
All photos are presented courtesy of the Farm Security Administration, US Department of Agriculture. They can be found online at the Library of Congress, Prints & Photographs Division, [FSA-OWI Collection](https://www.loc.gov/item/fsacoll/), using the reference numbers listed on each page.
Look in her Eyes!

This woman is watching something happen to America and to herself and her children who are a part of America. You can see in her eyes the horror of what is happening, for she is not looking at it with the objectivity of a statistician or professor. She is making me study of farm tenancy, but is feeding the children.

Millions like her do not have to look at the map below to know that the problems of absentee and corporation land ownership are serious and frightening. These problems grow by terrifying strides with each crop disaster, drought and depression.

One farm tenancy was thought alien to an America whose rugged homesteaders moved only to move west from free farms to free farms. Now the rugged tenant-farmer moves from landlocked to landlocked.

Besides devastating the farming population, the rise of tenancy devastates the land itself. The small farmer is a genius in the land. He does not yield poor, barren shrubs, repair gullies he has caused, fight a permanent battle of soil improvement and crop rotation. And worse than the tenant is the farm boss who is subject not only to the will of impoverished tenants, but to the will of the seasons as well.

Revolt in America is brewing faster among the urban population than among city workers. Sheriff's are dead in the Corn Belt. Tenants unions and farm labor unions are organized successfully and clashes with over-privileged take place under harvest moons. But the multiplication of sheriff's across the plain and enlightened landlords now realize that farm tenancy cannot be fought with torch-lit raids.

The Resettlement Administration is trying to move tenants off crooked lands and place them where crops actually rise above the surface of the earth. It is hoped long-term government loans will bring eventual ownership of their new homes to transplanted farmers.

The government can protect the farmer against the institution of the mortgage, just as it can establish mechanisms to protect the farmer against other causes of tenancy-crop disasters, and economic droughts, depressions. An enlightened nation looks to its government, as it should, for what political party, to salvage the land and those on it so that by the time these frightened children in this photograph reach maturity, the American farmer once more will stand on his own feet and call the plot of ground he marks his own.
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