

prospective farm purchasers. Actually the price is high when compared with the earning capacity of the farm.

The areas of poor soils are generally characterized by sparse settlement, a predominance of idle land, and small farm buildings in poor condition. Areas of good soils are characterized by dense settlement, a high proportion of the land cultivated and adequate farm buildings in good condition. Experience of farmers has shown that it pays to farm in areas where the most farming is done.

Over Jackson County there is a great difference in the extent of land used for crops. Figure 5 shows some of the larger, more important areas of intensive cultivation. This map was prepared from aerial photographs of the entire county. These pictures were taken during the fall of 1940² and show the land which was under cultivation during that year. The cultivation map is a generalization of the detailed aerial photographs. It was based upon the amount of land cultivated in individual sections over the county. Each section of land (640 acres) was rated on the basis of the extent of land under cultivation and divided into the three groups shown on the map. For convenience the groups were called A, B and C.

Some of the 499 farms which were studied in 1925 are located in nearly all of the different areas shown on the cultivation map. A study of these farms located in these different areas will reveal some of the experience which farmers have had in the conduct of their farming operations. The farm businesses are summarized in Table 4. Summaries for white farmers are shown separately from those for negroes. For businesses of about the same number of crop acres negroes have less farm capital, receipts and expenses and get much lower crop yields. The table shows that the largest farms measured by acres in crops are located where most of the farming is done. In sparsely settled areas the farms are smaller. Farm receipts are much larger for farms located in the A areas than for farms located in C areas, but farm expenses do not vary so much between these areas. It makes little difference where a farmer lives when he buys fertilizer because there will be little difference, if any, in the price he pays. It makes a great deal of difference where a farmer lives when he produces his crops because the type of

² These photographs were obtained from the Aerial Photographic Laboratory, Washington, D. C. The scale of the photographs is approximately 3.2 inches to the mile.