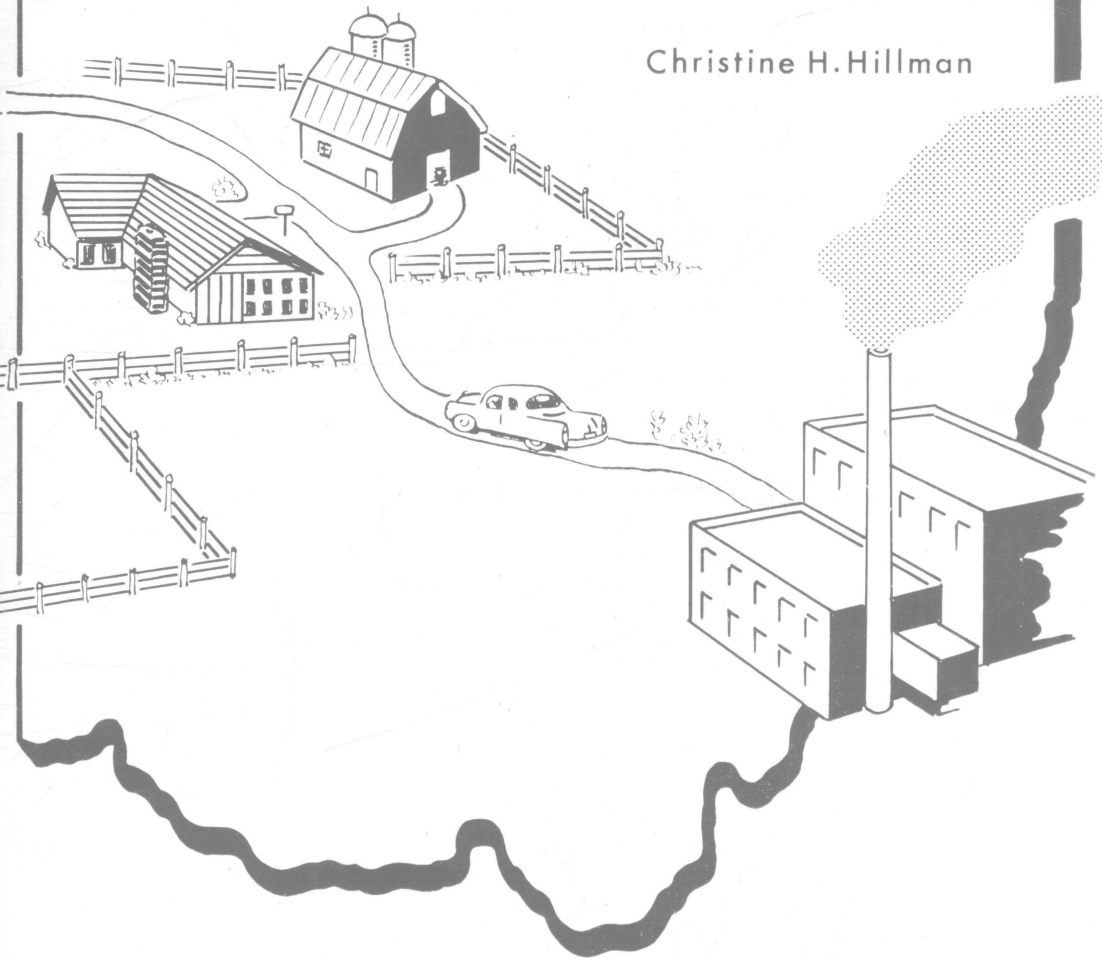


PART-TIME FARMING...

its influence on

YOUNG FAMILIES

Christine H. Hillman



**OHIO AGRICULTURAL
EXPERIMENT STATION**

WOOSTER, OHIO

CONTENTS

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Introduction	3
Purpose of Study	4
Definition of Part-time Farming	4
Source of Data and Method	5
Description of Families	10
Family Health	11
Place of Rearing	13
Previous Farming Experience	13
Off-farm Employment	14
Homemaker's Outside Employment	16
Distance Traveled to Work	17
Educational Attainment	17
Extent of Formalized Training in Farming and Homemaking	20
Sources From Which Families Presently Obtain Farm and Home Information	22
Information Desired By Part-time Farm Operators and Their Wives	24
Organizational Affiliations	31
Interest in Organized Community Activity	35
Kinds of Organizational Activity Desired	38
Physical Environment of the Home	38
Utilities and Home Furnishings	41
Family's Satisfaction With Houses Occupied	42
Characteristics of the Farm Business	44
Description of Farm Units	44
Tenure Classification	44
Use of Land	45
Major Source of Farm Income	46
Investment in Machinery and Equipment	47
Economic Factors	48
Security: Assets and Liabilities	48
Management of Income	50
Buying Habits	51
Personal Factors	51
Values to be Gained From Farm Living	52
Reasons Responsible for Decisions to Farm Part-time	53
Disadvantages Associated With Part-time Farming	54
Home Management Factors	56
Homemaker Preparation	57
Organization and Management of Work	58
Attitudes	60
Family Relationships	62
Attitudes Toward Marriage and Family Living	62
Ways By Which Home and Family Life Might Be Improved	64
Family Goals	66
Summary and Conclusions	68

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\*This study was approved (1) for purposes of comparing data secured in connection with Ohio project RM-48, "Factors Influencing the Lives of a Group of Young Families Engaged in Full-time Farming," (2) as a companion study to Ohio project Purnell 101, "Economic and Social Aspects of Part-time Farming in Ohio," and (3) as a contributing project to the North Central regional cooperative research project N. C. 15 entitled "Getting Established in Farming."

# Part-time Farming . . . its influence on young families

CHRISTINE H. HILLMAN†

## INTRODUCTION

Part-time farming is not a recent agricultural development. A study of United States' history reveals that it is nothing new for families to live on farms and to utilize a tract of land and, at the same time, to obtain a substantial part of their income from non-farm employment.

A review of literature relative to the subject indicates, however, that during the past decade or more this particular residential-employment pattern has accelerated beyond that observed at any other time in the nation's history. Predictions suggest a continuation and even an accentuation of this trend in the years immediately ahead.

The process is undoubtedly narrowing the gap between rural and urban living. On the other hand, it appears to be accompanied by problems of adjustment which operate in three directions, namely: (1) for persons with urban backgrounds who choose to live in the country while retaining their jobs in town, (2) for those with farm backgrounds who choose to work part-time in the city, and (3) for those who remain in rural areas and are more immediately involved with life in the local community.

It is possible, therefore, that the popular acceptance of part-time farming as a mode of living may have precipitated problematical situations in need of investigation. Important among the areas needing study seems to be information relative to economic and personal factors affecting the "pushes and pulls" of families who engage in part-time farming and, more specifically, the relationship of these factors to what appears to be successful family living in the present-day rural community.

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## PURPOSE OF STUDY

This study was made for purposes of investigating (1) some of the economic and personal factors which appear to have influenced, or to be influencing, the homes and family life of a selected group of young families who engage in part-time farming, (2) the quality of family living as evidenced in the homes of these families, and (3) other basic information which might be helpful in understanding this increasing part of the rural population. These factors will be analyzed in the light of their importance, not only to families who engage in part-time farming, but to those rural institutions and the more general pattern of social organization that has been considered typical of rural family and/or community life. The findings will be discussed in terms of their usefulness as aids to educational and professional leaders in rural areas.

## DEFINITION OF PART-TIME FARMING

An examination of data included in the 1950 U. S. Census of Agriculture shows 45 percent of Ohio's farm operators as being engaged in some type of non-farm work. One-third are reported as having worked away from home 100 days or more during the previous year. Recent observations suggest that these numbers would be higher if present figures were available.

Significant also is information relative to population change, migration, and shifting within the state of Ohio between the years 1940-1950.<sup>1</sup> Here is shown (1) that the increase in population during the period was greater in rural areas than in the urban areas of the state, (2) that the largest proportionate increases were experienced in counties which have large metropolitan centers or in counties adjacent to those containing such cities, and (3) that the increase in rural population appears to be a result of the movement of considerable numbers of non-farm urban employed families to rural areas. For purposes of this study, it appears that families who make up the movement to rural areas can be arbitrarily classified into two groups: those who seek rural residence without thought of financial advantage, and those who seek to combine farm work<sup>2</sup> with non-farm employment for purposes of increasing total family income. For the latter group of families the "home-

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<sup>1</sup>Andrews, Wade H. and Westerkamm, Emily M. Rural-Urban Population Change and Migration in Ohio 1940-1950. Ohio Agricultural Experiment Station Bul. 737: 3-10. November 1953.

<sup>2</sup>Farm work in this instance is intended to include work done in producing agricultural products on the land operated for home use and for the possible sale of surplus products.

garden-sales of small surpluses" aspect of farming may predominate while for others the farm is, or may be destined to become, the more important feature.

Thus it is apparent that within the rural population of Ohio there are considerable numbers who engage in part-time farming. The farmer who has more or less regular employment in town and the urban dweller who moves to the country for purposes of combining farming with his job may each be so classified.

The term "part-time farming" as used in this investigation means, therefore, that a family lives on and utilizes a tract of land outside of incorporated limits and that the principal wage-earner divides his time and energy between the operation of the farm and off-farm employment or the operation of a small business. It infers, also, that a substantial part of the family's cash income is derived from the off-farm employment but that the farm furnishes the family a home site, some of its food, and may furnish varying amounts of cash income from the sale of surplus farm products. Farms of three acres or more whose total farm activity represented less than full-time employment in terms of productive man work units,<sup>3</sup> and wherein the off-farm job had extended over a period of 100 days or more during the previous year were thus included.

While the 1950 U. S. Census has no classification exactly corresponding to the above concept, it appears that an increasing number of the heads of households in rural areas of the state are following this employment pattern. Affected in different ways by rural and urban influences will be the families involved.

## **SOURCE OF DATA AND METHOD**

Data for the study were collected from persons representing a total of 270 families engaged in part-time farming in Ohio. All information was secured by personal interview with either the husband or wife, and whenever possible, with both husband and wife. All contacts with participating families were made by one investigator and all interviews were held in the homes of families.

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<sup>3</sup>"The number of productive man work units assigned to a productive unit of a given enterprise is based upon the estimated number of hours of man labor associated with a given unit of capital or land under conditions of average efficiency in the course of one year." Davis, I. G. and Salter, L. A. Jr. Storrs Agricultural Experiment Station Bul. 201: 6-7. March 1935. This limitation of sample resulted in the elimination of all those operators who, though engaged in part-time farming, were operating on a larger scale.

An originally designed schedule form was used for recording information. In addition to answers given in reply to direct questioning, any voluntary or candid remarks relative to questions were also recorded for possible clues as they might relate to the purposes of the study.

The schedule form was divided into seven broad areas of information, namely: (1) general characteristics and background information relative to families, (2) characteristics of the farm and non-farm business, (3) physical environment of the home, (4) home management factors, (5) personal factors, (6) economic factors, and (7) family relationships.

To qualify for the study, it was necessary (1) that families reside on and utilize a tract of land outside of incorporated limits, (2) that the tract of land be of three acres or more in size, (3) that the principal wage-earner be dividing his time and energy between the operation of the farm and off-farm employment, (4) that the total farm activity represented less than full-time employment in terms of productive man work units, (5) that the off-farm work had extended over a period of 100 days or more during the previous year, and (6) that neither the husband nor wife in any family interviewed be over 35 years of age.

The names of families meeting these requirements were obtained through the generous cooperation of county Agricultural and Home Extension Agents, vocational teachers of Agriculture and Home Economics, Farm Home Administration Supervisors, and 4-H club leaders as well as other local persons acquainted with young couples in their respective communities. These requirements were checked further by the interviewer when the initial visit to the home was made.

Families secured for interview were located in 29 or approximately one-third of all counties in the state (Map 1). This is stated, however, only as incidental information since residence within a specific county was not a determining criteria in the location and/or selection of families.

Families were selected according to (1) their location with respect to the 11 economic areas of the state (Map 2),<sup>4</sup> and (2) their location

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<sup>4</sup>Procedures used in making this functional grouping of economic areas are described in the following publication: Bogue, Donald J. *State Economic Areas, A Description of the Procedure Used in Making a Functional Grouping of the Counties of the United States*. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, 1951. For a discussion and description of the areas with specific reference to Ohio see Andrews, Wade H. and Westerkamm, Emily M. *op. cit.*

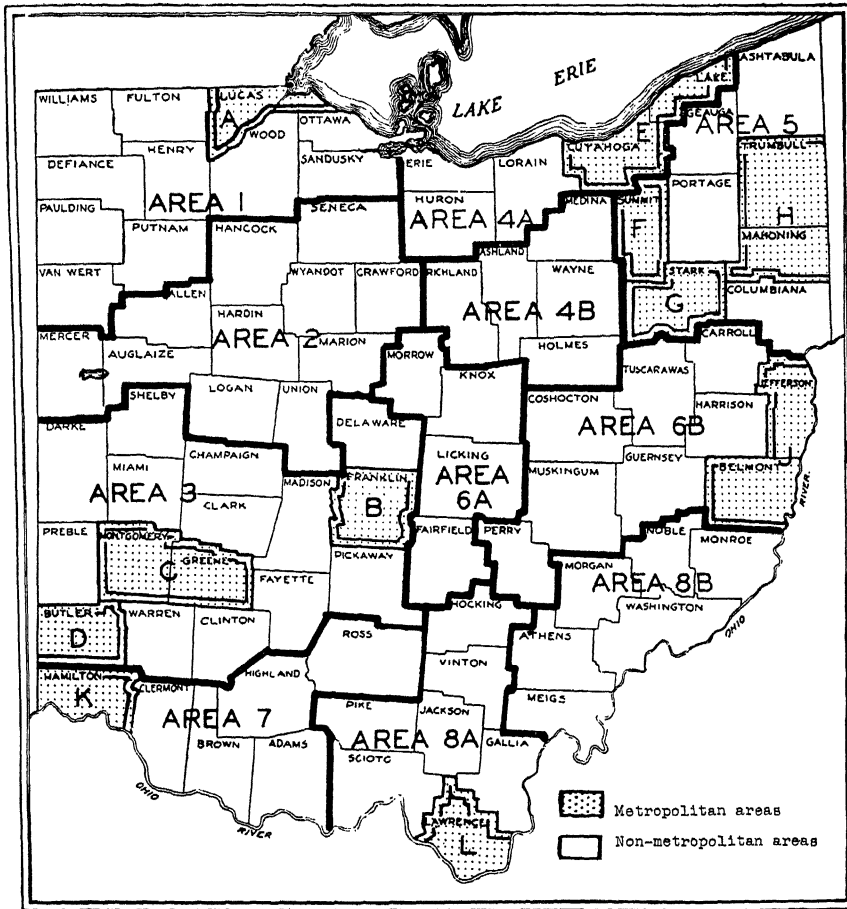
within the three generalized farming areas of the state (Map 3).<sup>5</sup>

Ohio was divided in the 1950 U. S. Census into 11 economic areas. Some of the factors considered in the process of delineating these areas were: industrial and commercial activities, production and exchange



**Map No. 1. Families interviewed in this study were located in 29 of Ohio's 88 counties. However residence within a specific county was not a determining factor in the selection of a family.**

<sup>5</sup>For a discussion of the three generalized farming areas in Ohio see Moore, H. R. and Bailey, R. A. Ohio Farm Real Estate Prices. Ohio Agricultural Experiment Station Bul. 711. July 1951.

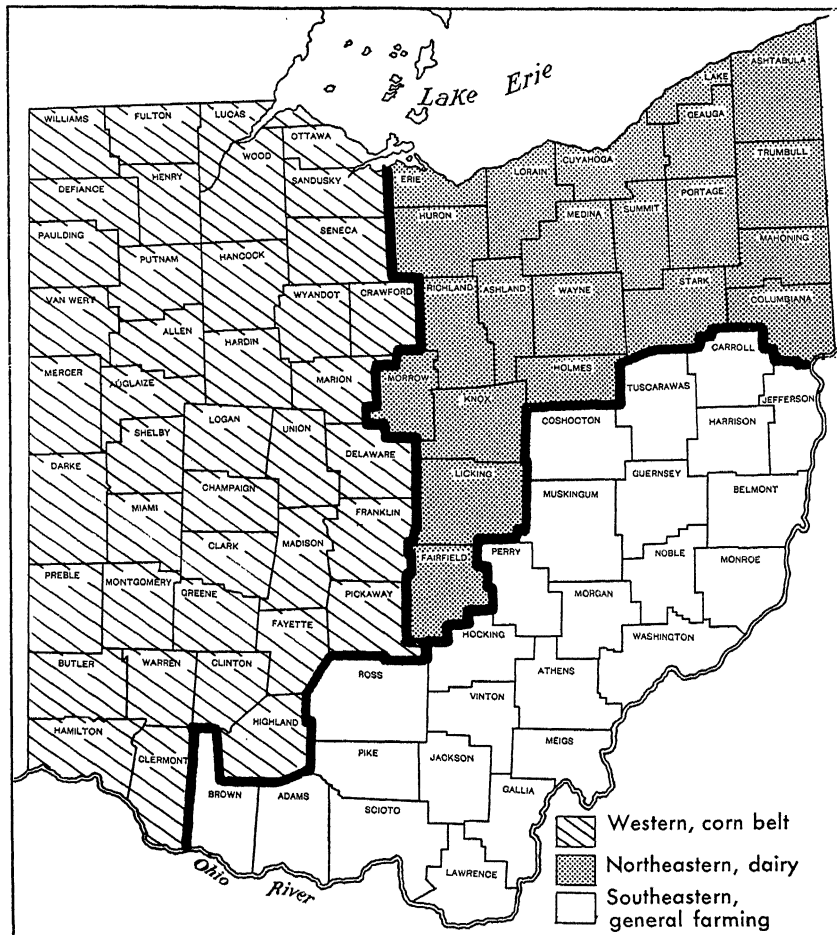


**Map No. 2. Economic Areas of Ohio**

Ohio was divided in the 1950 U. S. Census into 11 economic areas, metropolitan and non-metropolitan. Such areas contain a county or a group of counties which have social, population, and economic characteristics that distinguish it from the area it adjoins. Type of farming, population and industrial characteristics were important criteria used in delineating these areas. The boundaries were drawn in such a way that Ohio's 11 economic areas are subdivided into 11 metropolitan and 11 non-metropolitan areas. Metropolitan areas are identified above by capital letters A through L: non-metropolitan areas by the lower case letters a and b. It will be noted that there are four economic areas (areas 2, 4a, 6a, 8b) which contain no metropolitan centers (city or urbanized areas of 100,000 or more). According to the 1950 Census these areas had a combined population of 1,002,291. Other non-metropolitan areas in the state contained 1,908,256 persons. The 11 metropolitan areas located in only 7 economic areas had a population of 5,036,080. These combined give Ohio a total population of 7,946,627.



of economic goods, and cultural factors. Seven out of the 11 areas of the state included metropolitan centers (city or urbanized areas of 100,000 or more). In contrast with many other states where manufacturing and other industrial opportunities are often concentrated in a few areas, those in Ohio are more widely scattered. The majority of persons residing in these areas are within relatively easy commuting distance of one or more manufacturing concerns. Furthermore, in the 4 areas designated as having no metropolitan centers, there are to be



**Map No. 3. Families were selected according to their location in one of the three generalized farming areas of the state; corn belt, dairy and general farming.**

found a surprising number of small industries located in the more rural communities. These offer opportunities for many to find more or less permanent employment. Good roads, new bridges, and other transportation improvements have made it easier for persons in such areas to travel back and forth to work though in some instances the miles traveled may extend to 50 miles or more.<sup>6</sup>

To make possible comparisons between factors which might or might not be influencing the homes and family life of persons engaged in part-time farming and the specific influences as permeated by residence within one or another of the economic areas, approximately 25 families were interviewed in each of the 11 designated economic areas. However, as previously indicated, families were not selected solely on the basis of residence within a given economic area but on the basis of residence within one of the three generalized farming areas of the state as well. When thus distributed, a total of 90 families were interviewed in each of these.

### DESCRIPTION OF FAMILIES

Data pertinent to the purposes of the study were obtained by personal interview with persons representing a total of 270 Ohio families. Interviews were restricted to those who qualified as "part-time farm families" according to the definition here-to-fore stated.

The distribution of interviews by persons giving information was as follows: (1) 169 were with wives only, (2) 90 were with both husband and wife, and (3) 11 interviews were with husbands only. Information reported is based, therefore, upon the replies of 259 women and 101 men.

Attention is first directed to some of the personal aspects which bear upon the families such as their age, size of family, type of community background and other related factors.

The average age of the men was 30.1 years; the range was from 23 to 35. The average age of all women was 26.3 years; the range from 21 to 35. The average number of years married was 8.2 years; the range from 2.3 years to 13.4 years.

The 270 families were represented as having 801 children or an average of 2.9 children per family. There were, however, 17 families without children. Thus 253 families had 801 children or an average of 3.1 children per family.

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<sup>6</sup>Moore, H. R. and Wayt, W. A. "Many Farmers Work Away From Home." Timely Economic Information for Ohio Farmers. Ohio Agricultural Extension Service, No. 323 and 324. December 1954.

At least two significant observations may be made from the above data: (1) couples interviewed varied considerably in number of years married (from 2.3 to 13.4 years) and (2) they varied in age and perhaps in experience, in knowledge, and in kinds of problems which might be presented. A sub-grouping of families appeared necessary. Couples were thus categorized according to types of families, the type being determined by the stage in the family life cycle.<sup>7</sup> The first was the young couple. In this type there were no children. The second was the beginning or founding family in which there were children but all under 8 years of age. The third type was the expanding family in which there were also children but some of whom were over 8 years of age. Though these stages tend to overlap and it is difficult to define the point at which specific situations become characteristic of each, it appears that there are a number of family demands, decisions, and needs peculiar to these stages.

Later in the report data are analyzed in reference to certain of the problems and situations presented in each of these categories. In Figure 1 it will be observed that information secured was fairly representative of families included in both the beginning and the expanding stages of the family life cycle. Forty-four percent of the group with children (119 families) contained no child over eight years of age. Approximately 50 percent of the group (134 families) had children over 8 years. The latter families may have contained children of less than 8 years as well.

#### **FAMILY HEALTH**

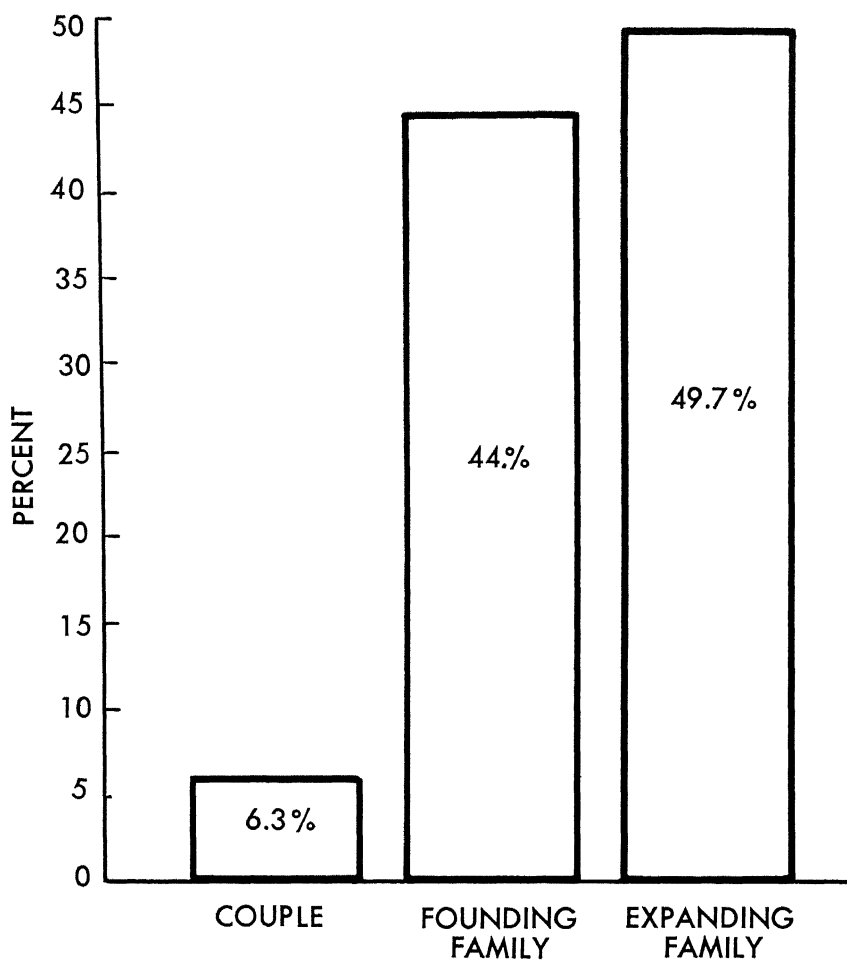
Information relative to the health of family members was recorded in one of three ways, namely: good, fair, and poor. Opinions of the interviewees relative to their own health condition as well as that of other family members were used entirely as the basis of the following data.

Indications were that 257 of the men and 262 of the women considered themselves to be in good health, 11 men and 7 women in fair health, 2 men and 1 woman in poor health. All but six of the children were considered by parents to be in good health. It appeared, there-

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<sup>7</sup>In materials prepared for the Family Life Conference held in Washington, D. C. in May 1948, the family life cycle was divided into 3 stages, namely Beginning or Founding, Expanding, and Contracting. For a more detailed description of these stages of the family life cycle see Beyer, Glenn H. *Farm Housing in the Northeast*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press 1949, pp. 10-12.

fore, that but for a few exceptional cases, most couples could carry on their program in part-time farming unhindered by any known illnesses or family health difficulties.



**Fig. 1.—This chart indicates that information was gathered mainly from families in the beginning and expanding stages of the family life cycle.**

## PLACE OF REARING

For purposes of this study, communities in which persons had been reared were classified by population. It will be observed in Table 1 that 171 or 63.3 percent of the men and 162 or 60 percent of the women had rural on-farm backgrounds. Approximately 40 percent of the men and women were not representative, therefore, of a farm background. It does not follow, however, that this was the number of families wherein both husband and wife were non-farm reared for in 213 or 79 percent of all homes contacted, at least one of the marriage partners had been farm reared. Only 21 percent of the families contacted represented a marriage where both husband and wife had been non-farm reared.

There was no significant difference between family patterns or in place of rearing when families were grouped and compared according to the geographic or economic areas of the state.

**TABLE 1.—Types of Communities in Which Men and Women Were Reared**

| Community                          | Men |         | Women |         |
|------------------------------------|-----|---------|-------|---------|
|                                    | No. | Percent | No.   | Percent |
| Rural on-farm                      | 171 | 63.3    | 162   | 60.0    |
| Rural non-farm (under 2,500)       | 34  | 12.6    | 17    | 6.3     |
| Small city (2,500–25,000)          | 31  | 11.5    | 42    | 15.5    |
| Medium-sized city (25,000–100,000) | 25  | 9.3     | 32    | 11.9    |
| Large city (over 100,000)          | 9   | 3.3     | 17    | 6.3     |

## PREVIOUS FARMING EXPERIENCE

As has been indicated, the 270 part-time farm operators in this study were comparatively young. Their previous farming experience was, therefore, limited. Of this number, 171 had been farm reared and 80 had previously farmed full-time for approximately four years each. Furthermore, 55 or approximately two-thirds of the group of 80 operators had lived at their present location for an average of five and one-fourth years. Sixty-five or 85 percent of this number owned their own farms. Data indicate that these operators were fairly stable to the areas in which they lived; 87 percent had been reared and had always lived in communities of less than 6 miles distance from their present place of residence. It is possible, however, that the ownership of land

and a substantial equity in farm machinery and livestock as well as dependence upon relatives for assistance with farming operations was the stabilizing influence. These families had combined a non-farm occupation with farming for an average of 3.8 years.

Ninety-one of the operators though reared on farms had never farmed full-time. It is to be supposed that they had gained some farm experiences under parental guidance and were fairly well prepared to engage in some type of farming enterprise. These families averaged 3.3 years as part-time operators but were less stable in terms of residence. Less than 25 percent had lived at their present location longer than 3 years; only 40 or 43.9 percent owned their farms. Of the total number (91 families), over 60 percent had returned to rural surroundings after varying periods of time spent in urban residence but only 32 percent had returned to their native communities. Nearness to off-farm job, ease of transportation, the availability of good schools and recreational facilities had more frequently influenced the choice of their farming location.

Ninety-nine of the operators (36.7 percent of the study group) were non-farm reared. Their farming experience was confined to that secured in part-time farming and this, for the most part, limited to the operation of present acreage. The group had, on an average, 2.9 years of such experience at time of interview. Each of the non-farm reared operators owned their farms.

When operators in each of the three above mentioned categories were grouped by economic and generalized farming areas of the state there appeared to be no significant difference insofar as previous farming experience, period of time spent in part-time farming, and mobility were concerned.

#### **OFF-FARM EMPLOYMENT**

For the purpose of this study only families in which the head of the household was engaged in part-time farming were selected for interview. Their employment represented a wide variety of industries and occupations. In order to abbreviate the list, off-farm employment was considered as falling into one of the six classifications shown in Table 2. Here data have been analyzed to show not only occupational groupings but the frequency of reporting within each of the three generalized farming areas of the state.

Factories provided employment for the largest number of farm operators included in the study (54.4 percent). While the percentage is slightly higher for the northeastern area, figures would indicate that such employment tends to be more or less evenly diffused throughout

the state. This is not surprising in lieu of the great diversification of manufacturing in Ohio. Except in the very rural and more remote sections enough industry is found to make such work possible for those who are interested or who find it to their advantage to combine farming with an eight hour work shift. In many instances, factory work had been purposefully chosen because of the opportunity afforded the farm operator to elect a particular shift of work. One that appeared to be especially advantageous for those in this study was the four to eleven o'clock late afternoon and evening shift.

Carpentry, roofing, painting, plumbing, and the like as well as employment in various kinds of transportation work appealed to an important number of part-time farmers. Table 2 will show that these occupations were more frequently listed by farm operators in the northwestern and southeastern areas of the state than by those in the northeastern area. The federal, state, and local governments likewise use the services of a number of part-time farmers as was indicated by over 7 percent of those reporting.

Only 3 percent of the 270 occupations listed could be classified as professional or clerical in character.

**TABLE 2.—Occupations\* Reported by 270 Part-time Farm Operators by Type of Farming Area**

| Occupation                       | All Areas |       | Northeastern |       | Northwestern |       | Southeastern |       |
|----------------------------------|-----------|-------|--------------|-------|--------------|-------|--------------|-------|
|                                  | No.       | %     | No.          | %     | No.          | %     | No.          | %     |
| Factory                          | 147       | 54.4  | 61           | 67.8  | 39           | 43.4  | 47           | 52.2  |
| Construction                     | 47        | 17.4  | 8            | 8.9   | 24           | 26.6  | 15           | 16.7  |
| Transportation                   | 34        | 12.6  | 6            | 6.7   | 7            | 7.9   | 21           | 23.3  |
| Federal, State, & Local Gov'ts.  | 19        | 7.1   | 7            | 7.8   | 9            | 9.9   | 3            | 3.3   |
| Trade or Business                | 15        | 5.5   | 5            | 5.5   | 10           | 11.1  | —            | —     |
| Professional, Clerical, & Office | 8         | 3.0   | 3            | 3.3   | 1            | 1.1   | 4            | 4.5   |
| Total                            | 270       | 100.0 | 90           | 100.0 | 90           | 100.0 | 90           | 100.0 |

\*Occupational classifications were determined as follows. **Factory workers:** work for wages under direction and on more or less regular shifts in automotive and aircraft manufacturing plants, steel mills and so forth. **Construction:** includes those who work for themselves as carpenters, painters, roofers, masons, or plumbers as well as those employed by contractors. **Transportation:** truck drivers, bus drivers, creamerymen, railroad employees. **Federal, State, or Local Governments:** soil conservation work, state road patrol, highway construction, prison farm guardsmen, mail carriers. **Trade or Business:** operators of small businesses, gas station operators, garage mechanics, saw mills, restaurants, junk dealers. **Professional, Clerical and Office:** Teachers, bank employees, accountants, salesmen.

## HOMEMAKER'S OUTSIDE EMPLOYMENT

Important in the findings relative to off-farm employment was the fact that about one out of every six wives was working. This is, of course, lower than figures released by the 1950 United States Census which estimates that in March of that year 1 out of every 4 women living with their husbands was working or seeking work outside the home. It can be assumed, however, that the census figures cover all women of all age groups with and without children and, perhaps, with husbands who have more or less unstable employment. With reference to women in this study it may be restated that all were comparatively young, that the majority were mothers of pre-school age children and that all husbands reported employment in jobs considered to be fairly remunerative. Furthermore, it might be assumed that the husband's non-farm employment combined with whatever economic advantages are to be derived from farm produced food-stuffs and farm living would, under normal circumstances, be sufficient to provide a fair standard of living for the family.

Why then were these homemakers employed? In what kinds of positions were they employed? And who was caring for the children and/or assuming other responsibilities in the home during their absence?

Forty-six women indicated that they were working in positions which took them out of the home for at least 40 hours in any average work week. They were employed in a variety of occupations but none in positions which could be considered agricultural by nature. Forty-two percent were working as clerks or saleswomen, 32 percent were in factory work, 11 percent were teaching, 8 percent working in offices or in clerical work, and 7 percent were in domestic work.

Each of the 46 indicated that she had worked prior to marriage. Only three stated that it was a real hardship to work at present time. The majority stated that it was an impossibility to stretch the husband's income to cover the "additional needs" of the family without the help of such money as might be derived from their employment. All 46 reported that husbands were in full agreement with their off-farm job and that both husband and wife cooperated in all phases of work both on the farm and in the home.

There appeared to be no predominant plan of caring for small children. In the 46 families herein represented all but 6 of the wives had small children; in 30 of the families there were children less than 5 years of age. In a few cases (5) there was a grandmother who lived with the family. In other cases (7) children were taken to the homes



of grandparents. Some families met the situation by the mother and father working on different shifts at a factory (9). A few had paid help in the home to keep the children while others left them in a pre-school nursery which provided day care.

#### **DISTANCE TRAVELED TO WORK**

Families, in the main, lived on improved roads. Only 16 percent lived on questionable all-weather roads. Slightly more than 60 percent were on some type of hard surfaced road such as pavement, macadam or oil. The other 24 percent were on gravel roads. However, the type of road lived on appeared to bear little relationship to distance traveled to work, the satisfactions or dissatisfactions expressed for present employment.

All operators traveled to their place of work by personally owned automobiles. Twelve percent owned a second car said to be necessary for the wife in getting to her place of employment. There was considerable evidence to indicate that car pools and publically operated transportation facilities were unsatisfactory.

Sixteen percent of the heads of households drove less than 10 miles to their place of non-farm employment; about 40 percent drove more than 10 but less than 20 miles. Thus 56 percent of the farm operators were within 20 miles of their place of work (Figure 2).

It is important to note, however, that another 21 percent drove up to 30 miles, that 11 percent drove between 30 and 40 miles, and that 12 percent of the group reported a drive of more than 40 miles. The greatest distance driven was that recorded for 2 operators who each reported a drive of 64 miles to factory employment.

Wives, as a rule, did not travel any great distances to work. Frequently a particular job had been selected because of proximity to their place of residence. Most were able to find employment in nearby towns or in the county seats. The average distance reported for getting to work was 7.5 miles; the extreme was 28 miles. Only 19 percent traveled more than 17 miles. Of this 19 percent, over two-thirds used their own or the "second" car for transportation.

#### **EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT**

The number of years of formal schooling completed by the 270 part-time farm operators was generally high as is indicated in Table 3. Here it will be observed that 46.3 percent had completed high school and another 4.1 percent had completed 13 or more years of school.

When classified by place of rearing, educational attainment was slightly lower for those with a farm background. Of the 171 farm reared men, 42.1 percent had completed high school and 4.7 percent had attended college in contrast to 53.5 percent non-farm reared completing high school and 3.1 percent who had 13 or more years of schooling.

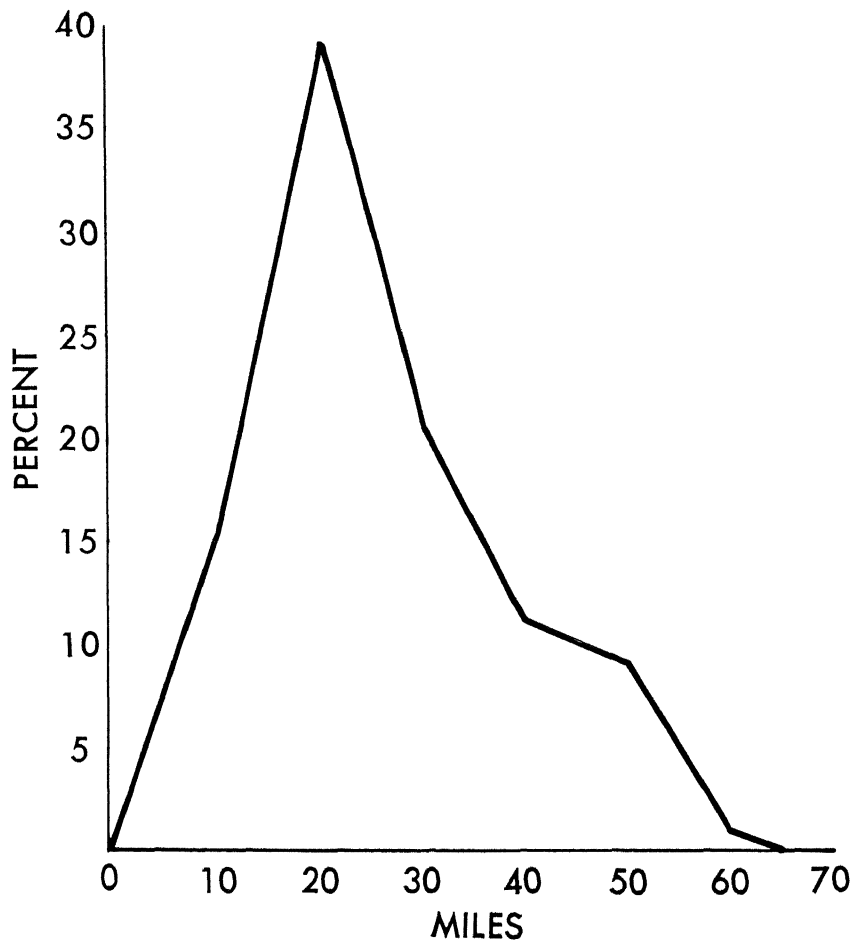


Fig. 2.—Some of the part-time farmers drove as much as 40 miles to their place of non-farm employment. However, 56 percent were within 20 miles of their work.

**TABLE 3.—Number and Percent of Part-time Farm Operators  
Who Had Completed Specific Years of Schooling,  
Classified by Place of Rearing**

| Years of Schooling | Part-time Farm Operators |         |             |         |                 |         |
|--------------------|--------------------------|---------|-------------|---------|-----------------|---------|
|                    | Total                    |         | Farm Reared |         | Non-farm Reared |         |
|                    | Number                   | Percent | Number      | Percent | Number          | Percent |
| 0-8                | 49                       | 18.1    | 38          | 22.2    | 11              | 11.1    |
| 9-11               | 85                       | 31.5    | 53          | 31.0    | 32              | 32.3    |
| 12                 | 125                      | 46.3    | 72          | 42.1    | 53              | 53.5    |
| 13 or more         | 11                       | 4.1     | 8           | 4.7     | 3               | 3.1     |
| Total              | 270                      | 100.0   | 171         | 100.0   | 99              | 100.0   |

In Table 4 part-time farm operators are grouped according to the farming areas of the state and place of rearing is not considered. Here it will be observed that a larger percentage of the operators in the northeastern area of the state had completed high school and attended college than had those in the northwestern or southeastern areas.

The formal education of wives as shown by number years of schooling completed (Table 5) was about the same for the farm reared as for

**TABLE 4.—Number and Percent of Part-time Farm Operators  
Completing Specific Years of Schooling, Classified  
by Generalized Farming Areas**

| Years of Schooling | Location Within Generalized Farm Areas |         |              |         |              |         |              |         |
|--------------------|----------------------------------------|---------|--------------|---------|--------------|---------|--------------|---------|
|                    | Total                                  |         | Northeastern |         | Northwestern |         | Southeastern |         |
|                    | Number                                 | Percent | Number       | Percent | Number       | Percent | Number       | Percent |
| 0-8                | 49                                     | 18.1    | 5            | 5.6     | 16           | 17.8    | 28           | 31.1    |
| 9-11               | 85                                     | 31.5    | 30           | 33.3    | 32           | 35.6    | 23           | 25.6    |
| 12                 | 125                                    | 46.3    | 48           | 53.3    | 39           | 43.3    | 38           | 42.2    |
| 13 or more         | 11                                     | 4.1     | 7            | 7.8     | 3            | 3.3     | 1            | 1.1     |
| Total              | 270                                    | 100.0   | 90           | 100.0   | 90           | 100.0   | 90           | 100.0   |

those with the non-farm reared backgrounds. Over 58 percent of the total group had completed high school and another 3 percent had attended college.

Approximately 11 percent more wives than husbands had completed high school. Only 3 percent of the wives as contrasted with 4.1 percent of the husbands had experienced some schooling beyond high school.

**TABLE 5.—Number and Percent of Wives Who Had Completed Specific Years of Schooling, Classified by Place of Rearing**

| Years of Schooling | Wives of Part-time Farm Operators |         |             |         |                 |         |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------|---------|-------------|---------|-----------------|---------|
|                    | Total                             |         | Farm Reared |         | Non-farm Reared |         |
|                    | Number                            | Percent | Number      | Percent | Number          | Percent |
| 0-8                | 38                                | 14.0    | 27          | 16.6    | 11              | 10.1    |
| 9-11               | 67                                | 24.8    | 41          | 25.3    | 26              | 24.1    |
| 12                 | 157                               | 58.2    | 89          | 55.0    | 68              | 63.0    |
| 13 or more         | 8                                 | 3.0     | 5           | 3.1     | 3               | 2.8     |
| Total              | 270                               | 100.0   | 162         | 100.0   | 108             | 100.0   |

#### EXTENT OF FORMALIZED TRAINING IN FARMING AND HOMEMAKING

Formal training in agriculture and in home economics is said to have a definite influence on farm family activities. To determine the amount and type of such training received by men and women in this study, interviewees were asked (1) if they had ever had such courses of study in school, and (2) to indicate other sources or immediate contacts from which they had received farm and home information.

As observed in Table 3, 38 of the 171 farm reared men did not attend high school. No one in this group of 38 reported a course pertaining to agriculture in school. Of the 133 who had attended or graduated from high school, 76 percent had taken work in this subject-matter area. Eight of the 171 farm reared men had attended college. Four of this number majored in work offered by colleges of agriculture.

It may be said, therefore, that the majority of farm reared men had received some formalized training in agriculture. This was not true, however, for the 99 non-farm reared operators; only 7 reported having had such a course. In each case it was indicated that the subject-matter had been too general to be of great value in their present role as a part-time farmer.

For the entire group, only 108 operators or 40 percent of the total number reporting had ever received organized training in agriculture. The wives, on an average, had received even less directed instruction in preparation for their experiences as homemakers.

Since home economics is offered in most junior and senior high schools regardless of size or location, it would appear that more women might avail themselves of an opportunity to better prepare themselves in this area. Data indicate only 89 or 32.2 percent of the women in this study had taken such instruction in elementary school, high school or college.

In Table 6 it will be noted that 26 received instruction at the eighth grade level or below; 73 at some time during high school, and two at the college level. Twelve in the group had instruction at more than one level. It may be further stated that 65 or 73 percent of the 89 receiving such instruction had been farm reared; 24 or 27 percent non-farm reared.

On an average, therefore, men and women included in this study had little formal training as preparation for either farming or home-making. The same was found to be true in a similar study of young families engaged in full-time farming.<sup>8</sup>

The desirability of such training was expressed at time of interview, however. This was emphasized particularly in replies to questions relative to (1) what families would like to have as information pertaining to farm and home practices, and (2) the sources from which families were presently endeavoring to obtain the desired information.

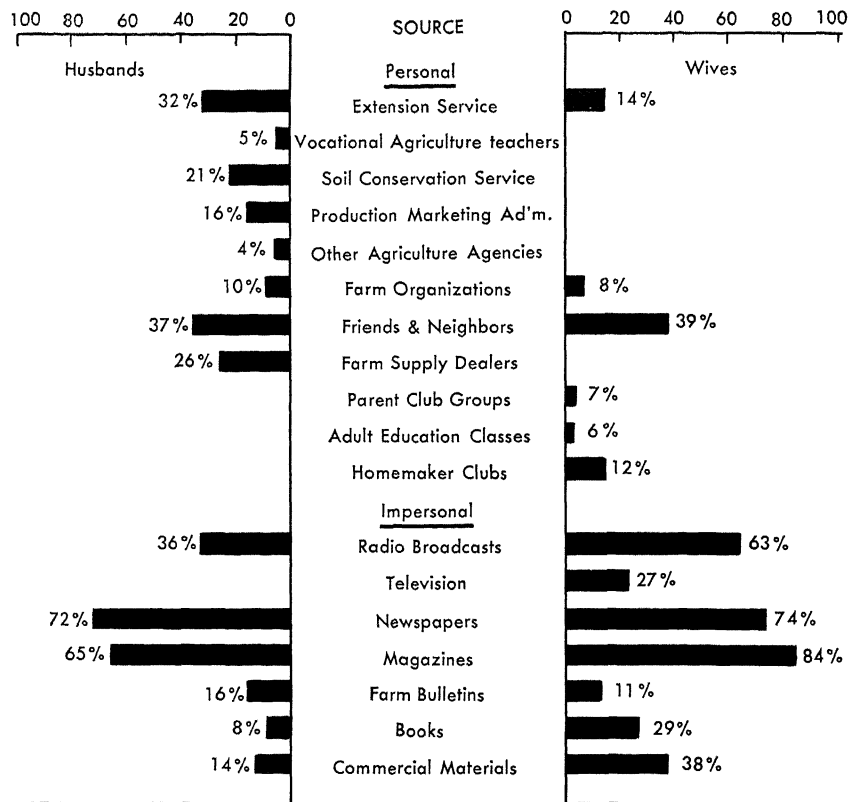
<sup>8</sup>Hillman, Christine H. Factors Influencing the Lives of a Group of Young Farm Families. Ohio Agricultural Experiment Station Bul. 750. September 1954. Pp. 8-9.

**TABLE 6.—Number of Women Having Home Economics Instruction at Specific Grade Levels, Classified by Place of Rearing (89 records)**

| Grade Level           | Total<br>all women<br>(89 records) | Place of Rearing           |                                |
|-----------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
|                       |                                    | Farm Reared<br>Number (65) | Non-farm Reared<br>Number (24) |
| Eighth grade or below | 26                                 | 19                         | 7                              |
| High school           | 73                                 | 51                         | 22                             |
| College               | 2                                  | 2                          | —                              |

### SOURCES FROM WHICH FAMILIES PRESENTLY OBTAIN FARM AND HOME INFORMATION

The percentage of husbands and wives reporting specific sources of farm and home information is shown in Figure 3. Here it will be observed that sources of information were classified in two groups, namely; personal and impersonal. Personal sources refer to those wherein the transmission of information is dependent upon face-to-face or personal contacts. Impersonal sources refer to those wherein the transmission of information is dependent upon the printed page, the radio or television. No effort was made to determine the degree of usefulness of information.



**Fig. 3.—**This illustration reveals that the part-time farmers and their wives received more information from impersonal rather than personal sources.

A review of Figure 3 would indicate that part-time farm operators and their wives receive farm and home information through more impersonal than personal sources. Furthermore, it would appear that the total number receiving help from personal sources is relatively low. Operators reported an average of 1.6 personal sources per household. Wives averaged approximately .8 personal sources per household.

The most frequently mentioned personal source of information by both husbands and wives was friends and neighbors. Thirty-seven percent of the operators and 39 percent of their wives indicated this. The number of years schooling completed, the location of the home by geographic or economic area, the family's community background or economic advantages seemed to be little related to the proportion who apparently received information in this manner.

About one-third of the operators and one-eighth of the wives reported a direct personal contact with the Extension Service. In the analysis of data there was no evidence to indicate that years schooling, the size of farm or the operation of such was a factor in the proportion making these contacts. There was evidence to indicate, however, that the Extension Service was referred to more frequently by those with farm backgrounds.

The rank order of other personal sources of information recognized by operators were farm supply dealers, personnel in offices of the Soil Conservation Service, the Production Marketing Administration, membership in farm organizations, teachers of vocational agriculture, and personnel in agricultural agencies such as the Farm Home Administration.

Other than contacts with friends and neighbors, the Extension Service and homemaker clubs, wives reported little information obtained through personal sources. In view of the limited contacts which most wives have with many agricultural agencies, it is not surprising that these were not indicated. It is surprising, however, that so few were members of organized homemaker clubs in their respective communities. Only 12 percent indicated that information had been received through this source.

Data indicate that there is a definite need for increasing the number of personal contacts of families with recognized sources of farm and home information. That such are desired is illustrated in later questioning relative to (1) information desired by families, (2) their interest in increasing present participation in community organizations, and (3) their interest in specific types of organizational activities.

At time of interview, therefore, the majority of households were depending largely upon mass media for assistance. More households reported receipt of information from magazines, newspapers, and radio broadcasts than from friends and neighbors --- the most frequently mentioned personal source. The rank order of the more important impersonal sources as indicated by operators were newspapers, magazines, radio broadcasts, farm bulletins, commercial materials, and books. As indicated by wives the rank order was as follows: magazines, newspapers, radio broadcasts, commercial materials, books, television broadcasts, and farm bulletins.

The frequency with which operators and their wives referred to impersonal communicative devices as sources of help emphasize their importance as a means of conveying information to farm families. Furthermore, there was a high degree of uniformity with which families reported the use of these media. There was no measurable difference by schooling, background, locality or tenure status in the proportion getting information in this manner.

These data may have been influenced, however, by the fact that all families were in the younger age group, that the majority of households were headed by persons having ten years or more of schooling, and that few could be considered under-privileged from an economic standpoint.

#### **INFORMATION DESIRED BY PART-TIME FARM OPERATORS AND THEIR WIVES**

That families were receiving some information which would enable them to more effectively manage the farm-home enterprise has been shown. The number who indicated certain personal and impersonal sources of help attests to this fact. That families desired more information is indicated by the frequency of their replies to the question "What additional information would you like to have covered either in printed materials or in group meetings?"

It should be recalled here that interviews were held with either the husband or wife or both the husband and wife representing a total of 270 families included in this study. It will be recalled, also, that personal interviews were secured with 101 operators and 259 women representing these 270 families. In the securing of general background data interviewees were asked to speak for and to give certain facts about their mate if he or she were not present. With respect to ages of family members, years married, and family goals for example, it was assumed that either the husband or wife was qualified to speak for the other. For more specific data of a personal nature only information secured by



direct contact was used. Such, therefore, was the handling of the above question relative to kinds of information desired by part-time farm operators and their wives.

The frequency with which specific areas of subject-matter were referred to, summarized on the basis of personal responses by operators and their wives, are shown in Tables 7 and 8.

In Table 7 evidence would indicate that young men desired information primarily related to the economics of part-time farming. Slightly over 70 percent were interested in knowing more about the division of non-farm income among land, buildings, equipment, livestock purchases, and family needs. In this respect operators were anxious to know where such non-farm income should first be spent.

**TABLE 7.—Information Desired by Part-time Farm Operators. Frequency of Replies of 101 Men to the Question "What Information Would You Like to Have Covered Either in Group Meetings or in Printed Materials?"**

| Information Desired                                                                                             | Number | Percent |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|---------|
| How best divide non-farm income among land, buildings, equipment, livestock purchases and family needs. . . . . | 71     | 70.3    |
| Does diversified farming represent the best use of small acreage . . . . .                                      | 68     | 67.3    |
| Types of enterprises best suited to part-time farming. . . . .                                                  | 64     | 63.1    |
| Best marketing procedures for seasonal surpluses on a small farm . . . . .                                      | 53     | 52.4    |
| Best method of record keeping for non-farm and farm income                                                      | 43     | 42.5    |
| Feed requirements versus expected returns in livestock enterprises . . . . .                                    | 37     | 36.6    |
| How best use land that is hilly, rocky, or of low productivity                                                  | 35     | 37.6    |
| How best determine machinery needs on a small farm and anticipate future needs . . . . .                        | 31     | 30.6    |
| How much should a family expect to save through the production of food for home use . . . . .                   | 29     | 28.7    |
| Type of farming giving greatest economic stability over a long period of time . . . . .                         | 22     | 21.7    |
| What should be the major consideration in purchase of more land. . . . .                                        | 13     | 12.8    |
| Is one justified in assuming indebtedness for additional land before present acreage is paid for . . . . .      | 9      | 8.9     |

Was it to the family's economic advantage to invest first in livestock, build up machinery inventory or should home improvements come first if the place were owned? If the farm was being rented, should effort to buy a small acreage come before machinery and livestock purchases? These were very real questions in the minds of those who planned to eventually farm full-time.

There were those who felt that if the farm were owned then house modernization should come first. This, they indicated, would enhance the value of the farm and thus insure a greater return on the original investment in event of sale. On the other hand, there was deep concern by many who owned a small place and desired to farm full time at a later date. The basis of this concern was the belief that present acreage was inadequate for full-time farming; that additional acreage would be needed in order to expand farming operations, and that there was little opportunity to purchase unimproved acreage adjacent to the present farm. In all probability they would have to sell. What then should be their decision relative to the division of income now being received in non-farm employment?

Operators were interested, also, in knowing if diversified farming represented the best use of small acreage (67.3 percent), the enterprises best suited to part-time farming (63.1 percent), and the best marketing procedure for seasonal surplus on small farms (52.4 percent). Over 42 percent wanted to know more about keeping records of non-farm and farm income and expenses; 36.6 percent desired information relative to the feed requirements versus the expected returns in certain livestock enterprises.

A number of operators, especially those living in the southeastern farming area of the state, wanted information concerning land that was hilly, rocky, or of low productivity. How best use the land? Could it be economically conditioned for production? Was it practical to make the effort? How long would it take to condition the land for pasture or the growth of certain crops? These questions were referred to by tenants and owners alike.

Approximately 30 percent of the operators desired information which would enable them to (1) determine actual machinery needs on a small farm, and (2) select such in the light of anticipated needs and possible expanded operations.

"How much money should a family expect to save through the production of food for home use?" was a question prompting the desire for information by 28 percent of the group while 21 percent wanted to

know what type of farming enterprise gives the greatest economic stability over long periods of time. Twelve percent asked "What should be a major consideration in the purchase of more land?"

About 9 percent of all operators interviewed desired information relative to the question "Is one ever justified in assuming indebtedness for more land before present acreage is paid for?" In each instance the operator wanted to enlarge the present farm unit but was hesitating in view of possible burdens placed upon his family by the additional indebtedness.

With reference to the above data, it would appear that many young men engaged in part-time farming need guidance. The age of the operator, his schooling, background, length of marriage or location within specific farming areas did not significantly influence his need for information. As indicated previously, all were comparatively inexperienced in this venture. Assistance may, therefore, be urgent if serious financial-managerial mistakes are to be avoided by them.

Herein appears to be a challenge to those persons professionally interested in providing rural adult educational services. That is, how to reach the young men who desire help but who are either unaware that help is available or make no effort to seek it by personal contact with agencies located in their communities. Furthermore, in lieu of the large number who apparently rely on the more impersonal communicative devices for help with farm matters, this appears to be a special challenge. Whatever the solution, the need presents a problem calling for careful investigation.

In Table 8 where kinds of information desired by 259 homemaker interviewees are shown, it will be noted that replies are grouped in five subject-matter areas. Although the original question was asked in such a way as to enable the individual respondent to indicate any area of information which she particularly desired, replies were quite specific. It was possible, therefore, to select five categories as representative of all classifiable answers.

There are a number of striking facts to be observed in Table 8. One is the great interest expressed for information concerning (1) the management of work in the home (82.6 percent) and, (2) the management of money (73.7 percent). Significant, also, is the fact that a larger percentage of women asked for information relative to recreation and health (68.7 percent) than that requested for child rearing (51.3 percent). The latter may be explained in later data which show the need many of these families have for leisure. The long hours spent in

**TABLE 8.—Information Desired by Wives of Part-time Farm Operators. Frequency of Replies of 259 Women to the Question “What Information Would You Like to Have Covered Either in Group Meetings or in Printed Materials?”**

| Information Desired                                                         | Number | Percent |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|---------|
| Management of the Home . . . . .                                            | 214    | 82.6    |
| Time and energy management                                                  |        |         |
| How proportion time among house, family and farm tasks                      |        |         |
| How simplify work in the house                                              |        |         |
| Improved methods of keeping house                                           |        |         |
| How maintain fair standards                                                 |        |         |
| How improve methods of buying foods, clothing, household supplies           |        |         |
| Management of Income . . . . .                                              | 191    | 73.7    |
| How much should a family reasonably expect to pay for home living           |        |         |
| How budget income                                                           |        |         |
| How keep adequate financial records                                         |        |         |
| Who should keep records                                                     |        |         |
| Advantages and disadvantages of consumer credit                             |        |         |
| How plan a family insurance program                                         |        |         |
| How determine insurance needs                                               |        |         |
| Recreation and Health . . . . .                                             | 178    | 68.7    |
| How can a homemaker manage some recreation for herself                      |        |         |
| How can more leisure time be provided for the family                        |        |         |
| How provide cooperative leisure activities                                  |        |         |
| Amount of recreation necessary for mental and physical health of the family |        |         |
| How plan for good health of all family members                              |        |         |
| First aid and home care of the sick                                         |        |         |
| Child Rearing . . . . .                                                     | 133    | 51.3    |
| How best rear children to be well-trained, happy, self-sufficient, honest   |        |         |
| How foster good relationships between children                              |        |         |
| Principles of development                                                   |        |         |
| How handle behavior problems                                                |        |         |
| Family Relationships . . . . .                                              | 87     | 33.6    |
| How can a family plan for more effective living                             |        |         |
| How handle husband-wife conflicts                                           |        |         |
| How meet religious difficulties                                             |        |         |
| Adjustments in marriage                                                     |        |         |

an effort to operate the farm while carrying regular non-farm employment leaves little time for the operator to be with his family or to join them in recreational activities. In the operator's absence the wife frequently takes over the management and responsibilities of the farm. This combined with the management of her home and the care of small children means that she, too, plays a dual role. That women especially desire assistance in planning their work so as to allow more free time for recreation is shown by the number of requests in this area.

About one-third of the group (33.6 percent) desired help with problems classified under the fifth general subject-matter category—family relationships.

The above data pose a question. Did the stage of the family life cycle influence the frequency of certain subject-matter requests? Here it will be recalled that families in the study were considered as being in one of three stages of the family life cycle. These cycles were (1) the young couple without children, (2) the beginning or founding family in which there were children but all under 8 years of age, and (3) the expanding family in which there were children but some of whom were over 8 years of age. Although the majority of women in this study were less than 30 years of age they were representative of each of these cycles.

Though homemakers in each of the three stages of the family life cycle expressed their needs for information with varying degrees of frequency, differences were not significant (Figure 4).

The figures are, however, sufficiently meaningful as to suggest a pattern which appears to be descriptive of each of these stages. The young homemaker without children is more concerned with problems related to personal adjustments in marriage. This is illustrated by the fact that women in this group more frequently desired information in this area. She has more leisure and fewer fixed charges than homemakers in either of the other two stages. Her husband may share in more of the responsibilities and homemaking tasks than will be possible at a later date. The emphasis on income and material resources is less pronounced. There is more time to spend in preparing meals and in house care. Recreation, making new friends and getting acquainted with a new community may have a high priority in choices for time and energy. An awareness of the need for information in areas related to child care or additional problems in the management of a home may not be present.

With the arrival of children, however, the demands on a homemaker's time and energy are significantly increased. There is less time for recreation and the making of new friends. The need for doing a

better job of managing income may become very important. As a mother, she must consider the children's schedules as well as those of her husband when making plans. Her concern for the physical, social, mental, and emotional development of children quickens her desire for information in this area. She realizes she must do a better job of managing the home if extra time for the guidance of children is to be made available. Altogether, she is a very busy homemaker but ready and willing to learn new methods and new techniques. That this desire for learning increases rather than diminishes in frequency when homemakers progress from the founding to the expanding stage of the family life cycle is suggested by these data.

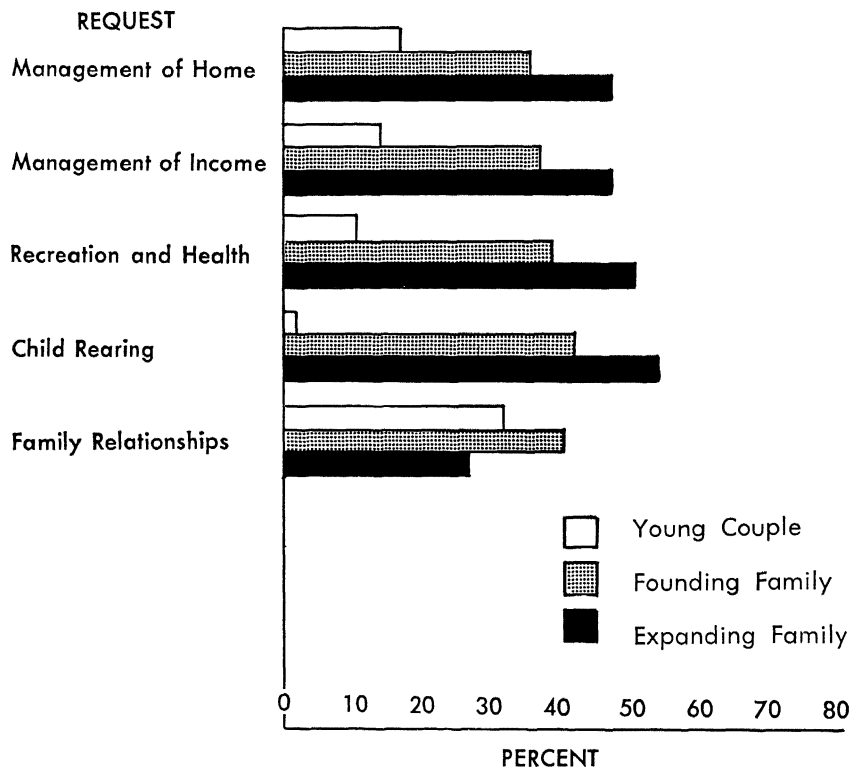


Fig. 4.—As indicated here, the expression of need for information does not vary greatly although it does set up a pattern that appears descriptive of the various stages.

From the above findings it is possible, also, to draw some important inferences which may be of special significance to those planning adult educational programs. Many young homemakers want information and help with specific problems. They have a desire to learn. Their needs are personal. They could be encouraged and stimulated toward greater participation in organized community activity if greater emphasis were placed on their needs by program planners. That they have a desire for such participation has been shown by a previous study.<sup>9</sup>

### ORGANIZATIONAL AFFILIATIONS

The almost surely continued growth of part-time farming may have far-reaching significance for rural communities and especially the various forms of rural social organization and activity. With the increasing movement of urban families to rural areas and the farm family who commutes to the city for non-farm employment, the problem of assimilating the two groups into the life of the community may well become one of major concern. Certainly the values, the attitudes and activities of either group will affect, and in turn be affected by, the same qualities associated with the other. Likewise, their combined attitudes and values will tend to affect the force that drives the machinery of rural community life.

It is important, therefore, to know the interests about which the lives of these families center. What are the factors conditioning their orientation of interests? What influence does background or commutation seem to have on organizational membership? How many meetings a month are they willing to attend? What influences determine attitudes which produce support of or indifference to community organizations and their activities? Must new techniques be adopted?

Certain data would indicate that rural areas are confronted with many problems calling for group activity. The support of all families, young and old, is needed. Nevertheless, it has been shown that many rural organizations have the support of a comparatively small percent of those whom they seek to serve, especially young families. Why does this exist? Must rural organizations completely reorganize their approach if this group is to be reached more effectively?

The topic of social participation as it relates to families engaged in part-time farming is broad enough to warrant several separate projects. In a report such as this, in which many other phases of the subject are considered, it seemed advisable to confine the scope of this investigation

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<sup>9</sup>Ibid., pp. 12-21.

to one small aspect of social participation, namely: (1) family affiliation with voluntary formal organization and the degree of their participation, (2) their interest in increasing present participation, and (3) their interest in specific types of voluntary organizational activity.<sup>10</sup> Spontaneous informal neighborhood groups are recognized as being equally important in influencing human behavior, but an extended analysis of all social groupings is beyond the scope of this study.

For ease of classification, voluntary formal organizations were grouped into nine categories as follows: (1) church organizations, including all sub-organizations; (2) extension organizations, including farm women's groups; (3) farmer cooperatives; (4) grange; (5) lodges and any auxiliaries (fraternal); (6) civic or community and patriotic; (7) recreational; (8) professional, and (9) labor organizations.

Data relative to the subject of organizational membership were secured in two ways. First, each interviewee was asked to indicate the total number of different organizations in which one or more members of the family were formally enrolled. Each organization counted as one whether all or only one member of the family belonged. In this way information representative of each of the 270 families was obtained. Secondly, the individual respondent was asked to indicate his or her own personal membership in organizations and to state the nature or degree of participation. This, it was believed, would be a more adequate measure of organizational affiliation than the former method but each would serve as a check on the other. For the purpose of rating the quality or degree of membership, data were confined to the replies of individual respondents (101 operators and 259 homemakers) and computed by the Chapin participation scale.<sup>11</sup>

The number and percent of families having at least one member enrolled in certain voluntary formal organizations are shown in Table 9. The average family belonged to 2.3 such groups. This figure may, however, be misleading as the distribution of membership is not at all even.

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<sup>10</sup>The term "participation" is used synonymously with "membership" and "organizational membership." Although membership *per se* is not the only criterion of social participation in group life, it is significant for the purposes of this study.

<sup>11</sup>The Chapin scale, at least partially standardized, has been used in a number of formal participation studies. First developed in 1928, it allows one point for membership, two points for attendance, three points for paying dues or donations to an organization, four points for committee membership, and five points for office holding. The total number of points computed in this manner yield an individual's participation score.



The majority of families (143 or 52.9 percent) listed the church as their only formal affiliation. Forty percent indicated an affiliation with a labor union, and approximately one-third (30.3 percent) held membership in civic, community, or patriotic organizations. Since the latter included Parent-Teacher Associations, the American Legion, and similar socio-educational-civic organizations open to both sexes, it was surprising that more families did not report membership in this grouping. Thereafter, in descending order families reported an affiliation with lodges and auxiliaries (21.1 percent), extension groups (19 percent), recreational clubs (15.5 percent), farmer cooperatives (9.2 percent), the Grange (7 percent), and professional organizations (3.7 percent).

If the church and labor union affiliations were excluded from this list of organizations, approximately 40 percent of the families belonged to no formal organization whatsoever. In short, except for the church, the elaborate structure of community organization contained in all areas wherein families were contacted, had attracted to membership only a small percentage of the 270 families represented by this study.

Data presented in Table 9 merely show the organizational relationships of families. They do not take into account the quality or degree of participation by individual family members or the participation pattern by sexes. For that reason, and as indicated previously, male and female respondents were asked to supply additional information relative to his or her own personal affiliation with such organizations.

**TABLE 9.—Number and Percent of Families Having at Least One Member Enrolled in Certain Voluntary Formal Organizations (270 records)**

| Organization                         | Family Membership |         |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------|---------|
|                                      | Number            | Percent |
| Church .....                         | 243               | 90.0    |
| Extension .....                      | 51                | 19.0    |
| Farmer Cooperatives .....            | 25                | 9.2     |
| Grange .....                         | 19                | 7.0     |
| Lodges and Auxiliaries .....         | 57                | 21.1    |
| Civic, Patriotic and Community ..... | 82                | 30.3    |
| Recreational .....                   | 42                | 15.5    |
| Professional .....                   | 10                | 3.7     |
| Labor Union .....                    | 108               | 40.0    |

Replies were computed by the Chapin participation scale as follows: respondents with a score of 15 or more were considered active participants in an organization; those with less than 15, inactive or low participants. Male and female respondents indicating membership in formal organizations and the number and percent considered to be active participants are shown in Table 10.

Here it will be observed that with but one exception, that of the church, only a small percent of the men and women interviewed for this study were members of or active in organizations of any type. For example, 33 of the 101 male respondents belonged to an extension group but only 16 or 48.4 percent of that number could be considered active participants. Twenty-five belonged to farmer cooperatives but only 6 or 24 percent of the group were active members of the cooperatives. Thirty-four were members of a lodge; 50 percent could be considered active by the Chapin participation scale.

Furthermore, 78 of the male respondents were members of labor unions; only 56.4 percent were active participants. Twenty-nine belonged to some formally organized recreational group; 82.7 percent of that number were rated as active members.

**TABLE 10.—Number of Male and Female Respondents Indicating Membership in Formal Organizations and the Percent Considered to be Active Participants in That Organization (101 male and 259 female respondents)**

| Organization                    | Male                  |         |          | Female                |         |          |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|---------|----------|-----------------------|---------|----------|
|                                 | Member-ship indicated | Active  |          | Member-ship indicated | Active  |          |
|                                 |                       | Num-ber | Per-cent |                       | Num-ber | Per-cent |
| Church                          | 92                    | 38      | 41.3     | 248                   | 196     | 79.0     |
| Extension                       | 33                    | 16      | 48.4     | 21                    | 14      | 66.6     |
| Farmer Cooperatives             | 25                    | 6       | 24.0     | —                     | —       | —        |
| Grange                          | 19                    | 7       | 37.0     | 8                     | 7       | 87.5     |
| Lodges and Auxiliaries          | 34                    | 17      | 50.0     | 30                    | 19      | 63.3     |
| Civic, Patriotic, and Community | 22                    | 12      | 54.5     | 63                    | 52      | 82.5     |
| Recreational                    | 29                    | 24      | 82.7     | 20                    | 14      | 70.0     |
| Professional                    | 4                     | 3       | 75.0     | 6                     | 5       | 83.3     |
| Labor Unions                    | 78                    | 44      | 56.4     | 5                     | 2       | 40.0     |

Information in Table 10 would indicate that when women have membership in an organization they are more inclined to take an active part in its activities than are men. For example, only 21 women were members of extension clubs but 66.6 percent of that number took an active part in the work of such clubs. Thirty were members of lodges and auxiliaries; 63.3 percent were active members. Sixty-three were members of civic, patriotic and/or community clubs; 82.5 percent were active. Furthermore, out of the 248 who reported church membership, 196 or 79 percent were active in the work of the church and its sub-organizations.

In the light of foregoing data one may conclude that a study of memberships held in certain formally organized groups may merely reflect the interest of persons in specific kinds of group activity. It is inadequate as a determinant of actual participation in the work of organizations. On the other hand, a comparison of data contained in Tables 9 and 10 would indicate that if persons can be encouraged to join organizations, a fairly high percentage will become active participants, particularly the women.

#### **INTEREST IN ORGANIZED COMMUNITY ACTIVITY**

Interviewees were asked if they were (1) interested in increasing present participation in organized activity, and (2) the types of organizations in which they were most interested.

Of the 101 male respondents, 43 stated that they were definitely interested in increasing present participation provided (1) that meetings were held at convenient times, and (2) that the travel involved were not too great. Thirty-nine indicated that they would be interested if the organization met their needs. Eighteen were not interested in further group affiliation.

Replies of homemakers were much the same as those of the male respondents. Of the 259 women interviewed, 172 stated that they would like to affiliate with more organizations provided (1) the meetings were worthwhile, (2) meetings were held when it was possible for them to attend, and (3) travel involved were not too great. Forty-nine stated that they did not desire membership in an organization merely for the sake of belonging to something but expected some benefits derived from their association.

Thirty-seven felt that it was an impossibility for them to attend meetings because of small children, inability to obtain or to pay for baby sitters, and the odd hours of husband's off-farm employment. Twelve homemakers indicated that they were already active in the community and not interested in additional organizational activity.

Each interviewee was asked which day of the week and what time of day best suited their schedule insofar as meetings were concerned. Their replies, summarized in Tables 11 and 12, illustrate some of the difficulties involved when organizations attempt to plan programs for any sizable group of individuals. For example, in Table 11 it will be noted that 30.6 percent of the male respondents favored Friday; 27.7 percent Sunday, and 22.7 percent Saturday. In contrast, 29 percent of the women favored Tuesday and 21.6 percent Wednesday. It is interesting, however, that 15 percent of the women respondents favored Sunday as a meeting date. This, as indicated, might be a time when children could be left with the father or grandparents.

Finding a time of day best suited for meetings appears to be just as difficult as a day of the week (Table 12). Approximately 31 percent of the men favored early evening; 23.7 percent the late afternoon and early evening, and 18.8 percent the early morning. On the other hand, 32 percent of the women preferred morning hours; 26.6 percent the early afternoon, and 25.4 percent the late evening.

Without question, the above preferences do not mean that these are the only times when interviewees can attend meetings. They underline, however, certain facts to be kept in mind when planning programs for families engaged in part-time farming. These are, first, that many farm operators work a late afternoon and evening shift at non-farm employment. For this group, morning meetings may be possible for either the husband or wife. The husband's presence at home may mean that children can be cared for while the wife is away or, if children are in school, it may mean that the husband and wife can attend together.

**TABLE 11.—Day of Week Best Suited for Meetings**

| Day of Week | Men           |         | Women         |         |
|-------------|---------------|---------|---------------|---------|
|             | (101 Records) |         | (259 Records) |         |
|             | Number        | Percent | Number        | Percent |
| Sunday      | 28            | 27.7    | 39            | 15.0    |
| Monday      | 5             | 4.9     | 20            | 7.7     |
| Tuesday     | 2             | 1.9     | 75            | 29.0    |
| Wednesday   | 9             | 8.9     | 56            | 21.6    |
| Thursday    | 3             | 2.9     | 19            | 7.3     |
| Friday      | 31            | 30.6    | 17            | 6.5     |
| Saturday    | 23            | 22.7    | 33            | 12.7    |

Secondly, many operators employed on a 40 hour work week have Saturday at home. This and Sunday may be, therefore, the only days when extra time is available for formal group activities in the community. Thirdly, unless a family has the "second car" it may be impossible for the wife to attend meetings during hours that the husband is at work.

Although this section explored only a limited segment of the organizational patterns of part-time farm families, it appears difficult to find a meeting time convenient to all families. Furthermore, there appears to be a significant relationship between nearness to meeting places of most organizations and the participation patterns of individual families. A majority of respondents indicated that they would be willing to travel no more than five miles to a meeting. Proportionately more respondents lived, therefore, within this locus of meetings than inactive respondents.

Also, the time element required for assimilation into organizational life seemed to be a significant factor in participation. Each of the more active members had lived in the community over a longer period of time than the inactive thus proportionately more families with rural backgrounds were active than were those with non-farm backgrounds.

There was a positive relationship between amount of formal schooling and degree of activity or inactivity in organizational attendance. As the educational level rose the number of memberships and active participation per person increased.

**TABLE 12.—Time of Day Best Suited for Meetings**

| Time of Day                         | Men           |         | Women         |         |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|---------|---------------|---------|
|                                     | (101 Records) |         | (259 Records) |         |
|                                     | Number        | Percent | Number        | Percent |
| Morning                             | 19            | 18.8    | 83            | 32.0    |
| Early afternoon                     | 7             | 6.9     | 69            | 26.6    |
| Late afternoon                      | 3             | 2.9     | —             | —       |
| Late afternoon and<br>early evening | 24            | 23.7    | —             | —       |
| Early evening                       | 32            | 31.6    | 41            | 15.8    |
| Late evening (8:30<br>or after)     | 16            | 15.8    | 66            | 25.4    |

## **KINDS OF ORGANIZATIONAL ACTIVITY DESIRED**

Although these young married men and women were not members of many organizations and many factors operated to make their active participation in organizations difficult, they did desire the establishment of certain kinds of groups to meet their needs. This fact was brought out in connection with the inquiry "What kinds of organizational activity do you desire?"

There were at least two very striking facts about their responses (Table 13). One was the large proportion both of men and women who desired greater contacts through the establishment of neighborhood groups and, secondly, the emphasis placed upon combined study and recreational groups.

The discussion previously covered relative to information desired by part-time farm operators and their wives pointed out the latter need. Furthermore, it will be recalled that in this connection numerous troublesome problems revolved around the farm-home enterprise and, secondly, that there was a desire by families for help and assistance with these problems. These, together with the lack of ideas regarding their solution, emphasizes the fact that the major need may be more important than what appears to be the more immediate problems. That is to say, the need for group associations where intelligent guidance and mature, sympathetic leadership may be made more readily available to such families.

## **PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT OF THE HOME**

A good dwelling and the comforts to be derived from various home conveniences contained therein appears to be one of the most important factors contributing to satisfactory family living. Furthermore, the lack of specific comforts in and around a home may bias a family's satisfaction with a particular environment as, for example, that associated with rural or urban residency. These discontents and the desire for improved conditions may, in turn, influence the husband's occupational choice or be a determining factor in the wife's decision to work outside the home.

It seemed important, therefore, to secure information relative to the physical environment of homes lived in by families and to determine, if possible, any relationship between this and the couple's decision to engage in part-time farming.

**TABLE 13.—Types of Organizational Activity Desired**

| Activity Desired                                                       | Men           |         | Women         |         |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|---------|---------------|---------|
|                                                                        | (101 Records) |         | (259 Records) |         |
|                                                                        | Number        | Percent | Number        | Percent |
| Neighborhood study and recreational groups . . . . .                   | 53            | 52.4    | 139           | 53.6    |
| Groups directed to the interests of young families . . . . .           | 41            | 40.5    | 87            | 33.5    |
| Meetings where husbands and wives can attend together . . . . .        | 37            | 36.6    | 68            | 26.2    |
| Study and recreational groups directed to small-scale farmer . . . . . | 32            | 31.6    | 23            | 8.8     |
| Young married groups at church (study and recreational) . . . . .      | 17            | 16.8    | 48            | 18.5    |
| Guided tours of successful farm-home enterprises . . . . .             | 23            | 22.7    | 18            | 6.9     |
| Organized recreational activities for young children . . . . .         | 9             | 8.9     | 43            | 16.6    |

Data relative to the physical environment of homes were obtained in two ways, namely; through direct answers by interviewees to questions contained in the schedule form, and by personal observations of the investigator. Information which pertained to the age of the house, number of rooms occupied, utilities, and the incidence of certain selected furnishings were usually supplied by interviewees. Information concerning the general condition of the house, both exterior and interior, was recorded entirely on the basis of the investigator's judgment. Inquiry was made, also, as to the family's satisfaction with present conditions surrounding the home and plans, if any, for change.

The majority of families (88 percent) lived in a house which they alone occupied; 12 percent shared their home with someone else usually a parent or parents. With but eight exceptions, all families lived in the only house on a farm. The eight families residing in a second house, more frequently referred to as "the tenant house", were renting from an owner-operator with contractual agreements permitting a combination of farming and non-farm employment. It is to be noted, however, that all couples who lived in the second house on a farm occupied it alone or as a single family unit.

Twenty-eight families lived in houses less than 10 years old; 43 in houses over 50 years old. The distribution of houses according to age was: 1-10 years (28); 11-25 years (86); 25-50 years (113); and over 50 years (43).

Houses varied in size from 4 to 12 rooms as follows: 4-6 rooms (78); 7-9 rooms (123); 10 rooms and over (69). In most cases the houses with 10 or more rooms were 50 years old and over; in all cases they were over 25 years old. The average number of rooms per house was 7.6.

Ninety-three percent of the dwellings were constructed of wood, and less than three percent were of brick. The remainder were constructed of stone, stucco, or a combination of materials.

It will be recalled that 207 families in this study owned their own farms. Of this number, 27 had purchased unimproved land and added the house afterwards. Several families had employed contractors to do the building, others had done the major construction work themselves. In the latter case, a dwelling completed to the satisfaction of all family members appeared to be a difficult undertaking. The usual pattern was the building of a few rooms at first, then to make additions as time and funds for materials become available. Homemakers frequently complained of this method due to the long period of time required to complete the house, the unforeseen delays and expenses, and inconveniences endured by family members.

Families who had purchased farms intending to modernize existing dwellings indicated no great dissatisfaction with results but stated that modernization costs had amounted to considerably more than they had anticipated. The majority of families were, at time of interview, still in the process of repairing and modernizing their homes.

Houses were rated good, fair, or poor as to general appearance. This included such items as the condition of paint or the lack of paint, windows broken or unbroken, wallpaper loose or torn, the condition and general appearance of porches, lawns, and so forth. Upon this basis, 140 or 51.8 percent of all homes rated good, 78 or 28.8 percent as fair, and 52 or 19.4 percent as poor.

A large proportion of the homes in the northeastern and northwestern area of the state rated good. Those in the southeastern area more frequently rated fair to poor. This might be explained by the fact that a greater number of the homes in the latter area were being rented. For



information relative to the rating of dwellings located within each of the three generalized farming areas of the state and whether or not these were owned or being rented, refer to Table 14.

**TABLE 14.—Condition of Dwellings Classified by Farming Areas and Whether Owned or Rented (270 records)**

| Condition | Farming Areas |        |              |        |              |        | All homes |
|-----------|---------------|--------|--------------|--------|--------------|--------|-----------|
|           | Northeastern  |        | Northwestern |        | Southeastern |        |           |
|           | Owned         | Rented | Owned        | Rented | Owned        | Rented |           |
| Good      | 71            | 3      | 41           | 5      | 13           | 7      | 140       |
| Fair      | 6             | 4      | 18           | 5      | 33           | 12     | 78        |
| Poor      | 5             | 1      | 11           | 10     | 9            | 16     | 52        |
| Total     | 82            | 8      | 70           | 20     | 55           | 35     | 270       |

#### UTILITIES AND HOME FURNISHINGS

The incidence of certain utilities and furnishings in homes of interviewees is shown in Table 15. Here it will be observed that all homes had electric service. This made possible the ownership of many electrical appliances and non-essential items which nevertheless add to the comfort and livability of a house. For example, all homes had one or more radio sets and 78.8 percent had television sets. Furthermore, all homes contained a mechanical refrigerator; 79.6 percent a mechanical washer, and 15.5 percent an automatic washer. Approximately 68 percent of all houses had both hot and cold running water under pressure; over 52 percent contained one or more bathrooms. There were indications that these conveniences are among the first to be added when families attempt house modernization.

About 90 percent of the dwellings were equipped with either a gas or an electric kitchen range; 62.5 percent with telephones, and one out of every two families had a home freezer.

The circulating heater was the most frequently used source of heat. One out of every five dwellings was equipped with a central furnace.

**TABLE 15.—Number and Percent of Families Reporting Indicated Household Conveniences (270 records)**

| Household Convenience                         | Number | Percent |
|-----------------------------------------------|--------|---------|
| Electricity . . . . .                         | 270    | 100.0   |
| Radio . . . . .                               | 270    | 100.0   |
| Mechanical refrigerator . . . . .             | 270    | 100.0   |
| Gas or electric kitchen range . . . . .       | 242    | 89.6    |
| Mechanical washer . . . . .                   | 215    | 79.6    |
| Television set . . . . .                      | 213    | 78.8    |
| Hot and cold water under pressure . . . . .   | 184    | 68.1    |
| Telephone . . . . .                           | 169    | 62.5    |
| Bathroom . . . . .                            | 143    | 52.9    |
| Home freezer . . . . .                        | 139    | 51.4    |
| Circulating heater . . . . .                  | 118    | 43.7    |
| Cold water pumped into kitchen only . . . . . | 72     | 26.6    |
| Central furnace . . . . .                     | 56     | 20.7    |
| Automatic washer . . . . .                    | 42     | 15.5    |
| Automatic clothes dryer . . . . .             | 35     | 12.9    |
| Electric ironer . . . . .                     | 18     | 6.6     |

Comfortable upholstered furniture in good repair, the latest in kitchen utensils and numerous small electrical items reflected the economic level as well as the standard of living desired by many families. Furthermore, they appear to support statements made by numerous homemakers, that is, "Benefits derived from farming and non-farm employment have made a more comfortable living possible for our family."

**FAMILY'S SATISFACTION WITH HOUSES OCCUPIED**

Forty-two percent of the 259 homemakers interviewed indicated satisfaction with their present dwelling. A majority of these homes were owned and families had spent considerable sums of money in their modernization. Major dissatisfactions expressed by the remaining 58 percent are shown in Table 16.

Here it will be observed that the desire for heated areas in which to do laundry, the need for water and a sewage system, and the undesirable arrangement of rooms ranked first in the order of dissatisfactions named. Other complaints were as follows: (1) house too large (36 percent); (2) traffic routes (36 percent); (3) no central heating (28.6 percent); (4) high ceilings and windows (23.3 percent); and (5) inadequate storage (14.0 percent).

Each homemaker who lived in a "owned home" and who voiced dissatisfaction with the present dwelling indicated plans for improving the situation. As a rule, these plans were dependent upon the husband's continued and steady non-farm employment. Homemakers residing in rented dwellings had little hopes for major improvements in the present house. Landlords, they indicated, appeared reluctant to put money into major house repairs. The couple, on the other hand, did not want to invest money, time, or effort in making these improvements even though such might be permitted by the landlord.

Husbands were less inclined to express dissatisfaction with houses lived in. Of the 101 operators interviewed, 75 percent indicated satisfaction with the present dwelling. A large majority of those who were home owners stated, however, that they were willing to modernize the house for the family's greater comfort and happiness.

Evidence presented in the foregoing data would indicate that part-time farm families take considerable interest in their homes, that they are doing a great deal to remodel houses lived in, and that a large part of the non-farm income is being spent on the modernization and improvement of many farm dwellings.

**TABLE 16.—Indicated Dissatisfactions with Present Dwellings as Indicated by 150 Homemakers**

| Dissatisfaction                            | Number | Percent |
|--------------------------------------------|--------|---------|
| No heated area for doing laundry . . . . . | 78     | 52.0    |
| Water and sewage . . . . .                 | 62     | 41.3    |
| Undesirable arrangement of rooms . . . . . | 66     | 44.0    |
| House and rooms too large . . . . .        | 54     | 36.0    |
| Traffic routes . . . . .                   | 54     | 36.0    |
| No central heating system . . . . .        | 43     | 28.6    |
| High ceilings and windows . . . . .        | 35     | 23.3    |
| Inadequate storage . . . . .               | 21     | 14.0    |

It is to be noted here that this section does not in any way consider a family's satisfaction or dissatisfaction with the location of the farm or any consideration of rural living. Such will be considered in a later analysis.

## **CHARACTERISTICS OF THE FARM BUSINESS**

### **DESCRIPTION OF FARM UNITS**

On the average, part-time farms in this study constitute about 42 acres each. The farms range in size from 10 to 110 acres. Among the three generalized farming areas of the state, however, there were varying patterns of this range of acreage. This may have been the result of certain locational, topographical or land value characteristics which influence the type of farming carried on in these areas (Map 2).

In the northeastern area of the state where proximity to centers of population, industry, and marketing outlets not only enhance land values but may make possible greater emphasis on vegetable, fruit, and poultry enterprises suitable to smaller acreages, the average size of part-time farms was 22.3 acres. In contrast to this, the average size of farms in the southeastern or general farming area was 63.7 acres; in the northwestern or corn belt area about 40 acres.

The southeastern area though showing a larger number of acres per farm showed the least utilization of land. In this area much of the acreage is hilly, cut-over, and of low agricultural value except as it provides browsing for livestock and a source of timber. To have appreciable merit in the scheme of farm-furnished living, a family would ordinarily need considerably more tillable land than that reported by operators in this study.

In the northwestern area a larger proportion of the land was being utilized than in either the southeastern or northeastern areas. There was, also, a greater indication of crop and livestock specialization. However, in this area as well as the other two areas, the total acreage farmed is rarely considered sufficient to provide suitable income for a family without other sources of income or, perhaps, greater emphasis on specialization than was here indicated.

### **TENURE CLASSIFICATION**

The classification of families by type of tenure was as follows: 207 or 76.6 percent of all families owned their farms; 63 or 23.4 percent of the group rented. When considered by generalized farming areas, the distribution of ownership was as follows: 82 out of the 90 families contacted in the northeastern area were owners; 70 out of the 90 contacted

in the northwestern area owned, and 55 out of the 90 in the southeastern area were farm owners. It will be noted, therefore, that the largest number of owners was found in the northeastern area of the state.

It is significant, however, that all of the non-farm reared operators contacted in connection with this study owned their own farms; 108 or 63.1 percent of the farm reared operators were owners.

The majority (91.4 percent) of all operators renting farms paid a cash rent; 8.6 percent had numerous types of farm-leasing arrangements. In the latter instance, tenants usually had a kinship relationship with the landlord. Rented farms were, on an average, about 22 acres larger in size than were owner-operated places.

### USE OF LAND

While the use of land varied from farm to farm and among the different farming areas of the state, the bulk of tillable land was in gardens, yards, hay crops, corn and pasture. Most of the crops raised were fed to animal and poultry stock, or eaten by the family. Some part-time farmers, on the other hand, appeared to market a fair amount of cash crops including vegetables, fruits and berries. Several, for example, specialized in strawberry and raspberry plantings that yielded a fair income; others sold surplus apples or other fruits to local markets. Most of the orchards, however, contained old trees which were uncertain producers.

Eighty-four percent of the households had vegetable gardens. Most gardens were small. About 42 percent of the families reported that they produced all of their vegetable needs for the period of the vegetable-growing season; 21 percent reported a production equal to about three-fourths of their needs, and 21 percent reported a production of about one-fourth of their needs.

Over 39 percent of the families indicated that by using the home freezer or a rented food locker, they were able to raise over one-half of their vegetable needs for the year. Although there appeared to be no relationship between the size of garden raised and the number of persons in the household, there was a relationship between the background of the homemaker and the size of the garden. Rural-reared homemakers appeared to be much more desirous of raising large gardens and inclined to freeze, can, or store the surplus for future use than did those who were non-farm reared.

Sixteen percent of the 270 operators had no livestock of any kind. The lack of adequate fencing, barns, and the need for ponds or other water supply; a desire to concentrate on vegetable, fruit or berry enterprises; or simply the family's dislike of being tied down were reasons most frequently stated.

Cows were kept on 62 percent of the farms studied with an average of 1.9 head each. Hogs, reported by about 43 percent of the farms, were most common on the larger acreages or in the northwestern area of the state. Sheep were reported on 29 percent of the farms.

Eighty-one percent of the households reported poultry. Although commercial poultry production had not been generally adopted on these farms, many families sold a considerable quantity of eggs and fryers.

Eleven percent of the families had horses. These were usually found in the southeastern area of the state. Most operators in this area, however, preferred to rent horses or hire their work done indicating that it was more economical than to feed and keep a horse the year round. Ponies, found on 18 percent of the farms, were used for children's pleasure and frequently referred to by families as one of the reasons why they enjoyed country living.

Milk goats were found on 5 percent of these places and prized by their owners for their economic production and the ease with which they could be attended.

In addition to the regular domestic livestock, 5 families raised rabbits for commercial purposes; 2 families reported raising hamsters for certain markets, and 2 farms kept bees for the purpose of selling honey at roadside markets.

#### **MAJOR SOURCE OF FARM INCOME**

Each family was asked to indicate the major source or sources of their farm income. Fifty-nine percent stated that home-produced food-stuffs were, perhaps, of greatest value to them. The majority stated that as of the present, they were not expecting any great economic returns from the farm beyond that experienced through a reduction in family living expenses. Thirty-three percent indicated that they had purchased the farm intending to use a part of the non-farm income for purposes of making a good home, to increase the value of the property by modernization of buildings, landscaping, fences and so forth. Over and beyond this, however, 27 percent reported the sale of swine as a major source of income, 18 percent reported the sale of poultry and poultry products, and 15 percent of the families reported income received from the sale of sheep and lambs.

Eleven percent of the families reported that the sale of milk to dairies had produced the major part of their farm income and 8 percent felt that income derived from the sale of vegetables and fruits had been of considerable value to them.

To round out information deemed pertinent to this section, however, interviewees were asked if the family had plans for increasing their farm income. In response to this query (1) 34 percent planned to increase their total livestock program as soon as possible, (2) 30 percent hoped to have larger gardens for home use as well as for the possible sale of surplus, (3) 23 percent were interested in planting fruit trees and setting out berry plants, (4) 18 percent planned to either start raising poultry or enlarge their present flock, (5) 7 percent planned to concentrate on a dairy herd, and (6) 7 percent were interested in raising more hogs. Approximately 5 percent were considering such enterprises as (1) raising rabbits to sell local merchants, (2) an apiary for purposes of selling honey at roadside stands, and (3) raising fur animals. Eleven percent of the group had no plans for immediate expansion of farming enterprises.

### **INVESTMENT IN MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT**

Each interviewee was asked to indicate the approximate amount of money which the family had invested in farm equipment and machinery. Inquiry was also made as to whether or not the family felt they had adequate machinery with which to farm, if they owned any machinery in cooperation with other farmers, or if they had the use of machinery which belonged to some one else.

The analysis of data would indicate an average of \$2,050.00 invested in farm machinery per family. There was considerable range, however, in the amount of money invested by individual families. For example, operators in the northwestern area appeared to have a greater machinery and equipment investment than did those in the northeastern or southeastern areas. This may be explained, perhaps, by the type of farming usually undertaken in this area.

Further analysis shows that 39.3 percent of the families felt that they did not have adequate machinery with which to operate a farm effectively; 9 percent owned some machinery in cooperation with someone else, and 15.8 percent of the families had the use of machinery and equipment belonging to some other person. The latter was particularly true of those who had formerly farmed full-time or of those who lived in the immediate neighborhood of relatives.

Statements made by interviewees would indicate that the majority of families planned to increase machinery and equipment inventory as soon as income permitted or as they expanded their present farm program.

## ECONOMIC FACTORS

An analysis of economic factors influencing the home and family life of young families engaged in part-time farming is made difficult because of the complex relationships which exist between many variables such as the adequacy of income, effective or ineffective money management, the degree to which husband and wife concur in the acquisition and distribution of income, their standard of living, education and background training, and the psychological process of marital adjustment itself. It appears impossible to assign to each of these factors their relative contribution. Furthermore, a study of these variants as related to satisfactory family living has brought forth no clear-cut methods by which it is possible to make comparisons.

In considering the present study the following factors were assumed to have a positive influence upon the home and family life of young couples: (1) attitude toward economic security as shown by such indices as lack of debts, savings; (2) the degree to which husbands and wives agree in the management of both farm and non-farm income; (3) their agreeableness as to buying habits, and (4) agreement upon the use and disposition of all income in relation to family needs and personal goals. These factors, selected merely as guiding hypotheses are subject, therefore, to critical evaluation.

Although a direct approach was used to secure data relative to this section, the interviewer appreciated the fact that respondents might hesitate to answer many questions directly. Thus all questions about family policies as related to economic matters were fairly general in nature and asked at the end of the interview when rapport had been fully established.

### SECURITY: ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

Each of the 101 male and 259 female respondents were asked (1) if they had any large indebtedness at time of marriage which had been assumed prior to marriage, and (2) if they had assumed responsibility for any sizable debt since marriage.

Twenty-three percent of the male respondents reported that they were in debt at time of marriage. This, in most cases, was money owed on the purchase of automobiles. No female respondent reported indebtedness at time of marriage. However, 75.2 percent of the families reported that they owed considerable sums of money at time of interview. Table 17 shows the number and percent of families who indicated the specific nature and distribution of present indebtedness.



**TABLE 17.—Number and Percent of Families Indicating Distribution of Present Indebtedness (270 records)**

| Distribution of Indebtedness                     | Number | Percent |
|--------------------------------------------------|--------|---------|
| Family car or cars . . . . .                     | 203    | 75.1    |
| Mortgage on farm where family resides . . . . .  | 139    | 51.4    |
| Home furnishings and equipment . . . . .         | 93     | 34.4    |
| Farm machinery and equipment . . . . .           | 75     | 27.7    |
| Contractors for remodeling of dwelling . . . . . | 33     | 12.2    |
| Lumber yards . . . . .                           | 31     | 11.4    |
| Feed for livestock . . . . .                     | 27     | 10.0    |
| Medical bills . . . . .                          | 14     | 5.1     |
| Miscellaneous accounts . . . . .                 | 8      | 2.9     |

Slightly over three-fourths of all families were making payments on one or more automobiles; 51.4 percent had a mortgage on their farm. The latter percentage is misleading, however, since the figure is based upon total number of families in the study. It will be recalled that only 207 of the 270 families interviewed owned farms. Of this number, therefore, 139 or 67.1 percent were in debt for their farms.

Over a third (34.4 percent) reported being in debt for certain home furnishings and household equipment. The distribution of other indebtedness in the order of frequency was as follows: (1) farm machinery and equipment (27.7 percent); (2) contractors for remodeling of dwelling (12.2 percent); (3) lumber yards (11.4 percent); (4) feed for livestock (10 percent); (5) medical bills (5.1 percent); and miscellaneous accounts 2.9 percent.

Families did not indicate any great apprehension over indebtedness. In most cases it was felt that income received from the non-farm job was sufficient to cover necessary payments as they would come due. Furthermore, evidence indicated a feeling of income stability attained through employee benefits available through off-farm occupation. Specific reference was made to unemployment compensation and group insurance plans covering hospitalization and disability losses.

To continue the questioning relative to family financial problems, respondents were asked "What do you believe to be your family's greatest economic problem?" The analysis of replies shows approximately 82 percent of the families concerned over their inability to accumulate cash savings or an emergency fund. This they considered was needed to provide for unforeseen expenses brought about by possible income cut-backs and/or unanticipated farm expenditures and losses.

Of further concern was the long-term problem of accumulating cash and necessary credit for purposes of enlarging or improving upon the present farm unit thus making possible the attainment of family goals. For 75.5 percent of the families full-time farming was an ultimate goal.

### MANAGEMENT OF INCOME

Information relative to the management of income by families in this study would indicate that this is an area where considerable help is needed. Young families appear to need training in the use of family financial records, in methods whereby such records may be intelligently analyzed, in outlined practices by which savings may be accumulated, and greater knowledge of the kinds, extent, and value of various forms of farm income. It will be recalled (Tables 7 and 8) that 42.5 percent of the husbands and 73.7 percent of the wives expressed not only a need for such information but a desire to have such subject-matter discussed in community study groups. This need is even more apparent in view of the following data.

Eighty-three percent of the homemakers did not keep home account records in any form, nor had they ever attempted to evaluate home and family expenditures by keeping a budget. In contrast to this, 68.3 percent of the husbands kept brief farm accounts for income tax purposes. Indications were, however, that these records were inadequate as guides to future planning both for the farm and for the family. The number remaining stated that they had withholding tax at place of employment and that farm income was either too small or so easily arrived at that records were unnecessary.

Management of farm and non-farm income records was generally accepted as the husband's responsibility. The acceptance of this job as a responsibility of the husband appeared to be satisfactory to the majority of all individuals reporting.

Another area which might evidence thoughtful management of income was explored. This was attitude toward saving. In reply to the question "Do you plan regularly for savings?" the majority of families (58 percent) reported that they did not have savings accounts as such. Most considered money invested in the farm business, improvements on the house, and desirable home furnishings as an investment. There seemed to be general agreement between husbands and wives that this represented good money management and no respondent indicated friction among family members in this respect. Answers were usually qualified as follows: (1) "We are buying machinery and livestock

needed to produce a better income"; (2) "We are just getting started in farming and must have more machinery and livestock if we hope to succeed"; (3) "We desire a comfortable home and this requires considerable out-lay of money in the early years of marriage"; and (4) "Our children are small and many things are needed so we can't expect to save much during these years".

It is significant that the manner in which money was saved or invested did not appear to influence the family life of those couples where long-time goals were shared by husband and wife. Perhaps it is even more significant that the majority of all couples interviewed seemed to share in these goals and to be in general agreement as to the economic problems to be faced if such ends were to be realized.

### **BUYING HABITS**

An analysis of the buying habits of families revealed a wide use of credit. Replies would indicate that few families pay cash for all their purchases. Approximately 81 percent used monthly charge accounts for such items as clothing and certain small purchases for the home and farm; 79 percent used installment credit for the purchase of large items for the home and farm; 15 percent reported the use of private bank loans; 11.1 percent stated that they frequently used loan companies for cash to tide them over difficult financial situations. The financing of automobiles seemed to be generally accepted as a method of purchase and is, therefore, not included in the above percentages. Only 2.2 percent of the families stated that they had ever used a charge account when purchasing food.

Due to the similarity of buying habits evidenced by all families in this study, it was not possible to secure any significant relationship between this variable and its influence upon the family's happiness or unhappiness in marriage. There was no report, however, of any disagreement relative to the buying habits of individuals contained in families interviewed.

### **PERSONAL FACTORS**

This portion of the report conveys the chief comments and reactions of interviewees toward their situation including (1) the values to be gained from farm living, (2) attitudes toward farming as a career, (3) reasons responsible for their decision to farm part-time, and (4) advantages and disadvantages associated with part-time farming.

## VALUES TO BE GAINED FROM FARM LIVING

Over three-fourths of the male and approximately two-thirds of the female respondents were emphatic in their assertion that the main consideration prompting them to stay out of the city or to leave the city was a preference for the rural way of life (Table 18). Next in importance and closely linked with the preference for rural living was the belief that the country is a better place in which to rear children.

Opinions concerning the "rural way of life" emphasized the rural situation as compared with the city. References were to less noise, less traffic, less confusion, larger lawns, greater privacy, and pleasures derived from dealing with the things of nature. Some spoke of the more satisfying social life and the opportunity to make more lasting friendships; some mentioned the more attractive views and the joy of land ownership where one can till the soil and "be one's own boss."

Those mentioning the country as a better place for rearing children stated that here was greater opportunity for children's constructive work and play. Children could have live pets, profitable hobbies, would be safer off city streets, and away from temptations which might come from association with little known or undesirable companions. With regards to this, a number of parents felt that rural children have a better chance to select their friends than do those in cities. Furthermore, it was believed that rural children have greater opportunity to develop into more wholesome adulthood through contacts and guidance received in the work of rural organizations, especially the 4-H.

Over 44 percent of the farm operators and approximately 50 percent of the homemakers stated that living costs were lower in the country. A majority of these families was convinced that the costs of clothing and groceries in the city were generally higher than in the country. Some spoke of the high cost of children's recreational activities in the city. "It's a quarter or a half-dollar every time they go out the door," they stated. Those mentioning cheaper living costs frequently pointed out the lower property values and rentals, lower taxes, and the opportunity to produce a part of one's own foodstuffs.

More healthful surroundings was indicated as one of the values to be gained from farm living by about 40 percent of all interviewees. Here again, however, there was a close tie-in with replies classified under a preference for the rural way of life. The opportunity to be out-of-doors, fresher and better air, cooler breezes, less smoke and soot, the freedom of farm life, fresh foods—all were factors frequently associated with good health.

About 38 percent of the male and 31 percent of the female respondents expressed the opinion that rural living provided additional economic security against the hazards of job lay-offs, depressions, or handicapping illnesses. In this respect, they considered the farm as a source of some financial income as well as a home for the family.

Furthermore, it is significant that over 58 percent of the male interviewees felt that the satisfactions experienced through personal enterprise was one of the values to be associated with rural living. In this connection, they indicated that farming presents a challenge to one's abilities and managerial skills, that here one can benefit from his own profits and have a feeling of freedom from time clocks. It was felt, also, that one is not limited in planning for the future if they are willing to work hard and to sacrifice in order to attain certain ends. About 28 percent of the wives expressed these same opinions.

### REASONS RESPONSIBLE FOR DECISIONS TO FARM PART-TIME

In the analysis of data relative to reasons why families engage in part-time farming, it was found that many responses greatly overlapped those given in the preceding section. This was particularly true of those who were non-farm reared and who had come to rural areas to live.

More than 87 percent of the husbands and nearly 85 percent of the wives among those with non-farm reared backgrounds reported that they had selected rural living because (1) it would provide an improved

**TABLE 18.—Number and Percent of Male and Female Respondents Indicating Certain Values Which They Associate with Farm Living**

| Values associated with farm living                              | Respondents   |         |               |         |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|---------|---------------|---------|
|                                                                 | Male          |         | Female        |         |
|                                                                 | (101 Records) |         | (259 Records) |         |
|                                                                 | Number        | Percent | Number        | Percent |
| Preference for the rural way of life . . . . .                  | 77            | 76.2    | 173           | 66.7    |
| Living costs are lower. . . . .                                 | 45            | 44.5    | 128           | 49.4    |
| Better place to rear children . . . . .                         | 68            | 67.3    | 195           | 75.2    |
| More healthful surroundings. . . . .                            | 40            | 39.6    | 102           | 39.3    |
| Greater economic security. . . . .                              | 39            | 38.6    | 81            | 31.2    |
| Satisfactions experienced through personal enterprise . . . . . | 59            | 58.4    | 73            | 28.1    |

environment for the children, (2) greater spaciousness for the entire family, (3) a decrease in their cost of living, and (4) additional security which could be obtained through land ownership and the opportunity to produce part of their foodstuffs.

For those with rural backgrounds and especially those who had formerly farmed full-time, the reasons were differently stated. It will be recalled that 171 of the operators represented by this study were farm reared; 80 of this number had formerly farmed full-time. Of this number (171), 85.3 percent had hopes of farming full-time eventually. For them off-farm employment represented, therefore, the means to an end. Many had hopes of accumulating sufficient capital to make down payments on farms which would provide full-time employment; others were investing in machinery, equipment, and livestock with which to operate present acreage more efficiently or to make possible the rental of a larger farm. Approximately 22 percent stated that they were using off-farm salary to improve farm buildings, to build necessary fences, and for the purchase of machinery. Thirty-three percent were using off-farm income to pay off the farm mortgage and thus to attain complete ownership status within a shorter period of time than might otherwise be possible. A large majority (74.8 percent) stated that it was impossible in their present situation to provide an adequate living for their families and/or to get ahead financially without the income received from off-farm jobs. In practically all instances, excellent attitudes were expressed with relation to their off-farm employment as well as their employers.

#### **DISADVANTAGES ASSOCIATED WITH PART-TIME FARMING**

That families were quite universally content with their choice of part-time farming has been indicated in previous data. However, it is of some interest at this point to consider some of the disadvantages as they view them. Naturally these vary with individual families and with the individual property and job involved. What to one may seem a disadvantage may be nothing extraordinary or even an advantage to another. Many of the disadvantages were mentioned by persons who, although satisfied on the whole, offered their frank opinions relative to the situation as they viewed it or for the possible benefits they might render to prospective part-time farmers.

In order to get a better picture of disadvantages and experiences encountered, some of the individual remarks are listed as follows:

1. A part of the savings in family living and associated with part-time farming come about by doing without some conveniences and family pleasures.

2. Transportation costs are increased tremendously. Driving great distances to and from work as well as to markets, taking children to town for special lessons and the like makes this a very special item in the budget.
3. Doctors and health services are not as readily available as when one lives in the city.
4. The family is confined at home during the hours of husband's employment unless two cars are available or the home is near a bus line.
5. The husband spends so many hours in travel and on both the farm and non-farm jobs that it is impossible for the family to have much free time together.
6. Part-time farming involves a complete change in the social activities of the whole family. The husband rarely has spare time to spend with community activities and the wife may be so tied down with home and farm responsibilities that she can not get away as formerly.
7. If part-time farming is to be a successful adventure, every member of the family has to cooperate.
8. When the family is inexperienced in farming, the cost of producing farm products is usually much higher than expected and expenses much more than anticipated. Beginning mistakes can be costly.
9. Getting ahead financially by trying to combine farming and non-farm employment will depend upon how much labor and time the family is willing to put into the job. To succeed will mean many hours of hard physical labor and, perhaps, sacrificing planned recreation, vacations, and regular routines.
10. Confidence in the economic returns from the farm and the continuance of off-farm income may result in the family's spending beyond what their income will justify.

In addition to the above, wives particularly referred to the following:

1. The impossibility of having a homemaking schedule when husband works odd shifts at non-farm employment and attempts farming in addition.
2. The amount of responsibility, hard work, and sometimes plain drudgery in connection with the farm and which, of necessity, must be assumed by the wife in the husband's absence.

3. The difficulty in planning for attendance at church functions, an evening with friends or any social event when one is not sure of husband's work schedule.
4. Difficulty in making friends in rural areas when the family is always occupied with work.
5. The loneliness of farm living when one is tied down with small children and can't get away from home.
6. Difficulty in getting to markets and all shopping centers when there is uncertain transportation.
7. Poor police and fire protection.

The foregoing statements would indicate that there are a fairly large number of disadvantages to be associated with part-time farming. Insofar as these families were concerned, however, advantages must outweigh the disadvantages judging by the greater frequency with which advantages were mentioned. The fact that 49 percent of the male and 36 percent of the female respondents stated that there were no disadvantages connected with this mode of living further attests to the fact.

Data set forth thus broadly covers the attitudes engendered by all families represented in this study. A more complete analysis would have to take into consideration each of the various characteristics considered in the reports and all of their various combinations. A more complete statement would have to describe the attitudes of the rural-reared and the urban-reared; the owners and the renters; those in each of the farming areas and various neighborhoods wherein families were contacted. Distinctions would have to be made between the persons who commute five miles to work and those who commute fifty-five miles and those who own and those who rent. Important differences might be noted among each of these grouping and numerous contrasts might be revealed. It is impossible to recognize all of these diversities within the scope of this study. The matter of emphasis, however, does appear important. The above information is presented, therefore, merely as the writer's impression of the principal lines of emphasis suggested in the analysis of general statistical data and of the reactions of all interviewees.

### **HOME MANAGEMENT FACTORS**

Homemaking with its numerous and varied responsibilities to be performed requires management. Whether that management is good or poor may depend upon the ability of the homemaker to organize her work. Management may be influenced, however, by a number of



factors, namely: the material resources with which the homemaker has to work; the number, health and ages of children; the degree of cooperation between husband and wife; the husband's hours at home, and frequently, by the physical arrangement, size and location of the home itself. Operating as factors nonetheless important may be certain social and economic forces within a community which influence family standards hence home management.

Because of the many tasks and decisions which appear to be the responsibility of homemakers whose husbands engage in part-time farming, it would appear that much of the success of the undertaking depends upon the place of leadership she assumes, the manner in which she organizes her work, and the attitudes which she manifests toward her job. To obtain information relative to these factors, questions asked of homemakers centered around three main points, namely: (1) preparation for the job; (2) organization and management of work, and (3) attitudes.

### **HOMEMAKER PREPARATION**

Homemakers were asked to indicate the source or sources from which they had learned the major portion of the techniques used to carry out homemaking responsibilities. The majority referred to their mothers as the chief source of training (62 percent); 23 percent stated that mothers-in-law had been a great source of help. Twenty percent referred particularly to training received in home economics courses, extension homemaker classes and the 4-H; 26 percent indicated newspapers, books, magazines, the radio and television, and printed commercial materials.

When asked if they had found it difficult to adjust to homemaking responsibilities at time of marriage, approximately 60 percent stated that it had been difficult. Insufficient preparation and lack of experience in general homemaking tasks were reasons most frequently given. Eleven percent indicated that they continued to find homemaking a real chore.

Eighty-one percent of the young homemakers expressed a desire to increase their knowledge relative to effective management. A number stated that although they had received training prior to marriage, many of the methods were inadequate for their homes. The majority wanted to know more about the economical use of time, energy, and material resources so that greater attention could be directed not only to more creative activities, but to the enjoyment of homes and more satisfying relations among family members.

## ORGANIZATION AND MANAGEMENT OF WORK

The ability to organize one's work, to accept and even to create changes in methods is closely related to the effectiveness of management. In homemaking, management will become more effective if good practices become a part of the homemaker's daily living. Few parental homes, formal or informal group situations, however, can provide a future homemaker with all the understanding and skills that she might effectively command. Further opportunities for learning are needed. This need becomes acute when the young woman finds herself in a home of her own and faced with problems which must be solved independently. It is then that she will more likely identify values, recognize reasonable goals and analyze choices. This appeared to be the point of need reached by most homemakers in this study.

In reply to the query "Have you ever used a work or time schedule in the management of household and family duties?" 92.2 percent of the group replied that they had not. The majority felt that they did not know how to organize one for the best interests of all family members. A few stated that they had tried but that husbands had not cooperated in carrying out the plan so they had given up. How to make a flexible schedule and the amount of time to allow for specific activities appeared to be of special concern, however, to a large number in this group.

When asked if they had ever tried to apply work simplification methods to certain routine jobs in the home, only 5.4 percent of the homemakers replied in the affirmative. Here again the real problem appeared to be one of approach—which task to start with, and how best apply work simplification methods to it.

The need for skills which revolve around the daily management of food was stressed as a very real problem by 38 percent of the homemakers. Increased knowledge relative to most desirable marketing procedures; the planning, preparation and serving of nutritious meals; desirable short-cuts, and best methods of food storage was desired by these women.

Since the adequacy of materials and equipment for good home-making practices and cooperation by family members influence the management of homes, these areas were explored.

Eighty-nine of the homemakers felt that they had adequate equipment with which to carry out their homemaking responsibilities. Although desires were expressed for certain additional pieces of equipment which might be helpful, homemakers usually stated that these were

not items absolutely essential. Indications were that many would like to have automatic washers and dryers but that these would have to wait until other equipment was purchased or water and plumbing were adequate to permit installation. In families where it was mentioned that equipment was inadequate, the sewing machine and home freezer were most frequently referred to as being needed. Most referred to the home freezer as being necessary for storage of food in amounts required to carry the family from one shopping trip to another.

Sixty-one percent of the homemakers felt that their husbands might do more than they were presently doing to assist with household tasks. Complaints voiced would indicate that the majority felt that they carried considerable responsibility connected with the farm during the husband's absence on the non-farm job, and that the husband was either too busy or complained of being too tired when he reached home to help them. These statements came more frequently from young women with non-farm backgrounds and those with very young children.

Successful farm family living is said to depend upon the degree to which all family members cooperate in planning and carrying out responsibilities related to both farm and household tasks. Since the children of families included in this study were too young to be of help, information was obtained only about those farm and home tasks in which the husband and wife most often assisted the other. This information is shown in Figure 5.

Food marketing appears to be the one activity in which both husband and wife most frequently cooperated simultaneously. Other tasks, although indicative of cooperation, were more often done because of the absence of one or the other from the farm. As for example, 52 percent of the wives reported that they cared for farm livestock in the husband's absence; 46 percent stated that they usually did the afternoon milking. Thirty-nine percent of the wives reported that the major care of home gardens befell their lot, and 30 percent reported that they tried to keep lawns mowed.

Homemakers frequently complained that husbands were unable to give much time to the care of children. This, they considered to be, one of the greatest disadvantages of trying to farm and also work at a full-time non-farm occupation. This is evidenced by the fact that only 57 percent reported assisting each other in this respect.

Other activities in which couples frequently assisted the other and in the order stated were as follows: (1) wiping dishes, 18 percent; (2) meal preparation, 9 percent; (3) weekly cleaning, 5 percent; (4) in the canning and freezing of surplus garden foodstuffs, 5 percent.

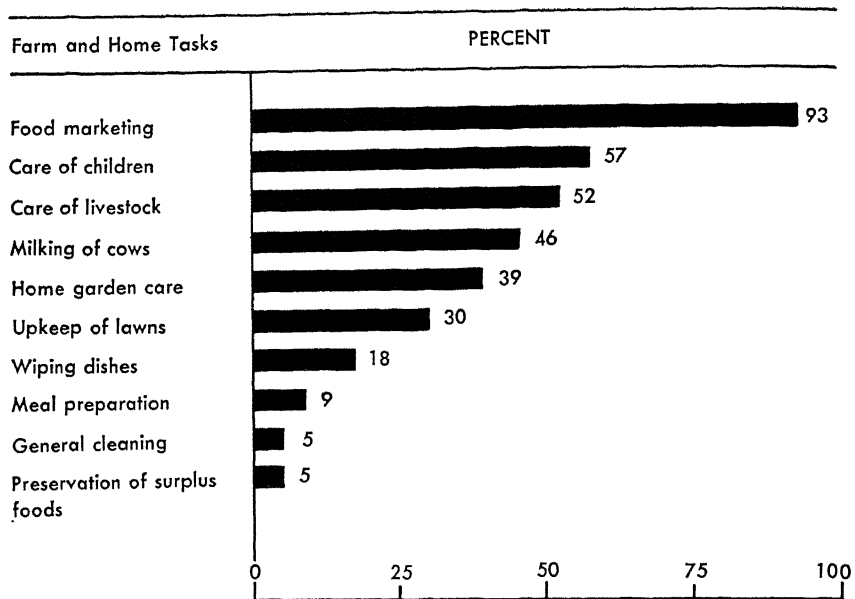


Fig. 5.—This chart shows the amount of cooperation of the husband and wife in performing the farm and home tasks in which they most often assisted each other. They vary from a high of marketing to a low of general cleaning.

### ATTITUDES

For the most part, homemakers appeared to accept their responsibilities cheerfully. They accepted work on the farm and any inconveniences encountered in the home as necessary if long-time family goals were to be attained. That they were not desirous of changing their rural residence for, perhaps, an easier one in the city was evidenced by their whole-hearted approval of farm living. Their only concerns appeared to center in the knowledge that there might be ways to do their rural homemaking job more efficiently, with less confusion, and greater dispatch.

These concerns will naturally influence the management of the home, will affect the manner in which certain responsibilities are approached and carried out, and will tend to form a guiding point of view or certain attitudes relative to family living. To secure data relative to attitudes toward specific farm and home tasks, three questions

were asked. These were: (1) Which farm or homemaking activity do you find most enjoyable? (2) Which activity is the most disliked? (3) Which activity causes the greatest fatigue? Replies are summarized in Table 19.

The planning and preparation of meals was the activity most enjoyed by 53 percent of the homemakers. Next in the order of mention were the following: (1) care of the garden, 18.6 percent; (2) mending and sewing, 18 percent; (3) the care of livestock, 6.1 percent; and (4) dishwashing, 4.3 percent. It is significant that homemakers mentioned the care of garden and livestock as being enjoyable activities and, perhaps, further attests to their interest and enjoyment of farm living.

Cleaning, ironing, washing clothes, dishwashing, milking, and meal planning, each in the order given, were activities most disliked. The percent indicating the latter two activities was small.

It is interesting to note that just as cleaning and ironing rated first and second as disliked tasks, they also rated first and second as ones

**TABLE 19.—Number and Percent of Homemakers Indicating Certain Attitudes Relative to Specific Farm and Home Activities (259 records)**

| Activity                      | Attitudes      |         |               |         |                          |         |
|-------------------------------|----------------|---------|---------------|---------|--------------------------|---------|
|                               | Most enjoyable |         | Most disliked |         | Causing greatest fatigue |         |
|                               | Number         | Percent | Number        | Percent | Number                   | Percent |
| Cleaning .....                | —              | —       | 110           | 42.5    | 129                      | 49.8    |
| Washing clothes .....         | —              | —       | 35            | 13.6    | 53                       | 20.4    |
| Ironing .....                 | —              | —       | 77            | 29.8    | 57                       | 22.0    |
| Milking .....                 | —              | —       | 10            | 3.8     | 8                        | 3.1     |
| Mending and sewing .....      | 46             | 18.0    | —             | —       | —                        | —       |
| Planning and meal preparation | 138            | 53.0    | 9             | 3.4     | —                        | —       |
| Care of livestock .....       | 16             | 6.1     | —             | —       | 12                       | 4.7     |
| Dishwashing .....             | 11             | 4.3     | 18            | 6.9     | —                        | —       |
| Care of garden .....          | 48             | 18.6    | —             | —       | —                        | —       |
| Total .....                   | 259            | 100.0   | 259           | 100.0   | 259                      | 100.0   |

causing greatest fatigue. Next in the order of tasks causing fatigue were: (1) washing clothes, 20.4 percent; (2) care of livestock, 4.7 percent; and (3) milking, only 3.1 percent.

Frequently stated as reasons for a particular dislike of certain tasks were the many steps necessary to do the job, its monotony, the regularity of the job, the need for standing to do it, inadequate storage and the lack of proper equipment. Here again it appeared that homemakers might profit by information relative to the organization of work, time and energy step-saving movements, kinds of equipment to buy and the types best suited to specific tasks.

## **FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS**

In previous sections of this report a number of factors affecting the homes and family lives of a group of young families have been discussed. The physical aspect of homes and their surroundings, the management of money, the home and personal satisfactions are each important it would appear. Without doubt, however, the all-important phase of family living is the actual relationships which exist among family members and particularly the husband and wife. The values and attitudes which they share in common and their ultimate goals in relation to each other are of fundamental importance to the success of their relationships and, therefore, to the pattern of successful family living. To determine the degree to which participants shared certain values and attitudes in common appeared to be an important part of this study.

### **ATTITUDES TOWARD MARRIAGE AND FAMILY LIVING**

Each interviewee was asked to name the major factors which, in his or her opinion, contribute to successful marriage and family living. Table 20 summarizes their replies.

It is interesting to note that the factor most frequently mentioned by both male and female respondents was that of cooperation, of working together and sharing the same philosophy of life. Second in the order of frequency mentioned by both sexes was the desire for, and love of children. It is equally interesting, however, to observe that men more frequently mentioned "sufficient income to provide for a satisfactory standard of living" than did women. The replies of male respondents resulted in this item being ranked third in importance by them (71.2 percent); replies of female respondents placed this as fifth in order of frequency (58.6 percent).

**TABLE 20.—Major Factors Which, in the Opinion of 101 Male and 259 Female Interviewees, Contribute to the Success of Marriage and Family Living**

| Factor                                                                            | Respondents |         |        |         |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|---------|--------|---------|
|                                                                                   | Male        |         | Female |         |
|                                                                                   | Number      | Percent | Number | Percent |
| Cooperation—working together, same philosophy of life . . . . .                   | 83          | 82.8    | 229    | 88.4    |
| Desire for, and love of children . . . . .                                        | 75          | 74.2    | 208    | 80.3    |
| Sufficient income to provide for a satisfactory standard of living . . . . .      | 72          | 71.2    | 152    | 58.6    |
| Similar backgrounds (religious, economic, family type) . . . . .                  | 64          | 63.3    | 183    | 70.6    |
| Good health . . . . .                                                             | 53          | 52.4    | 179    | 69.1    |
| Making the best of situations which arise in marriage and family living . . . . . | 40          | 39.6    | 111    | 42.5    |
| Truth and loyalty to one's mate . . . . .                                         | 25          | 24.8    | 32     | 12.3    |
| Having one's own home and living apart from relatives . . . . .                   | 19          | 18.8    | 147    | 56.7    |
| Patience . . . . .                                                                | 9           | 8.9     | —      | —       |

Both men and women appeared to be in approximate agreement relative to the importance of similar backgrounds. This ranked fourth in the order of frequency named by men and third in importance by the women reporting.

Other factors indicated by men and in the order stated were: (1) good health, 52.4 percent; (2) making the most of situations as they arise, 39.6 percent; (3) being truthful and loyal to one's mate, 24.8 percent; (4) having one's own home and living apart from relatives, 18.8 percent; (5) patience, 8.9 percent. Women, on the other hand, referred to the following: (1) good health, 69.1 percent; (2) having one's own home and living apart from relatives, 56.7 percent; (3) making the best of situations as they arise, 42.5 percent; (4) truth and loyalty to one's mate, 12.3 percent.

It appeared, therefore, that the majority of men and women in this study had similar attitudes relative to marriage and were not unaware of the many contributory factors which may make for successful family living.

#### **WAYS BY WHICH HOME AND FAMILY LIFE MIGHT BE IMPROVED**

Participants were asked to indicate ways by which their home and family life might be improved. Table 21 summarizes their replies. It is to be noted that factors which have appeared throughout this study as major influences upon the home and family life of families are again brought into clear focus. These are (1) the need and desire for greater contacts of a family-recreational and community nature, (2) the need for information and assistance relative to improved management of the farm and home enterprise, (3) the desire to either secure, enlarge upon, or to improve present holdings of land to make full-time farming possible, and (4) the desire for a convenient, comfortably furnished home.

Of interest because of the frequency with which it was stated, was the desire for leisure-time activities. In this connection, families did not appear to consider such activities merely as something in which they alone would participate, but rather as recreational activity spent in the company of other families. A large number referred especially to socials, parties, games, out-door sports, picnics, and other outing activities. The differences in type of leisure-time activity desired, as expressed by men and women, were not significant.

Another interesting discovery in connection with data shown in Table 21 was the fact that there was no significant areal variations in responses. In view of this, one is led to believe that background, farming area or community, and other variables have little significance when young married couples face the problem of finding suitable opportunities for activity of an educational and recreational nature.

It would appear, therefore, that organizations serving farm families could well note the above. The promotion of socials, parties, out-door sports and other activities might well be considered in program planning and as helping to cement good relationships among all who live in rural communities.



It is interesting, also, that only 11.8 percent of the men and only 13.8 percent of the women reported that their home and family life might be improved by moving to town and giving up the idea of farming. Some felt, however, that by selling their present place and buying another closer to town, to schools, and in a friendlier community present satisfactions with farm family living could be improved.

**TABLE 21.—Number and Percent of Respondents Who Indicated Specific Ways by Which Their Home and Family Life Might Be Improved**

| Ways of improving home and family life                                                            | Respondents   |         |               |         |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|---------|---------------|---------|
|                                                                                                   | Male          |         | Female        |         |
|                                                                                                   | (101 Records) |         | (259 Records) |         |
|                                                                                                   | Number        | Percent | Number        | Percent |
| No replies: satisfied with present conditions . . .                                               | 8             | 7.9     | 11            | 4.2     |
| More leisure-time activities: family not always so rushed . . . . .                               | 69            | 68.3    | 188           | 72.2    |
| Own land of size to permit full-time farming and provide adequate family income . . . . .         | 71            | 70.2    | 163           | 62.9    |
| Live nearer husband's off-farm job thus less travel and at home earlier than now possible . . .   | 25            | 24.7    | 83            | 32.0    |
| Greater understanding of techniques of farm and home management . . . . .                         | 73            | 72.2    | 193           | 74.5    |
| More facilities in the community for sociability and recreation for all family members . . . .    | 63            | 62.3    | 179           | 69.1    |
| Increased income to permit more satisfactory family living . . . . .                              | 52            | 51.4    | 151           | 58.3    |
| Move to town and give up the idea of farming . .                                                  | 12            | 11.8    | 36            | 13.8    |
| Have husband's income increased so wife could give up her job . . . . .                           | 15            | 14.8    | 17            | 6.5     |
| Live nearer town thus entire family would not be so isolated . . . . .                            | 31            | 30.6    | 65            | 25.0    |
| Have a more modern and a better equipped house                                                    | 48            | 47.5    | 157           | 60.6    |
| Greater opportunity for wife to mingle with friends and neighbors thus not be so lonely . . . . . | 19            | 18.8    | 180           | 69.4    |
| Sell present farm and buy another closer to schools and in a friendlier community . . . . .       | 20            | 19.8    | 57            | 22.0    |

## FAMILY GOALS

Family goals are largely determined by the native dispositions of the husband-wife combination, their total experiences, educational background, habits, and physical and social heritage. To be a motivating force in building satisfactory family living, goals should be mutually agreed upon and appeal vitally to individual family members. Furthermore, they should be definite and attainable. Discussion with husbands and wives about their major long-term goals and ambitions revealed that young families in this study did not necessarily look upon the accumulation of money or savings as an end product but rather in terms of what they hoped money could do for them and their families. That the majority were working long hours endeavoring to attain certain goals by means of income received in non-farm employment as well as through certain benefits derived by farm living has been made clear in previous data.

In reply to free answer questions, it appeared that statements relative to the specific goals of these 270 families could be grouped under three major headings—those related to the family, those related to material and economic security, and those concerned with associations beyond the family and extending into the community. Furthermore, the frequency with which both husbands and wives mentioned identical goals, indicated that the majority of couples in the study were in full agreement as to what they were endeavoring to accomplish over a long-time period (Table 22).

To have a wholesome, happy family life, to educate the children and give them a good start in life came out most frequently as goals related to home and family. These were evidenced by such statements as "We want happy healthy children." "We want children to be proud of." "We hope to give them a good start in life." "We hope to give them a good education." The majority of families looked forward to travel, and to a position in life wherein financial restrictions would not affect the reasonable direction of their time and energies into more personally desired channels. In this connection, they mentioned time for self-improvement, hobbies, and other recreational and educational activities.

To achieve financial security and to have a comfortable and convenient home came out most frequently as a material and economic goal. Frequently mentioned here was the desire for assurance against unforeseen losses or disabilities through established or recognized means and a standard of living comparable to that enjoyed by neighbors and other community members.

A significant finding was the fact that 78 or 77.2 percent of the male respondents and 186 or 71.8 percent of the female respondents stated that one of their goals was full-time farming. When such replies were re-grouped and analyzed, not by individual respondents but by families, a total of 204 or 75.5 percent of all families included in this study had as one of their goals—full-time farming.

Of further interest was the fact that interviewees so frequently expressed the desire to be known as useful citizens and to have the respect of the community. To work for the welfare of the community and to be more active in the work of its organizations were considered as goals by the majority of families herein represented. Thus it would appear that couples engaged in part-time farming are not unmindful of community needs and their civic responsibilities with respect to it. On

**TABLE 22.—Number and Percent of Respondents Indicating Certain Long-Term Family Goals**

| Long-term Family Goals                                                                       | Respondents   |         |               |         |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|---------|---------------|---------|
|                                                                                              | Male          |         | Female        |         |
|                                                                                              | (101 Records) |         | (259 Records) |         |
|                                                                                              | Number        | Percent | Number        | Percent |
| <b>Home and Family</b>                                                                       |               |         |               |         |
| To have a wholesome, well-rounded happy family life . . . . .                                | 97            | 96.0    | 250           | 96.5    |
| Educate children: Give them a good start in life . . . . .                                   | 90            | 89.1    | 247           | 95.3    |
| To foster conditions which provide for good health of all family members . . . . .           | 82            | 81.1    | 239           | 92.2    |
| To travel, to have some time for leisure activity:<br>To have some fun out of life . . . . . | 95            | 94.0    | 255           | 98.4    |
| <b>Material and Economic</b>                                                                 |               |         |               |         |
| To achieve financial security . . . . .                                                      | 101           | 100.0   | 251           | 96.9    |
| To have a comfortable and convenient home . . . . .                                          | 67            | 66.3    | 233           | 89.9    |
| To farm full-time: To have a comfortable living from it . . . . .                            | 78            | 77.2    | 186           | 71.8    |
| <b>Community</b>                                                                             |               |         |               |         |
| To have community respect: To be known as useful citizens . . . . .                          | 88            | 87.1    | 240           | 96.5    |
| To be more active in community work and community welfare . . . . .                          | 54            | 53.4    | 227           | 87.6    |

the basis of previous data, however, it appears that they remain to be challenged by present organizations and encouraged to participate in established programs.

In concluding this section, therefore, at least two analytical observations are in order. The first seems to be the fact that young families engaged in part-time farming do have well-defined goals and that such goals will hold the keys to many of their actions. The second observation is even more evident. It is that home and family happiness and occupational pursuits are important in the minds of these families. Both these observations are pertinent in terms of organizations attempting to work with this group. Furthermore, if such families are to be motivated by community leadership or stimulated to activity in community organizations, workers planning such activity must think in terms of these goals also.

### **SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS**

In this study an attempt has been made to point up (1) some of the major influences affecting the home and family life of a group of young families engaged in part-time farming, and (2) on the basis of data secured, to make possible suggestions for program building which would have value for community organizations and agencies interested in their needs.

Obviously the complete story of these families or the influences of part-time farming upon their lives cannot be told at the present time. It is doubtful if any one study could be so ambitious as to propose to cover every facet of the complexities involved. It is hoped, however, that this limited view will leave the reader with a clearer understanding of some of the significant factors which compel and influence a group of families in Ohio to combine farming and non-farm employment in their efforts to attain a satisfactory mode of living and, perhaps, long-time family goals. The relevant findings are summarized below.

Information relative to the study was obtained through personal interviews with husbands and/or wives representing a total of 270 families located in each of the three generalized farming areas of the state. The young men were, on an average, 30.1 years of age; the wives 26.3 years. They had been married, on an average, 8.2 years and had an average of 2.9 children per family. The health status of all family members was generally good.

The majority of men and women had rural backgrounds; 171 or 63.3 percent of the men and 162 or 60 percent of the women so reported. Only 21 percent of the families contacted represented a marriage wherein both husband and wife were non-farm reared.

Of the 270 families, 207 or 76.6 percent were classified as farm owners; 63 or 23.4 percent as renters. Eighty of the 270 operators had formerly farmed full-time. Each of the non-farm reared operators (99) owned their farms; 108 or 63.1 percent of the farm reared were owners. The average farm constituted about 42 acres each; farms ranged in size from 10 to 110 acres.

The majority of all operators (75.5 percent) hoped to farm full-time eventually. When data were analyzed by place of rearing, figures indicate that 85.3 percent of all farm reared men hoped to farm full-time at some point in the future; 57.5 percent of the non-farm reared were desirous of attaining similar status.

Off-farm employment represented a wide variety of industries and occupations. Factories, however, appeared to represent the employment of the majority (54.4 percent). Almost three-fourths (74.8 percent) of the families stated that it would be impossible to provide an adequate living for their families and/or to get ahead financially without the income received from such employment. Significant, also, was the fact that one out of every six wives represented by the study was working. Stated as reasons was the need to supplement husband's income.

Men and women traveled varying distances to non-farm jobs. The majority, however, lived within 20 miles of their place of work.

Family levels of living and the formal schooling of both men and women were fairly high. Of the young men, 46.3 percent had completed high school and another 4.1 percent had completed 13 or more years of school. Of the young women, over 58 percent of the total group had completed high school and another 3 percent had 13 or more years of schooling. Such training and experience appeared to have resulted in family demands for a higher standard of living. Interviewees indicated, however, that such formal training had not adequately prepared them with all the knowledge and skills that they might effectively use either in farming or in homemaking. In this connection, they desired further information and help with farm and home problems. Stressed particularly was the desire for greater knowledge relative to time and energy management in the home and on the farm, the management and proper allocation of income received from both the farm and non-farm job, the purchasing and management of household and farm equipment, and special problems connected with the management of small farms.

Data indicate that there is a definite need for increasing the number of personal contacts of families with recognized sources of farm and home information. The age of the operator or his wife, the degree of

schooling, background, or location within specific farming areas did not significantly influence their need or desire for such.

A relatively small percent of families were members of or active in organizations of any type. It appeared, however, that they could be encouraged and stimulated toward greater participation in organized activities if greater emphasis were placed on their needs by program planners. Mentioned frequently in this respect was the fact that organizations needed to afford greater opportunities for social and recreational activities and greater opportunity for family rather than individual participation.

Of considerable concern to families was the long-term problem of accumulating cash and/or necessary credit for purpose of enlarging or improving the present farm unit. In the mean time, every effort was being made to modernize and adequately equip the farm dwelling. Evidence indicated that a considerable portion of the operator's free time as well as the non-farm income was being used in the improvement of homes lived in.

Families were quite universally content with rural living. Over three-fourths of the male and approximately two-thirds of the female respondents were emphatic in their assertion that the main consideration prompting them to stay out of the city or to leave the city was a preference for the rural way of life. Next in importance and closely linked with the preference for rural living was the belief that the country is a better place in which to rear children. Over 44 percent of the male and approximately 50 percent of the homemakers stated that living costs were lower in the country. About 38 percent of the male and 31 percent of the female respondents expressed the opinion that rural living provides additional economic security against the hazards of job lay-offs, depressions, or handicapping illnesses. The majority of men (58 percent) stated that the satisfactions experienced through personal enterprise was one of the values to be associated with farming.

To have a wholesome, happy family life, to educate the children and give them a good start in life, to attain some degree of financial security, to ultimately farm full-time, to be known as useful citizens in the community, and to work for the welfare of the community appeared to be the major goals and compelling forces influencing the majority of the part-time farm families contacted.

In conclusion, much of the above information should be of interest to community leaders and persons professionally interested in bettering rural life. In fact, the needs and problems of part-time farm families as implied in the findings of this study, represents a definite challenge to all who are sincerely concerned with this group in our population.