

PROGRESS REPORT
OF
IOWA STATE PLANNING BOARD PROJECTS
FOR
FEBRUARY 16-29, 1936

PROGRESS REPORT OF IOWA STATE PLANNING BOARD PROJECTS

FEB, 16-29, 1936

During the latter half of February the Planning Board continued the work of three W.P.A. survey projects, "Business and Industry", "Urban Zoning and Planning Studies", and "Biological Survey", and the N.Y.A. project supplementary to the second named. In addition, a study entitled "Analysis of Farm Statistics" was begun and preliminary plans were made to start field work on the conservation project, "Lake and Stream Improvement". Four other projects are approved by Washington and approval of four others is pending.

These surveys and studies, with the exception of the one authorized by the National Youth Administration, are Works Progress Administration projects. All such projects, if statistical in nature, are first approved by the Coordinator of Statistical Projects in the state W.P.A. office, who transmits them to Washington. There they must be passed by the Coordinating Committee of the Central Statistical Board and W.P.A., by the President, and by the Comptroller General. Actual operation of the project must then be approved by the State W.P.A. Administrator and the allotment of funds must be made, before work can be begun.

Business and Industry,
Project No. 00-85-477

The progress of this survey has been unaffected by the weather and the road conditions, since practically all the data are being obtained from the tax records in the offices of the county treasurers.

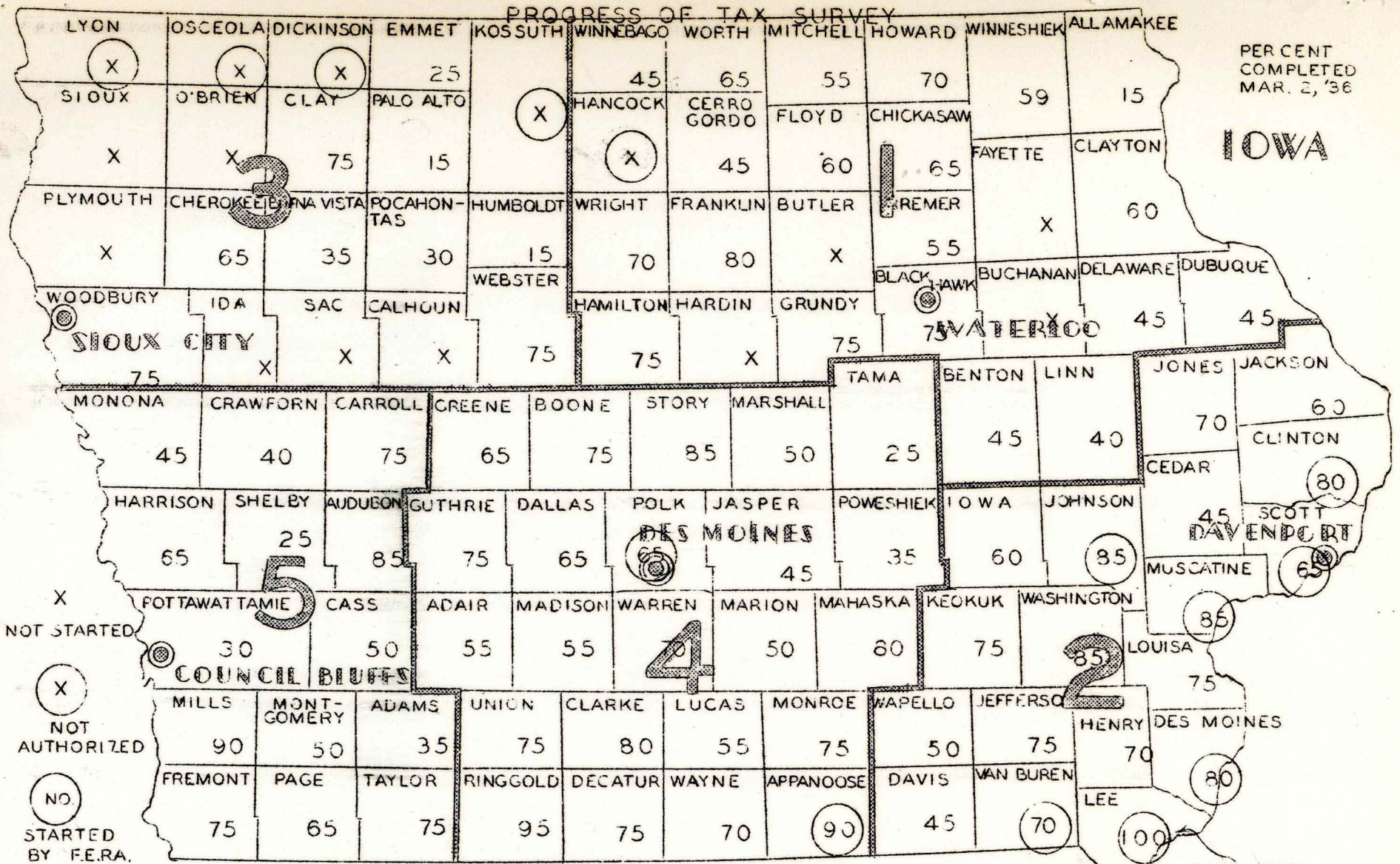
The progress of the field work to Feb. 29 is shown by the following summary:

Period	No. of Counties in Which Field Work Was in Progress	Total Per Cent (Approximate) of Field Work Completed, to End of Period
Jan. 1 - 15	48	20
Jan. 16 - 31	83	35
Feb. 1 - 15	83	40
Feb. 16 - 29	83	54

PROGRESS OF TAX SURVEY

PER CENT COMPLETED
MAR. 2, '36

IOWA



W. P. A. DISTRICTS

COMPLETED UNDER F.E.R.A.

- 1. WATERLOO
Wm. L. Yokum, Dist. Director
H. E. Shelton, Supvr. Operations
- 2. DAVENPORT
Alfred C. Mueller, Dist. Director
R. C. Choate, Supvr. Operations
- 3. SIOUX CITY
John M. Naughton, Dist. Director
M. C. Hall, Supvr. Operations
- 4. DES MOINES
Chas. E. Lynde, Dist. Director
E. S. Boudinot, Supvr. Operations
- 5. COUNCIL BLUFFS
E. S. Petty, Dist. Director
J. E. Vath, Supvr. Operations

The per cent of the field work completed in each county, to March 2, is shown on the state map, page 2. These figures are in approximate agreement with the average of 54 per cent for the state on Feb. 29, although they represent the status 2 days later. In the 10 counties in districts 1 and 3 in which no work has been done, it is planned to begin the survey as soon as possible. In estimating the total per cent of the field work completed, it is assumed that these 10 counties will be surveyed. The 5 counties (Lyon, Osceola, Dickinson, Kossuth and Hancock) in which the survey has not been authorized are not included in estimating the per cent completion. It is probable that authorization to begin the work in these counties will be given soon, however.

Approximately 180 relief and 16 non-relief workers were employed, a total of about 196.

On the whole, the progress of the tax survey has been very gratifying. The county treasurers and their deputies have cooperated most cordially in nearly every case. Such cooperation has been essential to the success of the survey and the Planning Board is greatly indebted to these officials for the assistance they have given.

Urban Zoning and Planning Studies,
Project No. 00-85-3011

The table on the following page shows the progress of this project and the number of relief and non-relief workers employed during the half-month period.

It is to be noted that traffic surveys were carried on in 9 cities, land use surveys in 2 cities (Webster City and Muscatine). The land use surveys will be begun in 5 other cities as soon as possible. These cities, as shown in the table, are Burlington, Clinton, Ottumwa, Fort Dodge and Marshalltown.

On Feb. 29 the percentages of completion were approximately as follows: traffic survey, all cities, 19; land use survey, all cities, 7; total project, both surveys, 14. These figures were obtained by averaging the county percentages completed. The tabulations of data were roughly 5% complete.

An average of 301 relief and 22 non-relief workers were employed, a total of 323. This is an increase of about 20 over the number for the preceding half-month period.

N.Y.A. Project No. 1668-Y3,
Supplementary to
"Urban Zoning and Planning Studies"

The traffic survey in Marshalltown is being done in part with the help of young men between 15 and 25 years of age, furnished by the National Youth

Traffic and Land Use Surveys,
Urban Zoning and Planning Studies

City	County	Type of Survey	Date Work Begun	Per Cent* of Work Completed, Feb.16-29	Average No. of Employees, Feb. 16-29,	
					Relief	Non-relief
<u>District 1.</u>						
Cedar Rapids	Linn	Traffic	Feb.3	20	35	1
Dubuque	Dubuque	"	Feb.3	20	35	1
Webster City	Hamilton	land use	Feb.4	30	6	
<u>District 2.</u>						
Burlington	Des Moines	land use	-----	0		
		traffic	Jan.27	20	23	
Keokuk	Lee	traffic	Jan.27	20	15	
Clinton	Clinton	land use	-----	0		
		traffic	Jan.15	20	25	
Ottumwa	Wapello	land use	-----	0		
		traffic	Feb.3	15	30	
Muscatine	Muscatine	land use	Jan.27	30	13	
Davenport	Scott	(tabulations only)	-----	0		
<u>District 3.</u>						
Fort Dodge	Webster	land use	-----	0		
		traffic	Jan.20	30	25	
<u>District 4.</u>						
Marshalltown	Marshall	land use	-----	0		
		traffic	Jan.15	30	29	
Des Moines	Polk	(tabulations only)	Jan.27	5	41	4
Ames	Story	(Headquarters county)			1	15
<u>District 5.</u>						
Council Bluffs	Pottawattamie	traffic	Jan.29	20	23	1
Approximate per cent completed to Feb. 29, including field work, tabulations and analyses		Traffic survey, 9 cities		19		
		Land use survey, 7 cities		7		
		Total project, both surveys		14		
Total average number of persons employed					301	22

*Per cent of field work, tabulations and analyses together.

Administration. These workers are on a relief basis, working one-third time (10 hours per week) as compared with W.P.A. relief employees. During February 11 were employed on the traffic survey.

Biological Survey,
Project No. 00-85-475

During the latter half of February the work of opening holes in the ice on lakes in the northern part of the state was continued. The importance of this work in supplying oxygen to the water to save the fish was discussed briefly in our progress report for Feb. 1-15. While the long weeks of sub-zero weather ended shortly after the middle of February, the thick ice on the lakes remained almost unbroken during the rest of the month. The importance of admitting oxygen to the fish therefore, not only remained, but was even augmented by the fact that when the oxygen content of the water has become insufficient to support all the fish, each succeeding day without an additional supply sees an increase in the rate at which the fish succumb.

The lakes worked on and the number of workers were the same as for the first half of the month, except that 7 men were added in Clay County. The winter feeding and work on waste land, in Webster County, were discontinued. The following table shows the locations in which the work was carried on, with the number of relief men in each.

County	Lake	No. of Relief Workers
<u>District 1.</u>		
Cerro Gordo	(Expect to begin work in these counties about March 1.)	
Hancock		
Wright		
<u>District 3.</u>		
Buena Vista	Storm	5
Clay	Trumbull	14
Dickinson	Silver	
	Swan	
	Spirit	13
	E. Okoboji	
Palo Alto	Lost Island	12
	Silver	5
Emmet	(Allotments made. Work to begin as soon as arrangements can be completed.)	
Woodbury		
<u>District 4.</u>		
Allotment made for this district. Work not yet begun.		
Total Number of Relief workers		49

These 49 relief men worked under the supervision of experienced men from the State Conservation Commission. This Commission is cooperating with the State Planning Board in carrying on the project.

Analysis of Farm Statistics,
Project No. 00-77-2875

As stated in our last progress report, final approval of this project was received from Washington February 8 and the first allotments from the state W.P.A. were made on February 10 and 11. The work could not be begun at once, however, because of certain practical difficulties encountered. These were solved in part, so that the work which is to be done in Story County (Ames) could be started. Three relief workers began tabulating data from township assessors' reports on February 25. The bulk of the work will be done in Des Moines, where most of the records are on file.

The studies which make up this project are considered to be important because of their bearing upon agricultural problems. Although the results will be based upon data for Iowa alone, it is evident that they can not fail to be applicable in whole or in part to the problems of agriculture in other states as well. It is probable therefore that the results of the studies will contribute definitely to the mass of fundamental data upon which any successful adjustments of the agricultural program in America must be based. For this reason a somewhat detailed description of the studies and their purposes is now given.

The investigations involve only farm statistics already available in records of the township assessors, records of the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture and farm business records in the Agricultural Economics Section of the Iowa Agricultural Experiment Station. The studies are as follows:

(1) Distribution of percentages of farm land in various uses.

The distribution will be found by compiling and analyzing the available data on land use, by size and tenure of farm and by soil type. The following information will be used: acres in farm, acres crop land; acres planted to corn, acres corn harvested for grain, total corn production; acres planted to oats, total oats production; acres other small grain planted; total acres tame hay; acres pasture; per cent of total farm in crop land, per cent of crop land in corn, in oats and in hay.

The data will be taken from the records of the township tax assessors, on file at the Iowa Weather and Crop Bureau in Des Moines.

The results of this study will be used as a basis for determining the solution of land use problems in regard to farm size, tenure, soil types and cropping practices. The results also will be used as a measure of the effects of any program of control of the production of farm products and will serve as a guide for similar future research in land use.

(2) Trends in acreage and yields of the major crops.

This study includes the following: (a) determination of the trends in acreages and yields of the major crops, by townships, for the years 1920 to 1935; (b) establishment of bases for acreage and yield for each crop in each township; (c) determination of the trend in the proportion of farm land in crops and in the proportion of the total crop land in corn, small grain and hay. The following data will be used: acres planted or harvested (whichever may be shown in the reports) in corn, oats, barley, wheat, rye, millet, sorghums, alfalfa, timothy, sweet clover and potatoes, for each year from 1920 to 1935, inclusive; yields for same crops and period.

The data will be taken from the crop reports (township averages) from records of the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture. These averages are computed by the U.S.D.A. from the records of the township assessors.

The results of this study will be of value (a) in determining problem areas as regards land use; (b) in determining proper cash farm rents and land values; (c) in testing the equitability of distribution of real estate taxes; (d) in detecting abrupt changes in acreages and yields of the major farm crops; (e) in forecasting crop productions.

(3) Effects of various leasing systems.

The purpose of this study is to determine the effects of several leasing systems on farm crop and livestock patterns in Iowa and on the distribution of income and expense between tenants and landlords. The following detailed data on farm crops and finances will be used: acreages in farm, crop land, corn, harvested grain, oats, other small grain, alfalfa, other tame hay, rotation and permanent pasture; production of corn, oats, cattle, horses, hogs, sheep, poultry; per cent of feed grain sold off farm; costs of labor, repairs, depreciation, taxes, insurance, seed and other crop incidentals, feed and other livestock incidentals, miscellaneous; income from cash rent, crop and livestock sales, sales of livestock products, miscellaneous; fixed and working assets.

These data will be taken from business records on tenant operated farms, kept in the Agricultural Economics Section of the Iowa Agricultural Experiment Station.

The results of this study will afford a basis (a) for judging as to the equitability of present forms of farm lease and (b) for developing forms that are more equitable and that will best protect farm resources, in case present leases are found to be in need of revision.

Approved Projects, Not Yet Operative

Four projects have had final approval in Washington but have not yet been started; namely, "Transportation", "Recreation and Historic", "Public Service" and "Lake and Stream Improvement". These projects will be described in later reports. The status of each is briefly as follows:

Transportation
Project No. 00-00-2967

As stated in our last progress report, the starting of this survey has been delayed due to the fact that the Iowa Highway Commission, which will conduct the survey in cooperation with the Planning Board, is unable to organize the work until the organization of its traffic survey on primary roads is completed. As yet it is not known how soon the Planning Board project can be begun, but it is hoped to begin the field work before the middle of April.

Recreation and Historic
Project No. 00-85-483

In this project the Planning Board will continue the work in connection with recreational areas, historic sites and archaeological research which it began under the Iowa Emergency Relief Administration. Description of the work will be given in a later report.

Although final approval of the project was given in January, the beginning of operations has been delayed, partly because of the unfavorable weather. It is expected that work on the construction of markers for recreational, historic and archaeological sites can be begun in March.

Public Service
Project No. 00-85-482

It has been inadvisable to begin this survey so long as many roads throughout the state can not be traveled easily, since the field work requires the enumerators to use these roads. The general condition of unpaved roads probably will not be favorable until at least the latter part of March. It is possible that the survey can be begun at that time. State allotments have not yet been made.

Lake and Stream Improvement
Project No. 00-85-484

Allotments for work in 4 counties in District 3 were made by the state W.P.A. office on Feb. 21. These counties are Clay, Buena Vista, Dickinson and Woodbury. The allotments were made to cover the first 2 months of work. Operations in the field did not get started before the end of February, however, as it was necessary to re-plan the work because of changes in the weather conditions.

The project will get under way early in March. The nature of the work will be described in the progress report for March 1-15.

Projects on Which Approval is Pending

The Planning Board has proposed four W.P.A. surveys which have been approved by the State Statistical Coordinator but for which final approval from Washington has not been received to Feb. 29. These surveys are "Public Education", "Population and Social Trends", "Survey of Public Health Resources" and "Highway Traffic Accident Survey".

Public Education
Project No. 00-85-430

The status of this project is unchanged since the last progress report.

Population and Social Trends
Project No. 00-85-478

The status of this project is unchanged since the last progress report. The representative of the Advisory Committee on Social Security of the Works Progress Administration, who cooperated in working out the details of the final draft of the proposal, has recommended that it be approved. Therefore, it seems probable that favorable action will be taken by Washington officials soon.

Survey of Public Health Resources
Project No. 00-00-1002

This survey was first proposed to the Works Progress Administration in September, 1935. The proposal was completely rewritten in February to meet certain criticisms of the Coordinating Committee in Washington and to present the project in much greater detail. Insufficient time has elapsed for action on the revised proposal to be taken by the Coordinating Committee. The project is already approved by the Comptroller General.

Highway Traffic Accident Survey
Project No. 00-00-3117

This project is sponsored jointly by the Iowa Motor Vehicle Department and the Iowa State Planning Board. It consists mainly of an analysis of highway traffic accidents in Iowa as recorded in the files of the Motor Vehicle Department. The study will cover the period from 1931 to 1935. Tests of driving speeds also will be made by actual field measurements. A more complete description of the project will be given in a later report.

It is understood that this survey is regarded favorably by Washington officials, and favorable action seems probable.

Projects Under Technical Guidance of Planning Board .

The cities of Davenport and Sioux City are sponsors of W.P.A. city planning surveys similar to the Planning Board project, "Urban Zoning and Planning Studies". These were approved by Washington with the provision that they be conducted under the technical guidance of the State Planning Board. The purpose of this provision is to insure uniformity in procedure in all the cities covered by the surveys, so that comparable results may be obtained. Technical supervision is being furnished by the supervisory personnel of the Planning Board project named above.

The statuses of the surveys are as follows:

City Planning Surveys and Studies
Project No. 2-82-1001
(Sponsor, City of Davenport)

This project was begun Jan. 29 and is approximately 10 per cent complete. To date (Feb. 29) only the traffic survey has been conducted. It employs 31 W.P.A. and 10 N.Y.A. relief workers, 2 W.P.A. and 1 N.Y.A. non-relief supervisors; a total of 44 workers.

City Planning Surveys and Studies
Project No. 3-97-956
(Sponsor, City of Sioux City)

Work on this survey was begun Feb. 3 and is approximately 5 per cent complete. To date (Feb. 29) only the traffic survey has been under way. About 26 W.P.A. and 7 N.Y.A. relief workers are employed, with 1 non-relief supervisor; a total of 34.

Federal Writers' Project

The Planning Board has cooperated with the Iowa division of the Federal Writers' Project of the Works Progress Administration since the beginning of its work in November, 1935.

The Federal Writers' Project has for its primary purpose the compilation of regional and state guide books in which will be found information on all the more interesting and important features in each area. These guides will include both natural and man-made points of interest - scenic areas, lakes, mountains, streams, natural and artificial recreational areas, parks, roads, trails, historic and archaeological monuments and sites, cities, hotels, tourist camps, important urban points of interest, etc.

The Iowa writers have made use of a considerable amount of information collected by the Planning Board in its various surveys and studies. Members of the latter organization are preparing a section on canoe trails of Iowa for

the project, using material gathered during the summer of last year. The Planning Board will assist also in the making of maps. The project is furnishing employment to more than a hundred relief workers in various Iowa cities.

Summary

During the half-month period, Feb. 16-29, the Planning Board continued the work of 4 projects, 3 under the Works Progress Administration and 1 under the National Youth Administration. A new study involving farm statistics was begun. These projects employed a total of approximately 544 relief and 42 non-relief workers, a grand total of 586.*

Four W.P.A. projects have had final approval in Washington but have been delayed by adverse weather and road conditions and other factors. It is expected that 2 of these will be begun some time in March, 1 in March or April and 1 in April.

Four other W.P.A. projects are awaiting final approval of officials in Washington. So far as known, favorable action may be expected.

Two city planning surveys, sponsored by Sioux City and Davenport, are being conducted under the technical guidance of the Planning Board.

The Planning Board is cooperating in the work of the Iowa division of the Federal Writers' Project of the Works Progress Administration.

George E. Davis,
Statistical Coordinator

* The number of workers varies somewhat from day to day. Hence only approximate figures for the entire period can be given.

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