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Family Repays Forty-Year Loan In Five Years

By C. E. Callihan

Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Bobbitt of Route 1, Aberdeen, this week became the proud owners of a good 95-acre farm and home purchased with a Farm Security Administration loan made five years ago.

Indeed their pride is justifiable and their progress should be an inspiration to fellow citizens wishing to change their status from tenant farmers to self-supporting landowners.

Since 1941, Mr. and Mrs. Bobbitt and children, Thomas 13, Frances 11, and John 8, have increased their net worth from \$461 to \$8,000. After making FSA operating loans for two years, they progressed to the point they could finance their farm and home operations each year and make substantial payments on their farm. This happy, cooperative family have now changed their status from tenant-farmers to landowners. As permanent citizens of the community they are enjoying living on a hard-surfaced highway with mail service, school bus service, near a church, near a shopping center. Mrs. Bobbitt is an active member of the Home Demonstration Club and all the family participate in church and school activities and they also own and enjoy an automobile.

Their attractive home has been remodeled to provide adequate storage space, kitchen cabinets, a sink, pantry and a screened work porch. It is painted, has electric current and is comfortably furnished including such conveniences as an electric refrigerator, washing machine and a sewing machine. They now plan to install a water pump, add a bath room and a utility room

and continue their beautification. The Bobbitts realize the value of and practice a "Live-at-Home" program. They produce and conserve practically all the food and feed needed by the family and livestock. The home orchard contains apples, peaches, pears, figs, grapes and strawberries. In addition to a good year-round garden they produce and store sweet potatoes and Irish potatoes, dried beans and peas, onions, corn and wheat for bread. Mrs. Bobbitt enjoys her pressure canner and always stores 450 to 500 quarts of canned food including a wide variety of vegetables, fruits, meats, sweets and pickles. She has been instrumental in encouraging several neighbors to purchase pressure canners and has demonstrated their use. OPA and the meat shortage was of little concern to this family with a well stocked smokehouse. In addition to adequate pack and land they have a beef for home consumption and they keep from 50 to 60 hens for layers and eat all the poultry and eggs the family wishes.

After moving on the farm the family found that they didn't have adequate outbuildings. A new poultry house and stock barn had to be constructed. The smokehouse and tobacco barn had to be repaired. After completing the buildings, there were adequate housing facilities to store crops produced and livestock kept on the farm.

The crop land was also poor in the beginning. Mr. Bobbitt, through the help of the Soil Conservation Service and FSA, worked out plans for soil conservation and improvement—better land use. Terraces were constructed and contour cultivation followed. Mr. Bobbitt began seeding crotalaria, cowpeas and soybeans for soil improvement. The farm is at present in a much better state of cultivation and fertility than it was prior to their

acquiring it. Kobe lespedeza and Sericea lespedeza have been seeded for temporary grazing, crop rotation of cotton, small grain and tobacco is followed.

It is interesting to note that when Mr. and Mrs. Bobbitt moved on the farm they had one cow, one mule and farm equipment valued at \$300. They now have two cows, two mules, an automobile and farm equipment valued at \$1550. They have just recently told me they plan to fence and seed a good permanent pasture for their livestock.

With the Bobbitts farming is a business and the entire family tries to practice better money management methods and they keep accurate farm and home records. When Mr. and Mrs. Bobbitt made their final payment, she told the FSA Supervisor, "This is an important day for us. I couldn't rest easy until we had finished paying for our place. We are proud of it and plan to continue improvements." Mr. Bobbitt asked: "Can I buy another farm through FSA?"

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Advice Given On Deer Trophies

With the deer season opening October 15, there will be many hunters coming up with valuable deer head trophies for the first time, Frank Meacham, curator of zoology at the N. C. State Museum, Department of Agriculture, points out. In addition, these lucky hunters may wish to have the deer skins tanned for use as a rug, buckskin, gloves, jacket, etc. and should know something of how to handle these trophies to best advantage.

Hunters should never cut the skin on the throat side of the deer's head as this makes an unsightly scar on the trophy. Meacham said the cut should be made from inside out along the top of the back of the neck to a point just back of the antlers. Two short cuts are then made to the base of the antlers forming a "Y". Peel the skin back until the ears are reached. Cut them off close to the skull, added Meacham. Skin outside of the ear and turn inside out, then cut away the meat at the base.

Of course, stated Meacham, the slain deer should first be "bled" by sticking at the lower base of the neck. This process also helps to "cool out" the deer and makes the meat of a better grade.

After the hide and head have been "skinned out," concluded Meacham, rub plenty of common table salt into the inner side and store in a cool place for a week. They then can be sent to a taxidermist for tanning or mounting. The State Museum at Raleigh will be glad to aid any hunters in taking care of their valuable trophies, said Meacham, and will place them with reliable taxidermists to do such work as they should wish.

"Wear some article of clothing which is a bright red when deer hunting this fall—man makes a poor trophy and a much poorer rug," advised Meacham.

between stalk destruction and the first killing frost, the fewer boll weevils there are likely to be next spring.

The stalks may be killed with a stalk cutter, a disc harrow, or a plow. "The thing to do is to get rid of the food supply of Mr. Boll Weevil just as quickly as possible," says Conner. "There is plenty of evidence not only from North Carolina but also from other sections of the cotton belt that stalk destruction is the best method of fighting the weevil at this time."

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