenship in one of the Five Civilized Tribes.

Upon completion of the tribal rolls an aggregate total of 15,794,205 acres of land were allotted to the enrolled members and freedmen of the Five Civilized Tribes.[7/] Freedmen shared in the allotments upon a different basis than Indian citizens of the tribes. The freedman was entitled to only 40 acres of land, whereas the Indian citizen was entitled to share pro-rata in the total land available for allotment in accordance with the provisions for allotment applicable to his respective nation.[8/] Allotments were made to citizens of the Seminole

---

7/ Dawson, John E., and Moose, E. R., The Five Civilized Tribes, Department of the Interior, Office of Indian Affairs, 1931, Unpublished Paper.

8/ Wright, Muriel H., The Story of Oklahoma, p. 272.

Tribe in average tracts of 120 acres; Cherokees 110 acres; Choctaws and Chickasaws 320 acres; and the Creeks 160 acres.[9]

According to Muriel H. Wright, the breaking up of the five tribal governments and the allotment of land to each Indian citizen are the most important steps in the early history of the State of Oklahoma. Certainly the allotment of 40 acres of farm land to the former slave or his descendant was unique in the history of the Negro as an agriculturist.

The allotment of land to Negroes in 40 acre tracts raises the question as to the influence this factor may have had upon the subsequent development of type of farming in areas where large numbers of such allotments were made. The rapidity with which tenancy developed in the area may have been a result, in part at least, of the early land policy of establishing large numbers of small units under separate ownership. Over-subdivision of farms in central and southeastern Oklahoma has been referred to as a fundamental problem confronting land owners in this section of the State. Is it not probable that the farms in eastern Oklahoma originally were divided into tracts too small to yield satisfactory incomes, and that the pressure of numbers of operators and other social and economic factors have prevented an adequate increase in size of the farm?[10]

9/ Dawson and Moose, Op. Cit. p. 7., Exact words of the paper follow: "To the Seminoles the allotment was made on the basis of an average allotment of 120 acres of the appraised value of $308.76; to the Cherokees on the basis of an average allotment of 110 acres at the appraised value of $310.60; to the Choctaws and Chickasaws on a basis of an average allotment of 320 acres at the appraised value of $1,041.28; and to the Creeks on the basis of an average allotment of 160 acres at the appraised value of $860. Payments out of tribal funds were made to equalize the allotments."

10/ For a discussion of the subject of small farms in eastern Oklahoma see "Some Facts About Small Farms in Oklahoma," by Peter Nelson, Current Farm Economics, Vol. 12, No. 4, August, 1939, Oklahoma Agricultural Experiment Station, Stillwater.

Areas of Concentration of Negro Farm Operators

The 1890 census reported 21,609 Negroes in the entire area now comprising the State of Oklahoma. Of this number, 18,636 were located in the Indian Territory. By 1900 the number of Negroes in the State had increased to 55,684, of which number approximately two-thirds, 33,965, were living within the Indian Territory. (Appendix Table 1).

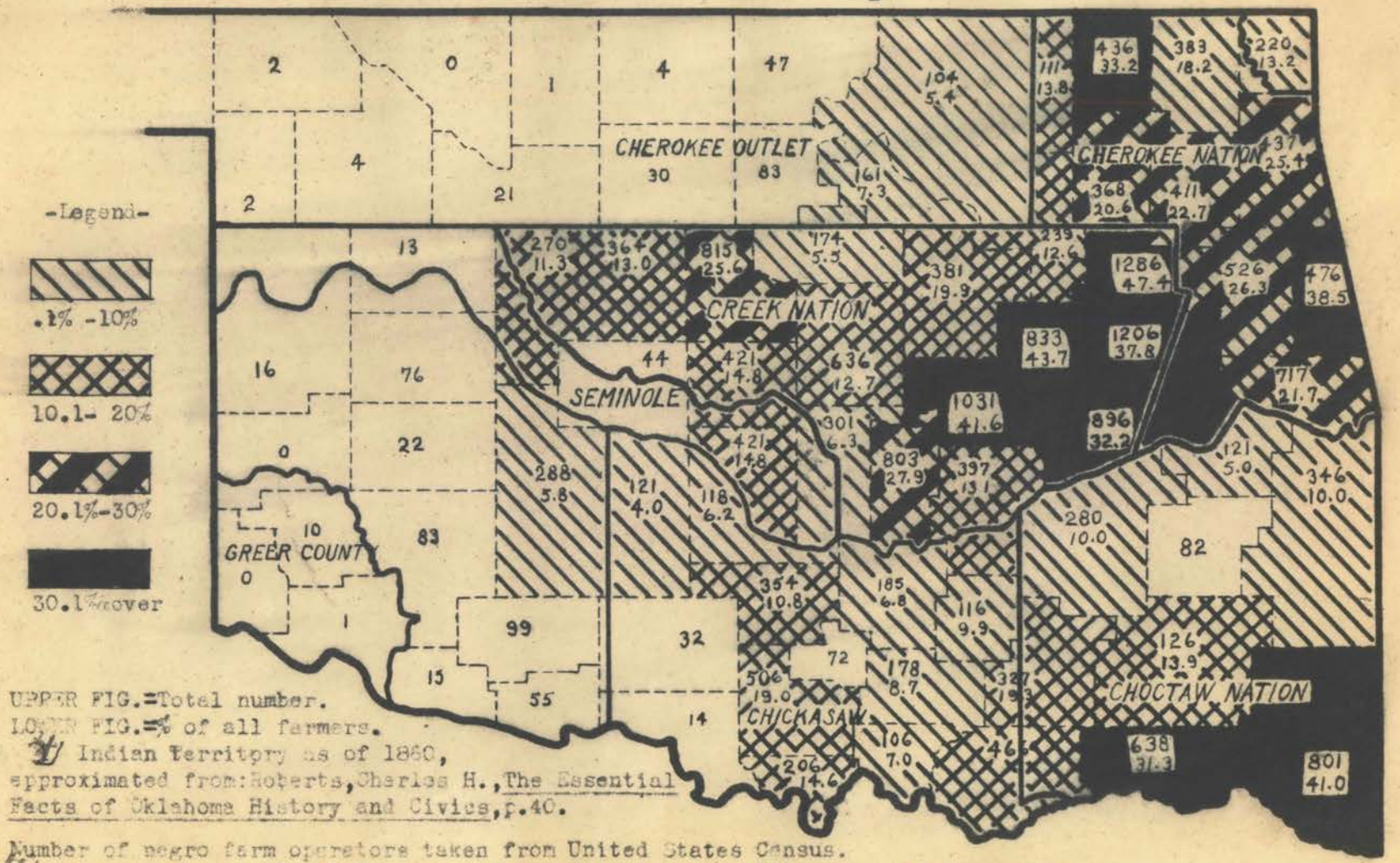
According to census figures, approximately 11 percent of the 190,192 farms in Oklahoma in 1910 were operated by Negroes.[11/] For the State as a whole there was at that date an average of only one Negro farm operator for each 200,149 acres of the total land area. The Negro was not as insignificant in the agricultural structure of the State as this figure would indicate for the reason that in 1910 Negroes were found in appreciable numbers in less than one-half of the State. Thirty of the 77 counties reported less than 100 Negro farm operators; 12 of these counties reported less than 10.

Figure 1 shows rather conclusively that the area inhabited by Negroes in 1910 conforms closely to the territory assigned to the Five Civilized Tribes as of 1860. Within the boundaries of the original Indian Territory varying degrees of concentration are obvious. The area of highest concentration is comprised of the five counties, Wagoner, Muskogee, Okmulgee, Okfuskee, and McIntosh. Within this group of counties the Negro constituted from 32.2 percent to 47.4 percent of the total number of farm operators; actual numbers ranged from 833 in Okmulgee County to 1,286 in Wagoner County. Negroes were only

---

11/ The 1910 census enumeration came just three years after Oklahoma became a State. Numbers of Negroes by counties are not available for a date earlier than 1910.

Figure 1: DISTRIBUTION BY COUNTIES OF NEGRO FARM OPERATORS, 1910, AS RELATED TO INDIAN TERRITORY 1/



UPPER FIG.=Total number.
LOWER FIG.=% of all farmers.

1/ Indian Territory as of 1860, approximated from: Roberts, Charles H., The Essential Facts of Oklahoma History and Civics, p.40.

Number of negro farm operators taken from United States Census.

4/ Percent not calculated for counties having less than 100 negro farm operators.

slightly less numerous in the group of counties lying east and north of the five mentioned.

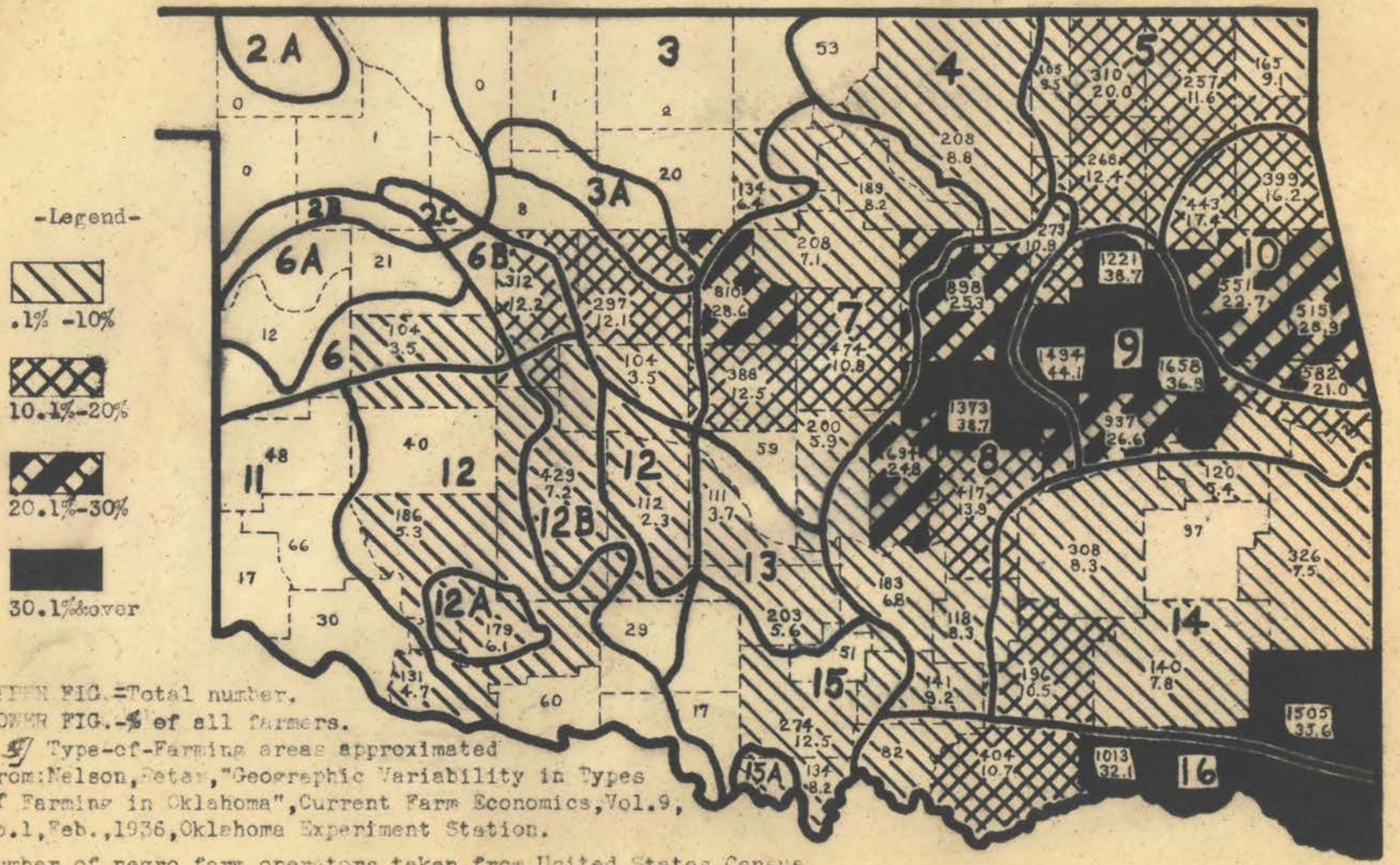
The counties in the extreme southeastern part of the State reflect comparatively large numbers of Negro farmers. This group includes McCurtain, Choctaw, Bryan, Atoka, and Pushmataha. Only one county, Wagoner, reported more Negroes as compared to Whites than McCurtain County.

A noticeable decline in the numbers and proportions of Negro farm operators appears in the group of counties lying between the point of highest concentration and the extreme southeastern counties. The strip of country separating the areas of concentration includes LeFlore, Haskell, Latimer, Pittsburg, Coal, Johnston, Marshall, Murray, and Pontotoc counties.

Why were Negroes situated exclusively in the eastern one-half of the State? Within this general area, what factors influenced their concentration at certain points? The answer to the first of these two questions is strongly suggested in Figure 3 1, which graphically portrays the extent to which association with the Indian tribes influenced the general location of Negro farmers in Oklahoma. The degree to which the general location of the Negro farmer in 1910 conforms to the land area originally occupied by the Five Civilized Tribes is striking.

That other factors had an influence in determining the location of Negroes is indicated by the fact that varying degrees of concentration exist within the boundaries of the original Territory. Some of these factors are suggested in Figure 4 2 where the numbers and proportions of Negro farm operators in 1930 are shown in relation to type-of-farming areas.

Figure 2: DISTRIBUTION BY COUNTIES OF NEGRO FARM OPERATORS, 1930, AS RELATED TO TYPE-OF-FARMING AREAS 1/



UPPER FIG.=Total number.
LOWER FIG.-% of all farmers.

1/ Type-of-Farming areas approximated from: Nelson, Peter, "Geographic Variability in Types of Farming in Oklahoma", Current Farm Economics, Vol.9, No.1, Feb., 1936, Oklahoma Experiment Station.

Number of negro farm operators taken from United States Census.
2/ Percent not calculated for counties having less than 100 negro farm operators.

A comparison of Figure 1 with Figure 2 reveals that Negro farm operators have tended to remain in the areas of original concentration. The areas of original concentration reflect larger numbers and higher proportions of Negro farmers in 1930 than in 1910. Areas bordering the points of highest concentration reflect a slight decline in the proportion of Negroes. In other words, there is a noticeable tendency for numbers of Negroes to converge at the concentration points.

The close correlation between the areas of concentration of Negro farmers and certain type-of-farming areas suggests that factors determining types of farming influenced the location of Indians, and consequently the Negroes, at these points in the first place. Members of the Five Civilized Tribes who first come to the Territory were impelled to settle at points within their respective territories where the means of subsistence could be obtained. The areas chosen for settlement offered a supply of water, fuel, and game, and in addition, were suited to the production of corn, cotton, and the kinds of livestock with which the tribes were familiar. These early residents of the area were forced to engage in self-sufficing pursuits.

The points of highest concentration of Negroes lie within Type-of-Farming Areas numbered 5, 10, 9, 8, and 16. Areas 8 and 9 include the point of highest concentration. Briefly, farms in areas 8 and 9 are described as cotton and general in type. All of the areas mentioned have one characteristic in common, that is, the farms generally are of a self-sufficing type. Cotton is the principal cash crop. Most of the farms maintain small numbers of milk cows, hogs, and

poultry. The farms are small; the soil generally is poor; and the terrain rolling to hilly.[12/]

12/ Nelson, Peter, Current Farm Economics, Vol. 9, No. 1, February, 1936, p. 4. The words used to describe the type of farming in area 8 follow: "Cotton, general farming, self-sufficing, dairy. (An area of generally poor soil, except on small bottoms)." Area 9 is described in this manner: "Cotton, some dairy, potatoes, self-sufficing."

CHAPTER II

A GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE AREA CHOSEN FOR THE STUDY OF NEGRO OPERATED FARMS IN OKLAHOMA

Location of the Farms Surveyed and Nature of the Survey

The group of counties in the north central part of eastern Oklahoma which were shown in the preceding chapter to have the largest numbers of Negro farmers may be said to typify the environment of Negro farming in the State. The Negro operated farms in the five counties comprising this area are typical of the Negro operated farms in other areas of the State having large numbers of Negroes. Farms situated in Okfuskee and Muskogee counties were chosen for study because of the availability of farm management data pertaining to the operation in 1938 of a comparatively large number of farms in these two counties.

The following chapters deal with data obtained from a total of 81 Negro farm operators in Okfuskee County and a total of 152 Negro farm operators in Muskogee County. These data were obtained through personal interviews with Negro farm operators selected at random over the entire county in each case.[1/] The presence of an exclusively Negro community in each of the two counties, however, resulted in a concentration at these points of considerable numbers of the farms studied. The Taft community bordering the Arkansas River in the

---

1/ Records of the operation of the Muskogee County farms were obtained by the survey method during the month of January, 1939, in connection with Experiment Station Research Project No. 285 of the Agricultural Economics Department of the Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical College. The Okfuskee County farm records were obtained through a farm survey conducted in that county in June, 1939, by the Agricultural Economics Department of the College. The survey in Okfuskee County was made in connection with Types of Farming Studies provided for under Experiment Station Project No. 267.

north central part of Muskogee County is inhabited almost exclusively by Negro families. Farms in this community constitute a high percentage of all Negro operated farms in the county. Most of the farms surveyed in Muskogee County are situated within, or in close proximity to, the Pecan Creek Watershed project of the Soil Conservation Service. The project area was established in the spring of 1935.

A majority of the farms studied in Okfuskee County are situated in the Negro community lying about the all Negro town of Boley in the northwestern part of the county. The farms studied in Okfuskee County also are located in or near a Soil Conservation Project established in the county in 1936 for the specific purpose of rendering cooperative aid to Negro farmers in carrying out soil conserving measures. An all Negro Civilian Conservation Camp was established at Boley during the same year.2/

The social and cultural characteristics of the two communities are similar. The Negro farm families and residents of Taft and Boley have access to good schools, churches, clubs, and other group activities found in the average rural community. If the areas studied are unique in any respect, it is in the presence of the exclusively Negro towns. Otherwise, conditions in these areas are similar to those found in any county of the State where Negro farmers are situated in any appreciable numbers.

2/ Circumstances leading to the establishment of Taft and Boley as exclusively Negro towns are of interest. The Taft community was formed as a result of the allocation of lands of the Creek Indians to Negroes in this area. Boley, on the other hand, became an all Negro town and community as the result of promotion policies adopted by railroad officials and real estate dealers immediately following the building of a railroad through the area in 1902.

Physical and Economic Conditions and General Type of Farming

The general area chosen for study is located on the eastern boundary of the Central Cross Timbers soil type area and the western boundary of the Eastern Prairies soil type area. The entire county of Okfuskee is incorporated in the Central Cross Timbers soil area. More than one-half of Okmulgee County is located in a similar soils type area. The eastern part of Okmulgee County, and the major portion of Muskogee County are situated in the Eastern Prairies type of soils area.

The two types of soils found in the area differ chiefly in depth of organic matter. Organic matter usually is deeper in Prairie soils than in Timber soils. This difference is of significance in areas of heavy rainfall, such as this one, owing to the tendency of deeper layers of humus to minimize leaching. It is for this reason that Prairie soils usually are found to possess a higher content of Nitrogen. The Nitrogen content of all soils in the area is low.

The amounts of easily soluble Phosphorus found in samples of soils in selected counties in the area are shown in the following table.

Table 2. Easily Soluble Phosphorus and Number of Samples in Each Group, Selected Counties in Eastern Oklahoma

County	Total Number of Samples Analyzed	Very High	High	Medium	Low	Very Low
Muskogee	59	11	19	3	16	10
Okfuskee	122	16	23	19	29	35
Okmulgee	128	4	19	20	35	50
McIntosh	93	4	22	15	21	31
Wagoner	78	6	8	7	23	34
Total for Counties	480	41	91	64	124	160

SOURCE: Oklahoma Experiment Station Bulletin No. 205, p. 11, Table III.

The inference in the above table is that more than one-half of the soils in these counties are low to very low in easily soluble Phosphorus content.

Nitrogen may be added by the practice of growing legumes, whereas Phosphorus can be added only by the application of fertilizer. Application of fertilizer to the soil is not widely practiced in this area.

In general, the soils found in the area range in texture from sandy loam to very fine sandy loam. Rough stony land is common to the southern portion of the area, especially in the black jack hills where most of the land is used for grazing purposes. The top soil is uneven in depth and many outcroppings of parent material can be observed. The subsoil, especially in the northern part of the area, is very heavy and plastic when wet.

Topography of the area may be described as varying from undulating to hilly. Numerous small streams flow through the area. The rough, rolling character of the terrain accentuates the tendency of the farm lands to erode, with the result that on many of the steeper slopes erosion has removed the surface soil as fast as parent material is weathered. This is particularly true of the upland portions where the topographical conditions are unfavorable to extensive land culture. Terracing is practiced rather extensively within the area.[3/]

Natural vegetation found on the wooded pasture land consists chiefly of black jack, scrub oak, hickory, and pecan trees.

The normal annual precipitation is approximately 39 inches. The greatest amount of moisture falls during March, April, May, and June.

3/ Soil types and topographical conditions are well described in Project Work Plans prepared by Staff members of the Soil Conservation Service for: (1) Pecan Creek Watershed No. 2, Muskogee County, and (2) Soil Conservation Camp, SCS-Ok-30, Boley, Oklahoma.

A comparatively dry early fall and late winter are normal. The mean annual temperature varies slightly throughout the area but usually is about 63 degrees. Winters are fairly warm, the mean temperature for the months December, January, February, and March being close to the 40 degree mark. The summer months of July, August, and September have a mean temperature of about 82 degrees. There is very little wind during the summer months. Evaporation of moisture from the soil is, therefore, comparatively light.

The frost free growing season averages about 220 days annually, beginning in the latter part of March and ending about the first of November. This period includes six months in which crops normally can be grown without damage from frost. (Appendix Table 5).

In recent years trucks have transported most farm commodities from the area to larger market centers. The amount of rail transportation services required has diminished with the advancement of transportation facilities more adapted to short hauls of small quantities. Service on the Fort Smith and Western Railway, a branch line running through Okfuskee County, recently was discontinued. The only railway service to points within this County is afforded by the St. Louis and San Francisco line crossing the southeastern corner of the County. Okemah, the county seat of Okfuskee County, has no rail service at the present time. The town of Muskogee, on the other hand, is accommodated by four railways, the main one being the Missouri Pacific running from Fort Smith, Arkansas to Tulsa, Oklahoma, where connections are made to Kansas City. Considerable use is made, also, of the Kansas, Oklahoma, and Gulf line leading to St. Louis, Missouri and Houston, Texas.

Cotton is shipped in large quantities to Fort Smith, Arkansas and thence to the mills in the Virginias and Carolinas. Only small

quantities of grains and feed crops are shipped out of the area. Cattle and other livestock are trucked to the Oklahoma City or Tulsa markets. The quantities of dairy and poultry products produced in excess of home needs are marketed to and consumed chiefly by the population of the towns within the area. The small surpluses of these farm commodities accumulated at local concentration points are shipped to the city markets at Oklahoma City, Tulsa, and Fort Smith.

A high degree of uniformity exists throughout the area in respect to the kind, quantities, and proportions of crops and livestock found on individual farms, as evidenced by the fact that the area under consideration lies almost wholly within two similar type-of-farming areas. The farms are largely self-sufficing and maintain general livestock and dairy enterprises. The area west and south of Muskogee County tends to become somewhat less diversified, but the farms remain of a cotton, self-sufficing type.

The characteristics of the types of farming in the area, as indicated by 1935 census data, are shown in Table 3. The farms are small, averaging about 90 to 95 acres. Approximately 55 percent of the farm is classified as cropland. Cotton occupies about 15 acres of the cropland; corn, and small grains about 15 to 20 acres; this leaves from five to 15 acres for grain sorghums, forage crops, truck and gardens.

Productive livestock consists of small numbers of cattle, hogs, and poultry. Work stock consists of from one to two teams, one team being the more common.

Approximately three-fourths of the farms are operated by tenants.

Table 3. Selected Factors Indicating Type of Farming in Muskogee, Okfuskee, Okmulgee McIntosh, and Wagoner Counties, 1935

	State	Muskogee	Okfuskee	Okmulgee	McIntosh	Wagoner
Number of farms	200,951	4,205	3,319	3,534	3,410	3,252
Percent of total land area in farms	79.6	76.4	84.1	69.0	72.8	84.6
Average size of farm, acres	166.0	89.0	95.0	87.1	96.7	94.0
Acres of cropland	85	59	51	43	55	57
Acres of cotton	13.1	16.4	14.5	11.5	15.3	13.1
Acres of corn	7.8	13.6	20.4	10.3	16.6	11.3
Acres of oats	6.2	5.5	4.9	3.1	2.9	7.4
Percent of cropland in:						
Cotton	15.4	27.8	28.4	26.7	27.8	23.0
Corn	9.2	23.0	40.0	23.9	30.2	19.8
Oats	7.3	9.3	9.6	7.2	5.3	13.0
Number of cattle	8.2	8.0	6.5	7.8	6.7	14.7
Number of hogs	4	4	4	5	4	2
Number of Negro farm operators	18,769	1,065	1,155	1,330	690	957
Total number of tenants	115,498	2,631	2,476	2,580	2,670	2,520
Number Negro tenants	11,046	805	870	1,089	481	742
Percent Negro is of total tenants	9.6	30.6	35.1	42.2	18.0	29.4
Percent Negro operators are of total farm operators	9.3	25.3	34.8	37.6	20.2	29.4
Number acres of land area per Negro farm operator	2,367	489	345	337	657	378

SOURCE: United States Census of Agriculture, 1935.

Special Conditions Existing During 1938

More than the normal amount of moisture fell in the area during 1938. The weather reporting station at Muskogee reported a total of 41.95 inches of precipitation, 2.37 inches above normal. The station at Okemah reported 39.37 inches, 2.70 inches above normal. (Table 4). The seasonal distribution of rainfall was slightly abnormal in 1938, also. The months of February and March were unusually wet with rainfall totaling about nine inches above normal for the two months. April was dryer than normal; May, June, and July were above normal; and the autumn months were comparatively dry. The first six months of the year received approximately 10 inches of moisture in excess of normal; the last six months received approximately eight inches less than normal. This uneven distribution of the annual precipitation may have resulted in abundant pre-planting moisture, but conditions during the dry summer and fall months which followed were probably unfavorable for the production of cotton.

Climatological data indicate that the year was abnormally warm. In only one month during the year did the mean monthly temperature fail to exceed normal at the Muskogee station. The station at Okemah reported 30 less frost free days than was normal. Frost occurred in Okfuskee County as late as April 9.

In brief, weather conditions during 1938 were characterized by abnormally high precipitation in the spring and unusually low precipitation in the fall. Part of the area suffered from a very late frost in the spring.

Farm prices of commodities produced in the area were lower than for the two years immediately preceding 1938. According to the index of Oklahoma farm prices, the farm prices received for butterfat and poultry

Table 4. Mean Temperature, Departure from Normal Temperature, Total Precipitation, Departure from Normal Precipitation, by Months and Average for Year, 1938, Muskogee and Okemah Stations

Month	Muskogee				Okemah			
	Temperature		Precipitation		Temperature		Precipitation	
	Mean	Departure from Normal	Total	Departure from Normal	Mean	Departure from Normal	Total	Departure from Normal
January	42.6	+4.2	2.75	+0.13	41.0	+2.6	2.75	+0.79
February	48.7	+7.3	8.57	+6.66	46.6	+3.3	7.00	+5.50
March	60.2	+8.7	5.61	+2.55	57.0	+6.0	5.83	+3.13
April	62.2	+1.5	3.12	-1.12	58.3	-2.1	3.84	-0.23
May	69.6	+1.3	6.60	+1.76	67.4	-1.0	4.75	-0.40
June	77.3	+0.3	4.65	+0.50	--	--	4.78	+1.18
July	83.0	+2.0	1.96	-0.89	--	--	3.69	+0.99
August	84.8	+3.2	2.19	-1.31	82.3	+0.5	2.71	-0.17
September	76.4	+1.7	1.95	+1.35	75.1	+1.2	1.43	-2.14
October	68.8	+5.9	0.49	-3.53	67.8	+4.8	0.91	-3.11
November	51.0	-0.4	3.25	+0.45	49.3	-2.3	1.18	-1.43
December	43.3	+3.3	0.81	-1.48	43.1	+2.6	0.50	-1.41
Average	64.0	+3.2	41.95	+2.37	--	--	39.37	+2.70

SOURCE: United States Department of Agriculture, Weather Bureau, Climatogical Data, Oklahoma Section, Vol. 47, No. 1-13, 1938.

products were lower in 1938 than for any other year since 1934. (Table 5). The prices received for cotton, corn, and oats, likewise, were relatively low during 1938. The prices of livestock were high during 1938 as compared to prices of other farm commodities. Cattle prices in particular were favorable.

Table 5. Index of Oklahoma Farm Prices of Selected Products, 1928 to 1938, Inclusive

Crops	1938	1937	1936	1935	1934	1933	1932	1931	1930	1929	1928
Cotton	70	74	100	95	107	79	52	53	90	154	163
Corn	75	124	148	118	122	67	35	63	117	129	117
Oats	57	93	100	80	105	79	31	48	88	112	112
Cattle	119	128	111	109	65	62	71	90	128	173	176
Hogs	104	125	123	110	52	44	45	81	116	122	112
Butterfat	97	133	128	106	84	71	62	88	128	181	177
Poultry products	106	117	117	124	88	66	70	98	130	171	163
Horses	59	68	70	67	55	41	31	31	35	42	45

SOURCE: Oklahoma Farm Prices--Supplement of Current Farm Economics, Oklahoma Agricultural Experiment Station, Stillwater.

CHAPTER III

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE NEGRO FARM ORGANIZATION

The manner in which the productive resources are utilized in the operation of the farm business is referred to as organization.[1] In what combinations do Negro farm operators in Oklahoma utilize productive capital, labor, and management? Do Negro farmers engage in enterprises of a uniform character? How important is family labor to the operation of the typical Negro operated farm? It is the purpose of this chapter to set forth the attributes of the organization of the Negro operated farms surveyed in Okfuskee and Muskogee counties in such a way as to suggest answers to these and related questions.

Organization of the farms will be dealt with from the standpoint of: (1) the requisites of production in the form of land, machinery and equipment, work stock, and labor; (2) the lines of production; and (3) the tenure classes of farm operators.

Requisites of Production[2]

Land.--Land may be considered the basic productive factor to which all other factors are related in the organization of the farm business. The size of the farm business commonly is measured by the amount of land included in the farm.

1/ G. W. Forster defines farm organization as follows: ".....Organization refers to the arrangement of the various physical elements, and the proportion in which those various elements are combined." Forster, G. W., Farm Organization and Management, p. 49.

2/ The term "Requisites of Production" is used in lieu of the more common term "Factors of Production" because of the closer affinity of the former to resources employed in the farm business.

Table 6. Distribution of the Farms According to Size of the Farm, Okfuskee and Muskogee Counties, 1938

Range in Acres	Okfuskee		Muskogee	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
25 - 34	1	1.2	7	4.5
35 - 44	14	17.3	26	17.1
45 - 54	2	2.5	8	5.3
55 - 64	2	2.5	10	6.6
65 - 74	1	1.2	8	5.3
75 - 84	24	29.7	33	21.7
85 - 94	3	3.7	3	2.0
95 - 104	3	3.7	5	3.3
105 - 114	3	3.7	2	1.3
115 - 124	9	11.1	18	11.8
125 - 134	-		4	2.6
135 - 144	2	2.5	3	2.0
145 - 154	2	2.5	2	1.3
155 - 164	9	11.1	11	7.2
165 - 174	-		-	
175 - 184	-		2	1.3
185 - 194	-		-	
195 - 204	3	3.7	2	1.3
205 - 214	-		1	.7
215 - 224	-		1	.7
225 - 234	-		-	
235 - 244	1	1.2	-	
245 - 254	1	1.2	-	
255 - 264	-		-	
265 - 274	-		-	
275 - 284	-		1	.7
285 - 294	-		1	.7
295 - 304	-		-	
305 - 314	-		-	
315 - 324	1	1.2	4	2.6
Total	81	100	152	100

The 233 Negro operated farms surveyed in Okfuskee and Muskogee counties are comparatively small, ranging from 25 to 320 acres, and tend to comprise multiples of 40 acre tracts. The 81 farms in Okfuskee County average 100.8 acres, whereas the 152 farms in Muskogee County average only 96.0 acres. (Table 6).

The point of greatest significance regarding size is the predominance of the farms having approximately 40, 80, 120, and 160 acres. In Okfuskee County 69.2 percent of the 81 farms studied are of these sizes. About 57 percent of the 152 farms in Muskogee County are of similar sizes. The small number of farms having more than 165 acres is significant. It is important to bear in mind the distribution of the farms according to size, for obviously, the average of the acres in all farms does not represent the most typical size of the farm unit.

Approximately two-thirds of the land in the farms surveyed is classified as cropland. In Muskogee County, where the farms are five acres smaller than in Okfuskee County, a higher proportion of the farm is classified as cropland. (Table 7). Pasture land includes about one-fourth of the land area and is comprised of tracts least suited to cultivation. Land other than cropland and pasture land accounts for slightly more than 8 percent of the farm. A high percentage of the land included in the classification "other land" is made up of waste land. Small farms report proportionately more waste land than did larger farms. This fact may indicate that the practice of a more intensive cropping system on the smaller farms has resulted in depletion of a higher percentage of the land area of these farms than has been

Table 7. Total Land in Farms and Proportions Classified as Cropland, Pasture Land, and Other Land, Okfuskee and Muskogee Counties, 1938

	Okfuskee County 81 Farms			Muskogee County 152 Farms		
	Total (Acres)	Average (Acres)	Proportion Of Total Farm (Percent)	Total (Acres)	Average (Acres)	Proportion Of Total Farm (Percent)
Total Land in Farm	8,168	100.8	100.0	14,592	96.0	100.0
Cropland	5,065	62.5	62.0	9,948	65.4	68.2
Pasture Land	2,386	29.5	29.2	3,423	22.5	23.5
Other Land[1/]	717	8.8	8.8	1,221	8.0	8.3

1/ Includes Waste Land, land in farmstead and roads, and wooded and non-wooded land not pastured.

the case on larger farms.[3/] The fact that a higher proportion of the land in small farms also is classified as cropland adds emphasis to this point. (Table 8). Proportionately more of the larger farms is classified as pasture land. Approximately 80 percent of the land in the farms ranging from 20 to 59 acres in size is classed as cropland as compared to only about 57 percent on farms including more than 180 acres. These data are further evidence of the more intensive operations on small farms and are indicative of the tendency of operators on small farms to expand the size of the unit by maximizing cropland. Expansion of the cropping operations brings into use poorer land, marginal productivity of the farm is lowered, and the exploitation of all grades of land is accelerated. It seems, therefore, that inadequacy of size of the farm may be considered an important influence in the rapid deterioration of farm land in the area under consideration.

Investment.--The total farm investment for the farms studied in Okfuskee County averages $2,381 per farm, or $23.61 per acre; the farms in Muskogee County have total investments averaging $2,464, or $25.67 per acre. (Table 9). The percentage of the total farm investment attributable to the various items included in the total investment is practically the same in the two groups of farms. Land in Okfuskee County is valued at $1,742 per farm, or $17.28 per acre, and constitutes 73.3 percent of the total farm investment. In Muskogee County land is valued at $1,842 per farm, $19.19 per acre, and accounts for 74.8 percent of the total farm investment. The difference in per acre value is to some extent attributable to the higher proportion of

---

3/ The tendency of operators of small units more accurately to classify their land may have been a factor in this connection, also. Operators of larger units are not so likely to consider carefully the comparatively small tracts of waste land when asked for a distinction between waste land and other classifications of non-crop land.

Table 8. Number of Acres Per Farm and Proportion of Total Classified as Cropland, Pasture Land, and Other Land, According to Size of Farm, Okfuskee and Muskogee Counties, 1938

Size of Farm in Acres		Number of Farms	Cropland		Pasture Land		Other Land 1/	
Range	Average		Average Per Farm (Acres)	Proportion of Total Farm (Percent)	Average Per Farm (Acres)	Proportion of Total Farm (Percent)	Average Per Farm (Acres)	Proportion of Total Farm (Percent)
Okfuskee County								
All Farms	100.8	81	62.5	62.0	29.5	29.2	8.8	8.8
20 - 59	40.7	18	33.2	81.6	3.8	9.4	3.7	10.0
60 - 99	80.3	30	50.6	62.9	20.3	25.2	9.6	11.9
100 - 139	116.4	15	70.9	60.9	36.8	31.6	8.7	7.5
140 - 179	156.7	12	90.7	57.9	49.4	31.5	16.6	10.6
180 and Over	233.3	6	133.0	57.0	93.8	40.2	6.5	2.8
Muskogee County								
All Farms	96.0	152	65.4	68.2	22.5	23.5	8.0	8.3
20 - 59	41.2	44	32.2	78.3	4.8	11.6	4.1	10.1
60 - 99	76.0	51	56.6	74.4	13.8	18.2	5.6	7.4
100 - 139	118.6	31	80.0	67.4	29.2	24.6	9.4	8.0
140 - 179	159.5	16	102.9	64.5	40.7	25.5	15.9	10.0
180 and Over	267.7	10	151.9	56.8	95.1	35.5	20.7	7.7

1/ See Footnote, Table 7.

Table 9. Total Farm Investment; Total Value, percent of total farm investment, value per farm and value per acre of items comprising total farm investment; and Value of the Farm Dwelling, Okfuskee and Muskogee Counties, 1938

	Total Investment	Percent of Total Farm Investment	Average Value per Farm	Average Value per Acre
	(Dollars)	(Percent)	(Dollars)	(Dollars)
OKFUSKEE - 81 FARMS				
Total Farm Investment	192,831	100.0	2,381	23.61
Total Investment In:				
Land	141,139	73.3	1,742	17.28
Farm Improvements	10,777	5.6	133	1.32
Mach. and Equip.	8,479	4.4	105	1.04
Horses and Mules	16,057	8.3	198	1.96
Cattle	6,942	3.6	86	.85
Poultry	1,622	.8	20	.20
Hogs	2,008	1.0	25	.25
Miscellaneous Stock	15	-1/	-1/	-1/
Feeds, Crops, Seed	5,792	3.0	72	.71
Value of Farm Dwelling	17,957	-2/	222	2.20
MUSKOGEE - 152 FARMS				
Total Farm Investment	374,600	100.0	2,464	25.67
Total Investment In:				
Land	279,966	74.8	1,842	19.19
Farm Improvements	21,894	5.8	144	1.50
Mach. and Equip.	18,337	4.9	121	1.26
Horses and Mules	27,491	7.3	181	1.88
Cattle	11,262	3.0	74	.77
Poultry	2,142	.6	14	.15
Hogs	3,903	1.0	26	.27
Miscellaneous Stock	4	-1/	-1/	-1/
Feeds, Crops, Seed	9,601	2.6	62	.66
Value of Farm Dwelling	34,128	-2/	224	2.34

1/ Too small to calculate.
2/ Value of Farm Dwelling is not included in total Farm Investment.

pasture land in Okfuskee than in Muskogee County.

Work stock accounts for a higher percentage of the total farm investment than either machinery and equipment or farm improvements. The investment in farm improvements is higher than the total investment in productive livestock. Farm improvements, machinery and equipment, and the farm dwelling are valued at slightly higher figures per farm and per acre in Muskogee than in Okfuskee County.

The low figure at which surface items of investment are assessed as compared to land is an indication of the depreciated state of productive capital and farm improvements. Farm machinery usually consists of a breaking plow, a one- or two-section harrow, a cotton planter, wagon, cultivator, one set of chain harness, and the necessary small tools. Comparatively few riding implements are in use. Most of the farm implements have been in use for from 10 to 30 years and are in a poor state of repair.

The value per farm of the total farm investment increases as the size of the farm is increased. (Table 10). While this tendency exists with respect to all items in the total farm investment, in the case of most items the increase in valuation is not relatively as great as the increase in the size of the farm. The value per acre of the total farm investment decreases sharply as the size of the farm is increased from 40 to 80 acres. As the size of the farm is increased above 80 acres, the value per acre of the total farm investment declines only slightly. An important exception to this tendency is noted in the case of the largest farms in each county. The per acre value of the total farm investment for the largest farms in Muskogee County increases approximately $6.00, or about 27 percent, over the

Table 10. Total Farm Investment Per Farm and Per Acre; Value Per Farm, Value Per Acre, and Percent of Total Farm Investment for Items Comprising Total Farm Investment; and Value of Farm Dwelling; According to Size of the Farm, Okfuskee and Muskogee Counties, 1938

	Size of Farm in Acres											
	All Farms 25 to 320		20 to 59		60 to 99		100 to 139		140 to 179		180 and Over	
	Okfuskee	Muskogee	Okfuskee	Muskogee	Okfuskee	Muskogee	Okfuskee	Muskogee	Okfuskee	Muskogee	Okfuskee	Muskogee
Number of farms	81	152	18	44	30	51	15	31	12	16	6	10
Size of farm	100.8	96.0	40.7	41.2	80.3	76.0	116.4	118.6	156.7	159.5	233.3	267.7
Total farm investment, per farm	2,381.00	2,464.00	1,279.00	1,243.00	1,887.00	1,946.00	2,729.00	2,952.00	3,387.00	3,462.00	5,265.00	7,375.00
Total farm investment, per acre	23.61	25.67	31.41	30.20	23.51	25.61	23.44	24.89	21.62	21.71	22.57	27.55
Total investment in:												
Land:												
per farm	1,742.00	1,842.00	913.00	889.00	1,386.00	1,459.00	2,113.00	2,175.00	2,458.00	2,643.00	3,654.00	5,674.00
per acre	17.28	19.19	22.43	21.60	17.26	19.21	18.15	18.34	15.69	16.57	15.66	21.19
percent of total	73.3	74.8	71.4	71.5	73.4	75.0	77.5	73.7	72.6	76.4	69.4	76.9
Farm improvements:												
per farm	133.00	144.00	88.00	73.00	93.00	99.00	84.00	153.00	206.00	170.00	443.00	616.00
per acre	1.32	1.50	2.16	1.76	1.16	1.31	.72	1.29	1.32	1.07	1.90	2.30
percent of total	5.6	5.8	6.9	5.8	4.9	5.1	3.1	5.2	6.1	4.9	8.4	8.4
Machinery and equipment:												
per farm	105.00	121.00	50.00	77.00	68.00	98.00	117.00	144.00	136.00	158.00	360.00	296.00
per acre	1.04	1.26	1.23	1.86	.84	1.29	1.00	1.21	.86	.98	1.54	1.11
percent of total	4.4	4.9	3.9	6.2	3.6	5.0	4.3	4.9	4.0	4.5	6.8	4.0
Horses:												
per farm	198.00	181.00	110.00	104.00	171.00	144.00	199.00	249.00	267.00	290.00	461.00	321.00
per acre	1.96	1.88	2.70	2.54	2.13	1.89	1.71	2.10	1.71	1.82	2.00	1.20
percent of total	8.3	7.3	8.6	8.4	9.1	7.4	7.3	8.4	7.9	8.4	8.8	4.5
Cattle:												
per farm	86.00	74.00	56.00	44.00	65.00	62.00	90.00	97.00	143.00	86.00	157.00	180.00
per acre	.85	.77	1.37	1.06	.81	.81	.77	.82	.91	.54	.67	.67
percent of total	3.6	3.0	4.4	3.5	3.4	3.2	3.3	3.3	4.2	2.5	3.0	2.4
Poultry:												
per farm	20.00	14.00	16.00	10.00	17.00	12.00	20.00	18.00	23.00	18.00	37.00	26.00
per acre	.20	.15	.39	.24	.22	.15	.17	.15	.14	.12	.16	.09
percent of total	.8	.6	1.3	.8	.9	.6	.7	.6	.7	.5	.7	.3
Hogs:												
per farm	25.00	26.00	17.00	19.00	20.00	20.00	31.00	34.00	32.00	23.00	41.00	60.00
per acre	.25	.27	.42	.47	.25	.27	.27	.29	.20	.15	.17	.22
percent of total	1.0	1.0	1.3	1.6	1.1	1.0	1.1	1.1	.9	.7	.8	.8
Feeds, crops, and seed:												
per farm	72.00	62.00	29.00	27.00	67.00	52.00	75.00	82.00	122.00	74.00	112.00	202.00
per acre	.71	.66	.71	.66	.84	.69	.64	.69	.79	.46	.48	.75
percent of total	3.0	2.6	2.2	2.2	3.6	2.7	2.7	2.8	3.6	2.1	2.1	2.7
Value of farm dwelling:												
per farm	222.00	224.00	156.00	189.00	156.00	182.00	267.00	233.00	317.00	279.00	445.00	485.00
per acre	2.20	2.34	3.83	4.60	1.94	2.39	2.29	1.96	2.02	1.75	1.91	1.81

per acre value of the group of farms averaging 160 acres. The largest farms in Okfuskee County reflect the same tendency toward an increase in the total farm investment per acre, only to a lesser degree. The sharp rise in the per acre value of the total farm investment is due largely to the increase in the value of land and machinery and equipment. (Table 11).

Table 11. Per Acre Value of Total Farm Investment, Value of Land, and Investment in Machinery and Equipment, Large Farms, Okfuskee and Muskogee Counties, 1938

	Size of Farm in Acres			
	140 to 179		180 and Over	
	Okfuskee	Muskogee	Okfuskee	Muskogee
Size of farm, acres	156.7	159.5	233.3	267.7
Total farm investment, per acre	$21.62	$21.71	$22.57	$27.55
Value of land, per acre	$15.69	$16.57	$15.66	$21.19
Investment in machinery and equipment, per acre	$ .86	$ .98	$ 1.54	$ 1.11

The behavior of the data in the foregoing table indicates that an increase above approximately 160 acres in the size of the farm requires substantial additions to the capital investment in the form of machinery and equipment. This point may acquire added significance when comparisons are made in the following chapter of rates earned on the total farm investment.

The investment per acre in horses and mules seems to vary little with variations in size of the farm, the only noticeable difference being that small farms have the highest investment per acre in work stock. With the exception of the farms averaging about 40 acres, the

investment in productive livestock is approximately the same per acre on farms of all sizes, although there is a slight decrease in this figure on extremely large farms.

In brief, the smallest farms maintain the highest investment per acre in all principal items of investment. The total farm investment per acre on these farms is approximately 20 percent above the average for all farms in the two groups and about one-third greater than the size group having the lowest investment per acre, that is, the farms ranging from 140 to 179 acres. The high investment per acre on the small farms indicates more intensive use -- relatively greater amounts of capital investment are employed in combination with a smaller land area.

The higher investment per acre on the extremely small farms is attributable more to higher per acre values of surface investments than to higher land valuations. Investment in land on the smallest farms constitutes a lower proportion of the total than is the case on larger farms. (Table 10). The relatively high degree of productive capital intensity characteristic of the smaller farms arises, in part at least, from the fact that the factors machinery and equipment and livestock are not infinitely divisible. Regardless of how small the farm may be it is impossible to operate it with less than one unit of productive capital. It does not necessarily follow, therefore, that a comparatively high capital investment per acre on the small farm is indicative of a correspondingly high degree of intensity in operation.

Proportions of the total farm investment attributable to the various items remain fairly constant regardless of changes in size of the farm.

Units of Productive Capital.--In the foregoing discussion it was pointed out that the farms vary widely in size and that, although the percentage of the farm in crops is not so high on the larger farm, there is a wide spread in the number of acres in cultivation. One of the productive factors, machinery and equipment, was shown to vary in value from approximately $60 per farm for the group ranging from 25 to 59 acres to more than $300 for the farms from 180 to 320 acres in size. It will be shown that work stock with which to put to use these varying amounts of machinery vary widely in numbers from farm to farm also. How many units of productive capital, work stock and machinery, are required to till the cropland on a 40 acre farm as compared to a farm having 160 acres? What is the size of the "one-mule farm"? The "two-plow farm"? Is labor of relatively more importance on Negro operated farms than machinery? Answers to these and similar questions are important in determining the nature of the organization of the farms under discussion.

The fact that the farms differ widely in numbers of work stock maintained is shown in Table 12. Here it can be seen that two of the farms in Okfuskee County maintain an average of less than one work animal, whereas one operator in this county keeps an average of 11 head.[4/] In Muskogee County three operators keep an average of less than one head of work stock; seven farmers in this county report an average of six head. Between the extremes in the average number of work stock, the farms may be classed in four groups, as follows: (1) farms having an average of less than one team, (2) farms having

---

4/ The average number of work stock is calculated by dividing by two the sum of the beginning and ending inventories. Thus the "average" number of head of work stock takes no account of the number bought subsequent to January 1, 1938, and sold or otherwise disposed of prior to the final inventory on December 31, 1938.

at least one team but less than three head, (3) farms having at least three head but less than two full teams, and (4) farms having two or more complete teams. (Table 12)

Table 12. Distribution of Farms According to Average Number of Head of Work Stock, Okfuskee and Muskogee Counties, 1938

Average Number of Work Stock	Okfuskee		Muskogee	
	Number of Farms	Percent of Total Farms	Number of Farms	Percent of Total Farms
0.0	1	1.2	2	1.3
0.5	1	1.2	1	.7
1.0	6	7.4	15	9.9
1.5	5	6.2	7	4.6
0.0 to 1.5	13	16.0	25	16.5
2.0	34	42.0	58	38.2
2.5	6	7.4	8	5.3
2.0 to 2.5	40	49.4	66	43.5
3.0	12	14.8	21	13.8
3.5	1	1.2	3	1.9
3.0 to 3.5	13	16.0	24	15.7
4.0	11	13.7	23	15.1
4.5	-	-	2	1.3
5.0	2	2.5	4	2.6
5.5	-	-	1	.7
6.0	1	1.2	7	4.6
11.0	1	1.2	-	-
4.0 and Over	15	18.6	37	24.3
Total	81	100.0	152	100.0

Nearly one-half of the farms are included in the group having an average of from two to two and one-half head of work stock. The number of farms having less than one full team compose almost identically the same proportion of the total as the number having between one and two complete teams. About one-fifth of the 233 farms are operated by the use of four or more head of work stock.

It is obvious that a direct relationship exists between the average number of work animals and size of the farm, amount of cropland, acres of cotton, investment in land, investment in machinery and equipment, and the value of hired and unpaid family labor. (Table 13).

The farms on which an average of one work animal is kept are shown to be the smallest farms, have the lowest number of work stock per 100 acres of cropland, per 10 acres of cotton, and much the lowest average investment in machinery and equipment.

Farms operated with one full team are the most numerous. These farms average 88.8 acres in Okfuskee County and 74.7 acres in Muskogee County. Approximately 13 acres of cotton are planted on the one-team farms.

The machinery inventory is about the same on farms having three head of work stock as farms having only two head. One-mule farms are operated with about one-half as much machinery as two and three mule farms.

Particular attention is called to the sharp rise in size of the farm, the number of acres of cotton, and the amount of machinery and equipment associated with an increase above three in the average number of work animals. Most significant of these relationships from the standpoint of determining characteristics of units of productive factors is the increased amount of machinery and equipment. It is apparent that when the size of the farm is increased above 150 to 160 acres, it becomes necessary to increase the number of work stock to four or more head and to more than double the machinery outlay. Acres of cotton increase on the largest farms, but not in proportion to increases in productive capital. The impracticability of effecting increases or decreases in the machinery outlay proportionate

Table 13. Relationship of Size of the Farm, Acres of Cropland, Acres of Cotton, Value of Machinery and Equipment, and Other Factors to Number of Horses and Mules, Okfuskee and Muskogee Counties, 1938

Number of Horses and Mules		Number of Farms	Size of Farm (Acres)	Amount of Cropland (Acres)	Amount of Cotton (Acres)	Crops Harvested (Acres)	Value of Land Per Farm (Dollars)	Value of Land Per Acre (Dollars)	Investment in Machinery and Equipment (Dollars)	Number in Family: Working Farm	Value of Labor: Family (Dollars)	Value of Labor: Hired (Dollars)	Number Head of Work Stock Per 100 Acres of Cropland	Number Head of Work Stock Per 100 Acres in Farm	Number Head of Work Stock Per 10 Acres of Cotton	$100 Invested in Machinery and Equipment
Range (Number)	Average (Number)															
Okfuskee County																
All Farms (0 to 11)	2.7	81	100.8	62.5	16.2	45.8	1,742	17.28	105	3.0	71	53	4.3	2.7	1.7	2.6
0.0 to 1.5	1.1	13	69.4	45.2	11.1	28.5	1,430	20.59	46	2.8	26	60	2.5	1.6	1.0	2.3
2.0 to 2.5	2.1	40	88.8	55.5	13.4	39.8	1,552	17.15	80	2.4	47	44	3.7	2.3	1.6	2.6
3.0 to 3.5	3.0	13	112.5	73.9	21.1	54.9	1,807	16.06	85	2.3	65	104	4.1	2.7	1.4	3.7
4.0 and Over	4.7	15	150.1	88.7	24.1	68.7	2,544	16.95	239	5.2	179	27	5.3	3.2	2.0	2.0
Muskogee County																
All Farms (0 to 6)	2.8	152	96.0	65.4	15.5	49.1	1,842	19.19	121	3.0	66	49	4.3	2.9	1.8	2.3
0.0 to 1.5	1.0	25	55.8	38.4	9.9	28.1	947	16.98	59	2.7	39	30	2.7	1.9	1.1	1.8
2.0 to 2.5	2.1	66	74.7	52.2	13.3	37.7	1,353	18.10	97	2.7	50	35	3.9	2.7	1.8	2.1
3.0 to 3.5	3.1	24	95.4	70.1	15.8	51.0	1,837	19.24	118	3.1	99	65	4.4	3.2	1.9	2.6
4.0 and Over	4.6	37	161.4	102.2	22.9	82.3	3,321	20.57	206	3.7	92	75	4.4	2.8	2.2	2.2

to small changes in the size of the farm may account for the abrupt rise in the machinery investment associated with the larger farms. Lack of complete divisibility of productive capital and the necessity of maintaining a minimum of equipment and work stock are indicated by the fact that extremely small farms reflect high per acre investments in these items. That the productive factor work stock is more flexible than machinery and equipment is suggested by the figures showing the number of head of work stock per $100 invested in machinery and equipment.

Units of productive capital in the form of work stock and machinery and equipment possess these characteristics in association with size of the farm. (1) Farms having less than one full team are smallest in size, produce an average of approximately 10 acres of cotton, and have about $50 invested in farm machinery. (2) Farms having at least one full team, but less than two teams, constitute more than 60 percent of all of the farms surveyed. These farms are close to average in size. Investment in machinery and equipment amounts to from $80 to $120 per farm. Cotton averages from 13 to 20 acres; from one and one-half to two head of work animals are used per 10 acres of cotton. (3) The farms on which at least two complete teams are kept have considerably larger acreages of crops, especially cotton. More than double the amount of farm machinery necessary to operate two and three mule farms is required on these larger farms. The increase in machinery investment on the largest farms is proportionately greater than the increase in numbers of work stock.

Family Labor.--An abundance of family labor generally is considered the prime requisite of the cotton farmer. The data relating to family labor employed on the farms under consideration tend to

substantiate the general concensus of opinion that large families are associated with farms having large acreages of cropland, and particularly with large acreages of cotton.

The 15 farm operators in Okfuskee County and the 26 operators in Muskogee County who have five or more members of the family working on the farm are situated on the largest farms, have more acres of cropland, and plant more cotton than operators having smaller families.[5/] (Table 14). The farms on which the largest families are located also maintain the largest investments in machinery and equipment and the largest number of head of work stock. Machinery and equipment and work stock increase in about the same proportion as the increase in acreages.

Variations in the amount of family labor seem to have comparatively little relationship to size of the farm and cotton acreages until the number in the family is increased above four. As a matter of fact, farms included in the class having one and two members of the family working on the farm are of about the same size in total acres, cropland, and acres of cotton, as farms on which three and four members of the family spend some time in the fields. In Muskogee County the farms on which three and four members of the family work average 87.1 acres as compared to 86.6 acres for farms on which only one and two members of the family are employed. (Table 14). Farms in the group having one and two members of the family working on the farm report the payment of substantially larger sums of money for hired labor, and the amount so paid decreases with increases in size of the family. A very small amount is paid for hired labor on the farms where families are largest.

5/ The farm operator is not included as one of the number in the family working on the farm, nor is the value of his labor included in the item value of unpaid family labor.

Table 14. Relationship of Size of Farm, Acres of Cropland, Acres of Cotton, Value of Machinery and Equipment, Number of Horses and Mules, and Value of Hired and Family Labor to Number in the Family Working on the Farm, Okfuskee and Muskogee Counties, 1938

Number in Family Working on Farm		Number of Farms	Size of Farms in Acres	Acres of Cropland	Acres of Cotton	Number of Horses and Mules	Investment in Machinery and Equipment (Dollars)	Amount Paid for Hired Labor (Dollars)	Value Unpaid Family Labor (Dollars)
Number	Average								
Okfuskee County									
All Farms	3.0	81	100.8	62.5	16.2	2.7	105	53	71
1 and 2	1.4	45	84.1	53.6	14.0	2.3	80	77	21
3 and 4	3.6	21	100.0	61.2	16.7	2.4	110	28	101
5 and Over	6.8	15	152.2	91.0	22.5	3.6	172	18	177
Muskogee County									
All Farms	3.0	152	96.0	65.4	15.5	2.8	121	49	66
1 and 2	1.6	75	86.6	59.4	13.9	2.4	114	57	31
3 and 4	3.5	51	87.1	60.5	13.9	2.7	109	48	93
5 and Over	6.1	26	140.6	92.5	23.5	3.4	162	26	116

It is notable that comparatively few boys above high school age are included in the number working on the farm. A number of operators express the opinion that the unprofitableness of cotton production and the restriction of cotton acreages in recent years are influencing farm labor to seek employment elsewhere; and that the economic advantage of having large numbers of family laborers has lessened noticeably within the last decade. On the other hand, the opinion often is expressed that operators having available large amounts of family labor tend to become situated on farms where large acreages of cotton can be planted in order to provide employment for their children during the late spring, summer, and early fall months while schools are recessed, and that this tendency is a strong influence in perpetuating cotton as the principal crop. No other farm enterprise is so well adapted to the seasonal nature of the family labor supply. The farmer in this area who has a large supply of family labor enjoys an advantage in the production of cotton due to a comparatively low marginal labor cost.6/

Lines of Production

The preceding section was devoted to a discussion of the nature of the requisites of production, land, equipment, and labor, and of the proportionate combinations in which these factors are utilized by the Negro farm operators in Okfuskee and Muskogee counties. In order further to portray the characteristics of the organization of the farms, attention will be given in this section to a description of

---

6/ The opinions of Negro farm operators referred to were obtained by the writer through personal interviews with farmers located in the Boley community of Okfuskee County.

the lines of production carried out on the farms surveyed. The productive farm enterprises engaged in are classified as to (1) crops, and (2) productive livestock, and are discussed in that order.

The Cropping System.--The crops produced on the farms being studied are divided into two groups, namely, major crops and minor crops. This arbitrary classification is made chiefly upon the basis of the percentage of the total cropland occupied by the respective crops. Major crops include cotton, corn, sorghums for grain and for forage, legumes, and oats. Legumes are of major importance in Okfuskee County only, while oats are of major importance only in Muskogee County. (Table 15).

Cotton is the chief source of cash income from crops and is also the most important crop produced in the area from the standpoint of acreages. Cotton is grown on all but two of the 233 farms studied and occupies about 16 acres per farm, or approximately one-fourth of the cropland.

Corn is the second most important crop and occupies another one-fourth of the cropland. The acreage occupied by corn is slightly higher than acreages of cotton, although corn is not produced on such a high percentage of the farms. The bulk of the corn is fed on the farm. The small quantities sold are purchased locally for consumption on farms on which an inadequate supply is produced.

Acreages of cotton and corn increase with increases in size of the farm, while proportions of the cropland devoted to these two crops decrease.

A variety of grain sorghums is grown on the farms, among the more important of which are milo maize, cane, kaffir, darso, and hygeria. Sorghums are produced more extensively for forage than for

Table 15. Utilization of Cropland, Major Classifications, According to Size of the Farm, Okfuskee and Muskogee Counties, 1938

Size of Farm in Acres		Number of Farms	Cropland		Acres Harvested		Cotton		Corn		Legumes		Sorghums for Grain	
Range	Average		Acres	Percent of Farm	Acres	Percent of Cropland	Acres	Percent of Cropland	Acres	Percent of Cropland	Acres	Percent of Cropland	Acres	Percent of Cropland
Okfuskee County														
All Farms	100.8	81	62.5	62.0	45.8	73.2	16.2	26.0	16.4	26.2	9.0	14.3	1.6	2.5
20 - 59	40.7	18	33.2	81.6	27.2	81.8	9.4	28.4	10.4	31.5	3.9	11.7	.3	.8
60 - 99	80.3	30	50.6	62.9	39.4	78.0	13.6	26.9	14.1	27.9	7.9	15.6	1.3	2.6
100 - 139	116.4	15	70.9	60.9	50.5	71.2	19.8	27.9	17.2	24.2	10.3	14.5	2.2	3.1
140 - 179	156.7	12	90.7	57.9	70.0	77.2	21.7	23.9	25.4	28.0	14.1	15.5	3.2	3.5
180 and Over	233.3	6	133.0	57.0	72.9	54.8	30.1	22.7	25.2	18.9	16.4	12.3	1.9	1.4
Muskogee County														
All Farms	96.0	152	65.4	68.2	49.1	75.0	15.5	23.7	16.9	25.8	3.1	4.7	1.1	1.7
20 - 59	41.2	44	32.2	78.3	25.3	78.2	8.7	26.9	10.0	31.8	1.1	3.3	.9	2.7
60 - 99	76.0	51	56.6	74.4	40.1	70.9	14.2	25.2	16.5	29.2	3.2	5.7	.7	1.2
100 - 139	118.6	31	80.0	67.4	61.7	77.2	18.1	22.7	18.9	23.6	4.6	5.7	1.1	1.4
140 - 179	159.5	16	102.9	64.5	72.5	70.4	23.4	22.7	24.9	24.2	4.0	3.9	2.6	2.6
180 and Over	267.7	10	151.9	56.8	123.3	81.1	20.4	13.4	30.0	19.7	5.5	3.6	1.5	1.0

Continued

Size of Farm in Acres		Number of Farms	Sorghums for Other than Grain		Oats for Grain		Oats for Hay		Miscellaneous 3/		Cropland Idle or Fallow	
Range	Average		Acres	Percent of Cropland	Acres	Percent of Cropland	Acres	Percent of Cropland	Acres	Percent of Cropland	Acres	Percent of Cropland
Okfuskee County												
All Farms	100.8	81	2.8	4.4	1/	2/	.4	.6	2.8	4.5	13.5	21.5
20 - 59	40.7	18	2.5	7.4	1/	2/	.1	.4	.7	2.2	5.9	17.6
60 - 99	80.3	30	2.5	5.1	1/	2/	.3	.6	2.9	5.9	7.8	15.4
100 - 139	116.4	15	2.7	3.9	.1	.2	.5	.7	3.2	4.5	14.9	21.0
140 - 179	156.7	12	3.1	3.4	1/	2/	.7	.8	4.6	5.1	18.0	19.8
180 and Over	253.3	6	3.8	2.8	1/	2/	1/	2/	3.7	2.8	52.2	39.1
Muskogee County												
All Farms	96.0	152	1.3	2.0	4.3	6.5	.3	.4	9.3	14.2	13.8	21.0
20 - 59	41.2	44	1.1	3.3	.5	1.5	.4	1.2	3.2	9.8	6.3	19.5
60 - 99	76.0	51	1.2	2.2	1.8	3.3	.1	.2	3.8	6.7	14.9	26.3
100 - 139	118.6	31	1.9	2.4	8.2	10.3	.2	.2	12.1	15.1	14.9	18.6
140 - 179	159.5	16	1.6	1.5	8.9	8.6	.6	.6	11.4	11.1	25.5	24.8
180 and Over	267.7	10	.5	.3	13.6	8.9	1/	2/	35.1	23.1	18.9	12.4

1/ Less than one-tenth of an acre

2/ Less than one-tenth of one percent

3/ Included in the miscellaneous item are acreages of truck crops, wheat, barley, native pastures, green manure crops, etc., and acres of crops failed. Acreages included in this item are classified in detail in Table 16.

grain. (Table 15). Sorghums account for more acres and a higher percentage of the cropland in Okfuskee than in Muskogee County.[7/]

Oats are produced rather extensively in Muskogee County, whereas oats and small grains in general are sparsely grown on the farms in Okfuskee County. Legumes, on the other hand, account for about three time as many acres per farm in Okfuskee as in Muskogee County. In the former county 14.3 percent of the cropland is occupied by leguminous crops of various kinds as compared to only 4.7 percent in Muskogee County.

The variation in the extent to which small grains and legumes are grown is a manifestation of the influence of slight differences in soils upon the type of farming, and of the tendency of Negro operators to produce crops best suited to the area in which they are situated.

The number of acres of legumes increases as the farms increase in size; farms ranging in size from approximately 75 to 150 acres reflect the highest percentage of the cropland devoted to legumes.

Attention is called to the fact that 21 percent of the cropland is classed as idle or fallow. The actual number of acres idle or fallow is only slightly less than the acres of cotton. Between 13 and 14 acres of cropland, on the average, are idle or fallow. Such a

---

7/ It should be pointed out that in many instances clear distinctions could not be drawn between uses of sorghums. "Sorghums for grain" were so classed only in cases where the operator reported the harvesting and handling of a substantial portion of the acreage as a grain crop. In such cases the stalks usually were pastured off, so that some use as forage was also made of the crop. In addition to regular forage crops, sorghums grown for special uses, such as cane for syrup, are also included in the general classification "sorghums for uses other than grains." For a detailed listing of minor crops and major crops grown for special purposes, see Table 16.

relatively high figure for idle cropland may be accounted for in part by the inclusion in this classification of lands which rightfully could be termed "waste cropland". On many farms, especially the small farms, such land is lying idle not for the reason that a regular system of rotation in land use is being followed but rather because the soil is so badly eroded or otherwise depleted of its natural fertility that its use for crops is no longer economically feasible.

Some important facts concerning acreages of minor crops and major crops grown for special uses are shown in Table 16. It is essential to study the data in this table as a supplement to Table 15 for a true understanding of the cropping system. The degree to which crops are diversified is significant. The large number of acres and variety of feed and miscellaneous crops show rather conclusively that the Negro farmers in Oklahoma are not practicing the so called "one-crop" system of farming generally associated with the Negro, the South, and cotton production. While it is obvious that cotton is the only cash crop of any importance, the cropping system by no means can be termed a one-crop system. Special crops such as sorghums for syrup, truck and gardens, peas, and peanuts are indicative of the "live-at-home" aspect of the type of farming.

Some differences between the two counties are noted in regard to acreages of certain of the special crops. For example, peas are grown much more extensively in Okfuskee than in Muskogee County. Forty of the 81 farms reported an average of 8.4 acres of peas per farm, whereas only 25 of the 152 farms in Muskogee County grew peas and these reported only 2.0 acres per farm. Native pastures cut for hay are of much greater use in Muskogee County where 28 of the farms reported an average of

Table 16. Number of Farms Reporting, Range of Acres Reported, and Average Acres for Farms Reporting Minor Crops, According to Size of the Farm, Okfuskee and Muskogee Counties, 1938

	Hay (Tame)						Native Pasture Cut for Hay		Tame Pasture				Peas	
	Legume				Other Than Legumes				Legume		Non-Legume			
	Alfalfa		Other Than Alfalfa											
	Okfuskee	Muskogee	Okfuskee	Muskogee	Okfuskee	Muskogee	Okfuskee	Muskogee	Okfuskee	Muskogee	Okfuskee	Muskogee	Okfuskee	Muskogee
All Farms:														
Total number farms	81	152	81	152	81	152	81	152	81	152	81	152	81	152
Number farms reporting	3	5	1	7	6	5	2	28	17	38	14	46	40	25
Range of acres reported	1-10	3-19	1	3-10	1-2	1-14	3-7	1-100	½-29	1-23	1-16	1-61	1-36	½-5½
Average acres for farms reporting	4.3	9.4	1	5.4	1.6	5.8	5	13.8	9.4	4.4	5.9	6.8	8.4	2.0
20 to 59 Acres:														
Total number farms	18	44	18	44	18	44	18	44	18	44	18	44	18	44
Number farms reporting	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2	4	11	3	8	9	8
Range of acres reported	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2-3	½-7	1-5	1-2	1-7	1-8	½-2
Average acres for farms reporting	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2½	4.6	20.4	1.7	3.9	5.9	1.2
60 to 99 Acres:														
Total number farms	30	51	30	51	30	51	30	51	30	51	30	51	30	51
Number farms reporting	2	4	1	3	2	1	2	7	5	9	5	17	15	9
Range of acres reported	2-10	3-19	1	3-4	1-1½	1	3-7	1-12	2-13	½-10	1-6	1-7	1-14	½-4
Average acres for farms reporting	6	11	1	3 1/3	1¼	1	5	5.7	6.6	4.7	3.6	3.4	7.4	1.9
100 to 139 Acres:														
Total number farms	15	31	15	31	15	31	15	31	15	31	15	31	15	31
Number farms reporting	1	1	0	2	2	1	0	11	1	8	4	12	8	7
Range of acres reported	1	3	0	5-10	1-2	4	0	1-33	6	2-23	1-16	1-18	2½-14	1-5
Average acres for farms reporting	1	3	0	7½	1½	4	0	10.6	6	6.9	9.2	8.2	8.3	2.4
140 to 179 Acres:														
Total number farms	12	16	12	16	12	16	12	16	12	16	12	16	12	16
Number farms reporting	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	2	4	4	2	5	8	1
Range of acres reported	0	0	0	5	0	5	0	8-10	4-21	1-6	10-13	4-10	1-36	5½
Average acres for farms reporting	0	0	0	5	0	5	0	9	10.2	3.7	11.5	6.6	13.6	5½
180 Acres and Over:														
Total number farms	6	10	6	10	6	10	6	10	6	10	6	10	6	10
Number farms reporting	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	6	3	6	0	4	0	0
Range of acres reported	0	0	0	8	0	14	0	10-100	13-29	1-10	0	3-61	0	0
Average acres for farms reporting	0	0	0	8	0	14	0	34.7	20.3	5.2	0	23.0	0	0

Continued

	Green Manure				Truck Crops		Wheat		Barley		Sorghum for Syrup		Peanuts		Crop Failure	
	Legume		Non-Legume													
	Okfuskee	Muskogee	Okfuskee	Muskogee	Okfuskee	Muskogee	Okfuskee	Muskogee	Okfuskee	Muskogee	Okfuskee	Muskogee	Okfuskee	Muskogee	Okfuskee	Muskogee
All Farms:																
Total number farms	81	152	81	152	81	152	81	152	81	152	81	152	81	152	81	152
Number farms reporting	17	14	1	10	20	43	1	11	0	3	20	18	11	0	18	28
Range of acres reported	2-30	1-15	3	1-15	¼-3	½-20	3	5-40	0	3-8	1-4	¼-5	½-2	0	½-16	½-32
Average acres for farms reporting	9.9	5.6	3	5.4	0.9	3.1	3	15	0	4.7	1.5	1.6	1.1	0	5.6	9.4
20 to 59 Acres:																
Total number farms	18	44	18	44	18	44	18	44	18	44	18	44	18	44	18	44
Number farms reporting	1	2	0	1	4	13	0	2	0	0	3	5	2	0	0	7
Range of acres reported	3	1-4	0	5	¼-1	½-5½	0	5-12	0	0	1-2	1-2	½-1	0	0	1-12
Average acres for farms reporting	3	2½	0	5	½	3.3	0	8½	0	0	1.7	1.2	3/4	0	0	4
60 to 99 Acres:																
Total number farms	30	51	30	51	30	51	30	51	30	51	30	51	30	51	30	51
Number farms reporting	6	4	0	2	8	10 1/	1	1	0	0	6	4	3	0	8	5
Range of acres reported	4-18	2-2½	0	1-3	¼-2½	1-20	3	8	0	0	1-4	1-3	½-1	0	1½-16	1-10
Average acres for farms reporting	7.0	2.1	0	2	3/4	4.2	3	8	0	0	1.8	1.6	0.8	0	7.2	11.2
100 to 139 Acres:																
Total number farms	15	31	15	31	15	31	15	31	15	31	15	31	15	31	15	31
Number farms reporting	7	2	1	4	2	13	0	4	0	0	4	6	3	0	4	9
Range of acres reported	3-24	2-4	3	3-10	1-2	½-5	0	5-13	0	0	½-1½	1-3	1-2	0	½-7	½-30
Average acres for farms reporting	12.0	3	3	4.2	1½	2.0	0	8½	0	0	1.	1.3	1½	0	2.6	9.3
140 to 179 Acres:																
Total number farms	12	16	12	16	12	16	12	16	12	16	12	16	12	16	12	16
Number farms reporting	1	4	0	1	5	5	0	1	0	1	5	2	3	0	3	3
Range of acres reported	7	6-15	0	7	¼-2	1-3	0	12	0	8	1-2	¼-5	½-2	0	2-11	1-22
Average acres for farms reporting	7	10.7	0	7	0.85	1.7	0	12	0	8	1.6	2.6	1.2	0	5.5	10
180 Acres and Over:																
Total number farms	6	10	6	10	6	10	6	10	6	10	6	10	6	10	6	10
Number farms reporting	2	2	0	2	1	2	0	3	0	2	2	1	0	0	3	4
Range of acres reported	2-30	4-12	0	2-15	3	2-13	0	25-40	0	3	1	3	0	0	3½-7	1-32
Average acres for farms reporting	16	8	0	8.5	3	7½	0	31.7	0	3	1	3	0	0	5.3	16.2

1/ One farm reported 20 acres of sweet corn.

13.8 acres. On the other hand, only two farms in Okfuskee County reported the harvesting of meadows. Pastures and hay crops in general are found more extensively in Muskogee County. No peanuts are grown on the farms in Muskogee County, whereas 11 farms in Okfuskee County have acreages of peanuts ranging from one-half to two acres. Cane for syrup is grown more extensively in Okfuskee County than in Muskogee County.

Briefly, the cropping system practiced on the farms may be described as diversified in type with feed and special crops occupying the greater proportion of the cropland.

Productive Livestock.--Productive livestock of some kind is found on 100 percent of the farms surveyed. The prevalence of milk cows, poultry, and hogs is a further indication of the diversified nature of the enterprises engaged in by the groups of Negro farm operators being

Table 17. Number and Percent of Total Farms Reporting Different Kinds of Productive Livestock, Okfuskee and Muskogee Counties, 1938

	Okfuskee		Muskogee	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total number of farms	81	100.0	152	100.0
Total number of farms reporting:				
Cattle	75	92.6	132	86.6
Milk cows	74	91.4	130	85.5
Beef cows	2	2.5	4	2.6
Bulls	2	2.5	12	7.9
Calves	62	76.5	102	67.1
Other	26	32.1	58	38.2
Poultry	80	98.8	149	98.0
Hogs	67	82.7	130	85.5
Sows	60	74.1	115	75.5
Boars	2	2.5	3	2.0
Shoats	18	22.2	40	26.3
Pigs	37	45.7	82	53.9

Table 18. Number of Animal Units of Productive Livestock, Investment in Productive Livestock, Average Number of Head of All Cattle, Milk Cows, Poultry, and Hogs, According to Size of the Farm, Okfuskee and Muskogee Counties, 1938

	All Farms	Size of the Farm in Acres				
		20 to 59	60 to 99	100 to 139	140 to 179	180 and Over
Okfuskee County						
Number of farms	81	18	30	15	12	6
Size of farm	100.8	40.7	80.3	116.4	156.7	233.3
Number animal units of productive livestock	3.23	2.16	2.63	3.29	5.01	5.70
Number animal units of productive livestock per 100 acres in farm	3.20	5.32	3.27	2.82	3.20	2.44
Investment in productive livestock (Dollars)	131	89	103	141	197	234
Average number of head of:						
All Cattle	3.1	1.7	2.6	3.4	4.9	6.2
Milk Cows	1.8	1.2	1.4	1.8	3.1	3.2
Poultry	36.4	33.1	32.4	35.5	39.0	63.5
Hogs	3.3	2.4	3.0	3.1	5.2	3.4
Muskogee County						
Number of farms	152	44	51	31	16	10
Size of farm	96.0	41.2	76.0	118.6	159.5	267.7
Number animal units of productive livestock	3.17	2.04	2.76	3.87	3.37	7.49
Number animal units of productive livestock per 100 acres in farm	3.30	4.95	3.63	3.26	2.13	2.80
Investment in Productive livestock (Dollars)	114	73	94	149	128	276
Average number of head of:						
All cattle	2.9	1.7	2.5	3.6	3.4	7.6
Milk cows	1.7	1.0	1.5	2.0	1.9	4.0
Poultry	24.9	18.4	22.1	30.6	28.0	44.7
Hogs	3.9	2.8	3.4	4.7	3.7	10.1

studied. More than 90 percent of the farm operators in Okfuskee County keep milk cows, 98.8 percent keep poultry, and 82.7 percent report hogs. (Table 17). The percentage of the farms in Muskogee County reporting these kinds of livestock are 85.5, 98.0, and 85.5, respectively. Only one farm in Okfuskee and only two farms in Muskogee County report no poultry. Less than 3 percent of the 233 operators report beef cattle.

The influence of family needs upon the numbers of productive livestock is apparent in Table 18, where it is shown that numbers of milk cows, poultry, and hogs do not increase in proportion to increases in size of the farm. In Okfuskee County, for example, an increase of only 1.13 animal units is associated with an increase in size of farm from approximately 40 acres to 120 acres.

A close correlation exists between acres of the principal feed crops and size of the productive livestock enterprises. (Table 19).

Referring again to the influence exerted by factors other than size of the farm upon size of the livestock enterprises, it is notable that farms on which less than five animal units are maintained vary comparatively little in size. There is no appreciable difference between acreages of the principal feed crops on farms having less than four animal units. Farms having from 4.00 to 4.99 units of productive livestock do, however, report substantial increases in acres of feed crops over farms having smaller numbers of livestock.

The production of dairy products rarely exceeds the requirements for farm and home consumption. There are a few farms on which the family is not supplied with milk and butter the year round. Poultry sales are small. Fryers constitute the major source of meat for family consumption during the summer months. Approximately 80

Table 19. Relationship of Size of the Farm, Permanent Pasture and Acres of Selected Feed Crops to the Total Number of Animal Units of Productive Livestock, Okfuskee and Muskogee Counties, 1938 1/

Number of Animal Units of Productive Livestock Range	Average	Number of Farms	Average Size of Farms	Acres of Permanent Pasture	Acres of Corn	Acres of Small Grain	Acres of Grain Sorghum for Grain	Acres of Grain Sorghum for Forage	Acres of Principal Feed Crops
Okfuskee County									
All Farms	3.23	81	100.8	29.4	16.4	4.5	1.6	2.8	39.4
0.00 - 1.99	1.32	28	83.2	24.0	14.0	2.9	.6	2.8	20.3
2.00 - 2.99	2.48	20	95.4	24.9	14.1	4.2	.9	2.5	21.6
3.00 - 3.99	3.45	13	94.7	29.5	14.2	6.7	1.6	2.9	25.4
4.00 - 4.99	4.37	8	98.4	30.4	18.6	5.9	3.4	2.5	30.4
5.00 - 5.99	5.48	4	141.2	48.5	28.2	2.2	2.2	1.5	34.1
6.00 - 9.99	7.16	4	137.5	33.0	26.5	6.4	3.5	2.7	39.1
10.00 - 13.99	11.19	4	198.7	65.7	25.2	7.0	4.9	5.2	42.3
Muskogee County									
All Farms	3.17	152	96.0	15.7	17.0	5.9	1.8	1.3	26.0
0.00 - 1.99	1.11	58	74.6	13.9	14.8	2.1	.9	1.4	19.2
2.00 - 2.99	2.49	28	101.4	23.5	16.7	5.5	.9	.9	24.0
3.00 - 3.99	3.37	28	75.2	18.9	13.2	2.8	1.0	1.6	18.6
4.00 - 4.99	4.56	12	97.3	19.7	19.0	10.4	3.0	1.2	33.6
5.00 - 5.99	5.49	9	111.2	28.4	20.9	11.8	1.2	2.0	35.9
6.00 - 9.99	7.36	13	176.3	50.0	29.4	16.1	.7	1.1	47.3
10.00 - 13.99	12.24	4	215.0	72.5	21.0	25.5	1.2	1.5	49.2

1/ Numbers of the principal kinds of productive livestock considered the equivalent of one animal unit are as follows: milk cows, 1; beef cows, 1; calves under 1 year, 4; cattle 1 to 2 years of age, 2; hens and roosters, 100; chicks, 200, turkeys, 50; sows, 4; pigs under 6 months, 8; and shoats, 5.

percent of the farms raise enough hogs to supply the family with meat and lard during the fall and winter months.

The production of feed crops and the raising of livestock may be considered the most important attribute of the operation of the farms under consideration. These complementary enterprises are well balanced in relation one to the other and appear to assume such sizes as will meet the needs for farm and family consumption. The livestock program is more essential to the maintenance of the existing level of subsistence than is the cash income from cotton.

Tenure Status of the Farm Operators

More than three-fourths of the farms are operated by tenants. In Okfuskee County 71.6 percent of the farms are operated by share tenants; in Muskogee County share tenants operate 74.4 percent of the farms. (Table 20).

The farms are situated in an area of the State where the percentage of tenancy has been high since as early as 1900, when an area now comprising seven counties in this section of the State reported 63.7 percent of the farms operated by tenants.[8/] The early development of tenancy in this section of the State resulted chiefly from the influence upon type of farming of the one cash crop system of cropping.[9/] Another factor influencing tenancy in this area is the fact that many tracts of land are held by Indians and others who perhaps are more

---

8/ Nelson, Peter, "Landlord Tenant Relations in the Southwest with Special Reference to Oklahoma," The Southwestern Social Science Quarterly, Vol. XIX, No. 4, March, 1939, Norman, Oklahoma, p. 364.

9/ Ibid. 366.

Table 20. Classification of the Negro Operated Farms Surveyed in Okfuskee and Muskogee Counties, According to Tenure of the Operator and Size of the Farm

	Total Number of Farms		Owners						Tenants					
			All Owners		Full Owners		Part Owners		All Tenants		Cash Tenants		Share Tenants	
	Okfuskee	Muskogee	Okfuskee	Muskogee	Okfuskee	Muskogee	Okfuskee	Muskogee	Okfuskee	Muskogee	Okfuskee	Muskogee	Okfuskee	Muskogee
Total, All Farms:														
Number	81	152	18	35	10	16	8	19	63	117	5	4	58	113
Percent of all farms operated by each tenure class	100	100	22.2	23.0	12.3	10.5	9.9	12.5	77.8	77.0	6.2	2.6	71.6	74.4
Percent of each tenure class operating farms of all sizes	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
20 to 59 Acres:														
Number	18	44	5	13	3	9	2	4	13	31	-	1	13	30
Percent of farms 20-59 acres operated by each tenure class	100	100	27.8	29.5	16.7	20.4	11.1	9.1	72.2	70.5	-	2.3	72.2	68.2
Percent of each tenure class operating farms 20-59 acres	22.3	28.9	27.8	37.2	30.0	56.2	25.0	21.0	20.6	26.5	-	25.0	22.4	26.5
60 to 99 Acres:														
Number	30	51	3	11	2	6	1	5	27	40	2	-	25	40
Percent of farms 60-99 acres operated by each tenure class	100	100	10.0	21.6	6.7	11.8	3.3	9.8	90.0	78.4	6.7	-	83.3	78.4
Percent of each tenure class operating farms 60-99 acres	37.0	33.6	16.7	31.4	20.0	37.5	12.5	26.4	42.9	34.2	40.0	-	43.1	35.4
100 to 139 Acres:														
Number	15	31	6	6	3	-	3	6	9	25	1	-	8	25
Percent of farms 100-139 acres operated by each tenure class	100	100	40.0	19.3	20.0	-	20.0	19.3	60.0	80.7	6.7	-	53.3	80.7
Percent of each tenure class operating farms 100-139 acres	18.5	20.4	33.3	17.1	30.0	-	37.5	31.6	14.3	21.4	20.0	-	13.8	22.2
140 to 179 Acres:														
Number	12	16	3	-	2	-	1	-	9	16	-	2	9	14
Percent of farms 140-179 acres operated by each tenure class	100	100	25.0	-	16.7	-	8.3	-	75.0	100	-	12.5	75.0	87.5
Percent of each tenure class operating farms 140-179 acres	14.8	10.5	16.7	-	20.0	-	12.5	-	14.3	13.7	-	50.0	15.5	12.4
180 and Over:														
Number	6	10	1	5	-	1	1	4	5	5	2	1	3	4
Percent of farms 180 acres & over operated by each tenure class	100	100	16.7	50.0	-	10.0	16.7	40.0	83.3	50.0	33.3	10.0	50.0	40.0
Percent of each tenure class operating farms 180 acres & over	74	6.6	5.5	14.3	-	6.3	12.5	21.0	7.9	4.2	40.0	25.0	5.2	3.5

interested in ownership of the land because of the mineral rights involved than as a source of income from agriculture.[10/]

About one out of nine of the 233 operators own all of the land operated. Twenty-three percent of them own part or all of the land operated. Eight of the 81 operators in Okfuskee County own only part of the farm and rent additional land; in Muskogee County, 19 of the 152 farms are operated by part owners. This comparatively large number of owners who rent additional land adds emphasis to the prevalence of tenancy.[11/] Approximately 90 percent of the farm operations are carried out on rented land.

Table 21. Number of Farms Operated by Part Owners, and Average Number Acres Owned and Rented, Okfuskee and Muskogee Counties, 1938

County	Number of Farms	Size of Farm in Acres	Acres Owned	Acres Rented
Okfuskee	8	104.8	40.4	64.4
Muskogee	19	122.2	53.2	69.0

Five of the 81 farms in Okfuskee County, 6.2 percent, are rented strictly on a cash basis. This form of rental agreement applied to only four of the 152 farms in Muskogee County, or 2.6 percent of the total.

Share tenants rent upon the popular terms referred to as "third" and "fourth" shares. One-third of grain and other feed crops and

10/ Klemme, Randall T., Oklahoma Land Ownership Pattern Map, published in preliminary form with Mimeographed Circular No. 50, Agricultural Economics Department, Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical College, 1939.

11/ Owners who rent additional land are not included in the number of tenants constituting 77 percent of all operators.

one-fourth of the cotton crop are paid as share rent on most of the farms. That these basic terms are not serving the desired purpose in all cases is indicated by the number of share tenants and part owners who report the payment of fixed sums of cash rent in addition to payment of the usual share rent in cotton. (Table 22). Usually the payment of supplemental cash rent is made in lieu of payment of a one-third share in crops other than cotton. This practice is evidence, for one thing, of the impracticability of measuring and making delivery of small quantities of miscellaneous crops. It is much more satisfactory in many instances to assess a per acre cash rental upon a specified number of acres of cropland than to attempt a division of miscellaneous crops. Furthermore, the operator is free under such circumstances to harvest and utilize the crops in the manner best suited to his needs.

Table 22. Number of Share Tenants and Part Owners Reporting the Payment of Supplemental Cash Rent, and Average Cash Rent Paid per Farm, Okfuskee and Muskogee Counties, 1938

County	Share Tenants			Part Owners		
	Number	Percent of Total Share Tenants	Average Cash Rent Per Farm	Number	Percent of Total Part Owners	Average Cash Rent Per Farm
Okfuskee	12	20.7	$17.58	3	37.5	$53.66
Muskogee	27	23.9	$22.96	8	42.1	$40.62

It should be remembered that the payment of a fixed share of the cash crop, cotton, continues as the basic terms of rental. The special terms supplementing the payment of one-fourth of the cotton crop

merely reflect the tendency of landlords and tenants to establish equitable and practicable bases for dividing proceeds of the farm business.

Only five operators in Okfuskee County rent exclusively for cash. Only four operators pay cash rent in Muskogee County. The amounts paid as cash rent vary considerably from farm to farm in both counties, and are consistently higher in Muskogee County. (Table 23).

Table 23. Number of Farm Operators Paying Cash Rent Exclusively, Size of Farm, and Amount of Annual Cash Rental, Okfuskee and Muskogee Counties, 1938

County	Number of Farms	Size of Farm in Acres		Amount of Annual Cash Rental		Cash Rental Per Acre of Cropland
		Range	Average	Range	Average	
Okfuskee	5	80 to 300	150.6	$40 to $300	$137	$1.38
Muskogee	4	40 to 200	120.8	$90 to $250	$160	$2.05

There are special cases in which the farm operator agrees to carry out certain conservation measures, such as the building and maintenance of terraces, in return for which he is entitled to the use of the non-cotton acreages rent free. Landlords who have such agreements seemingly are especially interested in maintaining the productivity of their farms and are, therefore, willing in this manner to reimburse the tenant for sacrifices involved in his carrying out the desired conservation practices. These farms appear to be above average in productivity and have been operated for several years by the same tenant.

While, in general, it appears that owning all or part of the land makes no great difference in the organization of the farm or the

lines of production engaged in, some particular differences are of enough significance to warrant mention. (Table 24).

There is a noticeable tendency for tenants to operate larger farms than full owners. Part owners operate much larger farms than full owners; farms operated by part owners are also slightly larger than the farms operated by share tenants. Cash tenants operate larger farms, on the average, than any other tenure group. It is significant also that cash tenants plant considerably larger acreages of cotton than other tenure groups. This may be interpreted as an indication of the recognized tendency of cash tenants to emphasize cash crops as a means of widening the margin between receipts from crops and the annual rental.

Summary.--A comparison of the essential characteristics of organization of the Negro operated farms included in this study is shown in Table 25. A high degree of similarity exists between the two groups of farms in regard to the size of the farm and the nature of the land classification. Cropland accounts for two-thirds of the farm. Pasture land accounts for one-fourth of the farm.

Almost identical average numbers of work stock and cattle are maintained on the two groups of farms. More poultry is kept on Okfuskee County farms, while hogs are more numerous on Muskogee County farms.

Land, farm improvements, machinery and equipment, and farm dwellings are valued at slightly higher figures in Muskogee than in Okfuskee County.

On the Negro operated farms as a whole, cotton and corn each occupy one-fourth of the cropland. One-fifth of the cropland is idle or

Table 24. Major Characteristics of the Farm Organization, According to Tenure of the Operator, Okfuskee and Muskogee Counties, 1938

		All Farms		Owners			
				All Owners		Full Owners	
		Okfuskee	Muskogee	Okfuskee	Muskogee	Okfuskee	Muskogee
Percent of total farms in tenure groups		100	100	100	100	12.3	10.5
Number of farms	(Number)	81	152	18	35	10	16
Size of farm	(Acres)	100.8	96.0	94.2	96.8	85.7	66.5
Cropland	(Acres)	62.5	65.4	54.8	69.2	50.8	44.4
Proportion of farm in cropland	(Percent)	62.0	68.2	58.2	71.5	59.3	66.8
Pasture land	(Acres)	29.5	22.5	25.7	19.2	19.9	14.0
Proportion of farm in pasture land	(Percent)	29.2	23.5	27.3	19.9	23.2	21.1
Cropland harvested	(Acres)	45.8	49.1	39.3	55.8	37.0	37.5
Proportion of Cropland harvested	(Percent)	73.2	75.0	71.7	80.7	72.9	84.5
Utilization of Cropland:							
Cotton	(Acres)	16.2	15.5	14.1	14.1	12.8	11.5
Corn	(Acres)	16.4	16.9	13.6	17.1	13.2	15.2
Sorghums, grain and forage	(Acres)	4.4	2.4	3.5	2.8	12.8	1.3
Legumes	(Acres)	9.0	3.1	9.3	4.5	8.1	5.1
Work stock	(Number)	2.7	2.8	2.3	2.8	2.5	2.2
Work stock per 100 acres of cropland	(Number)	4.4	4.3	4.2	4.1	4.9	5.0
Animal units of productive livestock	(Number)	3.23	3.17	2.65	4.35	2.35	3.31
Animal units of productive livestock per 100 acres in farm	(Number)	3.20	3.30	2.82	4.50	2.74	4.98
Milk cows	(Number)	1.8	1.7	1.6	2.1	1.5	1.9
Poultry	(Number)	36.4	24.9	32.7	30.8	23.8	21.7
Swine	(Number)	3.3	3.9	3.2	6.0	2.2	4.7
Total farm investment	(Dollars)	2,381	2,464	2,075	2,854	2,001	1,826
Investment in land	(Dollars)	1,742	1,842	1,520	2,028	1,581	1,231
Investment in farm improvements	(Dollars)	133	144	163	197	115	141
Investment in machinery and equipment	(Dollars)	105	121	97	191	65	137
Value of farm dwelling	(Dollars)	222	224	317	433	323	357

Continued

	Part Owners		Tenants					
			All Tenants		Cash Tenants		Share Tenants	
	Okfuskee	Muskogee	Okfuskee	Muskogee	Okfuskee	Muskogee	Okfuskee	Muskogee
Percent of total farms in tenure groups	9.9	12.5	100	100	6.2	2.6	71.6	74.4
Number of farms	8	19	63	117	5	4	58	113
Size of farm	104.8	122.2	102.7	95.8	150.6	120.8	98.6	94.9
Cropland	59.9	90.0	64.7	64.3	99.4	78.1	61.7	63.8
Proportion of farm in cropland	57.2	73.6	63.0	67.2	66.0	64.7	62.6	67.3
Pasture land	33.1	23.6	30.5	23.5	44.0	36.9	29.4	23.0
Proportion of farm in pasture land	31.6	19.3	29.7	24.5	29.2	30.5	29.8	24.3
Cropland harvested	42.2	71.2	47.6	47.0	62.8	50.8	46.3	46.9
Proportion of cropland harvested	70.5	79.1	73.6	73.1	63.2	65.0	75.0	73.5
Utilization								
Cotton	15.6	16.4	16.9	15.9	23.0	18.6	16.3	15.8
Corn	14.0	18.6	17.2	16.9	19.0	17.2	17.0	16.8
Sorghums, grain and forage	4.4	3.8	4.5	2.3	6.3	1.2	4.4	2.4
Legumes	10.8	4.0	8.9	2.7	14.9	2.9	8.4	2.7
Work stock	2.0	3.4	2.8	2.8	4.2	3.1	2.7	2.8
Work stock per 100 acres of cropland	3.3	3.7	4.4	4.3	4.2	4.0	4.4	4.4
Animal units of productive livestock	3.04	5.23	3.39	2.81	5.98	3.88	3.17	2.78
Animal units of productive livestock per 100 acres in farm	2.90	4.28	3.30	2.94	3.97	3.22	3.21	2.93
Milk cows	1.6	2.4	1.9	1.5	3.3	2.1	1.8	1.5
Poultry	43.8	38.5	37.5	23.1	71.9	14.1	34.5	23.4
Swine	4.4	7.1	3.3	3.3	3.1	4.9	3.3	3.3
Total farm investment	167	3,719	2,468	2,348	3,439	2,870	2,384	2,330
Investment in land	444	2,699	1,806	1,786	1,944	2,408	1,794	1,764
Investment in farm improvements	221	244	125	128	450	73	97	130
Investment in machinery and equipment	137	237	107	100	303	71	90	101
Value of farm dwelling	310	497	194	162	394	95	177	164

fallow. The remainder of the cropland is devoted to grain sorghums, peas, oats, legumes, peanuts, truck and miscellaneous crops. The differences in acreages of minor crops grown on the two groups of farms reflect the differences between the two type-of-farming areas in which the farms are situated.

One to two teams of work stock are common to most of the farms. Family labor constitutes the chief source of labor on the farms. The larger families are situated on larger farms and cultivate larger acreages of cotton.

Seventy-seven percent of the 233 Negro operated farms are operated by tenants. Slightly more than 90 percent of the land is tenant operated.

Table 25. Average Size of Farms, Classification of Land in Farms, Utilization of Cropland, Livestock Numbers, and Value of Total Farm Investment, Okfuskee and Muskogee Counties, 1938

Counties	Number Farms	Acres in Farms	Percent of Farm in: Crop-land	Pasture Land	Other Land 2/	Percent of Cropland Occupied by: Cotton	Corn	Sorghums 1/	Legumes	Oats	Other Crops	Idle or Fallow
Okfuskee	81	100.8	62.0	29.2	8.8	26.0	26.2	6.9	14.3	.6	4.5	21.5
Muskogee	152	96.0	68.2	23.5	8.3	23.7	25.8	3.7	4.7	6.9	14.2	20.0

	Number Farms	Number of Animals per 100 Acres in Farm: Work Stock	All Cattle	Milk Cows	Poultry	Hogs	Investment per Farm in: Total Farm Investment	Land	Farm Improvement	Machinery and Equipment	Farm Dwelling
Okfuskee	81	2.7	3.1	1.8	36.1	3.2	$2,381	$1,742	$133	$105	$222
Muskogee	152	2.9	3.1	1.8	25.9	4.1	$2,464	$1,842	$144	$121	$224

1/ Sorghums for grain and forage.

2/ Includes waste land, farmstead, and roads and wooded or non-wooded land not pastured.

CHAPTER IV

THE INCOME LEVEL OF NEGRO OPERATED FARMS IN OKLAHOMA

Farm Income

The purpose of the following discussion is twofold. First, the Negro operated farms in Okfuskee and Muskogee counties will be examined with a view to determining the adequacy of the farm income to yield a fair return to the capital investment, labor, and management. The level of earnings will be considered from the point of view of the self-sufficing type farm. Second, an attempt will be made to determine the characteristics of organization and management having closest association with profitableness of Negro operated farms in Oklahoma as reflected by farm income.

Incomes earned by the farms represent normal or typical returns for such farms only to the extent that the physical, biological, and economic conditions prevailing at the time of production approach normalcy. It is common knowledge that the farmer must reckon with changing weather conditions, incursions of insects and rodents, diseases of plants and livestock, changes in prices, and other variable factors in his efforts to earn a livelihood, and that a slight variation in one or more of these factors may alter materially the farmer's income in any given year. It is important, therefore, that physical and economic conditions existing during 1938 be considered in reviewing the incomes earned by the Negro operated farms included in this study.

The farms in the area studied have been referred to as being of a self-sufficing type. When employed in this paper in describing type of farming the term "self-sufficing" denotes a system of farming under which a considerable portion of the staple commodities consumed on the

farm and in the home are obtained directly from the farm, and implies that the farm produces comparatively little in excess of the quantities thus consumed. In other words, the term indicates a minimum of dependence upon outside sources for the necessities of life, and a relatively low return from the farm above subsistence for the farm family.

A minimum of subsistence for the farm family, or a bare living, must be produced by the farm if it is to afford a home for the farmer who is devoid of other sources of income. If the farm is to be considered a business enterprise it must yield something in excess of a minimum in subsistence for the farm family. The degree to which earnings exceed mere subsistence on a given type of operating unit is a measurement of the success of the farm as a business undertaking.

The records reveal that an average of $473 is earned as farm income on the 81 farms in Okfuskee County. Farm income for the 152 farms in Muskogee County averages $390.[1/] (Table 26).

Farm income varies widely among the farms. In Okfuskee County two farm operators report farm expenses in excess of farm receipts, with the result that net losses are sustained in the respective amounts of $76 and $34. Two operators in Muskogee County likewise report negative farm incomes, the amounts being $52 and $20. The most successful farm in each of the counties earns slightly more than $2,000.

1/ Farm income as used in this study is the amount by which the total farm receipts plus increases in inventories exceed the total cash operating expenses plus decreases in inventories. Farm income is the term applied to the sum earned by the farm as a composite return to (1) the capital investment, (2) the operator, as a labor and management wage, and (3) the family, as payment for labor expended on the farm. Farm income does not reflect the value of farm products consumed in the home.

Table 26. Returns to Operator and Family Labor, Total Farm Investment, and Management, According to Levels of Farm Income, Okfuskee and Muskogee Counties, 1938

Farm Income Range	Average (Dollars)	Number of Farms	Returns to Operator and Family Labor (Dollars)	Operator's Labor and Management Wage (Dollars)	Rate Earned on Total Farm Investment (Percent)	Total Farm Investment (Dollars)	Operator's Estimate of Value of Family Labor (Dollars)
Okfuskee County							
All Farms	473	81	354	283	1.78	2,381	71
Under $249	125	25	33	-1	-14.67	1,832	34
$250 to $499	369	29	270	219	-2.14	1,979	51
$500 to $749	595	12	459	374	5.52	2,725	75
$750 and Over	1,158	15	986	808	16.81	3,796	168
Muskogee County							
All Farms	390	152	266	200	-1.48	2,464	66
Under $249	140	47	45	4	-13.66	1,919	41
$250 to $499	371	67	253	174	-2.96	2,359	79
$500 to $749	611	30	461	383	5.77	3,004	78
$750 and Over	1,185	8	956	907	16.94	4,581	49

About 30 percent of the farms in each county earn farm incomes of less than $250. Twenty-five farms in Okfuskee County earn an average of only $125 as farm income. Forty-seven farms in Muskogee County earn an average of $140 as farm income. (Table 26). These figures quite definitely are too low to afford a fair return on the capital investment, pay a labor and management wage to the farm operator, and wages to family labor. For the 25 farms in Okfuskee County earning less than $250 only $33 is payable to the operator and his family as a return for their labor, and to the operator for his managerial efforts. The 47 farms in Muskogee County earning less than $250 pay only $45 for the same purposes.[2/]

If the sum representing returns to the operator and family labor is reduced by the value of the family labor actually expended on the farm, as estimated and reported by the farm operator, it is found that in Muskogee County only $4.00 remains as an annual return to the operator for his labor and managerial efforts. This group of farms in Okfuskee County lacks one dollar per farm of earning enough as farm income to cover the estimated value of the family labor after allowance is made for a return of 5 percent on the total farm investment. The low figure at which the value of family labor is estimated is significant in this connection. Family labor expended on the Okfuskee County farms under discussion is valued at only $34 for the year. The corresponding figure for Muskogee County is $41.

2/ The item "Returns to Operator and Family Labor", is calculated by subtracting from farm income a sum equivalent to 5 percent of the total farm investment. A rate of 5 percent is considered a fair return upon funds invested in the farm business in this area.

Farm income on the 72 farms earning less than $250 lacks a sum equivalent to about 14 percent of the total farm investment of being sufficient to pay any returns whatsoever on the capital investment.[3/]

Twenty-nine of the 81 farms in Okfuskee County earn from $250 to $499 as farm income. Sixty-seven of the 152 farms in Muskogee County are of this income level. Exactly 67 percent of the farms in Okfuskee County and 75 percent of the farms in Muskogee County earn incomes of less than $500. At this level of income the farms are unable to pay any return whatsoever on the total farm investment, and can pay only approximately $200 to the operator as a labor and management wage. Farms earning no more than $500 as farm income cannot, therefore, be considered profitable from the business point of view.

Only twenty-seven, 33 percent, of the farms in Okfuskee County and 38, 25 percent, of the farms in Muskogee County earn enough as farm income to afford a fair return to investment, labor, and management. Reference to Table 26 will show that farms earning from $500 to $749 as farm income are capable of paying the operator about $375 as an annual labor and management wage after allowing a return of 5 percent on the total farm investment and payment of family labor. If the operator and his family are allowed fair returns for their labor, almost 6 percent is then payable on the total farm investment. These farms, a total of 12 in Okfuskee County and 30 in Muskogee County, may be considered reasonably successful insofar as returns to capital, labor, and management are concerned.

The twenty-three farms on which more than $750 is earned as farm income are unusually successful. These farms pay approximately $850

3/ In calculating Rate Earned, $360 is arbitrarily set as a fair annual return to the operator for his labor exclusive of managerial efforts.

to the operator as a labor and management wage and earn about 17 percent on the total farm investment. Slightly more than $1,100 as farm income is earned on a total capital investment of approximately $4,000.

The 233 farms may be divided roughly into two classes from the standpoint of earnings, as follows: (1) the 168 farms on which less than $500 is earned as farm income, and (2) the 65 farms on which sums in excess of $500 are earned as farm income. Earnings of the farms included in the first group are inadequate to afford fair returns to the productive agents. The 65 farms in the latter group on which satisfactory returns are earned constitute only 28 percent of the total and possess unusual characteristics as to size, organization, and management, as will be shown later.

A majority of Negro operated farms in this area are farms on which the prime accomplishment of the operator is that of providing a living for the family. This is characteristic of self-sufficing farms.[4/] Assuming that the method employed here in measuring the success of the farm is sound in respect to this particular type of farm, the data show conclusively that at least 70 percent of the Negro operated farms are yielding lower returns on the capital investment than may reasonably be expected in other fields of investment. The fact that the farms continue in operation under such seemingly paradoxical circumstances suggests the question as to whether or not under present conditions, the factors of production are

---

4/ A definition compiled by the Committee on Farm Management Terminology of the American Farm Economics Association Follows: "Self-sufficing farming is farming in which the principal occupation of the operator is the production of farm products for use of the farm family."

over-capitalized. Several aspects of the situation seem to suggest that the farms are undergoing a process of adjustment. For one thing, there is little evidence of the reinvestment of capital in the form of new machinery, farm improvements, and the like. This may indicate an indirect withdrawal of capital from this form of investment. The comparatively high average age of the present farm operators and the lack of young men starting in the farm business seem to indicate that the tendency to subdivide the farms into smaller units has reached a turning point, and that the future trend will be in the direction of larger farms.

A peculiar trait of Negro operated farms is their tendency to present a poverty stricken appearance regardless of differences in profitableness. The impression formed in passing through sections of the State having large numbers of Negro farm people is that the standard of living is comparatively low and that a high degree of uniformity obtains among the farms in respect to incomes earned. A majority of the farms included in this study, it is true, are of such an income level that a poverty stricken appearance cannot be avoided, but the ones earning satisfactory incomes as a rule present the same outward appearance. From the foregoing discussion it logically might be expected that farms earning under $500 should present a much more poverty stricken appearance than those earning satisfactory returns on the capital investment. That such is not the case, however, is plainly shown in Table 27. As a matter of fact dwellings and farm improvements are valued at slightly higher figures on farms reflecting lower earnings.

Table 27. Value of Farm Dwelling and Farm Improvements on Farms Earning Above and Below $500 as Farm Income, Okfuskee and Muskogee Counties, 1938

Farm Income Range	Average		Number of Farms		Value of Farm Dwelling (Dollars)		Value of Farm Improvements (Dollars)	
	Okfuskee	Muskogee	Okfuskee	Muskogee	Okfuskee	Muskogee	Okfuskee	Muskogee
Under $500	256	274	54	114	224	234	107	354
$500 and Over	908	732	27	38	217	195	185	170

The outward appearance of the farm improvements and the farm dwelling is no reliable criterion by which to judge the relative profitableness of Negro operated farms.

Factors Influencing Farm Income

What attributes of organization and management have closest association with incomes earned by Negro operated farms in Oklahoma? The answer to this question is clearly suggested by the data in Table 28. Here it appears that the factors having closest relationship to farm income are (1) size of the farm, (2) yields of cotton and corn, and (3) returns per $100 invested in productive livestock. Of these, the factor of greatest influence upon income is the size of the farm business. The influence of size upon income is apparent not only in the total number of acres in the farm but in (a) acreages of cotton, corn, and legumes, and (b) the total number of animal units of productive livestock. Farms earning less than $250 as farm income average 78 acres in size, have about 12 acres of cotton and 12 acres of corn, whereas the farms earning $750 and more as farm income average about

Table 28. Relationship of Selected Factors of Organization and Management to Farm Income, Okfuskee and Muskogee Counties, 1938

Farm Income Range	Average (Dollars)	Number of Farms	Size of Farm (Acres)	Cotton: Acres	Cotton: Percent of Cropland	Cotton: Yield (Pounds)	Corn: Acres	Corn: Percent of Cropland	Corn: Yield (Bushels)	Productive Livestock: Number of Animal Units	Productive Livestock: Number A. U. Per 100 Acres in Farm	Productive Livestock: Returns Per $100 Invested in Productive Livestock (Dollars)	Returns Per 100 Acres in Farm (Dollars)	Percent of Cropland Terraced	Legumes: Acres	Legumes: Percent of Cropland
Okfuskee County																
All Farms	473	81	100.8	16.2	26.0	251	16.4	26.2	18.4	3.23	3.20	64.55	83.58	49.8	9.0	14.3
Under $250	125	25	78.2	12.3	24.9	186	10.2	20.5	14.2	2.06	2.64	36.24	35.02	42.2	6.7	13.4
$250 to $499	369	29	93.5	14.7	26.4	243	14.1	25.3	19.8	3.10	3.31	53.50	71.50	48.7	8.3	15.0
$500 to $749	595	12	108.2	18.3	26.2	235	19.0	27.2	17.2	2.67	2.47	47.30	47.15	67.8	9.5	13.6
$750 and Over	1,158	15	146.8	24.2	26.4	325	29.0	31.7	20.1	5.88	4.00	95.30	163.08	47.0	13.6	14.9
Muskogee County																
All Farms	390	152	96.0	15.5	23.7	229	16.9	25.8	15.2	3.17	3.30	42.38	50.55	20.9	3.1	4.7
Under $250	140	47	78.1	12.0	22.3	180	13.0	24.2	11.3	3.00	3.84	31.66	42.63	29.9	2.0	3.6
$250 to $499	371	67	92.9	14.6	22.0	212	17.0	25.6	15.2	2.79	3.01	42.60	46.64	16.5	2.7	4.1
$500 to $749	611	30	120.0	19.1	26.1	233	19.9	27.2	15.6	4.05	3.37	51.75	66.50	15.6	4.5	6.1
$750 and Over	1,185	8	137.0	29.8	30.5	404	28.9	29.6	23.9	3.76	2.75	50.39	46.90	31.9	7.6	7.8

140 acres in size and have nearly 30 acres each of cotton and corn. While larger numbers of productive livestock are associated with higher incomes, the relationship in this case is not quite so direct as between acreages of the principal crops and income.

The relationship between size of the farm and income is further evidenced by the data in Table 29. Here it is shown that farm income increases consistently with increases in size of the farm, acres of cotton, acres of corn, and numbers of animal units of productive livestock. Farms averaging approximately 40 acres in size earn farm incomes amounting to $236 in Okfuskee and $278 in Muskogee County, while the farms including 180 acres and more earn respective average incomes of $750 and $575.

Efficiency in carrying out the productive enterprises is closely associated with farm income. The 25 farms in Okfuskee County on which less than $250 is earned as farm income report cotton yields of 186 pounds per acre as compared to yields of 325 pounds per acre for the 15 farms in this county earning from $750 to $2,122 as farm income. The variation in yields of cotton as related to farm income is wider still in Muskogee County. The farms having above average yields of cotton earn farm incomes almost double those earned by farms on which the yield of cotton is below average. (Table 30). Farms producing below average yields of cotton are of about the same size as farms having high cotton yields.

Efficiency in the handling of productive livestock, as indicated by returns upon the livestock investment, bears a direct relationship to farm income also. (Table 31). Farms on which the returns from productive livestock are less than $25 per $100 of investment in

Table 29. Relationship of Farm Income and Selected Factors of Organization and Management to Size of the Farm, Okfuskee and Muskogee Counties, 1938

Size of Farm in Acres				Cotton			Corn			Productive Livestock				Percent	Legumes	
Range	Average	Number of Farms	Farm Income (Dollars)	Acres	Percent of Cropland	Yield	Acres	Percent of Cropland	Yield	Number of Animal Units	A. U. Per 100 Acres in Farm	Returns Per $100 Invested in Productive Livestock (Dollars)	Returns Per 100 Acres in Farm (Dollars)	of Cropland Terraced	Acres	Percent of Cropland
Okfuskee County																
All Farms	100.8	81	475	16.2	26.0	251	16.4	26.2	18.4	3.23	3.20	64.55	83.58	49.8	9.0	14.3
20- 59	40.7	18	256	9.4	28.4	244	10.4	31.5	19.9	2.16	5.32	77.49	169.98	51.2	3.9	11.7
60- 99	80.3	30	411	13.6	26.9	259	14.1	27.9	20.4	2.63	3.27	51.27	65.61	44.2	7.9	15.6
100-139	116.4	15	581	19.8	27.9	257	17.2	24.2	19.9	3.29	2.82	84.81	102.63	43.7	10.3	14.5
140-179	146.7	12	713	21.7	23.9	235	25.4	28.0	14.8	5.01	3.20	59.55	55.80	54.2	14.1	15.5
180 & Over	233.3	6	750	30.1	22.7	251	25.2	18.9	15.5	5.70	2.44	56.86	57.14	61.5	16.4	12.3
Muskogee County																
All Farms	96.0	152	390	15.5	23.7	229	16.9	25.8	15.2	3.17	3.30	42.38	50.55	20.9	3.1	4.7
20- 59	41.2	44	278	8.7	26.9	217	10.0	31.8	13.0	2.04	4.95	31.74	56.27	40.9	1.1	3.3
60- 99	76.0	51	393	14.2	25.2	238	16.5	29.2	15.4	2.76	3.63	36.57	45.10	19.2	3.2	5.7
100-139	118.6	31	421	18.1	22.7	242	18.9	23.6	15.6	3.87	3.26	42.35	53.03	10.7	4.6	5.7
140-179	159.5	16	510	23.4	22.7	238	24.9	24.2	15.7	3.39	2.13	48.73	39.11	20.9	4.0	3.9
180 & Over	267.7	10	575	31.0	20.4	188	30.0	19.7	15.9	7.49	2.80	60.17	62.08	22.0	5.5	3.6

livestock report incomes of about $350 as compared to incomes of slightly more than $500 for farms on which productive livestock yields returns of $75 or more per $100 of investment. It is interesting to note that the farms in Okfuskee County earning highest returns on productive livestock are slightly smaller in size, have higher yields of cotton, corn, and higher returns from productive livestock per 100 acres in the farm. The point of significance here is that whatever handicap may result from the comparatively small size of these farms is more than offset by higher yields from crops and livestock so that farm income is maintained at a satisfactory level.

Upon the basis of the data referred to in the foregoing paragraphs of this section, it may be concluded that the factor of greatest importance in determining earnings of the Negro farms included in this study is size of the farm business. The wide variation in earnings of the farms is attributable in a large measure to the variation in the actual number of acres of cotton, corn, and other feed crops, and in the actual numbers of productive livestock. The tendency of operators on the small farms to devote higher proportions of the cropland to the production of cotton and corn and to maintain larger numbers of productive livestock per 100 acres in the farm is evidence of their attempts to overcome the handicap of an inadequate size of farm. (Table 29). The higher degree of intensity of operation on the small farms resulting from such a tendency leads to more rapid depletion of resources, an increase in waste land, and general lowering of productivity of the farm.

Table 30. Relationship Between Farm Income and Selected Factors of Organization and Management for Farms Having Above and Below Average Yields of Cotton, Okfuskee and Muskogee Counties, 1938

	All Farms		Farms Having Below Average Yields of Cotton		Farms Having Above Average Yields of Cotton	
	Okfuskee	Muskogee	Okfuskee	Muskogee	Okfuskee	Muskogee
Number of farms included	81	150	44	78	37	72
Size of farms in acres	100.8	96.5	98.5	100.4	103.4	92.3
Farm income, (Dollars)	473	394	319	328	656	466
Acres of cotton	16.2	15.7	15.7	16.2	16.8	15.1
Percent of cropland in cotton	26.0	23.9	25.6	24.1	26.5	23.5
Yield of cotton, (Pounds)	251	229	179	151	331	319
Acres of corn	16.4	17.0	14.9	15.5	18.1	18.7
Percent of cropland in corn	26.2	25.8	24.2	23.1	28.5	29.0
Yield of corn, (Bushels)	18.4	15.2	14.7	12.8	22.0	17.4
Number of animal units of productive livestock	3.23	3.19	3.30	3.22	3.15	3.11
Number of animal units of productive livestock per 100 acres	3.20	3.30	3.35	3.21	3.04	3.37
Returns from productive livestock per $100 invested in productive livestock	64.55	42.93	51.97	42.93	78.25	42.93
Percent of cropland terraced	49.8	20.9	50.8	24.9	48.7	16.2
Acres of legumes	9.0	3.1	9.1	2.6	8.8	3.6
Percent of cropland in legumes	14.3	4.7	14.8	3.8	13.8	5.7

Table 31. Relationship of Farm Income and Selected Factors of Organization and Management to Returns per $100 Invested in Productive Livestock, Okfuskee and Muskogee Counties, 1938

Returns Per $100 Invested In Productive Livestock		Number of Farms	Size of Farm	Farm Income (Dollars)	Cotton			Corn			Productive Livestock			Percent of Cropland Terraced	Legumes	
					Acres	Percent of Cropland	Yield	Acres	Percent of Cropland	Yield	Number of Animal Units	Number A. U. Per 100 Acres in Farm	Returns Per 100 Acres in Farm (Dollars)		Acres	Percent of Cropland
Range	Average (Dollars)															
Okfuskee County																
All Farms	64.55	81	100.8	473	16.2	26.0	251	16.4	26.2	18.4	3.23	3.20	83.58	49.8	9.0	14.3
0-$24.99	3.00	25	87.5	345	15.1	26.2	233	13.7	23.9	16.0	2.12	2.43	3.11	60.1	8.6	14.9
$25-$74.99	46.66	36	117.9	480	18.5	26.6	245	17.3	24.8	17.5	3.68	3.12	57.48	40.9	9.6	13.8
$75-Over	140.17	20	86.8	621	13.6	24.2	291	18.1	32.2	22.2	3.81	4.38	248.85	56.5	8.3	14.9
Muskogee County																
All Farms	42.38	152	96.0	390	15.5	23.7	229	16.9	25.8	15.2	3.17	3.30	50.55	20.9	3.1	4.7
0-$24.99	4.57	54	81.0	356	15.2	24.9	231	14.6	24.0	14.2	2.76	3.03	4.96	21.5	3.2	5.3
$25-$74.99	41.92	78	90.4	402	15.1	24.2	232	16.9	27.0	15.2	3.17	3.50	60.36	20.8	2.3	3.7
$75-Over	104.28	20	131.0	433	17.5	19.7	214	23.6	23.4	16.6	4.08	3.11	109.65	20.0	5.8	6.5

CHAPTER V

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

The first Negroes to enter the territory now included in the State of Oklahoma were brought here by the Five Civilized Tribes who emigrated from the cotton producing states of the South during the early part of the nineteenth century. The availability of slave labor and the fact that the Indians were accumstomed to agricultural pursuits led to the early development of cotton production and the expansion of slavery in the Indian Territory.

Agricultural activities of the Five Civilized Tribes were seriously disrupted by the Civil War and permanently altered by the granting of freedom and tribal membership to the former slaves pursuant to the Treaties of 1866 and subsequent legislation. Not only were the former Negro slaves granted complete freedom and membership, qualified in some instances, in the Indian tribes but provisions were made whereby they shared in the allotment of Indian lands which were consummated near the turn of the century. Thus the future of the Negro as an agriculturist in the State was laid by his association with the Indian tribes to whom he was formerly bound in involuntary servitude.

The receipt of 40 acre tracts of Indian land by the freedmen was of profound importance to the Negro farmers in Oklahoma. Participation in the allotments of Indian lands was a strong influence in determining the location of Negroes in certain areas of the State. Evidence of this lies in the fact that at the time of the 1910 census Negro farmers in the State were located almost exclusively within the boundaries of the Indian Territory as it was defined just prior to the beginning of the Civil War. Concentration at time of statehood of Negro farmers at

particular points within the area included in the original Indian Territory may be attributed to the influence of physical and economic factors upon the original location of tribal populations at these points.

The area containing the highest concentration of Negro farm operators at the time of the 1910 census includes Okfuskee, Muskogee, Wagoner, Okmulgee, and McIntosh counties. (Figure 1). While the numbers of Negro farmers in the State have increased materially since that time, their increase has not been in proportion to that of other classes. This proportionate decline in numbers of Negro farm operators has been greatest in the areas which never were thickly settled by Negroes. An exception to this, however, is apparent in Tillman, Jackson, Kiowa, Greer, and Caddo counties in the southwestern part of the State where the numbers of Negro farmers have increased in proportion to whites. It is notable that the area referred to above as having the largest numbers of Negroes in 1910 reported still higher proportions of Negro farmers in 1930.

Upon the basis of records of the farm business for the calendar year 1938, obtained through personal interviews with 233 farm operators situated largely in the Boley and Taft communities of Okfuskee and Muskogee counties, it is found that Negro operated farms in Oklahoma are comparatively small and tend to include multiples of 40 acre tracts. The 81 farms surveyed in Okfuskee County average 100.8 acres in size while the 152 farms in Muskogee County average 96.0 acres. An influence of the participation of the freedmen in the allotment of Indian lands can be seen in the tendency of the farms to include multiples of 40 acre tracts.

About two-thirds of the land on these farms is classified as cropland and the proportion of the farm in cropland decreases as the size of the farm is increased. Pasture land includes about one-fourth of the farm. One fifth of the cropland is idle or fallow. A high percentage of the land reported as idle or fallow on small farms is made up of waste cropland which, in most cases, is lying idle because the soil is so badly eroded or otherwise depleted of natural fertility that its use for crops is no longer economically feasible. That small farms are more intensively operated than large farms is further indicated by the fact that a higher percentage of their land is utilized for crops, and by the fact that a considerably higher proportion of the farm is classed as waste land. Inadequacy of size of the farm may, therefore, be considered an important influence in the rapid deterioration of the farms operated by Negroes in Oklahoma.

Cotton is produced on all but two of the 233 farms and occupies about 18 acres per farm, or about one-fourth of the cropland. Corn is second in importance in the cropping system and accounts for another one-fourth of the cropland. Proportionately less of the cropland on large farms is devoted to cotton and corn than on small farms. Sorghums grown for all purposes constitute the third major crop.

Legumes and peas are more extensively grown in Okfuskee than in Muskogee County, while the reverse is true with respect to oats and other small grains. Cane for syrup, peanuts, and other minor crops are more extensively grown in Okfuskee County. These differences between the cropping systems evidence the fact that the Negro, like other farm operators in Oklahoma, tends to practice the type of farming suited to the area in which he is situated.

The large number of acres and variety of feed and miscellaneous crops show conclusively that Negro farmers in Oklahoma are not practicing the so called "one-crop" system of farming generally associated with the Negro, the South, and cotton production. While it is obvious that cotton is the only cash crop of any importance, the cropping system by no means can be termed a one-crop system.

The production of feed crops and the raising of livestock in amounts such as will meet farm and family needs is the most important general characteristic of the organization of the Negro operated farms in Oklahoma. Productive livestock of some kind is found on 100 percent of the farms. Numbers of the various kinds of livestock, which seem to be determined more by the needs of the family for livestock products than by other influences such as size of the farm, usually consist of from one to two milk cows, 30 to 40 chickens, and from two to three hogs. The livestock program is more essential to the existing level of subsistence on these Negro operated farms than is cash income from cotton.

Farm investment on the average totals about $2,400 per farm, three-fourths of which is in land. With the possible exception of land, all items comprising the total farm investment are assessed at a very low figure which is an indication of the depreciated state of productive capital and farm improvements.

The proportion of the total farm investment attributable to the respective items remains practically the same regardless of changes in size of the farm.

The smallest farms maintain the highest investment per acre in all principal items of investment.

An increase above approximately 160 acres in the size of the farm requires substantial additions to the capital investment in the form of machinery and equipment.

Work stock accounts for a higher percentage of the total farm investment than either machinery and equipment or farm improvements. Nearly one-half of the farms are cultivated with one team. A direct relationship exists between the number of work animals and size of the farm, amount of cropland, investment in machinery and equipment, and the value of hired and unpaid family labor. Investment in machinery and equipment on farms using four or more head of work stock is more than double that on farms using three head. Farms using four or more head of work stock average approximately 160 acres in size and constitute only 22 percent of the total. When the size of the farm is increased above 150 to 160 acres it is necessary to increase the number of work stock to four or more head and to more than double the machinery outlay.

Large Negro families tend to become situated on the larger farms and to produce more cotton than small families. The amount paid for hired labor is inversely related to the number in the family working on the farm. The tendency of operators having available large amounts of family labor to become situated on farms where large acreages of cotton can be planted is a strong influence in perpetuating cotton as the principal crop on Negro operated farms. No other farm enterprise is so well adapted to the seasonal nature of the family labor supply of the Negro farm operator. The unprofitableness of cotton production and the restriction of cotton acreages in recent years has, however, lessened the economic advantage of having large numbers of family laborers.

Seventy-seven percent of the 233 farms are operated by tenants. More than 90 percent of the farm operations are carried out on rented land. Fifty-eight of the 81 farms in Okfuskee County and 113 of the 152 farms in Muskogee County are operated on the share rent basis. Thirty-nine of the 171 share tenants and 11 of the 21 owners who rent additional land report the payment of a cash rental in addition to one-fourth of the cotton production. As a rule, these supplementary payments are made in lieu of the payment of the customary one-third share in crops other than cotton. The number of cases in which special terms of rental are in effect further indicate the tendency of landlords and tenants to establish equitable and practicable bases for dividing proceeds of the farm business. Payment of a fixed share of the cash crop, cotton, continues, however, as the basic terms of rental.

Farm incomes range from negative $76 to $2,122. The 81 farms in Okfuskee County earn an average of $473 as farm income as compared to an average of $390 for the farms in Muskogee County.

Sixty-seven percent of the farms in Okfuskee County and 75 percent of the farms in Muskogee County earn incomes of less than $500. At this level of income the farms are unable to pay any return whatsoever on the total farm investment and can pay only $200 to the operator as an annual labor and management wage. It would seem, therefore, that farms on which no more than $500 is earned as farm income more nearly represent a job for the operator and his family than a business. As is characteristic of self-sufficing farms, the prime accomplishment of the operator of a farm of this income level is that of providing a living for the family.

The 65 farms on which satisfactory returns are earned possess unusual characteristics as to size, organization, and management. The factor of greatest importance in determining earnings of Negro operated farms is size of the farm business. The influence of size upon income is apparent not only in the total number of acres in the farm but in acreages of the principal crops and numbers of productive livestock. Farms earning less than $250 as farm income average 78 acres in size, have about 12 acres of cotton and 12 acres of corn, and an average of from two to three animal units of productive livestock, whereas farms earning $750 and more as farm income average 140 acres in size, have nearly 30 acres of cotton and 30 acres of corn, and maintain an average of from four to six animal units of productive livestock.

At least 70 percent of the Negro operated farms are yielding lower returns on the total farm investment than may reasonably be expected in other fields of endeavor.

Negro operated farms possess the peculiar trait of presenting a uniformly poverty stricken appearance regardless of differences in profitableness. Consequently, the outward appearance of the farm improvements and the farm dwelling is no reliable criterion by which to judge the relative profitableness of this class of farms.

APPENDIX

Appendix Table 1. Negro Population and the Proportion of Negro in Total Population for Southern States, 1930, 1920, 1910, 1900, 1890, and 1880

State	Negro Population						Percentage Negro in Total Population					
	1930	1920	1910	1900	1890	1880	1930	1920	1910	1900	1890	1880
Alabama	944,834	900,652	908,282	827,307	678,489	600,103	35.7	38.4	42.5	45.2	44.8	47.5
Arkansas	478,463	472,220	442,891	366,856	309,117	210,666	25.8	27.0	28.1	28.0	27.4	26.3
Florida	431,828	329,487	308,669	230,730	166,180	126,690	29.4	34.0	41.0	43.7	42.5	47.0
Georgia	1,071,125	1,206,365	1,176,987	1,034,813	858,815	725,133	36.8	41.7	45.1	46.7	46.7	47.0
Kentucky	226,040	235,938	261,656	284,706	268,071	271,451	8.6	9.8	11.4	13.3	14.4	16.5
Louisiana	776,326	700,257	713,874	650,804	559,193	483,655	36.9	38.9	43.1	47.1	50.0	51.5
Mississippi	1,009,718	935,184	1,009,487	907,630	742,559	650,291	50.2	52.2	56.2	58.5	57.6	57.5
North Carolina	918,647	763,407	697,843	624,469	561,018	531,277	28.9	29.8	31.6	33.0	34.7	38.0
Oklahoma	172,198	149,408	137,612	55,684 1/	21,609 2/	---	7.2	7.4	8.3	7.0	8.4	--
South Carolina	793,681	864,719	835,843	782,321	688,934	604,332	45.6	51.4	55.2	58.4	59.8	60.7
Tennessee	477,646	451,758	473,088	480,243	430,678	403,151	18.2	19.3	21.7	23.8	24.4	26.1
Texas	854,964	741,694	690,049	620,722	488,171	393,384	14.7	15.9	17.7	20.4	21.8	24.7
Virginia	650,165	690,017	671,096	660,722	635,438	631,616	26.8	29.9	32.6	35.6	38.4	41.8

SOURCE: United States Department of Commerce, Bureau of Census, Negro Population 1790-1915, Part VII--General Tables, Table II, pp. 776-792; Data for years 1920 and 1930 computed from data found in United States Department of Commerce, Bureau of Census, Negroes in the United States 1920-1932, Chapter II, Table 12, p. 9.

1/ State total includes population of Kaw, Osage, Wichita, Kiowa, Comanche, and Apache Indian Reservations; Returns by Nations and Reservations in 1900, Negroes 36,965.

2/ State total includes 18,636 Negroes in Indian Territory specially enumerated.

Appendix Table 2. Number of Negro Farm Operators, Acres of Land in Farms Operated by Negroes, Acres of Land Per Negro Farm Operator, Value of Land and Buildings of Farms Operated by Negroes, 1930 and 1910, with Increases During the 20-year Period, 1910 to 1930, by Sections, Divisions, and for the State of Oklahoma; and Percent Distribution of Farms Operated by Negro Owners and Negro Tenants, 1930 and 1910, by Sections and for the State of Oklahoma

Section, Division and State	Number of Negro Farm Operators				Acres of Land in Farms Operated by Negroes				Acres of Land Per Negro Farm Operator			
	1930 (Number)	1910 (Number)	Increase 1910-1930 (Number)	Increase 1910-1930 (Percent)	1930 (Number)	1910 (Number)	Increase 1910-1930 (Number)	Increase 1910-1930 (Percent)	1930 (Number)	1910 (Number)	Increase 1910-1930 (Number)	Increase 1910-1930 (Percent)
United States	882,850	893,370	-10,520	- 1.2	37,597,132	42,279,510	-4,682,378	-11.1	42.6	47.3	- 4.7	- 9.9
The North	11,104	12,052	- 948	- 7.9	720,872	868,630	- 147,758	-17.0	64.9	72.1	- 7.2	-10.0
New England	148	310	- 162	-52.3	9,397	14,759	- 5,362	-36.3	63.5	47.6	15.9	33.4
Middle Atlantic	873	1,310	- 437	-33.4	55,808	74,849	- 19,041	-25.4	63.9	57.1	6.9	12.1
East North Central	3,065	4,843	- 1,778	-36.7	214,596	287,513	- 72,917	-25.4	70.0	59.4	10.6	17.8
West North Central	7,018	5,589	1,429	25.6	441,071	491,509	- 50,438	-10.3	62.8	87.9	-25.1	-28.6
The South	870,936	880,836	- 9,900	- 1.1	36,758,484	41,284,571	-4,525,987	-11.0	42.2	46.9	- 4.7	-10.0
South Atlantic	295,934	354,530	-58,596	-16.5	14,550,451	17,605,488	-3,055,037	-17.4	49.2	49.7	- .5	- 1.0
East South Central	320,600	324,884	- 4,284	- 1.3	11,918,057	13,573,980	-1,655,923	-12.2	37.2	41.8	- 4.6	-11.0
West South Central	254,402	201,422	52,980	26.3	10,289,976	10,105,003	184,973	1.8	40.4	50.2	- 9.8	-19.5
Oklahoma	15,172	13,209	1,963	14.9	1,061,341	1,066,863	- 5,522	- 0.5	70.0	80.8	-10.8	-13.4
The West	810	482	328	68.0	117,776	126,409	- 8,633	- 6.8	145.4	262.3	-116.9	-44.6
Mountain	304	219	85	38.8	77,228	62,807	14,421	23.0	254.0	286.8	- 32.8	-11.4
Pacific	506	263	243	92.4	40,548	63,602	- 23,054	-36.2	80.1	241.8	-161.7	-66.9

Continued

Section, Division and State	Value of Land and Buildings of Farms Operated by Negroes				Percent Distribution of Farms Operated by Negro Owners and Negro Tenants			
	1930 (Dollars)	1910 (Dollars)	Increase 1910-1930 (Dollars)	Increase 1910-1930 (Percent)	Owners		Tenants	
					1930	1910	1930	1910
United States	1,402,945,799	922,717,703	480,228,096	52.0	20.5	24.5	76.2	75.3
The North	41,668,222	45,256,388	- 3,588,166	- 7.9	39.8	62.2	59.3	35.9
New England	909,395	802,360	107,035	13.3	-	-	-	-
Middle Atlantic	5,140,255	5,299,347	- 159,092	- 3.0	-	-	-	-
East North Central	13,304,751	17,477,649	- 4,172,898	-23.9	-	-	-	-
West North Central	22,313,821	21,677,032	636,789	2.9	-	-	-	-
The South	1,355,181,667	873,582,410	481,599,257	55.1	20.2	24.0	79.7	75.9
South Atlantic	484,443,943	365,068,245	119,375,698	32.7	-	-	-	-
East South Central	426,528,844	279,431,194	147,097,650	52.6	-	-	-	-
West South Central	444,208,880	229,082,971	215,125,909	93.9	-	-	-	-
Oklahoma	37,967,113	24,552,515	13,414,598	54.6	22.8	36.5	77.1	63.4
The West	6,095,910	3,878,905	2,217,005	57.2	57.0	80.3	39.8	15.6
Mountain	2,037,510	1,155,995	881,515	76.3	-	-	-	-
Pacific	4,058,400	2,722,910	1,335,490	49.0	-	-	-	-

SOURCE: Fifteenth Census of the United States: 1930, Census of Agriculture
The Negro Farmer in the United States: p. 30, Table 20; p. 31, Table 21; pp. 32 and 33, Table 22; p. 39, Table 25.

Appendix Table 3. Changes in Numbers and Percent of Increase or Decrease in Selected Items Pertaining to Type of Farming, and Changes in Numbers and Percent of Increase or Decrease in Colored Farm Owners and Tenants, Oklahoma 1910 to 1920, 1920 to 1925, 1925 to 1930, and 1930 to 1935

		Number in 1910	Change from 1910 to 1920		Change from 1920 to 1925		Change from 1925 to 1930		Change from 1930 to 1935	
			Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total number of farms	(Number)	190,192	1,796	.94	5,230	2.72	6,648	3.37	-2,915	-1.43
Average size of farms	(Acres)	151.7	14.7	9.69	-9.9	-5.9	9.5	6.07	.2	.12
Number of acres of cropland	(000 Acres)	17,551.3	574.0	3.27	-2,287.6	-12.62	1,495.3	9.44	-282.1	-1.63
Average number acres of cropland per farm	(Acres)	92.3	2.1	2.27	-4.0	-4.24	4.7	5.85	-.1	-.12
Acres of cotton	(Acres)	1,976,935	75,602	3.82	1,079,980	39.51	335,286	9.08	-1,521,560	-36.67
Average acres of cotton per farm	(Acres)	10.4	3.8	36.53	5.1	35.92	1	5.18	-7.2	-35.47
Average value of land and buildings per farm	(Dollars)	3,884	3,220	82.90	-1,786	-25.14	778	14.64	-2,399	-39.35
Total number farms operated by all colored operators	(Number)	20,671	-1,946	-9.41	1,323	7.07	2,889	14.41	-4,168	-18.17
Number farms operated by colored owners	(Number)	11,177	-1,604	-14.35	-873	-9.12	-322	-3.70	-655	-7.82
Number farms operated by colored tenants	(Number)	9,494	-342	-3.60	2,196	23.99	3,211	28.30	-3,513	-24.13

SOURCE: United States Census

Appendix Table 4. Changes in Numbers and Percent of Increase or Decrease in Selected Items Pertaining to Type of Farming, and Changes in Numbers and Percent of Increase or Decrease in Colored Farm Owners and Tenants, Oklahoma 1910, 1920, 1925, 1930, and 1935

		Numbers					Percent Increase or Decrease From 1910 to:			
		1910	1920	1925	1930	1935	1920	1925	1930	1935
Total number of farms	(Number)	190,172	191,988	197,218	203,866	200,951	.94	3.69	7.18	5.65
Average size of farms	(Acres)	151.7	166.4	165.5	158.8	166.0	9.69	3.16	9.29	9.43
Proportion of total land area in farms	(Percent)	65.0	71.9	69.5	76.1	79.6	--	--	--	--
Number of acres of cropland	(000 Acres)	17,551.3	18,125.3	15,837.7	17,333.0	17,050.9	3.27	-9.76	-1.24	-2.85
Average number acres cropland per farm	(Acres)	92.3	94.4	80.3	85.0	84.9	2.27	-13.00	-7.90	-7.80
Acres of cotton	(Acres)	1,976,935	2,732,962	3,812,942	4,148,228	2,626,668	38.26	92.87	109.82	32.87
Average number acres cotton per farm	(Acres)	10.4	14.2	19.3	20.3	13.1	36.53	85.57	95.19	25.96
Average value of land and buildings per farm	(Dollars)	3,884	7,104	5,318	6,096	3,677	82.90	36.92	56.95	-5.33
Total number of farms operated by all colored operators	(Number)	20,671	18,725	20,048	22,937	18,769	-9.41	-3.01	10.96	-9.20
Number of farms operated by colored owners	(Number)	11,177	9,573	8,700	8,378	7,723	-14.35	-22.16	-25.04	-30.90
Number of farms operated by colored tenants	(Number)	9,494	9,152	11,348	14,559	11,046	-3.60	19.50	25.30	16.30

SOURCE: United States Census.

Table 5. Dates of Last Frost in Spring, First Frost in Autumn, and Number of Frost-Free Days, Okemah and Muskogee Stations, 1924 to 1938, Inclusive

Okemah, Okfuskee County				Muskogee, Muskogee County			
Year	Last in Spring	First in Fall	Number Frost-Free Days	Year	Last in Spring	First in Fall	Number Frost-Free Days
1938	4/9	10/23	196	1938	3/7	10/23	230
1937	3/31	10/23	205	1937	3/31	10/23	205
1936	4/6	11/3	211	1936	4/7	11/3	210
1935	3/17	11/5	233	1935	3/17	11/5	233
1934	3/27	11/23	241	1934	3/27	11/23	241
1933	3/21	11/8	232	1933	3/21	11/8	232
1932	3/22	11/11	234	1932	3/22	10/6	198
1931	4/1	12/2	246	1931	3/28	11/1	218
1930	3/29	11/6	226	1930	3/30	10/31	215
1929	3/17	11/22	250	1929	3/17	11/20	248
1928	4/15	11/4	203	1928	4/15	11/4	203
1927	3/21	11/17	241	1927	3/21	11/17	241
1926	3/31	11/10	224	1926	3/31	11/4	218
1925	3/15	10/15	214	1925	3/15	10/20	219
1924	4/1	11/24	237	1924	4/1	11/24	237
Average, 15 year period			226	Average, 15 year period			223

SOURCE: Climatological Data, Oklahoma Section, Weather Bureau, years 1924 through 1938.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Articles

1. Duncan, Otis D., "Population Trends in Oklahoma," Bulletin No. 224, March, 1935, Oklahoma Agricultural Experiment Station, Stillwater, Oklahoma.

2. Duncan, Otis D., "The Fusion of the White, Negro, and Indian Culture at the Converging of the South and West," Southwestern Social Science Quarterly, Volume XIV, March, 1934.

3. Nelson, Peter, and Etter, Eart T., "A Study of Negro Farming in the Boley Area of Oklahoma," Current Farm Economics, Volume 12, Nos. 5 and 6, October-December, 1939, Oklahoma Agricultural Experiment Station, Stillwater, Oklahoma.

4. Nelson, Peter, "Geographical Variability in Types of Farming in Oklahoma," Current Farm Economics, Volume 9, No. 1, February 1936, Oklahoma Agricultural Experiment Station, Stillwater, Oklahoma.

5. Nelson, Peter, "Landlord Tenant Relations in the Southwest with Special Reference to Oklahoma," The Southwestern Social Science Quarterly, Vol. XIX, No. 4, March, 1939, Norman, Oklahoma.

6. Nelson, Peter, "Some Facts About Small Farms in Oklahoma," Current Farm Economics, Volume 12, No. 4, August, 1939, Oklahoma Agricultural Experiment Station, Stillwater.

Books

1. Abel, Annie Heloise, The Indian as a Slave Holder and a Sessionist. The Arthur H. Clark Company, Cleveland. 1915.

2. Bogart, Ernest Ludlow, Economic History of the American People, Second Edition. Longmans, Green and Company, New York. 1935.

3. Bogart, Ernest Ludlow, The Economic History of the United States. Longmans, Green and Company, New York. 1916.

4. Dale, Edward Everett, and Rader, Jesse Lee. Readings in Oklahoma History. Row, Peterson, and Company, Evanston, Illinois, 1930.

5. Forster, G. W., Farm Organization and Management. Prentice-Hall, Inc. 1938.

6. Hawk, Emory Q., Economic History of the South. Prentice-Hall, Inc. 1934.

7. Holmes, C. L., Economics of Farm Organization and Management. D. C. Heath and Company, New York. 1928.

8. Marshall, Don A., Type-of-Farming Development in McIntosh, Muskogee, and Wagoner Counties, Oklahoma. Unpublished Thesis.

9. Roberts, Charles H., The Essential Facts of Oklahoma History and Civics. Benj. H. Sanborn & Company. New York. 1914.

10. Thoburn, Joseph B., A Standard History of Oklahoma. Volume I. American Historical Society, New York. 1916.

11. Thoburn, Joseph B., and Holcomb, Isaac M. A., A History of Oklahoma. Warden Printing Company, Oklahoma City. 1913.

12. Thoburn, Joseph B., and Wright, Muriel, Oklahoma, A History of the State and Its People, Volume I. Lewis Historical Publishing Company, Inc., New York. 1929.

Source Material

1. United States Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Census of Agriculture, Fifteenth Census, The Negro Farmer in the United States, United States Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C. 1930.

2. United States Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Negro Population 1790-1915, United States Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C. 1918.

3. United States Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Negroes in the United States 1920-1932, United States Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C. 1935.

4. United States Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Thirteenth Census of the United States, 1910 Agriculture, United States Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C. 1913.

5. United States Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Fourteenth Census of the United States, 1920, Agriculture, United States Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C. 1922.

6. United States Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Fifteenth Census of the United States, 1930, Agriculture, United States Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C. 1932.

7. United States Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, United States Census of Agriculture, 1935, United States Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C. 1936.

8. Work, Monroe N., Negro Year Book, An Annual Encyclopedia of the Negro. The Negro Year Book Publishing Company, Tuskegee Institute, Alabama.