

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATION

C. J. GALPIN, *Chairman*

The Committee on Investigation limits itself this year to the mention and brief discussion of a few studies which have been printed or been made during the last twelve or fourteen months,—studies bearing more or less upon the American farm home; and some studies bearing very directly on the farm home but which have not yet reached print.

STUDIES IN PRINT

“Some Factors in Town and Country Relationships,” a research bulletin by Dr. A. W. Hayes, published in September, 1922, by Tulane University of Louisiana. This document gives the results of a careful study of seven Louisiana trade centers. Dr. Hayes opens the subject of the effect upon the farm home of the types of mercantile centers which attempt to serve the farm family.

“The Nebraska Farm Family,” Bulletin No. 185, and “Nebraska Farm Homes,” Bulletin No. 191, by Professor J. O. Rankin, published by the Agricultural Experiment Station of the University of Nebraska, both in 1923. These are studies of 1,000 farm homes which give many aspects of the farm life of Nebraska. While not a rosy presentation, the studies will be counted as optimistic on the whole.

“How Farm Tenants Live,” Extension Bulletin of the University of North Carolina, by J. A. Dickey and E. C. Branson, issued November, 1922. This bulletin is a presentation of the study of 329 farm homes in Chatham County, North Carolina. The picture of poverty among tenants is painted with severe realism. Some relief is appreciated in the attempt to suggest positive measures in amelioration of tenant conditions.

“Rural Life in Arkansas at Its Best,” a Hendrix College bulletin by Professor T. T. Gooden. This study confessedly picks the best things rural in Arkansas for description, pictorial representation with an account of genesis and history of each.

"Three Negro Communities in Tidewater Virginia," a Hampton Normal and Agricultural Institute bulletin by Professor Allen B. Doggett, Jr., issued in October, 1923. The bulletin tells the story of three groups of colored people, where leadership and hard thinking having prevailed over a period of years, won out.

"Rural Planning, The Social Aspects," Farmers' Bulletin No. 1325, by W. C. Nason, published by the U. S. Department of Agriculture. This pamphlet is the opening bulletin in a series, which attempts to present some of the best instances of rural beautification in various states.

It is gratifying to the Committee that a start has been made to study rural social conditions in the Colleges and Universities named.

STUDIES ON THE WAY TO PRINT

A "Monograph on Farm Population," is in preparation by the Bureau of the Census which will, for the first time, deal quite minutely with various statistical aspects of our farm population. It may be confidently asserted that the statistical concept of Farm Population has been established, and will in all likelihood supersede and displace the concept of Rural Population, in matters connected directly with agriculture.

A forthcoming study of "Village and Town Life in America," is in prospect under the auspices of the Institute of Religious and Social Research, New York City. As a basis for this piece of research, a field study of 150 villages is in progress.

One thousand farms and farm homes situated in the three regions of North Carolina, have been surveyed by a Commission appointed by the Governor of the State, of which Commission, Dr. C. C. Taylor is a member and Dr. Clarence Poe is Chairman. The results are approaching publication. It is expected that the findings will have a bearing upon the tenancy situation in North Carolina. The landless man and landless family in North Carolina are put in the limelight. What is done by North Carolina in respect to making a better home for its landless land workers, whether white or colored, will receive a good deal of national attention.

Dr. E. L. Kirkpatrick's study of the family living of 402 farm families in Livingston County, New York, has nearly, if not actually, reached print at Cornell University, as well as in the U. S. Department of Agriculture. This study will rank as the first thorough-

going investigation into the cost of the farmers' living. It also leads the way to establishing a sound method of measuring the living of families of differing age and sex requirements. The following table presents the average expenditures by families for the year ending September, 1921.

TABLE 1

AVERAGE EXPENDITURES IN 402 FAMILIES IN LIVINGSTON COUNTY, NEW YORK, FOR THE YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 1, 1921, FOR VARIOUS ITEMS AS SHOWN BY THE VALUE OF MATERIALS PURCHASED AND OF PAID LABOR AND BY THAT OF MATERIALS FURNISHED BY THE FARM, OF GIFTS OF CLOTHING, AND OF UNPAID LABOR

Item	Owner Families (295)			Tenant Families (107)		
	Furnished	Purchased	Total	Furnished	Purchased	Total
Food	\$399.00	\$379.00	\$778.00	\$398.00	\$441.00	\$839.00
Clothing	4.00	269.00	273.00	5.00	288.00	293.00
Rent	237.00	.....	237.00	226.00	.....	226.00
Fuel	56.00	90.00	146.00	69.00	72.00	141.00
All other expenses.	34.00	515.00	549.00	29.00	570.00	599.00
Other operating expenses	34.00	84.00	118.00	29.00	109.00	138.00
Maintenance of health .....	.....	76.00	76.00	.....	102.00	102.00
Advancement ...	.....	318.00	318.00	.....	327.00	327.00
Personal .....	.....	23.00	23.00	.....	25.00	25.00
Unclassified ....	.....	14.00	14.00	.....	7.00	7.00
Total	\$730.00	\$1253.00	\$1983.00	\$727.00	\$1371.00	\$2098.00

The following table shows the distribution of the average expenditures as shown in the foregoing table:

TABLE 2

DISTRIBUTION OF AVERAGE EXPENDITURES FOR ONE YEAR AMONG DIFFERENT GROUPS OF ITEMS AS SHOWN IN THE PRESENT STUDY OF FARM FAMILIES AND IN A PREVIOUS STUDY OF FAMILIES OF INDUSTRIAL WORKERS

402 Farm Families, Livingston County, New York, 1920-21.

Item	Owner Families (295)	Tenant Families (107)
	Per cent	Per cent
Food	39.2	40.0
Clothing	13.8	14.0
Rent	11.9	10.8
Fuel	7.4	6.7
All other purposes	27.7	28.6
Other operating expenses.....	5.9	6.6
Maintenance of health.....	3.8	4.9
Advancement	16.0	15.6
Personal	1.2	1.2
Unclassified .....	.7	.3

A study of 860 farm families was made by Mr. J. T. Sanders, of the Division of Land Economics, U. S. Department of Agriculture, in Texas, Tennessee, and Kentucky in the year 1919. The following tables present contrasts with the New York study.

TABLE 3

AVERAGE EXPENDITURES IN OWNER'S AND TENANT'S FAMILIES IN CERTAIN AREAS OF KENTUCKY FOR THE YEAR 1919, TENNESSEE FOR THE YEAR 1919-20, AND TEXAS FOR THE YEAR 1919

	<i>Kentucky</i>					
	Owner Families (115)			Tenant Families (93)		
	Furnished	Purchased	Total	Furnished	Purchased	Total
Food	531.7	308.4	840.1	481.5	356.2	837.7
Clothing .....	....	284.1	284.1	....	255.4	255.4
Rent	274.5	....	274.5	163.3	0.9	164.2
Furnishings .....	....	19.0	19.0	....	41.9	41.9
Operating	10.4	260.8	271.2	10.3	208.8	219.1
Health .....	....	91.0	91.0	....	86.8	86.8
Advancement ...	....	155.7	155.7	....	75.2	75.2
Personal .....	....	13.5	13.5	....	14.9	14.9
Savings .....	....	47.2	47.2	....	36.9	36.9
Unclassified .....	....	7.0	7.0	....	....	....
Total	816.6	1186.7	2003.3	655.1	1077.0	1732.1
	<i>Tennessee</i>					
	Owner Families (194)			Tenant Families (52)		
Food	339.7	149.0	488.7	285.6	150.0	435.6
Clothing .....	....	232.3	232.3	....	173.9	173.9
Rent	165.5	.5	166.0	83.8	12.6	96.4
Furnishings .....	....	24.7	24.7	....	8.6	8.6
Operating	29.2	132.3	161.5	24.9	48.1	73.0
Health .....	....	68.3	68.3	....	18.7	18.7
Advancement ...	....	124.4	124.4	....	54.7	54.7
Personal .....	.4	16.5	16.9	.7	13.3	14.0
Savings .....	....	41.5	41.5	....	24.1	24.1
Unclassified .....	....	.8	.8	....	....	....
Total	534.8	790.3	1325.1	395.0	504.0	899.0
	<i>Texas</i>					
	Owner Families (102)			Tenant Families (176)		
Food	477.7	272.5	750.2	367.0	263.9	630.9
Clothing .....	....	381.8	381.8	....	263.8	263.8
Rent	120.8	.8	121.6	81.2	3.9	85.1
Furnishings (5.9 fuel) .....	....	66.1	66.1 (7.4F)	....	23.7	23.7
Operating (1.4 other)	7.3	229.2	236.5 (.20)	7.6	145.3	152.9
Health .....	....	68.8	68.8	....	69.9	69.9
Advancement ...	....	112.9	112.9	....	37.2	37.2
Personal .....	....	21.3	21.3	....	21.3	21.3
Savings .....	....	48.3	48.3	....	4.07	4.07
Unclassified .....	....	1.5	1.5	....	6.4	6.4
Total	605.8	1203.2	1809.0	455.8	876.1	1331.9

TABLE 4

PROPORTION OF AVERAGE EXPENDITURES FOR ONE YEAR FOR DIFFERENT GROUPS OF ITEMS AS SHOWN IN STUDIES OF FARM FAMILIES OF CERTAIN AREAS OF KENTUCKY (1920), TENNESSEE (1920), AND TEXAS (1919)

Item	Owner Families		Tenant Families	
	<i>Kentucky</i>		<i>Tennessee</i>	
	(115)	(93)	(194)	(52)
Food	41.9	48.4	36.9	48.5
Clothing	14.2	14.7	17.5	19.3
Rent	13.7	9.5	12.5	10.7
Furnishings .....	.9	2.4	1.9	.9
Operating Costs	13.5	12.7	12.2	8.1
Maintenance of Health	4.5	5.0	5.2	2.1
Advancement	7.8	4.3	9.3	6.1
Personal .....	.7	.9	1.3	1.6
Savings	2.4	2.1	3.1	2.7
Unclassified .....	.4	.0	.1	...
	<i>Tennessee</i>		<i>Texas</i>	
	(102)	(176)	(102)	(176)
Food	41.5	47.4	41.5	47.4
Clothing	21.1	19.8	21.1	19.8
Rent	6.7	6.4	6.7	6.4
Furnishings	3.6	1.8	3.6	1.8
Operating Costs	13.1	11.5	13.1	11.5
Maintenance of Health	3.8	5.2	3.8	5.2
Advancement	6.2	2.8	6.2	2.8
Personal	1.2	1.6	1.2	1.6
Savings	2.7	3.0	2.7	3.0
Unclassified .....	.1	.5	.1	.5

Under the direction of Dr. Kirkpatrick similar studies have been made of 300 farm families by Professor Walter Burr in Kansas; of 500 families by Professor George H. Von Tungeln in Iowa; of 300 families by Professor W. D. Nicholls in Kentucky; of 400 families by Professor Bruce Melvin in Ohio. From these and other research studies it is hoped that the farmers' standard of living will become much better known than it is at present.

A study of housing in 1,000 Texas farm homes, with special refer-

ence to white tenant farm homes, is in progress under the immediate supervision of Dr. W. E. Garnett, of the State College of Agriculture of Texas. It is expected that this study will furnish facts which will lead to a housing law for Texas farm tenants.

A LOOK AHEAD

The foregoing array of studies, completed or in progress, may well bring a measure of satisfaction to the National Country Life Conference. People are getting a taste of rural social research. Colleges are learning how to do it. Experiment Stations are printing the results. The outlook is good for studies of a character a little more exacting following those somewhat elementary in character.

The new Bureau of Home Economics in the U. S. Department of Agriculture is an omen of good for new knowledge of farm home conditions.

The rapid movement of marginal people from farm to city, will be followed soon, we may expect, by a better housing era for farm tenants and farm laborers,—in order to offer a better inducement for farmers to remain in the farming enterprise.

Conclusion. Rural research, as it wins its way a little into public favor, especially through the establishment of statistical concepts and measures, will soon—there is no doubt of it—come to take its place alongside economic research as an accepted interpreter of agriculture and country life. The national point of view will more and more come into use, and every rural community will begin to gain from this larger sweep of understanding.



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THE RURAL HOME

PROCEEDINGS OF THE SIXTH NATIONAL COUNTRY LIFE CONFERENCE

St. Louis, Mo.

1923

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Mechanically convenient
Physically healthful
Morally wholesome
Artistically satisfying
Mentally stimulating
Socially responsible
Spiritually inspiring
Founded upon mutual affection and respect

—*Lita Bane*

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