OCCUPATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES IN AGRICULTURAL AND RELATED FIELDS AND THEIR IMPLICATIONS FOR AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION OF NEGRO STUDENTS

Thesis for the Degree of Ph. D.

MICHIGAN STATE COLLEGE

Richard D. Morrison

1954

This is to certify that the

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OCCUPATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES IN AGRICULTURAL AND RELATED FIELDS AND THEIR IMPLICATIONS FOR AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION OF NEGRO STUDENTS

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Richard D. Morrison

has been accepted towards fulfillment of the requirements for

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Major professor

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OCCUPATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES IN AGRICULTURAL AND RELATED FIELDS AND THEIR IMPLICATIONS FOR AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION OF NEGRO STUDENTS

By

Richard D. Morrison

A THESIS

Submitted to the School of Graduate Studies of Michigan State College of Agriculture and Applied Science in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

School of Education

1954

THESIS

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AN ABSTRACT

Submitted to the School of Graduate Studies of Michigan State College of Agriculture and Applied Science in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of

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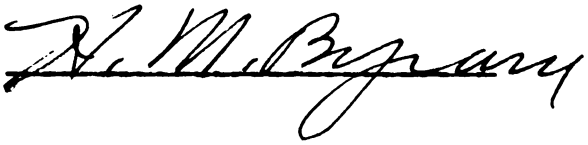
Approved by 

Purpose. The purposes of this study were (1) to reveal the prevalence of occupational opportunities for Negroes in agricultural and related fields; (2) to determine whether the pattern of occupational opportunities for Negroes varied among the regions of a selected area; (3) to identify agricultural and related occupations in which few or no Negroes were employed; and (4) to determine the levels of training required for occupational success in agricultural and related fields.

Method. Data were collected from 299 Negro county agents and Negro teachers of vocational agriculture in four contiguous states--Alabama, Arkansas, Mississippi, and Tennessee. Prepared questionnaire forms were filled in by respondents in each state at scheduled group meetings during arranged periods. These data were summarized and tabulated to show the prevalence of employment in seventy occupations, and to show to what extent Negroes were employed in these occupations. In addition, decennial census data, 1920-1950, were used from which tables were constructed to show trends in population, land use, land tenure, mechanization, and occupations.

Findings. An increase occurred in the total population during the 1920-1950 period. There was a shift in population away from the rural farm area. The non-white population movement away from the rural farm area reached a peak of 40.9

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percent in Arkansas; whereas, the minimum percentage shift, 22.3, occurred in Mississippi. Along with the off-the-farm movement came a decrease in the number of farms, and an increase in the size of farms. Contrary to this reaction, the non-white farmers' farms were approximately the same size in 1950 as they were in 1920. There was a decrease in the number of all tenants in general, but the decrease among non-white tenants was particularly pronounced.

Although farmers had decreased the number of acres devoted to harvested crops, cotton was the leading cash crop in all the selected states except Tennessee. Farmers had greatly increased their ownership in tractors, trucks, grain harvesters, pick-up hay balers, and corn pickers.

Among the major occupations, the highest percentage of gainfully employed Negroes was engaged in agriculture, followed in order by manufacturing and construction, personal service, and trade, finance and insurance.

The questionnaire data showed that productive phases of agriculture provided the largest number of employment situations for Negroes. These employment situations were in the category of farm hands, general farmers, livestock farmers, and tractor operators. Among related occupations, a general pattern prevailed in that the major portion of employment situations for Negroes was realized among the Negro population in agricultural education, such as county agents, and teachers of vocational agriculture.

Respondents reported twenty-eight occupations related to farming in which few Negroes were employed, and eleven in which no Negroes were employed.

There was no evidence found which indicated that the pattern of occupational opportunities for Negroes varied among the four states.

A college education in agriculture was recommended for individuals who anticipated employment in agricultural education, agricultural government work, and other professional agricultural work. There was no general agreement upon the training requirements for agricultural productive occupations; however, short-course training was recommended for individuals who anticipated employment in these occupations but were not interested in a college degree.

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

The Problem

This is a study of occupational opportunities in agricultural and related fields, and of their implications for education of Negro students. Considerable attention has been directed in this study toward bringing into clear view, not only the occupations in which Negroes are gainfully employed, but also occupations in which Negroes do not find employment in appreciable numbers.

The Purpose of the Study

It was the purpose of this study (1) to reveal the prevalence of occupational opportunities for Negroes in agricultural and related fields; (2) to determine whether the pattern of occupational opportunities for Negroes varied among the regions of a selected area; (3) to identify agricultural and related occupations in which few or no Negroes were employed; and (4) to determine the levels of training required for occupational success in agricultural and related fields.

The Need for the Study

Within the last decade rapid changes have taken place in agriculture in the South. Tractors, and other specialized farm machines, as well as the increased use of fertilizers, the use of more effective insecticides, the development of hybrid seeds and new varieties of plants, antibiotics, irrigation; and better methods of processing, preserving and storing food all helped to motivate these changes. Furthermore, major changes have occurred in the systems of farming. To give an example, livestock farming is moving South, occupying land that once was devoted to cotton production. All these changes have had some effect upon occupational opportunities in agriculture. On the one hand, they have figured prominently in creating new job opportunities. On the other hand, they have been among the causative factors involved in the displacement of workers. In addition, scientific and technological developments have placed a demand upon employees for a wider range of knowledge.

Continuing, this study had its setting in the Southeast, a section of the United States that has had more prospective workers than available jobs. This situation suggests unemployment, especially among the untrained, in an area rapidly becoming mechanized. Less than seven percent of the Negroes in the Southeast had completed a high-school education in 1950. Consequently, less than seven percent of the Negroes

in the Southeast were qualified educationally for occupations that required high-school graduation.[1]

The impact of these technological and sociological changes upon Negroes in the South has made it imperative that consideration should be given to the solution of problems born of this situation. Consequently, the present study is needed to help identify and give a sense of direction toward the solution of occupational problems met by displaced agricultural workers, individuals who live and work on farms, college agricultural students, and directors of agricultural training programs.

In addition, two important statements which appear to justify the need for the present study were set forth in a special report under the title "The Improvement of Agricultural Education in Negro Land-Grant Colleges," by Stewart[2], and a group of selected consultants, who conducted a three-year study of the seventeen land-grant colleges for Negroes in the Southeastern states. The statements were as follows:

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[1] Stefan H. Robock, "The Negro in the Industrial Development of the South," Phylon 14: 325, Third Quarter, 1953.

[2] R. M. Stewart, "The Improvement of Agricultural Education in Negro Land-Grant Colleges," A Progress Report on the Special Project (Washington: Federal Security Agency, Office of Education, 1948), p. 5.

> The Negro farming situation in each of the states, as it is represented currently in the social and economic progress of the state, should be studied to determine at what points in farming and in other related activities, agricultural education must be extended and expanded in order to provide Negro youth opportunities for economic participation. This requires an enlargement of both vision and function based upon the full knowledge of conditions as they now obtain within the respective states. This relates to proportionate numbers of Negroes engaged in farming: farm owners, renters, share croppers, rate of progress toward ownership of farms; the increase or decrease of population--migration and present distribution, and distribution as to occupation; potential opportunities in farming and related occupations; and technological and economic factors of change.
>
> The educational opportunities for Negroes in farming and related occupations in each respective state should be listed to determine to what extent such opportunities are available for the preparation of Negroes for competence in these occupations and in what direction there are prospects of new occupations for which schools and colleges must be concerned. This relates to the demand for competence in skill and practical knowledge for diversified jobs and positions, for technical knowledge, and for the broader scientific and other general knowledge for leadership and other supervisory positions of our modern social economic life. This relates also to new positions for Negroes, created by putting well organized technical and scientific education into performances that are classed generally now as unskilled or semi-skilled, and how the college can arrange to prepare men for these prospective careers.

Again, another supporting statement which seems to indicate the need for the present study was found in the words of Robock[3], an outstanding economist and a student of economic trends and problems in the South. He is employed by the Tennessee Valley Authority. Robock concluded that:

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3 Op. Cit., p. 324.

> Probably the most important need for Negro educational institutions, particularly in the South, is for what the business people call a market survey or market research. Market research is necessary to find out where opportunities for Negroes are occurring, to find out more about the requirements and standards for employment, and to examine the experiences of Negroes who have entered some of these new employment fields.

Background of the Problem

The problem had its setting in four contiguous southern states. Three of these states--Alabama, Mississippi, and Tennessee--are located in the East South Central Division of the United States. The fourth state--Arkansas--is separated from Mississippi and Tennessee along their westward boundary line by the Mississippi River, and is located in the West South Central Division of the United States. A further understanding of the geographic location of these states may be obtained from an inspection of Figure 1. These states are among that group of southern states commonly designated as "The Cotton Belt."

The majority of the Negroes in the United States are concentrated in this Cotton Belt Area. In the four states --Alabama, Arkansas, Mississippi, and Tennessee--comprising the selected area for this study, there were 2,932,199 nonwhite persons in 1950. This number represented 36.8 percent of the total population in these states.[4] Furthermore,

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[4] "Employment and Economic Status of Negroes in the United States," Staff Report to the Sub-Committee on Labor and Public Welfare, United States Senate, Eighty-Second Congress, Second Session (Washington: United States Government Printing Office, 1952) Table 8, p. 6.

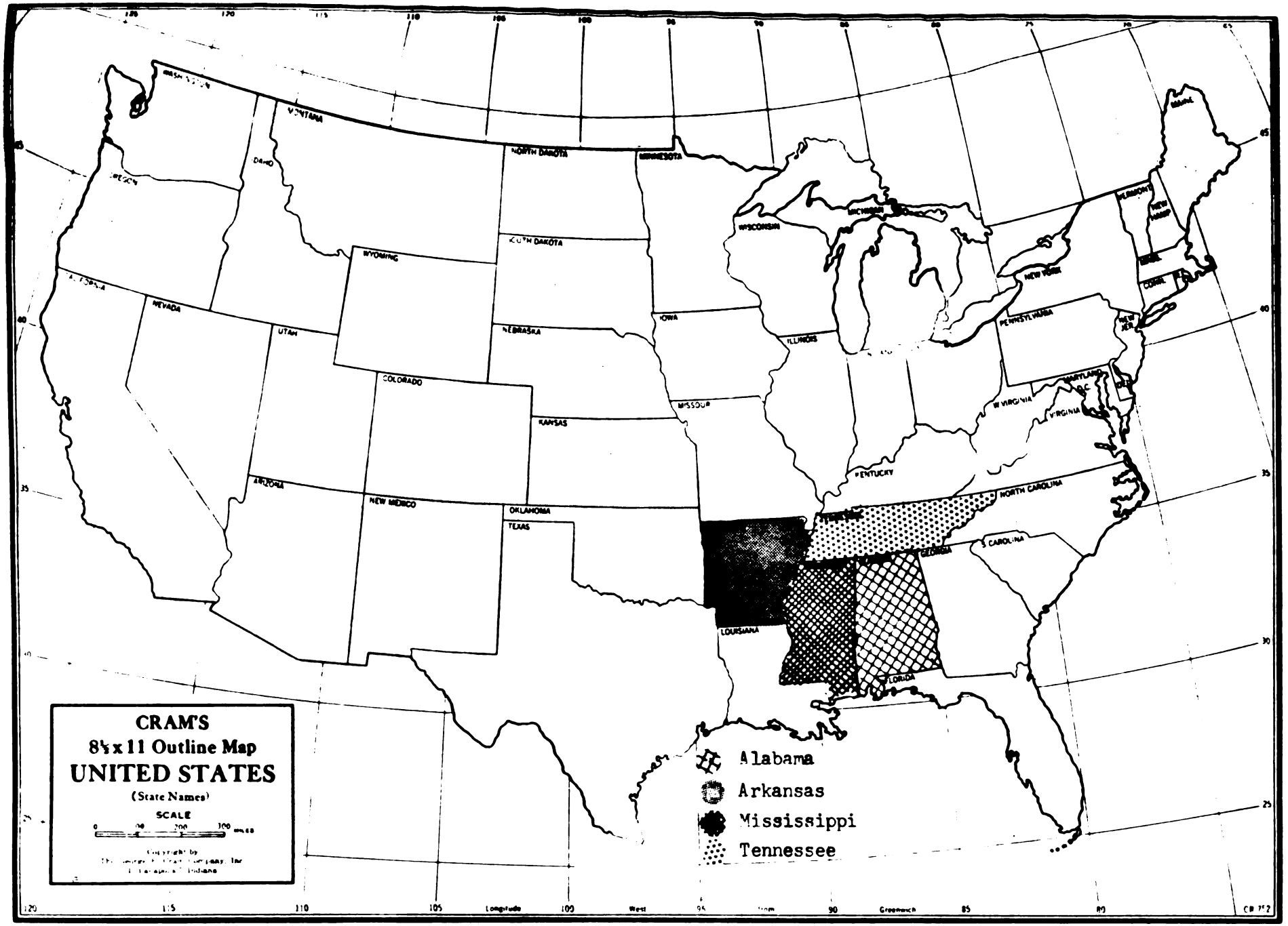

Fig. 1 The Selected Area

MAP NO. C01—UNITED STATES (STATE NAMES)

1,235,172 or 42.1 percent of the total non-white population were classified as rural farm people. Stating these same facts differently, in 1950 there were 1,235,172 Negroes residing in rural farm areas of the selected states.

The 1950 United States Census of Agriculture revealed that there were 245,285 non-white farm operators in the selected area. Of this number 50,270, or 20.7 percent were full owners and 178,192, or 72.6 percent were tenants. The 245,285 farm operators tended 10,985,694 acres of land; whereas, the 50,270 full owners were in possession of 3,298,438 acres. The predominant type of farming in which a large proportion of these owners and tenants participated was cotton farming. This evidence was substantiated, in part, by the fact that each state of the selected area derived more income from cotton than from any other enterprise. It follows that in each state, with the exception of Tennessee, incomes from cotton and cottonseed were five to six times as great as the income from the nearest competing enterprise. In Tennessee, income from tobacco production approximated the income from cotton and cottonseed.[5] Cotton is still "king" in the South. Nevertheless, "King Cotton" is beginning to stagger under the impacts received

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[5] United States Department of Agriculture, "The Farm Income Situation," Bureau of Agricultural Economics, June-July, 1948, pp. 28-32.

from mechanization and industrialization. In the first place, mechanization is not profitable in a one-crop enterprise such as cotton farming. The limiting factor is the inadequacy of productive work throughout the year. Thus, profitable mechanization is contingent upon the reorganization of the cotton farms to include other farm enterprises that will provide additional productive work. This process will probably reduce cotton acreage and also displace farm workers. Ultimately, both are inevitable because mechanization is on the march in the South. Further, a committee on industrialization in the South has estimated that 1,598,266 farm laborers will have been displaced by 1965.[6] This estimation was on the basis of a net farm labor displacement of 1.3 men per tractor. In the second place, industries are moving south where labor is abundant. It has been apparent that farm laborers have no compunction about moving away from low paying farming areas to enter industry where a higher wage may be obtained.

A comparative study of the farm population and its movement will show that during the last three decades, this movement has been away from the farms. In the selected area, during the period 1920 to 1950, the non-white[7] rural

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[6] John Leonard Fulmer, Agricultural Progress in the Cotton Belt Since 1920, (Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1950), pp. 70-71.

[7] Non-white as used in this study refers to the large Negro population of the selected area. The ratio of Negroes to other non-white elements of the rural farm population was 365 to one in 1950.

farm population decreased thirty-five percent. On a state basis, this decrease amounted to 40.9 percent in Arkansas, 38.9 percent in Tennessee, 38.0 percent in Alabama, and 22.3 percent in Mississippi.[8]

Regardless of the kind of occupations in which farm-reared persons who leave the rural areas are ultimately employed, the trend is toward employing persons who have completed a high-school education. It has already been emphasized that individuals who remain in farming will need a wider knowledge of technical skills and management in order to be successful. These deductions suggest that thorough training precedes useful employment, either on the farm or away from the farm. An examination of the 1950 United States Census of Population on the educational status of non-white rural farm persons enrolled in school revealed that the majority of this group was not entering high-school. Table I shows that 1.6 percent of the 96,645 non-white rural farm students were enrolled in the fourth year of high school in Alabama. Furthermore, only 0.03 percent of these rural farm students were enrolled in the fourth year of college as compared with 0.4 percent, for the state as a whole. Similarly, in Arkansas 1.4 percent of the rural farm student population

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[8] United States Bureau of the Census, United States Census of Population 1950, (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1952).

were enrolled in the fourth year of high school. Whereas only 0.03 percent of the 51,475 rural farm students had begun their fourth year of college work. Less than one percent of the 162,430 non-white rural farm students in Mississippi was enrolled in the fourth year of high school. Forty, or 0.02 percent of this number had entered upon a fourth year of college work. Continuing, in Tennessee 1.6 percent of the 32,875 non-white rural farm students had begun their fourth year in high school. In the four states together only 1.2 percent of the 343,425 rural farm students were enrolled in the fourth year of high school. These observations represent, to some extent, the level of training reached by rural-farm Negroes.

In addition to the problem of inadequate education, Negro youth also have the added problem of being accepted for certain employment situations when they have qualified themselves. In the selected states, as in the other states of the South, customs and conventions prevail which largely restrict Negroes to unskilled and semi-skilled occupations. Moreover, they are relegated to the lower-paying occupations. However, among Negroes generally, there is a question as to why they must accept limited occupational opportunities, limited educational facilities, and second-rate citizenship in a democratic form of government. The frequent supreme court cases pertaining to the rights of Negroes is proof of their efforts to overcome undesirable patterns.

TABLE I

YEAR OF SCHOOL IN WHICH NON-WHITE STUDENTS WERE ENROLLED AND THE PER CENT DISTRIBUTION FOR THE STATE AND RURAL FARM AREA IN FOUR STATES: 1950

		Year of School in Which Enrolled					
	*Persons Enrolled in School	First Year Elementary School	Per Cent	Fourth Year High School	Per Cent	Fourth Year College	Per Cent
Alabama	244,440	34,585	14.1	6,385	2.6	1,050	0.4
Rural Farm	96,645	14,950	15.5	1,580	1.6	30	0.03
Male	47,965	8,010	16.7	475	1.0	10	0.02
Female	48,680	6,940	14.2	1,085	2.2	20	0.04
Arkansas	99,265	15,610	15.7	2,220	2.2	40	0.04
Rural Farm	51,475	9,175	17.8	715	1.4	15	0.03
Male	26,100	4,780	18.3	295	1.1	10	0.04
Female	25,375	4,395	17.3	420	1.6	5	0.02
Mississippi	243,265	47,900	19.7	3,665	1.5	410	0.02
Rural Farm	162,430	34,440	21.2	1,450	0.9	40	0.02
Male	81,835	18,675	22.8	570	0.7	25	0.03
Female	80,595	15,765	19.6	880	1.1	15	0.02
Tennessee	109,520	13,190	12.0	3,470	3.2	860	0.8
Rural Farm	32,875	4,870	14.8	540	1.6	25	0.08
Male	16,495	2,540	15.4	220	1.3	15	0.09
Female	16,380	2,330	14.2	320	2.0	15	0.09
Total Rural Farm	343,425	63,435	18.8	4,285	1.2	110	0.03

United States Bureau of the Census, United States Census of Population 1950. Vol. II Parts, 2, 4, 24 and 42.

*Ages five to twenty-nine years.

Definition of Terms

The following definitions are provided for the purpose of clarifying the meaning of words and phrases, used in this study, which may otherwise be interpreted differently from their connotations.

Agricultural ladder. A theoretical postulation that an individual may ascend from the status of farm laborer to farm ownership by beginning his career as a farm worker, thus, saving enough capital to move into the tenant status. Then, if he is a successful tenant operator, he acquires enough capital to purchase his own farm.

Agricultural and related fields. Throughout the report of this investigation, the term "agricultural and related fields" shall refer to the productive phases of farming and the allied services performed which are directly responsible for meeting certain productive and marketing needs, such as, seed, feed and fertilizer dealing, farm implement salesman, repair and custom worker. Also included are professional occupations closely allied to agriculture for which specific training has been received, such as, teaching of agriculture, government work in technical agriculture, and research work at experiment stations and other agricultural laboratories.

Cropper. This type of farmer is a crop-share tenant who has only his and his family's labor to contribute toward crop production. The landlord furnishes work power, i. e.

tractor and/or work-animals. Usually, the landlord or his agent also supervises the cropper's farming activities.

Full owner. This term is used in the same way as it is used in the United States census reports. Full owners are farmers who own land but do not rent land from others.

Farm tenant. A farmer who either works on shares or rents the land he operates.

Mechanization. This word as applied to agriculture means the adoption of machinery--usually motor driven--to replace human labor or animal power.

Non-white. In general, this term is used to identify all non-white races, such as Negroes, Indians, Chinese, and Japanese. However, in the selected area there are only a few non-white persons who are not members of the Negro race. Therefore, the term, as used in this study, refers to members of the Negro race.

Occupational opportunity. This term should be interpreted throughout the report to mean the freedom and right to become employed in any group of similar available jobs found in agricultural and related fields for which qualifications are met.

State economic areas. These areas represent selected groups of contiguous counties, within a state, that have similar types of farming systems, soils, climatic conditions, and topography. This arrangement was used in the 1950 Census of Agriculture for the purpose of securing statistical

tabulations by size of farm, tenure of farm operator, economic class of farm, and type of farm. It was claimed that such tabulations would not have been possible for each county because of the cost involved.

CHAPTER II

PLANNING AND CONDUCTING THE STUDY

In order to fulfill the purpose of this study the idea was conceived that a direct approach should be made to individuals who were engaged in agricultural work among Negroes of the selected area. It was thought that such persons should have knowledge of the existing occupational opportunities for Negroes in their immediate areas, as well as of the occupations in which few or no Negroes were employed. In addition, it was decided that census reports had the possibility of furnishing basic information from which trends could be determined and analyzed as factors affecting job opportunities.

Moreover, in planning this study, it was decided that its contents would probably be more useful to a greater number of people if the study were to be written, not as a unit including combined data of all the s tates in the selected area, but rather to treat each state as a separate unit. This plan had an advantage in that occupational information was provided at the state level; rather than on a larger unit basis. Furthermore, this present arrangement permits the study to be read in sections according to the state in which a person might be interested.

Methods of Investigation

Although each state in the selected area was treated separately, the methods of investigation were the same for all the states. It was decided that the questionnaire approach would be used; therefore, considerable time was spent in developing an appropriate instrument. After many pre-tests, the questionnaire was judged to be acceptable.[9] This instrument was used to collect information on occupational opportunities in local areas of each state.

The questionnaires were not mailed to respondents, except when it was impossible to make a direct person-to-person approach. For the most part, respondents were met by appointment in group meetings. Usually, these meetings were arranged in connection with a scheduled annual meeting during the summer. This method of using the questionnaire was for the purpose of getting responses on all items included in the instrument. Also, through the use of this method, a high percentage of the forms was returned. It was a postulation that an appeal in person would stimulate more thorough participation among persons filling in questionnaires.

The questionnaires for each state were summarized by counties and state areas. In the first place, the names of counties in a state were listed on a stiff piece of cardboard

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[9] See Appendix A.

according to areas. Following this, long strips of cross-section paper, sixteen quarter-inch squares per square inch, were cut and used for tabulating and summarizing data as they were related to specific occupations. The title of each occupation included under a general heading was listed in a vertical position along the top of the cross-section paper. This piece of paper was fitted beside the name of each county on the stiff piece of cardboard. Finally, data from each questionnaire were tabulated opposite the county from which the information originated. This procedure provided a basis for summarizing the data, not only according to occupations and educational requirements, but also according to county and regional occupational opportunities. In addition, this procedure also provided a means of checking a large number of the completed forms against each other, because many of the counties had either a teacher of vocational agriculture and a county agent or more than one teacher of agriculture.

Continuing, use was made of decennial census data, 1920-1950, by constructing tables which showed trends for crops, livestock, mechanization, rural farm population, and occupations. It was concluded that these trends would have some affect upon the number of occupational opportunities in agriculture.

Sources of Information

In order to secure basic information for this study permission was secured from directors of vocational education and directors of the extension service in each selected state to approach program-planning committees. Arrangements were made with these planning committees for time at their scheduled meetings to explain the purpose of the study and to solicit the full cooperation of each respondent in complying with requests--that is, filling in the questionnaire.

Approximately 3,000 miles were traveled in presenting questionnaires to 318 Negro teachers of agriculture and Negro county agents who were attending scheduled group meetings.[10] Of this number 299, or ninety-four percent of this group completed and returned useable questionnaires. The premise was that these agricultural leaders, by virtue of their training and current contact with agricultural problems at the community level, should have a superior knowledge of the occupational situation among Negroes in the local areas. It was realized that some responses to items on the informational forms were derived from opinions and thus, they were not scientific. However, it must be remembered that these agricultural leaders were in close

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[10] The counties in which these teachers of agriculture and county agents were employed may be identified by examining Appendix B.

contact with actual situations in which they could determine occupational opportunities existed, or whether they existed and were not available to Negroes.

A second source of information was found in the United States census reports. These data were valuable in that they indicated trends in population, agricultural enterprises, mechanization, and occupations. They were also used whenever possible as a check against occupational data compiled as a result of opinions reported in the survey by agricultural leaders.

Scope and Limitations of the Study

It was realized that the entire Cotton Belt--where the density of the Negro population is greatest--could not be included in this study. Consequently, a typical area containing four contiguous states (Alabama, Arkansas, Mississippi, and Tennessee) was chosen as a representative section of the whole area. Thus, from this area, information for the present study was collected from 205 Negro teachers of vocational agriculture and ninety-four Negro county agents. Each of these 299 agricultural leaders was required to have earned a bachelor's degree in agriculture from a recognized agricultural college in order to qualify for his position. The type of information requested depended upon the resourcefulness, integrity, and educational background of respondents for its accuracy.

This study, then, has been limited in one aspect to the composite thinking of 299 trained agricultural leaders. These individuals were restricted to the consideration of whether certain occupational opportunities were available in agricultural and related fields in their local areas; and if they were available, to what extent were Negroes employed on these occupations.

Certain other limitations are also inherent in this study. In the first place, the study of occupational opportunities is limited to agricultural and related fields. This excluded the consideration of other occupations. In the second place, the study of occupational opportunities is restricted to the Negro population, and by custom, Negroes are barred from certain occupations in the South. Finally, the selection of respondents was limited to the Negro group because they (the respondents) were working among Negroes. This fact apparently helped to qualify them for answering questions posed in the questionnaire. For example, these agricultural leaders, for the most part, were reared in an agricultural enviornment which gave them a rich background, embedded in the problems and triumphs of rural life among Negroes. Again, the selection of respondents was limited to Negro teachers of vocational

agriculture and Negro county agents because, as a rule, other agricultural workers in these categories do not work among Negroes in the selected area.

CHAPTER III

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Within this chapter research studies and special reports will be reviewed which bear a relationship to the investigation conducted in the present study. For the most part, unpublished doctors' dissertations were selected and reviewed; however, some masters' theses, non-thesis studies, and special reports were included also.

Many studies have been conducted which were concerned with occupational opportunities and the employment status of former graduates. Yet, no attempt was made in the present study to review all the research in this category, but rather studies were selected which could be classified as bearing some direct relationship to the problem at hand. Some studies were reviewed that dealt with occupational opportunities in other fields as well as in agriculture. In these cases, only the sections of studies bearing on occupational opportunities in agriculture were considered.

A review of the Summaries of Studies in Agricultural Education[11] revealed that investigations related to

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[11] Summaries of Studies in Agricultural Education, U. S. Office of Education, Vocational Educational Bulletins, (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1935-1952).

occupational opportunities were almost exclusively centered on the problem of discovering job opportunities for students and/or graduates of vocational agriculture in high school; whereas, the problem in the present study was concerned with opportunities for college students.

Nevertheless, it was concluded that certain studies and special reports were comparable enough in purpose and basic tenets with the objectives of the present investigation to warrant their inclusion as related literature. They are arranged under three major headings in order to simplify the classification of related literature used in this study. Under the first heading, studies are included which focus attention upon occupational interests and opportunities for the purpose of ferreting out pertinent information for curricular revision and/or construction. Under the second heading, investigations are reported which explore the potential possibilities of job opportunities in which former students may find employment. Finally, under the third heading, studies are considered which reveal occupational opportunities through follow-up studies of former students and/or graduates.

Studies of Occupational Interests and Opportunities As Aids for Curricular Revision

Drake[12] conducted a study in Alabama which had as its major purposes: to discover occupational interests of high school seniors and the relationship between these interests and job opportunities in the state; to clarify educational demands of certain occupations; and to suggest guiding principles for curricular construction in the light of revealed interests, job opportunities, and educational demands.

This investigator visited fifty-five selected high schools in which 441 senior young men and 860 senior young women cooperated with him by filling in information forms. The type of data collected was concerned with the informants' age, sex, occupational interests, college plans, work experiences, and the occupation of their grandparents and parents. Too, questionnaires were mailed to sixty-one employers from whom answers were requested relative to Negro employees as skilled workers. This inquiry was mainly concerned with whether Negroes were employed as skilled workers; and if they were not, what were some of the basic reasons for not employing them on jobs classified as skilled work.

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[12] Joseph F. Drake, "Occupational Interests and Opportunities as Determinants in the Construction of Curricula for a Negro Land-Grand College in Alabama," (unpublished Doctor's dissertation, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, 1938), 234 pp.

In addition to the two devices which were used for collecting data for this study, Drake also made use of the United States Census for the purpose of determining trends in population and the distribution of occupations.

An analysis of the data secured from the high school seniors revealed that of the 431 senior young men who expressed an occupational choice, seventy-eight desired to become engaged in agriculture. Of this number, twenty young men were interested in teaching vocational agriculture; nine wanted to be farm demonstration agents; one chose entomology; and forty-eight merely indicated that they were interested in agriculture.

Generally, it would appear that the following statement should not be included in this review of literature; yet, it was presented in order to point out prevailing obstacles that do exist in the case of a minority group in addition to other difficulties met in finding and securing employment.

It therefore follows, according to the questionnaires returned by sixty-one selected employers, Negroes were not employed as skilled workers for the following reasons:

> (1) lack of technical training; (2) public opinion; (3) attitude of other skilled employees; (4) lack of standards of work on the part of Negro employees; (5) undesirable personality traits; (6) not customary: and (7) not available in sufficient numbers. [13]

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[13] Ibid., p. 198.

Notwithstanding the situation which prevailed concerning Negroes as skilled workers, this inquirer found that 51.3 percent of the total Negro population were gainfully employed in agriculture. However, there was a decrease in the number of agricultural workers during the period 1910 to 1930. The percent decrease for this period was from 66.7 to 48.0 which represents an 18.7 percent drop in the agricultural population.

Likewise, there was a downward trend in the total number of Negro farm operators from 93,829 in 1930 to 91,275 in 1935, a two percent decrease. On the other hand, the Agricultural Census for the same period showed that there was an increase of 2.1 percent in Negro farm ownership. Within this same period tenancy among Negroes decreased three percent. Nevertheless, in 1935, tenants composed 42.9 percent of the total farm tenant population in Alabama.

In addition to giving consideration to opportunities in agriculture on a state-wide basis, some attention was devoted to opportunities in agriculture according to selected regions of the State. In seven of the nine regions--Tennessee Valley, Sand Mountain, Western, East Central, Black Belt, Wiregrass, and the South Western--forty to seventy-two percent of the gainfully employed Negro population were engaged in agricultural work. The remaining two regions--The Mineral and Limestone Valley, and the Gulf Region--employed 12.5 and

10.2 percent respectively of the total gainfully employed Negroes in agricultural pursuits.

In view of these facts, it was emphasized that regardless of other industrial changes and developments, Alabama had remained an agricultural state. Thereupon, this observer recognized some implications for agricultural education as a result of his study. They are contained in the following statement:

> Agriculture: Claiming 48.0 percent of the total number of workers gainfully employed, and with 11,000,000 acres of tillable land at its disposal, agriculture remains the basic industry in Alabama from the standpoint of human resources employed as well as natural resources utilized. The Negro Land-Grand College, as a Federal-State institution, has an obligation to provide such services as will contribute to the most efficient utilization of these resources. [14]

Concluding, Drake held the point of view that in order to facilitate the accomplishments of objectives of agricultural education in a Land-Grant College for Negroes in Alabama, an agricultural curriculum should be developed to meet the needs of three groups:

> (1) Individuals who plan to engage in some form of agricultural pursuit. This curriculum should include experiences which will develop the ability of the individual to manage successfully general farm enterprises, as well as specialized phases of the industry.
> (2) Special groups already engaged in farming enterprises--the group to be admitted without classification or entrance requirements. This suggests the problem of providing short intensive courses for those who are interested in agricultural pursuits, but for whom a four-year course is impossible or impractical.

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[14] Ibid., p. 220.

(3) Individuals who demonstrate the interest, experience, aptitude, and ability to teach others to engage successfully in agricultural pursuits.[15]

This study was unique in that it represented the first attempt made by a Negro land-grant college president to investigate occupational interests and opportunities as determinants in the construction of curricula for a Negro land-grant college. Indeed, this was a commendable study by any process of measurement; nevertheless, the use of opinions of high school seniors pertaining to occupational interest as a basis for projecting an inquiry into possible job opportunities in the state seems to be rather superficial for an investigation of this caliber. This view was based upon the generally accepted premise: most high school seniors have not had the opportunity to explore the fields of occupational opportunities nor have they had the guidance necessary to prepare them for an intelligent occupational choice. Another position taken is that the agricultural data from which conclusions were drawn, seemingly, were not inclusive enough to support the recommendations set forth in the study.

Gunn[16] surveyed occupational opportunities in agriculture and allied fields in the state of North Carolina. This

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[15] Ibid., pp. 220-222.

[16] Lawrence J. Gunn, "A Survey of Occupational Opportunities in Agriculture and Related Fields in North Carolina," (unpublished Master's thesis, University of North Carolina, Raleigh, 1950), 145 pp.

was the only study found which had considered occupational opportunities in agriculture on a state-wide basis. On the other hand, it was observed that a number of similar studies was made for selected sections of different states, such as counties and local communities.

In this connection, it was Gunn's opinion that his study of occupations in agricultural and related fields for the entire state would be more meaningful and useful to students of vocational agriculture than one concerned only with a small segment of the state. In the first place, this reasoning was partially based upon the large percentage (81.2) of inter-state migration of the farm population in search of better opportunities. In the second place, his reasoning was based upon the belief that students needed to know, not only local occupational information, but also the opportunities in adjacent areas.

Consequently, the purposes of Gunn's study were:

1. To provide the student of vocational agriculture with information necessary for a wise vocational choice.
2. To provide the agriculture teacher with occupational information about his farming area.
3. To show some of the trends and changes that have occurred in occupations and enterprises related to agriculture.

In order to fulfill the purpose of his study, Gunn relied heavily upon data collected from 272 teachers of vocational agriculture and ninety-two county agents in North Carolina. Questionnaires were submitted to the teachers of vocational agriculture at the time of their annual teachers'

meeting, June 9, 1949. Likewise, similar information forms were presented to county agents during their conference, June 16, 1949. It was not made clear whether the questionnaires were filled in at these meetings or at some other time and place, and returned to the investigator.

In addition to this procedure of collecting data, use was made of the 1920, 1930, and 1940 United States Census of Population and of the 1925, 1935, and 1945 United States Census of Agriculture. This was done for the purpose of determining trends in total population, farm population, land tenure, and crop and livestock production.

According to the census report it was observed that the proportions of gainfully employed persons in agriculture in North Carolina had declined from fifty-seven percent in 1920 to 41.4 percent in 1940. In contrast to this, however, all other occupations increased in terms of the proportion of people so employed. Noticeable, however, was the fact that ownership increased 12.5 percent during the period of 1935-1945, while tenancy decreased 14.5 percent.

Gunn realized fewer people were living on more and larger farms on which production rates were maintained and increased through the use of farm machinery. It was noticed, nevertheless, that in areas of the state where crop production was not wholly adaptable to mechanization, the percentage of farm population was higher than in areas where most of the farm work was accomplished with machinery.

In addition, evidence was found that fixed, mechanized areas were becoming established which showed a definite relationship between tractors and the choice of occupations by farm people. Often, farm mechanization created new job opportunities, such as: repairing, selling, and distribution of fuel oils which absorbed part of the displacement brought about as a result of technological developments applicable to farm situations.

Turning from factors isolated as a result of an examination of census reports to the method used in analyzing the data secured from teachers of vocational agriculture and county agents, it was observed that this inquirer resorted to a rating scale whereby the assigned weighted numbers four, three, two, and one were given to classified headings --excellent, good, fair, and poor, respectively--by which each opportunity was evaluated. The maximum score for each item included in the questionnaire was ascertained by multiplying all respondents by four. The "actual score" was the sum of the evaluation multiplied by the appropriate weighted numbers. Thereupon, the rating of the opportunity was determined by dividing the "actual score" by the maximum possible score.

Following this method of determining occupational opportunities in agriculture, Gunn proceeded further to analyze his data as they were related to the farming areas of North Carolina. Wherefore, he found wide variations in occupational

opportunities among the farming areas of the state. For example, father-and-son partnership opportunities rated highest in areas VB and VII where the farm population was small in comparison to the total population; where the average size farm was large; where farm mechanization was high; and where the percent of improved land was high. Nevertheless, in areas I, II, V, and VIIIA veterinary opportunities were reported to be most favorable. Again, farm-machinery men were reported to have had the greatest job opportunities in areas I, IV, V, VA, and VIIA. While opportunities for the production of dairy cattle, swine, and beef cattle were more satisfactory in areas VB, VIIA, and VIIIA; II, III, V, and VIIIA; and II, III, V, VII, and VIIA, respectively, than in any other area of the state.

In much the same way, data were revealed for all farming sections of the state. It was concluded that these data could be exceptionally significant to teachers of vocational agriculture, but more especially, in providing valid occupational information for students who need and seek guidance in determining an occupational choice.

The relative recency (1950) of this study, as well as its scope, sources of data, and the methods used in analyzing and presenting facts were the major attributes which caused the study to be chosen as an outstanding example of the type of study needed in order to get at the basic problem of occupational opportunities in agricultural and related fields.

Surely, in an investigation of this kind it would be important to take into consideration the total area in which the maximum population would be expected to seek job opportunities. In general, this would require the inclusion of the local area--the community, the county, or a section of the county--in any study seeking information for employment opportunities. Nevertheless, opportunities for employment are not available in all local communities, counties, or states in sufficient numbers to accommodate potential employers. It follows that in local areas where occupational opportunities are not available, individuals seek jobs in adjacent areas and sometimes in more distant places. It stands to reason that an adequate study of occupational opportunities in agricultural and related fields should be broad enough in scope to allow for the assimilation of data on occupations--not only from the local area, but also, from adjacent areas where people seek employment in agricultural and/or related fields. This is necessary even if it means the inclusion of the entire state, and contiguous states.

Another impressive feature of this study was that Gunn went directly to the teachers of vocational agriculture and county agents because they were in position to furnish him valid information by virtue of their agricultural training, and first-hand contact with farm people who were concerned with the problems about which he was seeking information.

Moreover, his charts and tables were explicit, and the value of his study was enhanced considerably because his data were analyzed, not only for the state as a whole, but also, according to the farming area of the state. This arrangement of pertinent data made the study more useful to teachers of vocational agriculture and other workers in the field of agriculture than would have been possible if the data had been analyzed only for the s tate as a whole.

Hudson's[17] investigation was for the purpose of determining the proportion of former Negro students of vocational agriculture in Alabama who were engaged in farming or a related occupation; their farming status; and other facts which could be used advantageously in guidance programs and in curricula construction.

Data for this study were gathered by mailing a prepared questionnaire to 42 Negro teachers of vocational agriculture in Alabama. Information from eleven completed forms was used in analyzing the occupational distribution and status in farming of 499 former Negro students of vocational agriculture.

According to Hudson's analysis, only 25.9 percent of the former students were engaged in farming; 40.3 percent were in farming and related occupations; while 49.7 percent

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[17] Joseph Hudson, "Occupational Distribution," The Agricultural Education Magazine, 22:236-237, April, 1950.

were engaged in occupations other than those in agriculture. There was a tendency for former students who finished three years or more of school work to enter related occupations rather than farming. In contrast to this, former students who completed less than three years of school work entered farming rather than related occupations.

It was concluded that former students of vocational agriculture from eleven departments of vocational agriculture included in this study were not entering farming in justifiable proportions. This created a problem which calls for further investigation and a planned course of action which could well be taken by teachers of vocational agriculture, administrators in local programs of vocational education, and other persons interested in the problem.

It was readily recognized that this investigation was too narrow in scope to be of value on a state-wide basis. Furthermore, data were collected from different areas of the state, none of which were similar enough in agricultural pursuits to permit the investigator to combine them for the purpose of determining factors applicable to curricula enrichment, nor for the purpose of ascertaining valid occupational information for departments of vocational agriculture in the state.

Studies of Employment Opportunities in Agriculture

Byram[18] placed particular emphasis upon the problem of acquainting farm-reared youth with occupational opportunities in related agricultural fields as a practical, logical, and intelligent way of helping youth to realize potential employment possibilities in related agricultural occupations.

In defense of the claim for the need of additional job opportunities for farm youth he pointed out the fact that survey studies of former students of vocational agriculture show only about fifty percent of these boys enter and remain in farming.

The author of this article explained a need for opportunities in related agriculture in the following quotation:

> Apparently, many farm boys who might like to farm and who have a background of experience for it will not be able to realize that ambition. Likewise, many boys interested in careers in farming will be unable to capitalize on their experience to a high degree unless the occupation into which they go is related to agriculture.

He further thought that the number of agricultural college graduates entering non-farming occupations serves as an index to job possibilities in these related occupations. To bear this point out, he revealed the result of a study

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[18] Harold M. Byram, "Opportunities for the Farm-Reared Boy," Occupations, 17: 114-121, November, 1938.

furnished him by R. M. Vifquain. This study, showed the occupational distribution of 1,763 graduates from the Division of Agriculture at Iowa State College. The distribution was as follows: 321, or 18.2 percent were college teachers, research workers, and extension workers; 222 were high school teachers or administrators; 229, or about seventeen percent were employed as specialists by the United States Department of Agriculture; and 272, or 15.4 percent were farmers. Excluding the 155 in the miscellaneous occupations and the 272 in the farming group, 75.7 percent were engaged in occupations related to agriculture.

Turning from the college man to the non-college man, Byram calls attention to the two-year general agricultural courses and short courses conducted at many of the land-grant colleges and universities for the purpose of providing instruction for rural boys who could not take a four-year course; also, the many special agricultural schools extending across the country, coast to coast, from which boys are graduated and seek employment. Considering this, it was held that many of these individuals would need intelligent guidance based upon factual community data concerning occupations in order to find employment in occupations related to agriculture.

Lastly, in order to ameliorate this situation, Byram recommends:

> First, there is immediate need for considerable research. There should be a nation-wide study and several state and local studies for those employed in agricultural occupations outside farming. Concerning some of these jobs there is little or no information available to counselors and teachers; therefore, occupational surveys and studies should be made to determine the characteristics and job qualifications of workers in these related jobs.
>
> Secondly, much attention should be given to disseminating information about such opportunities as may exist for farm boys with interest in agriculture.

Although this article was written about fifteen years ago, there is much in it to challenge present day thinkers. This article explicitly focuses attention upon the need for additional information on occupational opportunities in related agricultural fields as well as on the need for disseminating more occupational information for guidance purposes.

Nylund[19] studied the occupational opportunities in farming and related service occupations in the Spencer-Van Etten Community, located in Tioga and Chemung Counties, New York. His major purposes were:

> 1. To discover what occupational opportunities in farming and in related service occupations existed within the Spencer-Van Etten Community for former students of vocational agriculture.
> 2. To ascertain what factors influence and determine the opportunities available to these former students in the farming and related service occupations.

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[19] Felix A. Nylund, "The Discovery and Analysis of the Occupational Opportunities in Farming and Related Service Occupations for Former Students of Vocational Agriculture," (unpublished Doctor's dissertation, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, 1946), 243 pp.

3. To determine how these young men take advantage of the occupational opportunities which are available to them in this community.

4. To discover how the resources of this community are being used to develop occupational opportunities in farming and related or associated service occupations based on the needs of these former students and on the needs of the people in this community.

5. To secure data which will be of value in developing a more effective program of instruction in agriculture in the central rural school of this area.

This investigator's population was composed of 104 farm and village boys who had studied agriculture in the Spencer-Van Etten Community schools during the period July, 1934 to July, 1944; and also, twenty merchants and business men who furnished most of the information concerning opportunities in related service occupations.

In regard to opportunities in farming for former students of vocational agriculture, Nylund was of the opinion that these opportunities must either exist or be created on the home farm or other farms in or out of the community. It was suggested that parental cooperation be extended to students of vocational agriculture in the form of wages; partnership in the farm business; or a share of the farm income or capital to invest in other farms; and experienced advice regarding careers. This helpful cooperation extended to students of vocational agriculture by their parents could be of immeasurable value in providing opportunities for entering farming.

He reported that, for the most part, former students in the Spencer-Van Etten Community entered farming by way of

an agreement worked out with their parents. Some were partnership arrangements, but the majority were wage earners' agreements. Of the total of 121 former students, forty percent were farm workers on their home farms; 8.9 percent were owner-operators; 26.7 percent had partnership agreements with their parents; 17.8 percent were employed at home on the farm with indefinite allowances; and 6.6 percent were employed as farm laborers away from home.

This inquirer also explored the possibilities of employment opportunities in related service occupations, and found a number of businesses definitely related to the field of agriculture, both in urban and rural centers. Essentially, these businesses were concerned with:

1. Dairy industries, including manufacturing, processing, and distributing.
2. Poultry industries, including manufacturing, processing and distributing.
3. Food processing and preservation, other than dairy and poultry.
4. Merchandizing of farm products and supplies.
5. Farm machinery, including equipment sales, maintenance and repair.
6. Nursery products, including greenhouse, landscaping, and floriculture.
7. Financing and farm sales, including credit and insurance.

It was observed that employment opportunities in these businesses in the Spencer-Van Etten Community were influenced by the size of farm businesses. An increase in the total volume of farm business demanded an increase in related services; whereupon, additional jobs were afforded.

Other factors exerting influence upon the number of job opportunities in related service occupations were reported to be the different types of farming which required different kinds of related services--human and physical resources, topography, transportation facilities, the farming population, farming experience, training, and finally, the quality of personality possessed.

Commenting upon the employment status of former students of vocational agriculture in related service occupations, Nylund pointed out that only seven of the seventy-nine employees of local related service businesses were former students of vocational agriculture.

This study is an example of a thorough investigation of occupational opportunities in agricultural and related fields for a community. It represents, no doubt, the best method of determining local job opportunities, and discovering occupational information devised up to the present time. It is also true, that this type of investigation has a definite place in local situations, but if it is confined wholly to such use, most of its usefulness will be lost. This viewpoint was held because the mobility of the population makes it necessary to consider opportunities and other important issues on a much broader basis than the community, county, or even the state.

Studies of Occupational Opportunities Revealed Through Follow-Up Studies of Former Students

Wright[20] made what he called a dialectic analysis of 106 studies which were mainly composed of Masters' degree theses concerned with follow-up studies of former high school students who had studied vocational agriculture. His purpose was to evaluate those studies and to discover factors affecting occupational activities and employment.

In his analysis, Wright revealed that various sections of the country possessed manifest differences in occupational distribution among former students of vocational agriculture, and these differences were apparent between different areas within states.

This investigator showed that Morriss[21] found from his state-wide study in Alabama, during 1931 and 1932, that from a total of 7,108 former students of vocational agriculture, 55.9 percent were engaged in farming; 5.1 percent were employed in related occupations; 3.9 percent were in college; and 35.1 percent were in non-agricultural occupations.

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[20] Carlton E. Wright, "Occupational Distribution, Entrance into Farming and Opportunities for Farming, of Former Students of Vocational Agriculture," (unpublished Doctor's dissertation, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, 1943), 572 pp.

[21] Some Effects of the Study of Vocational Agriculture on the Occupation of Farming and on Farm Practices, (unpublished Master's thesis, Alabama Polytechnic Institute, Auburn, Alabama, 1934), Cited by Carlton E. Wright, op. cit., p. 39.

On the other hand, Kline[22] conducted a study in Virginia; he began it in 1933 and completed it in 1943. This examinant's study included 1,260 Negro and 7,225 white out-of-school former students of vocational agriculture. It was revealed that 48.4 percent of the white students and 42.6 percent of the Negro students were engaged in farming. However, studies on a regional basis show a higher percentage of former Negro students engaged in farming than former white students. According to Lathrop[23] these percentage figures as of 1940-41 were 66.5 and 51.5 respectively for Negro and white former students in the Southern Region. In contrast to this, all studies indicated percentage-wise that more former white students found employment in related occupations than was true in the case of former Negro students.

Essentially, however, no definite evidence was indicated which could be construed as a trend in the proportion of former students entering farming or related occupations. The proportion entering agricultural and related occupations seemed to remain about constant from year to year,

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[22] A Study of the Effectiveness of Vocational Agriculture in Virginia As Measured by the Occupational Status of Former Students, Including the Evaluation of Some of the Influences on Occupational Selection, 1918-32. (unpublished Master's thesis, Virginia, 1942), cited by Carlton E. Wright, op. cit., p. 40.

[23] Effectiveness of Vocational Education in Agriculture, (Bulletin 82, Agricultural Series 13, Revised Edition, February, 1933. Federal Board for Vocational Education, Department of Interior, Washington), cited by Carlton E. Wright, op. cit., p.28.

except during times of depression when larger proportions of former students found employment in farming, and smaller proportions were able to become engaged in related occupations.

It was observed, however, that opportunities for entering farming varied according to certain factors which were set forth as follows:

> Where the proportion of all land in farms is great; where farm tenancy is high or above a state average; where farms are of medium size or larger; where the value per farm is high, more former students enter farming than is true in areas where all or some of these factors are absent. [24]

In addition to these observations Wright found that in more recent years, the tendency was for a larger proportion of former students of vocational agriculture to enter colleges of agriculture than was true in former years. This observation was further supported by the fact that the number of former students of vocational agriculture attending colleges of agriculture in recent years was nearly as large as the number of former students of vocational agriculture enrolled in non- agricultural colleges.

It was noted also that agricultural college graduates entered farming less readily than agricultural college drop-outs. Whereas, on the other hand, graduates found employment in related occupations more readily than drop-outs. Continuing, this inquirer made the observation that the

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[24] Wright, op. cit., p. 211.

percentage of Negro boys engaged in farming in the South was much higher than the percentage of white boys. However, the percentage of Negro boys entering related occupations was somewhat lower, probably due to the lack of opportunities for that group. Likewise, in sections where the percentage entering farming was high, the percentage entering related occupations was low. Quite the opposite, when the percentage entering farming was low, the percentage entering related occupations was high. Whereupon, more former students who were graduated from high school entered related occupations than did non-graduates.

The longer a group of former students was out of school, the smaller was the proportion engaged in farming, and the larger the proportion engaged in related occupations. It was also found, according to most of the studies, less than ten percent of the former students of vocational agriculture entered related occupations. The general average entering related occupations was approximately six percent. Thus, the conclusion was that the more highly trained the boys were, the greater was the proportion to enter related occupations. Also, in times of prosperity, when the prices were high or rising, a greater proportion of former students entered related occupations. In times of depression, when prices were low or falling, a smaller proportion entered those occupations.

In view of these facts concerning occupational opportunities for former students of vocational agriculture, Wright thought favorable results could be accomplished through a process of selection and training which would reasonably assure qualified leadership for the years ahead. One way, he suggested to secure this type of leadership, is through the quality and thoroughness of training offered in departments of vocational agriculture. A second way is to encourage outstanding students to continue their education at a qualified agricultural college.

He was of the opinion that such a plan would necessitate a program of guidance, developed jointly by the principal of the high school and the teacher of vocational agriculture, whereby, rural boys of outstanding ability could be encouraged to secure a college education.

In general, new technological and scientific developments applicable to agriculture have brought about new job opportunities in agriculture during the last decade which have made this study less valuable now than formerly. For example, information on occupations in agriculture and related fields for the period 1930-1940 would not be as valuable in present day agricultural situations as it was during the period in which the information was gathered. It follows that job opportunities would have changed along with demands brought about by new agricultural methods, processes, and mechanical devices. On the other hand, this

study could be referred to for a review of methods, procedures, and other techniques which serve as guides by which improved techniques could be developed for the purpose of securing and analyzing data on occupations in agriculture.

An extensive follow-up study of Michigan State College graduates was conducted by Wyeth[25] in search of information which might help to indicate a course of direction for readjusting training programs in agriculture at Michigan State College to meet changing demands in agriculture.

The purposes of this research were stated as follows:

> (1) To study all information furnished by 2,902 agricultural graduates, (2) to report what agricultural graduates do and what they think about all phases of the study conducted, (3) to analyze in detail, the curriculum, counseling, and occupational phases of the study, and (4) to suggest suitable courses of action that the school of agriculture might initiate, based on opinions of graduates.

The present study was concerned, however, with only one of the primary purposes of this investigation:

> To furnish useful information to help the school of agriculture carry on a more effective program of counseling current and prospective students on matters of courses of study, occupational information, employment opportunities and requirements.

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25 Irving R. Wyeth, "A Study of the Agriculture Graduate of Michigan State College," (unpublished Master's thesis, Michigan State College, East Lansing, Michigan, 1953), 173 pp.

Data were collected for this study through the use of questionnaires. A printed copy was mailed to each of the 4,500 agricultural graduates for whom addresses were obtainable. A total of 2,923 former graduates responded by filling in and returning the questionnaire mailed to each of them.

Upon examining the data collected, Wyeth found that eleven percent of Michigan State College graduates in agriculture were farming. Surprisingly, only sixteen percent of 2,794 informants were engaged in non-agricultural occupations. This seemed to have indicated clearly that job opportunities were sought and found in agriculture by the majority of these college graduates. Further, it was noticed that 1,379 or forty-eight percent of 2,875 Michigan State College agricultural graduates had secured employment in public service occupations at the federal, state, or city level; twenty-nine percent were employed by private companies and corporations; twenty percent were self-employed in business, such as farming; and three percent were classified as retired.

Turning to job descriptions that best apply to present major occupations of graduates, Wyeth observed, according to replies based on answers to a multiple choice question, that of the 9,996 replies, fourteen percent, or 1,439 listed "supervision" as the best descriptive title of the job in

which they were employed. Likewise, fourteen percent, or 1,422 listed public relations; thirteen percent, or 1,315 listed administration; twelve percent, or 1,173 listed organization; twelve percent, or 1,123 listed management; ten percent, or 1,003 listed teaching; eight percent, or 773 listed sales; seven percent, or 717 listed farming; six percent, or 662 listed research; and four percent, or 369 were classified as other occupations.

It was interesting to note that sixty-nine percent of the employed former agricultural graduates of Michigan State College were satisfied with their present work to the extent they were not seeking a change in favor of another type of position. However, sixteen percent, or 433 out of 2,744 former graduates did express a desire to change from their present work to another type of position; whereas, fifteen percent, or 411 were uncertain as to whether they desired a change.

Considerable evidence was revealed in this study to support the hypothesis that occupational opportunities in agricultural and related occupations were available for agricultural college graduates. Moreover, the percentage distribution of workers among these occupations is an indication that the general scope of occupations was broad enough to allow for wide range of choices, as well as employment situations. This point of emphasis was clearly

demonstrated in the percentage distribution of former graduates who were employed in approximately thirty-nine rather generally defined agricultural occupations.

There was an outstanding point of agreement between Wyeth's study and the present investigation: both studies were vitally concerned with the presence or the absence of occupational opportunities in agricultural and related fields as focal points in planning educational programs in agriculture.

Rhea[24] conducted a follow-up study of the graduates of the school of Agriculture at Iowa State College primarily for the purpose of assembling "in a more satisfactory and detailed manner some evidences of evaluation generally found by keeping an ear-to-the-ground." This inquisitive ear seemed to have been interested in the vocational competency of graduates, their opinions concerning curricula and organizational policies as reflectors of implications capable of suggesting ways to project more effective programs of agriculture. To secure this information, a questionnaire was mailed to each of the 4,483 graduates who had received baccalaureate degrees since 1932 in agriculture. Of this number 3,593 were returned sufficiently completed for use in this study.

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[24] Mark B. Rhea, "Present Status and Opinions of Graduates Granted Bachelor of Science Degrees Since 1932 in Agriculture Curricula at Iowa State College," (unpublished Doctor's dissertation, Iowa State College, Ames, Iowa, 1953) 126 pp.

Each of the graduates stated both his first and present occupation after graduation. The present occupations in which employment was secured were classified and summarized. This classification showed the distribution of graduates without consideration for curriculum affiliation. It was noted that the largest proportion, 968, of the reporting graduates were employed in commercial agricultural concerns, such as: plant managers, 256; salesmen, 244; production, 206; and research workers, seventy-four. Productive agriculture in which 702 of the 3,593 reporting graduates were employed ranked second; 542, or 15.1 percent of the reporting graduates were farming. Education and government service occupations ranked third in employing 470 graduates each. Positions, such as teachers of vocational agriculture, veterans' classes, and teachers in high school, ranked fourth in offering employment opportunities to 410, or 11.4 percent of the reporting graduates. The smallest number in the selected categories was employed in farm service occupations; there were only ten persons in this classification--eight of these were veterinarians.

Upon considering first and present occupations of reporting graduates by curriculum, Rhea observed some changes between beginning and present occupations. A strikingly noticeable shift occurred in the number engaged in farming. Figures showed that 483 of the 3,593 graduates became engaged in farming directly after graduation from college; however,

by 1952 the number had increased to 702. Another noticeable shift appeared in small businesses from initial to present positions among graduates. Ninety-six were employed in small businesses directly after receiving baccalaureate degrees; but by 1952, 205 had positions in this enterprise. Quite apart from this, certain initial occupations, such as education, extension and government service, were used as stepping stones to other occupations.

This study has revealed for Iowa State College the occupations in which its agricultural graduates have found employment. The present study similarly sought to identify occupations in a selected area. Nevertheless, both studies employed different approaches in determining occupational opportunities. In the present study the problem was attacked first, by determining if certain jobs were available in a selected area; secondly, by finding out if Negroes were employed on these jobs; and finally, by determining the kind and amount of training demanded by these jobs. Whereas, in Rhea's study his approach was through a follow-up of agricultural graduates in order to find out in what occupations they became engaged after leaving college.

A basic philosophy which seems to have stimulated the urge for research in occupational opportunities in agricultural and related fields has found outward expression in the following words by Rhea:

> The agricultural economy of this country would soon be bankrupt if all farm-reared boys were forced to return to farming. The demands for personnel in the agricultural industry, other than farming, have been so acute that agricultural colleges have recognized that maximum service to agriculture cannot be attained without stressing the opportunities for farm-reared youth in occupations other than farming in the total agricultural industry.

Early in 1950 a survey was conducted by Shepardson[27] in order to assemble information seeking an answer to two questions: (1) "Why go to college to learn to farm?" and (2) "Why does the agricultural graduate not go back to the farm?" A questionnaire was mailed to each of the 4,720 agricultural graduates of the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas. Of this number, 1,927 graduates completed forms and returned them in time to be included in the study. Among other requests, was one asking graduates to list their present occupations. A summary of these occupations revealed that of the 1,927 reporting graduates, 18.6 percent were farming, and forty-seven percent, or 905 were engaged in professional agriculture. This group was composed of 311 teachers of vocational agriculture; 165 agricultural extension workers; 203 college instructors and research workers; 202 Soil Conservation Service workers and other governmental agencies; and twenty-four commercial public relation workers. Continuing, 12.9 percent were employed in business

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[27] Chas. N. Shepardson, "A Study of the Agricultural Graduates of the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas," Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas, College Station, Texas, Fifth Series, Vol. 7, Number 7, 1951.

related to agriculture, and 21.5 percent were working in fields unrelated to agriculture. Another meaningful analysis was made which identified occupations of graduates by major fields of study on the basis of an earned baccalaureate degree. It was found that thirty-five percent of the 492 animal husbandry majors were engaged in farming. This represents the largest percentage of all majors entering farming. Agronomy majors were second, with seventy-four, or twenty-two percent from a total of 337 entering farming. Dairy and poultry ranked third, with 19.7 percent of 142 majors in farming. Floriculture and landscape, entomolgy, and agricultural education had the smallest percentages engaged in farming--4.3, 6.3, and 6.2, respectively. Nevertheless, entomology and agricultural education had the highest percentage engaged in professional work, seventy-five percent and 74.6, respectively. Majors in floriculture and landscape architecture, and agricultural engineering led the group in entering related agricultural business, with 43.5 percent and 29.3 percent, respectively. The highest percent of graduates, 47.1, engaged in work unrelated to agriculture were majors in agricultural administration. Floriculture and landscape architecture majors were second in this classification, with 41.3 percent. Although only 18.6 percent of the graduates were farming, 33.3 percent, or 641 of the total were land owners.

The basic purposes of this study seem to have been closely allied with those of the present study. Both studies were seeking information on occupations as they were related to college students, thus they had parallel purposes in this respect. A point of dissimilarity was recognized in methodology when it came to identifying occupations. This study surveyed and identified occupations on the basis of participation by college graduates; whereas, the present study surveyed the field in search of possible job opportunities on the basis of availability.

Within recent years Peacock[28] and others conducted a study of the employment opportunities for agricultural graduates of the University of Tennessee. The basic information for the study was secured by mailing prepared questionnaires to agricultural graduates who had received baccalaureate degrees during the thirty-year period, 1920-1950 inclusive. The total number of respondents was 1,244, or sixty-three percent of the graduates to whom questionnaires were mailed.

An analysis of the employment distribution of the respondents is summarized in Table II. It will be seen that eighty-five percent of the graduates secured their first jobs in agricultural or related fields after graduation and that

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[28] N. D. Peacock, E. J. McSpadden, and G. H. Wingo, A Study of the Employment Opportunities for Agricultural Graduates of the University of Tennessee. College of Agriculture, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Bull., n. d.

TABLE II

TYPES OF GRADUATE EMPLOYMENT, FIRST AND PRESENT UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE

Types	* First employment after graduation		*Employment at time of survey	
	(% of total)		(% of total)	
Related to agriculture				
Educational				
High school				
Vocational agriculture	28.3		20.5	
Veterans' training	7.7		7.9	
Total high school employment		36.0		28.4
College				
Teaching	2.2		3.8	
Research	3.4		1.3	
Extension	8.7		10.1	
Total college employment		14.3		15.2
Graduate Study		0.7		1.7
Total Educational		51.0		45.3
Federal and state agencies		14.3		16.3
Commercial		13.8		12.5
Farming		5.9		8.6
Total related to agriculture		85.0		82.7
Unrelated to agriculture				
Commercial		8.8		10.8
Military service		1.4		4.0
Teaching		4.0		1.7
Miscellaneous		0.8		0.8
Total unrelated to agriculture		15.0		17.3

* N. D. Peacock, B. J. McSpadden and G. H. Wingo, "A Study of the Employment Opportunities for Agricultural Graduates of the University of Tennessee," Knoxville, Tennessee: Bulletin, College of Agriculture, University of Tennessee, n. d.

5.9 percent of the first employment situation after graduation were in farming. Whereas, when the study was conducted 8.6 percent of the reporting graduates were so engaged. The implication seems to be that young men who graduate in agriculture seek employment in agricultural occupations other than farming for a few years until they can arrange to finance farming operations. Peacock also called attention to the fact that 30.1 percent of the 1,244 reporting graduates owned or were operating farms.

An examination of the data presented in the study on present employment by undergraduate major fields disclosed the occupations in which the majority of the graduates were working. Teaching high school vocational agriculture provided employment for more agricultural education graduates than any other occupation. A total of 43.7 percent, or 165 out of 377 reporting agricultural education graduates, were employed in teaching vocational agriculture. Approximately, nineteen percent of the 165 agronomy majors were employed by federal and state agencies. The extension service provided employment opportunities for 17.5 percent of the 160 animal husbandry majors. Twenty-seven, or 16.9 percent of this group were farming. Of the 111 reporting dairy majors, 27.1 percent, or thirty were employed in commercial dairying. Federal and state agencies employed the majority of the fifty agricultural economics majors and the fifty horticulture

majors by providing jobs for about twenty-three percent of each group. Twenty-seven, or 33,8 percent of the eighty majors in agricultural engineering, found the preponderance of their employment opportunities in commercial work related to agriculture.

Peacock's computations and explanations on employment opportunities for agricultural graduates particularized occupational opportunities in a realistic setting. Eighty-five percent of these graduates had been employed in agriculture or related fields. Furthermore, the distribution of employment indicated that opportunities had been realized in a number of different occupations in agriculture. Essentially, the present study sought to identify work opportunities for Negro college graduates in agriculture for a selected area which included Tennessee. The two studies showed parallelism in that both were interested in occupational opportunities in agriculture from the standpoint of what could be revealed that might be used in planning better college programs in agriculture. A point of dissimilarity occurred in that different groups were under consideration in each study. In the present study it was thought expedient to search for job opportunities in the light of employment situations which were available to Negroes and those which were not yet available to them but had a remote possibility of becoming accessible. On the other hand, Peacock's group was not circumscribed by discriminatory employment practices;

consequently, his study had no cause to consider whether jobs were available or not, but rather, to determine what selections were being made in the open field of employment opportunities.

Summary

Studies and other written materials which were related to the problem of occupational opportunities in agricultural and related fields were reviewed in this chapter.

At this point, some similarities and some differences of opinion will be discussed which prevailed between this study and the investigations which were included in the review of related literature.

Three similarities existed between Gunn's study and the present study. The first of these similarities was in the selection of the sources of materials. That is, both inquirers secured information from county agents and teachers of vocational agriculture. The second of these similarities was that both investigators made use of the United States Census of Agriculture, and the United States Census of Population. The third and final point of agreement was concerning the scope of the study. That is, both studies were conducted on a state-wide basis, rather than merely a community or county basis.

The following major differences between the present study and Drake's, Hudson's, Nylund's, and Wright's studies

were: (1) these studies were concerned with former high-school students of vocational agriculture, while the present study concerned itself with former college students; and (2) the data were gathered in these studies through mailed questionnaires and personal interviews, while in the present study the investigator gathered data through questionnaires which were filled in during group meetings, at a time when the enumerator could serve as an interpreter of the instrument, if necessary.

The follow-up studies conducted by Wyeth, Rhea, Shepardson, and Peacock centered attention upon identifying occupations in which agricultural graduates were able to secure employment. Likewise, the present study sought to identify job opportunities for Negro college graduates--not, however, by a follow-up study, but rather, by determining the jobs on which Negroes were employed and those on which they were not employed by conducting a survey in the areas for which information was desired.

A general point of agreement seemed to have prevailed among all studies reviewed that there was a felt need for more information on occupational opportunities in agriculture, both at the high school level and at the college level.

CHAPTER IV

FACTORS AFFECTING JOB OPPORTUNITIES IN AGRICULTURAL AND RELATED FIELDS

The people of the United States depend almost entirely upon American agriculture for raw food materials and fiber which are used to feed and clothe them. Moreover, approximately 12.2 percent of the total population in America depend directly upon agriculture for gainful employment.[29] It was held by Boss and Pond[30] that the populace of the United States have no other alternative to which they may turn for their primary needs--food and clothing--other than to the industry of American agriculture. These important facts are two basic reasons why agriculture must be classified as one of the paramount businesses of this generation. It stands to reason, then, that the whole population of the United States should be vitally interested in what has happened; what is happening; and also, what is likely to happen to such an enormous enterprise which helps to bring into existence the basic necessities of life and prosperous living.

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[29] United States Bureau of the Census, United States Census of Population, Vol. I (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1922), pp. 1-286 -- 1-287.

[30] Andrew Boss and George Pond, Modern Farm Management, (Minnesota: The Weber Publishing Company, 1947), p. 39.

Trends in the Selected Area

This section of the study has been limited to a consideration of what has happened to agriculture in the selected area. For the most part, attention was given to changes which took place during the period 1920-1950, as they were related to identifiable trends. Furthermore, rather than to consider trends for the selected area as a unit, they are discussed in terms of each state comprising the selected area.

Some of the apparent, justifiable reasons for analyzing data as a unit for the selected area were: the four states produced largely the same crops, with cotton as their main cash crop; (2) generally, their livestock programs were similar; (3) they were located in an area that has been affected similarly by boll weevils and other insect pest; (4) there was an excess farm population in each state; and (5) wars and depressions had a similar effect on their agricultural programs.[31] Yet, in spite of these similarities which would naturally favor an analysis of the area as a whole, it seems a more logical step to analyze the data and show trends for each separate state so that teachers of agriculture, directors, deans of divisions of agriculture,

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[31] John L. Fulmer, op. cit., p. 18.

and administrators of agricultural programs in each state could view these relative data in the light of a local situation.

Alabama

In Alabama agricultural trends have followed largely the general trends and patterns which have prevailed throughout the Cotton Belt States[32] and the nation as a whole. Adverse conditions, such as: the advent of the boll weevil in 1915, the depression years of the 1930's, and generally, too many people depending on too few acres of land for a living have affected agriculture in the state. On the other hand, national emergencies which occurred during the World Wars brought about high prices for farm commodities. During these periods, in the meantime, the army draft and migration of workers from rural areas to war plants and other industries depleted the rural farm population to the extent that there were fewer people on farms to share in the increased farm income. Thus, these were periods of relatively high per capita income for farmers.

Still another point of view was possible because of adverse conditions during the 1930's and the speed-up production program in farming during national emergencies.

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[32] Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, Oklahoma, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee and Texas.

Scientists and economists, in order to improve upon the unfavorable situations, went to work on the problems at hand. The former group developed newer and better insecticides, while the results of the planning of the latter group was the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1933, the Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act of 1936, and the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938. Seemingly, in order to solve the problems of increasing farm production during national emergencies, scientists, economists, technicians, and the general "know-how" of all Americans were brought into action.

During each World War the challenges for increased production in agricultural commodities were met. These increases seemed to have been made possible, to a large extent, through the use of scientific and technological developments. To cite one case at hand: in 1939 only ten percent of the cotton land in the Mid-South was prepared with tractors; on the other hand, in 1946, cotton land prepared with tractors had increased to forty-two percent.[33] Likewise, while sweeping advances were made in the use of mechanical devices on the farm to increase production, scientific developments, such as: the use of hybrid seeds, improved insecticides, better breeding and feeding methods, and many other developments were applied

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33 John L. Fulmer, Op. cit., p. 63.

to farming situations in the interest of larger and better yields. These developments represent some of the more noticeable factors which exerted some influence upon agriculture in Alabama, and were reflected, to some extent, in the general trend of agriculture in the state.

Population. The people of Alabama in 1950 had access to approximately 32,689,920 acres of land, of which 63.9 percent, or 20,888,784 acres were in farms.[34] Stating the same fact somewhat differently, it was found in 1950 that 3,061,743 persons were living in Alabama; this state had an approximate land area of 32,689,920 acres. The population was composed of 982,243 non-white inhabitants and 2,079,500 white inhabitants. Table III indicates, in general, that the total population of Alabama increased 30.4 percent during the period 1920-1950. However, for the decade 1940-1950 there was only an 8.1 percent increase in the total population. The white population increased 12.5 percent during this period; whereas, on the other hand, the number of non-white persons decreased 0.2 percent.[35] But it can readily be seen

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34 United States Bureau of the Census, United States Census of Agriculture, Vol. 1 (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1952), p. 3.

35 "Employment and Economic Status of Negroes in the United States," Staff Report to the Sub-Committee on Labor and Public Welfare, United States Senate, Eighty-Second Congress, Second Session, (Washington: United States Government Printing Office, 1952), Table 8, p. 6.

TABLE III

TRENDS AND PER CENT CHANGE IN POPULATION, FARM TENURE, AND FARM ACREAGE: ALABAMA 1920-1950

	1920	1930	1940	1950	Per cent change 1920-1950
Total population	2,348,174	2,646,248	2,832,961	3,061,743	+30.4
Rural farm population	1,334,513	1,336,409	1,338,664	960,493	-28.3
Land in farms (acres)	19,576,856	17,554,635	19,143,391	20,888,784	+6.7
Farm operators	256,099	257,395	231,746	211,512	-17.4
Average size farm (acres)	76.4	68.2	82.6	98.8	+29.3
*Farm owners	107,089	90,372	95,107	123,463	+15.3
All farm tenants	148,269	166,420	136,224	87,613	-40.9

United States Bureau of the Census, United States Census of Agriculture: 1920-1950. Per cent change calculated.

*Part and full owners.

in Table IV, that there was an increase of 9.1 percent in the non-white population in 1950 over that of 1920.

The present study concerned itself with the rural farm population rather than with all the people of the state; thereupon, a closer examination of the rural element of the populace was in order. The total number of rural farm people in Alabama, for each year, 1920 to 1950, was recorded in Table III. It was noted that a decrease of 28.3 percent occurred in the rural farm population during the thirty-year period, 1920-1950. Within this period, nevertheless, some fluctuations took place as indicated in Table III. In the first place, according to authorities in the field of economics, there was a distinct back-to-the-farm movement during the 1930's which was attributed to the nation-wide depression. In the second place, according to experts in labor statistics, there was a sharp decline in the rural farm population during the 1940-1950 decade. This shift in population was caused by migration of rural workers to war plants and other industries.

It can be seen in Table IV that there was a 38.0 percent decline in the non-white rural farm population for the thirty-year period, 1920-1950. However, the greatest decrease, 33.3 percent, for a single decade occurred during 1940-1950. In contrast to the short, fluctuating trends observed in the action of the total farm population during the thirty-year period, 1920-1950, the non-white,

TABLE IV

TRENDS AND THE PER CENT CHANGE IN NON-WHITE RURAL FARM POPULATION AND FARM TENURE: ALABAMA 1920-1950

	1920	1930	1940	1950	Per cent change 1920-1950
Total population	900,650	944,834	983,864	982,243	+9.1
Rural farm population	515,351	496,878	477,977	318,745	-38.0
Per cent rural farm	57.0	52.6	48.6	32.5	-43.0
Number of farms	95,200	93,829	73,364	57,294	-39.8
Average size farm (acres)	45.7	43.3	48.5	42.4	-7.0
Full owners	13,663	11,417	11,776	13,267	-2.9
Tenants, all	77,874	77,875	57,651	38,026	-51.2
Share croppers	*	*	6,462	8,927	+7.2
Croppers	27,184	27,572	19,334	11,900	-56.2

United States Bureau of the Census, United States Census of Population: 1950. Per cent change calculated.

United States Bureau of the Census, United States Census of Agriculture: 1950. Per cent change calculated.

*Not available.

rural farm population decreased each decade in rising proportions from 18,473 in 1920 to 159,232 in 1950. These facts do not exclude the possibility that there was a back-to-the-farm movement among non-white people during the 1930 depression years, but they do indicate that, if such were the case, by the time the 1940 decennial census was taken, a larger number left the rural area than had returned in the same census period. Table IV shows that in 1920 more than one-half, fifty-seven percent, of the non-white population were classified as rural farm; whereas, in 1950 only 32.5 percent of the total non-white population were in this category. It was interesting to note that, according to Table IV, the proportion of the non-white population which remained in rural areas decreased over a period of thirty years, decade after decade, from fifty-seven percent in 1920 to 32.5 percent in 1950, a forty-three percent change.

Land tenure. Any consideration of land tenure automatically eliminates the element of the population gainfully employed in agriculture as laborers. This is tantamount to saying that employment as a farm laborer does not qualify a person for tenure status. Consequently, land tenure is concerned primarily with individuals who have entered farming at some point along the agricultural ladder. In Alabama, approximately 42,008 of the 253,520 gainfully employed

persons in agriculture were laborers in 1950. More noticeable was the fact that about forty percent of the gainfully employed Negro population in Agriculture in 1950 were laborers.

General trends in land tenure from 1920 to 1950 are reflected in Table III. From these data it is evident that between 1920 and 1950 a 17.4 percent decrease occurred in the total number of farm operators; whereas, the average size farm increased from 76.4 acres to 98.8 acres, a 29.3 percent increase. In contrast to this, there was a 15.3 percent increase in farm ownership. While on the other hand, there was a decrease of 40.9 percent in the number of all farm tenants.

An examination of Table IV revealed that the number of farms operated by Negroes decreased from 95,200 in 1920 to 57,294 in 1950, a 39.8 percent decrease. It was noted that this trend was in keeping with the general trend of the state. Quite to the contrary, nevertheless, the average size of these farms diminished from 45.7 acres in 1920 to 42.4 acres in 1950. Likewise, Negro farm ownership lagged behind to the extent that in 1950 actually 2.9 percent fewer farmers owned farms than in 1920.

Significantly noticeable was the percent change in the number of Negro tenants and croppers between 1920 and 1950. There was a 51.2 percent and 56.2 percent decrease

in each category, respectively. This seemed to have been a clear indication of the unwillingness of Negroes to accept the tenants' status as it exists in the South. At the same time, there was evidence to show that Negroes still had a desire to own farms. In 1950, Negroes owned 1,391 more farms than in 1940. Evidently this increase in ownership was stimulated, to a large extent, as a result of the increase in the purchasing power among farmers which prevailed between 1940 and 1950.

Occupational distribution. When Negroes were brought to America, they were concentrated in the South and were assigned jobs, for the most part, in the crop productive phases of agriculture. As a result of this type of placement, immediately after the Civil War, the majority of American Negroes resided in the rural South where they had been subservient to the agricultural economy. It was natural that during the period between the Civil War and World War I, Negroes, in large numbers, sought to become established in farming. During this period a movement from the rural areas to the larger local cities was started by individuals who were seeking new occupational opportunities. The momentum of this movement developed until it reached its peak in what is known as the "Great Migration" which started in 1915. Since its beginning, the evolution of migration of Negroes from the rural areas of the South has been predicated upon better job opportunities in the larger cities

of the South, the North--and in more recent years--some cities of the West.[36] Consequently, the Negro has shifted from one area of the country to another, not merely to become employed but rather to become engaged in better paying jobs. It is common knowledge that Negroes are predominantly employed in the low-paying occupations and those requiring less skill.[37] Equally recognizable is the fact that they are endeavoring to break out of this unjust occupational confinement and earn the right to full employment on any job in America.

Evidences of eliminated occupational barriers can be recognized in the percent change in the number of Negroes who were employed in the occupations listed in Table V. As late as 1940 only fourteen percent of the total gainfully employed Negro population of Alabama were employed on manufacturing and construction jobs. The proportion increased to 22.3 percent by 1950. Whereas, during the same period, there was a 1.2 percent decrease in one of the traditionally low-paying typical occupations--personal services. Noticeable gains in employment were made in trades, finance, and insurance--from 2.9 percent in 1930 to 10.1 percent in 1950.

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36 Arnold Rose, The Negro in America (New York: Harper and Brothers, 1948), pp. 61-63.

37 "Employment and Economic Status of Negroes in the United States," op. cit., p. 14.

TABLE V

OCCUPATIONAL DISTRIBUTION AND PER CENT OF PERSONS GAINFULLY EMPLOYED: ALABAMA 1930-1950

	1930			1940			1950		
	All workers	Negro workers	*Per cent	All workers	Negro workers	*Per cent	All workers	Negro workers	*Per cent
Gainfully employed	1,026,320	432,362	100	893,848	338,204	100	1,031,690	324,094	100
Agri., forestry and fisheries	498,882	222,803	51.5	356,581	153,596	45.4	253,520	95,882	29.6
Mining	34,959	17,421	4.0	30,172	13,041	3.9	27,440	9,000	2.8
Mfg. and construction	194,318	62,729	14.5	184,216	47,455	14.0	279,917	72,424	22.3
Transportation and other utilities	57,745	19,728	4.5	38,470	10,382	3.1	59,085	14,210	4.4
Trade, finance and insurance	86,134	12,545	2.9	111,530	20,047	6.0	194,342	32,864	10.1
Personal service	100,229	82,866	19.2	94,702	76,938	22.7	90,262	69,909	21.5
Prof. service and recreation	40,890	9,645	2.2	46,679	12,214	3.6	76,395	21,780	6.7
Public service and government	#	#	--	21,406	1,132	0.3	38,162	3,578	1.1
Industry not reported	11,280	5,515	1.2	10,092	3,393	1.0	15,565	4,546	1.4

United States Bureau of the Census, United States Census of Population: 1930-1950.

*Per cent of total Negro workers.

#Not available.

The most significant trend pictured in Table V deals with the percent change in the total number of Negroes employed in agriculture during the thirty-year period, 1930-1950. The decrease has been from 51.5 percent of the total employed Negro population in 1930 to 29.6 percent in 1950.

In addition, Table VI shows the numerical, as well as the percentage, distribution of employment among the major occupations and non-white workers. These figures indicate that when farmers and farm managers, and farm laborers, including unpaid family workers, were considered as a group, 30.1 percent of the 324,094 employed non-white workers were engaged in farming. On the other hand, only 7.1 percent were employed as managers, officials and proprietors, clerical and kindred workers, sales workers, and craftsmen, foremen, and kindred workers. This table further shows that 82.9 percent of the rural farm non-white male population in 1950 were engaged in farming.

Crops. In spite of the reduction in cotton acreage brought about at different times because of boll weevils and depression years, cotton has remained the most important cash crop in Alabama. During the period 1946-1950 cotton and cottonseed accounted for 44.4 percent of the total sales from various farm products in the state.[38]

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[38] Alabama Agriculture Its Resources and Their Use, The Agricultural Experiment Station, Alabama Polytechnic Institute, Auburn, Alabama, 1950, p. 9.

TABLE VI

NON-WHITE EMPLOYED PERSONS, BY MAJOR OCCUPATIONAL GROUP: ALABAMA 1950

	Total	Per cent	Male	Per cent	Rural farm	Male
Employed	324,694	100	214,575	100	76,756	100
Prof., tech., and kindred workers	11,340	3.5	3,748	1.7	371	0.5
Farmers and farm managers	49,711	15.3	45,698	21.3	43,450	56.6
Managers, officials, and prof. except farm	3,649	1.1	2,369	1.1	170	0.1
Clerical and kindred workers	3,368	1.0	2,036	0.9	85	0.1
Sales workers	2,762	0.9	1,571	0.7	85	0.1
Craftsmen, foremen, and kindred workers	13,277	4.1	12,961	6.0	838	1.1
Operative and kindred workers	57,109	17.6	49,321	23.0	4,903	6.4
Private household workers	52,136	16.1	1,566	0.7	111	0.1
Service workers, except private household	31,194	9.6	14,347	6.7	493	0.6
Farm laborers, unpaid family workers	23,708	7.3	12,744	5.9	12,073	15.7
Farm laborers, except unpaid and farm foremen	21,095	6.5	16,245	7.6	8,166	10.6
Laborers, except farm and mine	50,596	15.6	49,562	23.1	5,406	7.0
Occupations not reported	4,749	1.5	2,407	1.1	668	0.9

United States Bureau of the Census, United States Census of Population: 1950.

Table VII gives the extent to which cotton acreage has changed during the thirty-year period, 1920 to 1950. It was noted that there was a 29.6 percent decrease in the number of acres devoted to cotton production. These acres diminished from 2,628,154 in 1920 to 1,850,846 in 1950. However, this situation was not indicative of the total yields secured from year to year. Actually, there has been an increase in the average yields of lint cotton per acre from 196 pounds in 1930 to 212 pounds in 1950, with the highest production for a single year 353 pounds occurring in 1948.[39] The general consensus among experts at the Alabama Experiment Station supports the hypothesis that Alabama farmers could produce the cotton they are now producing on 500,000 fewer acres; or, if necessary, they could grow 500,000 more bales of cotton on the same number of acres they are now planting in cotton.[40]

Table VII indicates also the trends in the number of acres allotted to the production of other important crops in the state. It follows that there has been a decrease in the number of acres of corn, oats, and sweet potatoes

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[39] Alabama Agricultural Statistics, Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries, Montgomery, Alabama, 1948, p. 9., 1952, p. 11.

[40] The Alabama Farm Program, Alabama Extension Service, The Alabama Polytechnic Institute, Auburn, Alabama, Circular, 337, 1946, p. 18.

TABLE VII

TRENDS AND PER CENT CHANGE IN CROP PRODUCTION
IN ALABAMA: 1920-1950

	1920 Acres	1930 Acres	1940 Acres	1950 Acres	Per cent change 1920-1950
Corn for all purposes	*	3,648,657	3,449,824	2,471,589	-32.3
Sorghum for all purposes	5,434	20,767	25,201	38,197	+602.9
Oats threshed or combined	85,398	12,299	41,446	57,922	-32.2
Soybeans for beans	*	*	6,910	45,922	+664.6
Peanuts for threshing	334,239	*	297,317	341,589	+2.2
Hay crops	312,757	178,274	299,651	406,107	+72.8
Crimson clover seed	*	*	*	26,993	---
Irish potatoes	13,397	21,256	47,888	22,023	+64.4
Sweet potatoes	90,868	68,105	79,488	28,651	-68.5
Cotton harvested	2,628,154	3,566,498	1,930,560	1,850,846	-29.6
Vegetables harvested	12,749	36,782	38,198	46,268	+262.9
Tree fruits, nuts, and grapes	*	82,714	82,863	87,864	+5.5

United States Bureau of the Census, United States Census of Agriculture: 1950. Per cent change calculated.

*Not available.

during the thirty-year period, 1920 to 1950; the crop decrease has been 32.3, 32.2, and 68.5 percent respectively. The reduction in acreage does not necessarily mean that total production has been altered. Often, increased yields per acre make up for that portion of land diverted from one crop and devoted to some other use. An exception to this, nevertheless, was observed in sweet potato production. The enormous reduction seems to stem from the demands of the crop for hand labor which is not available and cannot be met adequately with machinery. Hence, the supply of sweet potatoes is diminishing in proportion to the total acres planted in this crop.

In contrast to the crops that had decreased in total acreage, there were other crops which had increased. An example of these crops is found in Table VII -- sorghum, soybeans, hay crops, irish potatoes, vegetables, and fruits. The first and most striking addition in total acres was devoted to soybeans, a 664.6 percent increase in a decade, an addition of nearly 39,000 acres. Secondly, there was an increase in the total acres of sorghum for all purposes from 5,434 acres in 1920 to 38,197 in 1950, an increase of 602.9 percent. Thirdly, a continual increase was observed in the total number of acres of vegetables; this increase began with 12,749 acres in 1920, and reached a total of 46,268 acres in 1950, a 262.9 percent increase. Finally, hay crop acreage and irish potato acreage increased over the thirty-year

period, 72.8 and 64.4 percent, respectively. The total number of acres of peanuts and tree fruits has remained almost constant for the period 1920 to 1950. There were 341,589 acres of peanuts for threshing, and 87,264 acres of tree fruits, nuts, and grapes for harvesting in 1950.

Livestock. Next in importance to cotton as a source of cash income in Alabama was livestock and livestock products. In 1920 less than fifteen percent of the total sales for the state were realized from livestock; nevertheless, by 1950 farmers of the state were deriving thirty-six percent of their income from livestock and livestock products.[41]

It can readily be seen in Table VIII that the percent change in cattle and calves, turkeys, and broilers reflects an increase in the total number of each for the period 1920 to 1950. A decisive increase occurred in the total number of cattle and calves from 1,044,008 to 1,269,389, a 21.6 percent increase. However, the most outstanding increase occurred in broiler production, from 5,086,000 in 1940 to 13,114,000 in 1950, a 175.5 percent increase. Turkey production rose from 142,894 in 1930 to 143,255 in 1950, a 2.5 percent upward trend. Equally noticeable in the same table was the decrease in the total number of certain animals. As might be expected, a considerable decrease has occurred in

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[41] Alabama Agriculture Its Resources and Their Use, op. cit., p. 9.

the number of horses and mules. In 1920 there were 130,462 of these animals on Alabama farms; by 1950 this number had diminished to 67,765, a forty-eight percent lost. It seems logical to attribute this change to the increased use of tractors on farms as sources of power that were formerly furnished by horses and mules.

The greatest change in the numbers of livestock occurred in sheep production. In 1920 there were 81,868 sheep and lambs on Alabama farms. This number had diminished to 25,082 by 1950, a 69.4 percent decrease. This loss has been generally attributed to the lack of a suitable method of controlling parasites and diseases of sheep.

There were not as many hogs and pigs on Alabama farms in 1950 as there were in 1920. On the other hand, there was an increase from 752,303 head in 1940 to 1,061,498 head in 1950, which seems to indicate an upward trend in swine production.

The downward trend in the number of livestock was also reflected in the total number of milk cows, which decreased from 394,112 in 1920 to 365,018 in 1950. This represents a 7.4 percent decline in the total number of milk cows for the thirty-year period. It cannot be claimed that numbers of livestock alone afford all the information that is necessary to adequately analyze the livestock situation. It is possible for fewer animals than are now found on Alabama farms to

TABLE VIII

TRENDS AND PER CENT CHANGE IN LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION: ALABAMA 1920-1950

	1920 Number	1930 Number	1940 Number	1950 Number	Per cent change 1920-1950
Horses and/or mules	130,462	64,840	61,770	67,765	-48.0
Cattle and calves	1,044,008	799,523	889,983	1,269,389	+21.6
Milk cows	394,112	332,045	367,241	365,018	-7.4
Hogs and pigs	1,496,893	831,171	752,303	1,061,498	-29.1
Sheep and lambs	81,868	69,156	31,634	25,082	-69.4
Chickens over four months old	5,918,429	5,428,069	5,951,099	5,774,621	-24.3
Turkeys raised	*	142,894	74,204	143,255	+2.5
Broilers	*	*	5,086,000[b]	13,114,000	+175.5
Bees--hives	153,766	93,919	69,923	85,666	-4.4

United States Bureau of the Census, United States Census of Agriculture: 1950. Per cent change calculated.

*Not available.

[b]1945.

produce more efficiently than they are producing at present. Thereupon, the number of livestock on the farms is only one of the ways of indicating a general trend.

Mechanization. Over the centuries there has been a continuous quest for better methods of accomplishing the tasks which confront mankind. In agriculture this search has extended from the time when soil was cultivated with a crooked stick to the present use of powerful tractor plows. At the beginning the evolutionary process of developing new labor-saving devices was very slow. No doubt, part of this retardation was caused by a lack of scientific facts which were essential for uninterrupted progress. Man's ability to discover and record his findings pertaining to new processes, techniques, and materials has made it possible for him to develop, over a long period, a backlog of facts which makes it possible for him to find solutions to his problems more quickly than formerly.

This point of view was well illustrated during the world wars when the challenge to agriculture was to produce more food and feed with less man power. These demanding challenges were met, in a large proportion, through man's ingenuity which was predicated upon the sum total of his knowledge.

Within recent years the rapidity in the development of new and better farm machinery has been amazing. The

adaptability of machinery to specific farm operations has been exceedingly successful in the small-grain regions of the United States. Approximately ninety percent of the preparation of the soil, planting, and harvesting are accomplished through the use of tractor machinery. Likewise, in the Corn Belt, nearly seventy-five percent of the operations in corn production are performed by tractor machinery. By comparison, the Cotton Belt is not as fully mechanized as the Corn Belt nor the small-grain region. Only about fifty percent of the land preparation, planting, and cultivation are carried out with tractor equipment.[42] These figures indicate that mechanization in the Cotton Belt has not kept pace with the Corn Belt and small-grain regions. There seem to have been several reasons for this difference: In the first place, the topography of the land and the relatively small size farms were not conducive to the use of the large type of equipment that seemingly was designed to be used on rather level, large farms. Secondly, the cotton states have adhered largely to a one-crop system of farming which does not offer the possibility of making adequate use of machinery so as to make its use economical. Finally, manufacturers have not been able to perfect

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[42] A. P. Browdell, and T. A. Ewing. Use of Tractor Power, Animal Power, and Hand Methods in Crop Production. United States Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Agricultural Economics, Washington, Bulletin, 1949, pp. 9-28.

the cotton chopper and the cotton picker, thus this limiting factor tends to eliminate from the list of equipment two devices which would be purchased by cotton farmers.

Notwithstanding these discrepancies, farmers in Alabama are mechanizing their farms at a rapid rate. An indication of this trend is pictured in Table IX. The increase in the number of tractors from 7,395 in 1940 to 43,404 in 1950 is one proof of this fact. Besides, the impressive numbers of combines, 4,351; corn pickers, 660; and pick-up hay balers, 2,209, which were in use in 1950 represent an upward trend. Here, it is important to note that in 1940 these implements were not significant enough in numbers to be recorded in the census. The number of farm trucks was increased from 14,475 in 1940 to 48,157 in 1950, a 232.7 percent increase.

The trend in farm mechanization among Negro farmers has followed the general trend for the state. Tractor ownership increased 865.8 percent from 1940 to 1950. The total number of tractors owned in 1940 was 243; whereas, by 1950, the number was 2,347. A similar increase was noted for trucks, during this period; the increase was from 782 in 1940 to 4,587 in 1950, a 486.4 percent increase. In 1950 Negro farmers owned 181 combines, thirty-six corn pickers, and 228 pick-up hay balers. Figures were not available for 1940.

TABLE IX

PER CENT INCREASE IN FARM MACHINERY: 1940-1950

ALABAMA			
White Operators	1940	1950	Per cent increase 1940-1950
Combines, grain	*	4,351	--
Corn pickers	*	660	--
Hay balers, pick-up	*	2,209	--
Tractors	7,395	43,404	486.9
Trucks	14,475	48,157	232.7
Non-White Operators			
Combines,grain	*	181	--
Corn pickers	*	36	--
Hay balers, pick-up	*	228	--
Tractors	243	2,347	865.8
Trucks	782	4,587	486.4

United States Bureau of the Census, United States Census of Agriculture: 1940.

United States Bureau of the Census, United States Census of Agriculture: 1950.

*Not available.

It is customary for cotton farmers to use their tractors with attachments not only for breaking and harrowing land, but also for planting and cultivating crops. These combined operations require about five months' use of the machinery. Consequently, seven months remain in which the tractor is either idle, or the farm is reorganized so as to furnish additional tractor work. The recent trend is toward the latter. Mechanization in the Cotton Belt usually necessitates farm reorganization for more economical use of farm machinery.

Arkansas

This state has a land area of nearly 33,712,000 acres, of which fifty-six percent were in farms. In general, agricultural trends followed the same pattern in Arkansas as was the case in other southern states--more land had been incorporated into the farming program with a shift in land use. The trend was toward reduction in harvested farm acres and an increase in pasture land acres. Too, there was an increase in the average size of farms, from 66.2 acres in 1930 to 103.4 acres in 1950. Harvested crop land was reduced from 6,581,843 acres in 1940 to 5,930,093 in 1950. During this period land in pasture was increased from 3,792,416 acres to 7,301,407 acres.[43]

[43] United States Bureau of the Census, United States Census of Agriculture, Vol. 1 (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1950), p. 3.

Population. For the first time in thirty years a downward trend appeared in the total population. Nevertheless, between the years 1920 and 1950, according to Table X, a nine percent increase occurred; whereas, during the last decade of this period, there was a two percent decrease in the total population. Turning to the rural farm population, it was noted that the total number of people remaining in the rural areas had diminished each decade since 1920. There has been a 29.9 percent decrease in the rural farm population in the last thirty years.

The non-white total population and the rural farm population have changed to a greater extent than the total population. The extent to which these changes have been developed can be seen in Table X. In 1920 there were 472,220 non-white inhabitants in Arkansas; nevertheless, by 1950, there were only 428,003. The difference in the two figures represents a 10.3 percent decrease in the non-white population. During the same period the non-white rural farm population decreased from 333,681 to 197,339, a 40.9 percent decrease. These figures seem to indicate that the principal shift in the non-white population was away from the rural area. This shift was also illustrated by the fact that in 1920 slightly over seventy percent of the total non-white population were classified as rural farms; whereas, in 1950, only 46.1 percent of the total population were classified as rural farm, a 34.8 percent change.

Land tenure. Although it has been pointed out that the trend in farm population has taken a downward direction, it is important to emphasize that in spite of this action there were 801,827 rural farm people in Arkansas in 1950. This element of the population was largely responsible for the operation of 182,429 farms--21.6 percent less than the 232,604 farms which were in operation in 1920. Table X also shows that the number of farm operators has decreased steadily from decade to decade over the last thirty-year period. In contrast to this trend, the average size of farms had increased from seventy-five acres to 103.4 acres, a 27.5 percent acreage increase in each farm operated in 1950. The figures in this table, moreover, seem to indicate that farm ownership has recovered from the set back brought about in the 1930's because of the depression. In 1950 the number of farms owned by farmers had surpassed that of 1920 by 0.6 percent. Farm owners have increased in the last decade from 100,636 to 113,283. An opposite, more drastic trend, seems to have been in effect among all farm tenants; tenancy decreased from 119,221 in 1920 to 65,602 in 1950, a 42.5 percent decrease.

Among the non-white farm group, figures in Table XI seem to have reflected that the general trend was comparable to that of the entire state. However, negatively, it was more drastic in effect, while the positive reactions were milder. It follows that in 1920 the number of farms operated

TABLE X

TRENDS AND PER CENT CHANGE IN POPULATION, FARM TENURE, AND FARM ACREAGE: ARKANSAS 1920-1930

	1920	1930	1940	1950	Per cent change 1920-1950
Total population	1,752,204	1,854,482	1,949,387	1,909,511	+9.0
Rural farm population	1,144,482	1,117,330	1,111,007	801,827	-29.9
Land in farm (acres)	17,456,750	16,052,962	18,044,542	18,871,244	+8.1
Farm operators	232,604	242,334	216,674	182,429	-21.6
Average size farm (acres)	75.0	66.2	83.3	103.4	+27.4
*Farm owners	112,647	89,009	100,636	113,283	+0.6
All farm tenants	119,221	152,691	115,442	68,602	-42.5

United States Bureau of the Census, United States Census of Agriculture: 1920-1950. Per cent change calculated.

*Part and full owners.

by non-white farmers was 72,275; whereas, by 1950, the number had diminished to 40,841. This represents a 43.5 percent decrease. It was noted that the greatest decrease occurred in the 1930-1940 decade. Continuing with an examination of this table, it was found that the movement of the non-white farm population away from the farm has been mostly among tenants. Proof of this may be partially based upon the fact that forty-nine percent fewer tenants were on farms in 1950 than in 1920. Stating the fact another way, in 1920 there were 56,814 tenants farming; nevertheless, by 1950 the number had decreased to 28,988, which represents a forty-nine percent decrease. This again seems to indicate that rural areas tend to serve as depositories for the surplus population in depression years. As stated before, the census figures seem to indicate that during depression years the trend is reversed toward a back-to-the-farm movement, which continues until occupational opportunities become available in some other locality.

Occupational distribution. To some extent, in a broad sense, Table XII illustrates the proportions in which workers were employed in certain broadly defined occupations. In a way, this table reveals the employment situation among the Negro working population. It may be significant to note that, regardless of the past and present trends in the employment of Negroes, 44.8 percent, or 129,728 of those gainfully employed were in agriculture in 1950. This statement

TABLE XI

TRENDS AND THE PER CENT CHANGE IN NON-WHITE POPULATION, RURAL FARM POPULATION AND FARM TENURE: ARKANSAS 1920-1950

	1920	1930	1940	1950	Per cent change 1920-1950
Total population	472,220	478,463	483,303	428,003	-10.3
Rural farm population	333,681	324,728	297,601	197,339	-40.9
Per cent rural farm	70.7	67.8	61.1	46.1	-34.8
Number of farms	72,275	79,579	57,026	40,841	-43.5
Average size farm	36.3	31.7	32.8	38.5	+6.1
Full owners	12,886	9,058	8,943	8,860	-31.1
Tenants, all	56,814	68,101	46,453	28,988	-49.0
Share croppers	12,226	*	6,949	6,963	-49.0
Croppers	32,688	45,465	33,122	17,698	-45.9

United States Bureau of the Census, United States Census of Population: 1920-1950. Per cent change calculated.

United States Bureau of the Census, United States Census of Agriculture: 1950. Per cent change calculated.

*Not available.

was not meant to minimize the existing downward trend in the farm population, but rather, to call attention to the present situation. The fact remains that almost fifty percent of all gainfully employed Negroes were working in agriculture, either by choice or because they could not find employment in other occupations. The number of Negroes employed in agriculture, forestry, and fisheries had diminished from 133,221 in 1930 to 58,086 in 1950, a decrease of 44.8 percent. Considerable increases were apparent in the employment of Negroes in manufacturing and construction; trades, finance, and insurance; and professional service and recreation. In 1950, of all the gainfully employed Negroes--16.6 percent, 9.2 percent, and 5.3 percent respectively, were employed in these occupations.

A further classification of the employment situation for non-white persons may be reviewed in Table XIII. In 1950 two types of occupations--farming and farm labor--provided employment for 43.2 percent of the 130,384 non-white employees. These occupations provided 89.4 percent of the employment situations for non-white rural farm males in 1950. On the other hand, it was noted that only 6.2 percent or the 130,384 employed non-white persons secured jobs in the professional and technical, managerial and sales, and clerical fields. Upon grouping together service workers and laborers (except unpaid family workers) it was observed that 45.4 percent of the non-white employees were in these two categories.

TABLE XII

OCCUPATIONAL DISTRIBUTION AND PER CENT OF PERSONS GAINFULLY EMPLOYED: ARKANSAS 1930-1950

	1930			1940			1950		
	All workers	Negro workers	*Per cent	All workers	Negro workers	*Per cent	All workers	Negro workers	*Per cent
Gainfully employed	667,870	201,995	100	583,944	161,182	100	616,044	129,728	100
Agri., forestry and fisheries	392,042	133,221	65.8	301,532	96,577	59.9	217,514	58,086	44.8
Mining	9,074	578	0.3	5,902	324	0.2	6,773	328	0.2
Mfg. and construction	81,824	19,404	9.6	74,947	16,737	10.3	12,420	21,512	16.6
Transportation and other utilities	40,065	8,400	4.1	24,916	4,809	3.0	35,435	5,332	4.1
Trade, finance and insurance	57,906	4,561	2.2	78,703	8,243	5.3	120,147	11,996	9.2
Personal service	48,194	28,719	14.2	46,022	27,518	17.1	40,399	22,160	17.1
Prof. service and recreation	29,136	4,402	2.2	31,432	4,567	2.8	46,917	6,898	5.3
Public service and government	#	#	--	12,708	334	0.2	16,523	931	0.7
Industry not reported	10,817	3,311	1.6	7,779	2,073	1.3	10,837	2,485	1.9

United States Bureau of the Census, United States Census of Population: 1930-1950.

*Per cent of total Negro workers.

#Not available.

TABLE XIII

NON-WHITE EMPLOYED PERSONS, BY MAJOR OCCUPATIONAL GROUP, ARKANSAS: 1950

	Total	Per cent	Male	Per cent	Rural farm male	Per cent
Employed	130,384	100	96,579	100	49,500	100
Prof.,tech, and kindred workers	4,153	3.2	1,767	1.8	202	0.4
Farmers and farm managers	35,253	27.0	33,005	34.2	31,628	63.9
Managers, officials, and prof. except farm	1,886	1.4	1,243	1.3	56	0.1
Sales workers	1,112	0.9	722	0.7	37	0.1
Clerical and kindred workers	895	0.7	525	0.5	41	0.1
Craftsmen, foremen, and kindred workers	4,257	3.3	4,142	4.3	328	0.7
Operative and kindred workers	14,662	11.2	12,351	12.8	1,730	3.5
Private household workers	14,315	11.0	495	0.5	48	0.1
Service workers, except private household	11,741	9.0	5,644	5.8	114	0.2
Farm laborers, unpaid family workers	6,609	5.1	4,832	5.0	4,570	9.2
Farm laborers, except unpaid and farm foremen	14,461	11.1	12,150	12.6	8,065	16.3
Laborers, except farm and mine	18,629	14.3	18,365	19.0	2,004	4.0
Occupations not reported	2,411	1.8	1,358	1.4	677	1.4

United States Bureau of the Census, United States Census of Population: 1950.

The figures in this table seem to indicate that 88.7 percent of the employment situations procured in 1950 by non-white persons were in three broad occupational groups: farmers and farm laborers, operatives and laborers, and private household and other service workers.

Crops. A general overview of the total acres devoted to crop production was somewhat indicative of the available occupational opportunities in agriculture. The intensiveness and extensiveness of crops may also serve to indicate the possibilities of work opportunities in farming. Usually, the most intensive crop produced in the Cotton Belt on a large scale was cotton. Figures in Table XIV depict the major crops grown in Arkansas in terms of the number of acres allotted to each as has been reported in the decennial census since 1920.

Although cotton acreage has remained somewhat constant in the state for the last thirty years, there is an indication of the development of a trend favoring crops which were in demand and could be produced with a minimum amount of hand labor. An example of this is illustrated by the decrease in acres planted in sweet potatoes--a crop that necessitates a great deal of hand labor--from 39,019 acres in 1920 to 8,377 acres in 1950, a 78.5 percent decrease; whereas, soybeans for beans--a crop which can be produced with little or no hand labor--increased in acreage from 1,207 in 1920 to 274,634 acres in 1950, an increase of 2,265.3 percent.

TABLE XIV

TRENDS AND PER CENT CHANGE IN CROP PRODUCTION
ARKANSAS 1920-1950

	1920 Acres	1930 Acres	1940 Acres	1950 Acres	Per cent change 1920-1950
Corn for all purposes	*	1,865,763	2,236,908	1,117,733	-4.0
Wheat combined	256,211	16,535	33,612	21,031	-917.9
Oats combined	173,317	32,394	142,950	161,811	-6.6
Rice threshed or combined	143,211	146,588	153,095	411,040	+187.0
Soybeans for beans	1,207	*	36,997	274,634	+2264.3
Hay crops	683,065	524,419	895,327	999,150	+46.3
Peanuts harvested	21,962	*	17,615	6,316	-71.2
Irish potatoes harvested	24,128	29,215	39,912	16,263	-32.6
Sweet potatoes harvested	39,019	22,235	26,134	8,377	-78.5
Cotton harvested	2,553,811	3,446,485	2,056,775	2,572,610	+8.5
Vegetables harvested	18,969	40,619	38,295	46,785	+146.6
Tree fruits, nuts and grapes	*	140,820	108,556	64,060	-54.5

United States Bureau of the Census, United States Census of Agriculture: 1950. Per cent change calculated.

*Not available.

The general shifting of the number of available acres among the major crops of the state seemed to have indicated that adjustments have been made to some extent in favor of additional acres for crops which could be produced through the use of machinery and with less hand labor. One of the exceptions of this hypothesis was observed in connection with the cotton crop. The emphasis in this case appeared to have been placed upon maintaining cotton acreage, regardless of its high demand for hand labor, until adequate machinery could be perfected. In this connection, it must be remembered that cotton was the most valuable crop produced in the state. The 1951 cotton crop was worth 273.4 million dollars; this amounted to slightly more than half the total value, 455 million dollars, of the principal crops produced in Arkansas in 1951.[44]

Livestock. Previously, it had been pointed out that there was an increase in the number of acres allotted to pastures and hay crops. Naturally, an increase was expected in the number of livestock that could make use of these crops. It can readily be seen in Table XV that such an increase occurred in cattle and calves. Cattle numbers advanced from

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[44] 1951 Agricultural Statistics for Arkansas, Agricultural Experiment Station, University of Arkansas College of Agriculture, Fayetteville, Arkansas, Report Series No. 35, 1952, p. 2.

1,072,966 in 1920 to 1,153,027 in 1950; this was a 7.5 percent increase. After looking at the decrease in the number of milk cows from 415,507 in 1920 to 378,795 in 1950, it was logical to assume that the number of beef cattle had increased. According to statistical reports, the number of beef cows on farms increased seventy-five percent between January, 1949 and January, 1952. This increase in the state of Arkansas was higher than that of any other state in the union.[45] In addition to the upward trend in beef cattle, a rapid rate of increase occurred in broiler production. Table XV shows that there was a 2,632.2 percent increase in the number of broilers produced in 1950 over the 1,800,000 produced in 1930. The 1951 Agricultural Statistics for Arkansas reported that the number of broilers produced in 1951 was 69,834,000, forty-two percent more than the 1950 number of 49,179,000.[46] It was noted also that turkey production had increased quite rapidly from 55,635 in 1930 to 264,445 in 1950, a 375.3 percent increase.

Quite apart from this upward trend in the number of livestock, there has been a downward trend as well in the number of certain livestock retained on farms. A re-examination of Table XV will reflect this opposite trend. Sheep production shows a greater decline percentage-wise than any

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45 Loc. cit., p. 2.

46 Loc. cit., p. 2.

TABLE XV

TRENDS AND PER CENT CHANGE IN LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION: ARKANSAS 1920-1950

	1920 Number	1930 Number	1940 Number	1950 Number	Per cent change 1920-1950
Horses and/or mules	251,926	137,747	166,739	150,529	-40.2
Cattle and calves	1,072,966	812,590	982,173	1,153,027	+7.5
Milk cows	415,507	338,701	455,851	378,795	-8.8
Hogs and pigs	1,378,091	776,208	846,962	753,075	-45.3
Sheep and lambs	100,159	85,800	89,500	50,154	-49.9
Chickens over four months old	6,955,132	6,124,450	6,315,148	5,463,692	-21.4
Turkeys raised	*	55,635	68,376	264,445	+375.3
Broilers	*	1,800,000[b]	8,700,000	49,179,000	+2632.2
Bees-hives	112,475	82,149	42,778	37,912	-66.3

United States Bureau of the Census, United States Census of Agriculture: 1950. Per cent change calculated.

Agricultural Statistics, (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1952). p. 520. Per cent change calculated.

*Not available.

[b]1935.

type of livestock maintained on farms in the state. This reduction took place almost uninterruptedly from 100,154 head in 1920 to 50,154 in 1950, a 49.9 percent drop in numbers. A similar situation had been experienced in swine production; the decrease in hogs and pigs had been from 1,378,081 in 1920 to 753,075 in 1950, representing a 45.3 percent negative change. In view of the fact that mechanical power has replaced work-stock power, to a large extent, it would seem natural for the number of horses and mules to decrease on farms. The course of action has followed an anticipated trend because the number of horses and mules had decreased from 251,926 in 1920 to 150,529 in 1950. This means that the number on farms in 1950 was 40.2 percent less than those on farms in 1920.

Mechanization. Perfection in operation has not been the only limiting factor which retarded wide-spread ownership of farm machinery in the Cotton Belt. One of the main causations, until about fifteen years ago, was the lack of a small, durable, power unit within the economic reach of average cotton farmers. This barrier was overcome largely with the introduction of the small general-purpose tractor with attachments in a price range that the average farmer could afford to pay.

An inspection of Table XVI reveals the rapidity with which farm mechanization took place in Arkansas in the ten-year

period, 1940 to 1950. The figures indicate that there were 12,067 tractors on farms in the state in 1940; ten years later the number had increased to 56,496. This represents a 368.2 percent increase. Likewise, the increase in farm trucks was enormous; it was from 18,833 in 1940 to 58,679 in 1950, an increase of 211.6 percent. Statistics were not available on the number of grain combines, corn pickers, and pick-up hay balers for 1940. However, the 1950 census report showed that there were 7,592 combines, 814 corn pickers, and 2,905 balers on farms in the state.

The extent of farm mechanization among non-white farmers is given also in Table XVI. The general trend followed closely the state trend. Consequently, in 1940, the number of tractors on farms operated by non-white farmers was 495; this number had increased to 3,812 by 1950, representing a 670.1 percent increase. There was also an increase in the number of farm trucks. In 1940, 841 trucks were reported on farms; whereas, ten years later the number had advanced to 4,756; this was a 465.5 percent increase over the 1940 figure. Furthermore, non-white farmers had in their possession in 1950, 345 grain combines, fifty corn pickers, and 377 pick-up hay balers.

The introduction of tractors and tractor-operated farm equipment into the state has alleviated much of the drudgery which was connected with farming. Simultaneously, other problems arose as farmers sought to lighten their burdens through the use of farm machinery. Some of these

TABLE XVI

PER CENT INCREASE IN FARM MACHINERY: 1940-1950

ARKANSAS			
White operators	1940	1950	Per cent increase 1940-1950
Combines, grain	*	7,592	--
Corn pickers	*	814	--
Hay balers, pick-up	*	2,905	--
Tractors	12,067	56,496	368.2
Trucks	18,833	58,679	211.6
Non-White Operators			
Combines, grain	*	345	--
Corn pickers	*	50	--
Hay balers, pick-up	*	377	--
Tractors	495	3,812	670.1
Trucks	841	4,756	465.5

United States Bureau of the Census, United States Census of Agriculture: 1940.

United States Bureau of the Census, United States Census of Agriculture: 1950.

*Not available.

problems have been discussed by Fulmer[47] as they were related to the Cotton Belt. The first of these problems was concerned with the displacement of work animals. Customarily, where both tractors and work animals were used, a surplus of power was present which tended to limit the effectiveness of both units as economical sources of power. The second problem evolved from the inadequacy in farm size which handicapped the efficient use of tractor power in that its volume of work was too limited. Finally, the problem of labor displacement, and what would happen to displaced persons who were not fortunate enough to find employment locally nor in another locality, confronted, especially, the Negro farm population. Mechanization in many cases has caused the removal of tenant farmers from farms completely, although a limited number has been retained as hired hands.

Mississippi

This state has a land area of about 30,238,720 acres, of which 20,710,700 acres, or 68.5 per cent were in farms in 1950. Each farm averaged 82.4 acres in size. This was an increase of twenty-seven acres above the average size farm in 1930. This upward trend in farm size was in keeping with

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[47] Fulmer, op. cit., p. 69.

the general trend in the South which indicated that farms had increased in size; whereas, in contrast to this, the total number of farms had decreased. There was a decrease of 61,280 in the number of farms from 1930 to 1950. Another noticeable change was observed in the acres of cropland harvested. The decrease in this category was from 6,597,112 acres in 1930 to 6,136,206 in 1950, a negative change of 460,906 acres. Yet, while harvested acres declined in number, land used for pastures increased for the same period from 5,344,127 to 8,366,843.[48]

Population. An inspection of Table XIII will show that the general population in Mississippi increased from 1,790,618 in 1920 to 2,178,914 in 1950. This represents a 21.7 percent increase for the thirty-year period, 1920-1950. Within the latter decade of this period, nevertheless, there was a reversal in the upward trend. The population in the state decreased 0.2 percent from 1940 to 1950. Apparently, migration of non-white persons accounted for this change. Between 1940 and 1950 the number of white persons increased 7.4 percent; on the other hand, the number of non-white persons decreased 8.1 percent.[49] Table XVII discloses

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48 U. S. Bureau of the Census, United States Census of Agriculture, Vol 1 Counties and State Economic Areas, (Washington: United States Government Printing Office, 1952), p. 3.

49 "Employment and Economic Status of Negroes in the United States," op. cit., p. 6.

the fact that, although there was a downward trend in the non-white population during the 1940-1950 period, the total non-white population of 990,485 in 1950 was 5.9 percent above the 1920 figure of 935,184.

Admittedly, trends in rural population are more significant than general population trends for this study. An examination of Table XVIII will evince the changes in the number of rural farm inhabitants from 1920-1950. For this period, there was a 6.7 percent decrease. Within the intervening decade, however, an appreciable increase occurred, with the exception of the 1940-1950 period, in which a rather noticeable 15.4 percent decrease occurred in the number of people in rural areas. The appreciation in numbers was generally attributed to the back-to-the-farm movement during the depression in the 1930's. Whereupon, the recession and the improvement of occupational opportunities in industry in the 1940's caused a reversal in the trend which resulted in a movement away from rural farm areas.

Even more significant for this study was the trend in the non-white rural farm population particularized in Table XVIII. It may be noted that 22.3 percent fewer non-white persons were residing in rural areas in 1950 than in 1920. At the beginning of this thirty-year period, 721,565 non-white inhabitants were living in rural areas, but by the end of the period the number had diminished to 595,003. The most striking decrease, 23.3 percent, took place during the decade 1940-1950.

Land tenure. Quite in contrast to the decrease in rural farm population between 1920-1950 there was an increase in the total number of acres in farms. An inspection of Table XVII, will show that this increase was 13.8 percent. Acres in farms had been increased each decade since 1920 from 18,196,979 to 20,710,770 in 1950, with an exception in 1930 when 17,156,058 acres were in farms. A further inspection of this table will also indicate that the average size farm has been enlarged 23.2 percent since 1920. This was made possible through the expansion which took place in total farm acres, and also the 7.6 percent reduction in the number of farms. Thus, it may be stated that in 1950 fewer farmers were operating larger amounts of land than was true in 1920. Actually, the average-size farm increased in acres from 66.9 in 1920 to 82.4 in 1950. The change in the number of farm operators, for the same period, was from 272,101 to 251,383.

Continuing the analysis of Table XVII, it will be observed that farm ownership increased from 91,310 in 1920 to 120,729 in 1950; percentage-wise, this was a 32.3 percent increase. These figures included both full-owners and part-owners. An opposite action was taken by all tenants. The number in this group declined from 179,802 in 1920 to 129,820 in 1950; this represents a 27.8 percent negative change. That there was a 32.7 percent decrease in the number of all tenants from 1940 to 1950 is significant. This is

TABLE XVII

TRENDS AND PER CENT CHANGE IN POPULATION, FARM TENURE, AND FARM ACREAGE: MISSISSIPPI 1920-1950

	1920	1930	1940	1950	Per cent change 1920-1950
Total population	1,790,618	2,009,821	2,183,796	2,178,914	+21.7
Rural farm population	1,268,772	1,360,729	1,399,884	1,183,796	-6.7
Land in farm acres	18,196,979	17,332,195	19,156,058	20,710,770	+13.8
Farm operators	272,101	312,663	291,092	251,383	-7.6
Average size farm acres	66.9	55.4	65.8	82.4	+23.2
*Farm owners	91,310	86,047	97,266	120,729	+32.3
All tenants	179,802	225,617	192,789	129,821	-27.8

United States Bureau of the Census, United States Census of Agriculture: 1920-1950. Per cent change calculated.

*Part and full owners.

indicative of the element of the rural population that was making a change.

A portion of Table XVIII particularizes the land tenure situation among non-white farmers. The number of farms decreased 23.5 percent among these farmers for the period 1920-1950. Numerically, the reduction for this period was from 161,001 farms to 123,089. Contrary to the general trend toward larger size farms the average size of farms among non-white farmers have increased very little in size since 1920. The increase has been from 36.1 acres in 1920 to 37.3 acres in 1950. This was less than half the size of the average of all farms in 1950. On first thought, the one bright spot in this picture seems to be in the increased number of full and part owners. Nevertheless, on second thought, an average-sized farm of 37.3 acres renders numbers of farms almost meaningless in-so-far as a standard economic farming unit is concerned. Looking further into the picture, it was found that tenants were leaving the farm at a rapid pace; in 1950 there were 94,113 non-white tenants on farms in the state as compared with 136,069 ten years earlier. A postulation of the situation may be stated thusly: the tenant element of the non-white farming group is leaving the farm or entering farm ownership. If the latter is true, and if the farms which are attended are not considerably larger, then the average chances for economic success will be almost nil.

TABLE XVIII

TRENDS AND PER CENT CHANGE IN NON-WHITE POPULATION, RURAL FARM POPULATION, FARMS AND FARM TENURE: MISSISSIPPI 1920-1950

	1920	1930	1940	1950	Per cent change 1920-1950
Total population	935,184	1,009,718	1,007,469	990,485	+5.9
Rural farm population	721,565	762,836	775,994	595,003	-22.3
Per cent rural farm	77.1	75.5	72.0	60.1	-22.0
Number of farms	161,001	161,219	159,540	123,089	-23.5
Average size farm	36.1	33.2	33.8	37.3	+3.3
Full owners	20,088	19,261	20,625	23,293	+16.0
Part owners	3,091	3,389	2,802	5,647	+82.7
Tenants, all	137,848	160,169	136,069	94,113	-31.7
Share croppers	29,330	*	16,220	21,562	-26.5
Croppers	74,163	102,992	102,110	61,170	-17.5

United States Bureau of the Census, United States Census of Population: 1920-1950. Per cent change calculated.

United States Bureau of the Census, United States Census of Agriculture: 1950. Per cent change calculated.

*Not available.

Occupational distribution. An analysis of Table XIX will disclose the broad classification of occupations and the distribution of gainfully employed persons among these occupations. In 1950, agriculture, including forestry and fishing, provided employment for 304,196 of the 716,282 gainfully employed persons in the state. This was tantamount to 42.5 percent of the total employed populace. Even a larger percentage of the gainfully employed Negro workers was engaged in agriculture. Approximately 53.5 percent of the 329,482 Negro workers in 1950 were farming. Noticeable, however, was the fact that for each decennial census report, there was a decrease in the number of Negroes employed in farming from 72.6 percent to 53.5 percent. These figures denote that a large element of the Negro population was still employed in farming in 1950. A further examination of this table will reveal other occupations in which Negroes were employed in increasing numbers during the decade 1940-1950. Among all gainfully employed Negroes, trade, finance and insurance occupations offered the greatest increase in 1950, accounting for 36,078, or 10.9 percent of the 329,482 employed Negroes; whereas, in 1940 only 16,687, or four percent of the 393,471 employed Negroes were working in these occupations. Manufacturing and construction occupations also registered noticeable gains in the employment of Negro workers; the increase was from 32,472, or 8.2 percent in 1940 to 41,008, or 12.4 percent in 1950 of all gainfully employed Negroes in the state.

TABLE XIX

OCCUPATIONAL DISTRIBUTION AND PER CENT OF PERSONS GAINFULLY EMPLOYED: MISSISSIPPI 1930-1950

	1930			1940			1950		
	All workers	Negro workers	*Per cent	All workers	Negro workers	*Per cent	All workers	Negro workers	*Per cent
Gainfully employed	844,887	488,403	100	727,455	393,471	100	716,282	329,482	100
Agri., forestry and fisheries	566,347	354,608	72.6	422,247	269,596	68.5	304,196	176,425	53.5
Mining	801	236	-	1,917	263	-	3,616	289	0.1
Mfg. and construction	78,517	32,127	6.6	90,916	32,472	8.2	125,825	41,008	12.4
Transportation and other utilities	38,205	14,437	3.0	21,812	6,908	1.8	30,740	8,379	2.5
Trade, finance, and insurance	63,458	8,497	1.7	71,704	16,687	4.0	106,990	36,078	10.9
Personal service	64,532	66,428	13.6	66,496	56,304	14.3	57,088	45,192	13.7
Prof. service and recreation	29,471	7,282	1.5	33,129	8,924	2.3	48,826	16,427	5.0
Public service and government	#	#	--	12,297	706	0.2	17,994	1,314	0.4
Industry not reported	7,744	4,520	0.9	6,955	3,011	0.7	10,997	4,370	1.3

United States Bureau of the Census, United States Census of Population: 1930-1950.

*Per cent of total Negro workers.

#Not available.

Table XX shows the employment situation for non-white workers in 1950 by types of occupations. It was noted that among these occupations, 54.5 percent of the 316,263 non-white employees were engaged in farming either as farmers, farm managers or farm laborers. Moreover, 80.5 percent of the 146,633 non-white rural male population were engaged in these occupations. Whereas, only 4.6 percent of the 316,263 employed non-white persons had procured employment in the professional and technical, managerial and sales, and clerical fields. Approximately ninety percent of the non-white employment situations were in the categories of farm laborers and farmers, operatives and laborers, private household and other service workers.

Crops. An inspection of Table XXI will disclose the number of acres in the major crops of the state. It will be noted that cotton ranked first in 1950 among all crops in total acres, with 2,767,507. Work opportunities in agriculture vary to some extent in proportion to the kind and scope of major crops produced in an area. Where cotton is the major cash crop, such as is true in this state, the demand for labor is acute for about one-half of the year. This situation often forces tenant, cotton farmers to look elsewhere other than to the farm for employment for nearly one-half of each year. Pressing the point further, 94,113 of the 123,089 farms operated by non-white farmers were

TABLE XX

NON-WHITE EMPLOYED PERSONS, BY MAJOR OCCUPATIONAL GROUP: MISSISSIPPI 1950

	Total	Per cent	Male	Per cent	Rural farm	Male
Employed	316,263	100	228,282	100	146,633	100
Prof., tech., and kindred workers	7,775	2.5	2,877	1.3	468	0.3
Farmers and farm managers	111,144	35.1	100,009	43.8	96,983	66.1
Managers, officials, and prof. except farm	3,316	1.0	1,997	0.9	143	0.1
Clerical and kindred workers	1,723	0.5	988	0.4	90	0.1
Sales workers	1,960	0.6	1,099	0.5	114	0.1
Craftsmen, foremen, and kindred workers	9,938	3.1	9,753	4.3	1,108	0.8
Operative and kindred workers	31,531	10.0	26,633	11.7	5,258	3.6
Private household workers	32,093	10.1	990	0.4	116	0.1
Service workers, except private household	20,135	6.4	8,316	3.6	403	0.3
Farm laborers, unpaid family workers	34,045	10.8	21,823	9.6	21,040	14.3
Farm laborers, except unpaid and farm foremen	27,246	8.6	20,804	9.1	14,820	10.1
Laborers, except farm and mine	31,329	9.9	30,626	13.4	4,870	3.3
Occupations not reported	4,028	1.3	2,367	1.0	1,220	0.8

United States Bureau of the Census, United States Census of Population: 1950.

TABLE XXI

TRENDS AND PER CENT CHANGE IN CROP PRODUCTION
MISSISSIPPI 1920-1950

	1920 Acres	1930 Acres	1940 Acres	1950 Acres	Per cent change 1920-1950
Corn for all purposes	*	1,998,796	2,957,498	1,999,807	+5.0
Sorghum for all purposes	10,865	21,210	31,242	20,854	+91.9
Oats threshed and/or combined	53,088	9,964	102,612	103,296	+94.6
Soybeans harvested for beans	3,420	*	21,564	168,830	+483.4
Hay crops	365,408	233,716	454,012	623,564	+70.6
Lespedeza harvested	*	*	5,621	13,581	+141.6
Sweet potatoes harvested	69,394	53,412	60,998	27,370	-60.6
Cotton harvested	2,948,387	4,009,534	2,449,285	2,767,507	-6.1
Sugar cane or sorghum harvested for sirup	38,752	33,676	46,158	12,898	-66.7
Vegetables harvested	14,012	38,403	38,634	32,921	+134.9
Tree fruits, nuts, and grapes	*	55,065	154,198	130,180	+136.4

United States Bureau of the Census, United States Census of Agriculture: 1950. Per cent change calculated.

*Not available.

tenants in 1950. Moreover, 61,170 of that number were croppers. In view of the foregoing points discussed it seems that cotton farming is not capable of providing year-round work. Further, a large number of Negroes are cotton farmers; consequently, they are idle half the year or must seek employment off the farm. Neither of these conditions is desirable. At least for the last half century experts in agriculture have discussed the ill affects of the one-crop system in the Cotton Belt on natural and human resources. Trends in the production of crops reported in Table XXI other than sweet potatoes, sugar cane, and sorghum harvested for sirup, and cotton, indicate that less attention had been focused upon these crops in 1950 than was true in 1920. An examination of the percent change in acres allocated to these crops between 1920 and 1950 seems to indicate some effort on the part of farmers to diversify their farming enterprises in order to secure a better distribution of labor than would be possible under the one-crop cotton system of farming. It should not be overlooked at this point that increased farm mechanization in the Cotton Belt helped to encourage diversification so that more economical use could be made of the available machinery. In all probability, if the presently discussed, cotton-acreage, control program is put into effect, further diversification will take place among cotton farmers.

Livestock. The livestock industry offers a possible way out of the one-crop cotton system. Yet, according to the trends exemplified in Table XXII farmers have not chosen this way out too enthusiastically. It may be noted that an upward trend appeared in the number of cattle and calves raised, as well as in the number of broilers and turkeys. Percentage-wise, the largest increase occurred in broiler production. This increase was from 5,086,000 in 1945 to 13,114,000 in 1950, a 175.5 percent increase. In 1950 cattle and calves had increased 21.6 percent over the 1,004,008 production number for 1920. Turkey production increased 2.5 percent in 1950 over the 1930 figures of 142,894. Table XXII also indicates the downward trend in the production of horses and/or mules, milk cows, hogs and pigs, sheep and lamb, and chickens over four months old. These trends tend to reflect the unfavorable attitudes of farmers toward livestock enterprises.

Mechanization. Table XXIII particularizes the fact that mechanization was on the march in the 1940-1950 decade. The number of tractors was increased from 12,067 in 1940 to 56,496 in 1950; this was a 368.2 percent increase. Likewise, the number of farm trucks was increased 211.6 percent above the 18,833 mark in 1940 to 58,679 in 1950. Furthermore, there were 7,592 combines, 814 corn pickers, and 2,905 pick-up hay balers on farms in 1950.

TABLE XXII

TRENDS AND PER CENT CHANGE IN LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION: MISSISSIPPI 1920-1950

	1920 Number	1930 Number	1940 Number	1950 Number	Per cent change 1920-1950
Horses and/or mules	214,852	102,677	108,044	118,390	-44.9
Cattle and calves	1,250,479	1,008,672	1,239,660	1,569,327	+25.5
Milk cows	427,406	418,192	522,742	502,068	+17.5
Hogs and pigs	1,373,311	732,781	825,909	875,444	-36.3
Sheep and lambs	164,440	110,056	60,397	66,660	-59.5
Chickens over four months old	6,342,204	5,381,195	6,055,468	5,827,851	-8.1
Turkeys raised	*	85,010	67,538	78,950	-7.1
Broilers	*	50,000[b]	816,000	17,010,000	+33,920.0
Bees-hives	82,770	46,391	26,895	46,256	-44.1

United States Bureau of the Census, United States Census of Agriculture: 1950. Per cent change calculated.

*Not available.

[b]1935.

TABLE XXIII

PER CENT INCREASE IN FARM MACHINERY: 1940-1950

MISSISSIPPI			
White Operators	1940	1950	Per cent increase 1940-1950
Combines, grain	*	9,913	--
Corn pickers	*	1,794	--
Hay balers, pick-up	*	4,640	--
Tractors	11,615	57,930	398.7
Trucks	18,506	58,341	209.8
Non-White Operators			
Combines, grain	*	644	--
Corn pickers	*	15	--
Hay balers, pick-up	*	605	--
Tractors	874	6,311	622.1
Trucks	2,235	10,993	391.9

United States Bureau of the Census, United States Census of Agriculture: 1940.

United States Bureau of the Census, United States Census of Agriculture: 1950.

*Not available.

The extent and trend of farm mechanization among non-white farmers can also be seen in Table XXIII. The number of tractors for the group was increased 622.1 percent between 1940-1950. There were 874 tractors on non-white operators' farms in 1940, but by 1950 the number was increased to 6,311. Similarly, the number of trucks was increased from 2,235 to 10,993 in the same period. This represents a 391.9 percent increase. There were no statistics available in 1940 on the number of combines, corn pickers, and pick-up hay balers; however, in 1950 there were 644, 15, and 605 respectively on non-white operators' farms. It is the opinion of some experts in agricultural economics that the success of mechanization on a cotton farm is contingent upon the kind of farm reorganization that can be perfected for making economical use of farm machinery.

Tennessee

In 1950 the approximate land area of Tennessee was 26,750,080 acres, of which 18,534,380 acres were in farms. This was 69.3 percent of the total land area. The average size farm for the state was eighty acres. Similar to the previous reports for other states the size of farms had been increased; whereas, the total number of farms had decreased, but the number of acres allotted to pasture had been increased.[50]

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[50] United States Bureau of the Census, United Stated Census of Agriculture, 1950, Vol 1, Part 20 (Washington: United States Government Printing Office, 1952), p. 3.

Population. During the period 1920-1950 there was an increase of 36.4 percent in the total population as summarized in Table XXIV. In contrast to this, however, the rural farm population decreased 19.9 percent. In general, the non-white population followed this pattern of action. It can readily be seen from Table XXV that the non-white population increased 17.4 percent in the thirty-year period, 1920-1950. Nevertheless, for this same period the number of rural farm inhabitants decreased 38.9 percent. Percentage-wise, only about one-half as many people were residing on farms in 1950 as in 1920.

Land tenure. It has already been established that there was a decrease in the rural farm population in the state between 1920 and 1950. Table XXIV shows that this decrease has been partially reflected in the 8.6 percent negative change which occurred in the number of farm operators for the same period. Furthermore, it was apparent that the majority of the operators leaving farms were in the tenant class. This assumption was substantiated to some extent by the fact that 31.8 percent of all tenants discontinued farming or changed their employment status during the period 1920-1950; whereas, for the same period the number of farm owners increased only 10.4 percent. Presenting the same picture somewhat differently--within the period 1920-1950 almost 36,152 tenants changed their occupational status.

TABLE XXIV

TRENDS AND PER CENT CHANGE IN POPULATION, FARM TENURE, AND FARM ACREAGE: TENNESSEE 1920-1950

	1920	1930	1940	1950	Per cent change 1920-1950
Total population	2,337,885	2,616,556	2,915,841	3,291,718	+36.4
Rural farm population	1,269,179	1,213,065	1,271,944	1,016,204	-19.9
Land in farm (acres)	19,510,856	18,003,241	18,492,897	18,534,380	-5.0
Farm operators	252,774	245,657	247,617	231,631	-8.6
Average size farm (acres)	77.2	73.3	74.7	80.0	+3.5
*Farm owners	148,082	132,526	147,443	163,152	+10.4
All tenants	103,995	113,520	99,735	67,733	-31.8

United States Bureau of the Census, United States Census of Agriculture: 1920-1950. Per cent change calculated.

*Part and full owners.

This change was not wholly reflected in the 15,150 farmers who became owners; consequently, the trend appears to indicate that tenant farmers were changing their occupational status more rapidly than farm owners.

Land tenure among non-white farmers was comparable to the changes which took place among all farmers in that the negative and positive changes were identical. It can be seen in Table XXV that the number of farms--which is comparable to the number of farm operators--decreased thirty-seven percent, from 38,180 in 1920 to 24,061 in 1950. In like manner, the number of all tenants decreased from 28,289 to 17,065; this was a 39.7 percent decrease. This table also points out that croppers were the ones who changed occupational status among the tenant class. There was a thirty-six percent decline in the number of croppers during the period 1920-1950. It is comparatively easy to understand why croppers would be inclined to discontinue farming. One reason might be that they are at the bottom of the agricultural ladder and are finding it too difficult to climb to the ownership level. On the other hand, it is somewhat difficult to understand why there should have been a 38.4 percent decrease in full ownership in the state. It is true that only an exceedingly small number of farmers, 4,850 in Tennessee, own their farms in comparison with 13,267 in Alabama; 8,860 in Arkansas, and 23,293 in Mississippi. An

TABLE XXV

TRENDS AND THE PER CENT CHANGE IN NON-WHITE POPULATION, RURAL FARM POPULATION AND FARM TENURE: TENNESSEE 1920-1950

	1920	1930	1940	1950	Per cent change 1920-1950
Total population	451,785	477,646	508,935	531,468	+17.4
Rural farm population	203,801	174,599	162,234	124,085	-38.9
Per cent rural farm	44.9	36.5	31.9	23.3	-48.1
Number of farms	38,180	35,123	27,972	24,061	-37.0
Average size farm	39.9	38.6	38.3	42.4	+6.3
Full owners	7,871	5,687	5,393	4,850	-38.4
Part owners	1,969	2,145	1,493	2,140	+8.8
Tenants, all	28,289	27,272	21,079	17,065	-39.7
Share croppers	5,762	*	3,879	5,747	-0.3
Croppers	14,619	16,559	13,870	9,274	-39.6

United States Bureau of the Census, United States Census of Population: 1920-1950. Per cent change calculated.

United States Bureau of the Census, United States Census of Agriculture: 1950. Per cent change calculated.

*Not available.

observation was made in connection with farm ownership which seems to indicate that in the states where ownership was proportionately high, the trend was upward; whereas, in the state where ownership was relatively low among non-white farmers, the trend was downward, and had been declining year after year from 1920 to 1950.

Occupational distribution. An overview of the Negro workers' participation in the general occupation of the state may be obtained through an inspection of the relevant data in Table XXVI. This table also shows the percent change in the occupational status of Negroes for each of the last three decennial census years. In agriculture, including forestry and fishing, it was noted that the number of gainfully employed Negro workers has decreased each decade from 31.5 percent in 1930 to 19.4 percent in 1950. These figures serve to substantiate a trend which was previously mentioned as indicating that Negroes were leaving the farms. The increase to 20.2 percent in 1950 from 16.0 in 1930 in manufacturing and construction jobs implies that a portion of the individuals leaving agriculture are finding employment in manufacturing and construction. Trade, finance, and insurance also provided work opportunities for a larger number of Negroes in 1950. By comparison, there were 16.2 percent in 1950; 5.4 percent in 1930. Other small gains were realized by Negroes in transportation and other utilities and the

TABLE XXVI

OCCUPATIONAL DISTRIBUTION AND PER CENT OF PERSONS GAINFULLY EMPLOYED: TENNESSEE 1930-1950

	1930			1940			1950		
	All workers	Negro workers	*Per cent	All workers	Negro workers	*Per cent	All workers	Negro workers	*Per cent
Gainfully employed	958,209	222,731	100	941,714	193,896	100	1,134,941	195,643	100
Agri., forestry, and fisheries	981,217	70,320	31.6	313,029	53,467	27.6	249,565	37,893	19.4
Mining	16,039	2,066	0.9	14,397	1,002	0.5	14,451	627	0.3
Mfg. and construction	197,038	35,695	16.0	215,206	29,324	15.1	319,429	39,457	20.2
Transportation and other utilities	74,207	15,230	7.3	51,364	9,399	4.8	75,763	12,269	6.2
Trade, finance, and insurance	100,025	12,090	5.8	157,279	22,771	11.8	242,614	31,688	16.2
Personal service	99,503	69,400	31.1	97,701	63,792	32.9	83,140	50,818	25.9
Prof. service and recreation	49,453	8,037	3.6	58,532	10,241	5.3	93,147	16,638	8.5
Public service and government	#	#	--	23,244	1,378	0.7	37,431	2,969	1.5
Industry not reported	18,613	6,870	3.0	10,962	2,613	1.3	20,401	3,629	1.8

United States Bureau of the Census, United States Census of Population: 1930-1950.

*Per cent of total Negro workers.

#Not available.

professional services, as indicated in Table XXVI. It is common knowledge by this time that the Negroes' opportunities for becoming gainfully employed are subject to many and varied discrepancies, all of which tend to eliminate them (Negroes) from the competitive ranks. In spite of this general custom of only hiring Negroes on the more menial jobs, progress has been made toward employing them in small proportions on the better, well-paying jobs.

An examination of Table XXVII will show the distribution of non-white employed persons by major occupations. In 1950 only 18.9 percent of the 196,000 non-white employees were engaged in farming. However, 90.1 percent of the 32,544 non-white rural farm males were farming in 1950. On the other hand, only 7.8 percent of the 196,000 employees had procured jobs in the professional and technical, managerial and sales and clerical fields. But 85.5 percent were employed as farm laborers and farmers, operatives and laborers and private household and other service workers.

Crops. Two of the most important crops in the state, from the standpoint of providing work opportunities for farm people, were cotton and tobacco. These crops were also the leading cash crops. Table XXVIII gives the extent to which crop acres were distributed among the major crops for each decade from 1920 to 1950. Moreover, the percent change is given for each crop. Cotton acreage showed an upward trend

TABLE XXVII

NON-WHITE EMPLOYED PERSONS, BY MAJOR OCCUPATIONAL GROUP TENNESSEE: 1950

	Total	Per cent	Male	Per cent	Rural farm male	Per cent
Employed	196,060	100	128,373	100	32,544	100
Prof., tech., and kindred workers	6,875	3.5	2,962	2.3	186	0.6
Farmers and farm managers	23,120	11.8	22,459	17.5	20,995	64.5
Managers, officials, and prof. except farm	2,929	1.5	2,089	1.6	49	0.2
Sales workers	3,445	1.8	2,133	1.7	24	0.1
Clerical and kindred workers	1,927	1.0	1,216	0.9	29	0.1
Craftsmen, foremen, and kindred workers	10,492	5.4	10,085	7.9	363	1.1
Operative and kindred workers	33,349	17.0	25,889	20.2	722	2.2
Private household workers	34,623	17.7	1,890	1.5	84	0.3
Service workers, except private household	34,652	17.7	18,804	14.6	272	0.8
Farm laborers, unpaid family workers	4,911	2.5	3,962	3.1	3,710	11.4
Farm laborers, except unpaid and farm foremen	9,062	4.6	8,082	6.3	4,616	14.2
Laborers, except farm and mine	27,773	14.2	26,915	21.0	1,077	3.3
Occupations not reported	2,902	1.5	1,887	1.5	417	1.3

United States Bureau of the Census, United States Census of Population: 1950.

of 9.9 percent from the 807,770 acres reported in 1920. Tobacco, the other major cash crop, showed a downward trend of twenty-five percent from the 138,561 acres allocated to the crop in 1920. The largest increase occurring among the crops was the 1,702.5 percent increase above the 7,649 acres of soybeans harvested for beans in 1920. A substantial gain was also registered in the case of the 937.9 percent advancement in the acreage of barley from 5,894 to 61,154 acres. Hay crops utilized 46.8 percent more acres in 1950 than the 1,102,496 acres in 1950. Although the total number of acres of harvested vegetables was 27.3 percent greater than the 20,834-acre figure in 1920, the 26,517-acre figure for 1950 was considerably less than the 1940 figure of 37,986 acres. Crop acres can serve as an index to the amount of labor required; therefore, some significance can be attached to crop acres in planning for job opportunities on farms.

Livestock. The number, types, and breeds of livestock that can be maintained on farms depend largely upon the kind and amount of feed crops and pastures that farmers are able to produce. Naturally, there must also be an available market. The number and percent change in livestock production is indicated in Table XXIX. Judging from the positive change of 254.0 percent in broiler production for the fifteen-year period, 1935-1950, this increase from 1,100,000

to 3,894,000 marks this enterprise not only as one providing new job opportunities but also as one gaining in popularity. Turkey production, unlike broiler production, decreased within this same period. This decrease was 11.8 percent below the 1930 figure of 156,470. A decrease of 2.3 percent was noted for cattle and calves.

This table also summarized the negative change in the number of livestock maintained on farms. It was significant to note that in 1950 there were fewer hogs and pigs on farms in the state than in 1920. In fact, the 1950 figure of 1,365,757 was 25.5 percent less than the 1920 figure of 1,832,307. There were 364,196 sheep and lambs on farms in 1950; this number was a 10.8 percent increase above the 1920 number of 364,196. In addition, during the 1920-1950 period, there was a 53.7 percent increase in the number of milk cows. This increase was from 415,128 in 1920 to 638,101 in 1950. The decrease in the number of horses and/or mules on farms comes as a natural phenomenon in the course of events which have brought about tractors and other machine tools on the farm.

Mechanization. Perhaps the best explanatory statement that can be made concerning this subject is to the effect that farm mechanization has increased rapidly, not only in Tennessee but also in the other states of the selected area.

TABLE XXVIII

TRENDS AND PER CENT CHANGE IN CROP PRODUCTION:
TENNESSEE 1920-1950

Crops harvested	1920 Acres	1930 Acres	1940 Acres	1950 Acres	Per cent change 1920-1950
Corn for all purposes	*	2,816,275	2,583,607	2,076,273	-26.3
Sorghum for all purposes	43,403	34,650	31,753	23,341	-46.2
Wheat combined	684,497	279,885	338,722	238,528	-65.2
Oats combined	162,417	30,660	55,196	170,831	+5.2
Barley combined	5,894	11,215	53,454	61,154	+937.5
Soybeans harvested for beans	7,649	*	11,729	137,869	+1702.5
Hay crops	1,102,496	1,085,296	1,671,707	1,618,329	+46.8
Irish Potatoes harvested	29,873	38,651	42,190	18,148	-39.2
Sweet potatoes harvested	39,645	53,842	37,589	14,242	-64.1
Cotton harvested	807.770	1,045,051	676,818	887,923	+9.9
Tobacco harvested	138,561	129,973	118,206	103,888	-25.0
Vegetables harvested	20,834	45,397	37,986	26,517	+27.3
Tree fruits, nuts and grapes	*	107,363	88,114	39,278	-63.4

United States Bureau of the Census, United States Census of Agriculture: 1950. Per cent change calculated.

*Not available

TABLE XXIX

TRENDS AND PER CENT CHANGE IN LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION: TENNESSEE 1920-1950

	1920 Number	1930 Number	1940 Number	1950 Number	Per cent change 1920-1950
Horses and/or mules	317,921	175,375	174,749	144,418	-55.1
Cattle and calves	1,158,843	1,073,898	1,108,869	1,156,136	-2.3
Milk cows	415,128	428,440	459,397	638,101	+53.7
Hogs and pigs	1,832,307	1,002,283	1,061,857	1,365,757	-25.5
Sheep and lambs	364,196	625,888	358,006	368,127	+10.8
Chickens over four months old	11,353,647	8,888,105	8,013,460	8,041,237	-29.2
Turkeys raised	*	156,470	135,969	137,970	-11.8
Broilers	*	1,100,000[b]	1,650,000	3,894,000	+254.0
Bees--hives	191,898	123,329	95,234	103,368	-46.1

United States Bureau of the Census, United States Census of Agriculture: 1950. Per cent change calculated.

*Not available.

[b]1935.

Table XXX seems to endorse this statement in particularizing the fact that the number of tractors in Tennessee was increased 367.8 percent in the decade 1940-1950, or from 9,703 to 45,387. A similar increase was noted for farm trucks. This increase was 178.6 percent, or numerically, it was from 16,232 to 45,217. There were 5,330 combines; 733 corn pickers; and 2,689 pick-up hay balers on farms in the state in 1950.

Farm mechanization among non-white farmers followed, in general, the trend of the state. An example of this can be seen in Table XXX. In 1940 only 202 non-white farmers owned tractors; ten years later, 1,861 in this group were tractor owners. This was an 821.3 percent increase in the ten years. Similarly, farm truck ownership increased for the same period from 402 to 1,931. This represented a 380.3 percent increase. In 1950 this group of farmers also owned 245 combines; 30 corn pickers; and 160 pick-up hay balers. Figures were not available for these items in the 1940 census report. No attempt was made to include all the tractor attachments used in farming; to do this would have been beyond the scope of the present study.

TABLE XXX

PER CENT INCREASE IN FARM MACHINERY: 1940-1950

TENNESSEE			
White Operators	1940	1950	Per cent Increase 1940-1950
Combines, grain	*	5,330	---
Corn pickers	*	733	---
Hay balers, pick-up	*	2,689	---
Tractors	9,703	45,387	367.8
Trucks	16,232	45,217	178.6
Non-White Operators			
Combines, grain	*	245	---
Corn pickers	*	30	---
Hay balers, pick-up	*	160	---
Tractors	202	1,861	821.3
Trucks	402	1,931	380.3

United States Bureau of the Census, United States Census of Agriculture: 1940.

United States Bureau of the Census, United States Census of Agriculture: 1950.

*Not available.

Summary

Population. The total population increased in each of the selected states--Alabama, Arkansas, Mississippi, and Tennessee--during the thirty-year period, 1920-1950. These increases were 30.4, 9.0, 21.7, and 34.6 percent, respectively.

In contrast to the increase in population which occurred during the 1920-1950 period among the four selected states, there was a decrease in the rural farm population. This decrease amounted to 28.3, 29.9, 6.7, and 19.9 percent in the order in which the four states are named above. It was noted that the greatest decrease in the rural farm population occurred among the non-white elements of the population. Following the preceding order, these decreases amounted to 38.0, 40.9, 22.3, and 38.9 percent for each state.

Land tenure. As the total population in the selected area was increasing, simultaneously the total number of farm operators was decreasing. For each selected state, taken in alphabetical order, the number of farm operators decreased 17.4, 21.6, 7.6, and 8.6 percent. In the same order, the number of all tenants, decreased 40.9, 42.5, 27.8, and 31.8 percent. On the other hand, there was an increase of 15.3, 0.6, 32.3, and 10.4 percent in the number of farm owners in each state. In like manner, the average size farm for each state increased in size 29.3, 27.5, 23.2, and 3.5 percent.

Following in the previous order, the number of non-white farm operators decreased 39.8, 43.5, 23.5, and 37.0 percent during the 1920-1950 period. Also, there was a decrease among all tenants of this group. The largest decrease occurred in Alabama, 51.2 percent; Arkansas was second with a 49.0 percent decrease; there was a 39.7 percent decrease in Tennessee, and a 31.7 percent in Mississippi. Farm ownership decreased 38.4 percent in Tennessee; whereas, in the other states, there was an increase. The average farm in Alabama, among non-white farmers in 1950, was a 7.0 percent smaller than in 1920. The average farm in the other three states was only 5.2 percent larger in 1950 than in 1920.

Occupational distribution. During the 1930-1950 period there was a downward trend among gainfully employed Negro workers in agriculture. The range of employment in 1920 was from 31.5 percent in Tennessee to 12.6 percent in Mississippi. It was apparent that many of the Negroes who were leaving agriculture were procuring jobs in manufacturing and construction, and in trade, finance, and insurance. In 1920 the range of job opportunities in these occupations was from 17.0 percent in Mississippi to 16.0 percent in Tennessee. However, by 1950 this range of employment had increased; its spread was from 9.2 percent in Arkansas to 22.3 percent in Alabama.

Crops. Cotton was the leading cash crop for each state except Tennessee, where tobacco ranked along with cotton as a cash crop. The number of acres devoted to each one of these crops showed a downward trend during the 1920-1950 period, except cotton acreage harvested in Arkansas and Tennessee, which was increased 8.5 and 9.9 percent, respectively. The most noticeable increases in acres devoted to a single crop occurred in the number of acres of soybeans harvested. The range of increase in 1950 over that of 1920 was from 483.4 percent in Mississippi to 2264.3 percent in Arkansas.

Livestock. Each state showed an increase in the number of cattle and calves during the 1920-1950 period, except Tennessee, which had a 2.3 percent decrease. However, Tennessee had a 53.7 percent increase in the number of milk cows; whereas, Mississippi had only a 17.5 percent increase, and Alabama and Arkansas experienced a decrease of 7.4 percent and 8.8 percent, respectively. An outstanding increase in the number of broilers produced occurred in each state; the range was 175.5 percent in Alabama to 33920.0 percent in Mississippi. There was a decrease in the number of hogs and pigs raised in each state of the selected area.

Mechanization. Farm mechanization was increased rapidly during the 1940-1950 decade in the selected states. Most noticeable was the increase in the number of tractors among

non-white operators. In Alabama, Arkansas, Mississippi, and Tennessee this increase was 865.8, 670.1, 622.1, and 821.3 percent respectively. The total tractor increase for each state amounted to approximately one-half of the increase which occurred in each state among non-white farmers.

CHAPTER V

OCCUPATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR NEGROES IN AGRICULTURAL AND RELATED FIELDS

In the preceding chapter relevant data were presented which had possibilities of affecting occupational opportunities in agricultural and related fields in the selected area. Moreover, the assumption was that trends in employment were closely related to trends in agricultural production, land tenure, population, and farm mechanization. Generally, upward trends in these areas meant upward trends in agricultural employment.

This chapter shall be concerned with identifying occupations in agricultural and related fields which provide employment for Negroes. In addition, occupations for which Negroes may qualify through college and/or short-course training will be discussed. Consideration is to be given also to regional job opportunities and to the new employment situations that have been developed since 1944.

Alabama

A large segment of the gainfully employed Negro population in 1950 was engaged in agriculture, in manufacturing and construction jobs, in personal service, and in the trades.

The distribution of the 324,094 Negro workers among these occupations was 29.6 percent, 22.3 percent, 21.5 percent, and 10.1 percent, respectively. There has been a considerable decrease--15.8 percent--since 1940 in the total number of Negroes engaged in agriculture; whereas, on the other hand, there was an increase of 7.9 percent in employment among the trades, manufacturing and construction jobs.

Farming. Today, the sections of the selected states that were heavily populated with Negroes before emancipation are the areas in which the majority of the Negro population has remained. There has been some migration from these areas but it has not been to the extent that the general pattern of population concentration has changed. In Alabama the counties that were noted for cotton production before the turn of the century are still the ones that have a preponderant Negro population. This situation has prevailed although the advent of boll weevils has caused the type of farming to be changed from cotton to cattle in Economic Area Six, the Black Belt Area; and from cotton to peanuts and swine production in Economic Area Seven b and the Wire Grass Area.

Authorities on the subject of population change have released figures showing that a substantial number of Negroes have migrated from these areas each year to other states in search of employment opportunities. Census reports cited

previously indicated that the majority of these people were employed in agricultural work. Moreover, a numerical classification of the distribution of non-white farm operators and full owners, according to each county, may be seen in Figure 3. It was noted that twenty-four of the central and south-central counties contained the majority of the non-white farm operators. The range in the number of operators was from 1,082 in Elmore County to 3,693 in Dallas County. Seven counties had more than 2,000 non-white farm operators, whereas seventeen counties had from 1,000 to 2,000 operators. Only one county--Madison--in north Alabama had more than 1,000 non-white operators. These twenty-five counties, with the largest number of non-white operators, also had the largest number of full owners on a per-county basis. The range was from 630 owners in Clark County to eighty-three in Pike County. These figures seem to indicate that the prevalence of opportunities for non-white farmers lie, to some extent, within the localities where they are farming, and especially where they own farms. It was significant to note that, in addition to the concentration of farm ownership in the centrally-located counties, eighteen counties in south Alabama and one county in north Alabama had non-white owners, ranging from 100 to 330 on a per-county basis. These counties showed a higher percentage of ownership in comparison with the total number of farm operators

than counties where the concentration of operators and owners was more pronounced.

The prevalence of opportunities in agricultural production occupations was particularized in Table XXXI. Among teachers of agriculture and county agents the consensus was that Negroes find employment more readily in the productive phases of farming--such as, general farmers, farm hands, farm-machine operators, and truck farmers--than in other phases of agricultural employment. Nevertheless, it was apparent that for each of the productive occupations listed, at least three or more Negroes had become engaged in these occupations. This was tantamount to declaring that these jobs had been available and now have possibilities of becoming available again at some future date, depending, of course, upon the need and rate of replacements. The 1950 United States Census of Agriculture shows that there were 57,294 non-white farm operators in Alabama in 1950, and that 13,267 of these farmers were full owners. It is beyond the scope of this study to determine the number of employment opportunities that may become available each year in farming. However, census data seem to indicate that these job opportunities have diminished each year in an increasing ratio since 1940.

Related occupations. Educators, especially those serving at land-grant colleges, have recognized the impossibility as well as the improbability of attempting to place

all agricultural graduates in farming occupations. As a result of this thinking, these educators have focused attention upon the importance of employment opportunities in related agricultural fields for farm-reared, agriculturally trained students. Recent studies, some of which were summarized in the review of literature, classified the related occupations in which agricultural college graduates were finding opportunities. Generally, these jobs included situations in which farm-reared youth, by virtue of their farm background and training, had the attributes which were commensurate with successful employment. Rarely were there more than ten percent of the agricultural college graduates, among the colleges which had completed occupational studies of their graduates, engaged in farming. In contrast to this however, from fifty to sixty-six percent of the graduates were engaged in occupations related to agriculture.

This situation has not prevailed among Negro aspirants for jobs in the related fields. An examination of Table XXXI will show that some difficulties have been confronted by Negroes in attempting to secure employment in certain related agricultural occupations. This fact is emphasized by an observation of the very limited number of related occupations in which Negroes have found employment. The most prevalent jobs for Negroes in related occupations were

reported to be teachers of agriculture in schools for Negroes and county agricultural agents who serve only Negro farmers. A limited number of graduates had secured jobs as teachers of general agriculture in secondary schools and as college teachers of agriculture. The eighty-five teachers of agriculture and county agents reported that they knew of only twenty-one teachers of general agriculture and eight college teachers of agriculture in the counties in which they were working. It was found also that jobs were available for Negroes as teachers of Negro veterans' classes. These classes were organized on a time-limited basis under the auspices of the State Division of Vocational Education for World War II Veterans. The time has expired for most of these classes, thus bringing to a close thise source of employment. A general lack of participation among Negroes in jobs related to agriculture was in evidence throughout Table XXXI. It was noted that in 264 instances, Negroes were employed either as teachers of agriculture or county agents. Whereas among the fifty-five jobs related to agriculture, only 263 instances were reported in which Negroes were employed on these jobs. Of this number, 168 were employed in service occupations, such as, custom workers, mechanics, and landscape caretakers. This is practically the same kind of situation that prevailed in 1935 when attention was called by Caliver[51] to the limited range of

[51] Ambrose Caliver, Vocational Education and Guidance of Negroes. United States Department of Interior, Office of Education, Washington, Bull. 38, 1937, p. 40.

occupational opportunities for Negro agricultural college graduates. He found that these graduates were employed, for the most part, as vocational teachers, county agents, and college teachers. These revelations are but testimonial announcements of the lack of advancement among Negroes in broad areas of job procurement. Another significant observation appeared in Table XXXI. Although only a few Negroes were employed on the majority of the jobs related to agriculture, such jobs were prevalent when the present study was conducted.

This seems to substantiate the fact that jobs do exist in related fields of agriculture in localities where Negro farmers reside; it also indicated inaccessibility. This "inaccessibility" seems to apply to Negro employment, especially in the related agricultural fields.

Regional job opportunities. Pertinent data have already indicated that the majority of the occupational opportunities for Negroes in agriculture have been in crop production. In view of this fact, it is logical to expect to find job opportunities for Negroes in localities where non-white farmers reside. Figure 2 has been constructed for the purpose of identifying the economic areas of the state as defined in the 1950 United States Census of Agriculture. By comparing Figures 3 and 4, which show the distribution of non-white operators and full owners by counties, with

TABLE XXXI

PREVALENCE OF OCCUPATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES AND JOB DEMANDS AS REPORTED BY FIFTY NEGRO TEACHERS OF VOCATIONAL AGRICULTURE AND THIRTY-FIVE NEGRO COUNTY AGENTS: ALABAMA 1952

	Are One or More Persons Employed on This Job in the County and/or District in Which You Work?		Are Negroes Employed on This Job in the County and/or District in Which You Work?		Is This Sufficiently Difficult to Demand the Services of a College Graduate in Agriculture?	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
Agri. Education						
County Agri. agent	85	0	71	14	85	0
County 4-H agent	85	0	&	85	85	0
*District supv., ext. ser.	85	0	#	#	85	0
*District supv., agri. ed.	85	0	0	85	85	0
*Specialists, ext. ser.	85	0	0	85	85	0
Teacher, college agri.	10	75	8	77	85	0
Teacher, voc. agri.	85	0	79	6	85	0
Teacher, general agri.	26	59	21	64	85	0
Teacher, vet. classes	85	0	85	0	85	0
Agri. Publicity						
Editor, agri.	72	13	3	82	85	0
Radio program director	58	27	0	85	85	0
Reporter, agri.	59	26	0	85	75	10
Agri. Research						
Director, dist. agri. exp. sta.	85	0	0	85	85	0
Research worker, agri. exp. sta.	85	0	2	83	85	0
Research worker, agri. college	5	80	2	83	85	0
Research worker, U. S. Gov.	45	40	0	85	85	0
Agri. Job U. S. Gov.						
Grading and classing spec.	62	23	0	85	80	5
Inspector agri. proc. est.	61	24	0	85	85	0
Inspector, crops, livestock	67	18	0	85	80	5

TABLE XXXI (Continued)

	Are One or More Persons Employed on This Job in the County and/or District in Which You Work?		Are Negroes Employed on This Job in the County and/or District in Which You Work?		Is This Job Sufficiently Difficult to Demand the Services of a College Graduate in Agriculture?		Is This Job Sufficiently Difficult to Demand Short-Course Training, on the Undergraduate Level, for Persons not Interested in a College Degree?	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
Other Prof. Occupations								
Agri. bacteriologist	31	54	2	83	85	0		
Agri. chemist	42	43	0	85	85	0		
Agri. economist	45	40	0	85	85	0		
Agri. engineer	57	28	5	80	85	0		
Agri. statistician	47	38	0	85	85	0		
Agronomist	48	37	4	81	85	0		
Botanist	35	50	2	83	85	0		
Forester	76	9	4	81	85	0		
Floriculturist	45	40	5	80	85	0		
Horticulturist	49	36	5	80	85	0		
Pomologist	34	51	0	85	85	0		
Veterinarian	80	5	3	82	85	0		
Agri. Production Occupations								
Animal husbandry	45	40	8	77	80	5	85	0
Apiculturist	28	57	3	82	28	57	81	4
Crop spec. farmer	41	44	7	78	63	22	85	0
Dairy farmer	71	14	44	41	66	19	85	0
Farm hand	85	0	85	0	0	85	68	17
Farm machine operator	85	0	83	2	0	85	82	3
Farm manager	70	15	42	43	75	10	80	5
Fruit and/or veg. packer	36	49	15	70	0	85	62	23
General farmer	80	5	75	10	47	38	85	0
Livestock farmer	76	9	62	23	57	28	85	0
Nursery worker	53	32	36	49	0	85	51	34
Nurseryman	37	48	13	72	63	22	85	0
Poultry farmer	61	24	34	51	54	31	85	0
Poultryman	45	40	17	68	82	5	85	0
Truck farmer	54	31	45	40	73	12	85	0

TABLE XXXI (Continued)

	Are One or More Persons Employed on This Job in the County and/or District in Which You Work?		Are Negroes Employed on This Job in the County and/or District in Which You Work?		Is This Job Sufficiently Difficult to Demand the Services of a College Graduate in Agriculture?		Is This Job Sufficiently Difficult to Demand Short-Course Training, on the Undergraduate Level, for Persons not Interested in a College Degree?	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
Agri. Ser. Occupations								
Custom workers:								
Combining	72	13	21	64	0	85	85	0
Feed grinding	71	14	23	62	0	85	85	0
Hay baling	76	9	38	47	0	85	85	0
Peanut picking	33	52	14	71	0	85	60	25
Farm mechanic	74	11	22	63	65	20	85	0
Landscape caretaker	41	44	24	61	1	84	85	0
Milk tester	39	46	7	78	1	84	85	0
Sprayer, barns, etc.	47	38	12	73	0	85	85	0
Welder (traveling)	32	53	7	78	0	85	85	0
Purchasing, Mfg. and Distb. Farm Products								
Livestock and livestock produce buyer	63	22	10	75	25	50	85	0
Manager								
Canning plant	44	41	8	67	38	47	85	0
Processing plant and milk	64	21	3	82	40	45	85	0
Freezing plant	38	47	2	83	41	44	85	0
Staple crop buyer	75	10	0	85	47	38	85	0
Veg. and/or fruit buyer	26	59	6	79	24	61	85	0

TABLE XXXI (Continued)

	Are One or More Persons Employed on This Job in the County and/or District in Which You Work?		Are Negroes Employed on This Job in the County and/or District in Which You Work?		Is This Job Sufficiently Difficult to Demand the Services of a College Graduate in Agriculture?		Is This Job Sufficiently Difficult to Demand Short-Course Training, on the Under-graduate Level, for Persons not Interested in a College Degree?	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
Mfg. and Selling Products to Farmers								
Com. feed dealer	85	0	0	85	38	47	75	10
Farm machinery dealer	85	0	0	85	33	52	85	0
Farm machinery salesman	85	0	1	84	33	52	85	0
Fertilizer dealer	85	0	3	82	36	49	85	0
Hatchery operator	66	19	2	83	45	40	85	0
Nursery salesman	49	36	3	82	31	54	55	30
Purebred stock grower	57	28	10	75	53	32	85	0
Seed grower	61	24	9	76	35	50	85	0
Seed salesman	69	16	1	84	26	59	65	20

*This item was answered yes or no on the basis of whether one or more persons from the State Department of Education and/or the Cooperative Extension Service were assigned to serve the district which included the county in which the teacher of vocational agriculture and/or county agent were at work.

#Three Negro district county agents.

&One Negro State 4-H leader (boys).

%Editor of an agricultural journal and/or a weekly farm section in the local newspaper.

Figure 2, which identifies the economic areas of the state, it was possible to determine the regions or areas in which non-white farm operators were farming. The number of operators and owners was constantly higher in Area Six than in the other areas. It was noted, however, that ownership in Area Six was not as high in proportion to the number of operators as it was, for example, in Area 7b. Percentage-wise, ownership was considerably higher in the areas and counties where the total number of operators was low, in comparison with that of the Black Belt Area, where the total number of operators was high.

Another determinant worthy of consideration in seeking to identify regional job opportunities is the volume of land controlled by non-white farmers. Computations were made in order to ascertain the number of acres operated by non-white farmers. Again, it was noted that Economic Area Six, as a whole, contributed more total acres toward agricultural production than the other areas of the state. This, at least, gives rise to the proposition that this area was a potential area of job opportunities by the fact that it had more farm operators, and more full owners, than any of the other areas in the state. Within several counties farmers owned more land than was operated by tenant farmers. Two counties, Clark and Choctaw, serve as examples for illustrating this point. The former county had 37,635 acres

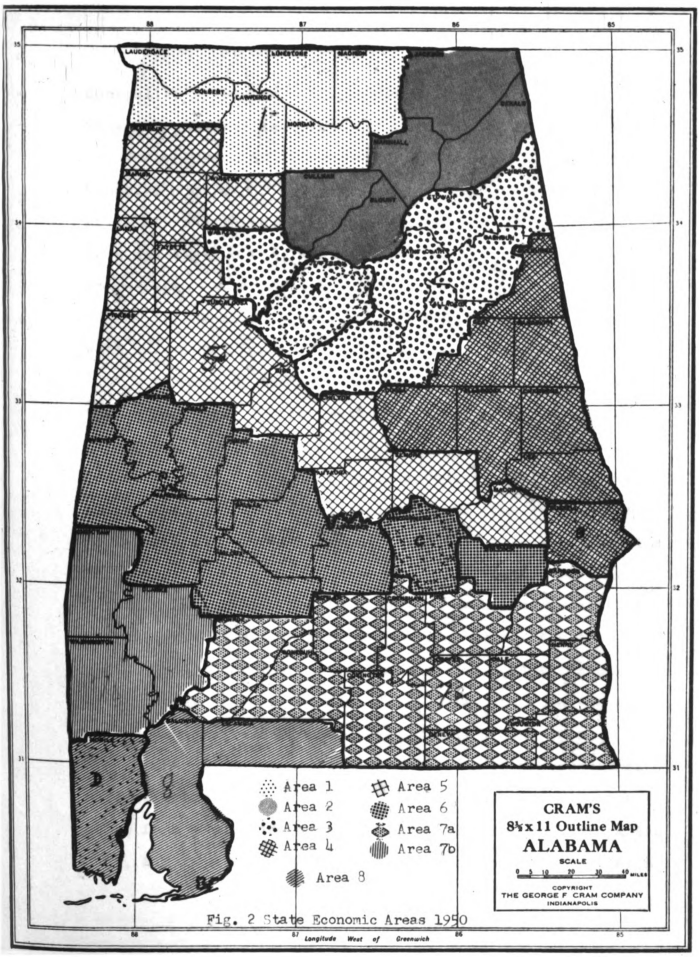

Fig. 2 State Economic Areas 1950

controlled by owners, in comparison to 9,260 acres for tenants, whereas, the latter county had 29,367 acres under the jurisdiction of owners and 19,836 acres operated by tenants. The majority of non-white operators were in Areas Six and Seven b. This concentration of operators does not exclude the fact that many of the counties had an appreciable number of operators, among which were from 100 to 200 full owners per county. An examination of Figure 4 will reveal this fact.

A summary of the respondents' completed questionnaires indicates that a general pattern of employment prevailed throughout the state in that occupational opportunities for Negroes were limited largely to the productive phases of farming. Uniformity existed among all the regions concerning work opportunities or the lack of work opportunities for Negroes. As a rule, Negro tractor mechanics were not hired in the tractor repair shops in any of the areas, but Negroes were hired as tractor operators in all the areas. Citing another similar situation, Negroes work as extension agents among Negroes in many of the areas, but none was employed as an extension specialist in any of the areas.

Such jobs as county agents and teachers of vocational agriculture were more prevalent in the areas in which the Negro farm population was the highest. These included Areas Five, Six, and Seven b. The observation was made that even

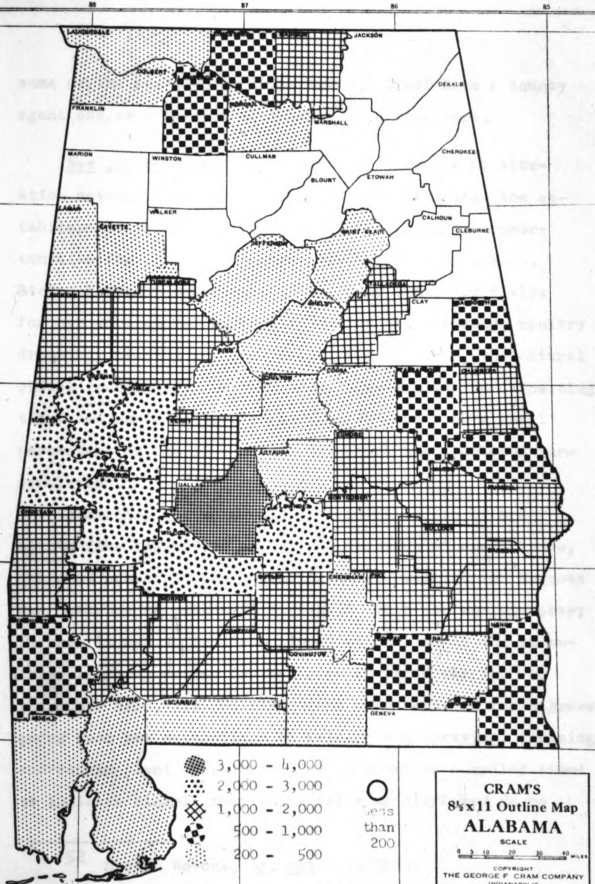

Fig. 3 Distribution of Non-White Farm Operators 1950

some of the counties in these areas did not have a county agent and/or a teacher of vocational agriculture.

New job opportunities. Perhaps, there is no situation watched more closely in the South-east than the establishment of concerns capable of providing job opportunities for the surplus farm population of this area. Stefan Robock[52] observed that the most promising fields for new jobs appeared to have been in meat packing, poultry dressing, canning and preserving, frozen foods, and natural cheese industries. He cautioned, however, against expecting these new rural industries to furnish more than a small percentage of the jobs needed to absorb the displaced farm population.

According to the questionnaires filled in by the eighty-five responding agents and teachers of agriculture, the most prevalent new job opportunity reported for Negroes was "teacher of veterans' classes." This job was temporary in that it was to be discontinued at the end of the stipulated training period for Veterans of World War II. On the other hand, new job situations were reported for Negroes among such new occupations as welding and spraying, freezing and canning-plant operators. The information compiled seems to indicate clearly that the surplus or displaced Negro

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[52] Stefan Robock, op. cit., p. 357.

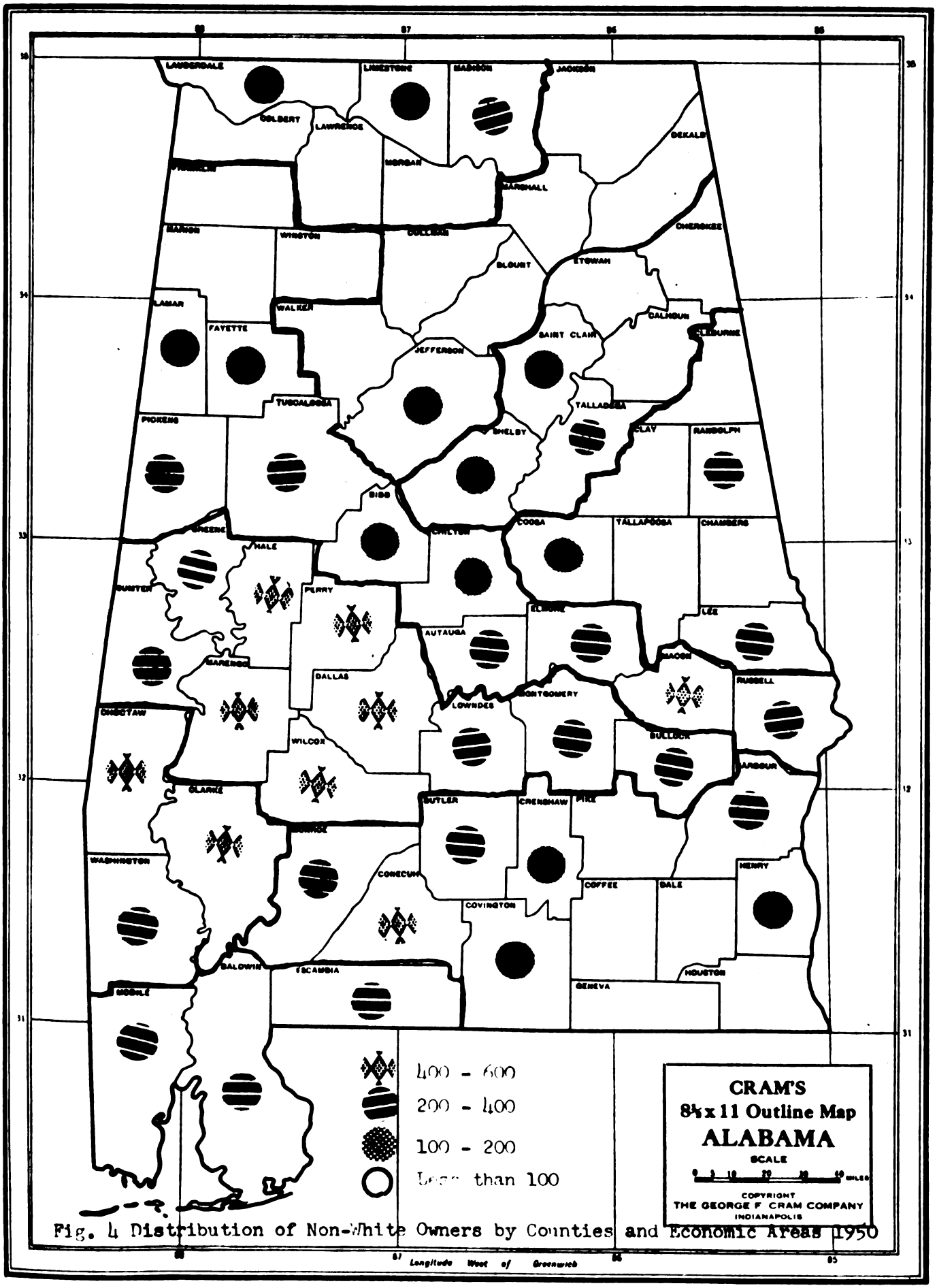

Fig. 4 Distribution of Non-White Owners by Counties and Economic Areas 1950

population is not finding employment in many of the new agricultural occupations of the South-east. It also serves to emphasize the absence of new enterprises among Negroes that would help provide new job opportunities. More explicitly, Negro farmers use thousands of tons of fertilizer each year; yet, it is hard to find a fertilizer agency, or cooperative among them. Usually, purchases are made from concerns that do not employ Negroes, except in a very menial capacity. Thus, neither volume of business nor the money spent has any bargaining power in the procurement of better jobs for them. An examination of the 1950 United States Census of Agriculture[53] will reveal that the purchasing power of Negro owners alone has been developed to a point where it is capable of aiding in the development of new opportunities among the group if properly managed. The pooling of purchasing power and the use of techniques of good business appear to be alternatives which may be used further in the development of situations capable of providing additional job opportunities.

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[53] United States Bureau of the Census, United States Census of Agriculture, 1950. Counties and State Economic Areas, Vol. I, (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1952), p. 30.

Arkansas

The concentration of non-white farm operators, in a somewhat crescent-shaped area extending from the north-east section of the state southward and thus across the southern third of the state, is disclosed in Figure 6. The majority of the 40,841 non-white operators resided in the thirty-five counties comprising this area. Of this number, in 1950, seventy-one percent, or 28,988 were tenants, and only 8,860 were full owners. The high proportion of tenancy became more significant when it was realized that sixty-one percent, or 17,698 were croppers. It is generally agreed that in the system of farming conducted in the Cotton Belt, croppers were at the bottom of the agricultural ladder, and usually they were in a precarious economic condition.

Farming. The counties included in the section of the state where non-white farm operators were concentrated were indicative of the area where occupational opportunities in farming prevailed. These counties are identified in Figure 6. It may be noted that three counties--Crittenden, Jefferson, and Saint Francis--had more operators per county than any of the other counties. It was also observed that there was no relationship between the total number of operators in a given county and the total number of owners. To give an example, Crittenden County had 4,549 farm operators; of this

number, only 280 were owners; whereas, Ouachita County has only 858 operators, of which 571 were owners.

The information compiled in Table XXXII seems to indicate that occupational opportunities were prevalent in agricultural production and some of the service occupations. Tabulations here show that Negroes were employed on specific jobs listed under these occupations. These facts are similar to those previously cited for Alabama which indicated that the prevalence of job opportunities in agriculture for Negroes remains in the productive phases of farming. This has been especially true in areas where cotton production predominated on a share-tenant basis. It has been recognized that the addition of machinery in farming programs has gradually brought about a change in the pattern of tenant farming. As more machinery was added, more hired help was used, which reduced or eliminated the need for share tenants. One man with a tractor and attachments often replaced the services of a dozen or more men. This situation has had some effect upon occupational opportunities in farming, in that mechanization tends to displace more Negro farmers than other farmers and created fewer jobs for them. More and more, evidence appears to justify the need for renewed attempts which would embrace the idea of encouraging more farm ownership among Negro farmers so that they will be able to remain in the business of farming. It is not unreasonable

to believe that opportunities in farming can diminish to the point where they will be governed by and made available to whomever the owner of the land recommends.

Related occupations. There has been no new evidence found in the present study which indicates the slightest change in the general pattern of employment in occupations related to agriculture. An examination of Table XXXII will provide classified information which directs attention upon many of the related fields in agriculture. Negroes found employment in the agricultural education area as county agents, teachers of vocational agriculture, teachers of general agriculture, and teachers of veterans' classes. Other than these occupations, it was noted that among the fifty-five remaining related occupations, there were only 181 instances reported in which Negroes were working on jobs which could be defined as related occupations. Eighty-four of these job situations occurred among service occupations.

The tabulations which appear in the column indicating the prevalence of employment in related occupations were reported also for Jefferson County, in which the Negro land-grant college is located. In eight instances college staff members were employed in the particular related occupations reported. This practice in reporting the prevalence

TABLE XXXII

PREVALENCE OF OCCUPATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES AND JOB DEMANDS AS REPORTED BY THIRTY-ONE NEGRO TEACHERS OF VOCATIONAL AGRICULTURE AND ELEVEN NEGRO COUNTY AGENTS: ARKANSAS 1952

	Are One or More Persons Employed on This Job in the County and/or District in Which You Work?		Are Negroes Employed on This Job in the County and/or District in Which You Work?		Is This Job Sufficiently Difficult to Demand the Services of a College Graduate in Agriculture?	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
Agri. Education						
County agri. agent	42	0	34	8	42	0
County 4-H agent	42	0	0	42	42	0
*District supv. ext. ser.	42	0	#	42	42	0
*District supv. agri. ed.	42	0	&	42	42	0
*Specialists, ext. ser.	42	0	0	42	42	0
Teacher, college agri.	10	30	4	38	42	0
Teacher, voc. agri.	42	0	39	3	42	0
Teacher, general agri.	22	20	18	24	42	0
Teacher, vet. classes	42	0	42	0	42	0
Agri. Publicity						
%Editor, agri.	23	19	2	40	42	0
Radio program director	24	18	5	37	42	0
Reporter, agri.	26	16	8	34	42	0
Agri. Research						
Director, dist. agri. exp. sta.	22	20	0	42	42	0
Research worker, agri. exp. sta.	24	18	3	39	42	0
Research worker, agri. college	22	20	4	38	42	0
Research worker, U. S. Gov.	23	19	1	41	42	0
Agri. Job U. S. Gov.						
Grading and classing spec.	25	17	0	42	42	0
Inspector agri. proc. est.	21	21	0	42	42	0
Inspector, crops, livestock	27	15	0	42	42	0

TABLE XXXII (Continued)

	Are One or More Persons Employed on This Job in the County and/or District in Which You Work?		Are Negroes Employed on This Job in the County and/or District in Which You Work?		Is This Job Sufficiently Difficult to Demand the Services of a College Graduate in Agriculture?		Is This Job Sufficiently Difficult to Demand Short-Course Training, on the Undergraduate Level, for Persons not Interested in a College Degree?	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
Other Prof. Occupations								
Agri. bacteriologist	24	18	3	39	42	0		
Agri. chemist	19	23	0	42	42	0		
Agri. economist	20	22	0	42	42	0		
Agri. engineer	20	12	0	42	42	0		
Agri. statistician	19	23	0	42	42	0		
Agronomist	20	22	0	42	42	0		
Botanist	19	23	0	42	42	0		
Forester	29	13	0	42	42	0		
Floriculturist	28	14	5	37	42	0		
Horticulturist	23	19	4	38	42	0		
Pomologist	19	23	2	40	42	0		
Veterinarian	40	2	6	36	42	0		
Agri. Production Occupations								
Animal husbandry	25	17	15	27	28	14	42	0
Apiculturist	24	18	7	35	14	28	42	0
Crop spec. farmer	30	12	13	29	14	28	42	0
Dairy farmer	33	9	21	21	23	19	42	0
Farm hand	42	0	31	11	0	42	16	26
Farm machine operator	42	0	28	14	0	42	30	12
Farm manager	3	39	19	23	24	18	42	0
Fruit and/or veg. packer	26	16	13	29	0	42	18	24
General farmer	40	2	28	14	14	28	34	0
Livestock farmer	38	4	31	11	21	21	36	6
Nursery worker	32	10	24	18	0	42	19	23
Nurseryman	34	8	29	13	25	17	42	0
Poultry farmer	36	6	20	22	24	18	42	0
Poultryman	29	13	27	15	23	19	42	0
Truck farmer	37	5	14	28	24	18	42	0

TABLE XXXII (Continued)

	Are One or More Persons Employed on This Job in the County and/or District in Which You Work?		Are Negroes Employed on This Job in the County and/or District in Which You Work?		Is This Job Sufficiently Difficult to Demand the Services of a College Graduate in Agriculture?		Is This Job Sufficiently Difficult to Demand Short-Course Training, on the Undergraduate Level, for Persons not Interested in a College Degree?	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
Agri. Ser. Occupations								
Custom workers								
Combining	24	18	14	28	5	37	42	0
Feed grinding	30	12	9	33	1	41	42	0
Hay baling	29	13	16	26	2	40	42	0
Peanut picking	29	13	3	39	0	42	28	14
Farm mechanic	33	9	15	27	23	19	42	0
Landscape caretaker	32	10	11	31	0	42	42	0
Milk tester	26	16	4	38	6	36	42	0
Sprayer, barns, etc.	31	11	6	36	2	40	42	0
Welder (traveling)	20	22	6	36	2	40	42	0
Purchasing, Mfg. and Distb. Farm Products								
Livestock and livestock produce buyer	21	21	7	35	9	33	42	0
Manager								
Canning plant	24	18	2	40	8	34	42	0
Processing plant poultry and milk	32	10	3	39	10	32	42	0
Freezing plant	28	14	3	39	11	31	42	0
Staple crop buyer	38	4	5	37	12	30	42	0
Veg. and/or fruit buyer	27	15	6	36	5	27	42	0

TABLE XXXII (Continued)

	Are One or More Persons Employed on This Job in the County and/or District in Which You Work?		Are Negroes Employed on This Job in the County and/or District in Which You Work?		Is This Job Sufficiently Difficult to Demand the Services of a College Graduate in Agriculture?		Is This Job Sufficiently Difficult to Demand Short-Course Training, on the Under-graduate Level, for Persons not Interested in a College Degree?	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
Mfg. and Selling Products to Farmers								
Com. feed dealer	36	6	0	42	8	34	42	0
Farm machinery dealer	38	4	3	39	5	37	42	0
Farm machinery salesman	36	6	5	37	7	35	42	0
Fertilizer dealer	38	4	1	37	10	32	42	0
Hatchery operator	29	13	5	37	25	17	42	0
Nursery stock salesman	26	16	1	41	0	42	42	0
Purebred livestock grower	32	10	4	38	15	27	42	0
Seed grower	32	10	6	36	11	33	42	0
Seed salesman	36	6	3	39	2	40	42	0

*This item was answered yes or no on the basis of whether one or more persons from the State Department of Education and/or the Cooperative Extension Service were assigned to serve the district which included the county in which the teacher of vocational agriculture and/or the county agent were at work.

#One Negro district county agent.

&One Negro assistant supervisor agricultural education.

%Editor of an agricultural journal and/or a weekly farm section in the local newspaper.

of Negroes employed in the professional jobs tended to show the presence of employment situations which ordinarily would not exist if it were not for college employment.

Regional job opportunities. The economic areas of the state, as outlined in the 1950 United States Census of Agriculture, are used synonymously with the word regional. Figure 5 represents a reppoduction of the economic areas according to counties. It was noted that occupational opportunities for Negroes apparently were contingent upon the density of the Negro farm operators in each area. In the economic areas in which there were large numbers of farm operators, customary jobs such as those connected with crop production and agricultural education were prevalent. The general distribution of non-white farm operators and owners may be seen in Figures 6 and 7. A comparative examination of these figures and Figure 5 will provide relevant information on farm operators and owners according to state economic areas. It was found that Area 8a and Jefferson County in Area 8b were the heaviest populated areas with both operators and owners. Area 8a in 1950 had 15,515 non-white farm operators, of which 1,687 were full owners. Jefferson County, located in Area 8b, had 3,345 operators in 1950, of which 591 were full owners.

New job opportunities. The paucity of new job opportunities among Negroes was significant in view of the fact

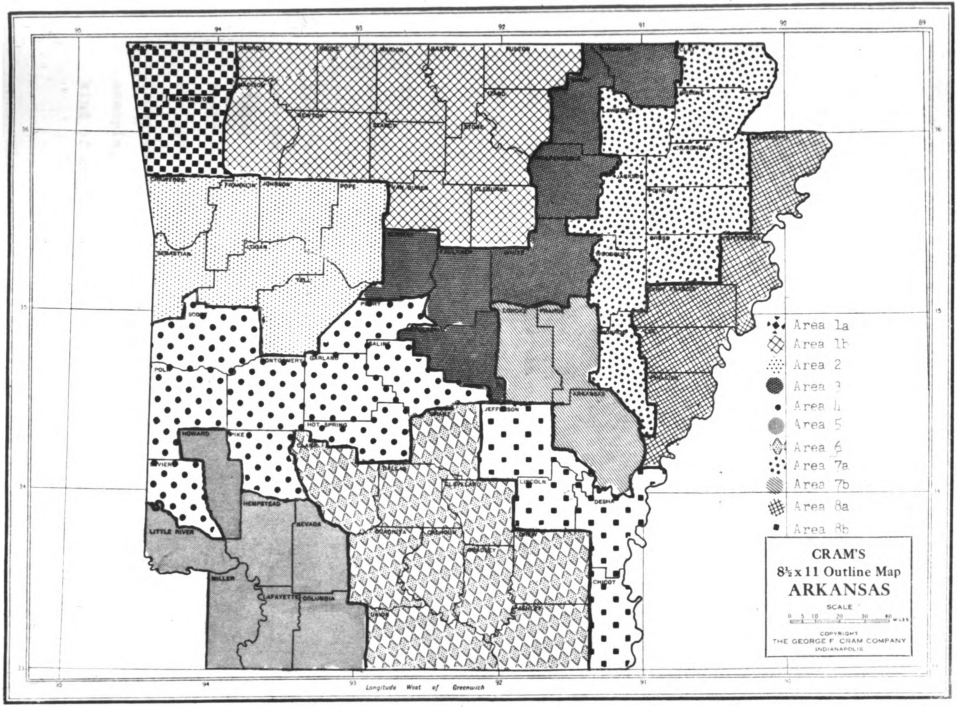

Fig. 5 State Economic Areas 1-8

that employment situations were increased because of newly developed industries such as freezer lockers, broiler plants, and canning plants. The county agents and/or teachers of agriculture who completed and returned questionnaires reported that the new job opportunities among Negroes of which they were aware were teachers of veterans' classes in the program of on-the-farm training, initiated for veterans who had served in World War II, welders, sprayers of barns and orchards, and freezing and processing plant operators.

In agriculture, since the turn of the century, Negro farmers have been relegated by design, in many instances, to the productive phases of cash crops--mostly cotton. Under this sytem, seemingly, the Negro has not had the temerity to venture into the related occupations, except those that were provided for him. These have been, for the most part, in the field of education as teachers of vocational agriculture and county farm agents. New job opportunities in related fields to agriculture have meant little toward providing employment opportunities for the excess or displaced Negro farm population. Equally as noticeable as the lack of new job opportunities was the lack of enterprises among Negroes themselves that would create new jobs. To give an example, not one of the forty-two respondents listed any kind of cooperatives nor enterprises that had been developed

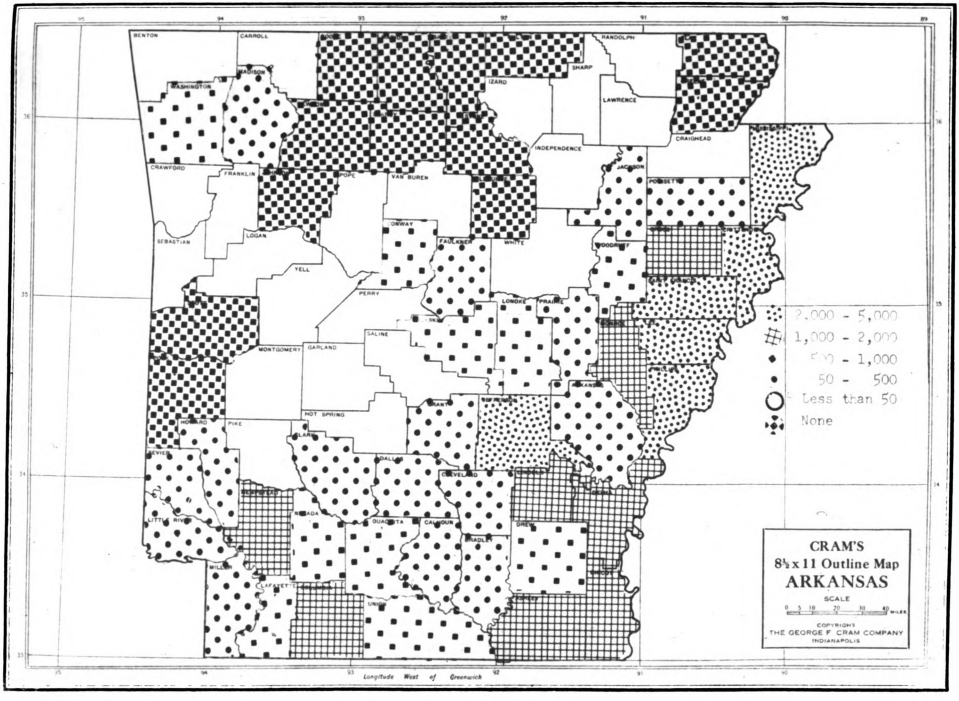

Fig. Distribution of Non-White Farm Operators 1950

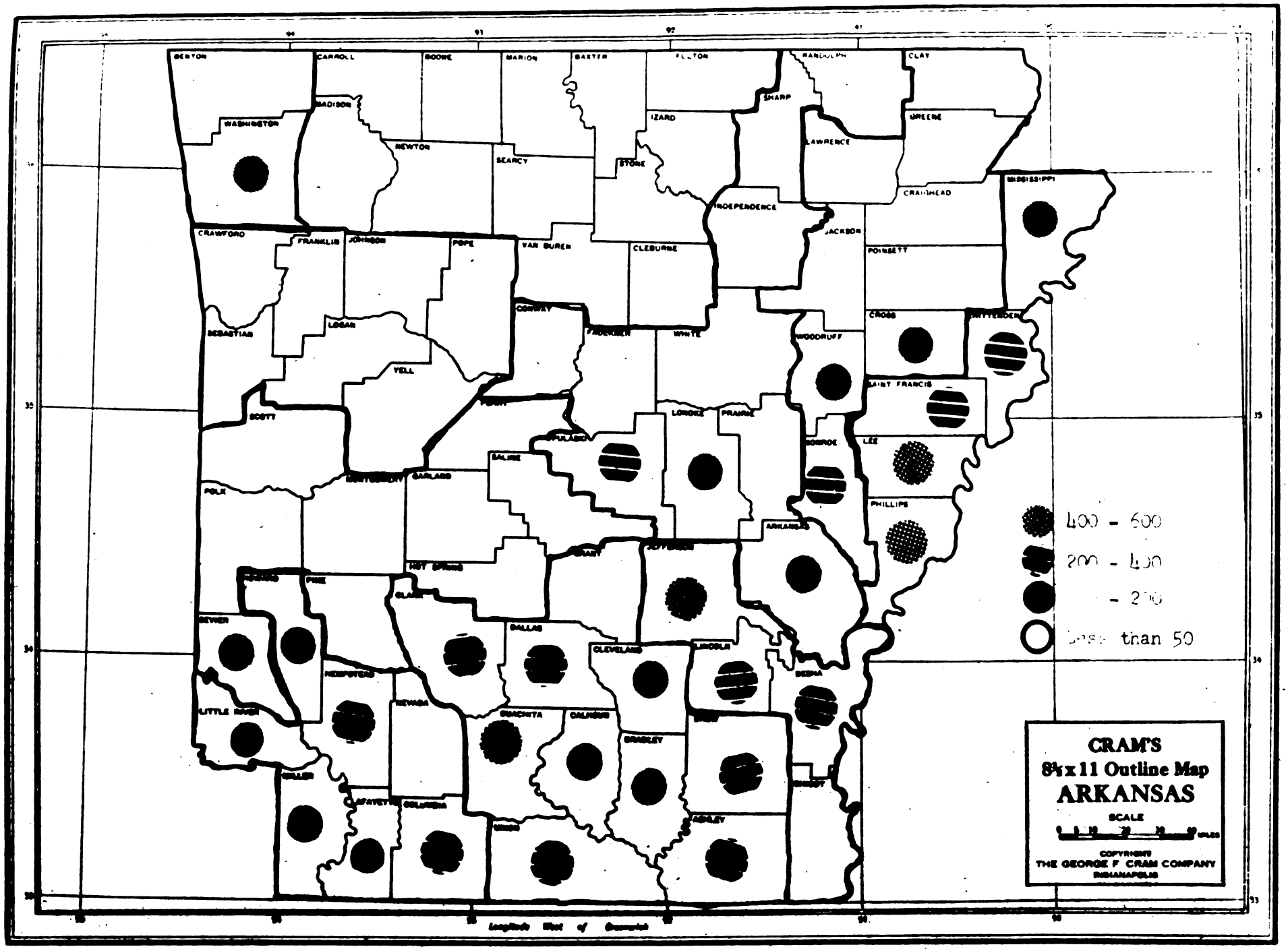

Fig. 7 Distribution of Non-White Farm Owners by Counties and Economic Areas 1950

among Negroes since 1944 which provided new job opportunities for them.

Mississippi

The largest contingent--53.5 percent, or 176,425--of the 329,482 gainfully employed Negroes in 1950 was engaged in agriculture. Non-white farm operators were farming in each of the eighty-two counties of the state. The range among the counties was from twenty-five operators in Hancock County in the southern part of the state, to 7,232 operators in Bolivar, one of the Delta Counties. Non-white, full owners ranked from a minimum of twenty-three in Hancock County to a maximum of 808 in Holmes County. The total number of non-white operators in 1950 was 123,089, of which 23,293 were full owners.

Farming. The prevalence of work opportunities in farming in shown in Table XXXIII. It was noted that the most prevalent job situation prevailed among the agricultural productive occupations under the classification of farm hands, farm machine operators, and general farmers. This table also indicated flexibility in the accessibility of the productive occupations. More pointed, it was apparent that employment was possible for Negroes in all the areas of productive phases of farming. In Mississippi, as in the other states of the selected area, the prevalence of employment opportunities

in agriculture has rested in the productive phases of this industry. A possible explanation of the causation of this fact may be found in the pattern that has existed through the years by which the Negro farmer has had to work his way onto and thus up the agricultural ladder. The system of farming under which he has received his training was predominantly a one-crop system in which his role was that of a producer. The training received under this system appeared to have conditioned many of these farmers for the acceptance of only the conventional role of a cotton farmer in a one-crop system. In contrast to the one-crop system of farming, some of the farmers on the highest rounds of the agricultural ladder, nevertheless, were flexible enough to change and become engaged in diversified farming. Furthermore, some of these farmers have been versatile enough to make the transition from one type of farming to another.

Related occupations. The most striking revelation of Table XXXIII was the paucity of occupational opportunities in related occupations for Negroes. It was noted that the most prevalent job situations prevailed in the educational occupations in the form of teachers of vocational agriculture, teachers of veterans' classes, teachers of college agriculture, teachers of general agriculture, and county agricultural agents. These were the related occupations for which a college degree in agriculture was necessary in order

to qualify for employment. Thus, these occupations represent the kind of employment situations in which the Negro agricultural college graduate finds employment. An inspection of the related occupations classified under the tital "Other Professional Occupations," Table XXXIII, will show that Negroes were employed in thirty-three instances among six of these occupations. On the other hand, among the remaining forty-three related occupations classified under other titles, 373 instances occurred in which Negroes were known to be employed; 249 of these instances appeared among the "Agricultural Service Occupations." It was noted that only one employment situation for Negroes was reported under the title "Agricultural Research." Moreover, there were no Negroes employed on government jobs, such as grading and classing specialists, inspections of agricultural products, and inspectors of crop and livestock.

Regional job opportunities. The scarcity of related occupations among Negro agricultural workers almost eliminated the possibility of a classification according to state areas. Nevertheless, it was observed that the counties which maintain large segments of farm operators were the ones that also provided employment for teachers of agriculture and county agents. An outline of the economic areas of the state, which is comparable to state regions, is shown in Figure 8. The distribution of farm operators and full owners is pictured

TABLE XXXIII

PREVALENCE OF OCCUPATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES AND JOB DEMANDS AS REPORTED BY NINETY-EIGHT NEGRO TEACHERS OF VOCATIONAL AGRICULTURE AND THIRTY-NINE NEGRO COUNTY AGENTS: MISSISSIPPI 1952

	Are One or More Persons Employed on This Job in the County and/or District in Which You Work?		Are Negroes Employed on This Job in the County and/or District in Which You Work?		Is This Job Sufficiently Difficult to Demand the Services of a College Graduate in Agriculture	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
Agri. Education						
County agri. agent	137	0	92	45	137	0
County 4-H agent	137	0	&	&	137	0
*District supv. ext. ser.	137	0	#	#	137	0
*District supv. agri. ed.	137	0	0	137	137	0
*Specialists, ext. ser.	137	0	0	137	137	0
Teacher, college agri.	25	112	14	123	137	0
Teacher, voc. agri.	137	0	129	8	137	0
Teacher, general agri.	32	105	17	120	137	0
Teacher, vet. classes	35	102	35	102	137	0
Agri. Publicity						
Editor, agri.	99	38	0	137	137	0
Radio program director	55	82	0	137	137	0
Reporter, agri.	77	60	0	137	137	0
Agri. Research						
Director, dist. agri. exp. sta.	137	0	0	137	137	0
Research worker, agri. exp. sta.	137	0	0	137	137	0
Research worker, agri. college	15	122	1	136	137	0
Research worker, U. S. Gov.	58	79	0	137	137	0
Agri. Job U. S. Gov.						
Grading and classing spec.	74	63	0	137	137	0
Inspector agri. proc. est.	85	52	0	137	137	0
Inspector, crops, livestock	98	39	0	137	137	0

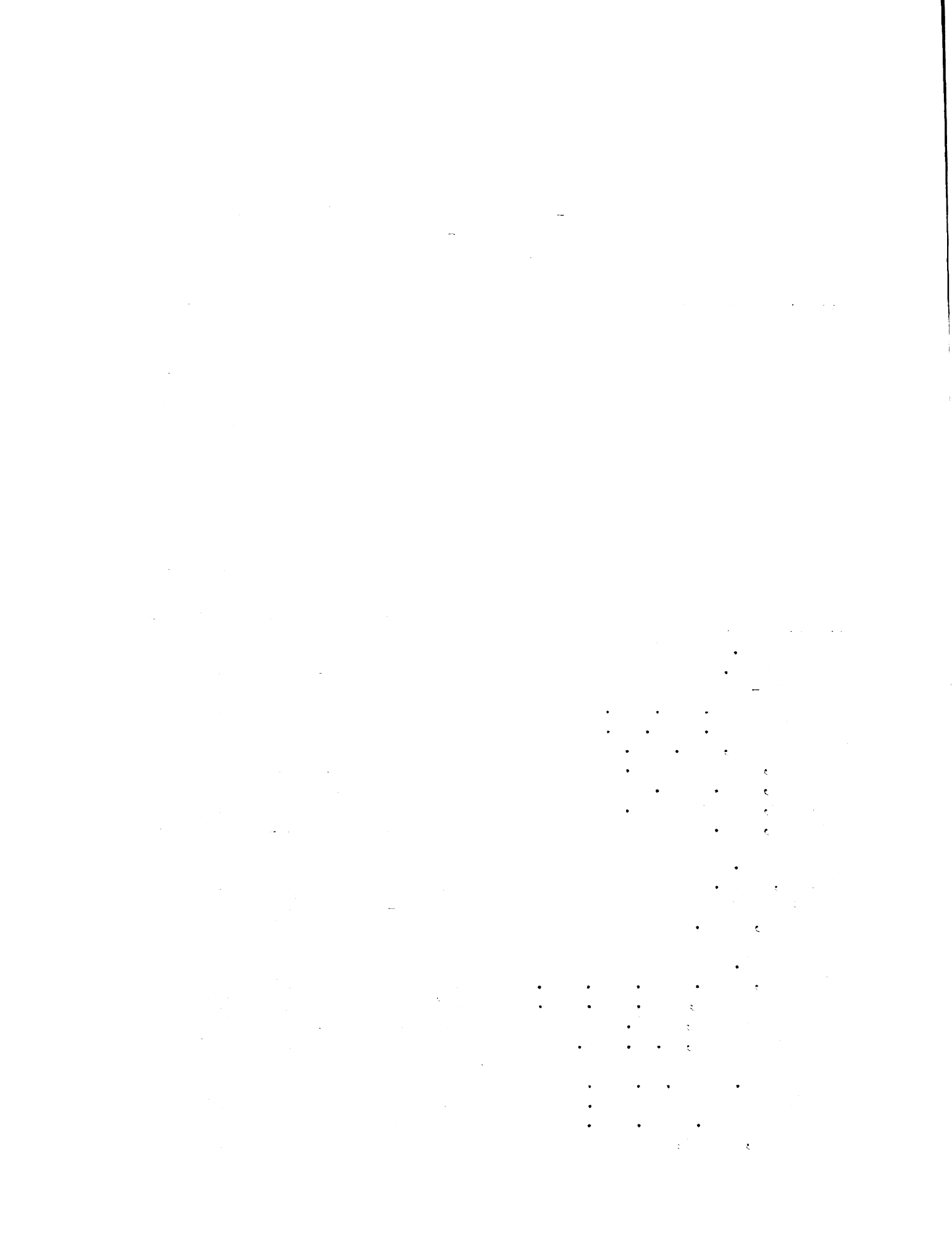

TABLE XXXIII (Continued)

	Are One or More Persons Employed on This Job in the County and/or District in Which You Work?		Are Negroes Employed on This Job in the County and/or District in Which You Work?		Is This Job Sufficiently Difficult to Demand the Services of a College Graduate in Agriculture?		Is This Job Sufficiently Difficult to Demand Short-Course Training, on the Undergraduate Level, for Persons not Interested in a College Degree?	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
Other Prof. Occupations								
Agri. bacteriologist	82	55	0	137	137	0		
Agri. chemist	57	80	0	137	137	0		
Agri. economist	93	44	0	137	137	0		
Agri. engineer	99	38	0	137	137	0		
Agri. statistician	93	44	0	137	137	0		
Agronomist	107	30	1	136	137	0		
Botanist	109	28	4	133	137	0		
Forester	112	25	0	137	137	0		
Floriculturist	117	20	6	131	132	5		
Horticulturist	80	57	12	125	137	0		
Pomologist	77	60	4	133	137	0		
Veterinarian	129	8	6	131	137	0		
Agri. Production Occupations								
Animal husbandry	87	50	9	128	131	6	137	0
Apiculturist	56	81	7	130	24	113	120	17
Crop spec. farmer	68	69	11	126	91	46	137	0
Dairy farmer	98	39	36	101	103	34	128	9
Farm hand	127	10	96	41	0	137	39	98
Farm machine operator	108	29	89	48	0	137	134	3
Farm manager	94	43	60	77	111	26	137	0
Fruit and/or veg. packer	66	71	26	111	0	137	80	57
General farmer	104	33	73	64	70	67	137	0
Livestock farmer	104	33	63	74	92	45	137	0
Nursery worker	78	59	31	106	0	137	27	110
Nurseryman	67	70	17	120	97	40	137	0
Poultry farmer	85	52	41	96	90	47	137	0
Poultryman	72	65	24	113	104	33	137	0
Truck farmer	37	54	46	91	122	15	137	0

TABLE XXXIII (Continued)

	Are One or More Persons Employed on This Job in the County and/or District in Which You Work?		Are Negroes Employed on This Job in the County and/or District in Which You Work?		Is This Job Sufficiently Difficult to Demand the Services of a College Graduate in Agriculture?		Is This Job Sufficiently Difficult to Demand the Short-Course Training, on the Undergraduate Level, for Persons not Interested in a College Degree?	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
Agri. Ser. Occupations								
Custom workers								
Combining	97	40	32	105	0	137	137	0
Feed grinding	100	37	37	100	0	137	137	0
Hay baling	106	31	44	93	0	137	137	0
Peanut picking	52	85	14	123	0	137	78	59
Farm mechanic	94	43	44	93	94	43	137	0
Landscape caretaker	70	67	22	115	0	137	137	0
Milk tester	87	50	13	127	30	107	137	0
Sprayer, barns, etc.	90	47	22	115	0	137	137	0
Welder (traveling)	75	62	21	116	0	137	137	0
Purchasing, Mfg. and Distb. Farm Products								
Livestock and livestock product buyer	82	55	27	110	14	123	137	0
Manager								
Canning plant	88	49	12	125	30	107	137	0
Processing plant poultry and milk	91	46	2	135	56	81	137	0
Freezing plant	94	43	6	131	18	119	137	0
Staple crop buyer	106	31	15	122	39	98	137	0
Veg. and/or fruit buyer	83	54	5	132	12	125	137	0

TABLE XXXIII (Continued)

	Are One or More Persons Employed on This Job in the County and/or District in Which You Work?		Are Negroes Employed on This Job in the County and/or District in Which You Work?		Is This Job Sufficiently Difficult to Demand the Services of a College Graduate in Agriculture?		Is This Job Sufficiently Difficult to Demand the Short-Course Training, on the Under-graduate Level, for Persons not Interested in a College Degree?	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
Mfg. and Selling Products to Farmers								
Com. feed dealer	134	3	0	137	65	72	137	0
Farm machinery dealer	134	3	1	136	45	92	128	9
Farm machinery salesman	133	4	0	137	38	99	123	14
Fertilizer dealer	137	0	7	130	45	92	137	0
Hatchery operator	118	19	4	133	70	67	137	0
Nursery stock salesman	112	25	8	129	20	117	108	29
Purebred livestock grower	120	17	14	123	92	45	137	0
Seed grower	112	25	12	125	71	66	137	0
Seed salesman	122	14	11	126	30	107	108	20

*This item was answered yes or no on the basis of whether one or more persons from the State Department of Education and/or the Cooperative Extension Service were assigned to serve the district which included the county in which the teacher of vocational agriculture and/or the county agent were at work.

&Two Negro boys' club agents.

#One Negro county agent leader.

%Editor of an agricultural journal and/or a weekly farm section in the local newspaper.

in Figures 9 and 10. A comparative study of these two figures and Figure 8, reveals that four counties--Coahoma, Bolivar, Sunflower, and Lefore--in Area One had the highest number of Negro farm operators. The range was from 7,232 in Bolivar County to 5,162 in Lefore County. It was significant to note that these four counties also had the highest number of tenants in the state on a per-county basis. Thus, it was assumed that since the predominant portion of occupational opportunities in agriculture was in farming, the job opportunities coincide with the areas that provided farm employment. Continuing, Areas Three, Five, 6a and 6b, showed considerable concentration of operators in the group, ranging from 1,000 to 3,000 in number. The sparsely inhabited areas, as far as Negro operators were concerned, were Areas Four, Seven, and Eight; the total was less than 100 operators each in seven of the seventeen counties in these areas. The range in the ten remaining counties was from 100 to 500 operators per county,

The highest concentration of full owners was located in the mid-southwestern counties, mostly in Areas Two, Three, and 6a. There were full owners among Negroes in each county of the state. Noticeable, however, was the disproportionate number of full owners in Area One, in comparison with full ownership in the other areas of the state. Collectively, the possibilities of farm ownership were greatest in Areas Three, 6a, and 6b.

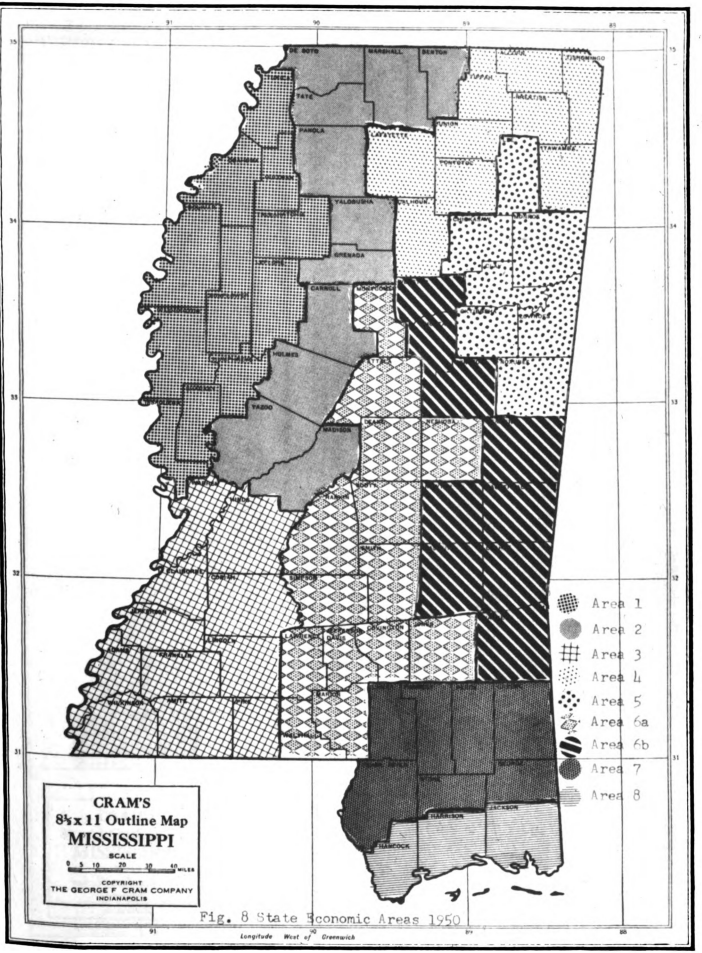

Fig. 8 State Economic Areas 1950

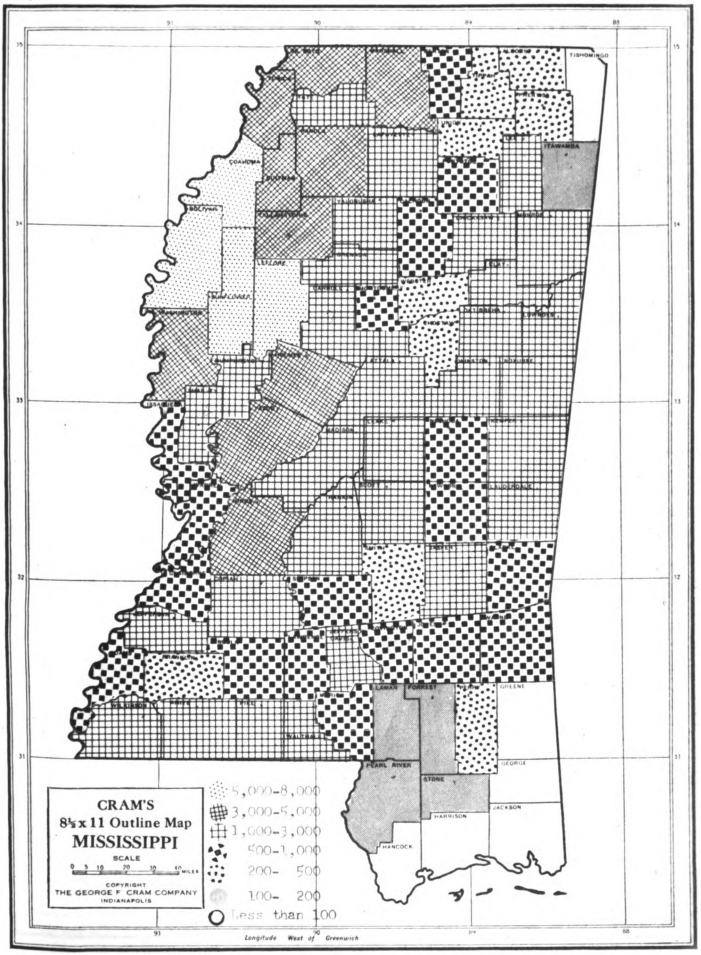

Fig. 9 Distribution of Non-White Farm Operators, 1950

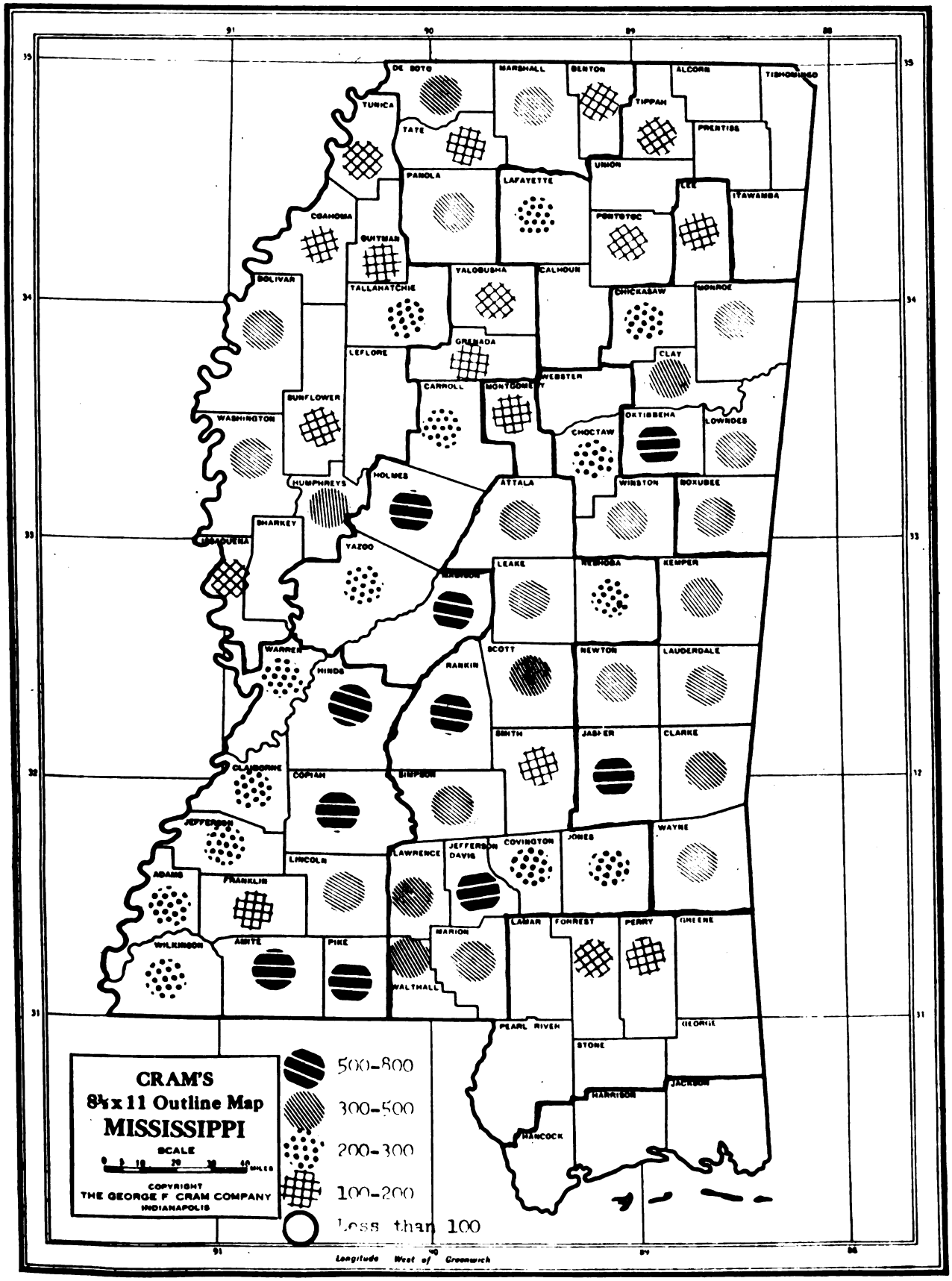

Fig. 10 Distribution of Non-White Farm Owners by Counties and Economic Areas 1950

New job opportunities. The occupations for which respondents had observed new job opportunities in which Negroes participated were teachers of veterans' classes, sprayers of barns and orchards, welders, and canning plant, freezing plant, and processing plant operators. The largest number--thirty-five--of employment situations for a single occupation occurred in the "teacher of veterans" category. Whereas, among the other six occupations, fifty-three instances were observed in which Negroes had secured employment on these occupations.

Tennessee

The most prevalent employment opportunities realized by the 195,643 gainfully employed Negroes during 1950 were in personal service, manufacturing and construction, agriculture, and the trades. Percentage-wise, employment in these occupations was 25.9 percent, 20.2 percent, 19.4 percent, and 16.2 percent, respectively. The four above occupational groups provided work situations for 81.9 percent of all gainfully employed Negroes.

Farming. The agricultural productive occupations particularized in Table XXXIV are comparable to farming. The general prevalence of participation in these farming occupations denotes tendency toward diversification in farming

opportunities. In addition to the usual pattern of crop production (cotton as the cash crop) it was noted that farming opportunities were somewhat prevalent in dairying, livestock, and poultry. It is highly probable that a number of cotton farmers was classified as livestock or dairy farmers by the respondents.

A classification of non-white farm operators which was made through the use of census data is shown in Figure 12. There were 24,061 non-white farm operators in the state in 1950, of which 4,850 were full owners. The total number of tenants was 17,065, of which 9,274 were croppers. It was noted that, for the most part, the concentration of non-white farm operators was in the cotton-producing areas. Add to this the fact that the majority of the operators were tenants, the situation seems to revert to the proverbial premise that Negro farmers were predominately engaged in cotton production.

Occupational opportunities in farming for agricultural college graduates seem to be contingent upon two main factors: on the one hand, whether there is a home farm capable of supporting another farmer--the returning graduate--and on the other hand, whether the graduate will be able to secure a job from which enough money may be accumulated in order to enter farming. Currently, in both of these situations the Negro graduates face great odds--usually the home farm

is too small to accommodate an additional farmer, and the remuneration which is likely to be received from a job will, in all probability, be too meager to allow them to enter farming. The alternative of entering farming by way of ascending the agricultural ladder is almost completely out of the picture because of the high capital requirement necessary for successful farming.

Related occupations. Freedom to enter the related occupations does not prevail among Negroes. Partly for this reason the prevalence of employment in related fields as reported in Table XXXIV was almost nil, with the exception of the jobs which occurred under the heading "agricultural education occupations." In this group the majority of the jobs were reported under the title "teachers of vocational agriculture and county agents." Although employment had been secured in these occupations, the number of job possibilities was relatively small because of the scarcity of total positions. To give an example, there were only thirteen Negro county agents and forty-two teachers of vocational agriculture employed in the state.

Regional job opportunities. In order to make possible a comparative study of the regions, the Economic Areas as outlined in the 1950 United States Census of Agriculture were chosen. These areas are portrayed in Figure 11. Likewise,

TABLE XXXIV

PREVALENCE OF OCCUPATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES AND JOB DEMANDS AS REPORTED BY TWENTY-NINE NEGRO TEACHERS OF VOCATIONAL AGRICULTURE AND SIX NEGRO COUNTY AGENTS: TENNESSEE 1952

	Are One or More Persons Employed on This Job in the County and/or District in Which You Work?		Are Negroes Employed on This Job in the County and/or District in Which You Work?		Is This Job Sufficiently Difficult to Demand the Services of a College Graduate in Agriculture?	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
Agri. Education						
County agri. agent	35	0	21	14	35	0
County 4-H agent	35	0	0	35	35	0
*District supv. ext. ser.	35	0	#	35	35	0
*District supv. agri. ed.	35	0	0	35	35	0
*Specialists, ext. ser.	35	0	0	35	35	0
Teacher, college agri.	15	20	5	30	35	0
Teacher, voc. agri.	35	0	35	0	35	0
Teacher, general agri.	10	25	6	29	35	0
Teacher, vet. classes	31	4	31	4	35	0
Agri. Publicity						
%Editor, agri.	30	5	0	35	35	0
Radio program director	24	19	3	32	35	0
Reporter, agri.	29	6	0	35	35	0
Agri. Research						
Director, dist. agri. exp. sta.	35	0	0	35	35	0
Research worker, agri. exp. sta.	35	0	0	35	35	0
Research worker, agri. college	5	30	2	33	35	0
Research worker, U. S. Gov.	20	15	0	35	35	0
Agri. Job U. S. Gov.						
Grading and classing spec.	35	0	0	35	35	0
Inspector agri. proc. est.	35	0	0	35	35	0
Inspector, crops, livestock	35	0	0	35	35	0

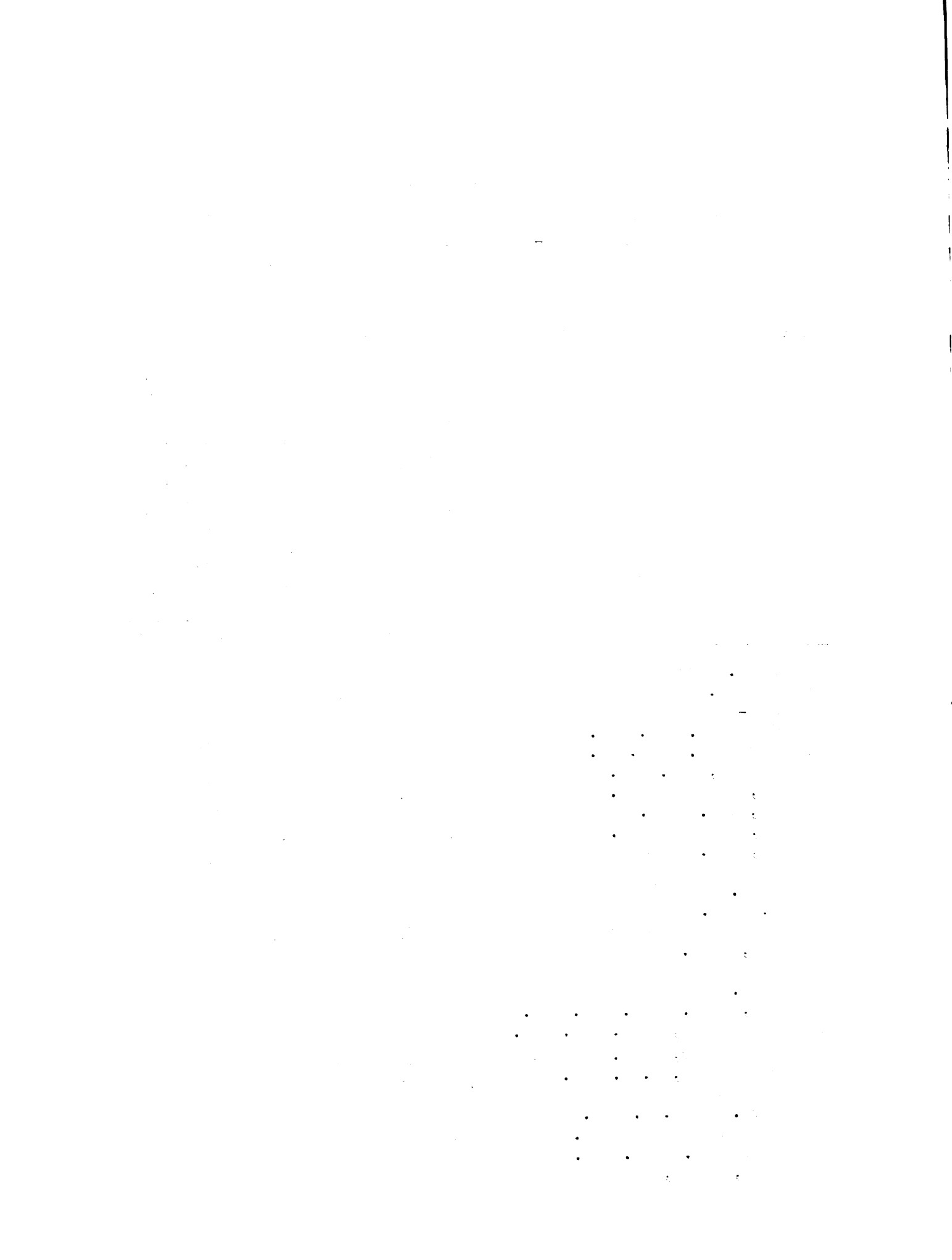

TABLE XXXIV (Continued)

	Are One or More Persons Employed on This Job in the County and/or District in Which You Work?		Are Negroes Employed on This Job in the County and/or District in Which You Work?		Is This Job Sufficiently Difficult to Demand the Services of a College Graduate in Agriculture?		Is This Job Sufficiently Difficult to Demand Short-Course Training, on the Undergraduate Level, for Persons not Interested in a College Degree?	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
Other Prof. Occupations								
Agri. bacteriologist	22	13	1	34	35	0		
Agri. chemist	16	19	1	34	35	0		
Agri. economist	15	20	1	34	35	0		
Agri. engineer	16	19	1	34	35	0		
Agri. statistician	17	18	1	34	35	0		
Agronomist	18	17	1	34	35	0		
Botanist	13	22	0	35	35	0		
Forester	20	15	1	34	35	0		
Floriculturist	16	19	5	30	35	0		
Horticulturist	14	21	1	34	35	0		
Pomologist	9	26	1	34	35	0		
Veterinarian	29	6	2	33	35	0		
Agri. Production Occupations								
Animal husbandry	23	12	12	23	18	17	35	0
Apiculturist	18	17	5	30	3	32	35	0
Crop spec. farmer	20	15	6	29	13	22	35	0
Dairy farmer	27	8	16	19	17	18	35	0
Farm hand	35	0	35	0	0	35	15	20
Farm machine operator	35	0	32	3	0	35	30	5
Farm manager	28	7	12	23	19	16	35	0
Fruit and/or veg. packer	23	12	17	18	0	35	5	30
General farmer	35	0	26	9	15	20	35	0
Livestock farmer	29	6	26	9	11	24	35	0
Nursery worker	20	15	11	24	0	35	6	29
Nurseryman	17	18	7	28	12	23	35	0
Poultry farmer	25	10	14	21	14	21	35	0
Poultryman	18	17	9	26	16	19	35	0
Truck farmer	28	7	20	15	24	11	35	0

TABLE XXXIV (Continued)

	Are One or More Persons Employed on This Job in the County and/or District in Which You Work?		Are Negroes Employed on This Job in the County and/or District in Which You Work?		Is This Job Sufficiently Difficult to Demand the Services of a College Graduate in Agriculture?		Is This Job Sufficiently Difficult to Demand Short-Course Training, on the Undergraduate Level, for Persons not Interested in a College Degree?	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
Agri. Ser. Occupations								
Custom workers								
Combining	26	9	20	15	0	35	20	15
Feed grinding	29	6	23	12	0	35	10	25
Hay baling	31	4	25	10	0	35	6	29
Peanut picking	5	30	0	35	0	35	0	31
Farm mechanic	28	7	15	20	17	18	35	0
Landscape caretaker	19	16	8	27	0	35	35	0
Milk tester	20	15	3	32	6	29	35	0
Sprayer, barns, etc.	28	7	17	18	0	35	35	0
Welder (traveling)	23	12	7	28	0	35	35	0
Purchasing, Mfg. and Distb. Farm Products								
Livestock and livestock product buyer	31	4	13	22	8	27	35	0
Manager								
Canning plant	23	12	9	26	6	29	35	0
Processing plant poultry and milk	28	7	6	29	12	23	35	0
Freezing plant	21	13	6	29	7	28	35	0
Staple crop buyer	33	2	10	25	15	20	35	0
Veg. and/or fruit buyer	24	11	3	32	5	30	35	0

TABLE XXXIV (Continued)

	Are One or More Persons Employed on This Job in the County and/or District in Which You Work?		Are Negroes Employed on This Job in the County and/or District in Which You Work?		Is This Job Sufficiently Difficult to Demand the Services of a College Graduate in Agriculture?		Is This Job Sufficiently Difficult to Demand Short-Course Training, on the Under-graduate Level, for Persons not Interested in a College Degree?	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
Mfg. and Selling Products to Farmers								
Com. feed dealer	35	0	0	35	8	27	35	0
Farm machinery dealer	35	0	1	34	7	28	35	0
Farm machinery salesman	35	0	0	35	6	29	35	0
Fertilizer dealer	35	0	0	35	5	30	35	0
Hatchery operator	20	15	1	34	17	18	35	0
Nursery stock salesman	23	12	2	33	5	30	20	15
Purebred livestock grower	26	9	3	32	21	14	35	0
Seed grower	25	10	2	33	5	30	35	0
Seed salesman	35	0	0	35	5	30	15	20

*This item was answered yes or no on the basis of whether one or more persons from the State Department of Education and/or the Cooperative Extension Service were assigned to serve the district which included the county in which the teacher of vocational agriculture and/or the county agent were at work.

#One Negro assistant state agent, extension service.

%Editor of an agricultural journal and/or a weekly section in the local newspaper.

the distribution of non-white farm operators and owners is shown in Figures 12 and 13, respectively. A comparison of these figures provides the basis for determining the economic areas in which non-white farmers were employed. It is observed that in Economic Area One, seven of the southwest counties had from 1,000 to 3,615 non-white operators. Five of these seven counties also had the highest number of full owners in an area. The range was from 434 in Shelby County to 205 in Tipton County. Continuing, Areas Four and Five showed the second highest concentration of non-white operators; the range was from 100 to 600 operators. Only one county--Rutherford--in Areas Four and Five had as many as 200 non-white owners. It was noted that five contiguous counties to Area One in Area Two had from 100 to 340 operators. A total of fifty-seven counties had less than 100 non-white farm o erators, and eight counties did not have any.

These facts apparently point out the areas in which non-white farmers were employed in farming. Consequently, these were the areas where the majority of the job opportunities were found in the types of farming peculiar to the particular locality. This type of farming was predominately one in which cotton was the major crop. It is recognized that Area Four was a tobacco-producing area; whereas, in Area Five cotton, tobacco, corn, and small grains were produced.

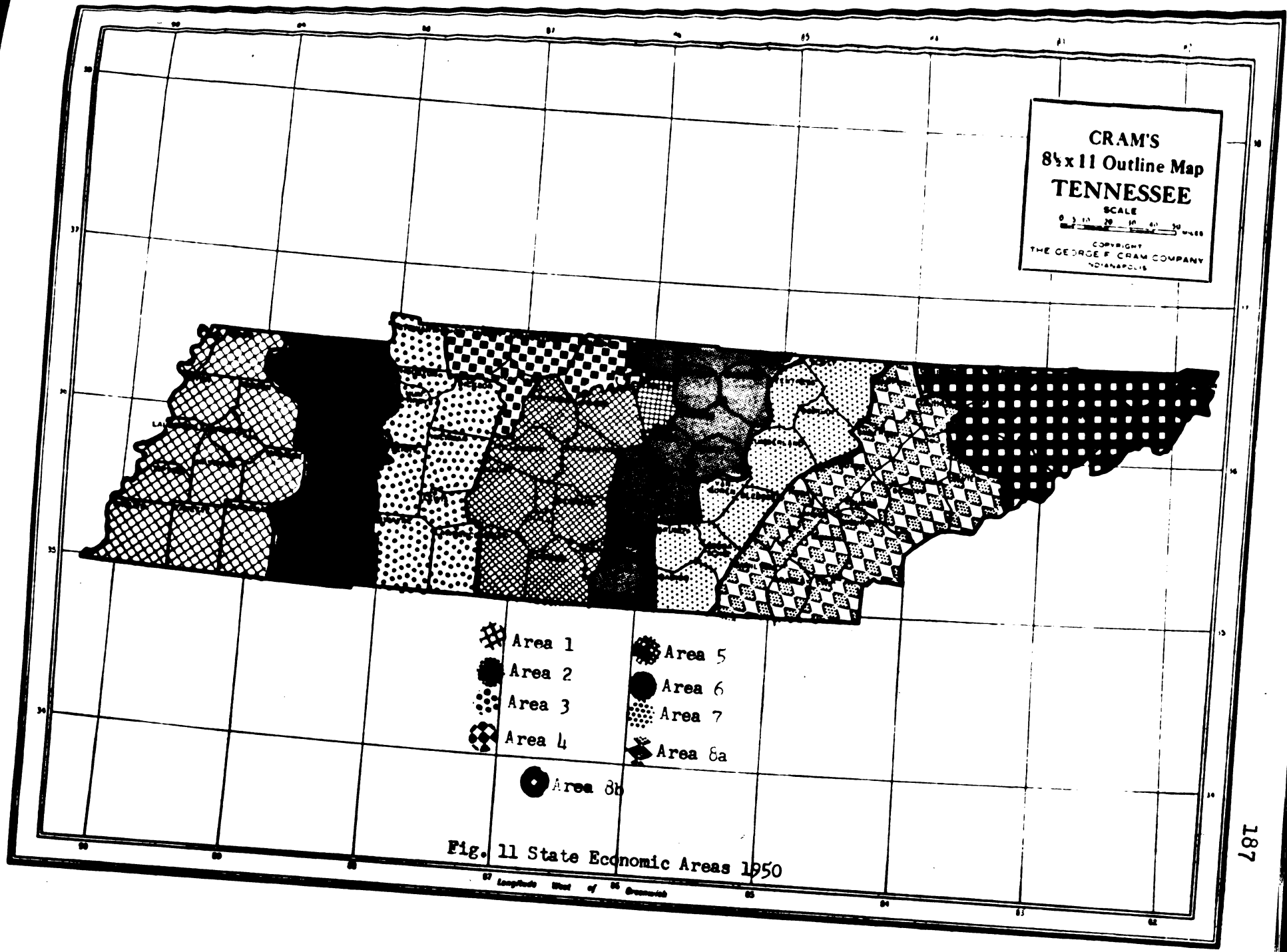

Fig. 11 State Economic Areas 1950

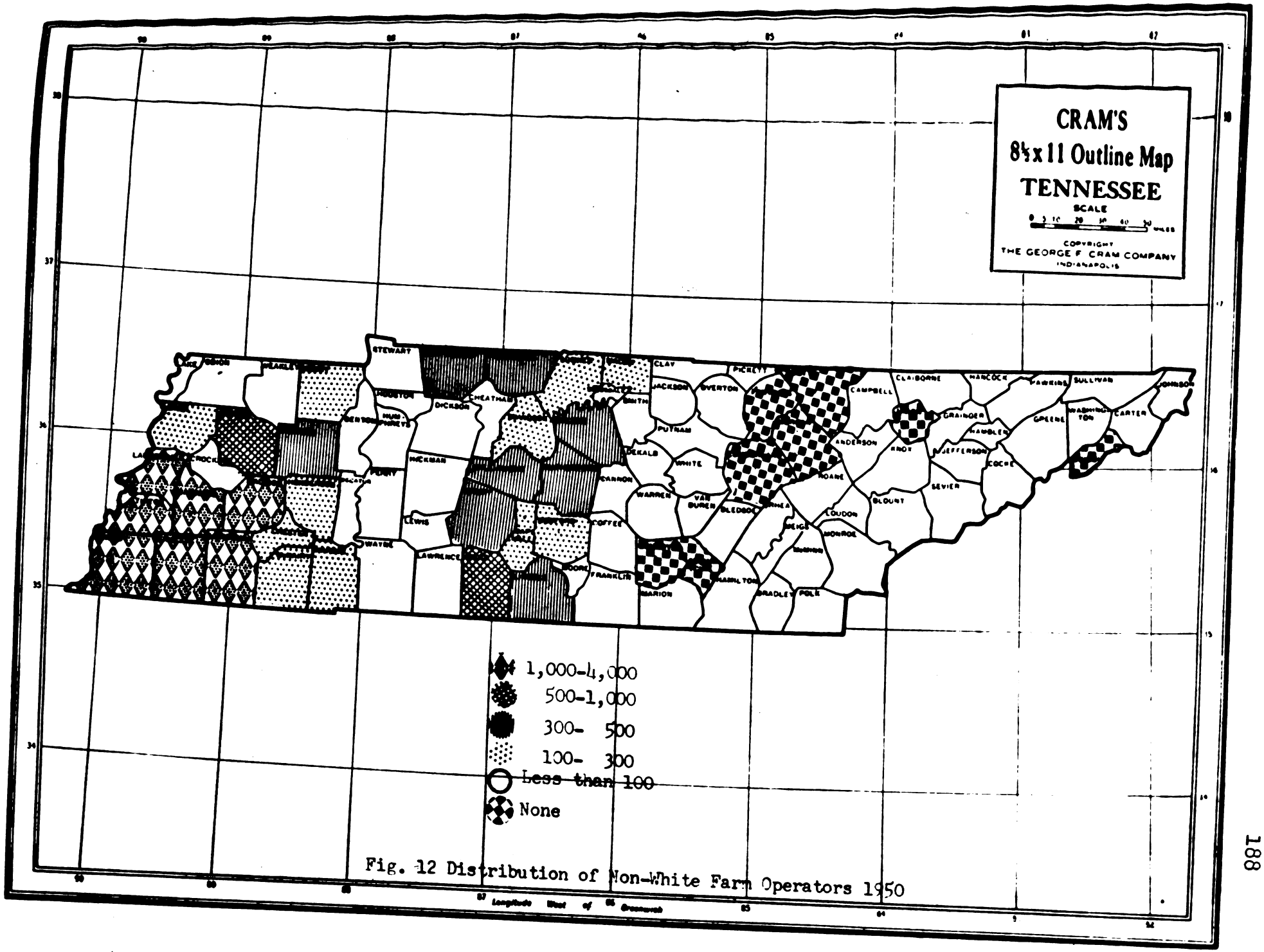

Fig. 12 Distribution of Non-White Farm Operators 1950

The related occupations, such as, teacher of vocational agriculture, teacher of veterans' classes, teacher of general agriculture, college teacher of agriculture and county agricultural agent were restricted to the areas in which the non-white farm operators were employed.

New job opportunities. In Tennessee, as in the other states in the selected area the respondents reported that they knew of only six new job opportunities in agriculture on which Negroes had been employed since 1944. These jobs were identified as teacher of veterans' classes, welder of farm implements, sprayer of barns and orchards, canning plant, processing plant, and freezing plant managers. Among these occupations seventy-six employment situations for Negroes were observed by the respondents.

Similarities and Differences in Occupational Opportunities in the Selected Area

The striking similarity which existed in patterns of occupational opportunities in agriculture for Negroes from region to region and from state to state within the selected area is significant to observe. A comparative inspection of Tables XXXI, XXXII, XXXIII, and XXXIV will focus attention upon this point. Uniformity existed, on the one hand, in that the same types of jobs were available throughout the

area; whereas, on the other hand, certain types of jobs were categorically unavailable to Negro workers. In general, occupational opportunities in education, at the teaching level, were available so long as they were restricted to the Negro population. Quite apart from this however, Negroes were not generally employed on jobs that would place them in a supervisory capacity. Nor were they generally employed on jobs that tended to place them on equal standing with employees of the white race, when it was necessary for both races to work together.

Again, occupational opportunities seemed to have been uniformly categorized in the selected area among Negro farmers; they were, for the most part, cotton farmers who worked as hired hands, tractor operators, and croppers. Of course, the 50,250 Negro farm owners had the privilege of determining their farming operations and thus affecting their occupational opportunities in farming.

Although similarities existed in patterns of occupational opportunities, major differences were apparent in the number of potential job opportunities within these patterns. Again, a comparative inspection of Tables XXXI, XXXII, XXXIII, and XXXIV will provide information on this point. It was observed that Mississippi had possibilities of offering more potential occupational opportunities in farming than the other states in the selected area, because it

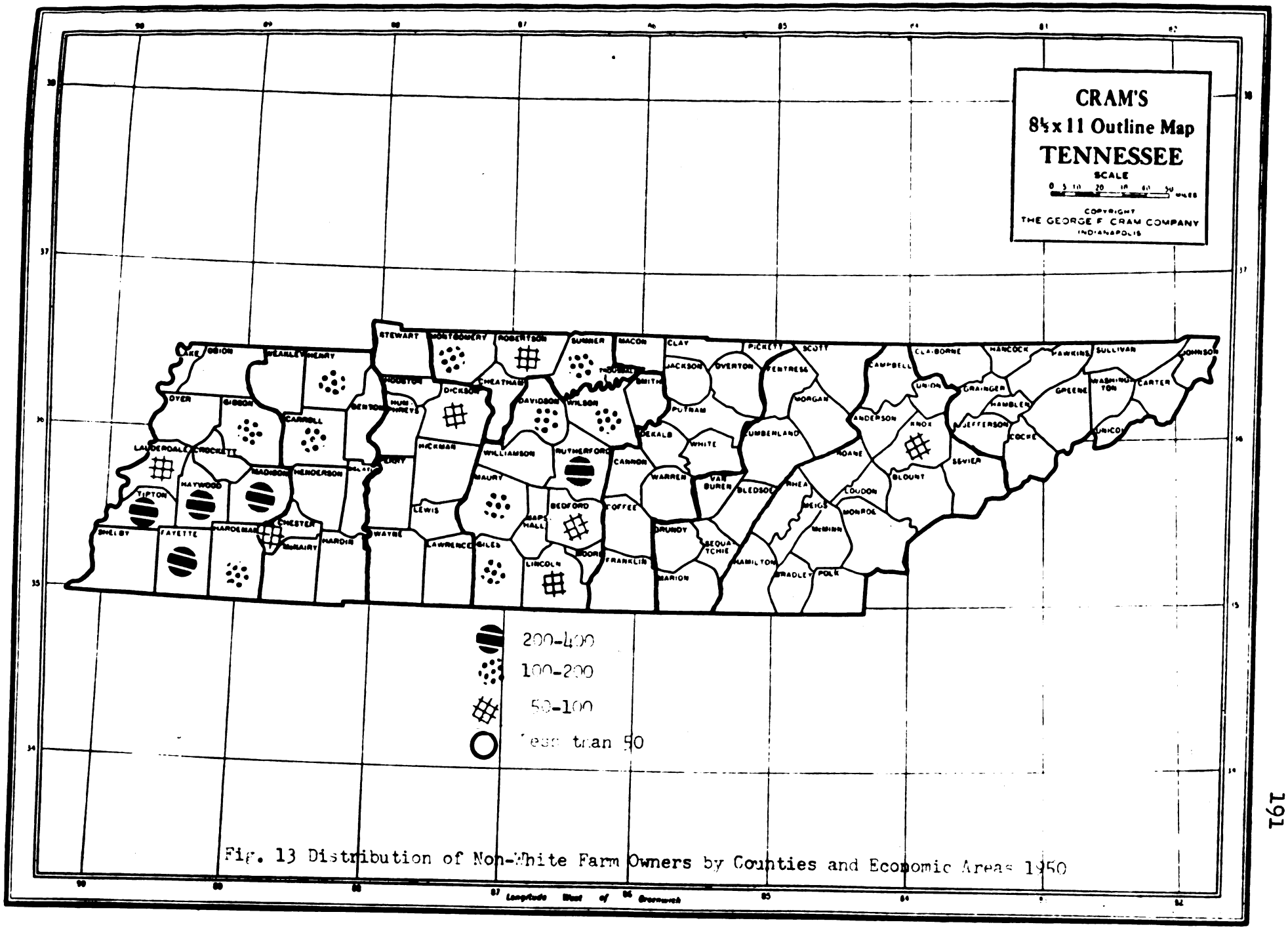

Fig. 13 Distribution of Non-White Farm Owners by Counties and Economic Areas 1950

excelled the others in farm operators and owners more than two to one. Tables XXXIII and XXXIV show the same kind of relationship on a comparative basis concerning the number of probable jobs as teachers of vocational agriculture.

A composite picture of occupational opportunities in the selected area is presented in Table XXXV. This table shows employment situations for Negroes within certain occupational categories for the four states as an area, as well as the lack of employment in specific occupations. It was noted that under the title "Agricultural Education" five occupations provided 790 employment situations for Negroes. Whereas, twenty-two occupations listed under the titles "Agricultural Publicity, Research, United States Government Jobs, and other Professional Occupations" were reported to have provided only 133 jobs for Negroes. In contrast to this, the occupations listed under the titles "Agricultural Production, and Agricultural Service" were reported to have provided 2,522 job situations for Negroes. These data seem to indicate that the majority of the opportunities for employment in agriculture for Negroes have been in the educational, productive, and service phases of the industry.

Educational Requirements of Selected Jobs

In order to secure the reactions of trained agricultural workers on the job, two questions were included on

the questionnaire which requested information concerning the type of training needed for job preparation and success. These questions and a summary of the respondents' answers are given in Table XXXV. It was noted that the majority of the occupations listed under agricultural education, agricultural jobs with the United States Government, and other professional occupations were thought to be difficult enough to demand the services of college graduates in agriculture.

Quite to the contrary, there was considerable difference of opinion concerning the educational needs for agricultural productive occupations, agricultural service occupations, and the occupations listed under the heading purchasing, manufacturing and distributing farm products, and manufacturing and selling products to farmers. However, the majority of the teachers of agriculture and county agents were in agreement on the need for short-course training for individuals who were not interested in a college degree in agriculture. Stating this point differently, it was apparent that the respondents recommended short-course training for individuals who were anticipating employment in these occupations rather than the four-year college program leading to a degree. Nevertheless, there were some noticeable exceptions pertaining to such occupations as: animal husbandry, farm managers, poultrymen, truck farmers, farm mechanics, and

TABLE XXXV

PREVALENCE OF OCCUPATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES AND JOB DEMANDS AS REPORTED BY 205 NEGRO TEACHERS OF VOCATIONAL AGRICULTURE AND NINETY-FOUR COUNTY AGENTS: ALABAMA, ARKANSAS, MISSISSIPPI, AND TENNESSEE 1952

	Are One or More Persons Employed on This Job in the County and/or District in Which You Work?		Are Negroes Employed on This Job in the County and/or District in Which You Work?		Is This Job Sufficiently Difficult to Demand the Services of a College Graduate in Agriculture?	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
Agri. Education						
County agri. agent	299	0	218	81	299	0
County 4-H agent	299	0	&	299	299	0
*District supv. ext. ser.	299	0	#	299	299	0
*District supv. agri. ed.	299	0	0	299	299	0
*Specialists, ext. ser.	299	0	0	299	299	0
Teacher, college agri.	71	228	34	265	299	0
Teacher, voc. agri.	299	0	283	16	299	0
Teacher, general agri.	90	209	62	237	299	0
Teacher, vet. classes	193	106	193	106	299	0
Agri. Publicity						
%Editor, agri.	224	75	5	294	299	0
Radio program director	161	138	8	299	299	0
Reporter, agri.	191	108	8	291	289	10
Agri. Research						
Director, dist. agri. exp. sta.	279	20	0	299	299	0
Research worker, agri. exp. sta.	281	18	5	294	299	0
Research worker, agri. college	35	264	7	292	299	0
Research worker, U. S. Gov.	146	153	1	298	299	0
Agri. Job U. S. Gov.						
Grading and classing spec.	196	103	0	299	299	0
Inspector agri. proc. est.	202	97	0	299	299	0
Inspector, crops, livestock	228	71	0	299	294	5

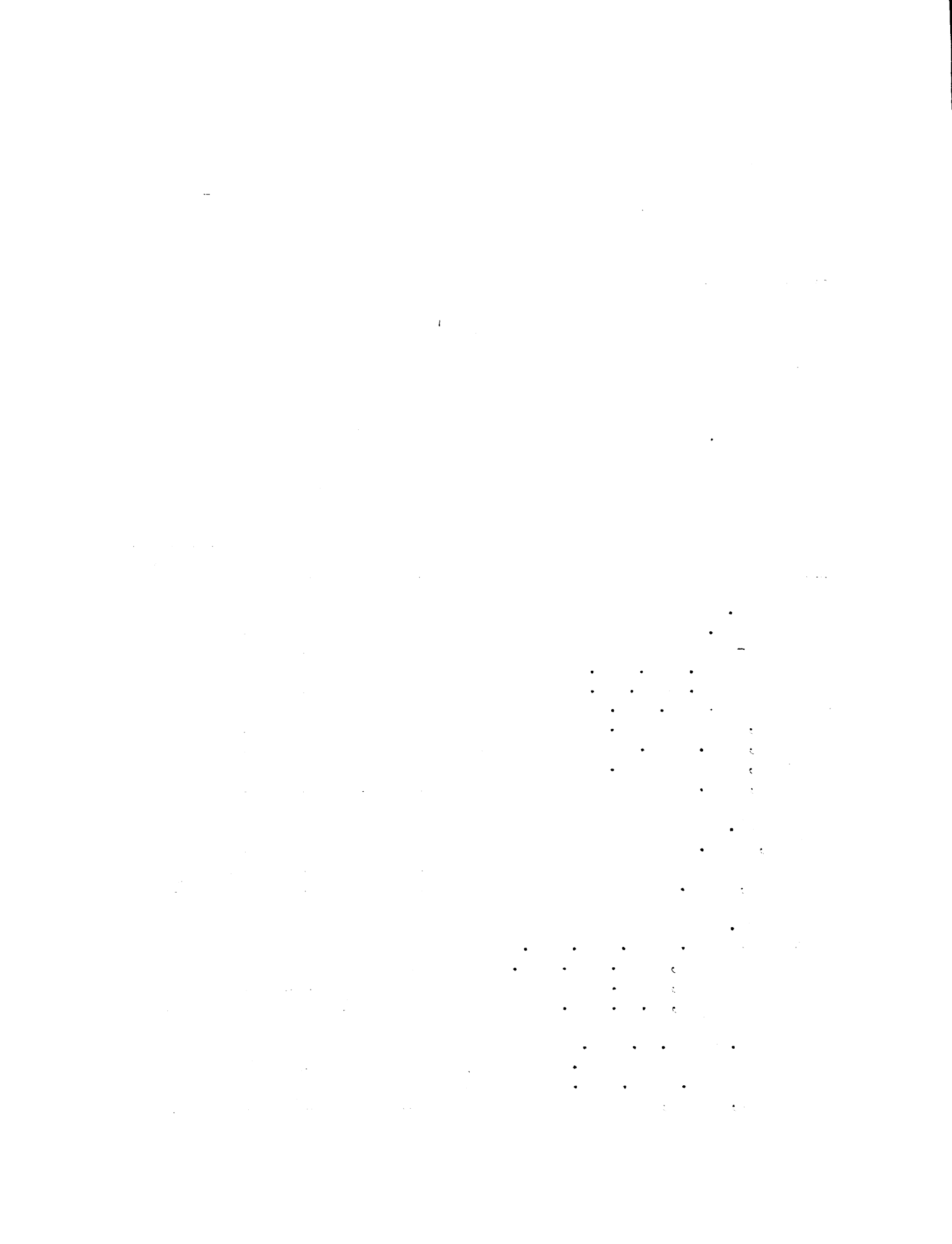

TABLE XXXV (Continued)

	Are One or More Persons Employed on This Job in the County and/or District in Which You Work?		Are Negroes Employed on This Job in the County and/or District in Which You Work?		Is This Job Sufficiently Difficult to Demand the Services of a College Graduate in Agriculture?		Is This Job Sufficiently Difficult to Demand Short-Course Training, on the Under-graduate Level for Persons not Interested in a College Degree?	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
Other Prof. Occupations								
Agri. bacteriologist	159	140	6	293	299	0		
Agri. chemist	134	165	1	298	299	0		
Agri. economist	173	126	1	298	299	0		
Agri. engineer	202	97	6	293	299	0		
Agri. statistician	176	115	1	298	299	0		
Agronomist	193	106	6	293	299	0		
Botanist	176	123	6	293	299	0		
Forester	237	62	5	294	299	0		
Floriculturist	206	93	21	268	294	5		
Horticulturist	166	133	22	277	299	0		
Pomologist	139	160	7	292	299	0		
Veterinarian	278	21	17	282	299	0		
Agri. Production Occupations								
Animal husbandry	180	119	44	255	257	42	299	0
Apiculturist	226	173	122	277	69	230	278	21
Crop spec. farmer	159	140	37	262	181	118	299	0
Dairy farmer	229	70	117	182	209	90	290	9
Farm hand	289	10	247	52	0	299	138	161
Farm machine operator	270	29	232	67	0	299	276	23
Farm manager	195	104	133	166	229	70	294	5
Fruit and/or veg. packer	145	154	71	228	0	299	165	134
General farmer	259	40	202	97	146	153	299	0
Livestock farmer	247	52	182	117	181	118	293	6
Nursery worker	183	116	102	197	0	299	103	196
Nurseryman	163	136	73	226	199	100	299	0
Poultry farmer	207	92	109	190	182	117	299	0
Poultryman	164	135	77	222	223	76	299	0
Truck farmer	202	97	125	274	243	56	299	0

TABLE XXXV (Continued)

	Are One or More Persons Employed on This Job in the County and/or District in Which You Work?		Are Negroes Employed on This Job in the County and/or District in Which You Work?		Is This Job Sufficiently Difficult to Demand the Services of a College Graduate in Agriculture?		Is This Job Sufficiently Difficult to Demand Short-Course Training, on the Under-graduate Level for Persons not Interested in a College Degree?	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
Agri. Ser. Occupations								
Custom workers								
Combining	219	80	87	212	5	294	284	15
Feed grinding	239	69	92	207	1	298	274	25
Hay baling	242	57	123	176	2	297	270	29
Peanut picking	119	180	61	268	0	299	166	133
Farm mechanic	229	70	96	203	199	100	299	0
Landscape caretaker	162	137	65	234	10	289	299	0
Milk tester	172	127	27	272	43	256	299	0
Sprayer, barns etc.	196	103	57	242	2	297	299	0
Welder (traveling)	150	149	41	258	2	297	299	0
Purchasing, Mfg. and Distb. Farm Products								
Livestock and livestock product buyer	197	102	57	242	56	243	299	0
Manager								
Canning plant	179	120	41	258	82	217	299	0
Processing plant poultry and milk	215	84	14	285	118	181	299	0
Freezing plant	182	117	17	282	77	222	299	0
Staple crop buyer	252	47	30	269	113	186	299	0
Veg. and/or fruit buyer	160	139	20	279	46	253	297	2

TABLE XXXV (Continued)

	Are One or More Persons Employed on This Job in the County and/or District in Which You Work?		Are Negroes Employed on This Job in the County and/or District in Which You Work?		Is This Job Sufficiently Difficult to Demand the Services of a College Graduate in Agriculture?		Is This Job Sufficiently Difficult to Demand Short-Course Training, on the Undergraduate Level, for Persons not Interested in a College Degree?	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
Mfg. and Selling Products to Farmers								
Com. feed dealer	290	9	0	299	119	180	289	10
Farm machinery dealer	292	7	5	294	90	209	290	9
Farm machinery salesman	289	10	6	293	84	215	285	14
Fertilizer dealer	295	4	11	284	96	203	299	0
Hatchery operator	233	66	12	287	157	142	299	0
Nursery stock salesman	210	89	14	285	56	243	225	74
Purebred livestock grower	235	64	31	268	181	118	299	0
Seed grower	230	69	29	270	122	179	299	0
Seed salesman	262	36	15	284	63	236	230	69

*This item was answered yes or no on the basis of whether one or more persons from the State Department of Education and/or the Cooperative Extension Service were assigned to serve the district which included the county in which the teacher of vocational agriculture and/or the county agent were at work.

&Three Negro State 4-H leaders.

#Six Negro district county agents or leaders.

%Editor of an agricultural journal and/or a weekly farm section in the local newspaper.

dairy farmers. The respondents thought that these occupations were difficult enough to demand the services of college graduates.

Agricultural and Related Fields in Which Few or No Negroes Were Employed

It has been emphasized that Negroes were employed in the crop production phases of agriculture more readily than in other phases of the industry. Further, this employment has been concentrated on the bottom rounds of the agricultural ladder. During the past two decades, two factors have greatly affected the employment status of Negro farm tenants. On the one hand, the Negroes' occupational status, as tenant farmers, suffered under the agricultural Adjustment Program (AAA) during the depression of the thirties.[54] It follows that under this program payments for reducing acreage were the apparent causation for landlords to displace tenants. On large farms, enormous reductions in acreage were made in order to comply with the AAA Law. These farms were operated, for the most part, by Negro tenants. The reduction in acreage, plus the unwillingness of landlords to share government payments resulting from the AAA

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[54] Arnold Rose, op. cit., pp. 90-91.

Program, caused numerous tenants to be displaced out-right or to be reduced to the status of hired hands. In effect, tenants were displaced in proportion to acreage reduction, and many of the tenants who were retained to work the allotted acreage were hired as farm hands in order to avoid sharing government payments with the tenants. On the other hand, within the foregone decade, the increased use of farm machinery made it possible for more and more farm operators to be displaced as each new farm machine was perfected. In addition, other profound changes have taken place in which capital has been substituted for labor on the farm. Examples of this were found in the addition and/or substitution of livestock on farms, the use of more fertilizer, and the use of improved varieties and hybrid seeds.[55] The implications have been that before these new developments in farming were perfected, a large number of Negroes was employed in the productive phases of agriculture. However, at present, under the impact of scientific and technological changes in agriculture, displacements in farming are taking place rather rapidly among Negro tenants, because machinery is used to perform a portion of the farm work which was, at one time, performed by Negroes.

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[55] Harry Case, "Opportunities and Requirements for Professional Service to Southern Agriculture." Notes from an Address, Tuskegee Institute, Alabama, January 2, 1952.

Unlike most farm tenants, farm owners usually plan their system of farming; thus, they have the opportunity to engage in any type of productive agriculture which they choose. This appeared to have been a propitious situation because owners were not as vulnerable as tenants to many of the factors of displacement. Furthermore, they had the opportunity to reorganize their farming operations in order to meet changing demands, such as, acreage reduction, changes in the system of farming, and mechanization.

Summary

Farming. The agricultural productive occupations, in each of the selected states, provided more employment situations for Negroes than any of the other occupations included in the present study. It was noted that the heaviest concentration of employment in this area was centered in farm hands, 247; farm machine operators, 233; general farmers, 202; and livestock farmers, 182. In addition, there were eleven other occupations listed in this category which provided employment situations, ranging in number from thirty-seven to 133.

Percentage-wise, gainfully employed Negroes in agriculture among the selected states--Alabama, Arkansas, Mississippi, and Tennessee--were 29.6, 44.8, 53.5, and 19.4 percent respectively.

Related occupations. A general pattern prevailed throughout the selected area in regards to Negroes securing employment in the related occupations. For the most part, the job situation for Negroes was restricted to agricultural education--teacher of vocational agriculture, county agents, teachers of veterans' classes, teacher of general agriculture, and teacher of college agriculture among Negroes.

Occupational opportunities for Negroes under the title "Agricultural Publicity, Agricultural Research, Agricultural Job United States Government, Other Professional Occupations, and Manufacturing and Selling Products to Farmers" were limited to a spread extending form zero, in the case of Agricultural Jobs United States Government to thirty-one employment situations as producers of purebred livestock for sale under the heading: Manufacturing and Selling Products to Farmers.

Regional job opportunities. The majority of the occupational opportunities for Negroes were localized in areas where this group resided. In Alabama, Economic Area Six had more farm operators and full owners than any other area of the state. Thus, it was a potential area of more job opportunities than other areas in the state. In Arkansas, Area 8a and Jefferson County in Area 8b, are potential areas of occupational opportunities in agriculture because

they have approximately 18,860 non-white operators, of which 2,278 are full owners. The highest concentration of Negro farm operators in Mississippi was located in Area One. On the other hand, the highest concentration of full owners was located in Areas Two, Three and 6a. In Tennessee, Areas One, Four, and Five, in which the major portion of Negro farm operators and full owners resides, are potential areas of job opportunities in agriculture.

Regional opportunities in related occupations, such as, teacher of vocational agriculture, teacher of veterans' classes, teacher of general agriculture, teacher of college agriculture, and county agent were restricted to the areas in which Negro farm operators resided.

New job opportunities. The most prevalent new job opportunity reported was teacher of veterans' classes. Approximately 193 job situations were observed in this category. On the other hand, only 170 job situations were observed in the remaining five new occupations considered; sprayer, barns and orchards; welder, farm implements; canning plant manager, processing plant manager, and freezer locker manager.

Similarities and differences in occupational opportunities in the selected area. Uniformity existed among the states in that the patterns of occupational opportunities for

Negroes were similar in each state. To cite an example: employment was possible at the "teaching level" so long as it was restricted to the Negro population. Again, in the occupation of farming, for the most part, Negroes worked as hired hands, tractor operators, and croppers.

A point of difference between Mississippi and the other states in the selected area arose as a numerical factor. By comparison, Mississippi had more potential job opportunities because it had more farm operators and owners. Likewise, in agricultural education employment opportunities varied from state to state partially because of population differences.

Educational requirements of selected jobs. Jobs listed under the titles "Agricultural Education, Agricultural Jobs United States Government, and Other Professional Occupations" were thought to be difficult enough to demand the services of college graduates in agriculture. However, there was no general agreement concerning the educational needs for agricultural productive occupations, agricultural service occupations in the categories of purchasing, manufacturing and distributing farm products; and manufacturing and selling farm products to farmers. Nevertheless, county agents and teachers of vocational agriculture recommended short-course training for individuals who were not interested in a college degree, but were anticipating employment in these occupations.

Agricultural and related fields in which few or no Negroes were employed. A total of thirty-nine occupations were reported by respondents in which few or no Negroes were employed. There were no Negroes employed in eleven of these occupations. Among the thirty-nine occupations, six new job opportunities were reported. Negroes were employed in five of these occupations. The only new job opportunity in which no Negroes were employed was listed as artificial inseminator.

CHAPTER VI

SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This has been a study of occupational opportunities for Negroes in agricultural and related fields. It was the dual purpose of this study to reveal occupations in which Negroes were employed, and also, occupations in which they were not employed. The need for the study was embedded in the idea that a knowledge of occupational opportunities in agricultural and related fields would help provide a sense of direction for directors of agricultural educational programs, agricultural students, and displaced agricultural workers. Consequently, a typical area comprised of Alabama, Arkansas, Mississippi, and Tennessee was chosen from which data were secured. These data were collected from 299 Negro teachers of vocational agriculture and Negro county agents through the use of questionnaire forms which were filled in during regional meetings at a scheduled time. In addition, the United States census reports were used in identifying changes and trends in population, agriculture, and occupations.

Summary

Factors affecting occupational opportunities in agricultural and related fields. Similar patterns of changes and trends existed in each selected state. The population, in general, increased during the 1920-1950 period. The highest percentage, 36.4, occurred in Tennessee, and the lowest, 9.0, in Arkansas. There was a shift in population away from the rural farm area. This shift reached a 29.9 percent peak in Arkansas during the same period. On the other hand, the non-white population movement away from the rural farm area reached a peak of 40.9 percent in Arkansas; whereas, the minimum percentage, 22.3 occurred in Mississippi. The shift away from the rural farm area was accelerated, during the 1940-1950 decade, in each of the four selected states.

With this off-the-farm movement came a decrease in the total number of farms, and an increase in the average size of farms. Nevertheless, among non-white farmers the average size farm in 1950 had increased only 2.2 percent above the average size farm of non-white farmers in 1920. In addition to the fact that non-white operators' farms remained about constant in size, the number of farms owned by this group was fewer in number in 1950 than in 1920. Mississippi, with a 16.0 percent increase, was the only state in the group of selected states that had more non-white owners in 1950 than

in 1920. The rural farm population decrease was reflected in the general decrease which occurred among all farm tenants. This decrease was particularly pronounced among non-white tenants; it ranged from 31.7 percent in Mississippi to 51.2 percent in Alabama.

Although farmers had decreased the number of acres devoted to harvested crops, cotton was the leading cash crop in all the selected states, except Tennessee where tobacco ranked first. An increase occurred in each of the selected states in the number of acres devoted to soybeans, vegetables harvested, and hay crops. In addition, the number of cattle and calves, and broilers was increased; whereas, the number of hogs and pigs showed a downward trend in each state.

Farm mechanization increased rapidly during the 1940-1950 decade. The greatest increase occurred in the number of tractors, followed by trucks, grain harvesters, pick-up hay balers, and corn pickers. The percentage-wise increase of tractor ownership in the selected states among non-white farmers ranged from 622.1 in Mississippi to 865.8 in Alabama.

Among the major occupations, the highest percent of gainfully employed Negroes were engaged in agriculture, followed in order by manufacturing and construction, personal service, and trade, finance and insurance. From decade to decade, during the 1930-1950 period, decreases occurred in

the number of Negroes engaged in agricultural work; whereas, in the other major occupations, increases occurred, except in mining.

Occupational opportunities for Negroes in agricultural and related fields. Farming provided a larger number of employment situations for Negroes in the selected area than any other occupation. For the most part, this employment was obtained in the category of farm hands, general farmers, livestock farmers, and tractor operators.

Among related occupations, a general pattern prevailed in that the major portion of employment situations for Negroes was realized in agricultural education--as county agents and teachers of agriculture at the high school and college levels among the Negro population.

Occupational opportunities were localized in areas where the Negro population was concentrated. These areas were identified as Economic Area Six in Alabama; Economic Area Eight in Arkansas; Economic Areas One, Two, and Three in Mississippi; and Economic Areas One, Four, and Five in Tennessee.

There were six new occupations which afforded job opportunities for Negroes. They were teachers of veterans' classes, sprayers of barns and orchards, welders of farm machinery, managers of canning, processing and freezing plants. The 299 responding teachers of vocational agriculture and county agents reported that they observed 193

employment situations in the category "teacher of veterans' classes" as compared with 170 job situations in the remaning five categories. There was no evidence revealed which indicated that different patterns of employment opportunities prevailed from state to state. Negroes were employed on the same types and kinds of jobs throughout the selected area.

Educational requirements of selected jobs. The 299 responding teachers of vocational agriculture and county agents thought that occupations in agricultural education, agricultural government work, and other professional agricultural work were difficult enough to demand the services of college graduates in agriculture. There was no general agreement concerning the training requirements for the agricultural productive occupations. Nevertheless, short-course training was recommended for individuals who were anticipating employment in these occupations but were not interested in a college degree.

Agricultural and related fields in which few or no Negroes were employed. Respondents reported thirty-nine occupations in which few or no Negroes were employed. There were no Negroes employed in eleven of these occupations.

Conclusions

Data presented in the foregoing chapters provided basic information from which the following conclusions were derived:

1. Although Negroes left farms in large numbers during the 1930-1950 period, the proportion of gainfully employed Negroes in agriculture exceeded that of any of the other major occupations.

2. More Negroes were employed in the productive phases of agriculture than in all the other agricultural and related fields combined.

3. The pattern of occupational opportunities for Negroes did not vary from state to state. They were employed, for the most part, on the same kinds and types of jobs throughout the selected area.

4. In general, few Negroes were employed in the related occupations. However, employment in this category was procured quite extensively in agricultural education. Negroes were not employed in some of the technical phases of agriculture.

5. Occupations in agricultural education and other professional phases of agriculture are difficult enough to demand the services of college graduates in agriculture. Job demands may be met in the productive phases and service phases of agriculture through short-course training.

6. Farm ownership decreased among all farmers during the depression years in the thirties. However, during the prosperous period, 1940-1950, farm ownership increased among all farmers. The average size farm owned by white farmers was increased in size; whereas, the average size farm owned by non-white farmers remained about constant. This seems to indicate that white farmers now own additional acres that were once owned by non-white farmers.

7. There has been a downward trend in the Negro rural farm population for the last thirty years. In spite of this fact, a large element of this group has remained in agriculture. There appear to be potential employment situations in agricultural and related fields for individuals who have the ability and are willing to prepare to master these occupations. There also appears to be a squeeze here; the number of those who are entering farming is greatly reduced. Opportunities are being absorbed by increased size of businesses operated by white farmers.

Recommendations

The educational objectives stipulated in many of the bulletins of agricultural colleges for Negroes[56] make it

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[56] Objectives for divisions of agriculture in the several land-grant colleges for Negroes were given special consideration by consultants in conferences with college officials and staff members at each of these colleges, as partial fulfillment of a study on the improvement of agricultural education in Negro land-grant colleges. The study was conducted by R. M. Stewart during the three-year period, 1948-1950.

imperative that school administrators, agricultural leaders, and teachers know the direction in which programs of education should be guided in order to fulfill educational requirements in a dynamic society. It is proposed that valuable information which will help to indicate a sense of direction for agricultural education can be obtained from a study of the Negroes' farming situations and occupational opportunities in agricultural and related fields.

The present study has been a step in this direction; thus, the following recommendations are predicated upon the revelations of this study:

1. Programs of agricultural education designed for farmers should be made available to more farmers by agricultural colleges, either through extending training centers into local communities, through special training programs for farmers at the agricultural college for Negroes, or through the utilization of both methods of reaching farmers with training programs. Agricultural colleges should be vitally interested in the problem of farmers, not only from the standpoint of scientific and technological developments, but also in the development of abilities to understand and make use of new discoveries, techniques, and practices.

2. Negro farmers and agricultural students should be awakened to the possibilities of creating job opportunities

in agricultural and related fields among the ranks of Negro farm operators. To give an example, tractors and other pieces of farm machinery, such as, combines, hay balers, and land preparations and planting equipment--owned by Negroes--appear to be sufficiently numerous to provide jobs for repair men, fuel dealers, tire dealers, and salesmen. It seems possible that this may be accomplished by securing jobs with establishments already active, or through cooperatives which may call for the establishment of new concerns in which Negroes will have the opportunity to work to their full capacities and capabilities.

3. A training program which will provide additional managerial, as well as technical, training is necessary for individuals who have and are demonstrating their willingness to continue in the business of farming. This should help them make farming a more profitable occupation. Too, there is a need for more successfully operated farms among Negroes to prove to the on-coming generation that farming is a business which can be made to afford standards of living comparable to those standards afforded by other occupations.

4. More emphasis should be placed upon training individuals for related occupations. Then, when they qualify for employment, the institution should make efforts to help them become placed in their chosen fields.

5. There should be a relentless quest by officials of the agricultural colleges for methods of improving educational programs in agriculture. This quest should include the local community, the state, and the nation.

6. Finally, the need for additional studies constitutes a problem of focal significance to all who are interested in education. The present study suggests the apparent need for further research in the following areas:

1) A study to determine the cash expenditures of Negro farmers for the purpose of ascertaining whether their purchasing power is strong enough to support a proposed demand for qualified Negroes to participate in related occupations.

2) A study is also needed which will help determine whether Negro farmers' purchasing power is centrally located and strong enough within specific areas to afford opportunities for related occupations among Negroes.

3) Studies are needed which will reveal local job opportunities in agriculture for Negroes by communities, counties, and states.

4) There is also a need for information on how Negroes secure employment on certain jobs that are generally closed to them, and what the demand of these jobs are.

5) In addition, it is important to know why Negroes quit farming, where they go when they leave the farm, what

they do, and if they return. When these facts are known, educational programs may be instituted which will help solve occupational and social adjustment problems.

6) The present high cost of becoming established in farming on a profitable basis requires more financial assistance than the average young man can secure. Therefore, in order to assist individuals who have the desire, ability, and training to become established in farming, there should be private, state, and/or government agencies which provide workable plans whereby these individuals may become established to a degree comparable to economic success.

Finally, Negro agricultural colleges should become better acquainted with what their graduates and former students do after leaving college. Seemingly, this could be accomplished, in part, through a scientific follow-up study of graduates and former students.

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APPENDICES

APPENDIX A

A SURVEY OF OCCUPATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES IN AGRICULTURAL AND RELATED FIELDS FOR NEGROES IN ALABAMA, ARKANSAS, MISSISSIPPI, AND TENNESSEE

Date_____

I. Please make a check mark ( ) in column "A" under "Job Status" opposite each occupational title listed that identifies a job engaged in by one or more persons either white or Negro in the county where you work. Add such occupations as you feel should be included on the list but have been omitted.

II. In column "B" under "Job Status" make a check mark in the "Yes" column opposite each occupation listed in which Negroes are employed in this occupation in the county in which you work. If Negroes are not employed in the occupation make a check mark in the "No" column.

III. In column "C" under "Training Required" make a check mark in the "Yes" column opposite each occupation you think is suitable for agricultural college graduates by virtue of the training demanded by the job. Make a check mark in the "No" column opposite each occupation that you think may be performed adequately by individuals who are not college graduates.

IV. In column "D" under "Training Required" make a check mark in the "Yes" column opposite each occupation that you think requires short course training in agriculture for job proficiency. Make a check mark in the "No" column opposite each occupation that you think does not require short-course training in agriculture for job proficiency.

V. Under the heading "New Job Title" list the titles of any new jobs occurring since 1944 in the county where you work. For example, under Agricultural Education, a new job title would be, "Teacher, veterans' classes in agriculture." Check the new jobs listed by the same procedure used in checking the other occupation listed on the form.

State_____County_____

Location, Agri. Region_____

Please read--on page one--items I, II, III, IV and V before you start filling in this form

OCCUPATIONAL TITLES PROFESSIONAL OCCUPATIONS	Job Status				Training Required			
	A		B		C		D	
	Are One or More Persons Employed on This Job in the County and/or District in Which You Work?		Are Negroes Employed on This Job in the County and/or District in Which You Work?		Is This Job Sufficiently Difficult to Demand the Services of a College Graduate in Agriculture?		Is This Job Sufficiently Difficult to Demand Short-Course Training, on the Undergraduate Level, for Persons not Interested in a College Degree?	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No.	Yes	No
Agri. Education_____	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
1. County Agri. Agent_____								
2. County 4-H Agent_____								
3. Regional Supervisor Ext. Ser._____								
4. Spec. Agri. Ext. Ser._____								
5. State Supervisor Agri. Ed._____								
6. State Supervisor Ext. Ser._____								
7. Teacher, College Agri._____								
8. Teacher, General Agri._____								
9. Teacher Trainer in Agri._____								
10. Teacher, Vocational Agri._____								
New Job Opportunity Since 1944	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
1._____								
2._____								
3._____								
4._____								
5._____								
6._____								

	A		B		C		D	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
Agri. Publicity	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
1. Editor, Agri.								
2. Radio Program Dir. Agri.								
3. Reporter, Agri.								
4.								
5.								
New Job Opportunity Since 1944	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
1.								
2.								
Agri. Research	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
1. Director, State Exp. Sta								
2. Research Worker, Agri. Exp. Sta.								
3. Research Worker, Agri. College								
4. Research Worker, U. S. Gov.								
5.								
6.								
New Job Opportunity Since 1944	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
1.								
2.								
Agri. Jobs, U. S. Government	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
1. Grading and Classing Spec.								
2. Inspector, Agri. Proc. Estab.								
3. Inspector, Crops, Livestock, Pro.								
4.								
5.								
New Job Opportunity Since 1944	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
1.								
2.								

	A		B		C		D	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
Other Prof. Agri. Occupations	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
1. Agri. Bacteriologist								
2. Agri. Chemist								
3. Agri. Economist								
4. Agri. Engineer								
5. Agri. Statistician								
6. Agronomist								
7. Botanist								
8. Forester								
9. Floriculturist								
10. Horticulturist								
11. Pomologist								
12. Veterinarian								
13.								
14.								
New Job Opportunity Since 1944	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
1.								
2.								
Agri. Production Occupations	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
1. Animal Husbandry								
2. Apiculturist								
3. Crop Speciality Farmer								
4. Dairy Farmer								
5. Farm Hand								
6. Farm Machine Operator								
7. Farm Manager								
8. Fruit or Vegetable Packer								
9. General Farmer								
10. Livestock Farmer								
11. Nursery Laborer								
12. Nurseryman								
13. Poultry Farmer								
14. Poultry Husbandman								
15. Tree Surgeon								
16. Truck Farmer								
17.								
18.								

	A		B		C		D	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
New Job Opportunity Since 1944	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
1.								
2.								
Agri. Service Occupations	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
1. Custom Combining Worker								
2. Custom Feed Grinding Worker								
3. Custom Hay Baler								
4. Custom Peanut Picker								
5. Farm Mechanic								
6. Landscape Caretaker								
7. Milk Tester, DHIA								
8. Sprayer, Orchards, Barns, etc.								
9. Welder, (Travel from farm to farm)								
10.								
11.								
New Job Opportunity Since 1944	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
1.								
2.								
Purchasing, Manufacturing and Distributing Farm Products	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
1. Livestock and Livestock Product Buyer								
2. Manager, Canning Plant								
3. Manager, Freezer Locker								
4. Manager, Processing Plant Poultry and Dairy								
5. Staple Crop Buyer, Cotton, Corn, etc.								
6. Vegetable and Fruit Buyer								
7.								
8.								
New Job Opportunity Since 1944	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
1.								

	A		B		C		D	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
Manufacturing and Selling Products to Farmers	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
1. Commercial Feed Dealer								
2. Farm Machinery Dealer								
3. Farm Machinery Salesman								
4. Fertilizer Dealer								
5. Hatchery Operator								
6. Nursery Stock Salesman								
7. Pure Bred Livestock Grower, Foundation Stock								
8. Seed Grower								
9. Seed Salesman								
10.								
11.								
New Job Opportunity Since 1944	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
1.								
2.								

March 29, 1951

Mr._____, Director
Negro Extension Work
_____, _____

Dear Mr._____:

There is a growing need for additional information pertaining to existing and potential occupational opportunities in agriculture for Negro students. This information is needed to facilitate the projection of agricultural education curricula in Negro land-grant colleges. It seems reasonable to believe that some of the needed information may be revealed through a thorough study of the existing and potential occupational opportunities in agriculture for Negroes.

To this end, I have chosen as a problem "A Study of the Occupational Opportunities in Agriculture and Their Implications for Agricultural Education of Negro Students." Much of the data for this study are to be collected from individuals working in positions and localities where the data are available.

The Negro county agents of Alabama are in position to reveal valuable information concerning occupational opportunities in agriculture for Negro college graduates and former students of agriculture. I should like to secure your endorsement of this study, and the cooperation of all the Negro county agents in Alabama in filling in a short information blank--designed for the purpose of revealing the agricultural occupations common in their areas, but, in which Negroes do not participate, and, also, the new occupational opportunities in which agricultural graduates and former college students may find employment.

A copy of the information form to be presented, with your endorsement, to each county agent in the State is enclosed.

Sincerely yours,

R. D. Morrison

Enclosure: one

March 29, 1951

Mr. _____, Director
Vocational Education

_____
_____,

Dear Mr. _____:

I am of the opinion that a valuable service may be rendered to the Negro land-grant colleges and thus to society by revealing pertinent data pertaining to occupational opportunities in agriculture for Negroes.

Looking forward toward being able to reveal some of this data bearing upon occupational opportunities in agriculture for Negroes, I am undertaking a study of the occupational opportunities in agriculture and related fields for Negroes.

In order to ascertain some of the data needed for this study it will be necessary for me to secure the cooperation of all the Negro teachers of vocational agriculture in _____ because these teachers are in position to furnish reliable data pertaining to the agricultural occupations in each county where they work.

I should like to secure your endorsement of this study. A copy of the information form which I should like to request each teacher of vocational agriculture in the State to fill in is enclosed.

Respectfully yours,

R. D. Morrison

Enclosure: one

APPENDIX F

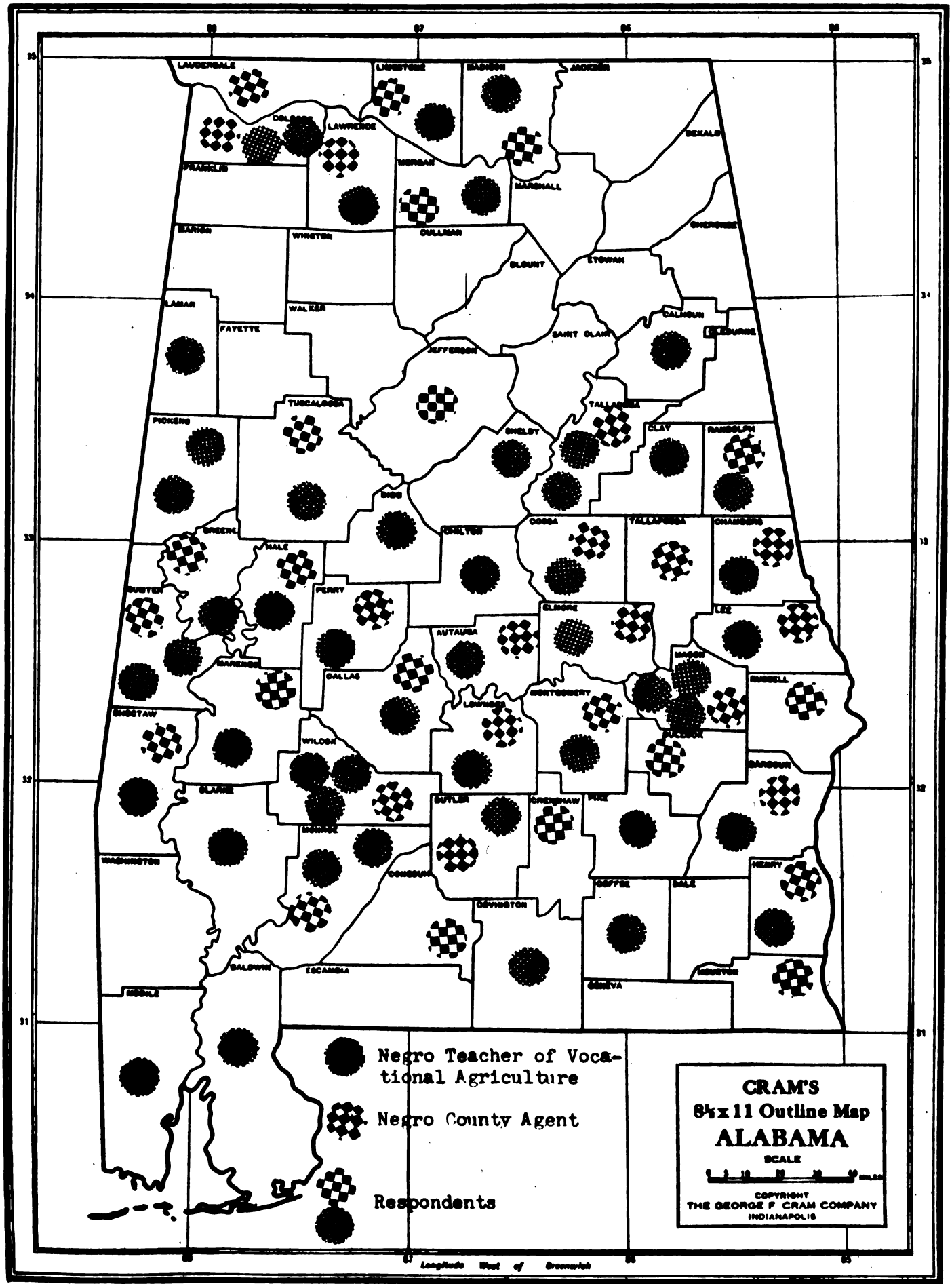

Fig. 14 Sources of Questionnaire Data

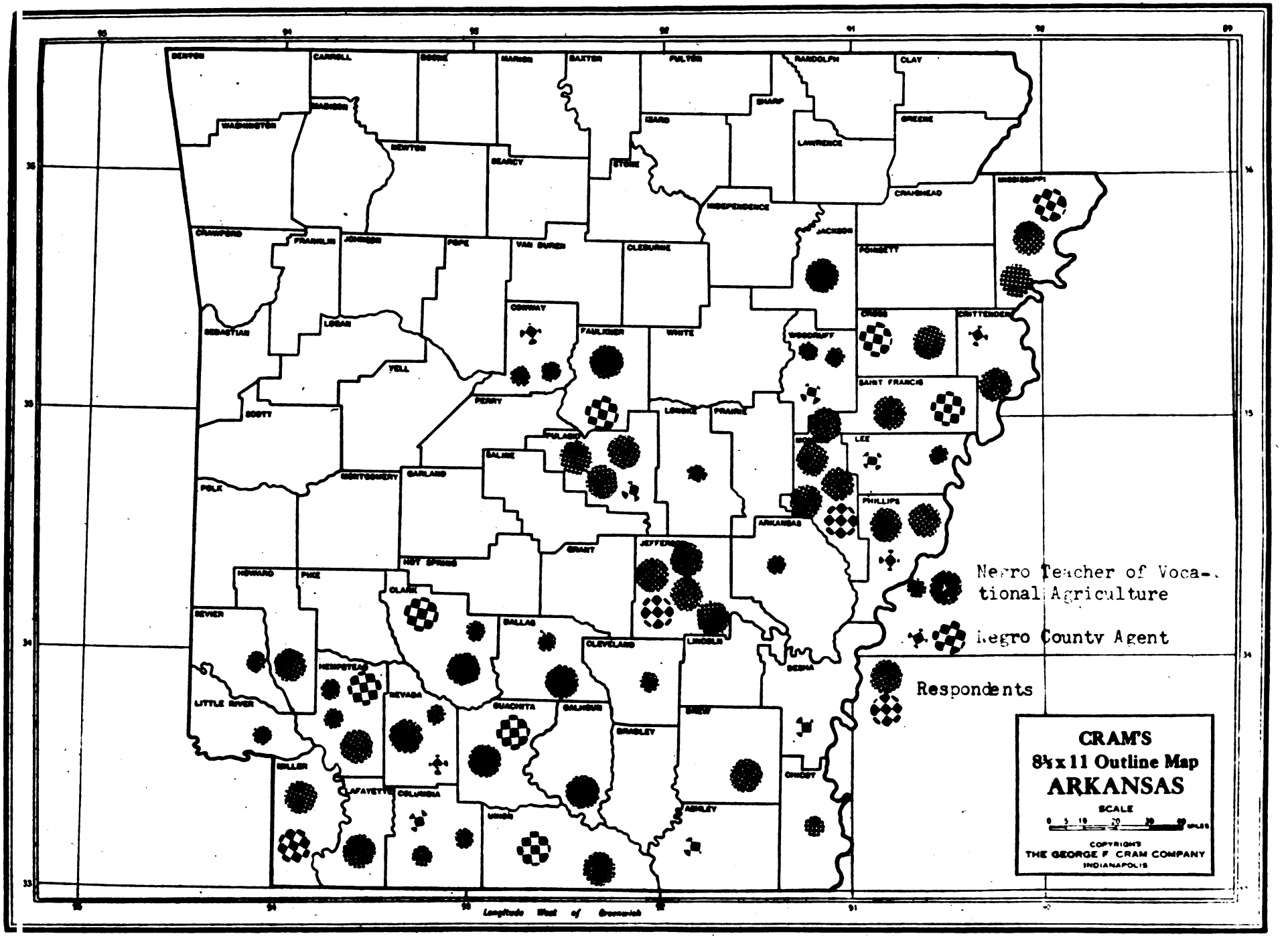

Fig. 15 Sources of Questionnaire Data

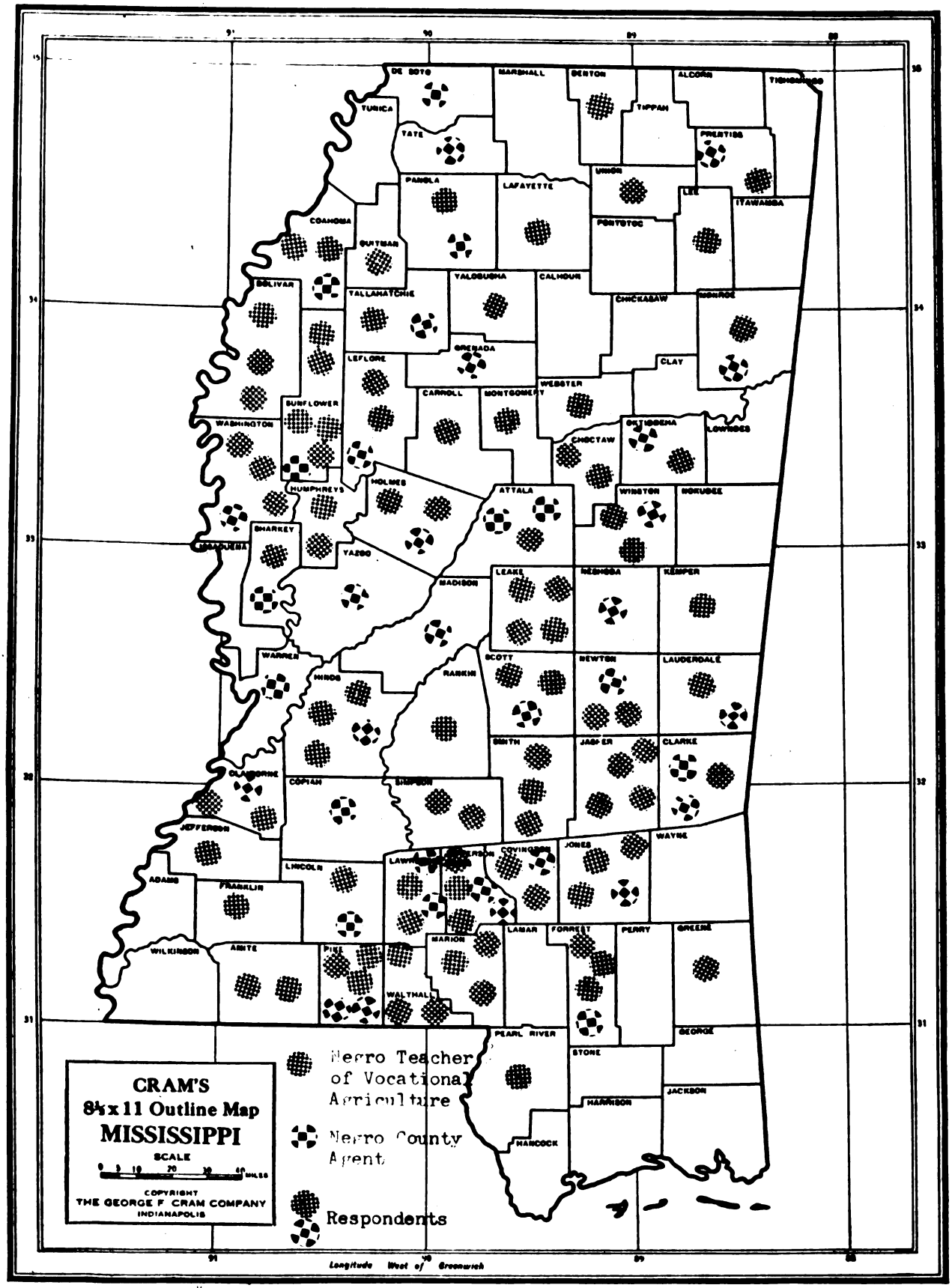

Fig. 16 Sources of Questionnaire Data

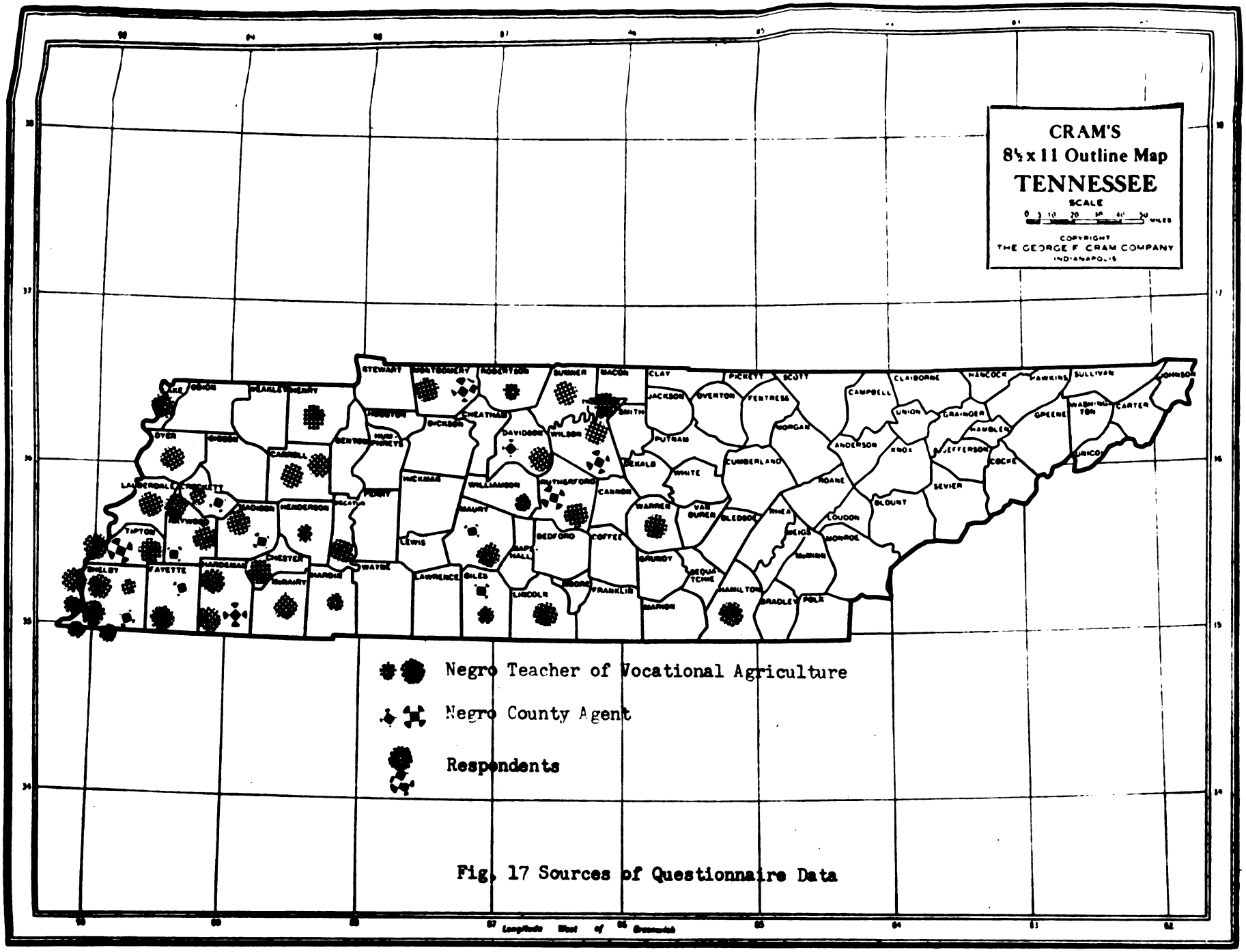

Fig. 17 Sources of Questionnaire Data

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