Food for the Nation and the World - Quotas for milk production in 1943 were set at about 220,000,000 pounds. The county probably will not be able to make its quota, but will contribute well over 200,000,000 pounds of milk in 1943.

Information regarding improvements in dairying was made available to Wood county farmers through local leaders, the press, radio and general meetings. Farmers have had difficulty in keeping up their production because of shortage of feed, lack of manpower and equipment.

Dairy Herd Management - Farmers have experienced considerable difficulty during the year with udder troubles in their dairy herd due to irregular milking which has been occasioned by labor problems and lack of equipment. Shortage of feed has caused some dairy herds to fall off in production.

Members of the Wood county testing association have been able to select and keep their profitable producers and to weed out the culls. More feed was purchased by Wood county farmers during 1943 than in previous years and the feed bill will run well over $800,000. IT TAKES FEED TO MAKE FOOD.

Home Grown Dairy Feeds - Several farmers have spent considerable money for improvement of pastures which has materially reduced their feed bill. Approximately 1500 tons of phosphate fertilizer and 100 tons of potash fertilizer was used to improve grain, hay and pasture.
More than 35,000 tons of agricultural limestone was spread on farms in order to sweeten the soil so that they could grow a crop of legume hay. AAA subsidy payment of $2.00 per ton or its equivalent has encouraged farmers to use liberal amounts of this material. Ground limestone has been applied on about 10,000 of the 150,000 acres of crop-land this year.

Frank Tomczyk in Sigel town and Accola Brothers in Cary town had outstanding results with their pasture improvement. More than 700 cow pasture days per acre were secured after pastures had been limed, fertilized and reseeded. On the Frank Tomczyk pasture plot an expenditure of about $16.00 per acre was spent in lime, phosphate and potash and new seed. A return of more than $80.00 per acre in milk has been obtained by Mr. Tomczyk.

John Heiser, Sigel, secured one three-bushel sack of Vicland oats. He threshed 127 bushels.

Five farmers, John Heiser, Sigel, Harold Peterich, Hansen, Eugene Zettler, Richfield, W. G. Heuer, Dexter and Fred Hoefner, Lincoln, are experimenting with Ladino clover, Strawberry clover and Birdsfoot Trefoil. Rudy Weinfurter, Sherry, is testing a new wilt resistant variety of alfalfa. Seed for these trials have been supplied these cooperators through the county extension agent.

Bang's disease is on the increase among the dairy herds of the county. Some dairymen are using calfhood vaccination as a means of control, but only on the recommendation of their veterinarian. No serious outbreaks of animal diseases occurred during the year. About 300 head of beef cattle have been purchased by farmers for the purpose of feeding them out for the market.
Buck rake built by Walter Maxwell, Richfield.

Maxwell's loaded buck rake is a labor saving device which is easy to build and operate.
With a more favorable ceiling price on hogs, farmers have increased pork production more than in any previous year. Little pigs sold at $8.00 to $10.00 a piece early in the season. Prices dropped to $3.00 and $4.00 when the feed situation became acute. Alba Bump, Marshfield town farmer, raised a litter of 13 pigs weighing more than 2,600 pounds, which will make a gross income (market value) of approximately $360.00. Many farmers purchased feeder pigs for the first time and were able to utilize considerable pasture and dairy by-products to realize a larger income.

Every effort was put forth on the part of the county agent to enable farmers who were raising hogs for the first time to save every pig farrowed and to follow a clean system of sanitation so that young pigs would not become infested with parasites and diseases. Many young pigs were prevented from having thumps by supplying copper and iron to them by the way on a few shovels full of clean dirt thrown in their feeding pens before they were allowed on pasture. More than 100 pig brooders were made.

Pig brooder may save an extra pig per litter.
The hen population in the county increased from 150,000 to approximately 200,000 this year. Hundreds of "back-lotters" engaged in the poultry business this year for the first time. Baby chicks were raised in basements, attics, garages and every other type and make-shift accommodations. The mortality rate was high for many of the beginners. Coccidiosis, pullorum and parasites took a heavy toll of young chicks.

Several poultrymen purchased sexed leghorn cockerels, which were a drug on the market.

One producer, Wallace Grange, fed out 8,000 leghorn cockerels and marketed them direct.

Poultry producers had difficulty with OPA price ceilings, coupled with high feed, labor and equipment costs. Several enterprising farmers with a flock of 300 laying hens have made a material contribution to their total farm income with the raising of poultry. Several poultrymen have been able to realize a gross return of more than $4.00 per bird.

Culling demonstrations were held in the county to enable poultrymen to salvage their good hens and dispose of the low producers (counterfeits).