

ECONOMIC CONSEQUENCES OF HOUSEHOLD PRODUCED GOODS AND SERVICES

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ABSTRACT

Based upon the analysis of 1,235 questionnaires, Massachusetts Extension clientele are earning \$38,812,800 from home-produced goods and services. Estimates of time spent on household-produced goods and services were provided by 940 participants, while an additional 295 kept a week's diary in addition to providing the estimate. Although the respondents were also asked to record the number of hours per week they spent on producing household goods and services for their family and for barter as well as for pay, the surprise was the extent to which people are earning money from household-produced goods and services.

In Massachusetts, the three components of the land grant university--cooperative extension service, research, and resident instruction--are cooperating on this new direction of home-based business.

OUTCOME

Because of the results of this study, Massachusetts Cooperative Extension Service home economists have:

- sponsored a statewide conference, "Sewing as a Business" where the 350 participants reported income of \$1,680,000 a year.
- received inservice education on home economics home-based business including bed and breakfast, day care, catering, sewing, cleaning business as well as technical expertise from the Internal Revenue Service, insurance, health and labor departments.
- planned to train 75 master teachers in home-based business who will contract to volunteer 100 hours each to teach clients about home economics home-based businesses under the supervision of the county extension home economist.
- cooperated on an Agricultural Experiment Station grant (Hatch Funds) to conduct an educational needs assessment in two Massachusetts counties with people presently involved in home-based business.
- helped to initiate a course on home-based business for academic credit--undergraduate and graduate.
- planned to measure the effectiveness of the home-based business volunteer master teachers program as perceived by the county extension home economist, the master teacher, and the client.
- plans to attend a National USDA Extension workshop on home-based business, May 1985.

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