

THE WORK AND FAMILY ROLES OF YOUNG
OKLAHOMA FARM WOMEN

By

JEANNETTE SUE JONES-WEBB

Bachelor of Science in Home Economics

Oklahoma State University

Stillwater, Oklahoma

1982

Submitted to the Faculty of the Graduate College
of the Oklahoma State University
in partial fulfillment of the requirements
for the Degree of
MASTER OF SCIENCE
July, 1983



THE WORK AND FAMILY ROLES OF YOUNG
OKLAHOMA FARM WOMEN

Thesis Approved:

Sharon Y. Nichols

Thesis Adviser

Godfrey Ellis

Carl Hall

Claudia J. Peck

Norman D. Dukes

Dean of Graduate College

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

It is with heartfelt gratitude that the author recognizes the many persons whose cooperation and support contributed to the completion of this study: to Dr. Sharon Y. Nickols, Associate Professor of the Department of Housing, Design and Consumer Resources and Director of the Family Study Center, for her constant support in serving as a thesis adviser, employer, role model and friend; to Dr. Carl Hall, Professor and Head of the Housing, Design and Consumer Resources Department, for serving on the thesis committee and for providing assistance in the development of the financial management section of the study; to Dr. Claudia J. Peck, Assistant Professor in the Department of Housing, Design and Consumer Resources, for serving on the thesis committee and for her assistance in development of the proposal; to Dr. Godfrey J. Ellis, Associate Professor in the Department of Family Relations and Child Development, for serving on the thesis committee and for his encouragement and assistance in earlier studies; to the Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service, which assisted in locating the respondents; and, to the farm women themselves for their willingness to share their lives with a stranger and for their infectious faith in the farming lifestyle.

Special thanks must go to my family: to my parents, whose love, dedication and sacrifice instilled a loyalty to my farming heritage, the dream of education and the courage to combine the two; to my husband, Rick whose unfailing love, support and willingness to manage our farm/

ranch operation alone for two years made it possible for me to attain an advanced degree; to my sister, Carla Kay and brother, Noel who worked by my side through our childhood in the 3-J farming operation to make college a reality and who continue to provide encouragement; to my grandparents, the first farm family in my life, who taught me the value of extended family support; and, to my husband's family, Bill, Jean and Jessie, who provided the opportunity for our farming endeavor and who opened their hearts and homes to me throughout this study.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Chapter	Page
I. INTRODUCTION	1
Modern Farming	2
Women in the Context of the Family Farm	5
Purpose and Objectives	10
Research Questions	11
Study Design	11
Assumptions and Limitations	12
Definitions	12
Summary	13
II. REVIEW OF LITERATURE	15
The Farm Woman	16
Family Role	18
On-Farm Work Role	20
Off-Farm Work Role	24
Summary	25
III. RESEARCH DESIGN	28
Type of Research	28
Population and Sample	29
Analysis of Data	32
Summary	34
IV. ANALYSIS OF DATA	35
Profiles	35
Profile of the Respondents	35
Profile of the Farm Operation	38
Farm Women's Triad of Roles	40
Family Role	40
On-Farm Work Role	44
Off-Farm Work Role	52
Finances	55
Financial Planning Knowledge	55
Economic Concerns	56
Farm Women's Perceptions	60
Perception of Self	60
Perception of the Farming Lifestyle	67
Skills and Knowledge Needed	69

Chapter	Page
Summary	70
V. SUMMARY	72
Major Findings	73
Conclusions	75
Program Implications	78
Recommendations for Future Research	80
BIBLIOGRAPHY	82
APPENDIX A - OKLAHOMA MAP DESIGNATING COUNTIES USED IN SURVEY . . .	86
APPENDIX B - CORRESPONDENCE AND SCREENING TELEPHONE INTERVIEW . . .	88
APPENDIX C - QUESTIONNAIRE	93

LIST OF TABLES

Table	Page
I. Questionnaire Items	33
II. Age and Sex of Children	36
III. Farm Profiles and Production for Each Family	39
IV. Household Task Performance	41
V. Farm Task Performance	45
VI. Financial Planning and Knowledge	55
VII. Wife's Knowledge of Location of Important Documents	56
VIII. Farm Women's Off-Farm Income	58

FIGURE

Figure	Page
1. Oklahoma Map Denoting Interview Counties	87

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

When humans learned to till the soil and to domesticate animals, the first turning point in human social and economic development was at hand. Toffler (1980) refers to this time as the "first wave" involving change which transformed the human race -- the agricultural revolution. People turned from being nomadic hunters to community and family builders. Farming brought stability to these families and for thousands of years farming was a way of life for most people. This lifestyle came to America with the Pilgrims and later to the frontier with the pioneers. It was the predominant lifestyle into the twentieth century. As recently as 1920, one-third of the nation's families still lived on farms where husbands, wives, and children worked together in making a home and making a living (Degler, 1980; Vanek, 1980). Although some argue that there was a division of labor by gender (Degler, 1980), women had an important role and thus gained respect within the family context (Vanek, 1980).

The "second wave" (Toffler, 1980), or the industrial revolution brought change to many rural families. They became mobile; many left land that had been "in the family" for generations. Many husbands exchanged their labor for wages in the marketplace and family work became separated from paid work. Work and family roles were no longer enmeshed

within the same economic unit; and thus, the intimate relationships within the family economic unit changed.

Some families however, have persisted, survived, and even flourished in the ancient cooperative economic unit of farming. But in a contemporary context, their business is seen by some as pre-industrial and outmoded (Mills, 1956) and as a bastion of poverty, ignorance, and fatalism, (Ford cited in Poole, 1981). Others have mental images of rural families that portray "country living and family life as simple, pure and wholesome; slow paced; free from pressures and tensions; and surrounded by pastoral beauty and serenity" (Coward and Smith, 1981, p. 1). Consequently, today there are two conflicting views: one view sees the farming lifestyle as the worst of all worlds and an opposing view sees it as the best way of life, somehow superior to all other lifestyles. In reality, family farms of today are probably somewhere between these two extreme views and they, as all other modern institutions, are in the midst of change.

Modern Farming

"Farming is one of the few remaining enterprises in which unpaid family members contribute a major share of the labor and management" (Wilkening, 1981b, p. 1). It is also different from other occupations in that it "fulfills and perpetuates the physical, social, psychological, and environmental needs of its members and is organized to sustain those requirements in the system as a whole" (Capener and Berkowitz, 1976, p. 8). Bokemeir and Coughenour (1980) describe the farm enterprise as a dynamic, two-person career requiring husband and wife to work as a team. It is also a place where children can grow up

with the opportunity for a well-rounded knowledge of life, nature, business, and home (Crampton, 1965). Becker, Landes, and Michael (1977) explain that the lower divorce rate among farm families in comparison to the general population is a result of the strength and stability brought to a marriage when the family and economic unit are the same. All these descriptions are best summarized by the comments of a young farm woman, "Farming is the only way to live. Everyone is involved and it is hard work. Nothing is ever done, but at least you do it all together" (Jones-Webb, 1982, p. 15).

Besides offering the unique opportunities for family interaction, modern farming is a multi-faceted occupation requiring many skills. It consists of much hard manual labor, e.g., mending fences, "bucking" bales, "working" cattle, repairing large equipment. It also requires a high level of management skills and a knowledge of marketing systems. Furthermore, there is a growing need for micro-computer skills. These are just a few of the prerequisites for operating a contemporary farm.

Many farmers are in the occupation for the independence involved and the unique relationship they have with their land. The land provides a basis for family continuity across generations that is very important for certain ethnic groups (Salamon and Keim, 1979). Because the farm family cares deeply about their property, it has been argued by many that large corporations that hire laborers will never be as profitable as the family farm because of the lower commitment of hired workers (Wilkening, 1981a).

Family-owned and operated farms continue to dominate United States agriculture despite changes in their size and economic conditions. Farm sizes are increasing from an average of 157 acres in 1930 to 433 acres

in 1974 (United States Department of Agriculture, 1980; Wilkening, 1981a). In 1978, 86 percent of all farms were family-owned and operated with the number of family farms near 2,078,687 (United States Department of Agriculture, 1981a). Ten percent were partnership operations and two percent were incorporated; however most corporations had 10 or fewer shareholders and thus were closely-held family-owned businesses rather than corporate-owned investment ventures (United States Department of Agriculture, 1983).

It cannot be denied that the institution of farming is undergoing change. Numbers of farms and of farm people have declined steadily over the past decade while relative farm size has increased (Banks and Kalbacher, 1981; Wilkening, 1981a). In 1935, when the number of U. S. farms was greatest, there were 6.8 million farms in existence. In 1977, there were 2.7 million, leaving one in every 36 persons engaged in the farming occupation (Banks and Kalbacher, 1981). Banks and Kalbacher further state that currently some 3.1 million people are reporting some farm self-employment income. Adding family members to that group gives a total of 9.1 million people directly benefiting from such farm-generated income.

Another aspect of change impacting modern farming is the amount of capital needed to farm. The average value of land and buildings has dramatically increased from \$20,504 in 1920 (Wilkening, 1981a) to \$308,358 in 1980 (United States Department of Agriculture, 1980). Parallel to this is an increased dependence upon commercial credit. This increased capital investment and credit dependence has made entering farming especially difficult for young farmers. The older age

structure of the farming population reflects these barriers to young farmers (Banks and Kalbacher, 1981).

Modern technology, such as computerized feeding and mechanical sophistication, has mandated farm expansion in order to remain competitive, but even so, crop prices are extremely low with farmers receiving 55 percent parity for their efforts in 1981, the lowest since 1933 (Williams, 1982). Parity would provide farmers with the same purchasing power they had from 1910 to 1914. Some call it a fair return on a farmer's investment. As a result of high land and capital costs and depressed prices for farm products, many farmers are in economic trouble. While off-farm work in the past was regarded as a transition into or out of farming (Fuguitt, 1959), it has become a way of life for increasing numbers of farm families in order to supplement income or pay farm debts (Boulding, 1980; Rosenfeld, 1982b). As much as 60 percent of the total family income of farm operator families came from off-farm sources in the late 1970's and nearly all farm families had some off-farm income (United States Department of Agriculture, 1983).

The roles of farm family members have changed to meet the needs of the shifting farm structure and organization. "While it is assumed that the family is necessarily involved in the family farm, there has been relatively little study of the nature of that involvement" (Wilkening, 1981a), especially the involvement of the "invisible partner" -- the woman. This study examines the role of women on family farms.

Women in the Context of the Family Farm

Despite increasing interest in the social and economic position of women in the United States, the role of farm women is still largely

unknown (Rosenfeld, 1982a). Farm women and women farmers have received so little attention that Gladwin (1982) speaks of a "sexual blind spot" which excludes women from access to agricultural credit, training, land, and new technology. This blind spot has resulted in part because of data collection problems, such as the misclassification of the occupations of many farm women as unpaid family workers or housewives, and farm income accounted only to men. The Census of Agriculture also tends to undercount female farmers because only one person per farm unit is counted as the farm operator. Difficulties arise then in the documentation of the true economic contributions of farm women (Scholl, 1982b).

Some researchers suggest that part of this problem could be related to the way in which many farm women see themselves, i.e., their identities and their roles. "Most women appear to identify primarily with their status as producers or members of agricultural enterprises, and only secondarily with their status of women in this field" (Jones and Rosenfeld, 1981, p. vi). However, Boulding (1980, p. 264) comments that the problem lies in the way men perceive what women do. "What men think [farm] women do, as distinguished from what women really do, continues to dominate the male policymakers' view of the world."

This lack of documentation and understanding leads to a number of problems for farm women. Women interviewed in a national study reported they felt neither noticed nor understood by the general public (Jones and Rosenfeld, 1981). Other farm women reported that the lack of recognition had a damaging effect on their standing with institutions, such as the credit markets. Their concern is more than a need for understanding, "it represents a basic foundation on which to attain social and legal status" (Scholl, 1982b, p. 19).

There is also a growing feeling that farm women are a resource that is not being developed. Proper training in machinery and animal care, and equipment designed for the smaller female body structure, would help women reach their potential as full farm partners, thus benefiting farm families, farming operations, and U. S. agriculture (Gladwin, 1982; Scholl, 1982a). Ironically, in a 1913 survey conducted by the Department of Agriculture, the same concerns were expressed. One Iowa woman declared, "Women want to feel that they are partners in fact with their husbands and not looked upon as subordinates" (Degler, 1980, p. 406). It would appear that there has been very little progress in the understanding of farm women since 1913.

In an effort to understand the many dimensions of farm women's lives, it is useful to view the linkages between their roles. Pleck's (1977) work-family role system provides a theoretical basis for examining the roles of farm women in contrast to the paradigm which separated work and family conceptually and in research studies. Pleck examines the work and family roles in relation to each other. In this theory he explicates a male work role, a female work role, a female family role, and a male family role that are depicted as having asymmetrically permeable boundaries between work and family roles for each sex. In family farms, the work and family roles are not as sharply delineated as for the urban families concept in Pleck's model; however, there is still relevance to be found in using this theory.

Farm women have a family role consisting of household work and child care, but in contrast to their urban cohorts, farm women often have a dual work role; one role being on-farm unpaid work, the other role consisting of off-farm paid work. Smale (1982) addresses these changing roles:

Increased off-farm employment by various family members brings the need for extensive adjustments in labor allocation as well as family life and expectations. Evidence tends to suggest that farm women bear the greater weight in these adjustments. Often, role change and changes in lifestyle expectations threaten the traditional husband-wife team of the family farm (p. 3).

As has been mentioned above, off-farm employment is increasingly becoming a survival mechanism for the family farm. Some have suggested that men are employed off the farm more frequently than are women because of the lower labor market returns of women (Rosenfeld, 1982b). As this off-farm employment of men increases, the need for women's involvement on the farm increases (Gladwin, 1982). Therefore, knowledge of woman's roles and responsibilities must be supplemented.

However, many women are themselves seeking off-farm employment. Jones and Rosenfeld (1981) report that one-third of those interviewed in a national study work off the farm. Fifty-seven percent of these said they are employed because of financial need. It has been suggested that other factors could enter into the picture such as psychic satisfaction, utilizing skills developed through higher education, or establishing credit in one's own name (Rosenfeld, 1982b).

This off-farm employment is adding yet another dimension to the life of farm women. They are now faced with a triad of roles: homemaker, farmer, and employee (Scholl, 1982b). Almost one-fourth of the respondents in the United States Department of Agriculture 1980 study fit this description (Jones and Rosenfeld, 1981). While nonfarm women have been dubbed "supermom" for fulfilling Pleck's two work-family roles (homemaker and employee), what are the implications and consequences for women who add the third role of farm laborer to the already complex work-family role system?

Although research on farm women is scanty, that which has been done provides some clues as to the roles and expectations of these women. More often, examination of the research on farm women indicates gaps where further knowledge is needed. In reporting summaries of earlier research, Pearson (1980b, p. 564) commented:

Although researchers have long noted that farm women, in comparison to their urban counterparts, spend longer hours working in and outside the home (Blood, 1958; Crawford, 1927), that the cooperation of wives is critical to the success of the farming enterprise (Wilcox, 1932), and that farmwife aspirations are critical to the adoption of improved farm practices (Wilkening and Guerrero, 1969), her contribution has been generally treated as "integrative-supportive" rather than as a participator in production (Straus, 1960). Rarely has attention focused on the woman's individual situation as a producer or a partner in production (Joyce and Leadly, 1977).

The question then surfaces: what are the roles of contemporary farm women? Pearson (1980b) classifies four types of farm women. She identifies: 1) independent producers, women who manage farms and ranches largely by themselves; 2) agricultural partners who share work responsibilities and decisions with their spouses; 3) farm helpers who do not ordinarily participate in farm work but help during peak times; and 4) farm homemakers who are removed from the direct production experience. Which of these types of women will assume the third role of off-farm employment? Or could the off-farm job itself mandate change in their chosen farm role? What are the feelings of women whose roles have been forced to change due to circumstances beyond their control? These are just a few of the questions that have arisen about contemporary farm women.

There are many factors involved in determining the role of farm women. But whatever their level of involvement, women's work is

directly or indirectly part of the productive process and appears to be an economic contribution to the family farm system (Salamon and Keim, 1979). It merits greater depth of study. Other researchers such as Boulding (1980) agree that research is needed. She states:

Before this way of life disappears it is important to study carefully the varied production roles of women on the family farm and to make assessments of the costs and benefits of farm roles for women, as well as for the society at large. Current policies will continue to drive women off the farm. Only a major research effort will tell us how much we will lose thereby (p. 288).

Purpose and Objectives

The purpose of this study is to identify the family and work roles of 10 contemporary young farm women on family farms and to examine factors related to these roles. The information is intended for use in planning educational programs which will benefit these young women and to provide information to create policy changes beneficial to farm women.

The following objectives will guide this study:

1. Describe the family role of young farm women. ✓
2. Document the on-farm labor and management roles of young farm women. ✓
3. Document the extent and nature of the off-farm work role of young farm women. ✓
4. Examine the financial and economic aspects including: ✓
 - a) examine the extent of knowledge about family financial arrangements and involvement in financial planning of young farm women.
 - b) identify economic concerns of young farm women.

5. Examine the self-concept of young farm women regarding their family and work roles and their perceptions regarding the advantages and disadvantages of the farm family lifestyle.
6. Make recommendations for educational program development, research and governmental policies based on the findings of this study.

Research Questions

The following research questions were developed for this study:

1. What is the nature of the family role of young farm women?
2. What are the contributions of young farm women to the labor and management of a family farming operation?
3. What is the nature and extent of the off-farm work role of young farm women?
4. How knowledgeable are young farm women about financial matters pertaining to farm and household operations?
5. How do young farm women perceive themselves, their family, their environment, and their satisfaction with the farm family lifestyle?

Study Design

This study follows the pattern of descriptive research as described by Best (1981):

Descriptive research describes what is. It involves the description, recording, analysis, and interpretation of conditions that exist. It is concerned with the relationships between nonmanipulative variables and the development of generalizations (pp. 24-25).

This study will utilize a survey method with purposive sampling.

Assumptions and Limitations

There are certain assumptions which exist for this study:

1. The researcher will be able to establish rapport with the farm women who will serve as respondents for this study, thereby eliciting relevant information from the respondents.
2. It will be possible for the researcher to make an objective analysis even though she is also a farm woman.
3. The method of sample selection will provide respondents who can give valid information.

The following limitations exist for this study:

1. Due to pragmatic concerns such as accessibility, time and budget, the sample is limited to 10 young farm women. These women were selected through the County Cooperative Extension offices in one area of the state of Oklahoma and may not be representative of the population of each county. Thus, caution must be taken not to generalize the data presented beyond this sample.
2. Furthermore, farming has seasonal aspects and the time of interviewing will not occur at a peak production period, possibly resulting in incomplete reporting of tasks and responsibilities.

Definitions

The following definitions will be used in this study:

1. Types of farm women:

Independent Producers - women who manage farms or ranches largely by themselves.

Agricultural Partners - women who share work, responsibilities, and decision making with their husbands concerning all aspects of production, sales, and purchasing.

Agricultural Helpers - women who do not ordinarily participate in agricultural production except during busy times.

Farm Homemakers - women who are removed from the direct production experience (Pearson, 1979).

2. Family Farm -

The essential characteristics of a family farm are not found in the kind of tenure, or in the size of sales, acreage or capital investment, but in the degree to which productive effort and its reward are vested in the family. The family farm is a primary agricultural business in which the operator is the risk-taking manager who with his¹ family does most of the farm work and performs most of the managerial activities (Brewster, 1979, p. 74).

3. Two-Person Career - a career which requires a tremendous commitment in time expenditure and loyalty by husband and wife (Bokemeir and Coughenour, 1980).

Summary

In recent years, there have been tremendous changes within societal and family structure. Wilkening (1981a) addresses how these changes have affected farm families:

Both the family farm and the farm family have changed considerably in the past two decades. The same economic and social forces affecting the larger society have affected the farm family. Although there is value placed upon the family farm and upon traditional family patterns, both have

¹This United States Department of Agriculture's definition of the family farm is an example of the "invisible" nature of the farm woman. In this definition, farmers are obviously considered to be men.

been affected by processes in the larger society. The close interdependence of family and farm has been replaced by greater dependence upon other systems and other relationships (p. 35).

These changes have generated many new questions about the roles that farm women play. There is little documentation of the work and family roles of farm women. An even greater gap appears in the literature in regard to how these women see themselves. Do they perceive their contributions as necessary to the survival of the family farm? Are they satisfied with the lifestyle mandated by the farming occupation? What are their goals and who are they as individuals, as women? If they carry the triple load of career, farm and home, how are they managing?

There are several reasons why young farm women between the ages of 20 and 36 are of special interest to this study. They are relatively new operators with large capital outlays. They are the women of child-bearing age, the ones most likely to have attained a higher degree of education and to place more value on off-farm work, and also of an age capable of doing a large amount of physical labor on the farm. It is very possible that role strain could exist for this group of women. This study is designed to address these issues.

CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

In her review of existing farm family literature, Keim (1976) finds that studies tend to view the farm family solely from an economic or social standpoint, disregarding the complex interaction between the two. Economic descriptions focus solely on the male farmer and ignore the contributions of the wife. Agricultural economists view the farm family as an independent nuclear unit. Keim further observes that descriptions in family sociology literature focus on the female family members as operators and managers of the home and exclude the importance of men. "This assumption of the separation of the economic and social aspects of a farm family combined with the division of labor according to sex, does not provide an accurate picture of a farm family" (Keim, 1976, p. 1). Capener and Berkowitz (1976) suggest that it is the underlying structure of farming units which draw the family, home, and occupational elements together to form this system so different from most occupations and lifestyles in industrial societies.

How does the farm family system work and what holds it together? The success or failure of the farm family system is often determined by the flexibility of farm men and women in this economic partnership. Although the contributions of farm women are often ignored, some researchers give farm women a great deal of credit in making the system work. They are seen as experts at "operationalizing flexibility"

moving from household to farm activities and back again several times during the day (Nickols, 1980), and more recently to off-farm employment (Scholl, 1982b); as farm laborers, managers, helpers (Boulding, 1980; Brengle, 1981; Gladwin, 1982; Nickols, 1980; Pearson, 1979a; Wilkening, 1981a); as nurturers (Nickols, 1980); and on and on. However, until just recently, these women and their contributions have been "invisible" (Gladwin, 1982). This study attempts to add to the sparse but growing, body of literature regarding the many roles of farm women.

The Farm Woman

As of 1980, 2.9 million females reside on U. S. farms (Banks, 1982). These women appear to be more family-oriented than their urban counterparts (Dunne, 1979). They marry earlier, stay married longer, have more children, and are more likely to stay home during their child-rearing years than urban women. Many of Dunne's statements are confirmed by the United States Department of Agriculture (U.S.D.A.) statistics which show that 92 percent of farm families have husband and wife present as compared to 82 percent for nonfarm families in 1980 (Banks and Kalbacher, 1981). This may be related to a lag in the normative acceptance of divorce in rural communities, or there may be something about the farming lifestyle which influences the marital relationship. Because farm business is interwoven with the family relationships, divorce could cause women to give up their lifestyles, losing their marriages as well as their identity as farmers (Sabol, 1982). The U.S.D.A. statistics also show that the average number of children born to farm women 18-44 years of age is 1,911 per 1,000 women. The average born to nonfarm women of comparable age is 1,529 per 1,000 women (Banks, 1982).

The complexity of relationships and roles is confusing to many who are not familiar with the farm family system. Farm women are integrally involved in farm management (Keim, 1977), albeit with varying levels of involvement. Pearson (1980) has developed a typology of farm women which perhaps best explains their various roles. This typology includes: 1) the independent agricultural producer, women who manage farms or ranches by themselves; 2) agricultural partners, women who share all aspects of production, sales, and purchasing with their husbands; 3) agricultural helpers, women who participate during busy times; and 4) homemakers, women who run errands and prepare food for hired hands. This typology tends to classify women according to their farm work roles and personal preferences.

Brengle (1981) classifies two types of farm women -- the team arrangement wives and the ranked arrangement wives. The team arrangement wives are concerned with a smoothly operating enterprise because it is in the best interest for the business. They make themselves available whenever needed. They know detailed information such as location of fields, and types of crops planted, harvesting yields, and tenant-landlord agreements. The husbands encourage their wives to perform farm tasks and share farm information with them. The second classification is a ranked arrangement with the husbands being the directors and the wives as helpers. This relationship has well-defined sexual segregation of farm tasks. This classification, however, tends to give the husbands responsibility for the wives' role. They choose whether or not to share information with the women or to encourage their participation in farm tasks.

Smith (1969) observes a more equitable relationship and suggests that there is a sharper differentiation between farm husbands and wives as to division of labor than as to the division of authority. The division of labor is greatly influenced by who has the special skills.

What are the special skills of farm women and what are their roles in the farm family system? Scholl (1982b) suggests that modern farm women are faced with a triad of roles: homemaker, farmer, and employee. Dunne (1979) further elaborates on this rural version of the "superwoman syndrome." She observes that many country women attempt to work [off-farm employment], to contribute to community life, to run a household, to contribute to farm labor, and to provide their children with many opportunities. Therefore, by Pleck's (1977) definition, farm women have one family role and two work roles, which Scholl (1982a) suggests is causing role overload. It is difficult to separate the three roles for further analysis given the operational complexity of the farm family system; however, for purposes of clarification, a review of the literature for each follows.

Family Role

The farm women's family role encompasses many tasks: household production, home production, child care, emotional support and community involvement. Nickols (1980) also discusses the management responsibilities involved:

An important component of family farming is management of the household and performance of the work which supports the physical and mental labor of the farm as well as the development of other human resources of the farm family (p. 17).

Huffman (1976) states that because farm and nonfarm household birth rates have fallen during the past two decades and households have purchased many new durable goods, some of which are labor saving, there has been a reduction in the demand for wives' household time, thereby releasing additional time for work outside the home. However, Boulding (1980) estimates a daily average of eight hours spent in home tasks (when farm tasks are included the length of farm women's work day increases to 14-17 hours). She reports that farm women have demanding domestic tasks. They have relatively large families; and thus, the food, laundry, and physical support needs are great. Besides these heavy demands, farm women face the continual intrusion of the farm tasks upon family tasks. Nickols (1980) states that women are experts at "operationalizing flexibility" as they move from household to farm tasks and back again often during the day. Sometimes they have no choice regarding which aspect of their life receives priority. They integrate life domains such as grocery shopping and buying farm repairs in the same trip to town. They communicate while in the fields and build networks of understanding, resolve problems, and teach values and skills (Nickols, 1980). This communication and networking is vitally important as the emotional health of the farm family can affect both the family and the farm. The family members need strong personal relationships and emotional support within the kinship network to cope with the stress of farming (Scholl, 1981). In addition to the household tasks, farm women are the mainstays of the community institutions and auxiliary groups which maintain and transmit rural values; the churches, the Grange, the PTA and the 4-H club (Dunne, 1979).

On-Farm Work Role

Farm women are an important source of labor and management of the farming enterprise, but their work has not been adequately documented (Boulding, 1980; Huffman, 1976; Scholl, 1982b). It becomes increasingly important to identify the type of assistance given to the farm operation by women since there has been a downward trend in farm employment of hired workers in contrast to family workers since the 1940's (United States Department of Agriculture, 1981b). There has also been an increase in off-farm employment for farm men, often leaving women to fill in (Gladwin, 1982). Gladwin further maintains that if small and medium sized family farms are to persist by using part-time farming as a survival strategy, women's relative contribution to agriculture as compared to men's will have to increase.

There are many factors involved in determining the role of farm women. Gladwin (1982) finds that farm women respond primarily to the needs of their children, husbands, the farm, and family income when deciding to farm full- or part-time, hold an outside job, or be a full-time homemaker. In relation to family needs, women's involvement in farming seems to be affected by the stage in the family life cycle. Before having children women are more likely to be involved in the field work, and less likely when children are under six (Gladwin, 1982). However, the first national U.S.D.A. study of farm women finds that farm women increase their farm involvement during childbearing and child-development years and reduce their farm involvement over the years when their children are grown (Jones and Rosenfeld, 1981). In reviewing the U.S.D.A. study, Scholl (1982a) suggests that there are several explanations for these relationships: 1) young women have more

strength and are physically able to do more work than older women; 2) as children grow and mature they take over farm tasks of the woman; and 3) resource inputs are needed at the early stages of economic development of both the farm and family. The farm woman helps make the farm a viable and profitable economic unit.

Almost one-fourth of the women surveyed by Gladwin (1982) farm full time because the increase to farm income from their work is considered greater than their relatively low off-farm earnings potential. Rosenfeld (1982b) suggests that men are usually the ones to seek off-farm employment for these reasons.

Brengle (1981) finds other factors which affect the degree of interest farm wives have in the farm enterprise and their commitment to involvement. These include: their childhood experiences with farming, their employment status, and their husband's confidence in their abilities to perform farm tasks. She maintains that husbands are an extremely critical variable in affecting women's involvement in the family farm enterprise.

Women's actual on-farm work often complements, rather than competes with, men's. Husbands do strenuous tasks while wives do those things requiring physical dexterity, patience, stamina, and nurturance (Gladwin, 1982). Their work day is long. Blood (1958) suggests that farm women work longer hours than their city counterparts while Boulding (1980) speculates that farm women have a 99-hour work week with an annual average working day of 14 hours. Gladwin (1982) documents a 78-hour work week for Florida farm women during the 8-10 week period of spring and summer gardening; the average male week is 62 hours during the same period.

A longitudinal study in Wisconsin suggests that the role of women has increased in the farm enterprise. While the labor input on the farms studied changed little during the period, the share of wives' labor increased from 9.3 percent in 1950 to 16.4 percent in 1975, while the share of other family member's labor declined slightly (Wilkening, 1981a). Huffman (1976) observes that increasing mechanization of agriculture has made physical strength less important. For this reason and others, such as the steadily falling number of hired workers and teenage children, women have needed to provide the help for activities which require two persons.

Also, the proportion of farm operators who are women has been increasing, so that now somewhat over six percent of all farm operators are women (Rosenfeld, 1982a). In the 1981 U.S.D.A. study, 55 percent of the women interviewed consider themselves to be one of the main operators of their farms. Sixty percent believe that they could run the farm alone if something should happen to their husbands and 63 percent claim to be involved with at least a moderate proportion of their farm's work (Jones and Rosenfeld, 1981). These authors conclude that many farm women see themselves as a partner in the farm enterprise, with equal rights as well as equal responsibilities.

In general, farm women are expected by the rural culture to possess farm-related skills (Nickols, 1980). Because of this, women take many skills for granted and fail to mention them to researchers (Boulding, 1980; Nickols, 1980). This leads to difficulties in documenting actual farm tasks that women perform. The U.S.D.A. study finds that 61 percent of the nationwide sample of women keep farm records and 47 percent run farm errands (Jones and Rosenfeld, 1981). In addition, over half the

farm women report at least occasionally taking care of farm animals; harvesting crops or other products, including running machinery or trucks; and supervising of farmwork of other family members. Scholl (1982a), in making generalizations about a number of studies, states that farm women produce large quantities of food for their families, keep financial records, run errands, provide physical labor, and are heavily involved with livestock.

Farm women seem to enjoy what they do. A strong and recurring theme in their comments is the expression of love for their way of life and sympathy for city women who do not experience the advantages the farm women perceive to be a part of farm family life (Boulding, 1980; Jones-Webb, 1982; Nickols, 1980).

Women who have high levels of farm task participation also show high levels of decision-making (Jones and Rosenfeld, 1981; Sabol, 1982). Apparently, farm women with a legal relationship to the land are more involved with the farm operation (Scholl, 1981), but further documentation is needed.

There are many opinions and explanations for women's level of involvement and timing of involvement in farm-related tasks. However, the fact that women do participate in farm tasks and share management decisions is perhaps more important than when they are involved in decision-making. While farm women are not often paid in money for their work on the farm, "they realize a return from their labor in ways which are both economic and social, and in personal fulfillment" (Nickols, 1980, p. 1).

Off-Farm Work Role

As mentioned earlier, off-farm employment is increasingly becoming a survival mechanism for the family farm. Bokemeier and Coughenour (1980) report that in 1974, 55 percent of all farmers are part-time farmers and Scholl (1981) states that since 1967, with the exception of 1973, off-farm income has been greater for farm operator families than their net farm income. This off-farm income is being used to minimize risk in farming. Families farming part-time are found to be less vulnerable than full-time operators to bad weather, farm price fluctuations, or limited credit (Scholl, 1981).

Some suggest that men are employed off the farm more frequently than are women because of the lower labor market returns to women (Rosenfeld, 1982b). However, many women are themselves seeking off-farm employment. In 1980, the labor force participation rate was 46 percent for farm women, compared to 50 percent for non-farm women (Banks, 1982). Jones and Rosenfeld (1981) report that one-third (31%) of those farm women interviewed in the U.S.D.A. survey report work off-farm, while 15 percent work at a family business other than the farm. Of those employed off the farm, 30 percent hold clerical jobs and 23 percent hold professional and technical jobs. Fifty-seven percent report working because of financial need, suggesting that they are likely to work off the farm in order to supplement the farm income rather than because of a personal desire to work. The women in the U.S.D.A. survey who are not employed are more satisfied with farming as a way of life than are the employed farm women (Jones and Rosenfeld, 1981). Sabol (1982) found that off-farm employment of husband or wife is negatively related to wife's satisfaction with quality of life. She

observes that modern farm women prefer participation in the farm to participation in off-farm activities.

What are the implications of women being forced into the labor market against their personal desires? Is it threatening the traditional husband-wife team as suggested by Smale (1982)? What are the factors that enter into the picture for those who do want to work? Rosenfeld (1982b) suggests that off-farm employment could be sought for one of several reasons: psychic satisfaction, utilizing skills developed through higher education, or establishing credit in one's own name.

This off-farm employment is adding yet another dimension to the farm woman's life. She is now faced with a triad of roles: homemaker, farmer and employee (Scholl, 1982b). Almost one-fourth of the respondents to the U.S.D.A. survey fit this description. One in eight worked off the farm full time and one in ten managed the three roles through part-time work. In general, the employed farm women did not differ from the unemployed farm women in the proportion of types of farm tasks or farm decisions in which they are involved (Jones and Rosenfeld, 1981). Although assuming the third role of employee, farm women are not giving up any of their regular farm or household duties (Scholl, 1982).

Summary

Rural women contend with all the challenges associated with rural life and all the difficulties which come with the women's role in a traditional culture (Dunne, 1979). They face long working hours, confinement, financial uncertainty, cash flow problems, long distances to services, risk in weather and changes in governmental programs (Nickols, 1980). At the same time new pressures have emerged from changing social

patterns in society during the past 20 years (Dunne, 1979). The women's movement has called for women to work outside the home and reduce dependence on men. The uncertain economy has forced many farm women to do just that. Dunne (1979) suggests that these factors have produced conflict in the lives of rural traditional women and have left them feeling ambivalent about their roles.

Despite the problems mentioned above, other researchers have found that most farm families express strong preferences for the rural lifestyle. The women value working together with husbands and children (Nickols, 1980). The teamwork involved in economic survival has led to an apparent sense of satisfaction with women's equity as it is presently defined in our society (Dunne, 1979). "Farm women give to the farm family their labor, their children, their interests, and their lives. That which they receive in return, which is 'greater than sum of values,' is a feeling of 'family'" (Keim, 1976, p. 43).

Farm women have many roles and many responsibilities. Yet governmental policies, laws, and educational programs often ignore the needs of farm women. Scholl (1982a) suggests the need for specialized instruction and informational programs geared toward farm women and that these programs be made available when the women could attend and that child care facilities be provided. Gladwin (1982) calls for land grant institutions to design new equipment and farming systems appropriate for women, and for extension services to design programs to meet the needs of women.

Perhaps the contributions and needs of farm families and farm women was best summarized in a statement made before a regional small farms hearing:

. . . I see farm women and families capitalizing the family farm by their off-farm labor; I see them fully involved in decisions about the farming operation; I see them providing an indispensable support system for farming in the form of 'running and fetching' hot meals, spare parts, more fuel, another load; I see 700 of them completing the UMC (University of Missouri-Columbia) short course called Feminine Farrowing School; I see farm women providing the support for rural communities, promoting agricultural products, perpetuating in their children the values of family farming, suffering the stress of high debt load and uncertain harvests and markets. I also see the farm women not being recognized before the law or before the society as equal partners in the farming operation with their spouses. I see much that farm families do being ignored, minimized or undervalued (Heffernan, cited in Scholl, 1981, pp. 235-236).

If full potential of all farm women was reached, farm families, farm operations, and U. S. agriculture would benefit (Scholl, 1982a).

CHAPTER III

RESEARCH DESIGN

The topic addressed in this study was the situation of young Oklahoma farm women, including work and family roles. The study plan was to document and describe the work and family roles of young farm women; their financial knowledge and economic concerns, their self perceptions, satisfaction and perceived needs. Included in this chapter are discussions of type of research, population and sample, data collection, analysis of data, and a summary.

Type of Research

The study was designed to yield descriptive data about the lives of young farm women. The study was needed to partially fill the knowledge gap concerning them. The 1982 Wingspread Seminar on the Roles of Women on North American Farms called for research methods other than fixed format surveys most often used to study this population (Cloud, 1982). At this seminar it was suggested that past fixed format agricultural surveys have tended to leave farm women "invisible." Cloud (1982) stated that to clarify the contributions of farm women and to understand their roles, research projects that utilize both ethnographic and survey methods are needed. This research project incorporated approaches used in both qualitative and quantitative methodologies in order to document the work and family roles of young Oklahoma farm women.

This study utilized a survey method with purposive sampling and incorporated some fixed format questions typically found in survey research, as well as open-ended questions typically found in qualitative research. Compton and Hall (1972) described purposive sampling as handpicking the individual elements in keeping with one's needs. These authors further explained purposive sampling:

Purposive surveys which are well planned and analyzed have an important place in home economics. Their principle contribution is in describing current practices or beliefs with the intent of making intelligent plans for improving conditions or processes in a particular local situation (p. 139).

Because survey research has been commonly used to obtain the opinions and attitudes of individuals and to study social structure (Kerlinger, 1964), this method was judged appropriate for the present study designed to tap the roles, concerns, and self-concept of young Oklahoma farm women.

Population and Sample

The study was conducted in a five-county area of west central and southwest Oklahoma. These counties were: Custer, Washita, Kiowa, Jackson and Caddo. (See Appendix A for a map designating the participating counties.) They were selected because they are the largest cluster of top wheat producing counties in Oklahoma. Because of this clustering, the residents were expected to have similar farming conditions and lifestyles. Selecting the sample for a relatively homogeneous agricultural milieu was expected to reduce extraneous influences that could affect the variables of central concern to this study.

Oklahoma rated third in the United States for winter wheat production in 1981, producing approximately 172,800,000 bushels in that year

(Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, 1981). Two districts, west central and southwest (identified for this sample) produced approximately one-third of all Oklahoma wheat -- approximately 89,160,000 bushels in 1981 (Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, 1981). Because wheat production was so widespread in Oklahoma, that type of farming operation served as a selection variable for this study to provide respondents most typical of Oklahoma farming.

The population identified for this study -- farm operators between the ages of 20 and 36 -- totaled 11,913 farmers under the age of 34 operating in Oklahoma. This contrasted with 67,472 farmers ages 35 and older. The older age structure of farmers identified nationally (Banks and Kalbacher, 1981) also held true in Oklahoma, the average age in the state was 50.8 years (Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, 1981). These numbers most probably identified the male head of the farming operation. There were no accurate records of the women in these same operations because of the format of the Census questionnaires.

Names of possible participants were obtained through the County Cooperative Extension office in each of the five counties as it was assumed that the professional staff was familiar with the farm families in their counties. Letters were sent to the Cooperative Extension professional personnel explaining the purposes of the research and the criteria for potentially including farm women in the study. The women were to:

1. be an agricultural partner or helper,
2. be between the ages of 20 and 36,
3. have at least one child in the home,
4. have been involved in wheat production for at least one year.

(See Appendix B for sample letters to County Extension Home Economists and County Directors.)

The Cooperative Extension staff also received the definitions for agricultural partner and helper. Each professional on the staff (County Director, County Home Economist, and 4-H Agent) was asked to independently make a list of five women who met the criteria outlined. The researcher then called each County Cooperative Extension office to obtain the lists. The researcher used the Agricultural Agent's list as a base list, then selected the first two names that appeared on one of the other lists for participation in the study. It had been decided initially that in the event that there was a lack of consensus or an inadequate number of women in a county, the researcher would attempt to make up the difference in the next county contacted. This step was not necessary.

Through the process just described, the researcher obtained two names from each of the five counties resulting in a total sample of 10 farm women. Following this selection process, the researcher first contacted the women who were identified by letter to inform them of the study. (See Appendix B for a copy of the letter sent to the 10 women.)

The instrument constructed to guide the personal interviews consisted of adaptations of questionnaires used by Boulding (1978), Jones and Rosenfeld (1981), Nickols (1980), and Fassinger and Schwarzweller (1982). (See Appendix C for a copy of the instrument.) Using the research objectives and the research questions, the researcher selected questions from the previously mentioned studies for inclusion in the questionnaire. These questions were sometimes modified to fit the

parameters of the study and new questions were devised to fill some of the gaps found in previous research.

Table I presents the location and source of the research topics in the questionnaire. Questions taken from other studies which have been modified are noted with an asterisk by the source. Most revisions of farm task questions were merely to substitute crops relevant to Oklahoma farming and the parameters of this research project. For example, questions from other studies relating to dairy farming were revised or eliminated as dairy farmers were not included in this study. Questions relating to child-care were added to the family role and off-farm work sections. The largest block of questions designed specifically for this research project were in the area of financial planning knowledge, economic concerns and the effects of husband's off-farm employment on the farm woman. Other studies have not addressed these issues in depth.

Analysis of Data

Transcriptions of the open-ended questions were examined for similarity of response and emerging patterns using the constant comparative method of qualitative analysis described by Glaser and Strauss (1967). The four stages in the constant comparative method were:

1. Wrote hypotheses statements about patterns and relationships which were expected in each section of the study.

2. Coded each recorded statement into as many categories of analysis as appropriate. Each new statement was compared to previous categorization; as patterns emerged, notes were taken. Observations were then summarized.

3. Compared the categorization to the hypotheses.
4. Wrote the propositions.

Fixed format questions and selected open-ended questions were summarized and presented as frequencies. The remaining open-ended questions were reported in narrative format.

TABLE I
QUESTIONNAIRE ITEMS

Topic	Question Numbers	Source
Profile of Respondents	1, 20	Nickols (1980)
	2, 67, 68	Fassinger and Schwarzweller (1982)
	64-66, 69	Developed for this study
Profile of Farm Operation	8-12	Fassinger and Schwarzweller (1982)
	16, 19, 40	Fassinger and Schwarzweller (1982)
	13	Nickols (1980)*
	14	Nickols (1980)
	41-45	Developed for this study
Family Role	3	Fassinger and Schwarzweller (1982)
	6	Fassinger and Schwarzweller (1982)*
	4, 5	Boulding (1978)*
	7	Developed for this study
On-Farm Work Role	15	Fassinger and Schwarzweller (1982)*
	17, 18, 23-25	Developed for this study
	21, 22	Nickols (1980)*
Off-Farm Work Role	28, 35	Fassinger and Schwarzweller (1982)*
	29-32, 34, 36,	Developed for this study
	37-39, 84, 85	
	33	Boulding (1978)
Financial Planning Knowledge	46-57, 59, 60	Developed for this study
Economic Concerns	61-63, 86	Developed for this study
Perception of Self	26, 72	Nickols (1980)
	27, 58, 69, 71	Developed for this study
	70	Jones and Rosenfeld (1981)
	77	Nickols (1980)*
Perception of Farming Lifestyle	17, 18, 73-75, 83	Developed for this study
	76	Boulding (1978)*
	78, 79	Nickols (1980)
Skills or Knowledge Needed	80-82	Developed for this study

*Question revised from original study

Summary

In an effort to partially fill the knowledge gap concerning young farm women, the present study was designed to document and describe the work and family roles of young farm women; their financial knowledge and economic concerns; their self-concept, satisfaction and perceived needs. Personal interviews were conducted with 10 farm women selected through purposive sampling in a five-county area of west-central and southwest Oklahoma. Data were examined for similarity of response and emerging patterns; data were then summarized and presented in format and narrative text.

CHAPTER IV

ANALYSIS OF DATA

This study was designed to examine the work and family roles of contemporary young farm women on family farms and to examine factors related to these roles. The data presented in this chapter explore the extent and nature of on-farm and off-farm work roles of farm women, the family role of young farm women, knowledge and concerns about family farm financial arrangements, and the self-concept of young farm women. The study includes 10 respondents.

The first section of this chapter deals with a profile of the respondents and their farms. The second section explores the triad of roles of these farm women: family, on-farm work and off-farm employment. Section three addresses the financial planning knowledge of these farm women and their economic concerns. Section four deals with their self perceptions, while section five discusses the skills and knowledge these women felt they needed to more adequately manage their farm, home and family.

Profiles

Profile of the Respondents

Of the 10 women, seven grew up on a farm, three did not. One of the women who did not grow up on a farm lived in a rural community and worked on the farm of a neighbor during the summer months. The majority

of these women were active in 4-H, two in Future Farmers of America, and four in Future Homemakers of America during their adolescent years.

The women ranged in age from 23 to 36 with the mode being 32. Their husbands ranged in age from 28 to 36 with a bimodal distribution of 28 and 35. Although the majority of these women had very young children below school age, the age range of the children was from seven months to 14 years. Six of the women had two children, one had one child and three had three children. Table II reports the age and sex of the children.

TABLE II
AGE AND SEX OF CHILDREN

Age	Daughters	Sons
1-4 years	9	4
5-11 years	3	4
12-14 years	1	1

These women and their husbands were highly educated. All the women had completed high school, three had some college or junior college, three had earned a bachelors degree and one had a masters degree. All of the husbands had completed high school, while seven had earned bachelors degrees.

The following vignettes (names are fictitious) give some idea of the diversity of these farm women.

Ellen is 35 years old and considers herself a full-time homemaker. She has three children ages 14, 13, and 8, all of whom are involved in their family farming operation. She is active in the County Cooperative Extension Homemakers Club, serving as the county president last year. She helps when needed on the farm and performs tasks such as moving irrigation pipe and hauling cotton, but does not go near the large equipment or the larger animals. Ellen has no worries about the economic future of her family farm.

Susan is 36 years old and calls herself a cattleman. She has two children ages 9 and 4. She personally owns the land in her immediate family having purchased it with savings from her teaching salary. She is a partner in her family farm corporation. Her husband is not included in the corporation which does include her parents and brother. She voluntarily manages the corporation-owned grain elevator. She spends approximately 112 hours a week at the elevator during the harvest season and 40 hours a week during the slower season. She makes many of the major farm decisions, but expressed the feeling that her load is 'too heavy.' Susan is concerned about her family's economic future, but made 'an emotional decision' to return to the farm and try to make it work.

Debbie is a 32 year old home economics teacher who describes her role on the farm as a helper, an unpaid hired hand. She has two children, ages 9 and 6. Although she would rather not be employed, she and her husband both must work off the farm in order to keep the family operation afloat. Although she does not particularly enjoy hard physical labor, she does it anyway because she enjoys helping her husband accomplish his goals. She does not know if their financial situation will allow them to continue farming, she just keeps hoping that they can continue.

Judy is 30 years old, a part-time legal secretary and considers herself a farm helper. She has three children, ages 4 years, 2 years, and 6 months. She is employed because she enjoys her work and her husband cares for the two oldest children while she is gone. Although she helps occasionally in the field, her main job is to keep things running smoothly in the home. Judy expressed no worries about her economic future.

These profiles are representative of the farm women interviewed. The majority of the women were very willing to discuss their families, their farms and their roles as farm women. The following text attempts to describe their lives.

Profile of the Farm Operation

The majority of these women had been on the farm all of their married lives, including those who were married in college and then went immediately to the farm. The couples began farming between 1972 and 1980 and started for a variety of reasons. When asked why they chose to farm, the women answered most frequently that it was something the husband had always wanted to do. In frequency of response, this was closely followed by the response that farming was all that either spouse had ever known. Other answers were: "wanted to be our own boss," "wanted children to attend a smaller school," "wanted to live in a smaller community," "did not like job transfers" and "to hang on to family land."

Each family's farm profile is presented in Table III. Four couples purchased their land from relatives, four from private sale. Two couples had also inherited land. Three of the couples participated in incorporated farms with the woman's family. The remaining seven were independent family farms, but relied heavily on extended family for advice, labor, childcare and so forth. Two of the couples owned none of their own land, eight were buying land ranging from 40 acres to 930 acres. Most of these families' crop came from rented land. Nine of the ten couples rented land ranging from 120 acres to 4,800 acres. The total farm land in crop production was reported to range from 20 acres to 3,300 acres. None of the couples rented land to anyone else (with the exception of two acres used as mobile home space). Two of the incorporated families did custom farm work for other people. For example, they hired out their services to other farmers to combine wheat or swath and bale hay.

TABLE III
FARM PROFILES AND PRODUCTION FOR EACH FAMILY

Family	Number of Acres Owned	Number of Acres Rented	Total Crop Lane	How Land Was Acquired	Crop Production	Animal Production
1	0	120	115	Not Applicable	28 acres wheat 28 acres cotton 48 acres peanuts	15 cattle
2	930	450	1000	Relatives	475 acres wheat harvested 55 acres improved grass 240 acres cotton	27 chickens 60 cattle
3	152	540	475	Private Sale	475 acres wheat 5 acres hay 200 acres grass	320 cattle
4	320	960	1200	Private Sale	400 acres wheat 75 acres cotton 60 acres hay 15 acres soybeans	200 feeder cattle 40 cows 2 horses
5	0	1280	640	Purchased school Land	320 acres wheat 320 acres cotton 640 acres grass	40 cows
6	396	0	225	Relatives, Inheritance	100 acres wheat 70 acres alfalfa 80 acres hay 20 acres oats	32 cattle 8 horses
6	396	0	225	Relatives, Inheritance	100 acres wheat 70 acres alfalfa 30 acres hay 20 acres oats	32 cattle
7	282	1600	1200	Estate Auction, Inheritance	1,300 acres wheat 80 acres hay 600 acres grass 80 acres mungbeans	240 cattle
8*	40 (own)	1930 (own)	20	Private Sale	20 acres wheat 70 acres hay 1,930 acres native grass	525 cattle 2 horses
9*	80	4800	3300	Relatives	Corp 2,000 acres seed wheat 70 acres improved grass 3,000 acres wheat 25 acres improved grass 300 acres cotton	1,200 cattle
10*	80	2000	2480	Private Sale	2,000 acres wheat 1,000 acres grass 300 acres cotton 1,000 acres hay	1,000 cattle

*Corporations

Wheat was the predominant crop produced by the families of these farm women because wheat production was one of the sampling criteria. Wheat was followed in production frequency by crops of grass, hay and cotton. Two families raised alfalfa and oats. Soybeans, peanuts and mungbeans were reported for one family. Cattle were the most frequently reported means of animal production and were found on all 10 farms. Five of the families owned horses and one family had chickens.

Farm Women's Triad of Roles

Family Role

The complexity of a farm woman's family role is difficult to measure in any type of research study for it not only includes home and household production, but childcare, emotional support, and community involvement. Table IV reports the household task performance of these families.

In the area of household production, the women were most frequently the ones performing the traditional household tasks of cooking for work crews and family as well as cleaning, shopping for groceries and caring for the families' clothing. In the area of cleaning, one woman expressed the opinion that "The bathroom cleaning is definitely mine. It could grow a fungus and they'd never touch it!" In only one case did a farm woman have a housecleaner on a regular basis. The women reported themselves as the person responsible for mowing the lawn, doing yard work and gardening. They were also the ones responsible for paying household bills. In the area of childcare, the women were most often the parent who put pre-school children to bed.

In household tasks, the farm women reported that the men were responsible for the plumbing, carpentry, and minor appliance repairs. Husbands worked with their wives in planting and tending the flower and vegetable garden and painting or decorating the home. The activity most frequently shared by husbands and wives was childcare. The women reported sharing childcare responsibilities such as answering the children's questions, teaching facts and skills to children, disciplining children and taking the children to and from activities. The women

TABLE IV
HOUSEHOLD TASK PERFORMANCE

Task	Performed		Person Who Completes Task						
	Yes	No	Wife	Husband	Wife and Husband Together	Whomever is Available	Children	Hired Person	Relative
Cook for work crews	6	4	6						2
Fix breakfast	9	1	7			1	1		
Fix lunch	8	2	7			1			
Fix dinner	10	1	9		1				
Wash daily dishes	9	1	8		1				
Set table	10	0	6			1	6*		
Make clothes	8	2	8				1*		1*
Baking	9	1	8				1*		1*
Preserve garden produce	7	3	6						2
Dust furniture	10	0	8				6*	1	
Plumbing work	10	0		8				2	
Vacuum floor	10	0	9				4*	1	
Mop floor	10	0	9					1	
Clean the bathroom	10	0	9					1	
Wash windows	10	0	9		1				
Grocery shopping	10	0	9	1		1			1*
Wash clothes	10	0	9		1				
Iron clothes	10	0	10						
Mend clothes	10	0	10						1
Clean the furnace	7	3	2	4		1			
Repair small appliances	9	1		9					
Put in screen windows	10	0	1	7	1			1	
Plant vegetable or flower garden	8	2	4		4				
Tend vegetable or flower garden	8	2	5		3		1*		
Carpentry repairs	9	1		8	1			2*	

TABLE IV (Continued)

Task	Performed		Person Who Completes Task						
	Yes	No	Wife	Husband	Wife and Husband Together	Whomever is Available	Children	Hired Person	Relative
Paint and decorate home	10	0	4		6				
Refinish furniture	5	5	4		1				
Mow lawn	10	0	8	2*	1		1		
Yard work	9	1	6	1	2		1*		
Pay household bills	10	0	6	2		2			
Dispose of garbage	10	0	4	1	1	3	1		
Take care of and super- vise children	10	0	3		2	5			
Put pre-school children to bed	9	1	6		2	1			
Supervise school work	4	6	3		1	1			
Answer child's questions	10	0	3		1	6			
Teach facts and skills	10	0	1		2	7			1*
Discipline children	10	0	1	1	2	6			
Take children to and from activities	9	1	4		3	3			
Give care to immediate family	10	0	4		2	4			1*
Provide care or communi- cate with relatives	10	0	3		2	4			

*Helps. Denotes the family members who help the principal performer of the task. In these cases, totals do not always add to 10 responses.

also reported that care and communication with relatives was a shared responsibility.

Household decisions were made most frequently by the husband and wife discussing problems jointly and reaching a compromise. However, there were other determining factors such as whether the couple had the money to buy the item in question and if it fit into a long-term plan for their farm and home. One woman stated:

We sit down and decide if we can afford it. We try to plan what we want to do in the future. We don't just up and do it. We think about it for six months or a year before we do it.

Another woman reported that the farm came first in financial considerations:

It's not hard. It's either you do have the money or you don't have the money. I guess it just depends, it's whether you can do without one easier than you can the other. You just have to decide how much inconvenience it will be to put up with being broke versus that. If it has anything to do with making money . . . if the cows need it, they come first.

In one family the wife reported that the husband made all the decisions.

The farm women were also involved in community affairs. Although most of the women had children who were too young to have many activities outside the home requiring their mother's time, the women were active in other areas. Seven of the women were very active in church related activities as teachers, Vacation Bible School workers, and playing the piano and organ for church services. Three worked with 4-H groups, one with Future Farmers of America, one sponsored a high school class and one conducted all the community music programs. Four of the women were active in the Farm Bureau organization and one was involved with Farmer's Union. Five women were active in Extension Homemakers Clubs. Two women also mentioned participating in children's activities such as ballet lessons and T-ball.

On-Farm Work Role

The actual on-farm unpaid work role of women has received little attention in past research. This study attempted to explore the contributions of farm women to their family farm.

The women learned to accomplish farm tasks in a variety of ways. Six women learned how to accomplish farm tasks while growing up. Three of the women's husbands had taught them and one woman stated that she learned, "by trial and error, mostly by error!"

The women estimated they spent from 20 to 115 hours per week on farm-related activities during a busy season, the modal number of hours being 20. During the slower season, weekly hours ranged from 2 to 80, the modal number of hours being 2.

The farm women were given a list of farm-related activities and asked if the task was done on their farm and if so, who completed the task: the wife, the husband, the husband and wife together, whomever was available at the time, the children, someone was hired to complete the task, a relative, or members of the corporation completed the task. A summary of responses is reported in Table V.

The most frequent contributions of the wives were in the following areas: going to town for machinery parts, hauling grain, maintaining records and bookkeeping, and animal care.

Three of the women specifically mentioned helping their husbands apply fertilizer by hauling anhydrous fertilizer from the local farmers' cooperative to the field, others alluded to helping but didn't actually report doing the tasks on the inventory. Of the five families that hauled grain to the elevator themselves, three wives reported themselves as the primary hauler. In getting machinery parts, four wives had

TABLE V
FARM TASK PERFORMANCE

Task	Performed		Person Who Completes Task							
	Yes	No	Wife	Husband	Husband and Wife Together	Whomever is Available	Children	Hired Person	Relative	Corporation
Plan cropping schedule	10	0		7	1				1	3
Plant small grains	10	0		4	3	1			1	2
Prepare fields for planting	10	0	2*	4		3	1*	2	2	1
Plant forage	8	2		5		1			1	2
Apply fertilizer	9	1		3	3			3	1*	
Apply pesticides or sprays	10	0		4	1			5	1	
Cultivate fields	10	0		7				1	1	2
Combine small grains	10	0		4	1			4	1	
Swath forage	8	2		3	1			3	1	1
Cut and put up hay	9	1		4	3			2	1	1
Check market prices	10	0	1	5		1			1	2
Haul grain to elevator	9	1	3	2				4	1	
Get machinery parts	10	0	4	1*		5				
Buy farm equipment	10	0		7	1				2	2
Minor machinery repairs	10	0		10						1
Major machinery overhauls	10	0		5				6		
Fix fences	10	0		5	4			1	1	1
Process data on computer	3	7	2							1
Maintain livestock records	10	0	2	4	2					2
Maintain crop records	10	0	2	4	2					2
Pay farm bills	10	0	3	1, 2*	1	3			1	2
Do farm bookkeeping	10	0	3	1	4					2
Make farm financial arrangements	10	0	2	5	1	1			1	2
Prepare farm financial statement	10	0	2	5	2					2
Order farm supplies	9	1		5	1	1				2
Feed livestock	10	0	3*	6	1	3	1*			1
Veterinary care	9	1	2*	6	2			2*	1	2
Complete income tax form	10	0	1	4				5		1
Consult CPA or attorney	10	0	1	5, 1*	1	2				
Direct marketing of produce	10	0		9					1	2

*Helps. Denotes the family members who help the principal performer of the task. In these cases, totals do not always add to 10 responses.

primary responsibility while five reported that whomever was available got them. In only one family was the husband reported to have "helped."

Of the farm tasks, recordkeeping was one for which farm women had a great deal of responsibility, either doing it all themselves, working alongside their husbands or doing it as needed. In feeding livestock three wives helped whenever needed, one couple did the chore together and three reported that whomever was available at the time did it. Two of the wives helped with veterinary care and two worked alongside their husbands.

In five cases the women reported helping to prepare the fields for planting as well as cutting and putting up hay. Four women also reported always fixing fence with their husbands.

One woman, who had been very active on the farm until her children came along, spoke of working right up until they were born and how she now missed the farm work:

It's been hard to adjust my farming ways because I liked being out. I don't mind being with them [the children]. They're kind of special to be home for, but I still try to do my part. I even drove the tractor while I was pregnant with both of them. On the back of the drill, too. People were having a fit! I was still doing everything I had been. We built fence. I drove a tractor and rode the back of the drill with Chrystal in my eighth month. I didn't as long with the second one because I had one little one, but I still stayed active.

She also talked about the conflicts she experiences in balancing farm and family:

With the two little ones it was harder to go out and drive a tractor because there's really not any place for them. While I'm driving the tractor I'm thinking, 'Am I doing this right? I hope. I wonder what my kids are doing? Are they screaming their heads off?'

She further stated:

I'm looking forward to getting started again. Well, I've started back into it slowly now because they're old enough.

We just take them with us. They've gone to the field in their pajamas before. We pick them up out of bed and take them. They like going too so that helps. When the little one gets tired she wants to go home, but she likes it. It's working, they'll enjoy it.

Of the farm tasks they performed, seven women felt very comfortable and competent in their ability to do them. As one woman stated:

Of the things I do, excellent! I always tell my husband he couldn't find anyone as good as me. I tell him, 'You'd better appreciate me!'

Two of the women reported feeling not at all comfortable or not very comfortable with farm tasks and one woman was a little unsure of herself, but proceeded anyway. She said:

Sometimes I'm not too confident but I usually just do it and hope it's right and go on. If it's not, they'll let me know. And I tell them to do it themselves next time!

Major farm decisions are made most frequently by the couple discussing the problem and the husband making the final decision. In the three incorporated families, members of the corporation made the major farm decisions. According to one woman:

The men discuss it. The women, my sister and I, when we set up the corporation had seen that women can really stir up trouble. I've seen that happen in other corporations. Particularly with sisters-in-law. And so we decided that if there were problems, that we'd stay totally out of something like marketing or if one husband is not happy with their part of the corporation, we'd just stay out and let the men work it out. The men and mother decide that. We stay out. I think since we both work out of the home, it's real easy to stay out of it. We don't get preoccupied with what people are arguing about.

In two families, the couple discussed the problem and whomever was in the position to make the decision had the final say. One woman played an active role in decision-making:

I started to say my husband does it because he's out there, but really he doesn't. I guess I've just told him so many times, 'don't do anything unless you tell me about it' so

he doesn't because I do so much more advance manipulating where things should be and how many should be in that pasture. I think I'm more observant than he is too. My mind is on business, what to do when.

In one family, the husband made all the decisions without consulting the wife. Several women also mentioned that their husbands often conferred with a father or other relatives. As one woman said:

He usually confers with his father on a lot of that kind of stuff, but he makes the decisions when it get right down to it. Then he confers with me but he usually has his mind pretty well made up by the time he gets down the ladder.

The husband most frequently made minor farm decisions without consulting anyone else. In three cases, the couple discussed the problem and whomever was in a position to make the decision did so. In the incorporated farms, the managers of the various areas in the corporation made the decisions.

Five of the farm women felt very happy with their level of responsibility on the farm. One of the employed farm women felt that too much knowledge on her part could lead to some problems in the corporation:

I'm real happy with it. Sometimes I don't feel I know as much as my sister who punches everything into the computer, she knows everything and I probably don't know as much. But I really like it. I think it's a pretty good balance. If I knew a whole bunch I might be unhappy with a few things.

One of the women reported that she was very happy about her level of responsibility but was trying to learn more:

Oh, I like it. I don't have any problems with it. The past few years I've tried to work myself trying to learn a little more about it, if something were to happen to him. I try to do the bookkeeping things. He had an illness about five years ago that was very brief and it was kind of scary, but it made us stop and think if something happened to him I wouldn't even know the home bills to pay. He did everything, bookkeeping and all. So we've changed so that I've had those responsibilities so I'm more aware of the financial part and little by little I learn how things are. So I may be married 50 years before I really feel like I'm a full-fledged farm wife who could just go there and do anything.

One woman mentioned that her husband didn't ask her to do enough, she would like to help lighten his load:

Sometimes he doesn't ask me to do things like disc or feed the cattle. I wish sometimes he would include me more in what needs to be done and ask me to do things. Sometimes I feel like he gets burdened down and everything. I want to help lighten the burden and get some of the work done that needs to be done so he won't be so frustrated. But sometimes he'd rather, he wants to do it himself. It's a feeling of pride I guess. It would be helpful if he'd say, 'Well, this needs to be done, would you do it today?'

One farm woman, who managed the family grain elevator, felt she had too much responsibility trying to balance the elevator, her farm, and her family. Another woman was not happy with her level of responsibility because her husband never listened to her opinion.

When asked if they could run the farm alone if something were to happen to their husband, the women most frequently answered that they could run the farm alone, providing both the management and physical labor level in three cases. Two women believed that they could manage the farm and hire the physical work done. One woman had obviously thought about the possibility before:

I thought once if anything happened to my husband, how much would I be able to hang on to, how much could I do? At that point, we were in the process of feeding cattle out of heavy wooden feeders and there wouldn't have been any way I could have put one of those up on the trailer and moved it. But if you invested some more money in lighter weight feed troughs where they wouldn't be so heavy . . .

She continued,

It's just like, how when you have to carry hay out to the cattle. I just don't know whether or not I could carry hay out to the cows. I can carry hay from the barn up to the truck and then he'll stack it. I've had to go do it all by myself before and I was so exhausted. If I ever had to do it day in and day out for days on end, I doubt that I would last. I'm skilled but, the physical level, I don't know if I could hold up. I would be so exhausted. Now, management is not a problem.

Another woman, who worked full-time and was not involved in her family's corporation decisions, still felt she could learn to run her family's personal farm:

I really feel I would have the capabilities of doing it, but you know I would have to quit my job. You know, I don't have the time, but I think I could run it . . . management only. It wouldn't be solely me though, I'd have lots of help. I couldn't do everything he does in the corporation, but I think I could keep our 480 acres going. I'd need some help with the finances, my mother cannot believe how I'm not involved and I don't know what's going on. If anything happened to him, it would probably be really hard to learn how. We do what we have to do. Anyone who is intelligent could probably learn.

The women felt they could manage with some help, one woman did not know if she could take over the operation, and two women flatly stated that they could not run the farm if something happened to their husband.

As with any occupation, there were areas of farming that the women enjoyed and areas that they disliked. The most frequently mentioned dislikes were long hours, choosing priorities (between family and farm), hard physical labor and seasonal overloads. About dislikes, one woman stated:

The long hours-the terribly long hours. In the summertime you don't get to see your families much except when you see them in the field. Not having time to do much as a family in the summer, except maybe on Sunday.

Other areas mentioned were lack of money, role conflict (trying to be a good mother, a good farmer, a community volunteer), bad weather and waiting in line with grain trucks or waiting on husbands for various farm tasks. Another woman had a few dislikes, but was really satisfied with the farm:

Sometimes the hours get kinda long. Him getting me up in the snow to pull the truck when it's cold outside. I don't mind, I do it. I can't really think of a whole lot that I dislike about farming. I'm pretty well satisfied.

When asked about what they liked most about farming, women most frequently said working with cattle, being outside, driving the tractor and helping their husbands accomplish goals. Less frequently mentioned were: flexible schedule, variety of tasks, simplicity, hauling grain and the atmosphere in which to raise children. Here are several of the comments made by the farm women:

My favorite part of farm work is messing with the cattle. I'm not big for driving the tractor. I'll do it if it's necessary, but basically it's cattle. I think a lot of people like to deal with cattle because there is a kind of a romantic air to cattle and ranching. Maybe dirt farming hasn't got that romantic air to it that cattle do . . . maybe that's why.

I guess I'm kind of like the aunt who sold part of the cows to us. I like the babies. Oh, I like to get out of here [the grain elevator she manages] and I like to go home, this sounds silly to say so, but I like to leave the house and just go as far as I can go and that's not hard! There's miles I can go down by the creek and I'm not just idly walking. I'm looking for whatever I can see.

She continued,

I'm looking to see if the grass is all right, if it is too short. I'm looking to see if there's a cow with a sore foot, if I can find a new baby or whatever, so it's practical walking. It's not just walking. I'm away from it and so I worry. I worry that there's a calf stuck in the fence. I worry that something's gotten sick and I can't see it because it's down in a low place. This alleviates that worry. You go down and walk it out and you know it's all right, you know where there's a fence down and you know why that cow got out, you find the broken place.

Another woman commented:

You know, I really like to drive the tractor because it is a quiet time and there is nobody bothering you. The summer is quite an adjustment for me because the kids are usually bored and they want to go somewhere all summer and you run, run. They always want something. And it is really nice [to get away], but I can only take it about two weeks. It's really nice to get on the tractor and it is nice and peaceful. But then I hate to come home to a messy house after the field. It would be really nice to just drive the tractor and not have to come home to the housework.

A third woman said:

Oh, I just like the farm. I like driving the tractor. I don't mind hauling wheat. I get tired sometimes, but I enjoy hauling wheat. I had never been on a tractor [before marriage]. It was a challenge. He'd put me up there and go off and say 'This is what this does, this knob does that' and he jumped off the tractor. I drove the combine once last year. I just like being out here. I guess because we didn't have machinery and stuff [when she was growing up] and it's great for raising kids.

Off-Farm Work Role.

When asked about off-farm employment, six of the ten women reported they worked off-farm while two of the ten husbands worked off-farm. This number included one woman who worked in the family grain elevator and did not consider that as an off-farm job because she was not paid. The researcher did, however, classify her as an employed worker because the time commitment was comparable to paid employment. The four women who completed a college degree were all employed at the time of this study. Of the six women who did not attend or did not complete college, one woman was employed part-time and one woman was an occasional substitute teacher. The women who did not work off the farm did not report any money making projects in the home, although beekeeping, cake decorating, selling products such as Avon and Tupperware were mentioned as "just for fun" activities.

The off-farm occupations of the men and women were adaptable to farm life either being directly related to farming or flexible enough to allow farm participation during peak times. For example, three of the women were teachers, which gave them the summer off for field work. One woman was a substitute teacher and one had a flexible part-time job as a legal secretary. Another woman worked full time in the family

grain elevator which did take her away from the farm during peak times, but, she reported allowed her to buy veterinary supplies and farm products at reduced rates. Of the two men who worked off-farm, one had a partnership in a farm store which allowed flexibility because he could come and go as needed and one was a horticulture teacher on a part-time basis. All the men and women planned to continue working off-farm.

The two wives of the men who worked off-farm felt that this circumstance required more of their time for farm tasks. When asked why her husband worked off-farm, one woman replied, "So the farm doesn't lose as much as it usually would." The women also saw their income as necessary for the farm to survive. As one young woman commented:

I don't see how farmers can make it unless their wife works. I really don't. My salary doesn't seem to go far enough to pay the mortgages off, but we can live on my income. If you had to take your farming income to just live off of, say you take \$30,000 to live off, oh! you'd get behind in a hurry.

Four women had 40 to 46 hour work weeks, nine months of the year (one of these four put in regular hours until wheat harvest, then spent a great deal more time at the family grain elevator). The part-time legal secretary worked 14 hours year-round, while the remaining off-farm workers' schedules varied. They traveled from 3 to 24 miles to their jobs.

When asked about childcare arrangements, three women mentioned school, three a babysitter, three mothers took their children with them, three relied upon grandparents in some instances and in one family the husband kept the two preschool children the two days his wife worked off-farm. One employed mother stated that her childcare arrangements were flexible by necessity:

The youngest goes to the babysitter, the boys go to school. After-school responsibilities for the children are shared

by everybody. Sometimes mother helps out and goes to pick up the baby and keep her till five then my husband picks her up. Or the boys go to the baby sitter's and my husband picks them up. We just work it out every morning.

The majority of the women enjoyed their off-farm employment. They liked the money and the chance to get away from home for awhile. As one woman stated:

I like it. I think that's my sanity. That's why I went back to work. I just didn't know if I could stay here all day long seven days a week. I worked full-time for 12 years, until my son was born. I've worked two days a week since then.

Another woman commented:

There are times it is just wonderful. When I'm rested it's wonderful. When I'm real busy I think, 'Oh gosh. What am I doing?' It seems if I'm rested I can handle anything and if I'm not . . . Whenever we have five contests, two performances, and whew! I just go crazy and sometimes it takes three days at a time with not seeing my family at all and I had real guilt trips about that. But then I finally decided that my children are growing up as well as anybody else, so quit hurting yourself. Maybe it's from working all the time, but I feel a lot better about myself when I'm accomplishing something besides just staying home and washing dishes and washing clothes and chasing after everybody.

One farm woman, even though she worked full-time, expressed a desire to remain at home with her family:

Oh, I have to work, but I like this job. It has reasonable hours, more reasonable than some. I would like to not work and maybe have more children and be at home with them, but I can't quit working. I know we couldn't farm if I quit working. We might be able to continue farming if I keep working.

The roles of farm women require them to integrate the many areas of their lives. Sometimes the various roles fit together well and are complementary. Other roles are harder to combine. The majority of the women in this study felt that their family life and their farm work fit together very well. Fewer women felt that their family life and off-farm employment fit together well and fewer still felt that farm work and off-farm employment fit together well. It would seem from these

reports that off-farm employment, although necessary and enjoyable, did create a strain in the farm work-family role system.

Finances

Financial Planning Knowledge

An important part of this study was to examine the extent of knowledge about family financial arrangements and involvement in financial planning. The farm women seemed to be most involved in retirement planning as eight of the ten were covered under social security and five had their own retirement plans. Insurance was another area in which women were well informed. The majority of the women knew the locations of all important documents. Despite the women's involvement in retirement planning, only four women, of the six who had wills knew the location of this document. Tables VI and VII address these issues.

TABLE VI
FINANCIAL PLANNING AND KNOWLEDGE

Wife's Participation	Yes	No	Do Not Know	Does Not Apply
Wife and husband own land in joint tenancy	6	1	2	1
Wife individually owns land	1	9		
Has a savings or checking account in wife's name alone	4	6		
Has obtained loans in own name	2	8		
Wife covered under social security	8		2	
Wife has own retirement plan	5	5		
Wife knows total financial liabilities	5	5		
Wife and husband select life insurance protection together	6	3		1
Wife knows the cash value and face amount of insurance protection	6	3		1
Wife knows when installment payments are due and to whom they are made	7	3		

TABLE VII
WIFE'S KNOWLEDGE OF LOCATION
OF IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS

Documents	Yes	No	Does Not Apply
Titles to vehicles	10	0	
Leases	6	2	2
Old tax returns	8	2	
Cancelled checks	10	0	
Wills	4	2	4

The women all knew the institutions from which they had borrowed money in the last three years. In seven families the bank was utilized, relatives in two, the Small Business Association in two, the Farmers Home Administration in five, Production Credit Association in two cases, the Federal Land Bank in three cases, and the School Land Commission in one case.

Economic Concerns

Five of the women reported that they worried about farm finances more than anything else and five reported the same amount of concern over farm finances as other concerns. None of the women reported that farm finances were of less concern than other things. They expressed a wide variety of economic concerns with the most frequent being a lack of money to pay bills in three cases and low crop prices in another three cases. When asked what her financial concerns were, one young woman reported:

Whether we're going to be able to keep the farm and whether we'll be able to make the payments we have to make. I don't think our off-farm salaries are going to be able to make the payments that we have to make. Whether we can get the loans to meet the needs of the farm.

Other women mentioned that they were worried over high interest rates and land deflating in value. These concerns were showing up on farming practices as eight of the ten women stated that their farming operation had changed because of the current recession. Five women mentioned that they had "made do" with older worn out equipment and had not purchased any new machinery. Three women mentioned an overall "belt-tightening." One woman stated:

It just keeps getting tighter and tighter. You think there is no more fat to trim but somehow you find another way. I can't trade off the pickup when I need to. I don't know how we've made it go as long as we have. That's what the hard times have done to us. You try to keep your equipment in good working order.

Other strategies mentioned to cut expenses were making more repairs themselves and the corporation paying its employees less and hiring fewer outside people. Two women, however, felt that their operation had not changed. As one woman said:

I don't really think so. I think they [the corporation] have gone with the philosophy to stay in there and in the long haul they will come out ahead. They bought as many cattle last year as they would have if things had been really good. They should have been in the wheat program which I guess is one way of guaranteeing a certain price for your wheat. I don't think they cut back on buying farm equipment. They rented some more land, so they had to buy new equipment. I think they tried to maintain things, not extravagantly, but things that needed to be replaced, they replaced.

Because farming income is often irregular and uncertain, the farm women seemed more unsure about finances than about any other area. When asked about gross farm income, three women stated they did not know. Two of the families reported an income of \$10,000 to \$20,000; one woman

reported an income of \$40,000 to \$100,000 and four families reported a gross income of over \$100,000. The net farm income was lower with six of the ten women reporting a negative net income. One family reported a net farm income of \$2,500 to \$10,000; two families reported a net income of \$20,000 to \$40,000 and one family reported a \$40,000 to \$100,000 net income.

Because of low farm income, one or both spouses in several families were employed off the farm. Two of the husbands worked off-farm. Two other husbands were in a salaried position with the family corporation. In all four of these cases, the husband's income was reported to be between \$10,000 and \$20,000. Six of the ten women were employed off-farm and their incomes varied greatly. Table VIII reports wives' income ranges.

TABLE VIII
FARM WOMEN'S OFF-FARM INCOME

Income Range	Number of Women
Under \$2,500	2
\$2,500 to \$10,000	1
\$10,000 to \$20,000	2
\$20,000 to \$40,000	1

Eight of the ten families did have other sources of income; five mentioned oil leases. The women also reported income from custom farm work, corporation bonuses and rent from mobile home space. Two of the families had no other sources of income besides their farming operation.

The farm women were also asked about the total value of their farm or ranch, but there was a great deal of hesitation in answering and most women said they "had no idea." Therefore, further examination of this question was not possible because accurate information was not available.

The women reported themselves as very involved in their families' plans for economic security. Four women reported that they and their husbands discussed everything and four reported that they were important and involved. When asked about provisions made for the economic future of the family, two women mentioned gifts to children, one family had savings accounts and Certificates of Deposit, three had life insurance and four families had no other provisions. One woman who had quit a teaching position to manage the family grain elevator felt her role as an income provider was vital when she was teaching and it was very difficult for her to give it up.

All the time I was going back and forth teaching I worried what would happen if anything happened to me. At that time with the salary income, we knew there was enough money for shoes and clothes for the kids and school lunch and whatever else—something to take to Sunday School offering. So it was awfully hard for me to turn in my resignation and quit and just depend on holding enough back when we sold cattle to make ends meet.

Two of the women mentioned that it was their job to watch what was spent and make the money stretch as far as it would go.

Despite economic difficulties facing these young farm families, the women expressed optimism. Five reported that they would continue to be

able to farm in the future, two women said they would probably be able to continue, and two women said they did not know if their family farms would be successful. It appeared that the future of the family farm will sometimes depend upon the wife's willingness to be employed off the farm to keep the farm going. As one woman said, "I think we will be able to continue farming, if I work [emphasis hers]." But even the off-farm employment of both spouses in one family situation might not be enough as the wife reported, "I don't really know, I just keep hoping [that they will be able to continue farming]." This determination of the farm women would cause some to wonder why they continue to engage in an often unprofitable occupation, but as one woman explained it:

We'll probably hang on. It was an emotional decision to come back. We knew from the old tax returns that the cows, if you paid interest on the loan and bought all your feed and rented all your grass, that you couldn't help but lose \$40,000 a year. We knew that. We came into it with wide open eyes. If you do that deliberately with your eyes wide open you've got to be a little insane or emotional, one or the other.

Then she explained why they had returned to the farm lifestyle,

What we did it for was because my grandfather homesteaded out there on that grass, started that herd of cattle a few cows at a time and only kept the best ones and culled out the worst ones and that's what the herd of cattle amounted to. And if we hadn't come back and taken them when my father got completely worn out from carrying feed bags, then they'd have gone to the auction and they'd have sold and the grass would have been rented to whomever to be done with as they please.

Farm Women's Perceptions

Perception of Self

Amid the prevailing stereotypes of farm women, this study attempted to find out how young farm women perceive themselves, their roles and their lives as compared to other women's. Three of the farm women

interviewed considered themselves to be one of the main operators of their family farms. An additional woman stated that she put in enough hours and made enough managerial decisions to be a main operator, but was not considered by others to have that role. Five women did not consider themselves to be a main operator and another woman chose to classify herself as a major contributor. The women's descriptions of their relationship to the farm were varied from the two women who called themselves "farmer" to the woman who classified herself as "a homemaker." Between these two classifications were descriptions such as "self-employed," "supporter," "financial supplementer" and "helper." One woman smiled and said, "I'm the listener." The woman who classified herself as a homemaker had this to say about her role:

I take care of the home and the children and the gardening and that kind of thing. When I fill out forms I always fill out 'homemaker' and I'm proud of that. And I help. I guess you could say I'm his helper whenever I'm needed.

She continued,

I subscribe to this farm wife magazine and I really enjoy it because it talks about me a lot because I'm always the one in the wrong place when the cattle are coming out the gate. I'm scared to death of them, but I get in there and try. I really don't have a lot of common sense with things, but I get out there and try hard. It's not that I don't know where, it's just that I'm scared to be where he wants me to be. But I'm usually there for him. If there's something to be done and the kids are at home, nine chances out of ten he'll have the kids to help him before he will me. Of course, they've been raised on the farm.

She went on to say that her son was the primary helper with crops and machinery, while her daughter was the helper with the animals. She said that she and the youngest son just fill in, "We help everybody!"

Another woman found it frustrating to try to define her role for others:

I get mad at myself everytime you write a check and they say 'What do you do?' and I go 'Well, I'm a housewife.' And I

think well, I should say I'm a farmer. I've tried it and I get these funny looks. 'You? Oh, your husband does that.' I just want to go 'No! I help.'

The women were also asked about their role as a farm wife and what their responsibilities were in that role. The most frequent responses were that their job was to help when needed and to keep the home and family going. As the woman who identified herself as a homemaker stated:

I think I'm more of a supporter myself. I'm not an active participant as far as farm operation goes. I'm a supporter and a sounding board. And I think it's important to keep things going on the home front so that it makes it a whole lot easier too for the family to come in out of the field. And he does too. That's the reason he's put me in this place. He's had opportunities where he could have taught me things about the farm, but it's by choice that I'm not more involved.

Two other women talked about their roles as helpers:

I suppose that he could get along without me but I think I help quite a bit-being here to take care of the kids and having the meals ready. I know that helps him to be able to go on and do what he needs to do.

I'm here when they need me and I try to do my part. When something needs to be done even if he just needs me to hold a wrench for him, to be there for him.

Their next most important role was to bring in income to keep the farm afloat and to be supportive of the husband's needs. One woman commented, "I feel like I contribute a lot to survival." Another woman told about her responsibilities:

To make ends meet and to have the kind of living that I want us to have, I'm going to have to work (off-farm). I want to help out when they're in a pinch, but I also have home responsibilities that I need to take care of too. To be a support person for my husband. To help in the community.

Other aspects of the role of farm women were to be a sounding board and help sort through priorities, to do community work and to take the place of a hired hand. One woman who contributes a great deal to the farm labor said her husband was beginning to realize how important she was:

I think he is finally beginning to realize that if I hadn't been there--there was one point where he was putting down anhydrous for other people. Our ground needed to be worked but he had the tractor somewhere else and I plowed all our ground while he was doing the other. During harvest it worked out where we could plow in between trips to the elevator. We kept it up that way. I tell him he just couldn't do it without me, whether he believes it or not! In the next two years he'll be gone quite a bit. I'm going to have to do it and make decisions and see that it gets done. Getting used to the experience of being totally alone on the farm to decide what needs to be done and when it should be done and see that it gets done.

The farm women were asked how their families would manage if something should happen that they could no longer fulfill their role. In regard to the farm work, most of the women believed that it would continue as it was, but would take longer hours on the husband's part. Three women reported that relatives would "lend a hand" and in two families the husband would have to hire outside help. One woman did not know what her husband would do without her help in farm tasks. In regard to household work, the majority of the women stated that their husbands would need help from someone, in most cases relatives. One woman said that her husband would have to hire help, one woman did not know what he would do, and two women reported that their immediate family would handle the load. When asked if the farm could continue operating if she were no longer able to help, one woman smiled and said:

It probably wouldn't. No, that was being tacky. He would have to hire help. I'm sure our parents would help us. My mother and dad just live 25 miles from here.

Another woman had just spent the last year recovering from several major surgeries and talked about how her family handled her absence:

The family just pitches in and does it. They've done the cooking and the laundry and they helped with the gardening during this time. We thought there wouldn't be a garden because it's mine. But they all just pitched in and did everything. The farm work was done and the housework too. Not exactly like I would do it, but adequate. They could handle it.

Then she explained why they were able to,

This is a family-operated thing. Daddy and I are the bosses, but we all work to get it done. And if we're healthy we all do our own jobs and if not we pitch in.

Despite the involvement of the farm women on their family farms, six of the ten women reported that they perceived they were treated differently than men in farm-related situations. Four of these women said that they were not taken seriously by male farmers or businessmen when they attempted to make farm-related transactions and that fact bothered them. One woman had this to say about it:

It's as simple as being right here in the elevator and you start to get feed and they pull it right out of your hand. Some men very definitely treat a lady like a joke. That's what it amounts to. If they need to know something they'll go ask my husband or my father. Then they (husband and father) will come and ask me and go back to tell them (other men).

One woman felt she was treated differently and wanted to be. She said, "I want to be treated different. I don't want to make those decisions." And another woman was treated differently, but she felt it was to her advantage:

When I was in high school and went to get farm parts we'd get waited on first, the men would have to wait. Sometimes they don't take you seriously if you call and tell them what's wrong. It just depends on the individual. Very few times was I treated like I didn't know what was going on. You know, if you go to get a flat fixed, and they'll really give you more consideration than the men, which is nice. The corporation used to send the women because they could get it done quicker.

Four women reported they had not been treated differently than men.

When asked to compare their lives with city friends, the women had a wide variety of answers with the most frequent being that they were busier, their time had to be more unstructured, and they had more privacy. One woman addressed the privacy issue:

You're freer out in the country than you are in the city. You don't have to worry about so many things. Of course, now in the country it's getting more so, you have to worry about people coming up. In town it's pretty constant. I was scared in town, I really was. We had some neighbors who were using drugs and you'd hear their parties at three o'clock in the morning and I was scared to death. The first night out here it was so peaceful. I loved it.

Another woman mentioned the need for flexible schedules:

I'm busier. I spent more time on the road getting somewhere. When I need a babysitter, I have to go to town to get her. My life is a lot more helter skelter. It can't be structured as much. If you were in town and your husband got off at five every day and dinner would be at six. But we have to plan everyday one day at a time, you have to be real flexible. My sister lived in the city for ten years. I'd always call her at eleven at night and she could never understand why. The phone would ring and she'd say, "Oh, that's . . ." She recently moved to the farm and she says, 'Now I understand because you just can't get in bed before eleven because you're so busy.' She was used to things at a certain time.

Women also mentioned that they spent more time on the road, that they were more "down to earth" and more conservative, that they were happier and that their children were happier. Women stated that they had to be more prepared in the country for emergencies, that they work harder and they work more as a family. One woman had this to say about the lives of city women:

They live this very fast, rushed hectic lives, broken marriages, children that are facing drug problems. And all these things and we have none of those problems. And I know they're around. I have known farm wives that have split homes and whose kids have been into trouble, but I really feel that my whole life is happier by being right here, where I am today.

She continued,

They couldn't give me their life. I wouldn't trade it for anything. This one particular friend and I have been good friends through the years. All our kids are nearly exactly the same age, we have just always kept in touch. And everything is falling apart for her now and everything is really getting great for me. I wouldn't trade it for anything.

Most of these farm women felt that women in general were just as capable as men and that the role of women in modern society was rapidly changing and gaining ground. Several women also mentioned that women should help earn the income, help care for home and family and be active in making decisions. One woman talked of the need for women to bring in an income:

I feel we are just as capable as the men, but I think we are really guilty like when the big problems roll around we want to be real helpless and let the husband take all the responsibility. But I also think it's very, very unfair in this day and time to expect the husband to earn all the income and us stay at home and take care of the children. That's nice in philosophy, but it's a big burden to put on them.

She continued,

I guess I'm very biased in this opinion and I probably shouldn't say this, but I honestly feel that a lot of the time it's a big cop-out. 'I want to stay home and raise my children because I'm the only one who can do it well.' And then the farm goes under. That's very noble, but it's very unrealistic and I think it's a cop-out. I honestly think you can raise your children just as well as if you are home with them all the time.

Another woman spoke of trying to help her daughter understand her own perception of the role of women:

I have never put it in words. I've probably thought about my daughter more than anything. My daughter should be treated as an equal, not because I'm an E.R.A. advocate, but her mind is as sharp as a male's mind. If she says something it should be taken in light of the value of what she said. I've thought a lot about her. I've done everything in my power to keep her from feeling overly feminine.

She continued,

It's been hard, for some reason she's kind of a little frilly, lacey want-to-stay-in-the-house type person. So a lot of times under protest I've dragged her out to the lot. So she knows what it's like to cut cattle, she knows what it's like to sort cattle. She hands the vaccine and the syringe into her Daddy and she has to keep up with what she is doing. Then she goes back into the house. I don't know. I've tried to make her understand that being a girl doesn't automatically mean she's supposed to stay in the house. It's been an uphill fight.

Perception of the Farming Lifestyle

The women overwhelmingly preferred the farming lifestyle. Nine of the ten women would make the same decision to farm if they had the choice to make again. Only one woman was not sure, stating that she probably would have finished her college first. When asked at a later point in the interview if they were satisfied with farming as a way of life, nine readily answered yes, while the tenth woman said she was emotionally satisfied, but indicated dissatisfaction with the economic aspect of farm life. The women felt satisfied for different reasons. One woman specifically mentioned the benefits for her children:

I love it. It's the only place to raise your kids. I would hate to be in town now and raise my children. You have a lot more control over their time. They have something to do. They don't have idle time on their hands. You have more control over who they associate with.

Another woman commented that she and her husband had their third child because they came back to the farm:

The little one in there, the reason we have him is because we came back. We said in the city that we wouldn't have any more children because it's difficult to raise children in the city. And if we came back to the farm we would have at least one more and maybe two more. So it expanded our life. It really changed things for us totally.

Another woman felt that the switch to farming had strengthened her marital relationship:

It gets hard, but I'm satisfied. I wouldn't change. We had it the other way before and it made it hard because he wanted to be on the farm and he wasn't satisfied being indoors. We've loved it since we've been out here. Our lifestyle changed and our attitude toward each other changed when we started farming.

The women did say that there were disadvantages to being a farm family with the most frequent reason being a lack of money. One woman summarized it as follows:

Oh, just like everybody else, I hate to be so broke. You don't have the money to go do what you need to do. You don't have the money to make repairs. I've got two places on that little place of mine that need a little leveling work done real bad and we don't have the money. My husband needs a new pickup and we can't go buy a new one.

The second most frequent response was the long hours involved and lack of vacation time for the family. As one woman put it:

The long hours working. The kids get tired. I try not to drag them out to the field too much, but sometimes I have to. I try to make it fun, but it's hard for them too. It does teach responsibilities because they work right along with us. I think that's important, that they learn the qualities of work.

The women also mentioned that the smaller schools were not able to provide the educational background of a larger school and one woman mentioned that it was a drawback to spend so much time on the road.

Another woman got very irritated at the way farmers were stereotyped:

I hate being considered a hick, when really it's a very organized business. It takes a lot of planning.

The women were even more vocal about the advantages of being a farm family. The most frequently mentioned advantage was the closeness of farm families. One woman stated:

I guess you're closer together when you're around each other all the time. The kids don't have anybody else to run next door to. We can do everything just about that we need to do together. We all ride the combine with my husband or check cattle or whatever.

The next most frequent response was being able to be their own boss. As one woman put it:

We like being here, being our own boss. That's really, after working for a big firm in a big city, it was very enticing. We make our own decisions. The pressures are different, but I think they're easier to cope with on the farm and maybe a lot of that is because we're on the farm. Sometimes we feel like we're all going in different directions, especially right now, with my kids at their age, but really we're very family oriented. Even the kids would think it very strange if Mama or Daddy, just one of them decided to do something.

She continued,

Usually the whole family is involved in things. And I don't think it's that way, I go back and see this friend of mine (in the city) and they've all gone different directions and their lifestyles in the city just doesn't seem to be centered around home. You know, we have to go home when we go places. I mean we really have to go a long ways to go home. And we all go there. And in the city it seems like the kids park at someone else's house on the way and nobody ever gets home because they really feel like they're home because they are nearby. But here on the farm you have to go home. There's just no way about it, you go home. Everybody.

Three women mentioned that farming was helpful in teaching values to their children. One woman commented:

There's more of a feeling of pulling together. Children raised on the farm just grow up being taught common sense and how to organize their time and how to work. I've taught many students who just know nothing. They don't know left from right, they don't know how to run a vehicle. They have no skills.

The women also mentioned that farm life was quiet and relaxing, farming left one with a feeling of accomplishment and provided the opportunity to be outdoors.

Skills and Knowledge Needed

For the purpose of recommending programming for farm women to the Cooperative Extension Service, the women were asked about new skills or areas of increased knowledge they would like to have concerning three areas: the farming operation, family life or home production, and job skills or career development.

In skills relating to the farming operation, the most frequently expressed need of the farm women was care and operation of large equipment, bookkeeping and marketing skills and computer skills. The women also mentioned the need for veterinary knowledge. As one woman stated:

I have seen and I have assisted in delivering calves, but I've never actually done it. I'd like a vet to teach me exactly what to do and the same with giving shots. They're too scared to let me try giving shots. I would like to learn the medical part of it all. But I'm sure if you asked a vet to teach a group of ladies he'd probably laugh and wonder why they wanted to know. I get tickled at my husband. When we have a sick calf, he'll take me down to the barn and say, 'What do you think is wrong?' And I think 'he wants my opinion. He trusts my judgment.' Well, I was raised on a farm and we did graze cattle. But they did too. So he probably knows as much on that as I do as far as the sickness. But he knows how to treat it and I don't.

Another woman commented:

I'm very active in Extension Homemakers but still, they don't go over into the farm part of it like I'd like for them to.

When asked about new skills needed in family life or home production, the most frequent response was the need for knowledge in the area of family relations. Women also mentioned wanting to keep up with new home economics information, embroidery, gardening, canning, sewing and time management. However, even though the women expressed these needs, several mentioned that they did not have the time to pursue knowledge in these areas.

Desire for new skills or knowledge in career development was most frequently answered with a need for computer skills and the desire to continue education. One woman expressed a desire for a job, but felt that the long distances to get to a job and low pay made her more valuable at home.

Summary

This chapter presented results from the analysis of data. Fixed format questions and selected open-ended questions were summarized and presented as frequencies. The remaining open-ended questions were

examined for similarity of response and emerging patterns using the constant comparative method of qualitative analysis and then reported in narrative format. The study explored the extent and nature of on-farm and off-farm work roles of young, Oklahoma farm women; the family role of young farm women; the knowledge of family financial arrangements; and the self-concept of young farm women.

CHAPTER V

SUMMARY

This study has examined the rapidly changing work and family roles of selected young Oklahoma farm women in Southwestern Oklahoma. Four criteria have been utilized in selecting the 10 farm women: (1) the woman was identified as an agricultural partner or helper, (2) the woman was between the ages of 20 and 36, (3) the woman had at least one child in the home and (4) the woman had been involved in wheat production for at least one year.

The objectives of this study have been to: (1) describe the family role of young farm women, (2) document the on-farm labor and management roles of young farm women, (3) document the extent and nature of the off-farm work role of young farm women, (4) examine the extent of knowledge about family financial arrangements and involvement in financial planning of young farm women, as well as identify their economic concerns, (5) examine the self-concept of young farm women regarding their family and work roles and their perceptions regarding the advantages and disadvantages of the farm family lifestyle, and (6) make recommendations for educational program development, research and governmental policies based on the findings of this study.

Data have been obtained through structured personal interviews with 10 young farm women between the ages of 20 and 36. The questionnaire utilized has been designed to collect 10 types of information:

(1) profile of respondents, (2) profile of the farm operation, (3) family role, (4) on-farm work role, (5) off-farm work role, (6) financial planning knowledge, (7) economic concerns, (8) perception of self, (9) perception of farming lifestyle and (10) skills and knowledge needed. The format of the questions is both fixed format and open-ended. Data from fixed format items have been analyzed for frequencies while data from open-ended items have been analyzed using the constant comparative method of qualitative analysis.

Major Findings

Research question one examines the nature of the family role of young farm women. Frequency distributions show that the women are responsible for the traditional household tasks of cooking and cleaning. They also have the major responsibility for yard work and gardening. The family tasks most often shared by husband and wife are in the area of childcare. Husbands and wives most frequently make household decisions by discussing problems jointly and reaching a compromise. In the area of community affairs, the women are most often involved in church-related activities, 4-H and Extension Homemakers clubs.

Research question two examines the contributions of young farm women to the labor and management of the family farming operation. The modal number of hours spent on farm-related activities during the busy season is 20 hours. During the slower season, the modal number of hours drops to two. The women are most often involved in going after machinery parts, hauling grain, maintaining records, bookkeeping and animal care. Major farm decisions are made most frequently with the couple discussing

the problem and the husband making the final decision. The majority of the women are comfortable with their level of responsibility on the farm and they most frequently answered that they could run the farm alone if something happened to their husband. Based on their involvement in farm tasks, the researcher has classified the women interviewed into three categories: one woman is a farm homemaker, seven are farm helpers and two are farm partners. Although the majority of these women have reported that they do not complete as many tasks as might have been expected from previous research, they play a significant role as farm helper.

Research question three examines the nature of off-farm work. Six of the ten farm women are employed off-farm: two in flexible part-time jobs, three as high school or elementary teachers (giving them the summers off for farm tasks) and one woman manages the family-owned grain elevator. The women report their income as essential to keep the farm going. The majority of the women enjoy their off-farm work, but feel it does create some strain in the family farm system.

Research question four examines the women's knowledge of financial matters pertaining to farm and household operations. The women are more unsure about farm finances than any other area. However, the majority are knowledgeable about estate planning, installment payments, farm loans, retirement plans and location of important documents. They see themselves as very involved in their families' plans for economic security and report that they are optimistic about the economics of farming in the future. When asked about economic concerns, the women most often have mentioned lack of money to pay bills and low crop prices.

Research question five examines the farm women's perceptions of self and of the farming lifestyle. The women's classification of themselves and their roles varies from the two women who have called themselves farmers to the woman who has called herself a homemaker. The majority of the women feel their role is to be a helper and to keep the home and family going in order to free the husband's time. Three of the women consider themselves to be one of the main operators of the farm. They see their lives as busier than a city woman's, but their time as more unstructured. The farm women interviewed prefer the farming lifestyle to the lifestyle of urban families. They feel their families understand each other better and rely more on each other than urban families.

Conclusions

Young Oklahoma farm women are faced with a triad of roles: family, on-farm work and off-farm work. At times these roles mesh together well; at times conflict is created when the women have too many responsibilities. At first glance, the number of farm tasks reported for the farm women make them appear to be farm homemakers rather than farm helpers. However, when taken in the context that the majority of the women have employment off the farm and the majority have small children, it then becomes apparent that their lives are very busy. This participation in off-farm employment for farm women (especially women with small children) is a new trend that some feel will bring dramatic changes to the farm family system. Some have asked: Who will fill the farm woman's position on the farm? This study indicates that women have chosen flexible jobs in order to continue helping on the farm during the summer

months or during days when they are not at a job. Thus, while there is less participation in farm tasks than expected from past research, one must remember that the numbers reported are for the person primarily responsible for the task, in most cases this is the husband. The wife is an off-farm worker to bring in income to keep the farm going, the primary caretaker of small children as well as a helper when needed for farm tasks.

It is for this very reason that most previous research has tended to discount the farm women's participation in farm-related matters. Only through qualitative analysis does one find that the women are consistent, dependable helpers with farm tasks that cannot be efficiently handled alone. For example, although they are not reported as applying fertilizer, they hauled anhydrous during their summer vacation from the local farmer's cooperative to the field.

The second important finding in this study is that these farm families rely heavily on extended family networks in every area of their lives. Mothers, fathers, aunts and uncles are there to help with farm and household tasks. Quite often the husband consults with a relative before making an important farm decision and the young homemaker employed off the farm relies on a female relative to prepare the noon meal in her absence and to help with childcare. Most of these families are farming land that belonged "to the family" or have incorporated in order to work with other family members. In the event of the incapacitation of either husband or wife, the other is presumed to be able to continue with help from extended family.

Farm families, then, are a complex blend of talents, personalities and loyalties. Everyone has a position to fill. Given the alternatives

of leaving the farm and having the security of a regular income or staying on the farm, these families have chosen to stay, to "hang on to family land," to run the family grain elevator with no salary, to take a small salary in the family corporation and stay together. These families have made a conscientious decision to return to the farm and to stay within the interdependent family network.

Given the qualitative information about farm women, 10 proposition statements are made. In regard to the family role of young Oklahoma farm women, it is proposed that:

1. Farm women are responsible for and perform most of the tasks in home production, emotional support and community involvement for their own families.

2. Farm women and their husbands share childcare responsibilities.

For the on-farm work role of young Oklahoma farm women, it is proposed that:

3. Farm women are consistent, dependable helpers with farm tasks that cannot be efficiently handled alone and are content with their level of responsibility in these tasks.

In the area of the off-farm work role of young Oklahoma farm women, it is proposed that:

4. Farm women are often responsible for providing an off-farm income which provides a cost flow for the family farm operation to continue.

In regard to the financial planning knowledge of young Oklahoma farm women, it is proposed that:

5. Farm women are knowledgeable in most areas of family financial planning: farm debt management, estate planning, retirement accounts, insurance policies and household properties.

In the area of economic concerns, it is proposed that:

6. Farm women are concerned with the present economic situation of their family farms, but remain optimistic about farming in the future

In the area of self-perception, it can be stated that:

7. Farm women perceive themselves as a necessary part of the farming operation, as a helper and support person.
8. In the event that farm women could no longer perform their roles, farm women expect that extended and nuclear family members would assume their responsibilities.

In regard to farm women's perceptions of the farming lifestyle, it can be stated that:

9. Farm women prefer the farming lifestyle over all others for a variety of reasons.

As an overview, it can be stated that:

10. Farm women have a complicated work-family role system composed of a family role and a dual work role. An effective management strategy for combining their triad of roles is for farm women to rely heavily on extended family networks.

Program Implications

Although declining rapidly in numbers, young farm women reside in every county of Oklahoma and have specific needs. Educators in Cooperative Extension are in a position to help meet these needs. Programs designed for young farm women should include skills for the farm operation as well as family relationships. In the area of farm-related skills, the women have expressed a need for:

- 1) care and operation of large equipment
- 2) bookkeeping
- 3) marketing
- 4) computer operation

In the area of family life or home production the women have expressed a need for:

- 1) family relations
- 2) update on traditional home economics information

Farm women, balancing a triad of roles, are very busy. They are interested in increased knowledge in many areas, but at the same time have expressed that they did not have the time to attend classes or workshops. Educators need to evaluate possible program methods and be creative when approaching this special audience. Special newsletters for young farm women and evening classes which provide childcare are two plausible vehicles to reach this audience. Home Economists and Agriculturists in Cooperative Extension need to begin working as a team to provide necessary agricultural and family relations programming for farm women. County and state fairs are an ideal educational opportunity for farm families. For example, large equipment operation and safety for women could be offered at the machinery shows and veterinary skills for women could be offered at the animal barns.

For modern farm women to successfully balance their many roles, traditional structures of agriculture for men and home economics for women will have to change and in its place an integration of program materials for farm women emerge. A team effort by Home Economics and Agricultural Cooperative Extension Agents could very well influence the survival of the family farm and the farm family.

Recommendations for Future Research

Family farms and farm women have an important place even in an urbanized culture such as the United States. Research is needed to help farm women cope with many responsibilities and to deal with the delicate balance of family relationships. The scope and methods of this study were limited; further study will be necessary to more completely document the work and family roles of young farm women. Therefore, the researcher recommends that future studies be undertaken to test the propositions presented previously. Such studies should examine the following:

1. Other studies be designed and implemented to investigate the differences in the work and family roles of the four types of farm women (independent producer, agricultural partner, agricultural helper and farm homemaker).
2. Studies be designed to compare the work and family roles of farm partners and farm helpers in representative states.
3. Studies be designed to investigate the effects of off-farm work on farm families as well as the family farm.
4. Studies be designed to compare the success and stability of farm families with extended family support systems as opposed to farm families without an extended family support system.
5. Qualitative studies be further utilized to capture the information often ignored in traditional survey research.
6. Childcare needs of rural women be investigated and recommendations made.

In summary, farm women are important to their family farms and to their communities. These women have special educational needs and educators should provide programming to meet these needs. Farm women do not always have the time to seek out assistance; educators may find it necessary to use nontraditional methods. By working as a team, County Cooperative Extension Home Economists and Agriculturists can help provide a more sound knowledge base for farm women, thus benefiting farm operations, farm families, and U. S. agriculture.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Banks, V. J. Women living on U. S. farms. Paper presented at the Wingspread Seminar on Women's Roles on North American Farms, Racine, WI, July 1982.
- Banks, V. J., and Kalbacher, J. Z. Farm Income Recipients and Their Families: A Socioeconomic Profile. (United States Department of Agriculture Economic Research Service Rural Development Research Report No. 30), September 1981.
- Becker, G., Landes, E., and Michael, R. An economic analysis of marital instability. Journal of Political Economy, 1977, 85, 1141-1187.
- Best, J. W. Research in Education. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice-Hall, 1981.
- Blood, R. O., Jr. The division of labor in city and farm families. Marriage and Family Living, 1958, 20, 170-174.
- Bokemeier, J., and Coughenour, C. Men and women in four types of farm families: work and attitudes. Proceedings of the Rural Sociology Society Annual Meeting, August 1980.
- Boulding, E. Mimeographed questionnaire. Hanover, NH: Dartmouth College, 1978.
- Boulding, E. The labor of U. S. farm women: a knowledge gap. Sociology of Work and Occupations, 1980, 7 (3), 261-290.
- Brengle, M. Assessing farm wives' involvement in the family farm. Unpublished master's thesis, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 1981.
- Brewster, D. The family farm: a changing concept. Structural Issues of American Agriculture. (Agricultural Economic Report No. 438) U. S. Department of Agricultural Economics, Statistics, and Cooperative Service, November 1979.
- Capener, H. R., and Berkowitz, A. D. The farm family: a unique organization. New York's Food and Life Sciences, July-September, 1976, 9 (3), 8-9.
- Cloud, K. Research and Information on Farm Women. Unpublished manuscript, 1982. (Available from Equity Policy Center, 1525 18th Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20036).

- Compton, N. H., and Hall, O. A. Foundations of Home Economics Research: A Human Ecology Approach. Minneapolis: Burgess Publishing, 1972.
- Crampton, J. The National Farmers' Union: Ideology of a Pressure Group. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1965.
- Coward, R. T., and Smith, M., Jr. (Eds.). The Family in Rural Society. Boulder, CO: Westview Press, 1981.
- Degler, C. N. At Odds: Women and the Family in America from the Revolution to the Present. New York: Oxford University Press, 1980.
- Dunne, F. Traditional values and contemporary pressures: the conflicting needs of America's rural woman. Proceedings of Rural Education Seminar. College Park, MD, May 29-31, 1979.
- Fassinger, P. A., and Schwarzweller, H. K. Work Patterns of Farm Wives in Mid-Michigan. Michigan State University Agricultural Experiment Station Research Report No. 425, January 1982.
- Fugitt, G. V. Part-time farming and the push-pull hypothesis. American Journal of Sociology, 1959, 64, 375-379.
- Gladwin, C. H. Off-farm work and its effect on Florida farm wives' contribution to the family farm. Proceedings of Conference on Women's Roles in the Rural United States. Blacksburg; VA, May 1982.
- Glaser, B. G., and Strauss, A. L. The Discovery of Grounded Theory. Chicago: Aldine Publishing, 1967.
- Huffman, W. E. The value of productive time of farm wives: Iowa, North Carolina, and Oklahoma. American Journal of Agricultural Economics, November-December 1976, 58, 836-841.
- Jones, C., and Rosenfeld, R. A. American Farm Women: Findings from a National Survey. (NORC Report No. 130) Chicago: National Opinion Research Center, 1981.
- Jones-Webb, J. Through the eyes of a young farmer. Paper presented at the Wingspread Seminar on Women's Roles on North American Farms, Racine, WI, July 1982.
- Keim, A. M. The farm woman: lifelong involvement with the family farm. Unpublished master's thesis, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 1976.
- Kerlinger, F. N. Foundations of Behavioral Research. New York: Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 1964.
- Mills, C. W. White Collar: The American Middle Classes. New York: Oxford University Press, 1956.
- Nickols, S. Y. Mimeographed questionnaire. Stillwater: Oklahoma State University, 1980.

- Nickols, S. Y. Women on the farm: Economic roles and life satisfaction. Paper presented at the South Central Women's Studies Association Annual Conference. Arlington, TX, October 1980.
- Oklahoma Agricultural Statistics 1981. Published by Oklahoma Department of Agriculture cooperating with the U. S. Department of Agriculture, 122 State Capitol, Oklahoma City, OK, 73105, 1981.
- Pearson, J. Note on female farmers. Rural Sociology, 1979, 44 (1), 189-200.
- Pearson, J. Women who farm: A preliminary portrait. Sex Roles, 1980, 6 (4), 561-574.
- Pleck, J. The work-family role system. Social Problems, 1977, 84, 417-427.
- Poole, D. L. Farm scale, family life, and community participation. Rural Sociology, 1981, 46 (1), 118-125.
- Rosenfeld, R. A. U. S. farm women: Their work and self perceptions. Proceedings of the Annual Meeting of the Southern Sociological Society, Memphis, TN, April 15, 1982.
- Rosenfeld, R. A. Off-farm employment of farm wives and husbands. Paper presented at the Wingspread Seminar on Women's Roles on North American Farms, Racine, WI, July 1982.
- Sabol, L. Iowa farm couples: Decision-making and satisfaction. Paper presented at the Conference on Families and Close Relationships, Lubbock, TX, February 1982.
- Salamon, S., and Keim, A. M. Land ownership and women's power in a midwestern farming community. Journal of Marriage and the Family, 1979, 41 (1), 109-119.
- Scholl, K. K. Farm family members: Contributions, assets, and liabilities. Proceedings of the United States Department of Agriculture Special Symposium on Research for Small Farms, Beltsville Agricultural Research Center, Beltsville, MD, November 15-18, 1981.
- Scholl, K. K. Household and farm task participation of women. Family Economics Review, 1982, 3, 3-10.
- Scholl, K. K. Working farm women: On and off the farm. Paper presented at the Wingspread Seminar on Women's Roles on North American Farms, Racine, WI, July 1982.
- Smale, M. Economic and social changes affecting farmers. Paper presented at the Wingspread Seminar on Women's Roles on North American Farms, Racine, WI, July 1982.

- Smith, H. Husband-wife task performance and decision-making patterns. In J. Ross Eshleman (Ed.), Perspectives in Marriage and the Family. Boston: Allyn and Bacon, 1969.
- Toffler, A. The Third Wave. New York: Bantam Books, 1980.
- U. S. Department of Agriculture. Farm Population of the United States: 1980. (Farm Population Series P-27, No. 54, U. S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census) Washington, D.C.: Department of Agriculture Economic Research Service, 1980.
- U. S. Department of Agriculture. Economic Indicators of the Farm Sector: Income and Balance Sheet Statistics, 1980. (Statistical Bulletin No. 674) Washington, D.C.: U. S. Government Printing Office, 1981.
- U. S. Department of Agriculture. 1981 Handbook of Agricultural Charts. (Agriculture Handbook No. 592) Washington, D.C.: U. S. Government Printing Office, 1981.
- U. S. Department of Agriculture. 1983 Fact Book of U. S. Agriculture. (Miscellaneous Publication No. 1063) Washington, D.C.: U. S. Government Printing Office, 1983.
- Vanek, J. Work, leisure, and family roles: Farm households in the United States (1920-1955). Journal of Family History, 1980, 5 (4), 422-431.
- Wilkening, E. A. Farm families and family farming. In R. T. Coward and W. M. Smith, Jr. (Eds.), The Family in Rural Society. Boulder, CO: Westview Press, 1981.
- Wilkening, E. A. Farm Husbands and Wives in Wisconsin: Work Roles, Decision-Making and Satisfactions, 1962 and 1979. (R 3147). Madison, WI: University of Wisconsin-Madison, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, The Research Division, 1981.
- Williams, G. Watkins cites threats to United States agriculture. The Daily O'Collegian, January 28, 1982, 87 (90), 1.

APPENDIX A

OKLAHOMA MAP DESIGNATING COUNTIES
USED IN SURVEY

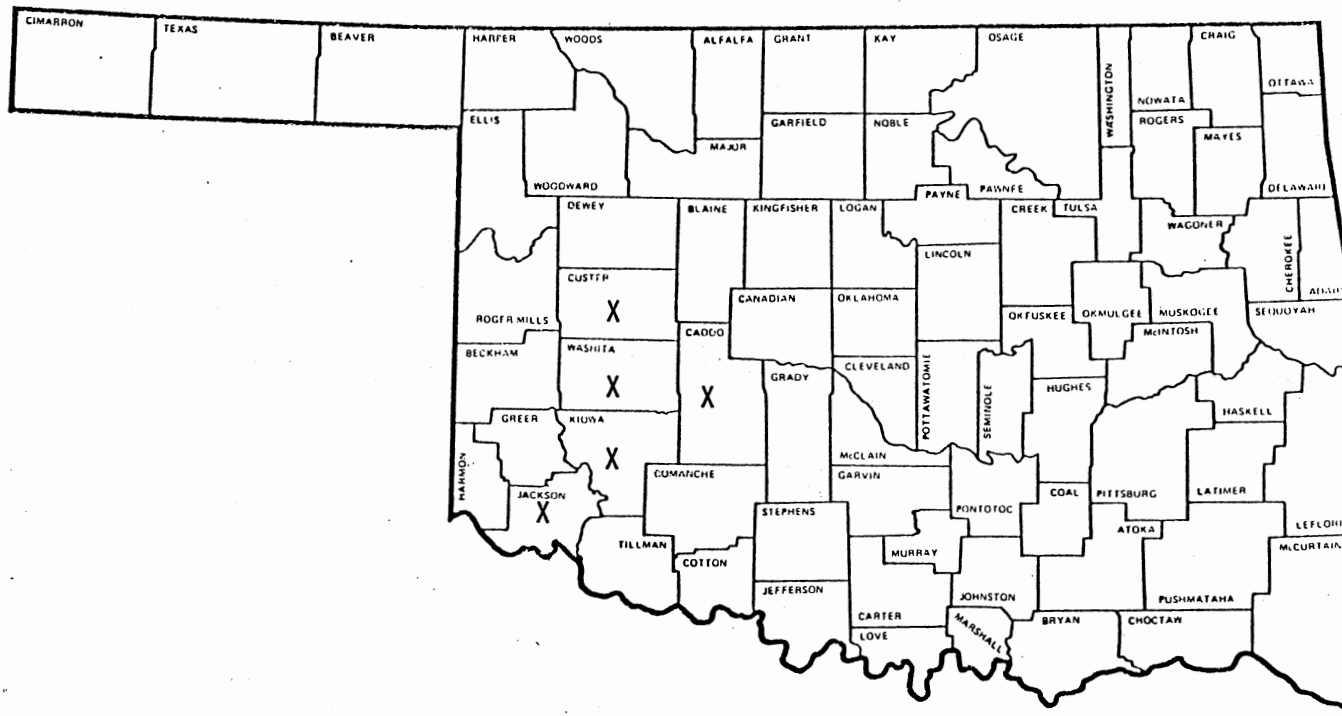


Figure 1. Oklahoma Map Denoting Interview Counties

APPENDIX B

CORRESPONDENCE AND SCREENING

TELEPHONE INTERVIEW

O K L A H O M A S T A T E U N I V E R S I T Y

FAMILY STUDY CENTER

December 7, 1982

Name

Extension Home Economist

County Extension Office

Address

Name

Oklahoma farm women are an important resource to their families, their communities, and Oklahoma agriculture. Young farm families are having a tough time surviving the current economic uncertainties. It has been suggested that the contributions of women will be a crucial element in the survival of the family farm.

We hope to gain a better understanding of young farm women's farm and family roles, their economic concerns, and how they view their roles through a series of interviews planned for January 1983. This study is being conducted under the auspices of the Family Study Center and the Department of Housing, Design, and Consumer Resources at Oklahoma State University. The study will serve as the basis for Jeannette Jones-Webb's thesis and a report in Oklahoma Families. Because you are familiar with the farm families in the county you serve, we are asking for your help in identifying potential respondents for our study.

The study has been carefully designed to yield descriptive data on the roles and needs of young farm women. Findings from the study will have implications for Cooperative Extension Programs and should be beneficial to your work. The following paragraph explains the type of assistance we are asking from you.

Five counties (Caddo, Custer, Jackson, Kiowa, and Washita) have been identified for this study. In each county, the professional staff of the County Cooperative Extension Service is asked to independently identify five women who meet these age, parenthood, and farm involvement criteria:

- 1) an agricultural partner or helper. An agricultural partner is defined as a woman who shares work, responsibilities, and decision making with her husband concerning all aspects of production, sales, and purchasing. An agricultural helper is defined as a woman who does not ordinarily participate in agricultural production except during busy times. A woman meeting either of these definitions is eligible for this study.
- 2) between the ages of 20 and 35.

3) has at least one child residing in the home.

4) has been engaged in wheat production for at least one year.

After you identify five women, please print the following information for each on a sheet of paper:

1. the farm woman's name (first and last)
2. her husband's name
3. their address
4. their telephone number (please give the name of the telephone exchange, if different from their address).

We are asking you to collect the list of names from the staff members in your county. Jeannette will be calling you the week of December 13, 1982 and will ask you to give her the information over the telephone. We are most appreciative of this extra help. It is extremely important to the design of the study that all members of the professional staff suggest names.

Thank you so much for your help. If you have any questions, please feel free to call the Family Study Center at OSU and ask for either of us or call Jeannette Jones-Webb at home in Custer City (593-2993). Again, thanks for your help.

Sincerely,

(Signed)

Sharon Y. Nickols, Ph.D.
Director

(Signed)

Jeannette Jones-Webb
Graduate Research Assistant

xc: District Cooperative Extension Professionals

O K L A H O M A S T A T E U N I V E R S I T Y
F A M I L Y S T U D Y C E N T E R

December 17, 1982

Dear Farm Woman:

Oklahoma farm women are an important resource to their families, their communities, and Oklahoma agriculture. Young farm families are having a tough time surviving the current economic uncertainties. It has been suggested that the contributions of women will be a crucial element in the survival of the family farm.

I hope to gain a better understanding of young farm women's farm and family roles, their economic concerns, and how they view their roles through a series of interviews planned for January 1983. This study is being conducted under the auspices of the Family Study Center and the Department of Housing, Design, and Consumer Resources at Oklahoma State University.

I myself am a farm woman in Custer County and know the importance of explaining the work we do to others; therefore, I am asking for your assistance. Last week I visited with the Cooperative Extension staff in your county and you were recommended as a person who probably would be willing to cooperate in this research effort to document the work and family roles of young Oklahoma farm women.

Within the next few weeks I will be contacting you by phone to explain the project. I am looking forward to visiting with you.

Sincerely,

(Signed)

Jeannette Webb
Research Assistant
Family Study Center

Telephone Conversation for Screening Farm Women

Hello, I'm Jeannette Webb from the Family Study Center at Oklahoma State University. Several weeks ago I visited with (name of County Home Economist), the Home Economist in your county and asked the Cooperative Extension staff to recommend several farm women who might be willing to be interviewed about their roles as farm women. Have you received my letter? Is this a convenient time for me to tell you more about the interview and the project?

Good. First of all, I am a farm woman in Custer County. My husband Rick and I raise wheat and cattle. Because of the current economic conditions, I have become very concerned about how young farm families like mine are making it. So, for my thesis research I decided to interview a very special group of farm women, ones who met certain criteria:

- 1) Women between the ages of 20 and 36. Do you fall into that category? yes no
- 2) An agricultural partner or helper. An agricultural partner is involved in most phases of the farming operation: field work, animal care, marketing, etc. An agricultural helper doesn't usually help on the farm, but fills in during peak times by driving trucks, tractors, etc.
Do you see yourself as fitting into one of these categories?
yes no
- 3) Do you have at least one child still living in the home?
yes no
- 4) Have you been engaged in wheat production for at least one year?
yes no

IF NO IS ANSWERED TO ANY OF THE ABOVE QUESTIONS:

I'm afraid _____ that will eliminate you from the study. I really need to talk with women who meet the criteria my committee and I outlined. I do thank you though for your time and hope you have a pleasant holiday season.

IF YES IS ANSWERED TO ALL OF THE ABOVE QUESTIONS:

Great! You fit perfectly into the group of women I would like to interview. Would you be willing to be interviewed? yes no

The interview itself will take about 1½ hours and for your convenience I will just come to your home. The week of January 3, I will be out of school and would like to visit with you then. Would January (date) at (time) be all right? Would you please give me directions to your home?

Thank you so much (name of farm woman). I look forward to seeing you next week. If you have any questions or a problem arises, my telephone number is _____.

APPENDIX C
QUESTIONNAIRE

SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRE

First, I would like to thank you very much for agreeing to visit with me today. I feel very fortunate that you think this study is valuable enough spend some of your time helping me to define the work and family roles of Oklahoma farm women.

As we discussed earlier, you were recommended by your County Extension Staff as being a farm partner or a farm helper. Today I'd like to ask you about some of the things you do. Would you mind if our conversation was tape recorded to make my work easier later on? I can assure you that your name will never be used and the tape will be erased once the data is coded.

I'd like to start off by asking you a little bit about your background.

1. Did you grow up on a farm? Yes No
 2. Were you active in any farm youth organization? 4-H FFA Grange Other
 3. Are you active in any farm organizations at present? Farm Bureau NFO OK Women for Agriculture
 Farmer's Union AAM Other
 4. Are you a volunteer leader for any youth groups, church activities, or other voluntary groups?
-
5. Of your children's activities, what are you involved in and how?
-
- **6. Now I would like to ask you about how things get done around the house. If you would just look at this card and tell me if the task is done and then who does it: you, the wife; your husband; you and your husband usually complete the task together; children; whomever happens to be available at the time; worker or relative does the task.

	Yes	No.	Wife	Husband	Together	Whomever is Available	Children	Hired Person	Relative
Cook for work crews	()	()	W	H	Tog	Who	C	Hi	R
Fix breakfast	()	()	W	H	Tog	Who	C	Hi	R
Fix lunch	()	()	W	H	Tog	Who	C	Hi	R
Fix dinner	()	()	W	H	Tog	Who	C	Hi	R
Wash daily dishes	()	()	W	H	Tog	Who	C	Hi	R
Set table	()	()	W	H	Tog	Who	C	Hi	R
Make clothes	()	()	W	H	Tog	Who	C	Hi	R
Baking	()	()	W	H	Tog	Who	C	Hi	R
Preserve garden produce	()	()	W	H	Tog	Who	C	Hi	R
Dust furniture	()	()	W	H	Tog	Who	C	Hi	R
Plumbing work	()	()	W	H	Tog	Who	C	Hi	R
Vacuum floor	()	()	W	H	Tog	Who	C	Hi	R
Mop floor	()	()	W	H	Tog	Who	C	Hi	R
Clean the bathroom	()	()	W	H	Tog	Who	C	Hi	R
Wash windows	()	()	W	H	Tog	Who	C	Hi	R
Grocery shopping	()	()	W	H	Tog	Who	C	Hi	R
Wash clothes	()	()	W	H	Tog	Who	C	Hi	R
Iron clothes	()	()	W	H	Tog	Who	C	Hi	R
Mend clothes	()	()	W	H	Tog	Who	C	Hi	R
Clean the furnace	()	()	W	H	Tog	Who	C	Hi	R
Repair small appliances	()	()	W	H	Tog	Who	C	Hi	R
Put in screen windows	()	()	W	H	Tog	Who	C	Hi	R
Plant veg./flower garden	()	()	W	H	Tog	Who	C	Hi	R
Tend veg./flower garden	()	()	W	H	Tog	Who	C	Hi	R
Carpentry repairs	()	()	W	H	Tog	Who	C	Hi	R
Paint and decorate home	()	()	W	H	Tog	Who	C	Hi	R
Refinish furniture	()	()	W	H	Tog	Who	C	Hi	R
Mow lawn	()	()	W	H	Tog	Who	C	Hi	R
Yard work	()	()	W	H	Tog	Who	C	Hi	R
Pay household bills	()	()	W	H	Tog	Who	C	Hi	R
Dispose of garbage	()	()	W	H	Tog	Who	C	Hi	R
Take care of/supervise children	()	()	W	H	Tog	Who	C	Hi	R

	Yes	No	Wife	Husband	Together	Whoever is Available	Children	Hired Person	Relative
Put pre-school children to bed	()	()	W	H	Tog	Who	C	Hi	R
Supervise school work	()	()	W	H	Tog	Who	C	Hi	R
Answer child's questions	()	()	W	H	Tog	Who	C	Hi	R
Teach facts and skills	()	()	W	H	Tog	Who	C	Hi	R
Discipline children	()	()	W	H	Tog	Who	C	Hi	R
Take children to and from activities	()	()	W	H	Tog	Who	C	Hi	R
Give care to immediate family	()	()	W	H	Tog	Who	C	Hi	R
Provide care or communicate with relatives	()	()	W	H	Tog	Who	C	Hi	R

7. How are household decisions made? (Ex: buying a car, redecorating the house, providing discipline for children, etc.)

Now I would like to find out about your farming operation.

- 8. How many acres do you and your husband own? _____
- 9. How many acres do you rent or lease from others? _____
- 10. How many acres do you rent or lease to others? _____
- 11. How many total acres of cropland are you farming? _____
- 12. When did you and your husband begin farming? _____
- 13. How many years of your married life have you been farming? _____
- 14. How did you acquire your land? _____

**15. I'd like to ask you some questions about farm tasks very similar to those we just finished about household tasks. First I would like you to tell me if each task is done on your farm and then who does it.

	Yes	No	Wife	Husband	Together	Whoever is Available	Children	Hired Person	Relative
Plan cropping schedule	()	()	W	H	Tog	Who	C	Hi	R
Plant small grains	()	()	W	H	Tog	Who	C	Hi	R
Prepare fields for planting	()	()	W	H	Tog	Who	C	Hi	R
Plant forage	()	()	W	H	Tog	Who	C	Hi	R
Apply fertilizer	()	()	W	H	Tog	Who	C	Hi	R
Apply pesticides/sprays	()	()	W	H	Tog	Who	C	Hi	R
Cultivate fields	()	()	W	H	Tog	Who	C	Hi	R
Combine small grains	()	()	W	H	Tog	Who	C	Hi	R
Swath forage	()	()	W	H	Tog	Who	C	Hi	R
Cut, put up hay	()	()	W	H	Tog	Who	C	Hi	R
Check market prices	()	()	W	H	Tog	Who	C	Hi	R
Haul grain to elevator	()	()	W	H	Tog	Who	C	Hi	R
Get machinery parts	()	()	W	H	Tog	Who	C	Hi	R
Buy farm equipment	()	()	W	H	Tog	Who	C	Hi	R
Minor machinery repairs	()	()	W	H	Tog	Who	C	Hi	R
Major machinery overhauls	()	()	W	H	Tog	Who	C	Hi	R
Fix fences	()	()	W	H	Tog	Who	C	Hi	R
Process data on computer	()	()	W	H	Tog	Who	C	Hi	R
Maintain livestock records	()	()	W	H	Tog	Who	C	Hi	R
Maintain crop records	()	()	W	H	Tog	Who	C	Hi	R
Pay farm bills	()	()	W	H	Tog	Who	C	Hi	R
Do farm bookkeeping	()	()	W	H	Tog	Who	C	Hi	R
Make farm financial arrangements	()	()	W	H	Tog	Who	C	Hi	R
Prepare farm financial statement	()	()	W	H	Tog	Who	C	Hi	R
Order farm supplies	()	()	W	H	Tog	Who	C	Hi	R
Feed livestock	()	()	W	H	Tog	Who	C	Hi	R
Veterinary care	()	()	W	H	Tog	Who	C	Hi	R
Complete income tax form	()	()	W	H	Tog	Who	C	Hi	R
Consult CPA, attorney	()	()	W	H	Tog	Who	C	Hi	R
Direct marketing of produce	()	()	W	H	Tog	Who	C	Hi	R

- **16. Now, looking at another card, would you tell me which of these products are grown on your farm, as well as numbers of acres and numbers of animals?
- | | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> beef cattle | <input type="checkbox"/> sheep | <input type="checkbox"/> horses |
| <input type="checkbox"/> hogs | <input type="checkbox"/> chickens | <input type="checkbox"/> hay, grass |
| <input type="checkbox"/> wheat | <input type="checkbox"/> cotton | <input type="checkbox"/> other small grains |
| <input type="checkbox"/> improved grass | <input type="checkbox"/> garden crops | <input type="checkbox"/> other |
17. What do you like about farm work? _____
18. What do you dislike about farm work? _____
19. Do you and your husband own or manage this farm in partnership with anyone else? yes no
If yes, who _____
20. How did you learn to do most of the jobs you do on the farm? _____
21. How are major farm decisions handled (such as buying new equipment or cattle, switching farming practices, etc.)? _____
22. How are minor farm decisions made (moving cattle, when to plant or sell)? _____
23. About how many hours per week do you spend doing farm work during a busy season? _____
24. About how many hours do you spend during the slower season? _____
25. Of the farm tasks you have participated in, how competent do you feel in your ability to do them? _____
26. If something happened that your husband was not able to run the farm, would you be able to run the farm yourself? _____
_____ yes, in what ways: management only management and physical labor no, why? _____
27. How do you feel about your level of responsibility in farm and home decisions? _____
28. Next I'd like to ask you about off-farm employment. Do either you or your husband have an off-farm job?
Husband yes no Wife yes no
29. If not: Do you have any money making projects that you conduct here in your home or on the farm?
Please tell me about them. _____
30. How do you handle childcare while you work at home? _____
31. If so: in what occupation? Wife _____ Husband _____
- **32. What type of employment schedule do each of you have?
- | | |
|--|--------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> full year, full time | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> full year, part time | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> part year, full time | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> part year, part time | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> occasionally, no fixed schedule | <input type="checkbox"/> |
33. When you are employed, how many hours a week do you work off-farm? _____ hours
34. When you are working on your job, what do your children do? _____
35. How many miles do you travel to your job? _____ miles
36. How do you feel about your off-farm work? _____
If the husband is employed off-farm:
37. Does your husband's job make it necessary for you to do more of the farm work than you would do otherwise? _____
38. Does he plan to continue to work off-farm? yes no
39. What is the primary reason he works off-farm? _____

Being a farm family today is not an easy thing, especially for young farmers like ourselves. An important part of this study is the economic aspect of farming. I would like to ask you five questions concerning income and then move on to a few more general financial questions.

- **40. What the total market value (gross annual sales) of your farm products last year?
 Under \$2,500 \$10,000 to \$20,000 \$40,000 to \$100,000
 \$2,500 to \$10,000 \$20,000 to \$40,000 Over \$100,000
41. What is your family's approximate net farm income?
 Under \$2,500 \$10,000 to \$20,000 \$40,000 to \$100,000
 \$2,500 to \$10,000 \$20,000 to \$40,000 Over \$100,000
42. What is your husband's income from non-farm sources?
 Under \$2,500 \$10,000 to \$20,000 \$40,000 to \$100,000
 \$2,500 to \$10,000 \$20,000 to \$40,000 Over \$100,000
43. What is your income from non-farm sources?
 Under \$2,500 \$10,000 to \$20,000 \$40,000 to \$100,000
 \$2,500 to \$10,000 \$20,000 to \$40,000 Over \$100,000
44. Does your family have any other sources of income? _____
45. What would you estimate to be the total value of your farm/ranch? (including improvements such as buildings, bins, etc.) _____
46. Do you and your husband hold any land in joint-tenancy? yes no don't know
47. Do you individually own any of your family's land? yes no
48. Do you have a savings or checking account in your name alone? yes no
49. Have you had any loans from banks or other lending institutions in your own name? yes no
50. Are you covered under Social Security? yes no
51. Do you have your own IRA or Keough account? yes no
52. Do you know what your total financial liabilities are? yes no
53. Do you know where the following items are kept?
Titles to vehicles yes no Cancelled checks yes no
Leases yes no Wills yes no
Old tax returns yes no
54. What institutions have you and your husband borrowed money from in the past three years? _____
55. Do you and your husband select life insurance protection together? yes no
56. Do you know the cash value and face amount of your life insurance policies? yes no
57. Do you know when installment payments are due and the amount due to whom? yes no
58. Have you ever felt that you were treated differently than a man in farm related matters (like buying equipment, getting loans, estate planning)? _____
59. How would you describe your role in your family's plans for economic security? (Are you very involved in estate planning, etc.)? _____
60. Are there any provisions that we haven't mentioned that you and your husband have made for your economic future? _____
61. What are your economic concerns as a young farm wife? (Right now money is fairly tight for farmers. Is there anything in particular that concerns you about this fact?) _____
62. Has your farming operation changed because of current economic conditions? _____
63. How do you see your economic future as a farm family? (Do you think you will be able to continue farming?) _____

64. What is your age _____ years
65. What is your husband's age _____ years
66. What are the ages of your children? _____
67. What level of schooling did you complete? _____
68. What level of schooling did your husband complete? _____

Believe it or not, I just have a few more questions and these are about your feelings as a young farm wife.

69. How do you see your role as a farm wife? (What contributions do you make to this farming operation?)

70. Do you consider yourself to be one of the main operators of this farm? ___yes ___no
71. How do you describe your relationship with the farm (when someone asks you what you do for a living, what do you tell them)? _____
72. If something happened to you, how would the work in the home and on the farm be done?
Home _____ Farm _____
73. Are you satisfied with farming as a way of life? _____
74. Why did you and your husband choose to farm? _____
75. If you had it to do over, would you make the same decision to farm? _____
76. How does your life compare with your city friends? _____
77. How do you see women's role in modern society? _____
78. What are the disadvantages of being a farm family as you have experienced them? _____
79. What are the advantages of being a farm family as you have experienced them? _____
80. What new skills or areas of increased knowledge would you like to have concerning your farming operation? _____
81. What new skills or areas of increased knowledge would you like to have regarding family life or home production? _____
82. What new skills or areas of increased knowledge would you like to have regarding job skills or career development? _____

There are many dimensions to women's lives and multiple roles to be filled. Some of these roles fit together smoothly, some don't.

- **83. How would you describe the way your family life and your farm work fit together?
- | | | | | |
|-----------------|---|---|---|------------------------|
| Do not fit well | | | | Fit together very well |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |

IF EMPLOYED

84. How would you describe the way your family life and your off-the-farm employment fit together?
- | | | | | |
|-----------------|---|---|---|------------------------|
| Do not fit well | | | | Fit together very well |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
85. How would you describe the way your farm work and your off-the-farm employment fit together.
- | | | | | |
|-----------------|---|---|---|------------------------|
| Do not fit well | | | | Fit together very well |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
- **86. Compared to other things that concern you, how much would you say farm finances are a concern to you?
- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Of less concern than other things | About the same as other concerns | Of more concern than other things |
- Would you like a summary of the findings of this study? ___yes ___no

**Index cards listing categories or choices to be given to respondents.

VITA²

Jeannette Sue Jones-Webb

Candidate for the Degree of

Master of Science

Thesis: THE WORK AND FAMILY ROLES OF YOUNG OKLAHOMA FARM WOMEN

Major Field: Housing, Design, and Consumer Resources

Biographical:

Personal Data: Born in Salinas, California, January 19, 1960,
the daughter of Bill C. and Greta S. Jones.

Education: Graduated from Hennessey High School, Hennessey,
Oklahoma, in May, 1978; received Bachelor of Science in
Home Economics degree from Oklahoma State University,
Stillwater, Oklahoma, in May, 1982; completed require-
ments for the Master of Science degree at Oklahoma State
University, Stillwater, Oklahoma, in July, 1983.

Professional Experience: Assistant Editor of Oklahoma Families,
Family Study Center, Stillwater, Oklahoma, October 1981 to
1983; Graduate Research Assistant, Family Study Center,
Stillwater, Oklahoma, 1982-83.

Professional Organizations: American Home Economics Association,
Oklahoma Home Economics Association, Phi Kappa Phi, Omicron
Delta Kappa, Phi Upsilon Omicron, Omicron Nu, Family Life
Education Network.