

Research in Farm Real Estate Values

--Scope and Method--

Prepared under the direction of
The Advisory Committee on Social
and Economic Research in
Agriculture

JOHN D. BLACK, Editor

E. H. WIECKING, Executive Secretary
of Special Advisory Committee on
Farm Real Estate Values

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Advisory Committee on Social and Economic Research in Agriculture.

JOHN D. BLACK, CHAIRMAN, Harvard University.

S. T. DANA, University of Michigan.

LEWIS C. GRAY, Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

FRANK H. KNIGHT, University of Chicago.

J. H. KOLB, University of Wisconsin.

R. E. MARSH, U. S. Forest Service.

EDWIN G. NOURSE, Brookings Institution.

DWIGHT SANDERSON, Cornell University.

H. R. TOLLEY, University of California.

M. L. WILSON, Montana State College.

Special Advisory Group for this Report.

J. D. BLACK, Harvard University, Director of Scope and Method Project.

A. G. BLACK, Iowa State College.

C. H. HAMMAR, University of Missouri.

F. F. HILL, Cornell University.

C. L. STEWART, University of Illinois.

G. S. WEHRWEIN, University of Wisconsin.

E. H. WIECKING, Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

USES OF THIS REPORT

This report is No. 19 in a series on "Scope and Method" of research in the various sub-fields of agricultural economics and rural sociology. This series of reports is part of a program of assistance to research in these fields, upon which the Advisory Committee on Social and Economic Research in Agriculture set forth in 1925 under instruction from the Social Science Research Council. Each report undertakes to outline the research of some sub-field of agricultural economics or rural sociology and then discusses the problems in methodology that are peculiar to it. The outline of any sub-field is in large part in terms of a listing and discussion of specific research projects that have been undertaken or might be undertaken. Hence the discussion of methodology is largely in terms of specific projects.

It is expected that these reports will be useful in the following ways: First, directors of experiment stations and chiefs of divisions of agricultural economics and of rural sociology in land-grant institutions in the United States, and persons similarly responsible for direction of the research in agricultural economics and rural sociology of other types of institutions, will find the outlines of the various sub-fields of much help in laying out continuing programs of research for their institutions. Second, individual research workers, graduate students looking for thesis subjects, and teachers conducting research seminars, as well as the agencies above named, will find the listing and discussions of projects helpful in choosing suitable research projects. Third, the descriptions of research already done will save research workers from duplicating other work and help them to find a way of building upon it successfully. Fourth, the discussion of the nature of a project and the qualitative background will reveal the body of the subject-matter which needs to be mastered for its intelligent prosecution, and the difficulties involved, and thus save many research workers from launching forth upon projects for which they have not yet qualified themselves, or which may be too difficult for all but the chosen few. Fifth, the analysis of methodology will furnish a basis for a more intelligent decision as to the procedures and methods which will lead to valid and usable results. Sixth, the discussion of methodology will also suggest helpful devices in technique and details of procedure that might not otherwise be brought to the attention of the research workers. Seventh, the discussions of both scope and methods will make clear to those organizing research in any field the contributions which workers on different subjects have to offer to it, and point the way to the form of collaboration needed.

LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS TO THIS REPORT

The parts of this report contributed by each of the following are indicated at the beginning of each section. Those interested are urged to correspond directly with the contributor with respect to any phase or detail of his discussion.

JOHN D. BLACK, Professor, Department of Economics, Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass. Director for the Social Science Research Council of the Project on Scope and Method of Research in Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology.

G. T. BLANCH, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York.

R. C. ENGBERG, Statistician-Economist, Federal Farm Loan Board, Washington, D. C.

F. T. HADY, Assistant Professor of Agricultural Economics, South Dakota State College of Agriculture, Brookings, S. Dakota.

C. H. HAMMAR, Assistant Professor of Agricultural Economics, College of Agriculture, University of Missouri, Columbia, Missouri.

W. A. HARTMAN, Senior Agricultural Economist, U. S. Bureau of Agricultural Economics, Washington, D. C.

F. F. HILL, Professor of Land Economics, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York.

R. R. HUDELSON, Associate Professor of Agricultural Economics, University of Illinois, Urbana, Ill.

W. A. JAMES, Research Assistant to the Director of the Project on Scope and Method.

O. M. JOHNSON, Senior Agricultural Economist, U. S. Bureau of Agricultural Economics, Washington, D. C.

M. SLADE KENDRICK, Assistant Professor of Rural Economics, Cornell University, Ithaca, N. Y.

W. G. MURRAY, Associate Professor of Agricultural Economics, Iowa State College, Ames, Iowa.

H. I. RICHARDS, Brookings Institution, Washington, D. C.

B. R. STAUBER, Assistant Agricultural Economist, U. S. Bureau of Agricultural Economics, Washington, D. C.

DAVID E. WICKENS, Agricultural Economist, U. S. Bureau of Agricultural Economics, Washington, D. C.

E. H. WIECKING, Agricultural Economist, U. S. Bureau of Agricultural Economics, Washington, D. C.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<i>Page</i>
The Field of Research (Wiecking)	4
Summary of Research (Wiecking)	8
Sources of Data (Wiecking)	9
Analysis by Projects	10
Group A. Projects Relating Primarily to the Character and Mechanism of the Farm Real Estate Market	
Project 1. Description and Analysis of the Organization and Mechanism of the Farm Real Estate Market of an Area, Including the Rental Market (Hartman)	11
Project 2. Organization and Mechanism of the Market, Using the Institutional Approach (Wiecking)	15
Project 3. Attitudes toward Land Ownership and Land Values ..	16
Project 4. Farm Real Estate Dealers' Licensing Laws (Listed) ..	16
Group B. Projects Relating Primarily to the Collection of Data on Farm Real Estate Prices and Related Items	
Project 5. Historical Data of Changes in Price and Volume of Sales of Farm Real Estate (Murray)	16
Project 6. Current Data of Changes in the Farm Real Estate Situation (Wiecking)	19
Project 7. Classification of Farm Realty as a Basis for Price Quoting (Hammar)	23
Group C. Projects Primarily Concerned with Describing and Explaining the Movement of Farm Real Estate Prices and Related Items in the Past	
Project 8. Time Series Analysis—Historical Data (Stauber)	25
Project 9. Time Series Analysis—Current Changes (Stauber)	29
Project 10. The Interrelation between Credit and Farm Real Estate Activity and Prices (Wickens)	31
Project 11. The Influence of City Growth upon Changes in Land Values in the Surrounding Territory (Richards and James)	35
Project 12. The Effect of Changes in Freight Rates on Farm Real Estate Values (Black)	40
Group D. Projects Relating Primarily to Geographical Variations in Values	
Project 13. Determining Farm Realty Income (Wiecking)	41
Project 14. Relation of Farm Realty Income to Values (Wiecking)	43
Project 15. Geographic Variations in Farm Realty Values (Hammar)	46
Group E. Projects Relating to Forecasting of Farm Real Estate Prices	
Project 16. Short-time Forecasting of Farm Real Estate Prices (Hady)	50
Project 17. Long-time Forecasting of Farm Real Estate Prices (Hady)	51

Group F. Projects Relating Primarily to Appraisal
Policies and Practice

Project 18. Appraisal Methods of Loan Agencies (Engberg)	52
Project 19. Appraisal of Farm Real Estate for Public Purposes (Kendrick)	55
Project 20. Foreign Appraisal Methods and Policies (Listed)	56
Project 21. Legal Concepts of Value as Applied to Farm Real Estate	57
Project 22. Appraisal Personnel: Selection, Training, Organization, Control (Listed)	57
Project 23. Area Analysis for Loan Purposes (Wickens)	57
Project 24. The Time Factor in Appraisal for Loan Purposes (Wickens)	60
Project 25. Development of Improved Methods of Appraisal (Hud- elson)	64

Group G. Projects Relating Primarily to Farm Buildings

Project 26. Standard Tables of Building Costs (Listed)	69
Project 27. Depreciation Rates (Listed)	69
Project 28. Valuation of Farm Buildings (Wiecking)	69

Group H. Projects Relating Primarily to Social
Considerations or Public Policy

Project 29. Control of Land Booms	70
Project 30. The Relation of Farm Real Estate Values and Earnings to Tenancy (Johnson)	70
Project 31. The Relation of Farm Real Estate Values and Earnings to Scale of Living	72
Project 32. Land Values in Relation to Land Utilization (Listed)	73
Project 33. The Effect of Taxes upon Farm Real Estate Values (Listed)	73

Group I. Miscellaneous Projects

Project 34. Capitalization of Farm Realty Income as a Basis of Valuation (Stauber)	73
Project 35. Land Titles and Conveyancing	78
Project 36. Distressed Land Holding in Relation to Prices	78