

Farm Operators Are Older: 800,000 Now 65 Years And Over

Young Operators Found On Larger and More Efficient Farms

The nation's farm operators are steadily growing older, according to information compiled by the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

There are now approximately 800,000 farm operators who are 65 years old and over. This makes agriculture by far the biggest single source of gainful employment and means of livelihood for those in this age group.

Close to 35 per cent of the total number of farms, or more than one out of every three, are run by persons 55 years old and over. Approximately 15 per cent of all farm operators, or more than one out of every seven, are 65 and over.

Highest Ratios on Record

These proportions, which are based on the findings of the 1950 Census of Agriculture, are the highest on record in figures going back to 1910. Conversely, there has been a long-term decline in the number and proportion of farm operators of the younger age groups. This decline has been especially pronounced in the case of those under 35, reflecting primarily the new opportunities in growth of off-the-farm employment.

The figures indicate that relatively more young operators are found on the larger and more efficient farms, where income and opportunity are greatest. The largest proportion of operators 65 and over are on low production, part-time and residential farms. Many of these are retirement units or supplementary sources of income.

In the four decades between 1910 and 1950, the number of farms in the United States declined by just under a million. Here is what happened to the age composition of operators of these farms in the period, broken down by principal age groups:

The number of operators under 35 years of age showed a decline of over 800,000, or 45 per cent. In 1950 this age group represented less than 19 per cent of all farm operators as against 29 per cent in 1910.

Those between 35 and 54 decreased by more than 500,000 or 17 per cent. This group represented 46½ per cent of all farm operators in 1950 as compared with about 47½ per cent in 1910.

The Older Groups

The number of farm operators between 55 and 64 increased by more than 100,000, or 12 per cent. This group in the latest Census made up just under 20 per cent of all farm operators as against approximately 15 per cent in 1910.

Farm operators aged 65 and over increased in number by nearly 250,000, or 44 per cent. In 1910 these elderly farmers made up less than 9 per cent of all farm operators. The 1950 proportion was just under 15 per cent.

Needless to say, this change in the age composition of farmers hasn't affected agriculture's ability to produce. Nor has it been a barrier to the in-

Care of Car Important to Driving Safety



"The nut that holds the steering wheel," said a wag back in the gay '20's, "is the part of a car that causes most accidents." Seriously, it's almost a criminal offense these days to neglect the care a car needs to keep it in safe operating condition. That care is a long step toward your safety.

This is clear and obvious when you think about it. Think back to yesterday, when the driver ahead of you stopped on a dime, and you had to thank your stars your brakes were working perfectly. And last night, when that car came out of a side road too fast, and your headlights spotted it in time for you to slow down and stop. Remember that rainy morning last week, when you had to brake suddenly at a crosswalk full of pedestrians—and you didn't skid?

Or did you make it by the skin of your teeth each time—and mutter to yourself: "Got to get that checked."

It's time for a thorough check-up. And, if you think that proper care doesn't pay for itself, remember—the life you save may be your own.

Introduction of mechanization or new techniques to improve farming methods.

Negro Clubs Show Marked Progress

(Editor's Note: Mrs. L. B. Coston, reporter for the Negro Home Demonstration County Council, wrote the following article in connection with last week's observance of National Home Demonstration Week. The article was received too late to appear last week.)

It is with a feeling of pride in our organization that the Negro Home

Demonstration Clubs of Chowan County join with thousands of others in the ninth observance of National Home Demonstration Week. We rejoice in having this community to make our small contribution in telling the world that H. D. work means to each one of us, to our families, to our communities, to our State and nation.

There are 14 Negro H. D. Clubs in Chowan County, which have come to know and appreciate the home economics information available to them through the Extension Service. In their monthly meetings they receive capable Home Agent gives them trained assistance and timely information in the use of more efficient home-making methods; in food production, conservation and preparation; in the wise

use of the family income; in the training and guidance of children and youth; in selection of clothing and household equipment; in the development of team work in the family; and also in health, education and religious worship. After considering these facts it is not difficult to see why they continue the theme of the week—"Today's Home Builds Tomorrow's World." Just another way of saying home-builders are world-builders. The home demonstration program gives the tools and the know-how. It is the duty of the members to use them so widely that tomorrow's world will have the love, peace, comfort and beauty that will make it a better place in which to live.

The history of Negro Home Demonstration Work in Chowan County, though it extends over a very short period of time, is a glorious story of growth and progress. The goal has been to give better, deeper and more abundant life to the farm family. I dare say that the unexpected has been accomplished in the less than ten years that they have had the program. The old farm house has disappeared, even if its form remains the same, the paint on the house, the beautiful flowers around the house, the well kept lawns and neater outer buildings have been the means of transforming the outside appearance of many farm houses into beautiful modern homes. But the transformation does not stop on the outside for it has been no less effective on the inside. The gloomy uncomfortable and inconvenient kitchen has also disappeared with the coming of cheerful painted walls, beautiful matching curtains made from feed bags, cabinets made from scrap lumber and discarded pieces of furniture. The same has been true with all of the other rooms in most Negro homes in Chowan County. Even the most humble places have been made more sightly and comfortable. With the

Housework Easy Without Nagging Backache

When kidney function slows down, many folks complain of nagging backache, loss of pep and energy, headaches and dizziness. Don't suffer longer with these discomforts if reduced kidney function is getting you down—due to such common causes as stress and strain, over-exertion or exposure to cold. Minor bladder irritations due to cold, dampness or wrong diet may cause getting up nights or frequent passages. Don't neglect your kidneys if these conditions bother you. Try Doan's Pills—a mild diuretic. Used successfully by millions for over 50 years. While often otherwise caused, it's amazing how many times Doan's give happy relief from these discomforts—help the 15 miles of kidney tubes and filters flush out waste. Get Doan's Pills today!

DOAN'S PILLS

willingness of the club members to cooperate and the way in which the Home Agent helps them to learn how to take what they have and make what they want, they have cut down the high cost of living and not only have their homes got the new look, but they, themselves and their families wear neater and more appropriate clothing and serve more nutritious and attractive meals to their families and their guests. This is possible because many of them have vegetable gardens, poultry, eggs, bacon and a store of canned and preserved foods. They have also learned to make over their old clothing and make attractive garments out of the less expensive materials. In many homes modern appliances have been installed.

The program has been carried to Negro families in every neighborhood of the county, with clubs at Triangle, Cedar Grove, Canaan Temple, St. John, Hertford Road, Edenton, Virginia Fork, Ryans Grove, Green Hall, Warren Grove, White Oak, Cisco, Center Hill and Hudson Grove. Each club in observance of National Home Demonstration Week plans: To present a program in their respective neighborhood during the month of May. The entire neighborhood will be invited to attend this program. Af-

ter each program there will be refreshments and some kind of recreation to be enjoyed by all.

CHRISTIAN CHURCH SERVICES

Services at the First Christian Church have been announced as follows by the pastor, the Rev. E. C. Alexander:

Bible School, Sunday morning at 10 o'clock; morning service at 11 o'clock; young people's meeting at 6:30 P. M., evening service at 7:30 o'clock. Wednesday Evening Bible Class meets at 7:30 o'clock. Everybody is welcome to all services.

OLD WEST LIVES AGAIN IN STORY-DRAMA

The Old West is brought to life again in an exciting story by Homer Croy, author of "Jesse James Was My Neighbor." Read how a U. S. marshal captured Oklahoma's worst outlaw. One of many absorbing features in the May 23rd issue of

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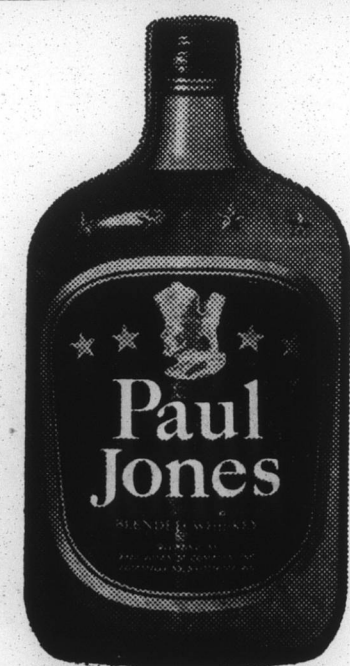
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