

THE SOURCES OF AGRICULTURAL INFORMATION USED  
BY ADULT AND YOUNG NEGRO FARMERS  
OF MUSKOGEE COUNTY

By

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THE SOURCES OF AGRICULTURAL INFORMATION USED  
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OF MUSKOGEE COUNTY

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

Our country owes a considerable portion of credit for her position as a great nation to her farmers and the tremendous amount of agriculture products which they produce. Our happiness, independence, safety, and welfare depend basically upon food and fiber produced by our farmers. Victories in two world wars within a thirty-two year period were due to a large extent, to the agricultural products produced on our farms and ranches. American farmers are confronted increasingly with the great problem of producing sufficient farm crops and livestock to feed their nation and at the same time furnish food for other less fortunate nations.

Agriculture is essentially an industry. Farmers use labor, land, and capital to purchase farm supplies such as fertilizers, seeds, insecticides, fuel, feed, and implements. These in turn, under a given set of natural and economic conditions, are used to produce agricultural materials from which come, in whole or part, a nation's food, clothing, fuel, shelter, and export commodities.<sup>1</sup> The agricultural products that a Nation can supply to satisfy human wants and the labor, land, and capital with which to

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<sup>1</sup>T. H. Shen, Agricultural Resources of China, Introduction P. XVII, New York: Cornell University Press, 1951.

produce them are vital agricultural resources. Agricultural literature and agencies are sources disseminating agricultural information, the fuel for our agricultural resources. The extent that agricultural information is placed in the hands and minds of farmers, to a large degree determines the progress and growth of our agricultural economy. L. H. Bailey sums up this thought in the following manner:

"We have not yet gathered up the experience of mankind in the tilling of the earth; yet the tilling of the earth is the bottom condition of civilization. If we are to assemble all the forces and agencies that make for the final conquest of the planet, we must assuredly know how it is that all the peoples in all places have met the problem of producing their sustenance out of the soil."<sup>2</sup>

Research workers in our experiment stations bring to light each year over twelve-hundred new discoveries affecting some field of agriculture. It can readily be recognized that getting such information developed by the experiment station in Oklahoma, and other states, to adult and young farmers presents a tremendous undertaking. Such sources of information must function to keep up with the current and future conditions, trends, and changes that affect agriculture and farm life in order for agriculture to continue to progress in this atomic age.

A careful survey of conditions indicates that such sources available for interpreting and disseminating information to Negro farmers in Muskogee County are: three departments of Vocational Agriculture, a County Farm Agent, a Home Demonstration Agent, Soil Conservation Service personnel, Radio Stations, Newspapers, Magazines, Production Credit Association personnel, Farm Home Administration personnel, and Production Marketing Administration personnel. The 1950 census shows there are approximately

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<sup>2</sup>Agricultural Anthology, Farmers of Forty Centuries, p. 13, Pennsylvania: Organic Gardening Press.



six-hundred Negro farmers to be served by the above sources with much agricultural information.<sup>3</sup>

"The primary aim in vocational education in agriculture is to train present and prospective farmers for proficiency in farming,"<sup>4</sup> and Carsie Hammond says:

"The over-all aim of adult and young farmers' work is to increase the proficiency of the class members in farming and farm life. The increased proficiency is brought about through developing effective abilities to:

1. Use the improved practices resulting from experimental work, other research, and the experience of farmers.
2. Manage the home farm business.
3. React to current and future conditions and to trend that affect agriculture and farm life.
4. Improve their farming status.
5. Improve the home farm and farm living.
6. Solve their community and farm problems by thinking together.
7. Use the agencies and literature that have been provided for them.
8. Preserve and extend democratic attitudes and ideals."<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>3</sup>U. S. Department of Commerce, 1950 Census of Agriculture in Muskogee County. Bureau of the Census 1951.

<sup>4</sup>Glen Charles Cook, Handbook on Teaching Vocational Agriculture, p. 6, Illinois: Interstate Printing Co., 1947.

<sup>5</sup>Carsie Hammond, Teaching Agriculture, p. 274, New York: McGraw-Hill Co., 1950.

### PURPOSE

The purpose of this study is to determine the sources of agricultural information that are used by adult and young Negro farmers of Muskogee County, and to suggest ways and means of increasing the use of the various sources of information.

### VALUE OF THE STUDY

Through the presentation of data in this study, it is hoped that the teachers of vocational agriculture of Muskogee County will get some idea on how extensively adult and young Negro farmers are making use of the available sources of agriculture information. Also it is felt some light may be shed upon the actual need for conducting adult and young farmer classes to provide such up-to-date information.

The study is of personal value to the writer through experience received in the making of personal contacts with farmers and recognizing problems encountered in carrying out an adult educational program.

It was of further personal value in improving the author's ability to collect and organize data.

### DELIMITATIONS

The study is limited to adult and young Negro farmers of Muskogee County, who were farm operators in this County during the school year of 1951-52.

No attempt was made to determine just how the farmers use the information from the different sources. To do this would necessitate tracing the information from the different sources to each farm separately.

### DEFINITIONS

The term "sources of agricultural information" as used in this study,

means the agencies and literature through which adult and young farmers receive information to improve their farming practices and standards of living.

"Adult farmer" as used in this study to refer to a person who has entered upon the work of the farm, and is definitely operating a farm business for himself.

"Young farmer" is used in this study with reference to a person usually between 18 and 30 years of age, who has entered upon the work of the farm, in the capacity of operator or partial operator. He may be thought of in varying degrees of becoming established in farming.

## CHAPTER II

### REVIEW OF LITERATURE

The author has found no record of any previous studies relating to sources of agricultural information received by adult and young Negro farmers to solve their problems. However, one related study has been made on the improved farm practices for Negro farmers of Muskogee County. A review of this study is as follows:

In 1940, Matt B. Hicks, Vocational Agriculture Instructor at Boynton High School in Muskogee County wrote a special report entitled, "Improved Farm Practices for The Negro Farmers of Muskogee County, Oklahoma".

The objectives of this study were to determine the most important improved farm practices through which the Negro farmers of Muskogee County, Oklahoma, might find help in improving their farming situation.<sup>6</sup> Hicks reported that the most important crop and livestock enterprises were cotton, corn, oats, wheat, dairy cattle, and swine in Muskogee County. Particular attention was given to the following problems:

1. Improved farm practices in cotton production.
  - A. Selecting seed, controlling diseases and insects
  - B. Preparation of the seed bed
  - C. Planting
  - D. Cultivation
  - E. Irrigating
  - F. Harvesting
  - G. Ginning and Marketing

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<sup>6</sup>Matt B. Hicks, Improved Farm Practices For Negro Farmers of Muskogee County, Thesis Study, Colorado State College, 1940.



2. Improved farm practice in corn production.
  - A. Selecting and treating seed
  - B. Preparation of seed bed
  - C. Planting
  - D. Cultivating
  - E. Harvesting and storing
3. Improved farm practices in grain sorghum productions.
  - A. Selecting and treating seed sorghum
  - B. Preparation of the seed bed
  - C. Planting
  - D. Cultivating
  - E. Harvesting
  - F. Storing
4. Improved farm practices in oat production.
  - A. Selecting and treating seed oats
  - B. Preparation of the seed bed
  - C. Planting
  - D. Harvesting
  - E. Threshing and storing
5. Improved farm practices in wheat production.
  - A. Selecting and treating seed wheat
  - B. Preparation of the seed bed
  - C. Planting
  - D. Harvesting
  - E. Threshing and storing
6. Improved farm practices in milk production.
  - A. Selecting dairy stock
  - B. Housing
  - C. Feeding
  - D. Care of cow at calving time
  - E. Feeding and caring for dairy calves
  - F. Milking and caring for the milk
  - G. Breeding
7. Improved farm practices in egg production.
  - A. Selecting and securing breeding stock
  - B. Feeding chicks
  - C. Housing and heating
  - D. Sanitation
  - E. Separating and marketing of cockerels, and vaccinating pullets
  - F. Caring for pullets on the range

- G. Housing laying hens
- H. Feeding laying hens
- I. Controlling lice, mites and worms
- J. Culling
- K. Producing quality eggs

8. Improved farm practices in pork production.

- A. Selecting breeding stock
- B. Housing and sanitation
- C. Feeding
- D. Caring for breeding stock
- E. Breeding gilts and sows
- F. Care of sow before and after farrowing
- G. Castrating and weaning pigs
- H. Feeding pigs

In Hicks's study, bulletins and the county farm agent of Muskogee County were used as the method of securing data. Bulletins were used from the Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical College, Oklahoma Experiment Stations and Extension Service and the United States Department of Agriculture.

Hicks concluded by saying, "If Negro farmers of Muskogee County, Oklahoma, adopt these improved practices, where these are adaptable and economical, improvement in farming should result".<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>7</sup>Matt B. Hicks, Improved Farm Practices For Negro Farmers of Muskogee County, Thesis Study, p. 48, Colorado State College, 1940.

### CHAPTER III

#### METHOD OF PROCEDURE USED IN SECURING DATA

A comprehensive study of summaries of studies made in the field of agricultural education was made. Theses and reports on file in the agricultural education office were examined, as were references on techniques, and methods of securing data. After this was done the interview method by use of a questionnaire form was selected as superior to other methods in securing the needed data for the study.

#### FORMULATING THE QUESTIONNAIRE

A preliminary questionnaire was prepared and presented to Professor Don M. Orr for his criticism and suggestions, and later was presented to a group of graduate students enrolled in a Research and Seminar course for evaluation.

The criticisms and suggestions contributed proved very helpful in improving the questionnaire. The questionnaire was then presented to Mr. Robert Price, Major advisor in charge of the problem, and Mr. C. L. Angerer of the Department of Agricultural Education for their criticisms and suggestions. Suggestions again proved valuable in further revision of the form. The questionnaire was then stenciled in form similar to the one found on the following pages.

#### DISTRIBUTION OF INTERVIEWS CONDUCTED

Ninety-six Negro farmers of Muskogee County were personally contacted and interviewed using the questionnaire shown on the preceding pages.

According to the 1950 census there are six-hundred Negro farmers in Muskogee County; therefore, the ninety-six farmers interviewed in this survey represent about sixteen percent of all Negro farmers in the county.<sup>8</sup>

The farmers included in this study were selected at random, the names and addresses of the Negro farmers of Muskogee County were obtained from the school census in the county superintendent's office. It was agreed with the study advisors that selection should be so made as to include only one farm per section in order to obtain ample distribution.

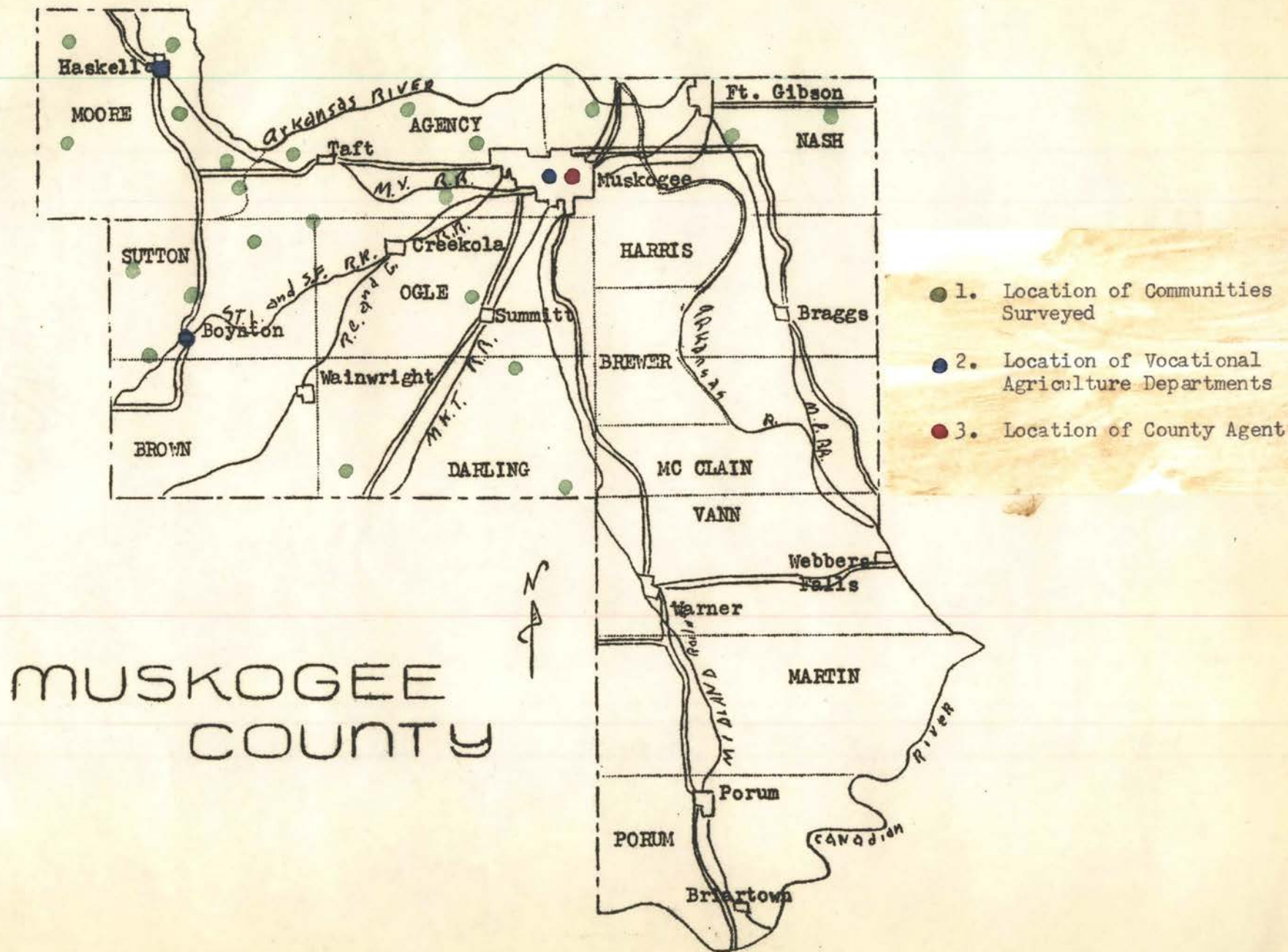
The location of the ninety-six farms in this study will be located by communities on the following pages.

The ninety-six farmers included in this study represent the following twenty-three communities: Agency, Banks, Boynton, Cane Creek, Coal Creek, Cloud Creek, Four Mile Branch, Fort Gibson, Haskell, Hyjoe, Lee, Monday Chapel, New Hope, Oktaha, Pasadena, Peter Chapel, St. Mary, Simmons, Sugar Creek, Summit, Wilson Chapel, Wybark, and Yohola.

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<sup>8</sup>Op. Cit.: 1950 Census of Muskogee County.





A SURVEY OF THE SOURCES OF AGRICULTURE  
INFORMATION AS USED BY NEGRO FARMERS OF  
MUSKOGEE COUNTY

PREPARED BY HERMAN C. ROBBINS

A. General Information

1. Community \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Section \_\_\_\_\_
2. Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_
3. Address \_\_\_\_\_
4. Highest grade completed in school. No. \_\_\_\_\_
5. Did you take vocational agriculture in high school? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_
6. Have you ever been a member of the 4-H Club? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_
7. Are you a member of an adult class now? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_
8. Are you a member of a young farmer class now? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_
9. Have you ever been a member of an adult class? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_
10. Have you ever been a member of a young farmer class? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_
11. How many years have you lived on the farm? \_\_\_\_\_
12. Do you rent? \_\_\_\_\_ own? \_\_\_\_\_ or rent and own your farm? \_\_\_\_\_
13. How many acres do you rent? No. of acres \_\_\_\_\_
14. How many acres do you own? No. of acres \_\_\_\_\_

B. Sources of information

1. Do you read agricultural bulletins? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_
2. Check the subject of the bulletins that you read.
 

a. Beef cattle _____	g. Farm Shop _____
b. Dairy cattle _____	h. Control plant disease and
c. Poultry _____	insects _____
d. Swine _____	i. Control of animal disease
e. Corn _____	and parasites _____
f. Cotton _____	j. Managing the farm _____
	k. Others _____
3. Do you read agricultural books? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

4. List the name of the agricultural books you read.
- a. \_\_\_\_\_
- b. \_\_\_\_\_
- c. \_\_\_\_\_
5. Do you go to other farmers for information? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_
6. What kind of information do you usually seek from other farmers?
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
7. Do other farmers come to you for information? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_
8. What kind of information do they usually seek from you?
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
9. Do you read the Almanac to obtain information? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_
10. Check the kinds of information you obtain from the Almanac.
- a. When to castrate animals \_\_\_\_\_
- b. When to plant potatoes \_\_\_\_\_
- c. When to harvest onions \_\_\_\_\_
- d. When to butcher hogs \_\_\_\_\_
- e. When to plant cotton \_\_\_\_\_
- f. Others \_\_\_\_\_
11. Do you have a radio? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_
12. Do you have any particular farm program which you listen to such as:
- a. Market report \_\_\_\_\_ f. \_\_\_\_\_
- b. Weather forecast \_\_\_\_\_ g. \_\_\_\_\_
- c. Others \_\_\_\_\_ h. \_\_\_\_\_
- d. \_\_\_\_\_ i. \_\_\_\_\_
- e. \_\_\_\_\_ j. \_\_\_\_\_
13. Have you secured information on farm practices from radio programs that you have put into practice on your farm? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_
14. Do you secure information from radio programs on such things as child care, food preparation, clothing selection and care, and canning? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_
15. Do you think the radio is a good source of information?
- Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_
16. How many newspapers do you receive? No. \_\_\_\_\_
17. List the name of the papers received and check the frequency you receive them.
- | Name of Paper | Daily | Weekly | Monthly |
|---------------|-------|--------|---------|
| a. _____      | _____ | _____  | _____   |
| b. _____      | _____ | _____  | _____   |
| c. _____      | _____ | _____  | _____   |

18. Check the newspaper feature you read and the frequency you read them.

Feature	Everyday	Once a week	Occasionally	Never
a. Weather forecast	_____	_____	_____	_____
b. Market report	_____	_____	_____	_____
c. Soil conservation practices	_____	_____	_____	_____
d. Pasture Improvement practices	_____	_____	_____	_____
e. Others	_____	_____	_____	_____
f. _____	_____	_____	_____	_____
g. _____	_____	_____	_____	_____
h. _____	_____	_____	_____	_____

19. Have you secured information on farm practices from the newspaper features that you have put into practice on your farm? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

20. Do you secure information from newspaper features on such things as child care, food preparation, clothing selection and care, and canning? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

21. Do you think the newspaper is a good source of information?  
Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

22. How many farm magazines do you receive? No. \_\_\_\_\_

23. List the name of the magazines.

a. _____	f. _____
b. _____	g. _____
c. _____	h. _____
d. _____	i. _____
e. _____	j. _____

24. Check the magazine features you read and the frequency you read them.

Features	Once a month	Occasionally	Never
a. Production outlook for Oklahoma	_____	_____	_____
b. Expected market	_____	_____	_____
c. Pasture improvement	_____	_____	_____
d. Managing a farm	_____	_____	_____
e. Use of commercial fertilizers	_____	_____	_____
f. Improving the farm buildings	_____	_____	_____
g. Maintenance of farm machinery	_____	_____	_____
h. Others	_____	_____	_____
i. _____	_____	_____	_____
j. _____	_____	_____	_____
k. _____	_____	_____	_____



25. Do you secure information from magazine features on such things as child care, food preparation, clothing selection and care, and canning? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_
26. Have you secured information on farm practices from the magazine features that you have put into practice on your farm? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_
27. Do you think the magazine is a good source of information? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

28. How many visits did you make last year to see the following agencies for information? Also list the purpose of the visit.

Name of agencies	Approx. No. of visits	Purpose of the visit
a. County Agent _____	_____	_____
b. P. C. A. _____	_____	_____
c. Home Demonstration Agent _____	_____	_____
d. Vocational Agricul- ture teacher _____	_____	_____
e. Veterans Agriculture teacher _____	_____	_____
f. P.M.A. (A.A.A.) _____	_____	_____
g. Veterinarian _____	_____	_____
h. F. H. A. _____	_____	_____
i. Soil Conservation Service _____	_____	_____
j. Feed dealers _____	_____	_____
k. Seed dealers _____	_____	_____
l. Implement dealers _____	_____	_____

29. How many visits did the following agencies make to your farm last year? List the purpose of the visit.

Name of Agencies	Approx. No. of visits	Purpose of the visit
a. County Agent _____	_____	_____
b. P.C.A. _____	_____	_____
c. Home Demonstration Agent _____	_____	_____
d. Vocational Agricul- teacher _____	_____	_____
e. Veterans Agriculture teacher _____	_____	_____
f. P. M. A. _____	_____	_____
g. Veterinarian _____	_____	_____
h. F. H. A. _____	_____	_____
i. Soil Conservation Service _____	_____	_____
j. Feed dealers _____	_____	_____
k. Seed dealers _____	_____	_____
l. Implement dealers _____	_____	_____

30. Check the following agencies who held group meetings last year which you attended, give the purpose of the meeting.

Name of Agencies	Purpose of Meeting
a. Feed dealer _____	_____
b. Seed dealer _____	_____
c. P. C. A. _____	_____
d. F. H. A. _____	_____
e. Implement dealers _____	_____
f. County Agent _____	_____
g. Vocational agriculture teacher _____	_____
h. Home Demonstration Agent _____	_____
i. P. M. A. _____	_____
j. Soil Conservation Service _____	_____
k. Veterans Agriculture teacher _____	_____

31. Does the county agent make enough visits to your farm?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

32. Does the vocational agriculture teacher make enough visits to your farm? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

33. Check the kinds of information you need to improve your farming practices.

- a. How to manage the home farm \_\_\_\_\_
- b. Control plant disease and insects \_\_\_\_\_
- c. Control animal disease and parasites \_\_\_\_\_
- d. Soil and water conservation \_\_\_\_\_
- e. Market \_\_\_\_\_
- f. Prices \_\_\_\_\_
- g. Pasture improvement \_\_\_\_\_
- h. Maintenance of farm machinery \_\_\_\_\_
- i. Corn \_\_\_\_\_
- j. Small grain \_\_\_\_\_
- k. Cotton \_\_\_\_\_
- l. Beef cattle \_\_\_\_\_
- m. Dairy cattle \_\_\_\_\_
- n. Dairy cattle \_\_\_\_\_
- o. Swine \_\_\_\_\_
- p. Others \_\_\_\_\_

34. Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

The Location of Farmers Interviewed in this Study

<u>Name</u>	<u>Post Office</u>	<u>Community</u>
1. Dan Burkhalter	Muskogee	Agency
2. A. W. Clemons	Muskogee	Agency
3. Lee McCain	Muskogee	Agency
4. Paul Johnson	Muskogee	Agency
5. Arthur Bynum	Muskogee	Agency
6. Herman Carter	Muskogee	Agency
7. W. M. Harper	Haskell	Banks
8. Buster Reed	Haskell	Banks
9. H. T. Carpenter	Boynton	Boynton
10. Eugene Freeman	Boynton	Boynton
11. Ned McCowen	Boynton	Boynton
12. A. G. Yeiger	Boynton	Boynton
13. J. H. Roberson	Boynton	Boynton
14. G. C. Ratcliff	Boynton	Boynton
15. Bernnie McClure	Boynton	Boynton
16. Joe Doughthier	Boynton	Boynton
17. Adolph Doughthier	Boynton	Boynton
18. John Lawson	Boynton	Cane Creek
19. R. Allen	Boynton	Cane Creek
20. Lawrence Green	Boynton	Cane Creek
21. B. A. Howell	Boynton	Cane Creek
22. Every Johnson	Boynton	Cane Creek
23. Frank Wilkins	Boynton	Cane Creek
24. Eddie Walker	Boynton	Cane Creek
25. V. Redo	Boynton	Cane Creek
26. G. C. Carpenter	Haskell	Cloud Creek
27. Governor McIntye	Haskell	Cloud Creek
28. H. W. Shelton	Haskell	Cloud Creek
29. Quency White	Haskell	Cloud Creek
30. Hubert Reed	Haskell	Cloud Creek
31. Phillip Robinson	Haskell	Cloud Creek
32. T. White	Haskell	Cloud Creek
33. J. T. Jackson	Haskell	Cloud Creek
34. J. S. Jackson	Haskell	Cloud Creek
35. S. H. Fisher	Haskell	Cloud Creek
36. E. J. Williams	Haskell	Coal Creek
37. Archie Reynolds	Haskell	Coal Creek
38. Booker T. Richardson	Haskell	Coal Creek
39. G. W. Reynolds	Haskell	Coal Creek
40. Ed Harmon	Haskell	Coal Creek
41. John Jennings	Fort Gibson	Four Mile Branch
42. O. Nave	Fort Gibson	Fort Gibson
43. Herman T. Bershers	Fort Gibson	Fort Gibson
44. Jeff Robbins	Fort Gibson	Fort Gibson
45. Jeff Gilford	Fort Gibson	Fort Gibson
46. Edgar McNac	Fort Gibson	Fort Gibson
47. Jipter Vann	Fort Gibson	Fort Gibson
48. George Jennings	Fort Gibson	Four Mile Branch

## Location of Farmers Interviewed in this Study (Continued)

<u>Name</u>	<u>Post Office</u>	<u>Community</u>
49. Russell Clemons	Fort Gibson	Four Mile Branch
50. Jake Sallis	Fort Gibson	Four Mile Branch
51. George Clemons	Haskell	Four Mile Branch
52. E. A. Rouse	Haskell	Haskell
53. E. Geard	Haskell	Haskell
54. Willie Hall	Haskell	Haskell
55. Bennie Lewis	Haskell	Haskell
56. E. Troat	Haskell	Haskell
57. Alma Gibson	Haskell	Haskell
58. E. O. Alexander	Haskell	Haskell
59. Oscar Williams	Haskell	Haskell
60. Johnny Brown	Haskell	Hyjoe
61. Henry Harrison	Haskell	Hyjoe
62. Joe Hill	Boynton	Lee
63. Connie Willis	Muskogee	Monday Chapel
64. E. H. Logan	Muskogee	Monday Chapel
65. J. B. Logan	Muskogee	Monday Chapel
66. J. C. Crayford	Muskogee	Monday Chapel
67. O. G. Crayford	Muskogee	Monday Chapel
68. Z. Roberson	Oktaha	New Hope
69. Norman Oakley	Oktaha	New Hope
70. N. H. Oakley	Oktaha	New Hope
71. Ruth Davis	Oktaha	New Hope
72. Herman Shine	Oktaha	Oktaha
73. W. J. Harris	Oktaha	Oktaha
74. Robert Moham	Oktaha	Oktaha
75. E. G. Holmes	Oktaha	Oktaha
76. A. N. Bowen	Muskogee	Pasadena
77. Eugene Wasson	Muskogee	Peters Chapel
78. Robert Clark	Muskogee	Peters Chapel
79. C. Carter	Muskogee	Peters Chapel
80. Ray Carter	Muskogee	Peters Chapel
81. A. C. Boone	Haskell	Simmons
82. Edgar Foster	Muskogee	St. Mary
83. L. D. Anderson	Muskogee	St. Mary
84. Troy Dunevant	Boynton	Sugar Creek
85. Alvin Bowler	Boynton	Sugar Creek
86. Roy Anderson	Boynton	Sugar Creek
87. W. A. Austin	Muskogee	Summit
88. Kemper Thomas	Muskogee	Summit
89. David E. LeFlore	Muskogee	Summit
90. Lap Burkhalter	Muskogee	Summit
91. J. H. Scott	Boynton	Wilson Chapel
92. Kaiser Doakes	Muskogee	Wybark
93. Roscoe Cowen	Muskogee	Wybark
94. West Tate	Boynton	Yohola
95. Ola Haywood	Boynton	Yohola
96. Allen Carter	Boynton	Yohola

## CHAPTER IV

### PRESENTATION OF AND ANALYSIS OF DATA

Information needed to make this study was obtained by the use of questionnaires and personal interviews of ninety-six Negro farmers in Muskogee County. This number represented approximately sixteen percent of the total Negro farmers in Muskogee County. Farmers to be interviewed were selected in such a manner as to obtain equal geographical distribution.

A majority of the data secured from these questionnaires is presented in tabular form. The remainder of the data is given in the explanations concerning each table.

TABLE I

AGE DISTRIBUTION OF NINETY-SIX FARMERS INTERVIEWED  
IN MUSKOGEE COUNTY

Age	Range	Frequency		Age	Range	Frequency	
		Number	Percent			Number	Percent
19	- 21	2	2.0	42	- 44	6	6.2
22	- 24	1	1.0	45	- 47	8	8.3
25	- 27	1	1.0	48	- 51	11	11.4
28	- 31	4	4.1	52	- 54	8	8.3
32	- 34	3	3.1	55	- 57	7	7.2
35	- 37	8	8.3	58	- 60	7	7.2
38	- 41	10	10.4	61	- over	20	20.8

The age of the farmers ranged from nineteen to sixty-eight. Twenty-one percent were over sixty-one years of age, and eight percent were under the age of thirty-one. It is interesting to note that the average age of the farmers were 50.7, and seventy-four percent had lived on the farm all of their lives.

Data of this study indicates that the young Negro men of Muskogee County are not going into farming. The causes of these boys not going into farming were not investigated, but it could serve as a basis for further special study.

TABLE II  
EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT OF NINETY-SIX FARMERS IN  
MUSKOGEE COUNTY

Years of Schooling	Frequency		Years of Schooling	Frequency	
	Number	Percent		Number	Percent
No schooling	6	6.2	7 to 8	34	35.3
1 to 2	5	5.2	9 to 10	14	14.5
3 to 4	8	8.3	11 to 12	9	9.3
5 to 6	15	15.6	College	5	5.2

The educational attainment of farmers studied ranked relatively low. While five percent were college graduates, six percent had no schooling. Thirty-five percent had completed the seventh and eighth grades. Of the five percent who had completed college, three were agriculture majors, and it is of interest to note that these three, who majored in agriculture were full-time operators. The average number of years of schooling attained by the farmers was seven years. It was interesting to note, that the farmers having no schooling operated farms less than eighty acres.



TABLE III  
TENURE STATUS OF NINETY-SIX FARMERS IN  
MUSKOGEE COUNTY

Tenure Status	Number	<u>Frequency</u>	Percent
Full Owner	46		47.8
Renter and Owner	26		27.0
Renter	25		26.0

A study of Table III reveals, that forty-seven percent of the ninety-six farmers interviewed own their farms, twenty-six percent rent, and twenty-seven percent both rent and own. The data in this study indicate that the farmers operate 11,989 acres, and of the 11,989 acres operated the farmers own fifty-seven percent. As compared with the county, it is fifteen percent higher.

There are approximately 524,800 acres of land in Muskogee County and of the 524,800 acres, the farmers own forty-two percent.<sup>9</sup> The reasons for the high ownership are possibly due to these factors: (1) High age level, and (2) Freedman.

"There are two classes of Negroes in this section of Oklahoma, usually known as freedmen and State Negroes. The freedmen are the Negroes and their descendants who were formerly slaves of the Indians, and the State Negroes are those who have voluntarily emigrated to Oklahoma from other states. When slavery was abolished the Indian tribes were compelled by the Federal Government to divide their tribal land with the freedman."<sup>10</sup>

<sup>9</sup>Op. Cit.: 1950 Census of Muskogee County.

<sup>10</sup>John D. Benedict, History of Muskogee and Northern Oklahoma, p. 228, Chicago, S. J. Clarke Publishing Co., 1922.

TABLE IV  
SIZE OF NINETY-SIX FARMS ON WHICH  
INTERVIEWED FARMERS LIVE

Size of Farms (Range in Acres)	Frequency		Size of Farms (Range in Acres)	Frequency	
	Number	Percent		Number	Percent
37 - 49	26	27.0	200 - 249	7	7.2
50 - 99	25	26.0	250 - 299	6	6.2
100 - 149	18	18.7	300 - 349	3	3.1
150 - 299	9	9.3	350 - over	2	2.0

Table IV indicates that as the size of the farms increase the number of farms decrease. The smallest farm included in this study was thirty-seven acres, and the largest farm included was five hundred and forty-five acres. Farmers operating farms of less than fifty acres were found to be raising mostly field crops, while farmers operating farms greater than one hundred and fifty acres were mostly raising a combination of grain and live-stock.

The average size of the farms included in this survey was one hundred and twenty-five acres. As compared with the county, this figure is seven acres below the average, which in Muskogee County is one hundred and thirty-two acres.<sup>11</sup> It is evident that Negro farmers in Muskogee County operate the normal size of farm compared to all farmers of the County.

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<sup>11</sup>Op. Cit.: 1950 Census of Muskogee County.

TABLE V  
 FORMAL AGRICULTURAL TRAINING REPORTED AS RECEIVED BY THE  
 NINETY-SIX MUSKOGEE COUNTY FARMERS INTERVIEWED

Kind of Training	Number	Frequency	Percent
Vocational Agriculture	8		8.3
Member of 4-H Club	12		12.4
Member of an adult class (now)	7		7.2
Member of young farmer class (now)	2		2.0
Previously a member of an adult class	3		3.1
Previously a member of young farmer class	1		1.0

Data in Table V indicates that the ninety-six farmers interviewed in this study had received a rather scant amount of formal agricultural training. Only eight percent had taken vocational agriculture and only twelve percent had been members of 4-H Clubs. It is very significant for this study that only thirteen percent were attending or had attended adult and young farmer classes.

The causes of the scant agricultural training of these farmers are possibly due to four reasons, namely: (1) The limited locations of the Vocational Agriculture Departments, (2) The limited establishment of 4-H Clubs, (3) Relatively high age level, and the fact that (4) due to the late establishment of some Vocational Agricultural Departments, farmers may not yet fully understand the purpose and value of an adult class; to them, it only means another phase of school work.

Muskogee's vocational agriculture department was established in 1935,

Boynton's 1931, Haskell's 1950. Most of the farmers included in this study had finished or stopped school when these departments were established.

TABLE VI  
SUBJECTS OF BULLETINS READ  
AS REPORTED BY FARMERS

Bulletin Subject	Frequency		Bulletin Subject	Frequency	
	Number	Percent		Number	Percent
Beef Cattle	56	58.2	Cotton	50	52.0
Dairy Cattle	45	46.8	Farm Shop	28	29.1
Poultry	55	57.2	Pasture Improvement	1	1.0
Swine	62	64.4	Farm Management	43	44.7
Corn	58	60.3	Soils	2	2.0
Control of Plant Dis- eases and Insects	49	50.9	Control of Animal Dis- eases and Parasites	49	50.9

Sixty-eight percent of the farmers interviewed indicated the use of some type of bulletin. There was indication that those most commonly read were on subjects related to Swine, Corn, Beef Cattle, Control of Plant Diseases and Insects, Control of Animal Diseases and Insects, and Cotton. Indications of the reading of farm shop bulletins would have perhaps ranked higher if more farmers were tractor operators. Since most of the farmers were horse and mule operators, they saw no value in reading literature on traction machinery. It is also felt that perhaps the soil and pasture improvement bulletins would have ranked higher except for the fact that farmers may have considered pasture as a part of other enterprises already checked. It is interesting to note that the farmers were specific in stating that they read only bulletins that were beneficial to them.

TABLE VII

TITLE OF BOOKS READ AS REPORTED BY  
NINETY-SIX FARMERS INTERVIEWED

Title of Books	Frequency		Title of Books	Frequency	
	Number	Percent		Number	Percent
Control of Animal Diseases	8	8.3	Field Crops	1	1.0
Beef Cattle Production	11	11.4	Swine Management	1	1.0
Feeds and Feeding	6	6.2	1949 Year Book - Trees	1	1.0
Farm Management	9	9.3	John Deere Manual	1	1.0
Swine Production	7	7.2	Inter. Harvester Manual	1	1.0
Dairy Cattle	3	3.1	1948 Year Book	1	1.0
Farm Shop	3	3.1	Keep Livestock Healthy	1	1.0
Popular Mechanics	3	3.1	Farm Mechanics Handbook	1	1.0
Poultry Production	2	2.0	Farm Shop Practice	1	1.0
1940 Year Book - Grasses	1	1.0	Soil Conservation	1	1.0
1935 Year Book	1	1.0	The Furrow	7	7.2

The title of books which the interviewed farmers indicated reading most is given in Table VII. Only fourteen percent of the farmers interviewed indicated reading some type of agricultural book. The books most widely read, were: Beef Cattle Production, Farm Management, Control of Animal Diseases, Swine Production, and Feed and Feeding. In almost all cases farmers who reported regularly reading agricultural books were college graduates or V.A.T.P. trainees.

TABLE VIII

NEIGHBORING FARMERS AS A SOURCE OF INFORMATION AS REPORTED

BY NINETY-SIX FARMERS IN MUSKOGEE COUNTY

Kind of Information	Frequency		Kind of Information	Frequency	
	Number	Percent		Number	Percent
New Varieties of corn	16	16.6	Depth to plant	2	2.0
Doctor Cattle	4	4.1	Poultry diseases	2	2.0
Planting of New crops	4	4.1	Feeding of swine	4	4.1
Improve pasture	3	3.1	Use of fertilizer	3	3.1
Prepare seed bed	4	4.1	New Varieties of cotton	4	4.1
What time to plant	7	7.2	Care of fruit trees	1	1.0
Doctor sick horse	3	3.1	Corn bore	1	1.0
Army worm control	2	2.0	Time to plant legume	1	1.0
Tractor maintenance	1	1.0	Land management	2	2.0
Operate farm machinery	1	1.0	General farm work	2	2.0
Build terraces	3	3.1	Soybean varieties	1	1.0
How to avoid screw worms	2	2.0	Cultivation of corn	1	1.0
Type of soil	1	1.0	Animal diseases	2	2.0



TABLE IX  
 INFORMATION GIVEN TO NEIGHBORING FARMERS  
 AS REPORTED BY NINETY-SIX MUSKOGEE  
 COUNTY FARMERS

Kind of Information	Frequency		Kind of Information	Frequency	
	Number	Percent		Number	Percent
New varieties of corn	6	6.2	Doctor sick horse	1	1.0
When to plant	14	14.5	Curing of hay	1	1.0
What variety to plant	6	6.2	Use of fertilizer	4	4.1
Cultivation of corn	1	1.0	Care of livestock	4	4.1
Seed bed preparation	4	4.1	Castrate hogs	1	1.0
Build terraces	3	3.1	Care of machinery	2	2.0
Kind of grasses to plant	2	2.0	New varieties of oats	1	2.0
Army worm control	2	2.0	Planting of sweet potatoes	2	2.0
Depth to plant	1	1.0	Animal disease	2	2.0
Mechanic work	1	1.0	Broomcorn varieties	1	1.0
General farm work	5	5.2	Planting of new crops	2	2.0
Care of swine	2	2.0	Method to plant	1	1.0
New varieties of cotton	1	1.0	Variety of grain sorghum to plant	1	1.0
Depth to plow	1	1.0			

Tables VIII and IX indicate the kind of information farmers obtained from neighboring farmers and the kind of information farmers gave to neighboring farmers. The material seems to indicate that farmer exchange of information is quite prevalent. Fifty-nine percent of the farmers used their neighboring farmers as a source of agricultural information, and likewise fifty-nine percent gave information to neighboring farmers. The information most commonly obtained from neighboring farmers was: (1) new varieties of corn, (2) time to plant, and (3) how to prepare a seed bed. Information most commonly given to neighboring farmers was: (1) what time to plant, (2) new varieties of corn, and (3) what varieties to plant.

TABLE X  
INFORMATION FARMERS REPORT AS OBTAINING  
FROM THE ALMANAC

Kind of Information	Frequency		Kind of Information	Frequency	
	Number	Percent		Number	Percent
When to castrate animals	89	92.5	When to plant corn	84	87.3
When to plant potatoes	86	89.4	When to plant cotton	83	86.3
When to harvest onions	78	81.1	When to harvest potatoes	84	87.3
When to butcher hogs	85	88.4			

Table X shows the kind of information farmers report obtaining from the almanac. A total of ninety-four percent reported using the almanac for information, most commonly to determine time to castrate animals and plant potatoes.

Data of this study indicate quite clearly that a majority of the farmers are using the almanac to obtain information. The cause and value of the farmers using the almanac were not investigated, but might well serve as a basis for further study.

TABLE XI

RADIO FARM PROGRAMS REPORTED AS REGULARLY HEARD BY  
NINETY-SIX FARMERS OF MUSKOGEE COUNTY

Name of Program	Frequency		Name of Program	Frequency	
	Number	Percent		Number	Percent
Market Report	87	90.4	Assignment Southwest	3	3.1
Weather Forecast	87	90.4	Future Farmers Ideas	4	4.1
Rural Route 1170	35	36.4	4-H Club Program	2	2.0
Farm and Home Hour	5	5.2	Dr. Legear's Program	2	2.0
Stillwater Program	6	6.2	Farm Bureau Program	2	2.0

The radio programs reported as regularly heard by farmers are given in Table XI. Programs that were more regularly heard were Market Report, Weather Forecast, and Rural Route 1170.

Ninety percent of the farmers agreed that the radio was a good source of information; sixty-one percent said they had received valuable farm information from radio programs which they had put into practice on their own farms; while sixty-two percent reported receiving information from radio programs on food preparation, child care, clothing selection and care, and canning.

Information gained from the interviews show that ninety percent of the farmers own a radio.

TABLE XII

NAMES OF NEWSPAPERS REPORTED AS RECEIVED BY  
NINETY-SIX FARMERS OF MUSKOGEE COUNTY

Name of Newspaper	Frequency		Name of Newspaper	Frequency	
	Number	Percent		Number	Percent
Muskogee Time Democrat	12	12.4	Extension News	4	4.1
Weekly Star Farmer	50	52.0	Chicago Defender	2	2.0
Tulsa Daily World	5	5.2	American Legion	2	2.0
4-H Club	1	1.0	Okmulgee Daily Times	3	3.1
Muskogee County News	8	8.3	Okmulgee Observer	1	1.0
Muskogee Daily Phoenix	23	23.9	Haskell News	2	2.0
Cooperative News	1	1.0	Muskogee Independent	4	4.1
Black Dispatch	2	2.0	Capper Weekly Farmer	6	6.2
Pittsburg Courier	1	1.0	Okla. Farm Assoc.	1	1.0
Oklahoma Eagle	1	1.0	Daily Oklahoman	2	2.0

TABLE XIII

USEFUL NEWSPAPER FEATURES AND FREQUENCY OF REFERENCE  
AS REPORTED BY NINETY-SIX FARMERS OF MUSKOGEE COUNTY

Features	Frequency Indicated							
	Never		Every day		Once a week		Occasionally	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Weather Fore- cast	30	31.2	26	27.0	25	26.0	15	15.6
Market Report	30	31.2	22	22.8	27	28.0	23	23.9
Soil Conser- vation	33	34.3	11	11.4	25	26.0	27	28.0
Pasture Improve- ment Practice	36	37.4	12	12.4	26	27.0	22	22.8
Use of Commer- cial Fertilizer	95	98.8	1	1.0	0	0	0	0
Care of Tractor	95	98.8	0	0	1	1.0	0	0
Farm Club	95	98.8	0	0	1	1.0	0	0
Disease and Parasites	95	98.8	0	0	1	1.0	0	0
Gardening	95	98.8	1.0	1.0	0	0	0	0
Fruit Trees	95	98.8	0	0	0	0	1	1.0

Table XII gives the names of newspapers reported received by farmers in this study. Nineteen different newspapers were received by the farmers in this study. Newspapers most commonly received were: The Weekly Star Farmer, Muskogee Daily Phoenix, and Muskogee Time Democrat. Twenty-one percent received five newspapers.

Table XIII gives the newspaper features and frequency with which farmers indicated reading them. The newspaper features regularly read were Weather Forecast, Market Report, and Soil Conservation Practices. The reading of the Market Report and Weather Forecast would have been much higher if radios had not been so prevalent.

Seventy-eight percent of the farmers interviewed agreed that newspapers were a good source of information, and that they had put into practice such information on their own farms. Forty percent said they had received information from newspaper features on food preparation, child care, clothing selection and care, and canning.

It is interesting to note, that seventy-eight percent of the farmers interviewed were receiving some type of newspaper.



TABLE XIV  
FARM MAGAZINES REPORTED AS RECEIVED BY  
NINETY-SIX FARMERS OF MUSKOGEE COUNTY

Magazine	Frequency		Magazine	Frequency	
	Number	Percent		Number	Percent
The Farmer-Stockman	58	60.3	Science in Mechanic	1	1.0
Capper's Farmer	26	27.0	Popular Science	1	1.0
Life	2	2.0	Farm Journal	5	5.2
American Legion	1	1.0	Poultry Digest	2	2.0
Household Journal	5	5.2	The American Home	3	3.1
Successful Farming	2	2.0	Family Time	1	1.0
Progressive Farmer	3	3.1	Farm Bureau	1	1.0
Farm and Ranch- Southern Agriculture	20	20.8	Consumer	1	1.0
Country Gentleman	7	7.2	The Farm Quarterly	1	1.0

Table XIV gives the name of magazines reported received by farmers in this study. Magazines most commonly received were: The Farmer Stockman, Capper's Farmer, and Farm and Ranch-Southern Agriculture. Twenty-one percent reported receiving no agricultural magazines, while thirty-six percent indicated they received only one magazine. Twenty-three percent received two magazines, eleven percent received three magazines, four percent received four magazines, four percent received five magazines.

TABLE XV

USEFUL MAGAZINE FEATURES AND FREQUENCY OF REFERENCE  
AS REPORTED BY NINETY-SIX FARMERS OF MUSKOGEE COUNTY

Features	Frequency of Reference Indicated					
	Never		Once a month		Occasionally	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Production and Out- Look for Oklahoma	29	30.1	45	46.8	22	22.8
Expected Market Out- Look	33	34.3	42	43.6	21	21.8
Pasture Improvement	33	34.3	45	46.8	18	18.7
Farm Management	32	33.2	45	46.8	19	19.7
Use of Commercial Fertilizer	32	33.2	44	45.7	20	20.8
Improving the Farm Buildings	33	34.3	42	43.6	21	21.8
Maintenance of Farm Machinery	34	35.3	42	43.6	20	20.8
Feeding Poultry	95	98.8	1	1.0	0	0
Cattle and Swine Breeding	94	97.7	2	2.0	0	0

Table XV gives the magazine features and frequency farmers read them. The magazine features regularly read were: Production Outlook for Oklahoma, Pasture Improvement, Farm Management, use of Commercial Fertilizers, Improving the Farm Buildings, Maintenance of Farm Machinery, and Expected Market Outlook.

Seventy-nine percent of the farmers interviewed agreed that the magazines were a good source of information; sixty-one percent had received information from magazine features, they had put into practice on their own farms; and sixty-eight percent said they had received information from magazine features on food preparation, child care, clothing selection and care, and canning.

TABLE XVI

AGENCIES WHICH NINETY-SIX FARMERS OF MUSKOGEE COUNTY REPORT AS HAVING  
VISITED DURING THE YEAR 1951 TO OBTAIN INFORMATION

Agencies	Frequency of visits reported											
	None		1		2		3		4		5	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
County Agent	58	60.2	11	11.4	12	12.4	5	5.2	4	4.1	6	6.2
Productive Credit Association	93	96.7	2	2.0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Home Demonstration Agent	84	77.3	5	5.2	4	4	1	1.0	1	1.0	1	1.0
Vocational Agriculture Teacher	68	70	10	10.4	7	7	6	6.2	2	2.0	3	3.1
Veteran Agriculture Teacher	91	94.6	3	3.1	1	1.0	1	1.0	0	0	0	0
Productive Market Administration	59	61.3	16	16.6	8	8.3	9	9.3	3	3.1	1	1.0
Veterinarian	76	79.0	15	15.6	2	2.0	2	2.0	0	0	1	1
F. H. A.	91	94.6	2	2.0	1	1.0	2	2.0	0	0	0	0
Soil Conservation Service	61	63.4	19	29.7	7	7.2	6	6.2	0	0	3	3.1
Seed Dealers	53	55.1	23	23.9	7	7.2	8	8.3	2	2.0	3	3.1
Feed Dealers	86	89.4	4	4.1	3	3.1	1	1.0	0	0	2	2.1
Implement Dealers	65	67.6	8	8.3	2	2.0	3	3.1	3	3.0	15	15.6

Table XVI and XVII gives the agencies that farmers visited last year for information and the kind of information they obtained. The agencies most commonly visited by farmers were: (1) Seed Dealers, (2) County Farm Agent, (3) Productive Marketing Administration Personnel, (4) Implement Dealers, (5) Vocational Agriculture Teachers, and the agencies used least by farmers were, (1) Productive Credit Association, and (2) F. H. A. The causes of the farmers for not using these credit agencies were not determined, but might well serve as a basis for additional study.

The information reported most widely needed was soil conservation, new varieties of seed, control of animal diseases and parasites, and control of plant diseases and insects. It is significant to note that apparently farmers are not making full use of the available sources of information.

TABLE XVII

TYPES OF INFORMATION FARMERS REPORTED AS HAVING  
OBTAINED FROM CERTAIN SELECTED AGENCIES

Agency and Kinds of Information Obtained	Frequency Reported	
	Number	Percent
<u>A. County Agent</u>		
Selecting a variety of seed corn	3	3.1
Testing Soil	8	8.3
Use of commercial fertilizer	9	9.3
Pasture Improvement	7	7.2
Harvest grass seed	1	1.0
Build terraces	4	4.1
Feed out 4-H Club calf	1	1.0
Where to get a loan	1	1.0
Pick up bulletins	1	1.0
Check cattle	1	1.0
Spray cattle	1	1.0
Contour farming	1	1.0
Insect control	1	1.0
<u>B. Productive Credit Association</u>		
How they loan money	1	1.0
To get a loan	2	2.0
<u>C. Home Demonstration Agent</u>		
Canning	8	8.3
Gardening	3	3.1
Home beautification	1	1.0
Food preservation	1	1.0
Serving	1	1.0
Poultry	1	1.0
<u>D. Vocational Agriculture Teacher</u>		
Planting berries	2	2.0
Planting of cotton and corn	2	2.0
Care of cow at calving time	2	2.0
Castrating of animals	3	3.1
Soil type	1	1.0
Sick cow	3	3.1
Vaccinate	8	8.3

TABLE XVII  
(Continued)

TYPES OF INFORMATION FARMERS REPORTED AS HAVING  
OBTAINED FROM CERTAIN SELECTED AGENCIES

Agency and Kinds of Information Obtained	Frequency Reported	
	Number	Percent
<u>D. Vocational Agriculture Teacher (cont'd)</u>		
Worming hogs	2	2.0
Farm mechanics	1	1.0
Spray	2	2.0
General information	5	5.2
Cattle raising	1	1.0
Varieties of seed	1	1.0
Animal diseases	2	2.0
Building terraces	1	1.0
Breeding hogs	1	1.0
Poultry	1	1.0
Turkey raising	1	1.0
<u>E. Veterans Agriculture Teacher</u>		
Planting of grasses	1	1.0
Sick cow	2	2.0
General farm information	1	1.0
Pink eye	1	1.0
<u>F. Productive Market Administration</u>		
Spraying crops and cattle	2	2.0
Legumes to plant	19	19.7
Rye Grass seed	1	1.0
Use of commercial fertilizer	4	4.1
Build terrace	3	3.1
Test Soil	2	2.0
Purchase seed	7	7.2
Improve pasture	3	3.2
Contour farming	2	2.0
Grasses to plant	4	4.1
<u>G. Veterinarian</u>		
Sick animals	16	16.6
Pull calf	1	1.0
Check cattle	1	1.0



TABLE XVII  
(Continued)

TYPES OF INFORMATION FARMERS REPORTED AS HAVING  
OBTAINED FROM CERTAIN SELECTED AGENCIES

Agency and Kinds of Information Obtained	Frequency Reported	
	Number	Percent
<u>G. Veterinarian (cont'd)</u>		
New medicine	1	1.0
Castrate animals	1	1.0
<u>H. Farm and Home Administration</u>		
Get a loan	3	3.1
Report	2	2.0
<u>I. Soil Conservation</u>		
Build pond	6	6.2
Grasses to plant	2	2.0
Build terraces	15	15.6
Improve pastures	3	3.1
Legumes to plant	3	3.1
Test Soil	6	6.2
Use of commercial fertilizer	2	2.0
Timing	1	1.0
Soil conservation program	1	1.0
Contour farming	2	2.0
Clearing land	1	1.0
Soil practices	2	2.0
<u>J. Feed Dealers</u>		
Purchase feed	4	4.1
Pig feed	3	3.1
Grind feed	1	1.0
Calf feed	2	2.0
Supplement for corn	1	1.0
<u>K. Seed Dealers</u>		
Legume seed	1	1.0
Variety of corn to plant	6	6.2
New varieties	17	17.6
Purchase seed	23	23.9
Insecticide	1	1.0
Sell seed	1	1.0

TABLE XVII  
(Continued)TYPES OF INFORMATION FARMERS REPORTED AS HAVING  
OBTAINED FROM CERTAIN SELECTED AGENCIES

Agency and Kinds of Information Obtained	Frequency Reported	
	Number	Percent
L. <u>Implement Dealers</u>		
New machinery	7	7.2
Repair	26	27.0
Purchase machinery	1	1.0

TABLE XVIII

APPROXIMATE NUMBER OF VISITS RECEIVED FROM CERTAIN SELECTED AGENCIES AS REPORTED  
BY NINETY-SIX FARMERS IN MUSKOGEE COUNTY

Agency Involved	Frequency of visits reported											
	None		1		2		3		4		5	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Productive Credit Association	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Home Demonstration Agent	83	86.3	3	3.1	4	4.1	3	3.1	2	2.0	1	1.0
Vocational Agriculture Teacher	53	55.1	14	14.5	7	7.2	13	13.5	1	1.0	8	8.3
Veteran Agriculture Teacher	93	96.1	3	3.1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Veterinarian	85	88.4	9	9.3	0	0	2	2.0	0	0	0	0
F. H. A.	93	96.7	2	2.0	1	1.0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Soil Conservation Service	61	63.4	16	16.6	6	6.2	5	5.2	3	3.1	5	5.2
Feed Dealers	93	96.7	3	3.1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Seed Dealers	86	89.4	9	9.3	1	1.0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Implement Dealers	74	76.9	12	2.0	8	8.3	2	2.0	0	0	0	0
County Agent	62	64.4	13	4.1	12	12.4	5	5.2	1	1.0	3	3.0
P. M. A.	92	95.6	1	1.0	2	2.0	1	1.0	0	0	0	0

TABLE XIX  
INFORMATION AGENCIES GAVE TO NINETY-SIX FARMERS  
OF MUSKOGEE COUNTY

Agencies and Information	Farmers that received the Information	
	Number	Percent
<u>A. County Agent</u>		
General Information	14	14.5
Poisoning cotton insects	1	1.0
Feeding hogs	1	1.0
Invitation to meetings	10	10.4
4-H Club visit	6	6.2
Terracing	7	7.2
Control of boll weevil	1	1.0
Inspection of show calf	1	1.0
Check cattle	1	1.0
Check chickens	1	1.0
<u>B. Production Credit Administration</u>		
	0	0
<u>C. Home Demonstration Agent</u>		
Canning	12	12.4
Gardening	5	5.0
Tour	1	1.0
Home improvement	2	2.0
<u>D. Vocational Agriculture Teacher</u>		
General farm information	20	20.8
Berries	1	1.0
Vaccinate animals	8	8.3
Gastrate animals	5	5.2
Doctor cattle	2	2.0
Check on boys projects	3	3.1
Dehorn cattle	1	1.0
Organize a farm organization	1	1.0
Breeding of hogs	1	1.0
Incubation of chicks	1	1.0
Terracing	1	1.0
Sweet corn varieties	1	1.0

TABLE XIX  
(Continued)

INFORMATION AGENCIES GAVE TO NINETY-SIX FARMERS  
OF MUSKOGEE COUNTY

Agencies and Information	Farmers that received the Information	
	Number	Percent
<u>E. Veterans Agriculture Teacher</u>		
Doctor cattle	2	2.0
Plant grasses	1	1.0
<u>F. Production and Marketing Administration</u>		
Pasture grasses	1	1.0
Build ponds	1	1.0
Build terraces	2	2.0
<u>G. Veterinarian</u>		
Doctor cattle	12	12.4
Castrate colt	1	1.0
<u>H. Farmers Home Administration</u>		
Get a loan	2	2.0
Buy calf	1	1.0
<u>I. Soil Conservation Service</u>		
Soil conservation program	7	7.2
Build ponds	4	4.1
Build terraces	12	12.4
Sod grasses	5	5.2
Test soils	4	4.1
Planting grasses	3	3.1
Check work	3	3.1
Plant legumes	2	2.0
Set out trees	1	1.0
Plan a pasture program	1	1.0
<u>J. Feed Dealers</u>		
Sell feed	3	3.1

TABLE XIX  
(Continued)

INFORMATION AGENCIES GAVE TO NINETY-SIX FARMERS  
OF MUSKOGEE COUNTY

Agencies and Information	Farmers that received the Information	
	Number	Percent
<u>K. Seed Dealers</u>		
New varieties	6	6.2
Soil seed	4	4.1
<u>L. Implement Dealers</u>		
Sell equipment	18	18.7
Repair of machinery	3	3.1
Check equipment	2	2.0

Table XVIII and XIX lists agencies making personal visits during the last year and the kind of information they gave farmers on such visits.

The individual farm visits as reported made by most agricultural agencies ranked somewhat low. Agencies making substantial individual farm visits were shown to be the County Agent, Vocational Agriculture Teacher, Soil Conservation Service Personnel. The information most commonly given was general farm information, soil conservation, animal disease, and pasture improvement.

This study seems to give indication that few, if any, agriculture agencies were planning visits to the farmers. The Soil Conservation Service was the only agency reported which gave indication of developing a planned individual farming program with farmers.

Sixty-two percent said the County Agent did not make enough personal

visits to their farms, and forty-five percent said the Vocational Agriculture Teacher did not make enough personal visits.

"The farm visit can be one of the most effective teaching methods used in agricultural work, but it is also one of the more expensive methods used. For both reasons, planning a visit is important. A farm visit may be used for anyone or a combination of the following purposes:

1. To answer requests.
2. To acquaint the agent with the farmer.
3. To become acquainted with the problems.
4. To plan a demonstration.
5. To observe results of farm practices.
6. To encourage cooperation and participation.
7. To explain practices.

Think over the purpose of each visit so that you may prepare for it and make it effective. You need to know as much about the situation as possible such as soil type, land class, enterprises, size, quality, and other physical characteristics. A knowledge of the farmer and his family may be even more important."<sup>12</sup>

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<sup>12</sup>L. D. Kelsey and C. C. Hearne, Cooperative Extension Work, p. 372., New York: Comstock Publishing Co., 1949.

TABLE XX  
 AGENCIES THAT HELD GROUP MEETINGS LAST YEAR IN WHICH  
 FARMERS ATTENDED (1951)

Agencies	Farmers Attended Meeting	
	Percent	Number
Feed dealers	0	0
Seed dealers	2	2.0
P. C. A.	2	2.0
F. H. A.	0	0
Implement dealers	8	8.3
P. M. A.	6	6.2
Soil Conservation Service	10	10.4
County Agent	37	38.4
Vocational Agriculture Teacher	13	13.5
Home Demonstration Agent	20	20.8
Veterans Agriculture Teacher	2	2.0

Table XX and XXI lists the agencies that held group meetings last year, and the purposes of the meetings held. Meetings were held most frequently by the following agencies: County Farm Agents, Vocational Agriculture Teachers, Soil Conservation Service Personnel, and Home Demonstration Agents. The most commonly held meetings were neighborhood meetings, and those pertaining to pasture improvement and soil conservation.

Data indicate that while several agencies held group meetings a rather low percentage of farmers attended them.



TABLE XXI

## PURPOSE OF THE MEETINGS HELD BY AGENCIES AS REPORTED BY

## NINETY-SIX FARMERS OF MUSKOGEE COUNTY

Purpose of Meetings	Frequency	
	Number	Percent
A. <u>Feed dealers</u>		
B. <u>Seed dealers</u>		
New varieties of seed corn	2	2.0
C. <u>P. C. A.</u>		
Procedure of getting a loan	1	1.0
Annual meeting	2	2.0
D. <u>F. H. A.</u>		
E. <u>Implement dealers</u>		
Build terraces	1	1.0
Care of machinery	1	1.0
Tractor show	2	2.0
Care and maintenance of tractor	2	2.0
F. <u>County Agent</u>		
Demonstrations	2	2.0
4-H Club meetings	2	2.0
Neighborhood meetings	22	22.8
Yearly program	1	1.0
Pasture improvement	2	2.0
N. H. A. and N. P. A. day	1	1.0
Care of the soil	1	1.0
Need of farmers	1	1.0
Varieties of corn	1	1.0
How to get assistance from agencies	1	1.0
Care of beef cattle	1	1.0
G. <u>Vocational Agriculture Teacher</u>		
County fair	1	1.0
Fair Board	2	2.0
N. H. A. and N. P. A. day	1	1.0
General meetings	1	1.0
Treatment of animal diseases	1	1.0
Pasture improvement	1	1.0

TABLE XXI  
(Continued)

PURPOSE OF THE MEETINGS HELD BY AGENCIES AS REPORTED BY  
NINETY-SIX FARMERS OF MUSKOGEE COUNTY

Purpose of Meetings	Frequency	
	Number	Percent
<b>G. Vocational Agriculture Teacher (cont'd)</b>		
Farm management	1	1.0
Purchase equipment for N. F. A.	1	1.0
Organize a farmer class	2	2.0
Control insects	1	1.0
Planting legumes	1	1.0
Brooding chicks	1	1.0
<b>H. Home Demonstration Agent</b>		
County fair	1	1.0
Canning and gardening	6	6.0
Neighborhood meeting	16	16.6
N. H. A. and N. F. A. day	1	1.0
Home beautification	1	1.0
Sewing	1	1.0
Organizing a farm women club	1	1.0
How to get assistance from agencies	1	1.0
<b>I. P. M. A.</b>		
Soil fertility and pasture	1	1.0
Cotton Project	1	1.0
Pasture improvement	1	1.0
Benefit P. M. A. is to farmers	1	1.0
How to get legume seeds	1	1.0
Build terraces	1	1.0

TABLE XXII

KIND OF INFORMATION NEEDED AS REPORTED BY  
NINETY-SIX FARMERS OF MUSKOGEE COUNTY

Kind of Information	Frequency Reported	
	Number	Percent
Farm management	67	69.6
Control of plant diseases and insects	81	84.2
Control of animal diseases and parasites	82	85.2
Soil and water conservation	69	71.7
Market	61	63.4
Prices	57	59.2
Pasture improvement	72	74.8
Corn	53	55.1
Small grain	41	42.6
Cotton	37	38.4
Beef cattle	49	50.9
Dairy cattle	43	44.7
Poultry	54	56.1
Swine	51	53.0
Prune trees	1	1.0
Control of rodents	1	1.0
Maintenance of farm machinery	42	43.6

Table XXII gives the kind of information needed as reported by farmers. The information most commonly needed was the control of plant diseases and insects, animal diseases and insects, farm management, soil and water management and pasture improvement. It was interesting to note a tendency for the farmer with a large farm to list more needed information than the farmer with a smaller farm. This might possibly be due in part to the size of the business being not large enough to create as many problems for the small farmer.

COMMENTS OF NINETY-SIX FARMERS OF MUSKOGEE COUNTY  
ON FARMING PROBLEMS

"The agencies do not help the farmers enough."

"It will be good to get information from these agencies, if you do not know it, but I know more about farming than these agencies."

"We have a good program if the farmers would cooperate with the agencies."

"We have a fine agriculture program."

"It has been very helpful to me in raising stock and marketing as well."

"We have a good program, if the farmers would cooperate, we could have a much better program; the agencies hold meetings during the busy season of the year."

"The agencies and farmers should devote their time developing pasture in this county."

"The landlords and tenants should cooperate more with the agencies."

"We need information on the control of insects."

"We need more encouragement from the county agent, vocational agriculture teacher, and home demonstration agent, in order for us to stay with farming."

"The biggest problem farmers have is the labor situation, people are leaving the rural district going to town, we have got to do something to encourage them to stay on the farm. It is left to the successful farmers and agencies to encourage these boys to stay with farming."

"The agencies are doing a good job in my community in the improvement of pastures and soils."

"I know what needs to be done but I cannot get any help from the agencies to do it."

"The vocational leaders should make more personal visits to give information."

## CHAPTER V

### SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Ninety-six Negro farmers of Muskogee County were personally contacted and interviewed. According to the 1950 census, there are approximately six hundred Negro farmers in Muskogee County; therefore, the ninety-six farmers interviewed in this study represent approximately sixteen percent of all Negro farmers in the county.

The age of the farmers ranged from nineteen to sixty-eight. Twenty-one percent were over sixty-one years of age; while only eight percent were under the age of thirty-one. The average age of the ninety-six farmers included in the study was 50.7 years.

The educational attainment of the farmers ranked relatively low. Only five percent were college graduates, contrasted with six percent who had no schooling; and thirty-five percent who had completed only the seventh and eighth grades. The average number of years each farmer attended school was reported as seven years.

Of these ninety-six farmers interviewed, forty-seven percent owned their farms, twenty-seven percent both rented and owned farms and twenty-six percent were renters. This indicates that an unusually large percent of Negro farmers own their farms in Muskogee County.

A wide range in the size of the farms was reported, ranging from thirty-seven acres to five hundred and forty-five acres. As the size of the farms increased, the number of farms decreased.

Sixty-eight percent of the farmers reported reading some type of bulletin. The bulletins most commonly read were on the subjects of Swine, Corn, Beef

Cattle, Control of Plant Diseases and Insects, Animal Diseases and Insects, and Cotton.

The majority of the farmers, as reported, had very little formal training in agriculture. Only eight percent had taken vocational agriculture; while only twelve percent had been members of 4-H Clubs. Only thirteen percent had attended an adult or young farmer class.

The use of agricultural books ranked very low among the farmers interviewed. The few farmers that were reading agricultural books were either college graduates or Veterans Agricultural Training Program Trainees. Books most commonly read were: Beef Cattle Production, Farm Management, Control of Animal Diseases, and Swine Production.

Fifty-nine percent of the farmers interviewed used their neighboring farmers as a source of agricultural information, and likewise fifty-nine percent gave information to neighboring farmers. The information most commonly obtained from neighboring farmers was reported to be: (a) new varieties of corn, (b) what time to plant, and (c) how to prepare a seed bed; while information most commonly given to neighboring farmers was reported to be: (a) what time to plant, (b) new varieties of corn, and (c) what varieties to plant.

Ninety-four percent of the farmers used the almanac to obtain information. It was most commonly used as a reference to determine proper time to castrate animals.

Slightly over ninety percent of the farmers reported having radios. Programs that were more regularly heard were: Market report, Weather forecast, and Rural Route 1170.

Nineteen different newspapers were reported received by the farmers in this study. The newspapers most commonly received were: The Weekly Star

Farmer, Muskogee Daily Phoenix, and Muskogee Times Democrat. The newspaper features reported as more regularly read were: the Weather Forecast, Market Reports, and Soil Conservation Practices.

Eighteen different magazines were received by the farmers in this study, with from one to five magazines received by each farmer. The magazines most commonly received were reported to be The Farmer Stockman, Copper's Farmer, Farm and Ranch, and Southern Agriculture; while the magazine features more frequently reported as read were: Production Outlook for Oklahoma, Pasture Improvement, Farm Management, Use of Commercial Fertilizers, Improving the Farm Buildings, Maintenance of Farm Machinery and Expected Market Outlook.

The percentage of the farmers, as reported, who received information from specific agricultural agencies, ranked rather low. Forty percent reported calling upon the County Agent, twenty-nine percent calling upon the Vocational Agriculture Teacher, thirty-seven percent calling upon the Soil Conservation Service, thirty-nine percent calling upon Productive Marketing Administration, and thirteen percent calling upon the Home Demonstration Agent for information. Information reported most commonly sought from such agencies was: soil conservation, new varieties of seed, animal diseases and parasites, and plant disease and insect control.

The individual farm visits as reported made by personnel from certain specific agricultural agencies likewise ranked rather low. The county agent was reported as having visited thirty-six percent of farmers interviewed, Productive Marketing Administration personnel visiting four percent, the Vocational Agriculture Teacher visiting forty-six percent. The Home Demonstration Agent was reported as visiting fourteen percent of the farm homes. The information most commonly given during visits was reported as general farm information, soil conservation, animal diseases, and pasture improvement.



A majority of the agencies included in this study, as reported, held some type of agricultural meetings for farmers. The meetings most commonly held were neighborhood meetings and meetings pertaining to soil conservation and pasture improvement.

Ninety-five percent of the farmers reported the need of some type of agricultural information.

A teacher can best give information by personal visits to the home farms; however, it is one of the most expensive methods to be used. The home visit can be made one of the most effective methods of teaching by thinking over the purpose of each visit so that the teacher may prepare for it and make it effective. The teacher needs to know as much about the situation as possible, such as soil type, land class, enterprise, size, quality and other characteristics. A knowledge of the farmer and his family may be equally important.

The information gathered in this study tend to indicate, that the information given in personal visits and meeting by agencies was somewhat of too general a nature. The farmers had not been given previous preparation for receiving such information, either given in meetings or through personal visits.

It is to be recommended that agencies attempt, as far as possible, to develop an individual farm program with farmers, thus giving the teacher a basis for planning his personal visits. It will also give him basis for conducting a series of more meaningful educational meetings for the farmers.

The study further indicates that farmers are not making use of available sources of information to the fullest extent possible. This is probably due to two reasons (1) they are not acquainted with the literature or agencies; (2) they do not see any value in the use of them. The agencies that

work directly with the farmers should provide activities that will enable the farmers to become acquainted with other agricultural agencies and sources of information if all are to be of maximum benefit to the individual farmer.

The suggested individual farming program, special meeting, and course calendar on the following pages were developed as a suggestion for teachers of vocational agriculture in Muskogee County to use in planning personal visits and meetings and acquainting farmers with the use of agricultural literature and agencies. Choices made in formulating the individual farming program, special meetings, and a course calendar are based on the kind of information farmers themselves reported as needing.

The individual farming program was designed to include farm improvements, improved practices and other activities in which educational help is needed by the farmer.

## A SUGGESTIVE INDIVIDUAL FARMING PROGRAM

<u>Month</u>	<u>Activity</u>
January - February	Plan the year's program Farm records Repair tillage and harvesting equipment
March	Pasture improvement Determine the family food budget
April	Repair fences Apply commercial fertilizer Manure management Crop rotation
May	Control of external parasites of livestock Plant crops
June	Feed pigs out Market wheat
July	Canning, freezing of fruits
August	Market hogs
September - October	Plant winter cover crops Terrace five acres of land
November	Butcher hogs
December	Analysis of the year's business <sup>13</sup>

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<sup>13</sup>H. M. Hamlin and Mark Nichols, The Young Farmer Program, p. 21., Danvill, Illinois: The Interstate Printing Company, 1951.

A SUGGESTIVE OUTLINE OF  
SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL MEETINGS

Agency	Topic or Subject	Ways and Means
F. H. A.	Farm purchase, required interest rates, length of loan	Lecture - questions and answers
First National Bank	Types of loans available to farmers, rates of interest. Terms of loan	Lecture - questions and answers
County Agent	A fertilizer program for corn production	Demonstration - Field trip
Home Demonstration	Planning the family food budget	Active participation by group
P. M. A.	Increasing size of operations through adequate financing	Questions and answers
Soil Conservation Service	Year round pasture program	Field trip
Implement Dealer	Maintaining tractor and power equipment on the farm	Demonstration

# A SUGGESTIVE COURSE CALENDAR FOR ADULT AND YOUNG

## FARMERS EDUCATIONAL MEETINGS

Date	Subject	Length of meetings	Ways and means
January	Planning the long time farming program	2½ hours	Conference method: Each farmer begin on his individual long time program.
February	Farm Records	2½ hours	Conference method: Each farmer begin on his individual record.
March	Determining the food budget for the family	2½ hours	Bring wife: Use Home Demonstration Agent. Each family work out his needs of food for the year and how they can supply it.
April	Improve pastures using temporary pastures	½ hours	Conference method: Field trip, to determine if native pastures are in condition to graze at this time. Determine what can be done to provide pasture at this time of year.
May	Control of external parasites of livestock Worming pigs	½ hours	Demonstration of spraying cattle for flies, worming pigs. Work out a year round program for control of parasites in livestock.
June	Feeding pigs for August and September market	2½ hours	Conference method: Demonstration on mixing feeds, types of feeders, swine pastures.

# A SUGGESTIVE COURSE CALENDAR FOR ADULT AND YOUNG

## FARMERS EDUCATIONAL MEETINGS

(Continued)

Date	Subject	Length of meetings	Ways and means
July	Canning, freezing of fruits and vegetables	4 hours	Bring wife. Demonstration method: Group participation. Check pressure gauges of cookers assisted by Home Demonstration Agent.
August	Marketing farm products	2½ hours	Conferences - visual aids. Field trip to crops and livestock that will bring top price on the market.
September	Winter cover crops selecting, seeding, and use of fertilizers	4 hours	Field trip, demonstration of proper seed bed preparation, seeding and fertilizing.
October	Control of parasites in livestock	2½ hours	Demonstration Method: Control of grub in cattle, spray cattle for lice.
November	Killing, butchering and curing meat for home use	3 hours	Demonstration Method: Proper method of killing and curing pork on the farm.
December	Farm Record and analysis of the years business	2½ hours	Each farmer bring his record book: Conference method of how to analyze these records and make adjustment for the next year.

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Thesis: THE SOURCES OF AGRICULTURAL INFORMATION USED BY  
ADULT AND YOUNG NEGRO FARMERS OF MUSKOGEE COUNTY

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THESIS TITLE: The Sources of Agricultural Information  
Used by Adult and Young Negro Farmers  
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