

THE NEW COMMUNITY . . .

**Characteristics of Migrant and Non-Migrant
Residents in the Rural Fringe of a
Metropolitan Area in Ohio**

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THE NEW COMMUNITY . . . Characteristics of Migrant and Non-Migrant

Residents in the Rural Fringe of a Metropolitan Area in Ohio

Wade H. Andrews and J. Ross Eshleman

INTRODUCTION

In the past 25 years the rapid growth of population surrounding cities and towns has produced a new social phenomenon of considerable importance to the citizen, the administrator, and the social scientist. The past two decades brought with it a major shift in migration patterns. The nature of this shift involves a movement of people from the urban centers and to some extent from rural areas to the fringe areas that surround the metropolitan center. Prior to the 1960 census reports, the proportion of people living in urban areas had increased gradually ever since the first Federal Census in 1790. The surplus of farm labor, which resulted primarily from high rural birth rates, mechanization and an increase in the size of farms, forced a continual flow of people from the rural farm areas to the metropolitan centers and their satellite cities. Conversely, urban levels of living, greater individual opportunity and better paying jobs attracted the young rural adults.

During the last quarter of a century the growth of the suburbs and rural fringe areas steadily outstripped that of the urban centers. The rate of growth of most of the major cities has slowed markedly, while the areas around them have grown at a remarkably rapid rate. The surplus of farm labor continues to feed the cities, but the major migration pattern has changed to growth in the fringe areas which surround the cities. Improved highways and automobiles, suburban shopping centers and improved community services have enabled people to live farther from their jobs and yet enjoy the conveniences formerly found only in the city.

Purpose of the Study

A review of the available literature about fringe research reveals a lack of systematic study of the rural fringe itself. Most of the studies of fringe areas are concerned with the urban fringe or highly urbanized parts of the fringe closely related to the central city.

This report analyzes some social changes occurring in the rural fringe and describes the characteristics of the residents residing there. It intends to:

- (1) Discuss the population growth and changes due to migration.
- (2) Analyze and compare the old residents and the migrants as to sex and age composition,

marital status, number of children, educational level, length of residence, origin of the migrants, and occupational composition.

- (3) Analyze and compare the farmers and the non-farmers as to age, education, place of birth, place reared, number of children, marital status, home ownership, plans to move, place of main occupation, and the advantages and disadvantages of living in the rural fringe.
- (4) Present several aspects of the status of farming in the rural fringe.
- (5) Discuss some consequences of the migration to the rural fringe.

Description and Definition of the Rural Fringe Studied

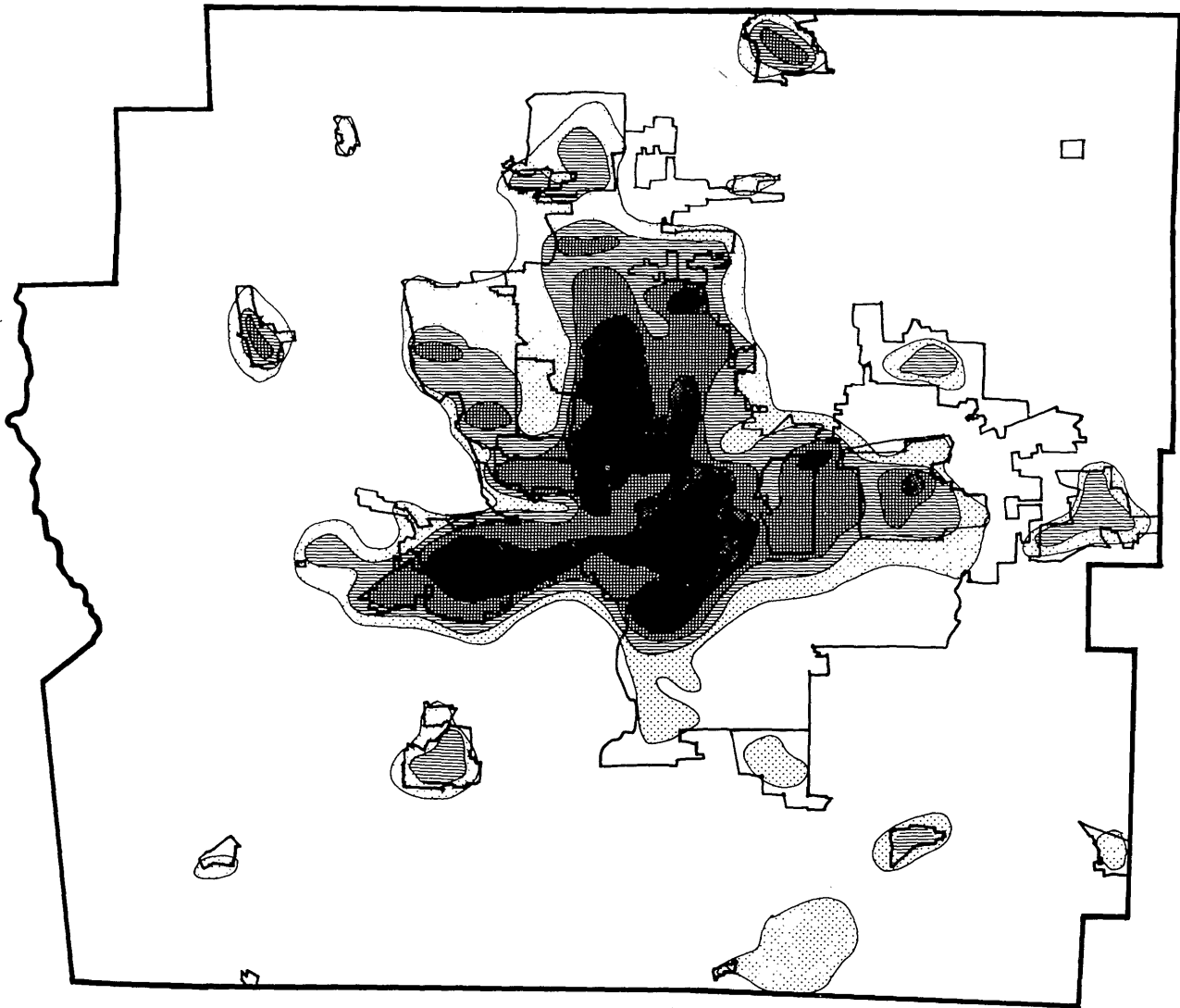
The locale of this study is the rural fringe area of Columbus, Ohio. The 1950 and 1960 censuses of population define the Standard Metropolitan Area of Columbus as comprising Franklin County¹.

The rural fringe as defined in this study, includes the unincorporated open country area that falls within the standard metropolitan area and outside of the suburban areas contiguous to the central city. According to this definition the outer limits of the urbanized area of Columbus and the Franklin County boundaries respectively provide the inner and outer boundaries of the rural fringe of Columbus. The population living in places that were incorporated that lie within the area defined as the rural fringe are excluded from the present study.

Franklin County occupies a nearly central geographical position in relation to the State of Ohio and has an area of 538 square miles. The City of Columbus, although irregular in its outline covers the central area of the county. In 1956, there were sixteen incorporated places in Franklin County outside of Columbus and its urbanized suburban area.

Figure 1 shows the density of population in Franklin County by using approximate contour style outlines to show the areas covered by the categories of different densities. The black and near black areas show the typically crowded areas of a large city. The lighter areas on the outer edges show the effect of larger lots and fewer houses. These areas are also characterized by the type of housing found

¹1959 United States Census of Population, Volume II, p-B 35, p. 16.



Contour Map of People per Square Mile







15,000 AND OVER	
10,000 TO 14,999	
5,000 TO 9,999	
2,500 TO 4,999	
1,000 TO 2,499	
0 TO 999	

Fig. 1—Population Density of Columbus and Franklin County, 1960

in them. In the very dense section, older houses are placed very close together, often without driveways for automobiles. Such development occurred in relation to the street car and walking era of several decades ago.

The peripheral area of Figure 1 shows less density. It was found to have newer homes with residents dependent on individual automobile transportation. They also had new concepts in living space, shown in the larger size of lots surrounding their homes.

The white area surrounding the city designates the least densely populated sections which are both farming and residential living. It is the area in this study which is identified as the rural fringe. As a residential area it is completely dependent upon automotive transportation for moving to and from work, shopping, schools, and most institutional activities.

Methods Used in the Study

Two criteria determined the universe of population. First, persons must have been residents of the rural fringe of Columbus for at least six months. Second, they must have been household heads of either sex. The first criterion would exclude migratory workers. The second criterion focused the study upon those who have made the decision about the location of their residence.

A test of significance of probability using the Chi Square technique was applied to almost all tables relating two variables, old residents and migrants or farm and non-farm.

The Sample

The selection of the sample followed a two-step method. This method resulted in 303 completed interviews.²

Characteristics of the Sample

The sex composition of the respondents in the sample is 44.5 percent women and 55.5 percent men. Among the old residents 39.8 percent were women and 60.2 percent men. There was a higher proportion of farmers among the old residents, and men were more often available for interviews. The proportions of women and men respondents among the migrants were 48.2 percent and 51.8 percent respectively. There were no racial divisions that appeared in the sample indicating the universe in this type of population is largely, if not all, racially white.

Population Characteristics of the Area

A comparison of population growth in the different

parts of the standard metropolitan area during the period of 1940 to 1960 is shown in Table 1. This illustrates the magnitude of population changes in Franklin County.

The largest percentages of growth in Franklin County occurred in areas other than the City of Columbus. The "other urban" category shows an increase of 172.6 percent from 1940-1950 and an increase of 139.8 percent from 1950-1960. What the table does not indicate is that much of this "other urban" area was largely rural fringe land in 1940. Thus one area of very rapid growth was the rural fringe locality that has been incorporated and annexed. Since 1940, therefore, the census data shows the increase as part of the urban growth in any place where the population total exceeded 2500.

To give an indication of the population growth in the rural non-farm areas, an additional category "rural non-farm 1950 area" was added. This category shows the population figures for the rural non-farm area with the 1950 land area held constant. That is, if no annexation had occurred, the growth pattern would have shown an increase of 84.7 percent in the rural non-farm area rather than the loss of 5.3 percent.

The rural farm population was considerably reduced during the decade of 1950 to 1960. As was shown, the urban population surrounding the city of Columbus followed the pattern established in the 1940's and was the fastest growing segment of population in the

²The procedure employed in the selection of the area sample is as follows:

1. The area of the rural fringe was delineated on a 1955 Franklin County Highway Map divided into a grid of squares made on a scale of 1" equaled one mile.
2. All the squares which fell partly or totally within the urbanized area or the urban fringe area were excluded. This eliminated the possibility of the selection of any individuals who reside in an urban locale.
3. The rest of the squares, which totaled 269, were numbered consecutively and a random sample of 67 squares or 25 percent was selected.

After the selection of the area sample, the population sample was selected by the use of the township plot maps and (2) the plot maps of real estate subdivisions. These maps are located in the County Engineer's Office. These maps include all property with the names of owners kept up to date.

The procedural steps used in the selection of the population sample from the sample areas are as follows:

1. The names of the owners of farms or lots included in these square miles were copied on a list. Names of the owners of property that fell in part within the area sample were included if these parts constituted approximately 50 percent or more of the total property. The plot maps of real estate subdivisions were used whenever a subdivided area came up in the sample.
2. The final list of names obtained included 1491 people who owned property in the sample area. This property varied from large farmers to small house lots. From among these names a 25 percent sample was drawn at random. This step yielded 372 names which were used in the initial sample.

The sample outcome, however, was somewhat smaller in size. Out of the 372 names of the initial sample, forty-eight owned the property, but had no residences built on them. Thirty-seven out of these forty-eight pieces of property were located in subdivided areas and only eleven were farm property. Ten names could not be located, six resided in the rural fringe for less than six months, and seven refused to be interviewed. The outcome of the sample was 303 household heads from both sexes for whom interviews were completed.

TABLE 1.—Population Changes in Columbus and Franklin County, Ohio, During the Periods 1940-1950*; 1950-1960, by Residence and With the 1950 Rural Non-Farm Area Held Constant in 1960.**

Type of Population	1940	1950	1960	Change 40-50	% Change 40-50	Change 50-60	% Change 50-60
City of Columbus	306,087	375,901	471,316	69,814	22.8	95,415	25.4
Other Urban***	24,181	65,918	158,071	41,737	172.6	92,153	139.8
Total Urban	330,268	441,819	629,387	111,551	33.8	187,568	42.5
Rural Non-Farm	42,863	50,878	48,185	8,015	18.7	-2,693	-5.3
Rural Farm	15,583	10,713	5,390	-4,870	-31.3	-5,323	-49.7
Total Rural	58,446	61,591	53,575	3,145	5.4	-8,016	-13.0
Rural Non-Farm 1950 Area	42,863	50,878	93,970	8,015	18.7	43,092	84.7
Total	388,714	503,410	682,962	114,696	29.5	179,552	35.7

*U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1950 United States Census of Population, Ohio, Number of Inhabitants, P - A35.

**U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1960 Census of Population, Ohio, Number of Inhabitants, PC (1) 37A.

***Urban consists of all villages or cities of over 2,500 population. All rural and urban figures are as defined in the census for the year investigated.

standard metropolitan area. This growth was so rapid that several small villages of less than 1,000 expanded through annexation and took on official Ohio city status of 5,000 or more people by 1960. This along with the large annexations which doubled the geographical area of the city of Columbus, accounted for the high percent of urban growth.

According to the definitions given, a high proportion of the rural non-farm people are rural fringe residents. The increase of the urban population other than the

City of Columbus by 139.8 percent from 1950 to 1960, and the increase in the total urban population by 42.5 percent in the same period points out that the major areas of population gain within the standard metropolitan area was the urban and rural fringe areas surrounding the central city. The loss of 31.3 percent of the rural farm population and the gain of 18.7 percent of the rural non-farm population in the decade from 1940 to 1950 indicates the extent to which the rural areas are being incorporated, annexed, and taking on the characteristics of urbanized areas.

CHARACTERISTICS OF RURAL FRINGE INHABITANTS

Old Residents and Migrants Defined

Individuals who have lived in the rural fringe communities of Franklin County since before 1940 are considered here as "old residents". Those referred to as "new residents" or "migrants" are those who have moved to these communities and lived in the rural fringe sixteen years or less.³ The following account indicates the characteristics of these two segments of the rural fringe population.

Length of Residence

The length of residence of respondents in the rural fringe communities at the time of conducting the interviews is presented in Table 2.

³Had the cutting date been placed at 1946, it would have made a difference of only 14 persons so the 1940 date originally set was used.

The migrants were considered to be the 170 respondents who had lived in the rural fringe sixteen years or less. The 133 respondents who had lived in the rural fringe more than sixteen years or before 1940, were considered as old residents. As can be seen in Table 2, when the two migrant groups are combined, 56.1 percent were migrants as compared to 43.9 percent who are identified as old residents.

One out of five respondents had lived in the rural fringe less than five years, but on the other hand, one out of every two of all respondents living in the rural fringe had lived there 14 years or more.

Age Composition

Table 3 shows no respondents were under twenty-five years of age.

TABLE 2.—The Length of Residence of Respondents in the Rural Fringe Communities

Length of Residence	Number	Percent
Less than 2 years	14	4.6
2 - 3 years	19	6.3
4 - 5 years	34	11.2
Migrants (after 1950) Total	67	22.1
6 - 7 years	25	8.3
8 - 9 years	23	7.6
10 - 11 years	19	6.3
12 - 13 years	15	4.9
14 - 16 years	21	6.9
Migrants (1940 - 1950) Total	103	34.0
17 years or more or Old Residents	133	43.9
Total	303	100.0

There is a negative relationship between age and migration. The migrants were significantly younger than the old residents.

The average age of all the rural fringe respondents was approximately 48 years. Fifty-five percent of all the respondents were 45 years of age or older, however, this average was strongly affected by the old residents. The largest or modal age group for the old residents was the 55 to 64 year group, for the new residents, it was twenty years younger, from 35 to 44. There were 58.8 percent of the migrants under forty-five years as compared to 27.8 percent of the old residents. Over fifty-five years of age, the proportions were 14.1 percent and 54.9 percent for the migrants and the old residents respectively.

One indication of these figures is that younger married couples are not establishing their places of residence in the rural fringe. With the median age at first marriage in the United States being 22.8 for males and 20.3 for females as of March 1960, it is quite surprising that this sample had no married couples under age twenty-five.

Marital Status

The data showing the marital status of respondents is presented in Table 4. The category described as single includes those who never had been married. The major differences in marital status between old residents and migrants was in presently married and widowed. A very large proportion, 55.9 percent, of the

TABLE 3.—Age Composition of Old Residents and Migrants

Ages	Old Residents		Migrants		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
25 - 34	10	7.5	35	20.6	45	14.8
35 - 44	27	20.3	65	38.2	92	30.4
45 - 54	23	17.3	46	27.1	69	22.8
55 - 64	44	33.1	15	8.8	59	19.5
65 and over	29	21.8	9	5.3	38	12.5
Total	133	100.0	170	100.0	303	100.0

$\chi^2 = 58.4$ d. f. = 4 Probability Level Above .001

TABLE 4.—Marital Status of Old Residents and Migrants

Marital Status ¹	Old Residents		Migrants		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Single	7	5.3	1	0.6	8	2.6
Married	104	78.2	163	95.9	267	88.1
Widowed	20	15.0	6	3.5	26	8.6
Divorced	2	1.5	0	0.0	2	0.7
Total	133	100.0	170	100.0	303	100.0

$\chi^2 = 20.3$ d.f. = 2 Probability Level Above .001

migrants were reported as presently married. A larger percentage of widowed respondents, 15.0, were reported among the old residents. When added together to get those "ever married" there was little difference. Single respondents were also somewhat higher in proportion among the old residents than among the migrants. The proportions were 5.3 percent among the first and .6 percent among the second segment of the sample. Only two, or .7 percent, of the 303 respondents were divorced. Marriage was definitely a characteristic norm for the migrants. They moved as family units. When age was controlled a similar finding resulted. In each age group where husband and wife were present, marriage was more prevalent for the migrants than for the old residents (See Table 29 in Appendix II).

Number of Children

Another characteristic general to both old residents and migrants was the number of children. The number of living children was similar even when a correction for age differences was made. The average number of living children for the total sample in the rural fringe area was 2.26. This is higher than the United States

average of 1.4 children per family, age 18 or under.⁴ Table 5 shows only 11.9 percent of the respondents had no children, 48.1 percent had one or two, 32.2 percent had 3 or 4 and 7.8 percent had five or more children.

The average number of children for the old residents was 2.28, as compared to 2.25 for the migrants. The differences between the two groups is not great enough to be significant.

As noted above, the same was true when age was controlled. Only minor differences occurred in the number of children at each age level (See Table 30, Appendix II). The migrants included a somewhat higher proportion of childless respondents, 13.6 percent, compared to 9.5 percent for the old residents. Almost equal proportions of both segments of the sample, 8.7 percent of the old residents and 7.1 percent of the migrants had five or more children.

⁴U.S. Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports: Population Characteristics, Series P-20, No. 106, January 9, 1961, p. 2.

TABLE 5.—Number of Living Children of Old Residents and Migrants

Number of Children	Old Residents		Migrants		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
None	12	9.5	23	13.6	35	11.9
One or Two	68	54.0	74	43.8	142	48.1
Three or Four	35	27.8	60	35.5	95	32.2
Five or over	11	8.7	12	7.1	23	7.8
Total	126	100.0	169	100.0	295*	100.0

$\chi^2 = 4.16$ d. f. = 3 Probability Level Above .30

*Single persons were excluded.

TABLE 6.—Number of Children at Home by Old Residents and Migrants

Number Children at Home	Old Residents		Migrants		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
None	70	55.6	49	29.0	119	40.3
One	22	17.5	29	17.2	51	17.3
Two	18	14.3	36	21.3	54	18.3
Three	7	5.5	31	18.3	38	12.9
Four or More	9	7.1	24	14.2	33	11.2
Total	126	100.0	169	100.0	295*	100.0

$\chi^2 = 26.94$ d.f. = 4 Probability Level Above .001

*Single persons were excluded.

Number of Children at Home

The number of children at home was higher among migrants. This might be expected due to a difference in age. When age was controlled, however, the younger age groups had essentially the same number of children. But, in the middle age group, age 45-64, the old residents had a higher proportion of families with no children at home (See Table 31, Appendix II). The migrants in this age group tended to have more children at home. The number in the older age group was too small to draw any general conclusions. However, age was not a determining factor.

In looking at the sample as a whole, the average number of children living at home for the old residents was .93 compared to 1.78 for the migrants. Nearly twice as many old residents as migrants had no children living at home. Also, almost three times as many migrants as old residents had three or more children living at home. Therefore, although no differences exist between the two groups in the total number of children, there is a significant difference

between the old residents and migrants as to the number of children living at home. Primarily this indicates some selectivity among the families with children who seek residence in the fringe. Their children were living at home at older ages than were the non-migrants.

Educational Levels

The levels of education of the respondents are expressed in terms of the number of years of schooling completed as shown in Table 7. The largest category of years completed for all respondents is from 11 to 12 years. This is higher than the state average of 10.9 years of education.

In general migrants had more education than old residents. The proportion of those who completed less than 11 years of schooling was considerably larger among the old residents than among the migrants. On the other hand, those who completed more than 12 years of schooling were in larger numbers for the migrants. It was found that at the higher levels of

TABLE 7.—Educational Achievement of the Respondents by Old Residents and Migrants

Years of Schooling	Old Residents		Migrants		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
10 or Less	49	36.8	41	24.2	90	29.7
11 or 12	53	39.9	72	42.3	125	41.2
13 and Over	31	23.3	57	33.5	88	29.1
Total	133	100.0	170	100.0	303	100.0

$\chi^2 = 6.87$ d.f. = 2 Probability Level Above .05

education, the proportion for migrants was increasingly higher. Twenty percent of the migrants had completed 15 or more years of education, twice as large a proportion as that of old residents.

There was 29.1 percent of the total sample who had some formal educational training beyond the high school level. On the other hand, approximately the same amount, 29.7 percent, had less than an eleventh grade education.

When educational level was corrected for age, a similar pattern resulted. More migrants than old residents had achieved more than 12 years of education (See Table 32, Appendix II). In the 65 and over age category the number is too small to draw a conclusion.

Origin of Migrants

The origin of migrants refers to the places from which the migrants came to their present communities of residence. This did not include intra-community changes of residences or within the same community as identified by the respondents. As shown in Table 8, Columbus and its urban fringe alone contributed two-thirds of the migrants. Movement within the fringe itself, that is, those who moved to the communities in which they were interviewed from other rural fringe communities in the Columbus area, constituted the second highest proportion, 14.1 percent, of the migrants. Small percentages of migrants came from rural and urban places both in and out of Ohio.

There is little data with which to compare this movement. The movement from outside Ohio into the fringe adds up to 8.8 percent for the 16 year period covered by the study. Special studies by the U.S. Bureau of the Census showed an interstate movement of three percent for the one year period, March 1959 to March 1960.⁵ If this were additive for each year, it would seem to indicate a possibility of fewer inter-

TABLE 8.—Origins From Which Migrants Came Before Their Present Communities of Residence

Origin	Number	Percent
Columbus and its urban fringe	113	66.5
Other rural fringe communities in the Columbus fringe	24	14.1
Urban places in Ohio outside Franklin County	9	5.3
Rural communities in Ohio outside Franklin County	9	5.3
Urban places outside Ohio	8	4.7
Rural communities outside Ohio	7	4.1
Total	170	100.0

state migrants who move to the fringe area. But since these periods are not comparable and the annual percentages are not necessarily additive no conclusion can be drawn particularly since it is not known how often interstate migrants repeat the in movement.

Four out of five migrants, or 80.6 percent, moved to their present location from another part of Franklin County. This is compared to two-thirds for the U.S. population for the one-year period.⁶ The remaining 19.4 percent of the migrants to the rural fringe can be sub-divided as follows: 10.6 percent from other parts of Ohio and 8.8 percent from other states. Of all the migrants to the rural fringe, 23.5 percent, or less than one in four, came from rural localities; with only 9.4 percent from rural areas outside of Franklin County. No foreign migrants were found in the fringe. Thus the major source of migration to the rural fringe is Columbus or other urban centers.

Figure 2 shows the pattern of migration movements in Franklin County as reported in the 1950 U.S. Census. The general pattern for 1950 corresponds clearly to that shown in the results of this study.

Occupational Composition

The occupations reported in Table 9 are those of the rural fringe household heads with the exception of the unmarried female respondents. The table includes the distributions of the "main" occupations only. Categories based upon those of the U.S. Census were used with some minor modifications. In these modifications, clerical and sales workers were put in one category and operatives and service workers, except private household, were grouped together.

Farmers and farm managers constituted the largest single occupational group among both the old residents and the total sample. This occupational category included 57.1 percent of the old residents as compared to 11.8 percent of the migrants. Both figures exceed the State of Ohio average of approximately five percent. Occupations among migrants were characterized by being rather widely distributed. The largest single occupational category among the migrants was in highly skilled craftsman, foreman and kindred workers, but these included only 20 percent of this segment of the sample. Other jobs requiring a high degree of training or skill were almost equally well represented. There were higher proportions of professional, technical, managers, officials and proprietors except farm, among the migrants than among the old residents. Non-farm laborers, were in higher proportions among migrants.

⁵Current Population Reports Series P-20, No. 106, January 9, 1961, Household and Family Characteristics: March 1960, p. 2.

⁶ibid.

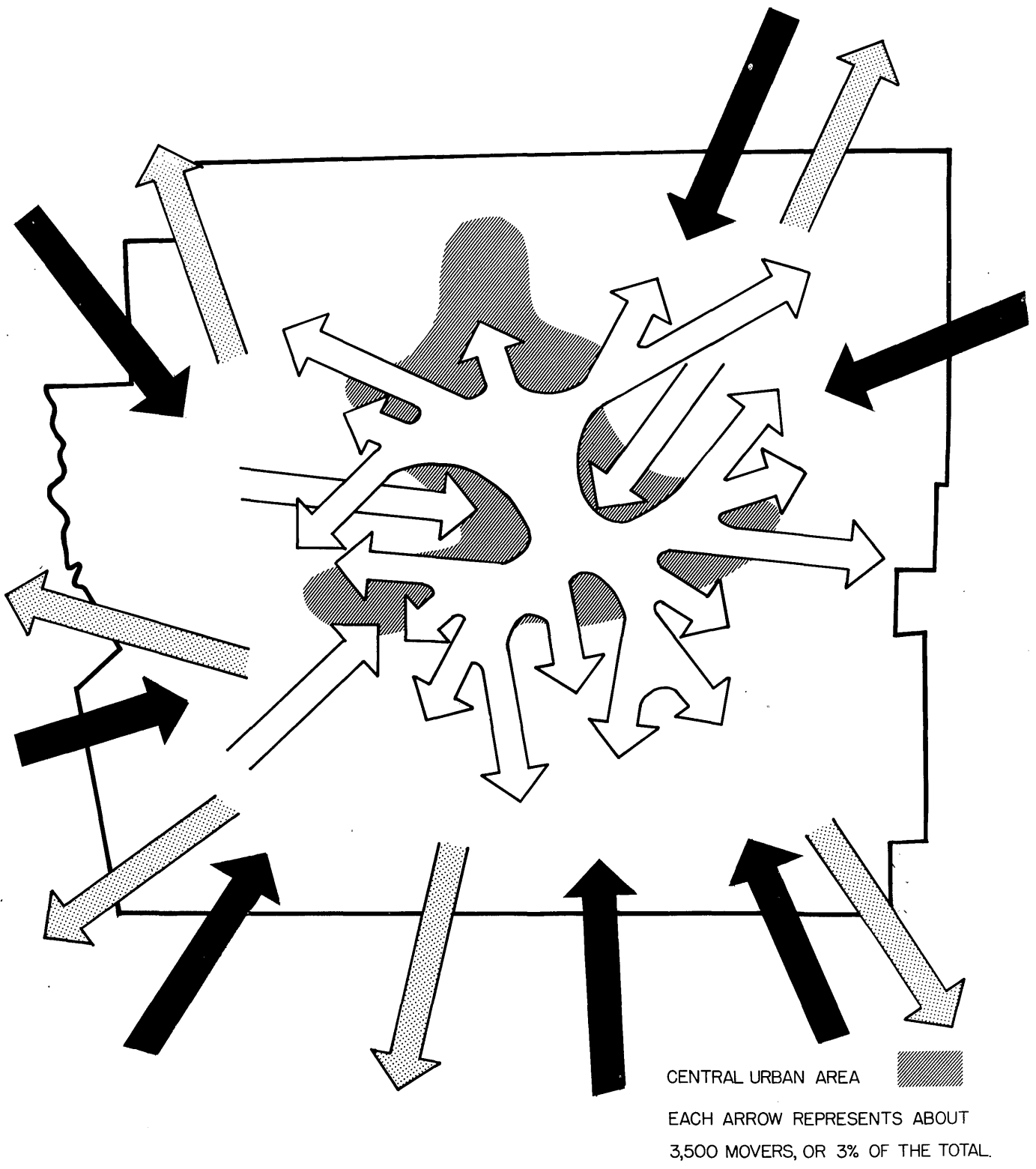


Fig. 2—Columbus and Franklin County Migration Pattern, 1950

TABLE 9.—Occupational Composition of Household Heads

Occupations	Old Residents		Migrants		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Professional technical and kindred workers	3	2.3	23	13.5	26	8.6
Farmers and farm managers	76	57.1	20	11.8	96	31.7
Managers, officials and proprietors except farm	9	6.8	24	14.1	33	10.9
Clerical, sales workers and kindred	3	2.3	19	11.2	22	7.2
Craftsmen, foremen and kindred	8	6.0	34	20.0	42	13.8
Operatives, service and kindred	8	6.0	28	16.5	36	11.9
Farm laborers	1	0.7	1	.6	2	.7
Laborers, except farm or mine	0	0.0	6	3.5	6	2.0
Retired	11	8.3	8	4.7	19	6.3
No Data	14	10.5	7	4.1	21	6.9
Total	133	100.0	170	100.0	303	100.0

SOCIAL CHARACTERISTICS OF FARM AND NON-FARM FRINGE RESIDENTS

Because of the relatively large number of farm residents and also because it was of particular interest to determine the differences between farm and non-farm people in the new community situation, an analysis was made of farm versus non-farm residents in the fringe area. Farm residents in this analysis were those that reported farming as a full time occupation.

Combining all farmers, farm managers and farm laborers, there was a total of 98 farm workers of whom 77 were old residents and 21 were more recent residents or migrants.

Table 10 indicates that of the 133 non-migrants, 78.6 percent, were farm workers as compared to only 21.4 percent of the 170 migrants. The non-farm group was composed of 72.7 percent migrants as compared to 27.3 percent who were non-migrants. Thus, as expected, length of residence was highly related to farm occupation.

A comparison of the occupational distribution of all the household heads in the rural fringe with the occupational distribution of the State of Ohio, showed a larger proportion of farmers and farm managers, and non-farm managers, officials and proprietors living in the fringe. In addition to these categories, migrants

in the fringe had a larger proportion of professional, technical and kindred workers than did the State.

Other employment also was of some importance to the rural fringe population. The proportion of part-time jobs for farm and non-farm residents was similar with 17.3 percent of the farm residents reporting some part-time work. Only two farm people reported working on other farms. For the non-farm residents, 18.5 percent reported secondary occupations. However, nearly all, or 31 persons out of 38, reported their secondary occupation as part-time farming.

There were 9.2 percent of the wives of farm residents who reported they were working outside of the home while a considerably larger number, 22.4 percent, of the non-farm wives were working outside of the home.

Extensively, the major land use of the rural fringe was still farming, although the farm population was being reduced by migration and occupational change.

Age

The household heads comprising the farm labor force were composed of a larger percentage of old residents (See Table 11). Fifty-two percent of the farm group is 55 years of age or older as compared to

TABLE 10.—The Length of Residence of Farm and Non-Farm Residents

Length of Residence	Farm		Non-Farm		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Migrants — 16 years or less	21	21.4	149	72.7	170	56.1
Old Residents — Over 16 years	77	78.6	56	27.3	133	43.9
Total	98	100.0	205	100.0	303	100.0

$\chi^2 = 70.73$ d.f. = 1 Probability Level Above .001

24.1 percent of the non-farm groups. On the other hand, only 27.1 percent of the farm group is 44 years of age or less as compared to 52.2 percent of the non-farm group. None of the persons in the sample was under 25 years.

With more than 50 percent of the existing farm residents in the rural fringe being 55 years of age or older, and largely old residents, one could expect that there would be a clash of interests and resistance to change. With the rural fringe area experiencing rapid change, it would seem inevitable that conflict and disagreement would result. Indeed this has occurred. This factor has special implications in regard to the declining rural church, the consolidation of schools, the centralization of local governments, the indiscriminate growth of urban blight, the continuous urban sprawl of nearby cities, and numerous other such factors. However, mere resistance and unwillingness to, do anything under present conditions

promotes uncontrolled spread of blight and consequent loss in property values and living conditions.

Education

Educational achievement was analyzed both for the total sample and for the sample corrected for age. Approximately 40 percent of the farm group in the present fringe study did not reach grade 11 in high school, slightly less than this attended grades 11 or 12. Only 22 percent, or approximately one of every five farm residents received any educational training beyond the high school level. Only one individual attended school beyond the college level (See Table 12).

Of the non-farm group 23.8 percent did not go beyond the tenth grade of high school. An additional 37 percent attended grades 11 or 12. Approximately 38 percent of this group attended college with 8.4 percent or approximately one of every 10 non-farmers going beyond the four-year college level of educational training.

TABLE 11.—Age Distribution of Farm and Non-Farm Household Heads*

Ages	Farm		Non-Farm		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
No Data	1	1.0	0	0	1	.3
Under 25	0	0	0	0	0	0
25 — 34	8	8.2	30	14.6	38	12.5
35 — 44	18	18.4	78	38.1	96	31.7
45 — 54	19	19.4	49	23.9	68	22.5
55 — 64	36	36.7	25	12.2	61	20.1
65 and over	16	16.3	23	11.2	39	12.9
Total	98	100.0	205	100.0	303	100.0

$\chi^2 = 32.21$ d.f. = 4 Probability Level Above .001

*Data is for household heads only.

TABLE 12.—Educational Achievement of Farm and Non-Farm Household Heads

Years of Schooling	Farm		Non -Farm		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
6 or less	2	2.0	8	3.9	10	3.3
7 - 8	21	21.4	24	11.7	45	14.8
9 - 10	17	17.3	17	8.2	34	11.2
11 - 12	36	36.7	77	37.6	113	37.3
13 - 14	12	12.2	30	14.6	42	13.9
15 - 16	9	9.2	32	15.6	41	13.5
17 - 18	1	1.0	11	5.4	12	4.0
19 - 20	0	0	3	1.5	3	1.0
Over 20	0	0	3	1.5	3	1.0
Total	98	100.0	205	100.0	303	100.0

$\chi^2 = 11.89$ d.f. = 4 Probability Level Above .02

Thus, in comparing the two groups, almost twice as many non-farm residents attended college and only half as many failed to reach the eleventh grade. A similar result was found when age was controlled. At each age level the non-farm group had a larger percentage of individuals who completed 13 or more years of schooling than did the farm group. Also, except for the youngest group, the non-farm people had a smaller percentage of individuals who completed 10 years of schooling or less than did the farm group (See Table 33, Appendix II).

For the whole, this factor could be partially explained by two considerations. One, a larger proportion of people in the farm labor force were in an older group. Older individuals can generally be expected to have had fewer years of formal education.

Second, farming is an occupation that traditionally has not visualized a need for highly specialized formal education though this situation may change in the future.

Place of Birth

There are three major differences between the farm and non-farm groups as to their place of birth (Table 13). First, 52 percent of those in the farm category were born in the community in which they are now living as compared to only 14.6 percent of the non-farm group. Second, one of every three rural fringe non-farm residents, or 32.2 percent, were born in Columbus as compared to a mere 6 percent of the farm residents. This fact also shows that for about two-thirds of the migrants, the way to the fringe

TABLE 13.—Place of Birth of the Farm and Non-Farm Labor Force

Birthplace	Farm		Non-Farm		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
No Data	0	0	4	2.0	4	1.3
Same Community	51	52.0	30	14.6	81	26.7
Neighboring Community	13	13.3	14	6.8	27	8.9
Columbus and Suburbs	6	6.1	66	32.2	72	23.8
State of Ohio	25	25.5	51	24.9	76	25.1
Other States	3	3.1	38	18.5	41	13.5
Foreign Born	0	0	2	1.0	2	.7
Total	98	100.0	205	100.0	303	100.0

TABLE 14.—Type of Locale Where Farm and Non-Farm Residents Were Reared

Type of Locale	Farm		Non-Farm		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
No Data	0	0	1	.5	1	.3
In City	2	2.0	81	39.5	83	27.4
In Suburb	0	0	9	4.4	9	3.0
In Village	4	4.1	43	21.0	47	15.5
On Farm (open country)	92	93.9	71	34.6	163	53.8
Total	98	100.0	205	100.0	303	100.0

included a series of moves including a move to the central city first and then out to the fringe. Third, almost one of five, or 18.5 percent, of the non-farm group were born outside the State of Ohio, whereas only three percent of the farm group were born outside the State.

Where Reared

Respondents were asked, "Where were you reared?" The following categories were used: On a farm or open country, in a city, in a village of not more than 2500, or in a suburb. The most significant difference between the farm and the non-farm group is that of being reared on a farm. The percentages are 93.9 for the farm group and 34.6 for the non-farm group. This shows that more than one-third of the non-farm people were farm reared. Another difference showing considerable variation between the farm and non-farm group was the city and the village as the type of locale in which they were reared. Of the farm group, only two percent were reared in the city and four percent in a village compared to 39.5 percent and 21 percent respectively for the non-farm group. The fact that only three percent of the total respondents in the rural

fringe were reared in a suburb is also indicative of the rather recent occurrence of this type of locale.

Marital Status

The marital status of farm and non-farm dwellers in the rural fringe is very similar. Within the farm group 88.8 percent were married compared to 87.8 percent of the non-farm group. Seven percent of the farm residents were widowed compared to nine percent of the non-farm residents. Slightly more farm than non-farm residents were single (Table 15). These are in contrast to the difference in marital status of the old residents and the migrants (Table 4) where significant differences were found.

When age was controlled, there was a high proportion of married people in the younger 25 to 44 age group and the 65 and over category there were somewhat more widowed among the non-farm. This indicates that the older widowed persons among the old residents retire from farming but remain in the area as non-farm residents (See Table 34, Appendix II).

In the aggregate considering those ever married there is little difference between farm and non-farm.

TABLE 15.—Marital Status of Farm and Non-Farm Residents

Marital Status	Farm		Non-Farm		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Single	4	4.1	4	1.9	8	2.6
Married	87	88.8	180	87.8	267	88.1
Widowed	7	7.1	19	9.3	26	8.6
Divorced	0	0	2	1.0	2	.7
Total	98	100.0	205	100.0	303	100.0

$\chi^2 = .228$ d.f. = 1 Probability Level Above .20

TABLE 16.—Number of Living Children of Farm and Non-Farm Residents

Number of Children	Farm		Non-Farm		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
None	7	7.4	28	13.9	35	11.9
One or Two	52	55.3	90	44.8	142	48.1
Three or Four	29	30.8	66	32.8	95	32.3
Five or More	6	6.5	17	8.5	23	7.7
Total	94	100.0	201	100.0	295*	100.0

$\chi^2 = 4.18$ d.f. = 3 Probability Level Above .30

*Single persons were excluded.

Number of Children

The average number of living children per family reported by rural fringe families is 2.26. This compares with 1.4 for the United States.⁷ When the total number is divided into farm and non-farm classifications no difference exists. When age was corrected generally the same result holds true; that is, only slight or no difference existed between the number of children of farm and non-farm residents at any age level (See Table 35, Appendix II).

Approximately one-fourth of all the families had two children. Less than one family in five had four children or more, and only one family in twelve had five children or more.

Number of Children at Home

The number of children who live at home was not

the same for the farm and non-farm families (see Table 17). The average number for the farm residents was 1.04, the non-farm residents 1.58, while the average for the total rural fringe group was 1.41.

Although the statistical probability test showed these differences were not great enough to be acceptable at the .05 percent level, the non-farm group does have somewhat more children living at home which is consistent with the result shown earlier in Table 6. Approximately half of the farm families in the rural fringe have no children at home as compared with only 36 percent of the non-farm families.

When age was corrected only small differences appeared. (See Table 36, Appendix II). The 25-44 age category showed very little difference. The 45-64 age category shows a higher percentage of farm families with none or only one child. Although not larger this is consistent with Table 31. These differences are small and prohibit the drawing of any definite conclusions.

⁷Ibid. p. 14.

TABLE 17.—Number of Children at Home of Farm and Non-Farm Residents

Number Children at Home	Farm		Non-Farm		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
None	46	49.0	73	36.3	119	40.3
One	18	19.1	33	16.4	51	17.2
Two	17	18.1	37	18.4	54	18.4
Three	7	7.4	31	15.4	38	12.8
Four or More	6	6.4	27	13.5	33	11.3
Total	94	100.0	201	100.0	295*	100.0

$\chi^2 = 8.81$ d.f. = 4 Probability Level Above .10

*Single persons were excluded.

TABLE 18.—Home Ownership of Farm and Non-Farm Residents

Home Ownership	Farm		Non-Farm		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Rent	7	7.1	15	7.3	22	7.3
Buying	9	9.2	77	37.6	86	28.4
Own	81	82.7	112	54.6	193	63.7
Not Applicable	1	1.0	1	.5	2	.6
Total	98	100.0	205	100.0	303	100.0

$\chi^2 = 22.51$ d.f. = 1 Probability Level Above .001

Home Ownership

More than nine of every ten families in the fringe area either fully own or are buying their home (see Table 18). The high value placed on home ownership is evident from these results. For the farm residents, 82.7 percent have their homes paid for as compared to 54.6 percent of the non-farm group. Inheritance was important in farm home ownership. Only nine percent of the farm residents were in the process of buying their home as compared with 37.6 percent of the non-farm residents.

It is of interest to note that for all fringe residents nearly two of every three families in the fringe owned their homes and another 28 percent were buying. The same finding existed when age was corrected. At every age level, a greater proportion of the farm group fully owned their homes and a larger proportion of the non-farm residents were buying. (See Table 37, Appendix II). Home ownership is a major characteristic at all age levels, however, the younger the age group

the larger the percentage of renters. It is also clear, however, that home ownership for farmers was strongly effected by inheritance at all age levels and particularly for the youngest farm group. Inheriting the farm is a major means for home ownership for young farm families and is indicative of the importance of this means for getting started in farming.

The farm group then secured their homes primarily in one of two ways. One was to inherit the home, 38.8 percent, the second was to buy a house that had already been lived in, 41.9 percent. Only 7.1 percent built new homes. For the non-farm group 42.9 percent bought their home used, while more than twenty-five percent either had their home built or bought it new. Even though a greater percentage of farm residents owned their homes than did non-farm residents, the proportion of farm residents who bought their own homes is considerably lower due largely to inheritance.

TABLE 19.—How Homes of Farm and Non-Farm Residents Were Obtained

How Home Was Secured	Farm		Non-Farm		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
No Data	2	2.0	10	4.9	12	4.0
Don't Know	5	5.1	8	3.9	13	4.3
Inherit	38	38.8	18	8.8	56	18.5
Have It Built	7	7.1	26	12.7	33	10.9
Build It Yourself	3	3.1	13	6.3	16	5.3
Buy It New	0	0	28	13.7	28	9.2
Buy It Secondhand	41	41.9	88	42.9	129	42.5
Not Applicable	2	2.0	14	6.8	16	5.3
Total	98	100.0	205	100.0	303	100.0

TABLE 20.—Plans of Farm and Non-Farm Residents to Move

Plans	Farm		Non-Farm		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
No Data	1	1.0	0	0	1	.3
No	96	98.0	195	95.1	291	96.0
Yes	1	1.0	10	4.9	11	3.7
Total	98	100.0	205	100.0	303	100.0

For the entire population, approximately one family in every five obtained their home through inheritance, two families in five bought second hand homes, one family in five bought a new home.

Plans to Move

Families in the rural fringe, irrespective of any dissatisfaction with the locale, were not planning to move. Less than four percent of the farm and non-farm respondents indicated any such intention (Table 20). This would seem to indicate that even with the high rate of fringe migration, very few families have plans made in advance of such a change.

Place of Main Occupation

All of the rural fringe farm residents with only one exception worked in the community in which they lived.

Less than 13 percent of the non-farm residents worked in the community in which they resided. More than 66 percent of the non-farm residents worked in the City of Columbus or its suburbs. Thus, nearly seven out of ten non-farm residents and half of all rural fringe household heads worked outside of their community or residence.

RURAL FRINGE LIVING

Advantages of Living in the Rural Fringe

Do farm and non-farm residents differ in their reasons for living in the rural fringe? Farm and non-

farm dwellers were somewhat different in their statements of advantages. Quietness, better for children, open country and privacy, were stated more often as

TABLE 21.—Place of Main Occupation of Farm and Non-Farm Household Heads Living in the Rural Fringe

Place of Occupation	Farm		Non-Farm		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
No Data	0	0	8	3.9	8	2.6
In Community	97	99.0	26	12.7	123	40.6
In Neighboring Rural Community	0	0	1	.5	1	.3
In Columbus Urban Fringe	0	0	9	4.4	9	3.0
Columbus	0	0	126	61.5	126	41.6
Other	0	0	4	1.9	4	1.3
Not Applicable (Retired and Housewife)	1	1.0	31	15.1	32	10.6
Total	98	100.0	205	100.0	303	100.0

TABLE 22.—Advantages Listed by Farm and Non-Farm Residents for Living in the Rural Fringe

Advantages	Farm		Non-Farm		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Quietness	17	17.3	56	27.3	73	24.1
Good Neighbors	25	25.6	23	11.2	48	15.8
Open Country	14	14.3	27	13.2	41	13.5
Better for Children	5	5.1	33	16.1	38	12.5
Convenient Location	12	12.2	11	5.4	23	7.6
Privacy	0	0	19	9.3	19	6.3
Expenses Less	1	1.0	9	4.4	10	3.3
Health	2	2.0	6	2.9	8	2.6
Other	19	19.4	13	6.3	32	10.6
Don't Know	3	3.1	6	2.9	9	3.0
No Data	0	0	2	1.0	2	.7
Total	98	100.0	205	100.0	303	100.0

Rank Order Correlation = .591 Probability Level Greater Than .05

TABLE 23.—Disadvantages Listed by Farm and Non-Farm Residents for Living in the Rural Fringe

Disadvantages	Farm		Non-Farm		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
No Disadvantages	55	56.2	89	43.4	144	47.5
Distance from Work	1	1.0	42	20.5	43	14.2
Transportation	2	2.1	21	10.2	23	7.6
Facilities not Equal to City	1	1.0	21	10.2	22	7.3
Taxes Increasing	16	16.3	5	2.4	21	6.9
Close to Columbus and More People	12	12.2	4	2.0	16	5.3
Neighbors Unfriendly or Nosy	1	1.0	8	3.9	9	3.0
Distance from Stores	1	1.0	3	1.5	4	1.3
No Gas, Water, Sewer	0	0	4	2.0	4	1.3
Other	9	9.2	8	3.9	17	5.6
Total	98	100.0	205	100.0	303	100.0

Rank Order Correlation = .355 Probability Level Greater Than .05

advantages for living in the rural fringe by non-farm residents (Table 22). For farm residents, good neighbors, quietness, open country, and convenient location, were stated most often. Both emphasized open country living as important advantages. However, farm residents emphasized the social aspect of good neighbors and convenient location for their work while non-farm residents prized isolation somewhat more highly.

Disadvantages of Living in the Rural Fringe

Almost half of the respondents, 47.5 percent, stated no disadvantages of fringe living, although the farm group had a slightly higher percentage than did the non-farm group. Only two disadvantages were listed by more than two farm residents. Sixteen percent of

the farm residents said that the increasing tax rate was a disadvantage and 12 percent of the farm residents said that living close to Columbus and more people was a disadvantage. Non-farm residents were most concerned with the disadvantages of travel and transportation, and facilities that were not what they would like.

More particularly, 20 percent of the non-farm residents listed distance from work as a disadvantage and 10 percent transportation. A total of 12 percent recorded facilities not equal to the city, or listed gas, water and sewer specifically. None of the major disadvantages of rural fringe living was the same for both the farm and non-farm group.

SOME ASPECTS OF FARMING AND EXTENSION CONTACT IN THE FRINGE

Size and Number of Farms

In 1950, the average size of farms in Franklin County was 90.3 acres. By 1959, the average size increased by 53.3 acres to 143.6 acres.⁸ Some of this increase is explained by a change in the definition of a farm.⁹ However, the change of definitions of a farm could account for probably no more than 6 to 10 percent of the increase. The 1959 Franklin County figure is approximately 12 acres larger than the state average of 131.9 acres.

The size of farms increased, but the total number of farms in Franklin County had decreased from 2,641 farms in 1950 to 1,383 farms in 1959.¹⁰ This is a loss of 47 percent in the number of farms in a nine year period. There was also a loss of 39,785 acres, or 16.2 percent of the farm land of the county to other uses between 1959 and 1960.

Tenure Status of Farmers

Approximately 60 percent of the farmers own all the land which they farm. An additional 34 percent owned part of the land they farmed and rented other land in addition. Thus 93 percent of the farmers in the rural fringe owned all or part of their land, while only six percent rented all of the land which they farmed.

⁸Andrews, Wade H. 1960 Changes in Population and Agriculture in Ohio and Their Implications. Ohio Agricultural Experiment Station Research Circular 104. May 1961, Table 9.

⁹A farm is defined by the 1960 Census as having 10 acres or more of land and selling more than \$50 worth of produce, or if less than 10 acres, as selling more than \$250 worth of produce.

¹⁰W. H. Andrews, op. cit., Table 8.

Table 24 shows that 93 percent of the farm residents owned all or part of their land. Table 25 shows the pattern of land ownership by size. Most owners fell in the 40 to 160 groups. Those who rented were also largely in this same range.

About four of 10 farm residents augmented their farming operation by renting land.

Extension Contacts of Farm Residents in the Fringe

In order to ascertain the pattern of association of fringe residents with some traditional rural programs the respondents were asked a few questions dealing with Agricultural Extension Service work.

Extension participation of the rural fringe residents varies with the nature of the activity. The eight activities or functions shown in Table 26 can be categorized into three types or methods of contacts: (1) mass media, (2) group contacts, and (3) personal contact. Mass media includes newspaper or magazine articles, radio, television, and Extension publications. Group contacts include attendance at Extension meet-

TABLE 24.—Tenure Status of Farm Residents in the Rural Fringe

Tenure	Number	Percent
Not Applicable	1	1.0
Owner	58	59.2
Owner and Tenant	33	33.7
Tenant	6	6.1
Total	98	100.0

TABLE 25.—Number of Acres Owned and Rented by Farm Residents in the Rural Fringe

Number of Acres	Number who Own		Number who Rent	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
No Data	0	0	1	1.0
Not Applicable*	7	7.1	56	57.1
Less than 10	1	1.0	0	0
10 – 19	1	1.0	0	0
20 – 39	1	1.0	5	5.1
40 – 79	28	28.6	11	11.2
80 – 119	26	26.5	13	13.3
120 – 159	13	13.3	3	3.1
160 – 199	9	9.2	2	2.1
200 and over	12	12.2	7	7.1
Total	98	100.0	98	100.0

*Those who either did not own any land or owned all the land they farmed.

TABLE 26.—Degree of Participation of Farm Residents and Their Wives in Agricultural Extension Activities or Functions

Activities or Functions	Degree of Participation					
	Never		Seldom		Often	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
a. Visit agent in office	70	71.4	17	17.4	11	11.2
b. Had agent visited home	44	44.9	39	39.8	15	15.3
c. Attend meetings	56	57.1	14	14.3	28	28.6
d. Attend demonstrations	49	50.0	18	18.4	31	31.6
e. Read Newspaper articles	17	17.4	26	26.5	55	56.1
f. Hear on radio	28	28.6	20	20.4	50	51.0
g. Watch on television	90	91.8	4	4.1	4	4.1
h. Use extension publications	31	31.6	21	21.4	46	47.0

Number of Farm residents = 98

Number of Non-farm residents = 205

ings or demonstrations. Personal contact includes a visit by the Extension agent to the people or a visit by the people to the Extension agent.

In a general sense, with the exception of television, the largest percentage of people reached by Extension in the rural fringe is by means of mass media. Only 17.4 percent of the farm residents reported they "never" read newspaper articles written by Extension personnel. For radio, 28.6 percent of the farm residents said they "never" hear Extension programs. Extension publications are "never" used by 31.6 percent of the farm residents. Television, the fourth type of mass media used by Extension, was "never" viewed for Extension programs by 91.8 percent of the farm residents.

In terms of the number of farm residents contacted, group contacts are second in importance to mass media. Nearly one-third, 31.6 percent of the farm residents said that they "often" attend demonstrations. Add to this, 18.4 percent who said they "seldom" attend and we find that 50 percent are involved in this type of activity to some extent. There were 42.9 percent who reported attendance at meetings to some degree either often or seldom.

Personal contact between the farm resident and the extension agent occurred with approximately 55 percent of the farm residents by visits to the home of the farmer or his wife. However, only 28 percent of the farm residents visited the agent in his office.

Farm Versus Non-Farm Use of Extension

Fifty-five percent of the farmers compared to 6.3 percent of the non-farm residents reported having had the Extension agent at their place of residence. Forty-three percent of the farmers compared to 7.8 percent of the non-farm people had attended Extension meetings. Forty percent of the farmers compared to 8.3 percent of the non-farm residents attended Extension demon-

strations. Eighty-three percent of the farm residents and 28.8 percent of the non-farm residents read Extension newspaper articles. Seventy-one percent of the farmers and 25.4 percent of the non-farm residents heard Extension programs on the radio. Eight percent of the farm residents and 3.4 percent of the non-farm residents watched Extension programs on television and 68.4 percent of the non-farm residents compared to 18.5 percent of the non-farm residents used Extension publications.

It would appear from the above findings that farm residents in the fringe make more frequent use of Extension than do farmers in general. Rogers and Capener¹¹ in a study of 104 Ohio farmers selected from a statewide sample found that 33 percent of the farmers visited the county Extension agent in his office or called him on the telephone. Another 28 percent attended local or county meetings, tours, or demonstrations. Seventeen percent had the county Extension agent on his farm, and 10 percent helped plan an Extension program.

Children in 4-H Clubs

More than one-half of the farm families had children who were members of a 4-H Club. In contrast only one family in eight of the non-farm group had children who were members. Combining all families, approximately one-fourth were associated with a 4-H Club in that they had children who were members.

This program would appear to have high potential growth if close attention is paid to the character and needs of this new type of fringe youth and family population as well as the new community situation in which they live.

¹¹Rogers, Everett M. and Capener, Harold R., The County Extension Agent and his Constituents, Ohio Agricultural Experiment Station Research Bulletin 858, June 1960. Page 11.

TABLE 27.—Children in 4-H Club Work

Children in 4-H Clubs	Farmers		Non-Farmers		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
No Data	14	14.3	16	7.8	30	9.9
No	32	32.6	162	79.0	194	64.0
Yes	52	53.1	27	13.2	79	26.1
Total	98	100.0	205	100.0	303	100.0

$\chi^2 = 518.6$ d.f. = 1 Probability Level Above .001

TABLE 28.—Sources of Farm Information Obtained by Full-Time Farm Residents

Source of Farm Information	Yes		No	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Publications (Magazines and farm papers)	72	73.5	26	26.5
Farm Supply Dealers	59	60.2	39	39.8
Radio	56	57.1	42	42.9
Neighbors	55	56.1	43	43.9
Farm Organizations and Coops	47	48.0	51	52.0
Newspapers	40	40.8	58	59.2
County Agent	34	34.7	64	65.3
Vocational Ag. Teachers	19	19.4	79	80.6
Past Experience	13	13.3	84	85.7
Television	6	6.2	92	93.8
Other	10	10.2	87	88.8
None	9	9.2	88	89.8

Sources of Farm Information

In addition to direct acquaintance with the agents, it was of interest to determine what the sources of agricultural information were for the fringe farmers. The number one source listed was publications. Three of every four farmers mentioned that they got information from this source. Evidence suggests that the younger the farmer, the greater the percent who use reading materials such as publications or newspapers (see Table 38, Appendix II). Other means mentioned by more than 50 percent of the farmers included farm supply dealers, radio, and neighbors. The least mentioned source of farm information was television. Each of these sources is listed in Table 28 in their order of importance.

Several of the sources listed are directly or indirectly related to the Extension Service, Experiment Station and other agricultural agencies. Mass media, personal and organizational contacts all rank as highly important sources among the fringe farmers. Some important differences with studies in other farming areas were the high rank of dealers and farm organizations.

Implications for Adult Education

Some implications of this pattern may be that farmers in the metropolitan fringe can be reached effectively through reading material. Perhaps county level information sheets would be useful similar to the Agricultural Extension "Econogram" and "Timely Economic Information" which give short statements and short articles of new information and could give the source of a more complete discussion. The

results also indicate the need for giving leadership in the training of people such as dealers of various kinds, people in farm organizations and cooperatives in recent, accurate information.

Interestingly enough although the Agricultural College is within the county the average fringe farmer did not report using it as a direct source of information to any important degree.

Since fringe farm residents report reading rather extensively from technical information thus showing an increased ability and an interest in technical materials, it might be useful to experiment with using specialized workshop type training methods, similar to those used in business and industry for quick updating and retraining. Where farmers no longer require only a simple practical demonstration, but can apply more abstract scientific knowledge more concentrated techniques of adult education in depth can become increasingly useful.

SUMMARY

Characteristics

Two classifications of rural fringe residents were identified by length of residence; the old residents and the migrants. The migrants were those living in the area sixteen years or less.

Old residents were found to average almost 20 years older than the migrants. The migrants although considerably younger, were not in the youngest marital age group. Ninety-six percent of the migrants were currently married while 78 percent of the old residents had both husband and wife present, and 15 percent

were widowed. Most of the widowed, as expected, were in the older age group and were retired non-farm people.

Although the number of living children averaged about the same for both groups, there was a significant difference when they were compared by number of children at home. The migrants had considerably more children at home than the old residents. This difference was found to be in the middle aged families but not in the younger families. There was strong indication of a factor of selectivity in the type of population that migrated to the fringe, these being most often established families with children. Migrants were also found to have more years of schooling than old residents.

Migrants came to the fringe largely from the central city, with some from suburbs and other communities in the same county. A few came from other urban places. Only about one-fourth were from rural places.

Farming was the largest single occupational group in the fringe and three-fourths of the farmers were old residents. However, among the migrants the occupations were rather evenly distributed among the more skilled and professional groups.

Farm and Non-Farm Residents

Farm residents made up four-fifths of the old residents and one-fifth of the migrants. The farm residents were considerably older than the non-farm residents and non-farm people were found in the higher educational levels more often than the farm people in all age categories. Almost twice as many non-farm people had attended college as in the farm group. Mobility of the two groups varied widely. Over half of the farm residents were born in the fringe area. One-third of the non-farm residents were born in Columbus or one of its suburbs while the rest were from other localities. Also, nearly one-fifth of the non-farm were born outside of the State while only three percent of the farm residents came from other states.

Almost all farm residents were reared on a farm while about one-third of the non-farm respondents reported this type of background. A high proportion, more than 9 of 10, of both residence categories were married or widowed. The average number of living children was the same for both farm and non-farm families but for children at home the younger farm and non-farm families had about the same with the middle aged non-farm families having a tendency for a higher average number and had fewer families with no children in the home.

More than 9 of 10 of both farm and non-farm residents were home owners although more than one-third of the non-farm residents were buying while less than

ten percent of the farm residents were buying. Nearly 4 of 10 farm residents inherited their home. Virtually none of those interviewed had any plans to move in the near future.

Farm residents lived and worked in the same community while 13 percent of the non-farm residents did so. Two-thirds of the non-farm workers had jobs in the central city.

Rural Fringe Living

Advantages reported for rural fringe living varied and were somewhat in contrast for farm and non-farm residents. Farm residents listed most often good neighbors, quietness, open country and convenient location. Non-farm people listed quietness, better for children, open country and privacy in that order of frequency. Farm residents emphasized neighbors and location while non-farm residents emphasized isolation more.

Only about half of the respondents listed any disadvantages. Those disadvantages that were noted most often by farm residents were increasing tax rate, living close to the city and the increasing number of people. Non-farm residents in contrast stated most often travel and transportation and lack of city facilities.

Farming and Extension Contact

Farm size increased somewhat more than for the State as a whole but the number of farms was reduced by nearly half. Most farm residents own all their land and more than 9 out of 10 own at least part of it. Only six percent rent all of it. Farms in the main are still not very large, most of them being in the 40 to 160 acre sizes. About 4 of 10 rented some land.

In Agricultural Extension contacts, mass media reaches the largest percentage of the people in the fringe. Newspapers, radio and Extension publications are widely used. However, television was not important, possibly because of a limited number of programs available. Group contacts through meetings and demonstrations were reported next most often, followed by personal contacts of farm and home visits or calls at the Extension office. As might be expected, farm residents had a higher number and proportion of contacts than non-farm residents, however, the total number of contacts of non-farm people were rather large over all. Fringe farmers seemed to make more use of Extension than farmers in general as shown in other studies.

Children in 4-H Club work was still largely a farm family program with half the farm families involved and only one in eight of the non-farm.

Sources of Farm Information

Most important sources of information to farmers were reported as being farm publications. Three of every four farmers reported this medium. This was followed in order by supply dealers, radio, and neighbors. Several of these are related to Extension, Experiment Station and other agricultural agencies. In addition, farm organizations, newspapers and the Extension agent appeared as important, with Vocational Agriculture teachers also mentioned. The high rank of supply dealers and farm organizations as primary sources of information in this population was an important difference from studies in other farm areas.

CONCLUSIONS

The changing pattern of the new community in the rural areas adjacent to the large metropolitan centers is of fundamental importance to rural people. This is not something that has happened in one area and is therefore confined to that locale, but it is a continuously moving, growing phenomenon destined to affect more and more rural people, their communities and agricultural land area of Ohio.

The expansion of urbanized areas comes about in three ways. First, is the concentric expansion pattern of the central city by the addition of new subdivisions and housing developments. These are occurring on the rural periphery of the established densely populated areas with the developments often connecting to city services and either annexing to the city or incorporating into suburbs.

A second is the development of non-contiguous clusters of residences and commercial areas out along the highways and roads leading to the city where a small community might have been or where a new road or interchange provides a vantage point. These form the nucleus of new dependent communities that are residential satellites to the metropolitan city.

A third is the almost indiscriminate location of individual homes in the open country farming areas which filter into the country side and develop a dispersed population of non-farm people among farmers.

All of these forces are at work in the metropolitan rural fringe and have social and economic consequences for all concerned. It is in these patterns that the new concept of megalopolis or super city is generated. The megalopolis concept includes the spread and eventual interlocking of urban populations over vast areas inevitably intertwining the farm populations into the network of a mixed urbanizing pattern.

Much of Ohio is deep in the process of megalopolis development. The Columbus metropolitan area, although still not interlocked with other large centers, is an example of the growing process as it pushes out its boundaries and employees of Columbus industry and commerce establish residences 20 to 60 miles away in ever-increasing numbers. With the development of new sub-communities and the growth of established places, the linkage in a great network with Cleveland, Akron, Dayton and Cincinnati across the State is not far off.

The impact of this linkage of non-farm population with the farm in ever widening circles is the keynote of the study made of the Columbus, Franklin County rural fringe.

For the farmer this means an ever growing intimacy with new urban neighbors. It means competition for the use of land for agriculture and non-farm uses; it means the adding of new urban services and the changing of institutions such as the schools, churches, local government and economic systems. It also means new taxes, need for planning and zoning regulations and many things foreign to the rural community of the past.

In addition, however, it means modern shopping facilities, better highways and roads, fire protection, schools and other services that may be closer to keeping pace with the general society.

The analysis in this report shows the character of the population in a rural fringe. An older, stable farm population with many children that have largely grown up and left home would have different viewpoints and needs from those of a younger urban population with many young children.

The farm people are living in the area to make a living as well as for a way of life. The non-farm people have come to the area to find a more comfortable and ideal place to live, but they work elsewhere. These different purposes are not always compatible. The non-farm people find parts of their ideal for living in the rural area as well as bringing parts of it with them, that is, they come looking for quietness, space and beauty and bring with them desires for modern, urban services and facilities.

This study has shown not only that two populations exist in the rural fringe and are significantly different in numerous ways, but that they behave differently in several respects. Although the new residents bring with them needs for new services and facilities, they do not assimilate the farmers' traditional social systems. As an example, Extension contacts were shown to be significantly fewer between farm and non-

farm women and participation in 4-H Clubs is significantly lower for non-farm than farm children. Although this difference may seem logical, the flexible role of the Extension program does not limit the services of Extension to farm production or even farm problems. Therefore, it could be possible for much greater use of this agency by non-farm people.

It was shown by the reduction in number of farms and the land taken out of agricultural use that a very great impact occurs in commercial farming in the areas of change. Some of this effect might be profitably delayed if adequate planning and zoning is established and new laws passed reducing losses from the pressures for immediate changes in the land use before the farmer can adjust to it.

Rural communities are affected by the change of the growth in the number of school children as well as the demands of the population for better teaching, more facilities, larger curricula and more activities. The need for accessible roads, streets, sanitary services, fire and police protection, recreation facilities and the like can be expected. Also, within organized groups such as churches there is the effect of larger membership and interests for more varied programs and new buildings as well as control of policy.

The future holds more of the mixing of these populations over far wider areas than those already involved. The analysis of the 1960 Census shows us that around the larger metropolitan areas of Cleveland and Cincinnati, the growing merger of urban and rural now goes as far out as the second tier of counties and in some cases three counties away. The need for community planning and development will accelerate as this pattern continues.

Some particular problems in rural government are emerging as urbanizing changes continue in Ohio. With changes in the representation of rural people occurring in state and national legislative bodies, open country residents find themselves represented less and less. This is true of the farmer in general and in particular as well as the open country non-farm resident.

The rural resident has traditionally been excluded and in effect disenfranchised from decisions affecting him by the municipalities where he does his business and gets many services. In some cases he even pays taxes to local municipal governments where he has no vote. This means a growing number of people have less and less to do with the proceedings of government even at the local level where it has been traditional to think that most people have a voice.

Many rural people have thought that county and township government would serve them sufficiently.

While they do provide some services the concept that they provide for representative local government is a mistake. Both county and township government are arms of state government and cannot make laws, they only administer laws made by the state.

With the changing pattern of representation this becomes increasingly important to rural residents as rural representation diminishes. In order to have an effective vote the rural resident will need to develop more effective forms of local government. This will include metropolitan government for some things and local area governments with municipal type franchises for others.

In order to be more effective at the larger government levels of the state and nation, rural residents will need to form strong organized groups to represent their interests. Certainly the farmer will need even stronger more cohesive organized farm representation.

The farmer will probably likewise find that his organizations for state and national activity will need to add a new dimension of activity at the local level.

It would appear that development of more effectively organized local government is now basic for the farmer and the non-farm rural resident, in order to be effective in future government affairs.

Rural programs might well recognize both rural populations. Likewise, it can be said that the farmer or old resident is changing with his neighbors and new community, his new areas of interest, and his new level of knowledge.

APPENDIX I

Null Hypotheses tested in tables where statistical test was used.

Probabilities greater than the .05 level would be rejected and null hypotheses would be accepted.

Table 3. There is no relationship between age and migration. $X^2 = 58.4$ Probability Level Less Than .001.

Table 4. There is no relationship between marital status and migration. $X^2 = 20.3$ Probability Level Less Than .001.

Table 5. There is no relationship between the number of living children and migration. $X^2 = 4.16$ Probability Level Above .05.

Table 6. There is no relationship between the number of children at home and migration. $X^2 = 26.94$ Probability Level Less Than .001.

Table 7. There is no relationship between education and migration. $X^2 = 6.87$ Probability Level Less Than .05.

Table 10. There is no relationship between length of residence and farming. $X^2 = 70.73$ Probability Level Less Than .001.

Table 11. There is no relationship between age and farming. $X^2 = 32.21$ Probability Level Less Than .001.

Table 12. There is no relationship between education and farming. $X^2 = 11.89$ Probability Level Less Than .02.

Table 15. There is no relationship between marital status and farming. $X^2 = .228$ Probability Level Above .05.

Table 16. There is no relationship between the number of living children and farming. $X^2 = 4.18$ Probability Level Above .05.

Table 17. There is no relationship between the number of children at home and farming. $X^2 = 8.81$ Probability Level Above .05.

Table 18. There is no relationship between home ownership and farming. $X^2 = 22.51$ Probability Level Less Than .001.

Table 22. There is no relationship between the advantages for living in the rural fringe and farming. $\rho = .591$ Probability Level Above .05.

Table 23. There is no relationship between the disadvantages for living in the rural fringe and farming. $\rho = .355$ Probability Level Above .05.

Table 27. There is no relationship between children in 4-H Club work and farming. $X^2 = 518.6$ Probability Level Less Than .001.

Tests were not made on tables 29 through 37 dealing with age differentials because of small cells.

APPENDIX II

Selected Tables Controlling the Age Factor.

TABLE 29.*—Marital Status of Old Residents and Migrants Controlled by Age

Marital Status	Old Residents		Migrants		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
A. Age 25 - 44						
Single	2	5.4	0	0	2	1.5
Married	32	86.5	100	100.0	132	96.3
Widowed	2	5.4	0	0	2	1.5
Divorced	1	2.7	0	0	1	0.7
Total	37	100.0	100	100.0	137	100.0

B. Age 45 - 64						
Single	5	7.5	1	1.6	6	4.7
Married	52	77.6	56	91.8	108	84.3
Widowed	9	13.4	4	6.6	13	10.2
Divorced	1	1.5	0	0	1	0.8
Total	67	100.0	61	100.0	128	100.0

C. Age 65 - and over						
Single	0	0	0	0	0	0
Married	20	69.0	7	77.8	27	71.1
Widowed	9	31.0	2	22.2	11	28.9
Divorced	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	29	100.0	9	100.0	38	100.0

*Related to Table 4

TABLE 30.*—Number of Living Children of Old Residents and Migrants Controlled by Age **

Number of Children	Old Residents		Migrants		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
A. Age 25 – 44						
None	4	11.4	13	13.0	17	12.6
One or two	17	48.6	42	42.0	59	43.7
Three or Four	10	28.6	41	41.0	51	37.8
Five and Over	4	11.4	4	4.0	8	5.9
Total	35	100.0	100	100.0	135	100.0

B. Age 45 – 64						
None	5	8.1	7	11.7	12	9.8
One or Two	37	59.7	28	46.6	65	53.3
Three or Four	16	25.8	18	30.0	34	27.9
Five and Over	4	6.4	7	11.7	11	9.0
Total	62	100.0	60	100.0	122	100.0

C. Age 65 and Over						
None	3	10.3	3	33.3	6	15.8
One or Two	14	48.4	4	44.5	18	47.4
Three or Four	9	31.0	1	11.1	10	26.3
Five and Over	3	10.3	1	11.1	4	10.5
Total	29	100.0	9	100.0	38	100.0

*Related to Table 5

** Single Persons were Excluded.

TABLE 31.*—Number of Children at Home by Old Residents and Migrants Controlled by Age**

Number Children at Home	Old Residents		Migrants		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
A. Age 25 – 44						
None	7	20.0	15	15.0	22	16.3
One	6	17.1	17	17.0	23	17.0
Two	9	25.7	27	27.0	36	26.7
Three	5	14.3	25	25.0	30	22.2
Four or More	8	22.9	16	16.0	24	17.8
Total	35	100.0	100	100.0	135	100.0

B. Age 45 – 64						
None	43	69.4	27	45.1	70	57.4
One	10	16.1	11	18.3	21	17.2
Two	6	9.7	8	13.3	14	11.5
Three	2	3.2	6	10.0	8	6.5
Four or More	1	1.6	8	13.3	9	7.4
Total	62	100.0	60	100.0	122	100.0

C. Age 65 and Over						
None	20	69.0	7	77.8	27	71.1
One	6	20.7	1	11.1	7	18.4
Two	3	10.3	1	11.1	4	10.5
Three	0	0	0	0	0	0
Four or More	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	29	100.0	9	100.0	38	100.0

*Related to Table 6

**Single Persons were Excluded.

TABLE 32.*—Educational Achievement of the Respondents by Old Residents and Migrants Controlled by Age

Years of Schooling	Old Residents		Migrants		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
A. Age 25 – 44						
10 or less	4	10.8	14	14.0	18	13.1
11 or 12	22	59.5	48	48.0	70	51.1
13 and over	11	29.7	38	38.0	49	35.8
Total	37	100.0	100	100.0	137	100.0

B. Age 45 – 64						
10 or less	24	35.8	22	36.1	46	35.9
11 or 12	27	40.3	20	32.8	47	36.7
13 and over	16	23.9	19	31.1	35	27.4
Total	67	100.0	61	100.0	128	100.0

C. Age 65 and Over						
10 or less	21	72.4	5	55.6	26	68.4
11 or 12	4	13.8	4	44.4	8	21.1
13 and over	4	13.8	0	0.0	4	10.5
Total	29	100.0	9	100.0	38	100.0

*Related to Table 7

TABLE 33.*—Educational Achievement of Farm and Non-Farm Household Heads Controlled by Age

Years of Schooling	Farm		Non-Farm		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
A. Age 25 – 44						
10 or less	4	15.4	14	12.6	18	13.1
11 or 12	14	53.8	46	41.4	60	43.8
13 and over	8	30.8	51	46.0	59	43.1
Total	26	100.0	111	100.0	137	100.0

B. Age 45 – 64						
10 or less	24	42.1	21	29.6	45	35.2
11 or 12	20	35.1	25	35.2	45	35.2
13 and over	13	22.8	25	35.2	38	29.6
Total	57	100.0	71	100.0	128	100.0

C. Age 65 and Over						
10 or less	12	80.0	14	60.9	26	68.4
11 or 12	2	13.3	6	26.1	8	21.1
13 and over	1	6.7	3	13.0	4	10.5
Total	15	100.0	23	100.0	38	100.0

*Related to Table 12.

TABLE 34.*—Marital Status of Farm and Non-Farm Residents Controlled by Age

Marital Status	Farm		Non-Farm		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
A. Age 25 – 44						
Single	1	3.8	1	0.9	2	1.5
Married	24	92.4	108	97.3	132	96.3
Widowed	1	3.8	1	0.9	2	1.5
Divorced	0	0	1	0.9	1	0.7
Total	26	100.0	111	100.0	137	100.0

B. Age 45 – 64						
Single	3	5.3	3	4.2	6	4.7
Married	51	89.4	57	80.3	108	84.4
Widowed	3	5.3	10	14.1	13	10.1
Divorced	0	0	1	1.4	1	0.8
Total	57	100.0	71	100.0	128	100.0

C. Age 65 and Over						
Single	0	0	0	0	0	0
Married	12	80.0	15	65.2	27	71.1
Widowed	3	20.0	8	34.8	11	28.9
Divorced	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	15	100.0	23	100.0	38	100.0

*Related to Table 15

TABLE 35.*—Number of Living Children of Farm and Non-Farm Residents Controlled by Age**

Number of Children	Farm		Non-Farm		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
A. Age 25 – 44						
None	1	4.0	16	14.5	17	12.6
One or Two	13	52.0	46	41.8	59	43.7
Three or Four	9	36.0	42	38.2	51	37.8
Five or More	2	8.0	6	5.5	8	5.9
Total	25	100.0	110	100.0	135	100.0

B. Age 45 – 64						
None	5	9.3	7	10.3	12	9.8
One or Two	31	57.4	34	50.0	65	53.3
Three or Four	16	29.6	18	26.5	34	27.9
Five or More	2	3.7	9	13.2	11	9.0
Total	54	100.0	68	100.0	122	100.0

C. Age 65 and Over						
None	1	6.7	5	21.7	6	15.8
One or Two	8	53.3	10	43.5	18	47.4
Three or Four	4	26.7	6	26.1	10	26.3
Five or More	2	13.3	2	8.7	4	10.5
Total	15	100.0	23	100.0	38	100.0

*Related to Table 16.

**Single Persons were Excluded.

TABLE 36.*--Number of Children at Home of Farm and Non-Farm Residents Controlled by Age**

Number Children at Home	Farm		Non-Farm		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
A. Age 25 - 44						
None	3	12.0	19	17.3	22	16.3
One	4	16.0	19	17.3	23	17.0
Two	7	28.0	29	26.4	36	26.7
Three	5	20.0	25	22.7	30	22.2
Four or More	6	24.0	18	16.3	24	17.8
Total	25	100.0	110	100.0	135	100.0

B. Age 45 - 64						
None	33	61.1	37	54.5	70	57.4
One	12	22.2	9	13.2	21	17.2
Two	7	13.0	7	10.3	14	11.5
Three	2	3.7	6	8.8	8	6.5
Four or More	0	0	9	13.2	9	7.4
Total	54	100.0	68	100.0	122	100.0

C. Age 65 and Over						
None	10	66.7	17	74.0	27	71.1
One	2	13.3	5	21.7	7	18.4
Two	3	20.0	1	4.3	4	10.5
Three	0	0	0	0	0	0
Four or More	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	15	100.0	23	100.0	38	100.0

*Related to Table 17 .

**Single Persons were Excluded.

TABLE 37.*--Home Ownership of Farm and Non-Farm Residents Controlled by Age

Home Ownership	Farm		Non-Farm		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
A. Age 25 - 44						
Rent	4	15.4	10	9.0	14	10.2
Buying	4	15.4	58	52.3	62	45.3
Own	18	69.2	42	37.8	60	43.8
Not Applicable	0	0	1	0.9	1	0.7
Total	26	100.0	111	100.0	137	100.0
<hr/>						
B. Age 45 - 64						
Rent	2	3.5	5	7.1	7	5.5
Buying	5	8.8	17	23.9	22	17.2
Own	49	86.0	49	69.0	98	76.5
Not Applicable	1	1.7	0	0	1	0.8
Total	57	100.0	71	100.0	128	100.0
<hr/>						
C. Age 65 and Over						
Rent	1	6.7	0	0	1	2.6
Buying	0	0	2	8.7	2	5.3
Own	14	93.3	21	91.3	35	92.1
Not Applicable	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	15	100.0	23	100.0	38	100.0

*Related to Table 18.

TABLE 38.*--Use of Reading Materials by Age of Full-Time Farm Residents

Use of Newspapers by Age	Yes		No		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
25 - 44	14	53.8	12	46.2	26	100.0
45 - 64	22	38.6	35	61.4	57	100.0
65 and Over	4	26.7	11	73.3	15	100.0
Use of other Publications by Age						
25 - 44	21	80.8	5	19.2	26	100.0
45 - 64	42	73.7	15	26.3	57	100.0
65 and Over	9	60.0	6	40.0	15	100.0

*Related to Table 28.