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## **Fifteenth annual report of the Wood County Agricultural Agent, 1935. 1935**

[s.l.]: [s.n.], 1935

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**F**IND the **FACTS**  
**F**ACE the **FACTS**  
**F**OLLOW *the*  
**F**INDINGS

19

35

—FIFTEENTH—

ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
WOOD COUNTY

AGRICULTURAL AGENT  
H. R. LATHROPE

### PROGRAM

During the year of 1935, more than any other year since its organization in Wood County in 1920, the work of the county agent has been devoted to assisting farmers in the adjustment program and to making available to all farmers in Wood County, the new legislation and programs. The program has been centered around the following points:

- |                               |   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| 1. A.A.A.                     | 7. Production Credit  |
| 2. Corn-Hog Adjustment        | 8. Debt Adjustment  |
| 3. Bang's Disease Eradication | 9. Homemakers Work  |
| 4. Limesludge and Limestone   | 10. 4-H Club Work   |
| 5. Seed & Feed Loans          | 11. Conservation, Reforest-<br>ration, Shelterbelts,<br>Windbreaks. |
| 6. Real Estate Credit         |   |
| 12. Miscellaneous Activities  |   |

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- PURPOSE OF REPORTS -

Nearly everyone who holds a responsible public or business position makes and receives reports. The annual report of the Wood County Agricultural Extension Agent is more than a report. It is, in reality, an inventory of the work that has been done. The county agent's annual report serves the agricultural committee, the state, and national departments cooperating as a guide for the programs for future work. The report of the county agent's office constitutes the only reliable evidence on which to build for progress in the agricultural program. The report shows clearly how many people were benefited and received service from the office. The purpose of the annual report is to keep people in the county informed.

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- THE AIM OF EXTENSION WORK -

During the past five years, Wood County farmers have been confronted with drastically "low" commodity prices. They have suffered drought and low yields. Practically every farmer in Wood County has had to "adjust" his program to meet this very serious situation. Farmers who found themselves with low producing herds and livestock infected with controllable diseases and consequently high production cost, were not in a position to meet the situation. The county agricultural agent has been in a position to assist farmers in making the proper adjustments so that their herds, crops, and farm products can be placed on as near a profitable and efficient basis as possible. The county agent's office has turned practically all of its attention to assisting farmers in making these adjustments so that living on farms might be more satisfactory and more profitable for the owner.

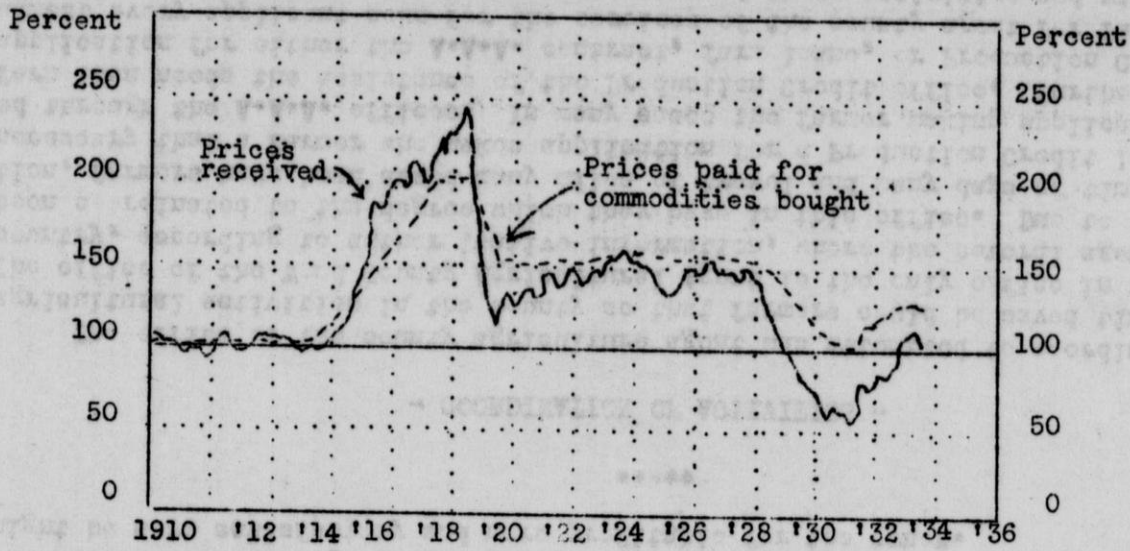
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- COORDINATION OF ACTIVITIES -

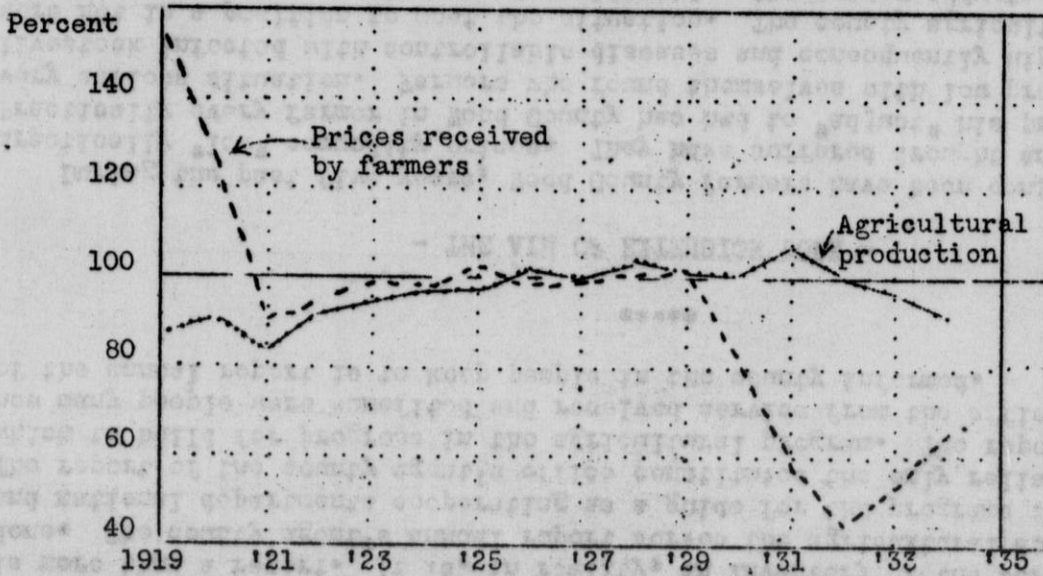
The office of the county agriculture agent has attempted to coordinate the agricultural activities in the county so that farmers could be saved time and travel. The office of the Wood County Agricultural Agent is the only office in the entire country, according to authoritative information, where the several agencies have been coordinated to the degree which they have in this office. Due to this coordination, farmers have been saved many miles of travel and many days of time. It is necessary that a farmer who makes application for a Production Credit loan be cleared through the A.A.A. offices. In many cases the farmer making application for the farm loan needs the assistance of the Production Credit office. Further, in making application for either the A.A.A. contract, farm loans, or Production Credit loans, almost every applicant asks for the services of the county agent for farm management or other information. With the coordination of these activities and with a common board of directors for practically all of these agencies working in harmony with the agricultural committee, expenses and overhead have been cut to the minimum so that probably no other office operating within the county has as low an operating cost and as an efficient a set-up as has been worked out by the county agricultural agent's office cooperating with the agricultural committee.

In Appreciation: The office of the Wood County Agricultural Agent desires to express appreciation to the Nekoosa-Edwards Paper Company for their courtesy and cooperation in the limesludge program and to the First National Bank of Wisconsin Rapids for their kindness in providing office space, light, heat, and water, and janitor service for the office of the county agricultural agent for the past several years.

PRICES RECEIVED AND PAID BY FARMERS, 1910 TO DATE



AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, PRICES, AND INCOME, UNITED STATES, 1919 TO DATE



- WOOD COUNTY AGRICULTURAL ADJUSTMENT PROGRAMS -

During the past two years, Wood County farmers have participated in the AAA programs as follows: farmers signing beet contracts, 18; wheat 9; farmers signing corn-hog contracts in 1934, 367; in 1935, 420; Cattle Purchase, 512; and in Bang's Disease Control, 980 making a total of 2306 farmers who have entered into contractual relationship with the federal government through the county agent's office during this period.

Benefit payments will have been received in Corn-Hog amounting to approximately \$60,000; in Cattle Purchase \$20,000; in Bang's Disease farmers have been tested free and indemnified for approximately \$8,000; beet farmers will have received approximately \$200 and wheat approximately \$300, making a total of approximately \$88,500.00.

Wood County farmers reduced their herds and flocks during the drouth years of 1932, 1933, and 1934, which made it unnecessary for them to reduce further in 1934 and 1935 and still they are able to gain large benefit payments which amounted to a sum equal to about one half of the total farm tax of the county. This was obtained by Wood County farmers without seriously hampering their production program.

The following charts on production and prices clearly indicate the necessity of some sort of control program. Probably the most lasting and beneficial of all the AAA programs, the Bang's Disease Program is the most outstanding. Wood County farmers are particularly well-equipped to grasp the opportunities and make application for a free test on their herds now while the federal funds last. These funds, which indemnify farmers for making the adjustments, are coming at a time when they are especially well-received due to the general low prices of farm products.

#### Heavy Production Likely to Follow

One of the main values of the whole program is that farmers are rapidly becoming conscious of their opportunity in production and responsibility toward the demand. Indications are that without some sort of a control program, excessive corn acreages will be planted in 1936 and 1937 and every farmer knows that heavy corn yields mean more "hogs on the hoof."

Farmers throughout the country are also becoming rapidly conscious of the impending necessity of some sort of dairy program either with quality or production control because of the huge number of heifers coming on in spite of the small number reduced through the effects of the Bang's Disease Program or the Cattle Purchase Program.

#### Referendum Indicates Trend

The referendum vote on whether or not the corn-hog program should continue in 1936 was held by the County Allotment Committee for the farmers in Wood County. The results of the ballots clearly indicates that farmers are beginning to realize their own responsibility and they are rapidly accepting a national viewpoint and are looking farther than their own line fences.

The office of the county agent has attempted to interpret the rulings and requirements of the AAA. The Allotment Committee of the Wood County Corn-Hog Control Association and all the members of the committees who are interested in the program have accepted their responsibility to explain the program without bias or prejudices. The Allotment Committee of the Corn-Hog Control Association have endeavored to operate the association as economically as possible so that as large a portion of the benefit payments could be returned to the contract signer as possible. The county agricultural agent receives and asks no salary or compensation whatever for services rendered in any of these programs which have been carried out.

WOOD COUNTY

1935 CORN-HOG CONTRACTS

A--Contract Signers

B--Benefit Payments to be Rec'd.

WOOD COUNTY

A. - 26 B. - \$977.55  LINCOLN	A. - 25 B. - \$763.75 A. - 4 B. \$120 CAMERON	MARSH-FIELD	A. - 35 B. - \$1562.20  AUBURNDALE	A. - 54 B. - \$2150.10  MILLADORE
A. - 13 B. - \$465.00  ROCK	A. - 11 B. - \$347.25  RICHFIELD	A. - 36 B. - \$1781.15  ARPIN	A. - 24 B. - \$763.55  SHERRY	
A. - 4 B. - \$75.00  CARY	A. - 9 B. - \$517.10  WOOD	A. - 17 B. - \$930.30  HANSEN	A. - 21 B. - \$815.15  SIGEL	A. - 46 B. - \$1976.70  RUDOLPH
A. - 4 B. - \$161.10  HILES	A. - 4 B. - \$155.55  DEXTER		SENECA	A. - 5 B. - \$262.25  GRAND RAPIDS
A. - 3 B. - \$121.80  REMINGTON		CRANMOOR	A. - 29 B. - \$2720.60  PORT EDWARDS	A. - 16 B. - \$1132.35  SARATOGA

BALLOT REPORTS

(Yes) (No)

Contract Signers

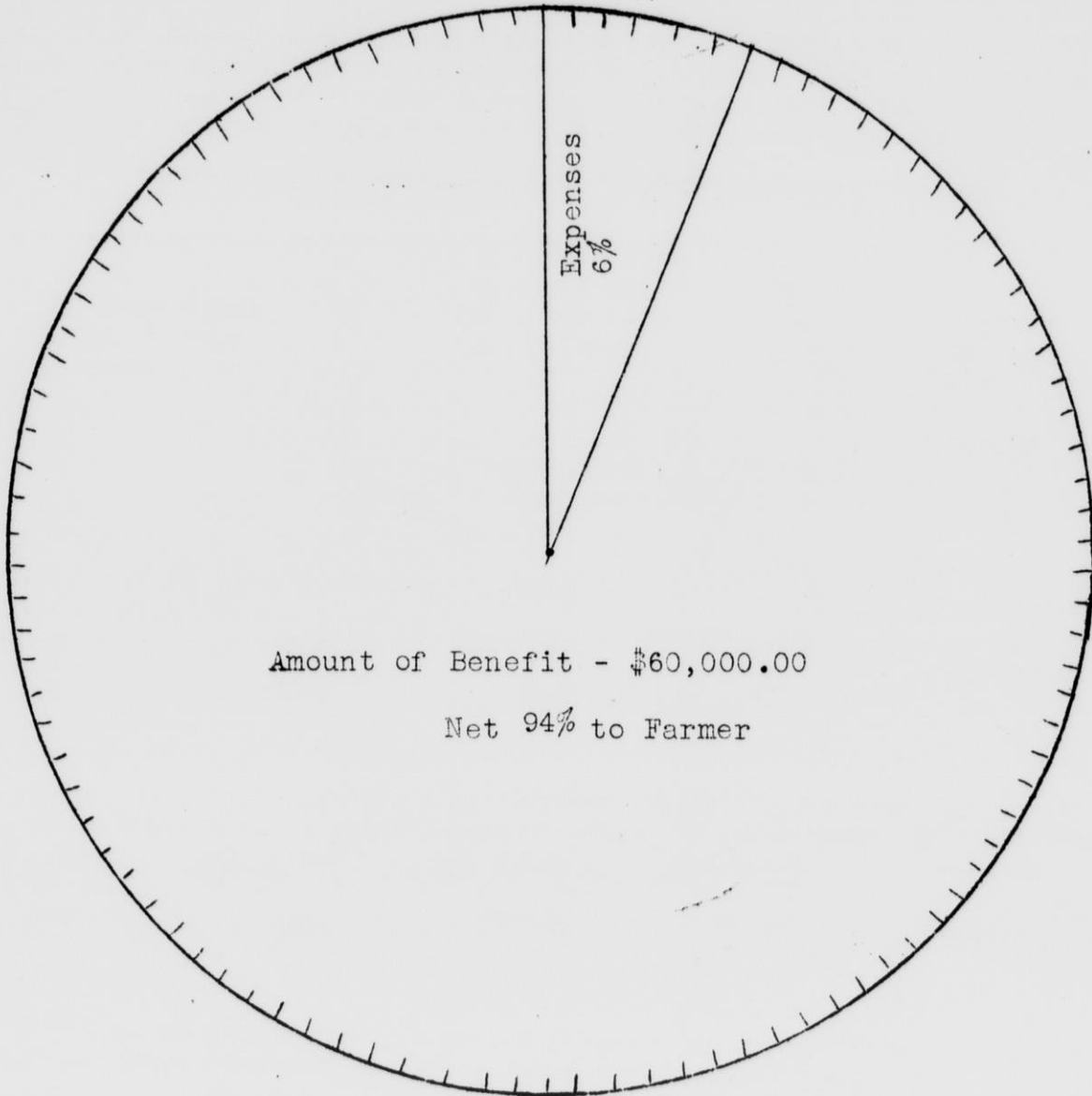
275 46

Non-Contract Signers

3 5

CORN and HOG

100



ANALYSIS OF THE AAA DOLLAR IN WOOD COUNTY

Expense items include the cost of the Allotment Committee, clerical work, and 1508 inspections and compliance reports. Total cost per contract for two years -- \$4.87.



LINCOLN 280 farms 8 clean herds 16 applications	MARSHFIELD 108 farms 16 clean herds 34 applications	AUBURNDALE 193 farms 22 clean herds 50 applications	MILLADORE 187 farms 8 clean herds 12 applications	
ROCK 118 farms 10 clean herds 31 applications	RICHFIELD 189 farms 40 clean herds 89 applications	ARPIN 180 farms 17 clean herds 61 applications	SHERRY 129 farms 2 clean herds 14 applications	W O O D C O U N T Y
CARY 68 farms 15 clean herds 32 applications	WOOD 133 farms 2 clean herds 21 applications	HANSEN 140 farms 9 clean herds 30 applications	SIGEL 221 farms 20 clean herds 66 applications	RUDOLPH 175 farms 11 clean herds 35 applications
HILES 48 farms 7 clean herds 19 applications	DEXTER 58 farms 18 clean herds 35 applications	SENECA 46 farms 25 farms 2 clean herds 3 applications	4 clean herds 18 applications	GRAND RAPIDS 54 farms 6 clean herds 19 applications
REMINGTON 30 farms 8 clean herds 22 applications		CRANMOOR 25 farms 2 clean herds 3 applications		SARATOGA 88 farms 10 clean herds 27 applications
		PORT EDWARDS 80 farms 25 clean herds 52 applications		

260 HERDS IN WOOD COUNTY CLEAN & FREE FROM BANG'S DISEASE

TOWN OF ARPIN: 180 farms, 17 clean herds, 61 applications; Anna Ashloy, Wm. Blanchfield, C. W. Bluett, Geo. J. Brou, Peter Bushman, Jacob Grimm, Andrew Kohel, Ben Langreck, Herman Michaelson, Ervin Primeau, Axel Renberg, G. B. Stephenson, Steve Stoflet, C. C. Sutton, Otto Tischendorf, Simon Vanderploeg, Peter Vanderploeg.

TOWN OF AUBURNDALE: 193 farms, 22 clean herds, 50 applications: Mike Albrecht, O. K. Anderson, Mrs. Ida Berdan, Alvina Boehning, Aug. Boehning, Louis Bredl, Emil Budtke, Wm. Budtke, Mike Grassel, Ed. Grossbier, Jos. M. Guenther, Jos. M. Hamus, Roy Hougum, Philip Kohlbeck, Ananda Magnuson, John Manlick, L. Meddough, Fred Mews, Paul Mews, Oscar Reed, Ed. Revling, Fred Schultz.

TOWN OF CARY: 68 farms, 15 clean herds, 32 applications: Clarence Adams, Carl Christianson, Fred Christianson, Oscar Christianson, Fay Cook, Sigrud Hanson, Fred Hodgson, Wm. Hutter, Felix Knospe, Willis McConnell, Mrs. Mike Resler, Geo. E. Smith, Miss Olive Titus, Emil Venzke, Chas. A. Wallace.

TOWN OF CRANMOOR: 25 farms, 2 clean herds, 3 applications: J. Emmerick, L. N. Rezin.

TOWN OF DEXTER: 58 farms, 18 clean herds, 35 applications: Art Bishop, C. Boottscher, R. Brandt, Chas. Braun, Kenneth Gardner, A. Graf, E. Heath, S. Hiles, Anton Kleifgen, Carl Larson, Emil Mathys McGuire Bros., John Miller, A. Saren, Louis Sitenga, Julius V. Smith, Fred Stricker, Sid Turner.

TOWN OF GRAND RAPIDS: 54 farms, 6 clean herds, 19 applications: Fred Barth, E. Halpop, Carl F. Knoll, S. Leslie, F. C. Roach, Arthur Russell.

TOWN OF HANSEN: 140 farms, 9 clean herds, 30 applications: E. Barais, A. Bean, John Dorst, L. Duchow, W. Ehlert, M. Peterich, H. Seib, M. Sperbeck, A. W. Stake.

TOWN OF HILES: 48 farms, 7 clean herds, 19 applications: John Berg, John Boldt, Frank From, Mrs. Anna Hoffman, Fred Koppen, Frank Sojka, Joseph Urban.

TOWN OF LINCOLN: 280 farms, 8 clean herds, 16 applications: Wm. Fenny, Fred Hill, Fred Hoefner, Lester Johnson, Matt Kuenish, Chas. Radlinger, Bruno Schaezel, M. Titus.

TOWN OF MARSHFIELD: 108 farms, 16 clean herds, 34 applications: Alba Bump, Martin Draxler, P. Eberhardy, F. Hasolberger, Joe Kautzer, F. Krueger, Thorval Moon, Joe Poeppel, Martin Viste, Blasier Wagner, Mike Weber, J. Weigel, Wd. Co. Asylum, Melvin Wundrow, Ed. Wunrow, Ernest Wunrow.

TOWN OF MILLADORE: 187 farms, 8 clean herds, 12 applications: G. Berg, Louie Blenker, Wenzel Bouska, C. Brctl, C. Feit, Ben Kohel, Jos. Konop, D. H. Trowbridge.

TOWN OF PORT EDWARDS: 80 farms, 25 clean herds, 52 applications: Ole Anderson, Jos. Baker, C. Benner, M. Davidson, G. Fuhs, A. Gavro, F. Gotz, Haase Bros. Christ Henschel, J. D. Hustedt, J. Johnson, Joe Kershasky, Ed. Klappa, Gus Kuhn, Leslie Matthews, Wallace McLean, H. Nassa, A. Neuenfeldt, J. Nulezowski, S. Oleson, R. Pharo, R. E. Pleckham, Carl Plonge, Lawrence Smoodie Valentine Weitz.

TOWN OF REMINGTON: 30 farms, 8 clean herds, 22 applications: Chas. F. Clauson, Irvin Fessler, J. W. Hart, G. H. Morse, Art Potts, W. Sorrels, F. Wilkons, Lawrence Damort.

TOWN OF RICHFIELD: 189 farms, 40 clean herds, 89 applications: Clarence Alcorn, Frank Anderson, F. Austin, Arthur Barker, Elsie Bartlett, M. E. Brown, Frank Butterbrodt, Jacob Christen, Walter J. Clark, Fred Cole, Dan Curtin, James Curtin, D. A. Deedon, Floyd Dye, Harry Dye, Wm. Dye, Chas. Ewer, H. A. Fish, Alfred Gilberts, M. Hamel, N. A. Howard, Wm. Heeg, Frank Krainz, Walter Maxwell, Mrs. A. McChesney, R. McChesney, C. D. McGrillis, F. Meitner, Wenzel Meitner, Col. Mounce, Herman Lueller, Clarence L. Nelson, Roy Pinney, H. Pleckham, R. Quammen, J. Reed, P. Snow, L. Triplat, Archie Ward, John F. Weber.

TOWN OF ROCK: 118 farms, 10 clean herds, 31 applications: Adolph Arneson, Bert Flint, A. Hooper, F. Hustedt, H. A. Lewin, K. Oettiker, Geo. Plank, W. Smith, J. Steffon, Arthur G. Wade.

TOWN OF RUDOLPH: 175 farms, 11 clean herds, 35 applications: Albert Crandall, Henry Binerman, J. Freeberg, F. Herman, A. W. Karth, A. H. Kempen, John Kohnen, Chas. Korn, C. D. Moloney, Lezur Rayome, Emil Steege.

TOWN OF SARATOGA: 88 farms, 10 clean herds, 27 applications: H. Blood, G. Eberius, F. Gukenberger, O. Hanson, Ellery Lee, H. Peterson, H. Reiman, S. Savage, J. Johnson, W. Weber.

TOWN OF SENECA: 46 farms, 4 clean herds, 18 applications: Fred Bender, Huser Bros., Michael Krug, Herbert Marx.

TOWN OF SHERRY: 129 farms, 2 clean herds, 14 applications: John Brock, J. H. Ironside.

TOWN OF SIGEL: 221 farms, 20 clean herds, 66 applications: Elmer Anderson, Gust E. Anderson, Lee Anderson, Martin Burgeson, Andrew Fischer, Otto Florine Verner E. Johnson, Kronholm Bros., Jake Loomans, Andrew Nordstrom, Alvin Ott, Chas. Ringer; Mrs. Marie Rotermund, George Schmidt, Henry Schroedel, Anton Schudy John Seekatz, R. R. Steenbeck, Joe Stransky, Frank Tomczyk.

TOWN OF WOOD: 133 farms, 2 clean herds, 21 applications: G. Lubbernicks, Louis Woodman.

With the inauguration of the federal testing program for the elimination of Bang's disease, reacting Wood County farmers rapidly made application for a test of their herds. More than one thousand farmers have already made application for test and, to date, the disease has been completely eradicated from two hundred and sixty herds in the county. The cost of this disease can be estimated in dollars and cents. Farmers spend annually approximately ten thousand dollars for fake cures and remedies. Farmers lose twenty to fifty percent of the production of three thousand head of dairy cattle which at twenty percent amounts to seventy-five thousand dollars. The reduced selling price, due to the fact that untested cows do not sell as readily as those which have been tested and found not to have the disease, easily accounts for the loss of \$15,000, making a total loss to farmers in the county to more than \$100,000.

The county agent's office has exerted itself to the utmost to bring the information regarding the test and the opportunities contained therein to the attention of every farmer in the county. Farmers no longer argue that they can continue to make a profit with cattle that are diseased with either Bang's disease or tuberculosis.

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- HORSE PULLING CONTEST -

In connection with the Marshfield fair, a horse pulling contest has been arranged for and considerable effort has been put forth by the county agent's office in the matter of interesting farmers in the county to raise better horses. During the first several years, farmers have apparently forgotten about the necessity of raising their own horses and have been relying on their ability to raise and sell cattle, using the proceeds for the purchase of horses. The farm horse population has decreased more than two thousand head during the past five years. Most farmers are now finding that their team of geldings are getting old and it costs at least the selling price of four to five cows to purchase a team of horses. The county agent's office has been interesting itself in the attempt to induce farmers to raise their own horses and keep a larger amount of their cash at home.

Each year, ten to fifteen farm teams have been entered in the pulling contest at the Marshfield fair. The interest in farm teams and in colts is rapidly coming back.

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- CUTWORM CONTROL -

In the spring of 1935, cutworms probably did more damage than any other year in the history of the county. Practically every farmer who had not plowed in the fall and had plowed in the spring, suffered severe cutworm damage. The county agent's office was able to be of service to many farmers in the county in the matter of distribution of approximately a carload of poison bran bait. In all probability, a heavy propagation of upland game birds would in a large way control these pests such as cutworms, grasshoppers, and army worms.

## HELPING THE FARMER PAY HIS DEBTS

The office of County Agricultural Agent has, upon advice of the County Agricultural Committee, interested itself in rendering assistance to Wood County farmers in obtaining satisfactory credit. Since the organization of the New Wood County National Farm Loan Association, more than 1000 farmers in Wood county have been faced with the problem of refinancing and a large number of them have come to the County Agricultural Agent's office for assistance. The County Agricultural Agent receives no fees whatsoever for his services in the New Wood County National Farm Loan Association.

ELIGIBILITY---In order to be eligible for a loan from the National Farm Loan Association, a farmer must be engaged in or shortly to become engaged in farming operations, including livestock raising or in some way interested in agriculture whereby the principal part of the income is derived from farming.

National farm loan associations are cooperative organizations with every borrower being a stockholder and taking 5% of his loan in stock, and the organization located in the county agricultural agent's office is chartered under the Farm Loan Act, cooperating with and regulated under the supervision of the Farm Credit Administration. Every borrower and stockholder of the association becomes equally responsible for the debts of the Association, but he can not be assessed for a double liability on his stock as was true before the Farm Loan Emergency Act of June 16, 1933.

INVESTING PUBLIC - Many people who make application for a federal farm loan think at the outset that they are getting funds from the federal government. This is true only with the funds that are classified as Commissioner loans. Federal Land Bank loans are secured by the Association which endorses the note of each borrower and the Federal Land Bank sells to the investing public a bond and obtains the money with which to pay off the creditors. The two most important agencies in the whole system probably are the cooperative Association and its officers and the investing public that buys the bonds.

PURPOSE OF THE LOANS- Practically every farmer who has made application to the County Agricultural Agent's office for a loan has made such application for the purpose of refinancing his debts at a lower interest figure. Practically no new debts have been created.

RATE OF INTEREST-- Interest rates have been dropping continually since the passage of the Emergency Act of June 16, 1933, so that at the present time the interest rate is 3½% and will remain so until July 1, 1936 on Land Bank loans. The interest rate on Commissioner loans is 5%.

SAVINGS TO THE FARMERS- The saving to farmers made on the first one million dollars in loans through the County Agricultural Agent's office was approximately 2% on interest alone, making a total of \$20,000. the first year. Farmers who have a Federal Land Bank loan have the advantage of having no renewal charge, inasmuch as their loans are made for about 34 years and there is no cost of renewal charge every five years as was the case with many private investors.

PAYMENT SEMI-ANNUALLY - The farmer has the advantage of being required to pay interest and principal semi-annually so that at the time the loan is due it is entirely paid up. Farmer borrowers are urged to budget their incomes so as to be able to meet their interest and principal requirements regularly.

SEMI-ANNUAL PAYMENTS ON A \$1,000 LOAN AT 4%  
FOR 34 YEARS WITH INSTALLMENT PAYMENTS

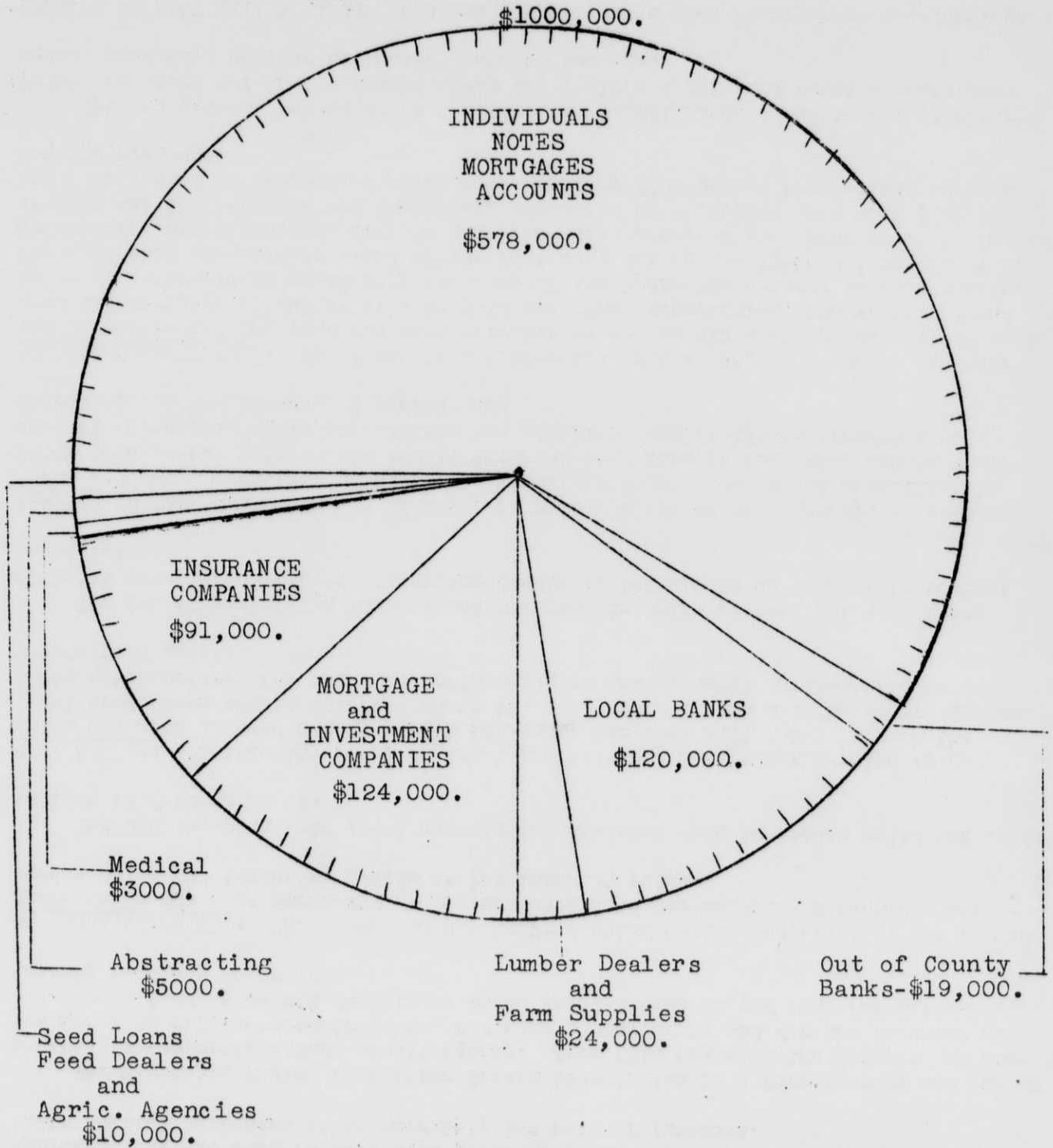
Number of Payments	PAYMENT			Unpaid Balance
	Interest	Principal	Total	
1	\$20.00	7.00	27.00	993.00
2	19.86	7.14	27.00	985.86
3	19.72	7.28	27.00	978.58
11	18.47	8.53	27.00	914.82
21	16.60	10.40	27.00	819.52
31	14.32	12.68	27.00	703.34
41	11.54	15.46	27.00	501.73
51	8.16	18.84	27.00	389.10
61	4.03	22.97	27.00	178.67
68	.62	26.38	27.00	4.51
69	.09	4.51	4.60	-----

DELINQUENCIES- With the large number of borrowers and coming at a time when prices have been low and farming operations have been somewhat unsatisfactory due to drought and other conditions, one would naturally expect a large number of delinquencies. The situation of this Association is very favorable as only approximately 8% of the total loans are delinquent and a large number of these are Commissioner loans. The situation throughout the State is much worse, and more than 27% of the loans in the State have been delinquent.

DEBT ADJUSTMENT- Through the assistance of the Wood County Mediation Board, and due to the fact that creditors were particularly desirous of securing as large a portion of their claim in cash as possible, many farmers have been able to secure a very satisfactory debt adjustment. This figure is represented by the difference between the amount applied for and the amount of the settlement which in this Association alone amounts to more than \$159,000.

LOANS TO COOPERATIVES - Several farm cooperative organizations in the county have been faced with the matter of refinancing during the past year and these organizations have been assisted by the county agent's office in making application to the St. Paul Bank for Cooperatives. More than \$30,000 in applications have been taken by the county agent's office, more than half of which have resulted in loans. These loans to cooperatives have been made for facility purposes - refinancing with an interest rate of 4%. Cooperatives who might borrow for operating purposes have an interest rate of 3%. Every cooperative in the county which has borrowed from the St. Paul Bank for Cooperatives has done a splendid job in liquidating its debt. Several banks and private lending agencies are now again willing to extend these cooperatives credit, provided that they follow the same good business plan of repayment which they have been following in repaying the Bank for Cooperatives.

DISTRIBUTION OF FIRST MILLION DOLLARS PAID  
FROM LOANS THROUGH NEW WOOD COUNTY  
National Farm Loan Association



REFINANCING CHATTEL MORTGAGES THROUGH  
PRODUCTION CREDIT ASSOCIATIONS

Since the organization of the Wisconsin Rapids Production Credit Association approximately 400 farmers have been given assistance in the matter of refinancing their chattel mortgages at an extremely low rate of interest.

The Wisconsin Rapids Production Credit Association is a farmer owned and farmer controlled cooperative farm credit agency. From this organization farmers can borrow money to refinance their debts, for home improvements and for the purchase of livestock, feed, seed and fertilizer which enables them to pay cash for purchases, thereby reducing their cost.

COOPERATIVE CREDIT: The Wisconsin Rapids Production Credit Association, has issued stock which has been purchased by the United States Government. Debentures have been sold to the investing public at low interest rates.

Through the plan this local association has been able to secure unlimited funds to loan to farmers at 5%.

REFINANCING: Practically every Regional Agricultural Credit Corporation loan, which was made in Wood County at 6½% interest, has been refinanced through the local production credit association at 5%. This association has the record in the Northwest territory for complete refinancing of the Regional Agricultural Credit Corporation loans.

The job of converting these loans was done in spite of the fact that every official acquainted with the situation predicted failure in an attempt to convert these loans.

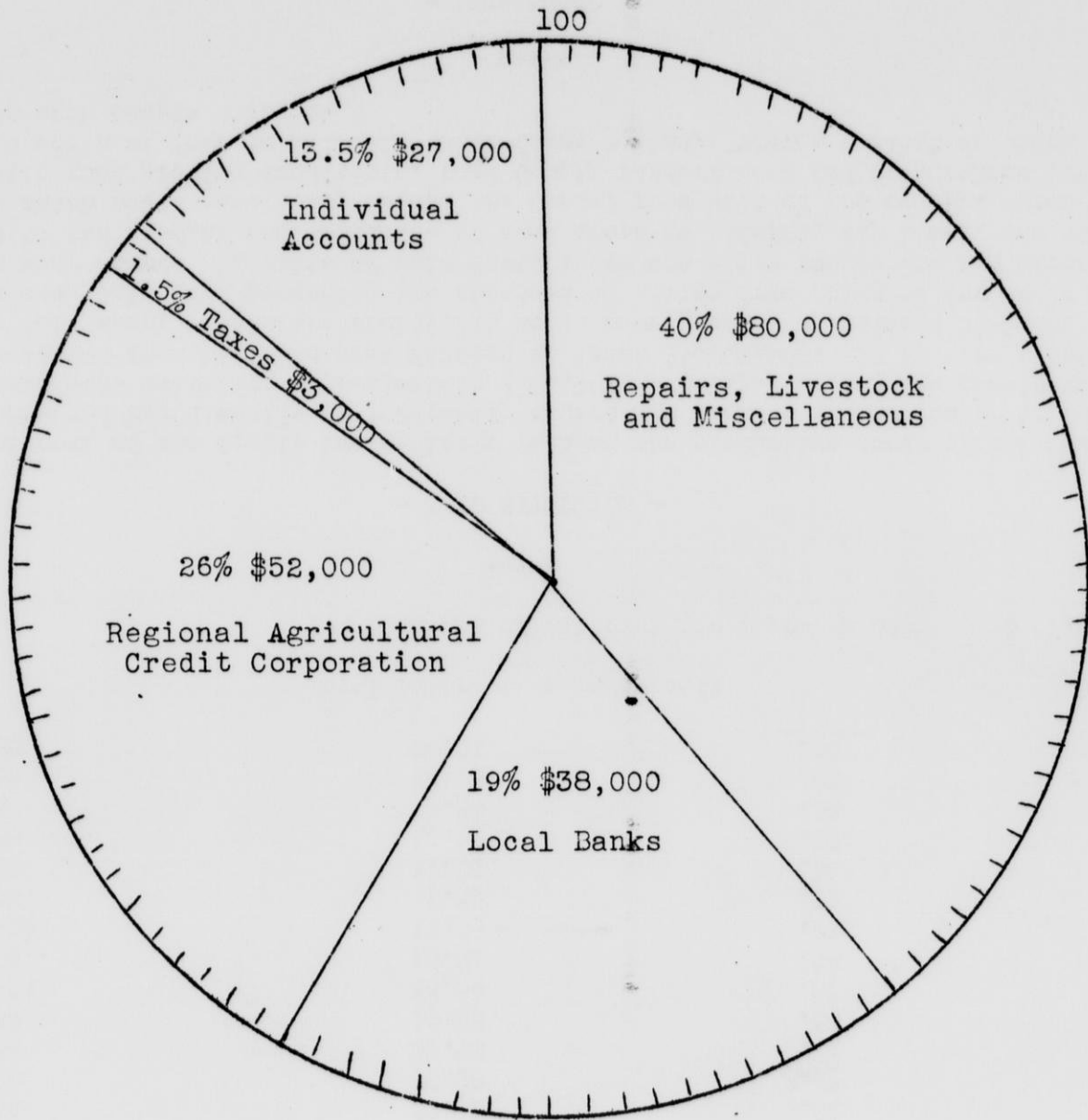
SAVINGS TO FARMERS: With the 5% interest rate farmers in Wood County, as well as Portage County, operating through this association have been saved approximately \$4000 each year. This is the lowest interest rate farmers have ever had on their chattel mortgages. This association has gone into the field and brought about stability and has encouraged confidence.

MONTHLY PAYMENT PLAN: The local credit association has adopted a budget plan for its borrowers and has required each borrower to reduce his mortgage monthly so that when the mortgage is due it will be paid up. The accompanying loan repayment and interest record is an exact copy from one of the borrowers records in this county. Payments show progress in spite of the fact that during the '34 and '35, when this association was organized, farmers had gone through two of the worst years as far as drought and low payments are concerned. In spite of this fact more than \$216,000 has been loaned to farmers of which approximately \$75,000 has been repaid through monthly payments.

This remarkable record shows that farmers credit is good and that agricultural loans are sound and any lender of money who follows a safe and sound loaning procedure need have no fear of making loans to farmers.

FARMERS SAVE BY PAYING CASH: Hundreds of farmers in Wood County have made savings for themselves by being able to buy for cash after having borrowed from the local production credit association. Many compromises have been made in grocery bills and other debts when farmers had the ready cash with which to purchase.

FOR HOME IMPROVEMENT: Many farmers have made loans through the production credit association to make improvements in their own homes. Many have purchased valuable household appliances and made improvements which makes for a more enjoyable life on the farm.



ANALYSIS OF DISTRIBUTION OF FIRST \$200,000 LOAN FUNDS  
 - Wisconsin Rapids Production Credit Association -



LOANS FOR HORSES: The local production credit association has been of valuable service to farmers in this area due to the fact that many hundreds of horses died following the drought and still hundreds of head of horses are old and farmers are rapidly being faced with the problem of being required to purchase new and younger horses. Very few colts were foaled in this county in 1934 and 1935.

The association has also been extremely valuable to farmers who lost cattle by the Bang's test and needed to replace their herd immediately in order to keep up their purchasing power.

Table showing repayments and interest on a \$300.00 loan

Date loan was made May 31, 1934      Amount of Principal \$300.00      Interest \$15.00

Date of repayments	Amount of repayment	Interest charges
6-26-34	\$ 11.24	.50
7-27-34	22.35	.92
8-14-34	75.00	2.97
8-23-34	22.50	.77
9-27-34	19.83	.67
10-19-34	16.54	.51
12-6-34	16.56	.40
12-22-34	10.33	.21
1-24-35	9.86	.17
2-25-35	11.01	.14
3-22-35	10.75	.10
5-9-35	9.84	.04
5-30-35	14.18	.02
5-31-35	50.01	.00
Total interest on repayments		7.52
Total amount of interest for 1 yr. on \$300		\$ 7.48

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- FEED SITUATION -

The cost of the drouth has entirely reduced the productive power of the farms of the county and has directly or indirectly caused the farmers in the county to purchase livestock feeds averaging approximately \$800,000 annually. During the past five years, this excessive feed bill has cost farmers at least \$4,000,000. If it were possible to keep this money within the county, it would have greatly stimulated business conditions and would have prevented the standard of living from going as low as it has gone in many cases. In spite of this fact, there are a few people who are directly opposed to the growing and producing of such crops as alfalfa, soy beans, and other legumes which would materially reduce the annual feed bill of the county. Even in 1935, with good growing conditions, Wood County farmers have had to purchase more than \$300,000 worth of feed to maintain their dairy cattle, eleven percent of which are infected with Bang's disease.

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- LIMESLUDGE -

Through FERA funds, the agricultural committee, cooperating with the county agent's office, has been able to secure a very satisfactory program for farmers by which they have been able to get many thousands of tons of paper mill sludge (ground limestone) for application on their farms. The demand for sludge has been steady

during the past five years and also most acute in 1934 when the drouth was at its worst. Farmers, apparently, are not demanding sludge in the fall of 1935 due to the fact that they have considerably more feed than they have been accustomed to during the past five years. A very satisfactory loading and hauling arrangement has been worked out by the agricultural committee.

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- PROBLEMS WITH THE APPLICANTS FOR DROUGHT RELIEF -

In agriculture, the most constant factor is the constancy of change. After studying the figures obtained from the application blanks from twelve hundred Wood County farmers for feed and seed relief, the following things are impressive:

1. Debts are extremely high. In many cases, the debts seem to be hopelessly out of line with their ability to pay. The most difficult situation seems to be in the more concentrated dairy areas.
2. Everything of any value seems to be mortgaged and usually for more than its productive value can repay.
3. Better progress seems to be being made on farms in the county that were bought since 1925. On farms bought before 1925, mortgages have been increasing since the purchase.
4. While debts are relatively high, the percentage of owners is also high in contrast with areas in the southern part of the state with low debts and high tenancy.
5. Total farm income on many of these farms is hardly enough to make a decent living without paying taxes, interest, and debts, and in some cases, not enough even for living.
6. Cleared acres per farm is small. Only twenty-three percent of the total land in the county is used for crops. Seventy-seven percent is idle or wild land. The cow population on these farms is probably too great for the cleared acres. The opportunities of clearing other lands in many cases is limited and dairying is about the only source of income.
7. There seems to be no close relationship between drouth and demands for relief. The accompanying tables are submitted which more clearly illustrate the information.

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- RURAL YOUTH SURVEY -

The county agent's office has cooperated with the county superintendent, S. G. Corey, and other educational institutions in the county in the making of a most detailed survey or inventory of the twenty-two hundred farm and village young people, ages fifteen to twenty-nine inclusive.

Most of the emphasis during the past several years has been put on the matter of surplus crop production, sub-marginal lands, livestock diseases, and other economic factors. Very little is known, however, about these rural young people. No inventory has ever been taken of the amount of schooling they have had or their choice of occupation or how wisely they are using their leisure time, nor to what degree they sense the needs of the community and what improvements and opportunities they see that could be made to improve the local conditions.

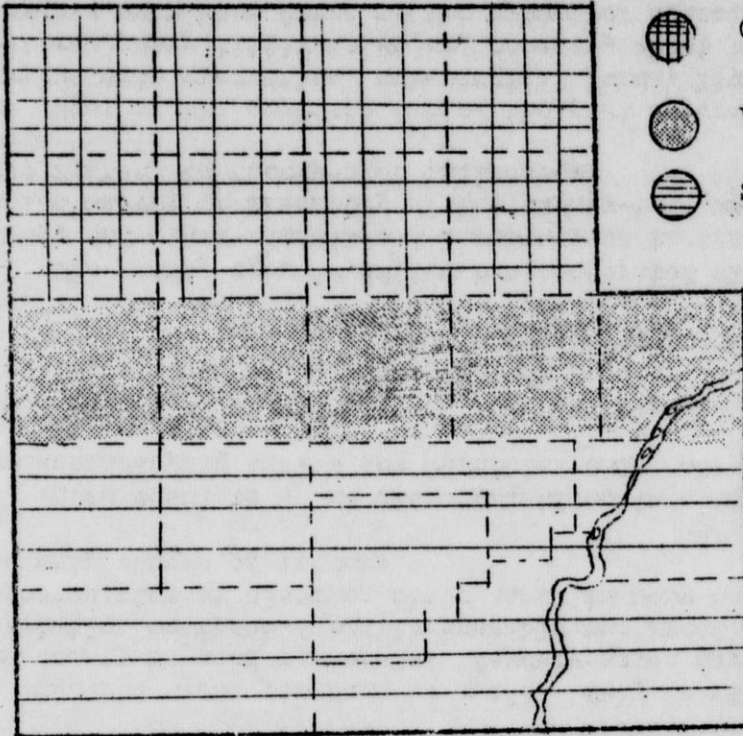
Approximately one hundred forty volunteer people cooperated in gathering the tremendous amount of data from the rural youths of the county. Questions were asked concerning the family composition, marital status, amount of schooling, reasons for

PROBLEMS OF APPLICANTS FOR FEED RELIEF -1934-35  
 FROM A STUDY OF SOME OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES  
 OF THESE FARMERS BY SOIL TYPES.

Average Total All Debts On  
 Farms with Real Estate Mortgages

WOOD COUNTY

Legend



Colby Silt Loam - - - - \$4887.00



Vesper Silt Loam - - - 3108.00



Sand and Peat - - - - - 2304.00.



Colby Silt Loam - - \$91.00

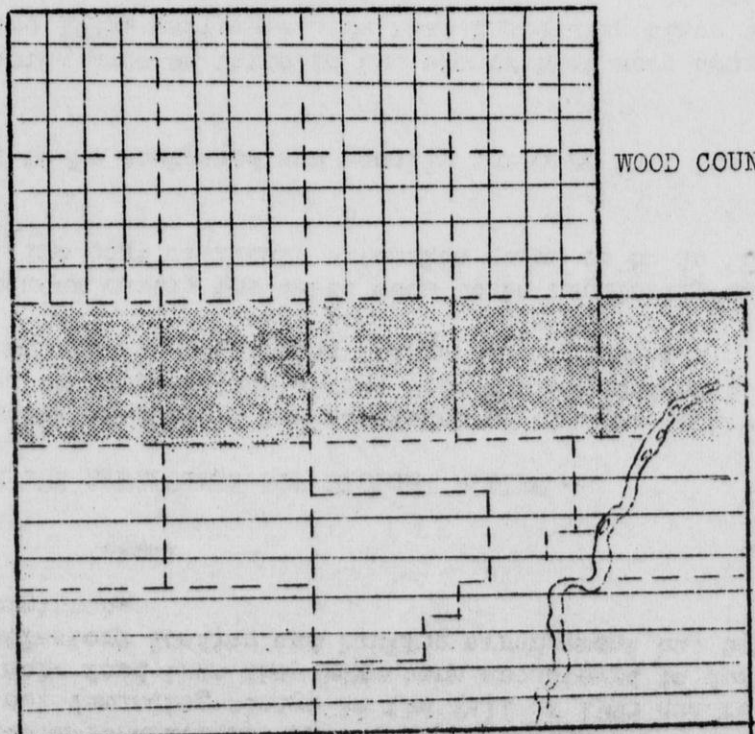


Vesper Silt Loam -- 69.00



Sand and Peat - - - 27.00

Average Total of all Debts  
 per acre of Cleared Land on  
 Mortgaged Farm Shown by  
 Soil Types.

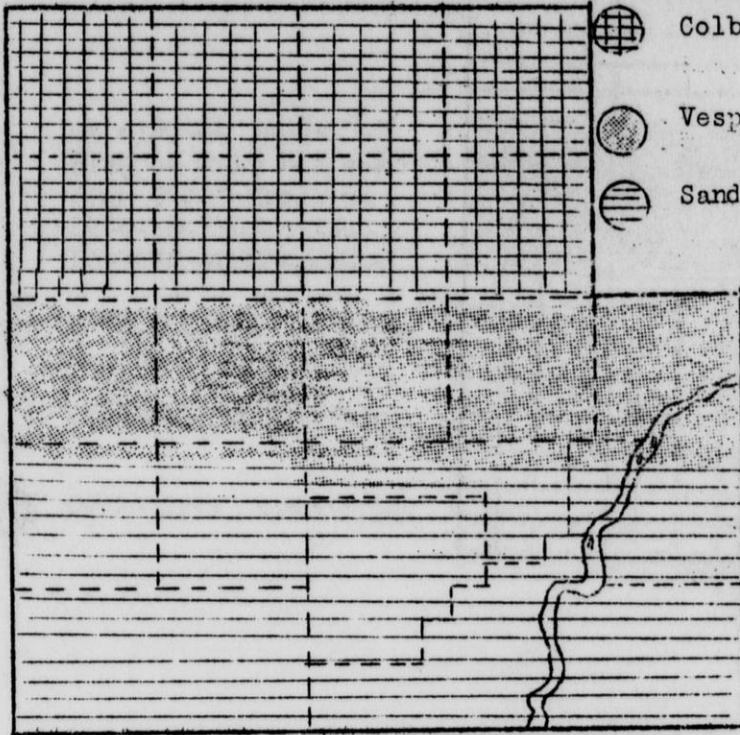





WOOD COUNTY

WOOD COUNTY




AVERAGE NUMBER OF ACRES OF CLEARED  
LAND PER LIVESTOCK UNIT.

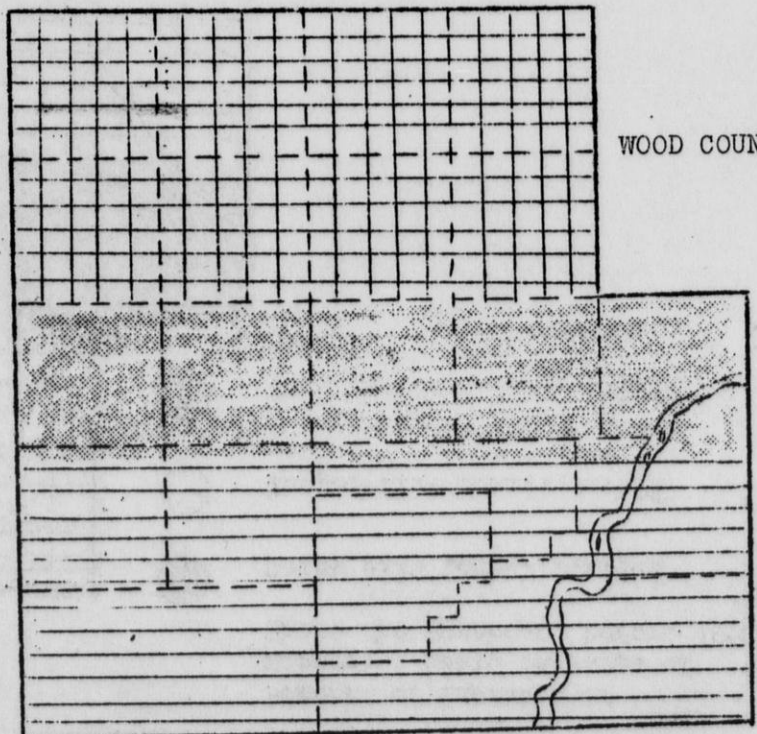
Legend



-  Colby Silt Loam - - - 3.4 A.
-  Vesper Silt Loam - - 2.9 A.
-  Sand and Peat - - - - 4.9

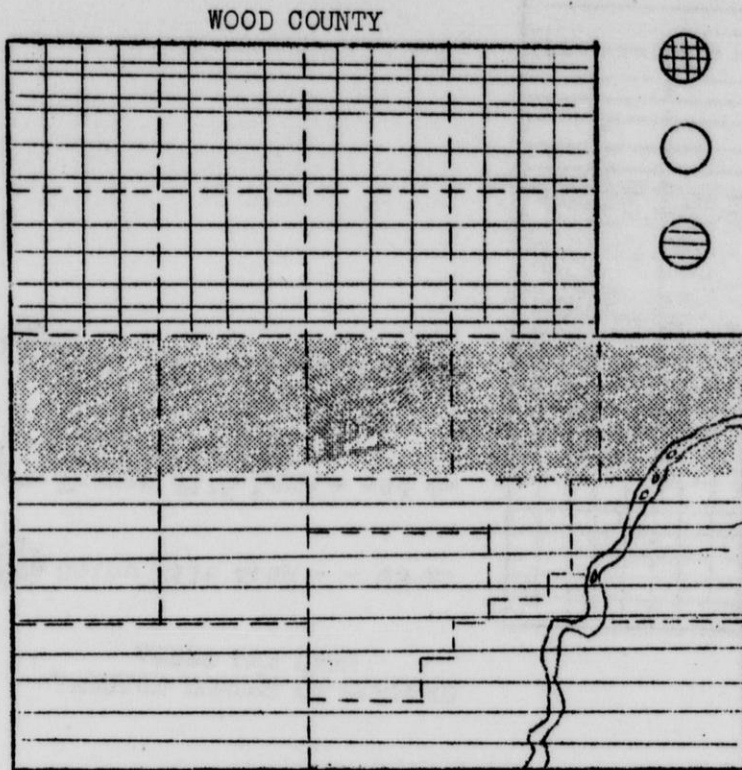
AVERAGE NUMBER OF CLEARED  
ACRES PER FARM

-  Colby Silt Loam - - 63 A.
-  Vesper Silt Loam - - 43 A.
-  Sand and Peat - - - 53 A.



WOOD COUNTY

PROBLEMS OF APPLICANTS FOR FEED RELIEF - 1934-35.  
 FROM A STUDY OF SOME OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES  
 OF THESE FARMERS BY SOIL TYPES.

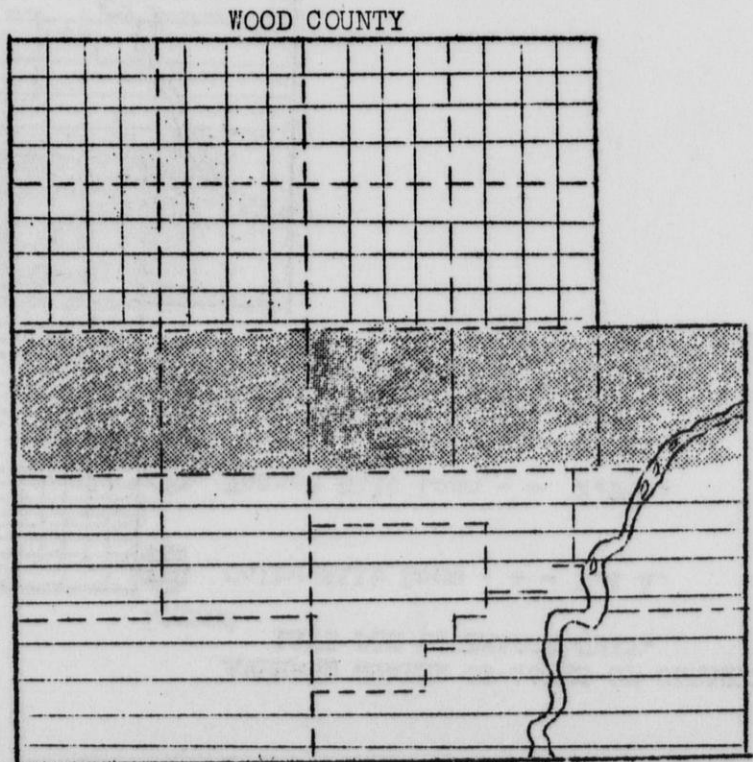


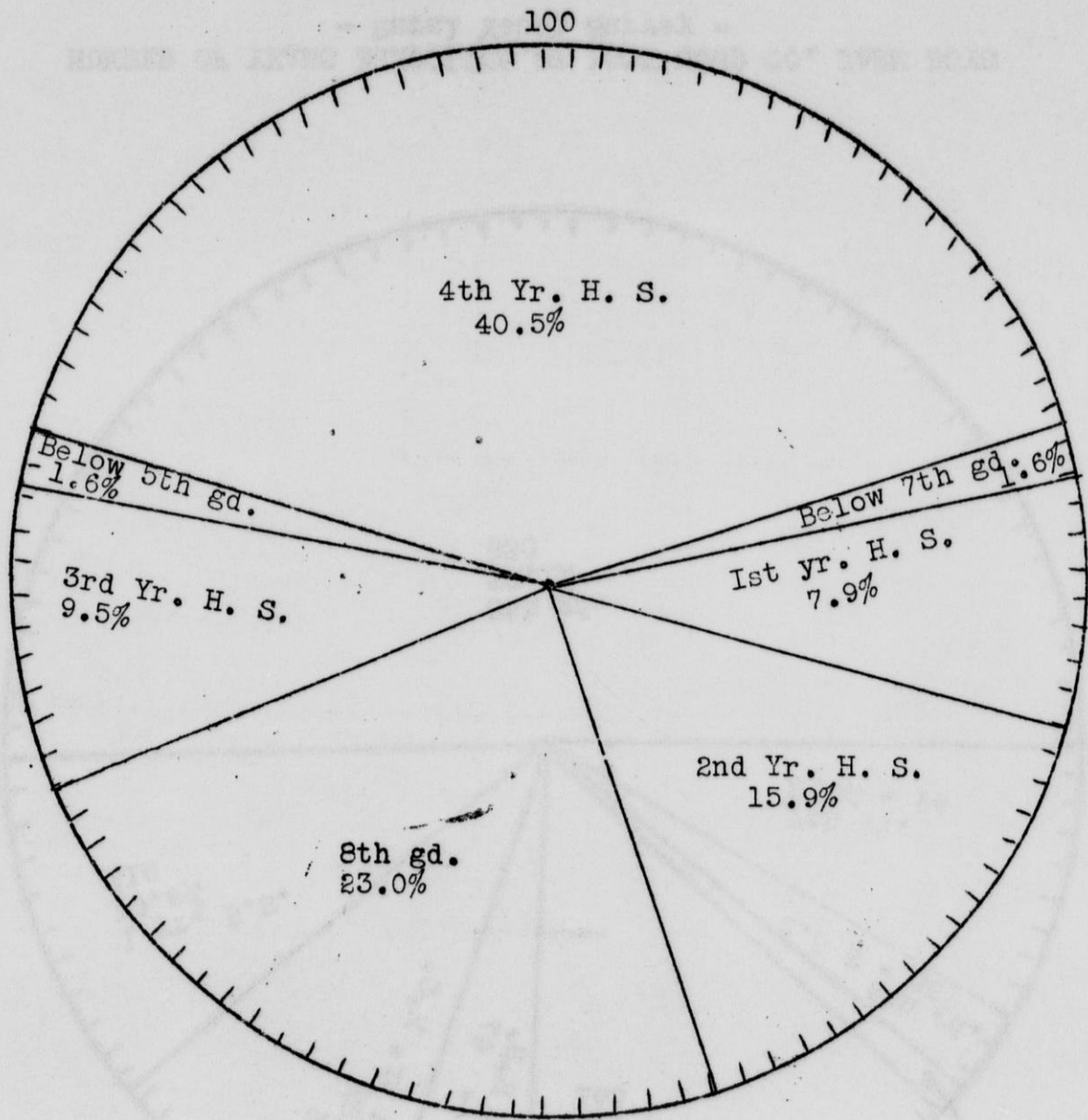
Percent of Increase of  
 Mortgaged Debts on Farms of  
 Those Who Purchased before 1935.

- ⊗ Colby silt Loam.....34%
- Vesper Silt Loam.....49%
- ⊖ Sand and Peat.....99%

- ⊗ Colby Silt Loam...13%
- Vesper Silt Loam...2%
- ⊖ Sand & Peat.....6%

Percent of Mortgaged  
 Farms in Soil Areas  
 With Total Debts of  
 \$150 or more per acre  
 of cleared land.

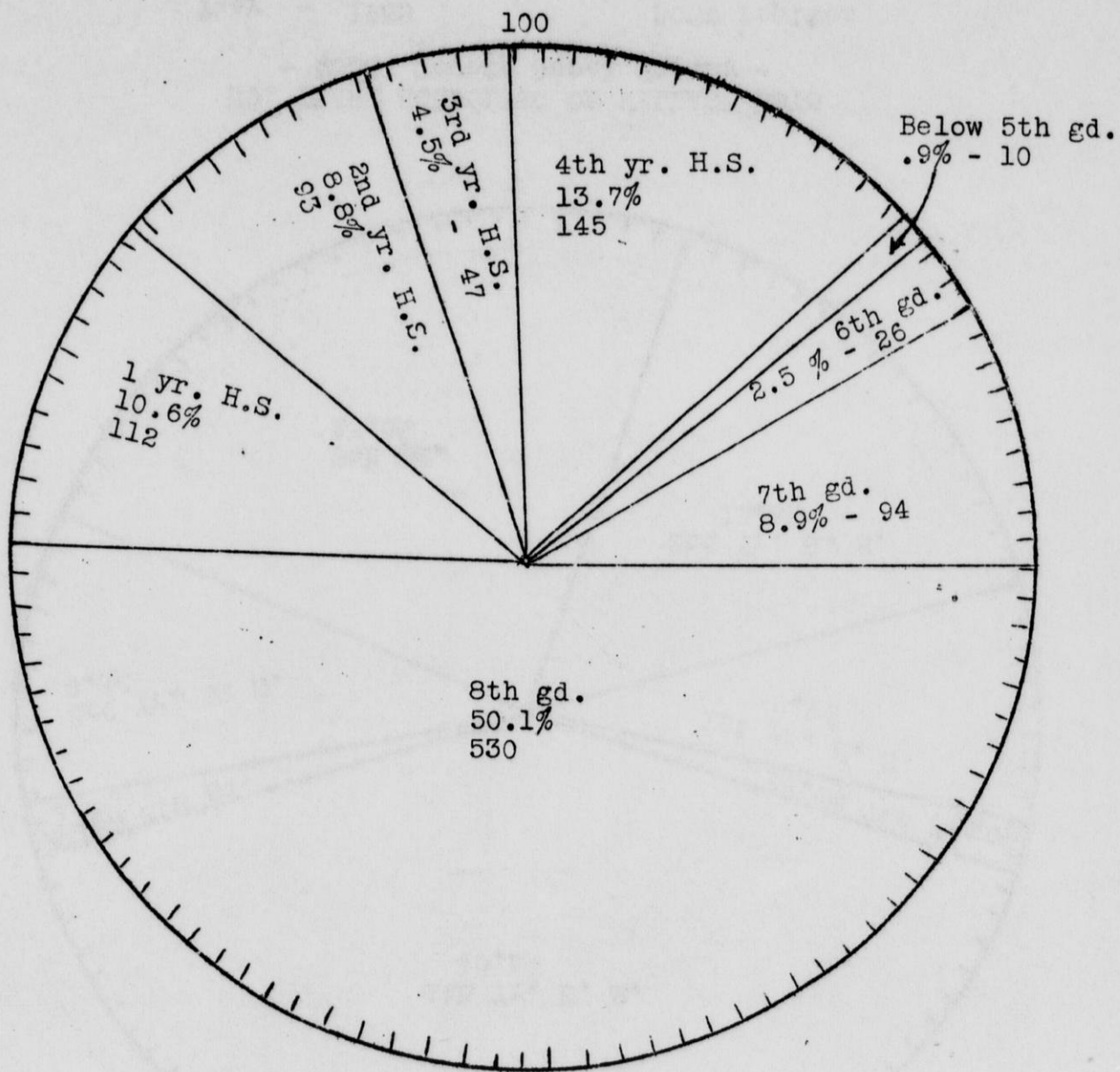




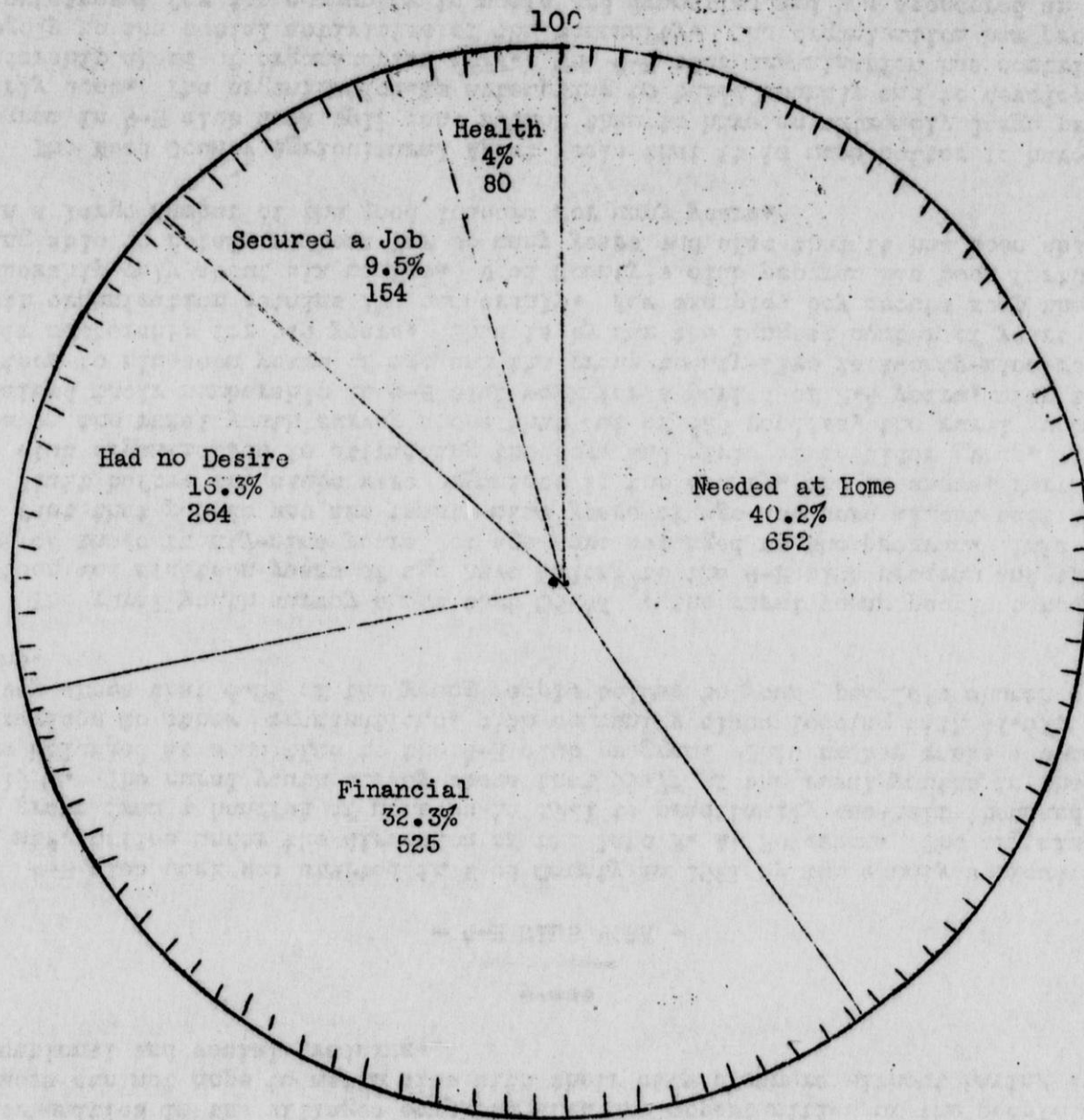
NO. YEARS SCHOOLING OF VILLAGE BOYS  
- Wood County Rural Survey -

Year - 1935

2089 replies



NUMBER OF YEARS SCHOOLING OF 1057 WOOD CO. FARM BOYS  
 - Rural Youth Survey -



RURAL YOUTH SURVEY

REASONS FOR NOT GOING FURTHER IN SCHOOL

1935

1623 Replies



being out of school, nationality, economic and occupational status, self support, work and wages, extent of unemployment, money earned, responsibilities of home, life insurance, living facilities, modern conveniences, facilities of communication, leisure activities, types of reading material, opportunities for meeting friends, organizations, 4-H membership, needs and desires, hobbies, desired occupations, etc.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY: The results are largely preliminary but they do tend to show and indicate that the young people in this county recognize certain needs in their communities. The survey shows, also, that the young men and women are also thinking along the lines of constructive development and the tables clearly indicate that a rural youth is rapidly becoming eager and anxious to work out a program for himself and his friends with specific objectives.

Three of the more important tables are shown to indicate the educational opportunities in the villages compared with the opportunities of the people on farms. Farmers can not hope to match wits with their city brothers without having equal educational and social training.

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#### - 4-H CLUB WORK -

4-H club work was started in Wood County in 1921 by the county agricultural agent's office under the direction of the late R. A. Peterson. The organization has grown from a handful of members in 1921 to practically one-half thousand members in 1935. The rural youth survey shows that 33.7% of the rural youths in the county have belonged at some time to the 4-H club program. This number ranks second in comparison to other organizations, with community clubs leading with 41.6%. The survey shows that 6.5% of the young people belong to young people's church organizations.

The rural youth survey shows that 53.4% of the rural young people between fifteen and nineteen years of age have belonged to the 4-H club program and that only 4.3% of those twenty-nine years of age have belonged to the program. This is due to the fact that people who are twenty-nine years of age now were almost past the club age limit before the clubs were organized in the county, and it shows, further, that the club organization is attracting the boys and girls of an older group. Other data on the rural youth survey shows that out of 823 replies, the rural young people retained their membership in 4-H club work for a period of 2.4 years, with the group fifteen to nineteen years of age, and the group twenty-five to twenty-nine retained their membership for 3.4 years. This is by far the longest number of years that any youth organization retains its membership. For example, boy scouts keep their membership only about six months. Wood County's club program has been fortunate in being able to retain members for so many years and also that it has been able to retain a large number of the good leaders for many years.

The Wood County Agricultural Agent feels that it is much better to have a small program in 4-H club work well done rather than to have an extremely large program poorly done. The organization is attempting to build soundly and to develop adequate leadership ahead of organization work. The 4-H club organization has contributed largely to the social activities of the community. The organization has provided entertainment for the community in music and dramatics and has sponsored an athletic program.

WOOD COUNTY 4-H CLUBS

- 1935 -

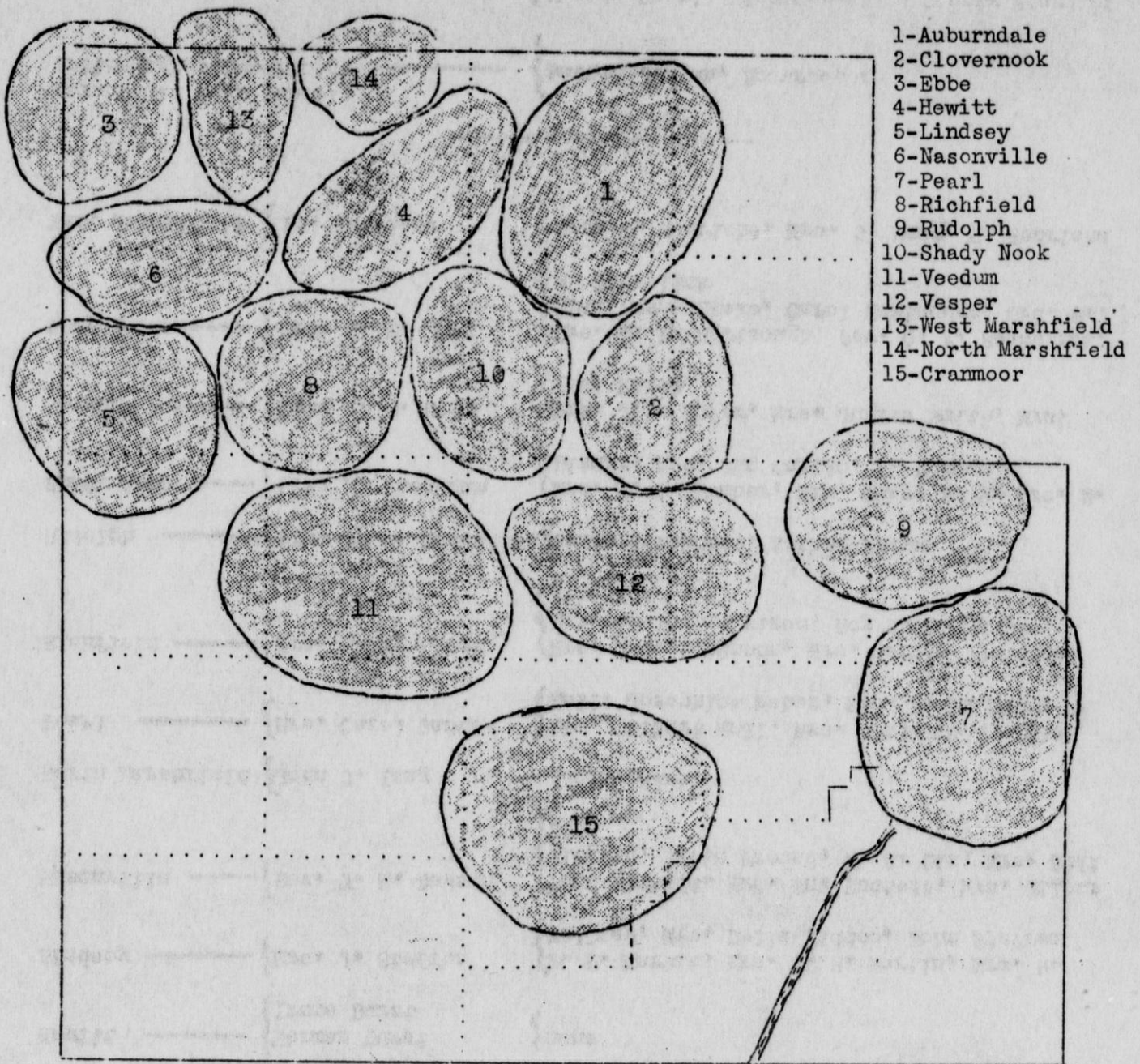
<u>Club</u>	<u>General Leader</u>	<u>Project Leaders</u>
Auburndale	{ W. A. Drollinger	{ G. W. Gotz, Mike Albrecht, Juanita Lawrie, Agnes Schultz
Clovernook	{ Florence E. Regan	{ Wenzel Schill
Ebbe	{ Delphine Schueler	{ Mrs. Wm. Bell
Hewitt	{ Norman Durst Irene Durst	{ none
Lindsey	{ Mrs. J. Steffen	{ P. H. Martin, Mrs. P. H. Martin, Mrs. R. Wellner, Mrs. Della Kiddoo, John Steffen
Nasonville	{ Rev. W. M. Dawson	{ Fred Hustedt, Mrs. Wm. Hustedt, Mrs. Wilbur Ziegahn, Edwin Freund, W. B. Dix, Mrs. Emil Ott
North Marshfield	{ John C. Lang	(Joint club)
Pearl	{ Mrs. Carol Barto	{ Mrs. Gilbert Moll, Mrs. Erwin Moll, Lulu Moll, Josephine Maher, Mrs. E. H. Maher
Richfield	{ Mrs. Harry Esser	{ Mrs. Geo. Robinson, Mrs. Martin Fjelstad, Mrs. Arvid Backstrom, Roy Burhopp, Geo. Robinson
Rudolph	{ Mrs. W. B. Rocheleau	{ Henry Dorshorst, Arthur Nieman
Shady Nook	{ Mrs. H. Pleckham	{ Mrs. B. O. Pember, Mrs. Chas. Brey, Mrs. H. Ditmar, Mrs. Jim Curtin, H. Ditmar
Veedum	{ Mrs. A. H. Kumm	{ Mrs. John Hofer, Mrs. Julius Smith, Mrs. Emil Rieck
Vesper	{ Mrs. G. H. Horn	{ Mrs. A. L. Hartsough, Rev. C. A. Hesselink, Mrs. Frank Drake, Carol Hartsough, Mrs. C. A. Hesselink
West Marshfield	{ Ed. Henrichs	{ Mrs. E. Henrichs, Mrs. G. Hoag, R. Henrichs

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Marshfield High School:  
 Smith-Hughes Department \_\_\_\_\_ { Harold Jenson, Instructor

Honorary Members: \_\_\_\_\_ { Herman Hoerl, Vice Chr. Wood County Board of Supervisors  
 W. W. Clark, Chr. Agricultural Committee

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APPROXIMATE LOCATION OF WOOD COUNTY 4-H CLUBS - 1935

- FARM WOMEN--HOMEMAKERS CLUBS -

Approximately 750 farm and village women within the county were given assistance in 1935 through the delegate system. With the large number of women enrolled in the homemakers clubs, it is impossible for the specialists working with the co. agent's office to work with these local clubs. Delegates were chosen by each of the 48 local clubs and these delegates came into four centers; namely, Marshfield, Arpin, Pittsville, and Wisconsin Rapids for five district meetings. Extension specialists, Gladys Stillman and Gladys Meloche, assisted the county agent in meeting with the delegates from the forty-eight clubs. Thousands of articles were made by these farm women at the district and local meetings.

CLUBS REORGANIZED: Practically every one of the forty-eight clubs have reorganized again for 1935 and will start their delegate meetings with Miss Martin, new home agent beginning the first week in December. These 750 farm women enrolled in these clubs constitute a splendid organization for constructive service in Wood County. Membership is not limited to the present clubs and it is the aim of the county agent's and home agent's office to increase the membership in these clubs during the next year.

- REPORT OF ARTICLES MADE FROM MATERIALS AT HAND -

Women's dresses.....	636	Boys' coats .....	6
Women's undergarments.....	200	Boys' helmets.....	6
Women's aprons.....	920	Mittens, prs.....	464
Women's other garments.....	676	Stockings re-footed, prs.....	208
Women's coats.....	14	Infants' garments.....	20
Men's undergarments.....	14	Sunsuits and rompers.....	38
Men's other garments.....	22	Collars and cuffs.....	588
Girls' dresses.....	280	Christmas gifts.....	582
Girls' undergarments.....	234	Snow suits.....	30
Girls' coats.....	22	Guide Patterns made.....	298
Girls' hats.....	210	Tailoring suggestions used.....	346 times
Boys' trousers & shirts.....	50	# people making cleansing cream	164
Boys' undergarments.....	8	# times 1 minute patch used...	2170
Total number articles -----		5624	

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- CONSERVATION-----GAME PROPAGATION -

Wood County has in the past been a natural habitat for many thousands of upland game birds. During the past year upland game birds have become more scarce than for many years. The reason for this is probably due to the fact that this is a low point in the cycle of the birds and coupled with severe drought during the past several years and heavy prolonged snows during the '34-'35 winter made their range very unfavorable. Wood County has a large acreage of land that is highly adaptable and supplies both natural feed and cover for upland game birds. Without question, the control of predatory birds and animals and the establishment of refuges and sanctuaries in addition to restocking and proper adherence to game laws will give these upland game birds every opportunity to increase.

SHELTER BELTS: A program has been inaugurated whereby the entire farm and idle land area in the towns of Grand Rapids, Saratoga, and Port Edwards, will be surveyed using WPA labor for the location of windbreaks and shelterbelt plantings. Farmers in the County have already requested approximately thirty thousand trees for windbreak plantings for 1936. During the past five years, approximately fifty thousand trees have been distributed by the county agent's office in cooperation with the conservation and forestry commission of the state, for windbreak and farm plantings. Several very splendid windbreaks are already grown to a useful height. Examples of these can be seen on the farms of Frank Hilgart and John Guden of Auburndale.

WATER-FOWL: With the damming of the drainage ditches and the restoration of the water levels in the southwestern part of the county, favorable areas have been re-built for water fowls. Many thousands of migratory water fowl have nested in this area and it has afforded an opportunity for these birds to again restock the area. Information shows that it costs approximately one million dollars to drain this area in the southwestern part of the county. Through the FERA, WERA and WPA, labor and materials have been expended to restore the water levels which have cost approximately one million dollars. This extreme cost for draining and restoring the water level should make local people as well as governmental officials conscious of the error of again draining the land without taking a long time viewpoint in the situation.

FUR BEARING ANIMALS: With the restoration of the water power, beavers have multiplied tremendously in the drainage ditches and streams in the southwestern part of the county. In 1932, there were approximately five hundred beavers in the county and in 1935, this number has been increased to approximately four thousand. The wild life of the county can be increased in numbers so that in the future, it can become a valuable cash asset to the county.

4-H clubs in the county have taken a leading part in the propagation of upland game birds and have hatched out a large number of birds through the cooperation of the county agent's office in furnishing them eggs and valuable information.

Licenses and trapping fees in Wood County have amounted to more than \$4,300 annually for the past three years. If a larger portion of this fund could be returned, the five hundred 4-H club boys and girls in the county would be induced to take a more active interest in the project. It would not be long before the county would be thoroughly populated with upland game birds and fur bearing animals under this program.

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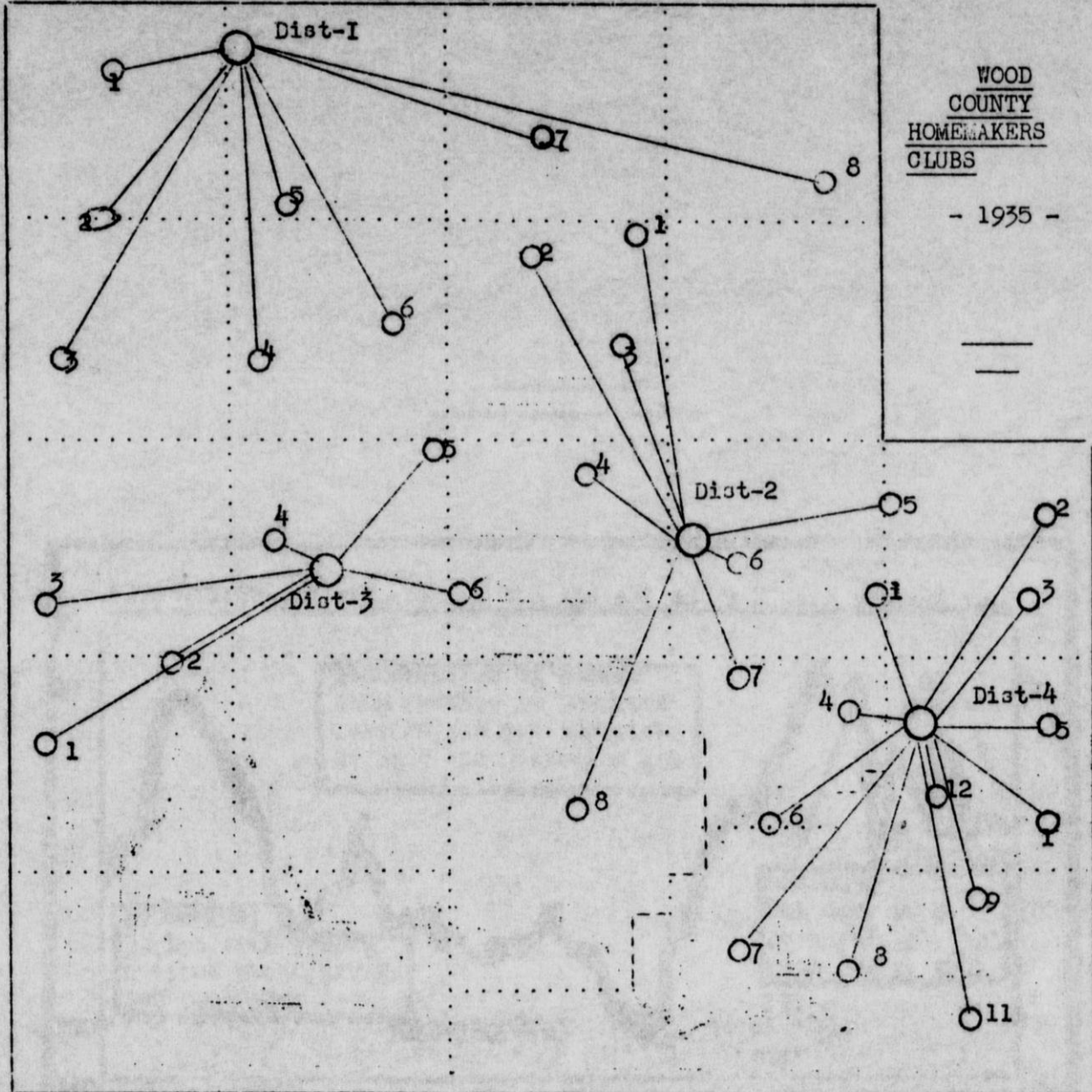
- WOOD COUNTY COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURE -

In 1934, a project was set up by the agricultural committee to coordinate the agricultural organizations operating within the county which had in the past been working somewhat at cross purposes. The council has been formed with a constitution and a definite set of by-laws. The council includes the following organizations:

Equity Union	Cheese Producers
Farm Bureau	Homemakers
Dairy Breeders' Ass'n.	Warehouse Groups
Swine & Sheep Breeders' Ass'n.	Cranberry Growers Ass'n.
Milk Producers Coop.	Agricultural Committee
Livestock Producers Ass'n.	Marshfield Fair Ass'n.
Farm Credits	4-H clubs
Marshfield Experiment Station	

It is the hope of the agricultural committee and county agent's office that in the future, these several organizations can sit around a council table and intelligently discuss their many farm problems and finally arrive at a solution for most of these problems that will be for the best interest for farmers in Wood County. Members in the two educational organizations affiliated with the Wood County Council of Agriculture also have membership in the commodity organizations which have been organized for a very definite purpose. Many of the organizations do not have a regular membership fee but yet have a very definite and strong organization. Due to the slight differences of opinion among the organizations, the growth of the council may be slow. The organization, however, can be a powerful factor as a council of deliberation and an organization to secure needed legislation for all interests within the county.

WOOD COUNTY



DISTRICT I -- Marshfield

1. Shady Lane
2. Nasonville
3. Lindsey
4. Richfield Center
5. Sunshine Homemakers
6. East Richfield
7. Auburndale
8. Milladore

DISTRICT II -- Arpin - Vesper

1. North Arpin
2. White Oak
3. East Arpin
4. Crescent
5. Rudolph
6. Vesper
7. Somers Social
8. Cranmoor

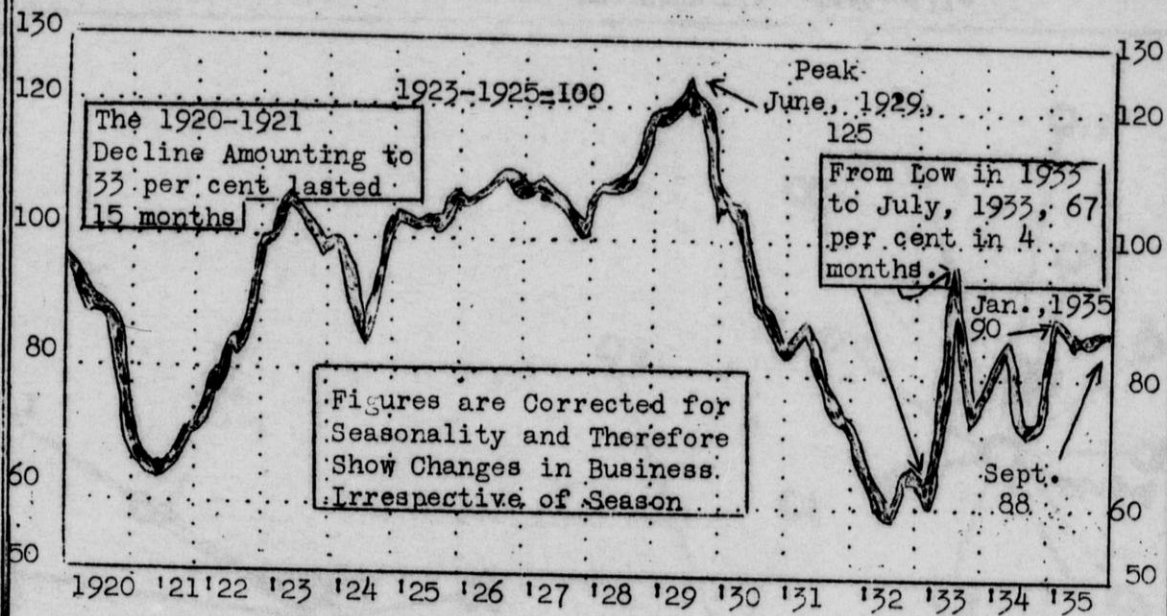
DISTRICT III -- Pittsville

1. City Point
2. West Veedum
3. North Side
4. Pittsville
5. Pleasant Hill
6. Pleasant Valley

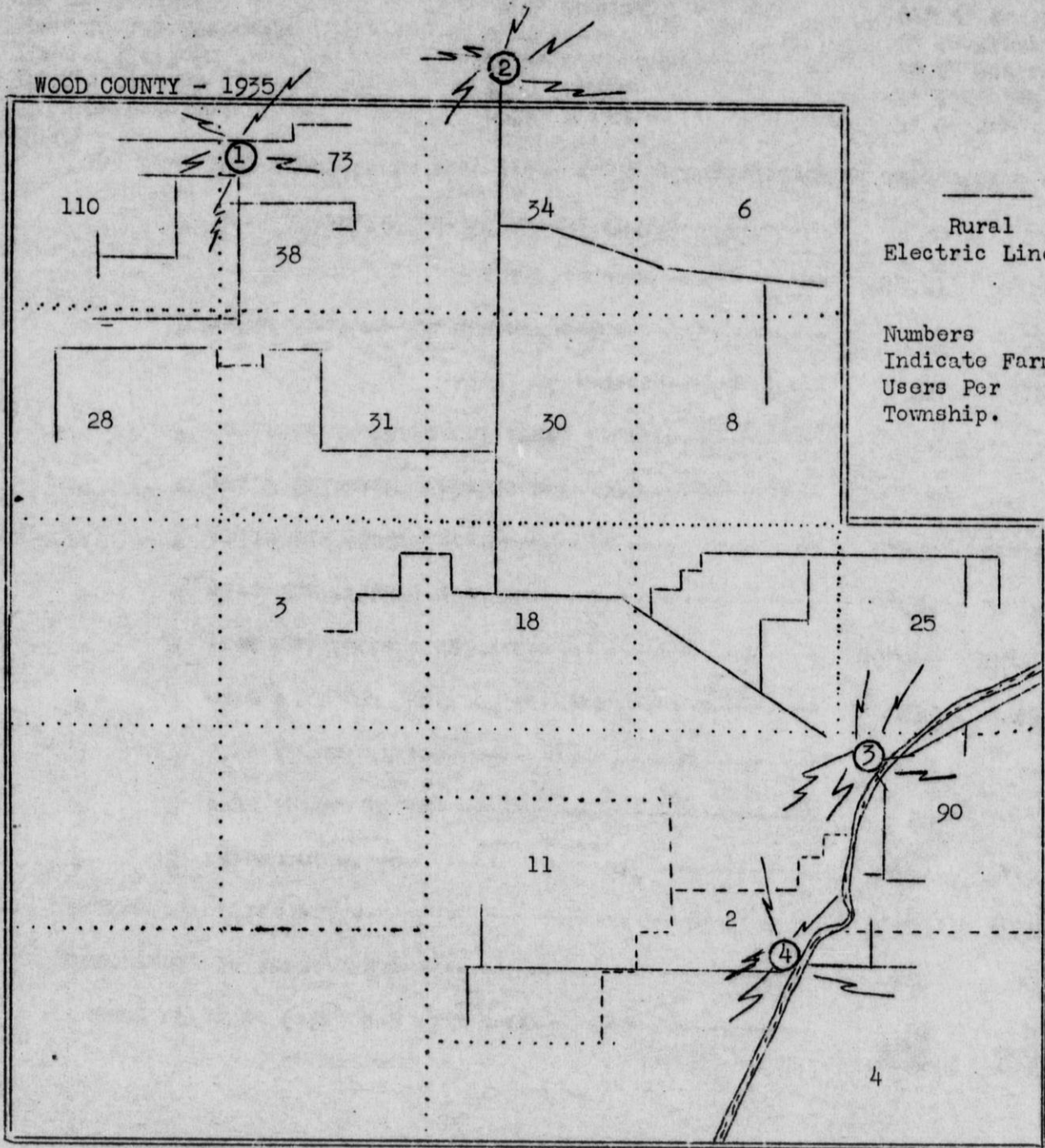
DISTRICT IV -- Wisconsin Rapids

- |                     |                   |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Sunny Side       |                   |
| 2. Hillview         |                   |
| 3. Biron            |                   |
| 4. Wisconsin Rapids |                   |
| 5. Plover Road      | 10. North Kellner |
| 6. Port Edwards     | 11. Saratoga      |
| 7. Nekoosa          | 12. Two-Mile      |
| 8. West Saratoga    |                   |
| 9. Grand Rapids     |                   |

INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION OF THE UNITED STATES  
AS REPORTED BY THE FEDERAL RESERVE BOARD



WOOD COUNTY - 1935



- ① Marshfield
- ② Wis. Power & Light

- ③ Wis. Rapids-Consolidated Power & Light
- ④ Nekoosa-Edwards Power & Light



- STATISTICAL SUMMARY -  
1934 - 1935

This statistical report is compiled to give necessary data and to make comparisons between projects as follows:

	<u>1935</u>	<u>1934</u>
Number of clubs doing 4-H club work-----	14	30
Membership in these clubs-----	415	500
Number of office calls-----	9,407	7,624
" " telephone calls-----	5,129	9,781
" " days in the field-----	95	118
" " days in the office-----	208	187
" " news articles prepared for press-----	284	264
" " personal letters written-----	18,498	21,781
" " circular letters written-----	28,823	55,141
" " bulletins distributed-----	4,264	12,640
" " fairs to which exhibits were made-----	2	2
" " training meetings for local leaders-----	6	6
total attendance-----	150	120
" " method and result demonstrations-----	177	135
total attendance-----	8,275	9,300
" " days specialist spent in the county-----	30	20

The following specialists have spent time in Wood County in extension work in 1935:

Elisabeth Salter	Arlie Mucks	J. B. Hayes
Gladys Meloche	W. W. Clark	F. B. Trenk
Gladys Stillman	Robert Amundson	W. A. Rowlands
Mrs. Luella Mortensen	Fred Wilson	E. A. Kirkpatrick
Geneva Amundson	T. L. Bewick	Dr. V. S. Larson
A.A.A. Officials (5)	W. McNeel	Wm. Mortensen
J. C. Lacey	J. F. Wotja	Joe Beck

- SUGGESTED PROGRAM FOR 1936 -

It is customary for the agricultural committee, in cooperation with the Wisconsin College of Agriculture, to meet with the county agricultural agent and plan a program of work for the agricultural extension agent. The committee welcomes suggestions for the development of a more constructive program which will interest farmers in the county. The program which is developed will be subject, of course, to emergency measures of the county, state, and national governments. The committee feels that it is wiser to concentrate on a few of the major important projects than to spread the work over a larger number of projects. The following program is subject to revision and addition.

1. Debt adjustment and farm credits, both real estate and chattels, to be continued.
  2. 4-H club work to be continued with the assistance of the 4-H club agent.
  3. Bang's disease -- goal - to make the cattle in the county entirely free from Bang's disease.
  4. Conservation, shelterbelts, windbreaks and game propagation.
  5. Continue the Homemakers program with the assistance of the Home and Club Agent.
  6. Rural resettlement.
  7. A.A.A. programs.
  8. To assist the Wood County Council of Agriculture.
  9. Livestock and Poultry Improvement.
  10. Rural Electrification.
- 
-