

AN ABSTRACT OF THE THESIS OF

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____CONTRIBUTION OF THE FARM TO THE UNEMPLOYED____
____During the Depression 1933-34____

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To take care of the vast number of unemployed caused by the depression has required great expenditure of money and time by the Federal, state, and local governments and contributions from every class of people.

Believing that the farm people as a whole were doing their share in this time of great distress, this study was undertaken to determine in a preliminary way how large this assistance might be and its character, using the Willamette Valley as a sample area.

The results of the study indicate that thousands of people out of work have gone to live with relatives on the farm while many others have been fed and sheltered on the farm. Food, clothing, fuel, work, and money has been given to other thousands unemployed.

Personal visits were made to 177 farms in the vicinity of Corvallis, Monmouth, Albany, Dayton, and in farming districts adjacent to Portland to get data in regard to the aid

given to the unemployed. A survey form or schedule was used and only the simplest and most necessary questions were asked.

Analysis of the data was made by means of grouping and cross tabulation methods. This method is considered reliable for qualitative findings.

Of the 177 farms visited a total of some 215 persons have been furnished room and board for a total of 866 months or 4.02 months per person. Estimating the value of this at \$20 per month the total assistance given amounted to a value of \$15,690 in money alone. The average value for all farms was \$88 per farm for this type of aid.

The estimated value of aid given other than room and board such as money, food and clothing amounted to \$4940. The average value of these contributions for all farms interviewed was \$28 per farm.

The total value of all contributions both room and board and contributions other than room and board was \$20,630. This amounted to an average of \$116 per farm.

Various factors such as size of farm, type of farm, and kind of tenure affected the amount contributed by the individual farm.

If the finding of this survey was representative of the country as a whole the value of the contributions from the farm to the unemployed have amounted to millions of dollars and have been a most powerful factor in relief during this depression period.

A Preliminary Study of the
CONTRIBUTION OF OREGON FARMS TO THE AID OF THE UNEMPLOYED
During the Depression 1933-34

by
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A Preliminary Study of the
CONTRIBUTION OF OREGON FARMS TO THE AID OF THE UNEMPLOYED
During the Depression 1933-34

INTRODUCTION

The nation wide and world wide agricultural, industrial, and financial depression during the period 1930-34 has been characterized by a degree of unemployment unequalled in extent of numbers and time in any previous period of modern history.

In the United States the total unemployed as estimated by the most authoritative students of the subject reached a peak of 13,000,000 persons during 1932-33. Of this number some 3,000,000 were believed to approximate the number of unemployed under normal conditions, while the remaining 10,000,000 were considered the excess over normal during this severe and prolonged depression era.

The major economic problem of the period therefore has been to take care of this vast group of people in need of help. The tremendous efforts of federal, state, and local governments to relieve the situation are an outstanding feature of the period, efforts perhaps never before equaled in history. The truly enormous expenditure of money for this purpose has required contributions from every class of people and business.

One contribution to the unemployed, great in extent, yet apparently unseen and unrealized for the most part, is believed to be that which has come from the farms of the country. Throughout the depression period but particularly perhaps during the latter and more acute part of it, the farms of the nation, it is believed, have given aid to the unemployed to an extent that distinguishes them as a major factor in unemployment relief. As yet, however, it appears that no attempt has been made to measure the character and extent of this aid.

The objective of this study undertaken at the suggestion of Professor H. D. Scudder, head of the Department of Farm Management, Oregon State College, has been therefore to determine in a preliminary way just how large this assistance to the unemployed might be and what its character, using the nearby region, the Willamette Valley, as a sample area no doubt more or less typical of what has transpired in most other farm areas in the country.

Results of the study indicate that thousands of people out of work have gone to live with relatives, in the country. Other thousands where the matter of kinship was not involved have been fed and sheltered on the farms until they could find reemployment. Food, clothing, fuel, work, and money have been given by the farms to other thousands of transient unemployed. To the extent possible in a

brief thesis study of this kind, the facts support the belief that the contribution of our farms has been of major importance and value in aid of the unemployed.

Yet, great as this contribution has been no publicity whatever, so far as painstaking search can find, has been given to this subject. The daily press, the magazines and periodicals, the publications of sociological research organizations, and the experiment station literature appear to have given no space to this line of thought. For this reason no bibliography bearing directly on this subject can be submitted with this thesis.

AREA SELECTED

The general area selected for this study lies in the Willamette Valley, Oregon. This valley is typical of Pacific agricultural slope areas. The low Coastal range borders it on the west and the high Cascade range on the east. The winters are characterized by heavy rainfall and mild and equable temperatures. The summers are dry and cool, with a long frost free growing season.

This valley is one of the fertile spots of the United States. Seldom does any area offer so large and varied production. All kinds of grain and forage crops are grown. Dairying, sheep raising, and poultry are the chief live-stock enterprises. Fruits, nuts, and berries are produced

in abundance. Other specialized crops are hops, mint, flax for fiber, and truck crops of every sort. Due to the great diversity of enterprises and favorable climatic conditions the farmers as a whole have been prosperous in this region, under normal price levels. During the depression period they have suffered no more, perhaps, than the average of the country.

The particular area covered in this study was in the vicinity of typical towns of the valley such as Corvallis, McMinnville, Monmouth, Albany, Dayton, and in the farming district adjacent to Portland. In the fall of 1933 personal visits were made to 177 farms in these localities to get data in regard to the aid given the unemployed by the farmers.

METHOD OF STUDY

A field schedule or survey form (copy of which is attached) was prepared. Only the simplest and most necessary questions were covered in this form. It was felt that the interview with the farmer must be brief so that records could be obtained more easily and a larger number could be taken in a given time. Thus conclusions reached would be based on a larger number of observations over a larger and more representative territory. Further, since

the questions were necessarily of a somewhat personal nature it was felt best not to press the inquiry beyond the patience of the subject interviewed.

Happily, in this regard, the farm people were found sympathetic and cooperative in giving information once the purpose of the study was clear.

Representative towns having been selected, each road leading out into the country from these towns was followed and every farm house visited for a distance of five or six miles out from the town. All records taken are included in the analysis. The sample taken is therefore a true random sample of the farms of the valley; hence should give unbiased conclusions indicatory of the situation, reliable to the extent of the number taken. The number of records taken is believed sufficient to indicate fairly and truly the more final conclusions that would be rendered from a larger number of observations.

Analysis of the data was made by means of grouping and cross tabulation methods. This method is considered reliable for qualitative findings.

AMOUNT AND VALUE OF ROOM AND BOARD FURNISHED

Perhaps the most substantial and easily determined aid rendered the unemployed by the farms of the region was the food and shelter provided to those who were taken directly into the homes or farms and furnished their room and board. The extent to which aid of this kind was given is indicated in Table 1.

TABLE 1

AMOUNT AND VALUE OF ROOM AND BOARD FURNISHED 1933

	Farms No.Re- port- ing	No. Per- sons Aid- ed	Total Mo. Aid- ed	No. Mo. Per Per- sons	Est.Val. @ \$20 Per Mo. Per Adult*	Ave. Val. Per Farm
Adults	67	135	523	3.87	\$10,460	\$ 156
Young People	20	28	180	6.4	3,600	180
Children	23	52	163	3.13	1,630	70
All Classes	86	215	866	4.02	\$15,690	\$ 182
Ave. per Farm-						
All Farms	(177)	1.21	4.89	4.04		\$ 88

* This would be equivalent to 189 adults if two children were counted as equivalent to one adult. Value of room and board of children was estimated at \$10 per month.

Of the 177 farms visited, eighty-six furnished room and board to a total of some 215 persons for a total of 866 months or 4.02 months per person.

Estimating the value of this board at \$20 per month or approximately 65¢ per day per farm the total assistance given came to a value of \$15,690 in money alone, though perhaps the money value of the aid to those in need was not the full value of the service rendered.

Only about 50 per cent of the farms furnished aid of this character. The average value for all farms covered in the study, 177 in number, was \$88 per farm for this type of aid, in the course of the year, 1933.

KIND OF PEOPLE GIVEN AID

As shown in Table 1, most of the people aided were grown folks, only 24 per cent of all aided being children, (under 16 years of age).

Naturally enough many of the persons aided (60 per cent) were relatives of the farmer, brothers, sisters, grown sons and daughters, in-laws, and grandchildren. Practically all the persons classified as children were grandchildren.

The remaining 40 per cent to whom this aid was given were not relatives of the farmers' family.

FORTHRIGHT CHARACTER OF ASSISTANCE GIVEN

To determine the extent to which the room and board furnished was an outright contribution, inquiry was made as to kind and amount of work done for the farmer in return for room and board furnished, or other payment made for it, or whether in addition to room and board the farmer paid his boarder any wages.

It was found that in nearly every case the boarder helped about the farm chiefly in doing chores or odd jobs and the women boarders gave some help in the house. However, the work done by boarders on 92 per cent of the farms, was work that normally would not have been hired done by the farmer and rarely was full time work.

On 97 per cent of the farms reporting, the boarder made no payment for room and board received, other than helping about the farm as above described. In three per cent of the cases, only a very small contribution was made by the boarder for groceries or the like.

On the other hand, 39 per cent of the boarders received wages or payment of some kind from the farmer in addition to their room and board. This payment ranged from as high as \$1.25 per day to as low as tobacco money only.

Altogether the contribution so far as room and board

is concerned was very nearly an outright contribution to the unemployed by the farm, for such work as was done by the boarders was offset in value on the whole, by the amount of wages paid to some of the boarders for work done.

KIND AND VALUE OF CONTRIBUTIONS OTHER THAN
ROOM AND BOARD

Room and board while the largest contribution of the farm to the unemployed was by no means the total of the assistance given.

In Table 2 a detailed summary of the various other contributions ranging from food of different kinds, to money, fuel, and clothing, is shown.

TABLE 2

KIND AND VALUE OF CONTRIBUTIONS OTHER
THAN ROOM AND BOARD
1933

Kind of Con- tribu- tion	No. Con- tri- but- ing	% Con- tri- but- ing*	No. Re- port- ing Amt. Given	To- tal Amt. Re- port- ed	Ave. Amt. Per Farm Re- port- ed	Est. To- tal All Farms Con- tri- but- ing	Est. Val. Per Unit \$	To- tal Val. Con- tri- but- ed \$
Money	35	19	3	\$ 400	791	87801	\$.01	\$400.00**
Vege- tables	111	62	6	4750#	791	87801	\$.01	878.01
Fruit	109	61	5	4780#	956	104204	.01	1042.04
Fuel	26	14	16	720cd.	45	1170	1.00	1170.00
Meals	105	59	104	2238	21	2205	.20	441.00
Clothing	93	52	35	632	18	1674	.25	418.50
Milk	44	24	41	6095qt	148	6512	.05	325.60
Canned Goods	79	44	68	1601qt.	23	1817	.10	181.70
Eggs	8	4	6	389dbz.	64	512	.15	76.80
Meat	3	1	1	15#	15	45	.15	6.75
Estimated total value							\$4940.40	
Average per farm for all farms (177)							27.91	

* This is the percentage of all records taken--177 farms.

** This amount was reported for three farms out of thirty-five farms that contributed money. The remaining thirty-two farms probably contributed much smaller amounts, which it was not felt safe to estimate, hence not included in total contributions.

Money

Money was given by 19 per cent of those interviewed. However, only three farmers reported the amount they had given, a total of \$400, or an average of \$133. The remainder reported they gave in small amounts, but did not wish to state the exact amounts. Many said, due to the low prices, they hardly had enough money to meet their own expenses. Others stated that they would like to contribute more but were unable to do so.

Vegetables and Fruit

Fresh vegetables and fruit were given by the greatest number and in large amounts. Sixty-two per cent contributed vegetables and 61 per cent gave fruit. The estimated total amount of fruit and vegetables given was 192,071 pounds, having an estimated value of \$1920. Many farmers reported having surplus fruit and vegetables for which there was little market. This they would have gladly given to anyone who needed it.

Fuel

Fuel, while given by a lesser number (only 14 per cent of the farms contributing) was next in value to the combined value of fruit and vegetables. At the estimated

value of \$1.00 per cord stumpage, the total value of the wood contributed was \$1170. Some of this wood was cut wood. Much of it was standing and the unemployed cut it themselves. In some cases the farmers let them have the wood for clearing the land.

Meals

Another contribution of great importance was meals. Fifty-nine per cent of the farms participated in this form of aid. The total number of meals given away was 2352 which valued at 20¢ each, amounted to a total of \$470. Many farmer's wives stated they had fed as many as 100 men in the last year. Most of these were transient laborers traveling here and there searching for work. Farmers living on the main highways fed the greatest numbers. Probably several thousand persons altogether were aided by these 177 farms to a meal or two.

Clothing

Fifty-two per cent of the farmers interviewed reported giving articles of clothing. The estimated total number of pieces of clothing was 1674. Valued at 25¢ per article this amounted to a total of \$418.

Milk

Milk which included both whole and skim milk was given in large quantities. Twenty-four per cent of the farms contributed a total of 6538 quarts. This valued at 5¢ a quart was worth \$326. Most of this was given to families who had moved into the neighborhood and had no milk supply.

Canned Goods

Canned goods of all kinds were contributed by 45 per cent of all farms. The total value of 1856 quarts contributed was \$185. Many farm women canned excess amounts which they sent to unemployed relatives living in cities.

Eggs

Only 4.5 per cent reported giving eggs. This was probably due to the direct cash value of eggs to the farm. The estimated total contribution of eggs was 518 dozen which, valued at 15¢ per dozen, amounted to \$77. Many of these were turkey and duck eggs that were produced prior to the hatching season and not readily marketable in regular markets.

All Contributions

The total estimated value of contributions other than room and board amounted to the sum of \$4940.40. The average value of these contributions for all farms interviewed, 177 in number, was \$27.91. Ninety-eight per cent of all farms gave this type of aid to some extent.

VALUE OF ALL CONTRIBUTIONS

The total value of all contributions, both room and board and contributions other than room and board was \$20,630. This amounted to an average of \$116 per farm the value of all contributions to the unemployed by each farm in the survey.

Probably the general public has little realization of the magnitude of the assistance rendered the unemployed by the farms of the country. If the finding of this survey was representative of the Willamette Valley as a whole, the 29,940 farms of this region (1930 census) would have made a total contribution to the unemployed during the year 1933 of \$3,473,040 in value. Whether or not this sum is an accurate representation of the aid given, it can hardly be denied that it is indicative of the fact that a very large contribution to the unemployed has been made by our farms and that this has been a factor in relief during the de-

pression period, of very much greater importance than has been realized or received the recognition of the general public.

The same figure applied to all the farms of the state (55,153 in 1930) would reach a total of \$6,397,748 and to all the farms of the United States (6,288,648) a total of \$729,483,168.

Probably this amount is greatly in excess of the actual aid to the unemployed by the farms of the nation as a whole and is not representative of certain regions such as the cotton belt of the south that has received government help. However, as said before, it is indicative of the fact that the aid of the farms of the country has been a powerful factor in the relief of the unemployed.

SIZE OF FARMS GIVING AID

Naturally it was thought the amount of aid given might vary with the size of the farm. Classification and description of the farms as to size has been made and is given in Table 3.

TABLE 3
SIZE OF FARM GIVING AID
1933

Size of Farm Acres	No. of Farms	Total Acres	Acres Cult.	Ave. Acres Per Farm	Ave. Acres Cult	% Cult.
0-20	26	292	253	11	9	81
21-40	29	928	760	32	26	81
41-80	29	1853	1289	63	44	69
81-120	27	2764	1652	102	61	59
121-200	35	5737	3628	163	103	63
Over 200	29	12847	6495	443	223	50
Total	175	24421	14077			
Average				139	80	57

The total area covered by the 175 farms was 24,421 acres. The farms ranged in size from one and one-half acres per farm to 3170 acres, with an average size of 139 acres. The total area in cultivation on all farms was 14,077 acres and the average area in cultivation was 80 acres per farm. By grouping and cross tabulation the farms of 121-200 acre size were found more numerous than any other size, although the distribution in the different size groups as a whole was rather uniform.

The display as to size of farms seems to represent Willamette Valley conditions very satisfactorily and the sample appears to be a fair one.

RELATION OF SIZE OF FARM TO AMOUNT OF ROOM
AND BOARD GIVEN

With this picture of the variation in size of farms in mind, by grouping and cross tabulation, the effect of this factor on contributions was sought. The number of persons given food and shelter by each group of farms is shown in Table 4.

TABLE 4

RELATION OF SIZE OF FARM TO AMOUNT OF ROOM
AND BOARD GIVEN
1933

Size of Farm Acres	No. of Farms	Total Acres Cult.	Total Number Aided					Adult Equiv. acres Per Adult Equiv.
			Adults	Young Peo- ple	Chil- dren	To- tal	Adult Equiv.	
0-20	26	253	8	4	5	17	14	17
21-40	29	760	10	9	4	23	21	36
41-80	29	1289	29	3	4	36	34	37
81-120	27	1652	26	7	8	41	37	44
121-200	35	3628	35	2	17	54	45	80
Over 200	29	6495	27	3	14	44	37	175
Total	175	14077	135	28	52	215	189	

The results show there was a definite tendency for the number of persons aided to increase as the total area

of the farm increased up to the 200 acre group. However this increase in aid given by the larger farms was not in proportion to the increase in their means for giving aid as is indicated in the last column of the table.

The number taken into the farm home was governed no doubt to some extent by the size of the income, therefore the larger farms with more acres in cultivation and presumably having larger incomes should have been able to give more assistance. They did give more assistance but not proportionately more. The smallest farms aided one adult-equivalent for every 17 acres cultivated while the largest farms aided only one adult-equivalent for every 175 acres cultivated.

Proportionately to their means therefore the smaller farms gave much more assistance of this kind, that is room and board.

RELATION OF SIZE OF FARM TO AMOUNT OF FOOD AND CLOTHING CONTRIBUTED

The amount and value of contributions of clothing and food (other than room and board) for each group of farms is shown in Table 5.

TABLE 5

RELATION OF SIZE OF FARM TO AMOUNT OF FOOD
AND CLOTHING CONTRIBUTED
(Other than Room and Board)
1933

Size of Farm Acres	No. of Farms (175)	Ave. Acres Per Farm	Canned Goods Per Farm Qts.	Milk Per Farm Qts.	Meals Per Farm No.	Clothing Per Farm Articles	Est.Val* Per Farm All Items
0-20	26	11	39	127	22	16	\$ 18.65
21-40	29	32	11	67	10	13	9.70
41-80	29	63	33	123	17	15	16.60
81-120	27	102	16	17	30	25	14.70
121-200	35	163	11	166	26	18	19.10
Over 200	29	443	35	235	30	15	25.00

* Values were estimated at the following rates--Milk per quart 5¢, meals 20¢, canned goods 10¢, and clothing 25¢.

Although there was not a consistent increase in contributions as the size of the farm increased, the results indicate that the contributions of these items from the very large farms were only slightly more than from the small ones.

The larger farms producing on a much larger scale should have been able to give proportionately more assistance of this nature, but did not do so in proportion to their larger means. In other words in proportion to their productive income, the small farms gave much more freely.

TYPES OF FARMS GIVING AID

A great variety of enterprises were reported for the farms visited. While every farm had from two to five enterprises, most of them reported one major enterprise. In Table 6 are given the types of farms determined by their outstanding major enterprise and the number of farms in each class.

TABLE 6
TYPES OF FARMS GIVING AID
1933

Type of Farm *	No. of Farms	% of Farms
Dairy	50	28.9
Diversified	34	19.65
Grain	27	15.6
Fruit	21	12.13
Poultry	20	11.56
Truck	7	4.04
Sheep	7	4.04
Hay	6	3.46
Fox	1	.57
Total Reporting	173	99.95

* As determined by outstanding enterprises.

Dairy farms predominated, there being approximately 29 per cent in this group out of the total of 173 reporting. The next large group were diversified farms, approximately 20 per cent of the total number falling in this group.

These farms were diversified to such an extent that they could not be classed as of any one special type. The next three groups of farms namely grain, fruit, and poultry majors had about an equal percentage of farms in each group there being 15, 12, and 11 per cent respectively in each class. This display appears fairly typical of the region.

Believing that there might be a difference in the amount of aid rendered by the various types of farms the kind and amount of aid was segregated for each group. This relationship is shown in Table 7.

TABLE 7
RELATION OF TYPE OF FARM TO AMOUNT OF ROOM
AND BOARD GIVEN
1933

Type of Farm	No. of Farms	No. of Farms Report. Room & Board	Total Number			Aided To- tal		Ave. Per Farm
			Adults	Young People	Chil- dren	To- tal	Adult Equiv.	
Dairy	50	27	36	10	14	60	53	2
Diver- sified	34	19	41	8	13	62	55	3
Grain	27	13	26	0	17	43	34	2
Fruit	21	9	11	4	1	16	15	1
Poultry	20	9	13	2	4	19	17	2
Truck	7	1	0	2	0	2	2	2
Sheep	7	4	6	1	0	7	7	2
Hay	6	3	2	1	0	3	3	1
Fox	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	173	86	135	28	49	212	187	

The average number aided per farm for each group ranged from 1 to 3. The average per farm was greater for the diversified group. The average number aided per farm for all groups was 2 persons. There was apparently little difference between the other types of farms as to the number given aid.

It is well known that diversified farming maintains its income better during depression periods than other types and this might account for the larger amount of aid given.

RELATION OF TYPE OF FARM TO AMOUNT OF CONTRIBUTIONS
(Other than Room and Board)
1933

The amount of contributions other than room and board was computed for each group to determine if there was any difference in this kind of assistance between different types of farms. This is shown in Table 8.

TABLE 8

RELATION OF TYPE OF FARM TO AMOUNT OF CONTRIBUTIONS
(Other than Room and Board)
1933

Type of Farm	No. of Farms (152)	Ave. Acres Per Farm	Canned Goods Per Farm Qts.	Milk per Farm Qts.	Meals Per Farm No.	Clothing Per Farm Articles	Est. Val.* Per Farm All Items
Dairy	50	112	15	114	18	14	\$ 14.30
Diver- sified	34	193	19	110	24	18	16.70
Grain	27	255	35	100	15	15	15.25
Fruit	21	45	32	292	42	40	36.20
Poultry	20	73	38	118	39	18	22.00

* Values were estimated at the following rates--
Milk per quart 5¢, meals 20¢, canned goods 10¢, and cloth-
ing 25¢.

In this type of aid the value of the contributions by the fruit and poultry farms was the largest. The value per farm for each group ranged from \$14.30 for dairy farms to \$36.20 for fruit farms. More milk, meals, and articles of clothing were given by the fruit farms than any other type and on this account the total value of contributions per farm for this group was the largest. Otherwise there was little difference in the value of these contributions according to type of farms.

LENGTH OF TENURE OF FARMS GIVING AID

Another factor thought to have some bearing on contributions was the length of tenure of the occupant. In Table 9 the farms are grouped as to length of tenure.

TABLE 9

LENGTH OF TENURE OF FARMS GIVING AID 1933

No. of Years Occupied	No. of Farms	% of Farms	Ave. Years Occupied
0-5	60	35	2.6
6-10	29	17	8
11-20	42	25	15
Over 20	38	22	35
Total and Average	169	100	15

The length of tenure of those interviewed varied from a few months to over 60 years. Thirty-five per cent have lived on the same farm for 5 years or less while 22 per cent have lived on the same place for over 20 years. The average length of time on the same farm was 6 years for tenants and 16 years for owners. The longest period for an owner on the same place was 60 years while one tenant reported that he had operated the same farm for 48 years. The average tenure for the entire group was 15 years.

RELATION OF LENGTH OF TENURE TO AMOUNT OF
ROOM AND BOARD GIVEN

Usually the operator who has lived on the same place for a considerable period of time is more prosperous than the short time occupant. In Table 10 the farms are grouped as to length of tenure, and the number of persons receiving room and board in each group, are shown.

TABLE 10

RELATION OF LENGTH OF TENURE TO AMOUNT OF
ROOM AND BOARD GIVEN
1933

Years on Farm	No. of Farms	No. Report. Room & Board	Total Number		Aided Chil- dren	To- tal Adult Equiv.	Adult Per Farm
			Adults	Young People			
0-5	60	27	34	13	13	53	2
6-10	29	13	31	3	7	37	3
11-20	42	24	37	8	18	54	2
Over 20	38	19	28	4	10	37	2
Total	169	83	130	28	48	182	

The results in Table 10 indicate that the length of tenure is probably not a factor in the number receiving assistance of this character. The average number aided per farm for all groups was two persons except the 6-10 year group where it was 3 persons per farm.

RELATION OF LENGTH OF TENURE TO CONTRIBUTIONS
OTHER THAN ROOM AND BOARD

While the length of tenure did not have any particular bearing on the number receiving room and board it was a factor in the amount of other contributions.

TABLE 11

RELATION OF LENGTH OF TENURE TO CONTRIBUTIONS
OTHER THAN ROOM AND BOARD
1933

Years on Farm	No. of Farms (169)	Canned Goods Per Farm Qts.	Milk Per Farm Qts.	Meals Per Farm No.	Clothing Per Farm Articles	Est. Val.* Per Farm All Items
0-5	60	20	84	17	18	\$ 14.10
6-10	29	37	18	16	17	12.05
11-20	42	26	253	26	18	24.95
Over 20	38	15	162	37	21	22.25

*Values were estimated at the following rates--Milk per quart 5¢, meals 20¢, canned goods 10¢, and clothing 25¢.

The estimated value per farm of contributions for the tenure of 0-5 years was \$14.10 while the contributions for the farms over 20 years tenure was \$22.25. Although the contributions did not increase uniformly as the period of tenure lengthened the value of the contributions for the farms in the two groups of longer tenure was a great deal more than the short tenure group.

RELATION OF KIND OF TENURE TO AMOUNT OF ROOM
AND BOARD GIVEN

The kind of tenure was another factor that was thought might have bearing on the amount of aid. In Table 12 the number of persons receiving room and board from tenant and owner farms are compared.

TABLE 12

RELATION OF KIND OF TENURE TO AMOUNT OF ROOM
AND BOARD GIVEN
1933

	No. of Farms	No. Giving Aid	Adults	Young People	Chil- dren	Adult Equiv.	Adult Equiv. Per Farm
Owner	136	70	101	25	40	146	2
Tenant	37	16	34	3	12	43	3
Total	173	86	135	28	52	189	

Seventy-nine per cent out of 173 reporting were owners and 21 per cent were tenants. The total number of adults given aid by the owners was more than three times as many as for tenants because of the much greater number of owners. The average number aided per farm for tenants was 3 people while for owners only 2 persons were aided per farm.

RELATIONS OF KIND OF TENURE TO CONTRIBUTIONS
OTHER THAN ROOM AND BOARD

While the number given room and board by tenant farms was greater than the number aided by owner farms, the contributions other than room and board were given more freely by owner farms.

TABLE 13

RELATIONS OF KIND OF TENURE TO CONTRIBUTIONS
OTHER THAN ROOM AND BOARD
1933

	No. of Farms (173)	Canned Goods Per Farm Qts.	Milk Per Farm Qts.	Meals Per Farm No.	Clothing Per Farm Articles	Est. Val.* Per Farm All Items
Owner	136	24	148	21	24	\$ 20.00
Tenant	37	20	149	26	5	15.90

*Values were estimated at the following rates--Milk per quart 5¢, meals 20¢, canned goods 10¢, and clothing 25¢.

PREVIOUS OCCUPATIONS OF THOSE RECEIVING
ROOM AND BOARD

It was interesting to note the previous occupations of those receiving room and board. In Table 14 is shown the various occupations and the number in each occupation.

TABLE 14
PREVIOUS OCCUPATIONS OF THOSE RECEIVING
ROOM AND BOARD
1933

(No. Reporting - 97)

Occupation	Number Reporting	Occupation	Number Reporting
Bookkeeper	1	Painter	1
Carpenter	2	Railroad man	2
Engineer	3	Photographer	1
Contractor	1	Salesman	1
Farmer	13	Saw-mill worker	3
Farm hand	16	Soldier	4
Grocery store mgr.	1	Store clerk	2
Hotel clerk	1	Student	5
Housekeeper	3	Tailor	1
Laborer	15	Teacher	2
Logger	4	Truck driver	5
Mechanic	3	Waiter	2
Miner	2	Western Union messenger	1
Navy	1	Wood cutter	1

The outstanding feature was the wide variety of occupations. Twenty-eight different occupations were reported for the 97 reporting or a different occupation for approximately every third person receiving assistance. Also it may be noted the majority of the occupations reported were such as did not require a great deal of training.

Farm hands, common laborers, and farmers comprised the largest related group there being sixteen, fifteen,

and thirteen in each group respectively or a total of forty-four. This was forty-five per cent of the entire number receiving room and board.

AMOUNT AND PERIOD OF YEAR DURING WHICH
ROOM AND BOARD WAS GIVEN

There is usually more work during certain seasons of the year. Spring and fall are generally the busy periods with less employment and lull periods coming in summer and winter. In Table 15 the number receiving room and board are classified according to the season they received aid.

TABLE 15

AMOUNT AND PERIOD OF YEAR DURING WHICH
ROOM AND BOARD WAS GIVEN
1933

	Inter- mittent	Fall	Win- ter	Spring	Sum- mer	Entire Year (Not includ- ing those aided during seasons)
Adults	4	29	35	3	36	35
Young People		8	6	1	3	13
Children		5	12	1	12	21
Total Adult Equiv.	4	39	47	4.5	45	58

The number of individuals receiving aid is nearly the same for the fall, winter, and summer months. The decline in the number receiving aid during the spring months is due no doubt to the great amount of work available and the employment of more people customary at this time of the year. The number of people receiving assistance the whole year through is larger than the number receiving aid during any one season.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

The agricultural, industrial, and financial depression of 1930-34 has been characterized by a degree of unemployment unequaled in extent, in numbers, and kind in any previous period in modern history.

The total number of unemployed in the United States during 1932-33 was estimated to be approximately 13,000,000 persons.

Tremendous efforts by the federal, state, and local governments have been made to relieve the situation. This has required great expenditure of money and time and contributions from every class of people and business.

One contribution great in extent and unrealized is believed to have come from the farms of the country.

The objective of this study has been to determine in a preliminary way how large this assistance might be and what its character using the nearby area of the Willamette Valley as a sample area.

The results of the study indicate thousands of people out of work have gone to live with relatives on the farm while many others have been fed and sheltered on the farm. Food, clothing, fuel, work, and money has been given to other thousands unemployed.

No publication could be found dealing with this subject therefore no bibliography bearing directly on this

subject can be submitted with this thesis.

The area covered in this study was in the vicinity of Corvallis, Monmouth, Albany, Dayton, and in farming districts adjacent to Portland. Personal visits were made to 177 farms in these localities to get data in regard to the aid given to the unemployed by the farmer.

A field schedule or survey form was used. The simplest and most necessary questions were covered in this form. Representative towns having been selected, each main road leading out in the country was followed and every farm house visited for a distance of 5 or 6 miles out from town.

Analysis of the data was made by means of grouping and cross tabulation methods. This method is considered reliable for qualitative findings.

On the 177 farms visited a total of some 215 unemployed persons have been furnished room and board for a total of 866 months or 4.02 months per person. Estimating the value of this at \$20 per month, the total assistance given amounted to a value of \$15,690 in money alone. The average value for all farms was \$88 per farm for this type of aid.

The estimated value of aid given other than room and board such as money, food and clothing amounted to \$4940.

The average value of these contributions for all farms interviewed was \$28 per farm.

The total value of all contributions both room and board and contributions other than room and board was \$20,630. This amounted to an average of \$116 per farm.

Various factors such as size of farm, type of farm, and kind of tenure, affected the amount contributed by different farms.

As the size and income of the farm increased, the contributions to the unemployed were found to be larger but not in proportion to the increase in size and income of the farm. In brief the small farms were, in proportion to their means, contributing more generously.

The diversified type of farms were found to be giving more room and board than any of the other types. In assistance other than room and board fruit farms exceeded the other types.

The length of time the farms had been occupied by the owner or tenant did not seem to affect the number given room and board but the value of contributions other than room and board was greater for the longer operated farms.

Owner farms gave contributions more freely than tenant farms but tenant farmers assisted more people with room and board per farm than owner farms.

If the finding of this survey was representative of the country as a whole the value of the contributions from the farm to the unemployed have amounted to millions of dollars and have been a most important factor in relief during this depression period.

SURVEY OF THE CONTRIBUTION
OF THE FARM TO THE AID OF THE UNEMPLOYED

UNEMPLOYED relatives or others aided by employment or living
furnished by farm November 1, 1932 to October 31, 1933.

	1.	2.	3.
1. No. aided: Adults	_____	_____	_____
2. Young people	_____	_____	_____
3. Children	_____	_____	_____
4. Relationship	_____	_____	_____
5. No. of months aided	_____	_____	_____
6. Time of year	_____	_____	_____
7. Work done	_____	_____	_____
8. Food and shelter furnished	_____	_____	_____
9. Any wages paid	_____	_____	_____
10. Would above work have been hired, normally?	_____		
11. Did aided pay anything other than in work?	_____		
12. Previous occupation of aided	_____		
13. Reason for unemployment	_____		
14. Did they or will they leave farm when other work is available?	_____		
15. Total acres this farm _____ acres cultivated _____ owner or tenant _____.			
16. How long on this farm: Yrs. _____ Major enterprises _____			
17. No. in operator's regular farm family _____ Nationality _____.			

OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS THROUGH local relief organizations
or individually to

18. Relatives or other.	Money	_____		
19. FOOD: Kind - Canned	Milk	Meals	Vegetables	Fruit
20.	Amt. _____	qts. _____	_____	_____
21. CLOTHING: No. of articles	_____			
22. FUEL: Kind, amt., value	_____			
23. SHELTER: Kind, months, No. of people	_____			
24. Name and address of operator	_____			
25. Location	_____			
26. Date _____	Enumerator _____	Remarks _____		