

**Adjustments in Agriculture
—a National Basebook**

Adjustments in Agriculture

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—a National Basebook

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Introduction

THIS "BASEBOOK" was developed to fill the need for a unified source book that assembles, coordinates, and interprets data on U.S. agriculture. Its objective is to collect the factual background, trends, and problems of our agricultural economy, and present them in a usable manner for people concerned with U.S. agriculture — for teachers, research workers, and extension workers in the land grant college system; for farm leaders and farm organizations; for political leaders; for agricultural businessmen; for government agencies; and for all others interested in the role of agriculture in the future development of this country.

The initial development of the basebook began with discussions in the National Committee on Agricultural Policy. This committee is sponsored by the Farm Foundation in cooperation with the state extension services and land grant colleges. Representatives of the Cooperative Extension Service, of the land grant colleges, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture have served on this committee since its organization in 1949.

The Center for Agricultural and Economic Adjustment at Iowa State University, started in 1957 and financed in part by a special Kellogg Foundation grant, decided to assist

the Farm Foundation and the National Committee on Agricultural Policy with the development of the basebook, and to publish it. A steering committee was selected to plan the publication and to select authors from the nation's leading authorities in the field. Committee members were:

Joseph A. Ackerman
Farm Foundation

George M. Beal
Iowa State University

Earl O. Heady
Iowa State University

William G. Stucky
Iowa State University

J. Carroll Bottum
Purdue University

George E. Brandow
Pennsylvania State University

Carl P. Heisig
USDA

Gerald H. Huffman
USDA

Frederick V. Waugh
USDA

C. Brice Ratchford
University of Missouri

Mervin G. Smith
Ohio State University

The most up-to-date data available at the time of the writing were used by the authors. Projections were made on the basis of these data. The reader can use these projections as a point of departure and modify the interpretations as new data, especially the 1960 census, would justify.

As used in the book, "farming" includes the production of principal crops and livestock products coming from U.S. farms. It is recognized that many specialized crop areas may have adjustment problems differing from those areas producing our principal crops.

The main emphasis in the basebook is on farming and the rural community. Some of the adjustments described have far-reaching implications for firms and organizations supplying farmers with goods and services, and marketing farm products. The authors are not pleading a special case for farmers but rather are presenting basic information so that the farm and nonfarm public may gain greater insight as they consider future programs and policies for agriculture.

The authors identify gaps in information in certain areas in agriculture. These suggest the need for further research so that our understanding can be improved.

A final purpose of this book is to stimulate similar studies, discussions, and publications of agricultural adjustment problems on the state level, perhaps using this volume as a pattern for the subject matter to be covered, and to permit conclusions to be drawn from state-by-state data.

The authors agreed that Mervin G. Smith would be Subject Matter Coordinator and Editor and that Carlton F. Christian would be General Editor. Each chapter develops a phase of agricultural adjustment but is coordinated and edited with other chapters to make a unified book. This unified approach was designed, however, to allow treatment of different aspects of the *same* element of agriculture. For example, James Bonnen evaluates people in farming as a production input. Calvin Beale and Karl Shoemaker examine farm people and their movements in the light of a national concern with human resources.

Editors



MERVIN G. SMITH (Subject Matter Coordinator and Editor) is Chairman and Professor of the Department of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology at the Ohio State University. He has worked in extension, research, and teaching in agricultural policy. He spent nearly four years in agricultural attaché work, has been on a number of special foreign assignments with the ICA, and has been Visiting Professor at Iowa State University with the Center for Agricultural and Economic Adjustment.



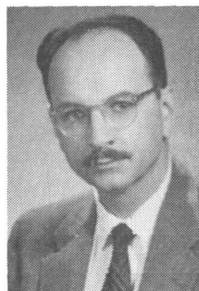
CARLTON F. CHRISTIAN (General Editor) was Agricultural Editor, Ohio Agricultural Extension Service, prior to retirement in 1958. He has also served as county agent, extension specialist in dairy marketing, and as manager of a large dairy marketing cooperative. He has had editorial experience with weekly and daily newspapers and farm journals.

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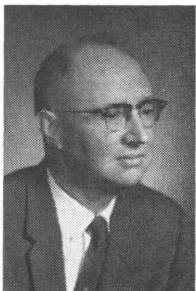
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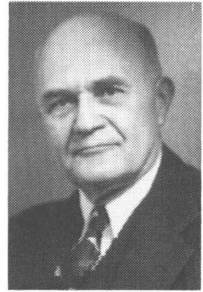
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