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THREE FARMSTEAD COMMUNITIES IN
CENTRAL NEBRASKA

ORAMEL K. KRUEGER


SHORTLY after its organization the Federal Emergency Relief Administration established in one of its subordinate agencies a program of rural rehabilitation for dependent families in rural areas to sustain themselves through their own efforts.¹ At that time, as a result of floods and drought and the economic depression, more than a million farm families were receiving federal aid in the form of home relief, besides a good many more who were in the process of exhausting the last of their personal resources in order to prolong their financial independence. It should be remembered that a large number of rural families even in the so-called “good times” had been living close to and, in many instances, below a subsistence level. It was supposed that many, if not all, were, in some degree, the “victims of certain fundamental maladjustments between themselves and their material resources.”²

At first the Rural Rehabilitation Division of the F.E.R.A. provided subsistence and capital goods—livestock, farm implements, materials for the repair and construction of houses and barns—for

¹ The Rural Rehabilitation Division of the F.E.R.A. was established April 1, 1934 (Public No. 15, 73d Cong.). National Emergency Council, *Daily Revised Manual of Emergency Recovery Agencies and Facilities* (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1934), p. 507.

² Resettlement Administration, *First Annual Report* (Washington: Superintendent

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Oramel K. Krueger
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