

The Giddings News

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LIVES AT HOME - SELLS SURPLUS



Big Contracts Don't Dismay Mrs. Miller



The Entire Family Helps

In filling a contract for 7200 quarts of canned black-eyed peas for the Texas A. and M. College Mess Hall this fall Mrs. W. E. Miller, Floyd county farm woman, has expanded the family living-at-home program to the dimensions of big business. With the help of her husband and five children on their Sand Hill Community farm she has made a net profit of \$1221.55 during the last four years by developing markets for vegetables canned in excess of the 800 containers the family consumes each year. This year the family has cultivated a six-acre garden irrigated by water pumped from a well by a gasoline engine. In addition to supplying the family with fresh and canned vegetables and filling the large A. and M. College order Mrs. Miller continues to supply the local Floyd county trade with superior home canned products.

It all began in 1926 when she entered a canning contest arranged by the home demonstration agent, and "it was the desire to serve my family well balanced meals that was the driving power behind my first intensive canning that year," Mrs. Miller says. At the close of the season she decided to sell the surplus to inquiring friends and it was not long before she received orders by phone and mail. The next year she spent two afternoons weekly in Floydada taking care of sales and then made a special label and arranged with her local groceryman to handle her products on a percentage basis. Since then Mrs. Miller has made only one trip to town each week to re-stock the shelves. In the beginning she sold 14 varieties of products but has finally settled on black-eyed peas and canned milk-fed chickens as being the best sellers.

For years a member of a home demonstration club, Mrs. Miller was selected as one of the Texas master farm homemakers in the first year of the contest in 1928, was the first state winner of the Improved Kitchen Contest in 1926 and was the grand champion garden demonstrator for Texas in 1927 in contests conducted by the Extension Service of A. and M. College and the United States Department of Agriculture. She is at present a 4-H pantry demonstrator and an orchard demonstrator cooperating with the home demonstration agent.

The Miller farm is a demonstration in balancing the farm business by living at home, even to the extent of grinding the home-grown corn and wheat for meal and flour.

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