

1973

EC73-540 Home Extension Club Membership Nebraska Style

Helen Solt

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Home Extension Club Membership

NEBRASKA STYLE

A Survey of Total
Extension Club
Members



Extension Service
University of Nebraska-Lincoln College of Agriculture Cooperating with the
U. S. Department of Agriculture and the College of Home Economics
E. F. Frolík, Dean J. L. Adams, Director

HOME EXTENSION CLUB MEMBERSHIP NEBRASKA STYLE

A Survey of Total Extension Club Members

**Prepared by: Helen D. Solt
District Supervisor Home Extension**

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The survey was planned and carried out by:
Agnes Arthaud—Assistant Director Agricultural Extension (Home Economics)

Roberta Sward—Associate State Leader, Home Economics

Dr. Robert Florell—State Leader, Studies & Training

Marshall Logan—Studies & Training Office

Who is the Nebraska Home Extension Club member? Where does she live? How old is she? These and other questions were answered in a 1972 survey of Nebraska's Extension Club membership. This latest in a series of six surveys was taken to determine trends in membership which would be useful in planning Home Extension Club Programs.

The first two surveys date back to 1950 and 1953. Included in them were the 45 counties which employed Home Agents. In 1955-56, a survey was made using a spot check of 100 club members in 12 counties having Home Extension Agents.

The fourth survey included 971 club members selected at random in 16 counties in 1962. At the time of the survey, eight of these counties were employing Home Agents and the total membership in selected areas represented about 20% of the total state Home Extension membership.

A 20% random sample was again used in 1967. This included 18 randomly selected counties.

The 1972 survey included the total membership of the Extension Clubs in Nebraska. Of 2017 clubs, 1707 replied—about 85%.

Why a Survey?

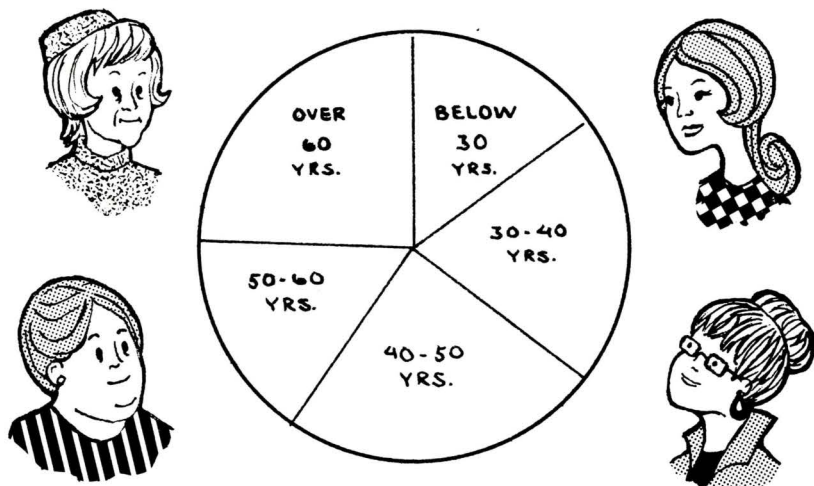
The Cooperative Extension Service is continually trying to offer programs which will satisfy the needs of the people it serves. This

survey shows characteristics of club members and also trends and/or changes within the Home Extension Club membership. This information provides a basis for program planning which will better serve the needs of club members.

Club Membership - Where Is It Going?

Here is what has happened to Nebraska Extension Club membership throughout the years. In 1925, there were 6,000 Home Extension Club members. This number grew to 29,000 in 1937. However, from 1937 to 1944, membership dropped to 14,000. Membership increased to 34,000 by 1956.

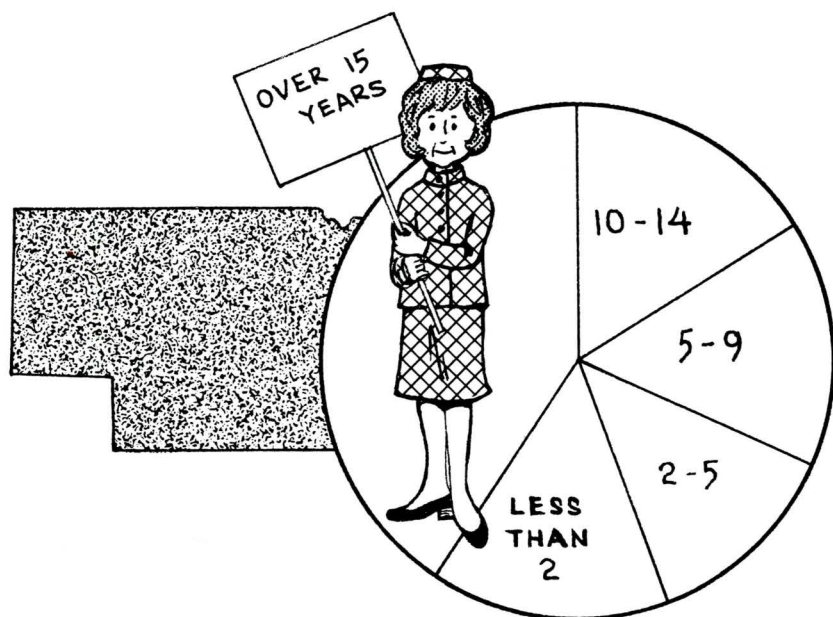
Between 1956 and 1967, membership dropped to 30,262. The 1972 survey shows a membership of 28,077.



The Home Extension Club Member - Who Is She?

Age	How old is she?		
	1962 %	1967 %	1972 %
Under 30	13	14	14
30-39	26	24	22
40-49	26	21	20
50-59	19	21	18
Over 60	16	20	26

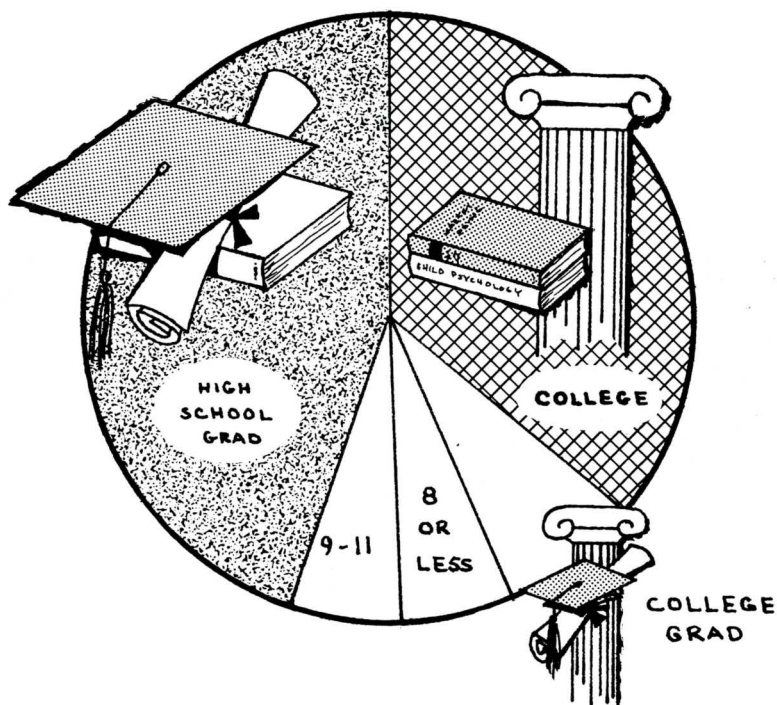
The percentage of those under 30 years of age remained about the same, while the 30 to 49 year group decreased 10%. Those over 60 years of age gained 10%.



How Long Has She Belonged to An Extension Club?

<i>Years</i>	<i>1962</i> %	<i>1967</i> %	<i>1972</i> %
Less than 2 years	11.1	12.9	14.33
2-4 years	21.1	13.9	13.94
5-9 years	22.8	21.7	17.25
10-14 years	18.7	16.3	13.32
15 years and over	26.3	35.2	41.16

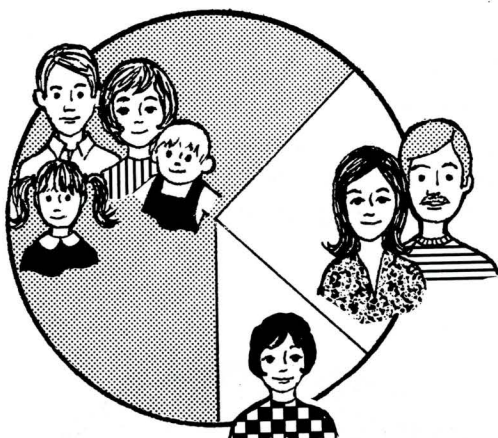
There is a slight increase in percentage of members who have belonged less than two years. There is a sharp decline in percentage of members who have belonged between 5 and 15 years over the past 10 years. The percentage of those who have belonged more than 15 years continues to increase.



How Much Formal Education Does She Have?

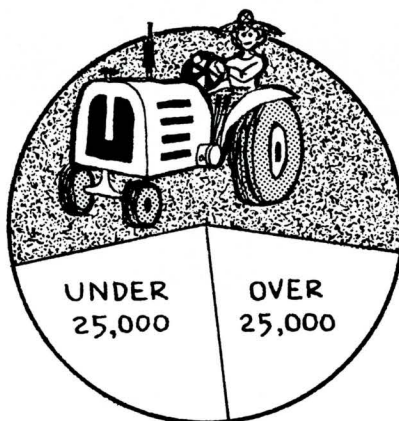
	1962	1967	1972
Eighth grade or less	10%	11.6%	7.3%
Ninth to eleventh grade	15%	10.2%	6.4%
High school graduate	39%	44.8%	44.8%
Post high school including some college or voc. tech.	30%	29.6%	34.0%
Bachelor's degree	6%	3.8%	7.5%

The 1972 survey shows a higher level of education with 34% having post high school training and 7.5% having a Bachelor's degree. Only 13.7% had an eleventh grade or less education compared to 25% ten years ago.



What Is Her Marital Status?

Single	1.00%
Widowed or Divorced	10.78%
Married - No Children	6.90%
Married - Children at Home	61.89%
Married - Children Gone	19.43%

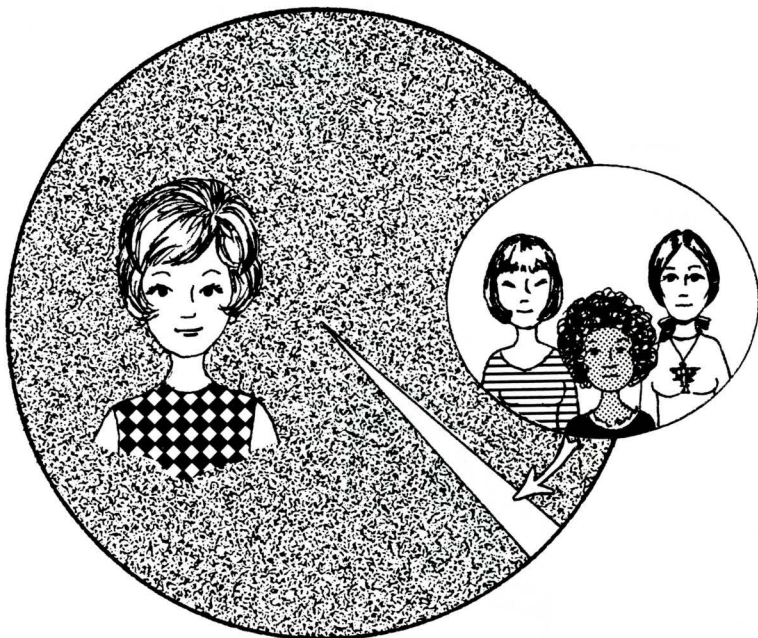


Where Does She Live?

	1962	1967	1972
On Farm	56%	60%	55.06%
Town Under 2,500	30%	28%	24.41%
Town 2,500 or More	14%	12%	20.53%

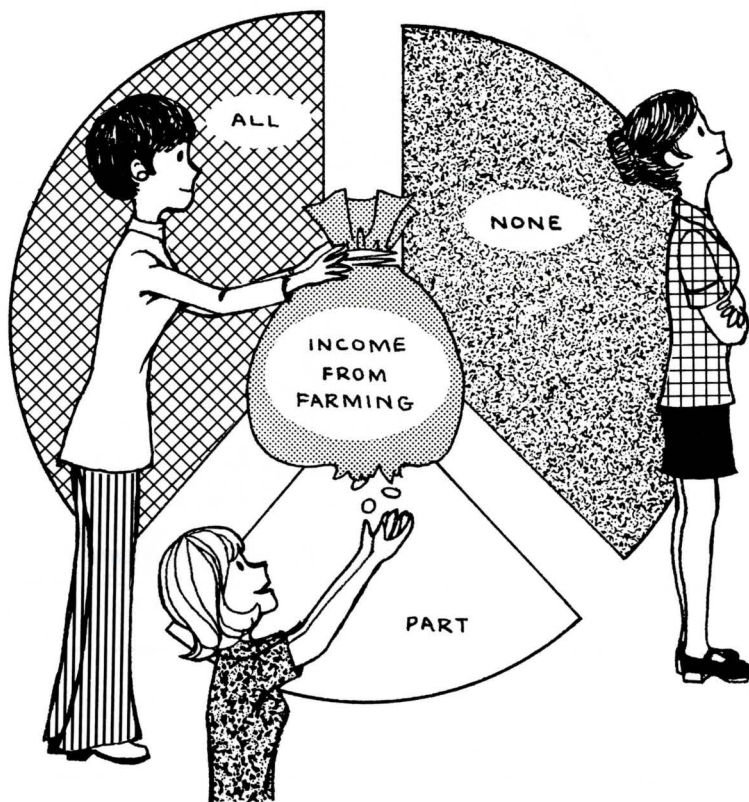
The number who live in towns over 2,500 showed a 6% increase compared to 10 years ago while those living in small towns showed a corresponding decrease.

The survey also shows that 81.62% own their homes, 18.39% rent their homes compared to 75% ownership in 1967, and that almost 9% of those living in the country were not engaged in farming.



What Is Her Race or National Origin?

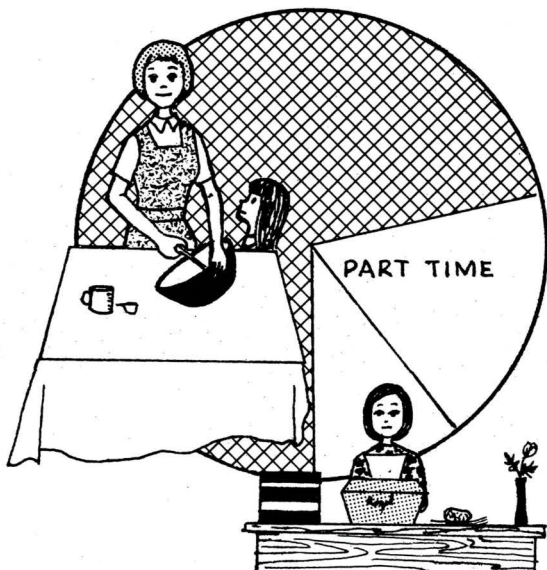
Caucasian	98.46%
Negro	.08%
Spanish American	.05%
American Indian	.06%
Oriental	.06%
Other or Unknown	1.29%



What Is Her Source Of Income?

	1962	1967	1972
All From Farming	49%	48%	38.9%
Part From Farming	17%	22%	23.5%
None From Farming	34%	30%	37.6%

Fewer Home Extension Club members are now dependent upon agriculture as a total source of income.



Is She Employed Outside The Home?

	1962	1967	1972
Not At All	81%	77.7%	72.15%
Part Time	12%	13.5%	17.20%
Full Time	7%	8.8%	10.65%

While 72% of the membership are full-time homemakers, there has been a decrease of almost 9% in this group in the 10-year period. The number who work outside the home on a full or part-time basis correspondingly continues to increase.

What Were Some Trends In The Past 10 Years?

1. There was a slight decrease in total membership.
2. An increase was shown in the number who received training beyond high school age. An increase was shown in college graduates, while the number of high school graduates remained the same.
3. Fewer club members receive all their income from farming.
4. Fewer club members live on the farm.

5. Increase was shown in the number of club members who live in towns of 2,500 or more population.

6. There were more homemakers employed full time and part time outside the home.

7. The number of members who have belonged over 15 years grew.

8. There was a decrease in members who have belonged from 5 to 15 years.

9. The number who own or are buying their own homes increased.

Home Extension work is a very essential part of the educational program of the Cooperative Extension Service. It receives its authorization from Congress and the State Legislature. Cooperative Extension receives its funding through the Federal, state, and county governments. It is served by County and Area Extension Agents who are jointly employed by the University of Nebraska and their County Extension Service.

The characteristics of club members in an individual county may vary from those statewide. This depends on many factors peculiar to each county. Your individual county statistics as shown in the 1972 survey may be obtained from your County Extension Office.