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HOW FARM SONS BECOME ESTABLISHED
AS FARMERS

Thesis for the Degree of M. S.
MICHIGAN STATE COLLEGE
Donald Homer Shepard
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This is to certify that the
thesis entitled

How Farm Sons Become Established as Farmers

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HOW FARM SONS BECOME ESTABLISHED AS FARMERS

By

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A THESIS

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HOW FARM SONS BECOME ESTABLISHED AS FARMERS

by Donald H. Shepard

Introduction

Each year many farm boys are confronted with the problem of selecting their life vocation. There are many opportunities for young men to become successful farmers. According to the 1945 Census of Agriculture, 38 per cent of Michigan farmers were over 55 years of age. The figures also show that 16 per cent of all Michigan farmers were over 65 years of age.

Rural communities and society in general should benefit through keeping the most capable young men and women in farming. Young men add new vigor and enthusiasm to any business. Thus inducements should be provided so that the young man will find farming profitable and interesting as a way of life.

Many farmers should be interested in taking younger men into partnership with them. When the younger man reaches the place where he can assume full responsibility for operating the farm, the owner is then able to take life a little easier. Such a plan may still make it possible for the parents to continue to live on the farm among familiar surroundings. Both young and older farmers should feel a certain degree of security from such a system.

The Problem

Farm fathers and young men are concerned with the problem of getting started in farming. Fathers frequently desire to remain living on the farm but would like a younger man to whom they could delegate a share of the farm operations. Frequently these older farmers lack information relative to an equitable father and son farming arrangement. The son has many and varied problems when considering a start in farming.

The selection of a vocation in life is one of the most important decisions of a young man. The rural birth rate is higher than is needed to maintain the present farm population. Many farm youth are confronted with the problem of finding work away from the farm. Michigan farms offer opportunities for a decreasing number of young men under present conditions.

The main problems confronting the young man who desires to farm can be listed as follows:

1. All young men are not mentally and physically equipped to farm.
2. Agriculture has become increasingly commercialized. It is apparent that the young man contemplating a successful start in farming needs considerable farm experience and a well rounded formal agricultural education. These

things take time and cost money. Thus they tend to delay the earning period in life.

3. The fact that farming has become more and more mechanized during the past twenty years, makes necessary a larger investment in farm operating capital. Modern trends in living and in farming have increased the cost of living and have also created demands which require more money. These factors make it more difficult for a young man to accumulate capital with which to make the initial start.
4. The competition to lease and purchase good land has increased.
5. Prices of most farm products vary in rather definite cycles. This is particularly evident during and after wars. These price variations greatly affect the financial returns from farming. Thus, the time at which a young man starts in farming is very important. Young men cannot put off their start indefinitely. The young man contemplating a start in farming is often too enthusiastic during times of high prices and too discouraged during times of low prices for farm products.

6. The parents attitude toward farming, non-congenial family situations, small farm units, poor soil and poorly managed farms are also factors which influence the decisions of young men and women in selecting some phase of farming as a vocation.

Need for Study

Young men interested in farming are often at a loss to know how best to become established in farming. It is quite apparent that there are many ways through which young men become established in farming. In some families the son becomes established in farming more effectively than in others. A study of these successful cases can serve to give more information about how young men make the initial start in farming.

Farm fathers often have little conception as to the most effective business relationships to use while the son or sons are growing into the farm business. Information as to how successful father-son business relationships provide for continuity on the home farm should be of value to farmers and of interest to people in general.

Educators in the field of Agricultural Education frequently have need for information as to how young men may successfully become established in farming. There is a need of more information for use by educators when advising young men desiring to farm.

Purpose

The purpose of this study is to discover and to study ways by which young men get started in farming. A careful study of the various systems of becoming established in farming may show that some methods are more efficient than others. The manner in which the start is made has an influence on the degree of success in farming. Consideration is to be given to the following items:

1. The various steps used by young men when becoming established in farming.
2. The importance of such things as farm experience, education and living conditions to success on the farm.
3. Methods of capital accumulation.
4. The influence of the size of business and type of farming on the establishing of young men as farmers.
5. Effect of agricultural economic cycles on the ability of young men to become successful farm owner-operators.
6. Capital requirements in farming at the present time as compared with the past.
7. Desirable changes in management of the farm business when the son is taken into the business.

3. Types of agreements that are now being used between fathers and sons in farm business arrangements.

Hypotheses

There are opportunities for interested young men to become established as farmers in Michigan. The young man interested in becoming a successful farmer needs to secure an agricultural education. It is important that the start in farming be made at an early age. If a father-son farm operating arrangement is anticipated an adequate size business is important. When the son marries, separate housing is necessary for a successful farm business relationship. Modern housing conveniences are important factors towards a successful father-son farm operating arrangement.

Historical Background

The scientific study of farming is comparatively new. The oldest college in this nation for the systematic study of agriculture is still less than one hundred years old. The problem of a successful establishment in farming has received increasing attention since 1900. Since this time many agencies have been set up to assist young people to become farmers. The 4-H Club being one of the agencies largely directed towards this end. As long ago as 1901 there were agricultural clubs in Illinois and Iowa, but the present 4-H Club program was not started until 1914. At this time the Smith-Lever Act

was passed by Congress, appropriating funds for the program. Since 1914 an organized 4-H Club program has gradually developed throughout the nation.

In 1917, Congress passed a bill providing funds to assist with the teaching of agriculture at the high school level. The major purpose of the act was to provide a vocational agricultural education for young people interested in farming. Another step towards assisting young men to become farmers was an organization started in 1928 at Kansas City, known as the Future Farmers of America. This organization has spread in the nation until today, there is a chapter in nearly every high school where vocational agriculture is taught. The organization is made up of high school boys enrolled in vocational agriculture. The main purpose of this movement is directed towards helping young men become established in farming.

During the last decade considerable attention has been given to a study of how young men become established in farming. Considerable work on this subject has been done by staff members at many colleges in the United States. Recent publications dealing with this subject are listed in the bibliography in the appendix. A problem of such size and importance should be given much more study.

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Procedure

The data for this study was secured from 90 young men farming in Southwestern Michigan. According to the 1947 Crop Report for Michigan, the farms in this area average approximately 95 acres in size. This is a general farming area with fruit as an important enterprise in Allegan, Berrien and Van Buren counties. In 1947, fruit contributed 44 per cent of the total agricultural income in these three counties.¹ Five of the 90 farms included in this study are strictly fruit farms. The remaining 85 were considered as general farms. Figure 1 shows the location of the farms included in this study.

The information for this study was obtained from young farmers in varying stages of becoming farmers. Their ages ranged from 23 to 34 years, with an average age of 25.3 years. They had an average of 5.8 years experience as a partner or farm operator after completing their formal schooling. The 90 farmers interviewed are a selected group.

The young farmers selected for this survey are all former Michigan State College short course or regular college students in the school of agriculture. These young men receive all of their income from farming. Thus, they are considered to be established farmers.

¹Crop Report for Michigan, p. 74-75. Michigan Department of Agriculture. Lansing, Michigan, 1947.

8a



Figure 1. The location of the Michigan farms on which the young men in this survey are farming.

They are not typical of all young Michigan farmers. Useful information however should come from successfully established young farmers regardless of the method of selection.

All of the young farmers in this study started in farming during the period 1934 - 1944, just prior to or during the war period. The problem of each man's status with selective service, of equipment shortages and of the high prices during these years are problems of the era.

Opportunities for Young Men On Michigan Farms

In 1943, L. H. Brown, conducted a study of known farm sales in selected localities in Michigan. He found that about 50 per cent of the farms for sale were offered due to the old age or ill health of the farmer or to settle an estate.² "Closing-out" sales usually present opportunities for young men to take over the operation of a farm. The number of older men operating Michigan farms is large. Thus there is a need for more young farmers in this state.

Changes in the population of Michigan are shown by Figure 2. Since 1910, the increase in population has been much greater in cities than in rural areas. According to the United States Bureau of Census for July 1, 1949, there are approximately 6,363,000 people living in Michigan. Of this

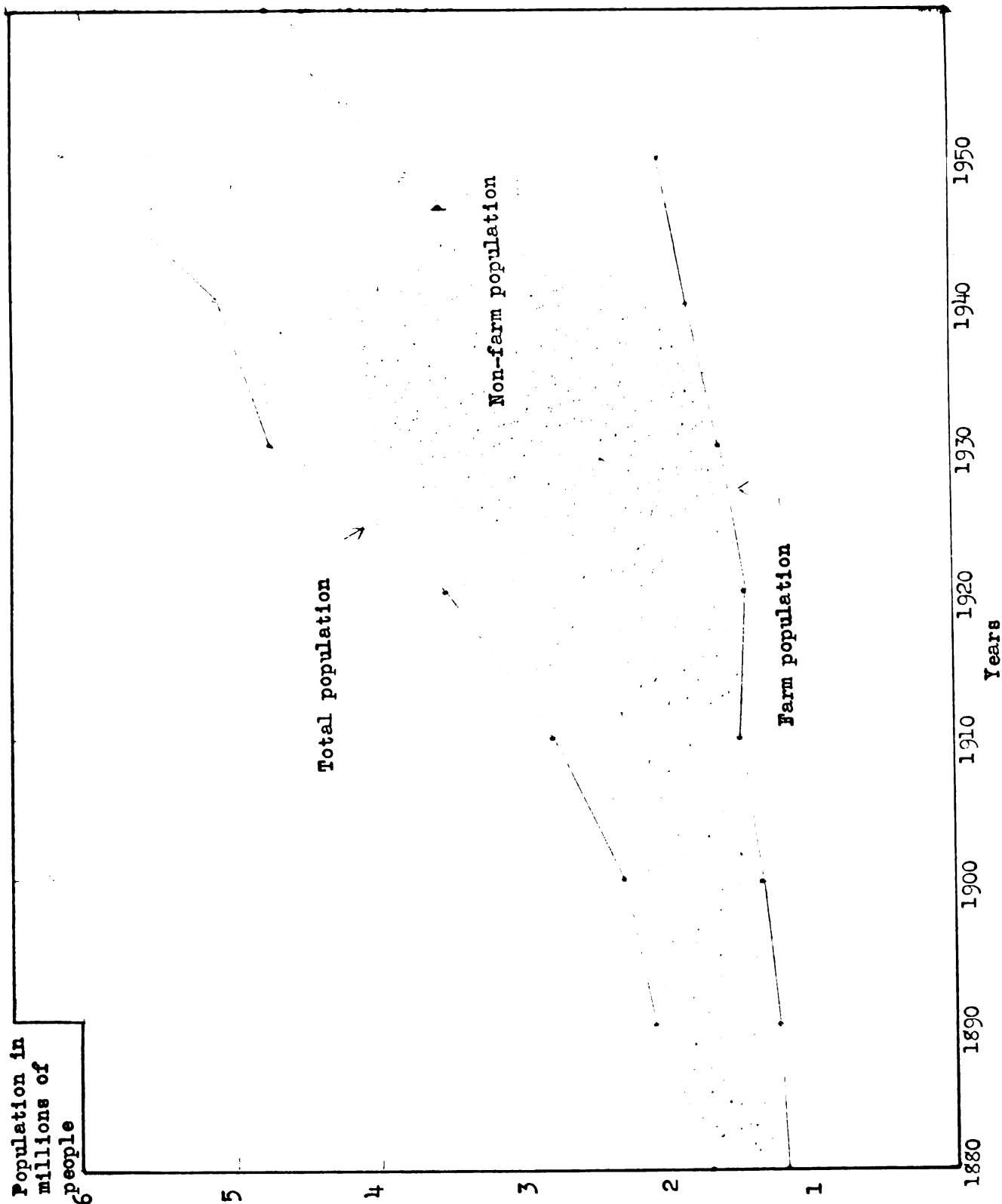
²Brown, L. H., Investments by Farmers - Wise and Otherwise, p. 13. Michigan Agricultural Experiment Station Spec. Bul. 322, 1943.

number, 2,160,000 live in rural areas. During the past ten years, Michigan's population has increased at the rate of approximately 100,000 annually. Approximately 35,000 of the average annual increase has been rural. The greater increase of population in the cities means better markets for farm products.

The average net earnings for Michigan farm account cooperators for the last 20 years has been \$1,247. Two of the young farmers in this study ranked among the highest income farm account cooperators for type-of-farming areas 2 and 5 respectively for 1946 and 1947. Many others in this study were doing equally as well. Thus there are opportunities for capable young farmers in Michigan.

The telephone, the radio, the automobile, the good roads, and the electrification of farming areas have served to make farming attractive as a way of life. Most farmers in Southern Michigan can reach a local trading area in about 15 to 20 minutes. Nearly all of the young farmers in this study live in as modern and as well furnished homes as can be found in the average Michigan town or village. Modernization of rural homes combined with rapid travel facilities has served to give farm living many of the attractive features of city life.

Figure 2. Population of Michigan 1880 to 1949. Data from United States Bureau of Census for years 1880 to 1940 and estimates for July 1, 1949.



PROBLEMS OF YOUNG FARMERS

One of the young men in this study 31 years of age and well established in farming, is sorry that he is a farmer. Cases such as this are rather pathetic and usually not very successful. The successful individual in any business is that person who likes his work. When a young man has determined that he is adapted to farming and is convinced that he has the necessary education and experience to be successful, the first major problem is solved. To be a real success, one should really be enthusiastic about his work. The selection of a suitable vocation in life is very important.

A study of how several young men became farmers show that most of them go through two stages. These stages can be listed as follows: (1) deciding to be a farmer, and (2) getting started in farming.

Deciding to be a Farmer

When deciding to farm, young men should first consider carefully all phases of farming. The young man who has been reared on a good farm and who likes the work is fortunate. The prospective farmer who is not so fortunate may still make a success. However, he has a little more difficult problem and needs to be aware of his limitations. All prospective young farmers should make preparations for their chosen vocation. At this stage, all young men

should consider carefully the following factors, adaptability, education and farm experience.

The prospective farmer needs to have at least average physical strength. During the busy season, the farmer has a long work day. It is true that there are many labor saving devices available to farmers today; however, these devices require extra capital. There are many farm jobs that only the physically strong person can do satisfactorily.

There are many tasks in farming that require the farmer to work alone. Not all men are mentally equipped for this type of work. Then, too, most farmers are their own managers. They not only plan and direct the work, but also do the larger share of the actual labor. To be a successful farmer, one must do that work which needs to be done regardless of his own personal likes. This requires self discipline and will power which all men do not possess. To this qualification must also be added education and farm experience.

In a study conducted in Illinois,³ it was found that present day farm sons are attending school on the average of 3.3 years longer than did their fathers. This means that the son's full earning period starts three years later than that of the father. There is reason to believe that this same condition exists in Michigan. Of the 90 young men

³Buddeimeier, William D. Father-Son Business Relationships As a Means of Establishing Young Men in Farming. University of Illinois Library, Unpublished Thesis, 1941.

surveyed, 81 were high school graduates. The ninety young farmers averaged 1.95 completed terms of training beyond high school, (see table 1).

Table 1. The Agricultural Education of the 90 Young Farmers

Educational experience	Number of boys having experience	Average years of experience	Average number of terms or semesters completed
4-H Club	73	6.6	---
High School			
Graduates	81	4	8
Completed 11 grade	3	3	5.8
Completed 9 grade	2	1	2
No High School	4		
Vocational agriculture in high school	58	3.2	6
College training*	90	---	1.95

*Includes both short course and regular course at Michigan State College.

Of the nine who were not high school graduates, three left high school during the eleventh grade, two during the ninth grade and four did not start a high school course. All of these boys completed one eight-week short course and one of them completed four terms. These nine boys had an average of 6.1 years of 4-H club experience. All have a lifetime of farm experience.

It should be remembered that education can contribute much during the early years. Interest can be developed and stimulated in farming during this period.

A recent Michigan study by Deyoe* shows that of 78 town boys who studied agriculture in high school only 2.5 per cent became farmers. Of the 90 young farmers included in this study all but 9 had spent their life on the farm. The average age of the nine at the time of moving to the country was 14.2 years. Thus one can conclude that farm experience is a real factor in determining that choice of vocation.

Getting Started in Farming

Statistics show that the average age at which farmers start to attain farm ownership is six years older today than was the case thirty-five years ago. However, the net worth of the owner at the time of purchase of the farm is 3.5 times the net worth of the purchaser of thirty-five years ago.⁴

It takes more capital today than formerly to make the initial start in farming. The larger size of the business and the higher prices require increased investments. Changes in the value of Michigan farm property on central Michigan farm account cooperator farms since 1929 are shown in Table 2.

*Appendix reference 12.

⁴Buddeimeier, William D. Father-Son Business Relationships As a Means of Establishing Young Men in Farming. University of Illinois Library, Unpublished Master Thesis, 1941.

Table 2. The Farm Investments of Michigan State College Farm
Account Cooperators in Type-of-Farming Area 5, 1929-48.

Year	Number farms	Average tillable acreage	Machinery	Productive livestock	Feed and supplies	Land and buildings	Total
1929	72	122	\$1525	\$2776	\$1461	\$14399	\$20161
1930	143	121	1486	2112	1318	13297	18616
1931	38	80	1257	1664	921	9356	13532
1932	135	124	1326	1540	947	11054	15234
1933	140	118	11788	1196	613	10143	13488
1934	158	126	1104	1235	928	10599	14262
1935	176	131	1136	1223	1290	11128	15241
1936	178	132	1242	1748	1182	11122	15811
1937	173	127	1350	1794	1379	10843	15882
1938	191	130	1555	1790	1098	10639	15594
1939	216	124	1554	1736	1160	10270	15193
1940	210	133	1735	1985	1430	10846	16441
1941	157	139	2114	2235	1526	11417	17717
1942	198	141	2336	2542	1691	11150	18043
1943	186	142	2477	2974	2232	11309	19092
1944	167	153	2296	2899	2200	11872	20110
1945	142	160	2912	3063	2505	12406	21003
1946	136	160	3104	3335	2951	12747	22192
1947	149	162	3456	3913	2866	13590	23798
1948	157	165	4432	4430	2757	12554	27819

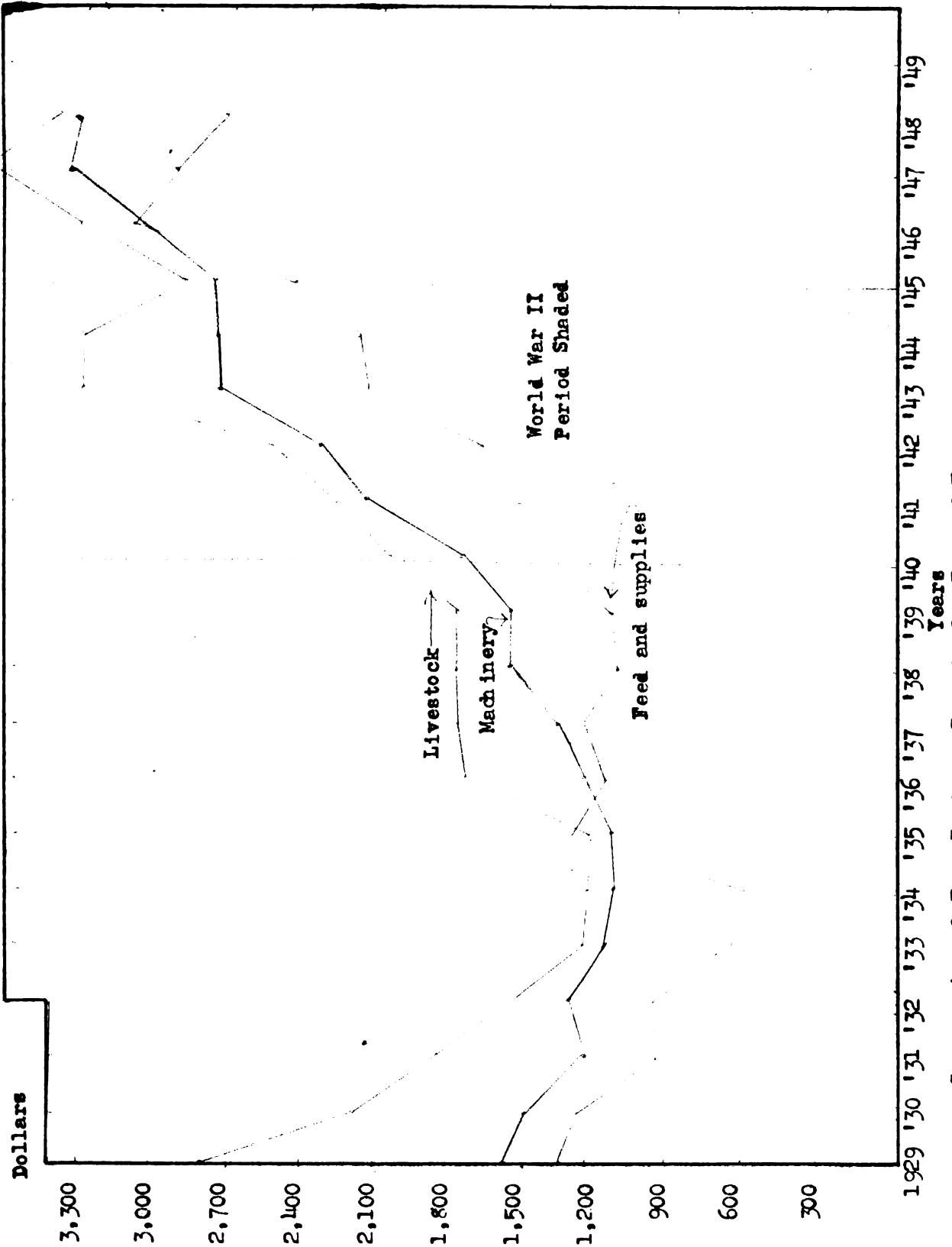
Source: Annual Farm Business Reports for Area 5 of the Michigan
State College Agricultural Economics Department for years indicated.

Table 2 also shows present day capital needs required for successful farming. However, it must be remembered that these figures are from leading farmers, many of whom have been farming from 15 - 25 years. Thus they have accumulated more property than most young farmers would have at the start.

The young man starting to farm on the average Michigan farm must acquire machinery and livestock. Figure 3 shows the trend of machinery, feed and supplies, and livestock investments for Area 5 farmers for the past 20 years. It should be noted that the greatest increases in investments have occurred during the past ten years. This means, as previously mentioned, that more capital than formerly is required to make the initial start.

Data from Michigan farm account cooperators in Area 5, Table 2, gives a comparison of investment increases in machinery, land and buildings. The last 10 year, 1939-48, average increase in land and buildings is \$2,284; and \$5,572 in machinery and livestock for the same period. It should be noted that for these farm account figures, the value of land and buildings held quite constant. This is largely the result, however, of the accounting procedure followed in which land prices in the farm account books remained essentially the same from year to year. During the past ten years, there was an average increase of 32 acres per farm while the average increase in value of land and buildings was \$2,284.

Figure 3. Trend of Average Investments in Farm Machinery, Livestock, and Feed and Supplies on Farm-Accounting Farms in Michigan's Type-of-Farming Area 5, 1929 - 1948.



Source: Annual Farm Business Reports for Type-of-Farming Area 5 of the Michigan State College Farm Economics Department for Years Indicated.

The \$5,572 increase in machinery and livestock could be accounted for by increases in the prices as well as in the amounts of machinery and equipment and in the numbers of livestock on these particular farms. Investments in machinery is a requirement for all Michigan farmers and in livestock for most farms. The increased costs of livestock and machinery are further indications that more capital is needed by the young farmer at the partnership or lease stage.

Capital Accumulation

One of the most difficult problems for prospective farmers is to accumulate enough capital to make the start in farming. If this start is to be successful the young man should have at least one-half of the capital needed for the purchase of machinery, livestock, and for current operating expenses. This was true of nearly all the young men surveyed. These young men had been able to save the capital from returns of 4-H or F.F.A. projects or farm wages received from working on the home or neighboring farms.

The survey of these young farmers shows the ways by which they acquired the initial capital to start their own farming operations. Table 3 furnishes these interesting data.

It is important to note that 59 of the young farmers surveyed reported that 4-H or F.F.A. projects had helped them to accumulate farm property. Fifty-six of these were able to establish farm business arrangements at home.

Table 3. How 90 Young Michigan Farmers Received Their First Income and While Still Attending School

Sources of Income	Number of cases	Percentage of sources
4-H or F.F.A. projects	59	65
Working at home		
Definite wage	10	11
Indefinite wage	14	16
Working away from home for		
Definite wage	7	8

It was apparent that the father who starts his son early in 4-H or similar activity is most likely to develop a farm partner. The son who accumulates livestock, equipment and capital during the schooling period, has a start in farming when he has completed high school. Most of the young farmers in this study began to farm between 1936 - 1942. It was noted that the young man who accumulated about \$1,000 and then wisely invested this amount made the most rapid progress. Of the 90 young men in this study, 41 had accumulated approximately \$1,000 by the time they were 20 years of age.

Boys who have a number of 4-H, F.F.A. or father sponsored farm projects during the schooling period may accumulate considerable property. Thus, they may be able to start farming as a partner or tenant at an early age.

It was necessary for 33 of the young farmers to secure loans for purchasing one or more of the following

items: machinery and equipment, livestock, feed or for current operating expenses when making the initial start. At the time of the survey, 21 of the 33 young farmers had paid their loans in full. Parents were the chief source of the loans. Local banks supplied loans in seven cases while one each was furnished by the Production Credit Association and the Farm Home Administration.

Farmers have many modern home conveniences today. More farm homes have electricity, running water, refrigeration, radios, and telephones than previously. These conveniences cost money and add to the over all operating expenses. This makes the accumulation of capital more difficult at the lease or partnership stage.

This same principle applies to the farm. More capital is needed to purchase modern farm machinery. Relatively high incomes are necessary to keep modern machines operating. Farm life is more complete, enjoyable and attractive to young people because of these conveniences but they do cost money.

Investments in the Farm and Farm Personal Property

Decisions concerning management are part of the young farmer's job. Much depends on the amount of good judgment and business sense of the operator. He must decide which investment will return him the largest profit. Perhaps the purchase of a few more cows will give greater returns than a new combine or an adjoining tract of land. Each young farmer

has a situation peculiar to himself. He must take the factors of production and markets into consideration and make the decisions.

Several of the young men in this study have accumulated considerable property for the length of time they have been farming. One young man in particular always seems to make wise investments. He started to farm in 1934. A recent inventory of this farm business showed a valuation of approximately \$37,000 all free from debt. Several other similar cases can be cited. It has been noted several times that the successful young farmer is a very careful student of his business. These young farmers have made decisions concerning investments that have been successful in most cases. When faced with difficult decisions, several have sought the advice of older and more experienced men.

Housing

When young farmers marry, satisfactory living arrangements must be provided. It is seldom, if ever, satisfactory for two families to live in the same house. Differences in ages tend to cause unsatisfactory living situations. Small children interfere with the living pattern of older folks. Various ways have been used by the young farmers in this study to meet the housing problem. These methods have been tabulated in Table 4.

Table 4. Methods Used by Married Young Farmers to Meet the Housing Problem

Method	Number
Purchased an adjoining farm	15
Used separate house already on farm	10
Parents moved off farm	7
Rented farm away from home	11
Built a new house	4
Apartment in parents' home	5
Lived with parents	3

The size of the farm business is a factor that influences housing. Of the four new homes, three were built on farms where the business was of sufficient size to require two men full time, while another was built on an 80 acre farm. The father on this farm was employed away from home full time, but preferred living on his farm. Twenty-six young farmers rented or purchased adjoining farms. This additional acreage served to enlarge the farm business and furnished housing for the son and his family.

Since good farm homes are a part of a prosperous farm business, attention should be given to the extent which the homes have become modernized.

As shown in Table 5, every home had been modernized

Table 5. The Extent to Which the Homes of the 90 Young Michigan Farmers Have Been Modernized

	Completely modern	Partly modern	Electricity only
Number of married farmers	43	11	5
Number of single farmers	18	7	6

to some extent. However, one family had just had the electric current turned on the night before the interview. Of the 59 young married farmers 43, or 73 per cent, lived in homes that were fully modern.* Thirteen of the 59 homes had deep freeze units and 51 per cent had telephones.

All eight of those families living in the parents' home, including those in apartments, planned separate housing in the near future. Thus, the arrangement whereby the parents and son and his family lived in one house was temporary.

Determining Type of Farming

It is important that the young farmer consider carefully those types of farming that are profitable in his area. The prospective farmer must remember that enterprises adapted to the area should be selected rather than those that have a personal appeal. Selection of unadapted enterprises will only lead to failure.

*As used here, modern refers to a home having electricity, running water, a complete bathroom and a furnace as a heating system.

Prices were favorable for the production of all kinds of agricultural products during the time that the young men in this study were making their start in farming. The demand for food during and immediately following the war period has been large. Thus, these young farmers have been favored with a number of good years from a financial standpoint. Since this was true, the type of farming followed was not of major concern. However, nearly all of the young farmers have followed the type of farming common in their respective areas.

As previously mentioned, five of the 90 young farmers operated strictly fruit farms. The rest were engaged in general farming with dairying as the main source of income. These two types of farming are common in the area in which this survey was conducted. Dairying and fruit raising have been profitable during the period that these young men have become farmers. A regular monthly income such as is common on a dairy farm is helpful to the young farmer trying to get started. Satisfactory returns for work are of major importance in keeping alive an active and growing interest in farming. The kind of farming that is commonly followed in an area is usually the type that is most profitable for a young farmer. Experienced farmers already have discovered the type of farming most profitable in their respective communities. Then, too, since nearly all of these young men have farmed most of the time with their fathers, the latter

have undoubtedly exerted considerable influence on the sons in determining the most suitable types of farming. The willingness of the son to fit into this situation has been of major importance to his success.

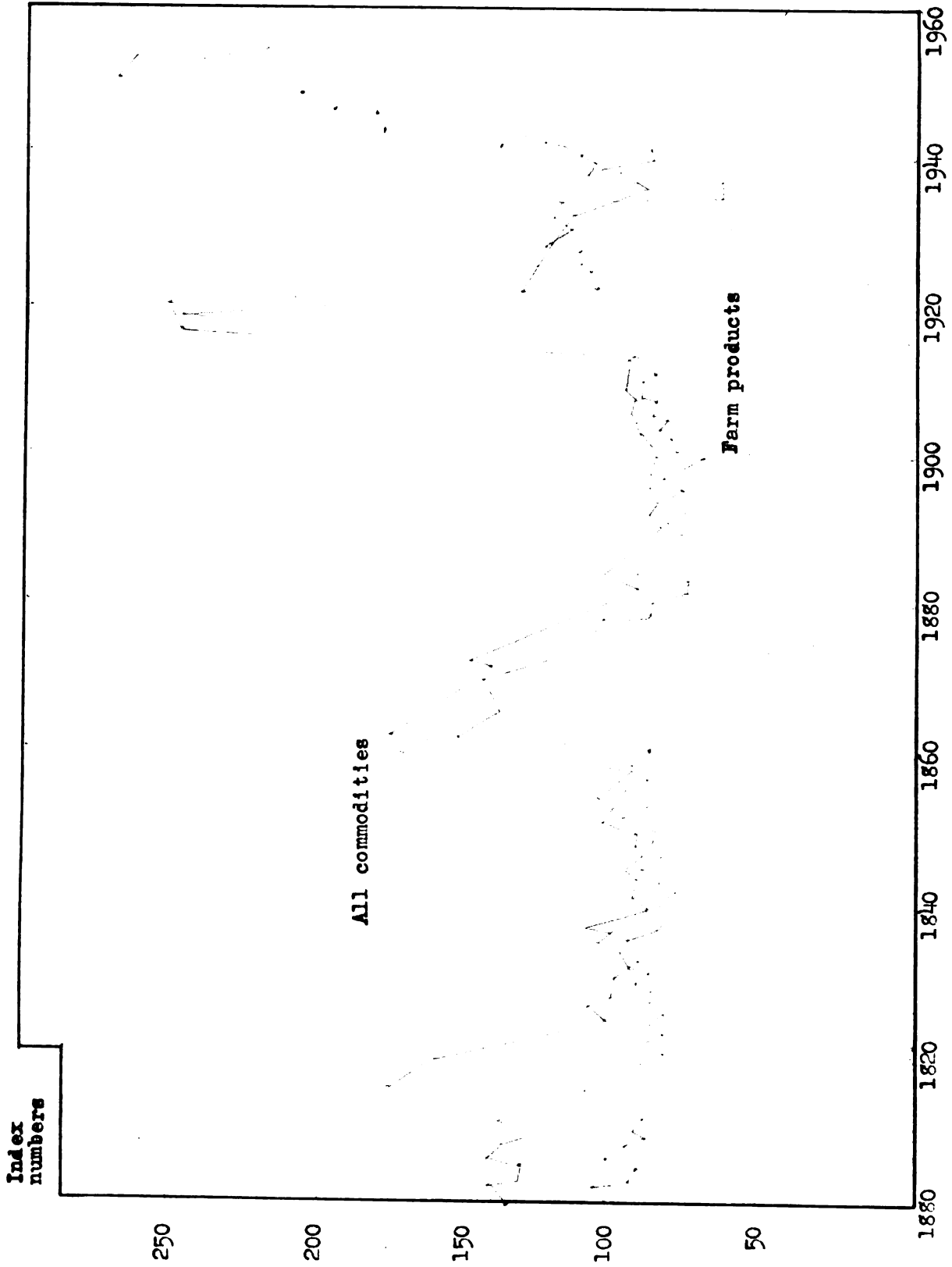
Price Fluctuations

A review of Figure 4 shows periods of rising and falling prices. Figure 4 shows that during the past 150 years there have been four periods of rising prices. These were war periods which included the War of 1812, the Civil War, World War I and World War II. Young men starting to farm just before or during the early part of one of these periods have been fortunate.

Nearly all of the young men in this study have started and developed their farm business during World War II. Several had just purchased livestock and equipment at the time the war began and others made their start during the early years of the war and during a period of generally rising prices. Since agricultural prices are the first to rise, these young farmers were in a favorable position. This fact, rather than their outstanding abilities as farmers accounts for a large part of their rapid success.

The young man starting to farm at the beginning of a period of rising prices is fortunate. He may find it possible to establish himself in farming very quickly. Thus, some

Figure 4. Wholesale Prices of Farm Products and all Commodities
in the United States, 1800 - 1949 (1910-14 = 100)



Source: 1. Gold and Prices by Warren and Pearson, pages 30-32 for period from 1800-1934. Subsequent years from United States Department of Agriculture Outlook Charts.

young farmers have been able to accumulate in five years property as much or more than their fathers did in their entire lifetime. Flushed with success, young men may become over optimistic. There is danger of assuming too large an indebtedness during such periods, debts which will likely be paid during periods of lower prices for farm products.

However, all young men are not born so that they may start to farm during periods of rising prices. Some young men will be ready to start farming during periods of declining prices. During these periods, young farmers are inclined to lack confidence in farming but the start cannot be indefinitely postponed.

Since price relationships are continually changing, the young farmer should take a long-time view of his business. The lack of experience makes it difficult for young farmers to take this view. Many young farmers need to consult and seek the advice of older and more experienced men.

Family Situations

Home life and family attitudes do much to determine the vocations and successes of young people. The likes and dislikes of the parents and the relationship between the various members of the family are factors that mold careers. All but three of the young farmers in this study said that they had been encouraged to become farmers by

their parents. All but five of the fathers could be considered as successful farmers and this undoubtedly contributed to the desire of the young men to become farmers. Successful fathers plus congenial family relationships are factors in building interest and opportunities in farming.

The farm business and the farm family are more closely related than the city home and the city business. The farm family is a very important part of the entire farm business. The members of the farm family are seldom separated for longer than a few hours. Most of the meals are eaten together, while the city worker spends most of his working hours at the factory or office and usually eats at least one meal daily apart from his family. Often the farm wife assumes responsibility for some of the enterprises such as poultry or gardening. Fourteen of the young farmers' wives were in charge of the poultry flock and nineteen were in charge of the home garden. Several others reported that the wife assisted with the chores during rush seasons, made frequent business trips to town and helped keep the farm account book. Five of the young married farmers said that much of their success was due to their wives' help and contribution on the farm.

When the son marries there are new situations to meet. Besides those of financing and housing, there is the farmer's wife to be considered. Table 6 shows that ten of

Table 6. The Marital Status of Ninety Young Michigan Farmers
Together With the Average Age of Each Group and the
Former Homes of the Wives

Item	Married	Average age	Single	Average age	Former Home of Wife	
					Country	City
Number	59	26.4	31	24.3	49	10

these young wives were city girls. Often the young wife is unfamiliar with farm life. With one exception these ten young city wives liked the farm. An important factor in a successful farm business is the likes and dislikes of the wife. She must like the farm if the relationship is to be successful. In no other business is the wife as important to the success or failure of a business as in farming.

The wife of one of the most successful young farmers in this study has recently secured a divorce. The property settlement was a serious setback to this young farmer. Three others are known to have been having family troubles. However, at present apparently solutions have been worked out, since these families are still living together on the farm.

CAPITAL NEEDED TO FARM

It takes more capital today than formerly to make the initial start in farming. The three main reasons for this fact can be listed as follows: (1) Higher prices require increased investments, (2) Farm units are larger in size, and (3) Farming has become increasingly mechanized.

Changes in the value of farm personal property on central Michigan farm account cooperator farms since 1929 are shown in Table 2 on page 16. The young man starting to farm on the average Michigan farm must acquire machinery and also in most instances livestock and feed. A review of Table 2 gives the farm investments of these items over a period of 20 years by Area 5 Michigan Farm Account Cooperators. The period of 1939-48 shows the following increases: machinery \$3,878, feed and supplies \$1,597, and livestock \$2,694. It should be noted that these farm machinery and equipment investment figures are based on the depreciated values of the original costs of the items. Some of the tools included in the inventory while still serviceable, actually have little current inventory value. It will now cost the young farmer much more to purchase new or used equipment than these figures indicate.

Figure 3, on page 18 shows the trend of machinery, feed supplies and livestock investments for Area 5 farmers for the past 20 years. It should be noted that the large increases have occurred during the ten year period 1939-48. This means that more capital than formerly is required to make the initial start.

A portion of the large increase in livestock and machinery can be accounted for by the larger than average amount of livestock and equipment on these particular farms. The increased costs of livestock and machinery means that more capital is needed by the young farmer at the partnership or lease stage.

Few young men are able to purchase a farm when they start farming. However, farm ownership is the goal of most young farmers. It is usually considered that when a farm is purchased, the buyer should make a down payment sufficient to pay at least one-quarter of the purchase price. There are successful farm businesses however, that have been started with less. One young farmer, among those in this study, purchased a farm in 1943 entirely on borrowed capital and then paid for it in three years. Cases like this are the exception. In this study, 27 of the young farmers had borrowed money to purchase a farm. Five of these had paid their loans in full at the time of the interview, and 17 others had been able to make substantial reductions on the original

loan. Of the 90 young farmers, 28 said they had not needed financial aid when starting to farm.

Work in itself does not necessarily insure a good income. However, a farm should have a minimum productive man work load of 375-450 units to provide a satisfactory income.* A large unit can be much easier organized to provide the required size of business. Unless a farm has at least 375 productive man work units there is not much chance for a farm to have a great deal of debt paying ability.⁵ Table 2 gives further proof that the more successful farmers are operating larger units than formerly. Larger units require more capital to purchase and to operate.

Michigan farms have become quite largely mechanized. Larger units and machines have made it possible for one man to farm more acres and care for more livestock. However, tractors and other machines require the beginning farmer of today to invest more capital in machinery and equipment than the farmers of a generation or two ago. This same principle applies to operating capital. Since such items as oil, gasoline, fuel oil, electricity, commercial fertilizer, improved seed spray materials, and other materials are items which must be purchased off the farm.

*A productive man work unit is the amount of productive work the average man, with average labor efficiency will accomplish in a ten-hour day.

⁵Hill, E. B., and Brown, L. H., Principles of Farm Management, p. 31. Michigan State College Press, East Lansing, 1947.

NINETY MICHIGAN YOUNG MEN GET STARTED FARMING

The most important part of getting established in farming is the start. It is advisable that the boy who anticipates becoming a farmer plan the beginning early in life. The plan should be flexible, that it may be easily revised to fit changing conditions.

Formerly, the "agricultural ladder" was the method commonly used by young farmers in getting started in farming. This system involved some or all of the following stages:

- Reared on the farm
- Worked at home without wages
- Worked at home for wages
- Worked for wages away from home
- Tenant farmer
- Owner of farm

A few of the young farmers surveyed in this study reached their present status in farming by this method. Some have grown into farming through modified agricultural ladders as listed in Table 7.

How the first few dollars are earned and spent is important. If earning these dollars is an enjoyable experience and if they are invested back in the farm, interest in farming is stimulated. Table 7 gives the manner in which these young men earned their first money.

It was of interest to note each young man's status at the time the start in farming was made. The methods of receiving returns varied. These divided into seven rather

Table 7. Farming Status and Division of Returns of the 90
Young Michigan Farmers at the Beginning of the
Operational Period

Type of agreement	Percentage of farms under each system
Share basis; Son's share 1/2 of net	17
" " " " 1/3 of net	13
" " " " 1/4 of net	5
" " " " 1/5 of net	1
" " " " 1/3 of gross	5
" " " " 1/4 of gross	3
" " " " 1/5 of gross	2
" " " " 1/6 of gross	1
" " " " 1/10 of gross	1
Definite wages at home	16
Indefinite wages at home	10
Wages away from home	2
European system*	3
Lived at home and rented land away	6
Son-owned enterprise	15

*See page 44 for a description of the European system.

distinct groups, which can be briefly listed as follows:

- Father-son farm business arrangements
- Wages at home
- Wages away from home
- Indefinite wage at home
- Son-owned enterprises on home farm
- European system
- Lived at home and rented land away from home

Table 7 gives the number of young men using each system, at the time the formal schooling period was completed.

Father-Son Farm Business Arrangements

In this study 51 per cent of the young men have worked into farming through a business arrangement with the father. Various types of business arrangements have been used to suit particular cases. It should be noted that the son's share varied from 1/10 to 1/2 of the gross to from 1/5 to 1/2 of the "net". Causes for the variation in income are many, with the chief ones being as follows: (1) Size of farm business, (2) Type of farm business, (3) The amount of savings which the son had to invest, (4) Number and ages of other sons in the family, (5) Age and health of the father, and (6) The degree of ownership of farm by the father.

Several fathers said that they had purposely made their business arrangements favorable to the son. These fathers were doing much to aid the son get started in farming. Many of the fathers and mothers were as proud of their son's start in farming as of their own accomplishments.

The term "net" as used by most of the farmers in this report refers to that portion of the gross farm income remaining after the current operating costs such as oil, gas, machinery and equipment, seed, fertilizer, lime, purchased feeds, threshing, combining, silo filling and veterinary bills have been met. Of these expenses most of the sons paid the same proportional share of the expenses as he received in net income, $1/5$, $1/4$, $1/3$ or $1/2$. Of the young farmers in this study receiving a per cent of the net income, it was customary for the father to pay all of the taxes, insurance, telephone bills, electric bills, fencing and building repairs.

Of those receiving a $1/2$ share of the "net", all but two, also, owned a $1/2$ share of the livestock, machinery, equipment and feed on hand. Of those on a $1/4$ share of the "net" basis, two owned a $1/4$ share of the livestock, machinery, equipment and feed on hand. Three owned no farm property. The young farmer receiving a $1/5$ "net" share owned a $1/5$ share of the livestock and machinery and paid a $1/5$ share of the farm expense. This was a large business and the division of income was satisfactory to the son. This was also one of the best managed among the 90 farms in this study.

Twelve young farmers, at the beginning, received as income a share of the total gross farm income. The amount varied from $1/10$ to $1/3$ of the gross depending chiefly upon the size of the business. The son paid none of the farm expense.

It was mentioned by three fathers and sons that they used this system on a trial basis to discover if a partnership would work in their case. None of these plans, however, were continued in after years of the father-son farm operating arrangement. The main reason given by the fathers for using this system was that it was an easier way to divide the returns. It is of interest to note here that in some instances the smallest annual income for the son were the partnerships based on the sons receiving a relatively high percentage of the "net" or of the gross income. These instances were with small or poorly managed farm businesses where the total income was inadequate for two farmers. The son receiving the largest annual income was that of the young farmer receiving a 1/10 share of the gross sales. This farm was a large and intensively operated fruit farm.

In 21 of the 46 father-son farm operating arrangements there were written agreements. These 21 had sisters or brothers. Of the 25 arrangements without written agreements only 6 had brothers or sisters. Many of the "only" sons thought a written agreement was not needed. Four sons without written agreements but who had brothers or sisters thought that they should have their plan in writing. All six of the sons who had brothers and sisters said that their fathers had never shown any interest in entering into a written agreement.

Several of the young farmers mentioned the importance to them of having a steady income each month. The monthly milk or egg check is popular. Eighty-four of the farms received a large share of their income from dairying.

Many of the agreements have been developed by fathers and sons because of necessity and with little basic information. Thus, there is a great variety of agreements in effect. Data on a number of each kind of agreements would be required to give material for an analysis of each.

There are two rather fundamental requirements for continued success of any farm business agreement:

1. Both father and son or landlord and tenant must arrive at an understanding for a fair way of determining returns on the basis of the contributions of each. Though conditions are different on every farm, there must be a definite understanding on divisions of returns in the beginning.

2. All parties concerned must take a long-time view and plan in advance for problems which may develop.

The boy who grows into a farm business with his father is fortunate. A close and understanding relationship between father and son is a very important quality to the success of any farm business arrangement. The same relationship is necessary to the success of a successful tenant-landlord agreement. When this factor is present, father and son or landlord-tenant can usually work out the necessary business relationships.

Of the young men in this study, 46 had definite farm business agreements with the father at the time the son reached the earning stage. Nearly all the 90 young men stated they had some management responsibilities and thus felt that they were really in business with their father.

Thirty-four of those in a farm business arrangement reported that they had purchased a share of the stock, feed, and equipment when going into business with the father. Twenty-six sons received gifts of certain pieces of equipment at the time the arrangement was started. The usual method was for the son to give his note for a share of the inventory value. Father and son then contributed to the current expenses on the same basis as they shared in the farm income. In most cases fathers and sons took a similar amount of cash each month. This provided them with their personal needs. The cash amount taken by father and son was credited as a farm expense in the farm account record. At the end of the year, the farm account book was balanced. At this time, the son had the privilege of withdrawing any amount due him or of applying it on the note given the father at the start of the farm business arrangement. It can readily be seen that if this type of agreement is to succeed, a very careful and complete farm account record must be kept. It is also worthy of mention that some of the farm business arrangements had a bank account for the farm. Often the

father and the son each had his separate personal bank checking account.

An unusual feature of the father-son farm business arrangements was the one noted concerning machinery. Twelve of the young men reported that the father gave them a half share of the tools and equipment. However, in these cases, the son must purchase all new tools including replacement tools as needed over the period of the farm business agreement.

Only four of these young farmers had ever had full time employment off the farm. Several reported that they frequently worked away from home, but they did so only after they were satisfied there was no other way for them at that time to add to the income by further work on the farm. It is of value to note that this same factor was discovered in another similar study.⁶

Wise young people set some goals early in life and strive each day, month, and year to reach certain objectives in the direction of these goals. It is never too early to plan for a useful and enjoyable occupation. Father-son farm partnerships help achieve these objectives.

⁶Eckert, P. S. Father and Son Farming Arrangements, p. 5. Ohio Agricultural Experiment Station Bul. 219. 1949.

The Wage Basis

Thirty-one of the ninety young farmers started farming on a wage basis either at home or on a neighboring farm. Most of them started on the home farm.

When they started on the home farm some received definite wages while others received what money they needed with no definite wage agreement. It is doubtful if the wage method of compensation is a satisfactory form of father-son farm business relationships. However, for some boys this was their only opportunity to get started in farming.

At the time of the interview 7 of the 31 young farmers were still working on a wage basis. These 7 had worked for their fathers for a wage since completing their formal schooling. These 7 had been working for wages for an average of seven years each. Their average age was 27 years. This placed them in the older 1/3 of the age group. All 7 young men said they thought that they were receiving as much net income by this method as they could by any other arrangement.

There was little or no dissatisfaction noted among these young farmers with the wage arrangement. However, it was apparent that there was little if any long-time planning being done by the sons towards getting started in farming. One son expressed the opinion that he liked working for a wage and he saw no reason for developing a father-son farm business arrangement.

One father expressed the opinion that a business arrangement with the son might tend to develop friction between he and his son over controversial problems in management. Another father said that he grew up as a farmer and he saw no reason why his son couldn't save his wages and do the same thing. In all 7 cases it seemed more like a case of neither the father or son taking the time to find out more about how successful father-son farm business arrangements are established and function. Thus, this group of fathers and sons seemed to be mutually agreed that working for a wage was a satisfactory arrangement of getting started in farming.

Son Owned Enterprise

Fifty-nine young men had received income from projects while in school. After completing school and at the time of this study thirteen of these young farmers still received the major part of their income from their own enterprises on the home farm. These were a continuation of a 4-H, F.F.A. or a father-sponsored project. All of these young farmers said that they were in a transition period from such enterprises to a full farm business arrangement with their fathers.

Separate enterprises tend to develop specialization of effort. Most Michigan farms are too small to divide into separate enterprises. A separate enterprise, crop or animal,

may result in a low return for the son due to loss caused by disease, weather, or low prices. It seems logical to believe that, if the farm business arrangement covers the entire farm, it is more likely to succeed.

The European System

The European system, as referred to here, is that method by which one or more sons work at home without wages. It is understood that the son at home who helps operate the home farm and care for his parents will acquire ownership of the farm when the parents die. The sons and daughters not remaining on the farm are to receive education and training for a trade or a profession. The cost of this education to be taken from the regular farm income. In case of misfortune, it is understood that these sons or daughters may return to the home farm. The term European is used here since this is the system often used in some European countries.

Three young men among those surveyed had developed their farm business through this system. Though this system proved satisfactory for these young farmers it is not a popular method in Southern Michigan of getting established in farming. It is more commonly found among foreign born families who have migrated to this country. However, two of these

cases were in families where the parents were all native born citizens. The parents of the other son have been United States citizens for 22 years.

All three of these young men had received only what spending money they needed up to the time they were married. Two of these were given a complete start in farming by the father when they married. The other young man received half of the farm business on his 27th birthday. It was interesting to observe how closely all three of these families worked together.

Living at Home but Renting Land Away

Five young men started farming by working on the home farm. Instead of wages, the fathers loaned the sons the use of their tools and equipment. With this equipment, they worked rented land. At the time the survey was made, one young farmer was in his eighth year of farming by this method. He valued the property which he had accumulated at approximately \$12,000. Three young men are now married and operating rented farms independent of the home place. One young farmer had his own farm and equipment.

The average productive man work units on each of the five farms was 310. Four of these farms were 80 acres, the other was 120 acres in size. On the 120 acre farm, there was an elder brother at home. Since this farm was

being intensively operated, it was decided to rent extra land. These five young men had little opportunity to farm at home, due to the small size of the business.

There are opportunities in farming for almost any interested farm boy. Where young men have initiative and a desire to farm, there are numerous methods of getting started. The important thing is a carefully developed and workable long-time plan. The prospective farmer then needs to follow his plan and have confidence in his convictions.

HOW SOME YOUNG FARMERS SOLVE THEIR PROBLEMS

The same problems were not of equal importance to all the young farmers in this study. However, factors which were major problems to all of the young farmers during this period of becoming established in farming are as follows:

(1) Acquiring capital, (2) Decisions regarding investments, and (3) Planning business relationships with father or landlord.

Acquisition of Capital

The accumulation of capital by the young farmers in this study was not mentioned by them as a major problem. All had been able to secure sufficient capital to establish a partnership with the father, or to rent a farm away from home. The three methods by which these young farmers obtained capital are as follows: (1) Savings, (2) loans and (3) inheritance.

Fifty-five of the 90 reported that they had accumulated sufficient savings with which to make a start in farming. Two had secured funds from an inheritance which were used to finance the start. As previously mentioned, 33 had secured loans at the start to purchase equipment, livestock, feed and for current operating expenses. At the time of the survey, 13 had real estate debts averaging

\$11,700. Nine of these were for amounts of \$9,000 or more and 2 were for \$18,000 each. These two were on large fruit farms. Only one of the 13, a dairy farmer with a \$14,000 debt on a very good 200 acre farm, seemed at all concerned about the size of the debt. All of the young farmers with real estate debts were under 30 years of age. Several said that considering their age, health and size of business that the debt did not appear particularly large to them. They had confidence in their ability to make wise investments with which to pay off these debts.

Decisions Regarding Investments

How to make wise investments is a problem for every farmer. It was noted in this study that certain young farmers consistently made successful investments. When discussing this matter with them, various opinions were given. None of the young farmers could give a specific reason for their successes. Those most successful kept some kind of a farm financial record. Table 8 shows the number and kinds of farm financial records kept by the young farmers in the survey. These young farmers said that they carefully studied the records of their business. The most successful were students of economic situations. Some of them read economic outlook material regularly. Several sought the advice of successful older men. Several young

men depended on their fathers for advice and guidance in investment matters. It should be pointed out that 82 of the 90 young farmers had had a lifetime of farm experience and 3 others had lived on a farm since the sixth grade.

Several young farmers gave examples of cases illustrating the fact that they studied their business. One young farmer had been able to sell a trucker a load of potatoes at a sizeable increase over the price offered. The farmer had paid the truckers' hotel bill over night, graded the potatoes for the trucker in three hours' time and received \$20 more than he was first offered.

Table 8. The Number and Kinds of Farm Financial Records Kept by Young Michigan Farmers

Type	Number	Per cent of young farmers keeping type of record
Michigan farm account book cooperators	11	12
Michigan farm account book and summarized by the farmer	43	53
Commercial type account book	6	7
Personal system (chiefly expenses and receipts)	19	21
No accounts kept	6	7

Another young farmer found that he was able to get 8 cents more per dozen for his eggs. This was done by candling the eggs to locate meat or blood spots and by delivering the eggs twice a week to a nearby city. This farmer estimated that this method of marketing was paying him about \$2 for each hour involved in doing the extra work with the eggs. Since this was a flock of approximately 900 laying hens the increased selling price made a considerable increase in the total annual returns.

Many other similar cases were noted. There were many cases where increased returns were being secured as a result of larger than average investments in improved seed, commercial fertilizers, insecticides, fungicides and certain feed nutrients for livestock. A person is not born with the knowledge of what investments he should make. The successful farmer must be trained through formal schooling or experience. The young farmer who studied his business and who sought counsel from older farmers seemed to make wise investments most consistently.

Planning the Business Relations with Father or Landlord

One of the most difficult problems mentioned by the young farmers in this study who developed father-son farm business arrangements was the development of a satisfactory business relationship with their fathers. Each case was

just a little different problem. Each family situation was different. The age and interests of the parents, the ages and number of other sons or daughters were factors of major importance to the development of a father-son farm business arrangement. Farms varied in size, in productivity and in management as well as in many other conditions. Housing available to the son when he married presented a variety of situations. There has been no common solution to these problems.

Three conditions were noted as being common in the father-son business arrangements in this study. These are listed briefly as follows: First, the father and son must be of such temperament and tastes that they really enjoy working together; second, the size of business must be large enough to give both father and son a satisfactory income; third, in cases where the son is married, adequate housing must be available. Two young farmers in the survey broke off a successful partnership with the father when they married and rented a farm away from home because of a lack of adequate housing.

A father and son gave the following as a reason for their successful relationship, "We realize our personal weaknesses and try to anticipate our problems. We try to work out our troubles while keeping our weaknesses in mind.

We just have to work continually on a solution to new situations to make our farm business arrangement succeed."

One young farmer started operating a 60 acre farm with 8 dairy cows in 1939. The father lived on the farm, but operated a store in a nearby town. By 1948, the son had enlarged the business to 400 acres (partly rented) and 45 dairy cows. In the meantime, he had married and built a new home. Later the father decided to leave his job and farm full time with the son. Neither father or son realized that they had never worked together, and the farm business arrangement nearly failed. However, they realized the situation and worked to correct their problems. The difficulties were finally corrected and a large and successful father-son business arrangement still continues. Both the father and son agree that it takes continual work and planning to make the business arrangement succeed.

One problem of many of the father-son farm business arrangements was how to enlarge the business. Where the father received all his income from the farm, the business had to be enlarged when the business arrangement was formed; otherwise the son's share of the income came out of what had been the father's income. There were 9 cases where sons had replaced hired men and their income was comparable to that formerly received by the hired man. However, all 9

of these later cases increased the size of the business by either renting or purchasing additional land. Various methods have been used to increase the size of the business so that both father and son will receive a satisfactory income. These are listed in Table 9.

Table 9. Methods Used by 90 Young Farmers to Enlarge the Size of the Farm Business

Method	Method of increase	Size of increase
Renting additional land	48	144 acres on average
Purchasing additional land ..	18	155 acres on average
Intensifying present business	12	---
Son working off farm part time	5	2 months each year on average
Father working off farm part time	4	6 months each year on average
No change	3	---

Other problems most frequently mentioned are Bangs disease, mastitis, diseases of swine, poultry diseases, fire, sickness in the family, family troubles and army service. The frequency and nature of these problems are tabulated in Table 10.

Table 10. The Most Commonly Mentioned Problems Encountered
by Young Farmers

Problem	Number of farmers who had encoun- tered the problem	Per cent of number interviewed who had encountered this problem
Bangs disease	24	27
Sickness in family	14	16
Mastitis	13	15
Army service	9	10
Diseases of swine .	6	7
Fire	5	5
Poultry diseases ..	4	4
Family trouble	4	4

These problems are the same as found on any similar operated group of farms. There was no common solution to the problems. However, these factors are of interest here since these are problems that young farmers must anticipate. As one young farmer said, "Prevention of trouble is the best solution."

SIZE OF THE FARMS

Of the 90 young farmers in this study 77 had managerial responsibilities concerning farm operations. These young men were operating as owner, tenant or as a member of a father-son business arrangement. The other 13 also had some management responsibilities, but can not be considered as well established in farming. All 13 were working for a wage, an indefinite allowance or were farming under the so-called European system.

It is essential that the young farmer, from the beginning, receive large enough returns to give him a satisfactory income. This income must provide for a satisfactory standard of living plus enough savings to provide for capital needed to make a start in farming. Other things being equal, the farmer with the larger-than-average business has a better opportunity for a larger-than-average income.

Table 11 shows the average size of the farms on which the young men in this study farmed.

It is important to note that the farms operated by this group of young men were on the average 2.5 times the size of the average farms in this area. The average productive man work units per farm were 603. Thus the average size of business operated by the young farmers in this study is larger than the average.

Table 11. Status of and the Size of Farm Business Operated by Young Farmers After Becoming Established in Farming (Subsequent to the Beginning Phases).

Farming status	Number of farmers using system	Acres per farm, average	Productive man work units per farm, average
Son-owned enterprises ..	1	196	622
European system	3	191	665
Wage	9	198	769
Partnership, 1/3 net ...	17	274	649
" , 1/4 net ...	2	360	501
" , 1/3 gross	5	173	284
" , 1/5 gross	2	307	773
Renter, 1/2 share	30	274	604
" , cash	2	185	607
Owner-operator	19	158	502

The average productive man work units per man on the farms in this study are 319. This is approximately the same as the Michigan State College Farm Account Cooperators in this area. The 1948 Michigan Farm Business Report for the areas in which this study was made gives the average per man as 323.⁷

Major Labor-Saving Machines Used on the Farms

The kinds and number of various types of special equipment used on the farms in this survey are shown in Table 12.

⁷Farm Business Reports for Area 5, Michigan State College Agricultural Economics Department. 1929-1948.

Table 12. Kinds and Number of a Selected Group of Special
Machines Used by the 90 Young Farmers

Machine	Number of farms	Per cent of farms in survey
Milking machine	51	57
Combine	49	54
Truck	36	40
Corn picker	29	32
Burr or Hammer-mill	17	19
Grain elevator	16	18
Two or more tractors	15	17
Pick-up-baler	13	14
Manure loader	11	12
Milk cooler, electric	10	11
Field chopper	8	9
Welding outfit	7	8

All of the young farmers were much interested in labor saving equipment. Farm machinery of all kinds was of major interest to them. Many of the young men at the time of the interview said that they were planning to add a certain piece of equipment. They reasoned that certain machinery would enable them to enlarge the size of their business. It was observed many times that these young farmers attached great importance to larger units and the efficient operation of land and machinery.

SUMMARY

There are opportunities in farming at the present time for a decreasing number of the boys born and living on farms. However, there are opportunities in farming for capable young men and these should be encouraged to remain on the farm. Capable young farmers can do much to improve rural living and in the long run all society will benefit through more efficient farming.

The young man interested in farming goes through two definite stages. He must first decide that he wants to farm. Then he must decide how and go about the task of getting started in farming.

It is very important that the son decides early in life that he really wants to farm.

Education and farm experience are valuable assets in making the start in farming a success. Knowledge of successful farming is a powerful asset to the young farmer.

The longer time needed to accumulate the larger amount of capital needed for farming, the modernization of living, and increasing competition for land has made it more difficult to become established in farming.

There is no plan or system that will fit all cases towards becoming established in farming.

The gradual growth of a son into a partnership with the father is a very desirable way for a young man to become established in farming.

Generally, farm sons are better satisfied when working for a limited share than for a wage.

A desirable system for the son to grow into farming should provide for a gradual accumulation of farm property and for farm managerial experience and personal growth.

The boy who anticipates becoming a farmer might well follow this general plan:

1. It is important that the son first determine that he is adapted to farming and that he really wants to farm.
2. After the decision to become a farmer has been made, the son should secure a financial interest in the farm property. It is important that this be done at an early age.
3. All of the various methods of getting started in farming should be considered and the one selected which seems to best fit the conditions.
4. If a father-son partnership is anticipated, both parties should analyze the situation carefully to determine if father and son can work together in complete harmony. This condition is of major importance.

5. When a father-son partnership is being developed it is desirable that the start be made several years before the son is to obtain an interest in the business. The plan should provide for some definite progress each year but still be flexible enough so that it may be easily changed.
6. Where a father-son partnership is being developed, plans should be made early to develop a large farm business so that the business will be large enough to provide both father and son with a satisfactory income.
7. Separate and adequate housing should be provided for the son when he wishes to marry. Modern home conveniences are an aid to a happy and satisfactory farm and family life.
8. Any system of getting started must provide for a fair division of returns based on contributions.
9. Participation in community activities aids in establishing a more contented, happy and vigorous farm and home program.

APPENDIX

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A. S. S. S. S. S.

PERSONAL INFORMATION

PERSONAL

1. Name _____
4. Age of subject: _____
5. Age of Sister: _____
6. Married or single: _____
7. Occupation: _____
8. Education: _____
11. Place of birth: _____

FAMILY INFORMATION

1. Name of Father: _____
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FAMILY INFORMATION

Name of Father: _____

Name of Mother: _____

Name of Sister: _____

Name of Brother: _____

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5. Crops: (Major crops only) _____

Hay & millage products _____

Corn _____

Wheat _____

Other crops _____

6. Livestock: (Number and kind of livestock owned, including equivalents) _____

7. Special machinery owned: (List all special machinery owned) _____

ADVANCES

1. Were you handicapped at any time during the year? _____

2. If so, how: _____

3. Are you now handicapped? (If so, please describe condition) _____

4. If so, how: _____

A. SUBMITTING

1. Let's get it:

2. Father:

Son:

3. When is your ship coming back to the ship today?

4. What is your name?

5. Brother:

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