

OPPORTUNITIES FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF YOUNG MEN
IN FARMING IN JEWELL COUNTY, KANSAS

by |

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CHAPTER I

THE PROBLEM AND DEFINITIONS OF TERMS USED

This study was built around the observations of the author as a teacher of vocational agriculture and his concern regarding the many young men at the time of this study who were discouraged in their pursuit of farming as a vocation. It was assumed that there were larger farm units with fewer farm operators which made it increasingly difficult to make an entry into farming. It was further assumed that the large amount of capital necessary to make an adequate start in farming kept many boys who did not inherit farms from attempting to farm.

The Problem

Statement of the problem. It was the purpose of this study (1) to approximate the number of farm boys who would graduate from the high schools of Jewell County, Kansas during the years 1966 through 1969 who would normally seek an opportunity to farm; and (2) to determine if there would be farming opportunities for these boys in Jewell County during the same four year period. From a review of other studies it was concluded that approximately fifty per cent of the farm boy graduates would normally seek an opportunity to farm.

Importance of the study. At the time of this study high school graduates had been facing the question as to the opportunities in farming. They were confronted daily with the rapidly rising price of land and the

constant increase in cost of machinery. They were aware that it would take several times more land for them to make an acceptable standard of living than it had for their fathers. In many cases, home farms were not of adequate size to fully employ a young farmer with modern equipment. These conditions indicated that fewer young men would be able to make farming their livelihood. This deduction was substantiated by Murray and Rings¹ who stated:

Agricultural economists have estimated that for the whole country not more than one person in ten now born on a farm can expect to get enough money from farming to live by minimum standards. In this rich Nation, many will continue to earn a good living by supplying food and other agricultural products to American consumers and to the people in other lands, but the number of farm youths who can anticipate such a career will continue to decline.

The competition for land had increased because agricultural expansion from the development of arid, semi-arid, and wet lands had largely been completed. Reagan and Wooten reported that the peak in total cropland of 480 million acres reached in 1920 was unchanged in 1930. They also determined that the average rate of absorption of rural land by special-purpose uses during the 1950's was about two million acres a year.

¹Evelyn Murray and E. Eleanor Rings, "Young People and the Need for Planning," The Yearbook of Agriculture, 1963, p. 31.

²Mark M. Reagan and Hugh H. Wooten, "Land Use Trends and Urbanization," The Yearbook of Agriculture, 1963, p. 61.

Available crop acres for production were further reduced by government control programs according to Hill and Maier.¹ They stated that from 1950 to 1959, the acreage used for crop production in the United States declined from 377 million acres to 358 million, and the acreage harvested from 336 million acres to 317 million. Whether this trend would continue and how much it would affect farming opportunities, they said, would depend on whether land taken out of production was suitable for farming and was actually needed for agricultural production.

At the time of this study beginning farmers had to compete for control of land with established farmers who wanted to expand their operation. The author felt that beginners were in a poor position to compete effectively because they were confronted with high demands for beginning operating capital and management skills. Kanel *et al.*² had stated that even in renting land the established operator usually had the advantage as most landlords preferred proven, experienced tenants that had the equipment to do a good job. The effect that the high level of capital required to start farming had had on the beginner was reflected by Hill and Maier³ who stated:

¹Howard L. Hill and Frank H. Maier, "The Family Farm in Transition," The Yearbook of Agriculture, 1963, p. 172.

²Don Kanel, Franklin J. Reiss and Charles L. Stewart, "Getting Started in Farming is Hard," The Yearbook of Agriculture, 1958, p. 255.

³Hill and Maier, *op. cit.*

. . . The increase in the level of capital assets and in price of farmland has had an adverse effect on beginning farmers who are without substantial family assistance and on established farmers who need to enlarge if they are to meet minimum standards of farm income.

It had been the experience of the author that, contrary to common opinion, some had voiced the belief that in the foreseeable future from the time of the study there would actually be a shortage of farm operators. There seemed to be some basis for this belief when one considered the age distribution of farmers. On this subject, Taeuber¹ said:

One indication of things to come is the age of farm operators. Farming has lost much of the attraction it once had for young men, many of whom lack the large investment required for a productive farm of adequate size. Unless a significant change comes about, the number of farm operators will decline as men now farming die or retire.

The average age of farm operators in 1962 was about 50 years, and there were more operators between the ages of 45 and 54 than in any other 10-year age group. Not enough younger men have come forward to replace older farmers, and this has been responsible for a part of the decline in the number of farmers. The indications are that there will be a further decline in the number of farmers as older men retire or die.

Others have agreed that the average age of the farmer has increased. Alliger pointed out that 11.1 per cent of the farmers were 65 or over in 1930, compared to 16.8 in 1960. This was an increase of 51 per cent in just one generation. In addition, he stated that one in six farmers in the United States was over 65 in 1960.²

¹Conrad Taeuber, "Rural Americans and the Rest of Us," The Yearbook of Agriculture, 1963, p. 17.

²Daniel E. Alliger, "Older People and Their Problems," The Yearbook of Agriculture, 1963, p. 45.

The author had been concerned that too many talented young men had left their home communities to seek employment elsewhere. These young men were needed to become the farm leaders of the future. Good farm leaders were essential in order to have an urban population that was aware of and sympathetic to the problems of the farmer.

Hill and Maier¹ wrote that as a young Nation, we believed in the virtues of a farm life; in farming as a family enterprise; in the independent, self-sufficient life. They felt that cause for major concern was whether the trend toward the larger and more specialized farming operations was compatible with a family-farm system. Prominent persons had expressed faith in family farms. Secretary of Agriculture, Orville Freeman² had stated:

I believe the family farm system is worth preserving because it has social worth as well as economic value. . . . Most of the people on these farms want to be farmers. It is their chosen profession. They want to stay on the land and in their community . . .

Kanel et al.³ pointed out that because many farming opportunities were controlled by land-owning farm families very few farm boys without savings or family backing could start farming. They said this situation was in conflict with American ideals, which favor both the family farm and equality of opportunities.

¹Howard L. Hill and Frank H. Maier, "The Family Farm in Transition," The Yearbook of Agriculture, 1963, p. 166.

²Orville Freeman, "Foreword," The Yearbook of Agriculture, 1963, p. vii.

³Don Kanel, Franklin J. Reiss, and Charles L. Stewart, "Getting Started in Farming is Hard," The Yearbook of Agriculture, 1958, p. 262.

It was held by some that if a boy really wanted to farm that somehow he would get one. Doil C. Brown¹ of Michigan State University called this a myth because it simply was not supported by facts. He said many who believed this would likely find themselves job hunting in a strange city.

Some of the questions that inspired this study were: What was the future of the American farmer? Would the family farm be able to survive? And, specifically, what were the opportunities for the young men of Jewell County, Kansas to enter farming? At the time of the study, the author felt the future was unsure and quite perplexing to farm youth. Factual information of the projected farm availability in Jewell County, Kansas was needed to help guide young men who were considering farming as their occupation.

Definitions of Terms Used

Certain terms were set aside for special definition for the purposes of this study. The definitions given were not necessarily those of common usage and were as follows:

Opportunity. Opportunity included only the availability of adequate land for either rent or purchase and did not include the young man's financial ability to make use of the opportunity. It was assumed that ample credit was obtainable.

¹Doil C. Brown, "4 Myths That Hurt Farm Boys," Farm Journal, 89:68, April, 1965.

Young men. For this report, young men included boys only from the time they graduated from high school (or age 18 if they did not graduate) to not more than four years later.

Establishment in farming. A young man who became self-employed in a farm enterprise or enterprises to the extent that it required a majority of his time and/or provided more than half of his income, was considered established in farming.

Farm boys. Boys that lived on farms that provided at least half of the income of the operator or boys that lived in town but whose father operated a farm nearby, were considered farm boys.

Vo-Ag. Vo-Ag was used in this report as an abbreviation for vocational agriculture.

Method of Research

Interviews, library research, and a check of records were used in collecting the information for this study. Major sources of information were interviews with the high school administrators, county clerk, and farmers and farm owners of Jewell County. Additional information was obtained from Yearbooks of Agriculture and the 1959 Census of Agriculture.

CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF SELECTED LITERATURE

A survey was made of the Master's reports on file in the office of Agricultural Education at Kansas State University which related to this topic. Articles written and published in the Agricultural Education Magazine over the years 1955 to 1966 were reviewed. A study was also made of the Yearbooks of Agriculture from 1958 through 1965 and the 1959 Census of Agriculture. From these sources selected literature was reviewed. The degree of relationship of the selected articles varied from some Master's reports which were adjudged quite similar to others much less similar.

For convenience and clarity the review of literature was grouped into four categories: (1) per cent of vo-ag graduates that started farming, (2) opportunities for young men to start farming, (3) factors related to a young man's desire to farm, and (4) the extent and effect of part-time farming.

Per Cent of Vo-Ag Graduates That Started Farming

Many individuals had reported the per cent of vo-ag graduates that enter farming. These reports were representative of a large part of the United States and varied somewhat according to location and time

that the studies were made.

Gibson¹ found that during 1946-49 nineteen per cent of the vo-ag graduates of Tipton, Missouri went into farming. Wolfe,² also from Missouri, reported that an average of 30 to 40 per cent of vo-ag graduates in Missouri went into farming.

In a study in California, Thompson³ determined that 29 per cent of the juniors and seniors planned to enter farming.

Bay⁴ reported on records kept of vo-ag graduates of Trenton, Missouri. Over a period of 39 years, the teacher kept in touch with 84 per cent of 634 graduates. In the spring of 1965 the occupation of the graduates were: farming, 19.4 per cent; farming and town job, 6.4 per cent; agriculture related town job, 24.3 per cent; non-agriculture related town job, 33.6 per cent; unknown, 16.3 per cent. In the final ten years of the survey, the teacher saw the number of his graduates who chose farming drop by 2.5 per cent and those taking town jobs increase by 3.7 per cent.

¹Roscoe Gibson, "What Happens to Farm Boys Who Have Finished Vocational Agriculture?" The Agricultural Education Magazine, 34:130, December, 1961.

²Wayne W. Wolfe, "Problems Related to Establishment in Farming," The Agricultural Education Magazine, 31:226, 229, April, 1959.

³O. E. Thompson, "What Are the Plans of Vocational Agriculture Students?" The Agricultural Education Magazine, 34:276, June, 1962.

⁴Ovid Bay, "What Happens to VO-AG grads?" Farm Journal, 90:68R, March, 1966.

In Illinois, Wood¹ found that 40 per cent of the vo-ag students went into farming. Those who were farming were dispersed in eight types of farming arrangements: absentee owners of land, 1 per cent; owners-operators, 9 per cent; renters, 50 per cent; owners-renters, 10 per cent; partnership, 16 per cent; farm managers, 1 per cent; farm wage earners, 3 per cent; part-time farmers, 18 per cent. It was noted that this added up to 108 per cent, so there must have been some duplication.

Bender² reported 43.7 per cent of Ohio 1955 graduates were engaged in farming as of March 1, 1960. Elliot³ of the University of Maine said that 30.5 per cent of vo-ag graduates in Maine were farming the first year out of high school.

Bradley⁴, in one of the most extensive studies in Kansas, found that by 1962, 25.5 per cent of the 1959 graduates having four or more units of vo-ag were farming. Rawson⁵ in an eighteen year study of a

¹Eugene S. Wood, "What Happens to Illinois Vocational Agriculture Students After High School?" The Agricultural Education Magazine, 33:137-38, December, 1960.

²Ralph E. Bender, "Vocational Status of Ohio Graduates in Vocational Agriculture When Out of School One and Five Years," The Agricultural Education Magazine, 33:236-37, April, 1961.

³Wallace H. Elliot, "After Vo-Ag What?" The Agricultural Education Magazine, 33:259-60, May 1961.

⁴Howard R. Bradley, "The Status of Kansas High School Graduates Who Majored in Vocational Agriculture," The Agricultural Education Magazine, 35:147-48, January, 1963.

⁵W. A. Rawson, "An Eighteen-Year Study of Graduates of a Kansas Vocational Agriculture Department," The Agricultural Education Magazine, 35:147-48, January, 1963.

Kansas vocational agriculture department from 1943 to 1961 found that of the 191 graduates who had taken three or more years of vocational agriculture, 75 or 40 per cent were farming full time, part-time, or were working as farm hands.

Venneberg¹ from a study of a Kansas high school established that 15.19 per cent of all male graduates during 1947-1956 were farmers and farm managers. Farm laborers made up 2.53 per cent. In addition, he found that 28.56 per cent of the male graduates went into agriculture in the period 1947 to 1951 but this per cent dropped to 18.9 per cent during the period 1952 to 1956.²

According to Gehlback³ 48.4 per cent of the 1941 Kansas high school graduates having completed two or more units of vocational agriculture were farming in 1955. Of the 1948 Kansas graduates 42.3 per cent were farming in 1955.

Opportunities for Young Men to Start Farming

The author believed that opportunities for young men to start farming were closely related to the replacement rate of farm operators.

¹Clyde Maurice Venneberg, "A Follow-up of the Solomon Rural High School Alumni Graduating During the Period of 1947-1956," (unpublished Master's report, Kansas State University, Manhattan, 1962), p. 7.

²Ibid., p. 17.

³Walter Roy Gehlback, "A Study of the Present Occupational Status of 1941 and 1948 Kansas High School Graduates Having Completed Two or More Units of Vocational Agriculture," (unpublished Master's report, Kansas State University, Manhattan, 1962), p. 18.

Worthington¹ determined that there was an approximate 2.5 per cent yearly replacement of farm operators in Ohio during the three ten year periods 1920-1950.

Horner and Benson² from a Nebraska study speculated that there may be three farms for every vocational agriculture graduate. By using retirement, death, and migration to non-farm occupations, they found that 30.5 per cent of the farmers in 1960 would leave the farm by 1970 and 30.5 per cent of the farmers in 1970 would leave the farm by 1980. This per cent was found by totaling the retirement rate (20 per cent), the death rate (5 per cent), and the migration rate (5.5 per cent). Consolidation of farms was found to be 7.2 per cent for a five year period. Subtracting 7.2 per cent or 14.4 per cent for the ten years from the 30.5 per cent that would become available, left 1,520 opportunities during the 1960's. It has been established that approximately 50 per cent of Nebraska's vocational agriculture graduates farm. Around 1,000 boys graduate from Nebraska vocational agriculture departments each year. Fifty per cent of 1,000 left 500 graduates for the more than 1,500 opportunities.

¹ John E. Worthington, "How Many Opportunities for Entering Farming?" The Agricultural Education Magazine, 29:41, August, 1956.

² James T. Horner and Donavon Bensen, "Three Farms for Every Vo-Ag Graduate," The Agricultural Education Magazine, 36:62-3, September, 1963.

In an effort to determine the opportunities for young farmers, Swanson¹ interviewed 363 farm operators in an Iowa community. He found 46 operators over 65 years of age. If they retired in the next ten years it would give an average of 4.6 farming opportunities during the next ten years. A total of 104 operators were estimated would quit farming during the next ten years when factors besides retirement were considered. This would give an average of 10.4 opportunities per year. Swanson estimated that this would allow at least 40 per cent of the farm boys in the community to farm should they desire to.

Flory² used seven methods to estimate the number of farming opportunities in a Kansas community. The methods were :

1. Simple projection of death, change of occupation, retirement, and consolidation rates.
2. Same as method (1) except adjusted to \$10,000 gross income.
3. Respondents willing to help finance young men.
4. Same as method (1) except assuming farmers retire at age 65.
5. Same as method (1) except using present plans of respondents to retire and adjusting incomes to \$10,000.
6. Same as method (5) except adjusting acreages to a size likely to produce a \$10,000 gross income.
7. Same as method (1) except using respondents' plans for retirement.

¹Robert M. Swanson, "Opportunities for Establishment of Young Farmers in the Marengo, Iowa Community," The Agricultural Education Magazine, 35:115-6, December, 1962.

²Joseph Roland Flory, "Farm Entry Opportunities for Young Farmers in the Holton Unified School District During the Period 1965-1975," (unpublished Master's report, Kansas State University, Manhattan, 1965), p. 43.

The results of the seven methods in number of available farms during 10 years were: Method (1), 27.1; Method (2), minus 10.6; Method (3), 45.8; Method (4), 63.1; Method (5), 76.8; Method (6), 80.8; Method (7), 66.2. It was noted that there were a wide range of results. He concluded that an average of five or six or more farming opportunities were likely to become available each year. He also concluded that at the present rate of graduating vocational agriculture boys, a farming opportunity should be available to those boys who desired them.

Bevins¹ used death and retirement rates to determine that in Kansas during the period 1959-69 less than 6,000 farms grossing \$10,000 or more would become available for new operators. That would be less than 600 per year. It also would be fewer than six opportunities per county per year. During this same period of time an average of 3,100 farm boys would become 20 years old each year. This meant that only 20 per cent of those farm boys could step into a going operation grossing \$10,000 or more.

Alleger² stated that the retirement pattern of farmers had a direct influence on farming opportunities. He said that many farmers stay in farming until age 75. He further stated that 71 per cent of farmers in Oklahoma said they expected to continue farming after age 65, but on a reduced scale.

¹Robert Bevins, Unpublished paper, Agricultural Economics Department, Kansas State University, Manhattan.

²Daniel E. Alleger, "Older People and Their Problems," The Yearbook of Agriculture, 1963, p. 50.

The farming opportunities situation and the factors causing it were discussed by Kanel, Reiss and Stewart,¹ who stated:

A decline in the number of farms, changes in farm technology (which have enabled each farm family to operate a larger acreage), the nearly unchanging total of cropland since 1920, and increases in production per acre (which have been more than enough to satisfy increases in demand for agricultural output) have brought a drastic drop in opportunities for beginning farmers.

Factors Related to a Young Man's Desire to Farm

The factors related to a young man's desire to farm are diverse and many. An Iowa study showed that a small rise in farm income resulted in a large increase in the number of young men who wanted to start farming. Consequently, they were wanting to start farming at the time when their chances were the slimest.²

According to Erickson³ the factors most closely related with entrance into farming, ranked in descending order, were: (1) having a strong desire to farm, (2) having a father who was an owner-operator or an owner-tenant farmer or rancher, (3) having been reared on a farm of greater size than the average of the community, (4) having experienced parental interest and attitude that encouraged entrance into farming, and

¹Don Kanel, Franklin J. Reiss and Charles L. Stewart, "Getting Started in Farming is Hard," The Yearbook of Agriculture, 1958, p. 254-5.

²Doil C. Brown, "4 Myths That Hurt Farm Boys," Farm Journal, 89:68, April, 1965.

³Donald O. Erickson, "Factors Associated With Entrance Into Farming and Non-farming Occupations," The Agricultural Education Magazine, 28:250, May, 1956.

(5) having developed proficiency in farming as a result of training received in vocational agriculture.

Bjoraker¹ measured the degree of relationship of various factors to the vocational agriculture student's desire to remain on the farm. He found a significant association between: (1) The boys measured attitude toward farming and his expressed level of desire to remain on the farm, (2) The size of the home farm in acres and the boys level of desire to remain on the farm, and (3) The size of the farm business as expressed by the number of productive work units in the farm and the boy's level of desire to remain on the farm.

It was noted that Bjoraker found no significant association at the 5 per cent level between: (1) The measured ability and the level of desire to remain on the farm, (2) The socio-economic level of the farm and the level of the desire to remain on the farm, (3) The size of the family and the level of desire of the boy to remain on the farm, (4) The formal education level attained by the parents and the son's level of desire to remain on the farm, and (5) Farm ownership by the parents and the son's level of desire to remain on the farm.

The Extent and Effect of Part-Time Farming

In the opinion of the author, there had been a steady growth in the number of part-time farmers. It seemed that many young farmers

¹Walter T. Bjoraker, "Factors Associated With the Vo-Ag Student's Desire to Remain on the Farm," The Agricultural Education Magazine, 26:22, July, 1955.

close to cities used city jobs to help off-set some of the high initial capital required to start farming. It appeared that after a few years the city job was dropped and they moved into full-time farming. A survey in Ohio, however, showed that it was difficult for many of the part-time farmers to give up the steady income from the city job in order to make the transition to full-time farming.¹

Flory² in his study found 57.5 per cent of the farmers had off-farm jobs which amounted to \$3,853 of additional income per operator. In the age group 20 to 29 there were 64.3 per cent that held off-farm jobs.

Concerning part-time farming Crosswhite³ said:

About 5 of every 11 farm operators did some work off their farms in 1963. By extending the trends of the fifties, we find that the proportion of farm operators working off their farms increased from 38.8 per cent in 1949 to approximately 47 per cent in 1963; the percentage of those who had nonfarm work 100 days or more was 23.3 in 1949 and 32.5 in 1959.

The author felt that part-time farming may not be a temporary arrangement for a growing number of farmers. Neither should it be

¹Don Kanal, Franklin J. Reiss and Charles L. Stewart, "Getting Started in Farming is Hard," The Yearbook of Agriculture, 1958, p. 254-5.

²Joseph Roland Flory, "Farm Entry Opportunities for Young Farmers in the Holton Unified School District During the Period 1965-1975," (unpublished Master's report, Kansas State University, Manhattan, 1965), p. 36.

³William M. Crosswhite, "Part-time Farming; Part-time Jobs," The Yearbook of Agriculture, 1963, p. 146.

necessarily considered an undesirable arrangement. Crosswhite¹ stated:

There is little agreement as to the extent to which part-time farming is becoming an accepted permanent arrangement. Many think that part-time farming is an intermediate stage in the transition of the family from full-time farming to either full-time nonfarm work or retirement. Less frequently, part-time farming is a way of getting started in full-time farming. With 45 per cent of all farmers working off their farms and with part-time farms constituting 30 per cent of all farms in 1963, I believe there is some basis for recognizing part-time farming as an acceptable adjustment to changing conditions in agriculture.

¹Ibid., p. 150.

CHAPTER III

INTERVIEW RESULTS

An interview form with thirteen questions and an interviewer's manual (see appendix) was developed and used in obtaining information desired for the study. A list of the farm owners and farm operators was obtained from the county ASC office. The age of all those having Jewell County addresses was gained from the enumeration records in the county clerk's office. Since it was felt that those at or nearing retirement would give the most helpful information, only those between the ages of 65 and 74 were used for interview purposes. Two hundred and forty-seven names fell within this category. From these 247 names, 60 names were selected by random to be interviewed. Occasionally, when the one to be interviewed was unavailable, someone else in the family answered the questions as they felt the one to be interviewed would have answered. Usually this was a husband, wife or son of the one that was to be interviewed.

The names were randomized by listing and numbering the 247 names. Each of the numbers were then written on a slip of paper and the slips of paper placed in a box. The box was shaken and the numbers drawn out one at a time until 60 numbers were withdrawn. The numbers were withdrawn without looking and the box was shaken between each drawing.

Fifty-six interviews were completed. Two individuals were not available, one preferred not to answer questions, and another had sold

his land before being contacted for interview.

The average age of those interviewed was 69.6 years. The author's comments concerning each question and the responses of the interviewees follow.

1. How many years have you been farming? The average of the responses was 43 years.

2. Do you have a job off the farm? Twenty-five per cent said yes, and 75 per cent said no.

a. If so, what is the name of the job? Jobs reported included serving on ASC committee, measurer for ASC, photographer, county commissioner, car salesman, mail carrier, director of a co-op elevator, cook, banker, non-professional veterinary work, township trustee, and assistant city librarian.

b. What per cent of your income comes from this job? The average of the responses was 29 per cent.

3. How many acres of cropland (including government payment land) did you farm in 1965. An average of 224.4 acres was reported. This answer included people who owned land but did not farm it.

4. How many acres of pasture were grazed by your livestock in 1965? The responses averaged 131.8 acres and included pasture owners who did not graze their own livestock on it.

5. How many acres do you own? The interviewees averaged 331.5 acres.

6. How long have you been an owner? An average of the responses was 28.5 years.

7. When do you expect to start drawing Social Security? Those that were not drawing Social Security were usually unable to give a date that they would commence drawing. Therefore, the interviewees were grouped into those that were drawing and those that were not drawing. Eighty-five and seven-tenths per cent were drawing and 14.3 per cent were not.

8. If you are now retired, at what age do you expect to retire? Farmers were very uncertain as to a future time of retirement, and were largely unable to give a retirement date. Therefore, the responses were grouped as follows:

Already retired	- 50.0%
Partially retired now	- 23.0%
Undecided	- 27.0%

9. What do you expect to do with your land when you retire?

The responses were grouped as follows:

Sell	- 12.5%
Rent	- 78.6%
Undecided	- 3.6%
Did not own land	- 5.4%

It appeared that those who were going to rent their land at retirement planned to eventually pass it on to heirs.

10. If you sell, do you plan to sell on a contract?

The responses were as follows:

Yes	- 39.3%
Maybe	- 8.9%
No	- 10.7%
Would not consider selling	- 35.7%
Did not own land	- 5.4%

11. If you rent your land, will you move to town or continue living in your farm home? The responses were as follows:

Move to town	- 50.0%
Live in farm home	- 35.7%
Did not own	- 5.4%
Undecided	- 1.8%
Would definitely sell	- 7.1%

The above figures should not be interpreted to mean that one-half of those interviewed would leave farm homes vacant at retirement. Many of the 50 per cent were already living in town and indicated their farm buildings were not livable. It was not attempted to determine how many usable farm homes would be made available by those retiring.

12. Would you be interested in helping a young man get started in farming through some kind of share agreement? The responses were as follows:

Yes	- 12.5%
Maybe	- 1.8%
No	- 85.7%

Some of the reasons given for not being interested in helping a young man were that they had too few acres, little or no equipment, or were not otherwise prepared to help. A few indicated they had already substantially helped a young man, and therefore would not be able to help

another. A number indicated they would be interested in helping a young man only if he were a relative. Several were quite emphatic in expressing their willingness to help if they were able. It seemed there were few who were in a position to materially help a young man who had not already made some provision for doing so.

13. Having had years of experience, would you encourage a young man to enter farming? The responses were:

Yes	- 85.7%
Maybe	- 1.8%
No	- 12.5%

It was explained to the ones interviewed that this question was based on the assumption that there was an opportunity to farm and that the young man desired to do so. It was not the purpose of the question to determine if there would be opportunities to farm but rather to determine the advisability of starting to farm if the opportunity was present.

The comments pertaining to this question, frequency of comments and the average of acres owned by the interviewees are shown in Table I.

The author desired to see if there was a relationship between the comments made and the number of acres owned. In an attempt to determine this, he grouped the comments into three groups: (1) favorable for a young man to start farming; (2) unfavorable for a young man to start farming; and (3) intermediate (neither favorable or unfavorable). In his judgment, comments 1, 2, 4, 9, 10, 12, and 14 were favorable; comments 5, 7, 8, and 15 were unfavorable; comments 3, 6, 11, and 13 were

intermediate. The average of the acres owned by each group were: favorable, 319.3 acres; unfavorable, 207.5 acres; intermediate, 1,004.1 acres.

It was the opinion of the author that unfavorable comments were more commonly made by those owning fewer acres than those giving favorable comments. It also appeared to the author that owners of large tracts of land were inclined to offer advice and to point out qualifications they thought were essential if a young man were to farm.

The average age of the farm owners and farm operators in Jewell County was found to be 56.9 years. Figure 1 shows the age distribution. It was noted that the majority were between middle age and retirement.

TABLE I
 COMMENTS CONCERNING WHETHER A YOUNG MAN SHOULD FARM
 AND AVERAGE ACRES OWNED BY THOSE RESPONDING

Comments	Frequency	Average Acres Owned by Those Responding
1. It is a good life and you are more your own boss.	20	400.7
2. The future would be favorable if he could get enough backing to get started.	15	251.2
3. He must have the ability and desire to farm.	10	370.2
4. There will be a good future in farming.	8	212.4
5. It takes too much money to get started.	5	203.0
6. He should not go into debt too far.	4	166.2
7. There are too many government controls.	3	182.3
8. The returns from farming are not in line with the investment.	3	114.7
9. He will have more at retirement time if he farms.	2	471.0
10. Because of the age of present operators, in the near future, we will need more young men in farming.	2	180.0
11. He must have a wife that is adapted to farm life.	1	1480.0
12. He would not need a large acreage because he could intensify fewer acres.	1	160.0
13. Yes, if he would be willing to keep records.	1	2000.0
14. The farm is a good place to raise children.	1	560.0
15. There are better opportunities doing other things.	1	330.0

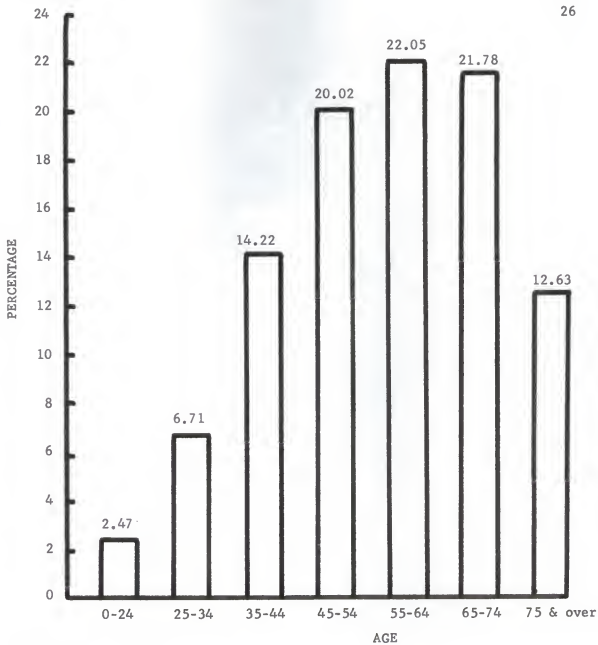


FIGURE 1

FARM OWNERS AND FARM OPERATORS OF JEWELL COUNTY,
KANSAS GROUPED ACCORDING TO AGE

CHAPTER IV

FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

Information received from the interviews and the 1959 Census of Agriculture were used to estimate the farming opportunities in Jewell County, Kansas during the years 1966 through 1969. The following six methods were developed by the author and employed:

- A. The average age of farm operators and farm owners as revealed by the interviews and assuming they would retire at age 70.
- B. Same as method A except the opportunities were adjusted to 640 acres each.
- C. Using the number of farm operators and farm owners over age 65 and assuming one-tenth of them would retire each year.
- D. Same as method C except the opportunities were adjusted to 640 acres each.
- E. Using the average age of the farmers as revealed by the 1959 Census of Agriculture and assuming they retire at 70.
- F. Same as method E except the opportunities were adjusted to 640 acres each.

The procedures used in each method are explained in the following paragraphs.

In method A, the average age of 57 (56.9 actual, ASC and court-house check) of the farm owners and farm operators was used. It followed that 50 per cent of the 1132 farm operators and farm owners of the county were 57 years old and older. It was noted that 50 per cent of 1132 was

566. In this method it was assumed that these 566 would retire at age 70, one-thirteenth of them retiring each year. This was computed by subtracting the average age of 57 from the assumed retirement age of 70.

The average farm consolidation rate for Jewell County was found to be 4 per cent per year. This was computed by comparing the 1954 and 1959 Census of Agriculture figures. There were 20 per cent fewer farms in 1959 than 5 years earlier in 1954. This figured out to 4 per cent farm consolidation per year.

In the four year period included in this study, 16 per cent of the farms would become a part of larger farms, leaving 84 per cent. Taking 84 per cent times the 566 that would retire over the thirteen year period gave 475.44. Dividing 475.44 by 13 gave 36.5 opportunities that should become available each year. It was noted that these opportunities represented 331.5 acres each which was the average acreage of those interviewed.

Method B was the same as method A except it was adjusted to 640 acres. Taking the number of opportunities in method A (36.5) times the average acres (331.5), gave 12,099.75. When this was divided by 640, 18.9 was obtained or approximately 19 opportunities each year of 640 acres each.

Method C used the number of farm operators and farm owners (247) that were 65 or older as revealed by the ASC and courthouse check. Taking 84 per cent of 247 to adjust for farm consolidation gave 207. It was figured that one-tenth would retire each year which would give 20.7

opportunities each year of 331.5 acres each.

Method D was the same as method C except it was adjusted to 640 acres. Multiplying the number of opportunities arrived at in method C (20.7) times the number of acres (331.5) gave 6,860 acres. Dividing 6,860 by 640 acres gave 10.7 farming opportunities each year of 640 acres each.

Method E used the average age of farmers (51) as listed in the 1959 Census of Agriculture. The number of farms in Jewell County in 1964 was projected from a study of 1954 and 1959 Census of Agriculture figures. The 1,243 farms in 1959 was 80 per cent of the 1,553 farms in 1954. It was assumed that the number of farms in 1964 would be 80 per cent of the 1,243 farms in 1959 or 994 farms. One-half of these 994 or 497 were 51 years old or older. Adjusting for farm consolidation, 84 per cent was taken times 497 which gave 421. It was assumed that these farmers would retire over a period of nineteen years (51 subtracted from 70) and that one-nineteenth would retire each year. Dividing 421 by 19 gave 22.1 or approximately 22 opportunities per year.

These 22 opportunities represented 502.6 acres each, which was the projected average farm acreage in Jewell County in 1964. This figure was arrived at by dividing the average 1954 farm acreage of Jewell County as revealed by the Census of Agriculture (336) into the 1959 average farm acreage of 412 acres. This gave a figure of 1.22. It was assumed that the average 1964 farm acreage would be 1.22 times the 1959 average acreage (412) or 502.6 acres.

Method F was the same as method E but was adjusted to 640 acres. Multiplying the number of opportunities in method E (22) times the projected 1964 average acreage (502.6) gave 11,057 acres. This divided by 640 acres gave 17.3 farming opportunities per year of 640 acres each.

Table II shows the farming opportunities per year as it was computed by each of the methods. In order to determine if there would be farming opportunities for the farm boys graduating from Jewell County high schools during 1966 to 1969, the opportunities must be compared to the number of farm boys graduating. The number of farm boys in Jewell County high schools was obtained by interviewing the high school administrators. The results are shown in Table III. A total of 109 farm boys would graduate from Jewell County high schools during the period 1966 to 1969. The number of farm boys graduating each year between 1966 and 1969 is shown in Table IV.

TABLE II

NUMBER OF FARMING OPPORTUNITIES PER YEAR IN JEWELL
COUNTY, KANSAS AS COMPUTED BY VARIOUS METHODS

Method	Farming Opportunities
A	36.5
B	19.0
C	20.7
D	10.7
E	22.0
F	17.0

TABLE III
 CLASSIFICATION OF BOYS OF JEWELL COUNTY, KANSAS
 HIGH SCHOOLS DURING THE 1965-66 TERM
 INTO FARM AND NON-FARM GROUPS

School	Class	Classification	
		Farm	Non-farm
Burr Oak	Seniors	5	3
	Juniors	8	4
	Sophomores	10	3
	Freshmen	6	4
Esbon	Seniors	4	2
	Juniors	8	1
	Sophomores	5	2
	Freshmen	6	1
Jewell	Seniors	6	3
	Juniors	8	6
	Sophomores	8	4
	Freshmen	7	5
Mankato	Seniors	4	9
	Juniors	5	12
	Sophomores	8	13
	Freshmen	8	13
Randall	Seniors	2	3
	Juniors	0	3
	Sophomores	0	2
	Freshmen	1	2
	Total	109	95
	Per cent	53.43	46.57

TABLE IV
 NUMBER OF FARM BOYS THAT WOULD GRADUATE FROM
 JEWELL COUNTY HIGH SCHOOLS EACH YEAR
 DURING THE PERIOD 1966 TO 1969

Year	Number of Boys
1966	21
1967	29
1968	31
1969	28

Several studies have been made of the per cent of vocational agriculture students that have gone into farming. At the time of this study, few if any studies had been made of the per cent of farm boys that had started farming. For the purposes of this study it was assumed that the per cent of farm boy high school graduates that enter farming was the same as the per cent of vocational agriculture graduates that enter farming.

Findings of various studies have ranged from 25 to 50 per cent of the vocational agriculture graduates that have started farming. In this study, 50 per cent was used for computation. There were two reasons the higher figure was used: (1) the author's definition of farm boys as being those boys living on farms that provide 50 per cent or more of the operator's income, and (2) the studies reviewed by the author measured the per cent that actually entered farming rather than those that desired

to farm. The author felt that more boys had desired to farm than had actually started to farm.

The average number of boys that would be desiring a farming opportunity was obtained by adding the number that were to graduate each year, dividing by four and multiplying by 50 per cent ($21 + 29 + 31 + 28 = 109 \div 4 = 27.25 \times 50\% = 13.62$). By this procedure, approximately 13 or more farm boys would graduate from Jewell County high schools each year that would desire to farm.

The author desired to obtain the average number of farming opportunities per year as indicated by methods B, D, and F. It was the opinion of the author that methods B, D, and F were most reliable as they based each farming opportunity on 640 acres. The author felt that 640 acres would adequately employ a young farmer. When 19, 10.7, and 17 were added a sum of 46.7 was obtained. This was divided by three which gave an average of 15.6 farming opportunities per year.

The 15.6 farming opportunities per year was then compared to the 13 farm boys who would graduate from Jewell County high schools each year that would desire to farm. According to the above figures and procedures there would be enough farming opportunities during 1966 to 1969 for the farm boys who graduate from the high schools of Jewell County, Kansas that desired them.

CHAPTER V

SUMMARY

The basic purpose of this study was to approximate the farming opportunities the farm boys would have that would graduate from the high schools of Jewell County, Kansas during the years 1966 to 1969. Information from several sources was gathered, compiled, and used in computing these opportunities.

Methods of research and essential facts were gleaned from a review of the research work done by others on this subject. Some of the methods used in this study were the result of adapting them from similar studies.

An interview form was developed and used to interview 60 farmers and farm owners that had Jewell County addresses. Farming was the major life-time occupation of those interviewed, averaging 43 years spent in farming. It appeared that those who farm, start in that occupation in their early working years.

Of those interviewed 25 per cent held off-farm jobs. Jobs reported required part-time work and comprised 29 per cent of the income of those working off the farm.

Those interviewed had not made definite plans as to a date to retire. Most of the farmers intended to continue farming as long as they had good health. To the extent that the future health of farmers was uncertain, their plans for retirement were also uncertain.

Ten and seven-tenths per cent of those interviewed said they would not sell their land on contract. Another 8.9 per cent said they might or might not sell on contract. Fear of a possible depression was one of the reasons given for not planning to sell on contract. They expressed some anxiety that they might not be able to get their money if they sold on contract and hard times came.

Eighty-five and seven-tenths per cent of the farmers and farm owners interviewed would encourage a young man to farm if he had the opportunity. The interviewees considered the advantages of country living and the farm way of life important factors in making the decision to farm. Several felt that the financial returns from farming would be comparable to other work. Others felt that the amount of capital required to start farming was prohibitive unless a young man had substantial family backing. Several expressed the opinion that the returns from farming were not in line with the investment required. Most all agreed that it was very difficult for a young man to start farming at the time of the study.

Six methods were developed and used by the author to approximate the number of farming opportunities. They were:

- A. The average age of farm operators and farm owners as revealed by the interviews and assuming they would retire at age 70.
- B. Same as method A except the opportunities were adjusted to 640 acres each.
- C. Using the number of farm operators and farm owners over age 65 and assuming one-tenth of them would retire each year.
- D. Same as method C except the opportunities were adjusted to 640 acres each.

- E. Using the average age of the farmers as revealed by the 1959 Census of Agriculture and assuming they retire at 70.
- F. Same as method E except the opportunities were adjusted to 640 acres each.

The results of the various methods expressed in farming opportunities per year were: Method A, 36.5; Method B, 19.0; Method C, 20.7; Method D, 10.7; Method E, 22.0; Method F, 17.0. The author felt that Methods B, D, and F were more reliable because they based each farming opportunity on 640 acres. When Methods B, D, and F were averaged a figure of 15.6 was obtained. This was the average number of farming opportunities per year that was used for this study.

To determine if there would be farming opportunities enough for the farm boys graduating from Jewell County high schools it was necessary to find the number of farm boys in the high schools of Jewell County. Interviews with the high school administrators revealed that there were 109 farm boys in the high schools at the time that the study was made.

After a review of several studies the author concluded that approximately 50 per cent of the farm boys graduating from high school would seek an opportunity to farm. The average number of farm boys from Jewell County that each year would seek an opportunity to farm was obtained by dividing 109 by 4 and multiplying by 50 per cent. This gave a figure of 13.62.

When 15.6 farming opportunities per year was compared to the 13 or more graduating farm boys that normally would seek an opportunity to farm, it was concluded that there would be farming opportunities during 1966 to 1969 for the farm boys who would graduate from the high schools of Jewell County, Kansas that would desire them.

CHAPTER VI

IMPLICATIONS

According to the methods used in this study there would be enough farming opportunities during 1966 to 1969 for the farm boys who would graduate from the high schools of Jewell County, Kansas that would desire them. This did not seem to coincide with the situation as it was commonly seen. In the authors opinion, there were two primary reasons for this.

First, at the time of the study there was a high amount of capital required to start farming. Because there were various lending agencies that made loans specifically to farmers, the financial limitations were not considered in this paper. Nevertheless, the huge debt that would be incurred was one reason why many boys backed away from an opportunity to farm. They could go into other fields without assuming as much risk.

Secondly, the per cent of farm boys entering farming, as revealed by other studies, was used in this paper as the per cent of farm boys that desired to farm. This overlooked the possibility that some farm boys desired to farm but did not have the opportunity. In the author's opinion, there were farm boys who would have liked to farm but were unable to do so.

In light of these reasons it was believed by the author that the demand for farming opportunities would out-run the supply for several

years to come. This would likely continue as long as the size of farms increased at a rate to off-set the declining farm population.

However, the study emphasized a fact, which in the author's opinion, would encourage the farm youth that desired to farm. The increased average age of farm operators indicated there could well be increased farming opportunities in years following the study.

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APPENDIX

Interview

Name _____

1. How many years have you been farming? _____ years.
2. Do you have a job off the farm?
 - a. If so, what is the name of the job?
 - b. What per cent of your income comes from this job?
3. How many acres of crop land (including government payment land) did you farm in 1965? _____ acres.
4. How many acres of pasture were grazed by your livestock in 1965? _____ acres.
5. How many acres do you own? _____ acres.
6. How long have you been an owner? _____ years.
7. When do you expect to start drawing Social Security?

_____ drawing now
_____ year expect to start
8. If you are not now retired, at what age do you expect to retire?

Already retired
Partially
Completely
Undecided
9. What do you expect to do with your land when you retire?

Sell
Rent
Pass on to heirs
10. If you sell, do you plan to sell on a contract?

Yes
Maybe
No
11. If you rent your land, will you move to town or continue living in your farm home?

Move to town
Live in farm home

12. Would you be interested in helping a young man get started in farming through some kind of share agreement?

Yes
Maybe
No

13. Having had years of experience, would you encourage a young man to enter farming?

Yes
Maybe
No

Why?

Interviewer's Manual

Question 1. How long have you been farming?

The number of years since you first started either owning land or in operating a farm.

Question 2. Do you have a job off the farm?

Do you regularly work at a job in town or at some other job such as custom work.

Question 3. How many acres of cropland did you farm in 1965?

This would include Conservation Reserve land that normally would be in crops such as row crops, small grain crops, hay and silage crops.

Question 4. How many acres of pasture were grazed by your livestock in 1965?

This is limited to native and tame pastures. It does not include winter wheat pasture, milo stubble and corn stocks which would overlap on the crop acres.

Question 5. How many acres do you own?

If you are a co-owner, give the part of the land that belongs to you. For example, if you own 320 acres in 50 - 50 partnership with some one else, we would say that you own 160 acres.

Question 6. How long have you been an owner?

Number of years since you became either partial or full owner of farm land.

Question 7. When do you expect to draw Social Security?

If you are not drawing now, when do you expect to start drawing?

Question 8. If you are not now retired, at what age do you expect to retire?

Partially - Age at which you will release at least part of your land.

Completely - Age at which you expect to cease your farming operations to the point that you would be eligible to draw Social Security.

Question 9. What do you expect to do with your land when you retire?

Sell - to someone outside your family.

Rent - to someone outside your family.

Pass on to heirs - either on a rent basis or in ownership.

Question 10. If you sell, do you plan to sell on contract? Contracts allow the use of lower buyer down payments with the balance being paid over a long period of years in annual payments.

Advantages to buyer - Buyer usually only has to make about a 20% down payment where otherwise he might have to pay up to 50% down.

Advantage to seller - Sellers have certain capital gains tax advantages. In order to qualify for special treatment on capital gains for Federal income tax purposes, the seller must not receive more than 30% of the purchase price in the "year of sale." In following years, the seller reports a portion of his capital gain each year. By paying tax on smaller amounts for several years the total tax paid is smaller than if a higher per cent were figured on one large lump sum.

Question 11. If you rent your land, will you move to town or continue living in your farm home?

Will your farm dwelling and other farm buildings be available for a renter?

Question 12. Would you be interested in helping a young man, outside of your family, get started in farming through some kind of share contract?

Examples would be some form of partnership or livestock-share lease. A share contract could be drawn up so that the young man's main contribution would be labor until he had opportunity to accumulate capital. A written plan for allowing him to buy equity of the farm business should be followed.

Question 13. Having had years of experience, would you encourage a young man to enter farming?

This is assuming the young man has the opportunity to farm and desires to do so. Do you believe farming would be as rewarding, financially and otherwise, as other things?

OPPORTUNITIES FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF YOUNG MEN
IN FARMING IN JEWELL COUNTY, KANSAS

by

DELMAR LOUIS ROBERSON

B. S., Kansas State University, 1961

AN ABSTRACT OF A MASTER'S REPORT

submitted in partial fulfillment of the

requirements for the degree

MASTER OF SCIENCE

College of Education

KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY
Manhattan, Kansas

1967

It was the purpose of this study (1) to approximate the number of farm boys who would graduate from the high schools of Jewell County, Kansas during the years 1966 through 1969 who would normally seek an opportunity to farm; and (2) to determine if there would be farming opportunities for these boys in Jewell County during the same four year period.

Interviews, library research, and a check of records were used in collecting the information for this study. Major sources of information were interviews with the high school administrators, county clerk, and farmers and farm owners of Jewell County.

Six methods were developed and used to approximate the number of farming opportunities. They were:

- A. The average age of farm operators and farm owners as revealed by the interviews and assuming they would retire at age 70.
- B. Same as method A except the opportunities were adjusted to 640 acres each.
- C. Using the number of farm operators and farm owners over age 65 and assuming one-tenth of them would retire each year.
- D. Same as method C except the opportunities were adjusted to 640 acres each.
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The results of the methods expressed in farming opportunities per year were: Method A, 36.5; Method B, 19.0; Method C, 20.7, Method D, 10.7; Method E, 22.0; Method F, 17.0. Because Methods B, D, and F based each farming opportunity on 640 acres, the author believed them to be most reliable. The opportunities of these three methods were averaged which gave 15.6 opportunities per year.

The high school administrators were interviewed to determine the number of farm boys in Jewell County high schools at the time of the study. There were 109 farm boys in the high schools. From a review of other studies the author concluded that approximately 50 per cent of farm boys would normally seek an opportunity to farm. The 109 farm boys were divided by four to get the number that would graduate each year and then taken times 50 per cent which gave 13.62 graduating farm boys that would normally seek an opportunity to farm.

The 15.6 farming opportunities per year for the 13 or more farm boys that would desire them indicated that there would be enough farming opportunities during 1966 to 1969 for the farm boys that would graduate from the high schools of Jewell County, Kansas that would desire them.