

The type-of-farming areas were built up from the individual farm types. A particular type was considered predominant where it represented 45 p.c. or more of all the farms in that area. A combination type was differentiated where two types made up 60 p.c. or more of the total number of farms and no other type was equal to half of the lower of these two.

In some of the areas, wheat, general, and self-sufficing farms were of about equal importance and, if no other type was equal to one-half of the lowest of these three, they were designated as mixed type-of-farming areas. These mixed type-of-farming areas were named as such along with some other type that was of significant evidence in that area. Similar type-of-farming areas found in different parts of the three provinces were grouped together in the tables and called a type-of-farming class.

Besides the classification by type, the value of products by source, the distribution of the acreage in farms and in crops, and the concentration of live stock per 100 acres of occupied land were obtained for each municipality and used as checks in the classification of a municipality into a particular type.

The salient points of this study, which may be found in Bulletin No. XXXV of the 1936 Census of the Prairie Provinces, are summarized as follows:—

1. Climatic and economic conditions in the Prairie Provinces are such that, generally, farmers can follow only a limited number of enterprises.

2. Wheat is by far the most important crop in the three provinces. Oats and barley follow, the three crops occupying 90.0 p.c. of the total area of improved land. Cattle are the most important kind of live stock, with swine and sheep following in the order named.

3. Wheat farms constitute the most important single type of farm and are quite universally distributed throughout the three provinces. General farms and self-sufficing farms are next in importance, the three types forming 79.6 p.c. of all the farms. While farms reporting live stock and live-stock products sold are quite universally distributed, the number of specialized live-stock farms is relatively small. Animal products farms, mostly dairy farms, are located mainly around urban centres. Coarse-grain and other crop farms containing many specialized crop farms, such as sugar-beet farms, barley farms, etc., are found in specialized areas.

4. In 1935 the rust damage in southeastern Saskatchewan and southwestern Manitoba upset the normal system of farming in those areas. Farms that normally would have been wheat farms fell into the self-sufficing class because of crop failure in those areas.

5. One of the striking facts brought out by the study is the relation between the soil type and the type of farming, as illustrated by the fact that the boundaries of the type-of-farming areas coincide closely with the boundaries of soil-types. Broadly speaking, diversification increases as one proceeds from the brown to the black soils. In the grey wooded soils of the north most of the farms are classed as self-sufficing as they are in the pioneer stage, and the major part of their production is consumed on the farm.