

The average number of hours worked per day by seasons in the different areas with week-day and Sunday given separately is shown in Table 32. From these data it appears that most farmers keep busy during the spring and summer—perhaps a larger number of them work on the average more than 10 hours per day than work less. Many of them also work long days in the fall—perhaps more of them work on the average longer than 9 hours per day than work less. Perhaps as many of them work 8 hours per day or more as work less during this winter period. The amount of work done during the winter season varies with the type of farming followed, being heaviest on those farms on which much livestock is kept. In addition to the week-day work, considerable farm work must be done on Sunday. This is particularly true on farms on which dairying is the principal enterprise.

Farmers Take Occasional Holidays

It is not to be assumed from these data that farmers work every day during the year. Practically every farmer takes a day off now and then. A given farmer will work more some days than others during the same season. The data merely show the average number of hours worked considering all work days and Sundays.

TABLE 32.—Average hours worked by farm operators by seasons, week day and Sunday separate

State	Winter ¹		Spring		Summer		Fall		Yearly average	
	Week day	Sunday	Week day	Sunday	Week day	Sunday	Week day	Sunday	Week day	Sunday
	Hours	Hours	Hours	Hours	Hours	Hours	Hours	Hours	Hours	Hours
Colorado.....	6.0	3.6	7.6	2.5	9.6	3.8	7.7	2.6	7.7	3.1
Montana.....	6.3	3.4	8.1	4.4	10.0	4.6	8.9	4.5	8.3	4.2
Kansas.....	8.5	5.2	10.1	4.7	10.8	3.7	9.6	4.2	9.7	4.4
North Dakota.....	7.4	4.8	10.0	5.0	10.2	4.5	9.4	4.4	9.3	4.7
South Dakota.....	7.0	4.5	10.2	4.6	10.0	4.3	9.5	3.8	9.2	4.3
Minnesota (south).....	9.9	5.5	10.3	4.4	10.1	4.2	7.7	4.9	9.5	4.7
Minnesota (north).....	8.7	5.2	10.2	4.7	10.0	3.7	9.6	4.2	9.6	4.5
Wisconsin.....	8.9	7.0	10.1	6.7	10.2	5.2	10.2	5.7	9.9	6.2
Ohio (south).....	7.4	4.0	9.9	4.2	9.3	3.5	9.5	3.8	9.0	3.9
Ohio (north).....	8.7	4.8	10.4	5.3	9.8	3.9	10.0	3.9	9.7	4.5
Iowa.....	8.3	3.4	10.7	3.3	10.3	2.9	9.6	2.8	9.8	3.1
North Carolina.....	7.0	1.4	9.0	1.5	10.0	1.5	8.6	1.4	8.7	1.4
Texas.....	5.5	1.7	6.1	1.8	6.8	1.9	6.3	1.7	6.2	1.8

¹ The year is divided into four equal parts, with December, January, and February considered winter; the following three months, spring, etc.

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WORK Time of Horses on Farm Varies Widely In farming a considerable part of the crop area is used in producing feed for the work stock. The proportion of the total area necessary for this purpose depends to some extent upon the way in which the work stock requirements are distributed during the year. This is reflected in the average amount that each horse is worked during the year.

The hours of work per horse by seasons in selected farming areas of the United States is shown in Table 33. These data were obtained from farm-management studies undertaken in cooperation

with State colleges of agriculture. They show the number of hours that horses were worked as taken from records carefully kept and closely supervised.

TABLE 33.—Hours of work per horse by seasons in selected farming areas

State	Area	Year	Number of farms	Winter 1	Spring	Summer	Fall	Total
Colorado.....	Irrigated diversified crop and sheep feeding.	1924	21	94	302	263	327	996
Montana.....	Irrigated diversified crop.....	1920	16	35	215	236	219	705
Kansas.....	Winter wheat.....	1925	21	128	287	255	157	827
South Dakota.....	Spring wheat.....	1922	20	60	241	306	211	818
Minnesota.....	Diversified crop and dairying.....	1920	23	92	221	300	219	832
Wisconsin.....	Dairying.....	1922	23	86	222	230	172	710
Ohio (south).....	Diversified crop and livestock.....	1923	20	66	240	205	125	636
Ohio (north).....	do.....	1923	17	86	211	264	150	711
Kentucky.....	Tobacco and livestock.....	1924	18	65	287	296	208	856
North Carolina.....	do.....	1925	20	188	487	308	184	1,167
Texas.....	Cotton (black-land belt).....	1925	21	289	295	231	99	914

¹ The year is divided into four equal parts: December, January, and February are considered winter, the following three months spring, etc.

Work is Seasonal

Generally horses are worked more in the spring and summer than in the fall and winter. As a rule, they are worked about one-third the work days during the spring and summer seasons. During the fall months perhaps one-fourth the work days is a more common practice. In winter, in most sections, perhaps less than one-tenth of the total available horse work is utilized in as many cases as more is used. In the South, because of an earlier planting, horses are usually worked more in February and March than during the fall months. This explains the large amount of horse work shown for North Carolina and Texas during the winter season. The large amount of horse work shown for Colorado in the fall is explained by the fact that potatoes and sugar beets were important crops in the area from which these data were obtained, and both require much horse work in harvesting and marketing during the fall season.

There is a wide variation in the amounts horses are worked on different farms and in different areas. Important factors in determining these differences are the length of the growing season and the system of farming being followed. For example, in a farming area in southern Ohio in 1923, the horses on 20 farms were worked on the average only 636 hours per horse, while in an area of North Carolina in 1925 the horses on 20 farms were worked on the average 1,167 hours. That is, in southern Ohio the horses were worked during the year the equivalent of 63.6 days of 10 hours each, and in North Carolina they were worked the equivalent of 116.7 days. In western Kentucky one of the 18 farmers worked his horses on the average the equivalent of 59.6 10-hour days, while another worked them the equivalent of 145.5 days. The latter followed a more diversified system than the former.

Some Keep Too Many Horses

Often farmers keep more work horses than are required by the crops grown and other livestock kept. For example, a Colorado

farmer keeping seven work horses never worked more than six of them at any one time during the year. He worked more than four only 17 days during the year. As a result, he used 20 per cent of his total crop area in producing feed for the work stock. It is to the farmer's interest to plan the crops and livestock so that the horse work requirements will be distributed as much as possible and at the same time to plan to keep only as many mature horses as are necessary to take care of these needs.

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