

ANNUAL
REPORT

OF
MUSKEGON
C O U N T Y
GOVERNMENT

1957

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Agriculture	1
Airport	11
Animal Shelter	15
Civil Defense	16
Clerk	29
Drain Commissioner	32
General Fund Expenditures	36
Health Department	47
Library	54
Register of Deeds	56
Road Commission	59
Sheriff	87
Social Welfare	98
Traffic Safety	113
Treasurer	136
Tuberculosis Sanatorium	149

March 20, 1958

To: Board of Supervisors, Muskegon County

Introduction

The following pages contain valuable information relative to the operation of Muskegon County government in the year 1957.

Financial Summary

From a financial standpoint, 1957 was a bad year. For the first time in five years, deficit financing was necessary, and the amount borrowed was \$330,000.

The General Fund budget performance was not good. The total adjusted budget appropriation for 1957 was \$2,265,513.50 and the amount spent was \$2,566,213.24. Two items in the budget accounted for most of the overdraft. Social Welfare exceeded its budget by \$280,000, and State Institutions required an excess of \$44,024.55. The net budget overdraft was \$300,699.74, so savings were effected in some departments.

Conclusion

1958 will be another crucial year. Carry-over of a \$285,000 deficit from 1957 plus additional excessive Welfare expenditures this year may result in an increased deficit.

An increasing deficit is dangerous. If the state of Michigan can be depended on to assume all direct relief costs over $1\frac{1}{2}$ mills, it will be a great help. Regardless of what the state does, we are still faced with the problem of reducing expenditures or increasing revenues if we are to "keep our heads above water" financially.

I made several proposals last year relative to reducing expenditures. These may have to be reconsidered. So far as increasing County revenue is concerned, several possibilities are available.

The supervisors might ask the voters to approve extra millage, or the County might begin to make charges for certain services performed.

No matter what steps are taken, something drastic must be done before it is too late.

Theodore P. Strunck

CONTROLLER, MUSKEGON COUNTY

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE
REPORT TO THE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
FOR THE YEAR 1957

The Cooperative Extension Service of Michigan State University provides an educational service to the people of Muskegon County through a cooperative arrangement between the county of Muskegon, Michigan State University and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The services of the University, the Agricultural Experiment Station and the U.S.D.A. are thus made available to the people of the county, both rural and urban.

The field staff, employees of Michigan State University, consists of an Agricultural Agent, 4-H Club Agent, Home Demonstration Agent and Consumer Marketing Information Agent. The salaries of these agents are paid from federal and state funds through Michigan State University. The University also pays the salary of one secretary and the mileage for the Consumer Marketing Information Agent.

The county pays the salaries of two secretaries, provides office space and funds for operating, including transportation of agents.

During the past year the four Extension Agents made 1,062 farm or home calls, had over 2,000 office calls, over 5,900 telephone calls, prepared 259 newspaper articles for four papers, made 758 radio broadcasts, 3 television shows, distributed over 18,280 educational bulletins and held or participated in 292 meetings involving over 15,700 persons. In addition, the local leaders in Home Economics and 4-H Club Work, under the agent's supervision, held 920 meetings involving over 9,000 persons.

Following are brief summaries of the four phases of the Cooperative Extension Service activities for the past year reported by the agents concerned:

I.

AGRICULTURE

Don Hearl
Agricultural Agent

The Agricultural Agent is the administrator of the Extension Office and is concerned with educational work in all phases of agriculture and related activities in the county. Some of the more important phases of the work are reported as follows:

A. Dairy Improvement - This work is carried on principally through organizations such as the two Dairy Herd Improvement Associations, three Artificial Breeding Associations, three locals of the Michigan Milk Producers Association and Federal, State and local cooperation on disease control programs.

The continuing decline in margin of profit is causing a decrease in the number of dairy farms and an increase in the size of the herds. Through better breeding and management the production per cow is gradually increasing.

Through the Brucellosis (Bangs) control program the infection has been reduced to below the maximum allowable for certification. The county has now been declared a "Modified Certified Brucellosis free" county and the slaughter of infected cattle is now being enforced.

All dairy cattle and beef breeding herds are now being tested for tuberculosis.

B. Soils - The county Soil Testing Laboratory, owned by the County Farm Bureau and operated by the agricultural agent, tested and made lime and fertilizer recommendations

on 1,111 soil samples during the year. Increased emphasis is placed upon the improving and maintaining soil fertility through use of lime and fertilizers.

Close cooperation is maintained with the two Soil Conservation Districts, the Soil Conservation Service and the A.S.C. Committee in all phases of the soil conservation program.

C. Forestry - This is a very important industry in this county. Assistance is given through educational meetings and personal contacts to the various phases of forestry, including reforestation, Christmas tree production, plantation management, growing nursery stock, etc.

D. Crops - A great variety of crops are grown in this county. The continual changes being made in recommended varieties, fertilization, improved tillage practices, chemical weed control, marketing, control of insects and diseases bring many inquires to the Extension office.

The celery growers were assisted with the establishment of numerous demonstration plots in nematode control, variety trials, pink rot control, use of growth regulators, etc.

Numerous chemical weed control demonstration and trial plots were established in various parts of the county. The purpose was to try out new chemicals and demonstrate the use of chemicals for weed control.

E. Home grounds and gardens - In an industrial area such as this, with an increasing number of people moving to the rural areas, the requests for assistance are ever increasing. To every home owner their lawns, gardens, trees, flowers, shrubs, the control of insects, etc. are all major problems that need attention. One person could

be kept busy just assisting the urban people with their multitude of problems.

F. Many more activities too numerous to mention -- The great number and variety of requests made for assistance can hardly be realized by anyone who is not closely connected with this work. Many problems are only remotely connected with or have no connection with agriculture but are important problems of the people and are therefore problems of the Extension Service. The Cooperative Extension Service is established to help the people to help themselves to a better way of life. Therefore we attempt to serve the people of Muskegon County in every way possible and in the best manner possible.

II. MARKETING INFORMATION FOR CONSUMERS

Harriet M. Lundberg
Consumer Marketing
Information Agent

To reach Muskegon homemakers with weekly food buying information which will assist them in getting more value from the family food dollar....this is one of the aims of the Marketing Information for Consumers phase of the Extension program.

The Consumer Information Agent contacts retailers, wholesalers, producers and food associations each week, gathering information about the local food supply situation. This information is then interpreted and brought to homemakers' attention through radio talks, newspaper, and direct mailings to consumers. Current schedule of releases is as follows:

In Newspapers: Muskegon Chronicle, every Thursday
in the Women's Section.

On Radio: Thursdays, 6:55 a.m. on WTRU
Wednesdays, 9:35 a.m. on WMUS
Mondays & Thursdays, 10:30 a.m. on WKBZ
with Betty Van Haver.

Monthly Bulletin - Food Marketing Notes
being mailed to 1400 homemakers.

In addition the Consumer Marketing Agent gives talks and food marketing demonstrations to many women's groups, PTA organizations, and to home economics classes in the schools.

Muskegon is the most recent city in which the marketing information program was added to the regular Extension services. Other cities are Detroit, Grand Rapids, Kalamazoo, Flint, Pontiac, Saginaw, Lansing, Traverse City, and Marquette. Various surveys are being conducted by Michigan State University to determine the effectiveness of such an information program. Results indicate that over half of Michigan's homemakers, urban and rural, are being contacted.

III.

4-H CLUB WORK

Don Harmer
4-H Club Agent

The 1957 4-H Calender included many events for the 4-H boys and girls of Muskegon County. Fashion shows, Conservation Field Trips, Livestock Tours, Achievement Days, County 4-H Camps, a 4-H Fair and a Fall Rally were just a few of the things that were held on a community and county basis for the club members.

Our boys and girls also participated in many district and State events such as Camp Councillor's School, District Elimination in judging and demonstrations, State Conservation Camp, State 4-H Show, 4-H Club Week, and Jr. Leadership School.

These educational events give our boys and girls an opportunity to make state wide friends and share in new experiences with club members from all over Michigan.

Since the addition of the new dormitory units and recreation hall at the County 4-H Center at Wolf Lake, the area has received increased use. Junior and Senior 4-H Camps were held during July and the area used year-round for other 4-H activities and meetings. The facilities are also rented out to groups other than 4-H.

There were 919 different boys and girls enrolled in 4-H Club work in Muskegon County in 1957. These club members were enrolled in 1,493 projects. In the agricultural projects there were 348 animals and birds raised and 233 conservation projects carried. There were 1,755 articles made in the clothing and crafts projects and 1,192 dishes prepared and 410 units of food preserved in the foods projects. These are but a few of the accomplishments of the 4-H boys and girls of Muskegon County.

One of the most important aspects of 4-H Club Work is that of local adult volunteer leadership. In 1957 Muskegon County had 137 adults leading 86 local 4-H clubs.

It is interesting to note what areas of Muskegon County are represented in the 4-H enrollment as the following figures show: 100 or 11% of the members come from farm homes, 486 or 53% come from rural non-farm areas and, 333 or 36% come from urban homes. These figures show that 4-H is represented in all types of homes, from the farm to the city dweller.

Elizabeth Nickell
Home Demonstration Agent

A. Aims

County Home Demonstration Council selected the following long range objectives and hoped for accomplishments for their families, homes and Community:

1. Develop leadership abilities and other talents of individuals.
2. Promote a knowledge of homemaking skills, including first aid and home nursing.
3. Participate in Civil Defense.
4. Promote better citizenship.

B. Involvement of Local People

In the 1957 - 1958 program year the following opportunities were presented to reach these objectives:

1. Under chairmanship of Mrs. Arvin Coe, 39 Council members guided the Home Demonstration Council business.
2. 336 volunteer leaders were trained to assist in planning, execution and evaluation of the Home Demonstration program.
3. Accomplishments
 - a. Traffic Safety study resulted in a group requesting a school bus stop be changed to a safer location, and 150 families reported having the family car safety-checked.
 - b. A lesson on food and nutrition brought to light the fact that many homemakers skimp their own nutrition by not using enough milk or dairy products and so do not get enough needed calcium in their own diets.

One member reported that her son invited a friend for a meal. The friend was a non-milk user at home, but after having milk served to him, and enjoying a dessert made of milk, he began ordering milk regularly for his school lunch.

c. Through lessons on adequate storage space and furniture arrangement a member reports she has been able to make an excellent floor plan for the house her family is building and to provide more convenience for each member of the family.

d. As a result of a lesson on Contracts and Property Ownership, groups reported 105 families had contracts put in writing (instead of verbal) and 265 consulted lawyers before making real estate transactions and contracts. One group invited a neighborhood P.T.A. and a Grange to meet with them to hear a Muskegon Attorney give additional information on this lesson.

e. Many members enrolled in Red Cross Home Nursing and First Aid classes as a result of Home Demonstration sponsorship of the registration for this activity.

C. County Projects

1. Home Demonstration members contributed to the 4-H Center by buying material and making curtains for the boys and girls dormitory windows.

2. The Extension Staff organized and presented a Washer-Dryer School open to everyone to give information on more effective, efficient and safe use of automatic laundry equipment which represents large expenditure of family budget.

D. Means of Reaching All Homemakers In and Out of
Organized Groups

The Home Demonstration Agent made the following
contacts:

No. office calls	259		
No. telephone calls	1265		
No. home visits	111		
No. news articles written	50	for <u>1</u> dailies	<u>2</u> weeklies
No. radio talks	156		

Example:

A homemaker phoned the Home Demonstration Agent late one afternoon to ask for help in removing candlewax from a carpet. Her Church Guild had just discovered that during a wedding in their new Church a candelabra had dripped a large pool of wax into new carpet. The Home Agent gave them the necessary directions for safe removal of wax. The process was so effective, the minister instructed all members of all the guilds in that church. This represented about 60 families who received the benefits from one phone call to the Home Agent.

E. Assistance Given To Or Obtained From The Following
Organizations and Agencies

Mrs. America Contest	Lady Lions
Y.W.C.A.	Muskegon Geriatrics
Day Care Center	Red Cross
Church Youth Group	Civil Defense

F. Cooperation With 4-H Club Program From Home Agent
Or Home Demonstration Member

15 Home Demonstration members served as 4-H leaders
Home Demonstration Agent assisted in following 4-H
events as the Home Economist on the Extension Staff:

District Eliminations

Newaygo County Fair judging

Muskegon County 4-H Fair

Leaders Banquet

Fashion Round-up

Grooming Lesson

4 Achievement Days

4-H Demonstrations School

4-H Judging School

Prospective 4-H leaders from

Fruitport Mothers Club

District judging

Clothing Leaders Training

4 Council meetings

Camp- Program Planning

Camp - Food Supervision

Camp - Attendance - 1 week

Preliminary Clothing Construction

Camp Staff Meeting class