

FARM HOUSING IN THE NORTHEAST

A survey of facilities, activities, possessions, and
preferences of families on owner-operated farms

THE FACTUAL FINDINGS BY
GLENN H. BEYER

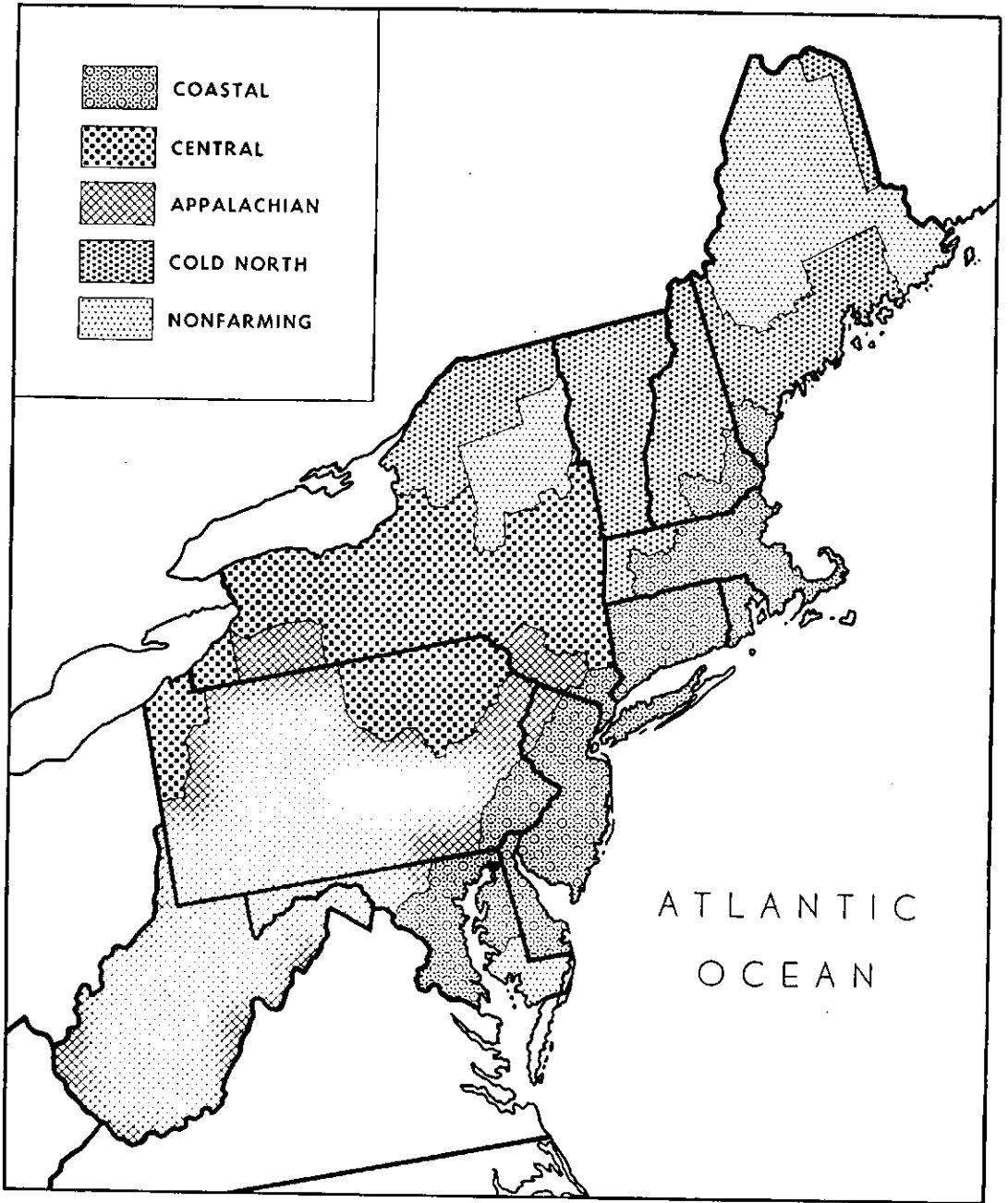
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WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF
THE NORTHEASTERN FARM HOUSING TECHNICAL COMMITTEE



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Delineation of four subregions of the Northeast region.

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Contents

FOREWORD.....	ix
INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND.....	1
Methodology.....	2
Limitations of the Report.....	3
Geographic Distribution and Economic Groups of Families.....	3
Full-Time and Part-Time Operators and Type of Farming.....	6
Families and Households.....	8
PART I. THE PRESENT PATTERN OF FARMHOUSES.....	17
Age of Dwelling Units.....	17
Length of Period Present Occupant Has Lived in Dwelling Unit..	20
Dwelling Units Built by Present Occupants.....	21
Type of Construction.....	22
Number of Stories.....	23
Size of House.....	25
Living Rooms and Dining Rooms.....	27
Bedrooms.....	27
Bathrooms.....	32
Pantries.....	34
Miscellaneous Rooms.....	34
Clothes Closets.....	35
Porches.....	36
Basements or Cellars.....	38
Attics.....	39
Equipment and Furniture.....	40
Summary.....	56

PART II. HOUSEHOLD ACTIVITIES.....	59
Meal Service.....	59
Food Preparation and Preservation.....	64
Laundry Work.....	73
Sewing.....	78
Entertaining.....	80
Hobbies.....	87
Summary.....	87
PART III. HOUSEHOLD INVENTORIES.....	91
Food.....	92
Articles Related to Food.....	109
Clothing and Sewing Materials.....	126
Bedding and Household Linen.....	144
Miscellaneous Items.....	150
Need for Additional Storage Space.....	153
Summary.....	155
PART IV. GENERAL HOUSING PREFERENCES.....	159
The Dwelling Unit.....	160
Equipment and Furniture.....	182
Household Activities.....	194
Summary.....	210
PART V. SUMMARY.....	213
APPENDIX A.....	219
APPENDIX B.....	391
APPENDIX C.....	401
GLOSSARY.....	451
INDEX.....	455

Foreword

THE publication of this report marks the completion of one stage of a farm housing project undertaken cooperatively by the agricultural experiment stations in the states of Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and West Virginia, and the Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics, U.S.D.A. This report provides an analysis of the data on farm housing collected by survey in the twelve northeastern states. In the next stage of the project the objectives are to develop basic dimensions and arrangements for space and equipment, and the structural facility requirements of the farmhouse which provide for family health and for safety and comfort with economy of construction and maintenance.

Because the project is a cooperative one, many persons have contributed to it. Harry E. Besley of the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station was Project Leader from the beginning of the project in 1947 to 1948. Glenn H. Beyer of the Cornell University Agricultural Experiment Station has been Project Leader since 1948. A technical committee, which is listed earlier (page v), has directed the entire project. It modified, for regional use, a schedule which has been developed experimentally by the Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics in cooperation with four state agricultural experiment stations. A subcommittee made up of M. E. John of the Pennsylvania Agricultural Experiment Station (chairman), Blanche M. Kuschke, Rhode Island Station, and Mildred Stenswick Howard of the Bureau of Human Nutri-

tion and Home Economics was responsible for formulating the final schedule used in this project.

The sample for the survey was drawn by the Statistical Laboratory at Iowa State College, using the Master Sample of Agriculture.

The Manual of Instructions for Interviewers was prepared by Mrs. Howard and Grace Smith of the Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics staff and Mrs. Kuschke. The interviewers were selected and the interviewing was supervised in the Coastal subregion by Mrs. Kuschke, in the Central subregion by Mr. Beyer, in the Appalachian subregion by Gladys Wasmuth of the Pennsylvania Station, and in the Cold North subregion by Merna M. Monroe of the Maine Station. Grace Smith served as regional coordinator during the interviewing phase of the project. The interviewing was completed during the period from February to June 1948.

The Cornell University Agricultural Experiment Station carried the responsibility for the analysis of the data and the preparation of the final report. This work was directed by Mr. Beyer. Harriet Benjamin assisted in planning the analytical work and supervised the clerical staff. Zetta Whitson served as administrative assistant and also carried the responsibility for all stenographic work. Staff members in a number of departments in the Colleges of Home Economics and Agriculture at Cornell served in an advisory capacity during the period of the analytical work.

The Statistical Laboratory at Iowa State College coded the schedules and provided the machine tabulations of the data. This work was supervised by Mary Clem.

The final manuscript was reviewed by the members of the Technical Committee and by Hazel K. Stiebeling of the Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics, Helen Canon and Mary K. Heiner of the New York State College of Home Economics, Olaf Larson of the New York State College of Agriculture, and John Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at Cornell.

The project was financed primarily with funds provided under the Federal Research and Marketing Act of 1946 allocated to the agricultural experiment stations and to the Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics. Supplementary funds were also provided by several states. The Bureau funds were used to defray the cost of drawing the sample and part of the cost of employing

editors and interviewers and the coding and machine tabulation work.

This report is intended to serve two primary purposes. First, it makes the findings of the survey immediately available to specialists in the fields of home economics, social science, architecture, engineering, and the building industry. Second, it provides many of the data needed as a basis for laboratory work in the development of space requirements for household activities and for the development of functional house plans.

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