

FSA Borrower Has Happy Home

Roby D. Bentley, Watauga County FO borrower, regrets the fact that he did not start on the road to farm ownership earlier in life. The Bentley's secured a tenant purchase loan through the Farm Security Administration now Farmers Home Administration, during January 1944 to purchase a 61.0 acre farm near Valle Crucis. He was happy to know that the FMA committee had selected him to locate a farm.

Prior to this year, the Bentley's had farmed on 1-2 to 1-3 acre rent with limited acreage

in crops. The major part of the family income came from day labor at \$1.00 per day which made a struggle some years to make a go with a family of eleven. The Bentley's came to the FHA office during 1941 to discuss buying a farm and securing a loan to purchase cows. This was their first step toward purchasing a farm the FHA way. He continued to build up working capital to be in line for purchase of a farm. During 1943, he located the 61.0 acre tract of land and bought it.

Although the farm was somewhat rocky, rugged, gullies with thickets scattered here and there, the Bentley's went to work to repair fencing, lime and phosphate

and reseeding pasture land. Efforts are being made to have more productivity from the land each year.

The dwelling has a new roof, new siding and new storage room in the basement. The barn was repaired in the meantime. A new barn pattern has been cut and hopes are to construct a new and better barn in the near future. Improvements have been made in building each year since purchase of the farm.

A new spring was located and water piped to sink in the kitchen. More conveniences have been added to the home, refrigerator, washing machine, new stove, hot and cold running water.

Mrs. Bentley cans from 1200 to 1500 quarts each year. Plenty of apples, strawberries, blackberries, meats and vegetables are canned for family use.

This is a happy family and proud of the fact that they secured a loan to purchase their farm. The FHA personnel are also proud of this family. They have been most cooperative in every project on their farm. By the end of 1948, the Bentley's will have paid their loan in full and be free of indebtedness. In Mr. Bentley's words, "We could have continued as tenants and had little or nothing. We regret that we did not make use of the opportunity to become a farm owner earlier. Although we do not have the best farm in the county, we have a home and a place of our own. Something to live and work for, what is life without a home of your own."

Suggestions On Use Bumper Corn Crop

Feed hogs out to full weight; include more corn in broiler mash; finish beef animals earlier this fall; and convert tobacco barns, empty tenant houses, potato grading sheds and unused tobacco warehouses as emergency storage facilities.

These were a few of the suggestions offered this week by State College Extension Service specialists for handling the biggest corn crop in the history of North Carolina.

The suggestions were made at a meeting called by David S. Weaver, assistant director of the Extension Service. Mr. Weaver outlined the problem by citing the latest crop forecasts. "North Carolina is expected to have a 74-million bushel corn crop," he said. "Last year we had an above average crop of 65-million bushels, since the ten-year average is only 51 million. Counting a six-million bushel carryover, we will have 80 million bushels to store or sell."

In response to Mr. Weaver's

request for suggestions, Jack Kelley, extension swine specialist, said that obviously it's time to start feeding pigs out to full weight again. "North Carolina farmers have often marketed their hogs at weights under 180-pounds," he said. "Feed shortages in past years have encouraged this trend. With a normal feed-livestock price relationship, farmers will now get their greatest return by marketing hogs at or near 240 pounds."

John W. Weaver, agricultural engineer for the experiment station, suggests that farmers convert any empty buildings they have into a temporary storage bin. "The main thing is to get a roof over it and a floor under it," he said.

The specialists agreed that the biggest opportunity for conserving the crop lies in the hands of the small farmer who usually sells his corn in the fall and then has to buy expensive feed during the winter. If small producers can rig up some satisfactory storage facilities, they need not worry about the low price of corn this fall nor the high price of feed next winter.

LOST KEYS CAUSE DEATH

National City, Calif.—William Williams, 65, misplaced his house keys. Attempting to climb into the house through a window, he was killed when the window fell and pinned him to the sill. The coroner's report stated, however, that he died of a heart attack—caused by the shock of the falling window, and not because of the injuries received from the window.

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