This story deals primarily with the history of teaching in farm management and agricultural economics at Michigan State University for the 68-year period, 1898 to 1969. The recorded history of these areas on file in the M.S.U. library are primarily factual and objective and do not include many of the interesting events in the history of the departments and in the lives of persons involved.

The reasons behind why certain events occur, why staff members leave an institution, dropping and adding academic courses, changes in course requirements and shifts in emphasis in teaching, extension and research are seldom mentioned in the written reports. One has to resort to memory and speculation to fill in some of the chinks in recorded history, and a bit of rationalization is sometimes necessary in discussing the forces that move history.

The Early Years
Starting a New Discipline - The history of the early years of farm management and agricultural economics at Michigan State is complicated by the large number of different administrative units and persons involved, as well as by the "growing pains" characteristic of a developing discipline. During this period the area developed from a nebulous beginning in the late 1890's, to a discipline of definite and substantial content in the late 1920's and early 1930's. Today, 1970, it is an important segment of the resident teaching, extension and research activities in agriculture in the state and nation.

During their period of development, the disciplines of farm management and agricultural economics have played important roles in helping farmers in particular, and agriculture in general, adjust to a changing state and national economy, and in recent years, the Agricultural Economics Department has also assisted in the improvement of agriculture in developing nations in many different parts of the world.

The early involvement of applied economics with Michigan agriculture was not initiated by persons trained in economics. Its leaders were trained in agriculture. It is evident from the literature that many persons in agriculture, farmers as well as others, were interested and active in farm management and agricultural economics long before these areas became definite academic activities at MSU. And, when economics became involved in agriculture at MSU, it was the agriculturally trained persons in the College of Agriculture who took the initiative and started the first teaching, research and extension activities.

The Essay by Milton J. Gard - One of the early outstanding contributions to the field in Michigan was an essay by Milton J. Gard, a Cass County farmer. He presented his paper, "General Farm Management", to the Volinia Farmers Club (Cass County) in 1870****. The following is taken from an introductory paragraph.

"It--farm management--is a subject that every cultivator of the soil is interested in. It is a subject on which depends the success or failure of the agriculturist. More depends upon the proper management of a farm than upon the quality of the soil and the money invested. It matters not how rich the land,
how much capital is invested or labor expended if there is a lack of proper management the result will be failure. We often see men on poor land gaining in wealth when their neighbors, on better land, are growing poorer year by year."

In his eleven-page essay, Mr. Gard discussed the farm management process with clarity and shrewd analysis. Included in his essay were excellent comments on: (1) selection of a type of farming; (2) the best size of farm and the economies of size; (3) maintenance of soil productivity and handling manures; (4) crop rotation; (5) labor efficiency; (6) kinds and amounts of livestock to keep; (7) livestock production, good animals being necessary; (8) machinery - "in purchasing implements, we should be guided by the principle of greatest efficiency with the least expense of muscle;" and (9) marketing the product - "sometimes the judgment exercised in selling one year's products determines the loss or profit in farming."

Mr. Gard expressed these ideas 100 years ago. In 1875 he was appointed by Governor Bagley to the State Board of Agriculture which then governed the College. He served six years on the Board, however, there is no evidence that his interest in farm management was formalized into teaching or research at Michigan State.

**Early Resource Material** - Resource material for teaching farm management and agricultural economics was very limited in the early days. Because of the close relationship of research and extension publications to teaching, some early firsts will be presented here as a prelude to the history of teaching these subjects.

The first Michigan State University publication in this area was a farm management bulletin by Professor Clinton D. Smith, then Director of the Agricultural Experiment Station, (Mich. Agr. Exp. Sta. Spec. Bul. 9, "Suggestions on Farm Accounts," November 1898, 12 pages). In 1918, Ashley Berridge, Director of Short Courses, was author of Coop. Ext. Service Bul. 12, "Suggestions to Boys Who Wish to Prepare for Farm Work," with a total distribution of 30,000 copies.

The first major piece of research in the general area of agricultural economics at M.S.U. was also in farm management, but it was conducted under the auspices of the Dairy Husbandry Department and was entitled, "Cost of Milk Production Studies." This project was started in September, 1913, by Fred Riddell and Prof. A. C. Anderson, head of Dairy Husbandry. The result of this research, which continued for a period of seven years, was published in two bulletins: (1) Mich. Agr. Exp. Sta. Reg. Bul. 277, "Studies in the Cost of Milk Production, to December 1916, 36 p.; and (2) "Studies in the Cost of Milk Production," Mich. Agr. Exp. Sta. Reg. Bul. 286, January 1920, 37 p. Riddell was transferred to the newly established department of Farm Management in 1921.


During the period 1912-17 labor income surveys were made on many farms in 21 counties in Michigan. The Lenawee survey was of 300 owner farms and 153 tenant farms and published as "A Study of Farm Management Problems in Lenawee County, Michigan", by Dixon, H.M., and Drake, J.A., U.S. Dept. of Agr. Bul. 694, July 24, 1918, pp 36. Reports of the other surveys are of an informal mimeo nature.
Administrative Resume
During the 70 years covered in this historical review, many administrative units and at least 178**** persons have been directly involved in the evolution of farm management and agricultural economics, from the director of the experiment station in 1898, to the present staff of the Department of Agricultural Economics. The present department was established in 1949, and today is responsible for most of the teaching, extension and research in agricultural economics at Michigan State University.

Farm Management - The first class in farm management at Michigan State was with short course students in 1906. The work in research and extension was directly with farmers and was concerned with the micro aspects of agricultural economics. Work included all phases of farm management such as business methods on the farm, farm account books, enterprise cost studies and farm business analysis. Teaching and research in farm management were located in the College of Agriculture, first in the office of the Director of the Experiment Station under Director Clinton D. Smith, 1889-1909, and then in the office of the Dean of Agriculture, Robert S. Shaw, 1910-20. Extension activities were conducted by the Department of Farm Management Field Studies under Eben Mumford, state leader, and Charles Reed, state supervisor, 1912-17. Portions of these field studies, such as obtaining and analyzing farm income records, could well be classified as research. Extension activities in farm management during 1917-21 were handled by extension specialists located in the office of the Extension Director. Research in the cost of milk production was conducted by the Dairy Husbandry Department, 1913-21.

Teaching, research and extension in farm, management were combined for the first time in the first Department of Farm Management at M.S.U., which was established in 1921 but abolished in 1923. From 1923-28, teaching in farm management consisting of only one course which was again placed in the office of the Dean of Agriculture, under Robert Shaw and Fred Riddell. Extension activities were discontinued and research activities in farm management were minor during 1923-28. The second Department of Farm Management, established in 1928 with Professor Elton B. Hill as head, continued until 1949.

Agricultural Economics - Teaching the macro phases of agricultural economics at M.S.U. began in 1911 in the Department of History and Economics by Prof. Wilbur O. Hedrick, then head of the department. The Department of Economics was established as a separate department in 1917 with Hedrick as administrative head.

Extension activities in agricultural economics started in the marketing area in November, 1915, with the appointment of James McBride as State Market Director by the governing board of M.S.U. Mr. McBride worked directly out of the office of the Director of Extension, and was not connected with the Department of History and Economics. He was assisted by R. H. Elsworth for whom the Elsworth Cooperative House at M.S.U. is named.

Research activities in agricultural economics started in February, 1920, in the Department of Economics with the employment of Wayne Newton. His major work was in rural taxation and especially school taxes. Thus, by 1920, both teaching and research in the macro phases of agricultural economics was underway in the Department of Economics in the College of Arts and Science.
Merger of Farm Management and Agricultural Economics - On May 1, 1949, the personnel in the Economics Department who related directly to agricultural economics were transferred to the College of Agriculture and merged with the Farm Management Department under the new name: Department of Agricultural Economics. This move consolidated the work in both the macro and micro phases of agricultural economics, 43 years after the initial course was offered in 1906.

The reorganization was in line with what had been happening in almost all the other land grant colleges. The objective was to strengthen and make more effective the work in all phases of this important discipline.

The First Courses

The first M.S.U. course in the general area of agricultural economics was in farm management and entitled, "Business Methods." It was taught in the winter of 1906 by Clinton Smith, then Dean of Special Courses and Director of the Experiment Station. The description of the course was as follows: "Under this heading there will be given a synopsis of the laws of most interest to farmers such as those regulating commercial paper and the transfer of real estate: systems of bookkeeping and business methods for the farmer; and finally the rules for the general management of farms as a business. Students backward in arithmetic will be given an opportunity to review it."

It is of interest to note that at a later date, 1914, Robert S. Shaw, then Dean and Director of Agriculture and later President of M.S.U. three times (Acting President in 1921, again in 1923-24, and President during 1928-41) taught the first course in Farm Management (Agr. 2, three credits) to college degree students. It would appear that these early and distinguished administrators were pioneers in visualizing the need for adapting business principles to successful farm operation. And, this foresight may have contributed to their advancement to deans and administrators.

The first course in the macro aspects of agricultural economics was taught in the fall of 1911 by Wilbur Hedrick, head of the Department of History and Economics. The course was Econ 2, "Agricultural Economics," for two credits. This course, with many changes in name, content and number through the years, is still offered today.

The description of Economics 2 was as follows; "An advanced course which makes specific application of economic principles to the problems of agriculture. Farm organization, markets, transportation, credit facilities and the social aspects of farming are the chief questions discussed." Prerequisite, Econ. 4, "Economic Principles." The course started at 2 credits and the following year was changed to 3 credits. More emphasis on marketing farm products was included in 1914. In 1918 the number of credits for the course was increased to 5 and land economics was then included in the description.

Short Courses In Agriculture

Farm Management - Following the first course in 1906, farm management courses were offered each year and became increasingly important in the Short Course curriculum. Business methods, farm accounting and business arithmetic were offered during the period 1906-1910.

In the 1910-11 Short Course Catalog, there appeared for the first time a course titled, "Farm Management," described as follows: "Includes a consideration of special and general systems of farming in relation to special conditions and market demands. Discussions will be taken up relating to farm field plans, buildings, yards, fences, drains, rotations, fertilizers, etc. Considerable attention will be given to
methods relating to the business side of farming."

Among the other courses listed in the 1910-11 Short Course Catalog were, "Business Arithmetic" and "Bookkeeping." Robert J. Baldwin (later to become the first Director of Agricultural Extension Work at M.A.C., 1914-49) and others were listed as responsible for presenting these courses. "Business Arithmetic" and "Bookkeeping" as subjects were dropped in 1912, but the course "Farm Management" was continued for all short-course students.

In 1917, Ashley Berridge, a graduate of M.A.C. and farming with his father on the home farm near Greenville, Michigan, became the first Director of Short Courses at M.A.C., on a half-year basis. He and Dean Shaw assumed responsibility for teaching farm management courses to short-course students. Farm finance was first offered in 1918.

This sequence of farm management courses was continued until the college year 1921-22 when the Department of Farm Management was established with Prof. Howard Eliot as head. In 1921-22, Eliot, assisted by Fred Riddell, set up an Eight-Week Farm Business series with the following offerings (each 6 hours a week):

- Farm Accounting
- Farm Business Problems
- Farm Arithmetic
- Cooperative Marketing
- Banking and Rural Credit
- Farm Land
- Insurance
- Farm Management
- Electives (other Agr. Subjects)

The Eight-Week series in Farm Business lasted only one year and was then discontinued, presumably because of a small enrollment. In the next year, 1922-23, the following courses were offered by Eliot and Riddell:

- S 32 Farm Management and Accounting - First year, 8 weeks
- S 33 Farm Management - First year, 16 weeks
- S 34 Farm Accounting - First year, 16 weeks
- S 35 Cooperative Marketing - Second year, 16 weeks
- S 36 Farm Arithmetic - Second year, 16 weeks
- S 37 Rural Credits - Second year, 16 weeks

The Farm Management Department was abolished in May of 1923 by M.S.U. President David Friday as a result of a difference of opinion over a news release Eliot proposed to give to local media. Eliot's recorded termination date was June 30, 1923. Fred Riddell, the only survivor of the 10-man staff, continued to teach the short courses of Farm Management and Farm Accounting until 1927. All other courses offered in 1922-23 were dropped from the listing in the 1923-24 Short-Course Catalog.

In 1927, Elton Hill, then Assistant to Robert Shaw, Dean and Director of Agriculture after taking graduate work in farm management at Cornell University, took over the job of teaching farm management and farm accounting. Hill and Lauren Brown continued to teach these subjects to short-course students until 1959-60 when the subjects were assigned to Everett Elwood and Karl Wright, and later to Myron Kelsey and Leonard Kyle.

**Agricultural Economics** - Cooperative Marketing was first offered at M.S.U. in 1923 and 1924 by the Farm Management Department in the Eight-Week Short Course in Farm Business. Marketing was then dropped from short course offerings until 1928 when it was again offered for the three-year period 1928, 1929 and 1930 by the Economics Department. In 1931, it was again dropped from the Short Course curriculum.
Agricultural Economics S 35 was the title and number of a course first introduced in 1928 for short course students by the Economics Department and has been offered continuously each year since that date (since 1949 by the Agricultural Economics Department), a period of 40 years (1930-1970). Prof. Orion Ulrey was the first instructor for this course and taught the subject many times until 1965.

In 1946, the Short Course Department initiated a training course in "Elevator and Farm Supply Business Operation and Management." This course consisted of two 12-week terms of resident work at the University. Each term was divided into two 6-week courses. In addition, two 12-week periods of placement training under University supervision were required and one week of special residence work was given immediately before the completion of the course.

In 1946 the Economics Department, and in 1949 the Agricultural Economics Department, presented a major grouping of courses for the "Elevator and Farm Supply" program. Courses offered in the University year of 1946-47 were as follows:

First Half-Term, Winter Quarter 1947 (General Business)
- Econ 51 Principles and Applications of Economics
- Econ 52 Marketing of Agricultural Products

Second Half-Term, Winter Quarter 1947 (Cooperative Business)
- Econ 54 History and Philosophy of Cooperatives
- Econ 55 Legal Concepts of Cooperative Law
- Econ 56 Cooperative Business Organization and Management
- Econ 57 Cooperative Finance and Credit
- Econ 58 Policy and Technique of Cooperative Marketing of Farm Products and Mechanizing of Farm Supplies
- Econ 59 Membership Relations

The Elevator and Farm Supply Course was reorganized in 1947-48, its second year. Three instead of two 12-week sessions were scheduled and were offered for 12 instead of 6-week periods. In the process, three of the eight courses in economics offered in 1946-47 were dropped in 1947-48: (1) Econ 55, "Legal Concepts of Cooperative Law;" (2) Econ 57, "Cooperative Finance and Credit;" and (3) Econ 58, "Policy and Techniques of Cooperative Marketing of Farm Products and Mechanizing of Farm Supplies."

The offerings in the Elevator and Supply Course in 1948-49 were the same as in 1947-48.

The 1949-50 Short Course Catalog was printed during the year of the merger of agricultural economics and farm management into the Department of Agricultural Economics. In this catalog, listings in agricultural economics for the Elevator and Supply Course were reduced to only one course, namely, Ag Econ 52, "Marketing of Agricultural Products."

The agricultural economics courses taught in the Elevator and Farm Supply program remained unchanged from 1949-50 to 1960-62 when Ag Econ 51, "Agricultural Economics", was added. The course offerings in this area have remained essentially the same for intervening years until 1969 when "Business Management," was transferred from the Institute of Agricultural Technology (formerly the Short Course Department) to Agricultural Economics as Ag Econ 56.

As of April, 1967, the name of the Short Course Department, established in 1906, was changed to the Institute of Agricultural Technology. In the fall of 1968, all courses scheduled in the Institute were changed from eight weeks to the regular 12-week term in line with other class schedules at the
Undergraduate Courses (Degree Students)

Economics Department, 1911-49 - The first course offered to M.S.U. degree students in agricultural economics was Econ 2, "Agricultural Economics," two credits, in the fall of 1911 by Wilbur Hedrick, then head of the Economics Department. The course was increased to 3 credits in 1912 with added emphasis on marketing farm products. In 1918, the course was changed to 5 credits, with a number change to Econ 2a, and land economics was included in the description. In 1921, the course was renamed, "Rural Credits and Banking," and then dropped in 1923.

The second course offered was Econ 11, "Rural Organization," 3 credits in the fall of 1915, also taught by Hedrick. Rural Organization emphasized rural sociology and the name and course content lasted only one year. In 1916 it was changed to "Farmers' Cooperatives and Other Farm Businesses." It was then discontinued in 1918 and replaced by Econ 3a, "Farmer's Cooperative Associations and Applied Accounting," 5 credits, also given by Hedrick in 1918 and 1919. Hale Tenant assisted in the course in 1920. Dr. John Horner, a new staff member in 1922, taught the subject until 1925. Dr. Claude Clayton was the instructor from 1925 to 1928 when he resigned. The course number was changed to 303a in 1927, and in 1929 the name was changed to "Principles of Cooperation" and taught by Orion Ulrey. It is of interest to observe the continuity (or lack of continuity) in the first course in agricultural economics.

In brief, the sequence is as follows:

1911-1912 Econ 2, Agricultural Economics - 2 credits  
1912-1917 Econ 2, Agricultural Economics - 3 credits  
1918-1920 Econ 2a, Agricultural Economics - 5 credits  
1921-1923 Econ 2a, Rural Credits and Banking - 5 credits  
1924-1925 Econ 2a, Dropped  
1926-1939 Econ 11, Agricultural Economics (offered also during 1911-17. Number changed to 211 in 1927) - 3 credits  
1927-1930 Econ 211a, Economics of Production - 3 credits  
1940-1948 Econ 211a, Economics of Production - 3 credits  
1940-1948 Econ 211b, Agricultural Economics (revived) - 3 credits  
1940-1948 Econ 211c, Agricultural Economics - 3 credits (all were dropped in 1949)  
1948-1951 Econ 211, Agricultural Economics (revived again) 3 credits  
1952 Ag Econ 211, Dropped again and replaced by Ag Econ 203  
1952-1959 Ag Econ 203, Agriculture in the Economy - 3 credits  
1960-1965 Ag Econ 203, Dropped and replaced partially by Ag 240  
1966 Ag Econ 240, Agriculture in the Economy (revived) 3 credits  

Over the years the teaching personnel has changed as have the contents of the course. During the 55-year period, the first course has been dropped 5 times and revived 5 times, the last time being in 1966. The course number has been changed 6 times, and the name of the course has been changed four times. Consistency and continuity have not been the key words in the history of this course.

"Agricultural Economics," Econ 11, was revived in 1926, changed to Econ 211, and was taught by Clayton during the three-year period 1926-28. Orion Ulrey came to the department in 1923 and taught Econ 211 from 1929 to 1939 when Prof. R. V. Gunn taught the course for one year. Econ 211 was replaced in 1940 by a new series, Econ 211z, "Economics of Production." Econ 211b, "Agricultural Economics;" and Econ 211c, "Agricultural Economics," which in turn were terminated in 1949. Econ 211 was revived in 1947.
and continued until 1951 when it was replaced by Ag Econ 203, "Agriculture in the Economy." Ag Econ 203 was terminated in 1959 and replaced by Agr 240. "Agriculture in the Economy," (now Ag Econ 240) was reintroduced seven years later in 1966.

The first course in marketing presented by the Department of Economics was Econ 12, taught in 1916 by Hedrick. This first course in marketing has been offered continuously with only five changes in number designation (Econ 12, 312, Ag Econ 322, 342 and 441) and with only minor title change. The first course in marketing has been one of the most consistent offered during the 58-year period, 1911-1969.

The real push in teaching in this area began in the fall of 1923 after a new staff member, John Horner, had been added in 1922. The agricultural section of the department, now staffed by Hedrick and Horner, offered seven new undergraduate courses, and at the same time initiated four graduate courses.

Courses added, Fall 1923
- Econ 15 Market Techniques (Horner)
- Econ 12a Market Organization and Methods (Horner)
- Econ 22 Marketing Special Products (Horner)
- Econ 23 Marketing Research (Horner)
- Econ 25 History of Cooperatives (Horner)
- Econ 26 Extension Organization (Horner)
- Econ 27 Agricultural Economics Seminar (Horner)

The department's offerings were not changed greatly for the 5-year period 1925-29. Claude Clayton (Ph.D., Univ. of Minn.) was added to the staff in June 1925. His major interests were in land economics and farm product prices. He reintroduced Econ 11, Agricultural Economics and initiated Econ 211a, Economics of Production and Econ 46, Business Statistics.

Horner and Clayton both resigned early in 1928 and as a result three courses were dropped in 1929. Econ 325, History of Cooperatives and Farmer Movement (after 6 years and it has never been revived). Ulrey taught the course in 1928.
- Econ 326, Extension Organization (after 6 years).
- Econ 423, Agricultural Prices and Statistics (after 5 years) which was combined in the fall of 1930, with Econ 446, Prices and Price Analysis.

Harold Patton, a Canadian economist with a Ph.D. from Harvard, became Head of the Economics Department in July, 1930. Prior to his arrival, however, the Economics Department had made another study of its undergraduate courses in agricultural economics and had changed the curricula offered in the fall of 1930.

Courses dropped, fall of 1930
- Econ 211a Economics of Production, previously offered 1927, 28 and 29.
- Econ 312 Marketing Farm Products, previously offered for 14 years, 312 was dropped as an Ag Econ course but the number 312 was retained and name was changed to Principles of Marketing and taught by Logston.
- Econ 312a Marketing Organization and Methods, previously offered for 4 years.
- Econ 423 Marketing Research, previously offered for 7 years.
- Econ 430 Rural Credit and Finance, previously offered for 5 years

Courses added, fall of 1930
- Econ 322 Introduction to Agricultural Marketing. This made the first division at MSU between general marketing and agricultural marketing. Formerly the course was Econ 22, "Marketing Special Products."
Econ 326 Accounting for Cooperatives (Howland)
Econ 323 Agricultural Business Cooperatives (Ulrey)
Econ 340 Land Economics (Thrun)
Econ 448 Seminar in Agricultural Economics (Ulrey) (Subject revived after being dropped for 4 years)
Econ 449 Farmers' Movements (Hedrick)

In the same year, 1930, graduate courses were reduced from five to two. During era from 1930 to 1949, the undergraduate offerings in Economics for students in agriculture remained relatively constant with a course dropped and a new course added only occasionally. Changes for the period were as follows:

Courses dropped, 1931-49
Econ 449 Farmers Movements in 1933, dropped after 3 years.
Econ 326 Accounting for Cooperatives dropped in 1939, after 9 years.
Econ 211a Agricultural Economics dropped in 1949, after 9 years.
Econ 211b Agricultural Economics dropped in 1949, after 9 years.
Econ 211d Agricultural Economics dropped in 1949, after 9 years.

Courses added, 1931-49
Econ 211 Agricultural Economics added in 1947.
Econ 337a Marketing Horticultural Products added in 1931.
Econ 337b Marketing Dairy Products added in 1931.
Econ 451 Agricultural Finance added in 1934.
Econ 343 Cooperative Business Management added in 1940.

Farm Management Department, 1914-49 - As indicated, the first course in farm management offered to degree students at MAC was Agriculture 2, "Farm Management," in 1914. It was taught for seven years by Robert Shaw, then Dean and Director of Agriculture at Michigan Agricultural College; two years by Howard Eliot, head of the Department of Farm Management, 1921 and 1922; one year by Fred Riddell; then again for two years, 1925 and 1926, by Shaw; and in 1927 by Elton Hill, head of the newly created Department of Farm Management. Hill continued to teach the course, now numbered Farm Mgt 302, for 12 years when it was assigned to Lauren Brown. This course was changed to Farm Mgt 202 in 1945 and to Ag Econ 101 in 1952, and was offered continuously for 46 years until it was dropped in 1960.

In 1929 the course offerings in Farm Management were increased by the introduction of Farm Mgt 303, "Statistics of Crops and Livestock", which was taught by Verne Church, then in charge of the Michigan Crop and Livestock Reporting Service. This course was continued with different instructors until 1957, a period of nearly 30 years. Karl Wright was the instructor during the last 15 years. In 1958 a somewhat similar course, Ag Econ 447, "Analysis and Presentation of Agricultural Data", was introduced; the course number was changed to Ag Econ 470 in 1960, and was still being offered in 1969.

Two more courses in Farm Management were initiated in 1930, namely, Farm Management 301, "Farm Accounting" and Farm Management 404, "Successful Michigan Farms."

"Farm Accounting" was continued until 1952, a period of 22 years. Wright was the instructor for 18 of the 22 years. The course was revived in 1959 and continued until 1966 when it was again dropped. The majority of the Agricultural Economics staff was apparently of the opinion that farm accounting was no longer a subject of importance to Michigan agriculture. This was done at a time when one of the most important developments was taking place in the Agricultural Economics Department, the development
of the Telfarm electronic data processing project. In this connection, it is of interest to note that the College of Business Administration requires a 5-credit course in accounting in the spring of the sophomore year.

The second course initiated by the Department in 1930 was Farm Mgt 404, "Successful Michigan Farms." This course was taught by Elton Hill, and proved very popular with agricultural students, supporting enrollments of from 50 to 80 students. The course initially consisted of about 3 half-day field trips to two farms each trip and 3 full-day trips, usually on Saturday, during which 4 farms were visited. Farmers in different type-of-farming areas in the state who were cooperating in the department’s extension project in farm accounting and business analysis were visited. The farmers visited approved of the students having copies of their farm record summaries. By studying the farmers' farm record summaries, students could observe the organization and practices being followed on individual farms, and the ensuing financial results.

The trips were made in Greyhound buses. For many years, the Dean of Agriculture, Ernest L. Anthony, took the position that the Farm Management Department did not have expensive laboratories or related facilities as did many other departments. Michigan farms were the basis of much of the laboratory work in farm management, and consequently the University paid for the bus transportation. In later years, this policy was discontinued and students were required to pay a share of the costs. Many students commented that this course was one of their best in college. The course was continued for 30 years with the same number and much the same procedure until 1959 when it was dropped. Another major offering in Farm Management was Farm Mgt 410, "Farm Planning", initiated in the spring of 1945 by Hill. This course was discontinued in 1952 after a period of 7 years. In this course, the class visited an account cooperating farmer who was making plans for continuing growth and expansion. Soil survey reports for the farm were made available. Instructors from other departments in the College of Agriculture cooperated in presenting the subject matter. The content and procedure of handling the course was somewhat comparable to that presently followed in Ag Econ 451 "Farm Management", initiated in 1960, except that instructors from other departments in the College of Agriculture do not now participate.

**Resume, Farm Management** - For the period 1930 to 1950, five major courses were offered in farm management:
- Farm Mgt 301 Farm Accounting
- Farm Mgt 302 Farm Management
- Farm Mgt 303 Statistics of Crops and Livestock
- Farm Mgt 404 Successful Michigan Farms
- Farm Mgt 405 Special Problems in Farm Management

During the period 1945-51 three additional courses were offered:
- Farm Mgt 306 Types and Systems of Farming
- Farm Mgt 410 Farm Planning
- Farm Mgt 412 Land Tenure and Appraisal

Farm Mgt 301, "Farm Accounting" was continued until 1951 when it was dropped for 7 years and then revived during 1959. It was dropped again in 1966.

Farm Mgt 302 "Farm Management" was taught from 1914 to 1960, a period of 46 years, when it was dropped. During this period it was a 3 credit course and carried the numbers Agr 2, Farm Mgt 302, Farm Mgt 202 and finally Ag Econ 101. The 100 series of courses in the College of Agriculture were discontinued for the most part in 1960, when a new series of core courses in agriculture were
Agricultural Economics Department 1949-69 - Consolidation of the Agricultural Economics section of the Economics Department in the College of Arts and Science with Farm Management in the College of Agriculture occurred in May, 1949. In this report the history of teaching for the combined department includes the period from the fall of 1949 to the fall of 1970. The catalog material for the two years 1949-51 was printed in one catalog, and had been prepared before the merger. A committee on curriculum was appointed during this period.

Major changes in course offerings did not occur until the college year of 1952-53. In the fall of 1952 the following changes appeared:

Courses dropped, fall 1952:
- Ag Econ 301 3(202) Farm Accounting
- Ag Econ 306 3(3-0) Type & Systems of Farming
- Ag Econ 341 3(3-0) Urban Land Economics
- Ag Econ 410 3(2-2) Farm Planning
- Ag Econ 464 Field Studies

Courses added, fall 1952:
- Ag Econ 336 2(2-0) Marketing Poultry Products
- Ag Econ 339 2(2-0) Marketing Livestock and Heat
- Ag Econ 301 4(4-0) Farm Organization and Management.

Ag Econ No. 301 in previous years carried the title "Farm Accounting."

Three courses in farm management and two in agricultural economics were dropped; and two courses in marketing and one in farm management were added. Ag Econ 341, "Urban Land Economics" was combined with Ag Econ 340, "Rural Land Economics."

The new course in farm management, Ag Econ 301 (4-0) "Farm Organization and Management" emphasized the principles of production economics, but continued to include assignments in farm accounting. References to farm accounting, however, were dropped in the course description in 1956-57. In 1960, the name of the course was changed to "Agricultural Production Economics." In 1966, the course number was changed to Ag Econ 401 and the title again changed to "Production Economics and Management."

No further changes were made in course offerings in Agricultural Economics until 1956 when Ag Econ 302, "Farm Organization and Management" was revived. Major emphasis was given to farm planning with realistic capital shortages encountered in the growth and development of a farm business. It was not open to students with credit in Ag Econ 404. This subject lasted four years and was dropped in 1960. Ag Econ 302 was apparently replaced in 1960 by the initiation of another course, As Econ 351, "Farm Management" (5 credits). This course lasted seven years and was dropped in 1966. Catalog description indicated the course was somewhat similar to Ag Econ 451 "Farm Management" also 5 credits offered the next year, but a student was not allowed credit in both courses.

In 1956-57 the committee on teaching recommended a number of changes, which were adopted in 1957-58. The changes were:

Dropped, fall 1957:
- Ag Econ 343, "Cooperative Business Management" which had been offered for 17 years, 1940-57.

Added, fall 1957:
- Ag Econ 250, "Farm Accounting." reactivated after an absence of five years.
Another major shake-up in undergraduate course offerings in Agricultural Economics came in the fall of 1960, when six courses were dropped and three added:

Courses dropped, fall 1960:
- Ag Econ 101, "Farm Management" after being offered continuously for 46 years under various numbers and titles.
- Ag Econ 203, "Agricultural Economics", the successor to Econ 2 (the first course offered at MSU in Agricultural Economics). This course, initiated in 1911, had continued for 49 years.
- Ag Econ 302, "Farm Organization and Management" after being offered only 4 years.
- Ag Econ 404, "Successful Michigan Farms" after being offered since 1930, a period of 30 years.
- Ag Econ 442, "Intermediate Agriculture Marketing" after being offered only 3 years. It was replaced by Ag Econ 442, Agricultural Marketing and Prices II.

Courses Combined, fall 1960:
- Ag Econ 446, "Agricultural Prices", offered since 1927, was merged with Ag Econ 322, "Agricultural Marketing" renumbered to Ag Econ 342, with credit increased from 3 credits to 4 credits, and renamed "Agricultural Marketing and Prices I." Ag Econ 340, "Rural Land Economics" was changed to "Land Economics" and sponsored jointly by Agricultural Economics and Resource Departments. Title of Ag Econ 301, "Farm Organization and Management" was changed to "Agricultural Production Economics."

Courses added, fall 1960:
- Ag Econ 451 5 (3-2) "Farm Management" which lasted only 6 years 1960-66.
- Ag Econ 442, "Agricultural Marketing and Prices II" which lasted only 6 years 1960-66.
- Ag Econ 351, 5 credits "Farm Management" not open to students with credit in Ag Econ 451. This course also lasted only 6 years until the next review of course offerings and curricula in 1966.

The description of the new course, Ag Econ 451 "Farm Management" was as follows: "Farm business planning for efficient use of resources and attainment of business and family goals, principles of economics, management, farm accounting, insurance, property and contracts, and related fields as they apply to short-range and long-range planning." The course appears to be a conglomerate and mixture of six earlier courses which had been dropped: Ag Econ 101, "Farm Management;" Ag Econ 250, "Farm Accounting;" Ag Econ 404, "Successful Michigan Farms;" Ag Econ 410, "Farm Planning;" Ag Econ 351, "Farm Management" and Ag Econ 415, "Agricultural Property and Contracts."

The period 1960-66 was relatively calm insofar as changes in course offerings were concerned. Only one course was dropped, Ag Econ 415, "Agricultural Property. Rights and Contracts", because the instructor, Elton Hill, retired August 1, 1964.

Another real shake-up in the undergraduate curriculum occurred in the fall of 1966, when 9 courses were dropped and four new ones added:

Courses dropped, fall 1966:
- Ag Econ 250, "Farm Accounting" after being offered continuously since 1930 except for the 5 year period 1952-56.
- Ag Econ 344, "Cooperatives in the Economy", after being offered for 50 years under various titles was replaced by Ag Econ 443, "Group Action in Commodity Markets."
- Ag Econ 426, "Marketing Poultry Products" after 15 years, (2 crs)
Ag Econ 427, "Marketing Horticultural Products" after 35 years, (2 crs)
Ag Econ 428, "Marketing Dairy Products" after 25 years, 2 (crs)
Ag Econ 429, "Marketing Livestock and Meat Products" after 15 years, (2 crs)
Ag Econ 481, "Seminar in Farm Management" after 17 years.
Ag Econ 442, "Agricultural Marketing and Prices II" after 6 years.
Ag Econ 351, "Farm Management" after 6 years.

Some or perhaps all of the courses were dropped in 1966 because of small enrollment. This was especially true of the four two-credit courses in marketing.
In addition, department decision-makers seemed to feel that it was University policy to reduce the number of undergraduate courses, even though numbers of staff members continued to increase.
Courses added, fall 1966:
Ag Econ 240, "Agriculture in the Economy" (This course was designated as Agr 240 for the period 1959-66)
Ag Econ 420, "Agricultural Business Management"
Ag Econ 462, "World Agriculture and Economic Development"
Ag Econ 443, "Group Action in Commodity Markets"
Courses Combined, fall 1966:
Ag Econ 442, "Agricultural Marketing and Prices II" added in 1960 was combined with Ag Econ 342, Agricultural Marketing and Prices I and renumbered and renamed to Ag Econ 441, Agricultural Prices and Marketing.

The 1966 course changes reduced the number of undergraduate courses offered from 17 to 12. There were no undergraduate course changes in agricultural economics during the period 1966-69.
Undergraduate Courses, 1969-70 Offerings:
Ag Econ 240 Agriculture in the Economy, 5 (4-1)
Ag Econ 401 Production Economics and Management, 4 (4-0)
Ag Econ 412 Farm Finance and Appraisal, 3 (3-0)
Ag Econ 417 Land Economics, 4 (4-0)
Ag Econ 420 Agricultural Business Management, 3 (3-0)
Ag Econ 441 Agricultural Prices and Marketing, 4 (4-0)
Ag Econ 443 Group Action in Commodity Markets, 3 (3-0)
Ag Econ 451 Farm Management, 5 (3-2)
Ag Econ 460 United States Agricultural Policy, 3 (3-0)
Ag Econ 462 World Agriculture and Economic Development, 3 (3-0)
Ag Econ 470 Analysis and Presentation of Agricultural Data 3 (3-0)
Ag Econ 482 Independent Study, variable credit up to 6 credits.

Graduate Courses
Economics Department, 1923-49 - To meet the demand for additional studies beyond undergraduate courses, the Economics Department at Michigan State initiated four graduate courses in the fall of 1923. The department teaching staff, consisting of Wilbur Hedrick and John Horner was already offering nine courses for undergraduates. Thus, these two staff members gave instruction in 13 different courses throughout the year. In addition, Horner was doing some research. Teaching was a major job in those days, and instructors did not have much time for extracurricular activities. The four graduate courses initiated in the fall of 1923 were:
Econ 100 Economics of Food Supply
A seminar in Agricultural Economics, Econ 104, was added in the fall of 1924. A new teaching staff member, Claude Clayton, came to the department in 1926. The foregoing courses were changed to the 500 series in 1927, but the names and offerings continued the same until the fall of 1930, a period of 7 years, when all but one, Econ 504, Agricultural Economics, were dropped. A new course, Econ 507, "Land Economics", was added the following year, 1931.

The Economics Department continued to offer only two graduate courses, Econ 504 and Econ 507, for a period of 16 years, 1931 to 1947. However, for one year only, 1940, Econ 557, "Agr. Finance Seminar", was offered. In 1946, Clifford Hardin, who is currently Secretary of the United States Department of Agriculture, initiated Econ 508, "Marketing Research."

The real push in graduate offerings in Agricultural Economics was initiated in the fall of 1947 by Herman Wyngarden, who became head of the Department of Economics in the fall of 1946. He had been Acting Head from the fall of 1943. Clifford Hardin arrived at Michigan State in December, 1945.

Graduate course offerings in the fall of 1947 were as follows:
Econ 504 Agricultural Economics (Ulrey)
Econ 507 Land Economics (Larzelere)
Econ 508 Marketing Research (Hardin and Witt)
Econ 512 Economics of Foods and Feeds (Hardin)
Econ 514 International Competition in Agriculture (Witt)
Econ 515 Advanced Price Analysis (Vardin and Mauch)

In the fall of 1949, two additional graduate courses were added:
Econ 516 Cooperatives, Theory and Practice
Econ 524 Economic Problems and Agriculture Policy

Farm Management Department, 1939-49 - The Farm Management Department initiated graduate work in the fall of 1939 with two subjects:
Farm Mgt 500 Farm Organization and Management
Farm Mgt 501 Cost of Production Studies

Five courses were offered in 1941, which included in addition the following:
Farm Mgt 507 Land Tenure and Tenancy
Farm Mgt 508 Farm Management and Land Use
Farm Mgt 509 Research Methods in Farm Management

Farm Management 509 was dropped in 1942 and the number of graduate offerings continued at four subjects for eight years until the merger of the Agricultural Economic Section of the Economics Department and the Department of Farm Management in May, 1949.

Agricultural Economics Department, 1949 to 1969 - Graduate offerings after the merger of the two departments remained about the same for the next two years, 1950 and 1951. The committee, which was appointed in 1950 to review the graduate courses in the new department, came up with a revised program first offered in the fall of 1952. At this time, graduate courses began to receive greater emphasis. The number of courses was increased. The content of the offerings indicated an endeavor to include subject matter in keeping with the progress in the general area of agriculture, agricultural finance, mathematics, electronic computers and United States assistance in developing countries.

Seven courses were dropped and nine added. Number designations on most retained courses were
changed.
Graduate courses dropped in the fall of 1952:
Ag Econ 502 Seminar in Current Problems
Ag Econ 504 Special Problems
Ag Econ 508 Marketing Research
Ag Econ 512 Economics of Foods and Feeds
Ag Econ 516 Cooperation Theory and Practice
Ag Econ 517 Land Tenure
Ag Econ 522 Advanced Agricultural Prices and Marketing
Graduate courses added in the fall of 1952:
Ag Econ 540 Agricultural Production Economics
Ag Econ 543 Land Problems and Policies
Ag Econ 544 Agricultural Capital and Finance
Ag Econ 545 Work Simplification in Agriculture
Ag Econ 550 Advanced Agricultural Marketing
Ag Econ 551 Advanced Agricultural Prices
Ag Econ 552 Demand and Consumption Analysis
Ag Econ 562 Stimulating Economic Progress in Undeveloped Countries
Ag Econ 570 Research Methods in Agricultural Economics
Ag Econ 572 The Methodological Approaches to Research
Ag Econ 591 Seminar

The major changes effected in subject matter may be observed by a study of the offerings. Initiated were (1) production economics; (2) land problems and policies; (3) work simplification; (4) concern for the economy of underdeveloped countries; (5) research methods; (6) greater emphasis on agricultural prices and marketing.

Ag Econ 544, "Agricultural Capital and Finance," and Ag Econ 545, "Work Simplification," lasted for 5 years, 1952-56. Most of the other courses have held up rather well, but with some changes in content during the period 1952 to 1969.

Five additional graduate courses were added in the two-year period, 1956 and 1957, and were still offered in the 1969 University Catalog.
Graduate courses added, 1956-57:
Ag Econ 546 Dynamic Agr Production and Management Economics
Ag Econ 579 Behavior and Historical Approaches to Problems of Selected Foreign Areas
Ag Econ 555 Cost and Efficiency in Marketing
Ag Econ 575 Mathematical Programming
Ag Econ 576 Estimation of Economic Relations
Graduate courses added later:
Ag Econ 999 Research, added in 1960
Ag Econ 990c Mathematical Economics and Econometrics Work Shop, 1965
Thus, the number of graduate offerings in Agricultural Economics grew from 12 courses in the fall of 1949, to 24 in the fall of 1969. Graduate student enrollment increased from 28 in 1949 to 55 in 1959, and to 112 in the fall of 1969.
Graduate Courses 1969-70 Offerings:
Ag Econ 803 Emergence, Concepts and Setting of Agricultural Economics, 1 to 3 credits
The Agricultural Economics Department at Michigan State has made great progress in the past 10 to 15 years in the development of graduate work as evidenced by the variety and number of advanced courses and by the growth in numbers of students. Many staff members, particularly Professors Lawrence L. Boger, Dale Hathaway, Lawrence Witt and Glenn Johnson have contributed much to this growth. Glenn Johnson probably has taught more graduate students in agricultural economics than anyone else at M.S.U.

Requirements for Graduate Degrees

Masters Degree - Over the years, fewer changes have occurred in the requirements for the Master's than for the Doctor of Philosophy degree. For many years the Master's degree has had two options, A and B. In 1950-51, the Plan A requirements for a degree were 45 credits (thesis required), a major of 30-33 credits and a minor of 12-15 credits. Plan B requirements were 48 credits (no thesis), a major of 32-36 credits and a minor of 12 to 16 credits.

In both A and B options, not more than half the credits could come from the 300 and 400 series of undergraduate courses, with the balance from the 500 series of graduate courses.

By 1960-61 the minimum number of credits for both Plan A and B was 45 with a minimum of 13 in residence. In Plan A, the thesis could count for 8-12 credits. Plan B was optional only if deemed to be in the best interest of the candidate's study program. In both plans at least 23 credits were required in the 800-900 graduate courses.

In 1965, Plan A required 45 credits and Plan B 51 credits. The extra six credits were intended to balance
the extra work on a thesis by Plan A students. In Plan B, a research paper or papers was required to represent the equivalent of not less than three or no more than eight credits of the total program. In 1969 the credit requirements for Plan A continued at 45, but the number of credits required for Plan B had been reduced to 48. Other requirements for the Master’s degree in 1969 remained the same as for those listed above for 1965. The College of Agriculture may be the only college at Michigan State that continues to push the Master’s thesis program.

Doctor of Philosophy Degree - Many changes have occurred in the Ph.D. program at Michigan State during the past twenty years, primarily relating to language requirements.

In 1950, the credit requirements for the Ph.D. were a minimum of three years full-time work, which was intended to be the equivalent of 144 credits beyond the bachelor’s degree. All credits had to be completed within seven years. The language requirement was a reading knowledge of French and German, or English as one language for foreign students. By special permission, however, another language could be substituted. Two choices were given in the publication of the thesis: (1) 100 printed copies, or (2) one positive microfilm.

By 1960, there were two options to language requirements, either (1) reading knowledge of French, German or Russian, or (2) reading knowledge of one foreign language plus a program of course work in addition to that normally required for the degree. This program had to total not less than 12 credits in (a) courses to broaden a student’s cultural, scholarly and scientific background in areas not related to his minor or major fields, or (b) courses to develop the student beyond the normal proficiency in areas related to his major or minor fields.

In addition, a student was required to display competency in five fields. Three areas of 15 credits each were required, (1) general economics including advanced economic theory, (2) agricultural economics, general field, and (3) agricultural economics, special field. The two other fields were selected with the approval of the guidance committee from a list of eight suggested areas.

In 1965, an additional alternative in language requirements was approved on a University-wide basis. The new alternative was “a high-level command demonstrated by examination of one foreign research language, which means the ability to speak, understand and write the language as well as to read it fluently.” The other alternatives continued to be either (1) a reading knowledge of two languages or (2) a reading knowledge of one language plus the 12 credits of work normally required in the student’s graduate major.

In 1969, the Agricultural Economics Department continued to expect the student to demonstrate competency in five fields of study. Three fields were required: economics, agricultural economics (general field) and agricultural economics (special field). Two additional fields could be selected with the approval of the guidance committee from (1) economics (special field), (2) mathematics and statistics, (3) political science, (4) sociology and anthropology, (5) philosophy, (6) business administration, (7) education and communication skills, (8) technical agricultural fields, and (9) other. A field of study typically covered the equivalent of 15 credit hours of graduate level work. Minimum course requirements in agricultural economics in 1969 included 21 credits in agricultural economics, 18 in economics, at least one course in research methods, two courses in statistics and command over certain fundamental concepts in mathematics.
In May, 1969, the Agricultural Economics Department took the following action: (1) math requirements were raised to a minimum of Math 113 or 223; (2) statistics requirements were raised from two to three courses; and (3) economics requirements, which had been 18 credits and the passing of comprehensive examinations were changed to credits and the passing of the comprehensive plus three courses not considered micro or macro theory.

**Personnel**
The number of staff members in agricultural economics increased rather gradually during the 58-year period, starting with one in 1911, to 48 in the fall of 1969.
The number of staff members increased at a more rapid rate following the merger of farm management and agricultural economics in 1949, and remained relatively constant at around 46 to 48 during the 1961-69 period.
The average number of staff members by 10-year periods were as follows:
1911-19 - 5.9 staff members
1920-29 - 11.0 staff members
1930-39 - 17.5 staff members
1940-49 - 21.3 staff members
1950-59 - 38.6 staff members
1960-69 - 46.7 staff members

**Agricultural Economics Section, Economics Department, 1911-48** - The number of staff members in agricultural economics in the Economics Department increased gradually during the 17-year period, from 1 in 1911 to 3.0 in 1927; and remained relatively constant for the 20-year period between 1927-46 with from 8 to 12 persons. The number increased to 19 during 1946-48 when the department was headed by Professor Herman J. Wyngarden.

For the period 1911 to 1920, teaching was the staff members' only responsibility. Extension personnel operated directly under the Director of Extension. Research was initiated in 1920 with the appointment of Dr. Wayne Newton. The extension program was started in 1927 with the appointment of R.V. Gunn as extension specialist in agricultural economics.

**Farm Management, 1912-48** - Although there was no Farm Management Department in 1912, there were 6 men in the area functioning as field men. These pioneers essentially were doing research-extension work in farm management. Their main job was to obtain records from farmers and to analyze their farm business and financial records. The purposes of the studies were (1) to discover the profitability of farms, and (2) the reasons for the variations in financial success among farms, and (3) to present the analysis of the farm financial records to cooperating and other farmers as a guide to more successful farm operations. The number of these workers ranged from 4 to 6 during the nine-year period, 1912-20.

The first farm management department at Michigan State, initiated in 1921, soon had a staff of 10 members. Department functions included teaching, research and extension. Because of the difference of opinion already discussed between the head of the department and the president of Michigan State University, the department was abruptly abolished in May of 1922.

For the five-year period, 1923-27, the work in farm management was only in teaching, and was done by one man, Fred Riddell, assigned to the office of the Dean of Agriculture.
A Farm Management Department was re-established in 1928 with Elton Hill as head. During the first year, there were three staff members, Herbert Berg, Karl Wright and Elton Hill. The department was again assigned the responsibilities of teaching, research and extension. The number of staff members in the area continued to increase gradually to maximum of 14 in 1948-49, the year of the merger of the Agricultural Economics section of the Economics Department in the College of Arts and Science with the Farm Management Department of the College of Agriculture creating the Department of Agricultural Economics.

Agricultural Economics Department, 1949-1970 - The Agricultural Economics Department was established in May, 1949 with Thomas Cowden as head. The department had 30 staff members. The number of staff members continued to increase to 37 by July 1, 1954, when Lawrence Boger was appointed chairman and Cowden, Dean of Agriculture. The number reached 48 on July 1, 1969, when Dale Hathaway was appointed chairman, Boger, Dean of Agriculture.

Students
In General - The first undergraduate senior student in Agricultural Economics at Michigan State was James Bliss in 1928. The classes continued to be small, but reached 10 and 13 senior majors respectively in 1942 and 1943. The number of seniors dropped during World War II, but increased to 13 in 1948. The total number of undergraduate majors does not appear to be an record except for selected years. There were 29 in 1938 and 17 in 1948-49.

The first graduate student in Agricultural Economics was a Master's degree candidate, Ivan Wright, in 1916-17. His thesis was "The Farmer's Use of Credit." Until 1922 there were none, and then only one student, but following World War II, there were 13 graduate students. The first Ph.D. candidate was also Ivan Wright in 1927. His thesis title was "The Organization and Operation of the Joint Stock Land Banks." One of the most illustrious graduates of Michigan State University, Donald W. Francisco, received his B.S. in horticulture in 1914 and his M.S. in agricultural economics in 1923. His thesis was "The Advertising of Farm Products." For many years he was executive manager of the California Fruit Growers Exchange and initiated the "Sunkist Orange" idea. In later years he became vice-president of J. Walter Thompson Company, one of the largest advertising agencies in New York City.

The Farm Management Department first offered a major in 1930 and in the year 1933, there were four senior students. The numbers continued to be small in the following years, but reached a peak of 11 seniors in 1942. The total number of undergraduate majors apparently was not available except for selected years. There were 21 in 1943 and 29 in 1948-49.

Graduate courses in Farm Management were first offered in 1941-42 when one student received his M.S. degree in Farm Management. As in the Economics Department, the numbers receiving degrees remained small with a range of 1 to 4 for the period 1942-49.

Undergraduates - The two areas of study were combined in 1949 and started the year with 62 undergraduate majors and 28 graduate students. Of the 62 undergraduates, 30 were seniors. Of the 28 graduate students, 16 were awarded M.S. and 2, Ph.D. degrees.

The number of undergraduate student majors in Agricultural Economics decreased steadily during the period 1949-69. In the fall of 1949 there were 62 majors registered in the department; in 1959 there were 46 and in 1969 there were 24 (only 15 in 1968). Only three of the 22 majors offered in the College of Agriculture had fewer undergraduates in the fall of 1969 than did Agricultural Economics. Poultry Science had 7, Resource Development 20, and Soil Science, 13 majors.
It seems paradoxical, but as the department budget and the number of staff members increased, the number of undergraduate students and course offerings decreased. In 1949 there were 31 staff members, 23 undergraduate courses and 62 major undergraduate students in Agricultural Economics. The comparable figures for 1959 were 45 staff members, 21 undergraduate courses and 46 student majors. In the fall of 1969 there were 48 staff members, 12 undergraduate courses and 24 undergraduate student majors. The number of students majoring in other agricultural fields electing courses in agricultural economics has also dropped decidedly.

During the 20-year period, the total number of students in the College of Agriculture remained about the same, especially after 1951. During this period the Department of Landscape and Urban Planning which had 113 majors in the fall of 1949, was transferred out of Agriculture in 1958 to the College of Social Science.

The composition of the student body, however, has changed significantly in the past 10 years as indicated below. The number of underclassmen has decreased, and the number of upperclassmen has increased. This change is due largely to the increased number of transfer students from the Institute of Agricultural Technology, junior and community colleges and from other similar educational institutions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1961</th>
<th>1969</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Freshmen</td>
<td>341</td>
<td>247</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sophomores</td>
<td>337</td>
<td>238</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Juniors</td>
<td>310</td>
<td>501</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seniors</td>
<td>242</td>
<td>499</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Thus, it is evident that there would be fewer freshmen and sophomores taking agricultural economics courses in 1969 than in the earlier periods.

What are some of the other reasons for the drop in enrollment in Agricultural Economics over the past 20 years? Externally, the formation of two new departments in the College of Agriculture is probably an important factor. In the 10-year period, Agri-business with 54 majors in the fall of ’69, and Resource Development with 20 majors had been established as separate departments. The foregoing number of majors plus 24 agricultural economics majors would make a total of 98 in the general Ag Econ area. In many colleges of agriculture, all three areas are included in the Department of Agricultural Economics. The reason has been advanced that the decline in enrollment in applied agricultural economics has occurred because fewer agricultural graduates plan to return to the farm. This argument, however, appears fallacious in that it not take into consideration the large number of agricultural graduates involved in counseling farmers and others in applied agricultural economics. For example such graduates become County Agricultural Agents, 4-H Club Agents, Vo-Ag teachers, agri-business majors, agricultural extension specialists, and teachers in applied agricultural economics and related fields. It could be assumed that these people would benefit greatly from applied courses in Agricultural Economics. Of the internal factors adversely affecting the number of majors and the number of students in other majors taking agricultural economics courses, the following may have played a part:

1. Reduction of contacts with undergraduates and with Vo-Ag Teachers
2. Elimination of introductory and intermediate Ag Econ courses
3. Changes in assignments and interests in teaching undergraduates
4. Development of other interesting fields

1.) Reduction of Contacts with Undergraduates and with Vo-Ag Teachers - in 1949, one course in agricultural economics, Ag Econ 211 and one course in Farm Management, Farm Mgt 202, were
required of all freshman and sophomore students in the College of Agriculture. In addition, in the junior and senior years, Agricultural Education required three courses in Farm Management. At the present time, Agricultural Education lists one option but no required courses in Agricultural Economics.

In earlier years, both O. Ulrey of the Economics Department and members of the Farm Management Department provided much resource material to Vo-Ag teachers and students. John C. Doneth and E. B. Hill prepared a 160-page book (Edwards Brothers, Ann Arbor) entitled "Farm Management Manual" - in both a Student Guide Edition and a Teacher's Guide Edition for use in high school Vo-Ag courses. The Manual was first printed in 1937 and reprinted in 1941 and 1953. In addition, many meetings were held jointly with agricultural education staff members and state-wide Vo-Ag teachers.

The courses Farm Mgt 101 (formerly 202) and Ag Econ 101 (formerly 203) were dropped in 1960 and replaced by a 5-credit core-course Agr 240, Economics of Agriculture. In total, five core-courses were designed to replace the seven introductory courses formerly presented by each department. Thus, the Agricultural Economics Department started to lose contacts with undergraduates.

In 1961-62 some departments began breaking away from the five core-course requirements. In 1966, after a six-year trial, the whole deal was dropped. In closing out the five core-courses in agriculture, Agr 210 became Soil Science 210, Fundamental Soil Science; Agr 220 became Ag Eng 220 with same name as before; Agr 230 became Animal Science 325, Applied Nutrition; Agr 250 became Crop Science 250, Plant and Animal Genetics; and Agr 240 became Ag Econ 240, Agriculture in the Economy, ending the experiment in course changes across and away from departmental lines. In the shuffle, agricultural economics lost out in the options required or recommended by other departments in the College of Agriculture.

In 1969, the Agri-business major listed two options, no requirements in Ag Econ; Agr Education listed one option and no required courses in Agr Econ; Agr Engineering, none; Animal Husbandry, none; Crop Science, none; Dairy, none; Food Science, none; Horticulture Marketing listed one option, Ag Econ 240 or Econ 201 but no required course; Horticulture Science, none; Poultry, none; Resource Development, none; Soil Science required Ag Econ 240. This, again ended many of the early contacts the Agricultural Economics Department may have had with undergraduate students in other majors in agriculture.

It would appear that the Agricultural Economics Department missed a real opportunity to interest more students because of the nature of the material presented in the required core-course, Agr 240, Economics of Agriculture. The course content was quite sophisticated and theoretical, and of a nature that apparently did not appeal to many prospective or beginning students. Quite likely a more applied and less sophisticated course would have interested more students in selecting Agricultural Economics as a major course of study.

2.) Elimination of Introductory and Intermediate Ag Econ Courses - In the 1949-51 era, the Department offered two 200-series courses, twelve 300-series courses and nine 400-series courses and had 62 undergraduate majors. By 1969, one 200-series course had been dropped; all twelve 300-series courses had been dropped, and the number of 400-series courses had increased by two.

In the shuffle, the one farm management course in the 200-series had been dropped; all farm management and all marketing courses had been dropped from the 300-series and three of the four farm management courses had been dropped from the 400-series.

Left was the one 200-course and then a jump to the 400-series. Eliminating intermediate courses helped discourage student majors in other departments from becoming acquainted with agricultural economics.

In addition, students report that some of the 400-series courses have been taught at a graduate rather than an undergraduate level.
3.) Changes of Assignments and Interests in Teaching Undergraduates - The department has run the gamut, insofar as teaching assignments are concerned, from heavy to minimum teaching loads. For example, when Orion Ulrey came to Michigan State in 1928, he taught 11 classes, 1 courses, during that year. The course in Marketing was offered each of three terms. In the following four years, Ulrey taught 10 classes, 10 courses, each year. His assignment was 100,' teaching.

In the years of 1949-51, the Department had 34 staff members; offered 4 short course courses, 23 undergraduate and 15 graduate courses: and had 62 undergraduate and 28 graduate students. Twenty years later, 1969-70, the Department staff had increased to 48 members; the number of Ag Tech (formerly Short Course) courses remained at 4; the number of undergraduate courses had been reduced from 23 to 12 and the number of graduate courses had been increased from 15 to 22; the number of undergraduate students had dropped from 62 to 24 and the number of graduate students had increased from 22 to 112. See Tables 1, 4 and 5.

It should be stated, however, that not all staff members in either period were on teaching assignments either full or part-time. In 1969, for example, only 25 of the 48 staff members were on teaching assignments, with a range of 10 to 100 percent of their time in teaching; the balance were on extension and/or research.

In addition, in some courses the tendency has been to change course instructors rather frequently. In former years, most instructors had specific courses for extended periods of time. This helped to give the course stability; and the students, graduates and others knew the merits of the instructor and the course and made recommendations accordingly to prospective students.

During the past few years, there has been a considerable increase in available funds for foreign assignments for Ag Econ staff members. The question could be raised as to how such assignments might affect the staff members' interest in and continuity of the teaching process at Michigan State, particularly in the areas of major local and state concern.

4.) Development of Other Interesting Fields -Among the new majors in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources are (1) Agri-business with 54 student majors in 1969; (2) Packaging with 342 majors; and (3) Resource Development with 20 majors in 1969.

In addition other majors have increased in popularity, for example Fisheries and Wildlife, 47 majors in 1949 and 316 in 1969. Dairy Production majors have also increased during this period from 36 to 58 students.

Competition for undergraduate students has become stiffer, requiring more thought and effort to meet the interest and needs of all undergraduates.

Graduate Students - While the number of undergraduate students has been decreasing during the past twenty years, the number of graduate students has increased greatly from 28 in 1949, to 55 in 1959 and to 112 in the fall of 1969. See Tables 3 and 4. The increase in numbers was evident for both foreign and American students. During this period the Agricultural Economics Department at Michigan State University became very well known for the quality of its graduate students, many holding important positions.

The 1969 Conference
"Charting the Course for the Seventies" was the title given an important faculty conference in the Agricultural Economics Department at M.S.U. The conference was held on November 20-22, 1969, at
Caberfae Lodge in Cadillac, Michigan. The agenda had been well planned by the Faculty Affairs Committee.

The three-day conference was well spaced with central talks, open discussions and group discussions. Much primary work had been done by sub-committees prior to the conference. The major area of discussion related to the role of the Department in an ever changing world. The conference was largely problem-oriented and considered our present as well as our future plans in reference to teaching, research and extension.

During the conference considerable attention was given to a re-examination of the Department's teaching program with special reference to undergraduates. Important results from the conference were subsequent committee efforts to implement the Department program on the basis of the ideas and discussion presented.

The conference members discussed the present status of and proposals for improving our undergraduate teaching. A committee assigned to this task has been meeting many times and is developing proposals for an improved teaching program for undergraduates in agricultural economics at Michigan State.

In all, the conference was a success in many respects and should be given a big plus in helping give direction to future departmental programs.

**Honors, Awards And Special Positions**

The history of teaching in Agricultural Economics at Michigan State University would not be complete without the recording of honors, awards, and special positions given to or held by members of the staff. A listing of such honors, however, is fraught with danger because of (1) overlooking or not being aware of such honors, and (2) the problem of deciding which of the many awards and special positions of staff members to include and which to omit because of space limitations. An attempt has been made to list the major ones. The reader's indulgence and pardon are asked for in any omissions.

Armstrong, David L.,
Outstanding Teacher Award, College of Agriculture, Michigan State University, 1970

Berg, Herbert A.,
The United States Department of Agriculture Superior Service Award, 1958
Boger, Lawrence L., Vice President, American Farm Economic Assoc, 1960-61

Bonnen, James T.,
Senior Staff Consultant, Council of Economic Advisors, Executive Office of the President, Washington, D.C., 1963-65

Cowden, Thomas K.,
President, American Farm Economic Assoc, 1953-54

Joint recipients of the United States Department of Agriculture Award for Superior Service, 1964 (The only Extension unit in the United States to receive a unit citation in the Annual Superior Service Awards program of the U.S. Dept. of Agr. It was granted on the basis of the TelFarm program of farm management education making full use of modern electronic business machines).

Hathaway, Dale E.,
Senior staff member, Council of Economic Advisors, Executive Office of the President, Washington, D.C.,
1955-56
Chairman of the Committee on the Future of the University, Michigan State, 1959
Vice-President of the American Farm Economic Association, 1962-63
President of the American Agricultural Economics Assoc, 1969-70
Alumni Distinguished Teaching Award, Michigan State, 1964
Chairman, Search and Selection Committee for President, Michigan State University, 1968-69
Chairman, Academic Council, Michigan State, 1969-70
Hill, Elton B.,
Vice President American Farm Economic Association, 1942-43
Commemorative Medal for Outstanding Service to American Agriculture, Award from the Federal Land Bank System, 1967
Hoglund, C. Raymond,
American Association for the Advancement of Science, Fellow Award, 1964
American Grassland Council Merit Award, 1963
National Silo Association, Z. W. Craine Award, 1965
Johnson, Glenn L.,
Vice President American Farm Economic Assoc., 1961-62
Alumni Distinguished Teaching Award, 1966
Elected Fellow of the American Agricultural Economic Assoc, 1970
Nielson, James,
Editor, Journal Farm Economics, 1962-65
Riley, Harold M.,
Assoc. Editor, Journal Farm Economics, 1962-65
Witt, Lawrence W.,
Editor, Journal of Farm Economics, 1952-54
Vice President, American Farm Economic Assoc., 1955-56
President, American Farm Economic Assoc., 1966-67
Alumni Distinguished Teaching Award, Michigan State, 1970
Wright, Karl T.,
Distinguished Teacher Award, College of Agriculture, Michigan State, 1953

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**Michigan State University has been well known by three names: a) Michigan Agricultural College (M.A.C.) up to May 13, 1925; b) Michigan State College of Agriculture and Applied Science (M.S.C.) from May 13, 1925 to July 1, 1955; c) Michigan State University (M.S.U.) from July 1, 1955 to the present time. In this story, Michigan State University will be the only name used, even when referring to events in earlier years.

***See also Historical Highlights at Michigan State University in areas of Agricultural Economics and Farm Management--Ag Econ Dept. Misc. Series No.1968-8, July 1968., pp 7.