



1930s



Courtesy UAHC

Otsego County Clothing Club.
Mrs. Don Bailey, Leader



Highlights from 1930-1939

1932: A demonstration at the C.J. Franks farm west and north of Gaylord showed the value of potash in complete fertilizer in alfalfa seeding.

A corn variety test on the Alvin Widger farm demonstrated why barley should be grown for grain in this area and corn just for silage.

Practically every farmer in the county grew some potatoes and nearly everyone had some for sale. Otsego County ranked 3rd in production of seed potatoes of Michigan counties "There is no other cash crop worth mentioning."

There were no swine from a commercial view point and practically no sheep.

The county was well peppered with Bang's Disease which causes calves to die at birth.

As an economic measure, extension work was discontinued as of May 31, 1932. The Board of Supervisors re-instated it in June and put up to a popular vote for the November election. The vote had a decisive majority of rural votes and approached a two to one majority when the city votes were counted: 1132 Yes – 682 No.

Total annual office expenses were \$476.48.

1933: With less than 500 farmers in Otsego County, the work of extension was largely personal and direct.

Except for recreation interests, the county is wholly agricultural with a great many of the farms of the primitive or pioneer type. Because of this, the extension program has always been designed and intended to improve the economic and social condition of these farmers.

1933: The most persistent drought on record.

For the first time in history, a couple dozen farmers asked for instruction in killing rats.



The battle continued combating grasshoppers.

Home economics group formed in Vanderbilt with 26 members.

Stanley Yuill experimented with irrigating three acres of his 28 acres of raspberries. He claimed that he sold 8000 quarts of berries and 6000 came off these 3 acres. The tourist and resort business provided a market for many of the berries.

The Girl Spud Growers 4-H Club at Five Lakes was started by Mrs. Bessie McBride.

1934: Staff changes and reorganization resulted in a three county assignment (Otsego, Montmorency, and Crawford) for the new county agriculture agent, Arthur Glidden who replaced L. L. Drake.

1935: "This will go down in the history of Otsego County as being the year of serious insect infestation for home gardens."

Dearborn Colony was created by the Utilization Division of the Resettlement Administration using approximately 4500 acres of tax reverted land in the Johannesburg vicinity. Eighty families from the Dearborn area were to relocate here and establish farms.

1936: "Elmer the Hired Man" a weekly column in the Herald Times began its nine year run.

The first Otsego County Farm Festival and Potato Show was held October 28, 1936

Sewing machine repair school for area homemakers was a very popular program



1937: Increased demand of local dairy products due to opening of the Northern Michigan Tuberculosis Sanitarium

1938: European corn borers noticed for the first time in Otsego County.