

wanted to set up nitrogen and moisture testing laboratories in their districts to serve the growers within their area. The first nitrogen-moisture laboratory was set up at LaCrosse, Washington, in about 1953. Jacquot provided early guidance to the group planning the first laboratory. It was patterned after his laboratory in Hooper, Washington, and designed to test for nitrate-nitrogen and moisture.

With more information from Jackson's and Leggett's work, more Soil Conservation District laboratories were established in eastern Washington. The reason for multiple laboratories was that the soil samples required careful handling. As the program was developed, no producer would have more than a two-hour trip to deliver samples to a laboratory.

The general supervision of the Soil Conservation District laboratories was done by the Extension Soil Testing Specialist. His job was to train the laboratory technician to run the tests, prepare chemicals used in the analytical process, and train the District Conservationist to make the interpretation and prepare the recommendation. He also trained the county agent to be the general overseer of the program in the county and to be alert to potential problems that might surface. If problems did develop, the specialist was available to help. Training and updating sessions were held each year.⁹

A relatively new Extension method in the 1950s, briefly mentioned earlier, called Farm and Home Planning was beginning to pick up some momentum under the leadership of Dr. Arthur Peterson and Lila Dickerson, Extension Specialists assigned to that effort. Farm and Home Planning was a good idea; the underlying philosophy was consideration of the family living unit and the farming unit as an integrated enterprise rather than two separate enterprises. The use of the method would attempt to teach farm families to set goals for the family living unit as well as the farm and work as one enterprise to achieve those goals as opposed to setting goals for the farm and ignoring everything else, or using resources left over to buy something for the home. Some states called this Balanced Farming Methods.⁶

The idea was excellent since it began to teach livestock,