



Rural youth adjustment in selected areas of Teton county, 1925-1940  
by Glen V Vergeront

A THESIS Submitted to the Graduate Committee In partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Degree of Tester of Science in Agricultural Economics at Montana State College  
Montana State University  
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Abstract:

Rural youth are faced with many difficult economic social problems and adjustments. Their rapid increase as a proportion of the total population creates problems of economic opportunity in agriculture. Rural youth have poorer and less education than urban youth. Facilities and leadership have been lacking in the recreational program of rural areas.

The principal objective of this study was to discover the factors and conditions in the adjustment of the rural youth of Teton County to the situation in which they find themselves during: the youth period. To gain this objective the personal interview was used and this material was further supplemented by information from secondary sources.

The youth population group of Teton County has tended to increase in proportion to the child and adult population of the county. There has been an extensive migration into the south central part of the county of both children and young adults. No immediate decline in youth numbers in the county can be expected and, therefore, the migration of youth out of the county will continue.

A large proportion of Teton County youth have migrated from the county. In their migration they left the farms and moved to villages and cities. These youth entered a wide range of occupations, most of them outside of agricultural fields. Unemployment, lack of work opportunities and low incomes are problems of many of these youth. Those youth remaining have had to adjust themselves to the occupational demands of the county. They average below completion of a high school education\* Teton County youth have more formal education than their fathers; the village youth received more education than the farm youth; the girls received more than the boys; and the youth leaving the county received more than those youth who remained. The married youth, just establishing households, were having difficulties in securing adequate housing. Teton County youth's recreational activities were of an individualistic type, supplemented by such leisure time uses as the radio, reading, and commercial recreation.

Any planning to aid Teton County youth in solving their problems must consider the adjustments youth have made in the past, the number of youth and their present situation in the county, and the attitudes and goals of the local people as they apply to youth as future citizens.

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OF TETON COUNTY, 1925-1940

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GLEN V. VERGERONT

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Submitted to the Graduate Committee  
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June, 1940

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RURAL YOUTH ADJUSTMENT IN SELECTED AREAS  
OF TETON COUNTY, 1925-1940

ABSTRACT

Rural youth are faced with many difficult economic and social problems and adjustments. Their rapid increase as a proportion of the total population creates problems of economic opportunity in agriculture. Rural youth have poorer and less education than urban youth. Facilities and leadership have been lacking in the recreational program of rural areas.

The principal objective of this study was to discover the factors and conditions in the adjustment of the rural youth of Teton County to the situation in which they find themselves during the youth period. To gain this objective the personal interview was used and this material was further supplemented by information from secondary sources.

The youth population group of Teton County has tended to increase in proportion to the child and adult population of the county. There has been an extensive migration into the south central part of the county of both children and young adults. No immediate decline in youth numbers in the county can be expected and, therefore, the migration of youth out of the county will continue.

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PART I: INTRODUCTION

Rural Youth in a Nation

The age of youth is one of the vital periods of human development. During this time occurs the formation and development of skills, ideas, and social habits which carry the individual through his adulthood. Yet, today a major portion of youth is frustrated with discouragements and failures due to conditions beyond their control. Of all youth, those living in the open country and the village, the rural young people, have the most difficult problems to face.

Rural youth problems must be attacked and thought of in terms of adjustment to the dynamic realities of education, employment, social relations, and personality development in the modern agricultural and industrial world. "Society's maladjustments are of particular concern when they intensify the problems of youth. To the extent that these maladjustments make a permanent imprint on the personalities of large numbers of youth, their consequences will be last--enduring for at least a generation."<sup>1</sup>

The conditions and opportunities facing rural youth are closely related to the nation's economic and social life, agricultural and industrial. Rural youth difficulties must be faced not only by the farm and village communities but also by the cities which furnish them new opportunities. Most rural youth difficulties are beyond the control of individual persons or small groups. They are national in scope. "The future of American rural life (rural youth), and to a large extent of urban life, rests on increased

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1. Melvin, Bruce, and Smith, Elna W., Rural Youth: Their Situation and Prospects. Research Monograph XV, Division of Social Research, Works Progress Administration, Washington, D. C., 1938, p. 117.

industrial production, a closer integration of industry and agriculture, and an expansion of the cultural and human services so badly needed in rural society."<sup>2</sup>

The Teton County rural youth situation is similar to that of large groups of youth throughout the United States and all youth must act collectively in solving their problems. In order to understand the responses that Teton County youth make to the conditions which they find in their county, it is well to consider the situations which face a nation of youth and to find the nature of the adjustments which they are making.

The difficulties facing rural youth divide themselves into a number of related problems, namely: (a) the number of youth and their distribution by areas; (b) available economic opportunity for youth; (c) extent and characteristics of youth as migrants; (d) amount and type of education of youth as well as the adequacy of their education by way of occupational placement; (e) age and conditions of marriage; (f) social and recreational opportunities and needs of youth.

#### The Number and Distribution of Youth

The total number of persons in the youth age group is now larger than it has ever been or will ever be under conditions of present population trends. "In 1930 the total youth 16-24 years of age numbered 20,126,794. In 1935 there were in this country approximately 20,800,000 youth, almost 10,000,000 of whom were in rural areas, a record figure in each case. Moreover, it is estimated that by 1940, the total will have increased to more than 21,500,000 with well over 10,000,000 youth in rural areas."<sup>3</sup>

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2. Ibid. p. 118.

3. Ibid. p. XIII.















































































































































































