

30 years. Data are also presented on some of the factors affecting farm returns and the expected improvement in farm income with a change in the present level of farm practices.

#### SOURCE OF DATA

Data were obtained from a series of farm management studies in the Plant City area and special surveys of cropping practices, method of marketing, and kind and amount of farm resources. These data were supplemented by the results of various technical experiments and the recommendations of agricultural workers and leading farmers in the area.

The first farm management study was made in October and November 1917 for the farm year beginning October 1, 1916. Data were obtained each fall for five additional years and 100 usable records were collected in each survey. When a farm was visited, a record was made of the year's business including an inventory of all farm property at the beginning and end of the year, crops grown, livestock kept, and receipts and expenses for the year. Farm business surveys were obtained also for the crop year ending September 30 on 113 farms for the 1926-27 season, and 112 farms for the 1931-32 season, and one June 30 on 52 farms for the 1944-45 season. During 1951, farm business records were obtained for six farms for the 1950-51 crop year. These farms were selected as being representative of farms in the area, and the records were obtained to be used in developing farm budgets.

During the summer of 1945, Agricultural Adjustment Administration (AAA) crop acreage data were obtained for 259 farms for the 1942-43 season. In a farm survey, 88 labor and material records were obtained for individual crops. Data were obtained on 40 farms on method of marketing each crop, method of land preparation, cover crop program, irrigation and other cultural practices. During November and December 1948 a survey was made of the kind and amount of resources of all farms in nine square mile areas selected to represent the Plant City area. In this survey, special attention was given to obtaining information on non-farm income of farm operators and also non-farm operators living in the area.

#### METHOD OF ANALYSIS

In preparing this report, data from the studies made in 1945 and 1948 have been used in describing recent farming and farm