

Mr. Roosevelt Comes to Champaign County: An Examination of the New Deal

Fellowship Lesson 2009
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Champaign County Historical Archives

Lesson 4.5: Rural Electrification Administration (REA)

[“Lehmann Tells Plan for Farm Electrification”](#) Urbana Daily Courier: Sept. 18, 1935 (pg. 3)

- In what ways do farmers benefit from “electricification”?
- What are the four problems Prof. Lehmann names that stand as obstacles in the process?
- How would “electricification” change life in rural Champaign County?

“Electric Lines Serve 12,000 Farm Families” Urbana Daily Courier: Aug. 19, 1938 ([Part I](#), [Part II](#))

- What does this article state is the reason for the establishment of the REA?
- Has the program been successful? What evidence does the article give?
- How does Champaign County rank in comparison with others regarding allotments?

[“Rural Power Network Grows”](#) (Cooperative Map): Urbana Daily Courier: Dec. 20, 1938

- To what Rural Power Cooperative did Champaign County belong according to the map?
- What three counties also made up part of the same cooperative?
- How many miles of rural power lines did out cooperative include as of Dec. 20, 1938?
- What five cooperatives had more power lines than ours?
- How does Central Illinois compare to Southern Illinois in terms of amount of lines erected?
- What does this fact imply about life in each region of the state?
- Why do you think that the northern part of the state does not have cooperatives?
- According to the caption, would you conclude that as of Dec. 20, 1938 that the “rural electricification process” was nearly finished? On what basis did you make your conclusion?