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## **Seventeenth annual report of Wood County Agricultural Agent, H. R. Lathrope, 1937. 1937**

[s.l.]: [s.n.], 1937

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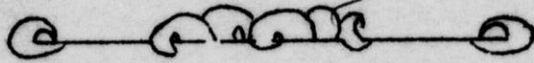
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SEVENTEENTH

**ANNUAL REPORT**  
OF  
WOOD COUNTY

AGRICULTURAL AGENT  
H.R. LATHROPE



1937

1. Livestock  
a. Disb

THE COUNTY AGENT'S JOB

Page Count:

The work of the County Agricultural Agent has been on an emergency basis since it was first inaugurated in 1914. Immediately following the beginning of extension work, farmers were then faced with the problems of the world war and those that came after the war, Some of these problems are still confronting farmers today. Following the war, came the depression of the "twenties", which was not felt so keenly by any other class of people than the farmers. In the long depression of the "thirties", farmers were again beset with such problems as credit, drought, prices, labor, low incomes, and a sinking of their confidence and morale.

With the problems as they were, the county agent was happy to be of as much assistance as possible in any line of work that required his attention and services, even though it had not been anticipated and placed on the program. No additional assistance was given the county agent except, of course, clerical assistance. The duties of the county agent changed from that of purely educational to that of an administrator or an executive. The county agent became the director of the agricultural program in the county. In addition to these many tasks the co. agent must still be an educator and must have time to think and plan his program.

There must be coordination in the extension program if it is to be successful. Projects must be developed on a county basis. The needs of all farm people must be considered. Farm folks must be helped in a way that will enable them to help themselves.

There must also be coordination of non-extension agencies as well. There still are important problems in coordination of such agencies as Rural Resettlement, Farm Security, AAA, Farm Credit, and others. All these depend to some extent on the county agent for their ultimate contact with the farmer both in organization and subject matter.

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**\*\* Program of Work \*\***

- Horses: Wood County farmers have about 3500 head of horses. Many of these are old to be good farm work. Farmers have been forced to sell their horses at a low price. Stallion owners have been forced to sell their stallions at a low price. Approximate number of horses in 1937 as compared with 1938. In 1938, the number of horses was 3500. In 1937, the number of horses was 3500.
1. Livestock Improvement
    - a. Disease of cattle, horses, hogs, sheep, and poultry.
      1. Bangs Disease
      2. Cholera
      3. Tuberculosis
      4. Coccidiosis
      5. Pneumonia
      6. Parasites
      7. Teeth decay
    - b. Insects and parasites attacking livestock.
      1. Bots
      2. Worms
      3. Lice
    - c. Breeding problems.
      1. Horses - Stallion Improvement
      2. Cattle - Proven sires - Sterility
    - d. Livestock Shipping Associations.
    - e. Cow Testing and Herd Improvement Work.
    - f. Cooperative Bull Associations.
  2. Cooperative Work.
    - a. Milk Producers
    - b. Livestock Producers
    - c. Farm Organizations
    - d. Community Efforts
    - e. Rural Electrification
  3. Conservation.
    - a. Reforestration
    - b. Shelterbelts
    - c. Windbreaks
    - d. Land Zoning
    - e. Land Utilization
    - f. Soil Conservation
    - g. Game Propagation
    - h. School Ground Beautification
  4. 4-H Club Work.
    - a. Livestock
    - b. Crops
    - c. Forestry
    - d. Handicraft
    - e. Miscellaneous
  5. Soils and Crops
    - a. Insects and Pests
    - b. Fertilizers - Soil Tests
    - c. Lime - Soil Tests
    - d. Orchard Improvement
    - e. Legumes
    - f. Small Fruits
    - g. Rodent Control
    - h. Hays - Grasses
    - i. Hybrid Corn
  6. Agricultural Conservation - AAA
- \*\*\*\*\*
- The breeding school which was held in June aroused considerable interest among stallion owners and practically all of these men asked to have their horses examined for soundness. It is possible that a county stallion owners organiza-



tion can be set up so as to guard against the use of poor-type stallions as well as non-breeders.

### Livestock Improvement

Horses: Wood County farmers have about 6500 head of horses many of which are too old to do good farm work. Farmers have neglected to raise horse power and very few colts have been foaled during the last four years. A survey of the stallion owners revealed that 218 colts were foaled in 1937. Approximately the same number of mares were bred in 1937 as in 1936. We can not look forward to much increased production in the number of colts for 1938.

Many of the old horses in the county were infested with bots. A large number of farmers had allowed their horses' teeth to go without repair, and during the drought period many horses suffered unduly from lack of teeth repair.

A bot eradication program was conducted during the winter months of 1936 and 1937 and approximately one-half of the horses in the county received teeth and bot treatment. A local committee was elected by farmers to employ the services of competent veterinarians who did the bot treatment at a reduced price. Horses' teeth were repaired at the same time if farmers wished it. In general, the program was satisfactory. The late Dr. Abbott of Marshfield, Dr. Jensen of Arkdale, and Dr. Swan of Stevens Point, cooperated on the program. Other veterinarians in the county were unable to work due to their being tied up with the Bang's disease program. The bot eradication program was especially successful for it had not been done on a community basis in the past.

During the summer of 1937, a small epidemic of encephomyelitis broke out in the town of Wood, but prompt treatment and strict isolation seemed to prevent the disease from spreading to other horses. The disease was brought into the county by a shipment of horses from the west.

Horse Breeders' Meeting: All stallion owners were present at a meeting arranged by the county agent to study and judge horses. Stallions were examined for soundness. A horse judging contest was held which was conducted by Professor Fuller of the College of Agriculture and Dr. V. S. Larson from the State Department of Agriculture and Markets.

The up-to-date methods of artificial insemination of horses was demonstrated at the meeting. This was the first time that many horsemen had seen the practice actually demonstrated. In the hands of competent horsemen, artificial insemination may prove to be a valuable practice to horse owners in the county. Dairymen have also asked to have demonstrations of this sort arranged for the purebred herd owners of the county.

The breeding school which was held in June aroused considerable interest among stallion owners and practically all of these men asked to have their horses examined for soundness. It is possible that a county stallion owners organiza-

tion can be set up so as to guard against the use of poor-type stallions as well as non-breeders.

**Dairy Cattle:** Wood County farmers own and manage approximately 52,000 head of dairy cattle. All of these cattle were tested for tuberculosis by the State Livestock Sanitary Division in 1936. Only nineteen reactors on fourteen farms were found in the entire county. The county is a modified accredited county with one of the smallest percentages of infection in any county of the state.

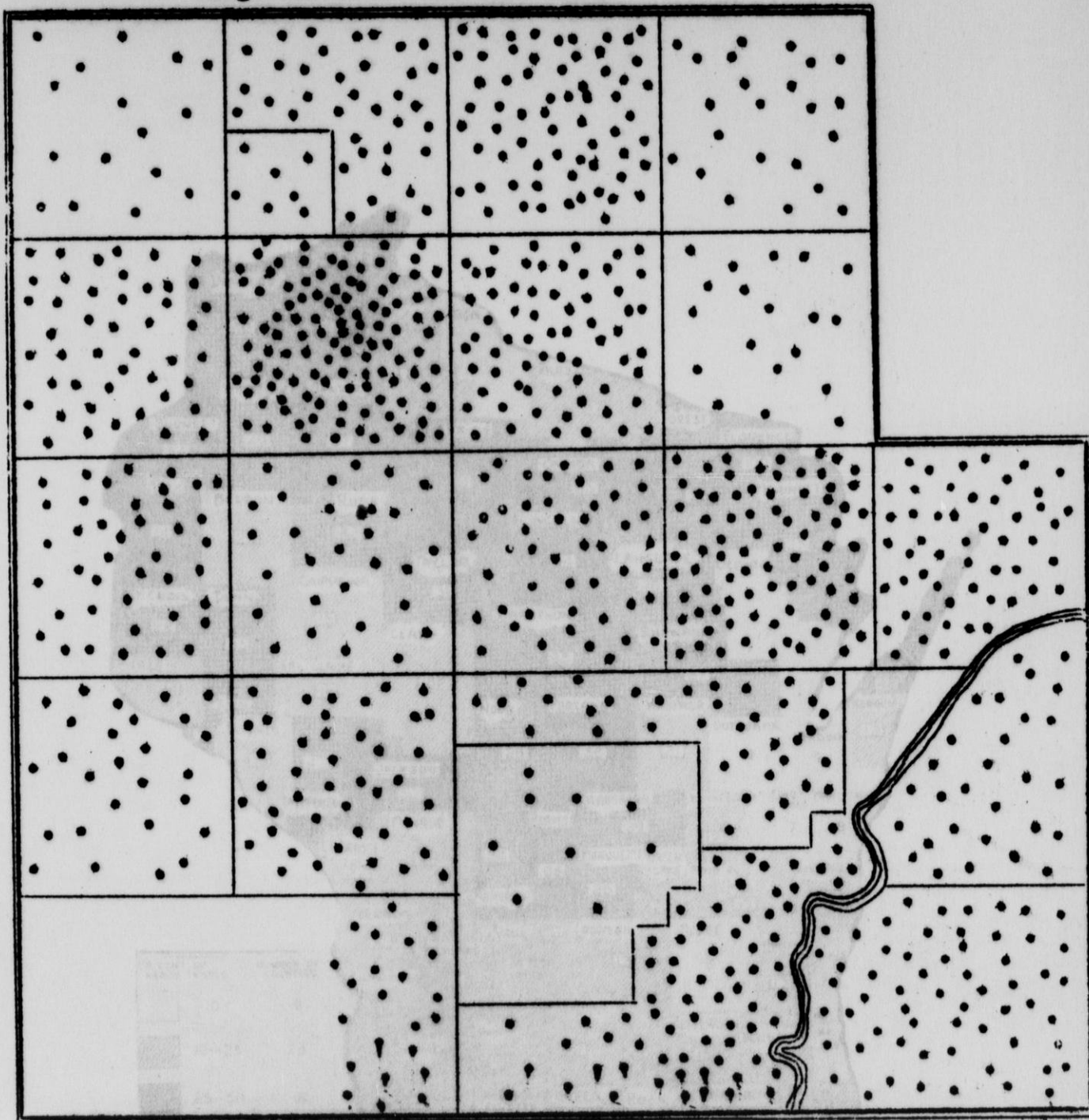
In 1933 Bang's disease, however, was present in approximately 45% of the herds in the county. The percentage of infection in the county is now 12% according to the record of tests on about 1,000 herds in the county. Several educational meetings have been held in the county during the past ten years in an effort to disseminate all information that was known about Bang's disease and its control. Five demonstration herds were taken by the Agricultural Committee and the State Department of Agriculture and Markets and testing was done in each of these five herds every sixty days until eighteen months had elapsed after the reactors had been removed. In 1933 the Federal Emergency Program went into effect under the LaFollette-Costigian Bill, appropriating \$50,000,000.00 to be used to assist farmers in eradicating Bang's disease using the agglutination test as the diagnostic agent. Approximately 1,000 farmers have made application for test under this program. On the initial testing, approximately 12% of the cattle were found to be infected. About 31% of the dairy herds were found to be infected on the first re-test of the infected herds. Approximately 150 herds have been certified by the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture and Markets as being Bang's free on three or more clean tests. The rest of the 850 herds not already certified are being tested every six months and as soon as they have passed three clean tests, they will be certified. It would seem that it would be for the best interests of Wood County dairy industry to eradicate Bang's disease from the county if possible especially now when additional financial help is being made available through the state and federal governments.

The 1937 legislation passed a law giving farmers in counties where 75% of the cattle owners petition for the test, additional indemnity money up to \$20.00 per cow based on 20% of the difference between the appraised value and the net salvage received from the slaughter of infected cattle.

Immediately on the passage of the Barnes Bill authorizing the area test, petitions were sent to each farmer in the county giving him an opportunity to petition for the test if he wished. Approximately 1,000 farmers have made application for the area test program in Wood County. Prior to the passage of the Barnes bill, farmers who had tested stated that they would much rather have their neighbors test also so as to lessen the chance of re-infection. Hundreds of farmers made the announcement at meetings that they would be glad to test if their neighbors tested. In other words, farmers with clean herds would like to have their neighbors have clean herds also so as to lessen the chance of re-infection of clean herds,



More than ONE THOUSAND Wood county dairy herd owners have already had their herds tested for Bangs disease- Oct 1st 1937



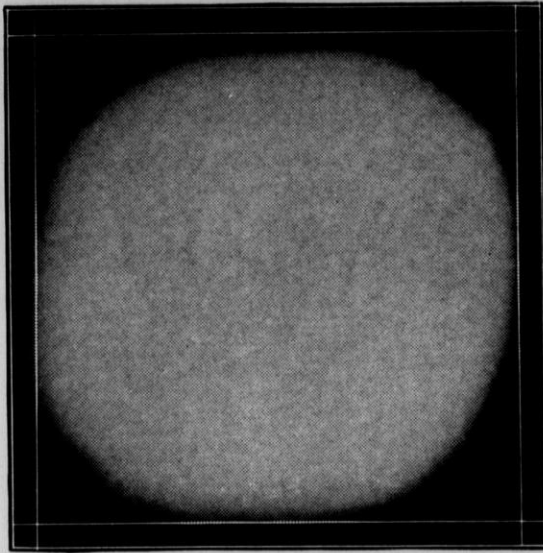
Each dot (\*) represents one dairy herd tested for Bangs disease before Oct 1st 1937. More than \$42,000 has been paid Wood county farmers in indemnity. More than 3000 tests have been made on these herds. More than 16,000 cattle have been tested. Infection has been reduced from 12% to less than 2% in the infected herds.



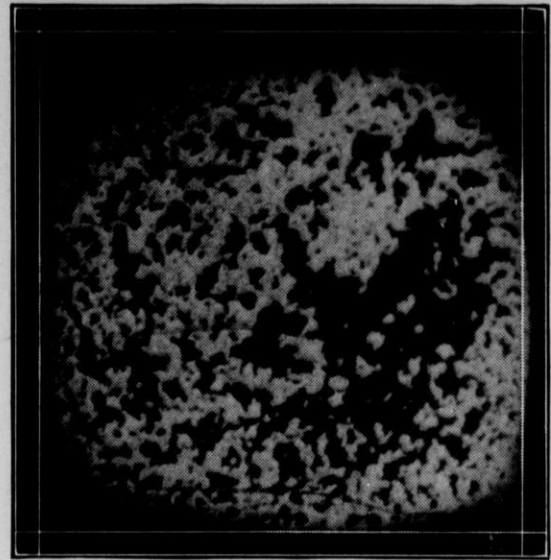


Shaded areas show the percent of infection of Bangs disease in each Wisconsin county on March 1, 1937.  
Herds tested for

## REACTION TO BANGS DISEASE IS SHOWN BY AGGLUTINATION TEST

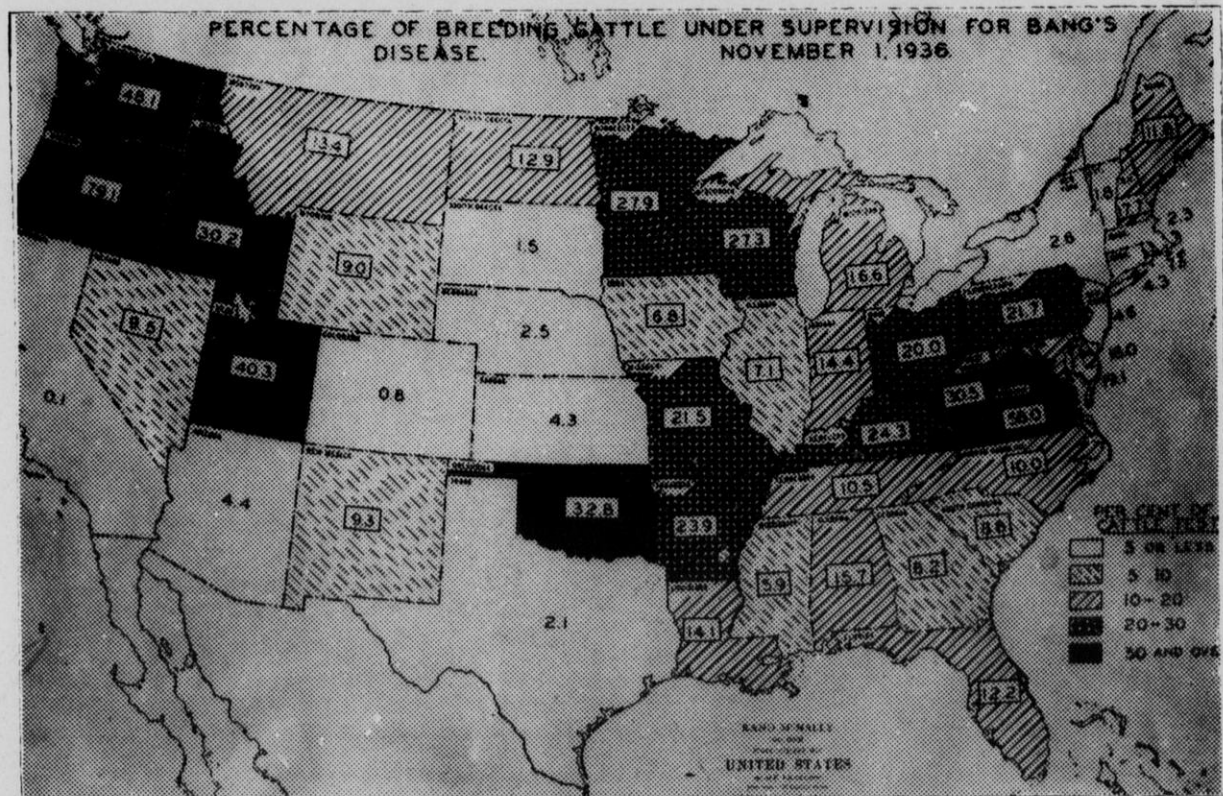


Negative Reaction



Positive Reaction

The cuts show the negative (clear) and positive (milky) reaction to Bangs disease. Antigen is mixed with a specimen of blood sera on a heated plate glass and the anti-bodies if present in the blood of the animal will agglutinate with the antigen and cause a very apparent reaction. This reaction cannot be mistaken by anyone well qualified to make the test. Tests for Bangs disease can be made rather rapidly and farmers can see the test made at the offices of most local veterinarians. Many new farmers are now availing themselves of state and Federal financial assistance in the matter of testing and indemnity money in order to get their herds clean and free from Bangs disease.



Since the above map was made, much progress has been made by the several test states. Farmers in Oregon and Washington are making rapid advances with the testing program. Many cities in the United States have passed ordinances requiring that milk for fluid consumption come from cattles free from Bangs disease.



Re-infection of Clean Herds: There have been some tragic experiences with Bang's disease. This has been most noticeable in one or two herds where the herds were found to be clean and certified and then they became re-infected from neighboring herds. One farmer in the town of Dexter lost twenty-nine head after he had had a clean herd. Another one of the demonstration herds became re-infected from the neighboring herds and fourteen head were lost. Farmers who have clean herds are extremely proud of their accomplishments and are doing everything possible to keep the infection from their herds.

Remedies and Cures: Farmers whose herds are infected with Bang's disease or whose cattle occasionally abort are extremely anxious to get rid of the disease and oftentimes fall an easy prey to slick salesmen who sell mineral feeds and remedies with the hope that they will cure Bang's disease. The State Department of Agriculture and Markets and the College of Agriculture have made exhaustive studies of these cures but none have been found to be of any value for the cure of the disease. Farmers in the county annually spend several thousands of dollars in the purchase of remedies in the hope that they can cure the disease but none have succeeded.

Bull Blocks: As soon as the county or areas in the county have been made clean and free from Bang's disease and the chances of spreading Bang's disease have been eliminated, farmers will be able to purchase bulls on a community basis so that better bulls can be purchased and used in the community at a lower cost thereby increasing dairy profits.

Breeding Schools: Breeding schools are being arranged for interested dairymen in the county who wish to get the most modern information on sex control, inheritance factors and other breeding problems.

Cow Testing for Butterfat: There is a growing interest on the part of many farmers to establish a regular cow testing association particularly in the northern part of the county. Several men are desirous of knowing their feed costs and the production records of their individual cows. Some herd owners are doing official testing under the Dairy Herd Improvement Program.

Cooperative Efforts

Livestock Shipping: The County Agricultural Agent was asked by the boards of directors of the Arpin, Pittsville, and the Vesper-Wisconsin Rapids Livestock Shipping Associations to assist them in setting up a large cooperative association on a contract basis. Fieldmen from the Equity Livestock Sales Agency and the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture and Markets and thirty-seven cooperating farmers helped the county agent to complete the job. Because of the unsatisfactory costs of shipping livestock by truck to market and the low volume of these small associations, the county agent found it possible to get 425 farmers to organize into one livestock shipping association known as the Wood County Central Livestock Shipping Association Cooperative. Members of



## BANGS DISEASE YIELDS TO SYSTEMATIC TESTING

RESULT OF FOUR TESTS OF 17,922 HERDS INFECTED WITH BANGS DISEASE NOVEMBER 1936

### HERD INFECTION

### CATTLE INFECTION



**INITIAL TEST**



100% - SOME INFECTION IN ALL HERDS

387,964 CATTLE - 259% POSITIVE



**FIRST RETEST**

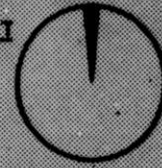


28.6% OF HERDS INFECTED

326,292 CATTLE - 4.0% POSITIVE



**SECOND RETEST**



22.1% OF HERDS INFECTED

260,780 CATTLE - 2.7% POSITIVE



**THIRD RETEST**

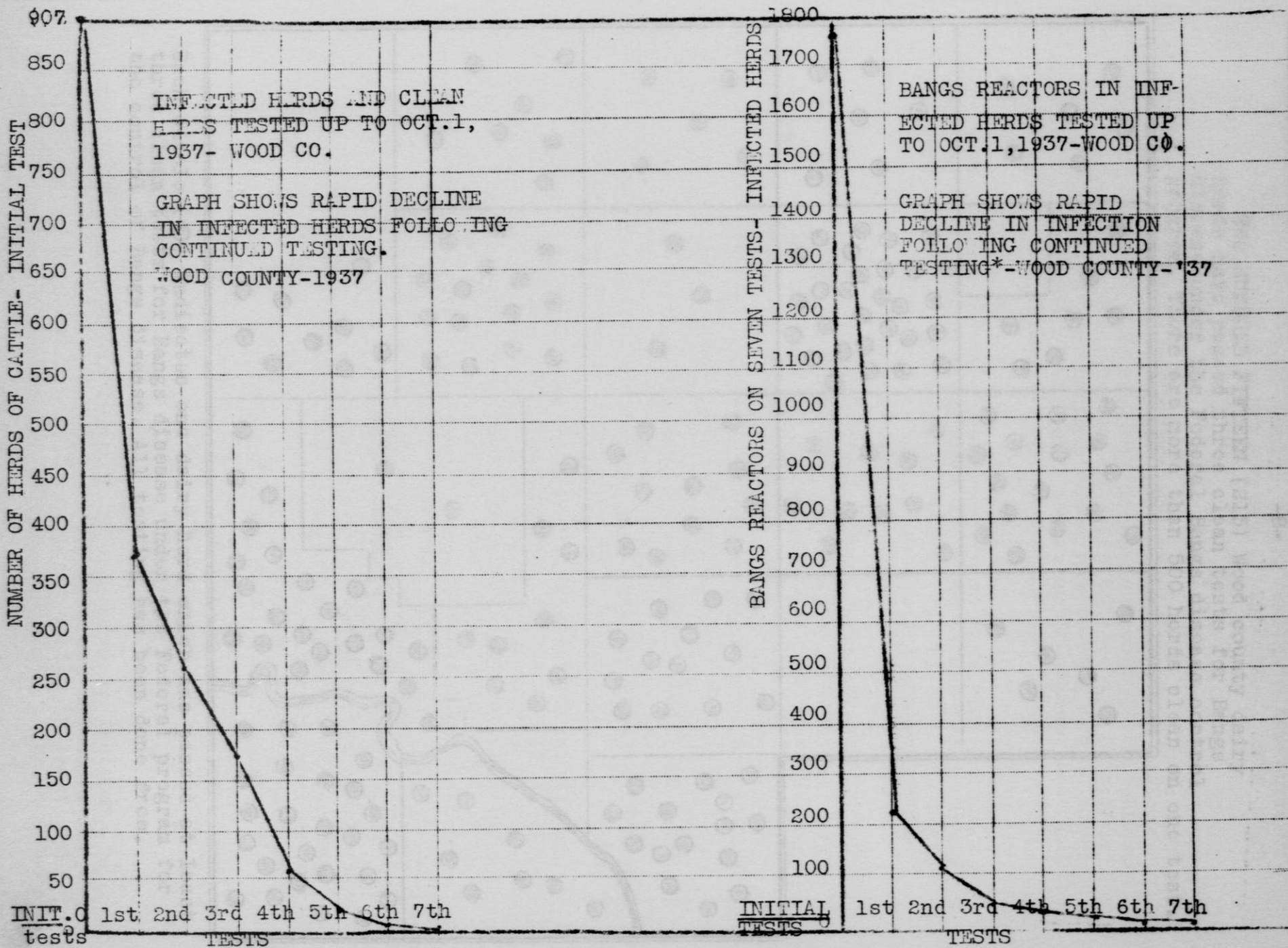


21.7% OF HERDS INFECTED

148,774 CATTLE - 2.1% POSITIVE

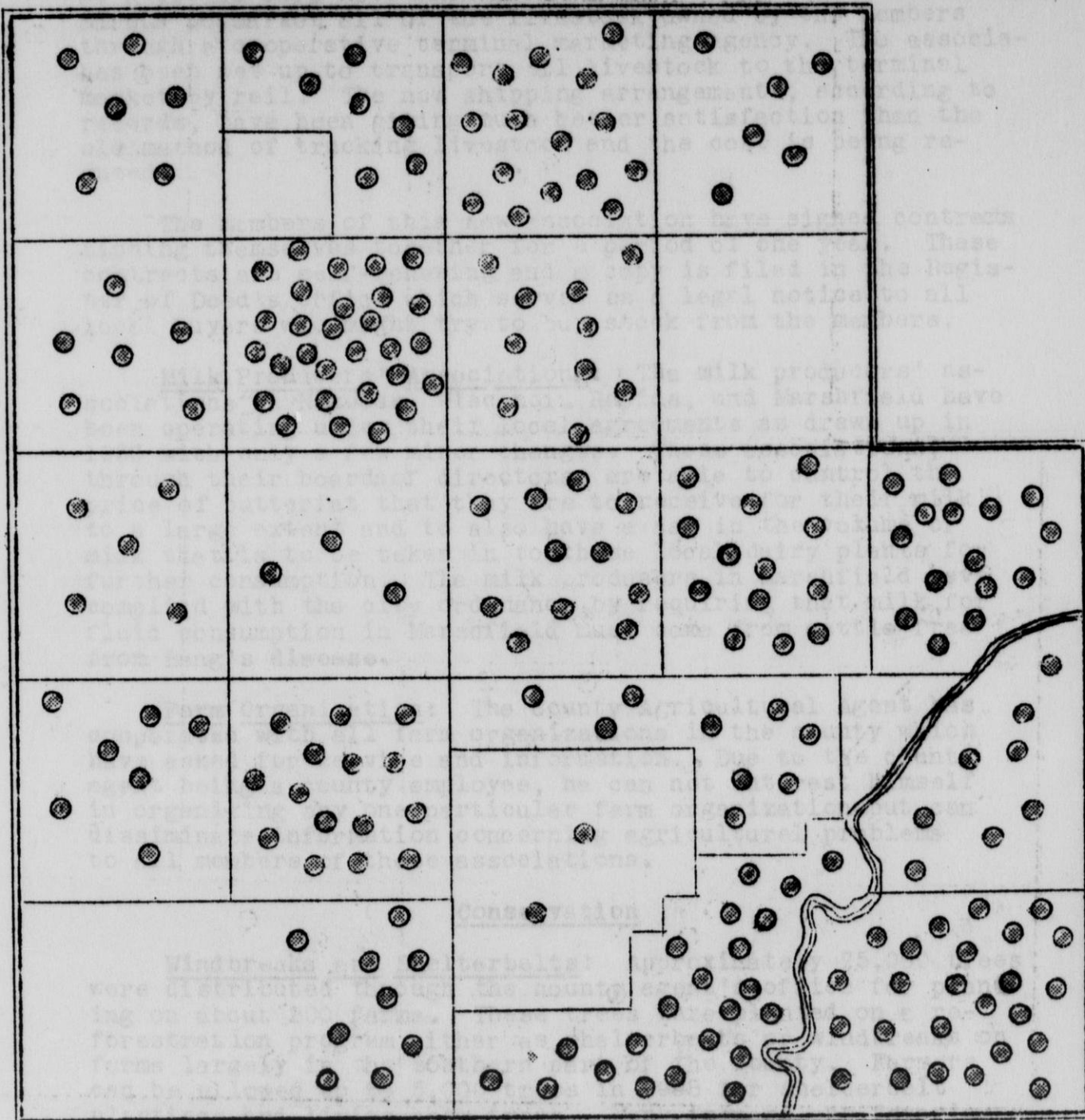
Records for testing in Wood county show outstanding progress being made with the eradication and control of Bangs disease. The records below are as of October 1, 1937 and are conclusive enough to convince any one of the value of the test as a diagnostic agent.

	Number Herds	Number Cattle	No. Negative	No. Positive	Inf. Herds	Cattle in Inf. Herds
Initial Test	907	14,807	12,414	1,763	434	8,349
1st Retest	371	6,463	5,790	209	85	1,721
2nd Retest	263	4,856	4,605	104	47	1,025
3rd Retest	176	3,699	3,568	68	31	719
4th Retest	66	1,626	1,571	33	9	243
5th Retest	23	670	644	15	3	79
6th Retest	5	114	107	4	1	33
7th Retest	1	27	24	2	1	27





TWO HUNDRED FIFTEEN (215) Wood county dairy herds have passed three clean tests for Bangs disease under the Federal Bangs disease control program. There are more than 500 herds clean on one test.



Each circle (●) indicates one dairy herd which has passed at least three clean tests for Bangs disease under the Federal program for the control of Bangs disease. All testing has been done free.



this association live in twelve of the southern townships of the county and have elected a board of directors, have organized, and have chosen a manager to handle their livestock shipping problems. At least one car of livestock has been shipped every Tuesday since the 14th of September and on several days two cars have been shipped. The organization is desirous to market all of the livestock owned by the members through a cooperative terminal marketing agency. The association has been set up to transport all livestock to the terminal market by rail. The new shipping arrangements, according to records, have been giving much better satisfaction than the old method of trucking livestock and the cost is being reduced.

The members of this new association have signed contracts binding themselves together for a period of one year. These contracts are self-renewing and a copy is filed in the Register of Deeds office which serves as a legal notice to all local buyers who might try to buy stock from the members.

Milk Producers' Associations: The milk producers' associations in Nekocsa, Wisconsin Rapids, and Marshfield have been operating under their local agreements as drawn up in 1933 with only a few minor changes. These associations, through their boards of directors, are able to control the price of butterfat that they are to receive for their milk to a large extent and to also have a say in the volume of milk that is to be taken in to these local dairy plants for further consumption. The milk producers in Marshfield have complied with the city ordinance by requiring that milk for fluid consumption in Marshfield must come from cattle free from Bang's disease.

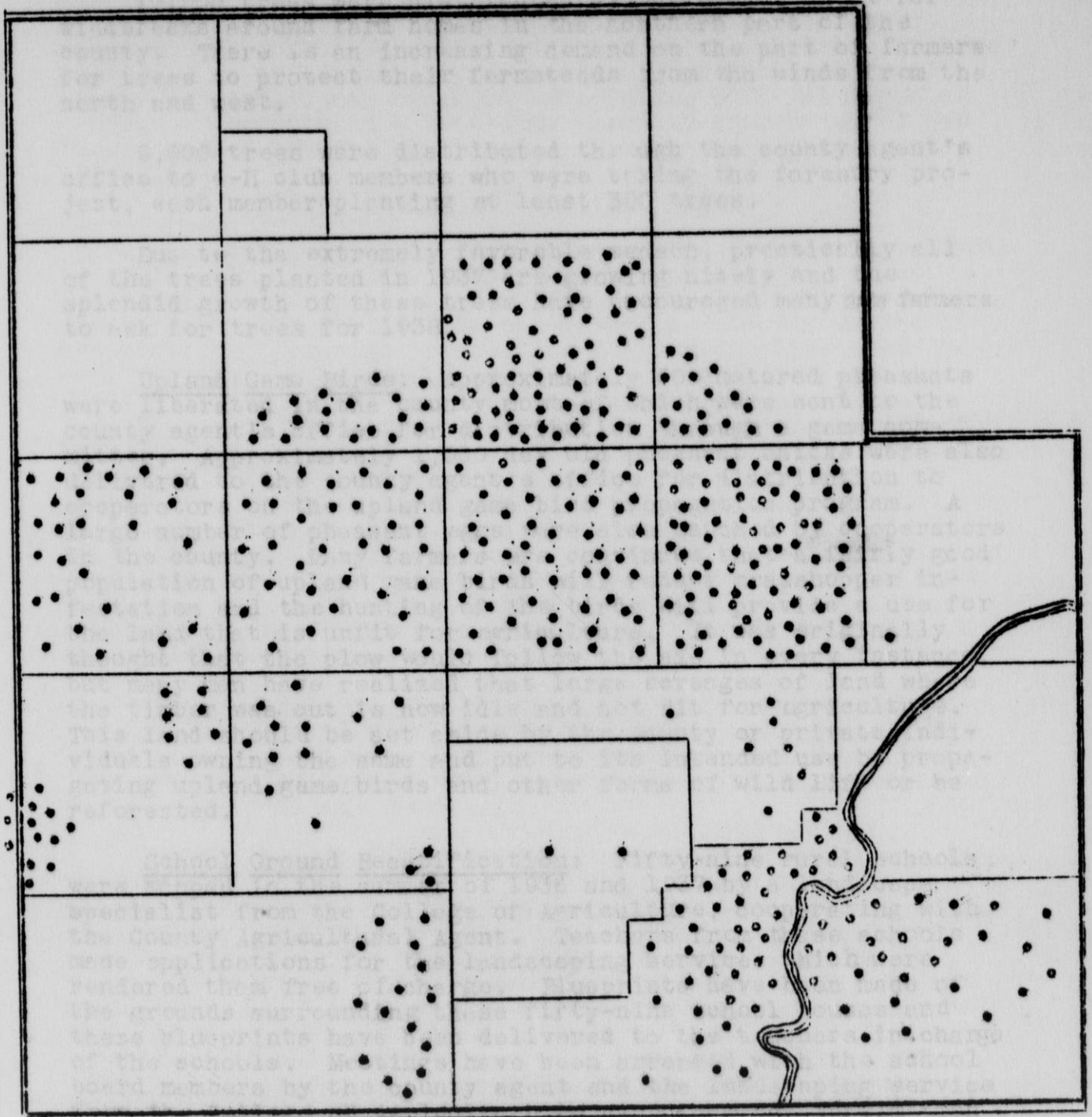
Farm Organization: The County Agricultural Agent has cooperated with all farm organizations in the county which have asked for service and information. Due to the county agent being a county employee, he can not interest himself in organizing any one particular farm organization but can disseminate information concerning agricultural problems to all members of these associations.

### Conservation

Windbreaks and Shelterbelts: Approximately 75,000 trees were distributed through the county agent's office for planting on about 200 farms. These trees were planted on a reforestation program either as shelterbelts or windbreaks on farms largely in the southern part of the county. Farmers can be allowed up to 5,000 trees in 1938 for shelterbelt plantings and living snow traps. Many farmers are favoring the planting of shelterbelts in strips across their fields so that the blowing of snow and wind will be reduced to a minimum.

A WPA project was inaugurated and farms in the towns of Seneca, Grand Rapids, Saratoga, Port Edwards, and Cranmoor were surveyed to ascertain the farmers' choice of trees and his preferred locations. Orders are now being taken for trees for 1938 plantings.

Map showing location of membership  
Wood Co. Central Livestock Shipping  
association-co-operative. 1937



Each dot (•) shows the approximate location of the membership in the newly formed livestock shipping association. Each member has signed a one year self-renewing contract to ship his live stock for slaughter with his neighbors. The board of directors were instructed by the membership to transport all livestock to terminal market by rail. A farm to market pick up trucking service has been established with a minimum stop charge of 25¢.



9,000 trees were distributed by the county agent to nine farmers, each one planting 1,000 trees as an educational plot. These educational plantings will be used in forestry tours in the next two and three years.

10,000 trees were distributed by the county agent for windbreaks around farm homes in the northern part of the county. There is an increasing demand on the part of farmers for trees to protect their farmsteads from the winds from the north and west.

9,000 trees were distributed through the county agent's office to 4-H club members who were taking the forestry project, each member planting at least 300 trees.

Due to the extremely favorable season, practically all of the trees planted in 1937 are growing nicely and the splendid growth of these trees have encouraged many new farmers to ask for trees for 1938.

Upland Game Birds: Approximately 500 matured pheasants were liberated in the county most of which were sent to the county agent's office for distribution through a game committee. Approximately 1,000 day old pheasant chicks were also delivered to the county agent's office for distribution to cooperators on the upland game bird propagation program. A large number of pheasant eggs were also hatched by cooperators in the county. Many farmers are convinced that a fairly good population of upland game birds will reduce grasshopper infestation and the hunting of the birds will provide a use for the land that is unfit for agriculture. It was originally thought that the plow would follow the axe in every instance, but many men have realized that large acreages of land where the timber was cut is now idle and not fit for agriculture. This land should be set aside by the county or private individuals owning the same and put to its intended use by propagating upland game birds and other forms of wild life or be reforested.

School Ground Beautification: Fifty-nine rural schools were mapped in the summer of 1936 and 1937 by a landscape specialist from the College of Agriculture, cooperating with the County Agricultural Agent. Teachers from these schools made applications for the landscaping services which were rendered them free of charge. Blueprints have been made of the grounds surrounding these fifty-nine school houses and these blueprints have been delivered to the teachers in charge of the schools. Meetings have been arranged with the school board members by the county agent and the landscaping service from the College of Agriculture to give them the information concerning the school ground beautification program. Many teachers have met with their school boards and plans for improvement on school grounds have been made for 1938, 1939, and 1940.

Outstanding in the school grounds beautification program is the Cranmoor School in the town of Cranmoor. Other schools have done possibly as much work but had to start farther back in their beautification and improvement work.

Windbreaks have been made available to rural school teachers for planting around the school grounds.

School Forests: The County Agricultural Agent has assisted the Superintendent of Schools, Mr. S. G. Corey, in the planting of school forests. Plantings were made in the North County Park in lots set aside for rural schools and in the South County School Forest. Tax delinquent land has been made available to the County Superintendent of Schools for tree planting. The county agent is cooperating with the Superintendent of Schools on a long-time planting program which has been designed to be educational.

### Real Estate and Chattel Credit

Real Estate Credit: During the period November 1st, 1936 to April 15th, 1937, the County Agent continued to act as Secretary-Treasurer of the New Wood County National Farm Loan Association, but resigned in order that a grouping of the five associations operating in Wood and Portage counties might become affected. The county agent has served this association since July 1st, 1933. No fees or compensation of any sort have been paid the county agent and to-date, no compensation has been paid to the county of Wood for work done by the county agent for services rendered to the association. During the period from November 1st to April 15th, there was a marked reduction in the number of loans that were closed due to the fact that many of the most urgent cases had been taken care of during the emergency period. There was also a marked tightening-up of the loaning policies by the Federal Land Bank operating in this district as compared to the policy in effect during 1933-34.

The county agent was instrumental in forming the organization in 1933 and carried it on to such a point where the board of directors were well qualified to direct the activities of the association and a new secretary-treasurer could be trained to do the work.

Chattel Credit: During the period from November 1st, 1936 to June 12th, 1937, the county agent continued to act as Secretary-Treasurer for the Wisconsin Rapids Production Credit Association, resigning on June 12th, 1937 in order to carry on a more worth-while type of extension work. Most of the board of directors of the Wisconsin Rapids Production Credit Association had been with the association since its inauguration and were well qualified to direct the business of the association and select a new secretary-treasurer. The county agent was instrumental in getting the association located and started in Wood County. The first organization meeting was held at Vesper in December 1933. The county agent carried the burden of the organization work and assisted in establishing a loaning policy for the association.

No pay was accepted by the county agent for any services rendered the Wisconsin Rapids Production Credit Association and none have been paid the county of Wood for the service of the county agent to the association.

Both the New Wood County National Farm Loan Association



and the Wisconsin Rapids Production Credit Association have substantial reserves built up, due to the fact that both enjoyed free rental and office space and free services of a secretary-treasurer together with all of the other conveniences in the office of the County Agricultural Agent. Furthermore, both of these associations were not required to spend any large sums for advertising since they were handled by the county agent's office and farmers naturally came to the office for assistance in credit information. During the four year period that these two credit agencies were handled by the County Agricultural Agent, neither one of the associations had lost one single dollar in a poor loan. A very satisfactory clientele of borrowers was built up which were extremely cooperative. These men appreciate the fact that the county agent's free service enabled their association to establish a reserve. With a good reserve, amounting to approximately \$2400.00 in the New Wood County National Farm Loan Association, and \$7700.00 in the Wisconsin Rapids Production Credit Association, making a total reserve of more than \$10,000.00 in the two associations, farmers' stock in these associations were valued considerably above par at the time the county agent resigned. Every \$5.00 share of stock that each of the seven hundred farmers cooperatively purchased in these associations was worth considerably more than the original purchase price.

### Injurious Pests

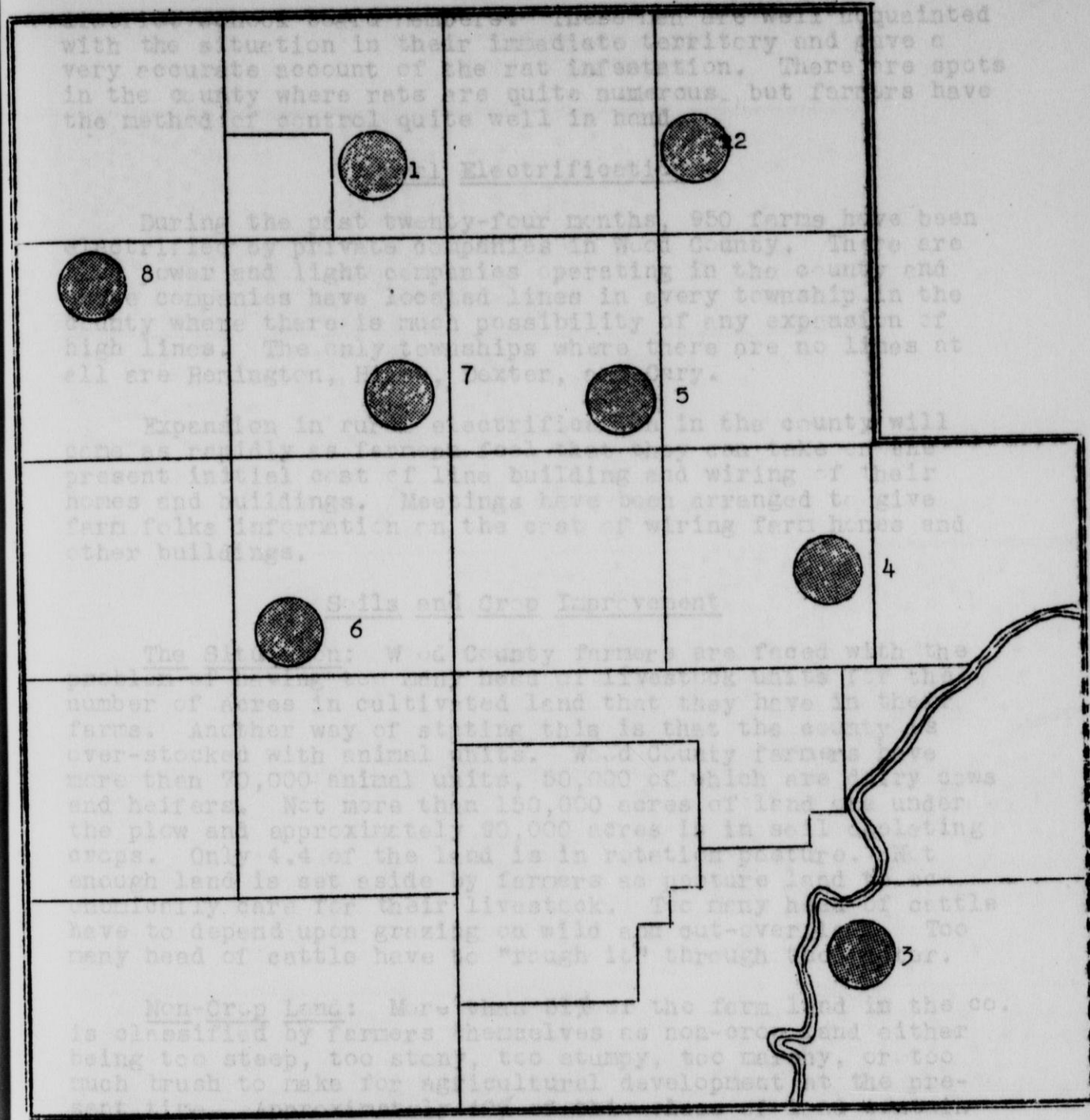
Grasshoppers: During 1937, Wood County farms have been infested with the largest number of grasshoppers ever known in the county. While the grasshoppers did not do much serious damage in any one part of the county, they were scattered over the entire county. Investigations on many farms have revealed the presence of large numbers of egg masses along fence rows and in unplowed fields. The egg masses were deposited in August and September of this year. Unless we have adverse weather conditions for the propagation of grasshoppers, the county is likely to experience a very serious infestation of grasshoppers in 1938.

Army Worms and Cutworms: Army worms and cutworms have been extremely numerous in many parts of the county particularly so in the southern part. Cutworms have done considerable damage on vegetable and truck crops and corn. Cutworms will be numerous again next year on sod land that will be plowed for corn in the spring. Army worms were present in small numbers throughout the county. Army worms and cutworms, like grasshoppers, will possibly be extremely numerous in 1938 unless severe weather conditions prevail at hatching time. Farmers are at a loss as to know how to handle army worms, grasshoppers, and cutworms because they do not know their life cycle. Potato bugs are not so much of a worry to farmers, but these other pests that come in herds are difficult to handle unless farmers know their life history.

### Rodent Control

Following a very thorough clean-up on ordinary house rats in October 1936, there is a slight infestation of rats to be found on farms in the county, according to a survey made in October 1937. Questionnaires were sent to each of the rural

MAP SHOWING SUMMARY OF GRASSHOPPER SITUATION.  
EGG SURVEY MADE OCT. 8/137



Summary of Grasshopper egg survey

stop	crop	egg pods per sq.ft		live hoppers per sq. yd		Dominant species		rate	percent
		field	edge	field	edge	first	second		
1	meadow	1	0	4	1	M.mex	-	2	10
2	Stubble	.4	-	4	1	" "	-	1.2	5
3	"	1.6	-	0	0	-	-	2	10
4	meadow	0	0	0	0	-	-	1	5
5	alfalfa	1.6	-	0	0	-	-	1.5	5
6	meadow	6.4	-	0	0	-	-	5	100
7	stubble	3.2	0	0	0	-	-	3.5	55
8	"	1.6	0	0	0	-	-	2	10
								Average	25

The table has been prepared to show the percentage of crops that will be likely to be destroyed by grasshoppers in 1938 unless adverse weather comes at hatching time.



district school board members. These men are well acquainted with the situation in their immediate territory and gave a very accurate account of the rat infestation. There are spots in the county where rats are quite numerous but farmers have the method of control quite well in hand.

### Rural Electrification

During the past twenty-four months, 950 farms have been electrified by private companies in Wood County. There are five power and light companies operating in the county and these companies have located lines in every township in the county where there is much possibility of any expansion of high lines. The only townships where there are no lines at all are Remington, Hiles, Dexter, and Cary.

Expansion in rural electrification in the county will come as rapidly as farmers feel that they can take on the present initial cost of line building and wiring of their homes and buildings. Meetings have been arranged to give farm folks information on the cost of wiring farm homes and other buildings.

### Soils and Crop Improvement

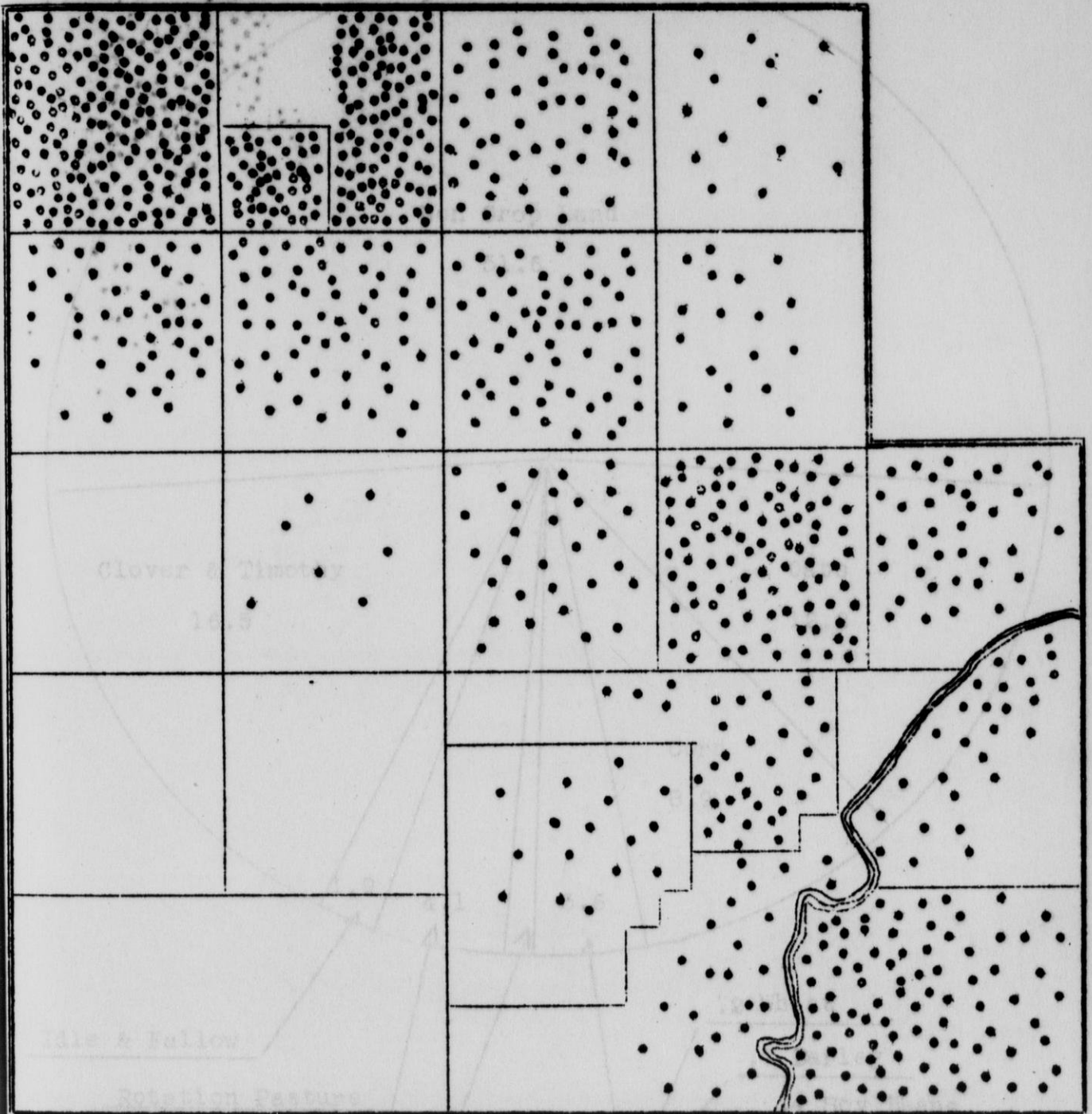
The Situation: Wood County farmers are faced with the problem of having too many head of livestock units for the number of acres in cultivated land that they have in their farms. Another way of stating this is that the county is over-stocked with animal units. Wood County farmers have more than 70,000 animal units, 50,000 of which are dairy cows and heifers. Not more than 150,000 acres of land are under the plow and approximately 90,000 acres is in soil depleting crops. Only 4.4% of the land is in rotation pasture. Not enough land is set aside by farmers as pasture land to economically care for their livestock. Too many head of cattle have to depend upon grazing on wild and cut-over land. Too many head of cattle have to "rough it" through the winter.

Non-Crop Land: More than 51% of the farm land in the co. is classified by farmers themselves as non-crop land either being too steep, too stony, too stumpy, too marshy, or too much brush to make for agricultural development at the present time. Approximately 40% of this class of land containing 140,000 acres can be broken and put under the plow according to reports from more than 100 farmers.

Crop Land: Of the 49% of the farm land in the county which is in crops, most of the land is in hay, corn, and oats. It would appear that the oat acreage of the county could be reduced and the clover and alfalfa acreage increased.

Fertilizers and Lime: Hundreds of free soil tests have been made by the county agent's office and the State Soils Laboratory which have indicated that the soil in the county is very low in phosphate and lime and much of it is low in potash. If efficient returns are to be gotten from these farm lands, it would seem that such plant food elements as lime, phosphate, and potash will have to be added in large amounts.

RURAL ELECTRIFICATION  
WOOD COUNTY-'37

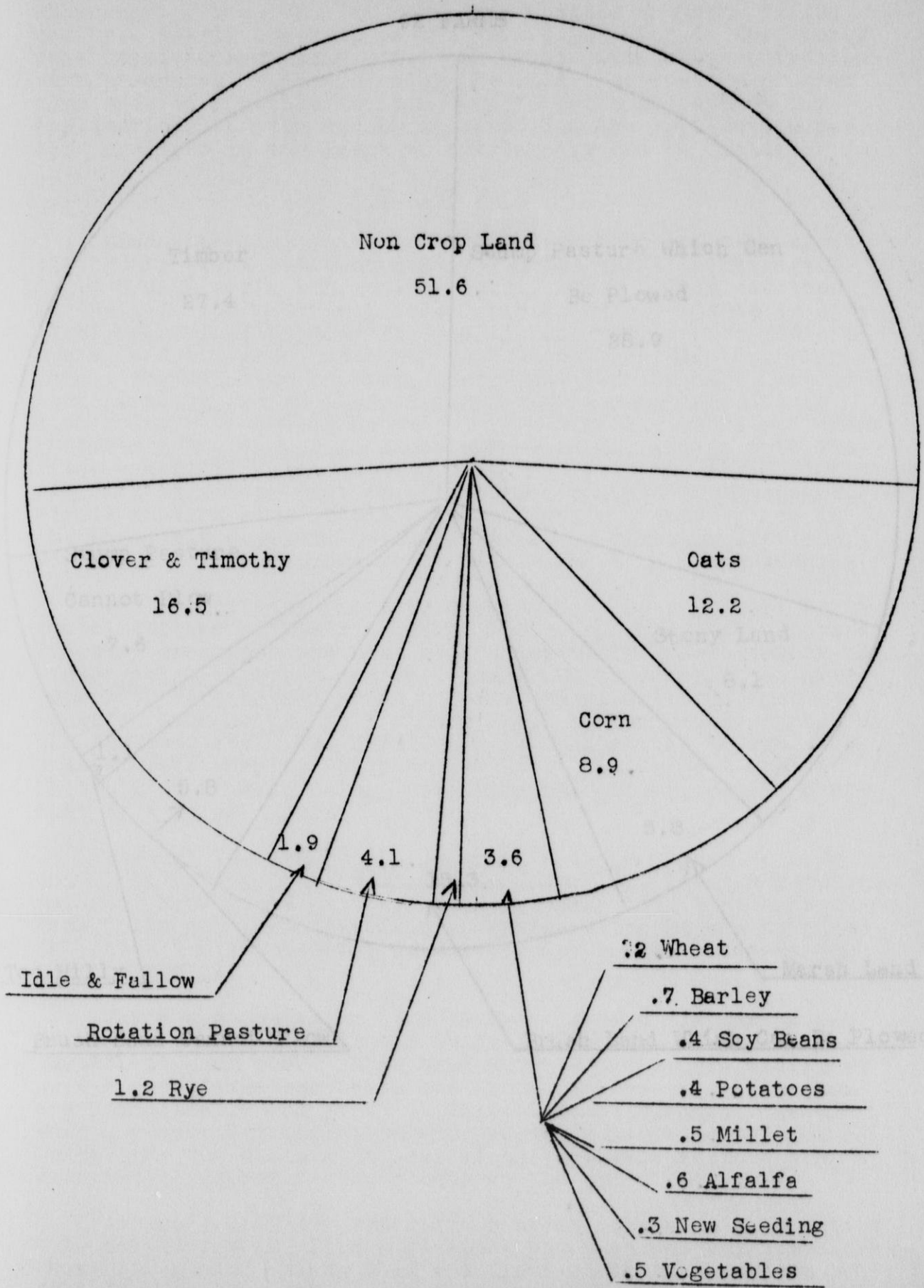


Each dot (•) represents a rural meter. The total number of farms in wood county is 3,500. Of the total number of farms 950 are electrified. Five electric light and power companies operating within the county have added a total of 277 new customers during the past two years.

.3 New Seeding  
.5 Vegetables



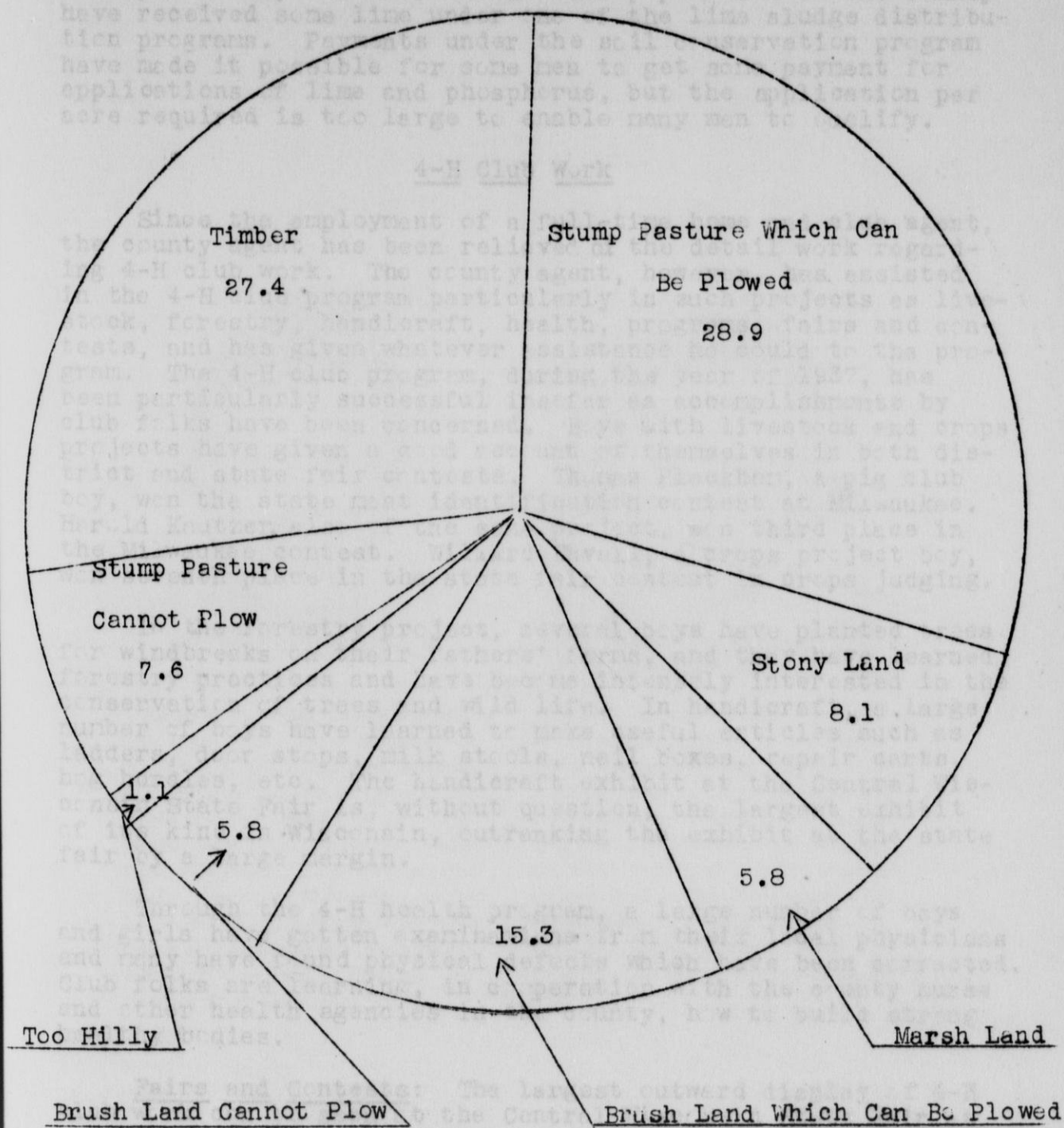
ANALYSIS OF THE CROP ACREAGES FOR 1935-36 - WOOD CO.



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ANALYSIS OF THE ACREAGES AND USES OF NON-CROP LAND FOR WOOD COUNTY

92 FARMS



Since employment of a... the count... has been... by 4-H club... The count... agent... assisted... projects as... health, pro... and... assistance... to the... program. The 4-H club program, during the year of 1937, has been particularly successful... as accomplishments by club folks have been... with livestock and crops projects have given a... of themselves in both district and state fair contests. This year, a 4-H club boy, won the state first place... at Milwaukee. Harold... won third place in the... contest. The... contest... last year.

The largest outward... by 4-H club folks and these are shown by boys and girls who are enthusiastic and proud of their accomplishments. Each year a county demonstration and judging contest is held at which time the winners in each of the several projects are selected to represent the county at the state fair.

At the county demonstration contest, the health champions were selected with Allen Hill among the boys and Phyllis Clark among the girls. Allen Hill won first place in the state contest in Milwaukee and will compete with the champions in each of the forty-eight states at Chicago November 27 - December 3rd.



During the past five years when federal assistance has been given farmers in the transportation of sludge and lime, many thousands of tons of lime have been applied to farms in the county. Nearly one-half of the farm population in the county have received some lime under one of the lime sludge distribution programs. Payments under the soil conservation program have made it possible for some men to get some payment for applications of lime and phosphorus, but the application per acre required is too large to enable many men to qualify.

#### 4-H Club Work

Since the employment of a full-time home and club agent, the county agent has been relieved of the detail work regarding 4-H club work. The county agent, however, has assisted in the 4-H club program particularly in such projects as livestock, forestry, handicraft, health, programs, fairs and contests, and has given whatever assistance he could to the program. The 4-H club program, during the year of 1937, has been particularly successful insofar as accomplishments by club folks have been concerned. Boys with livestock and crops projects have given a good account of themselves in both district and state fair contests. Thomas Pleckham, a pig club boy, won the state meat identification contest at Milwaukee. Harold Kautzer, also of the same project, won third place in the Milwaukee contest. Willard Ekvall, a crops project boy, won seventh place in the state fair contest in crops judging.

In the forestry project, several boys have planted trees for windbreaks on their fathers' farms, and they have learned forestry practices and have become intensely interested in the conservation of trees and wild life. In handicraft, a large number of boys have learned to make useful articles such as ladders, door stops, milk stools, nail boxes, repair carts, hog hurdles, etc. The handicraft exhibit at the Central Wisconsin State Fair is, without question, the largest exhibit of its kind in Wisconsin, outranking the exhibit at the state fair by a large margin.

Through the 4-H health program, a large number of boys and girls have gotten examinations from their local physicians and many have found physical defects which have been corrected. Club folks are learning, in cooperation with the county nurse and other health agencies in the county, how to build strong healthy bodies.

Fairs and Contests: The largest outward display of 4-H club work can be seen at the Central Wisconsin State Fair at Marshfield each year. More than 4,000 articles are exhibited by 4-H club folks and these are shown by boys and girls who are enthusiastic and proud of their accomplishments. Each year a county demonstration and judging contest is held at which time the winners in each of the several projects are selected to represent the county at the state fair.

At the county demonstration contest, the health champions were selected with Allan Moll among the boys and Phyllis Clark among the girls. Allan Moll won first place in the state contest in Milwaukee and will compete with the champions in each of the forty-eight states in Chicago November 27 - December 3rd



Allan Moll, Wood county's healthiest boy. Allan is a member of Pearl 4-H Club. Allan was selected from a large number of boys at the Arpin health contest by Dr. L. N. Morse, State Board of Health, Neillsville, Wisconsin. Allan was selected by Dr. Henika at Milwaukee as the healthiest 4-H club boy in Wisconsin and will compete at the International 4-H Club Congress at Chicago, November 27 to December 1.



Phyllis Clark, Wood County's healthiest girl. Phyllis is a member of the Vesper 4-H Club. Phyllis was selected from a large number of contestants by Nurse Lila Johnson and Dr. L. N. Morse of the Wisconsin State Board of Health. Phyllis ranked third at the State contest at Milwaukee. This is her fifth year in 4-H club work. Phyllis is now enrolled in the Wood County Normal school.





Marion Backstrom, achievement member of the Richfield 4-H Club for nine years. Marion was chosen from a group of twelve contestants, at the Arpin contest on August 12, 1937. The judges of the contest were Supt. S. G. Corey, Nurse Lila Johnson, Dr. L. N. Morse and Mrs. W. O. King, Chippewa Falls. Marion competed in the state dairy queen contest at the Wisconsin State Fair, Milwaukee and was selected as the first attendant of the state dairy queen.

Phyllis Clark placed third in the contest at Milwaukee.

The county agent feels that the county 4-H club program is the most beneficial and useful of any program or rural movement. The club program and club progress are but stepping-stones or rungs in the ladder towards building a fine upstanding and intelligent rural population.

### Agricultural Conservation Program

Agricultural Adjustment Programs have been in effect in Wood County since 1934. During the years 1934 and 1935, the Corn-Hog Program was in effect. In 1936 and 1937, the Agricultural Conservation Program has been in operation. The need for a program was, and still is, apparent and the following figures show that need. These figures are taken from the United States Bureau of Statistics and Economics.

(Year 1929-33)	% Drop in Production Output	% Drop in Wholesale Price
Agricultural Implements	80	15
Motor Vehicle	80	16
Iron & Steel	83	20
Auto Tires	70	33
Textile	30	45
Food	14	49
Leather	20	50
Petroleum	20	56
Agricultural Commodities	6	63

The Corn-Hog Program was inaugurated as a "stop-gap" and through it money was released to rural communities. In Wood County approximately \$125,000 was released under that program during the two year period, 1934-35. More money could have been released had more farmers complied with the program. Very slight reductions of corn and hogs were asked by the program in Wood County.

The aims of the 1936 and 1937 Agricultural Conservation Program have been to (1) conserve the soil and leave it in as good a state as possible for future generations and (2) to bring a price of income parity so that farm folks might enjoy a larger share of the nation's income. At the present time there are about 25 million people living on farms or about  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the nation's population. The total farm income is about  $\frac{1}{8}$  to  $\frac{1}{10}$  of the total national income. The total national income is about 88 billion dollars and farmers will receive--not to exceed--8 to 9 billion in 1937 and in 1933 they received only about 6 billion dollars.

In 1936 the Wisconsin Agricultural Conservation Program gave the county an allotment of approximately 92,000 acres as a soil depleting base for the county. Community committees, elected by farmers themselves, adjusted the acreages. Each farmer was given a soil depleting base based on good farming practices and also on the historical records furnished by the farmer. In 1936 Wood County farmers shift-



ed from soil depleting to soil conserving acres more than the maximum or 15% shift. Payments were made on the percentage of the shift that farmers took out of soil depleting acres and put over into the soil conserving column. Payments in 1936 amounted to approximately \$160,000.

In 1937 the Program has been practically the same with a few minor changes in policies and details. Wood County was allotted 89,706 soil depleting acres and the county and community committees made the adjustments with farmers so that each farmer was again given a soil depleting base and in addition the balance of his crop acres were given him as a soil conserving base.

Base acreages were allotted by townships for 1937 as follows:

Arpin.....	6222	Milladore.....	6014
Auburndale.....	7013	Port Edwards.....	4650
Caleron.....	1944	Remington.....	877
Cary.....	2460	Richfield.....	5100
Cranmoor.....	157	Rock.....	4350
Dexter.....	1300	Rudolph.....	5142
Grand Rapids.....	1990	Saratoga.....	3223
Hansen.....	4400	Seneca.....	1475
Hiles.....	1022	Sherry.....	4525
Lincoln.....	7500	Sigel.....	7315
Marshfield.....	5600	Wood.....	4625

Under the 1936 and 1937 program, farmers were allowed to do soil building practices such as liming, reseeding of legumes and grasses of as much of their farm as they wished and received payments approximating  $\frac{1}{2}$  the total cost of doing the soil building practice. Estimates on the 1937 program indicates that farmers will again receive between \$150,000 and \$160,000 for 1937. During the past four years nearly \$500,000 has been received by Wood County farmers under farm programs.

The Corn-Hog Program in 1934 and 1935 and the Agricultural Conservation Program in 1936 and 1937 have all been entirely voluntary and there have been no restrictions on farmers by the community or county committees nor the State Committee to stay out of the program or come in and qualify as they saw fit.

Some townships were grouped together to save money for the farmers in those districts. Further grouping may be desirable.

Farm reporters have been selected to do the measuring of farms in 1936 and 1937 and prepare maps of each field on each farm where the owner wished to participate in the program. This has required a large amount of work and has also involved a tremendous amount of office work and detail in checking the work of farm reporters who were doing this work for the most part for the first time. Much credit is due the farm reporters of the county and the community committeemen for the intelligent way they have handled the work in their communities.

Educational meetings have been held by the County Agri-

March cultural Agent in every township or district in the county and they were always exceedingly well attended by farmers in the township. A series of four meetings were held in September, 1937 which were attended by 2,210 farmers. In spite of the fact that all meetings have been well attended and an adequate explanation of the program made, there are still many farmers who do not thoroughly understand the program because it is a new thing and there are some parts of it which are complicated in terms of the average farmers' daily farm practice. Many more meeting are being planned for the winter months.

The latter part of November election and educational meetings will again be held at which time the 1938 committee-men will be elected.

The County Agricultural Agent has acted as Secretary-Treasurer for the Corn-Hog Program for 1934 and 1935 and for the Agricultural Conservation Program in 1936 and 1937 without pay. No additional mileage for this work has been paid by the Agricultural Committee to the County Agricultural Agent for services done on the program.

Excellent office space has been provided the association through the County Agricultural Agent and the courtesy of Joe Wheir, Postmaster, in Room 202, Post Office Building.

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The office of the County Agricultural Agent, through the Agricultural Committee of the County Board, desires to express thanks and appreciation to the officers of the First National Bank of Wisconsin Rapids for the use of the office occupied by the Wood County Extension Service.

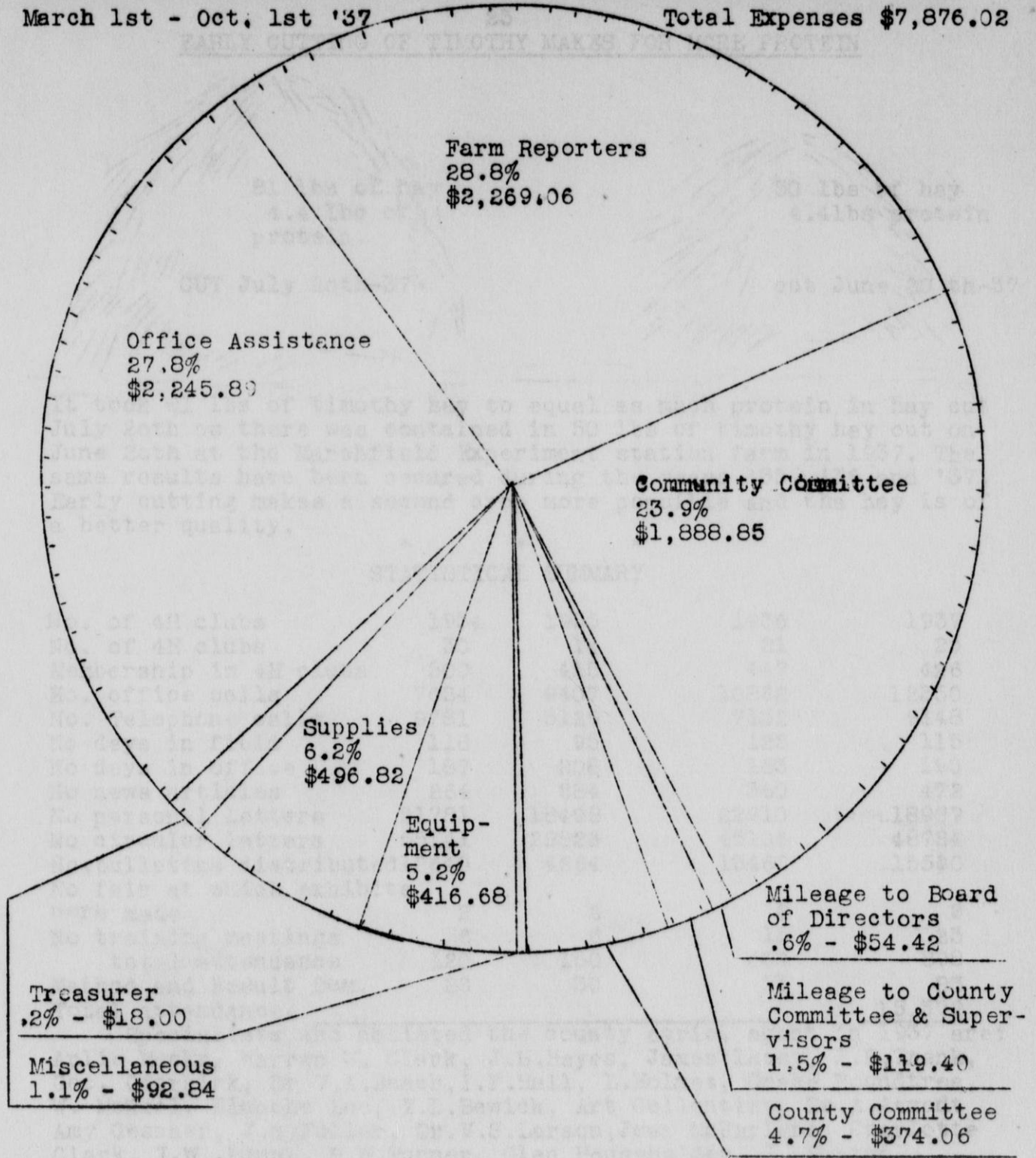
Treasurer .25 - \$19.00	Mileage to Board of Directors .25 - \$24.47
Miscellaneous 1.15 - \$72.84	Mileage to County Committee & Supervisors 1.25 - \$119.47
	County Committee 4.75 - \$374.56

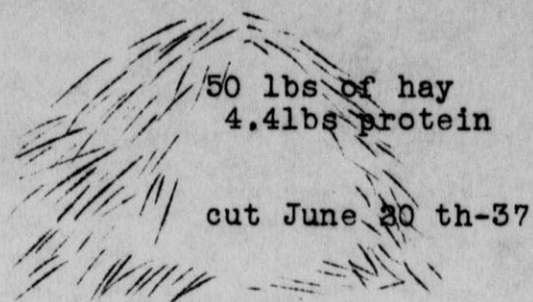
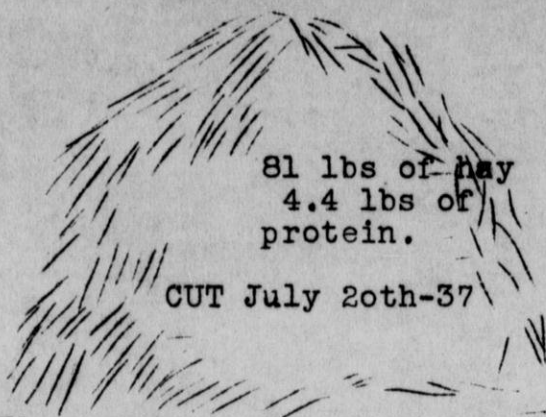


EXPENSES of the WOOD COUNTY AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION

March 1st - Oct. 1st '37

Total Expenses \$7,876.02



EARLY CUTTING OF TIMOTHY MAKES FOR MORE PROTEIN

It took 81 lbs of timothy hay to equal as much protein in hay cut July 20th as there was contained in 50 lbs of timothy hay cut on June 20th at the Marshfield Experiment station farm in 1937. The same results have been secured during the years '35, '36 and '37. Early cutting makes a second crop more possible and the hay is of a better quality.

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## STATISTICAL SUMMARY

No. of 4H clubs	1934	1935	1936	1937
No. of 4H clubs	30	14	21	20
Membership in 4H clubs	500	415	447	426
No. office calls	7624	9407	10862	12350
No. Telephone calls	9781	5129	7132	9148
No days in field	118	95	122	115
No days in office	187	208	183	190
No news articles	264	284	360	472
No personal letters	21781	18498	22910	2009-18987 (2)
No circular letters	55141	28823	45106	48784
No. bulletins distributed	12640	4264	13460	15500
No fair at which exhibits were made	2	2	2	2
No training meetings	6	6	15	23
total attendance	120	150	560	898
Method and Result Dem.	20	30	53	83
Total attendance.				15,379

Specialists who assisted the county agric. agent in 1937 are: Arlie Mucks, Warren W. Clark, J.B. Hayes, James Lacey, F.B. Trenk, Geo. Oderkirk, Dr V.A. Beach, I.F. Hall, L. Holmes, Grace Roundtree, W. McNeel, Blanche Lee, T.L. Bewick, Art Collentine, Dr. A. Aamodt Amy Gessner, J.G. Fuller, Dr. V.S. Larson, Jean McFarlane, Charlotte Clark, I.W. Rupel, R.W. Turner, Glen Householder, I. Sutton J.F. Wojta, Ray Klussendorf, A.L. Stone, Ben Rusey, Geo. Briggs, E.R. Jones,

18000