

THE VISITOR

Devoted to the Interests of Agricultural Education in Minnesota Schools

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GREETINGS

With this issue the Visitor desires to extend to all its readers the best wishes for a happy and profitable New Year. May each teacher of agriculture fully appreciate his many opportunities for service and be abundantly rewarded for every laudable effort.

Farm Practice

Tell me what kind of farm practice work your boys are doing and I will tell you what kind of a teacher you are. Good teaching of agriculture on a vocational basis does not concern itself primarily with a study of the materials found in books and bulletins but with a study of real problems arising out of the farm activity needs of the boys. Ideas regarding improved practices in farming are not really assimilated and learned until they find expression in the lives of the boys. What the boys learn in agriculture should be learned to be used and not to be buried in a mental graveyard without even a perceptible marker. Learning has taken place when the boys have acquired ideas which they have a desire to know, and see when, where, and how to use them. The farm practice program not only furnishes a basis for determining what the boys should study but it also provides an avenue for expression in terms of practice. The single project idea provides a very limited opportunity for expression appropriate to the needs of the boys. The boys should be encouraged to engage in as many improved farm practice activities as their interest, ability, and opportunity will permit.

A problem for the teacher is to give the boys the right point of view with respect to the type of farm practice work that is of most value to them. W. G. Wiegand, teacher of agriculture, Austin, Minnesota, has met with a high degree of success in building a favorable attitude towards the broader program of farm practice. The following presents the preliminary farm practice plans of a number of the boys who are enrolled in Mr. Wiegand's classes this year. It is hoped that these key plans may prove suggestive to other teachers and to other boys. The next step for the boys is to work out detailed practice

plans for each enterprise. The point of significance here is that these boys are thinking about a number of the problems found on their home farms.

What I Expect To Do on Farm Practice Work for 1928-29

Winslow Casey, Agriculture I

I spent days and weeks in planning for this copy. In many cases it was necessary to make two, three and even more visits around the farm before my plans were finally ready for 1928-29.

Ton Litter Contest

This fall, I am going to buy a registered sow that is bred to a registered boar. Then I am going to mix a ration of feed that is high in protein, fats, and other mixtures. After I have that finished, I am going to make a straw shed with a window on the south so the sow can have plenty of light. I shall also have a hole on the north side with a burlap sack on so the house will be well ventilated. I am going to try the experiment of feeding no corn before farrowing. After farrowing, I am going to feed a ration high in fats and protein, also others, such as corn, ground oats, barley, oilmeal, and bran. I shall feed ground oats and barley, oilmeal and bran mixed with water added for drink and corn for dry feed. This plan may not be successful but nevertheless I am going to try it out.

A Two Acre Alfalfa Field

I am going to put six loads of manure on two acres of ground this winter, although the ground is clover ground. I already have the ground plowed for my alfalfa. After I finish manuring, I am going to wait until spring; then I am going to plow the manure under, then get the lime. After the soil is limed, I am going to plant oats on the two acres. When we harvest the oats I am going to work up the ground thoroughly and sow the alfalfa. I shall harrow the ground so the alfalfa will be covered well. I am not going to cut it or hog it down the first year. If these two plans work out all right, I am going to work on a plan to make more money from dairying, and shall also persuade my father to raise hogs and chickens by having them on clean ground. Then I

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THE STAFF

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shall get permission from my father to raise more alfalfa for the cows, hogs, and chickens.

My Farm Practice Work for 1928-29

Clarence Svejkovsky, Agriculture I

1. Improving the Dairy Herd
2. Raising alfalfa
3. Improving the chicken flock
4. Raising more sheep
5. Raising more strawberries

I. For improving the dairy herd, I am testing them to find the cul's. Although we have a mixed herd they are testing fairly high. In the past, we have fed corn fodder outside and broken ear corn in the barn. We have changed our plan. This fall we shredded our corn in the barn, and we are now building a cement manger for feeding it. We are going to mix our own feeds. We shall feed ground barley, oats, and wheat and when the herd gets through eating that, we shall give them some of the shredded fodder to chew on. Lacking hay, we will not be able to feed our dairy herd properly (that is, they would not be getting a balanced ration) until the coming year, 1929.

II. We have decided to put in about six acres of alfalfa next year. The ground is plowed and if it dries off a little this fall we shall drag it and lime the field this winter. We are going to put a nurse crop with it. Alfalfa is cheaper than silage and has more protein feed in it, so that is my plan for next year.

III. Chickens that are cul's I am going to sell because I don't want to feed a chicken without a profit. We have three standardbred roosters for our flock of 35. I am going to make a straw lining for our chicken house so it will be dry this winter. I shall keep the floor dry and let plenty of sunlight into the house.

IV. Sheep are cheap animals to raise. We are going to raise about ten or

twelve, so they will keep the weeds down where we cannot get at them ourselves.

V. Strawberries bring quite a good price when they ripen early. I am getting the earliest variety so mine will ripen before the others, and then I can get the best price for them. I am not going to keep anything on my farm that does not bring me a profit.

My Farm Practice Work for 1928-29

Stanley Levy, Jr., Agriculture I

1. Raising a ton litter
2. Increasing productivity of the dairy herd
3. Velvet barley
4. Raising of alfalfa

I. The raising of pigs is easy, if one knows how to feed and care for them. For my practice work I am going to raise a ton litter. The first thing to do is to sell my father the idea of raising hogs profitably in six months or less—and just as easily or maybe more easily. Next year I am going to try this plan on the entire herd, keeping them on clean ground, feeding and caring for them properly.

II. At present, we have a mixed herd of dairy cattle. We are now feeding clover hay, silage and ground oats and barley. My future plan is to sell the poor cows and replace them with better cows. Instead of feeding only ground oats and barley, I shall try to get a balanced ration and feed according to production. Instead of clover I shall try alfalfa, because alfalfa has a high protein value. Alfalfa will be the cheapest because we may not have a silo.

III. At the present time we are raising the ordinary barley. My plan for next year is to change this kind for velvet. We shall be raising barley which is easier to handle.

IV. Raising alfalfa instead of clover is my plan for the coming year. I shall start with two acres to prove to my father how profitable alfalfa is. After a year we will increase it, so we shall have enough for our dairy cattle, sheep and probably the chickens. The chickens like to pick at the leaves. Alfalfa pastures for the hogs should mean greater profits.

My Practice Work for 1928-29

Norman Goodwin, Agriculture II

1. Alfalfa
2. Dairying
3. Seed Corn Plot
4. Swine
5. Glabron Barley
6. Sweet Clover for Pasture

Alfalfa

We put in almost four acres of alfalfa this year with a nurse crop of flax. We put the lime on in the spring and worked it in well, and got a fair stand. We are going to put in three acres more next year. We have the land fall plowed. My future plan is to get the lime on before spring, if possible, and work it in well. I shall try to get the alfalfa in without a nurse crop next year to see which is best. We shall get first grade Grimm or Cossock seed and will inoculate. We shall also put the alfalfa on corn ground which has been well cultivated and is free from weeds.

Dairying

We are now feeding our cows timothy hay with just a little red clover in it, some corn fodder, and silage as roughage and barley and oats as concentrates.

The present plan is to get some alfalfa in place of timothy which would cut our feed cost in half, and in two or three years I hope we can have all the alfalfa our cows will eat. We shall feed silage and a little corn fodder or roughage. I shall try to get a balanced ration for our cows. We shall not buy ready-mixed feed but shall buy oilmeal, corn gluten meal, or bran, and mix our own ration.

I shall also try to put in more windows in our dairy barn for more light.

Seed Corn Plot

My seed corn plot was a failure this year because I did not carry my plan out completely. We are going to put in a seed corn plot of twelve acres next year. We have half of the piece plowed, but because of weather conditions, did not get it all plowed. It is a good rich piece of ground, which had fertilizer put on this year. We are going to buy a little commercial fertilizer to use on one side of the field to see if it helps any; if it does we shall put it on all the corn ground the year following.

We are going to buy from our neighbor two bushels of early Minnesota No. 13, which has been properly selected, stored, and tested.

Glabron Barley

We have been raising otter and velvet barley, but we are going to put in five acres of glabron barley to see if it yields as much or more. If it yields more, we shall raise more glabron than otter and velvet. We shall treat all our grain for smut. We shall sow the glabron alongside of the other and see which is the best stand.

Sweet Clover for Pasture

We put in four acres of sweet clover for pasture last year and by experience found that sweet clover is a very good pasture. We are going to put in about 12 acres of sweet clover this year. I am going to run the lime spreader through the field to see if it makes any difference. We shall lime the whole piece, although we got a good stand before liming on a piece next to the field which we are going to put in next year. The land is plowed and I shall try to get the strip of lime on this fall.

Swine

We are raising about 75 pigs this year and have been getting them on the market at six months or at 200 pounds in six months. We have been having our pigs farrow in April and May.

My present plan is to have the pigs farrow the first of March in order to get them on the market earlier, because the price of hogs is always higher the last of August and the first of September. In order to do this we shall have to remodel our hoghouse. I would rather get individual hogcots, but my father says it would mean too much work. We are going to remodel the hoghouse this fall, if possible, and shall wash it out thoroughly before farrowing.

My Farm Practice Work for 1928-29

Harold Pollock, Agriculture II

I. Dairy Herd

1. Have been feeding barley and oats mixed with 32 per cent international feed changing to barley and oats mixed with oilmeal and bran.
2. Culling out unprofitable cows
3. Keeping only best calves out of best cows.
4. Have all cows come in in the fall
5. Have drinking cups in the barn

II. Poultry

1. Culling out non-laying hens
2. Feed higher protein feed
3. Put sand or gravel on floor
4. Remodel chicken house
5. Keep healthiest pullets

III. Swine

1. Try to make time of farrowing earlier
2. Put pigs on market in six months
3. Feed balanced ration to hogs
4. Put pigs on clean ground
5. Try to make accommodations to raise a ton litter

IV. Seed Corn

1. Get suitable sized plot for seed corn
2. Select corn suited for the land.

3. Put corn on sod ground
 4. Pick seed before frost.
- V. Clover Pasture
1. Improve fertility of pasture land that is more accessible to the barn
 2. Plant right variety of clover
 3. Have large enough pasture for the number of cows to be pastured.
- VI. Velvet Barley
1. Clean seed so that it will be free from unhealthy grains
 2. Work land extra well before sowing
 3. Sow as early as possible

Plans for 1928-29

Harland Rosenthal, Agriculture II

1. Culling the dairy herd
 2. The making of a good ration
 3. A plot of alfalfa
 4. Sweet clover pasture
 5. Making use of all idle land.
 6. Remodeling the chicken house
 7. Pruning the apple orchard
- I. Culling the Dairy Herd
- We shall cull out the cows that are not as profitable as they should be. We expect to keep about six or seven of them this winter.
- II. Making a Good Ration
- We are going to set up our feed grinder and grind our own feed. We shall buy oats and shell some of our own corn. This, when ground, will make a rich feed. We shall have to buy some commercial dairy feed. With this we can mix up a good protein ration.
- III. A Plot of Alfalfa
- We are going to put in a plot of alfalfa. We shall put in about five acres. We have not raised any alfalfa before.
- IV. Sweet Clover Pasture
- We shall have about four acres of sweet clover pasture. We have not had anything but common grass pasture, but we know it will not take as much ground to supply each cow with sweet clover pasture as common grass pasture.
- V. Making Use of All Idle Land
- We have a lot of idle land and are going to make use of it all. This is going to be used for potatoes, mangle beets, or some other suitable crop.
- VI. Remodeling the Chicken House
- We are going to remodel the hen house and put gravel in the bot-

tom to keep the water out. This will also be better for the chickens to scratch in. We shall put in a partition so that the chickens can sleep in a place separate from where they eat and exercise.

- VII. Pruning the Apple Orchard
- We are going to prune the apple orchard as soon as possible, as it has not been pruned for about 6 years.

A.M.F.

TEACHING HELPS

The 1928 edition of the DeLaval Dairy Handbook is available for distribution to teachers who are interested in adding to their reference materials on dairying. The handbook contains a large amount of essential information and data relating to dairy production. Copies may be secured for each student in the class in agriculture.

The Denoyer-Geppert Co., a biological supply company 5235 Ravenswood Ave., Chicago, has prepared a set of potato models that should be of value in teaching the correct type of standard varieties of potatoes.

A revised and enlarged edition of "FARM MACHINERY" may be secured from John Deere, Moline, Ill. Complimentary copies may be secured for each student in the classes in agriculture.

A.M.F.

MY WORK

Let me but do my work from day to day,
 In field or forest, at the desk or loom,
 In roaring market-place or tranquil
 room;
 Let me but find it in my heart to say,
 When vagrant wishes beckon me astray,
 "This is my work; my blessing, not
 my doom;
 Of all who live, I am the only one by
 whom
 This work can best be done in the right
 way."

Then shall I see it, not too great, nor
 small
 To suit my spirit and to prove my
 powers;
 Then shall I cheerful greet the labour-
 ing hours,
 And cheerful turn, when the long shad-
 ows fall
 At eventide, to play and love and rest,
 Because I know for me my work is best.
 —Henry van Dyke.