

THE VISITOR

Devoted to the Interests of Agricultural Education in Minnesota Schools

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GREETINGS

This issue of the Visitor calls our attention to the fact that another year is about ready to pass into the history column. May it serve as a reminder that time is fleeting and that we must not tarry but work forward so that each passing year may be made more memorable because of the increasingly valuable service we render. May the new year bring many new opportunities for each teacher and abundant reward for every laudable service.

FUTURE FARMERS OF AMERICA

We are looking forward to the year 1930 as one of the most interesting and significant years in the development of the program of work in agriculture instruction in the high schools. Among the outstanding activities to be undertaken is the organization of the Minnesota Association of Future Farmers of America. Many teachers have indicated that the local chapters have been organized and that the boys are at work on the local constitution and program of work. Our goal is one hundred per cent before the close of the present school year.

Local Interest

One of the essential features in the organization plans is to secure the interest of the family of each boy. This indirect family membership through the boys makes for greater stability, greater prestige and will tend toward greater integration of family groups to the end that the organization will not be just one more local club but that it will develop into a potent force in the betterment of rural life. Just beyond the family interests lie the school and community interests that must be developed if the local chapter is to become a permanent institution in the community. When a local chapter of the Future Farmers of America is organized it should be regarded as the establishment of a permanent organization with the enrichment of rural life as its chief objective. The membership is continuous and should therefore grow in importance and strength each year. The value that may be derived from the local chapter is

limited only by the vision, the initiative, the wisdom, the loyalty, the industry, and the interests of its membership.

A. M. F.

PUBLICITY

There is a feeling among the teachers and others interested in the program of instruction in vocational agriculture that more publicity should be given to the activities of the various agriculture departments. One of the best bases for securing materials for publicity is for each teacher to conceive, plan and execute the program of work in each community so that the results become conspicuous by their superior value to the farmers and future farmers of each community. Perhaps the most important function of the teacher of agriculture is to stimulate, guide and encourage the learning activities of the boys who enroll for instruction. A common cause of poor results from teaching is the lack of preparation on the part of the teacher. Every activity engaged in by the students or by the teacher must be carefully planned both as to objectives and as to procedure. The plan should indicate clearly what is to be taught and how it is to be taught. Lack of worthwhile objectives and careless planning usually furnishes a poor quality of publicity material.

A. M. F.

FAITH

A teacher's faith in his procedures is a very potent factor in determining his success.

W. S. Monroe

New Departments

Those who are interested in the development of the program for instruction in vocational agriculture in the secondary schools in Minnesota will be pleased to know that seven new departments were added to the list for the present school year. The following are the communities that have added the valuable service department to their school:

Community	Teacher
Barnesville	A. H. Olesberg
Delano	A. J. Williams
Granada	J. L. Van Anda
Lake Crystal	Harold Sandhoff
Lancaster	I. Viste
Little Falls	E. J. Halverson
Plainview	Jay Seymour

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THE STAFF

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There are many other excellent farming communities in the state where there are many farm boys who would be interested in and profited by instruction in agriculture on a vocational basis. It is not necessary for all of these boys to be enrolled as regular students in the high school because an important phase of the work of the teacher of agriculture is to reach farm boys out of school with definite instruction in agriculture. This is done through part time schools conducted either in organized groups or on the individual basis. The instruction on the individual basis is unique because under this plan the boys receive instruction while on the job of farming. The teacher visits each boy at his home farm where farm problems are studied according to the need, interest, and ability of the boy and the need of the farm. The teacher supplies the books, bulletins and other sources of information as they are needed. Farm practice work appropriate to the needs of the boy is developed and carried on under the direction of the teacher. Of course, the boy's father is also interested because he not only becomes a student with the boy but he also becomes a real teacher on his own farm and with his own family. Yes, and if father and mother feel like going back to school, they can do so because the teacher will organize an evening school for the older folks. To make a long story short a department of agriculture in a community makes it possible for everybody to go to school.

Community Service

Progressive farmers are becoming more and more interested in the service rendered by the department of agriculture in the high school. This is shown by the following statement from M. W. Munger, a farmer near Warren, Minnesota:

"Many of the farm boys could not have been persuaded to go on to high school if it had not been for the agriculture course. They have remained interested in the work and gained valuable information and experience. Many now have a start in livestock of their own.

"The following activities in our community have been a direct outgrowth of the work of the leader in the agriculture department:

1. The annual farmers' short course and poultry show
2. Sugar beet growing
3. Co-operative Creamery
4. Marshall County Poultry Association
5. Livestock Shippers' Association.
6. Turkey raising under the Dr. Billings plan
7. Improve Grain Growers' Association
8. Cow Testing Association
9. Increase in sheep raising
10. Better weed control
11. Several standard 4-H Clubs in our County

"The last two Grand Champion baby beeves at the Junior Livestock Show were the results of 4-H Club members from the department of agriculture of the Warren High School. In short, farmers' clubs, the Commercial Club, boys and girls and the general public are more awake to farming needs and opportunities."

The following statement from William Koosmann, a farmer at Correll, Minnesota, also indicates that farmers and future farmers appreciate the service rendered by the department of agriculture. Mr. Koosmann writes that "The department of agriculture is a great help to my boys. Mr. Thurwachter comes out to our rural school one evening a week and teaches a class in agriculture. We are fourteen miles from town, which makes it hard for the boys to go to the town school and at the same time help with the work at home. Mr. Thurwachter is a very good teacher and does a great deal of good work with our farm boys."

With the new program of work in agriculture and the development of the Future Farmers of America chapters in the state it is expected that new departments of agriculture will increase rapidly. Full information about the requirements for the establishment of a department may be secured by writing to the State Department of Education, St. Paul, Minnesota.

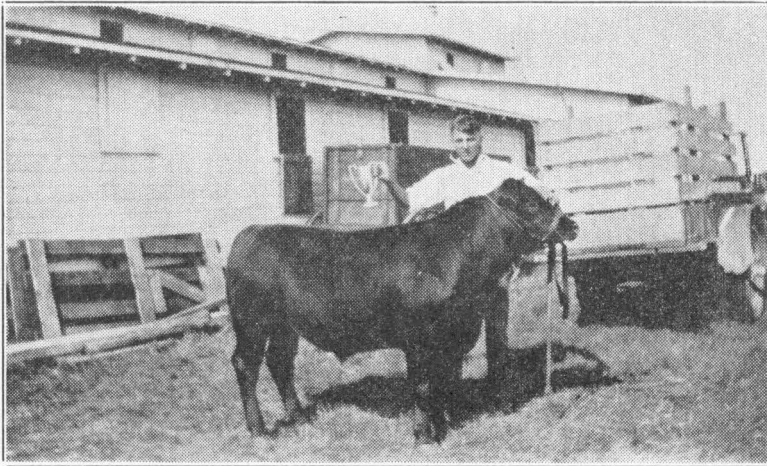
A. M. F.

TEACHERS OF AGRICULTURE IN THE HIGH SCHOOLS COOPERATE IN 4-H CLUB WORK

The departments of agriculture in the high schools are rapidly gaining distinction as **service departments**. The teachers of agriculture, in addition to their teaching duties, are ready at all times to lend their cooperation to any worthy activities carried on in the communities where departments are located. One of the distinct services rendered by the agriculture teachers is the cooperation

"Northwestern Minnesota's first baby beef grand championship was won at the 1928 Junior Show when Ernest Palmer, another Warren high school student, walked away with the prize sought by hundreds of club members from all sections of the state. Both of the boys have been students of the vocational agriculture department of the local high school and have received their training from A. D. Collette, supervisor of the department.

"The fact that both the 1928 and 1929 champion calves were raised without feeding a single kernel of corn has made the prize of more significance to the Northwest, said Mr. Collette in commenting on the achievement. Royal's calf was fed barley, oats, bran and oil



Royal Campion and His Grand Championship Aberdeen-Angus Calf

in the 4-H club work by assuming the responsibility as local leaders of club activities. The 4-H club leadership work not only helps the club program but also serves as an excellent way of stimulating interest in the agriculture work of the students enrolled for instruction in agriculture in the high school. An excellent example of this is shown by the following statement quoted from the Warren Sheaf, issued November 20, 1929.

"Northwestern Minnesota took its second consecutive baby beef grand championship of Minnesota at the Junior Livestock Show held in South St. Paul last week, when the Aberdeen-Angus calf owned and raised by Royal Campion, a senior in the Warren high school, was awarded the top honors.

meal in proportions that brought out a splendid finish on the animal, judges of the show making special commendation on the finish of the animal.

"Plans for a college education are now being made by Royal, who stated that he would use the money to help pay his expenses at the University of Minnesota where he hopes to matriculate next fall. After his college education in the College of Agriculture at the University, the boy intends to return to the farm as a feeder and showman of high quality livestock."

Ernest Palmer is now registered in the College of Agriculture. He states that: "I am majoring in Agricultural Education because I wish to teach agriculture a few years before I finally go back to farming."
A. M. F.

HOG PRICES AND THE PLACE OF HOGS IN MINNESOTA

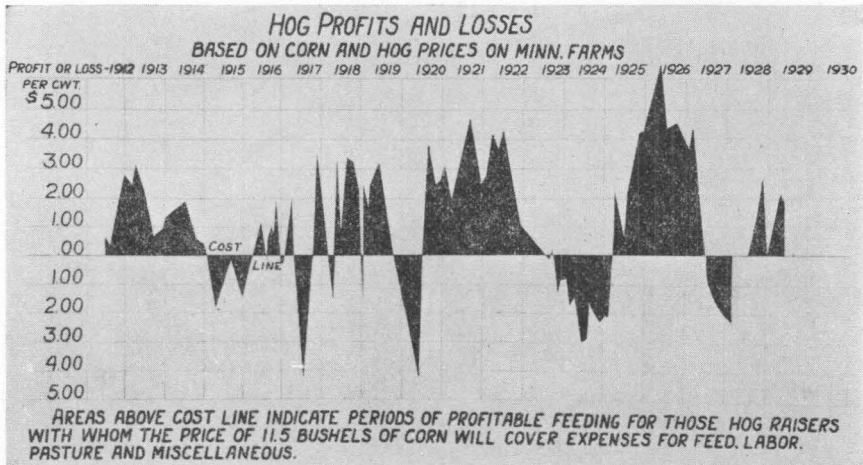
The accompanying chart shows the estimated profit or loss in dollars per 100 pounds on hogs from 1912 to July, 1929.

The profit or loss has been estimated by assuming that the average farmer receives market prices for his feed, wages for his work and covers miscellaneous expenses when the farm prices of hogs is equal to that of 11.5 bushels of corn. The method of computation may be illustrated by the following example. For July the United States Department of Agriculture reported the Minnesota farm price of corn to be \$.79 per bushel and the price of hogs to be \$10.40 per hundredweight. The value of 11.5 bushels

other with surprising regularity. It is apparent that if a farmer, over a period of years, would use such a chart as this to assist him in deciding upon the number of sows that should be kept each year, he would have decidedly more hog profits than if he follows the natural inclination to raise more hogs whenever the financial results have been especially favorable. The farmer who raises a uniform number of hogs each year would occupy an intermediate position.

Outlook for 1930

Based upon past performance, one would expect that hogs will show a profit for the average producer during



of corn at \$.79 would be \$9.08, leaving an estimated profit of \$1.32 per hundred.

Cost records in Steele and in Cottonwood-Jackson counties showed that the average amount of corn or equivalent amount of other grain fed per 100 pounds of gain was 8.2 bushels. Then 11.5 bushels less 8.2 bushels would leave the price of 3.2 bushels of corn to cover the value of labor, skim-milk, tankage and miscellaneous items. Three and two-tenths bushels of corn at 79 cents would make an allowance of \$2.53 for these other items. It is apparent that this method has value as a means of picturing long time trends rather than as a means by which an individual may estimate his own profits.

Ups and Downs Come Regularly

A glance at the chart indicates that periods of profit and loss follow each

all or most of 1930. The short 1929 corn crop will almost certainly discourage any large increase in the number of sows kept for farrowing in the spring of 1930.

The September 1 report forecasts a corn crop of about 2,450,000,000 bushels compared to a six-year average of over 2,750,000,000 bushels. One would expect that the effect of a short corn crop would be to cause the present period of hog profits to continue longer than the average, but for corn prices to be sufficiently high to prevent any extreme profits. In other words, the outlook is that the 1929 corn crop will bring better than average prices, whether sold to the elevator, or in the form of hogs, but that the total income from the crop will be somewhat greater for those who send it to market in the form of hogs.

W. L. Cavert