

# THE VISITOR

Devoted to the Interests of Agriculture and Manual Training in Minnesota High Schools

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## STAFF

A. V. STORM  
D. D. MAYNE  
W. H. BENDER  
G. F. HOWARD  
T. A. ERICKSON  
GEORGINA L. LOMMEN  
CORA GIERE

## THE REASON.

On account of the lateness of the opening of the University this fall and the general unsettled conditions the September issue of the Visitor is late in making its appearance.

## SEND THE NEWS.

Do not forget that your fellow teachers are anxious to hear what you are doing. Let the Visitor know about those interesting plans and events. Do not forget the other fellow who is too modest or too busy to report. The Visitor will appreciate a line or two often.

## REPORT IS FALSE.

Some one, bent on evil doing, has started the wild rumor that the government intends to take from every family all canned goods in excess of one hundred quarts and that the government intends to requisition all surplus food in the homes. There is no truth to such rumors. They are absurd to the extreme. The teachers of the state can do much toward correcting wrong impressions in the minds of the people.

## MAKE SCHOOLS COUNT.

What are we planning in our schools toward helping out in the great emergency? At no time in recent years has it been so imperative that our schools make every minute count. Are we all working together to conserve time, energy, materials and apparatus? In other words, are we avoiding needless waste and are we making use of every thing possible? If we have a manual training shop, we can do repair work for the homes. The supply of metal for enameled ware, tinware, etc., is very limited. We can help conserve it by making it possible to use the old kettle a little longer. Dryers and canners may be constructed for taking care of next season's vegetables and fruits. Toy making and toy repairing may justly occupy a part of our time this fall. It is said that Japan is taking over the toy industry since the German trade has been cut off.

## TEACHERS REQUESTED TO AID CAMPAIGN FOR FOOD CONSERVATION.

### State Food Administrator Appeals to Teachers for Effective Co-operation.

By the time this issue of the Visitor reaches you each teacher, superintendent and county director will have received a letter from A. D. Wilson, food administrator for Minnesota, requesting his assistance in securing the co-operation of each household in his community in the saving of foods, such as our soldiers and allies need, by becoming members of the United States food administration. We are pleased to quote from Mr. Wilson's letter to the teachers as follows:

"When the government wants a thing well and generally done it appeals to the loyal teachers, and so you and your school officers are appointed as a committee to secure a pledge from every family in your district. To this end we are sending you a package of 25 of each of the following cards:

A pledge card which should be signed by the woman of the home.

A home card to leave at every home.

A window card to leave with every family where the pledge card has been signed.

"Regarding the home and pledge cards, if 25 is not enough for the families in your district, please write us at once, ordering the additional copies necessary, using for this purpose the enclosed franked envelope, which requires no postage. When the signed pledge cards are obtained, kindly return them to us not later than November 12, using the enclosed franked sticker which requires no postage.

"Will you on receipt of this letter confer with your school officers, then plan so that every home may be reached during the week of November 4 to 11? A very important part of this work is to make clear to everyone the exact food situation and the need of food conservation, or at

least the need for substituting some of the foods that are plentiful for those that are scarce.

"In many instances the cards may be sent by some of the older children, in other instances it will be necessary for you to go to the homes, and to explain just what is desired. The home card tells clearly what is needed and how the saving may be made. The window card shows the family to be members of the United States Food Administration and the pledge card shows us that the family is in sympathy with the work of the Government."

This is a "wind-up campaign" lasting from November 4 to 11. Each Visitor reader should become familiar with the food conservation movement and be ready to do efficient work in this campaign. Let us have our working plans all made before November 4, so that no household will fail to have an opportunity to sign one of the cards. This fall, too, is the time to get ready for a bigger production of better food next year.

## NEWS FROM THE FIELD.

The boys in Herman state high school from the fifth grade up were organized into a military organization, last spring, to encourage club work. They took for their motto "A job for every boy and every boy for a job."

The department of agriculture of Tracy high school has issued a two-page mimeograph circular setting forth its plan for general extension work for this year, and listing the following courses in agriculture:

Agriculture I, agronomy and field crops; Agriculture II, agricultural botany, Agriculture III, animal husbandry, Agriculture IV, dairying and soils (not offered this year), Agriculture V, farm engineering, Agriculture VI, farm management; Agriculture VII, crops and rotations, Agriculture VIII, livestock care and management.

They also announce a Corn and Grain show to be held in the high school building December 31, 1917 to January 5, 1918, under auspices of the Tri-County Farm improvement association.

J. I. Swedberg, instructor in agriculture at Madison high school, reports the following club work: Garden club, 65 members; flower contest, 90 pupils; lawn contest, 30 pupils. In ten of the surrounding rural districts he had fifteen Pig club boys, the same number enrolled in the corn club work, and eighteen who entered the bread contest.

The Svea Farmers' club was addressed at its July meeting by E. L. Rodegeb on "Soil Water and Drainage" and by Mrs. D. W. Tallman on "Food Conservation."

The Pipestone Leader, in its September 27 issue, prints an account of the farm demonstration in vetch growing. This is one of the forage crops which had been grown on the school plot last year and which was being tried out on the farms of the neighborhood during the summer.

Fillmore county has five active Farmers' clubs which are interested in all live farm topics. Each club has a motto and the general motto "Make the Best Better." Three Farmers' institutes, one Farmers' Week, two corn shows and a poultry show have been made possible by this organization.

Paul A. Johnson the agricultural teacher at Tracy, attended one hundred sixty-seven farmers' meetings during the past four years, while teacher of agriculture at Harmony.

J. F. Mueller, who was appointed teacher of agriculture at Kasson last May, has entered the federal grain service with headquarters at Indianapolis.

R. M. Day, who was teacher of agriculture at Bagley last year, is farming at Excelsior.

The Visitor will be very glad to receive the names and brief accounts concerning school men of the state who are in any way connected with the war work.

In our next issue we will print the directory of industrial instructors in Minnesota schools maintaining state aided agricultural departments. It has been unusually difficult to obtain accurate information for this directory for the reason that so many of the teachers are entering war work of one kind or other.

Purley L. Keene is teaching agriculture in the Royalton high school. He takes the place of the regular teacher, who has entered the army.

Henry Hartle is teaching agriculture in Owatonna this semester, the instructor at that place having been called into federal service.

## CLUB PROJECTS OUTLINED FOR BOYS AND GIRLS FOR THE NEXT YEAR'S WORK.

### Work in Agriculture and Home Economics Offers Wide Range of Possibilities.

We are glad to give a place in this issue to the following account of club projects in agriculture and home economics for 1917. This work should be of double interest to boys and girls this coming year. This is the boys' and girls' chance to help Uncle Sam feed himself and his allies. The enrollment of the Boys' and Girls' Week, which is held in April of each year, has become so large that it bids fair to exceed the capacity of the school of agriculture to care for all who wish to attend. It is altogether probable that the attendance will have to be limited to the Boys' and Girls' club members.

### Club Project Pledge.

"I pledge my heart, my head, my hands, and my health, through food production, and food conservation to help win the world war and world peace."

### Club Projects.

One of the best ways to carry out the club motto "To Help Uncle Sam" is for every club member over ten years of age to take up one of the regular club projects, outlined for the year by the extension division, Boys' and Girls' club work, of the college of agriculture, co-operating with the United States department of agriculture. The splendid slogan of the Boy Scouts, "Every Scout Feed a Soldier," shows the right kind of patriotism. For the year 1917 more than one million club boys and girls have "helped Uncle Sam" by growing an acre of corn, baking bread, growing a garden and learning to conserve the products by canning, drying or storing, raising and feeding calves, poultry and pigs, and growing plots of potatoes, and other crops. In Minnesota alone there were 20,000 boy and girl citizens doing service to their country in this way.

The projects selected for the coming year are as follows: Acre of corn, one eighth acre of potatoe gardening and canning, growing a pig, cow-testing, caring for and feeding calf, poultry work, sewing and bread-making. All projects are open to either boys or girls.

### General Requirements.

The age limit for club members taking up these projects is 10 to 18 years inclusive.

To be considered as a club, for club prizes, the club must have not less than five members, with a regular organization and officers, consisting of president, vice president, and secretary, local adviser and leader. Other officers may be added, as each club thinks best.

The club member must agree to do by himself the work required by the project or, if help is had, to give an accurate account of same.

The club member should also keep an accurate record of all work done and of the cost of production and proceeds.

At the close of the project, each member should write a story, "How I Helped My Country by Growing a Garden, etc." Each member should also exhibit products, reports and story, at local club days, and other fairs, where he may show what he has been doing as a "little citizen."

### Acre-Yield Corn Contest.

Each member selecting this project should grow at least one acre of corn, care for it, keep a record of all work, write story, "How I Grew My Acre of Corn to Help Uncle Sam," take part in exhibits and "Corn Days," select and store good seed corn.

The record in corn growing for Minnesota is held by a club boy, Vein Johnson of Wright county, with 1,236 bushels of dry, shelled corn to his acre in 1916.

Basis of award is as follows: Yield, 50 per cent; report showing cost of production, 25 per cent; exhibit of 10 ears, 15 per cent; story, 10 per cent.

### Potato-Growing Project.

Each member must grow at least one eighth acre of one of three varieties, Rural New Yorker, Green Mountain and Early Ohio; must keep a record of work, cost of production and returns, make exhibits and write a story, "How I Helped Uncle Sam by Growing Potatoes."

Basis of award is as follows: Yield, 40 per cent; report showing cost of production, 25 per cent; exhibit of 30 potatoes, 20 per cent; story, 15 per cent.

### Garden and Canning Project.

These two may be carried on together or separately. In the garden work, each member must have at least one square rod devoted to standard vegetables. Canning should

not be required, provided the club member can show that the products were used fresh in the home or sold to good advantage on the market. It is important to show that nothing is wasted. The canning of fruits or vegetables may be taken up as a separate project.

### Basis of award is as follows:

Quantity of products grown, 30 per cent; quality of garden and products grown, 25 per cent; cost of production, 25 per cent; story, "How I Helped Uncle Sam Through My Garden," 20 per cent.

### Pig Club Work.

Each member must feed and care for at least one pig, not more than three months old when feed record begins, which must not be later than May 1. Pasture should be provided. Report and story are required as in other projects.

### Basis of award is as follows:

Conformation to type, 40 per cent; cost of production, 25 per cent; rate of gain, 15 per cent; story "How I Helped Uncle Sam by My Pig Club Work," 20 per cent.

### Calf-Growing Contest.

This project will be divided into two classes, dairy and beef. The calf must not be more than three months old when the work begins, and fed for not less than four months. Pure-bred calves are not required, but every club calf must have a pure-bred sire.

### Basis of award is as follows:

Conformation to type, 25 per cent; thrift and general appearance, 40 per cent; cost of production, 20 per cent; story, "How I Helped Uncle Sam by Growing a Calf," 15 per cent.

The calf-raising project should close with a "Calf Day" at the county fair on special club day.

### Cow-Testing Project.

Each club member selecting this work must keep a feed record, weigh and test the milk regularly from one or more cows for a period not less than four months, beginning not later than December 15, 1917. A report of the work done and a story, "How I Helped Uncle Sam with my Cow-Testing Work."

### Poultry Project.

The poultry project includes two lines of effort, one in the fall in charge of the home flock, and one in the spring in feeding and caring for a flock of thirty chickens. In the fall each member has charge of the home flock of at least six birds, for a period of at least 100 days. He must do the following:

1. Keep an accurate account of the eggs gathered from day to day; 2. report cost of feed fed; 3. report receipts from the flock for the period.

In the spring the member must hatch or buy at least thirty chicks prior to June 1. He must feed this flock four months, and report cost of feed. Finally he must exhibit a pen of five birds, at county fair or poultry show.

### Basis of award is as follows:

Quality of birds exhibited, 20 per cent; cost of production 30 per cent; egg records kept in the fall, 30 per cent; story, "How I Helped Uncle Sam by Raising Chickens," 20 per cent.

### Bread-Making Project.

This project is divided into two projects, "A" and "B"; class "A" comprising those who have or have had special instruction in home economics. Class "B" includes those who have had no training of this kind. Each club member must bake bread and send reports of six home bakings; take part in the local bread-baking contest, and write story, "How I Helped Uncle Sam by Baking Bread."

### Basis of award is as follows:

Home work as shown by 6 reports, 30 per cent; public demonstration, 30 per cent; exhibit of loaf, 20 per cent; story, 20 per cent.

### Sewing Project.

Contestants are required to make a certain number of garments, selected.

### Basis of award is as follows:

Workmanship, 40 per cent; style, 20 per cent; materials, 20 per cent; general appearance, 5 per cent; written story, 15 per cent.

### Prizes and Honors.

The two boys from each county making the best record in club work, get a free trip to the state fair, and membership in the Boys' camp, with all its privileges. The two girls making best records in bread-making from each county get this free trip and membership in Girls' camp.

For the livestock projects, many pure-bred calves, pigs and chickens will be given. Many other prizes consisting of cash, trips and honors will be given. The best prize and honor, however, for which every boy and girl should work, is to be able to do something worth while, which will "Help Uncle Sam."

## HIGH SCHOOLS COULD DO GREAT SERVICE TESTING SEED FOR GERMINATION.

### State Seed Laboratory Can't Test All Samples—Send For Rules.

In our present emergency it is absolutely necessary that no seed be planted before it is thoroughly tested for purity and germination. The central seed testing laboratory at University Farm will probably find it impossible to test all samples which will be sent in this next year. It is hoped that many high schools will equip themselves so that they can test seed locally. Each school should at least be prepared to test seed for germination. Purity tests should not be attempted unless the person making these tests has had special training along this line.

The National association of seed analysts at its meeting this year approved definite rules for seed testing. These rules may be obtained free by writing to W. L. Oswald, University Farm, St. Paul, Minnesota. The Minnesota seed laboratory will also gladly give advice in regard to proper equipment for laboratory work.

Get started early, so that when the testing season begins you will be ready!

## INTERESTING BOOKS.

"The Manual Arts," by C. A. Bennett. (Selection and organization of subject matter and methods of teaching the manual arts.) Manual Arts Press, price \$1.00.

"Productive Plant Husbandry," K. C. Davis. Published by J. B. Lippincott Company, Philadelphia. Price \$1.75.

## USEFUL BULLETINS.

Ten lessons on food conservation. United States food administration bulletin No. 5, August, 1917.

Home storage of vegetables.—J. H. Eattie.—United States department agriculture, Farmer's bulletin 879.

Drying of fruits and vegetables in the home.—United States department agriculture, Farmer's bulletin 841, June, 1917.

Home drying manual for vegetables and fruits.—National emergency food garden commission, Maryland building, Washington, D. C., 1917.

Care of food in the home.—Mary Abel.—United States department agriculture, Farmer's bulletin 375, 1916.

Home canning manual for vegetables and fruits.—National emergency food garden commission, Washington, D. C., 1917.

Corn meal as a food and ways of using it.—Langworthy and Hunt.—United States department agriculture, Farmer's bulletin 565, 1915.

Use of Kaffir corn, and cow peas in the home.—Langworthy and Hunt.—United States department agriculture, Farmer's bulletin 559.

Home canning by the one-period cold-pack method.—O. H. Benson.—United States department agriculture, Farmer's bulletin 839, June 1917.

Preparation of vegetables for the table.—Marie Parloa.—United States department agriculture, Farmer's bulletin 256, 1917.

Home canning by the cold-pack method.—(Lecture reference book) International Harvester Co., Chicago, July, 1917.

School garden circulars, 1, 7, 8, 9, and 10 and bulletin No. 40, bureau of education, Washington.

Home canning of fruits and vegetables as taught to canning club members in the South.—Powell and Creswell.—United States department agriculture, Farmer's bulletin 853, July, 1917.

Co-operative buying by farmers' clubs in Minnesota.—Durand and Price.—Minnesota bulletin 167, July, 1917.

Preparation of perishables for market.—W. W. Cumberland.—Minnesota special bulletin 14, August, 1917.

Farm dairy cheese.—R. M. Washburn.—Minnesota special bulletin 12, August, 1917.

Partial substitutes for wheat in bread making.—Hannah L. Wessling, No. A-91, Co-operative extension work in agriculture and home economics.—Washington, D. C., 1917.