

Rural Areas Draw More Return Migrants Than Urban Centers

Americans have been pictured recently as restless wanderers without strong

ties to particular geographic areas. How accurate is this portrait? What about the migrants who return to the areas where they were born?

These and other questions are examined in a joint study on return migration, by the Office of Economic Opportunity, the University of Georgia, and the Economic Research Service.

The study notes that some 30 million people 5 years old and over lived in a State in 1970 other than where they were born. On the other hand, the 1970 Census indicated that 3 million people who had lived elsewhere moved back to their State of birth between 1965 and 1970. And although return migrants represent a small share of the total U.S. population - under 2 percent of all persons 5 years old and over in 1970 - the proportion

is considerably higher in rural areas and among certain segments of the population.

Return migration is greater in rural areas than urban places, the study shows. Also, the rate of migration varies by race.

In 1967, for example, there were 5 million rural-born people who had moved to urban areas and then returned. Almost a fourth of the white rural-urban migrants had moved back to rural areas, compared with only an eighth of the blacks.

Return migration to urban areas was less common. In 1967, 3 million urban-to-rural migrants had returned to urban environments. Fewer blacks moved than whites but they had a higher proportion of returnees. Over a third of the small

group of urban blacks who moved to rural areas had returned, compared with a quarter of the whites.

In general, the study says that race, more than other factors such as age and sex, is associated with the rate of return migration. Among persons 5 years old and over, whites were roughly 1½ times as likely as blacks to have returned to their State of birth from elsewhere during the 5 years preceding the 1960 and 1970 Censuses.

The difference in return rates was due partly to the high proportion of blacks originating in the South, for whom migration across State lines often meant leaving the South. The origins for whites were much more diverse and the barriers to return were less. The narrowing of the gap between return rates for the races in 1970 may reflect improved conditions for blacks in the South, as evidenced by an increasing tendency to return to that region.

The proportion of return migrants in 1960 and 1970 was about the same for males and females. However, there were major differences at certain ages, especially between 15 and 30 years. In the 15-24 year age range, females were more likely to be return migrants

than males, while at ages 25-29 the opposite was true. Much of the migration of young males was attributed to military service requirements.

The study also found geographic differences in return migration patterns.

In Census divisions where people leaving outnumbered the newcomers, return migrants comprised a large

share of the in-migrants. Reasons: a losing area has a larger pool of persons who have left and can be drawn back again; also, losing areas probably have limited opportunities and little to attract outsiders who have no ties to the area. In contrast, gaining areas had low proportions of returnees and attracted large numbers of new migrants.

Holstein Breeders Support Young Farmer's Act

Holstein breeders from across the state assembled for their Annual Meeting last week threw their support behind two actions under discussion in Congress.

Citing a decreasing farm population and the fact that farm youth are seeking off-farm employment "because financing a farm has for most become an unreachable dream," it was resolved to "support "The Young Farmer Investment Act" by Senator Clark of Iowa, which would make loans available to young farmers at reasonable rates of interest for the purpose of entering into or expanding their farm operation."

On another topic, the dairy farmers stated that "the provisions of the federal inheritance tax law contains outdated exemption levels of \$60,000, and limited deductions for a surviving spouse. In addition this law has failed to keep pace with recent state laws relating to

the value, for tax purposes, of lands devoted to an agricultural use."

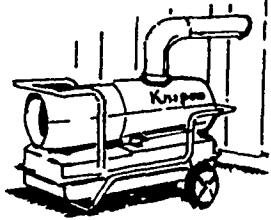
They are therefore urging "the support of amendments to the federal law which would raise the exemption to \$200,000, which would increase the marital deduction and which would provide a lower tax base for lands which are engaged in agricultural production.

Finally, the Association also reaffirmed its support of the Extension Service as a "vital link between the farm community and the consuming public" and of tremendous value in promoting more efficient and productive agriculture and a better understanding by the public of rural life and the value of food.

The Holstein Association encourages all levels of government to "provide adequate budgets and official encouragement to the extension service programs."

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Schedule of Events

- 9:30 Coffee and doughnuts
- 10:00 Introductions — Moderator, Everett Newswanger, Studio By The Bridge
- 10:10 Remarks — M. M. Smith, Lancaster County Agent
- 10:25 Comfortable Animal Housing — Caleb M. Wenger, Pres. Caleb M. Wenger, Inc.
- 10:45 Animal Health — Dr. Samuel Guss, Extension Veterinarian, Penn State University
- 11:40 Questions
- 12:00 LUNCH (free by reservation)
- 1:00 More Profit From Forage — Ken Peterson Vice Pres. Vandale, Inc.
- 1:25 Quality Silage — Mahlon Martin, Madison Silo Rep.

- 1:45 The Economics of Expansion Planning — Richard Bowman, Staff Accountant, Caleb M. Wenger, Inc.; Robert Bucher, Ag. Relations Officer and Lester Groff, Willow Street Branch Mgr., Commonwealth National Bank.
- 2:25 Farm Equipment on the Move — Ed Ferguson, Regional Mgr., Vandale, Inc.
- 2:40 The Working Sun Sensor — Tom Snyder, Building Planner, Caleb M. Wenger, Inc.
- 2:50 Awarding of The Door Prizes — Moderator
- 3:00 Adjourn

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