I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the members of my committee. I thank Dr. Glen O. Jensen for his constant encouragement, guidance, and cheerful way of getting me to complete this project; Dr. Thomas R. Lew and Dr. Horlagon Ackerman for their expert advice and professional insight. A special thanks to Dr. Glen O. Jensen, Dr. DeoVon Baily, and Dr. Horlagon Ackerman for letting me participate in their original study. I would like to thank Satoko Chiba for her guidance and help in the statistical analysis of the data. Without this help the task would have been impossible.

Mostly I would like to thank my lovely wife Lisa for her continued encouragement and sacrifices. Without her love, faith, and support this project could not have been completed. Finally, thanks to our children Kirsten, Derrick, Emily, and Ashley for adding joy to my life.

Phillip Stephen Browning

A thesis submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of

MASTER OF SCIENCE

in

Family and Human Development
I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the members of my committee. I thank Dr. Glen O. Jenson for his constant encouragement, guidance, and cheerful way of getting me to complete this project; Dr. Thomas R. Lee and Dr. Norleen Ackerman for their expertise and professional insight.

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Phillip S. Browning
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ABSTRACT

The Correlation Between Life Satisfaction and Farm Involvement Among Utah Dairy Farm Men and Women

by

Phillip S. Browning, Master of Science
Utah State University, 1988

Major Professor: Dr. Glen O. Jenson
Department: Family and Human Development

The purpose of this study is to look at the relationship between life satisfaction and farm involvement among dairy farm men and women in Utah. Farm involvement is defined as farm tasks, decision making, and participation in farm organizations. A sample of 116 couples were drawn from five counties in Utah. The husbands and wives were each interviewed separately. The sample is representative of the dairy farms in these five counties. However, the results of this study cannot be generalized to other types of farms in Utah or dairy farms from other locations.

The correlation between life satisfaction and farm tasks, decision-making patterns, and participation in farm organizations was computed separately for the men and the women. Next, a correlation between life satisfaction and farm tasks, decision-making patterns, and participation in
farm organizations was computed for men and women separately based on three farm sizes: small with 50 or fewer milk cows, medium with 51 to 150 milk cows, and large with over 150 milk cows.

The independent variable, farm tasks, was divided into four categories: farm work, running errands, bookkeeping, and supervising farm workers. The independent variable, decision-making patterns, was divided into two categories: farm decisions and home decisions. The correlation between life satisfaction and participation in farm organizations was statistically significant for dairy farm men overall (r = -.24, p = .008) and also for men from small farms (r = -.37 p = .006). A negative correlation on this variable is interpreted as more participation. The correlation between life satisfaction and bookkeeping for women from small farms was statistically significant (r = -.28, p = .043). The correlation between life satisfaction and farm decisions for women from small farms was statistically significant (r = .31, p = .024). The correlation between life satisfaction and home decisions for women from small farms was statistically significant (r = -.41, p = .001).

Future research should explore in more detail the relationship between life satisfaction and membership in farm organizations and the use of these organizations.
CHAPTER I
STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Introduction

During the last two decades many factors have influenced a change in the economy for the farming community. The oil embargo of the early 1970s caused fuel costs to increase. The inflated valuation of land led to increased borrowing, which created large debt burdens for farmers due to rising interest rates. The shrinking world market for grain from the United States and the embargo on grain shipments to communist countries reduced market prices. In addition, as in other businesses, some farmers have been ineffective managers (Hennon & Marotz-Baden, 1987).

These changes in the economics of farming have been accompanied by social changes as well. The changing attitudes about equality for women have had an impact on the social structure in farming communities.

These economic and life-style factors have resulted in sizeable numbers of farm men and women seeking employment away from the farm in order to supplement the family income. With the level of farm involvement of farm men and women changing, the question is raised about how that might impact their level of life satisfaction.
Problem Statement

The level of involvement in the farm operation may be different for men and women. Much of the recent research that has looked at the involvement of farm women on the farm has not compared involvement with life satisfaction (Jones & Rosenfeld, 1981). The decision-making process and the amount of farm work done has been contrasted between men and women, but not with life satisfaction.

Extension workers, employment counselors, bankers, religious leaders and others who provide guidance for farm couples don’t yet fully understand the implication of this relationship. There is a need for information regarding the relationship between life satisfaction and farm involvement among farm men and women.

Research in this area will help to identify challenges that impact the overall life satisfaction of farm men and women. Each farm couple is different, and individual needs should be considered; but general trends and observations can do much in helping service providers assist farm couples.

Purpose and Objectives

The purpose of this study is to examine data from dairy farm couples in Utah to determine if the amount of farm and family work the men and women perform is associated with their level of life satisfaction. The
study will also look at other aspects of involvement in the farm business, such as the decision-making process of dairy-farm couples and involvement and use of social and educational organizations for farmers. To better understand the farm situation a comparison will be made between small, medium, and large dairy farms.

From the review of literature, hypotheses were developed that will aid in the further refinement of the determinants of life satisfaction among dairy farm couples of Utah.

The first objective is to determine what impact, if any, the participation in farm tasks has on the overall life satisfaction of dairy farm men and women. The next objective is to determine the relation between the decision-making patterns for the farm and the home and the level of life satisfaction of dairy farm men and women. The final objective is to determine the relation between life satisfaction for dairy farm men and women and participation and use of farm organizations.
CHAPTER II
REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Life Satisfaction

Life satisfaction has been measured objectively, subjectively, and by a combination of the two (Wilson & Peterson, 1988). Objective considerations include education attained, income, and standard of living as compared to other people. Subjective considerations include marital satisfaction, family satisfaction, and job satisfaction. All of these factors considered together make up the quality of life or level of life satisfaction (Berry & Williams, 1987; Olsen, et al. 1983).

Previous research has shown that some of the most important predictors for life satisfaction among working urban women are satisfaction with spouse (Berry & Williams, 1987), high income (Hafstrom & Dunsing, 1973), and job satisfaction (Benin & Nienstedt, 1985). Life satisfaction for full-time housewives has been shown to be best predicted by family income, marital happiness, husbands' occupational prestige, religious participation, and education (Freudiger, 1983). Some studies have shown that working women are more satisfied with life than those who are full-time housewives (Ferree, 1976; Burke & Weir, 1976), while other studies have found no difference in
overall life satisfaction based on employment status (Freudiger, 1983; Wright, 1978).

Some researchers have found that life satisfaction among men differs when their wives work outside the home and when she devotes full time to domestic responsibilities. Burke and Weir (1976) found that husbands of wives employed outside the home report lower life satisfaction than those of wives who are full-time housewives. They concluded that these men may be feeling a reduction in self-worth from not being the sole provider for the family and from other changes in roles that occur in the family. More recent studies have found that the level of life satisfaction for husbands is more closely related to the level of family income than to the spousal relationship (Berry & Williams, 1987).

In a national survey London, Crandall, and Seals (1977) found that the sources of life satisfaction for lower socio-economic status (SES) families are different than those for higher SES families. Job and leisure activities are the most important predictors of life satisfaction for higher SES families; while religion, health, living environment, and family are more important for lower SES families. Wilson and Peterson (1988) found similar results among rural youth as they grow into adulthood.
Life Satisfaction Among Farm Families

Recent studies that have looked at life satisfaction among farm couples have found similar results. Life satisfaction for both farm men and women increase as education and income increase (Light, Hertsgaard, & Martin, 1985). The sample studied by Light et al. (1985) claimed that they get out of life what they desire and those things that are important.

Among Wisconsin farm families, the life satisfaction of the husband is related to his aspirations for the home and the farm income. The wife's level of life satisfaction is related to the monetary success of the farm and her husband's aspirations for the farm (Bharadwaj & Wilkening, 1974).

Life satisfaction varies for different people in different circumstances. Andrews and Withey (1976) have developed measures for predicting life satisfaction that include a wide variety of variables. These measures account for the many differences in life satisfaction reported by the subjects in their sample.

Work Involvement: Off and On the Farm

The need for additional income for the farm family and the social changes which have encouraged and made available employment opportunities for more women have
contributed to some farm family members seeking employment away from the farm. The industrialization of the U.S. since World War II has opened the way for many women to enter the work force. In comparing urban women and farm women, Sweet (1972) found that family economic need and industry in the area contributed to urban women accepting employment outside the home. Rural women with more education and older children are more likely to seek off-farm employment than rural women with less education and younger children. Women who do work off the farm provide more family income than the women who work on the farm (Huffman, 1976; Lyson, 1985; Coughenour & Swanson, 1983).

Bokemeier, Sachs, and Keith (1983) conducted a study of Kentucky women from metropolitan and nonmetropolitan areas and farms. They found that farm women tend to be older, less educated, more likely to be married, and less likely to participate in the labor force than other women.

Studies that compare the tasks of men and women on the farm have found that women tend to be more involved with bookkeeping, gardening, running farm errands, and housework. Men tend to be more involved in the actual farm work such as plowing, harvesting, marketing, and buying equipment for the farm (Coughenour & Swanson, 1983; Smith, 1969; Erickson & Klein, 1981; Sawer, 1973). Smith (1969) found that husbands and wives share in barn chores
and farm and household money tasks. Although the couples
do both farm and house work, the wives help the husbands
with the farm work more often than the husbands help the
wives with the housework.

Coughenour and Swanson (1983) and Lyson (1985) did
similar studies to see how the off-farm employment
statuses of the husband and wife affect the farm
operation. They compared four farm types:

(Type 1) full-time operation (both husband and
wife work on farm only)
(Type 2) part-time operation where only wife
works off the farm
(Type 3) part-time operation where only husband
works off the farm
(Type 4) part-time operation where both husband
and wife work off the farm

Type 1 and 2 farms are larger and sell more produce than
types 3 and 4. Type 2 farms tend to produce more family
income than types 3 and 4. The husband’s involvement on
the farm without outside employment distractions is
directly related to the quality of farm management. In
situations where both husband and wife work off the farm,
the farm is smaller in size and is characterized as a less
labor-intensive enterprise. The management of the farm
becomes more lax as both the husband and the wife become
employed full or part time away from the farm.

Some studies have looked at technology and farm size
as variables in the amount of farm work that farm women
do. They found that as farms become larger and more
advanced in technology, women tend to become less involved in the farm operation (Sharp, Gwynn, & Thompson, 1986; Wilkening & Morrison, 1963).

In their findings from a national survey of farm women Jones and Rosenfeld (1981) reported the most frequently performed farm tasks. The farm women reported that they regularly do bookkeeping (61%) and run farm errands (47%). About half of the women reported that they occasionally take care of animals and help with the harvest. A little less than half of the women reported that they occasionally supervise family members in farm work. About 35% reported some involvement in plowing, making major purchases, marketing products, and supervising hired farm workers.

Decision Making

In an early study, Smith (1969) reported that only a few previous studies had compared urban families to farm families. The general finding of the Smith study was that husbands and wives are involved equally in those decisions involving family resources in both urban and farm families.

A recent study conducted nationwide looked at the decision-making process for the farm and home from the farm woman's perspective (Jones & Rosenfeld, 1981). Approximately 50% of the farm women reported being
involved in decisions about the purchase of land, renting
more land, and the purchase of major farm equipment.
Fewer women are involved with decisions about production
practices and selling products. The farm women reported
being more involved in making decisions about the
household than they did for the farm. Nearly 20 %
reported making household decisions alone, while 70 %
reported making household decisions with their husbands
(Jones & Rosenfeld, 1981).

Other studies on decision making in farm families
have revealed several consistent findings. Overall,
husbands and wives are nearly equal in the decision-making
process, however the wives make more decisions about the
household operation while the husbands tend to make more
decisions regarding the farm operation (Smith, 1969;
Wilkening, 1958; Sawer, 1973; Wilkening & Bharadwaj,
1968). The wives' involvement in decisions about the farm
operation is related to three factors. First, as the size
of the farm increases the wives become less involved
(Sawer, 1973; Wilkening, 1958; Straus, 1960). Second, as
the number of children increases farm involvement for the
wife tends to decrease (Sawer, 1973). But, as the wife
seeks information about the farming operation she becomes
more involved in the farm decisions (Sawer, 1973).
This apparent diversity of involvement in the decision-making process begs a closer look at the research that has been done. Wilkening and Morrison (1963) suggested that the respondents may be reporting who actually carries out the task rather than who makes the decision. Keefe and Burke (1967) suggested that a framework should be used that looks at the farm side: inputs, management of resources, and selling outputs; and on the household side, the obtaining and use of family goods and services. The framework should also include psychological variables, SES, and life satisfaction for both the husband and the wife.

Hill (1981) recommended that research in this area should compare the responses of the husband and the wife in the family to determine what is actually taking place. Sachs’ (1983) review of the literature concluded that as farms become more technological women might become less involved in the decision-making process for the farm operation.

Farm Activities

There is little research that looks at the participation of farm men and women in farm organizations and extension services. Involvement in farm-related organizations may reflect the social activity of the farm man or woman. The relation between life satisfaction and
membership and use of farm-related activities has not been explored in previous research.

In 1986 there were 21,000 farmers who subscribed to the Utah Farm Bureau News. A high percentage of these were dairy farmers. Dairy farmers in Utah tend to have a higher membership and participation rate than other Utah farmers in the Utah Farm Bureau (Saunders, editor, Utah Farm Bureau News; personal communication, 1988).

Hypotheses

Six hypotheses were generated and tested.

Hypothesis 1: There is no significant relationship between the level of day-to-day participation in farm tasks and the level of life satisfaction of dairy farm men regardless of farm size.

Hypothesis 2: There is no significant relationship between the level of day-to-day participation in farm tasks and the level of life satisfaction of dairy farm women regardless of farm size.

Involvement in farm tasks include the day-to-day farming tasks that are performed. Farming tasks identified in this study are plowing fields, milking cows, running errands, marketing products, bookkeeping, harvesting crops, and supervising farm workers.

Hypothesis 3: There is no significant relationship between the amount of decision making concerning the farm
and household operations and the level of life satisfaction of dairy farm men regardless of farm size.

Hypothesis 4: There is no significant relationship between the amount of decision making concerning the farm and household operations and the level of life satisfaction of dairy farm women regardless of farm size.

The decisions that were considered in this study include the buying or renting of land, purchase of machinery and livestock, production of new crops, remodeling and/or repairs to the house, and major purchases for home and family use.

Hypothesis 5: There is no significant relationship between the amount of involvement (use and membership) in organizations designed to provide assistance to farmers and the level of life satisfaction of dairy farm men regardless of farm size.

Hypothesis 6: There is no significant relationship between the amount of involvement (use and membership) in organizations designed to provide assistance to farmers and the level of life satisfaction of dairy farm women regardless of farm size.

Involvement in farm assistance organizations was determined by asking the respondents to report if they had participated in programs and activities sponsored by the extension service during the previous two years. Another
indication of involvement in farm-related associations is reported membership in organizations such as Farm Bureau, Utah Dairy Association, marketing and supply cooperatives, general farm organizations, and commodity-producers associations.
CHAPTER III
METHODS

Design

This research project is exploratory in nature. Previous research has not been specific to type of farm. The empirical findings previously reported have been for farm families in general and not for dairy farm families in particular. The general focus of this study centered around a sample of dairy farm couples in the five largest dairy-producing counties in Utah. The data for this study was collected by the Utah State University Experiment Station from March through November 1986. Interview teams, consisting of a female and a male, went to the farmhouse and conducted simultaneous interviews with the husband and the wife. The husband and wife were interviewed separately to obtain their individual responses.

Measurement

Life satisfaction was measured by using a scale developed by Andrews and Withey (1976). The scale measures the level of satisfaction of the individual completing the survey. The scale rankings are delighted, pleased, mostly satisfied, mixed, mostly dissatisfied, unhappy, and terrible. This seven-point scale provides
maximum discrimination among different levels of satisfaction. A seven-point scale also approximates the discriminations the average person makes in judging an item (Andrews & Withey, 1976).

The questions used to determine the respondents' level of life satisfaction (see appendix A) were designed to elicit their feelings about their community, work, family, the availability of resources, time for recreation, government farm programs, and their current financial situation. There were 42 questions which respondents were asked to rate by the scale described above. The questions were adapted from those used by Andrews and Withey.

The questions regarding farm-task involvement (see appendix B), decision making (see appendix C), and farm activities (see appendix D) were adapted from those used by Jones and Rosenfeld (1981) in their national survey of American farm women.

The relation between life satisfaction and the three independent variables was calculated for men and women separately. After comparing the entire sample, the sample was broken down by farm size and the same relations were calculated for groups of subjects from each of the three farm sizes described below.
Sample

The total sample consisted of 116 couples or 232 individual respondents. The list of couples was obtained by a stratified random sample drawn from dairy-producer lists furnished by milk-processing plants. The five counties were individually stratified by size of dairy herd: small herds (dairy herds of 20 to 50 milk cows), medium herds (51 to 150 milk cows), and large herds (over 150 milk cows).

The sample of 116 farms was 23% of the total population of dairy farms in the five counties sampled. Of the farm men and women that were sampled, less than 23% percent of the couples from small and medium farms were interviewed and more than 23% of the couples from large farms were interviewed. Statistical weights were used to correct for this discrepancy, making the sample representative of the population. When a couple declined to participate in the study, the next randomly selected couple in that sample cell was contacted.

Ethical Considerations

Participants were invited to participate in the study with a letter from the principle investigators, followed up by a personal telephone call. The questionnaires were marked with the identification numbers assigned to each participant. The names and numbers were kept separate and
only used for record keeping related to questionnaire completion.

Every effort was made to avoid personal and inappropriate questions. No self-incriminating or belittling questions were used.

Data Analysis Plan

Level of reported life satisfaction was the dependent variable. Involvement in farm tasks, decision making, and membership in farm assistance organizations were the independent variables.

Analysis of the data was accomplished by using the SPSSx statistical package. Using Pearson product moment r, the correlation between each independent variable and the dependent variable, was calculated. The level of statistical significance was set at .05 based on a two-tailed test. This procedure was used for the entire sample and then for each farm-size group of respondents.

The effect of sample size on the statistical significance of a Pearson product moment r is substantial. For N = 12, r must be equal to .576 at the .05 level of significance for a two-tailed test. For N = 100 or larger, r must be equal to or larger than .195 to be statistically significant at .05 for a two-tailed test (Ferguson, 1981). This difference should be considered when comparing correlations from samples of different sizes.
CHAPTER IV
RESULTS

Description of the Sample

This sample was taken from a predominately (98%) white population. Table 1 shows the distribution of the sample by age and sex. The mean age for the women is 49, with a range from 21 to 82 years of age. The men's mean age is 52, with a range from 23 to 81 years of age.

Table 2 shows the distribution of the sample by education and sex. Most of the men have a high school education or higher. Only 11 did not graduate from high school. Four of the men have graduate degrees. Six of the women did not graduate from high school. None of the women has a graduate degree.

Almost all of the couples reported being in their first marriage, with 111 of the wives and 107 of the husbands in their first marriage and the remaining few reporting a remarried status. Table 3 shows the distribution of the sample by the number of years married. Most of the sample had been married between 16 and 40 years. This corresponds to what would be expected in a population of this age range.
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Table 2
Distribution of Sample by Education and Sex

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Table 3

*Distribution of Sample by Years Married*

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<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1-5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6-10</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11-15</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16-20</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21-25</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26-30</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31-35</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36-40</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41-45</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46-50</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>51-55</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>56-60</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>61-65</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>116</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Note:* The table shows the distribution of a sample across different years of marriage, with counts and percentages provided for each interval.
It was found that 28% of the women and 32% of the men are employed away from the farm. The trend is for less off-farm income as the size of the farm increased.

The farm men were asked to estimate the total value of all the financial assets and real estate property of themselves and any partners who share in the profits of the operation. This includes certificates of deposit, real estate property, checking and savings accounts, stocks, and bonds. The mean total assets reported by the small dairy farmers is $231,886. The dairy farmers with medium size herds reported their mean total assets as $441,658. The mean total assets reported by the dairy farmers with large herds was $742,629.

The dairy farm men were asked to report the number of cows that were currently being milked on their operation. The mean number of cows being milked on the small farms is 40, the medium farms have a mean of 84 cows being milked, and the large farms have a mean of 187 cows being milked.

To determine the number of acres of crop and pasture land used by these dairy farmers the men were asked to report the total number of acres owned (it was not specified whether they actually owned the land or were in the process of buying the land) by the farm operation and the total number of acres leased by the farm operation. The mean number of acres of land of the small, medium, and
large farms are respectively 72, 156, and 335. The average number of acres of leased land is 38, 112, and 185 for the small, medium, and large farms, respectively.

**Participation in Farm Tasks**

A comparison was made separately for the men and the women regarding their participation in farm-related tasks. Table 4 shows the amount of participation by the women in dairy-farm-related tasks. The types of tasks are in rank order with the most frequently performed task listed first. Fifty-three percent of the women reported being regularly involved in running errands for the farm, compared with 47% from a national survey (Jones & Rosenfeld, 1981). Fifty-five percent of the women reported being regularly involved in bookkeeping, compared with 61% nationally (Jones & Rosenfeld, 1981).

In this study, 41% of the women said that they occasionally get involved in the harvest and in taking care of farm animals. Jones and Rosenfeld reported that nationally about 50% of farm women get involved in the harvest and in taking care of farm animals. Fewer than 25% of the women in this study reported being involved at least occasionally in milking, plowing, buying equipment, marketing products, and supervising hired help. This is a little less involvement than the women in the national survey reported (Jones & Rosenfeld, 1981).
Table 4
Distribution of Farm Tasks by Women

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Task</th>
<th>Occasionally</th>
<th></th>
<th>Regularly</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>N</td>
<td>%</td>
<td></td>
<td>N</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Running Farm Errands</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>41</td>
<td></td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bookkeeping</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>22</td>
<td></td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harvesting Crops</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>41</td>
<td></td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feeding Livestock</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>38</td>
<td></td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supervising Family Members</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>31</td>
<td></td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purchasing Farm Equipment</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>23</td>
<td></td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preparing Tax Forms</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>14</td>
<td></td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plowing</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>23</td>
<td></td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milking</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>13</td>
<td></td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marketing Products</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>16</td>
<td></td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supervising Hired Help</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>16</td>
<td></td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Row totals do not equal 100% because the respondents had the option of picking two other categories, never or not done, instead of occasionally or regularly. Those choosing never or not done make up the remaining percentage.
It is interesting to note that the women were more involved in seasonal labor such as harvesting than in daily tasks such as milking the cows or feeding the animals. One reason for this might be that the women are available to help perform tasks that do not have to be done every day. That is, they can sacrifice doing some of the other tasks that they normally do to help with the farm so that temporary workers don’t have to be hired at a greater expense to the farming operation.

Table 5 shows the amount of involvement by the men in dairy farm tasks. The men reported being involved in the purchasing of farm equipment and running errands for the farm more frequently than the other tasks. Other researchers have found that farm men tend to be more involved in performing these same farm tasks than farm women (Coughenour & Swanson, 1983; Smith, 1969; Erickson & Klien, 1981; Sawer, 1973).
Decision Making by Gender

Both the men and the women reported that the husband makes most of the decisions about farming activities after limited consultation with his wife. The wives make most of the decisions about household and family needs after consulting with their husbands. These findings are similar to what other researchers have reported about the decision-making process among farm couples (Sawer, 1973; Wilkening & Bharadwaj, 1968; Wilkening & Morrison, 1963). Table 6 illustrates the decision-making process as reported by this sample of dairy farm men and women.
Table 5

Distribution of Farm Tasks by Men

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Task</th>
<th>Occasionally N</th>
<th>Occasionally %</th>
<th>Regularly N</th>
<th>Regularly %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Purchasing Farm Equipment</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>80*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harvesting</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Running Farm Errands</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feeding Animals</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plowing</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marketing Products</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supervising Family</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bookkeeping</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milking</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supervising Hired Help</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preparing Tax Forms</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Row totals do not equal 100% because the respondents had the option of picking two other categories, never or not done, instead of occasionally or regularly. Those choosing never or not done make up the remaining percentage.
Table 6

Description of the Decision Making Process

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Task</th>
<th>HUSBAND W/WIFE</th>
<th>HUSBAND</th>
<th>BOTH</th>
<th>WIFE W/HUSBAND</th>
<th>WIFE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Who usually makes final decisions to...</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>buy or sell land</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>wife</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>husband</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rent land</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>wife</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>husband</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>buy equipment</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>wife</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>husband</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>produce new crop of livestock</td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>wife</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>husband</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sell livestock</td>
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<tr>
<td>wife</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>husband</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>try new production practice</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>wife</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>husband</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>remodel home</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>wife</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>husband</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>make major household repairs</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>wife</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>husband</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>buy a new family car</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>wife</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>husband</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
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</table>
Table 6 Continued

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Wife</th>
<th></th>
<th>Husband</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Buy major household appliance</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wife</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Husband</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How much to spend on day-to-day living items</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wife</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Husband</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Participation in Farm Organizations

Very few of the women had attended classes in farm management and/or production. Nearly 90% of the women said that they had not participated in these types of activities during the previous two years. About 40% of the men reported that they had attended classes dealing with farm management and production. When asked about their participation in 4-H or other youth activities, 11% of the women and 20% of the men reported that they had been involved during the previous two-year period. The heavier participation of men than women in 4-H-type activities is likely to be peculiar to dairying and the raising of animals as 4-H projects.

About 30% of the women reported that they were members of established farm organizations, whereas about 75% of the men indicated membership. The men were also asked if they were members of any farm supply or marketing cooperatives. About 72% said they were members of such cooperatives.
Life Satisfaction

The life-satisfaction measures asked respondents to note how they felt about a variety of aspects of their lives (there were 42 questions asked). The choices the respondents had varied from terrible (scored as 1) to delighted (scored as 7). The mean response by the women is 4.69, with a standard deviation of .477. The men’s mean response is 4.79, with a standard deviation of .533. The range of means on the 42 items for the women is 3.61 to 5.72. The range of means on the 42 items for the men is 3.51 to 6.15. It is interesting to note that the range of means for the men shows greater spread and further extremes than the range of means for the women. The scores are quite evenly spread with very few points of clustering.

A reliability check was used to analyze the additiveness of the 42 questions used in measuring life satisfaction. For the women’s measure a Cronbach’s alpha of .85 was obtained. The Cronbach’s alpha for the men’s measure is .89. Both of these coefficients are high, which justifies the use of these 42 items to measure the overall life satisfaction of this sample.

When comparing the mean scores for the men and the women there are only 2 out of the 42 items used to measure life satisfaction that are more than two-tenths of a point
different. The two items are the farm work done and the amount of time spent doing farm work. The men are more satisfied than the women in both of these areas.

The items that were reported as being the least satisfying for both the men and the women are related to government programs. This includes such things as dissatisfaction with government leaders, farm programs, and amount of taxes paid, all at the federal level.

Both men and women reported being most satisfied with their family life, the community in which they live, the amount of outdoor space available around their homes, and the availability of domestic goods and services.

Testing of Hypotheses

In testing all of the hypotheses, life satisfaction was the dependent variable. To obtain a value on this variable for each respondent, the responses that were reported for each item of the life satisfaction measure were totaled and the mean was calculated (see appendix A for a listing of the questions in the life satisfaction measure). This mean score was the value used in calculating the correlations for testing each of the hypotheses.

Hypothesis 1 states: There is no significant relationship between the level of day-to-day participation in farm tasks and the level of life satisfaction of dairy
farm men regardless of farm size. In order to test this hypothesis the independent variable, farm tasks, was divided into four separate variables.

The first variable of farm tasks was called "farm work." In order to obtain a value for this variable, the scores from the first four items of the questionnaire pertaining to farm tasks (see appendix B) were summed and a mean obtained. These items include plowing, harvesting crops, milking cows, and feeding dairy cows.

The second variable of farm tasks was called "running errands." The value for this variable was obtained by calculating the mean of the scores for items five through seven of the questionnaire. These items include running farm errands, buying farm equipment, and marketing farm products.

The value for the third variable, "bookkeeping," was obtained by calculating the mean of the scores for items eight and nine of the questionnaire. Bookkeeping and preparing tax forms for the farm were the subjects of these two questions.

The mean of the scores from questions 10 and 11 was calculated to obtain a value for the fourth variable "supervising." The respondents were asked how involved they are in supervising farm work of family members and hired help.
The correlation between life satisfaction scores and the obtained values for each of the four farm-involvement variables were not found to be statistically significant, as shown in Table 7. Therefore, hypothesis 1 is not rejected for this sample of dairy farm men.

There is a slight tendency for life satisfaction scores to decrease as the farm work scores and supervising scores increase, but the relation is not significant. However, when life satisfaction scores are compared to the scores on running errands and bookkeeping, there is a positive relation. There is no significant relation between life satisfaction and participation when size of farm is considered.

Hypothesis 2 states: There is no significant relationship between the level of day-to-day participation in farm tasks and the level of life satisfaction of dairy farm women regardless of farm size. In comparing the scores of the four independent variables describing farm involvement for women with their scores on life satisfaction, the correlations were not found to be statistically significant. As illustrated in Table 8, there is a tendency for life satisfaction scores to decrease as the women become more involved in three of the four farm-related tasks.
When size of farm is considered the relation between life satisfaction and involvement in bookkeeping for the farm is statistically significant for women from small dairy farms. Those who reported being more involved in bookkeeping reported lower levels of life satisfaction with $r = -0.28$ and $p = .046$. Even though there is a significant relationship in this area, there is not sufficient evidence to reject hypothesis 2.

Hypothesis 3 states: There is no significant relationship between the amount of decision-making concerning the farm and household operations and the level of life satisfaction of dairy farm men regardless of farm size. The responses on the decision-making section of the questionnaire (see appendix C) were divided between two variables.

The responses on the first 6 questions were summed and a mean obtained for the score on the variable "farm decisions." The respondents were asked to rate the degree to which they make decisions regarding the farm operation alone or with their spouse. The six farm decisions considered were to buy or sell land, to rent more or less land, to buy farm equipment, to try a new production practice, when to sell livestock, and whether to produce a new crop.
The responses on questions 7 through 11 were summed and a mean obtained for the score on the second variable "home decisions." The respondents were asked to rate the degree to which they make decisions regarding the household alone or with their spouse. The five household decisions considered were whether to remodel the house, to make house repairs, to buy a new family car, to buy a major household appliance, and how much to spend on day-to-day family expenses.

The correlation between scores on the way decisions were reported as being made both on the farm and in the home and the scores on life satisfaction for the men is not statistically significant, as shown in Table 7.
Table 7
The Relation Between Life Satisfaction and Farm Involvement For Men by Farm Size

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Independent Variables</th>
<th>Total Sample</th>
<th>Small Farms</th>
<th>Medium Farms</th>
<th>Large Farms</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>N</td>
<td>r</td>
<td>p</td>
<td>n</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Farm Tasks</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farm Work</td>
<td>116</td>
<td>-.05</td>
<td>.565</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bookkeeping</td>
<td>116</td>
<td>.02</td>
<td>.638</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supervising</td>
<td>116</td>
<td>-.04</td>
<td>.638</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Decision Making</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farm Decisions</td>
<td>116</td>
<td>-.04</td>
<td>.708</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home Decisions</td>
<td>116</td>
<td>-.07</td>
<td>.484</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farm Activities</td>
<td>116</td>
<td>-.24**</td>
<td>.008</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

** p < .01
Table 8
The Relation Between Life Satisfaction and Farm Involvement For Women by Farm Size

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Independent Variables</th>
<th>Total Sample</th>
<th>Small Farms</th>
<th>Medium Farms</th>
<th>Large Farms</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>N  r  p</td>
<td>n  r  p</td>
<td>n  r  p</td>
<td>n  r  p</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farm Tasks</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farm Work</td>
<td>116 .09 .323</td>
<td>53 .04 .756</td>
<td>52 .14 .304</td>
<td>12 .20 .543</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Running Errands</td>
<td>116 -.00 .984</td>
<td>53 -.23 .100</td>
<td>52 .27 .052</td>
<td>12 -.11 .743</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bookkeeping</td>
<td>115 -.11 .244</td>
<td>53 -.28* .043</td>
<td>52 .16 .247</td>
<td>12 -.44 .155</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supervising</td>
<td>114 -.03 .788</td>
<td>53 -.03 .846</td>
<td>52 .02 .896</td>
<td>11 -.14 .673</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decision Making</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farm Decisions</td>
<td>116 .14 .130</td>
<td>53 .31* .024</td>
<td>52 -.03 .810</td>
<td>12 .32 .308</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home Decisions</td>
<td>116 -.09 .353</td>
<td>53 -.42** .001</td>
<td>52 .16 .244</td>
<td>12 .39 .212</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farm Activities</td>
<td>116 -.04 .654</td>
<td>53 -.02 .929</td>
<td>52 -.13 .354</td>
<td>12 .16 .603</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* p < .05
** p < .01
Although it is not statistically significant, there is a tendency for the men to report being more satisfied if they also report being more involved in the decision-making process. These tendencies occur when the size of the farm is considered; therefore, hypothesis 3 is not rejected.

Hypothesis 4 states: There is no significant relationship between the amount of decision making concerning the farm and household operations and the level of life satisfaction of dairy farm women regardless of farm size. The correlations between scores on life satisfaction and decision making on the farm and in the home are not statistically significant for this sample of farm women, as shown in Table 8.

When size of farm is considered, the women from small dairy farms show a higher level of life satisfaction when they are more involved with farm decisions, \( r = .31 \) and \( p = .024 \). Women on small farms also show a higher level of life satisfaction if the men report involvement in decisions about the house, \( r = -.42 \) and \( p = .002 \).

There is a significant relation between life satisfaction and making decisions about the farm for women on small dairy farms. This is not found for women from either the medium or large dairy farms. Therefore, hypothesis 4 is not rejected for this sample of dairy farm women.
Hypothesis 5 states: There is no significant relationship between the amount of involvement (use and membership) in organizations designed to provide assistance to farmers and the level of life satisfaction of dairy farm men regardless of farm size. All of the scores from the questions in the section of the questionnaire dealing with participation in farm organizations were added together and a mean obtained. This mean score was used for the value on the variable farm activities.

The respondents (both men and women) were asked to report yes (=1) or no (=2) on their participation in several farm-related activities. These include farm management classes, extension activities, 4-H activities, membership in marketing cooperatives, general farm organizations, and commodity producers' associations (see appendix D).

The correlation between scores on life satisfaction and scores on the men's involvement in professional organizations is statistically significant, as shown in Table 7. As life satisfaction goes up so does involvement in these activities. Therefore, hypothesis 5 is rejected. For this sample of dairy farm men there is a significant relationship between participation in farm organizations and life satisfaction.
The men who are from small dairy farms report higher levels of life satisfaction when they are more involved in farm-related organizations. The correlation is $r = -0.37$ and $p = 0.006$. This relation accounts for the similar finding for the total sample. The total correlation is $r = -0.24$ and $p = 0.008$. The relation between life satisfaction and involvement in farm-related organizations for men on medium and large farms is in the same direction but not statistically significant.

Hypothesis 6 states: There is no significant relationship between the amount of involvement (use and membership) in organizations designed to provide assistance to farmers and the level of life satisfaction of farm women regardless of farm size. The correlation between life satisfaction and the wives' involvement in farm-related organizations is not statistically significant, as shown in Table 8, even though it is in the same direction as the husbands'. This is true when size of farm is considered. So for this sample of dairy farm women, hypothesis 6 is not rejected.
CHAPTER 5
CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Summary of Findings

The dairy farm men and women studied in this sample are satisfied with their lives. On a scale of 1 to 7, the overall mean life satisfaction score is 4.79 for the men and 4.69 for the women. Using the scale from the questionnaire, this denotes that the level of life satisfaction for this sample falls between mostly satisfied (a score of 5) and mixed feelings (a score of 4). Overall life satisfaction is a little lower than expected.

In a rating of 250 jobs based on six criteria, dairy farming is rated 245th (Krantz, 1988). The six criteria used to determine which job is best are: salary, stress, work environment, outlook, security, and physical demands. The rating was not done by people in the jobs. In view of this report, dairy farm men and women have an uphill battle to fight in order to make life enjoyable.

The data that are considered in this study do not reflect all of the items that determine the life satisfaction of dairy farmers. Only work patterns, focus of decision-making, and membership in farm organizations were analyzed. Membership and use of farm organizations by dairy farm men is the only factor that is significantly related to life satisfaction.
The only hypothesis that could be rejected based on the data from this dairy farm sample is hypothesis 5. Hypothesis 5 indicates that membership and use of farm organizations does not affect the level of life satisfaction. However significant findings were noted concerning hypotheses 2 and 4.

Hypothesis 2, indicates that participation in farm-related tasks does not affect the level of life satisfaction for women. However, the women from small dairy farms reported higher levels of life satisfaction when they were less involved in bookkeeping. The correlation between life satisfaction and bookkeeping is also in the same direction for women from large farms, although it is not statistically significant because of the small sample size.

Regarding hypothesis 4, concerning the relation between life satisfaction and decision-making, the women from small dairy farms reported higher levels of life satisfaction when they are more involved in making decisions for the farm. The women from small dairy farms also reported more life satisfaction when their husbands are more involved with making decisions for the house.

In analyzing data pertaining to hypothesis 5 it was found that those dairy farm men who tend to be more involved in farm-related organizations also tend to report
a higher level of life satisfaction. This relation may be the result of higher organizational membership rates among satisfied men or it may be due to increased satisfaction from membership. Some organizations, i.e., co-ops, may provide higher income, which may result in higher satisfaction.

This finding should be of importance to the directors of farm organizations. If membership in the farm organizations relates to life satisfaction, then membership recruitment efforts should be tailored to meet the needs of the farmers. If farmers who have high life satisfaction make up the membership of farm organizations, then the organizations are not likely meeting the needs of the dissatisfied farmers.

Other significant findings from this study show that for farm women on small dairy farms, involvement in decision making is important to life satisfaction. If women feel they have some say in what happens to the farm they have correspondingly higher levels of life satisfaction. It can be assumed that greater life satisfaction positively influences relationships with children and spouses and higher levels of satisfaction in family and marriage relationships might increase overall life satisfaction.
Another finding of significance is that being a female on a small dairy farm and having responsibilities for keeping the books does not contribute to increased life satisfaction. Being the bookkeeper and knowing the bottom line of farm finances without additional decision-making powers may give the farm female a feeling of powerlessness. With little power to change what the records might show to be a problem, the farm female may have intensified feelings of dissatisfaction.

Limitations

Several other factors that could affect life satisfaction are outside the scope of this project. The only factors considered are size of farm, division of farm and household labor, decision-making patterns, and membership and use of farm organizations.

Ninety-eight percent of the sample are white and of one religion (Mormon). Most of the participants reported a high level of religious activity. The racial make-up and religious affiliation limit the generalizability of this information to other farming populations.

The sample was only taken from dairy farmers so the information cannot be generalized to other farm types. Although this is a limitation, it seems important to differentiate between farm types when doing studies of this nature. Dairy operations are different from other
kinds of farming operations, one of the main differences being the every day demands that animals have for proper care. Field crops do not require day-to-day attention 365 days a year. This demand on time may have an impact on life satisfaction. Comparison studies are needed to test this proposition.

All of the respondents in the sample were married, although each person was interviewed separately. Marriage has been identified as an enhancer of life satisfaction. Non-married dairy farmers might respond differently.

The information was collected at only one point in time. The respondents may have been influenced by some outside disturbance or problems that were bothering them at the time. Repetition over time is needed to determine the validity of the information collected.

Recommendations for Future Research

The size of the farm seems to be a factor that needs consideration in future research. Those who operate small farms are having to find sources of outside income to supplement the farm income (Baily, Jenson, & Ackerman, 1988). The dairy farm, for these people, may be more of a family effort than the larger farms that are run more like businesses.

Other factors should be considered as possible determinants of life satisfaction. Such things as cash
flow, debt-to-asset ratio, age of respondent, and isolation of the farm from larger metropolitan areas are possible variables to use.

The influence of membership in farm organizations needs to be further studied. What is it about the farm organization that leads to greater life satisfaction? Do the people who participate in these organizations have different social skills than those who do not affiliate with farm organizations?

The social networks that are available to farmers should be explored more carefully. It may not be that participation in farm organizations per se leads to greater life satisfaction, but the opportunity to get away from the farm and associate with people who have similar goals and interests may be the source of increased life satisfaction.

Given that previous research has, for the most part, not controlled for the type of farm, it seems imperative to apply such controls in order to better understand the dynamics of life satisfaction among farmers. The need for such control is pointed out in a recent report by Krantz (1988), which shows dairy farming 245th in a list of 250 occupations in occupational desirability. Farming in general was rated 233. Dairy farming may be different from other types of farming in that milk cows demand daily
attention. For example, crop farmers can leave the farm for a day if they need to attend a social event, but somebody has to milk the cows every day.
REFERENCES


APPENDICES
Appendix A. Life Satisfaction Questions

We'd like to know something about your feelings toward a number of aspects of your life, such as your community, your work, your family, and so on.

Using the response scale on this card(#3), please state the number that best represents your feelings about the items I read.

I feel:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>7</th>
<th>6</th>
<th>5</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>delighted</td>
<td>Pleased</td>
<td>Mostly Satisfied</td>
<td>Mixed (about equally satisfied and dissatisfied)</td>
<td>Mostly dissatisfied</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2     1

Unhappy ——— Terrible

How do you feel about....

1. Your house/apartment?
2. This community as a place to live?
3. And now, a very general one: How do you feel about your life as a whole?
4. Your own health and physical condition?
5. The things you and your family do together?
6. Your off-the-farm job, if any?
7. The goods and services you can get when you buy in this area--things like food, appliances, cloths?
8. The amount of time you have for doing the things you want to do?
9. Your chance of getting a good job off the farm if you went looking for one?
10. How well your family agrees on how family income should be spent?
11. Yourself—what you are accomplishing and how you handle problems?

12. Your opportunity to change things around that you don’t like?

13. Your chances for relaxation—even for a short time?

14. What you have to pay for basic necessities such as food, housing, and clothing?

15. The amount of fun and enjoyment you have?

16. What our government is doing about the farm economy?

17. The things you do and the times you have with your friends?

18. The amount of pressure you are under?

19. Your standard of living—the things you have like housing, car, furniture, recreation, and the like?

20. Your own family life—your wife/husband, your marriage, your children, if any?

21. The outdoor space there is for you to use outside your home?

22. The income you (and your family) have?

23. The way our national government is operating?

24. The usefulness, for you personally, of your education?

25. How fairly you get treated?

26. The schools in this area?

27. The doctors, clinics, and hospitals you would use in this area?

28. The extent to which you are achieving success and getting ahead?
29. The work you do on your farm -- the work itself?

30. Working on the farm -- the physical surroundings, the hours, and the amount of work you do?

31. The people you work with--your farming partners, family members who work on the farm and hired help?

32. The way you spend your spare time, your nonworking activities?

33. The services you can get when you have to have someone come in to fix things around your home - like painting, repairs?

34. The services you get in this area - like road maintenance, snow removal, and fire and police protection?

35. How secure you are financially?

36. The extent to which you adjust to changes in your life?

37. The way our political leaders think and act?

38. The information you get from newspapers, magazines, radio & TV?

39. The entertainment you get from TV, radio, movies, and local events and places?

40. The taxes you pay -- I mean the local, state, and national taxes altogether?

41. Your housework - the work you need to do around the home?

42. And now, to sum up this section, how do you feel about your life as a whole?
Appendix B. Farm Tasks Questions

Now I have some questions about the kinds of work done by members of your family that contribute to the operation of your farm. If a particular type of work doesn't apply to your operation, please be sure to tell me and we'll go on to the next one.

Please use the scale on this card (#1) to indicate whether you do the farm work described either regularly, occasionally, or never.

Response scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Regularly</th>
<th>Occasionally</th>
<th>Never</th>
<th>Not Done</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. Plowing, disk, cultivating, planting, etc.  
2. Harvesting crops or other products, including running machinery or trucks  
3. Milking dairy cattle  
4. Feeding dairy animals (includes dry cattle, milking cattle, heifers)  
5. Running farm errands, such as picking up repair parts or supplies  
6. Making major purchases of farm or ranch supplies and equipment  
7. Marketing your products—that is, dealing with marketing associations, cooperatives, etc.  
8. Bookkeeping, maintaining records, paying bills  
9. Preparing tax forms for the farm operation  
10. Supervising the farm work of other family members  
11. Supervising the work of hired farm labor
Appendix C. Decision-Making Questions

This next section is about who makes the decisions in your family. Please use the scale on Card #2. 1 is if your husband makes decision all alone, 2 is your husband makes the decision after consulting with you, 3 if you both have equal say in the decision, 4 if you make the decision after consulting with your husband, 5 if you make the decision alone, 6 if you don’t know, and 7 if someone else outside your family makes the final decision and who that person is. (On the wife questionnaire)

This next section is about who makes the decisions in your family. Please use the scale on Card #2. 1 is if you make decision all alone, 2 is if you make the decision after consulting with your wife, 3 if you both have equal say in the decision, 4 if your wife makes the decision after consulting with you, 5 if your wife makes the decision alone, 6 if you don’t know, and 7 if someone else outside your family makes the final decision and who that person is. (On the husband questionnaire)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Husband decides alone</th>
<th>Husband decides after consulting</th>
<th>Both share equally in decision</th>
<th>Wife decides after consulting</th>
<th>Husband decides alone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Don’t Know Else (specify)

First, who usually make final decisions about . . .

1. Whether to buy or sell land?
2. Whether to rent more or less land?
3. Whether to buy major farm equipment?
4. Whether to produce something new such as a new crop or a new breed or type of livestock?
5. When to sell your livestock?
6. Whether to try a new production practice?
7. Whether to remodel a room or the whole house?

8. When to make major household repairs, that is a new roof, upgrade household insulation?

9. Whether to buy a new car primarily for family usage?

10. Whether to buy major household appliances or new furniture?

11. How much to spend on day-to-day regular family living items (groceries, clothing, etc.)?
Appendix D. Farm Activities Questions

We'd also like to know about any experiences you may have had with programs or activities run by the Extension Service in your area. In the last two or three years have you personally been involved with any of the following Extension Service activities?

1. Classes or other activities on agricultural production?  
   ___1. Yes  ___2. No

2. Classes or other activities on farm or ranch management?  
   ___1. Yes  ___2. No

3. Extension family living/homemaker activities? (wives questionnaire only)  
   ___1. Yes  ___2. No

4. 4-H or other youth activities?  
   ___1. Yes  ___2. No

5. Discussing specific problems with an extension staff member?  
   ___1. Yes  ___2. No

Next, we would like to know about your membership in farm and other organizations. For each of the following organizations, please tell me whether you personally have been a member at any time during the last two or three years.

6. Marketing cooperative? (husbands only)  
   ___1. Yes  ___2. No

7. Farm supply cooperative? (husbands only)  
   ___1. Yes  ___2. No

8. Any general farm organization, such as the Farm Bureau, Farmers Union, etc. (husbands questionnaire only)  
   ___1. Yes  ___2. No

9. Any women's auxiliaries of general farm organizations, such as Farm Bureau Women? (wives questionnaire only)  
   ___1. Yes  ___2. No

10. Any commodity producers' associations, such as the Utah Dairy Association?  
    ___1. Yes  ___2. No
VITA

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Candidate for the Degree of

Master of Science

Thesis:  The Correlation Between Life Satisfaction and Farm Involvement Among Utah Farm Men and Women

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