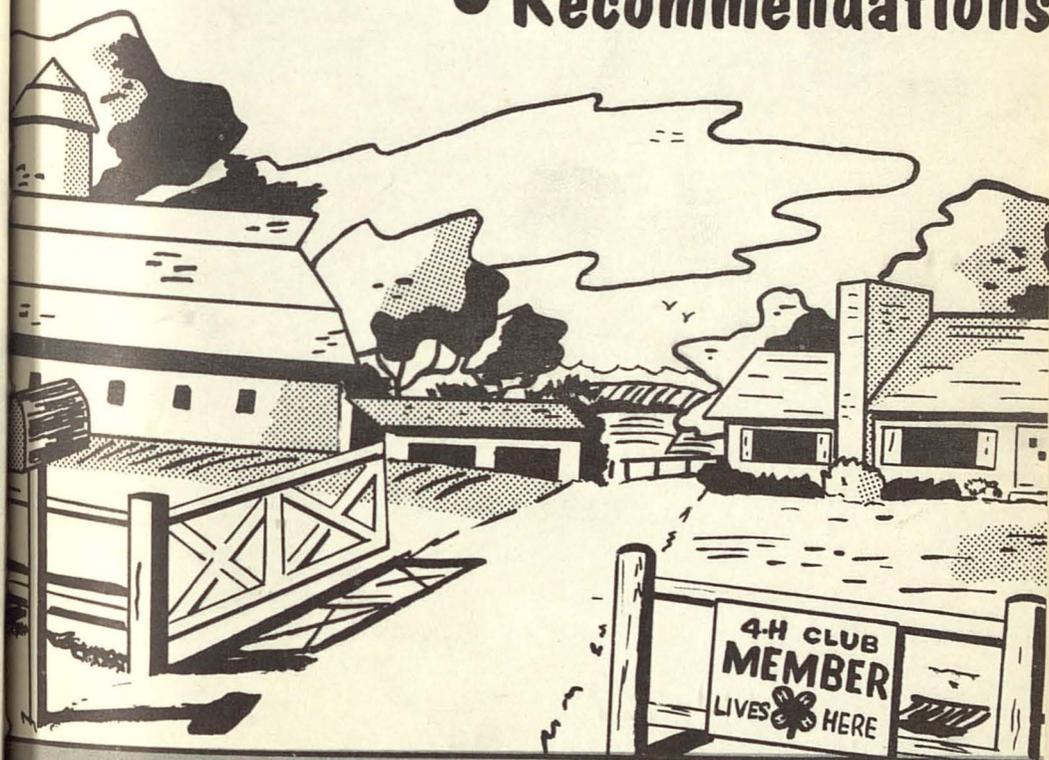


Looking Ahead in **Extension Work** *in* **Kandiyohi County**

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



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

To Families of Kandiyohi County:

About a year ago the Extension Committee and the Extension Agents decided to take a closer look at the farm and home situation and the changes taking place in the county, and to develop a longer-time program than has been done in the past.

Eight committees of county men and women were appointed to study different phases of rural life. They were to make recommendations for the Extension program for the next few years.

The list of committees and members appears in the final page of this report. Information for the committees was obtained from past reports of Extension work in Kandiyohi County, the U. S. Farm Census, State Crop and Livestock Reporting Service, farm and home management records, county organizations, and individuals, as well as from the knowledge and experience of the committee members.

We hope you will find this report meaningful and interesting. It will be used as a guide in planning future Extension programs. We also wish to thank committee members for their diligent work.

Sincerely,

Your County Extension Committee

Franklin Clough

Mrs. Kermit Nelson

Russell Krueger

J. J. Quinn

Carl Sandberg

Mrs. Archie Bjornberg

Alvin Hoogveen

Walter Hultgren

William Whitcomb

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 its territories. These agents -- agricultural, home, and 4-H Club -- 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 available resources 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 to 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 Kandiyohi County in 1913. This county was among the first in Minnesota to have a county agricultural agent to direct the County Agricultural Extension Service. The first county agricultural agent was Richard Poe, who was employed September 1, 1913. Kandiyohi County has had only three county agricultural agents. The second was E. L. Rodegeb, and the third is the present agent, Ronald R. McCamus, who was first employed as an emergency agent in 1933 and later as county agricultural agent.

The first home agent, Mrs. Rosella Qualey, was employed in 1946 and the first full-time 4-H Club agent, Marion Larson Beving, started work in 1944.

In the early days of Extension work the county agricultural agent, the only agent employed at that time, was responsible for the entire Extension program, with limited assistance from the state Extension staff from the College of Agriculture. The home project work and 4-H Club work expanded rapidly after the employment of a full-time 4-H Club agent and a home demonstration agent; at the same time the county agricultural agent was allowed to concentrate on the agricultural program, still supervising the total Extension program in the county. Cooperative Extension work in Kandiyohi County carries on educational programs for farmers, homemakers, and youth. All agents share in this three-fold program.

The present county Extension staff consists of:

| | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------|
| County Agricultural Agent | Ronald R. McCamus |
| Assistant County Agricultural Agent | Robert C. Anderson |
| Home Agent | Mrs. Jeanette C. Bogue |
| 4-H Club Agent | Marian Dryden |
| Secretary | Carol Dahlke |

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.



A visitor, North Korean 4-H Agent Byung Chun Lee, observes as Kandiyohi County's Extension Committee determines the year's budget on May 9, 1957. From left to right: District Supervisor Rosella Qualey; Jeanette Bogue; Marian Dryden; Mrs. Archie Bjornberg; Ronald McCamus; Robert C. Anderson; Lee; Franklin Clough; District Supervisor A. B. Hagen; Russell Krueger; Carl Sandberg; Alvin Hoogeveen; William Whitcomb; and Walter Hultgren. Missing from this picture are Mrs. Kermit Nelson and Irwin Hanson, who was succeeded in 1958 by J. J. Quinn.

Present Organization

Extension work in Kandiyohi 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 Kandiyohi 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 provides 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 . . .



ORGANIZED GROUPS and INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS

in

THREE BROAD EDUCATIONAL AND
SERVICE AREAS



FARM
BUSINESS



COMMUNITY
AFFAIRS



THE FAMILY

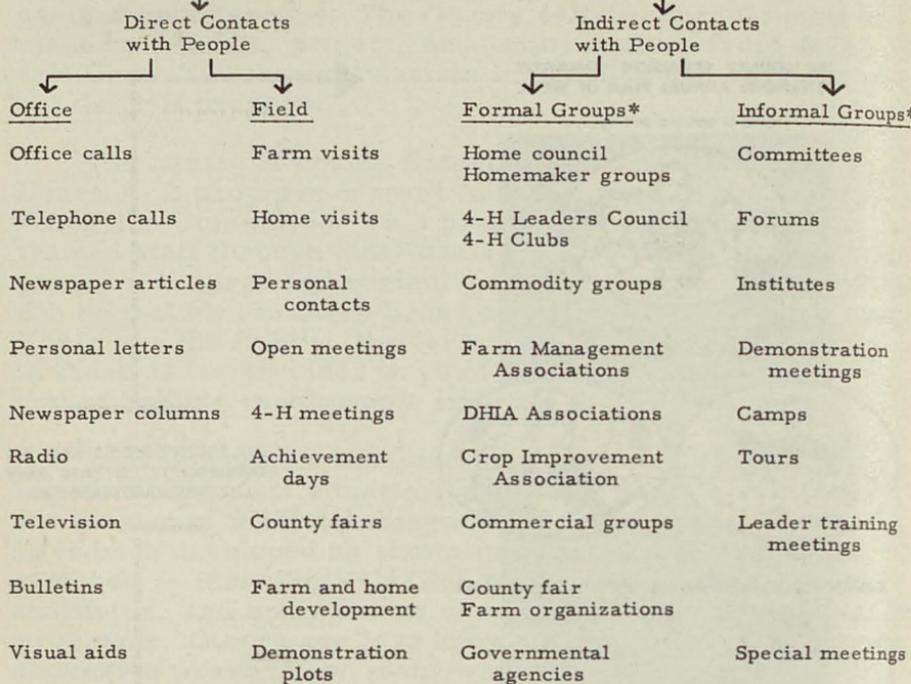
with the final goal of . . .

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

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

County Extension Staff

Teaching Methods



Farm and Home Situation

Kandiyohi County is located in west central Minnesota, about 90 miles straight west of the Twin Cities. The name is an Indian word meaning "buffalo fish - arrive in." It's not clear if it means the buffalo fish have arrived, or if the traveler is arriving in a land of buffalo fish or buffalo and fish. Kandiyohi in the Indian language must have meant a land of food, because the county is a large producer of food. About 68 percent of the farm income comes from livestock and livestock products and 31 percent from the sale of cash crops. The county consists of 24 townships, comprising an area of about 864 square miles or about 554,967 acres. However, about 58,000 acres of this are in lakes.

Kandiyohi County was organized in 1858, and with the state of Minnesota is celebrating its one hundredth birthday this year. Early settlements were along the streams and lakes for transportation and water. The main crops were wheat and feed grains for local consumption. No cash market for these crops was available except to local people. Furs and ginseng root were the commodities that could be sold for cash and shipped out of the county.

The original Kandiyohi County consisted of 12 of the southern townships; the other half of the present county was organized as Monongalia County at about the same time. The government survey was extended west to include the eastern portions of both counties in 1856. The first settler reported in what is now Kandiyohi County was E. T. Woodcock, who took a claim in section 4 of Green Lake Township in 1857. The county seat of the first Kandiyohi County was in Kandiyohi, the site of which was surveyed and platted in 1857. It is interesting to note that Kandiyohi Township once included a place for the capital of Minnesota.

The Indian uprising in 1861 depopulated the county as the settlers fled eastward to the larger settlements for protection. A number of the early settlers were killed by the Indians during this brief uprising. In 1862-1866, Mark

Pipes, Register of Deeds for Kandiyohi County, moved all county records to Forest City for safety.

In 1870 the State Legislature combined Monongalia County and Kandiyohi County to comprise the present county. The Federal Census of that year reports the population of Kandiyohi County as 1,760. With the coming of the railroad in 1870, the county population expanded rapidly during the next 10 years. By an act of the legislature in 1871, the county seat was changed from Kandiyohi to Willmar; this change precipitated a county fight. It was confirmed, however, by the district court in 1872.

POPULATION

Since the early days there has been a steady growth in population. In 1858 the population was wholly rural. Census figures indicate this growth.

| | |
|------|--------|
| 1880 | 10,129 |
| 1890 | 13,997 |
| 1900 | 18,416 |
| 1950 | 28,644 |

The present population is now about 38 percent rural and 62 percent urban. This gradual growth of urban population has been made up largely of farm boys and girls who had to find employment off the farm. As farming became more mechanized, less labor was needed on the farm, and the percentage increased of rural boys and girls who moved to the towns and cities to find employment and careers. Today less than half the farm boys and girls will remain on the farms.

TRANSPORTATION

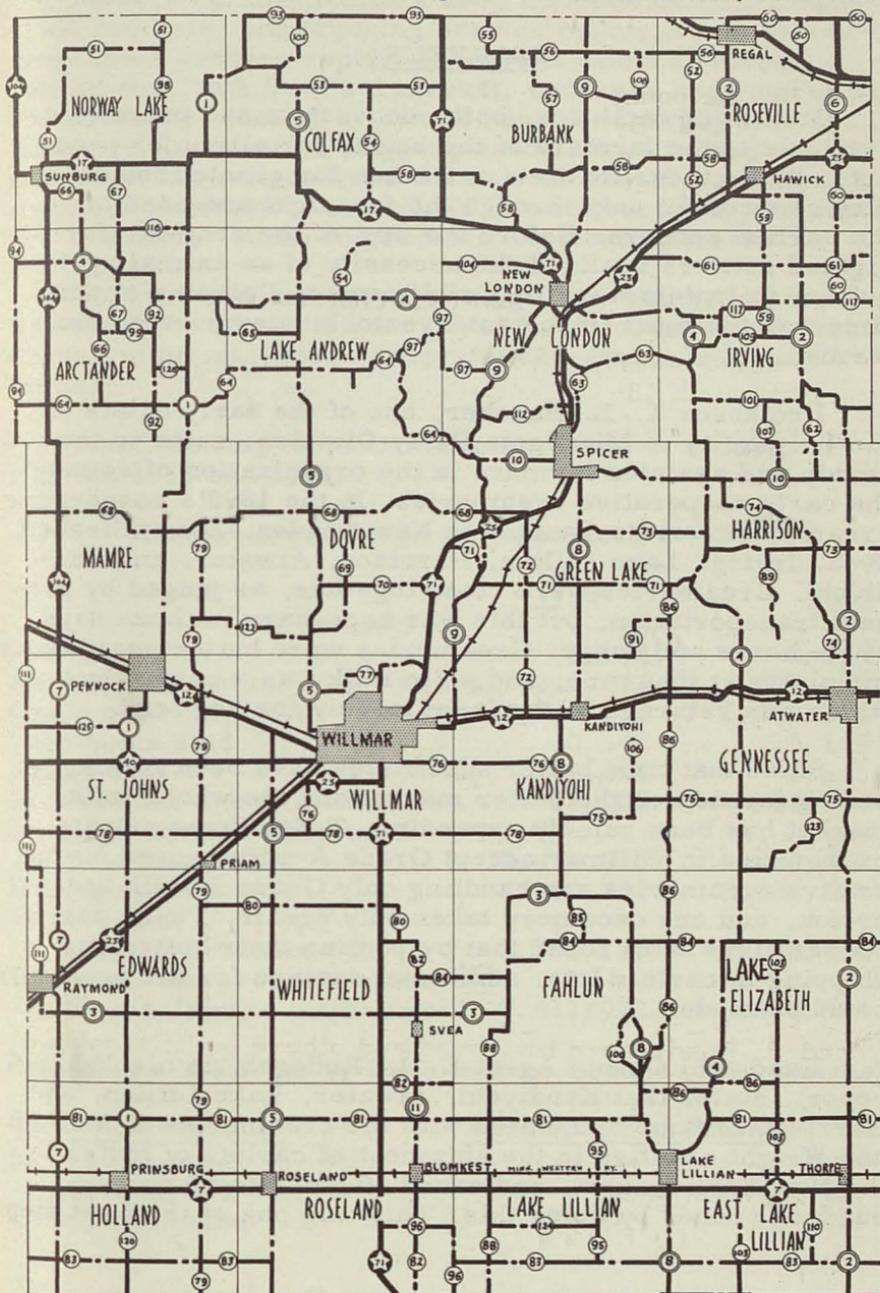
As the population grew the facilities of the county expanded. Roads were improved and others built; today we have access to all parts of the county by a system of fine county and state roads.

The Great Northern Railroad and its branches furnish the main railroad service in the county; the Minnesota Western, a short railorad from Minneapolis, crosses the county along the southern boundary.

KANDIYOHI COUNTY HIGHWAY MAP

LEGEND

Trunk Highways State and County Aid Roads



Kandiyohi has 16 cities and villages. Willmar, the county seat, is the largest with a population of about 10,000, and is the division point on the Great Northern Railroad system.

MARKETS

Marketing facilities, both cooperative and private, are available to the farmers of the county for all major products. While these markets are taken for granted today, they came about only through the foresight and need of the earlier settlers. Before the turn of the century, far-sighted settlers realized the necessity of an animal agriculture to maintain fertility and income. Dairying at that time was the most important livestock enterprise on most farms.

Professor T. L. Haecker, one of the early chiefs of the University of Minnesota Dairy Division, came to the county and assisted farmers in the organization of some of the early cooperative creameries. In the 1890's cooperative creameries were organized in New London, Lake Elizabeth, Svea, Irving, Lake Lillian, Harrison, Atwater, and Kandiyohi. Creameries were close together, as judged by present transportation, but this was necessary in those days of the horse and buggy. Creameries were butter-manufacturing plants at that time, and skim milk was a by-product which was returned to the farm largely for hog feed.

Since that time butter substitutes have been making strong inroads on the butter market and the whole-milk market has been rapidly expanding. Today three private creameries in Willmar accept Grade A milk, seven cooperative creameries are handling only Grade B milk and cream, and one creamery takes only cream. These early cooperatives later found that by pooling their butter and shipping in carload lots, additional savings for the producers could be made.

Kandiyohi County Agent E. L. Rodegeb, in his 1921 report, states that Kandiyohi, Atwater, Lake Lillian, and Harrison creameries united with the creameries of Meeker and Wright counties in the shipment of carlots of butter to the New York market, and saved 40 cents to 50 cents a hundred pounds by doing this. This was one of the first steps

that later resulted in the organization of the Land O' Lakes Creameries, the cooperative marketing association which last year did a yearly business of about \$179,509,000.

Modern communications keep farmers informed daily of all markets, and trucking service makes it possible to move their produce rapidly to market. Most livestock is sold on the South St. Paul market, but some hogs and calves are purchased locally by the Armour purchasing yard at Willmar. Cooperative shipping associations, many organized when the railroad was the only means of transporting livestock to market and carload lots reduced shipping costs, are now using trucks to get their livestock to market.

Both private and cooperative poultry marketing facilities are to be found in most towns in the county, and grain crops can be marketed at elevators located in railroad towns.

The following table shows the breakdown of farm income in 1950 and 1954.

Income from Crops and Livestock - 1954

| | <u>1950</u> | <u>1954</u> |
|--|--------------|--------------|
| Farms | 2,632 | 2,540 |
| All products sold | \$12,211,233 | \$17,568,400 |
| Crops sold | 4,745,239 | 5,608,268 |
| Vegetables sold | 10,341 | 15,119 |
| Fruits sold | 7,664 | 2,843 |
| Horticulture specialties sold | 68,200 | 87,500 |
| All livestock and livestock products sold | 12,456,913 | 11,950,072 |
| Dairy products sold | 2,382,754 | 2,638,261 |
| Poultry and poultry products sold | 2,562,187 | 3,613,948 |
| Livestock and products other than dairy and poultry sold | 7,511,972 | 5,697,863 |

Percentage of Farms by Cash Income Groups (1954 Census)

| <u>Cash Farm Income</u> | <u>Percentage of Farms</u> |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| \$5,000 or more | 56 |
| 2,500 to 4,999 | 28 |
| 2,499 and below | 16 |

Off-farm employment is important in Kandiyohi County. Thirty-eight percent of the farms report that some member of the family is working off the farm. This exceeds 100 days or more on 28 percent; on 7 percent of the farms off-farm income exceeds cash farm income.

Agriculture is experiencing some very revolutionary changes. Farms are gradually growing larger to use machinery and labor more efficiently. This is also true of the livestock enterprises on the farm. The trend toward specialization in one or two kinds of livestock enterprises on the farms is significant. Dairy herds are getting larger. In 1955 31 percent of the dairy herds in Kandiyohi County had 1 to 9 dairy cows. One year later this had dropped to 28.8 percent. During the same period dairy herds of 20 to 29 cows had increased 2 percent. Poultry flocks are also increasing in size and the small farm flock is fast disappearing. Kandiyohi County is an important turkey-producing county and a relatively few farms specialize in them. Other trends and changes could be mentioned but many of these are given later under the committee reports.

SOILS AND SOIL CONSERVATION

The soil is generally very productive, responding well to good management and fertilization. (See soils map under Crops and Soils committee report.) Drainage is a problem on many farms in the southern part of the county. The northeastern part of the county has the problems of water erosion in the more rolling areas and wind erosion in the higher soils.

The elevation on the average is about 1,100 feet above sea level, ranging from 1,215 feet at New London to 1,039 feet south of the county line at Bird Island.

The average precipitation per year is 24.34 inches, with 12.51 inches from April 1 to August 1, the main growing season.

In 1954 the Kandiyohi County Soil Conservation District was organized to help farmers in developing conservation plans on their farms to control erosion. Assistance by the Soil Conservation Planners is also given to farmers on their drainage problems. Most of the drainage problems are in the southern part of the county in Crow River, Hawk

Creek, and Shakopee Creek watersheds, where flooding damage is severe during some years.

In the early 1940's a group organized to obtain assistance from the U. S. Army Engineers on a flood-control project to deepen and widen the south fork of the Crow River. Because of opposition from people interested in wild-life conservation, this project has not been advanced further.

In 1954 the Shakopee Creek pilot watershed under the Anderson-Hope Bill was established by the Soil Conservation Service. The upper part of this watershed is in Kandiyohi County, the balance in Chippewa and Swift counties. Farmers in these watersheds cooperate with the Federal government in this project by developing plans on their farms to conserve water and retard run-off during periods of heavy rainfall. The Federal government assists with the costs of building of structures and other necessary improvements planned in the watershed control. In the fall of 1957, \$485,435 of federal funds were allotted to the watershed projects, and in Kandiyohi County 93 farmers are cooperating by developing plans on their farms to aid in water control.

Another pilot watershed is being planned on Hawk Creek in the southwestern part of the county. A survey of this watershed shows 50 percent of the cropland is now being devoted to row crops, 42 percent to grain, and only 8 percent to legumes. Under a watershed plan, readjustment of farming practices will undoubtedly be required by the farmers in this area if the rapid run-off is to be avoided. Estimated costs of the project are \$93,502.

COMMUNITY FACILITIES

Sixteen different religious denominations serve the religious needs of the county. Strong religious convictions are characteristic of the typical family. The Lutheran faith is predominant.

There are four high schools in the county. Consolidation of school districts has made possible better school facilities and instruction to most communities. The independent small country school is disappearing.

Hospitals in Willmar offer medical care in the county and 22 doctors serve the people.

Kandiyohi County has five newspapers and one radio station, KWLM. According to the 1954 Census, 96 percent of the farms have electricity, 65 percent have telephones, and 58 percent have running water in the homes.

Kandiyohi County, which is often referred to as the gateway to the Minnesota lake region, has numerous lakes, streams, and parks that offer recreation to the people of the county.

The county is celebrating its centennial in 1958. This publication gives a bit of the past agricultural history and points to its future.

That future should be assured. An increasing population demands more food each day. The rich soils of Kandiyohi County can really produce food. This report is intended to show the facts that can assure a good living to the food producers and their families.



The Church is a strong institution in Kandiyohi County. Shown is St. John's Lutheran Church, located in the Pennock area.

Committee Reports --

GENERAL STATEMENT

Eight major work problem areas were selected by the over-all planning committee. Each area was then studied by subcommittees who were assigned specific phases. The various problem areas studied and the recommendations suggested by these committees are summarized in this section.

It is the responsibility of the County Extension Committee to determine the yearly plan of work, but how to carry it out depends largely on the decisions of the county Extension agents. These committee reports each year will be reviewed by the County Extension Committee with the Extension agents, and the recommendations followed in planning the yearly program.

FAMILY LIVING

Situation

The level of living for Kandiyohi County is above the Minnesota and the United States average, but has not made rapid progress recently.

Our comparisons on level of living are based on material published by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics called "Farm Operator Level of Living Indexes." In constructing the Index, the average score for all counties in the United States in 1945 is used as the base, or as 100.

The Index of Living Level was reported as follows:

| | 1945 | 1950 | 1954 |
|------------------|------|------|------|
| Kandiyohi County | 137 | 160 | 168 |
| Minnesota | 129 | 151 | 163 |
| United States | 100 | 122 | 140 |

Items used for the Level of Living Index were electricity, telephones, automobiles, and average value of products sold.

The 1954 Census of Agriculture reports that in Kandiyohi County 65 percent of the farms had telephones, 34 percent had television, 96 percent had electricity, 58 percent had running water, 29 percent had freezers, and 19 percent of the rural farms and 28 percent of the rural non-farms had hot running water with private toilet and bath.

The Housing Census shows that of the 8,631 dwelling units in the county as a whole 20.2 percent were built in 1940 or later. Of the occupied dwelling units 68.1 percent were owner occupied, 41.5 percent had central heating, and 79.9 percent had mechanical refrigerators.

A random sampling by the United States Department of Agriculture and the University of Minnesota of 100 members of homemakers' clubs early in 1957 revealed a higher level of living than for non-home Extension members. Ninety-six percent have automobiles, 87 percent have telephones, 100 percent have electricity, 98 percent have radios, 71 percent have complete bathrooms, 34 percent have clothes dryers, 55 percent have home freezers, 72 percent have pressure cookers, 94 percent have electric irons, 54 percent have electric ranges, 50 percent have gas ranges (slight duplication), 85 percent have vacuum cleaners, 98 percent have washing machines, 100 percent have refrigerators, and 75 percent have television sets.

The survey further showed that most families have access to reading material. Ninety-one percent subscribed to a daily and/or a weekly newspaper; a county bookmobile supplies library books for all areas.

Farm prices are down, clothing costs are up, and the homemaker is doing considerable home sewing. The survey among homemakers shows that 79 percent do home sewing, 70 percent sew dresses for their daughters, 21 percent sew coats for their daughters, and 71 percent sew suits, shirts, and sleeping garments for men or boys. Farm families spend 8 percent of their income for clothing.

There is a need to know how to spend the clothing dollar wisely. Many children and young people feel the need



Typical of the many Kandiyohi County families who are cooperators in home, 4-H, and agricultural projects are the Carl G. Johnsons of Mamre Township.

for different outfits for each day of the week. There is social pressure on some families because of their poorer standard of living.

Twenty-five percent of the income goes for food. The farm family ate better for less than the city family did because of home-produced food. The farm family produced and ate more protein, vitamin, and mineral-rich foods than the city family. Of the 100 homemakers surveyed, 89 percent stated that every member ate at least one green or yellow vegetable daily; 90 percent stated that every member ate a serving of citrus fruit daily; 60 percent of the homemakers drank at least 2 glasses of milk daily; 70 percent of the men drank 2 glasses of milk, with 94 percent

of those drinking 4 or more glasses daily. Percentages of milk consumed by children under 20 years of age is as follows: 50 percent drank 4 or more glasses, 32 percent drank 3 glasses, 15 percent drank 2 glasses, 2 percent drank 1 glass, and 1 percent drank no milk.

Twenty percent of the people 30 years of age or older are overweight. People skip breakfasts, and snack mid-morning on high-calorie food. Overweight among men is increasing.

In purchasing equipment for the home a differentiation should be made between necessities and luxuries. Equipment changes so rapidly that people need to know what to look for before they buy.

The homemakers' survey showed that 95 percent of them painted walls and woodwork, 66 percent did their own wallpapering, 40 percent did reupholstering, 34 percent made slipcovers, 67 percent refinished furniture, and 62 percent made their own draperies.

The need for basic nutrition is being stressed in our Home Extension program, the 4-H program, home economics classes in the high schools, and in newspapers, magazines, radio, and television.

Problems

1. Slow progress recently in raising the level of living, although it is above the Minnesota and United States average.
2. Need for current information on all phases of home-making.
3. No means of communication, such as newspapers, radio, or telephone, had by a few families.
4. Resentment by lower-income families toward accepting help from other sources.
5. Need for information on buymanship of household equipment.

6. Failure to recognize need for good nutrition. For example, many people do not drink enough milk to meet their daily requirements.
7. Poor eating habits of many teenagers, such as snacking on candy bars, potato chips, and cake.
8. Failure to recognize the economy in basic wardrobe planning and clothing construction.
9. Inadequate electrical wiring in comparison to increase in present-day electrical appliances.

Recommendations for Extension

1. Encourage families to utilize fully present resources about the farm and home.
2. Emphasize the basic nutrition program so as to include fresh fruit and vegetables, cereals, protein, and dairy products.
3. Stress the harm in overweight, and encourage replacing empty calories by healthful refreshments.
4. Promote the use of dairy products, urge a countywide milk-pasteurization program, and suggest the possibility of installing milk dispensers in public places.
5. Emphasize the danger of overloading the electrical circuits. (Many of the homes were wired to take care of lights only, instead of all the present electrical appliances.)
6. Provide information about adequate and attractive lighting.
7. Emphasize safe use of electricity and all appliances.
8. Emphasize better selection and care of household equipment.
9. Promote more efficient use of time, energy, and money.

10. Emphasize the need for useful crafts or worthwhile hobbies in order to live a fuller, happier life in later years.
11. Encourage educational experiences for the family, including good books, magazines, concerts, music, radio, television, and vacations.
12. Teach simple first aid home remedies ----what to do until the doctor arrives. Simple home remedies might save a life.
13. Assist in organizing community discussion groups on wills, deeds, and general points of law.
14. Educate families on the cost of installment and credit buying.
15. Attempt to visit families who have no form of communication and no way of hearing about the Extension Service.
16. Encourage home sewing; include approved techniques to attain high standards in completed garments.

Goal

Farms and homes that provide a satisfying life--to families and individuals--within the homes and in the community by good nutrition, money management, better buy-manship, better work methods, convenience and attractiveness, and guidance of the family.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Situation

Kandiyohi is a well-developed community with the advantages that are available in most counties. The people are progressive and interested in developing and improving the community as rapidly as they are able to do so. The committee is not attempting to criticize but rather to point out areas of improvement which they feel are needed.

The life span is increasing. Home nursing care for the aged is available in the county. There are four homes for the aged, three of them with nursing care. Two hundred and fifteen beds are available. One half of those in the homes are from the county. Sixty to 70 percent of the people in the homes for the aged are women (men get married again).

There is a seasonal shortage of space in the homes during cold weather. Neighboring counties are considering building nursing homes.

One out of 10 people in the county is over 65 years of age. It costs \$15,000 a month to support the aged who do not have their own means.

Older people have leisure time; they need companionship. A "Senior Citizens Room" in the city recreation center in Willmar provides educational films, reading material, and a place to meet friends.

Adult evening classes are available through the high schools. Four hundred adults were enrolled in the program in 1956.

There are many lakes in the county (57,867.69 acres are water covered) but many of them are polluted. A summer recreation program provides transportation and supervised swimming instruction for children at Green Lake, Spicer.

A supervised summer recreation program is conducted through the Willmar schools. A teen-age canteen and a recreation center are available to those in the Willmar area. The urban and nonfarm youth need more supervised recreation.

As Willmar is centrally located in the county, it is a shopping area. There is a public rest room, but it is not too conveniently located and it lacks adequate lounges.

In case of an emergency, Willmar is considered one of the Civil Defense strategic points in the state, because it is an important railroad center.

Rural people are becoming more aware of the public affairs issues which affect their welfare. They want help

in acquiring facts and methods of analyzing and appraising facts.

Extension's purpose is not to determine policy, but to better equip the people with information through educational methods, and to analyze issues more clearly on the basis of facts.

Problems

1. Increasing need for homes for our aged.
2. Inadequate leisure-time activities for the aged.
3. Inadequate housing to separate the senile from the mentally ill person.
4. Lack of year-round recreation facilities for all age groups.
5. Lack of centrally located public rest rooms and parking lots in Willmar.
6. Lack of interest in Civil Defense education.
7. Lack of information on facts on public affairs, such as farm policy, surpluses, taxes, price supports, and marketing.
8. Pollution of lakes near Willmar--many water sports are impossible.

Recommendations for Extension

(Note: This committee suggests some recommendations for other than Extension.)

1. Emphasize basic nutrition through all types of communication.
2. Suggest separate housing for the senile from the mentally ill.
3. Provide a file of educational information for leisure-time activity for the aged and for our youth.

4. Encourage school, church, and farm organizations to carry on recreational programs in their communities.
5. Suggest that recreation committees seek help from the National Recreation Association in setting up programs.
6. Publicize the need for being alert to the Civil Defense program.
7. Inform people on current issues. Include Farm Forums in the program.

Goal

A county where all groups and organizations work together for the betterment of all concerned.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Situation

The farmers of our county are in the business of producing and selling agricultural commodities. The nature of our business makes it highly competitive. In view of this fact our farmers need the latest information and techniques in the production sciences. But the farmer of today finds himself in a highly complex and interdependent economy and society. The farmer's market is not the country elevator or local commission man. His real customers are the consumers - in other counties, other states, and other nations. As specialization continues, as farm size and investment increase, as marketing becomes more complex and the impact of public programs more pronounced, information of another kind is also needed.

If the farmer's best interests are to be served he must be an informed participant in these group decisions, in the formulation of these public policies. "Politics" is sometimes considered an unpleasant word. But if our democracy is to be preserved, if we are to have self-government, somebody must attend to it. If we abdicate that right to others we can only blame ourselves if the results are not to our best interests.

Problems

1. The rural community is facing new challenges. The farmer's role is changing and he needs to play an increasing role in local government and community affairs. But he must be informed in order to do the best job possible.
2. Many of our areas will be affected by highway development and resort development. Rural zoning is often needed.
3. Government programs are playing an increasingly important role in the decisions a farmer makes and the income he gets. Marketing, acreage controls, and other regulations are things the farm family needs to know and understand. New developments such as vertical integration need to be understood. The implications for the individual and the community need to be considered.
4. As public programs increase and as our economy and society develop, taxation becomes increasingly important. The general trend has been for these taxes to increase at all levels. We need to develop the best possible tax laws and programs for local, state, and federal revenues.
5. Credit is being used to an increasing degree and constitutes one of the big costs to farmers.
6. Farm income is affected by foreign trade and our trade policies. We must work for broader outlets for the things we produce. However, we cannot forget our more important stake as citizens in considering the trade and foreign policies we advocate. Science has made our world much smaller and we are more and more directly affected by decisions made in other countries and they by the decisions we make.

Recommendations for Extension

The Extension committee and the county staff would plan a long-range program for our county which would include information on:

1. Agricultural policy and programs.
2. Local government.
3. Taxation.
4. Trade policies and programs.
5. Credit costs and needs.
6. Zoning and community development.
7. The functioning of the marketing system and how it affects farm income.

The methods to be followed should include use of forums, leader training and group discussion techniques, and background informational materials.

Goal

To develop a better understanding of public issues among farm people by providing better information on which to base decisions that are in their best interests as businessmen and as citizens.

YOUTH AND EDUCATION

Situation

The youth of Kandiyohi County revolve around four areas: the home, the church, the school, and the community.

On a national basis, this decade has been called an era of juvenile delinquency, just as the 1910's were called an era of prohibition, the 1920's were called an era of bank robberies, the 1930's were the depression era, and the 1940's were the war years.

In Willmar in 1951, the number of reported juvenile cases was 94. The figure steadily increased and by 1955 it was 179. A full-time juvenile officer, Lyle Goeddertz, was employed in 1956 to deal with these cases. Easy access

to the automobile contributes to the increase in juvenile delinquency. Sufficient constructive activities are not available. The fact that most delinquents operate in gangs indicates that they like doing things together.

While we indicate a lack of activities for some youth, we tend to overload others with too many activities in the community, school, and church. There is an increasing demand for the time of our youth. More and more they are drawn away from the home. Family life is not as stable as it used to be, with many mothers working outside of the home.



A radio program is one of many activities to aid 4-H members to develop poise and confidence. Seated, left to right: Helen Zwemke, Silver Comets; San Jurgens, Goldenrod; Sylvia Rue, Oakdale; and Beverly Eliason, Sunny Oaks. Standing: Janet Lundquist, Fahlun Go-Getters; Karen Holmberg, Mamre Merrymakers; and Leon Bredeson, Silver Comets.

Recreational facilities in Kandiyohi County are inadequate. A roller-skating rink is located at Spicer but is operated only during the summer months. Year-round

facilities are available at areas outside the county and serve fringe areas. There is an abundance of lakes for swimming, boating, and fishing. Again, however, these are seasonal. A teen canteen has been operated in the basement of the Willmar auditorium for high-school students. Since the committee has met to study the youth and education situation, several steps have been taken. A community recreational center was established in Willmar for all age groups. Improvements are being made in the roller-skating facilities.

Youth need part-time employment to make use of spare time, to provide some income, and to teach responsibility. Through an occupation course at high schools many youth obtain part-time employment, although there is a need by more boys and girls.

In Kandiyohi County the percentage of boys and girls who attends high school is high. Nearly every year one hundred percent enter the ninth grade. Each following year



4-H member Luvern Tvete, Sunny Oaks Club in Dovre Township, makes use of the Extension-recommended farrowing crate in saving his Hampshire litter.

there is approximately a 2 percent drop-out. Thus, from 92-94 percent of the students who enter the ninth grade will graduate. Drop-out is related to lack of interest and to difficulty with subjects. There is no difference between rural and urban students regarding the drop-out rate.

Some schools offer vocational guidance and counselling. This step is in the right direction but could be expanded. Many of the teachers who act as the counsellors lack special training in this field. Usually there are too many students per counsellor for the plan to be effective.

Records reveal that approximately 35 percent of the Kandiyohi County high school graduates enter college, studying in various fields. This compares to a 30 percent Minnesota average. Many scholarships are available for advanced education, but students are not always directed toward them.

All young men are faced with army draft. They must consider this in making a decision about a career. Note: The committee on Youth and Education studied the problems that occur throughout Kandiyohi County. The recommendations as set up by the committee are directed to agencies other than Extension in some cases. Recommendations for Extension are starred.

THE HOME

Problems

1. Upsurge of juvenile delinquency.
2. Increase in activities that take the family away from home.

Recommendations

- *1. Provide programs for 4-H, YMW, other groups, etc., of constructive activities to use excess energy.
- *2. Promote "family-type" organizations, such as 4-H, in rural and urban homes.

THE CHURCH

Problems

1. Too many conflicting activities between church, school, and community.
2. Lack of release-time religious training in some school curricula.

Recommendations

1. Co-ordinate church, school, and community activities to provide a well-balanced program.
2. Provide religious release time in all school curricula.

THE SCHOOL

Problems

1. Low percentage of high school graduates continuing education.
2. Centering of activities and recreation around the team rather than including the whole student body.
3. Interference of army draft system with a youth's decision on a career.

Recommendations

- *1. Inform students, through a careful guidance program in Extension and work with local schools, of opportunities for college graduates and availability of scholarships.
2. Establish a well-balanced recreation program within the school curricula.
3. Provide counselling for young men to help them plan their careers to include the term in the armed forces.

THE COMMUNITY

Problems

1. Inadequate recreational facilities, especially for the 18- to 23-year age group.
2. Lack of sufficient part- or full-time employment for high school students.

Recommendations

- *1. Provide a year-round recreational program for all age groups.
2. Investigate job opportunities for youth in the county.

Goal

Training and facilities which will assist in the development of a happy, useful group of young citizens.

SAFETY

Situation

The highway and road system in Kandiyohi County is expansive. Even though roads are well-constructed, many hazards still exist. Trees, embankments, and cornfields cause poor visibility at crossroads. Some roads do not have proper markings and alert signs or the signs have been damaged by snowplows or pranksters.

A drivers' training course is offered in some high schools, but is not compulsory. More girls than boys are enrolled, although the course is designed for both. After 30 hours of classroom study on attitude, mechanics, insurance, safety, and driver's manual, students take a test before the driving lessons begin. Each student takes 6 to 8 hours of driving under city and highway traffic conditions; following this the regular state test is required. Records reveal that there are fewer accidents and fatalities among students who have had this training.

Far too many farm accidents occur in Kandiyohi County. Tractor tipping is all too common and the corn picker remains hazardous. However, falls are the number one cause of farm accidents.

A home safety survey that was conducted through a random sample of the county indicated that many conditions exist in the home that could very easily cause falls. Other danger spots are with fire and electricity.

Problems

1. Obstructions at crossroads.
2. Cornfields at corners block drivers' view.
3. Home conditions conducive to falls.



Members of the Bear Lake Bears 4-H Club, Darrell and Dennis Rupp and David Bengtson, erect a welcome road sign with a safety reminder at one main entrance to Kandiyohi County.

4. High farm accident rate.
5. Inadequate training of many car operators.
6. General public unable to act wisely after an accident.
7. Inadequate statistics on safety.

The committee set up these recommendations for the betterment of the county. Agencies other than Extension are involved. Extension recommendations are starred.

Recommendations for Extension

1. Post alert and warning signs at all dangerous crossroads in the county.
- *2. Solicit cooperation of farmers in not planting corn close to corners.
- *3. Point out dangers and expense involved in home accidents.
- *4. Emphasize precautions necessary for safe farm operation.
5. Promote drivers' training course in high schools.
- *6. Encourage participation in the Red Cross First Aid Course.
- *7. Conduct a survey of accidents through the county doctors.

Goal

Securing utmost cooperation in making every Kandiyohi County citizen safety-conscious and therefore alert to preventing accidents which could cause loss of life or limb.

CROPS

Situation

The majority of farms in Kandiyohi County has 100 acres or more of crop land. The size of farms based on acres harvested in 1956 is shown in the following table:

| | |
|------------------------|-------------|
| 200 acres and over | 412 farms |
| 100 acres to 200 acres | 1,210 farms |
| 50 acres to 100 acres | 548 farms |
| 30 acres to 50 acres | 116 farms |
| Under 30 acres | 214 farms |

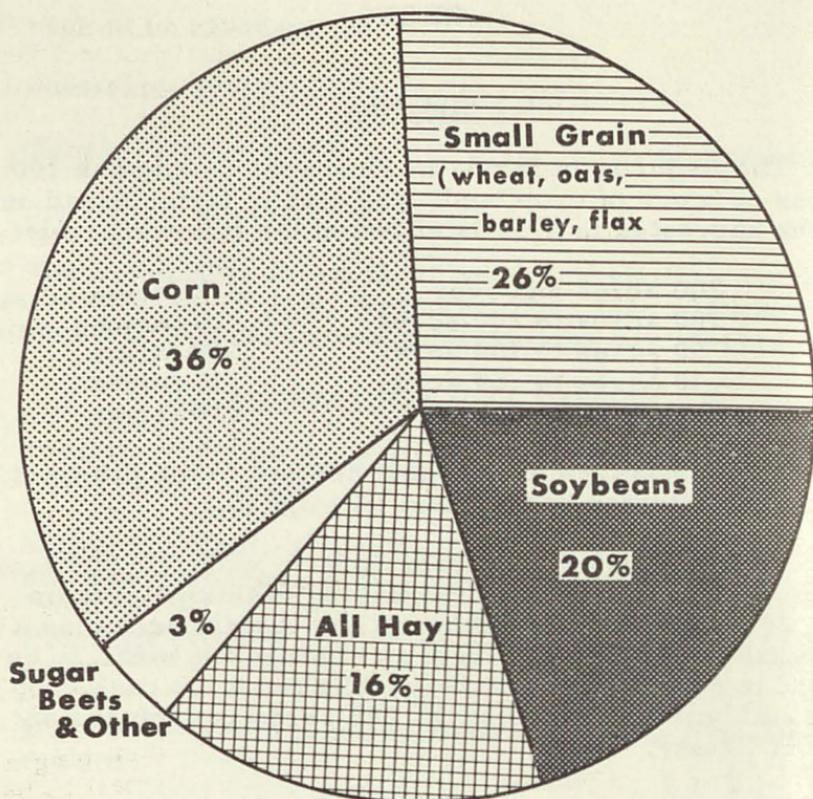
The percentage of cropland devoted to the different crops is indicated in the chart on page 36.

Corn is king in Kandiyohi County, with 120,000 acres of corn planted annually, increasing to this point from 78,920 acres in 1935. Soybeans are rapidly becoming a top cash crop, growing from an acreage too small to be listed to 68,900 acres in 1956. Alfalfa, a top cash crop and soil builder, occupied 35,203 acres in 1956 in Kandiyohi County.

Because of economic values oats, barley, wheat, and flax decreased 52,261 acres in Kandiyohi County from 1945 to 1956. The use of small grain as silage has become an alternative use for these crops in addition to cash sale value. Small grains are still the best companion crop for legume plantings.

Sugar beets, canning crops, and some truck crops are included in the Kandiyohi County cropping program. As new varieties and kinds of crops are developed, county farmers try to evaluate their adaption in this area.

Modern technology, improved varieties, machinery, and methods all have contributed to larger crop yields. One hundred bushel corn or 35 bushel soybeans are now a reality in Kandiyohi County. These same factors are responsible for new areas of concern, such as high capital investments in cropland farming.



| | | |
|-----------------------|---------------|-----|
| Corn | 117,800 acres | 36% |
| Small grain | 82,250 | 26 |
| Wheat | 1,250 | |
| Oats | 70,900 | |
| Barley | 6,500 | |
| Flax | 3,600 | |
| Soybeans | 69,900 | 20 |
| All hay | 52,200 | 16 |
| Sugar beets and other | | 3 |

There is a need for continuing a program of information and educational demonstrations around the alternative choice of a cropping program and its adaptation to the economic

standard of family living. Bitter experience in the past has shown that the adaptation of some new practices such as high corn population, without carrying out supplemental practices such as land fertility, results in heavy losses.

WEEDS

Weeds rob Kandiyohi farmers of thousands of dollars annually. Their control is one of the biggest problems facing local farmers, county commissioners, and town board members. Community action is the key to this problem.

About 950 power sprayers are in use in this county. In 1956 approximately 10,400 acres of corn land and 45,675 acres of small grains were sprayed for weed control. Chemical weed control was applied to only about 28 percent of the land cropped in 1956 in Kandiyohi County. One thousand, nine hundred acres of meadow and brush land were treated. Cultural and cropping programs, along with these chemical controls, appear to have more of a place as they have been successful in controlling weeds on many farms. For example, alfalfa in the rotation tops the list of thistle-control methods. In addition some 1,575 miles of highways, roads, ditches, telephone and power lines, and railroad right-of-ways were sprayed with chemicals.

Seed contamination is another source of weeds for Kandiyohi farmers. In 1956 the county Weed and Seed Inspector obtained 94 seed samples, which included drill box samples, service samples, and official samples. Of these 94 samples, 27 were in violation of one or more seed regulations.

Problems

1. Economic trends force selection of crops not suited to the land.
2. Selection of adapted seed varieties is sometimes based on recommendation from regional publications which do not fit the local situation.
3. Higher-yielding varieties are difficult to handle with some farm machinery in use today.
4. Modern cultural methods of crop production are not always employed.

5. Insect and disease damage to non-adapted crop varieties is very high.
6. Ineffective weed and seed law enforcement because support and cooperation vary within communities.
7. Improper use of weed-control chemicals has delayed general acceptance of this method of weed control.
8. Little community action in weed control. This discourages individuals who do practice sound weed-control practice.

Recommendations for Extension

1. Assist the County Crop Improvement Association, farmers, dealers, and other interested groups in keeping up to date on new adapted crop varieties.
2. Help county weed inspectors inform farmers of weed and seed laws.
3. Assist farmers with the selection of cropping systems to meet their conservation problems, maintain fertility, and increase yields.
4. Help in developing a community interest and program of weed control.
5. Provide current information on weed chemicals, their use, application, and limitations.

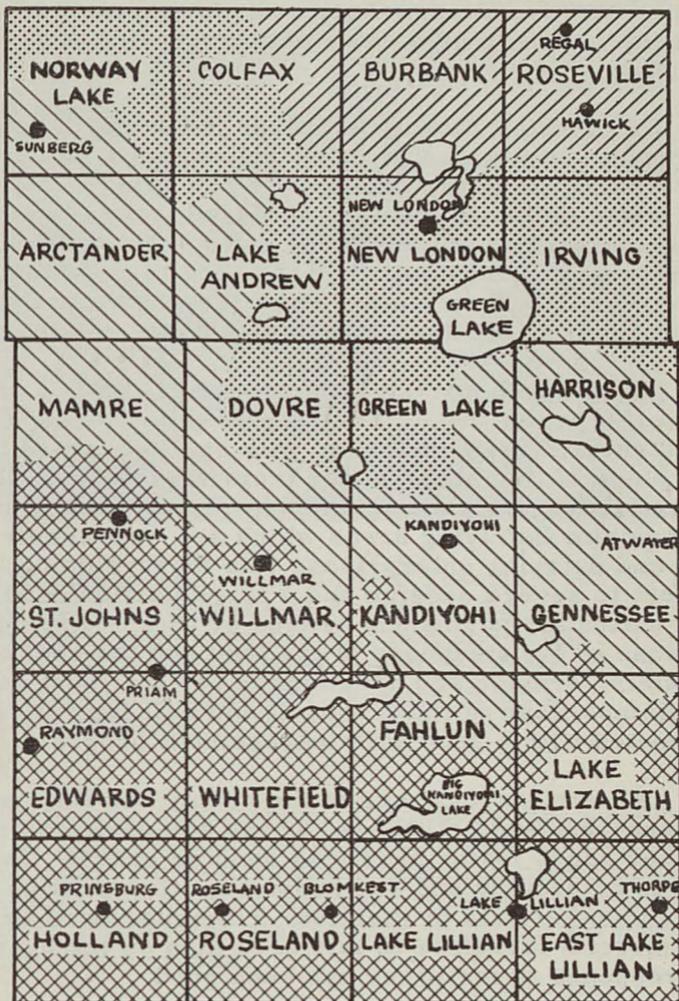
Goal

The growing of adapted high-yielding crops which: provide top-quality livestock feed; bring top cash returns when marketed; utilize the economic production potential of the soil.

SOILS

Soil types and capabilities vary widely. Soils in the south half of the county are primarily of Nicollet or Webster types. They are dark-colored, medium- to fine-textured prairie soils. They are all well supplied with lime

KANDIYOHI COUNTY SOIL ASSOCIATIONS



Esterville - Wadena - Hubbard

Storden - Lakeville - Lester

Clarion - Storden

Nicollet - Webster

and are basically very productive. Drainage is one of the most serious soil problems in this area. Supplemented with commercial fertilizer, these soils have been responding especially well to high rates of nitrogen and phosphate application.

The Clarion-Storden soil type in the north central portion of the county is a strongly rolling area where erosion is a severe problem. These soils are limey, clay loam till, some of which are dark surfaced, others gray to brownish-gray in color. These soils are very productive when erosion is controlled. They lend themselves to dairying very well. They too are very responsive to applications of nitrogen, phosphate, and some potash.

To the north a mixture of Storden Lakeville and Lester soil types is found. They are medium- to light-textured surface soils underlaid with shallow layers of gravel. The slope of this area ranges from very hilly to almost flat areas. Extensive cultivation and crop production occurs on the medium flat-lying areas which are well adapted to cropping and dairying enterprises. The more-sloping lands are subject to severe erosion and a large portion of this land is best suited for permanent grass- or tree-cropping programs. Because of the steepness of the land and the shallowness of the soils, erosion and drouthiness are the most serious problems. Loss of much topsoil and soil fertility can be prevented with a good soil-management program.

The northeast corner of the county has Esterville-Wadena-Hubbard soil types. These are dark-colored, well-drained sandy loams overlying sand or gravel. These soils tend to be drouthy and are subject to wind erosion. They are somewhat acid in reaction. Fewer farmers are using commercial fertilizer in this area than on the heavy lands, but response to fertilizer has been good.

SOIL FERTILITY

Ten years ago the use of fertilizer was an exception instead of a rule. Today the use of fertilizer is as important to most farmers as the seed they plant.

Sale and distribution of commercial fertilizer in Kandiyohi County has been for the most part handled by seed



Dale Anderson of Genessee Township is one of the hundreds of Kandiyohi County farmers who uses the soil test and fertilizer recommendations based on the soil test as tools in achieving more profits from farming.

houses, elevators, creameries, and other farm stores as a sideline to their normal businesses. Because of the widespread use today, specialized bulk-handling plants and delivery trucks are coming into use. Additional expansion in the field of specialized distribution of plant food elements is now taking place.

Crop response from fertilizer in large part is dependent on the condition and tilth of the soil. Sound land management practices such as crop rotation including a legume, the use of green manure crops, and plow down of crop residues, along with modern tillage practices, play an important role in building soil fertility.

Plant food requirements for the various crops grown in Kandiyohi County vary widely. The fertility levels of

fields now being cropped on any given farm also vary from a very low to a very high level of available plant food elements. As a result it is impossible to give general recommendations for proper fertilizer use on the given soil types in the county. This is a contributing factor to the increased use being made of the soil-testing service operated by the University of Minnesota.

Advancements in application machinery, such as band application to the side and below row crop seed, is influencing the rates and grades of commercial fertilizers in use today. Commercial broadcast and row application by dealers in the county is becoming a common method of fertilizer application.

Our soils are the most important resource in the county, but the soil conservationists estimate that many farms have lost one-third to two-thirds of their topsoil through erosion. Favorable prices for corn and soybeans for a number of years have encouraged expansion in these row crops, which in many cases has aggravated the situation. Soil management to conserve and build up fertility and control erosion is extremely important to the welfare of Kandiyohi County farmers.

SOIL CONSERVATION

The Kandiyohi County Soil Conservation District was organized in 1954; by 1956 there were two hundred and sixty-eight active district cooperators with 58,234 acres of land under some phase of conservation land treatment. In 1956, 7,994 acres were being operated under basic conservation plans. There are about 2,104 potential cooperators in the county who are operating close to 376,155 acres of land.

Problems

1. Lack of adequate drainage and drainage outlets on many farms.
2. Excessive water erosion on the more rolling soils.
3. Excessive wind erosion, particularly on the coarse-textured sandy soils.



Ed Rundell, conservation aide for the Kandiyohi County Soil Conservation District, inspects field damage from water erosion. Help in planning conservation practices to control problems such as this is available to all Kandiyohi farmers. County Extension and the SCS staffs work together in offering information and technical assistance to all who ask for help.

4. Need for a more general adoption of cropping practices to control erosion and maintain soil fertility.
5. Application of commercial fertilizers without regard to crop needs or present fertility levels of the soil as determined by soil test.
6. Little or no commercial fertilizer being used in areas where high economic returns from fertilizer use could be enjoyed.
7. Burning of crop residues, a practice which destroys much valuable soil-building organic matter.

8. Machinery in use not always adapted to new technological advancements in cultural tillage and fertility practices.

Recommendations for Extension

1. Work with the soil conservation and watershed district to obtain adequate drainage and drainage outlets for the farms needing them.
2. Cooperate with the SCS and farmers in developing farm cropping and management plans which will control erosion, maintain soil fertility, and produce the economic return needed for good family living.
3. Encourage the application of fertilizer according to soil requirements for optimum yields, using soil tests as one guide.
4. Cooperate with fertilizer dealers in presenting to the public current information concerning the use of new fertilizers and fertilizer machinery.
5. Bring to the farm people the latest research information on sound soil management which will improve crop yields and family income.

Goal

A sound up-to-date soil-management program, based on the requirements of the soil, which maintains soil productivity over a period of time.

LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION

Situation

Buyers of livestock products, both domestic and foreign, are lost because they are dissatisfied with our quality standards. Consumers don't realize that livestock products fill important gaps in nutrition.

Fluctuating prices of livestock products sometimes interfere with production planning. Hog prices seem to

have a three- or four-year cycle. Egg prices improve one year and drop the next. The market is oversupplied at times. On the average, economists estimate that a 1 percent increase in production causes a 4 percent price cut.

Imports of livestock products come in when United States prices are high rather than low. Do those imports hurt farmers or do they help keep customers by keeping prices from running away? Students of economics feel that trade is what keeps the world moving.

Sources of Income of Kandiyohi County Farmers, 1954

| | Kandiyohi County | Minnesota |
|------------------------------|------------------|-----------|
| | percent | |
| Field crops | 31 | 36 |
| Dairy products | 15 | 18 |
| Poultry and poultry products | 21 | 11 |
| Hogs | 16 | 20 |
| Other livestock | 16 | 15 |
| Other | 1 | -- |

Problems

1. Continual improvement of quality of livestock products.
2. Production of livestock products the consumer wants when he wants them.
3. Emphasis to consumers on the nutritional value of livestock products.
4. Keeping producers informed of livestock price trends.
5. Maintenance of a price fair to producers and consumers alike.
6. Control of livestock pests and diseases and feeding of balanced rations.



The crowning of Regional Dairy Princess Judy Soderberg of Svea highlights Extension's help with "Use More Dairy Products for Health" promotion.

Recommendations for Extension

1. Encourage producers and handlers to advertise and publicize livestock products.
2. Stress importance of quality in maintaining demand.
3. Publicize information on livestock price trends.
4. Encourage production in fields where demand is strongest.
5. Present facts on foreign trade and effect of exports and imports on sale of prices of domestic agricultural products.
6. Urge use of disease- and insect-control methods and fully balanced feeding methods.

Goal

Production of adequate livestock to supply consumers' needs at prices fair to producers and consumers.

FARM AND HOME ORGANIZATION AND MANAGEMENT

Situation

Farming today requires considerable investment. A starting farmer finds that the investment in a farm and machinery can quickly run to \$50,000 or more on the average farm. One of the large investments is farm machinery. Extra labor, outside of family labor, is expensive and often difficult to get. This has forced most farmers into more mechanization of their farm work. Overinvestment in machinery must be avoided if the maximum return from this investment is to be realized. Wise use of land and capital is more important today than ever before if a satisfactory labor income is to be realized. Labor income is defined as the amount left for the farmer and his family after the expenses and 5 percent charge for capital investments are deducted from the total sales plus increase in inventory.

The following table, compiled by the Extension Farm Management Specialists, shows the number of acres required in a few major crops to make a \$3,000 labor income at the following assumed prices and yields. The average farm family can supply about 3,500 labor hours during the year.

| Crop | Price | Acres | Hours of Labor Required |
|----------------------------------|--------|-------|-------------------------|
| Corn, 60 bushels per acre | \$1.00 | 167 | 1,169 |
| Soybeans, 20 bushels per acre | 2.00 | 260 | 1,250 |
| Oats, 50 bushels per acre | 0.60 | 333 | 1,670 |

The next table deals with livestock and shows the production and number of animals and acres required to produce a \$3,000 labor income at assumed prices, as well as the hours of labor required.

| <u>Livestock</u> | <u>Prices</u> | <u>Number of Animals</u> | <u>Number of Acres</u> | <u>Hours of Labor per Year</u> |
|--|--|--------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Dairy | | | | |
| 350 lbs. butterfat per cow | \$0. 85 per lb. butterfat | 33 cows | 100 | 3,500 |
| 10,000 lbs. milk per cow | \$3 per cwt. milk | 33 cows | 100 | 3,500 |
| Poultry | | | | |
| 220 eggs per hen | \$0. 33 per doz. | 3,000 hens | --- | 2,500 |
| 20 pound turkey | \$0. 25 per lb. | 4,000 turkeys | --- | 2,000 |
| Sheep | | | | |
| 125 percent lamb crop 8 lbs. clip of wool on ewes | \$18 per cwt. | 400 ewes | 160 | 1,600 |
| Feeder pigs | | | | |
| 7 pigs per litter | \$12 per pig | 865 pigs | 60 | 2,266 |
| Hogs | | | | |
| Raising pigs and fattening at 225 lbs. | \$16 per cwt. | 300 hogs | 90 | 1,800 |
| Pasture-fed calves- | | | | |
| 550 lb. gain (bought at 400 lb., sold at 950 lb.) | Bought \$18 per cwt., sold \$20 per cwt. | 118 feeders | 160 | 2,240 |
| Beef cow herd - | | | | |
| 90 percent calf crop; 450 lb. calf | \$20 per cwt. | 200 cows | 350 | 6,000 |

Most farms combine two or more enterprises in their operations to balance their income and to make more economical use of their labor and resources. The farm management problem on most farms is to properly balance their land, labor, and capital to produce the maximum returns. The above table indicates the opportunity to increase the labor income on the farm through increasing production and by the proper balance of the productive resources.

Cash farm operating expenditures have increased considerably over the past decade and at present averages about 70 percent of the gross income on the average farm. Credit costs and management are important and farm records are needed in the management of the farm business today.

Because of the continual competition for the labor on the farm by the different enterprises, there is a trend to more specialization. This is a trend that will probably continue. It is easier to do a good job in one or two enterprises on the farm and use labor to the best advantage.

Problems

1. Modern farming requires large capitalization.
2. The starting farmer has limited capital, but is willing to work long hours.
3. The older farmer has capital, but would like to work fewer hours.
4. Machinery isn't fully utilized on average farms. Cost of farm machines could be spread over more acres.
5. At the moment, crop farming pays more per hour than livestock projects. This means that intensive cropping may cause soil and other farm management problems.
6. Specialization may put too many eggs in one basket.
7. Inadequate income -- units too small or production per acre or per head of livestock uneconomical or enterprises do not fit together.
8. Inadequate records -- small enthusiasm for record-keeping.

Recommendations for Extension

1. Publicize capital requirements of present day farming vs. custom work.
2. Furnish more information on partnerships between neighbors on machinery and work and between older and younger farmers.
3. Publicize various farm cost figures.
4. Show advantages and disadvantages of various kinds of insurance.
5. Provide credit information.
6. Encourage detailed recordkeeping and analysis.
7. Publicize outlook and facts on other changing conditions.

8. Use every available way to publicize information on increasing individual farm income.
9. Publicize the advantages and disadvantages of specialization.

Goal

Management of each farm to furnish adequate family living and adequate resources to maintain or improve the farm.

COOPERATIVES

Kandiyohi County has 21 locally owned and operated cooperatives. Their services include marketing, dairy, livestock, and grain products. Some sell groceries, feeds, fertilizers, seed, oil products, insurance, and electricity.

Other services offered range from lending of money to making of funeral arrangements. Almost every farmer in Kandiyohi County is a part owner of one or more of these county cooperatives.

It is the duty of managers and directors of these co-ops to be continually looking for ways in which their organizations can be of better service to their owner-members. The formation of these services is generally a result of a need or a service not presently available to the group of patrons involved.

Cooperatives in the county have a tremendous influence on the economic levels of the community in which they operate. This can be measured in terms of services rendered, establishment of competition, and more directly in patronage dividends distributed to member owners.

Each cooperative has individual problems which have to be worked out by their respective members, board of directors, and managers. All cooperatives have many problems common to each other. This is the area to be considered in this report.

Problems

1. Apparent unconcern on the part of many members in the business of their cooperative.
2. Misinformation concerning cooperative objectives and principles among cooperative members and the general public.
3. Need for continued evaluation of the operation of cooperatives by their members, directors, and managers.
4. Continual change in the laws and regulations governing cooperatives.
5. Cooperatives are not conducting an organized education and information program in the promotion of cooperatives.
6. Youth of the county are not as interested in their cooperatives as they might be.

Recommendations for Extension

1. Promote cooperation among county cooperatives in carrying out a sound educational and informational cooperative program.
2. Assist cooperatives in the evaluation of laws and regulations which govern their operations.
3. Encourage youth to take an active part in their cooperatives.
4. Help form a county association of cooperatives, through which county cooperatives could work together to help themselves and the community in which they are located.

Goal

Strong, well-managed cooperatives supported by a well-informed and active membership.

Summary

Following is a summary of the goals in the various areas of Extension work to be carried out in Kandiyohi County.

Family Living--Farms and homes that provide a satisfying life--to families and individuals--within the homes and in the community by good nutrition, money management, better buymanship, better work methods, convenience and attractiveness, and guidance of the family.

Community Development--A county where all groups and organizations work together for the betterment of all concerned.

Public Affairs--Every member of every farm family knowing the facts on both sides of farm policy questions.

Youth and Education--Training and facilities which will assist in the development of a happy, useful group of young citizens.

Safety--Securing utmost cooperation in making every Kandiyohi County citizen safety conscious and therefore alert to preventing accidents which could cause loss of life or limb.

Crops and Soils--The growing of adapted high-yielding crops which: provide top-quality livestock feed; bring top cash returns when marketed; utilize the economic production potential of the soil.

Livestock Production and Consumption--Production of adequate livestock to supply consumers' needs at prices fair to producers and consumers.

Farm and Home Management--Management of each farm to furnish adequate family living and resources to maintain or improve the farm.

Cooperatives--Strong, well-managed cooperatives supported by a well-informed and active membership.

Committees

Safety Committee: Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Holm, Atwater; Mr. and Mrs. Russell Krueger, Atwater, Edward Backlund, Kandiyohi; Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Norris, Hawick; Hans J. Johnson, Raymond; William Nack, Willmar; Elroy Monson, Spicer.

Youth and Education Committee: Lester Band, Pennock; Mr. and Mrs. Franklin Clough, Jr., Lake Lillian; Mr. and Mrs. Lowell Hultgren, Raymond; Mr. and Mrs. Julian Sletten, Willmar; Mr. and Mrs. Elmo Nelson, New London; Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Jacobson, Hawick; Mr. and Mrs. Dean Aarvig, Willmar; John Molenaar, Renville; Alvin Hoogeveen, Willmar.

Resource People: Robert McLane, Chief, Willmar Police Department; Mrs. Dorothy Thorson, County Superintendent of Schools.

Family Living Committee: Mr. and Mrs. Darwin Roisum, Sunburg; Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Swanson, Spicer; Mr. and Mrs. Donald Elliott, Spicer; Mr. and Mrs. Oliver Larsen, Hawick; Mr. and Mrs. Carlton Klint, Willmar; Mr. and Mrs. John Vikse, Willmar.

Resource People: Mrs. Lucille Nelson, County Welfare Office; Norman Slagter, County Welfare Office; Mrs. Viola Holmberg, County Nurse; Mrs. Luverne Mittendorf, Assistant County Nurse; Mrs. Dorothy Thorson, County Superintendent of Schools.

Crops and Soils Committee: Walter Hultgren, Raymond; Mr. and Mrs. Walter Nelson, Atwater; Mr. and Mrs. Roger Rassmussen, Pennock; Wilhelm Christiansen, Lake Lillian; Mr. and Mrs. Richard Grussing, Raymond; Henry Eddy, Willmar; Franklin Berg, Sunburg; Mr. and Mrs. Fritz Kragenbring, Atwater; Detlef Kaack, Belgrade; C. M. Skindelien, Pennock.

Resource People: Curtis Norskog, plant breeder, Pioneer Seed Corn Co.; Leonard Kodet, High School agricultural instructor; Elmer Moe, County Weed Inspector;

Frank Oxenrider, Swift and Co. ; Clarence Litch and Carl Behm, Minnesota Liquid Fertilizer Co. ; Ervin Johnson, fertilizer and seed store owner; Red Sather and his Kandiyohi County Soil Conservation District Staff; Loren Anderson, Crop Improvement Association.

Community Development and Public Affairs Committee:

Franklin Clough, Lake Lillian; Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Smith, Raymond; Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Jones, Hawick; Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Larson, Belgrade; Mr. and Mrs. Harold Binger, Willmar.

Resource People: Gene Kelly, Recreational Director; Seymour Grossman, Mayor; Helen Torgelson, Vinje Lutheran Church parish worker (Secretary for the "Town Meeting on the Aged").

Farm and Home Organization and Management Committee:

Mr. and Mrs. Deloyd Rudningen, Pennock; Mr. and Mrs. Don Youngren, Pennock; Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Setterman, Atwater; Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Olson, Atwater; Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Larson, Atwater; Mr. and Mrs. John Scheltens, Raymond; Mr. and Mrs. Rudolph Lindquist, New London; Mr. and Mrs. Roy Jensen, Raymond; Mr. and Mrs. Carl Sandberg, Pennock.

Livestock Production and Consumption Committee: William

Whitcomb, Lake Lillian; Mr. and Mrs. Harold Swenson, Spicer; Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Huebsch, Lake Lillian; Mearl Grahn, Willmar; Ralph Hall, Atwater; Mr. and Mrs. Leo Anderson, Willmar; Mr. and Mrs. Archie Bjornberg, Willmar; Mr. and Mrs. Laurence Lindquist, Blomkest; Dean Portinga, Willmar.

Cooperative Committee: George R. Tengwall, Willmar;

Kermit Linn, Lake Lillian; Arnold Thorson, Hawick; Ralph F. Erickson, Svea; Oscar A. Johnson, Lake Lillian; Henry Groen, Raymond; John Johnson, Kandiyohi; Marvin Kragenbring, Atwater; Julius Huseby, Pennock; Harold Shuck, Sunburg; William Block, Kandiyohi; Ferdinand Larson, Kandiyohi; Ray Ekdahl, Kandiyohi; Franklin Clough, Lake Lillian; Kenneth Jones, Hawick; Philip Johnson, Pennock; Albert Kirkeboe, Kerkhoven; Kenneth Jensen, Svea.

Kandiyohi County Extension Committee (1956-57):

Franklin Clough, Lake Lillian; Mrs. Kermit Nelson,

Spicer; Russell Krueger, Atwater; Irwin Hanson, Willmar; Mrs. Archie Bjornberg, Willmar; Carl Sandberg, Pennock; Alvin Hoogeveen, Willmar; Walter Hultgren, Raymond; William Whitcomb, Lake Lillian. In 1958, J. J. Quinn of Willmar replaced Irwin Hanson as a member.

Other County Commissioners: C. M. Skindelin, Pennock; Virgil Olson, Willmar; Stanley Block, Spicer.

Extension Agents: Ronald McCamus, Mrs. Jeanette Bogue, Robert C. Anderson, Marian Dryden, and Carol Dunlavy Dahlke, office secretary.

State Supervisory Staff: S. H. Rutford, Roland Abraham, Robert Douglass, A. B. Hagen, Rosella Qualey, Harold Swanson.