

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION
BULLETIN 173

ASHLAND COMMUNITY SURVEY

An Economic, Social and Sanitary Survey in Howard County,
Missouri



FIG. 1.—Ashland Church Community Center. High school in basement.

COLUMBIA, MISSOURI

JULY, 1920

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Ashland Community Survey

An Economic, Social and Sanitary Survey in
Howard County, Missouri.

CARL C. TAYLOR, E. W. LEHMANN

GENERAL CONSIDERATION.

Through the eyes of the farmer, himself.—In the rapid advance of farming as a business enterprise which has taken place in the last fifteen years, and in the great push forward in the line of farm production which took place during the war period, American agriculture progressed in technical proficiency at a rate not equalled at any other period of our national development. The advance has been so rapid and the emphasis has been so thoroly on production, however, that it is sometimes to be wondered if we may not be overlooking the great fundamentals in farm life, viz., the men, women and children who live on the farm. It can be readily conceived that the people who do not live on the farms and whose ease of living depends largely upon the economic efficiency of these farm people should think of farmers only as producing units. It is quite inconceivable that farmers should ever accept this viewpoint themselves. For them the one supreme question must be, is farm life an adequate life? This study was made with the idea in mind of emphasizing those factors on the farm which bear closest relation to the every-day life of the people, without forgetting the ever necessary economic background, viz., farming as a business. It is hoped that by looking at the facts gathered in this rather exceptional community both the possibilities and neglect of the human factors on the farm may be seen.

Ashland Community.—Ashland Community lies in a triangle formed by the Missouri River on the west and south and Moniteau Creek, which flows into the river, on the south and east. All the territory surveyed, with the exception of small portions of a few of the farms, lies far enough back from both of these streams as not to be in the bottoms. The fifty farms surveyed are known by the people who live upon them and by all others who know the community, to constitute the heart of a real rural neighborhood-community. The farmers do not all trade at the same town, all belong to the same church, or all mingle together with the same degree of neighborly freedom, nor do these fifty farms include all the people who live within this topographical area. They are representative, however, of the best which lies in this section of Missouri and the neighborhood-community is known widely thruout the state because of the magnificent rural church it has built, around which centers the religious, educational and to some degree the social life of the community.

The community is made homogeneous by a factor which is far more fundamental, so far as farming is concerned, than the existence of this semi-community church, viz., a homogeneous topographical area. Every farm can be characterized as rolling and the soil type is almost universally clay loam.

This community in addition to being a unit in physical structure and social organization has been a stable community for many years. In many cases the people who are living in the community are the third and even fourth generation of families which have lived in this same community. The average length of residence of all upon the farms where they now live has been twelve and a half years. Thirty-one of them have lived in the community for more than thirty years. Nine of them have been on the farms they now occupy for more than fifteen years. Thirty-nine of them have never done anything other than farm. There are but five families in the community which have ever lived in another state, and eleven others who have ever lived out of Howard County. A community is an institution which it takes years to build and these people have been here long enough to build one.

The farm families of the community are well-to-do financially and considerably above the average in educational status, as will later be seen. Eight of the farmers had money invested in enterprises other than farming. Some of them had bought as high as \$4000 worth of Liberty Bonds, and all but three of them paid their bills regularly thru checking accounts. Seventeen of them said they never paid a bill any other way. More than half of them read College of Agriculture bulletins regularly and feel that they receive material benefit from them.

The church organization itself is the oldest Christian church organization west of the Mississippi River. It celebrated its centennial anniversary in November, 1917. The present church edifice is a beautiful brick structure which with its total equipment cost \$14,500 (in 1914). It is recognized as a "community building." A four-year subscription high school is housed in its basement. It was being used as a Red Cross work room at the time of the survey. All agricultural club meetings, road meetings, literary meetings or other community enterprises center in this building.

The church is about equidistant from the three chief trading centers, being eight miles from Rocheport, eight miles from New Franklin and seven and a half miles from Fayette. The average distance from the farmsteads to the church is three and nine tenths miles, and to the towns in which the people chiefly market is three and nine tenths miles. There are no hard-surface roads in the community, though the roads are almost universally well dragged. Only one farmer asserted that his road to market was really "bad." Six more of them had some portion of the road which was only "fair." All others designated their roads to market as "good." It should be noted, however, that it is of little use to attempt to hold a community meeting of any type at certain seasons of the year or immediately after a rain storm, for practically all these people travel in automobiles and can not come over the dirt roads at such times. Hard-surfaced roads would do much to improve the life and conditions of the community.

ECONOMIC CONDITIONS.

Size and type of farms.—As might be inferred from foregoing statements, this is chiefly a community of home owners. There are but seven renters in the community. The tenants, with one exception are farming on thoroughgoing partnership arrangements with the owners, i. e., the owner furnishes the land, the renter the labor and all working capital, and crops

are divided equally. The average size of the farms is 179.9 acres, and the average value per acre was, in 1918, \$410. The average area in field crops is 125.2 acres. This leaves practically one-third of the farming area in grass. All operators except three are practicing some systematic crop-rotation plan. The scheme of rotation varies from systems of three to seven years. Clover is a factor on every farm and in five cases commercial fertilizer is used.

The type of farming is that which generally prevails in the lower corn belt, viz., mixed grains and stock farming. The three leading grain crops in order are, corn, wheat and oats. The three leading kinds of live stock in order of importance are, hogs, cattle and sheep. Hogs and corn production are the chief industries tho a good many cattle are fed and the sheep industry is gaining in the community. No one of these farmers was, at the time of the survey, specializing in purebred live stock, tho 20 of them had some purebred stock on their farms. The community is not a specialized but a mixed stock farming type as is shown by the fact that only fifteen per cent of the total value of all live stock was purebred stuff. The total value of all live stock was \$157,333 while the total value of the purebreds was but \$23,833. One of the greatest needs of the community from a production standpoint is more purebred live stock.

Farm improvements, buildings, fences, orchards, etc.—This community is above the average of mixed farming communities in central Missouri in farm improvements but not what could be classed as a highly improved community. The age of the community has a great deal to do with the improvement of the farms. As will later be seen a good many modern conveniences and comforts are being introduced and used in the community. The houses are for the most part old, however, which makes it difficult to introduce modern equipment, and the farms are not, for the most part, what would be called highly improved.

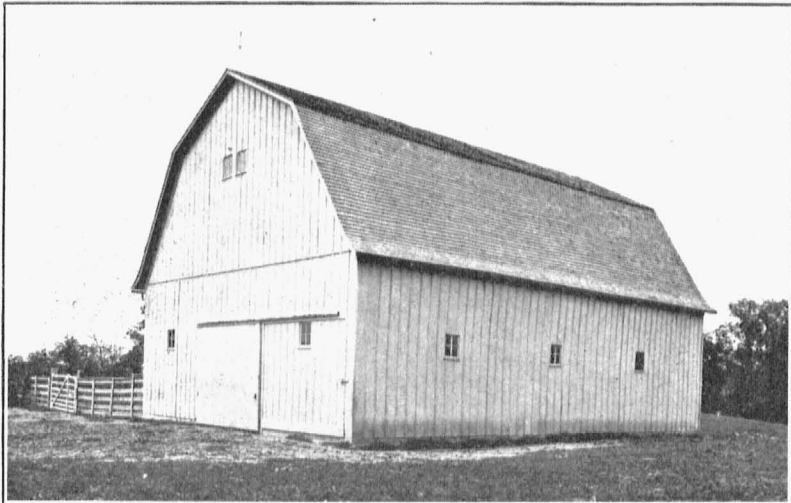


FIG. 2.—A modern barn built in 1915

A few of the more recent farms are quite adequate and on the whole are replacing the old inadequate ones more rapidly than are, new houses replacing the old ones. One very thrifty owner expressed the opinion that "barns will build houses but houses won't build barns." He had just completed a new barn and the house was greatly in need of repair. Recently he moved from this place to another where neither the house nor barn is new and it is to be feared that another barn may be built; and this will be supposed to "build the house" which, as in the last place, again will not be built.

The fact that there is very little purebred live stock in the community and that this section is far enough south to avoid the severe northern winters leads to a noticeable lack of farm buildings. The average of the total farm improvements, including all buildings, fences, orchards and other equipment is \$4,192 per farm. This is but 21.2% of the whole value of the farms, and while it is slightly above the percentage which cost accountants say should be expended on the most economical farms of the size of these, it is again a question of whether the farm family cares to live in a house gauged solely by the value of the farm, and whether the farmer should make his farm life disagreeable in exact ratio to the poverty of his land. It is not thought a mark of extravagance in city life to expend twenty per cent of one's income on mere house rent and it is the writer's deepest conviction that farm people have a right to as great a percentage of their earnings and capital invested in farm improvements as is necessary to a happy farm life even tho it exceed the economic balance of one-fifth of the total capital invested in the farm.

Farm machinery and labor-saving devices.—The average estimated value of farm machinery per farm in the community is \$1015. This is \$5.64 an

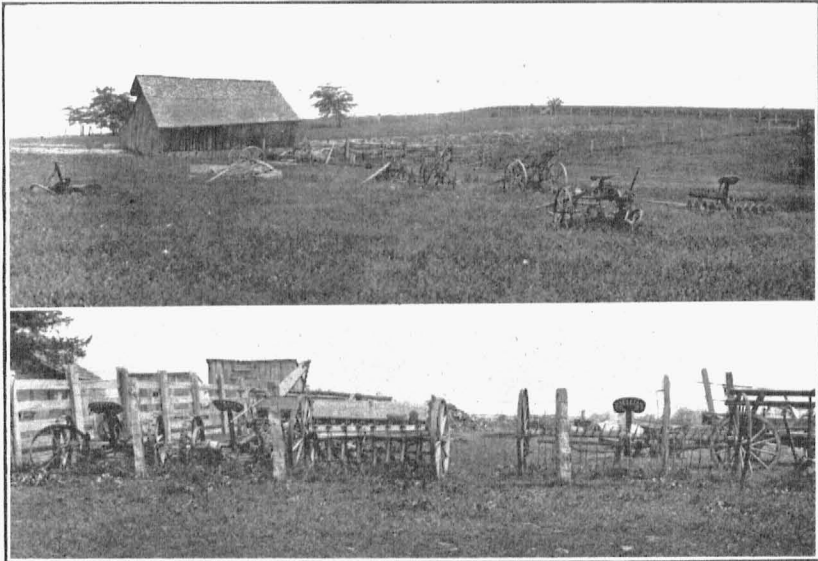


FIG. 3.—Poor methods of protecting farm machinery.

ache or 5.1% of the value of the land. This again is a very favorable showing according to accepted standards. There are always two principles to keep in mind in the purchase and use of farm machines. One is the saving in man and animal power and time. The community is above the average in this respect. There were on these farms, 6 gas engines, 3 windmills, 9 manure spreaders, 11 two-row corn cultivators, 2 tractors, 11 gang plows, 30 hay carriers, 11 silos, and 6 cream separators.

The other principle to be kept in mind in the purchase and use of farm machinery deals with the care and upkeep so as not to make these conveniences an economic handicap rather than an economic asset. The farm machinery in the community for the most part is well taken care of, altho thirteen of the farmers admitted that they had no adequate provision for sheltering their common field implements.

Vegetable, fruit and poultry products, raised, bought and sold.—Another indication that the people of the community are interested largely in the life on their farms is that every farm in the community with one exception is raising some fruit of its own. The one exception was a newly established residence. Eight of these farmers bought fruit and two of them sold fruit last year. To be without a home orchard in so good a fruit community as this would be almost unforgivable. Only one family bought and but two families sold any common garden vegetables. Three of them bought and eight sold potatoes. The selling was almost universally to neighbors. The greatest quantity sold by one farmer was twenty-five bushels. Only one farm woman had sold any milk in the past year and five others had sold cream. Butter was sold on fifteen farms, 104 lbs. during the year being the greatest amount sold by any one farm woman. Poultry was sold on all farms except five, and eggs sold on every farm. The greatest value of poultry sold by any one farm woman during the year was \$300. The same farm woman sold \$240 worth of eggs. The greatest value received by any one woman for eggs was \$300. Two things are apparent from these facts: first, poultry and eggs in this community are the farm woman's chief source of income; second, that the community is not specializing in robbing its own tables by sending all the good things to market. To this fact the surveyors can amply testify from personal experience in these homes.

Hired help on the farm and in the home.—That the farms of the community are family sized is indicated by the fact that but fourteen of the forty-four farm wives employed any domestic assistance during the year. Six of them had regular domestic assistance, two had hired domestic help for over six months of the year, one had help for four months, one for one month and the other four employed assistance regularly one or two days a week. Thirty of these homes hired no domestic help during the year. This is partly due to the fact that daughters of the family offer a good bit of assistance, partly due to the difficulty of obtaining domestic servants, and partly due to the fact that it is customary for the housewife to do the work herself. The domestic help is universally negro help and sleeps on the place, in a tenant house or a servant room at the back of the house.

Farm help was hired on thirty seven of the forty-four farms. In 20 cases help was kept the year around and in all but seven cases was hired regularly. Field hands are almost universally negroes who, with few exceptions, live in tenant houses on the place. In two cases white hired men

live with the families, thus increasing the work of the housewife. In one of these cases a household servant is employed to assist with the work one day each week. In the other case domestic help is employed regularly. In the latter case there are four children in the home.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

What is an efficient social life?—A satisfactory life is so much a matter of personal taste, and people are so universally satisfied with tastes which they have imbibed from their own home surroundings that it seems to some people an impossibility to set standards of an efficient social life. There are some things, however, which everyone will immediately recognize as essential to life if life is to be worth living. The amount or degree of these essential things may vary. If any one of them is absent there is introduced into social existence an undesirable element or at least there is left out a desirable element. These socially necessary factors are food, clothing, shelter, health, education, religion, recreation and association with other persons. The food supply is almost universally adequate on the farm. Clothing is measured by whether it fits the needs of the occupation and whether the people are "up to date," so to speak. The people of Ashland Community are universally both well clad and well dressed. The general health is good in practically every case. Two children were found who had speech defects, one a case of stammering and the other a child who had never learned to talk. These facts, coupled with the more specific ones related in the following section indicate that the social life of the people of Ashland Community is at least average, if not better.

Educational status and interest.—The educational status of the community is considerably above the average. Sixteen of the farm women and twelve of the farm men had gone to college. Seven additional men and five additional women had gone to high school. In conjunction with this exceptional record there appear those of four men and four women who have no schooling whatsoever. In three of these cases these near illiterate are husband and wife. Two of these families were foreign born and were tenants and both of these families have moved from the community now. In addition to the four-year high school which is now maintained at the church, the district schools are above the average for Missouri. One especially is an exceedingly well-equipped country school. There was but one child of school age in the community who was not in regular attendance. All except three of these children expressed a desire to continue their education beyond the grade school, and without exception every child thought he or she would be a farmer. This phenomenal showing is due somewhat to the educational status and outlook of the older people, but probably more particularly to the presence in the community of the local high school. Forty-two of the forty-four fathers are in favor of "college education" for farmers. Thirty-nine of them favor a consolidated rural school, altho some of them are doubtful of the success of such a project until the roads are improved. Three of the fathers have no interest in and one is openly opposed to the idea.

Religious affiliations and attitude.—There are 125 persons living at home in the forty-two families for which religious data were gathered. Seventy-

nine of these people held church membership in some church. Thirty of the 125 are not yet ten years old. One hundred and four of the 125 attended church regularly. Sixty-one of them attended Sunday School regularly. Five of the adults said they never attended church and thirty of them said they never attended Sunday School. The most prevalent reasons given for non-church attendance were, "Too busy," "Inconvenient," "babies in the home," and "carelessness." The failure of the Sunday School to attract as many people as does the preaching service of the church is probably due to two things: first, the fact that rural Sunday Schools are not schools at all; second, that even now, in as high class a community as this one, people still believe that the prime essential of a religious institution is the preaching program.

Thirty of the men surveyed said they were in favor of a community church. Two only were unfavorable, and the remainder were indifferent. Whether the people of the community are more religious than the average rural community would be hard to estimate. That they take a livelier interest in church affairs than people in most communities is clearly demonstrated by their interest in the development of the "community church" and by the magnificent church structure they have built.

Social organization and social gatherings.—Isolation is probably the greatest handicap to a satisfactory social life in most rural communities. Contacts with other people are what make life worth while. These contacts may be got in the school, the church, community club, social center, at dances, parties and in various other forms of community gathering. In many cases these gatherings are in the towns, which may mean one of two things. In the lodges, town and country men and women actually mingle together. In picture shows, on the other hand, the participation of the spectator is so slight that it can scarcely be called a social gathering in the sense of social contacts. Twenty-one of the men and twelve of the women belonged to some social organization other than the church, tho in almost every case it was admitted that attendance at the organization meetings was irregular. The one case in which attendance was universally regular was a farmer's club. The club belonged strictly to the neighborhood and had direct bearing on rural life.

The number and types of social gatherings in which the members of the community participate is indicated in the following facts which speak for themselves. These numbers represent the sum of the individual attendance at each of these types of gatherings. Of course there are many small children and a number of others who do not attend this or that type of gathering at all. For instance, there were forty of the 125 who attended no dances during the year. The total number of individual attendances at dances during the year was 883, at movies 869, at lectures and music 525, at parties other than dances 522, at church socials 351, at athletic games 135, at agriculture fairs 60 and at theaters other than movies 3. These facts probably represent the lively neighborhood feeling of the community better than any other one thing. These people, even when we include the foreign families, the babies and the old people, averaged per individual more than twenty-seven social gatherings a year, besides their regular church, school, lodge and business gatherings.

In addition to gathering of these types, thirty-seven of these families

make at least weekly trips to town, usually on Saturday afternoon, where they mingle with each other and with the town's people. Twenty-one of the families had, in the last year, taken trips which carried them beyond their own community or even their county. Six of them had taken auto-trips of more than one hundred miles. Usually these trips are in the nature of a vacation fishing trip.

Home life.—Home life is made pleasant because of the type of people who are in the home, the conveniences in the home, the amount of leisure time, the reading material had and used, home amusements, musical instruments and visitors. The size of the families in the community varies all the way from five childless couples, to one husband and wife with nine children. The average family is husband, wife and three children, tho of course not all the children are at home all the time. It is interesting to know that the average size of the families in which the parents are more than fifty years old is 6.3 persons, whereas it is but 4 in those families where the parents are all less than fifty years old. There are five childless couples, four of them middle aged. There are few really young married people in the community. The farms are held by people who have been on them for a number of years. Only three of the farm men and six of the farm women are less than thirty years old. On the other hand but seven of the men and three of the women are more than 60 years old. This means that the homes and the community are made up of middle-aged people and their children.

In the forty homes from which we could get complete data concerning reading material there is an average of $117\frac{1}{2}$ books and 7 newspapers, and magazine; per home. One of these homes had a library of 634 books and another one 500. Nine of them have libraries of over 250 books each. One family takes 16 periodicals (including daily and weekly newspapers, weekly and monthly magazines). Two families who subscribe for their periodicals in common have coming into their homes 27 different periodicals. Twenty-nine of these families made some use of the school library or the public library at Fayette. The most prevalent type of book found in these homes other than school books is fiction with an average of 47.5 per home. Next comes children's books with an average of 9.1 followed in order by history 7, agriculture 4.3, religious 4.2, scientific 3.9, health 2, and war 1. There is one home which has neither a book nor a periodical in it, and one other with nothing but school books. These are both homes of German tenants.

Fifteen of these homes have pianos, twelve have some kind of a stringed instrument, six have victrolas and one has an organ. Twelve of these homes have two kinds of musical instruments in the home and seven have more than two kinds. Sixteen homes have no musical instruments.

The chief home amusement in the community is cards, at least twenty-two of the families so stated. Other home amusements rank as follows: children's games, croquet, checkers, dominoes, crokinole, and tennis. Seven families asserted that they have no home amusements. In practically every case these are the same families which do not attend the community gatherings.

There are forty-eight telephones in the forty-four homes so it is quite possible that one of the chief home amusements was completely

overlooked in answering the inquiry. If this be true there are two families who do not have even this facility. Six families have two telephones each in their homes.

Woman's work on the farm.—One of the greatest travesties on rural life is the fact that the farm woman does not get a fair deal. As was seen in a previous section, she has little hired assistance. Her work is sometimes increased by the presence of permanently hired farm hands in the home. She cooks for her own family, the threshing gang, and big Sunday gatherings, besides doing her own washing, the family mending, raising the poultry, caring for the dairy products and often assisting with other farm work. She has the longest working hours of any one on the farm and often the least conveniences. Every farm woman in the community cares for the poultry. Twenty-one of them do part of the gardening, eight of them help out with the men's work in rush season, and seven of them do the milk-

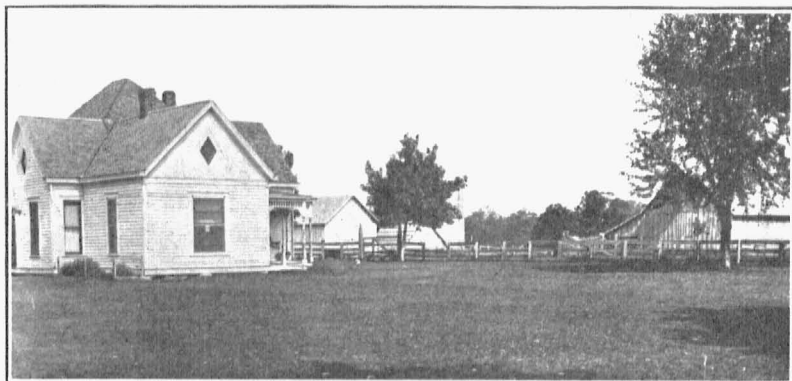


FIG. 4.—A comfortable home with well-kept grounds.

ing. One gives music lessons in addition to her home work. The average working day in the rush season for these women is from 5 a. m. to 9 p. m., and the rush season comes all too near being all the year.

The average value per home for all household equipment was (1918) estimated to be \$694.51. This includes the furniture which is for Sunday use only and which rather than lessening the household work increase it. A better appreciation of actual household conveniences can be gained from a list of labor-saving devices found in the homes of the community. All homes except two have sewing machines. Twenty-two of them have oil stoves. Only twenty of them have washing machines, five have vacuum cleaners, five have kitchen sinks, two have running water in the house. None of them has any power machinery, tho it should be remembered there are six gas engines and three windmills on these farms. The weakest spot in Ashland Community is household equipment or modern labor-saving devices for farm women. If the writer were to make but one single recommendation for the homes in Ashland Community, which is already considerably above the average in social efficiency, it would be better houses and more labor-saving devices for the farm women.

SANITARY CONDITIONS.

The one phase of farm improvement which has been most neglected is the installation of modern sanitary equipment in the home. It is true that the production must first be taken care of and this is done by securing proper machinery, by improving soil conditions, by proper seed selection, by proper selection and breeding of stock, and providing suitable shelter for crops and animals produced.

When the farm is on a paying basis, however, the owner cannot afford to be without those things in the home which make farm life attractive and satisfying. In fact, there are two essential improvements for the home, a pure water supply and sanitary disposal of human waste, which must be provided to make possible healthful conditions and successful farming

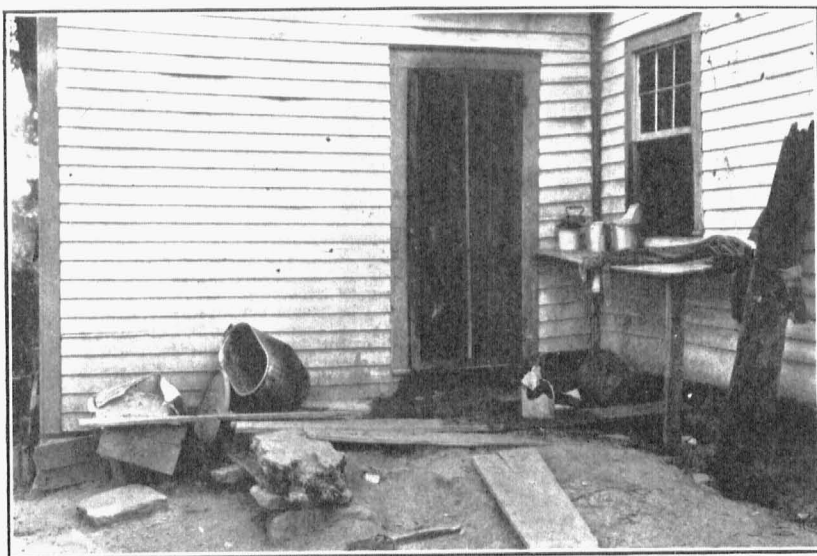


FIG. 5.—Conditions very unsanitary at this back door.

operations. Too many farmers have retired to the city to be able to enjoy certain advantages that might be brought to the farm. *

The farmstead.—The location of a farmstead has much to do toward making possible sanitary conditions. While every farm house cannot be located on sloping land this should be kept in mind. The general topography in which this survey was made being rolling, the farmsteads with only a few exceptions were located on high land with good surface drainage. Poorly drained grounds are more liable to be unsanitary than those which are well drained. The unsanitary condition found is a result of throwing waste material from the kitchen into the yard, chickens allowed the run of the place, trash and rubbish allowed to collect, general neglect and carelessness. Three yards are in an excellent condition, six are very good, twenty-seven good, eleven poor, and three very poor. Only a little systematic attention is necessary to keep yards clean and attractive.

Home location.—In locating a house an east or south front is usually desired. It is interesting to find that twenty-one houses face south, thirteen east, one southeast, and one southwest. Thirty-six out of a possible fifty face south, east, or in a southward direction. A south or southeast slope is much more desirable for a farmstead site than the middle west because it dries more quickly and is warmer in winter.

House.—The size of house varies from a two-room shack, for a negro hired man, to a ten-room house. There is one two-room, one three-room, four four-room, four five-room, seventeen six-room, eleven seven-room, five eight-room, two nine-room and five ten-room houses.

Of the renters, one lives in a four-room, five in a six-room, and one in a seven-room house. Thirty-four out of forty owners live in houses of six rooms or more. There is only one modern house in the group. There are several old-fashioned brick houses, one built as early as 1826, and a number of houses framed with hewn timbers. These old houses are unhandy and make necessary many steps for the tired house-wife. An explanation often given for not having installed modern sanitary equipment in the home is because the new house will soon be built, which is often a long wait.

House equipment.—Only two houses were equipped with complete plumbing systems. One of these had not been used for several months due to the pipes freezing during cold weather. At each of these places the sewage is discharged on the surface of the ground some distance from the house in an orchard. This is a dangerous practice and is not recommended. To make conditions sanitary, a septic tank at each place should be provided. A plan for such tank may be secured from the Agriculture Engineering Department, University of Missouri.

At three places a pump and sink are provided in the kitchen with a drain to take care of the kitchen waste water. This is the simplest method of bringing water into the kitchen with little expense. The improvement in the farm house most desired by the house-wife is water piped where it is needed. There is no farmer who can afford not to install at least a kitchen sink and pump. At one farm the water pressure from a storage tank is piped to the watering troughs for live stock, but is not piped into the house. Think of the labor of carrying in water each day and the exposure during the cold weather that would be eliminated by piping the water where it is needed.

Lighting and heating systems.—Two houses are equipped with acetylene lights, two with blau gas, and the remaining forty-six use ordinary kerosene lamps. Two houses are provided with hot-air furnaces and the remaining forty-eight use stoves, and in a few cases the stoves are supplemented with a fire place.

It is hardly believable that a group of successful farmers who have bought all kinds of machinery to make the work of production easy and have bought automobiles for pleasure and profits have not equipped their homes with modern equipment to make the home a more convenient work shop and a better place in which to live.

Purity of water supply.—It is of interest to find that the water for drinking purposes is from cisterns, with two exceptions, one a shallow well and the other a spring. With the cistern as a source of supply its purity

will depend on the care in collecting the water into the cistern and the protection against the entrance of any impurities after the water is stored.

Samples of each of the supplies were taken for chemical and bacterial analyses. In the bacterial analysis a test was made to determine the presence of *B. Coli*, a bacteria that is commonly found in the excreta of warm-blooded animals. The results show the presence of this bacteria in forty-two samples, three show questionable results and six a negative test. Five additional samples were taken where there were more than one source of supply, and all showed contamination with *B. Coli*. The results of chemical analysis also indicate contamination. The presence of free ammonia and nitrogen as nitrites is usually considered indicative of recent contamination of animal origin. The presence of measurable quantities of nitrogen as



FIG. 6.—Cistern with metal top. Filter shown on wall helps but is too small.

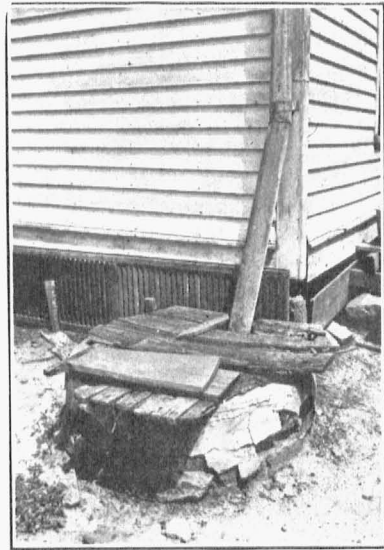


FIG. 7.—Filter poorly protected at top and not cleaned out regularly.

nitrites is considered sufficient ground for condemning a water supply. All of the samples analyzed showed some free ammonia, and in all samples except three was found nitrogen as nitrites. By studying both the chemical and bacterial analysis it is found that every sample is more or less contaminated. The presence of *B. Coli* as shown by the bacterial analysis indicates a clear case of some form of sewage contamination.

Before a source of water can actually be condemned the local condition should be carefully studied to determine the actual source of the pollution. The fact that practically all of the samples were taken from cisterns, many of which are protected by good concrete tops, the walls being impervious to the flow of seepage impurities, must lead to the conclusion that the impurities went in with the supply when being collected. Water should not be caught until the roof is thoroly cleaned. A filter of some sort is pro-

vided at only a few places. Some of these are without filtering material of any kind, and all others had not been cleaned out since they were installed. In every case the so-called filter is not serving its purpose as such. A filter such as is recommended by the U. S. Department of Agriculture in Bulletin 941 is recommended, and it goes without saying that the top and walls of the cistern should be absolutely tight.

Several of the supplies have a seepage vein of water flowing in, making them virtually the same as a shallow well supply. Cracks in the curb in a few instances allowed surface water to flow in at the top, carrying with it contamination. The location and natural drainage eliminates danger of contamination in most cases

from this source. Twenty-eight of the supplies are covered with board tops, none of which are tight enough to exclude all impurities; nine have concrete tops; seven cast iron, and five are of sand rock.



FIG. 8.—Filter without filtering material and with trash in pipe.

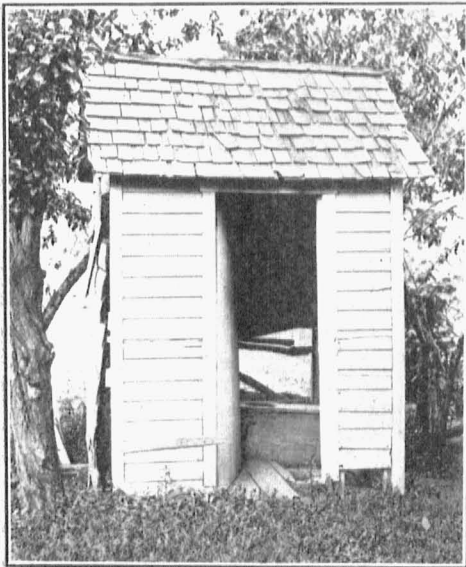


FIG. 9.—A privy that offers neither privacy nor protection.

Disposal of human waste.—Only two homes were equipped with sanitary toilet with water carriage, the discharge being carried out in a drain to the surface. At one farm the privy was provided with a box which was cleaned and disinfected at regular intervals; at the remaining forty-seven farms, ordinary, unsanitary, surface privies were in use. They are open and have no protection from the flies. They are unventilated and disagreeable and some of them give neither protection nor privacy. A great improvement could easily be made at slight expense by constructing a concrete vault and providing ventilation.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.

Ashland Community is much above the average Missouri rural community in economic prosperity and social life.

Community spirit is represented by the church building which these people have recently erected and by the great number of social gatherings which they attend together.

The community is prospereous as is indicated by the fact that practically all the farmers own their own homes and by the methods of conducting their business transactions.

The community is exceptional in its educational status and educational equipment, there being a great many college men and women in the community, excellent grade schools, a four-year high school and excellent reading materials in practically all the homes.

The farms of the community are well equipped for production and the system of farming is one that is calculated to foster both soil conservation and greater production in the future.

The greatest two weaknesses in the community are lack of modern homes equipped with labor-saving devices for the farm women, and lack of proper sanitary conditions about the houses. There are only two homes with plumbing systems, two with hot-air furnaces and four with lights other than kerosene. The impure condition of the water for drinking purposes and the lack of attention to proper methods of disposal of human wastes indicate the lack of appreciation of factors that greatly affect life on the farm.

The writers believe that Ashland Community is unique in some of its points of strength. Its equipment for educational and religious life and its habits of good fellowship are worthy examples. They believe, on the other hand, that weaknesses of home equipment and home sanitation are common to many other farming communities. They should like therefore to recommend to the farmers in this and other rural communities that they pay more attention to the home and the home equipment; that they give as much attention to equipping the house with labor-saving devices as to equipping the farm for production; that they make conditions sanitary and provide an adequate supply of pure water; that the home be made for the family what the community center is for the community—the best possible.