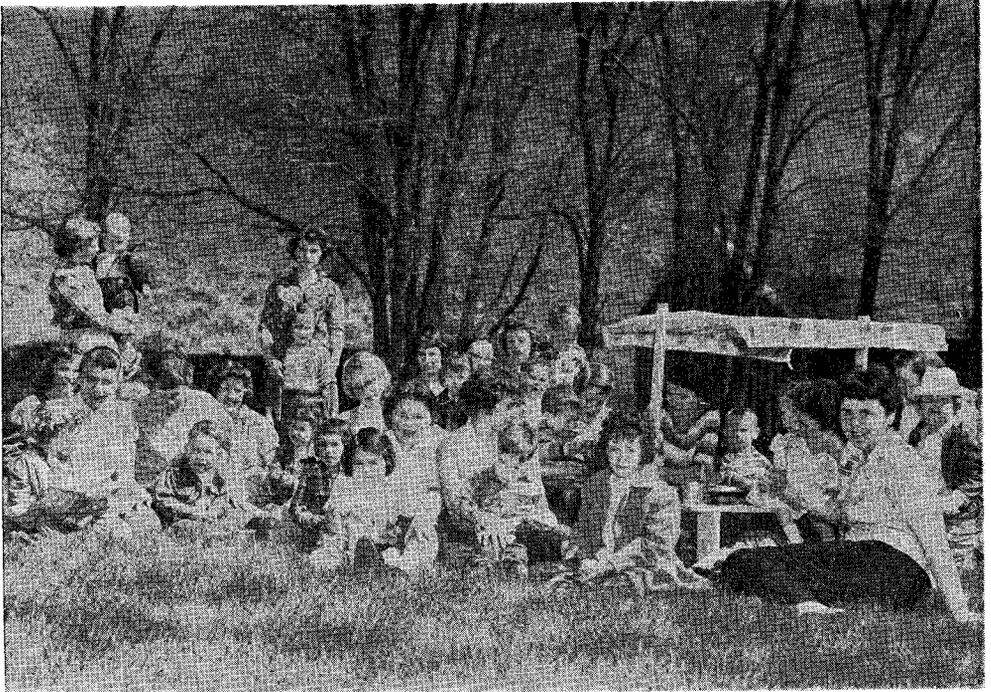


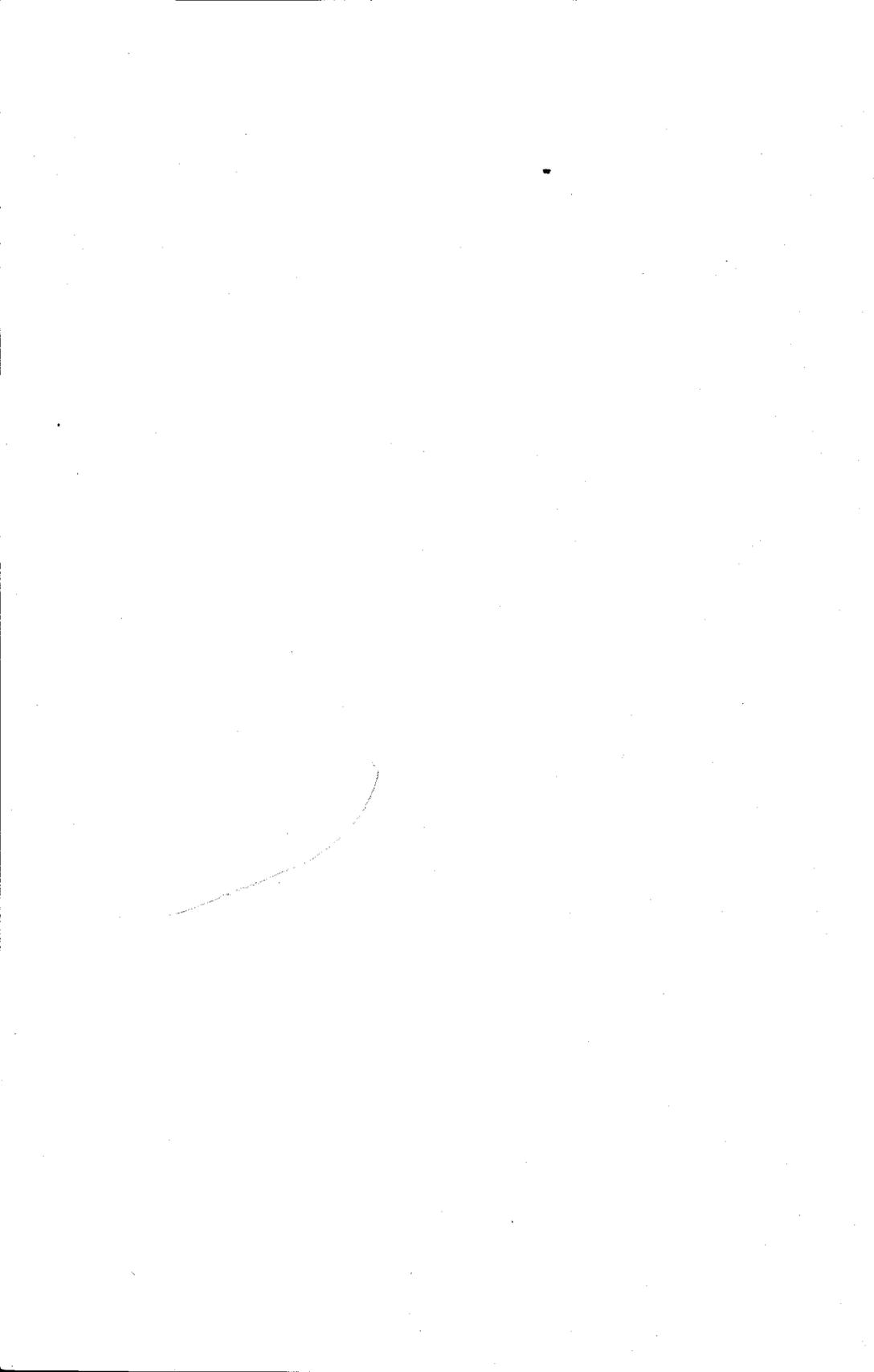
Morrow - Today and Tomorrow



"OUR MOST IMPORTANT CROP"

1958 Report of the Morrow County Town and Country Planning Conference

FEBRUARY 18, 1958



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Morrow- "the county of balanced advantages"

It's no accident that the level of farm living in MORROW county ranks among the highest of any county in the Pacific Northwest.

Farming is the major industry in Morrow county, balanced by income from the county's timber resources. Wheat is the major cash crop, balanced by income from livestock. Diversification of agricultural programs with irrigated crops in the northern end of the county and along county streams, has helped progressive farmers insure stable incomes.

Modern farming methods making use of improved varieties, more rigid selection of livestock breeding stock, and better farming practices have helped Morrow county farmers emphasize their slogan of living in "the county of balanced advantages."

This rich farming area is located in the north central part of Eastern Oregon, about 270 miles inland from the Pacific Ocean. The county is bounded on the north by over 30 miles of the Columbia River. To the east lies Umatilla county, Grant and Wheeler are south, and the county is bounded on the west by Gilliam county.

A gently rolling plain lies next to the Columbia River in the northern part of the county. As one moves south, this plain leads up to broad plateaus and rounded ridges that make up the central section of the county, and further south, they merge with the more rugged terrain of the Blue Mountains.

This rising slope of the county from north to south is shown by the elevations of the towns. Low point, 250 feet above sea level, is at Boardman in the north. Irrigon lies at 297 feet, Cecil at 619, Morgan at 791, Ione at 1080, Lexington at 1454, Heppner at 1955, and Hardman at 3590 feet above sea level. The highest point is Madison Butte. It is 6000 feet above the sea.

Precipitation in the county follows the land contour, increasing from north to south. Average annual precipitation is 8.6 inches in the northern end of the county, increasing to 18 inches in the forests to the south. Heppner has 13.05 inches.

Temperatures here are considered moderate, and the growing season averages 168 days a year. At Heppner, average temperatures range from a high in the 90's in the summer, to low's of around zero in the winter.

Drainage is supplied by Willow and Butter creeks, that head in the Blue Mountains in the south and flow through the county into the Columbia River on the north. These streams, together with Rhea, Hinton and other streams, provide water for livestock and for irrigation in meadows and valleys along the way.

Soils in the county vary from coarse-textured sands and sandy loams in the north to medium-textured silt loams and silty clay loams in the south. Reflecting the heavier rainfall and higher elevations in the south, the soils become progressively darker with well-developed subsoils.

Alluvial bottomland soils occur in the stream valleys and vary from light to medium texture. Alkali, the plague of the irrigated west, is formed where drainage is poor, but there isn't much of it.

Named for J. L. Morrow, an early resident, Morrow county, with 2059 sq. miles, was split off from Umatilla county by the Oregon legislature February 16, 1885. First industry in the new county was cattle raising, but a few settlers also operated supply stores for early travelers coming over the Oregon Trail. The trail crossed Willow Creek at Cecil, and its ruts can still be seen at many points.

The city of Heppner was named for Henry Heppner, who owned the first store on the site. It was incorporated in 1887, and later became the county seat.

Lexington and Ione were both incorporated in 1903. Lexington was named by the Penland family in memory of their home town of Lexington, Kentucky. Ione was named for Ione Wilson, baby daughter of an early settler whose home was part of the townsite. Boardman, incorporated in 1927, was named for Samuel H. Boardman, whose original homestead became the townsite.

Nearly 75 percent of the 1,317,760 acres of land in Morrow county is in farms, according to the 1954 U. S. census of agriculture. Of this land, 372,306 is in cropland, 590,497 in pasture land, 15,327 in other farm land, and 339,630 in land not in farms.

The number of farms in 1954 was listed at 463 by the census, down 42 farms from the 1945 census. Average size of farms increased, and the average value per farm increased from \$25,317 to \$74,862 during the same period. Average size of farm in the county in 1954 was 2,112 acres.

Irrigated farms averaging around 40 acres are found in the extreme northern end. A large desert used for spring and fall sheep range lies between this irrigated section and the wheat area in the central part. Cattle ranches are found mainly in the southern part of the county, with the Blue Mountains in the southeast furnishing considerable range for livestock as well as timber for the lumber industry.

Wheat, alternated with summer fallow, is the predominant type of agriculture. About 90 percent of the wheat is fall planted. In 1954, winter wheat was planted on over 110,000 acres, spring wheat on over 2500 acres, and barley on nearly 45,000 acres. Income to the county from grain crops in 1957 was estimated at around \$9,861,000.

Livestock make up the second largest source of farm income, amounting to \$1,600,000 in 1957.

In the last 10 years, sheep numbers have decreased, although this has been offset by more cattle. In 1945, according to the U. S. Census, there were over 59,000 sheep in the county—the 1954 census listed around 27,000 sheep. During the same period, cattle numbers rose from 20,500 to over 29,000.

Other important sources of agricultural income, according to 1957 estimates made by the county extension agent, were hay and silage, \$528,000; farm timber products, \$400,000; potatoes and truck crops, \$310,000; dairy, \$200,000; eggs and poultry, \$110,000; and fruit, \$2500.

All told, agricultural income in Morrow county in 1957 was estimated at over \$13,000,000.

A growing total of irrigated land in the county is helping to diversify agriculture. In 1954, 283 farms listed 11,408 acres under irrigation.

Largest irrigated areas are around Boardman and Irrigon in the north. An abundance of water, coupled with a large reserve, allow farmers to raise potatoes, melons, fruits, and other truck crops. Hay, however, remains the chief crop of the irrigated farms in the north, and in the creek bottoms of Rhea, Willow, Butter and Hinton creeks.

Timber resources also play a big part in the economic structure of Morrow County. Timber lands cover about 233,500 acres. The Umatilla National Forest, lying in the Blue Mountains in the southeast corner, contains 202,000 acres. These timber resources are used to supply the Heppner Pine Mills, which operates a mill, dry kiln and planer. Logs are also sent to Kinzua Pine Mills, Pilot Rock Lumber Company and Harris Pine Mills. Morrow county forests provide much more than

just income from timber. They protect the watersheds that provide irrigation and domestic water for the lands and towns below. And, equally important, all parts of the forest suitable for grazing — about 200,000 acres — are under permit to stockmen who have grazing rights established by ownership of land and prior use.

Its rangelands and rolling forests also help turn Morrow county into a sportsman's delight, and the tourist trade has become another source of income. There is excellent deer and elk hunting in the Blue Mountains. Pheasants are plentiful, and ducks and geese by the thousands swarm from the Columbia to feed on the irrigated areas and stubble fields. Hunters from all over Oregon visit the county each year. We, who live here, live right in the middle of a big vacation land.

The mountain streams and valley creeks are also noted for their supply of fighting rainbow trout, and fishermen regularly catch their limit. The Morrow County Hunters and Anglers Club has been active in promoting game preservation areas and activities to insure future hunting and fishing. The Columbia River State Game Refuge, covering 23,200 acres, is also in the county.

State and county highways criss-cross the county and facilitate motor travel and transportation of goods. We have 180 miles of state highways on state highways 74, 206, and 207. U. S. Highway 30 skirts the Columbia River on the north, and a network of county roads link the county together.

Several truck lines provide freight transportation. A branch line of the Union Pacific Railroad reaches 77 miles from Arlington on the Columbia River to Heppner. This branch line ties in the county with the main line of the Union Pacific and with barge

and other navigation facilities on the Columbia River. Barge lines have carried an increasing amount of freight out of Morrow County in recent years. There is a good airport at Lexington.

Heppner, in the south-central part, is the principal town and trading center and the county seat. A town of about 1700 citizens, Heppner has fine schools, churches, lodges, civic groups, a riding club, golf course and young peoples' organizations that make it an alert and active community.

The four other principal towns are Boardman and Irrigon on the Columbia River, and Ione and Lexington on the Willow Creek highway.

All five towns have standard elementary and high schools. Hardman, located near the national forest in the southwestern part of the county, maintains a rural school. School buses provide transportation for children throughout the county.

Population of Morrow County was estimated by the Oregon State Board of Health, to be about 4870 in 1955. This is a gain of 500 in 15 years.

Morrow County boasts the only hospital in the state with a private airstrip at its back door. This allows emergency cases to be brought in from all over the county. The ultra-modern, 49-bed hospital is fully equipped with modern X-ray facilities, surgery, obstetrics room, and a completely equipped laboratory.

The Morrow County Rodeo has attracted visitors from far and wide for over a quarter of a century. This event held the first part of September, now includes the Morrow County Fair. Permanent buildings have been erected at the Fair grounds at Heppner to house fair exhibits and livestock.

A North Morrow County Fair at Boardman is also an annual event.

Public Education Committee Report

General Considerations

This sub-committee, although entitled Public Education, did not limit its activities to the public school program. It is to be regarded rather as an agency for the dissemination of public information, the clarification of facts, and the promotion of understanding relative to the function of the County government in carrying out its program.

The county is one of the sub-divisions of the State by which the people of an area carry out their responsibilities of democratic government. It, like all other agencies, can be as successful as there is intelligent understanding of the problems pertinent to it. Many of these problems have been discussed by other committees of this conference and added ones are incorporated in our report and recommendations.

We feel that the better people understand the problems and the more opportunities they have to participate in finding the solutions, the sooner will comprehensive programs be put into effect and improved democratic living achieved in our county. In fact, this whole conference is an outstanding example of that type of problem-seeking, problem-understanding, activity.

This committee has directed its attention and activity to the following problems and has recommendations to make relative to them.

1. School Re-organization
2. College Entrance exams and Qualifications.
3. County Road Program.
4. Future Needs of County Education.
5. Taxes — Is Public Getting Value Received.
6. Farmer City Public Relations.

Recommendations

Education:

1. That the people of this area acquaint themselves with every phase of the school reorganization program.
2. Study be given to the need for basic education needs and special education needs with an outlook for a broader curriculum.
3. That parents accompany students when they register, and that registration be held in spring rather than fall.
4. That State laws pertaining to Truancy be more rigidly enforced.
5. Study be made towards recommending a Junior College and/or a Trade School in this area of Oregon.
6. The Rural School Board work out a driver training program for schools in this county which is financed by \$1 extra on driver licenses.

Roads:

1. The continued ten mill special road levy for five years, with possible change in levy at that time. Reasons felt it should be continued are that there would be only \$56,500.00 available for road budget which would be totally inadequate to maintain roads at present standards without any improving. Also would probably lose match money of Federal and State government.
2. The County Court keep a current map of school bus and mail routes and that special attention be given these roads in keeping them passable at all times.
3. Property owners adjoining county roads take an interest in control of weeds and prevention of fire hazards by farming as close as possible to the road and/or seeding right-of-ways down to grass.

County Government:

1. We believe that unwarranted rumors have a deteriorating effect on the morale of those people dedicating their time, money and effort to public service. We recommend that in an attempt to squelch such misinformation, which many times turn to rumors, that every tax payer take it upon himself to be informed, first hand. The County Court welcomes questions and constructive criticism. We believe that everyone should prevail themselves to gathering the correct information on all county matters.

2. That a County Planning Commission be set up by the County Court.

3. Ways and means be found to get monies of the county released from the Sheriff and Treasurer on time to eliminate interest costs to the school districts and further recommend that the fiscal school year and tax collecting dates be made to coincide more closely — suggested date, January 1.

Health:

1. That more people take advantage of the chest X-Ray and further recommend the continued diligence in use

of immunizations throughout the county and not lapse into a false sense of security because a particular disease is absent for awhile.

2. That parents keep accurate records of all inoculations and illnesses of their children for future reference.

3. A dental school clinic be held with permanent records kept on file.

4. All food handlers take blood tests and chest X-Ray.

5. That all community groups be especially careful as to sanitation requirements of serving public meals.

6. That all water be checked that is used for drinking purposes. Facilities are available at the County Health Nurse's office.

7. The establishment of a Mental Health Association in the county.

8. All fire equipment be plainly marked and located in a conspicuous place and the drivers of rural fire trucks have special fire fighting training.

Public Relations:

1. The continued cooperation that exist in Farmer-City relation with combined trend for more improvement.

Home & Community Living Committee Report

General Situation:

Well planned home and community living should provide opportunity for a happy and satisfying life for all members of the family. This includes not only the material necessities for comfortable living, such as adequate housing, clothing and food but also those intangibles that make for happy family living.

Since the economy of Morrow County is based on agriculture, rural living must be made attractive and a living standard comparable to that of the urban population must be maintained. The success of the rural fam-

ily depends as much upon the soundness of the home as the technical skills which the farmer requires for the operation of the farm. Keeping our young people on the farm can have a great effect upon the success of our county's agriculture.

Many families have made improvement in housing during the 1948-58 ten-year period. With the introduction of REA in the rural areas we have found an increase in the number of homes with piped hot water from 75% to 94%, electric lights from 66% to 99%. Also there has been an increase in the number of bathrooms and showers from 66% to 98% and the

number of the inside toilets from 75% to 98%. There has been some improvement in interior walls and ceilings and roofs but there is still 25% to 29% that lack good accommodations in this

respect.

The following chart shows a comparison of improvements in Morrow County homes during the past 20 years.

Chart of Improvements in Morrow County Homes

	1937	1948	1958
Homes with painted frame construction	67%	77%	81%
Homes with six rooms or more	50%	67%	
Homes that lack good interior wall and ceiling	50%	33%	25%
Homes that lack good roof	50%	33%	29%
House in poor condition	20%	10%	
Homes that lack bathroom	50%	33%	2%
Homes that need storage for fruits and veg	33%	20%	
Homes that need more bedrooms	33%	19%	15%
Homemakers carry water	33%	19%	5 in 323
Homes with piped cold water	75%	80%	
Homes with piped hot water	50%	75%	94%
Homes with inside toilet	33%	75%	98%
Homes with bathtub and shower	50%	66%	92%
Homes with electric lights	25%	66%	99%
Homes with mechanical refrigeration	25%	75%	99%
Homes that have lawns, walks and drives	50%	75%	83%
Homes with planting and fence around yards	88%	75%	59%

(Surveys show 1937 and 1948 as rural homes. 1958 was a survey of rural and urban homes.)

Recommendations:

1. Many new fabrics of mixed fiber and other household materials are on the market today. Often the homemaker does not know their contents and does not know how to care for them. Therefore, we recommend that manufacturers be encouraged to furnish labels indicating the percentage of various fibers in upholstery material, drapery fabrics, piece goods and household fabrics.

2. According to the home survey, the insulation of homes has received more attention in the last ten years. However, about one-third of those reporting, indicated that they did not have proper insulation in their homes. We recommend that the Extension Service continue to provide new information on the types of insulation suitable for different types of homes. We also recommend that there be a study made on the new building materials for both interior and exterior surfaces.

3. We recommend that care be given in house plans to promote safe living, stressing dangerous stair openings, unmarked stair steps, unlighted stairs, dangerous cupboard drawers, makeshift electric wiring and unsafe electrical appliances, danger of carelessness in regard to gas and oil appliances, dangerous stove pipes, flues and fireplaces.

4. We recommend that attention be given to the proper grading of county roads in regard to the moisture content of the ground at the time of grading, thus making a more satisfactory road bed at all times. We also recommend that the county court consider hiring an engineer or qualified supervisor in the future who would have full authority and responsibility for operation and care of equipment and for hiring and firing of personnel.

Health and Nutrition:

The health of the individual member of the family is an important

contributing factor to successful home life, efficiency in work and good social attitudes. Daily good nutrition is of ever increasing importance to a sound body. With the large variety of food available each individual must be educated to select the best foods for himself.

In the past ten years Morrow County has built and paid for a 49 bed hospital so that we are in a much better position concerning medical needs. We now have three full time medical physicians in this area which fulfills the minimum standard of medical care for civilian population as set up by the American Medical Society and also by the U. S. Health Service. And in addition to these there are an osteopathic physician, a chiropractor, two part-time dentists and an optometrist.

Recommendations

1. The administration of the Pioneer Memorial Hospital has suggested that a volunteer group known as a Hospital Auxiliary could be of great service to the community. Its duties would be to minister to the patients in the hospital and the nursing home in any way that would add to their comfort outside of actual nursing service. With the cooperation of the committee, a public meeting was called and an Auxiliary was inaugurated in January of 1958. Further organization will be worked out at a later date.

Some of the suggested projects in which an auxiliary might engage are: (1) Automatic dispenser for milk, coffee and chocolate drinks; (2) Bookmobile; (3) Nurses' Welcoming, Social and Housing Committee; (4) Sponsor annual open house on National Hospital Day; (5) Register patients for the free chest X-Ray program; (6) Gift cart for personal shopping by bed patients; (7) Personal errands and shopping for patients; (8) Reading; games with patients; encourage nursing home patients to knit, crochet or en-

gage in other activity; (9) Writing letters; (10) Take long term ambulatory patients for rides, etc; (11) Make tray favors for special holidays; (12) Furnish transportation service for out-of-town relatives of patients.

2. We would like to commend the school administration for cooperating in enforcing the law requiring a physical examination of all first graders and freshman students, and would recommend that this policy be continued.

3. We recognize the fact that the City of Heppner has the use of a central disposing plant for sewage and hope that other cities within the county will be able to do the same within the next 10 year period. In bringing about better sanitation, it is felt that employing a county sanitarian should be kept in mind for a long time program.

With the increased usage of water due to the wider use of electricity in rural areas, we recommend that more consideration be given to planning an adequate sewage disposal system. According to the 1958 Home Survey it appears that many home owners do not know the size of their septic tanks. Therefore, we recommend that an effort be made to encourage them to check and see if their septic tank is adequate. We feel that at least 1000 gallon capacity is preferable on rural property.

4. It was felt that some families are getting lax about having the family milk cows tested for TB and Brucellosis. We recommend that a schedule be worked out so that the farmers in each community could plan on a designated time each year to have their cows tested and that the county veterinarian be contacted in planning for the furtherance of this program.

5. In the urban areas the water supply is controlled by law. In the rural areas each farmer is responsible for his own water system. Since the advent of electricity we find that more

water is being used in farm homes because it is more available. According to the 1958 home survey it was noted that nearly all the homes in the county have running water, piped hot water and bathtubs or showers. However, very few homes have had periodic testing of the source of their drinking water. With this increased use of water and the lowering of the water table in the area, we recommend that more homemakers take advantage of the State testing service which is carried out through the office of the County Agent or the County Health Nurse. We also recommend that the City Council of all cities in the county send a monthly sample from their city's water supply to the State Board of Health Laboratory.

6. Every housewife should be alerted to the possible infestation of mice and rats and the spread of diseases which are carried by such animals. We recommend that a county wide rodent control program be inaugurated at regular intervals to control the increase of these rodents.

7. We recommend that adequate and well balanced school lunches be served to school children and milk be served to children in the primary grades either with or without federal aid. We also recommend that each administrator require that the hot lunch cooks periodically attend the special training school for cooks at the expense of the school district. We commend the schools for the education program in encouraging the children to select and eat well balanced meals and recommend that it be continued.

8. With so much emphasis on diets, we recommend that education be carried on in all levels of schools and among the adult population concerning the danger of improper dieting. This could be handled through Extension units and publicity for adults. We also recommend that young people

in schools be given this information in health classes and other social living classes stressing the need for a check with your doctor before dieting and using various dieting aids and medicines available.

9. We recommend that education be given to both children and adults concerning the vitamin needs of various age groups and that they be encouraged to eat proper foods to furnish their needs and only use vitamin concentrates as a supplement under doctors supervision.

Keeping professional people in the county has been a big problem during the past years and still needs consideration.

In the school year of 1955-56 there was a 35% turnover in teaching personnel; in 1956-57 this had dropped to 15% which is reported by the County School Superintendent's office as being "about average." Pioneer Memorial Hospital averages over 100% turnover in professional registered nurses each year! Within the past four years, three dentists have come and left Heppner. Within the past ten years we also have lost two physicians. In the Extension and Soil Conservation Services we have been rather fortunate with a very small personnel turnover.

A study was made in 1954 by the Teacher Welfare and Professional Advancement Committee with Mr Vivian White as Chairman to determine the reasons why teachers did not stay in the county. Results from this study showed the following reasons: (1) Lack of opportunity for Professional advancement; (2) Lack of cultural advantages; (3) Higher cost of living (basic items; food, shelter, clothing) in Heppner than in neighboring areas as close as Condon, Kinzua, and Hermiton; (4) Lower salary schedules (this has been rectified); (5) Lack of adequate housing-both in quality as well as quantity.

In 1958 teachers in all county schools

were queried in regard to our stated problem and seem to feel that the above items (with the exception of No 4) still constitute the chief reasons for teachers leaving Morrow County. In addition, it was brought up several times that there are few recreational facilities for the young or unmarried teachers; a lack of public transportation presents a definite problem for the teacher newly out of college who cannot yet afford a car; members of the community fail to realize that a teacher has the responsibility of the children during the school hours and should not feel obligated to direct and supervise them in out-of-school activity; members of the community fail to visit the classroom to commend the teacher if she/he is doing a good job, to discipline the child at home to reinforce the necessary school discipline.

Some of the facts gleaned from a housing survey made of the teachers of the county by this committee are as follows: The trend seems to be toward more married people with families in the teaching profession whereas 10 years ago there were more single unmarried teachers. When queried on the question as to whether there was suitable housing either in size or type available in the community when they arrived, over two thirds reported in the affirmative. In Heppner, however, 14 out of 23 teachers said "no." In Ione 4 out of 12 did not find suitable housing when they arrived.

The consensus among the medical group is that physicians and dentists and their wives usually prefer large cities where there are more cultural, professional, educational and social opportunities for their children. The turnover in professional nursing personnel apparently hinges on lack of public transportation, poor housing, lack of recreational facilities and need for better employer-employee relationships and understanding.

Recommendations

1. We recommend that appeal be made by the local educators to the State Department of Education for extension courses offered on a local level.

2. We recommend that housing be planned considering quality as well as quantity. Few people resent a high rental price if the facilities are pleasing. Perhaps the School Boards might consider building housing facilities for teacher personnel with emphasis on family type dwellings.

3. That a current survey of living costs in our county might be of value with a comparative study of similar areas.

4. We recommend that a personal interview should be requested for all prospective professional employees during which a truthful statement of facilities in the County should be made. This might help to eliminate the "floater" type of employee and give us more people who truly like our type of rural living.

5. We recommend that recreational facilities for younger people should be developed, such as public rental of horses and equipment, and family recreational center with a bowling alley, skating rink, etc.

6. We recommend that a passenger transportation service in and out of the Heppner, Lexington, Ione areas be instigated at least two or three times a week.

7. We recommend that all citizens take a more active and friendly interest in their schools, their hospital and all other agencies employing professional personnel.

The Effect of More People in The County

With the possibilities of the introduction of industry along the river because of the availability of cheaper and increased power facilities and

with the possibility of an enlarged area of irrigated farming it is well to consider the effect this might have on Morrow County.

We must make our county planning in the fields of education and schools, roads, taxes, recreational facilities, county and city governments, etc. flexible enough to allow for changes which might need to be made in the advent of an enlarged population in the next ten years.

Recommendations

1. We recommend that in schools we plan so that the school plant and the staffs can be enlarged if necessary to handle the education of a much larger number of children.

2. We recommend that the people encourage legislation to equalize the financing of this education so that it does not become too much of a burden on the property owners and allows each family some share in the support of our educational system.

3. We recommend that the county court consider and plan in the future for an enlarged road program since adequate roads may become an ever increasing problem for handling the increased traffic due to more people and more activity and business in the county.

4. We recommend that study be made of the possibility of the manager type of administration for both city and county government. Although some people are against this, it has proven more efficient and can be as democratic as our present form of election by the people and much better tax-wise.

County Historical Society and Museum

It should be brought to the attention of the people of Morrow County that the relics relating to pioneer life and the people of Morrow County that had an actual part of this life, are rapid-

ly disappearing. In the future it would be more difficult to procure this material and the data pertaining to it, or to find people that had actual experience in pioneering our County. If these mementos are not preserved now, the future generations would be deprived of the opportunity of seeing them and learning the accurate history connected with them.

Recommendations

1. We recommend that the people of the County investigate the possibility of organizing a Morrow County Historical Society to further the interest in preserving pioneer relics and other items of historical value, and to place markers at historical sites or on buildings significant to the history of the County.

2. We also recommend that they make a study of the work and expense involved in establishing a county museum, by visiting other county museums and bringing this information before the people in Morrow County who are interested in such a project.

3. We suggest that, as a preliminary to the establishment of a museum, each community start collecting and cataloging articles available now. These should be placed in a safe place, preferably where the public can see them. Such places as schools, libraries, city halls, or the court house where there would be proper supervision of their viewing could be used.

RECREATION

Happy people need not only a job which is interesting to them, but also some recreation which will provide an outlet for their social self. This applies to adults and children alike. With the increase of labor saving equipment, people find that they have more leisure time. This leisure time should be used profitably.

Tremendous strides have been made in developing our recreational facilities in the past 10 years with the establishment of wayside picnic areas near Boardman which were built and maintained by the State Highway Dept., the city parks in Heppner, Ione and Boardman, and the Cutsforth Park on Herren Creek. There is, however, need for more facilities in the mountains.

Our forest service has at this time four trailer camps and picnic areas either in the planning stage or in the process of development. These are namely, Fairview campground, Tupper Trailer and Picnic Grounds, Bull Prairie Lake development and Swale Creek development. The two latter will be stocked with fish. These will accommodate from 7 to 30 families and will be maintained and supervised by the Forest Service.

Recommendations

1. We recommend that the county help with roads to the campsites.

2. We recommend that further investigation be made as to the possibility of the Rock Creek area for a State Park.

3. We recommend establishing a picnic area of one or two tables in the mountains by different organizations under sponsorship of the County Planning Committee.

4. Many rural people with small children travel regularly to Heppner for shopping, to consult doctors or attend meetings. They need and would appreciate rest room facilities. We recommend that the city of Heppner consider constructing public rest rooms and waiting room at some place such as the city park.

COUNTY CROSSROAD SIGNS

Due to the distance between ranches in Morrow County it has been felt for some time that means of identification should be erected at county crossroads.

The support of the county judge and court has been secured for this project and the court indicated that it would give assistance in installation and would also help in contacting sign companies for purchase of signs.

Recommendations

1. We recommend that a more full and thorough study be made of costs, erection, maintenance and installation of county road signs designating residence and mileage to ranches on all county roads in Morrow County. Some things to consider in making plans would be the number of signs per person for those having more than one road leading to the ranch, printing names on both sides of signs, putting own sign on mailbox in front of ranch.

2. We recommend that this study be further carried to full completion by the appointment of a working committee to make necessary farmer contracts, to check on proper procedures for carrying through this project.

3. We recommend that this project be discussed in all farm organizations and all criticism and suggestions be forwarded to this committee.

FAMILY LIVING

Happy family life in childhood is probably the most important factor which may help a child to become a happy, satisfied and mature adult. Since marriage is really a job for life, more people should be made to realize that there are rules to the game and that one must work to make a marriage successful.

Recommendations

1. We recommend that the attention of Congressmen be called to the need for uniform marriage and divorce laws and that state legislation of these laws be made.

2. We recommend that the State Board of Education be urged to include in all school courses a study beginning in the grades to provide

students with a preparation for family life.

3. We recommend that the teaching of Home Economics and farm shop courses be required in all high schools. The committee believes that all girls should have in their home economics curriculum some studies on family life and home. In addition, we believe that all boys should have some cookery and wardrobe training as well as home shop training for girls which will provide a background for better family life. The courses should be required to provide practical education.

4. There has been some pressures brought to bear on the administration of our colleges and universities to allow the serving of liquors in fraternity and sorority houses. We recommend that an investigation be made of this movement and that the State Board of Higher Education be made cognizant of the fact that the parents of the young people attending these schools are against such a policy.

STUDENT COUNSELLING ON HIGHER EDUCATION

HIGH SCHOOL GUIDANCE AND COUSELLING

With the great changes in our world today education is changing too. Many parents expressed the need for an earlier and better understanding of the high school curriculum. They want to be better able to help their children plan their high school courses so that they will be prepared for whatever may lie ahead. They particularly wanted to get this information by the seventh or eighth grade.

A survey of guidance programs made by this committee indicates that all high schools have one or more assigned counsellors, give intelligence and achievement tests, and present representatives of the High School-College Relations Board to students and parents.

Some schools now exceed the state requirements in English, mathematics, and science, give interest-aptitude-preference tests at both junior and senior high levels, use the parent-teacher conference as a method of reporting pupil progress, pre-register ninth graders in the spring term, give lists of available scholarships with pertinent information, make pamphlet materials on a wide range of vocations readily available in libraries and home rooms, and encourage seniors to participate in Campus Visitation Week.

School spokesmen stressed the value of the liberal education, pointing out the desirability of guidance for the seven out of ten high school graduates who do not attend institutions of higher education.

Recommendations

1. This committee commends the schools for guidance programs which are indeed creditable, and recommends that parents take more advantage of the existing opportunities to be informed on the progress and guidance of their children.

2. We recommend that requirements for high school graduation be made even higher in the fields of language, science and mathematics, and that every effort be made to improve the quality of education in these subjects.

3. We recommend that more schools adopt the practice of pre-registering ninth graders, after careful parent-teacher-student planning, and that this curriculum as planned be provided through the twelfth grade.

4. We recommend that more information on scholarships be made available to ninth and tenth graders and their parents.

5. We recommend that more schools, both elementary and secondary, consider the use of the scheduled parent-teacher conference as a means of

counselling, as well as reporting pupil progress.

6. We recommend that more encouragement be shown children, especially the talented ones to continue their education.

7. We recommend that emphasis be

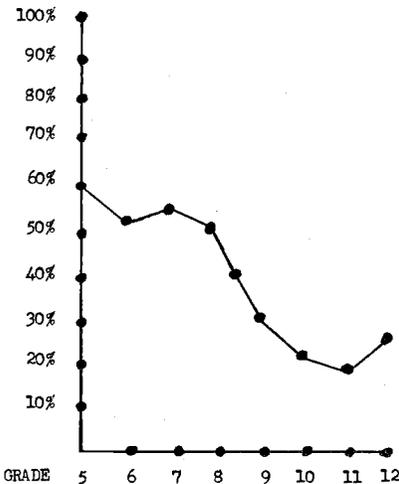
placed on urging children with science aptitudes to choose a science career.

8. Because of the economy and the wider curriculum that a larger school could offer, we recommend a unified school for Heppner, Lexington, and Lone.

YOUTH ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE REPORT

General Situation

In Morrow County there are 625 boys and girls enrolled in grades 5 through 12. In a survey of these grades to determine youth activity participation, 566 cooperated. Of this number 180 were enrolled in 4-H club work, 52 in Boy Scouts, and 24 in Campfire Girls. This indicates that only 44% of the eligible boys and girls are being reached by these organized youth activities. There were 307 participating in Church Youth Activities, or 54%.



ENROLLMENT IN YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS BY GRADES

As a result of the survey and because the Youth Committee recognized that there were problems involving the youth, several groups were called to discuss these problems with the members of the committee. These groups included representatives or organizat-

ions interested in recreation for the youth, law enforcement officers, school officials, and some of the youth themselves. The problems and recommendations can be divided into several groups.

Education

The committee feels that the teenagers have done a fine job in developing the Oregon Code for high school students and making it available to all the student bodies for their study and consideration. This code sets forth a Basic Rule for students and parents, guides for Parent-Youth Planning, home entertaining, general dating, hours, driving, drinking and smoking.

It was felt that there was a need for more counselling in the schools and by other youth agencies to help the youth plan their programs and coordinate their activities. A well-balanced training should include participation in school, church and community activities.

Notice was taken of a Car Club that has been organized in one of the schools in the county. If this proves to be successful we recommend that consideration be given to the organization of other clubs.

Recommendations

1. We recommend that there be more parent study of the Teenage Code so that they will be in a better position to cooperate with the students in their efforts to carry out the provisions of the Code.

2. We recognize the value of the Drivers' Training Program in the schools and recommend that the Rural School Board adopt such a program.

Leadership

A number of problems are evident in maintaining adequate leadership in our youth programs. Some of the problems for which a solution will be attempted are:

1. How to secure the necessary leadership for youth programs.

2. How to obtain more parent interest and cooperation in youth programs.

3. How to properly train leaders so that youth programs can be more effective.

Recommendations

1. That there be more training for leaders and potential leaders. Some leadership training could be given which would apply to leaders in any youth groups. The leaflets "Understanding Club Members," "Club Members Together," prepared by Wilma Beyer Heinzelman of the Cornell University staff are recommended and could be used for such a study.

2. That 4-H Chairmen in the Extension Units be more active in helping to further the 4-H work in the communities and in securing 4-H leaders.

3. That more educational work be carried on as to the variety of 4-H projects that are available.

4. Since parent interest in the youth organizations to which their children belong is an important factor in determining the results obtained, that the parent be encouraged to give their understanding and support.

Recreation:

1. There are quite a few organizations that are helping to provide recreational activities for the youth and the committee wishes to commend them for their efforts and recommend they continue their projects.

2. There has been considerable work

done by the Fair Board and others in trying to get the floor of the Fair Building fixed so that it can be used for roller skating. We commend those who have worked on this for their efforts and we recommend that the program be continued and that skating be made available for our young people.

3. Some school facilities are being opened to provide recreation for the young people. It is suggested that this might be done so as to provide a place for supervised recreation.

4. We recommend that the formation of community youth councils be encouraged. These should include youth themselves working together with adult representatives of the church, the school, P-TA, 4-H, fraternal, and other youth organizations in building and correlating an adequate program for youth.

5. We recommend that each community in the county have a calendar for youth activities and that these be made available so as to facilitate the scheduling of events.

6. We commend those who have worked towards making a ski area available near Cutsforth Park. We wish to call to the attention of the people that there is a possibility for more development of a Winter Sports area at that place. If the area is to be used for this purpose more development is necessary.

Juvenile Delinquency:

Morrow County is fortunate in not having a real juvenile delinquency problem. An overwhelming percent of teenagers are well behaved. While there were figures given that only 3% of the youth in our country are delinquents, there are more than that who present problems.

The principle problem seems to be that the troublesome minority does not enter into activities with the majority. For lack of good activities they

turn to bad. A 100% participation in worthwhile activities would leave little time or incentive for delinquent proclivities.

To help solve this problem, there needs to be more counselling with youth and all youth encouragement to take part in worthwhile activities.

We recommend that the City Councils, Judges, City Recorders and the citizens of the communities support and co-operate with the Law Enforcement Officers.

When the representatives of some of the high schools of the county met with the committee the teenagers themselves brought out some very pertinent observations:

1. Parents need to be firm in controlling the child's driving, and they must assume responsibility for the way their young person drives.

2. The present liquor laws pertaining to teenagers should be enforced.

3. Advertising on TV and radio programs has a terrific influence for both smoking and drinking. The ads are being aimed at the young people.

4. Discipline of the child must start at an early age. If there has not been discipline as a young child the problem is multiplied when he becomes a teenager.

5. The teacher should have the right to discipline young people in his charge. Parents should support the teacher in this.

YOUTH IN GRADES 5-12

566



**247
(44%)**

566



**307
(54%)**

**IN YOUTH
ORGANIZATIONS**

**IN CHURCH
ACTIVITIES**

CONSERVATION AND LAND USE COMMITTEE REPORT

General Situation

In preparing this report the committee has attempted to take a long time view of the agricultural situation within the county. The committee has kept in mind the change in the annual agricultural income and its affect on land use problems that has come about since the last committee report.

Problems considered by the committee included soil conservation, forestry, water use development, taxation, fire control, insect control, agricultural public relations and rural electrification.

Wheat farming alternated with summer fallow is the predominant type of farming in Morrow County. Farms vary in size from 20 acre irrigated tracts in the north end to ranches of several thousand acres in the range area in the southeastern part of the county. Most wheat ranches have side-

lines of livestock which are mainly beef cattle with some sheep and hogs. The southeastern portion of the county is devoted to range almost entirely. Most ranches have cattle with less than a half dozen owning combinations of cattle and sheep. Spring range is provided for a few livestock operators in the desert area in northern Morrow County. This is considered best suited for sheep and many bands are lambed on this early range moving to the foothills and mountains for summer range. Cattle herds in the central part of the county are summered on home pastures of crested wheat grass, native grasses and stubble fields. Almost all ranches produce enough hay for winter feeding.

Boardman and Irrigon, irrigated sections in north Morrow County, raise fruits, hay, potatoes and melons as predominating crops.

Land Use In Morrow County, Oregon

Total acres in County	1,317,760
Land in farms	778,130
Cropland	372,306
Irrigated crop land	15,000
Rand land	590,497
Forest	220,000
Number of farms	463
Average size of farm	2,112.6

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION

Of major importance to the committee was that of soil conservation who viewed with concern the continued loss of top soil from water and wind erosion. They continued with the attitude taken by the last Conservation and Land Use Committee that land

ownership does not bestow upon the individual the right to use his land to ruin it for the use of future generations.

Recommendations:

1. Research is needed to provide answers for effective treatment for amendment of ash and clay "slick spot" soils.
2. An educational program should

be initiated to instruct farm operators to cooperate in proper conservation practices to reduce run-off on long watersheds where several ownerships are involved.

3. Since strip cropping is an important means of controlling wind and water erosion, it is recommended that consideration be given to waiving the maximum amount of ACP funds that can be earned in any one year for the strip cropping practice.

4. Because careless road grading has caused soil blowing, it is recommended that the County Court plan road grading in blow districts at a season when blows are apt to occur.

5. Stubble burning should be discouraged. Heavy stubble should be reduced in the fall with implements or other necessary equipment.

6. More sod waterways are needed to carry safely from fields the excess water run-off.

7. Winter irrigation should be carried out on irrigated lands where practical.

8. Diversion ditches have become important in county when used in conjunction with other conservation practices.

9. Chaff dumps should be spread and application of nitrogen added to eliminate reduction yield in these areas.

10. In the north end of the county dry lands subject to wind erosion should be farmed with soil conservation practices.

11. The committee recommends continued demonstration of new implements which tend to promote conservation practices.

12. For maximum efficiency, it is recommended the County Road Department keep culverts open on county roads.

The county has an abundant water resource potential, only partially developed and used. Rhea, Hinton, Butter and Willow Creeks with other minor creeks, intermittent streams, 20

springs, ground water, and the Columbia River offer many possibilities.

The following recommendations were made toward better water use:

Recommendations:

Water Use Development

1. The County Court should appoint the chairman of the Basin's Project Committee: (1) To activate the study of possible watershed development; (2) to explore possibility of installing water gauging stations on Willow and Rhea Creeks; (3) to encourage study of water table situation of the county; (4) to determine amount of water actually used and/or wasted; (5) to determine feasibility of diverting to Willow Creek or Rhea Creek the unallocated waters flowing to the John Day River.

2. Farmers who have not applied for water rights should consider doing so soon. Also, procedure of processing water rights applications should be speeded up by State Engineer's office.

General Considerations:

A number of problems and opportunities which were classed under the general heading of Conservation and Land Use were discussed with the following recommendations made:

Recommendations:

1. An economic study should be made to determine what constitutes an economical family size farm in the Pacific Northwest in comparison to other areas in order that legislators may have a more complete understanding of the situation when drafting farm programs.

2. The committee commented a poor understanding exists between town and farm people regarding income received. They point out that the farmer's income in relation to his investment is many times a smaller percent return than that of comparable businesses.

3. Future tax reappraisals in land

valuations for inheritance tax purposes should be based on long-time valuation rather than on recent inflated prices.

4. REA was commended for making available electricity for every farm home in the county desiring such service. They commented that money loaned by REA is a good investment for the county and that the interest paid to the government is money well spent.

5. To control insect infestations a study should be made to determine steps in establishing an insect control district.

6. It is recommended that the Coun-

ty Court appoint a County Development Commission. Also, a study should be made of the advantages of a Port Commission.

FORESTRY

General Situation:

Forest lands produce timber, forage, water for irrigation, recreation and wildlife resources. They cover approximately 220,000 acres.

Timber from these forests provide major industries not only in this county, but also to adjoining counties where lumber mills operate from timber produced within the county.

ITEM	YEAR	AMOUNT		
Ownership of Commercial Forest Land (1*)	1954			
Private		97	thous.	acres
National Forest		121	"	"
Bureau of Land Management (2*)		1	"	"
Other Public		—	"	"
Total		219	"	"
Total Land Area in County (3*)	1954	1,317,760	acres	
Ownership of Sawtimber Volume (1*)	1954			
Private		710	million	board feet
National Forest		1,049	"	"
Bureau of Land Management		7	"	"
Other Public		—	"	"
Total		1,766	"	"
County Share of National Forest				
Receipts (5*) F. Y.	1956	\$ 12,288		
F. Y.	1957	\$ 16,677		
Value of Farm Forest Products Sold (4*)	1954	\$ 69,500		
(1*) From Pacific Northwest Forest and Range Experiment Station, U. S. Forest Service, Portland, Oregon. Timber volume is in trees 11 inches in diameter, breast height, and larger, Scribner log scale.				
(2*) Includes public domain lands outside the national forests.				
(3*) From U. S. Census of Agriculture, 1954.				
(4*) From U. S. Census of Agriculture, 1954.				
(5*) From Regional Forester, U. S. Forest Service, Portland, Oregon.				

Recommendations:

1. Forestry practices recommended include: (1) Care in location of logging roads; (2) reseeding of skidways and abandoned roadways at close of operations; (3) installation of water bars on roadways.

2. Owners of timber lands or land suitable for growing timber should avail themselves of information and assistance to establish tree farms.

3. Access roads should be maintained in timber lands to insure disease control of trees left for seed stock. There is need for more and better access roads in federal forests to en-

courage better maintenance of standing timber, to expedite salvage operations, and to enable forest service to obtain better bids on timber.

4. The importance of lodgepole pine was emphasized and it was recommended that a study be made of marketing possibilities for this species.

5. Continued fire protection in timber lands was stressed.

6. Further study is needed on pest and disease effect on annual growth of timber; control or eradication measures should be developed.

7. Encourage forest field days.

FACTS ABOUT THE TIMBER ECONOMY OF MORROW COUNTY

(Information from Pacific Northwest Forest and Range Experiment Station, U. S. Forest Service, and other sources.)

	YEAR	AMOUNT
Volume of live sawtimber, million board feet (1*)	1954	1,766
Log Production, million board feet	1940	11
	1950	28
	1956	50
Lumber Production, million board feet	1948	28
Employment in all covered industries	(Av. Mo. 1955) 2*	310
Employment in forest products industries	(Av. Mo. 1955) 2*	136
Payrolls in all covered industries	1955 2*	1,278,167
Payrolls in forest products industries	1955 2*	709,642

1* In trees 11 inches in diameter, breast height, and larger, Scribner rule.

2* Covered industries are those submitting returns to Oregon State Unemployment Compensation Commission.

MORROW COUNTY'S RAINFALL

STATION	10 Yr.										
	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	Av.
Heppner	18.22	9.39	17.36	10.57	11.58	17.09	11.61	16.26	11.59	17.73	14.14
V. L. Carlson Ranch (South Ione)	20.77	18.95	17.86	10.74	10.65	15.95	9.65	14.44	13.46	16.81	14.92
Don Heliker Ranch	*	6.53	14.63	9.70	7.17	12.41	12.09	11.81	8.34	12.61	10.58*
John Proudfoot Ranch (North Ione)	19.3	10.4	11.36	12.5	8.83	10.52	11.09	8.54	10.69	9.16	11.24

* Nine Year Average Only

FARM CROPS COMMITTEE REPORT

General Situation

Dry land crops are the largest source of income in the county. Cultivated acres total approximately 375,000. Of the 172,000 acres harvested annually approximately 115,000 are wheat. For the 1957 crop year; farm crops income amounted to \$11,711,136, with wheat and barley accounting for \$9,860,636.00.

Wheat has been the back-stay of Morrow County since its settlement. It is the only crop found to be suited to our conditions that insures a fair income year in and year out. Wheat acreage allotments have restricted wheat operators to two-thirds of production for which they are tooled. Problems discussed in this report deal directly with an attempt to find other means of supporting income at a level to maintain a fair standard of living and some return on investment until the present problem is relieved.

Cost of Grain Production Sub-Committee

The attention of this sub-committee was aimed at problems affecting the wheat farmer and the possible solutions to maintain a fair income in a time of rapidly increasing production costs. In an attempt to compare our costs of gross incomes from dry land production, the committee after several meetings agreed that these costs must be watched if the wheat man is to continue to exist.

Recommendations:

1. Because of decreased wheat acreage and reduced parity prices, cost of production is of vital concern to the wheat farmer. It is recommended that Oregon State College conduct a cost study over a period of one or more years, using a representative number of farms in all areas of the county.

Grain Utilization Through

Livestock Sub-Committee

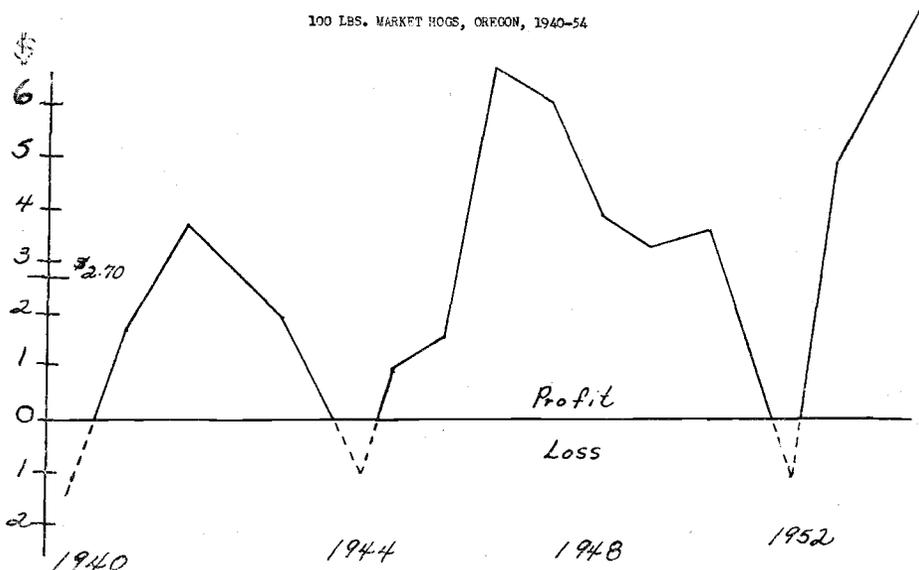
Despite decreased wheat acreages, large supplies create a problem. It was felt that these over-abundant grains be used for feeding beef and hogs on an individual or commercial basis as a long time operation. This would not only relieve grain supplies from reaching great proportions, but would provide meat now being shipped in from out-of-state.

Recommendations:

1. Hog production is especially recommended with 50 to 60 sows as an economic full-time unit. Other production items resulting from the committee's study: (1) It is possible to farrow 5 litters in 2 years for each sow kept; (2) the total cost of raising a pig to market will run from 14 to 15 cents per pound; (3) average investment per sow was calculated at \$341; this cost could be materially reduced by using facilities already available on ranches; (4) pasturing hogs is not an economical operation only in the case of the brood sow during her gestation period, although this may be questionable with the present price of alfalfa hay as a roughage; (5) in starting in the hog business, the primary consideration should be the selection of sows with a record of high rate of gain, breed is not important, crossbreeds are most profitable.

2. Because each beef breeder has a situation peculiar from the other,— it is recommended that a cost of production study be made on beef feeding operations as they apply to Morrow County.

PROFITS AND LOSSES
100 LBS. MARKET HOGS, OREGON, 1940-54



Farm Programs Sub-Committee

Realizing that the present farm program is not entirely suitable as a means of solving the long-time problem of the grain farmer, this subcommittee studied the basic needs in a permanent program. The following recommendations were made:

Recommendations:

1. The committee commented favorably on the domestic parity or modified parity-type program. Under the latter, bushelage allotments seem a severe method of reducing wheat surpluses, but this method is preferred over no wheat program at all.

2. The committee stated the Soil Bank Program is basically sound. However, certain changes would induce greater participation. The bid system was favored, particularly if the limit was raised to \$10,000 per producer without requiring the whole ranch to be under contract.

3. In connection with the Conservation Reserve section of the Soil Bank Program, it is recommended that special arrangements be made for farmers to continue with normal herds of cattle kept for the utilization of straw-chaff

and waste land; also, that provisions allow such grazing without fencing each of the grass strips without disqualifying the operator.

4. With new methods for converting grain to alcohol and dwindling supply of petroleum, it was recommended that attempts to incorporate grain alcohol in motor fuels should be continued. In considering the cost of conversion there should be taken into consideration costs of storage of surplus government grains.

5. Livestock feeding would be one means of disposing of the surplus grains and would provide more meat for the Pacific Northwest, thereby reducing shipments from other areas.

6. An active publicity program should be inaugurated to provide better understanding between rural and urban people regarding subsidies to agricultural producers as compared with subsidies to industry and governmental agencies.

Irrigated Crops Sub-Committee

Irrigated crops constitute about 15,000 acres of the total crop land. This cropland is divided almost equal-

ly among creek bottoms that are flood and sprinkler irrigated receiving limited irrigations and the irrigated farm lands of the Boardman-Irrigon area located adjacent to the Columbia River. A new source of irrigated land is being developed through desert entry claims on Bureau of Land Management lands being irrigated. While creek bottoms produce mainly hay and pasture; melons, cantaloupes, corn, potatoes, and other truck crops, with pasture and alfalfa, constitute the main production in the irrigated projects. Problems are somewhat different than those of the dryland farmer. This committee considered the following problems and opportunities:

Recommendations:

1. A minimum of 200 pounds of nitrogen should be used to obtain the maximum yield of corn in irrigated sections of North Morrow County.

2. In north Morrow County melons are an abundant crop but marketing is a problem. A marketing organization is recommended.

3. We believe that irrigated pastures have a prominent part in our economy, over the past few years with improved pasture mixtures and good management, irrigated pastures have provided greater incomes than many cultivated crops of the area.

4. Grade A dairies provide a good income and utilize forage grown in the area.

5. More information on the value of fertilizer for alfalfa is needed. The effect of fertilization on the protein content of alfalfa hay should be publicized.

6. Continued use of windbreaks for wind erosion control is recommended.

General Recommendations:

The following recommendations were made on farm production practices:

1. It is recommended that the County

Court and individual farmers initiate a roadside grass seeding program to reduce rye infestations on roadsides, thereby eliminating some portion of the roadside spray program.

2. We recommend that Oregon State College and/or the U. S. Dept. of Agriculture employ a full time team to work exclusively on methods for the control and eradication of Morning Glory. 2,4-D has not proved to be a practical control for this weed. Sodium Chlorate is too expensive, especially when infestations are large.

3. We wish to commend the experiment stations and chemical companies who are carrying out chemical summer fallow experiments. We would like to see this work continued using present and new promising chemicals. We believe that this method may have a place in our summer fallow operation, especially in making stubble mulch fallow practical.

4. Alfalfa grass rotations are recommended where economically feasible, with at least one pound of the recommended variety of the alfalfa added to the grass seeding.

5. Bunch grass pastures have produced a level of as much as 26% protein at their peak, dropping to something like 7% when at early seed or drying-up stage. At this low protein level cattle cannot maintain weight. While alfalfa is not suited to all conditions for pasture seedings it should be used where possible. We recommend that a research breeding program be carried out to develop a legume for dry land range use.

6. We ask that research be carried out on the probable income from livestock on grass alfalfa pastures in comparison to other incomes from diverted wheat land.

LIVESTOCK COMMITTEE REPORT

Livestock sales account for an annual income of over one and one-half million dollars, second only to income from grain. Sheep and cattle now approach each other in numbers with approximately 30,000 head of each. Sheep numbers have dropped to one-half the number ten years ago while cattle have increased a third. While the majority of the sheep are run under range conditions, farm flocks have increased materially. Approximately two-thirds of the cattle are made up of herds of one hundred or less that are run as a side line on grain farms. The larger commercial cattle operations are located in the south and southeastern part of the county, depending on summer ranges in the Blue Mountains.

Most of the county's cattle population is in cow-calf operations. Seven to eight thousand head of calves are sold as weanlings each fall; the remainder going as yearlings, with a few held to two-year olds. While the majority of our livestock is marketed off of grass and stubble, the committee considered the opportunities for cattle feeding in the county. This thinking is reflected in the next paragraph.

The county's feed and feeding prospects are projected in the following theoretical facts and round figures: (1) If all 16,000 feeder lambs and 13,000 feeder calves and yearlings were retained by farmers and ranchers for the purpose of feeding to a choice carcass grade, the entire 8,000 tons annual hay surplus would be consumed and half of the present barley acreage (56,000 acres) would be utilized. (2) By importing an additional 6,000 animal units from neighboring non-feed producing counties, the balance of the barley acreage would be consumed. (3) A combination of the above factors would tend to double the gross livestock economy

of the county and should net the livestock industry an additional 20 per cent. These figures would allow \$15 for hay, \$40 for barley, and \$88 per head for a hypothetical 400-pound feeder calf. (4) At present, prices a producer could expect the following gross returns: Hay producer—\$96 per ton; grain producer—\$73 per ton; beef calf producer—39 cents per pound. Thus theoretically, 35 per cent of the county's cultivated land (all the present non-allocated acres) could be utilized by the livestock industry.

Recommendations of this committee were made through twelve sub-committees, with sixty seven active persons participating. While every conceivable livestock problem and opportunity was considered, no reference was made to swine in this report. The committee recognizes the importance of swine and the place it should play in a well-rounded livestock program in Morrow County. We acknowledge the study made on swine production by the Farm Crops Committee and refer you to their report for information and cost studies on the production of swine.

Recommendations:

Diseases and Insects:

1. Publicity and follow-up are needed to induce more livestock growers to continue testing for brucellosis. A program should be initiated at once to provide testing of all cattle which have not been tested since January 1, 1956 and a systematic procedure established to test cattle at least once in every three years.

2. Calftood vaccination is recommended to accelerate eradication of brucellosis. A publicity program and/or other means should be effected to emphasize the importance of such vaccination.

3. Since leptospirosis is causing many losses, livestock operators

should become acquainted with the symptoms and control of the disease. A study should be made to expedite reports on blood samples tested by the OSC Diagnostic Laboratory.

4. Research is recommended to determine the feasibility of spraying pastures for liver-fluke and internal parasite control.

5. The spinose ear tick is a new and uncommon insect in the area. Livestock operators should be informed on the symptoms and control.

6. To control infestations of internal parasites in all classes of livestock, it is recommended that treatments such as phenothiazine be used periodically.

7. Research should be continued on the methods prevention and control of bloat.

8. Research should be continued on the cause of stiff lamb disease (other than white muscle) and treatment for it.

9. ET-57 is a successful treatment for grub control. However, research is recommended to develop a treatment other than the oral method.

10. To obtain the best gains and milk production from all classes of livestock a lice and horn fly control program should be carried out. Attention is called to the effectiveness of some commercial back scratch treaters as well as homemade applicators.

11. One and one-half per cent Dieldrin dust used at the rate of approximately three ounces per head is an effective and economical method of controlling ticks in sheep.

12. We recommend that all farm people become acquainted with the life cycle of mice in order that they are better posted on the increases and declines of population. There appears to be a build-up of mice in Morrow County at the present time. They should be closely watched so that control methods might be carried out in

areas where crop damage may become evident. Control with poison grain at a cost of approximately 50 cents per acre for material is recommended.

Weeds:

13. The present weed control program should be intensified on a watershed basis. A county levy supplemented by an ACP payment would be effective in accelerating this program. It is urged that the ACP weed control practice payment be continued. Attention is called to the need for better methods to control lupine, loco weed, halogeton, Canadian thistle, knapweed, sand burs, and goat weed.

Predators, Rodents and Game:

14 To reduce coyote numbers it is recommended that, in addition to the full-time trapper now employed, the County Court appropriate funds for an additional trapper, in co-operation with the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Discontinuance of the county bounty is recommended; these funds diverted to the predator control budget.

15. The State Game Commission is commended for its educational program; recommended its continuance in an attempt to improve public relations.

16. For better game law enforcement, sportsmen should cooperate with law enforcement officers in reporting game law violations.

17. Rodent control should be a continuing effort on the part of all farmers. Recommendations should be available on control of sparrows and starlings.

18. The committee opposes proposed federal legislation prohibiting the use of steel traps for capturing wild animals; such legislation would be detrimental to predator control.

19. The committee favors legislation making it illegal to carry loaded guns in a car.

20. The committee favors the Oregon State Game Commission reservoir development program and urges early completion of proposed projects.

Land Use:

It also recommends that other sites be studied as possibilities.

21. It is recommended that 25 percent of the grazing fee paid to the Forest Service be appropriated to finance range conservation.

22. We recommend that before any reduction in livestock numbers are made on forest ranges that an inventory of range conditions be made so that these decreases in domestic livestock numbers be due and not as the result of increased wildlife numbers. If range conditions improve then livestock should increase proportionally as well as wildlife.

23. A study should be made of the present status of the Boardman Bombing Range. If the area is surplus it should be utilized for its best use and returned to the county tax rolls.

Sheep:

24. The OSC wool laboratory was commended and sheep operators are urged to avail themselves of its facilities to improve wool yield and quality.

25. Expansion of farm sheep flocks is recommended.

26. There is great opportunity for sheep improvement programs by sheep producers in the country.

27. It is recommended that the National Wool Act of 1954 be renewed as a means of encouraging sheep production.

28. It is urged that Congress speed up procedure to bring in sheepherders from Spain to supplement herders available in this country.

Management and Marketing:

29. Because of price discriminations to small livestock operators, it is recommended (1) that such operators band together to consign larger numbers of livestock to packers; (2) that orderly marketing of livestock during the entire week could be of definite benefit to the operator; (3) that live-

stock feeders and ranchers visit the stockyards to acquaint themselves with what the packer-buyers are paying premiums on, when and why.

30. Livestock operators are urged to study the practice of contract farming or vertical integration. Top-notch management can result from this type of operation, the rancher however, should realize he will lose some of his independence in this form of partnership.

31. Improved marketing procedures are needed. Higher prices could be received if a listing service were available to enable buyers to go directly to the source of cattle.

32. Morrow county is mainly suited to cow-calf operations; for those who have facilities only for running steers it is recommended an available source be known from year to year so that the operation can be stable.

33. Purebred breeders are encouraged to continue practice of performance testing with rate of gain record and commercial breeders are urged to acknowledge this important means of livestock improvement.

34. The practice of cross breeding cattle for hybrid vigor is recommended.

35. For those operators who have facilities to do so, early calving is recommended.

36. For new operations consideration should be given to the need for volume with good management so that each unit produces at the smallest cost possible. Caution is urged in determining price paid for land as compared with value of livestock it will run. Consideration should be given to average price livestock would bring over a period of years rather than the present price.

Legislation:

37. It is recommended that legislation be enacted to amend the State Water Code to make filing for stock ponds unnecessary or more practical.

38. Cattle and sheep men oppose reciprocal trade agreements which allow foreign imports of meat.

39. An investigation should be made of the present method of evaluation of cattle for taxation purposes. It is believed a more equitable method might be a three year average of livestock rather than the evaluation determined annually before assessment.

Feeds and Feeding:

40. The surplus hay situation in the county and the Pacific Northwest is a matter of concern to the producer. Feedlot operations may be the answer to the use of surplus hay if such surplus continues. We recommend that hay production in this county be continued at the present level.

41. Results of trials relating to the economics of feeding pelleted hay should be made known to livestock operators immediately.

County Government and Roads:

42. The committee recommends: (1) That a manager system of county government be considered. (2) that a 10 per cent salary increase be considered for county road department employees to increase efficiency, job permanency, and individual interest. (3) that the county road foreman be given full responsibility for directing road maintenance, machinery upkeep and related responsibilities; that a wage in relation to the capabilities of the person be paid. (4) that the special road levy be continued. (5) that present road plans as outlined by the County Court be carried out. The committee stated that residents on dirt roads should get gravel roads before oiling is done with the exception of the Federal Aid Service projects.

43. State Highway Commission should be encouraged to consider the proposed state highway project from Morgan to Arlington cross-country rather than down Willow Creek since

this route would be cheaper to construct than relocation of the Heppner Junction in case it is necessary if and when the John Day dam is built.

Public Relations:

44. Recommend that commodity groups, such as the Oregon Cattlemen's Association, the Oregon Wheat Commission and others, consider pooling their resources for advertising the farm story as a public relations gesture in metropolitan magazines and metropolitan areas.

45. To inform city folks, cooperatives, commodity organizations, commissions and others are urged to appropriate funds to publicize production costs, prices received, and other pertinent facts of agriculture. Manufacturers, such as machinery companies, are asked to consider including certain farm-cost information in their advertising.

Taxes:

46. To equalize the tax load it is recommended that the state find a broader base for taxing purposes, thereby reducing property taxes for the exclusive use of cities, towns, and counties. It is recommended a modified form of sales tax be enacted exclusively for school support. This revenue, collected at the state level, should be distributed to counties on a basis of population, assessed valuation, income and relative school costs.

47. Study should be made of the capital gains tax in regard to timber, mining, and oil, for the purpose of clarifying the law's intent or repealing it.

48. To conform with the tax pattern in the sheep industry, it is recommended that the assessed value of cattle eight years old and older be cut 50 per cent.

49. It is recommended that the state allow farmers to make yearly withholding tax returns rather than the present quarterly tax returns.

50. It was the consensus of the committee that proper economic value is not being received for the tax dollar; this includes all levels of the economy —local, county, state.

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