

Date of Degree: August 7, 1954

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Title of Study: FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF RURAL BOYS IN  
FARMING IN TWO TYPE-OF-FARMING AREAS IN OKLAHOMA.

Number of Pages in Study: 166      Candidate for What Degree: Master of Science

Under Direction of What Department: Agricultural Education

Statement of Problem: The object of this study is to determine which factors contribute to the occupational choices of rural boys and to their establishment in farming in separate type-of-farming areas, and to compare the findings to discover any differences that might exist having significant implications for rural educators.

Method of Procedure: The cash grain area, represented by Garber and Kingfisher communities, and the general farming area, represented by Perkins and Prague communities, were selected for study. Seventy-six established farmers were interviewed, forty-six from the cash grain area and thirty from the general area, the data being recorded on interview schedules. Statistics were computed with the aid of business machines.

Findings and Conclusions: The rural boy's father was discovered to be the most important influence person, 74 percent of the interviewees reporting. Vocational agriculture was a major factor in interesting 67.1 of the farmers interviewed, and in helping them become established in farming. Of those interviewed, 88 percent were farm reared and 83 percent were reared locally. Nearly 50 percent had brothers on the farm at present. All of the farmers enjoyed farming, and all of them were affiliated in some way with some religious organization. Sixty percent had received veteran training.

In comparing the two areas studied, it was discovered that nearly 75 percent of the agricultural income in the cash grain area came from crop sales, while 75 percent of the income in the general area was derived from sale of livestock. Farms are larger, decreases in rural farm population have been greater, and management problems are more difficult to solve in the general area than in the cash grain. Only 8 percent of the farmers studied belonged to civic organizations, suggesting differences between the group interviewed and the organizations listed. The major conclusion drawn from the opinions of the seventy-six farmers was that establishment in any area depends on the way young men are able to solve seven basic problems. It was recommended that rural educators stress guidance of rural boys.

ADVISOR'S APPROVAL \_\_\_\_\_

FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO THE ESTABLISH-  
MENT OF RURAL BOYS IN FARMING IN  
TWO TYPE-OF-FARMING AREAS  
IN OKLAHOMA

By

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Bachelor of Science

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Stillwater, Oklahoma

1953

Submitted to the faculty of the Graduate School of  
the Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical College  
in partial fulfillment of the requirements  
For the degree of  
MASTER OF SCIENCE  
August, 1954

FEB 2 1960

FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO THE ESTABLISH-  
MENT OF RURAL BOYS IN FARMING IN  
TWO TYPE-OF-FARMING AREAS  
IN OKLAHOMA

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## PREFACE

A primary problem facing rural educators today is that of counseling rural boys concerning their occupational opportunities and choices. Considerable research has been conducted in regard to the factors that contribute to the establishment of rural young men in farming, but little work has been done on comparisons of the factors found to be prevalent in different type-of-farming areas.

With the belief that such a comparative investigation would provide educators with valuable information for improving their vocational guidance programs, the researcher selected two type-of-farming areas in Oklahoma, the cash grain and the general farming, for study.

Seventy-six established farmers, forty-six from the cash grain area and thirty from the general farming area, participated in the study by expressing their opinions concerning the factors creating and maintaining interest in farming, the problems to be surmounted before establishment can be attained, and the influential factors contributing to successful establishment in farming. Information was gathered by the interview technique.

Because of the difficulties encountered from the beginning, lack of time and finance, the investigator was forced to supplement the personal interview technique with group interviews. Both means of securing information proved to be satisfactory.

Indebtedness is acknowledged to Professors R. R. Price, D. M. Orr, J. D. Tarver, Chris White, and H. M. Case for their valuable guidance, and for their assistance in the procurement of certain information

pertaining to the study; and to the following for their aid in solving particularly difficult problems in various phases of the investigation: Mack Usher; Earl Knebel; Dr. F. Gray; Olen Labor, and A. Juhlin.

The researcher especially wants to express his appreciation to those people in the four areas studied who participated in the investigation: in Garber, Victor Stroup and Paul Schnaithman, and the twenty-three farmers interviewed; in Kingfisher, Roger Howell and Ralph Long, and the twenty-three farmers interviewed; in Perkins, Paul Evans and Ephraim Wall, and the fifteen farmers interviewed; and in Prague, Harvey Russell, Ray North, and Walter Starks, and the fifteen farmers interviewed. County Superintendents Spencer, McGee, Carrier and Good also provided materials of great value.

The Danforth Foundation, St. Louis, Missouri, the Veterans' Administration, and the Department of Rural Sociology at Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical College furnished material aid without which the study could not have been brought to completion, and the writer wishes to express his gratitude to these people.

Acknowledgements would be incomplete without mention of the sacrifices thesis study placed on the researchers family: his wife, Florence Dotson, and two sons Robert Jr., and Richard

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## CHAPTER I

### THE INTRODUCTION TO THE PROBLEM

#### The Statement of the Problem

One of the outstanding problems facing rural educational agencies today is the problem of guiding rural boys either into or away from farming as an occupation. Teachers of home economics and vocational agriculture, extension workers and representatives of other governmental farm agencies, and representatives of farm organizations and services across the land are deeply concerned with the rapid decrease in our rural farm population. A comparison of rural farm population figures in Oklahoma for the years 1930, 1940, and 1950 shows a continuous decrease in rural farm population in practically every minor civil division of the state's seventy-seven counties. Recognizing the implications of this decrease in farm population, rural educators are confronted with a major problem concerning the most desirable people on whom to concentrate their educational efforts. Should time and effort be centered on those youths in farm situations that promise them better than average opportunities to make a beginning and advance in farming or should they be extended to all interested youths? A decision in favor of the former course would necessitate a closer screening of all boys who show a sincere interest in farming and in vocational agriculture. Such action would probably result in the elimination of a large number of town boys and some farm boys who are enrolled in courses in vocational agriculture. While these boys are borderline cases in so far as their actual prospects of becoming established in farming are concerned, they,

nevertheless, often provide the necessary enrollment in agricultural courses to make a subject available for others who are 'prospective farmers.'

The alternative presented to the rural educator in solving this problem is the acceptance of or noninterference with the system that is currently in vogue: the inclusion, on an equal basis, of all youths showing a sincere interest in and a definite aptitude for farming and the farm.

It is not the purpose of this investigation to debate the issue outlined above, but rather to furnish the rural educator, particularly the teacher of vocational agriculture, with data of value to aid him in counseling rural boys in the important guidance area of their occupational choice.

In "Discovering Opportunities for Young Men in Farming", Hatch makes the following statement:

A study of how present farm owners become established, how they obtain capital and credit, how they accumulate livestock and equipment, and what their relationships were with their parents, is needed.<sup>1</sup>

Such a statement adds credence to the thesis that much might be gained from a study of farmers established in relation to the problem area, since these farmers have already faced and overcome difficulties common to those making occupational choices. In developing a working procedure by which best to make this study, the writer found that the above statement served to furnish an approach on which subsequent procedures were based.

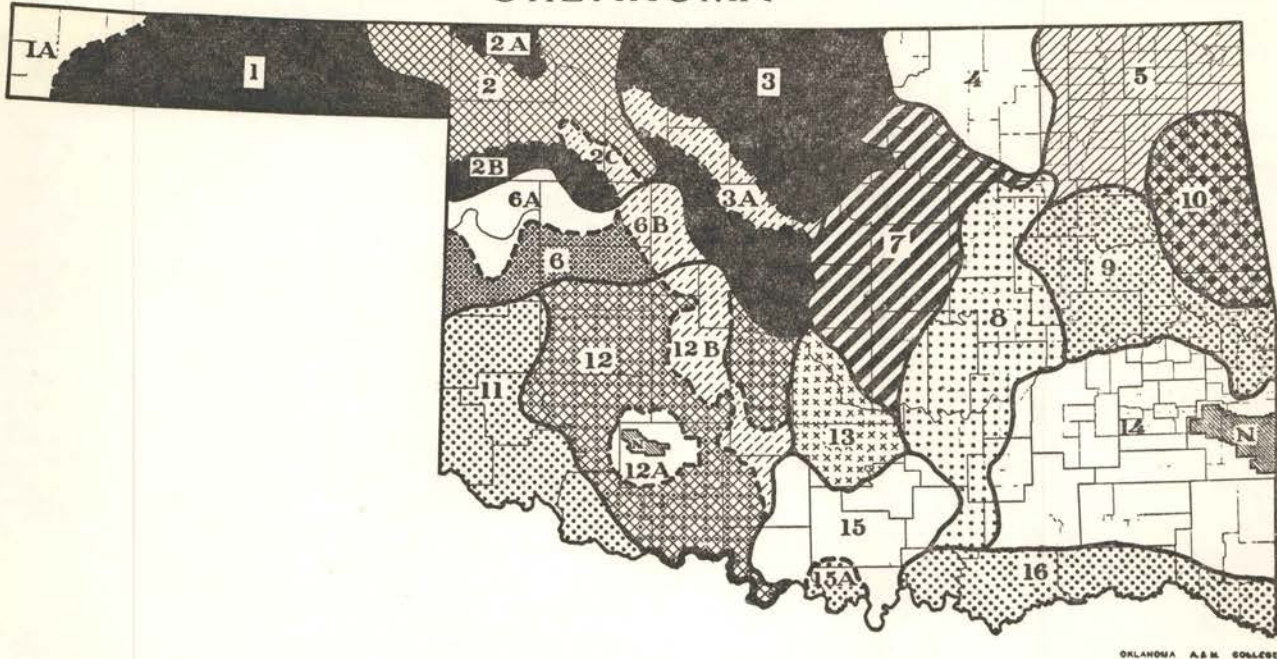
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<sup>1</sup>J. W. Hatch, Discovering Occupational Opportunities for Young Men in Farming, U. S. Department of the Interior, Office of Education, Vocational Div., Mono. 20, 1939, p. 9.

Further consideration of the problem led to the realization of another need in the study area. To what degree are factors contributing to the establishment of rural boys in farming in one type-of-farming area comparable with the factors in an entirely different type-of-farming area? Therefore, a decision was made to compare two type-of-farming areas in order to discover whether or not extremes in type-of-farming areas might necessarily be correlated with those factors contributing to the establishment of rural boys in farming. By referring to a type-of-farming map of Oklahoma (Figure 1), it became apparent that there were two type-of-farming areas in the state that should represent extremes in so far as this study may be concerned. For purposes of the study, the areas selected for comparison were: (1) the cash grain or cash grain and beef area, designated "Area 3" on the map, hereinafter referred to as the cash grain area; and (2) the general farming area, designated "Area 7" on the map, hereinafter referred to as the general farming area. For census data purposes, the cash grain area corresponds roughly to Economic "Area 2" in the state, and the general farming area similarly corresponds roughly to Economic "Area 5", (Figure 2). It is hoped that the comparison of the two areas mentioned will make the data and the conclusions drawn of value in connection with rural youth guidance programs in the state of Oklahoma and possibly in other similar areas.

The study was made with the hope that it may serve to aid the improvement of programs of vocational agriculture, wherever the conclusions drawn may apply. It is evident that vocational guidance is

FIGURE 1  
PRELIMINARY TYPE-OF-FARMING MAP OF OKLAHOMA



OKLAHOMA A.S.M. COLLEGE

## Area Description of Counties by Type-of-Farming Areas in Oklahoma

<p>Area 1: Beaver Cimarron Texas</p> <p>Area 2: Ellis Harper Woods Woodward</p> <p>Area 3: Alfalfa Canadian Garfield Grant Kay Kingfisher Major Noble</p> <p>Area 4: Osage</p> <p>Area 5: Craig Mayes Nowata Ottawa Rogers Fulsa Washington</p>	<p>1. Cash grain and livestock 1A.—Largely range livestock.</p> <p>2. Somewhat broken topography—some small grains, feed crops, livestock. 2A.—Cash wheat primarily. 2B.—Cash wheat primarily. 2C.—Sandy area, general farming.</p> <p>3. Cash grain, general farming. 3A. A wooded area of sandy soil, general farming, some cotton produced on this strip.</p> <p>4. Range livestock—some general farming.</p> <p>5. General farming, livestock, dairy, poultry and self-sufficing.</p>	<p>Area 6: Blaine Custer Dewey Roger Mills</p> <p>Area 7: Cleveland Lincoln Logan Oklahoma Pawnee Payne Pottawatomie</p> <p>Area 8: Creek Hughes Okfuskee Pontotoc Seminole</p> <p>Area 9: Haskell LeFlore McIntosh Muskogee Okmulgee Sequoyah Wagoner</p> <p>Area 10: Adair Cherokee Delaware</p>	<p>6. Cash grain, general farming, cotton, livestock. 6A.—Rough, sandy area, scarcely any farming, some range livestock. 6B.—Wooded area, general farming, and cotton.</p> <p>7. General farming, cotton, livestock, dairy, and poultry.</p> <p>8. Cotton, general farming, self-sufficing, dairy, (An area of generally poor soil, except on small bottoms).</p> <p>9. Cotton, some dairy, potatoes, commercial vegetables, self-sufficing.</p> <p>10. Some fruit, general farming, dairy and poultry, self-sufficing (rough wooded land).</p>	<p>Area 11: Beckham Greer Harmon Jackson Tillman</p> <p>Area 12: Caddo Comanche Cotton Grady Kiowa Stephens Washita</p> <p>Area 13: Garvin McClain</p> <p>Area 14: Atoka Coal Latimer Pittsburg Pushmataha</p> <p>Area 15: Carter Jefferson Johnston Love Murray</p> <p>Area 16: Bryan Choctaw Marshall McCurtain</p>	<p>11. Cotton, supplemented with cash grain, livestock, dairy, and poultry.</p> <p>12. Cotton, cash grain, livestock, some dairy and poultry. 12A.—Range livestock. 12B.—Sandy, wooded section, cotton, general farming.</p> <p>13. Cotton, livestock, general farming, broomcorn.</p> <p>14. Cotton, self-sufficing, livestock (rough, mountain and wooded area).</p> <p>15. Range livestock, general farming, self-sufficing. 15A.—Cotton.</p> <p>16. Cotton, general farming.</p>
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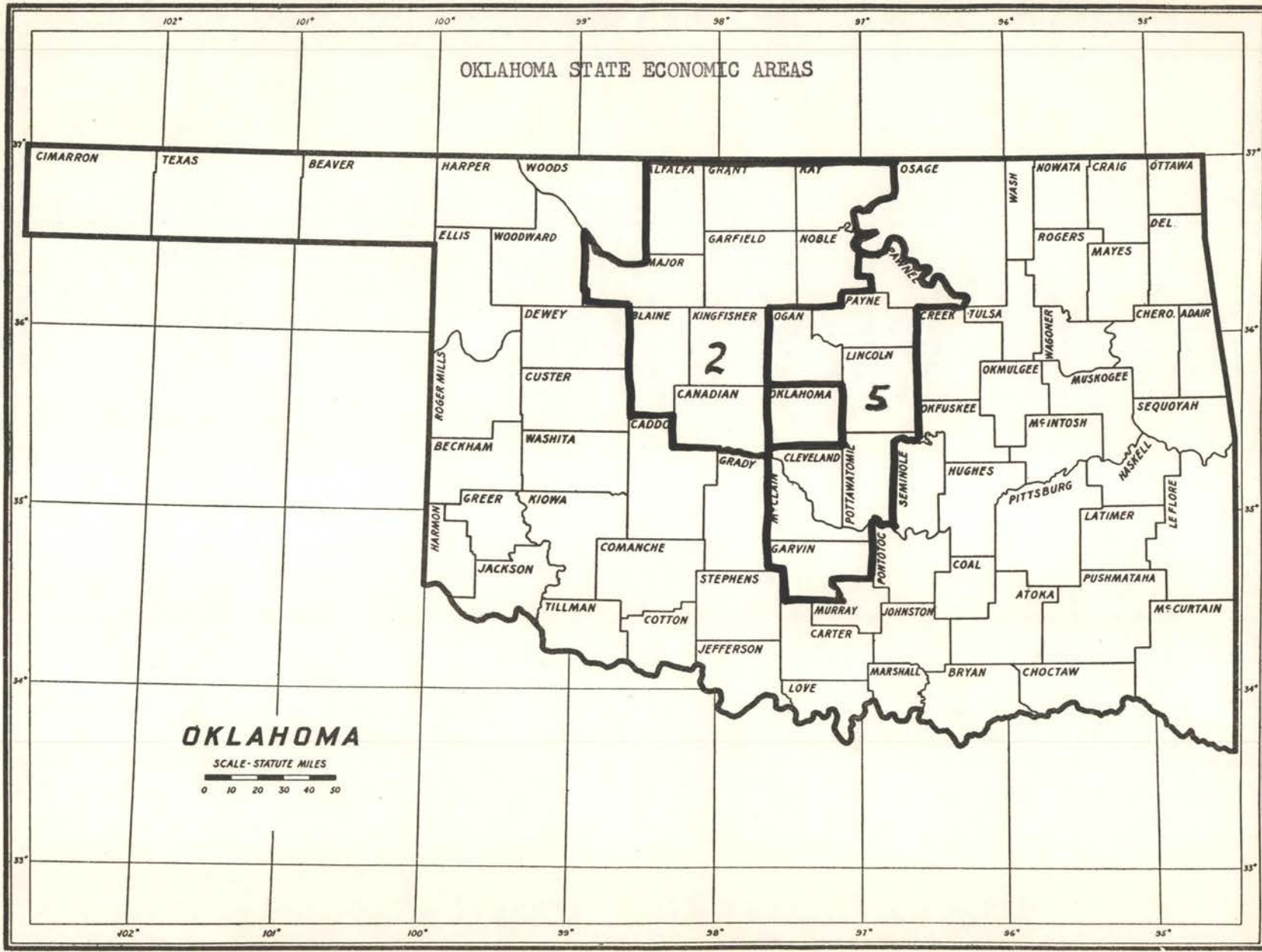


FIGURE 2

increasingly needed 'wherever corn is grown and Future Farmers meet'<sup>2</sup> because of the often insufficient farm acreage available for the support of large families, the large amount of capital necessary to become established, the fact that many boys may be studying vocational agriculture for credit alone, and the fact that, as W. A. Anderson states, "a large number of young men ... would like to change their vocations."<sup>3</sup> The problems stated here mean increasing responsibilities for the teacher of vocational agriculture and for all others concerned with rural education, responsibilities in regard to the vocational guidance of rural boys.

#### The Purposes of the Study

The purposes of the study are fourfold:

1. To ascertain which factors create and maintain strong interest in farming among boys who have become established in farming.
2. To discover which factors appear to be common to the establishment in farming of individuals in two separate type-of-farming areas.
3. To analyze the findings in the two areas studied relative to the influential factors found to be present.
4. To determine the significance of the findings and of the analyses to the educational agencies considered in the study.

#### Delimitations

In view of the foregoing statements concerning the problem and the purposes of the study, an effort has been made to approach the problem

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<sup>2</sup>Official Manual for Future Farmers of America (The Opening Ceremony) (Alexandria, Virginia, 1952), p. 54.

<sup>3</sup>W. A. Anderson, Rural Youth: Activities, Interests, and Problems (Ithaca, New York, Bulletin 649, 1936), p. 46.



of occupational choice, especially that specific occupation of farming, in a manner somewhat different from that generally used in studies dealing with this guidance area.

Two definitely contrasting type-of-farming areas were chosen for a comparison, the cash grain and the general farming. The former type-of-farming tends to be a more or less specialized type, with the main income being derived from the sale of cash grain crops such as wheat, with the inclusion of sales from beef enterprises and possibly dairy and poultry. The latter type-of-farming, general farming, tends more toward diversification, with the income being derived from not one or two major enterprises, but sizeable portions of it from several, if not many, enterprises. It is not to be assumed, however, that the line separating the two type-of-farming areas is distinct, nor is the rule distinguishing the two types of farming in question hard and fast. An alert traveler passing through the cash grain area of Oklahoma would not be unduly surprised to note rather large holdings of dairy, swine, sheep, poultry, small grains, and grain sorghums, all of which are common to the general type of farming. He might expect to see more open, gently undulating land with less pasture and more cropland in this area than in the neighboring type-of-farming area to the east.

In turn, the same traveler, driving this time through the general farming area, should not be too startled to come upon one or more farms along the way on which wheat or wheat and beef are of major importance in so far as the individual farm income is concerned.

It seems to follow, therefore, that the type-of-farming classification is a general one at best, though certain characteristic differences may be pointed out that relate to soil, topography, climate,

and certain other fairly distinctive characteristics that will be discussed later under the chapter heading CHARACTERISTICS OF THE COMMUNITY.

Realizing the immensity of the task at hand, if the two type-of-farming areas were to be compared in their entirety, the writer delimited the problem to a point that seemed easier of attainment, considering the necessary limitations of time and finances. To accomplish this purpose, two communities were chosen to represent each of the two type-of-farming areas studied. Garber, located in northeastern Garfield County, and Kingfisher, located in south central Kingfisher County, were selected as being representative of the cash grain area. Perkins, found in south central Payne County, and Prague, located in the southeastern corner of Lincoln County were chosen as being representative of the general farming area. "Figure 2" (page 5) shows the location of each of the communities.

In order that minor civil division census data might be utilized, the area serviced by each community was studied as a separate unit. The communities and the areas they serve will be referred to in the remainder of this presentation as "service areas." Figures 3, 4, 5, and 6 treat the four service areas, their locations and bounds.

Other delimitations in the problem area concern the choice of people for participation in the study which was made after the interview technique had been selected. It was decided that only those farmers who were actually established would be interviewed in each of the four service areas. For purposes here, the term "establishment" will be clarified under the subheading, Definitions, treated in the latter part of this chapter.

To limit the problem still more, those persons qualifying for

participation in the study must have made their starts in farming during a designated fifteen year period and must have become, to some degree, established, and must be not older than 45 years of age. The years 1936 and 1951 were chosen as the limits of the desired period. Thus it may be seen that none of the farmers studied have been established for less than three years, nor for more than eighteen years since the study extends to 1954. Though the eighteen years cannot be said to be "normal" ones, if normal is given the usual connotation, they do represent years during which many rural boys faced the choice of farming as an occupation. Post depression conditions, two wartime emergencies, and two post war situations have contributed to a period characterized by a great many farmer problems peculiar to these years alone. However, many of the major factors contributing to the establishment of rural boys in farming remain more or less the same, the times affecting mainly the degree to which each factor is influential. In an effort to discover the actual fundamental truths involved, the investigator placed particular emphasis on those points having a more lasting significance.

Further limitation of the thesis problem suggested the advisability of excluding those farmers who are presently engaged in school work that takes them away from their farm businesses. For this reason, high school and college students are not included in the study. However, a significantly large number of those enrolled in Institutional On-Farm Training under the direction of the Veterans' Administration were included, for military service had to be faced by the majority of the farmers making a beginning in farming during these years. Military service was, and remains, a very real factor influencing

occupational choice, regardless of the occupation in question.

Some preliminary work was done to obtain an estimate of the number of people falling within the required limitations set up for the study. This group proved too large for the interview technique, considering the time and the finances allocated. Members of the thesis committee agreed that from sixty to one hundred interviews should constitute a large enough group for a valid study.

A suitable interview schedule was then developed, the group of participants was selected, and the actual work of interviewing initiated.

### Definitions

Because of the frequent use of several terms throughout this account of the investigation, it would be well to clarify or define them at the outset.

"Type-of-farming area" means a given region in which the same particular types or systems of farming are found to prevail. Specific products or groups of products are common to the farms in each of these regions, (Figure 1, page 4).

The term "Economic Area" is given the same interpretation as that given it by the Census Bureau.

State economic areas represent groupings of counties within a State. The counties comprising a State economic area have similar agricultural, demographic, physiographic, and cultural characteristics. Basically, State economic areas have been established for the purpose of presenting statistics---.<sup>4</sup>

"Establishment" is given the meaning used originally by George P. Deyoe, who finds a definition desirable in connection with his use of this controversial term, and who states:

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<sup>4</sup>The Agricultural Census, 1950, Bureau of the Census (Delimitation by D. J. Bogue, Scripps Foundation), p. XI.

Establishment begins when a person takes on full or joint responsibilities for managing an enterprise or an entire farm business. As such, it includes such statuses as (1) a partner in a farm business with a definite share in the returns and some responsibility in operating and managing the farm, (2) a renter who operates and manages the farm, (3) an owner who operates and manages the farm, (4) a manager and an operator of a farm for another party, and (5) some combination of the preceding.<sup>5</sup>

Though quite broad, Mr. Deyoe's definition provides a starting place for the delimitation of possible participants for the study. No mention is made of measures of the degree in which farmers are established. Certain procedures were developed in order that those persons chosen to participate might be representative of the service areas from which they were selected and will be discussed in the chapter treating of objectives and procedures.

"Service areas" are the territories surrounding the four communities selected for the study. They correspond roughly to the school service areas of the communities shown in Figures 3, 4, 5, and 6. However, in each case, the community as a whole is considered the center of the service area rather than the school. All social and economic benefits provided by communities for the surrounding territories are here considered to be services.

"Reality factors" include "those social and economic forces which determine the environment into which an individual is born, in which he grows up, and to which he must react when he starts to think about his future occupation."<sup>6</sup>

"Emotional determinants" means the powerful needs and desires that influence people in choice making.

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<sup>5</sup>George P. Deyoe, Supervised Farming in Vocational Agriculture, Interstate (Danville, Illinois, 1947), p. 365.

<sup>6</sup>Eli Ginzberg and Associates, Occupational Choice (New York, 1951), p. 11.

"Key persons" are those individuals considered directly influencing youths in making minor decisions that ultimately result in a choice of occupations by the youths, or they may be the persons responsible for the counsel resulting in the occupational choice itself. Examples of key persons are relatives, friends, teachers, and parents.

The term "self" refers to the individual personality, and to capacities, interests, goals, and values of which the personality is aware. The point in the individual's life at which he becomes aware of the possibility of a change in his interests and situation is included in those items considered under this term.<sup>7</sup>

Definitions for the terms "reality factors", "key persons", and "self" are given because of the fact that they are used as some of the categories to facilitate analysis of the data assembled.

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<sup>7</sup>Ibid., pp. 34-35.

FIGURE 3

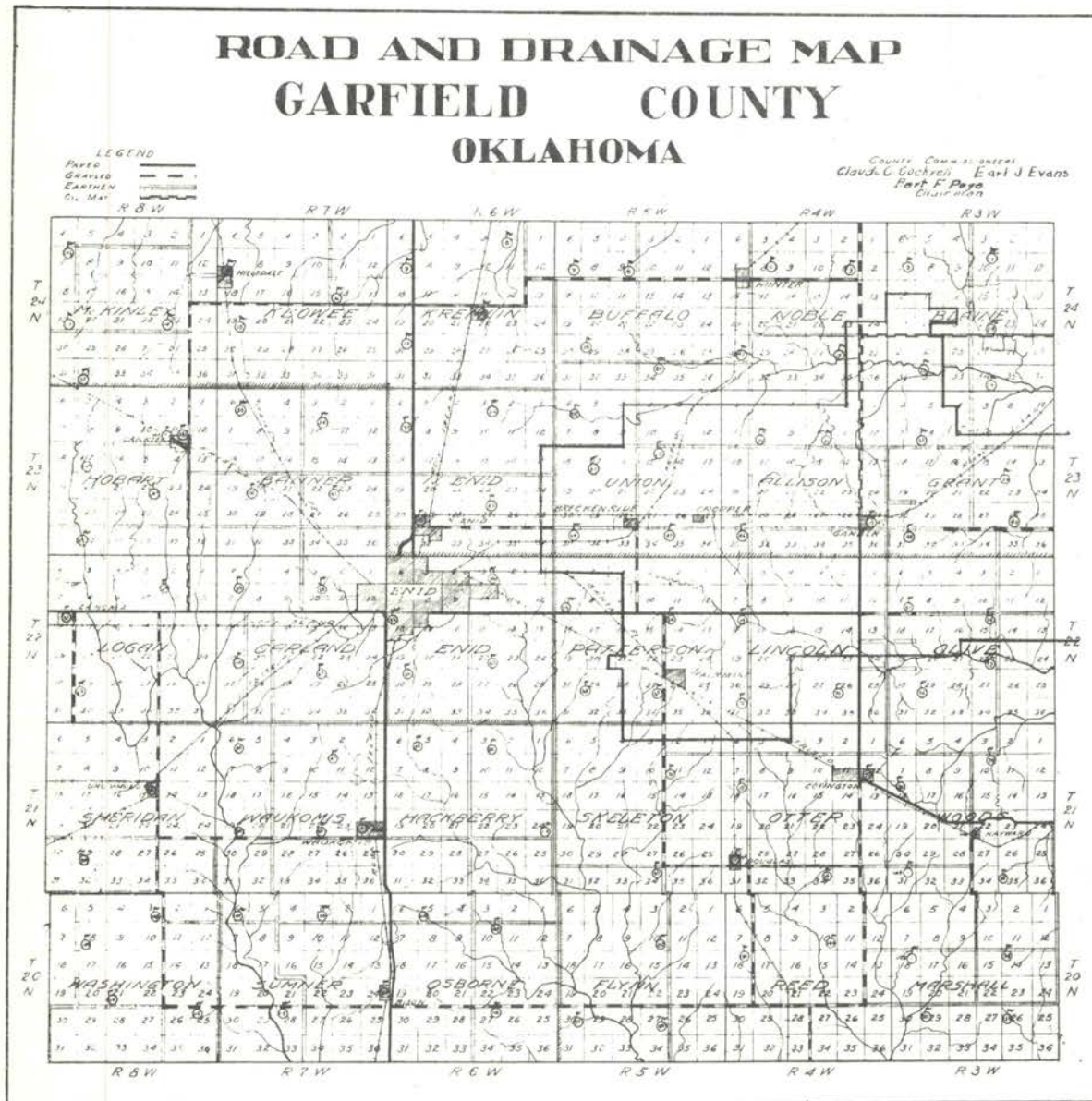


FIGURE 4

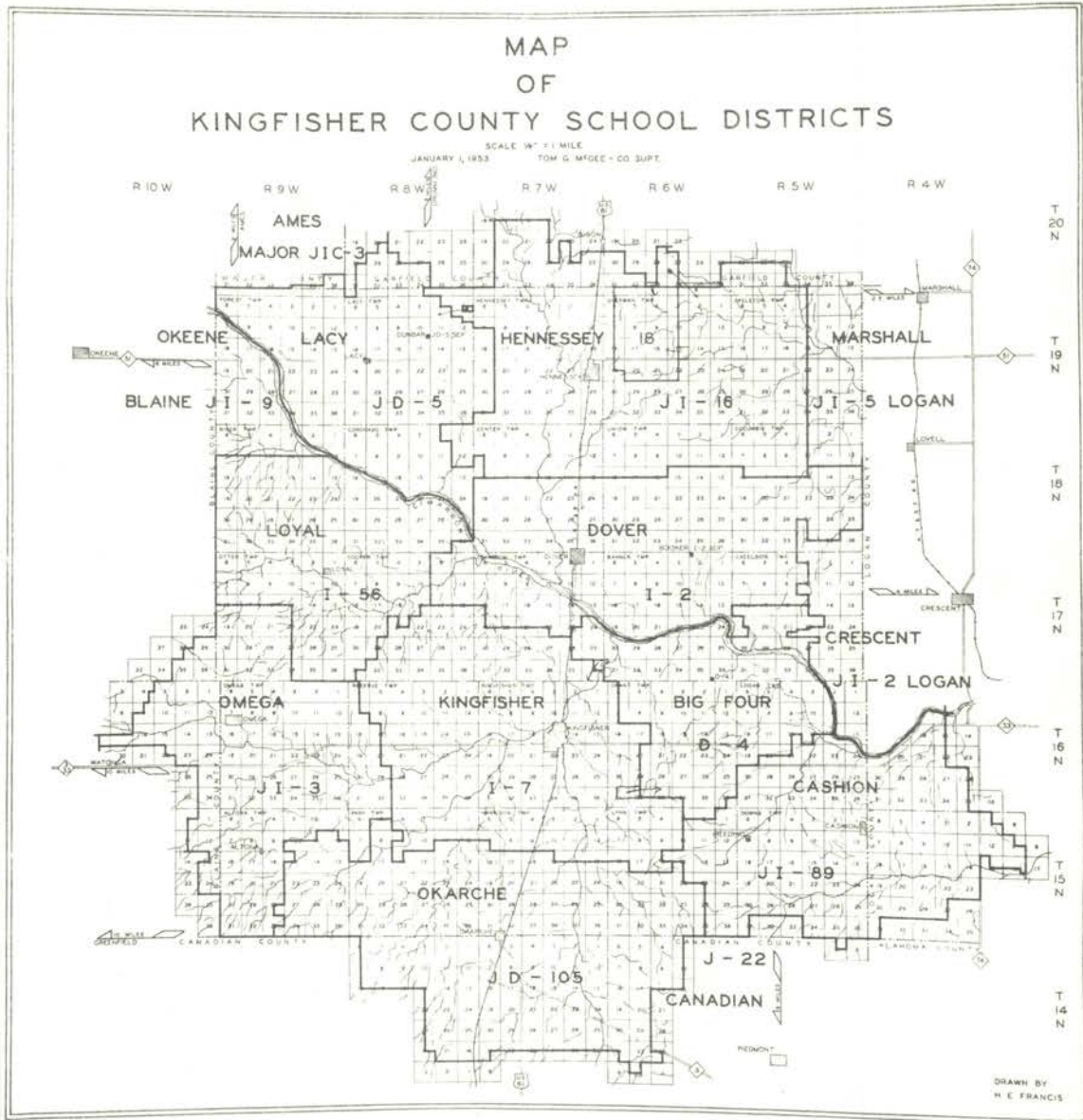


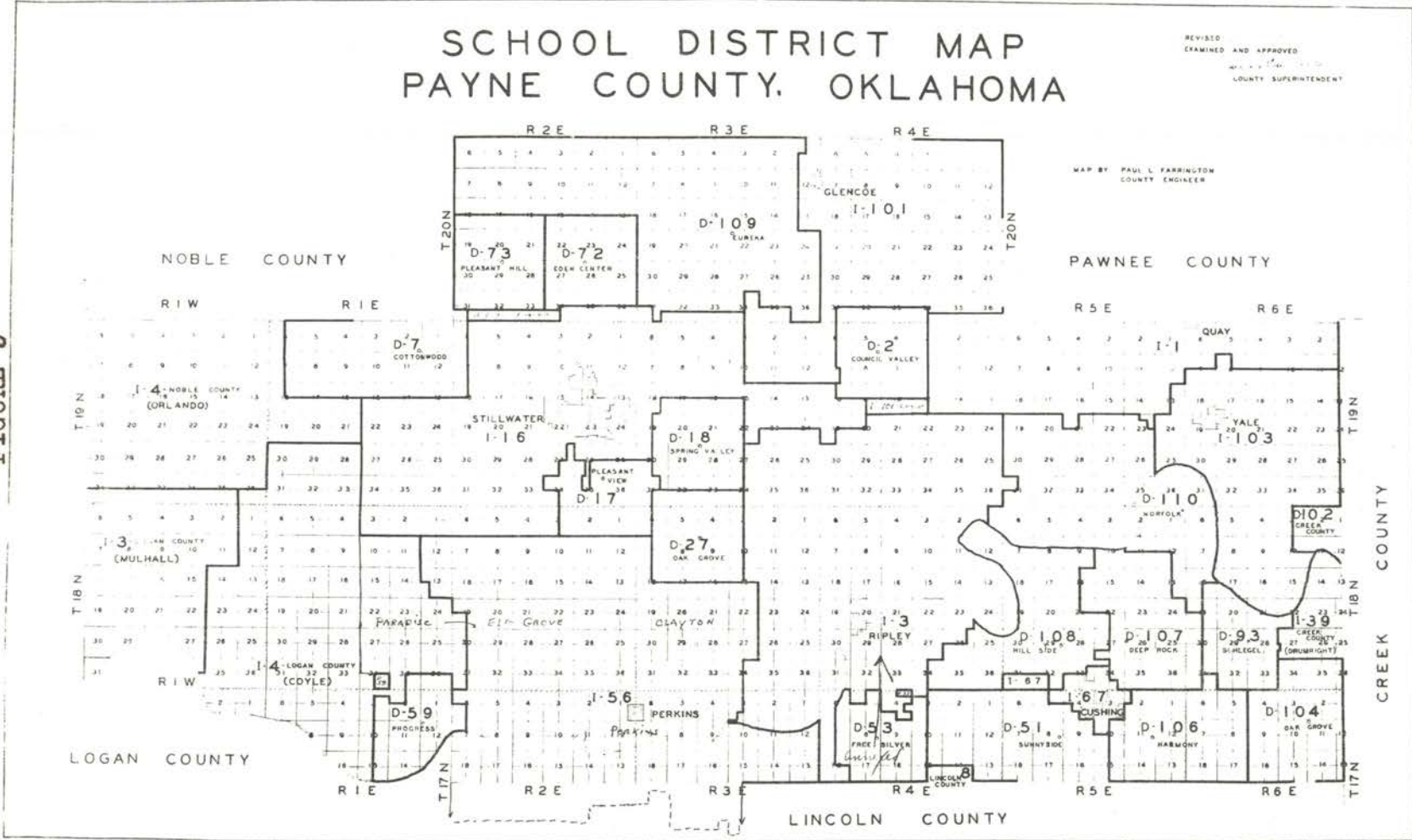


FIGURE 5

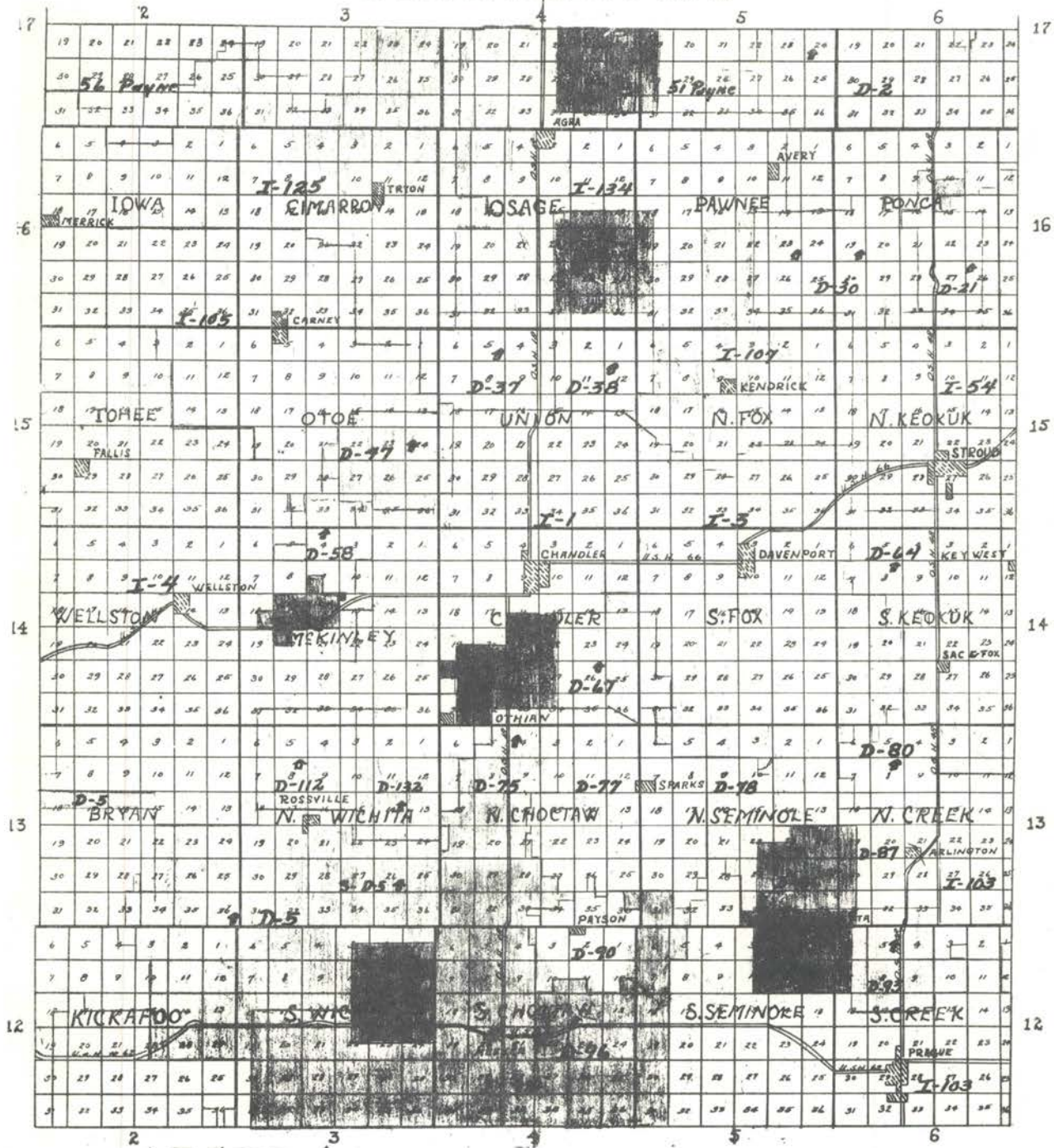
# SCHOOL DISTRICT MAP PAYNE COUNTY, OKLAHOMA

REVISED  
EXAMINED AND APPROVED  
COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT

MAP BY PAUL L. FARRINGTON  
COUNTY ENGINEER



# LINCOLN COUNTY OKLAHOMA



## CHAPTER II

### A REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

Classical among the works related to determinants of occupational choice is the study made by Eli Ginzberg and associates at Columbia University and published in 1951 under the title of Occupational Choice.

In search of an approach to the problem of occupational choice, the Columbia group selected four variables that could be assumed to play an important part in the choice process. They were: (1) reality factors; (2) the educational process, concerning who has the opportunity for given experiences and who avails himself of that opportunity; (3) emotional determinants that influence people, directly or indirectly; and (4) the role of values held by each individual, since some will do anything for money or power, whereas others will do only what they prefer to do at any price.<sup>8</sup>

The four variables were investigated separately by Ginzberg and the other researchers. Certain limitations were placed on those participating. In one of the areas studied, the group included the following: (1) only males; (2) Protestant or Roman Catholic; (3) Anglo-Saxon, upper middle-class; (4) both parents living together; (5) individuals free from handicap; and (6) urban dwellers. Lower middle-class males and upper middle-class females were included in other segments of the study.

Because of the fact that the four determinants were investigated

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<sup>8</sup>Ibid., p. 11.

separately, this approach failed to provide the elements out of which to build a general theory of occupational choice, for the pieces did not fit into any significant pattern. The Columbia workers next developed the classic genetic approach to occupational choice, which entails the assumption that the final occupational choice can be understood only in terms of all of the stages of development through which the individual making the decision has passed.

Some of the more popular current theories of occupational choice are the "accident" theory and the "impulse" theory. The "accident" theory stresses the importance of external factors in the choice process and seemingly ignores a wide range of individual options. An example of the way in which it works is that given by Ginzberg and associates concerning an unruly boy whose mother disciplined him by insisting on intensive practice on a violin. When grown, the boy became a violin virtuoso.<sup>9</sup>

The "impulse" theory, on the other hand, emphasizes the influence of internal factors and apparently rejects or greatly minimizes other factors, such as capacities and opportunities. The Ginzberg example in this case is the sadistic boy who in adult life selected surgery for a career.<sup>10</sup>

The Columbia study does not propound any new theory but rather points to an approach to a general theory of occupational choice based on a group of implicit theories used by vocational guidance counselors. This method of attacking the problem is called the "total personality" approach. In explaining it the researchers assert that

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<sup>9</sup>Ibid., p. 19.

<sup>10</sup>Ibid., p. 21

Our basic assumption was that an individual never reaches the ultimate decision of selecting an occupation at a single moment of time, but through a series of decisions over a period of many years; the cumulative impact is the determining factor.<sup>11</sup>

Thus it is seen that the people making the Ginzberg study concerned themselves with appraising the way in which the individual made minor decisions based on an awareness of what he was most interested in, what he did well, and which values or considerations were most important to him. The sum total of such minor decisions resulted in an occupational choice.

Considerable space has been given the discussion of the Columbia investigation since it is one of the few studies, if not the only systematic study on occupational choice. It is of particular value in connection with the procedures used in the various investigations that contributed to the completed study. The same methods are applicable to similar problems that are related to specific occupations - such as farming. A "category scheme" was developed to facilitate the analysis of the data gathered, in terms of reality, key persons, and the self. It will be noted that these categories have been made use of in this thesis study. Reality factors, key persons, and other terms suggested by Occupational Choice are defined under the sub-heading of Definitions in the first chapter.

The Dictionary of Occupational Titles lists 40,023 separate job titles used in the United States of America.<sup>12</sup> Thus it is apparent that American society is highly specialized. Freedom to choose has long been one of the fundamental freedoms that Americans enjoy, as

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<sup>11</sup>Ibid., p. 27.

<sup>12</sup>Federal Security Agency, Dictionary of Occupational Titles (Washington, D. C., March 1949).

contrasted to the lack of this freedom in totalitarian societies behind the Iron Curtain. The intense specialization of this era is reflected in the large number of agricultural occupations listed for the surveillance of rural youths. More than seventy job titles are differentiated under the classification of "farmer" alone, and approximately 200 titles fall under the heading of "farm hand."

Contrary to the oftentimes derogatory connotation given to the term "farming" as an occupation, T. N. Carver, former economist at Harvard University, asserts:

As a vocation, farming demands for its successful pursuit a wider knowledge, more initiative, resourcefulness, and adaptability than is required of the average successful worker in most other fields. The farmer faces not only the uncertain problems of markets and transportation, but the more uncontrollable elements of weather, rainfall, and insect pests. Usually he is not only a laborer but a capitalist as well. He must possess both managerial ability and technical skill.<sup>13</sup>

With this enlightened understanding of the difficulties inherent in the occupation of farming, present day rural educators are devoting increasingly greater time and effort to studies bearing upon those factors contributing to the choice of farming as a vocation. The principle areas that have been explored center around the following major points: (1) the family of the individual; (2) the education of the individual; (3) cultural aspects affecting the individual; (4) the work experience of the individual; (5) the life plan of the individual; (6) his capacities, interests, and values; (7) the availability of land and finance; (8) the influence of key persons on his choice making; and (9) the problems of the individual in becoming an established farmer. Literature related to the nine principle areas outlined will now be

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<sup>13</sup>Roy W. Roberts, C. Angerer, J. L. Moses, and R. W. Gregory, Modern Farming (Chicago, Philadelphia, and New York, 1950), pp. 24-25.

reviewed.

### The Family

From a study of the literature pertaining to the family's influence in the establishment of rural youths in farming, it is clear that parents and relatives have furnished aid that has been one of the most important single factors considered. They have helped their sons and sons-in-law, cousins and nephews, become established in farming by taking them into partnership, by providing them with personal credit facilities, by loaning them machinery and equipment, by helping them develop acceptable supervised farm training or 4-H Club programs that have helped them to build up desirable foundation stock, and by giving them the encouragement and, often, the counsel that they have needed most.

Among the methods by which boys make a start toward establishment in farming, Boss and Pond list the following:

1. Many start by undertaking a project on the home farm, working in co-operation with their parents. Savings accumulated may become the source of later property ownership.
2. Others may work out a partnership agreement in which they, with their parents, operate the home farm on some specific plan under which the income is divided equitably in proportion to the contribution made by each toward its operation.
3. Still others may undertake to rent the home farm fully equipped, where only the man labor and management are furnished by the operator.
4. Those having nothing with which to start and unable to work into one of the plans suggested may have to start as farm hands and from their earnings save funds with which to buy sufficient power and equipment to operate a farm on rental contract, and eventually buy as capital is accumulated.
5. There is also in some cases the possibility of acquiring a farm by inheritance or by partial inheritance. In instances where there is only one child in the family this method is a natural and logical step. Where there are two, three, or more children, it may involve the problem of buying out other heirs, in which case

unsatisfactory family relationships sometimes arise.<sup>14</sup>

The first three steps may be most desirable and will probably lead to establishment earlier, according to the author.

This statement seems to summarize the opinions expressed by a great many people associated with vocational agriculture work and 4-H Club work at this time. It might be implied from Boss and Pond's statement that the parents are one of the most important factors contributing to the establishment of rural boys in farming, although the fifth method outlined would suggest that the presence of a number of brothers in the family might prevent young men from making a start. Other studies assume or conclude the same thing. However, L. T. Clark, in a study of fifty young farmers in Richland County, Illinois, found that such was not necessarily the case. Clark noted that partnerships and other forms of cooperation among brothers was of considerable material assistance in their establishment in farming.<sup>15</sup>

Clark further pointed out in the study of the fifty young men: (1) thirty-three had shared in some way in the general farm business at home or on another farm owned by the father; (2) six had been allowed to use home farm equipment; (3) six had received financial aid from their parents; (4) two selected farming because their parents advised it; (5) two were given farms; and (6) one inherited an interest in a farm. Ninety-six percent of the boys' fathers were farmers, and ninety percent of the fathers were farm owners.<sup>16</sup>

Father-son partnership agreements are seen by most rural educators

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<sup>14</sup>A. Boss and G. Pond, Modern Farm Management (Saint Paul, Minnesota, 1949), p. 100.

<sup>15</sup>L. T. Clark, "How Fifty Young Men Became Established in Farming," Agricultural Education Magazine, XII (January, 1940), p. 132.

<sup>16</sup>Ibid., p. 134.



as very desirable approaches in helping young men make a beginning and an advance in farming. However, S. W. Warren sounds a note of warning and suggests:

Most farms need only one boss. A combination of a 45-year old father and a 25-year old son is not likely to work well, because the father has some of his most active years ahead of him, and the son is ready to shoulder responsibility. In such cases the son had best get established elsewhere.<sup>17</sup>

A study made of 400 young men in Oklahoma who had taken vocational agriculture in high school and who were farming at the time of the study reveals three interesting points concerning the influence of the family on the individual farm youth: (1) those who moved away from parental influence progressed faster; (2) young men who marry usually move from one-quarter of a mile to five miles away from the old home, remaining close enough to borrow or trade work for the use of machinery and equipment; and (3) 90 percent of the young men remained in the same community in which they were reared "----or are farming in a similar type of farming area as was found on their home farm."<sup>18</sup>

After reviewing the case studies of twenty young farmers in West Virginia, Odbert J. Herrod concluded that parents have been one of the greatest influencing factors in a large number of establishments in farming. He states that the young men most likely to become established in farming are those who, among other qualifications, "----have been given considerable responsibility on the home farm during their

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<sup>17</sup>S. W. Warren, Father and Son Arrangements on the Farm (Mimeographed Circular A. E. 456, New York State College of Agriculture, Ithaca, New York, March 1944), p. 6.

<sup>18</sup>C. L. Angerer, "Farming Programs and Establishment," Agricultural Education Magazine, XXII (August, 1949), p. 47.

high school period."<sup>19</sup>

The influence that the family has on a rural boy's start in farming must be recognized by those planning to counsel farm youths. The well-known authority J. W. Hatch declares:

Each young man's opportunity to share at home needs to be carefully evaluated in terms of the relationships that exist within the family and on the farm before satisfactory conclusions concerning the worth of the opportunity can be drawn.<sup>20</sup>

### Education

Among the educational agencies that create and maintain interest in farming, that guide boys to select farming as a vocation, and that prepare them for lifework as farmers, vocational education in agriculture must take a prominent position.

The educational objectives set up for vocational education in agriculture are attuned to the needs of present and prospective farmers. As stated in Vocational Division Monograph Number 21,

The major objectives of vocational education in agriculture are to develop effective ability to:

1. Make a beginning and advance in farming.
2. Produce farm commodities efficiently.
3. Market farm products advantageously.
4. Conserve soil and other natural resources.
5. Manage a farm business.
6. Maintain a favorable environment.

These abilities are developed in situations where something needs to be done; where the learner has a part in selecting and evaluating information, in drawing inferences, in making decisions, in formulating and executing plans, and in evaluating outcomes. The attainment of the objectives requires that there be a definite relationship between the courses of study and the supervised or directed farming programs of individuals.<sup>21</sup>

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<sup>19</sup>Odbert J. Herrod, Factors Influencing Young Men in Becoming Established in Farming (M. S. Thesis, West Virginia University, Morgantown, West Virginia, 1952), p. 53.

<sup>20</sup>Hatch, *op. cit.*, p. 8.

<sup>21</sup>United States Office of Education, Educational Objectives in Vocational Agriculture (Vocational Division Monograph No. 21, 1940), p. 3.

Recognizing that vocational agriculture is administered and taught by one of the most consecrated groups of educators in the profession today, most parents of rural boys cooperate with the group in preparing their sons for a useful, enjoyable life. A number of investigations point to this fact.

Many studies have been made of former students of vocational agriculture in high schools since the start of the present national program under the authority of the Smith-Hughes Act. One of the earliest investigations was made almost at the time that the Smith-Hughes Act was under consideration in 1917. In a study based on measuring the effectiveness of teaching on the basis of improvement in farming practices of boys participating in the instruction, W. A. Smith reported that 40 percent of the boys went into occupations related to agriculture and 43 percent into occupations unrelated.<sup>22</sup>

Considerable variation is noted in different regions of the country in the percentage of former students actually becoming farmers by vocation. O. S. McFatter, in a recent study concerning the occupational statuses of former students of vocational agriculture in a Louisiana high school, discloses that 51.4 percent of the graduates are engaged in farming or in occupations related to agriculture. The largest group, 32.1 percent, were farm operators.<sup>23</sup>

John DaVitte studied the occupations engaged in by "drop-outs" and graduates of a Georgia high school. Those who had been students of

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<sup>22</sup>W. A. Smith, Discovery of a Method of Determining Results of Vocational Training in Agriculture (unpublished Master's Thesis, Cornell University, New York, 1917), p. 150.

<sup>23</sup>O. S. McFatter, Occupational Status of Former Graduates of Vocational Agriculture of Plain Dealing High School (Department of Agricultural Education, Louisiana State University and A. and M. College), p. 52.

vocational agriculture during an eight year period (1938-1946) were investigated. DaVitte divulges that, of the eighty-two persons included, 25 percent were farming in 1950, although 43.9 percent had farmed at some time since leaving high school.<sup>24</sup>

A similar study in 1949 of twenty former pupils of vocational agriculture at Portal High School, Portal, Georgia, shows that only 20 percent were farming a few years after high school graduation. Nineteen of the twenty young men interviewed were in military service at some time during the period covered, and all five of those engaged in farming had been released from active duty in 1946.<sup>25</sup>

C. L. Angerer's study of forty departments in Oklahoma disclosed that, of the 400 former students of vocational agriculture now farming, 80 percent had completed at least three years of training in high school. Of the remainder, 15 percent had completed two years of vocational agriculture, and 5 percent had had only one year's training. Angerer also revealed that the young men who went directly into farming after leaving high school were the ones who had comprehensive supervised farm training programs at that time and had carried three or more crop and livestock enterprises of considerable scope. He further stated that the investigations showed a variation in the abilities of the instructors to assist young men to become established. This study stresses the need for improvement of vocational agriculture programs in

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<sup>24</sup>John C. DaVitte, "A Study of Occupations Engaged in by Drop-Outs and Graduates in Rockmart High School, Rockmart, Georgia, 1938-1946, Who Were Enrolled in Vocational Agriculture for One or More Years," (An M. E. Project in Applied Education, University of Georgia, Athens, 1951), p. 30.

<sup>25</sup>L. H. Akins, "A Follow-up Study of Former Students of Vocational Agriculture in Portal, Georgia," (Unpublished Master's Problem, University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia, 1949), p. 48.

the schools in which the research was done.<sup>26</sup>

Studies of the efficiency of instruction in vocational agriculture emphasize that the boys most likely to become farmers are those who were able to make a beginning toward establishment in farming during high school years. Those having accumulated capital, machinery and equipment, and livestock during this time are the most likely to become established.

A discussion of the part that vocational agriculture plays in the education process would not be complete without mention of the young farmer and the adult farmer training programs. These last are very much a part of vocational education in agriculture.

Recognizing the need for young farmer and adult farmer education, Mark Nichols, the Utah State Director of Vocational Education and State Supervisor of Agricultural Education, has devoted a book to the treatment of special problems encountered in this important area. Concerning group instruction, he remarks that it includes: "---skill training; training in the making of wise decisions; and training in leadership, cooperation, community service, and recreation."<sup>27</sup>

Most studies agree with Herrod's suggestion, "at completion or termination of school work, young men interested in farming should be enrolled in a young farmer program."<sup>28</sup>

County agricultural agents and extension workers must be given credit for the important part they play in influencing rural boys and young men to want to stay on the farm. They help boys to develop

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<sup>26</sup>Angerer, op. cit., p. 47.

<sup>27</sup>Mark Nichols, Young Farmers (Danville, Illinois, 1952), p. 102.

<sup>28</sup>Herrod, op. cit., p. 55.

programs that often lead to their establishment in farming. Klein writes that, in an investigation of the opinions of vocational agriculture teachers, county agents and extension workers were considered to have given valuable aid to boys becoming established.<sup>29</sup>

Institutional On-Farm Training, provided for veterans following World War II, has been an important factor in helping returned service men make a start in farming. Many of the trainees who were actually engaged in becoming established at the time they were called to service, necessarily made a complete new start on their return from duty. In an article appearing in the Agricultural Education Magazine, December, 1946, W. Pierce makes the following observation:

The Institutional On-Farm Training Program is the best opportunity that the farm veteran ever has had to get the help he needs at the particular time the problem presents itself.<sup>30</sup>

Concerning the value that veterans themselves place on the training they receive, G. W. Wieggers reports that of 1,944 men surveyed in 1950, "Less than 5 per cent were of the opinion that they could have made as much progress in becoming established in farming without the training received in Institutional On-Farm Training Programs<sup>31</sup>

Unusually close conformation was borne out in another similar study in Arkansas. H. G. Holtz found that less than 5 percent of the veterans believed that they could have made equal progress without the

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<sup>29</sup>H. R. Klein, "Assisting the Average Boy in Establishment," Agricultural Education Magazine, XIII (April, 1941), p. 190.

<sup>30</sup>W. Pierce, "Helping Veterans Become Farm Operators," Agricultural Education Magazine, XIX (December, 1946), p. 113.

<sup>31</sup>G. W. Wieggers, "Some Outcomes of Institutional On-Farm Training In Missouri," Agricultural Education Magazine, XXIII (January, 1950), pp. 154-155.

aid of the on-farm training.<sup>32</sup>

Measuring the success of the veterans' training program by the number of young men in the program who have actually purchased farms with the aid of their instructors, indicates that the program has accomplished a great deal. Study after study of the farm tenancy problem shows an increase of farm ownership among veterans enrolled in Institutional On-Farm Training in various parts of the country. In a study of this kind in Oklahoma in 1949, M. R. Rogers found that "--nearly 3,000 farm veterans in Oklahoma have purchased farms under the guidance of their instructor since they entered training."<sup>33</sup>

The grade level attained by the average farmer in the country appears to be approximately that of a high school freshman. Some significant data obtained by J. A. Starrak in a study in Iowa reveals that the average number of years of school completed by Iowa farmers is between eight and nine, but participants in Starrak's investigation had attained an average of 12.26 years of schooling.<sup>34</sup>

Other rural educational agencies studied include: national farm organizations, cooperatives, and many of the federal farm agencies.

#### Cultural Aspects

Though American culture still maintains that any person can select whatever occupation he wishes and that a person can become just about what he wishes to become provided that he makes an honest effort to do

<sup>32</sup>H. G. Hotz, "An Evaluation of the Institutional On-Farm Training Program in Arkansas," Agricultural Education Magazine, XXIV (July, 1951), p. 20.

<sup>33</sup>M. R. Rogers, "Success in Farming Achieved by Veterans," Agricultural Education Magazine, XXII (October, 1949), p. 84.

<sup>34</sup>J. A. Starrak, The Education of 'Dirt' Farmers (A Teacher Education Paper, Iowa State College, Ames, Iowa), p. 2.

so, the class into which one is born cannot but have some influence on the amount of education that he is likely to acquire. This in turn will have a significant effect on the range of jobs for which he can qualify. The class system continues to exist in this country and must be reckoned with by each person in the process of deciding on a specific occupation.

Those young men fortunate enough to be born to parents engaged in prosperous farming situations can by the very virtue of this fact be recognized as enjoying certain advantages with regard to the problem of becoming established in farming. Although it has not been expressed in so many words, this factor is recognized by people investigating the occupational choice of rural boys.

Ginzberg and associates found that those boys coming from lower income groups tended to make realistic choices of their future occupations at an earlier age, since "---few of those young men completed high school, and fewer attended college."<sup>35</sup>

According to many writers, Americans tend to measure success and happiness in terms of dollars and cents. There is a consequent de-emphasis of a desire for work satisfaction in most segments of our society. However, because of the very nature of farming as an occupation and as a way of life, those believing in its future tend to place less stress on money as an end in itself.

Nevertheless, it is apparent, in farming as in other occupations, that the means of securing an adequate livelihood for the family must be considered. G. P. Deyoe, in discussing those most likely to become established, lists "Boys from average or better than average farms in

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<sup>35</sup>Ginzberg and Associates, op. cit., p. 231.



average or better than average communities," and boys who come from medium to large-sized farms.<sup>36</sup>

Inequality of opportunity for making a beginning and advance in farming confronts the rural educator with the task of providing limited pupils with educational experiences and opportunities to compensate for their home situations. For some boys, the greatest opportunities for success may be in occupations related to farming.

L. T. Clark reports that only one out of the fifty cases studied in his investigation came from a home farm where the labor income was very low.<sup>37</sup> This is an often recurring example of the need that a boy has for at least an average opportunity, in so far as cultural classes are concerned.

In his study of former students of vocational agriculture in North Carolina, Arthur Bell discovered that "there was a greater occupational satisfaction among students engaged in farming than among those in other occupations."<sup>38</sup>

#### Work Experience and Ownership

Research done in the field of occupational choice in farming since the start of World War II has provided us with much data verifying the disturbing effects that war economy and the prospects of military service must place on those faced with the problem of attaining establishment in farming and ownership.

John DaVitte studied the occupational histories of 82 former students of vocational agriculture who had attended the Rockmart High

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<sup>36</sup>Deyoe, op. cit., p. 369.

<sup>37</sup>Clark, op. cit., p. 134.

<sup>38</sup>Bell, op. cit., p. 55.

School from 1938 to 1946. His findings show that by 1950, each of the former students had been employed a number of times, the average being 3.27 occupations per former student. DaVitte concluded that former pupils of vocational agriculture tend to shift about after leaving high school, implying that there is a need for more thorough guidance of boys making their occupational choices.<sup>39</sup>

Young men desiring to establish themselves in farming clearly must start at some level. It is quite possible that many of them will start at home with one or more enterprises. Others will work at home for an allowance or for board and room alone. Still others may enter into partnerships at home or away from home. Another large group must seek employment as laborers or farm hands. A few will start by managing farms owned by other persons. This would leave a small group, the more fortunate usually, who may be able to rent or buy the farms on which they start.

A large number of studies have been made in this area concerning the "agricultural ladder." Vocational Education Bulletin Number 188 reveals the following concerning findings from a study relative to the stages in progression up the ladder:

The older were inclined to 'climb the agricultural ladder' in the regular order of hired hand, share at home tenant, part-owner, and finally owner. The younger group were becoming established to a greater degree by developing single farm enterprises.<sup>40</sup>

It will be noted that Young Men in Farming was published in 1936, during recovery from depression days just preceding.

A more recent work published under the sponsorship of the

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<sup>39</sup>DaVitte, op. cit., p. 30.

<sup>40</sup>United States Department of Interior, Young Men in Farming (Washington, D. C., Vocational Education Bulletin No. 188, 1936), p. 80.

Southwestern Land Tenure Research Committee discloses that, in the Southwest Region, composed of Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Oklahoma and Texas, about a fourth of those in the region who are farm owners have had progressive farm experience, or have truly 'climbed the agricultural ladder.' Almost 70 percent had unpatterned farm experience or had not climbed the agricultural ladder.<sup>41</sup>

These facts would point toward a trend away from the progressive farm experience so very common a few years ago.

Those concerned with counseling young men concerning farm ownership must keep ever before them the thought expressed by H. L. Polis in a discussion of farm establishment: "Every student should be aware of the fact that farm ownership, like most businesses, is attained by steady progression with definite objectives in mind."<sup>42</sup>

It might be well for rural educators to keep this last statement in mind as well, and to counsel students realistically and with vision.

### Life Plan

What does a young man from the farm plan to do with his life? Does he plan to marry? If so, does he plan to do so early or late? Does he desire to have a family? If so, does he desire to have a large or small one? Clearly, the individual's answers to such questions can influence the lifework that he eventually chooses.

The mere fact that a person is reared on the farm seems to have certain portents for his approach to life and to his future. Though there has been a trend away from the farm over the past twenty years,

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<sup>41</sup>John H. Southern, Farm Land Ownership in the Southwest (Arkansas Agricultural Experiment Station Bulletin 502, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, Arkansas, December, 1950), p. 43.

<sup>42</sup>H. L. Polis, "Farming Programs Which Lead to Establishment," Agricultural Education Magazine, XXIV (February, 1952), p. 183.

many researchers point to a stabilizing farm population. O. S. McFatter, in a Louisiana study, concluded that the trend away from the farm had about run its course in his study area.<sup>43</sup>

It is pointed out in Herrod's investigation that each of the twenty young farmers interviewed selected farming as his vocation because he desired and planned to farm. Herrod adds that it was "very probable that the farm background and farm experience of those men reared on the farm was the basis of their desire to become farmers."<sup>44</sup>

#### Capacities, Interests, and Values

Some of the special attributes to be desired in the individual for a successful pursuit of farming have already been cited, that is, a wide knowledge of agriculture, technical skill, initiative, resourcefulness, and adaptability, and the ability to manage well.<sup>45</sup>

One of the fundamental principles brought out by literature pertaining to the characteristics of the individual is that to be successful a farmer must have sufficient intelligence to use his abilities and traits effectively in organizing and managing his farm business in such a way that his investment may be sound and bring increasing or maximum returns.

In so far as interests relate to the occupational choice of farming, teachers of vocational agriculture are agreed that they can do much toward establishing average farm boys in farming provided that they are interested enough to cooperate. Much of the vocational

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<sup>43</sup>McFatter, op. cit., p. 53.

<sup>44</sup>Herrod, op. cit., p. 50.

<sup>45</sup>Roberts and Others, op. cit., p. 24.

agriculture program is designed to create and maintain interest in farming. An example of this is the observation made by Arthur Bell concerning the value of supervised practice programs which students of vocational agriculture are required to have. He says, "These programs present problems that must be solved by the boy. Through reflective thinking the boy learns how to discover and analyze these problems--."46 Bell's thought is that the techniques used by the boy to solve his supervised practice program problems may be used in his adult life in solving other problems.

Herrod found in his case studies of twenty young farmers that the determining factor in the choice of farming as a vocation in every case was a sincere interest in farming and a genuine desire to farm.47

A sizeable group of researchers points to the great interest in things agricultural that is reflected in the various functions in which farmers participate, the fairs, the shows, etc. National farm organizations and cooperatives are quite popular among farmers throughout the United States, though, it must be confessed, a great part of this popularity is for selfish reasons.

One facet of the interest factor seems to need further study: the perceptible division between agricultural groups and civic organizations in many parts of the land. McFatter, in an investigation of 173 former vocational agriculture students in a Louisiana high school, discovered that none of the group studied held membership in the Kiwanis, the Rotary, or the Fair Association.48

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46Bell, op. cit., p. 53.

47Herrod, op. cit., p. 51.

48McFatter, op. cit., p. 54.

Numerous studies of those young men who have been awarded American Farmer Degrees and State Farmer Degrees in the Future Farmers of America, show a high percentage of them have become established in farming. M. L. Schnaithman, in a study of former Junior Master Farmers (Oklahoma State Farmers) in Oklahoma, found thirty-four of the fifty young farmers studied were actively engaged in farming.<sup>49</sup>

In an investigation of those awarded State and American Future Farmer Degrees in West Virginia between the years 1929 and 1949, H. L. Smith discovered that, by the year 1950, over 58 percent of the State Farmers and approximately 79 percent of the American Farmers were farming.<sup>50</sup>

The role that the individual's values play is of considerable importance. Ginzberg and associates discuss the recurring experiences and institutions to which a developing individual is exposed. They suggest that such exposure tends to modify or adapt a young person to the degree that a choice of occupations seems to become to him logical and natural, regardless of the unusualness of the work selected.<sup>51</sup>

A farm boy reared in a home having no modern conveniences, means of communication, or modes of transportation would probably be less demanding about living conditions and standards than would the son of a phenomenally wealthy wheat farmer who had enjoyed all of the advantages of a modern age and taken them for granted.

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<sup>49</sup>M. L. Schnaithman, A Follow-Up Study of Junior Master Farmers of Garber, Oklahoma (Unpublished M. S. Thesis, Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical College, Stillwater, Oklahoma, 1949), p. 72.

<sup>50</sup>H. Smith, "A Follow-Up Study of West Virginia State and American Future Farmers," Agricultural Education Magazine, XXIII (February, 1951), p. 182.

<sup>51</sup>Ginzberg and Associates, op. cit., p. 15.

Nevertheless, farmers in this great land do wish to provide their progeny with better things than they have possessed. The standard of living climbs ever higher as a relatively stable farm population seems to be establishing itself.

An example of this apparent stabilization is previously referred to in the study by McFatter, who concludes that the standard of living on the farms he investigated has steadily risen during the last twenty years and that the farm population is tending to become more stable. The exodus from the farms has been a problem of concern to many of the states in which the agricultural payroll is an important part of the overall economy.

#### Finances

A great volume of literature pertaining to the problem of securing finances, one of the most influential factors in a young man's attempted establishment in farming, is available. There can be no question of the primary nature of this important factor.

S. Dobervich, in a study of problems in becoming established in farming, reveals that the most difficult problem encountered by young farmers was "---to secure the necessary finances."<sup>52</sup>

Some of the sources of credit or capital with which to make a start in farming that are most frequently listed in studies pertaining to finances are individuals, local banks, Production Credit Association, Farm Security Administration, Federal Land Banks, savings, wages from non-farm jobs, wife's savings and income, gifts, civic organizations,

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<sup>52</sup>S. Dobervich, "Problems Encountered by Young Men Trained in Vocational Agriculture in Becoming Established in Farming," Agricultural Education Magazine, XIV (January, 1942), p. 135.

insurance companies, veterans' training programs, and farmers cooperatives.

### Key Persons

Occupational choice affects both the individual farm boy and the society of which he is a member. It is true that the young man must make a final selection himself. However, there are many other persons who will be concerned and who will most probably influence the boy's decision-making. His parents and relatives, the neighbor or other friend, the vocational agriculture teacher or county agent may all play a part in guiding him to center upon a specific endeavor as his life-work.

It is evident from data available from many studies that a boy's father is a very important 'key person.' C. S. Anderson makes this observation:

When asked to indicate their occupational choices during the early high school period, boys do not express a predominant preference for the work of their fathers; but as they approach the time when they will leave school interest in their fathers' occupations sharply increases. This is most pronounced in the case of sons of farmers.<sup>53</sup>

Other studies and investigations credit brothers, wives, friends, vocational agriculture instructors, and others with leading roles in influencing young men involved in decision-making.

### Summary of Problems in Establishment

Some of the literature relating to the establishment of rural boys in farming treats of those agencies listed as contributing most to young men's starts in farming. Among this literature is a work by

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<sup>53</sup>C. S. Anderson, Out-of-School Rural Youths in Pennsylvania, (Pennsylvania State College, Bulletin No. 374, State College, Pennsylvania, 1939), p. 33.



H. R. Klein, who tabulated the reports of a group of vocational agriculture teachers in 1941, and found that the following listed agencies contribute most according to the opinions of the teachers:

a. Production Credit Association; b. Credit from bank; c. County Agricultural Agents; d. Farm Security Administration; e. Federal Land Banks; f. National Youth Administration; g. Evening or part-time classes; h. Extension Service; i. Future Farmers of America; j. Civic organizations; k. Boy's parents; l. Insurance companies; m. Relatives of the boy; n. Friends of the family and boy.<sup>54</sup>

This list of agencies is an excellent summary of many of the influential factors that have been pointed to in the review of literature. One important agency not existing at the time Klein's study was made is the Institutional On-Farm Training Program for veterans.

L. B. Hoopes, in discussing factors contributing to the establishment of boys in farming, summarized the subject somewhat differently. He disclosed in an Iowa study that the following helped most in establishment:

1. Father, high school agriculture work, experience, and information from papers.
2. Observation, experience of other people, and the Iowa State College Experiment Station.
3. Income from 4-H and vocational Projects, money saved while on an allowance, and financial help from the father.
4. Father's interest, education, credit facilities of my father, local banks and business firms.
5. Vocational instructor, local bank, and Rural Resettlement Administration.<sup>55</sup>

Hoopes' findings further serve to summarize the information discussed in this chapter.

In conclusion, the seven most frequently listed problems to be faced by young men seeking to establish themselves in farming, arranged

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<sup>54</sup>Klein, *op. cit.*, p. 190.

<sup>55</sup>L. B. Hoopes, "Factors Affecting Establishment in Farming," *Agricultural Education Magazine*, X (April, 1938), pp. 194-195.

in the descending order of difficulty that J. A. Starrak discovered to be true in one of his investigations in Iowa,<sup>56</sup> are: (1) obtaining adequate finances, (2) crop and animal production, (3) provision for proper housing, (4) obtaining good foundation stock, (5) obtaining good farm land, (6) managing the farm business, and (7) obtaining adequate equipment.

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<sup>56</sup>M. A. Starrak, Problems of Beginning Farmers in Iowa (Agricultural Experiment Station, Iowa State College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts, Rural Education Subsection, Research Bulletin No. 313, Ames, Iowa, April, 1943), p. 523.

## CHAPTER III

### ASSUMPTIONS AND PROCEDURES

#### Basic Assumptions

In preparation for this study, the following assumptions were made: (1) that a comparison of factors contributing to the establishment of rural boys in farming in the cash grain and the general type-of-farming areas would reveal certain characteristic differences or dissimilarities, (2) that farmers chosen for interviews in each of the two type-of-farming areas would be interested in finding out how their area compared with the other one studied, (3) that there would be cooperation on the parts of county superintendents, county agents, teachers of vocational agriculture, veterans' instructors, and established farmers in each of the four service areas represented, and (4) that those in each group interviewed had authoritative knowledge of the information desired of them.

#### Procedures

As stated in Chapter I under the subhead Delimitations, four communities were selected to represent two distinct type-of-farming areas in Oklahoma: Garber and Kingfisher communities, representative of a cash grain area, and the Perkins and Prague communities, representative of a general farming area. The locations of the communities are shown in Figure 2 (page 5). A comparison of the two type-of-farming areas was desired in order to discover possible variations in those factors that influence boys in the choice of farming as a vocation and in their ultimate establishment in farming.

The four communities were selected with the aid of Teacher-Trainers in the Department of Agricultural Education at Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical College. Selection was made from a group of ten school service areas, five being considered as representative of the cash grain area and five delegated from the general farming area. The final selection for each of the four service areas was based on the quality of the vocational agriculture department in the community high school, the number of young farmers established in the service area, the types of soils existing in the area, the various nationality groups predominating, the presence of some near extremes in rural farm population trends, and the degree to which the service area appeared characteristic of the prevailing type of farming.

An interview was held with each of the county school superintendents in the counties in which the four service areas are located. Maps of the school service areas were secured and they were carefully examined in an effort to determine the boundaries of the areas serviced by the communities. R. R. Price, Assistant Professor of the Department of Agricultural Education, and J. D. Tarver, Associate Professor of the Department of Rural Sociology, both professors being from Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical College, assisted in defining the limits of the four service areas. It was ruled that the Garber service area should include all or portions of eight townships: Allison, Blaine, Grant, Lincoln, Noble, Olive, Patterson, and Union (Figure 3, page 13); and the Kingfisher service area parts or all of eight townships: Cimarron, Cooper, Grant, Harrison, Kingfisher, Lynn, Park, and Reserve (Figure 4, page 14).

The Perkins service area (Figure 5, page 15) is composed of only

four townships: Clayton, Elm Grove, Paradise, and Perkins and extends a short distance south into Lincoln County (Figure 6, page 16); and the Prague service area (Figure 6) is made up of North Creek, North Seminole, South Creek, and South Seminole townships.

The Department of Rural Sociology of Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical College, being primarily concerned with population trends, cooperated in this study. Since some census data pertaining to minor civil divisions was available, the groupings shown above were considered to be adequate.

A thesis committee of four persons aided in the selection of appropriate questions for the interview schedule which was arranged so that it might be adapted for use as a questionnaire if the time allotted proved insufficient for the interview technique.

An estimate of the number of possible farmers under the age of forty-six who had become established during the fifteen year period of 1936 through 1951 was secured by corresponding with the local authorities including teachers of vocational agriculture, Veterans' Agricultural Training Program instructors, successful farmers, and a bank farm representative. Persons contacted in Garber, Paul Schnaithman, Veterans' Agricultural Training Program Instructor, and Victor Stroup, Garber High School Vocational Agriculture Instructor, estimated that 180 or more farmers would qualify for participation in the study from their area.

Rodger Howell, teacher of vocational agriculture at the Kingfisher High School, and Ralph Long, Veterans' Agricultural Training Program Instructor, judged that there were 110 or less possible participants in the Kingfisher service area.

Those persons contacted for information pertaining to the Perkins service area, Paul Evans, teacher of vocational agriculture at Perkins High School, and Ephraim Wall, local dairyman and farmer, estimated that only twenty-five established farmers would qualify there.

Walter Starks, Prague National Bank Farm Agent and former teacher of vocational agriculture, Harvey Russell, Prague High School Vocational Agriculture Teacher, and Ray North, Veterans' Instructor, judged that there were approximately forty possible participants in the Prague service area.

The Garber and Kingfisher estimates gave a total of 180 possible participants for the study from the cash grain area, whereas, the general farming area, including Perkins and Prague, provided a total of only sixty-five established farmers who qualified for the investigation.

The thesis committee decided that fifteen to twenty-five interviews per service area would furnish adequate information for study purposes. With these figures in mind, the researcher developed a procedure by which names and addresses of prospective interviewees could be procured.

The same people responsible for estimating farmers qualified for the investigation in the four service areas were then requested to provide lists of equal numbers of participants who would best represent the farm population from the townships concerned. The professional agriculturists were next asked to rate individuals in their sections according to degree in five categories including leadership, citizenship, net worth, cooperativeness, and progressiveness. Degrees listed were arranged according to numerical score: Number 1, representing considerably above average; Number 2, above average; Number 3, average,

Number 4, below average; and Number 5, considerably below average. The personal data thus gathered was averaged for each service area, and the names of the farmers placed on an approximated continuum. Exhibits A, B, C, and D in the Appendix show the numerical ratings given individuals in each service area.

Those farmers considered on the four scales were then placed as to location in the service areas. Following this step, a group of possible interviewees representing each rating and each township, commensurate with the percentages found to be characteristic of the service area, was selected: thirty-five from Garber, thirty from Kingfisher, twenty from Perkins, and twenty-five from Prague.

A try-out of the proposed interview schedule was given to a graduate group in agricultural education at Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical College, and the questions then revised. The second try-out was made in the territory with five interviewees from the cash grain area and five from the general farming area. No further revisions were made, and the schedule was mimeographed for use as it appears in the Appendix, Exhibit E.

After nearly one-quarter of the interviews in each service area was completed, it became apparent that funds and time were too limited to continue with personal interviewing alone. Meetings were arranged for in each of the service areas, and in all but the Perkins service area, group interviews were used to bring the interviewing to a close.

Packets of letters announcing the group meetings were sent out the week ahead of each scheduled meeting to the vocational agriculture teachers and veterans' instructors who addressed the envelopes and mailed the announcements to the individuals concerned. Exhibit F in

the Appendix is a sample announcement letter.

Attendance at the meetings was excellent, and participants proved cooperative in every way. The following program was generally followed: group interview, movies, and refreshments and discussion. During the meetings a short list of questions concerning the characteristics of the community was provided for the teachers. The questions were usually not completed and mailed to the researcher for several weeks after the meetings. The list of questions used, Exhibit G, appears in the Appendix.

Unforeseen circumstances prevented the Perkins meeting. Interviewing there was completed on a personal interview basis, arrangements for the interviews being planned well in advance at the farmers' convenience.

The business of interviewing occupied a six-week period, during which time the researcher travelled 2,420 miles and completed twenty-three interviews at Garber, twenty-three at Kingfisher, fifteen at Perkins, and fifteen at Prague, totalling seventy-six.

After this part of the problem had been completed, Mack Usher, International Business Machine specialist in the Office of the Registrar at Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical College, aided in coding the schedule and transferring the information to punch cards.

When finished, the cards were sorted on a sorting machine, and the tables used in tabulating and analyzing the data assembled.

#### Conditions Peculiar to the Study

From the preceding chapters, it may be seen that the investigator relied on others' opinions for much of the information gathered for this thesis:



1. For aid in selecting the type-of-farming areas for comparison.
2. For aid in choosing the service areas.
3. For the selection of participants for interviews.
4. For information concerning the occupational choices of rural boys.
5. For information pertaining to the establishment of rural boys in farming.

The method of securing information was varied to fit the situations found in the different service areas, all of the interviews having been on a personal basis in only the Perkins service area. In the areas where the group technique was used, comparisons were made of those schedules completed by personal and group interview, and the latter compared very favorably with results obtained when the participants were interviewed separately.

Certain presentations of findings which follow later in the study will also indicate that the groups interviewed in the service areas were above the averages for their regions in regard to the five categories on which they were rated: leadership, citizenship, financial net worth, cooperativeness, and progressiveness.

Because of the empirical nature of the methods used in gathering information for the study, the findings made and the conclusions drawn from them must be understood to hold true only in the light of these conditions.

## CHAPTER IV

### TREATMENT AND INTERPRETATION OF THE DATA

#### Characteristics of the Service Areas

##### The Garber Service Area:

Garber, an agricultural community of some 957 persons (Figure 3, page 13), serves an eight township area in northeastern Garfield County.

The agricultural specialists selected in the service area reported that the nationality groups predominating there are Bohemian and German and that the churches located in Garber--Assembly of God, Baptist, Christian, Lutheran, Methodist, Nazarene, and Pentecostal--serve the religious needs of most of the people in the surrounding territory.

Since its start in 1923, the high school department of vocational agriculture has been benefiting present and prospective farmers in the area. The local Future Farmers of America chapter grew out of the original Future Farmers of Oklahoma, organized in 1928. Thirty-five students are currently enrolled in vocational agriculture. The Veterans' Agricultural Training Program has provided training for over 200 former servicemen since World War II, and ten are being trained now.

National farm organizations active in the area are the Farm Bureau, the Farmers' Union, and the Grange. Many of the farmers buy and market products cooperatively.

Credit sources available for the service area include: one individual; the Production Credit Association of Enid; banks at Covington,

Hunter, and Enid; the Federal Land Banks; the Farmers Home Administration, and the local bank which handles nearly forty percent of the farmers' credit.

The Rock Island Railroad Company and the Mistletoe Express Company provide transportation, while United States Highways 60 and 64 supply routes to the various markets.

Farmers prefer marketing grain and poultry at Garber, dairy products at Enid, and livestock at Enid and Oklahoma City.

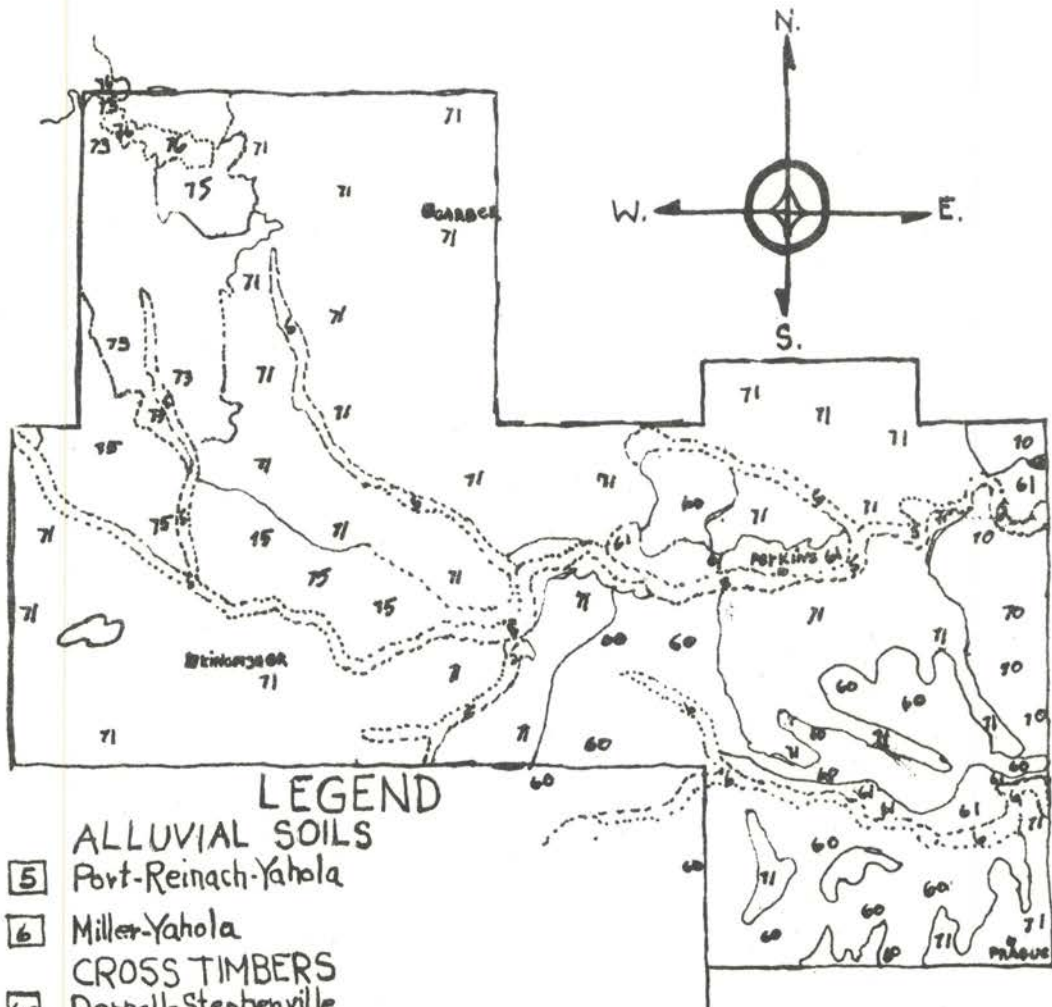
Oil field and construction companies in the service area employ rural young men with jobs to supplement farming.

In so far as land-types are concerned, Garber has two main kinds: (1) smooth agricultural land with a claypan subsoil, locally called "hardpan" and (2) rolling to strongly rolling land. The former type is particularly well adapted to small grains, since claypan subsoil retains moisture during the winter and releases it to plants slowly and its smooth surface permits the use of heavy, improved implements. The latter land-type is best adapted to pasture purposes.

Most of the soils are medium textured, comparatively fertile, and fairly well supplied with the plant nutrients necessary for the production of crops. Phosphate fertilizers give fair returns to those who apply them.

The parent materials of greatest importance for soils in the Garber vicinity are Permian Red Bed sandstone, shale and clay. "Figure 7" shows that the dark-colored, zonal soils of the region are of the Reddish Prairie soils group and that the most common soil association in the locale is the Renfro-Vernon-Kirkland. Kirland silt loam predominates in most of the service area. Good land is very difficult to

# SOIL ASSOCIATION MAP OF THE STUDY AREA



## LEGEND

- ALLUVIAL SOILS**
- 5 Post-Reinach-Yahola
- 6 Miller-Yahola
- CROSS TIMBERS**
- 60 Darnell-Stephenville
- 61 Dougherty-Eufaula-Vanoss
- CHEROKEE PRAIRIE**
- 70 Parsons-Dennis-Bates
- REDDISH-PRAIRIE**
- 71 Renfro-Vernon-Kirkland
- 73 Grant-Pond-Creek-Nash
- 75 Pratt-Derby
- ROLLING PLAINS**
- 76 Vernon-Quinlan

obtain, selling at present for about \$250.00 per acre.

Native vegetation consists mainly of buffalo and blue grama grasses, though native bunch grasses originally dominated the landscape.

The semi-arid, often droughty climate of the region limits the choice of crops. As seen from Table I, the precipitation mean is 29.86 inches per year with the heaviest rainfall in the month of May. The average frost-free season extends from March 30 to October 24, a period of 208 days. The absolute maximum temperature recorded in the thirty-four year period was 118 degrees Fahrenheit, and the absolute minimum for this same period was twenty degrees below zero.

Winter wheat is the most important crop in the Garber service area. Other crops are oats, barley, alfalfa, sorgo, grain sorghums, corn, Sudan grass, and cowpeas. The frost-free period is frequently too short for growing cotton, though there is record of its being grown. In this area wheat yields from five to thirty-five bushels per acre; sorghums eight to twenty bushels per acre; sorgo hay two tons per acre; Sudan one and one-half tons per acre, and alfalfa one and one-half tons per acre.

Next to the growing of wheat, the most important agricultural endeavor is the raising of livestock for market. Some farms have considerable rough, rolling land not suitable for crop production, which is used for pasture. The stocking rate on pasture ranges from one cow per three acres to one cow per six acres.

Dairying is an important enterprise in the Garber area. Both milk and cream are produced for market.

Incomplete but significant census data for the townships comprising the Garber service area are available. Table II shows some

TABLE I  
A COMPARISON OF SERVICE AREA CLIMATIC DATA\*

Item Reported	Garber	Kingfisher	Perkins	Prague
<b>Temperature</b>				
Years recorded	34	40	40	17
January average	36.5	37.9	36.6	38.7
July average	82.7	83.1	80.7	80.8
Maximum	118	118	115	110
Minimum	-20	-20	-18	-20
<b>Average Dates Killing Frost</b>				
Years recorded	33	40	40	17
Last in spring	March 30	April 15	March 31	April 11
First in fall	Oct. 24	Oct. 30	Oct. 30	Oct. 26
Growing season	208 days	208 days	213 days	198 days
<b>Average precipitation</b>				
Years recorded	37	40	40	20
January	1.07	.97	1.03	1.07
February	1.15	1.19	1.25	1.33
March	1.59	2.04	2.34	2.01
April	3.10	3.10	3.77	3.66
May	4.21	4.41	4.66	5.44
June	3.95	3.85	4.02	3.78
July	2.45	2.67	2.67	2.82
August	3.50	2.79	3.10	3.40
September	3.24	2.97	3.79	3.09
October	2.71	2.92	2.94	2.74
November	1.65	1.92	2.36	2.00
December	1.24	1.22	1.38	1.52
Annual Total	29.86	30.05	33.31	32.86

\*Data that appears in this table was taken from the 1941 Agricultural Yearbook, Climate and Man. Station reports that were used to represent the four service areas were: for Garber - Enid; for Kingfisher - Kingfisher; for Perkins - Stillwater, and for Prague - Sac Fox.

trends since the 1930 census. Both the total population and the rural farm population decreased considerably as did the number of farms in the area, although the average size of the farms correspondingly increased. The value of land per acre and the evaluation of land and buildings show a continued increase over the years. Study of the census data further reveals that both the total acres of cropland and of pasture land increased between 1940 and 1945, although the 121,668 cropland acres listed for 1930 still exceeds the 1945 total of 114,021. The numbers of beef cattle increased rapidly from 1940 to 1945 to meet the demands of wartime markets. Other livestock numbers remained fairly constant.

Concerning tenure statuses, census data by townships for the year 1945 indicates the largest group to be tenants, followed in order by owners and part-owners.

#### The Kingfisher Service Area:

The city of Kingfisher, located in south central Kingfisher County (Figure 4, page 14), had a population of 3,350 at the time of the 1950 census. It is the service center for an eight township area.

Community authorities related a number of interesting facts concerning the people that inhabit the service area and the area itself. German, Bohemian, and American nationality groups predominate. Religious faiths and denominations represented are the Assembly of God, the Baptist, the Christian, the Christian Missionary Alliance, the Federated, the Christian Science, the Methodist, the Nazarene, the Pentecostal and the Roman Catholic.

The department of vocational agriculture had its start in 1929. A Future Farmers of Oklahoma charter was granted to the group, and when Oklahoma joined the national Future Farmers of America, the Kingfisher

TABLE II  
CENSUS DATA CONCERNING THE GARBER SERVICE AREA\*

Census Item Considered	Years			
	1950	1945	1940	1930
Total number persons	2,675		3,355	4,384
Rural farm population	1,939		2,588	
Numbers of farms		631	696	868
Average size of farms (acres)		219.3	185.7	226.8
Value per acre		\$175.85	\$48.00	
Value of land and buildings		\$15,109.78	\$12,007.00	\$11,639.33
Total acres cropland		114,021	105,301	121,668
Acres of major crops				
Wheat		84,976	90,598	
Corn		397	526	
Oats		11,377	3,342	
Alfalfa		2,408	843	
Cotton		0	0	
Sorghums		3,921	2,164	
Barley		1,181	3,481	
Horticultural products		0	0	
Total acres of pasture		53,616	49,911	52,937
Numbers of livestock				
Beef		15,713	7,775	
Swine		1,727	1,955	
Dairy		3,553	3,474	
Sheep			4,779	
Tenure statuses				
Owner		206		
Part-owner		145		
Manager		0		
Tenant		280		
Number of tractors		591		
Number horses and mules		1,192	983	
Number autos		570		
Number pickup trucks		356		

\*Other data for the years listed were not available by Minor Civil Division.



chapter became a part of that organization. At the time of this study there are twenty-seven boys in vocational agriculture classes. The veterans' Agricultural Training Program has instructed approximately 150 former servicemen from the Kingfisher area since World War II and sixteen are enrolled at present in this training.

The national farm organizations active in the Kingfisher service area are the Farm Bureau and the Farmers' Union. Many farmers buy and sell cooperatively.

The local bank, several individuals, Farmers Home Administration, Federal Land Banks, and a loan agency provide credit for local farmers.

Transportation service is provided by the Mistletoe Express Company and by the Rock Island Railroad. Kingfisher is advantageously located on two excellent highways to the nearest markets, United States Highway 81 and Oklahoma State Highway 33.

Farmers in this service area prefer to market grain and poultry at Kingfisher and livestock and dairy products at both Kingfisher and Oklahoma City.

Since the local flour mill is closed, full-time employment is not available for most young rural men.

The topography of the region varies from smooth agricultural land to strongly undulating and sandy waste areas.

Soils surrounding Kingfisher are of a slightly coarser texture than those found in Garber, but are productive excepting where extremely sandy or shallow.

Soils of greatest importance in the area are derived from parent material of the Permian Red Beds. Reference to "Figure 7" (page 50) discloses that, as was cited for Garber, the most common soil

association is Renfro-Vernon-Kirkland. There are also some areas of sand hills and alluvium. Although land-owners do not sell good farming land very frequently, they demand as much as \$200.00 per acre for it.

The native vegetation is chiefly tall prairie grasses, grama grass, and buffalo grass.

Summers are hot and sometimes dry; winters are short and fairly mild. The mean precipitation shown in Table I is 30.05 inches per year, slightly higher than that in the Garber area. Records indicate most moisture falls during the month of May. The average frost-free period is from April 15 to October 30, a growing season of 208 days. The maximum temperature reported from records covering a forty year period was 118 degrees Fahrenheit; with the absolute minimum twenty degrees below zero.

The more important crops are wheat, oats, corn, cotton, hay and forage. Yields are good and fairly certain. The shallower soils, which are naturally susceptible to erosion damage, should be and are largely used for grazing, thus encouraging the raising of livestock for market, an important agricultural activity.

Extensive dairying in the area provides farmers with a stable source of income.

Census data for the eight townships composing the Kingfisher service area appear in Table III. Similar trends are noted in Garber and Kingfisher reports. The total number of persons and the total number of rural farm population have steadily lessened since the year 1930. The number of farms has decreased while the average size of the farms has increased, along with the value per acre and the value of land and buildings per farm. Acreages of cropland and pasture were greater in

TABLE III  
CENSUS DATA CONCERNING KINGFISHER SERVICE AREA\*

Census Item Considered	Years			
	1950	1945	1940	1930
Total number persons	2,708		3,421	3,653
Rural farm population	2,137		3,002	
Numbers of farms		621	665	703
Average size of farms (acres)		312	270.6	245.8
Value per acre		\$281.87	\$48.00	
Value of land and buildings		\$19,999.60	\$12,945.00	\$14,191.23
Total acres of cropland		121,177	105,635	112,899
Acres of major crops				
Wheat		95,336	81,104	
Corn		1,640	2,205	
Oats		11,685	9,649	
Alfalfa		3,504	636	
Cotton		1,720		
Sorghums		7,076	962	
Barley		140	4,234	
Horticultural products		0	0	
Total acres of pasture		57,653	56,642	48,196
Numbers of livestock				
Beef		20,223	8,961	
Swine		3,182	3,055	
Dairy		3,599	3,694	
Sheep			4,693	
Tenure statuses				
Owner		231		
Part-owner		195		
Manager		1		
Tenant		194		
Number of tractors		583		
Number horses and mules		757	980	
Number autos		526		
Number pickup trucks		392		

\*Other data for the years listed were not available by Minor Civil Division.

1945 than in other years listed. Wheat acreage figures point to an upward trend. Farmers also expanded alfalfa, cotton, and sorghum enterprises.

Numbers of beef cattle show an abrupt, steep rise from 1940 to 1945, and reflect the national emphasis on beef that has resulted in an all-time high of over ninety million head of cattle in this country. Other livestock numbers listed appear to have remained on about the same levels during the census years considered.

Although tenants comprise the largest tenure status group in Garber, owners predominate in Kingfisher, with part-owners second, and tenants third.

#### The Perkins Service Area:

The agricultural community of Perkins, a town of approximately 700 persons, is situated on the banks of the Cimarron River in south central Payne County (Figure 5, page 15), and serves as center for a four township area.

Agriculturists contacted concerning the characteristics of the Perkins service area state that no foreign nationality predominates there and that the few Indians in the community do not farm extensively. Spokesmen for the community list the following churches in the area: Baptist, Christian, Church of Christ, Methodist, Seventh Day Adventists, and United Brethren.

Thirty-six students currently are enrolled in vocational agriculture in Perkins High School. The department started its work in 1927 and participated in the Future Farmers of Oklahoma program and by 1929, a charter from the Future Farmers of America organization had been received. The Veterans' Agricultural Training Program, which trained

former servicemen from the area, completed its work in 1951.

The Farm Bureau, the Farmers' Union, and the Grange are active organizations in the community. Cooperatives are quite popular among local farmers, there being a local one at Stillwater, a cooperative elevator at Perkins, and the Gold Spot Cooperative at Enid.

Sources of credit for farmers in the area are the local bank, two banks in Stillwater, two banks in Cushing, the State School Land Department, the Commodity Credit Corporation, the Chandler Production Credit Association office, the Federal Land Banks, the Farmers Home Administration, and several individuals who make a business of loaning money.

The Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway and the Mistletoe Express Company regularly serve Perkins. Oklahoma State Highways 33 and 40 supply short routes to market points for the farmer who desires to transport his goods by truck.

Local farmers favor the markets at Stillwater for hatching eggs; Tulsa and Oklahoma City for broilers; Chicago for watermelons; Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical College and Texas for alfalfa hay; Perkins and Stillwater for wheat, and Cushing, Oklahoma City, and Perkins for livestock.

Oil fields provide young men with full-time or part-time job opportunities.

Generally speaking, there is less smooth agricultural land and more land that must be adapted to pasture in the Perkins service area than in the cash grain type-of-farming area, represented by Garber and Kingfisher.

Soils in the territory surrounding Perkins fall into three major groups (Figure 7, page 50): Reddish Prairie, Cross-Timbers, and

Alluvial. Reddish Prairie soils comprise the greater part of the soils in the district. The Renfro-Vernon-Kirkland association is the predominant one. Soils included here are dark-colored in the more or less level areas, as well as the red soils found on slopes. When first put into cultivation, these soils were very productive; but sheet erosion has progressed to the point at present where yields are greatly reduced. Wheat, cotton and grain sorghums are grown on this group of soils. The use of commercial fertilizers is recommended. Pastures are composed of grama, bluestems, and buffalo grass. The heavy textured subsoils are not too well suited to deep-rooted legumes. Sweetclover will grow in some areas with the addition of lime and phosphorus. Heavy subsoils make for production problems.

Soils comprising the Cross-Timbers group are noncalcareous and have been developed from sandstone under black jack and post oak cover with sparse stands of bluestem and other tall grasses. They are found on gently undulating to steeply rolling slopes with the steeper slopes being adapted to pasture or woodland. In cultivation, these soils are subject to moderate to severe sheet and gully erosion. They are productive for cotton, sorghums, and peanuts where not badly eroded. Some castor beans have been produced in these regions. With the use of sound conservation and management practices, such soils can be safely maintained in a permanent agriculture.

Soils classified as Alluvial or "bottomland" are the most productive in Payne County. Barring overflow damage to crops, production is generally excellent. Good land is not available. Forty dollars per acre is considered cheap for land, most farmers in the service area asking ninety or more. A small amount of Indian land may be

procured at the present time.

Climatic conditions are a little less demanding in the Perkins area than they are in Garber and Kingfisher. The region has a slightly longer growing season, and rainfall is more plentiful. According to forty year records kept at the Stillwater weather station, Table I, this area averages more annual rainfall than any of the other three stations. The annual mean precipitation is 33.31 inches, the most rain falling in the month of May. The average frost-free period extends through 213 days, the longest growing season of any service area in the study. The absolute maximum temperature of 115 degrees Fahrenheit is slightly less than that recorded for either Garber or Kingfisher. The minimum temperature recorded was a minus eighteen degrees. Winter wheat, alfalfa, and watermelons are important crops in the Perkins service area. Dairying is one of the most important enterprises in the community. Other animal enterprises contributing to farm incomes are beef, swine, and poultry. Diversified farming permits the inclusion of many small enterprises, thus peanuts, cotton, sorghums, and castor beans have been given considerable acreage in the Perkins area. Wheat averages from 10 to 30 bushels per acre; alfalfa two and one-half tons of hay per acre; sorghums ten bushels per acre; oats ten to twenty-five bushels per acre; cotton 200 pounds of lint per acre, and corn twenty-four bushels per acre. The stocking rate is about one animal unit to ten to fourteen acres of pasture.

Census data appearing in Table IV concern the Perkins service area and disclose that the total numbers of persons and the rural farm population have decreased in both categories. The number of farms is decreasing while the average size of the farms increases along with

TABLE IV  
CENSUS DATA CONCERNING THE PERKINS SERVICE AREA\*

Census Item Considered	Years			
	1950	1945	1940	1930
Total number persons	2,300		3,206	3,732
Rural farm population	1,610		2,831	
Numbers of farms		494	568	715
Average size of farms (acres)		178.6	149.8	134.8
Value per acre		\$30.37	\$19.50	
Value of land and buildings		\$5,659.05	\$4,190.00	\$6,011.00
Total acres of cropland		30,991	34,356	9,921.5
Acres of major crops				
Wheat		3,214	6,177	
Corn		6,135	5,708	
Oats		7,055	7,080	
Alfalfa				
Cotton		9,671		
Sorghums		4,925	3,462	
Barley		0	0	
Horticultural products		0	0	
Total acres of pasture		46,913	35,380	10,329
Numbers of livestock				
Beef		7,105	3,023	
Swine		2,348	2,829	
Dairy		2,009	2,718	
Sheep			964	
Tenure statuses				
Owner		215		
Part-owners		97		
Manager		1		
Tenant		152		
Number of tractors		236		
Number horses and mules		1,018	1,561	
Number autos		365		
Number pickup trucks		104		

\*Other data for years listed was not available by Minor Civil

Division breakdown.



value of land per acre and the value of land and building per farm, although the latter after a severe drop between the years 1930 and 1940. Total acres of cropland show a slight decrease from 1940 to 1945, and total acres of pasture for this same period an increase. Cotton, oats, corn, wheat, and sorghums were important crops in 1945.

Beef cattle numbers rose sharply, while other livestock numbers remained steady.

The majority of the farmers in Perkins in 1945 were either owners or part-owners of their land.

#### The Prague Service Area:

The city of Prague, located in the southeastern corner of Lincoln County (Figure 7, page 50), had a population of 1552 at the time of the 1950 census. It is the service center for a four township service area.

Agricultural specialists in the community stated that Bohemian and German nationality groups are in the majority in this area. Churches located in the service center are Assembly of God, Baptist, Christian, Church of Christ, Free Will Baptist, Methodist, Nazarene, Pentecostal, and Roman Catholic.

The department of vocational agriculture began work here in 1937, and a local group has participated in the Future Farmers of America organization ever since. Fifty boys enrolled in vocational agriculture comprise the largest enrollment of any department in the study. Ten veterans are enrolled in agricultural training at the present time, most veterans already having completed their training under the Veterans' Agricultural Training Program.

One national farm organization, the Farmers' Union, is active in Prague. A large group of the farmers cooperatively buy and sell.

The three most important sources of credit for farmers in the region are the two banks in Prague and the Farmers Home Administration. A number of individuals in the community also make it a practice to furnish capital for reputable young farm men.

The community is provided regular transportation service by the Mistletoe Express Company and the O. C. & E. Freight Lines. There is a railroad station in Meeker where machinery and equipment are picked up. United States Highway 62 and Oklahoma State Highway 99 furnish local farmers with roads to desirable markets.

Market facilities in Prague are a local cream station, which also buys poultry, a sale barn, and a local elevator. Dairy products are shipped by truck to Seminole, Oklahoma City and Stillwater. Grain markets in Shawnee and Oklahoma City and stockyards at Oklahoma City are also available.

Job opportunities for rural boys and men are rather limited, and most of them are in the oil field. Most extra farm work is done on a farmer-neighbor swap program, and threshing crews are assembled so that a group of farmers works together.

Physiographically the area as a whole is characterized by rolling, hilly, often-timbered land, and by some gently undulating, rich land in the area immediately surrounding Prague. Only a small portion of the cross-timbered region is under cultivation, and the average standard of living is comparatively low in such areas.

As was true with the other three areas studied, the Permian Red Beds are the predominant parent materials in the area. The great soils groups represented are the Reddish Prairies and the Cross-Timbers, the latter soils being formed from sandstone under timber (Figure 7, page 50).

Soil associations found in the territory are the Darnell-Stephenville and the Renfro-Vernon-Kirkland.

Approximately one-third of the land is fairly smooth upland with deep soils, about one-third is shallow, stony and gravelly soils, almost one-sixth rough stony land, and about one-sixth alluvial bottomland. On smooth land the rocks have weathered deeply, and the soils are largely fine sandy loams over mellow, crumbly clay subsoils of a reddish-brown to brown, and moderately productive. Where the land is steeply sloping and hilly, soils are thin, stony, and of low productivity.

Much land is in timber or pasture. Principal crops are cotton, sorghums, oats, corn, hay, and forage. They are particularly productive when grown on the small amounts of alluvial soils in some of the valleys. Deeper soils of the smooth uplands give fair yields with the addition of commercial fertilizers and lime.

Land is available, but high in price. Crop land offered for sale is priced from \$50.00 to \$100.00 per acre. Pasture land prices range from \$10.00 to \$30.00 per acre. Good farming land of the area does not exchange hands often because it is handed down from father to son. Summers are long and hot; winters, short and mild. The mean precipitation shown in Table I is 32.86 inches per year, with heaviest rainfall in May. The average frost-free period listed for the Sac Fox station north of Prague extends from April 11 to October 26, a total of 198 days. Most other stations in this area report between 200 and 220 days of growing season. The fact that the records are listed for only seventeen years may be significant. The maximum temperature recorded during the seventeen years was 110 degrees Fahrenheit, and the minimum

was twenty degrees below zero.

Small grains and dairy enterprises are most important in the farm business of farmers in this general farming area. Dairy, swine, soil conservation, farm management, beef and crop productions receive special emphasis in the course of vocational agriculture taught in the high school.

Census figures given in Table V point to a general similarity between the Prague service area and the Perkins area, which has already been discussed. Continued decreases are noted both in total population and in rural farm population. The number of farms tends to be decreasing, while the average size of the farms seems to be increasing. The value per acre of land is noted to trend upward, but the value of land and buildings in 1945 has still not reached the 1930 level. As fewer acres of land are devoted to crops, correspondingly more acres are turned to pasture. Cotton, sorghums, oats, and corn were of relatively great importance during census years given. Beef cattle numbers were quite high in 1945, but other livestock numbers show little significant change during the five-year period. Dairy numbers possibly dwindled because of the emphasis placed on beef herds.

The tenants exceed either the owners or part-owners in number, though owners place a fairly close second.

#### Trends in Rural Farm Population:

As census information for each of the service areas was being discussed, mention was made of the losses suffered by the rural farm population.

Table VI presents a clearer picture of the losses incurred by the areas. The rural population figures listed are somewhat greater than

TABLE V  
CENSUS DATA CONCERNING THE PRAGUE SERVICE AREA\*

Census Item Considered	Years			
	1950	1945	1940	1930
Total number persons	1,700		2,866	3,235
Rural farm population	1,524		2,736	
Numbers of farms		411	564	618
Average size of farms (acres)		172	144	128.3
Value per acre		\$38.45	\$22.50	
Value of land and buildings		\$3,949.62	\$3,164.75	\$4,660.83
Total acres cropland		22,054	26,549	33,888
Acres of major crops				
Wheat		1,962	2,193	
Corn		2,777	3,861	
Oats		3,939	5,508	
Alfalfa		321	480	
Cotton		10,599		
Sorghums		5,328	3,312	
Barley		2,784		
Horticultural products		177	599	
Total acres of pasture		39,096	34,669	32,472
Numbers of livestock				
Beef		5,268	1,946	
Swine		1,241	1,380	
Dairy		1,672	2,825	
Sheep			381	
Tenure statuses				
Owner		150		
Part-owner		77		
Manager		0		
Tenant		184		
Number of tractors		177		
Number horses and mules		1,183	1,697	
Number autos		264		
Number pickup trucks		73		

\*Other data for years listed was not available by Minor Civil

Division breakdown.

the true figures for the four service areas would be, since data for townships, any part of which may fall within a service area, are included in their entirety.

TABLE VI

## COMPARISON OF DECREASES IN RURAL FARM POPULATION IN THE SERVICE AREAS\*

Service Area	Population by Years		Number Decrease	Percent Decrease
	1950	1940		
Garber	1939	2588	649	25.1
Kingfisher	2137	3002	865	28.8
Perkins	1610	2831	1221	43.1
Prague	1524	2736	1212	44.3
Total	7210	11157	3947	35.4

\*These figures are for complete townships even though the service areas do not necessarily include all of each township.

A brief study of the information presented in this table reveals considerable losses were sustained by the general farming area, represented by Perkins and Prague. When individual townships are examined, census material provides an even more striking picture. Population decreases were evident in all twenty-four townships considered, the least decrease percentage-wise being in Cooper Township in Kingfisher service area with only an 8.2 percent decrease, and the greatest decrease being in Paradise Township in the Perkins service area with a decrease of 66.1 percent. Age groups apparently affected most by the losses were those between fifteen and thirty-five years.

#### A Brief Comparison of Type-of-Farming Areas:

Because the 1950 census statistics for the twenty-four townships considered in the study were not available, the investigator made an effort to secure sufficient data by counties to discover any trends evident in the cash grain and general type-of-farming areas. Preliminary 1950 agricultural census information was totaled for Garfield and Kingfisher Counties to make possible a better study of the cash grain area trends. Correspondingly, the census data for Payne and Lincoln Counties was added to see what conditions prevailed in the general farming area. Results of these compilations are set forth in Table VII.

Inspection of the material presented in the table discloses that the number of farms in the cash grain area suffered greater losses in the five-year period than did those in the general farming area. At the same time, it is noted that the average size of farms in the general farming area has increased much more rapidly than has those in the other area.

The value of land and buildings in both areas has very nearly doubled, although the cash grain area figures are nearly four times those observed in the general area.

A brief comparison of total acres of cropland and total acres of pasture land shows a striking contrast in the two areas, the cash grain area featuring nearly two-thirds of the land in cropland, and the general farming area listing two-thirds of its land in pasture.

Of the major crops given, wheat utilizes the vast majority of the cropland in the cash grain area, while each of the crops itemized in the general farming area is planted in a comparatively large percentage of the cropland total. Reference to the crop sales item on the first

page of the table brings out the relative importance of cash grains in the two areas.

TABLE VII  
CENSUS DATA COMPARING COUNTIES IN THE CASH GRAIN  
AND GENERAL FARMING AREAS\*

Census Item Considered	Cash Grain Area		General Farming Area	
	1950	1945	1950	1945
Numbers of farms	4,503	7,140	4,651	5,717
Average size of farms in acres	268.9	257.3	184.1	107.9
Value per acre (\$)	105.29	62.82	38.64	27.10
Value of land and buildings (\$)	28,842.50	16,117.75	7,769.20	4,337.00
Total acres of crop- land	732,194	770,626	188,835	274,764
Acres of major crops				
Wheat	647,179	572,966	20,085	21,756
Corn	2,794	9,080	34,006	43,857
Oats	14,024	67,471	33,262	51,152
Alfalfa	18,019	22,412	12,158	9,731
Cotton	1,791	3,494	13,715	32,241
Sorghums	11,560	24,818	25,383	53,611
Total acres of pasture	399,949	393,727	526,888	528,990
Numbers of major livestock				
Cattle	90,793	118,263	70,764	76,966
Swine	15,399	18,466	23,966	19,766
Dairy	18,156		23,873	
Sheep	16,790	31,340	3,400	3,491
Tenure statuses				
Owner	1,163	1,767	2,072	2,557
Part-owner	1,343	1,194	1,148	1,046
Manager	6	13	8	6
Tenant	1,491	1,766	1,413	2,108
Number of tractors	5,157	4,129	2,640	1,953
Number horses and mules	2,752	5,830	6,157	10,323
Number autos	4,376	4,129	3,435	3,810
Number pickups	2,445	2,411	1,746	1,061
Total value crops sold (\$)	16,180,472	12,553,393	1,737,625	2,457,039
Total value livestock sold (\$)	8,694,945	7,299,401	6,632,045	4,605,142
Days operator worked off farm				
More than 100	712	588	1,311	1,125
Less than 100	1,201	818	1,193	1,514



Table I  
Microelectrode Preparations and Statistics

Electrode	Platinum	Copper	Gold	Silver	Amalgam
Plating solution	---	0.1 M CuSO <sub>4</sub>	0.1 M AuCl <sub>3</sub>	0.1 M AgNO <sub>3</sub>	0.1 M HgCl <sub>2</sub>
Plating time	---	5 min.	5 min.	5 min.	90 sec.
Plating current in ma.	---	0.3	1.2	0.8	0.2
Length in mm.	3.185	3.576	3.279	2.606	----
Diameter in mm.	0.511	0.483	0.526	0.775	----
Area in sq. mm.	5.313	5.610	5.641	6.818	----
Thickness of plating in mm.	----	0.001	0.002	0.041	----

TABLE VII--Continued

Census Item Considered	Cash Grain Area		General Farming Area	
	1950	1945	1950	1945
Average distance to town (miles)	8		6	
Type-of-farm				
Dairy	263		730	
Livestock	427		897	
General	583		746	
Crop	44		47	
Livestock	175		279	
Crop and livestock	314		420	
Unclassified	569		1,835	
Cash grain	2,648		83	
Cotton	30		142	
Telephone	3,002	2,966	1,786	1,815
Electricity	3,792	3,502	2,971	1,564
Farmers living on farm operated	3,968	4,339	4,118	5,357

\*Figures appearing for the cash grain area are totals for Garfield and Kingfisher counties, and for the general farming area, Payne and Lincoln totals.

The livestock numbers presented show that the cash grain area earns a large share of the livestock dollar from sales of beef. Sheep are of much greater importance here than they are in the general farming area. On the other hand, dairy and swine numbers in the general farming area are equally great. The general farming area depends on livestock sales for farm income to a much greater extent than does the cash grain area, granting that sales of livestock in the latter area are the largest.

A comparison of types of farms listed for the two areas indicates that the cash grain farms comprise the most abundant group of the

cash grain area, while dairy, livestock, and general types are of nearly equal numbers in the general farming area, with an unusually large number of unclassified farms as well.

Of the two areas, the general farming region boasted the greatest percentage of farm owners. It is interesting to note that, though other tenure statuses in both areas diminished, part-owners in the general area are increasing.

Comparison of the kind of farm power characteristic of the two areas reveals in 1950 more than one horse or mule per farm in the general type-of-farming area, and more than one tractor per farm in the cash grain area. The relatively small sizes of farms and fields in the latter area as contrasted with smoother topography and larger farms and fields in the former area are evidently important factors in the choice of both farm power and equipment. Trends in both areas are toward more tractors per farm and fewer horses and mules.

Other interesting items of comparison are the number of days that the farm operators work off of the farm, the number of farms having telephones, and the number of farms apparently having modern conveniences, as reflected in use of electricity. It appears from the preceding that the standards of living are quite unlike. Farmers in the general farming area are fast improving their positions, since the number utilizing electricity doubled between census periods.

Further use of the information in Table VII will be made at appropriate points in the narration.

That the two type-of-farming areas studied do present extremes and dissimilarities has been demonstrated by the foregoing discussion and comparisons. The nationality groups studied are very much the

same, but the tools and farm land with which the two neighboring groups worked are different. With such understanding, Oklahoma's rural educators asked this question: "To what extent are factors contributing to the establishment of rural boys in farming the same in different type-of-farming areas in the state?" Some qualified answers are given to this general question by this study, but other studies are needed to discover other fundamental truths and to clarify the occupational choice problems which rural boys face.

#### The Influence of Reality Factors in the Decision-Making Process

The "reality factors" dealt with by the investigator in this portion of the presentation are the family and personal factors; the educational factors; the world of work factors, and the life plan factors, respectively. Much of the material is presented in table form in order to facilitate the treatment of the findings.

##### The Family and Personal Factors:

Established farmers selected for participation in the study were limited to a maximum age of forty-five years. Reference to Table VIII shows that the farmers in the general type-of-farming area averaged more than two years older than those in the cash grain area, the average age for farmers participating in the total study being 31.64 years. From this it may be deduced that farmers are somewhat older when becoming established in the general farming area than in the cash grain. It may be seen that a large share of those interviewed fall well within the "young farmer" age bracket, the maximum age for that group being considered by various rural educators at from thirty-five years of age to forty. The largest single group studied falls in the "30-34" age interval.

TABLE VIII

## THE AGES OF FARMERS PARTICIPATING IN THE STUDY

Area	Age Groups by Year Intervals										Ave. Age in Years		
	15-19		20-24		25-29		30-34		35-39			40-45	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	
Garber	0	0	2	8.7	5	21.7	7	30.4	8	34.8	1	4.4	31.78
Kingfisher	0	0	4	17.4	8	34.8	5	21.7	5	21.7	1	4.4	29.61
Perkins	0	0	1	6.7	1	6.7	5	33.3	2	13.3	6	40.0	35.80
Prague	1	6.7	3	20.0	1	6.7	5	33.3	5	33.3	0	0	30.27
CASH GRAIN	0	0	6	13.0	13	28.3	12	26.1	13	28.3	2	4.3	30.70
GENERAL FARMING	1	3.3	4	13.3	2	6.7	10	33.3	7	23.3	6	20.0	33.03
Total Study	1	1.3	10	13.2	15	19.7	22	29.0	20	26.3	8	10.5	31.64

More of the participants from the general farming area were found to be married than from the cash grain area; Table IX revealing that twenty-nine of the thirty farmers investigated in the former area reported wives, as contrasted with only thirty-eight out of the forty-six interviewed in the latter area.

TABLE IX  
THE MARITAL STATUSES OF INTERVIEWEES

Area Reported	Married		Single		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Garber	20	87	3	13	23	100
Kingfisher	18	78.3	5	21.7	23	100
Perkins	15	100	0	0	15	100
Prague	14	93.3	1	6.7	15	100
CASH GRAIN	38	82.6	8	17.4	46	100
GENERAL FARMING	29	96.7	1	3.3	30	100
Total Study	67	88.2	9	11.8	76	100

The fact that general farming area farmers were older than the cash grain group may partially answer for this difference in marital status.

Examination of findings in Table X makes it clear that, on the average, cooperating farmers in the general farming area have been married longer than their neighbors to the west.

TABLE X  
GROUPINGS OF MARRIED FARMERS BY YEARS MARRIED

Area Reported	Married		Percent Married			
	Number	Percent	0-4 Yrs.	5-8 Yrs.	10-14 Yrs.	15-19 Yrs.
Garber	20	100	20.0	60.0	15.0	5.0
Kingfisher	18	100	50.0	60.0	15.0	5.0
Perkins	15	100	0.0	20.0	40.0	40.0
Prague	14	100	35.7	21.4	28.6	14.3
CASH GRAIN	38	100	34.2	47.4	15.8	2.6
GENERAL FARMING	29	100	17.2	20.7	34.5	27.6
Total Study	67	100	26.9	35.8	23.9	13.4

In the light of information presented in the preceding two tables, these data lead the researcher to re-emphasize the thought that, of the two type-of-farming areas, establishment takes the longer in the general.

Table XI presents a picture of the average size of family reported, families of those participating in the study in the general area exceeding families recorded for the cash grain area by a small fraction, with the average number of children per family 2.04 for the total group.

Longer marriages may account for this slight difference in numbers of children. While no attempt is made in this study to discover relationship between fecundity and size of family income, it might be observed that the findings are in agreement with the findings of other studies in that the higher income families as a group averaged fewer children.

TABLE XI

## NUMBERS OF CHILDREN OF FARMERS IN THE STUDY

Area	Married		Total Number of Children	Numbers of Children Reported							Average No. Children Per Family
	Number	Percent		0	1	2	3	4	5	6	
Garber	20	87.0	46	1	5	5	5	4	0	0	2.30
Kingfisher	18	78.3	28	6	4	4	1	2	1	0	1.56
Perkins	15	100.0	36	0	4	4	5	1	1	0	2.40
Prague	14	93.3	27	2	4	5	1	1	0	1	1.93
CASH GRAIN	38	82.6	74	7	9	9	6	6	1	0	1.95
GENERAL FARMING	29	96.7	63	2	8	9	6	2	1	1	2.17
Total Study	67	88.2	137	9	17	18	12	8	2	1	2.04



The farmers were polled to determine where their wives were reared. Table XIII convincingly illustrates the preference that rural farm boys in the cash grain area have for first, local-farm girls, and second, local-town. The general area farmers show a decided preference for farm-reared girls, nearly three-quarters of their wives originating on the farm.

In studying the place of rearing of farmers who are now established, the researcher reaffirmed the findings of countless others in the field of rural education that the vast majority of farmers come from local farms. Table XIII discloses that over 88 percent of the interviewees stated that they were reared on the farm and nearly 83 percent that they were from the local community studied. Further examination of Table XIII will substantiate the fact that in each of the areas there is a preponderance of local-farm reared farmers, differences between areas being of little or no consequence.

Farmers investigated in both the cash grain and general farming areas prefer to reside on the farms they operate (Table XIV), only four out of the seventy-six men interviewed living in town. The advantages inherent in farm residence far outweigh town residence advantages of proximity to grocery store, school, and church, since commuting the six or eight miles (Table VII, page 70) that separate most farmers studied from service centers results in necessary expenditures of time and money, and separates the farmer from a valuable source of labor as well.

TABLE XII  
THE PLACE OF REARING OF THE FARMERS' WIVES

Area	Place Reared								Total Number of Wives
	Local Town No.	%	Local Farm No.	%	Other Town No.	%	Other Farm No.	%	
Garber	4	20.0	10	50.0	4	20.0	2	10.0	20
Kingfisher	6	35.3	9	52.9	0	0.0	2	11.8	18 (1 not reported)
Perkins	2	13.3	7	46.7	3	20.0	3	20.0	15
Prague	3	21.4	7	50.0	0	0.0	4	28.6	14
CASH GRAIN	10	27.0	19	51.4	4	10.8	4	10.8	38 (1 not reported)
GENERAL FARMING	5	17.2	14	48.3	3	10.3	7	24.2	29
Total Study	15	22.7	33	50.0	7	10.6	11	16.7	67 (1 not reported)

TABLE XIII

## THE PLACE OF REARING OF FARMERS IN THE STUDY

Area	Total Number of Farmers	Place Reared							
		Farm		Town		Local		Other	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Garber	23	18	78.3	5	21.7	18	78.3	5	21.7
Kingfisher	23	23	100.0	0	0.0	19	82.6	4	17.4
Perkins	15	13	86.7	2	13.3	15	100.0	0	0.0
Prague	15	13	86.7	2	13.3	11	73.3	4	26.7
CASH GRAIN	46	41	89.1	5	10.9	37	80.4	9	19.7
GENERAL FARMING	30	26	86.7	4	13.3	26	86.7	4	13.3
Total Study	76	67	88.2	9	11.8	63	82.9	13	17.1

TABLE XIV  
THE PLACE OF PRESENT RESIDENCE OF FARMERS IN THE STUDY

Area	Total Number of Farmers	Residence			
		Farm		Town	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Garber	23	23	100.0	0	0.0
Kingfisher	23	20	87.0	3	13.0
Perkins	15	14	93.3	1	6.7
Prague	15	15	100.0	0	0.0
CASH GRAIN	46	43	93.5	3	6.5
GENERAL FARMING	30	29	96.7	1	3.3
Total Study	76	72	94.7	4	5.3

Further reference to Table XIV shows a difference favoring the general farming area due to type-of-farming, for a number of the wheat farmers in the cash grain area find it convenient to take part-time work in town to supplement farm earnings and possibly make use of longer hours of leisure.

Earlier studies concerning establishment in farming have emphasized the problem faced by prospective farmers when they have brothers equally desirous of making a start on the home farm. However, Clark's study found that the presence of a number of brothers does not prevent young men from becoming established in farming.<sup>57</sup> Findings set forth in Table XV tend to corroborate Clark's observation, for nearly half of the farmers participating in this study reported brothers on the farm.

<sup>57</sup>Clark, op. cit., p. 132.

TABLE XV

## BROTHERS OF FARMERS IN THE STUDY WHO LIVE ON THE FARM

Area	Total Number of Farmers	Numbers of Brothers											
		None		One		Two		Three		Four		Five	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Garber	23	15	65.2	5	21.7	2	8.7	1	4.4	0	0	0	0
Kingfisher	23	11	47.8	9	39.1	2	8.7	0	0	0	0	1	4.4
Perkins	15	6	40.0	4	26.7	3	20.0	1	6.7	0	0	1	6.6
Prague	15	8	53.3	5	33.3	1	6.7	0	0	1	6.7	0	0
CASH GRAIN	46	26	56.5	14	30.4	4	8.7	1	2.2	0	0	1	2.2
GENERAL FARMING	30	14	46.7	9	30.0	4	13.3	1	3.3	1	3.3	1	3.4
Total Study	76	40	52.6	23	30.3	8	10.5	2	2.6	1	1.4	2	2.6

The fathers of farmers interviewed for the study were found to be mostly land-owners and tenants (Table XVI), the percentage of land-owners in the general area overshadowing those in the cash grain area by more than 15 percent. The "other" tenure status listed had a rather large recording at Perkins where a number of the fathers were land-owners but farmed only part-time or as a hobby. "Other" is differentiated from "not farmer" in that the latter category includes only those not having any farm background experience. A surprisingly large number of the fathers fell in the "not farmer" group in Garber and Prague. There seems to be little explanation for this fact unless it is due to the fact that in these two locales oil field activities are more outstanding than in Kingfisher and Perkins.

In regard to the type-of-farming pursued by farmers in the study, it was discovered that the type-of-farming followed by the fathers was most popular with the sons, the cash grain area listing a majority of cash grain and beef type farms and the general area listing mostly general farms (Table XVII). It will be noted that the percentage totals exceed 100 percent in all but one case, because some of the farmers interviewed stated that their fathers had been occupied in more than one type-of-farming. Cotton and poultry farms are among those included under the "other" column heading. Participants whose fathers were not farmers reported in the "none" column.

A discussion of the family's contribution to a boy's start in farming has already been presented in the Review of Related Literature. Perusal of Table XVIII, which compares contributions made by the families in the two areas studied, presents a number of interesting similarities. The degree of farm mechanization found true in both

TABLE XVI

## THE TENURE STATUSES OF THE FARMERS' FATHERS

Area	Tenure Statuses											
	Not Farmer		Owner		Part-owner		Manager		Tenant		Other	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Garber	3	13.04	10	43.5	0	0	1	4.4	9	39.1	0	0
Kingfisher	0	0	12	52.2	1	4.4	0	0	9	39.1	1	4.4
Perkins	0	0	9	60.0	1	6.7	0	0	3	20.0	2	13.3
Prague	2	13.3	10	66.7	0	0	0	0	3	20.0	0	0
CASH GRAIN	3	6.5	22	47.8	1	2.2	1	2.2	18	39.1	1	2.2
GENERAL FARMING	2	6.7	19	63.3	1	3.3	0	0	6	20.0	2	6.7
Total Study	5	6.5	41	54.0	2	2.6	1	1.3	24	31.6	3	4.0

TABLE XVII

## TYPE-OF-FARMING PURSUED BY FATHERS OF FARMERS IN STUDY

Area	Type-of-Farming							Total
	General	Grain	Cash Grain And Beef	Beef	Dairy	Other	None	
Garber								
Number	3	3	13	0	2	1	3	25
Percent	13.0	13.0	56.5	0	8.7	4.4	13.0	108.7
Kingfisher								
Number	9	3	11	0	1	0	0	24
Percent	39.1	13.0	47.8	0	4.4	0	0	104.4
Perkins								
Number	13	0	0	2	0	0	0	15
Percent	86.7	0	0	13.3	0	0	0	100.0
Prague								
Number	13	1	0	0	2	0	1	17
Percent	86.7	6.7	0	0	13.3	0	6.6	113.3
CASH GRAIN								
Number	12	6	24	0	3	1	3	49
Percent	26.1	13.0	52.2	0	6.5	2.2	6.5	106.5
GENERAL FARMING								
Number	26	1	0	2	2	0	1	32
Percent	86.7	3.3	0	6.7	6.7	0	3.3	106.7
Total Study								
Number	38	7	24	2	5	1	4	81
Percent	50.0	9.2	31.6	2.6	6.6	1.3	5.3	107.6



areas is evidenced by the fact that farmers in both areas report the "machinery and equipment" contributions as first in magnitude, with "advice of value" second, and "land" third. Financial aid contributed is greater in the cash grain area than in the general. Study of the "none" column facilitates a quick grasp of the contribution picture, since the smaller the figure in this column the larger the corresponding contribution must be, i.e., in the total study "machinery and equipment," 40.8 percent, "advice of value," 53.9 percent, and "financial aid," also 53.9 percent, are seen to be the greatest family contributions in that order.

One of those interviewed failed to answer the question concerning land contribution.

Comparison of the contributions made by the wife's family towards establishment in farming (Table XIX) shows that, though several major contributions receive more than 5.0 percent acknowledgement in the cash grain area, land receiving 10.9 percent, none of the contributions listed received either major or minor report to this extent in the general farming area. Two of the farmers in the cash grain area married sisters whose father deeded each a farm at the time of their marriage. The fairly large percentage of general farming area participants reporting "little" livestock contributed by the wife's family received the aid in the form of a cow.

The largest percent of the farmers omitting portions or all of the question were single men. A few others evidently felt the matter to be somewhat personal.

#### The Educational Factors:

Consideration of the grade levels attained by farmers in the study,

TABLE XVIII

A COMPARISON OF CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE FAMILY TO ESTABLISHMENT  
IN FARMING IN THE TWO TYPE-OF-FARMING AREAS

Areas and Items Contributed	Percent of Farmers Acknowledging Aid As				
	Major	Minor	Little	None	Omitted
<u>CASH GRAIN</u>					
a. Financial aid	19.6	17.4	19.6	43.5	0.0
b. Labor loan	15.2	28.3	4.3	52.2	0.0
c. Machinery and equipment	52.2	10.9	4.3	32.6	0.0
d. Land	23.9	13.0	6.5	54.4	2.2
e. Advice of value	28.3	15.2	4.3	52.2	0.0
f. Livestock	8.7	17.4	8.7	65.2	0.0
g. Feed or seed	71.4	17.4	8.7	56.5	0.0
<u>GENERAL FARMING</u>					
a. Financial aid	10.0	6.7	13.3	70.0	0.0
b. Labor loan	16.7	10.0	3.3	70.0	0.0
c. Machinery and equipment	33.3	10.0	3.3	53.4	0.0
d. Land	26.7	6.7	3.3	63.3	0.0
e. Advice of value	23.3	16.7	3.3	56.7	0.0
f. Livestock	6.7	16.7	3.3	73.3	0.0
g. Feed or seed	6.7	3.3	16.7	73.3	0.0
<u>TOTAL STUDY</u>					
a. Financial aid	15.8	13.2	17.1	53.9	0.0
b. Labor loan	15.8	21.0	4.0	59.2	0.0
c. Machinery and equipment	44.7	10.5	4.0	40.8	0.0
d. Land	25.0	10.5	5.3	57.9	1.3
e. Advice of value	26.3	15.8	4.0	53.9	0.0
f. Livestock	7.9	17.1	6.6	68.4	0.0
g. Feed or seed	13.2	11.8	11.8	63.2	0.0

TABLE XIX

A COMPARISON OF CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE WIFE'S FAMILY TO ESTABLISHMENT  
IN FARMING IN THE TWO TYPE-OF-FARMING AREAS

Areas and Items Contributed	Percent of Farmers Acknowledging Aid As				
	Major	Minor	Little	None	Omitted
<u>CASH GRAIN</u>					
a. Financial aid	2.2	4.4	6.5	69.6	17.4
b. Labor loan	2.2	4.4	2.1	71.7	19.6
c. Machinery and equipment	6.5	8.7	2.2	65.2	17.4
d. Land	10.9	4.3	0.0	67.4	17.4
e. Advice of value	8.7	2.2	4.3	65.2	19.6
f. Livestock	8.7	6.5	0.0	67.4	17.4
g. Feed or seed	2.2	6.5	0.0	73.9	17.4
<u>GENERAL FARMING</u>					
a. Financial aid	3.3	3.3	3.3	83.4	6.7
b. Labor loan	3.3	3.3	0.0	86.7	6.7
c. Machinery and equipment	3.3	0.0	3.3	86.7	6.7
d. Land	3.3	0.0	3.3	86.7	6.7
e. Advice of value	0.0	3.3	0.0	90.0	6.7
f. Livestock	0.0	3.3	0.0	90.0	6.7
g. Feed or seed	0.0	3.3	0.0	90.0	6.7
<u>TOTAL STUDY</u>					
a. Financial aid	2.6	4.0	5.3	75.0	13.1
b. Labor loan	2.6	4.0	13.0	77.6	14.5
c. Machinery and equipment	5.3	5.3	2.6	73.7	13.1
d. Land	7.9	2.6	1.3	75.0	13.2
e. Advice of value	5.3	2.6	2.6	75.0	14.5
f. Livestock	5.3	4.0	4.0	73.6	13.1
g. Feed or seed	1.3	5.3	0.0	80.3	13.1

Table XX, reveals that the largest percentage of the participants completed the twelfth grade. A relatively large percentage of farmers in both areas attended four full years of college. The greatest range is seen in the Prague service area where one man reportedly completed work necessary for a law degree, while two had only completed work at the seventh grade level. The average number of years of school attended by participants in the study was 12.25. With this fact in mind, it appears to the investigator that the grade level attained by these farmers places them on an educational level some two to four years above the average in the state and nation.

A large percent, 67.1, of the interviewees signified that they had received training in high school vocational agriculture, the general farming percentage surpassing that listed for the cash grain area by nearly 16 percent (Table XXI).

There seems to be little explanation for this finding, though the percentage of farmers in the entire study appears to be significant to the researcher, since no effort was made to select those having vocational agriculture experience. Scrutiny of the table's "years completed" column "four" reveals that approximately 50 percent in each of the areas studied completed four years of instruction. It will be further noted that the total study average percentages increase at the same time that the numbers of years completed increases. The general area has a much larger percentage reporting completion of three years of training than does the cash grain area. A possible explanation for this fact is that a larger group in the general farming area "drop-out" of high school prior to the twelfth year than is noted in the cash grain area (Table XX).

TABLE XX

## GRADE LEVELS ATTAINED BY THE FARMERS STUDIED

Area	Grade Levels Attained (Percent of farmers signifying each)											
	7th	8th	9th	10th	11th	12th	13th	14th	15th	16th	17th	18th
Garber	0.0	4.4	4.3	4.3	0.0	52.2	4.4	8.7	13.0	8.7	0.0	0.0
Kingfisher	0.0	4.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	60.9	8.7	4.3	8.7	13.0	0.0	0.0
Perkins	0.0	6.7	0.0	0.0	6.7	66.7	0.0	0.0	6.6	13.3	0.0	0.0
Prague	13.3	6.7	0.0	6.7	6.6	46.7	0.0	0.0	6.7	6.7	0.0	6.6
CASH GRAIN	0.0	4.4	2.2	2.1	0.0	56.5	6.5	6.5	10.9	10.9	0.0	0.0
GENERAL FARMING	6.7	6.7	0.0	3.3	6.7	56.6	0.0	0.0	6.7	10.0	0.0	3.3
Total Study	2.6	5.3	1.3	2.6	2.6	56.6	4.0	4.0	9.2	10.53	0.0	1.3

TABLE XXI  
YEARS OF VOCATIONAL AGRICULTURE COMPLETED BY THE FARMERS

Area	Years Completed (By Percentage of Farmers Signifying Each)				Total Percent Had
	One	Two	Three	Four	
Garber	4.3	8.7	0.0	43.5	56.5
Kingfisher	0.0	4.3	8.7	52.2	65.2
Perkins	6.7	6.7	13.3	60.0	86.7
Prague	6.7	0.0	20.0	40.0	66.7
CASH GRAIN	2.2	6.5	4.4	47.8	60.9
GENERAL FARMING	6.7	3.3	16.7	50.0	76.7
Total Study	4.0	5.2	9.2	48.7	67.1

Table XXII discloses that more of the study participants from the cash grain area had 4-H Club work than did their counterparts in Payne and Lincoln counties.

Percentagewise, cash grain farmers also had relatively larger groups signifying one, two, and four or more years of training, two of the farmers interviewed having eight years each in 4-H programs, and none of those reporting from the general farming area having over four years of such training.

The Veterans' Agricultural Training Program in Oklahoma has filled an important place in the lives of former servicemen who are now becoming established to some degree in farming. Table XXIII discloses that approximately two-thirds of the farmers studied received training for some period, cash grain participants reporting 78.2 percent as contrasted to 50 percent in the general farming area.

TABLE XXII  
YEARS OF 4-H CLUB WORK COMPLETED BY THE FARMERS

Area	Years Completed (Percent Reporting By Area)				Total Percent Had
	One	Two	Three	Four or More	
Garber	8.7	8.7	13.0	17.4	47.8
Kingfisher	8.7	17.4	8.7	21.7	56.5
Perkins	6.7	13.3	40.0	0.0	60.0
Prague	0.0	6.7	0.0	6.7	13.4
CASH GRAIN	8.7	13.0	10.8	19.5	50.0
GENERAL FARMING	3.3	10.0	20.0	3.3	26.6
Total Study	6.6	11.8	14.5	13.2	46.1

TABLE XXIII  
YEARS OF THE VETERANS' AGRICULTURAL TRAINING PROGRAM  
COMPLETED BY THE FARMERS STUDIED

Area	Years Completed (By Percent of Farmers Signifying Each)					Total Percent Had
	Less Than One	One to Two	Two to Three	Three to Four	Four	
Garber	13.0	4.4	13.1	21.7	21.7	73.9
Kingfisher	39.1	4.4	4.4	30.4	4.3	82.6
Perkins	0.0	0.0	26.7	13.3	6.7	46.7
Prague	13.3	0.0	13.3	6.7	20.0	53.3
CASH GRAIN	26.1	4.4	8.7	26.1	12.9	78.2
GENERAL FARMING	6.7	0.0	20.0	10.0	13.3	50.0
Total Study	18.4	2.7	13.1	19.7	13.2	69.1

The large percentage of cash grain farmers signifying that they had less than one year of veterans' training are returned veterans from the Korean War. The comparatively large group of younger men in the cash grain area (Table VII, page 74), together with the fact that the Perkins service area does not have a Veterans' Agricultural Training Program at present, should serve as an explanation for the greater number reporting in the cash grain area than in the general farming region.

A comparison of those factors that create and maintain interest in farming, as reported by participants in the investigation, is presented in Table XXIV. Review of the various figures represented in the table makes it clear that vocational agriculture and the Veterans' Agricultural Training Program were considered as first and second most important major interest factors respectively. Factors that received the largest number of votes as minor interest factors in the study were "fairs, shows, and contests," "4-H Club work," and "national farm organizations," arranged in decreasing order of importance.

The "total reporting" figures show the numbers of participants who were reportedly familiar enough with the educational experiences to rate them. Discrepancies noted between the percentages of farmers reporting vocational agriculture and other educational experiences in Tables XXI, XXII, XXIII, and XXIV are due to indirect influences on the farmers reporting, i.e., the case of the father whose son is taking vocational agriculture at present and consequently reports this as an interest factor.

Interviewees in the general farming area credited "young and adult farmer" programs and "4-H Club programs" with equal merit, while



TABLE XXIV

A COMPARISON OF FACTORS THAT CREATE AND MAINTAIN INTEREST  
AS REPORTED BY THE FARMERS

Educational Experiences and the Degree of Interest	Percent Reporting in Each Area		
	Cash Grain	General Farming	Total Study
<u>Vocational Agriculture</u>			
Major factor	50.0	66.7	56.6
Minor factor	8.7	10.0	9.2
Not a factor	4.3	0.0	2.6
Total reporting	<u>63.0</u>	<u>76.7</u>	<u>68.4</u>
<u>4-H Club Work</u>			
Major factor	19.6	6.7	14.5
Minor factor	26.1	23.3	25.0
Not a factor	13.0	10.0	11.8
Total reporting	<u>58.7</u>	<u>40.0</u>	<u>51.3</u>
<u>Young and Adult Farmers</u>			
Major factor	23.9	3.3	15.8
Minor factor	8.7	30.0	17.1
Not a factor	23.9	6.7	17.1
Total reporting	<u>56.5</u>	<u>40.0</u>	<u>50.0</u>
<u>VATP</u>			
Major factor	43.5	33.3	39.5
Minor factor	15.2	10.0	13.1
Not a factor	6.5	6.7	6.6
Total reporting	<u>65.2</u>	<u>50.0</u>	<u>59.2</u>
<u>National Farm Organization</u>			
Major factor	10.9	16.7	13.2
Minor factor	17.4	26.7	21.0
Not a factor	50.0	23.3	39.5
Total reporting	<u>78.3</u>	<u>66.7</u>	<u>73.7</u>
<u>Fairs, Shows, Contests</u>			
Major factor	32.6	16.7	26.4
Minor factor	34.7	46.7	39.4
Not a factor	2.2	16.6	7.9
Total reporting	<u>69.5</u>	<u>80.0</u>	<u>73.7</u>
<u>Armed Services</u>			
Major factor	15.2	10.0	13.2
Minor factor	13.0	10.0	11.8
Not a factor	50.0	30.0	42.1
Total reporting	<u>78.2</u>	<u>50.0</u>	<u>67.1</u>

representatives of the cash grain area reversed this rating, granting that more cash grain farmers placed "young and adult farmers" in the major factor category than was true with their evaluation of "4-H Club programs." Nearly one-third of the cash grain area farmers rated "fairs, shows, and contests" as a major factor, as contrasted with only 16.7 percent reporting this rating in the general farming area. Rural educators in the cash grain area have apparently devoted more time and effort to fitting and showing than can be said of those in the general farming area, though some 10 percent more of the general farming participants reported themselves to be qualified to make the interest rating of "fairs, shows, and contests." It will be noted that a surprisingly large percentage reported that war and armed service experiences were interest factors. One interviewee, a former major in the United States Air Force, stated that while in Germany during World War II he had decided to do something creative upon his return home.

Because researchers continually point to the material contributions made to boys' starts in farming by vocational agriculture, 4-H, and Institutional On-Farm Training, the interviewees in this study were given the opportunity to voice their opinions. Data appearing in Table XXV should serve to verify the findings of earlier studies which tend to credit three programs listed as lending considerable assistance to boys becoming established in farming.

In comparing contributions made by vocational agriculture experience in the two areas, it is seen that several striking contrasts appear: slightly over one-half of the farmers in each of the two areas listed livestock as a major contribution; 8.7 percent of the farmers in the cash grain area reported "land" as a contribution as compared

TABLE XXV

## CONTRIBUTIONS OF EDUCATIONAL AGENCIES TOWARD A START IN FARMING

Educational Agency and Degree of Contribution	Areas Considered		
	Cash Grain (Percents)	General Farming (Percents)	Total Study (Percents)
<u>Vocational Agriculture</u>			
Livestock	50.0	53.3	51.3
Land	8.7	0.0	5.3
Crops	21.7	16.7	19.7
Buildings	6.5	3.3	5.3
Machinery and equipment	15.2	13.3	14.5
Feed or seed	17.4	26.7	21.0
Other	2.2	0.0	1.3
Percent taking	60.9	76.7	67.1
<u>4-H Club Work</u>			
Livestock	10.9	10.0	23.7
Land	0.0	0.0	0.0
Crops	2.2	0.0	1.3
Buildings	2.2	0.0	1.3
Machinery and equipment	2.2	0.0	1.3
Feed or seed	2.2	0.0	1.3
Other	0.0	0.0	0.0
Percent taking	50.0	36.6	46.1
<u>VATP</u>			
Livestock	37.0	43.3	39.5
Land	19.6	26.7	22.4
Crops	34.8	33.3	34.2
Buildings	15.2	33.3	22.4
Machinery and equipment	34.8	40.0	36.8
Feed or seed	28.3	33.3	30.3
Financial aid	47.8	46.7	47.4
Percent taking	78.2	50.0	67.1

with none reporting from the general area; a larger percent of the cash grain farmers listed "crops" as a contribution, and a smaller percent of them reported "feed or seed."

Largest 4-H contributions are seen in the livestock division with almost equal percentages of the farmers reporting from each area. The fact that two of the cash grain farmers experienced eight years of training in 4-H work explains the small percentages appearing in the "crops," "buildings," "machinery and equipment," and "feed or seed" sections of the table.

The financial aid provided former servicemen was a very real contribution to their establishment in farming. Many farmers interviewed in the study attested to the fact that they could not have made such rapid progress upon return from experience with the armed forces without aid provided them by the Veterans' Administration. Further inspection of the Veterans' Agricultural Training section of Table XXV divulges that farmers in the general area received significantly greater aid in land and buildings than did those from the other area. The need for help and for a source of income is apparently greater in eastern central Oklahoma than it is in the cash grain area.

Comparison of national farm organization membership and the use of buying and selling cooperatives in the two type-of-farming areas indicates that different organizations are active in the two areas, the cash grain area recording the greatest percentage of its representatives as Farm Bureau members, and the general area favoring the Farmers' Union membership (Table XXVI). The Grange is noted to be active only in the eastern area.

TABLE XXVI  
MEMBERSHIP IN NATIONAL FARM ORGANIZATIONS AND COOPERATIVES

Organization	Percents of Farmers Belonging		
	Cash Grain	General Farming	Total Study
Grange	0.0	20.0	7.9
Farm Bureau	73.9	30.0	56.6
Farmers' Union	17.4	50.0	30.3
None	21.7	33.3	26.3
Cooperative Buying	67.4	50.0	60.5
Cooperative Selling	78.3	56.7	69.7

More participants from the cash grain area cooperatively buy and sell than do those from the general area. Proximity to the large Gold Spot Cooperative at Enid together with the kinds of products produced for market may be considered to have some bearing on the difference cited. Nearly one-third of the general area farmers and over one-fifth of the cash grain farmers reported that they did not belong to any of the three national farm organizations considered in this study.

Table XXVII makes evident certain findings relating to veterans interviewed in the study. A larger percentage of veterans was discovered in the cash grain area than in the general farming. However, 100 percent of the former servicemen in the general farming area received veterans' training, while only about 83 percent of those in the cash grain area have taken advantage of the program of training. The fact that general area farmers need greater help, having more problems and perhaps more difficult management problems possibly accounts for this striking difference. This point is developed in more detail

in the latter part of this chapter.

TABLE XXVII  
INFORMATION CONCERNING THE VETERANS STUDIED

Item	Percents of Farmers Reporting		
	Cash Grain	General Farming	Total Study
Veterans	78.3	50.0	67.0
Nonveterans	21.7	50.0	32.9
Have received VATP	65.2	50.0	59.2
Have not received VATP	34.8	50.0	40.8
Are now in training VATP	47.8	16.7	35.5
Are not in training VATP	52.2	83.3	64.5

The fact that more farmers are in training in the Veterans' Agricultural Training Program at present in the cash grain area is not considered significant by the researcher apart from the reasons already mentioned in discussion of other veterans' information tables appearing in this chapter, i.e., younger and single farmers in the cash grain area, and the absence of veterans' training at Perkins.

#### World of Work Factors:

The investigator questioned participants in order to ascertain the work experience that interviewees had in occupations other than farming.

The number of jobs or occupations listed in Table XXVIII makes it clear that the work experience of most of the participants was extremely varied, particularly in the cash grain area. Experience receiving the greatest number of reports were "armed service," "other," "farm laborer," and "student in college." It will be remembered at this point that a number of the participants considered their service experience to be an

important interest item. Some of the occupations included under "other" were carpenter, plumber, test pilot in a bomber plant, and teacher of vocational agriculture. The number of college student reports listed is considered to be unusually large. Many of those checking this item received their schooling under the provisions of Public Laws 316 or 346. Major fields of college study included agriculture, engineering, education, law, and theology. Most of those checking "farm laborer" had worked as hired hands.

Examination of the average number of jobs per person other than the present, Table XXIX, stresses the variation found to be true in the study, the cash grain area showing definitely both more jobs and greater variation of jobs than the general farming area.

TABLE XXVIII

## JOBS HELD OTHER THAN THE PRESENT SINCE LEAVING GRADE SCHOOL

Jobs Held	Numbers of Jobs Held by Area		
	Cash Grain	General Farming	Total Study
Armed service	36	15	51
Defense work	7	5	12
Service station	8	0	8
Mechanic	8	3	11
Salesman	6	2	8
Student in college	16	6	22
Farm laborer	18	13	31
Storekeeper	2	0	2
Other laborer	10	6	16
Other	16	18	34

TABLE XXIX  
NUMBER OF JOBS HELD OTHER THAN THE PRESENT

Area Reported	None		Other Jobs	
	Number	Percent	Number	Average
Cash Grain	2	4.35	130	2.83
General Farming	1	3.33	69	2.30
Total Study	3	3.95	199	2.62

A possible explanation for this might be that more jobs have been available for young men in the cash grain area than for those in the general farming area. Consideration of the multiplicity of work experiences that rural boys appear to encounter prior to establishment in farming certainly has implications for rural educators to attempt to make curricular offerings broad and the training as nearly applicable to the boys probable needs as possible.

The length of time that farmers interviewed have farmed with total management, Table XXX, varies from three to eighteen years which corresponds to limits of the fifteen year period selected for study.



TABLE XXX

THE LENGTH OF TIME THAT INTERVIEWEES HAVE FARMED WITH TOTAL MANAGEMENT

Years Farming With Total Management	Number By Area		
	Cash Grain	General Farming	Total Study
3	6	1	7
4	3	3	6
5	6	1	7
6	3	2	5
7	3	5	8
8	4	2	6
9	3	0	3
10	0	1	1
11	3	1	4
12	2	2	4
13	1	1	2
14	4	1	5
15	0	4	4
16	2	2	4
17	1	2	3
18	5	2	7
Average	8.8 years	10.5 years	9.46 years

It is interesting to observe that the general farming group show shows the longest average number of years with 10.5 as compared with the 8.8 years averaged by those in the cash grain area. The fact that the general area farmers are older than the cash grain farmers by approximately the same number of years appears to be significant, though evidence cited in the study would tend to indicate that it takes longer for young men in the former area to become established.

Table XXXI portrays the large number of methods used by farmers to obtain land on which to start farming.

A comparison of the two areas shows that renting was the method used by the majority of the farmers in the study, nearly 85 percent of the cash grain area representatives and about 67 percent of those from

TABLE XXXI

## METHODS BY WHICH FARMERS ACQUIRED LAND WHEN STARTING TO FARM

Method Reported	Percent Reporting in Each Area		
	Cash Grain	General Farming	Total Study
a. Rented	84.8	66.7	77.6
b. Purchased	4.4	13.3	7.9
c. Inherited (all)	2.2	0.0	1.3
d. Shared in estate	4.4	6.7	5.3
e. Partnership	15.2	30.0	21.1
f. Part-owner	2.2	0.0	1.3
g. Family share	4.4	6.6	5.3
h. Rented and bought	2.2	0.0	1.3
i. Operator and manager	4.4	0.0	2.6
j. Worked for it	2.2	3.3	2.6

the general area reporting. Other large segments of the interviewees from each area signified use of partnership as the second most important means of obtaining land. They indicated purchase as third, the general area reporting larger percentages in each of the two categories than the cash grain area. On the other hand cash grain farmers show the greater variety with ten methods reported in use while the general farming group used only six.

Percentages do not total 100 in each of the areas considered since individuals frequently signified their use of two or more methods of obtaining land.

Problems with which participants in the study stated they were particularly concerned appear in Table XXXII and are presented

TABLE XXXII

PROBLEMS OF CONCERN WHEN STARTING TO FARM AS INDICATED BY PARTICIPANTS

Area and Item	Degree of Concern (Percent)		
	Major	Minor	Not
<u>Cash Grain</u>			
a. Obtaining good land	65.2	15.2	19.6
b. Obtaining finances	52.2	26.1	21.7
c. Obtaining livestock	34.8	32.6	32.6
d. Management problems (other)	23.9	28.3	47.8
e. Obtaining machinery and equipment	43.5	32.6	23.9
f. Obtaining adequate feed	15.2	37.0	47.8
g. Diseases and parasites	8.7	39.1	52.2
h. Personal housing	10.9	26.1	63.0
i. Other housing	13.0	28.3	58.7
j. Repair of machinery and equipment	10.9	30.4	58.7
k. Crop insects, diseases, and pests	19.6	43.5	36.9
<u>General Farming</u>			
a. Obtaining good land	50.0	13.3	36.7
b. Obtaining finances	50.0	30.0	20.0
c. Obtaining livestock	30.0	33.3	36.7
d. Management problems (other)	66.7	13.3	20.0
e. Obtaining machinery and equipment	56.7	23.3	20.0
f. Obtaining adequate feed	20.0	33.3	46.7
g. Diseases and parasites	0.0	53.3	46.7
h. Personal housing	30.0	26.7	43.3
i. Other housing	43.3	30.0	26.7
j. Repair of machinery and equipment	13.3	30.0	56.7
k. Crop insects, diseases, and pests	3.3	30.0	66.7
<u>Total Study</u>			
a. Obtaining good land	59.2	14.5	26.3
b. Obtaining Finances	51.3	27.6	21.1
c. Obtaining livestock	32.9	32.9	34.2
d. Management problems (other)	40.8	22.4	36.8
e. Obtaining machinery and equipment	48.7	28.9	22.4
f. Obtaining adequate feed	17.1	35.5	47.4
g. Diseases and parasites	5.3	44.7	50.0
h. Personal housing	18.4	26.3	55.3
i. Other housing	25.0	29.0	46.0
j. Repair of machinery and equipment	11.8	30.3	57.9
k. Crop insects, diseases, and pests	13.2	38.2	48.7

according to the degree of concern felt. Cash grain interviewees list "obtaining good land" first, with "obtaining finances" second, and "obtaining machinery and equipment" third; while general farming

participants place "management problems" first, "obtaining machinery and equipment" second and both items, "obtaining good land" and "obtaining finances," as third. From this it would appear that general farming area interviewees are aware of the great number of management problems facing them in a region of rolling to rough terrain and relatively small, diversified farms. On the other hand farmers in the cash grain area tend to have relatively large, smooth farms with much cropland well adapted to the use of heavy machinery and to the growing of cash crops such as wheat.

Another point to note is the greater percentage of farmers who rated personal and other housing as problems of major concern in the general area than was reported by cash grain farmers. There may be some correlation at this point between living standards possible and living facilities and conveniences available.

Information concerning the methods by which farmers acquired the land they are now farming is presented in Table XXXIII. Comparison of data in this table with that of Table XXXI shows some trends in each of the type-of-farming areas. The percentages of farmers renting and purchasing increased, as might be expected, between the time the farmers started to farm and the present, though greater increases by far occurred in the general farming area. Most of the land acquisition methods showed decreases with the exception of the operator-manager group which was expanding only slightly.

Increases cited are considered to be natural reflections of farmers' progress in establishment in farming.

Inquiry was made concerning the use of written business agreements by interviewees for business dealings such as partnerships and land

rentals. A summary of the findings appears in Table XXXIV.

TABLE XXXIII

## METHODS BY WHICH FARMERS ACQUIRED THE LAND THEY ARE NOW FARMING

Method Reported	Percent Reporting By Area		
	Cash Grain	General Farming	Total Study
a. Rented	89.1	80.0	85.5
b. Purchased	32.6	60.0	43.4
c. Inherited	2.2	0.0	1.3
d. Shared in estate	2.2	6.7	4.0
e. Partnership	15.2	23.3	18.4
f. Part-owner	4.4	0.0	2.6
g. Family share	0.0	3.3	1.3
h. Operator and manager	8.7	3.3	6.6
i. Worked for it	2.2	0.0	1.3

TABLE XXXIV

## THE USE OF WRITTEN BUSINESS AGREEMENTS BY FARMERS STUDIED

Area Reported	Percent Using Written Agreements	
	When Starting To Farm	At The Present
Cash Grain	23.91	47.83
General Farming	30.00	26.67
Total Study	26.32	39.47

The table reveals that, while cash grain participants report increasing use of business agreements in their dealings, fewer general farming area farmers are using such written contracts than they were

when starting to farm. This fact is even more striking in the light of findings set forth in Tables XXXI and XXXIII, since the general farming area participants report the greater increase in land rentals of the two groups studied. It is felt that fewer partnerships and increased ownership would account only partially for this change.

At the same time that farmers have become established to greater degrees in farming, the problems with which they are concerned are of somewhat less degree and fewer in number. Table XXXV lists present problems of concern in the same fashion that problems of concern when the interviewees were starting to farm were presented (Table XXXII, page 104). By direct comparison of Tables XXXII and XXXV, it may be seen that the following facts are evidenced in the cash grain area:

1. Obtaining good land and finances are still the two outstanding problems listed.

2. Management problems have increased and are now indicated to be third in importance.

Correspondingly, findings in the general area divulge:

1. Management problems are still of most concern.

2. "Other housing" ranks second as a major concern.

3. "Obtaining good land" is of third major concern.

4. "Crop insects, diseases, and pests" have become a major problem of equal rank with obtaining finances.

A write-in item that appeared to be a problem in both areas was "drought." Precipitation had become unusually light during a two or three year period.

It is interesting to note that "personal housing," as a problem of concern, decreased considerably in both areas studied which would

TABLE XXXV

PROBLEMS OF CONCERN AT THE PRESENT TIME AS INDICATED BY PARTICIPANTS

Area and Item	Degree of Concern (Percent)		
	Major	Minor	Not
<u>Cash Grain</u>			
a. Obtaining good land	63.1	15.2	21.7
b. Obtaining finances	28.3	26.1	45.6
c. Obtaining livestock	8.7	36.9	54.4
d. Management problems (other)	26.1	30.4	43.5
e. Obtaining machinery and equipment	10.9	32.6	56.5
f. Obtaining adequate feed	10.9	38.1	50.0
g. Diseases and parasites	0.0	47.8	52.2
h. Personal housing	4.4	32.6	63.0
i. Other housing	15.2	28.3	56.5
j. Repair of machinery and equipment	4.3	26.1	69.6
k. Crop insects and diseases	19.6	39.1	41.3
<u>General Farming</u>			
a. Obtaining good land	30.0	36.7	33.3
b. Obtaining finances	20.0	30.0	50.0
c. Obtaining livestock	10.0	23.3	66.7
d. Management problems (other)	53.3	26.7	20.0
e. Obtaining machinery and equipment	13.3	23.3	63.4
f. Obtaining adequate feed	16.7	40.0	43.3
g. Diseases and parasites	6.7	66.7	26.6
h. Personal housing	16.7	13.3	70.0
i. Other housing	43.3	33.3	50.0
j. Repair of machinery and equipment	16.7	33.3	50.0
k. Crop insects and diseases	20.0	40.0	40.0
<u>Total Study</u>			
a. Obtaining good land	50.0	23.7	26.3
b. Obtaining finances	25.0	27.6	47.4
c. Obtaining livestock	9.2	31.6	59.2
d. Management problems (other)	36.8	29.0	34.2
e. Obtaining machinery and equipment	11.8	29.0	59.2
f. Obtaining adequate feed	13.2	39.5	47.4
g. Diseases and parasites	2.6	55.3	42.1
h. Personal housing	9.2	25.0	65.8
i. Other housing	26.3	31.6	42.1
j. Repair of machinery and equipment	9.2	29.0	61.8
k. Crop insects and diseases	19.7	39.5	40.8

suggest further establishment had taken place.

In so far as tenure status is concerned, "owners-operators" comprise the largest percentage of participants in each area, the cash grain total exceeding that for the general area by over 11 percent. On the other hand, the "renter-operators" and "partners at home" listed for the general farming area show that these statuses are more important than in the cash grain area.

TABLE XXXVI

## A COMPARISON OF THE TENURE STATUSES OF THE FARMERS STUDIED

Tenure Status	Areas Reporting					
	Cash Grain		General Farming		Total Study	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Renter and operator	14	30.4	13	43.3	27	35.5
Owner and operator	42	91.3	24	80.0	66	86.8
Partner at home	7	15.2	7	23.3	14	18.4
Partner away from home	1	2.2	1	3.3	2	2.6
Manager-operator for other party	4	8.7	1	3.3	5	6.6

By comparing the average percent of land per farm and number of acres in cropland and pasture land per farm, Table XXXVII, a clearer perception of the contrast between the two type-of-farming areas may be obtained. Reference to Table XXXVII discloses that the average cash grain farm reported by participants in the study from that area has 392.6 acres, two-thirds of which is cropland, while the average general farm reported has 342.7 acres of which the largest acreage, 46.2, is pasture land and 13 percent is in waste and other land.



Rather extreme ranges are to be noted in average acres in total farm land reported by the farmers studied, the range being seventy-five to 1,280 acres.

TABLE XXXVII

A COMPARISON OF SIZE OF FARMS IN ACRES REPORTED BY INTERVIEWEES

Item Reported	Area Reporting		
	Cash Grain	General Farming	Total Study
Total acres in farms	18,061	10,280	28,341
Total acres in cropland	11,954	4,206	16,160
Total acres in pasture	5,753	4,744	10,197
Total acres other land	359	1,334	1,693
<u>Total Farm</u>			
Range in acres	80 to 1280	75 to 900	75 to 1280
Average acres per farm	392.6	342.7	372.8
<u>Cropland</u>			
Range in acres	30 to 750	25 to 450	25 to 750
Average acres per farm	259.9	140.2	212.6
Percent of farm (average)	66.2	40.9	57.0
<u>Pasture Land</u>			
Range in acres	0 to 585	0 to 575	0 to 585
Average acres per farm	125.1	158.1	134.2
Percent of farm (average)	31.9	46.2	36.0
<u>Other Land</u>			
Range in acres	0 to 105	0 to 200	0 to 200
Average acres per farm	7.8	44.5	22.3
Percent of farm (average)	2.0	13.0	6.0

Of the major farm enterprises reported by participants in the study, the cash grain group listed wheat, beef, and dairy in the order of their importance, while the general farming team selected beef, dairy wheat, and alfalfa in relative order of their importance.

Table XXXVIII presents this material in such a manner as to make for easy comparison of the two areas studied. Surprisingly enough, the poultry enterprise is of considerable importance to farm businesses in

the cash grain area, while swine and "other field crops," peanuts, castor beans, and sorgo, deserve attention from rural educators striving to teach local-farm boys those things relative to the major enterprises of the community which they need to know most.

TABLE XXXVIII  
MAJOR FARM ENTERPRISES REPORTED BY PARTICIPANTS

Tenure Status	Percent Reporting in Each Area		
	Cash Grain	General Farming	Total Study
Wheat	95.7	43.3	75.0
Cotton	8.7	3.3	6.6
Alfalfa	17.4	40.0	26.3
Other field crops	4.4	36.7	17.1
Vegetables, nuts and fruits	0.0	10.0	4.0
Beef	71.7	66.7	69.7
Swine	17.4	26.7	21.1
Dairy	41.3	60.0	48.7
Sheep	4.4	0.0	2.6
Poultry	19.6	10.0	15.8

Further brief comparison of the sizes of farms found to be prevalent in the study areas is given in the investment table, Table XXXIX.

Inspection and comparison of the figures representing the cash grain and general farming areas does not reveal the striking differences that might be expected.

Land and building investments for the cash grain participants are quite low. Livestock figures for cash grain and general farming areas are also comparable.

Farmers from the cash grain area store some of their grain as is witnessed by the fact that small percentages of the group report having from \$4,000 to \$8,000 worth of feed, seed, and grain.

TABLE XXXIX

## PRESENT FARMING INVESTMENT REPORTED BY PARTICIPANTS

Investment Item and Amount	Percent Reporting in Each Area		
	Cash Grain	General Farming	Total Study
<b>Livestock</b>			
0 - \$2,000	21.7	26.7	23.7
\$2,000 - 4,000	34.8	33.3	34.2
\$4,001 - 6,000	23.9	16.7	21.1
\$6,001 - 8,000	13.0	10.0	11.8
\$8,001 - 10,000	4.4	6.7	5.3
\$10,000 - 16,000	2.2	6.6	3.9
<b>Land</b>			
0 - \$2,000	63.0	40.0	53.9
\$2,001 - 4,000	2.2	3.3	2.6
\$4,001 - 6,000	0.0	20.0	7.9
\$6,001 - 8,000	6.5	20.0	11.8
\$8,001 - 10,000	8.7	0.0	5.3
\$10,001 - 16,000	13.1	13.4	13.2
\$16,001 - 22,000	6.5	3.3	5.3
<b>Feed, Seed, Grain</b>			
0 - \$2,000	89.1	86.7	88.2
\$2,001 - 4,000	4.4	13.2	7.9
\$4,001 - 6,000	2.2	0.0	1.3
\$6,001 - 8,000	4.3	0.0	2.6
<b>Buildings</b>			
0 - \$2,000	73.9	40.0	60.5
\$2,001 - 4,000	8.7	30.0	17.1
\$4,001 - 6,000	13.0	16.7	14.5
\$6,001 - 8,000	2.2	3.3	2.6
\$8,001 - 10,000	0.0	3.3	1.3
\$10,001 - 22,000	2.2	6.7	4.0
<b>Machinery and Equipment</b>			
0 - \$500	6.5	6.7	6.6
\$501 - 1,500	4.4	13.3	7.9
\$1,501 - 3,000	23.9	26.7	25.0
\$3,001 - 5,000	21.7	26.7	23.7
\$5,001 - 7,500	17.4	20.0	18.4
\$7,501 - 10,500	6.5	0.0	3.9
\$10,501 - 15,000	13.0	3.3	9.2
\$15,001 - 25,000	2.2	0.0	1.3
Over \$25,000	4.4	3.3	4.0

The machinery and equipment figures show that a larger percentage of the cash grain farmers studied have more than \$5,000 invested here.

Participants in the study were given the opportunity to express their opinions concerning which of the problems listed in Table XL were of minor or major importance in so far as establishment in farming was concerned. The farmers in each group proceeded to reiterate their earlier statements concerning which problems were of most concern to them when starting to farm and now, cash grain interviewees listing "obtaining good land," "obtaining foundation stock," and "obtaining machinery and equipment," while the general farming group listed: (1) managing the farm business, (2) obtaining good land, and (3) crop production.

From this report it may be assumed that the problems stated are real ones of major concern and that type-of-farming does have influence in deciding which problems may prove to be major ones in a given area for a given individual who is attempting to become established in farming.

TABLE XL  
PROBLEMS IN BECOMING ESTABLISHED IN FARMING

Area and Item	Degree of Concern (Percent)		
	Major	Minor	Omitted
<u>Cash Grain</u>			
a. Obtaining finances	54.3	21.7	24.0
b. Crop production	23.9	39.1	47.0
c. Livestock production	23.9	30.4	45.7
d. Obtaining good land	63.0	17.4	19.6
e. Obtaining foundation livestock	26.1	23.9	50.0
f. Managing the farm business	30.4	34.8	34.8
g. Obtaining machinery and equipment	41.3	21.7	37.0
h. Disease and parasite control	8.7	39.1	52.2
i. Feeds and feeding	13.0	37.0	50.0
j. Locating good markets	10.9	30.4	58.7
<u>General Farming</u>			
a. Obtaining finances	46.7	16.7	36.6
b. Crop production	56.7	16.7	26.6
c. Livestock production	43.3	33.3	23.4
d. Obtaining good land	56.7	23.3	20.0
e. Obtaining foundation livestock	50.0	16.7	33.3
f. Managing the farm business	60.0	13.3	26.7
g. Obtaining machinery and equipment	33.3	43.3	23.4
h. Disease and parasite control	10.0	43.3	46.7
i. Feeds and feeding	23.3	40.0	36.7
j. Locating good markets	16.7	26.7	56.6
<u>Total Study</u>			
a. Obtaining finances	51.3	19.7	29.0
b. Crop production	36.8	30.1	33.1
c. Livestock production	31.6	31.6	36.8
d. Obtaining good land	60.5	19.7	80.2
e. Obtaining foundation livestock	35.5	21.1	43.4
f. Managing the farm business	42.1	26.3	31.6
g. Obtaining machinery and equipment	38.2	30.3	31.5
h. Disease and parasite control	9.2	40.8	50.0
i. Feeds and feeding	17.1	38.2	44.7
j. Locating good markets	13.2	30.0	56.8

#### The Life Plan as a Factor:

In regard to what a person's goals are, what he plans to do in this world, and how he plans to get the job done, several significant developmental tasks in life are faced when the individual recognizes the need

for planning and action related to his future life.

The time of choice of farming as an occupation is of particular interest to rural educators in that knowledge of the basic principles involved may aid them in providing competent guidance for rural boys at the proper time.

Table XLI presents a sketch of the answers given to the time of choice question by participants from the two areas under study.

TABLE XLI  
THE TIME OF CHOICE OF FARMING AS AN OCCUPATION

Time of Choice	Percent Reporting in Each Area		
	Cash Grain	General Farming	Total Study
Prior to high school	47.8	0.0	29.0
During high school	6.5	20.0	11.8
After school	23.9	40.0	30.3
During military service	10.9	26.7	17.1
After service	10.9	13.3	11.8

Nearly one-half of the farmers from the cash grain area stated that they made their decisions to farm prior to high school attendance, while the largest percentage of general farming area participants reportedly made their decision after leaving school. A large number reported a change in choice of occupations during military service.

Of those young men remaining for consideration in the cash grain area, the largest percentage made their occupational choices following school. Table XXV, page 96, points to a possible interpretation of this last discovery since contributions made by supervised farm training

programs in high school were more uniformly distributed denoting more well-rounded programs in the cash grain sampling than with the general farming.

The fact that such a large percentage of cash grain farmers reported decision-making prior to high school would suggest to the researcher that the opportunities for farming were greater in the cash grain area, probably making for earlier decisions. However, it should not be overlooked that the boys in the cash grain area probably enjoyed better living conditions while at home and may have felt farming to be a very profitable business.

Farmers in both areas have definite goals towards which they are working. Data obtained from the interviewees in each area are given in Table XLII.

TABLE XLII  
GOALS TOWARD WHICH FARMERS ARE WORKING

Goals Reported	Percent Reporting in Each Area		
	Cash Grain	General Farming	Total Study
a. Improved crop production	89.1	86.7	88.2
b. Improved livestock production	87.0	86.7	86.6
c. Home beautification	63.0	80.0	69.7
d. Ownership	76.1	40.0	61.8
e. Expansion	63.0	60.0	61.8
f. Family agreement	21.7	10.0	17.11
g. Independence	56.5	46.7	52.6
h. Other	6.5	36.7	18.4

Improved crop production and improved livestock production goals are the two items receiving most stress by farmers reporting from both areas.

Percentages in the two type-of-farming areas are fairly equal with the exception of the ownership section where over three-quarters of the

farmers in the cash grain area report ownership as a goal, as contrasted with less than half of the general farming participants reporting. It would thus appear that many cash grain farmers who reported as owners in Table XXXVI (page 109) have ownership to a very minor degree at best, and are working toward this end and toward independence as illustrated in the table.

Rather high equal percentages of the non-owners in each area have ownership as a goal. This fact is seen from information presented in Table XLIII.

TABLE XLIII

THE NUMBER OF NON-OWNERS WITH OWNERSHIP AS A GOAL

Status Considered	Numbers Reporting In Each Area			
	Cash Grain	General Farming	Total Study	
Non-owners	32	10	42	
With ownership as goal	29	90%	9	90%

Equally significant with occupational choice is the decision concerning marriage. At the time of this decision, the present or prospective farmer must cope with all of the problems attendant on the marriage decision. The marital statuses of the interviewees studied have already received attention in discussion of the figures appearing in Table XI (page 77).

The attitude that a wife takes in regard to farming and the farm can be a very important factor influencing the farmer who must make plans for the future life and work of the family. Table XLIV provides information that shows that approximately 73 percent of the wives of farmers studied reportedly like farming and the farm "very well."



TABLE XLIV

THE DEGREE TO WHICH FARMERS REPORT THAT THEIR WIVES LIKE  
FARMING AND THE FARM

Degree And Number Reported	Number and Percent Reporting in Each Area					
	Cash Grain		General Farming		Total Study	
	No.	%	No.		No.	
Very well	28	73.7	21	72.4	49	73.1
Fairly well	8	21.1	5	17.2	13	19.4
Not too well	1	2.6	2	6.9	3	4.5
Not at all	0	0.0	1	3.5	1	1.5
Don't know	1	2.6	0	0.0	1	1.5
Total Reported	38	100.0	29	100.0	67	100.0

More than 10 percent of the wives reported on by general area farmers did not like the farm "too well" or "at all." The researcher believed that there might be some correlation between how well the wife liked the farm and how many conveniences and means of communication she had in the home to aid in enriching life and to make work more enjoyable. Presentation of this thesis is outlined in data appearing in Table XLV.

Perusal of the table reveals that more of the cash grain farmers have "all conveniences," including hot and cold running water, bath, and toilet, than do farmers in the general area. Numbers in the study are considered too small to draw any significant conclusions, but most of those interviewed in both areas who have not been able to provide their households with modern conveniences plan to do so in the near future. Consideration of the attitudes of the wives who do not like the farm too well reveals that two out of the three do not have all modern

TABLE XLV

A COMPARISON OF THE WIFE'S ATTITUDE TOWARD THE FARM AND THE CONVENIENCES IN THE FARM HOME

Area And Convenience Item	Total Number of Wives	Attitudes Toward The Farm (Numbers Reporting)				
		Liked Very Well	Liked Fairly Well	Liked Not Too Well	Liked Not At All	Did Not Know
<u>Cash Grain</u>	38					
a. All conveniences		19	5	0	0	1
b. Less than all		9	3	1	0	0
c. Plan to add		7	3	1	0	0
d. Will not add		2	0	0	0	0
<u>General Farming</u>	29					
a. All conveniences		9	1	1	1	0
b. Less than all		12	4	1	0	0
c. Plan to add		11	3	1	0	0
d. Will not add		1	1	0	0	0
<u>Total Study</u>	67					
a. All conveniences		28	6	1	1	1
b. Less than all		21	7	2	0	0
c. Plan to add		18	6	2	0	0
d. Will not add		3	1	0	0	0

conveniences. The one wife who does, reportedly, "not like the farm at all" has all conveniences because she resides in town.

An interesting sidenote at this point concerning how well wives liked the farm was revealed in other findings of this study not presented in table form. Sixteen of the fifty-one wives considered had received 4-H training, and of this group all sixteen liked the farm "very well."

#### The Influence of Key Persons in the Decision-Making Process

The influence that key persons have in guiding young men to make decisions concerning life problems is of paramount importance.

Findings in regard to "key persons" are set forth in Table XLVI where it may be seen that the fathers of the farmers were the most frequently mentioned.

"Other relatives" include mothers, brothers, and uncles.

The "other" grouping is composed of bankers, farm agents, naval doctors, and one man reported Hitler as an influence person.

The vocational agriculture teacher received worthy mention as the influence person next most important after the father.

Wives played an important role in influencing young men in their decision to farm.

TABLE XLVI  
 INFLUENCE PERSONS REPORTED BY FARMERS

Influence Person	Percent Reporting In Each Area		
	Cash Grain	General Farming	Total Study
Vocational Agriculture Teacher	50.0	60.0	54.0
County Agent	6.5	10.0	7.9
Father	78.3	66.7	73.9
Wife	21.7	16.7	19.7
Other Relative	10.9	16.7	13.2
Friend	8.7	6.7	7.9
Other	6.5	26.7	14.5

The Influence of Finances in the Decision-Making Process

This study bears witness to the important place that finances must take in any consideration of the factors that contribute to the establishment of rural boys in farming.

Means of Obtaining Finances:

Participants reported a large number of means of obtaining the finances. Information gathered is condensed for practicability of inspection in Table XLVII.

Though most farmers in the study stated that they had borrowed money with which to make a start in farming, it should be noted that they relied on their own savings to a great extent in each area. More participants in the cash grain area reported work for wages than did in the general farming area.

Only small percentages from both areas declared that they had no finances with which to start.

TABLE XLVII

THE MEANS OF OBTAINING FINANCES WITH WHICH TO START REPORTED  
BY THE PARTICIPANTS

Means Reported	Percent Reporting In Each Area		
	Cash Grain	General Farming	Total Study
a. Had none	8.7	6.7	7.9
b. Worked for wages	32.6	16.7	26.3
c. Own savings	71.7	60.0	67.1
d. Wife's savings or income	14.5	10.9	20.0
e. Income from enterprises	10.9	13.3	11.8
f. Borrowed	73.9	76.7	75.0
g. Inheritance	0.0	3.3	1.3
h. Gift	4.4	0.0	2.6

#### Credit Sources Used:

Of the credit sources listed for each area at the first of this chapter, those utilized by the farmers participating in the study are presented in Table XLVIII.

TABLE XLVIII

THE CREDIT SOURCES REPORTEDLY USED BY THE PARTICIPANTS  
WHEN STARTING TO FARM

Credit Source	Percent Reporting In Each Area		
	Cash Grain	General Farming	Total Study
a. None used	4.4	3.3	4.0
b. Local bank	65.2	70.0	67.1
c. Individual	34.8	13.3	26.3
d. Insurance	4.4	0.0	2.6
e. Federal Land Bank	4.4	0.0	2.6
f. Cooperatives	2.2	0.0	1.3
g. Other government agencies (FHA and CCC)	5.5	13.3	9.2

Two-thirds of the farmers in the cash grain area reported financing from local banks as contrasted with 70 percent of farmers reporting this

source in the general area. Loans from individuals provided a reasonably large percentage in each area. It is noted that general area interviewees resort to the use of credit provided by governmental agencies to a much greater extent than do those in the area to the west.

#### Financial Problems Encountered:

Study of the financial problems encountered by the farmers interviewed makes it evident that farmers from the general type-of-farming area either have more difficult problems to face or that they recognize these problems to a greater degree.

Although the cash grain participants registered "demands of expanding business" and "hesitate to borrow" as the most frequently encountered problems, general area farmers supercede these with "small income." A surprisingly large number of the latter group, over one-half, either indicated that they had either overborrowed or underborrowed in the past.

TABLE XLIX

#### FINANCIAL PROBLEMS REPORTED ENCOUNTERED BY PARTICIPANTS IN THE STUDY

Problem Encountered	Percent Reporting in Each Area		
	Cash Grain	General Farming	Total Study
a. No security	13.0	20.0	15.8
b. Repaying loans	10.9	30.0	22.4
c. Hard to borrow	13.0	10.0	11.8
d. Hesitate to borrow	28.3	56.7	39.5
e. Lack understanding of finance	2.2	13.3	6.6
f. Demands of expanding business	28.3	56.7	39.5
g. Small income	23.9	66.7	40.8
h. High interest	23.9	23.3	23.7
i. Overborrowed	2.2	13.3	6.6
j. Underborrowed	8.7	43.3	22.4
k. Hard terms	6.5	0.0	4.0
l. None	23.9	6.7	17.1

The Role That The Individual Personality Plays In The Decision-Making Process

Several phases of the individual-personality or "self" category have been discussed in earlier portions of this chapter. A number of the educational experiences that were deemed to be farm interest factors were presented in Table XXIV (page 94).

One hundred percent of the farmers in the investigation stated that they enjoyed farming. Nearly all of them expressed an interest in growing things and they included a statement to that effect in their reasons for deciding to farm. One farmer from the general farming area affirmed that he did not know how to do anything else. The vast majority of the farmers interviewed stated that they wanted to be their own bosses, nearly all (98.7%) participants declaring that they believed farming to be about the most independent kind of life that they could possibly live. They further stated that they would not be satisfied with other kinds of work. This high rate of work satisfaction makes for healthy attitudes and interests. The researcher was especially impressed by the willingness and sincerity evidenced by the participants in expressing their feeling regarding this matter. Over nine-tenths of the interviewees went on record to the effect that they felt farm living had definite advantages over those enjoyed by town and urban dwellers.

The goals that the farmers expressed were outlined in Table XIII (page 80). Among the goals farmers spoke of under the "other" grouping were a college education and better chances for their children than they themselves had enjoyed.

The role that the individual's values play in his decision-making

is tremendous. Farmers have a heritage that is advantageous on one hand and somewhat dangerous on the other. Some are willing to go along with things just about as they are. They are unwilling to accept the latest innovations in labor saving devices. They tend not to use the practices that have been tested and proven sound by experiment stations and other technical agriculturists. They continue to plant by the sign of the moon and to burn their pastures in the spring of the year saying, "My father was a successful farmer and he did it!" Times are changing and with them the problem of soil management, labor shortage, marketing, and a myriad of other problems continue to grow. The progressive farmer is the farmer of the future and it is in his hands that the destiny of America's agriculture rests.

Farmers interviewed for this investigation can apparently be rated as quite progressive, as is readily apparent from a summary of the approved practices used in 1953. This appears in Table L.

A comparison of the percentages of those using approved practices in the two areas serves to stress the greater soil management and crop production problems faced by those in the eastern area, since the use of lime, phosphates, commercial fertilizers, legume rotations, approved seed varieties, and cultural practices are more widespread and necessary. The practice of using an approved bull shows the largest percentage of farmers reporting in the cash grain area, as contrasted with the general farm area whose representatives report the use of approved varieties of seed being of equal merit with the approved sire category. It is interesting to note that more general area farmers report using approved varieties of seed in "all cases" than do the cash grain farmers to the west.



TABLE I  
APPROVED PRACTICES USED LAST YEAR AS REPORTED BY FARMERS

Approved Practices and Degree Used	Percent Reporting in Each Area		
	CASH GRAIN	GENERAL FARMING	TOTAL STUDY
a. Purebred Bull			
(1) All cows	76.1	73.3	75.0
(2) Some "	<u>4.4</u>	<u>16.7</u>	<u>10.5</u>
	80.5	90.0	85.5
b. Purebred Boar			
(1) All sows	21.7	26.7	23.7
(2) Some "	<u>2.2</u>	<u>0.0</u>	<u>1.3</u>
	23.9	26.7	25.0
c. Lime Spread Where Needed			
(1) All Cases	13.0	33.3	21.1
(2) Some "	<u>30.4</u>	<u>36.7</u>	<u>32.9</u>
	63.4	70.0	54.0
d. Phosphate Used When Needed			
(1) All cases	17.4	43.3	27.6
(2) Some "	<u>37.0</u>	<u>40.0</u>	<u>38.2</u>
	54.4	83.3	65.8
e. Commercial Mixed Fertilizer			
(1) All cases	30.4	40.0	34.2
(2) Some "	<u>41.3</u>	<u>36.7</u>	<u>39.5</u>
	71.7	76.7	73.7
f. Selected Breeding Livestock			
(1) All cases	45.7	40.0	43.4
(2) Some "	<u>34.8</u>	<u>30.0</u>	<u>32.9</u>
	80.5	70.0	76.3
g. Legumes Used in Rotation Where Possible			
(1) All cases	21.7	36.7	27.6
(2) Some "	<u>50.0</u>	<u>53.3</u>	<u>51.3</u>
	71.7	90.0	78.9
h. Approved Varieties Seed Used			
(1) All cases	56.5	73.3	63.2
(2) Some "	<u>30.4</u>	<u>23.3</u>	<u>27.6</u>
	86.9	96.6	90.8
i. Livestock Management			
(1) All cases	58.7	50.0	55.3
(2) Some "	<u>34.8</u>	<u>50.0</u>	<u>40.8</u>
	93.5	100.0	96.1
j. Cultural Practices as Needed			
(1) All cases	34.8	70.0	48.7
(2) Some "	<u>41.3</u>	<u>23.3</u>	<u>34.2</u>
	76.1	93.3	82.9

Mention has been made of the home conveniences in relation to the wife's attitude toward farming and the farm (Table XLV, page 119).

Table LI gives an itemized account of the percentages of farmers reporting. More of the cash grain farmers studied have all conveniences "hot and cold running water, bath, and toilet" than do the general area interviewees, while more than one-quarter of the latter group signify that they have none of the convenience items listed. However, reference to item "g" reveals that a much smaller proportion of the farmers in the general area who have less than all conveniences do not plan to add, than is noted in the "cash grain" column. Rural electrification programs are aiding farmers particularly in the general area to modernize their homes.

Tables LII, Means of Communication, and LIII, Means of Transportation, appear together for purposes of comparison.

TABLE LI  
HOME CONVENIENCES REPORTED BY PARTICIPANTS IN THE STUDY

Convenience Item	Percent Reporting In Each Area		
	Cash Grain	General Farming	Total Study
a. None	8.7	26.7	15.8
b. Cold running water	15.2	6.7	10.5
c. Hot and cold running water	4.4	13.3	6.6
d. Sanitary or chemical toilet	8.7	3.3	6.6
e. Hot, cold, and bath	4.4	13.3	7.9
f. Hot, cold, bath, and toilet	58.7	43.3	52.6
g. Those with less than hot and cold running water, bath, and toilet who do not plan to add other conveniences later	13.0	6.7	10.5

TABLE LII

## MEANS OF COMMUNICATION REPORTED BY PARTICIPANTS IN THE STUDY

Item Reported	Percent Reporting In Each Area		
	Cash Grain	General Farming	Total Study
a. Telephone	84.8	76.7	81.6
b. Radio	97.8	100.0	98.7
c. Television	63.0	40.0	54.0
d. Newspaper	93.5	86.7	90.8

TABLE LIII

## MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION REPORTED BY PARTICIPANTS IN THE STUDY

Vehicle Reported	Percent Reporting In Each Area		
	Cash Grain	General Farming	Total Study
a. Automobile	82.6	56.7	72.4
b. Truck	84.8	90.0	86.8
c. Other	0.0	3.3	1.3

All farmers interviewed had at least one of the communication items and at least one of the vehicles. The general area and cash grain area both show the largest percentages of their groups have radios and trucks, while other items are more abundant in the cash grain area.

Investigation of the food storage facilities found to be prevalent in the study areas reveals that all participants reported refrigerators, none reporting ice boxes (Table LIV).

The home food supply is important in the general area. A simultaneous review of Tables LIV and LV discloses that a larger percentage of the food supply is produced on the farm and that more storage

TABLE LIV  
FOOD STORAGE FACILITIES REPORTED BY PARTICIPANTS IN THE STUDY

Storage Facilities	Percent Reporting In Each Area		
	Cash Grain	General Farming	Total Study
a. Refrigerator	100.0	100.0	100.0
b. Ice box	0.0	0.0	0.0
c. Deep freeze	37.0	46.7	36.8
d. Cellar	71.7	76.7	73.7
e. Smoke house	2.2	20.0	9.2
f. Spring house	2.2	0.0	1.3
g. Potato curing house	0.0	6.7	2.6

TABLE LV  
PERCENTAGE OF THE FAMILY FOOD SUPPLY GROWN ON THE FAMILY FARM

Percent Interval	Percent Reporting In Each Area		
	Cash Grain	General Farming	Total Study
a. 0-24	65.2	23.3	48.7
b. 25-49	28.3	43.3	34.2
c. 50-74	6.5	33.3	17.1
d. 75-100	0.0	0.0	0.0

facilities are available in the general area than in the cash grain area. This might be considered, to a certain extent, a comparison of self sufficiency versus commercialization.

A study of the numbers of books, magazines, and bulletins used by farmers in the two areas divulges that general farming area participants seem to do considerably more reading. Magazines and bulletins included

were of an agricultural nature. "Books" included everything from the Bible to "Grapes of Wrath." A possible explanation for the large amount of reading done by the general area farmers might be the importance that this group attached to the farm management problem together with a diversified type-of-farming calling for all of the resourcefulness and ingenuity that a farmer can muster.

In a further attempt to discover where the farmers interests were centered, the investigator included questions relating to religious and organizational affiliations.

McFatter's Louisiana study findings had engendered interest at this point, since only the Lion's Club was represented in his study group.<sup>58</sup>

It may be seen from Table LVI that the vast majority, over 72 percent of the interviewees, are active church members. All reported some sort of religious affiliation. This percentage is significantly large when it is compared with the reported national percentage of little over half of America's 160 million people. From this the group studied can be assumed to be religiously inclined.

The civic organizations did not appear to be popular, Table LVII revealing the relatively low percentages recorded from each area. One of the interviewees was the local President of his Lions' Club. There is an apparent division between participants in this study and certain civic organizations. Personal questions regarding the matter suggest that the farmers do not affiliate because they feel either too busy or unwanted. American Legionnaires composed the largest group of the participants reporting.

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<sup>58</sup>McFatter, op. cit., p. 52.



TABLE LVI  
RELIGIOUS ACTIVITY OF THE PARTICIPANTS

Item	Percent Reporting In Each Area		
	Cash Grain	General Farming	Total Study
Active	80.4	60.0	72.4
Not active	19.6	40.0	27.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

TABLE LVII  
ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBERSHIP REPORTED BY THE PARTICIPANTS

Organization Listed	Percent Reporting In Each Area		
	Cash Grain	General Farming	Total Study
a. Rotary	2.2	0.0	1.3
b. Kiwanis	0.0	0.0	0.0
c. Lions	2.2	10.0	5.3
d. Chamber of Commerce	2.2	0.0	1.3
e. Junior Chamber of Commerce	0.0	0.0	0.0
f. American Legion	10.9	6.7	9.2
g. Other (Sport clubs, fair associations, etc.)	10.9	0.0	6.6

## CHAPTER V

### SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

The investigation upon which this thesis is based was made by interviewing seventy-six established farmers in the State of Oklahoma: forty-six from the cash grain area, represented by the Garber and Kingfisher service areas, and thirty from the general farming area, represented by the Perkins and Prague service areas. The primary purposes of the study were fourfold:

1. To ascertain which factors created and maintained strong interest in farming among boys who have become established in farming.
2. To discover which factors appear to be common to the establishment in farming of individuals in two separate type-of-farming areas.
3. To analyze the findings in the two areas studied relative to the influential factors found to be present in the study.
4. To determine the significance of the findings and analyses to educational agencies considered herein.

#### Factors Creating and Maintaining Strong Interest in Farming

The major interest factors reported fall into five main categories: (1) home experiences, (2) characteristics of the individual, (3) educational experiences, (4) work experiences, and (5) influence persons.

The more important findings concerning the major interest factors may be briefly summarized and conclusions drawn as follows:



1. In the area of home experiences the subsequent findings were made:

a. More than 88 percent of the seventy-six farmers studied were reared on the farm, 83 percent of them having been reared locally.

b. Nearly 54 percent of the farmers' fathers were owners and 32 percent tenants prior to their sons' starts in farming.

c. About 86 percent of the general farming area participants and more than 52 percent of the cash grain farmers were reared on farms where the type-of-farming practiced represented the type-of-farming in which the interviewees are presently engaged.

d. Nearly half of the farmers studied have one or more brothers who are presently on the farm.

e. The greatest contributions made by families toward the sons' starts in farming were, listed in order of rank, machinery and equipment, valuable advice, and land.

It may be concluded that, in the study area, local and farm reared boys whose fathers are either owners or tenants will have their interests influenced by the type-of-farming practiced on the home farm, and that an average number of brothers is not likely to inhibit average farm families from contributing machinery and equipment, or land, or advice to the boys establishment in farming. It is concluded that boys from average and better than average farm home situations tend to have better chances to start in farming.

2. From this study it would appear to the researcher that some of the individual characteristics and qualifications of young men who most likely will choose farming are:

a. A love and appreciation for growing things.

- b. A desire for independence.
- c. Managerial ability sufficient to profitably run the farm business.
- d. Technical skill with which to solve production problems.
- e. Good health for long hours of hard work.
- f. Progressiveness in the use of agricultural innovations.
- g. An age in the early twenties when making a start in farming.
- h. A belief that farming as a way of life is superior to any other.

3. Listed in decreasing order of their importance educational experiences that reportedly were major interest factors were: Future Farmers of America, "Fairs, shows, and contests," Veterans Agricultural Training Programs, young and adult farmer classes, 4-H Club activities, national farm organizations, and armed services.

Therefore, from the findings of the study it may be concluded that Future Farmers of America, "Fairs, shows, and contests," and 4-H Club work influence rural boys most during years of occupational choice. It is also concluded that the Veterans Agricultural Training Program will remain to be an interest factor in Oklahoma, that rural young men continue to take their share of experiences in the armed services.

4. Work experiences may play a part in creating and maintaining interest in farming, as reported by participants in the study, since jobs other than the present one of farming averaged 2.6 percent per farmer. Such job experiences permit rural boys to compare farming with other occupations and, as a result of such comparison, make decisions regarding entrance and advance in farming.

5. Key persons found to influence a rural boy most in the choice of farming as an occupation are: the father; the teacher of vocational agriculture, and the wife.

Concerning the wife's influence, it is seen that forty-nine of the sixty-seven wives in the study (73 percent) like the farm "very well," while 72 percent of the eighteen remaining wives like the farm "fairly well".

Since the largest group of farmers interviewed reported that their fathers were influence persons, it is concluded that fathers are the most important influence persons.

The fact that vocational agriculture instructors rank second, with 54 percent of the farmers reporting, bears witness to the important place occupied by this teacher in regard to influencing rural boys in their occupational decisions.

#### Factors Common to Establishment

The key to the establishment puzzle appears from this investigation to lie in:

1. The interest that a young man has in farming.
2. His managerial ability, educational experiences, and other personal characteristics, aptitudes, and qualifications that fit him for the vocation.
3. The ways by which he is able to meet, recognize, and solve the seven basic problems of establishment, with the help of others.

The seven major problems reported by farmers interviewed in this study arranged in the order of their difficulty, are as follows:

- (1) obtaining good land; (2) obtaining adequate finances; (3) managing the farm business; (4) obtaining machinery and equipment; (5) producing

crops; (6) growing livestock, and (7) housing.

### Analysis of Findings

A brief comparative summary of factors found to contribute to the establishment of rural boys in farming in the two type-of-farming areas discloses seven major inseparable factors:

1. Family and Personal
2. Educational
3. World of Work
4. Life Plan
5. Key Persons
6. Finances
7. Individual personality.

A resume comparing the characteristics of the service areas selected to represent the cash grain type-of-farming area and the general type-of-farming area reveals a number of similarities:

1. Nationality groups prevailing in both type-of-farming areas show large groups of Bohemians, Germans, and Americans.
2. Service centers in each of the four service areas studied provide desirable civic, educational, and religious experiences to meet the needs of local farmers.
3. Desirable markets for local farm commodities are available in all areas.
4. A rather large number of credit sources are present in all areas.
5. The majority of the soils prevailing in all areas are developed over Permian Red Bed sandstones, shales, and clay.

At the same time certain dissimilarities were noted in the type-of-farming areas studied:

1. Cash grain area farms average more cropland and total number of acres than do farms in the general area. Topography is an important factor--making for smoother, more open land in the west and rougher, more rolling land in the east.

2. Larger decreases in rural farm population have occurred in the general area than in the cash grain area.

3. Nearly three-quarters of the agricultural income in the cash grain area is derived from sales of crops while nearly three-quarters of the agricultural income in the general area is derived from sales of livestock and livestock products.

Summary of the family and personal factors discovered in the study shows:

1. The ages of farmers interviewed ranged from 19 to 45 years with a mean of 31.6. Farmers in the general area averaged two years older than the cash grain participants.

2. More than 96 percent of the farmers in the general area were married as contrasted with about 88 percent of those in the cash grain area.

3. Families were larger in the general area than in the cash grain area.

4. Eighty-eight percent of the participants in the study were farm reared, while 83 percent were reared locally.

5. Approximately two-thirds of the farmers' wives were reared on farms, 66.17 percent of these locally.

6. Nearly 95 percent of the interviewees have their residences on farms.

7. Almost one-half of the established farmers questioned reported having one or more brothers on the farm at present.

8. Nearly two-thirds of the farmers in the general area and almost half of those in the cash grain area reported that their fathers were owners at the time the participants were living with the parents.

9. The type-of-farming pursued by the fathers was found to be most popular with the sons.

10. Concerning contributions made by the interviewees families to their start in farming, farmers in both areas listed "machinery and equipment" as first in importance, with "valuable advice" second, and "land" third.

11. Contributions made by parents of the wives of farmers interviewed were negligible, though some contributions were noted in livestock and land.

A summary of findings concerning educational factors discloses:

1. The mean level of formal education attained by farmers in the study, expressed in school grades completed, was 12.25. The range in number of years of schooling was from seven to eighteen. Slightly less than 57 percent in each area reported completing only high school.

2. Of the farmers interviewed, 67.1 percent had received training in vocational agriculture, 16 percent more reporting in the general area than in the cash grain area. Approximately fifty percent in each area completed four years of training.

3. A larger group from the cash grain area, 50 percent, reported 4-H Club experience than did farmers interviewed in the general area.

4. Approximately 60 percent of the participants in the study signified that they had received veterans' training, the larger group

reporting from the cash grain area.

5. Vocational agriculture was considered to be the most important interest factor by farmers investigated.

6. Educational agencies making the greater material contributions to young men making a start in farming were vocational agriculture and the Veterans' Agricultural Training Program.

7. Concerning membership in national farm organizations, those interviewed in the cash grain area favored the Farm Bureau, while those in the general area reported the Farmer's Union to be most popular.

World of work factors relate mainly to the background of work experience of the farmer interviewed, his investments and status, and problems he reports having encountered during the years from his start in farming to the present. A brief summary of findings in this phase of the investigation divulges:

1. The average number of jobs other than the present held by farmers interviewed in the entire study was 2.6.

2. Great variety was noted in occupations held other than farming.

3. The length of time that farmers interviewed have farmed since they made a beginning varies from three to eighteen years, the average being 10.5 years in the general area and 8.8 years in the cash grain area.

4. Most farmers in both areas rented land when starting to farm. Consideration of the present method of land acquisition reveals a large number of owners in both areas.

5. The most important problems with which participants were particularly concerned when starting to farm were "obtaining machinery and

equipment" and "obtaining land" in the cash grain area, but general farmers declared that "management of the farm business" was second to none.

6. Figures in regard to the use of written business agreements show that more farmers in the cash grain area are using business agreements now than when they started to farm as contracted with the general area where the reverse is true.

7. Comparison of the problems now facing farmers interviewed with those with which they were faced when starting to farm shows that cash grain area problems have not greatly changed, whereas "other housing" as a problem is now second only to "farm management" in the general area.

8. Comparison of acres of land on farms reported in the study reveals:

a. The average farm in the cash grain area was considerably larger than the average in the general area.

b. Size of farms reported ranged from seventy-five to 1,280 acres.

c. Farms in both areas were considerably above the average sizes for their counties.

d. Cropland in the cash grain area accounted for two-thirds of the total area, as contrasted with only 41 percent cropland in the general area.

e. Major enterprises reported by participants in the cash grain area were wheat and beef, while those in the general area selected beef, dairy, wheat and alfalfa.

f. Cash grain farmers, on the average, reported greater



investments in machinery and equipment than did general area farmers.

g. Farmers interviewed listed the most difficult problems encountered in becoming established in farming. Obtaining good land was reported as most important.

A summary of findings related to the life plan factor discloses:

1. A large percentage of the farmers reporting from the cash grain area made decisions to farm prior to high school, whereas the largest percentage of general area farmers made their occupational choices after leaving school.

2. Seventeen percent of the farmers in the study reported making decisions to farm during service.

3. Concerning the goals toward which they were working, largest group, 88 percent, of the farmers interviewed reported "improved crop production."

4. Ninety percent of the non owners studied had ownership as a goal.

5. Seventy-three percent of the 67 wives reported in the study like the farm "very well."

6. Of the sixteen wives who had received 4-H Club experience, all liked the farm "very well."

Key persons reported by farmers interviewed as having the greatest influence on their choice of farming as an occupation, arranged in order of importance are: father, vocational agriculture teacher, and wife.

Most of the farmers studied borrowed money with which to start farming. A large group of them had personal savings with which to start.

Two-thirds of the cash grain farmers and 70 percent of the general area farmers used credit furnished by local banks.

Financial problems encountered by most farmers in the cash grain area were "demands of an expanding business" and "hesitate to borrow," while general area participants supercede these with "small income."

Findings related to the individual personality may be summarized as follows:

1. One hundred percent of the farmers interviewed reported that they enjoyed farming.
2. Only one farmer out of the seventy-six interviewed stated that he didn't believe farming to be the most independent kind of life of which he could think.
3. A comparison of approved practices used by farmers in the two areas in the year 1953 reveals that farmers in the east stressed soil management measures, while those from the cash grain area emphasized beef improvement.
4. More cash grain farmers had "all" modern conveniences than did those in the general area.
5. All farmers reporting had some means of communication, 100 percent specifying a radio.
6. All farmers interviewed in both area had some means of transportation, either truck or car or both.
7. General area farmers interviewed made greater use of books, magazines, and bulletins than did the cash grain people.
8. A greater percentage of farmers interviewed in the general area reported food storage facilities and larger percentages of the family food supply grown at home than was true in the cash grain area.

9. There is an apparent division between the farmers interviewed in this study and certain civic organizations in the local communities.

10. All of the seventy-six farmers studied reported some sort of religious affiliation, 72 percent of them stating that they were active members.

### Final Conclusions

Findings brought to light by this study justify the following final conclusions:

1. Factors contributing to the establishment of rural young men in farming tend to vary in degree of importance with the type-of-farming area.

2. The young man's relationship with his father on the home farm is seen as one of the most significant factors in influencing the boy to choose farming as his occupation.

3. Local-farm boys constitute the largest group of farmers in most agricultural communities.

4. Family aid in the form of machinery and equipment loan, valuable advice, and land contribute toward the establishment of a boy in farming.

5. If numbers of brothers are not above the average reported in this study, and if family farm situations are average or better, they do not tend to prevent young men from making starts in farming.

6. Farmers' wives share with their husbands by contributing stabilizing influences in the form of desirable attitudes and material assistance.

7. There is an apparent division between interviewees and some civic organizations.

8. Farmers interviewed for this study were above the averages for their areas and counties.

9. The fact that all of the enjoy farming and the independent life that it offers makes for a high degree of work satisfaction among farmers in this investigation and elsewhere.

10. General farming area farmers must face more problems and more difficult problems in managing their farm businesses than are faced by those in the cash grain area.

11. The number of job experiences that farmers interviewed reported would imply the need for broad curricular offerings and practical training in those jobs young men are most likely to work in prior to their establishments in farming.

12. Farmers in both areas studied have progressed since their starts in farming.

13. Without aid provided by the Veterans' Agricultural Training Program in the areas studied, many former servicemen would not be as well established as they are at present.

14. Vocational agriculture instructors are in the best position of any of the rural educators to guide rural boys to desirable solutions of their farm establishment problems.

15. Young men in attempting to become established in farming must recognize and solve the seven basic problems of establishment found to be true in other studies and verified by this investigation. The problems will be encountered by young men in different areas in varying orders of difficulty.

#### Implications for Rural Educators

In view of the findings and conclusions, the following

recommendations are made to rural educators:

1. More training should be given to teachers of vocational agriculture in the important field of guidance, since those people are seen to play key roles in the counseling of rural boys concerning their occupational choices. The researcher would suggest study of the non-directive approach to counseling since it prepares young men for life by teaching them to solve their own problems and make their own decisions after weighing the evidence available.

2. Further technical training should be provided all rural educators in order that they might recognize the order of difficulty in which the seven basic problems of establishment are arranged in the local type-of-farming area in which they are serving, and thus be better prepared to guide rural boys toward a solution of their major problems.

3. Differences noted between participants in this study and certain civic organizations should be studied and improvements made if desirable.

4. Other studies are needed in other type-of-farming areas to discover the order of arrangement of the problems of establishment and to discover the important factors that contribute to the establishment of rural young men in farming.

5. The father's role in influencing a young man to choose farming as an occupation would bear further study, and rural educators should make efforts to work more closely with fathers in guiding sons.

6. Due to the important place that vocational education in agriculture has in the lives of rural young men, and due to the number of occupations other than agriculture that many trainees may be expected

to pursue at some time during their experiences, the researcher would recommend a review of the fundamental aim of vocational education in agriculture, which is to train those who are at present farmers and those who plan to be farmers for proficiency in farming, with an eye to possibly supplementing this high aim with the fitting end '...and to train them for life.'

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APPENDIX

## EXHIBIT A

## RATINGS OF PARTICIPANTS FROM GARBER SERVICE\*

Schedule Number	Leadership	Citizenship	Net Worth	Cooperativeness	Progressiveness	Average of All
001	2.0	2.5	1.5	2.0	1.5	1.9
002	3.0	2.0	4.0	3.0	2.0	2.8
003	1.5	1.5	2.5	2.0	2.0	1.8
004	3.0	2.5	2.0	3.0	2.0	2.5
005	3.0	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.0	2.5
006	2.5	2.0	1.5	2.0	1.5	1.9
007	2.0	2.0	3.0	3.0	2.0	2.4
008	3.0	2.5	2.0	2.0	1.5	2.4
009	2.0	2.5	1.5	2.0	1.5	1.9
010	3.0	2.0	2.0	4.0	3.0	2.8
011	2.0	2.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.4
012	1.5	2.0	2.5	2.0	2.5	2.25
013	2.0	2.0	3.0	2.0	1.0	2.0
014	3.0	3.0	3.0	4.0	2.0	3.0
015	3.0	2.0	4.0	3.0	4.0	3.2
016	2.5	2.5	3.0	2.5	2.5	2.6
017	1.0	1.0	3.0	2.0	1.0	1.6
018	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	1.0	1.8
019	3.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.0	2.6
020	2.0	3.0	3.0	2.0	1.0	2.2
021	3.0	3.0	4.0	3.0	3.0	3.2
022	3.0	2.0	2.0	3.0	2.0	2.6
023	3.0	2.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	2.8

\*Ratings are numerical as follows: 1 - considerably above average; 2 - above average; 3 - average; 4 - below average; and 5 - considerably below average.

## EXHIBIT B

## PARTICIPANT RATINGS FOR KINGFISHER SERVICE AREA\*

Schedule Number	Leadership	Citizen-ship	Net Worth	Cooperativeness	Progressiveness	Average of All
101	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0
102	3.0	2.0	4.0	2.0	3.0	3.0
103	2.0	2.0	1.0	2.0	2.0	1.8
104	3.0	3.0	3.0	2.0	2.0	1.6
105	3.0	2.0	3.0	3.0	2.0	1.6
106	1.0	2.0	4.0	2.0	2.0	2.2
107	4.0	3.0	4.0	3.0	4.0	3.6
108	2.0	2.0	3.0	2.0	2.0	2.2
109	3.0	3.0	4.0	3.0	3.0	3.2
110	2.0	2.0	2.0	1.0	1.0	1.6
111	1.0	2.0	2.0	1.0	1.0	1.4
112	2.0	2.0	2.0	1.0	1.0	1.6
113	1.0	2.0	2.0	1.0	1.0	1.4
114	3.0	3.0	3.0	2.0	2.0	2.6
115	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
116	2.0	2.0	1.0	3.0	1.0	1.8
117	3.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.2
118	1.0	1.0	3.0	2.0	1.0	1.6
119	1.0	1.0	2.0	1.0	1.0	1.2
120	1.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	1.0	1.6
121	3.0	3.0	4.0	2.0	3.0	3.0
122	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0
123	3.0	2.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	2.8

\*Ratings are numerical as follows: 1 - considerably above average; 2 - above average; 3 - average; 4 - below average; and 5 - considerably below average.

## EXHIBIT C

## RATINGS OF PARTICIPANTS FROM PERKINS SERVICE AREA\*

Schedule Number	Leadership	Citizenship	Net Worth	Cooperativeness	Progressiveness	Average of All
201	1.0	1.5	1.5	3.0	1.0	1.6
202	2.0	2.0	1.5	2.0	1.0	1.7
203	4.0	3.0	3.5	3.5	4.0	3.6
204	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.5	3.1
205	2.5	2.0	2.0	2.5	2.0	2.2
206	4.5	3.5	4.0	3.5	3.5	3.8
207	2.5	3.0	3.0	2.5	2.5	2.7
208	2.0	2.0	3.0	1.0	3.0	2.2
209	2.0	2.0	3.0	1.0	3.0	2.2
210	2.5	2.5	3.0	2.5	3.5	2.8
211	2.5	1.5	1.5	3.5	1.0	2.0
212	3.5	2.0	3.25	2.5	3.0	2.85
213	2.0	2.0	4.0	2.0	2.0	2.4
214	1.0	1.0	2.0	1.0	1.0	1.2
215	3.5	2.5	1.75	3.5	1.0	2.45

\*Ratings are as follows: 1 - considerably above average; 2 - above average; 3 - average; 4 - below average; and 5 - considerably below average.

## EXHIBIT D

## RATINGS OF PARTICIPANTS FROM PRAGUE SERVICE AREA\*

Schedule Number	Leadership	Citizenship	Net Worth	Cooperativeness	Progressiveness	Average of All
301	1.0	2.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.2
302	2.0	2.0	4.0	2.0	1.0	2.2
303	3.0	2.0	3.0	2.0	2.0	2.4
304	1.0	1.0	2.0	1.0	1.0	1.2
305	3.0	3.0	4.0	1.0	2.0	2.6
306	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	3.0	2.2
307	2.0	2.0	3.0	3.0	2.0	2.4
308	1.0	1.0	2.0	1.0	1.0	1.2
309	2.0	2.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.4
310	3.0	2.0	2.0	1.0	2.0	2.0
311	3.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	1.0	2.0
312	3.0	1.0	2.0	1.0	2.0	1.8
313	2.0	1.0	2.0	1.0	2.0	1.6
314	2.0	2.0	3.0	2.0	1.0	2.2
315	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0

\*Ratings are as follows: 1 - considerably above average; 2 - above average; 3 - average; 4 - below average; and 5 - considerably below average.



- d. Land \_\_\_\_\_  
 e. Advice of value \_\_\_\_\_  
 f. Livestock \_\_\_\_\_  
 g. Feed or seed \_\_\_\_\_  
 h. Other \_\_\_\_\_
15. How did you acquire the land on which you first farmed?  
 a. Rented \_\_\_\_\_ g. Family share (Living) \_\_\_\_\_  
 b. Purchased \_\_\_\_\_ h. Rented and bought \_\_\_\_\_  
 c. Inherited (All) \_\_\_\_\_ i. Operator and Manager \_\_\_\_\_  
 d. Shared in estate (Death) \_\_\_\_\_ j. Worker for it \_\_\_\_\_  
 e. Partnership \_\_\_\_\_ k. Income from enterprises \_\_\_\_\_  
 f. Part-owner (Part of farm \_\_\_\_\_ l. Other \_\_\_\_\_  
     business)
16. Was a written business agreement part of your first arrangement? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_
17. How did you acquire the land that you are now farming?  
 a. Rented \_\_\_\_\_ g. Family share (Living) \_\_\_\_\_  
 b. Purchased \_\_\_\_\_ h. Rented and bought \_\_\_\_\_  
 c. Inherited (All) \_\_\_\_\_ i. Operator and Manager \_\_\_\_\_  
 d. Shared in estate (Death) \_\_\_\_\_ j. Worker for it \_\_\_\_\_  
 e. Partnership \_\_\_\_\_ k. Income from enterprises \_\_\_\_\_  
 f. Part-owner (Part of farm \_\_\_\_\_ l. Other \_\_\_\_\_  
     business)
18. What is your tenure status at present?  
 a. Owner and operator \_\_\_\_\_ e. Manager-operator for another party \_\_\_\_\_  
 b. Renter and operator \_\_\_\_\_ f. At home, income from one or more enterprises \_\_\_\_\_  
 c. Partner at home \_\_\_\_\_  
 d. Partner away from home \_\_\_\_\_
19. Is a written business agreement part of your present arrangement? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_
20. How many acres are you farming at present? \_\_\_\_\_ Cropland \_\_\_\_\_  
 Pasture \_\_\_\_\_ Meadow \_\_\_\_\_ Waste \_\_\_\_\_ Woodland \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_
21. To what degree were the following items problems of concern to you when you were starting to farm?
- | Item                                 | Major | Minor | Not |
|--------------------------------------|-------|-------|-----|
| a. Obtaining land (Good)             |       |       |     |
| b. Obtaining finances                |       |       |     |
| c. Obtaining livestock               |       |       |     |
| d. Management problems (Other)       |       |       |     |
| e. Obtaining machinery and equipment |       |       |     |
| f. Obtaining feed (Adequate)         |       |       |     |
| g. Diseases and parasites            |       |       |     |
| h. Personal housing                  |       |       |     |
| i. Other housing                     |       |       |     |
| j. Repair of M & E                   |       |       |     |
| k. Crop insects, diseases, pests     |       |       |     |
22. To what degree are the items now problems of concern to you?
- | Item                           | Major | Minor | Not |
|--------------------------------|-------|-------|-----|
| a. Obtaining good land         |       |       |     |
| b. Obtaining finances          |       |       |     |
| c. Obtaining livestock         |       |       |     |
| d. Management problems (Other) |       |       |     |
| e. Obtaining M & E             |       |       |     |



f. Obtaining adequate feed

g. Diseases and parasites

h. Personal housing

i. Other housing

j. Repair of M & E

k. Crop insects, diseases, pests

23. What were the stages in arriving at your present tenure status?  
(Please list in order by letter as applicable)

- |           |                               |
|-----------|-------------------------------|
| 1. _____  | a. Home enterprises           |
| 2. _____  | b. Work at home               |
| 3. _____  | c. Non-farm                   |
| 4. _____  | d. Hired hand                 |
| 5. _____  | e. Work at home for wages     |
| 6. _____  | f. Partnership at home        |
| 7. _____  | g. Tenant                     |
| 8. _____  | h. Partnership away from home |
| 9. _____  | i. Owner                      |
| 10. _____ | j. Armed service experience   |
| 11. _____ | k. Other                      |

24. Please check jobs you have held other than your present one since leaving high school:

- |                          |                             |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| _____ a. Armed services  | _____ f. Student in college |
| _____ b. Defense work    | _____ g. Farm laborer       |
| _____ c. Service station | _____ h. Storekeeper        |
| _____ d. Mechanic        | _____ i. Other laborer      |
| _____ e. Salesman        | _____ j. Other              |

B. Ownership -

1. What are the major enterprises on your farm? (Please check)

- |                                   |                  |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|
| _____ a. Wheat                    | _____ f. Beef    |
| _____ b. Cotton                   | _____ g. Swine   |
| _____ c. Alfalfa                  | _____ h. Dairy   |
| _____ d. Other field crop         | _____ i. Sheep   |
| _____ e. Vegetables, nuts, fruits | _____ j. Poultry |

2. Approximately what is your present investment in livestock?

- |                        |                          |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
| _____ a. 0-\$2,000     | _____ e. \$8,001-10,000  |
| _____ b. \$2,001-4,000 | _____ f. \$10,001-16,000 |
| _____ c. \$4,001-6,000 | _____ g. \$16,001-22,000 |
| _____ d. \$6,001-8,000 | _____ h. Over \$22,000   |

3. What is your present investment in land?

- |                        |                          |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
| _____ a. 0-\$2,000     | _____ e. \$8,001-10,000  |
| _____ b. \$2,001-4,000 | _____ f. \$10,001-16,000 |
| _____ c. \$4,001-6,000 | _____ g. \$16,001-22,000 |
| _____ d. \$6,001-8,000 | _____ h. \$22,001-35,000 |
|                        | _____ i. Over \$35,000   |

4. What is your present investment in feed and stored grain?

- |                        |                          |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
| _____ a. 0-\$2,000     | _____ e. \$8,001-10,000  |
| _____ b. \$2,001-4,000 | _____ f. \$10,001-16,000 |
| _____ c. \$4,001-6,000 | _____ g. \$16,001-22,000 |
| _____ d. \$6,001-8,000 | _____ h. \$22,001-35,000 |
|                        | _____ i. Over \$35,000   |

5. What is your investment in buildings?

- |                        |                          |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
| _____ a. 0-\$2,000     | _____ e. \$8,001-10,000  |
| _____ b. \$2,001-4,000 | _____ f. \$10,001-22,000 |
| _____ c. \$4,001-6,000 | _____ g. \$22,001 plus   |
| _____ d. \$6,001-8,000 |                          |

6. What is your present investment in machinery? (& equipment)
- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> a. 0-\$500       | <input type="checkbox"/> e. \$5,001-7,500   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> b. \$501-1500    | <input type="checkbox"/> f. \$7,501-10,500  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> c. \$1501-3,000  | <input type="checkbox"/> g. \$10,501-15,000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> d. \$3,001-5,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> h. \$15,001-25,000 |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> i. Over \$25,000   |

7. When starting to farm, if you owned any of the following items upon completion of work in Vo-Ag, 4-H, VATP, other program, or none owned, please check appropriate column with the letter "A". If item was owned following such experience, but not at the time you started to farm, check space with the letter "B".

Item	FFA	4-H	VATP	Other	Not Owned
a. Livestock					
b. Land					
c. Crops					
d. Buildings					
e. Machinery & Equip.					
f. Feed and/or seed					
g. Other (Please name)					

C. Educational Experiences -

- What grade level did you attain?          High school graduate?  
 Yes  No. Months in college          Degree          Yes  No.  
 Major
- Did you take vocational agriculture in high school?  Yes  
 No. If yes, how many years did you take: 1 2 3 4.
- If you took vocational agriculture in high school, why did you not take more?  
 a. No more was offered  
 b. Not satisfied with offering  
 c. More interest in other offerings  
 d. Other reason
- For how many years have you been out of school?
- Did you receive 4-H training and experience?  Yes  No.  
 If yes, for how many years?         .
- If married, did your wife receive 4-H training and experience?  
 Yes  No.
- Who were some of the persons whom you feel helped you decide, or may have influenced you, to choose farming as your occupation?  
 a. Vo-Ag instructor  e. Other relative  
 b. County Agent  f. Friend  
 c. Father  g. Other           
 d. Wife
- Please check the organizations in which you hold membership:  
 a. Grange  e. Grange and Union  
 b. Farm Bureau  f. Union and Bureau  
 c. Farmers' Union  g. All three  
 d. Grange and Farm Bureau  h. None
- Do you hold membership in a cooperative buying organization?  
 Yes  No.
- Do you hold membership in a cooperative selling organization?  
 Yes  No.
- Do you attend Young Farmer or Adult Farmer meetings?  Yes  
 No. If yes, for how long have you attended?

12. Are you a veteran? Yes No. If yes, have you received training under VATP? (Institutional On-Farm Training) Yes No. If you did, for how many months?     . Are you receiving training at this time? Yes No.
13. In the chart that follows, please check those experiences that you have had to the left of the experience listed, and those factors that you consider helped create and maintain your interest in farming should be checked to the right of the experience listed. Please list these items according to the degree to which the experience was influential in your case:

CHECK IF HAD	EXPERIENCE	INTEREST FACTORS		
		Major	Minor	Not
a. <input type="checkbox"/>	a. Future Farmers	a. <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. <input type="checkbox"/>	b. 4-H	b. <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. <input type="checkbox"/>	c. Young & Adult Farm.	c. <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. <input type="checkbox"/>	d. VATP	d. <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. <input type="checkbox"/>	e. Armed service	e. <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f. <input type="checkbox"/>	f. Nat'l Farm Orgs.	f. <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g. <input type="checkbox"/>	g. College	g. <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
h. <input type="checkbox"/>	h. Fairs, shows, contest	h. <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
i. <input type="checkbox"/>	i. Other	i. <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

14. What is your religious preference?       
Active? Yes No.
15. Do you hold membership in any civic clubs? Yes No.  
If yes, please check below:  
 a. Rotary  d. Chamber of Commerce  
 b. Kiwanis  e. Junior C of C  
 c. Lions  f. Other

16. Please list leadership, recognition, awards you may have received: (Include offices held)  
School:       
Other than school before starting to farm:       
Since starting to farm:     

17. To what extent have the following agencies been useful to you since you started to farm?

AGENCY	EXTENT TO WHICH USEFUL			
	Very useful	Useful	Not very	Not
a. SCS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. REA	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. FSA	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. FHA	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. PMA	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f. Land Bank	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g. PCA	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
h. Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

D. Attitudes and the Home -

1. To what degree does your wife like farming and the farm?  
 a. Very well  
 b. Fairly well  
 c. Not too well  
 d. Not at all  
 e. Don't know
2. Did you change your choice of occupations during high school?  
Yes No.

3. Have you changed your choice since leaving high school, or the highest grade level attained if less than high school?        Yes        No.
4. If you had service experience, did this affect your choice of occupations?        Yes        No. Have you changed your preference since service?        Yes        No.
5. Was vocational agriculture required at any time during your high school experience?        Yes        No. (If had high school)
6. Do you feel that city people enjoy opportunities that you would like for your family to have?        Yes        No. Do you feel that people living on the farm enjoy advantages that city dwellers cannot have?        Yes        No.
7. Do you feel that farmers are respected in your community?        Yes        No.
8. Is the average citizen in the community respected more or less than the farmer, or about the same?        More        Same        Less.
9. Do you believe that you could make more money doing something other than farming?        Yes        Don't know        No.
10. Do you have definite goals toward which you are working?
  - a. Improved crop production
  - b. Improved livestock production
  - c. Home beautification
  - d. Ownership
  - e. Expansion of business
  - f. Family agreement
  - g. Independence
  - h. Other (Please name) \_\_\_\_\_
11. In your own words, why are you farming? \_\_\_\_\_

E. Financing and its influence -

1. How did you obtain money with which to start farming?
 

<u>      </u> a. Had none	<u>      </u> h. Gift
<u>      </u> b. Worked for wages	<u>      </u> i. Enterprises & wages
<u>      </u> c. Own savings	<u>      </u> j. Savings and borrowed
<u>      </u> d. Wife's savings or income	<u>      </u> k. Savings and wages
<u>      </u> e. Income from enterprises	<u>      </u> l. Enterprises & savings
<u>      </u> f. Borrowed	<u>      </u> m. Other _____
<u>      </u> g. Inheritance	
2. If you borrowed, from whom did you borrow?
 

<u>      </u> a. Local bank	<u>      </u> e. Land bank
<u>      </u> b. Individual	<u>      </u> f. Co-op
<u>      </u> c. Production credit	<u>      </u> g. Other corporation
<u>      </u> d. Insurance	<u>      </u> h. Other government
	<u>      </u> i. Other _____
3. If you encountered any financial problems, please check:
 

<u>      </u> a. No security	<u>      </u> g. Small income
<u>      </u> b. Repaying loans	<u>      </u> h. High interest
<u>      </u> c. Hard to borrow	<u>      </u> i. Hard terms
<u>      </u> d. Hesitate to borrow	<u>      </u> j. Overborrowed
<u>      </u> e. Lack understanding of finance	<u>      </u> k. Underborrowed
<u>      </u> f. Demand of expanding business	<u>      </u> l. Other _____
4. If you borrowed when beginning to farm, did you have a co-signer on the note?        Yes        No.

5. If you are a veteran, did savings aid in starting?  Yes  No. If you took VATP, did the financial aid contribute to your establishment in farming?  Yes  No.
6. To what degree do you consider that the following items were problems in your becoming established in farming?

PROBLEM	DEGREE OF IMPORTANCE		
	Major	Minor	Little or none
a. Obtaining adequate finances			
b. Producing crops			
c. Livestock production			
d. Obtaining good farm land			
e. Obtaining good foundation stock			
f. Managing the farm business			
g. Obtaining adequate equipment			
h. Disease and parasite control			
i. Feeds and feeding			
j. Locating good markets			

F. Farmstead and Home Improvement -

1. Do you feel that farming gives you about the most independence of any occupation that you could follow?  Yes  No.
2. Do you enjoy farming?  Yes  No.
3. Would you be satisfied with some other work?  Yes  Don't know  No.
4. Please check the improvement or approved practices used last year on your farm: (Check according to extent used)

PRACTICE	EXTENT TO WHICH USED		
	All Cases	Some Cases	None
a. Purebred sire used - cows			
b. Purebred boar used - sows			
c. Spread lime as needed			
d. Spread phosphate as needed			
e. Used commercial fertilizer			
f. Selected breeding stock			
g. Legumes in rotation			
h. Approved varieties seed			
i. Livestock management			
j. Cultural practices (Contour)			

5. In the following chart, please check items you already have to the left of the convenience, and those that you plan to add to the right:

PRESENT CONVENIENCES	PLAN TO ADD
1. Cold running water	
2. Hot and cold running water	
3. Sanitary or chemical toilet (no running water)	
4. Hot, cold, bath	
5. Hot, cold, bath, toilet	

6. What means of communication do you have at present?

<input type="checkbox"/> a. None	<input type="checkbox"/> f. Telephone and radio
<input type="checkbox"/> b. Telephone	<input type="checkbox"/> g. Telephone and television
<input type="checkbox"/> c. Radio	<input type="checkbox"/> h. Television & radio
<input type="checkbox"/> d. Television	<input type="checkbox"/> i. All four
<input type="checkbox"/> e. Newspaper	

7. What transportational facilities do you have?  
\_\_\_ a. None \_\_\_ d. Car and truck  
\_\_\_ b. Automobile \_\_\_ e. Other \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_ c. Truck
8. How many books have you read in the past year? \_\_\_\_\_
9. How many farm journals or magazines do you take? \_\_\_\_\_
10. How many USDA or extension bulletins have you used in the past year? \_\_\_\_\_
11. What food storage facilities do you have?  
\_\_\_ a. Refrigerator \_\_\_ e. Smoke house  
\_\_\_ b. Icebox \_\_\_ f. Spring house  
\_\_\_ c. Deep freeze \_\_\_ g. Potato curing house  
\_\_\_ d. Cellar \_\_\_ h. None
12. What proportion of the value of the family food supply was grown on the farm last year?  
\_\_\_ a. 0-25%  
\_\_\_ b. 25-50%  
\_\_\_ c. 50-75%  
\_\_\_ d. 75-100%

## EXHIBIT F

Vocational Agriculture  
Garber High School  
Garber, Oklahoma  
15 February 1954

Dear Sir:

This is your invitation to an important meeting that is to be held Monday, February 18, 1954. The meeting will be at 8:00 p.m. in the Garber High School Agriculture Building.

You have been chosen by the school and by a graduate student from Oklahoma A. and M. College, R. S. Dotson, to represent the Garber area in a study that is underway. The study is being carried on jointly by the departments of Rural Sociology and Agricultural Education of A. and M. Farmers from Kingfisher, Perkins and Prague are also participating in this work.

Following is a tentative program for the evening:

1. You will receive a mimeographed questionnaire to complete.
2. A film, "Pay Dirt," which deals with soil fertilization will be shown. This is an excellent film and should be of interest to you--particularly since this is National Soils Week.
3. Cokes will be served, and the film discussed.

We promise you an unusual and eventful evening. See you there!

Cordially,

Paul Schnaithman  
VATP Instructor  
Garber

Victor Stroup  
Vo-Ag Teacher  
Garber High School

## EXHIBIT G

212 West 4th Avenue  
Stillwater, Oklahoma  
February 19, 1954

Dear Sir:

Please answer the following questions that pertain to the characteristics of your community and service area:

1. What churches are located in the community?
2. What marketing facilities are available? Where do local farmers market grain, dairy products, livestock and poultry?
3. What transportational facilities are available?
4. What racial and/or nationality groups predominate?
5. What type-of-farming is represented by your service area?
6. What are some of the major farm enterprises taught in vocational agriculture classes?
7. List farm organizations that are active.
8. What are the job opportunities for rural boys and men?
9. Is good land available? What price would be considered fair for such land? Does the history of the community affect the land situation?
10. What sources of credit are available?
11. Schools:
  - a. How long has vocational agriculture been taught?
  - b. F. F. A.?
  - c. How many students in vocational agriculture now?
  - d. How many in VATP? (if present)

Thanking you for the service, I remain,

Yours truly,

R. S. Dotson



## VITA

Robert Scott Dotson  
candidate for the degree of  
Master of Science

Thesis: FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF RURAL BOYS  
IN FARMING IN TWO TYPE-OF-FARMING AREAS IN OKLAHOMA

Major: Agricultural Education

Biographical and Other Items:

Born: May 6, 1924 at Newton, Kansas, the son of William H. and  
Carrie Adel Dotson.

Undergraduate Study: Edinburg Junior College, Edinburg, Texas,  
1942-43; O. A. M. C., 1950-53.

Graduate Study: O. A. M. C., 1953-54.

Experiences: Naval Air Corps, on active duty 1943-45; Farming,  
1945-50; Employed as entomologist, summer 1953.

Member of Phi Delta Kappa, Phi Kappa Phi, Collegiate Future Farmers of  
America, Who's Who in American Universities and Colleges, and a  
Danforth Graduate Fellow (class of 1953).

Date of Final Examination: May, 1954

THESIS TITLE: FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO THE ESTABLISH-  
MENT OF RURAL BOYS IN FARMING IN TWO  
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AUTHOR: Robert Scott Dotson

THESIS ADVISER: Robert R. Price

The content and form have been checked and approved by the author and thesis adviser. The Graduate School Office assumes no responsibility for errors either in form or content. The copies are sent to the bindery just as they are approved by the author and faculty adviser.

TYPIST: Pauline Hinrichs