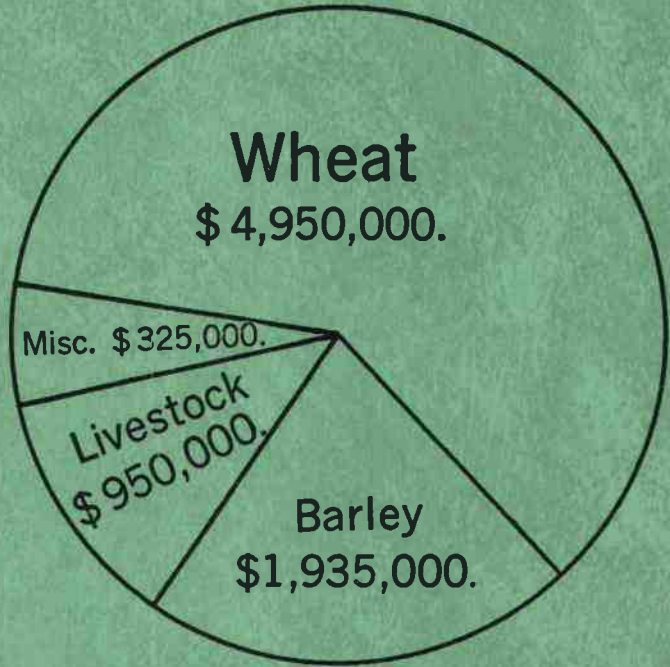


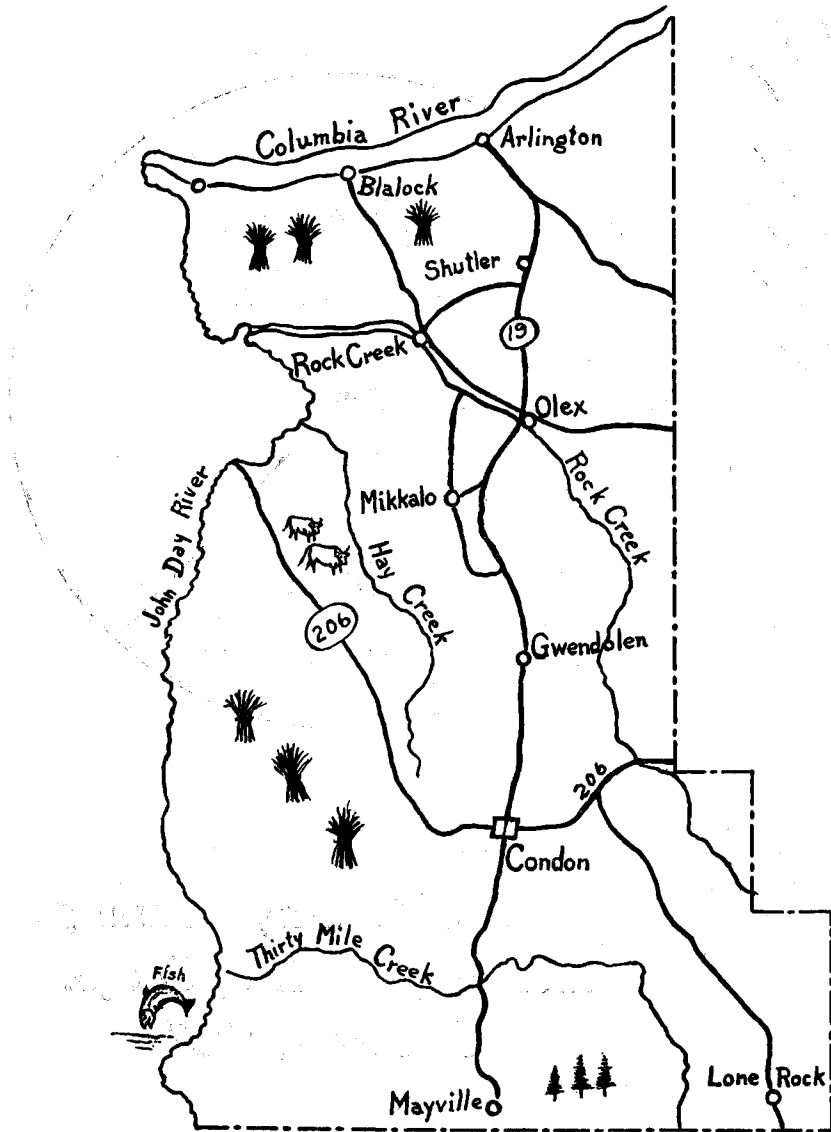
GILLIAM COUNTY



Report of County Planning
Conference, Mikkalo, Oregon
February 1, 1957

Gilliam County

Land of Wheat and Cattle



Foreword

THE REPORTS in this booklet incorporate the best thinking and wisdom of many men and women working together in committees toward building a better agricultural and community life in Gilliam County. The reports were adopted by the action of the farmers and other interested persons February 1, 1957, at Mikkalo.

By such democratic action we seem to project our problems and their solutions in clearer focus than we would be able to do as individuals. These committee reports will serve as guides to the Gilliam County Agricultural Planning Council, the Extension Service of Oregon State College, and to the farm organizations of the County. The recommendations are studied and restudied in ensuing years and the Planning Council working closely with the Extension Service will see that action is taken upon them. Existing farm organizations often carry the action program of a particular recommendation that ties in with the interests and desires of its membership. Sometimes an Action organization must be created to carry out a recommendation. The Taxation Committee is an example if this group.

Agriculture is being rapidly recognized as more than just an industry but also as a business. It is becoming more than just a way of life. The ranches are becoming larger and larger. We see no immediate reversal of this trend. Wheat surpluses continue to plague us even with 37% of our land out of wheat production. Taxes are ever on the increase. The capital outlay per ranch unit calls for more money each year.

We all know the problems. This booklet with its recommendations may help us work out the solutions.

MORRIS E. WILSON, General Chairman

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Crops and Weeds Committee

Bill Jaeger, Chairman

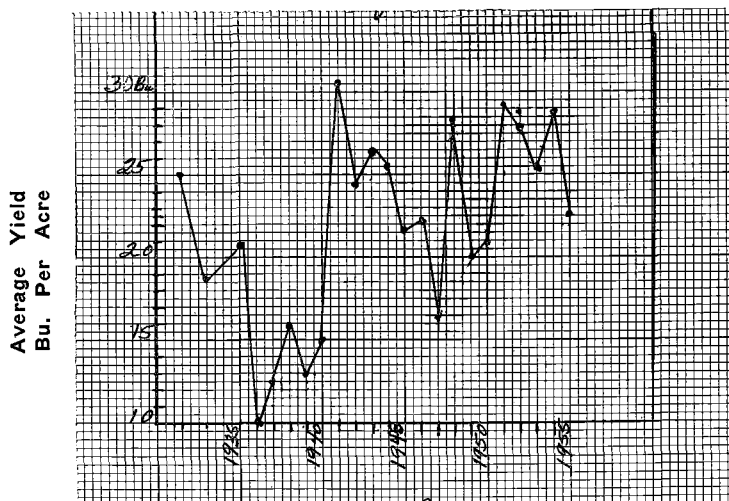
Wheat and Barley produce 80% of the agricultural income in Gilliam County. Barley is being produced on wheat land which is being diverted from wheat production under the Federal Agricultural Programs. Both crops are in surplus and about 90% of the production is exported from the county. Wheat and Barley are produced in Summer-fallow rotation. Summerfallow is used to store moisture and build up available nitrates. As a result only one-half of the cultivated land is in production each year.

This committee investigated the cost of producing wheat and found that production costs had nearly doubled since 1947. This occurred during a period when wheat prices remained fairly constant.

Noxious weeds have contaminated several thousand acres of wheat land. In spite of efforts of many farmers to control Wild Morning Glory, this weed has continued to spread each year. New chemicals are being developed to control these weeds and we hope that they can be eradicated in the future.

The use of nitrogenous fertilizers has expanded rapidly during recent years. There is a possibility that areas in the county could be shifted to annual production by the use of these fertilizers. This is particularly true in the Southern section of the county where soils are shallow and sufficient precipitation occurs each winter to saturate the soil profile. Some day maximum production will be needed to feed the nation's growing population. Experiments should be conducted at this time to determine the areas where annual cropping is feasible. The land use committee has suggested a research program on annual cropping. We concur with their recommendations.

Gilliam County Wheat Yield



1. The following wheat varieties are recommended for Gilliam County:

SECTIONS	WINTER WHEAT	SPRING WHEAT
North Gilliam County	Columbia Rio Orfed Burt Omar Brevor	Federation White Federation Orfed
South Gilliam County	Golden Omar Burt	Federation White Federation 38

2. Flynn Barley is the most productive Spring Barley in the county. Meloy and Spray (Beardless varieties) are good hay varieties. Olympia is the most hardy of Fall varieties that have been grown at Moro Experiment Station.

3. We urge the O. S. C. Experiment Station to expand its work on a winter hardy, high yielding Fall Barley.

4. Although Safflower, Milo and Peas have been tried, at present there is no satisfactory alternate crop for wheat available in Gilliam County. Barley produces fairly well in some areas, but it is not adapted to many sections. We urge the O. S. C. Experiment Station to expand its research on possible alternate crops for our area. Since this is a cash grain area, special con-

sideration should be given to cash crops.

5. Only .44% of the wheat in Gilliam County graded smutty in 1956. This was the lowest of any wheat county in the Pacific Northwest. Farmers should continue to use clean seed, treated with a recommended chemical. Mercury compounds have proven effective and many farmers will want to continue using them. It is the only chemical recommended for barley. Hexachlorobenzene has proven effective as a smut killer. It is cheaper, less toxic to humans, and kills soil born smut. However, research to date indicates it may reduce wheat germination, and farmers may want to continue using Mercury compounds. HCB is not effective against Barley smut.

DRYLAND GRASSES AND LEGUMES ADAPTED TO GILLIAM CO. 1957

SECTION	GRASSES	LEGUMES
Southern Gilliam County	Crested Wheat Grass Sherman Big Blue Grass Bulbous Blue Grass Pubescent Wheat Grass Intermediate Grass	Creeping Alfalfa
Northern Gilliam County	Crested Wheat Grass Sherman Big Blue Grass Bulbous Blue Grass	Creeping Alfalfa

6. Rye is one of the most serious weeds in wheat. All wheat farmers should be discouraged from planting any variety of Rye.

7. Dry land pasture plantings should be made with adapted Grasses and Legumes. Crested Wheat Grass is the best adapted grass and Creeping Alfalfa is the best adapted legume for all dry land sections.

8. Research has shown that dryland grass will produce nearly double the forage when planted with Creeping Alfalfa. We recommend that farmers include Creeping Alfalfa in all dryland grass plantings.

9. For irrigated pastures a mixture of Alta Fescue, Orchard Grass, and Ladino Clover has produced the most forage. Under special conditions other grasses and legumes are recommended.

10. This committee should investigate further wheat production costs. Special consideration should be given to the extra cost of changing machinery because of erosion, labor, efficiency, etc.

Weed Control

1. Morning Glory, White Top, Russian Knapweed, and Dalmation Toadflax are the most serious perennial weeds in the county. We recommend that the following control measures be taken.

White Top:

2 pounds 2, 4-D per acre applied just before blooming three or four years in succession.

Russian Knapweed:

29 to 40 pounds 2, 4-D per acre.

Morning Glory:

Sodium Chlorate and other preparations of Sodium Chlorate, such as Atlacide and Polybor Chlorate has been effective for many years when applied at the proper rate. High rates of 2, 4-D shows some promise of giving control. Tri Chloro Benzoic acid at 20 lbs. per acre gives good con-

trol.

Dalmation Toadflax:

Sodium Chlorate is very effective.

2. We commend the County Court on their program for controlling Dalmation Toadflax and request that they continue the program in an effort to eradicate this weed.

3. We request the County Court to declare Dalmation Toadflax a noxious weed under the County Weed Law.

4. High rates of seeding alfalfa can hold perennial weeds in check on irrigated lands. Seeding rates as high as 20 pounds per acre with 10 pounds seeded in each of two directions are suggested.

5. Along Creek bottoms a serious re-infestation problem exists. Each farmer should make a special effort to control all weeds along Creeks and ditches. Seeding irrigation ditch banks to Fescue and/or Blue Grass is quite effective.

6. We urge the Experiment Station to conduct additional research on methods of controlling Cheat Grass in wheat fields.

7. Every farmer should carefully read the labels on weed chemicals before using them. The label must contain information on the use for which the chemical is recommended and the concentration of the weed killer. For example 2, 4-D is now being marketed in formulations containing two, 3.34 and 6 pounds parent acid per gallon. The six pound solution is three times as strong as the 2 pound solution and only one third the quantity is needed to get the same results.

8. For annual broad leaf weeds in wheat and barley, three-fourth pound parent acid of 2, 4-D is recommended for such hard to kill weeds as Tarweed, Pepper Grass, and Blue Flowering Mustard. One-half pound generally

gives good control of easy to kill weeds such as most Mustards.

9. 2, 4-D should be applied after the wheat has two leaves and applications should be before the grain is in the boot. Spray can again be applied after the grain is fully headed out.

10. There are new chemicals that will remove annual weeds along fence rows for several years. One pound Karmax diuron per 1000 square feet applied in the Fall is effective for about

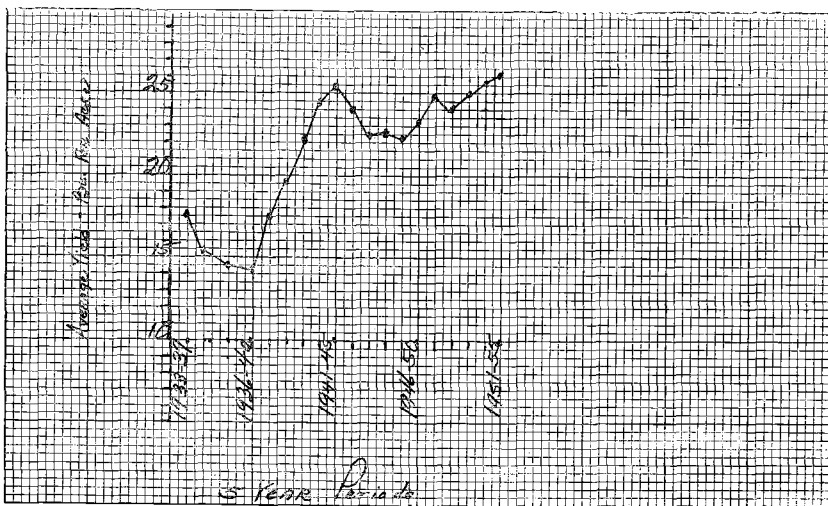
two years and sometimes longer.

Karmax diuron and other chemicals are now effective at removing Cheat Grass and Fox Tail and other annual weeds from Alfalfa. Two pounds of Karmax diuron per acre has proven effective for this.

12. New chemicals for weed control are being developed rapidly and farmers should keep informed about them.

13. This committee should study Gilliam County Imports of weed seed in Canadian wheat screenings.

5 YEAR MOVING AVERAGE



 Cost of Producing One Acre of Wheat

	1948	1956
Plow	\$ 1.75	2.00
Cultivate	2.35	2.62
Seed and Tr.	3.40	2.35
Drill72	.85
Harvest	4.63	6.00
Interest	3.60	8.00
Taxes80	2.00
Insurance60	.60
Repair Building30	.60
Spray		1.90
Fertilizer		5.00
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	\$18.15	31.92



Range improvement is a goal on the Walter Jaeger farm, Mayville. Here is a special range drill, available to farmers from the Gilliam County Soil Conservation District, is being used to seed an area cleared of sage by controlled burning. Gilliam County has 100,000 acres of land that should be cleared of sage and reseeded to improve grasses.

Livestock Committee

Lester Wick, Chairman

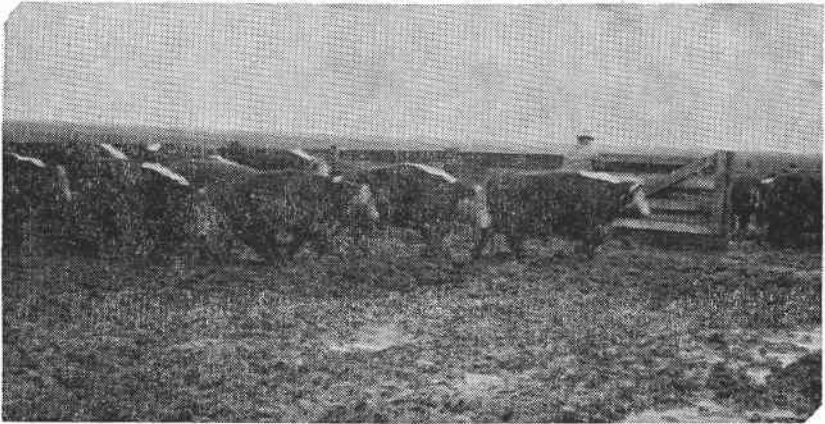
The second major enterprise on Gilliam County farms is beef cattle production. These cattle utilize waste feed from grain farms and the 400,000 acres of range land in the county. Most of the sheep are owned by a few ranchers with large bands.

We have seen a steady improvement in the type of beef cattle production. Some growers are also taking advantage of new techniques of improving herds through production testing. Gilliam County pioneered in a Production Testing Program of beef bulls through the Gilliam County Beef Cattle Improvement Association. The program was conducted from 1950 to 1955 and a total of 244 bulls and 10 heifers were tested for rate of gain and feed efficiency. Stockmen must realize that an efficient animal will produce more beef on less feed

and bring larger profit to the producer.

Certain hormones have proved effective in stimulating the rate of gain and feed efficiency of beef cattle. In the winter of 1955-1956 initial testing of Stilbestrol Implanting was made in Gilliam County. Further tests in 1956-57 have proven conclusively that the rate of gain of steers in the feedlot is improved by Stilbestrol Implanting. Other chemicals and hormones are being developed which may further increase the rate of gain and feed efficiency of livestock. Gilliam County stockmen must keep informed about these research findings in order to remain in a competitive position.

Gilliam County has an abundance of surplus feed barley. Winter cattle feeding fits in with the wheat enterprise. It utilizes labor during the winter months to good advantage. We anticipate and encourage the expansion of fattening beef cattle with the surplus barley now being produced.



These choice steers are being fattened on barley at the Marion Weatherford farm, Arlington. Beef cattle feeding can be expanded in Gilliam County. 40,000 tons of barley are produced each year and most of it is exported from the county. These steers were injected with stilbestrol to increase gains. Farmers must keep abreast of the latest research to produce most efficiently.

Disease and Parasites

1. Gilliam County stockmen should proceed with circulating petitions to establish the county as a Brucellosis test area.

2. Every effort should be made to encourage a private veterinarian to establish a practice in Gilliam County.

3. Lice, flies, ticks and grubs cause several thousand dollars loss in Gilliam County livestock herds annually. Modern insecticides make it possible to control these parasites and every stockman should establish a program for their control.

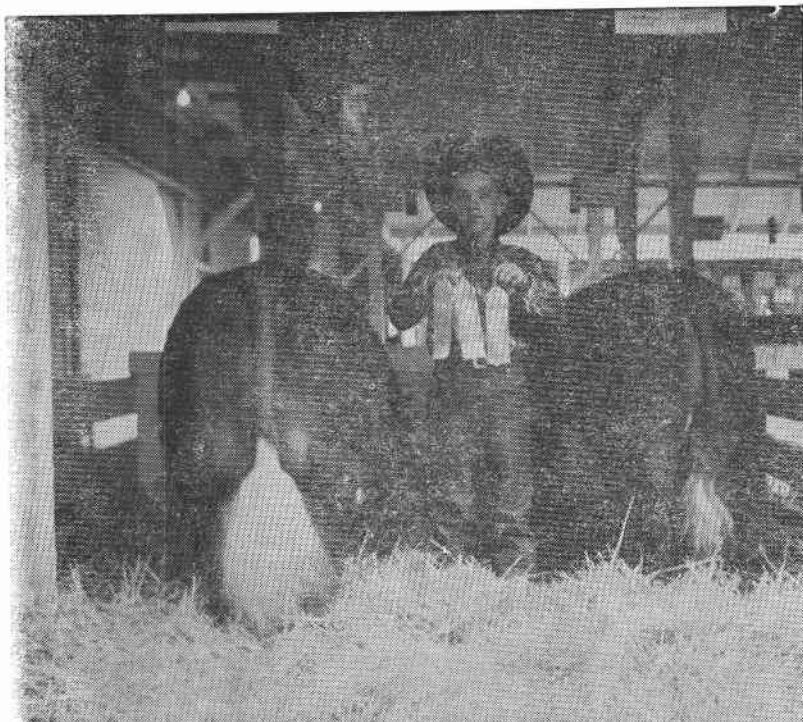
4. There are many diseases which have afflicted beef cattle in the county, including Anaplas-

mosis, Lepto Spirosis, Lumpy Jaw and Blackleg. Stockmen should become familiar with diseases in the area so that they can readily recognize them and take necessary control measures.

Management

1. Every stockman should consider the purchase of a good livestock scales capable of accurately weighing individual animals. Weight records are essential to a sound livestock improvement program.

2. Implanting steers in the feed lot with hormones will increase gains about one-fourth pound per day. Every stockman fattening steers for market should consider



This 4-H boy, Joe Monahan, Condon, is showing the way for beef cattle feeding in his neighborhood. The 4-H program teaches quality production with good animal nutrition. Joe won the ribbons at the Oregon State Fair in 1957.

the use of these hormones.

3. Research at Miles City, Montana has shown that cross-bred beef cattle produce bigger calves, gain faster in the feed lot and cows are better mothers. However, some buyers discriminate against these cattle without knowing their true value. We suggest that two or three stockmen cooperate with the Oregon State College Experiment Station in an effort to learn the value of cross-breds under Gilliam County conditions and to educate buyers of the value of these cattle.

4. There has been an increase in cattle feeding in the county in recent years. We think this is a healthy situation as Gilliam County ships 20,000 tons of barley and 5,500 feeder cattle annually. Perhaps a large share of our barley should be marketed through cattle.

5. Feeder Sales have generally proved quite profitable to part

icipating stockmen. Gilliam County stockmen should investigate the possibility of participating in a joint Feeder Sale with Morrow County at Hermiston or Hinkle.

6. This committee should continue to investigate the desirability of organizing a county livestock association. If a county livestock association is formed annual meetings should be held alternately in Condon and Arington.

7. There appears to be little advantage of spaying heifers or old cows. We suggest stockmen should consider vealing calves from cows they plan to cull and sell these cows earlier in the year.

8. Performance testing is the best method of improving beef cattle both in pure-bred and commercial herds. We urge every stockman to consider a program of performance testing.

CATTLE AND SHEEP

COWS	8,300
HEIFERS	4,800
STEERS and BULLS	4,900
Total	18,000
SHEEP	14,000

FEED SUPPLIES

BARLEY	Tons 30,000
ALFALFA	1,500
GRAIN HAY	8,800
RANGE, Acres	411,000

BRUCELLOSIS TESTING AND VACCINATION

Year	No. Tested	No Reactors	No. Vaccinated
1955	517	0	829
1956	2049	81	1278

All But 6 Reactors Were in Two Herds

Land Use & Conservation

Don Potter, Chairman

Soil erosion from wind and water is the most serious problem of Gilliam County's agriculture. Rains on melting snow in the early spring and water spouts in the summer frequently send tons of soil down the Columbia River. Strong winds in Northern Gilliam County cause the sandy soil in that region to blow creating a special problem for the area.

We have several agencies working with Gilliam County farmers in an effort to reduce soil erosion. The Soil Conservation Service provides technical assistance to farmers to meet individual farm conservation problems. The OSC Extension Service conducts an educational program in the field of conservation. Farmers through the county-wide Soil Conservation District, the elected ASC Committeemen, and our Land Use and Conservation Planning Committee have a voice in developing the Conservation Program.

We see no major shift in land use in the near future. There is a possibility that a section of Gilliam County could produce grain crops annually. Present Government Programs through their wheat allotments and marketing quotas prevents such a shift from occurring at this time. However, the committee sets forth a research program which should determine if Annual Cropping is economically feasible. Someday we will need maximum production from our land to feed the nation and the world's growing population.

Gilliam County farmers were among the first to carry out a Research Program in Weather Modification. They organized a farmer corporation, Tri-County Weather Research, Inc., to carry out the program. The project continued for a period of six years. The program was discontinued in the Fall of 1957 as a result of farmers failing to continue to support the project financially. Oregon State College scientists in evaluating the project failed to report increased precipitation as a result of cloud seeding.

LAND USE GILLIAM COUNTY FARM LAND

	Acres 1949	Acres 1956
WHEAT FOR HARVEST	118,000	87,000
WHEAT HAY	4,400	6,500
BARLEY	1,300	38,500
OATS	100	1,000
RYE	100	1,500
SUMMERFALLOW	123,400	112,000
CRESTED WHEATGRASS	16,000	16,000
IRRIGATED CROPS	1,600	1,800
IRRIGATED PASTURE	100	1,000
RANGE PASTURE	411,000	411,000

Data from ASC and CENSUS Records

**PERMANENT CONSERVATION PRACTICES
GILLIAM COUNTY, 1956**

WHEAT LANDS

STRIP CROPPING	acres	1,000
DIVERSIONS and TERRACES	miles	44
CHECK DAMS	dams	382
WATERWAYS	acres	187

RANGE LAND

BRUSH CONTROL	acres	9,000
FENCING	rods	4,000
WATER DEVELOPMENTS		368
RANGE SEEDING	acres	2,000

IRRIGATED LANDS

CHANNEL IMPROVEMENTS	miles	12
IMPROVED SYSTEMS	acres	3,000
LAND LEVELING	acres	162
IRRIGATION DAMS		8

RESEARCH NEEDED

1. Additional research on annual cropping is needed. It is suggested that several small pilot farms be obtained by the Experiment Station in Gilliam County to conduct research on annual cropping.

2. The Experiment Station should conduct more research on the effect Crested Wheat Grass has on fertility and soil structure of wheat land when returned to wheat production.

3. Research on chemical summerfallow and fallow tillage practices should be continued.

4. Research on the effectiveness of various conservation practices should be continued and expanded.

5. In order to reduce production, this Committee feels that wheat allotments should be on bushels rather than acres. In the meantime research on the use of fertilizer, rain increasing and all other practices which tend to increase production should be continued. Someday we will need these increased wheat supplies.

6. In order to implement these

research recommendations, a delegation from this committee should meet with Oregon State College Experiment Station Officials and urge that the necessary personnel and resources be assigned the task of carrying out these projects.

Land Use

1. Gilliam County has been in a wet cycle for the past number of years. During this period there is very little marginal land in the county. There is now 16,000 acres in grass and this amount of the 260,000 acres of tillable land is marginal because of shallow soil depth and susceptibility to wind or water erosion. Should the county be hit by another dry cycle, such as was experienced in the 1930's the Land Use Committee should re-evaluate the land classification.

2. The Committee believes that nationally we can produce all of the wheat needed to meet domestic and export requirements on three-fourths of the wheat land. Under these conditions about one-fourth of our wheat land should be placed in a grass-legume rotation with wheat.



Trashy fallow and deep furrow cross-slop seeding are the two most effective erosion control practices in wheat and barley fields. This photo shows how water is trapped on a field treated with these practices. The Conservation Committee recommends that every acre of fallow should be made with stubble left on the surface. In southern Gilliam County the practice prevents water erosion. In northern Gilliam County seeding should be crosswind to prevent wind erosion. Nitrogenous fertilizer is needed to keep yields up when trashy fallow is used.

3. As soon as Government Programs will permit, land now in Spring Barley should be returned to winter wheat production.

4. Limited research indicates that a portion of the county could be annually cropped to wheat through the use of fertilizers. As soon as wheat programs permit and additional research confirms these findings, annual cropping should be adopted in those areas in which it is profitable.

5. There may be a continued increase in irrigation by deep wells. Wells now in use have not been to profitable and this will probably prevent a large increase in these developments.

Government Programs

1. We favor the Domestic Parity Program for wheat.

2. In the event of wheat allotments, allotments should be placed on a production basis (i.e. each farm allotted a given bush elage rather than acreage).

3. Land taken out of production under government programs should be put in grass and if possible a combination of grasses and legumes. The Conservation Reserve section of the Soil Bank tries to do this but small payments and restrictions on pasturing have tended to discourage participation. When wheat land is planted to grass, Crested Wheat Grass and Creeping Alfalfa are recommended.

4. Federal Agricultural Programs have discouraged the seeding of grass because farmers fear this land may be removed from the wheat acreage base for estab-

lishing allotments. They have forced farmers to plant Spring crops and this subjects land to severe erosion. Future Government Programs should eliminate these undesirable characteristics.

5. Noxious weed control is essential to conservation of adjacent land. This practice should be reinstated in the Agricultural Conservation Payment Program.

Conservation

1. Soil erosion is the most serious threat to the future of agriculture in Gilliam County. Although farmers recognize the problem and have adopted many conservation practices, thousands of tons of top soil are still leaving our wheat fields annually. Every effort must be made to

stop soil erosion.

2. Trashy fallow has proven to be the most effective single conservation practice. It reduces both wind and water erosion. Farmers should adopt trashy fallow as rapidly as practical.

3. A combination of practices has proven more effective than a single practice. Each field should be treated with as many practices as are needed to halt erosion.

4. Summerfallow land left over winter for spring planting is subjected to severe erosion. Farmers in Southern Gilliam County should consider Rotary Sub-soiling this land. Farmers in Northern Gilliam County should consider Basin Listing.



Diversion Ditches are keeping water from washing across this wheat field on the Loyd Smith and Sons farm, Mayville. Several hundred miles of diversion ditches should be installed in southern Gilliam Co. Ditches must be wide and deep to prevent topping during quick thaws and water spouts. This ditch was constructed with a bulldozer and seeded to crested wheatgrass.

5. There are many practices that can help reduce erosion, and we urge farmers to adopt as many as fit their needs. Some of the important ones are:

Research Needed

Conservation practices for wheat lands (265,000 acres)

1. Trashy fallow.

2. Deep furrow drilling.

3. Cross wind seeding (Northern Gilliam County)

4. Early seeding (Southern Gilliam County)

5. Strip Cropping.

6. Drilling corners first.

7. Permanent Sod Waterways.

8. Seeding draws in July and August.

9. Check dams of straw and/or rock.

10. Diversion Ditches.
11. Rotary subsoiling (Southern Gilliam County)
12. Rocking field access roads subject to blow. (Northern Gilliam County)
13. Cross Slope seeding.
14. Basin Listing (Northern Gilliam County)
15. Weed Control
16. Annual Cropping (Southern Gilliam County)

Conservation Practices for range land: (440,000 acres)

1. Proper Stocking range.
2. Eradicating Sage.

3. Fire breaks.
4. Developing Stock water.
5. Division fences.
6. Seeding Crested Wheat Grass and Creeping Alfalfa.

Conservation practices for irrigated land (2,800 acres).

1. Rip rap along creek channels.
2. Reorganizing irrigation systems.
3. Land leveling.
4. Straightening creek channels.



Farm Home and Rural Life Committee

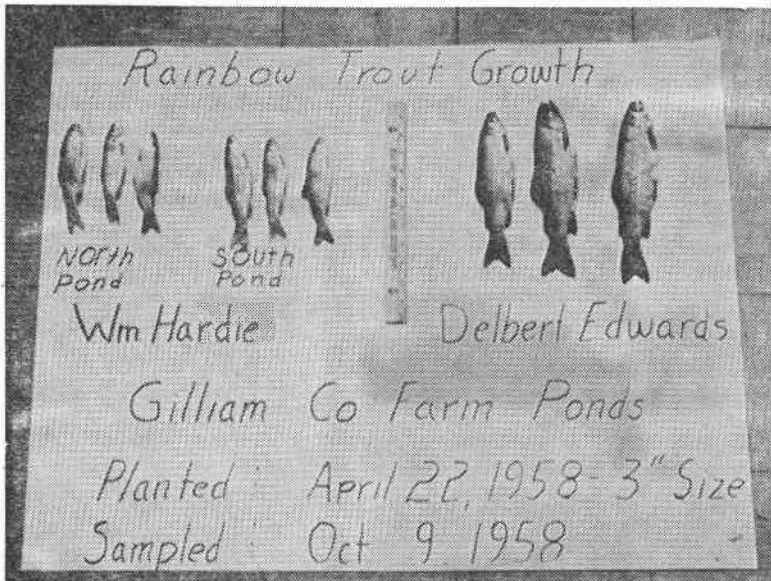
PERRY PATTEE, Chairman

The work of this committee was divided into four sub-committees which submitted recommendations in their respective assignments. The committees are:

1. Community Life and Health
2. Religion.
3. Youth

4. Home Extension.

Gilliam County can be proud of its Community and County wide building program. We have several new churches, a new County Courthouse, two new schools and a Youth Center in Condon. All of these have been constructed in the last ten years. Much progress in recreation and social activities have occurred since this committee reported to the 1948 Conference.



A farm trout pond can provide needed recreation on many Gilliam County farms. Additional research is needed on stocking rates and availability of feed. Three inch trout in the Will Hardie pond grew to six inches in six months while trout planted the same time grew nine and one-half inches in the Delbert Edwards pond. Good farm ponds in Gilliam County have annually produced more than 500 pounds of fish per acre.

HOME EXTENSION

SUB-COMMITTEES

FLORENCE JAEGER, Chairman

Youth today, the future of tomorrow and the number of youth is increasing in Gilliam County. As of January 1957, we have 745 on our school census.

What have we been doing for them and what is our future? Our goal is "Striving to develop leadership for the placing of responsibility of the running of our future homes, businesses and government in their hands."

Many youth activities and organizations have made progress but we must work even harder to

find adults willing and ready to meet with them and give them council and guidance when wanted and needed. We feel very fortunate that our Youth have before them the following organizations in which they are members and take active parts.

1. 4-H Club Work
2. Rainbow Girls
3. Camp Fire

4. Juvenile Grange
5. Cub Scouts
6. Jr. Red Cross
7. Our Churches young peoples groups.

Our 4-H Club Program is by far our largest organization and is on the increase with each year's enrollment. Our 1955 and 1956 final reports will show statistically our increasing demands upon the Extension Staff.

4-H CLUB MEMBERSHIP

	No. Enrolled	No. Clubs	Individual Projects Carried	Percent Completion
1955	270	32	460	90%
1956	280	34	492	75%

From above table, you will note the drop in completion and that is why this Committee is stressing the need of an additional Extension Assistant in the title of a Home Agent in our County. This would make for a more effective club program and in turn would give the County Agent more time with individual farmers and agricultural problems. Then the 4-H Club program could be divided with more thorough assistance given to both boys and girls. If the leaders in Home Economics clubs could meet more often with a Home Agent, we would find our finished work much more uniform and properly carried out. The same would hold true for the livestock and other agricultural projects. County individuals and organizations have been most faithful in sponsoring scholarships to 4-H which are an incentive to youth to join and work and win.

A Home Agent not only would help serve our youth through 4-H clubs but would assist homemakers in all phases of home and family life. Some examples

are:

1. Budget and money management
2. Educational programs to improve dietary habits.
3. Study of better use of electrical power for better living.
4. Planning programs in creative crafts and improved human relationships.

This latter program could so well adapt to our older and middle aged for their leisure and hobby time. Our older persons need to find ways for creative and productive activities. There is a great need for foresight and ingenuity in planning, designing and creating new areas and programs for the needs of the aging.

Many of our homemakers are found attending such classes as sewing, tailoring, and crafts in neighboring counties where the work is available. At the present time we have one group going to The Dalles once a week and a mother and homemaker attending a class once a week in Sherman County and paying a fee for the class.

We also have our Adult Class

workshops which are sponsored by a College but all courses considered are made through our County School Superintendents Office. Classes in the past several years have been Geology, Art, Contemporary Problems, Teaching Alcohol in the Curriculum, Oregon History, and School Law. Subjects that have been requested to come later are Art, Guidance, and Counseling Problems. Numerous specialized and Lay teachers have been secured to come to our assistance in teaching the above interested and requested subjects along with many specialists from the college giving farmers assistance with livestock, crops and many other matters.

The past ten years have found rural homes with electricity, hot and cold water, and many modern conveniences. This has been largely brought to our rural families by Gilliam and Morrow Counties forming an REA Coop. which is owned and operated by the farmers. Dial phones are also a 1955 modernization to our County.

Your Committee would like the study and investigation of complete rural daily mail routes to serve our County communities. Our changes in living due to the electric power plus 800 miles of graveled and oiled roads have made far more rural participation in all town and county functions and would make rural mail delivery accessible.

Our County population census as of 1956 is 3220. We also have approximately 212 farms listed in our county.

1. Your Committee strongly feels a Home Agent is very urgently needed to keep our 4-H program serving the ultimate goal properly and helping to build creative and productive programs for our aged.

2. We would give full cooper-

ation to the Extension Program.

3. Your committee feels homemakers have great desire for adult classes in many fields.

4. We urge further full cooperation as in the past of all parents in using the facilities of our many youth organizations.

5. Appreciate the interest shown by both men and women adults in the many desires of extra credit classes.

6. We are proud of our great advancement in the modernization of rural homes due to the Cooperative Electric Power and we strongly urge the study of its use for better living.

7. Committee greatly desires research and feasibility of daily complete rural mail delivery to all communities.

8. Committee wishes to express thanks to all who so generously give of their time and experience in serving as leaders of our youth organizations and ask all to continue serving these precious adults of tomorrow.

HEALTH SUB-COMMITTEE

PERRY PATTEE, Chairman

1. An effort should be made to secure a County Health Nurse. The possibility of a nurse that could work part time for a doctor or dentist should be investigated.

2. We commend those folks who have worked so vigorously for a hospital at Condon.

3. An additional doctor is needed at Condon.

4. We commend the Granges on their Farm Safety Program. More safety education should be provided. A workshop on Farm and Home safety is suggested.

5. Much progress on controlling rats has been made since the 1948 Conference. Everyone should constantly be watching for

rat sign. When found, control measures should be taken immediately.

6. Our rural schools can be centers for community activities. They should be utilized to the fullest extent for this purpose.

7. With the construction of the John Day Dam, plans should be made for the development of recreation facilities along the lake shore.

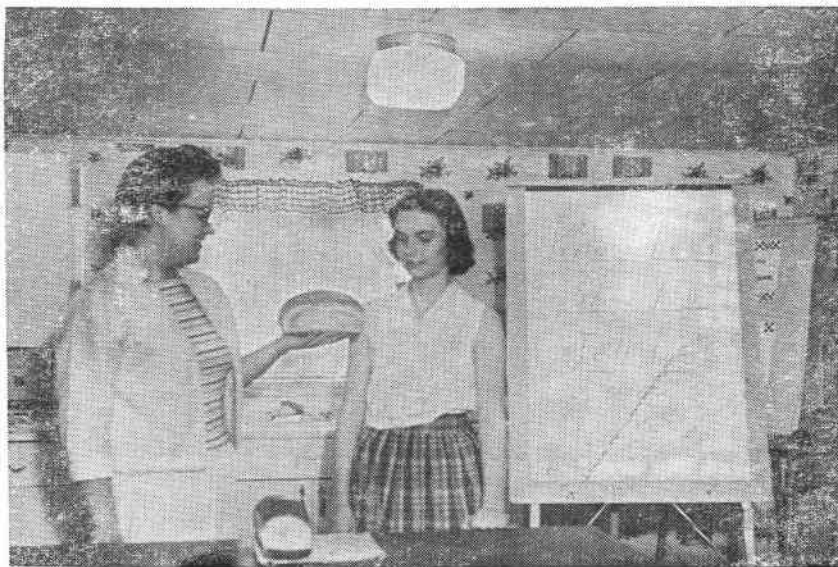
YOUTH SUB COMMITTEE

MRS. FLOYD LANTIS, Chairman

Our youth recreation and training problems for Gilliam

County are much the same as in the report ten years ago. This committee feels that after meeting with the principals of the schools and with a youth group, that our most important recommendation is that a permanent youth study and recreation committee be set up in the county to work with the young people and study their problems. We feel this committee should include members from the various organizations, our County Extension Office and the Churches.

We all feel after these discussions that our girls are being neglected. The Athletic Program carried on by our schools are meeting a great deal of the needs



Sherman County Home Extension Agent, Carrol Armstrong, inspects prize-winning loaf of bread prepared by Cheryl Pattee, Coondon, during a 4-H Demonstration Clinic. Home Extension Committee and Youth Committee both recommend that Gilliam County consider securing an extension agent to provide youth and adult education in Home Economics. About 200 boys and girls were enrolled in 295 4-H Home Economics and Health projects in 1957. These young people and their 25 adult leaders need professional assistance to improve the program.

of our boys. Also, helping to meet their needs is the 4-H Club Program. The girls in our youth discussion group felt they would like some kind of a competitive Athletic Program with play days arranged so they could compete between schools. We have such a playday in the Grade Schools as part of their 4-H Health Club Program, and it is enjoyed by all.

We, and the teachers, believe a course in First Aid for the boys and one in Home Nursing for the girls should be a required subject.

A Home Extension Agent to work with the girls in the Home Economics part of our County 4-H Program would be of much value. She could also be a leader for our adults in many things such as helping them with their home problems, crafts, and recreation

In the City of Condon there are several organizations working on raising money for a swimming pool. We commend them for it, and hope the construction will soon be completed. Our people have to go out of the county now to swim in public pools. A swimming pool can be used for a few months during the summer, so we would like to recommend that a tennis court which can be converted into an ice skating rink be given much consideration. This could also be used by the schools in their Physical Education Classes.

We would like to commend all the 4-H Club leaders, teachers, organizations and friends who are working with our youth of today. We feel we have many resources available to us that we are not utilizing to the fullest extent because we need still more leaders. A permanent youth recreation committee would be of valuable assistance here in studying the ways we can use these resources and finding ways to do so.

RELIGION SUB COMMITTEE

FATHER WILLIAM RODEN, Chairman

Gilliam County with a total population of 3,220 is served by churches of nine denominations with a program of daily, weekly and seasonal mid-week services.

The following table gives approximate figures in various categories on individual and family relationship to church in Gilliam County, and applies to all denominations taken as a group for the year 1956.

Total individual members	-- 870
Total constituency	-- 1398
Number of families	-- 334
Number of weekly services	-- 24
Average weekly attendance at services	-- 455
Average weekly attendance at church school	-- 376
Yearly number of hours of religious instruction available per child	-- 73.
Regular annual contributions	-- \$49,436.00
Special donations for building projects	-- \$58,500.00

The above figures based on total population of the county and taking in all age groups show that approximately 27% of the county's citizen have a church affiliation, with about 14% attending church regularly.

Religion serves a vital need in any community, the spiritual development of individuals and families. As the basic unit of society the family produces the citizens. It is the social cell of society. The relationship of the family to the church is an important one. Virtue is best developed where God is held in reverence and virtue is the basis of good citizenship. It is the task of the church to enrich the spiritual life of the family members. As the family needs religion so the family needs the church; and since whatever protects or promotes good family life is to be

fostered diligently, the family in turn must assist the church. Its growth and development depend upon christian family life.

This committee suggests the following points in family relationship to church:

1. A deepening realization of the need of the spiritual in family life.
2. Parents should take the lead by active participation in church life.
3. Family worship as a group.
4. Integration of the intellectual education of the child with ade-

quate spiritual development.

5. Spiritual training in the home.

6. Closer cooperation of the school with religious training through released time program

7. Special emphasis on problems of teenagers.

8. Close cooperation with civic life to provide one night a week exclusively for church activities.

Committee Members: Father William Roden, Chairman; Rev. Stuart Goude, Rev. Fermer Plank, Rev. Alfred Boyer, Rev. Brent Border, and Mrs. Ted Edelman.



Marketing and Transportation

Bill Hardie, Jr., Acting Chairman

ED IRBY, Chairman

The marketing of agricultural produce from Gilliam County farms is a major problem. Nearly all of the products must be exported from the county to other consuming areas. A large share of the wheat production is exported from the United States to

the Orient and other grain consuming areas of the world.

There has been a shift in transportation of agricultural products during recent years. Much of the wheat and barley are now transported by truck and barge where formerly nearly all was transported by rail.

Freight rates have steadily increased the past ten years, while wheat prices have remained nearly constant and barley prices have declined.

HOW WHEAT IS SHIPPED
% of Total Received at Vancouver and Portland

YEAR	Rail	Barge	Truck
1947-48	91%	7%	2%
1955-56	72%	14%	14%

Marketing:

1. Government Warehouses do not provide markets for agricultural products. Real markets such as exports, feed, and industrial uses must be developed.

2. We believe the Domestic Parity Plan for wheat would encourage the increased use of wheat for export, feed and industrial uses. This plan provides for parity on wheat used for domestic human consumption and a free market for all other wheat. Wheat growers should continue to work for such a program.

3. Foreign exports of wheat should be continued at the present rate if possible. Public Law 480 has made possible the expansion of wheat exports. We commend this program.

4. Research on industrial uses for wheat should be expanded.

5. Future farm legislation and administrative rulings should establish a policy that the Pacific Northwest feed industry be as-

sured feedgrain at a price equal to and competitive with feed grain as well as a food grain.

6. Farmers must use every opportunity to inform the public of the price spread between producer and consumer. As individuals they should keep sufficiently informed to tell the story convincingly.

7. We commend the Oregon Wheat Growers League and Oregon Wheat Commission on their market promotion activities. We believe the wheat tax of one-half cent per bushel is being well spent.

8. Federal grain grades should provide more consideration for wheat quality. Gilliam County has historically produced low moisture wheat and should receive a premium for it. Also a premium should be given to wheat with test weight in excess of 60 pounds per bushel.

Transportation

1. With increased truck and barge shipments of wheat, there is a healthy competitive freight

situation. However, this situation requires continued study and regulation too eliminate the possibility of the Union Pacific Railroad abandoning their Condon Branch line.

2. Wheat growers must continue to vigorously oppose increases in freight rates. Railroads recently obtained increases and are seeking further increase in freight rates to permit wage increases to their employees. With respect to agricultural commodities this actually means taxing agriculture to give additional funds to labor.

3. Freight rates vitally effect every Gilliam County farmer and they should take more interest in freight rate problems and express their views in writing to the Interstate Commerce Commission.

4. We favor uniform freight rates on meat animal products both East and West bound. When

dressed meat and packing house products rates are reduced, we ask for concurrent reduction in the rates on live animals.

5. The Pacific Northwest Grain and Grain Products Association has done a great deal to fight for favorable freight rates for wheat growers. The work of this organization should be continued.

6. As new State highways are constructed, an adequate road base for future truck freight should be provided. Engineers must take into consideration the freezing and thawing conditions which exist in Gilliam County. An example of failure to do this is the John Day Highway which passes through Gilliam County.

7. All Gilliam County farmers should be careful in hauling heavy loads when the frost is leaving road beds in the Spring.

GILLIAM COUNTY FREIGHT RATES AND WHEAT PRICES

YEAR	Average Freight Per Bu.	Farm Price Per Bu.
1946	7½c	\$ 1.77
1949	11½c	1.98
1956	12½c	2.00
1957	13c	2.15

Education Committee

MRS. HELEN RONDEAU, Chrmn.

The Education Committee of the Gilliam County Agricultural Planning Conference wishes to express its appreciation to the following persons, for their help in securing the material used in making this report.

Rural School Board

Grade and High School Boards

Principal and teachers of Arlington and Condon High Schools

Principal and teachers of Arlington and Condon Grade Schools
Individual teachers

Mrs. Lovena Palmer

We wish to commend these people for the good work they are doing and their sincere efforts to improve the education of our children.

Many changes have come over the past ten years. Four rural schools are operating, two of these standard and two conditionally standard. Other districts transport to Grade and High Schools in Condon and Arlington. The Rural School Bill and Basic School Law which were just becoming effective at the beginning of the past decade have been instrumental in effecting better equalization of tax money and bringing much needed improvements.

To accommodate its increased enrollment Condon Grade School has added two classrooms and made needed improvements in the main building. A playshed has been constructed with the school proper. This is used for physical education classes, recreational purposes and for community activities. High on the hill overlooking the Columbia stands Arlington's modern High School plant. That city is at present, discussing a prospective site for a new Grade School. This would be an inevitable result of the town's reloca-

tion program, caused by the proposed John Day dam.

The school lunch program is well handled throughout the county. This is financed by the districts with some assistance from the Federal government. The cost to each student is extremely low.

Health examinations have become an integral part of the school program and expert help is available for mental health problems. Special teachers may be supplied for the handicapped. It was generally agreed that gifted children should be given every opportunity to develop their particular talents. Before participating in competitive athletics, physical examinations are required. In the Grade School Athletic Program, participation is stressed, rather than competition.

Music instruction in the Grade and High Schools of Condon and Arlington adds much to the cultural life of the community.

A Remedial Reading program in the Condon Grade School is a notable achievement of the past six years.

We commend the programs in guidance and counsel at both County High Schools and urge parents to cooperate fully with the administration in their efforts at career guidance and personality adjustments, which are of vital importance in this fast moving modern age. We further urge parents of High School students to impress upon their children the value of high scholastic achievements and good study habits. Our colleges are finding it necessary to curtail enrollment and it may be very well that good High School grades will determine whether or not they are admitted to college.

In 1953 the Condon Kindergarten Association was formed by a group of interested mothers. At this time they have a capacity

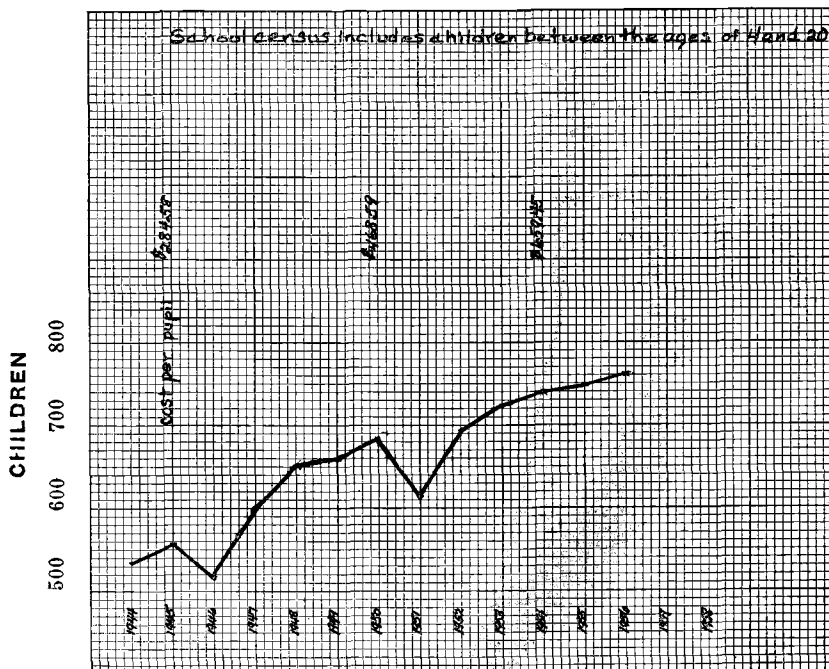
(22) enrollment as well as a waiting list. Arlington has formed an Association to meet a similar need there.

Another notable educational milestone has been the Adult Education classes held at Condon and Arlington in which college credit

may be obtained. About 150 persons have attended the 10 courses given.

Gilliam County is extremely fortunate to have the Cooke Scholarship Fund which aids any young person seriously intent upon higher education.

GILLIAM COUNTY SCHOOL CENSUS 1944-1958



ENROLLMENT OF GILLIAM COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES IN COLLEGE 1953-1956

College	Enrollment	Graduated
UNIVERSITY OF OREGON	19.....	0
OREGON STATE COLLEGE	28.....	4
OREGON TECHNICAL INSTITUTE	21.....	3
OREGON COLLEGE OF EDUCATION.....	5.....	1
EASTERN ORE. COLLEGE OF EDUCATION....	16.....	3

**REPORT ON HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES
GILLIAM COUNTY, 1952-1956**

	Year	Total Students	Entered College	Graduated or Attending	Technical School	Armed Forces	Married Women	Other
Arlington	1952	10	5	1	1	—	4	4
Condon		16	5	2	3	7	4	4
Arlington	1953	12	4	—	—	2	5	4
Condon		12	2	0	5	—	5	2
Arlington	1954	11	2	2	2	1	4	3
Condon		14	7	3	1	3	2	4
Arlington	1955	7	1	1	1	2	1	2
Condon		15	6	3	5	3	7	3
Arlington	1956	9	6	5	1	—	1	2
Condon		14	3	3	2	1	4	4
Total		120	41	20	21	19	37	32
Percen't		100	34*	—	17*	—	—	—

* For the state as a whole, approximately 35% of High School graduates take advanced study. In Gilliam County 51% have taken advanced study in College or Technical School.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Education committee, after seven meetings and many hours of serious consideration, wishes to submit the following recommendations.

1. The Committee on Taxation is submitting suggestions regarding school budgeting procedures and publication of budgets. We concur with these recommendations.

2. Federal Aid should only be used to meet emergency situations such as dam construction and defense installations, as well as present Federal programs, such as School Lunch assistance, and Smith-Hughes, where they serve special needs.

3. The majority of our elementary students should reach high school, well grounded in the basic subjects, with perhaps additional stress on spelling.

4. High School students should receive early guidance in planning a study program which will adequately prepare them for college, including additional mathematics if necessary.

5. Married students in the High

School should not be permitted to participate in extra-curricular activities and every effort should be made by parents and school officials to de-glamourize early marriage.

6. Each High School should consider driver education training with the student bearing part of the cost.

7. Parent - Teacher conferences in conjunction with report cards have been so successful in our Grade Schools, that we believe they should be extended to the ninth grade.

8. We recommend that a group from the Education Committee meet with the Rural School Board to report the findings of this committee and review with them their tax equalization program.

9. The planning and possible construction of the John Day Dam on the Columbia River, the defense installation near Condon and Oil Well Drilling in the same area, are now influencing and will continue to exert pressure on our schools. In view of these conditions we suggest a continuing study of education in this county.

Taxation Committee

E. R. FATLAND, Chairman

The Gilliam County Tax Committee developed a program for re-appraising farm land in 1952 which has received state wide recognition. The committee created Community Committees which reviewed land appraisals in their respective communities. The work of the Community Committees was reviewed by the County Committee. These new appraisals were submitted to the County Assessor. They became the basis for land appraisals for tax purposes.

Although most of the committee recommendations apply to state and local taxes the committee has some sound recommendations to make in the field of Federal taxation.

1. This committee cooperated with the County Assessor in re-appraising Gilliam County farm lands in 1952. This work should be reviewed every five years to eliminate any equalities resulting from changes in yield, improved roads, etc. We also request this committee to investigate the assessment of farm buildings as compared to city buildings.

2. As the Soil Bank and future agricultural programs remove land from production or return them to production, they should be re-classified for tax purposes on the same basis as they are classified under the program.

3. The State has continued to encroach on county taxing authorities. We believe this should be halted, especially if the county has shown an ability and willingness to handle the responsibilities imposed on them by law.

4. The County Welfare Commission is the best qualified to judge the need of welfare cases and should have full authority to

decide on such cases. The State should accept less dictation from Federal Government and give more authority to counties.

5. School authorities, State, County and Local Boards, should make every effort to equalize educational opportunities for all youth as provided in the title of the Basic School Law.

6. No formula for Basic School fund distribution should reduce any districts present share of those funds.

7. Oregon, as a State, should abandon property tax as a source of revenue and leave this field to counties alone as soon as another safe and sure method is acceptable.

8. Every effort should be made to arrive at a uniform basis of taxing real and personal property in all counties in the state. Any necessary action should be taken to permit the State Tax Commission or the County Assessor to have access to any record, plot, plan or photograph, belonging to state, national or local government, which will materially aid in arriving at fair value of the land to be assessed.

9. Gilliam County has enjoyed high quality personnel in the county assessors office. However, recognizing the technical ability required of a county assessor and the advantages of maintaining local authority, we believe all assessors should be required to qualify before running for office similar to a candidate for county engineer, surveyor, district attorney, and school superintendent.

10. No measure which requires expenditure of new money should be permitted on the ballot either by initiative or referendum, except it be accompanied by a companion measure stating how the money shall be raised. Passage of both measures should be necessary to passage of either.

11. Farmers should become familiar with Social Security Laws and how they will effect them upon death or retirement.

12. Before considering any tax recommendations, The Federal Government should establish a definite practical and positive plan for reduction of the national debt.

13. Farm machinery should continue to be classed as personal property for taxing purposes.

14. To insure a better understanding of school budgets and permit school boards to make plans well in advance of a new school year, we recommend the following changes in school budget procedures:

a. Proposed District budgets should be presented to the Rural School Board on or before January 15.

b. The Rural School Board should notify District Boards of

its action on proposed budgets by February 1.

c. Budget hearings should be completed by February 15.

d. The final date for school budget elections should be March 10.

e. The Rural School Board and the County High School Board should each be required to publish the approved consolidated budgets. These consolidated budgets should show each item of the budget for each school, plus expenditures for the two preceding years.

15. This committee should continue as a tax study committee on State and Federal legislation.

16. We commend Oregon Tax Research for compiling and making available to everyone booklets on local taxing districts and budget manuals to aid them in understanding and preparing budgets.

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