METHODS WHICH STATE AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICES

EMPLOY IN EVALUATING

COUNTY AGRICULTURAL AGENTS

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CHAPTER I

THE PROBLEM

Data relating to personnel performance rating in the cooperative extension services are practically nonexistent. Furthermore, there is a paucity of pertinent data in the fields of education and industry that one can directly apply to the rating of county agricultural extension agents. This study determines what has been and is being done in the various states regarding performance rating, its relation to tenure, to advanced degrees, and to professional improvement in the cooperative extension services. It examines the various forms and rating systems currently in use. Also, it explores the opinions of extension service administrators and indicates how this information will serve as the basis for developing a more adequate rating procedure.

CHAPTER II

METHOD OF STUDY

The questionnaire, which was constructed to secure the necessary information for this study, contains twenty-one questions, classified in three parts. Part I obtains information on what the states are doing in the area of formal evaluation. Part II ascertains precisely how states make their evaluations when they do not have formal systems. Part III determines the relative weights that states place on performance and other factors in making promotions and salary adjustments and in the total evaluation of county agricultural extension agents.

The questionnaire was mailed to all agricultural extension directors in the United States and Puerto Rico, excluding Oklahoma. Forty-seven states and Puerto Rico sent replies, with forty-five states and Puerto Rico returning the questionnaire. Thirty-three questionnaires were fully completed; four had only one unanswered question; two had only two unanswered questions; two had only three unanswered questions; and two had only four unanswered questions. One questionnaire answered only two questions. Two states sent formal replies but retained the questionnaire. Every answer on the completed questionnaires is included in the analysis.

Part I

This section was used by only those states which had a formal evaluation system for county agents. The word "formal" indicates the use of forms listing specific questions and items of information which provide a basis for evaluation.

The questions in Part I of the questionnaire and the answers are as follows:

1. Do you have a formal system for evaluating your county agricultural agents and their work?

	Reporting
	States answering yes
	States enswering no
2.	How many years has the present evaluation system been in
	operation?

																	Ŋ				State	
																	-	Ē	leχ	or	ting	
States	reporting	less	than	one	3	/ea	ľ	4	.8:	•	•	ø	*	э.	•	•	ø			•	1	
States	reporting	one y	ear .		•	9	6	9	ö	•	3	•	•	•	•	•	•	4		•	4	
States	reporting	two y	ears.	. 5	ø			٠	0	•	3	•	o.	•	3	,	•	٠	*	•	2	
States	reporting	four	years		p	9	0		•	.5	•	50	9	•	•	٠	ą.	•	•	٠	1	
States	reporting	ten y	ears.	•	•	•	•	*	•	÷	٠	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	٠	•	1	
States	reporting	fourt	een y	eai	's	ý	•	ò	•		•	9	9	•	,	•	•	•	4		1	
States	reporting	fifte	en ye	ars	S &		•	φ.	•	٥	•	•	•	a -	•	•	•	•		•	2	
States	not giving	g numbe	er of	, 'ye	ar	s	•	•	•	•	•	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	2	

3.	Do you have a committee to supervise the evaluation program?
	Number States Reporting
	States answering yes
	States answering no 6
4.	Who actually makes the evaluation? (Please check one or more
	of the following.)
	Number States Reporting
	Director
	Assistant Director
	District Agents, Men
	District Agents, Women
	Specialists
	Agents
	Others (Specify)
	Co-staff Chairman
	County Agent Leader
	Associate Agricultural Extension Leader 1
	State Leader
	County Extension Councils 1
5.	How frequently do you make evaluations? (Please check.)
	Number States Reporting
	Six months
	One year
	Two years
	Three years
	Some other (Specify)
	No regular intervals
	New agents only

0.	Do you make the evaluation in conference with the employee, discussing
	each item with him?
	Number States Reporting
	States answering yes
	States answering no
7.	Does the evaluation include a questionnaire which the employee completes?
	Number States Reporting
	States answering yes
	States answering no
	By some other method
8.	Do you inform the employee of his rating?
	Number States Reporting
	States answering yes
	States answering no
9.	How long after an evaluation is it before the employee learns of his
	score? Check one applicable.
	Number States Checking
	Immediately following the evaluation 2
	One month
	Two months
	Three months
	Some other time (Specify)
	As soon as supervisor can visit
	When salary change is made 1
	In general at time or following District Agent review 1
	Do not give employee evaluation score

	to a board or committee?				
		N	-		States orting
	States answering yes	•	•.	◆.	7
	States answering no	•	•	•.	4
	States not answering	•	•	•	3
11,	If the answer to the preceding question is yes, which of	٠.	th	e 1	Collowing
	are representatives of the appeal board or committee? (S	ho	w t	У
	check mark.)				
		N			States cking
	Administration	•		•	6
	Supervision	•	•	•	-5
	County Agents	•	•	•	0
	Specialists	•	•	٠	0
	Any others (Specify)				
	Dean of faculty after administration	٠	•	•	1
	State personnel office	•	•	•	1
12.	What uses do you make of the information you secure in t	h	9 (eve	luation
•	(Check one or more of the following if applicable.)				
		M	-	ALC: UNKNOWN	States cking
	For salary adjustments	*	•	•	13
	As a guide for making promotions	•	٠	•	13
	As a guide to the best use of supervisors time	•	•	•	11
	As a guide for establishing in-service training programs	•	*	•	10
	To encourage professional improvement	•	•	•	11
	To encourage self improvement	•	•.	•	13
	For some other purpose (Specify)	•	•	٠	0

10. If the employee is dissatisfied with his evaluation, may be appeal

13.	Are you presently considering revising your evaluation	forms?	
<i>y</i>		Company to the Company of States	States rting
	States answering yes	• • •	10
	States answering no	* • •	4
	Part II		
	This section was used by the states not having a formal	evalua	tion
sys	tem in operation at the time they completed the question	naire.	States
ans	wering Part I did not fill out Part II.		
	The questions in Part II of the questionnaire and the a	nswers :	are
as	follows:	•	
1.	Have you ever had a formal evaluation system in your sta	ate?	
			States rting
	States answering yes	• • •	14
	States answering no		28
	If the answer is yes, please indicate why you dropped i	t.	
		Number Check	and the second second second
	Caused frustration and anxiety among workers	• • •	3
	The material was unused		1
	The system was inadequate to meet the needs		3
	Some other reason (Specify)	• • •	0
2.	Are you developing a formal evaluation system at this ti	Lme?	
	States answering yes		11
	States answering no	·· • • •	8
e P	States answering with the statement, hoping to soon	• • •	2

3. Assuming no formal evaluation system is in operation, who evaluates county agricultural agents? Please check one or more of the following:

Number Sta			
Checking			
Director			
Associate Director			
Assistant Director			
Supervisors			
Specialists			
Others (Specify)			
Home Demonstration Leader			
4-H Leader			
County Agent Leader			
Associate 4-H Leader			
State Agents and State Leader			
State Home Demonstration Agent			
Program Supervisor			
Agents			
County Extension Chairman 1			
Committee			
Number indicating only the supervisors 3			
Number indicating only the director			
Number not checking this section			
Number checking this question showing involvement of the			
state staff in making evaluation			

Part III

TOTA TTT	appries	on arr	suaues,	WT 077	6116	questions	7.11	OHE	dues erou.
naire and the	answers	beine	as follo	ows:					

1. Which of the following criteria do you employ in making salary adjustments and promotions? (Please check one or more of the following.) Forty-four states replied as follows:

	Number S Checki	
	Tenure	8
	Performance	2
	Advanced degrees	7
	Professional Improvement (workshops, special courses, summer	
	schools, etc.)	6
2.	What relative percentage weight do you give each of the following	E
	four factors when evaluating a person for promotion? (The four	
	percentages should add to 100 percent.)	

Tenure as a factor for promotion

Thirty-two states gave the following percentages.

																														States	
																												Re	po	rting	
5%.	•	•	•	•	•	•	÷	•	÷	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	6	
10%	•	•	÷	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	٠	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•	٠	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	13	
15%	•	•	٠	•	•	•	•	•	٠	۰	٠	•	•	•	•	•	٠	•	•	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	3	
20%	.2	•	•	•	٠	÷	•	•	•	•	٠	ě	*	•.	•	·a	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	9	
30%			•	•	•			•	•		4	•	٠	•	•		•		•	•	•	•			•	ě	•			1	

Performance as a factor for promotion

Thirty-eight states gave the following percentages.

		States
	Repor	rting
40%	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	1,
50%		6
55% • • • •	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	1
60%		12
65%		1
70%		3
75% • • • •		6
80%		4
85%	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	1
90%	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	1
100%		2
Advanced dea	rees as a factor for promotion	

Advanced degrees as a factor for promotion

Thirty-three states gave the following percentages.

																														States rting	
5%.	•	•	•	•	•	٠	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•			•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	7	
10%	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	*	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	٠	•	٠	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	13	
15%	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	٠	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•	٠	•	•	•	•	6	
20%	٠	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	*	•	•	•	•	٠	•		•	٠	•	•	5	
30%						•		٠			•								•	•		•		•	•			•.		2	

Professional Improvement as a factor for promotion

Thirty-five states gave the following percentages.

	Number States Reporting
	5%
	10%
	15%
	20%
	25%
	30%
3•	In terms of 100%, what value do you give each of the following four
	factors in determining salary adjustments? (Make the four weights
	add to 100%.)
	Tenure as a factor for salary adjustment
	Twenty-nine states gave the following percentages.
	Number States

																													_	States
																												Re	po	rting
5%.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•	•	•	•	•	•.	•	•	•	ė.	•	•	•	•	•	2
10%	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	13
15%	٠	•	٠.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	÷	•	٠	•	•	•	•	3
20%	•	•	•.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	٠	•	•	•	•	•,	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	÷	•	9
25%	•	•	•	•	٠	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	ě	•	•	1
65%						ė	•	•	•	•			•		ė	•			•	•	•		•	•			*	٠		1

Performance as a factor for salary adjustment

Thirty-six states gave the following percentages.

																										N	-		r Stat
25%																													1
45%																													1
50%																													4
60%																			•										8
70%																													6
75%																													8
30%																													1
35%																													3
90%																													1
																													3
dve	n	ced	l d	le												-						-				15.			04-1
dve	n	ced	l d	le												-						-				N	-	1000	
dva	ane	7-0	d d	leg	ts					ve	e 1	the	9 1		Llo	owi	ne.	E				ag	ges				Re	po	
dvs wer	anent;	7-1	d d	leg	ts					·		the		ro]		owi	ne		er		ent	ag	ges				Re	· po	rting
wer	incint;	7-1	d d	leg	ts	· ·			ga		e 1	the .		ro]		owi	. ne	· ·	er.		ent	iag	ges				Re	· po	rting 11
4. 0%	ane	· ·	d d	leg gh		· ·			ga		e 1	the .		fol		owi	. ne	· ·	er.		ent	iag	ges				Re		rting 11 10
.009 Adver	int;	7-1	d d	le;		te			gs			the		fol		owi	ing.	· · ·			ent		ges	 			Re		11 10 5
%. 0% 5% rof	ent;	7-1	d d	ght		imp	····	·	ge	·		the	a	fol	·	owi	ing	·	ei	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	ent		ges	 			Re		11 10 5
%. 0% 5%	ent;	7-1	d d	ght		imp	····	·	ge	·		the	a	fol	·	owi	ing	·	ei	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	ent		ges	 		Nu	Re	· · · · ·	10
dvs wer %. 0% 5% of rof	ent;	- C	d d	leght.	t s	Comp	····	·	ge	·		the	a	fol	·	owi	ing	·		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	ent		ges	 	·	Nu	Reminde	erepo	11 10 5 2
%. 0% 5% rof	ent;	7-1	l deig	leght.	t s	Comp	····	·	ge	·	e 1	the	a a	fol	·	owi	ng f	·		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	ent		ges	 	·	Nu	Reminde	erepo	rting 11 10 5 2 Stat

	Professional Improvement as a factor for salary adjustment (continued)
	20%
	25%
4.	Should a formal evaluation system include a section for evaluating
	personal qualifications including habits, interests, and attitudes
	desirable to the profession? (Yes or No.)
	States answering yes
	States answering no
5•	In establishing an evaluation system, how do you rate the following
	in order of their importance? (Rate them 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 order.
	If you think two or more criteria are equally important, give each
	the same number.)
	Program development and projection
	Thirty-seven states gave the following ratings.
	Number States Rating
	Rating of one
	Rating of two
	Rating of three
	Rating of four
	Program execution
	Thirty-seven states gave the following ratings.
	Number States Rating
	Rating on one
	Rating of two
	Rating of three
	Rating of four

Working relationships (Staff and Agency)

Thirty-seven states gave the following ratings.

Number States Rating
Rating of one
Rating of two
Rating of three
Rating of four 4
Personal qualifications
Thirty-seven states gave the following ratings.
Number States Rating
Rating of one
Rating of two
Rating of three
Rating of four
Rating of five
Public relations
Thirty-seven states gave the following ratings.
Number States Rating
Rating of one
Rating of two 6
Rating of three
Rating of four
Rating of five

CHAPTER III

FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

In part I of the questionnaire dealing with those states now using a formal evaluation system, the term "formal" signifies the use of prepared forms listing key questions which provide a basis for evaluation. Fourteen states now using a formal system in evaluating county agricultural extension agents, have been doing so for fifteen years or less. However, ten of them are presently considering revising their evaluation forms. Nine make annual evaluations; five make evaluations every six months to three years. Ten of the fourteen states make evaluations in conference with the employee.

Male district agents either make or assist in making evaluations in each of the fourteen states, whereas female district agents assist in seven, specialists assist in four, and county agents assist with evaluations in five states. Five states use a questionnaire which the county agents must complete and eight states employ a committee to supervise the evaluation program.

Six states provide an appeal board comprised of representatives from the administration and supervisory staff. All states completing this section give equal weight to the information they secure in evaluating the county agents.

Only those states not having a formal evaluation system completed.

part II of the questionnaire. Thirty-two are using the informal system,

of which, four at one time used the formal system. The four states dis
continued the formal system because the material was unused, the system

was inadequate, and it created frustration and anxiety among the workers.

Eleven of the thirty-two states are now developing a formal system.

In twenty-eight states, the state staff participates in the evaluations; in three, only the supervisors participate and in one state, the director makes the evaluations.

Even though each state was instructed to complete part III of the questionnaire, only thirty-three answered all phases. Eleven others submitted partially completed forms. Part III deals with tenure, performance, professional training and improvement, and advanced degrees in relation to promotion and salary adjustment.

Practically all states consider four factors--tenure, performance, advanced degrees, and professional improvement--in determining salary adjustments and promotions. Of the four factors, performance is by far the most important in making promotions, counting sixty-six percent of all factors in the thirty-eight states reporting on this point (Part III, Question 2). Of the remaining three factors bearing on the promotion of county agents, tenure and advanced degrees, each, counts thirteen percent, followed by professional improvement, which counts only twelve percent.

Also, performance is the most significant factor in deciding salary adjustments. For example, thirty-six states report that this item counts sixty-nine percent in deciding salary adjustments. Of the three remaining factors, tenure has the greatest weight, amounting to sixteen

percent. Then comes professional improvement, counting twelve percent and advanced degrees, counting only ten percent.

Consequently, performance is the most important of the four factors in determining both promotions and salary adjustments of county agents. Tenure, advanced degrees, and professional improvement are of lesser importance, each carrying approximately the same weight.

CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSIONS AND IMPLICATIONS

This study has shown that the county agent's performance in the field is by far the most important factor relating to the effective-ness of extension work. Tenure, advanced degrees, and professional improvement are important but only insofar as they tend to promote better performance. Tenure, advanced degrees, and professional improvement play supporting and complementary roles, and apparently are conducive to better performance.

Although this study did not secure exhaustive data on this subject, it did indicate a definite need for improved evaluation methods which impel a higher quality of extension work. A careful study of the evaluation forms which the various states use indicates those which have developed forms based on some guiding principles, or "basic concepts", appear to have a better basis upon which to establish and maintain an effective evaluation program. Basic principles or concepts, which have been developed from standards of performance and job descriptions seem to be more conducive to understanding and acceptance. Guiding principles thoroughly understood and accepted by those being evaluated should contribute to a more objective type evaluation.

Evidently most states attempt to evaluate without first preparing standards of performance and job descriptions. Without standards, it is impossible for one to devise adequate, concise forms for personal

evaluation. In the absence of such forms, evaluation becomes merely the personal opinion of the evaluator, being based upon personal attitudes and opinions toward the employee. Hence, this type of evaluation is grossly unfair--unfair to the evaluator and unfair to the person evaluated.

In conclusion, basic concepts and carefully prepared evaluation forms obviously are necessary for fair, accurate evaluations of county agents.

ADDENDUM

FORMS NOW BEING USED BY THE STATES AND PUERTO RICO AND FORMS BEING PREPARED FOR USE BY OTHER STATES IN MAKING AN EVALUATION OF COUNTY AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION AGENTS

At the end of this report is a summary of the areas which states consider in making evaluations. These are the areas which states are using and consider to be most important. These data are included as supporting evidence. Tabulations of the forms, along with summaries of the study, will be sent to all states contributing materials for this report.

MAJOR AREAS OF THE EVALUATION FORMS OF TWELVE STATES AND PUENTO RICO DOING FORMAL EVALUATION

State		Areas Covered	Number Questions	Points Where Used	Rating or Otherwise
Arkansas	1.		15 20		Each item was rated either excellent, very good, good,
NOO to company to the page of the interpretate the basis of	3.	The county program and results	16	None	fair or poor. Present system has been used 14 years and is being con- sidered for revision.
Colorado	1.	Working relations	6		Uses comments only.
	2. 3.		9 9	None	Are considering revising. Present system has been used 15 years.
Hawaii	1.	Personality	1		Each area was rated either
	2.	Teaching effectiveness	1		superior, very good, good,
	3. 4.	Work habits Training for the job	1 1	None	fair, poor, or very poor.
	5.		1	1,0716	
		Professional attitudes	1		
		Community service	l		Are considering revising.
	8. 9.	Cooperativeness Reporting habits	1 1		Length of time used was not given.
Illinois	1.	Conception of the job	7		Each item was rated either
		Program planning procedure			excellent, very good, good,
	3.		7	None	fair or unable to rate.
	4.		5 4		
		Professional improvement Office management	<u>1</u>		Asia aanaidanisma marinta
	7.		6		Are considering revising. Present system has been used two years.

State		Areas Covered	Number Questions	Points Where Used	Rating to Otherwise
Michigan	1.	Conception of the job	.6		Amount of improvement needed.
	2.	Advisory groups, related			
		Extension committees and	ģras.		90m
	•	other leadership	5		Each item was rated either very
	٤٠	Planning and developing	6	We to de	much, much, considerable, some,
	4.	the program Carrying out the program		None	little, or none.
	5 .	Working relationships	9		A performance profile completed
	6.		6		after each evaluation.
	7.		8		ar cer each evaruacron.
•	8.	Office management and	Q		Present system has been used
	0.	reporting	Žį.		4 years and is being considered
	9.	For County chairman only	9		for revision.
	<i>y</i> •	gos cours, camaranta carry			TAL TO ATRICATE STATES
Missouri	1.	Conception of the job	5		
ŧ .	2.	Leadership development	5		
	3.	Planning and developing	-		
	•	the program	Ļ		
	Įŗ.		11	None	Comments only.
	5.				•
	. •	results	4		
	6.	Working relations	7		
	7.	Public relations	7		
	8.	Self improvement	7		System used 1960 for first
	9.	Office management	11	a jointama aykkana kiin yake o kana joini yake ta jiroo saliini iligi uu mada ka i ma	time.
Nebraska	1.	Working relationships	5		
****	2.	Human relationships			
	3.	Public relations	Š		1. Ranks in top one-fourth
	4.	Extension organization	á	None	2. Ranks in middle one-half
	5.	County office management	9 5 9 3 3 4	****	3. Ranks in low one-fourth
	6.	Extension teaching methods	ง จั		O. Insufficient information
	7.		Ĭ.		available or does not
	ė.	Extension evaluation	3		apply
	9.	County Extension program	~		~## ~
	-	aevelopment	Ĺį.		Are considering revising.
	10.	Educational program conter			
	77	Mi enal lananie	at lg		Present system has been used

Stat	e		Areas Covered	Number Questions	Points Where Used	Rating or Otherwise
New	Hampshire	1.	Efficiency	3	10	
		2.	Organizational ability	1	9	
		3.	Getting along with people	3	9 15 8	
		4.	Committee work	1	8	
		5.	Support of council	1		Total points.
		6.	Professional improvement	1	15 5 9 5	
		7.	Interest and enthusiasm	ī	9	
		8.	Appearance (personal)	ī	5	
		9.	Conduct and language	ī	15	Present system has been used
		10.	Initiative	ī	10	2 years and is being considered
		11.	Subject matter	ī	9	for revision.
New .	Jersey	1.	Concept of the profession	6	All the last of th	
		2.	Program development and			
		-	execution	9		
		3.	Ability to organize	9 5		Rated as to additional training,
		4.	Communications skills	4		supervision and opportunity
		5.	Counseling techniques	5		needed.
		6.	Leadership development	4	None	Moducu.
		7.	Evaluation	2	MOTIC	Little (4), Some (3), Consider-
		8.	Ability to work with peopl			able (2), Much (1).
		9.	Administration			abte (2), Mach (1).
			Helpful attributes	8		
		11.	Personal qualifications	12 8 8		Present system has been used
		12.	Technical subject matter	5		1 year.
			competency.			I year.
Ohio		1.	Program development	16		Rated by number as Fair (1-2),
		2.	Working relations	12	None	Good (3-4), Excellent (5-6).
		3.	Personal qualifications	8	MOMO	Present system has been used
			The state of the s			15 years and is being considered for revision.

			Number	Points	
State	Viena di Maria di Sala	Areas Covered	Questions	Where Used	Rating or Otherwise
Puerto Rico	1.	Office organization and			
		management	9	8	
	2.	Field organization	5	12	
	3.			5	
	4.	Relationships with friend	lly,		
		cooperative and understan	nding7	5	Rated A, B, C, D.
	5.	Program planning	.8	15	
	6.	Program execution	16	20	
		Professional interests	7	10	
	•	and participation	•	•	Length of time used was not
	8.	Effectiveness of Extension	on		given and is being considered
		program.	6	25	for revision.
Virginia	2. 3. 4. 56.	committees and leadership Planning the program Carrying out the program Working relationships Public relations Professional improvement	16	None	Rated by number as Poor (1-2), Fair (3-4), Good (5-6), Very good (7-8), Excellent (9-10). Present system has been used 1 year.
Washington	Gen	eral comments only			Rated 1, 2, 3, 4, 5. Present system has been used 15 years.

MAJOR AREAS BEING CONSIDERED BY OTHER STATES AND THE STATES' COMMENTS AS TO THEIR USE

State		Areas Covered	Number Questions	Rating or Otherwise
Connecticut	1.	Problem analysis	11	This form is in the process of development
	2.	Program development	14	
	3. 4.	Execution of program Program accomplishments and	10	
		use	7	
	5.	Relationships	7 8	
	6,	Office organization	1.	
	7.	For County Administrators		
	i d kini alauntu ilitai n	only	13	
Maine	1.	Conception of the job	14	Rated as the amount of improvement needed.
	2.	County Executive, community and related Extension commit-		Very much (1), Much (2), Considerable (3), Some (4), Little or None (5) - (Comments).
		tees and other leadership	7	
	3.	Analyzing the county situation	a 5	Considered a preliminary form being tested
	4.	Planning and developing the		at the present time.
		program	3	
•	5.	Carrying out the program	11	
	6.	Working relationships	8	
	7.	Public relations	6	
	8.	Professional improvement	8	
	9.	Office management and reporting	ngll	

February 22, 1960

Re: Methods Used in

Evaluating Extension

Agents

Dear

We know that you can appreciate the need for establishing adequate methods of evaluating Extension personnel. In Oklahoma, we are in the process of revising our present system used in evaluating Extension Agents.

We have access to information from surveys made several years ago, however, there is additional information we need.

A questionnaire made up in three parts is attached to aid you in supplying the information needed. Please observe questions listed on the back of each page. We will appreciate your giving us your best judgment in answering the questions.

If you would like to receive a copy of the material after it has been tabulated, sign your name and address on the back page of Part III.

A self-addressed envelope is enclosed for your use in returning the completed questionnaire.

Thanking you for your cooperation,

Yours truly,

H. E. Chambers District Agent

HEC: bw

Enclosures

A STUDY OF METHODS USED BY STATE AGRICULTURE EXTENSION SERVICES IN EVALUATING COUNTY AGRICULTURAL AGENTS

Part I

1.	Do you have a formal system for evaluating your county
	agricultural agents and their work? Yes No
IF	THE ANSWER TO NO. 1 IS "NO," DISREGARD QUESTIONS 2 THROUGH 13.
2.	How many years has present evaluation system been in
	operation?
3.	Do you have a committee that supervises the evaluation
	program?Yes_No_
Ц.	Who actually makes the evaluation? Please check one or more
	of the following:
	Director
	Assistant Director
	District Agents (Men)
	District Agents (Women)
	Specialists
	Agents
	Others (Specify)
5.	How frequently do you make evaluations? Please check.
	Six Months
	One Year
	Two Years
	Three Years
	Some other (Specify)
6.	Do you make the evaluation in conference with the
	employee, discussing each item with him? Yes No

Does the evaluation include a questionnaire which the
employee completes? Yes No
By some other method (Specify)
Do you inform the employee of his rating? Yes No
How long after an evaluation is it before the employee
learns of his score? Check one applicable.
Immediately following the evaluation
One Month
Two Months
Three Months
Some other time (Specify)
If the employee is dissatisfied with his evaluation,
may he appeal to a board or committee? Yes No
If the answer to the preceding question is yes, which of
the following are representatives of the appeal board or
committee? Show by check mark.
Administration
Supervision
County Agents
Specialists

12.	What uses do you make of the information you secure in
	evaluation? Check one or more of the following if
	applicable.
	For salary adjustments
	As a guide for making promotions
	As a guide to the best use of supervisor's time
	As a guide for establishing in-service training programs
	To encourage professional improvement
	To encourage self improvement
	For some other purpose (Specify)
13.	Are you presently considering revising your evaluation
	forms?Yes No
	Part II
If	you have no formal evaluation system in operation in your state
at	this time, please answer the following:
1.	Have you ever had a formal evaluation system in your
	state?Yes No
	If the answer is yes, please indicate why you dropped it.
	Caused frustration among workers
	The material was unused
	The system was inadequate to meet the needs
	Some other reason (Specify)
2.	Are you developing a formal evaluation system at this
	time? Yes No

3.	Assuming no formal evaluation system is in operation, who
•	does the evaluating? Please check one or more of the
	following:
	Director
	Associate Director
	Assistant Director
	Supervisors
	Specialists
	Others (Specify)
	Part III
1.	Which of the following criteria do you employ in making
	salary adjustments and promotions? Please check one or
	more of the following:
	Tenure
	Performance
	Advanced Degrees
	Professional Improvement
2.	What relative percentage weight do you give each of the
	following four factors when evaluating a person for
	promotion? (The four percentages should add to 100%.)
	Tenure
	Performance
	Advanced Degrees
	Professional Transport

3. In terms of 100 percent, what value do you give each of
the following four factors in determining salary adjust-
ments? (Make the 4 weights add to 100.)
Tenure
Performance
Advanced Degrees
Professional Improvement
4. Should a formal evaluation system include a section for
evaluating personal qualifications, including habits,
interests, and attitudes desirable to the profession? Yes No
5. In establishing an evaluation system, how do you rate
the following in order of their importance? Rate them
1, 2, 3, 4, 5 order. If you think two or more criteria
are equally important, give each the same number.
Program Development and Projection
Program Execution
Working Relationships (staff and agency)
Personal Qualifications
Public Relations
If you have a form or forms which you now use in your evaluation
system, please include a copy of each along with completed copies
of this questionnaire.

VITA

H. E. Chambers

Candidate for the Degree of

Master of Science

Report: METHODS WHICH STATE AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICES EMPLOY IN EVALUATING COUNTY AGRICULTURAL AGENTS

Major Field: Rural Adult Education

Biographical:

Personal data: Born in El Paso, Texas, December 29, 1907, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles C. Chambers.

Education: Attended elementary school at Purcell, Oklahoma; graduated from Stillwater, Oklahoma High School in 1927; received the Bachelor of Science degree from Oklahoma State University in 1933, with a major in Agronomy; completed the requirements for the Master of Science degree in August, 1960.

Professional Experience: Worked on a cattle and wheat ranch during summers through high school; worked for the Agronomy Department, Oklahoma State University on Experiment Station and in laboratory during college; January, 1934, assigned to Greer County, Oklahoma, as Assistant County Agent; 1935 to 1938, served as Assistant County Administrator of government Agricultural programs in Greer County, Oklahoma; served as County Agent in Love County from 1938 to 1943; transferred to Associate Extension Economist, Marketing, March 1943; transferred to assist Farm Labor Supervisor, July 1943; transferred to County Agent, Cleveland County 1944; District Agent, Southwest District, 1951 to 1957; District Agent, Northeast District, July 1, 1957.