

READJUSTMENTS in Family Living Are as Drastic as Those Effected in Farming

The economic situation in which the farmer now finds himself is forcing readjustments in the family living that are quite as drastic as those required in the operation of the farm itself. For several years the amount of income available for family expenses has been exceedingly limited in most farm households. With the further reduction in the cash returns from farming, the problem of meeting the needs of the family has become even more difficult. The success with which many families are handling this problem, however, testifies both to their ingenuity and courage and to the stability of rural life in times of economic crisis.

The first method which the farm family adopts in adjusting to a lowered income is producing more of its living at home. The land itself, the farm animals and equipment, and the labor resources of the family are the reserve forces of defense against a lowering of the level of living. This method of adjustment has been called upon in the present emergency to an extent reminiscent of pioneer days.

The Extension Service has, of course, long emphasized the value of a live-at-home program, both as an economical method of securing a well-balanced diet and as a means of releasing funds for the purchase of goods that can not be produced at home. And even in relatively prosperous years most farm families have been accustomed to raising much of the food they need, and many have provided themselves also with fuel, ice, and other supplies. They are now carrying this program still further, and thousands of farms are supplying almost all of the raw materials used by the families, while most of the work of preparing these materials for consumption is done within the homes.

But farm families can not provide for all of their needs by home production, even with this increased emphasis on self-sustaining farm life. Some items in the family budget can be obtained only from outside sources, and usually only by the expenditure of money. This is true, for example, of certain articles of clothing, the expenses of running the automobile, and some of the costs of health and recreation. In these cases farm families are making their adjustments by doing without the item, by postponing its purchase, or by purchasing a less-expensive substitute.

Other adjustments are taking the form of increased use of community facilities. The demands on free clinics and other free sources of medical care are mounting in rural districts. More families are now taking advantage of the borrowing privilege offered by public libraries, in order to reduce expenditures for magazines and books. And in many communities families are cooperating among themselves, by neighborhood lending of reading material and of equipment, and by exchanging the home-produced articles of one farm for those of another.

In making these adjustments farm women are planning ahead as never before for the wise use of their resources. They are choosing with the utmost care between the various demands upon their limited cash, and the numerous claims upon their time and energy. Through such balancing of values many farm families are meeting the present emergency with the least possible sacrifice of health and living standards.

Providing the Family Food Supply

The major adjustment that farm families are making while cash is so scarce is in producing more of their food supply at home. Although it has been the practice of most families to raise from one-half to three-fourths of the food they use, their cash outlay for this item has customarily been one of the largest, and often the largest, in the household budget. During the last decade \$200 or more a year was usually spent for food, according to numerous studies of farm living. For example, a study of 2,886 farm families made by the department in 1922-1924 showed an expenditure for food of \$218 a year, which was 23 per cent of the total amount of cash spent for the family. At present, few farm families can afford as much as \$200 a year for food, and many are finding it necessary to live almost entirely on the foods they raise themselves.

Many households, in order to supply the necessities for the family table, are now drawing more heavily than usual on the products ordinarily raised for market. This is not surprising in view of the fact that prices received for products sold from the farm have declined much more than the retail prices of items that farm families purchase. For example, the farm price of wheat declined 55 per cent between January, 1929, and January, 1932, according to the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, whereas in the same period the retail prices of flour, bread, and wheat cereals declined 35, 21, and 11 per cent, respectively. Adjusting to the condition of the wheat market, many farm families are now supplying themselves with all of the cereal products they need by exchanging wheat for flour and by grinding wheat and corn for breakfast foods and for meal. And home baking of bread has been very widely revived.

The price of livestock offers another example. The farm price of beef cattle declined 52 per cent between 1929 and 1932, while the retail price of dressed beef declined only from 28 to 40 per cent, depending on the cut. This has resulted in the home slaughter of an increased number of animals for the family meat supply.

Home production for home use has been extended to many other articles of diet. Churning butter has come into vogue once more, and more cream is being used in cooking and on the table. The making of cured cheeses has been revived as a home practice. Eggs are now used freely when the market price is low, and in the spring many dozens are laid down in water glass for use in cooking during the winter months. In many farm households, home-produced honey, sorgo, and cane or maple sirup are taking the place of some of the sugar formerly purchased.

The necessity of depending more heavily on home-produced food has undoubtedly meant a poorly balanced diet in many instances. It is very difficult to provide all of the essentials of a good diet when the farm specializes in nonfood crops or a single commodity, to the exclusion of garden, poultry, and livestock enterprises. Farms having dairy cows fare better than those without, because milk and other dairy products make such important contributions to good nutrition of all members of the family. But recent census figures show that in 1929 a considerable proportion of farm families were not keeping even one cow for the family milk supply. In the country as a whole, only about 75 per cent of farm families were keeping milk cows, and the proportion in some States was as low as 60 per cent. Many of

these families who formerly bought their dairy products have now arranged with neighbors to obtain milk in exchange for some other commodity. Others are using either evaporated or dried milk to protect the health of the family.

Thousands of families have been able to maintain and even to raise their nutritional standards in the face of the emergency by carrying out a food-production program planned to fit their own needs. The Extension Service, with its many workers in the field, has been of great help to the farm household in formulating and carrying out the details of these plans. In the South about two-thirds of the counties, and in the Eastern States about three-fourths, support their own home demonstration agents. Although in the Middle West and far West only one-fourth to one-third of the counties have their own home demonstration agents, the State food and nutrition specialists in these regions are carrying out state-wide programs through trained



FIGURE 56.—A farm woman who is keeping records on the production and profits of her fall garden receives suggestions from the home demonstration agent

leaders of local groups, organized under the county agricultural agents. The adjustments which many families are successfully making are a tribute to the independent and courageous spirit of the individual families. They are a tribute also to the cumulative results of years of home demonstration and club work with projects centering around such interests as food selection, food preparation, food preservation, dairying, poultry raising, and gardening.

Home gardens have received more attention in the last two years than ever before. (Fig. 56.) Practically every State extension service has published home-garden plans, calculated to supply enough potatoes and at least two other vegetables to be used fresh during the growing season, and to be canned or stored for the winter according to a food-preservation budget. For example, from a bulletin of the Kansas extension service the farmer may learn that in order to serve his family a leafy vegetable three times a week for health protection,

he should have fresh greens in the garden between May 1 and October 15. The bulletin tells him also that the year's planting to supply summer needs and a surplus for canning must equal a row of 200 feet of greens, divided among different varieties according to the family's preference. All types of food are discussed in equal detail.

Numerous examples of the increased interest in gardening are given in a report made by the Extension Service. In certain counties of a Southern State the number of families who cultivated spring and summer gardens increased from 179,052 in 1930 to 259,354 in 1931, and the number raising fall and winter gardens increased from 27,131 in 1930 to 148,918 in 1931.

In another Southern State a woman enrolled in a home-garden contest reported that "Beginning with collards January 1 there has not been a day that we have not served fresh vegetables out of the



FIGURE 57.—A farm cellar in Kansas stocked for the nonproductive months, according to a canning and storage budget based on the nutritional needs of the family

garden." She had raised 32 varieties, and in November her garden contained turnips, winter greens, mustard, onions, radishes, carrots, spinach, collards, eggplant, tomatoes, and peppers. Besides enjoying an abundance of garden produce throughout the year, she had sold almost \$125 worth of vegetables and had canned 150 quarts for her own use. The total value of the products of this garden was estimated at \$276. An Illinois home maker reported that for a cash outlay of less than \$10, a garden plot of less than an acre furnished \$100 worth of vegetables for summer use, an additional \$40 worth that were stored for winter, and \$20 worth sold for cash. In Kansas, among 300 demonstration gardens, the average net returns per garden were estimated at about \$65.

Canning and storage budgets have also been prepared by almost every State. These are based on local products and local climatic conditions. One example of such a vegetable and fruit canning budget is given in Table 19. The aim of the present food-preservation program is not merely to save the garden surplus but to can with family needs in mind. The prevailing practice now is to follow such a

carefully organized plan of producing, canning, and storing, that leafy and other green vegetables, red tomatoes and yellow carrots, with their supply of vitamins and minerals, and roasts, stews, chickens, and soup stock will appear on the table the year around. Such carefully laid plans safeguard the family's food supply through the winter. (Fig. 57.) On the other hand they prevent the canning of unneeded surpluses.

TABLE 19.—*Vegetable and fruit canning budget*¹

Food	Weeks during which canned food is required	Times food will be served each week	Quantity to be canned	
			Per person	Per family of 5
	Number	Number		
Tomatoes.....	32	3	12 quarts..	60 quarts.
Peas.....	24	1	6 pints....	30 pint's.
Snap beans.....	32	1	4 quarts....	20 quarts.
Corn, beets, carrots.....	24	1	6 pints....	30 pints.
Soup mixture.....	32	1	4 quarts....	20 quarts.
Berries or figs.....	32	1	do.....	Do.
Peaches.....	32	1	do.....	Do.
Pears or apples.....	32	1	do.....	Do.

¹ Adapted from publication issued by the extension service of Alabama, a State with a long growing season. Winter gardens there provide greens most of the year.

In Alabama, according to extension service reports, 16,086 women and girls enrolled for food-preservation work and canned 1,903,637 quarts of fruits, vegetables, and meats during the 1931 season. Six thousand and sixty-five of them canned according to definite budgets suited to individual family needs. In Arkansas it was estimated that 261,244 families enrolled in home demonstration clubs canned 32,666,503 quarts of products from garden, field, and orchard in 1931. Of these families 82,134 had canned, according to budget, supplies that were ample for their winter needs. In Texas 11,271,198 glass and tin containers were sold for home canning in 1930; 30,360,627 in 1931, and it is estimated that about 50,000,000 were sold this year.

Last year farm women had been thinking beyond the needs of their immediate households when planning their work in food preservation. Canning soup mixtures and soup stock for school lunches, canning all sorts of products to be donated to such charitable institutions as children's homes or homes for the aged, or canning something to be donated to relief organizations for distribution to the unemployed or others in distress—all these have been individual or community projects in many localities. One State reported that one woman had supplied 1,000 containers for relief purposes in addition to canning 1,900 quarts for her own household, which unemployment had increased from 4 to 13 members.

Many plantation owners in the South have made it possible for their tenants to grow, can, and store sufficient food for the winter. On one plantation in Arkansas, for instance, the planter's wife organized the women of the 175 families on the place, both white and colored, into eight circles. Each circle was instructed in gardening and food preservation by leaders trained by the home demonstration agent. (Fig. 58.) As a result, every family on the place raised a garden and canned fruits and vegetables for the winter. Each tenant was also encouraged to keep a cow and at least 25 hens. It is partly

due to efforts such as these, no doubt, that pellagra, a disease caused by dietary deficiency, is decreasing in prevalence, even in the face of widespread economic distress. A home-food-production program makes it unnecessary to subsist on credit, with the accompanying danger of unbalanced diets.

These organized efforts to round out the food-production and food-preservation program so that an adequate diet will be available throughout the year, have brought about several outstanding developments in home-canning practices. Canning in tin has greatly increased, and the canning of beef, pork, stews, sausage, chicken, liver paste, and rabbit is much more extensively done at home than formerly. Through meat canning the men in many families have for the first time taken an active interest in the food-preservation work. Demonstrations in cutting, curing, and canning meat have been widely given. Last year one group of 36 Kansas women canned about



FIGURE 58.—One of the canning centers established in Arkansas in 1931. Like most of these centers, this was set up with the advice of the county home demonstration agent. In the winter these centers are often used for meat canning.

4,500 pounds of beef, a quantity much greater than they could have afforded to purchase. In certain counties of Texas where 24,232 beeves and lambs were canned in 1930, 45,953 were canned in 1931; where 272,562 hogs were cured in 1930, about 338,000 were cured in 1931. Many families report that they are fattening beeves to supply meat for the family this year.

Another development that has come from this extensive preservation program is the community or neighborhood canning of foods. This practice has developed partly because of the recognized need for steam-pressure canners in the canning of all meats, fish, and nonacid vegetables. In some States, counties have equipped canning trucks and sent them out on schedule with the home demonstration agent or a local leader, so that as many families as possible could benefit by the use of the equipment and by the leader's instruction in canning

methods. The result of this new emphasis on food preservation has made the total number of containers of home-canned products break all records, even those established during the food-conservation program of the World War. Last year farm families also improved their storage facilities to provide proper conditions in cellars or out-of-door pits or caves for storing a wide variety of winter vegetables and fruits.

The prominence of garden planning and food conservation in the teaching program of the Extension Service has developed in connection with the emphasis on food selection. From planning balanced diets for a day and a week, attention was next directed to planning ahead for the nonproducing season. Following as a logical development, attention is now focusing on planning a balanced food supply for the whole year.

Several States have drawn up suggestive food-supply budgets for the guidance of farm families. These naturally differ somewhat in the level of dietary adequacy provided, and in the level of cost in effort and money. Any plan must, of course, be modified by the individual family to suit its own needs. Table 20 presents one example of a yearly food-supply list for a family of five. It is made up of suitable quantities of the different kinds of food needed for health and allows enough variety so that interesting and palatable meals can be prepared from it. If a family had purchased all of the items in this list at 1931-32 city retail prices, the cost would have been approximately \$650. A less expensive food plan, also adequate from the standpoint of nutrition, could be made by using a larger proportion of whole-grain cereals and less of some kinds of vegetables and of the lean meats and eggs, while a more expensive plan would allow greater variety in some of the food groups.

TABLE 20.—A suggested food-supply budget providing an adequate diet for a 5-member farm family,¹ showing approximate quantities of food needed for a week and for a year

Food	Unit	Quantities needed		Food	Unit	Quantities needed	
		Per week	Per year			Per week	Per year
Milk.....	Gallon	8	410	Butter, lard, salt pork, bacon.....	Pound	4½	234
Potatoes.....	Bushel	¼	14¼	Bread.....	do	15	780
Dried beans, peas, nuts.....	Pound	1½	69	Additional flour, cereals.....	do	4	208
Tomatoes, citrus fruit.....	do	9	468	Sugar.....	do	4	208
Green-colored vegetables.....	do	8	416	Molasses, jelly, etc.....	do	2	104
Other vegetables.....	do	14	728	Tea, coffee, cocoa, baking powder, soda, salt, and other accessories.....	do	(?)	(?)
Fruits (weight, fresh).....	do	12	624				
Lean meat, fish, poultry.....	do	10	520				
Eggs.....	Dozen	2½	130				

¹ 2 active adults; 3 children, aged 3, 5, and 12 years.

² As desired.

Many farm families, through their home-production programs, have enjoyed a diet more generous than that represented by Table 20, at a money expenditure of less than half of \$650. Indeed, as shown in Table 21, if the program for home food production and preservation is pushed to the extreme, the expenditures for a fully adequate food supply with interesting variety may be reduced to a very small sum. The adjustments that farm families are making the country over are evidence of the feasibility of such reduced cash expenditures.

TABLE 21.—*A suggested division between foods raised and foods bought, in an adequate yearly food supply for a 5-member farm family*¹

Food	Money value of food at retail prices		
	Raised	Bought	Total
Milk, cheese.....	\$185-195	\$10- 0	\$195
Vegetables, fruits.....	100-160	60- 0	160
Lean meat, poultry, fish, and eggs.....	120-130	10- 0	130
Butter, lard, salt pork, bacon.....	45- 52	7- 0	52
Bread, flour, cereals.....	0- 53	53- 0	53
Sugar, molasses, sirup, jelly.....	5- 35	30- 0	35
Accessories.....	0- 0	25-25	25
Total.....	455-625	195-25	650

¹ 2 active adults; 3 children, aged 3, 5, and 12 years.

Cutting the Costs of Clothing

The second large adjustment that farm families are making in the present emergency is in expenditures for clothing. Next to food, this item usually makes the heaviest demands on the budget of the farm household. For example, the 2,886 farm families studied in 1922-1924 spent on the average \$235 for clothing, which was 26 per cent of the total cash spent for family living. Clothing needs are, however, more flexible than food needs for most families. When retrenchment is necessary, the first and very obvious adjustment that many families make is to get along with the wardrobe on hand, postponing the purchase of new clothing as long as possible. The second adjustment, when replacement can no longer be postponed, is substituting less expensive garments for those that have worn out. And meanwhile, remodeling and frequent cleaning and mending assume new importance as means of prolonging the life of the wardrobe. Just these and numerous other clothing economies are now being practiced in farm homes throughout the country, although figures that show the amount of saving effected are not available.

Many housewives are feeling the need for information and help in getting the utmost use out of the clothes they have. To meet this need the extension services in many States are holding clothing clinics, which are very popular. At these clinics demonstrations of the best methods of caring for clothing, including dry cleaning, removing spots and stains, mending and pressing, are given. Instruction is also given in remodeling garments and hats, and in bleaching and dyeing. To a greater extent than usual, farm women are making over their own, their husband's, and their children's clothes for the younger members of the family. And in many households, the resoling and repairing of shoes has been revived as an emergency practice.

But in spite of the best care and repair, even the most durable clothing will in time wear out and must be replaced. And home production can not solve the clothing problem to the extent that it solves the food problem. The arts of spinning and weaving have vanished from the accomplishments in almost all farm households, and few farm women have the skill to make all of the family's clothes at home. Many types of garments must be bought ready-made, and with these the chief opportunities for thrift lie in exercising good judgment in purchasing, so as to get the fullest value out of every dollar spent. This is true,

of course, of shoes and other footwear, which ordinarily take from one-fourth to one-third of the total clothing outlay in the farm household. It is usually true also of men's coats, suits, and other outer garments, which normally make up about one-half of their clothing costs.

For the women and girls of the family, however, and for the small sons as well, the outlay for outer garments can be considerably reduced by home sewing. Farm women are now turning to this means of economizing to a much greater extent than usual. In many families all of the dresses, waists, skirts, and aprons worn by the housewife and her daughters are made at home, and some women are even venturing to make coats and other tailored garments for themselves and the children. And for all members of the family undergarments are again being made at home. Although the outlay for underwear is often less than one-tenth of the total cost of clothing, the savings during the year for the whole family may amount to an appreciable figure.

Just as judgment is essential in selecting purchased garments, it is important for the woman who tries to save by home sewing to turn to the type of garments that will be most profitable for her to make. In general, the more standardized the garment, the cheaper it can be bought ready-made, and the smaller the margin of profit in making it at home. The Bureau of Home Economics recently made a study of the relative cost of ready-made garments and the cost of materials that went into similar home-made garments. Five hundred and forty-eight farm housewives in five States cooperated in the study. No attempt was made to compare the quality of the materials, or the cut or fit of the garments. The results showed that the cost of materials for cotton and wool skirts, nightgowns, and pajamas averaged from 75 to 90 per cent of the prices paid for ready-made garments. The materials used for aprons, cotton, wool, and silk dresses, blouses, outer bloomers and knickers, brassieres, underwaists, chemises, combinations, and kimonos averaged from 45 to 75 per cent of the cost of the finished garments.

But the possible savings through home sewing depend not only on the relative costs of the materials and the finished garment; they depend also on the value of the home maker's time, measured in terms of what other profitable use she might be making of it. Considering only the direct cash saving, the value of the farm housewife's time may run as high as \$2 an hour on jobs requiring considerable skill, particularly when it is possible to utilize materials already on hand. It may, however, be worth only 10 cents an hour in making the simpler and more standardized kinds of garments. But in the prevalent scarcity of cash, many farm home makers are finding even such small savings worth while. In spite of the comparatively low cost of much ready-made clothing to-day, it is estimated that the value of home sewing in many farm households amounts to as much as \$75 a year.

Reducing Family Expenditures for Other Items

For most farm families a large share of the reduction in living expenses must come from many small economies in the various items in the family budget other than food and clothing. This group of expenses includes the cost of fuel, light, and other household operation, furnishings and equipment, automobile and other travel, education, recreation, health, and such personal expenses as tobacco, candy, and

toilet supplies. The total cost of these items in many households is as a rule just about equal to the combined cost of food and clothing. For instance, the 2,886 farm families studied by the department spent, on the average, \$461 a year for these items, more than half of the total yearly expenditure of \$914. Though it is usually not possible to make a large saving on any one of these items, there are many opportunities for small savings and for substituting home-produced goods and services for those usually purchased.

Some farm families are making a considerable share of these savings in the household-operation group alone. Even in more normal times many households depend for their fuel very largely on farm-produced wood and cobs, and very little on purchased fuel. Now they are seizing the opportunity for further saving in this direction. Reports from the Middle West indicate that some families without wood lots are burning grain instead of buying fuel. Fuel economies include not only producing on the farm as much of the supply as possible, but also careful use and proper adjustment of the stove in cooking. By proper planning, housewives frequently save fuel, as well as time and energy by cooking the food for more than one meal at one time.

Many farm women are now making laundry and toilet soap from by-products of home slaughtering, while other families report that they are making furniture polish and hand lotion. Although the amount of savings on any one of these products is not great, the effort involved is worth while if the housewife's time is not too crowded. This is especially true of soap, when there is surplus fat on hand and the only outlay involved is for lye, coloring, and perfume. In two recent studies the cost of making laundry and toilet soap at home was found to be less than 2 cents a pound.

Another direction in which many farm families are economizing is in expenditures for telephones. For the country as a whole the number of telephones increased by 59 per cent in the 10 years preceding the 1930 census. During the same period the number of farm telephones declined about 14 per cent, although the decline in the number of farm homes was less than 3 per cent. A considerable further reduction in the number of farm telephones has taken place in the last two years as a part of the farm-home economy program.

Cutting down on the unnecessary use of the family automobile is an obvious way of reducing the cash outlay for gasoline and lubricating oil. Many of the families forced to economize in these expenditures have effected savings through cooperative organizations selling gasoline and oil to their members. Three cooperative purchasing organizations dealing only in gasoline, oil, and grease reported business for 1930-31 ranging from \$600,000 to \$1,600,000. Reports to the Federal Farm Board in the last year indicate that there has been a decided increase in the number of cooperative marketing associations purchasing gasoline and lubricating oil for their members, as well as in the number of consumer cooperatives handling these items.

Not since pioneer days has so large a proportion of farm housewives been making quilts, piecing bed covers, and tufting spreads. In some parts of the country women are stuffing pillows and comforters with feathers from the farm flock and are making mattresses. Making rag rugs at home is an increasingly popular thrift practice. This not only reduces expenditures for floor coverings but gives a use for the cloth in garments worn past repair or remodeling.

Upkeep of the farm house without unnecessary cash outlay is involving other widespread adjustments in furnishings and repairs. For instance, women are finishing furniture at home wherever possible in preference to buying new pieces. In some sections the farm family is finding it feasible to utilize home-grown timber for certain types of inside repairs and improvements, instead of buying lumber. This is an essential saving because, though the prices of building materials are lower now than since 1917, reduced money income in many farm homes has restricted the purchase of such items to bare requirements for absolutely necessary repair jobs.

The drastic lowering of cash incomes throughout the country has cut out numerous smaller expenditures such as those for commercialized entertainment, for books and periodicals, for music and travel. In many instances this has served to consolidate the family group and to strengthen neighborhood friendships through cooperative forms of entertainment and through the exchange of reading material. Unfortunately, retrenchment in expenditures has required many families to reduce temporarily their outlay for education. However, the enrollment figures of the land-grant colleges and universities and post-graduate high-school courses indicate that many families are still able to make the sacrifices which higher education for their children always involves.

Planning Ahead for the Use of Money and Time

Skillful budgeting is obviously needed if the farm family is to get the most out of its present limited income. Realizing this fact, farm women everywhere are giving increased attention to budgeting family expenditures and keeping accounts. The extension service reports household accounting and budgeting projects in 36 States in 1931. The reports show that more than 2,000 women in Ohio and Illinois are keeping household accounts at present. Women are taking unusual interest just now in information on how to buy the various articles for which money must be spent. This interest has made courses in household purchasing an important feature of the extension teaching program in 24 States.

There has always been less hand-to-mouth buying in rural areas than in the cities, because farm homes generally have better storage facilities and are not as close to the retail store. In the last few years, however, farm home makers have been taking greater advantage of the savings made possible by quantity buying. They have saved money also by making fewer purchases on the installment plan. Such purchases have declined much more than the total volume of sales since 1929.

The increase in home production caused by the live-at-home program is requiring much extra work on the part of most farm home makers. It is therefore even more important than usual for them to plan their time expenditures effectively, and to safeguard their energy and strength during these difficult years.

Even before the present emergency, the demands upon the farm woman's time were heavy enough. Studies of over 1,000 farm households, made by the Bureau of Home Economics and several State experiment stations, show an average working week for the home maker of 62 hours. The major share of this time was spent in the routine housekeeping tasks that must be performed in every home. Preparing and clearing away meals alone required almost 23 hours a week, while the

cleaning and other care of the house and the laundering and mending totaled 16 hours more.

When the care of small children is added to this schedule, the farm woman is hard pressed to find time for the gardening, canning, sewing, and other jobs that are part of the home-production program. Her present heavy schedule is making it especially necessary for her to follow an organized plan of work. Furthermore, in order to realize the greatest returns for her time and effort, she is seeing the value of choosing carefully from the many tasks at hand. Some she eliminates altogether, and some she is taking on only as temporary and emergency duties. And because it is out of the question for one person to carry so great a burden, farm housewives are calling on other members of the household to help with these new duties and to take a greater share of the responsibility for the usual home-making jobs. It is only by the cooperation of members of the family and by concentrating on the most important tasks that the year's program can be carried out successfully.

Contributing to the Family's Cash Income

The extent to which the farm woman contributes directly to the cash income of the family, aside from the large value of her services in the home, is not generally recognized. No fewer than 8.8 per cent of the farm home makers of the country were reported by the 1930 census as gainfully employed. Many of these 549,947 women, of course, were running their own farms or were working regularly on the home farm most of the time. But a large proportion were employed away from the farm as teachers, clerks, telephone operators, postmistresses, industrial workers, and dressmakers and in numerous other capacities.

In addition to these farm women reported by the census as gainfully employed, there is a large number of rural home makers who earn money only occasionally or through regular part-time work. These women are adding materially to the cash income of their families through a wide range of activities. Some are weaving, making baskets, tufting bed spreads, making rugs and feather fans, and doing batik work. A few are giving shampoos and facial massages, reviewing books, writing local news items, teaching music, and tutoring the neighbor's children. A much greater proportion are making jams and jellies, pastries, cakes, and other cooked goods for sale, and are raising vegetables, chickens, and other farm products for the market.

In disposing of their home-produced goods some farm women are continuing to use the individual roadside market, but many have joined women's marketing associations organized by the home demonstration agents. These marketing associations are the most striking outcome of the rural home makers' increased need to supplement the family income. The home demonstration leader in one of the Southern States writes:

The association sponsors only women's markets, a place for farm women to sell their surplus to the housewives of the town. Truckers and men in general are not allowed to sell, though husbands and sons may, and do, assist in other ways. The products handled consist of butter, cream, buttermilk, eggs, live and dressed poultry, lamb, pork, nuts, vegetables, fruits, cakes, pies, canned goods, home-ground meal, and lye hominy. Sales range in a single market in this State from \$750 to \$1,000 a month. Numbers of our women have been able to provide clothing and food for their own and other families on their farms because of the profits from this market.

Another home demonstration leader in the South reports three curb markets functioning in her State, with total sales of \$15,800 during the year. Figures showing the increased number of sellers at a women's market in one county of another Southern State are significant. In 1929 the total number was 393; in 1930 it was 511, and in 1931 it was 630. The value of the sales in this county is even more significant. In 1928 it was \$79,970; in 1929 it was \$104,805; in 1930 it was \$137,450, and in 1931 it was \$124,719.

Home demonstration agents are organizing rural women's marketing associations wherever there is a demand for them. Previous to 1931, 87 agents had organized 330 such associations and in 1931, 53 agents organized 149 more. The total membership of 34,687 farm women in this new marketing development is additional evidence of the women's eagerness to improve the economic situation in their own homes.

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