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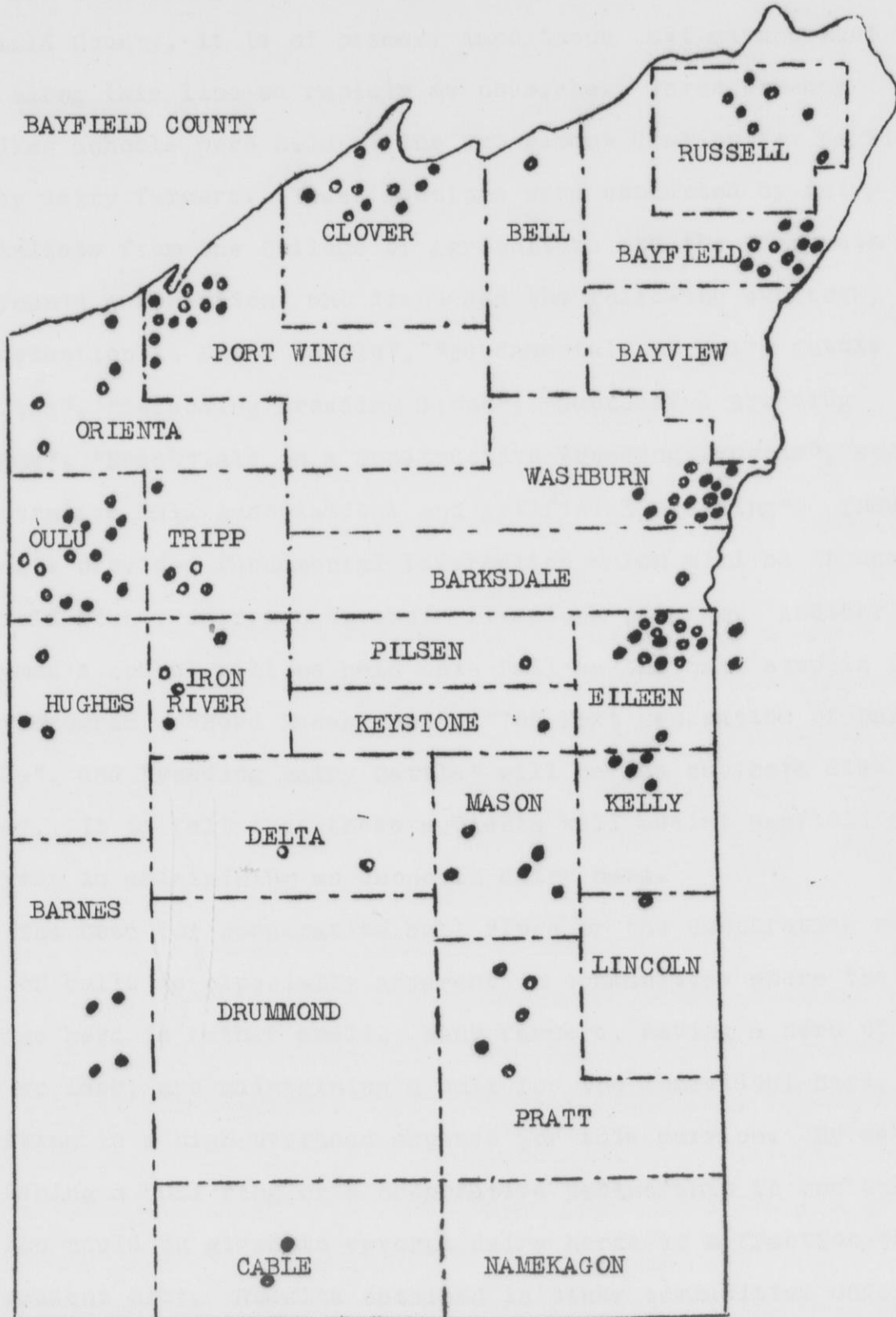
DEC 1 - 1939

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
BAYFIELD COUNTY AGRICULTURAL AGENT
WASHBURN, WISCONSIN
1939

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BAYFIELD COUNTY AGRICULTURAL AGENT

The following program of work on a project basis for Bayfield County was adopted by the County Agricultural Committee, the County Agent, and the District Supervisor, jointly, on March 1, 1939.

<u>Phase of Work</u>	<u>Goals</u>
LIVESTOCK IMPROVEMENT	Encourage use of high producing dairy sires. Bot's control program. Promote interest in a farm sheep and farm poultry program.
LAND CLEARING PROJECT	Through use of new county land clearing machine direct the clearing of additional lands on the well located farms in the County.
SOIL TESTING	Promote the testing of farm soils and soil management.
4-H CLUB WORK & HOME ECONOMICS	Enrollment 300. Achievement 70%. Hold series of leaders' conferences. Club camp. Achievement Day. 4-H Rally Day. Goal 450 Homemakers. Develop Foods & Nutrition, Home Furnishing, and Child Development projects.
COUNTY FORESTS	Administer County Forests as directed by County Forest Ordinance and under the direction of County Forestry Committee and in cooperation with Wisconsin Conservation Department.
AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION	Proceed with educational phases of the Agricultural Conservation program as directed by U.S.D.A., emphasize liming, fertilization, development of new seedings and farm woodlot improvement.
MISCELLANEOUS	Grasshopper control program as needed. Personal service, County Fair. Assist in developing Ashland Experiment Station and Farm & Home Week programs at Ashland.



MEETINGS HELD OR ATTENDED DURING THE YEAR

LIVESTOCK IMPROVEMENT

Since dairying forms the major part of livestock income in Bayfield County, it is of primary importance that advancement be made along this line as rapidly as possible. Three one-day breeding schools were held at the Experiment Station for Bayfield County dairy farmers. These meetings were conducted by dairy specialists from the College of Agriculture and the Wisconsin Dairyman's Association, who discussed the following subjects, "Reproduction in Dairy Cattle", "Fundamentals of Dairy Cattle Breeding", "Selecting Breeding Stock", "Successful Breeding Systems", "Essentials in a Constructive Breeding Program", and "Cooperative Bull Associations and Artificial Breeding". These subjects provided fundamental information which will be of use to Bayfield County dairymen in their livestock program. Another dairymen's school will be held this fall as the next step in our Dairy Program. "Herd Management", "The Next Generation of Dairy Cattle", and "Feeding Dairy Cattle" will be the subjects discussed. It is felt that these subjects will assist Bayfield County dairymen in maintaining an economic dairy herd.

The need for cooperative bull rings or the cooperative ownership of bulls is especially apparent in communities where the average herd is rather small. Many farmers, having a herd of ten cows or less, are maintaining a bull for the individual herd, resulting in a high overhead expense for this service. By establishing a bull ring or a cooperative partnership in one bull, service could be given to several dairy herds at a fraction of the present cost. Results obtained in other communities under this plan have been very satisfactory, and this program will be pushed in the future.



Bulls from 500 lb. butterfat ancestry
to be used in farmers' herds.

Following the drought years and the period of low prices for dairy products, the number of high producing sires in the county decreased. However, with the return of normal feed and an upturn in dairy prices, interest has again become active in securing good quality sires. This office has been of assistance in securing several sires from high producing herds to be used in the county, and six young sires were recently loaned for use on several farms in the county.

As a result of several cases of sleeping sickness of horses in the county in 1938, a vaccination program was carried on this year. Farmers were organized into groups to obtain a group price, and three hundred-fifty head of horses were given two vaccinations as a disease preventative. As far as known, there were no cases of sleeping sickness in the county this year. This program should be continued for another two years in order to obviate a recurrence of the disease. The bot treatment was conducted in a similar way. A total of one hundred seventy-five horses were treated. Due to the fact that the bot program has been carried on for the past three or four years, undoubtedly the number treated each year will decrease.

Farm flocks of poultry are on the increase in the county. Since 1933, the net income from poultry has compared very favorably with that from dairying, which has encouraged many farmers to increase the size of their poultry flocks. Special emphasis has been placed on the rearing of chicks and poultry sanitation, as well as the construction of poultry houses. Personal assistance has been given in feeding, culling and sanitation.

The maintenance of a small flock of sheep as a means of diversified livestock income is being encouraged on many farms. In many instances, there is a surplus of good roughage and pasture which can be utilized by sheep and add to the farm income. Help has been given in the selection of breeding stock, rations, and prevention of infestation. In this connection, three dipping and drenching demonstrations were held, at which a total of three hundred seventy-five head were dipped for ticks and drenched for stomach worms. Healthy flocks produce a good quality wool and make rapid gains in weight, both of which mean an added income for the owner. With this start on a health program, it may be possible to interest a sufficient number of sheep owners so as to maintain a portable tank which will reduce the cost of this operation.

LAND CLEARING

Since the first land clearing tractor was purchased in 1938, the demand became so great for this cheap method of clearing land, that in the spring of 1939, the Agricultural Committee purchased a second tractor for this purpose. Starting in June and up to October 15, 1,037 acres have been cleared on one hundred-eighty farms in the county. On dead stump land the cost has averaged between \$3.00 and \$4.00 per acre. In addition to stumping, in many instances, pot-holes have been filled, drainage ditches dug and field roads made.

Since the average farm in the county has only twenty-two acres under cultivation, which is too small for economic security, the committee feels that at the present time, land clearing is the most important project under our agricultural development.



A cheap method of land clearing -
sponsored by Bayfield County



Stumping of this field cost \$3.00
per acre.

program. That the farmers agree with this viewpoint is evidenced by the fact that the demand for the land clearing machines far exceeds the opportunity to perform the service. At the present time, it appears that this program will continue without interruption for the next two or three years. Eventually, this program will mean more acres under cultivation, more home-grown feed, more livestock, and an increase in the net farm income. In many instances it will not be necessary for the farm family to supplement their farm income with outside employment in order to make a living.

SOIL TESTING

With the help of a WPA project, a soil testing program has been carried on for the past nine months. Many farmers have been reporting that their soils were in such condition that crop yields were diminishing. For this reason, the soil testing project was set up. To date, 432 samples from 145 farms have been tested, and a report made to each farmer. Generally speaking, most of the farms tested thus far have been found lacking in sufficient lime to grow a good crop of legumes, and also have at present only one-third of the phosphate and one-half of the potash necessary to produce a normal amount of other field crops. As a result of this soil analysis, many farmers applied the recommended treatment with satisfactory results. It is hoped to continue the soil testing service until the soils on every farm in the county have been analyzed for fertility.



Our soils need additional fertility -
Grain field on right received an
application of 3-12-12 fertilizer.

REPORT OF 4-H CLUB WORK AND HOME ECONOMICS

By Miss Mildred Olson, Home Agent

1939 4-H Club Work

There were 28 4-H clubs in Bayfield County with an enrollment of 433 members. Forty-three adult leaders and twelve Junior leaders were instrumental in carrying on the work. The projects carried this year included Dairy, Beef, Bee, Clothing, Colt, Corn, Food Preservation, Foods and Nutrition, Forestry, Garden, Handicraft, Small Furnishings, Home Grounds Beautification, Home Service, Pig, Junior Leadership, Potato, Poultry, Ducks, Sheep, Turkeys, and Fish Conservation.

It was noticed that there was approximately a 30% increase in the number of members who exhibited at the County Fair this year and the quality of work showed progress also.

4-H club members had the privilege of attending either the Tri-County Camp at Lake Nebagamon or the Lake Galilee Camp near Mellen. The twenty-five who attended from this county reported an enjoyable as well as instructive experience.

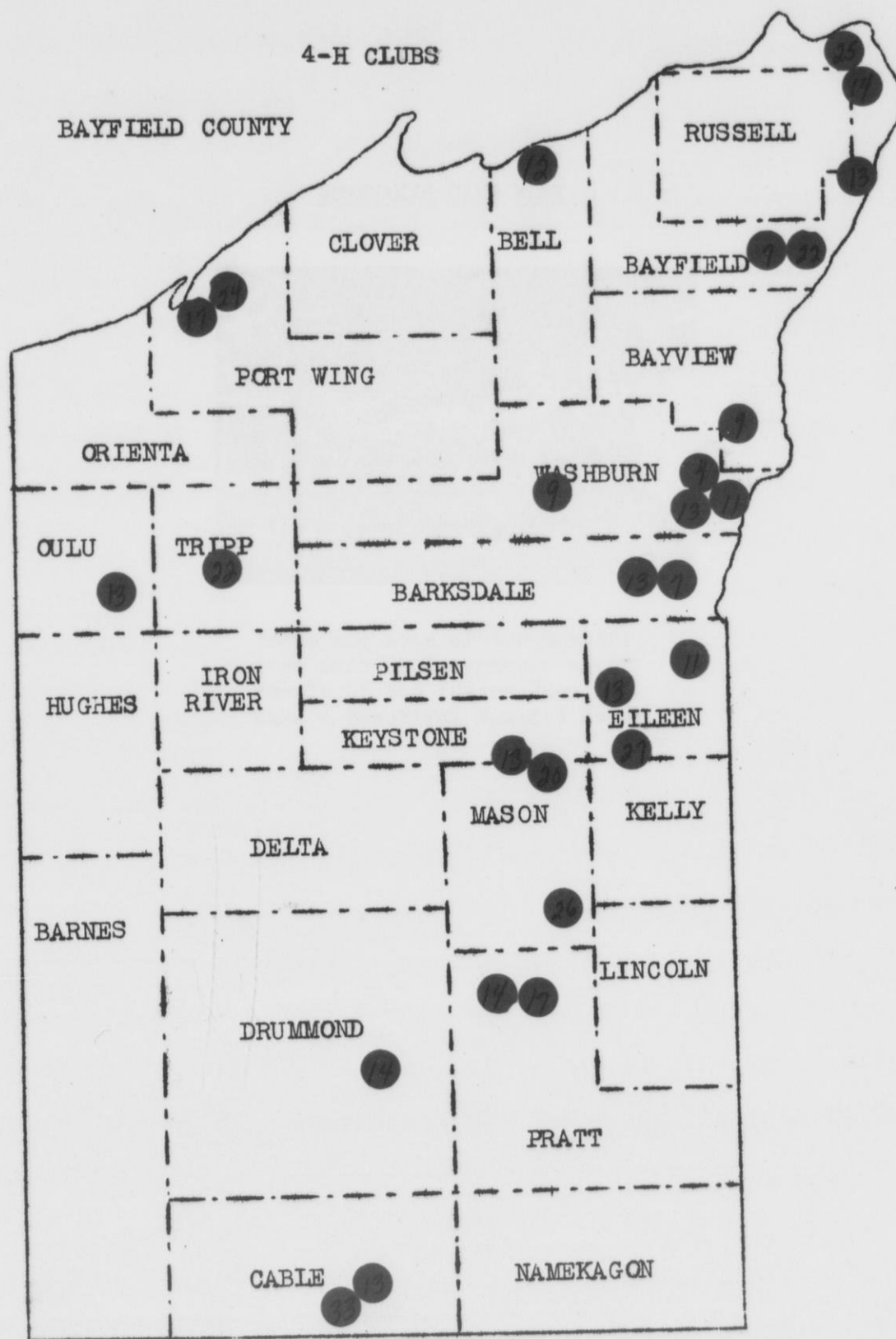
Ninety-five club members participated in the contests held on Rally Day, and as a result, five members were awarded trips to the State Fair. There were Agricultural and Home Economics demonstration contests, Agricultural judging contests, Home Economics judging contests, Dress Revue and Dairy Queen contests. The winners enjoyed a week at Milwaukee State Fair.

Practically all the boys and girls of club age were given an insight of 4-H club work as a result of a County-wide tour of schools made by the Home Agent during last December and the early winter months. Helps were given in the organization of new clubs by the County Agricultural Agent and Home Agent.

4-H CLUB WORK



This 4-H'er is picking
peas from the garden she
has planned, planted and
cared for in keeping with
4-H project instructions.



4-H CLUB LOCATIONS & ENROLLMENTS

● - Total Enrollment

Leaders' meetings were planned so as to give leaders and Junior leaders very definite help in conducting their club work. Special help was given on Club Program Planning, Clothing project work, demonstrations, judging, and keeping 4-H records. These leaders' meetings were supplemented by home letters and home calls so as to keep in touch with the club work.

HOMEMAKER CLUB WORK



These are some of the braided rugs made by Homemakers as a result of the lesson "How to Make a Beautiful Braided Rug."

Dr. L. G. Holmes, State Landscape Specialist, gave help through home calls and illustrated lectures.

The Homemaker Achievement programs were held at two District Centers, namely: Castle and Washburn. About 310 Homemakers attended these meetings. Mrs. M. McGowan, Home Management Specialist, gave a very interesting talk on "Tourist Rooms and Cabins". Dr. Ralph Bridgman, Child Development Specialist, gave a talk on "The Family and the Future of Democracy". The Achievement Day exhibits showed some nice braided rugs, and children's clothing, also. There was an exhibit on table setting, a fitting culmination to our year's work. One club had a very interesting exhibit of a supplementary project which has been carried out at some of their meetings. Various kinds of sacks

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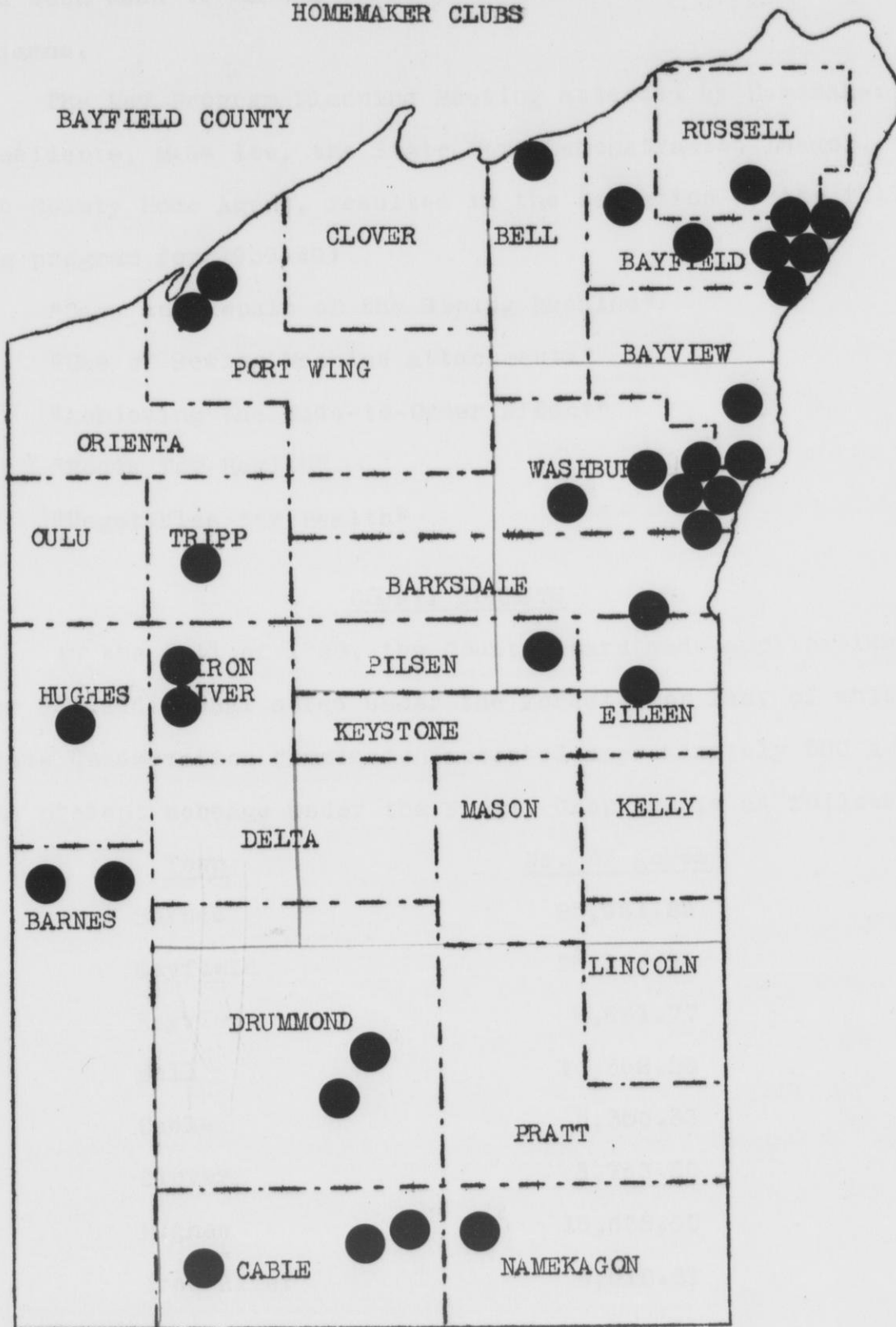
1939 Homemaker Club Work

There were 30 Homemaker clubs in Bayfield County in 1938-39 with an enrollment of 467 members. The project work was carried on by local leaders who were trained at Center meetings and had the experience of presenting the lessons to their local club meetings. The project lessons included "Color and Color Schemes for the Home", "How to Make a Beautiful Braided Rug", "Planning the Day's Meals", "Hospitality and Table Service", and "Children's Clothing".

Mr. L. G. Holmes, State Landscape Specialist, gave helps through home calls and illustrated lectures.

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HOMEMAKER CLUBS



●--Location of Homemaker Clubs with enrollments

●--Location of Homemaker Centers with enrollments

had been used to make a variety of articles from dish cloths to pajamas.

The May Program Planning Meeting attended by Homemaker Club Presidents, Miss Lee, the State Home Demonstration Leader, and the County Home Agent, resulted in the selection of the following program for 1939-40:

"Care and Repair of the Sewing Machine"

"Use of Sewing Machine Attachments"

"Achieving the Made-to-Order Effect"

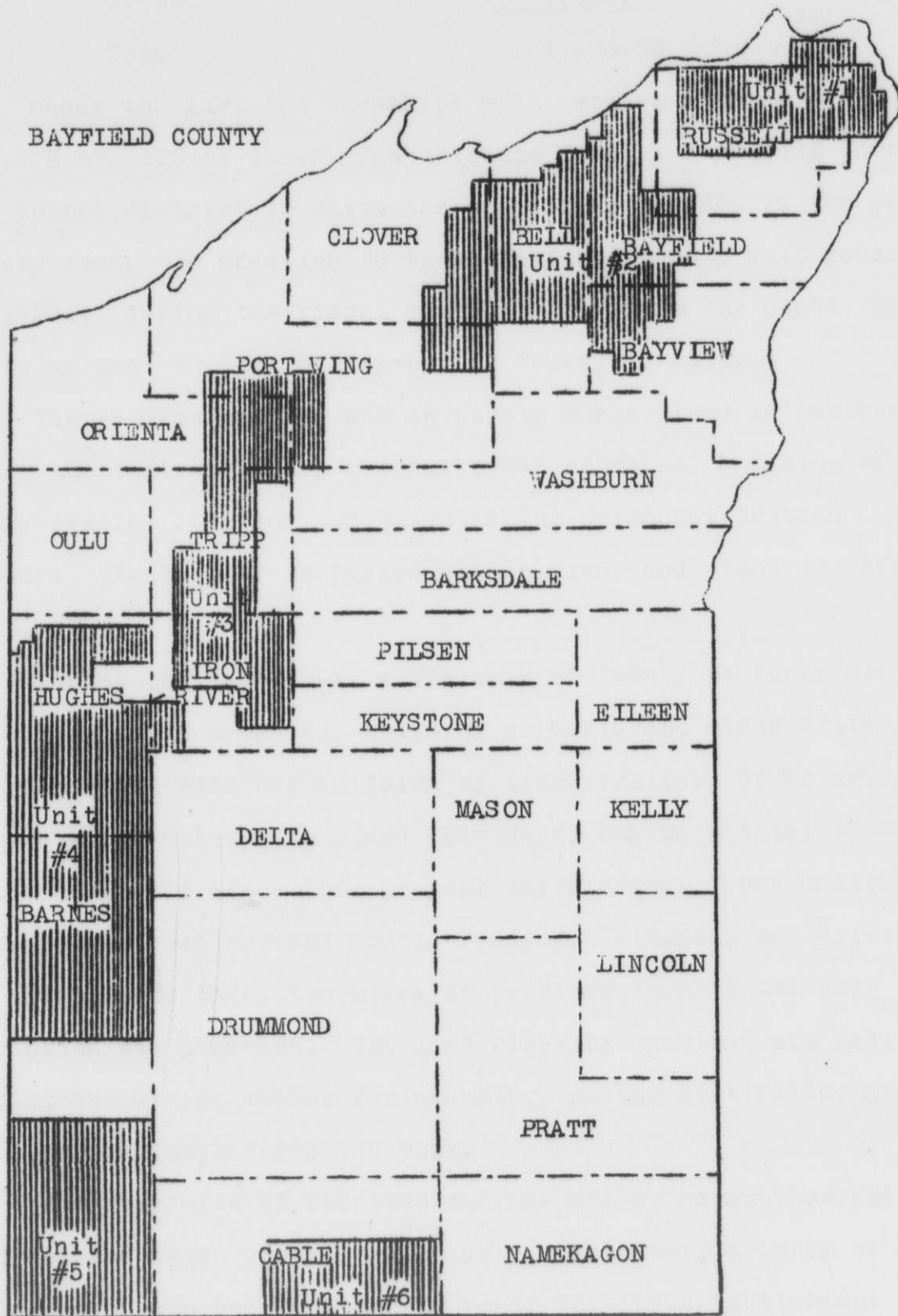
"Foods for Health"

"Vegetables for Health"

COUNTY FORESTS

In the fall of 1938, the County Board made application for 940 additional acres under the Forest Crop Law, of which the State Conservation Commission accepted approximately 500 acres. The present acreage under the Forest Crop Law is as follows:

<u>Town</u>	<u>No. of Acres</u>
Barnes	25,961.85
Bayfield	25,146.24
Bayview	9,661.77
Bell	14,352.23
Cable	5,356.33
Clover	3,753.50
Hughes	15,635.00
Iron River	4,918.81
Oriente	3,720.00
Port Wing	4,765.00
Russell	5,754.00



Location of Forestry Lands

<u>Town</u>	<u>No. of Acres</u>
Tripp	<u>5,360.00</u>
Total	124,384.73

Under the law, the townships will receive a total of \$12,438.47, 40% of which goes into the general fund, 40% into the school district in which the area lies, and 20% to the general County fund. In addition to this, Bayfield County will receive \$12,438.47 during the fiscal year directly from the State, which is to be used in the development of County forests.

The program carried out on County Forest land is included under the following five general types of work: building of truck trails, locating and establishing permanent section corners, planting, fire hazard elimination, and stand improvement.

During the past year, a WPA crew of twenty to forty men has been engaged in brushing, building culverts and ditch drainage in connection with the building of truck trails. Up to November 1st, six new miles were added this year, making a total of 34 miles completed since this project was started. Some additional mileage has been brushed and is ready for stumping and ditching. In addition to this, two miles of previous truck trail construction was graveled. The land clearing machines are used during the winter months for stumping, making dirt fills, grading, etc., which facilitates the work.

A survey crew of fourteen men was set up as another WPA project and began operations in July. Thus far, a total of 32½ miles has been surveyed and is ready for the establishment of permanent section corners. This work has been carried on in Unit #3, where most of the section corners have been lost due to

fire, and when this unit is completed, survey work will be started in Unit #4, where the same condition exists. It is expected that it will take at least two years to re-establish permanent section corners on the remainder of the County Forest land.

In 1938, 120 acres were planted to two-year old jack pine. Due to dry weather and other causes, about 30% died, and this area was replanted in the spring of 1939, using 24 men for ten days. It is probable that in the near future, planting will be done on a larger scale.

There has been a rather active market for timber stumpage, and during the past year, timber sales have amounted to \$3,717.48. This amount, less the State stumpage tax, goes into the general County fund. There is a large volume of aspen pulp wood on County Forest lands which will undoubtedly be sold when the pulp wood market returns to normal.

AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION

The Soil Conservation program for 1939 is practically the same as that of 1938. The program is directed by a County Executive Committee of three members which is elected by farmer delegates from the nine districts in the County. Figures on the 1939 program are not yet available, but during 1938, 1,234 farmers in the County participated in the program, receiving total benefit payments amounting to \$29,406.74, or an average of \$23.83 per farm. Much of the money received has been used to buy lime, fertilizer and seeds. According to the assessors' reports, there are now over 8,000 acres of alfalfa in the County as compared to 850 acres ten years ago. The various lime programs during the past few years, plus the soil building provisions of

the Soil Conservation program, are largely responsible for this increased acreage.

Alfalfa and clover seed are coming to be recognized as a standard cash crop in the County. There is excellent demand for these seeds farther south in the State, and all available seeds are sold each year. A Cooperative Seed Growers Association has been established in Douglas County, to which several Bayfield County seed growers belong. By making advanced payments on seeds deposited to the Association, farmers are not forced to sell their seed in the fall during a period of low prices and are thus averaging greater net returns. Undoubtedly, more of our farmers will join the Association when its functions are clearly understood.

MISCELLANEOUS

Grasshopper Control Program

During 1939, the County was again organized on a township basis for grasshopper control, township committeemen being appointed by the Town Chairmen. One County-wide meeting of these committeemen was held to establish procedure in mixing poison bait, allotting to farmers, records, etc. However, due to the continued rains in the month of June, very little poison was necessary to protect the crops. There were abundant hatches of young grasshoppers during the latter part of the season, which means that a control program must be in effect in 1940. Due to a Federal Emergency Appropriation, in all probability the County will be allotted sufficient poison to take care of its needs for the next year.



Disease and Insect Problems of Fruits

FRUITS

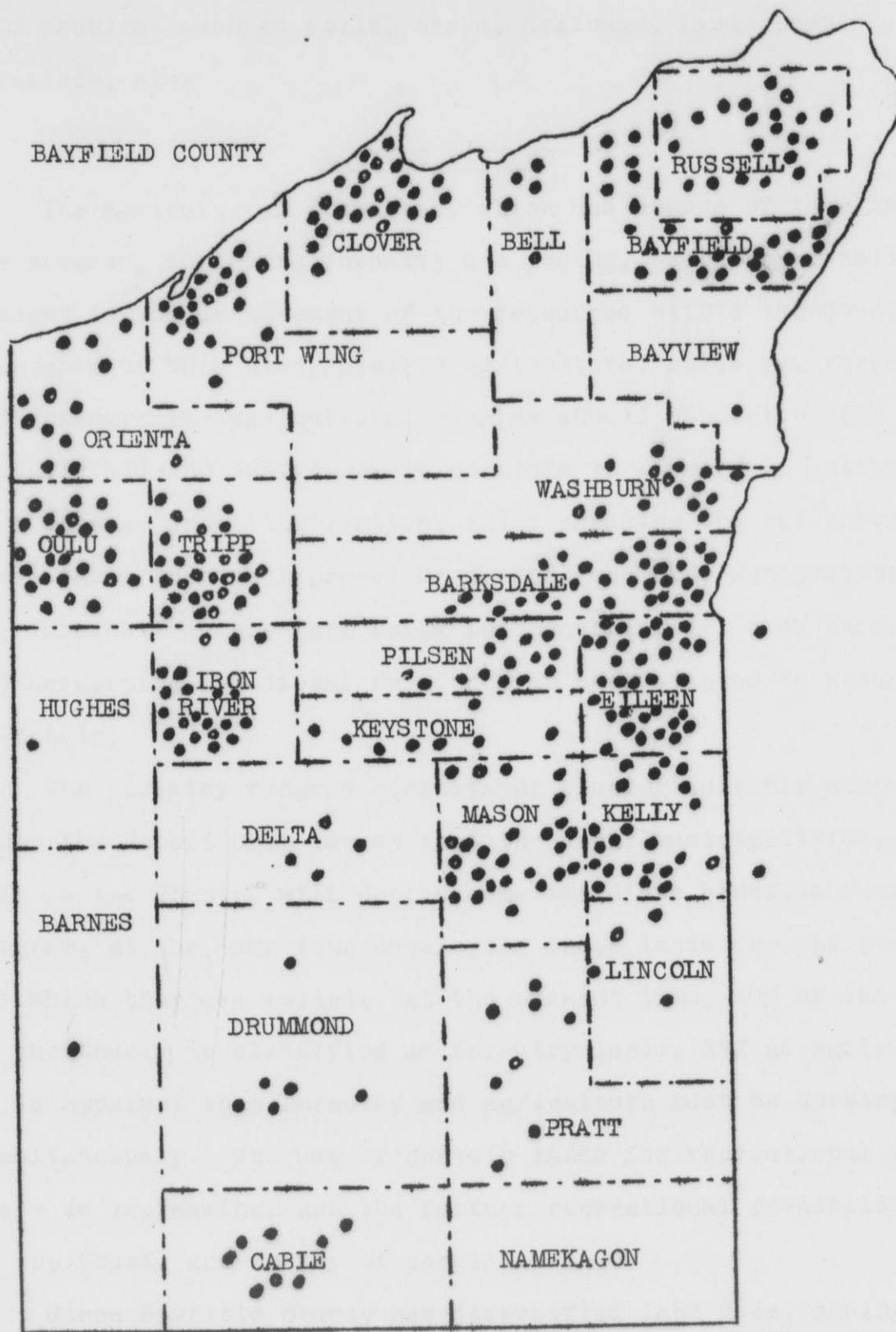
Two years of strawberry experimental work has been carried on under the direction of the College of Agriculture. This work has consisted of strawberry varieties, effects of various fertilizers, mulching, and the marketing quality of these varieties. A report will be made available this fall, which should be of benefit to the strawberry growers in the County. Prices during the past season approached normal, which has encouraged strawberry growers to increase their acreage. There is still much to be done on standardizing varieties and marketing quality fruit.

More attention is being paid to orchards as a means of cash income. Pruning and spraying are receiving more attention and each year more commercial fertilizer is used. Concentration on one variety of raspberries is progressing, especially in the Bayfield community.

COUNTY FAIR

By direction of the County Board, the Agricultural Committee again assumed the management of the County Fair, with the County Agent as Secretary. Considerable repairs and improvements were made to the grounds. This year's premium list was revised and added to in order to more adequately represent the agricultural and home products within the County. While the attendance was less than last year, the exhibits increased by 50%. Premiums were offered on dairy cattle this year, and it is hoped that the list can be extended to include other livestock.

Due to the various County and Governmental programs which are being carried on, it is impossible for the County Agent to



FARM VISITS MADE DURING THE YEAR

make as many personal farm visits as formerly. However, during the past year 424 farm visits were made to assist in personal farm problems such as soils, crops, drainage, land clearing, livestock, etc.

LOOKING FORWARD

The Agricultural Committee, which has charge of the land use program, including forestry and zoning, has given considerable thought to the development of the resources within the County. A program of this kind involves agriculture, forestry, recreation and zoning. The agricultural program should consist of (1) giving whatever aid and assistance is possible to farmers in getting more acreage under cultivation; (2) increasing the net income of these farms through improved herd, soil and crop management; (3) interesting more farm folks in sponsoring 4-H club work; (4) developing a national farm program more adapted to northern Wisconsin.

The forestry program consists of placing suitable acreage under the Forest Crop Law so that the local municipalities, as well as the County, will derive some immediate benefits from the program, at the same time developing these lands for the purpose for which they are suited. At the present time, 40% of the land in the County is classified as forestry lands, 27% as agricultural. It is apparent that forestry and agriculture must be developed simultaneously. The use of certain lands for recreational purposes is increasing, and the further recreational possibilities of the County are worthy of consideration.

Since Bayfield County has diversified land uses, zoning is of paramount importance. The authority to direct, divert and

restrict settlement and land uses is vital to resource planning and development. For this reason, the County Board has placed the administration of the zoning ordinance in the hands of the agricultural and forestry committee in order that land use planning may be facilitated.

Of all the Federal programs set up this far to assist the cut over areas, the most benefit has been derived from the Isolated Federal Purchase Project. To date, ninety such cases have been purchased within the County, which have materially reduced the public expenditures in the municipalities concerned. In two instances, two schools were closed, which saved \$1,200.00 annually to these two school districts. In many other instances, the relatively high cost of transportation, relief, etc., were eliminated.

Agriculture, forestry, zoning, and land use must be all interwoven in any development program in Bayfield County.

STATISTICAL REPORT

In order to carry out the foregoing program the County Agent's time was divided between office and field work as the following statistical report will indicate.

Farm and Home visits.....	424
New Farm visits.....	262
Office calls.....	708
Telephone calls.....	315
Days in field.....	175.6
Days in office.....	119.6
News articles published.....	14
Personal letters.....	2002
Circular letters.....	46
Bulletins distributed.....	1954
Method demonstration meetings.....	6
Meetings at result demonstrations.....	3
Other meetings related to projects.....	73

STATISTICAL REPORT OF COUNTY HOME AGENT

Farm and Home visits.....	298
New Farm visits.....	206
Office calls.....	141
Telephone calls.....	128
Days in field.....	130.35
Days in office.....	132.15
News articles published.....	16
Personal letters.....	456
Circular letters.....	28
Bulletins distributed.....	4053
Method demonstration meetings.....	45
Meetings at result demonstration.....	7
Other meetings related to projects.....	67