

Black-operated farms down

WASHINGTON — The nation had 33,000 Black-operated farms in 1982, according to the Commerce Department's Census Bureau.

In 1920, the number of black-operated farms peaked at 926,000, 14 percent of the national total. The 1982 Census of Agriculture count of black farm operators was 1.5 percent of the 2.2 million total farms.

The census showed that more than 55 percent of black-operated farms were in Mississippi, North Carolina, Texas, South Carolina, and Alabama. About one out of 10 black farm operators was female, compared with nearly one out of 20 for all farm operations. Black females accounted for nearly 3 percent of the nation's 122,000 female operators.

Black operators tend to be older than most farmers, with an

average age of 56.7 years compared with 50.5 years for all farmers. While 18 percent of all farmers were over age 65, one-third of black farmers were over that age.

Sixty-two percent of black operators were full owners, 27 percent were part owners, and 11 percent were tenants. Ninety-two percent of black-operated farms were individual or family operated, while 7 percent were partnerships and 1 percent corporations.

The average black-operated farm was 105 acres compared with 440 acres nationally. Black-operated farms accounted for 3.5 million acres of farmland in 1982, a loss of 600,000 acres or 15 percent from the 1978 census. Harvested cropland dropped from 1.4 million acres to 1.3 million.

Sales of agricultural products from black-operated farms amounted to \$406 million in 1982, crops accounting for \$272 million and livestock and poultry, \$134 million. About three out of four black operators sold less than \$10,000 compared with nearly one out of two for all operators, and 53 percent of all black operators supplemented their incomes by working off the farm.

The Census Bureau points out that these data are subject to statistical variability and non-sampling errors. Single copies of the Volume 1, Geographic Area Series, Summary and State Data, for the United States may be obtained from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.

(Continued from Page A29)

dleweight market lamb
Tricia Sadd, reserve champion co. market lamb

Other Awards

Lisa Sadler, champion senior headline

Kathy Esbenshade, champion junior headline

Tim Engle, President's Award
Ellen Lewis, Shepherd of the Year

Judging

Junior Livestock Judging Team: Fred Weaver, John Hess, Tracey Landis, Doug Musser

Senior Livestock Judging Team: Tricia Musser, Joe Garber, Emily Weaver, Ellen Lewis

Meats Judging Team: Margaret Herr, Greg Musser, Jay Reiff, Jeff Craig

Serving as beef club leaders were: Gary and William Dean,

Strasburg; Abe Flory, Lititz; Mylin Good, Mount Joy; Elvin Hess, Strasburg; Gerald Hess, Mountville; Jim Landis, Quarryville; Barry Longenecker, Lititz; Harold Musser, Elizabethtown; Marvin Nissley, Mount Joy; M.M. Smith, Lancaster; Larry Weaver, New Holland; John Zimmerman, Ephrata.

Sheep club leaders were: Tim and Sarah Fleener, Lancaster; Clyde and Dorothy Brubaker, Lancaster; Elvin Yeagley, Elizabethtown.

Livestock judging coaches were Duff George, Carlisle, and Chet Hughes, Lancaster.

Meats judging coaches were Dr. Bill Henning, Penn State; Becky Salamone, Lancaster; Chet Hughes and Duff George.

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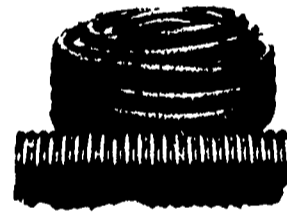


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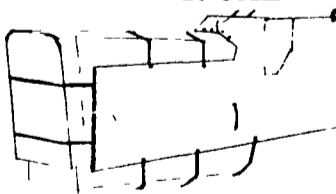
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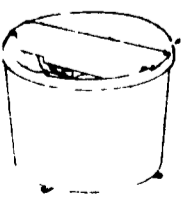


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