

## A Sharecropper's Contract

*Grimes Family Papers (#3357), 1882, in the Southern Historical Collection, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.*

No cropper is to work off the plantation when there is any work to be done on the land he has rented, or when his work is needed by me or other croppers. Trees to be cut down on Orchard, house field, & Evanson fences, leaving such as I may designate.

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Every cropper must feed or have fed, the team he works, Saturday nights, Sundays, and every morning before going to work, beginning to feed his team (morning, noon, and night every day in the week) on the day he rents and feeding it to including the 31st day of December. If any cropper shall from any cause fail to repair his fence as far as 1000 rails will go, or shall fail to clean out any part of his ditches, or shall fail to leave his ditch banks, any part of them, well shrubbed and clean when his crop is laid by, or shall fail to clean out stables, fill them up and haul straw in front of them whenever he is told, he shall have only two-fifths (2/5) of the cotton, corn, fodder, peas, and pumpkins made on the land he cultivates.

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If any cropper shall fail to feed his team Saturday nights, all day Sunday and all the rest of the week, morning/noon, and night, for every time he so fails he must pay me five cents.

.....

The sale of every cropper's part of the cotton to be made by me when and where I choose to sell, and after deducting all they owe me and all sums that I may be responsible for on their accounts, to pay them their half of the net proceeds. Work of every description, particularly the work on fences and ditches, to be done to my satisfaction, and must be done over until I am satisfied that it is done as it should be.

Source: Retrieved from <http://www.learnnc.org/lp/editions/nchist-newsouth/4765>

### Questions Part I

#### **Sourcing**

1. What type of source is this? \_\_\_\_\_
2. When was the document created? \_\_\_\_\_

#### **Contextualizing**

3. What groups are mentioned in the text? \_\_\_\_\_

## Questions Part II

### Close Reading

4. How is this document similar to the Letters from the American Farmer? \_\_\_\_\_

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5. How is this document different than Letters from the American Farmer? \_\_\_\_\_

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6. According to the document what might be the advantages and or disadvantages of being a Sharecropper?

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