

Bulletin B-592

The SOCIAL SECURITY and RETIREMENT PROGRAM

Of Oklahoma Farm Operators
And Farm Landlords

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March, 1962

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Summary and Principal Findings

This bulletin reports the results of a study designed to evaluate the Federal Old Age and Survivors' Insurance program as it relates to the farming public. The following principal areas were explored: (1) Extent of participation in OASI, (2) knowledge of the OASI program, (3) opinion of the program, and (4) retirement plans. Three Oklahoma counties, Cherokee, Logan, and Tillman, were included in the study.

Participation

Some farm operators in each county (from 7 to 57 percent) had paid no Social Security taxes on farm income, as far as they knew, although half of these non-taxpayers had gross farm incomes of \$600 or more and were legally qualified for coverage. Some of these operators had OASI coverage through other income. Fifty-five percent were covered through non-farm jobs, 8 percent as farm laborers, and 2 percent through non-farm businesses. However, 14 percent of the total operators interviewed had not paid taxes on any income and had no coverage.

About one-third of the landlords paid self-employment taxes on 1957 farm income, one-third paid on other income, and one-third paid no Social Security taxes whatever. Only about two-thirds of those who met the minimum qualifications for OASI coverage under the "material participation" rules had paid the tax, while one-third of those who had not met the requirements had paid OASI taxes.

Knowledge

Wide differences in knowledge of the OASI program were revealed by responses to a series of questions. Correlating "knowledge scores" with several variables, it was found that age, education, income, net worth, farm size and level of living account for the greatest amount of variation in scores. Among farm operators, consulting others, paying taxes, knowing persons receiving benefits, and awareness of visits of a Social Security official were related to high knowledge scores. For landlords, the relationships were parallel, except that consulting others yielded no significant results.

Mass media, especially newspapers, provided most first (new) information. Newspapers were also the most mentioned total-information source. Highest ranking sources of most correct information were pamphlets, Social Security officials, newspapers and tax consultants. Meetings ranked low as an information source.

About half said they wanted no more information about the program. Those persons desiring more information were interested in these areas: (1) the basis for computing benefits, (2) eligibility for retirement and survivors' benefits, (3) tax payment regulations, (4) landlord eligibility, and (5) eligibility for disability benefits.

Opinions

A majority of the persons interviewed approved of the OASI program. Opposition came mainly for non-participants. Most liked features included: (1) security, (2) retirement benefits, (3) insurance program, and (4) survivors' benefits. Dislikes centered on: (1) older people being able to retire after paying less tax than the younger must pay, (2) the high retirement age, (3) the complexity of the program, (4) the increased tax burden, (5) low retirement benefits, and (6) miscellaneous fiscal restrictions.

About half of all operators and landlords wanted to see OASI continue unaltered. Lowering the retirement age was mentioned most frequently by those desiring changes in the program.

Retirement Plans

The anticipation of Social Security benefits has had no apparent effect on the retirement plans of operators or landlords. Nearly 75 percent of the farmers expected to continue farming on a reduced operational scale after retirement, and very few of the farm operators planned to leave their farms when they retire. Growing proportions of farm operators become landlords, hire work done, or form partnerships in their later years. Tenants, however, have little prospect of a similar transition to retirement.

Operators under 65 had made no definite plans for retirement but expected to receive Social Security benefits. Farm operations and rentals were other sources of income which this group anticipated.

One-third of the operators age 65 or older were already partially retired. Nearly 60 percent of this age group were receiving OASI benefits.

Sixty percent of the landlords under 65 expected to receive OASI benefits upon reaching the eligible age; however, only 40 percent of the landlords age 65 or older were currently receiving payments. This smaller percentage is due, in part, to the large proportion of widows age

65 or older who, as housewives, cannot qualify for OASI coverage themselves, and must depend upon survivors' benefits. These benefits can be received only if the husband was fully insured prior to his death. Only half of the landlords age 65 or older considered themselves retired. Landlords in both age groups expected returns from investments to make the largest contribution to their retirement income.

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The Social Security Act passed in 1935 excluded farmers from the Old Age and Survivors' Insurance phase of the program because farm income was regarded as unpredictable, and bookkeeping methods were not sufficiently sensitive to measure income. Besides, the value of farm products "used at home" was largely indeterminate. Moreover, farmers were not outspoken in demanding coverage for themselves.

Rising money incomes on farms, lowered income tax exemptions, and increased record-keeping on farms did much to remove the foregoing objections by the early 1950's. Amendments to the law in 1950, therefore, extended Old Age and Survivors' Insurance coverage to certain farm laborers (those who met minimum employment and/or wage requirements). Further amendments in 1954 extended coverage to self-employed farmers on essentially the same basis as other self-employed persons. Later, amendments of 1956 extended coverage to landlords by designating "rental income" as "earned income" when the landlord "participates materially" in production activities on the farm (1)*. Assuming a landlord-tenant agreement, the chief criteria of *material participation* are: (1) Performance of physical labor in production; (2) Periodic inspection of production activities; (3) Periodic consultation

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with the tenant about production activities; (4) Payment of, or assumption of liability for, a significant part of production costs; (5) Furnishing a significant part of the farm equipment or livestock; and (6) Making management decisions affecting the probable success of the enterprise.

From the outset, Congress had desired that the 1935 law should cover, eventually, as many occupational categories as possible. Favorable experience with the OASI program as it affected the non-farm self-employed, an optional provision allowing a farmer to report a percent of his gross income as "net earnings" to minimize difficulties in finding farmers' taxable incomes, and a lack of vocal objections from farmers, encouraged revisions of the Social Security laws to cover farmers.

Scope of Studies

This is one of a series of studies by the U. S. Department of Agriculture in cooperation with land-grant colleges. The first was in 1951. These studies propose to determine farmers' provisions for economic security in old age, their plans for retirement, and their opinions of the extension of Federal Old Age and Survivors' Insurance to farm families (2, 3, 4, 5, 6).*

Purpose of This Study

After the 1954 amendment to the Social Security Act, the USDA (2, 3, 4, 5, 6), in cooperation with land-grant colleges, started a second series of studies to answer the following four questions:

1. To what extent have farmers participated in the OASI program?
2. What do farmers know about the program and what are their sources of information for this knowledge?
3. What do farmers think of the program? (Likes, dislikes, and recommended changes.)
4. What are farmers' retirement plans?

This study is the fifth in this series and the second since the 1956 amendments extended coverage to farm landlords (7, 8, 9, 10). It surveys farm landlords and operators.

*Italicized numbers refer to References Cited, page 38.

Procedure

Survey information was obtained by personal interview with samples of farmers and farm landlords in three Oklahoma counties, Cherokee, Logan, and Tillman, during June and July of 1958, covering the 1957 income tax year. These were "area probability" samples, each drawn on a county basis. Results reported are applicable to OASI policies in effect at the time of the surveys.

The three counties constitute a series of case studies of the great variety of agricultural and socio-economic conditions in the state, extending diagonally, as they do, from Southwest (Tillman) to Northeast (Cherokee) Oklahoma (Figure 1).

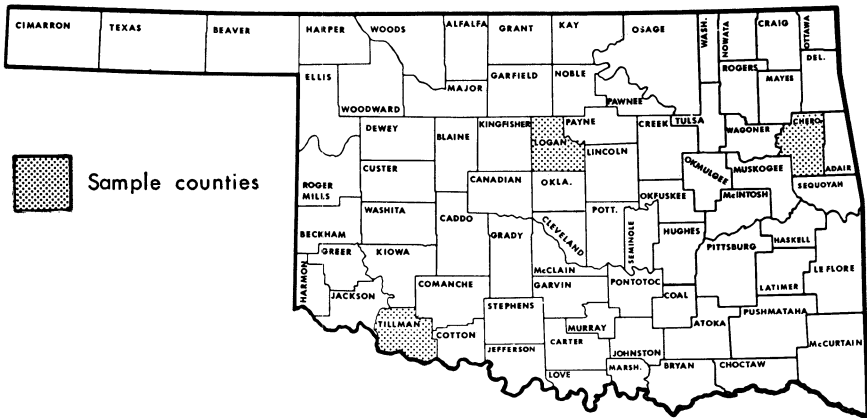


Figure 1. Map of Oklahoma showing the location of survey counties.

Table 1 summarizes the leading general agricultural characteristics of the survey counties in 1954 and 1959 as a basis for understanding much of the variation which occurs from one to another in the functional operation of the Social Security program.

Characteristics of Respondents

Table 2 shows the distribution of farm operators in each of the three counties by "net worth". Accumulated assets of Cherokee County farmers were much lower than those of Logan and Tillman farmers.

Table 1.—Chief Agricultural Characteristics of Survey Counties, 1954 and 1959*

	Survey County					
	Cherokee		Logan		Tillman	
	1954	1959	1954	1959	1954	1959
Number of farms (1959 definition)	1,591	1,422	1,613	1,275	1,401	1,239
Land in farms (percent)	46.2	55.0	90.1	86.0	101.3**	100.2**
Average size of farms (acres)	128.7	187.1	258.8	322.4	396.4	445.8
Farm land in harvested crops (percent)	10.6	7.9	32.4	29.6	60.8	52.3
Average value, land and buildings per acre (dollars)	42.1	56.2	63.4	88.1	105.6	143.0
Farm land owner operated (percent)	76.1		51.6		51.0	
Operators on operated farms (percent)	95.1	96.3	88.2	86.0	72.7	66.2
Tenant operated farms (percent)	13.6	9.0	30.0	22.2	34.0	32.9
Value of farm products sold (\$100 per farm)	8.2		34.6		83.8	
Farm income from crop sales (percent)	10.3		58.0		86.7	
Operators with non-farm exceeding farm income (percent)	56.4	70.5	37.7	43.5	8.0	20.5
Operator working off farm 100 days or more (percent)	40.1	48.1	35.6	41.1	15.2	23.0
Farms with tractors (percent)	29.9	47.7	70.3	84.8	91.2	91.2
Operators hiring labor (percent)	23.6	24.6	47.5	46.1	84.3	72.7
Level of Living Index (Hagood)	80.0		130.0		139.0	
Operators aged 65 or over (percent)	19.2	18.9	16.3	19.9	13.8	14.3
Operators aged 65 or over- Retired (percent) (i.e. Operator aged 65 or over with sales of \$50 to \$2,499)		75.8		63.3		35.1

*Sources: U. S. Census of Agriculture, 1959, Vol. 1, Pt. 36, Oklahoma, Counties. Margaret Jarman Hagood, et al., *Farm-Operator Family Level of Living Indexes for Counties of the United States, 1945, 1950, and 1954*, Washington: U. S. Dept. Agri. (AMS), Stat. Bull. No. 204, 1957, pp. 60-61. In this Index the U. S. county average for 1945 equals 100.

**Land in farms is credited to counties in which farm headquarters are located. Farm units often overlap county lines. Thus, the census credits Tillman County with more acres in farms than 100 percent of the total land there, since the acres of non-farm land bodies and town sites are relatively small.

Table 2.—Farm Operators and Farm Landlords by Net Worth, by Survey County, 1958.

Net Worth (dollars)	Farm Operators		Farm Landlords*	
	Cherokee	Logan	Tillman	
			Number	
Total	123	121	119	112
			Percent	
Less than 1,000	61	16	23	12
1,000 — 9,999	29	33	27	17
10,000 — 29,999	8	35	23	22
30,000 or more	2	16	27	49
Median net worth	\$811	\$10,000	\$9,666	\$19,600

*Total landlords from all three counties.

Current income levels partly explain the difference in net worth, since 52 percent of the farm operators in Cherokee had family incomes of less than \$2,000 and 90 percent had net worth less than \$10,000 in contrast to Tillman where 55 percent had incomes of \$4,000 or more and only 50 percent had net worth less than \$10,000 (Tables 2 and 3). Logan County, unless otherwise noted, is intermediate on all comparisons.

Table 3.—Farm Operators and Farm Landlords by Family Income Class, by Survey County, 1958.

Family Income Class	Farm Operators		Farm Landlords	
	Cherokee	Logan	Tillman	
			Number	
Total	125	123	120	128
			Percent	
Less than 1,000	26	16	4	16
1,000 to 1,999	26	19	13	25
2,000 to 3,999	18	22	27	19
4,000 to 5,999	17	25	22	18
6,000 to 9,999	10	13	14	7
10,000 +	3	5	19	13
Median family income	\$1,939	\$3,408	\$4,518	\$2,960

Table 4.—Farm Operators and Farm Landlords by Level of Living Index, by Survey County, 1958.

Level of Living Index*	Farm Operators		Farm Landlords	
	Cherokee	Logan	Tillman	
	Number			
Total	128	123	127	136
	Percent*			
Low	10	2	0	3
Medium low	43	14	7	7
Medium	10	13	16	8
Medium high	27	45	54	33
High	10	26	23	49
Percent below the three-county median*	70	42	34	26
Percent above the three-county median*	30	58	66	74

*Belcher and Sharp revision of Sewell scale (11). The median score of farm operators in all three counties is 56.

The contrast between counties is even greater in terms of a level of living index which reflects the social and economic status of farm families principally by "material possessions" (11). In Cherokee, 70 percent of the families had scores below the all-county median, in contrast to 34 percent in Tillman (Table 4).

Table 5 shows percentages of farm families receiving varying portions of their incomes from farms. Although all households interviewed met the 1954 Census criteria of a farm,* dependence on the farm for income varied greatly. Just over half of the Cherokee sample derived less than 50 percent of the family income from the farm, compared with 32 percent in Logan and 12 percent in Tillman. For landlords in all counties, the figure was 53 percent. Usually, this "off-farm dependence" relates inversely to the size of farm income and directly to the availability of non-farm employment within the reach of the employed family members.

*Farm landlords were not required to meet the census criteria for purposes of this study. They were interviewed if they owned a farm operated by one of the farm operator householders in the sample, and if they lived in either the same or in an adjacent county, even if the adjoining county happened to be in another state.

Table 5.—Farm Operators and Farm Landlords by Per Cent of Family Income From the Farm, by Survey County, 1957.

Percent of Family Income From Farm	Farm Operators		Farm Landlords	
	Cherokee	Logan	Tillman	
Total	112	103	Number	115
			Percent	
Less than 50	51	32	12	53
50 — 99	29	35	32	17
100	20	33	56	30

In Cherokee, 35 percent of the farm operators engaged in “non-farm business” and in “wage work” as major occupations, compared to 23 percent in Logan and only 6 percent in Tillman (Table 6). The average size of farms surveyed was 168 acres in Cherokee, 340 acres in Logan, and 476 acres in Tillman County.

Counties with small farm units also had high proportions of owner-operators. As Table 7 shows, Cherokee had 86 percent full owners in the sample, Logan 47 percent, and Tillman only 22 percent. Cherokee had only 8 percent part owners, Logan 30 percent, and Tillman 46 percent.

The average age of Cherokee farmers is slightly greater than of those in Logan and Tillman counties (Table 8). For landlords, the

Table 6.—Farm Operators and Farm Landlords by Major Occupation, by Survey County, 1957.

Major Occupation of Family Head	Farm Operators		Farm Landlords	
	Cherokee	Logan	Tillman	
Total	128	127	Number	135
			Percent	
Farm operator	60	74	92	16
Nonfarm wage work	26	16	4	7
Nonfarm business or profession	9	7	2	14
Keeping house	1	1	1	19
Retired	2	0	0	40
Unable to work	2	2	1	4

Table 7.—Farm Operators by Tenure, by Survey County, 1958.

Tenure of Operator	Total	Farm Operators		
		Cherokee	Logan	Tillman
		Number		
Total	382*	128*	125*	129*
		Percent		
Total	100	100	100	100
Full owner	51	86	47	22
Part owner	28	8	30	46
Full tenant	21	6	23	32

*Tenure unavailable for one operator in Cherokee, four in Logan, and two in Tillman County.

median age, over-all, is 69 years. The median age of operators is 53 years in Cherokee, 50 years in Logan, and 50 years in Tillman.

Although median educational levels of landlords are surprisingly low, they do not provide a complete picture. Of all landlords, 18 percent had some college education, compared with 10 percent of the farm operators in Tillman, 14 percent in Logan, and 6 percent in Cherokee (Table 9). However, as observed previously, only 16 percent of the landlords claimed farming as their principal occupation, compared with 60 to 92 percent of all farm operators (see Table 6), which might explain this seeming inconsistency.

Table 8.—Farm Operators and Farm Landlords by Age Group, by Survey County, 1958.

Age Group	Farm Operators		Farm Landlords	
	Cherokee	Logan	Tillman	
			Number	
Total	128*	125*	128*	134*
			Percent	
Under 35	9	13	13	0
35—49	36	37	38	8
50—59	25	26	27	13
60—64	12	8	7	13
65—71	10	10	8	30
72+	9	6	7	36
Median age	52.6	50.0	49.7	68.8

*Age unavailable for one operator in Cherokee, four in Logan, three in Tillman and for a total of 12 landlords.

Table 9.—Farm Operators and Farm Landlords by Years of Formal Schooling, by Survey County, 1958.

Years of Schooling	Farm Operators		Farm Landlords	
	Cherokee	Logan	Tillman	
	Number			
Total	127	126	125	132
	Percent			
Less than 8	40	8	13	23
8	32	41	27	33
9—11	19	12	22	14
12	5	26	28	11
13 and over	6	14	10	18
Median years	8.3	9.2	10.8	8.9

Since the presence of greater non-farm job opportunities is generally associated directly with higher educational levels in the population, it appears that differences in agricultural technology, as they influence demand for formal training among farmers, is important in explaining the low level of educational attainment among farmers in Cherokee County compared to the other two counties.

The vast majority of farm operators in the sample were married and living with their spouses. None was divorced or widowed, and only 2 to 4 percent had never married. In contrast, 29 percent of the landlords, an older, less residentially and occupationally homogeneous group, were widowed. One percent was divorced (Table 10).

Table 10.—Farm Operators and Farm Landlords by Marital Status, by Survey County, 1958.

Marital Status	Farm Operators		Farm Landlords	
	Cherokee	Logan	Tillman	
	Number			
Total	128	124	124	134
	Percent			
Married	96	98	98	65
Never married	4	2	2	5
Divorced	0	0	0	1
Widowed	0	0	0	29

Table 11.—Average Number of Children Born Per Family and Proportion of Children Age 14 or Older, by Survey County, 1958.

	Total	County		
		Cherokee	Logan	Tillman
Number of Families	389	129	129	131
Number of Children Born				
Total	1,058	398	394	266
Average per family	2.7	3.1	3.0	2.0
Number of Children Age 14 or Older				
Total	724	281	281	162
Average per family	1.8	2.2	2.2	1.2
Percent of Children Age 14 or Older	68	71	71	61

Table 11 shows the inter-county variation in number of children born per family and the number of children age 14 or older. The data show that farmers in Cherokee County have larger families and more children at home aged 14, or older, than do Tillman County families. Since the average number of children born largely determines the financial load a family must carry, this is an important factor in the family's ability to accumulate savings and economic resources.

Although **median size** of current household varies little from county to county (Cherokee 3.3, Logan 3.4, and Tillman 3.5), the **mean size** indicates a greater predominance of large households in Cherokee County (Cherokee 4.0, Logan 3.3, and Tillman 3.1). A median, or measure of middle size, is not influenced by either very small or very large numbers; a mean, or average, feels the weight of extremes.

Participation in OASI

Farmers may participate actively in the Old Age and Survivors' Insurance program by either (1) reporting and paying taxes on covered income or (2) receiving benefits, or by both methods. Law requires the first type participation for most employed people when their income exceeds a certain minimum; the second depends upon the beneficiary's qualifications and earnings.

Indirectly, farm operators began to participate in the OASI program as employers of hired help. Some 42 percent of the sample farmers employed hired labor in 1957, 24 percent in Cherokee and Logan compared with 80 percent in Tillman, a reflection of county differences in

farm technology and in types of farming. However, only about 16 percent of all operators reported paying non-family workers as much as \$150 during the year. The direct participation of farm operators in the OASI program began in 1954, when they received coverage as employers.

Payment of Taxes on Farm Income

When asked, "Have you ever paid any Social Security taxes on income resulting from operating your farm?", 28 (7 percent) of the 389 farmers did not answer, two said they did not know, and two indicated they had paid the taxes on non-farm wage income. In Cherokee, 57 percent of all farmers answered "no" to the question, compared to 34 percent in Logan, and 7 percent in Tillman. The "no information" and "don't know" responses were fairly evenly distributed among the counties, amounting to 9 percent of all farmers in Cherokee and Logan counties, and 5 percent in Tillman.

To obtain an estimate of the proportion of farmers who had not paid the tax because of failure to exercise the option based on gross income, each operator was asked if his 1957 farm income was \$600 or more. Of those who had **never paid** the tax, exactly one-half had gross incomes of \$600 or more in 1957 and could have paid it, thereby covering themselves and their families.

Payment of Taxes on Other Income

Some farm operators who had never paid tax on farm income had OASI coverage. In 1957, 55 percent of all farmers had worked at non-farm jobs long enough to be covered, 8 percent had worked as farm laborers, and 2 percent had earned at least \$400 in non-farm businesses. In spite of this, however, 53 farm operators, or 14 percent of those interviewed, had not paid Social Security taxes on any income earned during 1957 which, presumably, left them without any Social Security credits for that year. Of these farmers, 35 were in Cherokee County, or 27 percent of all farmers interviewed in that county.

Approximately one-third of the farm landlords interviewed had paid self-employment taxes on 1957 farm income. Another one-third had paid the tax on other income earned in 1957, and one-third did not report any taxable income for that year.

Many landlords made substantial contributions to production activities (material participation) on their rental farms. Their responses indicated that 20 percent had met the minimum requirements of material

participation and were eligible to participate in the program by paying taxes. Of the 24 who participated materially in farm operations, only 15, or 62 percent, had paid the tax. On the other hand, 30 percent of those who had not met the minimum requirements of material participation had paid the taxes.*

Farm Operators Receiving Benefits

Thirty-five farm operators were receiving OASI benefits, comprising 9 percent of the total and 70 percent of those beyond their 65th birthdays. Of the 35 receiving benefits, 33 had qualified on non-farm income, and only two on taxes paid on farm income. Inter-county variations are insignificant.

The average monthly benefit payment varied from about \$56 in Cherokee to approximately \$88 in Tillman. The lowest payment was the minimum for that period, \$30, and the largest was \$148.

Farm Landlords Receiving Benefits

Of the farm landlords interviewed, half of those 65 years of age or older (22 percent of total), were receiving OASI benefits. The monthly benefits checks averaged \$99 and ranged from the legal minimum \$30 to the \$176 maximum.

Knowledge of OASI

When interviewed, farm operators had been in the OASI program for four years and landlords for two years. Both groups were asked a series of 21 questions designed to measure: (1) What they knew about the major features of the program, and (2) from what information sources they had gained first and most important information. Thirty farm operators and 49 landlords had insufficient knowledge to justify asking them all 21 "knowledge" questions.

Table 12 lists questions and percent of respondents answering correctly. Only 12 percent answered correctly "Is a disabled farmer 50 years old eligible for benefits?", while 78 percent replied correctly that "farm laborers are included in the program."

*Decisions on whether or not landlords met minimum requirements are the authors', and are based on criteria set up by OASI administrators.

The proportions answering correctly indicate that the features of the program least understood are: Disability benefits; the optional method of figuring income or net earnings for those with net incomes of under \$400; exclusion of children from the program when employed by the father; payment of taxes on earnings while receiving benefits; limits on earnings after retirement; landlord participation; and the relationship of OASI to unemployment insurance. Less than 50 percent of the respondents answered these questions correctly.

Table 12.—Farm Operators and Farm Landlords Answering Correctly Each Knowledge Question, 1958.

Knowledge Question	Number Answering Correctly	Percent
Total	535	100
Can a landlord participate?	236	44
Is payment of Social Security tax voluntary?	313	59
Who is entitled to survivors' benefits?	398	74
Can farmers with net income under \$400 participate?	160	30
What are conditions of participation when net income is under \$400?	92	17
Is minimum retirement age of women same as for men?	358	67
What is minimum retirement age for women?	313	59
Is it necessary to pay taxes before receiving benefits?	395	74
Must beneficiary stop earning income to get benefits?	413	77
How much can beneficiary earn?	260	49
Does beneficiary pay taxes on earnings?	210	39
Are benefits the same for all?	395	74
Does wife need Soc. Sec. number to receive benefits from husband's insurance?	271	51
Who runs the program?	401	75
Are farm laborers included?	416	78
Who pays the tax for farm laborer?	15	3
Who is entitled to unemployment benefits?	247	46
Are there accident and health benefits?	328	61
Is child under 21 working for father covered?	128	24
Is a disabled farmer 50 or older eligible for benefits?	63	12
Can a widow, under 62, caring for disabled children, receive benefits?	292	55

Table 13.—Farm Operators and Farm Landlords by Kind of OASI Information Desired, by Survey County, 1958.

Kind of Information Desired	Farm Operators			Farm Landlords*
	Cherokee	Logan	Tillman	
			Number*	
Total	122	107	126	110
			Percent	
Nothing	39	67	45	55
General information	16	11	25	11
Basis for computing benefits	7	9	6	5
Eligibility for retirement benefits	3	3	2	3
Eligibility for survivors' benefits	11	3	3	
Regulations on payment of tax	8	1	3	2
Landlord eligibility			1	9
Disability benefits	9			
Eligibility of aliens			2	
Relation to soldiers pensions	0	1	1	3
Other	2	3	7	1
Don't know	5	2	5	7

*Responses unavailable from seven operators in Cherokee, 22 in Logan, and five in Tillman and a total of 36 landlords.

One-half of the respondents said they wanted no more information about OASI. Of those wanting additional information, one-third mentioned general information. The remainder named a wide variety of specific features, falling mostly under six headings. In order of frequency, they were: (1) Basis for computing benefits; (2) eligibility requirements for retirement benefits; (3) eligibility requirements for survivors' benefits; (4) regulations regarding payment of the tax; (5) landlord eligibility requirements (mentioned primarily by landlords); and (6) eligibility for disability benefits (mentioned only in Cherokee County) (Table 13).

Those who lacked knowledge were apparently either unaware of this deficiency or else uninterested in correcting it, for correlation of "knowledge scores" with expressions for additional information about OASI indicate insignificant association.

Previous studies in this series found an association of knowledge with such factors as age, education, occupational experience, nature of person's contact with the program, sources of information, and attitudes toward the program (7, 8, 9, 10). While knowledge-experience relationships may vary with time and cultural backgrounds, it is useful to test relationships established in previous studies.

To provide comparable tests of the same factors analyzed in those studies, each respondent's knowledge score in the survey was computed. This score is simply a total of the numbers of questions answered correctly.*

Those respondents having either "no information", or who were too "poorly informed" to justify asking them the 21 "knowledge questions," received a knowledge score of zero. Scores for others ranged from 1 to 21. The respondents were divided into five categories, according to the number of correctly answered questions. Landlords consistently had less information than operators, the latter exhibiting unusually close similarities at the higher "knowledge levels" in the different counties (Table 14).

Simple correlation coefficients were calculated to measure the association of knowledge scores with such variables as age, education, level of living, net worth, percent of income from the farm, family income, size of farm, knowledge of OASI, and opinion of OASI. Each

*Scale analysis failed to show unidimensionality as was found in an earlier Kentucky study (9).

Table 14.—Farm Operators and Farm Landlords in Each of Five Knowledge Categories, by Survey Counties, 1958.

Knowledge Categories*	Farm Operators			Farm Landlords
	Cherokee	Logan	Tillman	
	Number			
Total	129	129	131	146
	Percent			
Best informed	22	21	24	16
Fairly well informed	22	24	24	16
Poorly informed	22	19	28	12
Very poorly informed	25	28	19	20
No knowledge	9	8	5	34

*Numbers of correct answers required to qualify in each of the above five categories: Best informed, 16-2; Fairly well informed, 14-15; Poorly informed, 12-13; Very poorly informed, 1-11; No knowledge, 0.

Table 15.—Coefficients of Correlation Between Each of the Nine Characteristics of Farm Operators, 1958.¹

Characteristic	Characteristic Number								
	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
1. Age	— .424*	— .065	.041	.131*	.162*	— .063	.026	— .090	
2. Education		.424*	.157*	— .103	.307*	.261*	.226*	.070	
3. Level of living			.354*	.078	.373*	.309*	.178*	.017	
4. Net worth				.159	.341*	.354*	.051	— .156*	
5. Percent of income from farm					— .099	.197*	.065	.019	
6. Family income						.231*	.161*	.090	
7. Size of farm							.084	.253*	
8. Knowledge of OASI								.108	
9. Opinion of OASI								—	

*Significant at the .05 level.

¹Multiple correlation analyses were undertaken for all operators, for operators separately by county, and for all landlords using knowledge score as the dependent variable and the other eight variables as independent variables. Although some of the R²'s are greater than 0, all are rather small as the following figures indicate:

<i>Farm Operators</i>	<i>R²</i>
Total	.092
Cherokee County	.192
Logan County	.198
Tillman County	.081

item was correlated with each of the other items to produce a correlation matrix (Table 15).

Of a total of 36 simple correlations, 19 are significant at the 5 percent level. Age, education, income, net worth, size of farm operated, and level of living account for the greatest proportion of the variation in knowledge scores.

Sources of Information About OASI

First Information

Newspapers served as the most frequent source of *first information* in each county, with the importance of other mass media varying greatly from county to county (Table 16). Radio was equally as important as newspapers in Cherokee, but received very infrequent mention in the other two counties. Television and employers were also more important in Cherokee than in Logan and Tillman, which may be due to differences in local radio and television broadcasting facilities, program emphasis, and the socio-economic characteristics of counties.

Table 16.—Farm Operators and Farm Landlords by Source of First Information About OASI, by Survey County, 1958.

Source of First Information	Farm Operators			Farm Landlords
	Cherokee	Logan	Tillman	
			Number	
Total	129	129	121	146
			Percent*	
Newspaper	24	40	40	23
Radio	25	4	3	4
Friends, neighbors, relatives	9	11	10	11
Tax consultant	2	5	21	10
Television	12	5	2	0
Employers	11	2	3	1
Pamphlets	0	5	5	**
County agent	2	5	2	0
Organizational meeting	2	3	4	3
Magazines	**	6	2	4
S. S. official	**	2	2	5
Other	**	2	2	5
No information	11	9	5	33

*Percentages may not add to 100 because of rounding.

**Less than 1 percent.

Friends, neighbors, and relatives were important sources of first information in all counties. Tax consultants (bankers and lawyers) were important in Tillman County, but not in Cherokee and Logan.

Most Information

Newspapers also ranked first or second as a source of *most information* in all counties (Table 17). There county similarities stop, except that, collectively, more than 10 percent of farm operators and landlords got most of their information from friends, neighbors or relatives, indicating the importance of personal contact as a communications channel.

Correct Information

A precise measure of the amount of *correct information* gathered from different sources is difficult to obtain because of variations in

Table 17.—Farm Operators and Farm Landlords by Source of Most Information About OASI, by Survey County, 1958.

Source of Most Information	Farm Operators			Farm Landlords
	Cherokee	Logan	Tillman	
Total	129	129	131	146
			Number	
			Percent*	
Newspaper	23	27	22	17
Tax consultants	**	9	25	13
Friends, neighbors, relatives	10	14	8	9
Pamphlets	3	12	14	3
Radio	27	**	2	3
Television	16	4	4	0
S. S. official	2	4	9	10
Magazine	**	7	6	5
Employers	**	2	2	**
Organizational meeting	2	4	**	3
County agent	**	3	**	0
Other	2	3	0	2
No information	11	9	5	34

*Percentages may not add to 100 because of rounding.

**Less than 1 percent.

recall and in definition of source. Strictly speaking, the Social Security Administration is the primary source of all OASI information. However, many secondary sources are involved in the OASI information program. Nevertheless, associating knowledge levels with responses to the question, "Where did you obtain most of your information about OASI?" revealed that the highest ranking correct information sources were pamphlets, Social Security officials, newspapers, and tax consultants; the lowest ranking were friends, neighbors, relatives, radio, and magazines (Table 18).

Inter-county differences were insignificant in contrast to the major differences that existed between counties in sources of **most information**. Too few reported organizational meetings, employers, and county agents as sources of **most information** to justify classification. This was true,

Table 18.—Farm Operators and Farm Landlords by Source of Most Information and Knowledge Score, 1958.

Source of Most OASI Information	Knowledge Score*			
	Farm Operators		Farm Landlords	
	High	Low	High	Low
	Percent			
Pamphlets	79	21	**	**
Social Security office	58	42	73	27
Newspapers	52	48	68	32
Tax consultants	56	44	50	50
Magazines	50	50	**	**
Radio	44	56	**	**
Television	47	53	**	**
Friends, neighbors, relatives	33	67	31	69

*High includes those who answered correctly 14 or more of the 21 questions. Low includes those who answered 13 or less correctly.

**Less than 10.

even though county agents had held instructional meetings in all counties endeavoring to familiarize farm people generally with the Social Security program, immediately prior to their inclusion under it.

Effect of Experience on OASI Knowledge

Approximately 90 percent of the farm operators and 75 percent of the farm landlords had Social Security numbers. The length of time respondents had held Social Security numbers was not associated with their knowledge of the OASI program.

Farm operators who had consulted someone about coverage of their farm operations made higher knowledge scores than those who had not (Table 19). However, for landlords, the corresponding comparisons were not significantly different. Apparently, the persons with whom the respondents consulted differed in degrees of knowledge about the program, but the study had no way to control or to hold such factors constant; nor could it take out educational and other variations in learning abilities of the farmers and landlords themselves.

Table 19.—Association of Knowledge of OASI With Various Kinds of Experiences, Farm Operators, and Farm Landlords With the OASI Program, 1958.*

Experience	Farm Operators		Farm Landlords	
	X^2	P**	X^2	P**
Checked with someone regarding coverage of work	9.14	P = .03	5.20	P = .17
Paid Soc. Sec. tax on farm income	17.70	P < .001	8.10	P = .05
Informant or other member of family receiving benefits	1.14	P = .77	9.69	P = .02
Know other beneficiary	14.03	P = .01	16.25	P = .001
Aware of OASI representative's regular visits	28.42	P < .001	11.99	P = .01
Talked with OASI representative	2.08	P = .56	6.38	P = .10

*This table summarizes the knowledge "relationships" by the chi-square test. This test indicates, in repeating a similar sampling procedure any number of times, the probability of obtaining results of a greater than calculated value.

**Each X^2 (chi-square) has three degrees of freedom. With this freedom, a X^2 as large as 7.81 could occur by chance five times in 100. In only four instances does the probability of a greater than observed value exceed .05. These four P's may be attributable to chance or sampling variation. Chance can reasonably be rejected in the eight other instances where the values of X^2 are 7.81 or greater.

Table 19 shows that farmers and farm landlords who had paid Social Security taxes on farm income had more complete knowledge of OASI than did non-taxpayers.

Contrary to expectation, respondents who either were, or had family members, receiving OASI benefits were not uniformly more conversant with the program than non-beneficiaries (Table 19).

Knowledge scores were highest for the large percentage of operators and landlords who said they knew someone else, particularly someone outside the family, who was receiving benefits. This was primarily true among farm operators.

The survey did not prove conclusively that age is a primary factor in high knowledge scores.

Farmers and landlords familiar with the regular visits of an OASI representative had higher knowledge scores than those unaware of these

visits; however, high scores were not restricted to respondents who had talked with the representative.

Generally, therefore, operators and landlords who pay taxes, consult others, know persons receiving benefits, and are familiar with the visit by an OASI representative have superior knowledge of the OASI program. Having family members receiving benefits had no measurable effect upon the knowledge of operators, but was significant for the landlords.

Opinions of OASI

A major early argument against OASI coverage for farmers was that they did not favor it. Whether or not Oklahoma farmers generally opposed their inclusion in OASI prior to 1954 is unknown, but in 1958, after four years of experience in the program, the vast majority approved it. In response to the question, "What is your over-all opinion of the Social Security program for farmers?" from 78 percent in Tillman to 90 percent in Cherokee County expressed approval, at least with reservations (Table 20). Only in Tillman County did as many as 12 percent oppose it outright. Farm landlords were equally favorable.

Table 20.—Farm Operators and Farm Landlords by Opinion of OASI, by Survey County, 1958.

Opinion	Farm Op rators			Farm Landlords
	Cherokee	Logan	Tillman	
			Number*	
Total	127	126	128	118
			Percent	
Approve	82	76	65	74
Approve with reservations	8	11	13	9
Neutral—no position	6	7	9	11
Disapprove with reservations	0	2	2	2
Disapprove	4	4	12	4

*Expressions of opinion unavailable from two operators in Cherokee, three in Logan, and five in Tillman, and a total of 28 landlords.

Factors Associated with Differences in Opinion

How do farmers and farm landlords who disapprove differ from those who approve of OASI? Of the several characteristics for which data were available only one, occupational role, was significantly related to opinion of OASI among farm operators. Farm operators whose major occupations were not farming were more favorable to OASI than full-time farmers (Table 21).

Several factors were associated with farm landlords' opinions of OASI: major occupation, marital status, sex, knowledge of OASI, and personal experience with the program. Like farm operators, landlords with major non-farm occupations were more favorable than those who were primarily farmers. Both of these groups, however, were more favorable than the retired or "unable to work" group. The least favorable were those whose major occupation was housekeeping, which was the major occupation of 26 landlords. All were women, of whom 19 were widows. Of the 19 widows, nine disapproved of OASI.

Apparently, the nature and the extent of one's personal contact with the program are major determinants of opinion. The association between opinion and whether or not respondents had had various types of personal contact with OASI supports this conclusion (Table 22). Landlords who either received benefits, had close relatives (members of the household) receiving benefits, or knew someone else who was, expressed more favorable opinions than others. Also, landlords who had talked with OASI representatives expressed more favorable opinions than those who had not. On the other hand, how long the respondent had held a Social Security number and whether or not he had paid taxes on farm income was not correlated with favorableness of opinion.

Table 21.—Association of Opinion of OASI with Various Other Characteristics of Farm Operators and Farm Landlords, 1958.

Characteristic	Farm Operators			Farm Landlords		
	χ^2	d.f.	P	χ^2	d.f.	P
Tenure	4.77	4	P = .33			
Marital status	.92	2	P = .64	23.12	2	P < .001
Sex	----*			13.45	2	P = .002
Major Occupation	6.28	2	P = .05	15.27	3	P = .003

*There were only 12 female farm operators, with each expressing a favorable opinion.

Table 22.—Association of Opinion of OASI with Various Kinds of Personal Experience with the OASI Program, Farm Operators and Farm Landlords, 1958.

Personal Experience	Farm Operators			Farm Landlords		
	χ^2	d.f.	P	χ^2	d.f.	P
Paid tax on farm income	3.83	2	P = .16	1.46	2	P = .49
Length of time had Social Security no.	4.79	2	P = .09	.37	2	P = .84
Respondent or other member of household receiving benefits	4.36	2	P = .12	9.94	2	P = .01
Know someone else who is a beneficiary	3.58	2	P = .17	23.40	2	P < .001
Talked with OASI representative	2.14	2	P = .35	9.95	2	P = .01
Knowledge of OASI	2.21	1	P = .15	7.77	1	P = .01

As noted, farm operators' opinions are not associated with any of the above items, except "major occupation", closely enough to meet the test of significance at the 5 percent level. The only other item which borders on significance is the length of time the farmer had had a Social Security number. If a farmer had held a Social Security number three or more years, his opinion was more likely to be favorable than if he had had a card for less than three years. Farmers whose major occupation was not farming clustered in the group having had Social Security numbers for the longer period.

Opinion and Knowledge

Generally, landlords with the most complete knowledge of the OASI program expressed the most favorable opinions. The association is significant at the 1 percent level. In contrast, although the association for farm operators is in the same direction, it is significant only at the 20 percent level. An Iowa study gives a possible explanation of this difference between farm operators and farm landlords which centers on the regulations regarding participation (10).

Compulsory participation on the part of farm operators has forced them to consider Social Security as a necessary factor in their farming programs. The need to understand the program in order to carry on their farming operations partly determines their acquisition of knowledge, making it more a function of a practical need than an expression of either interest or favorable opinion of OASI. Put another way, full understanding need not always mean favoring the OASI program.

Approved Features

When asked about specific features of the OASI program, 37 percent of the operators and 24 percent of the landlords replied that they liked everything about it, while 7 percent of the operators and 4 percent of the landlords said they liked none of it.

The principal approved features are: The program provides a general feeling of security and independence; the program provides retirement benefits; it is an insurance program with benefits earned by saving; and it provides survivors' benefits.

Disapproved Features

Only 2 percent of the respondents said they disliked everything about the OASI program. On the other hand, 42 percent of the farm operators and 46 percent of the landlords said they disliked nothing about it. Among the disapproved features, inequalities (mainly that older persons who have paid in very little tax receive the same benefits as will younger persons who will pay much more tax) led the list, followed by too high retirement age, too complicated—too much “red tape,” increased tax burden, too low retirement benefits, not inclusive enough for landlords, compulsory payment of tax, restrictions on earnings of beneficiaries, paying tax for hired labor, and rigidity of disability benefit provisions.

Suggested Changes

When asked to suggest desirable changes in the OASI program, 42 percent of the farm operators and 53 percent of the landlords wanted to see it continued unaltered.

“Lower the retirement age” was the most frequently recommended change, followed by: “increased benefit payments”; “allow an optional higher tax rate or taxable income base for those who wish to qualify for higher benefits”; “liberalize survivors' benefits by lowering age requirement for widows without children and increasing benefits”; “liber-

alize disability benefits by lowering age requirement"; "eliminate the entire program"; "improve its administration"; "make everyone (farm laborers) pay his own taxes"; "make participation voluntary"; "make information more readily available"; "remove restrictions on earnings of beneficiaries"; "stabilize the tax"; "fix benefit payments at same level for all"; "use need as a basis for paying benefits"; and "include hospitalization benefits."

Fourteen percent of the farm operators and 20 percent of the landlords said they did not know what changes to suggest.

Retirement Plans of Farm Operators and Farm Landlords

Of late, attention to retirement problems has increased so much that some—young persons especially—display a great concern over these and other security features of prospective employment. Undoubtedly, the importance of retirement as a social status role in this country has increased, because: more people now than formerly are living to retirement age and beyond; technological change has made possible more leisure time; and various kinds of benefits have eased the economic strain of giving up a part of one's earning power.

In most wage or salaried jobs, retirement occurs on a definite date, but not for most farmers. Before the extension of OASI to farmers, no formal rule even suggested a time for retirement, and only local custom and tradition governed it. Consequently, farmers tended to continue in the labor force longer than persons in other occupations. To illustrate, in 1950, 89 percent of the Oklahoma rural-farm males ages 65 and over were counted in the labor force, in contrast to only 74 percent of the urban males in this age group (12). That is, the shrinkage in the urban labor force at ages 65 and over is two and one-half times as great as that of the farm population at the same ages.

Taylor found that in the cash grain area of Illinois, which is comparable to a part of Oklahoma, farmers saw little opportunity for the full tenant to achieve gradual retirement (13). Alternatives to full retirement for the tenant include reduced acreage, which a benevolent landlord might allow, and either farm or non-farm work for wages. These are occupational roles which involve labor, but little or no "management" function. In contrast, the farm-owner may achieve partial retirement status by reducing his labor inputs while retaining control over important management decisions, which the extension of OASI coverage to farm landlords recognizes. But, it is not always easy to de-

termine the degree of retirement. The OASI criteria of material participation were developed for this purpose.

Because of growing interest at all adult ages, questions on retirement plans were asked all farmers and farm landlords. The previous studies dealt only with those over 50 years of age (7, 8, 9, 10).

Retirement Plans of Operators Under Age 65

About four-fifths of the farm operators in the sample were under 65 years of age. Many had not thought enough about retirement to have very definite plans. Most of them expected to have sources of income at age 65, or after retirement, but only about one-third either could or would estimate the amount of income anticipated from various sources. Similarly nine out of 10 knew *with whom*, but only about two-thirds knew *where*, they expected to live after retirement.

Residence Plans

Of the farm operators under 65, 90 percent expected to have separate households when they retired or reached the age of 65. Only one expected to reside with a relative. Two thought their children would live with them, but none expected to live either in the household of a child or in a home for the aged.

The respondents were not as positive in their expectations of **where they would live as with whom they would live**. Approximately one-third did not know where they would be living. Among those who said they thought they knew where they would be living, three-fourths expected to be on their present farms. Of the 58 who contemplated moving from their present residences, nine expected to be living on other farms, 31 in small towns, and only 16 in cities.

Plans to Continue Farming

As one might surmise, with so many farmers expecting to continue living in their present residences after age 65, a majority intended to continue farming. The proportion in each county varied from 60 to 67 percent. However, of those planning to continue farming, 71 percent anticipated farming on smaller scales of operation than at present. When asked how they would cut down their operations, the most frequent answer was "reduce the number of acres operated," in Tillman and Logan Counties, and "reduce the number of livestock," in Cherokee County. The other principal way mentioned of cutting back the size of operations was to change management relations (24 farmers). Some thought they could accomplish this by getting other family members to take more responsibility (seven farmers), turning crop land into pas-

ture (six), renting out land (four), increasing livestock production (five), and getting more efficient help (two). Only 16 percent expected to do any non-farm work after they retired from farming.

Changes in Farming Operations

Apparently, Social Security has had very little direct effect on the organization of the farm businesses of either the operators or the landlords in the sample. Only seven operators responded affirmatively to the question, "Have you made any changes in your farming operations or rental arrangements in order for you or your landlord to qualify for Social Security, or to increase your (or his) benefits from this program?" Two of these had increased their livestock numbers and the other five had made various changes that would help their landlords to qualify for participation in OASI.

When asked if they planned to make any changes, 27 farmers said "yes", but nine could not say what changes they planned because they did not know what modifications would be necessary. Six would increase livestock, three would increase the size of their operations generally, and the remaining nine planned different changes, which would have the net effect of reducing their work loads and/or participation in farm operations.

Anticipated Income

Although OASI has had very little direct effect on farm organization, it was important in the retirement plans of the majority of the farm operators under 65 in the sample, since 69 percent of them expected to receive OASI retirement payments.

There are no significant inter-county differences in the proportions anticipating OASI retirement payments, but differences in the time when operators first considered OASI as a possible source of retirement income are important. In Cherokee, 54 percent first considered OASI as a source of retirement income "at some date prior to 1954 when farmers became eligible to participate". The corresponding proportion for Tillman County is 12 percent. Many Cherokee residents had doubtless obtained Social Security coverage through non-farm employment.

The next most often mentioned anticipated source of retirement income was farm operations, and 58 percent planned to retire either partially or gradually. This is only five percentage points below the proportion planning to continue farming operations after they reach age 65.

Seventy-six farm operators, or approximately one-fifth, expected to receive farm rental incomes after age 65. Only two of these were in Cherokee County, the county with the largest proportion of owner-operators (see Table 7), indicating that Cherokee farmers either do not expect to become farm landlords in their retirement years or do not expect much rental income. In Logan and Tillman counties, with better farm land, farmers aspired to the landlord role. In Tillman County, 39 farm operators under 65 anticipated retirement income from farm rentals, a greater number than owned farm land.

The proportions anticipating other sources of income after age 65 are as follows: insurance (6 percent); royalties (5 percent, all in Logan and Tillman); pensions (5 percent); interest and dividends from investments (4 percent); non-farm work for wages (3 percent); non-farm business (3 percent); old age assistance (3 percent); and annuities (2 percent).

Only about one-third of the operators involved ventured to estimate the amount of income they expected to receive after age 65. Proportionally, more Tillman than Cherokee or Logan County farmers could estimate amounts of expected income.

The average monthly expected income varied from \$154 for Cherokee farmers to \$286 for Tillman operators. The Logan average was \$227.

To obtain an estimate of the relative importance of different sources of retirement income, respondents were asked to indicate how much they expected per month from three sources: OASI, investments, and earnings. Again, the average varied among the counties but the variation in expected income from OASI was much less than that from the other two sources (Table 23).

Table 23.—Average Expected Monthly Income After Age 65 from Three Sources, by Operators Under 65 Years of Age, by Survey County, 1958.

Source	Cherokee		Logan		Tillman	
	Number of Operators	Average Income	Number of Operators	Average Income	Number of Operators	Average Income
OASI	21	\$113	19	\$131	39	\$134
Investments	5	79	9	116	15	201
Earnings	4	52	12	72	24	189

Retirement Plans of Operators Age 65 and Older

Of the 62 farmers in the sample 65 or older, 19, or nearly one-third, were already partially retired. That is, they had reduced their farm operations and, although they still qualified as farm operators, they considered themselves as retired. Another third (22) expected either to retire or to shrink their operations in the next few years, 14 expected to continue on the same scale of operations, and seven did not know what they would do. The most-mentioned way of cutting down operations was to reduce the acres operated.

Residence Plans

Only four operators in this age group planned to move off the farm, nine were uncertain, and the remainder expected to continue on the farm.

Sources of Income

The wide variety of sources of present income reflects the semi-retired state of a sizable proportion of farm operators 65 years and older. Only 15 farmers in this group were dependent wholly on money earned as farm operators. The remainder had other sources to supplement farming income. Most important of these sources was OASI. Nearly three-fifths (35) were receiving OASI payments; eight had farm rental income; four had income from interest and dividends; three each from royalties, pensions, non-farm business, and non-farm wage work; two from old age assistance, and one from farm labor.

The average monthly OASI payment was \$56 in Cherokee, \$78 in Logan, and \$88 in Tillman. Individual payments varied from the minimum of \$30 to \$148.

When asked to estimate their average income from all sources for the next few years, 23 respondents gave monthly incomes averaging \$197, or \$2,364 annually. The others did not reply. The modal bracket of their 1957 incomes was \$1,000 to \$1,999. The median income was \$1,650. Thus, farmers in this age group either anticipated some increases in income or under-estimated their current incomes.

Retirement Plans of Landlords

Although 66 percent of the farm landlords were 65 years of age or older, only 54 percent considered themselves retired. However, 88 percent of those who had retired were 65 or older. Of those not retired, 22 were farm operators, 19 were engaged in non-farm business, 26 were

either professionals or housekeepers, and nine were non-farm wage earners in 1957, as classified by major occupations.

Of the landlords aged 65 or older, 73 percent had retired, compared to only 19 percent of those under 65. Expressions of determination to continue work after age 65 indicate that, apparently, anticipation of OASI benefits has not increased the number of landlords intending to retire, since 55 percent expect to continue working. Nevertheless, it has influenced sources of anticipated income.

Farm rentals, OASI benefits payments, and farm operations were the three most important anticipated sources of income for farm landlords.

Only 38 percent of those 65 and over were receiving OASI payments while 60 percent of those under 65 expected to do so upon reaching the eligible age. The great difficulty some of the older landlords, particularly women, experienced in qualifying for participation in the OASI program partly explains the difference.

Landlords under 65 estimated their average monthly income at \$297, after retirement, or age 65. This was \$50 per month more than they thought necessary for a comfortable living, if price levels did not change, and \$34 per month more than landlords now 65 or older are getting. But two out of ten of the latter thought their current incomes were inadequate for comfortable living.

The younger landlords, those under 65, anticipated somewhat higher average monthly OASI retirement payments (\$172) than the older ones now receiving payments are getting (\$99).

Both groups expected returns from investments to make the largest contribution to their incomes, but they disagreed on the importance of earnings compared to OASI payments. The younger landlords expected to receive more from OASI payments than from earnings, but the older ones expected to earn more from this source than they thought they would receive from the OASI program.

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