

An Abstract of
A Thesis
presented to the
Department of Geography
Western Illinois University








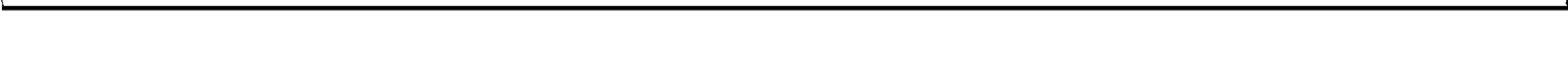

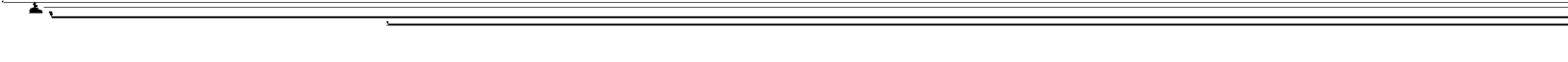
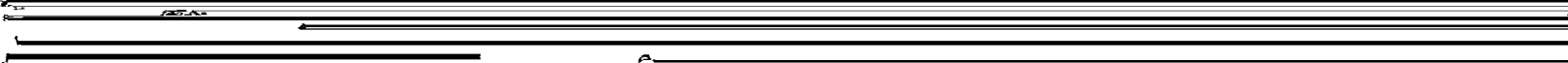
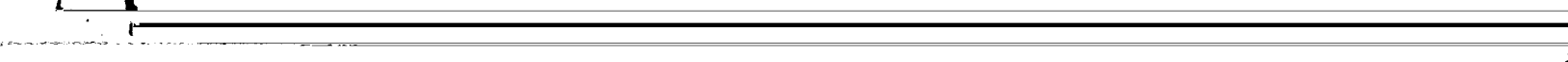
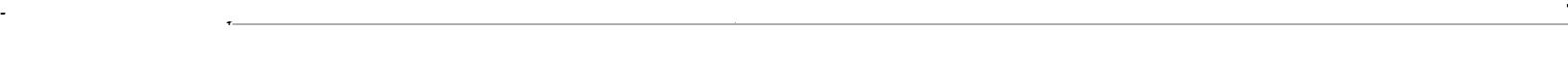




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ABSTRACT

Economic stress that farmers and rural communities have faced in recent decades has led to new approaches in farming and community development. In order to increase



benefits. The research also suggested that the needs of these groups change as they develop. The recognition that producers must take action and risks to enhance their own future was identified as the greatest benefit from participating in their venture. A