

DECEMBER 1957



Looking Ahead in
Extension Work
in
Clay County

Prepared Cooperatively by

**Clay County Extension Committee
and County-Wide
Long Range Planning Groups**

What's In This Report

Introduction

Purpose of long range program
Procedure used in collecting and summarizing data

Characteristics of Clay County

The size	Church life	Climate and rainfall
The people	Health	Transportation and communication services
Population trends	Soil and agriculture	Clay County profile
Education	Industries	

Cooperative Extension Work

COUNTY EXTENSION ORGANIZATION

History

The County Extension Committee

Present set-up

THE GOAL OF EXTENSION WORK — a better way of life for the people of Clay County

Committee Reports, situations, trends expected, goals, problems and recommendations

The family

FAMILY LIVING

FOOD FOR THE FAMILY

HEALTH AND SAFETY

The farm

FARM FAMILY BUSINESS

CONSERVATION

CROPS AND SOILS

FARM AND HOME BUILDING AND EQUIPMENT

LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY

MARKETING AND BUYMANSHIP

The community

IMPROVEMENT OF COOPERATIVE

EXTENSION WORK IN THE COUNTY

IMPROVEMENT OF FACILITIES IN THE COUNTY

IMPROVEMENT OF HUMAN RELATIONS

IN THE COUNTY

SUMMARY

The family

The farm

The community

People helping with the program.

CLAY COUNTY EXTENSION COMMITTEE

To the People of Clay County:

We are indebted to the many people who contributed time and effort in developing this guide of Extension Work. It will serve a useful purpose in reaching the goal of better farming and improved family living through improvements in agricultural, home, 4-H, and community activities

We live in a good county — good soil, good weather and industrious people. But it is our obligation to use these resources wisely so we will enjoy a high standard of living and also maintain, or if possible, improve the productive capacity of our farms and the institutions developed to serve our people.

Our County Extension Office and Staff are equipped to aid us in accomplishing those worthwhile objectives. You are urged to review this report carefully and cooperate in the manner that will best serve you and your community.

Respectfully,

Mrs C. M. Oran Leonard Petermann

C M Simonson Hinton D. Johnson

Edwin Benedict John Wandsager

Wm A. Nelson

Mrs. Burling Stumbo

A. F. PETERSON, Chairman

The Clay County Extension Committee

While this publication was in the process of being prepared, we learned of the death of A. F. (Pete) Peterson. Mr. Peterson served as Chairman of the board and did much work in the preparation of this publication. We regret that we are unable to have Mr. Peterson's signature appear with the other board members.

Introduction

PURPOSE OF LONG RANGE PROGRAM

Our Cooperative Extension work has used many program planning methods since it started in 1914. Programs generally have been planned from year to year, but the growing complexity of rural communities makes it necessary to look further ahead. More mechanization, higher capital investments, greater risks, changing consumer demand, and new marketing methods reflect the complicated framework in which Extension operates.

The basic purpose of long-range planning is to meet new challenges by: (1) developing an Extension program that will meet both long-time and immediate needs of farm people and (2) determining what courses to follow in implementing changes that will bring about better living. This long-range planning effort in Clay County may also assist in:

1. Developing local leadership as an aid to solving many rural problems.
2. Securing participation from more community leaders in developing and carrying out a broad, well-integrated program involving a wide range of farm and home problems.
3. Emphasizing the major problems in their relative importance.
4. Bringing about a better understanding of the functions of Extension, thus inviting greater participation.
5. Acquainting a core of key people more intimately with Extension so they may assume roles in both program planning and program execution.

This long-range program is the result of a series of committee meetings at which local people studied problems of their homes, farms, and communities before deciding upon recommendations. These experiences also developed an awareness of the need to look for alternative solutions when drastic changes occur in situations.

PROCEDURE USED IN COLLECTING AND SUMMARIZING DATA

Approximately 600 families cooperated with the Extension Staff in developing this long-range program which was developed according to the following procedure:

1. The County Extension Committee approved a plan for a number of meetings, the appointment of several committees, plans for a final report, and other essential arrangements.

- Forty-two Extension home counselors conducted a self-survey to obtain current information on living conditions, farm and home practices, the nature of satisfactions desired, values cherished, and common family problems. Of the families surveyed 217 were taking part in one or more Extension activities, while about 150 did not take part in these activities.
- Area panel discussion meetings were held in five parts of the county. Here Extension Staff members provided information on Extension work concerning present programs, current trends, and the outlook for agriculture and homemaking, and urged local people to express their views freely on many current problems.

CLAY COUNTY

Georgetown 7	Viding 5	Felton 5	Hagen 5	Ulen 6
Kragnes 7	39 Marken 6	Flaming 5	31 Keene 5	Goose Prairie 5
Oakport 7	Moland 7	Spring Prairie 5	27 Cromwell 4	Highland Grove 6
Moorhead 5	Glyndon 5	Riverton 5	Hawley 5	Egton 4
31 Kurtz 5	Elmwood 5	Elkton 5	Skree 7	Parke 5
Holy Cross 5	Alliance 6	Barnesville 6	31 Humboldt 5	Tansem 1

Attendance and coverage at five area panel meetings.

- The County Extension Committee, with the assistance of the County Extension Staff, determined the major problem areas. These were based on information from the self-survey and the area panel discussion meetings supplemented with census material and factual data obtained from University of Minnesota Extension specialists and other sources.
- The County Extension Committee approved 10 problem area committees, assigning each a major problem to study and make recommendations upon. The major problems within these areas were selected after the Extension Committee and Staff reviewed reports of the 10 problem area committees.
- The final report was then drawn together in this form. This report is being distributed to all rural families and interested agencies in the county. It will also be used to determine what will be included in the annual plans of work.

Characteristics of Clay County

The Size

Clay County, typical of the Red River Valley, is approximately in the center of North America, and in the "heart" of the valley. Moorhead, the county seat, is about 240 miles northwest of the Twin Cities. The county is bounded on the west by the Red River - the North Dakota-Minnesota state line.

The county has 1,050 square miles and is 19th largest of Minnesota's 87 counties. There are 672,000 acres of land with an additional 15,000 acres covered by water. There are 30 townships, one city, and 13 towns and villages.

The People

The first white settlers came to the Clay County area in 1858 to seek homes, trade in furs, and farm. In 1861, Governor Ramsey appointed the first County Commission for what was then called Breckenridge County. Trade in furs and grain was flourishing via steamboat on the Red River between Moorhead and Winnipeg.

Following the Sioux Massacre, the county was reorganized on April 14, 1872, and the name was changed to Clay in honor of Henry Clay, American statesman and orator.

The people of Clay County came from many lands. Early immigrants were predominately from Great Britain, Germany, Norway, and Sweden. Today their descendants are the most numerous of the nationality groups. Smaller numbers of immigrants from other European countries and Canada have made the county typically American. This wide variety in nationality background has enriched the cultural life of the county but also has created some problems in community organization.

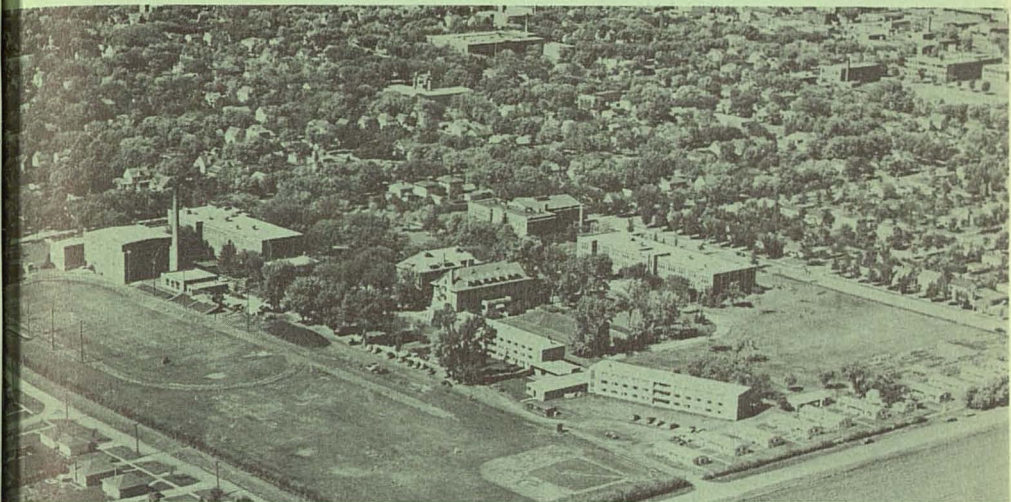
Population Trends

Clay County has grown steadily and rapidly in population from 92 in 1870, to 19,640 in 1910 and 30,363 in 1950.

About 51 percent of the county's people live on the 1,998 farms and in the 13 towns and villages and 49 percent in Moorhead. The population, once predominately rural, has shifted gradually to a more urban one. In

1940, 37.5 percent of the population was urban compared with 49 percent in 1950. This trend, however, is typical of other areas in the United States.

The average number of persons per household for Clay County as a whole is 3.63 and 3.87 for the rural areas.



Education

Clay County has good educational services. Constant improvement has been taking place in school buildings, grounds, equipment, and personnel.

There are two colleges in Moorhead – Moorhead State College and Concordia College. North Dakota State College is in nearby Fargo. There are also several commercial and trade schools in Moorhead and Fargo.

All nine high schools have home economics departments while six have agricultural departments. There were only five rural schools in January 1957. At one time there were 117. The only public kindergarten class is located in Moorhead.

In 1950 the median school year completed was 8.8 for males and 9.8 years for females. Ninety-six percent of the boys and girls, 14 and 15, and 86 percent (compared to 82.2 percent in 1940) of those, 16 and 17, were in school. In 1940 Clay County ranked forty-second and in 1950, twenty-second in the 87 counties in the percentage of people 25 years or older who had some high school or college education.

Church Life

Strong religious convictions have always prevailed in Clay County. Early immigrants established the first churches soon after they arrived.

The church continues as the dominant institution around which the typical rural family builds its life.

There are 32 churches in Moorhead and the villages, and 14 in the rural areas. The predominant denomination is Lutheran.

Health

While there is only one hospital in the county, others in Fargo, Fergus Falls, Detroit Lakes, and Ada also serve the county.

Moorhead has both a city and school nurse, but no similar service exists for rural areas or villages.

There are 15 physicians in the county, most of whom are located in Moorhead. These professional men will have additional facilities upon completion of the new hospital in Moorhead.

Soil and Agriculture

Virtually all of Clay County's income comes directly or indirectly from its diversified farms. There are three farming areas that differ chiefly in their soil type and topography. The eastern part of the County is of glacial drift origin, while the western area is a part of the pre-historic bed of Lake Agassiz. The topography varies from a flat prairie to rolling uplands. The three distinct soil areas of the county are:

1. *The Fargo-Bearden types* found in the western third of the county, are very productive and well adapted to small grains, potatoes, and sugar beets.
2. *The Ulen-Sioux-Tanberg types* found in the middle part of the county, mark the outer edges or shore lines of the Red River Valley. Soil blowing is often very serious. Mixed farming prevails including small grains, some corn, and considerable grassland.
3. *The Barnes-Aastad types* making up most of eastern Clay County, are used for grain and feed crops to support a fairly large livestock program.

Wheat, once the major source of agricultural income, has become less important in recent years. Although it is still one of the more profitable crops, others such as potatoes, soybeans and sugar beets are now included in farm rotations.

The 1,998 farms (636,010 acres) make up 94 percent of the total land area. The average size farm is 320 acres. Eighty-three percent of the farms are owner operated, and 17 percent are tenant operated.

Industries

There are four creameries, one large sugar beet plant, and several potato warehouses with some equipped to wash and package potatoes.

Grain elevators, seed houses, a fertilizer plant, and a number of other small industries are also represented. Local markets offer fairly good year-round outlets for most of the farm products produced. These markets, however, are effective only when they can move products into larger market areas. Farms on the average are only seven miles from a local market.

Adequate sand and gravel are available for road and construction purposes.

Climate and Rainfall

In January the average temperature is 6°F with occasional lows of -30°F. July temperatures often climb into the nineties, averaging 70°F over the last 30 years. The average yearly temperature is 35° to 40°F.

The mean annual precipitation is about 20 inches with 75 percent of this amount falling during the growing season. There are approximately 130 days without killing frost. Both the climate and rainfall are favorable to a highly productive agriculture.

Transportation and Communication Services

Railroad, truck, bus, and air transportation facilities are very good. The county is served by two transcontinental railroads providing excellent freight, express, and passenger service to all parts of the United States. In addition, there are several "short-run" railroads in the county. Transcontinental air service is also available.

The public road system, including farm-to-market roads, is well developed. Nearly 80 percent of all farm families live on gravel or hard-surfaced roads. U.S. Highway No. 10 crosses the county east and west at mid-center, U.S. Highway No. 75 runs north and south along the western boundary, and U.S. Highway No. 52 crosses the southern part diagonally. State highways No. 32 and No. 9 run north and south and No. 34 east and west. In addition, there are numerous county highways. Clay county was a pioneer in promoting the "good road" movement.

Rural delivery routes, telephone lines, power lines, truck and bus routes reach all sections of the county.

Other communication facilities in the area include three television stations, five radio stations, three daily newspapers, four weekly newspapers, and a county bookmobile. Circulation of farm, trade, and other magazines is high. Many professional, civic, trade, business, farm, recreational and educational organizations also serve rural families in various ways.

The complex organizational structure of rural communities finds many individuals holding a membership in several organizations. Competition between organized groups therefore bids heavily for the time of capable rural leaders.

CLAY COUNTY PROFILE*
Clay County Compared To Minnesota

CHARACTERISTIC	CLAY COUNTY	AVERAGE MINNESOTA
1. Percentage of land in farms	94.6	63.0
2. Size of farms - total acres	320.0	195.4
3. Size of farms - acres in crop land	234	127
4. Dollar value of land and buildings (Average dollar value per farm)	\$25,600	\$21,000
5. Dollar value of land per acre	\$77	\$105
6. Percentage tenancy	17.2	19.8
7. Percentage population change 1940-55	19.8	6.8
8. Farming opportunities		
a. Percentage farm boys - to start at possible gross income of \$5,000 or more	31	26
b. Percentage farm boys - to start at possible gross income of \$2,500 or more	46	41
9. Percentage farmers doing "off-the-farm work" 100 days or more	13	14.9
10. Percentage farms - off-farm work exceeded farm income	9	13.8
11. Total cash farm receipts per farm	\$8,590	\$5,955
12. Percentage <i>decrease</i> in number farms (1949 - 1954)	4	8
13. Cash income (percent of total cash receipts)		
a. Field crops	74	33
b. Dairy and dairy products	8	20
c. Livestock and livestock products	11	34
d. Poultry and poultry products	3	10
e. Vegetables and others	4	3
14. Livestock (percentage of total farms)		
a. Farms reporting hogs and pigs	33	59
b. Farms reporting beef but no dairy	15	8
c. Farms reporting dairy	59	74
d. Farms reporting sheep	12	13
e. Farms reporting poultry	57	73
15. Equipment and facilities (percentage of families)		
a. Electricity	94.0	95
b. Piped running water	58	57.1
c. Telephone	57	68.3
d. Home freezer	36	39
e. Automobiles	93	92
f. Motor trucks	68	50
g. Tractors	94	89
h. Grain combines (percentage of farms harvesting grain)	82	47
i. Corn pickers (percentage of farmers harvesting corn)	32	56
j. Television	59	33.3

* 1954 U.S. Census of Agriculture

Cooperative Extension Work

Cooperative Extension work is a part of the land-grant college in every state. It is an educational arm of the United States Department of Agriculture. In Minnesota, Extension work is a three-way partnership between the United States Department of Agriculture, the University of Minnesota, and the county. The work is supported by federal, state, and county funds. County workers, although employed locally, are staff members of the University of Minnesota and the United States Department of Agriculture.

Extension officially began in 1914 when the Smith-Lever Act created Cooperative Extension work and provided funds for its support. There is now an Extension Service in every state and territory and one or more agents in every county in the United States, carrying on educational programs for both adults and youth.

Extension assists people engaged in farming and homemaking. It endeavors to help people utilize their resources more fully in solving current problems and in meeting changing economic and social conditions. It is the job of Extension to interpret the results of research in agriculture and home economics and related subjects and to bring them to the people of the county. Extension also develops leadership and thereby assists people in helping themselves through participation in organized county programs.

COUNTY EXTENSION ORGANIZATION

History

Clay County was among the first to sponsor such educational events as Farmers' Institutes, agricultural trains, and agricultural exhibits — all forerunners of Cooperative Extension work in Minnesota. The county also had active members in one of the first state agricultural organizations, the West Central Minnesota Improvement Association. This organization aggressively supported improved farming programs.

Extension work in Clay County started in 1913 and continued until 1922. Then it lapsed for 12 years before the work was reinstated in 1933 along with the emergency programs.

The first county agent, Charles E. Brown, was hired in 1913; the first home agent, Esther Ferris, in 1918; and the first club agent, Evelyn Bierbaum, in 1934. The home agent position was discontinued in 1922 but reinstated in 1938. The 4-H Club position was discontinued in 1937 and reinstated in 1946.

From the very beginning of Extension in Clay County, various educational programs for farmers, homemakers, and youth have been carried on. There were periods, however, when the county agricultural agent assumed the responsibility for all three phases of Extension work. When the home agent and 4-H Club agent were added to the staff, the educational work in these areas was greatly expanded.

The County Extension Committee

Each County Board of Commissioners in the state is authorized to appropriate and to expend money for Extension work in accordance with the Minnesota Legislative Act as amended in 1953, which provides for this work.

The Extension Committee consists of nine local men and women. It includes the chairman of the county board of commissioners, one other county commissioner selected by the board, the county auditor, and six additional members — one from each commissioner district and one at large, all appointed by the board. At least two members of the Extension Committee are women. Appointed members serve three-year terms, two being appointed each year.

The Extension Committee has the over-all responsibility for Extension work. This responsibility includes budget planning, personnel selection, and program development. The Extension agents are expected to consult regularly with this committee to get advice, help, and encouragement in carrying out the county program. The committee also seeks cooperation of all individuals and organizations in the county so as to assure maximum benefits from Extension activities.

Present Set-up

Extension work in Clay County, as elsewhere, starts with an annual program of work determined by the County Extension Committee. This program is carried out by a trained staff that makes contacts with individuals and organized groups.

The Clay County Extension Staff includes four persons:

County Agricultural Agent, Oswald Daellenbach, employed in January 1955.

County Home Agent, Edna Jordahl, employed in June 1955.

County 4-H Club Agent, Robert Gee, employed from June 1951 to July 31, 1957. Maynard Helgaas succeeded Gee as 4-H club agent.

County Assistant Agricultural Agent, Paul Hasbargen, employed in July 1956; Succeeded by Curtis Johnson, September 15, 1957.

Extension reaches people in three broad program areas: (1) the family, (2) the farm business, and (3) community affairs.

COUNTY EXTENSION WORK

THE COUNTY EXTENSION COMMITTEE
DETERMINES ANNUAL PLAN OF WORK

which is carried out by . . .



A TRAINED COUNTY STAFF
MAKING CONTACTS
with . . .



ORGANIZED GROUPS and INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS

in

THREE BROAD EDUCATIONAL AND
SERVICE AREAS



FARM
BUSINESS



COMMUNITY
AFFAIRS



THE FAMILY

with the final goal of . . .

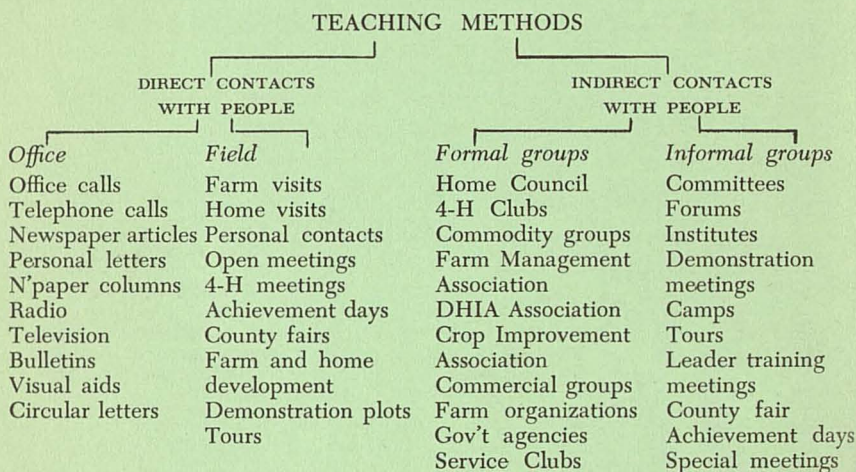
"A BETTER WAY OF LIFE FOR THE PEOPLE
OF CLAY COUNTY"

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

Teaching Methods Used

The Extension Staff uses a variety of teaching methods and aids in reaching people directly or through organized groups (figure 2). These will be used by the Extension Staff in carrying out the recommendations included in the following sections of this report.

County Extension Staff



For agriculture, Extension work revolves primarily around a number of organizations each representing producers of different farm commodities or having similar interests. There is no one agricultural council, or committee, for agriculture work.

Home Economics Extension work is carried on locally through community homemakers' groups. These groups are somewhat informally organized and usually include from one to ten groups in each township. One aim of the County Extension Home Council is to have its county group made up of members who represent these local groups and preferably only one from each local group.

4-H work is carried on locally through organized clubs. Representatives from each 4-H club, the junior and adult leaders make up the County Club Council. This group effectively assists with the 4-H program.

The County Extension Home and 4-H Club Councils therefore are exceedingly important in both developing and carrying out the Home and 4-H programs.

THE GOAL OF EXTENSION WORK

A Better Way of Life For The People In Clay County

The ultimate goal of Extension work is to help families attain a better way of life. Five approaches to this goal are given major emphasis and are:

1. Development of an expanded, but well-integrated, educational program to meet the immediate and long range needs of families.
2. Improvement of family living through better nutrition, more adequate health facilities, better housing, farmstead improvement, and increased use of labor saving equipment.
3. Improvement in income through the development of organization plans for individual farms that assure the highest possible income.
4. Development of a better understanding of and more effective participation in community, state, national, and international affairs to the end that constructive policies may be determined.
5. Improvement of educational and recreational facilities for the family and the community.



Committee Reports

SITUATION, TRENDS EXPECTED, GOALS, PROBLEMS, AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Each problem area determined by the Extension Committee in cooperation with the Extension Staff was explored and studied in detail by special committees. These efforts resulted in the problem situations, anticipated trends, goals, and recommendations summarized in this section. Some of the problems may be solved in one year, others will require several years.

Ten major problem areas were chosen for special consideration and will receive special emphasis during the next five years. The recommended plans for improving current problem situations are intended to be flexible and thereby provide for occasional emergencies which may arise.

The problem situations, goals, trends, and recommendations, are grouped into three work areas: (1) the family, (2) the farm, and (3) the community. Each division includes different, but frequently inter-related, problems. The solution of any one problem, therefore, will frequently help solve another. For instance, the business of the farm and the use of the income for home living are so closely related that it is nearly impossible to study one without considering the other.

The Family

Clay County families generally have attained above average standards of living. The Index of Living for Clay County was reported as:

	1945	1950	1954
Clay County	112	147	166
Minnesota	129	151	163
United States	100	122	140

Families value highly locally sponsored programs related to education, health, and religion. For the most part the families are quite satisfied with their situation. Nevertheless, there is an interest in further advancement. Such a desire is evidenced by an active participation in a wide variety of self-improvement or community-improvement programs.

The high percentage of farm ownership seems to have given families a feeling of security they cherish. No doubt the present farm ownership situation has contributed to a sort of stability frequently apparent among rural people. This situation has encouraged them to provide more conveniences for the homes and to improve home yards and dwellings.

There is a constant demand for up-to-date information on agriculture and homemaking and desirable leisure-time activities for all members of the family. This further supports the view that there is a desire for continued growth in areas where opportunities exist for individual and community development.

FAMILY LIVING

Situation

The majority of Clay County people are long-time residents. The Home Council survey shows that only 4 percent of the families have lived here less than four years. Fifty-six percent have lived here since birth.

The farm families as a whole said that they enjoy their farm and home life; 74 percent of the men and 70 percent of the women said they definitely preferred farm living over living in town. Seventy-three percent thought the farm was the best place to rear their children. This latter view may be influenced by the fact that 84 percent of the men and 72 percent of the women were farm-reared. Another 14 percent of the men and 19 percent of the women were reared in small towns.

Families who did not take part in Extension work by attending educational meetings mentioned several reasons for not doing so. The

most important ones were (1) too busy with farm and home work (40 percent) and (2) too many other community activities (14 percent).

The survey further showed that most families have access to a variety of reading material. Eighty-five percent subscribe to a farm paper or magazine; 92 percent take a daily and/or weekly paper; 60 percent have professional or recreational magazines; 50 percent use library books (the county bookmobile supplies outlying areas); 98 percent have radio; and 86 percent have T.V. (up 27 percent since the 1954 census).

Educational facilities are good. Only a lack of sufficient nurseries and kindergartens is frequently mentioned. Nevertheless, there is a need for further improvements in the educational system.

A need for educational work on home conveniences on farms is indicated by these data: 27 percent of the farms do not have telephones; 16 percent are without electrical laundry equipment; and 50 percent are without central heating systems.

The 95 percent of the families with church affiliations are served mainly by churches in the county.

About half of the farm families belong to a farm organization.

Anticipated purchases in the next few years were reported as follows: farm machines, 38 percent; laundry equipment, 20 percent; furniture, 37 percent; and home freezers, 15 percent.

The problems listed most often in the Home Council survey regarding family living related to: (1) insufficient help from father in raising children, (2) finding time for family activities, (3) persuading family members to eat an adequate breakfast, (4) maintaining good health, and (5) planning and using the family income wisely.

Trends Expected

- Slight decline in farm population.
- Probable increase in proportion of individuals under 15 years of age and 65 years and older.
- Influence of social security payments on consumer spending.
- Yearly increase in per capita farm income.
- Continued increase in home conveniences. Purchases of new household equipment and furnishings for replacement purposes will also increase.
- Continued increase in the median school year completed for rural men and women.

Goal: A more satisfactory family life.

COMMITTEE REPORT ON FAMILY LIVING

PROBLEMS

1. Insufficient planned recreation for all age groups.
2. Trend in problem situations among the youth is such that a keener understanding of child behavior is desired.
3. Lack of respect for thrift, property, and other values to the extent a need exists for developing more good, all-around citizenship in the home, at work, and in the community.
4. Too few employment opportunities for older boys and girls.
5. Lack of appreciation for the importance of well planned family budgets as a means of assuring better buymanship.
6. Concern over nature of some T.V. programs for children.
7. Lack of activities in which the whole family can participate.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Strive for more rural leadership to assist with recreation training meetings with organized groups.
2. Develop an appreciation and understanding of the responsibilities of parents towards their children.
3. Provide training in citizenship to help develop the sense of responsibility that should accompany the privilege of owning property, voting, and exercising other rights enjoyed in a democracy.
4. Direct those wishing work to agencies organized and equipped to provide such service.
5. Provide training in budgeting family expenditures. Consider working with people in groups as well as in counselling with individuals.
6. Help families direct their suggestions for improvement to the proper sources.
7. Incorporate some phases of family recreation in the appropriate extension programs.

FOOD FOR THE FAMILY

Situation

Homemakers strive to feed their families well, yet fail in some areas. The baby and preschool child get the best diets. It is evident when visiting with mothers and teenage girls that breakfasts are often sadly neglected. Father and the teenage boy eat well, but the teenage girl frequently fails to get a good diet. Bearing this out, the recent self-survey shows that rural families want more educational material on family nutrition.

About 44 percent of the families own freezers and nearly 50 percent rent locker space. Foods most often frozen are, in order of importance, family meat supply, surplus fruits and vegetables, and baked goods.

Increased specialization in farming has resulted in less home-produced food. From a nutritional point of view this creates concern. Good quality, home-produced fruits, vegetables, and meats could improve many family diets since folks using limited amounts of their own produce do not buy enough of these foods. Diets are often low in calcium, vitamins A and C, and protein. However, larger home storage facilities are needed in many instances to assure economical use of home-produced foods when large amounts are used.



Trends Expected

- Increased consumption of high protein foods, fruits, and vegetables that will result in a further improvement of diets. Consumption of other foods will remain the same or decline.
- Greater use of purchased food because of urbanization trends and less dependence by farm families upon home-produced food.
- Abundant supplies of foods in general.

Goal: Nutritious, well balanced diets for all members of the family.

COMMITTEE REPORT ON FOOD FOR THE FAMILY

PROBLEMS

1. Many family gardens lack both quantity and variety of good quality fruits and vegetables.
2. Many families do not reach attainable nutritional levels because they do not know the value of the different foods.
3. Not enough farm produced meat is made available for family use.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Encourage families to plan their home gardens more carefully to meet their needs.
2. Urge greater use of farm produced foods to improve economical family diets. Plan a series of educational meetings with 4-H and homemakers clubs for this purpose, especially for the smaller farms where low cash outlays are essential.
3. Encourage the production of high quality meat animals for home use, especially through joint meetings of agricultural and home groups.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Situation

People in the county generally have good sanitary facilities. However, the recent survey revealed opportunities for much improvement. Twenty percent of farm homes do not have running water; 42 percent are without bathrooms; 15 percent do not have kitchen sinks; and 33 percent use unpasteurized milk.

Heart disease, cancer, high blood pressure, and accidents take the most lives. Many people are still somewhat reluctant or neglectful in participating in vaccination and immunization programs.

There is some interest in obtaining a county nurse, although the county has been without this service for many years. There is, however, a school nurse service for district number 122 and for the city of Moorhead. Home nursing and first aid courses are offered by the Red Cross at frequent intervals, but these are not always geared to the convenience of rural homemakers.

Many families are planning some remodeling and modernization of farm homes. Eighteen percent plan major remodeling; 14 percent, installation of water systems; and 11 percent, installation of central heating systems. Since half the houses are 50 years old or more, inadequate wiring for present day electrical appliances will demand attention. Only 30 percent reported having checked their buildings and wiring for safety.

Trends Expected

- Continued high farm, home, and traffic accident rates, making a greater emphasis in all phases of farm and home safety desirable. In 1954 accidents were the leading cause of deaths in the United States among children under 14. Traffic deaths are at an all time high.
- Tightening of state and federal requirements for cleanliness in farm grains and other foods.
- Increased interest in community health programs.
- Greater attention to modernizing of farm buildings and homes than to new construction.

Goal: Farms and homes that provide a safe and healthful place in which to work and live.

COMMITTEE REPORT ON HEALTH AND SAFETY

PROBLEMS

1. Safety rules are not always understood or practiced on the highway, causing many accidents.
2. Many accident victims don't get proper first aid because too few laymen are trained to give it.
3. Importance of general farm and home safety is not fully appreciated.
4. Safety devices are often lacking or in poor repair on farm equipment. In other cases too little attention is given to instructions provided for handling and operating farm machinery and equipment.
5. Unclean grain, intended for human consumption, results in financial losses.
6. Insufficient training in home nursing and in caring for the sick results in a number of illnesses that are both costly and avoidable.
7. Inadequate attention is given to mental health.
8. Failure to recognize the importance of proper clothing for health and safety causes many accidents.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Encourage training in safe driving and disseminate information on highway safety practices through local groups. Obtain the cooperation of state and county officials.
2. Increase enrollment in first Aid courses by cooperating with local sponsors and emphasize first aid work in 4-H and Home programs.
3. Promote home safety through 4-H clubs and Homemakers Clubs.
4. Promote safety practices by meetings, demonstrations, and mass media. Include short talks on safety at agricultural meetings.
5. Encourage clean grain and general sanitation in keeping with the requirements of state and federal regulations. Include work with grain handlers and food processors.
6. Provide project training courses on home nursing and care of the sick through Homemakers Clubs. Obtain the cooperation of professional nurses.
7. Assist families in obtaining professional diagnosis for mental illnesses and follow up with educational material on how to understand the causes and prevention of emotional stresses.
8. Provide information on the selection of comfortable, healthful, and well-fitting garments that meet health and safety requirements.

The Farm

The average Clay County farm in 1954 included 320 acres of which 234 acres were cropland. The number of farms in the county has been decreasing in recent years at the rate of one farm a month. As a result the remaining farms have become larger. The rate of decrease, however, has been surprisingly constant since 1938.

The average value per farm in 1954 was \$26,000 or \$77 per acre.

The average cash receipts per farm in 1954 was \$8,590 or \$37 per acre of cropland. Field crops accounted for 74 percent of these receipts: dairy, 8; beef, 7; hogs, 3; poultry and poultry products 3; sheep, 1; and vegetables, fruits and other, 4.

In 1954 renters operated 17 percent of the farms compared with 20 percent in 1950.

The summaries from the six committees who worked on farm problems are considered in this section. Three of these problem areas — farm family business, farm buildings and equipment, and marketing and buy-manship — are definitely associated with both THE FARM and THE FAMILY areas. The remaining three — conservation, crops and soils, and livestock and poultry — relate primarily to the income aspects of the farm.

FARM FAMILY BUSINESS

Situation

The average cash receipts per farm in Clay County was 12 percent higher in 1954 than 1949. However, the United States Department of Agriculture's index of prices paid by farmers shows that things the farmer had to buy rose 12 percent during the same period, and so for the most part cancelled the gain.

Based upon current trends about 31 percent of the farm boys now on farms in the county can expect farming opportunities that will gross more than \$5,000 a year. Another 18 percent may expect farming opportunities grossing from \$2,500 to \$5,000.

Some farm families still find it difficult to obtain adequate credit. Others apparently buy equipment to the point where their operating costs soar beyond their capacity to make satisfactory payments.

There is a wide range in the efficiency of production from farm to farm. Even some farms of the same size and on the same type of soil show wide fluctuations in net income from year to year.

Current high capital requirements in farming make it very difficult for a young couple to get started on a good farm.

Trends Expected

- Continued, but less pronounced, cost-price squeeze which has resulted from recent lower farm prices coupled with "sticky" farm costs.
- Increasingly higher capital requirements facing beginning farmers.
- Rise in per capita farm income.
- Continued increase in the size of farm but not at any faster rate.
- Continued efforts for further improvement in short-term and intermediate credit for agriculture.
- Continued burdensome supplies in some farm commodities, especially wheat, tobacco, and cotton.
- Continued tight farm labor supply because non-farm pursuits are bidding for labor.

Goal: An adequate income for the farm family and workable tenure arrangements that encourage a sound agriculture.

COMMITTEE REPORT ON FARM FAMILY BUSINESS

PROBLEMS

1. Lack of workable father-son partnership arrangements that are fair to both.
2. Lack of information on sources of credit with sound payment plans, coupled with increasing capital requirements for farming. These include high operating costs for machinery, livestock, social security, etc.
3. Many farmers have not obtained assistance in farm and home planning and record keeping and thus have not found the combination of farm enterprises best suited to their farms.
4. Insufficient attractiveness of farm life to compete favorably with other vocations and a lack of understanding of the different alternatives to farming.
5. High production costs.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Cooperate with the legal profession in obtaining and disseminating information on the legal aspects of family farm transfers. Help families evaluate two-family farm possibilities from the standpoint of the farm's total income potential.
2. Establish better understanding between lending institutions and farmers so both may benefit.
3. Provide more assistance in farm planning and record keeping to all interested individuals partly on an organized group basis.
4. Encourage modernization of farm homes for more enjoyable farm living and disseminate information concerned with normal flow of people in and out of agriculture.
5. Promote the use of farming methods and techniques that result in the best use of all resources on the farm. Suggest that custom-work opportunities be explored.

6. Difficulty in obtaining capable, reliable farm help.
7. Supplies of farm products frequently exceed the demand at prices considered necessary to cover expenses and provide a fair return for investment and labor.
8. How to best utilize time in doing jobs on the farm and in the home.
6. Work in cooperation with existing employment agencies so employers and employees may learn of one another's needs.
7. Work with commodity groups in production stabilization programs. Keep producers informed on all government price support programs which affect them. While much of this area involves decisions made beyond the individual farm, Extension can assist farmers in assuming their role in affairs that affect their welfare and that of the society as a whole.
8. Provide information on time saving methods in farm and home work.

CONSERVATION

Situation

Western Clay county has heavy soils, some of which are subject to wind erosion and breakdown of soil structure. At times the natural drainage channels are unable to handle the surplus water from the uplands. As a result the land is frequently subject to devastating floods.

The central area, more varied in topography, has mostly sandy soils and is subject to both wind and water erosion.

The eastern part of the county consists mostly of upland soils, many of which have been severely eroded. Lakes and potholes are numerous in this area.

Trends Expected

- Increased interest in soil conservation although actual participation will progress slower than desirable.
- Greater demand for conservation plans for individual farms than present number of soil conservation technicians can complete very quickly.
- Proper land use will continue to result in greater long time returns.
- Continued active interest by sportsman clubs and other conservation groups in wild life programs.

Goal: To assure maximum production through proper land use by using each field according to its soil capabilities.

COMMITTEE REPORT ON CONSERVATION

PROBLEMS

1. Too great a loss of soil due to water erosion on upland soils.
2. Slow progress in completing soil conservation plans on individual farms.
3. Too great a soil loss from wind erosion in central Clay County.
4. Inadequate drainage on some of the flat lands mostly in western Clay County.
5. Areas suited and available to wildlife are not fully utilized. Habitats are too limited and scanty.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Advocate greater use of such practices as proper crop rotations, contouring, strip cropping, etc. to cut losses from water erosion. Cooperate with the local Soil Conservation Service.
2. Encourage proper land use on individual farms based upon soil capabilities as much as possible until individual farm plans may be obtained.
3. Assist with the establishment of farm shelterbelts and field windbreaks and other supplemental erosion control practices.
4. Help individuals with their drainage problems by cooperating with other agencies in planning and developing area drainage, flood control and watershed projects.
5. Work with 4-H, SCS, and sportsman clubs in obtaining cooperation in establishing breeding areas for wildlife and in providing the desired habitat.

CROPS AND SOILS

Situation

Recent changes in the comparative advantages between crops have brought about shifts in acreages. Soybean acreage, in 1956 for instance, was eight times greater than in 1953. Corn acreage has been increasing each year since 1952, while the acreage devoted to sugar beets and potatoes has changed very little.



Barley has increased while oats has declined. The acreage seeded to wheat in recent years has been less than that for either oats or barley. Flax acreage, after increasing greatly in the early 1950's dropped off sharply both in 1955 and 1956.

Acreage in alfalfa and other tame hay has remained quite constant at about 12 to 15 percent of the total cropland.

The acreage of major crops in the county in 1956 was as follows:

CROP	ACRES	CROP	ACRES
Barley	70,000	Flax	29,889
Oats	70,602	Alfalfa hay	30,590
Spring wheat	68,925	Other hay	27,951
Soybeans	59,891	Sugar beets	18,542
Corn	36,280	Potatoes	13,903

Of the soil samples tested in 1954-55 for available phosphorous, 31 percent tested medium and 27 percent low. Thirty-three percent of the samples tested medium in potash, only 2 percent tested low. An alkaline reaction was recorded in 90 percent of the samples.

Trends Expected

- Greater use of soil testing with the accompanying recommendations for fertilizer applications.
- More consideration given to supplemental irrigation, which may prove profitable especially for the high-return crops.
- Greater use of chemicals in weed control.
- Further improvement of already effective disease and insect control.
- More producers will look for new opportunities to increase their farm income through new varieties, new crops, new rotations, and applications of commercial fertilizers.

Goal: Soil and crop management programs that will sustain yields and assure an adequate income for the farm family.

COMMITTEE REPORT ON CROPS AND SOILS

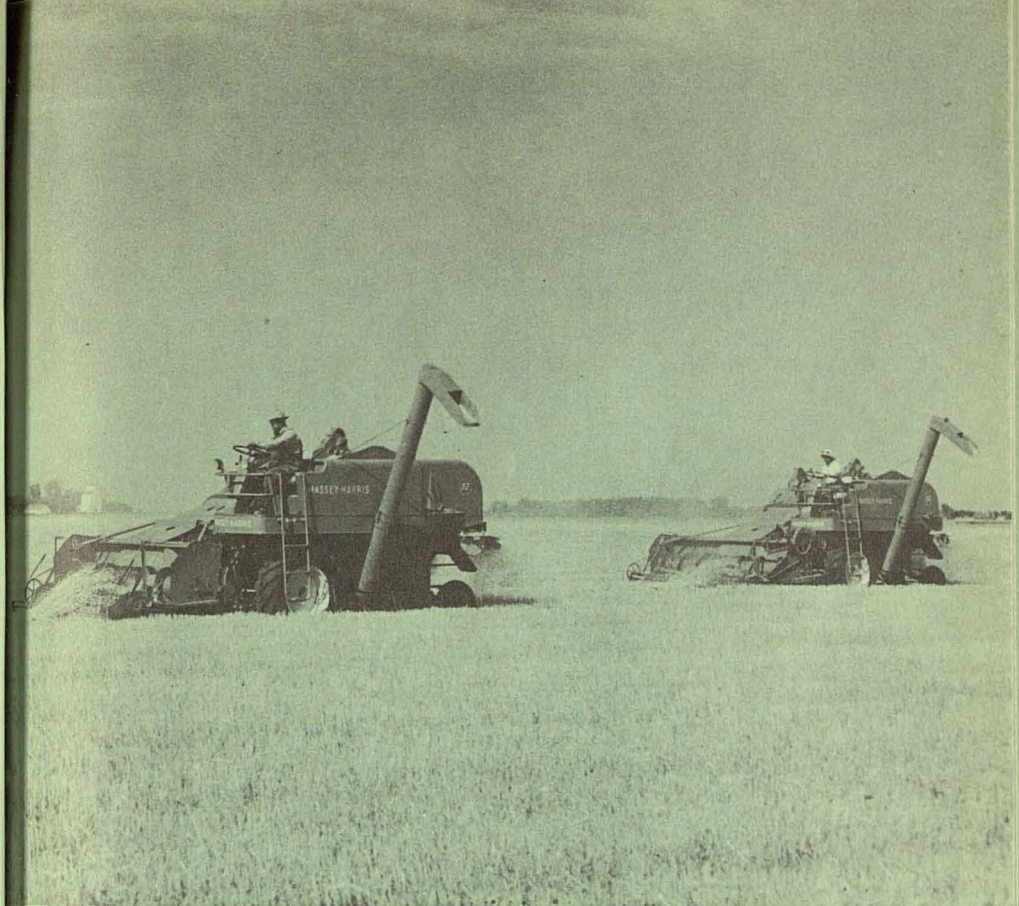
PROBLEMS

1. Insufficient data available to determine which varieties of crops are superior for each of the varied soil conditions in the county.
2. Low cash returns per acre for some cash crops.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Plan and conduct varietal demonstration plots in the major soil type areas to observe and compare yield and quality and also determine best seeding rates and planting dates. Obtain the cooperation of local agencies such as vocational agricultural departments, Crop Improvement Associations, and commercial interests.
2. Explore, introduce, and promote new crops that may offer higher cash returns. (An example is Birdsfoot Trefoil harvested for seed.) Seek improved cultural practices in other instances.

3. Inconsistent production of high quality legume and grass seed crops.
4. Lack of information as to which crop rotation provides greatest total yields or cash returns and is in keeping with good soil management practices.
5. How to appraise information concerning the importance of high standards as required for all seeds both certified and non-certified. Purity and germination requirements as required by state law are not fully understood and followed.
6. Lack of information regarding response from the different fertilizers which farmers may expect on their individual fields.
7. Lack of information concerning the value of supplemental irrigation for high return crops.
8. Lack of information on the value of different tillage practices and types of equipment on soil structure, tilth, and moisture holding capacity.
9. Crop losses, or reduced yields, in certain areas due to lack of information on how to remedy soil alkali conditions.
10. Lower yields, lower market grades, delayed planting dates, and increased equipment costs caused by weeds.
11. Large annual losses from insect and disease damage.
3. Set up field demonstrations to show the effect of insect control and use of fertilizer for seed set. Provide additional information on weed control and harvesting methods.
4. Obtain data on crop rotations through the use of farm records and suggest greater use of those that assure highest net returns over a period of years. Urge that considerations include the total effect on soil organic matter, fertility, erosion, moisture, weed control, distribution of labor and equipment, and markets for the crops.
5. Acquaint farmers and others selling seed with the standards for certified seed and the state laws regulating the sale of all seed. Encourage local dealers to handle quality seed of recommended varieties.
6. Sponsor test plots on fertilizers on each of the county's major soil types to serve as demonstrations. These trials should also serve as checks for fertilizer recommendations based on soil tests. Conduct soil sampling demonstrations and provide individual reports interpreting the laboratory tests of all samples tested. Alternate the location of demonstration plots about the county as a convenience to farmers and fertilizer dealers.
7. Secure and provide cost data and possible returns from field irrigation in an effort to determine its value.
8. Study effects of deep tillage, subsoiling, and disc plows so that farmers may be more certain as to the most desirable practices.
9. Sponsor demonstrations and hold educational meetings on the use of chelates and cultural practices to remedy chlorosis.
10. Acquaint farmers with new herbicides as developed, through demonstrations, trials, and other educational methods. Emphasize the place of cultural practices in weed control. Urge proper use of present chemicals.
11. Emphasize advantages of preventive measures, such as rust resistant varieties and seed treatment.



FARM AND HOME BUILDINGS AND EQUIPMENT

Situation

Many farm buildings in Clay County are 40 to 50 years old. The self-survey of Clay County farms showed that slightly more than one-half of the farm houses have a central heating system, 80 percent running water, 58 percent bathrooms, 95 percent electricity, 84 percent electrical laundry equipment, 44 percent home freezers, 73 percent telephones, and 90 percent television sets. The houses were in fairly good repair, but the electrical wiring was inadequate for most present day needs. This is due chiefly to the purchase of additional electrical appliances and equipment.

There is a trend towards more livestock on some farms, and as livestock enterprises expand or become more specialized, housing needs change. While some new construction is planned most changes will involve remodeling.

Considerable help will be needed with planning prior to remodeling. Plans for installation of water systems and for suitable livestock housing are examples.

Yearly additions of new equipment are being made to the farm and home inventories even though prices are moving upward. Where older equipment continues to do the job, upkeep and repair will be important. Many families are asking for assistance in selecting the type and size of home appliances that serve their needs best. They also want information on how to maintain and care for both the old and new equipment.

The proportion of farms reporting automobiles, trucks, and major farm machines in 1954 was as follows:

FARM FACILITY	PERCENT
Automobiles	93
Trucks	68
Feed grinders	39
Balers	15
Combines	82 (of farmers harvesting grain)
Milking machines	45 (of farmers reporting dairy cows)
Corn pickers	32 (of farmers harvesting corn for grain)
Field forage choppers	20 (of farmers harvesting corn and grass silage)

Trends Expected

- Decline in number of farms which may prevent rapid expansion in building new homes. Remodeling and modernizing old homes is expected to have a place in near-future plans of many farm families.
- More families will desire complete landscaping plans and guides.
- More adequate rural fire fighting facilities made possible through cooperation with nearby municipalities.
- More flexibility will be built into new farm buildings because of the rapid changes taking place in agriculture.
- Greater interest in labor-saving buildings and equipment stimulated by high cost labor.
- Continued increase in the cost of farm equipment will necessitate better care and upkeep.

Goal: Suitable farm and home buildings — buildings that are economical and yet serve the purpose for which they were intended and also contribute to more enjoyable family living.

COMMITTEE REPORT ON FARM AND HOME BUILDING AND EQUIPMENT

PROBLEMS

1. Fire losses or threat of fire due to limited fire protection and fire fighting equipment in many communities.
2. Slow progress in home yard improvement because of lack of information regarding choice and placement of ornamental shrubs for home ground planting and improvement.
3. High cost of new farm buildings, including dwellings.
4. Uncertain trends in farming make it difficult for families to make plans for farm buildings.
5. Inadequate care and upkeep of farm and home equipment necessitates replacements oftener than should be required.
6. Unwise and costly purchase in both home and farm because of failure to appreciate the full value of appliances already on hand.
7. The need for modernizing some farm homes.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Urge adequate inspection or wiring, proper farm clean-up, and the adoption of other fire safety measures. Explore opportunities for community fire-fighting service on some cooperative basis.
2. Explore the wooded areas of the county for possible native shrubs and stress the best choice of trees and shrubs for shelterbelts and landscaping.
3. Give assistance to individuals for remodeling or for building new structures.
4. Provide up-to-date information on trends in agriculture and type and size of buildings likely to be needed.
5. Emphasize better buymanship and economical use of farm machinery, especially through mass media.
6. Provide information on the varied uses and care required for modern appliances and farm equipment.
7. Provide information on remodeling farm houses and installing running water and sewage disposal systems.

LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY

Situation

There is a trend toward fewer livestock farms but larger herds of cattle and flocks of poultry. Total livestock numbers, however, remain about the same as before World War II. In 1954 59 percent of the farms reported having dairy cattle, 57 percent poultry, 33 percent hogs, 15 percent beef cows (no dairy), and 12 percent sheep.

Increased specialization and technological improvements are increasing efficiency in all classes of livestock, dairy, and poultry production.

Trends Expected

- Continued improvement in breeding, feeding, and health in all classes of livestock, dairy, and poultry. This will result in fewer pounds of feed required to produce and market a unit of livestock or livestock product.
- A changing market demand and technological developments will justify some changes in breeding, feeding, and marketing practices with special reference to meat-type hogs, whole milk sales, bulk tank milk storage, improvements in grades, etc.



- Labor saving practices will continue to pay dividends.
- Continued interest in livestock projects on the part of 4-H members.

Goal: Improvement in livestock breeding, feeding, care, and management for more profitable returns.

COMMITTEE REPORT ON LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY

PROBLEMS

1. Low margins due in part to poor breeding.
2. Not enough ways of measuring improvements or efficiency in livestock enterprises such as DHIA proven sires, etc.
3. Slow application of latest feeding developments.
4. Many 4-H livestock projects are unprofitable or do not fit into the family farm business.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Encourage livestock breeding programs that result in fast gains or that meet specific market requirements.
2. Expand DHIA and weigh-a-day programs as a means of selecting high-producing dairy cows. Encourage swine producers to take part in swine testing programs that emphasize the meat-type hog. Encourage selection of beef sires on the basis of gains made by their off-spring.
3. Obtain research supported data so farmers can appraise various feeding programs including those with antibiotics, stilbestrol, high energy feeds, and stimulants now used in some dairy feeds.
4. Emphasize the real value and purpose of 4-H work, developing boys and girls rather than making money on projects.

5. Large losses from livestock and poultry disease.
6. Confusion as to what direction livestock breeders should go in their business.
7. High labor costs compared with livestock returns.
5. Stress disease control by prevention rather than by cures. Examples are use of antibiotics, sanitation, vaccination, etc.
6. Carefully evaluate specialization vs diversification in farm plans. Also compare purebred herds vs commercial herds and determine the advantages and disadvantages of each. Stress the importance of weighing alternatives carefully in making decisions.
7. Give more emphasis to reducing labor requirements. Consider labor saving equipment to reduce costs.

MARKETING AND BUYMANSHIP

Situation

The farmers are becoming aware of the increased importance of marketing. Commodity groups such as potato and onion growers, certified seed producers, dairymen and poultry raisers are studying ways and means of overcoming their marketing problems.

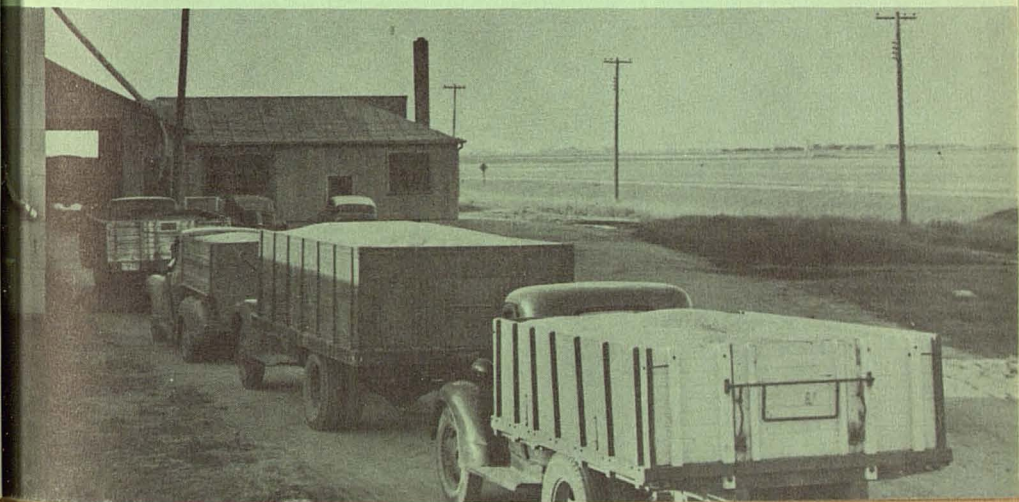
Potato and onion growers are frequently faced with overproduction, the result being low prices. Certified producers often find it difficult to move all of their seed at satisfactory prices.

The dairy industry finds itself with more fluid milk than is needed for its Grade A market outlets.

Small poultry producers are finding it more and more difficult to cover their production costs.

Many grain producers in the county take advantage of the Commodity Credit Corporation program. In 1954 the CCC loans in the county totaled \$2,579,000 or 20 percent of the total cash receipts from grains.

In 1954, 54 percent of the rye, 48 percent of the wheat, 25 percent of the oats, 24 percent of the soybeans, 19 percent of the barley, 16 percent of the flax, and 4 percent of the corn in the county was under loan.



Trends Expected

- Continued high marketing costs caused by greater reliance on packaged food, more processing and retail services, and higher labor and transportation costs. These marketing costs will absorb a large share of the consumers food dollar.
- More homemakers working outside of the home creating a strong demand for ready-to-serve foods.
- Taking over of some marketing functions by producers seeking to recover a larger share of the consumers food dollar. Some producers will endeavor to sell direct to consumers, others will use cooperative marketing methods.
- Possible trial of new ways of supporting farm prices.
- Greater effort to improve market grades and market news services.
- Continued depressing of market prices by surpluses of some commodities.

Goal: Production and marketing programs that keep supplies of farm products in balance with demand at satisfactory prices to both farmers and consumers.

COMMITTEE REPORT ON MARKETING AND BUYMANSHIP

PROBLEMS

1. Improper balance between production and consumption of farm products and too great a spread between farm prices and retail prices — problems frequently national and international in scope.
2. Rapid changes in dairy marketing — problem of finding markets for the current supplies of Grade A milk.
3. Need for new sources of income.
4. Insufficient returns to poultry producers.
5. Failure to give adequate consideration to consumer preferences in pork production.
6. Getting money's worth in buying.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Obtain and disseminate outlook information on supply and demand situations. Look for opportunities to increase marketing efficiency by reducing marketing costs. Provide educational material on national and international market situations, government programs, etc.
2. Study the possibilities of a Federal Milk Marketing Order for this area and continue efforts to further improvements in milk quality.
3. Disseminate information on new seed crops. Work with county groups in attempts to attract or develop new industries and markets.
4. Promote better egg quality and a pricing system that more accurately reflects quality differences. Also, study the possibilities of more direct egg marketing and thereby reduce marketing margins.
5. Encourage swine producers to produce and market meat-type hogs.
6. Stress planned buying which would provide a comparison between products and services available and consideration of one's actual needs.

The Community

The value of effective organizations must be given serious consideration if farm people are to enjoy a high standard of living. Much good results from unselfish cooperation with others in building a good community.

Several suggestions came out of this study with farm families that will require the application of group action techniques if a number of desired goals are to be realized. For this reason a number of items are summarized in this section with these thoughts in mind.

When one views the progress Clay County people have made in less than a hundred years it is obvious that much cooperation has taken place. There is reason to believe that the same community spirit which has made Clay County communities what they are today can be applied to current situations.

IMPROVEMENT OF COOPERATIVE EXTENSION WORK IN THE COUNTY

Situation

The Extension staff consists of an agricultural agent, an assistant agricultural agent, a home agent, a 4-H club agent, and one office assistant. In 1956, this staff served twenty-six community 4-H clubs with a membership of 564, an organized home program of 65 local groups with 830 members, and worked with an agricultural program built around a variety of commodity groups, farm organizations, special meetings, tours, etc. It is through all these organized groups that the largest number of people are reached.

A method of teaching farm and home development was given special emphasis this past year with the addition to the staff of one assistant county agent. While this program provides help to individual families with farm and home plans, it also uses the group approach to some extent.

Trends Expected

- Continued stress by the County Extension Service of leader training meetings to further develop the organized approach to Extension teaching.
- Continued efforts to obtain adequate meeting places essential to successful group meetings.

- Better understanding by more people of the detailed operations of the Extension Service through the distribution of this report and other means. Thus a clearer understanding of the need for group action should result.

Goal: An effective community organizational pattern for county Extension work that will enable staff members to reach more people with educational information designed for better farms and better living.

COMMITTEE REPORT ON IMPROVING COOPERATIVE EXTENSION WORK

PROBLEMS

1. Long distances to travel to attend Extension meetings.
2. Inadequate means of getting educational information to people as quickly as they want it.
3. Inability to make as many farm and home visits as people desire.
4. Slowness or lag in reporting results of research to people.
5. Unfamiliarity of some communities with procedure for organizing 4-H clubs and homemakers groups. As a result none serves these communities.
6. Unfamiliarity on part of some homemakers as to how the home program is organized or the lessons chosen.
7. Inadequate training program for 4-H leaders on (1) projects, (2) demonstration work, and (3) project selection. Not enough opportunities for agents to have direct contact with members.
8. Obtaining adequate meeting places and other facilities required in extension work. The extension service cannot pay rent for meeting places, for instance.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Centrally locate countywide meetings or rotate them from one area to another in a systematic way. Where possible plan Extension meetings so that all communities are reached at frequent intervals.
2. Survey county residents as to the Extension teaching methods they prefer. Make more use of press, radio, and TV in getting information to people.
3. This problem may never be fully solved, but the trend toward more carefully planned group and leader-training sessions promises to permit some adjustments in time allotted to farm contacts.
4. Urge University Experiment Station personnel to give priority to this request for getting results of research to the people quickly.
5. Make it known that homemakers groups and 4-H clubs may be started in any part of the county where people want them and will provide leaders. Encourage existing clubs to enlarge their membership by inviting local interested people to join.
6. Encourage the chairman of each homemakers group to explain how the Home Council selects the coming lessons. It is important that all members know that they can voice their wishes.
7. Set up yearly schedule of training sessions for 4-H leaders. Keep leaders informed on current developments. Poll leaders regularly as to their wishes for subject matter material, etc.
8. Inform those in charge of schools, halls, and other meeting places that Extension work is in the interest of every local community and that meeting places and facilities should be made available for organized group meetings.

IMPROVEMENT OF FACILITIES IN THE COUNTY

Situations

Problems were brought up at the area panel meetings that did not relate directly to Extension work, but for the most part concern other organizations or groups in the county. While the Extension Service is not closely associated with some of these situations, it will nevertheless assist communities in contacting agencies able to help. The facilities referred to here concern communications, recreation, roads, and employment.



Trends Expected

- Continued expansion in telephone and electric services but at added cost.
- The development of recreational facilities has been progressing in the county and elsewhere. Further progress here will depend upon how much people want them and their willingness to share the cost and their success in developing repayment plans.
- Employment centers are available and their effectiveness will increase in proportion to the support and counsel provided by the people in getting both employers and folks desiring work to use the service.

Goal: A county where all agencies and organizations cooperate to the degree that each is able to make its greatest contribution by way of facilities that will serve the common good of all people in the county.

COMMITTEE REPORT ON IMPROVING COUNTY FACILITIES

PROBLEMS

1. Some rural telephone lines frequently out of order and the service is poor. Also, there is a lack of consideration by some people on party lines so that the service is badly impaired.
2. Not enough recreational facilities for youth in rural areas. There is a lack of both natural and constructed swimming pools.
3. Difficulty in reading experienced by many children.
4. Lack of adequate employment opportunities during the summer months for high school seniors and college students.
5. Insufficient road maintenance and lack of good road signs in some areas.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Suggest farmers explore opportunities for improvement through their respective organizations.
2. Review this situation with officials of municipalities with the thought in view of developing a solution to recreational facilities needed.
3. Confer with appropriate educational authorities.
4. Work with existing employment agencies in development of special programs for this group.
5. Refer to county board of commissioners.

Improvement of Human Relations in the County

Farm families enjoy a certain amount of independence in operating their farms, but many wants are satisfied only when the benefits of organizations, agencies, groups, and individuals cooperating with one another develop in an atmosphere of excellent human relationships. If the full benefits of Extension work are to be realized it must seek both the help and cooperation of other organizations in the county, especially those closely identified with rural areas.

Different agencies such as the Soil Conservation Service, Farmers Home Administration, Agricultural Stabilization Committee, School Departments of Home Economics and Vocational Agriculture, and churches frequently serve the same people. A good understanding and effective working relationships among all these agencies and groups is most certain to accomplish the best results.

Trends Expected

- Sufficient opportunities for community improvement are usually present to occupy the talents of all groups if coordinated efforts are used.
- Continued urbanization with its demand and need for more public services. This change will result in adjustments that will be far-reaching in some instances, and less so in others where urbanization has already occurred.

Goal: A cooperative working relationship with other groups wherever there are related interests in specific problems.

COMMITTEE REPORT ON IMPROVING HUMAN RELATIONS

PROBLEMS

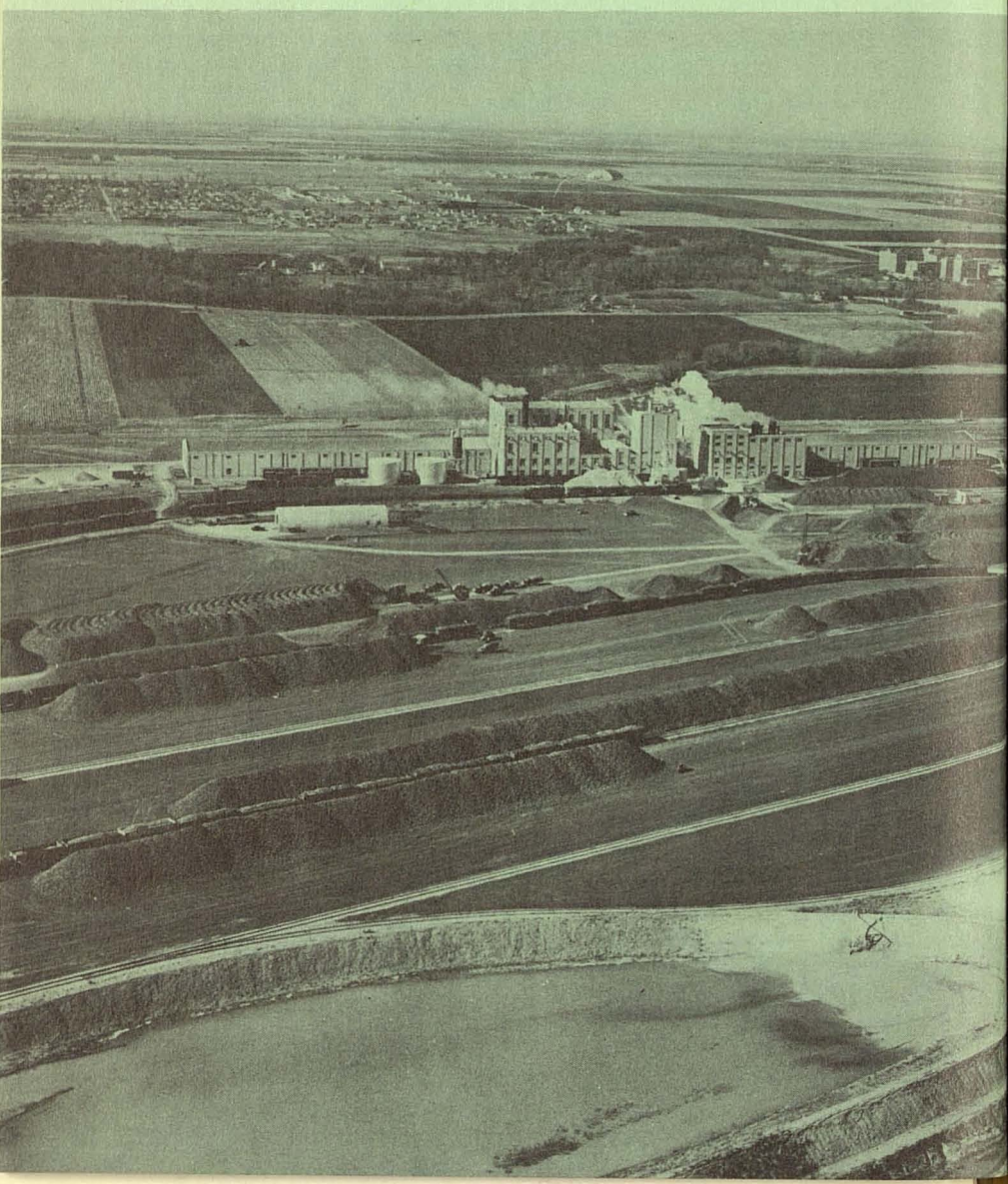
1. Lack of understanding of mutual problems between rural and urban people in area of public finance.
2. Creation of new problems, usually relating to more public services, by urban population moving into the country.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Consider joint meetings of rural and urban people on mutual problems.
2. Endeavor to provide people with information concerning changes to be expected whenever rural areas become more urban.

3. Not enough industry developed in the county to provide alternative employment.
4. Overlooking special needs of retarded children.
3. Cooperate with other segments of local communities in exploring opportunities for new industries or enlarging the present ones.
4. Cooperate with appropriate authorities in encouraging more support for this area of work.

Obviously many of the foregoing situations need very close cooperation of a number of agencies and groups. Extension may be expected to provide educational information to help people understand the problems at hand and help in various ways to accomplish what is desired.



SUMMARY

The recommendations included in this report will guide the annual programs for several years. Each of the major work areas has several specific problems and suggestions. Some are set in bold type for early consideration, preferably this year, since they were listed most frequently by local people. Others will be reviewed at regular intervals as opportunities develop to include them in the yearly plans of work.

The recommendations in general relate to the following problem areas:

THE FAMILY

The best use of income, time, and other resources available to farm families represent the major goals. Opportunities for reaching these goals lie in educational information concerning:

1. **Family Living** — family finance, job opportunities for young men and women, citizenship in its broadest terms, **the real needs of children**, and recreational programs for people of all ages.
2. **Food for the Family** — adequate diets for the entire family, **home grown fruits and vegetables**, maximum use of home-produced food, a family's food wants as a guide to consumer demand and food preservation.
3. **Health and Safety** — **highway safety**, first aid, **farm and home safety**, clean grain and food, care of the sick, mental health, clothes for the family, and modernizing homes.

THE FARM

Farms differ and yet have a common goal — combining land, capital, labor, and management to provide the best possible income. Many factors enter into this consideration, but the following were considered to be of special importance for the extension program of the next few years:

1. **Farm Family Business** — **father-son partnerships**, farm credit in all its aspects, **farm plans to increase net income**, modernizing farm buildings to save labor, **reducing costs**, and **unstable farm prices**.
2. **Conservation** — **wind and water erosion**, crop plans that consider soil capabilities, shelterbelts and windbreaks, drainage and flood control and wildlife development.
3. **Crops and Soils** — **fertilizer demonstration plots on different soils**, **crop varieties**, disease and insect control, new crops, crop rotations, seed treatment, soil testing, supplemental irrigation, tillage practices, chlorosis, and weed control.
4. **Farm and Home Buildings and Equipment** — **fire protection**, **proper wiring**, building plans, guides for equipment selection,

labor saving household equipment, care of equipment, home-
yard improvement and modernizing farm homes.

5. **Livestock and Poultry** — improved strains of livestock, measures for efficiency, 4-H Club work, disease control, livestock enterprises, and labor saving plans.
6. **Marketing and Buymanship** — Obtaining and interpreting outlook information, federal milk marketing orders, market improvement, quality, grades and pricing of farm products, meat-type hogs, and guides to selling and buying.

THE COMMUNITY

Even a successfully operated farm and home is dependent upon its community. Certain goals can be reached only through working with others, in an organized way. Additional work in these areas was suggested:

1. **Extension Organization** — location of meetings, Extension methods, information on Extension, research reports, leader training, and meeting places.
2. **Community Services** — communications, transportation, roads, education, employment, and farm labor.
3. **Human Relations** — rural urban understanding, changing community developments, trend in urbanization, public finance, and new industries.

Committees for long time program planning

FAMILY LIVING:

Mr. and Mrs. Willard Brakke	Moorhead, Rt. 2
Mr. and Mrs. John Nelson	Sabin
Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Miller	Moorhead, Rt. 1
Mr. and Mrs. Harold Tobolt	Moorhead, Rt. 2
Mr. Lawrence Reck	Glyndon

FOOD FOR FAMILY:

Mrs. Lawrence Sinner	Moorhead, Rt. 1	Mr. George Lee	Glyndon
Mr. Myron Hurner			Glyndon
Dr. O. C. Turnquist, Horticulturist			University Farm
Verna Mikesh, Food Specialist			University Farm

HEALTH AND SAFETY:

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Janssen	Barnesville	Lowell Wagner	Sabin
Mrs. Fred Maier	Barnesville	Mrs. Carroll Jacobson	Hitterdal
Mrs. Elmer Henrickson	Hawley	Dr. Vernon Thysell	Hawley
Mr. Truman Tilleraas, Vo. Ag. Instructor,	Hawley High School		Hawley
Mrs. Norman Elton	Hawley	Mrs. Ervin Opskar	Moorhead
		Evelyn Morrow	

FARM FAMILY BUSINESS:

Mr. and Mrs. Lauren Peterson	Baker	Mr. Donald Atherton	Moorhead, Rt. 1
Mr. and Mrs. Lynn Anderson	Comstock	Mr. Nick Lakeman	Felton
Mr. and Mrs. Verne Leach	Glyndon	Mr. Leonard Peterman	Hawley
Mr. Edwin Benedict	Moorhead		

CONSERVATION—SUPERVISORS CLAY COUNTY SOIL
CONSERVATION DISTRICT:

Floyd Yardley	Glyndon	Milton Gee	Moorhead, Rt. 1
Virgil Tonsfeldt	Sabin	Raymond Aakre	Hawley
		Haaken Johnson	Hawley

CROPS AND SOILS

Directors Clay County Crop Improvement Association:

Ed. Dullea, Jr.	Georgetown	Hugh Trowbridge	Comstock
Fred Larson	Glyndon	Harold Tobolt	Moorhead, Rt. 2
Obert Grover	Glyndon	E. F. Krabbenhoft, Jr.	Sabin

FARM AND HOME BUILDINGS:

Mrs. Robert Berg	Barnesville	Mrs. Harold Janneck	Barnesville
		Mr. John Bergseid	Hawley

LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY:

Wilfred Anderson	Hitterdal	Verle Hardin	Hawley
William Nelson	Hawley	Mrs. Burley Stumbo	Ulen

MARKETING AND BUYMANSHIP:

Clarence Mikkelsen	Glyndon	Dean Workman	Borup
Charles Bouton	Glyndon	Willard Brakke	Moorhead, Rt. 2
Harold Pake	Moorhead, Rt. 2	Ralph Rehder	Comstock
Denton Jepson	Glyndon	Arthur Gjervold	Moorhead, Rt. 1

Home Extension Presidents Conducting the Survey:

Sabin-Moorhead Area: Mrs. Alvin Bartholomous, Glyndon; Mrs. Emil Olson, Moorhead; Mrs. Oris Brakke, Moorhead; Mrs. Clarence Jacobsen, Sabin; Mrs. E. J. Witt, Moorhead; Mrs. Clifford Abrahamson, Dilworth; Mrs. Clarence Altenbernd, Sabin; Mrs. Walter Nyquist, Moorhead.

Alliance-Holy Cross Area: Mrs. Rudy Possehl, Comstock; Mrs. Harold Lemke, Baker; Mrs. Delbert Evert, Comstock; Mrs. Neil Barry, Barnesville.

Barnesville Area: Mrs. John Schmidt, Barnesville; Mrs. Gunvold Egge, Barnesville; Mrs. Loren Miller, Barnesville; Mrs. Harry Collins, Barnesville; Mrs. S. G. Kieselbach, Barnesville; Mrs. John Swenson, Barnesville.

Northwest Area: Mrs. Russell Kragnes, Felton; Mrs. Dorothy Carey, Moorhead; Mrs. J. Wm. Nelson, Moorhead; Mrs. Roger Hegland, Moorhead; Mrs. Kenneth Jones, Moorhead; Mrs. Henry Sauter, Moorhead; Mrs. Leona Carter, Georgetown.

Glyndon Area: Mrs. Maurice Seter, Jr., Glyndon; Mrs. Edward Schellack, Glyndon; Mrs. Huger Carlson, Averill; Mrs. Weslie Tweiten, Glyndon; Mrs. Mel Eidsmoe, Averill.

Southwest Area: Mrs. Louis Larson, Hawley; Mrs. John Hovelson, Hawley; Mrs. Norman Elton, Hawley; Mrs. Peder Ronsberg, Barnesville; Mrs. Richard Berg, Hawley; Mrs. Herman Rodke, Hawley.

Hawley-Cromwell-Highland Grove: Mrs. Wm. Cook, Hawley; Mrs. Elmer Henrickson, Hawley; Mrs. Homer Schultz, Hawley; Mrs. Allen Wastvedt, Hawley; Mrs. Gale Anderson, Hawley; Mrs. Truman Arneson, Hawley; Mrs. Robert Burnside, Hawley; Mrs. Carroll Jacobson, Hitterdal; Mrs. George Henning, Hawley.

Ulen Area: Mrs. Rosie Hendrickson, Ulen; Mrs. Julius Holte, Hawley; Mrs. Ray Bruhn, Ulen; Mrs. Otto Amundson, Ulen; Mrs. A. Fuglie, Ulen; Mrs. Burton Langerud, Hawley; Mrs. Erling Amundson, Ulen.

Moorhead Area: Mrs. Maurice Zuehlsdorf, Moorhead; Mrs. Clarence Mattson, Moorhead; Mrs. Rilla Rasmussen, Moorhead; Mrs. Morgan Holen, Moorhead; Mrs. Gordon Brakke, Wolverton.

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 the next 5 years. Thus future County Extension programs will have more year-to-year continuity and will be simpler to prepare because revisions will be limited to additions or changes based upon this long-range program. The progress each year will determine the extent of revisions. This new approach will help assure wiser use of the resources available to the County Extension Service. It should also assist rural people in using their resources to a more satisfying way." The Clay County Extension Staff.

MRS. EDNA K. JORDAHL
MAYNARD HELGAAS

OSWALD DAELLENBACH
CURTIS JOHNSON



"The basis of a sound County Extension Program is the participation of local people in determining the major goals desired. The people of Clay County are to be complimented for achieving participation of over 600 families in developing this long-range program."

SKULI RUTFORD, Director

Agricultural Extension Service, University of Minnesota

"It was a pleasure and a privilege to have worked with the County Extension Staff, the Extension Councilors, and the many other families in Clay County who planned this long-range program. It is my sincere wish that the program will provide a means for a richer and more satisfying life for all the people in Clay County" Dr. Evelyn Morrow, Former District Home Supervisor.