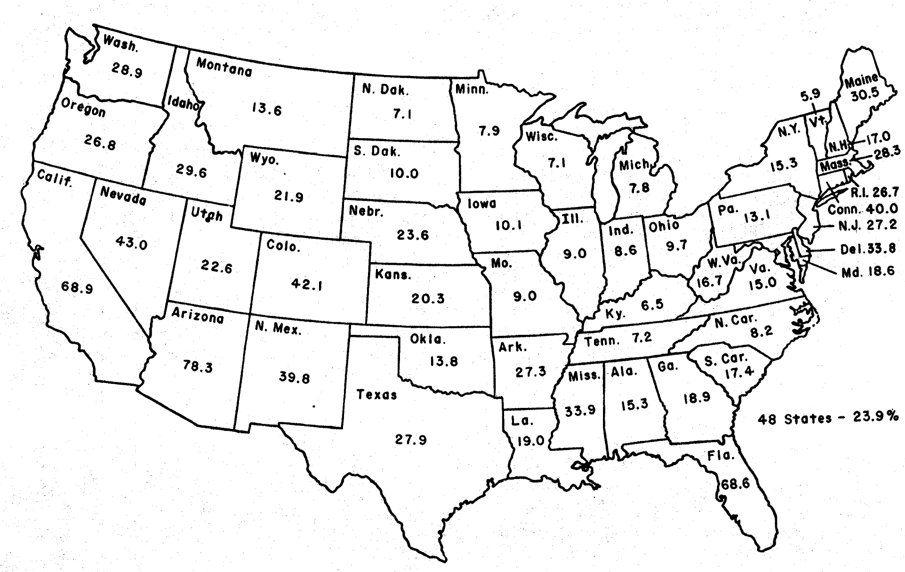
Chart 2
MARKETINGS BY FARMS WITH $100,000 OR MORE OF GROSS SALES AS PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL MARKETINGS OF ALL FARMS
1964 Census



SOURCE: U. S. Department of Agriculture.

cent of all farms, this group accounted for 24 per cent of gross sales in 1964, compared with 16 per cent in 1959. These large operations averaged over $160,000 in annual production expenses on an average of 3,815 acres per farm. Specialty crops, cotton, and livestock feeding are apparently prevalent on these farms. Information is lacking as to what proportion of this class of commercial farms is incorporated.

The most difficult questions concerning corporate farming involve socioeconomic value judgments. Are corporate farms more efficient than family farms? If so, are the economic gains in efficiency achieved at the expense of less tangible, but equally important social benefits? If the resources of agricultural production are owned by nonfarmers, will our agriculture remain viable and progressive? Will the growth of corporate farming accelerate outmigration from rural communities, leaving ghost towns?

The interdependence of agriculture and our general economy is substantial—many industries rely upon the future of agriculture and many groups have vital interests in it. Conflicts of national goals such as occupational freedom, efficient resource utilization, abun-