cooperative power plant in the world. Allotments for these generating plants totaled $1,782,500 on June 30, 1940. On the same date allotments for construction of more than 10,000 miles of lines to make power available to 33,023 members, totaled $11,244,800.

Wiring and plumbing loans to members comprised $320,500 of the $13,347,800 total allotted to Wisconsin up to June 30, 1940. Members may borrow from their cooperative what they need to wire their homes or install plumbing. They make repayments monthly, quarterly, or semiannually. But many pay cash.

Farm Homes Wired

In 8 months, 600 farmers in one county wired their homes at an average cost of $200. Few used credit. Every electrician and electrical contractor in the area was busy for months.

Cooperative generating plants supply only part of the power needs of Wisconsin's electrified farms, and a large part of the power is purchased wholesale—enough to increase Wisconsin's annual electrical output materially. In 1939 the figure reached approximately 36,000,000 kilowatt-hours, and the cost to the cooperatives amounted to about half a million dollars.

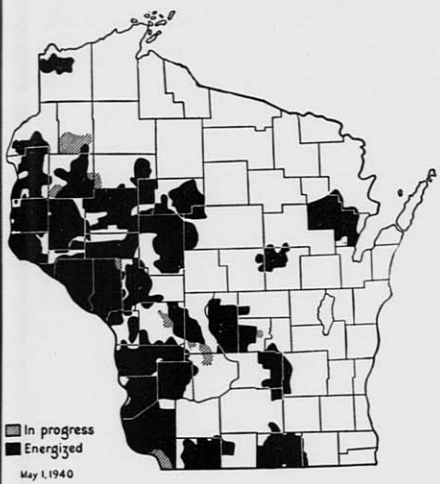
A survey taken on Wisconsin R. E. A.-financed power systems between January and April 1940, shows how members are putting their new electric power to good use. Water pumps were in use on 20.7 percent of the farms reporting, 9.4 percent had put in a shower or tub, more than 15 percent had an electric cream separator, and 17.9 percent were using electric fences. The number of electric motors is a good indicator of the extent to which electric power is applied to farm tasks. The returns show that 3.1 percent owned motors larger than 1 horsepower, and 29.7 percent owned motors of 1 horsepower or less. While motors under 1 horsepower are, of course, too small to power ensilage cutters, wood saws, and other heavy farm machinery, they prove their value in the farm repair shop, on water pumps, milking machines, small feed grinders, and the like.

Much of the heavy burden is being lifted from the shoulders of the farm wife through installation of electric equipment in the home. Of the farms reporting, 85.7 percent had electric irons, 86.8 percent had radios, 24.6 percent had purchased hot plates, 18.4 percent had refrigerators, 79.2 percent had washing machines, and 17 percent were using vacuum cleaners.

Wide use of early-morning and all-night lights to raise poultry production and maintain it throughout the winter is shown by the survey. More than one-fourth of all farms reporting were using electric lights in their laying houses.

Frozen-Food Lockers a New Co-op Service

Since its inception during 1935 the frozen-food locker industry in Wisconsin has expanded at a rapid rate. A survey conducted jointly by the Farm Credit Administration and the Wisconsin College of Agriculture during the early part of 1940 indicates that there were 250 locker plants in operation, one-fifth of which were owned and operated by cooperatives.



From the very start of the Federal rural electrification program, Wisconsin has been one of the leaders in participation.

Most of the cooperative plants were operated by associations previously established for some other type of business; for example, creameries, milk stations, cheese factories, and oil stations. Some of these organizations selected a location favorable for frozen food-locker facilities and services and erected a building there, although the site is not adjacent to the main building of the cooperative. Other joint enterprises added an installation of frozen-food lockers in a main building, or built an addition to it for the purpose. Early in 1939, a group of farmers in Outagamie County organized an association at Greenville for the sole purpose of making frozen-food locker services available.

Although most of the earlier plants did not provide chilling facilities and cutting service for their patrons, the modern ones are installing the more complete units, and many of the older plants are being revamped in order to comply with the 1940 Wisconsin regulations which require chilling and freezing facilities.

When properly organized and operated, this service appears to be an asset to a rural community. Furthermore, a study of locker plant operation indicates that it lends itself very well to cooperative operation.

Breeders' Associations Improve Cattle

During 1939 a movement of considerable significance got under way in Wisconsin. Farmer cooperatives for the purpose of improving the cattle in Rock and Langlade Counties were organized and began operations, giving service in March of that year. These cooperatives offered the services of outstanding sires through artificial insemination.

By September of 1940 the movement had grown to the extent that a total of 10 counties—including an experimental breeding ring operated by the University at Madison—were offering the services of outstanding bulls through breeders' cooperative associations. From 10 to 12 thousand cows are enrolled with the prospect of at least 2 more counties, with 2,500 cows, offering the service by the late fall of 1940.

This method of cattle improvement is one which the farmers themselves, once they understand the possibilities, are demanding. By this method a good proved bull may leave 500 or more offspring in a single year. Properly used, artificial insemination cooperatives offer a tremendous opportunity for improving the cattle in the areas in which they operate.