

The statistics used in this publication
are as of January 1, 1940.

Land Use Planning Under Way

Prepared by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics
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Agricultural Adjustment Administration, and Forest
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What Is Land Use Planning?

UP AND DOWN the land during the last year, 70,000 farm men and women have organized themselves into community and county land use planning committees. In 1,195 counties in 47 States they are sitting down with representatives of Federal, State, and local agencies to develop agricultural plans, policies and programs for their counties. These committees are planning for action—by individuals, by groups, or by public agencies.

What sort of problems are the committees tackling? How are they trying to solve these problems? What results have they achieved? Where are the committees located? What about the size and composition of the county committees? Of the community committees?

These are just a few of the questions that have been asked since the United States Department of Agriculture and the land-grant colleges agreed to cooperate in sponsoring land use planning by farmers. This publication has been prepared to answer many such questions.

But first it is necessary to consider briefly a few more basic questions. What is county land use planning in the first place? How did it come about? How does it work?

Let us start with the question, What is county land use planning?

It is a cooperative effort on the part of representative farmers, various agencies of the Department of Agriculture, the land-grant colleges, and other State and local agencies to work out agricultural plans and policies that will (1) aid in coordinating various agri-

cultural programs so that they will fit together into a well-rounded whole, (2) help them function most effectively toward long-time as well as emergency goals, and (3) develop any new programs that are needed.

BACKGROUND OF PLANNING

Like the chapter of any continued story, county land use planning can be understood only in light of what went before it. The closing of our frontiers, the growth of machine agriculture, the decrease in American farm exports, the pay-off on the ruthless exploitation of the soil in earlier years, the slump in opportunities in the cities and the growing number of people moving to the farms—these and related problems led to a national emergency that required new kinds of action.

In earlier years it was generally felt that Federal farm legislation should be confined to laws regarding research and education. But as farmers began to see that their problems could not be solved simply through technical information about farming operations for individuals, the Nation began for the first time a truly national attack on the ills of the farmer. In response to public demand, the Congress authorized new farm programs dealing with soil conservation, removal of surplus commodities, public purchase of uneconomic farm land, crop insurance for wheat farmers, flood control, forestry, farm tenancy, rehabilitation of farm families, credit deficiencies, roads, farm income, and a host of related problems. Participation in these programs gives farmers now a better opportunity than they have ever had before to deal with agricultural programs through group efforts.

Each of these programs deals with only a part of the complex problem of making farm life healthier and happier. Each must be coordinated with the others and with the many State and local agricultural programs if the farm program as a whole is to go forward smoothly. And each of these programs must fit the many variations in local conditions if it is to serve best the needs of its community. These two problems—that of coordinating national programs, and that of fitting national programs to local needs—

were two of the most important questions facing the Department of Agriculture in connection with the administration of the new public farm programs. Looking at these problems, the Department, in the spring of 1938, came to the conclusion that they were simply different sides of the same broad problem of how to make the work of the Department best fit the needs of the farmers in a changing agricultural world.

WHO'S TO DO THE COORDINATING?

But talk of coordinating the Nation's attack on its farm problems immediately brings to mind the question, Who's to do the coordinating? It is the belief of the Department of Agriculture that the method of discussion and mutual agreement is most likely to get the desired coordination and has the best chance to endure. So the answer was that coordination of action could best be obtained through the joint participation of the farmers, the technicians, and the administrators in cooperative planning.

That is to say, the planning for public farm policies and programs should represent the opinions that have been formed by farmers with the advice and help of the experts. As it has been put by H. R. Tolley, Chief of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, "The expert must be the counselor, the citizen the one who decides."

It was with this thought in mind that representatives of the Department of Agriculture and the land-grant colleges met in the summer of 1938 at Mount Weather, Va. The outcome of that meeting was a statement known as the Mount Weather agreement. Under this agreement the Department and the land-grant colleges undertook the task of helping farmers to set up the necessary organization and program-planning procedures. And since nearly all the national and State agricultural programs bear directly or indirectly on the use of land, land use planning seemed the logical place to begin.

THE MOUNT WEATHER AGREEMENT

Specifically, the Mount Weather agreement suggested that a State land use planning committee be set up in each State. It was

proposed that the committee consist of the director of the State agricultural extension service, the director of the State experiment station, the chairman of the State AAA committee, the State coordinator of the Soil Conservation Service, the State director of the Farm Security Administration, the State representative of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, a representative of the Forest Service, other State and Department representatives who administer public land use programs, and a number of farm people from various type-of-farming areas within the State.

Besides—and this is the heart of the Mount Weather agreement—it was proposed that a county land use planning committee be set up in each agricultural county in the Nation. The suggestion was that these committees consist of about 10 farm people, a few forest owners where forestry is a problem, the county agent, at least 1 member of the local AAA administrative committee, the county FSA supervisor, and any other local, State, or Federal officials who are responsible for the administration of a land use program in the county. Farmer members were to be in the majority on each committee, and a farmer would serve as chairman.

With the development of this new cooperative work, it became clear that the Department itself was in need of a central planning agency through which local people could make themselves heard. To meet this need, the Department was reorganized and the Bureau of Agricultural Economics was given the responsibility for the general planning work of the Department.

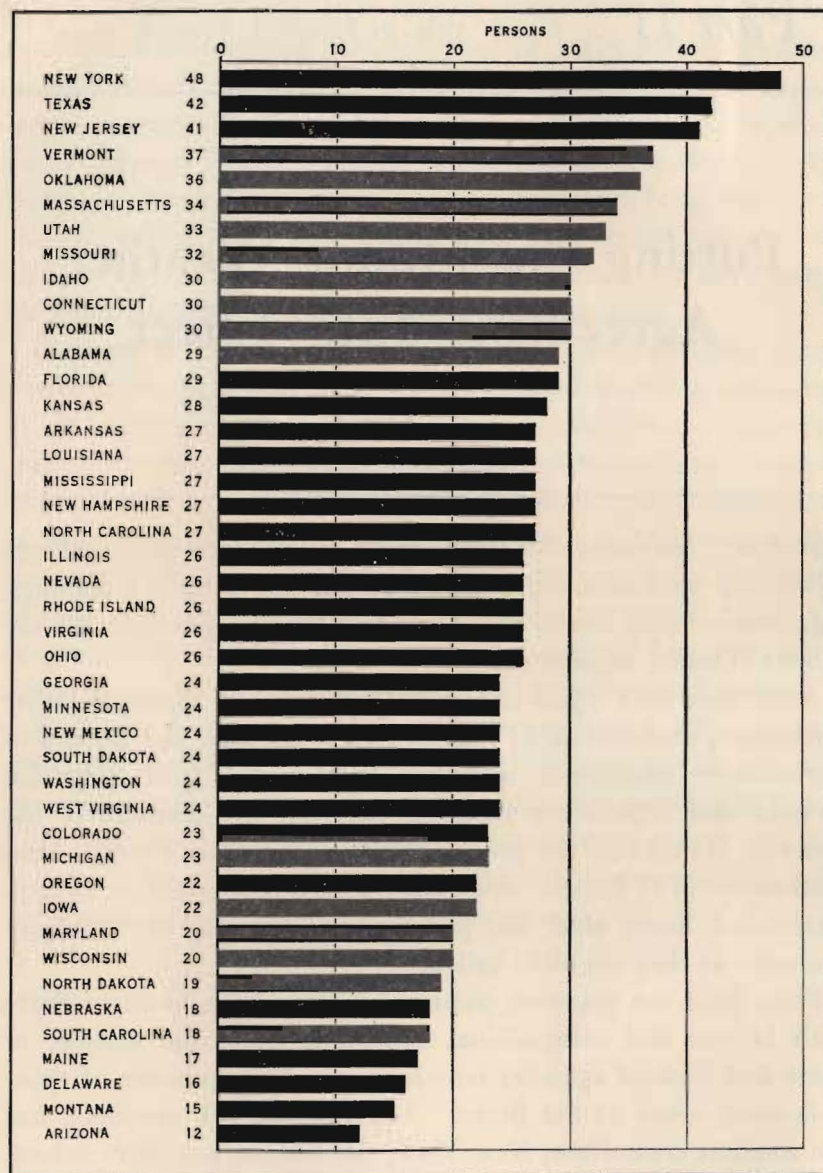
Putting the Mount Weather Agreement Into Effect

THE FIRST task facing the Department and the land-grant colleges in starting the land use planning program was to build a planning organization that would be in accord with the principles of the Mount Weather agreement.

After more than a year of activity following the Mount Weather conference, memoranda of understanding between the Bureau of Agricultural Economics and the State agricultural extension services and experiment stations, covering the features of the planning set-up and the general types of cooperative work, have been signed in 45 States. All these States except two have already established State land use planning committees, or “advisory councils” as they are often called.

State land use planning committees vary from State to State both in size and composition, depending upon the number of State and Federal agencies represented and the number of type-of-farming areas in the State. Arizona, with 12 members, has the smallest committee; New York, the largest, has 48 members. Taking part in the work of the 43 State committees are 552 farmer-members. This is an average of 13 farmers to the committee.

Figure 1 shows the size distribution of all organized State land use planning committees.



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FIGURE 1.—Relative size of State land use planning committees (exclusive of nonvoting members).

THE ORGANIZATION OF STATE COMMITTEES

Five Department agencies and two State agencies—the Farm Security Administration, Agricultural Adjustment Administration, Soil Conservation Service, Forest Service, Bureau of Agricultural Economics, the State extension service and the experiment stations—are represented on each of the State land use planning committees. The Public Roads Administration is represented on 39 committees, the Farm Credit Administration on 14, and the Bureau of Biological Survey on 13. Representatives of the State planning boards and State highway departments are on 21 committees.

The organization of State land use planning committees by percentage of membership is shown in figure 2.

Most of the committees have a membership of from 22 to 30 persons. Farmers are in the majority on 18 State committees. In 35 States, there are more farmers on the committee than there are representatives of any other group.

To facilitate the planning work at the State level, each of 14 States has set up an executive committee of the State land use planning committee. These executive committees are composed of from 4 to 6 members. Besides handling matters that come up between meetings of the State committee, these executive committees often do follow-up work on actions taken by the State committee.

The State BAE representative, the planning leader for the Extension Service, and a representative of the State agricultural experiment station make up, in each cooperating State, a joint BAE land-grant college committee. Among other things, this committee works with all agencies concerned with land use on questions dealing with the nature and scope of the planning program in the State. In a number of cases, this committee also functions as a working committee for the State land use planning committee, as well as for the various agencies its members represent.

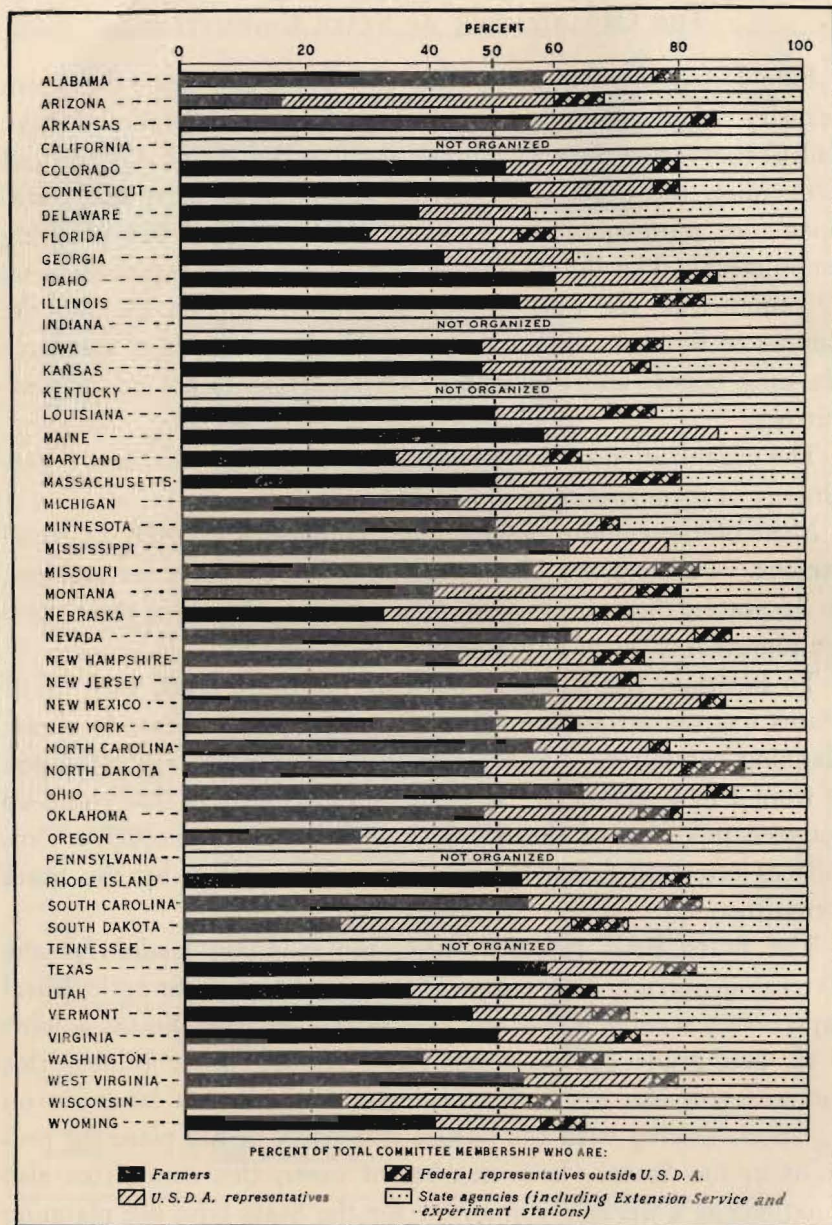


FIGURE 2.—Organization of State land use planning committees expressed as percentage of total committee membership composed of indicated classes.

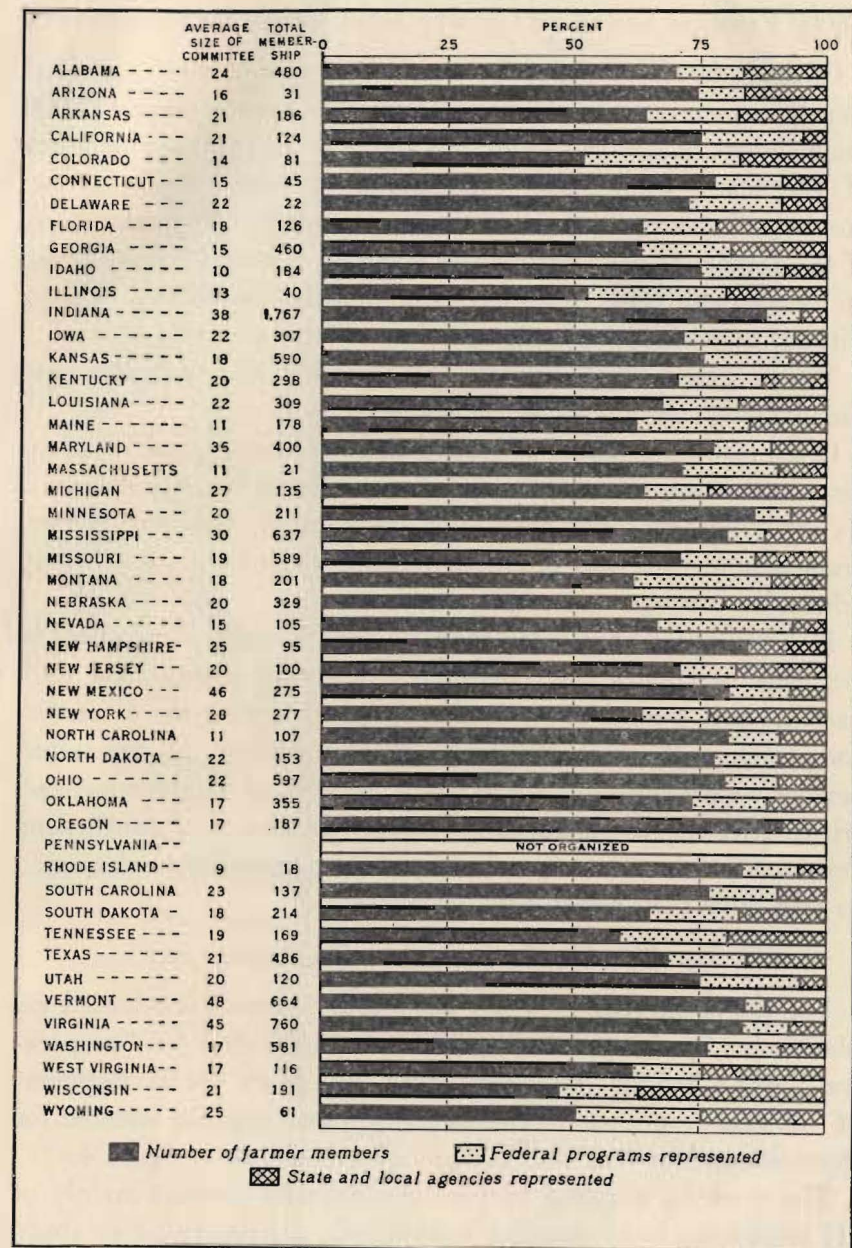


FIGURE 3.—Average size, composition, and agency representation of intensive and unified county planning committees, derived from data from 659 of the 761 counties in which intensive work was carried on.

70,000 FARMERS SERVE ON COUNTY AND COMMUNITY COMMITTEES

Of the 70,000 farm men and women who are members of organized county and community planning committees, approximately 19,000 are members of county committees and nearly 51,000 are members of the 6,807 community committees. Farmer members outnumber all others on these county committees. Representatives of the Department of Agriculture make up the next largest group of members in most counties. Community committees, almost without exception, are made up solely of farm men and women.

The size, composition, and agency representation of county land use planning committees are shown in figure 3.

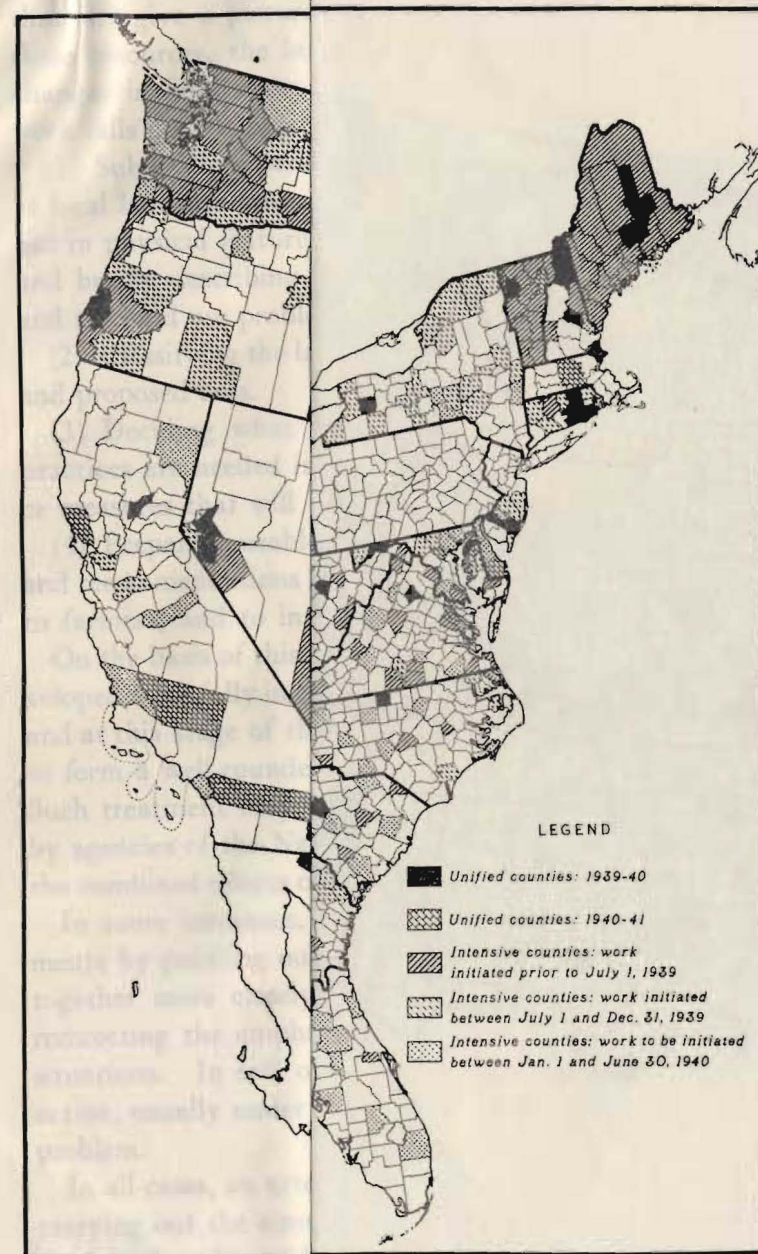
Often farmer members of county and community land use planning committees are also members of the Farm Security Administration advisory committees, the agricultural conservation program committees, the production credit committees, and many others.

It is estimated that more than 200,000 farmers, in addition to members of county and community planning committees, took part in open community planning meetings during the 6 months ending December 31, 1939. At these meetings, all interested persons were given a chance to study the work of their committees, criticize it, suggest changes in the information and conclusions developed, and make proposals for additional planning work needed to help solve their agricultural problems.

THE THREE LEVELS OF PLANNING

For the fiscal year 1939-40, 1,195 counties were nominated for planning. Of these counties, 384 were designated for "preparatory" work, 765 for "intensive" work, and 46 for the development of "unified programs." The location of the counties selected for intensive and unified land use planning is shown in figure 4.

The work in so-called preparatory counties consists mainly of (1) organizing local planning committees, (2) beginning to study and talk about the county's agricultural problems, (3) getting local planning committees ready for the intensive work that follows.



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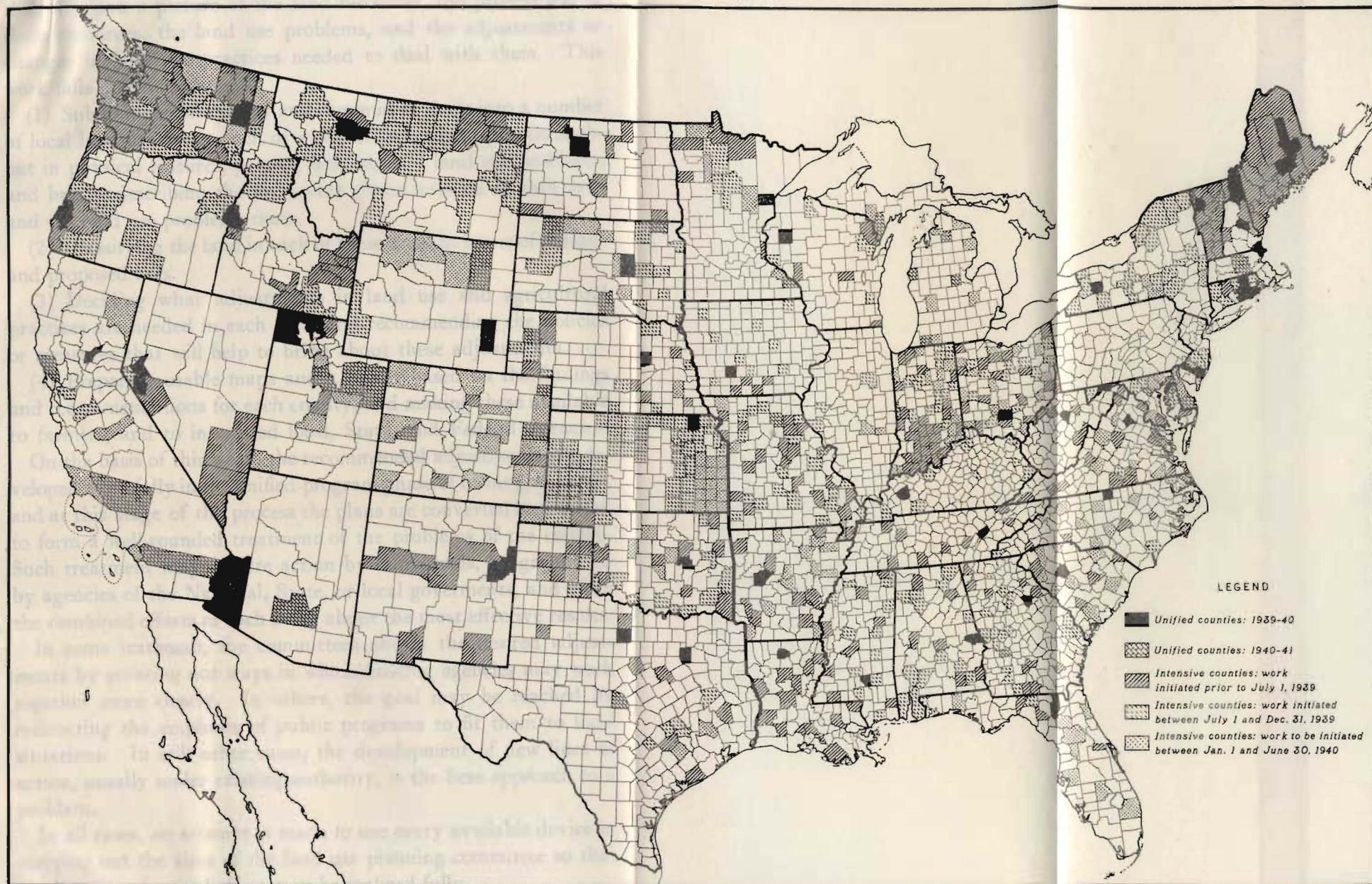


FIGURE 4.—Counties selected for land use planning work, 1939-40.

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In the intensive phase of planning, the county committee's job is to make an area analysis and classification study of the county that will give a picture of the land resources, the present use of these resources, the land use problems, and the adjustments or changes in land use practices needed to deal with them. This work falls into four parts:

(1) Subdividing the county and community maps into a number of local land use areas, each of which is somewhat alike throughout in physical features, present land use and land use problems, and briefly describing the important characteristics of each area and the land use problems there.

(2) Classifying the land in each of these areas in terms of present and proposed uses.

(3) Deciding what adjustments in land use and agricultural practices are needed in each area, and recommending the policies or measures that will help to bring about these adjustments.

(4) Preparing usable maps and a report based on the findings and recommendations for each county, and making these available to farmers, and to interested local, State, and Federal agencies.

On the basis of this work, the recommended adjustments are developed more fully in the unified-program phase of county planning, and at this stage of the process the plans are converted into action to form a well-rounded treatment of the problems of the county. Such treatment may require action by individuals, by groups, or by agencies of the National, State, or local governments, and often the combined efforts of each bring about the most effective results.

In some instances, the committees obtain the desired adjustments by pointing out ways in which existing agencies may work together more closely. In others, the goal may be reached by redirecting the emphasis of public programs to fit them to local situations. In still other cases, the development of new lines of action, usually under existing authority, is the best approach to a problem.

In all cases, an attempt is made to use every available device in carrying out the aims of the land use planning committee so that the benefits of united effort may be realized fully.

Some Results of County Land Use Planning

THE MACHINERY for county land use planning has been operating now for more than a year, and, working with technicians and administrators, more and more farmers are participating in the planning process every day. Planning may become merely pointless discussion, however, unless the plans are put to work. In other words, all kinds of plans can be made, but until they give rise to constructive results, land use planning remains meaningless. Thus it is important to see what happens after the county land use planning committees do their planning.

Evidence is now at hand that land use planning efforts are bearing fruit. A review of the first year's work reveals hundreds of instances where needed action has grown out of the land use planning program. They were found in 445 counties in 38 States. Undoubtedly there are others not yet reported, but the known results are enough to demonstrate clearly what can happen when farmers, technicians, and administrators plan together.

For instance, there is the case of Teton County, Mont. The way Teton County tackled its land use planning job, and the way the recommendations of the local committees were developed into action, will show a few of the details of the county planning process, particularly with regard to the part farmers play in the work. There is space to discuss in detail only one problem and how the committees are solving it.

AN ILLUSTRATION OF LAND USE PLANNING: TETON COUNTY, MONT.

Teton County, Mont., is located in north-central Montana just east of the Continental Divide, and about 100 miles south of the Canadian border. Within its 2,300 square miles there are around 450,000 acres of dry-land crop area, 100,000 acres of irrigated land, and 910,000 acres of grazing and forest land. Average annual precipitation for the 47 years ended in 1938 was 13.6 inches, but during the period from 1908 to 1917, when most of the county was settled, it averaged more than 17 inches. The 1,000 farmers in the county earn most of their income from about 160,000 acres of spring wheat, 120,000 head of sheep, and 20,000 head of cattle.

Many of the farmers who settled in Teton County came from parts of the country where the rainfall was heavier. They farmed as they had learned how to farm in another climate. Thus, land was misused; range- and grass-conservation problems became pressing; and sound land, water, and irrigation development was held back. The individual farmer was not solely responsible for creating these problems, and he could not solve them by acting alone. Group action had to be taken.

Teton County farmers for some time had been getting together in groups. Sometimes they did so for educational and recreational purposes, and sometimes to study specific questions about farm operations. But the farmers realized that something more than this was needed. So they elected three members in each community to form community land use planning committees, and set up a county committee composed of the chairmen of the community committees and representatives of county, State, and Federal agencies.

How the Committees Worked

The community committees charted land use areas, studied the problems in these areas, and made recommendations for solving them. They sent these suggested plans to the county committee. The county committee merged the plans and recommendations

received from the community committees, then drew up county-wide plans and recommendations. It encouraged the community committees to do more work, and served as a clearing house for consideration of new problems and recommendations.

To make the community and county work more specific, the county committee appointed nine subcommittees to deal with special problems, such as land use, land tenure, range management, water utilization, soil erosion, size of operating unit, weed control, insect and rodent control, and social and economic maladjustments.

The community committees presented the plans and recommendations of the county committee to farmers at community-wide meetings. Revised statements of recommendations, made on the basis of what the farmers agreed upon at these meetings, were made a part of the community reports presented to the county committee. The county committee combined the community reports, ironing out differences or conflicts in the community maps, plans, and recommendations, and then prepared an intensive county report.

From the start, the committees realized that they needed information on a great many subjects. They had to know more about land use, land and water resources, crop and livestock production, size of farms, cost of production, population, land ownership, and a lot of other things. Much of this information was already available. The community and county committees checked the materials and summarized them into a form more useful for their planning work. In this they had the help of the Extension Service, the Montana Agricultural Experiment Station, the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, the Agricultural Adjustment Administration, and the Works Progress Administration.

Types of Information the Committees Used

The types of basic information the planning committees used in developing land use plans for Teton County were (see figs. 5 to 10):

- (1) Reconnaissance soils survey.
- (2) Land reclassification for tax purposes.

- (3) Present land use map.
- (4) Land use classification showing:
 - (a) Land profitable for crop production.
 - (b) Land questionable for crop production.
 - (c) Land submarginal for crop production.
- (5) Ownership and operating unit maps.
- (6) Tax-delinquency map.
- (7) Type-of-farming area map.
- (8) Factual charts and tables showing:
 - (a) Precipitation.
 - (b) Size of farms.
 - (c) Ownership tracts.
 - (d) Area comparisons and recommendations by type-of-farming areas.
 - (e) Land not cropped but able to produce crops.
 - (f) Number of operators by animal-unit groupings.
 - (g) Present and recommended development for range areas.

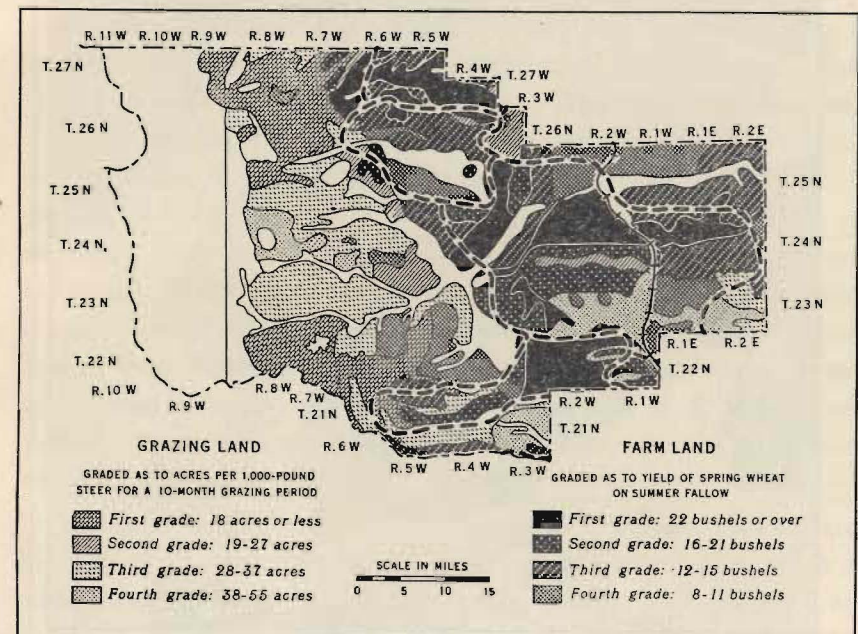
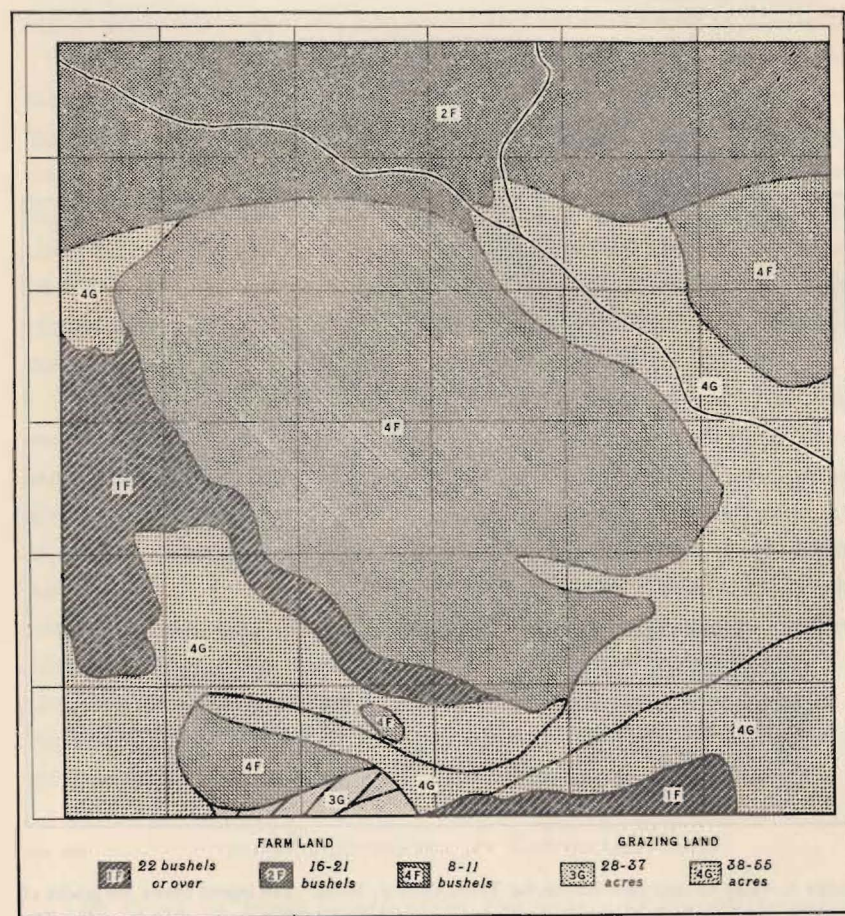


FIGURE 5.—Map of land classification for Teton County, Mont. The legend shows the grades of grazing and farm land with the approximate potential productive capacity of each grade. The figures for the grades of grazing land, such as "18 acres or less," pertain to the potential carrying capacity of the land and are the number of acres required to sustain 1 animal unit. This land-classification and soil-type information was used by planning committees in their study of the resources of the county. It was also used by the Teton County Land Reclassification Board and proved a valuable basis for reclassifying lands for taxation purposes.

They used bulletins published by the State college and the Department of Agriculture, and information made available by the various agencies of the Department. Then, too, they considered general information on such matters as competition between regions and the relation of the county program to State and national programs.



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FIGURE 6.—Land classification for a township in Teton County, Mont. This is a township map of land classification similar to that for the county shown in figure 5. The survey was made cooperatively by the Bureau of Chemistry and Soils and the Montana Agricultural Experiment Station. See figure 5 for explanation of potential yield and grazing capacities by grades.

First Recommendation of the County Committee

Upon the basis of the experience of farmers, the soil surveys, and farm records, the committees did two basic things: (1) They decided that land producing 7 bushels of wheat or less per acre was not suitable for plow land; (2) they mapped the specific location of the low-grade cultivated areas.

They found a total of 20,000 acres of such land. The county committee recommended that this land should be used for grazing only. It also recommended that all land not now being plowed, but able to produce only 7 bushels of wheat or less per acre, continue to be used for grazing.

The committees found that shifting 20,000 acres of plow land to grass raised many new questions. What would be the effect of taking such lands out of crop production? How many people would be affected, and in what ways? What could farmers who were affected do? What effect did AAA payments have on the use of this land for crops? Could the AAA help in the program of getting it back to grass? What methods would be used for re-seeding? How could sod lands in this class be prevented from being cropped? What effect did the assessed valuation of this land have on its present use? Were the county and State governments leasing these lands for crop production? Were nonresident owners of these lands aware of how they should be best used, and of their value? What effect did agricultural credit have upon keeping these lands in crop production?

As the committees inquired into these problems, more and more questions came to light. Problems of conservation, such as wind erosion, weed control, insect and rodent pests, range management, water conservation, control and development of timber resources, and wildlife, were pointed out by the planning group. The size and distribution of farm units, taxes, credit, marketing, land tenure, prices, public services, recreation research, education, and planning also were considered. The committee could not explore all of these problems completely, but it was able to make recommendations for action on most of them.

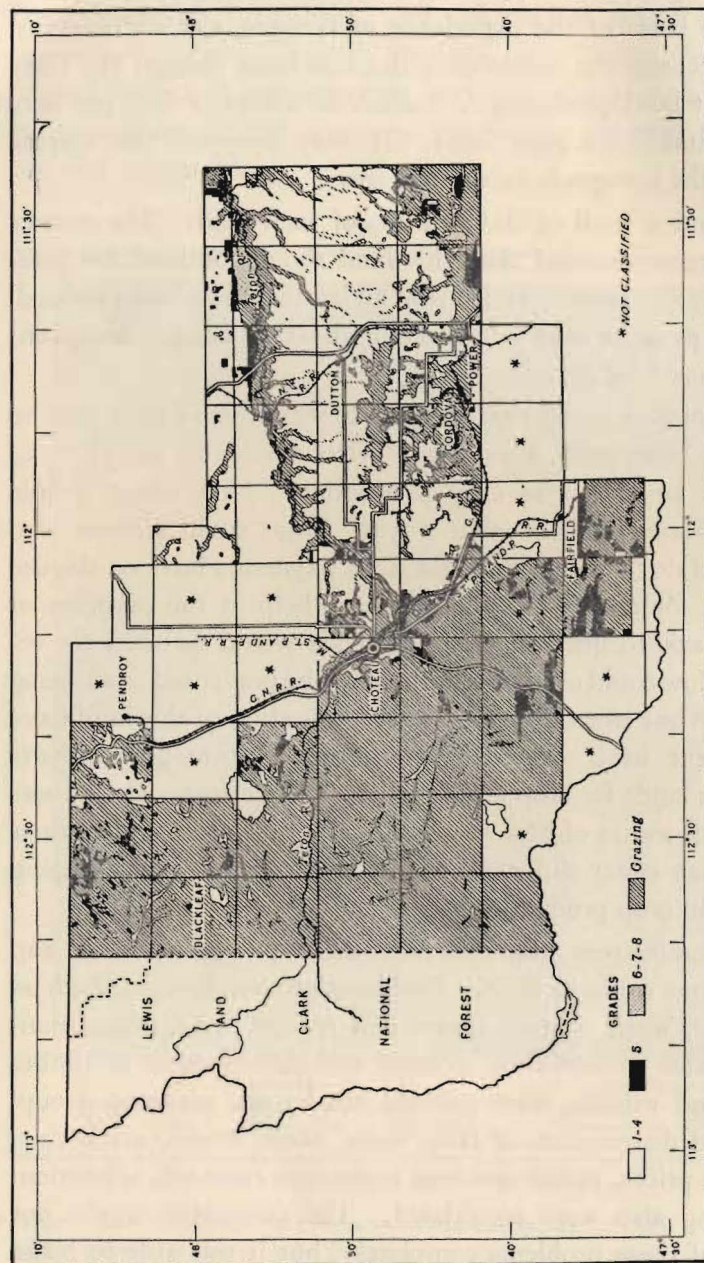


FIGURE 7.—Reclassification data, Teton County, Mont., showing groupings of different grades of land for the county. The white areas indicate plow land which the planning committees have agreed is capable of being cultivated for crop production over a long period of time; the black areas indicate plow land considered questionable from the standpoint of crop production; the dotted areas indicate plow land believed incapable of profitable crop production and which, if cultivated, should be retired to grazing use. Grazing areas are indicated by line rulings. Each community planning committee had one of these maps and they proved valuable in delineating land use boundaries in the county.

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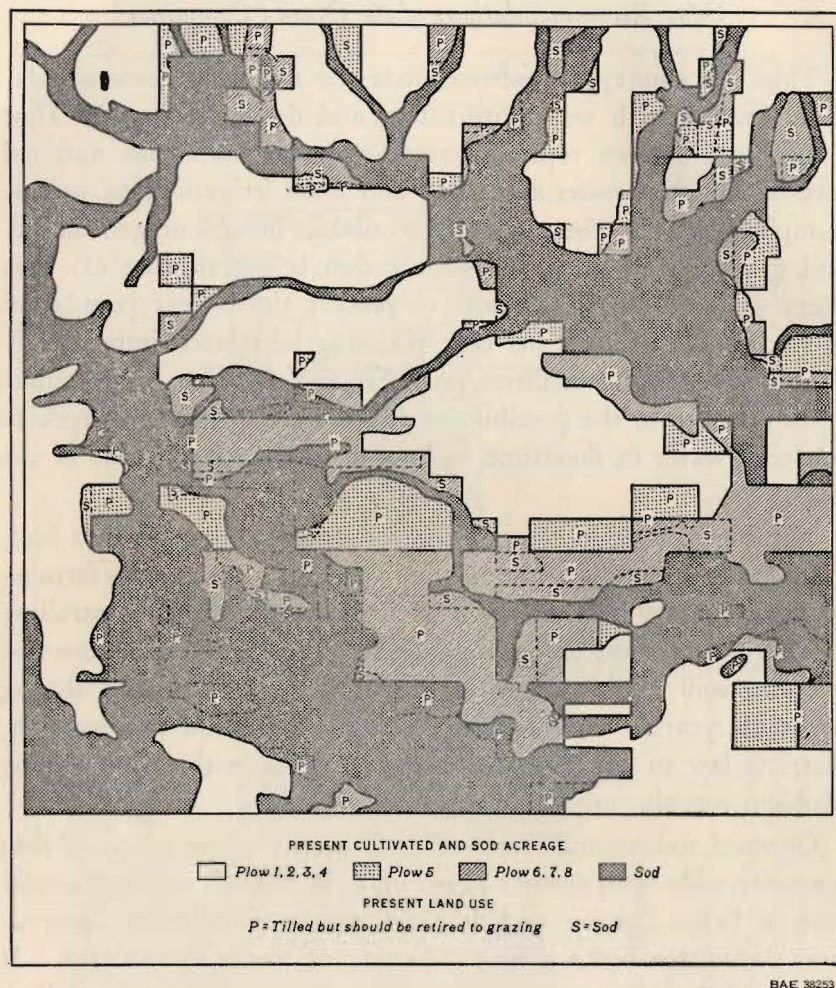
Other Recommendations of the County Committee

Thus the county committee made the following recommendations dealing with water utilization and development: (1) That the Forest Service replant burned-over territories on national forests; (2) that water-spreading and flood irrigation, as well as pumping projects where water is available, be encouraged on hay and grazing land wherever such action is practicable; (3) that every possible effort be made to protect the beaver population in the national forest; (4) that planning be started immediately on approved water-facilities projects; and (5) that some public agency look into the possibilities of dams along Muddy Creek to conserve water in floodtime to be used for stock the rest of the year.

Turning to erosion control, the committee suggested that individual farmers follow recommended practices such as strip farming on a community basis in dry-land areas, as a means of controlling wind erosion; adopt new tillage methods to conserve moisture and prevent soil erosion; and maintain stripping practice during favorable years. Thorough study of the State soil conservation-districts law to see how it could help to solve the wind-erosion problem was also urged.

On weed, rodent, and insect control, the committee proposed that a county-wide weed district be set up to include all the agricultural land in Teton County, and that the county agricultural conservation committee make a broader study of weeds in the area. It suggested that the community-drive method be used for controlling rodents, and that the providing of free bait for rodents and insects continue. The committee also recommended that a systematic program of deferred grazing be used on depleted range land, and that the State grass-conservation law be studied to learn the possibilities of help from grazing districts.

Then came recommendations on a variety of subjects. The committee proposed that all Government-controlled land should be leased for long-term periods only, that provisions encouraging weed control and erosion control be included in leases on land



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FIGURE 8.—Reclassification for a township in Teton County, Mont. This map is of a township plat and shows the reclassification of lands. It is a very detailed classification grouping the land into eight grades of plow or farm land and five grades of grazing land, according to production capabilities. A field survey was conducted by a county-reclassification board which carefully examined each 40-acre tract. Through the county planning organization the classification was submitted for review to the farmers and ranchers in the county who considered the classification as a means of rating the lands on their ability to produce and without regard to the future use of the material. By analysis of farm records combined with farm experience, the planning committees have determined approximately the potential yield of wheat for each of the grades of plow land. This classification has been a valuable aid to planning committees in determining best land use for the county and other adjustments. The reclassification information is used at the present time as a basis for taxation.

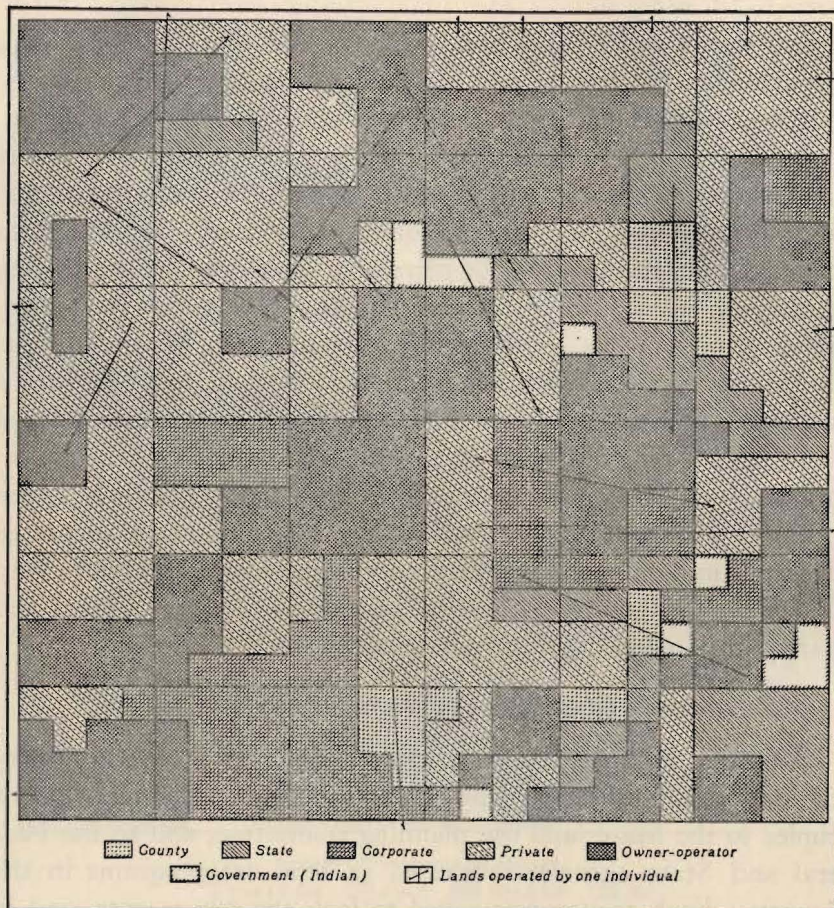
where weeds and erosion are problems, and that the State land department stop leasing any sod land in the county for cropping purposes while the present acreage-adjustment program is in effect. It suggested that the Extension Service give information to absentee land owners on the nature of the land-tenure problem in the county and the recommendations of the county committee. It also recommended that the program of recreation developed in the county during the last 8 years be broadened. It proposed that the county government officials continue the reclassification of land for tax purposes, that the low-grade farm land now in sod be given a suitable grazing classification for tax purposes, and that abandoned farm land having less than 20 percent sod cover be given a lower grazing classification for tax purposes until the sod cover has been brought back. Last, but important, the committee suggested desirable minimum sizes for farms according to grades of farm land in (1) the dry-land crop-farming areas, and (2) the irrigated and partly irrigated cash-grain farm areas.

Intensive Report Formed Basis for Unified Program

After the intensive county report containing these recommendations was finished in July 1939, the county committee sent copies to the State land use planning committee, and to the Federal and State agencies interested in land use programs in the county. Each agency was asked to look the report over, and to prepare a statement giving its opinion on the recommendations, and suggesting methods, if possible, by which it might carry out specific recommendations.

Then the county committee, working closely with the representatives of the agencies of the Department of Agriculture, further analyzed the recommendations, and agreed on the general direction the changes should take. At the same time, the subcommittees on special problems, aided by technicians of the State college and the Department of Agriculture, were studying in detail the problems of the county and possible recommendations.

The first unified agricultural program report for Teton County was prepared in January 1940. It told of the aims of the planning



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FIGURE 9.—Ownership and operating units for a township in Teton County, Mont. This map was prepared by WPA workers under a cooperative project through which county planning committees were furnished with detailed information on land classification, best land use, ownership and operating units, productivity history, etc. The ownership information was obtained from the county assessor's plat book and the operating-unit information was taken from Agricultural Adjustment Administration records. Planning committees and farmers in communities check the materials for accuracy, while working with them, and furnish additional information.

committees, the problems they are trying to solve, and the proposed solutions. Special attention was given to the ways farmers and local, State and Federal agencies can work together toward these solutions.

An Example of Joint Action to Solve One Problem

The Teton County planning committee had decided that there are about 20,000 acres of low-grade plow land now being tilled that should be taken out of agriculture and put into grass. Already action has been agreed upon to accomplish at least a part of this shift in 1940. Some of the things that will be done to bring about the desired change are outlined below.

The agricultural conservation committee will (1) encourage the retirement from cultivation and the reseeding of low-grade land, (2) not allow any low-grade sod land to come into the AAA program as cropland, (3) make an annual report to the county assessor of all low-grade sod land broken up during the year, (4) stress deferred grazing under the range program, and (5) use land classification data as a guide in determining productivity indexes.

The Farm Security Administration will (1) not make loans for cropping low-grade plow land and grazing land, and will try to get such land that is controlled by FSA clients put to the recommended uses, and will (2) help to increase the size of farm units that are now definitely too small, and to organize livestock units in the poor areas.

The Farm Credit Administration will (1) make a special effort to help increase the size of farm units now definitely too small, through loans for purchase of more lands, sale or lease of lands, and other methods; and (2) give careful thought to the productivity of land before extending loans.

The Forest Service will tie in the use and management of the national-forest lands more closely with the use of other lands and the local needs for the services and products from the forest. This is in addition to its cooperation in regard to the replanting of burned areas, the protection, propagation, and transplanting of beavers, and the control of rodents and weeds.

The State land department will (1) discourage breaking up low-grade sod and abandoned farm land under its control, (2) make every effort to get its low-grade farm land back to grass to be used for grazing only, and (3) encourage reseeding by charging a lower rental for such land if the renter reseeds it.

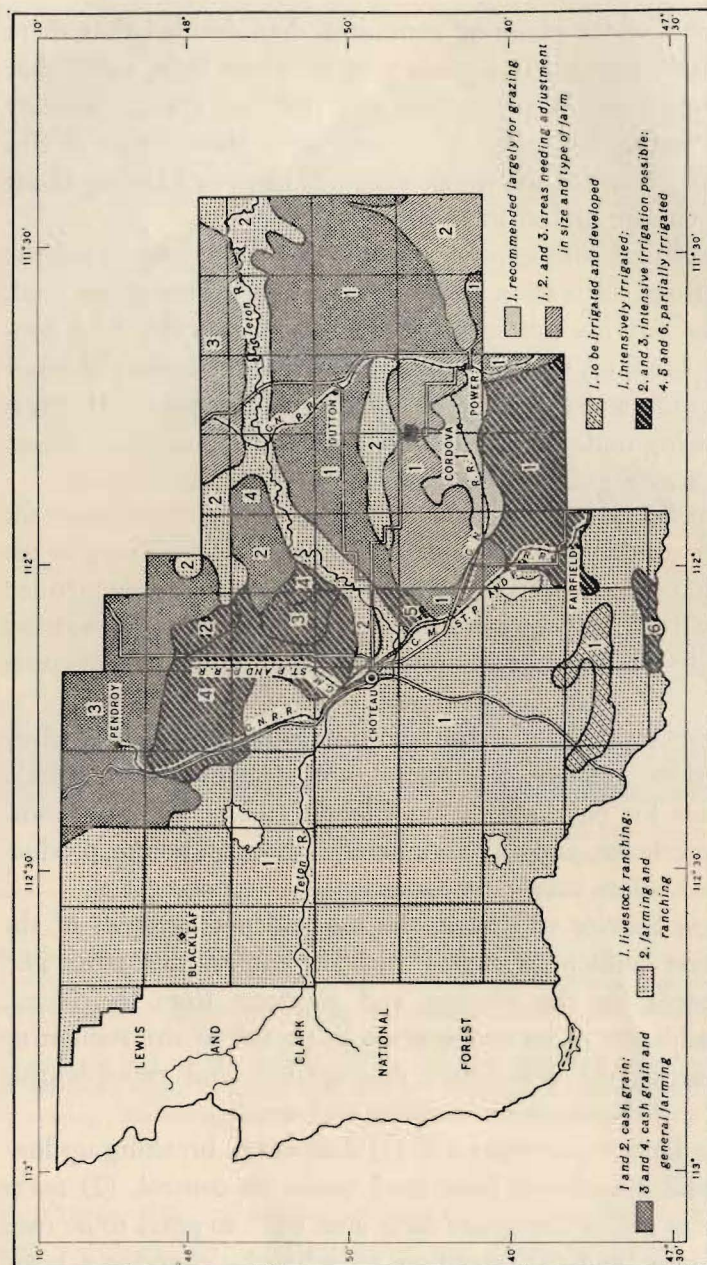


FIGURE 10.—Best land use and type-of-farming areas, Teton County, Mont. This is a map showing area boundaries with indications as to best use and problems of the area, which is the result of work by the community and county planning committees after careful study of the resources of the county. Community committees have checked and made slight revisions in the area boundaries from time to time after more thorough study of various factors influencing land use.

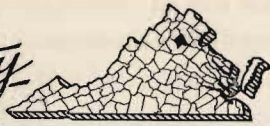
Teton County officials will (1) complete their reclassification of land and check early work for assessment purposes, to correlate it with latest information, (2) assess at a higher rate low-grade lands that are being cultivated or are broken up for cropping, (3) give a grazing classification to low-grade plow lands that are now in sod or are abandoned, and assess them accordingly, (4) make every effort to correct misuse of low-grade county-owned lands, and (5) start in 1940 to study further the relation of land values to productivity, in order to improve the tax system.

The extension county agent will (1) prepare a program to help bring about these changes, and (2) inform nonresident land-owners about the land classification and planning work of the county so they may know more about the values and best uses of the lands.

Thus the farmers, technicians, and administrators in Teton County worked together toward the solution of one pressing problem. The process is much the same with the many other recommendations made by the committee. Mutual understanding and agreement among farmers and representatives of public agencies on ways and means of getting results is the heart of this type of planning. As the committees continue to meet, and as the members continue to exchange ideas, these mutual agreements are becoming more and more definite.

RESULTS OF PLANNING IN 11 OTHER UNIFIED-PROGRAM COUNTIES

In more than a score of unified-program counties throughout the country, county planning committees and cooperating agencies have reported results obtained by ways similar to those used in Teton County. Some of these accomplishments are reported briefly in the following pages.



Central Location for Public Offices.

Preparing Farm Plans.

Financial and Medical Aid for Needy Families. Collecting Further Census Information.

Sponsoring a Soil Conservation District.

Helping Farmers Work Toward Planning Goals.

The public agricultural programs in Culpeper County, Va., are working together more closely now that all the representatives of the Department of Agriculture are located in one office building where they can consult with each other. Upon the recommendation of the county planning committee, the county board of supervisors and the Culpeper Chamber of Commerce helped obtain the building, which has a large conference room and offices for the county agent and other agricultural agency representatives.

At the suggestion of the planning committee, the county welfare office has agreed that people on relief may take temporary private jobs without losing their relief standing. The Farm Security Administration has agreed to make some prestandard loans so as to reach more families that need help. And at a recent meeting of the planning committee with the Culpeper County Medical Society, the doctors tentatively agreed to try out a medical-care program that will be open to all families that have incomes too low to provide proper medical care.

The planning committee was active in forming a one-county soil conservation district. It is cooperating in preparing farm-management plans, with the result that these are available much quicker than usual. Arrangements have been made for selecting well-qualified enumerators to take schedules in each of the 11 social and economic areas named by the planning committee. The data will be tabulated so as to furnish important new information to the committee. To acquaint the people with the planning goals, the committee has divided each community into neighborhoods; the committee members from each neighborhood are discussing the unified program with the individual farmers; and neighborhood programs are being organized to help farmers work alone or in groups toward the needed adjustments.



Coordinating Individual Farm Plans.

Forestry and Woodland Improvement.

Joint Educational Program.

Grants-In-Aid To Improve Rehabilitation Program.

Selecting Tenant Purchase Farms.

A central clearing house has been set up to review individual farm plans in which more than one public agency is interested. Possible conflicts in the operations of the various agencies thus are eliminated. The Extension Service will provide office space and a pro rata share of expenses and equipment in maintaining the clearing center.

All the public agencies in the county will carry on a joint educational program stressing forestry, hay and pasture improvement, soil conservation practices, and home gardens. This program will include special training schools for AAA committeemen and agency representatives. The Forest Service, Extension Service, and Soil Conservation Service will provide instructors for the meetings, which are to be under the direction of the Extension Service.

The Farm Security Administration has agreed to make more work grants to supplement its loans to low-income families. These grants are to be earned through woodland improvement, farm sanitation, or other practices that will help raise living conditions of the families and encourage better use of the land. More attention will be paid to better livestock and to improving the land through liming and fertilization. Farm-management plans will stress conservation. Farms purchased under the Tenant Purchase Act will be chosen in areas the planning committee recommends.

The Soil Conservation Service will maintain a CCC camp in the county, run a portable soil-testing laboratory, and help the Farm Security Administration to prepare farm-management plans.

The agricultural conservation program for 1940 will provide (1) payment for home gardens and (2) practice payments for use of fertilizer, based on 20-percent rather than 16-percent fertilizer, so as to fit in with recommendations of other agencies.

*Spokane
County*



WASHINGTON

Guiding New Settlers and Present Farmers in Proper Farm Organization.
Improving and Coordinating Credit Facilities.

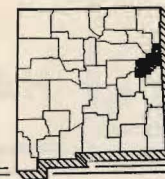
Results of a survey made by the experiment station at the request of the planning committee are being used to guide settlement of many migrants who have come to the county from drought areas, and as a basis for efforts to reorganize farms that are already set up in an uneconomic way.

The board of county commissioners has adopted a policy of withholding from sale tax-reverted land that is in areas named by the planning committee as unsuited to farming. Result: Such land is no longer available to unsuspecting and uninformed settlers who might try to farm it and—like earlier owners of that same land—later have to apply for relief.

The Farm Security Administration will make a limited number of loans for clearing stump land, as a result of the planning committee's recommendation that farm units in certain areas should be increased in size. Each loan made by the Farm Security Administration for land clearing will be subject to the approval of the county planning committee or subcommittee, to make sure that the clearing will be in line with general land use goals.

The Federal Land Bank of Spokane and the regional office of the Farm Security Administration are now talking over a proposed agreement for helping delinquent borrowers from land banks. Looking forward to approval of this agreement, the local officials of these agencies in Spokane County are cooperating with the planning committee in arranging for a study of delinquent loans. Both the Farm Credit Administration and the Farm Security Administration have agreed to use the county land use classification map so that new loans may conform more closely to the adjustments outlined by the planning committee.

*Quay
County*



NEW
MEXICO

More Rehabilitation Grants.	School Health Program.
Help in Preparing Soil Conservation District Work Plans.	Wildlife Area.
Better Secondary Road System.	Rodent Control.
	Encouraging Conservation Practices.

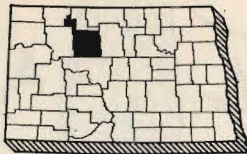
To keep a larger number of farmers working on their farms—farmers who otherwise would find it necessary to seek relief through urban work programs—the Farm Security Administration has increased the number of its rehabilitation grants and loans here.

The supervisors of the two soil conservation districts in the county have adopted the conservation practices recommended by the planning committee. County and State highway departments and the Public Roads Administration have joined hands to develop a county road system as proposed by the planning committee. Research work started in the county as a result of the committee's suggestions includes a special soils survey, and a study of land use practices on row-crop and wheat farms.

Many children who were formerly undernourished are eating well-balanced, healthful lunches, now that the planning committee has received the help of the local relief organizations, the State welfare department and the Federal Surplus Commodities Corporation in starting a school-lunch program. This school-lunch program is now operating in 12 of the 14 communities in the county.

In cooperation with the State game department, plans are being made for establishing a wildlife management area in a part of the county. A rodent-control program is being developed in cooperation with the Bureau of Biological Survey of the Department of Interior. The committee is asking all agricultural agencies in the county to work together in promoting the reseeding and restoration of much abandoned and eroded land in one area. It is asking their cooperation, too, in setting up windbreaks and border plantings, and in encouraging ample gardens and orchards.

*Ward
County*



**NORTH
DAKOTA**

Adjusting Agricultural Conservation Program to Promoting Long-Term Leases.
Encourage Better Land Use. Improving Control of Tax Reverted Land.
Sounder Tax Assessments.

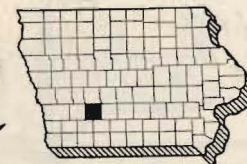
The planning committee has asked the AAA to make a number of changes in its program for the county, along lines that would encourage good land use and farming systems, and in some cases discourage undesirable land use and farming practices. Certain of these proposals have been undertaken by the AAA.

The Farm Security Administration has been asked to use the recommendations and land-classification map of the planning committee in carrying out its tenant-purchase program. The Farm Credit Administration, it was suggested, could promote the use of long-term leases, fitted individually to each farm it owns, and could take part in an educational program to tell farmers about the work and value of farm cooperatives. The FCA is now giving serious consideration to these recommendations. The committee proposed that the Bureau of Biological Survey give special attention to rodent, predatory animal, and insect control on the migratory-waterfowl refuge.

Local farmer groups, township, county, and State government officials, and others are working with the committee on plans for (1) further improving real estate-assessment values in light of the committee's land classification, (2) impounding rentals on tax-delinquent real estate, (3) setting up recreational areas on tax-deeded land, and (4) finding a sounder basis for distributing relief in the county.

The Bureau of Agricultural Economics and the State agricultural experiment station have agreed to conduct research on the problems of debt adjustment, reorganization of school systems, the value of cooperatives, and in farm organization and management. Some of these studies have been started; others are being planned.

*Adair
County*



IOWA

Control of Erosion by Contour Tillage and Strip Cropping. Improving Credit Facilities.
Tax Adjustment.

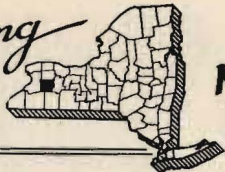
The system of Corn Belt farming followed in Adair County, Iowa, has been too severe for the rolling topography of the area. The planning committee is trying to correct the situation by use of contour tillage of corn, strip cropping, and limestone applications which are being encouraged under the agricultural conservation program.

Other aims include an increase in roughage-consuming livestock, a higher proportion of owner-operated farms, better credit facilities so as to meet the needs of a majority of the farmers, a readjustment of land valuations for tax purposes on the basis of productivity, and greater recreational and social opportunities for rural young people.

The planning committee now is working with the Agricultural Adjustment Administration, Soil Conservation Service, National Youth Administration, Farm Security Administration, Production Credit Association, local bankers, county officials, and the Iowa State College to begin specific action toward attainment of these aims.

In accordance with recommendations by the county planning committee, the agricultural conservation program in Adair County provides for special practices to encourage strip-cropping and contouring practices. This calls for shifting a part of the general soil-depleting money to the soil-building allowance on cropland and pasture, and for payment of a fairly high rate for contour tillage of row crops, and strip cropping on the contour.

Wyoming County NEW YORK



Setting Up Soil Conservation Demonstration Farms.
Fitting Educational Program to Local Needs.
Controlling Tax-Delinquent Land.
Continuing Erosion Control Work by CCC Camp.

Here are a few things that have been done at the request of the land use planning committee of Wyoming County, N. Y.

The Extension Service and the Soil Conservation Service have agreed to set up together at least one soil conservation demonstration farm in each of the towns, and to carry on such educational work as tours and community meetings.

The Soil Conservation Service will keep its CCC camp in the county another year, and will continue work on erosion control, highway flood protection, and stream improvement.

The Extension Service plans to include in its educational program the recommendations of the county planning committee on the subjects of soil fertility, pasture improvement, better woodlands, and the use of land not suitable for agriculture.

The chairman of the Wyoming County Board of Supervisors has agreed to cooperate in stopping resale of tax-delinquent land in areas not suitable for agriculture. The Agricultural Adjustment Administration has under consideration several proposals made by the planning committee.



Chittenden County VERMONT



Pasture Improvement.
Control of River Bank and Sand Blow Erosion.
Farm Forestry.
Improving Secondary Road System.
Drainage.

The county land use planning committee in Chittenden County, Vt., developed a program in cooperation with various agencies to bring about (1) pasture improvement, (2) control of river-bank and sand-blow erosion, (3) drainage in the area where that problem is most pressing, and (4) development of more farm forestry.

In line with the planning committee's recommendations, the Extension Service has published bulletins dealing with sidelines to dairy farming. A special Agricultural Adjustment Administration program was developed to help carry out some of the committee's proposals.

The town governments are cooperating to solve problems in connection with abandoned farms and roads. In addition, the committee's land classification maps are being used by the Public Roads Administration as one yardstick in deciding what roads should be included in the Federal-aid secondary road system.





Pasture Improvement.
Increased Production of Forage Crops.

Improvement of Living Conditions.
Proper Forest Management.

The unified program in Allegany County, Md., is unique because this county was not selected by the State land use planning committee as a unified program county for 1940. Largely through local leadership, the work has gone ahead. Intensive plans have been finished. The specific work plans now developed will result in much-needed action by many agencies.

The county agent, home demonstration agent, Extension Service, experiment station, Farm Security Administration, Agricultural Adjustment Administration, and the district forester have agreed to cooperate as far as possible with the planning program. The committee made recommendations for improving permanent pastures, testing strains of barley to find a variety fitted to the county, increasing the production of forage for livestock, encouraging home production of food by subsistence and part-time farm people, improving forest lands, and modernizing the physical equipment in farm homes.

The committee has given mature consideration to the problems of erosion of crop and pasture land, including flood-gully erosion damage, forest-fire prevention and control, and poor methods of marketing timber.



OTHER EXAMPLES OF ACTION GROWING OUT OF PLANNING

Results growing out of land use planning are not limited to counties chosen as unified-program counties. From hundreds of other counties the Department has received reports of results flowing from the work of land use planning committees.

These instances of action are as varied as United States agriculture itself. Some deal with conserving natural resources, others with making farm family life healthier and happier. Some committees were concerned with helping to locate and develop public services, while others gave advice on State and local policies. A number of committees dealt with governmental programs and local conditions. Many were interested in ways to make agricultural programs work together smoothly. There are instances of group action by farmers, and of planning as an educational force.

But let us, as the saying goes, look at the record.

Steps to Conserve Natural Resources

Most of the best farm land in Kootenai County, Idaho, is owned by Indians but farmed by white people. Erosion, depletion of fertility and the presence of noxious weeds have caused serious problems. As a result of the efforts of the county land use planning committee, the Soil Conservation Service is preparing conservation plans for these farms in keeping with aims outlined by the committee, and the Bureau of Indian Affairs has agreed to include these plans in the leases.

The Division of Grazing of the Department of the Interior has found the work of county planning committees in eastern Oregon helpful in setting up a sound range-management program that includes reseeding, stock-water development, location of drift fences, allotment of the range, and other conservation practices. In Siskiyou County, Calif., the committeemen actively encouraged general participation in the range program of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration. In Newberry County, S. C., the Farm Security Administration, the Soil Conservation Service,

and the Extension Service have decided to give more attention to winter cover crops in their farm plans, at the suggestion of the planning committee.

Planning committees assisted in the organization of soil conservation districts in Yell County, Ark., De Baca County, N. Mex., Tillamook County, Oreg., Box Elder County, Utah, Elbert County, Colo., and Culpeper County, Va. In Quay County, N. Mex. and Marshall County, S. Dak., the boundaries of existing districts were extended.

The part played by the land use planning committees in recommending and helping to organize soil conservation districts has varied from place to place, but in all these counties the committees have studied the erosion problem and reported that the districts afford one means of promoting soil conservation. In addition, the committees often have arranged public educational meetings, and the members have aided in circulating petitions for the formation of districts. For example, a soil conservation district was approved in Box Elder County, Utah, as result of the committee's activity after earlier efforts to form a district had failed.

The work of the planning committee in the soil conservation districts program has not stopped with the formation of the districts. In a number of counties, the Soil Conservation Service has used the planning reports in guiding district programs and work plans. In other cases, the planning committees themselves have advised and aided in drawing up programs and plans of work.

At the suggestion of the committees in Young County, Tex., and Shelby County, Tenn., the county governing bodies have made appropriations for the purchase of power terracing equipment for the use of farmers. The county board of supervisors in five Iowa counties, when asked to do so by their respective planning committees, acted under the State Limestone Act to buy limestone for resale to farmers. The size of these purchases has resulted in savings of 25 percent to farmers.

The development of State forestry programs by subcommittees of State land use planning committees has been a major activity in many States since the spring of 1939. These States are sub-

mitting program reports to the Department, to be used as a basis for initiating the cooperative farm forestry program under the cooperative Farm Forestry Act. On the county level, the Forest Service has used the land-classification maps and reports as a guide in choosing areas for planting under the Prairie States forestry project. In Ohio, Utah, and Idaho, and other States, the Forest Service is consulting with local committees when planning their long-range program for national forest acquisition.

The county-planning and water-conservation programs in the 17 western States are being carried out with special consideration for each other, to the advantage of both programs. State land use planning committees have looked over more than 100 area proposals under the water facilities program and made recommendations. Then, too, State administrators of the program and State land use planning committees have agreed that first consideration should be given to planning areas in carrying out water-conservation work. Although water-facilities area plans themselves are technical reports, farmer committee members give the technicians who prepare them many useful suggestions. When these area plans are drawn up, they are reviewed by both State and county committees, and detailed recommendations are made. More than 40 area plans have been so reviewed.

In Kootenai County, Idaho, the committee found that soil conservation could be brought about through a shift to diversified farming with more livestock, but that this would require a greater water supply for livestock. The planning committee asked that water-facilities demonstrations be conducted in the county, and several projects have been completed. The committee of Perkins County, S. Dak., helped develop the water-facilities program for the Thunder Butte and Rabbit Creek areas. In Delta County, Colo., the land use planning committee was active in advising on the water-use problems of the area, the type of construction needed, the practices desirable in the farm plan of the Soil Conservation Service and in the farm-home plan of the Farm Security Administration. The same committee helped the Department of Agriculture start one group facility to serve 29 farm operators.

Making Farm Life Healthier and Happier

The establishment of public-health units, which would require the cooperation of the local government and the State health department, has been suggested by the planning committees in Caswell County, N. C., and Covington County, Miss. In the latter county, a program has been started to do away with certain health hazards caused by poorly constructed and maintained wells and sewage-disposal plants.

To boost community pride and interest, a beautification campaign was held in Millard County, Utah. In Columbia County, Fla., several community centers are being built on the basis of the recommendations of the planning committee.

In a number of New Mexico counties, the Farm Security Administration has taken many subsistence farmers off WPA rolls. Instead of direct relief, which did not improve the actual living conditions of the farmers and often resulted in neglect of the farm and home, the Farm Security Administration is offering these farmers small payments in return for improvement work done on the farm and in the home.

A whole community in a submarginal area in Transylvania County, N. C., will become a better place to live in through the work of the county committee. The Tennessee Valley Authority, in cooperation with the Extension Service, has approved the area for a watershed demonstration, while the Farm Security Administration has agreed to make loans and grants for pasture improvement, buying foundation herds, and improving living conditions.

Helping to Locate and Develop Public Services

The Public Roads Administration and several cooperating State highway departments are using the land-classification maps and reports to help decide where roads should or should not be built, and how much traffic each road is likely to carry in the future. Three farm-to-market roads in Kaufman County, Tex., and one in Etowah County, Ala., are being built largely as a result of the efforts of county committees. Officials in 12 other counties in

Alabama and in 20 counties in Indiana are bringing their programs into line with the recommendations of the committees, so as not to spend money needlessly on roads in areas unsuited to farming.

Planning committees in Brown, Harrison, Owen, Monroe, and Martin Counties, Ind., report that their area-classification maps have been used by Rural Electrification Administration committeemen in locating and extending rural electrification lines. Acting upon recommendations of the committees in Worcester and Wicomico Counties, Md., the commissioners of each county have set aside \$10,000 for drainage purposes. The State has supplied an added \$30,000 for the work, and the Federal Government is providing a CCC camp to help drain the land. On the Pacific coast, a flume that conducted drainage water across the lowlands of Island County, Wash., is being redesigned and rebuilt, at the suggestion of the county committee, to permit the drainage of much more good land.

The lakes and streams of Otsego County, Mich., will be handier to the people since the Michigan Department of Conservation has agreed to buy land there for recreational purposes. It has asked the county committee to select the land to be purchased. The Mississippi State Forest Commission has agreed to change the location of a proposed State forest to a site that the planning committee decided was unsuited to agriculture. The people in Barton County, Mo., will have more public recreational grounds when the State conservation commission buys 11,500 acres of coal strip pits to be reforested, and stocks the water holes in the area with fish. This action is based on the recommendations of the State land use planning committee. The State conservation commission has named a farmer member of the State committee from Barton County as its agent in buying the land.

In order that eight new schools may be of most value to O'Brien County, Iowa, decision as to where to build them is being held up until the county committee makes its recommendations. In many Indiana counties, the spending of money for new school buildings is being guided by the planning committees, so that what happened in one community won't happen again. That community

recently built a \$150,000 school only to learn, when the planning committee finished its land-classification map, that the area in which the school was located was shown to be going out of agriculture.

Advice on State and Local Policies

The county commissioners in Beltrami, Hubbard, Koochiching, Carlton, and Lake-of-the-Woods Counties, Minn., have decided not to offer for sale county-owned land that county and community planning committees have classed as unsuited for agriculture. Planning committees have played an important part in aiding the decision of the Michigan State Conservation Department not to sell poor land in Mason County, as well as in similar decisions of the commissioners in Carbon County, Utah; Bowman County, N. Dak.; and Spokane County, Wash. State agencies in Minnesota and Arkansas are asking the planning committees for information and advice in deciding which parcels of publicly owned land should be kept in public hands and which should be returned to private ownership.

In Bowman County, N. Dak., and Corson County, S. Dak., the commissioners are classifying county-owned range land, blocking it into units, and leasing it for long terms, at the suggestion of the county committees. The committee in Pend Oreille County, Wash., has arranged for an exchange of land among the Forest Service, the county commissioners, and a lumber company, to the advantage of all three. A referendum held in Menominee County, Mich., has endorsed rural zoning, but the drafting and passing of the ordinance is being held up until the county committee finishes its land classification. The ordinance in Marinette County, Wis., has been changed in light of the planning report to include in restricted zones more land unsuited to agriculture. Minnesota counties only lately have been authorized to zone, so that many committees in that State are now sponsoring zoning ordinances by gathering information for local officials, holding educational meetings, and working with the Extension Service to tell the people about zoning.

In Sargent County, N. Dak., the committee is helping the county officials to adjust land valuation for tax purposes to conform to what the land is able to produce. In seven counties in Texas and in Kansas and Arizona, county planning committees cooperated with governmental agencies and farm people in combating grasshoppers. Committees in New Mexico and Idaho conducted campaigns for controlling rodents. On the basis of recommendations of county committees, full-time weed commissioners have been employed by three Iowa counties, and seven more counties may soon have them. Four other Iowa counties have enlarged their weed-control programs to include buying weed-control equipment.

Government Programs and Local Conditions

In almost every county in which the planning committee has finished its land-classification work, the rural rehabilitation supervisor is using the maps, and the area descriptions and recommendations that go with them, as guides in making new loans. Not long ago, after going over 48 applications for loans, the Farm Security Advisory Committee of Owen County said that information worked up by the land use planning committee helped it to give more intelligent consideration to applications than ever before. In Newberry County, S. C., the Farm Security Administration will follow the suggestion of the planning committee to set up families on farms of at least two-mule size. The same agency and the Soil Conservation Service have agreed to provide for livestock in their farm plans in that county.

In many of the counties where the tenant purchase program is operating, the Farm Security Administration makes wide use of the land-classification maps in selecting and appraising farms on which such loans should or should not be made. At the last general assembly, the Iowa Legislature passed an amendment to the State lease-termination law, calling for notification by November 1 if farm leases are not to continue on into the next crop year. Things were rather confusing at first for those who did not know about the law, and one of the county planning committees thought that the

Farm Security Advisory Committee might act as arbitrator in questions arising from this law. As a result of this recommendation, the Farm Security Administration Committee took on this job in all counties in Iowa.

Sometimes, county planning committees point out weak spots that can be remedied by existing governmental facilities. For instance, in Young County, Tex., the committee suggested that improved leasing agreements be made available to promote better understanding between landlord and tenants. This suggestion is assisting the Farm Security Administration to concentrate on farm-lease work in that area.

In Greene County, Ga., the Soil Conservation Service is buying land in those areas designated by the county planning committee as unsuited for arable farming. Similar help has been given the Soil Conservation Service in Callaway County, Mo., and the Forest Service in nine counties in Indiana. The planning committees in Caswell County, N. C., have helped to explain to the people there the aims of the submarginal land purchase project, thus helping to avoid possible misunderstandings.

In Coos County, N. H., there is again the problem of woodland pastures that have neither good grass nor good woodland. The planning committee suggested a way to get better pasture on less acreage, and to put the rest of the former woodland pasture under a managed woodland program. The Agricultural Adjustment Administration has agreed to help by adjusting its program to make this possible. Already the idea has spread to York County, Maine, and Windham and New London Counties, Conn.

Ways to Make Agricultural Programs Work Together Smoothly

In many counties, executive or work committees have been set up by planning committees to determine ways of making all the agricultural programs in the county work together smoothly. Such committees usually include representatives of the various public agencies, and either the chairman or one or two other farmer members of the planning committee. Even in counties where such committees have not yet been set up, the planning committees

have succeeded in drawing agricultural programs closer together. For example, because of the committee's work in Okfuskee County, Okla., the Agricultural Adjustment Administration is giving to the county rehabilitation supervisor a copy of its farm plan for each Farm Security family, so that the supervisor will be better able to set up farm plans for these families. In Lewis County, Va., the Farm Security Administration has agreed to finance farmers in ways that will help them cooperate in the work of the Soil Conservation Service and the Agricultural Adjustment Administration.

Instances of Group Action by Farmers

Buying clubs have been formed in several counties in Arkansas for the purchase of farm supplies and livestock. In Nebraska community committees have been set up for cooperative tree planting. In Uintah and Juab Counties, Utah, planning committees were active in starting cooperative sawmills, which allow farmers to spend their spare time getting lumber for their own use. The planning committee of Pend Oreille County, Wash., has arranged to rent a privately-owned bulldozer, which will make land clearing much cheaper than under the hand methods used before. In Dona Ana County, N. Mex., the committee felt that methods of food storage there were so poor that the health of the community was in danger. With the committee's help, the farmers have joined together to finance a cold-storage locker plant at Anthony, which will serve a large area in the southern part of the county, as well as an adjoining Texas county.

Community planning committees represented the growers of Mesa County, Colo., in working out a successful peach-marketing plan. Through this plan, 2,500 cars, or more than a million bushels of fruit, were sold. Out of their efforts grew a State law allowing closer cooperation of State and Federal officials on marketing problems, a program to induce greater consumption of Colorado peaches, and more thorough inspection of all peaches shipped from the valley. In several counties in Texas and New Mexico the committees have supported cooperative marketing.

In a number of Ohio counties, planning committees have helped focus extension programs more sharply on the leading problems. For example, the county agent of Owen County is trying out a different program for each class of land mapped by the planning committee. Likewise the Vigo County extension program is being reshaped to give better service to part-time farmers.

Erosion-control demonstration farms have been set up by the Extension Service and the Soil Conservation Service in Riverside County, Calif., and in Cherokee and Henry Counties, Iowa, at the suggestion of county planning committees. In Missouri, Michigan, Oklahoma, Idaho, Texas, and many more States, the planning committees are advising on problems of county extension program building. Their recommendations are guiding much of the county agents' work. As a county agent in an Ohio county put it, "This project has already laid out enough constructive work to keep me busy for the next 20 years."

In Kansas counties, agricultural teachers are getting copies of planning reports as soon as they are finished. Several county planning committees are recommending that their maps and reports be used in public schools. In Young County, Tex., the committee has urged that vocational teachers help spread better conservation practices by pointing out to their high-school and adult classes the value of soil and moisture conservation, and by teaching sound ways to save the soil. Not long ago, the Keokuk County Planning Committee held a joint session with 70 members of the vocational night school at Sigoruney, Iowa, to talk over land use planning. In Belmont County, Ohio, the agricultural teacher has built an adult agricultural course around the land use map, descriptions, and recommendations of the county committee.

Conclusion

WHAT CAN we conclude from these examples of action growing out of planning?

For one thing, it can be said that although the long-time goal of land use planning is the permanent solution of the problems facing county, State, and Nation, and although many of the things it deals with will take years to be worked out, there are other things that the committees have shown can be done right now to help the farmers in the various counties.

For another thing, it is clear that planning committees often reach their goals by local action, rather than by proposing changes in Federal programs. Planning committees have succeeded in getting local governments to buy tools for the improvement of the soil; helped local officials to locate schools, roads, and recreation grounds; suggested how local programs can be reworked in view of planning committee recommendations; considered the need for changes in local tax systems; and encouraged farmers to meet many of their joint problems by working together.

Planning committees have shown they can get results in many cases without new legislation. Committees have helped the Federal and State governments fit their present programs to local conditions, found ways to make these programs work together smoothly, and encouraged community pride and interest. They have been active in locating and developing public services, working out cooperative marketing agreements, and helping the people in their communities to learn the value of land use planning.

These results just begin to tell the story. More and more examples of action growing out of planning are reported daily to the Department of Agriculture. And as time goes on, the individual county planning committees will find new ways of getting practical results from their plans. This is because land use planning is a continuous process. Planning in a county is never finished. It does not provide a blueprint that is made in a few weeks, adopted or rejected, and then forgotten. It is a growing thing, constantly subject to change in the light of new information or in response to variations in the general agricultural situation.

Whatever the recommendations of the planning committees may be, and whatever the action growing out of these recommendations, these committees are establishing a new channel for the expression of farmer opinion—one that will allow farmers to be heard much more clearly than ever before. In essence, land use planning is a national attempt to make democracy work throughout the whole field of agriculture, to make the voice of the people more effective in their government. That, by itself, is perhaps the most important single fact about county land use planning.