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This intensive land use planning report is the final product of a year's work by county and community committees in Washburn County. It represents the judgment of more than one hundred public spirited farmers and others interested in the future use of Washburn County. These people realize that this report is not in any sense final or complete but feel that their suggestions and recommendations offer an approach to the solution of the problems which exist in the county.

Representatives of federal, state, and local agencies are to be commended for the assistance which they have given in furnishing background material and assisting in the planning work.

[Signatures]

Chairman, County Planning Committee

Secretary, County Planning Committee
Organization and Procedure

The county agricultural committee met in July, 1940 and voted to approve and sponsor the Land Use Planning Program.

In December, 1940, the agricultural committee met with W. A. Rowlands, Extension Supervisor, L. G. Sorden, State Bureau of Agriculture Representative, and the secretary of the county planning committee. Mr. Sorden and Mr. Rowlands discussed with the committee the procedure to be followed in the land use planning program. During this meeting the committee selected the county committee which includes the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Representing</th>
<th>Occupation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>J. D. Eastwold</td>
<td>Chairman Co. Agr'l Committee</td>
<td>Farmer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charles Biver</td>
<td>Agricultural Committee</td>
<td>Farmer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anton L. Neste</td>
<td>Agricultural Committee</td>
<td>Farmer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F. H. Tripp</td>
<td>Agricultural Committee</td>
<td>Educator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Irving E. Crowell</td>
<td>County Supt. of Schools</td>
<td>Farmer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>George Brinkley</td>
<td>County AAA Committeeman</td>
<td>Farmer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Claire Taylor</td>
<td>County AAA Committeeman</td>
<td>Farmer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gobhardt Gronning</td>
<td>County AAA Committeeman</td>
<td>Farmer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A. J. Osborn</td>
<td>County Welfare Department</td>
<td>Director</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edith Turner</td>
<td>County Nurse</td>
<td>Nurse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lorna Searles</td>
<td>Farm Security Administration</td>
<td>District Home Supervisor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sara Peck</td>
<td>Farm Security Administration</td>
<td>Co. Home Supervisor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edward Rydborg</td>
<td>Farm Security Administration</td>
<td>County Supervisor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Art Gehranann</td>
<td>Farm Security Administration</td>
<td>County Supervisor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frank N. Fixmer</td>
<td>Wis. Conservation Dept.</td>
<td>District Forester</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Oscar Peterson  
Wis. Conservation Dept.  
Forest Ranger

Percy Weaver  
Wis. Conservation Dept.  
Sup't of North West Fish & Fisheries

Ed. Omernick  
Conservation Club  
Lawyer

Jean Snoyenbos  
Vocational Education  
Home Economics Teacher

Sherman Weiss  
Vocational Education  
Agr'1 Teacher

Vernon Geiger  
Vocational Education  
Agr'1 Teacher

E. L. Appleman  
Banks  
Banker

S. G. Swanson  
Federal Land Bank  
Secretary

B. D. Blakely  
Soil Conservation Service  
Soil

Al Bibby  
Branch Experimental Station  
Supervisor

O. S. Scholt  
County Clerk Representative  
County Clerk

John Oltman  
District Attorney Repres.  
District Attorney

Lewis Gullickson  
Register Deeds Representative  
Register of Deeds

Irvin Wolff  
Chamber of Commerce Repres.  
Businessman

Carl Kunz  
Resorts  
Resort Owners

Ed. Eckwright  
Cooperative  
Buttermaker

Albert Nelson  
Farm Organizations  
Farmer

Art Rydberg  
Farmer Representative  
Farmer

J. B. Burke  
Farmer Representative  
Farmer

Christian Olson  
Farmer Representative  
Farmer

L. A. Runnel  
Farmer Representative  
Farmer

Frank Zenaitis  
Farmer Representative  
Farmer

Peter Helgeland  
Farmer Representative  
Farmer

E. C. Cable  
Farmer Representative  
Farmer

Carl Stephan  
Farmer Representative  
Farmer

Harold Byrkit  
Farmer Representative  
Farmer
F. O. Shoquist  Farmer Representative  Farmer
R. H. Constock  Farmer Representative  Farmer
Alfred Nielson  Farmer Representative  Farmer
Albert Asp  Farmer Representative  Farmer
Wenzel Johnacheck  Farmer Representative  Farmer
Tom Cockson  Farmer Representative  Farmer
John Beardsley  Farmer Representative  Farmer
E. W. Crippen  Farmer Representative  Farmer
Edward Elliott  Farmer Representative  Farmer
Claude Riley  Farmer Representative  Farmer

W. H. Dougherty, (Secretary) Agricultural Extension  County Agr'l Agent

After the December meeting the secretary with the
help of the Agricultural Committee selected the township, or community
committees which include town chairman, assessor, and AAA Community
Committeemen. The following Committees were selected:

**Minong**
- Art Mauitho
- Olaf Nordof
- Fred Smith

**Brooklyn**
- C. E. Caslor
- Lymon Christianan
- Harvey Woodliff

**Gull Lake**
- Albert Asp
- Roland Buchman
- Henry Haddick

**Bass Lake**
- Christian Olson
- Robert Bradway
- John E. Krenn

**Frog Creek**
- Alfred Nielson
- Arthur Brown
- W. A. Grines

**Evergreen**
- R. H. Constock
- George Grenfold
- Robert Pfundheller

**Stinnett**
- Edward Elliott
- Melvin Kellogg
- Howard J. Knoepker

**Spooner**
- H. C. Hansen
- Earl Salquist
- Emil Heidtke

**Chicog**
- P. O. Klawitter
- Carl Haupt
- Wesley Baggs

**Casey**
- Carl Stephan
- Jack Schabell
- W. O. Heuer

**Springbrook**
- A. L. Neste
- R. E. Newman
- Ray Riley

**Crystal**
- F. O. Shoquist
- Raymond Shoquist
- Carl Johnson
At the July meeting the secretary was instructed to prepare the essential background information in the form of charts and maps which the committees would need as a basis for their recommendations. The following individuals and agencies are to be commended for their cooperation in making this information available: Farm Security Administration, Federal Land Bank, County AAA Association, District W.F.A., County Welfare Department, County Superintendent of Schools, Supervisor of Assessments, County Clerk, and the Wisconsin Crop and Livestock Reporting Service.

The following information was prepared and used:

Maps (Scale 1" to the mile)

1. Map showing zoning boundaries, county forest crop land, county owned land, State Commission land, Federal lands, and private owned forest crop land.

2. Map showing owner and tenant-operated farms.

3. Map showing soil types in Washburn County.

5. Map showing school districts, operating schools, and non-operating schools.

Charts (Size 24" x 36")

1. Chart showing total assessed valuation for three years, 1925-1930-1939, by townships.

2. Chart showing total assessed valuation of all townships for fifteen years, 1925 - 1939.

3. Chart showing tax exempt lands by townships.

4. Chart showing part time farming in 1940 by townships.

5. Chart showing sources of gross farm income in Washburn County and Wisconsin.

6. Chart showing percent of crop land by townships.

7. Chart showing percent of crop acreage in various leading crops.

8. Chart showing last ten year trend in acreage of leading crops in Washburn County.

9. Chart showing number and value of cattle in Washburn County, 1939 - 1940.

10. Chart showing trend in numbers of sheep, horses, and hogs, 1920 - 1940

11. Chart showing percentage of farms with various crop allotments.

12. Chart showing AAA payments for the past four years by townships.

13. Chart showing Farm Security loans by townships.

14. Chart showing Farm Security subsistence grants by townships, 1936 - 1940.

15. Chart showing relief costs for the past three years by townships.

The first county committee meeting was held in January. This was attended by both county and community committeemen. At this time basic objectives and procedures of the land use planning program were explained. This meeting provided an opportunity for the committees to analyze and discuss the basic information presented. All community committees were represented at this meeting.

Following this first meeting a complete series of community meetings were held throughout the county. At these meetings the land use planning program was explained, basic objectives discussed, and the background material presented. Following these discussions and presentations each community committee classified the land in that township showing the class to which the land was best suited.

Following this series of meetings another complete round of community meetings were held. At this time the committees presented their recommendations for the best land use.

The final county committee meeting was held in April. During this evening meeting the committee discussed, checked and approved the county land use classification map and the recommendations submitted by the Community Committees.

Description of County

Washburn County is located in the extreme northwestern part of the state of Wisconsin mostly in the drainage of the St. Croix river. It is bounded on the north by Douglas County, on the west by Burnett County, on the south by Barron County and on the east by Sawyer County. It is rectangular in outline with 24 geographical
townships. A jog of from one half to three quarters of a mile occurs on the correction line between townships 40 to 41 north. The county is served by three railroads and by U. S. highways 63 and 63, and State highway 70.

Practically all of Washburn County is in the area of recent drift and its topography has been largely governed by glaciation. In general it is a fairly level to undulating county with hilly areas in the loam soils in the north central and southeastern parts. The Plainfield sands or jack pine plains in the northwestern part are usually quite level. The sandy region in the southwestern part, classified as Vilas sand, is quite rolling and consists of many hills and depressions.

Nearly 40% of the soils of Washburn County are of a sandy nature. The greatest area is in the northwestern section, a jack pine plains region which is part of a great sand plain extending northeasterly into Bayfield County and southwesterly into Polk County. Sands also occur in the west central region, central and eastward along the valley of the Namokagon river and its branches. The loam soils occur mainly in the southern part, north central and northeastern parts. The peat soils occur mainly in the towns of Crystal, Trego, Evergreen, Stinnett, Gull Lake, Brooklyn, and Minong.

The underlying rock in the southwestern part of the county is Potadam sandstone. This is covered with a deep mantle of drift and alluvial material. The southeastern part of the county is Pro-Cambrian granite. In the north and northwest the underlying rock is Keweenawan sandstone of a reddish to chocolate brown color. This material has been used extensively for building purposes. This
Kawonawau sandstone underlies more than 75% of the sandy soils described as Plainfield sand in the northwest district. In many cases, however, the loam soils bear no relation to the underlying rock formation. As extensive formation of trap rock runs in a wide belt from Ashland county, where it is known as the Copper Range running from the northeast corner at Washburn County to a little above the southwest corner. This belt is from ten to fifteen miles wide in this county.

As Washburn County is in a region of recent glaciation it has numerous areas in lakes and marshes. The early surveyors who surveyed this county in '54 and '55 noted the largest of these marshes and the townships in which they were seen are now mapped in the soil survey with large areas of peat land. These townships where especially large tamarack marshes were noted by the first surveyors are in the towns of Crystal, Spooner, Evergreen, Stinnett, Gull Lake, Brooklyn, and Frog Creek. The township having the largest area of swamp as mapped by the inventory is now found in Brooklyn and Chicog with 7,384 acres of timbered and open marsh and town of Frog Creek with 12,793 acres. The total area in open marshland and timbered swamp is 56,683 acres, 69% of this is timbered swamp. The following table shows the location of each type of the open and timbered wet lands of the county for every township.

The mean rainfall at Spooner for the growing season is 19.17 inches and for the non-growing season 8.46 making a total mean annual of 27.63 inches. The mean summer temperature for Washburn County is from 65 to 66 degrees and the mean winter temperature for Washburn County from 12 to 13 degrees above zero. The length of the
growing season of about two thirds of the southwestern and western portions if from 110 to 120 days. The northeastern one third has a growing season of from 100 to 110 days. Washburn County lies in an area where the date of the last killing frost may be expected from May 20 to June 1st and the date of the first killing frost in the fall from September 10 to 20.

The main rivers of Washburn County are the Namekagon and Totogatic which drain the greater part of the northwestern area. Birch and Cedar creeks, Brill river and Bear creek drain southerly a small area in the southeastern part of the county. These streams flow into the Red Cedar river, a branch of the Chippewa. The Namekagon drains the greater part of the central area and the Totogatic the northern area. The Totogatic flows into the Namekagon in Burnett County to the west. Main streams flowing into the Namekagon from the north are Chippanazee, Hey, Spring, and Stace and from the south Bean Branch and the stream coming from Dilly Lake and Casey Creek.

Some of the more important lakes of Washburn County are Shell, Long, Stone, McKenzie, Nancy, Pokogama and Gull. The most productive lake is probably Shell Lake. This lake originally had an outlet into the Yellow River and is one of the Yellow River chain but this outlet does not function now.
Several factors are responsible for the many problems which exist in the county’s agricultural areas. One of the most important of these factors is the decrease in total assessed valuation during the years 1925 - 1939. In 1925 the total assessed township valuation was $9,350,000. In 1936 this figure had dropped to $4,350,000 approximately 53% of the former valuation.

The majority of this drop in valuation has been confined to the northern and eastern parts of the county. In these areas many people without farming experience were induced to start farming. Lack of experience along with poor soil has resulted to considerable farm abandonment in these areas. To prevent further public problems along this line, the Washburn County Board of Supervisors in 1935, enacted a county zoning ordinance.

Following is a chart showing the percent of tax exempt land by townships. Total figures for the county show that 29.54% of all the land is tax exempt:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Township</th>
<th>Percent Exempt</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Frog Creek</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stinnett</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Gull Lake</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chicog</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bass Lake</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Casey</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Springbrook</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Birchwood</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Brooklyn</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stone Lake</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Barronett</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Madge</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minong</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crystal</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beaver Brook</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long Lake</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scrona</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spoonor</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trogo</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evergreen</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bashaw</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70
Farm tenancy in Washburn County has been increasing steadily since 1920. At that time 7.5% of all the farms in the county were operated by tenants. In 1935 the figure had increased to 23.1% and since that time the figure has more than doubled, having reached 51%.

The average size farm in Washburn County is 122.8 acres of which 42.4 acres are crop land. Under the AAA program about 70% of all the farms participating have a soil depleting allotment of 20 acres or less. Information obtained from the AAA Committeemen shows that many of the smaller farms are becoming part-time farms. In other words part of the farm and family living expense is coming from sources other than the farm. A majority of the outside income can be classified under the following headings: employment on other farms, employment in urban industries, employment in forest industries, pensions and W.P.A. The following chart shows the percent of part time employment which exists on the farms in Washburn County.
Washburn County is similar to many other northern counties so far as sources of gross farm income are concerned. Nearly two-thirds of the farm income comes from the sale of milk, dairy cattle, and calves. Most of the dairy farming is confined to the southern two-thirds of the county. The following table shows how the sources of farm income in the county compare with Wisconsin.

Sources of Farm Income 1936

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income</th>
<th>Wisconsin</th>
<th>Washburn County</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Milk</td>
<td>48.1</td>
<td>53.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cattle and Calves</td>
<td>10.2</td>
<td>10.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poultry and Eggs</td>
<td>10.3</td>
<td>10.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crops</td>
<td>15.7</td>
<td>16.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swine</td>
<td>14.7</td>
<td>7.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Income</td>
<td>.1.0</td>
<td>1.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources of farm income have changed somewhat since 1936. This change can be explained by work relief projects and AAA benefit payments.

Fifteen years ago potatoes were of major importance as a source of farm income. Many of the potato warehouses in the county have been discontinued in recent years. At present almost 6% of the gross farm income comes from potatoes. Most of this production is confined to special sized potato farms.

During the past five years considerable emphasis has been placed on dairy herd improvement. A complete dairy herd improvement association is now in operation. Other dairymen have expressed their desire to join this association or form a separate association. In addition 50 herds are now being tested in the two high school vocational agricultural departments. Some of the members of the dairy herd improvement Association would like to establish
a Washburn County Breeding unit in cooperation with the Artificial insemination program now operating in Barron County. It will be necessary to have 200 cows signed by agreement before the Washburn County could be considered for membership. Further advance in dairy herd improvement can be shown by the area Bang's test completed in Washburn County in the fall of 1940.

Cattle numbers increased steadily from 1929 to 1934. In 1929 there were 12,700 cattle on Washburn County farms and in 1934 this figure had increased to 16,900. From 1934 to 1938 the trend was reversed, the number in 1938 being 14,600. The latest figures made available through the Bang's test indicate there are 19,500 cattle in the county.

The number of horses, swine, and sheep have shown a gradual decline during the past twenty years. A large number of factors including farm abandonment, the increase and the use of tractors, and the lack of feed have been responsible for the decline in horse numbers. Most farm families in the county are now realizing the importance of home produced mutton and pork as a part of the family food supply. The following table shows the changes which have taken place in horse, swine, and sheep numbers since 1920.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>No. of Horses</th>
<th>No. of Swine</th>
<th>No. of Sheep</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1920</td>
<td>4,250</td>
<td>2,500</td>
<td>5,650</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1925</td>
<td>3,500</td>
<td>1,750</td>
<td>2,250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1930</td>
<td>2,980</td>
<td>1,150</td>
<td>4,070</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1935</td>
<td>3,100</td>
<td>2,100</td>
<td>4,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1940</td>
<td>3,150</td>
<td>1,500</td>
<td>3,380</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A majority of the crops in the county are raised primarily for their use in feeding dairy cows. Since 1930 the acreage of alfalfa has increased from 1600 acres to 4000 acres.
Clover and timothy acreages in 1930 over 19,400 acres and the 1940 acreage is equal to this figure. Rye, oats, and barley acreages have shown a marked downward trend since 1930. Corn acreage has increased from 6400 in 1930 to 10,000 in 1940.

The following table showing the ratio of crops to crop land for Wisconsin and Washburn County summarizes the cropping system followed in this area.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Crop</th>
<th>Wisconsin</th>
<th>Washburn County</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Clover &amp; Timothy</td>
<td>20.0</td>
<td>38.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oats</td>
<td>24.7</td>
<td>18.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corn</td>
<td>21.9</td>
<td>16.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Tame Hay</td>
<td>5.0</td>
<td>13.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alfalfa</td>
<td>11.4</td>
<td>7.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potatoes</td>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>3.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barley</td>
<td>8.7</td>
<td>1.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Crops</td>
<td>5.0</td>
<td>2.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Since 1934 many rural families in Washburn County have been aided by many agencies which are serving the county.

Records in the county public welfare department show that during the three year period, 1938 - 1940, rural families received relief aids amounting to $42,966. During this same period surplus commodities valued at approximately $40,000 have been distributed in the county.

The Work Projects Administration has aided many who have been working on projects set up within the county. From September, 1935 through September, 1940 a total of $2,008,304 was spent on W.P.A. projects in Washburn County. This total includes sponsors funds amounting to $446,124 and federal funds amounting to $1,562,180. In November, 1940 about .31% of all people living in the county were certified for W.P.A.
The Farm Security Administration has aided many farm families by giving subsistence grants. Since 1936 approximately $80,042 have been made available through grants. In October, 1940 there were 159 farms with F.S.A. loans amounting to $138,801, or an average of $873 per farm. In March 1941 the F.S.A. had made 185 loans, 24 of which has been repaid.

During the four year period, 1937 - 1940, all of the direct aids, excepting surplus commodities, have been declining. This is also true of the number certified for W.P.A. employment.

On December 31, 1939 the Federal Land Bank had made 276 loans amounting to $540,000. On June 28, 1940 the Federal Land Bank owned 61 farms in the county. The investment in these farms amounted to $229,100.

Total AAA payments in the County from 1937 through 1940 amount to $144,518. The average payment per farm during this four year period was $106.20.

The land use planning program in Washburn County represents a reconsideration by local people of past land use programs as well as a partial solution to present and future land use problems. Town and county officials are to be commended for the fine program which has been made along this line.

On November 16, 1932 the county board established county forests under the State Forest Crop Law. At present there are 109,342.91 acres of county forest crop land. These are permanent forests on county owned land the majority of which is unfit for farming. The Forestry Committee of the County Board and the County Agent have charge of their development and local non-relief labor is
used in planting this forest improvement work. Financial aid from
the state includes ten cents per acre to the county for forestry
development and a smaller payment to the towns in which the land
is located. The payment received by the towns is used for county
taxes, town purposes and for schools.

On May 15, 1934 the county board passed the Washburn
County Rural Zoning Ordinance, under which those lands which local
people decided were not suited to Agriculture development were set
aside for forestry purposes. Since that time the zoning ordinance
has been amended on six different occasions. Following the enact-
ment of the zoning ordinance the zoning committee has been very
active in settler relocation. In 1938 the town officials in cooperation
with the county zoning committee established an order of priority
which served as a guide in moving isolated settlers. This action
resulted in lower school, highway, and relief costs in the towns
concerned as well as the setting up of those families in established
agricultural communities.

In 1938 the Wisconsin Conservation Department in
cooperation with local officials established the Northwest Fisheries
Division with area headquarters at Spooner. This industry is providing
employment for many people residing in the county. The department
is to be commended for their efforts in restocking lakes and streams
in this section of the state.

The county board through the agricultural committee
has followed a policy of selling merchantable timber on county owned
land on a selective basis. The committee has through its control of
land sales given careful consideration to the future use of non-
A basic solution to many of the problems which exists in the county can be found in the Washburn County Grubstake program started in the spring of 1940. This program has received the support of the county board, extension service, Farm Security Administration, A.A.A., W.P.A. public welfare department, county superintendent of schools, vocational home economics and agricultural department, county nurse and the pension directors. Coordination of these agencies has been achieved. Now one of the major problems confronting all of these organizations is being solved.

The significance of the grubstake program is described in the Washburn County pamphlet compiled and printed for distribution to all rural families by all agencies and all county field workers.

A brief and complete description of the program is given in the following story prepared by the following members of the Grubstake Committee: J. D. Eastwold, Chairman of the Washburn County Board; Lorna Soarles of the Farm Security Administration, and W. H. Dougherty, the County Agricultural Agent.

THE GRUBSTAKE PLAN IN WASHBURN COUNTY

"The Grubstake is a program intended for every rural person and family regardless of financial or social standing. The general program is the "producing of a year around balanced food supply, consisting of meats, animal fats, vegetables and fruits, all of which can be produced from the soil." In reality this plan results in a Food Insurance Policy.

Many farm families in Washburn County have such a "paid up food insurance policy" this year, providing a good living.
for the next twelve months in the form of a Grubstake which they themselves have provided. The terms of this "Food Insurance Policy" provides:

1. that the family will take an inventory and develop a plan of its complete food requirement for a year;

2. that the family shall raise a year around food supply in the form of dairy products, meats, vegetables, potatoes and fruits on the farm and thereby eliminate the necessity of purchasing basic farm produced commodities;

3. that through their efforts the family will store these foods in an economical way, using modern methods of preservation.

For the purpose of clarifying the need for this grubstake plan, it is necessary to enumerate some of the underlying factors. It should be realized that the financial conditions and problems of this county can be found in many other counties within the state. Washburn County is located in the "cut-over" area in Northern Wisconsin. Thirty-three per cent of the land is off the taxing base due to tax delinquency. The records of the Mediation Board reveal that many of the farm foreclosures were due, not to a single large loss, but rather a gradual yearly slipping of about $150.00. In a few years this amount was so large it could not be liquidated by farming operations. Fifty and eighty tenths per cent of the farm families in Washburn County are tenants. The average farm has from five to twenty-five acres of tillable crop land. Many of these farms are unable to support a progressive farm program. With accumulating debts, low farm prices, mortgage foreclosures and increased need for public aid, the financial condition reached the breaking point.
The morale of too many families was broken down to the extent that outside assistance seemed to be the only answer to their problem.

A county survey showed that, each year, the family liabilities increased in an amount equal to the value of a complete Grubstake, if it had been provided. Relief records showed that the first request for assistance was for food, not clothing and other necessities, and yet, these families lived in Rural Areas. Next to this was the steadily increasing county cost for medical care and hospitalization, reflecting a definite relationship between health and the lack of sufficient quantity and variety of food.

An analysis of the situation shows that the solution of this most important problem must be met by the individual. Until the family has done all that it can for itself, it cannot justly expect to obtain aid from Town, County, State or Federal Governments. True, a mortgage cannot be repaid with the Grubstake but the money saved from food purchasing will go a long way. The Grubstake plan will increase the income and broaden the purchasing powers to better meet the vital needs of the family.

In areas where financial problems have become so complex and where so much public assistance has been required to subsidize farm family income, there has been a definite downward trend in living standards. There has been an equal downward trend in the morale of the people. Realizing the changes and the causes for many of our problems which can be met, it therefore becomes of paramount importance to coordinate the work of all our many agencies in aiding these people to stage a "comeback". A COMPLETE GRUBSTAKE IS THE POINT OF BEGINNING.

From there on the structure can be anchored to a substantial foundation.
and be built to a higher and more secure level.

In checking over the many reports of families who participated in the program this past year, one of the outstanding records was selected to show what can be accomplished. This family consisted of five people, three adults, two children, aged eight and ten. The variety and quantity of food provided is listed as follows:

**Animal Foods**

Plenty of milk, cream and butter  
1 one-year old steer  
2 hogs  
20 roosters  
25 hens for eggs  
7 gallons of lard  

**Vegetable Foods (canned)**

120 quarts tomatoes  
111 quarts vegetables  
295 quarts fruits  
10 gallons sauerkraut  
Jams, Jellies and pickles  

**Stored**

1 1/2 bushel dried beans  
2 bushel parsnips  
50 head cabbage  
2 bushel rutabagas  
3 bushel carrots  
50 squash—both Acorn and Hubbard  
3/4 bushel beets  
20 pounds dried corn  
1 bushel onions  
25 bushel potatoes  
2 bushel sweet potatoes  
1 peck peanuts  
1 bushel butternuts  
4 gallons sorghum  
6 bushel dried apples

This Grubstake including both food and wood for fuel is valued at not less than $400.00. This list may give an idea of the possibilities which a farm family has in providing its own food supply.

In full consideration of the above list, it would be a decided step upward if a similar Grubstake could be found in every rural home in Wisconsin.
Land Use Classification

Land Use Classification included the classification of each designated land use area in accordance with the committee's conclusions concerning the most desirable future use of the land. All land was classified under the following land use classes:

A. Areas now in farms which are not suited for farming and in which the lands should be put to some other use. These areas were colored blue on the county map.

B. Areas not now in farms and which should not now be used for farming because they are unsuited for this use either. As full time or as part-time farms used in conjunction with existing dependable opportunities for non-farm work. These areas were colored green.

C. Areas now in farms which are questionably suited for farming. These areas were colored red on the county map.

D. Areas not now in farms but which are suitable for development into either part-time or full time farms. The areas were colored orange.

E. Areas which are now in farms and which should remain in farming either with or without some changes or shifts in the size and type of farm, the cropping systems, and the soil conserving practices followed, or other adjustments in the farming system.
## SUMMARY SHEET

### of

### LAND USE CLASSIFICATION

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Recommendations for Land Use Areas

Class A (Blue)

Class A lands represent areas now in farms which are not suited to farming. This class represents 8,711 acres or 1.7% of the county area and 3.3% of the farm land. These areas are now being farmed either as crop land or part of an operating farm. The majority, 37% of this area is located in the town of Springbrook.

Local people felt that these lands should become part of the county forest areas. Most of these lands are located within the zoned area and have therefore been previously designated as non-agricultural land. The committees concluded that present zoning boundaries should be extended to include this Class A areas which are not included in the zoned area. The entire area can be planted to trees.

The county board through the forestry committee can be of great help in accomplishing these changes. Local committees realize the problem and therefore ask that Washburn County continue its policy of trading county owned land outside the zoned area for private owned Class A land within the zoned area. It is recognized that these adjustments will require a long period of time to complete.

Class B (Green)

This class includes areas not now in farms which should not be used for farming. This classification represents 262,622 acres or 40.2% of the total area. Included in this classification are 153,280 acres which are not a part of the county forest area.

All open Class B lands are suitable for timber production. Land on and around the many desirable lakes and streams in
this are suitable for recreational development. Local people repeatedly recommended that as a county policy the public should have access to all desirable lakes and streams.

To assure that these areas are not used for farms, the land use planning committees in the towns of Minong, Chicog, Casey, Evergreen and Sarona have recommended that the zoning Ordinance be extended to include all such lands in these towns. All committees favored a policy of extending the zoning ordinance to all Class B areas which will block in with the present boundaries.

Tree planting has been recommended on all open areas on Class B lands, especially those areas owned by the county which are not part of the county forest. Private owners could develop woodlots by participating in this part of the AAA program. Grazing is recommended on those areas adjacent to established farms which require additional pastures.

**Class C (Red)**

This classification represents areas which are in farms but are questionable suited to farming. Included in Class C are 37,980 acres or 7.3% of the total county area. In one township families living in these areas had become town burdens. This situation was due mainly to the poor quality of the land. In another case the classification was made because of the general isolation of the area. The public costs involved in transporting school children and maintaining roads was entirely too high. Other cases resulted from the human element, i.e., the people living on those lands were poor farmers. Generally this land was classified as questionable because of its marginal or submarginal nature.
Class D (Orange)

Class D lands represent land that is suitable for development into either part-time or full-time farms depending upon the opportunities for non-farm work. Of the county area 36,266 acres or 6.9% were so classified. The majority of these lands are found in the towns of Beaver Brook, Madge and Bass Lake.

In many instances these lands are now county owned, having become tax delinquent through poor management. From a taxation viewpoint these areas could be developed for farming. This type of development would relieve part of the tax burden now being carried by private owners. Parts of these areas can profitably be added to adjacent farms which at present are too small to provide a complete subsistence from the land alone. Other areas near or in established communities can be developed into part-time farms depending upon the part-time employment available in forest industries. Local committees feel that anyone considering farming these or other areas should follow the farming recommendations of the Branch Experiment Station at Spooner. Sheep raising under proper management has a place on these areas especially where sufficient pasture land can be obtained. Some of these pastures would need improvement including establishment of legumes. However, if the major portion of the income on this land is to come from sheep considerable emphasis should be placed on the production of home-grown rations.
This class includes those lands which are now being farmed and should be continued in agricultural use. Included in this classification are all those lands which are now being used as part of farming unit. This area comprises 177,982 acres or 33.9% of the total county area.

During recent years many farmers have been purchasing large amounts of hay and grain. Under proper cropping systems which will provide more legume hay and pasture a large amount of this expense can be eliminated. To establish proper cropping systems fertilizer is needed. Reports from the county extension soil testing service show that 90% of the soils tested need lime, 83% need phosphate and 75% need potash. The AAA conservation materials program enables the farmer to obtain lime, marl, and phosphate.

Local Committees felt that the AAA pasture improvement and tree planting programs be given more emphasis and consideration by AAA committee men. Local people recommended that the farmers follow cropping systems suitable to these areas. To carry out these practices the committees felt that the agricultural agencies in Washburn County should follow the recommendations of the Spooner Branch Experimental Station. The following summary explains the seven year rotation which has given good results at the station:
Brief summary of 7 year rotation used as a cropping pracise on the experiment station at Spooner.

1st year —— oats, nurse crop, seeded down to alfalfa
2nd " —— alfalfa, for hay
3rd " —— alfalfa, for hay
4th " —— alfalfa, for hay. First week in Sept, drill fall rye in alfalfa sod. This rye supplies early pasture the following spring. The cattle prefer the rye thus permitting the alfalfa to get a good start.
5th " —— alfalfa plus the rye for pasture. In Sept. this may again be seeded to fall rye by drilling it in the sod and the crop allowed to mature for grain the following year.
6th " —— rye for grain. 5 year avg. at Spooner by this method is 18 bushel per acre. Alfalfa sod is still maintained. After rye harvest it may be pastured. In the fall it may be PLowed for corn or other cultivated crop.
7th " —— Cultivated crop. May be corn, potatoes or other crops of this nature.

Salient features of this rotation scheme:

1 — At least 50% of the crop area is in alfalfa.
2 — PLow once in 7 years. This reduces field operating costs, soil erosion reduced to a minimum.
3 — It is flexible. In the 6th year it may be desirable to grow soybeans on part of the field. Or if a field requires two years of a cultivated crop in order to control weeds this would be the place for the first year of cultivated crop.
4 — It supplies an abundance of hay and pasture which enables the farmer to carry more units per acre.

Primary essentials in order to carry out this rotation plan.

1 — LIME and sufficient soil fertility to grow alfalfa.
2 — Hardy alfalfa seed, 10 lbs. per acre plus 2 lbs. timothy
   Oats as nurse crop 1 to 1.5 bushel per acre.
3 — ROLLER, every now seeding, few realize the importance.
Major Problems of the County

Local people now realize that there are not one, but many conditions which are responsible for the major problems confronting the county. These problems can be summarized under the following headings:

1. Constant increase in farm tenancy.
2. Constant increase in tax exempt land.
3. Excessive relief costs.
4. Decreased valuation which has been associated with increasing county expenses.
5. Small inefficient farm units due to lack of sufficient cleared land.
7. Inadequate farm income.
8. Lack of employment opportunities in forest industries as well as urban industries.
9. Dependency of the individual on Government financial assistance.
RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COUNTY

Land Use Planning Committee

(Washburn County)

GRUSTAKE PROGRAM (Complete home produced food supply)

The County Land Use Planning Committees recommend that:

1. Washburn County continue to increase its participation in the program and its ultimate effectiveness to the county.

2. A more concentrated effort be made by all agencies to insist that needy applicants for aid be encouraged to produce a complete Grubstake.

3. That all town officials in the county be encouraged to promote the wide-spread adoption of the Grubstake Program in their respective towns.

4. That the County Land Use Planning Committee recognize the tremendous value in a Grubstake Program in Washburn County in lowering relief costs and thereby eliminating financial burden to the county and the Federal and State Agencies. They heartily commend the action taken by the County Board of Supervisors, the Agricultural Committee and the County-Wide Grubstake Committee in initiating and developing this program for Washburn County.

GENERAL AGRICULTURE

1. The local committees recommend that the average family sized farm have the following minimum qualifications:

a. 80 total farm acreage
b. 40 acres crop land
c. At least four main sources of income including the following:
   1. Dairying
   2. Poultry
   3. Sale of vegetables or other cash crops such as potatoes, beans, cucumbers, etc.
   4. Sheep and hogs.

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It was further recommended that: (2) The average farm have at least 8 cows, 100 laying hens and 1 brood sow.

3. All Agencies place more emphasis on the production of high quality, home grown feed for livestock.

4. Enough space on this farm be allotted to a food plot so that there will be sufficient potatoes, vegetables and berries to supply all the family food requirements for a year.

5. The dairymen in the County take advantage of the artificial breeding program which has started in Barron County.

6. There is a great need to develop the lands indicated on the land-use classification map as suitable for farming (orange). This land could be used to increase the size of farms near by, by providing additional pasture - woodlots - or cleared land. Many of the part time farms could be made full time through increase in size.

7. The present marl program be pushed and more pits be developed. It was suggested that perhaps a system whereby marl could be delivered by county trucks to stock piles in scattered areas in the county be started.

8. It is recommended that farmers be encouraged to make more use of the Spooner Branch Experimental Station particularly by taking advantage of the results of the Experimental work in the selection of seed grains, corn, potatoes, and crop rotations.

9. The Soil Conservation Service in cooperation with the County Agricultural Committee set up two soil erosion control demonstration farms in the southern part of the county.

10. The Extension Service in cooperation with other Agricultural agencies work out methods which would include long term leases thereby providing for better systems of tomao.
AGRICULTURAL ADJUSTMENT ADMINISTRATION

1. The dairy farmer be given the same consideration as other special crop farmers. The program should provide more earning power.

2. The AAA program in Washburn County include the land clearing practice, so that new land can be opened for cultivation. This practice is a part of the general conservation program in the cut-over areas.

3. The new conservation program now in effect in seven counties in the cut-over area be investigated for use in Washburn County.

4. The conservation materials program be continued in the county.

5. The pasture improvement program be continued.

6. The Grustake program be officially recognized by the AAA through providing a special payment similar to the forest payment for these farm families developing a complete Grub-state program.

FARM SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

1. The tenant purchase program be started in Washburn County. Before young couples are set-up under this plan local town officials should be consulted. Those set-up under the program should be urged to consult successful farmers in the community.

2. The now Special Real Estate program be continued.

3. The County in cooperation with F.S.A. should promote the land settlement of rural young people who wish to farm and are now residents in the county to good land in established communities.
4. The County Land Use Classification map be used as a guide in determining size and location of loans.

5. The F.S.A. in cooperation with the Extension groups assist farmers in developing cooperatives, particularly those involving the cooperative purchase and maintenance of farm machinery.

FARM CREDIT ADMINISTRATION

1. Congress continue the present policy of 3½ percent interest rates on all Federal Land Bank loans for farm mortgages.

2. A refinancing of old Federal Land Bank loans written at interest rates above 4 percent be rewritten at 4 percent comparable to new loans issued today.

3. There should be a continuation of 4 per cent commissioner loans.

4. The interest rates on Federal Land Bank purchased farms be reduced from 5 per cent to 4 per cent.

5. One half of the interest payment be applied on the principal and the remainder paid as interest.

FORESTRY

1. It is recommended County forest land should be extended to include all that land which will block in with the present forest. The land use classification map be used as a guide in extending the county forest as well as in the purchase or sale of land.

2. The county forests should be extended to include a maximum of 150,000 acres.
3. The present system of appraising land and timber be continued by the county land sales committee.

4. The full $10 per acre should be paid to towns on forest crop land and the present payment of $10 per acre per year to the county for forestry purposes should be continued.

5. County timber sales agreements should include a statement whereby local labor shall be used.

6. Local people should be given preference in the sale of county timber are made by the county board.

ZONEING

1. The committee recommends the Washburn County zoning ordinance should be maintained in those areas which are classified as green, red, or blue on the land use classification map.

2. The present policy of entering only zoned areas in forest crop be continued.

CONSERVATION

1. As a county policy, the public should have access to every desirable lake. Some land on each lake should be reserved for public interests.

2. The county should not sell county owned land on trout streams unless provision for public access has been legally established.

3. Conservation meetings and hearings should be held in the smaller towns in the county.
ISOLATED SETTLER RELOCATION

1. The present program of isolated settler relocation should be continued until all isolated settlers who are a burden to the community or who haven't a chance to succeed in their present location are given an opportunity to relocate to better land in an established community.

DEVELOPMENT OF SMALL INDUSTRIES

1. The possibility of developing small local wood using industries be given careful consideration. It was suggested that mills making excelsior and other wood products would provide added income to those engaged in part time farming.

2. It is recommended that the County Agent and the District Forester continue to assist local groups in developing timber products cooperatives such as the Frog Creek Co-op.