

THREE ACRES IS FARM
SAY CENSUS OFFICIALS

Farm Is All Land Farmed by One Person, Whether It Is Three Acres Or Three Thousand Acres

A farm, according to the Census Bureau, is all the land farmed by one person, whether it is three acres or three thousand acres. Sounds simple, doesn't it? Well, it wasn't so simple for the Government officials to decide what should be considered a farm by the enumerators during the census to be taken in April. Much study and years of practical experience were necessary before the short, concise definition was agreed upon.

Dr. L. C. Gray and Dr. O. E. Baker, of the Department of Agriculture, assisted Census officials in deciding upon what should be called a farm. The amount of farm land owned by one person has nothing to do with the definition of a farm so far as the Census Bureau is concerned. The question is not how much land does he own but how much does he operate or farm. A man who owns 300 acres might farm half of it himself and rent the other half out to three tenants, 50 acres to each. This would go down on the census records as four farms because the land farmed by each man is considered as a unit.

On the other hand, one man might rent various tracts of land from 10 different owners. He might rent a few acres on shares, a few more from somebody else for money rent, and the rest from other people on different terms. The different pieces of land might be widely separated. If they were all farmed and managed by one man, however, they would all be put down together as one farm. If, however, a separate manager were hired to supervise a certain portion of the land, that portion would go down as a separate farm.

No tract of land of less than three acres will be registered as a farm unless it produced more than \$250 worth of farm products last year. In the Census of 1920 if a piece of land of less than three acres was farmed by a man who gave his entire time to the task, it was listed as a farm regardless of how little it produced, but this year none of these small tracts will be counted unless they produced \$250 worth of products, regardless of how many people spent their full time cultivating the area.

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MISS IDA PEARL PEARCE

Miss Ida Pearl Pearce, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. R. A. Pearce, of Louisburg, whose engagement to Charles Tayloe Hoyt, of Washington, N. C., has been announced, the wedding to be an important event of early Summer.

(It is estimated that approximately 5,000 tracts of less than three acres in the United States are farmed by individuals who give their full time to the occupation.) This change in the classification of farms is the only difference between the Census Bureau's regulations for farm enumeration in 1930 from those of ten years ago.

There is necessarily a borderland between what is a farm and what is not. Small places on the edge of towns or villages are often the homes of city workers who undertake to keep a cow, some chickens, and probably cut a little hay or raise a large garden or small crop. If the agricultural products from such a place amounted to more than \$250 dollars in 1929, it will be returned as a farm, regardless of how much or how little time the city worker gave to his farming pursuits, and regardless of how small the tract of land tended. Indeed, if a man living on Fifth Avenue of New York City raised more than \$250 worth of strawberries or asparagus on a lot of 50 by 100 feet, his place would be returned as a farm. The value of the agricultural products is the criterion.

On the other hand, a large country place of 10, 15, or 20 acres may not necessarily qualify as a farm. Actual farming or agricultural operations must be carried out before any tract of land will be classed in this category. A large country estate of a retired capitalist is not a farm if all the work done around the place consists in mowing the lawns and clipping the hedges. If the estate is of more than 3 acres, however, a very small amount of agricultural products could give it the rank of a farm, regardless of whether the products amounted to \$250 or not. In such a case as this, it would be up to the judgment of the census enumerator to decide whether agricultural operations were being carried out. Farm land is considered "operated" not only when cultivated crops are raised on it, but also when it is used to any significant extent for pasture or for cutting hay.

A number of agricultural pursuits not usually considered by the average person as farming comes within the Census Bureau's definition. All market and truck gardens, fruit orchards, nurseries, greenhouses, poultry yards, places for keeping bees, and all dairies in or near cities, even though little land is employed, are, for census purposes, farms, provided they produced in 1929 agricultural products of the value of at least \$250. If such places are of more than three acres, they are farms regardless of the value of their produce.

In 1925, the last year in which a farm census was taken in the United States, there were 15,151 farms of less than three acres. The total number of farms in the nation was 6,371,640.

The general definition of a farm—"All the land which is directly farmed by one person, either by his own labor alone or with the assistance of members of his household or hired employees"—has remained practically the same since 1870, the first year in which it was used by the Census

Still After the Cup



Sir Thomas Lipton, wealthy Irish merchant, who has spent two million dollars trying to win the world's greatest yachting trophy, the America's Cup, announces he will try again this year.

Bureau. If the figures for different censuses are to be valuable for purposes of comparisons, they must be based on the same definitions. When the census records show that there were six million farms in the country at one time and five million at another, the meaning of the word "farm" must be the same for the two periods if useful conclusions are to be drawn, census officials have pointed out.

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Enthusiasm is as good for an enterprise as capital.

The penalty of aspiring to be a high brow is early baldness.

CARD OF THANKS

We wish to convey our sincere thanks and appreciation for the many kind services and words of sympathy and hope extended us during the recent illness and death of our beloved aunt, Miss Lucy Ann Styles. Mrs. D. E. Griffin, Mrs. Ida May Byron.

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