

ABSTRACT OF THESIS

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A COURSE IN FARM MECHANICS  
FOR PITTSFIELD, ILLINOIS,  
COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL

Submitted by  
Phil W. Proctor

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COLORADO STATE COLLEGE OF A. & M. A.  
FORT COLLINS COLORADO

In partial fulfillment of the requirements  
for the Degree of Master of Science  
Colorado State College  
of  
Agriculture and Mechanic Arts  
Fort Collins, Colorado

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## Abstract of Thesis

### A COURSE IN FARM MECHANICS FOR PITTSFIELD, ILLINOIS, COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL by Phil W. Proctor

#### Introduction

The problem underlying this thesis was to develop a functioning course in Farm Mechanics to be included in the vocational agriculture course of the Pittsfield, Illinois, Community High School.

The problem arose from a need for the revision of the course in farm mechanics in the above school.

The four subordinate problems in this study were:

1. What kinds of farm mechanical work arise on 100 farms in the Pittsfield, Illinois, community?
2. What kinds of mechanical work do successful farmers do and what kinds do they not do?
3. What equipment do these 100 farms have for mechanical work?
4. What should be the teaching content for a course in farm mechanics in the vocational agriculture course of Pittsfield, Illinois, High School that would be functional for the farm boys of this community?

#### Methods and procedures

In attempting to set up a functioning 1-year course in farm mechanics for the Pittsfield, Illinois, Community High School, the writer observed the following guiding principles:

1. The only reliable source of training content for effective instruction in farm mechanics is the experience of successful farmers in the community.
2. The practical mechanical activities of farmers in the community, for which the training in farm mechanics is to prepare, should be definitely known before any course is drawn up.
3. The kinds of machinery, tools, and equipment found on farms in a community are an index of the farm mechanical activities in which the farmers in a community engage.

These principles led the writer to the assumption that in order to set up an effective training course in farm mechanics, he needed to secure much information regarding this work from farmers in his community. Information from 100 farmers was considered for purposes of this study. To obtain this information a questionnaire was prepared. A copy of the questionnaire is included in the appendix of this study.

The questionnaire, in addition to questions pertaining to some general information, listed 18 different farm mechanical enterprises. These are:

- |                          |                             |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Concrete work         | 12. Field crop equipment    |
| 2. Electrical work       | 13. Making shop equipment   |
| 3. Harness work          | 14. General farm appliances |
| 4. Forge work            | 15. Repairing machinery     |
| 5. Plumbing              | 16. Wood finishing          |
| 6. Rope work             | 17. Wood appliances         |
| 7. Gasoline engine work  | 18. a. Swine                |
| 8. Tool sharpening       | b. Cattle                   |
| 9. Sheet metal work      | c. Sheep                    |
| 10. Window repair work   | d. Horses                   |
| 11. Farm home jobs       | 18. Miscellaneous jobs      |
| 12. Field crop equipment |                             |

Under each of these enterprises the writer listed every job he could think of as arising in the enterprise. For this purpose the writer also used lists of jobs found in different farm mechanics textbooks, which are listed in the bibliography under numbers 19 and 20.

The writer then submitted this list to three key farmers in the community to determine whether the list was complete for each enterprise.

The questionnaire was checked for completeness by Dr. Harry Bradford in charge of the course in Educational Research at the Colorado State College during the summer of 1939 and under whom the writer outlined his problem. Valuable assistance and criticism in the preparation of the questionnaire was received from Dr. G. A. Schmidt, professor of Agricultural Education at the Colorado State College.

Before using the questionnaire the writer consulted three key farmers in his community asking them to check the lists of enterprises and the jobs under each for completeness and to make any additions. These men were of the opinion that the lists were very complete and added very few jobs.

The questionnaire, in regard to each job, called for the following information:

1. Does the job arise on your farm? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

2. Do you do the job? - - - - - Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

3. Why do you not do the job?

Lack of training? - - - - - \_\_\_\_\_

Lack of equipment? - - - - - \_\_\_\_\_

Other reasons? - - - - - \_\_\_\_\_

The questionnaire, also, provided a large space for recording any additional farm mechanical enterprises and jobs in which the farmers might engage.

In addition the last page of the questionnaire provided for an inventory of the farmer's machinery, and other equipment; and of the kinds of livestock on the farm.

A list of 100 successful farmers in the neighborhood of Pittsfield, Illinois, was obtained from the heads of the two banks in Pittsfield, from the farm manager of the Strauss Farms, which controls nearly 10,000 acres in the area, and from the soil conservation field men working in the community.

Collection of data.--During the school year 1939-40, the writer personally interviewed 60 of the 100 farmers. He secured from these men the information called for on the questionnaire. Twelve additional questionnaires were filled out in the presence of the writer by members of the evening class of farmers which he was conducting.

The remaining 28 were taken home by students of the all-day classes in vocational agriculture which the writer was teaching. These students were instructed by the writer on how to gather the data. The questionnaires they returned were carefully checked for completeness.

The data secured on these 100 questionnaires were tabulated, analyzed, and studied.

#### Basis for choosing the enterprises

It was necessary to have some basis for choosing the enterprises to be included in the 1-year course in Farm Mechanics for Pittsfield High School.

All the enterprises were listed and the frequency in which they arose, were done, were not done, and how many farms had the necessary equipment to do them. It was also noted whether or not the school shop had the necessary equipment to teach the jobs.

A fair rule was set up, that if 50 percent of the enterprises occurred, were done, and they possessed equipment for doing the job on these 100 farms, the school had the equipment to teach these jobs, and if they qualified in three of the survey columns the jobs should be taught.

An outline of the proposed course of study is given on page 6.

## A YEARLY TEACHING PLAN

For a Course of Instruction in Pittsfield High School

List of enterprises to be taught in the course to entire class	Weeks to devote to each enterprise
1. Harness work - - - - -	2
2. Forge work - - - - -	5
3. General farm work - - - - -	1
4. Sheet metal work - - - - -	1
5. Miscellaneous jobs - - - - -	2
6. Window repair - - - - -	1
7. Tool sharpening - - - - -	2
8. Rope work - - - - -	1
9. Wood finishing - - - - -	1
10. Woodwork appliances - - - - -	5
11. Concrete and related work - - - - -	2
12. Field crop equipment - - - - -	1
13. Farm home appliances - - - - -	2
14. Repair of machinery - - - - -	8
Total for strictly class work - - -	34
Time allotted for quizzes - - - - -	1
Time allotted for extras - - - - -	1
Total number of school weeks devoted to the subject - - - - -	36

The findings

The findings showed that instruction could profitably be given in the following farm mechanical enterprises:

- |                       |                          |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Harness work       | 8. Rope work             |
| 2. Forge work         | 9. Wood finishing        |
| 3. General farm work  | 10. Woodwork appliances  |
| 4. Sheet metal work   | 11. Concrete work        |
| 5. Miscellaneous jobs | 12. Field crop equipment |
| 6. Window repair      | 13. Farm home appliances |
| 7. Tool sharpening    | 14. Repair of machinery  |

Some of the pertinent findings of this study are:

1. Repairing farm machinery showed the greatest frequency on the 100 farms surveyed, and was engaged in by more farmers than any other enterprise.
2. Next on the list was the "Miscellaneous jobs" such as making single trees, making double trees, handles for tools, and farm gates.
3. Construction and repair of wood appliances for poultry, sheep, hogs, cattle, and horses occurred on a large number of the farms.
4. Farm blacksmithing or forge work occurred to some extent the 100 farms but many of the farmers did not have the equipment or training to perform the different jobs involved in these enterprises. However the school farm shop has the equipment to teach these jobs efficiently. The farmers should be urged to buy the necessary equipment.

In the following enterprises the data showed that the jobs occurred on the 100 farms and that a large number of the farmers actually performed the jobs: sheet metal work, tool sharpening, field crop equipment, farm home appliances, wood finishing, rope work, general farm work, window repair, and harness work.

The following enterprises: (1) electrical work, (2) farm plumbing, (3) tractor and gas engine work, and (4) farm shop appliances, occurred on the 100 farms, but only a few farmers were found to be doing the jobs under these enterprises. Because of this fact it seemed reasonable to eliminate the above mentioned jobs from the proposed course of study.

The course of study

From reliable sources the writer determined minimum time allotments for each enterprise he proposed to be included in the course of study. These follow:

Average time to devote to common farm mechanical enterprises to attain worth while objectives of the enterprise, based on five double periods per week

Enterprises	Number of weeks (five double periods per week)
1. Making wood work appliances - - -	2
2. Plumbing jobs - - - - -	1
3. Harness work - - - - -	2
4. Forge work - - - - -	3
5. General farm jobs - - - - -	1
6. Gas engine tractors - - - - -	3
7. Sheet metal work - - - - -	1
8. Miscellaneous jobs - - - - -	3
9. Window repairing - - - - -	1
10. Tool sharpening - - - - -	2
11. Rope work - - - - -	1
12. Wood finishing - - - - -	1
13. Farm shop appliances - - - - -	2
14. Concrete and related work - - - -	1
15. Field crops equipment - - - - -	1
16. Electrical work - - - - -	2
17. Farm home appliances - - - - -	2
18. Repair machinery - - - - -	6

The writer is of the opinion that the 1-year course of study in farm mechanics for Pittsfield, Illinois, Community High School which he proposes will be a decided improvement. He believes that this new course of study will meet the needs of the farm boys in this school, that it is adapted to the facilities of the school, and that it can be justified in light of the findings of the study he has made.

T H E S I S

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OF

AGRICULTURE AND MECHANIC ARTS

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..... July ..... 1941 .....

I HEREBY RECOMMEND THAT THE THESIS PREPARED UNDER MY  
SUPERVISION BY **PHIL W. PROCTOR**

ENTITLED **A COURSE IN FARM MECHANICS FOR PITTSFIELD,**  
**ILLINOIS, COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL**

BE ACCEPTED AS FULFILLING THIS PART OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE  
DEGREE OF MASTER OF **SCIENCE**

MAJORING IN **AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION**

CREDITS **3**

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Dean of the Graduate School

Permission to publish this thesis or any part of it  
must be obtained from the Dean of the Graduate School.

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The writer wishes to express his appreciation to Dr. G. A. Schmidt, Professor of Agricultural Education, The Colorado State College;

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Dr. Harry E. Bradford, Professor of Agricultural Education, The University of Nebraska;

Dr. Sherman Dickinson, Professor of Vocational Education, The University of Missouri;

Dr. Gilbert L. Betts, Supervisor of Graduate Research in Education, The Colorado State College;

Dr. C. S. Anderson, Professor of Agricultural Education, The Pennsylvania State College.

The writer also wishes to express his appreciation to the farmers of Pittsfield community for their assistance in securing the necessary data.

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A COURSE IN FARM MECHANICS FOR PITTSFIELD, ILLINOIS,  
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Chapter I  
INTRODUCTION

This thesis pertains to the work in farm mechanics which is a part of the training in vocational agriculture that is offered in secondary schools under the provisions of the Smith-Hughes and George-Deen Acts.

The term "farm mechanics" is very broad and includes all the mechanical activities arising on farms in which farmers commonly engage. Some of the more common kinds of farm mechanical activities are as follows:

1. Purchasing, maintaining, adjusting, and repairing all kinds of farm machinery.
2. Purchasing, maintaining, repairing, and overhauling farm tractors, farm trucks, and stationary gas engines.
3. Keeping in good working condition all kinds of tools used on the farm.
4. Keeping harness in good condition and repair.
5. Constructing various kinds of wood appliances needed on the farm.
6. Constructing small buildings.

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7. Installing and maintaining water and sewage disposal plants.
  8. Purchasing, installing, and maintaining farm electrical motors and electric light system.
  9. Repairing all kinds of farm building equipment.
  10. Constructing concrete walks and floors, and other necessity jobs involving concrete work.

It is commonly stated that every farmer is of necessity an unspecialized mechanic--a "Jack of all trades"--and engages in innumerable farm mechanical activities. Then, too, every farmer has a large investment in buildings, machinery, and equipment; and to maintain these properly is an important factor in success in farming.

It is, also, commonly known that the major construction and repair work arising on farms are not done by the farmer; for such work he hires specialized mechanics.

A study (4:1) of 273 farmers made in California showed that these farmers devote over ten percent of their working time to various kinds of farm mechanical work. This one fact shows the importance of farm mechanics in farming.

Since the major objective of the course in vocational agriculture is to fit farm boys for proficiency in farming, it must be evident that training in farm mechanics is an important part of vocational agriculture.

Then, too, from a strictly educational point of

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view, training in farm mechanics is good education for a boy fitting himself for farming. This is so because it is generally recognized that a large part of one's education consists of acquiring habits, knowledge, attitudes, appreciations, and ideals which render one's present and future actions more efficient and useful.

The commonly stated objectives of the work in farm mechanics (19:10) as a part of the all-day vocational agriculture courses are:

1. To develop the abilities of farm boys to think so that they may be able to solve intelligently the common problems arising in farming.
2. To develop habits and skills which farm boys will need in order to perform efficiently those farm mechanical activities which they may be called upon to perform.
3. To have farm boys acquire knowledge and to develop their abilities to use that knowledge (facts, theories, and principles) which will be useful to them in conducting their farm mechanical activities.
4. To develop in farm boys the right attitude toward all phases of farm mechanics work.
5. To develop the appreciations of farm boys in regard to all farm mechanics activities which a trained farm boy should possess.
6. To stimulate in farm boys the proper ideals in regard to farm mechanical work.

These objectives are stated in very broad terms but they give a good idea of the things that are attempted in instruction of farm mechanics.

The writer is engaged in teaching vocational agriculture in Illinois. The Illinois State Plan for

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Vocational Education specifies that the third year in the all-day vocational agriculture course may be devoted to instruction in farm mechanics.

The writer has always been interested in this phase of work. He has been interested, also, in making the 1-year course in farm mechanics offered in his school of greatest benefit to the boys in his classes. This interest has led him to make a study of the problem underlying this thesis.

The writer is of the opinion that in setting up a program for a year's work in any school subject it is first necessary to determine the objectives of the year's work. After these objectives have been established it then becomes necessary to set up some guides or basic educational principles, that will enable one to attain the objectives. The objectives have been stated. Some guiding principles underlying effective training in farm mechanics (19:89) are here stated:

1. The only reliable sources of training content for effective instruction in farm mechanics is the experience of successful farmers in the community.
2. The practical mechanical activities of farmers in the community for which the training in farm mechanics is to prepare should be definitely known before any course is drawn up.
3. The kinds of farm machinery, tools, and equipment found on farms in a community are an index of the farm mechanical activities in which the farmers in a community engage.

4. The things to be most emphasized in the training are those which boys and men do least well in their farming activities.
5. Effective instruction in farm mechanics can only be given where the training jobs are carried on in the same way, with the same operations, the same tools, and the same machines as in the occupation itself.
6. Farm mechanics training will be effective in proportion as it trains the individual directly and specifically in the thinking habits and in the manipulative habits required in the occupation itself.
7. The effective establishment of process habits in any learner will be secured in proportion as the training is given on actual jobs and not on exercises or pseudo jobs.
8. Effective instruction in farm mechanics can only be given to a selected group that needs it, wants it, and can profit by it.

The writer is of the opinion that the way he went about in the solution of the problem involved in this study is in accord with the underlying principles mentioned above. Furthermore, he believes that the program he has formulated is also in accord with those principles involving course content.

The problem involved in this study.--The problem involved in this study is to develop a 1-year course in farm mechanics to be included in the vocational agriculture curriculum in the Pittsfield, Illinois, Community High School.

In attempting to solve this problem the writer felt it necessary to obtain the following data:

1. What kinds of farm mechanical work arise on 100 good farms in the vicinity of Pittsfield, Illinois?
2. What kinds of mechanical work do successful farmers in this region do and what kinds do they not do?
3. Do these 100 farmers have the necessary equipment?
4. What should be the teaching content for a course in farm mechanics in the vocational agriculture curriculum of Pittsfield, Illinois, High School that would be functional for the farm boys in this course?
5. What would be a good yearly outline or program of work for such a course?

## Chapter II

### REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Numerous studies pertaining to the development of a functional course in farm mechanics for vocational agriculture departments in high schools have been made. Because of the fact that very few of these studies are available to the writer; he relied largely upon Bulletin 180 (2).

In this chapter the writer gives a synopsis of those studies pertinent to this study.

M.A. Sharp (20), in his master's thesis, made a study of what should be included in farm mechanics for high schools on the basis of opinions of 500 farmers. In his study he did not determine what the farmers did not do or why they did not do it. However, he agrees that the courses in farm mechanics should be made as practical as possible and that such jobs as furniture making, funnel making, tin cups, butcher knives, and the like, which can be bought cheaply should be eliminated.

L. R. Davis (9), in his master's thesis, investigated the kinds of farm mechanics jobs done by farmers in Colorado. The same questionnaire was sent to farmers of other states and he found it was not advisable to have a rigid farm shop course, but the course

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should be suited to community needs. He did not determine why the farmers did or did not do the jobs which were listed on the survey blank.

James Albert Geiger (10) made a study of farm shop work in Florida and found that farmers devote most of their time and effort to farm repair jobs and also that vocational agricultural departments do not have the necessary tools with which to do many farm mechanical jobs.

A. P. Davidson (8) of Kansas reported that 14 different kinds of farm shop activities which he calls enterprises were found in the content of farm shop courses in Kansas. He found that farm machinery activities ranked first, also that wood working ranked very high.

C. J. George and others (11) found in a survey of 15 agricultural departments in western Ohio that there were 74 different kinds of farm shop jobs taught. Types of jobs taught in order of frequency were: Rope work, harness repair, tool fitting and sharpening, plumbing repair, wood construction, power transmission, cold metal work, carpentry repair, hot metal work, painting and finishing. He, however, did not determine why the teachers did not give instruction in certain jobs.

Lester Boyd Pollom (18) made a study of the scope and content of farm mechanics courses taught in

Kansas and the organization for teaching them. The purpose of his study was to find out directly from the farmers the relative importance of the various phases of farm shop. He did not determine what livestock the farmers had or what farm machinery they possessed. He, however, found that farm carpentry ranked above all other jobs.

Sidney Sutherland (21) found from 103 teachers of vocational agriculture in Nebraska, Iowa, South Dakota, and Montana that the majority taught at least 13 types of farm mechanics jobs. Woodwork received more emphasis than any other phase of the work.

A. C. Kennedy (13) gave many valuable suggestions in determining the content of the course in farm mechanics for Ohio teachers. He found that it seemed desirable that the content of the course should be based on the everyday needs of the farm boys at home on the farm as he meets them in his work. He further recommended that the instruction should emphasize care and repair jobs.

G. A. Schmidt, G. A. Ross, and M. A. Sharp give valuable information in setting up objectives and guiding principles in determining the content of the courses in farm mechanics.

### Chapter III

#### METHODS AND PROCEDURES

In attempting to set up a functioning 1-year course in farm mechanics for the Pittsfield, Illinois, Community High School, the writer observed the guiding principles mentioned in the close of Chapter I. Particularly did he observe the principle that: "The only reliable source of training content for effective instruction in farm mechanics is the experience of successful farmers in the community." Then too, he observed a somewhat closely related principle also stated in Chapter I; namely, "The practical mechanical activities of farmers in the community for which the training in farm mechanics is to prepare, should be definitely known before any course is drawn up." Perhaps one other of the guiding principles given in Chapter I should be mentioned, for it bears vitally on the problem involved: "The kinds of machinery, tools, and equipment found on farms in a community are an index of the farm mechanical activities in which the farmers in a community engage."

These facts led the writer to the assumption that in order to set up an effective training course in farm mechanics, he needed to secure much information regarding this work from farmers in his community.

Information from 100 farmers was considered for purposes of this study. To obtain this information a questionnaire was prepared. A copy of the questionnaire is included in the appendix of this study.

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The writer then submitted this list to three key farmers in the community to determine whether the list was complete for each enterprise.

The questionnaire was checked for completeness by Dr. Harry Bradford in charge of the course in Educational Research at the Colorado State College during the summer of 1939 and under whom the writer outlined his problem. Valuable assistance and criticism was given by

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Before using the questionnaire the writer consulted three key farmers in his community, asking them to check the lists of enterprises and the jobs under each for completeness and to make any additions. These men were of the opinion that the lists were very complete and added very few jobs.

The questionnaire, in regard to each job, called for the following information:

- 1. Does the job arise on your farm? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_
- 2. Do you do the job? - - - - - Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_
- 3. Why do you not do the job?
  - Lack of training? - - - - - \_\_\_\_\_
  - Lack of equipment? - - - - - \_\_\_\_\_
  - Other reasons? - - - - - \_\_\_\_\_

The questionnaire, also, provided a large space for recording any additional farm mechanical enterprises and jobs in which the farmers might engage.

In addition, the last page of the questionnaire provided for an inventory of the farmer's machinery, and other equipment; and of the kinds of livestock on the farm.

A list of 100 successful farmers in the neighborhood of Pittsfield, Illinois, was obtained from the heads of the two banks in Pittsfield, from the farm manager of the Strauss Farms, which controls nearly

10,000 acres in the area, and from the soil conservation field men working in the community.

Collection of data.--During the school year 1939-40, the writer personally interviewed 60 of the 100 farmers. He secured from these men the information called for on the questionnaire. Twelve additional questionnaires were filled out in the presence of the writer by members of the evening class of farmers which he was conducting. The remaining 28 were taken home by students of the all-day classes in vocational agriculture which the writer was teaching. These students were instructed by the writer on how to gather the data. The questionnaires they returned were carefully checked for completeness.

The data secured on these 100 questionnaires were tabulated and the findings are given in Chapter IV.

Chapter IV  
THE RESULTS OF THE SURVEY

The data in this chapter were gathered from 100 farmers in the vicinity of Pittsfield, Illinois. These data show the farm mechanical jobs arising on these farms; the jobs the farmers on these farms do and do not do; and, also, reasons for the latter. In addition the data also shows the power machinery, farm implements, and other mechanical equipment found on the farms studied, and also the kinds and number of livestock on these farms.

The farm mechanical jobs were classified into 19 different groups commonly called farm mechanical enterprises. In all, the survey listed 177 different kinds of jobs. Although the survey blank had a space for recording any additional mechanical jobs arising on these farms, none were added to the original list.

The information gathered follows in Tables 1 to 20.

Table 1.--HARNESS WORK ON 100 FARMS

Jobs	Number		Why jobs were not done	
	Farms on which jobs arose	Farms on which jobs were done	Number lacking training	Number lacking equipment
Cleaning - - -	77	66	0	3
Sewing - - - -	72	55	4	5
Replacing parts	85	67	0	2
Splicing tugs -	73	65	3	5
Oiling harness	82	63	0	2

Harness work on the farms in Pittsfield community is an important enterprise as indicated by the above table. Harness work arose on 72 percent or more of the 100 farms. Over 55 percent of the farmers engaged in this work.

Table 2.--PLUMBING WORK DONE ON 100 FARMS

Jobs	Number		Why jobs were not done	
	Farms on which jobs arose	Farms on which jobs were done	Number lacking training	Number lacking equipment
Repair pump - -	80	58	6	6
Install water system - - - -	51	27	6	5
Install septic tank - - - - -	25	0	0	0
Cut and fit pipe	65	37	8	11
Repair faucet -	55	41	5	5
Install house plumbing - - -	43	18	10	5
Build septic tank - - - - -	25	11	8	3
Install furnace	34	14	8	4

Plumbing, as evidenced in Table 2, is not an important farm mechanics enterprise on the 100 farms in the community. Jobs in plumbing in most cases were not done by the farmers, with the exception of repairing pumps, cutting and fitting pipe, and repairing faucets. The farmers stated they lacked training and equipment for this type of work.

Table 3.--JOBS DONE IN FORGE WORK ON 100 FARMS

Jobs	Number		Why jobs were not done	
	Farms on which jobs arose	Farms on which jobs were done	Number lacking training	Number lacking equipment
Machine repair	52	19	14	25
Sharpen cultivator shovels -	83	19	24	39
Sharpen plow shares - - - -	86	14	24	40
Make chisels -	66	13	25	40
Temper tools -	78	16	21	37
Weld - - - - -	87	14	23	39
Repair chain links - - - -	84	6	23	36
Shoe horses - - -	56	1	17	21
Make clevis - -	81	17	21	33
Meat hooks - -	77	15	21	34
Hay hooks - - -	80	18	21	35
Gate hooks - -	81	18	20	35
End gate rods -	78	16	22	34
Chain links - -	77	16	21	34
Staples - - - -	91	26	36	47
Butcher knife -	11	2	-----	-----
Eye bolts - - -	74	16	20	32
Wagon irons - -	80	16	20	32
Cold chisels -	77	16	20	36
Punches - - - -	76	18	21	34
Wrecking bar -	76	17	20	33
Tools - - - - -	69	15	16	33

The fact that forge work arises frequently on 100 farms but is done by few farmers indicates it is important. However, there are some causes why it is not done. Table 3 shows that forge work with the exception of making knives arises on over 52 percent of the farms but only 26 percent of the 100 farmers engaged in forge work. The main reasons for not doing it was the lack of equipment and lack of training.

Table 4.--GENERAL FARM WORK JOBS

Jobs	Number		Why jobs were not done	
	Farms on which jobs arose	Farms on which jobs were done	Number lacking training	Number lacking equipment
Saw buck - -	75	74	1	0
Wagon jack -	67	67	2	0
Wire stretcher	42	35	1	0
Medicine cabinet - -	20	18	1	0

According to Table 4 jobs connected with general farm work, like making saw bucks and wagon jacks, are common on the farms. These jobs were done in a large number of cases by the farmers, as is shown in Table 4. Making wire stretchers and medicine cabinets are jobs that arose less frequently, and less than 50 percent of the farmers engaged in these jobs.

Table 5.--GASOLINE ENGINE WORK DONE ON 100 FARMS

Jobs	Number		Why jobs were not done	
	Farms on which jobs arose	Farms on which jobs were done	Number lacking training	Number lacking equipment
<u>Gasoline engines</u>				
Adjust carburetors - - - - -	50	50	11	0
Adjust valves -	70	53	23	0
Grind valves -	68	44	16	0
Adjust bearings	69	46	15	0
Time ignition -	71	44	15	0
Clean carbon -	69	48	15	0
Overhaul automobiles - - -	74	27	3	1
Overhaul tractors - - - - -	70	21	3	2

According to the data in Table 5 the work of overhauling automobiles and tractors was done by a small number of farmers. Adjusting carburetors, adjusting valves, grinding valves, adjusting bearings, timing ignition, and cleaning carbon were done by a large percent of the farmers indicates that minor repairs is an important part of the work in this enterprise.

Table 6.--SHEET METAL WORK DONE ON 100 FARMS

Jobs	Number		Why jobs were not done	
	Farms on which jobs arose	Farms on which jobs were done	Number lacking training	Number lacking equipment
Repair pails -	75	42	16	5
Make feed troughs - - -	61	25	11	4
Make funnel - -	41	9	7	0
Make tin cup -	36	2	6	0
Make cooking utensils - - -	31	3	3	0
Repair roofs -	76	49	9	3
Repair water tanks - - - -	71	48	9	4
Make feed scoops	88	36	9	3

Table 6 indicates the sheet metal work is confined chiefly to repair work. It is apparent that farmers do not think it important to make feed troughs, funnels, tin cups, and cooking utensils.

Table 7.--MISCELLANEOUS JOBS THAT OCCUR ON 100 FARMS

Job	Number		Why jobs were not done	
	Farms on which jobs arose	Farms on which jobs were done	Number lacking training	Number lacking equipment
Make single trees - - - -	88	69	1	1
Make double trees - - - -	93	73	1	0
Make handles for tools - -	85	64	2	1
Make trailers -	45	22	1	0
Make stock racks	70	56	0	0
Iron single trees - - - -	56	45	0	2
Stock loading chutes - - - -	88	80	0	2
Make garage - -	49	46	1	0
Make neck yokes	78	59	0	1
Make wheel barrows - - -	58	45	0	0
Make furniture	30	12	0	0
Make farm gate	87	81	0	0
Build farm shop	50	40	0	1

The data in Table 7 indicates that there are some jobs of this group that farmers do not do to any extent, such as make furniture and trailers. Their participation in these jobs is governed very largely by whether or not they have the necessary equipment and the training and ability.

Table 8.--WINDOW REPAIR JOBS DONE BY 100 FARMERS

Jobs	Number		Why jobs were not done	
	Farms on which jobs arose	Farms on which jobs were done	Number lacking training	Number lacking equipment
Cut glass - - -	58	38	2	1
Repair windows	80	63	6	0
Putty windows*-	82	74	6	0

Window repair jobs, as indicated in Table 8, were done by most of the 100 farmers. They did not do much glass cutting. They did not indicate they lacked equipment or training.

Table 9.--TOOL SHARPENING DONE ON 100 FARMS IN PITTS-FIELD HIGH SCHOOL COMMUNITY

Jobs	Number		Why jobs were not done	
	Farms on which jobs arose	Farms on which jobs were done	Number lacking training	Number lacking equipment
Plane bits - -	30	96	5	1
Chisels - - - -	80	73	4	1
Cross cut saws-	87	66	10	3
Large wood saws	83	60	9	3
Drill bits - -	80	69	7	1
Wood bits - - -	86	66	8	2
Buck saws - - -	73	61	6	3
Circle saws - -	76	59	6	1
Axes - - - - -	90	73	3	1
Shears - - - -	83	68	5	1
Meat saws - - -	72	53	6	1
Skates - - - -	43	29	3	1

Tool sharpening on farms of Pittsfield community, as indicated by the data in Table 9, is very important as a farm mechanical skill. With the exception of sharpening plane bits and skates, 72 percent or more of the jobs listed involved fitting of tools.

Table 10.--ROPE WORK DONE ON 100 FARMS

Jobs	Number		Why jobs were not done	
	Farms on which jobs arose	Farms on which jobs were done	Number lacking training	Number lacking equipment
Long splice - -	69	58	24	0
Short splice -	79	57	20	0
Tie knots - - -	81	63	15	0
Crown ropes - -	76	61	12	0
Make rope hal- ters - - - - -	77	66	11	0

Rope work, as the data shows in Table 10, is done by over 58 percent of the farmers. Those who did not do the work gave as their main reasons for not doing that they lacked training.

Table 11.--WOODFINISHING JOBS DONE ON 100 FARMS IN PITTSFIELD COMMUNITY

Jobs	Number		Why jobs were not done	
	Farms on which jobs arose	Farms on which jobs were done	Number lacking training	Number lacking equipment
Painting buildings - - - - -	97	81	0	0
Mixing paints - - - - -	93	79	0	1
Painting furniture - - - - -	95	77	0	0
Refinishing furniture - - - - -	90	68	0	1
Painting woodwork - - - - -	88	33	1	0
Painting floors	80	79	0	0

In Table 11 are shown the jobs in woodfinishing arising on 100 farms. From 80 to 97 percent of the farmers indicated that these jobs occurred on their farms. From 33 to 81 percent of the farmers actually did these jobs. Painting woodwork was done by only 33 percent of the 100 farmers. In only one case was lack of training mentioned for not engaging in this work.

Table 12.--MAKING SHOP EQUIPMENT ON 100 FARMS IN PITTS-FIELD COMMUNITY

Jobs	Number		Why jobs were not done	
	Farms on which jobs arose	Farms on which jobs were done	Number lacking training	Number lacking equipment
<u>Farm shops</u>				
Cupboards - - -	43	43	1	0
Tool box - - -	49	47	2	0
Nail box - - -	54	52	0	0
Saw horse - - -	55	54	0	0
Bench (carpenter)	49	47	0	0
Mitre box - - -	38	36	1	1
Nail-screw-bolt shelves - - -	43	42	1	0
Cement float -	36	33	2	2
File handles -	43	42	1	0
Drawers - - - -	45	38	2	0
Saw filing clamp	42	34	0	0

From Table 12 it will be seen the necessity for making shop equipment arose on 36 to 56 percent of the farms studied. The figures further reveal that less than 50 percent of the farmers actually make shop equipment.

Table 13.--WOODWORK APPLIANCES FOR LIVESTOCK THAT ARE MADE ON 100 FARMS

Jobs	Number		Why jobs were not done	
	Farms on which jobs arose	Farms on which jobs were done	Number lacking training	Number lacking equipment
<u>Poultry</u>				
Make common appliances - - -	73	60	1	0
Make brooder house - - - -	78	63	4	1
Make poultry house - - - -	73	60	4	1
<u>Swine</u>				
Watering trough Individual hog house - - - -	96	88	0	0
Hog hurdles - -	90	83	1	0
Panels - - - -	73	70	0	0
Creep - - - - -	80	75	0	0
Ringling chute -	85	83	0	0
	81	81	0	0
<u>Cattle</u>				
Loading chute -	84	79	0	0
Stanchions - -	70	70	0	1
Silage cart - -	38	35	0	1
Feed bins - - -	81	80	1	0
Milk stool - - -	84	80	0	0
<u>Sheep</u>				
Creep for lambs	41	41	0	0
Panels - - - - -	40	37	1	0
Feed troughs -	41	43	0	0
Drink troughs -	41	43	0	0
Sheep shed - - -	40	41	0	0
Wool sacker - -	35	35	1	0
<u>Horses</u>				
Harness hooks -	75	64	2	0
Harness washing board - - - - -	48	40	3	0
Curry comb rack	55	45	2	0

The data in Table 13 shows that the necessity for making wood appliances for poultry, swine, cattle, and horses exists quite generally on the farms studied. Jobs involving the making of appliances for sheep arise less frequently because sheep are less common on these farms. From the table it will also be noted that farmers generally make equipment for the kinds of livestock they have on their farms.

Table 14.--CONCRETE WORK WHICH AROSE ON THE 100 FARMS

Jobs	Number		Why jobs were not done	
	Farms on which jobs arose	Farms on which jobs were done	Number lacking training	Number lacking equipment
Feeding floors	69	55	6	2
Foundations - -	78	65	8	3
Water tanks - -	40	26	8	2
Hog troughs - -	43	30	8	-----
Walls - - - - -	64	47	7	4
Septic tanks -	17	9	7	1
Garage floors -	49	38	8	1
Laying brick or tile - - - - -	55	31	0	2
Plastering - -	56	34	12	1
Fence posts - -	32	20	6	1

Table 14 shows that concrete work with the exception of foundations and feed floor constructions was not done by farmers on the farm. Most of the reasons given were lack of training. It was also indicated there were other reasons for not doing the job.

Table 15.--FIELD CROP EQUIPMENT MADE ON 100 FARMS

Jobs	Number		Why jobs were not done	
	Farms on which jobs arose	Farms on which jobs were done	Number lacking training	Number lacking equipment
Lime spreader -	30	15	1	3
Seed treating devices - - -	47	25	0	4
Corn cribs - -	83	70	1	4
Potato crates -	23	16	0	0
Hay racks - - -	89	79	0	1
Wagons - - - -	77	64	3	5

Table 15 indicates the making of equipment for farm crops arises on 30 to 89 percent of the farms. The making of a lime spreader, seed treating devices, and potato crates occurred on less than 47 percent of the farms. From 15 to 79 percent of the 100 farmers engaged in these jobs. Jobs like making lime spreaders and potato crates were done by less than 17 of the farmers. Seed treating devices were made by only 25 percent of the farmers. Such equipment as wagons, corn cribs, and hay racks were constructed by a large number of the 100 farmers.

Table 16.--ELECTRICAL WORK

Jobs	Number		Why jobs were not done	
	Farms on which jobs arose	Farms on which jobs were done	Number lacking training	Number lacking equipment
Wiring house -	54	16	11	0
Wiring barns -	55	14	10	0
Repair motors -	50	8	14	0
Repair radio -	49	6	15	1
Repair door bells	34	7	3	1

Electrical work, as Table 16 shows, does not occur as frequently as other enterprises; a very small number of the farmers do the work. It is evident that it is not an important enterprise for the farmer of this particular area. From 34 to 55 percent of the jobs listed in the table occurred on the farms. However, only 6 to 16 of the 100 farmers actually did the work. The main reasons for not doing the job was lack of training.

Table 17.--FARM HOME JOBS WHICH AROSE ON 100 FARMS

Jobs	Number		Why jobs were not done	
	Farms on which jobs arose	Farms on which jobs were done	Number lacking training	Number lacking equipment
Cupboards - - -	68	29	9	4
Step ladders -	66	28	10	4
Medicine cabinet	75	25	9	4
Flower boxes -	75	50	11	4
Ironing boards	69	31	13	2
Lawn chairs - -	69	12	11	2
Screens - - - -	81	41	11	3
Tables - - - -	70	27	13	3
Fruit shelves -	82	42	10	2
Kitchen stools	70	27	12	2
Flower trellis	81	44	12	3
Shoe shining box	54	16	11	2
Porch furniture	68	24	14	4
Cedar chest - -	51	12	14	3

Farm home jobs, as indicated by the data in Table 17, were not done by a majority of the farmers. From 51 to 82 percent of the 100 farmers indicated that jobs of the farm home occurred but not all these farmers did the jobs on the farm. A notable exception was the construction of flower boxes.

Table 18.--REPAIRING MACHINERY

Jobs	Number		Why jobs were not done	
	Farms on which jobs arose	Farms on which jobs were done	Number lacking training	Number lacking equipment
Overhaul farm machines - - -	69	63	0	0
Put in new tongue - - - -	90	83	0	0
Lace leather belts - - - -	83	63	1	1
Make wagon bolsters - - -	81	64	3	1
Babbitt bearings	78	43	6	1
New section in sickle - - - -	93	85	3	0
Repair wagon box	95	88	2	0
Figure pulling speeds - - - -	55	55	0	0
Paint wagons -	95	85	1	0
Adjust mowers -	94	85	4	0
Adjust binders	92	87	5	0
Sharpen mower sickles - - -	91	90	1	0

Table 18 indicates repairing farm machinery is a very important enterprise on a majority of these 100 farms. The data also show that with the exception of babbitt bearings the majority of the farmers repair their own machinery.

Table 19.--EQUIPMENT ON 100 FARMS

Kinds of equipment	Number of each kind of equipment
Automobile - - - - -	112
Truck - - - - -	28
Tractor - - - - -	68
Gas engines - - - - -	67
Electric motors - - - - -	92
Implement shed - - - - -	107
Wagons - - - - -	204
Harvest machinery	
1. Corn combiner - - - - -	10
2. Combine - - - - -	18
3. Binder - - - - -	61
4. Corn sheller - - - - -	49
5. Huller - - - - -	0
6. Scalfier - - - - -	0
7. Corn grader - - - - -	21
Cultivating machinery	
1. Cultivator - - - - -	233
2. Harrow - - - - -	141
3. Rotary hoe - - - - -	33
4. Disc - - - - -	124
5. Plow - - - - -	233
6. Roller - - - - -	79
7. Lime spreader - - - - -	53
8. Drill - - - - -	79
9. End gate seeder - - - - -	58
Dairy machinery	
1. Milking machine - - - - -	1
Spray machines	
1. Power spray - - - - -	5
2. Hand spray - - - - -	28
Others	
1. Mower - - - - -	67
2. Rakes - - - - -	45
3. Buck rakes - - - - -	10
4. Manure spreaders - - - - -	17
5. Fan mill - - - - -	1
6. Trailer - - - - -	1

The data in Table 19 show the amount and kinds of farm equipment on the 100 farms in Pittsfield community.

Table 20.--NUMBER AND KINDS OF LIVESTOCK ON EACH OF THE 100 FARMS OF PITTSFIELD COMMUNITY

Kinds of livestock	Total number	Number on each farm
Horses - - - - -	483	4.83
Mules - - - - -	52	.52
Sheep - - - - -	1,717	17.17
Poultry - - - - -	19,938	199.38
Hogs - - - - -	11,914	119.14
Dairy cattle - - - - -	626	6.26
Beef cattle - - - - -	2,000	20.00

It is shown by the facts in Table 20 that on the 100 farms there is a considerable number of livestock and the average is high for each farm. This would necessitate a large amount of appliances for livestock as well as mechanical equipment. The data show there is an approximate average of 48 horses, .52 mules, 17 sheep, 200 head of poultry, 119 hogs, 6 dairy cattle, and 20 beef cattle per farm on the 100 farms surveyed.

## Chapter V

### THE 1-YEAR COURSE IN FARM MECHANICS

In this chapter an effort is made to develop a 1-year course in farm mechanics for the boys enrolled in the Pittsfield, Illinois, High School, based on the results of the survey presented in Chapter III.

In Chapter I the general aims of the instruction in farm mechanics were mentioned. These aims, in brief, show that effective instruction in farm mechanics should develop the abilities, so far as possible, that will enable those taking the training to better engage in the varied farm mechanical activities arising on farms in the community where the training is given. The term, abilities, as here used is very broad and includes habits, skills, knowledge, appreciations, attitudes, and ideals.

In Chapter I there were mentioned, also, some guiding principles underlying effective instruction in farm mechanics. The substance of these principles is simply that this instruction in farm mechanics should be life-like; that the farm mechanical activities on the farms in the community and the equipment on these farms are important factors in determining the kind of instruction that should be offered in this work.

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Inhibiting factors.--Regardless of the needs for training in farm mechanics, every school is confronted with certain inhibiting factors. These may be the kind, size, and location of the school farm shop; or they may be the kinds of equipment in the shop. Although the Pittsfield High School has a separate shop building suitable for most types of farm mechanical work it lacks equipment for teaching the repair and overhauling of tractors; for teaching jobs connected with gas engines, and for teaching farm plumbing.

School time available for teaching farm mechanics.--The school year of the Pittsfield, Illinois, High School consists of two semesters. In each semester there are 18 weeks or 90 teaching days. Two days each semester are devoted to final examinations, leaving 176 actual teaching days in the school year.

For the purposes of this study, the 1-year course in farm mechanics is made up of a certain number of farm mechanical enterprises. The school time to give to the teaching of these enterprises necessarily depends upon the teaching time available for the subject. The number of farm jobs to include in each enterprise is dependent upon the relative importance of that enterprise.

To obtain information, in addition to that obtained by the survey regarding the school time to devote to each enterprise in a farm mechanics course, the writer

referred to a study made in this connection. This study was developed in the Department of Agriculture Education at the Colorado State College. It represented the opinions of 25 teachers of vocational agriculture regarding the minimum school time that should be given to the different kinds of farm mechanical work.

Table 21 contains the list of common farm mechanic enterprises and the approximate school time needed for each to obtain minimum results on the basis of five double periods a week. In the original time distribution this was worked out on a basis of two double periods per week.

Table 21.--AVERAGE TIME TO DEVOTE TO COMMON FARM MECHANICAL ENTERPRISES TO ATTAIN WORTH WHILE OBJECTIVES OF THE ENTERPRISE, BASED ON FIVE DOUBLE PERIODS PER WEEK

Enterprises	Number of weeks (5 double periods per week)
1. Making woodwork appliances - - - -	2
2. Plumbing jobs - - - - - - - - - -	1
3. Harness work - - - - - - - - - -	2
4. Forge work - - - - - - - - - -	3
5. General farm jobs - - - - - - - -	1
6. Gas engine tractors - - - - - - -	3
7. Sheet metal work - - - - - - - -	1
8. Miscellaneous jobs - - - - - - - -	3
9. Window repairing - - - - - - - -	1
10. Tool sharpening - - - - - - - -	2
11. Rope work - - - - - - - - - -	1
12. Wood finishing - - - - - - - - -	1
13. Farm shop appliances - - - - - - -	2
14. Concrete and related work - - - -	1
15. Field crops equipment - - - - - -	1
16. Electrical work - - - - - - - -	2
17. Farm home appliances - - - - - - -	2
18. Repair machinery - - - - - - - -	6

Basis for choosing the enterprises.---It was necessary to have some basis for choosing the enterprises to be included in the 1-year's course in farm mechanics for Pittsfield High School.

All the enterprises were listed and the frequency in which they arose, were done, were not done, and many farms had the necessary equipment to do them. It was also noted whether or not the school shop had the necessary equipment to teach the jobs.

A fair rule was set up, that if 50 percent of

the enterprises occurred, were done, and they possessed equipment for doing the job on these 100 farms, the school had the equipment to teach these jobs, and if they qualified in three of the survey columns the jobs should be taught. One exception to the qualifications however was if the school shop did not have the tools to teach the enterprise then these enterprises must be eliminated.

After the columns were checked it was found that there were 14 enterprises left to teach on this basis of elimination. The eliminated and selected enterprises follow:

Table 22.--FREQUENCY THAT THE DIFFERENT ENTERPRISES OC-  
CUR ON FARMS IN PITTSFIELD COMMUNITY

Enterprise	Percentage of frequency		Necessary equipment	
	Arises on farm	Done on farm	On the farm	In the school shop
1. Harness work - - -	<u>1/</u> 75	63	yes	yes
2. Plumbing work - - -	47	25	yes	no
3. Forge work - - - -	73	15	yes	yes
4. General farm work	51	48	yes	yes
5. Gasoline engine work - - - - -	67	41	yes	no
6. Sheet metalwork -	59	29	yes	yes
7. Miscellaneous jobs	67	53	yes	yes
8. Window repair - -	73	58	yes	yes
9. Tool sharpening -	77	61	yes	yes
10. Rope work - - - -	76	61	yes	yes
11. Wood finishing -	90	68	yes	yes
12. Making shop equip- ment - - - - -	45	42	yes	yes
13. Woodwork appli- ances - - - - -	65	60	yes	yes
14. Concrete work - -	50	35	yes	yes
15. Field crop equip- ment - - - - -	58	26	yes	yes
16. Electrical work -	48	9	yes	no
17. Farm home jobs -	69	29	yes	yes
18. Repairing machinery - - -	90	74	yes	yes

1/ Decimals were dropped in making the calculation.

Farm enterprises not included in the course of study.--The following four enterprises are not included in the course of study:

1. Electrical work
2. Farm plumbing
3. Making shop equipment
4. Tractors and gas engines

The enterprises were omitted because of one or more of the following reasons:

- 1. Comparatively few farmers engaged in the enterprise.
- 2. The school shop lacked necessary equipment.
- 3. Few farmers had the necessary equipment.

Typical Jobs to Teach in Each of the 14 Enterprises Included in the Course

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Harness work           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Cleaning and oiling harness</li> <li>b. Sewing harness</li> <li>c. Replacing parts of harness</li> <li>d. Splicing tugs</li> </ul> </li> <li>2. Forge work           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Repairing machine</li> <li>b. Making chisels</li> <li>c. Tempering tools</li> <li>d. Welding parts</li> <li>e. Repairing chain links</li> <li>f. Making clevises</li> <li>g. Making meat hooks</li> <li>h. Making hay hooks</li> <li>i. Making gate hooks</li> <li>j. Making end gate hooks</li> <li>k. Making chain links</li> <li>l. Making staple bolts</li> <li>m. Making eye bolts</li> <li>n. Making punches</li> <li>o. Making wrecking bar</li> </ul> </li> <li>3. Sheet metal work           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Repairing pails</li> <li>b. Repairing roofs</li> <li>c. Repairing water tank</li> <li>d. Making feed scoops</li> </ul> </li> <li>4. Miscellaneous jobs           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Making single trees</li> <li>b. Making double trees</li> <li>c. Making handles for tools</li> <li>d. Making stock racks</li> <li>e. Making stock loading chutes</li> <li>f. Making neck yokes</li> <li>g. Making farm gate</li> </ul> </li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5. Window repair           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Repairing windows</li> <li>b. Puttying windows</li> </ul> </li> <li>6. Tool sharpening           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Sharpening chisels</li> <li>b. Sharpening cross cut saw</li> <li>c. Sharpening large wood saws</li> <li>d. Sharpening drill bits</li> <li>e. Sharpening buck saws</li> <li>f. Sharpening axes</li> <li>g. Sharpening shears</li> </ul> </li> <li>7. Rope work           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Making a long splice</li> <li>b. Making a short splice</li> <li>c. Tying knots</li> <li>d. Crowning ropes</li> <li>e. Making rope halters</li> </ul> </li> <li>8. Wood finishing           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Painting buildings</li> <li>b. Mixing paints</li> <li>c. Painting furniture</li> <li>d. Refinishing furniture</li> <li>e. Painting floors</li> </ul> </li> <li>9. General farm work           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Making buck saw</li> <li>b. Making a wagon jack</li> </ul> </li> <li>10. Woodwork appliances           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><u>Poultry</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Making common appliances for poultry</li> <li>b. Making brooder house</li> <li>c. Making poultry house</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul> |
|--|--|

10. Woodwork appliances  
(continued)

Swine

- a. Making watering trough
- b. Making individual hog houses
- c. Making hog hurdle
- d. Making panels
- e. Making creep
- f. Making ringing chute

Cattle

- a. Making loading chute
- b. Making stanchions
- c. Making feed bins
- d. Making milk stool

Sheep

- a. Making a creep for lambs
- b. Making panels
- c. Making feed troughs
- d. Making drink troughs
- e. Making sheep shed
- f. Making wool sacker

Horses

- a. Making harness hooks
- b. Making curry comb racks

11. Concrete and related work

- a. Making feeding floors
- b. Making foundations
- c. Making walls

12. Field crops equipment
- a. Building corn cribs
  - b. Making hay racks
  - c. Making wagons

13. Farm home appliances
- a. Making flower boxes
  - b. Making screens
  - c. Making fruit shelves
  - d. Making flower trellis

14. Repairing machinery
- a. Overhaul farm machines
  - b. Put in a new tongue
  - c. Making wagon bolsters
  - d. Lacing leather belts
  - e. Putting new section in sickle
  - f. Repairing wagon box
  - g. Repairing wagons
  - h. Adjusting mowers
  - i. Adjusting binders
  - j. Sharpening mower sickles

A YEARLY TEACHING PLAN

For a Course of Instruction in Pittsfield High School

List of enterprises to be taught in the course to entire class	Weeks to devote to each enterprise
1. Harness work - - - - -	2
2. Forge work - - - - -	5
3. General farm work - - - - -	1
4. Sheet metal work - - - - -	1
5. Miscellaneous jobs - - - - -	2
6. Window repair - - - - -	1
7. Tool sharpening - - - - -	2
8. Rope work - - - - -	1
9. Wood finishing - - - - -	1
10. Woodwork appliances - - - - -	5
11. Concrete and related work - - - -	2
12. Field crop equipment - - - - -	1
13. Farm home appliances - - - - -	2
14. Repair of machinery - - - - -	8
Total for strictly class work - -	34
Time allotted for quizzes - - - -	1
Time allotted for extras - - - - -	1
Total number of school weeks devoted to the subject - - - - -	36

## Chapter VI

### SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The purpose of this study is to develop a functioning course of study in farm mechanics to be included in the vocational agriculture course in the Pittsfield, Illinois, High School.

In order to make such a course very practicable and functioning for the boys enrolled in vocational agriculture, the writer felt it necessary to discover the kinds of farm mechanics work arising on farms in the community; the kinds farmers do and do not do; the kinds of equipment on these farms and the kinds of livestock.

To discover these needs for training in farm mechanics work the writer made a survey of 100 farms in his community. He personally interviewed 60 of these farmers in order to gather the necessary information. Information from the remaining 40 was secured by boys in his all-day and part-time classes in vocational agriculture.

The findings.--An analysis of the data secured from the survey showed that instruction could profitably be given in the following farm mechanical enterprises:

- |                       |                          |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Harness work       | 8. Rope work             |
| 2. Forge work         | 9. Wood finishing        |
| 3. General farm work  | 10. Woodwork appliances  |
| 4. Sheet metal work   | 11. Concrete work        |
| 5. Miscellaneous jobs | 12. Field crop equipment |
| 6. Window repair      | 13. Farm home appliances |
| 7. Tool sharpening    | 14. Repair of machinery  |

Some of the pertinent findings of this study were:

1. Repairing farm machinery showed the greatest frequency of the 100 farms surveyed, and was engaged in by more farmers than any other enterprise.
2. Next on the list was "Miscellaneous jobs" such as making single trees, making double trees, handles for tools, and farm gates.
3. Construction and repair of wood appliances for poultry, sheep, hogs, cattle, and horses occurred on a large number of the farms.
4. Farm blacksmithing or forge work occurred to some extent on the 100 farms, but many of the farmers did not have the equipment or training to perform the different jobs involved in these enterprises. However, the school farm shop has the equipment to teach these jobs efficiently. The farmers should be urged to buy the necessary equipment.

In the following enterprises the data showed that the jobs occurred on the 100 farms and that a large number of the farmers actually performed the jobs:

Sheet metal work, tool sharpening, field crop equipment, farm home appliances, wood finishing, rope work, general farm work, window repair, and harness work.

The following enterprises: (1) electrical work, (2) farm plumbing, (3) tractor and gas engine work, and (4) farm shop appliances, occurred on the 100 farms, but only a few farmers were found to be doing the

80

jobs under these enterprises. Because of this fact it seemed reasonable to eliminate the above mentioned jobs from the proposed course of study.

Also the survey indicated the 100 farms were well equipped with farm machinery, automobiles, tractors, gas engines and electric motors. Livestock, such as dairy cattle, beef cattle, sheep, hogs, and poultry, were common on most of the 100 farms.

Table 19, Chapter IV, contains information showing that automobiles, cultivators, plows, discs, harrows, seed drills, rollers, electric motors, gas engines, mowers, and binders are the most common kinds of equipment on the farms studied.

Summary.--The data assembled in this study show that jobs in the following farm mechanical enterprises arose most frequently on the 100 farms studied:

- |                                 |                             |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Farm blacksmithing           | 8. Machinery repair         |
| 2. Gasoline engine work         | 9. Concrete work            |
| 3. Fitting farm tools           | 10. Sheet metal work        |
| 4. Making wood appliances       | 11. Miscellaneous farm jobs |
| 5. Making field crop appliances | 12. Plumbing                |
| 6. Harness work                 | 13. Wood finishing          |
| 7. Rope work                    | 14. General farm work       |

Farm jobs in the following types of work were least frequently done, primarily because of lack of necessary equipment, training, and other reasons:

- |                       |                          |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Farm blacksmithing | 4. Field crop appliances |
| 2. Farm plumbing      | 5. Window repair         |
| 3. Shop equipment     | 6. Concrete work         |

- 7. Sheet metal work
- 8. Farm home jobs

- 9. Electrical work

Repairing farm machinery showed the greatest frequency and was engaged in by a greater number of farmers than any other enterprise. The results of the survey show that farmers do not lack training for this type of work and also that they do have the necessary equipment to perform the jobs arising in this enterprise.

Miscellaneous jobs were second in importance in frequency on farms to machinery jobs and were engaged in by most of the farmers. The farmers studied had very little training for doing the job; neither were their farms well equipped for the work.

Wood finishing was done by practically all the farmers and the data show that farmers had little training and equipment for this type of work.

Gasoline engine work, especially the simple adjustments and repair, was done by a great many of the farmers. However, these results show that the majority of the farmers did not overhaul tractors, trucks, and automobiles.

Rope work occurred on most of the farms, but many of the farmers lacked training for doing the job.

Making wood appliances for various livestock enterprises was done by the great percentage of farmers. Most all the farmers had equipment for this type of work and felt that they knew enough about it to do a fairly

good piece of work.

Recommendations.--Considering the types of work that these farms are doing, the equipment on their farms and the prevailing kinds of livestock and crop enterprises, the writer is proposing the following 1-year course of study in farm shop for the Pittsfield High School of Pittsfield, Illinois.

Yearly Teaching Plan for a Course of Instruction in Pittsfield High School

List of enterprises to be taught in the course to the entire class	Weeks to devote to each enterprise
1. Harness work - - - - -	3
2. Forge work - - - - -	5
3. General farm work - - - - -	1
4. Sheet metal work - - - - -	1
5. Miscellaneous jobs - - - - -	2
6. Window repair - - - - -	1
7. Tool sharpening - - - - -	2
8. Rope work - - - - -	1
9. Wood finishing - - - - -	1
10. Woodwork appliances - - - - -	5
11. Concrete and related work - - - - -	2
12. Field crop equipment - - - - -	1
13. Farm home appliances - - - - -	2
14. Repair of machinery - - - - -	8
Total - - - - -	34

Limitations of the study.--A few limitations of this study have presented themselves to the writer. These might have been eliminated if more complete information had been secured from the farmers in the community.

1. More specific reasons why farmers did not do certain jobs in the enterprises could have been ascertained if space in the questionnaire had been provided to obtain this information.
2. Another column could have been in the questionnaire to record the farmer's opinion in regard to whether or not the school should attempt to give training for each job listed.
3. The writer was handicapped by the fact that there was no place on the questionnaire to record why the farmers did not do certain jobs.

There are other problems which present themselves in connection with this study. Some of them are as follows:

1. An investigation should be made as to the kind of training farmers have received for doing farm mechanics work.
2. A study of the young men now farming who have had training in farm mechanics to discover what training they received in this field that has practical value.
3. Another problem that presents itself for study in farm mechanics is one that deals with getting the cooperation of the farmers in the community so that their sons can engage in farm shop work actually arising on the farms.

APPENDIX

	Page
A. Average time to devote to common farm mechanical enterprises to attain worthwhile objectives of the enter- prise - - - - -	55
B. Questionnaire to 100 farmers in the Pittsfield, Illinois, community - - - -	56
C. Bibliography - - - - -	57

APPENDIX A

Average time to devote to common farm mechanical enterprises to attain worthwhile objectives of the enterprise

Based on two double periods per week

Enterprise	Number of weeks
1. Making small wood appliances	6
2. Farm drawing and estimating material	2
3. Sharpening farm tools	6
4. Fitting handles	2
5. Rope work	2
6. Harness work	4
7. Soldering	2
8. Simple building and repair work on the farm	4
9. Farm blacksmithing	6
10. Simple building and construction work on the farm	
11. Simple farm plumbing	2
12. Farm machinery I	4
13. Farm machinery II	6
14. Farm machinery III	6
15. Surveying	2
16. Fencing	2
17. Irrigation	4
18. Reading blueprints	4
19. Roads	1
20. Drainage	4
21. Farm water supply	2
22. Sewage disposal	4
23. Lighting and heating	2
24. Simple Auto Mechanics I	3
25. Simple Auto Mechanics II	5

APPENDIX B

March 15, 1940

Dear Mr. Farmer:

I want reliable information about the kind of shop work that should be taught in the Pittsfield Community High School Vocational Agriculture department. My work is teaching Farm Mechanics to the boys who take agriculture, therefore, I want to know what you think should be taught to them in Farm Mechanics that would be of most service to them if and when they go back to the farm.

In order to take as little of your time as possible I have listed a number of articles and jobs to be done and wish you would check in the proper column according to your judgement the ones you think I should teach the boys to do. There is a space at the end of the questionnaire to write in other articles you think should be included.

Allow me to thank you for your attention to this matter, and I will appreciate a prompt return of the questionnaire.

Sincerely yours,

Vocational Ag Instructor

Word of Explanation:

This information is strictly confidential. I am using it as a Masters Thesis and no names will be used in the final analysis.



DO YOU LIKE TO DO FARM ✓ MECHANICS WORK _____	DOES THE JOB ARISE ON YOUR FARM		DO YOU DO THE JOB		WHY DO YOU NOT DO THE JOB		
ARTICLES AND JOBS	YES	NO	YES	NO	LACK OF TRAINING	LACK OF EQUIPMENT	OTHER REASONS
Plumbing							
Repair pump							
Install water system							
Install septic tank							
Cut and fit pipe							
Repair faucet							
Install house plumbing							
Build septic tank							
Install furnace							
Rope work							
Long splice							
Short splice							
Tie knots							
Crown ropes							
Make rope halters							
Gasoline engines							
Adjust carburetors							
Adjust valves							
Grind valves							
Adjust bearings							
Time ignition							
Clear carbon							
Overhaul autos							
Overhaul tractors							
Tool sharpening							
Plane bits							
Chisels							
Cross cut saw							
Large wood saws							
Drill bits							
Wood bits							
Buck saws							
Circle saws							
Axes							
Shears							
Meat saws							
Skates							
Sheet metal							
Soldering							
Repair pails							
✓ Make feed troughs							
✓ Make funnel							
✓ Make tin cup							
✓ Make cooking utensils							
Repair roofs							
Repair water tanks							
✓ Make feed scoops							
Glass							
Cut glass							
Repair windows							
Putty windows							

ARTICLES & JOBS	DOES THE JOB ARISE ON YOUR FARM		DO YOU DO THE JOB		WHY DO YOU NOT DO THE JOB		
	YES	NO	YES	NO	LACK OF TRAINING	LACK OF EQUIPMENT	OTHER REASONS
<u>HORSES</u>							
Harness hooks							
Harness washing board							
Curry comb rack							
<u>Farm home</u>							
Cupboards							
Step ladders							
Medicine Cabinet							
Flower boxes							
Ironing boards							
Lawn chairs							
Screens							
Tables							
Fruit shelves							
Kitchen stools							
Flower trellis							
Shoe shining box							
Porch furniture							
Cedar chest							
<u>FIELD CROPS</u>							
Lime spreader							
Seed treating devices							
Corn cribs							
Potato crates							
Hay racks							
Wagons							
<u>FARM SHOPS</u>							
Cupboards							
Tool box							
Nail box							
Saw horse							
Bench (carpenter)							
Mitre box							
Nail-screw-bolt shelves							
Cemet float							
File handles							
Drawers							
Saw filing clamp							
Farm tool box							
<u>GENERAL FARM</u>							
Saw buck							
Wagon jack							
Wire stretcher							
Medicine Cabinet							

ARTICLES AND JOBS	DOES THE JOB ARISE ON YOUR FARM		DO YOU DO THE JOB		WHY DO YOU NOT DO THE JOB?		
	YES	NO	YES	NO	LACK OF TRAINING	LACK OF EQUIPMENT	OTHER PERSONS
<u>REPAIR MACHINERY</u>							
Overhaul farm machines							
Put in new tongue							
Lace leather belts							
✓ Make wagon bolsters							
Babbitt bearings							
New sections in sickle							
Repair wagonbox							
Figure pulling speeds							
Paint wagons							
Adjust mowers							
Adjust binders							
Sharpen mower sickles							
<u>WOOD FINISHING</u>							
Painting buildings							
Mixing paints							
Painting furniture							
Refinishing furniture							
Painting wood work							
Painting floors							
<i>Painting machinery</i>							
<u>WOOD WORK</u>							
<u>POULTRY</u>							
Make common appliances for poultry							
Make brooder house							
Make poultry house							
<u>SWINE</u>							
Watering trough							
Individual hog houses							
✓ Hog hurdle							
Panels							
Creep							
Ringling Chute							
<i>Double Hoghouses</i>							
<u>CATTLE</u>							
Loading chute							
Stanchions							
Silage cart							
Feed bins							
Milk stool							
<u>SHEEP</u>							
Creep for lambs							
Panels							
Feed troughs							
Drink troughs							
Sheep shed							
Wool sacker							
<u>FRUIT</u>							
Picking boxes							
Props							
Market stand							
Sorting table							
Sorting shed							

	DOES THE JOB ARISE ON YOUR FARM		DO YOU DO THE JOB		WHY DO YOU NOT DO THE JOB?		
	YES	NO	YES	NO	LACK OF TRAINING	LACK OF EQUIPMENT	OTHER REASONS
MISCELLANEOUS							
✓ Make single trees							
✓ Make double trees							
Make handles for tools							
Make trailers							
Make stock racks							
✓ Iron single trees							
Stock loading chutes							
Make garage							
✓ Make neck yokes							
Make wheel barrows							
✓ Make furniture							
Make farm gate							
Build farm shop							
ANY ADDITIONAL ARTICLES OR JOBS YOU THINK SHOULD BE TAUGHT; ADD BELOW							
1.							
2.							
3.							
4.							
5.							
6.							
7.							
8.							
9.							
10.							
11.							
12.							
13.							
14.							
15.							
16.							
17.							
18.							
19.							
20.							

HOW MANY OF THE FOLLOWING DO  
YOU HAVE ON THE FARM?

LIST OF THINGS	HOW MANY
Automobile	
Truck	
Tractor	
Gas Engines	
Electric motors	
Implement shed	
Horses	
Mules	
Sheep	
Poultry	
Hogs	
Dairy Cattle	
Beef Cattle	
Wagons	
Harvest Machinery	
1. Combinder	
2. Combine	
3. Binder	
4. Corn sheller	
5. Huller	
6. Scafler	
7. Corn grader	
Cultivating Machinery	
1. Cultivator	
2. Harrow	
3. Rotary hoe	
4. Disc	
5. Plow	
6. Roller	
7. Lime spreader	
8. Drill	
9. End gate seeder	
Dairy Machinery	
1. Milking Machine	
Spray Machines	
Power spray	
Hand spray	
Others	
1.	5.
2.	6.
3.	7.
4.	8.

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