

Looking Ahead in
Extension Work
in
Itasca County

- **Situations**
- **Problems**
- **Recommendations**



Prepared Cooperatively by
Itasca County Extension Committee
and
Long Range Planning Committees

ITASCA COUNTY EXTENSION STAFF

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ITASCA COUNTY EXTENSION COMMITTEE, 1956

Hans Enebek, Chairman, Grand Rapids
William Meade, Taconite
R. J. Whaling, Grand Rapids

Appointed Members:

Mrs. J. W. Dysart, Deer River
Mrs. Ivan Mostoller, Deer River
Gilbert Lessard, Grand Rapids
James Hagen, Grand Rapids
John Rantala, Nashwauk
Melvin Rosholt, Warba

ITASCA COUNTY EXTENSION COMMITTEE, 1958

William Meade, Chairman, Taconite
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Why This Report _ _ _

The County Agricultural Extension Service--(officially termed the Cooperative 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 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 work of the past year and plan next year's program. In this way local people select and plan the fields in which major emphasis is to be placed and where County Extension workers should devote their major attention and energies.

Since the Extension Service is a cooperative arrangement, the County Extension Agents are members of the faculty of the University of Minnesota and the staff on 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 the past decade, the County Extension Committee, working with the County Extension Agents and representatives of the University of Minnesota, decided to study our county situation and the Extension program, to see if it meets the needs of today and to look ahead and plan for a number of years to come. To make such program determinations truly meet local needs, a large number of farmer cooperators were asked to assist in various capacities. They were requested to think ahead for some years, recognizing that most worthwhile phases of any problem take more than one year to execute and that there must be good year-to-year continuity of effort for effective results.

COUNTY EXTENSION WORK

THE COUNTY EXTENSION COMMITTEE
DETERMINES ANNUAL PLAN OF WORK

which is carried out by . . .



A TRAINED COUNTY STAFF
MAKING CONTACTS
with . . .



ORGANIZED GROUPS and INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS

in

THREE BROAD EDUCATIONAL AND
SERVICE AREAS



FARM
BUSINESS



COMMUNITY
AFFAIRS



THE FAMILY

with the final goal of . . .

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

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

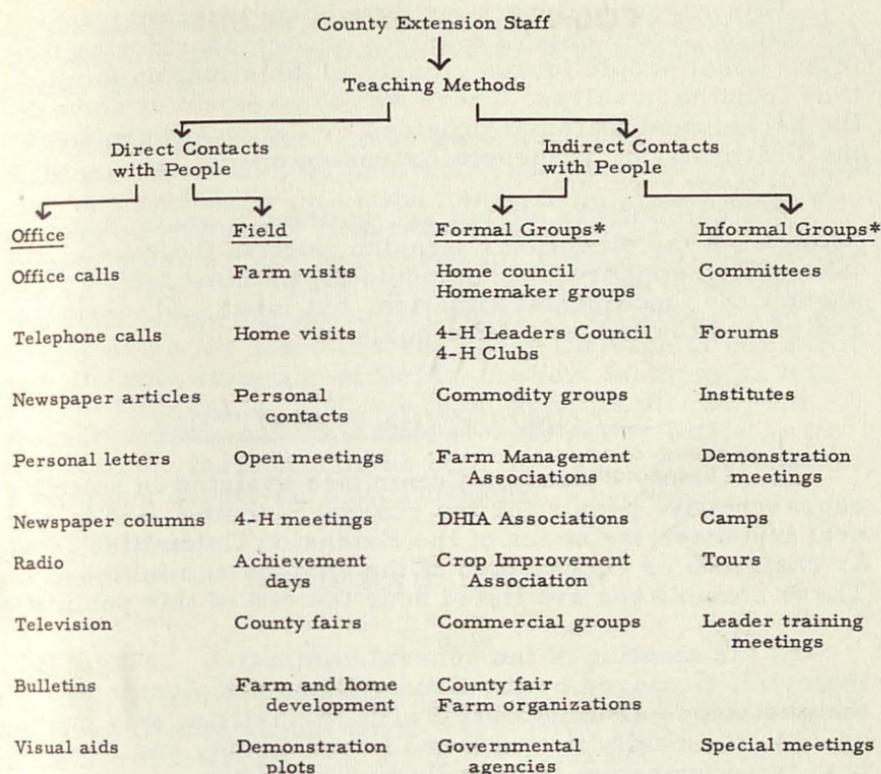


Fig. 2 Extension teaching illustrated.

* 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.

This report on long-time Extension program planning for Itasca County covers a series of fact-considering meetings. Local people looked closely at the situation in which they found themselves. There was amazement at some of the background material provided by the local agents and the University of Minnesota Extension specialists.

The committees did not set up definite goals, but rather pointed out the direction Extension work in the county should take. Often concern with immediate problems tended to overshadow the fundamental situation, but ideas and ideals were redirected toward long-time goals.

SETTING UP THE COMMITTEES

The County Extension Committee assisted in selecting representative people for the general planning, and in several instances members of the Extension Committee acted as chairmen or cochairmen of the various committees. These committees are listed near the end of this publication.

At the meeting of the general committee, background material, prepared by the County Extension Agents with the assistance of University Farm specialists, was presented. Primarily it concerned Itasca County and covered both farm operation and family living. Fifteen persons participated. The problem area committees each met once or twice more, with a specialist helping in several cases. Their frequently overlapping recommendations were reduced to the simplest statements possible and presented to an editing committee. This group, composed of members of each area committee, selected the items they considered most important, and the recommendations of this report are based on these items.

USING THE REPORT

The long committee process produced clear evidence of need for educational work. Because it was hard to pin down exact phases of work needed, this long-range look at Extension work does not remove the need for an annual review of current changes and an adjustment to them. The committee, recognizing that some of their findings and

suggestions might be out-of-date in a year or two, urged this annual reconsideration to fit the program to new trends as they develop.

On the other hand, there were a number of basic indications that cannot be ignored. Examples are the reduced emphasis nationally on production and the strong demand for help on and better understanding of farm and family living problems. The basic need for greatly increased production of feed crops and pasture is still one of the big problems hindering our agricultural development. The need also remains for more cleared acres for each of our farmers. Definite selection of fields of effort is shown in this report. This can be a very helpful guide to planning for several years ahead. Because of wide participation in its preparation, there should be both interest and cooperation in carrying out its recommendations.

GENERAL SITUATION

People

The 1950 Census shows that there were 33,321 people in Itasca County at that time. Eighty-two percent (27,302) lived in rural areas. Not all of the rural people live on farms, however. Census figures list only 9,234 farm people in Itasca County in 1950. Although the total population of the county has been growing at a steady pace, the farm population has been decreasing in recent years. Census figures show that there were 496 fewer farms in 1954 than in 1950.

Itasca County is a melting pot of nationalities. The 1950 Census figures show the following backgrounds of some of the population:

Finnish	-	953
Slav	-	663
Swedish	-	492
British	-	301
Norwegian	-	306
German	-	179
Danish	-	37

Resources

Itasca County has approximately 1,704,320 acres of land. It is interesting to note that only 13.2 percent of this land is in farms. County-owned land makes up 25.6 percent; state-owned land, 19.7 percent; federal-owned land, 17.4 percent; and private nonfarm land, 24.1 percent.

Most of the land that is not in farms is forest and waste-land. A large share of the private lands is owned by the iron mines for mining purposes.

Farmer-owned land is not all used for crops. Only 27 percent is cropland; 51 percent is woodland and 22 percent is wasteland.

The climate in Itasca County is different than in the major agricultural areas. The following information, taken from the reports by the U. S. Weather Bureau, indicate what type of weather is found in Itasca County:

Average January temperature	5° F.
Average July temperature	67.8° F.
Average last frost in spring	May 26
Average first frost in fall	September 14
Average growing season	111 days
Average annual precipitation	22.5 inches

Community Services

The people in the county are served by 17 or more community centers. These centers contain the schools, churches, markets, stores, post offices, and other services. They serve the needs of the rural people in marketing their produce.

There are four school districts that serve the educational needs of the children and adults. School bus transportation is available to all children from first grade through high school. Some of the school districts also furnish transportation for those who attend junior college. There is one junior college in the county, at Coleraine.

Three communities have hospitals. Many other communities have modern medical clinics. Itasca County, in

common with all rural areas, has the problem of distance from medical care. The 1950 Census shows that there were 24 physicians in Itasca County. This means that there were about 1,323 people per physician. Most of the physicians are located in the southern half of the county, while the northern half of the county is not served as well.

Although there are a large number of churches in Itasca County, there are some families who are a long distance away from a place of worship. One of the problems of rural churches is to maintain the size of the congregations.

HISTORY OF EXTENSION WORK IN ITASCA COUNTY

Extension work began in Itasca County with the appointment of Don B. Jewell as county agent in June of 1918. When Jewell resigned in 1921, present County Agent Arthur Frick, at that time Grand Rapids High School vocational ag teacher, was named agent. Today (1958) he has the longest record of service of any agent in Minnesota and one of the longest in the United States.

In addition to carrying on the Agricultural Extension program, Frick developed a county-wide Home Extension program. Excellent response to this program led to the development of a strong county-wide need for a full-time home agent. In 1925 a home agent, Miss Clover Sabin, was appointed to serve four counties, Itasca, Beltrami, Koochiching, and Hubbard.

Later Miss Sabin took a full-time home agent position in Koochiching County, and again Frick carried on the Home Extension program with specialist help from University Farm. In 1929 budget arrangements were made for a full-time home agent. Artaxa Denniston served as home agent for five years; Sara Cina, Aurora, another five years. Other home agents who followed included Mamie Naaden Eilertson, June, 1941, to December, 1942; Evelyn Jacobson, March, 1943, to May, 1945; Ruth Thompson Kent, May, 1945, to September, 1950; Cecelia Hanratty McLean, July, 1950, to August, 1952; Edna Jordahl, September, 1952, to June, 1955; Joanne Hurley, August, 1955, to August, 1956; and Dessie Zobenica, March, 1957, to the present time.

4-H Club work has been inaugurated in Itasca County by pioneer Rural School Supervisor Edna Murphy and County Agent Don B. Jewell in 1918. After Arthur Frick began teaching at Grand Rapids in late 1918, he worked closely with them in extending Club work throughout the 66 townships of School District #1, and he continued to build up the 4-H program throughout the county after becoming county agent in 1921. At the high point in 4-H Club work there were 53 local 4-H Clubs and 1,700 enrollments. George Bergren trained in Itasca County for county agent service and helped with Club work in the winter of 1935-1936, as did Rod McMillen in the summer of 1937.

In 1938 the County Commissioners made it possible to hire a full-time county 4-H Club agent. Richard Hamilton served from February, 1938, to July, 1939. He was followed by Erwin J. Wamhoff, September, 1939, to June, 1941; John K. Timperley, June, 1941, to February, 1942; Lawrence Beaver, April, 1942, to November, 1942; Edith Johnson, April, 1943, to November, 1943; Helen Tan, July, 1944, to December, 1946; and Albert E. Page, June, 1947, to the present.

Farm and Home Situation

Fundamental problems in this relatively undeveloped area yield to attack very slowly and reluctantly. Consequently the major problems and major emphasis in the Agricultural Extension program remain fairly constant over the years. The number one problem is the very serious lack of cleared acreage. Other problems include the lack of adequate farm buildings and the relatively greater isolation characteristic of this area. Farms are far apart, and there often are miles of wild land, iron-mining pits, dumps, etc., between settlers and between communities. This isolation presents barriers to the exchange of labor and machinery and to services such as artificial breeding, DHIA, school-bus, mail, and milk routes, and REA and telephone lines. It also makes it difficult to get farm folks together and to perform all phases of the farm and home development program.

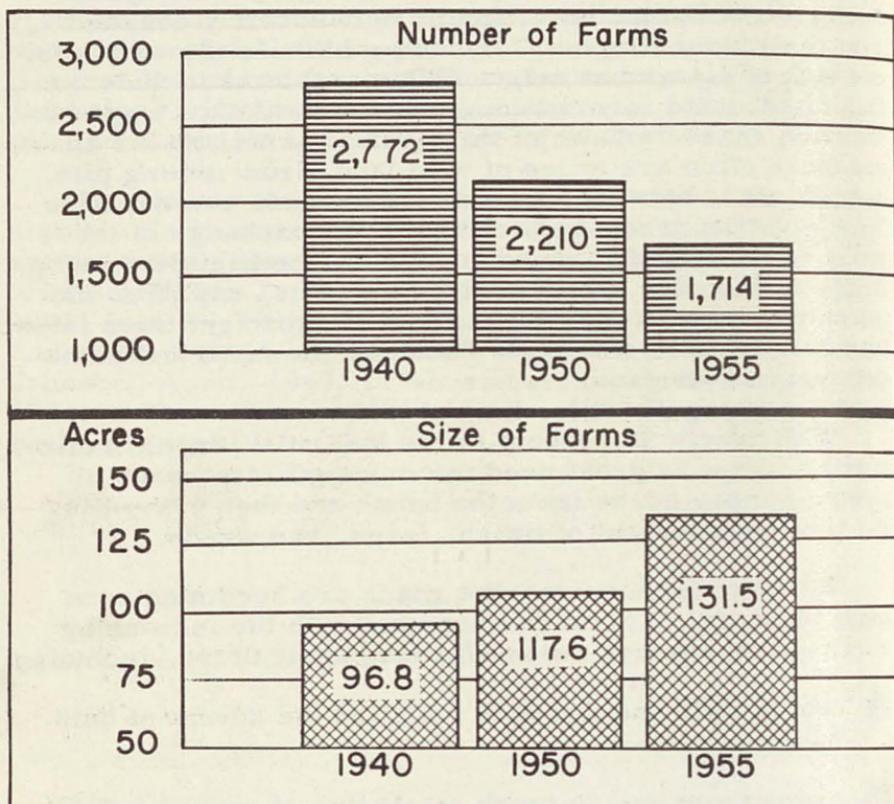
With nearly 90 percent of the land still largely unproductive, there is great need for more efficient ways of wresting more acres from the brush and then preventing the re-encroachment of brush, ferns, and weeds.

All-year farm-to-market roads are becoming even more essential to farm development with the increasing emphasis on several areas affecting agriculture, including:

- Whole milk and Grade A milk and the advent of bulk hauling.
- Swing from rail to truck marketing of our potentially great farm timber products, as well as of our potatoes, rutabagas, cattle, sheep, dairy, and practically all of our farm products.
- Ever-extending rural school-bus system.

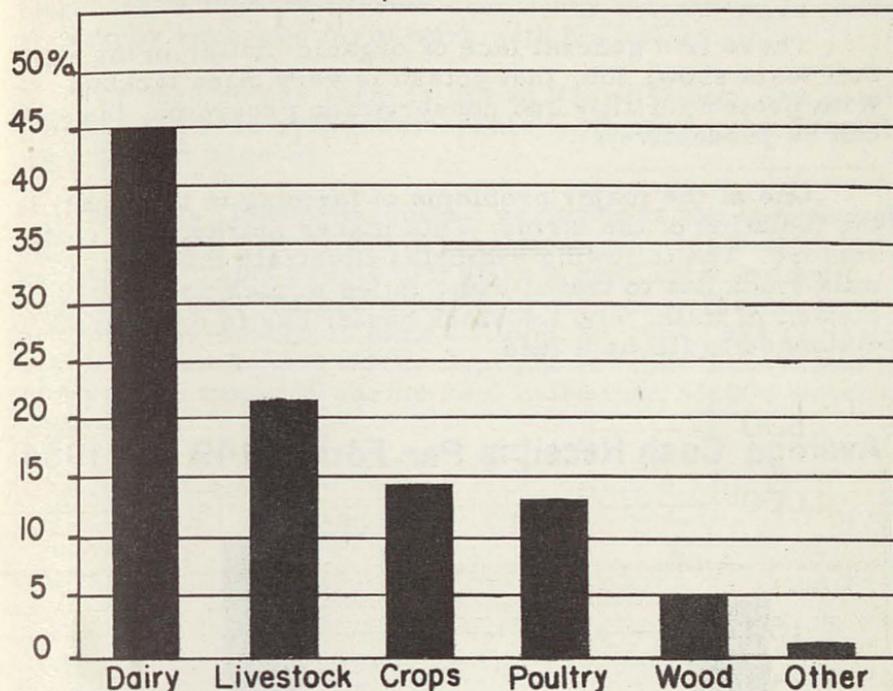
THE AGRICULTURAL SITUATION

The number of farms in Itasca County has declined steadily since 1940, dropping one third. The farms that remain, however, have increased in size since 1940 from an average of 96.8 acres to 131.5 acres.



Although Itasca County has many different farm enterprises, the major enterprise is dairying. Dairying provides 45 percent of the farm receipts in the county. Livestock, including sheep, beef cattle, and hogs, is grouped together and makes up 22 percent of the income. Crops make up 14 percent, with potatoes accounting for most of this. Very little cash grain is grown.

Farm Receipts, Itasca County, 1954



Crops and Soils

Itasca County farmers raise more hay than any other crop, according to the 1954 Census.

Crop Acres Harvested in Itasca County, 1954

Hay	42,684
Oats	8,239
Potatoes	1,110
Corn	752
Barley	357
Flax	173

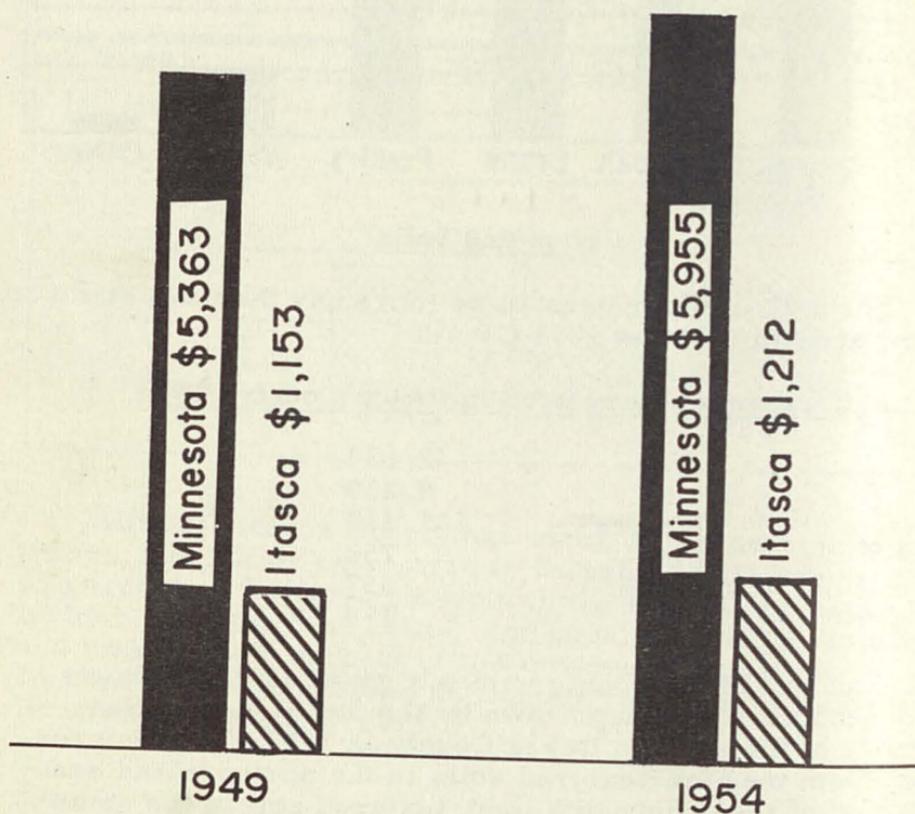
The soil in the county varies a great deal, as shown by a problem-area map drawn by the Soil Conservation Service of the soils in Itasca County in 1957. The textures vary from medium-textured soils in the northern and eastern part of the county to a light-textured soil in the southern and western part of the county.

The topography is generally level with small areas of rolling lands. Many areas have drainage problems.

There is a general lack of organic matter in the soil. Soil tests show, too, that potash is very often lacking. With proper fertility and conservation programs, the soils can be productive.

One of the major problems of farming in the county is the isolation of the farms. This makes marketing a costly venture. The following examples illustrate this fact. A milk truck has to travel many miles to pick up a small amount of milk. The livestock hauler has to drive great distances to fill up a load.

Average Cash Receipts Per Farm, 1949 and 1954



Another disadvantage of this isolation and not having neighbors is that the farmer cannot buy machinery in partnership or exchange farm work with his neighbors.

The income per farm is low in Itasca County, as compared to the rest of the state. This is shown by the preceding graph on page 14.

There is, however, quite a variation in the incomes of farmers in the county. This variation indicates that under certain conditions people can make a good income from farming. It also indicates that many farms in the county are not large enough to earn a living. In 1954, 581 farmers sold less than \$3,000 worth of products from their farms. At the same time, 70 farms sold more than \$5,000 worth of products.

Committee Reports --

LIVESTOCK

Dairy

Situation

Dairying is the major source of farm income. Herds are small, averaging 5.7 milk cows per herd compared to the state average of 11.0. Milk production per cow is low also, being 5,100 pounds in 1950 as compared to the state average of 6,180 pounds.

Problems

The major problems in dairying in Itasca County are the small herds and the low production per cow.

Recommendations for Extension

- ① Stress better feeding, paying special attention to pastures. More fertilizers and lime are needed, better pasture management and more acres of open pastures are necessary. Poor pastures must be more strongly supplemented with hay, grain, or silage.
- ② Encourage more farmers to participate in DHIA and the artificial breeding program to raise butterfat production.
- ③ Emphasize improved herd management.
- ④ Encourage farmers to help improve their dairy markets.

Sheep

Situation

The 1954 Census figures show that 12 percent of the farmers in Itasca County had sheep on their farms. The number of sheep has increased steadily since 1950. In 1954 the average number of ewes in the breeding flock was 24 and the average of sheep and lambs sold per farm was 27. This indicates that there was more than one lamb per ewe sold from the farms. Itasca County sheep farmers clip an average of 8.4 pounds of wool per sheep, compared to the Minnesota average of 7.9 pounds.

Problem

The major problem in Itasca County in raising sheep is to control predators and reduce predatory losses, so as to increase the average income per ewe.

Recommendations for Extension

- ① Work on the predator problem.
- ② Stress improvement of sheep pastures.
- ③ Encourage more farmers to have definite disease- and parasite-control programs.
- ④ Encourage farmers to keep records.
- ⑤ Encourage the purchase of good rams and the exchange of good rams.

Beef

Situation

Although Itasca County is not noted as a beef-producing area, there has been considerable interest in the enterprise in the past few years. The 1954 Census shows that 5 percent of the farmers had beef cattle and no dairy cows. Between 1949 and 1954 the number of cattle sold increased 2 percent.

Problem

There is a need for the improvement of the quality of the beef produced.

Recommendations for Extension

Emphasize improved breeding, management, feeding (especially pasture), and marketing.

Poultry

Situation

Only 53 percent of the farmers in 1954 reported having chickens. Of those that had chickens, the average size of flock was 55 head and the average egg production per hen was 189 eggs.

Problem

The poultry industry is of minor importance in the county. The production per hen is low and the size of flock is too low to be economical.

Recommendations for Extension

- ① Provide farmer with more information on the number of chickens necessary for an economical unit; stress the need for increasing the size of most flocks for economical production.
- ② Stress improvement in feeding.
- ③ Emphasize improvement in housing, including information on ventilation and insulation and on caged layers.
- ④ Provide information on and stress the need for better quality of eggs.
- ⑤ Stress better disease prevention and controls.
- ⑥ Help seek and develop better poultry and egg markets.

Swine

Situation

Itasca County is not in the real pork-production area but some interest has been built up in recent years in raising pigs to sell as feeders. Northern Minnesota is relatively free of swine diseases and can produce good-quality feeder pigs.

Problem

The major problem of swine production in the county is that not enough people have the information necessary to raise good-quality feeder pigs.

Recommendations for Extension

- ① Provide more information on the number of feeder pigs to make an economic-sized unit.
- ② Stress housing information, improved management principles, and proper feeding practices.
- ③ Point out the need for an organized marketing system.

CROPS

Situation

The average farm in Itasca County has very little cropland. In 1954 each farm had 30 acres of harvested cropland. In 1954 average yields in Itasca County were 10 percent less than the Minnesota average.

Seventy-six percent of the cropland in the county was in hay in 1954, making it the most popular crop. The yield per acre during a 10-year period was 1.4 tons per acre, slightly lower than the Minnesota average of 1.6 tons. However, the average yield of the hay crop if made into silage (5.2 tons) is better in Itasca County than it is on the average Minnesota farm (4.9 tons).

Oats is next in importance in the county. The average farm raised 13 acres. The average yield for a 10-year period was 36 bushels per acre, slightly less than the Minnesota average of 38 bushels.

Potatoes are raised on most farms, averaging one acre per farm in 1954. The average yield was 124 bushels per acre in 1954.

Several other crops of minor importance are grown in the county. There is some corn, mostly used for silage. Barley is grown on some farms. The average acreage of barley per farm in 1954 was 5 acres. The average yield of barley for the 10-year period was 24 bushels per acre.

Other crops grown on a very minor scale are flax and wheat.

Problems

The major problems in pasture and crop production in the county are low yields and poor quality.

Recommendations for Extension

- ① Encourage more soil tests and better fertilization programs on the farm.
- ② Secure more information on brush and weed control.
- ③ Promote better use of forages and pastures by practices such as rotation pasture, strip grazing, better haying methods, more use of grass silage, and more use of grain and pea silage.
- ④ Urge more farmers to use recommended varieties.
- ⑤ Stress improved potato production and marketing. Find cause of potatoes cooking black and develop better local markets, better control programs for diseases and insects, and improvements in the quality of potatoes.

- 6 Study legume seed production more intensively.
- 7 Promote the raising of berries and rutabagas as cash crops.

LAND IMPROVEMENT

Situation

Itasca County soils are of a great variety, from the very lightest "jackpine sand" to heavy clay. There is also considerable peat scattered through the county but not many of these peat soils are being brought into cultivation. Of the nonpeat or upland soils, the thin layer of fertile topsoil was formed by the deposit of leaves and pine needles through the centuries, but it is a much shallower topsoil than is found in prairie areas. The prairie-laid soils have a much deeper layer of rich soil, much higher in organic matter than the timber-laid soils. So Itasca County soils (at least the upland soils that are now being farmed) are so "thin" or shallow that they present a soil-improvement problem from the very start.

Problems

- 1 Fertility of newly cleared land is low and needs to be built up.
- 2 Lack of good methods of clearing land that would incorporate cleared bushes and trees into soil. Present clearing methods, through bulldozing or axing, then piling and burning, greatly reduce tilth and fertility. Burning, too, destroys humus and tilth.
- 3 Poor land care continues to destroy productivity of the soil.
- 4 Shortage of potash in a majority of soils, as well as frequent soil acidity.

Recommendations for Extension

- ① Emphasize more efficient land-clearing measures on both new land and previously cleared brush-infested and weed-infested areas. As part of this, arrange demonstrations and take other measures to help introduce a new type of land-clearing machine. This machine, in one trip over the land, pushes over and chews up the brush, trees, and everything else into a beneficial organic mulch, incorporating it in the soil and making a seedbed good enough for seeding pastures.
- ② Urge the Agricultural Experiment Station to do more land-clearing research, both mechanical and chemical.
- ③ Emphasize the need for and promote soil testing.
- ④ Help seek a detailed soil survey of the county.
- ⑤ Increase the emphasis on pasture improvement, use of fertilizers, and use of recommended crop varieties, especially through the increased use of demonstration plots.
- ⑥ Conduct some experimental, educational, and demonstrational programs on ditching and irrigation. These are less important land-improvement projects, but there is some need for them (for example, irrigation on some high-value crops such as berries, vegetables, and potatoes.)
- ⑦ Emphasize the need for good rotations and for the growing of legume crops.

FARM AND OTHER PRIVATE FORESTRY

Situation

The resources of the forest are becoming increasingly important to the economic welfare of the county. Over three-fourths (1,457,700 acres) of the total land area of 1,704,000 acres has been classified as commercial forest land, and more and more second-growth stands are becoming merchantable.

Income from timber products has been climbing steadily during recent years. Rough forest products harvested in the county had an estimated value of $3\frac{1}{2}$ million dollars in 1948, $4\frac{1}{2}$ million in 1955, and, based on industry expansion plans, should reach 7 million in 1960. Cutting the rough products alone provided over 300,000 man-days of work a year to local people. A paper mill and other wood industries in the county provide another 125,000 man-days of work.

Farmers and other small private owners have 503,000 acres of the forest land under their control. The remainder is under state, county, and federal ownership.

Zoning studies disclosed that 68 percent, or 60 acres, of the average farm of 89 acres was classed as timber land. Twenty-three acres was in cropland and six acres in pasture. This makes the farmer an important factor in the forest resource picture and the timber resource important to the farmer. Woods work provides him with an off-season or part-time income with which to supplement his comparatively low cash return in this area.

In addition to the timber value, the forests provide a recreational resource which is increasing in value annually as more people seek out the forest and lake area in which to relax. In the near future, this may well become the chief economic factor in the area.

Problems

The primary problem in this field is to encourage and assist farmers and other small private owners of forest land to apply good forest-management practices to their timber land. The goal is twofold--to increase and sustain their income from these lands and to improve the forest resource picture as a whole.

Analysis of Committee Report

Problems

1. Formulating good forest-management plans.

Recommendations

1. Compile management plans for small woodlands, including land classification, type of timber,

improvement of timber stand, recommendations for cutting, and cruising.

2. Finding markets for timber products.
 3. Planting trees of proper species and with right techniques to give best returns.
 4. Educating public on farm forestry.
 5. Using timber for home purposes.
 6. Encourage 4-H Club members to take forestry projects.
2. Distribute a periodic market sheet, giving location of timber products and current prices. Also give information on products to cut for greatest return.
 3. Assist in making soil surveys for planting proper species, processing orders for planting stock, proper planting techniques, Christmas tree culture and marketing, insect and disease protection programs, and coordination of tree-planting machines.
 4. Use all available information media, including talks at local meetings, news articles, radio broadcasts, tours, fair displays, slides and movies, and demonstrations.
 5. Give wood-preservation demonstrations at sawmill institutes; show species recommended for specific purposes.
 6. Instill conservation awareness by project help in forestry, by conservation talks and classes in school and Boy Scout and other

organizations; by classes at annual Conservation Camp; and by demonstrations and displays at fair.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 7. Expanding present forest industry. | 7. Promote outlets for aspen and other excess species; cooperate with industry groups to encourage new businesses. |
| 8. Working cooperatively with other agencies. | 8. Promote cooperative projects with the State and Federal Forest Service, A. S. C. program, tree farm certification, and Keep Minnesota Green in fire prevention and suppression. |

Extension's Part in This Project

With an Extension Forestry agent assigned to the county, work in the field can be developed on a much more intensive basis than in other counties where such assistance is not available.

Projects suggested by the committee should be incorporated in annual plans of work as priority is indicated by current needs.

RURAL ROAD IMPROVEMENT

Situation and Problems

For nearly 40 years Itasca County farmers have insisted that better rural roads be given first place among the needs of their communities when planning the annual Extension program. With this emphasis on the urgent need for roads that are usable the year around, County Agent Frick was instrumental several years ago in getting the first Constitutional amendment to improve rural roads brought before the public. The agent, local farmers, and the Extension Committee felt that an educational campaign

to explain the amendment was a definite part of the Agricultural Extension program. The amendment provides that nearly a third of the revenue from automobile licenses be diverted from the trunk highways to the rural roads. This measure, called Amendment Number 2, recently became law.

The Rural Road Improvement Committee of Itasca County felt that the next step was to set up a Rural Roads Advisory Council which would work with the Board of County Commissioners and the County Highway Engineer in making decisions.

County Agent Frick has continued and will continue to meet with the County Board and the County Highway Engineer, both in county-wide sessions and in community road-improvement meetings. The Rural Roads Advisory Council also will probably become more active, helping plan where permanent road improvements are most needed.

Road improvement is still badly needed for farm development, for more efficient farm-forestry and timber marketing, for our far-flung schoolbus system, and for continued expansion of our tourist and resort industry.

Recommendation for Extension

Continue to emphasize the rural road improvement program as a very important part of the county Extension program.

SAFETY AND FIRE PREVENTION

This committee found that safety and fire prevention are both community and individual problems. Unfortunately, the predominant factor common to both areas is carelessness. Only by making individuals aware of the effects of their own carelessness can safety and fire prevention efforts be successful.

Situation

Carelessness is causing too many injuries and/or deaths. Some of this is due to the fact that potential fires or safety

hazards are common in too many homes and public places. Increased mechanization of agriculture has also created additional hazards.

As more time becomes available for recreation and more people seek relaxation in the out-of-doors, water safety and awareness of fire hazards in the woods have become increasingly important.

Problems

- ① Lack of public awareness of potential hazards of fire, water, machinery, livestock, and traffic and in the home.
- ② Inadequate swimming and water safety instruction.
- ③ Frequent fire and safety hazards in the home.
- ④ Dangers of modern machinery operators.
- ⑤ High toll of highway accidents.

Recommendations for Extension

- ① Organize and maintain an active county-wide safety council.
- ② Use safety and fire prevention movies, slides, and other visual aids at local meetings and other events.
- ③ Help organize first-aid classes in cooperation with the Red Cross.
- ④ Concentrate on safety and fire prevention in 4-H project meetings.
- ⑤ Promote 4-H Club visits or forest-fire control depots.
- ⑥ Work with radio and press to increase public awareness of potential safety hazards and fire prevention.

- 7 Assist in home planning of what to do in case of fire.
- 8 Emphasize importance of continuation of growth of woods for flood control and timber production.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, YOUTH, AND RECREATION

When exploring areas to consider in formulating a long-range plan of work for Itasca County, several topics were repeatedly mentioned. The planning committee didn't feel that any one warranted a full investigation committee. Accordingly, several related topics were grouped together under one committee for consideration.

Community Development

Situation

County people hesitate to promote improvements centered in one area.

The economic condition is changing, owing to the decrease in agriculture. At the same time the supply of available manpower is increasing.

Problems

- 1 Utilizing available manpower for greatest effectiveness.
- 2 Finding replacements for declining agriculture.
- 3 Centering and coordinating social and recreational functions.
- 4 Promoting a feeling of unity among communities of the county.

Recommendations for Extension

- 1 Help promote a centralized, voluntary coordination of manpower labor, supply, and demand.

- ② Promote alternate opportunities in agriculture, such as in poultry, small fruits, and sheep.
- ③ Encourage closer cooperation between organizations when scheduling events.
- ④ Work with other groups in a campaign for unity among communities.

Youth

Situation

The number of teenage youth is increasing. There are greater demands for education. These young people are also maturing faster, and mechanization is providing them with more leisure time.

Problems

- ① Employing more young people during out-of-school hours.
- ② Learning to accept young ideas.
- ③ Channelling youth into suitable fields of higher education.
- ④ Providing activities for leisure time.

Recommendations for Extension

- ① Help promote recreational programs.
- ② Encourage youth to seek expert guidance in selecting their educational fields.
- ③ Encourage utilization of teenage productive labor capacity.

Recreation

Situation

There is an increasing demand for more recreational facilities. Minor sports and individual recreation possibilities need encouragement, and close cooperation is essential between those participating in recreation activities and the public. It would be helpful if experienced adults would share their experience with younger adults and teenagers.

Problems

- ① Getting more participation in minor sports and individual participation in recreational activities.
- ② Encouraging individuals to share their knowledge and abilities with others.
- ③ Obtaining support of the public for recreational programs.
- ④ Utilizing existing recreational facilities and providing more facilities.

Recommendations for Extension

- ① Promote organized recreational training sessions, using experienced local people.
- ② Help encourage public support of recreational events, especially nonschool events.
- ③ Help encourage participation in minor sports, such as golf, tennis, swimming, and archery.
- ④ Promote coordinated use of existing recreational facilities.
- ⑤ Help publicize existing facilities, especially in the case of minor sports.

SUPPLEMENTAL INCOME

Situation

It is becoming increasingly important for the small farmer to have a supplemental income, because conditions in agriculture have changed during the past decade and the annual small-farm income is comparatively low in Itasca County (\$1,200).

Although beset with many problems which farmers in other parts of the state do not have, the nature of Itasca County is such that rural residents do have opportunities for additional income not enjoyed by those in a strictly farming area. Woods work and the sale of timber products are the most important sources of additional income, but there are a number of other possibilities or activities to which local people can turn to augment their incomes.

Problems

One of the needs is to make people aware of the possibilities available to them because of the nature and resources of the county. The next step is to provide assistance and information in developing the field of endeavor most suited to their conditions.

The following activities were suggested by the committee as possible sources of supplemental income in the county.

Area

Recommendations

- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| 1. Maple syrup. | 1. Developing existing but unused maple stands, possibly as a family project. |
| 2. Resorts. | 2. Construct one or several cabins for rental during summer and hunting season, if location is right. Some financial assistance is often needed. |

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| 3. Wild rice. | 3. Consider as a source of income for a short time during good years. Some small processing facilities are a possibility. |
| 4. Greenhouse and berry plants. | 4. Develop either as a sideline or a major income source. |
| 5. Truck gardening. | 5. Consider developing farmers' markets, roadside stands, and freezer plants. The demand for fresh vegetables is good in resorts and by summer residents and local stores. |
| 6. Souvenirs and handicrafts. | 6. Consider as a good possibility in popular tourist areas. |
| 7. Christmas greens and wreaths. | 7. Develop markets; this might provide a seasonal income, because there is a wealth of evergreens available. |
| 8. Rustic furniture. | 8. Investigate possibilities of production of this and other related wood products. Resorts, summer-home residents, and town dwellers with outdoor patios would be possible markets. |

Recommendations for Extension

Extension agents could assist residents in developing the above types of projects by providing bulletins, information, and other "know how" material in getting started. Assistance in developing market outlets would also be important. Meetings, demonstrations, and helping to establish cooperative efforts could be possible methods of assistance.

THE FAMILY

Each family depends upon wise use of its income in seeking desired goals; others desire more income. The committee assigned the task of considering problems withing the Family Area singled out several important phases they thought could be improved with the assistance of the Extension Service.

The major problem areas selected, with a review of situations, problems, and recommendations for them, included the following:

Home Management and Housing, Including Family Finance

Situation

Approximately 91 percent of the total population has electricity in their homes, possibly because of the REA moving into the area.

It was noted that less than 50 percent had running water or sewage disposal in their homes.

Surveys showed that quite a number of families were doing extensive remodeling or building, especially in kitchens. Many new problems have arisen on the selection and care of the new wallpapers and materials.

In building or in remodeling, help was needed in planning for the needs of the family, including the landscaping of the home.

Itasca County, with a net annual income of \$1,200 per family, has many financial problems, especially in budgeting a small income.

Goal

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

Analysis of Committee Report

Problems

1. Small percentage of families that have running water and sewage disposal.
2. Lack of knowledge in selecting new floor and wall materials for homes.
3. Inadequate information on planning, especially in kitchen.
4. Poorly landscaped homes.
5. Little attention and time given to preparation of family budgets and keeping accounts. Children lack knowledge of budgeting allowances.

Recommendations

1. Assist in evaluating present home dwellings and in developing a long-time plan for home improvement involving running water and sewage disposal.
2. Make information available on type, selection, advantages, and disadvantages of materials, including upkeep and care.
3. Assist homemakers in evaluating present situation and possible future needs, emphasizing family living.
4. Provide low-cost plans to improve lawns. Also, inform homemakers on types of native shrubs and trees which can be planted at a very low cost.
5. Provide educational instruction in preparing detailed family accounts and provide opportunities for comparisons as a basis for improvement.

Family Living

Situation

Leaders of youth groups lack information on how to cope with problems, especially in the teenage group.

The committee considered that nonvoters did not realize the importance of voting. A relatively low percentage voted during elections; approximately 38 percent voted in the 1956 primary election and approximately 85 percent in the 1956 general election.

Goal

A more satisfactory life for all families in the county.

Analysis of Committee Report

Problems

1. Lack of understanding in working with children and youth.
2. Lack of knowledge of first aid.
3. Little knowledge of responsibilities of citizens.
4. Insufficient recreation facilities for all ages.

Recommendations

1. Provide information on development of children and needs according to ages.
2. Urge participation in first aid.
3. Acquaint families with information regarding citizenship responsibilities.
4. Encourage families to develop recreational programs within their own groups. Include some training in the fields of recreation.

Nutrition

Situation

Diets of Itasca County families are generally good, but possibly are deficient in green and yellow vegetables, calcium, and iron. With a large percentage of the families owning freezers, freezing home-grown vegetables should be considered.

Goal

Well-balanced diets for all members of the family.

Analysis of Committee Report

Problem

1. Inadequate diets, owing to lack of information regarding meal planning.

Recommendation

1. Provide information on family nutritional requirements. Plan meals that use freezer facilities.

Clothing

Situation

Low income and high clothing costs increase the need for home sewing. Information on the care and repair of clothes is important. According to a 1956 study of North-eastern Minnesota Farm Management farms, families spent approximately \$198 a year for clothing, or 8 percent of their income.

Goal

To make best use of the clothing dollar and to gain clothing-construction skills.

Analysis of Committee Report

Problems

1. Lack of information on care and repair

Recommendations

1. Provide information on darning and various

of clothes for longer service.

types of patches.

2. Insufficient information and skill on home sewing.

2. Work with interested groups on choosing proper styles and obtaining proper fit, and on actual sewing techniques which can be carried on to other projects in the clothing-construction areas.

Committees

LIVESTOCK

William Lane, Grand Rapids
*Gilbert Lessard, Grand Rapids Cochairmen
Paul Patton, Bovey
William Anwiler, Deer River
Al Tanberg, Bovey
George Dimich, Bovey
Mrs. William Tahtinen, Bovey
Ben Dysart, Deer River
Rasmus Villebro, Hill City
John Norgord, Bovey
Herman Thran, Grand Rapids
Jarvis Sejnoha, Nashwauk
Mrs. Prentice Robinson, Bovey
Charles Hamman, Cohasset
Gene Prather, Effie
Walter Brink, Cohasset
Norbert Harms, Grand Rapids

CROPS

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Clifford Harms, Grand Rapids
Nils Grimsbo, Grand Rapids
Robert Frick, Cohasset
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Charles Carlson, Cohasset
Frank Jirik, Jr., Wirt
Richard Anderson, Bigfork
Walt Erickson, Grand Rapids

LAND IMPROVEMENT

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Herbert Beers, Grand Rapids
Milton Blum, Deer River

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George Brown, Warba
Prentice Robinson, Bovey

FORESTRY

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*Melvin Rosholt, Warba
Richard Anderson, Bigfork
Henry Hegdahl, Grand Rapids
Harry Hanson, Northome

Cochairmen

RURAL ROADS

*Hans Enebek, Grand Rapids
Arthur Frick, Grand Rapids
Bruce St. Louis, Northome
Arthur Carver, Wirt
Louis Krueger, Grattan
Casper Melby, Bovey
Frank Prebeck, Goodland
Ralph Lind, Hibbing
Arthur Rajala, Bigfork
Eino Kallio, Squaw Lake
Eino Leino, Squaw Lake
Miles Nelson, Togo
Tony Olinger, Wirt
Robert Frick, Sugar Lake
William Heinrich, Cohasset
Ray O'Brien, Cohasset
Ray Kupcho, Moose Park
Bernard Ahlm, Warba
Joseph Hall, Warba
Carl Okerman, Spring Lake
Hugh Reiger, Northome
Maurice Wineberger, Nashwauk
John Nesseth, Grand Rapids
Clarence Allen, Bovey
William Swanson, Max

Cochairmen

SAFETY AND FIRE PREVENTION

B. C. Ahlm, Warba
*R. J. Whaling, Grand Rapids
Arthur Foster, Cohasset
Guy G. Baker, Grand Rapids
John Sandstrom, Grand Rapids

Cochairmen

Mrs. Webb Newhall, Hill City
Mrs. C. V. Swan, Grand Rapids
Mrs. A. J. Regelin, Bovey
Mrs. Tony Probst, Grand Rapids
Mrs. David Jones, Grand Rapids

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, YOUTH,
AND RECREATION

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*William Meade, Taconite Cochairmen
Mrs. Walter Brin, Cohasset
Bernard Ahlm, Warba
Jack Freeman, Grand Rapids
V. C. Philips, Grand Rapids
Axel Korsmoe, Grand Rapids
Mrs. V. K. Page, Grand Rapids

FAMILY AND FARMSTEAD DEVELOPMENT

*Mrs. J. W. Dysart, Deer River Cochairmen
Mrs. Lee Hendricks, Bovey
Mrs. Milton Drotts, Deer River
Mrs. Webb Newhall, Hill City

SUPPLEMENTARY INCOME POSSIBILITIES

*Marie Mostoller, Deer River Cochairmen
Ivan Mostoller, Deer River
Mrs. Hester Doms, Deer River
Ray Gravelle, Marcell
Harold Bourquin, Deer River
Mrs. Albert Kekkonen, Grand Rapids
Mrs. Willard Peterson, Grand Rapids
Joseph Hall, Warba
Mrs. William Fear, Grand Rapids

* Member, Itasca County Extension Committee