

# FARM YOUTHS BIG PROBLEM

More Than Needed To Till Soil, Government Report States

What is to be done about some 7,000,000 American country youths who, according to the Work's Progress administration, face a disastrous economic future?

In a survey just completed by the WPA it became known that opportunities for young men in rural areas to acquire their own property and economic independence have materially decreased in recent years because of the growing "surplus" of rural youth.

### Few Farm Boys Trained

The National Youth administration and the Civilian Conservation Corps, in spite of their good work, have included among their numbers a small fraction of the needy farm youths. The main reason for this is due to insufficient funds on the part of the agencies, yet the problem remains. Unless business can absorb several million unskilled workers, then it remains for the federal government to do something about it. That conclusion is partially reached by the conductors of this survey.

### Women's Plight Serious

Lacking good jobs, many young people not needed at home to help on the farm have been forced to remain with their parents, often for an extended period. The plight of young women who had to stay in their farm homes is even more serious than that of the men, the report stated. It was found that girls left the farm earlier than boys.

The report pointed out that the lack of adequate educational facilities has been a factor, along with economic handicaps, in producing the condition in which many rural youths find themselves.

"Areas with the largest proportions of children have the lowest incomes and the poorest schools," it stated. "Rural youth attend school less frequently than urban youths, leave school earlier and have a higher proportion of retardation. They are victims of glaring inequalities in education. As late as 1935, five out of every 100 farm youths were still unable to read and write. Yet, where facilities are available, a large proportion of all rural youth attend school."

### Want to Own Land

Despite the migration of youth to the city, the study showed, the numbers of young men desiring their own farms at the beginning of the depression far exceeded the number of good farms available. This situation is attributed to an increase in farm tenancy, the decreased demand for farm laborers and the trends toward large-scale and absentee land ownership and mechanization of agriculture.

This "pressure" on the land was to have been especially heavy in the southern mountain regions and the over region of the upper Lakes and appears to have increased markedly in the last few years because of a more rapid increase in these areas and the "back-to-the-farm" movement of people who lost out in the depression.

The WPA and the CCC in rural youth, there are opportunities for cooperative extension work. The department of agriculture is planning a program of Education and Employment. Numerous non-governmental organizations are forming important agencies in the opportunity for rural youth.

### Mill

and family spent the Christmas holidays with their parents, Mr. and Mrs. L. Bryson.

Miss West, from Raleigh, spent the holidays with her parents, Dr. and Mrs. West.

Mr. and Mrs. Claude Parrish, from Bryson City, spent Saturday and Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Morgan.

Jewel DeHart, from Gastonia, spent Thursday with relatives here. Miss Mary Elmore, teacher at Aquone, spent the holidays with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Elmore.

Miss Valley May West, from Raleigh, spent the Christmas holidays at home.

Misses Lyman and Crawford

Dalton, from Gastonia, spent the Christmas holidays with their parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Dalton.

The Christmas pageant given by the graded school here last Friday, was very beautifully given. The Christmas carols sung by the children were rendered well indeed. The music program was very good.

Will Elmore, from South Carolina, spent a few days here with his parents last week.

Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Franklin, of Route 3, spent Christmas with their daughter, Mrs. George Potts.

Ralph R. McLean, of Raleigh, spent Christmas with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. A. L. McLean.

Miss Vonnie West, one of the first grade teachers in the Bryson City schools, spent the holidays with her mother, Mrs. J. L. West, Sr.

Miss Evelyne Mozeley, of Reidsville, is visiting her grandfather and family, W. J. West, for a few days.

Mr. and Mrs. L. J. Smith and family, from Cullowhee, spent Christmas day with relatives here.

Weaver DeHart, of Bryson City, spent the holidays with relatives, Mrs. Alice Rickman and family.

H. H. West and family of Asheville, spent part of the Christmas holidays with relatives here.

Miss Bonnie Parrish, of Robbinsville, is visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Parrish.

Dover Bryson, of Detroit, Mich., is here on a visit to relatives.

### PROJECT

A land utilization project, embracing an area of more than 250,000 acres in Caswell county, has been undertaken by the soil conservation service as a part of its nation-wide submarginal land program.

## RETURNS FROM CHINA



Methodist Episcopal Bishop Arthur J. Moore, returning from Shanghai to his headquarters in San Antonio, Texas, declared that more than 100 missions, hospitals and schools have been destroyed in the war between China and Japan. "A century's work has been dissipated," he said.

### PLANT FRUIT TREES

In Durham county, 4-H club members who have selected fruit growing as their projects for 1939, have planted 37 peach trees, 32 apple trees, 3 pears, 2 plums, and 50 raspberry plants. Others plan to order trees to start home orchards.

## Forests Protected By CCC Enrollees

The three major destroyers of the nation's forests—fire, insects, and disease—have encountered a conquering army in the "shock troops" of the CCC. Enrollees have spent 4,000,000 man-days of labor fighting forest fires during five years of service. They have built many thousands of miles of fire-breaks throughout the pine stands of the southern states, and they have proved of inestimable benefit in holding fire losses to a first-rate minimum.

The war waged by the CCC against the silent tree killers, such as disease, insects, and fungi, has aided the country in keeping the national forests in a healthy growing condition. Although less dramatic and spectacular than fire-fighting, the protection of the forests against these menaces is as important as the protection against fire and requires the sterling qualities of patience and hard work.

The improvement program of the CCC has made an important contribution to the forest wealth of the country, especially in the South, where large areas of land have been acquired and added to the national forests. These lands had been heavily logged and subjected to severe burning, and the CCC work program is helping to restore them. A dual accomplishment can also be recorded in that the CCC has not only built forests, but it has also built men.

A series of publications are being prepared by the Government Printing Office on CCC activities. Two of these booklets, entitled "Forests Protected by the CCC" and "Forest Improvements by the CCC," may be secured free of

charge by addressing a request to the Regional Forester, U. S. Forest Service, Southern Region, Atlanta, Ga.

### DOWN

Receipts from American farm marketings in the first 11 months of 1938 were estimated at \$6,463,000,000, or 13 per cent less than the \$7,440,000,000 reported for the same period in 1937.

### LIBERAL

Liberal consumption of dairy products is in prospect for the winter months, says John Arey, of State college, in quoting a report of the U. S. bureau of agricultural economics.

More than 2,000 baby chicks have been started by 4-H club members of Beaufort county for the purpose of growing broilers for the early spring market.

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1935 Chevrolet 4-Door Sedan, A-1 Condition .....	\$335	1938 Chevrolet DeLuxe Sport Sedan, Heater, Seat Covers, Low Mileage .....	\$695
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