



THE VARIABILITY OF TYPES OF FARMING IN OKLAHOMA

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Geographical variability in types of farming is in general the result of regional fitness for agricultural production. This regional fitness is determined by the joint operation of three classes of forces that affect economy of production: (1) The physical, includes soil, climate, distribution of rainfall, and other factors of a similar character; (2) The biological, includes insect pests and the like; (3) A class that has to do with such things as transportation, price relationships, location, character of the people, and other man-made conditions. Farmers who misunderstand, ignore, or attempt to operate counter to the action of these forces usually find farming unprofitable.

The geographical description of types of farming seems to fall naturally into two main categories: (1) The outline showing the distribution of kinds and relative quantities of production; (2) The internal structure of the farming within the areas. Under the first, the problem is to get a picture of land uses and crop and livestock distribution; under the second, it is to get a view of the types of farms, the farm organization, the major sources of income, size of the income, amount and character of important expenses, relative importance of various classes of farm operators and the like. Space will permit only brief reference to the method used in differentiating regional variability in land use, the first step in isolating type-of-farming areas. This type of analysis is part of the first of the foregoing categories.

There are three major classes of land use; namely, crop production, pasture, and timber.* These classes were further subdivided for purposes of this study, as illustrated in Table I. The classes of land use are here

TABLE I. *Land use by minor civil divisions, Major Co. Okla., 1930 (From U. S. Census, 1930).*

Land Use	Quinian Township	Fairview Township
Crop land:	Land harvested	62.4
	Crop failure2
	Idle or fallow	5.9
Pasture:	Flowable	16.9
	Woodland1
	All other	11.0
Other farm land:	Woods not pastured.....	.7
	All other farm land	2.7

*See "Production Planning," Mimeo. Cir., Iowa Agric. Exp. Station, Jan. 10, 1935.

expressed as percentages of the total farm land. The two extremely different townships shown in Table I are very close together; they touch each other on one corner. Quinlan Township is located in one characteristic area, while Fairview Township is in another. All townships of the state were likewise tabulated and a distribution of each separate item by townships was charted on a state map, thus making it possible by spreading the separate maps on a table to observe the broader area differences in land used by inspection.*

*For a more detailed description of variability of types of farming in Oklahoma, see Current Farm Economics, Okla. Agri. Exper. Sta. Bul., Vol. 9, No. 1, Feb., 1936.