

**OPERATOR REPLACEMENTS AND YOUTH
OPPORTUNITIES ON DAIRY FARMS IN THE
MYRTLE POINT COMMUNITY**

by

THEODORE TIMOTHY KIRSCHE

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APPROVED:

Redacted for Privacy

Professor of Extension Methods
In Charge of Major

Redacted for Privacy

Chairman of School Graduate Committee

Redacted for Privacy

Chairman of College Graduate Council

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INTRODUCTION

Purpose of the Study

Before World War II considerable discussion took place among agricultural extension, farm security and vocational agricultural workers to the effect that it was becoming increasingly difficult for youth to become established in farming. During the war these same agricultural workers are of the opinion that older men are staying on the farm longer than they would under ordinary conditions in order to help produce needed food for our nation at war.

One of the goals in the education of rural youth is "to establish young men in farming". Very little seems to have been done to uncover facts revealing the extent to which rural youth have an opportunity to become established in farming.

In the Myrtle Point community, where dairying is the major agricultural enterprise, the question is raised, "After the war what?" How many dairy farmers will retire? How many youth will want to dairy farm? What can youth expect from dairy farming? This study attempts to find some of the answers to these questions in the Myrtle Point community. Sound planning followed by action, which will lead to the establishment in farming of the most competent rural youth, is vital to America's future.

This study has the following specific objectives with respect to the Myrtle Point Community:

1. To obtain facts which should help determine the guidance program for beginning dairy farm operators, particularly youth, during the next 10 years.
2. To obtain facts about dairy farm operator replacements during the past 10 years.
3. To determine the number of replacements of dairy farm operators during the next 10 years.
4. To determine the degree of opportunity for returning veterans and other youth to establish themselves on dairy farms.

Definitions

Youth in this study includes all boys over 18 years of age who have not entered upon a life's occupation, unless otherwise indicated. Seldom are they over 30 years of age.

A dairy farm in this study is one which produced 6,000 pounds of milk or 250 pounds of butterfat in April 1944. Approximately, this is one on which a farmer spends at least one-half of his time and receives at least one-half of his income from dairying.

An inexperienced dairy farmer is one who has not operated a dairy farm of his own or has had very little dairy farm experience.

An experienced dairy farmer is one who has operated a dairy farm of his own or has had a number of years of experience as a dairy farm hand.

Total net worth is the farmer's best estimate of his net gain from dairying on his present dairy farm.

Coes County and the Myrtle Point Community

Dairying is the principal agricultural enterprise in Coes County because of the plentiful rainfall, the fertile soil of the Coquille and Coes River Valleys and the ease with which pasture may be maintained at a relatively high productive state. A ready market for milk is found in the numerous cheese factories and creameries, five of which are found in the Myrtle Point community.

The 1940 census reports Coes County with (table 1):

- 3 percent of the farms in Oregon,
- 3 percent of the population,
- 3 percent of the rural farm population,
- 3 percent of the rural farm population between the ages of 18 and 30.

In addition Coes County had (table 1):

- 6 percent of the producing cows,
- 6 percent of the milk produced,
- 6 percent of the whole milk shippers.

Table 1.--Comparison of Coos County With Oregon 1/

Item of Comparison	Oregon	Coos County	Percent
Number of farms	61,829	1,953	3.2
Rural farm population	256,283	8,041	3.1
Rural farm population between the ages of 18 and 30 years	26,312	826	3.1
Total population	1,089,684	32,466	3.0
Cows and heifers milked	241,079	14,789	6.1
Gallons milk produced	150,449,364	9,690,777	6.1
Shippers of whole milk sold	9,996	589	5.9

There were 983 shippers of whole milk to creameries, distributors and cheese factories in Coos County during April 1944. 2/ One-fourth (25.8 percent) of these shippers have farms in the Myrtle Point Community.

There were 42.1 percent of the shippers in Coos County who produced 6,000 pounds of milk in April 1943. Over one-third (35.7 percent) of these larger shippers were in the Myrtle Point community (table 2). 3/

1/ Federal Census of 1940.

2/ This figure does not include cream shippers for this period.

3/ Dairy herds in the Myrtle Point community freshen somewhat earlier than in most parts of Coos County and may account in part for this high percentage.

Table 2.--Comparison of Myrtle Point Community with Coos County 1/

Item of Comparison	Coos County	Myrtle Point Community	Percent
Farms selling milk in April 1944	983	234	23.8
Farms selling 6,000 lbs. milk or more in April 1944	414	147	35.7

Description of Study

This study of operator replacements on dairy farms in the Myrtle Point community was undertaken during the summer of 1944 and covers a ten year period ending in July 1944. It includes the opinions and ideas of dairy farmers, community leaders, youth and servicemen which were obtained during the months of July and August 1944.

This study was carried on by the field survey and questionnaire method. Fifty representative dairy farmers, eight community leaders and 11 youth in the Myrtle Point community were personally interviewed by the writer. Questionnaires were mailed to 70 servicemen who formerly resided in the Myrtle Point Community.

Information was gathered about each farm, each farmer and his family, and the operators of these 50 farms

1/ Information obtained from subsidy records on file in the Coos County Agricultural Agent's office in Coquille.

during the past 10 years, as shown in the questionnaire of the appendix. The farmers' best estimates were used when this was the most accurate information obtainable. Butter-fat production records for 1943 were obtained from local cheese factories through the permission of the farmers interviewed.

Each farmer was asked if he knew of any youth in the service who had grown up on dairy farms in this community, had worked on dairy farms three years or were interested in dairy farming. The addresses of these boys were obtained by writing or by personally calling on their parents or friends in the community. A questionnaire and letter was then mailed by August 1, 1944 to each of 70 boys whose names and addresses had been obtained in this way. Questions asked were designed to obtain information on their interests in dairy farming when they returned, how much dairy farm experience they had had and similar matters. 1/

In addition, the names of 13 youth now working on dairy farms were obtained and 11 were interviewed by use of the same questionnaire. Eight community leaders were also interviewed 2/ including one dairy farm leader in each neighborhood and a local representative of each

1/ See questionnaire No. 3 and letter in Appendix.

2/ See Farmer questionnaire No. 2 in Appendix.

agricultural agency. The neighborhood leaders were selected in consultation with the Coos County Agricultural Agent.

Area Represented

The boundary lines of what would be considered as the Myrtle Point community were determined in consultation with the County Agricultural Agent. Post office address, trading center and transportation of school children were the three major points used in determining whether a particular neighborhood would be considered as part of the Myrtle Point community. Six neighborhoods were finally selected (figure 1).

Selection of 50 Dairy Farms

Only five of the six natural neighborhoods in the Myrtle Point community are suited to dairying, and each of these has a cheese factory to which a majority of the residents market fluid milk.

The 1944 April subsidy records from each of the five cheese factories gave the names of 234 farmers shipping milk from these five neighborhoods. A considerable number were shipping a small amount so all of those producing less than 6,000 pounds of milk in April were

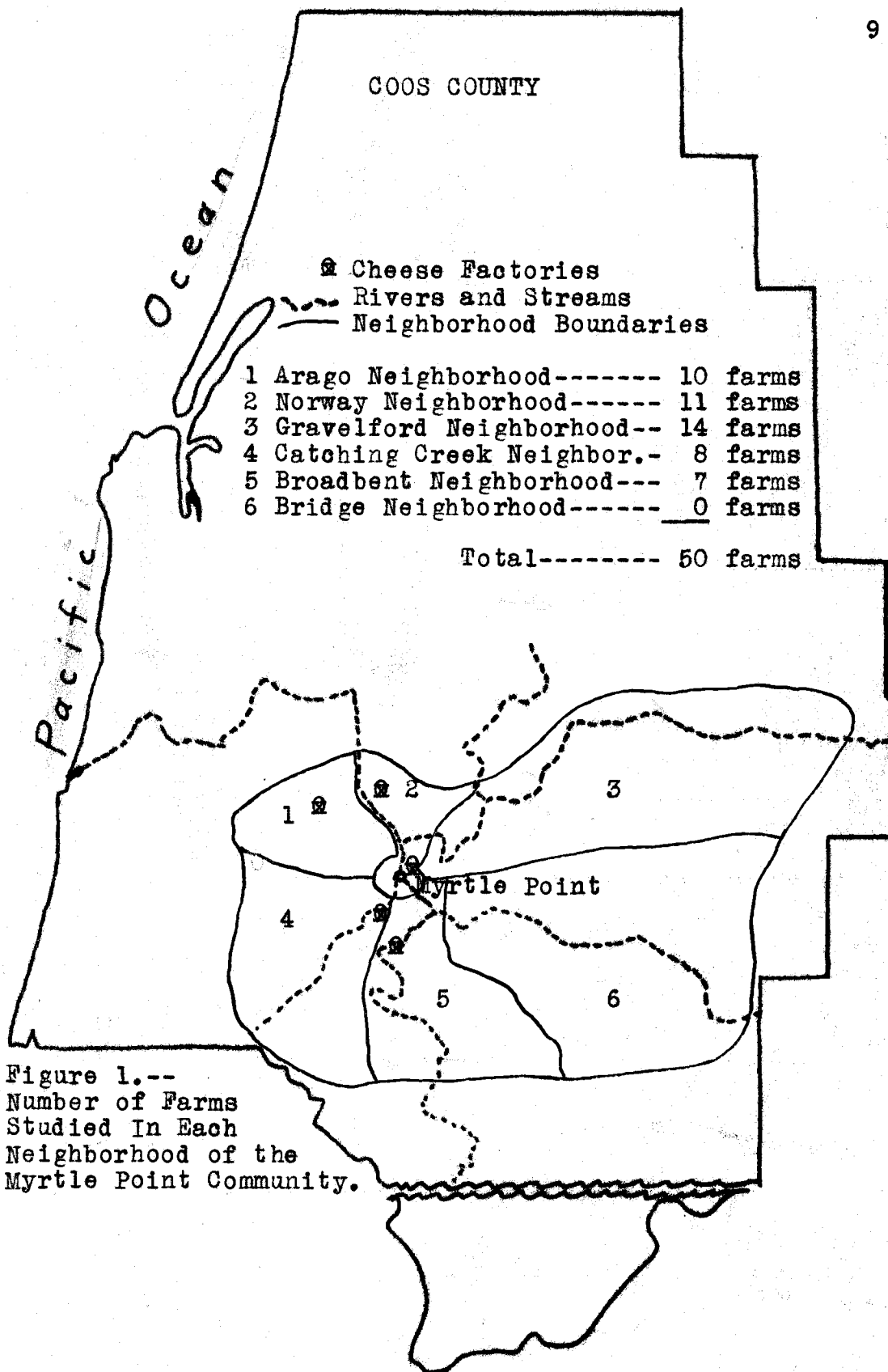


Figure 1.--
 Number of Farms
 Studied In Each
 Neighborhood of the
 Myrtle Point Community.

eliminated from the study. 1/ In order to be representative of size of farm and to select the proper number from each neighborhood, a list was made of all dairy farms in each neighborhood, arranging them in order of the highest producer in April. Every third farm was selected from each list beginning with the first farmer on each list. This totaled 30 farmers.

1/ It was determined by using four farmers with the same number of cows last year that approximately 1/8 of the total milk produced this year, would be produced in April. By multiplying $8 \times 6,000$ it is determined that about 48,000 pounds of milk will be produced in 1944 by the smallest dairyman considered. It has been estimated by cheese factory operators that the average test is about 4.2. This would mean that an operator producing 48,000 pounds of 4.2 percent milk will produce 2,000 pounds of butterfat. In July 1944 the price per pound of butterfat including subsidy was 50 cents. Several small dairymen estimated that they average 50 cents per pound over and above such operating costs. This would mean an income of \$1000 from 2,000 pounds of butterfat. This was estimated as being one-half or more of the income of the average small producer. (Small dairy farm operators often do custom work, work in logging camps or work in a saw mill nearby during part of the year). Three of the farms studied produced less than 2,000 pounds of butterfat in 1943. Of the five farms studied with 10 cows or less, three spent one-third of their time dairying and two spent 100 percent, averaging 50 percent. These small farms produced 6,000 pounds of milk or more in April 1944.

Other Studies Of a Similar Nature

No studies could be found which covered similar items of either local or national scope. Letters were written to three people of the agricultural extension staff in the U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C., asking for information on similar studies but none were forthcoming. No member of the committee, under whose guidance this was written, knew or found trace of any similar study.

State Bulletin 518 on the "Cost and Efficiency in Dairy Farming in Oregon" gives valuable information on the business of dairy farming. 1/ A study entitled "Situations, Problems, and Interests of Unmarried Rural Young People 16-25 Years of Age", Extension Service Circular 277, presents "getting started in a chosen vocation" as the second most important problem of rural youth. 2/

1/ A survey by representatives of the Oregon Agricultural Experiment Station written by H. E. Selby, A. S. Burrier and P. M. Brandt of Oregon State College.

2/ A survey in 1936 of four Oregon counties, written by Barnard D. Joy and J. R. Beck. Similar studies have been made in other states.

CHARACTERISTICS OF FARMS STUDIED

Size of Farms

Dairy farms in the Myrtle Point community are made up of two kinds of cropland and two kinds of non-cropland. The most productive cropland is called bottom land and is generally very fertile and highly productive pasture land. It is found in the valleys along tributaries of the Coquille River and is overflowed by these tributaries during the high water months of December and January. The bench or hill cropland is found farther away from the rivers and streams on higher ground and is used principally for hay land because it usually becomes drier much earlier in the summer.

The non-cropland may be divided into pasture and brush or timber. It is found primarily on the foothills of the valleys and is usually too sloping or rolling to crop. It is often burned over and seeded to hill-land grasses for young stock and winter pasture. The amount of this non-cropland which is pastureable usually varies from year to year depending upon the growth of brush and upon the farmer's slashing, burning and seeding program. One farm had no bottom cropland; 21 had no hill or bench cropland and 11 had no non-crop pasture (table 3).

Table 3.--Size of 50 Dairy Farms Studied

<u>Total Acres:</u>		<u>Cropland bottom acres:</u>	
Farms Represented --	100%	Farms Represented --	98%
Largest -----	409	Largest -----	200
Smallest -----	8	Smallest -----	8
Average size -----	143.7	Average -----	55.0
64% between 50-200 acres		70% between 20-20 acres	
<u>Cropland Hill or Bench Acres:</u>		<u>Non-crop Pasture Acres:</u>	
Farms Represented --	58%	Farms Represented --	78%
Largest -----	70	Largest -----	250
Smallest -----	4	Smallest -----	5
Average -----	20.9	Average -----	61.8
78% between 6-30 acres		62% between 20-100 acres	

Size of Dairy Herds

The number of cows in this study, although representative of the 147 larger dairy farms in the community, is not representative of the 234 milk shippers in the area, because it does not represent 87 of the small herds and part-time shippers. The number of cows milked on each farm in 1943 was used in order to obtain corresponding production records (table 4), 1/

Table 4.--Size of herds on 50 dairy farms

Farms Represented-----	100%
Largest Herd-----	92 cows
Smallest Herd-----	6 cows
Average Size-----	28.5 cows
Median-----	23 cows
64% between 12-31 cows	

1/ Production records for 1944 were not complete because the survey was made during the summer of 1944.

A total of 371,757 pounds of butterfat were produced in 1943 on 49 farms. ^{1/} This means the dairy farms of the Myrtle Point community produced approximately 1,000,000 pounds of butterfat annually. Over one-half (54.8 percent) of the butterfat was produced by less than one-fourth (24.9 percent) of the dairy farmers. The average production per cow for 1943 was 266.2 pounds of butterfat (table 5).

Table 5.--Production on Dairy Farms

Farms Represented-----	98%
Highest Farm-----	31,425 lbs. butterfat
Lowest Farm-----	1,285 lbs. butterfat
Average Production-----	7,587 lbs. butterfat
Median Production-----	4,989 lbs. butterfat
70% of the farms under 8,000 lbs. butterfat.	

Cropland Bottom Acres and Number of Cows

Since the bottom cropland is relatively by far the most productive acreage, a comparison may be made between the number of cows and the acres of plowable bottom land. Table 6 shows the number of acres per cow.

Table 6.--Comparison of Cropland Bottom Acres to Cows

Farms Represented -----	98%
Largest Ratio-----	6.0 acres per cow
Smallest Ratio-----	.5 acre per cow
Average -----	2.0 acres per cow
70% between 1.3 - 2.5 acres per cow.	

^{1/} Production records were obtained from cheese factories except for one fluid milk producer whose production was estimated. Records were unobtainable on one farm.

Increases and Decreases in Acreage

In the past 10 years (July 1934 to July 1944) 13 or 26 percent of the farms studied increased an average of 77 acres, 38.5 of which was bottom cropland. Seven of these 13 or 54 percent now have 36 cows or more. Only 4 percent decreased acreage during this same period, averaging 12 acres, 11 of which was bottom. The increases in acreage took place during 1936, 1937 and 1938; also during 1941 and 1942 with two small changes in 1944.

Years a Dairy Farm

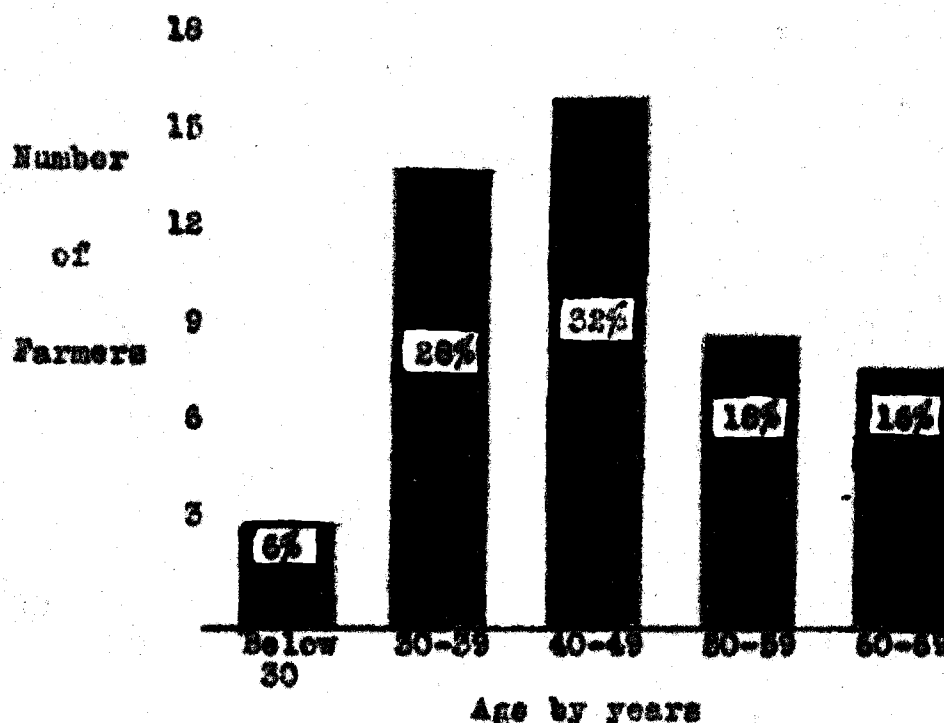
The oldest dairy farm studied started 60 years ago and the youngest one year ago. The average length of time these farms had been dairy farms was 40 years. Four-fifths had been operated as dairy farms from 30 to 55 years and half of these had been operated for over 50 years.

CHARACTERISTICS OF DAIRY FARMERS STUDIED

Age of Dairy Farmers

The ages of the 50 dairy farmers ranged from 24 years to 69 years with an average age of 45.3 years. ^{1/} Over three-fourths (78 percent) were between the ages of 30 and 59 years inclusive, while 16 percent were 60 or over. Only 6 percent were 30 or younger (figure 2).

Figure 2.--Ages of 50 Dairy Farmers

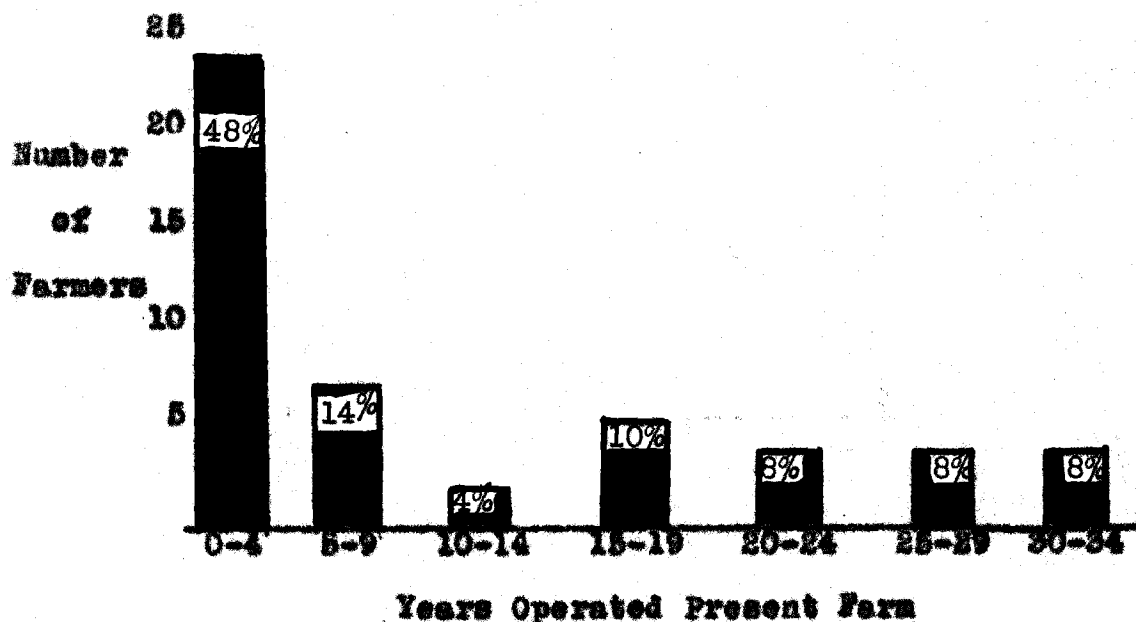


^{1/} The average age of farmers in Oregon is 50.8 years, according to the 1940 census. This difference might be explained by the fact that dairying requires more physical stamina and longer hours than the majority of agricultural occupations. Also it does not require a lot of seasonal hired labor.

Years Operating Present Farm

The longest any farmer had operated his present farm was 34 years and four farmers had moved on to their farms within the last 6 months. ^{1/} The average length of time operators had spent on their present farm was 10.4 years. Nearly one-half (48 percent) had operated their present farm four years or less (figure 3). A total of 44 percent had never operated any farm except the one they were on at the time this study was made.

**Figure 3.--Length of Time Dairy Farmers
Operated Present Farm**



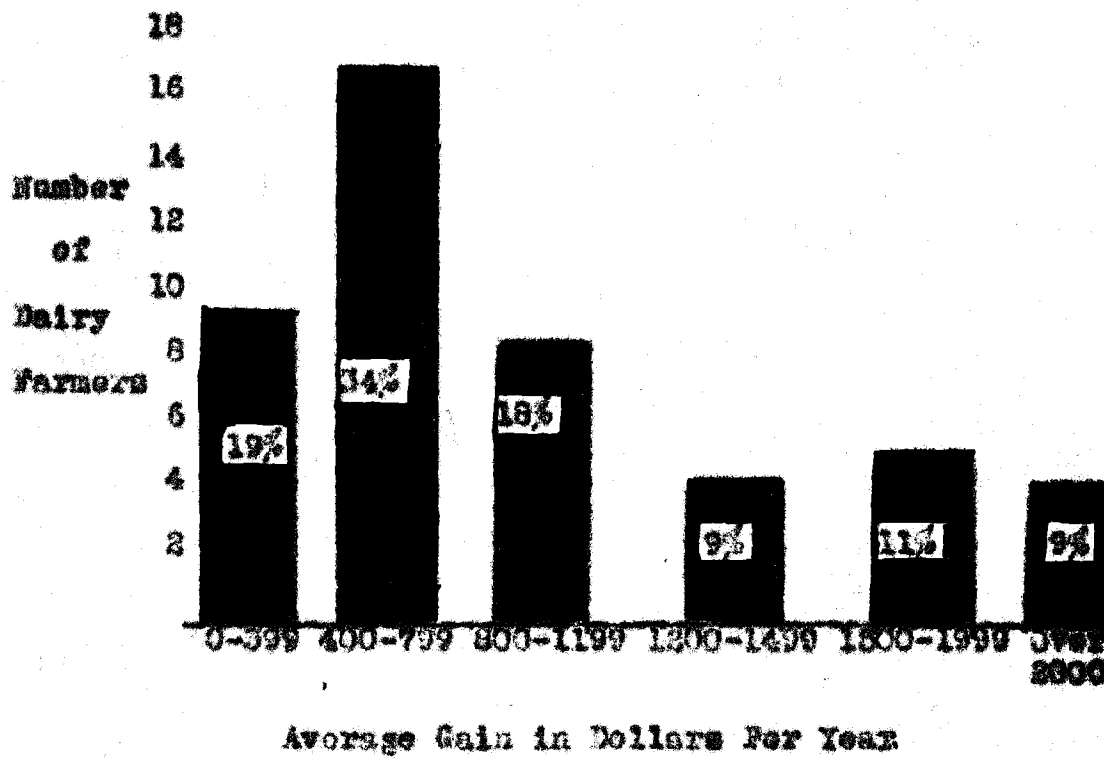
^{1/} From February to July 1944.

Gain in Total Worth on Present Farm

The greatest gain in total net worth on one farm was \$30,000. This is over and above all farm and family expenses during the years which this farmer farmed his farm. Four of the fifty farmers had been on their farm less than six months and were disregarded in totals and averages concerning gain in total worth. One farmer who had been on his farm more than six months showed no gain, but no farmer showed a loss. The average gain in total worth was \$6,975.

The greatest average gain in total worth per year for any one farm was \$3,500 and the lowest, zero. The average gain per year per farm was \$929. Over four-fifths (81 percent) of the dairy farmers gained an average of \$400 a year or more (figure 4).

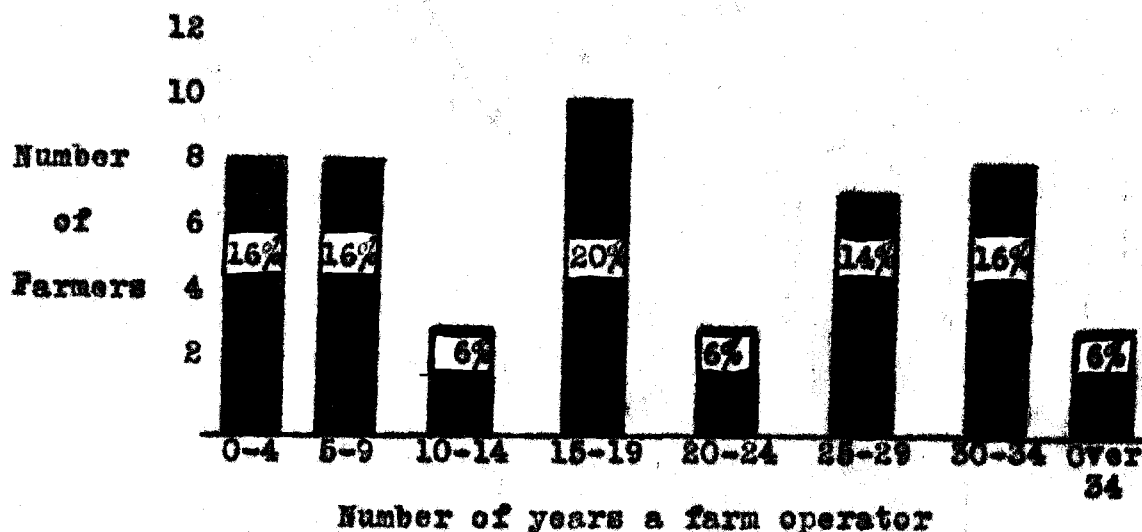
Figure 4.--Average Gain in Total Net Worth



Years a Farm Operator

The longest time any of the farmers interviewed had operated a farm was 43 years. The shortest was six months. The average length of time they had been farm operators was 17.6 years. Only six percent became farm operators from 1920 to 1925 and from 1930 to 1935. There is a striking uniformity between the number who began operating farms in the other five year periods between 1910 to 1945 (figure 5). Only six percent had farmed more than 34 years.

Figure 5.--Years a Farm Operator



Years a Dairy Farm Operator

The longest any operator had been a dairy farmer was 43 years and the shortest six months. A total of 84 percent have been dairy farmers since they began farming. The average farmer had 16.3 years experience as a dairy farm operator.

Tenants and Owners

Of the 50 farm operators interviewed 20 or 40 percent were tenants and 30 or 60 percent were owners. One of the tenants was acting as manager and one of the owners was a partner. Only one farmer was a part owner and he was considered as an owner for purposes of this study.

The average age of tenants was 41.4 years as compared to 48.0 years for owners.^{1/} Owners had been on their present farm 13.8 years, an average of nearly four times longer than tenants, who averaged 3.8 years. Tenants have been farm operators an average of 12.9 years while owners have farmed for an average of 20.8 years. Owners had an average gain in total net worth of \$8,615 while tenants gained \$3,664. Tenant farms changed hands an average of 2.6 times in the last 10 years as compared with 0.7 for owners (table 7).

^{1/} The average age of tenants in Oregon is 44.2 years; part owners 49.1 years and full owners 52.6 years according to the 1940 census.

Table 7.--Tenant-Owner Comparisons

Item	Tenant	Owner
Ages:		
Oldest (years)	69	66
Youngest (years)	26	24
Average (years)	41.4	48.0
Under 45 years (%)	65	53
Years on Present Farm:		
Longest (years)	14	34
Shortest (years)	0	0
Average (years)	5.8	13.8
Under 5 years (%)	70	33
Under 15 years (%)	100	45
Years a Farmer:		
Longest (years)	37	47
Shortest (years)	0.5	1
Average (years)	12.9	20.8
Under 15 years (%)	65	30
Gain in Total Worth:		
Highest (dollars)	12,000	30,000
Lowest (dollars)	0	1,000
Average (dollars)	3,664	8,615
Under 4,000 dollars (%)	70	21
Operator Changes:		
Percentage of all changes	70	30
Average No. of times	2.6	0.7
Percentage of farms changing	90	43

Family Status and Ages of Children

The 50 farmers had 105 children living, 55 of whom were sons and 50 were daughters, an average of slightly more than one son and one daughter each. Although there were only five bachelors, 37 of the farmers had all the children (table 8).

Table 8.--Family Status and Ages of Children

10 percent were bachelors	:	Ages of Children:
90 percent were married	:	Oldest.....44 years
74 percent had children	:	Youngest.... 1 year
56 percent had sons	:	Average17.8 years
60 percent had daughters	:	76% between 10-35 years
	:	
Ages of Sons:	:	Ages of Daughters:
Oldest.....44 years	:	Oldest.....34 years
Youngest..... 1 year	:	Youngest.... 1 year
Average.....19.4 years	:	Average.....15.9 years
76% between 10-35 years	:	76% between 10-35 years

Average Size of a Dairy Farmer's Family In Lifetime

It is recognized that the total of all the children these dairy farmers will have is larger than 105 because some of the children have not yet been born. In order to determine the average size of a dairy farmer's family in a lifetime, the children of those farmers 45 years and older were tabulated. One-half or 25 dairy farmers were 45 years old or older, with an average age of 52.9 years. These farmers had 37 sons and 26 daughters or an average of two and one-half children per family; however, 20 percent did not have any children. The average age of these children was 21.4 years with the boys averaging 21.6 and the girls 21.1 years. The youngest child of these 25 farmers was five years old.

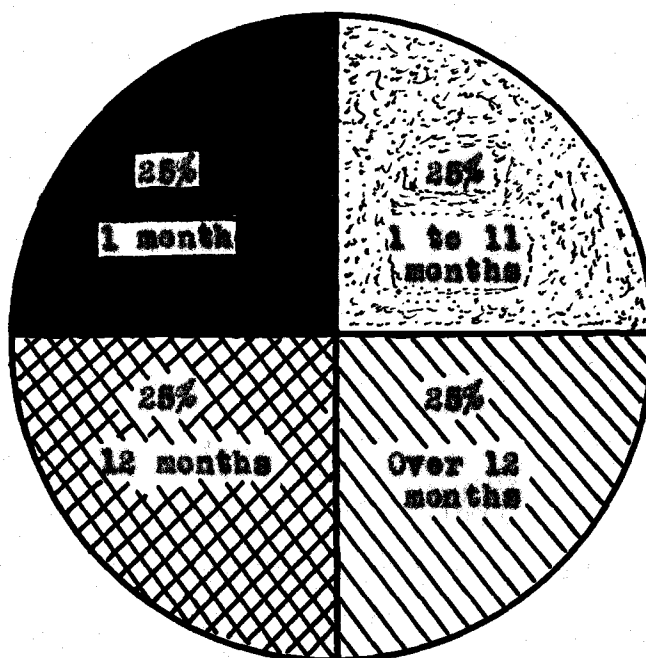
Time Spent Working on Farm

Three-fourths (75 percent) of the operators spent all of their productive time working on the farm. One out of every ten spent 34 percent or less of his time on the farm. The average time spent on the farm was 88.5 percent.

Over one-third (36 percent) of the farmers used less than one month of hired labor during the average year. The war has encouraged exchange of labor and this labor was not included because the operator returned it. An average of 9.9 months of labor was

hired by the 50 dairy farm operators. One-half of the farmers hiring labor hired either one month or 12 months of labor (figure 6).

Figure 6.--Length of Time Labor Hired By 33 Operators



OPERATOR REPLACEMENTS ON FARMS STUDIED

The Questions Asked

What has happened on the Myrtle Point dairy farms regarding operator replacements during the past 10 years?

1/ To answer this question, six questions were asked of the present operators, neighbors or owners depending on who could supply the information. The questions asked regarding the operators of the past 10 years were:

1. How many changes were made and in what years?
2. Why did the past operator leave?
3. Who took over the farm?
4. How did the exchange take place?
5. Where did the past operator go?
6. What change in status (tenant-owner), if any?

Number and Years of Operator Replacements

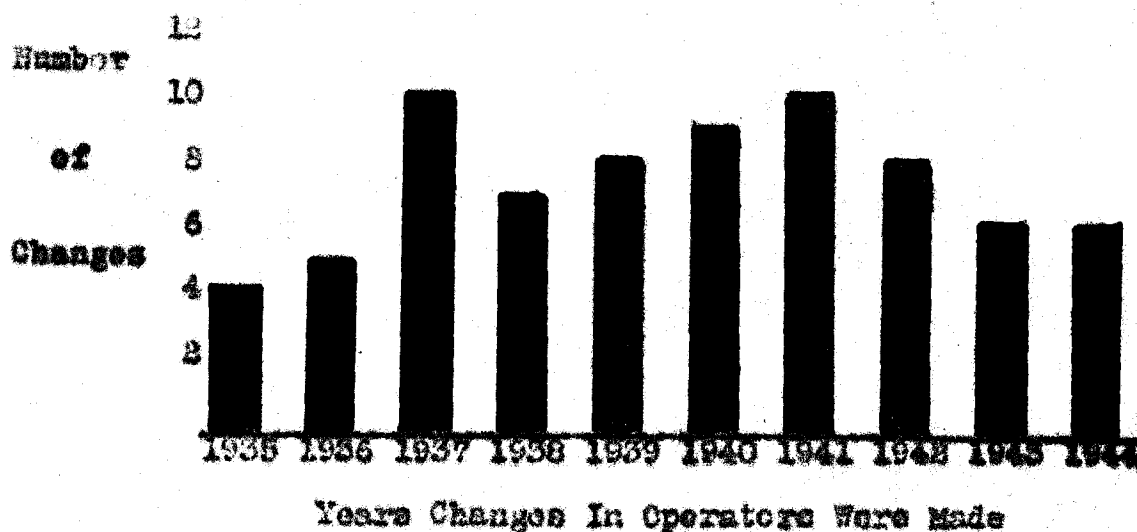
The following replacements during this 10 year period were found to have taken place:

62 percent of the farms changed operators,
 73 replacements were made in operators on these farms,
 25 replacements were made on five farms,
 90 percent of the tenant farms changed operators,^{2/}
 43 percent of the owner farms changed operators,^{2/}
 28 percent of the tenant farms changed only once,
 62 percent of the owner farms changed only once.

The changes in operators from 1935 to 1944 took place rather uniformly, ranging from four changes in 1935 to ten changes in 1937 and 1941 (figure 7). The average number of changes was 7.3 per year.

1/ This period was from July 1934 to July 1944.

2/ See comparison of owners and tenants in table 4.

Figure 7.--Operator Replacements By YearsWhy Did The Past Operator Leave?

More than one-third (34.2 percent) of the changes took place because of poor management of the operators. One out of every five of the changes (20.5 percent) were dairy farmers advancing themselves by moving to better or bigger farms in the community. An additional 13.7 percent retired from dairying to an easier occupation or a life of leisure. Poor lease arrangements were responsible for 9.6 percent of the changes and death claimed 6.9 percent. A profitable sale was the reason for 5.5 percent changing and 4.1 percent changed because of poor health in the family. Miscellaneous reasons, including a foreigner, breaking farm into two units and leaving to buy a dairy farm made up 5.5 percent (table 9).

Table 9.--Information On Operator Changes

<u>Questions</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Why did the past operator leave?		
Poor management	25	34.2
Moved to better or bigger farm	15	20.5
Retired from farming	10	13.7
Poor lease arrangement	7	9.6
Death	5	6.9
Sold for business reason	4	5.5
Sickness in family	3	4.1
Miscellaneous	4	5.5
Who took over the farm?		
Experienced dairy farmer	48	65.8
Inexperienced dairy farmer	25	34.2
How did the exchange take place?		
Person known by operator or owner	57	78.1
Person unknown by operator or owner	13	17.8
Real estate agent	3	4.1
Where did the past operator go?		
To farming elsewhere or other occupa'n.	45	61.6
To another dairy farm in this commun.	21	28.8
Died	5	6.9
To other farming in this community	2	2.7
Changes in tenant and owner operators:		
From tenant to tenant	41	56.2
From owner to tenant	12	16.5
From owner to owner	11	15.0
From tenant to owner	9	12.3

Who Took Over The Farm?

Of the 73 farmers who began farming on these 50 farms during the past 10 years 11 (15.1 percent) were youth. ^{1/} Seven of the youth were heirs, five being sons and two being son-in-laws. The youth' ages ranged from 19 to 31

^{1/} See page 3 for definition of youth in this study.

years when they started farming, averaging 23.9 years. The average age of the heirs was two years older or 25.9 years.

Seven of the 11 youth are still dairy farming on these farms. Three of them are owners and four are tenants. They have farmed an average of 4.9 years and made an average yearly income of \$970 (table 10).

Over one-third (34.2 percent) of the 73 operators who took over a farm were inexperienced at dairy farming as judged by the person supplying the information (table 9).

Table 10.--Seven Youth Still On Farm

Relation	Age Began Farming	Years Farming	Tenant-Owner	Total Net Income (Dollars)	Average Net Income (Dollars)
Youth	22	4	Tenant	2,200	505
Youth	21	6	Tenant	6,500	1,083
Son	21	3	Owner	6,000	2,000
Son	23	8	Owner	6,000	750
Son	29	5	Owner	5,250	1,050
Son	31	6	Tenant	1,800	300
Son-in-law*	29	2	Tenant	2,400	1,200
Total	176	34		30,150	8,788
Average	25.1	4.9		4,307	970

*This was the only inexperienced youth still farming.

How Did The Exchange Take Place?

Over three-fourths (78.1 percent) of the replacements took place between people who were acquainted with each

other before the possibility of change of operators came up. ^{1/} Of the remaining 21.9 percent, 17.8 percent were exchanged through friends, advertisements, etc., while only 4.1 percent were handled by real estate agents (table 9). Two reasons seem apparent for this low percentage handled by real estate agents. Only operator changes were considered in this study. Often times tenant places change owners and may or may not change operators and 41 of the 73 operator changes were from tenant to tenant, and only 11 were from owner to owner. It is also believed that real estate agents handle more of the smaller places which were not considered in this study.

Where Did The Past Operator Go?

Over three-fifths (61.6 percent) of the operators went to farming elsewhere or changed their occupations. Another 28.8 percent moved to another dairy farm in the community, while 6.9 percent were deaths, and 2.7 percent entered other types of farming in the community (table 9).

Of the 73 operators, 41 were tenants who took over the farm from another tenant. An additional 12 changed from owner to tenant as compared with nine from tenant to owner. Only 11 of the changes were from owner to owner.

^{1/} In the case of a tenant farm the new tenant may have known either the operator or the owner.

INFORMATION ON FUTURE OPERATOR REPLACEMENTS**Dairy Farmers' Sons Over 14 Years Of Age**

Only one of the 50 dairy farmers had a son operating a dairy farm in the Myrtle Point community. This son was 32 years old.

Eleven of the 50 dairy farmers (22 percent) had sons in the service and one farmer had two sons in, making a total of 12 sons in the service. Their average age was 21.5 years. However, since only 28 of the farmers had sons, two-fifths (40 percent) of those who had sons, had sons in the service. Four of the 50 farmers had a son of military age still at home. One farmer had two sons at home making a total of five sons of military age at home. Three of these sons were working for wages and two were in partnership with parents.

Four of these farmers had one son between 14 and 18 who might be a prospective dairy farmer within the next 10 years. Of the 19 farmers who had 21 sons over 14 years of age either in the military service or at home, 12 said they had sons who would be interested in dairy farming in the next 10 years. Two of these had two sons, making a total of 14 sons who would be interested in becoming a dairy farm operator in the next 10 years.

Of these 14 sons the fathers said two could finance themselves and that they could finance nine more, leaving three who would need outside financing. One of these three was the son of a father with two sons interested in becoming dairy farm operators.

Table 11.--Information Regarding Sons Over 14 Years Of Age.

Number already operating dairy farms in this community-----	1
Age-----	32
Number of sons in the armed services-----	12
Average ages-----	21.5
Number of sons at home-----	9
Average ages-----	22.2
Working for wages-----	3
In partnership-----	2
Number desiring to become dairy farm operators in next 10 years-----	14
Average ages-----	21.8
Number of sons that:	
Can finance themselves-----	2
Fathers can finance-----	9

Retirement Of Dairy Farmers

"At what age should a dairy farmer retire?" In answer to this question of opinion, no farmer said younger than 50 years, nor did any farmer say older than 70 years. Over one-third of the farmers (36 percent) said a dairy farmer should retire at 60 years of age; 28 percent said 50; 16 percent said 55; 10 percent said 65 and 10 percent said 70. The average age for retirement was 57.9 years.

Nearly one-half (44 percent) of these farmers are 47 years old or older and therefore according to the farmers' opinions should retire in the next 10 years.

Over one-half (54 percent) of the farmers were within 10 years of the age when they said a dairy farmer should retire. Seven (14 percent) were the age or older indicated by them for retirement.

Operators' Plans For Next 10 Years

When asked what their plans were for the next 10 years, 42 percent indicated they planned to stay and operate their present farm; 26 percent planned to retire or change occupations; 16 percent planned to change farms in the community; 12 percent planned to turn over the farm to their sons and four percent planned to go in partnership with their sons (table 12).

A considerable degree of uniformity of what happened the past 10 years as compared with what is planned during the next 10 years is noticeable in figure 8. 1/

1/ Since the 50 farms studied had 73 farm operators during the past 10 years, the comparison can be made only by inflating the plans of the present 50 farmers to 73 or reducing the 73 farmers to 50. If the 73 farmers are reduced to 50 for the sake of comparison, it is necessary to subtract the number of farmers that did not change (19) and then compute the percentage of the remaining three groups and multiply each by 51, the number of farms out of 50 that changed hands at least once.

**Figure 8.--Comparison of 50 Dairy Farm Operators
As To Past 10 Years And Plans For Next
10 Years**

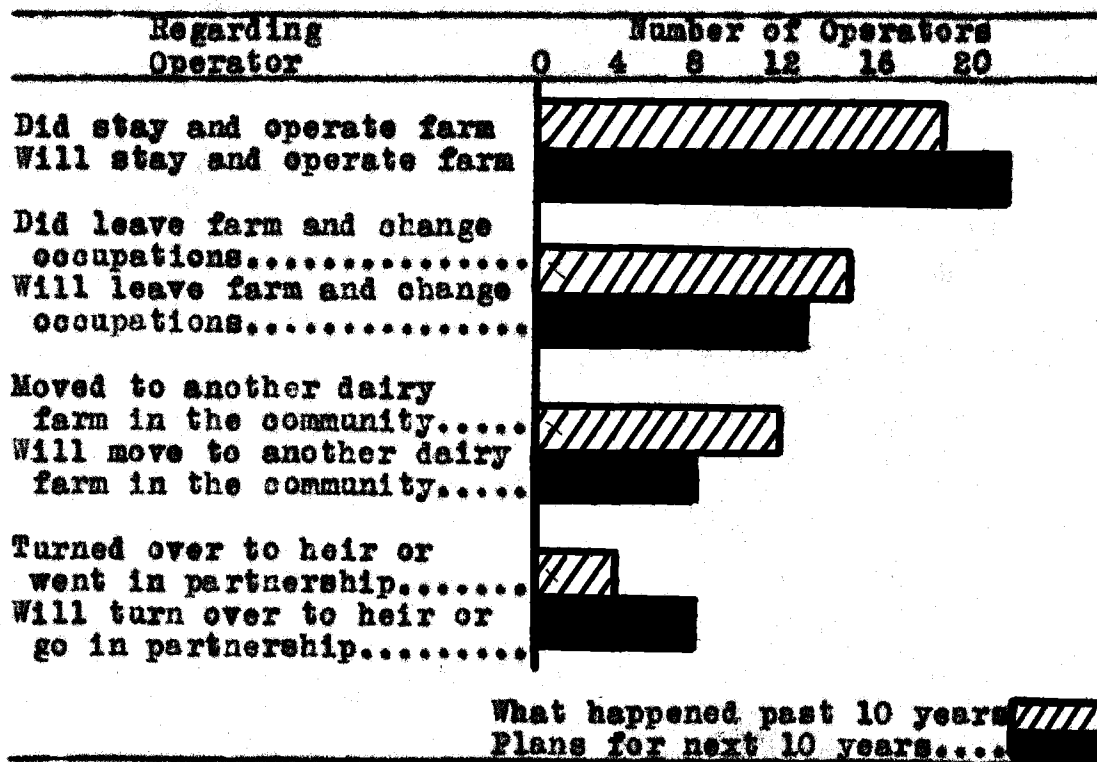


Table 12.--Farmers' Plans During Next 10 Years

Do you plan to:

1. Tenant

Stay and operate this farm-----	9
Turn lease to son or take him into partnership	1
Leave and buy a dairy farm-----	4
Leave and rent another dairy farm-----	2
Leave and retire or change occupations-----	4
Other plans-----	0

2. Owner

Stay and operate this farm-----	12
Sell and buy another dairy farm-----	2
Turn over to son or son-in-law and retire-----	5
Go in partnership with son or son-in-law-----	2
Sell and retire or change occupations-----	6
Rent, lease and retire or change occupations--	3

OPINIONS OF EIGHT COMMUNITY LEADERS

Qualifications Of Youth To Enter Dairy Farming

Eight community or neighborhood leaders were questioned regarding their opinions on youth and dairy-farming. 1/ In answer to the question, "What qualifications should youth have to enter dairy farming in the Myrtle Point community during the next 10 years?" seven of the eight leaders said he should have a high school education with agricultural training. 2/ One leader said at least two years of college. The opinion on the ages of youth to become a dairy farm operator ranged from 18 to 26 years, the average being 22.6 years. Three-fourths of the leaders said from 21 to 24 years inclusive.

All of the leaders felt a youth should have at least three years of experience after 15 years of age, and one thought as much as 10 years before becoming a dairy farm operator with full responsibility for his farm. The average was 5.6 years of experience.

- 1/ All answers about youth were given according to the leaders' opinions on the average dairy farm youth.
- 2/ The Myrtle Point Union High School has a vocational agriculture department.

Every leader felt a youth should have some capital of his own before becoming a dairy farm operator. Opinions ranged from five to 50 percent of the total dairy farm investment; however, three-fourths said from 20 to 34 percent, and the average was 28.4 percent (table 13).

Table 13.--Qualifications Of Youth To Enter Dairy Farming
(Opinions of 8 community leaders)

Leader: No.	Age	Years of Experience: After 15	Percent of: Total Investment	Education
1	18	3	50	high school with agric.*
2	24	5	25	high school with agric.*
3	22	7	25	high school with agric.*
4	22	7	33	high school with agric.*
5	22	3	30	high school with agric.*
6	21	5	33	high school with agric.*
7	28	10	20	high school with agric.*
8	24	6	5	2 years agric. in college
Total	181	46	221	
Average	22.6	5.8	28.4	

*This has reference to vocational agriculture under the Smith-Hughes Act which is available at the Myrtle Point Union High School.

Enough Dairy Farms Questionable

Only five of the eight leaders felt there would be enough satisfactory family-sized dairy farms available for youth who wanted to dairy farm after the war. When asked whether there were adequate means available for financing qualified persons who may wish to dairy farm after the war, 100 percent said "yes".

Special Services For Servicemen

Every leader felt that returning servicemen who desire to operate dairy farms should be given special consideration when they return. When asked how the community 1/ should help, the leaders agreed 100 percent on making available "help in obtaining suitable leases", "guidance in locating a dairy farm", and "help in getting started". Only five of the eight leaders felt the community should help financially. The other three seemed to feel this was the government's duty entirely.

The leaders agreed 100 percent that the agricultural agencies serving the community should offer special services to returning servicemen who wished to begin dairy farming. Every leader further agreed that these same community and agricultural agency services should be available to other qualified young men (table 10).

All but one leader felt that if enough dairy farms were not available to meet the demand, that the larger dairy farms should be divided. When asked "How many cows should a farm have before dividing it?", the answers ranged from 35 to 50 cows, averaging 51 cows. All but two of the seven answering felt there should be 50 cows or more. 1/ Community was interpreted to mean organizations such as The Grange, civic groups, churches, local businessmen, farmers and other people and groups living in the community of Myrtle Point.

Dairy Farm Purchases During Past Year 1/

All leaders said "yes" to the question, "Were there more dairy farms purchased during the past year than in normal times?". Five of the eight felt dairy farmers had purchased most of these farms. There was considerable variation in their opinion as to whether local business men or outside speculators had purchased the next most, indicating that these purchases were about equal in the averaged opinions of these leaders.

1/ From July 1943 to July 1944.

Table 14.--Opinions of Eight Community Leaders

Do you think there will be enough satisfactory family-sized dairy farms available for qualified youth who wish to dairy farm after the war?-----	Number of Leaders
Yes	5
No	3

Do you think there are adequate means available for financing qualified persons who may desire to enter dairy farming in this community during the next 10 years?-----	Yes	6
	No	0

Should returning servicemen who desire to operate dairy farms be given special consideration when they return?-----	Yes	6
	No	0

In what way should the community help:	
Financially-----	5
Help in obtaining suitable leases-----	5
Guidance in locating a dairy farm-----	5
Help in getting started-----	5
Other assistance-----None mentioned	

Should agricultural agencies serving the community give special service?-----	Yes	6
	No	0

Should these same services be available to other qualified young men?-----	Yes	6
	No	0

If enough dairy farms are not available to meet the demand, should the larger dairy farms be divided?-----	Yes	7
	No	1

YOUTH OF THE MYRTLE POINT COMMUNITY

The Questionnaire and Results

The names and addresses of youth over 18 years of age who had lived or worked on a dairy farm or were interested in dairy farming were obtained while making the survey of the 50 dairy farmers. A questionnaire and a form letter ^{1/} were mailed to 70 of these youth who were in the armed services, and 11 still living in the community were personally interviewed.

Of the 70 servicemen, 40 were overseas and 30 were in the United States at the time the letters were mailed; 32 answered the questionnaire and 15 of the answers received were from youth overseas. One-half of those answering wrote a letter also and ten returned their questionnaires airmail. This, together with the fact that 81 percent said they would like to receive a copy of the study indicated considerable interest.

Opinions of the 32 Servicemen Answering

In answer to the question "Are you going to be interested in DAIRY farming to make a living within the next 10 years?", nearly two-thirds (66 percent)

^{1/} Pages 56 and 57 Appendix.

answered "yes" and five more said "possibly". All but one of those who answered "yes" indicated that he wanted to dairy farm in the Myrtle Point community.

When asked, "If you are not interested in dairying, what will you be interested in?", ten of those who answered "yes" to dairy farming indicated another occupational choice. Eleven different occupations were listed by the 19 answering this question. Four indicated "aviation" and three "more education".

The question, "Do you feel you know enough about dairy farming in the Myrtle Point community to make a living?", was answered "yes" by 81 percent of those who wished to dairy farm. Only four felt they needed further experience and training while three more said they would like to have more training--the average length of time being 2.1 years.

One-third of these youth had plans to go in partnership with their parents during the next ten years.

Characteristics Of The 32 Servicemen Answering

The average age of the youth answering the questionnaire was 22.4 years. The oldest was 37 and the youngest 17 years old. Over four-fifths (81 percent) of the youth were between 18 and 27 years of age. The average

boy had 4/8 years of farm experience after 15 years of age, 4.1 years of this being dairying. Every boy had at least two years of farm experience and only two boys had no dairy farm experience.

Every boy had graduated from grade school and 81 percent had graduated from high school. Only one boy had no high school training at all, while seven had some college training, but none had graduated from college. While 56 percent had taken 4-H club work for an average of four years each, only 28 percent had been 4-H dairy club members. A total of 69 percent had vocational agricultural training in high school, but only 31 percent had completed all four years.

Over four-fifths (81 percent) of the boys answering had parents who had dairy farmed in the Myrtle Point community an average of 15.5 years, and 59 percent of the parents are still dairy farming in the community.

Eleven Youth Still In The Myrtle Point Community

The writer interviewed personally eleven of the 13 youth living in the Myrtle Point community whose names were obtained from the 50 dairy farmers surveyed. 1/ Eight of these youth were living with their parents on a dairy farm and one was working on a dairy farm.

1/ It was impossible to obtain an interview with two of the youth.

The other two were in other occupations. Their ages ranged from 19 to 28 years, averaging 23.6 years. Every youth had had at least four years of dairy farm experience and no youth had had any other farm experience. They had all graduated from grade school, six had graduated from high school and three had had some high school training.

Three had been 4-H dairy club members and four had taken vocational agriculture in high school. All but one of the youth have parents who have dairy farms in the Myrtle Point community an average of 26 years. Nine are still dairy farming in the community.

Ten of the 11 youth plan to dairy farm in the Myrtle Point community during the next 10 years. Each of these youth felt he knew enough to make a satisfactory living, and none felt they needed further training. Eight planned with their parents to dairy farm. Four were planning to go in partnership, and four were planning to take over the home farm.

SUMMARY

CHARACTERISTICS OF DAIRY FARMS

1. The average dairy farm has 143.7 acres, 55.0 of which are cropland bottom. The cropland acres range from eight to 200 acres, averaging 66.2 acres per farm.
2. The average dairy farm has 28.5 cows which produce 7,587 pounds of butterfat a year or an average of 266.2 pounds of butterfat per cow per year. The number of cows range from six to 92 per farm and the butterfat yield range from 1,285 pounds to 31,425 pounds per year.
3. There has been a tendency for dairy farms to increase in acreage during the past 10 years.

CHARACTERISTICS OF DAIRY FARMERS

1. The average dairy farmer was 45.5 years of age. Only six percent of the dairy farmers were below 30 years of age while 16 percent were above 60 years.
2. The average length of time dairy farmers spent on the same farm was 10.4 years while the average farmer had spent 16.3 years as a dairy farm operator. Owners spent an average of 13.8 years, while tenants spent an average of 3.8 years.

3. The average gain in total net worth per year per farm was \$939, ranging from 0 to \$3,500.
4. Fewer of the farmers studied began farming during the five year periods from 1920 to 1925 and 1930 to 1935 than during any five year period from 1910 to date.
5. Forty percent of the farm operators were tenants. Tenants were an average of 6.6 years younger than owners and had been farm operators 7.9 years less. Tenant farms changed hands three times as often as owner farms.
6. Dairy farm operators had an average of one son and one daughter each, although 74 percent of the farmers had all the children. The average age of these children was 17.6 years.

PAST OPERATOR REPLACEMENTS

1. A total of 62 percent of the farms studied changed operators in the past 10 years. Approximately 14 percent of the farms changed hands each year.
2. One-third of the past operators left or had to leave primarily because of poor management while one-fifth were advancing themselves by moving to

a better farm in the community. Only 13.7 percent retired from dairying.

3. Over one-third of the new operators in the past 10 years were inexperienced at dairy farming.
4. Less than one-sixth of the new operators were youth. Approximately two-thirds of these youth were heirs.
5. Over three-fourths of the changes took place between people who knew each other.
6. Three out of every five operators leaving a farm moved from the community or changed occupations. Over one-half of the changes were from one tenant to another while only about one-sixth were from one owner to another.

FUTURE OPERATOR REPLACEMENTS

1. Over one-fifth of the farmers had a son in the service and two-fifths had a son over 14 years of age. The farmers estimated that exactly two-thirds of these sons would be interested in dairy farming in the next 10 years.
2. The averaged opinions of the dairy farmers indicated that the average dairy farmer should retire at 57.9 years.

3. During the next 10 years, over one-half of the farmers plan to remain on their present farm or move to another farm in the community. One-fourth will retire or change occupations and less than a fourth will either turn over the farm to their sons or go in partnership with them.

OPINIONS OF COMMUNITY LEADERS

1. In the averaged opinion of eight community leaders a youth to be qualified to enter dairy farming in this community should have a high school education with agricultural training, be 28.6 years of age, have 5.8 years of dairy farm experience after 15 years of age and be able to furnish 28.4 percent of the capital investment.
2. The community leaders unanimously agreed that returning servicemen who wish to dairy farm should have help in obtaining suitable leases, guidance in locating a dairy farm and help in getting started, and that agricultural agencies serving the community should offer special services.
3. A majority of community leaders felt that there would be enough satisfactory family-sized dairy

farms after the war and that adequate means of financing were available.

PLANS, INTERESTS AND QUALIFICATIONS OF YOUTH

1. The names of 83 youth who had lived or worked on a dairy farm or were interested in dairying in the Myrtle Point community were obtained from the 50 dairy farmers interviewed. Five out of every six of these youth were in the service.
2. Two-thirds of the servicemen answering the questionnaire indicated that they would be interested in dairying to make a living in the next 10 years. Approximately one-half of those interested in dairy farming plan to go in partnership with their parents.
3. The average age of servicemen answering the questionnaire was 22.4 years, having 4.1 years of dairy farm experience after 15 years of age; 61 percent had graduated from high school, 25 percent had been dairy 4-H Club members and 31 percent had completed four years of vocational agricultural training in high school.
4. Over ninety percent of the youth remaining in the Myrtle Point community plan to dairy farm in the

next 10 years. The average age was 23.6 years with every youth having at least four years of dairy farm experience. Nearly three-fourths (73 percent) of these youth have plans to dairy farm with their parents.

CONCLUSIONS

In The Myrtle Point Community:

1. New operators begin dairy farming on about 17 farms each year of whom five are owners and 12 are tenants.
2. During the past 10 years a total of 30 dairy farmers retired from dairying to an easier occupation or a life of leisure while 33 youth began dairy farming.
3. Approximately two-thirds of all dairy farm youth expressed a desire to establish themselves in dairy farming during the next 10 years. If replacements continue during the next 10 years as during the period studied there will be 174 opportunities for a person to begin dairy farming. Less than one-fifth or 33 of these opportunities will be taken by youth unless youth make up a higher percentage than during the past 10 years.
4. Over one-half of the youth interested in dairying in the next 10 years or 26 expressed an intention to go in partnership with their parents or take over the home farm.

5. More youth have indicated they will want to begin dairy farming in the next 10 years than have started dairy farming in the past 10 years.

APPENDIX
FARMER QUESTIONNAIRE NO. 1

Facts About The Farm

1. Name of the farmer----- (1)
2. Total number of acres on farm----- (2)
3. Cropland acres: Total bottom land ----- (3a)
Total bench and hill land----- (3b)
4. Total acres of non-crop pasture----- (4)
5. Number of cows producing milk in 1943----- (5)
6. Number of pounds of butterfat produced in 1943----- (6)
7. Number of years this farm has been a dairy farm----- (7)
8. 10% increase in acreage during the past 10 years
Total acres----- (8a)
Bottom acres----- (8b)
Year----- (8c)
9. 10% decrease in acreage during the past 10 years
Total acres----- (9a)
Bottom acres----- (9b)
Year----- (9c)

Facts About The Farmer

1. Age----- (10)
2. Years on this farm as operator----- (11a)
How much have you gained in total net
worth on this
farm----- (11b)
3. Years a farm operator----- (12)
4. Years a dairy farm operator----- (13)
5. Present operator relationship: Tenant----- (14a)
Owner----- (14b)
Manager----- (14c)
Partnership----- (14d)
6. Family: Number of boys----- (15a)
Ages----- (15b)
Number of girls----- (15c)
Ages----- (15d)

7. Percentage of the time spent: Working on farm----- (16)
8. Average man months of labor employed in one
year (Sons 14 years and older included)----- (16a)

Replacements during past 10 years

1. Changed hands during the past 10 years:
- | | |
|----------------------|-------|
| Number of times----- | (17a) |
| Years 1935-1939----- | (17b) |
| Years 1940-1944----- | (17c) |
2. Why did past operators leave:
- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------|
| Death----- | (18a) |
| Retired from farming----- | (18b) |
| Uneconomic unit----- | (18c) |
| Poor management----- | (18d) |
| Moved to better or bigger farm----- | (18e) |
| Sold for business reasons----- | (18f) |
| Poor lease arrangement----- | (18g) |
| Sickness in the family----- | (18h) |
3. Who took over the farm: son or heir: age-----
- | | |
|---------------------------------|-------|
| Experienced----- | (19a) |
| Inexperienced----- | (19b) |
| Relationship----- | (19c) |
| Experienced dairy farmer----- | (19d) |
| Inexperienced dairy farmer----- | (19e) |
| Youth: Age----- | (19f) |
| Experienced----- | (19g) |
| Inexperienced----- | (19h) |
4. How the exchange took place:
- | | |
|--|-------|
| Through a real estate agent----- | (20a) |
| To a friend or some person known by
operator or owner----- | (20b) |
| To some person unknown previously by
operator or owner----- | (20c) |
5. Where did the operator go?
- | | |
|--|-------|
| To another dairy farm in this
community----- | (21a) |
| To other farming in this community--- | (21b) |
| To farming elsewhere or other
occupation----- | (21c) |
| Died----- | (21d) |
6. Tenant-owner replacement:
- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------|
| Number from tenant to tenant----- | (22a) |
| Number from tenant to owner----- | (22b) |
| Number from owner to tenant----- | (22c) |
| Number from owner to owner----- | (22d) |

Farmers' plans during next 10 years

Do you plan to

1. Tenant or manager
 - Stay and operate this farm----- (23a)
 - Turn lease to son or take him in partnership--- (23b)
 - Leave and buy a dairy farm----- (23c)
 - Leave and rent another dairy farm----- (23d)
 - Leave and retire or change occupations-- (23e)
 - Other plans----- (23f)
2. Owner or partner
 - Stay and operate this farm----- (24a)
 - Sell and buy another dairy farm----- (24b)
 - Turn over to son or son-in-law and retire- (24c)
 - Go in partnership with son----- (24d)
 - Sell and retire or change occupations-- (24e)
 - Rent or lease and retire or change occupations-- (24f)

At what age should a dairy farmer retire?--- (24a)

Information regarding sons over 14 years of age

1. Number already operating dairy farms in this community----- (25a)
- Agos----- (25b)
2. Number of sons in the armed services----- (26a)
- Agos----- (26b)
3. Number of sons at home----- (27a)
- Agos----- (27b)
- Working for wages----- (27c)
- In partnership----- (27d)
4. Number desiring to become dairy farm operators in next 10 years----- (28a)
- Agos----- (28b)

If a farmer has son interested in dairy farming will he:

- Be able to finance himself----- (29a)
- Will father be able to finance him----- (29b)
- Will other financing be available----- (29c)

Names and addresses of farm boys from this community in the service:

QUESTIONNAIRE NO. 2

OPINION QUESTIONNAIRE FOR FIVE FARM LEADERS IN THE
COMMUNITY AND REPRESENTATIVES OF ALL AGRICULTURAL
AGENCIES SERVING THE COMMUNITY

1. What qualifications should youth have to enter dairy farming in the Myrtle Point community during the next 10 years?

Age-----	(30a)
Years experience after 15----	(30b)
Education: Grade school-----	(30c)
High with agri.-----	(30d)
College-----	(30e)
Financial security needed:	
Percent of investm't-----	(30f)
2. Do you think there will be enough satisfactory family-sized dairy farms available for qualified youth who wish to dairy farm after the war?

Yes-----	(31a)
No-----	(31b)
3. Do you think there are adequate means available for financing qualified persons who may desire to enter dairy farming in this community during the next 10 years?

Yes-----	(32a)
No-----	(32b)
4. Should returning servicemen who desire to operate dairy farms be given special consideration when they return?

Yes-----	(33a)
No-----	(33b)

In what way should the community help:

Financially-----	(33c)
Help in obtaining suitable leases-----	(33d)
Guidance in locating a dairy farm-----	(33e)
Help in getting started-----	(33f)
Other assistance-----	(33g)

Should agricultural agencies serving the community give special service? -----

Yes-----	(33h)
No-----	(33i)

Should these same services be available to other qualified young men? -----

Yes-----	(33j)
No-----	(33k)
5. If enough dairy farms are not available to meet the demand, should the larger dairy farms be divided?

Yes-----	(34a)
No-----	(34b)

How many cows should a farm have before dividing it? -----

-----	(34c)
-------	-------
6. Were there more dairy farms purchased during the past year than in normal times?

Yes-----	(35a)
No-----	(35b)

By dairy farmers-----

-----	(35c)
By local businessmen-----	(35d)
By outside speculators-----	(35e)

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR SERVICEMEN NO. 3

NAME _____

1. How old are you?-----
2. Number of years you have lived or worked on a farm since you were 15 years old?-----
3. Number of years you have lived or worked on a DAIRY farm since you were 15 years old?-----
4. How much education have you had?
 Years of grade school-----
 Years of high school-----
 Years of college-----
5. How many years were you a 4-H club member?-----
 How many years were you a DAIRY club member?-----
 How many years did you take vocational agriculture in high school?-----

Answer the following questions yes or no assuming that the war will be over and you will return within the next year or so.

6. Are you going to be interested in DAIRY farming to make a living within the next 10 years?-----
 In the Myrtle Point community?-----
7. How many years did your father or mother operate a dairy farm in the Myrtle Point community?---
8. Is your father or mother dairy farming in the Myrtle Point community at the present time?---
9. If you are not interested in dairying, what will you be interested in?-----

If you have any interest in dairy farming in the Myrtle Point community during the 10 years following the war please answer the following questions. (Yes or No)

10. Do you feel you know enough about dairy farming in the Myrtle Point community to make a satisfactory living?-----
11. Do you feel you need further experience and training to make a satisfactory living on a dairy farm in the Myrtle Point community?-----
 If answer is yes, how many years needed?-----
12. Do you have any plans regarding dairy farming with your father or mother during the next 10 years?-----
 a. In partnership?-----
 b. Take over home farm?-----

Would you like to receive a copy of this study when it is completed?-----

LETTER ENCLOSED WITH QUESTIONNAIRE TO SERVICEMEN**NO. 4**

**Myrtle Point Union High School
Myrtle Point, Oregon
July 19, 1944**

Dear Fighter:

We are beginning to make post-war plans for your return. Enclosed you will find a questionnaire which I will appreciate your taking a few minutes to answer and send back in the enclosed self-addressed envelope immediately.

Your prompt reply to this questionnaire may make considerable difference in how well plans will be made for your return to civilian life. Please use your best judgement and knowledge and answer all questions.

Sincerely yours,

Ted T. Kirsch