

FACTORS AFFECTING FARMING RETURNS IN JACKSON COUNTY, FLORIDA

By MAX E. BRUNK

CONTENTS

	Page		Page
Purpose of the Study	3	Soils	16
Agricultural Development	6	Location of Markets	17
History	6	Size of Business	18
Population Growth	6	Labor Efficiency	20
Farm Real Estate	8	Crop Yields	22
Crop Trends	9	Tenure	23
Livestock Trends	10	Education	25
Farm Conveniences	11	Prices	26
Some Factors Affecting Farming Returns..	12	Cropping Practices	29
Source of Data	12	Real Estate Taxation	31
Where the Farming Is Done	13	Summary	33

PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

That farming returns vary a great deal is well known to farmers. The reasons for these variations are not so well known. A study of some of the more important reasons will enable the individual farmer to recognize the influences of particular factors and thereby make it possible for him to give these factors greater consideration in the conduct of his business.

There are many types of farming areas in Florida. The map in Figure 1 shows the more important of such areas. Farming returns per farm in these different areas do not vary nearly as much as the size of farms. For example, in 1939 the farms of Hendry County averaged 2,078 acres in size while farms in Escambia County averaged but 62 acres. Man has no control over the natural fertility of the soil of a region. Neither has he control over climate. Therefore, he has modified the influence of these factors on his income by adjusting the number of acres

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.—The writer is indebted to the members of the Department of Agricultural Economics who assisted in outlining this study and offered helpful criticism in the preparation of the manuscript. Special credit is due Dr. C. V. Noble under whose direction this work was done.

Many of the data are based on farm management surveys conducted by members of the Department of Agricultural Economics. Credit is due also to Mr. Marshall R. Godwin, who assisted the writer in the field work during the summer of 1941.

Appreciation is expressed to Mr. R. S. Johnson, Registrar of the University of Florida, who made it possible to use electric sorting and tabulating machines, greatly facilitating the work.

Particular thanks are extended to County Agent J. W. Malone and to the many farmers of Jackson County, Florida, for their courtesy in furnishing essential information.