

AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION  
Oregon State Agricultural College  
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SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS OF APPLICANTS FOR  
RURAL REHABILITATION IN FOURTEEN COUNTIES\*

The information in this report was obtained from application forms used by the county rural rehabilitation supervisors of the State Relief Committee and Rural Rehabilitation Corporation of Oregon to determine the fitness of rural relief families for rehabilitation. The field data were collected from August 1, 1934 to June 30, 1935, in fourteen counties. The total number of schedules studied was 1,041.

The data for each farm refers to conditions existing during the calendar year 1934, unless otherwise stated. All of the material included in the corporation's schedule (RR-2) was not summarized in this report. Only the more significant items have been taken that might be of particular value to persons interested in the welfare of rural farm families.

The counties and number of schedules studied from each were:

| <u>County</u> | <u>Schedules</u> | <u>County</u> | <u>Schedules</u> | <u>County</u> | <u>Schedules</u> |
|---------------|------------------|---------------|------------------|---------------|------------------|
| Clackamas     | 291              | Josephine     | 10               | Marion        | 132              |
| Coos          | 18               | Lane          | 98               | Tillamook     | 55               |
| Curry         | 8                | Linn          | 18               | Umatilla      | 32               |
| Douglas       | 27               | Malheur       | 20               | Washington    | 162              |
| Jackson       | 63               |               |                  | Yamhill       | 107              |

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\*A survey to tabulate this material from existing records of the State Relief Committee and the Rural Rehabilitation Corporation was started in June, 1935 as a state project (S-F2-65) under the direction of the Division of Research, F.E.R.A. The work was later carried on and completed in connection with Project F-48 of the Federal Emergency Relief Administration by C. S. Hoffman, Assistant State Supervisor of Rural Research, under the direction of L. R. Breithaupt, State Supervisor of Rural Research.

Purpose of Study. The purpose for making an analysis of the schedules obtained by the rural rehabilitation supervisors was primarily to assist the Rural Rehabilitation division of the State Relief Committee and the Oregon Rural Rehabilitation Corporation to obtain a cross-section picture of the rural relief situation in Oregon as a prerequisite in formulating a policy for conducting the rural rehabilitation work.

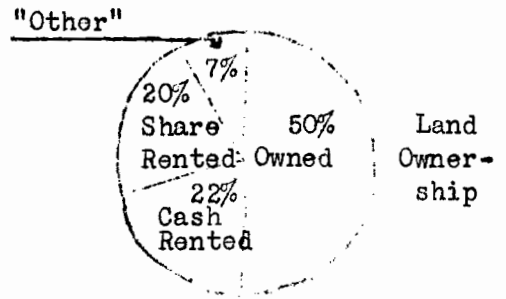
Type of Relief Cases Interviewed. The rural relief cases interviewed represented that portion of the total rural relief load which social service workers of the various county relief committees considered the most likely to be assisted through rural rehabilitation procedure. At the time the work was started, there were about six thousand rural relief cases in Oregon. The group of over one thousand from whom schedules were received was, therefore, the part of the total number of rural relief cases having the most facilities for farming, although the average valuation of the places surveyed was only a little over \$1,200.

In other words, the families in this group had on the average more facilities such as tillable land, farm equipment, machinery, and livestock, than the other five thousand rural relief families which were not recommended for rural rehabilitation. Nevertheless, as will be shown by the following information, the families included in the survey had far less resources for farming than the average of all farms in Oregon, their resources being more nearly like the average part-time farm, but even less.\*

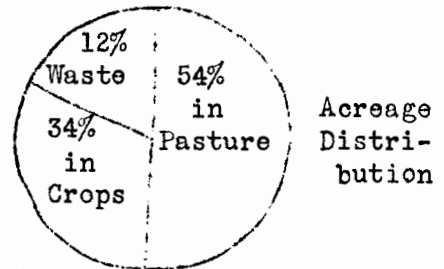
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\*The United States Census of 1934 indicated that the average amount of land per farm in Oregon is 268 acres and the average valuation of land and buildings alone is approximately \$7,000. Bulletin 340 of the Oregon Agricultural Experiment Station, entitled "Part-time Farming in Oregon" which gives the results of a survey of 2,110 part-time farms, indicated an average of approximately 10 acres of land and the average value of land and buildings as \$2,142.

Acreage. The average acreage of all places studied was 35.2 acres. Considering all of the land in the farms studied 50 per cent was owned by the operators, 22 per cent cash rented, 20 per cent share rented and 7 per cent under other arrangements.



The average farm was composed of 12 acres in crops, 19 acres in pasture with 4.2 acres of waste land, as shown in the chart to the right.



Inventory. With the exception of cows, chickens, turkeys and rabbits, there was less than one of each item in the average inventory per farm. One farm out of every two had a horse. There was one steer for every ten farms and one colt for every eight farms. Although the average farm had more than one cow, there were only seven cows for every five farms.

The average value of livestock inventoried in the list was \$113.04 per farm. The average value of feed and seed on hand was \$25.12.

Of tools and equipment, there was less than one of each item per farm. There were four plows for five farms, one truck for every five farms and two autos for every three farms, while only every other farm had a wagon. The average value of equipment and tools per farm was \$58.27.

Cash Income. There was an average of slightly over one ton of crops sold by each farm, bringing, together with products sold from the garden and orchard, \$38.29. Of the items listed under Miscellaneous receipts, milk and cream brought the most (\$19.03), with eggs second (\$14.53), wood third (\$7.03) and poultry fourth (\$5.23). Income from the other items was relatively insignificant for the average family. The total average income from items sold from the farm was \$72.43 and, adding to this the income from garden and orchard, raised the total to \$96.45.

Produce for Home Use. The average value of produce raised on the farm and used in the home was \$122.91, excluding foodstuffs saved for out-of-season use. Foodstuffs saved for out-of-season use averaged \$39.91 per farm. The value of fruit used was the greatest (\$22.19), with vegetables second (\$12.96) and meats third (\$4.28). The other items were not significant.

Estimated Food Supply Produced on Farm. There was a high return of "N. A." entries (Not Ascertainable) for this question. For those farms that made returns, it was found that slightly less than one-third of the year's food supply was produced on the farm.

Non-Farm Income. The income shown in this section is income other than that from the home farm and excludes relief or government benefits of any sort. Two persons worked an average of twenty-three and three-fourths days each per farm during 1934, bringing a total income of \$150.52 to the average farm family.

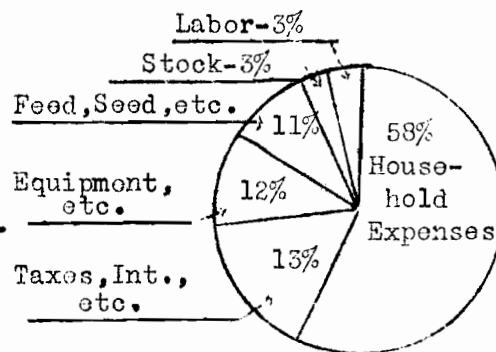
Work History. It was found that the average farm operator made 2.7 shifts during his lifetime from one occupation to another. This included all work done since the age of sixteen. As the average age of the farm operators was forty-four, this would include all occupations during a twenty-eight year period. However, there is some question as to the completeness of the data on this point, and the number of shifts may have been greater.

By a shift of occupation is meant a change of work, for instance, doing carpenter work one month and working in a lumber mill the next month. Such a change would be accounted for as one occupational shift. This includes shifts from farming to other employment.

The average farm operator also made 4.7 shifts from one job to another. This would include a change of employers with the farm operator doing the same type of work for each. Therefore, if a man started work one spring doing carpenter work for one employer, then left that job for another which in turn was completed or relinquished for a third job, he would have made two shifts in employment.

History of Relief. The average farm household received during 1934 \$24.47 from the C. W. A., \$42.90 from the S.E.R.A., and \$25.87 from other relief agencies, making an average for each household of \$93.24 from relief agencies. 83.7 per cent of all families studied received relief during some year. The bulk of them received relief during 1934, the number being 70.5 per cent of all families studied.

Cash Expenses, 1934. The average cash expense during 1934 for all farms was \$405.08. More than half of this was for household expenses. Taxes and interest, equipment and feed and seed each necessitated



about the same amount of expense. The small expense for labor is a result of a number of factors, including smallness of the average farm, inability to hire work done and the increasing practice of "trading" labor with other farm operators.

Net Worth. The average assets of all farms was \$1,212.84, and liabilities were \$673.78, with a net worth of \$539.06.

Savings Prior to 1929. The estimated savings prior to 1929 for each farm household averaged \$524.68 in cash and personal property and \$1,543.61 in real property.

The schedules did not state whether or not this was a clear equity in the property. At any rate the average farm operator had little financial surplus for security when the depression started.

Net Worth When Present Property was Purchased. The estimated net worth at the time of acquisition of the present property was \$852.00, compared with \$539.06, the net worth during 1934, showing a considerable loss since acquisition of the property.

Size of Household. The average farm family was composed of 4.5 members, although the spread was great from extremely small to very large families.

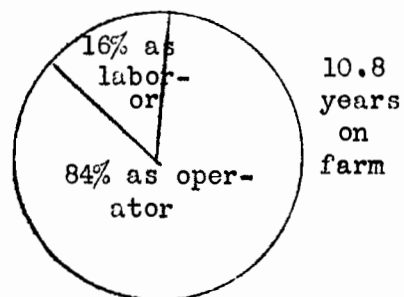
Age and Sex. There was no great disparity in age of members of the household.

The division of the members was quite even between males and females fifteen years and younger, or sixteen years and older.

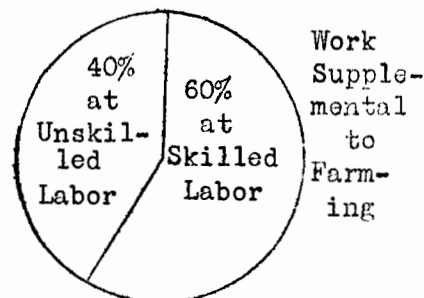
Education. 78.9% of all members finished grade school while only 16.4% finished high school. A very small proportion received any college or university training.

Health. The majority of all persons considered themselves as being in "good" health, with a very small percentage being in "poor" physical conditions.

Employment History. The average farm operator had worked for 9.3 years on farms owned by himself and 1.5 years as a laborer for other farm operators.

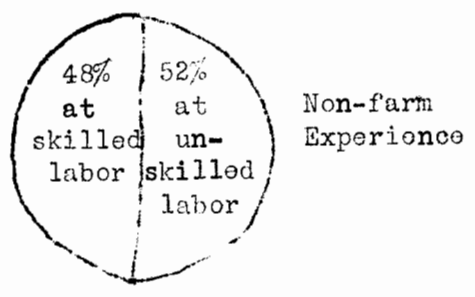


Work supplemental to farming was work the farm operator could do off the farm in addition to his regular farm duties. This was done more frequently where the farm was near logging and

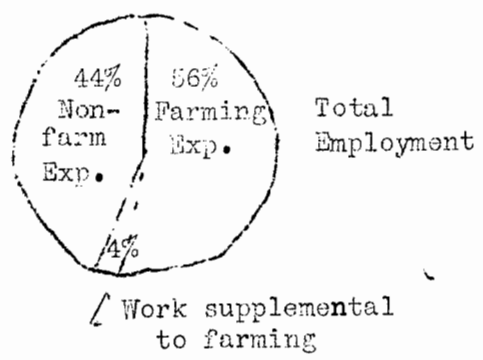


lumbering operations, or near some urban center that used seasonal labor during the slack months for the farmer. With a small acreage, this was almost necessary to help supply the needs of the farm households.

The farm operator's non-farm experience averaged eight and one-half years, almost equalling the years spent on farms.



Summarizing the average farm operator's entire employment history, it was found that 56% of his time since age 16 had been spent operating a farm, and during 4% of that time he obtained work supplemental to farming. The remainder, or 44% of his employment was non-farm experience.



SUMMARY OF TABULATIONS OF DATA FROM 1041

SCHEDULES FROM 14 COUNTIES

I FARM ACREAGE

| (a) Classification       |          | <u>TOTAL</u>   | <u>AVERAGE</u> |
|--------------------------|----------|----------------|----------------|
| 1. owned                 | (19 NA*) | 18,450.2 acres | 18.1 acres     |
| 2. cash rented           | (17 NA)  | 8,180.5        | 8.             |
| 3. share                 | ( 7 NA)  | 7,320.5        | 7.1            |
| 4. other                 | (13 NA)  | 2,010.8        | 2.             |
|                          |          |                |                |
| (b) Acreage Distribution |          |                |                |
| 1. in crops              | (18 NA)  | 12,319.4 acres | 12. acres      |
| 2. in pasture            | (29 NA)  | 19,200.2       | 19.            |
| 3. waste                 | (27 NA)  | 4,442.4        | 4.2            |

II INVENTORY

| (a) Livestock (no. of) |        |               | no. per family |
|------------------------|--------|---------------|----------------|
| 1. horses              |        | 540           | .5             |
| 2. colts               |        | 26            | .02            |
| 3. steers              |        | 92            | .1             |
| 4. heifers             |        | 733           | .7             |
| 5. cows                |        | 1,508         | 1.4            |
| 6. sows                |        | 34            | .03            |
| 7. pigs                |        | 632           | .6             |
| 8. ewes                |        | 556           | .5             |
| 9. lambs               |        | 271           | .3             |
| 10. goats              |        | 684           | .6             |
| 11. chickens           |        | 31,288        | 30.            |
| 12. turkeys            |        | 1,350         | 1.3            |
| 13. rabbits            |        | 1,678         | 1.6            |
| 14. bee hives          |        | 180           | .2             |
|                        |        |               |                |
| TOTAL VALUE            | (2 NA) | \$ 117,449.45 | \$113.04       |

(b) Feed and Seed on Hand (amt.)

|             |        |              |          |
|-------------|--------|--------------|----------|
| 1. clover   | )      |              |          |
| 2. hay      | )      | TOTAL        |          |
| 3. grain    | )      |              |          |
| 4. alfalfa  | )      |              |          |
|             |        |              |          |
| TOTAL VALUE | (2 NA) | \$ 26,099.43 | \$ 25.12 |

\*Indicates number of schedules incomplete with respect to item.



| (c) Equipment, tools, etc. (no. of) | <u>TOTAL</u> | <u>Average<br/>No. per family</u> |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. plows                            | 819          | .8                                |
| 2. wagons (1 NA)                    | 509          | .5                                |
| 3. autos (1 NA)                     | 747          | .7                                |
| 4. trucks                           | 252          | .2                                |
| 5. are these adequate?              |              |                                   |
| yes      740 - - - - -              | 89.9%        |                                   |
| no        83 - - - - -              | 10.1%        |                                   |
| Total Value (14 NA)                 | \$59,843.76  | \$58.27                           |

### III CASH INCOME

#### (a) Crops sold

|                          |             |          |
|--------------------------|-------------|----------|
| 1. hay (1 NA) 822.1 tons |             | .79 tons |
| 2. hay                   | \$6,301.00  | \$ 6.05  |
| 3. grain (3 NA) 141.6 "  |             | .13 tons |
| 4. grain                 | \$5,153.36  | 4.95     |
| 5. potatoes 227.7 "      |             | .2 tons  |
| 6. potatoes (1 NA)       | \$3,385.45  | 3.25     |
| 7. garden & orchard      | \$25,027.67 | 24.04    |

#### (b) Miscellaneous invent. sold

|                        |             |       |
|------------------------|-------------|-------|
| 1. milk and cream      | \$19,810.98 | 19.03 |
| 2. eggs                | 15,126.22   | 14.53 |
| 3. beef                | 2,986.44    | 2.84  |
| 4. honey               | 161.62      | .16   |
| 5. pasture rent        | 1,011.23    | .97   |
| 6. wood                | 7,318.15    | 7.03  |
| 7. wool                | 790.72      | .75   |
| 8. government benefits | 487.05      | .47   |
| 9. veal                | 2,400.18    | 2.30  |
| 10. rabbits            | 734.79      | .71   |
| 11. pork               | 2,021.54    | 1.94  |
| 12. mutton             | 1,041.32    | 1.00  |
| 13. poultry            | 5,448.15    | 5.23  |
| 14. lard               | 314.35      | .30   |

#### (c) Cash Value of

|                                 |             |         |
|---------------------------------|-------------|---------|
| 1. items sold from farm         | \$75,401.07 | \$72.43 |
| 2. items sold from garden (3NA) | 25,004.74   | 24.04   |
| Total Value                     | 100,405.81  | 96.45   |

### IV PRODUCE FOR HOME USE

|                     |              |          |
|---------------------|--------------|----------|
| Total Value (27 NA) | \$124,628.11 | \$122.91 |
|---------------------|--------------|----------|

V Food Stuffs for OUT-OF-SEASON USE

|              |         | <u>TOTAL</u> | <u>AVERAGE</u> |
|--------------|---------|--------------|----------------|
| 1. vegetable | ( 5 NA) | \$13,434.87  | \$12.96        |
| 2. meats     | ( 5 NA) | 4,440.15     | 4.28           |
| 3. fruits    | ( 3 NA) | 23,040.87    | 22.19          |
| 4. fish      | ( 5 NA) | 345.05       | .33            |
| 5. other     | ( 3 NA) | 44.90        | .04            |
| Total value  | ( 6 NA) | 41,305.84    | 39.91          |

VI ESTIMATE PER CENT OF YEAR FOOD SUPPLY WAS PRODUCED ON FARM

(108 NA) 29.26%

VII TOTAL FAMILY INCOME FOR 1934 other than own farm (excluding relief)

|                                |          |              |              |
|--------------------------------|----------|--------------|--------------|
| 1. days worked                 | (233 NA) | 38,407       | 47.5 days    |
| 2. number of<br>family working | (26 NA)  | 1,717        | 1.69 persons |
| Total Income                   | ( 3 NA)  | \$156,245.06 | \$150.52     |

VIII EMPLOYMENT

|                          |       |          |            |
|--------------------------|-------|----------|------------|
| 1. occupational shifts   | 2,721 | ( 51 NA) | 2.7 shifts |
| 2. employment shifts     | 4,645 | ( 55 NA) | 4.7 "      |
| 3. average age of worker |       | ( 3 NA)  | 44 years   |

IX HISTORY OF RELIEF

## (a) From Public Agencies

|             |         |           |         |
|-------------|---------|-----------|---------|
| 1. C.W.A.   | (43 NA) | 24,426.25 | \$24.47 |
| 2. S.E.R.A. | (57 NA) | 42,215.41 | 42.90   |
| 3. other    | (54 NA) | 25,531.59 |         |

## (b) Received Relief

## Families Receiving Relief

|                  |                  |             |
|------------------|------------------|-------------|
| 1. Prior to 1929 | 13               | 1.24%       |
| 2. 1930          | 2 )              |             |
| 3. 1931          | 7 ) less than 1% |             |
| 4. 1932          | 4 )              |             |
| 5. 1933          | 113              | 10.8        |
| 6. 1934          | 731              | <u>70.5</u> |

83.7% of  
all families received  
relief during some  
year.

X CASH EXPENSES IN 1934

|                          | <u>TOTAL</u> | <u>AVERAGE</u> |
|--------------------------|--------------|----------------|
| 1. labor                 | \$11,805.21  | \$11.34        |
| 2. feed, seed, etc.      | 49,206.66    | 48.03          |
| 3. equipment, etc.       | 50,858.10    | 48.85          |
| 4. stock                 | 12,427.84    | 11.94          |
| 5. household expenses    | 245,341.84   | 235.68         |
| 6. taxes, interest, etc. | 53,826.68    | 51.71          |
| Total (3 NA)             | \$420,469.33 | 407.55         |

XI NET WORTH STATEMENT

|                       |                |            |
|-----------------------|----------------|------------|
| 1. assets (8 NA)      | \$1,252,860.86 | \$1,212.84 |
| 2. liabilities (8 NA) | 696,015.39     | 673.78     |
| Net Worth             | 556,845.47     | 539.06     |

XII ESTIMATE SAVINGS PRIOR TO 1929

|                             |               |           |
|-----------------------------|---------------|-----------|
| 1. cash (23 NA)             | \$ 534,124.00 | \$ 524.68 |
| 2. property (value) (33 NA) | 1,555,963.50  | 1,543.61  |

XIII ESTIMATE NET WORTH AT TIME PRESENT PROPERTY WAS ACQUIRED

|                      |               |           |
|----------------------|---------------|-----------|
| Cash Figure (153 NA) | \$ 756,579.62 | \$ 852.00 |
|----------------------|---------------|-----------|

XIV SIZE OF HOUSEHOLD

|                    |     | % of Families |
|--------------------|-----|---------------|
| 1. person          | 36  | 3.4           |
| 2. "               | 136 | 13.1          |
| 3. "               | 162 | 15.6          |
| 4. "               | 184 | 17.7          |
| 5. "               | 144 | 11.9          |
| 6. "               | 121 | 11.6          |
| 7. "               | 104 | 10.0          |
| 8. or more persons | 148 | 14.6          |
|                    | NA  | 2.5           |

XV AGE AND SEX

|                               |       | % of Persons |
|-------------------------------|-------|--------------|
| 1. males 15 or under (4 NA)   | 1,149 | 22.8         |
| 2. females 15 or under (4 NA) | 1,131 | 22.4         |
| 3. males 16 or over (2 NA)    | 1,435 | 28.5         |
| 4. females 16 or over (2 NA)  | 1,323 | 26.3         |

XVI EDUCATION

|   |       | % of persons |
|---|-------|--------------|
| 1. finished grade school (2 NA)                     | 2,479 | 78.9         |
| 2. finished high school (2 NA)                      | 514   | 16.4         |
| 3. finished college (2 NA)                          | 58    | 1.9          |
| 4. received further education<br>or training (1 NA) | 89    | 2.8          |

XVII HEALTH

|                          | <u>TOTAL</u> | <u>AVERAGE</u> |
|--------------------------|--------------|----------------|
| 1. number in good health | 4,077        | 80.9% of per-  |
| 2. number in fair health | 710          | 14.1 sons      |
| 3. number in poor health | 189          | 3.7            |
| Not ascertainable        |              | 1.3            |

XVIII FAMILY EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

|  |          | % Years | Average years<br>worked by head |
|--|----------|---------|---------------------------------|
| (a) Years Worked on Farm               | 10,377.0 | 51.55   | 10.                             |
| 1. as operator (89 NA)                 | 8,893.5  | 44.18   | 9.3                             |
| 2. as laborer (87 NA)                  | 1,483.5  | 7.37    | 1.5                             |
| (b) Employment Supplemental to Farming |          |         |                                 |
|  | 897.5    | 4.46    | .8                              |
| 1. skilled (68 NA)                     | 353      | 1.76    | .4                              |
| 2. non-skilled (86 NA)                 | 544.5    | 2.70    | .6                              |
| (c) Non-farm experience                | 8,854.8  | 43.99   | 8.5                             |
| 1. skilled (101 NA)                    | 4,327    | 21.49   | 4.6                             |
| 2. non-skilled (136 NA)                | 4,527.8  | 22.49   | 5.                              |
|  | <hr/>    | <hr/>   |                                 |
| Total Years Worked                     | 20,129.3 | 100%    |                                 |