A growing demand for county agricultural data has taken place in recent years. While some of the figures are quite readily available, data covering an extended period of time have been very difficult for most people to obtain.

Because agricultural leaders, teachers, and other interested persons make frequent requests for agricultural data showing county trends, the Wisconsin Crop Reporting office began organizing such material about six years ago. This material was found in the census records, old publications of the State Department of Agriculture and Markets, and unpublished material in the office files. Assistance in the project was obtained first under the CWA program and subsequently from the Wisconsin Work Projects Administration, through Projects 465-53-3-19, 665-53-31, and 55-1-53-81 (Work Projects 8761, 8605, and 10016, respectively).

While some of the recent county data were published in Bulletins numbers 140, 150, and 188, of the Department of Agriculture and Markets, there has been no opportunity up to now to publish the long-time trend material for each of the counties. The compilations, however, have been completed largely through the Works Progress Administration projects (now Work Projects Administration) under the supervision of workers of the Wisconsin Crop Reporting office, representing the State Department of Agriculture and the United States Department of Agriculture. The compilations from 1915 to 1936, as well as the earlier census material, were made largely by WPA workers, and the 1937 and 1938 material was prepared in the Crop Reporting office.

In developing the material, data were drawn from Wisconsin Department of Agriculture and Markets Bulletins 11, 14, 21, 28, 34, 48, 65, 74, 90, 120, 140, 150, 176, 188, and Supplement to Bulletin 90. Data were also taken from the work sheets of the Crop Reporting office, the assessors' crop and livestock reports, and the United States Census volumes. So far as possible, the series have been revised so that they are in agreement with the latest estimates for the various items. Subsequent data will probably become available in bulletins or in the monthly "Wisconsin Crop and Livestock Reporter" published by the State Department of Agriculture.

Special credit must be given to Wisconsin assessors and tax officials who collect data on crops and livestock as required under the Wisconsin laws. Without these data by towns and counties, detailed agricultural statistics would be less accurate and less complete.

Madison, Wisconsin
August, 1940

Walter H. Ebling, Director
Division of Agricultural Statistics