

Table 41.—Investment per acre of cropland on representative farms, 1945 and reorganized systems, Southern Piedmont, North Carolina

Systems and size of farm	Investment per acre of cropland					Operating capital ¹
	Real estate	Productive livestock	Power	Equipment	Total	
	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	
1945 systems:						
Small	121	6	11	11	149	20
Medium	125	7	7	9	148	20
Large	108	3	11	6	128	25
Reorganized systems:						
Small	139	16	11	11	177	40
Medium	150	38	7	9	204	45
Large:						
Cotton-livestock	127	38	10	12	187	55
Livestock-small grains	118	19	8	12	157	26

¹ Annual cash expenses per acre of cropland.

closely associated with problems similar to those involving the use of farm labor. Quantities sufficient to meet peak periods were kept by the farmer. As a result, there were considerable periods of idleness. The hours of work per head of workstock on the representative farms amounted to: small farm, 550; medium size farm, 782; and large farm, 483. On the large farm, a tractor was used 356 hours.

Under the 1945 system, investments per acre of cropland were lowest, except for power, but annual cash expenses were \$5 per

acre higher on the large farm (Table 41). In general, acreage of cropland and investment, excluding land, per man equivalent of available labor increased with the size of farm, but the extent of increase was relatively small (Table 42).

Assuming that managerial capacity is not the limiting factor, the most efficient utilization of labor and other productive resources, regardless of size of farm, would require one of the following changes, or combination of changes, from the 1945 conditions: (1) Adjustments in type of farm,

Table 42.—Relation of land and investment to labor on farms, representative farms, 1945 and reorganized systems, Southern Piedmont, North Carolina

Systems and size of farms	Land per worker		Investment per worker ²		
	Cropland	Improved land ³	Total	Total less land	Total less land and operating capital
1945 systems					
Small	22.6	23.8	3,783	1,513	1,072
Medium	26.2	30.6	4,393	1,692	1,166
Large ¹	28.0	33.3	4,312	1,743	924
Reorganized systems:					
Small	22.6	26.9	4,901	2,534	1,634
Medium	25.6	36.3	6,403	3,532	2,379
Large:					
Cotton-livestock ¹	28.0	39.0	6,758	4,074	2,545
Livestock-sm. gr.	77.9	89.0	14,297	7,426	5,363

¹ Includes cropper labor.

² Includes operating capital.

³ Cropland and permanent pasture.

or enterprise combinations, and farm practices, (2) changes in types and/or kinds of equipment used, and (3) employment of increased volumes of seasonal labor. Even with these changes small and medium size farms do not have sufficient acreage for maximum efficiency in the use of other factors. Neither the addition of more equipment of the kind currently used, buildings, and other forms of capital to the present size-type farms nor the increase in size of farm alone would solve the economic problems of production in the Southern Piedmont.

Addition of livestock enterprises, due to the relatively even labor distribution, offers considerable opportunity for the use of labor previously underemployed. However, with the most common practices, quality of livestock, and rates of production found in 1945, very little would be gained, in terms of income, by the additional employment of the available labor. But with improved practices the additional labor required would gain a much higher net return from these enterprises.

The greatest opportunity for increasing efficiency in cotton production appears to stem from the

possibilities of mechanizing the planting, harvesting, hoeing, and cultivating operations. With present hand harvesting and chopping, and half-row cultivating equipment, opportunity for full utilization of labor is limited. However, if tractor equipment should prove to be economical in the performance of these tasks, it would tend to level the labor peaks and increase considerably the acreage that the relatively fixed labor force could handle.

Employment of wage hands during peak labor periods would tend to increase the acreages that the fixed farm labor supply could tend, but this is not thought to be feasible in the Southern Piedmont. Alternative employment opportunities during other periods of the year would not absorb such a seasonal labor force sufficiently to provide adequate annual incomes.

Finally, these data indicate opportunity for a greater degree of efficiency, to a limited extent, on small and medium size farms with present levels of equipment. On many farms larger acreages would be necessary for an approach to optimum use of family labor, power, and equipment. The larger acreage necessarily would need to

Table 43.—Summary of incomes at 1945 prices, representative farms, 1945 and reorganized systems, Southern Piedmont, North Carolina

System and size of farms	Net cash income		Net income	
	Per farm	Per person	Per farm	Per person
1945 systems:				
Small	621	155	958	240
Medium	1,300	260	1,480	296
Large				
Total ¹	3,295	330	2,912	291
Operator and family	2,180	545	1,797	449
Reorganized systems:				
Small	1,778	444	2,072	518
Medium	3,262	652	3,402	680
Large:				
Cotton-livestock:				
Total ¹	6,993	699	6,041	604
Operator and family	4,931	1,233	3,979	995
Livestock-small grain	6,002	1,500	5,542	1,386

¹ Includes net cash returns to cropper labor.