



The crop share lease acres are more likely to be rented to a relative or a friend, whereas the cash rental agreement is more likely to be a written lease. The use of a professional farm manager is more common for crop share leases as well. Interestingly, the percent of crop share leased land with an owner who lives on a farm has significantly decreased from 44 percent five years ago to only 36 percent as of July 2017, which is even lower than the share for cash rental leases.

Finally, Table 4 presents several additional characteristics of crop share leased farmland. Two-thirds of all crop share leased land has been rented by the same tenant, and a quarter of all land with a crop share lease were rented

by the same tenant. One interesting metric that serves as a nice proxy for landowners' involvements in decisions on rented land is how often the landowner visits the farm during a year. Table 4 shows that for 37 percent of crop share leased land, landowners visit the farm on a daily basis, which is much higher than the corresponding metric, 25 percent, for land rented out in cash rental arrangements. This is consistent with the common belief that landowners are typically more involved in crop share arrangements compared to cash rental agreements. However, Table 4 also shows that for 12 percent of land rented out with a crop share lease, the landowners never visit the rented farm.

**Table 1. Distribution of crop share acres based on the portion of yield received or percent of costs paid by the landowner, 2017**

	0%	25-49%	50%	51-99%	100%	Not used/ reported
Corn yield	---	8%	89%	2%	---	1%
Soybean yield	---	8%	89%	2%	---	1%
Inputs - seed, fertilizer, herbicides, insecticides	6%	2%	88%	---	4%	---
Custom work - custom combine, custom fertilizer application, custom pesticide application	8%	---	42%	---	---	50%

**Table 2. Percent of landowners based on the portion of yield received or percent of costs paid by the landowner, 2017**

	0%	25-49%	50%	51-99%	100%	Not used/ reported
Corn yield	---	6%	84%	4%	---	6%
Soybean yield	---	6%	84%	4%	---	6%
Inputs - seed, fertilizer, herbicides, insecticides	5%	<1%	86%	---	8%	0%
Custom work - custom combine, custom fertilizer application, custom pesticide application	10%	---	36%	---	---	54%

**Table 3. Characteristics of leased Iowa farmland, 2017**

	Cash rent	Crop share	All leased acres
Percent of leased acres	83%	17%	100%
Use written lease	69%	37%	64%
Leased to a relative	30%	39%	31%
Leased to a friend	21%	29%	22%
Professional farm manager used	2%	11%	4%
Owner lives on a farm	42%	36%	41%
Fixed-term lease	82%	13%	70%
Average tenure of current tenant (years)	11.6	14.4	12.1

**Table 4. Characteristics crop share leased farmland in Iowa, percent of acres, 2017**

	1	2 to 5	6 to 10	11 to 20		
Number of years for a fixed lease	18%	5%	14%	62%		
	1	2 to 5	6 to 10	11 to 20	> 20	Average
Years tenant has rented	6%	11%	15%	43%	25%	14.4
	Never	Once or twice	Monthly	Weekly	Daily	
How often owner visits farm during year	12%	33%	13%	5%	37%	
	1	2	3	4 or more		
Number of tenants	77%	18%	3%	2%		

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