

**COOPERATIVE EXTENSION WORK
IN
AGRICULTURE AND HOME ECONOMICS
STATE OF OKLAHOMA**

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OKLAHOMA AGRICULTURAL AND
MECHANICAL COLLEGE AND
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE, COOPERATING

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COUNTY AGENT WORK
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The Solution of Our Present Problems Lies Largely in Our Own Hands

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Other circulars which you should secure and study carefully:

Emergency Home Vegetable Garden	Circular No. 278
Home Vegetable Garden	Circular No. 196
Oklahoma's Insurance Policy Against Drouth and Hard Times	Circular No. 274
Home Preservation of Fruits and' Vegetables	Circular No. 260
Home Canning of Meat	Circular No. 240

These can be secured from the County Farm Agent or Home Demonstration Agent in your county.

SOLUTION OF OUR PRESENT PROBLEMS LIES LARGELY IN OUR OWN HANDS

In considering the present agricultural situation, it is well to keep in mind that our difficulties are not entirely due to the drouth but that agricultural depression and hard times have been gradually but surely approaching over a period of several years. The drouth simply climaxed a condition which already existed to a considerable degree. Overexpansion during prosperous times, followed by deflation just after the war, had a lot to do with the situation. Speculative tendencies, installment buying, going into debt to keep up living standards which we had adopted during prosperous times, too much dependence upon one crop or one enterprise and failure to produce the living on the farm all contributed to the unfavorable position in which agriculture finds itself today. The drouth came at a time when we were least prepared to withstand it.

It is tremendously important that we keep in mind the fact that federal loans, state aid and special relief by the Red Cross and other agencies will not be available next year. Federal loans must be paid back and we must get back upon our own feet and go forward upon our own resources. "Drouth relief" is only a temporary emergency aid to help us pull through the difficult and trying times. The ultimate solution of the problem lies very largely in our hands. Other drouths will occur in the future as they have occurred in the past, and it is tremendously important that we prepare for them and that we determine now that never again will hard times catch us without plenty of food for our families, feed for our livestock, and some means by which we can provide at least a small income each month to meet living expenses in spite of hard times.

Every farm family, particularly those that have had to make use of federal loans and other aid, should include the following in the farm plans for 1931 as the first step toward a solution of the problems which they have encountered.

1. Every family should grow at least three-quarters of an acre of fertile land to garden. The land should be fertilized with a good application of well-rotted barnyard manure, plowed early and cultivated so as to produce the best garden you have ever grown. The garden should be kept free from weeds through the summer, and a good fall garden of suitable vegetables grown.

2. At least a quarter of an acre of fertile land should be planted to Irish potatoes. The land should be manured, the crop should be protected from potato bugs by dusting or spraying, the

potatoes should be dug at the proper time and stored for winter, and if possible a late crop should be grown by planting the small potatoes back on the same land.

3. At least one-quarter of an acre should be planted to sweet potatoes and a supply of these stored for winter use.

4. At least one good milk cow should be kept to provide plenty of milk and butter for the family every day in the year. Milk is the most important, most necessary and most economical part of the diet. The family that fails to provide plenty of it for the children is not giving them a fair chance for normal development. Most families that are not able to buy a cow have neighbors who will loan one to be cared for and returned, or will sell one on credit.

5. To provide for the winter months when fresh vegetables and fruits are not available, every family should can a liberal supply of vegetables, fruit, pickles, jellies, jams, relishes, meat, etc., and put it away in the cellar. Unless these are provided on the farm, in large measure you will not have them, for not many can afford to buy them in liberal quantities.

6. Every family should have a farm flock of poultry to produce plenty of eggs and meat for the family needs. To secure winter egg production, the poultry must be provided proper shelter and feed.

7. There should be on each farm at least one good brood sow to produce a litter of pigs to provide pork for the family.

8. One or more beef animals to be butchered and a supply of the meat canned for winter will contribute an important part of a good living on the farm.

9. A patch of cane for syrup or a few colonies of bees to provide honey will contribute much to the sweets which the family likes and needs.

10. Next to providing the food for the family, the most important step in farming is to produce plenty of feed for the livestock. Unless we produce plenty of grain and hay on the farm, in most cases we will not feed our livestock as liberally as we should because we can't afford to buy feed and we mustn't expect to borrow money to buy feed next year. Every farmer should plant a liberal acreage of oats, corn, grain sorghums, sudan, millet, cowpeas, soy beans and other crops for grain and hay, and should provide green pasture for the livestock most of the year. By planting corn in wide rows with rows of cowpeas or soy beans in between, we will secure practically the same yield of corn and will have the cowpeas or soy bean hay, and can also use the peas for food.

11. By producing a little extra of vegetables, potatoes, chickens and eggs, cream, syrup, feed, cattle, hogs or other products to be sold at different times during the year, money can be provided to meet regular expenses from month to month and the necessity of credit at the bank or the store can be avoided.

12. Rigid economy should be practiced, expenditures should be made only for necessities, further indebtedness should be religiously avoided, installment buying should be discouraged, and in every way possible we should strive to improve our financial standing. It is a time for every family to keep expenditures within the means, be content with good old-fashioned thrift and frugality and a good living, and work systematically toward the time when we can go forward on our own resources. It is not a time to become discouraged and pessimistic, but a time to take courage and tackle the job ahead of us with hope and determination. The solution lies in the careful planning, industry, frugality and thrift practiced on each individual farm. The way out lies largely in our own hands.

13. There is no reason to expect that we can produce a large crop of cotton or wheat this year and get a good price for it. After you have made liberal provision for the food and feed for the year, you may well plant a reasonable acreage of good land to cotton of a good staple variety. It won't pay to grow cotton on poor land or to grow more of the short staple which is already a burden on the market. After you have provided for the living, it will pay to plant good seed on good land, apply the extra labor to the smaller acreage and get good yields of the kind of staple that the market demands. Then when you sell your cotton you may make use of the money to meet outstanding obligations or for other purposes and will not have to spend it for food and feed. Start now to make cotton or wheat your cash crop rather than your credit crop.

The first business of farming is to make a living on the farm. The only sure way to have a good living is to produce it. Unless we produce a good living on the farm, in large measure, we and our families will go without the things that we need and want to eat much of the year. Unless we produce plenty of feed for our livestock most of us will not have the feed which our livestock need. If we will produce a good living on the farm we will not suffer, even though we may be without money. A farm is primarily a place to produce the living—**TO MAKE A HOME**. The future is not bright for the farm family that fails to produce the living.