GOOD LIVING
IN TENANT HOMES

Via PLANTATION PROJECT
OF SOUTH CAROLINA
EXTENSION SERVICE
GOOD LIVING ENTERS THE TENANT HOME

Share croppers and day laborers too often find themselves in a tumble-down cabin, living on a monotonous diet, sick and discouraged - a liability to themselves and to their country.

They do not want to live thus. The landlords, too, would greatly prefer healthier tenants in better living conditions. Now the Government looks at these people and wonders if their plight does not weaken the country's defenses.

Where to start and what to do to give some permanent benefit is the question - a question of great and immediate importance. Looking around for a solution you will hear of plantations here and there where food is plentiful, the living good and the tenants stay year after year.

On investigating two of these plantations in Allendale County, South Carolina, remarkable results were seen from a plan based on two ancient truths - "Self Help is the Best Help," and "In Union There is Strength."

Here the landlords, the tenants, and the home demonstration agent, Miss Mamie Sue Hicks, all worked together on a definite plan for growing enough good food and fixing up better houses.

This is a part of a state-wide program of the South Carolina Extension Service and is similar to that successfully carried on in a number of Southern states. The active interest and whole-hearted support of the landlords is behind the success of the tenants and the effectiveness of the home demonstration agent's work. What has been done on these plantations can be done anywhere.

These pictures tell the story of the two Allendale plantations as it was seen on an autumn day in 1940 by Clara Bailey, who wrote the story, and George W. Ackerman, who took the pictures.

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ABUNDANT FOOD THE YEAR ROUND is a reality in this tenant home on a South Carolina plantation where the home demonstration agent, the landlord and the tenants have worked closely together.
THE BIG HOUSE on the Campbell plantation in Allendale County, where three years ago the landlord agreed on a plan of action for improving the living conditions of the nine tenant families.
COTTON IS THE MONEY CROP on the thirty-acre tenant farms which support about 50 people ranging in age from 1 year to 68 years. All but two of the tenant families are related, bearing the same name of Jackson.
LABOR RENT IS THE RULE on the Campbell plantation. Each family gives one day's labor annually to the landlord for each acre of land farmed. Putting in the landlord's hay, occupies these four tenant farmers.
FILLING THE PANTRY with 113 cans of fruit, vegetables and meat takes the help of the whole family and the "precious" cooker from the county home demonstration agent's office, finds Hannah Jackson, the matriarch of the plantation, who with her many children and grandchildren, demonstrated what could be done with landlord tenant cooperation.
A SWEET POTATO PATCH is insurance against the winter months, says Mrs. Jackson who stored 30 bushels. Every tenant on the plantation has his sweet potato patch and has learned to store them before frost instead of after, as they used to do.
CHICKENS AND GEESE for every family on the plantation is a result of the home demonstration agent's constant emphasis on care of baby chicks and good ways of using eggs and chicken. Mrs. Jackson reports "10 hens 'scusing the little biddies, 6 geese and 5 guineas."
FINE HOGS agrees the home demonstration agent looking over three of the seven hogs on the place. Every tenant now has his own pigs - tasty ham and bacon in the making.
PROSPERITY follows good health in the wake of the plantation plan. This pair of fine mules and the mowing machine are part of the farming equipment on Mrs. Jackson's place.
The most prosperous farmer on the plantation is Joe Jackson who grows his own feed for 2 cows, 4 mules, 19 pigs, 25 chickens, 11 guineas and 2 geese.
THE MOWING MACHINE is operated by son Julius.
NEW ROOF, GLASS WINDOWS, fresh paint and other repairs have been made on all tenant homes on the Campbell plantation. Young Werrin Jackson, who lives here with his wife and two babies, has a way with flowers and shrubs which the tenants can get free at the big house.
FINE COTTON MATTRESSES made of surplus cotton add to the comfort of the homes. Eight families applied for mattresses, got their 50 pounds of cotton and ticking and went into town to make their mattress at the mattress center under the direction of the home demonstration agent.
BETTER HOMES and better living have come to the tenants on the Campbell plantation. Family cows, spring and fall gardens, pigs, and chickens are the rule. They can and preserve, store and cure until their abundant food supply exhibited on the annual fall tour is something to behold.
TWO QUARTS OF MILK EACH DAY is consumed by Mrs. Jackson's family.
The new barn is the contribution of the landlord. With but one exception the tenants on the Campbell plantation all have family milk cows.
HAPPY AND HEALTHY are the children and grandchildren of Mrs. Jackson. Doctor bills have been cut in half, and sickness claims but few work days on the Campbell plantation.
WHITEWASHED WITHIN AND WITHOUT is this typical sharecroppers home on the Thomas plantation, also in Allendale County, which has been working with the home demonstration agent, Miss Mamie Sue Hicks, on a similar plan for the last three years.
A GOOD WELL, a new barn and chicken coop are some of the innovations on Sharecropper Frost's farm. Each of the seven sharecroppers has a spring and fall garden, owns his own cow, pigs and chickens, and cans and preserves food for the unproductive months.
THE SCREENED AND WHITEWASHED kitchen recently received a fine new stove. Mrs. Frost is an enthusiastic member of the plantation home demonstration club, and is particularly interested in fixing up her home.
A COMFORTABLE LIVING ROOM is one of the achievements of the Charlie Frost family. The other share-croppers do not boast living rooms, but all the homes have been put in good repair, have been screened, and storage cupboards and closets have been added.

As tenants increase the home food supply, cash is released for purchase of other necessities. The above picture shows the need of guidance in selecting and purchasing household furnishings, kitchen equipment, etc.
THE CHAMPION CANNER of the Thomas plantation is Vangie Stokes who puts up beans, figs, kraut, cane syrup, beets, peaches, soup mixtures of corn and tomatoes, wild berries and many other things. She borrows the pressure canner from the big house.
EVERY ONE HAS CHICKENS on the Thomas plantation - sharecroppers and day laborers alike. They all grow gardens, have sweet potato patches, and own pigs. The day laborers can get milk at the big house. The sharecroppers own their own cows.
SEEING THE GOOD WORK on these two plantations others are asking for help. The landlord on this fine plantation of 273 acres is anxious to get started.
THESE TUMBLE DOWN SHACKS on the Bryant plantation will soon begin to change - new roofs, glass windows, fresh paint and new barns will appear. The tenants will begin to fit the ground for gardens, hold meetings in their homes with the home demonstration agent, for another plantation self-improvement project will be under way.