

Population On Farms Continues To Decline

The long-term migration from the farm to the city, accelerated since the early Forties by war and by the great increase in non-agricultural employment opportunities, has brought the farm population down to a new low.

Figures compiled jointly by the U. S. Bureau of the Census and the Department of Agriculture put the number of persons on farms at 21.9 million in April this year. This was equal to 13 1/2 per cent of the country's entire population, the lowest proportion on record.

In 1950, the number of persons living on farms was over 25 million and the proportion to the total population was 16.6 per cent. Just before Pearl Harbor, in 1941, the farm population was 30 million and represented 22.7 per cent of the entire U. S. population. Back in 1910, the first year for which figures are available, the farm population exceeded 32 million and represented more than a third of the country's total population.

Farm vs. Nonfarm

Thus over the last four and one-half decades the number of persons living on farms has declined by nearly a third and the ratio to the total U. S. population almost twice as much. There are now more than six persons in the nonagricultural population for every one living on a farm as compared with a two to one ratio in 1910. Despite the drop in the number of farmers, however, agricultural production set new records over the last decade, thanks to mechanization and better farming techniques.

The figures show a substantial decline in agricultural employment in recent years and a higher proportion of those living on farms earning their livelihood in nonagricultural industries as off-the-farm job opportunities have increased. Of the farm working population in April this year, only 5 million were employed in agriculture as compared with 6.6 million so employed in 1950. Nearly 3 million of the farm labor force were then employed in non-agricultural industries, and they represented 20 per cent of the entire farm population of working age as against 16 per cent in 1950.

Trend By Age Groups

A decline in the number of persons living on farms between 1950 and 1954 occurred in all age groups, but was relatively greater for those of the younger working ages. There were 1.1 million fewer children and teen-agers on farms in April this year than in the 1950 month, but their 1954 proportion of the total farm population was higher than in 1950. Similarly, the proportion of those between 45 and 64, and the 65 and over group also moved up. On the other hand, the number of those between 20 and

44 dropped by 1.4 million in the four-year period, and their proportion of the total farm population went down from 30 1/2 per cent to 22 1/2 per cent. The following table gives the trend of the farm population (in millions), and its relationship to the total U. S. population, for selected years from 1910 to the present:

Year	Farm Population	Ratio to Total U.S. Population
1910	32.1	34.3
1920	32.0	30.1
1930	30.5	24.9
1940	30.5	23.3
1945	25.3	18.1
1947	27.1	18.9
1949	26.0	17.5
1951	24.2	15.7
1953	22.7	14.3
1954	21.9	13.5

Sources: U. S. Bureau of the Census; Dept. of Agriculture.

BURGESS NEWS

Annie Lou Lane attended a 4-H Club meeting in Chocowinity Saturday.

Mrs. Louis Proctor visited her brother in Virginia Sunday.

Sarah Mae Hollowell spent the week-end with her cousin, Anne Lane.

Mrs. Walton Lane and Mrs. J. B. Bamight visited Mrs. C. W. Ives near Elizabeth City, Sunday afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. Pat Keegan called on Mrs. Sidney Layden, Sr., Sunday.

Elvira White was the guest of Nancy Lane over the week-end.

Joanne Mathews spent the week-end with friends at Louisburg College.

Mr. and Mrs. William Stallings and Mr. and Mrs. Reuben Stallings visited Eugene Winslow in Norfolk General Hospital Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Copeland visited relatives in Virginia Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Copeland spent the week-end with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. A. M. Copeland.

BURGESS CLUB MEETS

The Burgess Home Demonstration Club met Wednesday night with Mrs. J. B. Bamight. "America The Beautiful" was the opening song, followed by the devotional, given by the hostess, taken from the 34th chapter of Proverbs. The roll was called and minutes read and approved.

Miss Kimsey Perry gave an interesting demonstration on "Arranging Furniture in the Living Room." The meeting closed with the Collect. Mrs. Howard Mathews was the winner in the contest conducted during the social hour.

The hostess served nuts, open-face sandwiches and angel food cake with iced drinks.

PROMOTED TO SERGEANT

Garland Walker, who is serving with the Armed Forces in Korea, was recently promoted to the rank of sergeant, according to word received here.

Busiest Season Is Expected On Ocean Hiway This Winter

With more than 200 miles of its route widened and resurfaced, and 20 new and modern bridges constructed since the winter of 1953, the Ocean Hiway route is prepared for and is expecting this winter its busiest season of Florida bound motorists.

Highlighting the improvement on the Ocean Hiway route since last season is Georgia's highway modernization program of U. S. 17, especially noticeable and especially welcome because it has been so badly needed in recent years. Georgia's program of highway widening, straightening, adding of shoulders resurfacing and construction of modern bridges has been going on constantly for more than a year. Now, this winter, motorists headed for Florida via the Ocean Hiway will be pleased not only by the great improvement but impressed by the continuing program.

Other states also have contributed substantially since last winter to the over-all improvement of the Ocean Hiway route. In both Delaware and Maryland the dualization program of U. S. 13 has been extended several miles, and work is continuing without any interruption to traffic. In Delaware approximately 35 miles of U. S. 13 were improved greatly, in Maryland more than 10 miles, and in Virginia approximately 83 miles of U. S. 13 and U. S. 17 have been improved since last winter. North Carolina has made an outstanding contribution toward safer and more enjoyable motoring by widening and resurfacing more than 35 miles of U. S. 17. In South Carolina, 32 miles of U. S. 17 were widened and resurfaced.

Approximately 60 miles of U. S. 17 in Georgia reflect that state's highway modernization program.

The popular Ocean Hiway route, which follows the historic and pic-

turesque coast for 1,015 miles between New York and Jacksonville, is advertised as the fastest and safest route from northern pines to southern palms. From New York City, using the New Jersey turnpike, or U. S. 130, motorists cross the great Delaware Memorial Bridge near Wilmington, and follow U. S. 13 southward down the DelMarVa peninsula to the Kiptopeke Beach, Va. ferry terminal. Then, after the restful and enjoyable transport ferry crossing of Chesapeake Bay, from Kiptopeke Beach to Little Creek, Va., U. S. 13 is followed to the intersection with U. S. 17 just south of Norfolk. There the official Ocean Hiway route takes a left turn and fol-

lows the main route of U. S. 17 down the coast all the way to Jacksonville, Fla.

In anticipation of the demand for its new 1955 issue of the Ocean Hiway map folder, the non-profit Ocean Hiway Association ordered this season a printing in excess of one million copies, for delivery to Wilmington headquarters. A copy will be sent free, by postpaid return mail, to all who address their inquiries to Ocean Hiway Association, P. O. Box 1552, Wilmington, Delaware. The 24 panel map folder contains not only an up-to-date map and mileage table of the official Ocean Hiway but also a map of New England routes connecting with the

Ocean Hiway, and a complete map of Florida. The new folder also details the speed laws of all states the Ocean Hiway route traverses.

Too Real

Two men, strangers to each other, happened to be wandering farther and farther down the darkening corridors of an ancient picture gallery. One of them shivering slightly, said:

"Rather spooky, isn't it?"

"Do you believe in ghosts?" asked the other.

"No," said the first speaker, "do you?"

"Yes," said the other—and vanished.

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