

Summer-field-crop farms tend to be larger than the average of all farms in the community, but the difference is not very great. In Dinuba about 70 percent are under 80 acres in size, as against 87 percent for all farms. In Arvin about 20 percent are in this small category and 35 percent are under 160 acres while 40 percent of all farms are under 80 and 55 percent under 160. Summer field crops are a somewhat less intensive operation than fruit, so that somewhat larger units would be expected.

Acreage in farms, and even cropland acreage as used above, is not an entirely satisfactory measure of farm size. An acre of wheat and an acre of grapes differ extremely in the amount of labor required, amount of capital invested, and potential income. In order to discuss farm size on a more comparable basis, a unit of measurement has been devised which expresses the potential income from an area of land. This unit has here been called an acre-equivalent (abbreviated A-E), and may be defined as that area of any cropland which under normal conditions has the potential capacity to return income equivalent to that of an acre of irrigated alfalfa. (See appendix B for method of calculation and factors used.) In terms of this measurement, the average farm unit in Arvin is 285 acre-equivalent units against 89 in Dinuba (fig. 3). Figure 5 shows the distribution of farms by size categories measured in acreage-equivalents. The heavy concentration of Dinuba units in the brackets between 50 and 200 units is clearly evident. In Arvin nearly half the farms are under 100 such units in size, though most of the acreage is controlled under farms of the larger categories.

The accompanying figures Nos. 3, 4, and 5 apply to farms as operating units. Since tenancy is prevalent, the same picture need not apply to farm ownership. Analysis has been made of ownership units, which may or may not be operated as one farm but which include all the lands within the community owned by one individual. There are 214 such units in Arvin with an average size of 176 acres, and 753 units in Dinuba with an average size of 45 acres.

TABLE 10.—Number of ownership units and acreage by size of holdings: Arvin and Dinuba, 1940

Size class	Arvin				Dinuba			
	Num-ber	Per-cent	Acres	Per-cent	Num-ber	Per-cent	Acres	Per-cent
0 to 80.....	100	46.8	3,483	9.2	668	88.7	19,088	56.3
80.1 to 160.....	49	22.8	7,406	19.8	42	5.6	4,678	13.8
160.1 to 640.....	52	24.3	11,696	31.0	38	5.0	7,063	20.9
640.1 and up.....	13	6.1	15,083	40.0	5	.7	3,049	9.0
Total.....	214	100.0	37,728	100.0	753	100.0	33,878	100.0

NOTE.—Where part of unit is held within community boundaries and part outside, acreage within boundaries only was included, but placed in size category based upon total holdings. Such situation reported for Arvin only.

SOURCE: Agricultural Adjustment Agency data for communities as delineated.

Table 10 shows that nearly half the holdings in Arvin are under 80 acres but have only 9 percent of the land, whereas 30 percent of the farm holdings over 160 acres have 71 percent of the land. In Dinuba nearly 90 percent of all ownership units are less than 80 acres, and operate 56 percent of the land, while the small percent of the owners who have over 160 acres (5.7 percent) operate 30 percent of the land.