

FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY

GEOGRAPHIC SURVEY OF RESOURCE USE IN MONROE COUNTY, KY.

By

Louis A. Ross

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Approved:

Harrison V. Chase
Professor Directing Paper

Mary Faka Head
Representative Graduate Council

M. W. Crothers
Dean of Graduate School

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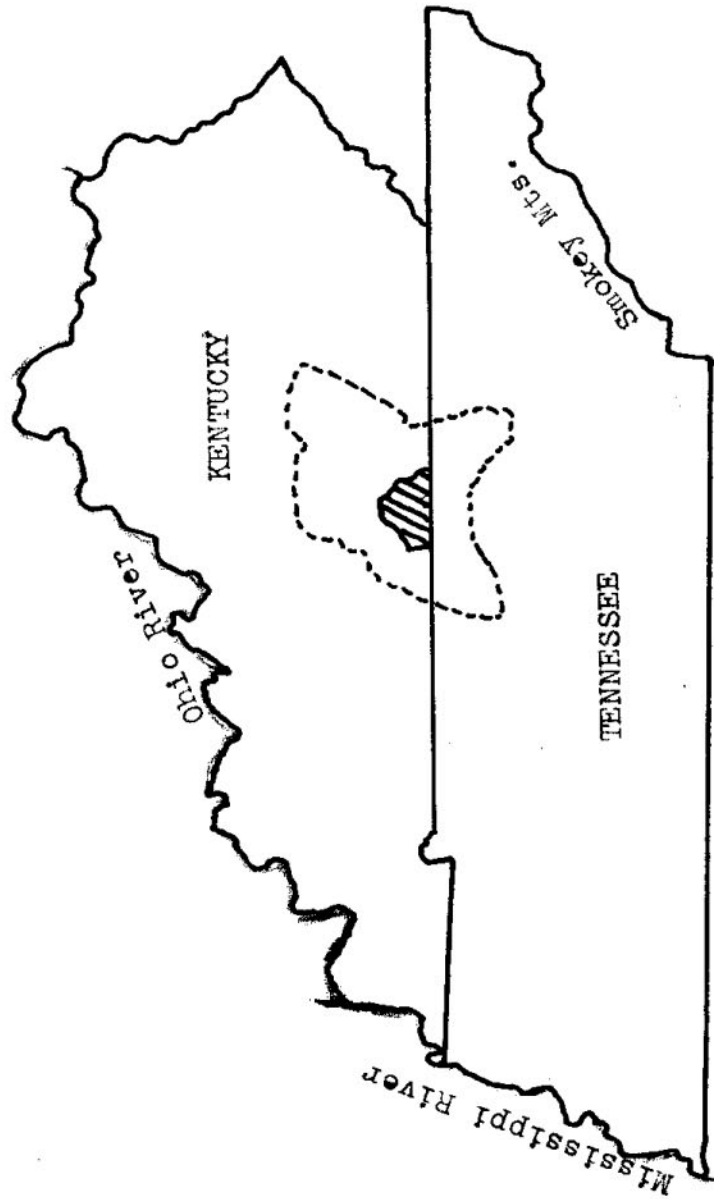
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LOCATION OF MONROE COUNTY



----- Eastern Pennyroyal Region

 Monroe County

Scale 1: 5,000,000

INTRODUCTION

Monroe County is in the south-central part of Kentucky. It borders Tennessee to the south. The Cumberland and Barren Rivers wind through the region. Along these rivers are rich valleys. Above tower the hills and ridges.

The history of Monroe County dates back to the presidency of Monroe. The county came in during his administration and received its name in honor of him. The county seat, Tompkinsville, received its name from Vice-President Tompkins. One of the most historic spots of Kentucky is located here--The Old Mulkey Meeting House. This was the first meeting house west of the Alleghenies and is preserved in a state park.

Most of Monroe County was isolated until about 17 years ago. No railroads served the county. There was only one major highway leading out of the county. The remainder were country roads only used by vehicles during the drier summer months. The only contact with the outside world during the winter months was by horseback. Most of the commerce came by steamboat from Nashville on the Cumberland.

Many of the customs and traditions of the early settlers are still practiced. The old court house is still the center of gatherings for the surrounding countryside on Saturday afternoons. Country people meet here under spreading

trees. They converse about the weather and crops as well as the latest gossip.

Monroe is one of one-hundred and twenty counties making up the state of Kentucky. It has 334 square miles. The largest county, Pike, has 786 square miles and the smallest, Robertson, has 101 square miles.

The county is characterized by a variable climate. It lies midway between north and south and it isn't uncommon for it to have both extremes of weather during the course of a day and the contrasts of both climatic regions may be found here. Changes occur rapidly. The average annual precipitation for the county is 55 inches. Of this average, 13 inches falls in the form of snow. There is on an average of 180 days of frost-free growing season.

The natural vegetation consists of coniferous forests which include maple, cedar, ash, beech, oak, walnut, elm, and sycamore. In the spring, one sees many wild flowering shrubs covering the hillsides.

This study was selected for a variety of reasons, most importantly because the author considers it worthwhile to really understand the immediate environment. This has been heretofore neglected in his education as emphasis has been placed elsewhere. Then, too, the author feels a study of this type will prove beneficial from the standpoint of practical experience in applying geographical principles

studied.

Many approaches could be used in making a study of this kind. The author will be making use of a relatively new experimental technique of geographical analysis. Answers will be sought to such questions as--What has influenced the county to become what it is? Is it different from other counties in the same region? If so, Why? Is the county utilizing its resources? And finally, what is the general level of living in this county and what factors have determined it?

Many techniques were utilized in preparation of this paper. The author made field trips throughout the county, conducted surveys in his classes, consulted various agencies in the county, and interviewed many of the leaders of the county.

SURVEY AND ANALYSIS

A. POPULATION

Resources usually mean land, forests, water, minerals, and the like to the layman. That is correct as far as it goes but if one stops with the physical resources the most important resource of all is omitted--the people who utilize these resources.

There are 14,070 people living in this area.¹ This is an average of forty-two persons to the square mile. This is about the same as the United States average of 44. It is much lower than the state average of 70. It is lower than one of its adjoining counties, Barren, but higher than another, Cumberland, which has a density of population of only 38. The section of highest concentration is in and around Tompkinsville, the county seat. There are only two other centers, Gamaliel and Fountain Run, of any size in the county, and both are much smaller than Tompkinsville.

Composition of the Population

The population is composed of 96.8% whites and only 3.2% negroes according to the 1940 United States Census.

¹U.S. Bureau of the Census, Sixteenth Census of the United States: 1940. (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1942).

Much of the data in this paper comes from the above source. However, when data for years after 1940 are given the sources are the most recent special census publications.

During the ten year period between 1930 and 1940 there occurred a slight decrease in percentage of negroes as it dropped from 3.7% to 3.2%. This indicates a movement away from the county by negroes or possibly a lowered birth rate along with the old dying. A negro tenant living out on a farm was found with twelve children however. There has never been any important minority problem here. This perhaps results from the absence of many foreign born people and the small proportion of negroes in the population. The ratio between male and female is fairly equal. The census shows 7,213 males and only 6,857 females. Broken down still further it shows 3,782 males over 21 years of age and 3,615 females. In the marriageable span, usually considered to be from the ages of 20 to 35, there are 1,518 males and 1,573 females. All ages are represented in the population. There are about half as many retired people, 65 years and older, as there are children under 6 years of age.

Changes in Population

There is a movement away from the county of young people after they receive their education. This was determined by a survey of graduation classes from high school over the last several years.² The number now residing in

²Unpublished survey by the author of graduates of Tompkinsville High School covering classes from 1939-1945.

the county was found to be very small. This seems to be one of the important problems of the study area--that of holding the young people in the county after they receive their education. They migrate to places with better economic advantages. The factories of Indianapolis attract a great number. In fact, there's a section of that city referred to as "Little Monroe County."

Monroe County has a high birth rate of 26 per thousand. This is slightly higher than the average of 25 for the state. This maybe explained by the continuing rural character of the county. The labor force of the county includes 4,322 workers and 2,893 of that number are engaged in agricultural pursuits. Large families become an asset rather than a liability under such conditions. The death rate is slightly higher than the state average. During the ten year span between 1930 and 1940 Monroe showed a 7.6% increase in population compared to 8.8% increase in the state. Most of this increase has been natural since there hasn't been anything to attract people.

B. LEVELS OF LIVING

The American people are looked upon as people privileged with a high level of living. This is true in as much as a great proportion of the people of the United States enjoy conveniences and luxuries and have opportunities

for education and recreation. This doesn't mean that all Americans live on a high level. There are many contrasts to be found. Some live in luxurious homes, eat sumptuous food, drive luxurious automobiles and wear fine clothes. Then there's the sharecropper's family living in one or two room shacks, eating pinto beans, molasses and bread, and with scarcely enough clothes to cover their backs; they live in unsanitary conditions with a slim chance at an education and not enough time or money to engage in any form of recreation.

Everybody would like to enjoy at least a moderate level of living. This is dependent to a great extent upon the amount of money a family has to spend.

INCOME

The United States Census shows 50% of the farms of Monroe County with a value of products sold less than \$400. This is about the same as for the state but much higher than 33% for the nation. Of the bordering counties, the lowest Cumberland, has 64% of its farms in this classification, and the highest, Barren has only 32% of its farms with value of products sold less than \$400. The per capita income for the state is \$778. This is about the same as other southern states, with the exception of Mississippi,

which is lower. The entire southeast averages lower than the \$1200 per capita income for the United States.

Another indication of the financial condition of the people is the size of their bank deposits. In 1944 there was an average deposit of \$225 per capita in the banks of the county. That same year the average per capita bank deposit for the state was \$324. This is higher than all the surrounding counties except Barren. Barren County had an average per capita bank deposit of \$298. The lowest was Metcalfe with an average of \$145.

Another index is the number of automobiles in use. In 1945, there were 523 automobiles in use in Monroe County, or an average of one automobile to every 20 persons. That same year the average for the United States was one automobile to every 5 persons and the state average was one to every 8 persons. The bordering counties were about the same as Monroe. Ownership of an automobile doesn't always indicate a high level of living however, since many are old and worth very little.

HEALTH

Health is a big factor in determining the level of living attained by a people. Sick people or those weakened from disease or lack of nourishing food never attain very high levels of living. So a county, state, or nation is

only as strong as the health and vigor of its people, either in peace or war.

The general health conditions of Monroe County as well as for the nation are perhaps far below what they should be. Many people in Monroe County were rejected in the past war because of physical unfitness. The author is under the impression that there is a direct relationship between the low income, limited educational opportunities, and poor health conditions.

Health is dependent upon many factors such as sanitary water supply, effective sewage and garbage disposal, control of communicable diseases, elimination of accidents, a well balanced diet, and available medical care.

An adequate water supply is essential to people everywhere. Wells and springs constitute the main sources of supply in Monroe County. The water table is far underground here. The majority of the wells are from 50 to 100 feet in depth. It is very difficult to strike water in many places throughout the county. The author knows of many situations where families, after many unsuccessful attempts at drilling for water, gave up and carried water from springs for half a mile from a valley slope. Both wells and springs frequently go dry during the summer months and water has to be hauled from great distances.

People living in rural areas such as Monroe County should be educated to prevent their water from becoming contaminated. This is a very real problem from a health standpoint. In many cases their water is drawn from wells and springs where surface water seeps in with all its accompanying germs. A large number of homes were found to have wells and springs situated down-hill from barns and out-houses.³ Seepages from them enter the water supply and should have frequent treatments to purify the water. This would seem to indicate a failure to educate the people concerning this.

Sanitation and sewage disposal are great influences on health. They are closely related to water supply. Great strides have been made by the Health Department to bring about better sanitary conditions but there is a long way yet to go. One of their projects has been the erection of sanitary privies throughout the county. There are far too many rural homes remaining without any toilet facilities whatsoever as well as a number of unsanitary ones. The 1940 United States Census shows 1,011, "37%", of the homes throughout the county to have no toilet facilities. Flies carry germs from outside toilet facilities--as well as from barns nearby, into the homes particularly when the houses are un-

³An unpublished survey by the Author of students in classes of the Tompkinsville High School, 1949.

screened, as many are. Conditions such as this undoubtedly lead to the contraction and spread of many diseases.

Cleanliness is an essential factor to good health. The United States Census in 1940 listed 96% of the homes without bathing facilities. There were only 10 rural homes with bathing facilities. Perhaps this is partially responsible for so much sickness during the winter months, as well as the poor general health conditions.

The program for the prevention of communicable diseases in Monroe County is inadequate. Communicable diseases are spread through failure to quarantine patients and unnecessary deaths are attributed to this. A good preventative program is highly desirable for the improvement of health.

Measures of health conditions here are the numbers of doctors, dentists, and hospitals available. The protection and maintainance of people's health depends largely upon physicians. They can prevent disease through leadership in public health programs. Monroe County has never had a hospital but is in the process of building one at the present time. The nearest hospital is in Barren County which borders Monroe. It now serves more than 6 counties. This results in a ratio of less than one hospital bed for every 600 people. A minimum satisfactory measure of hospital facilities is usually thought to be one hospital bed for every 500 people.

It is hard to say just how many persons one doctor can care for adequately but the maximum number usually accepted is 1000. There are five resident doctors of medicine in Monroe County or an average of one doctor for every 2800 persons. According to this standard, Monroe County is seriously handicapped. The author is under the impression that this same picture holds true in many of the rural counties of Kentucky. There seems to be a trend for doctors to concentrate in urban centers. Thus rural areas are not only undersupplied but in many cases it is difficult to secure the services of a doctor quickly in out-of-the-way places.

Monroe County is in an even worse position with regard to dentists. The standard usually accepted for a maximum number to receive a minimum of care is around 2000 people. Monroe County only has one resident dentist to care for the dental needs of its total population of 14,070. The possibility of receiving treatment in surrounding counties is slim, since they also are below standard in facilities. Some have no dentist at all and most dentists are already overworked.

A health department contributes much to the general health of a community. Monroe County has a health department but it must be classified as part-time, since the public health doctor works both Monroe and Barren Counties. He is

in Monroe County two days a week and the remainder of the time in Barren County. Monroe does have a full-time public health nurse and the department remains open throughout the week.

The public health picture can be alleviated through educational measures and the combined efforts of all the people. There seems to be a trend in this direction as testified by the building of the new hospital.

HOUSING

A good index to the levels of living attained by people are the houses they live in. In Monroe County houses range in classification from the best down to the worst. The United States Census for 1940 shows the average value of houses in Monroe County to be \$1,095. This is an extremely low average when compared with the state average of \$1848. The only surrounding county with a lower average is Metcalfe with \$1015. and the highest, Barren, has an average value of \$2390. per house.

Aside from the low average value per house, there are only 1,812 of the total 3,393 dwellings not needing major repairs. Many of these houses have foundations, floors, plaster, walls or ceilings requiring repairs or replacements to prevent them from being safety or health hazards. This doesn't necessarily mean they need to be replaced since many could be put in good condition by repairing and adding some

necessary conveniences.

Then too, many homes lack conveniences essential to healthful living. Only 6% of the homes have mechanical refrigeration and the figure isn't much higher for refrigeration of any kind. Only 15% of the houses have electric lights even though REA is available throughout much of the county. Only 4% have bathing facilities. The winters of Monroe County are cold, demanding heat from four to five months, yet 2,649 dwellings are heated with stoves. A total of 1,037 dwellings have no water within 50 feet. Eighty percent of the homes throughout the state are unscreened and thus not protected from flies and mosquitoes. The figure for Monroe County is not unlike that of the state.

There are only 184 telephones listed in the county. Nearby Barren County has 1,464 telephones listed.

By far the greater number of houses needing repairs and lacking such facilities as running water and electricity are in rural areas. There are only 693 non-farm dwellings in the county. Of those rented the average rent per month is \$7.71. This is much lower than the state average of \$17.97. This is also lower than the bordering counties with the exception of Barren and Allen. Overcrowded living conditions are also worse in rural areas where families average larger. Monroe County shows an average of 4.32 persons per dwelling. Since the value of products sold per farm shows 50% of the

farms with less than \$4.00 income, only a small percentage can afford homes with conveniences necessary to healthful living.

Monroe County is slightly above the state average in owner occupied homes with 54% in this classification as contrasted with 46% for the state. Only 14% of the homes are mortgaged. This is of significance because a much higher percent is mortgaged in most communities.

Poor housing along with unsanitary conditions contribute to tuberculosis, influenza, malaria and many other diseases. Thus to have better health the people must have better housing, and to have better housing and sanitary conveniences an agricultural people must have a higher farm income.

EDUCATION

Many older concepts of education have gone and others are undergoing great changes. Education no longer alone means books and classrooms, the ringing of a bell, and the rush to a playground. It no longer means merely starting at the age of six and having a certain number of years set aside for the accomplishing of an education. Education has changed from the traditional mastery of the "three R's" within the little red schoolhouse to preparation of the young for living and working in a changing world. The idea that education only happens in school has been replaced by the idea

that education goes on continuously at home, in church, during recreation, and is connected with all kinds of experiences. Outside influences bring about changes in people. Seeing movies, listening to the radio, reading books, magazines and newspapers, and listening to lectures contribute to the over-all process of education.

The county schools remain an integral part of the educational process. The opportunity is present. The question remains as to how well they are accomplishing their goal.

Monroe County has an army of young people in the school system training for citizenship as members of the community, state and nation. Monroe County ranks near the state average in both instructional and equipment expenditures.

The picture of a county's expenditure for education often closely resembles its ranking in health, income, and housing. Those counties throughout the state with higher incomes are spending more per pupil on education. Since the rural areas as a general rule have higher birth rates the greater number of the children are where education can be least afforded. The state has attempted to alleviate this situation through an equalization fund. Through this plan the poorer counties receive state aid to make them comparable with the richer counties.

Financial investment isn't the only basis for evaluating the schools although it is highly important. Another

indication is the condition of the buildings, equipment, and grounds. In Monroe County buildings range from one-room schools throughout the county to modern school plants in Tompkinsville and Gamaliel. Many one-room schools can be found in Monroe County and throughout the state. Monroe County has only one consolidated school and about 56 one-room schools. The landscape pattern being hills and valleys there are many out-of-the-way places not easily accessible to highways. This is a big handicap to busses in gathering up the children and transporting them to one center.

Another important consideration is the length of the school term. Naturally the longer the school term the more opportunity for learning. The national average is 174 days while counties throughout most of Kentucky average 160 days.

The efficiency of schools depends in a large measure on training of the teachers. Monroe County is poor in this respect as are other counties throughout the state. Higher salaries elsewhere have attracted many of the teachers. As an emergency measure many of the positions have been filled with high school graduates or those with a year or two of college. Teachers with B.S. or M.S. Degrees receive only \$184 per month for nine months or about \$1600 per annum. A teacher in Florida would receive considerably more.

No matter how excellent the school program, how fine and well equipped the school building, or how well trained

the teachers, children just can't be educated unless they come to school. The United States Census of 1940 shows the average number of days students attended school in Kentucky to be 129 days. The average for the United States is 150, and Michigan, for example, 170 days. This low Kentucky average appears even worse in the light of the fact that only 78% of the children in the state who should be enrolled are actually enrolled. That same year the national average was 84%. Only 412 out of every 1000 children between the ages of 14 and 17 are enrolled in high school. The author is under the impression that the average for Monroe County is about the same as that of the state. Perhaps this results in part from the area being predominantly rural. Many boys and girls miss school to help around the farm and many even quit between the ages of 14 and 16 due to the same reason. The census shows that only 6% of the population of Monroe County 25 years old or older have completed high school and the state average that same year was 15%.

The problem here seems to be not only to increase the educational opportunities but get the people to take advantage of those already offered. The author believes that it is largely through this means that the level of living of the county can be raised.

RECREATION

The importance of conserving the county's human

resources cannot be over-emphasized. The part that better housing and health can play in accomplishing this has been discussed. A well-developed recreational program can also be of great benefit to the people.

Recreation, or the proper use of leisure time, has much to do with people's physical and mental health and their usefulness to the community. This is also highly important to people's happiness.

Recreation includes many things. It should use leisure time in such a manner as to rebuild the body and refresh the mind and spirit. It also helps the individual to relax and forget his personal and business worries. It should give opportunity to develop wholesome interests outside the routine of life. A program of this nature will not materialize if left to chance. Many of the counties have people of all ages who lack opportunities for proper recreation and still others do not take advantage of what they have, or are unaware of the need for recreation.

The environment has provided the people of Monroe County with unusual opportunities for a wholesome life out-of-doors. The climate, warm in summer and cold in winter, lakes nearby, and numerous streams and large areas of forest land, give the people a wide choice of outdoor pursuits. The choice ranges from angling for bass in the streams and lakes to tramping through the forests in search

of squirrel, or stalking a covey of quail. A devotee of the out-of-doors can find countless scenic camping spots or opportunities to explore with the camera.

The state has established a park in the county about 3 miles from Tompkinsville, The Old Mulkey Meeting House State Park. Picnic grounds are available as well as arrangements for various games. Many tourists visit this park annually. A drive of 35 miles takes one to Mammoth Cave National Park and its picnic grounds and games of all types. It is a 20 mile drive to Dale Hollow Lake State Park with its boating, fishing, camping and many other facilities.

The recreational possibilities of the county would seem to be high. The possibilities must be qualified in the light of actual circumstances; many of the families don't have the money or time for recreation.

Tompkinsville has arranged for a summer recreational program this year for the first time. This is under the direction of the coach and provides for supervised games for children and a softball league for business men of the town. A program of this kind has many values.

Spectator sports provide much of the recreation of the county. The schools provides football, basketball, and baseball, and the surrounding counties have a semi-pro baseball league during the summer months.

All the recreational needs of the county cannot be

met in the out-of-doors. Some form of social recreation must be found indoors. The home was formerly the center of social activity but the trend is away from the home in recent years. This seems to be true here also. The community has not met social recreation needs with properly supervised recreational opportunities, and such centers as the roadhouse, beer parlor and night spots continue to be the sole resources of people in search of pleasures.

C. HOW THE PEOPLE EARN A LIVING

There is a relationship between the number of people living in Monroe County, their level of living, and ways they have for earning a living. Of the entire population 9,509 are old enough to be employed (14 years and over). Out of those old enough to be employed approximately 40% are actually employed. This percentage of employed is lower than any of the surrounding counties--the highest, Barren, being about 46%.

A further breakdown as revealed in Table I shows 3,912 males in the labor force and 928 not in the labor force. It also shows only 410 females in the labor force but 4,259 not in the labor force. Of the 4,259 not in the labor force 3,573 are engaged in their own housework. The juvenile delinquency problem in this county is almost negligible with 80% of the mothers at home. Other factors undoubtedly influence this situation. As to the unemployment problem

there were only 170 males and 43 females seeking employment according to the 1940 United States Census. Based on this, the unemployment problem would seem minor.

AGRICULTURE

Agriculture is by far Monroe County's chief means of earning a living. Agriculture employs 2,893 people or 77% according to the 1940 United States Census. The picture is out of proportion to the 37% for the state or the 19% for the nation. The 77% is about the same for the bordering counties, except for Barren county which more nearly resembles the state figure.

Much progress has been made in agricultural practices in Monroe County in the last ten years. An index to this may be found in income from farms. The county shows an increase from \$527 in 1940 to \$1,437 in 1945, for the average value of products per farm. During those same years Kentucky showed an increase from \$640 to \$1850. The author realizes the part played by increased farm prices brought on by the war, but is at the same time under the impression that better farming practices contributed much toward bringing this about.

Another way of evaluating agriculture is the size of farms. This doesn't mean comparing the size of a farm in Kentucky with a ranch in Texas but weighing the size of a farm in light of what would be needed in this farming region

to earn a good living. Monroe County follows the general trend throughout the country for fewer farms and at the same time larger ones. In 1940 there were 2,399 farms but there were only 1,969 farms in 1945. During those same years the average size of farms increased from 80 acres to 93 acres and the proportion of the county in farms decreased from 86% to 85%. Figure 1 indicates the growth of a few large land holdings. Figure 1 also indicates how individual farms have shifted according to this pattern.

SIZE OF FARMS					
Size	1940	1945	Size	1940	1945
Under 3 A.	---	14	140 to 179	150	163
3 to 9	192	128	180 to 219	60	85
10 to 29	454	281	220 to 259	43	43
30 to 49	333	225	260 to 379	52	43
50 to 69	334	292	380 to 499	14	19
70 to 99	356	313	500 to 699	11	14
100 to 139	370	340	700 to 999	-	2
			Over 1000	3	4

Figure 1

Closely related to the size of farms in evaluating agriculture is the value of farms. This is greatly influenced by the rise and fall of prices yet the progress made on the farms evidenced by improvements also has a part in it. The 1940 United States Census shows the average land

and building value per farm to be \$1,587 or \$20.62 per acre. Figure 2 shows that the value of farms in the county increased in much the same way as size of farms did in Figure 1.

VALUE OF FARMS		
1945 (No. of Farms)	1940 (No. of Farms)	Value
119	695	Under \$250
175	486	\$250 to \$399
222	485	\$400 to \$599
426	419	\$600 to \$999
405	145	\$1000 to \$1499
382	61	\$1500 to \$2500
156	24	\$2500 to \$4000
46	5	\$4000 to \$6000
28	1	\$6000 to \$9000
10	1	\$10,000 and Over

Figure 2

The United States Census for 1945 shows that out of the 1,969 farms in the county 38% are operated by tenants. This is higher than the state average of 33% but lower than any of the surrounding counties. Barren is the highest with 42% operated by tenants.

Another indication of the importance of agriculture as a means of earning a living, in addition to the workers employed, is the income from the sale of agricultural products. This amounted to \$1,219,000 in 1945 which was higher than the surrounding counties with the exception of Barren.

Another indication of the trend in agriculture is the increased use of machinery. There was an increase in the number of tractors in Monroe County from 90 in 1940 to 195 in 1945. Undoubtedly the increase in large land holdings partially contributed to this.

A big factor in the progress of agriculture here has been the shift from the one-crop system (tobacco) to diversified farming. An increased emphasis has been placed on livestock in both quality and quantity. Sheep were introduced from Montana and pure bred hogs and cattle were introduced. The value of livestock sold in Monroe County increased from \$387,276 in 1940 to \$983,305 in 1945.

Much of the progress has been due to agricultural experimentation, the work of the county agent, and agriculture teachers. A few years ago a county agent in Kentucky accidentally noticed some green grass growing in the middle of winter. After much experimentation Kentucky Fescue 31 grew out of it. The development of this grass has made it no longer necessary to wear out the land producing corn to feed during the winter months as the grass remains green all winter. Ladino grass has also been introduced. It has a tremendous carrying capacity thus supporting more cattle on the same amount of land. Hybrid corn has also been introduced. This has also increased the yield on the same amount of land.

Efforts to improve the agricultural income will greatly affect other business as this is the chief way in which the people of the county earn a livelihood.

OTHER INDUSTRIES

All other industries are minor in comparison to agriculture as a basis for earning a living. Wholesale and retail businesses rank second as a means of earning a living. They employ 231 people with a payroll of \$25,000. These businesses are mainly grocery, hardware, and clothing stores. There are 154 stores in Monroe County compared with 302 in Barren County and 112 in Cumberland County. The sales in Monroe County amounted to \$1,004,000 whereas they amounted to \$4,936,000 in Barren County. Thus, with only twice the number of stores in Barren County, sales were over four times as much.

Business and personal services rank third as a means of earning a living. They employ 201 people. This would include all business other than stores. Personal services include the professions and all others selling their services rather than goods or processing.

Manufacturing is a minor industry here employing only 135 people. The county has numerous sawmills, cabinet works, a coffin factory, a cement brick factory and several woodworking shops. They would all be classified as

handicraft industries and are operated in much the same manner as the ancient guilds. Cudahy Packing Company of Chicago opened a new cheese plant here this spring which will employ many directly and an even greater number indirectly. This would be more of a processing plant than a manufacturing concern but will go a long way toward changing the agricultural setup of the county. Barren County has much more manufacturing. It is significant that there is little manufacturing here because the county is predominantly agricultural. This is a big reason why young people of the county have migrated to places with greater economic opportunities.

Other ways of earning a living include transportation and utilities, construction, and coal mining in nearby counties with a total employment of 106.

D. RESOURCES

Every community has two very valuable possessions: its people and the endowment of trees, minerals, soils, fish, game, and other gifts of nature. These are usually classified as natural resources and human resources. If natural resources are too rapidly and wastefully used, human resources or people will suffer. A community cannot be prosperous very long unless all its people can earn enough money to live well. In order to accomplish this there

must be a continued supply only possible through planned conservation.

Most of Monroe County was at one time covered with forests abundant with wild turkey, deer, and the streams were alive with fish. This was the hunting ground of the Indians and many battles were fought between various tribes for control of the area. Many Indian relics are still found here. There were so many trees here early settlers felled them to have a place to cultivate crops. Then came commercial lumber companies and the forests were literally "mined". None of the good timber remains in the county.

The mining of the forest has had a profound influence upon the soils of the county. Removal of the forest cover in readily accessible areas has resulted in floods and erosion. Much of the valuable topsoil has gone down the streams year in and year out. Soil has gone down the streams which will require centuries to restore. With the forest cover gone, floods are increasingly bad. The worst flood on record in Monroe and bordering counties occurred in June, 1949. The soil conservation agent estimated a loss of 250,000 acres of corn, wheat and oats. This failed to take into account the value of topsoil washed away. No efforts are being made to replant cutover areas. With higher prices resulting from the war the remainder of the good timber is being cut. There were only \$17,710 in forest products sold in 1940 but \$38,399 in 1945.

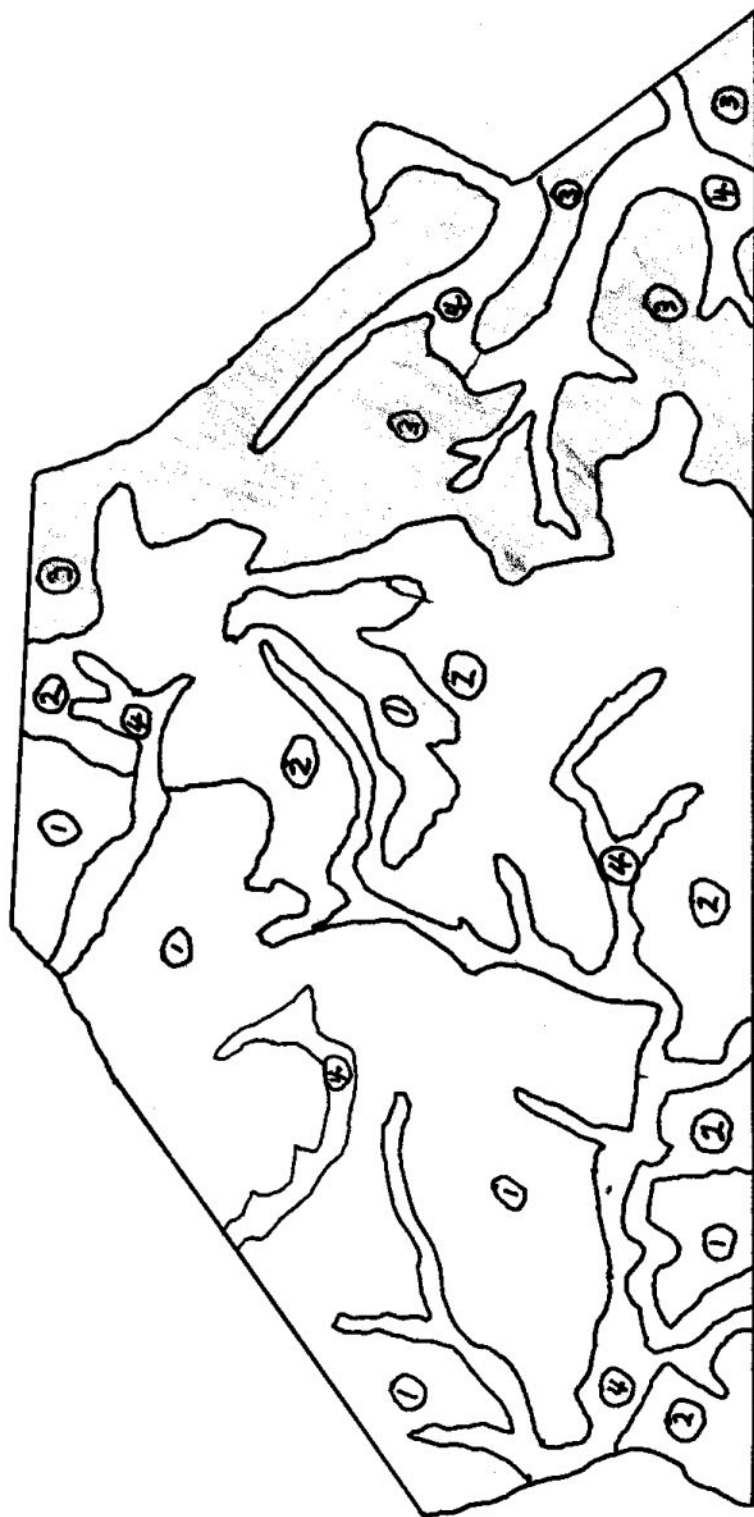
Soil conservation is vital to Monroe County with a minimum of 77% of the population directly dependant upon use of the soil and most of the rest of the population indirectly dependent.

Much of the rich topsoil has been needlessly wasted through unwise practices. Many farmers have grown corn on the same land year after year in the past, thus taking everything out of the soil. It has often been left idle with weeds taking over. Still others have cultivated hill-sides of which there are many which should have been left in grass as pasture land or used for tree crops. Good land was washed away and fields were cut up by ditches through down-hill plowing. Much of the land could have been saved through contour plowing. The land use map of Monroe County, Figure 3, shows the erosion problem and the extent to which it is eroded.

Monroe County is using its land in the following manner: cultivated land, 55,187 acres; idle land, 23,504 acres, pasture land, 42,561 acres; woodland not pastured, 48,729 acres; and cropland 1,809 acres.

MONROE COUNTY SOIL AREA MAP

-30-



1 Deep to moderately deep, low grade limestone soils. Gentle and moderately sloping topography. Steep slopes along streams. Erosion moderate.

2 Deep low grade limestone soils, many of which are cherty, slope moderate to moderately steep. Broken, choppy with many sinks locally. Steep broken slopes along streams. Erosion moderately severe to severe.

3 Hilly and broken with some hills rounded, majority of soils thin, from mixed limestone, shale and sandstone. Erosion severe on cleared areas.

4 Alluvial soils, bottoms and terraces along the Cumberland and Barren Rivers and larger tributaries. Erosion negligible.

Figure 3

CONCLUSION

Monroe County is without doubt predominantly agricultural. The county has poor sanitary conditions, many of the homes lack sanitary conveniences, and the population is made up for the most part of a medium to low level of living.

What people do with their resources determines their level of living. Up until fifteen years ago, the people of Monroe County were wasting their resources. Farmers were growing only one crop, tobacco, year in and year out. They were allowing rich topsoil to go down the streams, and gullies to progress across their fields without much attempt to prevent these things from happening. The level of living of living was extremely low.

Monroe County really started on the upgrade about 15 years ago, when for the first time in its history, highways gave it access to the rest of the state. At that time it employed a county agent and later a soil conservation agent. Agricultural instruction was added to the schools. Farmers switched from the old one crop system to diversified farming. Rotation of crops was started and the land was built up. Corn acreage was decreased and other crops substituted, such as wheat, grasses, soy beans, rye and oats. Farmers started raising more livestock.

Much progress has been made but there is a long way

yet to go. Further progress can be made only through leadership and the concentrated effort of all the people. Continued emphasis must be placed on agriculture. Land subject to erosion must continue to be put in tree crops and grasses. More land must be given to dairying with a processing plant ready to buy all available milk. More manufacturing based on the processing of agricultural products must be brought in to give economic opportunities to the young people. It is only in this way that the county can keep its young graduates. If the county is to continue to go forward it must keep the young people after they receive their education.

Per capita income must be increased in order to raise the educational level, bring about better health conditions, better housing and recreational opportunities.

The future of Monroe County depends on the well-being of all its people. Thus the utilization of resources is of paramount importance.

APPENDIX

Table I

MONROE COUNTY LABOR FORCE

STATUS	MALE	FEMALE
In Labor Force	3,912	410
Employed	3,460	298
Wage and Salary Workers	572	206
Unpaid Family Workers	500	38
On Public Emergency Work	282	69
Seeking Work	170	43
Experienced	158	41
New Workers	12	2
Not in Labor Force	928	4,259
Doing own Housework	47	3,573
In School	222	202
Unable to work	288	235
In Institutions	8	5
OCCUPATIONS		
Professional	65	42
Semi-Professional	5	1
Farmers	2,162	26
Proprietors, Managers & Officials	136	17
Clerical and Sales	81	52
Craftsmen and Foremen	94	1
Operatives and Kindred Workers	96	10
Domestic Service Workers	-	91
Service Workers	32	22
Farm Laborers	180	2
Laborers (Except Farm)	96	2

* Includes 14 years and older

TABLE II

SCHOOL COMPLETED BY MONROE POPULATION

YEARS	NUMBER
No School	161
Grades 1 to 4	832
Grades 5 to 6	666
Grades 7 to 8	1,349
High School 1 to 3	84
High School 4	90
College 1 to 3	53
College 4	34

* Includes Population 25 years and older and based on 1940 Statistics.

TABLE III

USE OF FARM LAND IN MONROE COUNTY

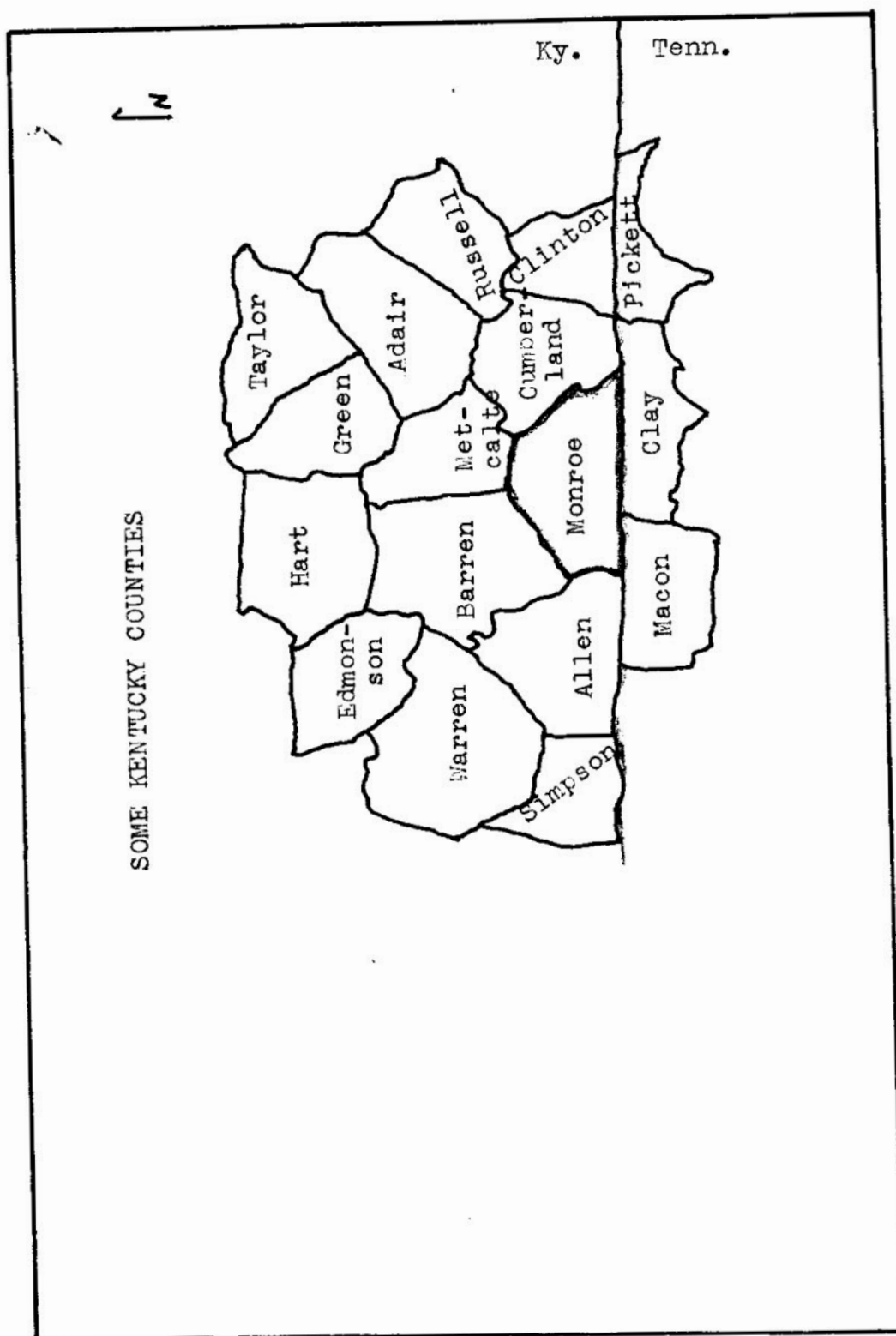
MANNER USED	ACRES
Total Crop Land	79,402
Cultivated Land	55,187
Idle Land	23,504
Pasture Land (Total)	42,561
Woodland Not Pastured	48,729
Cropland	1,809

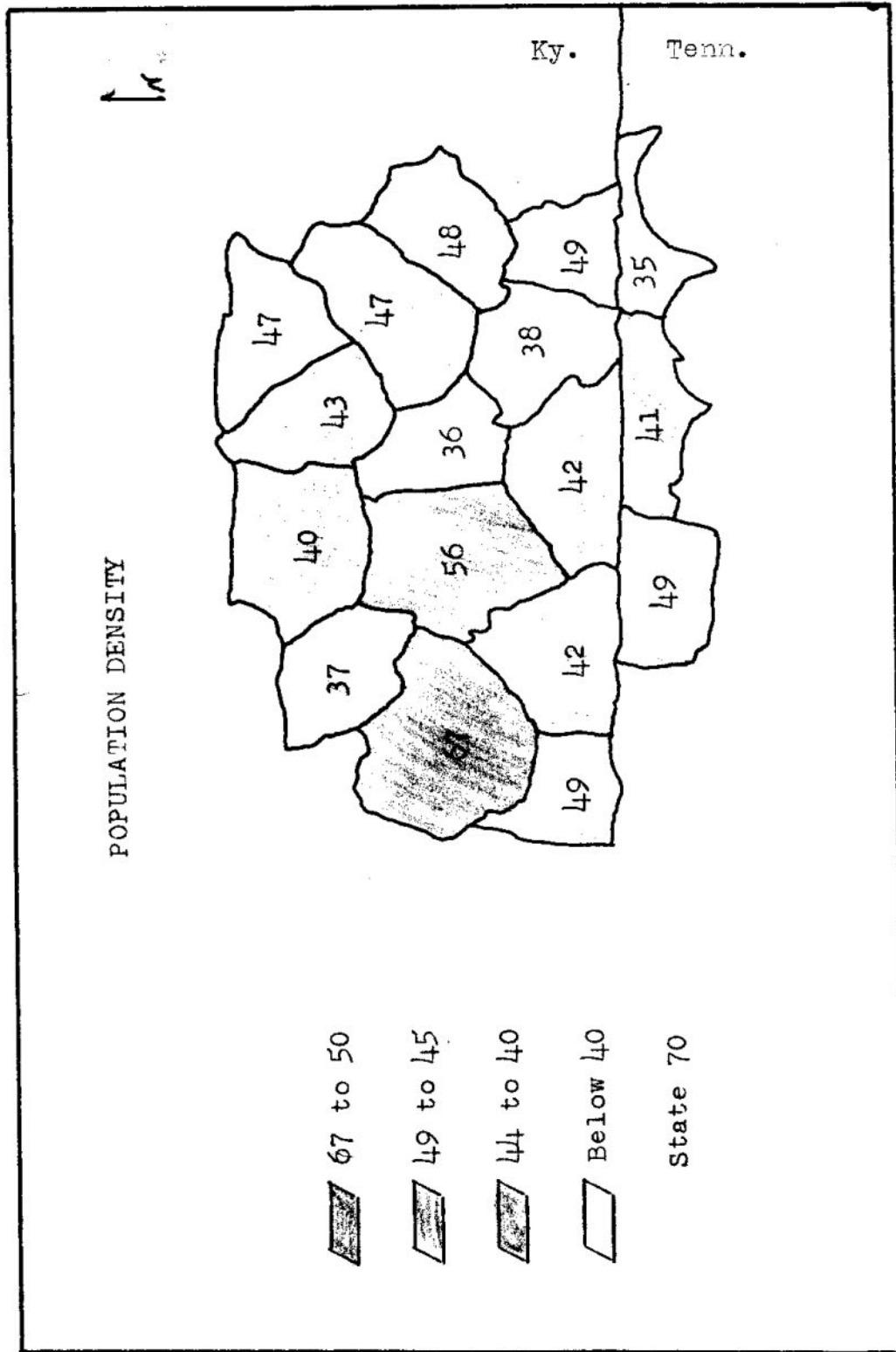
* Based on 1940 Figures

TABLE IV

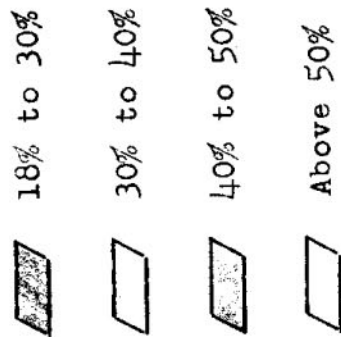
POPULATION BY AGES FOR MONROE COUNTY

AGES	TOTAL	MALE	FEMALE
Under 5 Years	1,635	876	759
5 to 9	1,636	827	809
10 to 14	1,609	836	773
15 to 19	1,539	774	765
20 to 24	1,197	600	597
25 to 29	1,066	552	514
30 to 34	928	466	462
35 to 39	803	389	414
40 to 44	685	344	341
45 to 49	665	338	327
50 to 54	582	293	289
55 to 59	439	218	221
60 to 64	402	214	188
65 to 69	386	223	163
70 to 74	260	144	116
Over 75 Years	238	119	119





FARMS WITH VALUE OF PRODUCTS LESS THAN \$400



State 51%



Ky.

Tenn.

12

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

21 to 14



14 to 9



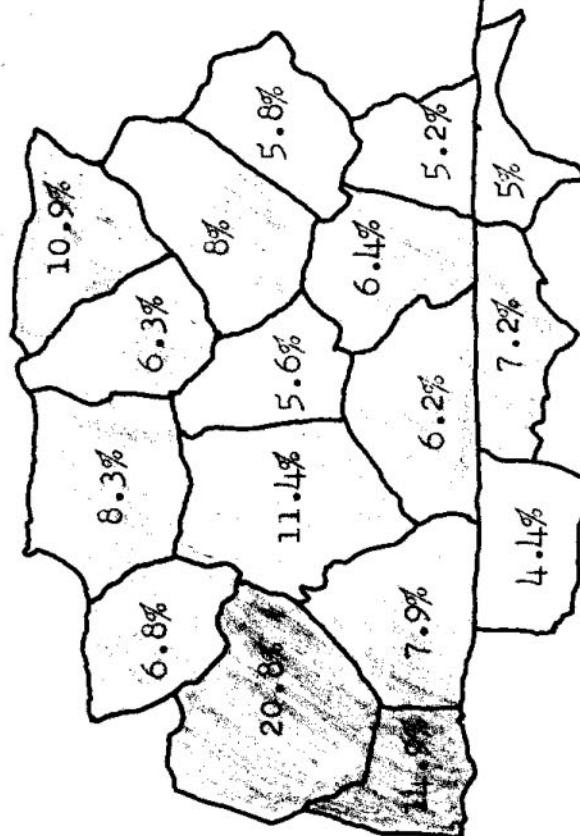
9 to 6



Below 6



State 15.5%



Ky.

Tenn.

* 25 years and over