

HISTORY OF THE NORTH CENTRAL FARM MANAGEMENT EXTENSION COMMITTEE

Executive Summary

For nearly 60 years a unique partnership has existed in the North Central Region. Its mission is to make farm management education more effective and thereby improve the well-being of farmers, rural people, and the nation. This partnership was established in 1947, at the first meeting of the **North Central Farm Management Extension Committee** (NCFMEC) in Chicago, Illinois. A state extension farm management specialist from each of the 13 north central states, plus representatives of the Farm Foundation and the Federal Extension Service-USDA, formed the first group. Representatives from Kentucky, Oklahoma, New York, Pennsylvania and Ontario were added later. An administrative advisor was appointed by the North Central Agricultural Extension program leaders.

Initially the Committee met two times each year at the Farm Foundation offices in Chicago. Starting in the fall of 1967 the Committee scheduled its meetings on one of the member campuses or at other convenient sites. From 1973 through 1986 the Committee met only once yearly, but in 1987 twice yearly meetings were reinstated.

The NCFMEC's activities were largely financed by funds from the Farm Foundation during the period 1947-68. Since 1969 each state has been responsible for travel and subsistence for their participating staff. The Farm Foundation has provided funds for the Committee to use for task force expenses and to support speaker expenses for conferences.

Major accomplishments of the Committee over the years include:

- development of **Farm and Home Planning** programs in the 1950s
- transition to **electronic processing** of farm records and budgets
- establishment of the **Farmers' Tax Guide** now published by the IRS
- development of a full set of **farm leasing** bulletins and lease forms
- authorship of 42 **regional extension bulletins**, published by Midwest Plan Service since 1997
- organization of a **continuing education workshop** for farm management extension specialists every 3 years
- facilitation of **communication** and sharing of ideas within the region

Approximately 128 extension specialists have been members of the Committee. They have served on 59 subcommittees and task forces, and have carried out 14 continuing education workshops and several multi-state and special topic workshops. The Committee has had 14 administrative advisors, plus 15 advisors from the Farm Foundation and the Federal Extension Service.

The objectives of the NCFMEC have changed little over the years, but the methods of achieving the objectives have continued to evolve. Through dedication and responsible leadership the NCFMEC will continue to provide management information and education to farmers in the North Central Region in an innovative and efficient manner.