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# MINNESOTA EXTENSION NEWS

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Volume I

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Number 8

## Thorfinnson Soil Wash Specialist

Among the staff changes to be announced at this time is the appointment of M. A. THORFINNSON as federal soil erosion specialist working under the administration of the state extension service. Mr. Thorfinnson has been granted a leave of absence for one year from his duties in Goodhue county and meanwhile his place will be filled by G. J. KUNAU, who has been assistant agent in Faribault county for the past several months. Mr. Thorfinnson has been in Goodhue county as agent for the past 6 years. His new work will be mainly with county agents and CCC camps in 12 southeastern Minnesota counties where soil erosion is particularly important.

Mr. Kunau, a graduate of Iowa State College, and an experienced livestock man, was to start work in Goodhue county March 15, moving to Red Wing with his wife and 5-year-old daughter.

L. P. ZIMMERMAN has been on the job several weeks as agricultural engineering specialist assisting with the rural electrification project. He gave splendid assistance at the rural electrification conferences held the last week in February at University Farm, Crookston and Duluth. He has also prepared a multigraph on the outline of the REA project, which county agents are finding very useful in organizing and conducting this work. A graduate of the electrical engineering college of the University, Mr. Zimmerman has been farming in Waseca county for a number of years where he was a practical user of electricity on the farm.

GEO. BERGGREN, assistant county agent in Itasca county for several months, started work February 17 as county agent in Lake of the Woods county, replacing Wm. Grussendorf, who resigned to go with the Resettlement Administration.

NORMAN GOODWIN, an all around man of the class of 1936 College of Agriculture, has been selected as assistant county agent in Wilkin county. He will report to assist COUNTY AGENT O. R. GROVER at Breckenridge, April 1.

## Dairy Marketing Projects Resumed

To assist dairy farmers in determining weaknesses in the present methods of marketing their milk and cream, and to point specifically to possible solutions of the present marketing situation is the aim of economic extension projects now being planned, says DIRECTOR F. W. PECK.

Preparations for a comprehensive study of the economic factors surrounding marketing conditions at dairy factories in various parts of the state are now underway. A costly competitive system has developed in several sections where over 900 dairy manufacturing units operate. The

### Coming Events

March 23-28	State Home Demonstration Conference
March 25-27	Horticultural Short Course
March 30-April 2	Arrowhead Institute, Duluth
May 31-June 6	Triennial Conference of Associated Country Women of the World, Washington, D.C.
June 5	Dairy Husbandry Day
June 9-12	State 4-H Club Week
June 17-24	National 4-H Camp, Washington, D.C.

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

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## Austin Headlines Home Conference

With Dr. E. L. AUSTIN, dean of education, Michigan Agricultural College, as the headliner, an unusually attractive program has been arranged for the state home demonstration conference at University Farm, March 23 to 28. Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday will be for home demonstration agents and state staff. On Thursday, Friday and Saturday, the extension workers will be joined by home chairmen from counties throughout the state.

Dr. Austin will give three talks during the first 2 days. Another speaker, for both sections of the conference, will be MISS GRACE E. FRY-SINGER, senior home economist, U. S. Department of Agriculture. DEAN W. C. COFFEY, DIRECTOR F. W. PECK, MISS WYLLE B. MCNEAL, MISS JULIA O. NEWTON, T. A. ERICKSON and several other University Farm staff members will be on the program, including all of the home specialists.

The afternoon session, Friday, will be held at the Dayton Store, Minneapolis, with several members of the Dayton staff speaking on store methods and merchandise values. A tour of the store will be made. Mrs. LEWIS MINION, home and community director of the Minnesota Farm Bureau Federation, and MISS BESS M. ROWE, field editor of the Farmer's Wife, St. Paul, will be two of the visiting speakers for the home chairmen.

The annual business meeting of the home demonstration agents' association will be held Wednesday afternoon. Several social affairs include a conference party, Thursday evening, at the Minneapolis Y. W. C. A.

## E. C. Torrey Sets Historian Right

A Mrs. Black, in writing her memoirs for the Good Housekeeping Magazine, couldn't "get away with it" when she wrote that Garfield nominated Grant at a certain political convention. E. C. Torrey, retired extension publicity specialist, who has a penchant for history and a keen memory to go with it, wrote the magazine pointing out that Roscoe Conkling, leader of the stalwarts, nominated Grant. Moreover, Mr. Torrey recalled the ringing verse in which Conkling replied to those inquiring about Grant's nativity. It runs as follows:

*You ask what state he hails from;  
My sole reply shall be,  
He hails from Appomattox  
And its famous apple tree.*

Good Housekeeping editors acknowledged that Mr. Torrey was correct, thanked him.

• • • EXTENSION FORESTER PARKER ANDERSON attended a regional forestry conference at Chicago March 6, 7 and 8.

first study will deal with the cheese industry in southern Minnesota. Next it is planned to give attention to this problem from the standpoint of local cooperative creameries. Special attention will be paid to the competitive situation and to duplication and inefficiencies occurring in assembling the raw material at the creameries.

Analysis of the factors involved will permit specific recommendations to be made to boards of directors of local cooperative associations interested in operating on a sounder basis. County agents are urged to advise of situations in their respective counties where the competitive problem among creameries is most pressing.

• • • Among the temporary 4-H club leaders who will take up work April 1 in the counties are many college graduates. University of Minnesota graduates, their home towns, and the counties in which they will be placed include: FLORENCE SACK, Boyd, Bigstone county; LOTTIE KNUDSON, Gully, Roseau county; EDITH JOHNSON, Detroit Lakes, Crow Wing county; MAE STEPHENSON, Clay county; and MILDRED SAILOR, Eyota, Fillmore county. Graduates from other schools are: MIRVENA EGGEN, Hendricks, Iowa State College, Stevens county; ELEANOR HATFIELD, Dundas, St. Olaf, Murray county; RUBY NYLANDER, Brandon, Gustavus Adolphus, Todd county; ELSA PINNEY, Le Center, Macalester College, Le Sueur county; and VIRGINIA DOEE, McCarrons Lake, St. Catherine's College, Dakota county.

• • • Mr. and Mrs. HARRY McMAHON of Houston county have announced the arrival on January 6 of a new county agent, James Patrick McMahon. We were a little late in hearing about this event, owing, no doubt, to the fact that the news got "snowed in."

• • • STATE 4-H LEADER T. A. ERICKSON was a speaker Wednesday, March 4, at the Winter Shows at the Walsh County Agricultural School, Park River, North Dakota. He addressed two meetings, one for men and one for women.

• • • With Miss AMY WESSEL back at her 4-H club duties after a 2 weeks vacation in Old Mexico, Mr. and Mrs. HENRY PFLUGHOEFT left March 4 to spend a vacation with relatives in California. They expect to be gone most of the month. Mr. Pflughoeft is district 4-H club agent in northwestern Minnesota.

## Eight Counties Plan Farming Programs

County program planning committees in eight counties, cooperating with the Experiment Station and the AAA, have worked out crop and livestock systems for their counties, designed to control erosion and maintain fertility on a long-time basis. These counties, one in each of the major type-of-farming areas of the state, are Winona, Lyon, Meeker, Sherburne, Todd, Stevens, Beltrami, and West Polk. A similar study to serve the counties comprising Area 9 will be made in Duluth about April 1 in connection with the Arrowhead Institute.

In each of the eight counties, a committee of 20 to 30 farmers, appointed by DIRECTOR F. W. PECK, met in a series of three meetings, and reviewed the research data for the county and area as developed in the regional type-of-farming studies which have been under way during the past year. Suggested cropping systems were considered and desirable cropping plans adopted for recommendation in the county. The increased or decreased quantities of feed which these systems would produce, as compared with the quantities produced by existing practices, were considered, and the changes in livestock production which would result were studied.

Similar program planning activities are in progress in all other states. It is probable that this project will be extended to the other counties in Minnesota.

S. B. CLELAND and G. A. POND, assisted by E. A. HANSON and W. A. PETERS, are in charge of this project.

• • • Funeral services for Mrs. FRANCIS BRADY, wife of the assistant county agent in Martin county, were held at Duluth February 27, where the couple was married last October. Mrs. Brady was formerly Miss Patricia Glenn of Port Angeles, Washington, and had attended the College of St. Scholastica, Duluth. Since their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Brady had made their home at Fairmont.

• • • Washington state extension workers were so impressed with NATE BOVEE's explanation of the Redwood county weed control plan, when he spoke to the annual conference there in January, that they are mimeographing his entire annual report for 1930 for distribution to every agent.

AITKIN. A. R. Rollin, county agent, reports cooperation between the extension office, Rural Rehabilitation, local relief office, and county board of commissioners, in sponsoring a "live-at-home" program for development of gardens and other facilities that will assist many of the families to be self-sustaining. Four-H club members are being asked to take part in the projects that would fit in with this program.

BIGSTONE. Plans are under way for establishing one or more junior tree garden nurseries with selected older 4-H club members in each township. The Ortonville Rod and Gun Club is cooperating.

CARLTON. Agent Geo. W. Chambers reports that approximately 70 per cent of the cattle in the county have been tested for Bang's disease. George also reports pooling orders for lime sludge and securing prices from truckers for hauling the sludge from the plant to the farms. This should give a definite boost to legume growing in Carlton county.

CARVER. Agent Geo. King reports the first issue of a news letter going out to county 4-H club members. About 70 per cent of the 1935 membership has already been obtained.

CLAY. Competing for the first time in judging contests at the Crookston Winter Shows, Clay county 4-H clubbers gave promise of becoming strong contenders in future. Their placings included first in crops and sixth in both dairy and general live-stock judging. The dairy demonstration team won fourth and one member won first in individual dairy demonstrations.

HENNEPIN. Floyd D. Wolberg, assistant agent, has put out several interesting and worth while circulars to 4-H club members, assisted by Agent K. A. Kirkpatrick. These include "4-H goal posts for 1936,"

## FLASHES from AFIELD

"Calendar for 1936," and "Twelve Attributes of a good 4-H club member." These are something new in the line of 4-H club material put out by the county.

HUBBARD. Agent Wm. Olson again comes through with a statement that a yard and garden contest is to be conducted during the summer of 1936. This is the fifth year for this project in Hubbard county and very definite results are being shown.

JACKSON. Agent Ross L. Huntsinger reports that when his supply of the 1936 Minnesota Agricultural Outlook pamphlets was exhausted he prepared an outlook for Jackson county based on the state report, but with some local material added, and an attempt to fit the general recommendations to conditions in the county. Along with this Jackson county outlook was added a condensed report of crop trials and demonstrations conducted in the county during 1935.

KITSON. Cooperative marketing is still an active project. Agent Jim Salisbury cooperated in the reorganization of the Halstad Farmers' cooperative elevator. This association was organized nearly 20 years ago on a stock basis. Approximately two-thirds of the original stock holders are either dead or have left the community. New articles and by-laws were adopted and provisions made to distribute stock to elevator patrons and to handle the business on a cooperative basis.

LYON. Quoting from the February report of Agent F. J. Meade: "The

latest mode of travel is by skis and snow shoes. The agent has been reviving his younger days by using a pair of skis in traveling cross country to make some necessary calls. One of our local farm managers for an insurance company is using snow shoes and is making good progress." Obviously extension agents believe in "keeping on top" whatever the weather.

MEEKER. The Meeker County REA project is the first in the state to have its loan authorized—this in the amount of \$400,000. An engineer and attorney have been employed. Approximately 1,300 farmers have purchased shares in the cooperative association.

MOWER. During February, Agents Liebenstein and Powell placed eight additional beef calves with 4-H club members, making a county total of 148 calves in the hands of 120 beef project members. During the same month, 7 ewes and 10 gilts were placed with sheep and pig club members.

MOWER. Two demonstrations were given to the WPA sewing project women. The buying of yard goods, homemade house dresses versus ready-made, fit and construction of work shirts and shorts, were discussed at one meeting. An introduction into the study of color was given at a second meeting. Good grooming will be the topic at a later meeting and there will also be some work on gardening. Agent May Sontag finds this group very interested and some of these folks may enroll for the major project lessons beginning next fall.

POLK (WEST). Agent Carl G. Ash arranged with the Northwest School of Agriculture for germinating samples of seed wheat at the school greenhouse. The first results indicate wheat germination ranging from 39 per cent to 85 per cent, with quite a few samples testing under 50. The

wheat is planted 2½ inches deep, 200 kernels to a sample.

RENVILLE. Agent Frank Svoboda reports a serious seed corn situation. During February all farmers were circularized requesting them to make preliminary tests. A free testing service was established at Olivia where about 100 bushels have already been ear tested. Samples indicate that 80 per cent of corn being tested is unfit for seed. Many farmers are now making ear tests. A few supplies of good seed have been located.

STEVENS. To supply trees for future shelterbelts, approximately 40 selected young men and women are growing garden tree nurseries, using from one to two quarts of ash seed they have picked. Several of the boys are also adding to their plantations by putting out willow and aspen cuttings and this year a number are planning on adding 2- and 4-year-old seedlings of hardy varieties of spruce and pine. The Kiwanis Club of Morris is sponsoring this worthy project. Allen Edson of the West Central School, representing the Kiwanis committee, is assisting County Agent Martensen in supervising the work.

ST. LOUIS (SOUTH). A farm flock adequate to supply eggs and meat for the family needs would seem to be part of a good farm management program. With this in mind, the agents are planning to work on poultry the coming year.

WINONA. Four-H club enrollments were coming in fast as Agent H. C. Pederson submitted his February report. A special 8-page news letter, accompanied by an enrollment card, was sent to all prospective Winona club members early in February. Possibilities for a county youth organization also looked promising.

WRIGHT. Agent E. W. Aiton, reports two cow testing associations carried on with complete success. One association is full to crowding and the other is rapidly filling up.

YELLOW MEDICINE. George Gehant, emergency county agent, reports on a cooperative survey recently made in that county, "The livest co-op in the county is the Echo Burial Association."

• • • LYLE CHURCHILL, KENNETH INGWALSON, RUBY CHRISTENSEN, MILDRED SCHENCK and AMY WESSEL are attending a series of meetings which are being conducted as a training institute for recreation workers in Minneapolis, under the direction of the National Recreation Association. The extensioners named are taking the special work in social recreation and music.

• • • Meeker county has joined the ranks of 2-agent counties, announces MISS JULIA O. NEWTON, state home demonstration leader. A home demonstration agent will begin work early in April. Meeker is the tenth county within a year to enlarge its extension program so that the home side may share equally with the agricultural.

• • • HELEN CHRISTENSON, Ceylon, Martin county, and NORMAN GOODWIN, Austin, Mower county, two young people who are well known to Minnesota extensioners, have been selected as Minnesota's 1936 candidates for the Payne Fund scholarships. Both Helen and Norman are seniors at the agricultural college, University Farm. Helen, who will be graduated next June, has served as temporary district 4-H club agent during the summers of 1934 and 1935. Norman, who will be gradu-

ated from the college on March 19, will enter extension work in Wilkin county as assistant to O. R. GROVER.

• • • DIRECTOR F. W. PECK, FRANK J. BROWN and SPENCER B. CLELAND were Minnesota's agricultural college representatives at the Chicago conference on administration of the new soil conservation act, which is to take the place of the AAA. This conference was held March 5, 6 and 7. State AAA committeemen present included HARRY MUIR, HENRY BOLSTAD, C. L. STICKNEY and O. J. ODEGAARD. All representatives reported a most harmonious conference.

• • • A 4-H leaders' conference will be a feature of the fifteenth annual Arrowhead Institute and northwest Farmers Week at Duluth, March 30 to April 2. T. A. ERICKSON and MISS AMY WESSEL will be in charge.

• • • MISS MURNA NICK of Duluth was Minnesota's candidate in the cherry pie baking contest at Chicago, February 21, where she placed third among the representatives from 10 states, receiving a prize of \$60. MISS MILDRED SCHENCK, who accompanied Murna, says three of the 10 contestants were 4-H club girls and all three ranked in the high five.

A. N. Wilcox  
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