

HOUSING NEEDS AND VALUES AS THE BASIS FOR  
DEVELOPING AN EDUCATIONAL HOUSING  
PROGRAM FOR CANADIAN COUNTY,  
OKLAHOMA, EXTENSION SERVICE.

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## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY

A great need for new houses and the extensive improvement of old houses has been a major concern of many American farm families in recent years. The advent of Rural Electrification Administration and the period after World War II brought about the greatest change in the rural picture. Electricity has been the key to modern conveniences. The urban and farm population are being drawn closer together in living standards. Improved communication, through the use of the automobile, telephone, radio and television, has hastened the change. Farms are becoming more mechanized and commercialized because of the present economic trend toward larger and more specialized types of farms. This period of agricultural readjustment has brought about a decline in farm population. Studies summarized by Beyer indicated "that the commercial farmer should do better in the future while small farmers are likely to do more poorly."<sup>1</sup> As would be expected from the reports of these studies the number of farmhouses will continue to decline but the farmhouses remaining will be improved. For families in a position to build new houses or to

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<sup>1</sup> Glenn H. Beyer, Housing: A Factual Analysis (New York, 1958), p. 262.

make improvements, house plans suited to present day living patterns of farm families will be in demand.

#### Statement of the Problem

The problem of the study was to develop a plan for a functional housing education program for the Canadian County Extension Service based on information gained from a questionnaire. The study was to identify content areas which might be included in a housing program, designed for home demonstration club members of Canadian County, a program which would help the women to develop an understanding and an appreciation of the basic problems in the general area of housing.

#### Purpose of the Study

The need for improved farm housing was apparent to the writer in her experiences in working with Cooperative Extension Service in Oklahoma. The extension agent is charged with the responsibility to help people recognize their needs and to provide educational guidance that will help them alleviate the problems involved in meeting their needs.

The following hypothesis was formulated as the basis for this study: As a worthwhile housing program is provided by the Extension workers, farm families will tend to (1) recognize their needs and values, (2) make more housing improvements, (3) have a higher standard of housing improvements, and (4) make plans to execute a higher quality of housing improvements.

The writer had two purposes in making the study. They were:

1. To secure housing information from farm families of Canadian County

through a written questionnaire.

2. To determine what areas of content should be included in a housing program.

#### Definition of Terms

Values were defined as conception, explicit or implicit, distinctive of an individual or characteristic of a group, of the desirable which influences the selection from available modes, means, and ends of action.<sup>2</sup>

Beyer, Mackesey, and Montgomery explain these values in relation to housing as being "based on the totality of a number of factors, such as an individual's ideals, motives, attitudes, and tastes, which are determined by his cultural background, education, habits, and experiences."<sup>3</sup>

For the purpose of this study the meaning of the term housing needs was that drawn from Beyer, as "represented by the total requirements of families, based on standards of minimum social acceptability, whether or not they can afford what is available."<sup>4</sup>

"Farm housing was defined to include all housing on farms."<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>2</sup>Talcott Parsons and Edward A. Shils, Toward A General Theory of Action (Cambridge, 1951), p. 395.

<sup>3</sup>Glenn H. Beyer, Thomas W. Mackesey, and James E. Montgomery, Houses Are for People (Ithaca, 1955), p. 49.

<sup>4</sup>Glenn H. Beyer, Housing: A Factual Analysis (New York, 1958), p. 281.

<sup>5</sup>U.S. Bureau of the Census, U.S. Census of Housing: 1950. Vol. I General Characteristics, Part 2: U.S. Government Printing Office (Washington, 1953), p. XIV.



## Procedure

A survey of a group of home demonstration club members living in farm housing was deemed a suitable technique for securing data relevant to the purposes of the study. In developing a questionnaire the writer studied those used by the National Study of Home Demonstration Members<sup>6</sup> and Rural Housing in Garfield County, Oklahoma<sup>7</sup> and other writings in the field of farm housing. Questions were prepared to show personal data of Canadian County farm families and their needs, interests, and problems related to housing. The questionnaire was pretested with three homemakers living in farm housing. In view of the reaction of the women to the questions and to the time required in completing the questionnaire, it was used in its original form.

It was felt that approximately 100 respondents would constitute an adequate sample for the study. From the roll of 625 home demonstration club members of Canadian County, the names were pulled of those living in farm housing. These totaled 331 club members. The home demonstration clubs were arranged alphabetically by club names and the names within the clubs were also arranged alphabetically. The names were then numbered in sequence one through 331. To secure approximately the one hundred respondents desired, the names were selected by drawing the third, sixth, and tenth numbers and maintaining the same sequence through the

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<sup>6</sup>Jewell G. Fessenden and Stella L. Mitchell, Housing Changes Planned and Information Wanted, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Extension Service Circular 525 (Washington, 1957).

<sup>7</sup>James E. Montgomery, Sara Smith Sutker, and Maie Nygren, Rural Housing in Garfield County, Oklahoma (Stillwater, Oklahoma State University Publication, August, 1959).

entire membership. This gave a total of ninety-nine names. It was felt that selecting the names in this manner would give a somewhat representative coverage of the entire county membership.

The ninety-nine home demonstration club members, who had been selected as the sample, were sent a personal letter, a seven-page questionnaire (including instructions for completing the questionnaire) and a stamped return envelope. A copy of the personal letter<sup>8</sup> and the questionnaire<sup>9</sup> are included in the appendix.

The following four weeks the questionnaire was explained at the local home demonstration club meetings and the members were encouraged to return the questionnaire. At the end of the month a total of ninety-eight questionnaires had been returned. This represented a 97.9 per cent return. The data were tabulated and analyzed as a basis for planning a housing program for Canadian County.

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<sup>8</sup>See Appendix A.

<sup>9</sup>See Appendix B.

## CHAPTER II

### PHILOSOPHY AND BACKGROUND

Inadequate farm housing has long been a recognized fact. There has been only a limited amount of research done on the problem. There is probably nothing that will give greater pleasure to the farm family than comfortable housing, but it should be kept in direct relationship to the use of land for agricultural production. Farm housing compares unfavorably with the standards of urban housing. A variety of factors influence the farm housing situation. Beyer writes:

One of these peculiarities is that a farm house is a part of a farm. Its purchase, therefore, is not an independent matter; in fact, in the purchase of a farm the house often plays a secondary role. It is the land that is usually of primary importance, and if the land is productive, the farm is generally acquired irrespective of the nature and condition of the house. Even farm service buildings are commonly considered before the house because they usually constitute a part of the farms' economic productivity.

This factor also has its influence on the house after the purchase of the farm. The farmer, unlike the average urban dweller, is a businessman and can usually increase his income by reinvesting it in the business, that is, the productive part of the business--the land, service buildings, machinery, livestock, etc. This generally precludes investment by the farmer in the house, a non-income-producing part of his operation.<sup>1</sup>

Another factor that has had an influence on farm housing is that the income of farm families is generally lower than that of the urban family.

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<sup>1</sup>Glenn H. Beyer, Housing: A Factual Analysis (New York, 1958), p. 265.

Tradition has had its effect on farm housing. Beyer and Rose write: "Farm families have for generations been accustomed to a way of life that accepts changes slowly."<sup>2</sup> State and federal housing agencies have done little to alleviate the farm housing situation.

There is a need for encouraging better and more economical construction of farm houses. There is much in an educational way that can be done to aid farm families in planning better housing.

Hood and Holmes indicated: "Wherever it is feasible the farm families should have their sights raised so that they can aspire to better living, and that better living should go hand in hand with better, more productive farming."<sup>3</sup> This is a direct challenge to the Extension Service to help bring about a better way of living for farm families.

Rural Housing in Garfield County, Oklahoma is one of the most recent studies concerning the problem of farm housing. It was made by three staff members of Oklahoma State University in 1959.

The study was concerned with several aspects of the rural owner-occupied houses in Garfield County, Oklahoma. Characteristics of the houses, changes made and anticipated, and the extent to which the respondents were satisfied with their houses were obtained. The study also investigated the kind of housing the people would like to have if they could afford to build new houses and it identified

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<sup>2</sup>Glenn H. Beyer and J. Hugh Rose, Farm Housing (New York, 1957), p. 2.

<sup>3</sup>Maude Pye Hood and Emma G. Holmes, Farm Housing in the South, Southern Cooperative Series Bulletin No. 14, Agriculture Experiment Station (Washington, 1951), p. 15.

the importance of values the people associated with housing.

From the study it was found that the persons interviewed were relatively old and that housing problems in this area should be directed toward the aging population.

A majority of the rural people studied were not very well satisfied with their present housing, but major changes were not being made to bring the existing housing closer to that desired. Rural people were quite capable of making minor improvements, but were unable to visualize major housing problems. It was evident that families needed competent professional assistance.

Analysis of data on the image house showed that the families were leaning toward a mass culture type house. With the living standards of the rural and urban families becoming similar, the families needed help in seeing in what manner their houses should resemble those of urban people and in what manner they should be different.

The dominant housing values of the people interviewed were comfort, economy, and family-centeredness. The values of beauty, privacy, and social prestige to rural families in Garfield County held little importance.<sup>4</sup>

Housing Changes Planned and Information Wanted was a report made in 1957 of a National Study of Home Demonstration Club Members. Eleven thousand five hundred white home demonstration club members from 15 states and 110 counties participated in the study. Members were asked if their families planned changes in their housing during the next two or three years and, if so, what kinds of changes

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<sup>4</sup>James E. Montgomery, Sara Smith Sutker, and Maie Nygren, Rural Housing in Garfield County, Oklahoma (Stillwater, Oklahoma State University Publication, August, 1959).

and whether they wanted information on the proposed changes. The study showed varied interest according to residence, age of respondents, age and number of children, family income, education level, and employment status.

Forty percent of the club members reported they were planning changes in their houses within the next two or three years. Eight percent of the respondents reported they planned to build new houses. Kitchens ranked highest in rooms named for remodeling. This was through new cabinets and storage. Bathrooms ranked highest for the kind of rooms to be added. Extra storage space was of importance. Emphasis was given to the equipment that would be added to the utility room.

It was found that urban and rural non-farm families planned additions to their houses more than farm and ranch families.<sup>5</sup>

The study, Rural Housing in New York State, was based on a sampling of five counties. The purpose of the study was to determine and evaluate the factors underlying the different type of facilities in rural homes and the nature and extent of the repair work done by different families.

In this study it was found that all groups probably want to improve their standard of living, but the standards were on different levels, and they had different goals. Farmers were interested in learning about new "self-help" guides which would permit them to do the work themselves in repairing and remodeling their houses.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>5</sup>Jewell G. Fessenden and Stella L. Mitchell, Housing Changes Planned and Information Wanted, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Extension Service Circular 525 (Washington, 1957).

<sup>6</sup>Glenn H. Beyer, Rural Housing in New York State (Ithaca, Cornell University Agricultural Experiment Station, Bulletin 893, October, 1952).

The purpose of the study, Housing Preferences of Farm Families in the Northeast, was to obtain a description of families' housing desires and expectations. The survey was based on 607 farm families living on owner-operated farms in the twelve Northeastern States.

The study revealed the needs of families from the standpoint of such factors as social class, income, size, stage in the family cycle, occupation, and geographic area were not as well understood in comparison to the knowledge of building materials and processes.

In this study it was found that preferences were learned. Preferences may change from time to time among families and within a given family. Some preferences may be relatively fixed or stable. Preferences vary in intensity. Preferences may change when a family's economic status, experiences, education, size, and needs change.

Further study showed that a functional house was one that met to a maximum the physical, social, psychological, and economic needs of the people living in it. Family income was found to be one of the most influential factors affecting the type of farm housing. The over-all problem of housing was one of rearranging the space in the relatively large house to install modern equipment and provide more adequate storage areas.

Preferences in a house expressed by most families were: (1) a basement, (2) to live on one floor, (3) to have three or four bedrooms, (4) a porch, (5) a "wash-up" center, (6) a laundry or utility room, and (7) an office or desk space.

The greatest difficulties found in the old houses were the lack of plumbing and lack of adequate and convenient storage space. Many families desired changes to

make their work more convenient and more pleasant. They wanted space in which to prepare and serve food, to entertain guests, and for children's play areas, laundering, mending, and sewing tasks.

Heating was indicated as a major problem. As the heating systems are improved the range for cooking was expected to improve. Families in general were satisfied with their laundry equipment but complained that their refrigerators were too small.

The study disclosed that the farm housing in the Northeast was in a stage of transition. Few houses would be built for farm families in this region. Families had a sufficiently firm opinion of how their houses, built several decades ago, could continue to serve their present needs if minor improvements were made from time to time.<sup>7</sup>

Studies here reviewed have investigated such aspects of housing as characteristics of houses, characteristics of families, changes made and anticipated, housing values held, nature and extent of repair work done by families, and housing desires and expectations.

The writer felt that the study of some of these same aspects for a particular area, Canadian County, Oklahoma, would make an important contribution in developing a housing education program related to the needs of this area.

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<sup>7</sup>James E. Montgomery, Housing Preferences of Farm Families in the Northeast (Ithaca, Cornell University Agricultural Experiment Station, Bulletin 872, July, 1951).



## CHAPTER III

### ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION OF THE DATA

Since rural farm people have in the past been Extension Services' primary responsibility, it was planned that the present housing study would be concerned with farm residences of home demonstration club women and not include non-farm residences.

The ninety-eight responses to the questionnaire sent to a random sample of farm home demonstration club members were tabulated and analyzed. The results are presented and discussed under the following headings: (1) description of families, (2) description of houses, (3) home improvements made and anticipated, (4) housing values, and (5) summary.

#### Description of Families

The first six questions in the questionnaire asked the homemakers to check information descriptive of the farm home demonstration club members' families. The first question asked the age group to which each club member herself belonged. The question was constructed in such a way that the respondent merely checked the age group.

The responses of the ninety-eight women are summarized in Table I. The

TABLE I  
AGE LEVEL OF RESPONDENTS

N = 98

Ages	Number	Per cent
20 - 24 years	3	3.1
25 - 29 years	9	9.1
30 - 39 years	19	19.4
40 - 49 years	25	25.5
50 - 59 years	24	24.5
60 or over	18	18.4

smallest percentage of the women fell in the 20 to 24 year group with over three per cent in this classification. The next smallest grouping was the 25 to 29 year group with over nine per cent. More than nineteen per cent of the respondents were in the 30 to 39 year bracket. Twenty-five and one-half per cent fell in the next age group of 40 to 49 years. The median age of the respondents was within this group. Twenty-four and one-half per cent were in the 50 to 59 age group, and over eighteen per cent of the women were in the 60 or over age group. By adding these last two groups together, it was apparent that forty-three per cent of the women were fifty or over years of age.

During the period of the beginning and expanding stages in the family life cycle the greatest need is for a convenient, comfortable house with facilities to care for the family. The first three groups, representing ages from 20 to 39 years of age, would give a combined total of over thirty-one per cent of the respondents who fell in this age bracket.

With families in the contracting stages of the family life cycle there is less need for a new house or for an addition of rooms, but financially such families are more able to provide improvements. At this period the families are interested in adding extra conveniences to a home. Twenty-five and one-half per cent of the women were in this stage of the family life cycle.

The older age groups represented the largest percentage of the respondents. A total of approximately forty-three per cent of the homemakers in the survey were found to be fifty or more years of age.

This study reveals respondents were represented in each of the age groups; therefore, housing needs for all stages of the family life cycle must be given

consideration.

Table II shows the number and percentage of families with members in the various age groups. In this study about an equal number of families had children in the under 5 years of age group and the 5 to 9 years of age group with over twenty per cent of the families in the former and over twenty-four per cent in the latter. Twenty-eight and one-half per cent of the families had children in the 10 to 14 year age group. In the 15 to 19 age bracket over twenty per cent of the families were represented.

Both the 20 to 24 and the 25 to 29 year age groups were represented in over thirteen per cent of the families. Twenty-six and one-half per cent of the families included members in the 30 to 39 year age group. The 40 to 49 year range was represented in the greatest percentage of families, almost thirty-four per cent. It was followed closely by the 50 to 59 age group with a total of over thirty-two per cent of the families having members falling in this age group. Twenty-seven and one-half per cent of the families were in the 60 years and older grouping.

It is apparent that the older age groups are well represented in the families included in this study. This is consistent with the ratio of older people on farms in Oklahoma as found in two other studies, Rural Housing in Garfield County, Oklahoma<sup>1</sup> and Socioeconomic Aspects of Farm Population Changes.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>James E. Montgomery, Sara Smith Sutker, and Maie Nygren, Rural Housing in Garfield County, Oklahoma (Stillwater, Oklahoma State University Publication, August, 1959), p. 14.

<sup>2</sup>Otis Durant Duncan, Socioeconomic Aspects of Farm Population Changes (Stillwater, Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical College, Agricultural Experiment Station, May, 1955), p. 17.

TABLE II  
AGE GROUPS REPRESENTED IN FAMILIES OF RESPONDENTS

N = 98

Age group	Number of families with members in age group	Per cent of families with members in age group
Under 5 years of age	20	20.4
5 - 9	24	24.4
10 - 14	28	28.5
15 - 19	20	20.4
20 - 24	13	13.2
25 - 29	13	13.2
30 - 39	26	26.5
40 - 49	33	33.7
50 - 59	32	32.6
60 years and over	27	27.5

Table III shows the families of various net incomes. Ninety-one of the participants in the study responded to this question. Over seventeen per cent of these had a net annual income of \$1,500 or less. Twenty-three per cent of the families had an income of \$1,500 to \$3,000, while over twenty-eight per cent had a net income of \$3,000 to \$4,500. Approximately ten per cent were within the \$4,500 to \$6,000 bracket, and about eight per cent in the \$6,000 to \$7,500 bracket. Almost ten per cent of the families received an income of \$7,500 to \$10,000, and over three per cent reported having an income of \$10,000 or more. The median net income was in the range of \$3,000 to \$4,500.

Data collected by Fessenden and Mitchell<sup>3</sup> in 1957 showed the family income level of the home demonstration club members in the United States. According to these data, thirty per cent of the families were in the \$1,500 or under bracket, forty-eight per cent in the \$1,500 to \$4,999 range, and twenty-one per cent in the \$5,000 or over bracket.

The data collected for the present study in 1961 showed over seventeen per cent in the \$1,500 or under bracket; the \$1,500 to \$3,000 and the \$3,000 to \$4,500 combined total was approximately fifty-two per cent; and the four groups from \$4,500 to \$10,000 or more combined had a total of over twenty-nine per cent. This would seem to indicate that families of the home demonstration club members of Canadian County had a higher income than those of the national level of home demonstration club members. However, it must be kept in mind that these figures

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<sup>3</sup>Suggestions for Program Development and Projection for Home Demonstration Work 1960 (Stillwater: Oklahoma Extension Service, 1960), p. 58, citing Jewel G. Fessenden and Stella L. Mitchell, National Study of Home Demonstration Members.

TABLE III  
FAMILY INCOME OF RESPONDENTS

N = 91

Net income	Number	Per cent
Less than \$1,500	16	17.6
\$1,500 - \$3,000	21	23.1
\$3,000 - \$4,500	26	28.6
\$4,500 - \$6,000	9	9.8
\$6,000 - \$7,500	7	7.7
\$7,500 - \$10,000	9	9.8
\$10,000 or more	3	3.3

were collected for different years and therefore cannot be compared directly.

As a further indication of the economic status of farm families of Canadian County, attention is called to the composite farm level-of-living index developed for the Agricultural Marketing Service by Hagood, Bowles, and Mount.<sup>4</sup> According to this study the data for the year 1954 showed Canadian County had a rating of 167, which is close to the average, 172.3, for the southern wheat and small grain sub-region; fairly close to the average, 163, for the nine counties in Oklahoma Economic Area 2; but distinctly higher than 126, the average rank on farm level-of-living for all the counties in Oklahoma. Canadian County ranked fourth in farm level-of-living index in Oklahoma.

Canadian County does represent a fairly high farm income level among the counties in Oklahoma; therefore, it could be assumed that farm families in this County would be financially as able to make necessary housing improvements as farm families in most counties in the state.

Table IV shows the educational level of the respondents. The two lower brackets combined show a total of over four per cent with less than six years of formal school education. All of these were from the 60 or over age group. About one per cent had received seven years of education, and over eleven per cent had an eighth grade education. This was a total of over sixteen per cent of the 98 respondents who did not have high school training. Over twelve per cent had had some high school training, but had not graduated. Approximately forty-three per cent

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<sup>4</sup>Margaret Jarman Hagood, Gladys K. Bowles, and Robert R. Mount, Farm-Operator Family Level-of-Living Indexes for Counties of the United States, 1945, 1950, and 1954, United States Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Marketing Service, Statistical Bulletin 204 (Washington, March, 1957), p. 60.



TABLE IV  
EDUCATIONAL LEVEL OF RESPONDENTS

N = 98

School years completed	Number	Per cent
1 - 4 years <sup>a</sup>	1	1.1
5 - 6 years <sup>b</sup>	3	3.1
7 years	1	1.1
8 years	11	11.2
1 - 3 years of high school	12	12.3
4 years of high school	42	42.6
1 - 3 years of college	14	14.3
4 years or more of college	14	14.3

<sup>a</sup>Were found in the 60 or over age bracket.

<sup>b</sup>Were found in the 60 or over age bracket.

of the respondents had graduated from high school. Over fourteen per cent of the respondents had received some college education, while another fourteen per cent had four or more years of college education. The median school years completed by respondents was four years of high school.

The educational level of the respondents would seem to indicate that housing information would be understandable if prepared on a high school level since more than eighty-three per cent had some education beyond grade school.

In working with individuals, it would be desirable to take into consideration the varied educational levels of the persons involved.

In response to the question indicating whether or not the homemaker worked away from home for pay, approximately eighty-eight per cent reported that they did not. This is shown in Table V. Over seven per cent of the women worked part time while about five per cent worked full time (thirty-five hours a week or more).

This should not be interpreted as being typical of the ratio of working and non-working women of the county. Working women are less likely to belong to a home demonstration club because working hours and time would not permit regular attendance at club meetings.

Table VI shows over sixty-five per cent of the husbands of respondents did not work off the farm for pay. Over fifteen per cent worked part time, and over fourteen per cent worked full time (more than thirty-five hours a week) away from the farm.

With over sixty-five per cent of the husbands working exclusively on the farm, this could provide labor for "do-it-yourself" home improvement projects. In the Montgomery, Sutker, and Nygren study, they reported, "For almost half of the

TABLE V  
EMPLOYMENT OUTSIDE OF HOME OF RESPONDENTS

N = 98

Extent of employment	Number	Per cent
Not at all	86	87.7
Part time <sup>a</sup>	7	7.2
Full time	5	5.1

<sup>a</sup>Refers to less than 35 hours per week.

<sup>b</sup>35 hours per week or more.

TABLE VI  
OFF-THE-FARM EMPLOYMENT OF HUSBANDS  
OF RESPONDENTS

N = 98

Extent of employment	Number	Per cent
Not at all	64	65.3
Part time <sup>a</sup>	15	15.3
Full time <sup>b</sup>	14	14.3
No response <sup>c</sup>	5	5.1

<sup>a</sup>Refers to less than 35 hours per week.

<sup>b</sup>35 hours per week or more.

<sup>c</sup>Five respondents were without husbands.

housing improvements, the family provided all of the labor; and they did all or part of the work in three-fourths of the cases."<sup>5</sup>

This would indicate that a housing program should provide self-help information that would be of benefit to the family members in making home improvements.

#### Description of Houses

Responses to questions seven through eleven in the questionnaire provide a description of the houses of the respondents.

Table VII shows the ownership of homes. Seventy-three and one-half per cent of the respondents owned their own homes, while over fifteen per cent rented from relatives, and over eleven per cent rented from non-relatives. This reveals a high per cent of home ownership which would indicate a probable interest in improving the house and in maintaining it in a good state of repair.

A summary of responses in Table VIII shows that over eighteen per cent of the respondents had lived in their present house less than five years. Almost forty-one per cent had lived in their present house five to fifteen years while another approximate forty-one per cent had lived in their house for over fifteen years.

The degree of stability shown by these figures may indicate many of these families will continue to live in the same houses. They may be interested in making home improvements.

Over twenty-two per cent of the respondents' houses had been built since 1950,

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<sup>5</sup>James E. Montgomery, Sara Smith Sutker, and Maie Nygren, Rural Housing in Garfield County, Oklahoma (Stillwater, Oklahoma State University Publication, August, 1959), p. 30.

TABLE VII  
FAMILY OWNERSHIP OF HOUSE AS INDICATED  
BY RESPONDENTS

N = 98

Ownership of house	Number	Per cent
Owner	72	73.5
Rent from relative	15	15.3
Rent from non-relative	11	11.2

TABLE VIII  
LENGTH OF RESIDENCE BY RESPONDENTS  
IN PRESENT HOUSE

N = 98

Length of residence	Number	Per cent
Under 5 years	18	18.4
5 - 15 years	40	40.8
Over 15 years	40	40.8

as shown in Table IX. Eight per cent were built in the 1940's, over thirteen per cent in the 1930's, and fifty-six per cent before the 1930's. The 1930's were the depression years when little building was done and was followed by the war years of the 1940's when materials were scarce and families were unable to build. With fifty-six per cent of the houses built before the 1930's, a meaningful housing program should give attention to ways of improving homes of this age.

The condition of respondents' houses is summarized in Table X. Over sixty-seven per cent of the respondents indicated that the foundations of their houses were in good condition, while approximately thirty per cent listed them as in fair condition, and only three per cent indicated that the foundations needed repairs.

Over sixty-eight per cent of the respondents reported the roofs of their houses were in good condition, over seventeen per cent in fair condition, and over fourteen per cent in need of repairs.

The respondents reported the greatest need for repairs was in the sidings, and/or porches, steps and windows of the houses. Fifty-three per cent reported these in good condition, while over twenty-eight per cent reported them in fair condition, and eighteen per cent indicated that repairs were needed.

Although only a small percentage of the women reported these exterior portions of their homes as needing repairs, it would seem important to include maintenance and repairs as an essential unit of an educational housing program.

The respondents were asked to check the features of their houses in Table XI. One hundred per cent indicated they had electricity. Electricity has been found to be a key to increased opportunities for a more comfortable life on the farm. Without it home improvements are limited. The one other feature reported by one hundred



TABLE IX  
AGE OF RESPONDENTS' HOUSES

N = 98

Year house was built	Number	Per cent
Since 1950	22	22.5
In the 1940's	8	8.1
In the 1930's	13	13.3
Before 1930	55	56.1

TABLE X  
 CONDITION OF RESPONDENTS' HOUSES  
 N = 98

Condition	Foundation		Roof		Siding and/or porches, steps and windows of the house	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
Good condition	66	67.3	67	68.4	52	53.0
Fair condition	29	29.6	17	17.3	28	28.5
Needs repair	3	3.1	14	14.3	18	18.4



TABLE XI (Continued)

Features	Number	Per cent
Automatic clothes dryer	23	23.5
Electric dishwasher	15	15.3
Fuel for cooking		
(a) Bottled gas	62	63.3
(b) Electricity	27	27.5
(c) Natural gas	8	8.1
(d) Wood, coal or kerosene	2	2.1
Fuel for heating		
(a) Bottled gas	82	83.6
(b) Natural gas	8	8.1
(c) Wood, coal or kerosene	5	5.1
(d) Electricity	4	4.1
Types of heating		
(a) Stoves	52	53.0
(b) Floor or wall furnace	31	31.6
(c) Central heating	20	20.4

per cent of the respondents was a refrigerator. Almost ninety-two per cent had electric refrigerators, and the remaining eight per cent had gas refrigerators. No one reported using ice for refrigeration. A mechanical refrigerator is an important asset in home living and has become more prevalent among farm families. Approximately ninety-seven per cent of the homes reported having a telephone, a radio, and a television. These three appliances have been the major isolation reducing agents for farm families. About five per cent of the homemakers reported only cold running water in the kitchen, with approximately ninety per cent reporting both cold and hot running water. This is a combined total of ninety-five per cent with running water in the kitchen. The presence of running water in the house is of transcendent importance for modern living. It is a prerequisite to the installation of flush toilets, bathtubs, and lavatories. It is an essential factor in improving farm levels of living.

Approximately eighty-nine per cent reported having a complete bathroom (with tub or shower, flush toilet, hot and cold water), while six per cent had a partial bathroom. Almost forty-five per cent of the homemakers reported having an automatic washing machine, and approximately forty-four per cent reported having a non-automatic washing machine. This is a combined total of about eighty-nine per cent. Twenty-three and one-half per cent reported having an automatic clothes dryer. One would assume that these homemakers would do much of the family laundry in the home.

Seventy-nine and one-half per cent had a home freezer unit separate from the refrigerator, and over twenty-one per cent used rental lockers in town. Although these figures totaled slightly over one hundred per cent, it should not be assumed

that all families made use of one or the other facility for freezing foods since some of the respondents reported both and several reported neither.

Almost thirty-nine per cent of the homes had a complete or partial air conditioning unit (excluding evaporative cooler). Over fifteen per cent had an electric dishwasher.

The homemakers, in reporting fuel for cooking, checked that bottled gas was used most frequently. Over sixty-three per cent used this type of cooking fuel in comparison to the twenty-seven and one-half per cent who used electricity, over eight per cent natural gas, and over two per cent wood, coal or kerosene. Some homemakers reported using more than one type of fuel for cooking.

In the selection of fuel for heating, it was interesting to note that a larger percentage of families used bottled gas for heating than for cooking. Over eighty-three per cent reported using bottled gas for heating. The same number, over eight per cent, used natural gas for heating as for cooking. Almost the same number of families used wood, coal, and kerosene (5.1%) as electricity (4.1%) for heating. More than one type of fuel was used in some homes.

Fifty-three per cent of the homemakers reported having stoves for heating. Floor or wall furnaces were used by over thirty-one per cent while central heating was reported by over twenty per cent of the respondents. Climate plays a great part in the amount of heating required for the home and is probably responsible for the small percentage of central heating systems reported. A few homes showed the use of more than one method for heating.

The study shows that many homes were not equipped with an electric dishwasher, central heating, air conditioning, automatic clothes dryer, automatic

washing machines or home freezers. Some of the present facilities may need to be "up graded." Space for the present and future appliances must be provided in planning new and remodeled homes as well as good arrangements of present space. Electric wiring will need to be adequate for handling much of this equipment.

Consideration must be given to these areas in planning a worthwhile educational housing program.

### Home Improvements Made and Anticipated

Questions twelve through sixteen in the questionnaire included check lists and free response questions on home improvements made and anticipated by the homemakers.

In response to the question as to whether the respondents had made improvements on their houses of fifty dollars or more within the last twelve months, 54 reported that they had. This is shown in Table XII. Forty-four homemakers had not made improvements on their houses.

This might seem to indicate that annually a substantial number of homemakers are interested in making some improvements on their homes.

The source of ideas for home improvement of the 54 respondents who indicated making improvements are summarized in Table XIII. Over ninety-two per cent of these revealed that the ideas were their own or their husbands'. Approximately twenty-two per cent reported the Extension Service as their source of information. The farm magazines and women's magazines were an important source of ideas. Eighteen and one-half per cent of the homemakers indicated each of these as a source. Houses that respondents had seen were indicated by almost fifteen per cent as a source

TABLE XII

NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS' HOUSES ON WHICH  
IMPROVEMENTS OF \$50 OR MORE HAD BEEN  
MADE WITHIN THE LAST TWELVE MONTHS

N = 98

Responses	Number	Per cent
Yes	54	55.1
No	44	44.8



TABLE XIII  
 SOURCES OF IDEAS FOR HOME IMPROVEMENTS  
 AS INDICATED BY RESPONDENTS

N = 54

Source of Ideas	Number	Per cent
Your and/or your husband's own ideas	50	92.6
Extension Service (County and Home Demonstration Agents)	12	22.2
Women's magazines	10	18.5
Farm magazines	10	18.5
Houses you have seen	8	14.8
Contractors or carpenters	6	11.1
Stores or lumber companies	4	7.4
Relatives, friends, neighbors, and/or acquaintances	3	5.6
Newspapers	3	5.6
University or government bulletins	2	3.7
Architect	0	0.0

of ideas. Eleven per cent of the homemakers used contractors or carpenters as a source of ideas, while stores or lumber companies were reported by more than seven per cent. Relatives, friends, neighbors, and/or acquaintances were indicated as sources of ideas by over five per cent, as were newspapers. Almost four per cent of the homemakers reported university or government bulletins as a source. Architects were not reported as a source of ideas.

It was interesting to note that the largest percentage of the homemakers reported for their source of ideas, themselves or their husbands. One might assume that these were ideas gained through the years from a varied number of sources and altered to meet their needs. It is understandable that ideas drawn from many sources might tend, after a length of time, to lose their identity of source.

The Extension Service (county and home demonstration agents) ranked second as a source of ideas, although indicated by only about twenty-two per cent. It is possible that the respondents were considering the personal consultation of the extension worker instead of the various group means such as local club meetings, home clinics, tours, newspapers, magazines, and bulletins. Extension workers should give consideration to providing a sound educational program wherein their guidance could be sought as an important source of ideas.

Newspapers, women's and farm magazines were reported by a combined total of over forty-two per cent of the respondents. This evidence of the importance of these sources of housing information would seem to indicate that extension agents might make greater use of these in disseminating educational information about housing.

The sources of ideas obtained directly from contractors or carpenters, and

stores or lumber companies, were reported by a combined total of eighteen and one-half per cent. It would be desirable for the agents to work closely with these groups to have a co-operative program.

It was surprising to note the small percentage (3.7) who indicated government bulletins as a source of help. Questions might well be raised as to whether these bulletins are presented attractively enough, are readable, or are interpreted adequately by the extension worker.

Only 9 of the homemakers who had made improvements indicated additional advice or information that they would have found helpful. These 9 listed ten suggestions as summarized in Table XIV. Need of further advice or information on remodeling was reported by approximately thirty-three per cent of the respondents. About twenty-two per cent reported that further information would have been of benefit with their bathroom improvement project. Storage improvement was reported the same percentage of times. Eleven per cent of the respondents reported the need for advice or information in each of the following categories: adding rooms, landscaping, and redecorating.

Since only 9 of the 54 homemakers who reported making improvements of fifty dollars or more during the last twelve months expressed the need for further advice or information, it might be assumed that they were fairly well satisfied with their home improvements.

Improvements planned by respondents within the next twelve months are shown in Table XV. Approximately forty-six per cent of the respondents at the time of the study did not anticipate changes. Fifty per cent of the improvements accounted for maintenance and repair of the home. These fell within two groups. They were

TABLE XIV

KINDS OF HOUSING IMPROVEMENTS ON WHICH ADDITIONAL ADVICE  
OR INFORMATION WOULD HAVE BEEN HELPFUL,  
AS INDICATED BY RESPONDENTS

N = 9

Kinds of improvements on which additional advice or information was needed	Number	Per cent
Remodeling	3	33.3
Bathroom improvement	2	22.2
Storage improvement	2	22.2
Adding rooms	1	11.1
Landscaping	1	11.1
Redecorating	1	11.1

TABLE XV  
 IMPROVEMENTS PLANNED BY RESPONDENTS  
 WITHIN THE NEXT TWELVE MONTHS

N = 98

Improvements planned	Number	Per cent
No changes anticipated	45	45.9
Improve floors, walls, and/or ceilings	31	31.6
Repair roof or outside of house	18	18.4
Alter or re-arrange storage space in other rooms	12	12.3
Improve heating system	9	9.1
Alter or re-arrange work and storage space in kitchen	8	8.1
Install or improve wiring	8	8.1
Install or improve bathroom	8	8.1
Alter or re-arrange living space in other rooms	8	8.1
New house	2	2.1
Install running water	2	2.1
Other	12	12.3

improving floors, walls, and/or ceilings; and repair of the roof and exterior of the house. Over thirty-one per cent planned interior improvements, while over eighteen per cent planned outside repairs.

The next eight groups included alterations and additions, which might be classified as more truly improvements because of the increased livability and value of the house. Over twelve per cent planned to alter or re-arrange storage space. Improvement of the heating system was planned by about nine per cent of the respondents. About eight per cent of the homemakers indicated plans to alter or re-arrange work and storage space in the kitchen, install or improve wiring, install or improve bathrooms, and alter or re-arrange living space in other rooms. To install running water was planned by about two per cent, while new houses were planned by the same percentage. Over twelve per cent reported other improvements were planned.

With the number of improvements reported planned, it might be surmised that the homemakers are interested in upgrading their houses.

Kinds of information needed for housing improvement project as indicated by respondents is summarized in Table XVI. The interest reported in the eleven areas by the 35 respondents totaled 59. Over thirty-four per cent indicated the need for information on remodeling, while redecorating was reported by almost twenty-six per cent of the respondents. More than seventeen per cent reported need of information on wood refinishing for floors and woodwork, while another over seventeen per cent reported kitchen improvement. Over fourteen per cent of the homemakers indicated that information was needed in adding rooms, bathroom improvement, and purchase of major equipment. Information on the selection of central heating and air conditioning equipment was indicated by more than eleven per cent of the

TABLE XVI  
 KINDS OF HOUSING CHANGES ON WHICH INFORMATION  
 WAS DESIRED BY RESPONDENTS

N = 35

Kinds of changes	Number	Per cent
Remodeling	12	34.3
Redecorating	9	25.7
Wood refinishing for floors and woodwork	6	17.1
Kitchen improvement	6	17.1
Adding rooms	5	14.3
Bathroom improvement	5	14.3
Purchase of major equipment	5	14.3
Selection of central heating and air conditioning equipment	4	11.4
Landscaping	3	8.6
Planning new homes	2	5.7
Storage improvement	2	5.7

respondents, while eight per cent indicated landscaping. The same percentage (5.7) reported the need of information on new homes and on storage improvement.

It is apparent that many of the homemakers were interested in securing information pertaining to the improvement of their homes. Extension agents should give consideration to the reported information wanted by the homemakers in planning an educational housing program.

### Housing Values

The last two questions in the questionnaire asked the homemakers to indicate the degree of importance of six housing values and then to rank these same values as to their relative importance. The degree of importance which the homemakers attached to the housing values is summarized in Table XVII. Almost ninety-one per cent reported comfort as a very important aspect of housing, and about four per cent reported it as fairly important. Family-centeredness was shown by over eighty-one per cent as a very important value and by more than eight per cent as fairly important. More than seventy-two per cent of the respondents indicated economy as very important, while over nineteen per cent reported it fairly important. Over fifty-five per cent of the homemakers reported privacy as very important, twenty-four and one-half per cent reported it as fairly important, while over eleven per cent reported it as not very important. Over three per cent reported they did not know. Beauty was rated by over ten per cent of the respondents as very important, by over fifty-nine per cent as fairly important, and by more than nineteen per cent as not very important. Over ten per cent of the homemakers reported social prestige as very important, while nearly forty-four per cent reported it as fairly important, and almost



TABLE XVII

## DEGREE OF IMPORTANCE WHICH RESPONDENTS ATTACHED TO SIX HOUSING VALUES

N = 98

Values	Very important		Fairly important		Not very important		Did not know		No response	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
Comfort	89	90.8	4	4.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	5	5.1
Family-centeredness	80	81.6	8	8.1	3	3.1	1	1.0	6	6.1
Economy	71	72.4	19	19.4	1	1.0	1	1.0	6	6.1
Privacy	54	55.1	24	24.5	11	11.2	3	3.1	6	6.1
Beauty	10	10.2	58	59.1	19	19.4	2	2.1	9	9.1
Social prestige	10	10.2	43	43.9	34	34.7	4	4.1	7	7.2

thirty-five per cent did not know the degree of importance it was to them.

As seen by the foregoing, the three values rated most often as very important were comfort, family-centeredness, and economy. Privacy was not reported by as many as these three; however, more than fifty-five per cent reported it as very important. Beauty and social prestige were not considered by the respondents to be nearly as important as the other four values.

The extension worker must take into consideration the degree of importance the homemakers attached to the housing values. In planning an educational housing program, these value concepts might be just as important as such generally recognized matters as house size, style, and perhaps even price and location.

Comfort, family-centeredness, and economy emerged as important to these homemakers, far more so than privacy, beauty, and social prestige. The lack of importance placed on privacy and beauty in housing was not entirely unexpected. This is consistent with the findings in two other studies, Rural Housing in Garfield County, Oklahoma<sup>6</sup> and The Family in the American Economy.<sup>7</sup> It could be assumed from this study that mental and emotional satisfactions of a house are important factors that should be implemented through a housing program.

The homemakers were asked to select from the six values the ones which they considered most important, second most important, and third most important. The

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<sup>6</sup>James E. Montgomery, Sara Smith Sutker, and Maie Nygren, Rural Housing in Garfield County, Oklahoma (Stillwater, Oklahoma State University Publication, August, 1959), p. 44.

<sup>7</sup>Hazel Kyrk, The Family in the American Economy (Chicago, The University of Chicago Press, 1953), p. 384.

relative importance of these housing values, as indicated by homemakers, is shown in Table XVIII. Fifty-two per cent of the homemakers reported comfort as most important, twenty-three and one-half per cent as second most important, and over ten per cent as third most important. Family-centeredness was ranked by about thirty-five per cent as the most important housing value, over sixteen per cent as the second most important value, and twenty-six and one-half per cent as the third most important value. Economy was reported by only two per cent as most important, almost thirty-four per cent ranked it second most important, and about thirty-five per cent as third most important. Only one per cent ranked privacy as most important, nine per cent as second most important, and over eleven per cent as third most important. Beauty and social prestige were not ranked by any homemaker as the most important housing value. Over six per cent did rank beauty as second most important, and over three per cent as third most important. Only one per cent ranked social prestige as second most important, while over four per cent ranked it as the third most important housing value.

### Summary

The data discussed in Chapter III show that the median age group of the respondents in the study was 40 to 49 years. The older age group represented the largest percentage of the respondents. Forty-three per cent of the women were in the fifty or over age bracket.

The annual median net income reported by the homemaker was in the range of \$3,000 to \$4,500. This does represent a fairly high farm income level among counties in Oklahoma.

TABLE XVIII

## RELATIVE IMPORTANCE OF HOUSING VALUES AS INDICATED BY RESPONDENTS

N = 98

Values	Most important		Second most important		Third most important	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
Comfort	51	52.0	23	23.5	10	10.2
Family-centeredness	34	34.7	16	16.3	26	26.5
Economy	2	2.1	33	33.7	34	34.7
Privacy	1	1.0	9	9.1	11	11.2
Beauty	0	0.0	6	6.1	3	3.1
Social prestige	0	0.0	1	1.0	4	4.1
No response	10	10.2	10	10.2	10	10.2

About fifty-five per cent of the homemakers had had some high school education. Over forty-two per cent had graduated from high school, and over twenty-eight per cent had attended college. The median education completed by the respondents was four years of high school.

It was shown that eighty-eight per cent of the homemakers and sixty-five per cent of the husbands did not work off the farm for pay.

Of the 98 respondents, seventy-three and one-half per cent owned their own homes, over fifteen per cent rented from relatives, and over eleven per cent rented from non-relatives.

A degree of stability in the farm production is indicated in that approximately forty-one per cent had lived in their present house over fifteen years.

A large portion of houses were shown to be relatively old, with fifty-six per cent built before 1930. Relatively few houses were built during the 1930's and the 1940's. Home building among this group increased after 1950, with twenty-two and one-half per cent built since that year.

Exterior portions of homes were reported to be in a good state of repair, with only a small percentage indicating repairs needed in these areas.

The respondents' homes were shown to be one hundred per cent electrified. One hundred per cent of the families had gas or electric refrigerators. Ninety-seven per cent had a telephone, a radio, and a television. Ninety-five per cent of the homemakers reported running water in the kitchen. Five per cent had only cold, while about ninety per cent had hot and cold running water. Ninety-five per cent reported having a bathroom.

Of the 98 respondents, 54 reported improvements of fifty dollars or more had

been made in the past twelve months. Forty-four reported that they had not made improvements.

Over ninety-two per cent of the source of ideas for remodeling were reported by the respondents as those of themselves and their husbands. Extension Service (county and home demonstration agents) ranked second as a source of ideas for improvements, with twenty-two per cent securing their ideas from this source.

Additional advice or information would have been helpful to 9 respondents of the 54 who reported making improvements.

Within the next twelve months, 53 of the homemakers planned to make improvements of their houses. Forty-five homemakers did not plan to make improvements.

Housing improvements planned were reported in all areas from maintenance and repairs to major remodeling. Two expressed an interest in building new houses.

Information needed for making these improvements were reported by 35 respondents in 11 areas with a total of 57 items.

The degree of importance that the women attached to each of six housing values was indicated. Comfort, family-centeredness, and economy were considered very important, while privacy, beauty, and social prestige were considered less important.

In ranking the values as to their relative importance to each other, the women reported comfort, family-centeredness, and economy as the three most important.

## CHAPTER IV

### A HOUSING PROGRAM

In developing a plan for a functional housing education program, the writer took into consideration that the Extension Service is a democratic educational agency. The basic objective of the agency is to develop people to the point where they, through their own initiative and ability, may effectively identify and solve the various problems directly affecting their welfare.

The Extension Service assists with the collecting and organizing of factual information for use in planning, helps to summarize and evaluate experiences of the women in their homemaking problems, and helps to build a program based on recommendations of the county home demonstration council program planning committee.

An important aspect in insuring the development of an educational program and its ultimate acceptance is to provide time and opportunity for the women who are concerned to participate in the planning. An educational program provides little motivation for club members who do not participate in determining the program.

In the present study, a random sample of on-farm home demonstration club members completed a questionnaire composed of check type and free response questions concerning description of families, description of houses, home

improvements made and anticipated, and housing values. From the summarized responses and their interpretation by the writer, the following basic problems were identified:

1. Inadequate housing for families in all stages of the family life cycle, with emphasis on the older families.
2. Large percentage of relatively older houses.
3. Inadequate wiring of homes for modern conveniences.
4. Lack of good house planning principles to keep pace with today's changing needs brought about by social, economic, and technological forces.
5. Limited use of university and government bulletins on housing.
6. Lack of understanding of new methods of construction for more economy and new materials.
7. Lack of understanding of the six housing values in relation to housing for the family.
8. Poor dissemination of housing information by extension workers.
9. Insufficient co-operative effort on the part of extension workers, contractors or carpenters, stores or lumber companies, and architects.
10. Lack of knowledge in the use of color for decorating.
11. Lack of knowledge of methods of wood refinishing for floors and wood-work.
12. Need of better planned kitchen.
13. Lack of adequate storage.
14. Lack of knowledge in selection of major equipment for the home.
15. Inadequate bathroom facilities.



The foregoing basic problems were presented to the county home demonstration leaders at their training meeting for their consideration. On the basis of the reaction of these women, problems were selected around which to build a suggested housing program for the year. This program will be presented to the Canadian County Home Demonstration Planning Council for modification and adoption for use during 1962. The suggested housing program is here presented.

## TENTATIVE HOUSING PROGRAM

Problem or phase of problem	Practice or activity to be undertaken	Probable teaching methods to be used	Probable month and who will be reached	Anticipated participation of leaders
Lack of adequate storage	Storage improvement for rooms other than kitchen	Adult leader's training meeting conducted by agent, method demonstration, bulletins and newspapers	Feb. 23, Adult leaders training meeting 38 adult clubs participating throughout March	Conducting demonstrations in local clubs
Lack of knowledge in use of color for decorating	Color for the home	Method demonstration by specialist or trained individual	Feb. 12, Home Clinic County wide meeting open to all women in county and high school homemaking classes	Assist with organization of meeting
Lack of good house planning principles and lack of understanding of new methods of construction for more economy and new materials	Remodeling or building clinic	Method and result demonstrations by housing specialist, bulletins	May, Special interest group meeting for those planning to build or remodel	Provide homes for result demonstration
Inadequate housing for older families	Same	Same	Same	Same

TENTATIVE HOUSING PROGRAM (Continued)

Problem or phase of problem	Practice or activity to be undertaken	Probable teaching methods to be used	Probable month and who will be reached	Anticipated participation of leaders
Lack of knowledge of methods of wood refinishing for floors and woodwork	Refinishing of floors and woodwork	Method and result demonstrations by agents, bulletins	August, Special interest group meeting for those interested in refinishing of floors and woodwork	Assist with conducting method and result demonstration
Need for better planned kitchens	Kitchen planning	Adult leaders training meeting conducted by agent, method demonstration, bulletins, and newspaper	Sept. 22, Adult leaders training meeting 38 adult clubs participating throughout October	Conducting demonstrations in local club meetings
Inadequate housing for families in all stages of family life cycle	Improvement of farm houses	Tour, result demonstrations, newspaper, magazine, radio, and television	October, County wide meeting for Chamber of Commerce men and wives and home demonstration club members and families	Provide result demonstrations for tour and organize and conduct tour
Poor dissemination of housing information	Improvement for farm house	Individual assistance and bulletins	Every month, to assist those with individual housing problems	None

TENTATIVE HOUSING PROGRAM (Continued)

Problem or phase of problem	Practice or activity to be undertaken	Probable teaching methods to be used	Probable month and who will be reached	Anticipated participation of leaders
Insufficient co-operative effort on part of extension worker, contractors or carpenters, stores, or lumber companies, and architects	Housing improvements	Co-operative planning with groups interested in housing	From time to time through the year	None

## CHAPTER V

### SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

This study was made to gain background information concerning the farm housing conditions of Canadian County in order to develop a plan for a functional housing education program. There were two main purposes of this study:

1. To secure housing information from farm families of Canadian County through a written questionnaire.
2. To determine what areas of content should be included in a housing program.

The hypothesis of the study was that: As a worthwhile housing program is provided by Extension workers, farm families will tend to (1) recognize their needs and values, (2) make more housing improvements, (3) have a higher standard of housing improvements, and (4) make plans to execute a higher quality of housing improvements.

A questionnaire was constructed to obtain data which would fulfill the first purpose, and from which areas of content for a housing program might be developed. Previous housing studies helped in providing information from which to construct the questionnaire. Questions were prepared to show personal data of Canadian County farm families and their needs, interests, and problems related to housing. The

questionnaire was pretested with three homemakers living in farm housing. In view of the reaction of the women to the questions and to the time required in completing the questionnaire, it was used in its original form. Ninety-nine questionnaires were mailed to a random sample of farm residence home demonstration club members living in Canadian County, Oklahoma. Ninety-eight questionnaires were returned, and all were sufficiently complete to be used in this study. This represented a 97.9 per cent return. The data were analyzed to be used as the basis for setting up a housing education program to be implemented during 1962.

On the basis of the study, the following conclusions may be drawn:

1. A preponderance of older people remain on the farms.
2. Economic conditions exist that would permit possible housing improvements.
3. Because of relatively high educational level, lesson material may be prepared at high school level.
4. Since few homemakers and their husbands do work off the farm for pay, this could provide labor for "do-it-yourself" housing projects.
5. Because of relatively high percentage of home ownership and a stability of population, there would be a probable interest in improving homes.
6. Because of a large number of older homes, a housing program will need to provide for their improvement.
7. A housing program is justified because of the large percentage who plan to make improvements.
8. Homemakers are interested in securing home improvement information.
9. Homemakers in the study place a higher value on comfort, family-centeredness, and economy than on privacy, beauty, and social prestige.

The hypothesis of the study, as it was presented, indicated four outcomes it was hoped would be achieved through a worthwhile housing education program. The first was that families would tend to recognize their needs and values. There is already some evidence in the data collected that farm families do recognize their needs and values. Through the implementation of the proposed housing education program, it is hoped that families will further recognize their needs and values and that the other three outcomes will be achieved; namely, that they will tend to make more housing improvements, have a higher standard of housing improvements, and make plans to execute a higher quality of housing improvements. Evidence will come in the future as to the extent to which these outcomes are achieved.

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## APPENDIX

APPENDIX A

LETTER MAILED TO SELECTED ON-FARM  
HOME DEMONSTRATION CLUB MEMBERS

LETTER MAILED TO SELECTED ON-FARM  
HOME DEMONSTRATION CLUB MEMBERS

USDA-OSU and  
County Commissioners  
Cooperating

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION WORK  
OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY  
DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE  
El Reno  
February 7, 1961

Work in Agriculture  
Home Economics and  
Related Fields

Dear Home Demonstration Member:

You have been selected to participate in a housing study of Canadian County. About one-hundred home demonstration club members living in the rural area will be participating.

The Extension Service through its educational program is desirous of giving any assistance which may be needed. The enclosed questionnaire has as its purpose the collecting of background information in housing to serve as a basis for developing a program in this area.

The information received will be kept confidential and reported only as a summary of the data.

The questionnaire is a part of my graduate work at Oklahoma State University in Home Economics Education and will be used in writing my master's thesis.

If you need help in completing the questionnaire, please feel free to contact me. I shall personally appreciate your completing it and returning it to me by February 18, 1961.

Enclosed, for your convenience, is a self-addressed envelope that requires no postage.

Sincerely yours,

Margaret Edsel Fitch  
Home Demonstration Agent  
Canadian County

MEF:mj  
Encl.

APPENDIX B

QUESTIONNAIRE MAILED TO SELECTED ON-FARM  
HOME DEMONSTRATION CLUB MEMBERS

QUESTIONNAIRE MAILED TO SELECTED ON-FARM  
HOME DEMONSTRATION CLUB MEMBERS

Canadian County Farm Housing Survey

Will you please complete the following questionnaire by making an (X) mark in the space to the right of the answers except where other instructions are given.

It is not necessary for you to sign your name to the questionnaire. The information received will be kept confidential and reported only as a summary of the data.

1. In which age group do you belong?

- (1) 19 years or under
- (2) 20 - 24 years
- (3) 25 - 29 years
- (4) 30 - 39 years
- (5) 40 - 49 years
- (6) 50 - 59 years
- (7) 60 - years or older

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2. Please write in the number of people in each age group living in your home at the present time. (Include yourself, husband, relatives, children, hired help, etc.) Write "0" where there are none of that age in family. Example: If you have two children 5-9 years of age, write in "2" in the space to the right. Be sure to write in "0" if none in an age group.

- (1) Under 5 years
- (2) 5 - 9 years
- (3) 10 - 14 years
- (4) 15 - 19 years
- (5) 20 - 24 years
- (6) 25 - 29 years
- (7) 30 - 39 years
- (8) 40 - 49 years
- (9) 50 - 59 years
- (10) 60 - years and over

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3. Which of the following is nearest your family net income after farm or business expenses are deducted for the year 1960.

- (1) Less than \$ 1,500
- (2) \$ 1,500 to 3,000
- (3) 3,000 to 4,500
- (4) 4,500 to 6,000
- (5) 6,000 to 7,500
- (6) 7,500 to 10,000
- (7) 10,000 - or more

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4. Indicate the highest grade you completed in school:

- (1) 1st to 4th grade
- (2) 5th to 6th grade
- (3) 7th grade
- (4) 8th grade
- (5) 1 to 3 years highschool
- (6) 4 years highschool
- (7) 1 to 3 years college
- (8) 4 years college or more

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5. Indicate whether or not you work away from home for pay.

- (1) Not at all
- (2) Full time (35 hours a week or more)
- (3) Part time (less than 35 hours a week)

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6. Indicate whether or not your husband works off the farm for pay.

- (1) Not at all
- (2) Full time (35 hours a week or more)
- (3) Part time (less than 35 hours a week)

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7. Indicate ownership of house.

- (1) Owner
- (2) Rent from relative
- (3) Rent from non-relative

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8. How long have you lived in your present house?

- (1) Under 5 years
- (2) 5 to 15 years
- (3) Over 15 years
- (4) Don't know

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- (15) Refrigerator
  - (a) Electric \_\_\_\_\_
  - (b) Gas \_\_\_\_\_
  - (c) Ice \_\_\_\_\_
- (16) Fuel for cooking
  - (a) Electricity \_\_\_\_\_
  - (b) Natural gas \_\_\_\_\_
  - (c) Bottled gas \_\_\_\_\_
  - (d) Wood, coal or kerosene \_\_\_\_\_
- (17) Fuel for heating
  - (a) Electricity \_\_\_\_\_
  - (b) Natural gas \_\_\_\_\_
  - (c) Bottled gas \_\_\_\_\_
  - (d) Wood, coal or kerosene \_\_\_\_\_
- (18) Type of heating
  - (a) Central heating \_\_\_\_\_
  - (b) Floor or wall furnace \_\_\_\_\_
  - (c) Stoves \_\_\_\_\_

14. Within the last 12 months have you made any changes or improvements costing \$50 or more?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_  
 No \_\_\_\_\_

15. For the above improvement (s), where did you get your ideas and information?

- (1) Your and/or your husband's own ideas \_\_\_\_\_
- (2) Relatives, friends, neighbors, and/or acquaintances \_\_\_\_\_
- (3) Extension Service (County and Home Demonstration Agents) \_\_\_\_\_
- (4) Houses you have seen \_\_\_\_\_
- (5) Newspapers \_\_\_\_\_
- (6) Women's magazines \_\_\_\_\_
- (7) Farm magazines \_\_\_\_\_
- (8) Stores or lumber companies \_\_\_\_\_
- (9) Other houses you have lived in \_\_\_\_\_
- (10) University or government bulletins \_\_\_\_\_
- (11) Contractors or carpenters \_\_\_\_\_
- (12) Architect \_\_\_\_\_

16. As you look back over making the improvement (s), what, if any, additional advice or information do you wish you might have had?  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

17. Within the next 12 months what changes or improvements do you plan to make on your present house?

- (1) No changes anticipated \_\_\_\_\_
- (2) New house \_\_\_\_\_
- (3) Build an addition to the house \_\_\_\_\_
- (4) Repair roof or outside of the house \_\_\_\_\_
- (5) Improve floors, walls, and/or ceilings \_\_\_\_\_
- (6) Alter or re-arrange work and storage space in kitchen \_\_\_\_\_
- (7) Alter or re-arrange living space in other rooms \_\_\_\_\_
- (8) Alter or re-arrange storage space in other rooms \_\_\_\_\_
- (9) Improve heating system \_\_\_\_\_
- (10) Install or improve wiring \_\_\_\_\_
- (11) Install running water \_\_\_\_\_
- (12) Install or improve bathroom facilities \_\_\_\_\_
- (13) Others (Specify) \_\_\_\_\_

18. What information do you feel that you need for your improvement project? (List)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

19. Here are some statements which describe different kinds of houses. Please check the degree of importance each is to you.

- (1) A house that is comfortable to live in
- (2) A house that is beautiful to look at
- (3) A house that is economical to maintain
- (4) A house that has privacy for each member of family
- (5) A house that friends and neighbors will admire
- (6) A house that will help the family to work and play together

	Very important	Fairly important	Not very important	Don't know
(1) A house that is <u>comfortable</u> to live in				
(2) A house that is <u>beautiful</u> to look at				
(3) A house that is <u>economical</u> to maintain				
(4) A house that has <u>privacy</u> for each member of family				
(5) A house that friends and neighbors will <u>admire</u>				
(6) A house that will help the <u>family to work and play together</u>				

20. Please tell me which of the above considerations you think is most important to you, which is second most important, which is third more important (Use numbers in parentheses above).

- (a) Most important
- (b) Second most important
- (c) Third most important

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VITA

Margaret Edsel Fitch

Candidate for the Degree of

Master of Science

Thesis: HOUSING NEEDS AND VALUES AS THE BASIS FOR DEVELOPING AN EDUCATIONAL HOUSING PROGRAM FOR CANADIAN COUNTY, OKLAHOMA, EXTENSION SERVICE

Major Field: Home Economics Education

Biographical:

Personal Data: Born in Seiling, Oklahoma, December 16, 1919, the daughter of Alpha Edsel and Dora A. Edsel.

Education: Attended grade school and high school in Seiling, Oklahoma; graduated from Seiling High School in 1938; received the Bachelor of Science degree from Oklahoma State University, with a major in Home Economics Education, in July, 1952; completed requirements for the Master of Science degree in August, 1961.

Professional Experience: Taught Vocational Home Economics and English, Waynoka, Oklahoma, August, 1942 to April, 1943; Home Demonstration Agent, Cimarron County, April, 1943 to February, 1945; and Home Demonstration Agent, Canadian County, since February, 1945.