

AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION
Oregon State Agricultural College
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Circular of Information No. 157

August, 1936

Preliminary Information Concerning
IMMIGRATION INTO RURAL DISTRICTS IN OREGON
January 1933 to June 1936*

The information presented in this brief circular was obtained by means of a short schedule mailed out to all rural school district clerks in the state of Oregon. The purpose was to assist in determining the approximate number of families which have settled in the rural districts of the state since January 1, 1933, where these people came from, and where they have located in Oregon. It was originally planned to make this a first phase of a more complete survey, the second phase of which was to be concerned with a study of the people themselves, their reasons for coming to Oregon, and their problems in getting established in their new homes.

ESTIMATED TOTAL NUMBER OF IMMIGRANTS

Out of approximately 2,200 rural school district clerks to whom schedules were mailed, 914 returned usable schedules. The schedules were sent only to districts having less than 1000 children between 4 and 20 years of age, according to the school district census. Districts with 1000 or more children are classified as Class One districts and include all of the principal cities in the state with a population of 5000 or more, except 14. The total population represented by the districts covered by the survey was 452,669, according to the 1930 Census. This compares with 464,040 as the "Rural" population reported in the same Census. The U. S. Census classifies all cities below 5000 of population as "Rural," therefore the term "rural districts" as used in this report compares closely to the U. S. Census classification. In no instance were schedules mailed to Class One school districts, as the purpose was to

*This information was prepared by L. R. Breithaupt, State Supervisor of Rural Research, and C. S. Hoffman, Assistant State Supervisor, in connection with Project F-48 of the Federal Emergency Relief Administration.

ascertain as nearly as possible the number of migrants who have settled in the rural districts of the state. The 914 usable schedules showed a total of 1,961 immigrant families residing in the school districts represented.

By means of the annual school census of the State Department of Education, it was determined that the districts reported in each county represented a certain per cent of the total rural school district school age population. On this basis, an estimate was made to indicate the county totals. It appears that had all districts been reported, the total number of such immigrants now residing in the rural school districts of the state would be approximately 5,130 families. As already indicated, data were not obtained in this phase of the study in respect to the number of people in these families and other detail information concerning the families and their problems.

It is interesting to compare this immigration with the rate of farm settlement in Oregon in pioneer days. For instance, the survey indicates that immigration has been proceeding into the rural districts of Oregon since January, 1933, at the rate of approximately 1500 families a year, (not including urban population). This is an annual increase greater than the total number of farms in the state in 1850 (1,164) as shown by the United States Census. Compared with the number of farms in 1880 (16,217), or even with the number in 1935 (64,826), this rate of immigration is significant.

Of course, it cannot be assumed that all of these families have been happily located on Oregon farms, as doubtless many of them are not actually operating farms; nevertheless, the fact that they are located in rural districts is suggestive of important changes occurring in the agricultural areas because of this immigration.

In Table No. 1 which follows, a break down of the estimated total of 5,130 families referred to above is given, according to place of residence in the state of Oregon. It will be observed that 2,467, or 48 per cent are located in the nine Willamette Valley counties; 808, or 15.7 per cent, in three Southwestern Oregon counties; 866, or 16.8 per cent in six Coast and Lower Columbia River counties; 628, or 12.2 per cent in five

Eastern Oregon counties; 217, or 4.2 per cent in six South Central Oregon counties, and 144, or 2.8 per cent in seven North Central Oregon counties.

Table No. 1, Estimated Location of
5130 Immigrant Families Moving
Into Rural School Districts in Oregon,
January 1933 to June 1936,
By Counties and Type of Farming Districts

<u>District No. 1,</u>		: <u>District No. 4,</u>	
<u>Willamette Valley</u>		: <u>North Central Counties</u>	
Benton	105	: Gilliam	-
Clackamas	218	: Hood River	23*
Lane	531	: Morrow	28
Linn	371	: Sherman	-
Marion	355	: Umatilla	61
Multnomah	185	: Wasco	32
Polk	225	: Wheeler	-
Washington	320	: <u>Total . . .</u>	<u>144</u>
Yamhill	<u>157</u>	:	
<u>Total . . .</u>	<u>2,467</u>	:	
<u>District No. 2,</u>		: <u>District No. 5,</u>	
<u>Coastal Counties</u>		: <u>Eastern Counties</u>	
Clatsop	141	: Baker	74
Columbia	297	: Grant	15
Coos	213	: Malheur	451
Curry	34	: Union	79
Lincoln	89*	: Wallowa	9
Tillamook	<u>34</u>	: <u>Total . . .</u>	<u>628</u>
<u>Total . . .</u>	<u>808</u>	:	
<u>District No. 3,</u>		: <u>District No. 6,</u>	
<u>Southwestern Counties</u>		: <u>South Central Counties</u>	
Douglas	330	: Crook	24*
Jackson	267	: Deschutes	52
Josephine	<u>269</u>	: Harney	9
<u>Total . . .</u>	<u>866</u>	: Jefferson	2
		: Klamath	73*
		: Lake	<u>57</u>
		<u>Total . . .</u>	<u>217</u>

*Interpolated on assumption of immigration being proportionate to other counties in the district in relation to the number of farms reported in the U. S. Census of 1935.

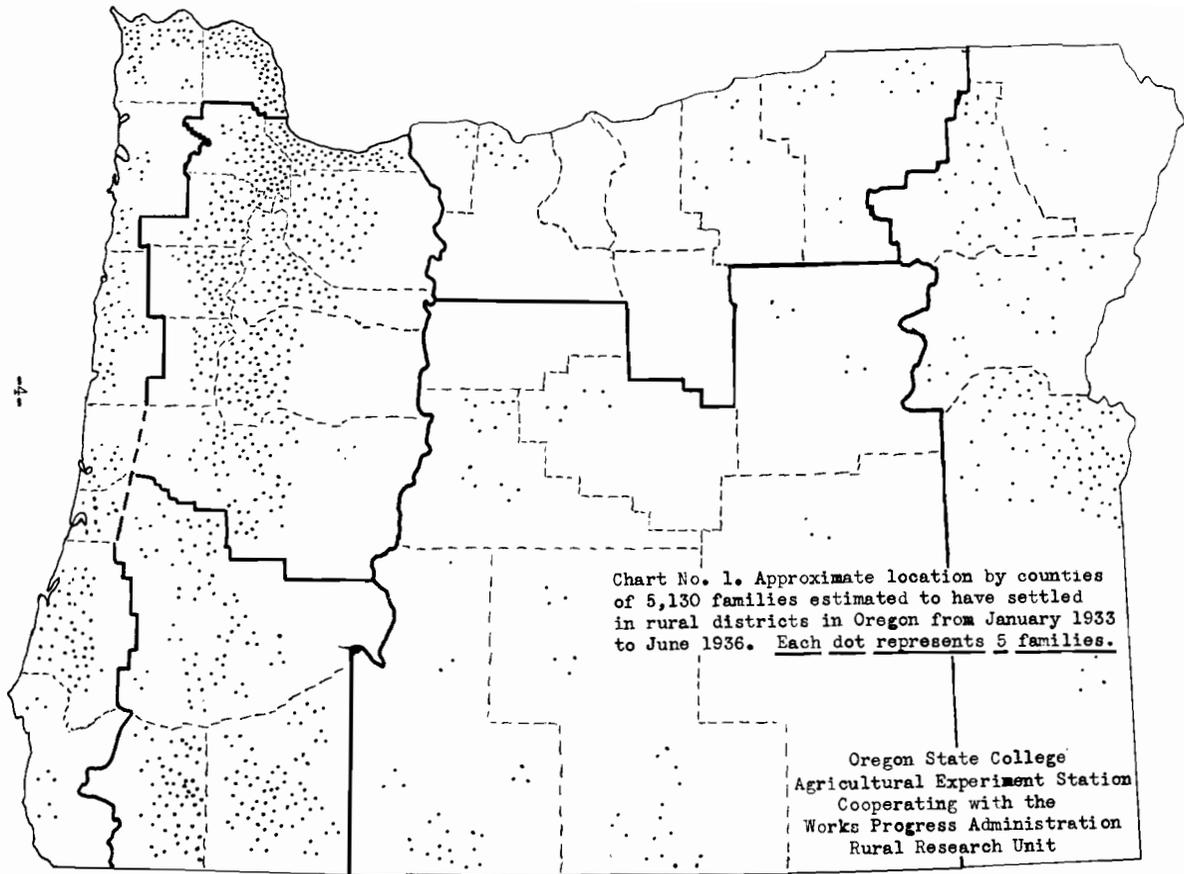


Chart No. 1. Approximate location by counties of 5,130 families estimated to have settled in rural districts in Oregon from January 1933 to June 1936. Each dot represents 5 families.

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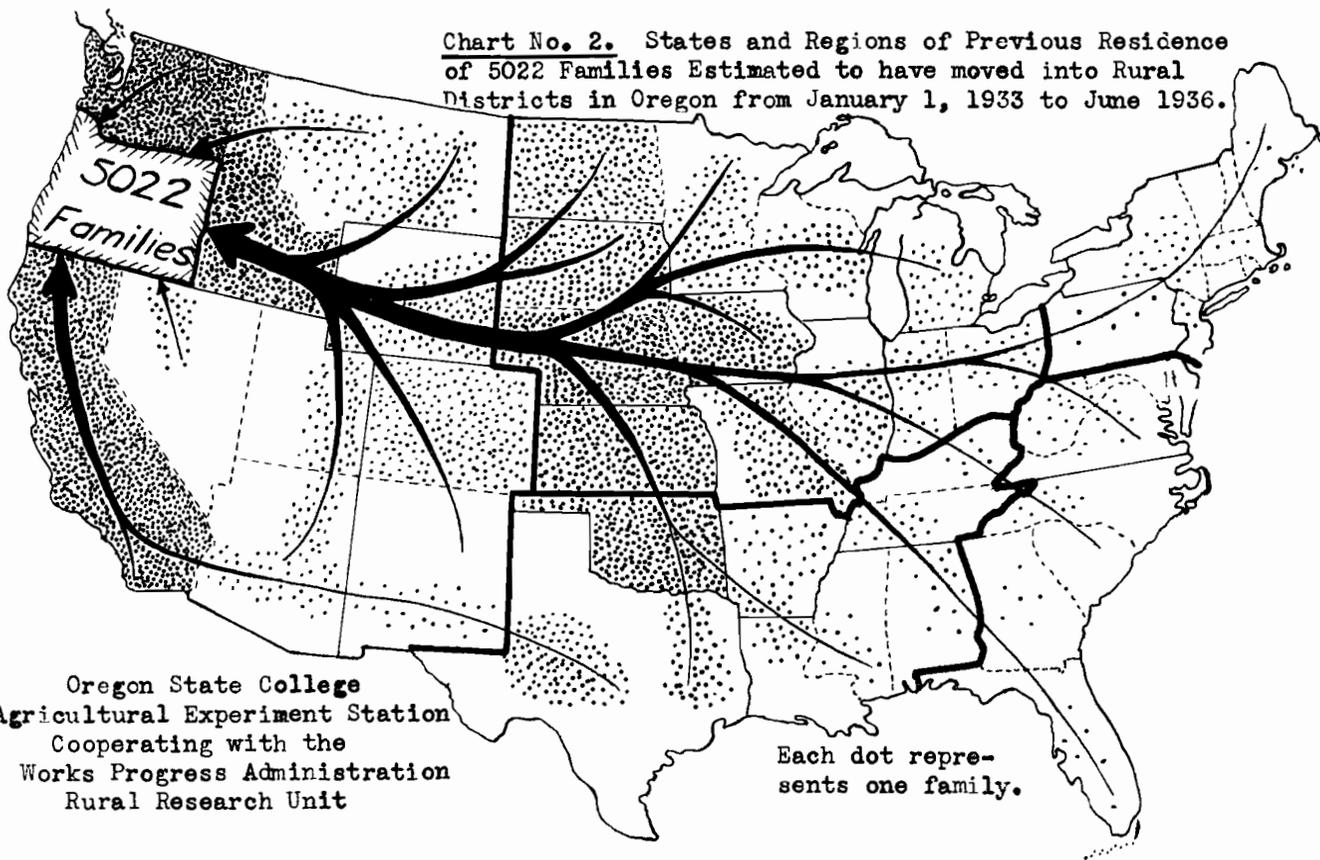
PREVIOUS RESIDENCE OF IMMIGRANTS

In respect to 1961 families moving to Oregon since January 1, 1933, concerning which actual data were obtained from the schedules returned by rural school district clerks, information on the number from each grand division of the country and each state is given in Table No. 2 and Chart 2. From Table No. 2, it will be observed that 1066, or 56.5 per cent came from the Western states. California was the state of previous residence of 452, or 24.0 per cent, with 199, or 10.6 per cent from Washington. The other Western, or the Rocky Mountain group of states, supplied 415, or 22 per cent; the North Central states 601, or 31.8 per cent; and the South Central states 186, or 9.8 per cent. Only 14 families, or .7 per cent, were reported from the North Atlantic states, and 19, or 1.0 per cent from the South Atlantic. The reports indicated that 35 families came from outside of the continental United States. There were 40 families whose previous residence was not reported. It is quite possible that many of the families herein credited to California and other western states were originally and not long since migrants from other parts of the country.

It will be noted from Table No. 3 that the immigrants from various parts of the country apparently had a tendency to settle in certain areas in Oregon. For instance, those who have settled in the northern part of the Willamette Valley are largely from the North Central states and Washington, while those who are located in the southwestern counties and many of those in the southern part of the Willamette Valley came from California. Immigrants from Washington settled largely in the extreme northwestern counties of Oregon. Malheur county derived most of its new families from the Rocky Mountain states, although three-fourths of the immigrants from these states settled elsewhere.

The reasons for these tendencies and other detail data were not obtained in the mail-schedule survey conducted with the cooperation of the rural school district clerks, it being considered more feasible to obtain such special information by means of another schedule to be used on a sample area basis through field enumeration.

Chart No. 2. States and Regions of Previous Residence
of 5022 Families Estimated to have moved into Rural
Districts in Oregon from January 1, 1933 to June 1936.



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Each dot repre-
sents one family.

Table No. 2. States and Regions of Previous Residence
of 1886 Families Moving to Oregon Rural Districts
January 1933 to June, 1936.

WESTERN STATES, number 1066 Per cent - 56.5

Arizona . . . 28	California . . . 452	Colorado . . . 97
Montana . . . 56	Idaho 162	Nevada 6
New Mexico . . 9	Utah 22	Washington . . 199
Wyoming . . . 35		

NORTH CENTRAL STATES, number 601 - Per cent - 31.8

Illinois . . . 17	Kansas 112	Missouri 42
Indiana . . . 12	Michigan 12	Nebraska 126
Iowa 52	Minnesota . . . 31	N. Dakota 84
Ohio 8	S. Dakota 89	Wisconsin 16

SOUTH CENTRAL STATES, number 186 - Per cent 9.8

Alabama 5	Louisiana 7	Tennessee 7
Arkansas . . . 14	Mississippi . . . 4	Texas 64
Kentucky . . . 2	Oklahoma 83	

NORTH ATLANTIC STATES, number 14 - Per cent .7

Connecticut . . 0	Massachusetts . . 1	New York 9
Delaware 0	New Hampshire . . 0	Pennsylvania . . 2
Maine 1	New Jersey 1	Rhode Island . . 0
Vermont 0		

SOUTH ATLANTIC STATES, number 19 - Per cent 1.0

Delaware 0	Maryland 3	Virginia 3
Florida 2	North Carolina . 4	West Virginia . . 5
Georgia 2	South Carolina . 0	

**Table No. 3. Region of Previous Residence of 1886 Immigrants
Into Rural School Districts in Oregon, January 1933 to June 1936
By Counties and Type of Farming Districts**

Counties	Region of Previous Residence							Total
	Wash:	Calif.:	Other:	North:	South:	North:	South:	
	Western:	Central:	Central:	Atlantic:	Atlantic:	Atlantic:	Atlantic:	
No. 1, Willamette Valley Counties								
Benton	-	11	12	22	2	-	-	47
Clackamas	8	11	15	39	5	-	-	78
Lane	6	107	46	72	19	2	2	254
Linn	5	25	23	43	9	-	-	105
Marion	5	13	10	37	15	-	-	80
Multnomah	4	3	10	19	2	-	-	38
Polk	11	12	19	54	15	2	2	115
Washington	14	12	14	47	8	-	1	96
Yamhill	3	11	19	56	7	1	-	77
Dist. Total	56	205	168	369	82	5	5	890
No. 2, Coastal Counties								
Clatsop	44	2	4	10	3	-	1	64
Columbia	16	12	33	33	35	-	2	131
Coos	12	48	13	13	4	1	2	93
Curry	-	10	1	3	-	-	-	14
Lincoln	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tillamook	5	5	5	4	-	-	-	19
Dist. Total	77	77	58	63	42	1	5	321
No. 3, Southwestern Counties								
Douglas	12	46	23	26	14	3	6	130
Jackson	5	32	14	24	4	-	-	79
Josephine	7	60	10	21	6	1	-	105
Dist. Total	24	138	47	71	24	4	6	314
No. 4, North Central Counties								
Gilliam	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hood River	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Morrow	1	4	2	1	2	1	-	11
Sherman	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Umatilla	11	2	5	17	1	1	1	38
Wasco	4	1	6	3	2	-	-	16
Wheeler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dist. Total	16	7	13	21	6	2	1	65
No. 5, Eastern Counties								
Baker	2	1	4	20	5	-	-	32
Grant	2	-	1	1	-	-	-	4
Malheur	12	8	105	34	15	1	-	175
Union	1	2	12	9	-	-	1	25
Wallowa	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	3
Dist. Total	18	11	122	65	21	1	1	239
No. 6, South Central Counties								
Crook	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Deschutes	5	10	4	10	5	1	1	36
Harney	2	-	3	-	-	-	-	5
Jefferson	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Klamath	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lake	1	4	2	2	6	-	-	15
Dist. Total	8	14	9	12	12	1	1	57
State Total	199	452	415	601	185	14	19	1886