

THE VISITOR

Devoted to the Interests of Agricultural Education in Minnesota Schools

Volume XLI

July 1954

No. 3

NORRIS K. CARNES APPOINTED FFA FOUNDATION FINANCE CHAIRMAN

Mr. Norris K. Carnes, General Manager of the Central Livestock Association, Inc. has accepted the appointment as the first chairman of the Finance Committee of the Minnesota FFA Foundation.



Mr. Carnes comes to this responsibility well qualified by training, background, and experience. His sincere interest in improving educational opportunities for farm people is demonstrated again by the enthusiasm he brings to his new duties.

Mr. Carnes is a director of the First National Bank of St. Paul, trustee of the Minnesota Mutual Life Insurance Company, member of the Agricultural Committee of the St. Paul Association of Commerce, First Vice President of the Minnesota Livestock Breeders Association, First Vice President of the Minnesota State Fair, Chairman of the Sales Committee and a member of the Executive Committee of the South St. Paul Junior Livestock Show, a director of the St. Paul Athletic Club and a member of the Minnesota Club, the Midway Club and the Osman Temple Shrine.

Mr. Carnes is a member of the Operating Committee of the National Joint Livestock Committee, an organization made up of 134 of the leading livestock organizations in the United States. He is a member of the Livestock and Meat Industry Advisory Committee to the Secretary of Agriculture.

On May 25, 1951 Mr. Carnes was presented the Outstanding Achievement Award from the University of Minnesota. The award cited "leadership in agricul-

tural affairs" as well as Mr. Carnes' contribution to the "success in the development of the Central Livestock Association."

The VISITOR extends its best wishes to Mr. Carnes and the Minnesota FFA Foundation.

Who Shall Learn

by

ALFRED D. STEDMAN

"We, like so many conservative Minnesota farmers," writes a downstate mother for herself and her husband, "want a good education for our children. We feel that town and country people together can work out a plan by which all of our children can be educated at a cost which will be reasonable."

Again, it's that ancient question. How can farm children be given an equal right to learn? It pulled the heartstrings of pioneer parents. They taxed their meager means to build the many little red school houses that, in a motorless yesterday, could be reached by trudging feet.

This is a new day of modern, graded schools and of school buses bringing better education within reach of all. But Minnesota still has 66,000 farm children risking their start in 3,600 ungraded one-room or two-room schools. How can the equal right to learn be safeguarded for such as these?

For answer, farm parents far and wide have been turning to mergers into consolidated school districts. Under Minnesota's school reorganization plan, one-third of the small districts have been merged since 1947. In this and neighboring states, children have been moved from thousands of the little ungraded schools of yesterday into far better equipped and staffed con-

VISITOR

Published quarterly during the calendar year in October, January, April, and July, by the Division of Agricultural Education, University of Minnesota, University Farm, St. Paul 1, Minn.

Entered as second-class matter at the post office at St. Paul, Minn., under the act of August 2, 1912.

Accepted for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in section 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized August 2, 1918.

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solidated schools. The defenders of the farm child's right to learn are on the march.

But so is the opposition as, in this Land of the Free, is its right. In parts of Minnesota, school consolidation has been up against a campaign of spreading fears—fears that tax costs will eat up the farm; dread of anything new like now-forgotten fears of highways, electricity, fertilizers; fears somehow linking improved schools with communism.

Against larger districts, the campaign has tried to marshal even the love of the little old district school, though in its day it stood for the best and most progressive chance for learning the hard-pressed settlers could possibly give their children. An organization calling itself a friend of the rural schools is a main foe of consolidation.

In places, this campaign has gained a hold on some minds that is disturbing to farm parents who are working for consolidated schools. The downstate mother writes me about the fear spreaders: "When I looked at those people with their flushed faces and fanatical stares, I was frightened. Nothing I have seen—since has caused me to be less frightened."

But in this Land of the Free a time comes at length to calm down and look some underlying questions in the face.

Which, in terms of education per tax dollar, is the waster and which the economizer? Much evidence indicates that the organized, equipped and well staffed consolidated school buys the best education the most economically.

Which type of school gives farm chil-

dren the kind of start best helping them to prepare for good and prosperous living? They are growing up in a changing world. Today's world is, and tomorrow's will be even more so, one of new and swiftly developing sciences ranging the whole scope of farm and nonfarm living. How could they be helped for that by a school system which stands still and looks only backward?

In respect to motive, the majority of farm parents seem steadfast to the real ideals of the little red school. As to training for their children, they still follow the same star. Life is different, more complex, more specialized, but education is still preparation to live. Meaning fitness and understanding, it is a natural foe of communism, whose roots are in unfitness to get ahead in the world as it is.

The Minnesota School Board Association voted down a minority of opponents of consolidation. The vote we think reflects determination of the majority of farm parents to safeguard their children's right to learn.

THE VISITOR wishes to thank Mr. Al Stedman and the St. Paul *Pioneer Press* for permission to use this article which appeared in the February 7, 1954 issue of the St. Paul *Pioneer Press*.

Character Values in Vocational Agriculture

by DR. A. K. GETMAN

Each person has a value-pattern which guides and regulates his life. When acting he decides reflectively or unconsciously whether or not the behavior will help or retard the realization of these values. Total values give a profile of one's character, and reliable character is the most dependable promise of worthy future behavior. Training in moral and spiritual values, both as an end in itself and as a means of developing all other aims of education is a primary basis for character building.

For many years teachers of agriculture have been a vital influence in helping pupils to decide for themselves the kind of value-patterns that will guide their lives. Indeed the finest thing that can happen to a pupil is to have the guidance of a

large-minded and spiritually gifted teacher. Such a teacher enters into the life of a pupil, feels with him his triumphs, fears, limitations, failures and frustrations, and gives understanding encouragement that helps him reach for the higher values and to be sustained by them. Such a teacher, also, is deeply concerned not only with what is *in* the pupil's mind but what is *on* his mind as well. Such services embody the conviction that there are enduring principles implicit in the universe, that give meaning and destiny to a creative and purposeful life. The eternal is real.

Moral integrity and spiritual ideals have had a profound influence in the lives of the American people. Our forebears established certain rights of man that could be called God-given. Their values and their words have come alive; they believed in the supreme worth of each personality whose freedom was more precious than his security. Spiritual strength was their greatest asset as they forged an inseparable linkage between freedom and religious values. Such values as fair play, friendship, tolerance, good will, loyalty and love of peace are not separate traits to be taught as isolated items; rather they are part of a great American tradition and cultural heritage deeply rooted in religious faith.

Teachers of agriculture with close contacts with the homes of pupils, with the unique opportunities for pupil guidance in Future Farmer Chapters, and with a continuing emphasis on creative work thoughtfully planned and well done, have unparalleled resources for character building. Indeed the high value-stature of graduates and former students will forever be an inspiring evidence of the teaching ideals of the group for whom these lines are written. Continue the good work in helping pupils to become creative and purposeful in their life work, to be emotionally well poised, to gain perspective in democratic living, and to achieve an enrichment of the spirit. You have a right to be proud of your character building services. Values are learned by living them, and you are very close to the living experiences of your pupils.

Grain Sanitation Is Good Farming

by

CLINTON ZINTER*

Perhaps the title *Greater Farm Profits* would be more appropriate for the Minnesota FFA Grain Sanitation Awards Program and one that best suggests the program's importance. We of the Peavey Agricultural Department and hundreds of others believe that every vocational agriculture department in Minnesota can justify time spent on the program, *whether grain from that community is sold on the market or not*. The loss of grain to rodents and birds would justify the program even though little or no grain is sold on the market.

Over the years, vocational agriculture instructors have responded immediately to demands for education by farm people and they are in a unique position to activate a concentrated type of program. Because of this reputation, vocational agriculture has been recognized for its very important part in developing educational services to farm youth as well as farmers, and certainly this grain sanitation program is important.

Some very startling facts on the high percentage of farms in our area that have grain storage facilities that allow rodent, insect and bird contamination and storage losses are reported by Chapters whose members have filled in the FFA survey sheets. If every vocational agriculture class member accurately filled in the survey sheet on his home farm, he would have a better idea of the problem in his community.

To date we have information to indicate that there are about twelve thousand farm youth active in the grain sanitation program in the three states of which approximately half are 4-H members. In North Dakota forty out of forty-eight FFA Chapters have an active program as indicated by information from their State Office.

After the rush of the school year this spring, it would be a good time for schools not already active in the program to con-

duct surveys and get their program going. The need to begin now is especially important in view of farm storage of grain which may be the largest in our country's farm history.

Any vocational agriculture instructor who has not received the program kit which includes a survey sheet, grain sanitation poster, program suggestions, awards information, and teaching aids, can get them by writing us.

Nobody throws dollar bills away, but how many people are aware or willing to admit that they are doing that when they allow rodents to eat and spoil grain in farm or country storage? Some also allow insects and birds to eat up some of the profits. Many people believe that rats are causing all the waste and contamination in farm grain. However, there is good reason to believe that *mice* are as *bad* or *worse*.

For example, if the average farmer in the midwest stores 3,000 bushels on the farm each year with storage buildings that do not keep these robbers out, then, according to this estimate of 10% loss, he will lose 300 bushels in storage. Well, let's be conservative and say he only lost 1%, that would be 30 bushels of, say, \$2.00 wheat or a \$60.00 loss. He could spend quite a little for rodent bait and methods to keep these three robbers out of his grain storage to prevent that annual \$60.00 loss.

You can rodent and bird-proof the average farm granary that has a good foundation for \$25.00, suggests Mr. Herb Parten, Extension Entomologist at the University of Minnesota. For another \$5.00, I am sure you can spray the bins for insects. This would leave you \$30.00 from the \$60.00 it might have cost you to let these robbers in to pay for your labor. Looks like a mighty easy way to make money.

We know that everyone connected with the handling or processing of grain believes in the importance of clean grain and in preventing storage losses, and that they are important to farmers whether they sell grain for consumer use or not. They know that they have sanitation problems of their own, and don't want to leave the impression of blaming others only.

We would like to volunteer the support and help of Peavey Elevator managers who are vitally interested in grain sanitation. Furthermore, this Department stands ready to help in any way we can, in addition to the \$1,000 per year awards program now in operation in Minnesota. We appreciate the interest and support already given this program by Mr. Cochran's and Milo Peterson's departments.

* Mr. Zinter is a member of the Agriculture Department of F. H. Peavey & Company.