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An Economic Study Of Fifty Negro Farmers Of Waller County, Texas

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AN ECONOMIC STUDY OF FIFTY NEGRO FARMERS OF WALLER COUNTY, TEXAS

GREEN

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AN ECONOMIC STUDY OF FIFTY NEGRO FARMERS OF WALLER COUNTY, TEXAS

by

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My obligations are directed to those whom I have cited for information and footnotes in this report. I also wish to express my indebtness to Dr. J. M. Coruthers, Mr. C. H. Pool, Agricultural County Agent of Waller County, the Library staff and the typist for their assistance in the preparation of this report.

DEDICATION

This paper is dedicated to my wife and daughter who have encouraged me in attaining this goal. Also, to those persons who have special interest in agriculture.

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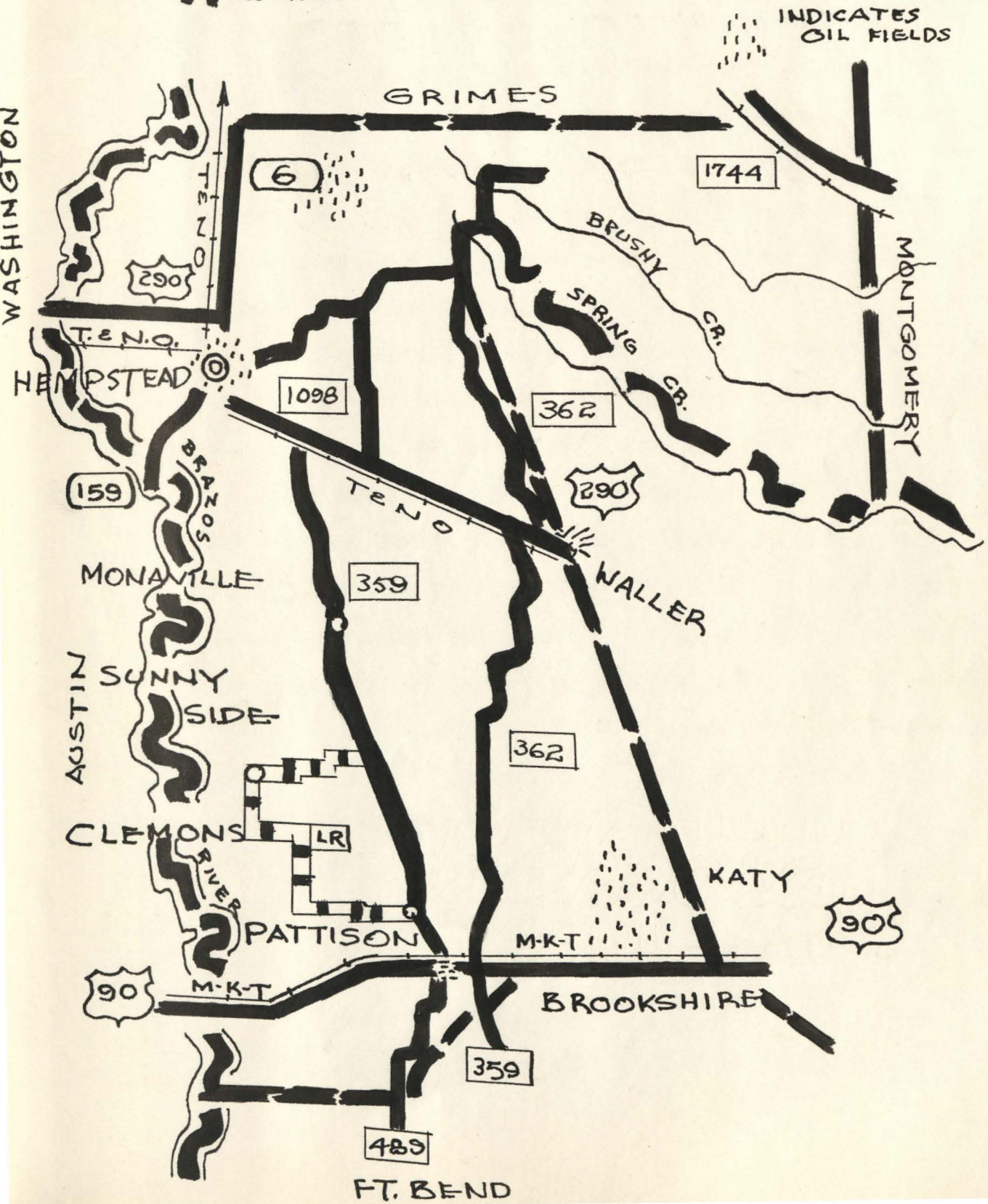
The writer was born and reared on a farm near Calhoun (Ouachita Parish) Louisiana September 21, 1917. Attended and graduated from Mineral Springs High School in 1937. While in high school, he was an active member of the N. F. A. and carried N. F. A. projects. The writer remained on the farm after his graduation from high school until 1939, at which time he was employed by the Southern Kraft Bag and Paper Co. Springhill, Louisiana. In May 1941 he was called to active Military Service. Four years, nine months and eighteen days were spent in the service. While in service, he served in the European and Pacific theaters. January 1946 he was honorably discharged from the service, enrolled and completed Barber College at Tyler, Texas. September, 1947 the writer enrolled in Southern University Baton Rouge, Louisiana and received his B. S. Degree in Vocational Agriculture, 1951. After graduation, the writer was employed by Remington Rand Company and worked there until September 1952 at which time he accepted a job teaching Vocational Agriculture at Douglass High School, Lillie, Louisiana.

The writer enrolled at Prairie View Agricultural and Mechanical College, August 1953 and attended one six weeks summer session Majoring in Agricultural Economics and minoring in Administration and Supervision and hopes to receive his Master of Science Degree, May, 1955.

WALLER COUNTY



INTRODUCTION

HISTORICAL SKETCH OF WALLER COUNTY, TEXAS

Waller county, is a diverfied crop and livestock county in southwest Texas. Waller county also in 1950 had a population of 11,961 and was 66.9 per cent rural, 33.1 per cent farm rural. The population is composed of 52.9 per cent Negroes and 47.1 per cent White. Waller county was created and organized in 1873 from Austin and Grimes counties for Edwin Waller, a signer for Texas Declaration of Independence.

Waller county, has an altitude of 100-300 feet with an annual rainfall of 40.45 inches and an annual mean temperature of 69 degrees.

Rolling Post Oak Belt in County in North; Costal Prairies in south. Soils sandy loams and clays on uplands, alluvias in Brazos bottoms along west boundary line; some black waxy soils in central part. The major trees consist of Post oak, pine, cotton wood, live oak, sycamore, ash and elm. The oil output in 1952 was 444, 111 barrels. Other minerals found in the county are: sand, gravel, gas and brick clay.

Rice is the leading crop, with 15,000 acres annually under irrigation on coastal Prairie in the south part. An annual average of 2,997 bales of cotton is produced in the Brazos bottoms; peanuts, corn, watermelons, castor beans, hay and truck grown on uplands.

The average growing season for Waller county is 274 days. Beef cattle is a major industry with Brahman, Hereford breeds and crosses.

There are also Forty Grade A Dairies located in the county.

Waller county has an area of 507 square miles with a population in (1950) of 11,961. Population per square mile is 23.6. The rural population is 11,961, with 1,130 farms or an average of 238.7 acres per farm.

Waller county employment is 565 persons in non farm jobs, with an annual pay of $ 1,992,656. The county annual income is estimated at $ 7,110,000. Wholesale sales amounts to an estimated $ 10,291,000, Bank deposits $ 6, 431,958 and a Tax value of $ 33,157.958.

Hempstead has a population of 1,395 and is the county seat, where the farm market is located for shipping watermelons, cotton and livestock products. Waller county fair is held in September.

Prairie View is the site of Prairie Agricultural and Mechanical College, State Institution for Negroes. Brookshire with a population of 1,015 is marketing and shipping point for the rice area, and is located in the south portion of the county. Waller is the farm market located in the east. [1]

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1. Texas Almanac, 1954-55, The Dallas Morning News; P. 616.

Statement of Problem

The writer will attempt to determine the types of farming being practiced in the various communities, the social and economic well-being, the size of the average farm as related to the number of livestock on farms, the average income received from farm products, the condition of homes and surroundings and the types of machinery and equipment being used on the farms.

In an agricultural area the economic and social well-being is reflected in a large measure in farm dwellings, farm and home conveniences, kinds and conditions of roads and land usage. It is often said that Negro farmers have a limited amount of resources, make little money, and will remain in the low income bracket.

Purpose

The purpose of this study is to investigate the forces influencing and determining the economic condition of Negro farmers in Waller county, Texas. The writer has undertaken this task to find out something definite and concrete about the economic condition of the Negro farm family, realizing that a problem cannot be adjusted unless sufficient study is given to it.

Such a study concerns itself primarily with the economic phase, or business side of farming. It is made to find out what types of farming are carried on and what is

raised on the farms, and to estimate the extent of farming operations among Negroes in the communities studied. This study concerns itself with conditions as they are and not as they ought to be. Nevertheless, such information should point the way to improvements and suggest in so far as possible, the remedies to be applied.

Scope

This study was limited to fifty Negro farmers of Waller county, in gathering information needed for this report. The farms were not picked, but, selected at random, representing owners, renters, and part-owners.

Method of Procedure

The questionnaire survey forms were used to gather information needed for compilation of this report. These forms were distributed during the Month of December, 1954. Data sheets were collected and personal visits were made to each of the farms studied during the months of February and March, 1955. The writer chose this procedure in order to be able to determine first hand the extent of the individual farm enterprises.

CHAPTER II

LAND TENURE

The size of Farms By Number of Acres

The size of farms which can be operated is contingent in considerable degree upon three factors; (1) the amount of capital which the farms may command, (2) the amount of labor which is available, and (3) the managerial ability of the farmer.[2]

There is no completely satisfactory method of measuring the size of farms. It is difficult to use any one method or measure that adequately expresses the relative size of farms when comparing farms of one area with those of another area. The number of days of productive man labor may be the most desirable for comparing the size of specialized truck farms. If cattle ranches are considered and compared, the number of animals units may be the most desirable measure.

Some measures are: (1) number of acres, (2) number of fruit trees, (3) number of work animals, (4) number of days of man labor, (5) number of acres in crops, and (6) total investment in the farm business.

Three methods of measuring the size of farms used in this study, are: (1) size of farm by the number of acres, (2) size of farm by the number of acres in crops,

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2. Wilson Gee, The Social Economics of Agriculture, p. 154.

and (3) size of farm by the number of livestock on the farm.

Table I shows the size of farms by the number of acres. This study shows that the size of farms operated ranged from ten (10) to one hundred fifty (150) acres and over.

This table was prepared on the basis of the number of acres owned, because the group studied in this investigation is composed of owners, part-owners and tenants.

The number of acres is the measure most commonly used in measuring the size of farms. When land area is used as the measure of the farm size, only one of the factors of production is included. Land must be combined with the other factors of production to carry on the farming business.

The amount of land on the farms in crops might also be a determining factor.

Table II shows the size of farms by the number of acres which are in crops. A measure of size, however, cannot be expressed in terms of any one factor, since obviously the size of the business is determined not entirely by any one factor, but by the amount of all of the factors associated with a single operator. [3]

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3. G. W. Forster, Farm Organization and Management, p. 251.

TABLE I The Size Of Farms By Number Of Acres

Number of Acres	Number of Farms
0 - 9	3
10 - 29	11
30 - 49	9
50 - 69	7
70 - 89	3
90 - 100	2
100- 109	3
110- 119	1
120- 129	4
130- 139	3
140- 149	2
150 And Over	2
Number of Farms Reporting	50

LAND USAGE

Land, while in some form or other is indispensible in all production, is especially important to the farmers, and is usually the most valuable of all farm resources. But in the economic sense, land is of much broader significance than the farmer attaches to it, for it applies to all natural resources and productive powers, the control of which goes along with the prossession of the earth's surface.

The principal ways in which land is useful to man for productive purposes may be classified as follows: (1) it forms a solid basis foothold, homes, factories, means of communication, and similar developments; (2) the fertility of soil makes possible all agricultural development; (3) according to location and topography it is a determining factor in climatic environment; (4) it contains the various mineral resources of continents; (5) without it we would have no natural vegetation, including our timber supply; (6) game is found upon the land, fish in streams flowing through the land. [4]

But because of natural characteristics and economic circumstances, different prices of land vary greatly in the matter of economic productivity. Land which lends itself to increased production of one crop may be un-

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4. Gee, op. cit., P. 167.

suited to another.

Utilization of land will depend upon the equipment, human resources, and natural resources available. The economic condition of the farmers is the controlling factor in the land-use program. There are no organized systems of land use planning programs in operation on any of the farms used in this study. The principal crops were: (1) corn, (2) cotton, (3) watermelons, (4) peanuts and (5) sweet potatoes.

Table III shows the number of acres in crops, and the number of acres in tillable and woodland pastures. The total acres in pasture, tillable and woodland of fifty farms studied was three thousand three hundred and twenty-two (3,322) acres or an average of sixty-six (66) acres.

Table IV shows the total acres operated on the farms studied, and it gives the average number of acres operated per farm.

The number of acres operated on a farm depends upon the crop land available, resources and equipment available for carrying on the farming operations. Acres in crops will vary according to the farms. The total acres in crops on the fifty farms studied were 1985, representing an average of 39.7 acres.

Table V shows the acreage, yield, and estimated in-

TABLE II Size of Farms And Acreage, Range Planted in Crops

Acres in Crops											
Acres											
0-9	6										
10-19		5									
20-29			6								
30-39				9							
40-49					7						
50-59						4					
60-69							3				
70-79								4			
80-89									3		
90-99										3	
100-109											

come.

For the study of the relation of size of farm business and the rate of production to income, it may be said that in normal times both large size and high yields have decided financial advantages. Extremely high yields are not necessarily the most economical. The crop yields a farmer may wisely try to obtain depend on the prices and cost of production as well as knowledge of production practices.

TABLE III Land Usage

ITEM	ACREAGE	
	TOTAL	AVERAGE
Acres in Crops	1,316	26
Tillable Land In Permanent Pastures	669	13
Wood Land Not In Pasture	1,337	26.7

TABLE IV Number of Acres Operated

Number of Farms Reporting	50
Total Acreage Operated	1985
Average Acreage	39.7

TABLE V Acres, Yield And Estimated Income From Crops

Items	Number of Farms Reporting	Total Acreage	Average Acreage Per Farm	Total Number of Units Produced	Average No. of Units Produced Per Acre	Total Estimated Income
Corn (bu.)	34	469	13.79	Total 6,418 bushel	Average 188 bu a farm	$ 8,801.07
Cotton	18	133	7.38	99 (bales)	5.5	16,335.00
Watermelons	21	153	7.28	(lbs.) 153.000	lbs. 7,286 Average	15,300.00
Peanuts	7	113	16.14	Tons Produced 34	Ton 4.85 Average	6,800.00
Sweet Potatoes	17	43	2.52	bu. Produced 3,440	bu. Average 202	3,440.00

CHAPTER III

LIVESTOCK RESOURCES

Livestock Records

Modern farming makes it imperative for the farmer to use a well balanced system of farming, in order to secure the greatest possible net income. Livestock and crop rotation are necessary features of diversification which can be depended upon for the greatest income over the longest period of years. Heavy crop yield take out of the soil, large quantities of food material necessary for plant growth, and unless these are put back into the soil, the land will become too poor to produce a good crop. When the crop is fed to animals and the manure is properly saved to put back into the soil, between sixty and seventy percent of the valuable plant food materials are returned to the soil. There are several other advantages that come from raising livestock on the farms instead of raising only cotton, corn and similar plant crops.

First, the raising of livestock necessitates the growing of hay, clover, peanuts and other cover crops and legumes which add fertility to the soil; second this diversification and the stock feeding distribute the labor of the farm more evenly through the year, instead of causing a great rush at special seasons. A good part of work of feeding comes in the late fall and winter when the crops are all harvested. Third, there are always

remanents of crops and a great deal of grass left in the fields that can be economically harvested by livestock.

The kind and number of livestock raised in different parts of the south are closely associated with the type and quantities of feed produced. In trying to fit animals enterprises into his farming organization and plans, the farmer should first study his feed and pasture resources.

In nearly every section are found some crops or portion of crops which cannot be sold to an advantage on the market. Under such conditions livestock is usually maintained to utilize the crops which would other wise have no sale value.

It has been proven that eighty-five percent of the market for hay and grains are on the farm. In other words, marketing farm products through livestock, not only brings a higher rate per bushel or ton but tends to keep down surpluses that affect the market prices. Table VI shows the number of livestock on the fifty farms operated by Negroes used in this study. Eight or Sixteen per cent of the farms had no livestock, including work animals.

The total estimated value of all livestock on the fifty farms studied is placed at $ 33,069.50. The total value of cattle represented the highest value of any single livestock enterprise.

Most farmers contribute some of the products used in

TABLE VI Estimated Value of Livestock On Farms

Livestock	Number Reporting	Total Number of Units	Average Number of Units Per Farm	Total Estimated Value in Dollars	Average Value In Dollars
Cattle	21	259	12.30	20,789.50	$989.97
Hogs	31	186	6.00	10,230.00	329.32
Horses	26	42	1.60	1,050.00	43.85
Mules	22	40	1.81	1,000.00	45.45
Total Value				33,069.50	

the home, but some farms contribute more than others. The large farms, as a rule produce more food for family maintenance than the small farms.

The number of acres in crops will have a definite bearing on the amount of products produced from the crops.

Table VII shows the average numbers of livestock by classes of the fifty farms studied. Units here will refer to the number of cattle, hogs, and workstock on the farms.

The south as a whole has relatively less livestock than other farming areas of the United States. However, the total value of livestock produced in this region amounts to a large sum. [5]

In trying to fit animal enterprises into his farm organization plan, the farmer should first study his pasture and feed resources. Available feed and pasture may cause livestock to be more suitable to one farm than another. If conditions are favorable for the production of certain kinds of livestock, the farmer need to know the feed requirements in order to know how many animals he can care for with his resources.

In areas where the land is used primarily for the production of row crops, the number and various kinds of animals kept is closely associated with the kinds and

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5. Robert L. Hunt, Farm Management In the South, P. 348.

TABLE VII The Average Number of Livestock by classes of fifty farms studied

	Total Number of Livestock by Classes	Average Number of Heads per farm Studied
Cows	259	5
Workstock	82	1.6
Hogs	186	3.7

quantities of feed crops grown.

This study shows that the total number of livestock including all classes on the fifty farms studied were five hundred and twenty seven (527) as of March 31, 1955. This represents an average of (10.5) as the number of livestock per farm.

Some farmers had no workstock of any kind but used power machinery instead. There were still others who had no livestock nor power machinery but had to use their neighbors workstock instead.

Total Livestock Products

A large quantity of our food such as pork, beef, mutton, poultry, eggs, milk and butter we owe directly or indirectly to animals. People do not eat grass, cotton seed and hay as such, but they eat steak, pork roasts, and drink milk which have been converted into food for human consumption by animals.

Table VIII shows the total livestock and poultry products sold and used at home for the year. This data is based on estimates of the farmer, because only three percent kept organized records of the farm business. Records are a valuable asset in determining the size and value of the farm business.

Farmers are able to add to the income from farming through the sale of livestock products. Table VIII shows

TABLE VIII Shows The Estimated Value of Livestock and Poultry Products

Item	Units	Amount	Average Amount Per Farm Studied	Estimated Value In Dollars
Butter	Lbs.	5,737	114.7 Lbs.	$ 3,020.37
Eggs	(doz.)	5,227	104.5 doz. per farm	2,933.72
Hogs	Each	186	3.7 Head per farm	10,230.00
Chickens	Each	1,257	25 Head per farm	1,923.21
Total				$ 18,107.30

that the estimated value of livestock and poultry products for one year was $18,107.30, or an average of $362.14 per farm. Where facilities permit, it is to the farmer's advantage to raise enough livestock to provide produce for sale to supplement the annual income received from the production of cash crops.

Current Expenses

Expenses include value of all labor except that of the operator; cost of any feed or seed that is produced, crops, buildings, machinery and equipment, and other costs assignable to farm operation rather than living.

Table IX shows the expense for seed, spray material, fence and building repairs, fertilizer and hired labor. The expense for medical care, food, clothing and other incidentals is not included in the data collected.

Farm Income

In considering farm income, there are three problems the farmer is concerned with. These may be briefly and simply stated; the problem of growing the products, the problem of selling the products, and the problem of spending the income derived.

The first problem with which the farmer is confronted, is that of making the most efficient use of his resources, labor, and equipment. It is the problem of growing the

TABLE IX Current Expenses For Operation of Farms

Items	Number of Farms Reporting	Total Expense	Average Expense Per Farm
Seed	42	$ 546.00	$ 13.00
Fertilizer	38	3,862.00	101.63
Spray Material	5	45.00	9.00
Fence Repairs	7	187.00	26.71
Building Repairs	13	395.00	30.38
Hired Labor	11	522.50	47.50

products most economically. That of securing the greatest output per unit of input on the greatest volume of products. To accomplish this, the farmer must carefully study and analyze his farm business as a whole and in detail. This he cannot satisfactorily do without the aid of complete detailed records of the various operations.

Thirty-four or sixty-eight per cent of the total number of farms studied, produced 6,418 bushels of corn or an average of 188 bushels per farm. The total estimated income was $8,801.07 or an average of $258.85 per farm.

Seventeen or thirty-four per cent of the fifty farms studied, produced 3,440 bushels of sweet potatoes or an average 202 bushels per farm. The total estimated income was 3,440 or an average of $202 per farm.

The total estimated value of livestock and livestock products was $18,107.30. This amount is the total estimated value of poultry, pork, eggs, butter, live poultry and 186 meat hogs. A total of 1,257 chickens were reported.

Other Sources of Income

The data collected showed that twenty-six or fifty-two per cent of the farmers earned a total of $18,820 from jobs other than the farm during the year. The average amount earned was $723.84 per farm. Most of the off the

CHAPTER IV

Income and Current Expenses

Three per cent of the farmers questioned kept farm records of receipts and expenses. Such records are valuable in studying the farm business. Most farmers were able to figure from memory and gave an estimate of the best paying enterprises on the farm. Since the purpose of keeping accounts is to furnish the management with accurate information regarding operation of the business, it is necessary first of all to consider the number, arrangements and function of accounts which need to be included in any system of accounts. [6]

Estimated Income from Crops, Livestock and Livestock Products

The major sources of income from crops was limited to three different crop. The data collected showed that eighteen or thirty-six per cent of the farmers, sold a total of 99 bales of cotton or an average of five and five-tenth bales per farm. The total income was $16,335.00 or an average of $908.61 per farm. Twenty-one or forty-two per cent sold a total of 153,000 pounds of watermelons or an average of 7,285 pounds per farm. The total income was $15,300, or an average of $728,57 per farm.

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6. John A. Hopkins and E. O. Heady, Farm Records, P. 121.

Seven or fourteen per cent of the fifty farms studied, produced 34 tons of peanuts or an average of 4.85 ton per farm. The total estimated value was $6,800.00 or an average of $971.42 per farm.

The farmer is in no position to make intelligent changes in his farm plans and practices unless he attempts to measure the influences of the various factors used on the final results obtained.[7] This is essentially and fundamentally a farm management problem.

The second problem grows out of the first; after the products have been grown as efficiently as possible, there is the problem of converting them into the best price possible. This involves the whole problem of salesmanship or marketing. The farmer should not consider his work done when the crops has been grown, and at this point turn over to some outside agency the task and responsibilities of marketing them.

It is not enough, however, that farm products be economically grown and efficiently marketed. Hence a third problem arises. The first two concern themselves primarily with the making of an income, while the third requires more practically the spending of it. It is one thing to make an income, but it an entirely differently one to spend it wisely.

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7. Hopkins and Heady, op. cit., P. 122.

The majority of farmers feel no doubt, that if they could make a satisfactory income, there would be ample opportunity for spending it.

No doubt this is true, but the problem of getting the greatest amount of satisfaction out of the farm income remains. An income wisely and efficiently spent may contribute as much or more to worth-while living as a much larger income poorly spent. One may be justified in saying; "It is not always the amount one earns, but rather what he is able to not spend."

CHAPTER V

REAL ESTATE

Real Estate Improvements

The making of improvements, as distinguished from ordinary repairs, is supposed to add to the value of the farm, and the greater part of the expense paid by the landlord.[8] Whether the land is rented to tenants or operated by the owner himself, he should be interested in ensuring the preservation of his land and improvements. The operator must take into consideration his income.

The writer found that no real estate improvements were made on the farms studied beyond that of ordinary repairs. Forty per cent of the farmers reported the cost of real estate, (buildings and fence) repairs as totaling $582.00.

Machinery and Equipment

It should be evident to every individual that he must obtain certain equipment in order to make his farming operations successful. The farmer problem is to know how to select the equipment suited to his soil, topography and crops. Money to purchase the equipment of course is important. The factors normally governing selection of implements and machinery are: type of farming, topography,

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8. Frank App and A. G. Waller, Farm Economics, P. 418.

TABLE X Estimated Value of Machinery and Equipment

Items	Number of Farms Reporting	Estimated Total Value	Average Value Per Farm
Wagons	21	$ 888.00	$ 42.28
Hammers	38	56.12	1.48
Planters	27	845.91	31.33
Cultivators	11	451.00	41.00
Mowers	6	286.26	47.71
Stalk Cutters	15	345.00	20.04
Sprayers	13	81.27	6.24
Automobiles	24	14,090.00	587.08
Trucks	14	9,440.00	674.28
Tractors	20	25,920.00	1,296.00

Note: These figures are based on estimated value of machinery and equipment at the time this study was made.

type of soil, size of farm, kind of labor available, extent of use in the local area, and personal factors. The influences determining the desirability of a given machine divide themselves into two groups: the first is concerned with the factors governing the choice of the machine, and the second with the resulting economy in labor, time and the effects on yields. The farmer must determine what to buy and whether or not it will pay him to buy it.[9] The amount of capital invested in farm machinery should depend on the type and size of the farm enterprises. In selecting machines the farmer should select a standard make of machine that has proven satisfactory for similar operations. The farmer should not be influenced by high powered salesmen.

Table X shows the value of machinery and equipment on the fifty farms studied. The figures given should be considered as estimated, because no records of repair expenses or other expenses were kept by the farmers.

The equipment in modern agriculture has developed through a long period of time until today it allows increased efficiency in farming operations by decreasing the amount of man labor employed. The length of time which machines will last varies with the care given in handling it, locality or type of soil upon which they are used,

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9. Forster, op. cit., P. 297.

the type of machine, its duties, and individuals who operate them.

The depreciation of farm machinery varies according to the type and usage, but, ordinarily we consider that the average machine depreciates ten per cent each year. For some machines, it is far more and for others it is less; however, for all practical purposes, the farmer can charge about ten per cent of his machinery value each year against depreciation.

CHAPTER VI

FARM LIFE

The Farm Stead And Farm Home

The farm stead must occupy a prominent position in an attempt to picture farm life, and the farm home must necessarily form the central figure in the group. The farm stead is roughly defined as that area occupied by the farm home, other buildings, lawn, garden and orchard. It is not only headquarters for the family but is the point at which teams, tools, and other operating materials are assembled. Such specialized enterprises as the home garden, orchard and poultry are important elements in this unit.[10]

Modern civilization has been contributing much toward a better, more pleasent, comfortable and desirable living of which the farmers in the country have not received their full share. The farm home is the central figure in the farm stead group. Its location determines pretty largely that of the other units about it. A farm home will in many ways determine the number who will want to become established in farming.

Size of The Average Family

During the handicraft stage of production, the fami-

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10. Gee, op. cit., P. 146.

TABLE XI Size of The Average Family and Workers in Each Family (Negro)

Number of Farms Reporting	Number In All Families		Number Who Work On Farm	
	Total	Average	Total	Average
50	302	6	206	4

ly as a whole constituted the labor unit in every occupation but, with the development of the power and factory systems of production it rapidly gave away to larger and more shifting labor units. However, the family as a unit of labor has persisted in agriculture, and farming is practically the only occupation in the country at present in which this is still the case. A country property is in a continual state of change. The Soil is a living substance, subject to additions, and losses and requires constant care to maintain its physical condition and fertility. Buildings, roads, and fences have to be built, improved, and repaired. No expenditures or effort or money offer any assurance of permanent improvement. Rust, wind and water, heat and cold, insects and fungi, everyday wear and tear, all are trying constantly to upset the delicate balance which we impose upon nature for our benefit. [11]

With all the forces of nature acting upon man's family life, the reasons for the prosperity or failure for enterprises are understood by the entire family, and the necessary adjustments to those conditions are made by the whole family. The sizes of the family vary greatly in number. Table XI shows that the average size of the Negro family is (4) members. The family size ranged from

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11. Wend, Milton, How to Live In the Country Without Farming, P. 294.

a low of (2) to a high of (10) members.

The most serious problem facing the Negro farmer is that of assuring his children an adequate education.

With sufficient desires and energy, it is possible to attain a reasonably adequate solution to the problem of housing, feeding, clothing, and earning a modest living.

Those children who prove to be definitely country-minded should be given every encourgement. If college education appears to be impossible, at least they should attend one or more of the short agricultural sessions at the state University. [12]

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12. Wend, op. cit., P. 295.

Living Conditions and Surroundings

The condition and surroundings of the farm home are not to be overlooked. They are both indicative of the kind of farming.

As civilization advanced, living conditions changed, continually seeking so called higher level and consciously or unconsciously seeking satisfaction and comfort without questioning whether the change is good or bad. In his own mind, every man has standards by which to measure his habits and opportunities of consuming goods, by the same standards, the adequacy and his satisfaction of living: and this will constitutes his standard of living.

We are concerned with the rural standard of living; not that it should be different from the other standards. The things which are necessary to make life measure up to the desired standards are necessities, comforts and luxuries. All of these which are universally accepted are desirable.

Practically all standards of living have been based upon the expenditures of money for the consumption of goods and economic and social services, but we cannot use any one single criteria in measuring "standards of living."

Rural housing is one of the weakest spots in rural life. In rural districts, people are sometime compelled to live in poor delapidated houses, partly because there

TABLE XII The Estimated Value Of Farm Homes

Number of Homes							
Value In Dollars							
100-1,000	9						
1,001-2,000		12					
2,001-3,000			14				
3,001-4,000				7			
4,001-5,000					4		
5,001-6,000						2	
6,001-7,000							2

Note: This estimate is based on the current prices of building materials as of the time this study was made.

is a lack of such conveniences as sewer, water and lighting systems. The rural house with poorly arranged rooms and meager conveniences, do not measure up to either scientific or urban housing when it comes to providing space, room arrangement, equipment and sanitation; such things as running water, sinks and labor saving devices being less prevalant in rural than in urban homes. This study reveals that a large per cent of the Negro farm families live in homes of sub-standard levels. It was found that fifty-six per cent of the families studied were living in poorly constructed buildings.

Table XII shows the estimated value of farm homes. More than seventy per cent are in need of repair and remoldeling. Many repair jobs could be done by the farmers themselves. There were some homes in worse condition than buildings on the same farms.

Table XIII shows that the farms have varied sources of water supply, and some of the sources were located excessive distances from the home. Six cisterns were found, twenty-six pumps, fourteen wells and four springs.

Of the fifty farms studied, forty-one or eighty-two per cent used electricity, twenty-eight or fifty-six per cent wood, nineteen or thirty-eight per cent gas and six or twelve per cent used oil lamps.

Electricity in the home means more than lighting. It lightens the work of the house wife by making available

TABLE XIII The Sources of Water Supply

Number Reporting	Pumps	Open Wells	Springs	Cistern	Total
26	26				26
14		14			14
6			6		6
4				4	4
					50

to her many labor saving appliances. The farmer's work is greatly facilitated with electric drills, feed mills, and other current using machines. The operation of the home water system may be made possible by the availability of electricity.[13] As the rural Electrification Administration has given its services to the extension of power lines, many farmers are able to save man hours by the use of electric equipment.

There are many labor saving devices and conveniences that all farmers should have, but, are found lacking in many of the homes of the farms considered in this study.

Usually the first thing a person notices about farm homes or buildings is whether or not they are painted. The fact that there are many old unpainted buildings that are in good condition is an indication that the importance of keeping wooden buildings painted in order to preserve them has been greatly under estimated. However, there is no question but what painting a building makes it more attractive, as well as helps to preserve it from the weather.

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13. Smith, Guy H., Conservation of Natural Resources, P. 189.

CHAPTER VII

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

The farm operator is interested in securing the greatest continuous net returns from his business. In order to do this, he may have to readjust his farm organization from time to time to take advantage of changing economics conditions. The farm operator has at his disposal the production factors of land, labor, capital and management. The organization of these production factors are in line with the object of producing one or more of a number of commodities adapted to the area. The selection, proportionate combination, and operation of the enterprises which make up farm organization will largely determine the returns derived from the business. However, no one certain combination may always be the most profitable on all farms in the same area, nor on the same farm over a lone period of time. When these conditions occur the operator should plan the organization of his resources not only to take advantage of the natural conditions on his particular farm at a given time, but, as far as economically justifies, he should also make timely adjustments, which will enable him to take advantage of the changing relationship in the prices of products that farmers buy and sell. The amount of capital invested in a farm business will be a determining factor in labor income from the farms. Investments in real estate, machinery, livestock, or equipment which is too large will cause the income to be lowered. Capital

invested is the sum total of all properties that will produce income. Table XIV shows the total capital invested in the farms used for this study to be $155,130.10. The receipts of the farm includes such items as the estimated value of crops, livestock and livestock products, and income from sources other than the farm. Table XIV also shows that the average estimated value of all farm products were $1,500.66 on the fifty farmers studied.

Depreciation was not included in Table XIV under equipment and dwellings because none of the farmers reported any depreciation. If the farmers would take note of such actions, they would be justified in charging about ten to twelve per cent each for depreciation. Depreciation of farm equipment varies with the type and usage, for some machines and equipment, depreciation will be more and others less.

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TABLE XIV Investments In The Farm Business; Receipts And Expenses

	Number of Farms Reporting	Total Value	Average Value
INVESTMENTS			
Real Estate	42	$ 99,250.00	$ 2,363.00
Livestock	21	33,069.50	1,574.73
Machines and Equipment	20	22,810.60	1,140.53
TOTAL		$155,130.10	
FARM RECEIPTS			
Crops	34	$ 50,676.07	1,488.44
Workstock	26	2,050.00	78.84
Poultry	30	1,923.21	64.11
Swine	26	10,230.00	385.76
TOTAL		$ 64,879.28	
FARM EXPENSE			
Current	19	$ 5,557.50	292.47
United Labor	42	10,461.74	249.08
TOTAL		$ 16,019.24	
FARM INCOME		$ 74,231.58	$ 1,484.63

CONCLUSION

Farmers need some measures to gauge production and profits of the farm. Even until now, no one standard measure of profits and production that is completely satisfactory has been developed.

The farm business is made up of land, labor, capital, and management. The combination of these factors differ from farm to farm. It is obvious that all fixed and operational expenses must be met before profits can be realized. The expense include all supplies purchased, hired labor, taxes, interest on capital, depreciation and repairs on buildings.

There is no perfect measure of the proficiency of the organization and measurement of farms. To determine what method to use, one must decide what he wants to know about the farm enterprise. The farmers of areas studied need to realize the importance of keeping records of the farm business. The function of records and accounts is to provide the operator with information concerning the farm operations. Such records being kept would enable the farmer to a great extent to better utilize his natural resources and capital. To be most useful, records and accounts should be kept on all phases of the farm business. Then by careful analysis of such data, the farmer could adjust his operations or change his system of farming so as to use his available resources to greater advantage.

In order for farmers to improve their businesses and annual income, they should practice the following:

1. Keep complete and accurate records of the farming business.
2. Purchase the necessary machinery, equipment and capital to successfully carry on the farming operations.
3. Practice soil conservation.
4. Improve real estate and buildings.

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QUESTIONNARE

1. FARM OF_____COMMUNITY_____

2. DATE_____COUNTY_____

3. Location or name of Post Office_____

4. Rural Route No._____Distance of farm from school in miles__

5. Distance of farm from shipping in miles_____Number of boys between 14-24 years of age_____,in school___out of school____. Total number in family_____, Does any members of the family work on public jobs_____? if so, who, wife___ children_____, husband____. Do you own your farm_____? rent_____,or own your farm and rent some land from others___

6. Give the number of acres on your farm _____, Number of acres planted in crops last year_____, in pasture_____, waste____, timber____, Is the land hilly_____, flat_____.

7. Is the soil rich ____fair___poor____. Natural water ways and distance from dwelling in yards_____springs___branches_____

8. How long have you been living on this farm?_____. What type of house do you live in? brick_____, asbestos___frame_ _____, is house painted_____? give the value of your home $_____. How is house lighted? electricity___oil lamps___?

9. How is house heated? oil stoves_____, gas_____, wood_____.

10. Do you own a water pump_____well____cistern_____spring_____.

11. Number of acres planted in Cotton_____corn_____sweet potatoes _____, watermelons_____, peanuts_____, irish potatoes___.

12. Do you own any workstock_____ number of mules____horses_____.

13. How many milk cows on your farm_____, beef cattle_____ sheep_____goats_____, sows____pigs_____boars____others____.

14. Give the total number of beef cattle sold_____value$_____

15. Total number of hogs sold_____value_____.

16. Number in pounds of butter sold_____amount received per pound$_____, total amount produced on your farm_____Lbs.

17. Does the family own a poultry flock?_____number of hens___, broilers_____, turkeys____, geese_____. Number of chickens sold last year_____, number of dozen eggs sold_____number eggs received from poultry flock_____amount received$____.

18. What is the total value of your poultry flock$_____

19. Farm machinery and equipment: Number of tractors owned____, cultivators_____, planters_____,hammers_____, mowers_____, stalk cutters_____,wagons_____, sprayers_____; give the value of each, tractors$_____, cultivators$_____,mowers___ hammers$____, wagons$____, sprayers$____,stalk cutters$____.

20. Do you own a car?_____truck____if so: give value of each: Car$_____, Truck$_____: Did you receive any income other than farming? if so, give the total amount$_____.

21. Number of days worked on jobs other than farming_____

22. Number of bales of cotton produced_____number sold_____ amount received per bale$_____, corn produced bushels_____ number sold$_____, sweet potatoes bushels____sold$_____. watermelons pounds produced_____number of pounds sold____ total amount received$_____.

23. What is the value of your land$_____, home$_____.

24. Total amount spent for fence repair_____, building repair$___ Did you use any hired labor?_____if so, what was the cost$___

25. Give the number of days hired labor worked last year_____

26. Give the value of all crops for the year of 1954$_____.