

Farm Families Adjusting to Tighter Acreage

By Shermaan Briscoe, USDA Information Specialist

"Tighter acreage allotments are separating the men from the boys," Mississippi State Extension Leader W. E. Ammons said to me recently when I was in his State as he explained how some farmers are adjusting to their smaller cotton acreage allotments, while others are giving up and moving to town.

This summarizes what I saw during a two-week tour of some of the farming areas of Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Florida, Georgia, and South Carolina. Some of the farmers were prospering. Others had gone, and the rundown houses in which they used to live stood empty or substituted for barns and filled with hay.

Altogether the Extension Service workers took me to visit 24 families. Most of the men were fazed by reduced acreage allotments of cotton and tobacco. Cotton allotments have been reduced by four million acres since 1934.

I found these farmers making up for their smaller acreage by increasing their yields and stepping up their production of livestock, poultry, and truck crops.

FARMING EFFICIENCY

Some of them are farming at a level of efficiency I am sure they never thought possible. Where they used to plow and plant and chop two acres for every bale of cotton they harvested, they now get from a bale to a bale and a half off one acre.

Where some used to be satisfied with 15 or 20 bushels of corn per acre, they now average 50 to 60 and sometimes get nearly 100.

Actually, the increased production of feed crops is the basic fact behind their rapid shift from cotton to livestock as one of their main methods of adjustment. Instead of fighting grass they way they used to do, most farmers are now pampering it in an effort to develop more and more acres of improved pastures for their cattle and hogs. And instead of being contented with a few runty pigs that root most of their food out of the earth beside empty corn cribs, farmers now grow

acres and acres of hybrid corn for their grade and purebred swine to hog off (or eat off the stalk in the field) in a feeding practice which is paying off in earlier marketings of meatier hogs.

For example, Mr. and Mrs. Dolphus Jones of Caldwell, Texas, who had only one hog and no cows a few years ago, sold \$958 worth of beef cattle last year. Their hogs ate six acres of corn in the field.

Near Newberry, S. C., Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Graham are now supplementing their cotton income by growing a few acres of Turkish tobacco that brings them up to \$1.25 per pound.

In Uniontown, Ala., Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Smith are getting almost as much cotton off five acres as they used to get off 10.

In addition, they now have a small dairy herd of 15 grazing in excellent pastures of Dallis grass, White Dutch clover and lespedeza. The three Jerseys and five Guernseys now being milked are producing more than 30 gallons of milk a day which bring the Swains a semi-monthly milk plant check of more than \$100.

LIVING IS GOOD

Down in Quincy, Fla., Mr. and Mrs. Willie Porcher are not worried about their tobacco allotment of a little over an acre, because they are making a good living off smoked sausage. They butcher from three to 10 hogs every week and grind them into sausage which they put into casings and smoke. Nineteen stores in town handle their product.

Mr. and Mrs. Johnin Simmons of Dixie, Ga., put their eight-acre cotton allotment into the Soil



KWAME NKURUMAH, prime minister of Ghana, has been the object of widespread criticism recently over the ouster of African journalist Bankole Timothy, who was critical of the Ghana government. Nkrumah reportedly deported Timothy, editor of the Daily Graphic, Ghana's leading newspaper, after the paper ran a series of articles critical of Nkrumah's administration.

Bank this year and turned their full attention to truck crops. Mr. Simmons carries a small truckload of vegetables to Thomasville or Valdosta twice a week and comes home with from \$30 to \$150 in his pocket.

Back of this transformation, which is bringing a better day to farmers making the adjustment, are 900 hard-working Negro Extension Service agents and supervisors. They are putting in long hours to get important research information from the U. S. De-

partment of Agriculture, the Land Grant Colleges, and the experiment stations onto the farms and into the homes of farm families.

Visiting farm families from year to year, one looks at the narrow peaks and broad valleys in the pattern of progress, and feels that the pace is a little slow. But as one walks with the people, he begins to realize that although the pace seems slow, the people are moving ahead rapidly in their thinking and planning

Report Alabama Negroes Held In Bondage

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — An Alabama legislator said last week that he has "reliable information" that some white planters in Alabama are holding Negroes in bondage by "paying" them with welfare funds.

He said he has been told that at least three big landowners encourage unwed Negro mothers to qualify for aid to dependent children, threatening at the same time to have the payments stopped unless their families continue working.

State Sen. George Little of Barbour County made the disclosure in an interview in support of pending legislation, that would limit welfare payments to one illegitimate child in a family.

Little said it has "come to my attention from reliable sources that some white farmers with large Negro tenant populations are using aid to dependent children as a means of paying their farm help."

He said the landowners pay little or no wages and threaten to have the Negroes "taken off" the welfare rolls if they leave.

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SEMI FACTS AND FIGURES

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EVERYONE, THOUGH KNOWS THAT EXCESSIVE EATING IS THE CAUSE OF OBESITY, DOES NOT KNOW HOW TO LOSE WEIGHT. THE AVERAGE PERSON WHO WANTS TO LOSE 10 POUNDS SHOULD EAT 1000 CALORIES LESS PER DAY. THIS MEANS A DAILY CALORIC INTAKE OF 2000 CALORIES.

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