

## I.5 Legal Organization

**M**ore than three-quarters of all farms in California are individual or family proprietorships, and another 15% are partnerships.

- About 7% of all California farms are legally organized as corporations. About 85% of these are family held. Non-family held corporations (1% of the farms) produce about 6% of total agricultural sales both in the United States and in California.
- Corporate farms, including those which are family held, are on average much larger than individual or family held proprietorships.

TABLE 11

### Legal Organization of Farms, 1997

		CALIFORNIA					
		Individual or Family	Partnership	CORPORATION		Other*	All Farms
				Family Held	Not Family Held		
Farms	percent	76.6	14.6	6.0	1.1	1.8	100
Average Area	acres	249	708	975	1,103	529	374
Total Area	percent	51	28	16	3	3	100
Average Sales	(\$1,000)	130	655	1,541	1,770	222	311
Total Sales	percent	32	31	30	6	1	100
Average Value of Land and Buildings	(\$1,000)	595	1,710	3,054	3,535	1,232	941
		UNITED STATES					
		Individual or Family	Partnership	CORPORATION		Other*	All Farms
				Family Held	Not Family Held		
Farms	percent	86.0	8.9	4.0	0.4	0.8	100
Average Area	acres	356	881	1571	1507	4,378	487
Total Area	percent	63	16	13	1	7	100
Average Sales	(\$1,000)	62	210	603	1,395	117	103
Total Sales	percent	52	18	23	6	1	100
Average Value of Land and Buildings	(\$1,000)	360	791	1,338	1,769	1,357	450

\*Other includes cooperatives, estates, trusts, and institutionals.

Source: USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service, 1997 Census of Agriculture.