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PURE-BRED LIVESTOCK IN N. C.

FEW PURE-BRED ANIMALS

A little less than one of every twenty-five farms in North Carolina reported pure-bred dairy cows, beef cattle, horses, sheep, or swine, one pure-bred animal or more in 1920.

The average for the country-at-large was more than one farm of this sort of every nine farms reporting livestock. In Iowa it was more than one of every four, and in South Dakota it was nearly one of every three farms.

Forty-five states made a better showing than North Carolina, and only two states of the Union made a poorer showing—South Carolina and Louisiana. See the table elsewhere in this issue.

Our rank was low enough in the census year, numbers alone considered and all livestock counted, including pure-breds, grades, and scrubs of every sort. On this basis of comparison only four states made a shabbier showing. See the table in the University News Letter, Vol. VIII, Nos. 29 and 30.

But the quality of our livestock considered, we descend two points more toward the bottom of the column.

Could any figures better exhibit the fact that we are crop farmers mainly or merely, and livestock farmers only incidentally or accidentally?

Our Roll of Pure-Breds

The pure-bred swine of all types on farms in North Carolina number 27,374, as follows—Duroc-Jersey 13,843, Poland-China 5,484, Berkshire 3,511, and all others 4,536.

Our pure-bred dairy animals of all types number 7,697, as follows—Jersey 4,978, Holstein-Friesian 1,613, all others 1,106.

Our pure-bred beef cattle number 3,085, as follows—Herefords 933, Aberdeen Angus 786, Shorthorn 732, all others 634.

Our pure-bred sheep number 1,207, as follows—Shropshire 820, Hampshire Down 209, all others 178.

Our pure-bred horses numbered 193, as follows—Percheron 94, Standardbred 17, all others 82.

A Lively Scrap

It started on the Diamond Bar Ranch, an eight-thousand acre farm 50 miles east of Los Angeles devoted entirely to pure-bred livestock, Duroc-Jerseys mainly, and it ran all the way down to San Diego and up to Sacramento the summer through.

It was about scrub stock and scrub farmers. "They are one and the same," said a California farmer, with a snort. "Wherever you have scrub stock you have scrub farmers. The farmers will grade no higher than their livestock in California or any other state."

It was a raw remark to make to a Carolina Cottontot, and it is not altogether true; but there is enough truth in it to establish it as a settled conviction in the Pacific Coast states. We heard the same statement made in one phrase or another all over the far West the summer of 1921, and it provoked a lively discussion every inch of the way—a discussion that involved every doctrine of rural social economics from Peter Rice to colophon.

The Way Up

But true or not, it is fairly clear that the steps up in an agricultural civilization are first and bottom-most, single-crop farming, no matter whether it be wheat, or corn, or cotton, or tobacco; second, livestock farming based on home-raised food and feed crops; third, farm industries based on crops or livestock or both, in which the farmers themselves put their own farm products into finished form for final consumption; and fourth, cooperative farm enterprise based on all these lower forms of agriculture.

This last and topmost stage of agricultural civilization is best illustrated by Denmark in Europe and by California in America.

Assuredly cotton-and-tobacco farming, based on farm tenancy, imported food-and-feed supplies, and time-merchant credit, is the lowest rung of the farm ladder.

The way to the top is plain as print, but we have a long way to climb in the Cotton Belt.

At the bottom we have enormous crop wealth created year by year; at the top

we shall have enormous farm wealth accumulated and steadily increasing year by year.

COUNTY OFFICE AFFAIRS

Dr. E. C. Brooks, the state superintendent of public instruction, severely arraigns the handling of tax moneys by county officials in North Carolina. He declares that unless there is an improvement the state will not be able to carry on her school, road, and health programs.

Three years ago 53 percent of the teachers in this state, said he, had no more education than students in the sixth and seventh grades of the elementary schools. Now, under the system of paying more to the better qualified teachers, 58 percent are of high school or higher educational attainments. Three years ago over 8,000 of the 15,000 teachers had no more educational qualifications for teaching than sixth and seventh grade pupils have. Today there are 11,000 teachers in the high school and college class of educational preparedness.

Brooks's Indictment

For this system of improving the quality of teachers, a million more dollars will soon be needed, and the taxpayers will be unwilling to shoulder this additional burden. The remedy lies in a better system of tax accounting by county officials.

Inefficiency and sometimes dishonesty in the administration of county affairs is held responsible for the lack of proper revenues in the county treasury for school funds.

Many magistrates and other minor courts never turn into the school funds a cent of fines, penalties, and forfeitures. From 15 to 20 percent of the taxes are not collected. Many men dodge their tax duties by letting their property be sold for taxes and then retaining the property. One case Dr. Brooks mentioned was that of a man worth \$100,000 who had not paid taxes in years. In another county it was found that two telegraph companies, telephone companies and other public service corporations had never paid a cent to the school fund. For 12 months the state has been trying to get the figures on the bonded and floating indebtedness of the counties, but because of the lack of records this effort has accomplished little. Many counties have no records of their business. Dr. Brooks declared that any private business conducted on the loose methods of county governments would be in bankruptcy. Tax-dodging is the worst form of slackerism. Dr. Brooks advocated posting in public places the names of all persons who failed to do their duty in paying their part of the taxes.

A County Mayor

The whole speech was a strong arraignment of our county governments. The remedy was that these governments be placed on a business basis with some competent person, whether auditor, sheriff, or county manager, as head, who can be held responsible by the taxpayers for the proper collection and disbursement of tax moneys. He urged the citizens to see to this matter of making every man pay his part of the taxes.

The revelations about laxness in county governments were startling to a great many of Dr. Brooks's audience. The remedy lies in the power of the ballot, which the people have not yet learned to wield intelligently and effectively.

Know your city and county government is the injunction he hands the citizens. A stop must be put to this tremendous financial waste in North Carolina, if the progressive work now underway is to be maintained.

The statements of Dr. Brooks should be heard by every man and woman in the state. There is more food for thought in what he says than in anything that has been brought out in a long while. It is of vital interest to the taxpayers and to the progress of the state. There should be a general awakening of the people, and they should see that their government affairs are properly conducted.—Durham Morning Herald.

(Released week beginning June 26)

KNOW NORTH CAROLINA

Our Traveling Libraries

In 1921, the Raleigh postoffice handled 2,230 packages containing 15,659 books, pamphlets, and magazine articles which the State Library Commission loaned free to people who wrote for information on subjects ranging from fertilizers to Sunday-school methods. In addition 616 traveling libraries of forty volumes each were shipped by freight to 414 places; 247 new stations were established, and all the counties served except Avery and Clay. Iredell secured the largest number of traveling libraries in 1921, and Vance led the state in the number of package libraries. One woman wrote "Our patrons look forward to those libraries. When they come, we gather around to see them opened. We are so glad of our books and glad we are Tar Heels."

A rural librarian who sent in an urgent plea for a library said, "This morning I have had several messages begging me to get a library right away as people are shut in by this deep snow and want to read. You can have very little idea what these books mean to farmers' families who love to read."

Letters of keen appreciation evidence the fact that farmers and their families do love to read. A library-service with sufficient funds to make books accessible to every boy and girl, every man and woman in North Carolina, is one of the greatest opportunities of the state's educational and welfare system.—Mary B. Palmer, Secretary, State Library Commission.

COUNTY GOVERNMENT NEEDS

In the existing machinery for rural local government in the United States the most general defect is the complicated variety of local officials, and the lack of any definite and coherent system of organization. This is shown in the number of county officials independent of one another and by the lack both of any concentrated executive control and of an adequate representative council or board with substantial powers of local legislation. State supervision over local officials is also exercised spasmodically and without any coherent plan, and it is clearly inadequate even in the case of officers who are most distinctly state agents for the local administration of state affairs (as, for instance, the sheriffs and clerks of court in North Carolina).

These considerations call for (1) a reduction in the number of elective county officials, (2) the establishment of a single responsible executive control, (3) effective state supervision over local officials in the performance of state functions, and (4) the creation of a local representative authority for controlling local policies and local finances.

The County Board

For the local representative authority in the county, there should be a council, in most cases of five to seven members, with control over (1) county taxes and finances, and (2) questions of local policy and local legislation, but (3) without the detailed administrative duties now imposed on county boards. Such county councils may be elected by districts, or if elected at large should be chosen by some plan of voting which will secure the representation of different interests.

For the chief county executive, there is much to be said for applying the principles of the city-manager plan and providing for a county manager, selected by the county council. But it will perhaps be easier to bring about the needed concentration of executive authority in one of the existing officials. Tendencies in this direction now exist in the case of the county or probate judge in some of the southern states,

and with other officials in other states, as the county clerk in Illinois, or the president of the county board in Cook county, Ill. (and in Buncombe county, North Carolina).

State Supervision

As a means for securing responsible supervision over the performance of state functions, it is believed that the state's attorney or public prosecutor should be appointed by the governor, as the principal agent for the local enforcement of state law. Other executive and administrative officials should be appointed; but in most states the election of judges will probably be continued.

There is further need for a definite system of reports by such local authorities to the state authorities, presenting brief but intelligible statements of finances on a uniform plan, and also other records. Uniform systems of local accounts and a regular state audit of local accounts are desirable; but the primary need is for a satisfactory system of reports as to local finances and the work of local governments.

Local Civic Leagues

Whatever may be done in the way of readjusting local areas, reorganizing the machinery of rural government, and extending the legal powers and functions of the local authorities, the successful working of any system of rural government will depend on an active and intelligent body of citizens. For this purpose there is need for more systematic and organized efforts to arouse and strengthen an educated interest in local public affairs in rural communities. There should be in such regions, as well as in cities, local civic associations or leagues dealing with local problems on their merits and taking an active part in the selection of more capable and progressive local officials, as for instance in Alameda county, California, and in Westchester and Nassau counties, New York state.

Enlisting the Women

A phase of such work of special importance at this time, with the recent extension of voting rights to women, is the development of organized work in citizenship among the women in rural sections. Courses of reading and study in citizenship and rural problems should be formulated suitable for the use of women's clubs, extension schools, and other agencies; and also for civics classes in rural high schools; and steps should be taken to distribute outlines and suggestions for such courses through such organizations as the League for Women Voters and publications such as the Woman Citizen.—Dr. John A. Fairlie, University of Illinois, a report to the American Country-Life Association, New Orleans session, November 1921.

THE FARMER THINKS

Many of our habitual readers in large cities and industrial centers forget that the millions in small towns and on farms

are as deeply interested in public affairs as they are. The rural reader gets more time to read and more time to think. It is a mistake to think that the farmer is devoted solely to cattle and crops and that the villager thinks only in terms of his limited environment. These citizens, the majority of our population, are more essential to the nation's well-being than the lawyers and stockbrokers, and they are, ultimately, more influential.—B. W. Huebsch in the Freeman.

BANKS THAT HELP

The banks of Charlottesville, Va., are cooperating with farmers of the surrounding county in obtaining pure-bred sires. According to reports received by the United States Department of Agriculture, if a farmer will sell his grade or scrub sires and purchase pure-bred animals, the banks supply the necessary funds to cover the purchase of the pure-bred sire over the amount received for the inferior animal. The loan is made on the basis of a year's time.

Sentiment among bankers regarding the use of pure-bred livestock in practical farming operations appears to be growing more favorable, and the attitude of the Charlottesville banks is evidence of this point. Pure-bred sires of good quality, as shown by information obtained by the Bureau of Animal Industry, increase the earning power of herds and flocks in which they are used.—Clip Sheet, U. S. Department of Agriculture.

OWN YOUR OWN FARM

To succeed as a farmer in this state, where the average man is the tiller of a limited number of acres, says Mr. Brown, the Georgia Commissioner of Agriculture, the farmer has got to get out of the tenant class and into the land-owning fraternity; the farmer has got to back up all his industrious skill with what agricultural science, books, experiments, and demonstrations can teach him; he and his neighbors have got to buy and use labor-saving machinery in common, taking turns in using what the individual cannot afford alone to purchase; he has got to buy his supplies, sell his produce, and finance his work cooperatively, and he has got to look for and find markets, cash markets in nearby or convenient towns. The state bureau of markets, as Mr. Brown points out, will render valuable assistance in finding markets and in aiding the farmer to dispose of his products.

That, in brief, is the new gospel of the farmer, according to Commissioner Brown. The capstone, top and crown of it all is that the farmer has got to own the land he tills. As a tenant farmer, he is in a losing game.—Salisbury Evening Post.

PURE-BRED LIVESTOCK IN THE U. S. IN 1920

States ranked according to the ratio of farms having one or more pure-bred horses, dairy cows, beef cattle, sheep, or swine.

Ratios based on the 1920 Census figures (1) for farms reporting livestock of these types, and (2) for farms reporting one or more pure-bred animals.

In North Carolina 257,678 farms reported horses, cattle, sheep, swine; but only 10,057 or 3.9 percent of these farms had pure-bred animals. United States average, 11.3 percent. Rank of the state 46th.

Department Rural Social Economics, University of North Carolina.

Rank	State	Pct. of Farms Pure-bred	Rank	State	Pct. of Farms Pure-bred
1	South Dakota	31.8	25	Washington	11.6
2	Iowa	26.9	26	Oklahoma	11.5
3	Illinois	22.7	27	Arizona	11.3
4	Vermont	21.1	28	Maine	11.1
5	Wisconsin	21.0	29	Connecticut	10.5
6	Nebraska	20.9	30	Rhode Island	9.9
7	Minnesota	18.6	31	California	9.5
8	Wyoming	18.2	32	New Jersey	8.8
9	Utah	17.9	33	West Virginia	8.5
10	North Dakota	17.8	34	Florida	8.2
11	Oregon	17.6	34	New Mexico	8.2
12	Kansas	16.7	36	Arkansas	7.2
13	Nevada	16.5	37	Maryland	7.0
14	Idaho	16.3	38	Texas	6.6
15	New York	15.8	39	Delaware	6.5
16	Indiana	15.7	39	Tennessee	6.5
17	Colorado	15.4	41	Mississippi	5.1
18	New Hampshire	15.1	42	Virginia	5.0
19	Missouri	15.0	43	Kentucky	4.5
20	Ohio	13.6	44	Georgia	4.1
21	Montana	13.2	45	Alabama	4.0
22	Massachusetts	12.9	46	North Carolina	3.9
23	Pennsylvania	11.9	47	South Carolina	3.4
24	Michigan	11.7	48	Louisiana	3.0