

*Caja 22
Carpas 214
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A

**New Philosophy
of
Applied Agriculture
and
Game Preservation**

By

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MOTTO:

**The unemployed educated man
for the unemployed fertile land.**

The Farmer and the Farm

The time has come in our national development when successful farming demands an educated, trained man as farmer. No man enters a profession now till he has been put through a rigid training. Even a mechanic must go through an apprenticeship under the direction of a master mechanic. But any novice is expected to farm if he can learn to plow and keep the weeds down. The farmer, as a class, has been passed by. The brightest and most energetic of his children have been called to "higher" fields of service in the cities.

The rural sections, once the backbone of our Republic when ownership of his farm was every man's ambition, are now fast slipping off into the "Sourlands" where crime holds sway. The land is being worked by tenants who care little if anything for the conservation of the land, interested mainly in cash returns.

The trades and professions are overrun with prepared men, while the farmer drags along his unscientific way, too often repeating a system of farming employed by his ancestors.

The educated youth need to see, in the farm, a vocation of honorable, cultural and patriotic service; a service for the discharge of civic, social, religious duties and for the rapid development of that safe and sound rural democracy established by our forefathers. To accomplish this the farmer requires such training as will fit him for the cultivation, management and marketing of his produce, this in addition to his High School and College education. The industries of our country will never be safe till the farmer's standard comes to the same permanent level of efficiency as that reached in industry. Then will farming become an attractive vocation where hard work will bring joy and satisfaction in the realization of the farmer's social, civic, religious and educational attainments. Our country will enjoy a permanent prosperity and an efficient development of its spiritual and material resources when the farmer, as well as the artisan and professional man, is educated and trained for his work of farming.

There are 100,000 graduates yearly from our schools of higher education. A great number of these would take up farming as a vocation if there

were apprenticing farms in applied agriculture where they could get specific and practical training. Modern farming under scientific management offers an alluring vocation to adventurous youth. Natural resources are diminishing. The farmer of the next generation will be producing out of the soil not only food and clothing for man, but also fuel for machinery, construction material for our buildings and chemicals for our industries. The men who do this great service will be educated farmers, schooled specifically in farming which, if intelligently followed, means a safe and sound democracy of independent rural people. Mass production by farm labor will eventually kill the independent farmer and prepare the way for lords and serfs or for Communism.

The man who owns his own home will not consent to Communism nor submit to a Dictator. A nation of home owners is a stable nation. Its crises develop new strength and morale in its people. Guests flee from the burning hotel. The owner fights the fire to the end. Ownership makes a difference.

The ownership of land will always continue to be the basis of wealth, power and patriotism.

HARRIS FARMS OFFERS:

An apprenticeship in applied agriculture, for bringing together the educated unemployed man and the fertile unemployed land.

Millions of acres of such unemployed land are waiting the coming of these unemployed men who graduate yearly from our American Colleges and High Schools.

This is not a college. The model farms and ranches constitute what corresponds to the class rooms and laboratories of the usual college. In doing the work on these farms and ranches, the farmers learn their lessons of successful farming under modern methods and management.

No tuition is charged and no salaries are paid to farmers. The net income of what the farmer produces will be his remuneration. Usually the most diligent and intelligent service produces the greatest educational and financial returns to the farmer.

The Religious Standards are those commonly held by evangelical Christian Churches, stressing the fundamentals that unite Christians and not teaching sectarian or controversial views. To that

end one community church and one only, shall be maintained.

Admission will be made to men of good moral character and sound physiques, preference shown to those who have completed their college academic or technical studies, and are married.

REASONS FOR SUCH FARMS ARE:

The perplexed and bewildered condition of our people on the farms and ranches has increased with the material advancement of our years. Texas is a good example of the Central West. Free range ceased about 1900 and fenced ranches came into being. Since the world war these ranches have been run at a loss. Many have been cut up and sold out to Northern farmers. For instance, the Catarina Ranch sold off 100,000 acres in 40 and 80 acre tracts to these Northern farmers. A few native Texans have made money on truck and citrus fruits. But these northern farmers generally failed and left the State, finding work in the cities. They failed for lack of knowledge of methods. There are extensive districts of deserted farms. The native Texan, seeing this general failure of expert farmers from the North, concluded that farming is no better than cattle, and that both are failures.

Youth do not remain on the ranch or on the farm. They go off to school in preparation for a larger field of service, or they seek employment in the city, sell their interest in the ranch or farm, and make their home permanently in town.

They would stay on the ranch if they could see a future in country life. Most of these young people would return to the farm or ranch today were they shown the way to success and prosperity through rightly conducted farms. There is and will continue to be a stampede away from the farm to the city until the youth are turned back to the country life.

THE PURPOSE IS:

1. To develop Texans for rural life, independent, resourceful and of sturdy Christian faith who will find in Agriculture a pleasant, profitable and an ennobling vocation, challenging all their highest physical, intellectual, social and religious attainments.

2. To find some way by which the products of the farm may also be employed to supply, in

addition to food and clothing for man, certain necessary physical and chemical elements for industries.

3. To help farmers to buy their own farms.

"In the old days, a father would talk about setting his son up in business. Now the average father talks only of getting his son a job.

"There is vital need that more men should aim to be owners, proprietors and employers."

Roger W. Babson.

THE OBJECT IS:

1. To show the youth of Texas,
 - a. How to farm on an assured basis, through the production of a variety of crops, live-stock, etc.
 - b. That properly conducted, the farm offers attractions and compensations not found elsewhere in life on an independent basis.
 - c. That the farmer should be a cultivated, refined man and able to enjoy himself equally as well as the city man.
 - d. That cooperation is essential to any business including the farming business.
 - e. How he can make money with which to buy his own farm without having to go to the city to find work.
2. By maintaining, where possible, a Game Preserve contiguous to the Model Farms, the farmers will acquire a love for wild life and strive to preserve and promote same throughout the land as a duty to future generations as well as a diversion for themselves.
3. To show the farmer the value to the community of recreational parks by establishing adequate parks in or near every community.
4. To encourage the government, philanthropic organizations and individuals in the establishment of similar centers throughout our country, for the practical training of young people in farming and rural life.

THE PLAN IS:

1. To secure youth graduating from Colleges and High Schools and turn them back from the city and professions to the cultivation of the soil. These youth will learn after a season spent here that the farm is:
 - a. A challenge to all intellectual powers acquired or developed in College.

b. A place where comforts, joys and diversions are more appreciated than they can be in the city.

2. To erect model farms with houses well constructed and furnished with modern equipment such as is found in the city home. The land to be planted to fruit and nut trees and general agriculture, and the forest improved and developed. Poultry, cows, sheep, goats, and hogs will be a part of the equipment of each farm. The crops will be planted so as to guarantee feed for live-stock, with vegetables and cotton planted for cash returns.

3. To teach cooperation, for example, by having one truck serve the purposes of several farms, a tractor to do the plowing for a definite number of farms, a central packing and shipping plant, etc., a controlled production and a direct marketing system.

4. To place every Model Farm under the direct supervision of instructors who will show farmers where, when, how and what to do.

5. To keep a strict accounting of each farm separately, charging off operating expenses and depreciation and thus to be able to make a just division of profits which the farmers are to get for their share in the cultivation of the farm. Thus the poor boy may lay up enough money with which to buy his own farm later.

6. To find the owners of the hundreds of deserted farms who are now living in cities as day laborers, and to give them the training needed to cultivate again with profit their own farm.

7. To offer night classes where special instruction may be given in the technical side of farm production and management.

8. To incorporate the farms under a self-perpetuating board of trustees, as an institution for non-profit, with the usual powers of such boards.

9. To make these farms self-supporting.

SPECIFICATIONS:

The Administration Grounds are to be centrally located and will provide for the Offices, Bank, Store, Post Office, Shops, Packing House, Library, Museum, Church and Community House, Superintendents' homes, Laboratories, Exposition Grounds, Stables, Athletic Fields, Air Port, and Tourist Camps.

Around and in easy access to the Adminis-

tration Grounds are the Model Farms and Ranches, sufficient in number to guarantee self support to the whole enterprise.

ADVANTAGES OF LOCATION:

The location is in the Winter Garden District of Southwest Texas within easy access to the International Highway to Mexico City and to railway terminals.

The soil is the best to be found in the State for general farming. The water for irrigation is abundant in shallow wells. The season is of 12 months duration yearly. Plenty of land may be purchased at a moderate price. The climate is extremely hot in summer during the day, nights are pleasant. The Winters are mild permitting the growth of all garden vegetables. It is always invigorating and conducive to the best of health. The location on the International Highway guarantees publicity to the methods of farming here employed.

THE NEEDS OF THE SOUTHWEST FOR A GAME PRESERVE.

The march West of the pioneers during the Nineteenth Century pushed through the Central States to California and Oregon. These settlements cut through, dividing the game of the land and pushing wild life to the Northwest and Southwest. Those settling the Northwest made ample provision for Preserves and Parks for the conservation of the wild life. The Southwest settlers came mostly from Kentucky, Tennessee, and Mississippi. They found abundance of free range and wild game. There has been little new blood immigration to that district till in recent years. No adequate provision has been made for preserving the game, once so abundant. This is due probably to the fact that public lands in the Southwest were owned by the State and not by the Federal Government. In the Northwest the Federal Government owned all public lands.

1. The game is reduced in number and all species are doomed to total extinction unless speedy steps are taken, to arrest the slaughter and to preserve the remaining species.

2. The territory where game is still to be found is gradually diminishing from year to year till now it is limited to the immediate territory bordering Mexico—about 80 miles wide and 900 miles long—where the large ranches are still found.

As these ranches are cut up and sold out to farmers the wild life is killed off.

3. Kinds of game still surviving:

Peccary, Panthers, Coyotes, Mexicans Lions, Wild cats (three species), Red Fox, Badgers, Raccoon, Armadillos, Curlew (rare), Deer, Turkey, Ducks, Geese, Rabbits, Hare, Sand Hill Cranes, Birds (abundant), Quail (Mexican Blue Top and Bob White), Alligators, Fish, Civet Cats.

4. Natives of Texas realize the precarious condition and status of game but are unconcerned about it. They must be awakened and trained to

a. Protect, propagate, and preserve the game of the land.

b. Extend, propagate, and preserve the forest of that part of the State.

c. Maintain Public Parks in which the people may find recreation from their labor and learn how to provide and to care for Public or Community Parks.

Former Commissioner of Education, the Hon. J. B. Huyke, expressed his indebtedness to the Polytechnic Institute for having demonstrated the feasibility of the idea which later led him to introduce the Second Units as part of the Public School System in Porto Rico. The Second Units give general training in applied agriculture and home making for rural people.

In starting this work in Texas I hope that educators and others may also, when they see these farms in operation, be led to establish like institutions all over our land.

TEXT:

Moreover the profit of the earth is for all: the king himself is served by the field.—Ecc. 5:9.