

Gross farm receipts were about \$3,000 per farm in 1932, 1922 and 1917-22, \$4,180 in 1927 and \$6,560 in 1945. Receipts from strawberries exceeded those from any other crop except for 1945, when they were second to peppers. Gross farm expenses amounted to \$4,759 per farm in 1945, \$2,994 in 1927 and about \$2,000 in other years. Average farm income ranged from \$848 in 1922 to \$1,801 in 1945. Labor income ranged from \$955 in 1927 to \$1,275 in 1945. Even though returns in 1945 were highest for any of the years included in the study, the average return to the operator and his family for their labor amounted to less than \$150 per month.

There was a wide variation in incomes for individual farms each year of the study. Size of business, crop yields and prices were the principal factors affecting income. Except in 1932, farms with 15 or more acres in crops had in general from two to four times the labor income of farms with less than 15 acres in crops. Farms in the upper third of crop yields had labor incomes of \$1,389 in 1945, \$954 in 1932, \$956 in 1927 and \$1,003 for the period 1917-22, as compared to labor incomes of \$211, \$66, \$814 and \$34, respectively, for the farms in the lower third of crop yields. Farms receiving prices of 110 percent or more of the average had labor income of \$1,267 for the period 1917-22, as compared to \$227 for farms with prices of less than 95 percent of the average.

Relative to potential levels, farm incomes are low on many farms in the Plant City area. There are significant opportunities for improving net incomes by improving the present level of farm practices such as using higher rates of fertilizer, better insect and disease control programs and a recognition of the importance of better crop selection for different types of soils. Improving practices would result in an increase in yields of 25 to 50 percent for individual crops. Budgets for two representative farms indicated that had these farms used improved rather than normal practices, labor income would have been increased from \$712 to \$1,841 on one farm and from \$139 to \$1,263 on the other farm.

### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This report contains data from four economic studies made in the Plant City area. The first study in cooperation with the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, U.S.D.A., included records for the years ending September 30 from 1917 to 1922. Records were obtained also by the Department of Agricultural Economics for the years ending September 30, 1927 and 1932 and for the year ending June 30, 1945.