
Franklin D. Roosevelt — “The Great Communicator”
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**Warm Springs, GA - Telephone Speech to Beef
Cattle Show, Moultrie, Georgia**

Miss Gully

TELEPHONE SPEECH FROM GOVERNOR ROOSEVELT AT WARM SPRINGS, GEORGIA
TO SHOW AND SALE OF PURE BRED BEEF TYPE SIRES AT MOULTRIE,
TEN A. M., TUESDAY, MAY 21, 1929.

This is, I think, the first time that a speech has been made from a long distance away through amplifiers to a large gathering of people in the open air. The next development of science will enable me through a television machine to see you and for you to see me seated at a desk in front of the telephone.

I am only sorry that I cannot be present in person to take part in this splendid show and sale of pure bred beef type sires. It is a splendid thing for all of Georgia, and I congratulate you. Georgia, as you know, is my other state, and I am keenly interested in putting agriculture on a better basis in this state as well as in New York.

Practically every agricultural section of the United States suffers from too much concentration in one or two agricultural products. The wheat belt of the West would be better off if it raised less wheat and more of other crops. The corn belt would have more prosperity if it concentrated less on corn. Here in Georgia, we all know that cotton and corn have been our agricultural curse, and that when some of us have gone into other crops like peaches, we have again over-produced in that particular line. That is why the development of cattle raising in Georgia is essential to the future agricultural prosperity of the State.

There may be a few rare instances, but I have never yet seen a first-class pasture since I have been in this state during the past five years. On the contrary, I see thousands and hundreds of thousands of acres of corn and cotton land where the top-soil continues to run off year after year into the Atlantic and the Gulf. We are going broke on nitrates and other chemicals and yet year after year the soil becomes poorer.

Nature has interposed no barriers to the successful raising of cattle in this state. More than that, the great and growing population of the whole Southeastern section of the country gives economic reasons for raising beef and sheep to supply a growing local demand instead of depending on the far away slaughter houses of Kansas City.

There has been a very proper reason for the low price which the farmers of Georgia have been able to get hitherto for cows and steers raised by them. We might as well be perfectly frank and acknowledge that the meat of these local animals was not worth a better price.

Beef-raising, like the raising or production of any other commodity, is only financially profitable if the quality is of the best. That is the underlying reason for this splendid gathering today. We in Georgia are slowly but surely coming to the realization that the animals we raise must be equal to the best raised in any other part of the United States.

It is uneconomical for any of us to raise scrub cattle, and even though we cannot afford to go into the creation of a pure-blooded herd in a year or so we can and we must afford, as good citizens, to improve the strain of our cattle. The practical and the cheapest way is to buy a pure-blooded beef type sire. I, myself, at Wana Springs am starting the improvement of a small herd of cattle in exactly this way. Certainly I cannot lose any more money doing that than in trying to raise peaches; nor can I lose any more money in doing that than in fighting the boll weevil. It does not call for a large amount of capital. It will, I am certain, bring dividends into our pockets in the long run; and finally, it is an act of good citizenship which all of us who can should carry out if only as an experiment.

I hope to see the day when Georgia will be dotted with pastures, when there will be not only a great cattle and sheep industry in this state but where even the small individual land-owner will be ashamed to own anything but good stock. I prophesy that that day will come within the lives of most of us and that we shall look back on this fine occasion as one of the great steps towards this end.

I hope that these shows will continue and that another year I may have the privilege of meeting you and greeting you in person.