14a MP labor & cap. lower on small firms

Try to get data on where farm workers came from, who left farms for war work. Try to show they came from poor areas, remained same in better areas, or even increased.

A conclusive thought: anti-Hamman

Workers on very small farms gently find pt. time work as laborers on large. A common pattern throughout history. So their MP must be higher there.

p. 500 Cite est from 1951 rept on "Underemployment of Rural Families" that c. 2m of the 6 m farm families were "seriously underemployed" in 1945-50 (& those were good years) 5168

p. 501 Find these underemployed people in south, and eleswhere in "rougher and less productive areas."

Chap 3 Machines are more efficient on level, stone free land.

Yet we rarely find fewer machines/acre there than on mgnl.!

p. 503: Trend of conc. Says ~~it increased~~ before mechanization, areal differences in farm income not so great. (no proof -- I doubt). Machines changed it. "The farms increased in size in the more level and more productive areas, and machinery was used to replace human labor wherever possible." ~~Between~~

"But in the less productive areas, where the land was too hilly for the use of power machinery, farm population continued to increase and hand labor methods prevailed."

5168

Except in n.e., left hills for city work (I doubt). & in productive areas of south (which we can explain are really large farms) "But with these exceptions it appears that communities of low-income, underemployed farm families have developed in areas of relatively unproductive agricultural land, where power and machinery are not readily adapted."

5168

Large tend partly to pay higher wage scale, voluntarily or via unions

They can, bcs h. MP labor, used int intensively

War, decline of fm workers & Δ output, -- & most came from rural areas, can I prove it?

Fm workers S147 p 29. (Cf to some small no. who have 80% land)

(2.3% fms hv. 43% area; 1.9% have 26% products sold; 22% hv 74% products sold
i.e. lrg op-rs.

1930	min	12.4m	Urban depress, labor goes fmward, despite fm depress.
'35	max	12.7m	
'40		11.0m	
'45	min	10.0	.13 yr fm boom, labor leaves fm for city. Urban opps. count.
'47	max	10.4	
'53		8.6 (prelim. est.)	(Family, 6.7; hired, 1.9)

(& fm wages have risen more than any other kind – so it's lure of city, not fm, that counts)

p. 289 Quoting Wilcox & Hendrix, Underemployment of Rural Families. Leg.
There are 1m farm families, giving essentially all time to fmg, "where an able-bodied operator of working age produced only one-third as much as workers on the medium-size commercial family farms". Ave. gross output on the farms was $825. (so, even tho they didn't measure marginal productivity, as they should, it must have been low) over
(& rent practically zero)

5173

Mostly were in south, very few in west, some in north
South: 70%; north 26%; west 4%.
57% were owner operators, 43% tenants.
And another group of 500,000 on "small commercial farms", operator is substantially underemployed. South 58%, North 37%, West 7%. 60% of them are owner-operators.

p. 501: Having cited 2m underemployed. "Workers in these farm families are from one-third to one-half as productive -- produce from one-third to one-half as much per worker -- as workers on the medium size, commercial family farms or workers in the average rural nonfarm family. The low productivity per worker results from idleness during certain seasons of the year and from using hand-labor methods in producing crops on relatively unproductive soil. "

5168

Double cropping, e.g. of how it pays to use best land more intensively.

Higher valued crops, requiring hand picking .. berries, fruits.

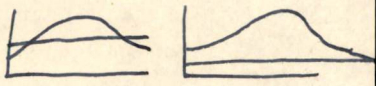
Is worth while to get weeds away, if by so doing will get something in place. The better the soil, the more worth while it is. Also insects.

Also, harvesting, to carefully glean all.

Worth trouble to minimize space wasted between plants, bcs what will grow there is more valuable.

Had these things been done, we might say MP low on better land. But have not.

Abandonment

Contrast hi & lo wage of mgr on large & small fm. 

Thus more rent for land on small -- or more MP

Low inc. fmr, impute pt. of it to wage, pt to land perhaps. Anyway, knowing of low wage, we know MP of land hi for him.

See if can sum up all this business on imputation quickly, make pt. strong

Good land grows diff.
kinds of produce than
poor. &, as good is
scarcer, its crops bring higher
price. So wd expect was
ee. to apply labor intensive
there

p. 77: As late as 1940, farm wage rates were down to still 17¢/hr. So can't attribute mechanization of those years to labor shortage. Altho in 1933 they were 11¢, p. 78 (cited from 1950 stat abstract. They mechanized to avoid disec.s of a, tncy & b, hired labor. But if (over) S168

the labor cd come as o-op; wd. be more ec.

vs Hammar

p. 175: "It takes better than average management to obtain the full potential productivity from superior land and livestock." (i.e. not tncy, & not meager use)(but much mgmt per acre)

5/68

Sweden, handicrafts flourished among mgnl, small-fm hill folk. Off-site jobs, etc.

S 152-a, p 221 et seq.

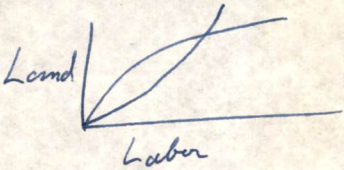
If their incomes are so low, stands to reason they are overcrowded on the farm - MP of land would be high.

Small farms, poor land.

p. 377 "Small-scale farms & part-time & nominal units comprise 2⅕million farms, or about 2/5 of all farms." These contribute less than 10% of the total agricultural production and only 5% of the value of sales." Thinks them low-income people, generally. 923,000 small-scale farming units (gross incomes $500-1,200), most in "low-income farming areas" (meaning low land value?) such as Appalachian, southeast, & Delta states. 1/4 are sha re-cropper units. Few of the small-scale farms are retirement units; most provide major source of the farm family's income.

This certainly goes vs. Weeks' generalization. Show to him.

(Just take Vt., cf to Ill. Ill., high land values, large ownership units. Vt., reverse.



above method better than vble
prop-ns to show low mp labor
where crowded ?

5171 Hammar suggests this (greater density, intense use of power land) may be ec., but is cautious -- concedes there may be "maldistrib." between pop & resources.

Points out maybe MP of labor & cap falls low at low intensity on best lands bcs they do so well w/o much care. (I imagine, tho, they wd. do much better w more care, & he doesn't undertake to prove otherwise - merely says they do well w little care.
except to suggest good land substitutes for labor & cap. -- needs little improvement.

Gmby, takes for granted if a land use wins out, is bcs it is best.

A strong article -- & I cannot prove him wrong, ~~directly~~ except by thy.

Or can I? Yes -- much data on too small havg lo mp labor, underempl. to mention him as of passg int. only

(Is no doubt in his mind that it is true, that often larger, less intense firms are on better land)

Hammar

5171 Points out that most ec-sts have uncritically accepted notion that greater intensity brings higher rent, from MP curves. vs

He chides. Gives data:

s519 p. 6: sample of small NC farms, not part but full time: only 51% available labor was used in "income generati g uses"

Duerr, Wm. A., et al., Farms & Forests of E-n Ky in Relation to

s399 Pop-n & Inc. Ky agcs bul 507, 1947. Lexington: U of Ky, '47.

p. 14 Breathitt Cty, Quicksand area, e-n Ky.

On ave. hillside, 114 man-hrs yields 15 bushels corn, or 13¢/hr.

~~p 44~~ For labor itself they est 5-10¢/hr. In 1940.

p. 16. 1818 - 1920, all cut over, large scale, no replant'g.

Confirms my gen'l beliefs. Most products consumed on farm.

~~Note 144~~ Pop. very mobile, in & out.

1940 ag Census, I(4): Ky. Breathitt Cty:

Value of land & bld'gs,	$3.3 m
" " bld'gs	.71 m
" " land	2.59 m

Land as % — 79%.

.78
33 | 26.0
231
290
264
26

ch. 3: low MP. of labor p. 141. Poland, est. $\frac{1}{3}$ ag. labor cd. be withdrawn from ag., not reduce output at all.

5201

Chap 3: In Kashmir, before land reform split up large estates, majority of labor was idle 6-8 months of the year. (NY Times, 7-14-50, p. 9) (No doubt the large estates had much idle land, too. On this, might check Times, Jl 14-50, p.5ø; and N-3-50 p. 8)