

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CHANGES TAKING PLACE IN A REPRESENTATIVE AREA  
IN THE WHEAT BELT OF OKLAHOMA AS DISCLOSED BY SURVEYS MADE IN  
THE AREA IN 1924 AND IN 1930

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THE AREA IN 1924 AND IN 1930

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DEDICATION

This study is dedicated to my many farmer friends of the Nash community whose patience and information made this farm study possible.

## INTRODUCTION

Purpose and Plan of Study. During the summer of 1924 the author, at that time instructor of vocational agriculture in the Nash school, made a survey of about eighty-five farms in the school district for the purpose of obtaining information upon which to build a teaching program in vocational agriculture for the Nash community.

In 1930 another survey was made. For both surveys the information was obtained by visiting each farm home and asking the farmer for all the information called for in the survey schedule. The schedule form which was identical for both surveys was prepared by the Agricultural Economics Department of the Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical College and used for obtaining rather complete information about the farm, the farm operator, and his family. After culling all defective schedules, and schedules of persons not actually engaged in farming seventy-seven schedules remained in the survey made in 1924 and eighty-seven in the survey made in 1930.

A great change took place on the wheat farms of this community in 1925 and 1926. The farmers sold part of their work stock and bought tractors, while some even went to the extent of selling all their stock and relying entirely upon tractors as a source of farm power. At about this time the combined harvester or "combine," which had been used to some extent in the community for several years, came into general use on practically all the farms and replaced the old binder-thresher method for harvesting and threshing wheat and other small grains.

The author often wondered after leaving the Nash community and the wheat section of the state in 1927 just what effect the introduc-

tion of the tractor and the combine, along with the slump in wheat prices, had had on the wheat farms of Grant county and especially those of the Nash community. Therefore, when it came time in 1930 to select a thesis subject for a Master's degree, he decided to make another survey of the same community to ascertain the actual changes that had taken place since 1924.

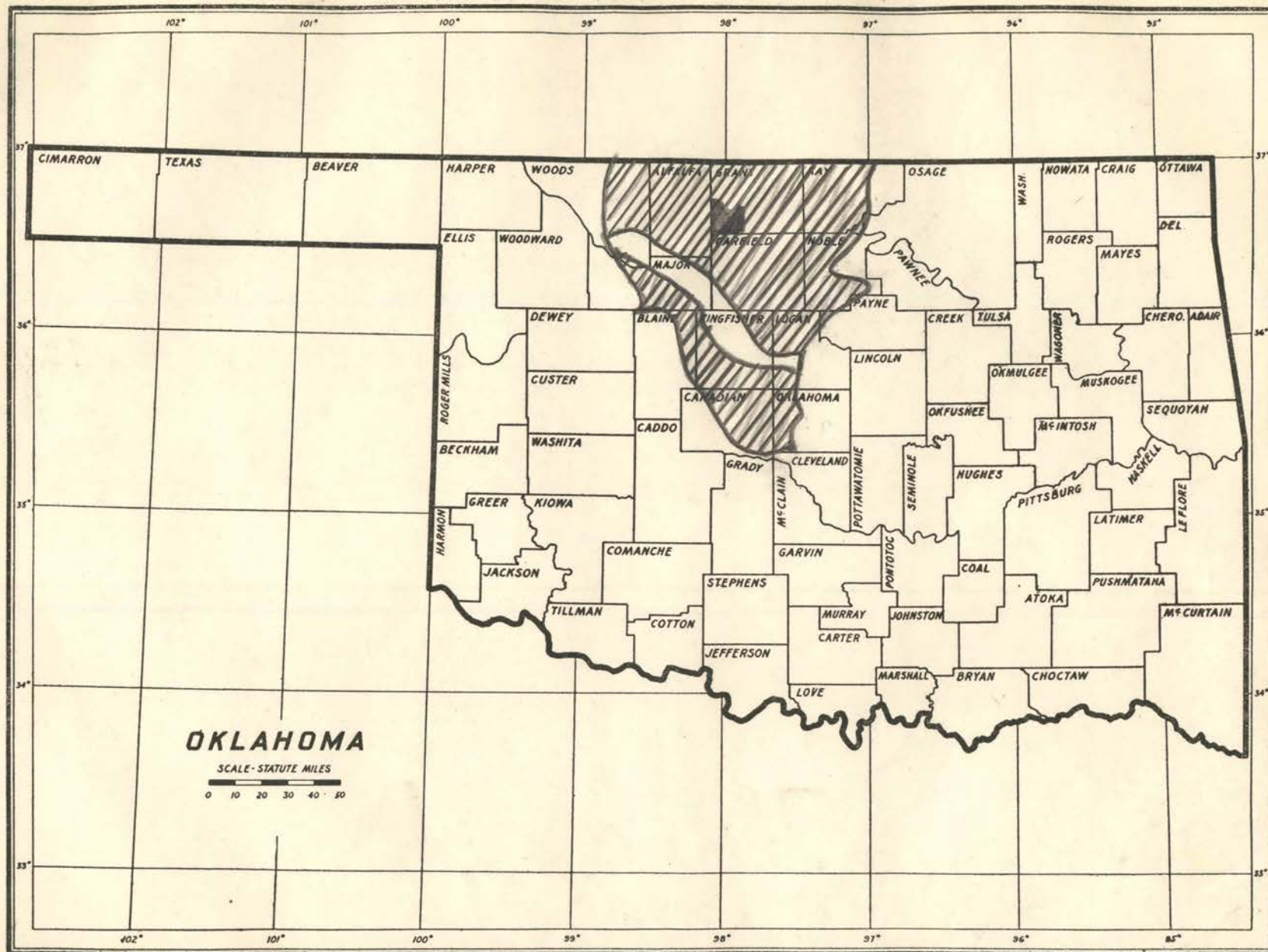
The remainder of this study deals with the changes that he found had taken place on the farms as portrayed by the two farm surveys, one made in 1924 and the other in 1930.

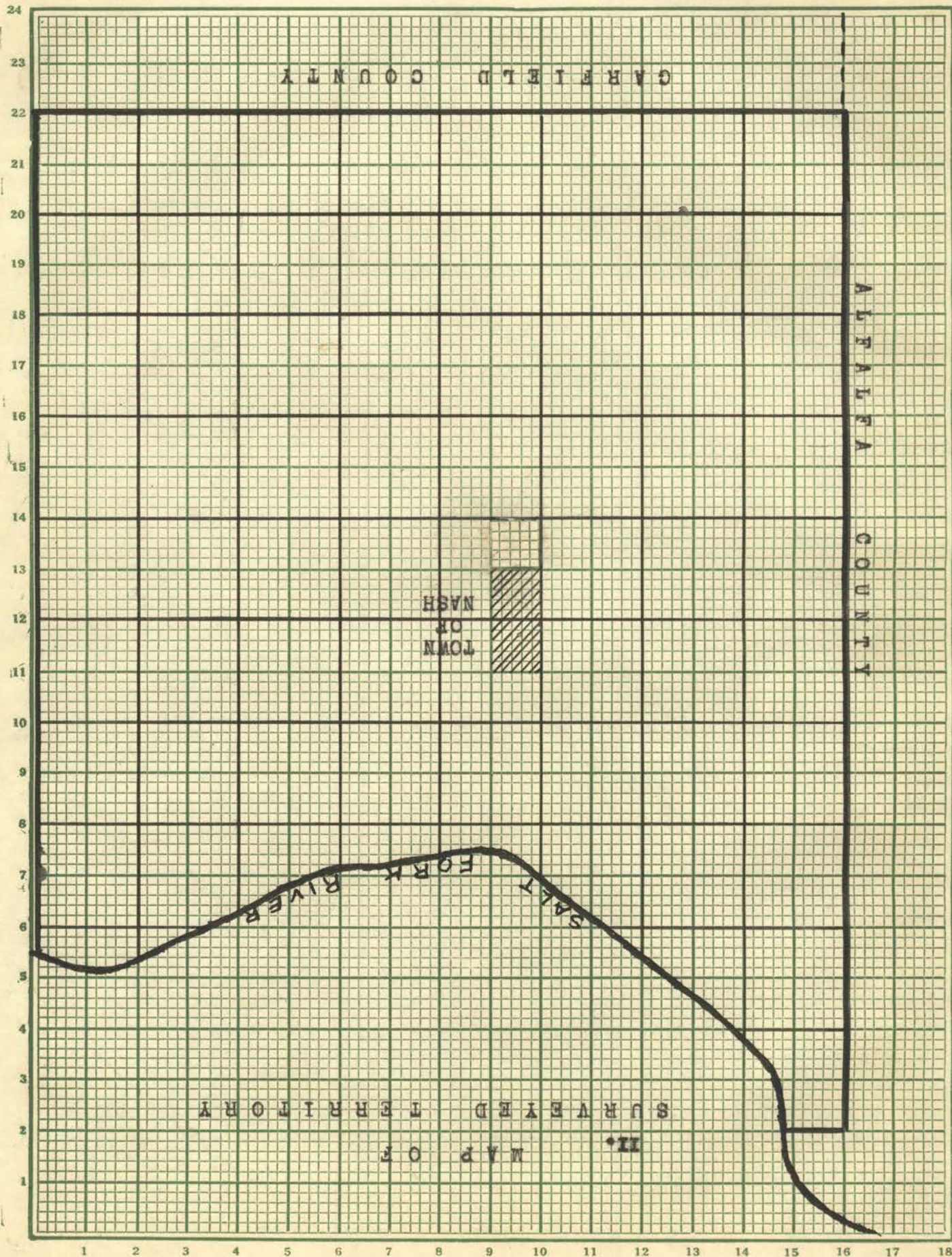
Location of the Area Studied. The Nash community is located in the very heart of Oklahoma's wheat belt, being situated in the extreme southwest corner of Grant county. It is bounded on the south by Garfield county; on the west by Alfalfa county, and on the north by the Salf Fork river. (Map I). Locally the territory extends four miles south, three miles west, three miles north, and five miles east of the town of Nash. (Map II).

The area studied is in general a beautiful, level to slightly rolling, plain; it is a continuation of the great wheat belt of Kansas extending into northern Oklahoma. The soil is black, very fertile, and especially adapted to wheat growing. There is very little waste land, and practically all of the native sod has been plowed up and the land put in cultivation. The farms vary greatly in size. Originally each contained 160 acres - the amount staked in the Cherokee Run - but now the average is much larger, the most common size is about 290 acres. This region was in the opening of the "Cherokee Strip" made in 1893, and a large number of the farmers still live on the original 160 acres



MAP SHOWING WHEAT BELT OF OKLAHOMA AND SURVEYED AREA





staked in the run. The people of the Wash community came mainly from the northern states with more from Kansas than from any other one state, but many came from Missouri, Iowa, Illinois, and Nebraska. There is not a finer group of people to be found any place. They are educated, law abiding, christian people of the highest type, and are strong believers in education. The school maintained in the small town of Wash, the pride of the community and one of the best schools in the state, is so well attended that there are very few, if any, children of school age not in school. Hence, illiteracy is practically unknown, the average of Grant county in 1925 being less than one-half of one percent.

The Wash community with four full-time churches which are well provided for and well attended has the reputation of being one of the most religious in the state. Practically everyone in the whole community attends church and Sunday school. This community is also highly regarded for its fine arts. Its representatives usually win in music, reading, oratory, and other fine arts in contests held with other schools in the county, district, and state.

Description of Farming System. Practically all farmers grow the one major crop of the community, wheat, as their main money crop. Most farmers grow in addition a few acres of oats, barley, corn, grain sorghums, and alfalfa to supply feed for their livestock and poultry, and truck and garden crops principally for home use.

The livestock and poultry found on practically all farms, include, in addition to the work stock, a few beef cattle and a few milk cows. Most of the milk cows are of dairy breeds, the Jerseys predominating. A few farmers maintain swine and sheep herds while during the past few

years, some farmers have made a practice of shipping in lambs from the western range country and fattening them on wheat pasture. Each farmer keeps about 200 hens, White Leghorns or Rhode Island Reds, predominantly, and sells eggs.

Table 1. Number of Farms in Each Tenure Surveyed,  
1924 and 1930

Tenure Classes	Number of Farms Surveyed	
	1924	1930
Full owners <sup>1/</sup>	26	29
Part owners <sup>2/</sup>	25	26
Share tenants <sup>3/</sup>	22	24
Share croppers <sup>4/</sup>	4	8
Total number of farms	77	87

<sup>1/</sup> "Full owner" - A farmer who owns all the land he farms.

<sup>2/</sup> "Part Owner" - A farmer who owns only part of the land he farms.

<sup>3/</sup> "Share tenant" - A farmer who rents all of the land he farms. He furnishes his own workstock, seed, farm implements, etc.

<sup>4/</sup> "Share cropper" - A farmer who farms for one-half of the crop. Land, tools, seed, etc., are furnished by the owner of the land. The "cropper" furnishes only the labor.

Tenancy Indicates Slipping Ownership: The one very noticeable thing brought out in Table 1 is the great increase of "croppers" in 1930 over that of 1924. This is probably due to old farmers turning the farms over to their sons on a 50-50 basis. Due to the small number of "croppers" included in the surveys; however, readers are requested not to place too much emphasis on the results shown for "croppers" throughout this study.

Table 2. Sources of Wealth and  
How Distributed in 1924 and 1930

Sources of wealth	Average amount		Percent of total	
	per farm		wealth	
	1924	1930	1924	1930
Gratuitous wealth	1254	2099	9.4	13.6
Wealth due to increased land values	2526	1432	18.9	9.3
Earned wealth	9613	11930	71.7	77.1
TOTAL PER FARM	13393	15461	100.0	100.0

## CHANGES IN FARM INCOME AND ORGANIZATION

Wealth and Its Source. One of the first things the average American thinks of is the "dollar side" of things. For this reason, the author has divided the wealth of the farms studied into three classes, namely: (1) gratuitous, (2) wealth due to increased land values, and (3) earned wealth, as shown in Table 2.

The gratuitous (inherited) wealth amounted to an average of \$1,254.00 per farm in 1924. (Table 2). It had increased to \$2,099.00 per farm by 1930, or from 9.4 to 13.6 percent of the average total wealth per farm. The increase is probably due to farmers who passed from active operation leaving their farms to their sons as an inheritance.

There has been a decrease of over \$1,000.00 per farm in wealth due to increased land values. (Table 2). This decrease is undoubtedly due to (1) decrease in land values since 1924, and (2) to the number of farmers who got their land in the "run of 1893" becoming fewer in number as the years go by, leaving a larger percent of farmers each year on land that has been bought.

The earned wealth indicates that the farmers have saved on an average \$463.00 of their earned wealth each year.

The average wealth per farm has increased since 1924 from \$13,393.00 to \$15,461.00 in 1930. This shows that farmers have been able to add about \$400.00 each year to their total wealth. A large percent of this increased wealth no doubt has gone into tractors, combines, and other modern farm machinery, instead of into house furnishings, etc., which would have been more noticeable.

Table 3. Distribution of Total Wealth and  
Gratuitous Wealth by Tenures, 1924 and  
1930

Tenure classes	: Total wealth :		: Gratuitous wealth:		Percent of	
	:Average amount per:		:Average amount per:		: total wealth	
	: farmer	: farmer	: farmer	: farmer	: 1924	: 1930
	: 1924	: 1930	: 1924	: 1930	: 1924	: 1930
All farmers	\$13,393	\$15,461	\$ 1,254	\$ 2,099	8.97	12.8
Full owners	20,533	28,006	2,862	3,571	13.9	10.4
Part Owners	17,764	18,693	872	2,926	4.9	15.6
Share tenants	3,596	4,575	164	117	4.6	2.6
Share croppers	6,991	2,252	-	250	-	11.1

The distribution of the total and the gratuitous wealth, and the percent the gratuitous wealth is of the total wealth, is shown for farmers of different tenures in Table 3. The most noticeable thing portrayed by the data is the decrease in the amount of both the total wealth and the gratuitous wealth as one goes down the tenures from full owners to croppers. This can be accounted for by the fact that the amount of land per farm decreases as one goes down the tenures and thus the wealth is decreased.

The great decrease in wealth from part owners to share tenants, again is due to the fact that members of one owns land and the members of the other group does not.

Without an exception the gratuitous (inherited) wealth per farmer in each tenure has increased a great deal since 1924.

The full owners increased their wealth \$7,473.00 from 1924 to 1930. They added to their total wealth each year an average of \$1,494.00, but it must be remembered that \$709.00 per year of this was inherited.

The part owners did not do so well. The table shows that they increased their wealth by only \$929.00 per year during the period. Had they not received gratuitous wealth to the amount of \$2,054.00 they would have decreased their total wealth during the period more than \$1,000.00.

All the farms contained more than 80 acres in 1924, but by 1930, five farms contained 80 acres or less. (Table 4).

There were more farms in the group of 161 to 320 acres than for any other group. This group included the same number of farms at each date, while groups for farms containing more and fewer acres increased slightly from 1924 to 1930.



Table 4. Average Net Worth (Less Inheritance) And Average Net Farm Income Per Farm, According to Size of Farm and Education of Farmer, 1924 and 1930

Farm groups	: Number farms :		Average		: Average net	
	: or farmers :		net worth		: farm income	
	: 1924 :	: 1930 :	: 1924 :	: 1930 :	: 1924 :	: 1930
<u>Size of Farms</u>						
80 acres or less	0	5	-	5,793	-	376
81 to 160 acres, inc.	27	26	6,912	11,128	1,681	1,004
161 to 320 acres, inc.	34	34	11,239	13,172	2,122	944
321 to 480 acres, inc.	10	13	27,546	16,821	893	1,327
481 acres or over	5	9	20,873	28,487	2,263	470
Average for group	-	-	12,481	14,266	1,813	937
<u>Years of Education</u>						
0 to 4 inclusive	2	9	8,691	21,747	1,406	256
5 to 8 inclusive	54	50	13,725	15,074	1,435	1,078
9 to 12 inclusive	14	19	7,747	9,940	3,303	61
13 or over	2	5	3,618	12,975	2,121	3,643
Average for group	-	-	11,969	14,496	1,006	911

There was only one exception to the rule that the larger the farm the greater the average net wealth per farmer. However, the size of the farm seemed to have little, if any, effect on the average net farm income per farm.

More than half of the farmers had from five to eight years of schooling. The amount of schooling; however, had little, if any, effect on the average net wealth of the farmer or his average net farm income. (Table 4). This is probably due to the fact that the older farmers, although they have but little education, received their farms in the "run" and have had more years on the farm in which to accumulate wealth than the younger but better educated farmers.

The average farmer received more than one-half of his total receipts from the sale of wheat - 58.6 percent to be exact - in 1924. However, by 1930 he was receiving only 41.4 percent of his total receipts from this source. (Table 5). This was due more to a decline in the price of wheat than to other factors.

For 1924, 77.4 percent of the farmers' total receipts was from "crops" but by 1930 it was only 64.42 percent.

From 1924 to 1930 the farmers increased their receipts from all kinds of livestock except hogs. (Table 5). The greatest increase in the livestock group was from dairy cattle which jumped from \$245.00 per farm in 1924, to \$346.00 in 1930. Due chiefly to a jump in receipts from oil leases from zero in 1924 to \$168.82 per farm in 1930, "other sources" brought in twice as much money in 1930 as they did in 1924.

It appears evident that the "farm depression" had already set in even at this time, resulting in the average total receipts per farm being cut more than \$1,000.00 per year, or from \$5,178.78 in 1924 to \$4,085.58 in 1930.

Table 5. Average Total Receipts from Different Sources, 1924 and 1930

Sources of receipts	Average amount		Percent of total	
	per farm		receipts	
	1924	1930	1924	1930
<b>Field Crops</b>				
Wheat	\$3,033.00	\$1,690.00	58.6	41.4
Oats and barley	334.00	150.00	6.4	3.7
Corn	411.00	370.00	7.9	9.1
Grain sorghums	104.00	72.00	2.0	1.8
Alfalfa	76.00	229.00	1.5	5.6
Cotton	24.00	61.00	.5	1.5
Other crops	6.00	1.00	.1	.02
Garden and orchard	20.00	54.00	.4	1.3
Total from Crops	4,008.00	2,627.00	77.4	64.42
<b>Livestock and Poultry</b>				
Dairy cattle	\$ 245.00	\$ 346.00	4.7	8.5
Other cattle	201.00	228.00	3.9	5.6
Hogs	296.00	279.00	5.7	6.8
Other livestock	60.00	67.00	1.1	1.6
Poultry	212.00	218.00	4.1	5.3
Total from Livestock	1,014.00	1,138.00	19.5	27.8
<b>Sources Other Than Farm</b>				
Rents	\$ 33.19	\$ 46.85	.6	1.2
Dividends	31.77	40.42	.6	1.0
Gifts	2.49	1.67	.05	.05
Sales	0	0	.0	.0
Oil lease	0	168.82	.0	4.1
<b>Labor</b>				
(a) Operator	\$ 33.19	\$ 46.85	1.0	2.1
(b) Family	6.49	9.31	.1	.2
(c) Machine	28.57	28.69	.6	.7
(d) Livestock	.32	.21	.02	.02
Total from Other Sources	156.78	382.58	2.97	9.37
Total from All Sources	\$5,178.78	\$4,085.58	100.00	100.00

Table 6. Average Total Receipts from Crops Per Farm  
by Tenures, 1924 and 1930

Crops	: Full owned farms:		: Part owned farms:		: Share tenant farms:		: Share cropper farms:		: All farms	
	:Receipts per farm:		:Receipts per farm:		:Receipts per farm:		:Receipts per farm:		:Receipts per farm	
	: 1924	: 1930	: 1924	: 1930	: 1924	: 1930	: 1924	: 1930	: 1924	: 1930
Wheat	\$2,414	\$1,493	\$3,317	\$2,518	\$3,522	\$1,184	\$2,582	\$1,229	\$3,033	\$1,690
Oats and Barley	256	168	411	166	318	128	444	95	334	150
Corn	490	364	418	381	280	338	581	456	411	370
Grain sorghums	38	62	185	64	64	77	250	118	104	72
Alfalfa	94	327	73	168	17	235	300	58	76	229
Cotton	0	11	12	0	0	161	390	141	24	61
Other crops	9	1	4	1	5	3	2	0	6	1
Garden and orchard	19	64	22	49	18	53	19	31	20	54
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,320</b>	<b>\$2,490</b>	<b>\$4,442</b>	<b>\$3,347</b>	<b>\$4,224</b>	<b>\$2,179</b>	<b>\$4,568</b>	<b>\$2,128</b>	<b>\$4,008</b>	<b>\$2,627</b>

Changes in Farm Organization According to Tenure. Full owners received an average of \$3,320.00 in receipts from crops in 1924 as compared with \$2,490.00 in 1930, a reduction of \$830.00. Part owners received receipts from crops of \$4,442.00 in 1924; share tenants received \$4,224.00; and share croppers received \$4,568.00. By 1930 receipts from crops had dropped by \$1,095.00, \$2,045.00, and \$2,440.00 for these last three tenure groups respectively. (Table 6). The average farmer received from crops \$1,381.00 more in 1924 than he did in 1930.

The receipts from wheat, the main cash crops of all groups, fell off per farm per tenures as follows from 1924 to 1930: full owners \$921.00; part owners \$779.00; share tenants \$2,338.00, and croppers \$1,353.00. The average decrease per farm for all farms from wheat during this period was \$1,343.00. The receipts per farm for oats, barley, corn, grain sorghums, and "other crops" fell off per farm in about the same proportion for all tenures as did wheat. The average farm receipts for alfalfa and cotton, due to an increased acreage of these crops, increased in most of the tenure groups from 1924 to 1930. Alfalfa increased from \$76.00 in 1924 to \$229.00 in 1930, and cotton from \$24.00 to \$61.00.

The amount received per farm from garden and orchards more than doubled from 1924 to 1930. The increase was about the same in all tenure groups indicating that the depression was well under way at this time and that all tenures felt the need of and were striving

Table 7. Average Receipts from Livestock and Poultry Per Farm by Tenure, 1924 and 1930

Livestock	Full owned		Part owned		Share tenant		Share cropper		All Farms			
	farms		farms		farms		farms		Receipts		Percent	
	Receipts		Receipts		Receipts		Receipts		Receipts		selling	
	per farm		per farm		per farm		per farm		per farm		per farm	
	1924	1930	1924	1930	1924	1930	1924	1930	1924	1930	1924	1930
Dairy cattle	\$ 294	\$ 331	\$ 263	\$ 352	\$ 181	\$ 401	\$ 171	\$ 221	\$ 245	\$ 346	94.8	90.8
Other cattle	150	354	256	270	98	109	750	55	201	234	53.2	56.3
Hogs	448	529	352	256	100	87	43	28	296	279	58.4	58.6
Other livestock	76	41	22	44	27	146	375	0	60	67	19.5	25.3
Poultry	242	274	245	212	159	191	90	131	212	220	94.8	95.4
Total	1,210	1,529	1,138	1,134	565	934	1,429	435	1,014	1,146	-	-

to produce more of the food for the farm table.

Average Receipts from Livestock and Poultry Per Farm. The average total receipts from livestock and poultry amounted to \$1,146.00 by 1930 - an increase during the period of \$132.00 per farm. (Table 7). This increase was largely due to farmers in all tenures increasing the number of dairy cows kept per farm. Full owners increased from \$294.00 to \$331.00; part owners from \$263.00 to \$352.00; share tenants from \$161.00 to \$401.00, and croppers from \$171.00 to \$221.00. The average receipts from dairy cattle for all farms increased from \$245.00 to \$346.00 during the period.

There was no great shift in the percentage of farmers in the different tenures selling the various classes of livestock. On the whole the percentage change was only one or two percent on all classes except "other livestock" which changed from 19.5 percent in 1924 to 25.3 percent in 1930, due to many farmers going into sheep raising during the period.

All tenure groups increased their income from livestock and poultry except part owners and croppers. The receipts for croppers from this source were greatly decreased, dropping from \$1,429.00 in 1924 to \$435.00 in 1930.

Table 8. Average Total Receipts and Percent of Total Income Derived from Field Crops, Livestock and Poultry, and Other Sources, Per Farm by Tenures, 1924 and 1930

Tenure classes	Field Crops				Livestock				Other Sources				Total	
	Average		Percent		Average		Percent		Average		Percent		Average	
	per farm		of total		per farm		of total		per farm		of total		per farm	
	1924	1930	1924	1930	1924	1930	1924	1930	1924	1930	1924	1930	1924	1930
Full owned farms	\$3,407	\$2,616	72.4	54.4	\$1,211	\$1,585	25.7	32.9	\$ 85	\$611	2.0	12.7	\$4,703	\$2,810
Part owned farms	4,550	3,341	77.8	68.5	1,157	1,133	19.4	23.2	159	406	2.7	8.3	5,846	4,880
Share tenant farms	4,304	2,381	86.4	64.6	571	972	11.4	26.4	109	331	2.2	9.0	4,989	3,684
Share cropper farms	4,597	2,125	69.0	78.8	1,429	435	21.4	16.1	636	138	9.5	5.1	6,662	2,696



Average Total Receipts from Different Sources. During the period from 1924 to 1930 all the tenure groups, except share croppers, decreased greatly the percentage of their total receipts from field crops. The percentage of full owners dropped from 72.4 to 54.4; part owners from 77.8 to 68.5; and share tenants from 86.4 to 64.6. (Table 8). This drop was due to the low price of wheat and to the poor acre yield in 1930 as compared to 1924, and to farmers cutting down on the acreage of feed crops planted on account of tractors having replaced much of the work stock of the community.

All tenures, except share croppers, increased the percentage of their total income from both livestock and poultry and "other sources." The increase from livestock and poultry was largely due to increasing the number of dairy cows kept per farm during the period. The increase in "other sources" was caused by practically all farmers receiving oil lease money in 1930 due to an oil boom that did not exist in 1924.

The total receipts per farm from all sources was much less in 1930 than in 1924, the difference being more than \$1,000.00 per farm.

Average Size of Farms. The increase in the size of operated farms from 1924 to 1930 was small, from an average of 280 acres for all farms in 1930. The full owners lacked 67 acres of operating as large an acreage in 1930 as in 1924. (Table 9). No doubt this was due to farmers of this group who on account of age, were cutting down their farm operations. The part owners enlarged their farms by 62 acres from 1924 to 1930, and the farm of the average share tenant increased 24 acres, while those of croppers decreased 61 acres.

Table 9. Average Sizes of Operated Farms, Average Receipts Per Farm, and Average Receipts Per Acre by Tenures, 1924 and 1930

Tenure classes	Size of operated farm		Total receipts		Receipts per acre	
	1924	1930	1924	1930	1924	1930
Average	280	287	\$5,220	\$3,818	18.64	13.30
Full owned	295	262	4,967	4,054	16.83	15.47
Part owned	325	387	5,628	4,487	17.31	11.59
Share tenants	214	238	4,904	3,229	22.91	13.56
Croppers	260	199	6,057	2,557	23.29	12.84

The total receipts per farm, without exception, decreased. The average receipts per farm in 1924 was \$5,220.00 while by 1930 the average receipts per farm amounted to only \$5,619.00, a reduction of \$1,402.00 per farm. The total receipts of the full owners dropped from \$4,967.00 in 1924 to \$4,054.00 in 1930 - a difference of \$913.00. The part owners received \$1,141.00 less in total receipts per farm in 1930 than they did in 1924. The share tenants received \$1,675.00 less in 1930 than they did in 1924. The croppers suffered the greatest decrease in total receipts per farm of any of the groups. Their receipts fell from \$6,057.00 in 1924 to \$2,557 in 1930.

The total receipts per acre for all tenures combined was greater in 1924 than in 1930. The average farmer received \$18.64 per acre in 1924 as against \$13.30 in 1930 - a difference of \$5.34 per acre. The receipts per acre of the full owner fell off less than that of any other tenure group, being only \$1.36 per acre. The share tenants and the croppers received scarcely more than half as much in 1930 as they did in 1924.

The decline in total receipts per farm and total receipts per acre can be attributed to the decline in price of farm products - especially wheat - and to the reduction of yield of crops per acre caused by unfavorable weather conditions, such as drouth and hail.

Total Years as Farm Operator, and Number of Years Spent on Present Farm. The average farmer in the surveyed district has been farming 18.1 years, and has lived on his present farm 11.7 years (Table 10). Full owners have been farming 24.3 years and have lived on the present farms 16 years. Part owners have been farming for a

Table 10. Total Years As Farm Operator And  
Number Years Spent on Present Farm, By  
Tenures, 1924 and 1930

Tenure classes	Total years as farm operator		Number years on present farm	
	1924	1930	1924	1930
All farmers	17.8	18.4	13.8	9.6
Full owners	25.1	23.6	20.6	11.4
Part owners	17.4	21.5	13.4	10.4
Share tenants	11.9	13.2	8.1	8.5
Croppers	5.0	4.5	3.5	4.2

a total of 19.4 years and lived on present farm 11.9 years. Share tenants have been farming 12.5 years and have lived on present farm 8.3 years.

It may be concluded that the full owners are old men and have past their prime in farming. The part owners are younger men than the full owners and are now in their prime as farmers. Share tenants are young men who have not yet reached their prime but are well on the road to it. Croppers are young men still in their twenties who are just getting started in farming. These four classes represent the four steps in farming. Under normal conditions a cropper should be able by hard work and good management to pass through all the steps and become a full owner by the time he is 40 or 50 years old.

In periods of depression or strained farm conditions, the reverse of the normal is true and farmers pass from full owners to part owners, share tenants, and oftentimes to croppers.

Changes in the Number of Acres of Different Crops Grown Per Farm. The average farmer in 1924 had 135 acres in wheat, 16 acres in oats and barley, 20 acres in corn, 6 acres in grain sorghums, 3 acres in alfalfa, 2 acres in cotton, 4 acres in "other crops," and 58 acres in permanent pasture. (Table 11). He had increased his wheat acreage 29 acres by 1930, decreased oats and barley 6 acres, corn 2 acres, grain sorghums one acre, and "other crops" one acre. He had increased alfalfa 7 acres, cotton 2 acres, and native pasture 2 acres. On the whole he increased his crops 24 acres from 1924 to 1930.

Table 11. Average Number of Acres of Different Crops Grown  
Per Farm by Tenures, 1924 and  
1930

Crops	: Full owned :		: Part owned :		: Share tenant:		: Share cropper:		: All farms			
	: farms :		: farms :		: farms :		: farms :		: farms			
	: Number acres:		: Number acres:		: Number acres:		: Number acres :		: Number acres :		: Percent growing	
	: per farm :		: per farm :		: per farm :		: per farm :		: per farm (Av.)		: crop	
	: 1924 :	: 1930:	: 1924:	: 1930 :	: 1924 :	: 1930:	: 1924 :	: 1930 :	: 1924 :	: 1930 :	: 1924 :	: 1930 :
Wheat	126	135	162	247	121	137	122	82	135	164	96.1	90.8
Oats and barley	15	13	18	10	15	7	26	6	16	10	75.3	55.2
Corn	23	18	16	18	16	16	6	21	20	18	69.0	64.4
Grain sorghums	4	4	8	4	5	7	14	7	6	5	42.8	28.7
Alfalfa	4	8	2	18	5	7	14	3	3	10	24.7	50.6
Cotton	0	1	6	0	0	4	1	4	2	4	3.9	5.7
Other crops	4	9	39	7	24	26	2	0	4	1	32.5	12.6
Permanent pasture	82	66	63	77	32	42	21	43	58	60	96.1	96.6
Total	258	254	314	381	218	246	206	166	246	270	-	-

During this period full owners increased their wheat acreage nine acres, part owners 85 acres, and share tenants 16 acres, while the share croppers; however, decreased their wheat acreage 40 acres.

From 1924 to 1930 the percentage of farmers growing wheat decreased from 96.1 to 90.8; those producing oats and barley from 75.3 to 55.2; corn from 69.0 to 64.4; grain sorghums 42.8 to 28.7, and "other crops" 32.5 to 12.6. The percentage of farmers growing alfalfa increased during this time from 24.7 to 50.6; also, cotton from 3.9 to 5.7, and permanent pasture from 96.1 to 96.6. This change in crops was brought about no doubt by the introduction of the tractor and combine on a large scale in the Nash community during this time.

After adoption of the tractor and the combine, those who could increase their wheat acreage did so. This is particularly noticeable of those in the part owner group who increased their wheat acreage 85 acres. On the other hand, the cropper, unable to get land, was forced to decrease his wheat acreage 40 acres.

As horses were replaced on the farm by tractors, farmers naturally cut down the acreage of their feed crops - corn, oats, barley, grain sorghums, and "other crops." This also accounts for the great decrease in the percentage of farmers growing these crops. The percentage of farmers growing oats and barley fell off 20.1; those growing corn 4.6, and grain sorghum 14.1. Part of this land that normally had grown feed crops was now sown to wheat which helped to increase the total wheat acreage.

Table 12. Average Number of Livestock and Poultry Per Farm By Tenures, 1924 and 1930

Livestock	: Full owned		: Part owned		: Share tenant		: Share cropper:		: All farms			
	: farms		: farms		: farms		: farms		: farms			
	: Average number:		: Average number:		: Average number:		: Average number:		: Average number:		: Percent	
	: per farm		: per farm		: per farm		: per farm		: per farm		: owning	
	: 1924	: 1930	: 1924	: 1930	: 1924	: 1930	: 1924	: 1930	: 1924	: 1930	: 1924	: 1930
Work stock	3.8	4.2	9.8	5.0	7.5	4.6	5.5	4.2	8.6	4.6	100.0	89.6
Dairy cattle	4.2	5.3	3.9	5.9	3.0	4.8	3.0	3.2	3.7	5.1	74.0	94.2
Other cattle	10.2	11.7	7.2	9.9	3.9	4.5	15.0	3.5	7.7	8.4	62.3	78.2
Hogs	20.5	9.5	13.8	11.3	11.1	4.8	3.0	8.1	14.7	8.6	59.7	52.9
Other livestock	8.7	22.2	4.3	20.0	4.0	23.9	6.0	4.1	5.8	20.3	42.8	86.2
Poultry	83.7	153.8	129.0	485.0	74.1	165.2	80.0	60.0	95.5	247.3	77.9	90.8
Total	136.1	206.7	168.0	537.1	103.6	207.8	112.5	83.1	136.0	294.3	-	-



Changes in the Average Number of Livestock and Poultry Per Farm.

As would be expected, due to the tractor coming into common use in the Nash community, the number of work stock was greatly reduced during this period. In 1924, the average number of work stock kept per farm was 8.6 head as compared with 4.6 head in 1930. This decline in the average number of work stock kept per farm took place in all tenure groups. Full owners had 4.6 less work stock in 1930 than they had in 1924; part owners 4.8; share tenants 2.9, and croppers 1.3 (Table 12).

The average number of hogs kept per farm also greatly decreased. For 1924 the average farm had 14.7 head of hogs, but in 1930, only 8.6 head. The average decrease for all tenures, except croppers, was about 50 percent. The croppers increased their number of hogs from three head per farm in 1924 to 8.6 head in 1930. The cause of this was probably due to the fact that the croppers, being unable to compete with the other groups in wheat raising, were forced to grow hogs for food and as a means of income.

Dairy cattle increased during the period from 3.7 head per farm to 5.1 head. For all tenures combined the average increase was between one and two head per farm. The greatest increase--two head per farm--was in the part owner group. Share tenants came next with 1.8 head increase per farm.

The increase in the number of dairy cattle per farm can be attributed to the low price of wheat and the relatively high price of cream during this period. Also having decreased the number of work stock per farm, farmers had more room and more pasture for dairy cattle.

"Other cattle" slightly increased in all tenures except the cropper group which had a marked decline of from 15 head per farm in 1924 to 3.5 head in 1930. The average number of "other cattle" in 1924 was 7.7 head per farm, and in 1930, 8.4 head.

"Other livestock," (principally sheep) greatly increased in numbers during the period. For 1924, the average number per farm was 5.8 head, in 1930, 20.3 head. The increase was common to all groups except the croppers. The croppers decreased from six head per farm in 1924 to 4.1 head per farm in 1930.

The average number of poultry per farm increased from 95.5 birds in 1924 to 247.3 birds in 1930. As in other kinds of livestock, all tenures, except the croppers, increased greatly the number of poultry kept per farm. The cropper group decreased their number of birds from 80 to 60 per during the period.

The total number of livestock and poultry per farm in 1924 was 136 head and in 1930, 294.3 head per farm.

Work stock was kept on all the farms in 1924, by 1930 only 89.6 percent of the farms had work stock. The percent of the farms that kept dairy cattle increased during the period from 74 to 94.2. On the other hand the number of farms that kept hogs decreased from 59.7 percent in 1924 to 52.9 percent in 1930. The percentage of all farms that kept "other cattle" increased from 62.3 in 1924 to 78.2 in 1930.

"Other livestock," (principally sheep) had the greatest increase of all - from 42.8 percent of all farms in 1924 to 86.2 in 1930. Poultry also made a good increase going from 77.9 percent of all farms in 1924 to 90.8 in 1930.

Probably the increase in most kinds of livestock during this period was due to farmers trying to supplement the smaller incomes from

Table 13. Average Value of Farm Machinery Per Farm, And The Percent Owning Combine, Tractor, Truck, and Auto in Each Tenure, 1924 and 1930

Tenure classes	Farm machinery		Combine		Tractor		Truck		Auto	
	Value per farm		Percent owning		Percent owning		Percent owning		Percent owning	
	1924	1930	1924	1930	1924	1930	1924	1930	1924	1930
All farms	\$1,263	\$2,092	1.3	49.4	20.8	65.5	7.8	26.4	90.9	96.6
Full owners	1,424	2,251	3.8	41.4	11.5	58.6	7.7	17.2	100.0	93.1
Part owners	1,578	2,771	0.0	69.2	28.0	88.5	8.0	42.3	92.0	100.0
Share tenants	844	1,613	0.0	54.2	27.3	54.2	9.1	29.2	81.8	95.8
Croppers	548	752	0.0	0.0	0.0	50.0	0.0	0.0	75.0	100.0

wheat, due to the low prices, by producing livestock and poultry for home use and for sale.

Average Value of Farm Machinery Per Farm. The average value of all farm machinery per farm was \$1,263.00 in 1924, but by 1930 it had increased to \$2,092.00 per farm, nearly double that of 1924. (Table 13). This great increase in value of farm machinery per farm was caused by the large number of combines, tractors, and other expensive farm machinery purchased by farmers during this period. Only 1.3 percent of all farmers owned a combine in 1924, but by 1930, 49.4 percent owned one. The greatest increase in combine ownership took place in the part owner group which jumped from none in 1924 to 69.2 percent in 1930. Tractors also increased greatly during this period, as in 1924, 20.8 percent of all farmers owned a tractor and in 1930 65.5 had one. There were three times as many tractors on the farms in 1930 as in 1924.

Automobiles made comparatively little increase in numbers during the six years. In 1924, 90.9 percent of all farmers owned a car, while in 1930 the number had increased to only 96.6 percent. Unlike the combine, tractor, and truck, the size of farm and tenure of the farmer seemed to have little, if any, effect on the ownership of a car. Thus 100 percent of all croppers owned a car in 1930, the largest percentage of any group, except part owners.

Changes in Sources and Use of Credit. The land tax increased from \$156.00 to \$200.00 per farm within the six years. (Table 14). This is an increase of \$42.00 per farm in six years. During this

same period the total receipts from all sources decreased more than 1,000.00 per average farm.

Table 14. Average Land Tax Per Farm and Per Acre  
Paid By Farmers, 1924 and 1930

	1924	1930
Average amount of tax per farm	\$156.00	\$200.00
Average amount of tax per acre	0.56	0.70

Due to the slight increase in acreage of the average farm from 1924 to 1930, the tax per acre gives us a more accurate picture of what is really taking place. During six years the average tax per acre increased from 56 to 70 cents - or 14 cents per acre. For the average farm of the community which contains slightly more than 200 acres, this means a tax increase of more than \$28.00 per farm in six years.

Land Indebtedness. In 1924, 72.5 percent of all farms were mortgaged, but by 1930 the percentage had been reduced to 61.8 or a decrease of 10.7 percent in the number of farms mortgaged. The average amount per farm for farms mortgaged in 1924 was \$5,468.00 compared with \$5,671.00 in 1930, or an increase of \$183.00 per mortgaged farm in six years.

The interest rate paid on mortgages was 5.5 percent in 1924 and 5.6 percent in 1930.

Table 15. Land Indebtedness in 1924 and 1930

Tenure classes	:Percent of		:Av. amt. of:		:Av. amt. of:		:Av. rate of:		Sources -- percent							
	:farms		:mort. for		:mort. for		:int. paid		: School		: Fed. Farm		: Private		: Loan and	
	:mortgaged		:mort'd farm:		:all farms		:on morts.		: fund		: Loan		: party		: Invest. Co.	
	: 1924:	1930:	: 1924:	1930:	: 1924:	1930:	: 1924:	1930:	: 1924:	1930:	: 1924:	1930:	: 1924:	1930:	: 1924:	1930:
Total number	72.5	61.8	\$5,488	\$5,671	\$3,981	\$3,505	5.5	5.6	40.5	44.1	5.4	5.2	27.0	20.6	27.0	29.4
Full owned farms	84.6	69.0	6,514	6,145	5,512	4,238	5.6	5.5	36.4	50.0	11.1	5.0	27.3	10.0	27.3	35.0
Part owned farms	60.0	53.8	3,983	4,292	2,390	2,688	5.5	5.6	46.7	35.7	0.0	7.1	26.7	35.7	26.7	21.4

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The state school fund was the favorite source of obtaining farm loans in both years, 40.6 percent of all farmers who borrowed used it in 1924 and 44.1 in 1930. Private Party and Loan and Investment companies were second preference of farmers in 1924, each getting 27 percent of all farm loans.

The Federal Farm Loan was not very popular as a source of farm credit during either 1924 or 1930 for less than six percent of all borrowers used it. To be exact, 5.4 percent in 1924, and 5.2 percent in 1930.

There was very little difference between full owners and part owners as to the amount of mortgage per farm, percentage using mortgage, source of mortgage, rate of interest paid, etc.

Short-Time Credit. The average amount of bank credit per farmer increased \$271.00 per farmer in six years from \$509.00 in 1924 to \$780.00 in 1930. Although the average amount of bank credit per farmer increased the percentage of farmers using it decreased from 62.3 in 1924 to 57.0 percent in 1930. (Table 16).

The average amount per farmer borrowed from a "private party" was \$846.00 in 1924, and only \$288.00 in 1930. This source did not seem to be very popular with farmers for only 5.2 percent used it in 1924 and 4.7 percent in 1930.

The amount of store credit used by the average farmer was \$519.00 in 1924 and \$265.00 in 1930. This was a decrease of almost 50 percent in six years. The percent of farmers using store credit changed but little, being 16.9 in 1924 and 16.3 in 1930.

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Table 16. Source and Use of Short-Time Credit by Farmers of Different Tenures, 1924 and 1930

Tenure classes	Bank credit				Private party				Store credit				Total	
	: Av. amount		: Percent		: Av. amount		: Percent		: Av. amount		: Percent		: Amount per	
	: per farmer	: using	: 1924	: 1930	: per farmer	: using	: 1924	: 1930	: per farmer	: using	: 1924	: 1930	: 1924	: 1930
All farmers	\$509	\$780	62.3	57.0	\$ 846	\$283	5.2	4.7	\$519	\$265	16.9	16.3	\$1,874	\$1,333
Full owners	728	1,009	65.4	60.7	700	400	3.8	3.6	586	334	19.2	10.7	2,014	1,743
Part owners	513	587	56.0	57.7	1,068	-	8.0	-	612	109	16.0	7.7	2,198	696
Share tenants	293	576	68.2	58.3	250	300	4.5	8.3	343	263	18.2	29.2	886	1,139
Share croppers	200	1,400	50.0	37.5	-	150	-	12.5	-	325	-	25.0	200	1,875



The average amount of short-time credit used per farmer was \$1,374.00 in 1924 and \$1,333.00 in 1930. It is interesting to note that both full and part owners decreased greatly the amount of short-time credit used while the share tenant and croppers greatly increased the amount used by them during this period.

#### CHANGES IN SOCIAL AND LIVING CONDITIONS

Itemized List of Annual Living Expenses Per Family. The grocery bill of the average farm family increased only \$10.00 from 1924 to 1930, being \$536.00 in 1924 and \$546.00 in 1930. During this time the clothing bill dropped \$79.00, or from \$275.00 in 1924 to \$196.00 in 1930. (Table 17). The amount of money a family spends for clothing is a very good index of farm conditions. During prosperity people spend much more for clothing than they do in "hard times," such as are experienced during a depression. The fact that total receipts per farm were more than \$1,000.00 less in 1930 than in 1924 probably had a lot of bearing on the clothing bill. The fuel cost per family was \$8.00 less in 1930 than in 1924. The health bill was also much less being \$112.00 in 1924 as compared to \$95.00 in 1930 - a difference of \$17.00 per year. The car expense for family use more than doubled, being \$69.00 in 1924 and \$165.00 in 1930. The cost of furniture and furnishings per family was \$29.00 in 1924 and \$17.00 in 1930. The amount spent on school and reading jumped from \$22.00 in 1924 to \$40.00 in 1930. Life insurance premiums remained practically the same being \$38.00 in 1924 and \$39.00 in 1930. Entertainment changed from \$15.00 in 1924 to \$27.00 in 1930. The average family spent \$11.00 more for entertainment and \$15.00 less for vacation and travel in 1930 than

Table 17. Itemized List of Annual Living Expenses Per Family  
by Tenure, 1924 and 1930

List of items	: Amount spent by		: Amount spent by		: Amount spent by		: Amount spent by		: Average spent	
	: full owner		: part owner		: share tenant		: share cropper		: by all	
	: families		: families		: families		: families		: families	
	: 1924	: 1930	: 1924	: 1930	: 1924	: 1930	: 1924	: 1930	: 1924	: 1930
Food	\$532	\$596	\$576	\$595	\$482	\$488	\$620	\$383	\$536	\$546
Clothing	199	214	251	219	173	171	156	130	273	196
Fuel	79	82	71	68	72	55	56	42	75	67
Health	128	128	63	77	159	99	59	27	112	95
Car expenses (family use)	88	178	78	218	37	119	45	79	69	165
Furniture and furnishings	20	5	65	23	7	18	0	34	29	17
Life insurance premiums	34	48	40	39	40	37	36	16	38	39
School and reading	34	58	18	51	15	17	8	6	22	40
Entertainment	17	38	18	22	10	23	24	11	16	27
Vacation and travel	31	31	48	15	27	21	50	0	36	21
Church and charity	66	84	62	34	19	21	28	24	49	46
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,228</b>	<b>\$1,462</b>	<b>\$1,290</b>	<b>\$1,361</b>	<b>\$1,041</b>	<b>\$1,067</b>	<b>\$1,082</b>	<b>\$752</b>	<b>\$1,255</b>	<b>\$1,259</b>

in 1924, but paid practically the same for church the amount being \$49.00 in 1924 and \$46.00 in 1930.

The increase in living expenses of full owners from 1924 to 1930 was \$134.00; part owners \$71.00; share tenants \$26.00, and all farmers \$4.00. During this period the living expenses of croppers dropped \$330.00, or from \$1,082.00 in 1924 to \$752.00 in 1930. It must be remembered that the number of croppers in this study are too few to place much emphasis upon them.

Cost of Living Per Adult Unit. In order better to compare the different tenures they were reduced to "adult units" by using the following scale.

Scale For Adult Units

<u>Males</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Units</u>
19 to 60 years	1.0	19 to 60 years	0.8
Above 60 years	0.9	Above 60 years	0.7
17 to 18 years	1.2	16, 17, and 18 years	0.9
<u>Children</u>	<u>Units</u>		
13, 14, 15 years	1.0		
11 and 12 years	0.8		
9 and 10 years	0.7		
6, 7, and 8 years	0.5		
4 and 5 years	0.4		
1, 2, and 3 years	0.3		

The following items in the cost of living increased per adult unit from 1924 to 1930; grocery bill \$20.78; car for family use \$35.34; life insurance \$1.57; entertainment \$4.31, and church and charity \$0.04. Items which decreased were: clothing \$17.92; fuel \$0.34; health \$2.24; furniture and furnishings \$3.20; vacation and travel \$0.01, and total cost of living per adult unit \$45.22.

(Table 18).

Table 18. Cost of Living Per Adult Unit by Different Tenures, 1924 and 1930

List of items	:Amount spent per :adult unit by :full owners		:Amount spent per :adult unit by :part owners		:Amount spent per :adult unit by :share tenants		:Amount spent per :adult unit by :share croppers		:Average spent per :adult unit by all : groups	
	: 1924	: 1930	: 1924	: 1930	: 1924	: 1930	: 1924	: 1930	: 1924	: 1930
	Grocery bill	\$161.21	\$198.67	\$169.41	\$205.17	\$146.06	\$173.57	\$243.00	\$132.38	\$167.50
Clothing bill	60.30	71.33	73.82	75.52	52.42	50.36	62.40	61.90	85.31	67.59
Fuel bill	23.94	27.33	20.88	23.45	21.82	19.64	22.40	20.00	23.44	23.10
Health bill	38.79	42.67	18.55	26.55	48.18	35.36	23.60	12.86	35.00	32.76
Car expense (family use)	26.67	59.33	22.94	75.17	11.21	42.50	18.00	37.62	21.56	56.90
Furniture and furnishings	6.06	1.67	19.12	7.93	2.12	6.43	0	16.19	9.06	5.86
Life insurance	10.30	16.00	11.76	13.45	15.15	13.21	14.40	76.19	11.88	13.45
School and reading	10.30	19.33	5.29	17.59	4.54	6.07	3.20	2.86	68.75	13.79
Entertainment	5.31	12.67	5.29	7.59	3.03	8.21	9.60	5.24	5.00	9.31
Vacation and travel	9.39	10.33	14.12	5.17	6.18	7.50	20.00	0	7.25	7.24
Church and charity	20.00	28.00	18.24	11.72	5.76	7.50	11.20	11.43	15.81	15.86
Total	\$426.82	\$502.33	\$380.40	\$540.69	\$337.66	\$423.20	\$432.80	\$426.67	\$532.12	\$486.90

Table 19. Total Value of Foods, Amount Produced, Amount Bought,  
The Percent Produced, The Percent Bought, by Tenures 1924  
and 1930

Tenure classes	Total for		Amount		Amount		Percent		Percent	
	foods		produced		bought		produced		bought	
	1924	1930	1924	1930	1924	1930	1924	1930	1924	1930
All farmers	536	546	204	246	332	300	38.0	45.1	62.0	54.9
Full owners	532	596	204	243	328	353	38.3	40.8	61.7	59.2
Part owners	576	595	250	308	326	297	43.4	51.8	56.6	48.2
Share tenants	482	486	158	219	324	267	32.8	45.1	67.2	54.9
Croppers	620	383	177	141	443	242	28.5	36.8	71.5	63.2

The total cost of living per adult unit for the different tenures in 1930 was: Full owners \$502.33; part owners \$540.69; share tenants \$428.20; croppers \$426.67; and average for all \$486.90.

Total Value of Foods Per Farm. The average farmer produced \$42.00 more of the foods for his family in 1930 than in 1924, and bought \$32.00 less. In 1924 he produced 38 percent of the total foods needed by the family but by 1930 he was producing 45.1 percent. During six years he increased the production of food on the farm 7.1 percent. All tenure groups bought less food and produced more in 1930 than in 1924. (Table 19). This would indicate that due to a lessened income from the sale of farm products, farmers were forced to supplement their diminished income by growing more of the foods needed by the farm family. The farmer by growing more of the food needed, the actual cash cost of feeding the family less in 1930 than in 1924 even though the price of foods and the annual food bill per farm family was greater by \$10.00 in 1930 than in 1924.

Farmers have this advantage over other groups in that if they are unable to buy food they can produce it at home is a fair index of farm conditions. The greater the scarcity of money on the farm the greater the amount of food for the family produced.

Table 20. Amount Spent Per Family and Percent Buying Furniture and Furnishings, Insurance, Vacation, and Travel, by Tenures 1924 and 1930

Tenure classes:	: Furniture and furnishings :				Life insurance :				Vacation and travel			
	: Av. spent		: Percent		: Av. spent		: Percent us-		: Av. spent		: Percent	
	: per farm		: buying		: per farm		: ing insurance		: per farm		: taking	
	: 1924	: 1930	: 1924	: 1930	: 1924	: 1930	: 1924	: 1930	: 1924	: 1930	: 1924	: 1930
All farmers	\$29	\$17	23.4	16.3	\$38	\$39	48.1	51.7	\$36	\$21	36.4	20.7
Full owners	20	5	11.5	10.7	34	48	34.6	51.7	31	31	30.8	51.0
Part owners	65	23	44.0	15.4	40	39	48.0	53.8	48	15	48.0	15.4
Share tenants	7	18	18.0	16.7	40	37	59.1	58.3	27	21	27.3	20.8
Croppers	-	34	0	37.5	36	16	75.0	25.0	50	-	50.0	-

The Amount Spent Per Family for Furniture, Insurance, Vacation and Travel. In 1924, 23.4 percent of all families purchased furniture and furnishings during the year as compared with 16.3 percent in 1930, or a falling off of 7.1 percent. There was also a great decrease in the number of farm families taking vacations. In 1924, 36.4 percent of all farm families took a vacation as compared with 20.7 percent in 1930. (Table 20).

During hard times people do not buy furniture or furnishings or go on a vacation during the year. The figures above would indicate that times were "harder" on the farms of this community in 1930 than they were in 1924.

Instead of the percentage of farmers carrying life insurance falling off during this period it increased 3.6 percent. Life insurance is accumulative in that when once taken it is carried normally throughout the life of the individual. During this period only 0.6 percent took out life insurance each year. Another thing that kept the percentage up is that farm conditions have to be very hard before farmers will drop their life insurance.

Average Value of House, Number of Rooms, and Number of Persons Per Room. There was very little change in the houses occupied by farm families from 1924 to 1930 as to value, number of rooms, and number of persons per room. The house occupied by the average farmer in 1930 had a value of \$1,963.00, contained 5.9 rooms with an average of 0.8 persons per room. (Table 21).



Table 21. Average Value of House, Average Number of Rooms  
Per House, and Average Number of People Per Room, by  
Tenures, 1924 and 1930

Tenure classes	Value of dwelling:		Number rooms		No. persons per room	
	1924	1930	1924	1930	1924	1930
Total	\$1,598	\$1,963	5.9	5.8	.8	.8
Full owners	2,062	2,994	7.1	6.7	.7	.8
Part owners	1,712	1,994	6.1	5.6	.8	.8
Share tenants	1,070	1,178	4.6	5.7	.9	.7
Croppers	775	1,056	4.7	4.1	.7	.7

Table 22. The Percent of Dwelling Houses in Good Repair,  
Fair Repair, and Poor Repair in Each Tenure, 1924 and  
1930

Tenure classes	Percent in		Percent in		Percent in	
	good repair	fair repair	poor repair	1924	1930	1924
All farmers	62.3	51.7	31.2	20.7	6.5	27.6
Full owners	80.8	65.5	15.4	17.2	3.8	17.2
Part owners	68.0	53.8	28.0	11.5	4.0	34.6
Share tenants	36.4	41.7	54.5	33.3	9.1	25.0
Share croppers	50.0	25.0	25.0	25.0	25.0	50.0

As one goes down the tenures from full owner to cropper, the value of the houses decrease. The value of the full owner's house in 1930 was \$2,994.00; part owners \$1,994.00; share tenants \$1,178.00, and cropper \$1,056.00. The house of the full owner in 1930 contained 6.7 rooms and that of the cropper 4.1 rooms. The average number of persons per room in 1930 ranged from 0.9 share tenants to 0.7 for full owners and croppers.

In this community there is not a crowding in the lower tenures due to share tenants and croppers having large families and living in small houses as is found in the cotton regions of the state. The croppers in this community are young men who are just starting out in farming and have small families.

The farm dwellings were not kept up in the Nash community from 1924 to 1930 as they had been in former years. In 1924, 62.3 percent of all dwellings were listed as being in good repair as compared with 51.7 percent in 1930. Those listed as being in "fair" repair changed from 31.2 percent in 1924 to 20.7 percent in 1930. During this same period the number in poor repair increased from 6.5 percent to 27.6 percent. The shift toward poor repair was common in all tenures and can be accounted for by farmers spending their incomes during this period for tractors, combines, and other costly farm machinery. It was also due to the total farm receipts falling off more than \$1,000.00 per farm during this period. The community experienced some disastrous hailstorms during this time that damaged the buildings and caused them to be classed lower than they would otherwise have been. The author noticed the run down condition of the farm buildings when making the survey of 1930. Practically all the buildings needed painting and repairing.

Table 23. The Percent of Farm Homes in Each Tenure Having Modern Conveniences, 1924 and 1930

Tenure classes	: Gas or		: Running		: Power		: Piano		: Radio		: Graphophone	
	: electric		: water in		: washing							
	: lights		: house		: machine							
	: 1924	: 1930	: 1924	: 1930	: 1924	: 1930	: 1924	: 1930	: 1924	: 1930	: 1924	: 1930
All farmers	29.9	35.6	9.0	14.9	33.8	49.4	37.7	41.4	3.9	48.3	33.8	36.8
Full owners	50.0	51.7	11.5	17.2	46.2	51.7	53.8	65.5	3.8	44.8	46.1	37.9
Part owners	36.0	26.9	16.0	26.9	44.0	69.2	36.0	34.6	4.0	50.0	40.0	38.5
Share tenants	4.5	29.2	0	4.2	13.6	41.7	27.3	25.0	4.5	50.0	18.2	37.5
Share croppers	0	25.0	0	0	0	0	0	25.0	0	50.0	0	25.0

The Percent of Farm Homes having Modern Home Conveniences. The percentage of all farm homes having electric lights increased from 29.9 in 1924 to 35.6 in 1930. In 1924 only 9.0 percent of all farm homes had running water but by 1930 the percentage had increased to 14.9. Power washing machines were found in 33.8 percent of the farm homes in 1924 and in 49.4 percent in 1930. The percentage of homes having a piano did not increase much being 37.7 percent in 1924 and 41.4 in 1930. (Table 23). Radios seemed to be the most popular of all the percentage jumping from 3.9 in 1924 to 48.3 percent of all farm homes in 1930. Undoubtedly the radio competing with the graphophone as a means of entertainment in the farm home, caused the small increase in the percentage of graphophones during this period which was 33.8 in 1924 and 36.8 in 1930.

Taking the listed modern conveniences as a whole, the higher the tenure the greater the percentage of farm homes having them. Share croppers had none of the modern conveniences in 1924 and but very few of them in 1930. The increase of modern home conveniences during this period indicates that farmers will sacrifice other things in order to have modern home conveniences.

The Percent of Farmers Taking Daily Papers, Weeklies, and Farm Journals and the Number Per Home. In 1924, 81.8 percent of all farmers took a daily paper but by 1930 the percentage was reduced to 79.3. The percent taking "weeklies" increased from 87.0 in 1924 to 89.6 in 1930. The average number of weeklies taken per family remained practically the same being 1.5 in 1924 and 1.6 in 1930. Farm journals were more popular with farmers than were

Table 24. Percent of Farmers Taking Daily Papers, Weeklies, And  
Farm Journals And The Number Per Home by Tenure, 1924 and  
1930

Tenure classes	Daily papers				Weeklies				Farm journals				Total	
	Number per		Percent		Number per		Percent		Number per		Percent		Number per	
	home		taking		home		taking		home		taking		home	
	1924:	1930:	1924:	1930:	1924:	1930:	1924:	1930:	1924:	1930:	1924:	1930:	1924:	1930:
All farmers	1.0	1.0	81.8	79.3	1.5	1.6	87.0	89.6	2.7	2.6	92.2	87.4	5.2	5.2
Full owners	1.4	1.2	92.3	86.2	1.7	1.7	100.0	89.7	2.5	2.6	88.5	86.2	5.1	5.5
Part owners	.9	.9	80.0	76.9	1.4	1.8	88.0	96.2	2.8	3.3	92.0	100.0	5.1	6.0
Share tenants	.3	1.0	77.3	83.3	1.4	1.5	68.2	87.5	3.2	2.0	95.4	79.2	5.4	4.5
Share croppers	.5	.6	50.0	50.0	1.3	.9	100.0	75.0	1.8	1.9	100.0	75.0	4.1	3.4

either dailies or weeklies. The percentage taking farm journals in 1924 was 92.2 and in 1930, 87.4 percent. The total number of papers taken per farm family was the same in 1924 as in 1930, being 5.2 for both years. (Table 24).

As one goes down the tenure the percent taking daily papers decreases while the number taking farm journals and "weeklies" increases. This is hard to explain unless it is due to dailies costing much more than do farm journals and weeklies. The total number of papers taken by the different tenures in 1930 were: full owners 5.5; part owners 6.0; share tenants 4.5, and croppers 3.4.

Average Age, Education, and Size of Family. In 1930 the average farmer was 43.5 years of age, had 7.7 years of schooling and had married a wife with 8.2 years of schooling. His family consisted of 4.6 persons of which 2.7 were children.

The average age of farmers of the different tenures in 1930 was: full owner 52; part owners 44.5; share tenants 35.4, and share croppers 29.2. The average number of years of schooling for each tenure was: full owner 7.0; part owner 7.4; share tenant 8.4, and share cropper 9.4 years.

The average size of family of each tenure in 1930 was: full owner 5.4; part owner 4.6; share tenant 4.2; and share cropper 2.9. The average number of children found in each tenure family in 1930 was: full owner 3.4; part owner 2.8; share tenant 2.5; and share cropper 1.0. (Table 25).

Table 25. Average Age and Education of Operator, Education of Wife, Size of Family, And Number of Children by Tenure, 1924 and 1930

Tenure classes	Operator				Wife		Family			
	Age		Years of schooling		Years of schooling		Size		Number of children	
	1924	1930	1924	1930	1924	1930	1924	1930	1924	1930
All farmers	42.4	43.5	7.5	7.7	8.5	8.2	4.8	4.6	2.6	2.7
Full owners	49.8	52.5	7.2	7.0	8.4	8.0	5.3	5.4	3.3	3.4
Part owners	43.0	44.5	7.6	7.4	8.2	7.8	4.8	4.6	2.8	2.8
Share tenants	35.4	36.4	7.7	8.4	9.1	8.5	4.3	4.2	2.3	2.5
Share croppers	28.5	29.2	9.0	9.4	8.8	10.0	3.5	2.9	1.5	1.0



As was stated earlier, the old farmers are either full or part owners and have more children but less education than do the share tenants and croppers. When the share tenants and share croppers get as old as the present land owners, they will have more education, probably will have as many children, but it is doubtful if they will own as much land.

#### CONCLUSIONS

Farmers seek to adjust themselves to changed farm conditions. If the income from one source falls off, or fails, they tend to develop others to supplement it or take its place. In times of financial stress more of the family living, especially the food products, are produced on the home farm.

The farm family economizes during a depression by spending less for furniture and furnishings, clothing, vacation and travel, and in building upkeep. They are loath to cut on needed farm equipment, education and reading, and modern home conveniences.

Modern farm machinery has a tendency to make extremely large farms on the one hand and small on the other. Those that can use to advantage modern farm machinery need more acres to farm; those that cannot use it are forced to a different type of farming which usually requires fewer acres.

The share tenant and the share cropper are affected more by adverse farm changes than are the land owning groups. Not being securely fastened to the soil the winds of adversity shift them about mercilessly. If it continues long many are forced off the farm into other fields of work. In order for them to climb the ladder to farm ownership they must have a long period of stable agriculture.

One hopeful sign in agriculture is that in most cases the young men who enter farming today are better educated than the farmers they replace. The effects of this are being felt at present in better care of the soil, better quality of livestock, poultry, and crops and a willingness to cooperate with other farmers for the good of the group.

Education is by far the best tool that can be placed in the hands of farmers of the future if we expect them to succeed as farmers and at the same time preserve the nation's greatest resource, the soil.

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