

Part-Time Farming On Rise, Totals Nearly Third Of Farms

An unusual example of the opportunities and potentials inherent in American life is provided by the increasing number of persons who are combining farm living and all its advantages in these complex times with a basic source of livelihood outside of agriculture.

By actual count, nearly a third of all the farms in this country now fall into this part-time category, a proportion practically double that of two decades ago.

The basic livelihood may be a job, profession, or business in a town or a city, now easily accessible even to outlying areas thanks to the automobile and the speed of modern transportation. Or, as has been happening in more and more cases in recent years, the principal income may be a pension, or return on invested savings. The number of retirement farms is now unofficially estimated at several hundred thousand. In any case, some actual farming is carried out at the same time.

What the Figures Show

This development is indicated in figures compiled by the U. S. Department of Agriculture showing the trend and extent of increase in the number of part-time and residential farms from 1930 to date.

In 1950, according to the figures, the number of part-time and residential farms added up to 1.7 million, the equivalent of three out of every ten farms in the United States. A decade before there were 1.4 million of such farms, or fewer than one out of every four of all farms in that year. Back in 1930, the first year for which such figures were compiled, the number of part-time and residential farms came to just over a million and was the equivalent of only one out of every six of all the farms in the United States in that year.

The Qualifications

A part-time or residential farm, to qualify, must meet certain minimum

standards set by the U. S. Bureau of the Census with respect to production and value of farm products sold. Thus it must be an actual farming operation, even though small, and not merely a matter of location, or acreage, or a vegetable patch for the home table. In fact, the latest figures show that more than a third of the farms in this group raise and sell between \$250 and \$1,200 of farm products a year, thus providing their operators with a significant amount of supplementary income. The minimum qualifying requirement is the equivalent of \$150 cash sales of farm products a year.

The over-all annual cash income from farming operations for part-time and residential farms as a whole is estimated at in the neighborhood of half a billion dollars for last year. This may seem like "small potatoes" when compared with total cash receipts from farm marketings of just under \$33 billions for 1951. However, what is more important than income in most cases is that part-time farming, combined with an outside basic source of livelihood represents a way of life that has distinct advantages for the individual and for the nation as a whole, particularly in a society that has become as highly industrialized and as complex as ours.

Small Farms Gain

One of the interesting developments in this situation is the extent of the growth in the number of very small farms in recent years. The total number of farms under 10 acres in size, for example, has increased from 289,000 in 1920 to 511,000 in 1950, a gain of 77 per cent. This is the biggest gain of all the farm acreage groups. The great majority of the under 10-acre farms are part-time or residential units. As a matter of fact, while a number of part-time and residential farming units may be big, a very large proportion of the total number is under 30 acres according to un-

official estimates. Department of Agriculture figures on the trend in the number of farms by size groups over the last three decades shows that only the very small and very large ones have shown any important gains in the period. By contrast, those between 10 and 180 acres declined by over 1.3 million between 1920 and 1950. However, the average size of farms has been increasing for years and is now some 40 per cent above 1920.

Inquiries About State Are Still Increasing

Requests for information about North Carolina travel and vacation facilities continue to run ahead of last year's despite a slump in May (time of the petroleum strike) and in June and part of July (time of the steel strike and political conventions). The increased number of inquiries coincides with increases shown in actual travel counts at National Parks and State Highway census stations and increased business reported by resorts offering something to do (swimming, boating, fishing, golf, riding, etc) rather than offering transient accommodations solely.

An increasing demand for vacation cottages on lakes with all waterfront facilities is evident. More people are also inquiring about medium-priced accommodations for families with amusements for children and provisions for pets. A larger percentage of inquiries are about places to stay a week-end, a week, two weeks or longer. Very few requests for simple over-night accommodations are being received.

Inquiries serviced by the State Advertising Division totaled 14,268 in July. In July 1951 the total was 9,522.

Machinery Featured At Farm-Home Week

"Farm Machinery and Mechanization" will occupy next Thursday on the Farm and Home Week program at N. C. State College, says County

Agent C. W. Overman. The program features on Tuesday and Wednesday are fully as important and interesting.

"Farm people who have not attended a Farm and Home Week don't realize what they are missing," Overman says. "You pass along this road of life only once. You owe it to yourself and your family to take time out and relax, learn more about how the other fellow does things and get new ideas and have some fun."

"Farm and Home Week is for North Carolina farm people, yet our city friends are invited. Registration begins Monday afternoon and the program starts Monday evening. Thursday evening is the final session ending with a good old fashioned square dance. Go and enjoy it."

MASSES SUNDAYS IN MARINE CHAPEL AND EDENTON CHURCH

On every Sunday after the first Sunday in the month (every month's first Sunday having the second mass in Windsor, N. C., Theatre at 9 A. M., EST) the Most Holy Sacrifice of the Mass will be offered at 7 and 9 A. M., DST., in Marine Landing Field Chapel, near Edenton, and at 11 A. M., EST, in St. Ann's Catholic Church, Edenton, each including sermon, Holy Communion, followed by Rosary for Peace, Sunday School, Mass Servers' Practice, with confessions for half hour before services, stated Father F. J. McCourt, auxiliary chaplain and pastor, who invites everybody to all services.

Week-days at 7 A. M., EST: Mass, Communion, Rosary in Edenton Church.

Negro Dairy Show In E. City August 28

Plans are progressing for the second annual Negro dairy show which will be held in Elizabeth City Thursday, August 28, at the Scott and Halstead warehouse on the Weeksville road. The show will start at 10 A. M. Cattle raised by 4-H Club boys and

Sense And Nonsense

Husband: "Now that Uncle Herman is buried, I want to confess that I got fed up with the old boy something awful. But I didn't say anything for twenty years because, after all, he was your uncle."

Wife: "My uncle! I thought he was your uncle!"

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girls and NAF members will be shown with first, second and third place ribbons being awarded to the winners.

Counties expected to take part are Tyrrell, Washington, Currituck, Perquimans, Chowan and Pasquotank.

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Also contributing to the pleasant living that is North Carolina is the brewing industry's self-regulation program where brewers, wholesalers and retailers—in counties where malt beverage sales are permitted under state control—cooperate to maintain wholesome conditions for the legal sale of beer and ale.

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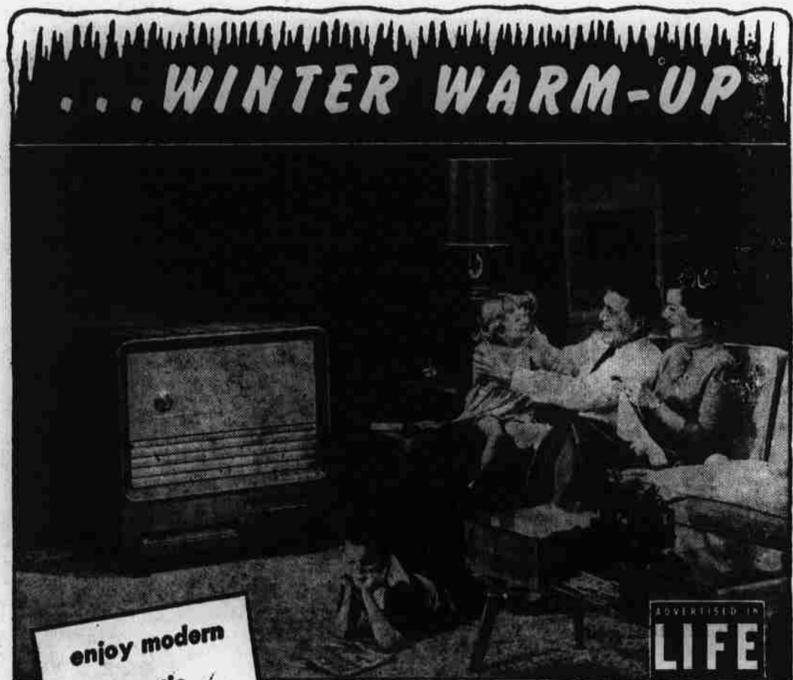
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