

**RURAL TEXT-BOOK
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**FARM
MANAGEMENT**



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FARM MANAGEMENT

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BY

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The requirements of a good farmer are at least four :

- The ability to make a full and comfortable living from the land ;
- to rear a family carefully and well ;
- to be of good service to the community ;
- to leave the farm more productive than it was when he took it.

— L. H. BAILEY.

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PREFACE

FARM MANAGEMENT is the study of the business principles in farming. It may be defined as the science of the organization and management of a farm enterprise for the purpose of securing the greatest continuous profit.

Successful farming requires good judgment in choosing a farm and in deciding on a type of farming. It demands clear business organization and management for the efficient use of capital, labor, horses, and machinery. It requires good judgment in buying and selling.

The change from cheap land, hand tools, and farming to raise one's own food and clothing, to farming as a commercial undertaking has come upon us so suddenly that business principles are not always well understood by farmers. Nor do those who understand the application of such principles to city conditions often know how to apply them on the farm.

Long ages of experience and a generation of scientific research have resulted in a fund of popular knowledge on how to raise crops and animals. But there is less background of tradition concerning business methods on the farm, and colleges have given little attention to this kind of problems. The success of the individual farmer is as much dependent on the application of business principles as it is on crop yields and production of animals.

The best way to find out what methods of farm organization and management are most successful is to study the methods now used and the profits secured on large numbers of farms, and determine how the more successful ones differ

from the less successful, and find to which of the differences the success is due. After such principles are found, they need to be tested by use in reorganizing farms.

The conclusions in this book are based on investigations of the kind given above, and on cost accounts, census data, travel and study in different parts of the United States and experience in farming. It is hoped that the conclusions may be of use to farmers and students.

In preparing the book the writer has received much aid from K. C. Livermore, who helped in working out some of the data and read all the manuscript, and with whom many of the points have been discussed. Acknowledgment is also due to A. L. Thompson and C. E. Ladd for reading the manuscript and making many helpful suggestions.

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G. F. WARREN

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February 22, 1913.

CONTENTS

CHAPTER 1

SHALL I BE A FARMER ?

	PAGE
PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS DESIRABLE FOR A FARMER :	
The Farmer as a Business Man	1
The Farmer as a Mechanic	2
The Farmer as a Naturalist	3
The Farmer as a Skilled Laborer	4
Experience Necessary for Success	6
The Farm a Home Enterprise	7
The Farm not the Place for the Inefficient	11
Summary of Personal Traits of Successful Farmers	13
PROFITS TO BE EXPECTED IN FARMING :	
Comparison of Farming with Other Occupations	14
Ways of Measuring Profit	15
Comparison of Labor Income with City Salaries	16
Labor Incomes Made by Farmers	16
Profits on Real Estate	18
Safety of the Investment	19
Estates Left by Farmers	20
Summary of Profits in Farming	20
COST OF LIVING ON FARMS :	
Cost of Living on Farms and in Cities	21
Products Furnished by the Farm	23
Cost of Living on Farms	25
THE FARM FROM THE STANDPOINT OF THE HIRED MAN	26
THE FARM FROM THE STANDPOINT OF THE TENANT	27
FARM INVESTMENTS	28
THE BACK-TO-THE-LAND MOVEMENT :	
The Aims of the Movement	29
With Better Farming Fewer Farmers are Needed	30
Why the Farm Boy Went to Town	32
The Remedy is Automatic	33
Movement to Cities must Continue	34
How then may the City Obtain Cheaper Food ?	34
Back-to-the-village Movement	35

	PAGE
THE FARM AS A HOME FOR PERSONS OTHERWISE EMPLOYED .	
The Farm as a Home	36
An Example of a City Man on a Farm	38
SOME THOUGHTS FOR THE FARM BOY	41

CHAPTER 2

TYPES OF FARMING

DEFINITIONS :	
Factors that Determine the Type of Farming	43
EXAMPLES OF THE INFLUENCE OF CLIMATE, SOIL, AND TOPOGRAPHY :	
Corn	44
Cotton	45
Oats	46
Potatoes	47
Grass Crops	47
Apples	49
Truck Crops	50
Topography	50
Animals	50
RELATION OF TRANSPORTATION TO TYPE OF FARMING :	
General Principles	51
Transportation and Crop Prices and Crop Production	52
Relation of Cost of Production to Disposition of Crops	55
Transportation as Affecting Hog Production	55
Transportation as Affecting Beef Production	59
Relation of Transportation to Sheep Production	61
Transportation in Relation to Horse Production	62
Relation of Transportation to Dairying	63
Transportation and Egg Production	66
Fruit and Vegetables in Relation to Transportation	68
Marginal Regions	69
RELATION OF TRANSPORTATION TO DISTANCE TO MARKET OR SHIPPING POINT :	
General Principles	71
Cost of Hauling	72
Cost of Hauling Milk	73
RELATION OF SUPPLY AND MARKET DEMAND TO TYPE OF FARMING :	
Relation of Yield per Acre to Value of the Crop	76
Variation in Relative Values of Farm Products	81

CONTENTS

ix

	PAGE
Cycles of Over and Under Production and Ways of Fore- telling Them	83
Special Demands of Certain Markets	90
Supplying the Local Market	91
Growing Products for Home Use	92
RELATION OF TYPE OF FARMING TO COMPETING TYPES	92
RELATION OF LAND VALUES TO TYPE OF FARMING	93
RELATION OF CAPITAL TO TYPE OF FARMING :	
Adjustment of Type of Farming to Capital	94
Relation of Type of Farming to Profits with Varying Capital	95
Period of Investment	95
RELATION OF LABOR TO TYPE OF FARMING	96
EFFECTS OF WEEDS, INSECTS, AND DISEASES ON TYPE OF FARMING	97
RELATION OF THE TYPE OF FARMING TO THAT OF THE NEIGH- BORS :	
The Value of Community Experience	98
Community Labor Supply	98
Advertising Value of the Neighborhood	99
Difficulty of Changing the Type	100
DIFFICULTY OF DETERMINING THE BEST TYPE	101
THE PERSONAL FACTOR	102

CHAPTER 3

DIVERSIFIED AND SPECIALIZED FARMING

DEFINITIONS	104
NUMBER OF SPECIALIZED FARMS	105
COMPARATIVE MERITS OF SPECIALIZED AND DIVERSIFIED FARM- ING :	
Merits of Each Type	107
Diversified Farming and Crop Rotation	107
Diversified Farming Lessens Risk of Total Failure	108
Diversified Farming may Distribute Income	108
Diversified Farming may Distribute Labor	108
Cases in which Specialized Farming may Pay	109
SEASONAL DISTRIBUTION OF LABOR :	
Providing a Full Year's Work	109
Distribution of Labor on Alfalfa	110
Distribution of Labor on Corn and Cotton	112
Distribution of Labor on Oats	114
Distribution of Labor on Wheat	117

	PAGE
Distribution of Labor on Potatoes, Cabbages, and Apples	118
Distribution of Labor on Beef Cattle, Sheep, and Hogs	119
Distribution of Labor on Poultry	121
DIVERSIFIED FARMING ON DAIRY FARMS :	
Labor Distribution in Dairying	122
Other Reasons for Diversified Farming on Dairy Farms	127
Relation of Diversified Farming to Profits on Wholesale Market Milk Farms	128
COMBINING FARMING WITH OTHER ENTERPRISES	131
EXTRA LABOR AVAILABLE IN SUMMER	132
EXAMPLES OF SUCCESSFUL TYPES OF FARMING :	
Successful Farms in New York	133
Successful Types of Farming in Various Regions	141

CHAPTER 4

INTENSIVE AND EXTENSIVE FARMING

WAYS OF MEASURING PROFIT :	
Ways of Measuring Profit	143
Theory of Limitation of Land	144
Land a Small Part of the Cost of Production	146
Profits per Acre and Profits per Farmer	146
INTENSIVE AND EXTENSIVE ENTERPRISES :	
Comparison of Intensive and Extensive Enterprises	151
Relation of Intensive and Extensive Crops to Capital	152
Relation of Crop to Soil and Treatment	154
INTENSIVE AND EXTENSIVE METHODS :	
How Large a Crop does it Pay to Grow ?	157
Increased Production due to Natural Causes	159
Weather Risk and Intensive Methods	159
Business Interpretation of Fertilizer Tests	160
An Example of Cost Accounts in the Use of Fertilizers	163
Crop Yields on Successful Farms	167
Comparative Importance of Production and Size of Business	169
Comparative Importance of Yields, Size, and Diversity	171
Raising the Maximum Yield of Potatoes	172
INTENSIVE AND EXTENSIVE METHODS OF DAIRYING :	
Adaptation to Conditions	173
The Soiling System — Keeping the Greatest Number of Cows per Acre	177
Receipts per Cow and Profits	180
INTENSIVE METHODS SHOULD BE PROPERLY BALANCED	181

CONTENTS

xi

CHAPTER 5

MAINTAINING THE FERTILITY OF THE LAND

	PAGE
ARE OUR CROP YIELDS DECREASING ?	183
WAYS IN WHICH PRODUCTIVITY MAY BE DECREASED	184
MAINTAINING THE ORGANIC MATTER :	
Importance of Organic Matter	186
Crop Residues	186
Farm Manure as a Source of Organic Matter	187
Pasturing off Crops	188
Green Manuré	188
MAINTAINING THE NITROGEN SUPPLY	195
MAINTAINING THE MINERAL MATTER	196
AMOUNT AND VALUE OF FARM MANURE PRODUCED :	
Fertilizing Value of Feed and of Manure	197
Amount and Value of Manure Produced by Farm Animals	197
METHODS OF HANDLING MANURE	199
BEST WAY OF MAINTAINING FERTILITY A BUSINESS QUESTION	200

CHAPTER 6

THE FARM MANAGEMENT POINT OF VIEW ON SOME LIVE-STOCK PROBLEMS

AMOUNT OF LIVE-STOCK TO KEEP :	
Live-stock Largely Produced by Cheap Food	208
Live-stock Largely Produced by Cheap Time	206
Live-stock Produced on a Low Margin of Profit	207
Keeping Stock Enough to Eat All the Hay and Grain <i>vs.</i> Always Having Feed Enough for the Stock	207
Animal Unit	209
FEEDING ANIMALS :	
Balanced Rations	212
Short Method of Balancing Rations for Cows	212
" Roughing " Animals through Winter	213
Feed Units	216
ANIMAL RECORDS :	
Milk Records	217
Short Methods of Weighing Milk	219
Butter Fat Tests	219
Production Required for Profit	220
Egg Records	221
Animal Records	222

	PAGE
RELATION OF SIZE OF ANIMAL TO EFFICIENCY:	
Size of Cows and Profits	222
Size of Horses	226
Size of Animal and Meat Production	227
PURE-BRED VS. GRADE STOCK:	
Profits from Pure-bred Stock	227
"Grading up" Pure-breds	230
Pure-bred Poultry	230
DEPRECIATION ON LIVE-STOCK:	
Depreciation on Cattle	231
Depreciation on Horses	233
Depreciation on Mules	234
Depreciation on Sheep	235
Depreciation on Hogs	235
Depreciation on Hens	235
INCREASING VALUE OF YOUNG STOCK	237

CHAPTER 7

SIZE OF FARMS

The American Family-farm	239
How Large Should a Family-farm Be?	241
RELATION OF SIZE OF FARM TO FARM EFFICIENCY:	
Size of Farm and Profits	243
Relation of Size of Farm to Efficiency in Use of Labor	250
Relation of Size of Farm to Efficiency in Use of Horses	255
Relation of Size of Farm to Efficiency in Use of Machinery	257
Relation of Size of Farm to Efficiency in Use of Capital	260
Relation of Size of Farm to Size of Fields	262
Relation of Size of Farm to Economy in Buying and Selling	262
Are the Results Due to the Man?	263
Best Size of Farm	264
Profits on Very Large Farms	266
Relation of Size of Farm to Crop Yields	267
Relation of Size of Farm to Keeping Boys on the Farm	268

CHAPTER 8

SIZE OF FARMS AND OTHER FACTORS IN DIFFERENT REGIONS IN THE UNITED STATES

A County in the Cotton Belt	270
Cotton Farms of White Farmers	274

CONTENTS

xiii

	PAGE
A Truck-growing Region	275
An Irrigated Region	276
A Hilly Dairy Region in New York	276
A Dairy Region in Illinois	278
Farms in the Corn-belt	278
The Hard Winter Wheat Region	282
A Spring Wheat Region	285
A Dry Farming Region	286
Size of Farms in Some Typical States	287
Conclusions on the Size of Farm	289

CHAPTER 9

CAPITAL

Relation of Capital to Profits	290
Distribution of Capital	294
Relation of Capital to Type of Farming	295
Economy of Cash Purchases	295
Farm Mortgages	297
Keeping One's Credit Good	298
Agricultural Credit a Public Question	299

WAYS OF FARMING WITH SMALL CAPITAL :

Ways of Securing Capital	303
Changes from Hired-man to Tenant and Owner	304
More Capital Necessary than Formerly	305
First Get an Education	305
Starting as a Hired-man	307
Starting as a Tenant	309
Effect of Rising Land Values on Buying Land	312
Cash and Share Rental	313
Farming as a Part Owner	313
Types of Farming with Small Capital	314

LIFE INSURANCE FOR FARMERS :

Forms of Life Insurance	315
Typical Results with Different Policies	318

CHAPTER 10

METHODS OF RENTING LAND

Basis of Rental	321
Methods of Share Renting	323
Share of Crops	323
Share of Receipts	324
Everything Furnished by the Landlord	325
Systems too Rigid	325
Relation of Systems of Rental to Profits	327

CHAPTER 11

FARM LABOR

MAN LABOR :	PAGE
Why Farm Labor is Scarce	330
The Labor Problem for the Individual	331
Using Labor Efficiently	332
Work for Stormy Days	337
Winter Work	337
Hours of Labor	339
Management of Men	340
Profit Sharing	342
Farm Managers	343
HORSE LABOR :	
Cost of Horse Labor	344
Ways of Saving Horse Labor	346
How Much Work Should a Horse Do ?	348
SUBSTITUTION OF ENGINES FOR HORSES :	
Engines Adapted to Heavy Work	349
Engines Must Reduce Work at the Season of Greatest Pressure	349
PRODUCTIVE WORK UNITS	350

CHAPTER 12

FARM EQUIPMENT

The Maintenance of Equipment	355
Depreciation on Machinery	356
Machinery Costs	357
Duty of Machinery	359
What Machinery to Buy	361

CHAPTER 13

FARM LAYOUT

FIELD ARRANGEMENT :	
Size and Shape of Fields	365
Distance to Fields	368
Four Methods of Farm Layout	370
Locating the Farmstead off the Highway	374
Present Conditions on Farms	374
Rearranging Farms	377

CONTENTS

XV

	PAGE
PASTURES AND FENCES :	
Construction	385
Lanes	385
Permanent <i>vs.</i> Rotated Pastures	386
Field Fences	387
THE FARMSTEAD :	
Location of Farmstead	388
The Farmyard	389
THE GARDEN	391
FARM BUILDINGS :	
Relation of Buildings to the Farm	394
Capital in Buildings	396
Arrangement for Convenience	397
Rearrangement of Buildings	398
The Farmhouse	399

CHAPTER 14

CROPPING SYSTEMS

Reasons for Crop Rotation	402
Characteristics of a Good Cropping System	405
Crop Rotations Used in Different Regions	406
Two Rotations on One Farm	409
Fixed Cropping Systems with Irregular Acreages	410
Combining Separate Fields for Crop Rotation	412
Relation of Cropping and Feeding Systems	414

CHAPTER 15

MARKETING FARM PRODUCTS

TIME TO SELL PRODUCTS :	
Cost of Holding Products	417
Shrinkage of Farm Products	417
Prices in Different Months	420
Conclusions on the Best Time to Sell	422
WAYS OF SELLING PRODUCTS :	
Retailing <i>vs.</i> Wholesaling	424
Selling on Commission	425
Farm Auctions	426

CHAPTER 16

FARM RECORDS AND ACCOUNTS

	PAGE
KINDS OF ACCOUNTS :	
Accounts as a Means of Studying the Business	428
ACCOUNTS WITH PERSONS OR FIRMS :	
Object of Bookkeeping	431
Methods of Bookkeeping	431
ANNUAL INVENTORY :	
Objects of an Inventory	432
How and When to Take an Inventory	433
RECEIPTS AND EXPENSES	436
MISCELLANEOUS ACCOUNTS	437
COST ACCOUNTS WITH ONE OR MORE CROPS OR KINDS OF ANIMALS :	
Objects of Cost Accounts	437
Items with which Crops Must Be Charged and Credited	438
Items with which Animals Must Be Charged and Credited	438
An Account with Potatoes	439

CHAPTER 17

A COMPLETE SET OF COST ACCOUNTS

Essential Facts for Cost Accounts	441
Methods of Cost Accounting	441
A COMPLETE SET OF COST ACCOUNTS AS KEPT BY A FARMER	441
INTERPRETATION OF RESULTS :	
Cautions in Interpreting Results	443
Results on Crops	472
Cattle	474
Hens	475
Horses	475
Equipment	476
Other Uses of Accounts	476
DETAILS OF THIS AND OTHER METHODS OF ACCOUNTING AND PRINCIPLES INVOLVED :	
Kinds of Books or Record Sheets	477
Journals and Day Books	478
Double or Single Entry	479
Index	480

CONTENTS**xvii**

	PAGE
Other Forms of Work Report	481
Estimating Values	484
Accounts with Fields	484
Farm Account	485
Manure and Fertilizers	485
Equipment	486
Labor	487
Horses	487
Hay Seed	488
Double Cropping	488
Interest	489
General Expense	490
Accounts of Convenience	490
Personal Accounts	491
Order of Closing Books	491
Accounts on Tenant Farms	493

CHAPTER 18**CHOICE OF A REGION**

PROSPERITY OF THE COMMUNITY	494
CLIMATE :	
Change of Climate	496
Compensating Cycles in Weather	497
Rainfall	498
Evaporation	500
Winds	502
Hail	503
Length of Growing Season	503
FERTILITY OF THE SOIL :	
Importance of Fertility	503
Use of Soil Maps	505
Value of Chemical Analysis	505
Plants as Indicators of Fertility	511
Use of Census Figures	513
Comparative Advantages of New and Old Regions	513
Land Prices	513

CHAPTER 19**CHOOSING AND BUYING A FARM**

Importance of Securing a Good Farm	517
Size of Farm	517
Area in Crops	517
The Farm Layout	518
The Lay of the Land	518

	PAGE
Fertility of the Soil	521
Physical Properties of the Soil	522
Drainage	522
Water for Irrigation	523
Condition	523
Water Supply	523
Improvements	523
Climate	524
Healthfulness	524
Roads and Markets	524
Neighbors	525
Taxes	525
Community Improvements	525
Prospective Development	526
Map of the Farm	528
Score Card for Farms	528
Effect of Amount of Money Available	528
Cato's Advice on Buying a Farm	530
Buying the Farm	531
Selection of Farms for Schools and Colleges	533
Selection of Farms for Charitable and Reformatory Institutions	533

CHAPTER 20

SOME SUCCESSFUL FARMS

CHARACTERISTICS OF SUCCESSFUL FARMS AND HOW TO FIND THEM	535
A SUCCESSFUL DAIRY AND CROP FARM	537
A SUCCESSFUL GENERAL FARM	541
A SUCCESSFUL CROP FARM, MANAGED BY A TENANT	546
A SUCCESSFUL POULTRY FARM, MANAGED BY A WOMAN	551
RECORD OF A YEAR'S BUSINESS ON A FARM	553
SUMMARY OF MOST IMPORTANT FACTORS AFFECTING PROFITS	562

TABLES

AVERAGE FARM VALUES OF LIVE-STOCK, BY YEARS	566
AVERAGE FARM PRICES OF CROPS, BY YEARS	568
AVERAGE WHOLESALE PRICES IN CITIES, BY YEARS	571
TEN-YEAR AVERAGE FARM PRICES, BY STATES	574
AVERAGE WHOLESALE PRICES IN CITIES, BY MONTHS	578

INDEX

Accounts.....	428, 440	Beans, cost of hauling.....	72
Animal records.....	217	Prices by months.....	580
Books for.....	477	Used on farm.....	24, 40
Bookkeeping.....	431	Beef cattle, comparative prices.....	59, 82
Closing.....	491	Food requirements for pound of	
Cost.....	437	gain.....	59
Cost, complete set of.....	440	Labor on.....	119
Cost, details of methods.....	477	Prices by months.....	581
Cost, with fertiliser.....	163	Prices by years.....	571
Cost, study of results.....	443	Regions for production.....	59
Cost, with crops and animals.....	438	Used on farm.....	25
Double entry.....	479	Blue-grass, climate and soil for.....	49
Inventory.....	432	Bookkeeping. <i>See</i> Accounts.	
Milk records.....	217	Buckwheat, account with.....	446
Receipts and expenses.....	436	Cost of hauling.....	72
Single entry.....	479	Prices by states.....	574
Tenant farm.....	493	Prices by years.....	568
With persons.....	431	Used on the farm.....	24
Work reports.....	442, 481	Buildings, arrangement of.....	397
Advertising.....	96, 426	Cost of.....	261, 291, 295, 396
Value of neighborhood.....	99	Relation to the farm.....	394
Agricultural credit.....	295, 298, 299	Value of, in different regions.....	272
Agricultural survey record.....	553	Butter, comparative prices.....	65, 82
Alfalfa, account with.....	444	Prices by months.....	582
Distribution of labor on.....	110	Prices by states.....	576
Soil requirements.....	48	Prices by years.....	571
Alkali.....	185	Regions for production of.....	63
Animal unit, defined.....	210	Used on the farm.....	24, 25, 40
Per acre.....	209, 211, 273, 540, 561	Butter-fat tests.....	219
Animal records. <i>See</i> Accounts.			
Apples, account with.....	463	Cabbages, cost per acre.....	148
Climate and soil for.....	49	Distribution of labor on.....	118
Cost of hauling.....	72	Canada, advantages of.....	513
Distribution of labor on.....	118	Capital and profits.....	291
Over- and under-production.....	84	And size of farm.....	261
Profit per hour of labor.....	150	And type of farming.....	94, 152, 295
Used on the farm.....	24, 40	Cash purchases.....	295
Auctions.....	426	Distribution of.....	294
		Efficient use of.....	94, 260, 295, 561
Back-to-the-land movement.....	29	Mortgages.....	291, 297
Bacteria of the soil.....	184, 195	Per farm.....	291
Barley, cost of hauling.....	72	Period of investment.....	95
Prices by months.....	579	Ways of farming with small.....	26, 27, 303
Prices by states.....	574	Cato's advice on buying a farm.....	530
Prices by years.....	568	Advice on buildings.....	395
Shrinkage of.....	418	Advices on intensive methods.....	158

- Cattle. *See* Beef cattle, Dairying, and Cows.
- Checks.....299
- Cheese, prices by months.....582
- Regions for production of.....66
- Chemical analysis of soils.....505
- Chickens. *See* Hens.
- Child labor on the farm.....9, 127, 206
- China, proportion of farmers in.....30
- Climate and type of farming.....44
- Methods of study of.....496
- Clover, cost per acre.....146, 148
- Prices of seed by months.....581
- Soil for.....48
- Colleges, farms for.....534
- Colts. *See* Horses.
- Commission, selling on.....425
- Contracts for land.....531
- Corn, climate and soil for.....44, 77
- Comparative prices.....53, 81, 82, 83
- Cost of hauling.....72
- Distribution of labor on.....112
- Freight rates on.....56
- Prices by months.....578
- Prices by states.....53, 574
- Prices by years.....568, 571
- Relation of production to value..78
- Shrinkage of.....417
- Corn-silage. *See* Silage.
- Cost accounting. *See* Accounts.
- Cost of buildings.....261, 396
- Of green manure.....192
- Of horse labor.....344
- Of living on farms.....21-26
- Of living, ways of decreasing the.34
- Of machinery.....357
- Of milk.....175
- Of producing crops.....146, 148, 473
- Of production and use of products.55
- Cotton, cost of hauling.....72
- Climate and soil for.....45
- Distribution of labor.....112
- Farms, number of.....106
- Prices by months.....580
- Prices by years.....568
- Relation of production to value..78
- Unskilled labor for.....12
- Cows, account with.....446
- Depreciation on.....231
- For home use.....92
- Manure produced by.....198
- Prices by states.....576
- Prices by years.....566
- Production by ages.....221
- Production for profit.....169, 180, 220
- Production per feed unit.....217
- Size of and profits.....222
- Cows, testing.....217
- See also* Dairying and Beef cattle.
- Credit.....295, 298, 299
- Crop-acres, per worker and per horse.....254, 273, 561
- Importance in choosing a farm...517
- Per animal unit
209, 211, 273, 540, 561
- Crop rotation.....402
- And diversified farming.....107
- Crops, adaptation to conditions...154
- Land costs and other costs of...146
- Crop yields and prices.....76
- And size of farm.....169, 267
- Not decreasing.....183
- On successful farms.....167
- Variations in.....77
- Cucumbers, cost per acre.....148
- Dairying, advantages of.....127
- Cheap feed for.....203
- Costs of.....175
- Diversified farming with.....128
- Feed costs and other costs.....143
- Labor distribution in.....122
- Number of farms.....106
- Profits in.....127, 537
- Regions for.....63
- Size of farms for.....276, 278
- Successful farm.....537
- See also* Cows.
- Daybook.....478
- Deeds.....531
- Depreciation on live stock.....231
- On machinery.....356
- Distribution of labor. *See* Labor.
- Diversified farming.....90, 104
- Drainage, importance of in choosing a farm.....522
- Dry farming, size of farms for.....286
- Education and profits.....305
- Efficiency in use of capital 94, 260, 561
- In use of horses...109, 255, 346, 561
- In use of labor
109, 250, 330, 340, 561
- In use of machinery...109, 257, 561
- Eggs, comparative prices.....67, 81, 82
- Prices by months.....583
- Prices by states.....576
- Prices by years.....571
- Records.....221
- Regions for production.....66
- Used on farm.....24, 25, 40
- Engines, place of, on the farm.....349
- Equipment, account with.....450
- Capital invested in.....257, 391, 395

- Equipment, costs.....357, 476
 Depreciation on.....356
 Duty of.....359
 Effect on population.....31, 280, 284
 Efficient use of.....109, 257, 561
 Maintenance of.....355
 Value of in different regions.....272
 Erosion.....184
 Evaporation in different regions.....500
 Extensive and intensive farming.....143
- Families, size of, on farms...8, 23, 268
 Farm, account with.....452
 As a home.....35, 36
 Buying.....531
 Choice of a.....494, 517
 Colonies.....13
 Defined.....239
 Equipment. *See* Equipment.
 Families, size of.....8, 23, 268
 House. *See* House.
 Labor. *See* Labor.
 Land, increasing value of
 18, 28, 291, 312, 513
 Managers.....343
 Manure. *See* Manure.
 Products used at home.....24, 92
 Profits. *See* Profits.
 Size of.....239
 Farming, types of. *See* Types of
 farming.
 Farmers, personal characteristics of
 1-14, 20
 Farmstead, layout.....388
 Location of.....374
 Feeding animals.....212
 Feeding systems and cropping sys-
 tems.....207, 414
 Feed units.....216
 Fields and size of farm.....262
 Distance to.....264, 368
 Layout of.....365
 Size and shape of.....365
 Fences.....378, 385
 Fertility. *See* Soil.
 Fertilizers.....183
 Interpretation of tests of.....160
 Relation to the value of the crops
 157, 173
 Vs. manure.....200
 Fertilising value of food and manure
 187, 197
 Flax, cost of hauling.....72
 Prices by months.....579
 Food furnished by the farm...24, 40, 92
 Purchased by the farmer.....25
 Fruit for home use.....24, 92
- Garden.....92
 Account with.....468
 Arrangement of.....391
 Products of.....24, 40, 92
 Grass. *See* Hay.
 Green manure.....188
 Cost of.....192
- Hail.....503
 Hay, account with.....452
 Climate and soil for.....47
 Comparative prices.....53, 83
 Cost of hauling.....72
 Cost per acre.....146, 148
 Fertilizers for.....163
 Prices by months.....579
 Prices by states.....574
 Prices by years.....568
 See also Clover, Timothy, Alfalfa.
 Shrinkage of.....419
 Hemp, cost of hauling.....72
 Hens, account with.....454
 Cheap feed for.....203
 Depreciation on.....235
 For home use.....24, 25, 92
 Labor on.....121
 Manure produced by.....198
 Prices of chickens by states.....576
 See also Eggs.
 Hired-man, opportunities of...26, 304, 307
 See Labor.
 Hogging off corn.....188
 Hogs, as by-products.....58
 Comparative prices.....82
 Cost of hauling.....72
 Depreciation on.....235
 Food requirements for pound gain 61
 For home use.....25, 58, 92
 Freight rates on.....56
 Labor on.....119
 Manure produced by.....198
 Over- and under-production.....87
 Prices by months.....581
 Prices by states.....55, 576
 Prices by years.....566, 571
 Regions for.....55, 70
 Homestead act.....241
 Honey used on the farm.....24
 Hops, cost of hauling.....72
 Prices by months.....580
 Horses, account with.....458
 Comparative prices.....83
 Depreciation on.....238
 Efficient use of.....109, 255, 346, 561
 Labor, cost.....344, 473
 Limestone soils for.....81
 Manure produced by.....198

- Horses, method of charging labor of 487
 Number raised..... 63
 Over- and under-production..... 87
 Prices by classes of.....583
 Prices by months.....583
 Prices by states.....576
 Prices by years.....566
 Raising.....88, 205
 Regions for.....62, 88, 205
 Size of, and price.....226
 Houses, desirable characteristics....399
 Humus. *See* Organic matter.
- Income. *See* Profits and Labor income.
 Intensity of stocking
 209, 211, 273, 540, 561
 Intensive farming.....143
 Interest, account with.....460
 On time purchases.....296
 Irrigated farms, size of.....276
 Irrigation in humid regions.....160
 Investment, farm land as an
 18, 28, 291, 312, 513
- Journal.....478
- Labor, account with.....462
 Affecting type of farming..... 96
 Ages of farm.....27, 304
 As a training for children..... 9
 Cost and other costs.....146
 Cost of horse.....344, 475
 Distribution of.....109
 Efficient use of, 109, 250, 330, 340, 561
 Efficient use of horse
 109, 255, 346, 561
 Efficient use of, and size of farm..250
 Foreign born..... 11
 Hours of.....339
 Number of farms with.....239
 Number of workers per farm.....239
 Opportunity as a hired-man
 26, 304, 307
 Skilled and unskilled..... 11
 Why scarce.....330
 Winter work.....337
 Labor income, compared with city
 wages..... 16
 Defined..... 15
 Made by farmers..... 16
 Method of calculating.....559
 Lambs, winter..... 62
 Land cost of crops.....146
 Not limited.....144
 Prices.....18, 28, 291, 312, 513
 Values and type of farming..... 93
 Landlords, opportunities of.....28, 321
- Layout.....262, 365, 388, 518
 Ledger.....477
 Life insurance.....315
 Lime, forms of.....196
 Requirement of animals..... 51
 Requirement of crops..... 48
 Shortage of, in soil.....196
 Live stock, amount to keep
 209, 211, 273, 540, 561
 Capital invested in.....291, 295
 Capital required for..... 94
 Farms, number of.....106
 Produced on cheap feed.....203
- Machinery. *See* Equipment.
 Management of equipment. *See*
 Equipment.
 Management of horses. *See* Horses.
 Management of labor. *See* Labor.
 Managers.....343
 Mangels, profits from.....179
 Manufacturing on the farm.....131
 Manure, amount produced.....187, 197
 Methods of charging.....485
 Methods of handling.....199
 Organic matter in.....187
 Value of.....197
 Manure spreader.....199
 Marketing.....262, 416
 Cost of..... 35
 Cost of hauling..... 71
 Markets.....524
 Distance to, and type of farming . 71
 Special demands of..... 90
 Supplying the local..... 91
 Map of farm.....528
 Milk, cost of hauling..... 73
 Cost of producing.....175
 Records.....217
 Regions for..... 66
 Used on farm.....24, 25, 40
See also Dairying.
 Mortgaged farms.....291, 297, 303
 Mules. *See* Horses.
 Depreciation on.....234
 Prices by states.....576
 Prices by years.....566
- Negroes, size of farms of.....270
 Nitrogen from the air.....195
 Losses from the soil.....185
 Nurseries, number of.....106
- Oats, account with.....464
 Climate and soil for..... 46
 Comparative prices.....53, 81, 82, 83
 Cost of hauling..... 73

- Oats, Distribution of labor on.....114
 Prices by months.....578
 Prices by states.....53, 574
 Prices by years.....568, 571
 Profit per hour of labor.....150
 Shrinkage of.....418
 Orchard, account with.....466
 Organic matter, importance of.....186
 Of food and manure.....187
 Results of exhaustion.....184, 185
 Ways of maintaining.....186
 Over-production.....33, 83

 Peanuts, cost of hauling.....72
 Pasture, cheap feed.....51
 Permanent *vs.* rotated.....386
 Over-grazing.....208
 Pasturing off crops.....188
 Phosphorus, shortage in soil.....196, 511
 Pliny's advice on intensive farming.....158
 Population, cause of decrease on
 farms.....31, 280, 284
 Pork. *See* Hogs.
 Potassium in the soil.....196
 Potatoes, climate and soil for.....47
 Comparative prices.....53
 Cost of hauling.....72
 Cost per acre.....148
 Distribution of labor on.....118
 Prices in different regions.....53
 Prices by months.....579
 Prices by states.....574
 Prices by years.....568
 Relation of production to value.....78
 Shrinkage of.....420
 Used on the farm.....24, 40
 Poultry, prices by states.....576
 See also Hens.
 Prices.....33
 Effect of transportation on.....52
 By months.....578
 By states.....53, 574
 By years.....81, 566
 Related to yields.....76
 Variations in relative.....81
 Productive work units.....350, 561
 Profit and size of farm.....243
 In farming.....14-29, 37
 Per acre *vs.* profit per farmer 146, 242
 Sharing.....342
 Ways of measuring.....15, 143
 Protein in feeds.....212
 Purchases, cash *vs.* time.....295
 Pure-bred stock.....209, 211, 214, 227

 Rainfall.....498
 Rations, balanced.....212

 Redtop, soil for.....49
 Region, choice of.....494
 Rented farms. *See* Tenant and
 Tenure.
 Retailing.....424
 Rice, cost of hauling.....72
 Number of farms.....106
 Prices by months.....580
 Roads.....524
 Root crops, profit on.....92, 179
 Rotation of crops. *See* Crop rota-
 tion.
 Rural population, cause of decrease
 31, 280, 284
 Character of.....20
 Rye, cost of hauling.....72
 Prices by months.....578
 Prices by states.....574
 Prices by years.....568
 Shrinkage of.....418

 Schools, farms for.....534
 Score-card for farms.....526
 Season, length of.....503
 Sheep, as scavengers.....61, 205
 Comparative prices.....82
 Depreciation on.....235
 Food requirements for pound gain. 61
 Labor on.....119
 Manure produced by.....198
 Prices by months.....582
 Prices by states.....576
 Prices by years.....566, 571
 Regions for.....61
 Shrinkage of farm products.....417
 Silage, as summer feed.....179
 Compared with hay.....179, 229
 Silo, number of cows for a.....174
 Size of animals and profits.....222
 Size of farm families.....8, 23, 268
 Size of farms.....239
 And boys leaving.....268
 And crop yields.....267
 And crop yields, relative impor-
 tance of.....167, 169
 And economy in buying and selling
 262
 And efficiency in use of capital... 260
 And efficiency in use of horses... 255
 And efficiency in use of labor... 250
 And efficiency in use of machinery
 257
 And profits.....243
 And size of fields.....262
 And type of farming.....270
 Average size.....240
 Best size.....247, 264, 289

- Size of farms, in China..... 30
 In different regions.....270
 Of negroes.....270
 Size of fields.....262, 365
 Soil and type of farming..... 44
 Chemical analysis of.....505
 Importance of fertility
 183, 505, 517, 521
 Maintenance of.....183
 Maps.....505
 Soiling system.....173, 177
 Special ss. diversified farming.....104
 Steers, age for selling..... 61
 Food requirement for pound of gain
 59
 Regions for..... 59
 Storage of farm products.....417
 Successful farms.....134, 535
 Survey record.....553
 Swine. *See* Hogs.

 Taxes.....525
 Tenant, opportunities as a.....27, 309
 Tenure, forms of.....313, 321
 Forms of, and profits.....327
 Timothy, account with.....452
 Climate and soil for..... 47
 Cost of hauling..... 72
 Cost per acre.....146, 148
 Fertilizers for.....163
 Prices by months.....579
 Prices of seed by months.....581
 Profit per hour of labor.....150
 See also Hay.
 Tobacco, cost of hauling..... 72
 Prices by years.....568
 Topography.....44, 50, 518
 Transportation and type of farming. 51
 Truck crops, regions for..... 68
 Size of farms for.....275

 Truck crops, soils for..... 50
 Type of farming.....43
 And capital.....94, 295
 And climate and soil.....44
 And distance to market.....71
 And labor.....96
 And land values.....93
 And market demand and supply.. 76
 And neighbors.....98
 And transportation.....51
 And weeds, insects, diseases.....97
 Difficulty of changing.....100
 Diversified vs. specialised.....104
 In different regions.....141
 On successful farms.....133, 535

 Vegetable matter. *See* Organic
 matter.
 Vegetables, cost of hauling..... 72

 Wages of farm labor.....26, 330
 Water supply, importance of.....523
 Weather.....497
 Risk and intensive methods.....159
 Weeds as green manure.....194
 Wheat, account with.....466
 Cost of hauling.....72
 Comparative prices.....53, 81, 82
 Prices by months.....578
 Prices by states.....574
 Prices by years.....568, 571
 Shrinkage of.....418
 Used on farm.....24
 Winds.....502
 Winter work.....337
 Wood, used on farm.....24, 40
 Wool, cost of hauling.....72
 Prices by months.....582
 Work report.....442, 481
 Work units.....350, 561