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A Study of the Farming Systems of Fifty Negro Farmers in Caldwell County, Texas

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A STUDY OF THE FARMING SYSTEMS OF FIFTY NEGRO FARMERS IN CALDWELL COUNTY, TEXAS

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By

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DEDICATION

To

Mother

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A Study of the Farming Systems of Fifty Negro Farmers in Caldwell County, Texas

I. Introduction

- A. Statement of Problem
- B. Problem Analysis
- C. Purpose of Study
- D. Scope of Study
- E. Source of Data
- F. Limitation and Delimitation of Study
- G. Methods and Materials

II. Review of Related Literature

- A. Relationship of Home and Family Life and Farming Systems
- B. Relationship of Farm Land and Farming Systems
- C. Relationship of Enterprises and Farming Systems
- D. Relationship of Farm Machinery and Farming Systems

III. Analysis of Study

- A. Home
  - 1. Family - Housing Facilities
- B. Farm Land
  - 1. Soil Conservation and Maintenance
- C. Enterprise
  - 1. Crop
  - 2. Livestock
  - 3. Poultry
- D. Farm Machinery

IV. Summary

- A. Findings
- B. Recommendations
- C. Bibliography

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

The past few years have forcefully demonstrated the paramount importance of agriculture as a phase of our national life. The fact that the farmer feeds the world makes agriculture basic to the existence of the human race.

The following statement by Cox and Jackson further elucidates the point:[1]

> We are the fortunate possessors of over 610,000,000 acres of tilled or tillable soil available for growing the crops and livestock that feed and clothes the nation, provide raw materials for manufacture, and supply export demands.

The possession of this magnificent heritage, although assuring us of national prosperity, carries, with it a direct obligation to conserve, and, if possible, to improve the land.

It is, therefore, apparent that our farming practices be adjusted to protect our basic heritage.

Statement of Problem

What are the factors influencing systems of farming?

Problem Analysis: The problem of this study encompasses several interrelated aspects:

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[1] Cox, Joseph F. and Jackson, Lyman E., Crop Management and Soil Conservation, p. 1.

1. To discover, if any, the relationship between family-life and housing facilities and a particular system of farming.
2. To discover, if any, the relationship between farm land and a particular system of farming.
3. To discover, if any, the relationship between crop, livestock and poultry enterprises and a particular system of farming.
4. To discover, if any, the relationship between machinery and a particular system of farming.

Purpose of Study

Experiences in Caldwell County, Texas indicate that there are farmers who have families, raise crops and foster other enterprises, yet their machinery and systems of farming vary. The apparent variations gave need for information to ascertain its relationship to the family life, farm land and enterprises of the farmers. The writer was desirous of discovering certain aspects because of the close relationship existing between the farmer and his line of work.

Scope of the Study

This study was limited to fifty Negro farmers in Caldwell County, Texas. Its main concern is with an analysis of the systems of farmings in use, and their relationship with home and family life; farm land, enterprises and machinery used by these fifty farmers.

Source of Data

The data for this study were obtained from two sources:

1. Questionnaire responses from the farmer who constituted the population of this study.
2. Documentary materials from a review of related literature.

Limitation and Delimitation of the Study

Limitation. There is one basic limitation to this study. Much of the data were obtained from questionnaire responses. Responses to questionnaire can only be considered as the written testimony of the respondents and were not necessarily true in terms of their functioning beliefs and opinions. Hence, the responses represent only the stated beliefs and opinions of the respondents.

Delimitation. The study included only fifty farmers and not all of the farmers in Caldwell County.

Methods and Materials

Two procedures were used in this study by the writer to ascertain the facts concerning the systems of farming used in Caldwell County. The data were obtained through (1) a review of pertinent literature, and (2) by constructing a questionnaire.

The writer found considerable reference material relative to systems of farming. The literature cited will serve as a "frame of reference," giving the points of view of many

authorities within this field.

A second technique used in this study was the formulation and administration of a questionnaire. A questionnaire was designed to determine the extent to which home and family life, farm land, enterprises and machinery were related to systems of farming in use.

The preliminary form of the questionnaire was submitted to the faculty advisor for his analysis, suggestions, and reaction.

The questionnaire was then administered to fifty farmers of Caldwell County.

This instrument constituted the following areas which are a part of this study: (1) home and family life, (2) farm land, (3) enterprises, and (4) machinery.

Home and Family Life. Standards of living constitute an organic whole, touching every phase of life of the individual, the family of the group as the case may be. This includes the sort of house lived in, and other elements relating to the more physical phase of living.

The "home and family life" section of the questionnaire is concerned with the number in family, whether or not the family is a farm owner, size of farm, number of acres in cultivation, and other information of practical value.

Farm Land. Land utilized for agricultural production requires some type of treatment to keep it in fit mechani-

cal condition. Often mere cultivation of the top soil is not sufficient and must be supplemented by other basic practices if optimum returns are to be secured.

This section of the study seeks to determine the texture and type of soil; the number of acres in cultivation and the soil conservation practices in use.

Enterprises. Authorities generally agree that farmers need a few standard enterprise combinations which are applicable to their conditions and to their own resources; that is, combinations set up so that they can see how the various enterprises fit together, what will be the probable financial results, and how changes can be made and the new combinations put into practice.

This section of the questionnaire seeks to find the different enterprises the farmers have, and maybe, show how standard combinations may be developed and used by farmers in improving the organization of their farms.

Machinery. Machinery has been used exclusively in the production of crops for many years. The size of the farm and crop enterprises determine the type of machinery to be used. Crops that utilize the machinery to the fullest extent usually should be the ones grown.

This section of the questionnaire seeks to find out the different types of machinery used on each farm.

CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

The purpose of this chapter is to present related literature pertaining to the following subject areas: (1) The home and family life and farming systems; (2) Farm land and farming systems; (3) Enterprises and farming systems; and (4) Farm machinery and farming systems.

Home and Family Life

Every home, no matter how simple, holds a place in the hearts and memories of the family members even after they are grown up. It is hoped that this study might show the importance of home and family life among the rural population of Caldwell County.

Hunt says that, "A farm is any unit of land operated by a farmer with his own labor, family labor, and hired labor."[2]

When selecting a farm extreme care should be exercised in making a choice. Many farmers make only one such purchase in a life time. If a poor farm is selected, the farmer is handicapped from the beginning.

Hunt further asserts:

A farmer's chance for profits and enjoyment of life

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[2]Hunt, Robert L., Farm Management In The South, The Interstate Printers and Publishers, Danville, Illinois, 1942, p. 547.

> is tied up in a farm, because farming is a way of life as well as a business. The remark is sometimes heard that a particular farm is a good farm but a poor place to live. A good financial bargain, therefore, may turn into a failure if the enjoyment of life is spoiled by living constantly under undesirable conditions.[3]

Many writers on farm tenancy convey the impression that farm tenancy is an unmigated evil.

Wilson Gee refutes this attitude in the following list of advantages in the institution of farm tenancy:

1. Tenancy is a stepping stone to independent owner-operatorship.
2. In some instances to rent a farm is more desirable than to buy it.
3. Tenancy enables the prospective farmer safely to determine whether farming is an occupation in which he may happily spend his life, and also to test whether or not a particular farm is the one which he should buy.
4. Tenancy provides a greater mobility of population, which among a high grade tenant class as in the West, really functions as a mitigant of provincialism and localism.[4]

Even though disadvantages of farm tenancy are numerous, and are most apparent in the community where tenancy is most prevalent, a farmer might consider tenancy not as an evil but as a stepping stone toward land ownership.

Whether or not a farmer is a land owner or tenant, his family is of primary importance.

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[3] Ibid., p. 235

[4] Gee, Wilson, The Social Economics of Agriculture, The Macmillan Company, New York, New York, 1947, pp. 119-120.

The importance of the family as a social unit and the role of the family in determining the character and structure of society are recognized by laymen today.

Whether the household group has lost in whole or in part many economic and industrial activities has increased the family's social importance. The family provides most of the intimate and influential relationships between persons. Whether the scene is harmonious cooperative or discordant, the family group is of basic importance in the structure of society.

M. C. Elmer briefly discussed three aspects of the family:

> (1) Reproduction, (2) Nurture of children, and (3) Mutual sympathetic understanding and helpfulness. The aspects which have been everywhere recognized are reproduction and the nurture of children. The third aspect of family life, mutual sympathetic understanding and helpfulness is necessary in order to meet the psychic needs of the individual, and of the group.[5]

There appears to be a necessity for provision of opportunity for working together in such tasks as are necessary for physical existence.

Farm Land

There are good farms and poor farms. Some have soils that respond generously to good farm practices while others

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[5]Elmer, M. C., The Sociology of the Family, Ginn and Company, New York, New York, 1945, p. 34.

have poor soils that refuse to be coaxed into giving generous yields regardless of the practices used.

Land differs in degree of efficiency the same as plants and animals.

Hunt elucidates the point further in the following statement:

> The type of soils, subsoils, fertility, and general condition should be noted. A soil auger or a common post hole digger can be sued to examine the depth of the top soil and the nature of the subsoil. Records of yields should be carefully checked. The effect of differences in soil characteristics on drainage is so pronounced as to render a proper presentation of the subject impossible without a review of the more important soil properties.[6]

A classification of soils according to their origin and from a drainage standpoint were suggested in five general groups by Ayers and Scoates as follows:

> (1) Residual, (2) Glacial, (3) Alluvial, (4) Cumulose, and (5) Marine. The residual soils are those which have usually been formed by the weathering and disintegration of native rocks in place. The glacial till soils are characterized, in the main as heavy clay or clay loams due to the tremendous grinding force that has produced them. As the name implies, alluvial soils owe their origin to the eroding and transporting capacity of water. Cumulose soils are those formed by the process of slow oxidation of organic matter under water. Marine soil is derived from the older residual types to the West and North and has originated partly by a vast upheaval in some prehistoric time, of the ocean's bed.[7]

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[6] Hunt, op. cit., p. 111.

[7] Ayers, Claude Quincy and Daniel Scoates, Land Drainage and Reclamation, McGraw-Hill Book Company, New York, New York, 1939, pp. 108, 111.

Farm Enterprises

Hunt defines farm enterprises as "any crop, kind of livestock, manufactory process, or distinct part of the farm business as a whole."[8]

Every farmer has his own individual problem of selecting farm enterprises. Each individual farm is the place where the several agricultural practices come together in one pattern and there is no one 'best' pattern that fits all farms alike. Success depends upon the farmer's ability to fit the several enterprises together and keep them in proper relationship to one another as economic conditions change.

Since most farmers have at least three enterprises, the writer deems it important to discuss three common enterprises: Crop, livestock and poultry.

Crop Enterprises

The chief objective in planning a farm business is to secure the greatest possible returns from the resources available. Planning is concerned both with physical and economic production. In a physical sense, planning means adoption of plants that will grow well on the farm. In economic planning, one must not only select plants that will do well on the farm; but must also choose them on the basis of market demand.

Climate and weather are decisive factors in the development of plants. Temperature, moisture, and sunlight are three climatic factors holding most power over plants.

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[8] Ibid., p. 147.

The type and fertility of the soil are important factors in plant production.

In determining the crop interests which are to engage the attention of the farmer, it is well to keep in mind that the several lines of production vary in demands upon the resources of the farmer. Different farming interests evidence a complimentary relationship, as in the case of crops and livestock.

Warren points out that diversification of interests on a farm is advantageous because:

> (1) It makes possible the rotation of crops. (2) Diversified farming reduces the risk of total failure. (3) It distributes the income throughout the year, and (4) Diversified farming usually provides a better distribution of labor demands throughout the year.[9]

Gee asserts further that:

> The objective which every farmer should strive for is that of the most complete and effective utilization of all his resources--land, labor, capital and management--in order to achieve a maximization of his net profits.[10]

Livestock

Climate affects animals in two ways--indirectly through its influence on quantity and quality of plants used as feed,

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[9] Warren, G. F. and F. A. Pearson, The Agricultural Situation, John Wiley and Sons, Inc., New York, New York, 1924, p. 107-109.

[10] Gee, op. cit., p. 154.

and directly by its influence upon production and growth of animals.

Most breeds of livestock originated on other continents and were imported into this country as stated by Hunt. He further opines that, "importation and adaptation have gone on for several centuries and through a process of trial and error, adjustments of types and breeds to our various climatic conditions have been made. Experiments are continuing, however, and new types and breeds may be developed that will be better adapted than the present types."[11]

Care should be exercised in selecting animals for a region. The farmers should select animal enterprises that will thrive well in their locations, and that will satisfy market demands.

Poultry

Poultry appears to hold a unique place among farm enterprises.

Hunt asserted that, "a small flock of hens produce more profit for the cost than does any other enterprise on the farm."[12]

A flock of 25 hens will furnish a valuable addition to the daily food supply. A slightly larger flock will give some income for spending money or for the purchase of

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[11] Hunt, op. cit., p. 109-110.

[12] Ibid., p. 542.

groceries. A flock of 100 hens will go a long way toward paying for products not grown on the farm.

Since poultry does not require a lot of expensive equipment, and food can be easily grown, poultry production can be done on a profitable basis.

Turkeys should be added whenever the farm furnishes the proper range conditions. A small flock of turkeys requires very little expense for feeds as they forage for insects almost constantly during their growing period.

Farmers can use agricultural agencies to furnish instructions as to supplementing the feeds grown on the farm to make a balanced ration for poultry; thereby aiding in making poultry raising a profitable enterprise.

Farm Machinery

Since this is an age of machinery on the farm and machinery makes it possible for fewer farmers to produce more, it is necessary for the farmers to become acquainted with machinery.

Hunt states that,"the farmer's problem is to know how to select equipment suited to his soils, topography and crops. Money to purchase equipment, of course, is also important. The main problem, however, is to select the most efficient machines for his needs."[13]

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[13] Ibid., pp. 156-157.

Farmers now have a variety of farm machinery from which to select: cultivators drawn by one horse or mule to six-row tractor drawn cultivators; mowing machines; hay balers, planters, wagons, trucks and many other types of implements needed on farms.

It is deemed important by some authorities that the farmer become cognizant of the efficiency differences in implements. A farmer on a given farm will find one type of plow more efficient than other plows. It is highly important to discover these differences in efficiency before making a purchase as it is to use care in selecting the variety of crops.

Summary

In summarizing what the literature has obviously indicated, it seems safe to list these factors:

1. Home and family life is greatly influenced by the system of farming in use.
2. Every home holds a place in the hearts of the family.
3. That farm land affects the system of farming.
4. That farm enterprises should be selected to utilize all of the farmer's resources--land, labor, capital and management.
5. That the farmer should select the most efficient machines for his needs.

CHAPTER III

ANALYSIS OF STUDY

The purpose of this chapter was to obtain as much information as possible on the systems of farming used by some of the farmers in Caldwell County.

The writer constructed a questionnaire to be administered to fifty farmers in Caldwell County. Its purpose was to determine the relationship of home and family life, farm land, enterprises and farm machinery and the farming systems in use.

Home and Family Life

The first question on the questionnaire was pertaining to family size and child distribution. Table one reveals that twenty-seven or 54 per cent of the families in this study had a total of one to five members; twenty or 40 per cent had from six to ten members; and three or 6 per cent had a total of eleven or more members.

Table 1. Family Size of Fifty Negro Farmers in Caldwell County, Texas

Total Number of Members in Family	Number	Per Cent
1 to 5	27	54
6 to 10	20	40
11 or More	3	6
Total	50	100

Child distribution of these fifty farmers as shown in table 2 reveals that there were a total of seventy-four children. Forty-six or 62.1 per cent were boys and twenty-eight or 37.9 per cent were girls.

The 62.1 per cent boys indicated that future farm work can be carried on; and should be planned for by the parents.

Table 2. Child Distribution of Fifty Negro Farmers In Caldwell County, Texas

Number of Families	Boys	Girls	Total
3	1	0	1
9	1	1	2
4	1	2	3
1	1	3	4
5	2	1	3
5	2	2	4
1	3	1	4
3	3	2	5
2	3	4	7
2	4	1	5
3	4	2	6
1	4	4	8
1	5	0	5
1	5	3	8
3	7	2	9
6	0	0	0
Total 50	46	28	74

Question 2 requested: "Are you a farm owner or tenant?" Table 3 reveals that thirty-eight or 76 per cent of the farmers were land owners. There were 12 or 24 per cent tenants.

Table 3. Number and Per Cent of Farm Owners and Tenants, and Size of Respective Farms

Size of Farm Owned	Number of Farm Owners	Per Cent	Size of Farm Rented	Number of Tenants	Per Cent
1- 5 Acres	1	2	1- 5 Acres	0	0
6- 10 "	1	2	6- 10 "	1	2
11- 25 "	5	10	11- 25 "	2	4
26- 50 "	7	14	26- 50 "	3	6
51-100 "	17	34	51-100 "	3	6
101- up "	7	14	101-up "	3	6
Total	38	76	Total	12	24

Table 4 indicates that the land owners and tenants were in possession of 3,968 acres of land. Of this number, 2,435 or 61.3 per cent acres were in cultivation. The mean number of acres per farm was 79.3.

Table 4. Number, Per Cent, and Mean Acres Owned, Rented and in Cultivation

Land Owners and Tenants	Total Number of Acres Owned and Rented	Total Number of Acres in Cultivation	Per Cent of Acres in Cul tivation	Mean Numbers of Acres Per Farm
50	3,968	2,435	61.3	79.3

The next questions pertaining to the home sought to determine the number of years the farmers had resided on their respective farms; and the size of their farm homes. Further information was sought to determine the modern

conveniences used by these farmers.

The responses to these questions are revealed in tables 5, 6, and 7.

Table 5 showed that five or 10 per cent of the farmers had resided on their farms from 0 to 50 years. Eleven or 22 per cent had been farm residents from 6 to 10 years. Twenty-two or 44 per cent had resided on their farms from 11 to 20 years. Twelve or 24 per cent had been farm residents for more than 21 years.

Table 5. Number and Per Cent of Years the Fifty Farmer Have Lived on Farm

Number of Years on Farm	Number of Farmers	Per Cent
0 - 5	5	10
6 - 10	11	22
11 - 20	22	44
21 - or More	12	24
Total	50	100

Analysis of the size of the farm homes revealed that 12 farmers had four room homes; 24 had five rooms; 9 had 6 rooms, and 5 had 7 rooms. Of the 50 farm homes reported the mean number of rooms per home was 5.1. (Table 6).

Analysis of the number of homes having modern conveniences showed that a number of conveniences were utilized by the farmers. (Table 7).

Table 6. Size of Farm Homes

Number of Rooms	Number of Homes	Mean Number of Rooms Per Home
4	12	4
5	24	5
6	9	6
7	5	7
Total	50	5.1

Table 7. Number and Per Cent of Homes Having Modern Conveniences

Items Owned	Number of Homes	Per Cent of Homes
Electricity	43	86
Gas	3	6
Running Water	3	6
Sewage	1	2
Telephone	3	6
Radio	38	76
Television	4	8
Washing Machines	9	18
Deep Freeze	2	4
Refrigerator	32	64
Miscellaneous	50	100

Forty-three homes had electricity; 3 had gas, running water, and telephones. Only one had sewage. Even though only four homes owned television--37 of them owned radios.

There were 9 who owned washing machines. Only two owned deep freezes--however, 32 owned refrigerators. The fifty farmers in this study reported miscellaneous items such as electric irons, fans, food mixers, et cetera.

Farm land was considered next on the questionnaire. This section sought to find the type of soil on each farm; number of acres in cultivation; and soil conservation practices used by the fifty Negro farmers of Caldwell County.

The farmers reported heavy loam, sandy loam, and black land.

A previous table shows that of the 3,968 acres of land owned and rented, there were 2,435 acres in cultivation.

Table 8 shows the conservation practices used by the farmers. Thirty-one farmers use rotation; 27 use strip-crop; 34 make use of terraces; thirty-seven grow cover crops, and 14 of them do contour farming.

Table 8. Conservation Practices of the Farmers

Conservation Practices	Number of Farmer Using	Per Cent of Farmers
Rotation	31	62
Strip Crops	27	54
Terracing	34	68
Cover Crops	37	74
Contour Farming	14	28

Enterprises were considered next of the questionnaire.

The major crops grown by the farmers in this study are shown in table 9.

Thirty-eight farmers grow cotton; 17 grow peanuts; 21 grow hay and 35 of them grow corn. Potatoes were grown by 18 of the farmers; and watermelons were grown by 26. Twelve farmers grow tomatoes, 21 grow peas, and cane is grown by 5.

All of the farmers reported vegetable gardens and fruit trees. These are grown on a small scale, and preserved or sold.

Table 9. Crops Grown by the Farmers

Crops	Number of Farmers Raising Crops
Cotton	38
Peanuts	17
Hay	21
Corn	35
Potatoes	18
Watermelons	26
Tomatoes	12
Peas	21
Cane	5

Table 10 was made from the answer to question pertaining to livestock enterprises of the fifty farmers in this study. The questions were number and kind of livestock, number sold; weight average; approximate income from sales.

It was revealed that all 50 or 100 per cent of the

farmers owned 544 beef and dairy cows. Two-hundred-twenty cows were sold last year. The mean gross income from sales was $330.00.

Thirty-nine farmers own 251 swine. The mean number of heads per family was 6.6. None was sold.

Only four farmers grow sheep. These four farmers own 231 sheep. None was sold. Thirty-two farmers owned 100 horses and mules. The mean number of head per family was 31.

Table 10. Number, Per Cent, Mean Production, Sales, Mean Gross Income, and Animal Units Per Farm Reporting

List of Livestock	Number of Farms Reporting	Per Cent of Farms Reporting	Number of Animal Units Reported	Mean Number of Heads Per Family	Number Sold Last Year	Mean Gross Income From Sales Per Farm
Beef and Dairy Cows	50	100	544	10.8	220	$330.00
Swine	39	78	251	6.6	-	-
Sheep	4	.8	231	57.7	-	-
Horses and Mules	32	68	100	3.1	-	-

Poultry was considered next on the questionnaire. The questions were pertaining to number of farmers raising poultry; the poultry houses and number of eggs sold last

year. It was discovered that 39 farmers grew chickens, 14 grew turkeys. Two farmers grew none.

Table 11 shows the number and condition of the poultry houses.

Table 11. Poultry Houses

Total Number of Farmers Having No Poultry Houses	Number Excellent	Number Good	Number Fair	Number Poor	Total Number of Houses	Grand Total
2	5	13	19	11	48	50

The farmers reported selling eggs are shown in table 12.

Table 12. Eggs Sales of the Fifty Farmers

Number of Dozen Eggs Sold	Number of Farmers Selling Eggs	Number of Farmers Who Grew Poultry but Sold No Eggs	Number of Farmers Who Grew No Poultry	Total Farmers in Study
1- 25	12			
26- 50	8			
51-100	2			
101- up	3			
Total	25	23	2	50

This section of the questionnaire sought to determine

the number of farmers owning machinery for farming.

Analysis of this section revealed that all of the farmers possessed some farm implements, and some of them possessed trucks or automobiles or both. The condition of the machinery as given by the respondents ranged from fair to good; with an estimated total value of $56,437.75.

Table 13 shows the number of farmers owning implements or machinery and the kind owned. There were 26 wagons, 24 trucks, 27 automobiles, 27 tractors, 10 stalk cutters, 37 cultivators, 5 mowers, 37 planters, 44 turning plows, 30 harrows and 2 sprayers.

Table 13. Farm Machinery - Number of Farmers Owning Machinery and Kind of Machinery Owned

Number of Farmers Owning Machinery	Name of Article Owned
26	Wagon
24	Truck
27	Tractor
27	Automobile
10	Stalk Cutter
37	Cultivator
5	Mower
37	Planters
44	Turning Plow
2	Sprayer
30	Harrows
50	Miscellaneous

Summary of Findings

An analysis of the results of the study of the farming

systems of fifty farmers in Caldwell County, Texas, has been made. The following factors influencing farming in Caldwell County were:

Family Life and System of Farming

A. Of the 50 farmers studied as a group, family status was homogenous, in that all of them were parents.

B. There were 74 children; 62.1 per cent boys and 37.9 per cent girls.

C. There were thirty-eight land owners and twelve tenants.

D. The land owners and tenants were in possession of 3,968 acres of land; 61.3 per cent of the land was in cultivation.

E. The mean number of acres per farm was 79.3.

F. The mean number of rooms per house was 5.1.

G. Forty-four per cent of the farmers had resided on their farms from 11 to 20 years; and 24 per cent had resided there for more than 21 years.

H. All of the homes had some modern conveniences.

Soil and System of Farming

A. The types of soil were heavy loam, sandy loam, and black land.

B. The conservation practices in use were rotation, strip-cropping, terracing, cover crops and contour farming.

C. The majority of farmers grow cover crops; and contour farming was used least.

Enterprise and System of Farming

A. The major crops grown are cotton and corn.

B. Cane was least on the list of crop enterprises.

C. All of the farmers grew beef and dairy cows.

D. The mean number of cows per farmer was 10.8.

E. Thirty-nine farmers raise swine.

F. The mean number of swine per family is 6.6.

G. Only 4 farmers grew sheep.

H. Forty-eight farmers grew poultry.

Farm Machinery and the System of Farming

A. Farm machinery appeared to be adequate.

B. Farm machinery had an estimated valuation of $56,437.75.

CHAPTER IV

SUMMARY

To secure data for this study, a questionnaire was constructed and administered to fifty farmers of Caldwell County, Texas.

The data obtained from the respondents were used to determine the factors influencing systems of farming. The problem of this study encompassed several inter-related aspects:

1. To discover, if any, the relation between home and family life and the system of farming.
2. To discover, if any, the relation between farm land and the system of farming.
3. To discover, if any between farm enterprises and the system of farming.
4. To discover, if any, the relation between machinery and system of farming.

The information and data obtained from these farmers provided partial answers to the basic problems of this study.

Findings

The relationship between home and family life and the system of farming.

1. The fifty farmers family status was homogenous in

that all of them were parents.

2. There were 74 children, 62.1 per cent were boys.
3. Land owners exceeded tenants in number by 52 per cent.
4. The farmers were in possession of 3,968 acres of land; 61.3 per cent of the land was in cultivation.
5. The mean number of acres per farm was 79.3.
6. The mean number of rooms per house was 5.1.
7. Most of the farmers had resided on their respective farms for a number of years.
8. All of the homes had some modern conveniences.

The relationship between farm land and system of farming.

1. The types of soil were heavy loam, sandy loam, and black land.
2. The conservation practices in use were rotation, strip-crops, terracing, cover crops and contour farming.
3. The majority of farmers used cover crops as a conservation practice; contour farming was used least.

The relationship between enterprises and the system of farming.

1. The major crops grown were cotton and corn.
2. Cane was least on the list of crop enterprises.
3. All of the farmers grew beef and dairy cattle.

4. The mean number of cows per family was 10.8.
5. Two-hundred-twenty cows were sold last year at a mean gross income of $330.00.
6. Thirty-nine farmers own 251 swine; none was sold.
7. The mean number of swine was 6.6.
8. Only four farmers grew sheep; none was sold.
9. Horses and mules were owned by thirty-two farmers.
10. Forty-eight of the fifty farmers grew poultry.
11. Twenty-five farmers sold from one to more than one-hundred dozens of eggs last year.

The relationship between farm machinery and the system of farming

1. Farm machinery appeared to be adequate.
2. Most of the farmers used tractors instead of "horse and plow" methods.
3. Farm machinery had an estimate valuation of $56,437.75.

Recommendations

The findings, as a result of the analysis of the data obtained from this study have been presented and the following recommendations are proposed to remedy the inadequacies as are found on the fifty farms.

1. That additional research be extended in a problem similar to the one investigated by the writer in which a larger sample is used.

2. That a county-wide soil building program and crop residue management be instigated.
3. That stronger father-son-farm relationships be developed to encourage boys to remain on farms.
4. That simplified system of record keeping be instigated in order to determine crops of economic worth.
5. That a periodic "maintenance school" on care of farm implements be held.
6. That improved practices in soil conservation be used.
7. That coordinated efforts of all agricultural agencies be utilized.

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Appendix

QUESTIONNAIRE

To: Fifty Negro Farmers of Caldwell County

From: Grover C. Byrd

Purpose: To aid in gathering data for a study of the Farming Systems of Fifty Negro Farmers in Caldwell County, Texas.

The information given on this questtionaire will be kept confidential.

1. Home and Family Life

A. Family

1. Number in Family_____Men_____

Women_____Boys_____Girls_____

B. Home:

Are you a farm owner? Yes_____No_____

Are you a tenant? Yes_____No_____

Number of acres owned _____Rented_____

Number of years of farm_____

Built by family_____Hired Labor_____

Number of Rooms_____Telephone_____

Last Painted_____Refrigerator_____

Screens_____Steps_____Out of door toilets_____

Sewage_____Water System_____

Fuel: Gas_____Wood_____Magazines_____

Piano_____Radio_____Television_____

Others_____ _____ _____

_____ _____ _____

II. Farm Land

1. Texture and type of soil_____ _____

_____ _____ _____

2. Number of acres in cultivation?_____

3. What soil conservation practices do you use?

1._____ 2._____

3._____ 4._____

5._____ 6._____

7._____ 8._____

9._____ 10._____

III. Enterprises

A. Crops

List the crops raised each year

1._____ 2._____

3._____ 4._____

5._____ 6._____

7._____ 8._____

9._____ 10._____

List the livestock enterprises for each year

1._____ 2._____

3._____ 4._____

5._____ 6._____

7._____ 8._____

9._____ 10._____

Weight Average_____

Approximate Price_____

Number Sold_____

B. Work Stock; Mules_____

Horses_____

C. Beef Cattle; Breeding Animals. Number_____

Stockers_____

Number_____Fat Cattle

for Sale_____Number Sold

last year_____

D. Dairy Cattle:

Cows_____Heifers_____

Milk sold_____

E. Swine:

Sows_____gilts_____

Fat barrows_____Goats_____

Sheep_____

F. Poultry:

Chicken house size_____

Condition_____

Approximate number of eggs_____

Last year dozen sold_____

Hens sold_____

Approximate Price_____

G. Food Produced for Home:

Fresh_____

Preserved_____

Dried_____

Canned_____

Machinery

H. Article	Number	Condition	Value
Wagon			
Trucks			
Tractor			
Auto			
Stalk Cutter			
Cultivator			
Mowers			
Planters			
Turning Plows			
Sprayers			
Harrows			