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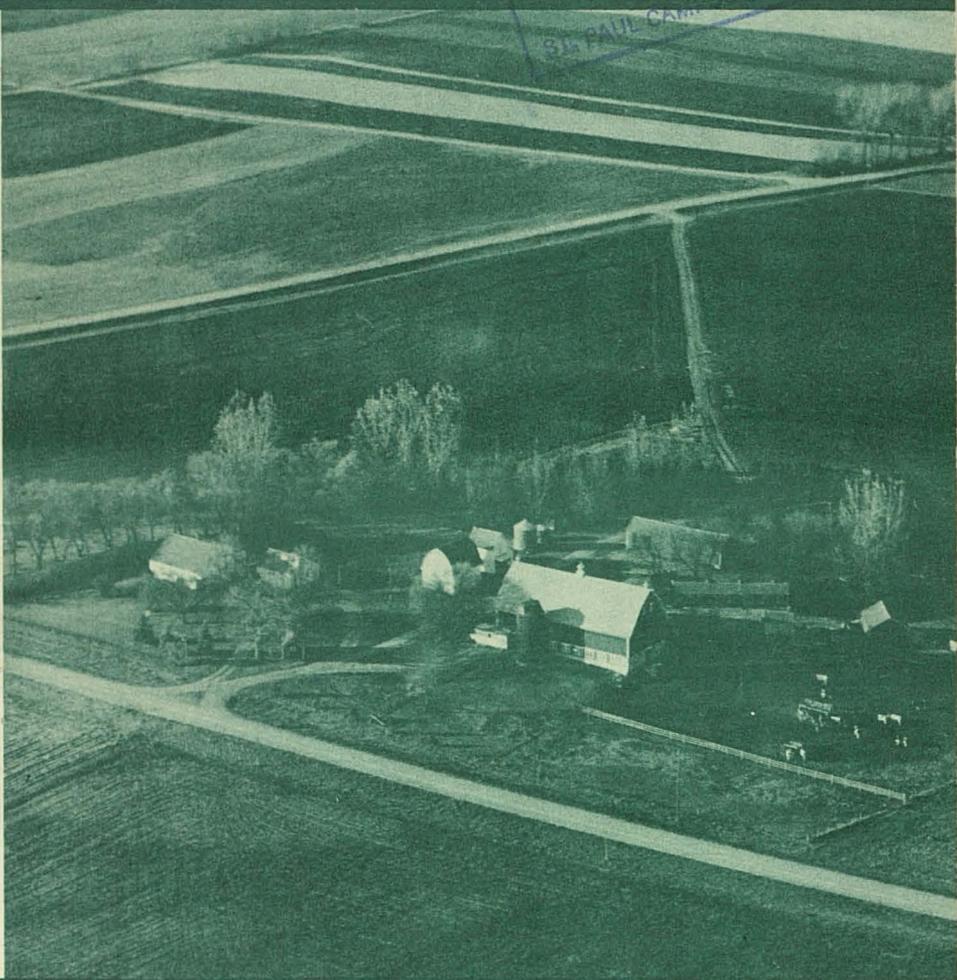
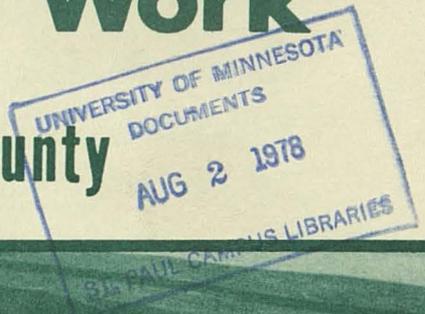
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*Looking Ahead in*

# Extension Work

in

## McLeod County



*Prepared Cooperatively by*

**McLEOD COUNTY EXTENSION COMMITTEE**

*and*

**COUNTY-WIDE LONG RANGE PLANNING GROUPS**

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## LONG-RANGE PROGRAM PLANNING

### Purpose of Long-Range Program

The Cooperative Extension work has used many program-planning methods since it was started in 1918. Generally, programs have been planned from year to year, but with changes in our rural living habits and in our community, it has been necessary to look further ahead. Our farms are becoming more mechanized. There are higher investments and greater risks; marketing methods are becoming more complicated; and consumer demand has changed considerably over the past years. No doubt it will change more in the future.

The purposes of long-range planning are: to meet some of these new challenges; to develop an Extension program that will meet the long-time needs of our farm people, as well as the immediate needs; and to determine what changes will be coming in McLeod County. It is hoped that long-range planning will also assist in:

1. Developing local leadership.
2. Securing participation from more areas of the county in developing and carrying out a broader Extension program.
3. Emphasizing some of the major problems by their relative importance and on a planned basis year after year, rather than as a yearly program.
4. Trying to bring a better understanding of the Extension program to areas of the county by greater participation in Extension activities.

### Procedure Used in Collecting and Summarizing Data

The County Extension Committee discussed long-range planning and approved the plan that was followed in McLeod County. Each Extension Committee member selected a number of farm couples from his community that he felt might

serve on a long-range planning committee. Families were selected on an equal basis from each township, so that all townships were represented on a committee.

A county-wide meeting was held, and the purposes and procedures of long-range planning were discussed by the agents. The members were divided into various committees according to their interests. The areas for study had previously been set up by the Extension Committee. The committees met independently. Some met only two or three times; others found it necessary to meet as many as eight or nine times to complete the large amount of work they felt should be discussed and considered. The final report was then drawn up in this form.

This report is to be distributed to all rural families and to other interested people in the county. It will be used to determine what will be included in the Extension annual plan of work each year.

## CHARACTERISTICS OF McLEOD COUNTY

### Size

McLeod County, in south-central Minnesota, is 495 miles square. Glencoe, the county seat, is 55 miles west of St. Paul. The 14 townships all have favorable soil, climate, and topography to make McLeod County one of the leading dairying counties in southern Minnesota.

### History of the County

On May 21, 1855, eight men emerged from the Big Woods at a point near present-day Glencoe. The woods stretched all the way to the Twin Cities. To the west the men saw the beginning of the Great Plains.

The eight men included John H. Stevens, A. J. Bell, D. W. Fields, James Mayall, J. V. McKeen, W. S. Chapman, John Johnson, and Robert Vinton. They came with the express purpose of laying out a townsite. The same men laid

out the townsite of Hutchinson in the fall of 1855. Later Martin McLeod, who named the townsite of Glencoe, joined the group. McLeod County was named after him.

In June, 1855, William Chapman turned the first furrow in the virgin prairie soil. In the same month 74 settlers arrived by covered wagon. The first store was started in 1855.

McLeod County was organized March 1, 1856, with Glencoe as the county seat. In 1856, Independent School District No. 1 was organized at Glencoe, with Kate Gibbons of Shakopee as the first teacher.

In 1862 the Sioux Indians went on the warpath and many settlers fled to Minneapolis for safety. During the period of 1875-1880, there was a great influx of settlers coming from Europe. Germans, Bohemians, Irish, and Scandinavians came in the largest numbers. Many of them could not speak English.

The virgin forest and unbroken prairie yielded to these pioneers. Although the settlers were of different heritages, they were welded together by a common bond and it was they who began the great heritage that today is ours.

### Population Trends

McLeod County's total population has been growing steadily. However, the farm population has been declining in recent years. From 1940 to 1950, the total population increased from 21,380 to 22,198, or an increase of 818. During this same period rural population dropped from 11,495 to 9,981, or a decrease of 13 percent. During this same period the rural nonfarm population dropped 21 percent, from 5,998 to 4,726.

While our rural population declined 13 percent, the number of farms declined 3.9 percent, from 2,391 to 2,299. In 1950, about 45 percent of McLeod County's people lived on the 2,299 farms, 21 percent in the seven towns and villages, and 34 percent in Glencoe and Hutchinson. The population, which was predominantly rural, has shifted gradually to more urban. In 1940, 18 percent of the population was urban, compared to 34 percent in 1950.

## Soil and Agriculture

McLeod County lies in the western drift section of the interior plains. \* When the glaciers that once covered the area withdrew, they left a thick mantle of silty and clayey material, mingled with boulders, gravel, and sand in varying proportions. This glacial material, commonly known as till, is spread over the county in an uneven layer that ranges from 150 to more than 250 feet thick. In most places, the clay and silt particles predominate and make the material a sticky, plastic mass when wet.

Sand and gravelly areas are found along the streams, interrupted by areas of glacial till similar to that which occupies the county away from the streams. The county is drained principally by the South Fork Crow River and Buffalo Creek.

The 2,299 farms (303,616 acres) make up 95 percent of the total land area of the county. The average-sized farm is 132 acres. Eighty-one percent of the farms are owner-operated.

## Climate and Rainfall

The average annual precipitation is 29.3 inches. The average January temperature is 11.6°F. The average temperature in July, the warmest month, is 72.6°. The maximum temperature recorded is 105° and the minimum is -37°.

The growing season, or number of frost-free days, ranges from 140 to 150 days, averaging 141 days. The average date of the last killing frost in spring is May 8 and that of the earliest in fall is September 27.

\* From Soil Survey Series, 1940, No. 17.

## McLEOD COUNTY PROFILE

### McLeod County Compared to Minnesota

Characteristic	Average McLeod	Average Minnesota
1. Percent of land in farms.....	95.5	63.0
2. Size of farms--total acres.....	132.1	195.4
3. Size of farms--acres in cropland.....	100.6	127
4. Dollar value of land and buildings (average per farm).....	\$23,342.50	\$21,000
5. Dollar value of land per acre.....	\$177.46	\$105
6. Percent of tenancy.....	19.2	19.8
7. Percent of population change, 1940-1950.....	13	6.8
8. Percent of decrease in number farms, 1940-1950.....	3.9	8
9. Cash income (percent of total cash receipts, 1944-49)		
a. Field crops.....	13.2	33
b. Dairy and dairy products.....	45.6	20
c. Livestock and livestock products.....	24.7	34
d. Poultry and poultry products.....	15	10
e. Vegetables and others.....	1	3
10. Livestock (percent of total farms)		
a. Farms reporting hogs and pigs.....	59	59
b. Farms reporting dairy.....	90	74
c. Farms reporting sheep.....	13	13
d. Farms reporting poultry.....	89	73
11. Equipment and facilities (percent of families)		
a. Electricity.....	100	95
b. Piped running water.....	69	57.1
c. Telephone.....	70	68.3
d. Home freezer.....	73	39
e. Automobiles.....	100	92
f. Motor trucks.....	51	50
g. Tractors.....	94	89
h. Grain combines (percent of farms harvesting grain).....	34	47
i. Corn pickers (percent of farms harvesting corn).....	43	56
j. Television.....	60	33.3

# Cooperative Extension Work

Cooperative Extension work is a part of the land-grant colleges in every state. It is the arm of the United States Department of Agriculture and the University of Minnesota. In other words, it is a three-way partnership between the U. S. Department of Agriculture, the University of Minnesota, and McLeod County. The work is supported by state, federal, and county funds. Although the County Extension workers are employed locally, they are staff members of the University of Minnesota and the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

Extension work officially began in 1914 under the Smith-Lever Act, which created cooperative Extension work and provided funds for its support. There is now an Extension Service in every state and one or more agents in every county in the United States. They carry on educational programs for both adults (including the agricultural education program for men and the home economics program for women) and youth.

It is Extension's job to assist people who are engaged in farming and homemaking. It tries to help people use their resources more fully in solving current problems and in meeting changing economic and social conditions. The Extension Service interprets the results of research in agriculture and home economics and brings this research to the people of the county. Extension also develops leadership and understanding of rural problems; in this way the people help themselves through participation in a county-organized program, whether in agriculture, home economics, or youth.

## COUNTY EXTENSION ORGANIZATION

### History

County Extension work was started in McLeod County in March, 1918, when William P. Peters was hired as the first agricultural agent. During the early years there were

demonstrations on alfalfa varieties, the value of alfalfa on hog pastures, and hog sanitation. One of the important programs was pedigreed Rosen rye. Special culling meetings were conducted, as well as dynamite demonstrations.

The first 4-H Club work was started in 1920, on the county-club basis. In this system, members were enrolled from all over the county in each individual potato club, swine club, clothing club, etc. The 4-H Club program was continued on this basis until 1929, when the Hutchinson Loyal Progress became the first organized 4-H Club in McLeod County.

From 1918 until July, 1922, McLeod County had an Extension agent; at that time the work was discontinued until August, 1933, when an emergency agent, George Wright, was hired. Home Agent work started in McLeod County in July, 1940, with Thelma Mae Voils as the first home agent. Since that time an Assistant Agent has been added to the staff and a 4-H agent has been a part of the staff during the summers.

From the very beginning of Extension work in McLeod County, various educational programs have been carried on for farmers, homemakers, and young people. During this period there has been a tremendous growth in the number of women enrolled in the home program, as well as growth in the 4-H and youth programs.

#### The County Extension Committee

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

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



Extension Committee: seated, left to right, Charles Albrecht, Mrs. Ben Villnow, Mrs. George Pishney, George Otto, Lida Luthens. Standing, Theodore Zimmerman, Max Fisher, Ernest Bullert, Edward Wegscheid.

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

Members of the Extension Committee for McLeod County are:

Mrs. George Pishney, Fourth District - Chairman  
Lida Luthens, County Auditor - Secretary  
Charles Albrecht, County Board Chairman  
Ernest Bullert, Member at Large  
Max Fisher, Fifth District  
George Otto, County Commissioner  
Mrs. Ben Villnow, Second District  
Edward Wegscheid, First District  
Theodore Zimmerman, Third District

## Present Setup

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

The McLeod County Extension Staff includes three persons:

Vernon Hoysler, County Agricultural Agent, employed since September, 1947.

Irene Ott, County Home Agent, employed since September, 1957.

Rueben Boxrud, Assistant County Agricultural Agent, employed since August, 1954.

Marian Larson, County Home Agent, was employed from October, 1950, to September 2, 1957.

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

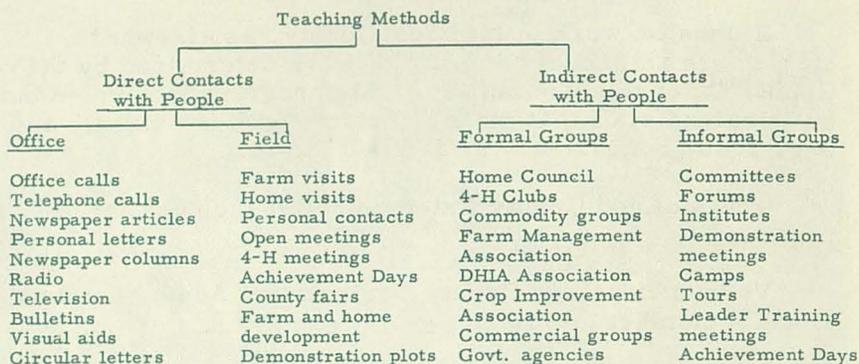
## Teaching Methods Used

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

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

Organized Home Economics Extension work is carried on locally through community homemakers' groups. These

County Extension Staff



groups are somewhat informally organized and usually include from one to 10 groups in each township. One aim of the County Extension Home Council is to have its county group made up of members who represent these local groups, preferably only one from each local group.

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

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

## THE GOAL OF EXTENSION WORK

### A Better Way of Life for the People in McLeod County

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

1. Development of an expanded, but well-integrated, educational program to meet the immediate and long-range needs of families.

2. Improvement of family living through better nutrition, more adequate health facilities, better housing, farmstead improvement, and increased use of laborsaving equipment.
3. Improvement in income through the development of organization plans for individual farms that assure the highest possible income.
4. Development of a better understanding of and more effective participation in community, state, national, and international affairs to the end that constructive policies may be determined.
5. Improvement of educational and recreational facilities for the family and the community.

# Committee Reports

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

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

## FAMILY LIVING

### Situation

McLeod County families have continued to maintain an above-average standard of living. The Index of Living was reported as:

	<u>1945</u>	<u>1950</u>	<u>1954</u>
McLeod County	150	164	175
Minnesota	129	151	163
United States	100	122	140

This Index of Living is based on the number of farms with electricity, telephone, and automobiles, and on the value of products sold.

It is interesting to note that 71 percent of all the homes in the county are owner-occupied. Seventy-one percent of the homes were built in 1919 or earlier, creating a need for modernization and more convenient storage space. Only 10 percent have been built since 1945.



Floral arrangements, a part of the  
Extension Home Program

If you were to visit these homes, you would find a variety of modern electrical time- and energy-saving conveniences which simplify homemakers' daily responsibilities. Eighty-two percent of the homes have mechanical refrigerators for the healthful storage of foods for the family. About 73 percent of the families own freezers for the preservation of home-produced meats, fruits, and vegetables. A need for educational work on basic home conveniences on farms is indicated by these data in 1954: 31 percent do not have piped running water, 29 percent do not have a telephone, and 48 percent do not have a central heating system.

A survey of 100 families revealed some interesting characteristics of county residents. Nearly 72 percent of these families have lived at their present locations for more than 10 years, with nearly 60 percent living in the county since birth.

Educational facilities are good; however, they are rather crowded in the urban systems. The number of rural

schools is decreasing, which continues to put further demands on the urban schools for new buildings, furnishings, and equipment. The median number of years of school completed for adults in the county is 8.54 years. The educational standards continue to increase to higher levels in years of school completed for both students and teachers.

The survey points out that most families avail themselves of a variety of informal educational materials. Sixty-five percent subscribe to daily newspapers, 95 percent subscribe to farm magazines and papers, 100 percent have radios, and 57 percent have television in their homes.

The survey further showed that 91 percent of the families are church members, with 81 percent attending church services regularly (defined in the survey as half or more of the time). The two largest religious groups are Lutheran and Roman Catholic.

Nearly half of the families belong to one or more farm organizations.

Sixty-six percent of the families receive all their income from farming. Eleven percent receive none of their income from farming. Two-thirds of the families have an annual net income of over \$2,500, 4 percent have an annual income of less than \$1,000, and 4 percent have an annual income of over \$10,000.

In a survey taken of women participating in the Extension Home Program, 22 percent of the women were working away from home to some extent. Twelve percent were working full time.

These situations point toward trends and problems we will face in the execution of the Extension Home Program.

### Trends

- Slight increase in number of family members 65 years old and older.
- Continued increase in median school year completed.

- More homemakers gainfully employed away from home on either part- or full-time basis.
- Annual increase in per capita farm income.
- Continued increase in remodeling and modernization of homes. Purchase of new household equipment and furnishings for replacement purposes is also expected to increase.
- Increased consumption of high-protein foods, fruits, and vegetables, which will improve daily diets.

### Goal

- A more satisfactory home life for all family members.
- Well-balanced diets for all family members.

### Committee Report on Family Living

Some of these problems and recommendations are outside the scope of Extension alone.

<u>Problems</u>	<u>Recommendations</u>
1. Inability of family members to understand family roles.	1. Emphasize the development of an appreciation and understanding of each individual's responsibility to the family.
2. Apparent disinterest of children in taking responsibility in the family.	2. Stress information on providing family members with an opportunity to share in making decisions of the family.
3. Concern over types of television programs viewed by children.	3. Help parents direct their suggestions for improvement to proper sources.
4. Working mothers cannot supervise preschool children properly.	4. Encourage homemakers to secure well-qualified baby sitters to guide and direct children in their absence.

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| 5. Many families do not reach required nutritional levels for optimum health because they do not know nutritional value of foods. | 5. Plan a series of educational meetings with 4-H and homemakers' groups to teach nutritional values and need for the planning of well-balanced meals.           |
| 6. Lack of use of milk, eggs, and citrus fruits in daily diets.   | 6. Assist homemakers through project lessons in learning how to prepare and use these foods in a variety of ways.  |
| 7. Few teenagers eat an adequate breakfast.   | 7. Plan educational meetings in 4-H and homemakers' groups to stress the need for an adequate breakfast and how it can be planned to include a variety of foods. |
| 8. Many adults and children are overweight.   | 8. Encourage homemakers in planning low-calorie and nutritious meals and snacks.   |
| 9. Inadequate training for physically and mentally retarded.  | 9. Help inform families of facilities available for training handicapped children.   |
| 10. Low average median year of school completed.  | 10. Assist educational groups in developing positive attitudes toward higher standards of education.   |
| 11. Inadequate provisions for care of the aged.   | 11. Work with groups to encourage the establishment of qualified homes for care of aged.   |
| 12. Lack of adequate storage space in homes.  | 12. Help homemakers plan adequate and convenient storage space as required by needs of family.   |

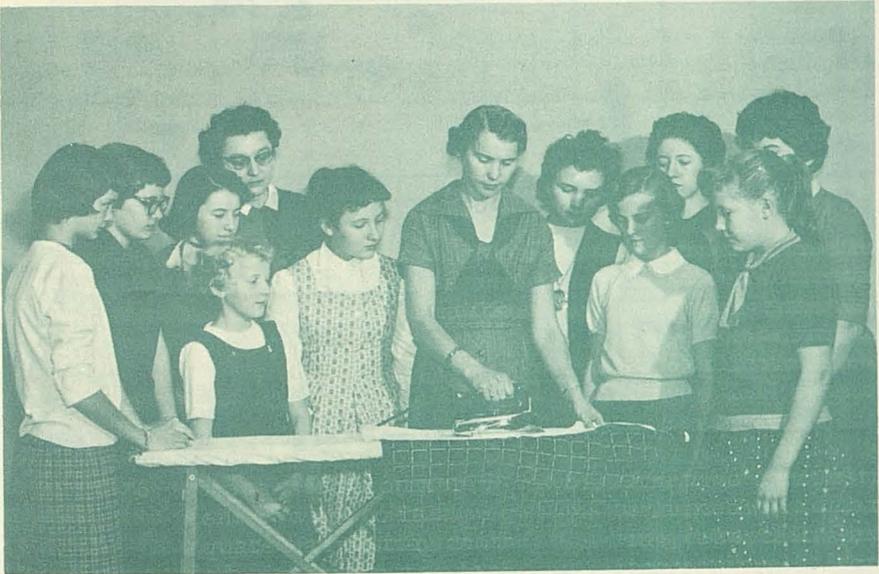
## YOUTH

### Situation

Young people are the greatest resource of any community. The rural population of youth up to 19 years of age is continually increasing. The 1955 McLeod County population of this age group was 2,722, and it is expected to reach 3,080 by 1960. This increased youth population will put further demands on our educational, religious, and social systems groups if we are to meet their needs.

About 25 years ago, when the 4-H program was being organized in the county, there were few other organizations competing for the time of youth. The church and school, however, were working with young people at this time.

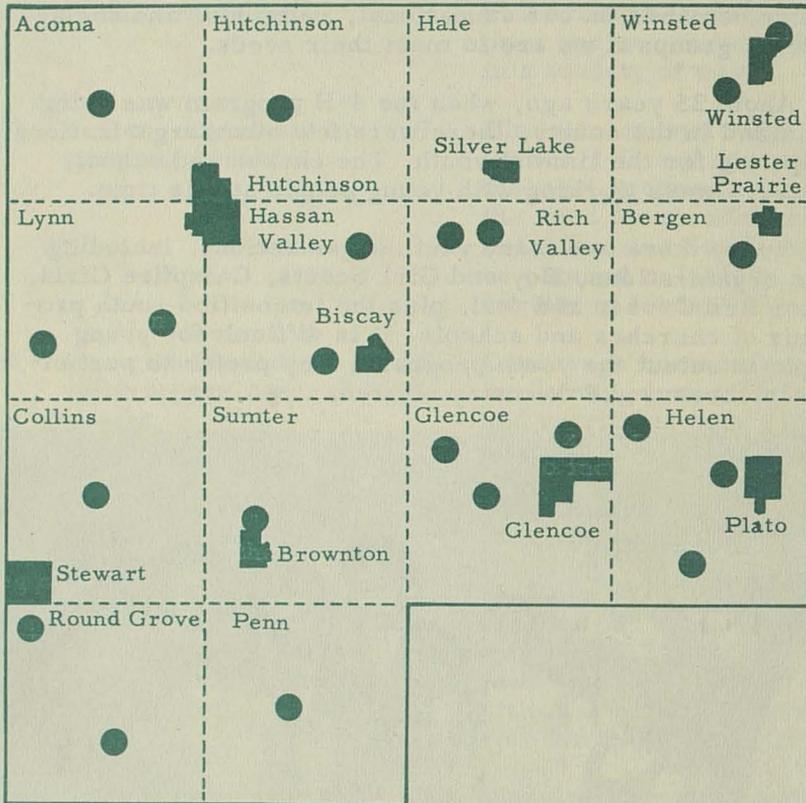
Today there are many youth organizations, including farm organizations, Boy and Girl Scouts, Campfire Girls, Junior Red Cross, and 4-H, plus the intensified youth programs of churches and schools. It is difficult for young people to select the youth programs they prefer to participate in, because of the many offered.



4-H Clothing project training meeting

The higher birth rate, older farm operators, and mechanization on farms have caused farm boys and girls to seek work away from the farm. To compete with urban boys and girls for careers or employment in urban areas, these boys and girls will need further educational training beyond high school.

#### 4-H CLUBS IN McLEOD COUNTY

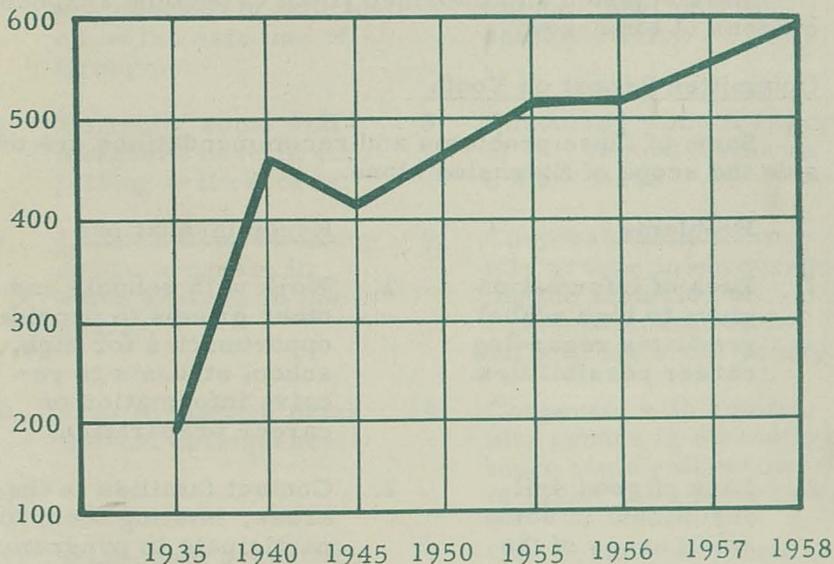


4-H Club work was the first and largest youth program organized in the county, and was started in 1920. These first clubs were project clubs, such as corn, dairy, beef, canning, bread, and clothing. In 1929, the Hutchinson Loyal Progress club was organized on our present 4-H Club basis. The Silver Seekers 4-H Club followed in 1930. Since then

there has been a steady increase in the number of 4-H Clubs, until at present there are 23 in the county. They are located in each of the 14 townships of the county and in Hutchinson, Glencoe, and Winsted.

With the increase in the number of clubs organized, 4-H enrollments and activities have grown steadily. In 1934, a county 4-H council of adult leaders was organized with Arnold Beneke, Glencoe, as president. Today this same organization is known as the 4-H Federation. Its membership includes 80 adult leaders and 107 junior leaders, who assist in planning and carrying out the 4-H program.

### MCLEOD COUNTY 4-H ENROLLMENT



Even though this youth program has grown steadily, it reaches only 25 percent of the rural young people between the ages of 9-21 years.

It is difficult to keep our older 4-H members enrolled in 4-H. Perhaps there are several reasons for this; older youth have a greater diversity of interests, they require

more advanced project work to hold their interest, and they feel the need for responsibility in the organization.

Trends

- More farm youth will find it necessary to find employment off the farm.
- More young people will find it necessary to have a higher level of education.
- There will be increased numbers of boys and girls in the 4-H age range.

Goal

Well-adjusted and informed youth to become responsible citizens of tomorrow.

Committee Report on Youth

Some of these problems and recommendations are outside the scope of Extension alone.

<u>Problems</u>	<u>Recommendations</u>
1. Lack of information given to high school graduates regarding career possibilities.	1. Work with schools and other groups to provide opportunities for high school students to receive information on career preparation.
2. Lack of good 4-H enrollment in some small areas of the county.	2. Contact families in these areas, inviting them to participate in program.
3. Too few urban youth enrolled in 4-H.	3. Adopt some 4-H projects for urban enrollment. Publicize a 4-H program suitable for urban areas and form urban clubs where needed.

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| 4.  | Difficulty of local 4-H clubs in some areas of county in obtaining good meeting places. | 4.  | Encourage communities to be more cooperative in extending public facilities for use by local 4-H groups.            |
| 5.  | Lack of parental interest in and understanding of 4-H program.                          | 5.  | Invite parents to monthly 4-H meetings so that they may become more familiar with program.                          |
| 6.  | Need for more adequate training of adult leaders.                                       | 6.  | Develop a better 4-H leadership program on a county basis.  |
| 7.  | Too few boys and girls are adequately informed on the safe use of firearms.             | 7.  | Encourage firearm training as a part of 4-H safety activity.  |
| 8.  | Difficulty some 4-H members have in completing 4-H records.                             | 8.  | Encourage simplification of 4-H record forms on a state level.  |
| 9.  | Lack of Drivers' Education program in some schools in the county.                       | 9.  | Cooperate with community groups in encouraging the inclusion of Drivers' Education in all schools in the county.    |
| 10. | Rise in teenage drinking and delinquency.   | 10. | Cooperate with community groups in stressing more rigid enforcement of liquor laws for minors.                      |
| 11. | Inadequate breakfasts for school children.  | 11. | Cooperate with school groups in stressing of hot lunch program, and encouraging a midmorning milk break in schools. |
| 12. | Increase in juvenile delinquency and vandalism throughout the country.                  | 12. | Cooperate with school groups in encouraging adoption of teenage code in all schools in the county.                  |

## SAFETY

### Situation

Accidents and accident and injury prevention have become one of the most serious public health problems. Accidents rank fourth in the state and the nation as the cause of death. The National Health Survey of the U. S. Public Health Services reveals that there were 25 million injuries in a six-months period which resulted in a loss of time of at least one day or required medical care.

While motor vehicle accidents accounted for 40 percent of the more than 1,700 accidental fatalities in Minnesota in 1957, home accidents accounted for 33 percent or one third of all accidental fatalities. Home accidents get little attention, however, because they are less spectacular than motor vehicle accidents. Falls of older people and accidental poisoning of children are the commonest forms of the "less spectacular" home accidents.

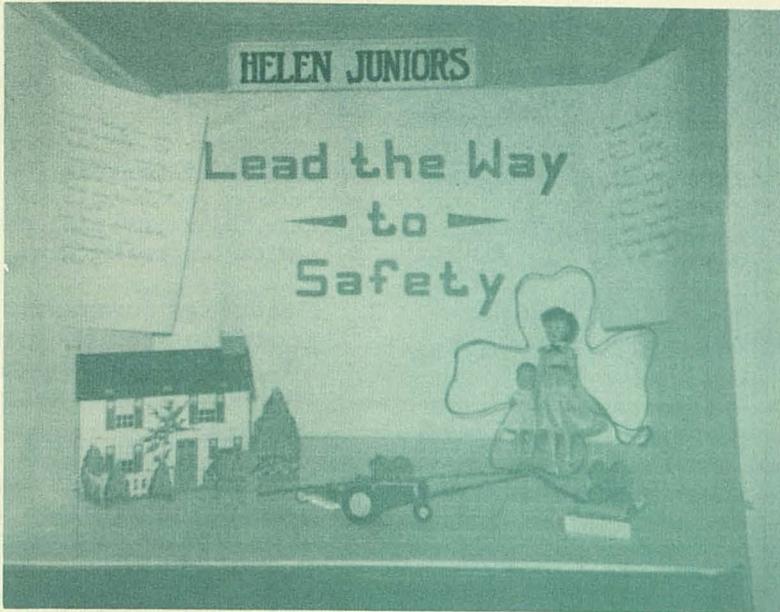
In 1957, McLeod County had 10 fatal automobile accidents causing 15 deaths. One hundred and thirty-eight people were injured in 76 nonfatal-injury auto accidents; 162 automobile accidents caused property damage.

It is not uncommon to hear of bull gorings and injuries, even with the growing use among dairy farmers of the artificial breeding service.

Loss of arms and legs from machinery accidents is a frequent source of material for newspaper stories in McLeod County. It is with this background that the Safety Committee went to work, realizing the need for cooperative action to help make this county a safer place to work and play.

### Trends

- More use of electrical and laborsaving devices in the homes and on farms, possibly increasing the source of accidents.
- Greater use of hazard-producing chemicals in the farming operation.



Promoting safety through a 4-H booth

- Mechanization will give families more time for recreation, creating the need for additional safety measures.
- Medical developments will lengthen life span; there will be more people in the older generation.
- More cars, greater horsepower, and speed will place larger demands on driver education.
- There will be more dependence on labor from the farm family, possibly using younger people to run complicated farm equipment.

Goal

To help develop a safer environment for work and play.

## Committee Report on Safety

Some of these problems and recommendations are outside the scope of Extension alone.

<u>Problems</u>	<u>Recommendations</u>
1. Disregard of traffic laws.	1. Emphasize greater education on traffic laws.
2. Hazards of township and county roads.	2. Encourage community groups to promote hiring a full-time highway patrol on county and township roads.
3. Fire hazards.	3. Education is necessary to prevent the careless use of heat bulbs. Farm families should know farm numbers in care of emergencies and keep fire number sign in good repair. Inform the public through newspapers and radio on what to do in case of fire.
4. Careless handling of firearms.	4. Cooperate with local group on expansion of present course on the safe handling of firearms. 4-H boys and girls and others should be urged to take this course.
5. Farm tractor and machinery hazards.	5. Continue educational program to promote safe handling of tractors. Improve and enlarge safe tractor-driving contests. Urge owners to keep children from operating and riding on any farm machinery, including

tractors. Cooperate with safety groups in enacting laws requiring manufacturers and dealers to "reflectorize" all new and used machinery. Urge dealers to check the safety shields on power take-off machinery. Promote future improvement in highway construction, so that farm machines can be moved out of the lane of traffic.

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| 6. Inadequate rural Civil Defense organization. | 6. Cooperate with Civil Defense group to extend into rural areas. An educational program is necessary to help people understand the purpose of Civil Defense.   |
| 7. "Safety" apathy.                             | 7. Help county groups organize a safety council. Extension Office should continue newspaper and radio publicity on all phases of the safety program and continue meetings for the public on farm, home, and traffic safety. |
| 8. Inadequate farm electrical wiring.           | 8. Stress the importance of a wiring check-up by a qualified electrician. Farm people should realize the safety measures necessary in using many new electrical appliances.   |

## CROPS AND SOILS

### Situation

Favorable climate and soils have made McLeod County one of the leading agricultural counties in southern Minnesota. Most of the county (95.2 percent in 1954) is in farms. The principal crops, corn, oats, and alfalfa hay, are fed primarily to dairy cattle, hogs, and poultry. The crops grown mainly for cash sale are soybeans, wheat, and canning vegetables. The climate is well suited for the production of hybrid corn where varieties requiring from 103 to 109 days for maturity are recommended. Stands of alfalfa are often damaged by the alternate freezing and thawing of the surface soil early in the spring or late winter. Muck and peat soils found throughout the county are subject to frosts and are special management problems. Many of these areas are planted to reed canary grass and are used for forage or pasture. The smallest acreages of cropland are in Acoma Township. Acoma, Rich Valley, and Round Grove townships have the largest acreages of woodland. Much of the woodland pasture is in the townships where the land was originally heavily wooded--Bergen, Hale, and Hutchinson.

Barnyard manure is the main fertilizer used, applied mainly to fields to be planted to corn. Commercial fertilizer is used in varying amounts. More could be used, especially on farms with low livestock numbers. Many areas have had soil tests taken. The results show a large range in fertility level. The majority of farms show yield increase from the use of a complete fertilizer. There is little evidence of the need for lime at the present time, the PH of most samples being 6.5 or above.

Of the land in cropland harvested, a great change has taken place during the past 30 years in the number of acres planted to specific crops. The following table shows acreages of the principal crops grown in McLeod County in 1957 and earlier years.

Crop	1929	1950	1957
	acres	acres	acres
Corn, for all purposes.....	54,754	70,500	76,200
Oats, threshed.....	45,104	64,600	47,500
Wheat, threshed.....	16,308	3,600	2,840
Barley, threshed.....	13,705	6,000	450
Rye, threshed.....	4,107	900	212**
Flax, threshed.....	5,071	6,400	240
Soybeans, threshed.....	40	7,800	26,900
All hay.....	57,442	50,100	42,900
Alfalfa.....	12,864	*	25,891**
Sweet corn, for sale.....	1,131	*	5,652**
Green peas, for sale.....	0	*	2,046**

\* Information not available.

\*\* 1954 data.

### Trends

- More adequate drainage, the clearing of land of timber, and the adoption of new varieties of farm crops will result in more crop acres.
- Farm operators will be more aware of higher-producing varieties, more carefully planned fertilizing programs, more soil testing, and new crops to increase income.
- A steady increase in the number and value of labor-saving crop machinery per farm unit.
- A continued search for methods to improve harvesting quality of crops and crop residues.

### Goal

To produce, with a minimum of labor, efficient top-quality crops while maintaining or increasing soil fertility.

### Committee Report on Crops and Soils

#### Problems

1. Lack of information concerning drainage,

#### Recommendations

1. Continue to hold group meetings giving farmers

such as legal aspect, farmers' rights, and technical assistance.

information on matters relating to soil drainage. Assist in organizing a soil conservation district where the demand is present.

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| 2. | Lack of interest and participation in soil-testing procedures.   | 2. | Organize soil-sampling meetings on a township basis.   |
| 3. | Lack of information on values and merits of various forms and merchandising units of commercial fertilizers. | 3. | Keep up with the new forms, ratios, and grades of fertilizer being marketed in the county. Assist farmers with information concerning "Best Buys" in fertilizing elements.   |
| 4. | Lack of proper precautions in cleaning and testing seed or protecting land from infestations of weeds.       | 4. | Emphasize strongly the idea of planting certified seed from local growers if possible. Continue cooperating with federal, state, and county enforcement officials in weed and seed program. Continue to support a strong, active McLeod County Crop Improvement Association. |
| 5. | Need for more information on selective sprays and chemical tolerances of crops.                              | 5. | Continue to use demonstration plot, especially preemergence weed sprays on corn. Disseminate information on sprays and crop tolerances.  |
| 6. | Losses of food nutrients owing to inadequate harvesting methods for grain and forages.                       | 6. | Arrange demonstrations and methods of harvesting, especially haymaking equipment, crimpers, choppers, silos, etc.  |

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| 7. Farmers lack information to properly evaluate the merits of new machinery and buildings. | 7. Arrange demonstrations of newer machines, showing where renting may be more economical than outright purchase. Inform farmers on available building plan services.                    |
| 8. Loss of topsoil, especially in areas of county with uneven topography.                   | 8. Explore possibilities of different crop rotations and soil-tillage operations to combat erosions in townships affected. Enlist aid of district forester on land unsuited to grazing.  |
| 9. Burning of cornstalks and other crop residues.   | 9. Discourage this practice.   |
| 10. Future threats and outbreaks of crop-destroying insects.                                | 10. Use existing organizations to get warning to farmers; keep up-to-date on methods and chemicals to use for control.   |
| 11. Continued use of large acreages of land in low-income-producing crops.                  | 11. Hold meetings on farm management showing net returns using various combinations of rotations. Explore possibilities of substitutes for large amounts of oats straw used for bedding. |

## LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY

### Situation

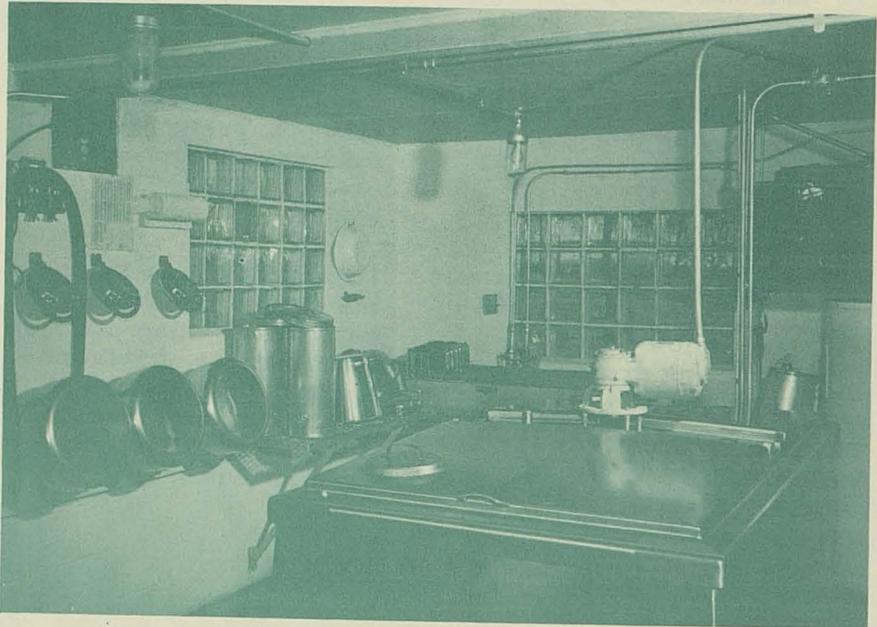
McLeod County is basically a livestock county. Most of the crop produced is marketed through livestock. Cattle and hog numbers were at an all-time high in 1954.

Number of Livestock on Farms

	<u>1940</u>	<u>1945</u>	<u>1950</u>	<u>1954</u>
Total cattle.....	45,667	53,023	48,991	54,852
Milk cows.....	28,723	31,947	28,854	29,617
Hogs.....	32,584	38,597	55,921	57,854
Sheep.....	3,625	3,522	3,310	3,341
Chickens.....	557,483	905,665	483,411	612,330

Market values of livestock and livestock products sold in 1954 are as follows:

Dairy products.....	\$5,773,923
Cattle and calves.....	1,523,521
Hogs.....	2,363,597
Sheep.....	23,553
Poultry and eggs.....	1,884,062



One of many Grade A milkhouses in McLeod County

## Trends

- Continued improvement in breeding, feeding, and disease control in all classes of livestock.
- A change in the market demand and technological developments will result in some changes in breeding, feeding, and marketing practices. These may include meat-type hogs, bulk-tank milk, and changes in grades.
- A continued change in dairy production, with fewer farms producing more milk.

## Dairy

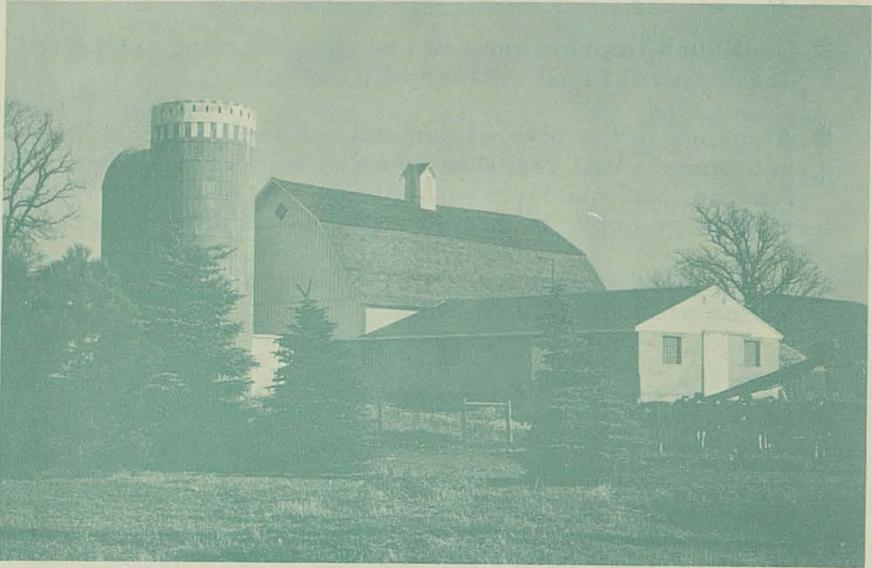
### Situation

The income from dairy and dairy produce represents 45 percent of the total income. The importance of dairy may also be shown by the fact that 448,000 pounds of milk are produced in McLeod County, compared to the state average of 108,000 pounds.

The average production per cow is only 7,200 pounds of milk and 254 pounds of butterfat. This compares with the county DHIA average of 10,300 pounds of milk and 382 pounds of butterfat.

For the past few years milk-cow numbers have averaged about 29,000 head. The number of farms with milking cows has declined about 400 herds since 1940. However, the average-size herd has increased so that there are 1,000 more milk cows on farms than in 1940. Ninety-eight percent of the milk fat is sold by farmers as whole milk. McLeod County has nine receiving stations and five plants manufacturing dairy products; two manufacture cheese and three manufacture butter.

The average barn on most farms was built for general farm operations. These included stalls for horses, a few calf pens, and usually two rows of cow stalls. In many cases the barn is very unhandy and requires considerable more labor than normal to care for the cows. Milk cows are often housed in the horse stalls.



Dairy barn remodeling and construction

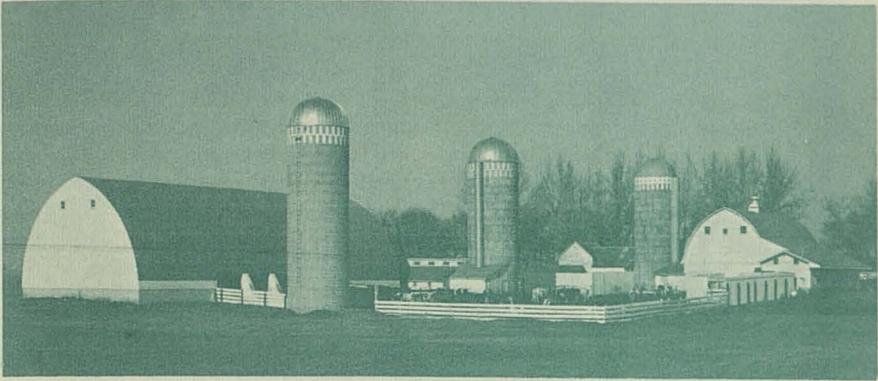
Committee Report on Dairy

Problems

1. Low production per cow.
2. Rising milk-production costs because of necessary barn remodeling and equipment.
3. Lack of application of feeding principles.

Recommendations

1. Expand DHIA and owner-sampler testing. Use good sires or artificial breeding to build up quality.
2. Provide information on equipment and remodeling possibilities, and information on practicability of laborsaving devices.
3. Emphasize the practice of feeding according to production to increase income per cow. Use good legume pasture plus rotation-a-day grazing.



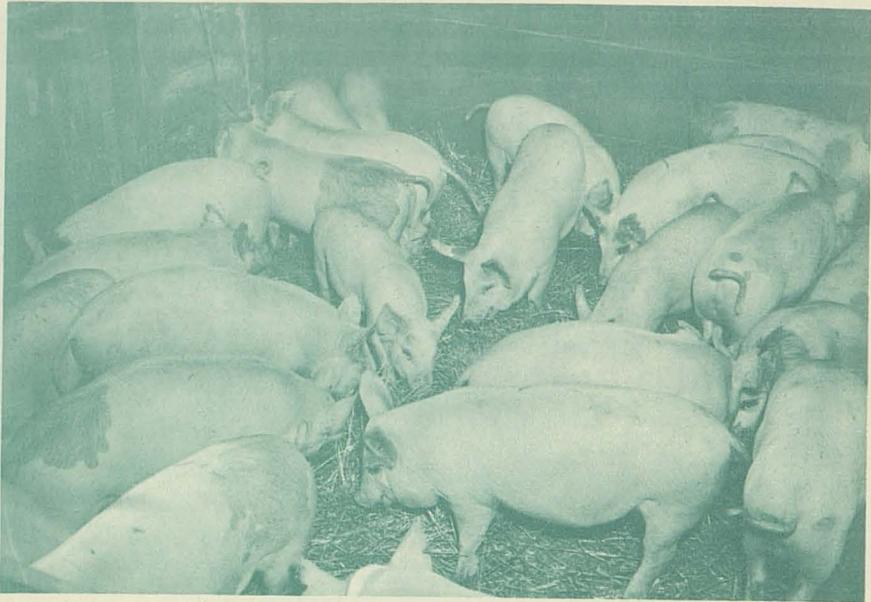
Loose dairy housing

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| 4. Inadequate dairy housing.   | 4. Convert present barn into modern dairy barn with laborsaving equipment.   |
| 5. Need for improving quality of dairy products.   | 5. Uniform standards important. Require adequate milkhouse. More information on requirements.  |
| 6. Inefficient creamery operation, with nine out of 13 creameries serving only as collecting stations. | 6. Present information on efficient creamery operation. There is a need to maintain cooperative creameries and a competitive market. |
| 7. Mastitis and other diseases.  | 7. Stress disease control.   |

### Other Livestock and Poultry

#### Situation

Hogs and poultry are very important parts of our farm economy. Both are necessary for the efficient use of labor



Crossbred and purebred swine production provides important income

and for adequate income on our small farms. A large percentage of the total pig crop is farrowed between March 1 and May 1. This means a large percentage of the pigs raised must be sold on a low market.

Beef-cattle feeding and sheep production have been minor livestock enterprises. However, more farmers each year are considering beef feeding as a part of their livestock program.

#### Goal

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

#### Committee Report on Other Livestock and Poultry

##### Problems

1. Losses from livestock and poultry diseases.

##### Recommendations

1. Stress disease control by prevention rather than

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|    |  | by cure. Use sanitation and vaccination.   |
| 2. | Large percentage of hogs produced are short, lardy type.           | 2. Stress meat-type hog production and value of crossbreeding.   |
| 3. | Lack of application of latest feeding developments.                | 3. Present research-supported data so farmers can appraise various feeding programs, including the use of antibiotics, stilbestrol, and high-energy feed, as well as other new developments. |
| 4. | Large percent of hogs are marketed during period of lowest prices. | 4. Encourage multiple-farrowing system.  |
| 5. | Small number of pigs per litter marketed.                          | 5. Emphasize the value of farrowing crates as well as disease control.   |
| 6. | Show application of a quality-egg program.                         | 6. Present information on quality-egg production as well as information on market for quality eggs.  |
| 7. | Lack of knowledge and understanding of beef-feeding operations.    | 7. Present information on the economics and possible income from feeding beef. Emphasize the importance of selection, proper feeding, and knowledge of marketing.                            |

## FARM AND HOME MANAGEMENT

### Situation

During the past five years, net farm income in this area as well as in the nation has been declining. The average size of the farm has been increasing.

<u>Size of Farm</u>	<u>1950</u>	<u>1954</u>
Under 30 acres	167	165
31 - 99 acres	727	633
100 - 179 acres	1,077	1,038
180 - 259 acres	310	334
260 - 499 acres	104	123
Over 500 acres	6	6

Income based on 1954 sales:

	<u>Number farms</u>
\$10,000 sales or more	373
5,000 to 9,999	950
2,500 to 4,999	625
1,200 to 2,499	230
<u>Less than 1,200</u>	<u>175</u>
Includes 100 part-time farmers.	

Each farmer is faced with the problem of determining the combination of land, labor, capital, and management that will result in the largest income or greatest amount of satisfaction for the family.

The loss of many of our better boys and girls from our farm society because of lack of suitable home life, low farm income, and high cost of becoming established in farming is a serious problem.

Some farm families are finding it difficult to find adequate credit. Many apparently buy equipment to a point where their operating costs soar beyond their capacity to pay. Efficiency of production varies widely from farm to farm.

Very few families keep adequate farm records, much less household records, or attempt to budget time or money.

Many homes have been remodeled or will be in the near future.

### Trends

- Cost-price squeeze is likely to continue as a threat to profitable farming; so farm costs will require close attention.
- Beginning farmers will face increasing capital requirements.
- Present burdensome supplies will probably gradually disappear. However, they will continue their depressing effect on some farm commodities for a number of years.
- Continued increase in size of farm but as a slower rate.
- Continued efforts for further improvement of short-term and intermediate credit for agriculture.
- A continued tight farm labor supply.
- Specialization on formerly diversified farms.

### Goal

Efficient management of farm and home for greater profit and pleasure.

### Committee Report on Farm and Home Management

<u>Problems</u>	<u>Recommendations</u>
1. Lack of interest in workable father-son partnership arrangements that are fair to both.	1. Cooperate with the legal profession in obtaining and presenting information on the legal aspects of farm transfer. Help families evaluate father-son partnerships.

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| <p>2. Lack of information on sources of credit with sound payment plans. Because of increased capital requirements of farming, credit is a real problem.</p>    | <p>2. Establish a better understanding of lending agencies and between lending agencies and farmers so both may benefit.</p>                    |
| <p>3. Lack of participation by the whole family in financial matters as well as management.</p>   | <p>3. Continue work in the field of family living. Stress importance of the family.</p>   |
| <p>4. Lack of information on wills, property transfers, and inheritance taxes.</p>  | <p>4. Cooperate with the legal profession in presenting information on these important matters.</p>   |
| <p>5. Need for having attractive and efficient homes to interest both young men and women in a livelihood on the farm.</p>                                      | <p>5. Give special attention to modern conveniences in the home and labor-saving devices for the farm.</p>                                      |
| <p>6. Need for help in house planning, room arrangement, placement of furniture, and selection of appliances for the home for both remodeled and new homes.</p> | <p>6. Provide information on housing; hold tours and demonstrations.</p>  |
| <p>7. Few families keep adequate farm records or household records.</p>   | <p>7. Stress the value of good farm records for proper farm management. Try to develop some method to make record keeping more interesting.</p> |
| <p>8. Income on small farms is often low, with inefficient use of farm labor. Yet these farms are a very important part of McLeod County's economy.</p>         | <p>8. Provide information on farm management with a view to high-income enterprises with efficient utilization of labor.</p>                    |

## PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

### Situation

Community activities play a very important part in the lives of our rural population. Many of our smaller urban communities do not provide the leadership or facilities to meet the needs of their service areas.

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

Great progress has been made over the past years on educational facilities and community recreational facilities through cooperation and community spirit.

The increase in urban population, not only in McLeod County but in the nation, requires a greater understanding and study of other groups' problems.

### Trends

Greater centralization of educational facilities within the county.

Greater increase of urban populations.

With increasing population, a greater demand for food, homes, and recreational facilities.

Greater demand for employment off the farm by part-time and younger retired farmers.

An increased search for educational opportunities following the completion of formal education.

### Goal

A better-informed rural public.

Committee Report on Public Affairs and Community  
Development

Some of these problems and recommendations are outside the scope of Extension alone.

<u>Problems</u>	<u>Recommendations</u>
1. Lack of community playground facilities.	1. Work with other groups in promoting playground facilities, such as the Glencoe swimming pool project and the Lake Marion picnic grounds development. More community projects of this type should be encouraged.
2. Misuse of public highways.	2. Work with other groups in discouraging disposal of cans and other trash along the roads.
3. Meetings and events such as fairs, exhibitions, judging sessions, tours, etc., causing absenteeism from school.	3. Make further studies to schedule as many events as possible when school is not in session.
4. Incorrectly placed mail boxes.	4. Work with Post Office Department to encourage adherence to postal regulations. Boxes should be painted white or aluminum and properly placed to facilitate snow removal by county crews.
5. Excessive costs of marketing farm produce.	5. Cooperate with marketing organizations such as creameries and produces

to explore methods to lower costs and return higher net profit to farmers. It may be desirable to consolidate to prevent overlapping of pick-up routes and to lower processing costs through higher volume and more efficient use of labor.

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| 6. Excessive demand on free time of young people. | 6. Cooperate with youth organizations in developing programs which would tend to eliminate splitting the family in groups for night meetings.   |
| 7. Farm - cities relationship.                    | 7. Develop programs stressing the interdependence of both city and farm groups. Both groups should become more acquainted with the educational opportunities offered by the Extension Office. |

# Summary

The recommendations included in this report will be the guide for the annual programs for several years. Each major area of work has a number of specific problems and suggestions.

The recommendations in general relate to the following problems:

## SAFETY

Help develop a more pleasant environment for work and play.

Highway, fire, firearms, and farm machinery present the biggest safety problems.

## FAMILY LIVING

Happier and healthier family members in a more relaxed and convenient home.

Adequate nutritional levels for all family members, remodeling and modernization of homes, adding adequate and convenient storage space, appreciation and understanding of family roles.

## YOUTH

Well-adjusted and well-informed youth that will become responsible citizens of tomorrow.

More complete rural and urban youth participation in organized youth programs, more opportunities for high school students to learn of career possibilities.

## CROPS AND SOILS

To produce, with a minimum of labor, efficient, top-quality crops while maintaining or increasing soil fertility.

Soil testing, clean grains, weed control, proper harvesting, and insect control are the most important considerations.

## LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY

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

Increased efficiency, adequate housing, application of feeding principles, disease prevention, and quality production should be emphasized.

## FARM AND HOME MANAGEMENT

Efficient management of the farm and home for greater profit and pleasure.

Legal aspects of the farm business, family cooperation, and adequate farm and household records.

## PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

A better-informed rural public.

Playground facilities, farm marketing cost, excessive demands on free time of youth, and farm - city relationship.

# Committees

## Farm and Home Management

Mrs. Stanley Ewald	Brownton
Mrs. Ben Villnow	Glencoe
Mrs. Delmer Herrmann	Plato
Raymond Geier	Stewart
Edward Fasching	Winsted
Theodore Doring	Hutchinson
Ronald Makovsky	Silver Lake
Mrs. Herman Miller	Brownton
Mrs. Donald Martens	Hutchinson
Garry Duesterhoeft	Hutchinson

## Livestock--Production, Consumption, Marketing

Edwin F. Lustman	Glencoe
Ray Jilek	Glencoe
Orville Lipke	Stewart
Melvin Heuer	Silver Lake
Erwin Miller	Plato
Howard Peik	Brownton

## Safety

Edwin Wuethrich	Glencoe
Mrs. Steven Reml	Glencoe
Richard Berry	Hutchinson
Ernest Bullert	Glencoe
Herbert Zaske	Brownton
Clifford Terlinden	Glencoe
Leonard Schuft	Stewart

## Public Affairs and Community Development

Mrs. Howard Schuette	Plato
Delford Wendlandt	Brownton
Jerry J. Farenbough	Biscay
Wyeles Reiner	Hutchinson

Mrs. Henry Schott  
Mrs. Herbert Henke  
George Otto  
Walter Bargmann  
Mrs. James Williamson  
Mrs. Gerald Piehl

Hutchinson  
Hutchinson  
Winsted  
Glencoe  
Brownton  
Hutchinson

Family Living

Mrs. John Griesman  
Mrs. Maynard Haag  
Mrs. Richard Smida  
Mrs. Ray Grenke  
Mrs. Dominic Rozeski  
James Baird  
Mrs. Frank Johnson  
Mrs. O. C. Athmann  
John Leitz  
Edward Wegsheid

Glencoe  
Hutchinson  
Silver Lake  
Glencoe  
Silver Lake  
Winsted  
Biscay  
Hutchinson  
Brownton  
Winsted

Youth

Mrs. Ernest Brinkmann  
Eldor Dallman  
James Enevoldsen  
Mrs. Oscar Glas  
Alvin Hoff  
Mrs. John Otto  
Clifford Bussler  
Mrs. H. L. Tews  
Mrs. George Pishney  
Mrs. Harold Hlavka  
Mrs. Art Dobratz

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Winsted  
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