

ratio of 0.98 for the group born between 1920 and 1929. To project the number in this cohort to 1984, cohort ratio for the 45-54 years age group in 1964 and the 55-64 years age group in 1974 (0.77) is multiplied by the number of farm operators of the 45-54 years age group in 1974 (728,300). Therefore, 563,000 farm operators are projected for the 55-64 age group in 1984. Following the same procedure, 366,000 farm operators of age 65-74 are projected for 1994. No farm operators in this cohort will remain in farming by the year 2004, since we assume that all farm operators will leave farming by age 75. 15/

The projected numbers of farm operators by age group to the year 2004 are shown in figure 10. Summing the numbers in each group for each year indicates that the total number of farm operators is likely to continue to decline. The number is projected to decline from 2.9 million in 1974 to about 2.4 million in 1984, 2 million in 1994, and 1.6 million in 2004.

15/ The cohort ratios for the under 25-year old group are calculated differently. The Census reports no data for this group as they would have been less than 15 years old in the earlier period. To calculate their entry rates we assumed that these youngest entries were replacing their fathers and we allowed up to a 40-year age difference, as suggested by Tolley (21). So the ratio became the number of farm operators who are less than 25 years old in a specific year divided by the total of the farm numbers in the 35-44 and 45-54 age group enumerated 10 years earlier.

Table 29--Change in farm operator numbers, by age cohort and farm size, 1964-74

Cohort by year of birth	Age at 1974 Census	1-99 acres	100-219 acres	220-449 acres	500-999 acres	1,000-1,999 acres	2,000 acres and over	Total
	<u>Years</u>	<u>1,000 farmers</u>						
After 1949	Less than 25	29.4	15.2	11.6	3.7	1.3	.7	61.9
1940-49	25-34	123.1	52.7	43.2	19.7	8.4	4.7	251.8
1930-39	35-44	89.9	25.8	14.3	16.2	8.8	55.9	160.9
1920-29	45-54	13.4	-17.5	-22.1	5.3	5.6	3.6	11.7
1910-19	55-64	-67.9	-70.1	-58.6	-13.1	-2.9	-1.6	-214.2
1900-09	65-74	-93.0	-89.4	-71.8	-21.4	-7.0	-3.8	-286.4
Before 1900	75 or older <u>1/</u>	-363.1	-156.7	-79.6	-25.3	-10.4	-9.0	-644.1
Total	NA	-268.2	-240.0	-163.0	-14.9	3.8	.5	-681.8
Net entry	NA	242.4	93.7	69.1	39.6	18.5	11.3	474.6
Net exits	NA	456.1	246.1	151.4	46.7	17.4	12.8	930.5
Replacement rate	NA	.53	.38	.46	.85	1.06	.88	.51

NA = Not applicable.

1/ Assumed all operators 65 years and older in 1964 would have exited in 1974 before the age of 75.

Source: (25), adjusted for reported undercounting, excludes abnormal farms.