

line. It seems that the problem of rural electrification here is largely one of farm income. Until farmers are able to support such a service there will be little use on the part of farmers for that service.

The United States Census of 1940 reports that for Jackson County 54 percent of the farm houses were in need of major repairs. The Census also reports that 98 percent of the farms had no private bath or inside toilet; 96 percent had no running water in the house. The problem of rural housing is acute. Any program, however, for the improvement of rural housing should be based on the capacity of the farms to support such improvements, but much improvement is possible with but little cash outlay.

The construction of improved roads is desirable as long as the farmers are able to support such services. Such roads give the farmers better access to markets and may enhance the farm income. Improved roads also make possible better rural mail delivery and school bus service.

Wise plans for the development of rural conveniences and services should be based on the farmer's ability to pay. The reason why less than 1 percent of the farms in Jackson County have telephones is that no more than that many farmers are willing to pay for such service. Other things are preferred to telephones in exchange for their limited incomes.

SOME FACTORS AFFECTING FARMING RETURNS

SOURCE OF DATA

Since 1925 the Department of Agricultural Economics of the Florida Experiment Station has made several studies of farm management in Jackson County. The first study, made in 1925, covered 499 farms located throughout the county. All sizes, types and kinds of farms were included in this early survey. Other surveys, made in 1928, 1934 and 1935, were less exhaustive. Much of the present work, therefore, will deal either with material from the 1925 study or with additional material obtained during 1941.

The effect of management factors on farming returns is about the same year after year. As farm incomes fluctuate widely from year to year, the management factors affecting those incomes change only slightly. The level of incomes is largely determined by weather conditions and the farm price level. The variation of incomes between farms under a given price level