

sum. The average cash expenditure of the 22 families was 63.3 per cent of the total value of the average family living. Or, in other words, 36.7 per cent of the average total value of family living was furnished by the farm.

The largest single item in these family budgets was furnished food. The average value of this item amounted to \$651.44, or 24.1 per cent of the total value of family living. The average family purchased \$263.20 worth of food. Thus 69.2 per cent of the value of the food consumed was provided by the farm.

Housing was the next important item among the furnished goods. The average value of the 22 farmhouses was \$4,677.27. The dwellings varied all the way from a small, rather old house worth about \$1,000 to a modern, well-built house valued at \$12,000. If the housing furnished by the farm is figured as 6 per cent of the value of the house, this item was worth, on the average, \$280.64. This is not an attempt to place a rental value on the house. The sum merely represents the amount of income that the family would have had if the money invested in the house had been invested in an income-yielding security paying 6 per cent.

The value of the fuel furnished by the farm varied widely, ranging from \$5 in the case of one family whose farm provided practically no fuel to \$116.50 for a family living in a good house and using much fuel for heating.

Ten families did not have ice from the farm. The others had ice in amounts varying in value from less than a dollar to \$35.10. For the entire group the average value of the ice furnished by the farm was \$5.28.

Briefly stated, these families received, on the average, articles furnished by the farm to the value of \$973.15 per family. This was made up of food valued at \$651.44, fuel at \$35.79, ice at \$5.28, and housing at \$280.64. In other words, through the facilities provided by the farm an average of nearly \$1,000 was added to the value of the living of these 22 families during the year.

CHASE G. WOODHOUSE.

FARM Living Standards Widely Divergent on Good and on Poor U. S. Farms

There are two widely divergent standards of living on the farms of the United States—a higher standard on high-value farms, a lower standard on low-value farms. This fact, which is quite obvious—since the income on low-value farms is in the long run lower than on high-value farms—gains national importance from three circumstances. The first circumstance is that when the per acre value of farm land and buildings is averaged by counties (fig. 85) nearly 40 per cent of the farm population of the United States is found living on land whose value is less than \$40 per acre—that is, on relatively poor land; land whose soil is deficient or whose topography is difficult for farming. The second circumstance is this: when the value per farm of farm land and buildings is averaged by counties (fig. 86) 42.5 per cent of the farm population of the United States is found living on farms whose value is less than \$4,000—that is, on relatively low-value farms; farms of such small acreage or of such poor land per acre that the value per farm is low. The third circumstance is (compare figs. 85 and 86) that the bulk of the farm population living on the poor, difficult, and low-

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The legends with the illustrations on page 285 are incorrect. They should read as follows:

FIGURE 85.—Average value per acre of farm land and buildings by counties. The light-colored land is poor, occupied by 38.5 per cent of the farm population. The dark-colored land is middling and good, the less dark being middling. The darkest is good and is occupied by 40.5 per cent of the farm population

FIGURE 86.—Average value of land and buildings per farm by counties. The light-colored land is made up of low-value farms, occupied by 42.2 per cent of the farm population. The dark-colored land is made up of middling-value farms and high-value farms, the less dark being middling-value farms. The darkest is high-value farms and is occupied by 24.9 per cent of the farm population

per-acre-value land is virtually identical with the bulk of the farm population living on the low-value farms. In other words, on the

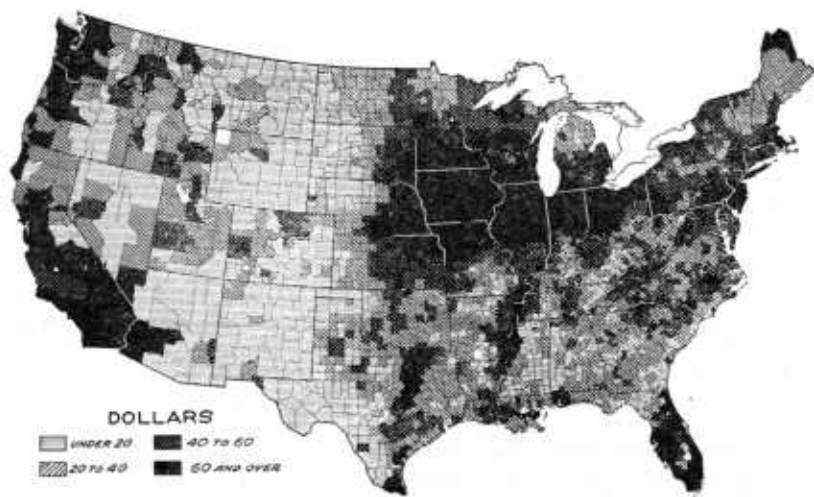


FIGURE 85.—Average value per acre of farm land and buildings by counties. The light-colored land is poor, occupied by 38.5 per cent of the farm population. The dark-colored land is middling and good, the darkest being middling. The less dark is good and is occupied by 40.5 per cent of the farm population

whole, the bulk of the counties having a low average value per farm for land and buildings are counties whose average value per acre of farm land and buildings is also low.

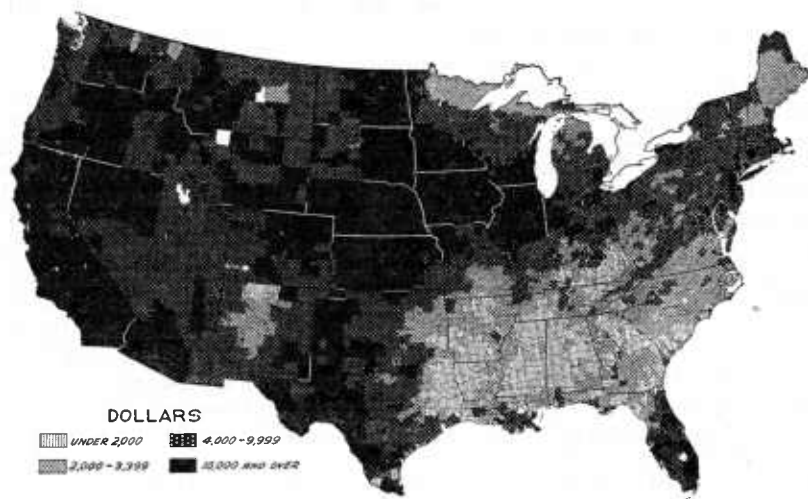


FIGURE 86.—Average value of land and buildings per farm by counties. The light-colored land is made up of low-value farms, occupied by 42.2 per cent of the farm population. The dark-colored land is made up of middling-value farms and high-value farms, the darkest being middling-value farms. The less dark is high-value farms and is occupied by 24.9 per cent of the farm population

It will be observed that the poor land of the western mountain region is in such large holdings that the per-farm value rises to an equality

with the farms of the better-land areas. It will also be noticed that, in some other sections, the average acreage per farm of a few counties possessing good land is so small that the value per farm is low. But it is evident that the large amount of poor-land counties in the West which is farmed in large units with presumably fair incomes, and the small amount of good-land counties scattered here and there which are farmed in very small units with presumably low incomes on the whole, do not change the outstanding fact that 40 per cent of the farm population of the United States have a low standard of living, due chiefly to a combination of two facts, poor land and small acreage of farms.

This classification of farm population, according to good-land and poor-land farms, presents a national problem which can scarcely be overlooked much longer. Baldly stated the problem is this: Is it possible to organize agriculture on the low-value, poor-land farms of the Nation so that the occupation of farming alone shall return to 40 per cent of the farm population an adequate standard of living? May it not, however, be necessary to establish an entirely new agricultural policy for these people at the bottom of agriculture—a policy which, while seeking to increase, so far as possible, the production and income on these low-value farms, shall attempt to organize for these farmers sources of income outside of agriculture, possibly in allied or related local industries, with which to supplement their farm income, and so provide them with an adequate standard of living?

C. J. GALPIN.

FEEDS Commercially Produced Have Wide Distribution in U. S. About 5,000,000 tons of wheat mill feeds are consumed yearly in this country. Estimated wheat feed output averages yearly about 4,800,000 tons and net imports range from 185,000 tons to 285,000 tons, chiefly from Canada. Wheat feeds are produced and consumed in practically all parts of the United States. The spring wheat mills in the Minneapolis and Buffalo area, the hard winter wheat mills in and near Kansas City and Omaha, some mills in Mountain States and in Pacific Northwest, are surplus producers. New England, New York, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey absorb large quantities of the surplus of wheat feeds from spring and winter wheat mills and Canadian imports. Production of the southeastern mills is chiefly taken locally. Dairy sections of Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan are heavy consumers of spring-wheat mill feeds. A part of the surplus from the Kansas City territory moves to the southern and the southeastern consuming areas. Mills in the Pacific Northwest and Mountain States supply the bulk of the wheat feeds used on the Pacific coast; occasional shipments westward are made from the Kansas City territory. Dairy cows and poultry are the most important consumers of bran. Hogs and poultry receive a larger part of the other wheat feeds.

Production of cottonseed meal and cake fluctuates with the carry-over and harvest of cottonseed. Yearly cottonseed crushings ranged from about 3,000,000 tons to 6,305,000 tons in the years 1918-1927. The average output of cake and meal obtained per ton of seed crushed ranged from 878 to 972 pounds during that period. Exports of cake and meal have recently ranged from about 10 to 20 per cent of the yearly output and totaled about 500,000 tons in 1926-27 and 309,000 tons in 1927-28. Considering the mill stocks on hand at the beginning