SHOULD KEEP SOME RECORD

An outline for the American farmers of the method of keeping written record of their farm operations and equipment to insure an accurate farm census next year has been issued by United States Census Director E. Dana Durand. It was prepared by Professor Le Grand Powers, United States census chief statistician for agriculture. It states:

"The advantages of always having on hand for ready reference a detailed written statement of one's real and personal property are readily understood by everyone and will be keenly appreciated when the census enumerator calls with his list of questions next April. The value of the census figures of farm wealth depends upon their accuracy, and accuracy can only be secured through the co-operation of the farmers themselves. In no way can the farmer extend more practical assistance to the census bureau, and in no way can he render himself a greater service than by getting out his pencil and note book on the evening of April 14 next, and making up a statement of his farm property. The questions to be asked concerning farm property are as follows:

1. Total value of farm, with all buildings and improvements.
2. Value of buildings.
3. Value of all improvements and machinery, including tools, wagons, carriages, harnesses, etc., and all appliances and apparatus used in farming operations.
4. Number and value of domestic animals, classified as follows:

Cattle: A. Born before January 1, 1909—Cows and heifers kept for milk. Cows and heifers not kept for milk. Steers and bulls kept for work. Steers and bulls not kept for work.

B. Born in 1909—Heifers. Steers and bulls.

C. Calves born in 1910.

Horses: All horses born before January 1, 1909. Colts born after January 1, 1910.

Mules: All mules born before January 1, 1909. Mule colts born after January 1, 1909. Mule colts born after January 1, 1910.

Asses and burros (all ages).

Swine: Hogs born before January 1, 1910. Pigs born after January 1, 1910.

Sheep: Ewes born before January 1, 1910. Rams and wethers born before January 1, 1910. Lambs born after January 1, 1910.

Goats and kids (all ages).

5. Number and value of poultry over three months old: Chickens, ducks, geese, turkeys, Guinea fowls, pigeons.
6. Number and value of swarms of bees.

"The census will not ask the value of household goods, nor that of hay, grain or other farm crops on hand on April 15. These items should be included, however, by all desiring a complete inventory of their farm property.

"The value given to the farm should be, as nearly as can be judged the amount that could be obtained for it if offered for sale under normal conditions. Current market price should be carefully considered in estimating the value of live stock.

"Although the census merely requires a statement of total value of all implements and machinery, it is believed that a classification of these items under the following four heads will be found valuable:

1. Vehicles: This class comprises automobiles, wagons, carriages and sleighs, and equipment used in connection with them, as harnesses, blankets, whips, etc.
2. Heavy farm implements: Comprising all implements and machinery operated by any power other than hand power, as plows, harrows, rollers, reapers, mowers, hay loaders, feed grinders, etc., etc.
3. Hand machinery and tools, including carpenters' tools, hoes, shovels, scythes, forks, grindstones, fanning mills, etc.
4. Miscellaneous articles, including all such minor equipment as kettles, pails, barrels, baskets, ladders, ropes, chains, etc., not included in the first three classes.

"Many farmers greatly underestimate the total value of their possessions of this character when considering them in the aggregate, and it is only by preparing an itemized list as suggested above that an accurate estimate of their worth can be made. The value assigned this class of property in the inventory should be the estimated amount it would bring at public auction under favorable conditions.

"As in the case of the farm inventory, no special blanks are required for the record of farm products of 1909. An ordinary note book with leaves at least six inches wide will be found convenient. The following information will be called for:

1. Farm expenses in 1909: A. Amount spent in cash for farm labor (exclusive of house work).

B. Estimated value of house rent and board furnished farm laborers in addition to cash wages paid.

C. Amount spent for hay, grain and other produce (not raised on the farm) for feed of domestic animals and poultry.

D. Amount spent for manure and other fertilizers.

"No inquiry is made regarding household or personal expenses or expenditures for repairs or improvements. Each of the four questions asked is of fundamental importance in its bearing on agriculture as an industry.

2. Live stock: A. Number of young animals of each kind born on the farm in 1909.

B. Number of animals of each kind purchased in 1909 and the amount paid; number sold and amount received; and number and value of those slaughtered on the farm.

3. Dairy products: A. Quantities and value of milk, butter and cheese produced on the farm in 1909.

B. Quantities of milk, butter, cream, butter fat and cheese sold in 1909 and amounts received.

4. Poultry and eggs: A. Value of poultry of all kinds raised in 1909, whether sold, consumed or on hand.

B. Amount received from poultry sold in 1909.

C. Quantity and value of eggs produced in 1909.

D. Quantity and value of eggs sold in 1909.

5. Wool and mohair: Number and total weight of fleeces shorn in 1909 and amount received from sales.

6. Crops: For each crop harvested on the farm in 1909 give number of acres, the quantity produced, and the value of the products. The number of acres of each crop to be planted for harvest in 1910 will also be called for by the enumerator. This cannot be determined much before the date of the enumeration. Instead of giving the number of acres in orchards and vineyards, give as nearly as possible the number of trees and vines of bearing age. The quantity of certain fruit products, as cider vinegar, wine and dried fruits produced in 1909 will be required, as will also the quantity and value of sugar, syrup and molasses produced from cane, sorghum, sugar beets and maple trees.

7. Sales of specified products in 1909: A considerable part of the annual production of corn, oats, barley, kaffir corn, milo maize, hay, flax fiber

(Continued next week.)

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