

THE INCREASE IN NUMBER OF FARMS  
FROM 1930 TO 1936  
IN SIX TOWNSHIPS OF OHIO

By

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## SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

This study of "new farms" and increase in number of farms was made in six townships, representing four areas in the State. These four representative areas, with the townships studied, are as follows

1. Area of Good Farm Land (Fulton Township, Fulton County).
2. Area with Considerable Industrial Activity (Jackson Township Stark County and Green Township, Summit County).
3. Area of Poor Farm Land with a Considerable Portion of the Population Dependent on Mining (Waterloo and Lee Townships, Athens County).
4. Area of Poor Farm Land Influenced by Commerce on Ohio River (Harrison Township, Scioto County).

On the basis of data set forth in this report, the following conclusions may be drawn concerning the increase in number of farms and the new farms in the areas studied.

1. The increase in number of farms for the period 1930-1935 in the six townships studied was found to be 5.6 percent as compared to a 16.7 percent increase reported by the Census for the same period in the six townships.
2. In number of farms the greatest percent of increase was in the poor farm land-river commerce area, and the lowest in the good farm land area.
3. The new farms established were predominantly part-time units and were created to:
  - a) Supplement the income derived from other sources.
  - b) Secure cheaper and healthier living conditions.
4. The new full-time farms showed greatest promise of success in the good farm land area. The best outlook for the new part-time farms was in the industrial area.
5. The new farms were established by middle-aged people from cities.
6. Most of the people establishing new farms had previous agricultural experience.

7. The rate of establishing new farms, as measured by the number established each year from 1930 to 1936, decreased to a considerable extent after 1932.
8. In the poorer agricultural areas, the new farms have added materially to relief costs
9. In no case were the new farms numerous enough to assume a significant portion of the tax base of the township or county.
10. An educational program is needed to set forth information concerning opportunities on the land. Such a program should include information as to:
  - a) Areas where additional full-time farms might be economically feasible.
  - b) Areas where part-time farms are most likely to succeed.
  - c) Areas where no increase in farms is desirable.
  - d) Cost of establishing desirable part-time and full-time farms.
  - e) Limitations as to amount of income, and proportion of the family living that may be secured from a farm.
  - f) Capital requirements.

THE INCREASE IN NUMBER OF FARMS FROM 1930 TO 1936 IN  
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M. L. Predmore\*  
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INTRODUCTION

When the effects of the economic depression began to be felt in the way of reduced hours of employment and wage rates, many people began to return to the land in an attempt to adjust themselves to changing economic conditions and to secure a livelihood.

One of the results of this landward movement was to increase the number of farms. For the United States as a whole, the 1935 U.S. Census reported 523,702 more farms than in 1930. Ohio alone had a reported increase of 35,050 farms during the period 1930-1935, according to the Census. The release of these Census data pertaining to the increase in number of farms has been given wide publicity and has aroused public interest in their significance. Many agricultural workers, such as county agents and extension specialists, expressed doubt that such a large increase in number of farms actually occurred.

This study was initiated in four representative areas to determine if this large increase in farms took place; to learn which were the "new farms"; why they had been established, what type of farm they were, their relative success, probable permanence, and something of their effect on local communities.

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### TIME OF STUDY AND PROCEDURES FOLLOWED

The study was begun in the summer of 1936 and the field work completed in October, 1936. Altogether, six townships were studied. In each township, every family residing in rural or unincorporated territory was enumerated and the particular tract of land upon which each family lived was classified by applying the Census definition of a farm to ascertain whether the tract was a farm or rural residence. That is, if a tract of land could not qualify as a farm according to the Census definition and there was a family living on the tract, then it was designated as a rural residence.

If a tract qualified as a farm, further information was obtained to determine whether or not the tract was a farm at the time of enumerating the 1930 Census.

A tract which qualified as a farm at the time of the study but which could not have been classed as a farm in the 1930 Census, was called a "new farm". These "new farms" were the ones contributing to the increase in number of farms and could arise from three sources: (1) subdivision of existing farms; (2) reoccupation of abandoned farms; (3) creating farms from previously undeveloped land or land in rural residences.

It should be kept in mind that simply determining the number of "new farms" does not necessarily indicate the actual increase in number of farms, for at the same time that "new farms" are created, other farms go out of existence due to consolidation, abandonment, etc. Thus, the figure representing the number of "new farms" may be greater than the figure for the actual increase in total number of farms.

Data were secured in the course of the study regarding the farms that ceased to exist during the period under consideration.

### AREAS SELECTED FOR STUDY

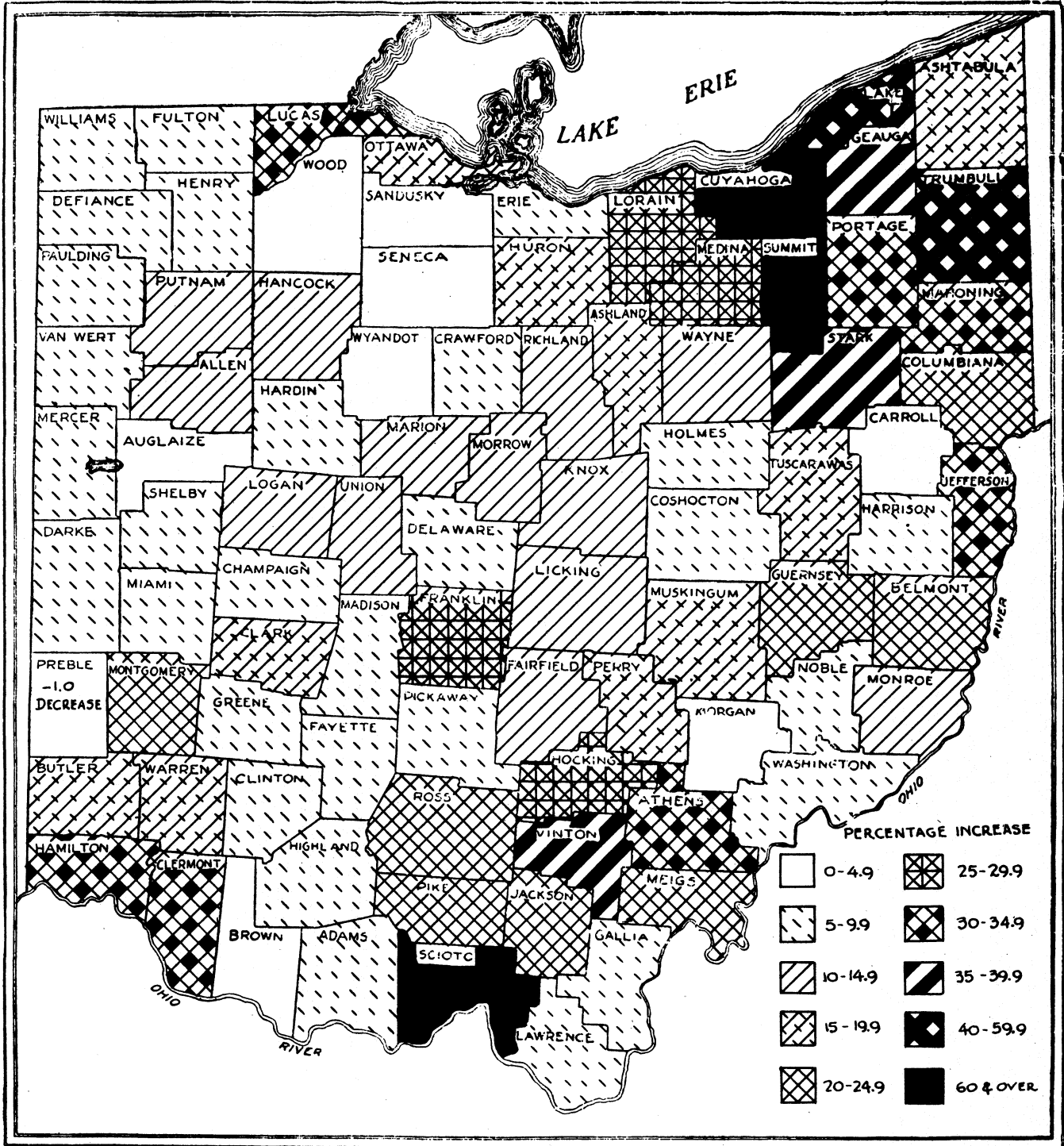
The 1935 Census reported an increase of 35,850 farms in the State of Ohio over the number reported in 1930. It is to be expected that the proportionate increase in farms would not be the same in all sections of the State. Accordingly, from U.S. Census data the percent of increase in number of farms has been tabulated and mapped by counties. This information is shown by the map, page 3.

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\* A more detailed outline of the procedure will be found in the appendix.



### PERCENTAGE INCREASE IN NUMBER OF FARMS IN OHIO, 1930-1935 (BY COUNTIES)



SOURCE OF DATA: U.S. CENSUS.

LAND USE PLANNING SECTION—U.S.D.A—R.A.  
AND DEPT OF RURAL ECONOMICS—O.S.U.

Good Farm Land Areas. The map shows that in the areas of good farm land, namely the west central, northwest, and southwest parts of the State, the increase in farms reported by the Census was seldom over 10 percent. Exceptions to this occurred in Lucas, Franklin, Clark, Montgomery, Hamilton, and Clermont Counties, which are subject to industrial influences due to the location of cities such as Toledo, Columbus, Springfield, Dayton, and Cincinnati. To gain information concerning new farms in the good farm land areas of Ohio, it was decided to study Fulton Township, Fulton County. This township is typical of a good portion of western and northwestern Ohio, represented by good farm land, stable communities, average sized general farms, good markets, good schools, and good roads.

Northeast Industrial Area. It is apparent from the map that the greatest percent of increase in number of farms occurred in northeastern Ohio, the most important industrial area, where two counties, Cuyahoga and Summit, reported increases of about 80 percent. Adjoining counties reported increases of from 20 to 50 percent or more in the number of farms. Jackson Township in Stark County and Green Township in Summit County, located about midway between Akron and Canton, were selected to represent this area. Due to the proximity to these important industrial cities many people have combined farming with industrial employment. Specialized farming presents greater opportunity for success in this area due to the nearness to good markets.

Poor Farm Land Area with Stranded Mining Population. In southeastern Ohio, Vinton and Athens Counties reported approximately a 35 percent increase in number of farms, according to the Census. This area was formerly one of much activity in lumbering and mining, but has been characterized in recent years by considerable unemployment, a high relief load, and a more or less stranded industrial population. Waterloo and Lee Townships in Athens County were selected as typical of the area subject to the influence of stranded mining population in combination with fair to poor farm land which can be obtained at a moderate price.

Poor Farm Land Area Subject to Influence of River Commerce. Harrison Township in Scioto County was selected as representative of an area where much of the land is too steep to cultivate and where about one-third of the farms are reported by the Census to be self-sufficing or part-time. Scioto County had a reported increase of 60 percent in number of farms. A considerable portion of the township studied in Scioto County has been designated in a report to the National Resources Board as being a part of the area in which a considerable portion of the farms should be retired from agricultural use.

It was thought that the number of farms in this township would be influenced by river trade and local industrial employment in combination with land which can be obtained at a low price.

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The above areas\* were selected for an intensive study of the "new farms" in Ohio. It was felt that the factors and influences characterizing the "new farms" in these areas would give a good picture of such farms for most of the State.

NEW FARMS FOUND AND INCREASE IN NUMBER OF FARMS  
IN TOWNSHIPS STUDIED

There were 119 "new farms" established in the six townships studied between the time the 1930 Census was taken and October, 1936, when this study was completed. The following table lists total number of farms and the new farms in the six townships studied:

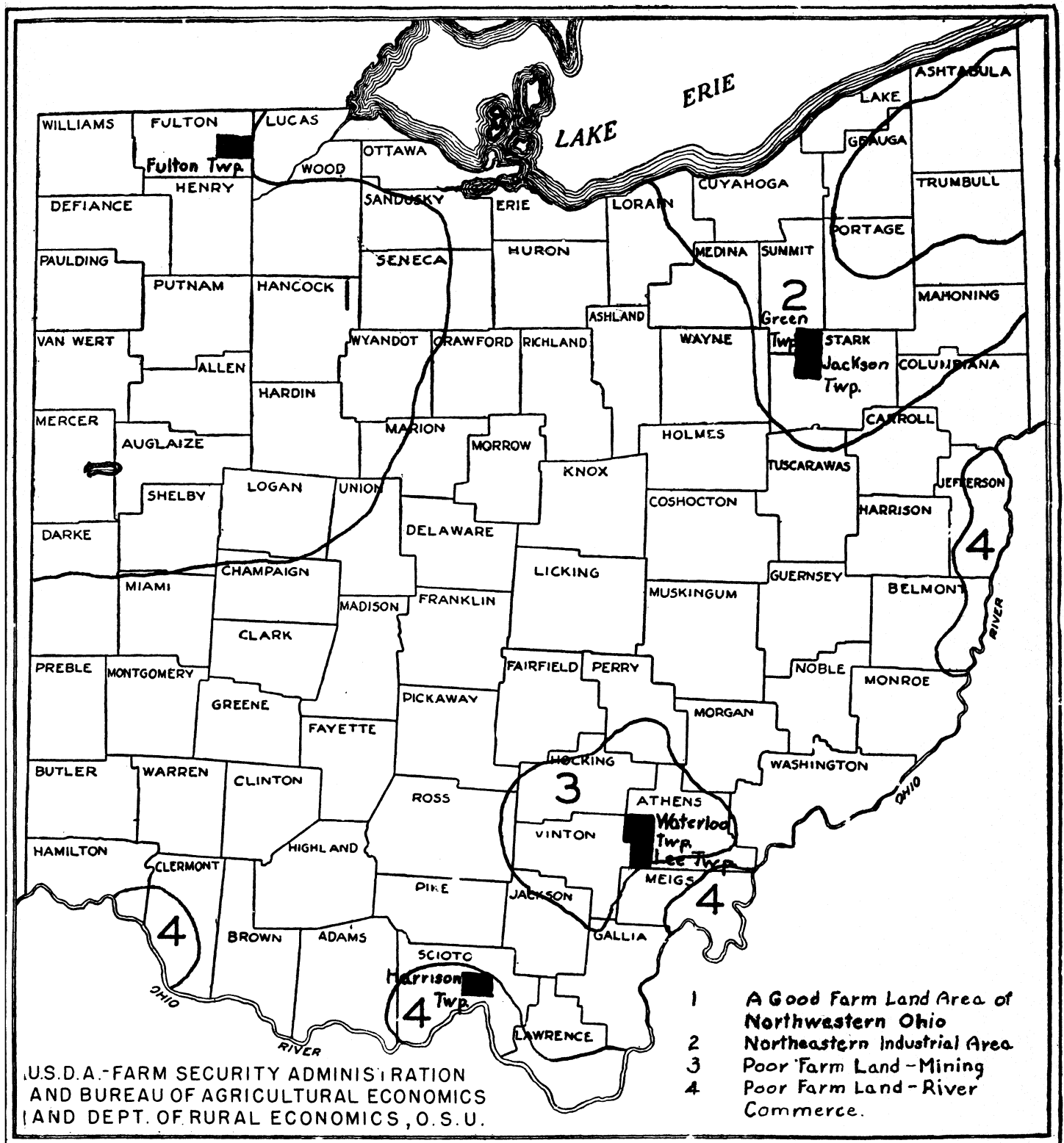
Table I

Total Number of Farms and New Farms  
in Townships Studied

| <u>Area</u>                      | <u>Total Number<br/>of Farms<br/>October, 1936</u> | <u>Number of Farms<br/>Established Since<br/>Enumeration of<br/>1930 Census</u> |
|----------------------------------|--|---|
| Good Farm Land:                  |  |   |
| Fulton Township, Fulton County   | 219  | 12  |
| Industrial:                      |  |   |
| Green Township, Summit County    | 216  | 43  |
| Jackson Township, Stark County   | 303  | 8   |
| Poor Farm Land - Mining:         |  |   |
| Waterloo Township, Athens County | 233  | 15  |
| Lee Township, Athens County      | 151  | 13  |
| Poor Farm Land - River Commerce: |  |   |
| Harrison Township, Scioto County | <u>317</u>   | <u>28</u>   |
| Total All Townships              | 1,439  | 119   |

\* The townships studied in the representative areas are shown on the map, page 6.

# LOCATION OF TOWNSHIPS STUDIED IN REPRESENTATIVE AREAS



However, there was not an increase of 119 in total number of farms in these six townships during the period from 1930 to 1936. There were found to exist as of 1930, 1,344 farms in the six townships, which, subtracted from the 1,439 found in 1936, leaves a net increase of 95 farms. This may be accounted for by the fact that 24 farms went out of existence during the period, due to consolidation. Thus, for all six townships about eight percent or one in every twelve of the farms existing at the time of this study were "new" and had been established since the 1930 Census was taken. However, so far as increase in number of farms is concerned, there were about seven percent more in 1936 than in 1930.

The relationship, by areas, between percent of new farms and percent increase in total number of farms is shown by the following table.

Table II  
Percentage Relationship Between New Farms and  
Increase in Number of Farms

| <u>Area</u>  | <u>Percent of Farms<br/>Existing in 1936<br/>Established Since 1930</u> | <u>Percent Increase<br/>In Total No. of Farms<br/>1930 - 1936</u> |
|--|---|---|
| Good Farm Land:<br>(Fulton Township, Fulton Co.)                             | 5.5   | 1.9   |
| Industrial:<br>(Green Township, Summit Co.)<br>(Jackson Township, Stark Co.) | 9.8   | 8.8   |
| Poor Farm Land - Mining:<br>(Waterloo and Lee Twps.)<br>(Athens County)      | 7.3   | 5.8   |
| Poor Farm Land - River Commerce:<br>(Harrison Twp., Scioto Co.)              | 8.8   | 9.7   |

The lowest percent of existing farms which were "new" was in the good farm land area. Also in this area was the lowest percent of increase in total number of farms. This tends to substantiate the general observation that there has been little actual increase in total number of farms in the good farm land areas of the State.

In the other three areas, and particularly in the poor farm land - river commerce area, most of the new farms add to the total number of farms. It might be assumed that the "new farms" have more significance in these areas.

COMPARISON OF CENSUS DATA WITH DATA SECURED IN STUDY

The following table shows the number of farms recorded by this study in the six townships as of 1930 and 1935. It also presents the data from the U. S. Census for 1930 and 1935.

Table III

Number of Farms 1930-1935 in Areas Studied  
Comparison of Census Data with Data Recorded in Study

| Area                            | Census Data       |                   |              | Study of Increase in Farms |                   |             |                                  |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------|----------------------------|-------------------|-------------|----------------------------------|
|                                 | No. of Farms 1930 | No. of Farms 1935 | Net Changes  | No. of Farms 1930          | No. of Farms 1935 | Net Changes | Total No. of New Farms 1930-1935 |
| Good Farm Land:                 |                   |                   |              |                            |                   |             |                                  |
| Fulton Twp.--Fulton Co.         | 226               | 212               | - 14         | 215                        | 216               | + 1         | 9                                |
| Industrial:                     |                   |                   |              |                            |                   |             |                                  |
| Green Twp.--Summit Co.          | 169               | 254               | + 85         | 182                        | 215               | + 33        | 42                               |
| Jackson Twp.--Stark Co.         | 254               | 213               | - 41         | 295                        | 300               | + 5         | 5                                |
| Poor Farm Land - Mining:        |                   |                   |              |                            |                   |             |                                  |
| Waterloo Twp.--Athens Co.       | 168               | 134               | - 34         | 224                        | 225               | + 1         | 7                                |
| Lee Township -Athens Co.        | 132               | 153               | + 21         | 139                        | 148               | + 9         | 10                               |
| Poor Farm Land -River Commerce: |                   |                   |              |                            |                   |             |                                  |
| Harrison Twp.--Scioto Co.       | 150               | 317               | + 167        | 289                        | 316               | + 27        | 27                               |
| <b>Total</b>                    | <b>1099</b>       | <b>1283</b>       | <b>+ 184</b> | <b>1344</b>                | <b>1420</b>       | <b>+ 76</b> | <b>100</b>                       |

Although there was a total of 119 new farms found in the six townships studied, 19 of these new farms had been established in 1935 and 1936, leaving 100 farms which were established during the period between the 1930 and the 1935 Census. However, due to the fact that 24 farms were discontinued during the same period, the study showed a net increase of only 76 farms in the six townships during the five year period. Compared to this, the Census for the same period reports a net increase of 184 farms in the six townships. Notwithstanding the fact that the Census reported a decrease in three of the townships studied, the net increase reported in all six townships was 184 farms or 16.7 percent, while this study showed an increase of 76 farms or 5.6 percent.

The increase in farms reported by the Census for the State as a whole was 16.35 percent, which corresponds closely to the increase of 16.7 percent for the six townships studied. On this basis, it might be assumed that the six townships constitute a representative sample of the increase in farms for the State.

It should be noted that this study in the six townships showed nearly 22 percent more farms in existence in 1930 than the Census reported, and about 10 percent more farms in 1935 than the Census enumerated.

The discrepancy between the data in this study and the Census may have been caused by the fact that apparently the Census definition of a farm is not thoroughly clear to, or uniformly applied by, the Census enumerators. This conclusion is drawn after attempting to ascertain the reasons for the difference between the study data and the Census data and was reached after interviewing the enumerators of both the 1930 and 1935 Census in the townships studied.

For instance, in one township studied where the Census reported a large increase in farms from 1930 to 1935, the increase may be explained as follows. The enumerator of the 1930 Census in the township stated that he did not consider a tract of less than ten acres as a farm. The enumerator of the 1935 Census in this same township stated that every tract of three acres or over was considered a farm.

Table IV on the next page serves to illustrate the difference between the Census data and the data recorded in the study.

Table IV

Net Change in Number of Farms and Acres in Farms  
1930 to 1935  
Comparison of Census Data with Data Secured in  
Study of Increase in Farms

| Area                           | Net Change Shown<br>by Census Data<br>1930-1935 |                | Net Change Shown by Data<br>Secured in Study<br>1930 - 1935 |                |
|--------------------------------|---|----------------|---|----------------|
|                                | No. Farms                                       | Acres in Farms | No. Farms   | Acres in Farms |
| Good Farm Land:                |   |                |   |                |
| Fulton Twp., Fulton Co.        | - 14  | - 371          | + 1   | + 754          |
| Industrial:                    |   |                |   |                |
| Green Twp., Summit Co.         | + 85  | + 1550         | + 33  | + 775          |
| Jackson Twp., Stark Co.        | - 41  | - 432          | + 5   | + 200          |
| Poor Farm Land - Mining:       |   |                |   |                |
| Waterloo Twp., Athens Co.      | - 34  | - 5496         | + 1   | + 957          |
| Lee Township, Athens Co.       | + 21  | + 662          | + 9   | + 930          |
| Poor Farm Land-River Commerce: |   |                |   |                |
| Harrison Twp., Scioto Co.      | + 167   | + 4443         | + 27  | + 780          |
| Net Total                      | + 184   | + 356          | + 76  | + 4396         |

It is noteworthy that in Waterloo Township, Athens County, the Census reported a decrease of 34 farms and a decrease of nearly 5,500 acres of the land in farms from 1930 to 1935. This is a decrease of 20 percent in the number of farms and 32 percent in the number of acres in farms which would seem to indicate a large degree of abandonment of farm land or a major shift in land use. A change of this proportion should be readily discernible by even very casual observation. Such is not the case, however, as even the most inexperienced observer could ascertain that no such abandonment of farm land or shift in land use has taken place in this township during recent years.

Contrasted to Waterloo Township in Athens County, is Harrison Township, Scioto County, in which we find that the Census has reported an increase of 167 farms and an increase of nearly 4,500 acres of land in farms, while this study shows an increase of only 27 farms and 780 acres in farms. The Census data amounted to 111 percent increase in number of farms and about 30 percent increase of land in farms; and the data in this study showed less than 10 percent increase in number of farms and 4 percent increase of land in farms. A shift in land use of the proportions reported by the Census should be readily apparent. Such an increase in farms and land in farms



would naturally be accompanied by new buildings, new fences, evidences of brush land or undeveloped land being plowed and cultivated and many other criteria which are, in the case of Harrison Township, almost totally lacking.

#### CHARACTERISTICS OF NEW FARMS

After determining which farms were "new" in the townships studied, a fairly detailed schedule of information was obtained from the operator of the new farm. On the following pages is presented some of the pertinent information concerning these new farms.

Who Are the People Establishing New Farms? It may be said generally that the people establishing new farms are of middle age, have had some agricultural experience and their immediate previous occupations have been in industry, either in factories or in mining. Nearly two-thirds of them are full owners, or attempting to become owners of their farms. The greatest proportion (85 percent) of owners was found in the northeastern industrial area, the lowest (33 percent) in the good farm land section (Fulton Township).

Of the 119 new farms established, two-thirds of the operators fell in the age class of from 35 to 55 years of age. At the time of the study none of them were under 25 years of age, while eight of the 119 were over 65 years. The average age of the 119 operators was about 44 years. The youngest operators (39.6 years) and the smallest families (2.9) were found in the good farm land area (Fulton Township). About one-fourth of those establishing new farms had spent all their lives in agriculture. One-eighth had no previous agricultural experience. All of the rest had some agricultural experience or had been reared on a farm.

In Harrison Township, representative of a poor farm land area, seven of the 28 operators of new farms had no previous agricultural experience.

From Where Did the New Farm Operators Come? Nearly two-thirds of the new farm operators came from cities. Most of the remainder came from other farms. A very few of them were living in rural residences prior to establishing a new farm.

In the northeastern industrial area nearly 80 percent came from cities. In all the other areas, from 50 to 60 percent of the operators of new farms came from cities.

Influences Leading to Establishment of New Farms. It is very difficult to determine all the influences that may have led to the establishment of a new farm. An attempt was made to secure information from each operator of a new farm as to why he had established on the land. About half

of them desired cheaper living conditions and gave that as the reason for establishing the farm. About one-eighth of them desired healthier living conditions and another one-eighth stated that they had no other place to go and it was a last refuge for them. Throwing these three groups together, we might assume that three-fourths of those establishing new farms were attempting to adjust themselves to changing economic conditions. Unemployment, reduced wage rates or hours of employment, getting too old to secure good jobs in industry, are probably the real underlying reasons for the landward movement for those middle-aged or older. Lack of alternative opportunity probably accounts for the younger group establishing on the land.

In the good farm land area, Fulton Township, two-thirds of the operators of new farms stated that they established the farm as a last resort because there were no alternative opportunities available.

In all other areas, cheaper and healthier living conditions were the predominant reasons given for establishing new farms. In the northeast industrial area, 80 percent gave the above reasons; in Harrison Township (Poor Farm Land-River Commerce Area) 67 percent; and 50 percent so stated in Waterloo and Lee Townships, Athens County (Poor Farm Land-Mining Area).

Almost without exception, every operator giving cheaper or healthier living conditions as a reason came from a city to establish the new farm.

Kind of New Farms Established. In the northeastern industrial area (Jackson and Green Townships) 44 of the 51 new farms, or 85 percent, were classed as part-time\* units. These part-time farms represent an attempt on the part of industrial workers to secure cheaper living and a degree of stabilization from the fluctuation of industrial employment.

Contrasted to what was found in this northeastern industrial area, the township studied in the good farming section of the State, Fulton Township, Fulton County, showed 12 new farms with 11 of them being full-time farms.

Harrison Township, in Scioto County, representative of a poor farm land area, had 28 new farms established since 1930 with all but one of them being part-time farms.

In Waterloo and Lee Townships, Athens County, representative of a poor farm land area influenced by a stranded mining population, 28 new farms were found, 19 being classed as part-time units and eight as full-time. One farm in Waterloo Township was not classified as it had just been purchased,

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\* The following definition was used in this study in differentiating between part-time and full-time farms. If a farmer secured \$150 or more from employment not connected with his farm, he was considered to be a part-time farmer, or, if he had outside employment which brought in income of less than \$150 but such amount constituted twenty-five percent or more of his total gross income, including value of products for home use, he was also considered a part-time farmer.

and operations were not yet begun, but it likely will be a full-time farm.

Thus, in the six townships we find a total of 92 part-time new farms and 26 full-time new farms.

Size and Income Data. The following table shows the size and income data on the new full-time farms by areas. The figures on average agricultural income represent the gross income in 1935 from sale of agricultural products before any expenses were deducted or overhead charged.

Table V  
Size and Income Data on New Full-Time Farms,  
Established 1930-1936

| Area   | No.<br>of<br>Farms | Average<br>Size<br>(Acres) | Average<br>Crop<br>Acres | Average<br>Agricultural<br>Income<br>(\$) | Ave. Value<br>Home Grown<br>Products<br>Consumed<br>(\$) |
|--|--------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|---|--|
| Good Farm Land<br>(Fulton Twp., Fulton Co.)  | 11                 | 68.0                       | 46.0                     | 632                                       | 112  |
| Industrial<br>(Green Twp., Summit Co. )<br>(Jackson Twp., Stark Co.)               | 6                  | 24.0                       | 13.1                     | 328                                       | 139  |
| Poor Farm Land-Mining<br>(Waterloo Twp., Athens Co.)<br>(Lee Township, Athens Co.) | 8                  | 78.0                       | 23.5                     | 487                                       | 91   |
| Poor Farm Land-River Commerce<br>(Harrison Twp., Scioto Co.)                       | 1                  | 25.0                       | -                        | 40  | 80   |
| All Areas  | 26                 | 59.4                       | 29.6                     | 495                                       | 110  |

As might be expected, the agricultural income in the good farm land area was substantially higher than in the other areas. It is rather surprising to note that in the two townships studied in Athens County, which is representative of a poor farm land area, the agricultural income was higher than in the northeastern industrial area.

Taking the new full-time farms for all six townships the average size is quite small, being 60 acres, 30 of which is devoted to crops. Farms of this size, regardless of location, could hardly be expected to provide a large income unless operated with a rather high degree of specialization in such intensive enterprises as poultry raising or truck and fruit growing.

The following table shows the size and income data for the new part-time farms by areas:

Table VI  
Size and Income Data on New Part-Time Farms,  
Established 1930-1936

| Area   | No. of Farms | Ave. Size (Acres) | Ave. No. Crop Acres | Ave. Agr. Income (\$) | Ave. Non-Agr. Income (\$) | Ave. Value Home Grown Products Consumed (\$) |
|--|--------------|-------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|--|
| Good Farm Land<br>(Fulton Twp., Fulton Co.)  | 1            | 3.0               | 2.5                 | 50                    | 300                       | 200  |
| Industrial<br>(Green Twp., Summit Co.)<br>(Jackson Twp., Stark Co.)                | 45           | 18.9              | 8.2                 | 226                   | 1393                      | 147  |
| Poor Farm Land-Mining<br>(Waterloo Twp., Athens Co.)<br>(Lee Township, Athens Co.) | 19           | 50.8              | 9.6                 | 145                   | 678                       | 81   |
| Poor Farm Land-River Commerce<br>(Harrison Twp., Scioto Co.)                       | 27           | 27.9              | 2.4                 | 24                    | 682                       | 130  |
| All Areas  | 92           | 28.0              | 6.7                 | 148                   | 1030                      | 129  |

Probably the most important item in success on a part-time farm is the outside or non-agricultural income. It is interesting to note, then, that the outside income on the part-time farms in the industrial area averaged twice as much as the outside income on the part-time farms in the poor farm land areas. Also, the agricultural income and the value of products consumed at home were substantially higher in the industrial area than in the poor land area.

Taking all the new farms as a group, only about one-third of them had any horses, averaging 1.8 horses per farm reporting. Seventy-seven of the new farms or about two-thirds had cattle, averaging slightly over two per farm. About half of them had swine, averaging three hogs per farm. Chickens were most common, 106 of 119 farms reporting an average flock of 75 chickens.

A factor which may influence the volume of business on the new farms is the fact that less than one-half of the new farms had a barn. Of the new farms reporting a barn, only about one-half were in fair shape or better, while one barn was quite dilapidated.

Measuring Amount of Work on New Farms. After classifying the new farms recorded in this study into part-time and full-time farms in the manner previously described, the amount of work or employment available on these farms was measured in terms of man work units.\* The man work units for the new full-time farms are shown in the following table.

Table VII

Man Work Units on New Full-Time Farms  
(By Townships)

| No. of Farms<br>(6 Twps.) | M.W.U.**   | Fulton | Green  | Jackson | Waterloo | Lee    | Harrison |
|---------------------------|------------|--------|--------|---------|----------|--------|----------|
|                           |            | Fulton | Summit | Stark   | Athens   | Athens | Scioto   |
| 2                         | 0- 24.99   | -      | 1      | -       | -        | -      | 1        |
| 2                         | 25- 49.99  | -      | -      | 1       | -        | 1      | -        |
| 5                         | 50- 74.99  | 2      | -      | 1       | 1        | 1      | -        |
| 2                         | 75- 99.99  | 1      | 1      | -       | -        | -      | -        |
| 3                         | 100-149.99 | 2      | -      | -       | -        | 1      | -        |
| 5                         | 150-199.99 | 1      | 1      | -       | -        | 3      | -        |
| 4                         | 200-249.99 | 2      | 1      | -       | -        | 1      | -        |
| 2                         | 250-299.99 | 2      | -      | -       | -        | -      | -        |
| -                         | 300-349.99 | -      | -      | -       | -        | -      | -        |
| 1                         | 350-400.   | 1      | -      | -       | -        | -      | -        |
| 26                        | Total      | 11     | 4      | 2       | 1        | 7      | 1        |

It will be noted that four of these full-time farms had less than 50 days work available per year. In one sense of the word, these could hardly be considered full-time farms. Yet, according to the definition used they would be classed as full-time farms, because there was no outside income.

Thirteen of the new full-time farms, or one-half of them, had over one hundred days of work per year, with one of them having between 350 and 400 days work.

The following table shows the man work units for the new part-time farms. (See next page.)

\* A man work unit may be defined as that amount of work which normally requires a ten-hour day.

\*\* Man Work Units.

Table VIII

Man Work Units on New Part-Time Farms  
(By Townships)

| No. of Farms<br>(6 Twps.) | M.W.U.*    | Fulton | Green  | Jackson | Waterloo | Lee    | Harrison |
|---------------------------|------------|--------|--------|---------|----------|--------|----------|
|                           |            | Fulton | Summit | Stark   | Athens   | Athens | Scioto   |
| 26                        | 0- 24.99   | -      | 6      | 1       | 8        | -      | 11       |
| 25                        | 25- 49.99  | -      | 14     | -       | 3        | -      | 8        |
| 17                        | 50- 74.99  | 1      | 4      | 2       | 1        | 1      | 8        |
| 6                         | 75- 99.99  | -      | 4      | 1       | -        | 1      | -        |
| 12                        | 100-149.99 | -      | 7      | 2       | -        | 3      | -        |
| 3                         | 150-199.99 | -      | 1      | -       | 1        | 1      | -        |
| 1                         | 200-249.99 | -      | 1      | -       | -        | -      | -        |
| -                         | 250-299.99 | -      | -      | -       | -        | -      | -        |
| 1                         | 300-349.99 | -      | 1      | -       | -        | -      | -        |
| 1                         | 350-400.   | -      | 1      | -       | -        | -      | -        |
| 92                        | Total      | 1      | 39     | 6       | 13       | 6      | 27       |

Fifty-one of the 92 part-time farms had less than 50 days work per year in agricultural operations. It will be observed that in the four classes covering from 200 to 400 man work units, only one case was reported in each of the three classes, while none were reported in the class from 250 to 300 man work units. There is some question as to whether these three farms enumerated as part-time farms are part-time or full-time farms. Considering that they supply enough work to keep one man busy almost the entire year, they are full-time farms. However, according to the definition used, the amount of outside income makes them part-time farms.

A farm is ordinarily thought of as a family enterprise, and where there are two or more wage earners, one of whom devotes full-time to outside employment, it is possible to have what might be considered a part-time farm, even though one person is devoting all his energies to agricultural operations. The three part-time farms that had man work units in excess of 200 would have been classed by the Census as full-time farms, due to the fact that the value of the agricultural products exceeded \$750.

Cost of Establishing New Farms. In considering the cost of establishing the new farms, it must be considered that some of the new farms were established by people who purchased the land and some who merely rented the land. The average cost to the 82 owners was \$2765 and the average cost to the 34 tenants was \$178. The items included in the cost in case of owners are land, buildings, and other improvements, livestock and equipment. In the case of tenants, the cost includes livestock and equipment.

\* Man Work Units.

Table IX

Cost of New Farms Established from 1930 to 1936

| Twp.     | Co.    | Total<br>No. of<br>New Farms<br>Established | Owners             |  |                                     | Tenants            |  |                                     |
|----------|--------|---|--------------------|--|-------------------------------------|--------------------|--|-------------------------------------|
|          |        |   | No.<br>of<br>Farms | Average<br>Size of<br>Farms<br>(Acres) | Average<br>Cost Per<br>Farm<br>(\$) | No.<br>of<br>Farms | Average<br>Size of<br>Farms<br>(Acres) | Average<br>Cost Per<br>Farm<br>(\$) |
| Fulton   | Fulton | 12  | 4                  | 44                                     | 2,775                               | 8                  | 72                                     | 284                                 |
| Green    | Summit | 43  | 37                 | 12                                     | 3,643                               | 6                  | 55                                     | 383                                 |
| Jackson  | Stark  | 8   | 6                  | 17                                     | 4,433                               | 2                  | 60                                     | 230                                 |
| Waterloo | Athens | 15  | 8*                 | 33                                     | 389                                 | 6**                | 47                                     | 58                                  |
| Lee      | Athens | 13  | 9                  | 61                                     | 2,994                               | 4                  | 96                                     | 96                                  |
| Harrison | Scioto | 28  | 18                 | 32                                     | 1,344                               | 8**                | 18                                     | 57                                  |
| Total    |        | 119   | 82                 | 26                                     | 2,765                               | 34                 | 54                                     | 178                                 |

\* One of these eight farms not counted in computing average cost as operations had not begun.

\*\* Indicates number used in calculating average cost and average size; rest of new farms were occupied by squatters.

If cost of farm be any criterion as to its desirability as a farming unit, then the eight new farms created by owners in Waterloo Township, Athens County, representative of a poor farm land area, certainly could not be very desirable as they averaged only \$389 in cost. Examination of the income data for these eight farms shows an average gross agricultural income for 1935 of \$120 and \$70 worth of home grown products consumed by the family.

New farms created in Green Township, Summit County, cost their owners on an average of \$3600, while those in Jackson Township, Stark County, cost an average of \$4400. In these two townships, representative of the industrial area, urban influence enters into land values. Also, most of the new farms created in these two townships were part-time units established by people who had outside incomes of from \$1000 to \$2000 per year which enabled them to buy or build much better buildings.

Derivation of New Farms. Two-thirds of the new farms established in the areas studied were created by the subdivision of existing farming units. This means that the land being operated in two-thirds of the new farms had previously been operated as part of another farm. The one-third which were not formed by subdivision of existing farms were created in almost equal proportions through the operation for agricultural purposes of land that had formerly been used as a rural residence and through reoccupation of abandoned farms.

Two-thirds of the new farms in Waterloo Township, typical of a poor farm land area, were created by reoccupation of abandoned farms. This probably accounts for their low cost as noted on the preceding page.

Four of the twelve new farms in the area of generally good farm land (Fulton Township, Fulton County) were created through reoccupation of abandoned farms. Of these four farms, two had been abandoned six years, one seven years, and one fifteen years. These particular farms are located in a small portion of the township that is characterized by sandy soil, somewhat lower in productivity than the soil in the remainder of the township.

In the industrial area (Green and Jackson Townships) only one new farm out of a total of 51 was a case of reoccupation of an abandoned farm. One-fourth of the new farms in this area were former rural residences; the rest represented subdivision of existing farms.

Time of Establishing New Farms. The year in which the greatest number of new farms were established in these six townships was 1932, the same year the depression touched bottom. The number established has declined each year since then. However, the total figure is largely influenced by Green Township, which is in the industrial area. Since most of the new farms in Green Township were part-time farms established by industrial workers, it may be that 1931, 1932, and 1933 were the years that industrial workers were seeking stabilization due to uncertain conditions in industry.

Table X

Time of Establishing New Farms

| Year  | Total No.<br>New Farms<br>Established | Twp.<br>Co. | Fulton<br>Fulton | Green<br>Summit | Jackson<br>Stark | Waterloo<br>Athens | Lee<br>Athens | Harrison<br>Scioto |
|-------|---------------------------------------|-------------|------------------|-----------------|------------------|--------------------|---------------|--------------------|
| 1930  | 13                                    |             | 1                | 9               | 1                | 1                  | 1             | -                  |
| 1931  | 21                                    |             | 1                | 10              | -                | 2                  | 3             | 5                  |
| 1932  | 26                                    |             | 2                | 10              | 1                | 4                  | 2             | 7                  |
| 1933  | 22                                    |             | 2                | 10              | 1                | -                  | 2             | 7                  |
| 1934  | 18                                    |             | 3                | 3               | 2                | -                  | 2             | 8                  |
| 1935  | 13                                    |             | 3                | 1               | 1                | 4                  | 3             | 1                  |
| 1936  | 6                                     |             | -                | -               | 2                | 4                  | -             | -                  |
| TOTAL | 119                                   |             | 12               | 43              | 8                | 15                 | 13            | 28                 |



Probable Permanence of Settlement. Many factors are likely to influence the permanence of the new farms established. In response to a question about their future intentions, about 80 percent of the operators of new farms stated that they were planning to remain in their present location indefinitely. This, together with the fact that over two-thirds of the new farm operators are classed as owners, might indicate that the new settlement would have a high degree of permanence.

About 10 percent of the operators of new farms said the farm had not met their expectations. The remaining 10 percent were undecided or had not formed an opinion. It is probable that the location of these new farms had something to do with the degree of satisfaction of the operators. Without exception, all of the new farms had access to a centralized school. Over two-thirds of the new farms were located on hard surface or good stone roads and only six of them on unimproved dirt roads. These latter six were located in Waterloo Township, Athens County, and Harrison Township, Scioto County, both typical of the poor farm land areas.

About two out of every five of the new farms had electric service available. Telephone service was available to a large percentage of the new farms but less than 10 percent of them had availed themselves of this service. However, notwithstanding all these factors which seem to indicate permanence of settlement, it is not at all unlikely that many of these new farm operators who came from the city would be tempted to return to the city in the event of an industrial boom, particularly if such a boom were accompanied by disparity in agricultural prices similar to the situation that existed during much of the '20's.

#### INFLUENCE OF NEW FARMS ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Tax Base Assumed by New Farms. It should be pointed out that new farms do not add to the tax base except through new buildings, or the personal property brought to the township by the operators of new farms. It is impractical to try to determine this amount, however, it is feasible to ascertain what proportion of the existing tax base is assumed by owner operated new farms. This information is set forth in the table on the next page, in which is shown the assessed value of only those new farms on which the owners live. It was not possible to secure the assessed value on all the new farms, for in the case of those which are tenant-operated, quite often the tract is assessed as a part of a larger tract and it is impossible to determine how much value should be assigned to that portion of the tract which is the new farm. Even if the assessed value of all the tracts constituting new farms were available, it would not constitute a very great portion of the tax base.

Table XI

Proportion of Real Property Valuation Assumed  
By Owner Operated New Farms

| Area     |        | No. of New Farms | No. of New Farms Owner Operated | Assessed Value of Twp.*<br>(\$)     | Assessed Value New Farms Owner Operated |                 |
|----------|--------|------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|-----------------|
| Township | County |                  |                                 |                                     | Amount<br>(\$)                          | % of Twp. Total |
| Fulton   | Fulton | 12               | 4                               | 1,426,570                           | 2,270                                   | 0.16            |
| Green    | Summit | 43               | 37                              | 2,800,710                           | 20,150                                  | 0.7             |
| Jackson  | Stark  | 8                | 6                               | 5,430,000                           | 7,130                                   | 0.13            |
| Waterloo | Athens | 15               | 8                               | 1,115,020                           | 2,750                                   | 0.25            |
| Lee      | Athens | 13               | 9                               | 880,860                             | 11,050                                  | 1.25            |
| Harrison | Scioto | 28               | 18                              | 1,414,150                           | 6,070                                   | 0.43            |
| Total    |        | 119              | 82                              | <del>12,967,310</del><br>13,067,310 | 49,420                                  | 0.38            |

\* Including Real Estate and Public Utilities.

It will be observed from the table that the proportion of the existing tax base assumed by the new farms that were owner-operated ranged from .13 percent in Jackson Township, Stark County, to 1.25 percent in Lee Township, Athens County. In the six townships as a whole, the new farms that were owner-operated assumed less than one half of one percent of the tax base, .38 percent, to be exact.

Available data do not show whether any increased costs for roads and schools are necessary because of new farms.

Tax Delinquency. Data regarding tax delinquency on new farms were not secured in each township studied. However, in Waterloo Township, Athens County, three of the five new farms that were owner-operated were tax delinquent, and on two of the three farms that were tax delinquent, the operators were employed on W.P.A. projects. Of the seven new farms in Lee Township, Athens County, that were owner-operated, none were tax delinquent, although operators of two of the seven farms were employed by the W.P.A. These two townships are typical of the poor farm land area.

In Fulton Township, the good farm land area, taxes were not delinquent on any of the new farms.

Relief. Due to the many changes in the relief set up taking place the last few years, it is not possible to present any comprehensive data upon the relief costs of the families on new farms.

In Fulton Township, Fulton County, which was the township studied as representative of the good farm land area of the State, there were twelve new farms occupied by twelve families, of whom none were on direct relief or employed on W.P.A. projects.

In Harrison Township, Scioto County, a poor farm land area, there were 28 new farms disclosed by this study. Of these 28 families, 12 were on relief, 7 families receiving direct relief and the heads of 5 other families were employed upon W.P.A. projects.

The five families supported by W.P.A. projects were receiving monthly wages totalling \$297.40. The seven families on direct relief received a total of \$148 during the first eight months of 1936. It is significant to note that the 18 new farms that were owner operated in this township were assessed real estate taxes in the amount of \$112.48 annually. Thus, taking the new farms as a group, they cost more in direct relief than they contributed in taxes.

In Waterloo Township, Athens County, representing a poor farm land area, 15 new farms were enumerated by this study. Twelve of the 15 families on these new farms had received direct relief at some time during the past two years. At the time of the study, the operators of six of these new farms were employed upon W.P.A. projects at a total wage of \$288 per month, while another was receiving an old age pension in the amount of \$12.20 per month.

In Lee Township, Athens County, still in a rather poor land area, the operators of three out of 13 new farms were employed upon W.P.A. projects, at a total wage of \$165 per month.

These latter three townships discussed, namely, Harrison Township, Scioto County, Waterloo and Lee Townships, Athens County, are all located in what is considered to be the poor farm land section of the State and the section in which there is the greatest maladjustment between population and natural resources. It is especially significant to note that of the 56 families living on new farms in these three townships, 22 or two-fifths of them were receiving direct relief or were employed upon W.P.A. projects. Unless these twenty-two families are able to secure private employment (which seemed unlikely) they will probably require relief or public assistance in some form or other indefinitely.

Relief data were not available for Jackson Township, Stark County, and Green Township, Summit County, at the time this study was made. It is quite probable that the relief burden and the amount of W.P.A. employment is not as high in proportion in these two townships as it was in the three townships in southeastern Ohio, as the northeastern section of the State has experienced considerable pick-up in industrial activity.

#### SOME OTHER PHASES OF LAND SETTLEMENT

This study was initiated primarily to secure information regarding the new farms. Incidental to the study of new farms, information was secured regarding two other phases of land settlement and will be discussed briefly here.

Rural Residences. Those tracts of land in rural territory, occupied by a family, and which could not qualify as a farm, according to the Census definition of a farm, were designated as "rural residences."

Six hundred forty-seven rural residences were enumerated in the six townships studied. Three hundred twenty-two or practically one-half of these were found in the northeastern industrial area. Proportionately, this constituted nine rural residences to each ten farms in this area. About one out of each four of these rural residences had been established in the last six years, indicating a significant movement by industrial workers, as many of these residences contained sufficient acreage to become farms if they should be operated in an agricultural manner rather than being used for residential purposes.

In Harrison Township, representative of a poor farm land area subject to influence of river commerce, there were about four rural residences to each ten farms. About one of each six residences had been established in the last six years. Many of the rural residences in this township were on extremely poor land and could never become farms. Poor houses characterized many of these rural residences.

In the two townships in Athens County (Waterloo and Lee), representative of a poor farm land area, there was slightly over one rural residence to each ten farms. However, one out of each three rural residences had been established during the last six years. This was the greatest proportionate increase found in rural residences.

In the good farm land area, Fulton Township, there were found approximately one and a half rural residences to each ten farms. However, there had been only one new rural residence established during the last six years. Practically all of the rural residences in this territory were only large enough for a homesite and possibly a small garden.

CHANGE OF OPERATORS ON EXISTING FARMS

On the established farms that were operated in both 1930 and 1935, information was secured as to how many had the same operator during the entire period and how many had a different operator in 1935 than in 1930. Out of the 1,320 farms in the six townships which were operated from 1930 through 1935, 327 or about 25 percent had a different operator in 1935 than in 1930. The rate of change or turn-over in operators on existing farms varied from about 18 percent in Green Township, Summit County, the industrial area, to slightly over 30 percent in Harrison Township, Scioto County, and Waterloo Township, Athens County, in the poor farm land area. Of these 327 different operators on established farms, nearly 50 percent of them came from other farms, indicating a shift entirely within rural areas. About 40 percent of these new operators came from the city, indicating a landward movement. However, of the farm operators in 1930 who moved away from existing farms, about 36 percent went to the city, so that the net landward movement amounted to only about four percent of the total shift in operators.

## APPENDIX

### PROCEDURE FOLLOWED IN STUDY OF INCREASE IN NUMBER OF FARMS

To carry out the objectives of this study as outlined on page 1, namely, to determine whether there was an increase in number of farms, and if there was an increase, which were the farms that contributed to the increase, it became necessary to use procedure which would ascertain which were the farms that came into existence after the time of enumerating of the 1930 Census. Since not every tract of land in rural territory is considered as a farm by the Census, it was necessary to secure some information concerning every tract of land in rural territory which was occupied or showed evidences of having been occupied by a family or families. Thus, the first step was to determine which tracts of land were farms according to the Census definition of a farm. Those tracts that were not farms were designated as rural residences.

If a tract qualified as a farm at the time this study was made, the next step was to ascertain whether it was a farm at the time of enumerating the 1935 Census. If it was a farm at the time of enumerating the 1935 Census, information was secured which would show whether it had been a farm at the time of enumerating the 1930 Census. If a tract qualified as a farm at the time of the study and also at the time of enumerating the 1935 Census and the 1930 Census, then it was designated as an established farm; that is, a farm that had been operated continuously as a farming unit from prior to the enumeration of the 1930 Census to the time of the study.

These established farms were broken down into two classes: those that had the same operator from 1930 to 1935 and those that had a different operator in 1935 than in 1930. Information recorded concerning the established farm was the name of the operator, number of acres, and in case of change in operator from 1930 to 1935, the name of both the old and the new operator, and the reason for the change in operator.

If a tract qualified as a farm at the time of the study but could not have been considered a farm at the time of enumerating the 1935 Census, it was considered to be a "new farm" established after the 1935 Census. A rather detailed schedule of information as to the background and intentions of the operator, the reason for establishing the farm, size and income data and other pertinent information were secured on these. However, these farms established since the enumeration of the 1935 Census were not used in comparing the data secured in this study with the Census data on number of increase in farms.

If a tract qualified as a farm at the time of the study, also would have qualified as a farm in 1935, but would not have been considered a farm in 1930, then it was designated as a "new farm," one that contributed to the increase in number of farms reported by the Census for the period 1930 to 1935. For those new farms established between 1930 and 1935, the same detailed schedule of information was secured as for the farms established after the enumeration of the 1935 Census.

If a tract did not qualify as a farm and was designated as a rural residence, information was secured as to when the rural residence was established providing it had been established since the enumeration of the 1930 Census. In other words, rural residences were broken down into "old" and "new" with the basis of distinction being the time of enumerating the 1930 Census. On rural residences the name of the head of the family and the number of acres in the tract were recorded.

In actual field work, the procedure was as follows.

The enumerator making the survey traversed every road and stopped at every house in rural territory in the townships studied. By personal interview with some member of the family, he would first establish whether or not the tract was a farm according to the 1930 Census definition of a farm, which is as follows: "A farm for Census purposes is all the land which is directly farmed by one person conducting agricultural operations either by his own labor or with the assistance of members of his household or hired employees. The term agricultural operations is used as a general term referring to the work of growing crops, producing other agricultural products, and raising domestic animals, poultry, and bees." This definition is further modified by the instructions to Census enumerators as follows: "Do not report as a farm any tract of land of less than three acres unless agricultural products to the value of \$250 or more were produced on such a tract."

Thus, by questioning a member of the family as to the size of the tract and the scope of agricultural operations, if any, the enumerator determined, according to the Census definition, whether the tract was a farm. If it was a farm at the time of the study, the enumerator asked about the status of that tract on January 1, 1935. If it would have qualified in 1935 as a farm, then he asked regarding the tract in April, 1930. If it qualified as a farm in 1930, 1935, and at the time of the study, then it was an established farm, as previously noted. If it qualified as a farm at the time of the study or in 1935, but not in 1930, then it was a "new farm" and one which contributed to the increase in number of farms, and on these farms the detailed schedule of information was secured.

By covering a township in this manner, sufficient information was secured about each and every tract of land in rural territory to determine the status of the tract from prior to 1930 to the time of the study. This procedure also provided information as to consolidation of farms, abandonment of farms, conversion of farms into rural residences and rural residences into farms.

