

STATION BULLETIN 369

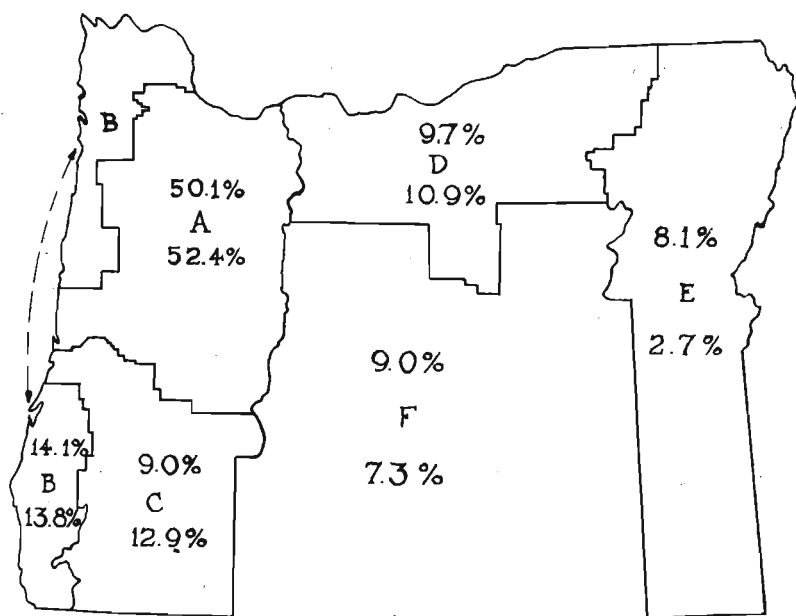
FEBRUARY 1940
Reprinted August 1946

House Planning Ideas of Oregon Rural Women

MAUD WILSON
LAURA WELLS



Oregon State System of Higher Education
Agricultural Experiment Station
Oregon State College
Corvallis



A. Willamette Valley counties: Benton, Clackamas, Lane, Linn, Marion, Multnomah, Polk, Washington, and Yamhill.

B. Coast and Lower Columbia counties: Clatsop, Columbia, Coos, Curry, Lincoln, and Tillamook.

C. Southern Oregon counties: Douglas, Jackson, and Josephine.

D. Columbia Basin counties: Gilliam, Hood River, Morrow, Sherman, Umatilla, Wasco, and Wheeler.

E. East Border counties: Baker, Malheur, Union, and Wallowa.

F. South Central counties: Crook, Deschutes, Grant, Harney, Jefferson, Klamath, and Lake.

Upper number—Proportion of Oregon rural population living in district in 1930 (U. S. census).

Lower number—Proportion of participants in this study living in district.

House Planning Ideas of Oregon Rural Women*

By

MAUD WILSON AND LAURA WELLS

WHAT picture does the average rural homemaker in Oregon have in mind when she thinks of a house that is suited to the needs of her family? Does it have one story, or two? Does it have a basement? If so, for what purpose would it be used? Should there be a bedroom on the first floor? A dining area in the kitchen?

Ideas came from 450 homemakers. These questions, together with many others, were answered by 450 Oregon homemakers in a questionnaire submitted to them during the spring of 1939. The questionnaire was in the form of a check list preceded by the question, "If you were planning to build, what kind of a house would you want?" and the request, "We are asking you to consider the most suitable ways of planning various details of a dwelling for your own family."

Sixty per cent lived on farms. Two hundred forty-six, about 60 per cent of the group, lived on farms that constituted the major source of family income, while 204 lived in villages, in suburban areas, or on acreages. The chief source of family income for members of the second group was in all instances some occupation other than farming. In this study the first group is referred to as "farm" homemakers, dwellers, or households; the second group as "other" homemakers, dwellers, or households. Ninety per cent of the first group live on farms that they own.

Most of the participants are members of home economics extension units. Ninety-nine of the homemakers are graduates of the School of Home Economics of Oregon State College. Two hundred twenty-five of them attended the Home Interests Conference held on the Oregon State College campus in February 1939. For the most part the homemakers submitting answers to the questionnaire were members of the extension units or community groups with whom the county home-demonstration agents of Oregon do their work.

Answers came from all sections of the state. The Willamette Valley was most heavily represented, 236 of the questionnaires coming from homes in this section. Sixty-two of the participating homemakers were dwellers of the Coast and lower Columbia counties, while 58 lived in the three southern counties, Douglas, Josephine, and Jackson. Columbia Basin counties sent in 49 questionnaires, the eastern-border counties 12, and the south-central section 33. For the most part the rural population of each of these sections was proportionately represented. The percentage distribution of participants in this study and of the rural population (Census, 1930) of each section of the state is given on the accompanying map.

Sizes of households represented. Households ranged in size from 1 to 12 persons. Not many of the homemakers had large households, only 1 in 6

* A more complete report of this investigation is available by interlibrary loan.

having as many as 6 or more persons. The percentage of large households was relatively higher for the farm than for the other group. The average farm household consisted of 4.1 persons, and the average household in the other group, 3.9 persons. Information concerning the number of households of various sizes is given in Table 1.

Table 1. NUMBER OF PERSONS IN FARM AND IN OTHER HOUSEHOLDS

Number persons in household	Farm households		Other households		All cases	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
One	4	1.6	2	1.0	6	1.3
Two	37	15.1	28	13.7	65	14.5
Three	49	19.9	51	25.0	100	22.2
Four	72	29.3	68	33.3	140	31.2
Five	36	14.6	32	15.7	68	15.1
Six	27	11.0	11	5.4	38	8.5
Seven	12	4.9	6	2.9	18	4.0
Eight	3	1.2	3	1.5	6	1.3
Nine	4	1.6	2	1.0	6	1.3
Ten	1	0.4	0	.....	1	0.2
Eleven	1	0.4	0	.....	1	0.2
Twelve	0	.....	1	0.5	1	0.2
TOTAL	246	100.0	204	100.0	450	100.0

Children in households. Table 2 classifies the households of homemakers taking part in this study according to the presence of children of various ages. In almost one-half of the cases, all children were of school age. In 25 per cent of the households there were no children under 19 years of age at home. Only 13 per cent had children under 6 years of age but no older ones. Fewer farm families had children under school age than did the others; only 20 per cent of the former, in contrast to 40 per cent of the latter group.

Table 2. CHILDREN IN FARM AND IN OTHER HOUSEHOLDS.

Children in household (under 19 years of age)	Farm households		Other households		All cases	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
1. No children in household	73	29.7	43	21.1	116	25.8
2. Some children in household:						
A. All under 6 years..	20	8.1	37	18.1	57	12.7
B. Some under 6 years, rest 6 to 18 years..	29	11.8	43	21.1	72	16.0
C. All 6 to 18 years....	124	50.4	81	39.7	205	45.5
TOTAL	246	100.0	204	100.0	450	100.0

One-story and two-story houses are equally favored. The 450 homemakers are about evenly divided in their preferences concerning the number of stories the house should have. For the state as a whole, slightly more than one-half voted for the one-story house. Little difference was found in the opinions of farm homemakers as contrasted with other rural dwellers. When returns from the east and west portions of the state were contrasted, it was noted that slightly more than one-half of the homemakers who live west of the Cascades prefer two-story houses, whether they live on farms or not. In the counties east of the Cascades, about two-thirds of the preferences of farm homemakers and three-fourths of the others are for one-story houses.

When preferences concerning the number of stories were considered in relation to the composition of the household, it was found that homemakers with no children under 19 years of age more often preferred one-story houses than did those with children. This may not be indicative of a preference for the one-story house so much as a preference for the small house. This group includes older women, however, whose desire for a one-story house may be independent of the desire for a small house.

Oregon homemakers like basements. Four out of five of all homemakers participating in this study voted for a basement. Marked uniformity of opinion concerning the basement was shown by both farm and other rural homemakers in every section of the state, regardless of the composition of their households.

In Table 3 the preferences of homemakers are summarized to show the total number of floors desired in the dwelling. Slightly more than half of the eastern Oregon dwellers voted for the house containing one story and a basement, whereas only 27 per cent of the votes were cast for the house with two stories and a basement. In western Oregon, the most popular type is the house with two stories and a basement, 43 per cent of the homemakers having voted for this arrangement as contrasted with 38 per cent for the second choice, which was one story and basement. There was little variation shown in the preferences of farm dwellers as contrasted with the others.

Table 3. NUMBER OF FLOORS DESIRED IN A DWELLING.

Floors	Farm		Other		Total	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
<i>Willamette Valley and Coast Counties:</i>						
One story and basement	61	40.7	53	36.3	114	38.5
One story and no basement	10	6.7	12	8.2	22	7.4
Two stories and basement	62	41.3	65	44.5	127	43.0
Two stories and no basement ..	17	11.3	16	11.0	33	11.1
TOTAL	150	100.0	146	100.0	296	100.0
<i>Other Counties in State:</i>						
One story and basement	42	47.2	35	60.3	77	52.4
One story and no basement	12	13.5	9	15.5	21	14.3
Two stories and basement	27	30.3	13	22.4	40	27.2
Two stories and no basement.....	8	9.0	1	1.8	9	6.1
TOTAL	89	100.0	58	100.0	147	100.0
<i>All Parts of State:</i>						
One story and basement	103	43.1	88	43.1	191	43.1
One story and no basement	22	9.2	21	10.3	43	9.7
Two stories and basement	89	37.2	78	38.2	167	37.7
Two stories and no basement ..	25	10.5	17	8.4	42	9.5
TOTAL	239	100.0	204	100.0	443	100.0

One bedroom on the first floor is desired. An important factor in determining the style of a dwelling is the number of bedrooms to be included in the ground-floor plan.

As Table 4 shows, 99 per cent of the homemakers want at least one bedroom on the first floor; two-thirds of them, however, do not want a second bedroom on that floor.

Table 4. NUMBER OF BEDROOMS DESIRED ON FIRST FLOOR OF TWO-STORY HOUSE.

Number of bedrooms	Farm dwellers		Other rural dwellers		All cases	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
0	1	0.9	1	1.1	2	1.0
1	80	69.5	51	54.2	131	62.6
2	31	27.0	40	42.5	71	34.0
3	1	0.9	1	1.1	2	1.0
4	2	1.7	1	1.1	3	1.4
TOTAL	115	100.0	94	100.0	209	100.0

When the preferences of homemakers desiring one or two bedrooms on the first floor of a two-story house were classified as to the ages of children in their households, it was found that for those having all children under six years of age, there were three preferences for two bedrooms to two preferences for one bedroom. Where all children were over six, on the other hand, there were only three preferences for two bedrooms on the first floor to seven preferences for only one bedroom. The need for at least one bedroom on the first floor, therefore, lasts throughout the homemaking period, but the need for the second bedroom on that floor seems to be strongest when all the children are small. This points to the desirability of a first-floor plan which provides not only a bedroom intended for no other purpose, but also a room suitable for several uses, one of which is that of a bedroom for young children.

Preferences for the second bedroom on the first floor were more frequently expressed by homemakers living in the western portion of the state than in the eastern portion, among families with small children.

Homemakers want own bedrooms on first floor. When all homemakers who answered the question were included, whether they had specified houses of two stories or not, it was found that four out of five prefer the first floor as the location of their own bedrooms. As shown in Table 5, the opinions of farm homemakers and of other homemakers do not differ materially on this point.

Table 5. PREFERENCE FOR LOCATION OF HOMEMAKER'S OWN BEDROOM.

Choice	Farm dwellers		Other rural dwellers		All homemakers	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
First floor	169	80.5	131	78.4	300	79.6
Second floor	30	14.3	21	12.6	51	13.5
No preference	11	5.2	15	9.0	26	6.9
TOTAL	210	100.0	167	100.0	377	100.0

When an analysis similar to that in Table 5 was made, contrasting the opinions of homemakers having young children with those whose children were older or who had no children living at home, it was found that there was little difference in the proportions voting for the second floor and the first floor as the location for the homemaker's own bedroom.

Laundry room may be on first floor or in basement. Approximately one-half of the homemakers indicating specific choices for a place to do the laundry checked the basement. One-third want a room other than the kitchen on the first floor. One in 12 would be satisfied with an open porch as a place

to wash, while only three per cent voted for a separate building as a wash house.

Opinions as to whether first floor or basement was desirable for the laundry room varied somewhat in relation to location in the state, as shown in Table 6. More than half of the Willamette Valley homemakers voted for the basement location, whereas the proportion so voting in the rest of the state was about two out of five.

Table 6. PREFERENCES OF HOMEMAKERS FOR A PLACE TO WASH CLOTHES.

Choice	Willamette Valley and Coast counties		Southern counties		Counties east of Cascades		All cases	
	Num-ber	Per-cent	Num-ber	Per-cent	Num-ber	Per-cent	Num-ber	Per-cent
Kitchen	3	1.0	0	.....	2	2.2	5	1.1
Other room, first floor	109	38.0	14	25.9	41	45.6	164	38.1
Basement	153	53.3	22	40.8	38	42.2	213	49.4
Open porch	18	6.3	14	25.9	4	4.4	36	8.4
Separate building	4	1.4	4	7.4	5	5.6	13	3.0
TOTAL	287	100.0	54	100.0	90	100.0	431	100.0
DUAL CHOICE	8	.....	2	.....	4	.....	14	.....

The opinions of homemakers on the location of the laundry bore no relation to the ages of the children in their households.

Farm homemakers want a place outside the kitchen for men to wash. Only 1 farm homemaker out of 231 who replied to this part of the questionnaire indicated the kitchen as a place for men to wash, as Table 7 shows. About one-half voted for a room other than the kitchen on the first floor, while one-third indicated an open porch as suitable for the purpose. Only 15 per cent indicated the basement as the most suitable place for men to wash.

Opinions on this point varied considerably for different parts of the state. The open porch was designated in more than half the replies from southern Oregon, one-third of those from the Willamette Valley, and one-sixth of those from the section east of the Cascades. Evidently the answers to this part of the questionnaire vary in relation to the number of hired men employed and to the severity of the weather at the time of year when the problem of the place for men to wash needs to be considered.

Table 7. PREFERENCES OF FARM HOMEMAKERS CONCERNING A PLACE FOR MEN TO WASH.

Choice	Willamette Valley and Coast counties		Southern counties		Counties east of Cascades		All cases	
	Num-ber	Per-cent	Num-ber	Per-cent	Num-ber	Per-cent	Num-ber	Per-cent
Kitchen	0	.....	0	.....	1	2.1	1	0.4
Other room, first floor	69	43.0	13	32.5	28	59.6	110	47.6
Basement	28	19.4	3	7.5	4	8.5	35	15.2
Open porch	46	32.0	22	55.0	8	17.0	76	32.9
Separate building	1	0.6	2	5.0	6	12.8	9	3.9
TOTAL	144	100.0	40	100.0	47	100.0	231	100.0
DUAL CHOICE	7	.....	1	.....	4	.....	12	.....

Place to do canning and to work with meat. The kitchen was considered satisfactory for large amounts of canning by more than two-fifths of

the homemakers, and the basement by about one-third of them. Homemakers living in the Willamette Valley more often indicated the basement than did those of other sections.

As a place to work with meat, the basement and a separate building each account for 3 out of 10 replies. The kitchen, and a room other than the kitchen on the first floor, each received about one-sixth of the votes. Preferences from the various sections of the state were about the same with respect to the use of a separate building for the purpose, but those favoring the basement as a place to work with meat were more often found in the Willamette Valley than in other sections.

Table 8. PREFERENCES OF FARM HOMEMAKERS CONCERNING A PLACE TO DO LARGE AMOUNTS OF CANNING, AND A PLACE TO WORK WITH MEAT.

Choice	Willamette Valley and Coast		Southern Oregon		East of Cascades		All cases	
	Num-ber	Per-cent	Num-ber	Per-cent	Num-ber	Per-cent	Num-ber	Per-cent
<i>Place to do large amounts of canning:</i>								
Kitchen	53	37.3	28	70.0	21	42.0	102	44.0
Other room, first floor	17	12.0	2	5.0	8	16.0	27	11.6
Basement	66	43.0	3	7.5	14	28.0	78	33.6
Open porch	1	0.7	2	5.0	1	2.0	4	1.7
Separate building	10	7.0	5	12.5	6	12.0	21	9.1
TOTAL	142	100.0	40	100.0	50	100.0	232	100.0
DUAL CHOICE	9	.....	1	.....	2	.....	12	.....
<i>Place to handle meat:</i>								
Kitchen	25	17.1	12	30.8	5	10.4	42	18.0
Other room, first floor	26	17.8	2	5.1	10	20.8	38	16.3
Basement	53	36.3	7	18.0	10	20.8	70	30.0
Open porch	6	4.1	5	12.8	1	2.1	12	5.2
Separate building	36	24.7	13	33.3	22	45.9	71	30.5
TOTAL	146	100.0	39	100.0	48	100.0	233	100.0
DUAL CHOICE	3	.....	1	.....	3	.....	7	.....

Homemakers want separate dining rooms as well as kitchen dining areas. Homemakers were asked to check the places where provision should be made for eating meals. The check list included: kitchen; nook or alcove off kitchen; dining room or dinette; part of living room; porch or terrace. As Table 9 shows, more than one-half of the farm dwellers and almost two-thirds of the others want a dining area in the kitchen or in a nook or alcove off the kitchen, as well as a dining room. Eighty-three per cent of the farm home-

Table 9. FACILITIES DESIRED BY HOMEMAKERS FOR SERVING MEALS INSIDE HOUSE.

Dining area	Farm homemakers		Other homemakers		All cases	
	Num-ber	Per-cent	Num-ber	Per-cent	Num-ber	Per-cent
Kitchen or nook off kitchen, only	42	17.1	32	15.8	74	16.5
Dining room or dinette, only	37	15.1	27	13.3	64	14.3
Part of living room, only	4	1.6	1	0.5	5	1.1
Kitchen or nook, and dining room or dinette	132	53.9	121	59.6	253	56.5
Kitchen or nook, and part of living room	30	12.3	22	10.8	52	11.6
TOTAL	245	100.0	203	100.0	448	100.0

makers and 86 per cent of the others want a meal table in the kitchen, whether or not they have a dining area elsewhere in the house. The use of a part of the living room as a place to serve meals is not a popular idea with rural homemakers, only one woman in eight having voted for it, either alone or in combination with a dining area in the kitchen.

The arrangement for dining which consists of a meal table in the kitchen or a nook off the kitchen as well as a dining room received more than one-half of the votes in every section of the state. Other arrangements varied in popularity in the various sections (Table 10).

Table 10. FACILITIES DESIRED BY HOMEMAKERS FOR SERVING MEALS INSIDE HOUSE, IN RELATION TO LOCATION IN STATE.

Dining areas	Willamette Valley and Coast counties		Southern counties		Counties east of Cascades	
	Num-ber	Per-cent	Num-ber	Per-cent	Num-ber	Per-cent
Kitchen or nook off kitchen, only	48	16.1	13	22.4	13	14.0
Dining room or dinette, only	37	12.4	12	20.7	15	16.1
Part of living room, only	3	1.0	0	.....	2	2.2
Kitchen or nook, and dining room or dinette	168	56.7	30	51.7	55	59.1
Kitchen or nook, and part of living room	41	13.8	3	5.2	8	8.6
TOTAL	297	100.0	58	100.0	93	100.0

A similar comparison of the votes of women having young children, older children, or no children at home, showed the same marked preference for the fourth arrangement for serving meals described in Table 10 that was found among dwellers in different sections of the state.

Table 11. USE OF DINING AREA IN KITCHEN OR NOOK OFF KITCHEN IN COLD WEATHER.

Use of kitchen, or nook or alcove all kitchen	Willamette Valley and Coast		Southern counties		East of Cascades		All cases	
	Num-ber	Per-cent	Num-ber	Per-cent	Num-ber	Per-cent	Num-ber	Per-cent
<i>Farm households:</i>								
Breakfasts only	33	22.6	11	28.2	7	14.0	51	21.7
Breakfasts and noon meals	33	22.6	11	28.2	16	32.0	60	25.5
Breakfasts and evening meals..	2	1.4	0	.....	.....	.....	2	0.9
All meals	62	42.5	13	33.3	21	42.0	96	40.9
No meals	16	10.9	4	10.3	6	12.0	26	11.0
TOTAL	146	100.0	39	100.0	50	100.0	235	100.0
<i>Other households:</i>								
Breakfasts only	25	18.0	5	31.2	14	33.3	44	22.4
Breakfasts and noon meals	51	37.0	3	18.8	15	35.8	69	35.3
Breakfasts and evening meals..	4	2.9	0	.....	0	.....	4	2.0
All meals	47	34.1	5	31.2	9	21.4	61	31.1
No meals	11	8.0	3	18.8	4	9.5	18	9.2
TOTAL	138	100.0	16	100.0	42	100.0	196	100.0
<i>All cases:</i>								
Breakfasts only	58	20.4	16	29.1	21	22.8	95	22.1
Breakfasts and noon meals	84	29.6	14	25.5	31	33.7	129	29.9
Breakfasts and evening meals..	6	2.1	0	.....	0	.....	6	1.4
All meals	109	38.4	18	32.7	30	32.6	157	36.4
No meals	27	9.5	7	12.7	10	10.9	44	10.2
TOTAL	284	100.0	55	100.0	92	100.0	431	100.0

Use of dining area in kitchen. For what meals do homemakers want the kitchen dining area? Table 11 summarizes the statements of farm and other homemakers in various parts of the state as to which meals they would like to serve in the kitchen in cold weather. Forty-one per cent of the farm homemakers and almost a third of the others would serve all family meals in the kitchen. About a fifth of both farm and other dwellers would serve only breakfasts there. There was little difference in the opinion of homemakers in the various sections of the state on this point.

How would the homemaker use her kitchen dining area if she had a dining room as well? Table 12 gives this information for both cold and warm weather. In cold weather 24 per cent of the homemakers who voted for two dining areas would use the kitchen for only one meal, 41 per cent for two meals, and 35 per cent for all three everyday meals. In warm weather, 35 per cent would not use the kitchen dining area at all, 45 per cent would use it for one meal only, 13 per cent for two meals, and 7 per cent for all three meals. In other words, three-fourths of all homemakers indicated a desire to serve two or more meals per day in the kitchen in cold weather, while only one-fifth of them would use the kitchen for two or more meals per day in warm weather. Differences in the attitudes of farm homemakers and of the other rural homemakers on this matter were slight.

The foregoing information indicates the desirability of a meal table in the kitchen that is large enough to serve the entire family at one time, even in the house having a dining room. It is, however, more important that this area shall be comfortable in cold weather than in warm weather.

Table 12. NUMBER OF FAMILY MEALS PER DAY THAT HOMEMAKERS WHO VOTED FOR TWO DINING AREAS WOULD SERVE IN KITCHEN OR NOOK.

Number of meals in kitchen	Cold weather		Warm weather	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
<i>Farm homemakers:</i>				
None	0	.....	56	35.9
One	38	24.4	73	46.8
Two	54	34.6	14	9.0
Three	64	41.0	13	8.3
TOTAL	156	100.0	156	100.0
<i>Other homemakers:</i>				
None	0	.....	47	33.6
One	32	22.9	60	42.8
Two	67	47.8	25	17.9
Three	41	29.3	8	5.7
TOTAL	140	100.0	140	100.0
<i>All cases:</i>				
None	0	.....	103	34.8
One	70	23.6	133	44.9
Two	121	40.9	39	13.2
Three	105	35.5	21	7.1
TOTAL	296	100.0	296	100.0

There is a wide variation in the uses of the kitchen dining area listed by the homemakers, nine combinations being distinguished. Among the farm group the most frequently listed use-patterns are those of serving either 2 or 3 meals in the kitchen in cold weather and one in warm weather. Among the rural homemakers the most frequently listed combination is two meals in cold and one in warm weather.

As a place to serve crews of farm help, the kitchen dining area received only 9 per cent of the western Oregon votes, 14 per cent of those from southern Oregon, and 14 per cent of those from the counties east of the Cascades.

Outdoor dining areas are popular. Table 13 shows that for the state as a whole about one-half of both farm and other homemakers want to be able to serve family meals on the porch or terrace. The proportion is slightly higher for southern Oregon than for the rest of the state.

The porch is popular, also, for serving meals to crews of farm help. Forty per cent of the western Oregon women said they preferred a porch for this function. The proportion was still greater in other sections, being 47 per cent for southern Oregon and 47 per cent for eastern Oregon dwellers.

Table 13. **HOMEMAKERS INDICATING DESIRABILITY OF DINING AREA ON PORCH OR TERRACE.**

Section of state	Farm homemakers			Other homemakers			All homemakers		
	Number in group	Listing outdoor area		Number in group	Listing outdoor area		Number in group	Listing outdoor area	
		Number	Per cent		Number	Per cent		Number	Per cent
Willamette Valley and Coast counties	152	69	45.4	146	72	49.3	298	141	47.3
Southern Oregon	42	24	57.1	16	9	56.3	58	33	56.8
East of Cascades	51	24	47.1	42	20	47.6	93	44	47.3
All sections	245	117	47.8	204	101	49.5	449	218	48.6

Homemakers do not like the "keeping room" idea. In current architectural magazines much attention is being given to the problem of the best utilization of the space in the four-room and in the five-room dwelling. Some writers recommend the idea of one room for cooking, eating, and leisure uses, and have named this the "keeping room." Others would devote one room to cooking purposes only, even in a four-room house.

Table 14. **PREFERENCES OF HOMEMAKERS REGARDING THE ARRANGEMENT OF A FOUR-ROOM DWELLING**

Arrangement	Farm		Other		All	
	Best	Poor est	Best	Poor est	Best	Poor est
<i>Number of homemakers:</i>						
A. Kitchen-dining room combined. Living room, used also as bedroom when needed. Two bedrooms	117	6	92	5	209	11
B. Kitchen-dining-living room combined. Three bedrooms	7	207	7	159	14	366
C. Kitchen. Living-dining room, used as bedroom when needed. Two bedrooms.....	108	12	83	10	191	22
<i>Percentage of homemakers:</i>						
A. Kitchen-dining room combined. Living room, used also as bedroom when needed. Two bedrooms	50.4	2.7	50.6	2.9	50.5	2.8
B. Kitchen-dining-living room combined. Three bedrooms	3.0	92.0	3.8	91.4	3.4	91.7
C. Kitchen. Living-dining room used as a bedroom when needed. Two bedrooms.....	46.6	5.3	45.6	5.7	46.1	5.5

Certainly this is a matter upon which the opinion of homemakers should have weight. Most of the cooperators in this study have lived in houses of five rooms or less, and have first-hand information regarding the household-management problems that arise when family life is carried on in a small dwelling.

Table 14 shows their reaction to the possible arrangements listed for the four-room house. Three choices were offered: *A*, Kitchen-dining room combined; living room, used also as bedroom when needed; two bedrooms. *B*, One room serving functions of kitchen, dining room, and living room; three bedrooms. *C*, Combined living and dining room, used also as bedroom when needed; kitchen; two bedrooms.

More than 90 per cent of the homemakers considered plan *B* the poorest. When the sections of the state were compared on this point, percentages ranged from 90 to 96; when homemakers were classified as to composition of their households, the range was from 90 to 94. Plan *A* was voted the best of the three by 50 per cent of the homemakers, and plan *C* by 46 per cent. There was little variation in opinion on this point among either farm or other rural homemakers living in various parts of the state, or among those differing in the composition of their households.

Preferred arrangements for a five-room house. In Table 15 the ideas of homemakers regarding the desirable units of a five-room house are listed. Each was asked to tell which arrangement she considered best, next best, and poorest of four plans:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>A. Kitchen-dining room combined
Living room
Three bedrooms</p> | <p>C. Kitchen
Dining room
Living room, used also as bedroom when needed
Two bedrooms</p> |
| <p>B. Kitchen
Dining-living room combined
Three bedrooms</p> | <p>D. Kitchen-dining room combined
Room which may be used either as a bedroom or a dining room
Living room
Two bedrooms</p> |

More than half of all the homemakers considered plan *D* the poorest. Opinions on this point were similar from the various sections of the state, from homemakers differing with respect to the composition of their households, and from farm homemakers as well as the others. It may be that homemakers visualized a room used concurrently as bedroom and dining room, rather than a room which would be furnished and used as a bedroom or as a dining room, depending upon which room was needed more.

Plan *C* received the largest number of votes for the best arrangement, but Plan *B* was a close second in popularity. Plan *D* received the fewest votes as best plan. There was little difference of opinion shown by farm or other homemakers in the various sections of the state, or by those differing in the composition of their households.

When votes for the next best plan were considered together with those for the best plan, the rank in popularity remained unchanged.

A popular size for the living room. Homemakers were asked "What do you consider a suitable size (length and width) for your living room?"

Table 16 lists the dimensions indicated by more than five women each. In greatest favor are rooms measuring 14 by 20 feet and 16 by 20 feet. The number of women specifying each of these sizes was practically the same, and together they constituted 22 per cent of the total. No other single set of dimensions polled more than 8 per cent of the votes. The living room, the dimen-

sions of which come closest to satisfying the largest possible proportion of all the homemakers, would be 15 by 20 feet. A room measuring 15 by 22 feet satisfies the largest proportion of the 52 homemakers who want a combination dining-and-living room.

The average area represented by the living-room dimensions listed by all homemakers was 306 square feet, and the average for those specifying part of

Table 15. PREFERENCES OF HOMEMAKERS REGARDING THE ARRANGEMENT OF FIVE-ROOM DWELLING.

Arrangement	Farm			Other			All		
	Best	Next best	Poor-est	Best	Next best	Poor-est	Best	Next best	Poor-est
<i>Number of homemakers:</i>									
A. Kitchen-dining room combined Living room Three bedrooms	45	59	35	42	43	33	87	102	68
B. Kitchen Dining-living room combined Three bedrooms	81	67	23	57	63	23	138	130	46
C. Kitchen Dining room Living room, used also as bedroom when needed Two bedrooms	85	62	40	67	39	31	152	101	71
D. Kitchen-dining room combined Room which may be used either as a bedroom or a dining room Living room Two bedrooms	21	29	111	24	37	83	45	66	194
<i>Percentage of homemakers:</i>									
A. Kitchen-dining room combined Living room Three bedrooms	19.4	27.2	16.7	22.1	23.7	19.5	20.6	25.6	17.9
B. Kitchen Dining-living room combined Three bedrooms	34.9	30.9	11.0	30.0	34.6	13.5	32.7	32.6	12.1
C. Kitchen Dining room Living room, used also as bedroom when needed Two bedrooms	36.6	28.5	19.2	35.3	21.4	18.2	36.0	25.3	18.8
D. Kitchen-dining room combined Room which may be used either as a bedroom or a dining room Living room Two bedrooms	9.1	13.4	53.1	12.6	20.3	43.8	10.7	16.5	51.2

Table 16. DIMENSIONS FOR THE LIVING ROOM THAT WERE DESIGNATED BY MORE THAN FIVE OF ALL HOMEMAKERS AND BY TWO OR MORE OF THOSE WHO WANT TO COMBINE LIVING ROOM WITH DINING ROOM.

Dimensions <i>Feet</i>	All homemakers		Homemakers who want to combine living and dining room	
	<i>Number</i>	<i>Per cent of total (417)</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Per cent of total (52)</i>
14 x 20	46	11.0	6	11.5
16 x 20	45	10.8	8	15.5
14 x 18	32	7.6	3	5.8
14 x 16	26	6.3	.....	.....
16 x 24	21	5.1	2	3.8
16 x 18	19	4.6	2	3.8
15 x 20	17	4.1	.....	.....
18 x 24	15	3.6	2	3.8
12 x 18	11	2.4	3	5.8
14 x 24	11	2.4	2	3.8
15 x 18	10	2.4	.....	.....
12 x 15	9	2.2	.....	.....
12 x 16	8	2.0	.....	.....
14 x 22	8	2.0	2	3.8
18 x 20	8	2.0	.....	.....
12 x 20	7	1.7	.....	.....
15 x 24	7	1.7	3	5.8
16 x 22	7	1.7	.....	.....
All others	110	26.4	19	36.5
TOTAL	417	100.0	52	100.0

the living room as a dining area, 325 square feet. As Table 17 shows, the concentration of sizes was greatest in the group measuring 275 to 334 square feet, whether the dining area was a part of the living room or not. Thirty-six per cent of the sizes, however, measure more than 334 square feet when the dining area is a part of the living room, and 30 per cent when the dining area is not a part of it.

Table 17. AREA OF LIVING ROOM WHEN IT DOES NOT INCLUDE A DINING AREA, AND WHEN IT DOES INCLUDE A DINING AREA.

Area in square feet	Dining room not part of living room		Dining room part of living room		All cases	
	<i>Number</i>	<i>Per cent</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Per cent</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Per cent</i>
95-154	6	1.6	0	.....	6	1.4
155-214	28	7.7	1	1.9	29	7.0
215-274	94	25.7	7	13.5	101	24.2
275-334	127	34.8	25	48.1	152	36.4
335-394	62	17.0	12	23.1	74	17.8
395-454	32	8.8	6	11.5	38	9.2
455-514	12	3.3	1	1.9	13	3.1
515-574	3	.8	0	.....	3	.7
720	1	.3	0	.....	1	.2
TOTAL	365	100.0	52	100.0	417	100.0

The favored bedroom dimensions are 12 x 14 feet. Homemakers were asked, "What do you consider a suitable size for your own bedroom?" All but three of the 422 homemakers want bedrooms measuring at least 100 square feet, but only 15 of them want rooms that measure more than 224 square feet.

Table 18 lists the dimensions indicated by more than 5 homemakers each. Almost a third voted for a room measuring 12 x 14 feet. Fourteen per cent specified 10 x 12 feet and 12 per cent, 12 x 12 feet. No other set of dimensions polled more than 8 per cent of the votes.

Table 18. DIMENSIONS OF OWN BEDROOM SPECIFIED BY MORE THAN 5 HOMEMAKERS EACH.

Dimensions	Homemakers	
	Number	Per cent
12 x 14	134	31.9
10 x 12	59	14.0
12 x 12	48	11.5
12 x 13	32	7.6
14 x 16	27	6.5
12 x 16	24	5.7
10 x 14	17	4.0
14 x 14	14	3.3
9 x 12	10	2.4
All others	57	13.1
TOTAL	422	100.0

Homemakers want cool but not cold bedrooms. How much heat is desirable in bedrooms, none at all, enough to take off the chill, or enough to make the room comfortable for reading or sewing?

The point of view of the homemaker regarding the use of bedrooms during the daytime is a factor in determining the type of heating plant suitable for the small house. In the house that is warmed throughout, bedrooms may be used for study, sewing, child's play, ironing, and for similar functions. A furnace, room heaters, or a suitably placed heater of the circulating type would be required. If, however, the homemaker visualizes a house in which bedrooms have no other uses than sleeping and dressing, cool bedrooms may be preferred.

The majority of homemakers in all sections of the state, as Table 19 shows, want at least enough heat in their own bedrooms to take off the chill, but less than a third want them warm enough to sit in to read or sew. Farm homemakers in all sections less frequently prefer warm bedrooms for their own use than do the others.

A third of the homemakers prefer to have children's bedrooms that are warm enough for daytime use. Only 7 per cent of the farm homemakers and 6 per cent of the other homemakers indicated no heat at all for the children's

Table 19. AMOUNT OF HEAT DESIRED IN BEDROOMS BY HOMEMAKERS.

Amount of heat	Home-maker's own bedroom	Children's bedrooms	Spare bedroom
	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent
<i>Farm homemakers:</i>			
None	16.6	6.9	11.0
Chill off	58.5	68.2	57.1
Warm	24.9	24.9	31.9
<i>Other homemakers:</i>			
None	11.3	5.5	5.9
Chill off	53.9	51.3	53.4
Warm	34.8	43.2	35.7
<i>All cases:</i>			
None	14.2	6.3	8.6
Chill off	56.4	60.4	57.7
Warm	29.4	33.3	33.7

bedrooms. Homemakers living in various sections of the state differ but little on this point.

Do homemakers have in mind the same amount of heat for all bedrooms in the house?

When the 327 homemakers with children were classified with reference to their preferences concerning the heat desirable for both their own and children's bedrooms, it was found that 46 per cent want the chill off in both types of rooms while 22 per cent want both rooms warm. When the 5 per cent who want no heat at all, either in their own or in their children's bedrooms, are considered, it appears that almost three-fourths of the homemakers would make no difference in the amount of heat supplied to bedrooms in the house. Farm homemakers more often want just the chill off in both types of bedrooms and less often want both of them warm, than do the other rural dwellers.

A fireplace is considered highly desirable. Is a fireplace in the living room regarded by homemakers as necessary, as desirable but not necessary, or as a luxury, when it is not the main source of heat for the room?

Only a few homemakers class the fireplace as a necessity, according to Table 20, but more than three-fourths of them regard it as a desirable feature. Farm and other dwellers think about alike on this matter, as do homemakers living in various parts of the state.

Table 20. ATTITUDES OF HOMEMAKERS REGARDING A FIREPLACE FOR THE LIVING ROOM WHEN NOT NEEDED AS THE MAIN SOURCE OF HEAT.

Attitudes*	Willamette Valley and Coast counties		Southern Oregon		East of Cascades		All cases	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
<i>Farm homemakers:</i>								
Necessary	19	12.2	5	12.5	2	4.1	26	10.6
Desirable but not necessary	117	75.0	29	72.5	42	85.7	188	76.7
Luxury	20	12.8	6	15.0	5	10.2	31	12.7
TOTAL	156	100.0	40	100.0	49	100.0	245	100.0
<i>Other homemakers:</i>								
Necessary	3	2.3	1	6.2	3	7.3	7	3.7
Desirable but not necessary	108	81.8	12	75.0	33	80.5	153	81.0
Luxury	21	15.9	3	18.8	5	12.2	29	15.3
TOTAL	132	100.0	16	100.0	41	100.0	189	100.0
<i>All cases:</i>								
Necessary	22	7.6	6	10.7	5	5.6	33	7.6
Desirable but not necessary	225	78.2	41	73.2	75	83.3	341	78.6
Luxury	41	14.2	9	16.1	10	11.1	60	13.8
TOTAL	288	100.0	56	100.0	90	100.0	434	100.0

* Fifteen of those listing a fireplace as desirable but not necessary also considered it a luxury.

Ideas regarding floor coverings. The type of floor covering desired by the housewife determines the type of floor to be installed. Homemakers were asked to check floor coverings preferred for living room, dining room, and bedrooms. Table 21 summarizes their answers for the first two rooms.

For the living room, a large fabric rug was favored by 37 per cent of the farm homemakers and 54 per cent of the others. Carpet received about one-fifth of the votes. Linoleum, whether all-over or rug, was listed by 31 per cent of farm homemakers and 15 per cent of the others.

Linoleum is the favored cover for the dining-room floor. Seventy-five per cent of the farm homemakers and 59 per cent of the other group voted for all-over linoleum or a linoleum rug. Although more than half of the farm homemakers specified carpet or a large fabric rug as desirable for the living room, only one-sixth of them wanted this floor covering in the dining room.

Table 21. FLOOR COVERINGS PREFERRED FOR LIVING ROOM AND FOR DINING ROOM.

Floor covering	Living room		Dining room	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
<i>Farm homemakers:</i>				
Carpet	45	18.9	13	5.6
Large fabric rug	89	37.4	25	10.7
Small fabric rugs	19	8.0	4	1.7
Linoleum all over	36	15.1	85	36.5
Linoleum rug	38	16.0	89	38.2
Other	11	4.6	17	7.3
TOTAL	238	100.0	233	100.0
<i>Other homemakers:</i>				
Carpet	46	22.8	15	7.6
Large fabric rug	109	54.0	50	25.5
Small fabric rugs	9	4.5	7	3.6
Linoleum all over	14	6.9	64	32.6
Linoleum rug	16	7.9	52	26.6
Other	8	3.9	8	4.1
TOTAL	202	100.0	196	100.0
<i>All cases:</i>				
Carpet	91	20.7	28	6.5
Large fabric rug	198	44.9	75	17.5
Small fabric rugs	28	6.4	11	2.6
Linoleum all over	50	11.4	149	34.7
Linoleum rug	54	12.3	141	32.9
Other	19	4.3	25	5.8
TOTAL	440	100.0	429	100.0

For the bedroom, small fabric rugs are favored by 58 per cent of the homemakers, linoleum by 23 per cent, and carpet or large fabric rug by 13 per cent. Farm homemakers less often specified small fabric rugs than the others, the proportions being 54 per cent and 63 per cent respectively. Conversely, linoleum was more popular among farm homemakers for this purpose.

Certain features were considered in relation to climate. Many of the features that influence the cost of a dwelling are desired because of climatic conditions. Individual opinions differ as to the relative desirability of certain features, but in the main the majority opinion of persons living in a given area is significant.

In the list of features presented to the homemakers cooperating in this study there were included for the most part items that are seldom found in the cheapest houses but often found in the more expensive, recently constructed homes.

There were two types of blanks used during the study that differed as to the number of items included in this list. The first blank, containing 13 items, was returned by 93 homemakers; the revised blank, containing five additional items, was returned by 352 homemakers. The question read as follows:

From the standpoint of climate as well as the needs of your family, how would you rank the following features? Place a circle about the number which indicates your opinion.

1—Necessary.

2—Highly desirable, but not necessary.

3—Consider it a luxury.

4—Immaterial.

5—Would not have.

Vestibule or entry for front door	1	2	3	4	5
Vestibule or entry for back door	1	2	3	4	5
Living porch	1	2	3	4	5
Dining porch	1	2	3	4	5
Sleeping porch	1	2	3	4	5
Shelter for wood or coal	1	2	3	4	5
Hard-surface farm drive	1	2	3	4	5
Hard-surface walks	1	2	3	4	5
Heated garage	1	2	3	4	5
Weather stripping for windows	1	2	3	4	5
Storm doors	1	2	3	4	5
Refrigerator	1	2	3	4	5
Draft cooler	1	2	3	4	5
Connected with house (at least by roof)					
Woodsbed	1	2	3	4	5
Food-storage room	1	2	3	4	5
Garage	1	2	3	4	5
Men's work shop	1	2	3	4	5
Screening for work porch	1	2	3	4	5

Both farm and other rural homemakers were conservative in placing the items in the class of necessities, as Table 22 shows. Only 2 per cent of the homemakers listed more than 12 of the items as necessary; 80 per cent placed 9 items or fewer in this category. On the other hand, two-thirds designated at least 7 of the items as necessary.

In the category of highly desirable features, only 6 per cent placed more than 9 of the items. Nearly three-fourths of the cooperators placed fewer than 7 items here.

Very few of the items were classified as luxuries. Only 3 per cent placed more than 3 items of the list in this classification. Two-fifths of the homemakers did not consider any of the items luxuries.

Homemakers classified very few of the items as immaterial. One woman in 4 did not so designate any of the features, and 2 out of 3 placed fewer than 4 items in this category. The opinion of homemakers concerning the number of features they would not have was about the same as those which they considered immaterial.

Features considered necessary. When the percentages of farm homemakers designating each item as a necessary feature of a house plan were

Table 22. NUMBER OF ITEMS CLASSIFIED BY 352 HOMEMAKERS AS NECESSARY; HIGHLY DESIRABLE BUT NOT NECESSARY; LUXURY; IMMATERIAL; OR WOULD NOT HAVE.

Number of items	Proportion of homemakers				
	Necessary	Highly desirable but not necessary	Luxury	Immaterial	Would not have
	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent
None .....	.....	1.7	38.0	24.5	27.3
1-3	4.3	20.5	58.6	61.8	58.0
4-6	30.3	48.9	3.4	13.7	13.5
7-9	44.8	23.2	.....	.....	1.1
10-12	18.9	5.4	.....	.....	.....
13-15	1.7	.3	.....	.....	.....
16-18 .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....

ranked as in Table 23, it was found that shelter for fuel came first in all sections of the state. A connection between food-storage room and house, screening for the work porch, and a connection between woodshed and house, were considered important in all regions. A refrigerator was classified as a necessity by more than half of the farm homemakers in southern and in eastern Oregon. A draft cooler was given this classification by the majority of western and of eastern Oregon farm dwellers.

Table 23. FEATURES DESIGNATED AS NECESSARY BY AT LEAST HALF OF THE FARM HOMEMAKERS REPLYING FROM VARIOUS SECTIONS IN OREGON.

Part of state	Feature	Percentage of homemakers
Willamette Valley and Coast Counties	Shelter for wood or coal	99
	Food storage room connected with house	86
	Woodshed connected with house	76
	Screening for work porch	75
	Draft cooler	63
	Hard-surface walks	62
	Hard-surface farm drive	61
	Entry for back door	56
Southern Oregon..	Shelter for wood or coal	98
	Screening for work porch	96
	Food storage room connected with house	83
	Woodshed connected with house	63
	Refrigerator	61
	Draft cooler	54
Counties east of Cascade Range..	Shelter for wood or coal	81
	Screening for work porch	76
	Food storage room connected with house	73
	Weather stripping for windows	55
	Entry for back door	53
	Refrigerator	53

For the most part the opinions of rural dwellers not living on farms correspond to those of the farm homemakers. Majority opinion of rural dwellers in every section placed one or two more items in the category of necessities than were so designated by farm homemakers. The features listed as necessary by more than half of the nonfarm dwellers are given in Table 24.

Features considered desirable but not necessary. The lists of items considered necessary by homemakers (Tables 23 and 24) are of value in setting up specifications for low-cost houses. Where cost is not a limiting factor, items listed by homemakers as highly desirable but not necessary, as well as those considered necessary, may be included in the specifications.

All of the items in the list were placed in one or the other of these classifications by at least 50 per cent of the farm women of every section, except men's workshop connected with the house, storm doors, and a heated garage. The majority of the other homemakers also omitted only two or three items from the list of necessary or highly desirable features. Storm doors and heated garage were excluded in all sections.

Opinions concerning porches are deserving of special mention, in view of their relation to comfort and health. Uses of porches include the preparation of vegetables and poultry for cooking, washing, hand sewing, child's play, dining, reading, day rest, and night rest.

Table 24. FEATURES DESIGNATED AS NECESSARY BY AT LEAST HALF OF THE NONFARM PARTICIPANTS IN THIS STUDY, LIVING IN VARIOUS SECTIONS OF THE STATE.

Part of state	Feature	Percentage of homemakers
Willamette Valley and Coast Counties	Shelter for wood or coal	99
	Screening for work porch	81
	Food storage room connected with house	76
	Hard-surface walks	66
	Hard-surface farm drive	65
	Draft cooler	63
	Woodshed connected with house	63
	Entry for back door	61
	Weather stripping for windows	54
Southern Oregon..	Shelter for wood or coal	100
	Woodshed connected with house	100
	Food storage room connected with house	89
	Screening for work porch	89
	Refrigerator	56
	Garage connected with house	56
	Draft cooler	50
	Hard-surface walks	50
	Entry for back door	50
Counties east of Cascade Range..	Hard-surface drive	50
	Screening for work porch	100
	Refrigerator	79
	Shelter for wood or coal	78
	Food storage room connected with house	78
	Weather stripping for windows	76
	Hard-surface walks	52
	Entry for back door	50

Table 25 gives the proportion of homemakers in each section of the state who classified living porches, dining porches, and sleeping porches as necessary, or as highly desirable but not necessary. For the state as a whole, opinions did not vary greatly for the three types of porches. About one woman in ten classified each type as necessary, while about one-half of the homemakers

Table 25. PROPORTIONS OF HOMEMAKERS WHO CLASSIFIED LIVING PORCHES, DINING PORCHES, AND SLEEPING PORCHES AS NECESSARY, OR AS HIGHLY DESIRABLE BUT NOT NECESSARY.

Opinion	Willamette Valley and Coast counties	Southern Oregon	East of Cascades	Entire state
	<i>Per cent</i>	<i>Per cent</i>	<i>Per cent</i>	<i>Per cent</i>
<i>Living porch:</i>				
Necessary	9.8	14.8	10.2	10.5
Desirable	47.7	53.7	47.8	48.5
TOTAL	57.5	68.5	58.0	59.0
<i>Dining porch:</i>				
Necessary	7.5	11.3	13.6	9.2
Desirable	48.1	58.6	51.2	50.0
TOTAL	55.6	69.9	64.8	59.2
<i>Sleeping porch:</i>				
Necessary	6.9	20.0	13.5	10.0
Desirable	55.9	58.2	50.6	55.1
TOTAL	62.8	78.2	64.1	65.1

classified each as highly desirable but not necessary. Sentiment in favor of facilities for out-of-door living was strongest in southern Oregon and weakest in the western part of the state. Regional differences, however, were not marked.

Features not desired. So far, the analysis has shown which items of the 18 listed were considered necessary or highly desirable by at least half of the homemakers stating their opinions. Are the minority opposed to the inclusion of certain of the features in a house?

The items which less than 5 per cent of both the farm homemakers and the other homemakers said they would not have were: food-storage room connected with house; shelter for wood or coal; screening for work porch; hard-surface walks, hard-surface farm drive; refrigerator. In other words, the features considered necessary by the majority of homemakers were considered undesirable by very few of them.

The farm homemakers and the other rural homemakers differed on certain items. Fifteen per cent of the former voted against the idea of connecting the garage with the house, as contrasted with seven per cent of the others. Thirty-five per cent of the farm homemakers would not have the men's workshop connected with the house, whereas only 11 per cent of the others voted against this arrangement.

Certain opinions varied in relation to location in the state. The proportions voting against the idea of weather stripping for windows were 17 per cent for southern Oregon, 5 per cent for the Willamette Valley and Coast counties, and 1 per cent for eastern Oregon. Sixteen per cent of the homemakers in southern Oregon would not have a vestibule or entry for the front door, in contrast to 7 per cent of the western Oregon and 8 per cent of eastern Oregon dwellers. The proportions voting against a sleeping porch were 14 per cent for western Oregon, 11 per cent for eastern Oregon, and 7 per cent for the southern section.

As might be expected from the previous analysis, the proportions of homemakers who would not have storm doors or a heated garage were higher than the proportions voting against any other items. Proportions voting against these two items, in the order named, were 64 per cent and 47 per cent for southern Oregon; 42 per cent and 32 per cent for the Willamette and Coast counties; and 33 per cent and 20 per cent for eastern Oregon.

Homemakers favor a northeast kitchen and a southeast living room. The orientation favored by the largest number of homemakers places the kitchen on the northeast and the living room on the southeast corner of the house.

Generally speaking, homemakers favor an eastern exposure for the kitchen, with north as second in popularity. In south-central Oregon, however, east and south are the preferred exposures. Nearly two-thirds of the homemakers in the various regions voted for north, northeast or east, except in the south-central section, where the number was only 43 per cent of the total reporting. Southwest and northwest received the fewest votes for the kitchen. Votes for east, southeast, and south together constituted about one-half of the total; west, northwest, and north about one-third; and south, southwest, and west about one-fourth.

For the living-room exposure, south received the most votes, considering all answers to this question, with east as an easy second. From homemakers living in the Willamette Valley these two exposures received about the same number of votes. South was favored over east in the coast counties, southern

Oregon, eastern-border counties, and the south-central section, but not in the Columbia Basin. The sections varied in the exposure taking second place. Northwest and north received the fewest votes. East, southeast, and south together account for 57 per cent of the preferences for living-room exposure; south, southwest, and west together, 46 per cent; north, northeast, and east, 37 per cent; and west, northwest, and north, 28 per cent.

SUMMARY

Homemakers participating in the study. During the spring of 1939, 450 Oregon homemakers participated in a study in which they recorded their opinions concerning the desirability, from the standpoint of the needs of their respective families, of various features of a dwelling. Sixty per cent of the families represented lived on farms, and depended upon farming as their chief source of income. Nine out of ten of the farm families owned the farms on which they lived. Forty per cent of the families represented lived in villages, in suburban districts, and on acreages, and relied chiefly on some other occupation than farming as a means of livelihood. Answers came from all sections of the state, and in each section were in direct proportion, roughly speaking, to the entire rural population.

The households of farm homemakers averaged 4.1 persons and of the others, 3.9 persons. Three-fourths of them had children under 19 years of age at home; 30 per cent had children of preschool age.

Number of floors desired. One-story and two-story houses are about equally favored by these homemakers, considering the state as a whole. West of the Cascades slightly more than one-half of the homemakers said they preferred a two-story house, while east of the Cascades the odds were in favor of having one story only. Homemakers with no children under 19, which includes childless families as well as those whose children are gone from home, more often prefer a one-story house than do those with children at home.

Regardless of whether they voted for the one-story or for the two-story house, four out of five women said that it should have a basement. They have in mind many uses for this part of the house. Half of the homemakers want to do laundry work there. One woman in three would like to have a basement that is equipped for canning and for work with meat. Some of them listed the basement as a desirable place to feed crews of men. Ninety per cent of the homemakers considered it necessary, or at least highly desirable, to have stove wood stored under the house roof, and four-fifths of them want the food-storage room connected with the house. The basement affords suitable storage for these commodities.

Sizes of rooms. Homemakers desire relatively large living rooms and bedrooms. The average living room area designated was 306 square feet; if used as a dining room also, 325 square feet. The living room dimensions which come closest to satisfying the largest possible proportion of homemakers are 15 by 20 feet. The dimensions most frequently listed for the bedroom were 12 by 14 feet.

Dining areas. The kitchen should be large enough to serve family meals comfortably, judging from the expressed preferences of 5 out of 6 of the farm as well as the other homemakers cooperating in this study. Most of them want dining rooms also. Only one woman in eight favored a combination din-

ing-living room. Outdoor dining areas are popular for family meals and for feeding crews of farm help.

As evidenced by opinions concerning the best arrangement for the small dwelling, sentiment in favor of using the living room for dining was stronger than one would expect from the votes on the best location of the dining area. In planning a four-room house, where it was assumed there would not be a separate dining room, opinion was about evenly divided on the question of whether the dining area should be in the kitchen or in the living room. In planning the five-room house, opinions favoring the combining of the living and dining room were approximately the same in number as those favoring a separate dining room.

Sleeping arrangements. Ninety-nine per cent of the homemakers said they want their own bedrooms on the first floor. A second bedroom on that floor is desired by many of those whose children are young. This should be planned as a multi-purpose room, so that it will not be unused when not needed as a bedroom. If it is properly located and connected with other rooms, it may serve as a second living room, a dining room, a study, a farm office, a laundry, or a sewing room, as well as a children's bedroom.

Facilities for outdoor living. Three out of five cooperators classified living porches, dining porches, and sleeping porches either as necessary or as highly desirable but not necessary. Provision for outdoor living in the form of porches designed for specific uses is obviously a luxury item in the northwest, where the season of use is relatively short. A side porch with doors leading into both kitchen and dining (or living) room is a relatively inexpensive way of providing for all of the above-mentioned functions except night rest.

For many types of summer-time out-of-door life, a brick, stone, cement, or gravelled terrace answers the purpose as well as a covered porch. During spells of good weather in the rainy season, the terrace tends to encourage older people as well as children to be out of doors. A terrace may be made an inexpensive feature by utilizing home labor and local materials.

A porch that is glazed in winter and screened in summer could be made to serve several purposes that are considered important by homemakers. Many homemakers, including some who voted for a basement, specified a laundry room on the first floor or the use of a porch for the purpose. Facilities for the storage of laundry equipment when not in use would be desirable if the porch were used as a laundry. This porch would also serve admirably as an entry, if storage for winter clothes were provided, and as a dining porch in summer.

Fireplace for living room. More than three-fourths of the homemakers participating in this study consider a fireplace desirable in the living room even when it is not the main source of heat. The high value placed on this feature of the home emphasizes the desirability of a study to determine possibilities for cutting construction costs. It also suggests the desirability of teaching rural men and boys how to build fireplaces for their own homes, as a means of bringing the costs of this feature down to a sum which permits its inclusion in low-cost houses as well as in more expensive ones.

Floor coverings. A large fabric rug is the floor covering favored for the living room by more than a third of the farm homemakers and more than half of the other homemakers. Linoleum received almost a third of the farm votes, but only 15 per cent of the others.

Homemakers want a dining-room floor covering that is easily cleaned and that does not show soil readily. For this purpose three-fourths of the farm homemakers and three-fifths of the other group voted either for linoleum covering the entire floor, or for a linoleum rug.

The strength of the sentiment favoring linoleum as a covering for both the living room and the dining room suggests the desirability of a study in which the combined cost of a floor and the covering for it are determined for various situations, including both washable and fabric coverings. There is also suggested the need for the consideration, by home-economics classes and extension units, of linoleum designs suitable for living rooms and dining rooms in rural homes.

DESCRIPTION OF HOUSE PLANS SUITABLE FOR FAMILY NEEDS

Following are descriptions of 16 house plans, differing with respect to one or another of the major features of a dwelling. The plans vary in probable cost of construction, number one being the simplest. Each plan would meet the requirements of large numbers of rural families, judging from the opinions and preferences expressed by the 450 homemakers participating in this study.

- PLAN 1. One story, without basement. Four main rooms, consisting of kitchen with dining area, living room used as sleeping room when needed, and 2 bedrooms. Screened service porch, glazed in winter, used for laundry, men's wash room, and back entry. Insulated room for food storage, adjacent to kitchen, with passway in common wall. Woodshed connected with house. No draft cooler in kitchen.
- PLAN 2. One story, without basement. Four main rooms, consisting of kitchen, living room with dining area, and 2 bedrooms. Remainder as described for Plan 1.
- PLAN 3. One story, with basement. Four main rooms, consisting of kitchen with dining area, living room, and 2 bedrooms. Basement includes laundry, with flue and space for stove; men's washroom; food storage; wood storage; grade entry. Screened side porch opening into kitchen and living room. Draft cooler in kitchen.
- PLAN 4. One story, with basement and porch as described for Plan 3. Four main rooms, consisting of kitchen, living room with dining area, and 2 bedrooms.
- PLAN 5. One story, with basement and porch described as for Plan 3. Five rooms, consisting of kitchen with dining area, living room, and 3 bedrooms.
- PLAN 6. One story, with basement and porch described as for Plan 3. Five rooms, consisting of kitchen, living room with dining area, and 3 bedrooms.
- PLAN 7. One story, with basement and porch as described for Plan 3. Five rooms, consisting of kitchen, dining room, living room that may be used as sleeping room when needed, and 2 bedrooms.
- PLAN 8. One story, with basement and porch as described for Plan 3. Five rooms, consisting of kitchen with dining area, a room adjoining the kitchen which may be used either as a dining room or as a bedroom (depending upon which is needed more), a living room, and 2 bedrooms.

- PLAN 9. Two stories, with basement and porch as described for Plan 3. Five main rooms as described for Plan 5. One bedroom on first floor.
- PLAN 10. Two stories, with basement and porch as described for Plan 3. Five main rooms, as described for Plan 6. One bedroom on first floor.
- PLAN 11. Two stories, with basement and porch as described for Plan 3. Five main rooms, as described for Plan 8. One bedroom on first floor.
- PLAN 12. Two stories, with basement and porch as described for Plan 3. Six main rooms, consisting of kitchen with dining area, dining room, living room, and 3 bedrooms. One bedroom on first floor.
- PLAN 13. Two stories, with basement and porch as described for Plan 3. Six main rooms, as described for Plan 12 except that kitchen does not have dining area. One bedroom on first floor.
- PLAN 14. Two stories, with basement and porch as described for Plan 3. Six main rooms, consisting of kitchen with dining area, an L-shaped living room with dining area, and 4 bedrooms. Two bedrooms on first floor.
- PLAN 15. Two stories, with basement and porch as described for Plan 3. Seven main rooms, consisting of kitchen with dining area, dining room, living room, and 4 bedrooms. Two bedrooms on first floor.
- PLAN 16. Two stories, with basement and porch as described for Plan 3. Seven main rooms, as described for Plan 15 except that kitchen does not have dining area. Two bedrooms on first floor.

BLANKS USED, AND RESULTS IN PERCENTAGES OF ALL CASES

OPINIONS AND PREFERENCES AS TO HOUSING ARRANGEMENTS

If you were planning to build, what kind of house would you want?

In the following questions we are asking you to consider what would be the most suitable ways of planning various details of a dwelling for your own family. Please mail the completed information in the accompanying envelope.

Name Mailing Address

1. Do you prefer a one-story (52.9) or a two-story house? (47.1). With basement? (80.4) or without? (19.6)
2. If a two-story house, how many bedrooms would you plan for the first floor? (Put circle around the right number)

1.0	62.6	34.0	1.0	1.4
0	1	2	3	4
3. Would you have your own bedroom on the first floor? Check (x) the right answer: Yes (79.6) No (13.5) No preference (6.9)
4. Where do you prefer to locate the following: Indicate by check (x)

	Kitchen	Other room on first	Base-ment	Open porch	Separate building
Place to wash clothes	1.1	38.1	49.4	8.4	3.0
Place for men to wash	0.4	47.6	15.2	32.9	3.9
Place to work with meat	18.0	16.3	30.0	.....	30.5
Place to do large amounts of can- ning	44.0	11.6	33.6	1.7	9.1

5. Where should provisions be made for eating meals: Indicate by check (x)
In kitchen (20.3), nook or alcove off kitchen (64.7), part of living room (12.7), dining room or dinette (70.8), porch or terrace (48.7)

6. If you had the arrangements indicated, where would you serve the meals specified, in cold weather?

	Kitchen	Nook or alcove off kitchen	Dinette	Dining room	Part of living room	Porch or terrace
Family breakfasts	30.8	59.2	3.2	5.5	1.1	.2
Family noon meals	18.0	49.0	8.2	22.3	1.8	.7
Family evening meals	11.4	28.0	10.5	44.9	4.8	.4
Company meals	2.3	3.9	10.7	67.8	15.3	.....

Where would you serve the same meals in warm weather (outdoors or indoors)?

	Outdoors	Indoors
Family breakfasts	22.4	77.6
Family noon meals	51.6	48.4
Family evening meals	57.5	42.5
Company meals	48.5	51.5

Where would you serve harvesters, hay crews, etc?

Kitchen or nook	10.6
Dining or living room	43.5
Porch	42.7
Basement	2.4
Yard .....	.8

7. What do you consider a suitable size (length and width) for the
living room? (14 x 20—11.5) For your bedroom? (12 x 14—31.9)
(16 x 20—15.5) (10 x 12—14.0)
(12 x 12—11.5)

8. How much heat would you want in bedrooms? Indicate by check (x)

	None	Chill off room	Warm enough to sit in, to read or sew
Parent's bedroom	14.2	56.4	29.4
Children's bedroom	6.3	60.4	33.3
Spare bedroom	8.6	57.7	33.7

9. Do you consider a fireplace in the living room, (assuming that there is also stove or furnace heat), as necessary? (7.6) Desirable, but not necessary? (78.6) Luxury? (13.8)

10. Check floor covering preferred:

	Carpet	Large fabric rug	Small fabric rugs	Linoleum all over	Linoleum rug	Other (list)
Bedrooms	4.8	8.0	57.8	13.3	9.9	6.2
Living room	20.7	44.9	6.4	11.4	12.3	4.3
Dining room	6.5	17.5	2.6	34.7	32.9	5.8

11. How many cords of wood do you now use in a year? (6 or 7 cords—16.6); (8 or 9 cords—23.4); (10 or 11 cords—24.1)

For what purposes: furnace? (22.7) kitchen range? (79.7) heaters? (how many) (70.2) trash or laundry stove? (12.5) fireplace? (11.2)

12. From the standpoint of sun and wind, what exposure (north, east, south, west) do you prefer for: kitchen (E—29.6) (N—19.0) (NE—14.3); living room (S—25.0) (E—20.2)
13. In a four-room farmhouse, which arrangement of the main rooms do you think is best?....., which is poorest?.....

A. Kitchen-dining room combined Living room, used also as bedroom when needed Two bedrooms	Best 50.5 Poorest 2.8	C. Kitchen Living-dining room used also as bedroom when needed Two bedrooms	Best 46.1 Poorest 5.5
B. Kitchen-dining-living room combined Three bedrooms	Best 3.4 Poorest 91.7	D. Other (describe)	

14. In a five-room house, which arrangement is best?..... next best?..... poorest?.....

A. Kitchen-dining room combined Living room Three bedrooms	Best 20.6 Next best 25.6 Poorest 17.9	C. Kitchen Dining room Living room, used also as bedroom when needed Two bedrooms	Best 36.0 Next best 25.3 Poorest 18.8
B. Kitchen Dining-living-room combined Three bedrooms	Best 32.7 Next best 32.6 Poorest 12.1	D. Kitchen-dining room combined Room which may be used either as a bedroom or a dining room Living room Two bedrooms	Best 10.7 Next best 16.5 Poorest 51.2
E. Other (describe)			

15. From the standpoint of climate as well as the needs of your family, how would you rank the following features? Place a circle about the number which indicates your opinion.

- 1.—Necessary
2.—Highly desirable
but not necessary

- 3.—Consider it a luxury
4.—Immaterial
5.—Would not have

Vestibule or entry for front door	36.0	43.9	1.2	10.4	8.5
	1	2	3	4	5
Vestibule or entry for back door	55.5	25.3	0.5	9.1	9.6
	1	2	3	4	5
Living porch	10.5	48.5	14.8	16.8	9.4
	1	2	3	4	5
Dining porch	9.2	50.0	15.6	13.3	11.9
	1	2	3	4	5
Sleeping porch	10.0	55.0	5.8	16.5	12.7
	1	2	3	4	5
Shelter for wood or coal	95.0	1.7	0.4	1.1	1.8
	1	2	3	4	5
Hard-surface farm drive	55.3	30.0	8.3	4.3	2.1
	1	2	3	4	5
Hard-surface walks	59.0	36.0	1.4	2.2	1.4
	1	2	3	4	5
Heated garage	1.6	13.5	35.7	18.4	30.8
	1	2	3	4	5
Weather stripping for windows	47.7	31.7	2.3	12.7	5.6
	1	2	3	4	5
Storm doors	4.8	22.0	6.9	23.6	42.7
	1	2	3	4	5
Refrigerator	54.0	39.1	6.2	0.5	0.2
	1	2	3	4	5
Draft cooler	56.0	27.2	3.4	7.8	5.6
	1	2	3	4	5
Connected with house (at least by roof):					
Woodshed	64.0	26.6	0.0	4.1	5.3
	1	2	3	4	5
Food-storage room	80.6	16.2	0.6	1.2	1.4
	1	2	3	4	5
Garage	32.5	40.0	0.6	15.6	11.3
	1	2	3	4	5
Men's work shop	18.3	29.9	1.2	26.5	24.1
	1	2	3	4	5
Screening for work porch	81.5	13.2	1.2	2.6	1.5
	1	2	3	4	5

The following information is needed in summarizing the opinions and preferences of the homemakers who are cooperating with us.

Name..... Address.....

Number of persons in household: Children under 6 years of age.....;

Boys 6 to 18 years incl.....; Girls 6 to 18 years incl.....

Adults.....; Total.....

IF FARM HOME, FILL OUT THIS SECTION:

Acres in farm: Tilled.....; Pasture.....; Timber.....;

Other.....; Total.....

Chief sources of income (Check x): Livestock.....; Grain.....;

Hay.....; Seed.....; Fruits, nuts.....; Vegetables.....;

Eggs.....; Chickens.....; Turkeys.....; Cream.....;

Milk.....; Timber.....; Work done away from home.....;

Other (list)

Full owner?.....; Part owner?.....; Tenant?.....

IF VILLAGE OR URBAN, FILL OUT THIS SECTION:

Size of lot or tract.....; Distance from city or village center.....

Occupation of chief income earner in family.....