

1954

McCreary family balanced farm and home planning example

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarsjunction.msstate.edu/mss-stevens-papers>

Recommended Citation

Stevens (Boswell) Papers, Special Collections Department, Mississippi State University

This Document is brought to you for free and open access by the Manuscripts Division at Scholars Junction. It has been accepted for inclusion in Boswell Stevens Papers by an authorized administrator of Scholars Junction. For more information, please contact scholcomm@msstate.libanswers.com.

EXAMPLES OF PROGRESS IN BALANCED FARM AND HOME
PLANNING IN MISSISSIPPI

The Joe B. McCreary Family, West, Mississippi

There are three members of the family - Mr. and Mrs. McCreary and one son, 16 years old.

SIZE OF FARM: 218½ Acres

SITUATION WHEN BALANCED FARM AND HOME PROGRAM STARTED - September, 1954:

THE FARM

6 acres cotton that produced 6 bales in 1954 using guesswork fertilizer program and partial insect control.

28 acres corn produced 420 bushels (15 bushels acre). Used guesswork fertilizer program.

7 acres lespedeza hay meadow. Needed mineralizing.

40 acres in unimproved pasture. Needed minerals.

130 acres in unimproved woodland and wasteland.

2 acres in truck crop, etc.

5 acres in house sites, buildings, roads, ditch banks, etc.

Livestock small herd of average grade beef cattle. Has usually kept 20 to 30 head.

Soil Conservation - None

THE HOME

Four room box type house with porch across front. Tin roof. Needed painting. No closet or storage space. Inside walls in bad shape. No bathroom or running water facilities. Combination kitchen and dining room with little convenience with no cabinets or storage space. No landscaping around house. No home freezer. No family budget.

FARM PLAN FOR 1955 AND LONG RANGE

5 Acres Cotton:

Soils samples taken and sent to State College for analysis. Cotton has to be fertilized to conform with analysis and experiment station recommendations. Deep breaking of land and deep application of fertilizer has been done. Certified seed planted. Rigid insect control program to be followed throughout cotton growing season as needed. Has enrolled in "2 Bale Per Acre Per Farm" cotton contest. Plans to pick and handle cotton for better quality, gin on improved gin and market by Smith-Doxey Card.

24 Acres Corn:

Soils samples taken on corn land and has been fertilized according to analysis. Deep application of fertilizer. Hybrid variety recommended by experiment station planted. Shallow cultivation. Hopes to average 40 bushels or more per acre.

7 Acres Hay:

Soils samples taken on lespedeza meadow and showed need for minerals. Basic slag will be applied this fall.

2 Acres Truck Crop:

Enough for family needs.

40 Acres Pasture:

Bushes have been cut off. Weeds to be clipped as needed this summer. Soils analysis has been made which showed needs for minerals. Mineralization program will be started this fall. New seeding done on some areas. Cross fences to rotate grazing have already been built. Gullies have been filled in with brush and plowing along edges to fill them in has been done so that pasture will stop washing and can be mowed easily. Additional 25 acres of winter pasture (oats and crimson clover) to be added this fall. Most of this will come from waste land.

Silage:

This is in long range plan as cow herd increases. None planted this year.

Forestry:

Timber stand improvement program started during winter months. Associate county agent has called on area forester for assistance on planning forestry program. Some undesirable trees have been cut for pulpwood. Others to be cut or poisoned. Merchantable timber will be thinned out this summer and in future as needed. Pine seedlings will be set on some areas. In cooperation with area forester, plan has been made so that Mr. McCreary can get benefit of A.S. C. payment on timber stand improvement.

Livestock:

Will increase number of beef cattle as pasture is improved. A good type herd bull has recently been purchased to improve quality of herd. Will practice culling off "lower end" breeding animals. Will graze newly established winter pastures and cover crops this winter. Silage is in future plans. Will grain feed a few quality steers each year as better breeding program gets under way. Has two milk cows for home use. One brood sow is kept to grow home meat. Might increase to three or four brood sows as program progresses.

Soil Conservation:

Has made application for SCS help. Needs soils map, row arrangement, water management and drainage. Crop rotation system has already been partially worked out and will be completed when soils map is made. Cover crops will be planted in fields each year. Associate agent is encouraging Mr. McCreary to take advantage of every ASC assistance.

HOME PLAN FOR 1955 AND LONG RANGE

Add two rooms and rearrange plans of present house. Change front entrance. Redecorate and change present living room into combination dining room. Remodel kitchen and add cabinets, sink, water, etc. Install water system and bathroom facilities. Add closet and storage space. Curtains, drapes, etc., planned. Use sheet rock on inside of house. Put asbestos siding on outside. Replace metal roof with composition shingles. Landscape home grounds. Family food plan has been made. Year round home garden planned. Frozen locker secured. Enough vegetables and fruits for family need will be canned. Small farm poultry flock of about 30 hens will be kept for home use only. Family diet worked out and family budget made.

4-H Club Work

The McCreary son, Joe, Jr., is actively engaged in 4-H Club work and carries on projects that conform with the cropping system of farm.