

PART IV

The Pattern of Agriculture

Farms: Number and Size

Most Clallam County farms are of small and medium size. According to the United States Census of Agriculture for 1954, a total of 1,068 farms was located in the county. This was 32 farms less than reported in 1950. In part, this small decline is due to a change in Census methods but it does show a continuation of the general trends of declining farm numbers and increasing size. Consolidation of farms through purchase and lease has increased the average farm size from 69.9 acres in 1950 to 70.5 in 1954. The size is much below the average for the State of Washington which was 270.7 acres in 1954. Clallam County ranked twenty-second among the 39 counties of the state in number of farms, but in size of farms was thirty-first.

The relative smallness of Clallam County farms in comparison to the state average is largely the result of land purchase methods and types of farming. Much of the farmland was originally sold by timber and lumber companies as small plots of logged-over land to part-time farm settlers. Many of the original 160 acre homesteads have been subdivided among heirs or by resale as small farms. Expense and difficulty of clearing forest and stump land have also discouraged development of large-acreage farms.

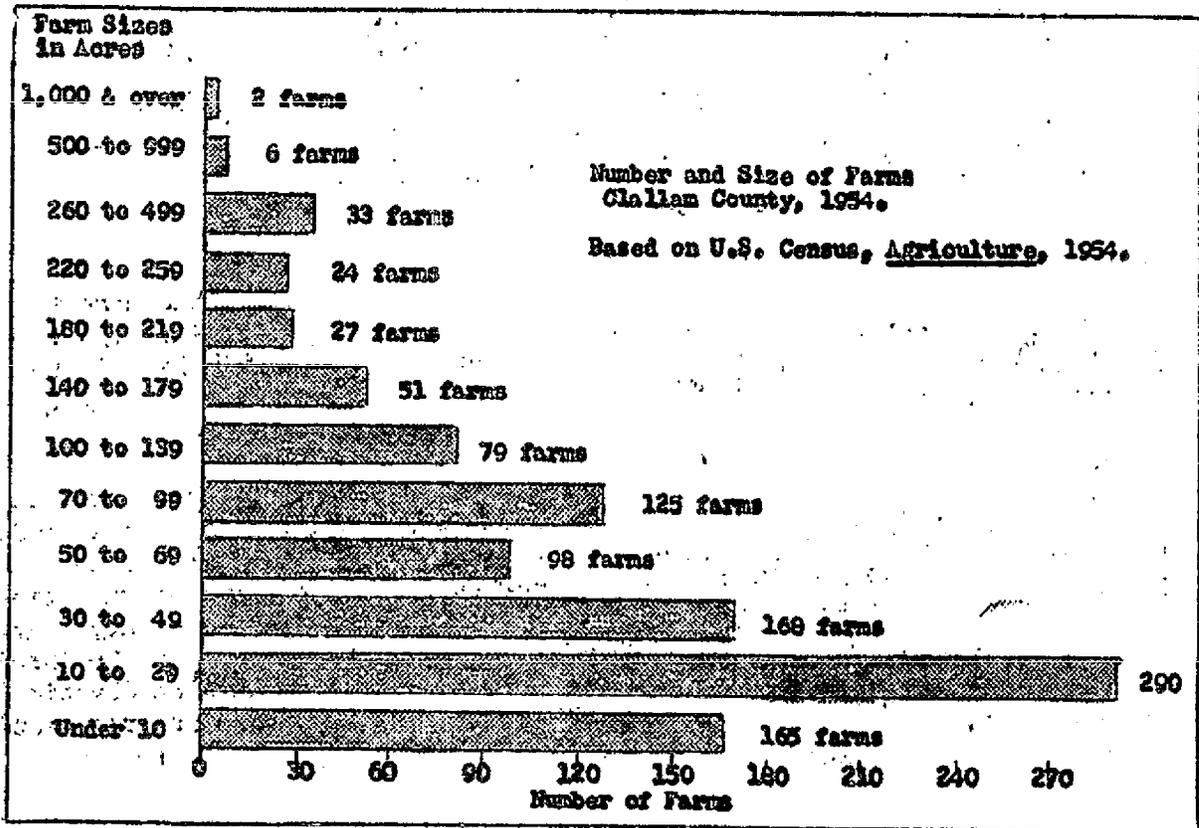


Figure 8.- Number and Size of Clallam County Farms, 1954.

The common practice of part-time farming also makes the small-acreage farm of 10, 20 and 40 acres more popular in this forested region. Land settlement conditions have resulted in a pattern of small-scale farming with the exception of the Dungeness-Sequim district where larger dairy farms are common. Over 48 percent of the farms of Clallam County were less than 30 acres in area in 1954. Farm holdings of 10 to 29 acres in size are most common, numbering 290. In 1954 there were only 42 farms in the county which exceeded 620 acres.

According to the 1954 Census, the 1,068 farms in Clallam County contained 75,294 acres. This was 1,376 acres less than in 1950 and 2,626 less than in 1945. The total acreage in farms reached a peak of 77,880 acres in 1945. The reduction of 2,600 acres since that date indicates some abandonment of farming in remote areas.

Table 8. Farms, Number and Average Size, Land in Farms
Clallam County, 1900-1954

Year	Total Farms in County	Total County area in Farms (acres)	Average size of farms in the county (acres)	Percent of County area in farms
1900	395	52,667	134.2	4.7
1910	607	62,248	102.5	5.5
1920	607	58,043	95.6	5.3
1925	732	59,757	81.6	5.3
1930	729	57,820	79.3	5.2
1940	1,226	70,844	57.8	6.3
1945	1,133	77,880	68.7	7.0
1950	1,096	76,630	69.9	6.9
1954	1,068	75,254	70.5	6.7

Source: U.S. Census, Agriculture

Farm Values

The total value of all farm property in Clallam County has more than doubled since 1920, increasing from \$6,313,899 to \$14,725,569 in 1955. Average values of land and buildings per farm increased from \$10,698 in 1920 to \$13,788 in 1955. Value of land per acre during the same period rose from \$91.55 to \$229.56.

The rise in farm and land values has been caused by several factors. One has been the general rise of prices in real estate throughout western United States. Another factor has been the large amount of labor and capital Clallam County farmers have invested in land clearing, drainage, irrigation systems and building improvements since 1920. The improved state and county highway system within the formerly isolated area has also added value to the land in recent years. Greater value of standing timber and woodlands on Olympic Peninsula farms has also increased the values and sale prices of farm real estate.

Table 9.- Value of Farm Property
Clallam County, 1900-1954

Year	Total Value All Farm Property in County	County Average Values	
		Per Farm (dollars)	Per Acre (dollars)
1900	\$1,084,649	\$ 3,238	\$ 20.80
1910	3,780,844	6,073	60.00
1920	6,313,895	10,648	91.55
1930	6,360,435	8,725	110.00
1940	5,652,448	4,610	79.79
1950	14,787,232	13,492	171.08
1954	14,725,584	13,788	229.56

Source: U.S. Census, Agriculture

Farm Tenure

A large majority of the farm operators (85 out of each 100 farmers) are full owners of their farms. Renting and leasing of farms is quite uncommon. Part-owned farms are more common than those rented or leased and this system of farm tenure has increased in recent years. This pattern is caused by elderly persons and part-time workers living on farms and maintaining their farm residences while letting other farmers operate part of the land for cash rent or a share of the crops raised on the land. Farms operated by managers are rare and there were only two farms under this system in 1954.

Table 10.- Farm Tenancy, Number and Percent of Farms
By Tenure of Operator, Clallam County
1925-1954

Year	Number Farms in County	Full Owners		Part Owners		Managers		Tenants	
		number of farms	percent of all farms						
1925	732	630	86.1	30	4.1	5	.7	67	9.2
1930	729	547	75.0	75	10.3	6	.8	101	13.9
1935	1,010	798	79.0	56	5.5	10	1.0	146	14.5
1940	1,226	987	80.5	46	3.8	6	.5	187	15.3
1945	1,133	958	84.6	77	6.8	3	.3	95	8.4
1950	1,078	906	84.0	98	9.1	1	.1	91	8.4
1954	1,063	907	85.3	80	7.5	2	.2	79	7.4

Source: U.S. Census, Agriculture

Types of Farms

Farms in Clallam County are fairly well diversified. About two-thirds are miscellaneous unclassified farms with varied systems of commercial and part-time agriculture. Dairy farms are the most common specialty type of agriculture with nearly one-fourth of the total farms in Clallam County specializing in

dairying. Livestock farms raising beef cattle are second-most important among specialized commercial farms. Poultry operations are third.

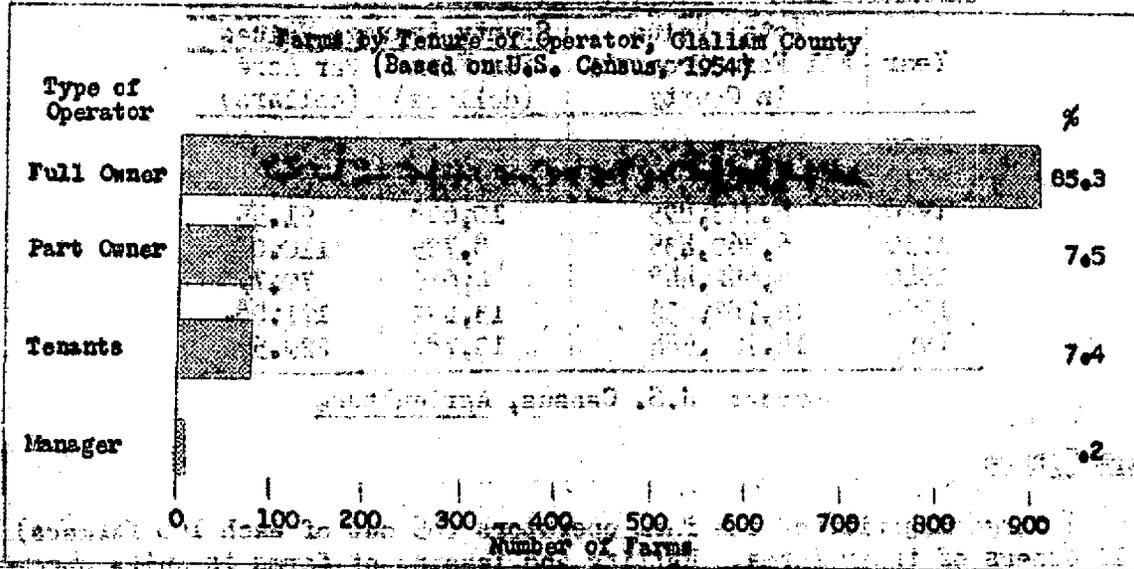


Figure 9. Farms by Tenure of Operator, Clallam County, 1954.

Table II. Types of Farms, Clallam County, 1954.

Types of Farms	Number of Farms	Percent of all farms in the county
Total farms in county	1,032	
Field-crop farms	5	
Cash-grain	5	.5
Other field-crop	0	
Vegetable farms	0	
Fruit and nut farms	0	
Dairy farms	241	23.3
Poultry farms	20	1.9
Livestock farms other than dairy and poultry	45	4.4
General farms	40	
Primarily crop	30	2.9
Primarily livestock	10	1.0
Crop and livestock	0	
Miscellaneous and unclassified farms	681	66.0

Source: U.S. Census, Agriculture

Farmland Utilization

The major uses of farmland in Clallam County are woodland and pasture. Over 45 percent of all farmland in 1954 was in woodland and pastured woodland. Woodland tracts are large, covering hilly areas of poor soil. Pastured stump-land (recently logged-over areas) is common. Because of costs in labor and machinery to clear cut-over land, most farmers leave the poorer upland soils

in woodland or woodland pastures. Many farmers have started to practice forestry, leaving dense regrowth stands to furnish timber for farm use or future commercial cutting for saw logs and pulpwood. In general, only about one-third of the land owned by farmers has been cleared for use as cropland and improved pasture.

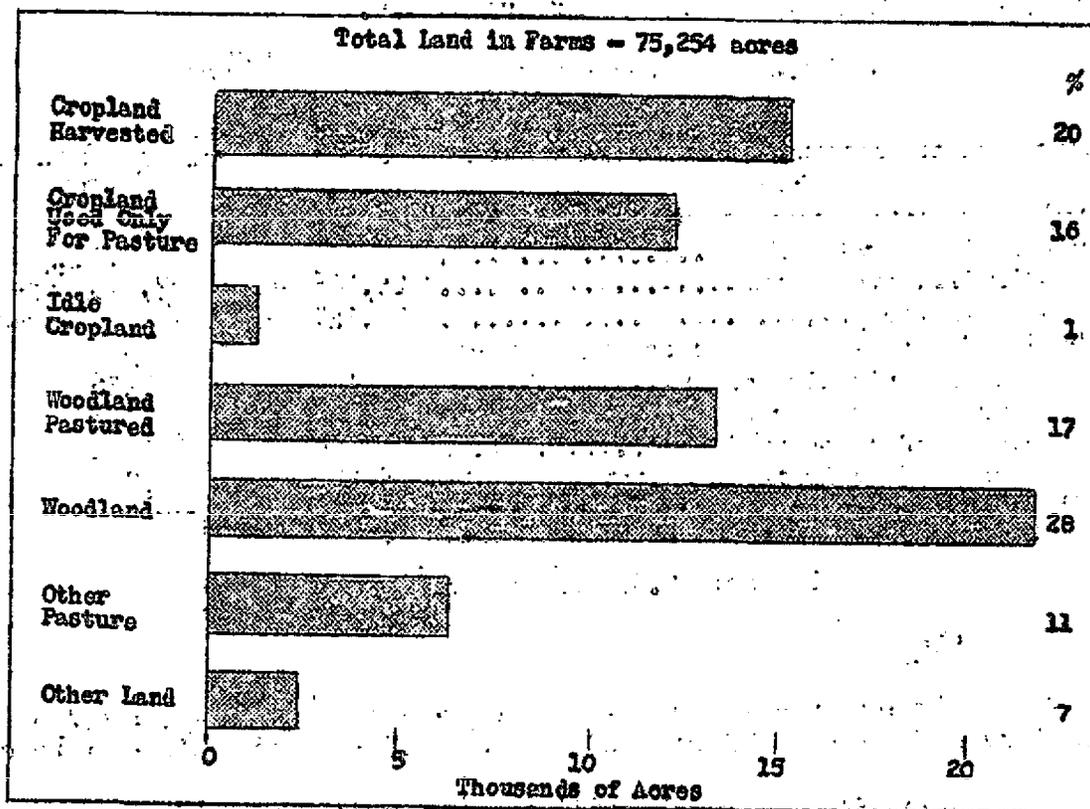


Figure 10.- Utilization of Farmland in Clallam County, 1954

Farm Residence and Operation

Part-time farming is a major characteristic of the area. Many persons reside on the land and divide their employment between farm work and wage earning in other industries. Nearby seasonal employment in the logging and fishing industries, in the Federal National Park and Forest Services and in construction work supplements farming income. Numerous farm owners commute to the forest products industry center at Port Angeles. In 1954, 70 percent of the farmers were working off their farms part-time. Over 53 percent of Clallam County farmers were employed more than 100 days per year in other nonfarm occupations. Clallam County part-time farming exceeds the state average of 46 percent and is slightly above average for all western Washington counties.

Irrigation Facilities

Clallam has more farms and land under irrigation than any other western Washington county. The largest canal and sprinkler irrigation system west of the Cascades is found in the relatively dry Sequim-Dungeness lowland. This localized dry area in the lee of the Olympic range is intensively irrigated to sustain pasture, hay, silage and some grain crops used by the local dairy

Industry. In recent years the canal system has been augmented by sprinklers using ground water. Other farming districts along the Straits of Juan de Fuca have expanded sprinkler irrigation of pastures. By 1954 irrigation had reached a new high with 371 farms using irrigation systems. Irrigated land reached a new high of 11,970 acres in that year. The major amount of water used is applied to pastures during the summer dry season.

Table 12.- Irrigated Farms: Number and Acreage
Clallam County, 1950 and 1954

Item	1950	1954
Number of irrigated farms.....	311	371
Land in irrigated farms.....	25,466 acres	27,973 acres
Land irrigated 1/.....	10,127 acres	11,970 acres
Irrigated land in farms according to use:		
Farms irrigating crops.....	181	236
Farms irrigating pasture.....	273	316
Acres of crops irrigated.....	3,895	5,251
Acres of irrigated pasture.....	6,110	6,719

1/ Includes all land irrigated with sprinklers.

Source: U.S. Census, Agriculture

Farm Facilities

Clallam County farmers as a whole are well served by electrical and telephone service and are well equipped with conveniences and labor-saving equipment.

Table 13.- Specified Facilities and Equipment on Farms
Clallam County, 1954

Facility or Equipment Item	Number of Farms Using	Percent of All Farms in County Equipped
Telephone.....	802	75.1
Electricity.....	1,002	93.6
Television.....	531	49.7
Piped running water.....	962	90.1
Home freezer.....	336	31.5
Electric pig brooder.....	—	—
Power feed grinder.....	60	5.6
Milking machine.....	231	21.6
Grain combines.....	5	.5
Corn pickers.....	—	—
Pick-up balers.....	46	4.3
Field forage harvesters.....	25	2.3
Artificial ponds, reservoirs and earth tanks.....	71	6.6
Motor trucks.....	532	49.8
Tractors.....	637	59.6
Automobiles.....	867	81.2

Source: U.S. Census, Agriculture

Nearly 94 percent of farms are served with electrical power and 75 percent have telephones. Television was being used by about half of all farm homes by 1955. Nearly all dairy farms were equipped with milking machines. Tractors are used on 60 percent of all farms. Farm transportation is well advanced. About one-half the farms have trucks and over 80 percent have automobiles. Use of most modern standard farm facilities and labor-saving devices in 1954 was well advanced over the situation revealed in the 1944 and 1949 Censuses.

Table 11. Clallam County's Rank Compared With
Other Washington Counties

Item Compared	Rank	Quantity	Year
General			
Land area.....	20	1,121,920 acres	1954
Number of farms.....	22	1,068 farms	1954
Land in farms--percent.....	37	6.7 percent	1954
Average size of farms.....	31	71 acres	1954
Cropland harvested.....	30	15,146 acres	1954
Rural farm population.....	21	4,118 persons	1950
Total county population.....	19	26,396 persons	1950
Cash farm income			
Value of all farm products sold..	28	2,854,390 dollars	1954
Value of livestock sold.....	17	2,459,780 dollars	1954
Value of crops sold.....	35	206,203 dollars	1954
Livestock on farms			
All cattle and calves.....	23	17,720	1954
Milk cows.....	12	7,208 head	1954
Hogs.....	28	939 head	1954
Chickens.....	19	48,267 birds	1954
Horses and mules.....	25	504 head	1954
Sheep and lambs.....	31	573 head	1954
Dairy and poultry products sold			
Value of dairy products sold.....	9	1,789,694 dollars	1954
Whole milk sold.....	11	39,249,000 pounds	1954
Value of poultry products sold...	15	273,306 dollars	1954
Chickens sold.....	23	24,218 birds	1954
Eggs sold.....	14	457,172 dozens	1954
Important crops harvested			
Alfalfa.....	13	6,800 acres	1954
Clover and timothy.....	14	4,100 acres	1954
Strawberries.....	11	51 acres	1954
Fruits.....	32	99 acres	1954

Source: U.S. Censuses of Agriculture, 1950, 1954.