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MINNESOTA EXTENSION NEWS

Published monthly by the University Department of Agriculture, Extension Division

Volume I

UNIVERSITY FARM, ST. PAUL, JANUARY, 1936

Number 6

Changes in State and County Staffs

Several important changes in state and county staff have taken place within the past month. Space permits only brief mention.

W. A. DICKINSON, Cottonwood county agent since October 1929, has resigned to become a special life insurance agent with the State Farm Mutual Insurance company. "Dick" began county agent work in Floyd county, Iowa, in 1916. In 1923 he was agent in Waseca county, Minnesota, but from 1924 to 1929 he farmed near Ogilvie, Minnesota. Among his outstanding contributions to extension work are the parts he played in organizing the first county rural youth group and in promoting interest in weed control work. Active in the state county agents' association, Mr. Dickinson was elected president last fall.

MISS RUBY CHRISTENSON, who has served as special state 4-H agent during the past two summers, took up full-time work with the state extension service, January 1, working on the extension project with the rural youth organizations and part time with the 4-H club department. Miss Christenson has spent the greater part of the year for the past two years with the National Dairy Council in its educational program in the schools of the Twin Cities. She has also been home economics instructor in both the Bemidji and St. Louis county schools.

KENNETH W. INGWALSON, has joined the state 4-H club department to work mainly with southern Minnesota agents, but also to serve generally as a state 4-H agent. Mr. Ingwalson was graduated from the Minnesota college of agriculture in 1931, following which he was assistant on the staff for 2 years while taking graduate work. During his 6 years as a student he spent part-time working with rural schools and 4-H clubs as educational agent for the Office of Barberry Eradication. In 1934 he was emergency agricultural agent for Isanti, Anoka and Kanabec counties, and during 1935 was acting agent in southern St. Louis county.

D. T. GRUSSENDORF, who for 6 years has been an instructor at the North Central School of Agriculture, has succeeded Mr. Ingwalson at Duluth as acting agent. "Deac" is a graduate of the Minnesota college of agriculture and taught high school agriculture at Two Harbors before going to the School at Grand Rapids.

STANLEY R. DOTEN has been appointed as assistant agent in Kittson county, serving under the able instruction of AGENT J. A. SALISBURY. Mr. Doten is a 1933 graduate of the Minnesota agricultural college and has had experience as high school agricultural instructor and county 4-H club leader.

FRANK A. DOUGLASS, Stevens county agent since February 1930, will leave his post, February 1, to enter newspaper work at Lakefield, Jackson county. Frank's agricultural

Coming Events

January 15-17	Annual Meeting, Minnesota Federation of County Fairs, St. Paul
January 27	Rural Electrification Conference, U. Farm
January 28	R. E. A. Conference, Owatonna
January 29	R. E. A. Conference, Tracy
January 30	R. E. A. Conference, Morris
January 31	Annual Meeting, Minnesota Farm Managers' Association, Lowry Hotel, St. Paul
February 1	R. E. A. Conference, Duluth
February 3-7	Red River Shows and Northwest Farmers Week, Crookston
February 6	R. E. A. Conference, Crookston
February 11-12	Annual Meeting, Central Co-Operative Association, St. Paul
March 6	Farm Structures Conference
March 11-13	Annual Meeting, Land O'Lakes, Minneapolis

Unless otherwise specified, events listed will take place at University Farm.

training and enthusiasm have been a great asset to the service in Stevens county where an exceptionally fine piece of organization work has been done.

S. C. "SIG" MARTENSEN, emergency agent in Chippewa county, will succeed Douglass in Stevens. Mr. Martensen, was assistant supervisor of cow testing associations at University Farm for a number of years. For the time being, MELVIN C. WANGSNES, who has served for the past year as assistant county agent at Osceola, Iowa, will act as emergency agent in Chippewa county.

Editor Kirkwood Turns in His Keys

On Saturday of Farm and Home Week, PROF. W. P. KIRKWOOD turned in his office keys, ending nearly 22 years of service as agricultural editor and chief of the division of publications. Officially "through" January 1, Mr. Kirkwood stood by to see another Farm and Home Week finished before going into "active" retirement.

Newspapers up and down the land have recounted his many achievements for the University and newspaperdom, leaving little to add here, except to say that he is held in the highest esteem by all members of the extension family, many of whom were his students in journalism back in their college days.

On January 9, Mr. Kirkwood's sixty-ninth birthday, members of his division unveiled a life-sized portrait of the chief which is to remain in the office of publications as a permanent memorial. On January 20, Mr. and Mrs. Kirkwood were honored at a dinner attended by executive committee members of the University Department of Agriculture, journalism faculty, and members of the publications staff.

• • • Cupid added another extensioner to his victims on December 26, when A. B. HAGEN, Freeborn assistant agent, took as his bride Miss Margaret Louise Andres, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph E. Andres of Montevideo.

Director Peck Again Has Reins

DIRECTOR F. W. PECK took up his accustomed duties as head of the extension service immediately after the New Year holiday. State staff members welcomed him at a luncheon party, Friday, January 3, at University Farm.

Executives associated with Mr. Peck in the Farm Credit Administration presented him with a handsome desk piece with built-in "self-reading" electric clock when he left Washington. At the same time his subordinates on the staff gave him a Hamilton wrist watch in token of their esteem.

On his return to Minnesota, Director Peck also took over from Dr. ANDREW BOSS the administration of agricultural adjustment work.

FRANK J. BROWN, who served as assistant director during Mr. Peck's absence, has resumed his duties as district county agent supervisor, with A. E. ENGBRETSON as assistant.

• • • WESLEY BROWN, youngest of the Frank J. Brown family, and Miss Loraine Nelson were married on New Year's eve. The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. N. P. Nelson, who for many years were residents of North St. Anthony Park, St. Paul. Both were graduated from the University of Minnesota last June, the bride from the School of Nursing and "Wes" from the department of physical education.

• • • Members of the state home demonstration staff and the 4-H home economics agents were guests of The Farmer's Wife on December 16, when a tea party was given in The Wife's demonstration kitchen.

• • • EXTENSION FORESTER P. O. ANDERSON has worked out a film strip of 39 films dealing with the planting of the standard windbreak recommended for Minnesota farms. This has lecture notes to accompany it and is suitable for use by county agents, township chairmen and others in explaining the 5-year prairie planting project launched last summer. J. F. KUEHN has 10 copies of this film strip and will send one on request.

• • • Safety work, the new 4-H project, has gained a new sponsor, The Dispatch-Pioneer Press of St. Paul, which is putting up money for prizes in 1936 as well as boosting the project with publicity. Support for this work is being continued by the State Farm Mutual Insurance company, headed by W. D. Stegner, former district 4-H club agent. The Farm Mutual's sponsorship last year provided about 25 trips to State Fair, several to Morris and Crookston, and one to Chicago.

• • • EXTENSIONER L. A. CHURCHILL covered himself with glory as general chairman of the 1936 Farm and Home Week which set new records for attendance, interest and efficient administration.

Wessel, Churchill Edit News Letters

Two new types of monthly news letters, compiled by extension staff members, have made their appearance within recent weeks.

A 4-H news letter, edited by Miss AMY WESSEL, consists of two parts. One part is for all local leaders containing announcements, and suggestions on projects, material for club programs and news of local and county activities of statewide interest. The other part is for extension agents, and includes official announcements, notices, reminders and special suggestions.

A rural youth news letter, edited by L. A. CHURCHILL, contains news and gossip about rural youth groups and members, program material, games, recreation, official announcements regarding this new work and suggestions of many kinds. It will be mailed to all members of organized rural youth groups, as well as to county extension agents.

T. A. Erickson Called 'Builder of Character'

An editorial published by the Lake Wilson Pilot and copied in the Minneapolis Journal pays a high tribute to Minnesota's 4-H club leader, under the heading "A Builder of Character":

"When the roll of truly great men in Minnesota is called, it should include the name of T. A. ERICKSON, leader in the boys' and girls' club movement in this state. Kindly, sympathetic, and cultured, he has left the imprint of clean, decent citizenship and character on the minds of thousands of farm boys and girls with whom he has come in contact during the last fifteen years. His friendly counsel and aid remain deep in the memory of many a youngster who was fortunate enough to know him. His life work has been a monument of character building, and has been a real service to the youth of Minnesota."

AITKIN. Several items of interest appear in the December report of Agent A. R. Rollins. Turkeys of course come in for their share with a dressing contest staged in the county, and a plan of marketing turkeys from this county in the future under the trade name of "Arrowhead Turkeys."

BENTON. Agent Elmer Isaksen reports good results from the discussion project this year. He says, "So far, this has proven one of the most interesting projects developed in the county." He also reports many of the local units carrying on discussions following the county meeting.

CARLTON. This county has a reputation for its dairy work and from the activities of Agent George Chambers it appears that dairy is still the leading project. Chambers reports the organization of bull blocks with a plan of several associations with four blocks in each association. These are being set up on a good sound financing basis.

CLAY. Agent Donald A. Peet reports the organization of the dairy herd improvement association as being well under way. The plans for the standard dairy herd improvement association are being somewhat modified in this case with the thought in mind of giving the producers herd records for their own use at a somewhat lower cost than on the regular basis. Much interest is being shown and the prospects are for an association of 150 members.

FARIBAULT. Assistant Agent G. J. Kunau has been giving a lot of attention to seed corn testing since about the middle of November. Samples are still coming in from all parts of the county and up to January 1 more than 6,500 kernels had been tested. The average germination for all samples was 80 per cent. Seed selected before the frost averaged 97 per cent, while that from shocked corn and old corn averaged 69 per cent. Seed picked after the frost, while husking, averaged only 75 and varied from 48 to 100 per cent, early varieties showing up the best.

• • • A featured speaker at the annual conference of extension workers of the state of Washington at Pullman, early in January, was NATE H. BOVEE, none other than the redoubtable Redwood county agent. The subject—you guessed it—was weed control.

• • • William E. McNelly, Houston county, father of EXTENSIONER C. L. McNelly, died the latter part of December, at the age of 78. All his life was spent in Houston county as a teacher, farmer, state representative, and prominent in many local organizations. The Caledonia Journal, speaking of "Will's yardstick" said, "We knew every inch stood but for just one thing—honesty of purpose."

• • • JOHN SHEAY, former Scott county agent, has left the Land O' Lakes organization to take up graduate study in agricultural economics at University Farm and expects to receive his Master's degree in June. H. O. ANDERSON, former Houston agent, received his Master's last fall and is continuing part-time study toward a doctorate, meanwhile working in farm management.

FLASHES from AFIELD

FREEBORN. As a wind-up to the minor project in poultry, Agent Thora Eglund writes of the egg show: "An egg show was held in connection with the annual Farm Bureau meeting on December 17. This was the third show of its kind held in Minnesota. Miss Cora Cooke, poultry specialist, judged. There were four classes of eggs: white hens' eggs, brown hens' eggs, white pullet eggs, brown pullet eggs. Any poultry raiser could exhibit one dozen eggs in each class. Every exhibitor could take part in a judging contest held at noon. There were 49 exhibits of one dozen each in the show. Ribbons or money prizes were given. Prizes were donated by the local hatcheries and produce plants."

HENNEPIN. Plans are under way to form a financing organization for 4-H Club stock and equipment. This association will be a cooperative association and will be incorporated, says Agent K. A. Kirkpatrick.

ITASCA. Itasca county farmers were so well pleased with the various livestock councils set up last year that a new potato council has been set up also, says Agent A. H. Frick. The dairy council is sponsoring dairy meetings with leaders in the county again this year.

LAKE. A newly-formed athletic association is one of the highlights recorded in Agent T. A. Grinager's December report. This was organized for the purpose of a basketball league in the county between the rural groups.

MCLEOD. The rural electrification project is making great headway in McLeod county. Agent R. A. Fischer reports the organization of the McLeod County Cooperative Power as-

• • • Mrs. AGNES ERKEL, president of the Minnesota Home Demonstration Agents association, entertained the home demonstration agents while they were in St. Paul during Farm and Home Week. High finance engaged the attention of the agents throughout the evening. An added joy of the occasion was a grand big birthday cake with sixteen candles for ARTAXA DENNISTON, Itasca home agent.

• • • Agent C. G. GAYLORD reports that complete 1936 programs for 11 Faribault county township Farm Bureau units were on file by January 1, as a result of two program planning meetings in which 16 units participated, December 9 and 10. Other units are expected to submit programs soon. The forenoon session at each meeting comprised discussions of what a complete program is, while in the afternoon, township groups met separately to plan definite programs.

Similar meetings have been held in Fillmore, Wabasha, Olmsted, Martin, and Nicollet counties, with the assistance of A. E. ENGBRETSON, assistant county agent leader. More counties are expecting to have program planning meetings.

sociation with 756 members, 200 having been added within the last few weeks.

MOWER. Agent May Sontag reports that Miss Ina Rowe of the Ball Brothers company was in the county for two days and presented two fine meat-canning demonstrations. There was a great deal of interest shown by those attending. Questions asked by the women showed that many were experienced meat canners and that they were glad to have help with their problems. At each demonstration, Miss Sontag explained the place of the meat-canning demonstrations in the year's program of home demonstration work.

NICOLLET and STEELE. As a result of the lesson on "Money Management" in the Home Management project now being carried, over 150 women in Steele and 164 in Nicollet are starting the keeping of accounts.

RICE. Persons attending the annual county Farm Bureau meeting were handed a mimeographed circular of several pages giving a review of the year's extension work by Agent Don Marti. Very little written material was contained, cartoons and a few figures telling the story. The cover, of yellow paper, had a drawing of a jack-in-the-box with the title, "Popping Up with a sketchy history of Rice County extension work in 1935." A typical inside page had 6 cartoons accompanied by legends. Two were as follows: Cartoon of mailman, legend reading, "7306 individual letters, 489 different circulars, 97,800 total circulars." Newsboy cartoon, legend—"659 newspaper articles." In like manner were presented facts about 4-H club work, AAA work, and other extension activities.

ROSEAU. Agent John Jensen reports a special Farm Bureau unit program planning stunt carried out with the organized units in Roseau county. Mr. Jensen met with each of the program-

planning committees and outlined with them and the township officers a program of work for the unit for the year. This program was later incorporated in the county program of work. In each unit, two leaders have been selected in charge of each project. Special projects on which the local units cooperate include: turkey raising, dairying, sheep raising, crop projects, and each unit will sponsor a 4-H club.

ST. LOUIS (SOUTH). Cooperation between the Rural Resettlement Administration and the county extension service in this county is being worked out to provide bulls and other purebred sires through bull associations.

STEVENS. A new unit was added to the county Farm Bureau organization in December, when Farm Bureau members of Horton township organized under the supervision of Frank A. Douglass, county agent. Mr. Douglass has been insistent and persistent in his community organization work, cooperating in the organization of one to two new Farm Bureau units each year. The Horton unit will make 10 Farm Bureau units organized in Stevens county during the six years Mr. Douglass has served as county agent.

WATONWAN. About 350 plates were served at the 4-H banquet sponsored by nine Watonwan county banks at St. James in December. The beef came from a Shorthorn calf exhibited at the Junior Livestock Show by a Watonwan county 4-H member and purchased by the banks.

WINONA. Business and professional men joined with the rural people of Winona county in the annual Farm Bureau banquet held at the Hotel Winona, December 17. Reservations were limited to 225 persons, but a good cross section of the county's varied interests was represented. Dr. E. C. Johnson of University Farm spoke on "The Farmer and Foreign Trade." The Winona Republican-Herald made a spread for the occasion by getting out a special Farm Bureau edition, featuring items from Agent H. C. Pederson's annual report and statements from prominent people regarding the value of extension and Farm Bureau work.

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