“EVENTUALLY, WHY NOT NOW?—THE HEN, THE HOG, THE COW”

The above is a photo of the prize winning float in the parade at the American Legion celebration held in Pleasanton, Kansas, last fall. In the truck is a hog and coop of chickens. The slogan represented on this truck, “Eventually, Why Not Now?—The Hen, The Hog, The Cow”, is one that could well be adopted by farmers in Kansas, Missouri and Oklahoma.

SMALL FARM YIELDS $155 PER ACRE

Ernest C. Thomas of Pleasanton, Kansas, Demonstrates What Can Be Done with Diversified Farming

Here is a brief story of a farmer boy who tried his luck in Kansas City and finally returned to the farm and is making good. Ernest C. Thomas was raised on a farm near Pleasanton, Kansas. After completing his education he taught school for three years and then came to Kansas City and took a position in a wholesale house for fifteen years. Three years ago, at the age of 40, he resigned a job, which was paying $215.00 per month, and returned to his old home and purchased a little farm adjoining the town on the north, of 15½ acres. The soil is not over rich and the size of the farm is much below the average in that section, in fact the average farm in Linn County is about 160 acres, with 120 acres of improved land.

Mr. Thomas became convinced that he would never accumulate much money in a city, raising a family and educating them upon the salary which he was receiving, and determined to buy a farm, although small, and begin at the bottom and build up. Three years ago he started in with a pure bred flock of poultry, a few Jersey cows and Duroc Jersey hogs. Although he moved to the farm at a time when most farmers were finding it difficult to make a profit on their operations, he has been building up his poultry flocks, his herds of pure bred hogs and Jersey cattle, besides selling enough surplus stuff to more than meet his running expenses. Here are his total sales from his little farm during the past three years, in addition to the family having all of the good things from the place which they could consume.

Gross sales 1921 from 15½ acres .................................................. $1,050.00
Gross sales 1922 from 15½ acres .................................................. $1,970.00
Gross sales for 11 mos. 1923 $2,480.00

Mr. Thomas finds it economical to rent a team to do his farm work and has a small truck to do his hauling. He says he is not setting the world afire by any means and does not need to pay an income tax, but he is not yet running at top speed and expects to make improvements each year and increase the sales from his little farm. He is not only demonstrating that a city man can succeed on a farm, but he is proving conclusively the dependability of the hen, the hog and the cow and the diversified crops which he is cultivating on his little farm. He has adopted the program which is being followed by the farmers of Wisconsin and is being recommended by the Good Roads Association of Greater Kansas City.