

PART-TIME FARMING IN THREE LAND USE AREAS
OF COLUMBIANA COUNTY, OHIO

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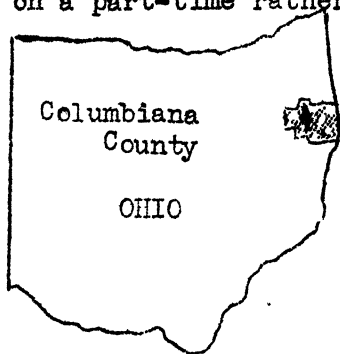
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PART-TIME FARMING IN THREE LAND USE AREAS
OF COLUMBIANA COUNTY, OHIO

R. C. Headington and J. I. Falconer 1/

PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

The Land Use Planning Committee of Columbiana County recommended that a full-time farm in Columbiana County should have at least 45 acres of cropland. Census data, however, revealed that in 1939, 40 per cent of all farms in the County were on a part-time rather than a full-time basis. It was evident that since 1939 the number of part-time farms had increased because of the expansion of defense industries.



It was, therefore, thought desirable to obtain information, as recent as possible, of the extent and nature of part-time farming. Such data could then be used to assist

in allocating to part-time farming its place in the land use pattern of the county.

Objective of the Study

The specific objective of the study was to learn more about the following problems:

- a) What resources are available on part-time farms? Should such farms be expected to market produce? If so, what and how much?
- b) To what extent were the resources available being used? Had farming been curtailed or expanded? Would it pay to farm the land not being farmed in 1941?
- c) How do home facilities on part-time farms compare with those on other farms?

1/ The authors are indebted to Floyd Lower, Columbiana County Agricultural Extension Agent, for assistance in planning this study and to H. B. Marshall, Jr., Dept. of Rural Economics and Rural Sociology, who helped collect information in the areas studied.

- d) Were part-time farmers finding such an arrangement satisfactory? What were the chief difficulties?

PROCEDURE

Definition of a Part-time Farm

The Bureau of Census has defined a farm as a farm tract of 3 acres or more, or a unit which annually produces farm products valued at \$250 or more. In this study, however, the part-time farms which were included and studied in detail were defined as: a tract of 10 acres or more, producing in 1941 farm products with a retail value 1/ of \$250 or more, where the head of the family either worked off the farm 150 days or more, or received 50 per cent or more of the annual income from work off the farm.

Selection of Sample Farms

The areas studied were selected by consulting the land-use maps of Columbiana County which had been prepared by local committees. These groups had designated on a map areas which were suited for and should remain in agricultural use. These areas were colored yellow on the map and are designated as the Good area in this report. Land areas, which if used for agriculture would be subject to serious erosion, were colored green on the map and are designated as Fair in this study. Land areas not suited to agriculture were colored blue and are designated Poor throughout this report. In this way each separate land-use area was definitely established and rated according to the degree to which the area was adapted to agriculture.

Using this map those engaged in organizing the study agreed on a scattered selection of 60 square-mile sections of land distributed at random among all three of the land-use areas already established.

1/ It was estimated that the retail value of products from a cow was about \$150; from 30 hens, \$100; and from a garden, \$25 to \$125, depending on its size and quality.

Method of Enumeration

These sample sections were visited in the late Fall of 1941 and each rural home was classified and marked on the map according to the following:

- A - Full-time farm.
- B - Subsistence farm; no outside source of income.
- O - Part-time farm, 10 acres or more.
- C - Part-time farm, less than 10 acres.
- D - Non-farm, rural residence.
- V - Vacant buildings.

More detailed information was then obtained from the operators of part-time farms of 10 acres or more.

CLASSIFICATION OF ALL RURAL HOMES

Distribution of Homes by Classes

It was found that there were 748 rural homes in the sixty sample sections which were studied. On the basis of the enumerating method listed above these homes were classified and tabulated in table 1.

Table 1. - Types of Households, 748 Rural Homes, Three Land Use Areas,
Columbiana County, Ohio, 1941
(Per cent of homes in each area)

	Poor Area	Fair Area	Good Area	All Areas
Full-time farms	12.7	33.0	29.9	27.4
Subsistence farms	8.1	4.2	4.9	5.3
Part-time farms, 10 acres or more	15.4	18.2	17.0	17.0
" " " , less than 10 acres	12.1	4.2	13.5	10.6
Non-farm homes	42.3	35.3	32.9	35.4
Vacant dwellings	9.4	5.1	1.8	4.3
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

From table 1 it can be seen that in all three areas there were as many part-time farms (27.6 per cent) as full-time (27.4 per cent). The number of farms on which the operator had virtually ceased to farm yet had no apparent outside source of income was not large, being only 5.3 per cent of the total.

As might be expected, the numbers of subsistence farms, non-farm households, and vacant dwellings were relatively the greatest within the Poor area, and the number of full-time farms was relatively the least in the Poor area. Table 2 shows the distribution of each type among the three areas studied.

Table 2 - Distribution of 748 Rural Households Among
Land Use Areas, Columbiana County, Ohio, 1941
(Per cent of total number)

	Poor Area	Fair Area	Good Area	Total
Full-time farms	9.3	34.6	56.1	100.0
Subsistence farms	30.0	22.5	47.5	100.0
Part-time farms, 10 acres or more	18.1	30.7	51.2	100.0
" " " , less than 10 acres	22.8	11.4	65.8	100.0
Non-farm homes	23.8	28.6	47.6	100.0
Vacant dwellings	43.7	34.4	21.9	100.0
All households	19.9	28.8	51.3	100.0

On the basis of the sample studied it was found that in 1941 of 748 homes classified, 206, or 27.6 per cent, were part-time farms of 3 acres or more. Although this can not be compared directly, the Census of Columbiana County for 1939 lists 1,093 farm operators, or 30 per cent, who worked off the farm 100 days or more. Of the 748 homes classified, 127, or 17 per cent, were found to be part-time farms of 10 acres or more, while 205 or 27.4 per cent, were full-time farms. Although there was practically the same number of part-time and full-time farms in the areas studied it should be pointed out that the full-time units averaged considerably larger in size. Census reports indicated that the 3,643 farms in Columbiana County on April 1, 1940, averaged 73.3 acres per farm while the part-time units in the sample areas studied averaged 50.1 acres per farm.

PART-TIME FARMS OF TEN ACRES OR MORE

Resources of Part-time Farms

In order to determine what resources were available to part-time operators of farms of 10 acres or more sufficient data were secured from 84 part-time units to reveal the kind of farm the operator was working with. This data is summarized in Table 3.

Table 3. - Tenure and Size of Part-time Farms of Ten Acres or More,
Three Land Use Areas, Columbiana County, Ohio, 1941

	Poor Area	Fair Area	Good Area	All Areas
Rented farms, number	3	5	7	15
Owner-operated farms, number	14	22	33	69
Total number of farms	17	27	40	84
Smallest farm, acres	12	10	10	10
Largest farm, acres	186	160	100	186
Average size farm, acres*	53.8	62.9	40.0	50.1
Cropland profitable to cultivate <u>a/</u>	23.7	28.5	23.2	25.0
Idle acres profitable to cultivate	4.5	4.7	3.6	4.2
Total idle cropland per farm	8.2	9.4	5.3	7.2
Productivity index, average	83	90	111	100
Per cent receiving ACP payments <u>b/</u>	53	60	65	61

a/ Land regarded by operator as not too poor to farm.

b/ Agricultural Conservation Program.

* A wide variation was found among farms, especially in the Poor area. Because the data represented only a sample, and in the case of the Poor area a small sample of only 17 farms, some measures of the reliability of the samples were computed. In the case of size of farm, the following standard deviation of means, or standard error, was found for each area: Poor area, 12.1 acres; Fair, 7.9 acres; Good, 3.5 acres. This meant that one would expect the average size of farm of additional samples of the Poor area to fall in two out of three cases somewhere between 41.7 acres and 65.9 acres, between 55.0 and 70.8 acres in the Fair area, and between 36.5 and 43.5 acres in the Good area. In the matter of cropland which the operator thought it would pay to plant in crops, the standard error was found to be: Poor area, 5.9 acres; Fair 3.7 acres; Good, 2.0 acres. Thus, from 17.8 to 29.6 acres of cropland might be expected in the Poor area; between 24.9 and 32.3 acres in the Fair area; and between 21.3 and 25.3 acres in the Good area.

Family at Home

In addition to the land resources available, data were collected concerning the number and make-up of the family still at home on part-time farms of 10 acres or more. These data are presented in table 4.

Table 4. - Family at Home, 84 Part-time Farms, Three Land Use Areas,
Columbiana County, Ohio, 1941.

	Poor Area	Fair Area	Good Area	All Areas
Number of families	17	27	40	84
Number without children at home	5	9	7	21
Adults, average number	2.0	2.4	2.3	2.3
Children at home, average number	1.8	2.0	2.0	1.9
Total family, average number	3.8	4.4	4.3	4.2
Education of family head:				
High school or better, number	5	6	12	23
Education of children:				
Total number children	33	68	95	196
Graduate of, or student in, college	0	5	3	8
Graduate of, or student in, high school	11	25	50	86

Use of Resources

Having studied the land resources which part-time operators of 10 acres or more had available in 1941, the question arises as to how much use was made of these resources. Some data are presented in table 5 to show the extent of farming operations carried out. Tables 6 and 7 indicate what per cent of the total number of operators farmed more in 1941 as compared with 1940, and also show the labor and power situation on these farms.

Table 5. - Extent of Farming on 78 Part-time Farms
Three Land Use Areas, Columbiana County, Ohio, 1940-41
(Average per farm)

	Poor Area	Fair Area	Good Area	All Areas
Farms with 1940-41 records, number	13	26	39	78
Crops harvested, 1941, acres <u>a/</u>	21.4	22.2	19.6	20.7
Crops harvested, 1940, acres <u>a/</u>	20.7	21.0	19.5	20.2
Increase, 1941 over 1940, acres	0.7	1.2	0.1	0.5
Animal units kept, 1941 <u>b/</u>	6.2	7.4	6.0	6.5

a/ Excludes rotation pasture.

b/ Includes horses; one unit = one horse, one cow, two young cattle, 10 sheep, 100 hens. and 1.400 lbs. pork.

Table 6. - Trend in Farming as Reported by Part-time Operators,
Three Land Use Areas, Columbiana County, 1940-41
(Per cent of total number)

	Poor Area	Fair Area	Good Area	All Areas
Per cent reported farming less in 1941	24	35	23	27
Per cent reported farming more in 1941	38	11	15	18
Per cent reported farming same as in 1940	38	54	62	55
Total	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>

Table 7. - Part-time Farms Using Horses and Tractors and Employing
Extra and Regular Hired Labor, Three Land Use Areas,
Columbiana County, Ohio, 1941
(Per cent of total number)

	Poor Area	Fair Area	Good Area	All Areas
Per cent farming with horses and tractor	0	17	5	6
Per cent farming with horses	70	56	47	55
Per cent farming with tractor	18	22	33	26
Per cent lacking own farm power	12	11	15	13
Total	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>
Per cent employing regular hand	12	7	3	6
Per cent employing extra help	18	30	25	25
Per cent employing no outside help	70	63	72	69
Total	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>

In addition to data presented in table 6 showing the degree of farming in 1941 compared with 1940, information was collected on the amount of farming that operators expected to accomplish in 1942. This information is tabulated in table 8.

Table 8. - Farm Plans for 1942, 84 Part-time Farms, Three Land Use Areas, Columbiana County, Ohio, 1941
(Per cent of total number)

	Poor Area	Fair Area	Good Area	All Areas
Per cent planning more crops	24	18	5	13
Per cent planning less crops	18	26	15	19
Per cent planning same crops	58	56	80	68
Total	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>
Per cent planning more livestock	24	15	10	15
Per cent planning less livestock	18	4	10	10
Per cent planning same livestock	58	81	80	75
Total	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>

The fact that more operators in the Good area were planning less crops in 1942 was largely due to an expectation of working longer hours in industrial work off the farm. These operators were expecting to continue to care for the same relative amount of livestock as in 1941, however.

In the Fair area, two operators employing regular hired help expressed doubt that they could keep such help throughout 1942 and might be forced to grow less acres of crops as a result.

In the Poor area, one-fourth of the operators were planning to plant some of their idle land to crops in 1942. Such land in 1941 averaged 4.5 acres on these farms and included only the land regarded by them as still profitable to plant to crops.

The extent to which the acreage of available farmable cropland was being used in 1941 is shown in table 9.

Table 9. - Use of Available Cropland ^{a/}, 84 Part-time Farms, Three Land Use Areas, Columbiana County, Ohio, 1941
(Average per farm)

	Poor Area	Fair Area	Good Area	All Areas
Cropland harvested, acres	17.9	22.1	19.1	19.8
Rotation pasture, acres	1.3	1.7	0.5	1.0
Total cropland used, acres	19.2	23.8	19.6	20.8
Idle land, acres	4.5	4.7	3.6	4.2
Total available land, acres	23.7	28.5	23.2	25.0
Per cent of available used for crops	75	77	82	79

^{a/} Cropland which operator regarded as profitable to farm.

Table 9 shows that part-time farmers were already taking crops from 75 to 82 per cent of the cropland upon which they would be willing to risk planting a crop. In addition there was an average of 3.0 acres of idle land per farm which the operators did not consider profitable to farm. More complete land use data are given in table 10.

Table 10. - Land Use on 84 Part-time Farms, Three Land Use Areas, Columbiana County, 1941
(Average acres per farm)

	Poor Area	Fair Area	Good Area	All Areas
Grain crops	10.1	13.0	11.2	10.9
Hay crops	7.2	10.1	7.1	8.1
Rotation pasture	1.3	1.7	0.5	1.0
Special crops ^{a/}	0.6	1.0	0.8	0.8
Total cropland	19.2	23.8	19.6	20.8
Open idle land	8.2	9.4	5.3	7.2
Permanent pasture	14.4	13.9	8.7	11.5
Woods, bldgs, & waste	12.0	15.8	6.4	10.6
Total farm land	53.8	62.9	40.0	50.1

^{a/} Truck crops; potatoes; strawberries.

The extent to which operators of part-time farms made frequent use of lime and regular use of fertilizers is indicated in table 11.

Table 11. - Operators Using Fertilizer Regularly and Lime Frequently,
84 Part-time Farms, Columbiana County, Ohio, 1941
(Per cent of total number)

	Poor Area	Fair Area	Good Area	All Areas
Per cent reporting regular use of fertilizers on crops	88	74	80	80
Per cent reporting frequent use of lime materials	47	63	60	58

Having reviewed the resources of land, family, and farm power on part-time farms of 10 acres or more, and having seen the extent to which these resources were used, there remains a third side of the farm enterprise to be investigated. That is, what part of the farm production was sold in excess of the requirements of home use?

Table 12 shows the sources of farm receipts from the sale of various farm products.

Table 12. - Farm Receipts from Sale of Crops, Livestock, and Livestock Products,
84 Part-time Farms, Three Land Use Areas, Columbiana County, Ohio,
1941.
(Average per farm)

Source of receipts	Poor Area	Fair Area	Good Area	All Areas
Sale of crops	\$ 37	\$ 63	\$ 69	\$ 61
Sale of livestock <u>a/</u> and stock products	171	342	331	308
Conservation payments	13	21	15	16
Average total farm receipts <u>b/</u>	221	426	415	380
Maximum reported per farm	1803	2410	1731	2410

a/ Includes only livestock produced for the market such as veal calves, market hogs, lambs, beef cattle, etc.

b/ For prices used in computing average farm receipts see Appendix A.

Table 13. - Number of Farms Reporting Sales and Value of Receipts from Livestock and Livestock Products, 84 Part-time Farms, Columbiana County, 1941

Products Sold	Poor Area		Fair Area		Good Area		All Areas	
	No. Farms	Value of Sales	No. Farms	Value of Sales	No. Farms	Value of Sales	No. Farms	Value of Sales
Eggs	3	\$ 341	11	\$1883	23	\$5046	37	\$7270
Cream	2	116	3	920	14	3824	19	4830
Veal	3	65	6	600	7	335	16	1000
Butter	2	80	7	480	5	234	14	794
Milk	2	1420	5	4229	5	2210	12	7859
Poultry	-	-	4	330	7	993	11	1323
Pork	1	138	4	754	5	396	10	1288
Beef	2	615	1	50	2	215	5	880
Lamb	1	56	-	-	-	-	1	56
Wool	1	72	-	-	-	-	1	72
All Products	9	2,903	19	9,246	32	13,253	60	25,402
Av. per farm having sales		323		487		414		423
Av. per farm, all farms		171		342		331		303

Home facilities

Each part-time farm of 10 acres or more was rated on the basis of the number and kind of home facilities observed (Table 14). As before, wide extremes were observed in the Poor area with more than one-half being rated below average. In contrast, only 18 and 19 per cent were below average in the Fair and Good areas.

Table 14. - Ratings of Home Facilities for 84 Part time Farms, Columbiana County, 1941
(Per cent of total number)

Rating	Poor Area	Fair Area	Good Area	All Areas
Above average	18	15	25	20
Average	29	66	57	55
Below Average	53	19	18	25
Total	100	100	100	100

In addition to the data in table 14, other data indicating the possession of home conveniences on the part-time farms studied are presented in table 15. Likewise, the condition of buildings on these farms was observed and the data are presented in table 16.

Table 15. - Conveniences in the Home, 84 Part-time Farms, Three Land Use Areas, Columbiana County, Ohio, 1941
(Per cent of total number)

	Poor Area	Fair Area	Good Area	All Areas
Electricity	53	70	77	70
Radio	82	96	87	89
Telephone	41	22	43	36
Water system	24	22	43	32
Washing machine	65	70	75	71
Refrigerator, mech.	18	19	40	30
Refrigerator, other	0	15	23	15
Inside toilet	6	15	35	23
Kitchen sink	29	48	50	45
Furnace	11	22	20	19

Table 16. - Condition of Buildings, 84 Part-time Farms, Three Land Use Areas, Columbiana County, Ohio, 1941
(Per cent of total number)

	Poor Area	Fair Area	Good Area	All Areas
Condition of house:				
Good	29	54	62	53
Fair	42	35	20	29
Poor	29	11	18	18
Total	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>
Condition of barns:				
Good	34	23	45	36
Fair	18	43	18	25
Poor	42	19	37	33
None	6	15	0	6
Total	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>

It may be said that on the basis of table 15 families in the Fair and Good areas enjoyed many more conveniences than those in the Poor area. In comparing the data from these part-time farms of 10 acres or more with data from other sources relating to all farms it was learned that part-time farms had fewer conveniences. The desire for more conveniences may have been another motive for working off the farm although few operators reported it to be their chief motive for doing so.

EMPLOYMENT OFF THE FARM

Work Done Off the Farm by Farm Operators

Having studied the farm and home phases of part-time farms the next subject deals with the work done off the farm by these operators. Table 17 shows the amount of time spent in work off the farm, the distance to such work and the earnings made by the operator in his part-time employment.

Table 17. - Days Worked Off the Farm by the Operator, Distance to Work, and Earnings from Such Work, 84 Part-time Farms, Three Land Use Areas
Columbiana County, 1941

	Poor Area	Fair Area	Good Area	All Areas
Work off the farm, 1941 average days	195	223	250	231
Distance from farm to work, miles	8.0	9.4	6.5	7.8
Monthly earnings, average	\$ 106	\$ 122	\$ 133	\$ 124
Yearly earnings, average	985	1,320	1,391	1,292
Minimum annual earning reported	175	320	360	175
Maximum annual earning reported	2,880	2,500	2,600	2,880

These farmers reported working off their farms from 30 to as many as 365 days in the year ending with November, 1941. One man reported working away at the same job for 35 years while at the other extreme were four men who had been on their latest job one month or less when interviewed. It was also found that 20 per cent of the operators interviewed had been full-time farmers prior to the outbreak of hostilities in Europe (1939).

In connection with the distance travelled to work, data were collected which indicate that 62 per cent of these part-time farmers were using automobiles 5 years old or older. These data are presented in table 18. It was also learned that 66 per cent owned lightweight low-priced cars; 21 per cent, medium and heavy cars; 10 per cent used light trucks, and 3 per cent did not own an automobile.

Table 18. - Age of Automobiles in Use by Part-time Farmers, Three Land Use Areas, Columbiana County, 1941
(Per cent of total number)

	Poor Area	Fair Area	Good Area	All Areas
Less than two years old	14	10	3	8
Two to four years old	21	24	39	30
Five to seven years old	21	33	36	32
Eight years and over	44	33	22	30
Total	100	100	100	100

In table 19 data are presented which indicate the different occupations reported by farmers who worked off their farms 150 days or more or received 50 per cent or more of the annual income from such work. Table 20 lists all miscellaneous occupations.

Table 19. - Occupations of 84 Part-time Farmers in Three Land Use Areas, Columbiana County, Ohio, 1941

Occupations	Poor Area	Fair Area	Good Area	All Areas
Metal industries	5	3	15	23
Clay industries	3	7	5	15
Railroads	1	3	2	6
Truck and bus drivers	1	3	2	6
Carpenters	1	2	2	5
Watchmen and guards	1	2	2	5
Farm and day laborers	2	1	2	5
Clerks	0	0	3	3
Schoolteachers	1	0	1	2
Coal miners	0	1	1	2
Miscellaneous ^{a/}	2	5	5	12
Total	17	27	40	84

^{a/} See table 20 for complete list of miscellaneous occupations.

Table 20. - Unclassified, Miscellaneous Occupations Reported by Twelve Part-time Farmers, Three Land Use Areas, Columbiana County, 1941

Miscellaneous occupations	Poor Area	Fair Area	Good Area	All Areas
Rural mail carrier	1	-	-	1
Barber	1	-	-	1
Furnace setter	-	1	-	1
Bull dozer operator	-	1	-	1
Scraper operator	-	1	-	1
Canal lock operator	-	1	-	1
WPA flagman	-	1	-	1
Garage mechanic	-	-	1	1
Filling station operator	-	-	1	1
Drilling rig operator	-	-	1	1
Creamery operator	-	-	1	1
Draftsman	-	-	1	1
Total	2	5	5	12

Work Done Off the Farm by Others

In addition to the operator there were others living at home who were also employed off the farm. Their earnings and contributions to the family were not included in any part of this study however. Table 21 shows the number of such persons in each area and gives the ratio to the total number of part-time farms of ten acres or more in each area.

Table 21. - Other Persons ^{a/}, In Addition to the Operator, Employed Off the Farm, 84 Part-time Farms, Three Land Use Areas, Columbiana County, 1941

	Poor Area	Fair Area	Good Area	All Areas
Number employed off farm in addition to operator	6	7	19	32
Per cent of total number of farms	35	26	48	38

^{a/} Earnings of persons other than the operator were not included in this study.

As to the occupations of persons in addition to the operators, 14, or 44 per cent, worked in machine shops or iron and steel foundries; five others worked as clerks, and four as farm and day laborers. The remainder had miscellaneous types of work such as accountant, draftsman, painter, oiler, mechanic, bus driver, aircraft assembler, WPA, and professional baseball player.

SATISFACTION WITH PART-TIME FARMING

Before discussing the relative satisfaction of operators with part-time farming some data should be presented indicating their experience with it. This material is shown in table 22.

Table 22. - Operators' Experience with Part-time Farming, 84 Part-time Farms, Three Land Use Areas, Columbiana County, Ohio, 1941

	Poor Area	Fair Area	Good Area	All Areas
Number formerly full-time farmers	6	15	15	36
Per cent of total	35	56	37	43
Time since last full-time farmer, years (mean)	4.6	4.6	5.0	4.8
(median)	5.0	2.0	2.0	2.0
Number formerly living in town	9	11	18	38
Per cent of total	53	41	45	45
Time since moving to farm, years (mean)	3.4	8.0	8.6	7.3
(median)	3.0	7.0	4.0	4.0

It was found that the time which had elapsed since operators had last been full-time farmers ranged from only 3 months to as much as 17 years. Likewise, one part-time operator had moved from town as far back as 1915, or 26 years ago. In both instances these operators lived in the Good area. It should also be mentioned that in each area there were several operators who had neither been full-time farmers nor had they ever lived in town. These men had established their first home in a rural area but had always worked away from home since its establishment.

In regard to operators' satisfaction with the part-time farming arrangement they were asked whether or not they thought their situation was as satisfactory as before adopting it. The results have been listed in table 23.

Table 23. - Satisfaction with Part-time Arrangement, 84 Part-time Farms,
Three Land Use Areas, Columbiana County, 1941
(Per cent of total number)

Operators reporting as:	Poor Area	Fair Area	Good Area	All Areas
Satisfactory	82	92	90	89
Doubtful	12	8	5	7
Unsatisfactory	6	0	5	4
Total	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>

In addition, those operators who had formerly been full-time farmers were asked why they had begun to work off the farm. The reasons given are included in table 24. Likewise, operators who had formerly lived in town were asked why they had moved to a part-time farm, and their reasons may be found in table 25. Finally, all operators were asked what they had found to be the chief difficulties, if any, associated with part-time farming. Their answers have been tabulated in table 26.

Table 24. - Former Full-time Farmers' Reasons for Working Off Their Farms,
Three Land Use Areas, Columbiana County, 1941
(Number reporting)

	Poor Area	Fair Area	Good Area	All Areas
Farm too small--not paying--needed more income	5	8	5	18
Payments due on farm--pressure of debt	1	3	3	7
Health failed--farm work too heavy	-	2	2	4
Family wanted regular, steady income	-	-	3	3
Part of farm strip mined--little left to farm	-	1	-	1
Neighbors asked him to work for them	-	-	1	1
Chance to drive bus--always wanted to	-	-	1	1
No comment	-	1	-	1
Total	<u>6</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>36</u>

Table 25. - Former Town Residents' Reasons for Moving to Farm, Three Land Use Areas, Columbiana County, 1941
(Number reporting)

	Poor Area	Fair Area	Good Area	All Areas
Live cheaper - more security	1	1	10	12
Dislike town - prefer to live in country	2	4	5	11
Inherited farm	0	4	2	6
Hope to improve health in country	1	0	1	2
Wished to rear family in country	1	1	0	2
Farm is safest investment in these times	1	0	0	1
No comment	3	2	0	5
Total	9	12	18	39

Table 26. - Difficulties Reported by Part-time Farmers, Three Land Use Areas, Columbiana County, 1941
(Number reporting)

	Poor Area	Fair Area	Good Area	All Areas
Irregular hours - hard to plan work	1	2	5	8
Too long working hours	1	2	6	9
Have had to hire too much work done	0	4	3	7
Unable to hire help when needed	0	1	6	7
Had to buy all feed - too expensive	1	1	1	3
Farm is too small - doesn't pay to farm it	1	1	0	2
Too easy to plow all your earnings into farm	0	0	1	1
Still lack equipment we hope to get	1	0	0	1
No difficulties reported	12	16	18	46
Total	17	27	40	84

In order to determine what relation, if any, there was between the amounts of livestock, harvested crops, and available cropland, and the type of operator, his employment and satisfaction with part-time farming, the farms were sorted accordingly and the data were tabulated on the basis of whether or not difficulties were reported. The results did not indicate any pronounced relationships but did show some possible limits within which recommendations as to the amounts of cropland and livestock for typical part-time farms could be made. Operators who did not report difficulties, harvested an average of 13.3 acres to 30.6 acres of crops, depending on the amount of help and the kind of farm power available. Likewise, from 3.5 to 5.9 animal units of productive livestock were

reported kept without difficulty. It was revealed that operators who had extra help reported the most difficulties when regularly employed 1/ and when irregularly employed, they reported the least. This was explained by the fact that regularly employed operators had to work away so much of the time that they were forced to hire much more of their farm work done and many reported that renting equipment and hiring someone else to do their farm work was not always satisfactory because of delays and conflicts with the work of others.

The data indicate that in the case of regularly employed operators, the average amount of idle cropland was the same (5.6 acres per farm) whether difficulties were reported or not. In the case of irregularly employed operators, however, those reporting difficulties averaged 6.3 acres of idle cropland as compared with only 3.8 acres per farm for the group reporting no difficulties. Further data, showing how much farming was done by irregularly and regularly employed operators, with and without help, are listed in table 27.

Operators who had some additional help kept more livestock, and those who were not regularly employed off the farm were able to harvest slightly more cropland in 1941. The differences were very small, however, and no relationships of practical importance were indicated.

In table 28 the data again indicate that the size of farm and the extent of farming had little to do with the extent of home facilities found on part-time farms of 10 acres or more. The factors most directly associated, however, were the reported earnings from work off the farm and the productivity index of the farm. Although farmers in the poorest group harvested as many acres as the others, their average receipts from the sale of farm products were only about one-half that of the other two groups.

1/ Worked off the farm 240 days or more annually.

Table 27. - Relation of Operators' Employment to Additional Help Hired, Cropland Harvested and Livestock Kept, 84 Part-time Farms, Columbiana County, 1941

(Average per farm)						
	Number of Operators	Number Reporting difficulty	Cropland available ^{a/} (acres)	Cropland harvested (acres)	Per cent harvested	Livestock kept ^{b/} (Animal Units)
Regularly employed: ^{c/}						
Operator only	21	8	20.8	17.0	82	4.8
With family help	14	8	29.8	22.8	77	5.1
With hired help	17	10	27.2	20.4	75	5.0
Total	52	26	25.3	19.7	78	4.9
Irregularly employed:						
Operator only	16	6	24.0	18.9	79	5.1
With family help	10	4	24.8	22.6	91	5.9
With hired help	6	2	26.7	18.7	70	4.8
Total	32	12	24.7	20.0	81	5.3
Grand Total	84	38	25.0	19.8	79	5.0

a/ Cropland which it would pay to farm

b/ Productive livestock; excludes horses.

c/ Regular employment = work off farm 240 days or more.

As indicated in table 27, operators with family help kept slightly more productive livestock per farm, however, the average amounts of cropland harvested per farm showed little relation to the amount of help reported by operators. Seventeen operators, regularly employed, reported hiring an estimated 2.9 man-months of labor per farm and also reported an average of one man-month of family labor per farm. Fourteen operators, also regularly employed, hired no additional help but reported an average of 5.0 man-months of family labor. Six operators, irregularly employed, reported hiring an average of only 1.6 man-months of labor per farm, while 10 other irregularly employed operators reported 4.6 man-months of family help per farm.

Table 28. - Home Facilities Related to the Extent of Farming and Earnings from Work Off the Farm, 84 Part-time Farms, Columbiana County, 1941

	Home Facilities Ratings			Total
	Above Average	Average	Below Average	
Number of farms	17	47	20	84
Crops harvested, 1941, acres	19.8	21.4	18.4	20.7
Crops harvested, 1940, acres	19.0	22.0	17.4	20.2
Total cropland available, acres	24.1	26.6	22.5	25.0
Average size farm, acres	42.0	52.2	52.2	50.1
Average productivity index	105	104	85	100
Livestock kept, 1941, animal units	6.1	6.6	5.5	6.5
Number operators regularly employed ^{1/}	15	30	7	52
" " irregularly "	2	17	13	32
Annual earning from work off farm, av.	\$1717	\$1308	\$ 964	\$1292
Receipts from farm products ^{2/}	\$ 378	\$ 457	\$ 204	\$ 380
Average total per farm, 1941	\$2095	\$1765	\$1168	\$1672

^{1/} Employed off the farm 240 days or more annually.

^{2/} Includes agricultural conservation payments.

Apparently, a satisfactory situation for a part-time farm in this area was approximately 20 to 25 acres of productive cropland, with about six animal units of livestock, and more important, regular employment off the farm to facilitate planning the farm work and to furnish sufficient income.

Even though the below-average group (table 28) spent more time at home, they did not farm as much land and had fewer animals to care for.

SUMMARY

In view of the fact that Census data indicate that 40 per cent of all farms in Columbiana County in Northeastern Ohio were on a part-time basis in 1939, this study was designed to furnish additional information so that land-use recommendations already made for full-time farms could be extended to include part-time farms.

On the basis of a sample of sixty square-mile sections of land, located in three land-use areas, it was found that there were as many part-time farms,

27.6 per cent of all rural homes, as there were full-time farms, 27.4 per cent of the total.

Eighty-four part-time farms of 10 acres or more were studied and were found to range from 10 to 186 acres in size and to average 50.1 acres. Forty of these farms were in the land-use area best suited to agriculture and this group averaged 10.0 acres per farm. A much wider variation was found in the other two land-use areas, one of which was not adapted to agriculture, and the other included areas which were adapted to agriculture provided soil erosion was controlled.

Because the median experience farming as part-time farmers by former full-time operators was only 2 years, and for former city dwellers it was 4 years, it is probable that in many cases full adjustment of farms to a part-time basis had not been made at the time of the study.

Former full-time farmers were on farms averaging 71 acres per farm with about 8 animal units of livestock including horses. On the other hand, part-time operators who formerly lived in town were on farms averaging 40.6 acres per farm with an average of 6 animal units per farm.

The land resources of part-time farms of 10 acres or more were found on the average to be 28.0 acres of cropland of which an average of 25.0 acres per farm was judged to be worth cultivating by these operators. The productivity of these 84 farms varied from an average index of 83 in the Poor area (with an index of 90 in the Fair area) to an average of 111 for the Good area.

Crops were harvested on the average from 75 to 82 per cent of the cropland available on these part-time farms indicating that these operators were making considerable use of their land resources. In addition, 61 per cent of the part-time farms of 10 acres or more were cooperating in the Agricultural Conservation Program, and in order to lessen the depletion of their soil, 80 per cent of the operators reported using fertilizer regularly and 58 per cent said that they had

made frequent applications of lime. An average of 7.2 acres of cropland per farm was idle in 1941, but 3.0 acres of this, on the average, was regarded as being "too poor to farm."

Although it was found that the acreage of crops harvested in 1941 was one-half acre per farm greater than in 1940, operators reported that less cropland would probably be farmed in 1942 because of the lack of farm labor and the need to work overtime in many industries. In 1941, an average of 19.8 acres of crops was harvested per farm, not including rotation pasture, and 5.0 animal units of livestock, excluding horses, were kept per farm. Fifty-five per cent of all operators, however, farmed with horses exclusively; 6 per cent used both horses and a tractor; 26 per cent used a tractor alone; and 13 per cent hired such work done.

Total farm receipts from products sold were twice as much in the Fair and Good areas as in the Poor, or non-agricultural area. The average for all areas was \$380 per farm in 1941. The average for the first two areas was about \$425 in addition to those products consumed at home. Crops sold by most farmers were first, grain, then potatoes, truck crops, hay and fruits in the order named. Livestock and their products sold from most farms were eggs, cream, veal, butter, milk, poultry, pork, beef, lamb and wool in the order named.

Families living in the agricultural areas enjoyed more home conveniences than those in the Poor area. Only 20 per cent of the homes were rated below average in the former areas while over one-half were rated below average in the latter.

In the matter of employment off the farm, farmers living in the Poor areas were farther from work, drove the oldest automobiles, and were employed the least number of days per year, averaging 195 days. In the Good areas, which were nearest the industries located in the northern sections of the county, the distance to work averaged only 6.5 miles and the average number of days worked

was 250 per year.

Average monthly earnings ranged from \$106 in the Poor area to \$133 in the Good area and yearly earnings from work off the farm averaged \$985 and \$1,391 in these same regions. Averages for part-time farms of 10 acres or more in all areas were as follows:

Distance from farm to work..... 7.8 miles
 Average monthly earning off farm..... 124 dollars
 Average yearly earning off farm.....1,292 dollars

In connection with the distance travelled to work, it was found that 62 per cent of all operators were using automobiles 5 years old or older.

Most part-time farmers were employed in near-by metal and clay industries. Other fields of employment in the order of importance were: railroads, truck and bus driving, carpentry, watchmen and guards, farm and day labor, clerking, school teaching, and coal mining. A number of miscellaneous occupations were also reported.

Forty-three per cent of all part-time operators were formerly full-time farmers, and they had been on a part-time basis an average of 4.8 years. The median experience among these 36 operators, however, was considerably less, being only 2 years. On the other hand, 46 per cent formerly had lived in town and had moved to a farm an average of 7.3 years previous to the time of the study. The median period reported by these 39 operators, however, was 4 years.

Most operators reported that they began to work off their farm either because it was too small or was not yielding enough income for other reasons. Of those who had moved out from town, a majority said they had done so because they preferred the country, or they sought to live cheaper with more security from the lack of steady work in town.

In general, operators reported that part-time farming was satisfactory in that it had helped them to become better off than before. Of those interviewed, only 11 per cent expressed doubt or dissatisfaction. In spite of the general

expression of satisfaction, 38 operators, or 45 per cent, reported some specific difficulty which they had experienced. Chief among the difficulties reported were the following: ^{1/}

- a) Irregular hours made it difficult to plan and do farm work.
- b) Working hours too long; feared impaired health.
- c) Often becomes necessary to hire too much farming done.
- d) Too often not able to hire or obtain extra help when needed.

In trying to learn whether the data indicate any optimum size of organization for part-time farms, the relation between such factors as size of farms, livestock, type of employment, help available, reported difficulties, etc., were investigated but did not reveal any significant associations. There were only small differences between farms reporting difficulties and those which did not. As regards total production it made little difference whether or not the operator was employed off the farm regularly, because almost the same average amounts of crops were harvested and livestock kept by each group. Even when the groups were sorted according to their home facilities ratings the size of farms and the extent of farming were found to have little relation to such ratings. The factors most directly associated with such ratings were the reported earnings from work off the farm and the productivity index of the farm. Apparently, part-time farms of 10 acres or more which were proving generally satisfactory to the operator had approximately 20 to 25 acres of productive cropland, with about 6 animal units of livestock, and more important, the operator had regular employment off the farm to facilitate planning the farm work and to furnish sufficient income.

^{1/} Difficulties associated with war-time restrictions of transportation did not exist when the study was made.

APPENDIX A

Average Farm Prices of Agricultural Products for Northeastern Ohio, 1941.

(Adjusted from 1941 Ohio average prices--used to compute receipts from the sale of farm products in table 12.)

<u>Crops:</u>		<u>Livestocks:</u>	
Corn	\$.80 bu.	Butter	\$.35 lb.
Oats	.50 bu.	Cream	.33 lb.
Wheat	1.00 bu.	Milk	2.25 cwt.
Rye	.60 bu.	Wool	.40 lb.
Soybeans	1.25 bu.	Eggs	.25 doz.
Mixed Hay	8.20 ton	Pork	9.40 cwt.
Timothy Hay	7.80 ton	Beef	9.20 cwt.
Potatoes	.90 bu.	Poultry	.17 lb.
Peaches	1.00 bu.		
Apples	.85 bu.		
Strawberries	.10 qt.		

