

Tenure of Farm Operator.—The trend toward fewer and larger farms has been accompanied by an increase in the proportion of farms operated by part owner–part tenant operators, particularly in the Prairie Region. This trend has been evident during the past two decades and reflects a preference to acquiring additional land through renting or leasing rather than buying when capital is limited. For all Canada, one in every five farms (20.9 p.c.) was included in the part owner–part tenant group in 1961 compared with 14.3 p.c. in 1951 and 11.6 p.c. in 1941. The owner-operated group (including managed farms) was by far the largest although some decline took place—from 78.5 p.c. of all farms in 1951 to 73.4 p.c. in 1961. The remaining group, tenant farms, made up only 5.7 p.c. of the total in 1961 and 7.2 p.c. in 1951.

The largest number of owner-operated farms (including managed farms) was in the Central Region, where the 185,847 farms in that category constituted 85.6 p.c. of all the farms in the region. In the Prairie Region 120,747 farms or 57.4 p.c. of all the farms were in that group and corresponding proportions for the Atlantic Region and British Columbia were 89.1 p.c. and 82.6 p.c., respectively. The part owner–part tenant group included 33.2 p.c. of the Prairie Region farms in 1961 compared with 26.0 p.c. in 1951; also in that group in 1961 were 10.0 p.c. of the Atlantic Region farms, 11.2 p.c. of the Central Region farms and 13.2 p.c. of the British Columbia farms. Traditionally, tenant-operated farms have been most prevalent in the Prairie Region where the 19,703 farms included in that group in 1961 represented 71.1 p.c. of the group total for Canada and 9.4 p.c. of all the farms in the region.

The proportion of the total farm area owned by the farm operator changed little from 1951 to 1961—in the former year it was 74.5 p.c. and in the latter 74.2 p.c. The proportions in the different regions in 1961 ranged from 96.2 p.c. in the Atlantic Region to 68.9 p.c. in the Prairie Region.

Farm Machinery.—The latest census gives a positive picture of the mechanization of agricultural operations. The value of farm machinery and equipment on Canadian farms in 1961 was placed at approximately \$2,600,000,000, almost 40 p.c. higher than the value of such equipment in 1951.

In 1961, there were 549,789 tractors reported on farms across the country, which was an average of 114 tractors for every 100 farms. Ten years earlier, there were 64 tractors for every 100 farms and twenty years earlier there were 22 for every 100 farms. In the Prairie Region where the farms are larger in size, there were 290,700 tractors, which represented 138 per 100 farms.

As would be expected, motor trucks were also much more prevalent on farms. The 302,012 trucks reported on farms across the country in 1961 represented an average of 63 per 100 farms, a considerable increase over the 31 trucks for every 100 farms in 1951. In the Prairie Provinces, the 1961 average was 88 trucks per 100 farms.

The coming into common use of the combine in place of the binder and threshing machine, particularly in the great grain-growing areas of the mid-west, is also reflected by the census. In 1961 there were 155,611 grain combines on the farms of Canada, 81.8 p.c. of them located in the Prairie Provinces where there were 65 for every 100 farms; in 1951 there were 32 combines for every 100 farms in the Prairie Region and in 1941 only 6. Conversely, the number of grain binders dropped from 303,374 in 1951 to 160,575 in 1961 and the number of threshing machines from 96,691 to 66,057.

Farm Electrification.—The extent of the electrification of farms is also indicated by the census results. In 1961, 85.2 p.c. of Canadian farms had electricity, a considerable increase over the 73.5 p.c. in 1956 and the 51.3 p.c. in 1951. The farms in the two central provinces reported a high incidence of electrification in 1961—97.3 p.c. in Quebec and 95.2 p.c. in Ontario. In the Atlantic Region, New Brunswick reported 96.5 p.c. of its farms as electrified, Nova Scotia 95.5 p.c. and Newfoundland 65.8 p.c.; extensive electrification took place in Prince Edward Island during the decade, the proportion rising from