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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

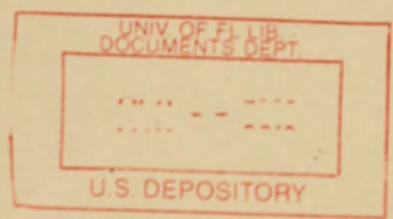
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THE DIVISION OF FARM POPULATION AND RURAL LIFE.

An Outline of Its Establishment, Staff,
Cooperative Policy, Research Problems,
Publications.

An Explanatory Statement to Persons Interested in Rural Life
Problems.

Washington, D. C.
June 1, 1924.



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DIVISION OF FARM POPULATION AND RURAL LIFE.

U. S. Department of Agriculture,

C. J. Galpin, In Charge.

Introduction.

The purpose of this paper is to answer, first of all, questions which naturally arise about the Division of Farm Population and Rural Life and its field of operations. A second aim - and by no means an unimportant one - is to arouse interest in scientific study of the life side of agriculture and the farm population, (especially, perhaps, the group aspects or family poolings of expenditures for well-being) as an indispensable aid to national development.

Establishment of the Division.

In a very real sense the Division of Farm Population and Rural Life is a fulfillment, belated in point of time, of President Roosevelt's desire for a Federal Government unit studying the needs of country life.

The Division was established under the authority of the Honorable D. F. Houston, Secretary of Agriculture, May 12, 1919, upon the recommendation of a committee of twenty-eight rural social workers and students of farm life appointed by Secretary Houston. This committee met in Washington, May 1, 2, 3, 1919, upon request of the Secretary of Agriculture, to outline the work to be undertaken by the Division. Under the leadership of G. I. Christie, who, at that time was Assistant Secretary of Agriculture, and under the Chairmanship of Professor T. M. Carver of Harvard University, who had been in charge of the Rural Organization project in the Department, a report was made to the Secretary of Agriculture which was subsequently printed as Circular 139, Office of the Secretary.

The Division Staff of Workers.

Charles Josiah Galpin was appointed Economist in Charge of the Division May 12, 1919, and is still in charge: A graduate of Harvard University; Associate Professor of Agricultural Economics in the University of Wisconsin from 1912 to 1919, having charge of the rural life courses.

Wayne C. Nason, Junior Economist, transferred from the Division of Rural Organization of the Bureau of Markets to this Division in 1919. A graduate of the University of Minnesota.

Veda B. Larson, Junior Economist, appointed July 1, 1921: A graduate of the University of Wisconsin.

E. L. Kirkpatrick, Assistant Agricultural Economist, appointed October 2, 1922: A graduate of Cornell University.

The Clerical staff includes Mildred H. Niles, Head Clerk, transferred July 1, 1919; Virginia K. Patterson, appointed April 25, 1922; Helen A. Robinson, transferred Dec. 16, 1922; Constance F. Harris, transferred May 1, 1924; Edna M. Downey, appointed June 2, 1924.

Temporary clerks are employed from time to time to assist in tabulation of statistical data.

Housing of the Division.

The Division occupies rooms number 713, 714, 716 seventh floor of the building at 1358 B. St., S.W., and tabulating rooms number 239 and 246, "F" Building, 7th and B. Sts., N.W. Visitors interested in any phase of country life are cordially welcome from 9.00 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. The Division is at the service of such visitors and will assist them in gaining information which is available in Washington.

The Division Budget.

The Division has a budget of \$30,000 for the fiscal year 1924. No increase was provided for 1924 - 1925. It requires for the expenses of the Washington office and staff out of this amount the sum of about \$20,000. This leaves at present the sum of \$10,000 to be utilized directly in cooperative projects with other research agencies. Very little further increase in expenses would be required to administer in cooperative projects an additional \$50,000.

COOPERATION WITH COLLEGES, UNIVERSITIES, AND OTHER RESEARCH AGENCIES.

Policy.

It is at present the policy of the Division to seek cooperation in research projects and investigate studies with other responsible research agencies, as a means of accumulating a body of scientific knowledge on the problems of farm population and rural life; rather than to carry on researches independently with a highly organized Division staff located in Washington, or maintained at field stations in the various states.

Cooperative Agencies.

The greater number of research agencies available for cooperation with this Division is that of colleges of agriculture. There are cases where state universities and colleges other than state colleges can legitimately undertake with the Division relations of cooperative research. The college of agriculture in any State will have the first chance; if it does not desire to cooperate with the Division, then other research agencies will have the opportunity. It should be said, however, that it is inadvisable for other agencies in a state to undertake formal research in rural matters with the Division, in conflict with the judgment of the State college of agriculture.

Procedure.

1. A written agreement between the Bureau of Agricultural Economics and the cooperating agency - such as the State College of Agriculture, University, or Institute of Research - signed by both the Chief of the Bureau and the administrative head of the other agency, is the first formal step in cooperation. The terms of this agreement are usually arrived at by some informal discussion and agreement of the Division head and the rural department head of the cooperating agency.

2. The first important item of the cooperative agreement is the particular problem to study. A problem is usually selected which has value in the State and at the same time fits into a scheme of national problems possessing possibilities of regional comparison. The state is favored so far as possible in the selection of a problem.

3. Financing a project of research has several angles. It is expected that the Division will pay half the cost of a study and the cooperating agency half. The Division tries to make the sum of \$150. pay for its 50-50 share of a small one-year study; and \$750. pay for its share of a large one-year study. In other words, there are many small studies which can be made for \$300; many large studies for \$1500. Occasionally a study will take two years, and two appropriations of money. The money is used for salaries of field investigators, for their travel expenses and subsistence, and for necessary clerical assistance, and certain miscellaneous service.

4. The field investigators are virtually always found and provided by the college or other cooperating agency, not by the Division. Graduate students, young instructors, or others in the state specially qualified - such as high school teachers doing a thesis for a college degree - usually become the field agents. These agents when agreed upon receive appointment from the U.S. Department of Agriculture and become for the time being employees of the Federal Government. Sometimes the money furnished by the Division goes to pay the salary of the agent, sometimes, to pay his expenses, sometimes both; while the cooperating agency may in the first instance pay expenses; in the second, salary; in the third, both salary and expenses of another field agent.

5. Direct supervision of field work belongs as a function to the leader of the project in the cooperating agency. Counsel, coaching agents, standard methods, schedules, some supplies and the postal franking privilege are furnished by the Division.

6. Statistics gathered are frequently tabulated by the Division. This is a matter of mutual agreement.

7. Publication of results of the cooperative study may be separate or joint as agreed. Most frequently the college or other cooperating agency prints in bulletin form. Sometimes the Division prints. When the college or other agency prints, the Division is usually furnished from 300 to 2,000 copies of the bulletin for national distribution. Publications of the Division or of the cooperating agency will be furnished to applicants as long as the free editions are not exhausted.

RESEARCH STUDIES.

A.

Studies Which Have Been Completed by the Division Staff and Published Or Are Awaiting Publication.

I.

Studies Published by the U. S. Department of Agriculture or in Press.

1. THE MIGRATION OF ADOLESCENTS AND YOUNG ADULTS. From about 1,000 farms in one community over a period of 100 years. By Emily F. Hoag. U.S. Department of Agriculture Bulletin No. 984.
2. RURAL COMMUNITY BUILDINGS: By Wayne C. Nason.
Plans of Rural Community Buildings, Farmers' Bulletin No. 1173.
Organization of Rural Community Buildings. Farmers' Bulletin No. 1192.
Uses of Rural Community Buildings. Farmers' Bulletin No. 1274.
3. RURAL PLANNING: By Wayne C. Nason.
The Social Aspects. Farmers' Bulletin No. 1325.
Recreation Places: Farmers' Bulletin No. 1388.
Village and Town Planning: Farmers' Bulletin. In prospect.

4. THE FARM POPULATION OF EIGHT SELECTED COUNTIES, (viz. Ellis County, Texas; Dane County, Wisconsin; Wake County, North Carolina; King County, Washington; Cass County, North Dakota; Otsego County, New York; Scott and New Madrid Counties, Missouri) CHARACTERISTICS, COMPOSITION AND OCCUPATIONS. By C.J. Galpin and Veda B. Larson.
To be published as part of a Monograph on Farm Population by the Bureau of the Census. In press.

5. THE STANDARD AND COST OF LIVING OF FARM FAMILIES. By E.L. Kirkpatrick and Helen W. Atwater. The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Department Bulletin No. 1214.

The Cost of Living in Farm Homes in Several Areas of Kentucky, Tennessee, and Texas. A Preliminary Report.

Cost of Living in Farm Homes, Mason County, Kentucky. A Preliminary Report.

Cost of Living in Farm Homes in Several Areas of Iowa. A Preliminary Report.

6. THE ADVANTAGES OF FARM LIFE. By Emily Hoag Sawtelle.
A study by interviews and correspondence with 8,000 farm women.
(A Digest of an Unpublished Manuscript).

7. DIRECTORY OF TEACHERS GIVING COURSES IN RURAL SOCIOLOGY AND RURAL LIFE.

1. January 1, 1922.

2. May 1, 1923.

October 1, 1924. (in prospect)

II.

Studies Published by Universities.

1. A SOCIAL STUDY OF RAVALLI COUNTY, MONTANA. By Walter H. Baumgartel.
The Agricultural Experiment Station, University of Montana, Bull. No. 160.
2. THE STANDARD OF LIFE IN A TYPICAL SECTION OF DIVERSIFIED FARMING.
By E.L. Kirkpatrick. Cornell University, Agricultural Experiment Station, Bull. 423.

B.

Studies Which Have Been Completed by Investigators of Certain Colleges and Universities, in Cooperation with the Division of Farm Population and Rural Life; and Published by the Colleges or Universities.

1. FRENCH CREEK AS A RURAL COMMUNITY. By A.J. Dadiaman.
West Virginia University, Agricultural Experiment Station, Bull. 176.
2. RURAL PRIMARY GROUPS: A Study of Agricultural Neighborhoods. By J.H. Kolb.
University of Wisconsin, Agricultural Experiment Station, Research Bull. 51.

3. READING MATTER IN NEBRASKA FARM HOMES. By J.O.Rankin.
The University of Nebraska, The Agricultural Experiment Station. Bull. 180.
4. THE NEBRASKA FARM FAMILY. By J.O.Rankin.
The University of Nebraska, The Agricultural Experiment Station. Bull. 185.
5. RURAL ORGANIZATION: A Study of Primary Groups in Wake County, N.C.
By Carle C.Zimmerman and Carl C.Taylor.
North Carolina State College of Agriculture and Engineering. The Agricultural Experiment Station Bull. 245.
6. SOME FACTORS IN TOWN AND COUNTRY RELATIONSHIPS. By Augustus W.Hayes.
The Tulane University of Louisiana. Research Bulletin. Unnumbered.
7. HOW FARM TENANTS LIVE. By J.A.Dickey and E.C.Branson.
The University of North Carolina. Extension Bull. Vol. II. No. 6.
8. NEBRASKA FARM HOMES: A Comparison of Some Living Conditions of Owners, Part Owners, and Tenants. By J.O.Rankin. The University of Nebraska, The Agricultural Experiment Station Bull. 191.
9. RURAL LIFE IN ARKANSAS AT ITS BEST. By O. T. Gooden.
Hendrix College, Arkansas. Rural Series, No. 1.
10. THREE NEGRO COMMUNITIES IN TIDEWATER VIRGINIA. By Allen B.Doggett, Jr.
The Hampton Normal and Industrial Institute, The Hampton Bull. Vol. XIX, No. 4.
11. NEBRASKA FARM TENANCY: Some Community Phases. By J.O.Rankin.
The University of Nebraska, The Agricultural Experiment Station, Bull. 196.
12. THE SOCIAL AREAS OF OTSEGO COUNTY (New York). By Dwight Sanderson and Warren S.Thompson. Cornell University, The Agricultural Experiment Station, Bull. 422.
13. SERVICE RELATIONS OF TOWN AND COUNTRY. By J.H.Kolb.
The University of Wisconsin. The Agricultural Experiment Station, Research Bull. 58.
14. ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF NORTH CAROLINA FARMERS.
Based on a Survey of 1,000 North Carolina Farmers in Three Typical Counties of the State. By Carl C. Taylor and C.C.Zimmerman. Committee Appointed by the State Board of Agriculture.
15. EXAMPLES OF COMMUNITY ENTERPRISES IN LOUISIANA. By Augustus W.Hayes.
The Tulane University of Louisiana, Research Bull. No. 3.
16. THE SOCIAL ASPECTS OF RURAL LIFE AND FARM TENANCY, CEDAR COUNTY, IOWA.
By Geo. H.Von Tungeln, E.L.Kirkpatrick, C.R.Hoffer, J.F.Thaden.
Iowa State College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts, The Agricultural Experiment Station Bull. No. 217.

C.

Papers and Addresses of C. J. Galpin - Issued as Mimeographs.

1. Decrease in the U. S. Rural Population.
2. Farm Population Studies.
3. The Village in Relation to the Surrounding Country.
4. The Role of Rural Education in Community Life.
5. Sociological Aspects of Highway Transportation.
6. The American Farm Community: What It Is and How It Functions.
7. Rural Life in American Art.
8. Rural and Urban Life in America.
9. Can the Farm Family Afford Modern Institutions?

D.

Studies in Progress by the Division Staff.

1. COST-CONSUMPTION UNITS:
Measures of Family Living on Farms. (An endeavor to attain units of measure of a scientific character) By E. L. Kirkpatrick.
2. THE SOCIAL ASPECTS OF GENERAL HOSPITALS FOR FARM COMMUNITIES.
(A study of what is being done for the farmer's health). By Wayne C. Nason.
3. THE MOVEMENTS OF POPULATION TO AND FROM FARMS. (An attempt to chart the movements and render annually the service of a report) By Veda B. Larson.

E.

Studies Unpublished or in Progress By Investigators Furnished by Colleges, Universities and Other Agencies in Cooperation With The Division of Farm Population and Rural Life.

1. A STUDY OF THE BEST RURAL INSTITUTIONS IN THE STATE (or in selected counties of a state) A method, constructive in character, of erecting standards of institutions.

Illinois -	Milo L. Whittaker	Northern Ill. State Teachers' Coll.
New Jersey -	Henry Keller, Jr.	State College of Agriculture,
Texas -	W. E. Garnett	State College of Agriculture.
Virginia -	Wilson Gee	University of Virginia.
Washington -	Fred R. Yoder	State College of Agriculture.

2. MOVEMENTS OF POPULATION TO AND FROM FARMS.
(An attempt to understand the reasons for and effects of rural migration).

Kansas -	Walter Burr	State College of Agriculture.
Missouri -	E. L. Morgan	State College of Agriculture.

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3. SOCIAL ASPECTS OF CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT GROUPS.
(A study of this group as a social unit).

Michigan - Eben Mumford State College of Agriculture.

4. THE FARMER'S STANDARD OF LIVING.
(A uniform set of studies of statistical character related to cost).

Alabama - Myrtle Brooks Alabama College.
Connecticut - I. G. Davis State College of Agriculture.
Iowa - George Von Tungeln State College of Agriculture.
Kansas - Walter Durr State College of Agriculture.
Kentucky - W. D. Nicholls State College of Agriculture.
Missouri - E. L. Morgan State College of Agriculture.
Ohio - Bruce Melvin Ohio Wesleyan University.
Nebraska - J. O. Rankin State College of Agriculture.
New York - Dwight Sanderson State College of Agriculture.

5. SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC RELATIONS OF THE COUNTRY TOWN AND ITS SURROUNDING FARM POPULATION. (Detailed studies of particular towns).

Minnesota - C. R. Hoffer State College of Agriculture.
New York - Bruce Melvin State College of Agriculture.
Ohio - Cecil North Ohio State University.
Wisconsin - J. H. Kolb State College of Agriculture.

6. FARM HOUSING AND FARM HOME CONDITIONS.
(Particularly a study of farm tenant conditions).

Texas - W. E. Garnett State College of Agriculture.
Virginia - (Allen B. Doggett, Jr. Hampton Institute.
(J. B. Pierce Virginia Negro Extension Service.

7. RURAL MUNICIPALITIES.
(A study of prevailing types of American local rural government).

Arkansas-- Theodore B. Manny Hendrix College, Arkansas.

8. ADAPTATION OF FARM FAMILIES TO TYPICAL REGIONS.
(A study of social and economic adjustment of settlers).

Colorado - B. F. Coen State College of Agriculture.

9. STORY OF THE RISE OF THE 100 BEST NEGRO FARMERS IN TENNESSEE.
(An attempt to bring biography of the successful to bear on life).

Tennessee - Thomas Caruthers Fisk University.

10. THE UTAH TYPE OF AGRICULTURAL VILLAGE.

(A social photograph of a single village community).

Utah - Lowry Nelson Brigham Young University.

11. RURAL ORGANIZATION IN THE UNITED STATES.

(A study in social psychology from documents of farm organizations).

North Carolina - C.C.Taylor State College of Agriculture.

12. ATTITUDES OF FARMERS TOWARD COOPERATIVE MARKETING.

(A study of the psychology of farmers).

Minnesota - C.C.Zimmerman State College of Agriculture.

13. THE AMERICAN VILLAGE.

(A statistical analysis of the population of 150 villages, based on the 1920 U. S. Census Population schedules).

New York - Edmund deS. Brunner Institute of Social and Religious Research.

A Rural Research Ideal For Each State.

Knowing the farm population of a state in detail, as the animal husbandry department of a state college knows the cattle of a state, is an ideal none too high for those responsible for the social problems of the farm population. Such an ideal means study, research, investigation. It means acquaintance with the group life of farmers, with their institutions, homes, standards, facilities. And such acquaintance is not yet in books. It must be ferreted out. And there are ways of doing this.

A State Program of Rural Social Research.

1. The rural sociologist and the farm economist are close partners in farm problems. Each can utilize at some point the findings of the other. Both of these should first of all know the best things rural in the state. This can be an elementary first project of social research. Several states are now making this type of study.

2. The farm population of a state, by counties, should be known and kept revised year by year, tabulated broadly by race, color, sex, age groups, tenure, labor status. Sources for a beginning are now provided by the U.S. Census Bureau report of 1920 on Farm Population.

3. The movements of population to and from the farms of the state may very well be made a major subject of investigation.

4. The farmer's standard of living, its cost, the distribution of expenditures among the various wants of his family are also major problems which go along with the economic studies of income and profit-making.



5. A study of farm housing is a basic need now; the housing of tenants and farm laborers especially.

6. The problem of whether the American farmer can afford modern institutions is well worth study in detail.

To Experiment Station Directors,

The attention of Directors of Agricultural Experiment Stations is called to these research studies. It is a matter of surprise how good a study can be made on \$200 of College money, - a study which when once printed in the State will help other agricultural and economic problems. Is it not a grave mistake to put off beginning studies of the farm family expenditures, studies of the malformed or inadequate groupings of farm families engaged in collective expenditures and collective well-being, - a mistake to put these off "until the production and marketing studies have been made which are so pressing?" Will you not do the agriculture of your state a greater service to keep some study of FARM POPULATION AND RURAL LIFE going all the time you are troubled by the problems of farm production, farm finance, crop and animal pathology? The Division of Farm Population and Rural Life welcomes an inquiry from you about the small cost of initial studies.

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