

# THE FARMER GOSE TO TOWN

## ——and brings home most of its amenities

### 农民进城了

#### ——而且带着他们大部分的美好物品

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#### 【读后摘要】

(1) 1947年，芝加哥的玉米价格达到2.5美元/蒲式耳，创出有价格记录的157年历史以来的最高水平。

(2) 1946年，在文章提到的一笔交易中，每英亩土地的价格是165美元。如果一年产50蒲式耳玉米，价格2.5美元/蒲式耳，货值125美元。资产周转率0.76。不过，165美元/英亩的价格不一定是普遍情况，文章说“香槟郡的农田价格已经涨到了300~400美元/英亩”。

(3) “在伊利诺伊州，160英亩地一般被认为是一家农户过日子需要的最小农场。”，估算如下：160英亩\*50蒲式耳/英亩\*2.5元/蒲式耳=年收入2万美元，当然这假设了高玉米价格，而且是收入，不是利润。

时间	1940年	1947年	相对变化
农场数量	6,000,000	5,800,000	-3%
农民数量	30,500,000	27,500,000	-10%
每个农场的农民数量	5.08	4.74	-7%
美国总人口	126,500,000	137,500,000	9%
农民总人口	30,500,000	27,500,000	-10%
农民占人口比例	24%	20%	-17%
农民总存款(亿美元)	50	220	340%
农民人均存款(美元)	164	800	388%
<b>玉米平均产量(蒲式耳/英亩)</b>			
平均水平	50		
海泽家的水平:	100		
<b>农场面积(英亩)</b>			
麦考伊家	440		
海泽家	120		
弗雷德米尔斯	160, 另外租用560英亩		

## 【正文】

One of the great social and economic shifts of U.S history has, in this time of the breaking of nations, gone largely unheralded. It is the radical change in the life and outlook of the American farmer, who has regained his birthright—in many cases with accrued interest. It has happened within a single generation and mostly within the past seven years. It is perhaps the greatest single factor now tending to assure the continued stability of the U.S economy and the revitalization of the American spirit.

美国历史上最大的社会与经济变革是人们都没有预料到的。对那些拥有长子继承权和承担利息的农民来说，这是他们人生中的剧烈变革。这一变革在一代人之内发生，而且主要是发生在过去七年中。这一变革可能是帮助稳定美国经济和复兴美国精神的最大的一个因素。

This year a hot, dry summer, following a cold, wet spring, dimmed early prospects of another bumper corn crop. But as that hope faded, cash corn prices in Chicago soared to new all-time highs, topping \$2.50 a bushel for the first time in 157 years of record keeping. Corn growers might cry “disaster”, but they seemed assured of a good return from smaller crops. And far bigger news than any heat wave was the fact that many a U.S. farmer no longer has to worry about being wiped out by one bad year, or even two or three.

今年的春天潮湿而寒冷，而后的夏天干燥而炎热，玉米类作物的丰收前景暗淡。随着玉米丰收前景无光，芝加哥的玉米价格创了历史新高，达到了2.5美元/蒲式耳，这是有价格记录的

157年以来的最高水平。从产量上看这是玉米种植户的“灾难”，但是他们的财务回报却不错。比炎热天气更大的新闻是，美国的农民再也不用担心炎热天气会让他们破产了，即使是两次甚至三次炎热天气。

U.S farmer as a whole are not getting rich. The 27,500,000 farm people who comprise nearly 20 per cent of the U.S. population still receive only 10 per cent of the national income.

作为整体，美国农民并不富有。美国有 2750 万农民，占总人口的 20%，而收入只占了全体国民收入的 10%。

Nor are many individual farmers becoming, by urban standards, really wealthy. The quick fortunes of a few tenacious or lucky wheat farmers in the ex-Dust Bowl are the exception, not the rule---which is why they get in the newspapers. There is still, however, great disparity of income among farmers. About 80 per cent of the national farm income is earned by only one-third of the 5,800,000 farms. The least prosperous third, on the other hand, bring in only 4 per cent of total farm income --an average of less than \$500 apiece. The farm boom has by no means brought all the amenities of modern living to every farm family.

按照城市的标准，并非很多农民真的变得富有了。在风沙侵蚀区之外的一部分坚强而幸运的小麦农民赚到了大钱，但他们是例外情况——这就是为啥他们出现在报纸上。在农民中的收入分配也是不均衡的。全美国有 580 万个农场，其中前三分之一的农场收入占到全部农场的 80%。而后三分之一的农场，只获得了全部农场收入的 4%，人均收入低于 500 美元。农场的繁荣并没有为每个农民家庭都带去现代化生活的美好物品。

But the tremendous facts remain that fewer people are living on larger, more productive farms; that millions who were scratching a bare living out of barren soil have moved to town jobs; and that a great tide of prosperity has suffused the ranks of the survivors.

惊人的事实是，少数农民依靠更大更高产的农场生存，而在贫瘠的土地上过着贫穷生活的数百人则迁居到城市寻找工作。农场的繁荣让留下来的少数农民生活越来越好。

Americans are now harvesting 20 million more acres than they did in 1940, but there are three million fewer People on 200,000 fewer farms\*2. The farm folk who remain are sharing a cash income that nearly tripled in six years. All but unluckiest and least provident are living better than they used to. Some eight million people in the top third, with an average income of \$10,000 per farm, are living well by any standards. Better yet, most farmers are using their new wealth to fortify themselves against falling back into their old want.

相比于 1940 年来说，美国的农作物种植面积增加了 2000 万英亩，而农场数目减少了 20 万个，农民减少了 300 万人。留下来的农民在 6 年中收入翻了接近 3 倍。除了那些运气最差和最不节俭的农民之外，所有农民都比他们过去生活的更好了。农民中的前三分之一大约 800 万人，享受着每个农场 10,000 美元的收入，按照任何标准他们的生活都很不错。更好的是，大部分农民都在利用他们的新财富以巩固自身的地位防止回到以前的贫困。

The seeds of this revolution in American farm life were planted by the men who, in the years before 1940, brought mechanization to the farm, taught the farmer new methods of conservation, production, and management, built automobiles and hard roads, strung electric-power lines through the rural countryside. The seeds have been watered since 1940 by seven straight years of immense and mounting farm prosperity, climaxing now in a year that may yet, despite continued bad weather, outsoar even last year's all-time peak of farm income. But the harvest, which might have been squandered or even have plunged its beneficiaries into fresh disaster, has been brought to fruition by the character and hard wisdom the American farmer acquired in his years of terrible adversity.

美国农场生活的这一变革的种子起源于 1940 年前，当时人们把机械化带到农场，教会农民们保存（资源）、生产和管理的新方法，制造车辆和硬质道路，把电网线路建设到乡村。上述种子在 1940 年之后持续 7 年的农业繁荣中得到浇灌，以至于今年的坏天气都无法阻止农业收入再创新高。这一丰收是美国农民在艰难的年代中获得的良好品质和智慧带来的，若非如此，农业的繁荣完全有可能再次给农民带来灾难。

## **Lessons of history**

### **历史的教训**

When World War I brought him his first great prosperity, the U.S farmer went wild. Failing to understand that the boom was simply a temporary result of the fact that millions of Europeans had turned from tilling the soil to fighting, he imagined that his prosperity had no limits and would never end. Wildly he mortgaged himself to buy land, land, and any more land at fantastically inflated prices. Then, when the Europeans went back to work, his bubble suddenly collapsed.

第一次世界大战时，美国农业出现了第一次大繁荣，当时农民们都变得十分激进。由于没有认识到繁荣是暂时性的，是由于数百万欧洲人离开农田走向战场造成的，美国的农民以为繁荣没有极限且不会结束。于是农民们开始贷款买地、买地、买地，同时地价一路暴涨。之后，

随着欧洲人结束战争重新开始工作，美国农业的泡沫破裂了。

No novelist has told the human story of that catastrophe more poignantly than it was told in few dry, academic sentences in recent University of Illinois bulletin:” Most cases of forced liquidation following World War I meant the loss not only of the farm but also of lifetime savings and necessitated moving. Moreover, the operator was frequently forced into lower tenure status. Many owners did not give up readily and, in trying to meet the heavy debts incurred by buying land at too high a price, they accepted lower levels of living, exhausted their soils, and let the farm building and equipment deteriorate, only to be forced finally to give up the farm.”

干旱导致的灾难故事比任何小说中讲的故事都更悲惨。最近的伊利诺伊大学学报有这样的句子：“一战之后大部分农场被迫出售，这不仅仅是一个农场的损失，更是农民们一辈子储蓄的损失。农民因此被迫成为低等阶层。很多农场主不想放弃农场，为了偿还以高价购买的土地导致的债务，他们过着拮据的生活，过度消耗土地、农场建筑和设备；结果最后往往还是不得不卖掉土地。”

During the 1920’S, while the rest of the US boomed, the farmer was slowly struggling out of his morass of debt and overexpansion. He was only a little way up when depression, like a giant boot, kicked and ground him back into new depths of misery. His foreign and domestic markets shriveled. Prices plummeted. After a year of hard work, he was lucky if he had made enough to pay his taxes, let alone his mortgage interest. Thousands could not, and lost their farms by foreclosure or sheriff’s sale. Drought struck and, over vast western areas whose sod had been unwisely broken in the World War I boom, his land dried up and blew away. The New Deal rescued him from the worst of his misery, but until war once more gripped the world he remained a sort of national stepchild, a “problem,” sustained by all manner of government props and handouts.

在 1920 年代，美国经济的各个部门都很繁荣，只有农民们在他们过度扩张和债务缠身的沼泽中挣扎。当他稍微从困境中挣脱了一点，结果大萧条就来了，让农民的处境更加悲惨。国内外的市场都枯萎了。农产品价格暴跌。往往是一年到头之后，他有钱够交税就已经万幸了，遑论偿还贷款利息。数以千计的农民没法偿还债务，结果农场被迫拍卖。接着干旱来临，本来广大的农田已经在一战的繁荣中被过度消耗了，现在在干旱中一阵风就能把土壤吹走。新的法律让农民们避免了最悲惨的处境，但是直到战争再一次来临，农民都像是社会中的”继子”那样受到冷落，全靠政府的救济生存。

Then, overnight, the farmer became a national and world hero. All eyes were on him. There were armies to be fed, bigger armies than the world had ever seen before. A prosperous, hardworking,

increasingly populous (up 11 million since 1940) US demanded of him, as it still demands, more and richer food—more meat and milk and eggs —than it had ever eaten before. Hungry, war-wracked million in the rest of the world looked to him, as they still look, for their very existence, Industry, constantly finding new uses for his products, called for them in record and increasing quantities.

后来，一夜之间（战争爆发），农民们又变成了美国和世界的英雄。所有目光都对准他们。规模庞大军队需要吃粮食。一个繁荣的、勤劳的、人口迅速增加的（从 1940 年算起增加了 1100 万人）美利坚需要农民。美国人需要更多更好的实物，更多的肉、奶、鸡蛋，比历史上任何时期都更多。同时，在除了美国的世界其他地方，受到饥饿和战争折磨的人类也指望美国的农民。工业的发展，也以超出历史纪录的水平需求着更多农产品。

And the farmer met the challenge. Five million people left the farm for war service or war-plant jobs. The farmer simply worked harder, toiling from dawn to dusk and often from dusk to dawn, calling his womenfolk and old men and children into the fields, learning to cooperate as never before, enlisting townsmen at harvesting. He was blessed by a near-miraculous run of good weather. But neither work nor weather accounts wholly for the gigantic harvests he has brought in year after year since 1940. He could not have increased his prewar production by one-third as he has if it had not been, too, for vastly increased mechanization and the lessons of efficiency he was compelled to learn during the hard 1930's.

农民们接收了这个挑战。五百万农民离开了农场为军队服务或者进入了军工厂。剩下的农民工作更加勤奋了，他们夜以继日的工作，并且把女眷、老人和孩子都带到农田里，以史无前例的精神合作，并且在收获的季节雇佣城市人。结果，这些年气候又特别的好。但是，辛勤工作和气候好都不足以完全解释 1940 年之后农业一年又一年的持续大丰收。如果不是因为大规模的机械化和农民们在 1930 年代困境中学到的教训，那么他们把战前的产量提高三分之一都不可能。

As a Bunyanesque producer, the US farmer is no longer a novelty; his stature is established and accepted. And everyone has known, of course, that he was prospering. Huge production plus even greater demand have made that inevitable, without any willful profiteering on the farmer's part. In the first seven months of 1947 his total cash receipts, which in 1946 were nearly three times what they had been in 1940, rose 22 per cent above last year's record. His liquid savings are up from \$5 billion in 1940 to a whopping \$22 billion. Obviously, he has become a consumer to be reckoned with, a customer whose wants and tastes no businessman can ignore.

就像一个班扬（《天路历程》作者）式的生产者，美国的农民不再无足轻重，他们的地位得

到了确立和承认。而且，所有人都知道，农民们发财了。庞大的产量加上更大的需求量使得农民们发财不可避免，其中并没有任何农民们要主观攫取暴利的因素。1946年，农民的现金收入比1940年翻了三倍，而1947年前7个月这个数字又同比1946年增长了22%。他们的现金存款从1940年的50亿美元增长到220亿美元的惊人水平。很明显，农民已经变成了一类需要认真对待的消费者，任何商人都不能忽视他们。

But what, specifically, does he want? What is he doing with his money? How has it changed his life and outlook? What are his needs and hopes and plans? How does he feel about the future? How long does he think his prosperity will last? Are there any signs that it has gone to his head again, leading him toward another catastrophic collapse?

但是他们到底需要什么呢？他们将会怎样使用他们的钱？钱会如何改变他们的生活？他们的需求、希望和计划是什么？他们对未来怎么看？他们认为自己的高收入会持续多久呢？是否有迹象他们脑子里也会害怕再一次农业繁荣的崩溃？

US agriculture, of course, is not one industry but hundred, with an enormous range and diversity between the New Jersey truck gardener's ten acres and the California rancher's ten thousand. Yet, except for considerable speculative fever in the wheat belt, the basic pattern of farm spending and saving is the same throughout the land.

美国农业并不是一个行业，而是一百个。从新泽西农民的十英亩地到加州农民的一万英亩，美国农业内部是千差万别的。不过，除了充满投机热的小麦产区之外，美国大部分地区农民的开支与储蓄方式是一样的。

It is a pattern of prosperity wisely used, of generous spending for more efficient production on the farm and a better life in the farm home, of prudent saving for clearly anticipated future needs and against hard time. This, then, in the story of an almost Cinderella-like transformation already accomplished for many and in process for many others; the transformation of the US farmer and his wife from isolated, debt-ridden, worried, government-dependent drudges, lagging far behind the industrialized urbanite in both efficiency of production and enjoyment of modern comforts, into cheerful, productive citizens, facing the future with confidence and money in the bank, enjoying the booms of mechanical power in field and home, busily industrious but freed of their ancient, endless, backbreaking toil, able to whisk into town for shopping or the movies whenever they feel like it, possessed of the leisure and means to travel and otherwise enrich their lives, and – most enviably – retaining that precious, prideful independence of the self-employed that so many American town and city dwellers have lost.

这种方式就是明智地利用自己的财富，对提高生产率和改善农场居住条件慷慨地投资，为未来的需求精明地储蓄。就像很多美国人已经完成的灰姑娘故事般的转化一样，美国的农民们也会发生这样的转化。以前农民和他的妻子是孤独的、债务缠身的、依赖政府的，他们的生产率和对现代生活的享受都远远落后于城市居民。现在，他们将变成快乐的高产的市民，他们拥有自信，在银行拥有存款，而在享受着机械化带来农田生产率的提高和居住环境的改善。农民们依然勤勉，但是和他们的祖先那无穷无尽的辛苦劳作相比，现在的他们能随时进城购物和看电影，拥有闲暇和旅行的时间以丰富自己的生活。特别令人羡慕的是，农民们还拥有自我雇佣（self-employed）带来的令人自豪的独立性，而那些城市的居民则早已失去了这种独立性。

## **Machines, leisure, and efficiency**

### **机器、闲暇和效率**

The wet spring, with floods in the Mississippi and Missouri valleys, forced most corn-belt farmers to delay their planting or even replant one to five times this year, and left them far less time than usual for cultivating. Yet a motorist last summer could drive a hundred miles over the green and gold Illinois prairie and see only a half-dozen farmers working in the fields. If he had stopped to inquire at the farmhouse, he would have found farmer after farmer “In town”, or “gone up to Chicago,” or “over to a soil-conservation meeting”. If at home, the farmer might be tinkering with a combine in the barnyard, or just taking in it easy with a magazine on the front porch.

今年潮湿的春天，伴随着密西西比和密苏里山谷中的洪水，使得玉米带的农民推迟了玉米的种植，有的则是重新种植，结果今年玉米生长的时间比以往都要少。然而去年夏天，一个人开着汽车开一百英里穿越伊利诺伊州的黄黄绿绿的大草原，可能只能看见几个农民在田里劳作。如果他到一户农家房子去调查，他会发现，一户接着一户人家都“在城市”、“去了芝加哥”或者“去参加土壤保持会议了”。如果农民在家，这个农民可能也是在摆弄院子里的联合收割机，或者干脆在门口看杂志。

This is the new fact most startling to farm visitors from the city; that the mechanized farmer now enjoys occasional leisure the year round, instead of just during a few winter months. When the time comes to plow or plant or cultivate or harvest, he works longer hours than ever—while he works. Before, his hours in the field were limited by the endurance of his horses. Now, making the most of good weather, he can run his tractor all day and all night—and be finished in a few days with a job that used to take weeks. In a study of one Iowa farm, the Department of Agriculture

found the work being done in about half the time it took a quarter century ago. Many mechanized farmers could work considerably more land than they now do. Limited in the amount of land they can buy or rent, they have literally had leisure forced on them.

上面的情况会让来自城市的参观者感到惊讶：机械化的农民现在一年到头都能享受间歇性的闲暇时光，而并非只在冬季的几个月才有。在犁地、种植、培养、收获的时间，他比任何时候工作的时间都更长。之前，他在这些阶段的工作时间长度则受到马匹的耐力的限制。而现在，只要天气好，他能整天开着拖拉机干几天就完成以前要数周才能干完的活儿。在对一个爱荷华州农场的调查中，农业部发现，干同样农活的时间相比于 25 年前减少了一半。很多机械化的农民都能种植比他们实际拥有的土地更多的土地，由于可以购买或租到的土地没那么多，农民们自然就有很多闲暇时间了。

Leisure and the immeasurable lightening of the farmer's labors are only byproducts of farm mechanization, however. The compelling factor is the vast increased in each farmer's productivity, an efficiency that is steadily increasing as the machines themselves are made more efficient. Half a century ago a crew of five men with reaping and threshing machines were doing the work that thirty men with scythes and flails had done. Today one man on a combine does the work of the five, even greater mechanical marvels—cotton pickers, sugar-beet harvesters, flame weeders—are coming into farm use. The crop-dusting airplane is becoming a farm commonplace. Chemical weed killers, still largely in the experimental stage, may eventually almost eliminate the onerous labor of cultivating.

闲暇时间和农民体力劳动的减轻都是农场机械化的副产品。最引人注目的还是农民的生产率的提高，效率的提高随着机器的改进还在继续发生。二十五年前五个男人用收割和打谷机干的活在更早以前要三十个人才干的完。而这五个男人干的活今天只需要一个男人加一台联合收割机就能干完。更大的棉花机械、甜菜机械和除草机械都正在开进农场。用飞机喷洒农药也变得随处可见。化学除草剂，虽然现在还处于试验阶段，但是最终也会被用于完全解除培养作物的人工负担。

Despite curtailed manufacture, farm mechanization burgeoned prodigiously during the war. The number of tractors on US farms has approximately doubled since 1940. Mechanical hay balers, at last estimate, had increased by two-thirds, grain combines, tractor cultivators, and corn pickers by nearly one-third, corn and cotton planters by one-fourth. There are thirty times as many back-saving hay, crop, and manure loaders.

在战争中，农业机械化发展迅速。1940 年之后，美国农场上的拖拉机数量翻倍了。干草打

捆机的数量估计增加了三分之二，谷物联合收割机、耕田机、玉米收割机都增长了三分之一，玉米和棉花种植机增长了四分之一。干草、农作物、肥料装载机的数量增长了 30 倍。

Today the question of how much machinery American farmers are buying can be answered in four words; all they can get. Except for a few of the simpler implements, farm machinery is still scarce. Production is limited chiefly by shortages of steel and other materials. Some farmers who can afford to buy new machines are still patching up the old ones, as they did during the war, and waiting for lower prices. But with hired hands earning two to four times what they did before the war, and still hard to find, the demand for laborsaving farm machinery far exceeds the supply. Farm-machinery manufacturers estimate that, at least through 1948, they could sell twice as many machines as they can produce.

今天如果有人问“美国农民到底能买多少机械”，回答就是：所有他们能买到的。除了一些简单的器械之外，农业机械依然是稀缺的。由于钢铁和其他材料的匮乏，农业机械的制造受到了限制。一些农民有能力买新机械，他们也在修补老的机械，同时等待新机械的降价，就像他们在战争中做的那样。但是，由于人均生产率相对于战前提升了一到三倍，而且农场工人也不好找了，所以对农业机械的需求远远超过了供给。农业机械制造商估计，1948 年，他们的市场需求规模是他们的产能的两倍。

But farm machinery still takes less than 9 cents every dollar the US farmer spends. What is he doing with the rest? Much of the answer can be found in the way three representative farm families in prosperous Champaign County, Illinois, are using their widely varying incomes.

即便如此，农业机械依然只占到了农民开支的 9%。那么农民们把钱花到哪里去了？我们可以研究下伊利诺伊平原地区县里面的三个代表性农民家庭，看看他们是如何花钱的。

## **Spending while you're young**

### **在年轻的时候花钱**

George McCoy, thirty-two, a good-natured, easygoing town boy who had studied commerce and ceramic engineering at the University of Illinois, married a farmer's daughter in 1936 and went to work as a hired hand on his father-in-law's farm near Philo, Ten miles southeast of Champaign-Urbana. After two years his father-in-law retired, and George began farming the 360-acre place on shares. For ten years the McCoys lived in the tiny tenant house. When they moved in, it did not even have running water. In time George installed a gravity system, putting a

tank in the attic and pumping water by windmill. He also bought a rubber bathtub, which had to be filled and emptied with a bucket, and a chemical toilet. But they never got electricity. For ten years, while her two children were small. Mrs. McCoy cooked and heated water on a wood range, lighted the house with kerosene lamps, and heated it with wood and corncobs in the stoves.

乔治·麦考伊今年 32 岁，为人厚道随和。他出生在城里，在伊利诺伊大学学习商业和陶瓷之后和一个农民的女儿结婚了。当时是 1936 年，结婚后他在他岳父的农场上工作，这个地方靠近斐洛，在乌尔班纳平原东南 10 英里处。两年之后，他的岳父退休了，乔治负责耕种这块 360 英亩（1.2 公里\*1.2 公里）的农场，并且享受分成。在长达十年时间中，麦考伊一家人都住在一个小房子里。他们搬进去的时候房子里连自来水都没有。然后，乔治建造了一个重力系统，在顶楼上放了水槽，用风车来抽水。他买了一个橡胶浴缸，这个浴缸用桶来装水放水，还建了一个现代厕所。不过，他们一直没有用上电。在十年中，孩子们都还小，麦考伊太太一直用木质炉灶来烧水做饭。照明用的是煤油灯，取暖是靠在炉子里面烧木头和玉米棒。

Early last year Mr. McCoy, whose half of the farm earning had risen from \$1,200 in 1940 to \$7,000 in 1945, bought an adjoining eighty-acre farm for himself at \$165 an acre. It took all of his wartime saving to pay off the mortgage six months later. Meantime he set out to remodel the old house on the place. After the usual maddening delays the McCoy's moved in for their tenth wedding anniversary.

1940 年时，麦考伊所拥有的这块儿农场一半的收入是 1200 美元，到 1945 年已经上升到了 7000 美元。他去年给自己买了毗邻的 80 英亩地，**每亩价格 165 美元**，共花了 13,200 美元，六个月后他用了战争年代积累的所有积蓄偿还了贷款。同时，他也开始重建自己的房子。在麦考伊夫妇结婚 10 周年纪念日的时候，他们搬进了重建好的房子。

Last summer the ten-room house was a little shy of furniture, the new siding was only halfway up the basement and attic remained to be finished. But all the floors were new (though bare), walls had been knocked down and rooms enlarged, everything was replastered and repainted. New fixtures had been installed in the downstairs bathroom and a new bathroom put in out of the second floor. The coal furnace had been converted to oil, and an electric water heater stood nearby.

这个房子有 10 个屋子，去年夏天时家具还不多，一楼离地窖太近了，而且阁楼也没修好。但是所有的地板都重新铺设了，虽然光秃秃的没地毯。墙也是拆了后重建了，房间都扩大了。所有东西都重新修理和刷漆了。一楼的浴室装修好了，二楼也有了新浴室。煤炉子变成了烧油的，旁边有一个电热水器。

But the pride and joy of Mrs. Venus McCoy was the new kitchen, straight from *Better Homes and Gardens* with some individual variations in the way of special cabinets and shelves. In it, gleaming and immense, stood a Philco refrigerator with freezer storage unit, a General Electric range, a Hot Point electric dishwasher, a Mixmaster, and, in a separate pantry, a Bendix washing machine. Somewhat apologetically, Mrs. McCoy explained that the Disposals garbage unit had not yet arrived.

维纳斯·麦考伊太太最自豪的还是他们的新厨房。这个厨房直接照搬了《更好的家庭和花园》这个节目，仅仅一些小柜子和架子略有改动。厨房里有一个飞鸽牌（Philco）冰箱闪闪发光，还有一个GE牌的电炉子、一个洗碗机、一个搅拌机，旁边的餐具室还有一个本迪克斯（Bendix）牌的洗衣机。麦考伊太太还略带歉意地说，垃圾处置器械还没到。

The dishwashing machine was Mr. McCoy's idea; Mrs. McCoy considered it a little extravagant. Compressing the new epoch of farm living into a simple sentence, he explained with a grin: "It wasn't that I really minded helping wash the dishes, but it takes fifteen minutes. And in fifteen minutes you can be in town having some fun."

买洗碗机是麦考伊先生的想法，麦考伊太太觉得这有点浪费了。麦考伊先生笑着把农村的新生活用一句话表达出来了：“关键不在于我想帮忙洗碗，在于洗碗要花15分钟。而15分钟就可以到城里去玩。”

So far the remodeling and appliances have cost \$8,000 which he borrowed. The debt does not worry George McCoy. With a total of 440 acres of rich land to farm—land that he is steadily making richer with limestone phosphate, potash, nitrogen, and crop rotation—he is confident that he can hold his own when crop prices drop. Reversing the old farm order of “barn first and home second,” he plans to remodel or replace the farm buildings on his place after he has finished his house. Well supplied with machinery when the war began, he got through it without buying anything but a combine. Now he has ordered a new tractor and would buy a new \$4,000 combine and \$3,000 corn picker if they were available. In Chicago recently he looked at a new car but balked at paying \$2,500 with an allowance of only \$600 for his 1940 Chrysler. The old car was good enough to take the family on a month-long trip to California last winter.

到目前为止，房子的重建、装修、买东西一共花了8000美元。这些钱是借来的，但是乔治·麦考伊并不担心。他现在拥有440英亩（1.33公里\*1.33公里）肥沃的土地，依靠着磷酸盐、磷酸钾、氮和农田轮作，他很自信当农作物价格下跌时也没事。农村的老规矩都是“先建谷仓，后建住房”，但是麦考伊则打算把住房建好之后再建农业建筑。战争开始时，他就有

不少机械了，战争中他只买了一个联合收割机。现在他订购了一个新的拖拉机，并打算买一个 4000 美元的新联合收割机和 3000 美元的玉米收割机，只要买得到。在芝加哥，他最近看上了一辆新车，但是买这个车要花 2500 美元，而他自己的 1940 版克莱斯勒只能抵其中的 600 美元，所以他没买。他的老汽车性能还不错，去年冬天他们一家开着这个车去加州旅行了一个月。

The tenant house where the McCoy's used to live is now occupied by a hired man, an ex-G.I. Mr. McCoy has installed an electric-generating plant in it for practical as well as humanitarian reasons. "You can't get a good man these days unless you give him a nice place to live," he explains. But he feels sorry for ex-G.I.'s or anyone else trying to start out as farm owners or operators now, with land and machinery at their present inflated prices. These beginners, he thinks, are the ones likely to be wiped out when crop prices go down. At a farm auction last winter he bid up a secondhand tractor, which had sold for \$1,900 new, to \$2,860 before he let an ex-G.I. outbid him. Mr. McCoy, who was prepared to trade in an older tractor on the auctioned one, observed: "A fellow just getting started can never make a tractor pay off at that price."

麦考伊一家以前住的小房子现在让一个雇佣的工人住了，这人是个退伍老兵。麦考伊在里面先装了一个发电机，而且还有一个很人道主义的理由：“现在没办法找到不错的人工作，除非给他个不错的居住处所”。但是他对那些想要自己拥有农场或经营农场的退伍老兵感到抱歉，因为现在的农田和农机价格都很高。他觉得，当作物价格下降的时候，这些新进入的人们可能就会被洗出去。去年冬天的一场农场拍卖中，他买到了一个二手拖拉机，这种拖拉机新的要卖 1900 美元到 2860 美元。麦考伊观察到：“那种价格只有在拍卖的时候才会有”。

As for his own spending, solidly established George McCoy declares: "I know lots of farmers are conservative and put off buying thing until they're old. Then they never buy them. I think it's better to go in debt a little to build up your farm and have a comfortable home while you're young and your children can enjoy it, too. " George McCoy netted \$9,000 last year - which, considering the \$80,000 that he and his father-in-law have invested in their farms and the \$7000 of operating capital that he had to supply in 1946, he regards as a not exorbitant return. He has already paid off \$2,000 of his debt and expects to pay the balance from this year's crop.

至于自己的开支，乔治·麦考伊断言到：“我知道很多农民都很保守，计划等到老了之后再购置点东西。结果他们从来不买。而我认为在年轻的时候承担一点负债来建设农场和一个家人孩子可以享受的家是更好的。”乔治·麦考伊去年赚了 9000 美元，考虑到他和他的岳父为农场投资了 80,000 美元，而且 1946 年他为农场提供 7000 美元的营运资金，麦考伊并不认为 9000 美元的利润是多高的收益率。他已经偿还了 2000 美元的债务，并且打算依靠今年的收

成偿还剩下的债务。

## **Saving for the youngsters**

### **为下一代储蓄**

Leslie Heiser, thirty-five, a friend of George McCoy's, whose farm is near Fisher, about twenty miles north of Champaign farm Urbana, is known in county as a "five-o'clock farmer" who believes in quitting early. Father of three small boys, he thinks a farmer owns some time to his family and his community. He attends several meetings a week as a member of the local community-project board (called the Agriculture Advisory Council), a director of the Fisher Farmer's Grain Co., board chairman of the county Soil Conservation District, and secretary of the Swine Improvement Association. The last job pays him enough to employ a part-time hired man on his farm.

莱斯利·海泽是乔治·麦考伊的朋友，今年 35 岁，他的农场在乌尔班纳北边二十英里。莱斯利·海泽被同县人称为“五点钟的农民”，因为他下班很早。海泽三个孩子，他认为自己应该花时间在家庭和社区上。作为当地社区项目委员会（又称为“农业咨询委员会”）的一员，他每周都参加几次会议。他是费舍尔农民粮食公司的董事，还是县里面水土保持局的主席，生猪改进协会的秘书。最后一个职位的工资让他有钱可以在自己的农场上雇佣一个非全职工人。

Son of a Mennonite farmer-preacher, Leslie Heiser remembers vividly the years in the early 1930's when he could not have the food he wanted to eat, or the right clothes to wear to town. He remembers, too, the hard, endless drudgery of his farm boyhood. He swore then that he would never be a farmer.

作为一个门诺派农民牧师的儿子，海泽还清晰地记得 1930 年代早期吃不好穿不好的岁月。他也记得自己农场童年无休止的辛苦劳动。小时候他发誓自己再也不会当农民。

But he was needed on the home farm and had to go to work full time after he had finished grade school. At twenty-three he married the blonde daughter of a Mennonite neighbor and rented an eighty-acre farm. Five years ago his wife inherited part of the 120-acre place he now farms. He took out a mortgage to buy additional land and remodel the house, which already enjoyed the distinction of a bathroom. He put in an electric range and washing machine. Last year he added an electric water heater and a downstairs lavatory. Also last year he bought a new Pontiac. The Heisers expect to buy some new furniture when prices get a little lower.

但是小学之后，农场需要他，所以他回家当起了全职农民。23 岁的时候，他和一个门诺派邻居的金发女儿结婚然后租了一片 80 英亩的农场。五年之前，他的太太又继承了一片农场，现在他一共经营者 120 英亩农场。他贷了贷款以购买另外的土地并重建房子，这间房子已经有了单独的卫生间了。他购置了电炉子和洗衣机。去年他添置了电热水器和底楼浴室，还买了一辆庞蒂亚克汽车。海泽夫妇打算在家具价格下降后再添置一些。

Leslie Heiser earned \$5,200 from his farm last year and has almost finished paying off the mortgage. Instead of making the final payments, he prefers to spend his surplus cash in building up his farm. In Illinois a quarter section (160 acers) is generally considered the smallest farm that will properly support a family. Mr. Heiser, an ardent conservationist, is out to prove that with proper soil care he can double the average Champaign County corn yield of **fifty bushels an acre**. He has already topped seventy. He has been spending about \$300 a year on limestone and phosphate, and every year plants one-third of his land (instead of the local average of one-fifteenth) in soil-building legumes. Deeply concerned about the erosion of the virgin Illinois prairie from an average eighteen to twenty-four inches of good topsoil to the present average of twelve inches, he has a standing argument with a neighbor who is mining his soil of all the crops it will yield while prices are high. Leslie Heiser believes both he and the nation will be better off in the long run if he conserves and builds up his soils so that he can produce abundant yields when prices go down.

莱斯利 海泽去年从农场上挣了 5200 美元，差不多把贷款还清了。剩下一点贷款没还，因为他想把那部分钱用来建设农场。在伊利诺伊州，160 英亩地一般被认为是一家农户过日子需要的最小农场。海泽先生，作为一个热心的自然资源保护论者，想要向人们证明，只要把水土保持好，他能够把平原地区各个县**每英亩 50 蒲式耳**的平均产量提高一倍。他已经实现了 70 蒲式耳每英亩的产量。他现在每年花 300 美元购买石灰岩、磷酸盐，每年都用豆子来耕种 (plant) 他的土地的三分之一 (而不是当地平均水平的十五分之一)，种豆子比较养地。伊利诺伊大草原地表土层的厚度从 18~24 英寸被逐渐侵蚀成为现在的 12 英寸，这令他十分关注，为此他和邻居陷入了争论之中，他的邻居在农产品价格处于高位时极力开发其土地。莱斯利 海泽认为，如果他好好保持水土从而在价格下降时也能获得高产，那么他和整个国家都会变得更好。

Mr. Heiser has no urgent desire for more farm machinery at the moment. Like smaller farmers he finds it pays to share machines with his neighbors. He owns one field tractor and a smaller one for his odd jobs, a rotary hoe, a disk, a plow, a harrow, a cultivator, and a one-third share (with his brother and brother-in-law) in a combine. With another neighbor he exchanges the use of his big tractor for the use of the latter's corn planter and corn picker.

海泽先生并没有购买更多农业机械的急迫欲望。和小农场主一样，他发现花钱与邻居分享机器更划算。他拥有一个农田拖拉机和一个小拖拉机，一个旋转锄，一个犁，一个耙，一个耕田，而且享有一个联合收割机三分之一的所有权（和他的兄弟和 brother-in-law）。他把大拖拉机借给另一个邻居，他也可以用邻居的玉米种植机和玉米收割机。

The next big step in Mr. Heiser's plan for the future is to remodel and refurbish his farm buildings and put up new hog and machinery sheds. Like most farmers he let his buildings run down during the war. But the Heiser building are already more antiquated than most; his corncrib was built of used lumber from the St. Louis World's Fair of 1904. He is anxious to get at this work, but materials and labor are still scarce and expensive, and he is waiting for lower prices.

海泽下面的计划是重修他的农场建筑，建新的牲畜和机器棚子。和其他农民一样，他在战争中没有修整自己的农场建筑。不过海泽的农场建筑比其他人的都更旧，他的玉米穗仓库是使用 1904 年圣路易斯展览会上的木头建的。他很想重修玉米穗仓库，不过现在人工和材料都比较贵，他还在等待合适的价格。

All of Leslie Heiser's plans have definite aim and purpose: to build a fine, productive farm for his sons. He hopes they will all be farmers. The boy who once swore he would never become a farmer is now in love with farming as a way of life. "You'll probably think I'm presumptuous for saying so," he says with a smile, "but I've decided there isn't a job in New York City that's good enough for me"

莱斯利 海泽所有的计划都有一个相同的目标：为他的儿子们建一个良好的高产的农场。他希望儿子们成为农民。当年那个法师不会成为农民的孩子现在爱上了当农民的生活。“你可能会觉得我的想法太专横了”他说，“不过我觉得纽约没有更适合我的工作。”

## **Inconspicuous consumption**

### **不显著的消费**

As of old, many a farmer is saving to move to town when he decides to retire. Fred Meers, who came up from Kentucky thirty-two years ago with \$18 in his pocket, has already moved part way in. His two farms--one of 160 acres that he owns and another of 560 acres that he rents--are near Fisher, but in 1943 he bought a home on twenty-one rural acres not far from the Champaign airport. It is a comfortable-looking brick house with an enclosed front porch--a house that would attract no second glance on any small-town street. By urban standards it looks nothing whatever like the home of a man who made \$40,000 last year and could show--as he recently did to a

business acquaintance—a six-figure balance in his checking account.

很多农民都在攒钱，以便于老了之后可以搬到城里去。32年前，当弗雷德·米尔斯从肯塔基州来到这儿的时候，他只有18美元，现在他也在做上述安排。他经营两块儿农场，一块儿是他拥有的有160英亩，另一块儿是租的560英亩，两块儿都靠近费舍尔地区。但是1943年，他买了一个靠近香槟市机场的房子。这是一座舒适的砖头房子，小院儿有护栏，在小城镇的街道边这种房子很多。按照城里人的标准，这个房子怎么看也不像是一个去年挣了40,000美元而且拥有六位数银行存款的人的房子。

Fred Meers is one of Champaign County's most successful livestock feeders. City people now paying upwards of \$1 a pound for rib roast may be inclined to wince a little at his prosperity. But though he is obviously a shrewd businessman, lanky, genial Fred Meers is no profiteer. His business is a gamble: six to twelve months elapse between the time he buys feeder cattle in the Omaha or Kansas City stockyards and the time when, having fattened them with grain grown on his farms, he sells then in Chicago. In that time anything can happen to the price of meat.

弗雷德·米尔斯是香槟郡最成功的牲畜养殖户。那些为每磅牛排付1美元的城里人可能会为米尔斯的财富感到不安。虽然米尔斯显然是一个精明的商人，但高高瘦瘦又和蔼的他明显不是一个奸商。他的生意充满风险：在奥马哈或堪萨斯城的牧场购买了小牲口之后，要等12个月这些牲口才能长肥，然后才能卖到芝加哥。在这12个月中，肉价可能发生很多变化。

Fred Meers is more successful than most because he is not only an expert farmer but a good judge of market; most of his guesses about the future have been right. But all of his shrewdness cannot affect more than a few cents the price he gets in the Chicago market when he decides to sell his cattle. In 1932, when he got a top price for cattle of \$5.65 a hundred-weight, he ended the year in the red. Last summer choice steers were bringing \$30 a hundredweight.

弗雷德·米尔斯的成功不仅仅因为他是一个专业的农民，还因为他对市场的判断很准。但是即使他很精明，他也没法改变芝加哥市场上的肉价哪怕一美分。1932年时，他以5.65美元/英担的价格卖肉，年底是亏损的。去年夏天精品肉牛的价格达到了30美元/英担。

Mr. and Mrs. Meers completely redecorated their house when they bought it four years ago, had a little simple landscaping done, put in a water pump, and bought a lot of new furnishing, including a piano and a refrigerator. Now they are thinking of buying a home in town, chiefly because their nineteen-year-old daughter, Hazel La Verne, would like to have a handier place for her college friends to drop in.

四年之前，当米尔斯夫妇购买房子后他们把它重新装修了一遍，打理了院子的景观，放置了抽水机，购买了很多新家具，包括一台钢琴和一台冰箱。现在他们计划在市区买一个房子，主要是因为他们的 19 岁的女儿希望大学同学在拜访她家时更加方便。

The Meerses live the comfortable, unostentatious life of people who can afford: anything they really want, but have no taste for what Torstein Veblen called “conspicuous consumption”. Mrs. Meers has been promised a new fur coat this winter, and thinks nothing of traveling up to Chicago-and staying in the best hotels there-to shop for a pair of shoes,. But she still does her own housework. She is glad, however, that they have finally got rid of the cow they brought to the new home. “It saves,” she observes “a lot of messing around in the kitchen.”

米尔斯一家人过着财务自由的人所能过的那种舒适而朴素的生活，但是他们并不追求凡勃仑所说的“显著消费”。米尔斯承诺今年冬天给太太买一件新的毛皮大衣，米尔斯太太也把去芝加哥旅行买双鞋（期间住在最好的酒店）视为平常事情。她依然做家务，但是她很高兴他们把家里的奶牛弄走了，她说：“以后我的厨房不会再被搞乱了。”

Supervising the farms takes only about half of Mr. Meers’s time. The rest of it he spends in civic work like the Red Cross and Community Chest drives, and in just enjoying life. Besides frequent visits to Chicago, the Meerses have begun to take long vacation trips every year; last year to the East, this year a conducted tour of the Far West and Canada.

米尔斯先生只有一半的时间在管理农场。他把其他时间花在社会工作上，例如红十字会和社区福利基金，他很享受这些工作。除了经常去芝加哥，他们也开始每年做一些长途旅行，去年他们去了东部，今年打算跟团去西部和加拿大。

Fred Meers bought a new Buick last summer and plans to trade his old Chevrolet in soon on a new second car. But, unlike many prosperous farmers, he has no interest in owning an airplane and would not think of buying one just to impress his neighbors. A television set, however, is another matter. “Yes,” he says casually when asked about it, “I think our daughter would like that. We’ll probably get one.”

弗雷德 米尔斯七年夏天买了一辆新别克汽车，而且计划把自己的老雪佛兰卖掉。不过不像很多发财的农民，他没兴趣买飞机在邻居间显摆。不过电视机倒是有可能的。当被问到他说，“对，我们可能会买电视机。我们的女儿可能会喜欢电视机。”

## Farm tapestry 1947

### 1947 的农村样貌

So the patter begins to emerge. No two farmers are precisely alike in their circumstances, their tastes, their hopes. But one fact about U.S farmers as a whole stands forth; few people in any land or any age have learned the lessons of history as well as they learned the lessons of World War I's boom, collapse, and depression.

可见，新的生活方式开始显现了。没有两个农民的环境是完全一样的，他们的口味、希望都不一样。但是美国农民作为一个整体展现了一个事实：他们都铭记着一战的教训——繁荣、崩溃、萧条。

Farmland has gone to \$300 to \$400 an acer in Champaign County, but not much of it is changing hands, and the little that is—as generally throughout the nation—is mostly being bought for cash or with a down payment of 50 per cent or more. Nobody thinks, as nearly everyone in Champaign County thought after World War I, that the land is going to \$1,000 an acre.

香槟郡的农田价格已经涨到了 300~400 美元/英亩，但是换手率很低。即使那些被买卖的农场，也是以现金购买的或者靠 50%的首付乃至更高。一战后，香槟郡的每个人都认为农田价格会涨到 1000 美元/英亩，但是现在没人那样想。

Since the war boom began, farmers have been paying their debts at an impressive rate. Farm mortgage debt in Illinois has dropped from \$419 million to \$250 million. After declining steadily for five years, the total U.S. farm mortgage debt took a slight upturn last year. Land buying by ex-G.I.'S may have been a considerable factor in this change of trend. But, at \$5.25 billion, the national mortgage debt is still only 80 per cent of 1940's \$6.59 billion-and less than half of the \$10.8-billion peak in 1923. The Metropolitan Life Insurance Co, which had taken over nearly two million acers of US farms through foreclosure by 1938, now owns less than 2,000 acres.

战争繁荣开始之后，农民们以惊人的速度偿还债务。伊利诺伊的农场贷款从 4.19 亿美元下跌到 2.5 亿美元。在连续 5 年下降后，全美国的农场贷款去年轻微上涨了一点。退伍军队可能是其中的原因。但是全美国的农场贷款 51.5 亿美元，这只相当于 1940 年的 65.9 亿美元的 80%，而且不到 1923 年高峰期的 108 亿美元一半。由于农场破产，到 1938 年时，大都会人寿保险公司拥有 200 万英亩农场，现在该公司拥有不到 2000 英亩。

This time farmers will come out of the war boom not with burdens of new debt but with durable

investments in increased productivity and better living. In the way of refrigerators, washing machines, etc., they generally they want the best or as near the best as they can afford. Farmers are buying better clothes (or at least paying more for them), and many of their wives are patronizing beauty parlors. But there is still little farm market for Cadillacs, evening dresses, and expensive perfumes.

这一次当战争结束时，农民们拥有的不是庞大的债务，而是持续性的投资、提高的生产率和更好的生活。就像购置冰箱、洗衣机那样，农民们购买他们能买到的最好的东西。农民们购买更好的衣服（至少是花更多钱买衣服），他们的太太也去了美容院。不过，农民们依然很少买凯迪拉克、晚礼服或者昂贵的香水。

Charles Shuman, able young president of the potent Illinois Agricultural Association (state branch of the American Farm Bureau Federation), is one who fears that some farmers are buying more, and more expensive, machinery than they can profitable use. Farm machines are consumer as well as capital goods; farmers enjoy owning them, and one of the few ways they try to impress their neighbors is by having the very latest. But Mr. Shuman agrees with other authorities that general trend of farm spending is healthy.

查尔斯·舒曼是伊利诺伊农业协会的年轻而能干的主席，该协会是美国农民联合会在伊利诺伊州的分支结构。他担心有些农民购买了太多的农业机械，而之后这些机械的利用不足。一些农业机械既是消费品也是资本品。农民们喜欢拥有机械，他们在邻里间显摆的一个方式就是购买最新的农业机械。但是舒曼先生同意其他官方的观点，即农民开支的总体趋势是健康。

The country banker's only real worry nowadays is how to invest his funds. Country banks are bursting with deposits. Farmers are still buying government savings bonds heavily and cashing in relatively few cashing in relatively few of their war bonds. Stocks in farmers' elevators and other cooperatives are in great demand. But farmers are still generally shy of industrial stocks and bonds.

现在，乡下的银行家最担心的就是怎样投资他的资金。乡村银行的存款爆炸式增长。农民们也在继续大量购买政府储蓄债券，而很少去兑现他们持有的战争债券。农村合作社的股票很受喜欢，但是农民们依然对工业股和工业债不感兴趣。

Farmers are buying insurance of all kinds, including life, far more heavily than they ever have before. The Country Life Insurance Co. owned by the Illinois Agricultural Association, sold \$42 million worth in 1946. That was 115 per cent over the best prewar year.

农民们在购买各种保险，包括人寿保险，购买的量比以前什么时候都更多。伊利诺伊农业协会旗下的国家人寿保险公司在 1946 年销售了 4200 万美元的保险，这比战前最高水平都还高了 11%。

The evidence of the existence of this pattern on a national scale, as contained in the reports of FORTUNE's investigators, makes inspiring but repetitious reading. Here we shall pluck from their reports only a few of the brighter threads in the tapestry of US farm life, 1947.

农村生活方式的改变是全国性的，《财富》杂志也有了报道。在这里，我们提取其中的一些片段。

## *California*

### *SAN FRANCISCO*

#### *加州*

#### *旧金山*

The war has practically wiped out the *Grapes of Wrath* type of migrant labor. The Steinbeck character of Dust Bowl days trekked to California in a jalopy with a pint of gas sloshing in the tank and steam hissing from the radiator. Today he still says "you-all" but he travels in a 1939 Hudson and often pulls a house trailer behind.

战争让《愤怒的葡萄》式的移民消失了。《愤怒的葡萄》中的角色们是破产的农民，坐着破旧的汽车逃向加利福尼亚，油箱里面只有一品脱油。现在，农民则驾驶者 1939 哈德逊车，并加挂着一个家居拖车出门旅行。

He's rooted in the soil, has bought plots with wartime earnings. He has built communities that started as tent cities and are now groups of neat little frame and stucco cottages. Farmers have worked hard on migrant-labor problem. They don't want the *Grapes of Wrath* back again. They've built 20,000 family units of farm-labor housing since the end of the war. But it's still not enough. There still are migrant camps on ditchbanks.

农民们依然是根植在土里的，但是他们用战争时期继续购买了土地。他们建立了社区，这些社区开始时只是一堆帐篷，现在逐渐变成了框架和灰泥房子。农民们努力解决移民问题，他

们不希望”愤怒的葡萄”回来。战后，他们建造了 2 万个农场工人家庭房。但是这仍然不够，河岸边依然有移民的营地。

## ***Washington***

### ***SEATTLE***

***华盛顿州***

***西雅图***

Hubert Crompt, a strawberry grower, has purchased an airplane and built a landing field on his farm. Many other farmers belong to local flying clubs. Ten years ago a lot of these guys couldn't even pay for a lawn mower.

休伯特 康普顿是一个草莓种植上，他购买了一架飞机而且在自己的农场上建了机场。当地很多农民都属于飞行俱乐部。十年前，这些人连割草机都买不起。

### ***SPOKANE***

***斯波坎市***

One Palouse county grain grower is reported to own no less than five Spokane apartment buildings. For relaxation some farmers are going in for fair-sized boats, some for playing the mining markets, and more than a few for the more direct action of stiff poker games-at least, so the bankers tell me.

一个帕卢斯郡的谷物种植商拥有斯波坎市区至少五栋公寓大楼。为了放松，一些农民购买了船去航行。买船之后可以去进入采矿领域，也可以在船上玩牌。

## ***Colorado***

### ***DENVER***

***科罗拉多州***

***丹佛***

If there's another Dust Bowl out here on the High Plains, and it looks as though there would be, it will mainly be the fault of the "suitcase farmers" coming from the states just east of us with wheat money in their jeans. They see these burgeoning prairies, lush with the most plentiful rains in a decade, and go wild. They buy anywhere from five to ten sections (one section; 640 acres), move in the big tractors and immense disks that can chew up a half section in less than twenty-four hours, and prepare to get really rich.

如果高地平原上发生另一场沙尘暴，这可能是那些从东边的州的农民导致的，这些农民的衣兜里塞满了靠卖小麦赚的钱，他们被称作“西服农民”。他们看见了茂盛的大草原，这些草原雨水丰富。于是他们成五片、十片地买地（一片 640 英亩），然后用大拖拉机和机器来耕作，这些机器可以在不到一天时间内就耕作好大半片地。由此，这些农民希望立即致富。

The dry-land farmers who have grown up in this section and intend to stay in it are learning to eat their cake and have it, too. They are "summer-fallowing" up to half of their land every year-an intricate process of preparation designed to let the land accumulate subsoil moisture and prevent it from blowing. When the drought begins and the land starts to blow, the suitcase farmers will be back in town living on their profits. Their land will blow all over that of the boys who will still be here trying to tie it down. I have seen a summer -fallowed farm where the air was like a clear window in the midst of the surrounding dust. Its own soil stayed put, but for one to two hundred yards inside its boundary fences the neighbor's soil had blown over it six to twelve inches deep.

当地的旱地农民也希望过好自己的生活。他们往往保持夏天休耕一半以上土地的习惯，每年夏天休耕一半的土地可以让底土保持水分这样土壤就不会被吹走。当干旱来临，风沙开始吹的时候，那些“西服农民”就会回到城里，靠他们以前赚的钱生活。“西服农民”的土地的土会被刮得满天飞，而当地的农民则试图留下来减少损失。我曾经见过一个农场，空气干净的就像镜子一样，而这个农场周围的土地都沙尘化了。而在临近的农场里面，在围栏一两百码中间，邻居的土壤已经被吹了 6 到 12 英寸深了。

I had an old-timer in Cheyenne Wells tell me quite soberly and matter-of-factly that if he thought another Dust Bowl was coming, he would kill himself. "I couldn't take it again," he said.

我在夏延韦尔斯市有一个老相识，他告诉我，如果再来一场沙尘暴的话，他就自杀。”我应付不了了”，他说。

After driving on Highway 50 through Kansas to Denver, my sister from Louisville asked me why the boarded-up, deserted farmhouse along the road in western Kansas. Was it a hangover from Dust Bowl days? I couldn't tell her then. I can now. It's not poverty; it's prosperity. Farmers there

don't have to live their land any more. They can live in town and hire men with huge machines to plant and harvest the wheat and summer-fallow the land. Everything requiring chores and constant attendance—cattle, chickens, horses, gardens—is gone.

在从堪萨斯到丹佛的 50 号高速公路上开车之后，我来自路易斯维尔州的姐姐问我，为什么堪萨斯西部沿着高速公路有那么多废弃的农家房子。这是沙尘暴时期的遗迹吗？我当时没法回答她，现在我可以了。这些废弃的房子不是贫困的标志，而是富裕的标志。农民们再也不用在他们的土地上居住了。他们住在城里并雇佣工人和机器去进行耕种、收获、夏季休耕。所有需要持续照料的东西——牛、鸡、马、花园——都不存在了。

## ***Wisconsin***

### ***MADISON***

#### ***威斯康星州***

#### ***麦迪逊市***

According to a recent survey by the *Wisconsin Agriculturist and Farmer*, 78 per cent of Wisconsin farm women have permanent waves, 71 per cent use hand lotion, 71 per cent face cream, 92 per cent face powder, 65 per cent rouge, and 57 per cent lipstick.

根据《威斯康星州农业学家和农民》最近的一份调查。威斯康星州农村妇女中 78% 烫发了，71% 用护手霜，71% 用面霜，92% 用扑面香粉，65% 擦胭脂，57% 擦口红。

State Assemblyman John Pritchard of Eau Claire, who operates a 160-acer farm with his son and brother-in-law, says: "Half of the farmers in Wisconsin these days are putting in water systems, bathtubs, and plumbing. These things are no longer luxuries; they are necessities now. I would no more think of going to bed without a bath today than I would think of going to bed without supper."

欧克莱尔市的议员约翰·普利查特和他的兄弟、儿子经营一块 160 英亩的农场。他说“维斯康星一半的农户在安装水系统、浴缸。这些东西不再是奢侈品，他们现在是必需品了。现在不洗澡去睡觉就跟不吃晚饭睡觉一样。”

## ***Nebraska***

### ***OMAHA***

#### ***内布拉斯加州***

## **奥马哈**

The farm foreclosure, once a daily event, is now almost unheard of. Richardson County, for example, recently had its first farm foreclosure suit in a year.

以前农场破产消息天天都有，现在则很难被听到了。理查德森郡最近发生了今年的第一次农场破产。

Fay Wood, Seward mortician, reports that farmers are spending more than they used to for funerals.

费伊 伍德是一个殡葬从业者，他说农民们花在殡葬上的钱比以前多很多。

Federal income-tax men are beginning to catch up with farmers, who have been cheating wholesale. One eastern Nebraska farmer, who remains unidentified because he paid up and no charges were filed, recently was nicked for \$90,000 in back taxes owed over a three-year period.

联邦所得税公务员正在努力地去向农民征税，农民中的逃税现象大规模发生了。一个内布拉斯加东部的农民还没有被税务机关识别，他最近被收了 9 万美元，这是他过去三年欠的税。

Charles Marshal, President of the Nebraska Farm Bureau Federation, told his organization at its last annual meeting that farmers must organize for a stabilized income after the boom is over. He asked: "Do you believe the public, which thinks we have made a killing out of present price and that we are a greedy, grasping group, will insist on the parity principle?."

内布拉斯加农业联合会的主席查尔斯·马歇尔在去年的年会上对他的会员说，在农业繁荣结束后，农民们必须组织起来以稳定他们的收入。他问道：“既然公众都认为我们农民依靠目前的农产品价格大赚了一笔，而且农民是贪婪的群体；那么你们还相信公众会继续坚持公平原则吗？”

## **Iowa**

### **DES MOINES**

**爱荷华州**

**得梅因市**

At least twenty Iowa farmers flew to Europe in September to see for themselves how badly the Marshall Plan is needed. They're going under the auspices of the Farm Bureau. But every-body is paying his own expenses, \$1,500 apiece.

九月份，超过 20 个爱荷华的农民飞到欧洲去调查马歇尔计划到底有多么急迫。他们得到了农业部门的资助，但是每个人都得付自己的费用 1500 美元。

A Chicago businessman who grew up on an Iowa farm was back for a visit last week and reported : "Farm women are really putting the heat on to have the thing they read about in *Good Housekeeping* and other magazines. On the farm next to ours the family built a flagstone terrace, complete with a rock garden and small fountain. Not only that, but by God, they put in a thick hedge between their lawn and the chicken yard. That's damn near revolutionary."

一个在爱荷华农场上长大的芝加哥商人上周回来了，他描述说：“我们的美国农民真幸运，能够拥有在《好家政》上读到的那些东西。欧洲的农民家庭建石板梯田。不仅如此，他们在鸡舍和草坪之间布置着厚厚的栅栏。他们真的离革命不远了。”

Iowa farmers own over 700 airplanes, more than half the number registered in the state. Farms with their own landing strips have become common.

爱荷华的农民有用超过 700 架飞机，一半以上是在州政府注册的。农民们拥有起落跑道也变成了普通的事情了。

In 1941, Iowa farmers bought 22,000 tons of fertilizer. Last year they bought 214,000 tons.

在 1941 年，爱荷华的农民购买了 22,000 吨肥料，去年他们购买了 214,000 吨。

## ***Kansas***

### ***TOPEKA***

#### **堪萨斯州**

#### **托皮卡市**

As usual, boxcars are too few and grain is in piled on the ground. No serious damage result to the wheat if weather is normal, but high prices have introduced a new hazard –the wheat thief. With modern loading equipment, these streamlined rustlers dip into the golden piles and are miles away before the farmer knows anything has happened. A big transport truck can easily load 400

bushels-worth nearly \$800 at present prices. Kansas Bureau of Investigation agents, elevator officials, and farmers are organizing.

和往常一样，箱式卡车太少了，粮食就堆在地上。只要天气正常，小麦会保存良好，但是高价格导致了一个新问题——小麦偷窃。依靠着现代化的装卸机器，这些小偷流进金色的粮食堆场里面，等到农民知道发生了什么的时候，小偷们已经逃跑了几英里了。一辆大运输卡车可以轻松装上 400 蒲式耳——按照市价价值 800 美元。堪萨斯州的调查部门、仓储官员和农民正在组织起来以应对偷窃。

The worst luck of all happened to a farmer down in Floyd County, Texas. The first time he went into his forty-acer field of lush wheat it was too green to cut. The next time it was gone. Hijackers with a combine had left him only the stubble.

在德克萨斯州弗洛伊德郡的一个农民实在是运气太差了。第一次他去自己 40 亩茂盛的小麦地里的时候，小麦还太绿了没法收购。第二次他去的时候，小麦已经没有了。拥有联合收割机的强盗们只给他留下了被割断的小麦秆。

## *Texas*

### *DALLAS*

#### *德克萨斯州*

#### *达拉斯*

Farming and livestock have become such a “foolproof” business that the city folks are getting into it. At the livestock auctions you run into grocers, lawyers, banks, jewelers buying cattle, sheep, and hogs to “feed out” on farms and ranches they have bought or leased. One Abilene doctor bought a thousand acres of wheat land last year and got enough for his crop this year to pay for land.

农业和畜牧业变成了一项如此简单的生意，以至于城里人都开始进入这个领域。在牲口拍卖会上，你会碰见杂货店主、律师、银行家、珠宝商在竞拍牛、羊、猪，以便在自己租的或买的农牧场上面饲养。一个阿比林市的医生去年买了一千英亩的小麦地，收获了很多的粮食从而今年支付买地的钱。

Seventy-five per cent of the farmland in Dallas County is owned by city folks who live in Dallas. At cocktail parties you hear people saying thing like. “We make more off the ranch than we do from our business. Maybe the ranch is our business.”

达拉斯郡 75%的农场由住在达拉斯城的城市居民拥有。在鸡尾酒会上你听人们说：“我们靠经营农场赚的钱比靠自己的主业赚的钱还多。或许经营农场才是我们的主业。”

## *Arkansas*

### **LITTLE ROCK**

#### *阿肯色州*

#### *小石城*

With large cash reserve lying idle in the bank, some of the bigger cotton planters have invested in business outside their line. One has bought a John Deere farm-implement agency; another bought a half interests in a North Little Rock ice plant; a third is taking a flyer on a new soft drink called Lime Cola.

由于在银行中有大量的闲置存款，一些大型棉花种植商已经超越自己的业务进行投资了。一个人购买了约翰迪尔市的农场机械经销公司，另一个人小石城北部的制冰厂一般的权益，还有一个人跨界投资了一种新的软新料叫做柠檬可乐。

According to O.B Brown, extension farm-management specialist, it is city people –”Sunday farmers” –who are responsible for the upturn in Arkansas farm mortgage indebtedness during the past six months. “The first recession will shake them out,” one planter predicts.

根据 O.B 布朗，意味农场管理专家，是城里的所谓“星期天农民”导致了阿肯色的农场贷款在过去六个月上升，一个农民预测说：“下一场衰退会把他们淘汰出局。”

## *North Carolina*

### **RALEIGH**

#### *北卡罗来纳州*

#### *罗利市*

New appliance shops are opening and enlarging and are selling anything that will use electricity. High-priced radios are going fast. But when one farmer had an electrician connect his little house to the rural power line, he asked for only one outlet, a floor plug on his back porch. When the electrician asked him if he didn't at least want ceiling drops, the farmer said no, he just wanted a refrigeration unit that would make ice cream.

新的机械商店正在开店和扩店，卖着各种用电的器械。高价的收音机卖的很快。当一个电工把农民的房子和城市电网连起来的时候，农民提出想在后阳台装一个地面插座。电工问他是不是害怕天花板掉下来，农民说不是，他只是想以后装一个做冰淇淋的电冰箱。

For every man with a farm to sell, there is a ready purchaser. More and more men of the soil are emerging from the sharecropper class into the society of landowners.

对于每块儿出售的农场来说，在就有一个买家等着了。越来越多的佃农变成了农场主。

Clothiers say the demand for good clothes is brisk, with dusty, overall-clad buyers peeling off \$20 bills to pay cash for their outfits. The Negro population is dressing just as well as, if not better than, the white.

缝纫商人说对好衣服的需求很活跃，那些风尘仆仆穿着工作装的人花拿出 20 美元购买正装。黑人现在穿的衣服和白人一样好了。

### ***How long will it last?***

#### ***这会持续多久？***

No farmer believes that crop prices will stay long at their present peaks, and most farmers, fearing a sharp reaction, do not want them to. The most common guess is that they will start down fairly soon (as some have already started) and then level off for two to five years of reasonably high prosperity. All forecasts, of course, depend on the prognosticator's answers to many other questions. How long will the US Government continue to buy up approximately one-twelfth of US farm produce to send to Europe? How soon will the Marshall Plan (or anything else) help Europeans restore their own agricultural productivity? What agricultural policy will the Republicans adopt to replace the system of parity guarantees expiring next year?

没有哪个农民认为谷物价格会在目前的峰值态下保持很久，大多数农民也不希望农产品价格在如此高位运行太久，因为害怕其后剧烈的价格下跌。流行的推测是，农产品价格不久就会下跌（一些的确已经下跌了），并在合理地价位上运行两到五年，保持一个合理的繁荣。当然，所有的预测都基于预测者对其他问题的假设。美国政府目前收购全美国农产品的 1/12 并运到欧洲，这会持续多久呢？在马歇尔计划（或其他东西）的帮助下，欧洲要花多长时间才能恢复其农业生产能力呢？平价担保的政策明年失效后，共和党人将会采取什么农业政策来替代呢？

The ultimate source of the US farmer's prosperity, of course, is the US city man's ability to buy what the farmer grows. If that buying power should dwindle in another long depression, most of the farmers' gains in recent years would inevitable be wiped out. But high employment and good wages in the cities, in turn, now rest more than ever on the farmer's ability to buy the things the city man makes. Unless crop failures or sharply dropping crop price frighten farmers into holding on to their money, the great pool of reserve buying power held by farmers who want automobiles, farm machinery, refrigerators, building materials, etc, will keep city men busy making them –and so earning the money to continue eating well-for some time to come.

当然,美国农民发财的根源还是美国的城市人对农产品的购买力。如果发生另一次长期萧条,城市人的购买力锐减,那么农民们近些年积累的财富也会飞灰烟灭。另一方面,城市里面的高就业率和高工资也比以往任何时候都更依赖于农民们购买城市制成品的购买力。除非谷物歉收或者价格大幅下跌把农民们都给吓得不敢消费了,那么农民拥有的庞大储备购买力仍然会继续购买汽车、农业机器、冰箱、建材等等,从而使得城市人忙着生产这些产品,城市人因此能够挣到足够的钱以在未来一段时间里继续吃得好。

If for no other reason than its promise for the continued health of the US economy, the city man may well be glad, despite the pinch of present food price, to accept the interpretation of the farmer boom recently offered by a Texas rice farmer who cleared \$15,000 on last year's crop.

一个德克萨斯州的去年赚了 15000 美元的大米农民最近这样解读农业的繁荣,虽然食品价格上涨有点让城市人不开心,但是城市人应当接受他的解读,因为农业的繁荣也有利于美国经济的健康。这位德州农民说道:

“We're supposed to be making a lot of money,” said this farmer, somewhat defensively. “We're not. We're just getting on our feet so we can live like an American should.”

“我们就应当挣很多钱。我们现在还没有挣到。我们仅仅是靠自己努力过上一个美国人应该过上的那种生活。”

**【完】**