

BUCKS WAR AGRICULTURAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

FARM SURVEY

GRADING OF FARMERS

The memorandum "How to Fill in a Farm Survey Card" circulated to District Committees in 1940 contained a preliminary definition of what constitutes an A, B or C farmer.

It was then suggested that an A farmer was a man who could be trusted to farm his land efficiently without the Committee's intervention, a B farmer was one who required occasional advice and assistance from the Committee, although in general reasonably competent and hard-working, and a C farmer was one who, through ignorance or laziness, needed regular supervision, and in extreme cases might have to be turned out of his farm.

While retaining the general framework of these earlier definitions, it is now proposed to make some sub-divisions within the three grades, so that there can be no possibility of confusion or ambiguity as to the exact meaning of any grading.

The new definitions are as follows:-

Grading	Definition of Grading	Action normally called for
A	A farmer who is cultivating and managing his holding so as to ensure the fullest production which its inherent physical condition and permanent equipment make possible.	No action
B+	A competent farmer who is not obtaining the maximum production out of his holding because of old age, poor health, financial handicaps or similar reasons.	Assistance by Committee
B	A willing and hard-working farmer whose output is not as great as it should be through ignorance of modern methods, inexperience or lack of enterprise, but who is by no means farming badly.	Advice and encouragement by the Committee
B-	A reasonably competent farmer who, through obstinacy, prejudice or laziness, is not prepared to revise his methods or increase his production.	A straight talk, followed by Cultivation Orders
C+	An incompetent farmer who has, however, under regular supervision by the Committee, the makings of a reasonably competent one.	Regular supervision by the Committee, and Cultivation Orders.
C	An incompetent farmer who shows no prospect of improvement under supervision.	Termination of tenancy, or entry into possession