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G.E. Wasson

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# *The Use of Time by South Dakota Farm Homemakers*



Dept. of Home Economics  
Agricultural Experiment Station  
SOUTH DAKOTA STATE COLLEGE OF  
Agriculture and Mechanic Arts  
Brookings, S. D.

## SUMMARY

The data in this bulletin are the summary of the daily time records of one hundred rural homemakers of the state who cooperated in this study.

Fifty-nine of the records show the farm to be run by the owners; forty-one of the farms are rented.

The records show an average working week of sixty-six hours and ten minutes for the homemaker.

The average amount of time devoted to homemaking is fifty-four hours and thirteen minutes per week. Season has no influence on the amount of time spent in the activity.

Nearly 50% of the time devoted to homemaking is spent in providing food for the family.

The average amount of time spent in farm work is eleven hours and fifteen minutes. Homemakers give nearly 75% more time to farm work during the spring and summer than in the fall and winter.

The rural homemaker averages eight hours and thirty-six minutes in sleep each night.

The homemaker's leisure amounts to a little more than three hours each day.

# Use of Time by South Dakota Farm Homemakers

Grace E. Wasson

The Agricultural Experiment Station of State College through the Home Economics Research Department, and, in cooperation with the Federal Bureau of Home Economics United States Department of Agriculture has made a study of the Use of Time by Rural Homemakers in South Dakota.

## OBJECT OF STUDY

The objects are:

1. To ascertain the actual amount of time spent by the rural homemaker at her various tasks.
2. To determine what the homemaker's problems are and what factors influence her division of time.
3. To get a better understanding of living conditions in the farm home, for in this day of rapid changes in the social and economic conditions the rural home is constantly being confronted by new situations.
4. To determine the possibilities of reducing the time and energy expended in homemaking activities in order to provide more leisure.

## METHOD OF CONDUCTING THE STUDY

All blanks and general directions for keeping and tabulating the records were provided by the Federal Bureau of Home Economics.

The homemakers aiding in this study kept a complete record of their time (24 hours a day) for seven consecutive days. The week selected for making the report was a normal one, for the season. They also gave supplementary information which gave the size and composition of the family, the household equipment, working conditions, and something of the homemaker's experience and aspirations.

The extension specialists and the home demonstration agents in the various counties did much in soliciting the interest of the rural women.

More than four hundred blanks were sent out, and of these about one-third were returned. At first it was planned to have records from a group of women living in towns and villages, and to use these as a basis of comparison with the women actually living on farms, but there was not a sufficient number of records returned by this group to make it advisable to attempt such a comparison. A few reports from farm homes were returned incomplete. Finally it was decided for the summary to select one hundred records that seemed best to typify rural conditions in South Dakota. The statements made in this bulletin represent the conclusions drawn from the one hundred studies thus selected.

Of the sixty-nine counties in the state thirty-eight are represented in this summary.

Of the one hundred records used seventeen were kept during the summer months, fourteen during the fall, twenty-two during the winter and forty-seven during the spring; the greatest number of records in single months being twenty-four in April, and sixteen, in May.

There are five general divisions of time made in the survey, namely: homemaking activities, farm work, other work, personal activities and miscellaneous. Under the homemaking activities comes the preparation of food, care of the house, care of clothing, care of members of household, and home management. Under the personal activities there are two general topics, the care of self, as time spent in sleep and rest, eating, care of person; and leisure, under which is considered reading, study, work for organizations, social affairs, entertainments and outings.

#### TIME AVERAGES

In this bulletin no attempt has been made to separate the activities of week days from those of Sunday. The week contains one hundred and sixty-eight hours; the waking hours hours comprise two-thirds of that time. The working hours for the rural homemakers of South Dakota consume about ten hours more than one-third of the week and leisure considerably less than one-third.

The activities of Sunday differ from other days in the week in that as a rule, little time is spent in cleaning, washing, ironing, sewing and gardening. The time devoted to providing food

for the family, to dairy work and poultry is about the same as other days of the week. Often a little more time is devoted to care of person, at meals, in reading, resting and informal social intercourse.

Thirty-five report attending church services and thirteen listening to church services over the radio.

Yet the activities of Sunday do not seem to differ sufficiently to make it appear advantageous to attempt to separate Sunday from the rest of the week, hence the working hours, as well as leisure are divided by seven in determining the average per day.

### SIZE OF FAMILIES

The one hundred households represented a total of four hundred and fifty-nine persons, which make an average of about four and six tenths members per family. The following table shows the size of the families, the number of children undertwo years of age, between two and six years, and between six and fifteen years; also the number of people over seventy years of age.

Size of family	Number of families	CHILDREN			Number over 70 years
		Under 2 years	2 to 6 years	6 to 15 years	
2	11	0	0	0	
3	19	4	6	4	1
4	22	3	10	10	1
5	20	4	12	20	1
6	14	2	5	22	
7	8	1	6	25	1
8	3	2	3	9	
9	2		1	2	
10	1		1	3	
	100	15	44	95	4





## WORKING HOURS

The average number of hours spent for the entire group was 66 hours and 10 minutes per week or 9 hours and 27 minutes per day.

Number of Women	Range - Hrs. per week	Average per week Hrs. - Min.	Average per day Hrs. - Min.
8	35 to 50	44 - 10	6 - 18
24	50 to 60	57	8 - 08
30	60 to 70	64 - 58	9 - 19
27	70 to 80	74 - 45	10 - 41
11	80 to 95	84 - 30	12 - 04



Fig. 7 & 8—Modern Farm Homes.

The shortest working week reported by any woman was 38 hours and 40 minutes per week. Thirty-five hours and 35 minutes was devoted to homemaking activities and 3 hours and 5 minutes to other work. This record was made in January. This

The distribution of time per week as shown by determining the averages of the records of the 100 representative rural homemakers

Food preparation	25:35
Care of house	10:28
Care of clothing	11:57
Care of family	4:24
Management	1:40
Sleep and rest	6:27
Eating meals	0:08
Care of self	4:47
Leisure	23:40
Farm work	11:33
Other work	0:17
Miscellaneous	2:16



family consisted of the homemaker, husband and two sons. One son was not at home during the school week. The house is not modern.

The greatest amount of time reported by any woman of the group was 93 hours 30 minutes per week, 83 hours 10 minutes of which was devoted to homemaking activities and 10 hours and 20 minutes to farm work. This report was made in July. The family consisted of the young homemaker, her husband, her father, a hired man and two small children. The house is not modern.

In the study of the use of time by farm women made by the Federal Bureau of Home Economics under the direction of Miss Hildegard Kneeland, she found an average of sixty-three and a half working hours per week. This average is from seven hundred records; one hundred and twenty-nine from the middle west (South Dakota not included), one hundred and thirty-nine from New York, and four hundred and thirty-two from three western states. Some of the states that have made this survey find their average for the homemakers working week as follows: Oregon, a trifle under 64 hours; Nebraska, a trifle over 64 hours and Washington about 63 hours.

Many states have statutory regulations limiting the working week of women in the industries to forty-four or forty-eight hours. Of course, the housewife does not have to spend an hour or more going and returning from her work, nor is she under the strain of deafening noise and deadening routine, as is found in the average modern factory, hence sixty working hours has been suggested as a fair standard for the occupation of homemaking. If we accept a sixty working hour week for housekeepers as fair, then most of the farm women of our state are over worked.

#### THE EFFECT OF SEASON ON THE HOMEMAKER'S USE OF TIME

	Average amount of time per week	
	Homemaking	Farm Work
	Hr-Min.	Hr-Min.
Winter	54-10	8-01
Spring	54	13-51
Summer	54-37	13-59
Fall	54-42	7-33

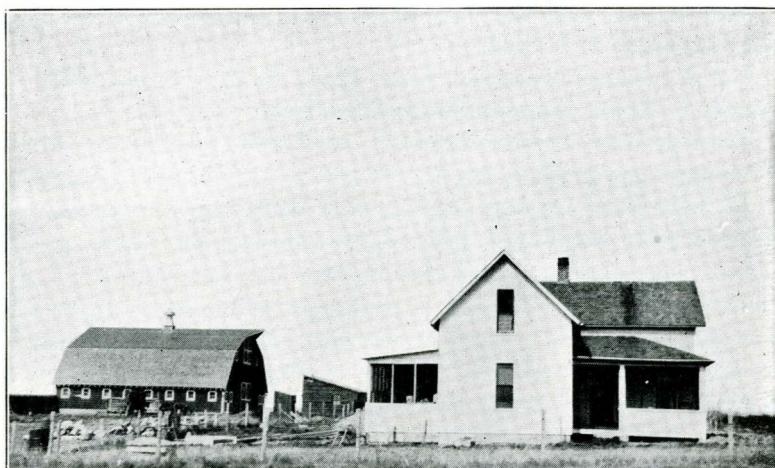


Fig. 8—A Typical South Dakota Farm Home.

The season apparently makes very little difference in the amount of time devoted to homemaking activities, but in the work done outside the house there is nearly twice as much done during the spring and summer as in the fall and winter. During the spring months much time is consumed in caring for little chickens, and putting in gardens. During the summer it seems that less time is demanded in caring for the chickens, but more in caring for the garden and in outside chores. Ten record time for field work with a range of from ten minutes to twelve hours and ten minutes per week, or an average of two hours and twenty minutes.

### FARM WORK

Of the one hundred women whose blanks were used in this study, all but one reported some time spent in some type of farm work during the week. The amount of time varies from a few minutes to some thirty hours. The average amount of time per week is eleven hours and fifty minutes.

Thirty-three women recorded time spent in the care of livestock, with an average of a little less than two hours per week. Several women reported five minutes for only one day during the week in which they kept their record. Hence, the time reported for this type of work varies from five minutes per week to twelve hours.

Ten women reported field work with an average of a trifle over two hours per week.

Forty women reported time spent in gardening with an average of three hours and five minutes per week.

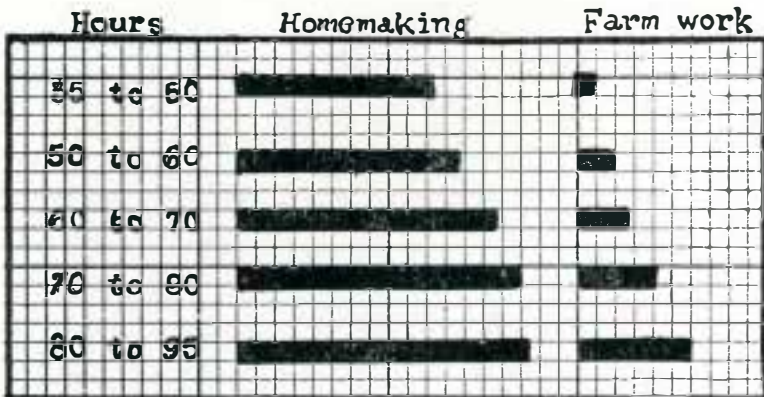
Eighty-three women reported work with poultry and show an average per week of five hours and forty minutes so spent.

Eighty-three women, also, report dairy work with an average of four hours and fifty-eight minutes per week. A few women report helping with the milking but a major part of the time charged to dairy work is time used in washing the separator and milk pails. A few household records do not indicate any time spent in caring for milk and possibly do not keep cows on the farm. Two records infer that milk is purchased.

### OTHER WORK

Two women report work for compensation. One gives four music lessons weekly, the other helped a neighbor with sewing.

### Working hours per week



### HOME MAKING

Home making is the big job of the homemakers of South Dakota. This study shows that the rural homemakers are devoting nearly one-third of every twenty-four hours to that task.

The average amount of time spent in homemaking activities by homemakers of the entire group is fifty-four hours and

thirteen minutes. The least time reported is thirty-one hours and fifty-five minutes. The greatest amount of time is eighty-three hours and ten minutes. Each of these women does all her own work, neither house is modern, and both reports were made in December. In the first case, the family consists of the homemaker, her husband, and one daughter, eighteen, who is home only week ends. The second household consisted of the homemaker, husband, two small children and one hired man.

The size of the family is quite largely the determining factor in the amount of time spent in homemaking. At the same time the standard of living, working conveniences, and the ability of the housewife to organize her work are factors that come in for their share of consideration in the problem of distribution of time.

Of the one hundred homemakers reporting, forty-two had no help about their homemaking activities, and fifty-eight had help from other members of the family. The amount of help varied from a few minutes to forty-three hours and fifteen minutes per week. For those having help, the time contributed averaged ten hours and twelve minutes per week or less than one and one-half hours per day. No paid help was reported.

In the household reporting forty-three and one-fourth hours help, the mother gave fifty hours and ten minutes of her time to activities of the home, making an aggregate of ninety-three hours and twenty-five minutes for housekeeping tasks, or an average of thirteen hours and twenty minutes per day. The family consists of homemaker, her husband, two sons, ages seventeen and fourteen, and one daughter, sixteen. The daughter helps in getting meals, washing dishes and much of the cleaning. The report was made in June.

Table No. 1 shows the amount of time the housewife devotes to homemaking, the amount of help she receives, and the size of the family. As a rule the amount of time she devotes to her home, plus the help that she receives has quite a definite relation to the size of the family. Small children in the family increase the housekeeping responsibilities, but often in the larger families the children aid in household tasks to the extent that the mother does not put in hours to exceed her neighbor with a smaller family. In studying the following table, one will note that the combined time of homemaker and help frequently bears



the same relationship to the size of her family as the time of the homemaker without help does, to her family. For example, in the case of the groups showing a range of from fifty to sixty hours per week, the group of mothers having help averaged seven hours and forty-two minutes per day, and have help to the amount of one hour and forty minutes per day. In this group are twelve children under three years of age, or an average of five tenths of a child per family. The proportion of time expended in homemaking for each member of the family is one hour and fifty minutes, while the proportion of time spent by the homemaker without help in the same group, as far as range of time is considered, is one hour and fifty-one minutes for each individual in the household. In this group there are six children under three years, or an average of one-third child per family.

More than half the women spend between forty-five and sixty hours per week in household duties as is shown by the following chart:

Table No. 1

No. of Women	Range of Hours per Week	Average per week	Average per day	Average amt. of help per day	Average size of family	Total No. of children under three years	Average amt. of time expended for each individual
		Hrs.-Min.	Hrs.-Min.	Hrs.-Min.			Hrs.-Min.
3	30 to 40	36-05	5-09	1-18	4	0	1-37
4	30 to 40	37-10	5-18	No Help	2.75	1	1-55
12	40 to 50	46-20	6-37	1-03	3.8	0	2-01
15	40 to 50	49-23	7-03	No Help	3.2	3	2-12
24	50 to 60	53-55	7-42	1-40	5.4	12	1-50
17	50 to 60	55-34	7-56	No Help	4.3	6	1-51
14	60 to 70	63-51	9-07	1-14	5.4	4	1-55
3	60 to 70	63-50	9-07	No Help	3.6	0	2-31
5	70 to 85	73-31	10-30	1-21	6.8	5	1-44
3	70 to 85	76-18	10-54	No Help	6.5	6	1-40

### PROVIDING FOOD FOR THE FAMILY

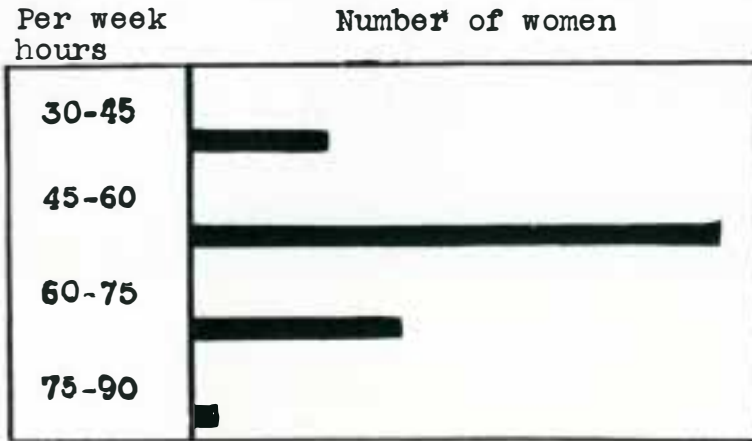
Providing food for the family is the item that demands more time than any other operation of the home making activities. There is, however, much variation in this, depending on the size and composition of the family, the efficiency of the homemaking in planning, the season, and individual taste and standards of living.

The average amount of time consumed by the housewife in dealing with this problem of securing proper nourishment for the family is twenty-five hours and fifty-five minutes per week, or three hours and forty-two minutes daily. This means that



More than half the women spend between forty-five and sixty hours per week in household duties as is shown by the following chart:

**Homemaking.**



39 per cent of the homemaker's working hours is devoted to preparation of food and the clearing away afterwards; it means that 47 per cent of her time devoted to the homemaking activities is given to feeding the family.

The least amount of time reported for this activity by any homemaker is nine hours and five minutes, two-thirds of that time being used in the preparation of food and one-third in clearing away afterwards. There are but two in the family and four meals were eaten away from home during the week. The report was made in October.

In one household with six in the family, the homemaker reports less than fifteen hours per week of her own time devoted to feeding the family. However, she has two daughters, ages fifteen and eleven, who help in preparing the meals as well as washing the dishes.

The housewife reporting the greatest amount of time in providing food for her family spent thirty-eight hours and ten minutes per week or an average of five hours and twenty-seven minutes per day. Her family consists of herself and husband, a daughter, six years old, twins, three years old, and a grand-

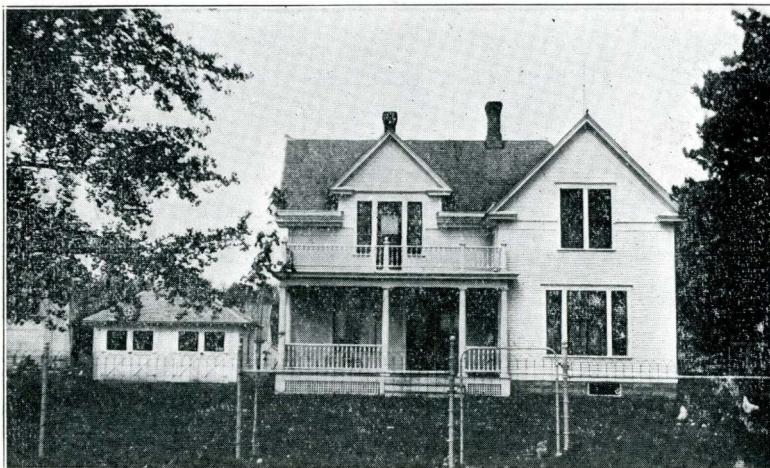


Fig. 9—A Typical South Dakota Farm Home.

father, seventy-six years old. The report was made in March. No help is recorded. This report shows practically as much time devoted to washing the dishes as to preparation of food.

The reports tend to indicate that the fact that a house is modern has very little influence on the time spent in that ever-present problem of providing three meals a day.

Table No. 2 gives the average number of hours spent by the housewife in food activities, the amount of help that she receives, the size of the family, and the average amount of time expended for each individual of the household.

## FOOD

Table No. 2

No. of Women	Range of hours per week	Average hours per week	Average hours per day	Average amt. of help per day	Average size of family	Total No. of children under three	Time Expended for each individual
		Hrs.-Min.	Hrs.-Min.	Hrs.-Min.			
1	5 to 15	12-50	1-50	1-18	6	0	31
3	5 to 15	12-03	1-43	No Help	2	0	51
4	15 to 20	17-59	2-34	1-07	4.5	2	49
6	15 to 20	17-32	2-30	No Help	3.1	5	48
3	20 to 25	22-50	3-17	1-05	5.3	4	49
18	20 to 25	22-43	3-16	No Help	3.1	4	63
21	25 to 30	27-26	3-55	40 Min.	5	1	55
16	25 to 30	26-50	3-50	No Help	3.8	5	60
8	30 to 35	42-05	4-35	40 Min.	6.75	4	45
11	30 to 35	30-29	4-21	No Help	5.09	4	51
3	35 to 40	35-43	5-06	22 Min.	6	1	54
1	35 to 40	37-28	5-27	No Help	6	2	54

The entire group averages sixteen hours and twenty-three minutes per week in preparation of food, or two hours and twenty minutes daily.

Six per cent of women reported less than 10 hours

Thirty percent of women reported 10 to 15 hours

Forty-five percent of women reported 15 to 20 hours

Nineteen percent of women reported 20 to 30 hours

Range of time spent in the preparation of meals per week is from five hours and thirty-five minutes by a woman cooking for herself and husband to twenty-five hours and thirty-five minutes by a woman with a household of five adults. Neither woman had any help.

The following table shows the amount of time expended in getting food ready to serve, whether prepared by the homemaker alone or by the homemaker with help from other members of the family.

No. of women	Range of time per week	Average per week	Hr.-Min. Average help per day	Average amt of time per day by homemaker and help
		Hrs.-Min.		Hr.-Min.
4	5 to 10 hours	8-11	No Help	1-10
2	5 to 10 hours	9-17	26 Minutes	1-45
20	10 to 15 hours	13-20	No Help	1-54
10	10 to 15 hours	13-10	14 Minutes	2-07
30	15 to 20 hours	16-57	No Help	2-25
15	15 to 20 hours	17-20	20 Minutes	2-48
6	20 to 25 hours	22-16	No Help	3-11
12	20 to 25 hours	21-25	35 Minutes	3-39
1	25 to 30 hours	25-35	No Help	3-39

The average amount of time spent by the housewife in preparation of breakfast per week is three hours and eight minutes or twenty-seven minutes per day. The range of time was from thirty minutes to five hours and forty minutes. However in the first mentioned case, the housewife's mother lives in the home and spends nearly one half hour each morning in the preparation of breakfast.

The average amount of time used in the preparation of dinner is five hours and forty minutes, or about forty-nine minutes each day. The least amount of time recorded for preparation of dinner is 50 minutes, or an average of less than ten minutes. In this case the report suggests that the husband takes his noon lunch to the field with him and the time used in putting up the lunch is charged to "other food" in place of being charged to

preparation of the noon meal. The greatest amount of time recorded for this one meal is nine hours and fifty minutes, or an average of one hour and twenty-nine minutes per day.

The average amount of time consumed in preparing supper is four hours and nine minutes or an average of thirty-five minutes per day. The least time reported is thirty minutes. In this household the daughters of school age are largely responsible for getting the evening meal. The greatest amount of time recorded is nine hours and twenty-five minutes or an average of one hour and twenty-nine minutes. This is for a family of six.

Twenty-nine women report time spent in the preparation of food other than the regular three meals. For those reporting such work the average time is two hours and twenty-five minutes per week.

#### DISH WASHING

In general, clearing away after meals and washing dishes consumes from one-fourth to one-half of all of the time devoted to foods. In the majority of cases about one-third of the time reported in food work is used in clearing away and washing dishes. In the households where there are children, help is reported more often in washing dishes than in other household activities. The average amount of time reported for clearing away and washing dishes is eight hours and fifty-one minutes per week or one hour and sixteen minutes. This does not include the time spent in washing the separator and milk utensils—that time is charged to dairy work.

#### BREAD BAKING

Bread baking is one of the activities in providing food for the family that is being taken out of the home to quite an extent in recent years. The reports show that forty-nine women bake all of their bread, twenty-three buy part and bake part, twenty buy all of their bread and eight did not report on this point.

#### HOME MANAGEMENT

Only two or three women report any time in keeping accounts. It is possible that the household accounts are kept as a part of the farm accounts and that these accounts are cared for by some other member of the household.



Eighty-one women report time under the heading of home management with an average of two hours and ten minutes per week, and with a range of from ten minutes to ten hours.

### CARE OF HOUSE

Care of the house includes the care of fires and the water supply as well as the usual care, bed-making, straightening and



Fig. 2—A convenient working space (The gas for the stove shown here is provided by a gasoline pressure tank).



cleaning. This demands ten hours and twenty-eight minutes per week, or about an hour and one half per day.

In this item of time there is perhaps an unusual variation. The range is from two hours and fifteen minutes to nineteen hours and twenty-five minutes. There are doubtless several reasons for this big difference in the amount of time consumed in these operations, as the size and conveniences of the house; the size of the family and the ages of the members; and the standard of living maintained by the household.

The following table shows the proportion of time spent in the care of the house:

No. of women	Range per week	Average per week	Average per day
4	Less than five hours	Hrs-Min 4-02	Hrs-Min 0-35
44	5-10 hrs	7-47	1-07
41	10-15 hrs	12-18	1-45
11	15-20 hrs	16-37	2-22

One-half the homemakers report time for getting water, with an average of fifty-eight minutes per week. Twenty-one homes have running water and twenty have pumps in the kitchen. The water supply for the remainder comes from wells outside the house. In many cases the water is carried by other members of the household than the housewife.

Eighty-five women report an average of one hour and thirty-eight minutes a week in the care of fires for both cooking and heating, or about a quarter of an hour each day. Twenty-six of the homes are heated with furnaces; the remainder are heated with stoves, either wood or coal.

### CARE OF MEMBERS OF THE HOUSEHOLD

Seventy-three homemakers record time for the care of members of the household, the time ranging from a few minutes per week to twenty hours. The average amount of time being five hours and five minutes. The greater amount of time spent in the care of others is in families with small children. Forty-four households report children seven years of age or under with a total of sixty-eight children. One mother reports four under six years of age; she averages two hours per day in the physical care of the children. There are seven members in the family and she does all of her own house work, besides giving some

thing over half an hour daily to care of poultry. In a family of this type the older children doubtless learn early to take a responsibility in helping themselves that many children have to learn after they are much older. Most children like to be independent and when they receive a little encouragement and training in how to care for themselves early, they take pride in doing things for themselves.



Fig. 4— This inexpensive cupboard was built for the exclusive use of this little girl. Such an arrangement stimulates the child to care for her toys, and relieves the mother of much of the responsibility of seeing that the play things are not left strewn about the house.

### CLOTHING AND TEXTILES

Care of clothing includes sewing, mending and laundry work. For these items there is a variation of from one hour and fifteen minutes to twenty-eight hours and twenty minutes, an average of eleven hours and fifty-seven minutes per week.

Seventy-six report having spent some time in sewing during the week that they kept their record. The amount of time varies from a few minutes to eighteen hours and ten minutes. The average is four hours and forty-one minutes. More time is recorded for sewing during the winter months than during other seasons, 86 per cent of the women keeping their schedules for the winter, report sewing, 72 per cent of those reporting in the spring, give time for sewing, 70 per cent during summer and 71 per cent during autumn months.

All but sixteen women report some time during the week given to mending. For those reporting such time the average is two hours and three minutes.

Eighty-eight report time for washing and the same number of women report time for ironing, but they are not the same women in each case. A few women report washing but no ironing; and a few, ironing, but no washing. This is especially true with the smaller families during the winter months when the washing is not done every week. One woman hires both her washing and ironing; one woman, her washing and two women send their flat wash to the laundry for washing and ironing. Twenty women have help with their washing and six have help with their ironing. Again the size of the family and the amount of help received are two of the chief factors in determining the amount of time the homemakers spend in laundry work. The average amount of time for regular washing is three hours and fifty-two minutes; the average time for regular ironing is two hours and fifty-two minutes. Sixty women use power machines, twenty-three electric, and thirty-seven gasoline.

### THE USE OF ELECTRICITY

The Federal census of 1925 shows there were 79,537 farms in South Dakota; there is probably not much increase in the number since that date. The department of Agricultural Engineering of State College estimates that practically fifteen per cent of the rural homes of the state are lighted with electricity. A summary of the records in this study shows that twenty-five per cent of the homes have electric lights, but it is doubtless true that these homes are better equipped than the majority of the homes in the state as a whole. Electric lights and electric equipment are a great convenience and it is to be hoped that the



day will soon come when all farms will have an adequate supply of electricity.

Some facts concerning equipment shown by the one hundred reports in the study:

<b>Heating</b>		<b>Lighting</b>	
Furnaces	26	Electric Lights	25
Stoves	74	Kerosene lamps	59
<b>Cooking</b>		Gas lights	16
Ranges—coal or wood	46	Gasoline lamps	8
Range and kerosene stove	40	<b>Water</b>	
Range and pressure gas	5	Running water in kitchen	21
Kerosene stove	5	Pump in kitchen	17
Gas range	4	Cistern pump inside and well outside	3
<b>Washing Machines</b>		Well outside	59
Electric machines	23	Bathrooms	15
Power machines	37	Radio	46
Hand turned machines	38		
Wash board and tub	2		

### CARE OF SELF

Care of self included sleeping, resting, eating, dressing, and general care of one's person.

There is a wide variation in the amount of time recorded under this heading. There is a range of from fifty-nine hours and thirty minutes to ninety-nine hours and fifty-five minutes per week. The average for the entire group is seventy-six hours and fifty-three minutes.

The homemaker reporting the least amount of time (59½ hours) has but forty-eight hours of sleep per week, no time for rest during the day, six hours for eating meals and five hours and thirty minutes of care of person. The report was made in the middle of May, the house is modern, with electric lights, washing machine, iron and vacuum cleaner. All of the laundry work and most of the bread baking are done at home. There are six in the family. The daughter is home during the week end and helped in various homemaking activities to the extent of eight hours and ten minutes. She spends fifty-four hours and thirty-five minutes at homemaking tasks. During the week, twenty-six hours and forty minutes were given to care of poultry and five hours and forty minutes to dairy work. Her leisure hours amount to twenty-one and a quarter hours.

The homemaker reporting the greatest amount of time in care of self during a week—99 hours and 55 minutes—made her report in January. She has a family of three, and her house is not modern although she has electric lights and power. She gave three hours during the week to farm work. She does her own laundry work and about half of her bread baking. She

spends thirty-five hours and thirty-five minutes in homemaking activities. She has seventy-seven hours and fifty-five minutes sleep at night during the week, nine hours rest, eight hours for her meals and four hours and fifty-five minutes for care of person. Her leisure time, amounts to twenty-eight hours and thirty-five minutes.



Fig. 3—A convenient built-in clothes closet.



The following table shows the average in care of self:

No. of women	Range of Hours	Average hour per week Care of self	Average per week. Sleeping hours	Average rest during day per week	Average time eating during week	Care of person. Average per week.
		Hrs.-Min.	Hrs.-Min.	Hrs.-Min.	Hrs.-Min.	Hrs.-Min.
13	60 to 70	66-27	53-05	0-53	7-55	4-35
53	70 to 80	74-42	58-17	1-40	9-37	4-56
28	80 to 90	82-18	64-52	2-52	9-40	4-54
6	90 to 100	93-13	71-32	7-15	8-33	5-52

### SLEEP AND REST

Eight hours each night (fifty-six hours per week) is generally accepted as ample time for sleep for the adult in normal health.

There has been some question as to whether or not the radio, the auto and the movies were not making sad inroads on the rural homemaker's sleeping hours. This may be true in some cases. Undoubtedly she is going to bed later than she did a generation ago, but she seems to be making up for it in the morning as a rule. The average sleeping hours for the group is sixty hours and fifteen minutes per week or eight hours and thirty-six minutes per night with an additional daily twenty minutes for sleep and rest during the day. And yet, while the average sounds well, there are twenty-six women who reports less than eight hours rest at night, and but few of these women report time for rest and sleep during the day. As might be expected, quite a portion of time that is reported for rest and sleep during the day comes on Sunday afternoon in many cases.

The least amount of time reported for any week is forty-six hours and fifty minutes at night and ten minutes during the daytime. The greatest amount of sleep reported for a single week is seventy-seven hours and fifty-five minutes at night and nine hours and ten minutes during the daytime.

No. of women	Range of Hrs. per week	Average per night	Rest during day
		Hrs.-Min.	
26	less than 56	7-35	19 minutes
68	56 to 70	8-49	18 minutes
6	more than 70	10-37	48 minutes

During the cold weather there is a tendency to put in more hours in sleeping than in the busier seasons. From the first of April until the last of October the housewives average fifty-eight hours and fifty minutes per week or eight hours and thirty-three minutes daily; from the first of November until the last of March they average sixty-two hours and twenty-three minutes per week or eight hours and fifty-five minutes each day.

### TIME SPENT IN EATING MEALS

The time spent eating varies from three hours and fifty minutes to eighteen hours per week. The average per week is nine hours and eight minutes, the average per day, one hour and eighteen minutes and average per meal, twenty-six minutes. As a rule less time is spent at the breakfast table than other meals, frequently a quarter of an hour is all that is allowed for eating the morning meal. One homemaker averaged only eight minutes for breakfast. The time spent at the dinner table and the supper table averaged about the same.

The following shows the time spent at meals:

No. of women	Range per week	Average per week	Average per day
		Hrs-Min	Hrs-Min
2	Less than 5 hours	4-17	-37
69	5 to 10 hrs.	8-08	1-10
29	More than 10 hours	11-51	1-41

### CARE OF PERSON

The average time spent in the care of person is four hours and forty-six minutes per week, or less than three quarters hours daily. Fifty-six women spent less than five hours per week, forty-three women spent between five and ten hours per week, or an average of six and a quarter hours. One woman spent thirteen hours and fifty minutes in care of person, or practically two hours per day.

### LEISURE

Leisure is classified under such headings as reading, meeting and study, work for organizations, listening over the radio, informal social life, social affairs and entertainments, sport, outings and care of persons not members of the household. The

average amount of time for leisure thus classified is twenty-three hours and forty minutes per week or a little more than three hours per day.

No. of women	Range per week	Average per week	Average per day
4	Less than 10 hours	Hrs-Min 6-49	Hrs-Min -58
37	10 to 20	15-36	2-13
36	20 to 30	25-45	3-40
17	30 to 40	45-05	4-45
6	Over 40	33-13	6-26

### READING

Newspapers and fiction are the two kinds of reading most often reported. Two homemakers did not record any time for reading. The average time for the group reporting time so spent is six hours and thirty-two minutes per week or nearly one hour each day.

The range of time for those reporting reading is from thirty minutes to twenty-four hours and twenty-five minutes.

Twenty-seven per cent of the leisure hours are spent in reading.

No. of women	Range per week	Average per week	Average per day
43	Less than 5 hours	Hrs-Min 4-41	Hrs-Min -40
38	5 to 10	7-10	1-01
16	More than 10 hours	14-30	2-04

### MEETINGS AND STUDY

Fifty women report an average of two hours and thirty-five minutes in studying and attending meetings. Eighteen women report an average of seven hours and seven minutes in attending meetings and studying. Thirty-four women average two hours and thirty-three minutes in organizations.

Forty-six women report an average of three hours and twelve minutes for listening over the radio.

Twenty-three women report an average of two hours per week for sports and outings.

An average of three hours and twenty-eight minutes for social affairs is reported by thirty-one homemakers.

Eleven women report time in the care of persons not members of their households with an average of two hours and sixteen minutes.

All of the women report some time for informal social life, the time varying from one-half hour to twenty-five hours and forty minutes per week. Thirty-two per cent of all the leisure is devoted to informal social life. The average of each homemaker is seven hours and twenty-seven minutes per week, or a trifle more than an hour per day.



Fig. 10—This group is pleasing in its simplicity.

#### DO THE HOMEMAKERS THAT HAVE BEEN ON THE JOB LONGER, HAVE MORE LEISURE TIME?

In the home where the children are grown, it is expected that the homemaker will have more leisure and these reports seem to bear out that idea. Fourteen women fifty years old or over kept records of their time. These show an average working week of fifty-seven hours and fifteen minutes, forty-six hours and three minutes being devoted to homemaking activities and eleven hours and twelve minutes to farm work. This indicates that these women spend about eight hours per week less at their homemaking tasks than the average, but that



they put in practically as much time at work outside the house as the average for the entire group.

It is rather interesting to note how these women spent the remainder of their time. For care of self they average eighty-two hours and fourteen minutes which is five hours and twenty-one minutes more than the average for the group.

Their leisure time amounts to twenty-eight hours and thirty one minutes, or nearly five hours more per week than the average for all of the homemakers. In allotting their leisure hours, we find that these homemakers read seven hours and forty-nine minutes, and spend seven hours and forty-three minutes in informal social life, compared with six hours and thirty-two minutes and seven hours and twenty-seven minutes, respectively for the group.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

In response to the question "If you had a thousand dollars to spend as you liked in making your homemaking easier, how would you spend it?" practically all of the homemakers not having running water in the kitchen and bathroom, and electricity, mentioned one or both of these.

In response to the question "What part of your homemaking do you enjoy most?"—One of three answers is quite general, "care of children", "cooking" and "cleaning".

In response to the question "What part of your homemaking do you dislike most?" there are also three answers that are quite general "washing", "cleaning" and "dish washing."

#### CONCLUSION

How are the working hours of the farm homemakers of South Dakota going to be shortened? We cannot hope that anyone will broadcast a formula that will answer the question for all housewives, while in the houses we find such diversity in arrangement, conveniences, and equipment, while the size and composition of the families differ so greatly, and while the ability, health, temperament and taste of the homemakers themselves are so at variance. In all kinds of employment, there is a difference in the innate skill and ease with which the workers do the job. This is especially true in homemaking.



The ability to organize and plan, and most of all to make worthwhile plans, yet sufficiently flexible to cope with interruptions is a great asset for the homemaker.

Many a housewife in her effort to save money, forgets that time has commercial value; hence she works with inferior tools and inadequate equipment, wasting time and energy.



Fig. 11—This lovely old table is an American adaptation of an Sheraton card table. It was discarded from use many years ago, and one dismembered leg served as chinking for a rat hole. Quite recently it was refinished and is now a very pleasing piece of furniture.

Occasionally working centers are inconvenient in arrangement, yet the household has become so accustomed to such arrangement that no one thinks to make the necessary changes that would be time saving in the long run.

Does the ordinary homemaker go at her job in a business like manner, or does she too often work year in and year out without analyzing her situation? The progressive business man checks on his system for leaks, for waste in time, for useless expenditure of energy. He often calls in an efficiency expert to aid him in eliminating waste of all kinds. It might be

well if the housewife should take some such attitude towards her business. At the same time there are homes where it is nothing short of startling to note the rapidity and efficiency which the homemaker exhibits in dispensing her daily duties.

Do the homemakers check on their equipment to determine whether they have the best equipment to meet their needs that they can afford from a financial standpoint, and to determine whether they have their kitchen crowded with useless and needless equipment? Do they make sure that they have the best arrangement of working centers that is possible taking all circumstances into consideration? Do they make certain that they are getting the most assistance from other members of the household that is best for all concerned?

Perhaps the only immediate benefit for which one can hope as an outgrowth of this study is that some homemakers will systematically analyze their own jobs to see that they are using their time to the best advantage. If this study has helped stimulate the homemakers to make this type of an analysis of their own situations, then those who cooperate will not regret the time they spend in that irksome task of recording every five minute period for seven consecutive days.

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