

Looking Ahead in

EXTENSION WORK

in Redwood County

Recd 1-7-57

- Situations
- Problems
- Recommendations



Prepared by

**Redwood County Extension
Long Range Planning Committee**

Why This Report --

The County Agricultural Extension Service - officially called the co-operative Extension service because the federal, state, and county governments all contribute to its support - is directed in the county by the county agricultural Extension committee. This committee, made up of two county commissioners, the county auditor, and six members (farm men and women) appointed by the county board of commissioners, plans the programs and helps direct Extension work. Each year it meets with the county Extension agents and a group of farm people to review the past year's program and to plan next year's program.

In view of the very significant changes in agriculture in the past 10 years, the County Extension Committee, working with the county agents and representatives of the University of Minnesota, decided to study our county situation and Extension program to see if it meets the needs of today.

It decided to do a more extensive job of planning about every five years, looking ahead as to the direction the program should take. This would give more continuity to the Extension program and would simplify the yearly preparation of plans of work.

In Redwood County, Extension programs of work had been planned with farm people for over 20 years, through county-wide meetings, district meetings, township discussion groups, and mailing check sheet to rural people. For at least 10 years the findings made by these means have been discussed at county meetings attended by the County Extension Committee and other leaders.

The County Extension Committee appointed committees (see lists on pages 31-32) to work with the county Extension agents to:

1. Study the situation in the county and the changes taking place.
2. Review the County Extension program.
3. Recommend changes and point the direction the program should take in the next few years.

The recommendations and suggestions of these committees are included in this report. They will be used as a guide for the County Extension Committee in planning the County Extension program and in preparing yearly plans of work.

Farm and Home Situation

Redwood county is in a livestock-cash grain area. The land runs from level to rolling, with some erosion on the rolling land and land along streams.

There are 542,000 acres of farmland. Of this 435,000 acres were in crop in 1954. From 1945 to 1954 the average size of farms increased 9 acres from 199 to 208, while the number of farms dropped nearly 150 - from 2,744 to 2,597. Here are the number of farms in different categories in 1945, 1950, and 1954:

	1945	1950	1954
Under 100 acres.....	354	339	299
100-179 acres.....	1,103	1,047	931
180-259 acres.....	692	719	737
260-499 acres.....	561	547	586
Over 500 acres	34	43	44
Average size farm acres.....	199	202	208
Number of farms.....	2,744	2,695	2,597

It will be noted that farms under 180 acres in size decreased by 227 from 1945 to 1954. Farms over that size increased by 70.

Types of farms - A little over half the farms or 1,366 are devoted to the growing of cash grain, 609 are classified as livestock farms, and 518 as general farms.

Gross sales of farm products in 1954 were \$10,000 and over on 973 farms; \$5,000 to \$10,000 on 1,050 farms; \$2,500 to \$5,000 on 355 farms; and under \$2,500 on the remaining farms. Average per farm cash receipts were \$9,685.

Tenancy - Improved financial conditions on the part of farm people apparently is the cause for a decrease in the number of farms operated by tenants in Redwood county in the past 15 years. In 1940, 47 percent of the total number of farms was operated by tenants as compared with 44.3 percent in 1955.

In the neighboring county of Cottonwood on the south, tenancy increased from 41.2 percent to 41.7 percent. In Renville on the north, however, it decreased from 41 percent to 32 percent in the same period.

The soil type in the county is primarily Clarion-Nicollet-Webster with some variations. Soil is generally deficient in nitrogen and phosphate and, to a lesser extent, in potash.

Tests by the University Soils Testing laboratory on 425 samples indicate that 23.5 percent tested low, 41.2 percent medium, and 35.3 percent high in phosphate. In potash content .7 percent tested low, 35.1 percent medium, and 64.2 percent high.

The acidity tests indicate that 22.6 percent are low in lime, 52.3 percent approximately neutral, and 25.1 percent high in lime.

CROPS

Important changes have taken place in crop acreages in the last 10 years. Corn acreage decreased 6,800 acres from 1945 to 1955. Oats decreased 33,000 acres, flax decreased 26,800 acres, and hay increased 1,700 acres. Barley increased 2,400 acres. However, the acreage of this crop was much higher during the intervening years. Soybeans increased 86,900 acres.

Thus the increase in row crops was 80,100 acres. The following table indicates the crop acreages in 1945 and 1955:

	<u>1945</u>	<u>1955</u>
Corn.....	198,800	192,000
Soybeans.....	21,100	108,000
Oats.....	123,100	90,000
Flax.....	48,700	21,900
Barley.....	3,700	6,100
Hay.....	29,500	31,700

Crop yields, especially for oats and barley, are too low, on the average, for profit. Here are the average crop yields for 1951 - 1955:

Corn.....	.45 Bu.	Soybeans.....	20 Bu.
Oats.....	.38 Bu.	Barley.....	.26 Bu.
Flax.....	.10 Bu.	Tame Hay.....	1.99 Tons

Yields could be much higher, with many farmers getting yields 50 percent greater than these.

The following table indicates the estimated cash value of crops grown in 1955:

Corn	(\$1. 10 Bu.).....	\$ 9,095,000
Oats	(\$.60 Bu.).....	2,214,000
Barley	(\$1. 10 Bu.).....	194,500
Flax	(\$2. 85 Bu.).....	748,900
Soybeans	(\$2. 00 Bu.).....	4,328,000
Hay	(\$12. 00 T.).....	802,800
	Total	\$ 17,383,260

LIVESTOCK

Although total cattle numbers increased from 1945 to 1955, the number of dairy cows dropped by 6,100 head and sheep by 400. Hog numbers increased 66,000 and poultry decreased by 46,000. The number of livestock on farms in 1945 and 1955 were as follows:

	<u>1945</u>	<u>1955</u>
Total cattle.....	50,000	60,400
Milk cows.....	18,500	12,400
Hogs.....	110,000	176,000
Sheep.....	8,200	7,800
Chickens.....	527,000	481,000

In 1954, the value of livestock sold was \$11,870,631. Hogs were highest in value, followed by cattle and calves, poultry and eggs, milk and cream, and sheep and lambs. Market values follow:

Cattle and calves.....	\$ 4,202,000
Poultry and eggs.....	1,746,131
Milk and cream.....	1,097,000
Hogs.....	4,678,000
Sheep and lambs.....	147,500
	<u>\$ 11,870,631</u>



FARM EQUIPMENT

The 1954 census figures show that farms are quite well supplied with equipment of most types. The numbers are as follows:

Tractors.....	4, 706
Autos.....	3, 266
Corn pickers.....	1, 877
Combines.....	1, 705
Trucks.....	1, 358
Field harvesters.....	212

MARKETING SYSTEMS

Marketing systems are undergoing change. Four creameries and practically all livestock shipping associations have gone out of business. Much of livestock marketing is carried on by individual truckers although about five buying stations are in business. A trend exists towards the organization of special markets for dairy products and eggs. Sales of whole milk are increasing and special outlets for high quality eggs are developing.

Twenty-two grain elevators serve as marketing agencies in purchases of grain and sales of feed. One or more egg buying stations are located in each town. Probably all of these also purchase cream. Generally speaking, there is a market for all Redwood county farm products at all times.

STANDARD OF LIVING

The standard of living in Redwood county is about the average of that in surrounding counties.

Farm home conveniences relatively high in number are radio, electricity, kitchen sinks, and refrigerators. Low in numbers are bathrooms, flush toilets, running water, and central heating. Following are the facilities in homes on Redwood county farms:

Total dwellings.....	2,799
Running water.....	1,202
Flush toilet.....	801
Bathroom.....	804
New homes.....	125
Electricity.....	2,488
Central heating.....	1,140
Cooking fuel	
Coal and wood.....	990
Gas.....	1,125
Electricity.....	375
Refrigeration.....	2,030
Kitchen sink.....	2,425
Radio.....	2,560
Television.....	840
Telephones.....	1,600

The level of living index prepared by the USDA shows that Redwood county rates slightly below neighboring counties. Index figures are based on the number of farms with electricity, telephones, automobiles, and value of products sold. Since there are only 1,600 telephones, this factor probably lowered the county's rating.

HOME PICTURE

Membership in the home Extension program recently has been over 1,000 in 60 groups well distributed over the county. There has been a steady increase in enrollment and there has been an increase in interest by both farm and town women.

In Redwood county, as elsewhere, there are several trends affecting homemaking that are reflected in the Extension home program. In foods, for example, the consumer has more variety in the things she can buy, and she is paying for more service with her foods. These changes haven't affected diets greatly because recent surveys indicate that families still are not meeting their nutrition needs completely.

New problems in clothing and home furnishings have arisen with the development of the large new field of chemical fibers.

In equipment and furnishings, there are constant changes. Freezers, refrigerators, and small appliances of many kinds are included in these changes.

All these changes have meant different emphasis in the home program. At the same time, it has been found that work involving skills and activity are more popular than those conducted through discussions.

YOUTH

The rural youth situation has changed materially. In 1936, there was a surplus of youth, evidenced by the government CCC programs. Today, the situation is different. Farm youth do have opportunities.

Education

In comparison with other Minnesota counties on the percentage of 16 and 17-year old boys and girls enrolled in school in 1940 and 1950, Redwood county ranked 48th with 64.2 percent in 1940 and rose to 21st with an 82.5 percent in 1950.

In 1950, among the farm population of Redwood county over 24 years of age, 23.6 percent completed one to four years of high school and 6.4 percent, one or more years of college.

Farm Opportunities

The present trend indicates there will be fewer farms available to the rural boys in Redwood county. Present figures show there is only room for 50 percent of the rural boys on farms. It follows that guidance is needed at an earlier age to help them in their thinking as to what to do.

Longer Adolescence

The period of adolescence, or preparation for adulthood, has been extended because of the changing situations of modern life. In pioneer days, the simple but urgent responsibilities of life were thrust upon youth at a much earlier age than today. Consequently, their adolescent years were few.

Today, our more complex social and economic situation requires a longer period of preparation for adulthood. This has lengthened the school training period for youth.

YOUTH WORK UNDER 21 YEARS OF AGE - 4-H

Four-H club membership has been stable for several years, the present membership of 635 being a slight increase over 1955.

There are now 27 clubs which also represents little change. About one rural boy or girl out of three in rural areas is a member of a 4-H club.

The percentage of finish-up in 1955 was 89, a slight increase over the previous year and present figures indicate finish-up will continue somewhere in the same area. Each year the percentage of club members who complete their projects is increasing, with a goal of 100 percent a possibility.

The present situation has many complex problems. Boys and girls entering high school tend to drop out of 4-H club work. The reason generally given is that they are too busy with the extra curricular school activities. This trend, however, is not consistent, because the most active and better students tend to stay in club work.

YOUTH WORK OVER 21 YEARS OF AGE

Rural Youth, the Extension program for young men and women above 4-H age, is in its twentieth year in the county. The first group was organized in 1937; the present or third group has been in existence for five years.

The trend in rural youth groups has been toward an earlier age membership. Many boys and girls join the group at 18 years of age, causing an overlapping of 4-H and rural youth groups.

Two rural youth groups in the county ceased to exist. The first one failed for two major reasons: (1) members married and dropped out and (2) no adequate membership recruiting campaign was carried on. The second group failed due to conditions of World War II.

The present group shows excellent signs of stability. As a group, it is quite active. This is particularly shown in the planning of its program.

The planning committee of the group meets twice a year and makes future plans six months in advance. An educational meeting and a recreation meeting is planned for each month. The educational subjects which are covered include occupational choices and civic and legal matters.

In addition to the Rural Youth group, young farmers' groups were organized in 1955. The first planning committees of the young farmers' groups of Redwood county met in November, 1954.

Each group is composed of eight to ten married couples who actually are farming. Both wives and husbands meet at the group meetings and mutual problems are discussed. Agents attend some meetings, while group leaders conduct the remaining ones. Educational material is furnished by the office.

What it takes to make them successful is not yet entirely clear. As far as educational material is concerned, the young men and women may attend other adult meetings as well as their own groups. Another aspect of the program is social, which all feel is desirable.

Recommendations for Extension Programs

LIVESTOCK

About half the income from farms in Redwood county comes from the sale of livestock and livestock products. Hogs rank first in income, followed by cattle and calves, poultry and eggs, dairy products, and sheep and lambs.

In 1955, Redwood county produced over 8,000,000 bushels of corn. With this large corn production, it is natural that hogs would produce more income than any other livestock in the county.

Problems in Hog Raising

1. Small litters and heavy death losses, caused by disease, unsanitary conditions, and sows killing their pigs.
2. Unbalanced or high-cost rations. Examples are a lack of protein concentrate to go along with the grain or insufficient use of pasture.



3. Marketing at the time when prices are lowest during the year, resulting in lower income. Prices are usually about 5 cents per pound lower in the late fall than during the summer.

Recommendations for Extension Work

Extension work, the committee feels, should emphasize these aspects of hog production:

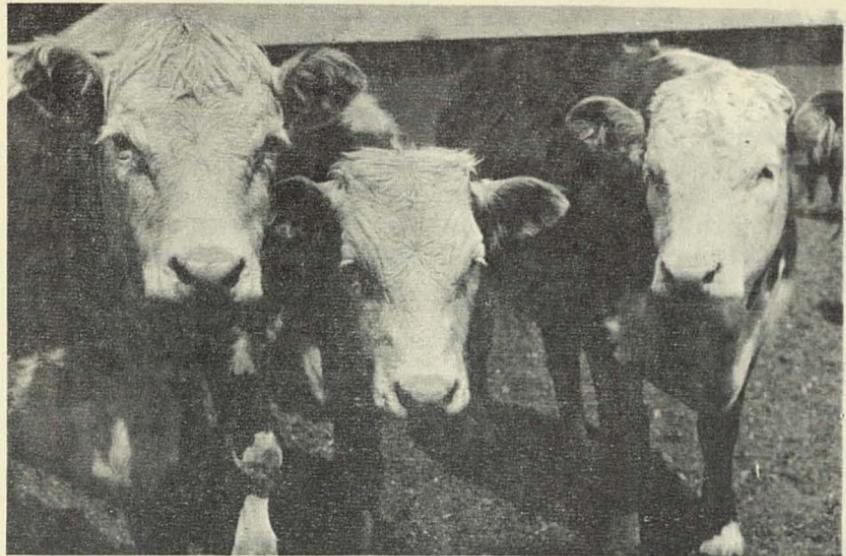
1. Production of meat type hogs. This will help producers to better meet market demands. It costs no more to produce a meat type hog, and the market usually pays more.
2. Better management practices such as multiple farrowing (farrowing several times in the year), planning the breeding program to meet market demands, use of farrowing stalls and heat lamps, and sanitation. The latter includes rotation of pastures, sanitary farrowing, and use of antibiotics in feeds.
3. Reduction of costs through such steps as using pastures and better balanced rations. Better, more economical housing.

BEEF CATTLE

Redwood county marketed \$4, 200, 000 worth of cattle and calves in 1954. Most of the sales come from cattle purchased from outside the county and then fed for market. Some farmers do raise their own feeders, but this practice is not widespread.

Problems in Cattle Feeding

1. Marketing at wrong time. One feeder has said, "If we knew when to buy or sell, our problems would be about solved."
2. High cost of gains.
3. Diseases such as pinkeye and foot rot, to a small extent.
4. Lack of knowledge concerning cattle rations. One



committeeman said that if we can keep up-to-date on new feed formulas, one important problem would be solved.

5. Management. Included here might be the proper silo to use, shelter for feeder cattle, handling of cattle while on pasture, and labor saving in feeding operations.

Recommendations for Extension Work

In working with cattle feeders, the committee recommended that these areas be emphasized by Extension:

1. Improved feeding information, including that on formulas worked out by commercial feed mixers and colleges.
2. Improved feeding operations, such as increased use of silage, pasture, roughage, and hormones.
3. Cost-cutting through the use of equipment such as bunker silos, cattle sheds, and other devices.
4. Up-to-date information on bloat and livestock disease prevention and disease treatment.
5. Marketing including both longtime cycles and month-

by-month changes. Buying is as important as selling.

POULTRY AND EGGS

Redwood county ranks sixth in Minnesota in the number of chickens on farms. Sales of poultry and eggs in 1954 was \$1,700,000, which is greater than the dairy income. Cash sales of poultry and eggs per farm was \$741, and egg production totalled 96,000,000.

Turkeys, ducks, and geese account for 23 percent of the total poultry receipts.

Problems

1. Inadequate poultry housing and equipment. Lack of proper insulation and ventilation systems rank high in this category for many farmers.
2. Unbalanced feed rations. However, rations are not the problem that other phases of the poultry industry are. Poultry feeds are an important phase of the commercial feed industry, and poultry men depend largely on industry for proper rations.
3. Improper timing of marketing. One important aspect here is the seasonal egg price cycle. The year-to-year cycle is important also, but less can be done about this by the producer.
4. Production of better quality eggs. Improvement might include selling on grade and maintaining better facilities for cooling and storing eggs. According to University of Minnesota Agricultural Extension Economist W. H. Dankers, many Redwood county eggs are not sold on grade.
5. Flocks are too small on most farms.

Recommendations for Extension Work

Extension should emphasize these subjects:

1. Flock size aiming at better size flocks, considering available time and facilities. Flocks probably should be small, 50, or large 500 or more.

2. Poultry housing, particularly size and dimensions, insulation, ventilation, and cost cutting practices such as use of deep litter, dropping pits, and cages.
3. Marketing, including timing marketing to favorable points in the cycle and production of quality eggs. The latter involves nests and storage.
4. Improved feeding practices. Although many excellent rations are put on the market, it is important to give attention to proper feeding.
5. Improved sanitation practices, especially with turkeys.

DAIRYING

Dairy income in Redwood county is relatively low, compared with other livestock enterprises. It amounted to somewhat over \$1,000,000 in 1954. The average annual milk production per cow is 5,600 pounds testing 3.49, producing 192 pounds of butterfat.

Whole milk sales are on the increase. For 1954, they were 251 percent of the sales in 1949, while fat sold in cream in 1954 was 90 percent of the amount sold in 1949. Total milk fat sold in 1954 was 9 percent higher than that sold in 1949.

Soybeans compete with the dairy industry. A total of 837 pounds of soybean oil was produced for each 100 pounds of butterfat in 1954 in Redwood county. One fourth of the milk fat produced in the United States is used in making butter, but considerably more than one fourth of the total soybean oil produced is used in the manufacture of margarine. Therefore, over eight times as much spread was obtained from soybeans as from butterfat in the county.

Two dairy herd improvement associations are in operation in the county. The average butterfat production for the older association was 318 pounds, or 126 pounds over the average for the county.

Problems

1. Low production, the average cow producing 192

pounds less than the county DHIA average.

2. High cost of marketing, especially since much of the product is sold through low-volume, high-cost plants. This is forcing dairymen into larger herds in order to cut production costs.

3. Rising production costs. Costs of equipment necessary to meet market demands are increasing. An example is bulk tanks.

4. Low quality products, in part caused by inadequate storage on farms, poor cooling facilities.

5. Poor feeding practices, especially as they relate to roughages and pastures. Many pastures are poor.

6. Size of operations too small to carry on economically.

Recommendations for Extension Work

The committee felt these subjects should be stressed:

1. Improved marketing. With the disappearance of the smaller dairy plants and an increase in the market demand for whole milk, better marketing practices, including quality production as well as deciding to market whole milk or cream, are important. Housing and equipment become increasingly important with changes in marketing.

2. Improved production per cow through improved breeding, selection, testing, and feeding. Feeding practices especially relate to proper use of grain and concentrate in feeding and to better pastures through pasture rotation and other steps.

SHEEP

Sheep is the least important livestock industry in the county, the sales for 1954 being \$147,000. The bulk of the sheep grown in the county are farm flocks. Very few lambs are purchased for feeding.

Sheep, as a livestock industry, probably will not increase greatly. The county is better adapted to hog raising.

Problems deal with management, sanitation, and feeding practices. These should be recognized in an educational program.

FIELD CROPS AND SOILS

Crops sold in Redwood county produce about half the total farm income or \$12,000,000 in 1954. Total cash value of crops produced in 1955 was \$17,259,000.

Corn is the most important crop, followed by soybeans, oats, and flax, in order. For a few years, barley was important, but only about 6,100 acres were being grown by 1955.

Important to the county have been the introduction of new crop varieties. Hybrid corn was introduced in the '30's; and today practically 100 percent of commercial corn is of hybrid varieties. Corn yields have increased about 12 bushels per acre since the advent of hybrids. However, the use of fertilizers has, no doubt, been a factor here.

New soybean varieties introduced include Blackhawk, Chippewa, Grant, and Harosoy. Soybean yields have increased 6 to 7 bushels per acre, in part due to improved varieties and in part to the fact that beans are now planted in better soil.

Recent introductions of oats include Rodney, Garry, and Sauk and of barley, Traill and Fox.

A factor in crop improvement is the Redwood County Crop Improvement Association, which has been in existence for about 12 years. The group has conducted county variety test plots and was instrumental in setting up the Southwestern Minnesota Crop Improvement Association.

Problems

1. Low yields caused by poor yielding varieties and low soil fertility. Low return grains are oats, barley, and, to a lesser extent, flax.
2. Insects such as cornborer, grain aphids, cutworms, and grasshoppers. The latter are prevalent only for a year

or two at a time, then disappear.

3. Weeds caused by seeding impure seed and poor weed control practices. It is estimated that 5 acres per farm are infested with thistles. This means a total of 12,500 acres in weeds alone.

4. Crop diseases such as rust in oats and flax and scab in barley. Seeding nonresistant varieties and the rapid development by nature of new diseases add to the problem.

5. Poor tillage methods, such as poor seedbed preparation.

6. Lack of drainage.

7. Erosion. About one-third of the cropland is eroded by wind and water.

8. Improper land use including poor rotation systems.

Recommendations for Extension Work

The Extension program should emphasize these areas of grain production:

1. Use of better-yielding varieties. Oats, barley, and to some extent, flax and soybeans, should produce larger yields than they do. The farmers who are making more money are those with better than average yields.

2. Improved cultural practices. Possibly less working of the soil would result in satisfactory returns.

3. Control of weeds and insects, using modern control measures. Methods utilized should reduce weed population rather than permitting it to continue on an even keel or to increase.

4. Improved soil fertility, through efficient use of fertilizer and green manure and reliance on soil testing and the recommendations that follow testing.

5. Expanded erosion control by strip cropping, contour farming, terracing, crop rotation, and increased grass and legume acreage, whenever necessary.

6. Adoption of proper land use practices through better cropping systems and more consideration to alternate uses of land. Some land is best used for wildlife.

7. Increased drainage. More land should be drained, and proper attention should be given to care of ditches and drainage systems.

HEALTH AND NUTRITION

Health and nutrition, as it affects the Redwood county rural population, presents some problems. None, however, are serious. The income of farm families is such that health services such as physician and hospital care and adequate diets are reasonably good.

Problems and Needs

From the nutrition standpoint, the Health and Nutrition committee felt that important needs include: better breakfasts for teenagers; better understanding by school lunch cooks of how to balance diets; provision of more information on nutrition to nursing homes, since the problems of older people differ from those who are younger.

From the health standpoint, it was felt that dental health is an important problem. Better health records and more information relating to the prevalence of diabetes are needed. Some committee members felt that there is need for a more adequate immunization program.

The committee recommended that the emphasis in the educational program take the following direction:

1. Better diets for teenagers, a program that may be conducted through 4-H clubs and mothers.
2. Schools for hot lunch cooks. These should stress a balanced school lunch diet.
3. Diet surveys in rural areas and in schools. The results should be used in an educational program.
4. Promotion of increased awareness of health problems.

5. Assistance to older people to grow old gracefully.
This might include mental health.

6. Improved dental health.

MARKETING

During the World War markets for farm products were practically guaranteed. Since the war, however, foreign countries, getting on their feet economically, have been producing more of their needs, food wise. This has resulted in a lowered demand for American farm products, followed by an increasing awareness of the importance of marketing in the farm business.

Problems and Needs

The committee felt that too little attention is paid by farmers to marketing and processing problems.

Another problem is the failure to recognize the importance of producing quality products for the market. Too much fat in pork and beef and low quality eggs are the result. A related problem is the slow progress being made by quality programs.

An important need is a better understanding of timing sales to avoid gluts in the market. This is more important in the case of perishable products, such as meat, eggs, and dairy products.

A better understanding of the future market was also deemed to be a need.

Recommendations for Extension Work

The committee decided that an Extension educational marketing program should emphasize:

1. Better quality and what the producer has to do to obtain this. Examples would be meat-type hogs and beef cattle, better dairy products and eggs, and improved grain quality.
2. Consumer education relating to grades and quality of meat, eggs, and dairy products.

3. Price cycles and the proper timing of marketing. This would involve adjustments in the production program.

4. Buymanship relating to products other than food.

5. Better understanding of the future market as it applies to grain.

PUBLIC POLICY

Understanding of Public Policy is Important

Public policy education was considered important enough to include in the program of work by the county planning committee. There has been recognition of the fact that better understanding of public policy and how it affects farmers is vital.

Public policy was not included in the Extension program until the forties, and even then Minnesota was one of the first states to carry on the work.

In Redwood county, work on a public policy program began in 1944 with the organization of the Post-War committee. This committee, later christened the Agricultural Council, has held meetings for 12 years dealing with public policy questions.

Public policy questions also have been discussed in township discussion groups. Although these groups were primarily devoted to program planning, they also included public policy discussions. From eight to ten such groups have met annually for 12 years.

Problems

In discussing problems the Public Policy committee felt that the position of the farmer in the economic and political picture is important. In other words farm population is decreasing percentage wise, meaning that the farmer may have less voice in public affairs.

There is a need for better understanding of local and federal taxation, state and national legislation, government farm programs (recognizing that these programs are con-

troversial), and world affairs. All these relate to agriculture.

Recommendations for Extension Work

To meet these needs, the committee suggested an educational program that will develop a better understanding of problems pertaining to rural and urban people alike and would deal also with world affairs, public policy, a study of taxation, government farm programs and an interpretation of legislation.

Including more business men in discussion groups is also advisable.

THE HOME

The level of living in Redwood county is good, but there is always a general desire to improve this level. Some of the areas where rural homemakers want further information include: nutrition for teenagers, choice of applicances, understanding new fibers used in clothing construction and care, remodelling the home, family relationships, and buymanship.

Town as well as rural women are showing an increased interest in the home program. Enrollment has increased, and several new clubs have been organized.

Situation and Needs

Nutrition - Homemakers are constantly interested in food and nutrition. Although the Home Council did not request lessons on nutrition and vegetable cookery in the Extension program, they do feel they are important.

The consumer has a greater variety of food on the market now available. Services are being increasingly purchased with the food. More items of food are being purchased by the farm family, but surveys indicate that farm families (as well as city) have not reached the optimum nutrition. To understand the nutrition level in the county a survey has been planned but, as yet, it has not been completed. The emphasis was put on breakfast because it is the most important meal of the day.

Clothing - The constant changing field of manmade fibers and combinations has produced new problems in selection, construction, and care of clothing as well as in draperies

and upholstery. This area can be expected to expand as more homemakers make their own clothing and do their own reupholstering.

Appliances, Remodelling - The type of range, freezer, refrigerator, and small appliances to buy; remodelling and building of homes; selection of floor covering; and making homes functional and attractive are all areas in which Redwood county homemakers have shown special interest.

Good family relationships, basic to successful farm and home living, is expected to be increasingly important in the home program.

Recommendations for Extension Work

On the basis of current trends, the first thing that is involved in meeting the needs of the home is an increase in the net farm income so there will be more money to spend for family living. At the same time, however, Extension can be providing information to the homemaker and her family on how the level of living can be raised and still stay within the existing framework of family dollars, time, skills, and energy.

More emphasis could be put on consumer buying in the home program. The average family is buying more and more goods and services but still wants to get the most for their money. Perhaps some of these services need to be evaluated to make sure they are worth the money spent.

This type of program is difficult to carry out because it is so closely related to the family's personal values. Each family and individual would need to set their own pattern of spending to fit their particular situation. All this involves a discussion type program. More popular are the lessons involving the teaching of skills and those involving activity rather than discussions. The lessons are usually selected on the basis of popularity, and women are often interested in doing something they don't do every day at home.

The size of the home program in Redwood county tends to eliminate the lessons and information which would be of interest to only special groups. A solution to this might be to have two or three lessons of general interest and one or two lessons for special interest groups. In addition, the information needs to be made challenging because many have

had home economics training and have picked up information from 4-H members.

Most of these solutions seem to lie in actual program planning. The Home Council will need to become more aware of the actual needs of the homemakers in their townships and use this avenue as a basis for lesson selection.

Farm and Home Management

During the past 20 years or more, tremendous changes have taken place in the national position of agriculture. These changes have had a direct effect upon the farm population of Redwood county.

Through the trend of higher production per farm operator, three major problems or trends have become evident:

1. Pressure of food supplies on the economy.
2. Increased production per acre with less work through better and more efficient cultural practices, weed control, machinery, and fertilization practices. Machinery and labor-saving equipment has increased output with less hours of work, in spite of the fact that there are fewer people on the farm.
3. Increased cost of farming. Investment needed to start farming has risen. In 1940, it was \$4,000 while in 1950, it has risen to \$21,000. This increase in investment is partly due to inflation and to more equipment on the same number of acres.

Farming today is a much more complex business than it was formerly; consequently, management comes into the picture more.

Illustrations of changes taking place in agriculture in southern Minnesota are revealed in the Southwestern Minnesota Farm Management Association records for 1940-1954.

There was no change in the average size of farm, 250 acres. However, the spread in income from the top 20 percent to the bottom 20 percent is startling! In 1940, the spread was \$3,600, while in 1954 it was \$11,088, an increase of \$7,488. Certain farmers are in the bottom 20 percent not always because of poorer farm management but also because of adverse weather, disease, etc. However, it must be kept in mind that management and operation are becoming more and more important to the farm, and consequently land

resources, cropping and livestock systems, size of business, and overhead costs must be considered.

Certain decisions must be made through farm management including selection of crops, kinds and amounts of livestock to raise, practices to use, timing of farm operations, expenditures for family living, and investment of earnings.

Major Problems

1. Increased complexity of farming, necessitating a more systematic job of farm planning.
2. Increased capital requirements needed in modern farming, making use of credit inevitable on many farms.
3. Trend toward large output with less labor and more mechanization.
4. Lack of volume of business and unequal sharing of costs and returns, causing many farms with rental arrangements to fail.
5. Not enough records kept for farm and home planning, income tax management, social security, and analyzing the farm business.
6. Overpayment of taxes because of inadequate records, untimely purchases and sales, and unfamiliarity with tax regulations.
7. Lack of knowledge of social security regulations, resulting in loss of social security benefits.

Recommendations for Educational Program

The committee suggested Extension emphasize the following:

1. Work with the low income group of farmers attempting to bring this group's income up by increased efficiency, cutting overhead, and better planning.
2. Improved efficiency of livestock production. The latest research findings on efficient feeding rations and management need to be stressed.

3. Information on how to judge a farm for efficiency.
4. Increased record keeping, with a goal of 50 percent of the farms keeping records in five years.
5. Preparation of women for emergencies, such as death of husband, by making them a part of the partnership and giving them more training in the business aspects of farming.
6. Laborsaving farm buildings and building arrangements.
7. Social security information.
8. Home yard improvement.
9. Better understanding of leases for both landlord and tenant.

YOUTH

The committee felt that 4-H club work has much to offer to its members on a volunteer basis. Four-H has many educational values, especially in that both adult leaders and the 4-H members are "learning by doing" on a volunteer basis and that 4-H trains for citizenship and living as well as specific skills in agriculture and home economics.

In some cases clubs die out and new ones take their places. Reasons for this are that leaders and older members drop out without replacements.

Although 4-H membership has remained at a stable level the past few years, many young people do drop out for one of several reasons: (1) attendance at high school, (2) feeling by older members that they are above 4-H age, and (3) competition for their time from many sources.

Needs of Young People

1. Emancipation from home. The adolescent tends to move away from close parental control, reliance upon parents for security, and looking upon parents as models. He usually tries to achieve self-control, security, and a new relationship with his parents.
2. Acceptance by peers. Youth moves toward a more

adult code motivated by conscience, duty, and an accepted moral standard.

3. Financial security.
4. Realistic occupational choice.
5. Healthy relationship with opposite sex.

In addition to these general needs of all youth, the Youth committee suggested several more specific ones in the country - along with certain solutions:

1. More adequate agricultural educational counseling for high school students. With the competition for top science students, agriculture and related agricultural lines are losing out from lack of competent counseling. The program Extension adopted this past year, that of helping to get additional counselling in agriculture fields, should be continued. The program will be coordinated with high schools of the area.
2. A program designed to bring useful and practical information to beginning farmers and homemakers. Those unable to farm should be given information in related lines of work in agriculture in which they might be interested.
3. A coordinated program of recreation to include all interested organizations.

Summary of Recommendations

The various committees indicated that Extension should stress these general types of educational work:

LIVESTOCK - Improved livestock feed formulas, as developed by Experiment Stations and commercial feed mixers; increased use of stilbestrol, hormones, pasture, and roughages; more cost cutting through use of efficient equipment; and a better understanding of the control of bloat.

DAIRY - Increased production per cow, cost cutting, and improvement of quality.

SHEEP - Better management and sanitation.

POULTRY - Improved housing, ventilation, quality, marketing, and management.

HOGS - Improved management including, for example, multiple farrowing, better timing of the breeding program, use of heat lamps and farrowing stalls, and better breeding for meat type hogs.

CROPS - Higher yielding crop varieties; insect, weed, and disease control; and better cultural practices.

SOILS - Improved fertility, increase in humus content of the soil, and erosion control.

HEALTH AND NUTRITION - Better diets for teenagers; schools for hot lunch cooks; and diet surveys in the nutrition program. Increased awareness of health problems; a program for dental health; and maintenance of health in older people in the health program.

MARKETING - Producing for the market, including meat type hogs, better quality eggs, better timing of marketings, and more attention to processing problems.

PUBLIC POLICY - A better understanding of public problems as they affect rural people. This would be brought about through meetings; a continuation of agricultural council; and holding a county farm forum.

THE HOME - Information that will help raise the level of living within existing resources, on new developments in fibers and home equipment, on house remodelling, and on family relationships.

YOUTH - Youth programs should recognize that youth needs to be gradually emancipated from home, to be accepted by peers and to adopt an adult code, financial security, a realistic occupational choice, and a healthy relationship with the opposite sex.

FARM AND HOME MANAGEMENT - Increased returns to low income families; increased efficiency in livestock production; record keeping; judging farms for efficiency; understanding of legal forms by farm workers; home yard improvement; and a better understanding of leases.

Committees Working on Program

Extension Committee - H. F. Beckman, Wabasso; L. B. Frederickson, Morgan; Charles Neitzel, Morton; Charles Lund, Walnut Grove; Mrs. Erwin Kruse, Wabasso; Mrs. William Alexander, Belview; Donald Kohls, Belview; E. E. Wetmore, Redwood Falls; and P. R. Byram, Redwood Falls.

The Extension committee relied on several existing committees and some newly formed committees to consider long range planning. These committees are listed below:

Members Assisting County Extension Committee: Mr. and Mrs. Laverne Davis, Seaforth; Mr. and Mrs. Richard Jacobson, Morgan; Mr. and Mrs. Reinhardt Jenniges, Lamberton; George Stern, Sanborn; Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Seifert, Springfield; Mr. and Mrs. Donneth Krinke, Lamberton; Norman Ramey, Redwood Falls; Dale Hanna, Morton.

Andrew Mathiowetz, Morton; Virgil Mammen, Morton; Mr. and Mrs. Robert Nolting, Jr., Redwood Falls; Mr. and Mrs. Harold Sickman, Belview; Sidney Boushek, Belview; Mr. and Mrs. Erhard Stelter, Delhi; Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Rolland, Milroy; Harold Cooper, Tracy; Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Fultz, Tracy; Dean French, Lamberton; Myrl and Vernon Anderson, Belview; and Mrs. Luella Dallmann, Redwood Falls.

New Committees

Marketing - Co-chairman Robert Nolting, Redwood Falls; Andrew Mathiowetz, Morton; and Charles Lund, Walnut Grove; also John M. Zwach, Walnut Grove; David Hicks, Tracy; Harold Cooper, Tracy; Harold Larson, Springfield; Erwin Kruse, Wabasso; Leo Oberembt, Redwood Falls; Donneth Krinke, Lamberton; Don Poynter, Redwood Falls; Harlan Jorgenson, Redwood Falls; Elmer Rolland, Milroy; and Melvin Kramer, Vesta.

Farm and Home Management - Charles Neitzel, Morton, Chairman; Mrs. Waldo Erickson, Morgan; co-chairman; Jerome Green, Morgan; Mr. and Mrs. Virgil Mammen, Morton; Mr. and Mrs. Meryl Purvis, Lamberton; Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Trapp, Sanborn; Waldo Erickson, Morgan; Donald Haag, Lucan; Floyd Ladwig, Lamberton; and Harold Wegner, Lucan.

Youth - Donald Kohls, Belview, Chairman; Norman Ramey, Redwood Falls, co-chairman; Wally Simpson, County Superintendent of Schools; Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Fultz, Tracy; James Purvis, Lamberton; LeRoy Wohlman, Clements; Janice Jensen, Redwood Falls; Ben Broberg, Vocational Agriculture Instructor, Redwood Falls; Henry Boots, Redwood Falls.

Public Policy - Mrs. William Alexander, Vesta, and Richard Jacobson, Morgan, co-chairmen; Reinhardt Jenniges, Lamberton; Glenn Holmberg, Vesta; and Bernard Carlson, Walnut Grove.

Health and Nutrition - Mrs. Erwin Kruse, Wabasso and Mrs. Luella Dallmann, Redwood Falls, Co-chairmen; Mrs. George Stern, Sanborn; Mrs. L. P. Winter, Redwood Falls; Mrs. Allen Conner, Redwood Falls and Mrs. W. E. Johnson, Morgan.

Existing Committees

Crop Improvement - Francis Jeckell, Lamberton, chairman; Orlin Jaeger, Lucan; William Poulsen, Redwood Falls; Charles Neitzel, Morton; and Werner Fischer, Wabasso.

Soil Conservation Supervisors - William Poulsen, Redwood Falls, chairman; J. B. Zeug, Walnut Grove; Rudolph Holmberg, Vesta; Ed Engberg, Belview; William Behrends, Lamberton; and Harvey Paulson, Sleepy Eye.

Livestock - J. G. Willshire, Redwood Falls, chairman; Ed Fischer, Lamberton; Russell Tetrick, Redwood Falls; Erwin Lussenhop, Morton; Erwin Kruse, Wabasso; and Elmer Rolland, Milroy.

Rural Youth - Henry Boots, Redwood Falls, chairman; Elfriede Zamzow, Morgan; Mrs. Norman Ramey, Redwood Falls; Philip McKay, Delhi; Norman Ramey, Redwood Falls; Edmund Zamzow, Morgan.

Home Council - Mrs. August Boelke, chairman; Mrs. R. C. Frederickson, Clements; Mrs. O. W. Hier, Morgan; Mrs. Henry Nelson, Morgan; Mrs. A. W. Johnson, Sleepy Eye; Mrs. Ernest Trapp, Sanborn; Mrs. Fred Ankrum, Sanborn; Mrs. LeRoy Woodford, Redwood Falls; Mrs. Arne Mattison, Delhi; Mrs. John Hansen, Walnut Grove; Mrs. Anton Johnson, Walnut Grove.

Mrs. Julius Christianson, Wabasso; Mrs. Maynard Miller, Lucan; Mrs. Cyril Garman, North Redwood; Mrs. Ralph Mann, Redwood Falls; Mrs. Cliff Kramer, Walnut Grove; Mrs. George Kohls, Belview; Mrs. Alfred Johnson, Belview; Mrs. John Krengel, Lamberton; Mrs. Art Hildreth, Lamberton; Mrs. Don Lange, Morgan.

Mrs. H. A. Knoche, Morgan; Mrs. Stanley Salfer, Redwood Falls; Mrs. Loren Way, Redwood Falls; Mrs. Darrel Rue, Revere; Mrs. Paul Trewartha, Revere.

Mrs. Ray Hulett, Redwood Falls; Mrs. M. C. Ramey, Redwood Falls; Mrs. Allen Conner, Redwood Falls; Mrs. Bernard Lord, Redwood Falls; Mrs. Wayne Kragh, Wabasso; Mrs. Charles Mashek, Wabasso; Mrs. Erwin Lussenhop, Morton; Mrs. Harold Guggisberg, Morton; Mrs. Earl Cooper, Walnut Grove; Mrs. Bernard Fultz, Tracy; Mrs. Milton Lawrence, Springfield.

Mrs. Otto Bredvold, Springfield; Mrs. Ray Reding, Morgan; Miss Alice Wilson Clements; Mrs. Lester Jensen, Milroy; Mrs. Rudolph Holmberg, Vesta; Mrs. Walter Fennern, Wabasso; Mrs. Glen Evans, Wabasso; Mrs. Martin Gladitsch, Vesta; Mrs. C. Wallace Anderson, Vesta; Mrs. Ed Fischer, Lamberton; Mrs. Floyd Schwahn, Wabasso; Mrs. Carl Rolland, Milroy; Mrs. Emil Nelson, Milroy; Mrs. George Stern, Sanborn and Mrs. Bernard Jenniges, Wabasso.

4-H Council - James Purvis, Lamberton, chairman; Janice Jensen, Redwood Falls; Ellen Schwahn, Wabasso; Marcella Sorenson, Morgan; Mr. and Mrs. Alton Meyer, Sanborn; Mr. Lee Winter, Redwood Falls and Mrs. Frank Belshaw, Milroy.