

# TENANCY ON FARMS NOW LOWEST IN OVER 50 YEARS

Tenant farming, for years an important and growing element in American agriculture and a recurrent problem as well, has shown a radical decline over the last decade and a half. Figures compiled by the U. S. Department of Agriculture, based on the last Census, show that the number of farms operated by tenants has been cut in half since the Thirties, declining from 2,865,000 in 1935 to 1,439,000 in 1950. As a result, the number of farms operated by tenants in 1950 was down to only about 27 per cent of all the farms in the nation in that year as compared with a ratio of 42 per cent in 1935.

### Progress By Evolution

Both numerically and in proportion to the total, the 1950 figures were the lowest in more than a half century. Obviously, by increasing the ties to the land of a growing proportion of the nation's farmers, the decline in tenancy and the accompanying increase in ownership strengthen the basis of American agriculture and benefit the nation at large at the same time, socially as well as economically.

The rapid decline in farm tenancy in recent years is a conspicuous example of evolutionary development in a free society. It has been brought about by the spectacular technological developments in farming and its mechanization, and has been aided by the general prosperity of the economy over the last decade.

Thanks to the big rise in farm income and production, many tenants have been able to accumulate financial means to buy a farm of their own. Many others, particularly those located on marginal and uneconomic units like the sharecroppers in the South, have been afforded the opportunity of bettering themselves and leaving farming entirely by the expansion of business and industry with the job openings that resulted. Along with these two developments has gone the growth in the size of farms all over the country as the increasing use of machinery spurred consolidation.

### 70 YEARS OF TENANCY

The following table shows the trend of tenant farming for the 70-year period from 1880 to the present (figures in thousands):

Year	All Farms	Tenants	Ratio
1880	4,000	1,625	40%
1890	4,565	1,295	28%
1900	5,737	2,625	46%
1910	6,362	2,355	37%
1920	6,448	2,455	38%
1930	6,289	2,654	42%
1935	6,812	2,895	43%
1940	6,697	2,361	35%
1945	5,859	1,858	32%
1950(a)	5,384	1,439	27%

(a) Preliminary.  
Source: U. S. Dept. of Agriculture.

tion of farms and acquisition of additional acreage for more efficient operation.

### Big Drop in Farm Employment

It is significant to note in this connection that the total number of those engaged in agriculture has declined by about a third in the last decade and a half, falling from an average for the year of more than 7 million, the 1951 average. The amount of land under cultivation has shown only a minor increase at the same time. Nonetheless, the volume of agricultural production has increased about a third in this period, testifying to the progress that has occurred in farming methods and in utilization of resources.

Evidence of the extent that former tenants have become owners is shown by the Department of Agriculture in an analysis of farm real estate transfers in the last few years. These figures show that tenants bought from 26 per cent to 32 per cent of all farms sold in the four-year period from March, 1947 to March, 1951.

Tenancy has been consistently more prevalent in the South than in any other section of the country, and it is in this area that the biggest decline has occurred. From 1910 through 1935, 50 per cent or more of

the farms in the South were operated by tenants, with the number of such farms reaching a peak of 1,331,000 in 1935. By 1950, the number of Southern tenant farms had fallen to 903,000, equivalent to only about one-third of all the farms in that region, the lowest such proportion for the South since tenancy records were first compiled in 1890.

### Sharecroppers Disappearing

A major factor in the decline in Southern tenancy has been a big drop in sharecropping. Over the last two decades, the number of sharecroppers dropped from 776,000 in 1930 to an estimated 366,000 in 1950, a bigger percentage decline than in Southern tenancy as a whole. As a result, the number of farms operated by sharecroppers represented only 13 per cent of all the farms in the South in 1950 as compared with a ratio of 24 per cent in 1930.

Tenant farms in the North, which includes the big Grain Belt, dropped from 898,000 in 1935, or 32 per cent of all Northern farms, to 476,000 in 1950, or 21 per cent of the farms in that area. In the west, the number of tenant farms dropped from a 1935 peak of 136,000 to only 68,000 in 1950, with the ratio to all farms in the West falling from 24 per cent to 13 per cent, respectively, in the period.

### WINFALL NEWS

Rex Jones, Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Delaney, Dan Winslow are very sick with the flu.

Mrs. A. R. Winslow, Miss Amy Van Roach, Mrs. Thomas H. White, E. E. Hollowell, Master Grover Hollowell and Mrs. J. F. Hollowell are able to be out after being ill with the flu.

W. J. Stanton is very sick with pneumonia.

Mrs. J. H. Baker's condition is much improved and she is able to be up and around at her home.

Mr. and Mrs. Elisha Whitley of Portsmouth, Va., visited relatives here Thursday.

Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Phillips have returned from Williamston where they spent the past week.

Mrs. Robertson of Norfolk, Va., visited Mr. and Mrs. Haywood Proctor last week.

Miss Geraldine Gregory of Newport News, Va., spent the week-end with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. T. S. Gregory.

Mrs. M. C. Chalk is sick with the flu.

Mr. and Mrs. D. R. Trueblood and Mrs. Chuck Woodard motored to Durham, N. C., to visit Will Trueblood, who is a patient at Watts Hospital, Saturday.

Mrs. J. L. Nixon is spending some time with her niece in Galax, Va.

Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Mathews and daughters, Mr. and Mrs. Dick Long and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Jordan, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Jordan, Mr. and Mrs. Tommy Temple and children visited Mr. and Mrs. E. B. Hollowell Sunday P. M.

Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Mathews of Elizabeth City and Mr. and Mrs. Bailey Temple and son, Willie Carroll, of Newland visited Mr. and Mrs. E. B. Hollowell Saturday.

Mrs. Kenneth Miller and daughter, Gloria, are sick with the flu.

Mrs. Jimmie Earnhardt of Edenton spent Tuesday night with her sister, Mrs. W. G. Hollowell. Mrs. Hollowell, Mrs. Earnhardt and Mrs. Elbert Bal-

lard spent Wednesday and Thursday in Norfolk, Va., with Mrs. James Byrum and W. T. Miller, their brother.

Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Hollowell had as their dinner guests Thursday night, Mr. and Mrs. E. R. Whiddle, Sr., and Esmer Whiddle of Woodville. Later on in the evening Elisha Whitley, Sr., Mrs. Hollowell's brother, was given a surprise birthday party at the Winfall Community House, by his children.

Miss Louille White and Miss Kay White, Gaston spent Monday in Norfolk and Portsmouth, Va.

## Good Production In 4-H Laying Flocks

According to County Agent O. W. Overman, eight 4-H laying flock records have been received for February to date and show good production, four more reports have not been received. Of the eight reports Kermit and Gena Harrell of Cannon's Ferry community lead with an average egg production of 74.2 per cent for the month. Joseph Wiggins of Center Hill is second with 71.5 per cent production. Earl Parks of Sign Pine is third with 69 per cent. Other production figures: Bill Welch of Cannon's Ferry, 67.5 per cent; Emmett Perry, 66.2 per cent; Peggy Bunch of Cannon's Ferry, 63.5 per cent, and James Boyce, Sign Pine, 59.1 per cent. "We want to congratulate James



**CULTIVATE EASIER!  
CULTIVATE BETTER!**

Whip those moisture-stealing weeds in a hurry... cultivate easier... cultivate cleaner with a John Deere Tractor Cultivator. You'll see what you're doing... dodge plants quickly and easily... cultivate faster and at a lower cost than ever before.

Top this with sturdy, long-lived construction... ease of attaching and detaching... and adaptability to crop and row spacing; these are important John Deere advantages you'll appreciate. Ask us for full particulars.

**J. C. Blanchard & Company, Inc.**  
"BLANCHARD'S" SINCE 1832

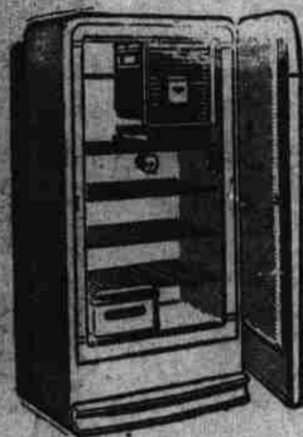
**JOHN DEERE** Cultivate Easier, Cultivate Better

By the time the temperature has risen to 60 per cent in January largely due to insufficient feeding," says Mr. Overman, "and with better feeding his production has climbed to 83.1 per cent. This goes to prove that a laying flock must have the raw materials in the form of plenty of the right kind of feed to manufacture eggs at the highest rate. During this season of the year when egg prices are normally down, as they are at the present time, and feed cost is very high, many laying flock keepers cut on the feed. A feed cut results in a cut in egg production. Even though eggs are cheap, a laying flock will pay the feed bill if it is managed properly and will maintain good production. The price of eggs will soon start to rise and this will result in a proportionate rise in profits for the egg producer if he is keeping his flock in full production. Those who have cut on feed and thrown their laying flock off production will take just as much feed to put the flock back into good production as they saved and will lose profits accordingly. It is highly important to keep the laying flock in full production at all times."

TRY A WEEKLY CLASSIFIED AD

COME IN AND SEE

## THE NEW FRIGIDAIRE



**NOW ON DISPLAY**  
and  
**PRICES ARE LOWER**

Liberal terms and trade-in allowance on your old refrigerator.

SEE THE NEW FRIGIDAIRE TODAY... It's completely automatic in every way. There never has been a refrigerator like this new FRIGIDAIRE.

**J. C. BLANCHARD & COMPANY, INC.**

"BLANCHARD'S" SINCE 1832

**BABY CHICK SPECIAL FOR WEEK-END**



New Hampshire and Barred Rock Chicks. Already started. If you want some quality chicks, now is the time to buy them for early layers or broilers.

## SUPERIOR HATCHERY

Phone 359-W-1 Edenton, N. C.

## Mr. FARMER:

It's time now to get your seed and fertilizer! We are READY to SERVE You.

WE CAN SUPPLY YOU WITH

Coker — Wannamaker — Cotton Seed  
Delinted and Acid Delinted

Soy Beans — Early Blacks — Odgen  
and Roanoke

FUNK'S and WOOD'S Hybrid Corn  
Also Open Pollinated

Seed Oats and Seed Potatoes  
Fertilizer and Soda

Also all kinds for garden and truck crop seed. The proven BEST for this area!

YOU NAME IT! — WE HAVE IT!

**J. C. BLANCHARD & COMPANY, INC.**

"BLANCHARD'S" SINCE 1832

# SEEDS

"Just Arrived" Seeds... all kinds for  
FIELD—TRUCK—GARDEN and FLOWERS  
MAY PEAS—ONIONS—POTATOES  
CORN BEANS—FIELD PEAS  
SEE US FOR YOUR NEEDS

**Hertford Hardware & Supply Company**

"Trade Here and Bank the Difference"  
PHONE 3461 HERFORD, N. C.

what's for dinner? 'most anything—  
when you own a **Deepfreeze**  
**Home Freezer!**



**EXCLUSIVE "MENU MAKER" FOOD CONTAINERS!**  
They hold an entire pre-cooked meal—freeze, heat and serve in these brightly colored aluminum pint containers.

U. S. Pat. Regd.  
\$999.00

PRICES  
\$699.00 AT

- You can have many kinds of meats, sea-food, vegetables and fruits on hand all the time for appetizing variety!
- You save important money by buying everything in quantity—and you need shop only once a month!
- Deepfreeze offers you so many convenience features—and a choice of six models in four sizes!
- For long, dependable service, your best buy is a genuine Deepfreeze Home Freezer!

LOW DOWN PAYMENTS! E-Z TERMS! COME IN TODAY!

**Hertford Hardware & Supply Company**

"TRADE HERE AND BANK THE DIFFERENCE"  
PHONE 3461 HERFORD, N. C.

## Want Better Peanut Seed Shelling?

FOR SEED SHELLING THAT LEAVES NOTHING FOR YOU TO WORRY ABOUT COME TO THE NEW AND MODERN

## Stallings & Corprew Peanut Sheller

Open About March 10th

Located on the Edenton-Hertford Highway (Route 17) 2 Miles West of Hertford and Operated By

**William [Bill] Corprew**

Who Will Give Each and Every Bag His Personal Attention.

Our sheller is the newest and most modern in the area. We have profited by the mistakes of others and can, therefore, carefully handpick your seed for best germination. Your seed is ready for planting and our sheller produces fewer splits. This better outturn means dollars and cents in your pocket, Mr. Farmer.

Our aim is to give you the best possible seed in the most economical manner.

**65c per Bag**

A TRIAL WILL CONVINCE YOU.  
REMEMBER THE LOCATION AND THE DATE!