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OLDER YOUTH IN RURAL MINNESOTA

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OLDER YOUTH IN RURAL MINNESOTA

*Ruby Christenson, Rural Youth Agent

Introduction

Young men and women from 18 to 30 years of age have always had to face the serious problems of finding jobs for themselves, and of adjusting themselves to the adult life of the community. These problems have been aggravated for the present generation of farm youth by the prolonged depression in agriculture and industry and the social and economic dislocations associated with it. Specifically, the problem is complicated by the following facts:

1. The farm population produces about twice as many individuals as can be absorbed in the occupation of agriculture as it is now organized and with the present state of the market. This "normal" excess of man power in agriculture is increased as a result of the steady rise in productive efficiency on the farm through the introduction of mechanical improvements and the discovery of higher producing strains of livestock and crops. Also it is important to note that the number of individuals in the younger ages has greatly increased in recent years by the coming of age of those individuals who were born during the early 1920's, when the birth rate was much higher than it is today.

2. The migration of this excess labor force from the farms has been inhibited in recent years by the lack of opportunity for industrial employment in the cities.

The employment problem of young people in Minnesota was underlined by the report of the Census of Unemployment^{1/} taken in November, 1937, which revealed that of the total of 98,495 individuals who reported themselves as "totally unemployed", 36 per cent were between the ages of 15 to 24 years (Table 1). In the 1930 Census, this group constituted only 25 per cent of the population of Minnesota which was 15 years of age or above. Apparently, this group had a disproportionate share of its members unemployed.

The Census of Unemployment did not report data for the farm population separately, but rather for places "Under 10,000 and Rural Areas". Here the percentage unemployed for this group 15 to 24 was 35 per cent, about the same as that for the state as a whole.^{2/}

^{1/} Census of Unemployment. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. These figures, according to the Census Enumerative Check, were revealed to be about 30 per cent below the actual number unemployed.

^{2/} It is not possible to estimate from the Census reports the unemployment status for the ages under consideration (18-30), owing to the fact that the five-year age group as used by the Census does not correspond with the age group in which we are now interested. For that reason the group 15-24 is used here simply to indicate the general situation of young people.

*Acknowledgment: to Dr. Lowry Nelson, rural sociologist, Minnesota Agricultural Experiment Station, for advice and assistance in outlining the survey and preparing the report; to L. A. Churchill, former state county agent leader, for assistance and collaboration in preparing and conducting the survey; to county extension agents and members of Rural Youth groups in Brown and Faribault counties for assistance in securing information.

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The numerical importance of this age group in the farm population of Minnesota is revealed by the 1930 Census. There were then--and it should be remembered that was 10 years ago--178,357 persons between 18 and 30 years of age, of whom over 110,000 were single. Because of the maturing during the 10-year period of the more numerous age groups who were under 10 years of age in 1930, the present number of farm youth is undoubtedly larger by at least 25,000. At any rate, the number is large enough to command the special attention of educational and other social institutions.

Table 1.

Proportion of Unemployed in Minnesota, in Places under 10,000 and Rural, 15-24 Years of Age, by Sex, 1937*

	Total	Totally Unemployed 15-24	
		Number	Per Cent
State	98,495	34,452	36.0
In Places under 10,000 and Rural	46,906	17,056	35.0
Male	39,008	12,726	33.0
Female	7,898	4,330	55.0

*Unemployment Data from Census of Unemployment, November, 1937. 1930 information from Fifteenth Census.

The adjustment to the adult life of the community has been difficult because of the inability of youth to find useful work for wages. Their plight has been further complicated by their numbers being disproportionately large in the rural communities, a situation which has placed a strain on the community institutions. Practically every agency--the church, the school, the recreational organizations--has been aware of the social problem of this group and has made or attempted some adaptation to meet their needs. For many years the Minnesota Agricultural Extension Service has recognized that there was a group made up of young people, who had outgrown 4-H Club Activities and yet who had not been fully initiated into the Adult Extension programs, who were in need of some special attention.

In 1927 special farm management groups were organized; from 1930 to 1934 the "partnership projects" were initiated and various other specialized groups were organized. In 1934 the present program was initiated with the organization of two groups in Cottonwood and Faribault counties. Shortly after these groups were organized they requested the Extension Service to give them assistance with their educational program, but because of limited personnel the requests could not be granted as often as desired. Since the requests appeared to have a sound basis, and in view of the recognition by the Extension Service of the importance of serving this group, additional assistance was made available to them later. Five more counties were given help in establishing programs similar to those already adopted by the two pioneer groups.

Because of this demand the present Rural Youth program was started, including as its fundamental objective assistance to the groups with their educational, recreational, and community service activities. From 1935 to the present this program has developed slowly but steadily until there are now in 1940 approximately 48

organized groups in the state. Up to the present, this program has been somewhat experimental and a careful study has been made of ways and means of reaching more young people and being of greater assistance to them.

Nevertheless, there is still a large number of young people on the farms of our state who are not being reached. There has been need for more information regarding problems and situations confronting these young people: how many there are on farms, why they are there, what their economic situation is, what their vocational aims are, and how the Extension Service can best assist them. Much information is needed in order to adapt the present program to their problems and make it of the greatest value to the greatest number.

Purposes of the Present Study

The present study was undertaken in 1939 to get some measure of the results of the operation of the Rural Youth program up to the time of the survey and to discover means by which it can be extended and adopted.

- a. To determine the background and characteristics of older rural youth on Minnesota farms.
- b. To ascertain vocational plans and the factors influencing those plans.
- c. To discover the community relations of older farm youth and their unmet social needs, if any.
- d. To study the effect of the present program, through comparison of the activities of members and non-members in the same areas.
- e. To determine what factors should be considered in modifying the present program to more fully serve this group.

Method of Study

An attempt was made to secure a schedule from every unmarried young man and woman between the ages of 18 and 30 living on farms in six townships of Brown county and eight townships in Faribault county. These schedules were secured by two young men employed by the Extension Service for the purpose, who personally interviewed the individuals indicated above. In addition schedules were secured from all rural youth members in the two counties outside the selected townships.

Finally, a questionnaire was mailed to every fifth member of the club membership for the remainder of the State. The same schedule was used in the mail survey as in the intensive block sample. The study was limited to the unmarried population, since it is to this group that the Rural Youth program is especially directed.

Description of Counties Chosen

Brown and Faribault counties are located in the south central part of the state in its most productive agricultural region. Brown county has 96.2 per cent of its land in farms, while the percentage for Faribault county is 95.8. In 1930, Brown county had a rural population of 13,544 and Faribault, 18,758.

Brown county in 1935 reported 2,116 farms with an average value of \$11,304, and an average of 175 acres per farm. Of the total farms, 37 per cent were operated by tenants. In Faribault there were 2,581 farms with an average value of \$11,532,

and an average acreage of 171, 43 per cent of all farms being operated by tenants. The average size of farms for the State was 161 acres, with an average value per farm of \$6,800, and an average tenancy rate of 33 per cent.

In both counties, the predominant nationality groups are German and Norwegian. Brown county in 1930 contained 7,289 people of German origin with 1,373 of Norwegian background. The comparable numbers for Faribault were 3,929 and 2,254, respectively.^{3/}

In both counties the farm families are comparatively large. The number of children under five years of age per 1,000 women in the farm population 20 to 45 years of age was 675 for Brown county and 691 for Faribault county, both figures being only slightly under the state average of 710.

School attendance in the two counties for students of high school age was slightly below the state average as reported in the 1930 Census.

Number of Schedules Completed

There were 408 young people in 14 townships reached by personal interview, while an additional 152 questionnaires were returned from the 176 sent in the mail survey.

Background and Characteristics of Youth in the Survey

Age. Approximately 63 per cent of the individuals covered in the survey are under 23 years of age, with declining proportions represented in the ages up to and including 30 years. There is little difference between the age distributions of the members and non-members (Table 2).

Table 2.

Per Cent Distribution of Members and Non-Members by Age in Brown and Faribault Counties and the State, 1939

Age	Number	Total	Members	Non-Members	Mail Survey	State
		397	82	315	145	178,354
		%	%	%	%	%
18		9.1	9.8	8.9	4.1	10.4
19		15.0	12.2	15.9	5.5	9.6
20		15.0	12.2	15.9	9.0	8.8
21		13.1	14.6	12.7	17.2	8.6
22		11.1	15.8	9.8	19.3	8.1
23		7.1	3.7	7.9	7.6	7.4
24		9.6	12.2	8.9	13.1	7.5
25		7.6	3.7	8.6	6.9	6.9
26		5.3	4.9	5.4	7.6	7.0
27		4.3	6.1	3.8	4.1	6.5
28		1.3	0	1.6	2.1	6.2
29		.5	1.2	.3	2.1	6.5
30		1.0	3.7	.3	1.4	6.4

^{3/} See "Population Trends in Minnesota" by R. W. Murchie and M. E. Jarchow, Minnesota Agricultural Experiment Station Bulletin No. 327. 1937.

For purposes of comparison, the age distribution of all rural-farm youth in Minnesota is also shown. It will be noted that only 45.5 per cent of all rural-farm youth are under 23 years of age. This table includes the married along with the unmarried. If we take only the single ones as given by age groups for 1930, and compare them with our surveyed youth, we note that 75 per cent of the state youth are under 25 years of age compared with 80 per cent for our sample (see Table 3). This difference may be accounted for by local variation in Brown and Faribault counties from the state average; by the time difference of nine years in the two groups of figures; and by the possibility that in the depression year of 1930 many of those 25 years of age, who in normal times would have married, have postponed matrimony. It is a well-known fact that the marriage rate responds immediately to economic changes.

Table 3.
Age Distribution of Unmarried Minnesota Farm Youth in 1930 Compared with Sample

Age	State		Sample	
	No.	Per Cent	No.	Per Cent
Total	118,808	100.0	397	100.0
18	16,145	14.4	36	9.1
19	13,834	12.4	60	15.0
20-24	53,897	48.2	222	55.9
25-29	25,753	23.0	75	19.0
30	2,177	2.0	4	1.0

Sex Distribution. In the migration of population from the farm areas, it has long been noted that greater proportions of young women move away than do young men.^{4/} Table 4 bears out this fact for the youth survey. The ratio for 1939 for those remaining on farms was 154.5 males per 100 females. This ratio is greater than that for the comparable age group in Minnesota or the United States for 1930 (see Table 5).

Table 4.
Ratio of Males to Females Among Youth Surveyed by Age 1939

Age	Males	Females	Ratio
Total	241	156	154.5
18	16	20	80.0
19	36	24	150.0
20	34	26	130.8
21	29	23	126.1
22	27	17	158.8
23	14	14	100.0
24	26	12	216.7
25	20	10	200.0
26	19	2	950.0
27	13	4	325.0
28	3	2	150.0
29	1	1	100.0
30	3	1	300.0

^{4/} This has been demonstrated by numerous studies. For a discussion of a recent survey made in rural areas of Minnesota, see "Migration of Minnesota Rural Youth", by Lowry Nelson and Don Mitchell, Rural Sociology, Vol. 5, No. 2, June, 1940, pp. 229-232.

Table 5.

Sex Ratios of Rural Farm Youth in Minnesota and for the United States by Years 18-30, 1930*

Age	Males per 100 Females	
	Minnesota	United States
Total	132.7	112.1
18	127.3	115.1
19	139.2	121.7
20	131.8	113.5
21	144.3	126.9
22	142.2	115.7
23	138.9	114.9
24	135.1	110.6
25	128.5	104.3
26	130.4	106.1
27	125.9	106.8
28	128.5	102.5
29	130.7	106.6
30	119.2	100.4

*Calculated from U.S. Census, 1930.

This disparity in the sex ratios tends to reduce the possibility of marriage. If young people are to make a successful adjustment to the adult life of the community, opportunity for marriage should not be denied them. Moreover, this factor of disparity in sex ratios should be considered in formulating educational, recreational and other social programs for this group.

It will be observed that the ratio for the state is 132.7 males per 100 females, compared with 112.1 for the farm youth of the nation (Table 5). The data include married couples, but even so, the ratio for Minnesota is unusually high. Data by single years of age are not given for the unmarried population; but for the total 111,808 single farm youth in 1930, there were 77,322 males and 34,486 females, making a sex ratio of 224.2, or more than two to one.

Education. Thirty-eight per cent of the young people in the sample had completed the eighth grade, but had had no further training. With public high schools available in the counties, this would appear to be a rather high percentage who failed to attend.

It must be noted that we are dealing with the group now residing on farms in these counties. It is possible that those with high school education migrated in greater proportion than did those with less than high school education. From the standpoint of educational background, we have a rather heterogeneous group of people, for of the remaining 61 per cent who had had some education beyond the eighth grade, 13.2 per cent had from one to three years; 28.7 per cent completed high school, while the remaining 19.1 per cent had had some education beyond high school. Only 3.6 per cent of the group was in school at the time of the survey.

It will be seen from Table 6 that there is a significant difference in the amount of education received by men and women, in the case of both members and non-members. Fifty-five per cent of the female members had had some work beyond high school, compared with only 22.2 per cent of the males. In the case of the non-members, 30.6 per cent of the females, but only 4.4 per cent of the males had gone

beyond high school. Of all girls in the survey, 36.6 per cent had gone beyond high school, compared with only 7.7 per cent of the boys. It has been observed that rural school teachers affiliate with the Youth Clubs, to a large extent, and they may account for the high percentage of girls with more than high school training in the member group. Likewise, for the non-member group the teachers of rural schools, who are usually young women, probably account for the comparatively high percentage with college training. It might be noted further that few of the youth had taken advantage of opportunities to attend evening classes (7 per cent) or correspondence courses (6 per cent).

Table 6.

Educational Achievements of Members and Non-Members by Sex

Education	Number	Total			Members		Non-Members	
		Total	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
		408	247	161	45	40	200	121
		%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Less than 8		1.0	1.2	0.6	--	--	1.5	0.8
Completed 8		38.0	46.2	25.5	22.2	15.0	51.5	28.9
1-3 years								
high school		13.2	15.8	9.3	26.7	12.5	13.4	8.3
Completed								
high school		28.7	29.1	28.0	28.9	17.5	29.2	31.4
High school plus								
college or								
other		19.1	7.7	36.6	22.2	55.0	4.4	30.6

On the whole, it appears that the Youth program attracts the young people with more education than the average for the population. This raises the question as to why this should be so, and what sort of program would attract those not now being reached. The great range in educational background of the members themselves likewise suggests the need for great flexibility and adaptability in the program. This program must be of such a nature that it will meet the needs of the 38 per cent with only eighth grade education, and at the same time interest those who have had more advanced training.

Participation in 4-H Clubs. Since the Youth program of the Extension Service is designed for those beyond the 4-H club age, it would be expected that a large proportion of those now enrolled would have had club experience. Moreover, it would be expected that the 4-H clubs would normally act as "feeders" for the Youth program. The survey bears out both of these expectations. Approximately 33 per cent of the members interviewed had not been affiliated with 4-H clubs, compared with nearly 60 per cent of the non-members. Those who answered the mail questionnaire report only 25.7 per cent as having had no club experience. Moreover, those members with club experience, who participated in the Youth program, had remained with club work longer than did those non-members who had club experience. There was the surprising percentage of 17.6 of the members who had had nine years or more of club experience. This contact of members with club work for long periods is shown also in the answers to the mail survey (Table 7).

Those who had not joined 4-H clubs were asked to indicate their reasons. Youth members indicated as the chief reasons "lack of time" and "no club in the community". The non-members on the other hand listed "not interested" as the predominant reason, with "lack of time" as the next most important reason. These reasons were given in the same order by males and females of both groups, although there is some difference in the proportions giving these reasons. About the same proportions in both

groups were "never asked". These replies would seem to indicate that if young people can be reached by 4-H clubs, there is strong likelihood that they will continue with the Youth program afterward. The significant point is that non-members listed "not interested" in club work as the major reason for not joining, while "lack of time" was the major reason listed by members (see Table 8).

Table 7.

Years of Participation of Members and Non-Members in 4-H Club Work

Years in 4-H Clubs	Number	Members			Non-Members
		Total	Interviewed	Mail	
		550	85	152	313
		%	%	%	%
0		46.3	32.9	25.7	59.7
1		7.6	9.4	5.3	8.3
2		6.7	5.9	4.6	8.0
3		6.9	4.7	7.2	7.3
4		7.6	5.9	10.5	6.7
5		4.7	11.8	7.2	1.6
6		4.2	1.2	7.9	3.2
7		4.9	3.5	9.9	2.9
8		3.6	7.1	6.6	1.3
9 or more		7.5	17.6	15.1	1.0

Table 8.

Reasons Given by Youth in Brown and Faribault County for Not Joining 4-H Club

Reasons	Number	Total			Members		Non-Members	
		Total	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
		266	183	83	29	11	154	72
		%	%	%	%	%	%	%
No. clubs in community		16.5	14.8	20.2	24.1	27.3	13.0	19.4
Club members are younger		4.1	2.7	7.3	6.9	9.1	1.9	6.9
Never asked		15.4	14.8	16.9	13.8	18.2	14.9	16.8
Not interested		34.2	36.6	28.9	13.8	9.1	41.0	31.9
Parents objected		6.4	7.1	4.9	10.3	--	6.5	5.6
Lack of time		23.3	24.0	21.8	31.1	36.3	22.7	19.4

"Lack of time" and "other interests" were the main reasons for withdrawing from the 4-H membership, as can be seen in Table 9. These two classifications constitute over 60 per cent of the reasons checked. Of moderate importance is "not interested in program" while "working away from home" and the fact that other members of the club were younger were of only minor importance. The factor of "little or no chance of winning prizes" in the 4-H club was deemed insignificant. It is interesting that among the member group half the girls and nearly half the boys listed "lack of time" as the paramount reason, while among the non-member group only about 33 per cent listed this classification. The "other interests" category was listed by the non-members from one-fourth to one-third of the time. Among the members, approximately 20 per cent of the girls listed "other interests" while only 10 per cent of the boys listed this. The fact that non-members list "not interested in the program" to a somewhat higher degree than do the members suggests that the 4-H club and the rural youth clubs tend to attract the same personality types. There was no marked

difference between the boys and girls in either groups in regard to this factor. The young women in both groups listed "working away from home" to a greater extent than did the young men. This was possibly associated with the factor of differential sexual selection in migration. The difference between the sexes was considerably more marked among the non-members than among the member group. The factor of the age of other members of the club was of approximately the same importance among both boy and girl non-members and among girl members -- the percentages being 8.2 per cent, 7.4 per cent, and 7.7 per cent respectively. However, among the boys who are members of the rural youth clubs this factor was of greater importance, for 22.7 per cent checked it. Only three individuals checked the factor of "little or no chance of winning prizes". All three of these were male non-members.

There are undoubtedly other reasons why young people do not join clubs, or why they drop out after brief contact. However, the ones given indicate rather clearly the problems involved in adapting programs to meet the interests of youth.

Table 9.

Reported Reasons for Withdrawal from 4-H Club Membership
Before 21 Years of Age, Brown and Faribault Counties

Reasons	Number	Total			Members		Non-Members	
		Total	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
		199	119	80	22	26	97	54
		%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Lack of time		36.7	37.0	36.3	45.5	50.0	35.1	29.6
Other interests		24.1	22.7	26.2	9.1	19.3	25.8	29.6
Little or no chance of winning prizes		1.5	2.5	--	--	--	3.1	--
Members in club younger		9.5	10.9	7.5	22.7	7.7	8.2	7.4
Not interested in program		17.6	19.3	15.0	13.6	11.5	20.6	16.7
Working away from home		10.6	7.6	15.0	9.1	11.5	7.2	16.7

A special summary of the youth by mail is given in Table 10. "Lack of time" and "working away from home" were the chief reasons given for withdrawal.

Table 10.

Reasons for Withdrawing from 4-H Club by Youth Answering Mail Questionnaire

Reasons	Number	Total	Male	Female
		69	21	48
		%	%	%
Lack of time		33.3	33.3	35.3
Other interests		15.9	19.0	14.6
Little or no chance of winning prizes		4.4	4.8	4.2
Club members much younger		11.6	4.8	14.6
Not interested in program		1.5	--	2.1
Working away from home		33.3	38.1	31.2

The extent to which those who had participated in 4-H clubs had occupied positions of leadership, either as junior or adult leaders, appears to be directly associated with Youth membership. That is, there were 21 per cent of the members, compared with only 13 per cent of the non-members, who had functioned as leaders. In both groups, higher proportions of females than males, had served as leaders (see Table 11).

Table 11.

Junior and Adult Leadership Experiences of Members and Non-Members

Years of Experience	Number	Members				Non-Members		
		Total	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
		386	114	54	60	272	158	114
		%	%	%	%	%	%	%
<u>Junior</u>								
0		37.8	32.5	35.2	30.0	40.1	43.1	36.0
1		3.6	5.3	1.8	8.3	2.9	2.5	3.5
2		3.4	2.6	3.7	1.7	3.7	2.5	5.2
3		3.2	5.3	5.7	5.0	2.2	1.3	3.5
4		1.0	.9	1.8	-	1.1	.6	1.8
5		1.0	3.5	1.8	5.0	-	-	-
<u>Adult</u>								
0		46.7	46.5	48.2	45.0	46.8	47.5	45.6
1		1.0	1.7	-	3.3	.7	.6	.9
2		1.3	-	-	-	1.8	1.3	2.6
3		1.0	1.7	1.8	1.7	.7	.6	.9

Vocational Choice. Employment at work of one's own choice is admittedly one of the most important phases of the adjustment of youth to the adult life of the community. In fact, there is probably no single problem which is of greater interest to youth and the community alike. In the group interviewed, approximately 75 per cent had already made their choice of a vocation. A slightly larger proportion of the men than the women indicated this important choice had been made, although for the members there was little difference in the sexes. There were marked differences, however, in the proportions of members and non-members on this point. Slightly over 88 per cent of the members had made their choice, compared with only 72.5 per cent of the non-members. Only 63.5 per cent of the non-member girls had made their choice compared with 87.5 per cent of the member girls (Table 12).

Table 12.

Comparison of Members and Non-Members as to Whether Choice of Occupation Had Been Made

	Number	Total	Male	Female
		408	247	161
		%	%	%
<u>Total</u>				
Yes		75.7	79.7	70.0
No		24.3	20.3	30.0
<u>Members</u>				
Yes		88.2	88.9	87.5
No		11.8	11.1	12.5
<u>Non-Members</u>				
Yes		72.5	77.7	63.6
No		27.5	22.3	36.4

This matter of vocational choice is apparently a more serious problem with the non-members. It may be due to difference in economic status of the two groups. For example, it is possible that among the non-members there exists a larger proportion of young people whose parents are unable to assist them in getting started on any vocation. On the other hand, it may well be that the members, by virtue of the fact that larger proportions of them have had 4-H club experience and educational advice through contact with the Youth program, have already made the necessary exploration of possible occupations and therefore have been able to reach a decision. Moreover, we have already noted that among Youth members there is a considerable number of rural school teachers, who would tend to bring up the proportion of girls in that group who had made a choice. Nevertheless, it is not unreasonable to expect that contact with the Extension Service would be of some assistance to young people in this matter.

What were the occupational choices of these farm youth? The replies to this question indicate that 84.8 per cent of the males chose farming. The boys who were members of Youth groups chose farming more frequently than did the non-member boys. The girl members and non-members differed but little in the distribution of their choices (Table 13).

Table 13.

Expressed Choice of Occupation of Youth in Surveyed Area

Occupation	Number	Total			Members		Non-Members	
		Total	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
		309	197	112	40	35	157	77
		%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Professional	17.8	6.6	37.5	2.5	42.8	7.6	35.1	
Business and management	2.3	1.0	4.5	-	5.7	1.3	3.9	
Other white collar jobs	5.5	1.0	13.4	-	14.3	1.3	13.0	
Skilled labor	15.5	6.1	32.1	2.5	31.4	7.0	32.4	
Semi-skilled	3.2	.5	8.0	-	2.9	.6	10.4	
Unskilled	1.6	-	4.5	-	2.9	-	5.2	
Farming	54.1	84.8	-	95.0	-	82.2	-	

Making a choice of a vocation is one thing; it is quite another to actually become engaged in it. As shown in Table 14, only 42.9 per cent of the 408 young people interviewed reported that they were already engaged in their chosen field of work. Here again there were differences between members and non-members, 60 per cent of the former, compared with 38.3 per cent of the latter were so engaged. Likewise there were differences between the sexes in both groups. Of the member males, 73.3 per cent, and of the non-member males, 45.1 per cent, reportedly were pursuing their chosen occupations. Among the girls, 45 per cent of the members and only 27.3 per cent of the non-members were working at their chosen vocations. Again this may be a result of the fact, noted before, that there are many rural school teachers among the members.

Why these young people were not engaged in their chosen field of work is summarized in Table 15. Not all of them reported, but of those who did, the largest percentage gave "needed at home" as their reason. Next in order of the specific reasons, were "lack of funds for further training" and "lack of funds for equipment". Naturally, the boys and girls would give different reasons because their occupational choices are of necessity different. For the girls, "needed at home" and "lack of funds for training" were the chief reasons given, while for the boys "lack of funds

for equipment" was of greater significance than "lack of funds for training". There is little difference in the distribution of these problems among members and non-members, except that the non-member males felt the need of further training more than did the member males. This is hardly consistent with the replies of the respective groups to the question previously discussed as to whether they thought education was important in the work they were doing or plan to do.

Table 14.

Members and Non-Members Who Reported They Are
Now Engaged in Chosen Field of Work, By Sex

	Number	Total 408 %	Male 247 %	Female 161 %
<u>Total</u>				
No report		18.9	13.8	26.7
No		38.2	36.0	41.6
Yes		42.9	50.2	31.7
<u>Members</u>				
No report		10.6	6.7	15.0
No		29.4	20.0	40.0
Yes		60.0	73.3	45.0
<u>Non-Members</u>				
No report		21.1	15.3	30.6
No		40.6	39.6	42.1
Yes		38.3	45.1	27.3

Table 15.

Reasons Why Young People Were Not Engaged in Their Chosen Field of Work

Reasons	Number	Total			Members		Non-Members	
		Total 217 %	Male 133 %	Female 84 %	Male 17 %	Female 19 %	Male 116 %	Female 65 %
Needed at home	31.8	36.1	25.0	41.2	26.3	35.4	24.6	
Lack of funds for training	20.7	15.8	28.6	5.9	36.8	17.2	26.2	
Lack of funds for equipment	20.3	29.3	6.0	29.4	--	29.3	7.7	
Health	5.1	2.3	9.5	-	10.6	2.6	9.2	
Other reasons	22.1	16.5	30.9	23.5	26.3	15.5	32.3	

It might be pointed out that health was a factor almost four times as important to the girls as to the boys. On the other hand, boys seem to be "needed at home" to a greater extent than are the girls. An attempt was made to get at this problem from a slightly different angle by asking those interviewed to rate in order of their importance a series of five problems which confronted them. For the boys, the problem of securing capital to get started over-topped all other considerations. Moreover, it was more frequently mentioned by the non-members than by the members. "Doing present work" was the chief problem for the females, although the members and non-members differed in their estimate of the importance of securing training for life's work, the members rating this considerably higher than the non-members.

"Social opportunities" was a problem of more than twice the importance to the girls than to the boys (Table 16).

Table 16.

Major Problems Confronting Young People

Problems	Number	Total			Members		Non-Members	
		Total	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
		596	361	235	73	71	288	164
		%	%	%	%	%	%	%
None		8.9	8.3	9.8	9.6	11.3	8.0	9.1
Securing training for life work		17.1	14.1	21.7	16.4	26.8	13.5	19.5
Social opportunities		8.6	5.3	13.6	5.5	14.1	5.2	13.4
Securing finances and equipment to get started		34.2	43.8	19.6	34.2	15.5	46.2	21.4
Managing present business or doing present work		23.0	23.0	23.0	23.3	23.9	22.9	22.6
Other		8.2	5.5	12.3	11.0	8.4	4.2	14.0

What are the forces which influence the work which young men and women on farms actually do? This question is not related to the matter of choice, so much as to the actual work that they find themselves doing. For some, of course, as we have already seen it is a matter of choice, since they not only have chosen a line of work, but are already engaged upon it. In Table 17, which summarizes the replies, it will be noted that about a third of those reporting indicate that what they are doing is a matter of their own choice. Of next importance, however, is the fact that they are "needed at home". Naturally, there were more members than non-members who reported that they had been influenced by contact with the county extension agent, but the proportion was small compared with the total. There is a significant difference between the member and non-member males, 24.1 per cent of the former and only 14.4 per cent of the latter indicated that "desire to follow the occupation of father or mother" was an important factor. There was a very small difference on this score between the member and non-member females.

Table 17.

Opinions of Rural Youth as to Factors Responsible For Their Present Type of Work (263 Schedules)*

Factors	No.	Total			Members		Non-Members	
		Total	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
		566	349	217	79	55	270	162
		%	%	%	%	%	%	%
None		1.4	1.1	1.8	-	1.8	1.5	1.9
Desire to follow occupation of father or mother		13.4	16.6	8.3	24.1	9.1	14.4	8.0
Choice		32.9	32.7	33.2	32.9	38.1	32.6	31.5
Needed at home		27.9	28.1	27.6	20.2	25.5	30.4	28.4
Influenced by contact with county extension agent		2.8	2.3	3.7	5.1	5.5	1.5	3.1
Influenced by friends interested in this type of work		3.9	2.6	6.0	5.1	9.1	1.9	4.9
Needed a job, could do work without special training		7.8	8.0	7.4	6.3	1.8	8.5	9.3
Could get job with small amount invested		3.2	2.3	4.6	2.5	5.5	2.2	4.5
Do not know		6.7	6.3	7.4	3.8	3.6	7.0	3.6

*Some gave more than one factor.

Since these are all farm youth, it may be suggested that the members were influenced favorably toward the parent occupation of farming by their contact with the program of the Extension Service. The home life of these young people might have much to do with the desire to follow in the same line of work as the parents. Also, there is the like or dislike for country life itself. There are undoubtedly many young people who feel that they would much prefer to live in the town or city rather than in the country. These young people were asked to express their preferences in this regard. Over 82 per cent preferred the country, a slightly larger proportion of the members than non-members expressing this preference. Nearly 90 per cent of the males and only 71 per cent of the females expressed a preference for the country. Of those who chose to live some place other than in the country, the larger number chose in preference to the small town. This choice of the city was consistent with males and females (see Table 18).

Table 18.

Preference of Place to Live as Between Country, Small Town
or City as Reported by Youth in Survey Area

	Number	Total 408 %	Members 85 %	Non-Members 323 %
<u>Total</u>				
No report		2.0	2.4	1.9
Country		82.1	85.8	81.1
Small town		6.8	2.4	8.1
City		9.1	9.4	8.9
<u>Male</u>				
No report		.8	-	1.0
Country		89.1	95.6	87.6
Small town		4.0	-	5.0
City		6.1	4.4	6.4
<u>Female</u>				
No report		3.7	5.0	3.3
Country		71.4	75.0	70.3
Small town		11.2	5.0	13.2
City		13.7	15.0	13.2

Financial Situation

Over half of the 408 young people interviewed had accumulated some property of their own. A slightly larger percentage of members than non-members reported ownership of some property, although the average value of the property was slightly greater in the case of the non-members (Table 19).

Property in most cases--all but six--is in the form of livestock, poultry, farm equipment, furniture, savings, and automobile. More than a fourth of all of the group reported ownership of an automobile, with an average value of \$266. Eighty of them reported owning livestock, while next in importance were 67 who reported savings. In the matter of savings, 20 per cent of the members, compared with only 16 per cent of the non-members, were represented. Moreover, the average savings of members was \$320, compared with \$247 for the non-members.

Of the six individuals who reported owning land and buildings, two were members, and four were non-members. The average values are hardly comparable since there was one non-member who reported ownership of land and buildings valued at \$25,000.

The female members reported average value of property of \$693 compared with \$569 for the member boys. The non-member girls exceeded in average worth the member girls. In the group of non-member girls, the average is greatly affected by the reported ownership of a \$25,000 farm by one of the girls. The average value of property of the non-member boys and girls is \$408 and \$330, respectively (see Table 20).

Table 19.

Value by Types of Property Owned by Youth Members and Non-Members

Type of Property	Total 408			Members 85			Non-Members 323		
	No.	Value	Average	No.	Value	Average	No.	Value	Average
Total	408	\$151,580	\$371.52	85	\$29,314	\$344.87	323	\$122,266	\$376.53
None	182	--	--	36	--	--	146	--	--
Land & Bldgs.	6	25,895	4315.84	2	45	22.50	4	25,850	6452.50
Livestock	80	27,720	346.50	18	7,275	404.17	62	20,445	329.76
Poultry	30	2,473	82.43	9	980	108.89	21	1,493	71.10
Farm Equip.	37	29,615	800.40	8	7,400	925.00	29	22,215	766.03
Furniture	43	3,558	82.74	13	1,100	84.62	30	2,458	81.93
Bus. Equip.	16	2,924	282.75	9	499	55.44	7	2,425	346.43
Savings	67	17,802	265.70	17	5,440	320.00	50	12,362	247.24
Automobile	115	30,635	266.39	19	5,790	304.74	96	24,845	258.80
Other	43	10,958	254.84	11	785	71.36	32	10,173	317.91

Table 20.

Value of Property Owned by Youths (Male and Female)
Members and Non-Members

Value of Prop. (Dollars)	Total			Members		Non-Members		
	No.	Total	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
		\$151,580	\$108,003	\$43,577	\$25,610	\$8,704	\$82,393	\$39,873
		408	247	161	45	40	202	121
		%	%	%	%	%	%	%
None		44.6	37.7	55.3	37.8	47.5	37.6	57.9
Under 50		5.1	2.4	9.3	-	5.0	3.0	10.7
50-99		5.4	3.2	8.7	2.2	12.5	3.5	7.4
100-499		27.7	32.4	20.5	24.4	32.5	34.2	16.5
500-999		7.4	10.5	2.4	15.6	2.5	9.4	2.5
1000-1999		5.4	7.7	1.9	11.1	-	6.9	2.5
2000-over		4.4	6.1	1.9	8.9	-	5.4	2.5

Over half of the group carried life insurance in some form, the members in greater proportion than non-members. It is significant to note that 82.2 per cent of male members and only 59.4 per cent of non-member males are insured. Member females with 42.5 per cent exceeded non-member females of whom only 32.2 per cent are insured (Table 21).

The data on economic status seem to indicate that the members have a slight advantage, although in no instance is the difference very great. As indicated earlier in the report, Brown and Faribault counties are among the best agricultural counties of the state and although there is considerable variation in the financial condition of farmers taken as a group in this area, the proportion which would be considered in the "low income" class is comparatively small. Nevertheless, there seems to be some indication that membership in Youth clubs is associated with slightly higher economic status.

Table 21.

Number and Proportion of Youth Members and Non-Members Who Carry Insurance

Reply	Number	Total	Members	Non-Members
		408	85	323
		%	%	%
<u>Total</u>				
Yes		52.2	63.5	49.2
No		47.1	36.5	49.8
No report		0.7	-	0.9
<u>Males</u>				
Yes		63.6	82.2	59.4
No		35.6	17.8	39.6
No report		0.8	-	1.0
<u>Females</u>				
Yes		34.8	42.5	32.2
No		64.6	57.5	66.9
No report		0.6	-	0.8

Background of Parents

Education. On the assumption that membership in Rural Youth Groups might be influenced by the background of the parents, an inquiry was made concerning the education and community relations of the parents. On the amount of formal education of parents there is considerable difference between the two groups. About twice the proportion of members' parents had gone beyond the eighth grade (Table 22).

Community Participation. Only a very small fraction of parents of the young people reported as having no membership in any organizations, and there was no difference of importance between those of members and non-members. Significantly higher proportions of the parents of members were members of the farm bureau, while those of non-members excelled in the proportions who belonged to the church. It is probable, therefore, that parents of the members had more contact with other phases of the agricultural extension program and this might have been an influence on the youth activity in the Rural Youth Groups.

Table 22.

Educational Background of Parents of Members and Non-Members

Education of Parents	No.	Total	Members	Non-Members	Members		Non-Members	
		816	170	346	Father	Mother	Father	Mother
		%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Less than eighth grade		24.3	12.9	27.2	15.3	10.6	25.7	28.8
Completed eighth grade		57.1	57.6	57.0	58.8	56.5	59.8	54.2
1-2 years, high school		5.4	5.9	5.3	9.4	2.4	4.6	5.9
3-4 years, high school		6.2	11.2	5.0	8.2	14.1	4.6	5.3
1-2 years, college		5.9	9.4	5.0	7.1	11.8	4.6	5.3
2-4 years, college		1.1	2.9	0.6	1.2	4.7	0.6	0.6

It is also to be noted that more of the parents of members were officers in various organizations. For example, only 17 per cent of the fathers of members were reported as holding no office, compared with 36.4 per cent of the parents of non-members (see Table 23).

Table 23.

Membership of Parents of Members and Non-Members in Various Organizations.

Name of Organizations	Number	Total			Members		Non-Members	
		Total	Father	Mother	Father	Mother	Father	Mother
		1531	648	883	203	203	445	680
		%	%	%	%	%	%	%
None		2.1	1.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	1.1	2.5
Church		39.7	39.8	39.7	34.5	34.5	42.2	41.2
Farm Bureau		25.1	25.0	25.1	30.0	30.5	22.7	23.5
Grange		0.4	0.5	0.3	0.5	-	0.5	0.4
Farmers Union		0.7	0.6	0.7	1.0	1.0	0.5	0.6
Cooperative		32.0	32.6	31.7	31.5	31.5	33.0	31.8

Those Holding Office

Name of Organizations	Number	Total			Members		Non-Members	
		Total	Father	Mother	Father	Mother	Father	Mother
		873	414	459	142	111	272	348
		%	%	%	%	%	%	%
None		41.4	29.6	51.9	16.9	31.5	36.4	58.3
Church		32.0	30.2	33.5	28.8	40.6	30.9	31.3
Farm Bureau		13.5	17.0	10.5	26.1	21.6	12.1	6.9
Grange		0.2	0.2	0.2	0.7	-	-	0.3
Farmers Union		0.7	1.0	0.4	1.4	-	0.7	0.6
Cooperative		12.2	22.0	3.5	26.1	6.3	19.9	2.6

It is also discovered that the parents of members were more active in local governmental activities. The differences are most marked in the case of the offices held by the fathers in the AAA, although the fathers of members excelled those of non-members in all types of activity (Table 24).

Table 24.

Official Positions Held by Parents, Members and Non-Members

	Number	Total			Members		Non-Members	
		Total	Father	Mother	Father	Mother	Father	Mother
		931	520	411	134	86	386	325
		%	%	%	%	%	%	%
None		63.3	41.9	90.3	25.4	89.5	47.7	90.5
School Board		18.6	30.0	4.1	31.3	4.7	29.5	4.0
Town Officers		7.2	12.1	1.0	17.2	-	10.4	1.2
AAA		3.4	6.0	0.2	11.2	1.2	4.1	-
Others		7.5	10.0	4.4	14.9	4.6	8.3	4.3

Recreation and Community Activities

Over 40 per cent of the total group failed to report any participation in the recreational activities which they were asked to check. Perhaps the list was not comprehensive enough to cover all of the leisure-time occupations, but they represent those usually available to rural young people. The Youth members were more

active in the activities listed. Approximately 32 per cent of the male members reported no participation compared with 44 per cent of the non-members. There was slight difference between the two groups in the proportions reporting participation in the various recreational activities. Member males exceeded non-member males in participation in practically all activities, although the differences are not marked. They were considerably more active than non-members in kittenball, swimming, dancing, dramatics and winter sports. The member females likewise were generally more active in most of the events, kittenball, swimming, handicraft and hobbies, photography, parties, dramatics and music. Much of this participation, it is safe to assume, is the direct outgrowth of the membership in Rural Youth Groups (Table 25).

Table 25.

Type of Leisure-Time Activities of Members and Non-Members, and Frequency Each Type Was Indicated

Type of Activities	Number	Total 408			Members 85		Non-Members 323	
		Total	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
		5717	3458	2259	640	573	2818	1686
		%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Kittenball		2.5	2.7	2.2	4.2	3.2	2.4	1.8
Swimming		3.2	3.5	2.8	4.7	3.8	3.3	2.4
Dances		4.8	5.0	4.6	7.0	7.0	6.9	6.8
Movies		6.8	6.9	6.9	7.0	7.0	6.9	6.8
Handicraft-hobbies		3.2	2.1	4.8	2.5	5.8	2.0	4.5
Reading		6.6	6.4	6.9	6.9	6.8	6.3	6.9
Photography		2.3	1.6	3.3	2.0	4.7	1.5	3.0
Radio		6.6	6.5	6.7	6.7	6.6	6.4	6.7
Hunting		4.2	5.9	1.5	6.2	1.6	5.9	1.4
Fishing		3.3	4.1	2.1	4.2	1.2	4.0	2.4
Parties		5.7	5.2	6.5	6.4	8.6	5.0	5.8
Dramatics		1.0	0.8	1.4	1.9	2.4	0.5	1.0
Music		2.6	1.9	3.7	1.9	4.9	2.0	3.3
Winter Sports		5.4	5.4	5.3	6.1	5.6	5.3	5.2
None		41.8	42.0	41.3	32.3	33.3	44.0	44.2

"Are more recreational facilities needed in your community?" Over 80 per cent of all those interviewed felt that more opportunities for recreation were needed. Again, the differences between members and non-members were slight, but a larger proportion of members thought that more facilities were needed. This applied especially to the girl members (Table 26).

Table 26.

Need Expressed for More Recreational Facilities by Members and Non-Members Male and Female

	Number	Total	Members	Non-Members
		408	85	323
		%	%	%
<u>Total</u> - None		18.1	16.5	18.6
Some		72.1	74.1	71.5
Very much		9.8	9.4	9.9
<u>Males</u> - None		20.2	20.0	20.3
Some		72.5	75.6	71.8
Very much		7.3	4.4	7.9
<u>Females</u> - None		14.9	12.5	15.7
Some		71.4	72.5	71.1
Very much		13.7	15.0	13.2

More members than non-members participated in organizations of the community. Among these organizations, those connected with the church claimed the largest share of attention. Next in importance were music organizations, which included church choirs. Next in order of importance were the athletic clubs and the farm organizations. In the case of farm organizations member males participated to an extent almost three times that of non-members. The female participation was in almost the same ratio, and in most cases was greater than the males. It appears that the community contacts of members are more varied than is the case for the non-members (Table 27).

Table 27.

Membership of Rural Youth in Organizations of the Community

	Number	Total			Members		Non-Members	
		Total	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
		602	339	263	74	76	265	187
		%	%	%	%	%	%	%
None		22.1	27.7	14.8	16.2	7.9	30.9	17.7
Dramatic or study clubs		1.2	0.6	1.9	1.3	2.6	0.4	1.6
Musical organizations		14.3	10.9	18.6	14.9	14.5	9.8	20.3
Athletic clubs		7.8	10.3	4.6	12.2	3.9	9.8	4.8
Church		39.2	38.1	40.8	31.0	38.2	40.0	41.7
Future Farmers		0.3	0.6	-	-	-	0.8	-
Fraternal organizations		4.2	4.1	4.2	9.5	5.3	2.6	3.7
Farm organizations		10.9	7.7	15.2	14.9	27.6	5.7	10.2

About two-thirds of all rural youth reported holding no office in local organization. The girls were more often in positions of leadership in proportion to their numbers than were the boys. In comparing members and non-members, the former were leaders or officers to a greater extent than the latter. This was true for both member males and females. In all cases church organizations called for the services of youth in leadership roles to a greater extent than did other organizations. It will be noted, further, that members were very much more active as leaders--farm organizations (Table 28).

Table 28.

Proportions of Rural Youth Holding Positions in Community Organizations

Name of Organization	Number	Total			Members		Non-Members	
		Total	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
		602	339	263	74	76	265	187
		%	%	%	%	%	%	%
None		67.3	72.8	60.1	62.2	46.1	75.8	65.9
Dramatic or study clubs		0.5	0.3	0.8	-	1.3	0.4	0.5
Music clubs		5.0	4.4	5.7	8.1	6.6	3.4	5.4
Athletic clubs		2.8	4.4	0.8	5.4	1.3	4.2	0.5
Church-Young Peoples Society		18.6	14.5	24.0	14.9	28.9	14.3	21.9
Fraternal		2.5	1.8	3.3	5.3	2.6	0.8	3.7
Farm organization		3.3	1.8	5.3	4.1	13.2	1.1	2.1

Conclusions

Potential Possibilities of the Program

An examination of Census data for 1930 seems to indicate that there are over 100,000 young people of the 18-30 age group on the farms of Minnesota for whom the Rural Youth program should provide some assistance. Taking into consideration the fact that there are a number in this group who would not be interested in any program of this nature, there still remains a large potential number who should be reached.

Factors That Influence the Rural Youth Program

Factors that will influence any program for this group of young people include: the educational background; their interest in and opportunity for recreational and social development; their participation in local organizations and their opportunities for leadership; their vocational choices and the advancement they have made toward those plans; their activities in 4-H club work as a part of the extension program; the background of their parents; their present vocational opportunities.

All of these factors present problems that must be taken into consideration in the development of the Rural Youth program.

Problems in Educational Programs

The problem of providing an educational program that will be of interest and assistance to this group arises not only in connection with the type of educational program itself but also in the method employed in presenting it. The fact that over three-fourths of the group are interested in farming and homemaking simplifies somewhat the problem of what to present. Programs designed to assist this group along the lines of their vocational choice, that is, farming and homemaking, should be of interest to them if they are to adapt the information thus gained to the problems they have to face. This group, as indicated in the survey, are largely not in their chosen field now and educational programs must prepare them in advance for the problem ahead rather than attacking the problem when it is at hand. The problem of how best to assist them further in attaining their vocational aims along these lines should determine to some extent the character of the educational program.

The fact that nearly half the group have completed only the eighth grade or a little better, complicates the effort to reach them. At the same time, there is a fairly large percentage that has had additional schooling beyond that point. Any program presented to them must of necessity be simplified enough to be accepted by the group with the small amount of schooling and at the same time be interesting enough to attract and hold the interest of those who have had additional opportunities along educational lines. A further problem lies in the fact that it has been several years since the majority of the group have had any contact with educational agencies and as a result have lost the habit of study.

Development of the Individual Through Recreational and Social Opportunities

The group of young people reached through this survey and representing that larger group in the state are of an age at which recreation and social contacts are important. The lack of adequate recreational facilities, as expressed by nearly the entire group, indicates the need for developing types of recreation adapted to the facilities that are available. The development of the individual through contact with others of the same age group is not accomplished to any large extent through the types of recreation most actively engaged in by the group. Recreational programs that will give the individual opportunity to mix with others and develop through these contacts should be given first consideration. Of the four now most used only

two, dances and parties, furnish active group participation and even these do not offer opportunity for individual improvement.

Participation in Local Organizations

The young people of the age represented by this survey are the potential leaders of the immediate future. In spite of that fact they have little opportunity for community development along leadership lines. Nearly one-fourth of the entire group belong to no local organization and nearly three-fourths have no opportunity for leadership in their organization. The Rural Youth program should provide some means of bringing this group into active participation in their local organizations and offer opportunity, possibly through their own organization, for development along leadership lines. Such opportunities exist in the directing of the various phases of the local Rural Youth organization; the programs for the organization should offer such opportunities wherever possible.

Opportunities for Assistance in Vocational Plans

Just how much the Agricultural Extension Service can do to assist with the development of the vocational plans of this group is a question. Since two-thirds have indicated farming or homemaking as their vocational choice, the Extension Service is in a good position to give assistance by emphasizing farm management and home management programs. However, the problem of the other one-third is more serious, and assistance may be needed from other agencies. The development of short courses designed for those that are just starting in farming or homemaking or through what might be called clinics in each county offers opportunity to the first named group. Cooperation of other agencies in giving financial assistance such as Farm Security may be secured with the Extension Service offering advice and council.

Background of Parents

The background of the parents both along educational lines and in leadership activities is probably not as important a factor as it would at first appear. The problem of reaching this group is, of course, influenced by the attitude of the parents, but the age of the group and their own interests would offset this factor. In order to bring them into contact with such groups, it is necessary that farm organizations and cooperatives give the young people every opportunity to take part in their activities. It will be recalled that the comparison of the parents of the Rural Youth members with those of the non-members indicated a greater degree of activity along these lines on the part of the parents of the Rural Youth members.

Participation in 4-H Club Work

The fact that over half of all these young people have never been enrolled in 4-H club work would indicate that the Rural Youth program must not depend too heavily on former club workers to supply the nucleus of the Rural Youth group. At the same time the club program should lead to the Rural Youth group, and this group should be of assistance in bringing more young people into contact with the club program. Undoubtedly more emphasis should be placed on those that have not been in club work. The club program itself should encourage the club members to belong to the Rural Youth group as they reach the upper age for club work.

The Rural Youth program is reaching comparatively few of the young people on the farms today, but its potential membership is large enough to provide definite incentives on the part of the Extension Service for expansion of its efforts. Every attempt should be made by all agencies to bring young people into active participation in community activities, and to cooperate in providing the necessary assistance. This group offers a challenge to the Extension Service.

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