

SEPTEMBER 1957

Looking Ahead in Extension Work in Wilkin County

- Situations
- Problems
- Recommendations



Prepared Cooperatively by
Wilkin County Extension
Long Range Planning Committee

Why This Report --

The County Agricultural Extension Service--officially called the Cooperative Extension Service because the federal, state, and county governments all contribute to its support--is directed by the 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 program 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 this way local people plan the fields in which major emphasis is to be placed and where county workers should devote their energies.

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

In view of the very significant changes in agriculture in recent 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.

This project to plan ahead for County Extension work, was begun in January 1956 with a meeting of the County Extension Committee, district Extension supervisors, and county agents.

The following persons were directly associated with the planning process: County Commissioners, Adolph Mikesh and E. S. Amundson; the County Extension Committee members A. C. Fokjer, Ira Bellmore, Kenneth Albertson, Gordon Ellefson, Mrs. George Halverson, and Mrs. John Conzemius; and University of Minnesota District Extension Supervisors Frank Forbes, Evelyn Morrow, and Margaret Jacobson. Former Extension agents who did much to prepare the ground work for this report were W. H. Olson as agricultural agent and R. W. Skrei, assistant agent.

The committees appointed to consider and report on specific areas are listed near the end of this report.

County Extension Staff

Glen R. Chambers	County Agricultural Agent
Margaret Feigel	County Home Agent
Winton L. Fuglie	Assistant County Agricultural Agent
Laura Nennig.....	Office Secretary

To make this program determination truly meet local needs, the many cooperators were asked to assist in various capacities. They were requested to think ahead for some time, recognizing that most worthwhile phases of any problem are more than one year in execution and for effective results, there must be good year-to-year continuity of effort.

This report of long-time Extension program planning for Wilkin County covers a series of fact-considering meetings. Local people looked closely at the situation in which they found themselves.

The committees did not set up definite detailed goals, but rather pointed out the direction Extension work in the county should take. Often concern with immediate problems tended to overshadow the basic situations. For example, those concerned with current market prices on certain specific commodities found it necessary to consider programs intended for immediate improvement that would also result in long-run benefits.

SETTING UP THE COMMITTEES

The County Extension Committee assisted in selecting representative people for the general planning committee. At the meeting of the general committee, background material prepared by the County Extension agents was presented. Primarily, it concerned Wilkin County and covered both farm operation and family living.

The problem area committees were provided by the general committee and met once or more each. Their frequently overlapping recommendations were reduced to the simplest statements possible and carefully edited.

USING THE REPORT

The committee process produced fairly clear evidence of trends, if not exact statements of needs for Extension education. Because it was hard to pin down exact phases of work that should be put into action, there will continue to be a need for an annual review of current changes and an adjustment to them. The committees recognized that some of their findings and suggestions might be out-of-date in a year or two.

On the other hand, there were a number of basic indications that cannot be ignored. An example is the need to supplement emphasis on production with more help in better understanding other farm income and family living problems.

A quite definite selection of fields of effort is shown by this report. This can be a very helpful guide to planning for several years. Because of the wide participation in its preparation, there should be both interest and cooperation in carrying out its recommendations.

Breckenridge, Minnesota
August 1957

To the People of Wilkin County:

We are all indebted to the many folks who contributed time and effort in developing this guide for County Extension Work. It will assist in reaching the goal of better farms and improved family living for all phases of our county through Agricultural, Home, 4-H, and Community Work.

We live in a good county--good soil, good weather, and industrious people. But, it is our obligation to use our resources wisely so our people will enjoy a high standard of living and maintain or even improve the productive capacity of our farms. Also, we want our many community institutions including markets, schools, and churches maintained and improved as essential services to our people.

Our County Extension Office and staff is equipped to aid us in accomplishing these worthwhile goals. As a citizen of this county you are urged to review this report carefully and cooperate in the manner that will best serve you and your county.

Respectfully,
THE WILKIN COUNTY
EXTENSION COMMITTEE

Adolph Mikesh, Chairman
E. S. Amundson
Ira Bellmore
Gordon Ellefson

Elmer Anderson, Secretary
A. C. Fokjer
Kenneth Albertson
Mrs. George Halverson
Mrs. John Conzemius

Farm and Home Situation

Wilkin County is located in the Red River Valley and therefore, is characteristic of this fairly level and vast acreage of agricultural land. Sometimes Wilkin County is referred to as a West Central Minnesota County bordering North Dakota on the west and Traverse County--the first in the valley group--on the south.

Ninety-four percent of the county's total land area of 481,280 acres is in farms. Nearly 83 percent of the farm land is cropped leaving very little in woodlands, permanent pasture, and other uses. The county is divided into 24 townships, 1 city, and 13 towns and villages.

The people of Wilkin County came from many lands such as Great Britain, Germany, Norway, and Sweden. The first white settlers arrived shortly before the Civil War seeking homes and opportunities in fur trading and farming. Water transportation to the north to Lake Winnipeg provided an outlet for both fur and grain that was used to considerable extent during the early years.

The relatively stable population numbered 10,008 in 1956 compared with 10,475 sixteen years earlier. The rural farm population, however, dropped from 5,902 in 1940 to 4,433 in 1956, a trend typical in many Minnesota counties. The population is about 45 percent rural. If rural nonfarm families are excluded, the percentage drops another 10 percent. The average number of persons per household is 3.73 for the rural population. The county seat, Breckenridge, accounts for nearly 4,000 of the county's people.

Earlier U.S. Census reports show the total population as 295 in 1870 and 8,080 in 1900, compared with 10,008 in 1956. This indicates that Wilkin County grew rapidly during the first 40 years or so.

EDUCATION

Wilkin County school systems have undergone many changes due to (1) improved roads and facilities for transporting school children, (2) consolidation of school districts and more complete curriculums, (3) new school buildings and recreational facilities, and (4) more interest in education. All these changes have been made in the interest of better schools.

Four colleges are located nearby: Wahpeton School of Science, Moorhead State College, Concordia College (Moorhead), and North Dakota State College (Fargo). None of these is more than 45 miles from some part of the county. There are five high schools. Two high schools have home economics departments and two plan to have agricultural departments soon. Wilkin County had 39 rural schools in 1946, compared with 19 in 1957.

Trends in population in Wilkin County for the age groups 0 to 21 may be seen from the following:

Age	Year	Rural		Urban		Total
		Male	Female	Male	Female	
0 - 5	1946	415	419	196	172	1202
	1955	462	445	292	270	1469
6 - 11	1946	456	418	141	149	1164
	1955	429	378	234	259	1300
12 - 16	1946	312	357	130	113	912
	1955	262	276	162	165	865
17 - 21	1946	291	237	83	82	693
	1955	209	160	91	97	557

The trends in elementary and high schools in Wilkin County are as follows:

Year	Elementary and High Schools	Graded and Ungraded Elementary Schools
1957	3	1 graded and 19 ungraded
1956	5	19 ungraded
1950	5	29 ungraded
1946	5	39 ungraded

CHURCH LIFE

The church as the spiritual center for people continues to be a strong institution around which much of the life of the typical Wilkin county rural family is centered. This situation has been true since the beginning of the first churches in the county.

Denominations represented in the county in greatest number are: Lutheran, Congregational, Roman Catholic, Presbyterian, Methodist, Episcopal, Baptist, Seventh Day Adventist, and Gospel Tabernacle.

MEDICAL SERVICES

Breckenridge has the one hospital in the county but nearby Wahpeton, Moorhead, Detroit Lakes, Fergus Falls, and others also serve this area. A training school for nurses is associated with the Breckenridge Hospital.

The county employs a full-time nurse who serves the county.

A medical clinic is located in Breckenridge and two others are located across the river in Wahpeton, North Dakota.

SOIL AND AGRICULTURE

The county can be divided into two broad types of soil areas:

1. Soils of the eastern half of the county include mostly Ulen loamy sand, Grimstad, Tanberg, Ulen sandy loam, and Barnes. These soils are productive but wind erosion is more of a problem than on the heavier soils along the Red River. Diversified farming prevails with considerable grassland and grazing area located in the north-eastern part of the county.
2. Soils of the western half of the county consists mostly of Fargo clay, Fargo silty clay, Ulen, and Grimstad soils. Some sugar beets and potatoes are grown in the northern portion of the county, but the main crops are

wheat, soybeans, corn, barley, flax, and oats. There is a trend towards more corn and soybeans.

Because the Fargo soils are so heavy, they are very difficult to work when wet and the great need for internal drainage in these heavier soils has encouraged the growing of legume crops such as sweetclover and alfalfa.

INDUSTRY IN COUNTY

There are four creameries, several potato warehouses, and a flax straw plant, but other industries are few in number and small.

Marketing facilities such as grain elevators, packing plants, milk plants, poultry and egg produce houses, and other markets for farm products are generally considered adequate, although many people are unaware of the long distances to most final consumer markets.

CLIMATE AND RAINFALL

The climate is an important factor in the farming activities in the county. It is characterized by wide variations in temperature throughout the year. Average winter temperature is 11.0°; summer 66.0°; spring 40.7°; fall 43.2°; and the average all-year temperature is 40.2.

Most of the mean annual precipitation of around 20 inches is well distributed throughout the growing seasons. The length of the growing season is sufficient for a wide variety of crops. There are approximately 140 days of frost-free weather.

TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATION

Railroad, truck, bus, and air transportation facilities are good. The county is served by one transcontinental railroad which provides excellent freight, express, and passenger service with connections to all parts of the United States. In addition there are also two short-run railroads in the county.

Transcontinental air service is available at Fargo and a small municipal airport is located at Wahpeton across the river in North Dakota.

The public road system provides approximately 90 percent of all farm families with either a gravel or hard surface road. U. S. Highway 75 crosses the county from north to south along its western border while U. S. Highway 52 intersects the northeast corner and is used by the people in that part of the county as a main route to Fargo and the Twin Cities. State Highways 55 and 210 run east and west while State Highway 9 runs north and south through the center of the county. In addition, there are numerous county highways. Wilkin County roads compare favorably with the best roads in the Valley.

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

Communication facilities are also well developed. The community is served by two television stations, five radio stations, three daily newspapers, two weekly newspapers, and a public library. Circulation of farm, trade, and other magazines is very high.

There are a number of professional, civic, trade, business, farm, recreational, educational, and other groups that reach into and serve many rural families. The multiplicity of membership in organizations held by many people causes keen competition for their time and leadership.

The home survey provided homemakers an opportunity to indicate the preference as to ways of receiving information. The following table summarizes their views:

	First Choice	Second Choice	Third Choice
	percent		
Meetings	50	13	10
Television	20	20	24
Bulletins or leaflets	18	39	18
Radio	6	16	18
Newspapers or magazines	6	12	30
Total	100	100	100

WILKIN COUNTY PROFILE

COMPARISON OF WILKIN COUNTY TO MINNESOTA (1954)

	<u>Average Minnesota</u>	<u>Wilkin County</u>
1. Percent of land in farms	63.0	94
2. Size of farms--acres	195.4	382.3
3. Size of farms--acres in cropland	127.0	319
4. Dollar value of land and buildings (average per farm)	\$21,000	\$27,535
5. Dollar value of land per acre	\$105	\$70.82
6. Percent tenancy	19.8	25.8
7. Percent of population change 1940 to 1956	+8.9	-3.4
8. Farming opportunities		
a. Percent farm boys to start possible gross income of \$5,000 or more	26	23
b. Percent farm boys to start at possible gross income of \$2,500 or more	41	42
9. Percent farmers doing off-the-farm work 100 days or more	14.9	4.6
10. Percent farms where off-farm work exceeds farm income	13.8	3.0
11. Total cash farm receipts per farm	\$5,955	\$7,807
12. Percent decrease in no. of farms (1949-1954)	8	4

	Average Minnesota	Wilkin County
13. Cash income (percent from each of total cash receipts)		
a. Field crops	33	69
b. Dairy and dairy products	20	9
c. Livestock and livestock products	34	17
d. Poultry and poultry products	10	5
e. Vegetables and others	3	Trace
14. Percent livestock and products		
a. Farm w/hogs and pigs	59	48
b. Farms w/beef but no dairy	8	14
c. Farms reporting dairy	74	51
d. Farms reporting sheep	13	9
e. Farms reporting poultry	73	70
f. Number of eggs per hen	194	193
15. Equipment and facilities (percent of families)		
a. Electricity	94.1	96
b. Piped running water	57.1	56
c. Telephone	68.3	55
d. Home freezers	39	45
e. Automobiles	92	97
f. Motor trucks	50	76

	<u>Average</u> <u>Minnesota</u>	<u>Wilkin</u> <u>County</u>
g. Grain combines (percent of farmers harvesting grain)	47	88
h. Tractors	89	96
i. Corn pickers (percent of farmers harvesting corn)	56	45
j. Television	33.3	40

Cooperative Extension Work

Extension work had its official beginning in 1914 when the Smith-Lever Act was passed. This act created Cooperative Extension work and appropriated funds for its support. Extension has grown until now there are one or more agents in every county in the United States and in its territories. These agents--agricultural, home, and 4-H Club agents--are carrying on educational programs for both adults and youth.

Cooperative Extension work in Agriculture and Home Economics assists people engaged in farming and homemaking to use resources available to them more fully in meeting changing economic and social conditions. It is the job of Extension to interpret results of research for people in the county and provide such other information as concerns their welfare. Extension also develops leadership and thereby helps people help themselves through wider participation in Extension programs. Many of the benefits of Extension work result from group action.

COUNTY EXTENSION ORGANIZATION

History

Extension work was begun in Wilkin County in 1913. The county was among the first in Minnesota to have a county agricultural agent to direct work of the County Cooperative Extension Service. The first county agricultural agent was C. R. Billings, appointed in 1913. Agents since have included L. S. Stallings, 1918-1929; O. R. Grover, 1929-1943; W. H. Olson, 1943-1956; and at present Glen R. Chambers.

The home program was officially introduced in 1930 with the appointment of Charlotte Kirchner as county home agent who served about three years. A lapse occurred until Norma Jeanne Twain was appointed in 1946 and remained until 1949. The others included Doris Hendrickson, 1949-1950; Sylvia Gerhardson, 1951-1954; and Margaret Anderson Feigel, 1954-1957.

Four-H Club work in Minnesota had its beginning in 1912 when T. A. "Dad" Erickson was appointed state leader of boys and girls club work and 4-H Club work became an official program under the Department of Agriculture. Four-H Club work in Wilkin County was begun in 1913 when the county's first 4-H Clubs were organized. One 4-H Club agent, Florence Olson, was employed from 1949-1950. Others who assisted in this capacity included the assistant county agents: Norman Goodwin, 1936-1937; Chester Graham, 1937-1938; John Dysart, 1938; Wes McCoy, 1949; Dick Skrei, 1955-1956; and Winton Fuglie currently employed.

Cooperative Extension Work in Wilkin County has carried on educational programs for farmers, homemakers, and youth. All agents share in this three-fold program. There were periods when the county agricultural agent carried on the program for all three phases of Extension work. As home agents and assistant agents were added, educational work was increased in all areas, especially in home and youth programs.

The County Extension Committee

The County Board of Commissioners of the counties of the State are authorized to appropriate funds for county Extension work in agriculture and home economics within limitations as stated in a Minnesota Legislative Act amended as of 1953. This act also provides for an Extension committee consisting of nine local men and women. At least two members of the Extension Committee shall be women. The members are appointed for three-year terms, two being appointed each year.

The County Extension committee has the over-all responsibility for work in the county including budget planning, personnel selection, and program development. The Extension agents consult with the committee in carrying out the program. The committee in turn encourages the cooperation of all individuals and organizations to make the most profitable use of Extension activities.

Present Set-Up

Extension work in Wilkin County is carried on with individuals and through groups. The agricultural phase revolves mainly around organizations formed in the interest of different farm commodities or interests.

The home economics phase is carried on locally through community homemaker groups. The homemakers are informally organized, with one to six groups in a township or town. The Wilkin County Extension Home Council is made up of home councilors who represent each homemaker group in the county. The Extension Home Council assists in planning and carrying out the home program.

Four-H Club work is carried on locally through organized youth groups. The County 4-H Leaders Council is made up of adult, project, and junior leaders from each 4-H Club. This council assists in planning and carrying out the 4-H program.

The nature of county Extension work is illustrated in figure 1. A program of work is determined by the County Extension Committee. This program is carried out by a trained staff through individuals and groups. While the total program is large and varied, practically all of the activities can be included in three broad educational and service areas. These are the family, the farm, and the community. Work in these areas provide ways of reaching the final goal--that of helping rural people improve their situation.

Reaching over a thousand farms in family living, farming, and numerous situations requiring group action calls for the use of many teaching or service methods. Many have been developed as shown in figure 2. Some of these methods --including 4-H Club work, homemaker groups, institutes and many others--have become well established programs. Others are less known. It is obvious that county Extension workers use many ways to reach people--at the county office and in the field. These methods may be direct or indirect--some by personal contacts, others through groups, etc. The problem of selecting the most effective method for specific cases is a constant challenge, although the so-called mass-media methods are relied upon heavily.

COUNTY EXTENSION WORK

THE COUNTY EXTENSION COMMITTEE
DETERMINES ANNUAL PLAN OF WORK

which is carried out by . . .



A TRAINED COUNTY STAFF
MAKING CONTACTS
with . . .



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

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 WILKIN COUNTY"

Fig. 1. County Extension work illustrated.

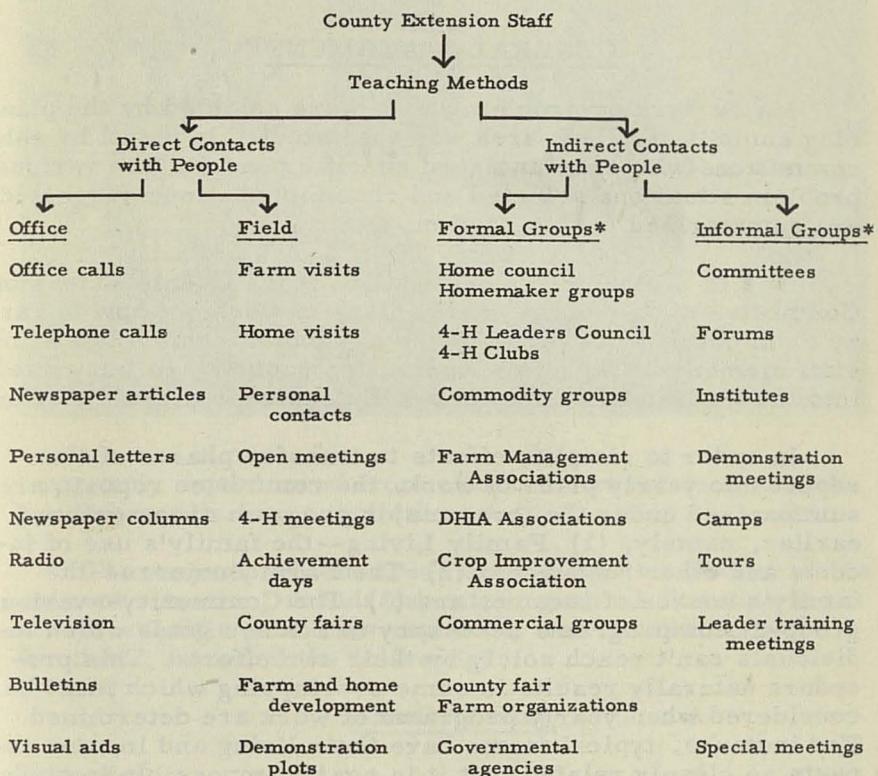


Fig. 2. Extension teaching illustrated.

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

Committee Reports --

Problem Areas and Recommendations

GENERAL STATEMENT

Major work or problem areas were selected by the planning committee. Each area was then studied in detail by sub-committees who were assigned specific phases. The various problem situations selected and recommendations suggested are summarized in this section.

It is of course the responsibility of the County Extension Committee to determine yearly plans of work but how to carry them out depends largely on decisions of county Extension staff members. Therefore committee reports are integrated into the traditional framework of Extension work in the county.

In order to simplify efforts to transfer phases of this report into yearly plans of work, the committee reports are summarized under the three major program areas outlined earlier, namely, (1) Family Living--the family's use of income and other resources, (2) The Farm Business--the family's source of income, and (3) The Community--various group-action programs necessary to achieve goals which individuals can't reach solely by their own efforts. This procedure naturally results in some overlapping which must be considered when yearly programs of work are determined. For instance, typical farms have their living and income aspects so closely related that it is nearly impossible to study one without considering the other.

THE FAMILY

The 1,183 farm families and a similar number of non-farm families in the county are eligible for the services of the County Extension Program. Each family depends upon wise use of its income in seeking desired goals; others desire more income. The committees assigned the task of considering problems within the Family Area singled out several important phases they thought could be improved with the assistance of the Extension Service. Where goals are mentioned they are considered consistent with accomplishments



frequently experienced from efforts to translate research-proven results into practical use.

The major problem areas selected with a review of the current situation, trends expected, general direction desired, specific problems reported, and recommendations for them, included the following:

Family Living

Situation

The level-of-living indexes for families operating farms in Wilkin County compared with those for the state of Minnesota and the United States (United States 1945=100) were reported as follows:

	<u>Wilkin County</u>	<u>Minnesota</u>	<u>United States</u>
1945	115	129	100
1950	147	151	122
1954	166	163	140

The farm-operator family level-of-living index is an indication of the relative position of the level-of-living of a county or state in relation to other counties or states; it also measures relative changes over a period of time. Four factors form the base for establishing farm-family level-of-living indexes: (1) percentage of farms with electricity; (2) percentage of farms with telephone; (3) percentage with automobiles; (4) average value of products sold or traded in year preceding the census adjusted for changes in the purchasing power of the farmer's dollar. This index cannot be considered an absolute measure of the actual level-of-living as there are nonmaterial factors involved, but it is useful to study relationships and trends. The level-of-living of all American families, including farm families, has been generally rising. There was a rapid increase of 54 percent from 1940 to 1950 in the level-of-living of all farm families in the United States.

While this level-of-living index for Wilkin County farm families is quite favorable when compared with the index of many counties, it is an average and this means many families are below average. For example, 44 percent of Wilkin County farm families are without piped running water, 45 percent without telephones, 55 percent without home freezers, and 4 percent without electricity.

While less than half the people of the county live on farms, the home survey showed that 70 percent of the active cooperators are rural, 12 percent rural nonfarm, and 18 percent urban. Two-thirds of the home program members are between 25 and 50 years of age and three-fourths of them have children under 10. Thirteen out of every 100 families have people over 60 years of age living in their homes.

Four-H Club work, which supplements formal educational training in developing an appreciation of rural life and desirable citizenship characteristics, is an effective method in reaching rural young people. Census reports indicate that Wilkin County has about a thousand such young people of 4-H Club age.

Current 4-H enrollment data show the approximate proportion reached through this program in 1956 compared with 1951:

4-H Members Enrolled by Different Age Groups

Age	Number (1956)			Number (1951)		
	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total
10	31	55	86	44	59	103
11	19	39	58	52	80	132
12	15	20	35	23	24	47
13	22	31	53	38	30	68
14	9	13	22	9	20	29
15.	6	12	18	8	7	15
16	12	17	29	4	1	5
Over 16	<u>11</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>30</u>
Total	125	202	327	178	251	429

These data show a decrease in enrollment from 429 in 1951 to 327 in 1956. The decrease shows up in all ages but is most pronounced among the 11-year-olds.

Cash outlays for family living no doubt are different for the 67 percent of full-time farmers with cash farm incomes of \$5,000 than for the 23 percent with incomes from \$2,500 to \$4,999. For the 10 percent of the full-time farmers with cash farm incomes of less than \$2,500 the concern is how to get: (1) more income from the farm, (2) some other source of income, (3) more use of home produce, or (4) a combination of two or more of these considerations.

Thirty-two percent of farmers did some off-farm work in 1954 compared with 26.1 percent for the state. Only 5 percent of the farmers worked off the farm 100 days or more, and only 3 percent received more nonfarm income than farm income in 1954. The trend in Wilkin County and in the state may be noted from these data:

	Proportion of Farm Operators Doing Off-Farm Work for 100 Days or More			Proportion of Farm Families Where Off-Farm Work Income Exceeded Cash Farm Income	
	1945	1950	1954 (percent)	1950	1954 (percent)
Wilkin County	7	5.0	5.0	3.0	3.0
Minnesota	9.5	12.6	14.9	13.5	13.8

The home survey showed that 80 out of each 100 cooperating home program families reported cash farm incomes of \$5,000 or less; 40 out of a 100 got \$2,500 or less. Also significant, two-thirds of the women did some farm work but only 1 out of 10 did work off the farm. Nine out of every 10 said they could drive a car or truck.

From our educational viewpoint this survey reports that three out of every four had some high school education or more, one out of every four had some college training. Nearly half had some home economics training in high school and a third had been 4-H Club members. Two-thirds of the home program members had children of 4-H Club age but only 14 percent of these children were 4-H members.

Trends Expected

- ⊕ Farm population is likely to remain stable or decline slightly.
- ⊕ Proportion of people under 15 years of age and 65 years of age or over probably will increase somewhat. Social Security payments will be more of an income factor--a source of income for one group and a compulsory form of savings for another.
- ⊕ Per capita farm income is expected to show some increase.
- ⊕ Increased interest in all forms of education may be expected.
- ⊕ Cash outlays for family living on low income farms may become more of a problem and thus command more attention.

⊕ Efforts to modernize homes will continue.

Goal: A more satisfactory life for all families in the county.

Analysis of Committee Reports on Family Living

<u>Problem areas reported</u>	<u>Recommendations</u>
1. Too limited work opportunities for older boys and girls.	1. Stress carefully prepared partnership arrangements where feasible. Support program for new industries as: soybean processing, alfalfa dehydrating, and sugar beet processing plants. Encourage and stress importance of adequate preparation for all occupations by obtaining the necessary education and training.
2. Lack of understanding and appreciation of home life.	2. Obtain larger participation in organized 4-H and adult Extension programs. Co-operate with other community groups in developing citizen-building community programs.
3. Insufficient recreational facilities for all ages.	3. Encourage families to develop recreational programs within their own group. Include some training in fields of recreation with the usual Extension programs.
4. Low cash farm income (most pronounced for the 10 percent of the farm families with cash farm income of less than \$2, 500).	4. Assist with plans for farm reorganization to develop more profitable combinations of farm enterprises. Explore opportunities for greater use of home-produced foods. Include individual assistance to farm families supplemented with work in groups.

Home Management and Housing
Including Family Finances

Situation

The management of each home in Wilkin County calls for skills in anticipating expenses for food, clothing, utilities, education, savings, insurance, hospitalization, recreation, and more recently Social Security. Then too, there is the question of purchased vs home-produced and home-preserved food, and purchased vs home-made clothing. Then too, occasional opportunities for off-farm income appeal to some homemakers as an alternative to other means of supplementing their family's income.

The home survey revealed that 8 out of every 10 homemakers do some sewing. Nearly all keep records of some kind. Eight out of every 10 depend largely on the checkbook as a record keeping system but do have another record or account book too. Considerable importance was placed upon such expenditures as insurance, medical, and contributions, in fact, more so than upon education or personal items.

The home survey also showed that only 1 homemaker in 20 plans meals for more than a day in advance. Nearly all said they spent from 30 to 90 minutes to prepare the dinner meal with about two-thirds using less than 60 minutes.

The present trend towards more specialized farming places less emphasis on home-produced food as a means of reducing cash outlays. But merely specializing does not always increase farm income and when it doesn't, home management problems become more acute.

Housing improvement opportunities lie largely in the area of home modernization. Forty-four percent of the farms do not have running water piped into the home. Since 96 percent of the farms have electricity it should be possible to progress rapidly in areas of home modernization.

Trends Expected

- ⊕ Remodeling of houses will take precedence over new construction.

- ⊕ Home modernization plans for piped-in running water, bathrooms, sewage disposal, etc., will be sought by more families but probably at a slower rate.
- ⊕ Rewiring of homes to meet increased electrical demands will be desirable in those not recently serviced with electricity.
- ⊕ Interest will increase in lawns and general home yard improvement.
- ⊕ Trend in prepared foods will continue and also increase the need for more carefully planned family budgets.

Goal: A comfortable home in which to live and work coupled with a wise use of time, energy, material, and other resources by all members of the family.

Analysis of Committee Reports on Home Management and Housing

<u>Problem areas reported</u>	<u>Recommendations</u>
1. Little attention given to preparation of family budgets.	1. Provide educational instruction in preparing detailed family accounts and provide opportunities for comparisons as a basis for improvement.
2. Lack of adequate information in buying where factors of grade, quality, and price vary greatly.	2. Provide homemakers with aids to good buymanship in all phases of homemaking.
3. Inadequate housing facilities and household equipment on many farms.	3. Assist homemakers (men and women) in evaluating existing home dwellings and facilities in developing a long-time plan for remodeling or in making home improvements involving: (1) running water, (2) sewage disposal, (3) electrical appliances, (4) home furnishings and equipment, (5) heating and ventilation, and (6) home beautification.

4. Poorly landscaped homes.

4. Provide low cost plans to improve lawns; have plantings of shrubs and trees.

Health and Nutrition

Situation

Diets of Wilkin County families are generally good. Probably most lacking are green and yellow vegetables, calcium, and citrus fruits. Home use of farm-produced foods is highest on dairy farms. More home gardens and use of other farm-produced foods seem desirable on more farms. Food preservation programs should be enlarged. The school lunch program is widely accepted and a general survey shows that children's diets are quite satisfactory, but this is not true for the adolescent girl, mothers, and the aged.

The home survey showed interesting data on daily consumption of milk among individual family members of the home program cooperators. The following table summarizes these data:

Percentage of Different Groups Consuming Milk - Number of Glasses per Day

Group	None	One	Two	Three	Four	Total
		or Less	or More	or More	or More	
Homemakers	28	26	46	-	-	100
Husbands	31	14	55	-	-	100
Children	3	4	16	33	44	100

Trends Expected

⊕ Further upgrading of diets is expected to result in increased consumption of high protein foods, fruits, and vegetables. Consumption of the other foods will probably remain the same or decrease.

⊕ More purchased food will be used as farm families depend less upon home-produced foods. Where there is great need for conserving labor and time in farm operations this trend may be a logical one. Where the family's

cash outlay for food is greatly limited, the role of home-produced food will take on greater significance. The place of preservation of foods by home freezers continues to show up favorably for farm families that use large amounts of farm-produced foods.

⊕ Diets of mothers and teen-age girls will continue to demand special attention.

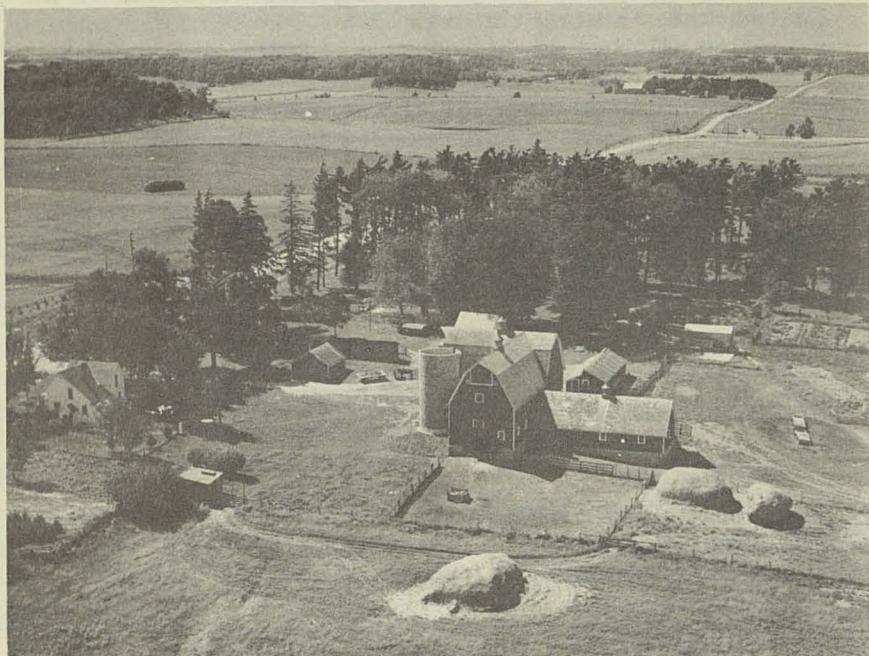
⊕ Farm, home, and traffic accident rates continue at high levels and will require special educational programs. In 1954 accidents were the leading cause of deaths in the United States among children under 14. Traffic fatalities are at an all-time high.

Goals: Well-balanced diets for all members of the family and a well-developed appreciation for farm and home safety rules.

Analysis of Committee Reports on Health and Nutrition

<u>Problem areas reported</u>	<u>Recommendations</u>
1. Inadequate diets for the adolescent, mothers, and aged.	1. Provide homemakers with diet requirements of the entire family with special attention given to the adolescent, the mother, and the aged.
2. Deterioration in quality of home preserved meats, fruits, and vegetables due to lack of knowledge of recommended methods.	2. Provide homemakers with specific requirements as to approved methods of home preservation of foods: (1) proper varieties for vegetables and fruits, (2) methods, (3) packing, and (4) length of storage. Where home-produced pork is used, encourage production of the meat-type hog.
3. Deterioration of foods in meal preparation--due mainly to high temperatures or too long cooking time.	3. Provide cooking techniques and food preparation guides necessary to obtain optimum nutrition, flavor, and appearance of all home prepared foods.

4. Lack of knowledge relating to first aid increases seriousness of many accidents.
4. Acquaint families with sources of information on first aid and, also, urge them to take part in and qualify for courses offered in these fields.
5. Alarming number of home and farm injuries.
5. Develop awareness of the need for safe living by including farm, home, and traffic safety material with all Extension programs.



THE FARM BUSINESS

The farm business determines the income for nearly all farm families in Wilkin County. The minimum goal is an income adequate to satisfy the needs for housing, food, clothing, education, and other wants farm people cherish. Where farm income is inadequate the Extension Service can assist farm families to plan changes or adjustments that will result in higher earnings.

The average 1954 farm income in Wilkin County of \$7,807 includes a wide range from satisfactory earnings to others wholly inadequate. Some 67 percent had cash farm incomes of \$5,000 or more, 23 percent from \$2,500 to \$4,999, and 10 percent had less than \$2,500. The committee assigned to various farm income aspects pin-pointed several "weak links" in current farm production and marketing practices which the County Extension Service can help improve. In some instances actual goals are mentioned, while in others the recommendations are less specific.

The average farm size in 1955 was 382.3 acres compared with 355 acres in 1945. The farms have been getting larger, hence a decrease of about 10 farms per year has occurred in recent years. There were 1,254 farms in 1945, 1,237 farms in 1950, and 1,183 farms in 1955.

The average farm in 1955 was valued at approximately \$27,535 or \$70.82 per acre; in 1945 the average value was \$32.72 per acre.

The average cash receipts per farm in 1956 was \$7,807 or \$24.57 per acre of cropland. Distribution of these receipts was as follows:

	Percent
Field crops.....	69
Dairy.....	9
Hogs.....	7
Beef.....	8
Poultry and poultry products.....	5
Sheep.....	1
Miscellaneous.....	1

Soils and Crops Including Soil Conservation

Situation

While the natural fertility level of most soils in Wilkin County is high there is much uncertainty as to what constitutes a good soil fertility program. Most crops respond to phosphate applications, and nitrogen often helps too. Applications of potash, however, haven't shown up so well. A greater use of soil testing is necessary to determine fertilizer needs of specific fields for specific crops.

The soil samples tested in 1954-55 showed that most of the fields were medium to low in phosphate, very high in potash except for the lighter soils, and medium in organic matter. Seventy-five percent of the soil samples showed a pH of 7.3 to 8.0 with a few areas around Kent and Campbell having a low pH in the range of 6.0.

Figure 3 shows the soil types followed by descriptions of each.

Soybeans have become a significant crop in Wilkin County. The need for more row crops in the rotation has promoted continuous research for varieties of soybeans better adapted for this area. From 1949 to 1954 soybean acreage has increased $5\frac{1}{2}$ times. The acreage planted to corn has shown a steady increase since the early 1950's but was exceeded by soybeans last year.



Wheat and flax acreage has dropped substantially. Barley acreage has been increasing in recent years, with oats remaining fairly stable.

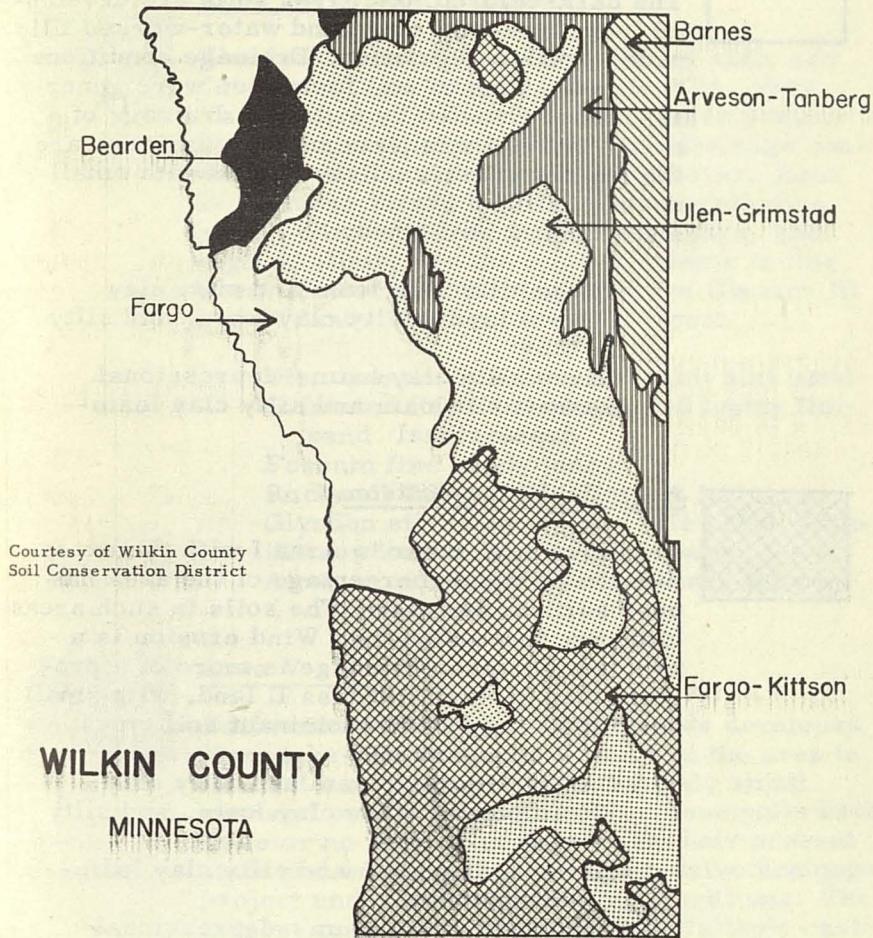
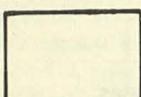


Fig. 3. Problem area map of soil types in Wilkin County.
Descriptions of county soils follow.

Problem Area Map Descriptions, Wilkin County, Minnesota



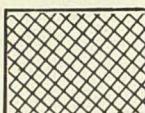
Area I--Fargo

The dark-colored Red River soils are developed from lake-laid clays and water-worked till under prairie vegetation. Drainage conditions during the time of soil formation were generally poor. Erosion by wind and drainage of areas having inadequate surface drainage are the main problems. Class II land with small areas of III and IV.

Predominant soil types:

Fargo silty clay loam and silty clay
Kittson loam, silty clay loam, and silty clay

Grano silty clay loam--depressional
Barnett silt loam and silty clay loam--depressional



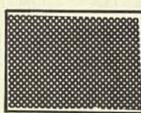
Area II--Fargo-Kittson

This area is similar to Area I with the exception that a higher percentage of the area has poor surface drainage. The soils in such areas often are more alkaline. Wind erosion is a problem. Surface drainage is more of a problem than in Area I. Class II land, with small area of III and IV. Predominant soil types:

Fargo silty clay loam and silty clay
Kittson loam, silty clay loam, and silty clay

Barnett silty loam and silty clay loam--depressional

Grano silty clay loam--depressional



Area III--Bearden

The dark-colored Red River Valley soils are developed from lake-laid silts and very fine sands under prairie vegetation. Drainage conditions are moderately well to imperfect. Erosion by wind is the main problem. Class II land with small areas of III and IV. Predominant soil types:

Bearden silt loam and silty clay loam
Glyndon silt loam and very fine sandy
loam

Area IV--Ulen-Grimstad

The dark-colored Red River Valley soils are developed from lake-laid clays, silts, very fine sand, and lake-washed till under prairie vegetation and imperfect to poor drainage conditions. Moderately alkaline, however, Area IV includes small areas of strongly alkaline soils. Wind erosion, surface drainage, and high alkalinity are the main problems in this area. The area consists largely of Classes III and IV land. Predominant soil types:

Ulen fine sandy loam and loamy fine sand
Grimstad fine sandy loam and loamy fine sand

Fossum fine sandy loam

Rockwell fine sandy loam and loam

Glyndon silt loam and very fine sand loam

Kittson loam and silty clay loam

Arveson silt loam and fine sandy loam--
depressional

Area V--Arveson-Tanberg

Dark-colored mixed silts and sands developed from lake-laid materials. Much of the area is low and wet. Included are relatively small areas of poorly drained soils. These soils have little or no agricultural value in their present state and will not support an intensive drainage project under existing farming conditions. The largest area is located along the Valley's eastern edge. The area consists mainly of Class V land. Small areas of Classes III and IV are included. Predominant soil types:

Arveson-Tanberg fine sandy loam with
small areas of Fossum fine sandy loam
and loamy fine sand.



Area VI--Barnes

The soils on the undulating to rolling uplands were developed under prairie vegetation and are productive, deep, dark colored, medium textured, and well or moderately well drained. Numerous potholes are scattered throughout the area. Locally there are some small tracts of sandy soil. Water erosion is a serious problem in this area. The main land capability classes are II, III, and IV with small areas of I, VI, and VII. Predominant soil types:

Barnes loam
Buse loam
Sverdrup fine sandy loam
Aastad silty clay loam
Parnell silty clay loam--depressional
Flom silty clay loam

The acreage of the major crops planted in Wilkin County in 1956 and certain earlier years are as follows:

	<u>1956</u>	<u>1951</u>	<u>1940</u>
Barley.....	58,222	53,998	40,318
Oats.....	65,224	65,534	67,259
Spring wheat.....	47,430	64,583	54,772
Soybeans.....	55,554	7,314	*
Corn.....	51,533	38,596	47,296
Flax.....	34,874	64,283	41,291
Alfalfa hay.....	20,780	21,177	11,162
Other hay.....	7,211	24,326	37,806
Sugar beets.....	499	302	*
Potatoes.....	1,155	610	4,051

* None reported.

Choice of variety, freeness of weed seeds, proper cultural and erosion control practices, and proper drainage are factors which require constant attention to assure profitable yields.

Trends Expected

⊕ Interest will be sustained in all areas of soil conservation.

- ⊕ SCS land-use maps will be used more extensively for farm plans.
- ⊕ Soil tests and recommendations based on them will become more commonplace.
- ⊕ Producers will continue to watch for new varieties, new crops, better rotations, and results of commercial fertilizer trials as ways of increasing output.
- ⊕ Chemical weed control may increase in popularity.

Goal: Select crops and soil management practices that maintain maximum yields year after year.

Analysis of Committee Reports on Soils and Crops--

Including Conservation

Problem areas reported	Recommendations
Loss of valuable top soil due to wind erosion. Result is lower yields and quality, late planting dates, and increased labor and equipment costs.	Encourage farmers to: Strip crop areas that are subject to blowing--use less summer-fallow and more green manure plowdown. Use cover crops on open areas where wind has a big sweep. Set plow so that it leaves rows of stubble along each furrow. Plant trees (2 or 3 rows) every few rods across the farm to check wind without snow or sand buildup.
Inadequate information on value of different fertilizers and varied rates of application on individual fields.	Teach farmers to take soil samples from each field -- when applying fertilizer, always leave a check to determine any increased yield due to fertilizer applied.
Lack of information on effects of different tillage practices and equipment on soil structure, tilth, and moisture-holding capacity.	Study effects of deep tillage, subsoiling and disc plows -- work hand-in-hand with Experiment Station personnel in tabulating results three times a year of moisture amounts

used by crops at different soil depths.

Inadequate control of diseases and understanding of chlorosis conditions.

Promote seed treatment and planting recommended varieties that are disease resistant. Acquaint farmers through demonstrations on use of chelates and cultural practices to remedy chlorosis.

Crop losses in certain areas due to lack of information on how to remedy soil alkali conditions.

Conduct test plots with fertilizers to serve as demonstration areas and as a basis for recommendations made from soil tests. Conduct soil sampling demonstrations and provide individual interpretation of soil laboratory tests. Have demonstration plots throughout the county to show effects of various fertilizer treatments.

Many farmers do not have the necessary information needed to plan profitable cropping programs with respect to crop varieties, disease, and fertilizer.

Each year send out a small Wilkin County pamphlet on recommended crop and garden varieties, control of diseases, control of insects and information on fertilizers to fit local conditions. Keep the Wilkin County farmers alert to the possibilities of new crops for the county. Obtain a full-time crops and soils specialist for Wilkin County. Stress importance of: (1) an active county Crop Improvement Association and (2) seed grain cleaning equipment.

Lack of adequate trees for (1) farmstead shelterbelts for shelter to buildings, livestock, and wildlife; (2) field plantings for ditch protection, soil erosion control, and crop protection; (3) beautifying landscape.

Stress proper preparation of land prior to planting trees and care following planting. Cooperate with Soil Conservation Service in obtaining and planting trees. Conduct result demonstrations each year.

Lack of adequate drainage.

Need for soil conservation practices that will give maximum crop returns with minimum soil depletion.

Need for a better understanding of crop varieties that do best on the different soil types.

Lack of information on standards for Minnesota certified seeds and out-of-state seed. Need to more fully recognize the importance of meeting purity requirements as set by State Law.

Low income per acre from some cash crops.

Need for more information on control of insects, particularly grasshoppers and sweetclover weevils.

Emphasize leveling of fields and/or surface drainage.

Help farmers establish and apply a practical crop rotation that will give maximum long-range net cash returns. This must include effects on fertility, erosion, weed control, moisture, and fertilizer balance. Labor and equipment adjustments must be flexible to meet changing conditions.

Conduct variety demonstration plots in major soil type areas in cooperation with local agencies such as Crop Improvement Association, commercial interests, and University-planned programs. These plots will help to determine maturity range, seeding rates, and effects of fertilizer applications on different soils.

Provide farmers and seed dealers with the standards of certified seed and state laws regulating the sale and use of noncertified seed. Encourage the planting of high quality seed and urge dealers to handle quality seed of recommended varieties.

Provide a more intensive program on the use of livestock and cash grain crops.

Familiarize farmers with life cycles of insects, control measures, and time of year to carry out the most effective spraying campaign. Also, avoid new plantings adjacent to an old sweetclover stand.

Livestock

Situation

Approximately 30 percent of the annual cash farm sales comes from livestock and livestock products. There appears to be a trend and desire to increase livestock and livestock products, especially among the younger farmers. The proper selection of breeding stock and feeders is an important phase of the livestock business on a substantial number of farms. While there has been a gradual decrease in number of farms with livestock since the 1940's, the herds and flocks on the remaining livestock farms have grown larger so the total numbers are about equal to prewar levels.

The proportion of farms reporting the different livestock classes in 1954 was as follows:

	<u>Percent</u>
Dairy	63
Poultry	70
Hogs	48
Beef cows, but no dairy	14
Sheep	9

Trends Expected

- ⊕ Improvements in breeding, feeding, and health in all classes of livestock and poultry will continue. Current changes are most pronounced in poultry and poultry products.
- ⊕ Changing consumer demand is reducing emphasis on animal fats in both meat and livestock products which will cause changes in breeding and feeding programs.
- ⊕ Labor-saving practices will usually pay.
- ⊕ Improvements in methods of grading livestock and livestock products will be sought as a means of reflecting consumer demand to producers through differences in price.
- ⊕ Continued strong competition among beef, pork, and poultry meats appears certain.

⊕ Farms appear to be specializing more on specific enterprises and even within an enterprise.

⊕ Greater utilization of roughage seems certain.

Goal: Well-bred, healthy, and highly productive livestock that is efficient in transferring forage and grain into meat and other livestock products.

Analysis of Committee Reports on Livestock

Problem areas reported	Recommendations
Too few livestock units to utilize forage crops.	Help improve planning of livestock farm operations. Encourage feeding of Western livestock. Stress importance of work-load distribution. Stress feeding of livestock on either long or short time basis depending upon feed supply. Also encourage farmers to (1) use more livestock and efficient livestock to increase the size of business, (2) compare home grown feed versus commercial feeds to improve net return from livestock, and (3) use rotations which provide maximum amounts of cheap feeds, yet can be utilized for soil building.
Results of feeding experiments do not reach all interested livestock raisers.	Hold special meetings on meat-type hog and outline conditions necessary to follow in producing the kind of meat the consumer wants and is willing to pay for.
Not enough breeding improvement programs such as: (1) value of proven sires, (2) belonging to DHIA, (3) herd culling.	Sponsor county annual pure-bred livestock sale. Give encouragement to breeders.

4-H projects do not always fit the farm nor make money for the member.

Lack of sanitation as a cause of disease in all forms of livestock.

Not keeping abreast with the latest feeding programs.

Not being able to recognize favorable market trends.

High cost of labor, forcing a change in livestock program.

Loss from diseases from circumstance where known precautions should be common knowledge.

Encourage more 4-H livestock projects, selecting these projects to fit the farm and to make maximum returns.

Provide educational information as to value of sanitation measures in reducing likelihood of disease.

Become acquainted with the new antibiotics, stilbestrol, stimulants, vitamins, and pelleting through experimental work carried out by Experiment Stations and private agencies.

Keep in close contact with market reports, future estimates, and buying trends. It is a good general rule to buy breeding stock when market is low; at this time good quality stock can be obtained.

Encourage substituting labor-saving devices for manpower whenever investment in it is justified. A modernized unit will be more economical than one dependent on manual labor.

Provide good sound disease preventative programs. Stress isolation of livestock when symptoms of disease are present and contacting veterinarian whenever in doubt.

Farm Facilities

Situation

Improved technology, the current labor situation, and a changing market demand have created a need for changes on many farms. These changes have also caused some old facilities to become obsolete at a rapid rate. This situation creates problems for both owner-operated and landlord-tenant operations.

The trend towards larger dairy herds but fewer dairy farmers has created housing problems which are being solved on many farms by new or remodeled barns of the open-type or loose-housing buildings. Rising machinery costs have made it more necessary to have economical working units. Being able to recognize when an older building or machine is obsolete and a new one needed for most economical operations is becoming more and more of a problem to farmers.

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

	<u>Percent</u>
Automobiles	97
Trucks	76
Tractors	68
Corn pickers	45 percent of farmers harvesting corn
Grain combines	88 percent of farmers harvesting grain
Field forage harvestors	24 percent of farmers harvesting corn and grass silage
Balers	18
Feed grinders	34
Milk machines	57 percent of farmers reporting dairy cows

Trends Expected

- ⊕ Rural communities may continue to work out arrangements with nearby municipalities for fire protection.

⊕ Rapid changes taking place in agriculture will make people cautious about high cost new buildings unless considerable flexibility is built into them. Remodeling is likely to be more popular.

⊕ Costly but essential labor-saving equipment will justify good care and upkeep practices.

Goal: Farm buildings and surroundings that are economical yet servicable adjuncts to a profitable farm and enjoyable family living.

Analysis of Committee Reports on Farm Facilities

Problem areas reported

Inadequate care of machinery, which results in costly replacements.

Difficult to calculate cost of and value of new farm buildings.

Need for more adequate fire protection and fire fighting equipment.

Lack of evaluation of home appliances often leads homemakers in making unnecessary purchases.

Poor building arrangement.

Recommendations

Emphasize care of machinery, use of cost accounting data in estimating total costs of farm machinery of all kinds, and possibility of custom work as an alternative to owning some machinery units.

Contact merchants and contractors to assist with plans when remodeling or building new structures. This also can be done through farm and home visits.

Encourage periodical inspection of possible fire hazards. Work with neighboring communities and municipalities in obtaining fire protection.

Provide information on the varied uses of modern appliances so that homemakers can utilize to full advantage the ones they now have.

Stress planning the site for buildings before they are erected and moving some buildings to a more convenient location.

Farm buildings frequently not fully utilized.

Encourage farmers to make more efficient use of existing farm buildings so as to increase net income.

High cost of the traditional type dairy barn.

Provide information on loose housing as an alternative. Help create landlord interest in renter's housing needs.

Maintaining proper temperature and humidity in all farm buildings.

Disseminate information on ventilation of buildings.

Costly labor.

Open meetings and tours to provide first-hand information to farmers on labor-saving practices. Stress (1) location and arrangement of buildings to save labor; (2) arranging grain storage for mechanical handling of grain; and (3) providing hog houses, farrowing stalls, and feeding floors that save labor.

Farm Management

Situation

Farmers here as elsewhere are faced with the problem of determining the combination of land, labor, capital, and management that will result in the largest income or the greatest amount of satisfaction for the family. The nature of this problem varies with individuals but the basic considerations are similar in each case.

Some farmers desire more land in order to make more efficient use of the equipment they have but additional land is not easily obtained. Others wish to make adjustments within their farming operations that will require less hired labor or will increase their volume and income without more land. All these create challenging situations.

The average cash farm income in 1954 of \$7,807 with 67 percent grossing \$5,000 or more, 23 percent from \$2,500-\$4,999, and 10 percent getting less than \$2,500 indicates the degree of variation.

Trends Expected

- ⊕ Cost-price squeeze is likely to continue as a threat to profitable farming, hence farm costs will require close attention.
- ⊕ Nonfarm pursuits bidding for labor will maintain a tight farm-labor situation.
- ⊕ Present burdensome supplies of some farm products will probably disappear but slowly, hence they will continue their depressing effect on some farm commodities for several years.
- ⊕ Beginning farmers will be faced with increasingly higher capital requirements.

Goal: The resources available to each farm used in the combination that maximizes income for the farm family.

Analysis of Committee Reports on Farm Management

Problem areas reported	Recommendations
<p>1. For the established farmer:</p> <p>(a) High equipment cost per acre, especially on small farms.</p> <p>(b) Lack of adequate equipment - farm and home.</p> <p>(c) Absentee landlords frequently result in unsatisfactory leases.</p> <p>(d) Concern about trends likely to evolve from large tracts of land being farmed by people living in town.</p> <p>(e) Present tax structure discourages improvement of farms.</p>	<p>Help develop plans that consider used equipment, custom work, or exchange work with neighbors.</p> <p>Encourage discussions on different forms of land tenure and tax programs with advantages and disadvantages of each type.</p>
<p>2. For the new farmer:</p> <p>(a) How to start farming and properly evaluate problems relating to loans,</p>	<p>Sponsor farm and home development program for interested new farmers.</p>

credit through partnerships, or share stock rental basis.

(b) Where to get credit-- local banks, production credit associations, FHA, or NFLA.

Stress requirements customarily needed to borrow funds from the different sources. Encourage shopping for credit the same as for a piece of equipment.

(c) Rising costs of farm supplies.

Stress importance of watching farm costs closely during periods of stable or declining farm prices whereas volume of operations may be more important to net income during periods of rising farm prices.

Marketing and Buymanship as it Relates to the Farm Family Business

Situation

The successful operation of a farm depends a great deal on careful buying and wise selection of markets.

The present situation of oversupply or temporary surplus of certain farm commodities affects most Wilkin County farmers who produce dairy products, potatoes, poultry, eggs, meat animals, and vegetables. Small livestock enterprises are often forced out of business due to narrow margins.

Because of the present price support program, many grain producers in the county take advantage of the loan program through the Commodity Credit Corporation program and also the Soil Bank program. Wilkin County acreage in 1957 ranks third in the State in acreage put into Soil Bank and first for cash payments to the farmer through the Soil Bank program.

Trends Expected

⊕ Increased amounts of packaging and retail services performed by marketing people coupled with higher labor and transportation may further increase marketing costs.

- ⊕ A large percentage of homemakers working outside of the home is developing a strong demand for foods that are ready to serve.
- ⊕ Producers will continue to explore methods of reducing marketing costs--some will assume certain functions of marketing directly; others will try to accomplish the same results through cooperative marketing.
- ⊕ New ways of supporting market prices may be expected.
- ⊕ Outlook and market information will be used more widely.
- ⊕ Market grades of many farm products will come up for review frequently.

Goal: Established markets that will meet the needs of the producer and the consumer by netting producers the highest possible prices and also deliver the final products to consumers at the lowest possible cost.

Analysis of Committee Reports on Marketing and Buymanship

<u>Problem areas reported</u>	<u>Recommendations</u>
1. Need for a better balance between production and consumption of farm products--this is also directly related to the spread between farm prices and retail prices.	Provide information that will help predict supply and demand situations for farm commodities and also keep abreast with new trends in marketing.
2. Buying unwisely from door-to-door seed salesman.	Help farmers to have a full knowledge of recommended varieties and a complete understanding of contracts and prices.
3. Instability in farm prices (a) Grains and oilseeds (1) Lack of information and understanding regarding factors determining prices. (2) Information wanted on	Provide periodic information on all commodities through the press, radio, TV, pamphlets, and meetings. Provide exhibits and displays at the county fair and other public gatherings of rural people. Encourage 4-H demonstrations and exhibits on

marketing and processing costs.

(3) How to determine responsibility a producer should take in marketing his products.

(4) What are the benefits and shortcomings of the different price support programs?

subjects relating to marketing farm products. Sponsor public policy forums and open meetings at which recognized authorities may be scheduled to lead discussions on various phases of marketing. Explain the true role of cooperatives and how they operate in marketing farm products and in purchasing farm supplies.

Cooperate with the County ASC office in holding educational meetings on government price support programs.

(b) Meat animals

(1) Lack of information regarding factors determining prices.

(2) Lack of information on services and costs required to get meat animals to consumers in the form they want them.

(3) Measuring benefits expected from cooperative marketing.

(4) Keeping supplies in line with a market demand that assures fair prices.

(same as (a) above)

(c) Dairy cattle and dairy products

(1) Keeping marketing facilities up to date in face of the changing demand for different consumer products.

(2) Keeping dairy supplies in line with a demand that will assure fair prices.

(3) Obtaining information on benefits and shortcomings of different government support programs.

(same as (a) above)

- (d) Poultry and eggs
(1) Why the large spread between prices farmers get and consumers pay? How can it be reduced?
(2) Low labor returns for the small flock owner.
(3) The wide fluctuation in prices by months; that is, seasonability and what to do about it.
- (e) Export markets and development of new markets. How to determine the local farmers role in local, national, and world markets.

(same as (a) above)

(same as (a) above)

SITUATIONS REQUIRING GROUP ACTION

General Statement

The major emphasis of the County Agricultural Extension Service is to help individual farm families achieve satisfactory income and family living conditions. Nevertheless, many goals of individuals and their families are obtainable only when a group approach is used. Situations in Wilkin County requiring group participation in order to realize desired changes frequently include: (1) certain phases of marketing, (2) purchasing the necessary factors of farm production, (3) commodity price support programs, (4) a wide range of public services, and (5) getting the benefits of the Extension Service to every farm and home in the county. The group approach is suggested for several areas of the county Extension program in Wilkin County so that more people may cooperate to get things which they can't do alone.

Trends Expected

⊕ Trend towards more urbanization is expected to be accompanied with a demand for more public services, hence more dependence upon group action.



⊕ Rural-urban understanding will continue to be important even though differences between the views of these two groups become more similar.

⊕ Further expansion of such services to rural areas as schools, all-weather roads, and telephones will require more emphasis on the group approach.

Goal: A dynamic, well-organized community where the people are willing, prepared, and equipped to operate efficiently in areas requiring group action.

Analysis of Committee Reports on Situations

Requiring Group Action

<u>Problem areas reported</u>	<u>Recommendations</u>
1. Education	Cooperate with appropriate agencies.

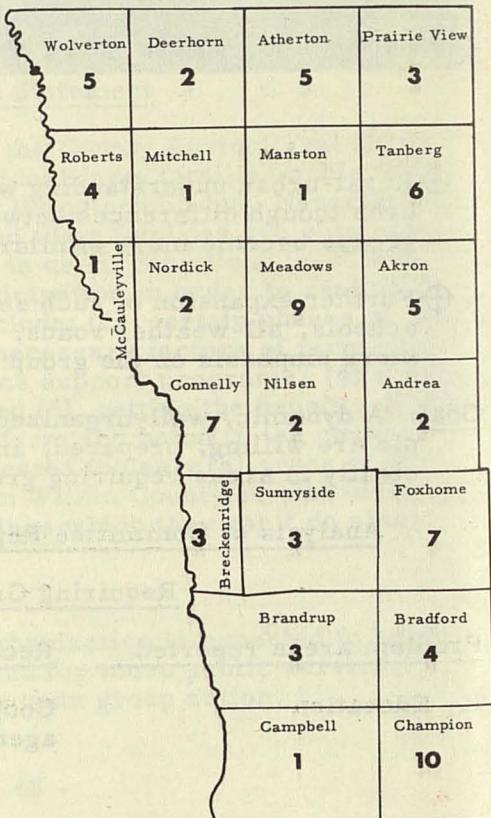
Limited curriculum in smaller high schools.
 Rural population declining, small schools have problems meeting state standards.
 Transportation-school bus lines long and complicated.

2. Rural-urban misunderstanding as to problems each experience in fulfilling their roles in providing services for the community and in developing plans to pay for them.

Urge rural-urban meetings and open forums as a means of creating good working relationships between these two groups. This problem is not necessarily a responsibility of the County Agricultural Extension Service but one which requires community understanding.

Fig. 4.

This map shows the location by township of those asked to participate in long-time program planning.



Committees

In addition to the Extension Committee, county commissioners, Extension agents, and others listed on page 2, these committees were involved in working out this long range program for Extension.

Conservation: M. W. Barnum, chairman, Breckenridge; Kenneth Hoppe, Barnesville; Leroyal Nord, Wolverton; Ted Priebe, Wolverton; Art Ladwig, Barnesville; Soelien Hammer, Rothsay; Martin Gran, Campbell; Ray Leinen, Breckenridge.

Livestock: Melvin Ouse, chairman, Rothsay; Gerald Nord, Wolverton; John Friederichs, Breckenridge; Floyd Doty, Nashua; P. L. McKibben, Breckenridge; Floyd Anderson, Barnesville; Fred Westfall, Rothsay.

Farm Management: Ted Peet, chairman, Wolverton; Edwin Deal, Doran; Edgar Deal, Doran; Ted Reber, Foxhome; Bill Friederichs, Foxhome; Kenneth Devine, Breckenridge.

Farm Family Business: Oswald Lyngaa, chairman, Doran; Clifford Ouse, Rothsay; N. J. Stumpf, Nashua; Bill Nash, Nashua; Howard Hanson, Wolverton; Donald Lechleiter, Breckenridge; Lloyd Erickson, Doran; Mrs. John Kava, Barnesville; Mrs. Jerome Toso, Rothsay; Johnnie Peterson, Rothsay.

Education: Ray Nelson, chairman, Wolverton; Mrs. Rudy Briks, Breckenridge; George Loeks, Campbell; August Dohman, Campbell; Lawrence Mundstock, Barnesville; Mrs. Art Larson, Rothsay; Ellsworth Etten, Foxhome.

Employment for Young People: Mrs. Leslie Bruce, chairman, Rothsay; Vincent Summerville, Brushvale; Mrs. A. H. Amundson, Rothsay; Herb West, Nashua; Heye Henrichs, Kent; Leo Underberg, Kent; Mrs. Charles Klindt, Campbell; Arvid Shulstad, Barnesville; Steen Nelson, Rothsay; Mrs. Ted Reber, Foxhome; Mrs. Joe Houghtaling, Foxhome.

Marketing: Mrs. George Johnson, chairman; Breckenridge; Mrs. Clayton Dohman, Breckenridge; Mrs. Louis Toelle, Nashua; Mrs. Leo Miller, Kent; Mrs. Roy Balken, Rothsay; Mrs. Roy Andrews, Foxhome; Mrs. Harry Dohman, Campbell; Mrs. Ted Krueger, Breckenridge.

Housing and Farm Facilities: Juel Shelstad, chairman, Doran; Mrs. Wolter Rolin, Rothsay; Mrs. Fred Rolin, Rothsay; Ed Sheehy, Nashua; Chester Hasford, Nashua; Francis Freese, Breckenridge; DeLyle Lammers, Barnesville; Glen Brandt, Rothsay; Mrs. Victor Boe, Rothsay; Lloyd Steussy, Foxhome; Warren Hasbargen, Breckenridge.

Family Finances: Leo Yaggie, chairman, Breckenridge; Frank Jacobs, Breckenridge; Mrs. Arley Trickel, Breckenridge; Emil Nord, Wolverton, Lester Krump, Kent; Irvin Halbakken, Rothsay; Mrs. Urvan LeNoue, Breckenridge; Mrs. Harry Knapp, Foxhome; Virgil Blankenship, Barnesville; Jerome Miranowski, Breckenridge.

Summary

The recommendations included in this report will serve as a guide for annual programs for several years. Some problem areas are starred (*) for early consideration, preferably this year, since there was much interest in them. Others will be reviewed at frequent intervals as opportunities develop to include them in the yearly plans of work.

The recommendations in general relate to the following areas:

THE FAMILY

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

Family Living--work opportunities for older boys and girls, appreciation of home life, recreation for all ages, and family income.

* Home Management--family budgets, buymanship, housing, and home yard improvement.

* Health and Nutrition--diets for all ages, maintaining quality in home-produced and home-preserved foods, meal preparation, first aid, and farm and home safety.

THE FARM BUSINESS

Farms differ in size and type and yet all have a common goal--that of combining land, labor, capital, and management to provide the best possible income. Many factors enter into this consideration, but the following are considered especially important for the next few years:

* Soils and Crops--water and wind erosion, use of commercial fertilizers, tillage practices, disease of crops, alkali soil conditions, crop varieties, shelter belts, windbreaks, wild life, drainage, seed production, marketing, new crops and insect control.

* Livestock--diversified farming, livestock nutrition, efficiency measures in livestock operations, 4-H projects, livestock sanitation, and marketing.

Farm Facilities--machinery care, new construction, fire prevention, remodeling of buildings, temperature and humidity in livestock buildings, and labor-saving equipment.

Farm Management--equipment costs, farm leases, taxes, getting started in farming, credit, and cost of supplies.

* Marketing and Buymanship--balancing production with market demand at fair prices, developing sales resistance, and unstable farm prices in nearly all products, exports, and imports.

SITUATIONS REQUIRING GROUP ACTION

Even a successfully operated farm and home is dependent upon its neighbors and community if certain goals are to be reached. That is, organization is necessary in an efficient working community. Therefore work in these areas is suggested:

* Education--encourage more complete curriculums in smaller high schools; cooperate with appropriate agencies in meeting all school problems.

* Rural-Urban Understanding--assume responsibility in urging participation in all community activities that influence family life in rural areas.

The men and women who assisted in this program planning work became unusually well acquainted with most of Wilkin County. Members of the County Extension staff also benefited and, therefore, are better equipped to do more effective Extension work.