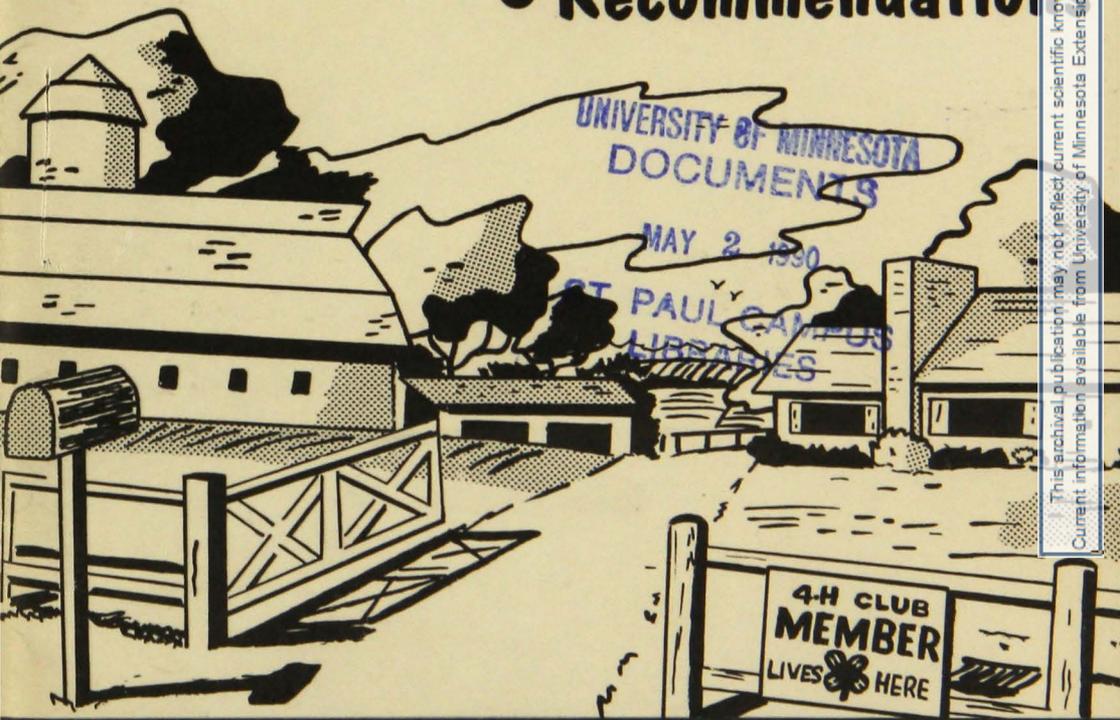


August 1958

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Looking ahead in
Extension Work
in
Otter Tail County

- Situations
- Problems
- Recommendations



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Prepared Cooperatively by
Otter Tail County Extension Committee
and
Long Range Planning Committees

To The People of Otter Tail County:

We appreciate the help of those who have so willingly contributed their time in developing this guide for County Extension Work. It should prove useful in assisting County farm families in adopting better farming and improved family living practices. It will also serve as a source of program material for all agricultural, home, 4-H, and community activities.

Otter Tail County is large, with County Extension Offices located at Fergus Falls and Perham. The county has a variety of soil and water resources. It is our purpose to use them wisely and in a manner which will help us to enjoy a good standard of living while we work to improve our farms, homes, and the institutions which serve our people.

Our County Extension Office and Staff are equipped to help us accomplish these worthwhile objectives. You are urged to assist by reviewing this report carefully, and then to cooperate in the manner that will best serve you, the members of your family, and your community.

Respectfully,

THE OTTER TAIL COUNTY
EXTENSION COMMITTEE

John Gronner, Underwood
Ernest Herting, Route 4, Pelican Rapids
Mrs. Elmer Stock, Route 4, Fergus Falls
Henry Janke, Route 1, Perham
Mrs. Elvin Arvidson, Route 4, Parkers Prairie
Robert Molter, Route 5, Fergus Falls
Bennie Johnson, Commissioner, Pelican Rapids
Henry Sieling, Commissioner, Perham
Sigurd Johnson, Auditor, Fergus Falls

Why This Report ---

The County Agricultural Extension Service--officially called the Cooperative Extension Service, because the federal, state, and county governments all contribute to its support -- is directed by the Agricultural Extension Committee. This nine-member committee is made up of two county commissioners, the county auditor, and six additional members (men and women) appointed by the county board of commissioners. It plans yearly programs and helps direct Extension work. Moreover it meets each year with



Members of the Otter Tail County Extension Committee. Front row, left to right: Mrs. Elvin Arvidson; Henry Sieling; Bennie Johnson; Mrs. Elmer Stock. Back row: Henry Janke; Robert Molter; John Gronner; Sigurd Johnson; Ernest Herting.

the County Extension Agents and a group of farm people to review recent accomplishments and to plan next year's program. Figure 1 gives a graphic illustration of how County Extension work functions.

Since the Extension Service is a cooperative arrangement, County Extension Agents are members of the faculty of the University of Minnesota and the staff of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. The educational facilities of these institutions are available to county workers and financial support is provided to the County Extension Service through the University and the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

In order that the Extension agents may reach all of the people of the county, many teaching techniques must be used. Figure 2 illustrates this point and shows how people are reached with research-supported information on farming, homemaking, and essential community activities.

In view of the many significant changes in agriculture during the past 10 years, the County Extension Committee, working with the county agents and representatives of the University of Minnesota, decided to study our county situation to see if our Extension program of today should shift some of its emphasis.

To assure a program that meets local needs, a large number of cooperators were asked to assist. They were requested especially to look ahead, since worthwhile adjustments from any present farm and home practices may require several years. The need for good year-to-year continuity of effort was also reviewed and appraised.

This report of long-time Extension program planning for Otter Tail County covers a series of fact-finding meetings. Local people reviewed their present circumstances, specified general goals, and then suggested means of attaining these goals.

The committee did not set up specific, detailed goals, since this phase will be left to those responsible for the year-to-year program plans.

COUNTY EXTENSION WORK

THE COUNTY EXTENSION COMMITTEE
DETERMINES ANNUAL PLAN OF WORK

which is carried out by . . .



with the final goal of . . .

"A BETTER WAY OF LIFE FOR THE PEOPLE
OF OTTER TAIL COUNTY"

ALL COUNTY PEOPLE HAVE AN
OPPORTUNITY TO TAKE PART
IN PROGRAM PLANNING

Fig. 1. County Extension work illustrated.

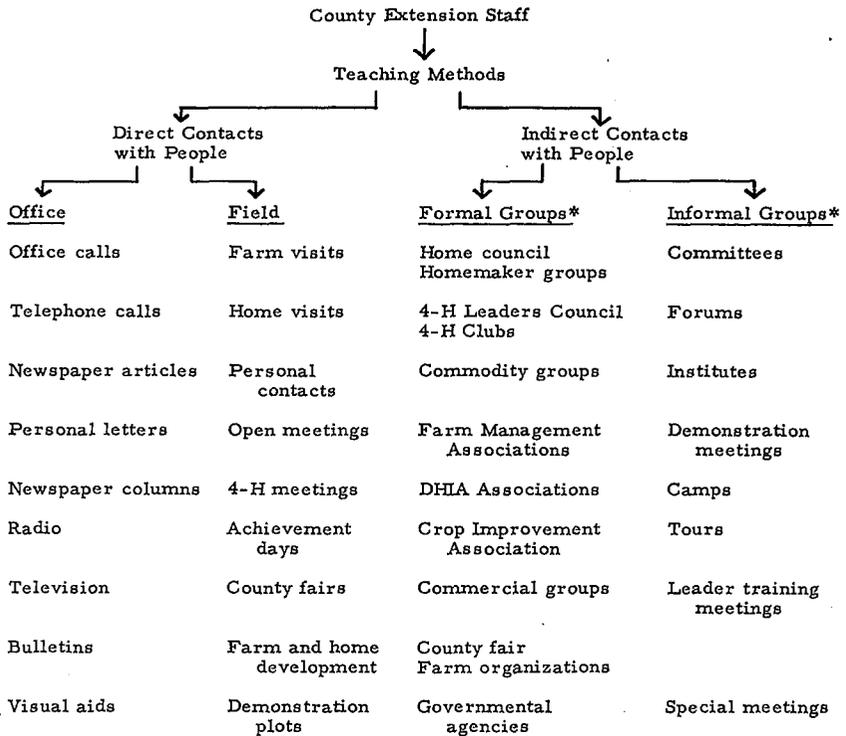


Fig. 2. Extension teaching illustrated.

* A formal group refers generally to one that has organization forms such as articles of incorporation and by-laws, or a constitution, or has a fairly long history. An informal group refers more to one formed for a specific purpose and is usually discontinued when the assignment is completed.

SETTING UP THE COMMITTEES

Each County Extension Committee assisted in selecting over 100 representative people for a general program-planning committee. The steering committee in each instance decided upon the major problem areas. Each member of the steering committee then selected a problem area of his or her choice and named a person from his local community to serve also.

The work of the problem area committees concerned Soils, Dairy and General Livestock, Markets, Health and Safety, Farm Family Living and Youth, Farm Family Financing, and Public Affairs. Each committee met once, twice, or more times and in a few cases had specialist help. Their reports were submitted to an editing committee, who reduced them to the simplest statements possible. This final report, however, is based primarily upon the committees' recommendations.

HOW THIS LONG-RANGE PROGRAM WILL BE USED

This long-range program with its recommendations will serve as a guide and basis for county Extension work for several years. As a result future county Extension programs will have more year-to-year continuity. They will be simpler to prepare also, because revisions will be limited mainly to additions or minor changes. The progress made each year will help assure wiser use of the County Extension Service resources.

East Otter Tail Extension Staff

Sherman Mandt, County Agricultural Agent
Gerald Ness, Assistant Agricultural Agent
Helen Griffin, Office Secretary

West Otter Tail Extension Staff

Nicholas G. Weyrens, County Agricultural Agent
Judith C. Nord, Home Agent
Ervin A. Junkans, Soil Conservation Assistant
Irene Huseby, Office Secretary

Farm and Home Situation

BRIEF HISTORY OF OTTER TAIL COUNTY

Otter Tail County first appeared in the United States census in 1860, with a population of 240. The county was organized two years earlier. The sparse population was grouped chiefly around two places, Otter Tail Village and Dayton Hollow. History does not record what happened to the 240 inhabitants of 1860, as practically all of them had disappeared by 1862. With the close of the Civil War and talk of a railroad being built, immigration to the county became very heavy.

The topography of Otter Tail County was a major factor in the development of its agriculture. The rolling hills and numerous lakes influenced both the choice of crops and the types of livestock.

The early development of the western prairie region bordering the Red River Valley area emphasized wheat production. It wasn't until 1905 that other crops came into prominence. In fact, the first corn was reported about the year 1900.

Otter Tail County had some large corporation farming late in the nineteenth century. One large farm was established in Carlisle Township by Ames and French of Mexico and was managed by C. J. Wright and D. M. Brown. Mason's history of the county says, "By 1890 this farm had followed the course of other large farms and was gradually broken up into smaller units and rented."

Some owner-operated farms became large-sized units in the early part of this century also. Often mentioned are the Martin Hexum, A. O. Quam, and Carl Umlauf farms in Carlisle Township, the K. H. Bergrud farm in Aastad, and the C. J. Wright farms in Carlisle, Fergus Falls, and Orwell. However, the county was developed mostly by homesteaders with a quarter section each or was purchased from railroad companies in lots ranging in size from 80 acres to 260 acres.

The rolling wooded area of the county, dotted with many lakes, had less open land for the production of wheat. This large portion of the county shifted quickly to livestock in order to use the marsh hay and pasture land. While this large area did not prosper as the prairie wheat area did, it ushered in the present popular dairy, poultry, and livestock enterprises.

The changeover from wheat to corn and other crops was well under way by 1910. In 1870 there were twenty times as many acres of wheat as of corn. The wheat crop was even more important in 1879, but its decline after that had become very pronounced by 1910. Since the acceptance of hybrid corn, this crop has far outshadowed wheat as a major crop in the county. As livestock increased in the county, the feed grains such as corn and oats gained prestige.

Alfalfa started with one acre in 1900 and increased to 53 acres by 1910. In 1914 the Otter Tail County Agent, F. R. Johnson, put on a special campaign for more alfalfa, with the result that 650 acres were planted. By 1957 the acreage had increased to 115,636 acres or 77 percent of the acreage devoted to tame hay.

The trend in number of farms in Otter Tail County by selected years from 1870 to 1910 is an interesting one to review also:

Year.....	1870	1879	1900	1910
Number of farms..	264	2,087	6,227	5,804

In 1900 there were almost as many farms as in 1950. By 1910 the number had dropped rather drastically.

From 1940 to 1956 the Otter Tail County farm population decreased 11,294, while the total population decreased 4,457. From 1956 to 1957 the farm population decreased by 827, making the farm population approximately 41 percent of the total in the county.

Farm population....	<u>1940</u> 32,461	<u>1950</u> 26,576	<u>1954</u> 21,995	<u>1956</u> 21,167
Village population... ..	<u>21,731</u>	<u>24,744</u>	<u>27,760</u>	<u>28,568</u>
Total population....	54,192	51,320	49,755	49,735

EARLY DAIRY MARKETS

Before creameries were built, cheese factories provided the markets for dairy products. At one time or another there were cheese factories in French, Balmoral, Western, Amor, Maine, and Fergus Falls. These have been discontinued and their place taken over by creameries and milk plants.

Mason's history of Otter Tail County states, "The farmer had no conception of the money making possibilities of the cow in the early years of the county." In 1914 he estimates that nearly a million dollars a year was being "milked of the cow." Since then the dairy income has grown to \$26 million in recent years.

SCHOOLS

Public schools in the county offer both grade school and high school courses. Other educational institutions include 154 rural schools, a parochial school for both high school and seminary training, and six parochial grade schools.

According to a report by Lowry Nelson, Rural Sociologist at the University of Minnesota, there has been marked progress made in Minnesota in rural education from 1940 to 1950.

CHURCHES

The establishment of rural churches took place soon after the first settlers came to the county. Many of these still serve the communities as strong spiritual centers.

Denominations most frequently observed in the county are Lutheran, Methodist, Baptist, Catholic, Episcopal, Evangelical United Brethren, Evangelical and Reformed, Congregational, Presbyterian, Nazarene, Seventh-Day Adventist, Assembly of God, Christian Science, and the Salvation Army.

HEALTH

Facilities for hospital care and medical services have improved over the years. Hospitals are located in Fergus

Falls, Pelican Rapids, and Perham. There are 30 doctors and 32 dentists with offices in the county. As an example of the concern shown by people in availing themselves of health services, about 55 percent of the patients entering one of the hospitals in the county are reported to have some kind of prepaid hospitalization.

Two full-time public health nurses serve the county, one at Perham and one at Fergus Falls.

Five homes are equipped to care for chronic invalids, convalescents, and elderly people. The Fergus Falls State Hospital concentrates its efforts on the care of the mentally ill. It serves the northwestern half of the state.

The Mental Hygiene Clinic, the first of its kind in the state, serves the entire northern area of Minnesota.

TRANSPORTATION

Otter Tail County is served by several hard-surfaced State and Federal highways. These are U. S. Highways No 10, 52, and 39, and State Highways No. 210, 108, 78, 34, and 29. The hard surfacing of many county roads is making progress. Roads in general are considered good.

Numerous trucking companies, three railroads, regular bus service, and some air service are examples of the range in transportation facilities available in the county.

MARKETING

As dairy farming is the major farm enterprise, markets for milk and cream are essential. There are 18 creameries, 5 bottling operations, 3 milk-drying plants, and a cheese factory to meet this need. The shift that has been going on for many years from farm sales of cream to sales of milk has placed new pressures on processing facilities. Improved methods of transportation for dairy products have also influenced the markets. While market facilities may be considered ample by some standards, the changes underway on dairy farms, improvements in processing techniques, and changes occurring in the demand for dairy products

create new problems for local marketing firms to solve. These all influence the dairy farmer's income.

Eggs are handled through numerous egg-buying stations. Hatcheries provide market outlets at times. There is also a large poultry-processing plant in the county. Some hogs and beef are butchered and processed in the area by a local packing plant and local butchers but most shipments go to the terminal markets. Quite a few farmers raise some pigs for sale as feeders.

Grain is handled through 17 elevators in the county. One flour mill operates, using wheat produced nearby. Alfalfa meal recently became a new item to the county and provides a market for some alfalfa.

AGRICULTURAL SITUATION IN THE COUNTY

Farm Size and Value

Selected Otter Tail County data compared with similar data for Minnesota, 1954:

	<u>Average Otter Tail</u>	<u>Average Minnesota</u>
1. Percent of land in farms	89.3	63.0
2. Size of farms - acres	194.0	195.4
3. Size of farms - acres in cropland	110	127
4. Dollar value of land and build- ings (average per farm)	\$11,000	\$21,000
5. Dollar value of land per acre	\$57	\$105
6. Percent of tenancy	12.4	19.8
7. Percent of farm population change, 1950 to 1956	-9.2	-6.1
8. Farming opportunities		
a. Percent of farm boys that may expect to start farming and get a possible gross in- come of \$5,000 or more	14	26
b. Percent of farm boys that may start farming and get a possible gross income of \$2,500 or more	33	41

9.	Percent of farmers doing off- the-farm work 100 days or more	11.0	14.9
10.	Percent of farms where off- farm work exceeds farm income	12	13.8
11.	Total cash farm receipts per farm	\$3,917	\$5,955
12.	Percent of decrease in num- ber of farms (1949-1954)	7.6	8.0
13.	Percent of total population living on farms	42.6	18.7

Otter Tail County, with 62 townships and moderately good agricultural resources, ranks as one of the nation's leading agricultural counties in the total production of several farm products. Since there are over 3,000 counties in the United States, the following data taken from the 1954 Census of Agriculture emphasize Otter Tail County rank:

First in number of acres of oats combined and threshed

Third in number of acres of alfalfa cut for hay

Thirteenth in number of acres of land from which hay was cut

Sixteenth in number of chickens 4 months old and over on farms

Seventeenth in number of turkeys raised

Nineteenth in number of turkey hens kept for breeding

Twenty-second in number of cattle and calves on farms

Twenty-sixth in number of chicken eggs sold

Sixty-second in value of poultry and poultry products sold

Sixty-seventh in value of dairy products sold

Type of Farms

Over half of Otter Tail County's 5,864 farms are listed as dairy farms. Dairy farms increased by 363 from 1950 to 1954. Poultry farms decreased from 417 to 294 during this period. Livestock farms other than dairy and poultry showed a similar trend as they dropped in number from 828 to 755.

General farms lost prominence too by dropping from 1,570 to 803, leaving only miscellaneous farms to show some increase with dairy farms. Miscellaneous farms increased a little from 512 to 591.

As dairy and livestock farms predominate, cropping plans are tailored largely to the feed needs of poultry, dairy, and other livestock. Cash crops, such as flax, wheat, rye, and soybeans, account for less than half as many acres as corn does in recent years. More acres are used for oats than for any other crop, including hay. When barley qualifies for malting purposes, it is sold as a cash crop. The hay and pasture crops have received more attention lately as greater emphasis is placed on forages as essential to profitable livestock enterprises.

The following table shows acreage, yields, and trends of the major crops for recent years compared with 1940.

Crop	1940		1950		1954		1956		Trend	
	Acres	Yield	Acres	Yield	Acres	Yield	Acres	Yield	Acres	Yield
	thousand	bushels	thousand	bushels	thousand	bushels	thousand	bushels		
Corn	108	33	128	30	127	36	130	41	up	up
Flax	24	9	16	10	22	10	16	11	-*	-*
Wheat	59	20	43	15	25	12	24	22	-*	-*
Rye	23	17	6	13	4	18	4	17	-*	-*
Oats	153	35	197	27	215	28	196	39	-*	-*
Barley	64	28	40	28	35	24	34	33	down	-*
Soybeans	---	--	1	9	3	14	17	18	up	up
Potatoes	6.8	91	1	85	0.9	120	---	--	--	--
Tame hay	118.4	1.5 tons	176	1.28 tons	171.8	1.5 tons	169	1.6 tons	up	up

*No change apparent.

When trends in crop yields per acre since 1950 are reviewed it appears that both oats and corn show increases. However, yields fluctuate widely from year to year. The range in yield per acre for corn was from 30 to 43 bushels, for oats 27 to 40 bushels, for barley 27 to 30 bushels, and for wheat 8 to 18 bushels. While hay yields vary too the

importance of quality receives more stress than in the grains, except possibly for malting factors in barley.

Total crop production and trends for recent selected years for Otter Tail County are as follows:

Crop	1940	1950	1954	1956	Trend
	Bushels thousand	Bushels thousand	Bushels thousand	Bushels thousand	
Corn	3,557	3,783	4,554	5,322	up
Flax	216	163	217	168	down
Wheat	1,172	653	298	514	up
Rye	382	73	70	70	down
Oats	5,348	5,308	6,014	7,237	up
Barley	1,778	1,171	845	1,129	down
Soybeans	-	4	42	231	up
Potatoes	619	108	113	-	-
Hay	254tons	220tons	259tons	277tons	up

Selected county statistics taken from a 30-year period concerning farm people and farms reveal several other changes. For instance, the total land in farms, reported as a million acres in 1925, has increased by one-tenth. Farms increased in number too until the early forties, when the trend was reversed. One very striking change during this period was the reduction in farms rented from 1,561 to 449. That is, most Otter Tail County farm families own their farms.

About one acre in eight was used for oats in 1925 but in recent years the ratio is nearly one in five. Corn has become more popular too, with nearly an eighth of the farmland now being used for corn, compared with a twelfth 30 years ago. The acres used for hay and flax have held quite constant, but sizable reductions have taken place in barley and wheat.

Livestock numbers and trends for Otter Tail County for the recent selected years are as follows:

Livestock	1940	1950	1954	1956	Trend
	thousand	thousand	thousand	thousand	
Total number cattle	131	126	146	153	up
Number milk cows	65	---	57	58	up
Total number sheep	38	23	30	33	up
Total number hogs	56	67	62	88	up
Total number hens and pullets	--	--	696	620	*
Number horses	24	11	---	---	down

* No apparent change.

Milk production per cow has increased over 500 pounds per cow since 1950. Cow numbers have increased also, reversing a downward trend that ended in 1953. The total milk production of 311 million pounds in 1950 may soon reach the level of 400 million pounds. The proportion of milk marketed as cream has gone down from 70 percent in 1951 to 50 percent in 1954. The shift to more farm milk sales continues.

Hogs raised have gone up somewhat since 1950, although less than 15 percent of the farmers raise them. The number of sows farrowed annually has ranged from a low of 19,300 in 1953 to a high of 23,400 in 1955. Pigs saved per litter have gone up over half a pig since 1950.

Chickens as layers have shown a downward trend in numbers since 1950, from 733 thousand to 674 thousand in 1955, while the rate of lay increased about 13 eggs per hen.

The increase in rate of lay is offset by the reduction in the number of layers, so that the total eggs produced has remained fairly constant.

Turkeys have also provided an important source of income in the poultry enterprise of Otter Tail County. While 178 farms reported nearly 251, 000 turkeys raised in 1949, the smaller number of 134 farms reported nearly 400, 000 turkeys raised in 1954. The light breeds accounted for about 30 percent of the birds in 1954 and were reported by nearly 40 percent of the turkey growers.

Farm Equipment

Otter Tail County, it appears, is keeping abreast of a national trend toward increased mechanization in farming.

Census data for the United States show that since 1940, the number of tractors used in this country increased 207 percent, grain combines 401 percent, corn pickers 500 percent, and farms having milking machines 423 percent. This is indicative of a trend toward more machinery in order to reduce labor requirements. The following table indicates the rate of growth Otter Tail County has made in the amount of farm equipment of the larger types.

	1945	1950	1954	Percent of Farms	Trend
Total number tractors	4, 271	6, 184	7, 727	88	up
Motor trucks	1, 192	1, 886	2, 495	40	up
Automobiles	6, 694	6, 697	6, 491	91	--
Pick-up balers	--	185	772	13	up
Grain combines	--	486	1, 491	25	up
Corn pickers	--	566	1, 247	21	up
Field forage harvesters	--	--	388	7	--

The national average output per worker increased 23 percent from 1939 to 1947 and 3.7 percent from 1947 to 1953. Non-farm workers increased their output 1.6 and 3.4 percent respectively during these same periods. Increased use of machines made such changes possible. Value of machinery per farm, however, rose from \$229 in 1940 to \$1,881 in 1955. The number of farms decreased during this time but the number of farm workers per farm remained the same.

Cash Farm Expenses, With Comparisons

The following are Census data for Otter Tail County for 1954 (unless other years are indicated). Information is provided on the "cost phase" of today's farming operation.

	<u>Otter Tail</u>	<u>Minnesota</u>
Cash farm receipts after cash farm expenses	\$2, 448	\$4, 021
Total specified cash farm expenses per farm.	1, 469	1, 934
Cash farm expenses as a proportion of the total cash farm receipts.	38 percent	32 percent
Proportion of farmers hiring machines and labor.	85 percent	80 percent
Expenses per farm for machine and hired labor.	\$ 379	\$ 511
Percentage change in expenses per farm, 1949-54.	5 percent decrease	10 percent
Expenses per farm for petroleum fuels and oils.	\$ 363	\$ 483
Percentage change in expenses per farm (1949-54) for petroleum fuel oils.	4 percent	14 percent
Percentage of farmers who bought feed for livestock and poultry.	88 percent	88 percent
Expenses per farm for livestock and poultry feed.	\$ 872	\$1, 066
Percentage change in expenses per farm (1949-54) for livestock and poultry feed.	43 percent	39 percent

	<u>Otter Tail</u>	<u>Minnesota</u>
Percentage of farmers buying commercial fertilizer.	26 percent	45 percent
Expenses per farm for commercial fertilizer.	\$ 155	\$ 310
Percentage of hay and pasture crops on which commercial fertilizer was applied.	5 percent	9 percent
Pounds of commercial fertilizer per acre harvested hay and cropland.	202 pounds	206 pounds
Percentage of corn acreage on which commercial fertilizer was used.	27 percent	41 percent
Pounds of commercial fertilizer used per acre on corn.	120 pounds	154 pounds

Cash Farm Receipts, 1954, With Comparisons

Cash farm receipts for Otter Tail County farms emphasize again the important roles of dairy, poultry, and the other livestock enterprises. The cash farm receipts from these sources account for approximately 85 percent. Few counties in the state depend less on the sale of crops as a source of farm income.

The following figures are farm Census data for 1954, selected for Otter Tail County and Minnesota. In some instances they are compared with 1949.

	<u>Otter Tail</u>	<u>Minnesota</u>
Total cash farm receipts per farm.	\$3,917	\$5,955
Total cash farm receipts per acre of cropland harvested. \$	33	47
Most important source of cash farm receipts.	dairy products	livestock (not including dairy and poultry)

	<u>Otter Tail</u>	<u>Minnesota</u>
Percentage of total cash receipts from sale of field crops.....	16 percent	33 percent
Percentage total cash farm receipts from dairy products.....	35 percent	20 percent
Cash receipts from milk per farmer selling milk.....	\$2, 397	\$2, 405
Cash receipts from cream per farmer selling cream..	\$1, 255	\$ 973
Total cash receipts from livestock and livestock products (not dairy products or poultry).....	31 percent	34 percent
Cash receipts from hogs and pigs per farmer selling hogs and pigs.....	\$1, 035	\$1, 936
Cash receipts per hog and/or pig sold.....	\$34. 72	\$39. 75
Cash receipts from sheep, lambs, wool per farmer with sheep.....	\$ 585	\$ 655
Cash receipts from poultry and poultry products.....	18 percent	10 percent
Percentage of poultry receipts from sale of eggs.....	52 percent	64 percent
Cash receipts from eggs per farm selling eggs.....	\$ 533	\$ 631

Individual farm income patterns vary greatly, as shown by the following 1954 Census data for Otter Tail County:

	<u>Otter Tail</u>	<u>Minnesota</u>
Percentage of full-time farmers with cash sales of \$5,000 or more.....	27	51. 3
Percentage of full-time farmers with cash farm sales of \$2,500 - \$4,999.....	37	24. 5
Percentage of full-time farmers with cash farm sales of less than \$2,500.....	36	22. 2

Another income group classification used in both the 1950 and 1954 Census data provides additional information on the total annual farm sales pattern for Otter Tail County:

	<u>1950</u> number	<u>1954</u> number
Commercial farms.....	5,882	5,288
\$25,000 and over.....	46	40
10,000 - 24,999.....	299	247
5,000 - 9,999.....	1,495	1,156
2,500 - 4,999.....	2,253	1,940
1,200 - 2,499.....	1,390	1,360
250 - 1,199.....	469	545
Part-time farmers.....	247	345
Residential farms.....	---	240

Full-time vs. part-time farming comparisons for Otter Tail County revealed the following for 1954:

Proportion of farmers doing off-farm work	33 percent
Proportion of farm operators doing off-farm work 100 days or more.....	11 percent
Proportion of farm operators where off-farm income exceeds farm income.....	12 percent

Crop Price-Support Programs

The total value of all CCC loans on the 1954 crop was \$119,000 for East Otter Tail County and \$563,000 for West Otter Tail County, or a total of \$682,000. The average for Minnesota was 87.35 million dollars.

When the total amount of CCC loans is expressed as a percentage of cash receipts from field crops for the same year, it accounts for 18 percent. However, the loans only account for 3 percent of the total cash farm receipts. This relationship is to be expected, as most of the crops are marketed as livestock and livestock products. These data again emphasize the dominant role assumed by livestock and livestock products in Otter Tail County.

The proportion of the different 1954 crops put under CCC loan in Otter Tail County and in the state was as follows:

Percent of Crops Produced Placed under Loan and Value per Loan

Crop	Otter Tail County			Minnesota	
	Amount of crop placed under loan	Value per loan East Otter Tail	Value per loan West Otter Tail	Amount of crop placed under loan	Average value per loan
	percent	dollars	dollars	percent	dollars
Barley	3	378	687	26	1,008
Corn	3	1,146	1,155	10.5	1,570
Flaxseed	6	---	1,018	21	838
Oats	5	318	635	6	---
Rye	48	378	652	37	548
Soybeans	12	467	811	26	1,198
Wheat	23	287	544	36	1,009

East Otter Tail County has made less use of the crop price-support program than West Otter Tail County has because East Otter Tail depends even more on feed crops.

SOILS AND PHYSICAL FACTORS

Otter Tail County soils can be divided into three broad types: soils of the uplands, called Waukon-Barnes; soils of the lake plains, or Nebish-Rockwood; and sandy soils, or Wadena-Hubbard. The terrain varies from the relatively level farm areas to rolling wooded hills. There are over 1,000 lakes in the county; consequently, a large area is covered by water. The 1954 Census data report 179,610 acres used as woodland pastured, 60,767 acres used as woodland not pastured, 594,280 acres used as cropland and harvested, 55,011 acres of cropland used for pasture, and 93,455 acres used as other pasture (not woodland and not cropland). In comparing East and West Otter Tail, one observes a higher percentage of woodland and pasture areas in the eastern part of the county. Soil and water erosion are problems in some areas (see soils map on pages 38 and 39).

More specific characteristics of the 10 major soil associations shown on the soils map are as follows:

No. 1. Ulen-Sioux-Tanberg. These soils include both black sands and sandy loams. They occur in the outer edges of the Red River Valley. The Ulen soils are deep, fine sandy loams, occasionally with clay subsoils; the Sioux soils occupy ridges with dark, shallow, sandy, surface soils underlain with sand and gravel; the Tanberg soils occupy depressions and are wet. The surface ranges from depressions to flat and undulating. Except for the Tanberg soils, crops often suffer from drouth. Soil blowing is frequently serious. Lime is plentiful. Small grains and some corn are grown. Mixed farming prevails.

No. 2. Barnes-Aastad. Dark-colored, fine-textured prairie soils. Barnes soils are gently rolling; Aastad soils are slightly undulating. These soils are derived from limy, glacial till. Drainage is needed on the Aastad soils. Both soils are subject to erosion. Barnes soils, occurring on steeper hillsides and knolls, are yellowish-brown in color. Crop yields are not very high on these soils because rainfall is somewhat limited. Sales of grain crops, livestock, and livestock products are main sources of income.

No. 3. Buse-Barnes. Same as No. 2 except slopes are steeper and erosion is much more severe. Some knobs have no top soil.

No. 4. Waukon-Barnes. The Barnes soils have dark-colored, silt-loam surface soils with limy, clay-loam subsoils. They are undulating to gently rolling prairie soils. The Waukon soils are transitional, occupying areas which originally were prairie but have now been invaded by forests. The forest vegetation has changed its characteristics so it now has some properties of the typical forest Nebish soils. Both soils are about equally productive. Some boulders are scattered on the surface. Small grains, corn, and tame hay are grown, along with some emphasis on livestock farming.

No. 5. Rockwood. Gray, loamy soils with limy, clay-loam subsoils developed under forest vegetation. Peat bogs and wet areas are intermingled with areas of the better-drained soils. The surface ranges from undulating to rolling. Lime is abundant. Stones are numerous in some areas. Agricultural development is limited. Dairying prevails.

No. 5 Bd. Rockwood-Drumlin. Similar to No. 5 except there are uniform gently sloping Drumlins separated by marshes and wet areas.

No. 5 D. Nebish. Similar to No. 5 except the slopes are steeper and erosion is more serious. The surface soils also are more acid.

No. 6. Waukon-Pierce. Similar to Waukon which is included with No. 4.

No. 7. Nebish-Marquette. Similar to No. 5 except more gravelly soils are present. Water erosion is quite severe and drouthiness prevails.

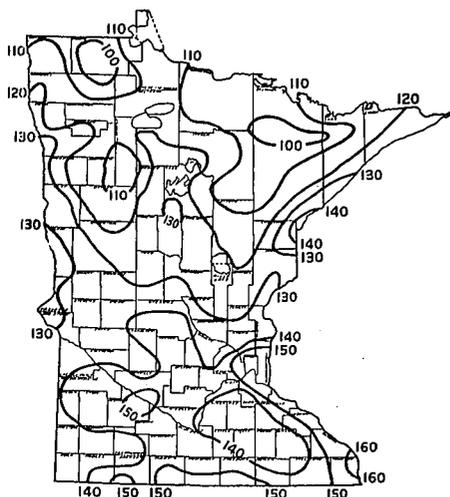
No. 8. Esterville-Pierce. These are dark-colored, well-drained, sandy loams overlying sand or gravel at depths from 20 to 40 inches. A few areas are gravelly hills. Originally prairie soils, their sandy nature causes them to be drouthy. The Wadena soils are less drouthy than the Hubbard type because of a more retentive upper subsoil which permits a larger reservoir for water. The surface ranges from undulating to gently rolling. The soils are generally acid. Wind erosion is often serious, particularly in unsheltered fields. Because of their sandy nature and relatively low waterholding capacity, these soils are not very productive unless the sand and gravel are more than 40 inches below the surface. General farming prevails. Fall-sown rye, corn, and oats are principal crops grown.

No. 9. Marquette. Same as No. 8 except that these soils were developed under forest vegetation.

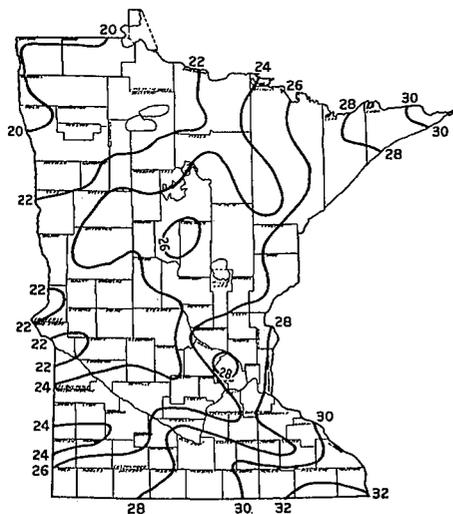
W. Poorly drained areas. Marshes intermixed with level, poorly drained lands characterize this area. A high water table is common. Only 10 percent of this land is under cultivation. This area is well suited for wildlife.

Climate and Rainfall

The climate is characterized by wide variations in temperature throughout the year. During the past 40 years the average January temperature has been 7.9°F., compared with 71.5°F. for July. Maximum temperatures have ranged from a high of 110°F. to a low of -42°F. Last killing frost



Average crop-growing season for different areas of the state.



Average annual precipitation, in inches, for Minnesota.

for this period averaged May 10; the first killing frost, September 24. The average growing season for the county is around 130 days (note figure 3).

Fig. 3. Growing season varies from an average of 160 days along the Mississippi River in southeastern Minnesota to an average of 100 days in the northern section. The frost-free period in the southern part of the state is long enough for most adapted crops.

Fig. 4. Precipitation (snowfall and rainfall) on the average varies each year from 20 inches in northwestern Minnesota to 32 inches in the southeastern part. Less precipitation falls in the winter months than the other months of the year. Beginning in May and continuing until September about 60 percent of the annual rainfall occurs.

Most of the year's rainfall of around 24 inches is well distributed throughout the growing season (note following table. Also see figure 4).

		Average Precipitation by Months Over a 40-Year Period											
Growing-Season Days		Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Detroit Lakes	118	.61	.66	.83	1.88	3.33	3.90	3.45	3.57	2.55	1.70	.91	.67
Fergus Falls	137	.87	.81	1.05	2.03	3.10	3.94	3.25	3.04	2.55	1.55	1.05	.83

Living Conditions

Family living standards vary between different income groups and between families within each income group. The Farm-Operator Family Level-of-Living Index provides a guide in comparing the level of living in this county with other areas. Four factors form the base for establishing farm-family level-of-living indexes: percentage of farms with electricity; percentage with telephones; percentage with automobiles; average value of products sold or traded in year preceding the Census, adjusted for changes in the purchasing power of the farmer's dollar. This guide also measures relative changes over a period of time, although it cannot be considered an absolute measure as some non-material factors are also involved. Nevertheless, it is useful for studying relationships and trends (see table).

	<u>1945</u>	<u>1950</u>	<u>1954</u>
Otter Tail County	121	144	154
Minnesota (all counties)	129	151	163
United States	100	122	140

	<u>1950</u>	<u>1954</u>	
	Number	Number	Percent
Telephones	3,630	3,776	64
Farms with electricity	5,124	5,374	91
Home freezers	703	1,421	24
Piped running water	-----	2,746	47
Television	-----	931	16

Since nearly all Otter Tail County farms now have electricity, progress in improved farm living can move forward more rapidly.

County Statistics by Townships, 1955

There is a wide variation between townships in Otter Tail County, owing largely to differences in the land. The following information about people on farms, numbers of farms, average farm size, and percent of all farm land used for selected crops provides basic township data for all of Otter Tail County.

Township	People on Farms		Average-size Farm acres	Selected Crops as a Percentage of All Farm Land						Total
	Farms number	Farms		All	Oats	Hay	Corn	Barley	Rye	
Blowers	423	102	187	12	23	5	1	-	-	41
Bluffton	471	101	192	15	18	11	-	-	-	44
Butler	384	91	229	14	15	7	1	1	-	38
Candor	275	77	184	7	11	5	1	-	-	24
Compton	525	124	180	17	14	23	-	-	-	54
Corliss	396	93	228	17	14	10	1	-	-	42
Dead Lake	279	70	179	12	14	13	-	-	-	39
Deer Creek	424	112	168	19	14	14	2	-	-	49
Dora	335	86	172	18	17	11	1	-	-	47
Eastern	320	79	227	17	15	14	1	-	-	47
Edna	333	82	194	21	15	16	1	-	1	54
Elmo	351	89	225	15	11	13	-	-	-	39
Folden	366	89	186	14	13	7	2	1	1	38
Girard	198	57	183	16	14	17	-	2	-	49
Gorman	351	80	243	20	16	15	-	1	1	53
Henning	390	99	191	20	14	13	4	2	1	54
Hobart	294	81	208	14	14	12	1	-	-	41
Homestead	344	100	203	15	16	8	2	1	-	42
Inman	333	87	205	17	14	13	1	-	-	45
Leaf Lake	430	94	213	20	16	15	3	1	1	56
Newton	522	131	168	22	15	10	3	1	-	51
Oak Valley	419	101	182	12	20	16	1	-	-	49
Otter Tail	113	28	302	17	17	20	-	3	-	57

Otto	332	84	207	18	14	11	1	3	1	48
Paddock	451	105	205	18	21	5	-	1	-	45
Parkers Prairie	343	92	206	21	16	14	1	-	1	53
Perham	354	82	242	24	12	20	2	3	1	62
Pine Lake	285	71	201	18	16	13	1	2	1	51
Rush Lake	287	72	200	17	17	16	1	1	-	52
Star Lake	339	84	151	12	14	9	1	-	-	36
Woodside	246	67	248	16	13	15	1	-	-	45
Villages and cities	304	78	149	18	17	16	1	2	-	54

West Otter Tail

Township	People on		Average-size Farm acres	Selected Crops as a Percentage of All Farm Land						Total
	Farms	Farms number		Oats	Hay	Corn	Barley	Rye	Wheat	
Aastad	342	83	275	19	10	13	14	3	9	68
Amor	284	62	207	19	14	16	1	-	-	50
Aurdal	442	127	154	23	16	12	4	3	1	59
Buse	324	86	229	20	13	15	8	1	6	63
Carlisle	273	58	335	19	11	13	13	5	8	69
Clitherall	320	78	237	19	13	14	6	1	1	54
Dane Prairie	366	105	170	21	14	10	4	2	2	53
Dunn	179	50	174	15	14	6	2	2	-	39
Eagle Lake	415	115	185	16	14	8	3	2	1	44
Effington	417	94	212	17	16	8	3	1	1	46
Elizabeth	397	104	190	20	15	10	2	4	2	53
Erhard Grove	296	82	218	18	13	9	2	3	2	47
Everts	165	49	251	22	11	18	--	-	-	51
Fergus Falls	416	95	193	22	13	13	7	2	2	59
Friberg	370	85	191	17	17	5	2	2	-	43
Leaf Mountain	345	104	186	16	13	5	4	1	1	40
Lida	260	70	183	14	15	7	1	1	-	38
Maine	367	91	177	24	14	14	1	1	-	54
Maplewood	326	99	163	9	12	4	1	-	-	26
Nidaros	259	72	225	23	15	12	1	1	-	52
Norwegian Grove	351	87	231	19	10	9	10	6	8	62
Orwell	257	63	304	24	12	16	7	2	6	67
Oscar	357	88	246	18	12	11	7	11	9	68
Pelican	373	98	182	26	15	11	5	2	2	61
St. Olaf	434	97	213	20	13	16	7	2	3	61
Scambler	309	70	267	23	15	8	3	1	1	51
Sverdrup	463	116	140	21	17	11	5	2	1	57
Tordenskjold	459	127	140	21	13	12	3	1	1	51
Trondhjem	285	75	314	19	12	8	14	10	13	76
Tumuli	311	76	205	20	13	14	8	1	3	59
Western	268	58	372	22	10	16	12	3	5	68
Villages and cities	187	55	72	18	23	13	4	1	2	61

Committee Reports -- Problem Areas and Recommendations

GENERAL STATEMENT

The problem situations selected and the recommendations suggested are summarized in this section. As a convenience to the County Extension Committee in using this report as a basis for annual programs, the committee reports are summarized under three major program areas: (1) Family Living - relating to the use of the family's income and other resources; (2) the Farm Business - concerning the family's various sources of income; and (3) the Community - various group-action programs necessary to achieve goals requiring the joint effort of several people. Some overlapping occurs since the family living and income aspects are so closely related that it is difficult to study one without considering the other.

FAMILY LIVING

Both farm and non-farm families are urged to cooperate with the County Extension Service for information that may be helpful in improving living standards. In some instances educational aids may be provided through individual contacts, although in most instances by organized groups with locally chosen leaders. These leaders are trained to distribute project information to their members.

The committees considering problems within the Family Living area singled out several home and community situations they thought could be improved with the assistance of the Extension Service. Where goals are mentioned they are considered consistent with past accomplishments in which results of research have been put into practical use.

The problem areas selected and the various committee analyses of them follow.

Health, Welfare, and Safety

Situation

The health, welfare, and safety of everyone are always of concern. Diets for different age groups, home-produced foods or purchased foods, and farm and home accidents are examples of subjects which committee members considered pertinent to this problem area.

In 1957 there were six fatal motor vehicle accidents in our county, although none occurred on our county roads. While county information is not available on many phases of farm and home safety, the following 1952 data for Minnesota emphasize a need for concern: (1) more than a million and a half dollars worth of Minnesota farm property went up in flames; (2) 10 people died because of farm fires; (3) 128 barns, 95 homes, 24 poultry houses, and 13 granaries were damaged or destroyed; (4) other major fires included 9 machine shops and sheds, 7 garages, and 43 miscellaneous machinery and crop fires.

THE THREE MOST COMMON CAUSES OF THESE FIRES, IN ORDER OF IMPORTANCE, WERE: defective and misused electrical equipment; defective, overheated, and exploding heating units; sparks from chimneys, motors, and welders. Other causes were rubbish fires, lightning, careless smoking and match handling, spontaneous combustion, and defective chimneys. Farm fire losses accounted for about 10 percent of the property loss for all the fires.

An organized over-all safety effort is best divided into the following major divisions: highway safety, home safety, farm safety, industrial safety, water safety, and fire safety.

As a general framework to use in meeting the challenges for improvement in health, welfare, and safety the following guides are suggested:

- The first step in any program on accident prevention is to know and recognize hazardous conditions, then to reduce the hazards or eliminate them completely. This fact should encourage us to adopt the following motto: "Knowing's not enough - doing is a must."

- Both amounts and kinds of food can affect the health of families. Studies in the North Central Region show that eating patterns have changed to include more dairy products, protein-rich foods, fruits, and vegetables. Yet from 10 to 24 percent of family meals are low in calcium (which is provided by milk), ascorbic acid (Vitamin C, provided by citrus fruits), Vitamin A (provided by deep green and yellow foods), and thiamine (provided by meat and cereals). Where shortages occur they may be due to poor breakfast habits, inadequate diets among teenage girls, poor diets among many older people, unsound weight-reduction practices, poor choice of snack foods, or low milk consumption.
- One-fifth of our population over 30 years of age is overweight. Snacking on high-calorie foods, skipping breakfast, and serving high-calorie foods as an expression of hospitality are some of the causes.
- Poor choice of snack foods contribute to the high incidence of tooth decay. In Minnesota the average 16-year-old has 15 decayed, missing, or filled permanent teeth.
- Good food habits help assure (1) stamina to do a day's work, (2) prolonged adult vigor, (3) freedom from oral diseases, (4) reduction in tendency toward accidents, (5) fewer complications during pregnancy, and (6) normal weight.
- Families that produce their own meat, milk, fruits, and vegetables usually consume more of these products. Opportunities to preserve food by canning and freezing should not be overlooked. In the North Central region 91 percent of the families are reported to do some canning while 75 percent do some freezing. Although a larger number of people can food, more food is preserved by freezing. Tomatoes, green beans, and peaches are the vegetable and fruits most generally canned.
- Knowledge of how to serve good food attractively is an important factor in helping people to eat well.
- Many families do not avail themselves of programs that help keep people well.

Objectives

The over-all objectives of this phase of work should be: (1) nutritious, adequately balanced diets for the entire family; (2) home and farm dwellings that provide safe and healthful places in which to live and work; (3) participation by the entire community when health programs require it; (4) families that are informed and prepared to prevent and meet emergencies, (5) establishment of good food habits for all ages which result in normal weight, fewer diseases, and sufficient stamina; and (6) prevention of dental caries through choice of foods and proper oral hygiene, as well as regular dental visits starting in early pre-school years.

Analysis of Committee Reports on Health, Welfare, and Safety

Problems

Recommendations

Public Health

Many children are not immunized against communicable diseases.

Refer to county health authorities and cooperate in setting up the necessary programs for action.

Immunization programs are not fully understood or sufficiently appreciated to make them fully effective.

Endeavor to reach more people with information on the value of the protection received from immunization programs. The Parent-Teachers Association may be an effective group to consider.

Importance of sanitation and healthful working conditions is not given adequate consideration in many homes and places of work.

Encourage home and county health programs by helping secure wider participation. Inform people of regulations for the enforcement of sanitary practices that help prevent illnesses.

Infrequent check-ups on possible cases of tuberculosis.

Endeavor to have a Red Cross mobile unit visit the county annually.

Lack of sufficient number of donors for the "Blood Bank."

Sponsor a drive to interest the public in contributing blood regularly.

Too few retirement homes for the aged.

Explore methods used in other counties to meet housing and health needs of older people and report findings to local groups.

Failure of many parents to provide sufficient dental care for their children.

Disseminate information among all families on the importance of regular visits to the dentist.

Too often children attend school when ill.

Encourage periodic visits to the larger schools by a registered school nurse.

Home Health

Physical health check-ups in school for boys in athletics reveal a need for better diets. Similar diet problems no doubt exist among other young people.

Give more emphasis to the 4-H foods project and 4-H health activity on items relating to proper quantities of protein, fruits, vegetables, and milk in the diet. Also, stress the importance of adequate breakfasts.

There is concern about the large consumption of soft drinks by people of all ages.

Urge the serving of milk at more functions. The milk-vending machine may be an appropriate competitor of the soft-drink machine.

Too many types of snacks are served that are not well planned from a health point of view.

Consider educational work on nutritional snacks in both 4-H and adult projects.

Concern about heart conditions.

Urge that more people seek medical check-ups. Also encourage educational

School children are indifferent to foods prepared and served at school lunches.

Inadequate diets of some adolescents prevent them from doing satisfactory school work; in others, overweight and underweight occur.

Lack of variety in diets where maximum use is made of home-produced or locally available foods such as fish, vegetables, home-grown poultry, beef, and pork.

Young homemakers do not participate in the Extension program to the extent desired because of difficulty in having children cared for or in getting away from their home work.

Lack of an understanding and appreciation of the differences in desires and problems of people in general--young, old, low income, less educated, special problems, etc.

Importance of cleanliness in homes as a means of maintaining health is too often

courses on well-balanced diets that maintain one's desired weight.

Stress importance of nutritious meals in 4-H Club food work. Seek cooperation between the various agencies fostering the school lunch program as a means of inspiring better attitudes by the children.

Conduct studies with homemakers' groups on basic diets that are both nutritious and appealing. Begin the series with a lesson on "Better Breakfasts."

Continue to provide information on foods and nutrition to improve food standards and diets.

Consider special means of reaching young homemakers, such as short courses, open meetings, and others.

Broaden some Extension programs by making greater use of specialists' help in fields of sociology, family relationships, and welfare.

Include educational material on the role of sanitation. Stress cleanliness, washing

underestimated.

hands before meals, and general sanitation practices for use as teaching materials for 4-H Clubs.

Poor utilization of both home-produced and purchased foods, particularly meats and vegetables.

Stress proper preparation of foods from harvesting to cooking, serving, canning, and freezing.

Diets for older people.

Emphasize educational work on different nutritional needs of the different ages.

Teaching young children to eat a proper diet.

Urge parents to set an example by eating well-balanced meals.

Too much use of tobacco and alcoholic beverages by teenagers.

Recommend more rigid enforcement of existing laws. Stress importance of examples set by adults.

Concern about those who do not avail themselves of polio shots.

Prepare publicity for use locally to inform people on the insurance value of polio shots. Explore means of cooperating with the health and medical groups whereby the administering of this health protection service may be centralized at times and thereby effect economies in time and costs.

General neglect in care and repair of teeth, especially of children, is too prevalent.

Suggest that groups working with youth emphasize dental programs by use of demonstrations, visual aids, and dental cards. Contact local dental groups for suggestions on county-wide clinics.

Offensive odors from some processing plants cause special problems for nearby residents.

People concerned are urged to secure community support in presenting their problem to local health authorities.

Public Safety

Too many people are unaware of their individual responsibilities in home and public safety matters.

Urge stricter enforcement of speed laws along with more intensive training of young drivers and offenders of traffic rules.

The importance of reflectors on bicycles, farm machinery, and even cars is frequently ignored, hence easily preventable accidents occur.

Stress (when working with 4-H safety activities) the importance of reflectors on all vehicles used at night. Try to develop a community drive on this problem in all parts of the county.

The role of Civil Defense is poorly understood.

Provide some opportunities for appropriate personnel to outline the functions of the Civil Defense organization and thus inform people of their responsibility in keeping informed and prepared.

Careless driving by young people results in too many serious accidents.

Stress careful driving in 4-H safety activities.

Traffic laws in small towns are not significantly enforced.

Develop an awareness of citizen responsibility in efforts to improve local traffic enforcement.

Obstacles to safety, such as blind corners on highways, are not given proper attention.

Urge citizens to assume a personal responsibility in looking for and reporting natural safety hazards.

Home Safety

Too many farm and home accidents.

Where possible, include publicity on teaching aids, such as use of films, slides, and demonstrations on farm and home safety measures,

Littered stairways, broken steps, unsafe toys, and electrical hazards cause many accidents in the home and are especially hazardous for older people. The barnyard with many machines and animals is likewise responsible for many accidents.

Fire extinguishers are lacking on many farms.

Too little is known about first aid.

The recent uptrend has been alarming in certain specific types of accidents, such as those on ice, in water, from fire, while hunting, and even from monoxide gas poisoning.

Many very young children drive or ride farm machinery that safety engineers consider extremely hazardous.

in Extension programs. Extend this program over the next few years and invite the county safety chairman and others interested to cooperate.

Work through 4-H Clubs in making people "safety-inspection conscious." Include some special 4-H leader training numbers on safety.

Suggest 4-H demonstrations on the "fire extinguisher." Illustrate its make-up and what it can do.

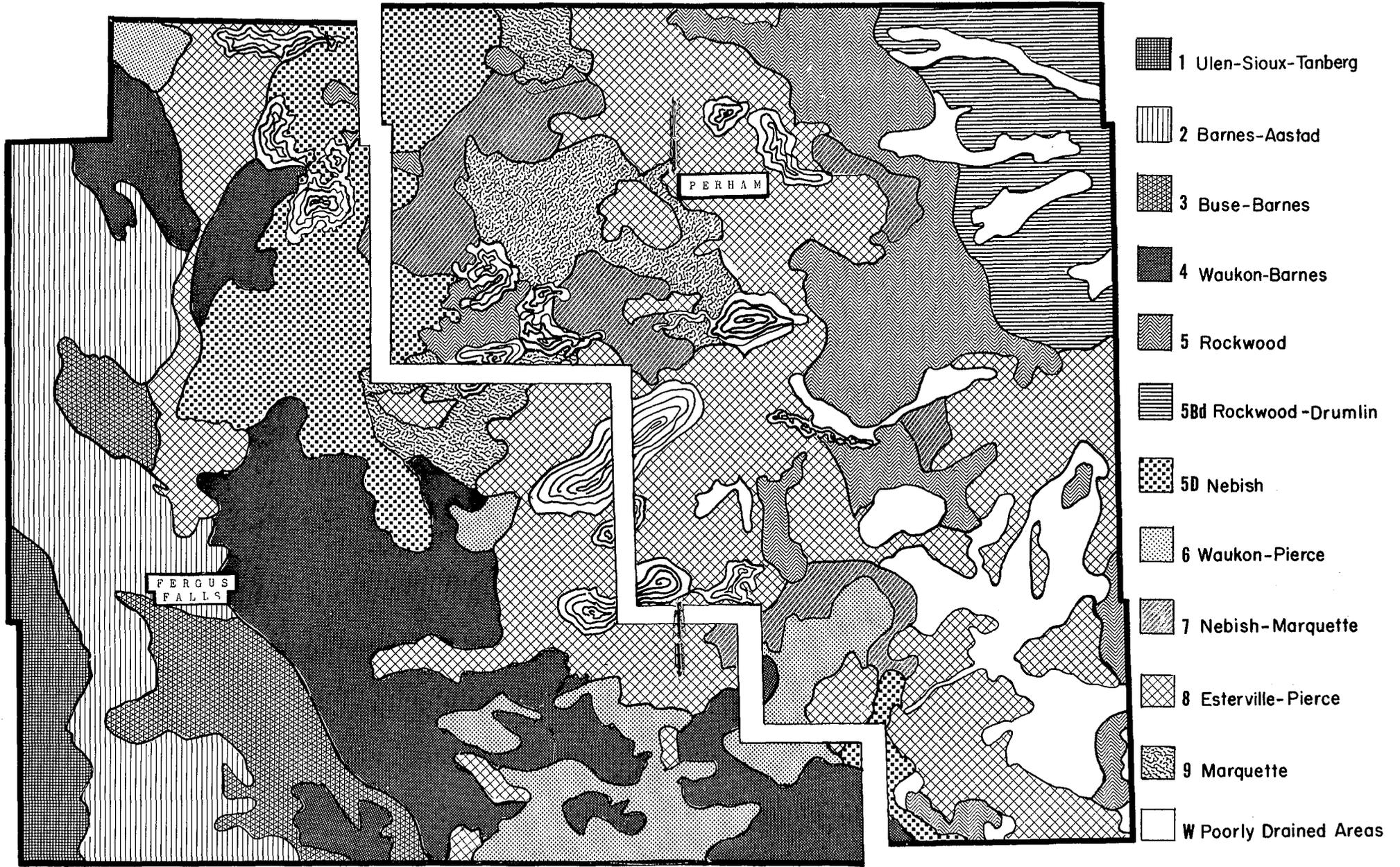
Include lessons and demonstrations on first aid at programs for both young people and adults.

Use means of mass communications to create a greater awareness of certain dangers connected with both play and work. Cooperate with safety specialists in developing programs to reduce accidents.

Contact the Extension specialist in farm and home safety for data which may help appraise the practice concerning young children who are permitted to drive large tractors and other large types of farm equipment.

SOILS ASSOCIATIONS OF OTTER TAIL COUNTY

(Courtesy of the Soil Conservation Service)



Increased loads placed upon outmoded wiring systems are setting the stage for a variety of costly situations, such as fires, inefficient use of electric energy, damage to motors, etc.

Secure cooperation of REA and other suppliers of electricity in sponsoring educational meetings on the value of periodic check-ups on wiring requirements.

Water supply for drinking purposes may not be safe.

Contact local health agencies on procedures necessary to have water analyses made from time to time.

Public rest-room facilities are too limited in some towns and cities in the county.

Urge interest organizations to work with business groups in establishing public rest-rooms and providing for their maintenance.

Knowledge of swimming skills and water safety is too limited.

Suggest that groups that want swimming lessons contact the Red Cross organization. Possibly some assistance can be provided in organizing such classes.

Many young families don't budget adequately to allow for buying clothing and shoes for growing youngsters.

Include special educational topics on minimum costs for adequate clothing for growing children to acquaint young families more fully with the costs involved.

Shut-ins and other older people are sensitive to the lack of companionship and concerned about the limited number of activities in which they can participate.

Create a greater awareness of the increasing number of shut-ins in every community and develop projects especially designed to meet the needs of this group.

Family Living and Youth

Situation

Families are having to make adjustments in view of these apparent trends: the prevailing authority in the home

is shifting; opportunities for women to work outside the home are more inviting; young people are developing at an earlier age; people have more leisure time; people live to an older age and are more active; and the population today is mobile.

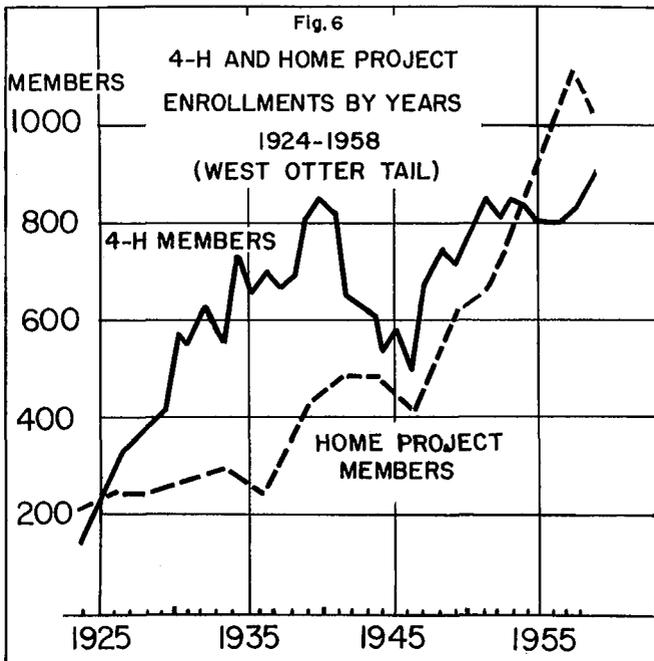
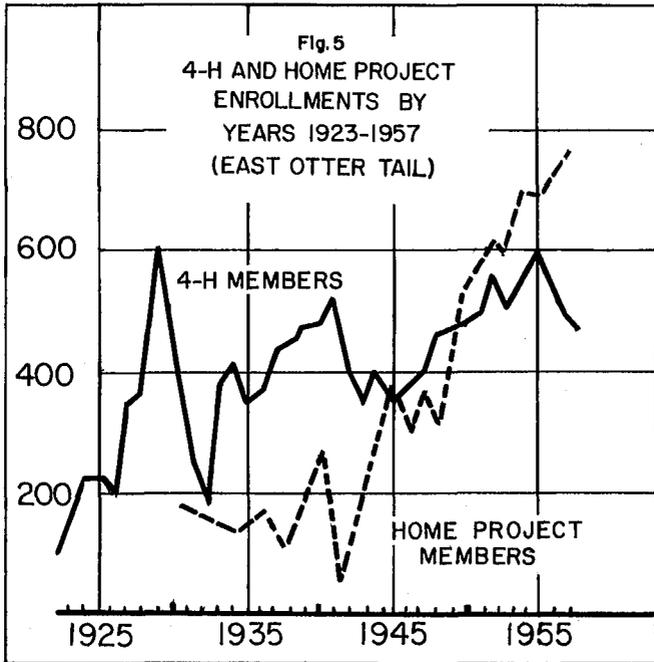
For youth a subcommittee decided to get some current firsthand information. A fairly detailed questionnaire was prepared and circulated among West Otter Tail County schoolboys and girls between the ages of 10 and 17. The purpose of this undertaking was to determine the activities currently favored and possibly find other interests that should be encouraged. Some interesting results were noted as follows:

For boys, activities of general interest included: (1) softball, (2) hunting, (3) fishing, and (4) swimming. By age groups the 10-year-olds selected (1) and (4); the 11-year-olds, (2) and (4); the 12-year-olds, (2) and (4); the 13-year-olds, (2) and (3); and the 14-year-olds, basketball and (2). Hobbies reported by the younger boys (11 to 13 years of age) were collecting rocks and making model planes, with a few specifying trapping and wood carving.

For girls, there was a wide range in interests according to ages as to: (1) swimming, (2) softball, (3) dancing, (4) fishing, (5) horseback riding, (6) roller skating, and (7) ice skating. The 10- and 11-year-old girls selected as their preference (1), (2), and (3), with a few showing considerable interest in (4), (5), and (6); the 12- and 13-year-olds, (1), (3), and (7); the 14- and 15-year-olds, (3), (1), and (5); and the 16- and 17-year-olds showed unusual preference for (3), with (6) and (1) a poor second and third. As hobbies the girls favored photography and collecting stamps, teacups, and post cards.

These interests of young people should be especially helpful in making plans for 4-H boys and girls and other organized youth groups.

Organized 4-H and home programs are reaching more people than formerly (see figures 5 and 6). The County



Extension Service is urged to continue emphasis on these phases of work as effective organizations to reach people with programs on family living and youth.

Family living in rural areas is affected by many changes. All this means that the values people associate with their local community must be guarded and maintained within a new set of circumstances. Greatest concern appears to center on making the most of the family's income and rearing and training youth.

The committee studying this phase pinpointed some situations deserving emphasis in County Extension programs. These problems were viewed as phases of family living interpreted in the broad sense, home management, housing, and home furnishings. Certain assumptions were made and used as a basis in developing the recommendations for each phase. The more important ones considered were that family life situations for the next few years are likely to be influenced by these trends:

- Families find it necessary to adjust to the social and cultural changes which come from pressures that vary both in kind and in intensity.
- The prevailing authority in the home is shifting from the male to a cooperative arrangement between husband and wife. The status of the American woman involves more authority and responsibility than that observed in any other country.
- The young people of today are developing at a younger age. They are also getting married earlier.
- People are busy from choice rather than from necessity. Nevertheless, more people have more leisure. People now live to an older age, enjoy better health, and take part in more activities than prior generations did.

Objectives

Over-all objectives for each family, in view of current situations, might well be: (1) greater unity within the family; (2) well-adjusted individuals capable of withstanding the stresses of modern life; and (3) development of a willingness to make constructive contributions to the local

community in addition to promoting and developing a wholesome family life.

Analysis of Committee Reports on Family Living and Youth

Problems

Too many parents do not assume enough responsibility for their children's welfare.

Too many older 4-H club members drop out.

Lack of understanding between youth and parents.

Concern about a lack of discipline among many young people. There is also a lack of appreciation observed for programs parents consider essential to desirable development. Specific problem areas are: (1) lack of guidance by many parents; (2) inferiority feelings of some rural children; (3) difficulty in locating the real troublemakers; (4) resistance to chaperons; (5) tendency to seek entertainment far from home; and (6) no church connections for some children.

Recommendations

Stress basic purposes of 4-H Club work at special parents' night meetings. Develop a 4-H program which specifically provides for active parent guidance and participation.

Give greater emphasis to 4-H projects and activities likely to stimulate and challenge older members.

Keep parents involved in the 4-H program. Urge use of family conferences in working out the problems of the young people.

Urge parents to cooperate in organizing various recreational programs in an effort to find those most certain to interest young people. Parents must assume their share of the responsibility. Use results of the survey made among young people in the county to develop a program for youth, with more effective emphasis on: (1) more planned recreation with the 4-H Clubs; (2) wider range of recreational events such as rifle, clubs, archery, and fishing; and (3) development of more community responsibility in furthering wholesome programs for youth.

Home Management

Home management plans for the future should be made with these trends in mind:

- Family living conditions are influenced by current economic and social trends. Adjustments in recent years have been toward a higher standard of living as a result of larger incomes and more available goods and services.
- The level of living of each family is determined by both its goals and its willingness to work to achieve them.
- There are many demands facing every family; good judgment and planning are essential in the selection of what is most important. Examples of increased demands upon the family are: (1) greater participation in community activities; (2) diverse interests of family members; (3) work outside the home; and (4) a desire to maintain high standards of housekeeping.
- More and better use of equipment in the home is expected to release time and energy of the homemaker and also permit other members of the family to be relieved of some chores assumed.
- More communities are providing community facilities and services in the interest of health, recreation, and educational purposes. In return the community will expect and demand various types of support from those it serves.
- The farm and home unit is becoming increasingly complex. Need exists for an integrated use of all its resources. Families who apply the principles of farm and home management to day-to-day living are more likely to achieve maximum results in human satisfactions.

Objectives

The over-all objectives of home management should be to: (1) conserve the energy of the homemaker; (2) economize on time in the preparation of food and in the management of the home; and (3) use the family income efficiently.

Analysis of Committee Reports on Home Management

Problems

Low income and high living costs create many difficult family situations.

Many families underestimate the importance of developing wholesome recreational programs at home as a means of reducing cash outlays.

Purchases made of labor-saving household equipment without prior thought to planning for its use nullify possible benefits.

Recommendations

Emphasize programs that stress better buymanship and the planning of budgets that result in buying only what is most needed. Include educational material in county programs that consider budgeting of time as important as wise use of money and material.

Stress the many benefits that accrue from "family nights" or "family days" as wholesome recreational efforts where costs may be held to a minimum.

Organize educational programs to deal with home-management plans for better use of equipment, in order to conserve time, energy, and money.

Housing

Situation

Most homes in Otter Tail County were built at the beginning of this century and earlier. Within the past 20 years electric current became available to nearly all who wished it. There is a desire to modernize home dwellings, and many people have made substantial progress. However, costs of home improvements, in view of many already strained financial situations, deter progress. Nevertheless, even modest improvements deserve careful planning so that costly disappointments do not result later on when more extensive remodeling may be desired.

The 1954 Census report shows that 91 percent of Otter Tail farms have electricity, compared with 94.1 percent for the state. Farms having piped running water number 47 percent, compared with 57.1 percent for the state. Telephones are found in 64 percent of the homes in the county, and 68.3 percent of farms in the state.

Since electricity has made modern equipment more easily available to farm families, opportunities for improving both farm buildings and home dwellings are quite favorable. Some effort should be made each year for progress in this area.

Objectives

The over-all objectives in housing might well be to modernize the old buildings or construct new ones where possible so that they may be comfortable, attractive, convenient, and economical.

Analysis of Committee Reports on Housing

Problems

Remodelling of dwellings is often undertaken without adequate planning, and poor and costly results occur. Many fail to inspect or tour communities where benefits might be gained from the experiences of others.

Importance of storage space is underestimated in most remodeling jobs.

Electrical equipment is frequently unsatisfactory owing to outmoded wiring.

Recommendations

Provide educational information through meetings on remodelling that consider such items as location of the facilities, selection of materials, expected care or servicing, and cost estimates. Secure specialist help in these programs.

Provide information from qualified personnel on types of storage needed in homes, such as for food, equipment, clothes, etc. Locations of storage for greatest convenience should also be emphasized.

Cooperate with local suppliers of electrical energy on ways of determining present-day electrical wiring

needs. Urge farm families to make checkups on wiring as a fire-safety precaution.

Home Furnishings

Situation

Families considering extensive improvements in furnishing their homes should plan them with these thoughts in mind:

- Carpeting is one of the most expensive items in room furnishings. With new fibers and blends available, families should shop with care to assure purchases that provide the satisfaction desired.
- Color is one of the most effective decorating mediums. Careful use of color can make homes cheerful without incurring much cost and also can cover up some of the normal wear and tear.
- Homemakers have a choice of many new materials in home furnishings.

Objective

The over-all objective in home furnishings is to achieve greater satisfaction in the home surroundings, that is, to provide the home with attractive, economical furnishings that will be effective.

Analysis of Committee Reports on Home Furnishings

Problems

Lack of skill in the coordination of home-furnishing items to create a home-like atmosphere.

Recommendations

Inform homemakers on home-furnishing items and teach them the art of combining items. Homemakers' programs are suggested as the media for accomplishing this work.

Some home accessories are not functional.

Establish a basis of selection of home accessories through studies included in 4-H projects and adult projects.

Frequently furniture arrangement is inconvenient and not satisfying.

Schedule discussion and workshop events featuring units in room arrangement.

Cost of hiring skilled labor prevents homemakers from redoing their homes.

Teach homemakers the home furnishing skills through workshops and leader-training meetings.

Clothing

Situation

Urban and farm families are both spending a smaller share of their family-living dollar for apparel. Studies on expenditures of farm families show that they spend less on clothing than urban families do, but there are aspects of clothing expenditures that deserve attention as guides also. They are:

- Farm clothing expenditures per person amounted to 40 percent of the amount spent by urban people in 1941, and 69 percent in 1955.
- Farm families are spending more for clothing than they were 14 years ago.
- The expenditure for clothing for farm families of the west north central is the smallest of the eight regions in the United States, although incomes rank in fifth place.
- Spending for apparel rises and falls with the family life cycle, depending on the ages and number of children.
- Men spend more for clothes than women and girls do in low-income families. As income rises, women tend to spend more for clothing. In high-income families the greater share of the family clothing dollar goes for feminine wear.

Objective

An over-all objective in clothing should be to derive the greatest satisfaction possible for the money spent for clothing. In some instances this may be achieved by outright purchases; in others, by using improved sewing techniques.

Analysis of Committee Reports on Clothing

Problems

Children lack knowledge of the high cost of clothing.

Lack of knowledge about new fibers disturbs people who are not familiar with them.

Some families lack good-quality apparel because homemakers don't have the skills required for re-making or repairing old clothing.

Recommendations

Establish recordkeeping habits through 4-H and other youth projects.

Give special emphasis at 4-H and adult meetings to the growing importance of new fibers. Urge demonstrations on this subject by 4-H club members.

Provide opportunities for interested groups to develop sewing skills through 4-H Clubs, special interest groups, adult night classes, and leader training.

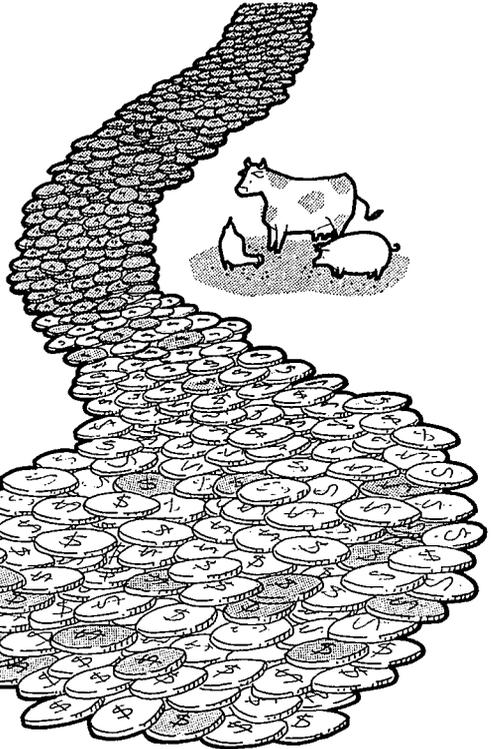
THE FARM BUSINESS

Farm Family Finances

Situation

The farm business determines the total income for nearly all farm families. The goal obviously is an income adequate to meet the daily expenses of the farm and home, provide for educational and recreational needs, and enable some savings for times when they are needed. Where income is inadequate, the Extension Service has an obligation to assist farmers in making adjustments in their farming operations that will assure higher earnings. The average cash farm sales of \$3,917 per farm for Otter Tail County

The Farm Business
concerns
PRICES
and **COSTS** of
PRODUCTION



reported in the most recent U. S. Farm Census includes a wide range from satisfactory earnings to others wholly inadequate. It is the hope of the Long-Range County Planning Committee that the level of incomes of the lower-income groups may be improved substantially. As an aid in accomplishing this goal, subcommittees were formed to study certain phases of Otter Tail County farming. These will be treated separately in the sections that follow.

Farm families planning for the next five or ten years should rely heavily on present trends. These can be exceedingly helpful; nevertheless, it is advisable to give consideration to the long-time trends. The following statements have been prepared from views generally accepted by people concerned with the agricultural sector of this country. These statements will be helpful in developing the expected framework for the next few years into which Otter Tail County farm families must fit their farm and home operations.

- A continued, but less pronounced, cost-price squeeze - a situation that results from little change in farm prices and rising or "sticky" farm costs.
- Limited new farming opportunities, owing to a fixed amount of farm land coupled with a less pronounced but continued trend toward larger farms and higher capital requirements. Efforts to improve farm leases will continue.
- Continued burdensome supplies in some farm commodities but continued national efforts to effect adjustments may be expected -- possibly some new approaches will be used.
- Large capital requirements in farming will place a greater reliance on accurate farm records, carefully planned farm-family budgets, wise use of credit, and increased mechanization both on the farm and in the home.
- The influence of social security, a larger proportion of people 65 years of age or older, increased demands for public services, increased taxes, foreign trade policies, changes in transportation, and other developments will be felt by both farm families and their communities.

Objective

The major objective in the entire area of farm family finances is an adequate source of income for the farm family that is used wisely. It is desirable also that the income originate from workable tenure arrangements operating within a sound agriculture.

Analysis of Committee Reports on Farm Family Finances

Problems

Low income exists on many farms - certainly in instances where gross farm sales are below the county average of \$3,917.

Recommendations

Provide more help in analyzing the business of individual farms as an aid in reorganizing the farm business for greater returns.

Income problems for some farmers stem from not having enough cropland.

Reduction in the number of farmers is creating painful adjustments in small towns.

Limited farming opportunities for young men. Alternative opportunities are also limited, both for part-time work and full-time work.

Current price-support programs have limited application to Otter Tail County farmers.

Farm operating costs are climbing while receipts from sales of farm products decline. Costs of farm machinery and interest on loans are becoming increasingly burdensome.

Need exists for farm lease arrangements that encourage good farm practices.

Review income problems with operators of small farms with emphasis on: (1) reducing cash outlays; (2) reorganizing the farm business; and/or (3) seeking an alternative opportunity.

Urge occasional urban-rural conferences to review mutual problems.

Develop father-and-son partnerships that provide for an eventual transfer of ownership. Review service opportunities to agriculture. Create an awareness of training necessary for non-farm jobs in view of the declining demand for unskilled labor.

Urge active participation in studies concerned with income-support programs.

Urge that more thought be given to custom-service arrangements for the more costly farm machines or exchange work opportunities between neighbors as a means of reducing costs. Review farm plans with greater thought to equipment needs.

Explore lease arrangements of other counties where most of the crops grown are fed to livestock, dairy, and poultry.

Knowledge of family business affairs often is limited to one member of a family, thereby causing confusion in emergency situations.

Provide educational information on family business to interested families through institutes, printed material, and group study. This material should be planned for combined family groups and thus encourage more effective farm and home management arrangements.

Unfortunate situations often occur from unwise use of credit, especially where much installment buying is practiced. Costs of credit for farm machinery and household appliances are examples.

Provide resource information on the use of credit. Emphasize the actual cost of installment purchases and the savings possible when people shop for credit in the same manner as they do for most commodities. Stress the use of credit mainly for production purposes. Stress the importance of establishing a credit rating and explain how it is done.

Inadequate credit is reported for beginning farmers and 4-H Club members.

Encourage individual counseling on the various sources and costs of credit and their costs with money-lending institutions.

Soils and Crops

Situation

The types of soils, topography, size of most farms, climate, and interests of Otter Tail County people have been factors in developing livestock farming as the basic source of cash farm receipts. The sale of crops, limited mostly to the west half of the county, accounts for less than 16 percent of the annual cash farm sales. Therefore, a soil-management program that assures some cash crops but mostly feed crops and good yields of high-quality forages and feed grains is desired. The county has organized soil conservation districts staffed with men to assist in adopting

desired soil management practices. The County Extension Service has this added opportunity to get more land owners and operators fully informed on the characteristics of all soil types and the cropping plans best suited to them. Once this has been accomplished, other equally important programs can be advanced, such as those related to drainage, supplemental erosion-control practices, cultural practices in general, and crop plans based upon the land capabilities.

Objective

The end objective in this phase of work is a program of soil and crop management that sustains yields over time at costs that assure an adequate income for farm families.

Analysis of Committee Reports on Crops and Soils

Problems

It is difficult to establish good stands of alfalfa on many fields.

The extreme importance of applying lime to the acid soils of the county is not fully appreciated.

Costly drainage projects undertaken to secure more farmland are frequently disappointing.

Many acres of wetlands are excluded from all land-use programs.

Recommendations

Place more emphasis on soil management practices such as testing, use of recommended varieties, selection, and use of fertilizer and liming.

Emphasize the ACP lime cost-sharing program and apply lime according to recommendations.

Recommend a costs vs. benefits study on drainage projects before they are undertaken. Check available soil maps in regard to the land capabilities as some land will not produce satisfactory yields even if drained.

Encourage planting for wildlife food and shelter on some of the poorer, wetland areas. Acquisition of some areas for these purposes should

be explored so that some sound management program is planned for all lands.

The sandy soil areas present special problems; more satisfactory solutions are needed.

Point out the value of establishing field strips, shelterbelts, stripcropping, and cover crops. Provide information on opportunities in planting Christmas trees. Urge the control of weeds in the tree planting.

It is difficult to increase farm size; farmers look to irrigation as a means of increasing yields. They ask, "Will it pay?"

Secure and publicize costs of irrigation systems, including maintenance. These may be used in calculating expected returns for different crops.

Low yields of oats and corn are reported on many farms.

Encourage the testing of soil, applying fertilizer according to recommendations, and seeding only recommended varieties. Continue the use of variety and fertilizer plots at strategic places in the county. Stress the importance of the proper maturity corn hybrids.

Basic importance of land-use planning based upon land capabilities is not adequately understood.

Cooperate with the soil conservation district officers and staff members in securing farmer participation in sound land-management programs.

Dairy, General Livestock, and Poultry

Situation

Since 85 percent of the farm income in Otter Tail County comes from the sale of livestock and livestock products, the following factors play an important role in

determining farm family incomes: (1) herd size and production per cow; (2) flock size and eggs laid per hen; (3) pounds of pork per 100 pounds of feed; (4) wool and lambs per ewe; and (5) local markets that net the farmer the highest possible price. Farmers generally are familiar with these factors, yet are not fully aware of the real impact each has on their incomes. As the sale of dairy products makes up over a third of the county's cash farm income, the following information table was prepared from Minnesota DHIA records for 1956 as an example to illustrate the effect of efficient production on a farmer's return (the Otter Tail County average is 243 pounds butterfat production per cow):

<u>Butterfat Production per Cow</u>	<u>Feed Cost per Cow</u>	<u>Return over Feed Cost per Cow</u>
pounds	dollars	dollars
200	81	94
257	101	122
304	113	162
352	123	197
397	134	232
444	142	264
492	154	300
542	164	329
593	184	393

The state average of herds now enrolled in the DHIA program is around 375 pounds of butterfat. Dairymen with herds not up to this level might well make that a goal for the next five years. Since dairymen actually sell their feed through dairy cows, it can be said that cows producing less than 375 pounds of butterfat are poor-paying markets for grain.

While production per cow is important, other factors such as herd size, milk quality, laborsaving considerations, and the local market are also significant. The shifting from cream to milk sales is likely to continue. The up-grading of quality may be expected too. And, if local markets are to pay highest possible prices, more attention to volume and plant efficiency will be required. Similar opportunities for improvement exist for all other classes of livestock and poultry.

Objective

The over-all objective in the area of the livestock, dairy, and poultry enterprises is to determine the program which will maximize the farm family's income.

Analysis of Committee Reports on Dairy, General Livestock, and Poultry

Dairy

Problems

Low average production per cow continues in many herds even though methods of correcting this situation are now fairly well known.

Low prices received for dairy products are frequently commented upon. Much misunderstanding exists about prices of milk and milk products.

Quality of product is one of the major problems facing the Grade B producer.

Recommendations

Encourage more participation in DHIA programs designed to check the individual production per cow. Emphasize variations in returns above feed costs for different levels of herd production. Continually stress dairy programs dealing with improved breeding, herd health, milk quality, and feeding practices.

Assist dairymen in evaluating the shift from cream to milk sales. Many have not yet made this change. Provide information on variation in costs of different types of local milk-processing plants. Keep informed on national developments, since most of the local milk and milk products are sold elsewhere. Explore opportunities for increased sales in nearby areas.

Provide information on minimum-cost farm facilities required to produce Grade B quality milk or better.

Grade A milk producers have made dairying a major enterprise. More help is needed in feeding and management.

Since the fluid milk market is preferred for Grade A milk, producers should try to overcome seasonal variation in production. Producers should also determine the size herd, production per cow, and crop program that will net him the highest possible income.

What are the advantages of dry lot feeding of dairy cows compared with pasture grazing and pasture rotation?

Use results of research conducted at Rosemount and elsewhere, setting forth differences in yields of milk per acre and costs between the traditional dairy feeding program, dry-lot program, and rotation pastures.

How to use more forage and less grain for dairy herds. More information is needed on forages and quality of feed because of uncertain weather during haying time.

Consider special forage meetings, tours, and institutes where exhibits of silage and hay will be judged and commented upon by an Extension agronomist so that proper maturity and preservation methods may be understood more clearly. Some attention should be given to artificial drying of hay also.

Members of DHIA wish to develop a plan to sell surplus cattle as foundation herd material for others.

Consider DHIA's "surplus of superior cattle" as a program to feature at annual meetings; then explore possible outlets.

Hogs

Large numbers of hogs are sold at too-heavy weights.

Disseminate current information on the meat-type hog.

Limited number of local outlets are reported for hogs.

Heavy losses from disease are experienced by some farmers.

Disease control and management are problems for the hog farmer.

How can the hog raiser get information far enough in advance to fit his breeding program to changing market patterns?

Consider markets where more buyers bid on the lots offered for sale.

Hold meetings and sponsor demonstrations on swine sanitation.

Provide information for farmers on swine-management problems, emphasizing sanitation and balanced feed rations.

Provide information on seasonal price trends.

Sheep

Slow gains realized for lambs reduce margins.

Small lamb crops result in costly lambs.

Late lambing practices are followed on many farms.

Low grade of wool results in low average prices.

Stress need of periodic dipping and worming, along with other recommended sheep-management practices.

Urge liberal feeding program for ewe lambs prior to the breeding season.

Outline the limited but essential facilities needed for early lamb crops.

Urge earlier shearing of sheep. Meetings on market factors for wool followed by press releases would be helpful.

Beef

Limited sales opportunities for local beef breeders.

Urge breeders to pool efforts in selling excess stock.

Lack of knowledge among small cattle feeders as to the type of feeders to buy.

Outline feeding plans tailored for specific market grades at the different seasons of the year.

Poultry

Poorly ventilated poultry houses create undesirable housing for many flocks.

Consult agricultural engineer for data on types and costs on both insulation materials and ventilation systems and present such material at meetings followed by press releases.

Poultry houses too small for profitable-sized flocks; flock-owners uncertain on best way to enlarge facilities.

Conduct tours and hold meetings on remodelling of farm buildings tailored to current needs.

Failure to take advantage of laborsaving devices and methods keeps egg production costs higher than necessary.

Hold special meetings and tours for poultrymen at which maximum and minimum labor-cost data are presented and discussed.

Poorly planned poultry rations used by many of the smaller flock owners result in low production.

Continue to stress importance of balanced rations as a major factor in assuring optimum egg production.

COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

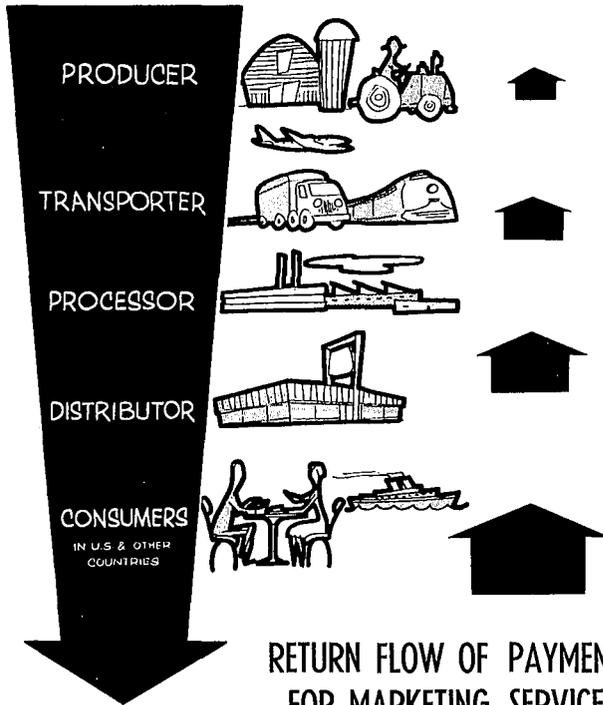
Public Affairs

Situation

Otter Tail County is a community of 49,735. It is dependent upon distant markets for most farm products. Also, many commodities used by Otter Tail people come long

Production, Marketing, and Public Affairs

MARKET FLOW OF FARM PRODUCTS



distances. Near each home in the county are local industries, schools and colleges, churches, hospitals, fire and police protection services, recreational facilities, roads, etc. Some of these services are made available through local units of government or by cooperating with a higher level of government. Others are secured through non-governmental associations and organizations. Whatever the case, such services and their costs are determined through community action.

This entire area is complicated but essential. Some of the considerations involved lie outside the role of Extension work, while others are definitely a part of it. Progress may be slow. Some areas will require yearly attention.

Objective

The end objective in this program area is a cooperative working relationship between all units of local government and other organized groups with the general welfare of all people kept always in mind.

Analysis of Committee Report on Public Affairs

Problems

Keeping an active working relationship between rural and urban people at all times, since the interests of both are closely related.

Poor understanding of current price-support programs on farm products produced in the county. Farmers are not familiar with the ways to improve farm programs.

Misunderstanding exists concerning the competition between animal and vegetable fats, especially those that compete with butter.

The public doesn't understand the true role of cooperatives.

Concern is often expressed over extensive expansion in some lines of production,

Recommendations

Suggest that efforts be made at intervals to acquaint people in larger centers of population with accurate information on developments in farming.

Urge more participation in open meetings and forums where issues of this kind are discussed. Take time to analyze all government programs.

Sponsor meetings where the fats and oils situation is given major emphasis.

Urge local cooperatives to include frequent "Know Your Cooperative" topics at meetings and in the press. Invite nonmembers to attend educational meetings.

Study advantages and disadvantages of closer working connections between

such as "factory" plans for hogs, turkeys, dairy herds, etc.

Surpluses continue to occur and depress farm prices even though price-support farm programs have been in effect for many years.

There is need for clarification of the real impact tariffs have on markets of farm and non-farm products.

Trends in education appear to be changing. How can people properly evaluate them? Similar trends occur in other governmental services and concern people. Many functions of local government are not understood (for example-- roads).

Lack of appreciation of the basic educational needs of people.

Maintaining community interest in livestock disease-eradication programs, such as brucellosis and tuberculosis in cattle.

What are costs of welfare programs for (1) retarded

marketing firms and production. Explore opportunities of cooperatives.

Search for an improved approach to balancing production with demand at levels that will assure fair prices. Urge farmers to take an active part in developing such programs.

Provide educational information for all county people on imports and exports of all commodities and the effects tariffs have on both of them.

Hold conferences and discussions with educators in different fields on present-day trends for the centralization of schools and the greater emphasis given some courses. Pursue similar courses on "Know Your Government" programs so that people may become more fully informed on all of the public services.

Develop an awareness of each person's responsibility for our educational systems, including both the formal and informal methods of instruction.

Occasional review of benefits resulting from recent disease-eradication programs and measures required to maintain them.

Inform communities of existing laws.

children, (2) old-age assistance, and (3) retirement homes.

Litter on highways.

Encourage good citizenship through the adoption of programs that develop respect for both private and public property.

Marketing

Situation

Long distance to the final markets for most farm products prompt producers to seek means of reducing marketing costs, especially those over which they have some control. Local markets are primarily assembly points or, as with dairy products, processing plants.

In Minnesota the number of creameries dropped from 874 in 1938 to 550 in 1955. Creameries also became more diversified, many of them becoming butter-powder plants. Total processing costs among such plants may vary as much as 10 cents and more per hundredweight of milk processed owing to variations in volume size of equipment and technology. Adjustments necessary to meet changes in farm production and market demands are difficult at best. Nevertheless, opportunities for progress must be used if local marketing costs are to be kept at a minimum.

Since many of Otter Tail County's local markets are cooperatively organized, decisions concerning changes rest with the producer-members. The same is true with a few poultry-processing plants, egg assemblers, and grain elevators. In either case the objective should be that of keeping local markets up-to-date, efficient, and capable of performing the services expected of them.

Objective

The objective is to have local markets for farm products that net farmers the highest possible prices consistent with reasonable prices to consumers.

Analysis of Committee Reports on Marketing

Problems

Marketing margins on eggs seem high to producers.

Producers respond slowly to plans for raising the quality standard of all dairy products produced in the county.

Some market grain is contaminated by rodents, insects, or seed-treating material and thus creates a storage and price problem for local grain elevators.

Producer-members of farmers' cooperatives do not fully understand their responsibilities in determining the policies of their associations.

What constitutes a market for farm products, such as hogs, poultry, eggs, grains, etc. ?

Costs in transporting farm products to distant markets cut deeply into the producer's receipts.

Recommendations

Stress importance of (1) delivering clean "A" quality eggs, and (2) marketing practices that reduce marketing margins.

Outline possible savings in marketing costs by developing a county-wide dairy program featuring improved quality.

Feature educational programs on grain-storage facilities that meet the requirements of the Pure Food and Drug Administration. Create an awareness of the economics possible by pursuing the clean-grain recommendations.

Assist cooperative with educational programs of a "Know Your Cooperative" nature. Have members evaluate alternative courses of action for their cooperative.

Provide educational information on the functions of markets, factors determining market prices, and the variety of services performed.

Provide information showing relationships between the various forms of transportation used in moving farm commodities to market. Special reference should be

given to farm-to-market roads and trunk highways. Explore opportunities to expand local processing.

A need exists for a better understanding of taxation and the services received for it.

Provide local groups with information on sources of tax revenue (taxes on property, income, sales, etc.) and the public services supplied through them.

There is a lack of appreciation for the role grades assume in marketing of farm products.

Explain why we have grades and how they are determined.

Committees

STEERING COMMITTEE

West Otter Tail

Ernest Langseth	Scambler
Mrs. Charles Fabian	Western
Arthur Kolstad	Tordenskjold
Mrs. Harold Winther	Clitherall
Mrs. Norman Boyum	Clitherall
Arnold Evavold	Eagle Lake
Clarence Carlson	Amor
Mrs. Arthur Wagstrom	Underwood
Roger Jaenisch	French
Mrs. William Dewey	St. Olaf
Nelvin Thormodson	St. Olaf
Arvin Kort	Elizabeth
Elmer Hexum	Carlisle
Donald Meyer	Dane Prairie
Willard Wold	Sverdrup
Mrs. Henry Merz	Fergus Falls
Mrs. John Hurni	Lida-Maplewood
Mrs. Harold Duhn	Leaf Mountain
Walter Schulz	Fergus Falls
Arthur Fjestad	Carlisle

East Otter Tail

Henry Sieling	Corliss
Elmer Larson	Eastern
Henry Janke	Butler
Mrs. Herman Cordes	Leaf Lake
Ed Carstens	Gorman
Mrs. Carl Radke	Pine Lake
Reuben Simpson	Bluffton
Jeff Tikkanen	Homestead
Otto Haase	Oak Valley
Charles Oppegard	Leaf Lake
Donald Barber	Deer Creek
Keith Garber	Edna

Clifford H. Nelson
John Meyer
Elvin Arvidson
Mrs. Elvin Arvidson
Mrs. Edgar Meyer
Mrs. Donald Barber
Melvin Paavola
Verner Porkkonen
Mrs. Floyd Jamieson

Elmo
Leaf Lake
Eastern
Eastern
Pine Lake
Deer Creek
Newton
Newton
Edna

WEST OTTER TAIL

SAFETY

Mrs. Harold Vincent
Arnold Evavold
Clarence Carlson
Roger Jaenisch
Philip Fjestad
Coleman Slatten
Wilbur Sillerud
Mrs. Arnold Norberg
Mrs. Ernest Bartels, Jr.
Duwayne Poole
Ordean Haarstad
Mrs. Loren Erie
Mrs. Philip Fjestad
Mrs. Donald Schroeder
Milton Minge
Mrs. Leo Hovland
Ronald Schulz
Milton K. Haugrud
Mrs. Vernon Skalman
Selvin Rovelstad
Warren Beckman
Mrs. Clifford Bergem
George Duncan
M. C. Restad
Hilbert Isaacson

PUBLIC POLICIES

Mrs. Elmer Stock
John Waller
Ernest Langseth
Morrill Fjestad
Mrs. Robert Molter
Arnold Shores
Erland Bergsten
Mrs. LeRoy Bank
Edwin Eide
Dale Akerman
Walter Sundberg
Marvin Tungseth
Ernest Bartels, Jr.
Milton Erickson
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Summary

The suggestions included in this report highlight many situations for the County Extension Service to stress in its annual programs. Some may be referred to other agencies for solutions. While the committees did not attach priority ratings to their recommendations, the desired trends are easily observed and serve as the basis for these conclusions:

1. This approach to more effective county Extension programs with many people taking part in the planning phase has been favorably received. These same people are willing to lend similar assistance in the future. The benefits of their counsel and help should be sought at frequent intervals.

2. Since these recommendations supply program material for several years, the County Extension Committee will include a few number of them in each year's program. This will be done in cooperation with the members of the County Extension Staff. This procedure will insure effective, workable programs that serve the best interests of the county.

3. The program area of Family Living stresses action on educational programs that emphasize: (1) health and safety for all age groups; (2) a program for youth with innovations based upon a careful analysis of this group's major needs; (3) farm and home improvements that conserve human effort and provide desirable surroundings; and (4) a more concentrated educational approach to the field of farm and home finances.

4. The Farm Business area places unusual emphasis on soils as basic to profitable farm operations. Forage crops are stressed because they complement both dairying and the soil-management programs. Dairy management, including all its aspects, has a high rating because of its economic importance to nearly all farmers in the county. Similar attention should be given to certain phases of other livestock and poultry enterprises.

5. The area of Community Affairs stresses a need for more educational information on markets, taxation, schools, roads, and other public services. A desire is expressed for a better understanding of the many programs or activities which people so often take for granted.

Surely these guides for the County Extension Service will in the end (1) assist farm families in utilizing their income, time, abilities, and other resources more effectively; (2) enable farm families to develop more remunerative opportunities where the present ones are too limited; and (3) help all individuals in every community realize and appreciate the benefits that come from cooperation -- where the fruits of such efforts are shared.

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