



The Land Is Our Most Valuable Resource—Farming Our Most Valuable Industry

*1947 Report of
Baker County's*

**AGRICULTURAL
PLANNING CONFERENCE**

CONTAINING COMMITTEE REPORTS
APPROVED BY CONFERENCE HELD IN
BAKER, OREGON, JANUARY 25, 1947

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FOREWORD

The land is our most valuable resource. From it comes the new wealth that sustains our economy. From the homes on the land comes the new blood that sustains our cities. Planning the wise use of the land to maintain and improve those homes and communities is the privilege and responsibility of each succeeding generation.

The Baker County agricultural planning conference of 1947 was held to exercise that privilege and responsibility. This conference was a continuation of the planned agricultural development that has characterized the county for many years. Similar sessions had been held in 1927 and 1938.

The 1947 conference originated from a request by the county agricultural planning committee that the Extension Service of OSC cooperate in a reappraisal of agricultural conditions and outlook following the close of the war. Members of the Extension Service staff of Baker County who assisted with the conference are C. D. Conrad, County Agricultural Agent; Jane Knapp, Home Demonstration Agent, and Wallace Buholts, Assistant County Agent. Cooperation of all other agencies servicing agriculture in the county also was sought.

Six committees were established several months in advance, including 210 people representing every section of the county. Each of these committees collected data and considered all facts obtainable in preparing a report. These committee reports were presented to the one-day county-wide conference which all farm people were invited to attend, and this booklet comprises the reports as discussed and approved by the conference. They represent the considered judgment of active farmers and farm leaders counseling with Extension specialists in the various fields. They are published here with the thought that they may serve as a guide to the trends that are probable and desirable in development of the farming industry and rural home life in the years immediately ahead.

ARMAND PERKINS,
General Chairman

C. D. CONRAD,
County Agent, General Secretary

Land Use Committee Report

Baker County has a land area of approximately 1,973,760 acres. Of this acreage 43.9 per cent or 866,511 acres were in private ownership in 1945, which is an increase of 2.6 per cent over 1940. During the same five-year period when private ownership increased 2.6 per cent, the number of farmers in the county has decreased from 1,259 in 1940 to 1,088 in 1945. During that same period, the average size of individual farms increased from 631.8 acres to 796.4 acres.

A comparatively small percentage of the total land in Baker County is under cultivation. At the present time there are 126,267 acres of crop land. This acreage has decreased since 1940 when there was 172,233 acres. In 1945 there were 109,751 acres of crop land harvested as compared to 96,058 acres harvested in 1940. Total crop land in the county has decreased from 8 per cent of the total land in 1936 to 6.4 per cent in 1945. This decrease in crop land can be accounted for in part at least by permitting low producing land and land infested with weeds to revert back to native cover for grazing purposes.

Discourage trend to larger farms.

Until 1920 there was a gradual increase in the number of farms in Baker County. In 1920 there were

1,509 farms. From that time on the number of farms has been gradually decreasing until now we have only 1,088. From about 1920 until 1940, much of the decline was accounted for by the abandoning of homesteads which were taken up and found to be unsuited for farming purposes. There has been a decrease of about 180 farms since 1940 which can be accounted for primarily by the absorbing of smaller farms by larger operators and the combining of two or more farms into one unit.

It is this committee's opinion that the farmers of Baker County have determined the best size of operation to be an economical unit and furnish a satisfactory farm living depending on the community in which the farm is located and the type of farming operation. This committee feels that the trend during the past few years towards larger farms is undesirable and should be discouraged.

Forecast future farming developments

In considering county land use problems from the standpoint of economic security in years to come, this committee has studied the present land use situation, and, not considering radical economic changes that might take place, have arrived at the following conclusions:

1. Irrigated farming areas will see no distinct change in size or type of

Land Use: Trends by major uses in Baker County, Oregon

Item	Census				
	1925	1930	1935	1940	1945
1. Total Land Area	1,973,760	1,973,760	1,973,760	1,973,760	1,973,760
2. Land not in Farms	1,412,845	1,300,854	1,241,661	1,178,325	1,088,231
3. Total Land in Farms	560,915	672,906	732,099	795,435	885,529
3a. Crop Land	147,864	122,090	114,642	112,164	126,000
3b. Pasture Land *	375,767	518,526	589,545	683,271	
3c. Woodland not Pasture	15,793	5,420	5,773		
3d. Other Land in Farms	21,491	26,870	12,139		

* Includes plowable pasture land.

Source: Tabulated from U. S. Census reports by Oregon State College Extension Service, Agricultural Economics Section.

farming, although minor changes in cropping programs will occur with adoption of better rotations and productivity will be enhanced through development of additional irrigation and drainage systems. Approximately 5,000 acres along Burnt River and Powder River and in Pine Valley would be producing crops with a bigger net return if the land had adequate drainage. A more intensive type of farming could be followed in Baker Valley if adequate drainage and irrigation could be developed. The irrigation, drainage and conservation committee has made a study of the proposed Baker Valley project and this committee concurs in that committee's report on this project.

Your land use committee feels that one of the poorest uses that any land can be put to is that of producing weeds; and to protect the economic stability of this county, the committee recommends that a definite weed control program be inaugurated that will insure an improvement in this condition rather than permit the situation to become more serious each succeeding year.

2. Dry land farming areas—in all parts of the county will fall into three groups:

a. Those districts in which grain

has been grown over a period of years with reasonable success under dry land conditions probably will continue such practice using improved methods.

b. Those districts in which grain growing is hazardous will eventually change to alfalfa and crested wheat grass for hay, seed and pasture purposes following the lead of farmers who already have made this change.

c. Those districts too dry for grain, hay or seed crops and in which farmers have starved out will revert to grazing purposes only.

3. Controlled grazing areas—including all public lands, privately owned timber lands, and privately owned grazing lands—will probably continue as such for all time, subject to increased carrying capacities brought about through such improvements as:

a. Water development.

b. Fencing for drift and rotation grazing.

c. Rodent, insect pest, and weed control.

d. Reseeding.

Baker County is primarily a livestock region, as more than three-fourths of the total agricultural income is derived from animal products with less than one-fourth from the sale of crop products. A large pro-

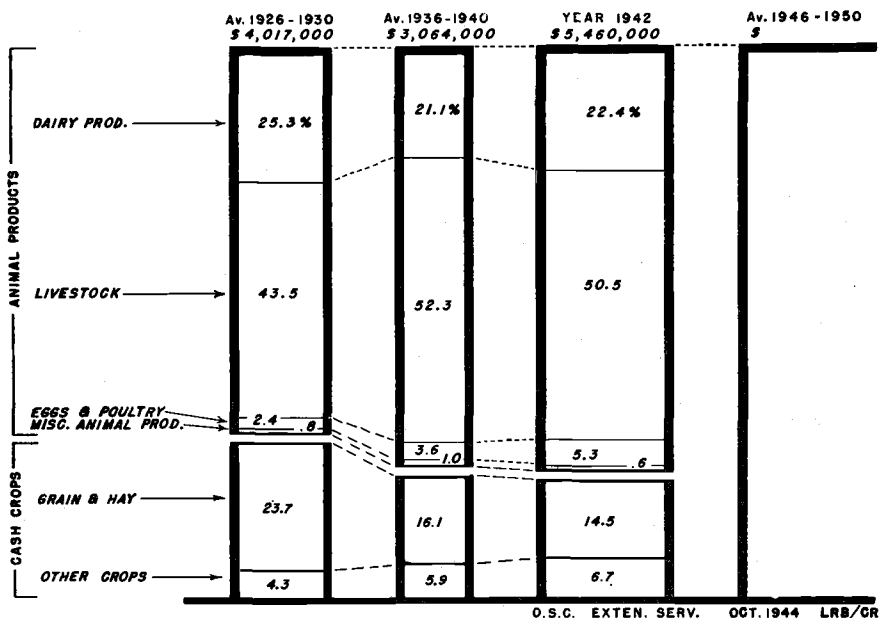
Farm numbers and acreages: Trends in Baker County, Oregon

Census of	All land in farms		Number of Farms	Average Size of Farms Acres	Improved land in Farms		
	Acres	%			Acres	Acres % per farm	
1880	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1890	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1900	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1910	297,695	15.1	1,304	228.3	137,759	46.3	105.6
1920	493,145	25.0	1,509	326.8	163,317	33.1	108.2
1925	560,915	28.4	1,464	383.1	227,420	40.5	155.3
1930	672,906	34.1	1,383	486.6	155,004	23.0	112.0
1935	732,099	37.1	1,383	529.4	141,360	19.3	102.2
1940	795,435	40.3	1,259	631.8	172,233	21.7	136.8
1945	885,529	44.9	1,091	811.7	126,267		107.0

Note—Part of Union County added to Baker in 1902. Total area of county given in the 1940 census of agriculture is 1,973,760 acres.

Source—U.S. Census of Agriculture, retabulated by O.S.C. Extension Service.

BAKER COUNTY FARM MARKETINGS



portion of the crop products grown in Baker County is marketed through livestock, and hence the full importance of farm crops produced in Baker County is not shown when a comparison is arrived at on the basis of marketings.

This interdependence of the range livestock and dairy industries with the business of producing feed supplies is apparent and is no doubt the basis of the permanent land use program for this county. Because of this primary importance, therefore, we believe that the best utilization of our available winter, spring, and early summer feed resources should be brought about as rapidly as possible and, we as a committee recommend:

a. That minor adjustments in crop acreages and livestock numbers and improvements in range be brought about gradually within the next few years, and—

b. That steps be taken at once which will lead to accomplishments of

such major adjustments as the development of adequate supplemental irrigation and drainage systems will permit.

Our county history indicates that local agriculture has been focused around livestock since the beginning, and we as a committee in considering our location, topography, climate and soil in relation to the long time outlook have concluded that this land use is most desirable for our conditions. We are of the opinion, therefore, that no great expansion or contraction will occur in Baker County agriculture in the future.

Game numbers at feed limit.

Game animals are a natural resource worthy of conservation and maintenance and always have been so considered by Baker County farmers and stockmen. Grass-eating game animals now appear to be more plentiful than at any time since this

section was settled. Any further increase of game would disturb seriously the existing balance between summer and winter game feed supplies. Even at present, large numbers of grass-eating game animals are forced to winter on private lands hence reducing the agricultural income of the county. Your committee suggests, therefore, that forage-eating game be limited to the winter forage available to such animals on public lands.

This committee recognizes the importance of recreational activities in any land use program, but feels that in Baker County no appreciable areas need be withdrawn in addition to those already set aside for that purpose.

This committee has studied the migration of range livestock from other counties to the national forest lands within the county. When forest permits are cancelled for any reason, it is our belief that preference should be given to local operators.

Farm opportunities exist for veterans.

This committee is of the opinion that farming opportunities still exist in Baker County for veterans and other young men who are energetic and have farming experience and training.

The inexperienced man should be discouraged from renting or purchasing a farm, instead he should be encouraged to work for wages for a time on the type of farm he is interested in, or take advantage of the educational opportunities available under the G. I. Bill of Rights.

Veterans deciding to purchase a farm should give serious consideration to the present inflated prices of land. It is recommended that veterans

interested in farming should contact experienced farmers in the community where they intend to operate, representatives of the Extension Service, Soil Conservation Service, Forest Service, Grazing Service, directors of irrigation districts, watermaster, and AAA records to obtain all the factual information they can on the farm they are intending to purchase. They should obtain all the information possible on the size of farming unit necessary to provide an adequate farm living, soil types, crop yields, irrigation water supplies, drainage conditions and noxious weeds.

Gold dredging detrimental.

This committee considers gold dredging operations, as carried on here in Baker County, detrimental to the county's economy by permanently destroying productive hay lands, loading irrigation water supplies with silt which seals irrigated land and prevents water absorption, spoiling stock water, and ultimately destroying the county's tax base.

House Bill 387 introduced at the 1945 session of the Oregon Legislature, to require dredge operators to level tailing piles and replace soil, passed the House with a big majority, but was referred to committee by the Senate and died there as a result of a small amount of lobbying by Baker County gold dredging interests. A similar bill has recently been introduced in the 1947 session of the Legislature by Representative Kimberly of Grant County, and this committee urges farmers and farm organizations of Baker County to actively support this bill as a step toward protecting our livestock feed resources and tax base.



GOLD DREDGING ON POWDER RIVER. Farm land in the background that would support farm families and contribute to financing society for eternity if used right. In the foreground ? ?

Irrigation, Drainage & Conservation Committee Report

Most crops depend on irrigation.

Baker County is geographically so located as to be limited in rainfall, and most of the crop production in the county is dependent on irrigation, which in many instances is inadequate for more than one irrigation during the season.

Crop production, especially hay and pasture, can be materially increased if adequate irrigation water supplies can be developed. The average growing season in Baker Valley is 137 days, making it all the more necessary to have a plentiful water supply during the short season of growth.

Our committee urges the development of new projects and the expansion of any existing irrigation projects in the county which authentic surveys show will be economically feasible.

Baker Valley project report scheduled

The United States Bureau of Reclamation and the Corps of Army Engineers have been making detailed surveys of the water supply, storage sites, production yields, operation costs, soil tests, drainage problems and other features of the Baker Valley project and are carefully evaluating the advantages and disadvantages of the proposed project. A complete report on the Baker Valley project is scheduled to be completed early in 1948. This report will reveal the exhaustive efforts made to determine and figure all the features of the project. The report will conclude with a recommendation as to whether or not this project is feasible, giving detailed reasons for the conclusions. The committee feels that the efforts of the Bureau of Reclamation and Corps of Army Engineers have been very exacting and determined so that a complete and true picture of the project can be obtained for the farmers. The committee further feels that whatever recommendations are included in the final report of the project will be absolutely fair and unbiased. The committee recommends that farmers in the Baker Valley study the project report carefully and

urges its construction if the project proves economically feasible. Suggestions that have been made by the Bureau of Reclamation and the Corps of Army Engineers include:

1. The watershed serving the Baker Valley area does not have sufficient runoff to provide adequate water for storage. Approximately 100 wells are planned in the valley to supplement the water supply. These would be 12-inch wells located mostly on the west side of the valley and will not materially increase the cost of the project. The Bureau of Reclamation has stated its intention to drill test wells to further explore this problem.

2. Numerous methods have been successfully worked out on existing irrigation projects to adequately protect existing water rights so that the inclusion of these water rights in an irrigation project can be worked out to the satisfaction of every farmer.

3. The land limitation features of irrigation projects as provided by law are not expected to provide a major difficulty in the development of the Baker Valley Project, as several methods have been successfully used to avoid this difficulty.

4. The Bureau of Reclamation is becoming conscious of the noxious weed problems and is now doing limited work on weed control and grass seeding on ditch banks.

5. Consideration of the Baker Valley Project includes irrigation, drainage and flood control.

6. The Bureau of Reclamation is endeavoring to secure maximum appropriations for flood control on the Baker Valley Project which helps to materially decrease the cost to the farmers. The committee has made a study of the Burnt River Irrigation district and finds that the operation of this project has proved economical and satisfactory to the farmers under it. A study of the Thief Valley Irrigation Project showed that the irrigation it provides is valuable to its farmers, but that a major problem of drainage exists in the Thief valley area.

7. There are natural small dam sites throughout most of Baker County, and individuals and small groups of farmers who have access to these should investigate the possibility of utilizing these sites for additional water storage.

Drainage would pay dividends

Thousands of acres of potentially productive farm land in Baker County at the present time are returning only a fraction of what they will re-

technical and engineering help available through the Extension Service and Soil Conservation districts and proceed far as is practical on their own to drain their land. In cases where several farms are involved and especially where deep drains are needed, we urge cooperative action on the problem.

Maximum benefits from limited supplies of irrigation water can be expected when land is properly prepared to get even and controlled dis-



Adequate irrigation and good drainage make for higher cash returns per acre.

turn if they are adequately drained. Much of this work can be done by individual farmers or small groups working together. In some localities deep drains are needed as outlets and would be a community project. Along Powder River and Burnt River, wet areas have developed as a result of increased irrigation of higher benches. To eliminate these swampy areas, interception ditches are required at the base of the higher levels. Here again, in certain cases this is an individual problem and in others it is a community problem.

To bring the wet lands of this county back to their maximum production, we urge all farmers with such land to avail themselves of

tribution. Land that is surface irrigated should be carefully leveled and prepared to avoid unnecessary water losses and to save labor.

Excessive irrigation should be avoided as it is not only detrimental to the land and growing crops, but very likely will increase the drainage problem on the same farm or some neighboring farm. Excessive irrigation can often be more detrimental than under irrigation.

One of the worst problems on Burnt River lies at the upper end of the valley just below the Unity dam and requires river channel work to throw the water all into one channel.

Encourage soil conservation districts.

Baker County is comparatively free of soil erosion problems, but is faced with the problem of maintaining and improving soil fertility, conserving and making the best use of short water supplies, and preventing the further destruction of farm lands by gold dredging operations and noxious weeds.

Two State Soil Conservation districts now are in operation in the county. The Keating District comprising the lower Powder River valley, and the Eagle Valley District which includes all of that valley. The Keating District was organized in 1941 for the primary purpose of getting better use from irrigation water, developing better drainage and controlling noxious weeds. The district has a large program underway on the reorganization of irrigation systems, land leveling, development of stock watering dams, and crop rotations. Very little has been done about weeds.

The Eagle Valley district was organized in 1944. Soil surveys have been completed by the Soil Conservation Service and 25 farm plans completed preparatory to getting conservation practices on the land. Practically all of the noxious weeds in Eagle Valley in 1946 were sprayed with 2,4-D as a result of the district organization.

This committee approves of any feasible programs for soil and water conservation and urges the farmers throughout the county to inform themselves on the operation of state soil conservation districts through which farmers may attack the problems of soil fertility and water conservation.

The Extension Service is urged to carry out a county-wide educational program to furnish information to all the farmers on how soil conservation districts are organized and how they operate.

This committee approves the action recently taken by farmers of Pine Valley in petitioning the State Soil Conservation Committee to include Pine Valley in the Eagle Valley district, likewise the action of farmers north of Medical Springs in petitioning into the Keating district.

This committee is seriously concerned with the problems created by gold dredging in Baker County, and urges that a local study be made of the silt problem and of the potential destruction of the county tax base. The Burnt River Irrigation District directors recently denied a dredging operation in that area on the basis that it would be detrimental to the district and enlarge the tax burden on the remaining land.

Farm Crops Committee Report

With the exception of Eagle Valley and the narrow strip of farm land along Snake River, the short growing seasons in Baker County limit crop production primarily to hay, grain and potatoes.

Parts of the county located along shoestring valleys on Powder River, Burnt River, and Snake River are well adapted to the production of alfalfa seed because of their close proximity to unbroken range land and the large population of solitary ground bees required for pollination. A large variety of both tree fruits and small fruits are produced in Eagle Valley and along Snake River. The predominant fruit produced in these two areas on a commercial basis is peaches. The following table shows the most important crops produced in Baker County and the acreage of each:

CROP	1940	1945
Alfalfa hay	32,371 A.	22,564 A.
Clover and grass hay	6,020	20,546
Grain hay	3,858	4,534
Other tame hay	7,426	5,030
Wild grass hay	20,143	20,409
Winter wheat, threshed	1,663	4,381
Spring wheat, threshed	8,434	9,388
Barley, threshed	6,752	14,222
Rye, threshed	1,217	1,396
Dry field peas	—	765
Alfalfa seed harvested	3,146	611
Red clover seed	462	82
Irish potatoes	485	795
Strawberries harvested	9	3
Raspberries harvested	10	2
Apples	7,638 trees	2,670 trees
Peaches	17,630 trees	11,028 trees
Apricots	1,698 trees	1,120 trees
Total land in fruit	559 A.	204 A.
Tomatoes	21	12
Green Peas	1	115

The table shows that there has been a substantial increase in the amount of wheat produced in Baker County from 1940 to 1945 and a substantial reduction in the acreage of alfalfa for hay. During the same

period there was an increase of nearly 15,000 acres of clover and grass hay and a slight increase in the amount of small grain cut for hay. The wild hay acreage remains rather constant because this hay is produced on land not well suited to other crops.

Forage crops increase desirable.

The hay and pasture acreage in Baker County during normal periods remains rather constant. However, the hay acreage was decreased during the war years due to the lack of labor. The livestock industry of the county is dependent on forage production, and this committee recommends that farmers seriously consider the seeding back of land broken up during the war. It is recommended that farmers develop a definite crop rotation program on their farms

giving consideration to feed requirements, cash crops and soil conservation.

Baker County normally produces more hay than its livestock can consume. Under such conditions it is

logical for some hay to be shipped from the county. Shipping hay from farms in the county removes soil fertility faster than if the hay is fed on the farm, and farmers should consider this in disposing of their hay. Increased livestock fattening and finishing operations would help keep more fertility on the land where the hay is produced.

To put Baker County producers (who of necessity must sell hay outside the county) in a better competitive position, this committee recommends improvement of hay quality by crop rotation, reseeding, and application of commercial fertilizers. Phosphorus fertilizer applied to legumes and grass-legume mixtures has increased yields and quality of hay in most parts of the county.

Under most conditions, phosphorus fertilizer applied at the rate of 50 to 75 pounds of P_2O_5 per acre is adequate. Under some conditions, especially alkaline soil conditions, the rate of application may have to be doubled.

This committee recommends that more fertilizer demonstrations on forage crops be established by the Extension Service and that results of the trials and demonstrations that are established in soil conservation districts be more fully publicized and made available to all farmers in the county.

Alfalfa weevil growing problem.

Alfalfa weevils have seriously damaged alfalfa stands and reduced yields in past years, and grasshoppers have damaged alfalfa and other forage crops. Grasshoppers have been less troublesome of recent years and there is approximately 30 tons of mixed bait on hand in the county which is available free of charge to any farmer who wishes to use it. Alfalfa weevils present a growing problem which must be met if we expect to continue alfalfa production.

This committee recommends to the Extension Service that demonstrations be established in Baker County employing the best known methods of control, and that training meetings be held for farmers at which approved materials and control methods are explained.

Need better use of stubble.

Most of the wheat produced in Baker County is grown in the west-central part of Baker Valley. While there has been a moderate increase in the acreage during the past few years, there has been a substantial increase in the yields due to improved farming methods.

One of the biggest problems wheat farmers have in Baker Valley is that of utilizing all of their wheat stubble to maintain soil fertility and tilth. This committee recommends that trials and demonstrations be established to determine how to use wheat stubble to the best advantage. The committee urges among other things that varying rates of nitrogen fertilizer be applied to stubble land at intervals during the fall and spring months to determine to what extent the decomposition of the stubble can be hastened.

Need clean seed wheat.

Clean seed wheat is very difficult to obtain, and this committee recommends that the farmers pay more attention to the growing of clean seed wheat and seed certification. The committee further recommends that individual farmers or small groups of farmers arrange for storage facilities for seed wheat which will permit storage without mixing varieties. The committee feels that producers of certified seed wheat are entitled to a substantial premium over market wheat sufficient to encourage the production of clean seed wheat and feels that under present prices a \$1.00 premium would not be out of line for certified seed wheat, cleaned, sacked and ready to seed.

There is an opportunity for some wheat yields to be increased by fertilizing with nitrogen fertilizer. This would be under conditions where there is an adequate water supply and soil fertility is now so low that straw growth is short. Trial application of 25 to 50 pounds per acre of available nitrogen are recommended. The application of nitrogen fertilizer is to be avoided on land where there is a tendency for wheat to lodge or where there is a shortage of irrigation water.

Alicel and Elgin wheat have been giving extremely high yields in Baker

County and both are good milling wheats. Rex and Rex M1 varieties yield well but lack milling quality. There are no varieties of barley which are completely winter-hardy, but the White Winter variety has given good yields and is to be considered by those wishing to attempt the production of winter barley. Trebi is consistently the highest-yielding variety of spring barley produced in the county.

As a means of increasing soil fertility and for soil conserving purposes, crop rotations including legumes and grasses are recommended on all grain land.

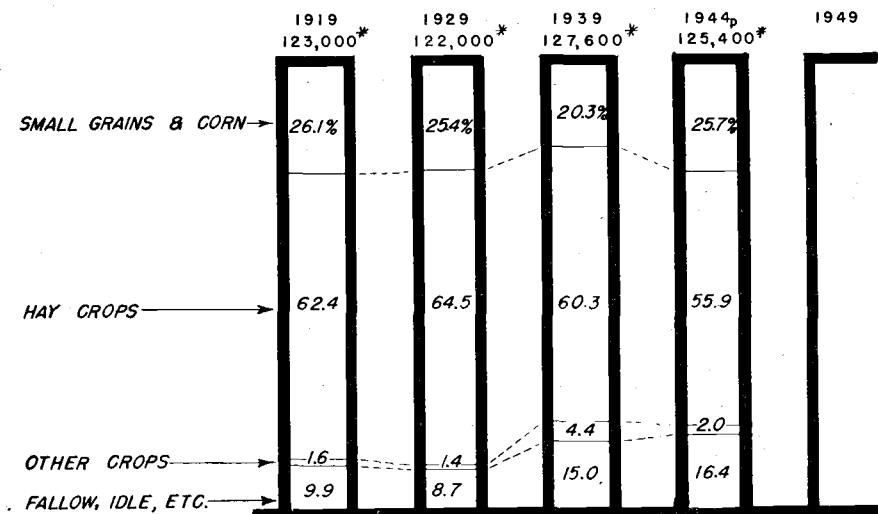
Should grow Ranger alfalfa seed.

Alfalfa seed production varies from year to year in this county as it is tied in as a supplemental cash crop with the beef cattle industry; and when hay supplies build up, there is a larger acreage of alfalfa cut for seed than during years when the hay supply is not so large. The average acreage of alfalfa cut for seed is around 2,000 acres per year. More

regular up-to-date information on seed crops is needed which will include information on demands, prices, yields, varieties, adaptations, and cultural methods. We urge the State College and Extension Service to give consideration to this in developing their program for the county.

Ranger alfalfa seed is a new variety developed by the Bureau of Plant Industry which is superior to all other alfalfa varieties in its resistance to bacterial wilt and also produces good yields of high quality hay. Seed supplies of this variety are very short at the present time, and as parts of Baker County are well adapted to the production of alfalfa seed, this committee recommends that alfalfa seed producers seriously consider the production of Ranger alfalfa seed. As the demand for this seed is apt to be much greater than the production for some years to come, it is recommended that farmers with isolated fields on which there has been no alfalfa grown for several years use such land for the pro-

BAKER COUNTY CROPLAND TRENDS



*APPROX ACREAGE OF FARMLAND, HARVESTED, FALLOW, IDLE, FAILURE.

O.S.C. EXTENSION SERVICE SEPT. 1946 LRB/GR

duction of Ranger alfalfa seed instead of other varieties.

DDT now is successfully controlling the lygus bug which has probably caused more alfalfa seed loss than any other insect. Dusting alfalfa with DDT is recommended to alfalfa seed producers as a means of increasing the seed set.

Could grow more seed peas.

Seed peas have been grown to some extent in Baker County but have lost their popularity primarily because of the difficulty with annual weeds which make it difficult to harvest the crop. This difficulty may be overcome to some extent by a heavier seeding of peas up to 250 pounds per acre. In addition to heavy seeding, peas should also be seeded early in the spring to get ahead of the weeds and the hot weather. Farmers who have grown seed peas in Baker County report that the Perfection variety does better than most others. Peas are a good soil builder and should be considered as a possible cash crop in the crop rotations on many Baker County farms. The best opportunity in the production of seed peas is that of garden peas. Three large cannery companies and two small companies are contracting in Union County for seed pea production, and farmers with irrigated or semi-irrigated land who are interested in producing seed peas should contact one of those companies for a contract.

South wants hairy vetch.

Hairy vetch is one of the quickest soil-building crops and one for which there is a continuing big demand for seed in the south. At present the southern states are wanting ten times the amount of hairy vetch that they are getting for green manure purposes. Hairy vetch competes well with Canadian thistles, and a ton of vetch straw is equal in fertilizer value to two or three tons of barnyard manure. Where conditions are favorable, three or four tons of vetch straw can be expected per acre. Hairy vetch should work well in a rotation with potatoes by furnishing the nitrogen needed by the potato crop. Hairy vetch should be fall planted and inoculated. Under most conditions, a light seeding the second year will in-

sure a crop that yields even better than the first.

Farmers planning to produce winter wheat should be warned against growing hairy vetch on that land unless they plan to eliminate the vetch in their crop by using 2,4-D. Vetch is a serious weed in wheat. It is very difficult to separate from the grain and seriously spoils the milling qualities.

The demand for and production of alta fescue seed shows that there still is room for expansion in that crop. It is somewhat resistant to alkali and can be grown on land infested with weeds, as the weeds can be controlled with 2,4-D.

Potato industry worth half-million.

The potato acreage in Baker County is generally around 1000 acres, about half of which is grown for seed purposes and ordinarily entered for certification. Until 1946 a favorable proportion of the acreage of potatoes entered for certification was being passed. In 1946 a very small percentage passed, rejections being due primarily to an outbreak of leaf-roll. A heavy infestation of leaf-hoppers and aphids probably contributed to this rapid spread of disease during 1946. One of the larger potato growers dusted with DDT to reduce the number of insects and reports that the results were encouraging.

This committee recommends that the Oregon State College and chemical companies carry on more disease control trials in Baker County to protect this half-million-dollar industry. Local growers are urged to try dusting as a means of disease control, both on their own farms and in communities.

Opportunities for fruits and vegetables.

Climatic, soil, and water conditions in Eagle Valley and along Snake River and parts of Lower Burnt River are ideal for fruit and vegetable production.

Acreages of these crops have been decreasing during the past five years due in part to lack of labor to handle the crops. Other contributing factors have been lack of a ready market for both fruit and vegetables and the appearance of "X" disease and other diseases in peach trees and

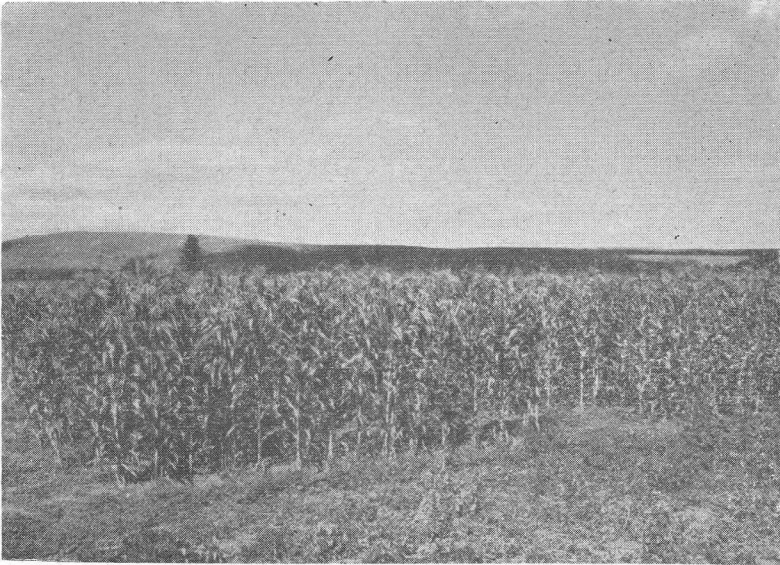
other tree fruits. Total land in fruit has dropped from 559 acres in 1940 to 204 acres in 1945. Vegetable crops other than green peas for market totaled 33 acres in 1940 and 13 acres in 1945.

Investigations of the feasibility of a commercial cannery for Baker County show that the acreage is not large enough or dependable enough; however, this committee believes that a small community cannery could

termine what arrangements may be made.

Weed control biggest problem.

Probably the biggest and most expensive problem confronting Baker County farmers and ranchers is that of weed control. Both annual and perennial noxious weeds take a large toll from farms in the county each year. It is estimated that there are



Corn as a cultivated crop works into Eagle Valley rotations very well.

successfully operate in Eagle Valley and would serve a real need there. Use of such a cannery should be made available to outside residents who might wish to purchase their fruit and vegetables and can them in that community.

Local produce dealers are urged to handle local fruits and vegetables when they are available. The quality of local grown produce is superior many times to produce shipped in, and the committee feels it is the local dealer's responsibility to help support the farmers who are helping support them.

New freezing and canning plants established in Union and Malheur counties may provide an outlet for some of this produce, and growers should contact those concerns to de-

over ten thousand acres of noxious weeds in the county, including White Top, Canadian Thistle, Morning Glory, Russian Knap Weed, Whorled Milk Weed, St. John's Wort, and Puncture Vine.

White Top is prevalent in parts of Baker Valley, Lower Powder Valley, Lower Burnt River, and is getting a good start in Eagle Valley and Pine Valley.

Canadian Thistle predominates in the area on the west side of Baker Valley and on many of the livestock and hay ranches in Pine Valley and on Powder River and Burnt River.

Wild Morning Glory is not so serious on farms devoted primarily to hay and pasture, but does bother on many of the grain farms.

Russian Knap Weed is confined at

present to a very few farms in the county at the north end of Baker Valley and at Durkee.

St. John's Wort is getting a good start and spreading rapidly on the ranges of the county, especially along Snake River and along the foothills west of Wingville. This plant not only completely crowds out forage plants but is poisonous to white animals or animals with white markings.

Puncture Vine is serious in the Huntington area and along Snake River.

Whorled Milk Weed at present is primarily confined to an area in the Pocahontas community.

Annual weeds, while of little concern to many farmers, are annually costing farmers a lot of money by competing with farm crops throughout the county. This is especially true with cultivated crops. Annual weeds in grain crops are now being successfully controlled and crop yields materially increased by using selective sprays and dusts. This committee recommends more demonstrational work along this line to show farmers what results can be expected in the way of costs and net returns.

Compulsory control not advisable now.

Baker County was declared a noxious weed control district in 1937, and to date no action has been taken to enforce such weed control. This committee recommends that no compulsory weed control program be instigated at this time as there is not sufficient machinery in the county for controlling the noxious weeds and the county does not have adequate funds for obtaining needed weed control equipment in case it would be required to do the control work. The committee feels that a voluntary control program will accomplish more in the long run than a compulsory program. If after a few years the bulk of the weeds in the county are brought under control, it may be necessary to put compulsory control measures into effect on some farms where the operators refuse to do anything about the weeds.

The committee feels that all of the farmers in the county should constantly be provided with the latest information on control methods, type of equipment and materials to use,

and should be furnished help in developing definite individual weed control programs for their farms.

This committee feels that custom operators should be encouraged to obtain spraying and dusting equipment to be operated in the county. It also urges irrigation districts, soil conservation districts, granges and other organizations to utilize their cooperative machinery to obtain equipment and operate it on a community basis. The committee further feels that such equipment, as well as privately owned and operated equipment, should be periodically checked and the operators provided with information on the latest and best methods of application so that farmers may be assured a good job and expect maximum results.

To accomplish the above recommendations, this committee recommends that the county provide matching funds for the employment of an assistant county agent to devote most, if not all, of his time to weed control, and that such agent work with all individuals and organizations in the county toward developing a voluntary countywide weed control program. We feel that such assistant should be well trained in this field of agriculture, that he should give personal supervision to all weed control equipment operating in the county, and that he should encourage and assist all farmers in developing individual weed control plans for their farms.

We further recommend that field tours be conducted each year so farmers may observe weed control methods and results.

The committee approves the action taken by the Baker County AAA committee in allocating 75 per cent of the county's AAA funds for weed control practices, and requiring that weed control be carried out on each farm before becoming eligible for any conservation payment.

Some farmers with potato dusting equipment have indicated their intention of adapting their dusters for field dusting of weeds with 2,4-D. This committee urges other farmers to watch the results of this work and compare it with spraying operations. The committee further requests the Extension Service to compile and publish cost data and results on such work.

Livestock Committee Report

Approximately 75 per cent of the value of all farm marketings from Baker County is accounted for from cattle and calves, milk production, sheep, lambs, wool and hogs. The other 25 per cent of farm marketings is accounted for by some 40 or more farm products. This shows the importance of the livestock industry in Baker County, which during 1945 had an agricultural income of more than five million dollars.

The 1945 agricultural census shows 65,752 cattle and calves in the county. Of this number, 6,809 were milk cows. Allowing 9,000 head as dairy replacements would leave 50,000 head of beef animals.

The limiting factor in the production of beef cattle and sheep is summer pasture and range. This committee feels that more attention should be given to improving summer pastures and ranges, both by better use and management and by reseeding irrigated pastures to higher producing

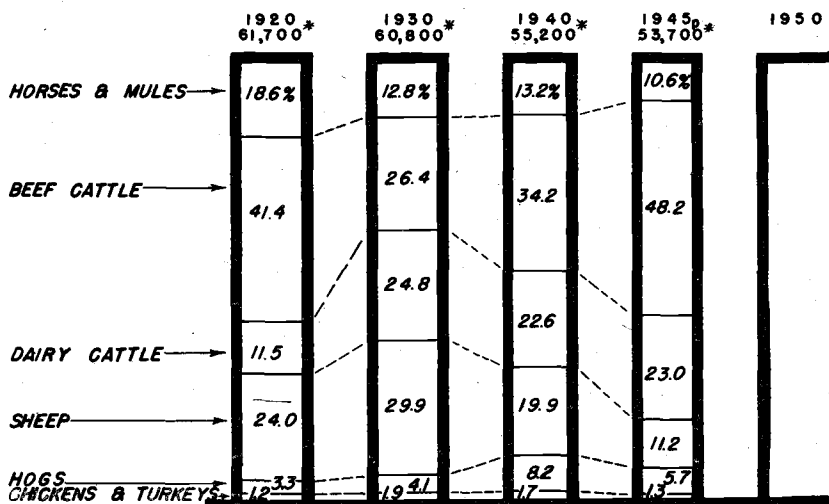
varieties of grass and legumes, and where practical, reseeding of dry land ranges.

A surplus of hay is produced in the county, and it is not good from a fertility standpoint for hay to be shipped out of the county. The county does not produce a large surplus of feed grains, but it is customary for much grain to be shipped out and later in the year replacement grain shipped back for feed purposes at a greater cost to the livestock feeder. **Should fatten more stock.**

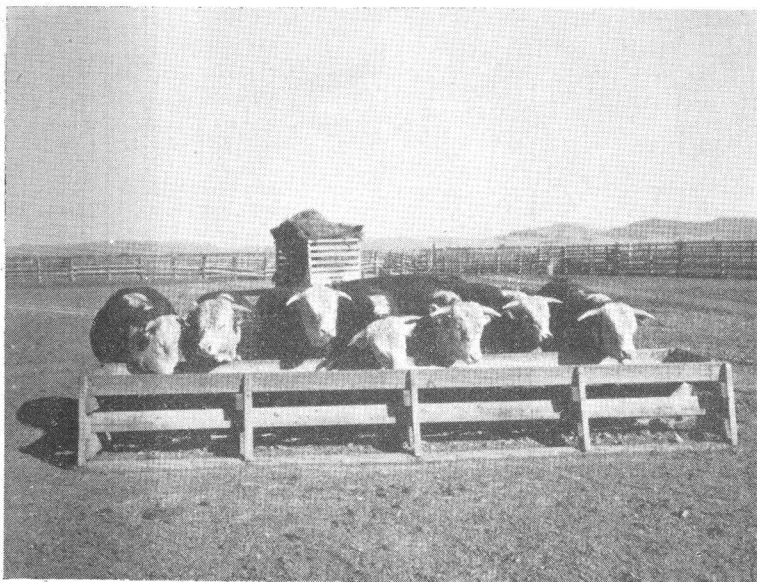
We feel some thought should be given to using more hay land for summer pasture, and to the finishing of more livestock with locally grown feeds, rather than selling them as feeders.

At present feed resources, aside from summer pasture, are greater than livestock numbers. Our livestock and feed supplies could be brought into better balance by finishing more livestock with locally grown

BAKER COUNTY PRINCIPAL ANIMAL INDUSTRIES



* INDICATED ANIMAL UNITS BASED ON ESTIMATED T.O.N. REQUIREMENTS



Beef cattle quality in Baker County is constantly improving—in commercial herds as well as purebred herds.

grain and hay. We do not feel that greater livestock numbers are advisable at this time, with the possible exception of hogs. Hog numbers of Baker County could be increased some. A sufficient number of hogs should be produced on all farms to utilize waste feeds. Farmers specializing in hogs or raising hogs as a major farm enterprise must of necessity be guided by market demands and price relationship of feed grains.

This committee feels that the public domain land is being successfully handled under the Taylor Grazing Service and is opposed to the proposed plan on private ownership for such land. It is felt that such a change would result in the public lands being sold under bid and the larger operators would have a decided advantage, thus eliminating the smaller operators entirely.

Recent changes in the Taylor Grazing Service provide for increasing grazing fees from 5c per animal unit month to 8c per A.U.M. This committee does not object too highly to such a raise if there is assurance that such increased fees will be used for range improvement purposes.

Other changes provide for the Regional office of the Taylor Grazing

Service to be moved from Salt Lake City to Portland. Provision is also made for classification of grazing district offices into Class 1, 2 and 3.

Class 1 offices will have a district grazer, two clerks and one field man.

Class 2 offices will have a district grazer, one clerk and one field man.

Class 3 offices will have a district grazer, and one clerk.

The Baker District office will be a class 1 office, thus assuring districts in Baker County of adequate supervision.

Recommend weed control.

The livestock committee recognizes the seriousness of the noxious weed problem in Baker County, and

WHEREAS, noxious weeds are gradually, but definitely decreasing the feed resources for livestock in the county, and

WHEREAS, very little is being done to definitely bring such weeds under control, and as it appears that a county-wide weed control program is not likely in the near future, this committee

RECOMMENDS that every farmer do his utmost to control his own weeds, and that every opportunity be

taken to work cooperatively through organized irrigation districts, soil conservation districts, and other groups to provide weed control equipment.

We recommend that custom operators be encouraged to own and operate weed control equipment in the county, and that some type of supervision and guidance be provided for such operators to assure farmers a good job.

We further recommend that the Extension Service develop and carry on an intensive and continuous educational program on weed control throughout the county. This should include information on weed control methods, materials, and equipment, competitive crops and cultivation.

Bang's disease control.

Investigation of Brucellosis or Bang's disease control methods shows that:

1. Most range cattle operators are reluctant to use the test and slaughter method of eradication.

2. Marketing dry cows annually from beef herds tends to hold the disease down in such herds.

3. Calfhood vaccination, when correctly used in conjunction with test and slaughter, is increasing calf crops in beef herds.

4. Losses in beef herds are many times greater from cows that are difficult breeders and from late calves than from actual calf losses.

5. Generally speaking, the dairymen are working harder to eliminate the disease than beef men.

6. Difficulties are experienced by dairymen in keeping clean herds where beef operators are near by.

7. Doctors are beginning to trace the source of infection in humans to beef cattle and hogs in many cases, and believe it comes from the handling of the stock rather than eating the meat.

8. Calfhood vaccine is a live organism and should not be used promiscuously by laymen as the disease can easily be contracted by humans from the vaccine.

9. Difficulties have developed for some shippers, especially purebred breeders, because states do not have uniform requirements.

This committee is reluctant to make specific recommendations at this time relative to methods of control, but wishes to encourage the livestock men to congenially work toward a control program that will satisfy both the beef and dairy operators. We feel that results of calfhood vaccination in conjunction with test and slaughter justify serious consideration by all operators.

Sales yards need bang's test.

Our committee recommends that the "spot-plate" or quick test method for Bang's disease be approved for sales yard purposes to get better co-operation from the sales yard operators in helping fight the disease.

We recommend that a more thorough job of brand inspection be carried on at all sales yards. If necessary, the animals should be clipped to make the brands more easily read.

Trappers essential for predator control.

The graduated bounty system as now used in the State of South Dakota for coyote control and eradication was investigated and the following features revealed:

1. South Dakota started the graduated bounty in 1945.

2. Money for bounties is raised by a tax of 2c a head on all cattle and sheep except those in feed lots.

3. Tax money so raised was inadequate and had to be supplemented by \$250,000 from the Department of Game, Fish and Parks during the first year and a half in order to pay all bounties.

4. Progressively higher bounty payments are paid as the annual take of coyotes declines, as outlined in the following table.

Adult Coyotes

Annual take previous year	Bounty
3,500	\$10.00
3,000	12.00
2,500	14.00
2,000	16.00
1,500	20.00
1,000	25.00
500	50.00
300	75.00
200	100.00



7,000 milk cows make dairying one of the important livestock industries of the county. Improved breeding, management, and disease control will increase the income from this industry.

Coyote Pups

Annual take previous year	Bounty
8,000	\$ 3.00
7,000	4.00
6,000	5.00
5,000	6.00
4,000	7.00
3,000	8.00
2,000	10.00
1,000	15.00
500	25.00

This committee does not consider that the graduated bounty system as used in South Dakota has had sufficient trial to show whether it will be successful or not in eliminating coyotes, and does not consider it advisable to spend that much money for such a plan until it is proven successful.

We favor the continuance of government trappers and believe that any bounty system, either county or state, should be used in addition to the trappers and not used to replace them. The committee feels that without government trappers livestock men would have no one to call on for help when depredations are made on flocks and herds.

Should spread coyote control cost.

Since July 1, 1943, the woolgrowers of Baker County have been supplementing the federal funds provided for government trappers by a voluntary assessment on themselves. During that 3½-year period they have paid an assessment of approximately 17½¢ per head on all their sheep, amounting to a total of \$4184.55. Funds from other sources to supplement this work have amounted to \$3140.41, of which \$2000 came from the sale of coyote pelts and the balance came from Tavior Grazing funds and the county.

Dividing the money raised to supplement this work by the number of coyotes trapped by government trappers shows a cost to local contributors of approximately \$8 per coyote. During 1946, Baker County and the State of Oregon on a fifty-fifty basis paid a \$3 bounty on 764 coyotes amounting to \$2293.50. Government trappers are not paid a bounty on the coyotes taken by them.

During this period, local sportsmen have not contributed toward the control of predator animals and practically no contributions have been received from cattlemen, hog raisers,

or poultrymen, who quite often submit complaints of coyote depredations. It is the opinion of this committee that this work is costing the local woolgrowers too much money and that at the same time coyotes are on the increase.

This committee feels that the sheepmen of Baker County have been bearing a much greater proportion of

the load than they are entitled to in financing the predatory animal control program in the county and recommends that a greater proportion of the local contributions to this program be borne by county taxes, as predatory animals prey not only on sheep but also on other livestock, game birds and animals.

Farm Home & Rural Life Committee Report

Farm and rural living today is very different from former years. This is due to many factors. We have new values and new concepts of what may be expected in rural communities. We need to think of it in larger terms, in wider interests, in broader social contacts, under greater financial returns and all in all as a place where security is probably greater than in any other place. We need to feel a greater pride in our independence and in our place in the economics of today. We need to realize that even where living is good, it can be made better. This can not be accomplished by chance or by trial and error. Today, as never before we must have clear thinking and careful long-time planning with a definite goal in mind if we are to achieve that kind of living which is the rightful heritage of every American.

When we look back to the Baker County Planning Conference of 1938, we are rather inclined at first to think that little has been accomplished. In some cases that is certainly true, but on the whole we can see some progress, even though we have gone through the war years. For example, in 1938 only 40 per cent of the rural homes had electricity, today approximately 80 per cent have electric service. At that time about 18 per cent of the rural homes had only a type of draft cooler, today about 60 per cent have some kind of mechanical refrigeration. In 1938 only a very small percent had adequate sanitary facilities, and even today the percent is far too low to insure adequate protection to community health.

Survey covers 739 homes.

The Farm Home and Rural Life Committee have limited our survey and recommendations to the following phases: Housing and Home Management, Health and Nutrition, and Family Life and Community Service. We have attempted to analyze some of the problems, have used the facts and data gathered in preparing what we believe to be a useable and practical report for our cooperative thinking and planning for the next few years. If we seem to cover some of

the same ground as the Youth Committee it is only because it is impossible to separate youth from our thinking in regard to better living and community service.

The Farm Home and Rural Life Committee made a survey of 739 rural and urban homes in 28 communities and gathered factual information from many sources. This material was gathered through personal interviews and through questionnaires. We believe that our survey and facts are representative of our county.

One-fourth will build or remodel.

In view of the fact that out of the 739 homes which were surveyed, approximately 25 per cent plan either to build new homes or remodel their present dwelling, the committee on housing recommend:

A program designed to give help and instruction to those interested, so they may have homes best suited to their individual needs and purposes. We believe that emphasis should be placed on the following:

Sufficient room.

Adequate storage space.

Use of storage space to best advantage.

Low mileage and convenient kitchens.

Heating and air-conditioning.

Sanitation.

Recreational space and facilities.

Adequate and convenient wiring.

Safety.

Fire hazards.

Cause of accidents in the home due to poor planning.

Utility rooms.

Since approximately 27 per cent plan exterior repair and 29 per cent plan interior repair we therefore recommend:

A program of instruction to bring up to date knowledge of the new building materials for exterior and interior use.

Better use of electricity needed.

Approximately 80 per cent of the homes now have electricity, but at the present time it is only being used by a small percentage to its best advantage, we therefore recommend:



An Extension Service class in using tools and making labor saving items for the kitchen. Many homemakers find it is fun to build things to make their homes more livable.

That further education be offered to give aid to the homemaker in using applied electric power, particularly stressing:

New and improved equipment.

Use of electricity for food saving.

a. Getting the most from the refrigerator.

b. Use of home and commercial lockers.

Selection of large equipment.

Use of light meters to determine adequate lighting.

Few families keep home accounts.

Statistics show that 90 per cent of the money spent for family living is actually spent by the housewife. Noting through our survey that while 55 per cent of the families kept farm accounts only 16 per cent kept any form of home accounts, we recommend:

That all homemakers be encouraged to keep accurate home accounts.

In view of the fact that the future may hold unforeseen financial setbacks and difficulties, we believe that only careful planning can bring any

assured financial security. We, therefore, recommend:

That each family be encouraged to adopt a system of budgeting with special emphasis on budgeting for education, medical care and recreation.

Desiring to create a greater pride and interest in the home and home site, we recommend a program designed to bring greater attractiveness and beauty to both exterior and interior surroundings. We suggest that this program be planned to meet the problem of parent and children cooperation.

Health services not fully used.

Our survey seeming to show that many people were not using the health services which are offered by the health agencies of the county, we, therefore, recommend:

That the public be given information to acquaint them with the following free facilities and services of the health agencies.

A. Environment Sanitation.

1. Testing of private and municipal water supplies.

2. Inspection of rural privies and

municipal sewage disposal facilities.

3. Recommendations for improvement of sanitary facilities.

B. Health Education.

1. Showing of health films.

2. Public talks.

C. Health Services.

1. Physical examinations.

2. Immunization clinics.

3. Crippled children's clinics.

4. Tuberculin testing for tuberculosis.

5. Mobile Unit Survey and regular chest films for tuberculosis.

6. Facilities available for care of tuberculosis patients.

7. Facilities available for special services for handicapped children or individuals.

Need doctors and dentists.

Since Baker County had only 12 doctors and 12 dentists, all located in Baker, we further recommend:

That some effort be made to make medical practice more attractive to young physicians in our larger outlying districts.

The rural family in Baker County must travel from two miles up to 70 miles for hospitalization. There are only 100 hospital beds available, with no provision for isolation care. We therefore recommend:

That added hospital facilities be provided, which would be adequately equipped for isolation care and staffed with sufficient personnel, properly trained to give maximum service.

We further recommend that information be made available on various kinds of pre-paid sick benefits for the farm family.

Since Baker is the main shopping and business center for the entire county and since at the present time there is no public 'Rest Station' for women and children we recommend:

The establishment of a Rest Station with the following facilities:

A. Lavatory.

B. Facilities for nursing or feeding infants.

C. Facilities for giving routine care of the infant and pre-school child.

D. Lounging room.

Encourage home food production.

Continuing the policy of the war years regarding home food production and food preservation and in view of

the sharp rise in food costs, we recommend:

A. That adequate home gardens be planted to insure year-round vegetable needs.

B. That a sufficient amount of meats, poultry, eggs and dairy products be produced to insure a good diet for the family.

C. That home grown fruits be used as largely as possible for the family supply. (Using tomatoes in place of the more costly citrus fruit).

D. That improved methods in canning, freezing and storing be used.

E. That improved methods be used in food preparation to conserve food value and vitamins.

F. That the funds for foods be budgeted carefully to furnish an adequate food supply at a minimum cost.

We further recommend that the county continue to participate in a program for furthering the following:

A. Nutrition education (stressing child nutrition).

B. Hot school lunch.

C. Public canning facilities (Community canneries).

Support parent and child education.

Believing that community life is only as good as the family life in the community, and realizing that in this day of speed and rushing from one task to another we often fail to make our home life fit the standards of good living, we recommend:

A. That there be some form of community education for both parents and children regarding their responsibilities to the home and consideration of each other in promoting better family life. That cooperation between parents and children and the necessity of proper home atmosphere be stressed.

B. That there be some form of project to encourage parents to assume their community responsibilities.

C. That a community program of education for young mothers-to-be, post-natal care, and pre-school age, be made available.

D. Believing that many homes are broken because one or both of the contracting parties have had no preparation for married life or because older people have failed to adjust to middle age, and because we feel that any step as serious as matrimony re-

quires much careful study and preparation, we urge:

That an education program be planned to include the following:

1. Pre-marriage problems.
2. Problems of adjusting to middle age.

Need better school facilities.

In our survey of the county we found that we had 20 one-room schools, three two-room schools and five schools of more than two rooms. The average attendance was from seven to 33 pupils per room. The buildings were generally heated with circulating heaters. Most of the schools were not too well equipped and most were not adequately lighted. The water supply was checked regularly by the sanitarian. Some form of hot lunch program was carried on in only nine of the 28 schools.

In view of these findings we submit the following recommendations:

A. That two or more rural school districts be consolidated into one district, where possible, and that all children of elementary age within the entire consolidated district be transported to the one rural school, which school would meet all the requirements as to adequate teachers and other school facilities to comply with standard rural school specifications.

B. That all rural schools be brought up to standard specifications in the interest of public health.

C. That hot lunches be made available to all rural school children in the county.

D. That community canning centers

be established in rural districts where feasible, and that these facilities be used to prepare food for the hot school lunch as well as for the family.

E. As near as could be determined by a survey of 28 communities, only 14 held any form of community recreation and only 12 had any regular educational program. Therefore, we recommend:

That every community encourage some form of educational and recreational program for men, women, and children.

F. Only seven communities had Sunday School and only five had church services occasionally. We therefore recommend:

That there be more community Sunday Schools and church programs to more fully develop the spiritual needs of rural people, stressing the attendance of both the parent and child.

G. There are only 332 children in our 4-H club program out of a total of 1,129 children in our county schools. Believing this may be due largely to the parents and adults who have not given the proper encouragement and have not assumed their responsibility as leaders, we therefore recommend:

1. That 4-H club work be made available to all children in our county between the ages of 9 and 18.
2. That all rural clubs or organizations sponsor 4-H club work.
3. That parents and adults accept responsibility for promoting and leading club work.

Rural Youth Committee Report

The committee attempted to get as comprehensive a picture as possible of the present situation in the county and in terms of local communities. They then considered the problems which are encountered in developing a well rounded Rural Youth program. After studying these problems this sub-committee drew up the following program and recommendations for your consideration as means to meet some of Baker County's Rural Youth needs and opportunities.

The committee gave consideration to the needs of all groups of young people. Along with this, the committee agreed that the program should start in the home. It recognizes that the home is the basis of a community, county, state and nation. There is no proposal to separate home training and any community program for youth. Another committee is responsible for treating with farm home life but it is implied in all of this committee's work.

Every community needs youth activity.

When you step from the immediate home life you think of community life next. Baker County is a large county made up of many small towns and villages and surrounding agricultural areas. These areas are often separated by large unoccupied areas. Therefore, it is important that the county be divided into well defined and natural units so there will be workable grouping of community activity.

Just what is the situation in many communities? Are there activities in all communities on a community basis? Representatives from nearly every corner of Baker County came to the conclusion there were not youth activities in every local community. There should be some type of youth activity for every community in the county. Each community should be responsible for developing its own local program to meet the needs and opportunities of its own young people.

Available organizations not fully used.

Youth are not taking advantage of the organizations already available

for them, nor are adults giving the youth enough encouragement to participate in available activities already functioning in some parts of the county.

Some of the available activities are Boy Scouts, Cub packs, Girl Scouts, Campfire Girls, 4-H Club work, Future Farmers of America and church organizations for youth. A survey of the situation noted the following facts.

There are 30 or more separate communities in the county. There are about 1,735 children between the ages of 4 and 20 years in the county. About 1,283 children attending school live outside the city of Baker. The following figures show approximately the participation, (keeping in mind these are outside the city of Baker.)

a. Boy Scouts—Two troops of about 30 members.

b. Cub packs—One pack of about 15 members.

c. Girl Scouts—None.

d. Campfire Girls—One unit.

e. 4-H Club work—332 different members in 51 organized clubs. There were three pig clubs, two dairy clubs, three beef clubs, four sheep clubs, one horse club, seven sewing clubs, four cooking clubs, 17 health clubs and three forestry clubs.

These represent only 15 different communities and there are no clubs in soil conservation, farm crops, poultry, garden or rural electrification.

f. Juvenile Granges—There are 15 active granges in the county, but only two active juvenile groups. More juvenile granges might be activated in the present granges.

g. Church Youth Groups—There are only three in the county outside the city of Baker. Out of 23 rural communities nine of them had Sunday School and very few had church. More communities should have church and Sunday School. The Ministerial Association in the city of Baker has indicated a willingness to help on a cooperative basis.

Parent interest is lacking.

Parent interest in youth activities in many cases appears to be rather lacking. When a youth activity is being offered in a community there



4-H Club work builds citizens while making better farmers and homemakers. More adults should accept the responsibility as local leaders, not only in 4-H work but in all youth work.

is need for full cooperation on the part of the parents if the activity is to be fully successful.

Extra effort and time provided on the part of the parents on any project not only heartens and assists the leaders but also encourages the children who are participating.

A county wide campaign is needed to increase responsibility and activity of parents in the community youth work.

Adult leadership is obligation.

When any group is organized the first thing needed is a president or a chairman or a leader. A qualified leader is needed to guide and direct every young people's group. That leader is the counsellor and mentor for the group. Yet when adults are approached to lead youth groups they too often are reluctant to participate. Perhaps these same adults asked to be president of an adult organization would consider it an honor.

An adult's obligation to be a leader of youth is just as important, and perhaps more important than to be a leader of adults. Every adult should give thought to this the next time he or she is asked to lead a Scout troop, a 4-H club or other similar youth organization.

Communities should make facilities available.

Buildings and grounds for youth recreational and other activities are needed. Those responsible should be encouraged to let youngsters use community buildings. If necessary, supervision of youth groups should be provided. There must be meeting places and recreational grounds. Communities should go further to make available the community buildings and grounds so as to encourage youth programs.

New school courses needed.

The present school curriculum does not go far beyond regular academic subjects. The addition of two types of school training would make the rural youth better citizens and more practical workers. A course in Community Cooperation and Community Responsibility should be provided for and required of all seniors in the High Schools of Baker County. The Rural School Boards and the new County School Board should provide adequately in their budgets for a wide range of vocational classes. Special emphasis is placed on the need for farm shop work.

Need branch libraries.

The present library facilities in the small schools of the county are

very inadequate. Good books in ample supply are most valuable as an aid in educational work. The State Library at Salem should have wider rural use. At present the Baker Library can be used by individuals for a small annual charge but it is necessary to come to Baker to get the books. Arrangements could be made to establish branch libraries in the county and receive library services from Baker on a county-wide basis. Some extra financing would be needed.

Every community could have recreation.

Even if all present youth organizations were functioning on a much better basis there still would be need for additional community recreational programs. It is recognized that every community cannot provide the same types of organized recreation, but every community could have some types. Some of the following are suggestions:

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Horseshoes | 8. Track |
| 2. Basketball | 9. Tennis |
| 3. Volley Ball | 10. Horseback riding |
| 4. Swimming | 11. Soft Ball |
| 5. Ice Skating | 12. Folk Dancing |
| 6. Roller Skating | 13. Dramatics |
| 7. Skiing | 14. Organized Games |
| | 15. Neighborhood Parties |

What has been said before in regard to use of buildings and grounds for other than their primary purposes will apply to recreation also. Double duty is possible in many instances. The ideal community center is one which is busy and used not one day but several days a week, daytimes and evenings. In few cases will special recreational facilities be needed. Sources of information, and guidance for recreation are available through the library, extension service, and similar public agencies. School boards, in their budget planning, should recognize the urgent need for recreational facilities and equipment.

Youth should earn money.

There is a need to give youngsters some means to earn money. Payment for every little chore is not necessary. But remuneration is an encouragement to effort. Earned money means more than given money. Gainful employment thus reduces the dangers of idle time and at the same

time gives most valuable training in responsibility of handling money and teaches the value of time and other resources.

In addition to more gainful employment for rural youth there is another closely allied plan, that of parents and child sharing on a fair basis in the profits from endeavors they carry out in common.

Achievement days should be encouraged.

Establishing annual achievement days in each community should be encouraged to emphasize what has been accomplished by youngsters of the community in the preceeding period and to encourage continuing improvement in programs for each succeeding year. Celebration of achievement days would be a means of creating both adult and youth interest in present programs already set up. Community achievement days in rural communities would create community spirit and community pride and stimulate greater effort in the period just ahead.

Publicity can stimulate program.

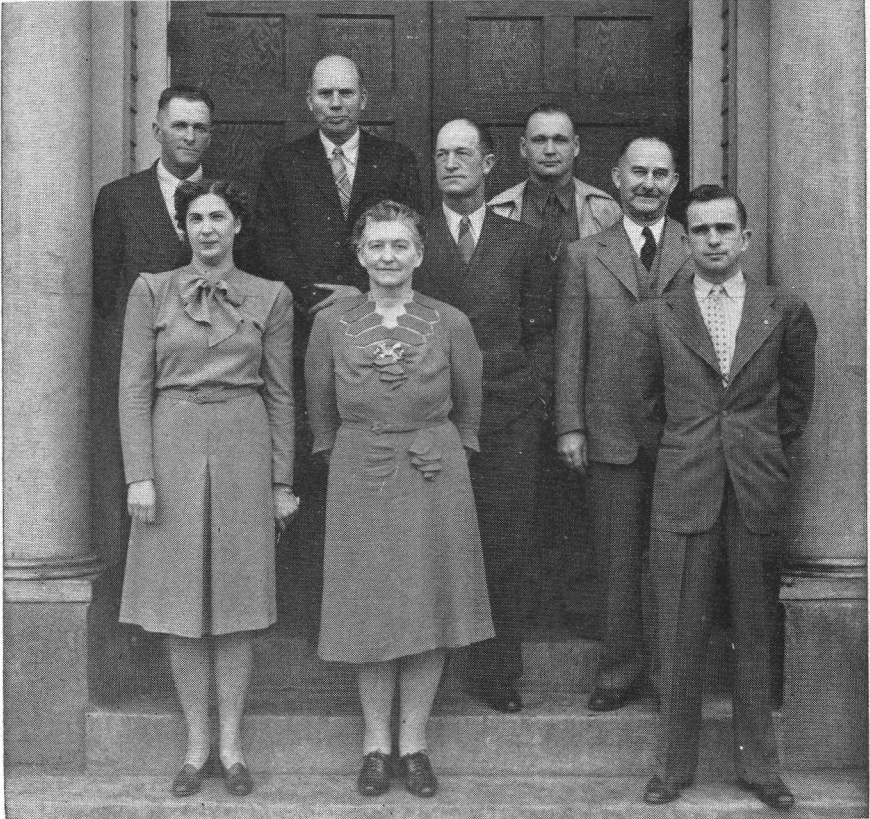
There is a need for dissemination of full information concerning the already available activities. Community achievements are of interest between communities and their publicity acts as a stimulus to the individual concerned.

Encouragement of parents to participate in more youth programs could be accomplished by letting the parents know about the organizations available and giving the aims and purposes of them.

A publicity program should be carried out currently so that items would have news value and would encourage and stimulate accomplishment in the community where the activity is carried on as well as in other communities.

Recommend action committee.

In order that proposals, recommendations and programs set forth in this report be put into action it is further recommended to the Baker County Agricultural Program Planning Conference General Committee that a Rural Youth Action Committee be set up as a permanent standing committee, and that such action committee include representation from every community of Baker County.



Heading up the 1947 Baker County Agricultural Planning Conference were left to right: Roy Vanderwall, Land Use and Vets Advisory Committee Chairman; Miss Elizabeth Jane Knapp, Baker County Home Demonstration Agent; Chas. Simpson, 4-H Local Leaders Assn. President; Mrs. W. O. Christensen, Farm Home and Rural Life Committee Chairman; Wayne Phillips, Livestock Committee Chairman; C. D. Conrad, Baker County Agricultural Agent; Armand Perkins, General Conference Chairman; Robert Ball, Irrigation Drainage Committee, Chairman. Not present were Clyde Ward, Crops Committee Chairman, and Sam Coon, Rural Youth Committee Chairman.

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Baker County AGRICULTURAL PROGRAM PLANNING CONFERENCE

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Amos Creger, Haines	4-H Clubs and Farm Crops
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THE RECORD-COURIER, Printers, Baker, Ore.