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# MINNESOTA EXTENSION NEWS

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Volume I

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UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Number 9

## Pigskin, Mat Stars Join Agent Force

A formidable section of the Iowa State College football squad has been added to the Minnesota county agent force this month in the persons of DWIGHT GARNER and J. RUSSELL GUTE, center and guard, respectively, on the Cyclone team that defeated the Big Ten Hawkeyes. These men received a large share of the credit for stopping the redoubtable negro, Simmons.

As assistant to AGENT STOWER in Anoka county, Garver will attempt to throw extension problems for a loss, while Gute will remain on the Iowa border as assistant to AGENT GAYLORD of Faribault county. Last year Gute was a fieldman for the Rochelle, Illinois, canning factory of the California Fruit Packing Company.

A Minnesota varsity wrestler, DON DAILEY, went to the mat with extension problems April 1 in Wright county as assistant to AGENT E. W. AITON. Dailey, who has just been graduated from the Minnesota College of Agriculture, hails from Pipestone and has distinguished himself not only in athletics, but also as winner of the little red oil can and as a leader in the Future Farmers movement, being a past president of the state organization and a winner of the American Farmer degree.

WALTER BOEKE has been made emergency agent in Mille Lacs and Kanabec counties. He was formerly assistant in Dakota and in Anoka and Sherburne counties.

OSCAR NELSON took over emergency agent work in Cass county April 13. He is a 1930 graduate of Iowa State and has made a specialty of meat work, having at one time operated his own shop.

HENRY HOWARD, another Iowa State grad and son of the first president of the American Farm Bureau Federation, has become emergency agent in Isanti county. For the past several years Howard has been operating the home farm at Marshalltown, Iowa.

A former Park Rapids agriculture instructor, RODERICK McMILLEN, has gone into Itasca county as assistant to COUNTY AGENT A. H. FRICK.

Assistant agents have been stationed in Carlton and Washington counties to carry on details of the extension program while AGENTS GEORGE CHAMBERS and AL SJOWALL are serving as block men in the new soil conservation program. The assistant in Carlton is PAUL LINDHOLM, former agriculture instructor in Cook, St. Louis county. The Washington county assistant is RAYMOND SWENSON, brother of Walter and Philip, both of whom are well known to extension folks. Both Lindholm and Swenson are graduates of the Minnesota College of Agriculture.

The third McMillin to join the county agent staff is MAX McMILLIN, who is just starting as emergency agent in Pine county. A 1930 graduate of Iowa State College, McMillin

## Coming Events

April 30-May 2  
May 31-June 6

June 1-6  
June 5  
June 6-8  
June 9-12  
June 15-17  
June 17-24  
June 22  
June 25-27  
July 6-11

Editors' Short Course  
Triennial Conference of Associated Country Women of the World, Washington, D.C.  
District 4-H Club Week, Crookston  
Dairy Husbandry Day  
Camp for 4-H Leaders, Itasca Park  
State 4-H Club Week  
District 4-H Club Week, Grand Rapids  
National 4-H Camp, Washington, D.C.  
State Extension Picnic  
Camp for 4-H Leaders, Fairmont  
District 4-H Club Week, Morris

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

has had 2 years experience as county agent in Emmet county, Iowa.

HOWARD GROW, former assistant to Ralph Crim in agronomy work, became assistant agent in Pennington county, succeeding E. B. NORUM. Grow worked with the federal seed stocks committee in connection with the seed grain purchases during 1935 and assisted with the hybrid corn trials throughout the state. He is a graduate of the Central School of Agriculture and the Minnesota College of Agriculture. Norum has joined the federal soil survey staff in the U.S. D.A. and is stationed, at least temporarily, in the Ozark region of Missouri.

## First Wheat Grower Title in Dispute

A controversy which arose during the past few weeks as to who planted the first wheat in Minnesota apparently has been settled in favor of J. M. DREW, former member of the state extension staff, who has old newspaper clippings to prove that his father, Edward B. Drew, produced a fine crop of wheat in Winona county back in 1852.

The Lambertson News recently published an article stating that the first wheat in Minnesota was grown in LeSueur county by a Welshman in 1853. When H. L. HARRIS brought this to Mr. Drew's attention, the latter dug up his clippings and wrote a long letter to the Lambertson editor who published it in full.

Mr. Drew can recite many intriguing tales of his father's early experiences as a settler. For example, the sod fence that his father built to keep his oxen out of the fields, was made by piling up strips of sod. When the oxen playfully tore holes in the barrier with their horns, they were dissuaded by digging a narrow trench along the outside. Such was "dirt" farming in the 1850's.

Class "A" 4-H dairy demonstrations this year will emphasize the following three topics: cooling of cream, the grading of cream, and the production of clean milk. Funds for educational trips to state and national events are being provided by the Minnesota Dairy Industry committee and by the Minnesota Creamery Operators and Managers.

H. G. ZAVORAL, extension animal husbandman, has been invited to contribute one chapter each to two new books on livestock. He will write a chapter on "Sheep Health Makes Wealth" for a book to be published by the Sheep Breeder, Chicago, and entitled "The Golden Hoof." P. A. ANDERSON will write a chapter on lamb slaughtering. Zavoral and E. F. FERRIN each will contribute a chapter to "The Mortgage Lifter," a book to be published by the Hog Breeder, Chicago. The talk given by Zavoral at the Crookston shows in February has appeared as the leading article in the April Sheep Breeder.

MISS JULIA O. NEWTON, state home demonstration leader, and MISS CORA COOKE, poultry specialist, were Minnesota's representatives at the Purdue conference for extension supervisors and poultry specialists in March. Both were enthusiastic in reporting at a Monday morning state staff conference on the nature and value of the sessions. One of the sidelights Miss Cooke brought back was a story about a professor who dreamed that he was speaking to a group of people and woke up to discover that he was. Add that one to your collection.

H. R. SEARLES, extension dairyman, calls special attention to the first Minnesota Dairy Day slated for Friday, June 5, at University Farm. He urges county agents to see that a good representation of their cow testing association members and dairymen are present to get the latest information on the breeding program and proved sire work of the cow testing association. Visitors also will have opportunity to learn about the experimental work under way in the dairy division, particularly in regard to better utilization of higher quality roughage in the dairy ration.

H. J. AASE, St. Louis county club leader, has cooperated with the county rural school superintendent and Smith-Hughes agricultural teachers in working out a schedule of 4-H club leaders' conferences at 18 centers. Schools and 4-H clubs in each of the 18 areas are organized into a local federation of leaders. Rural school teachers who are acting as leaders will be excused to attend the meetings with the community 4-H leader. Transportation is being provided by the county club agents and agricultural teachers.

## Home Conference Tremendous Success

If we could devote an entire page to a review of the State Home Demonstration Conference, our report still could do no more than make a molehill out of a mountain. The very concise summary of the conference committee headed by MRS. AGNES ERKEL comprises nearly 5 pages of single-spaced matter. Fortunately, mimeographs of this summary are available, as are abstracts of DIRECTOR F. W. PECK's two addresses, "The Farm Family as the Basis of an Extension Program" and "The Present Challenge to Home Demonstration Work."

The conference ran the entire week beginning March 23. On the last 3 days some 40 county home chairmen joined the agents and state staff. A variety of recreational and social events dotted the week's program which "clicked" beautifully from start to finish.

DR. E. L. AUSTIN, dean of education of Michigan Agricultural College, and MISS GRACE FRYSSINGER, extension home economist, Washington, were the out-of-state speakers. DEAN W. C. COFFEY and STATE LEADER JULIA O. NEWTON were among the University Farm staff members who were on the program.

Particularly apparent was the growth in numbers of home demonstration agents that has taken place during the last year.

MISS DORIS FISH, daughter of MRS. BELLE OSBORN FISH, child development specialist, has accepted a job as dietitian with the Greenfield Stores in Detroit and moved there early in March from Boston where, since last September, she has been working at Wellesley Inn, Wellesley College. At the same time, Mrs. Fish's second son, CHARLES, went to Cedar Rapids, Iowa, to accept a position with the Bupane Gas Company.

Faribault county is stressing music appreciation in its 4-H club program this year. Club members have taken six songs to learn—both words and the story of the song itself. Each junior and adult leader has been given the story of the songs with information as to where music can be purchased. Club groups are being encouraged to use them for quartets and trios.

JOHN GRASS of Steele county, who was champion Holstein judge at the National Dairy Show last year, is very much in club work this year. The day before he became 21 years of age he enrolled in 10 4-H projects and activities. He has been in 4-H club work for 14 years.

At least two Minnesota counties hope to get 4-H club buildings on the fair grounds this year through WPA projects. These are Stearns and Itasca counties.

DONALD PEET, Clay county agent, passed cigars recently in celebration of the arrival of a son.

**BELTRAMI.** Agent M. B. Taylor says 17 cars of seed potatoes were shipped out of the county during the month. Taylor reports a real demand for the right kind of stock in the southern markets.

**BENTON.** Agent Elmer Isacksen reports a county 4-H banquet held with about 250 attending. Elmer says the event was successful from all angles and has created a better attitude on the part of business men toward club work. The business men were invited to be present and "to leave their pocketbooks at home."

**BIGSTONE.** This county, which has not had home project work for a good many years, is lining up for a project during 1936. Agent C. A. Benton reports a project determination meeting conducted by Miss Charlotte Kirchner on March 19, at which home and community chairmen completed plans for starting organization work.

**CARVER.** This county has added a News Letter to the list of activities for the club members in the county. Several new clubs are reported by Agent Geo. King.

**CROW WING.** Reports indicate a real interest in the discussion project just completed. Agent Ernie Roth says, "This series of meetings has created considerable discussion not only at the group meetings but throughout the county."

Plans are being developed in the county to move the buildings from the transient camp to Lum park where they will be used as 4-H buildings.

**GOODHUE.** When the second leader training meeting in Farm Yard Improvement was held March 20 one leader walked 5 miles to take the train while many others drove twice the regular distance to avoid impassable roads. Mrs. Sell says this decidedly reflects their interest and cooperation.

**HUBBARD.** Agent Wm. Olson says special emphasis is being placed on the health project this year. Plans are to have examination of all club members at their local meetings.

**ITASCA.** Miss Denniston has several household accounts cooperators. When the year's summary was made one of the most interesting stories came from Mrs. X. Total food cost, \$622.25; total food purchased, \$141.00; total food home produced or wild berries, \$481.25. Total cost per meal per person, 11½ cents, if all had been purchased. The price allowed for home produce was what would have been received if it had been sold. The total cash outlay per meal per person was 2½ cents. The outlay for clothing for this family of four was \$99.08. Mrs. X thought it meant much making over and planning, but there just wasn't any more money to allow.

**LAKE-OF-THE-WOODS.** Agent Geo. H. Berggren reports the organization of a seed cleaning cooperative called

## FLASHES from AFIELD

the Northern Cooperative Farmers Exchange. About 100 members attended the organization meeting.

**LAC QUI PARLE.** Agent Wayne Wieser reports that orders for 12,000 seedlings were taken in March in connection with the woodlot and shelterbelt project. These seedlings are being purchased through a local nursery at prices averaging somewhat less than \$10 per thousand. Already 235 co-operators have signed up.

**MEEKER.** Meeker county is rejoicing in having Miss Clara Bly as its first home demonstration agent. Miss Bly is a native of Lac qui Parle county. Since graduating from college, Miss Bly has been teaching home economics in the western part of the state. Meeker is the tenth county to secure a home demonstration agent in the past year.

**MEEKER.** The rural electrification project is making rapid progress. Thirteen hundred fifty farmers have purchased shares in the county cooperative. A field survey has been completed in two townships and is under way in the third. It is intended to block off about four townships as a unit on which initial bids will be placed. The survey will then be made in the rest of the townships while construction is under way in the first block.

**PENNINGTON.** The home project organization work has been progressing rather slowly, owing to impassable roads. However, the farm women are bound to have the project work and in spite of the most severe winter on record, a total of 240 members are already enrolled in 21 groups. The first meetings are scheduled for April 20, 21, and 22.

**PIPESTONE.** Redwood county gave the world a weed control plan and it now appears that Pipestone county may contribute a cooperative system of seed corn testing. County Agent E. S. Grandrud has designed a germinator and the county Farm Bureau has constructed and manned two of them at different stations. This germinator is heated by electric bulbs and has a circulating device to keep the temperature uniform. It holds 32 "dolls," each 13 inches by 40 feet. Each doll is wrapped on a 1-inch core and will hold five-kernel samples from 540 ears. Each germinator with its 32 dolls will test approximately 140 bushels of corn at a time. Up to April 4, 504 bushels had been ear tested at the two stations with several hundred bushels more booked.

**REDWOOD.** Miss Golden reported that during nutrition training meet-

ings the second week in March one leader drove 60 miles—round trip 120 miles—in order to reach the training center 12 miles from home.

**RICE.** County Agent Don Marti has offered a gavel to the 4-H club with the largest percentage representation at the rally day which has been planned for May 2. This will be a day of instruction on projects and should be an incentive to get enrollments in, says Marti. A 4-H leaders' meeting was held during March and plans made to have the county one-act play and music contests the first week of June.

**ROSEAU.** Agent John Jensen reports continued interest in the Bang's disease test. Five sign-up days were held in five different points, particularly to give farmers who had received negative tests in the past, an opportunity to sign up for additional tests. A total of 265 agreements were signed up during March.

**ST. LOUIS (SOUTH).** Agent D. T. Grussendorf found lively interest in crop and livestock judging team competition when about 37 entries tried out for the contest at Grand Rapids.

**STEARNS.** Mr. Frank Jung, city assessor of St. Cloud, assisted Miss Anderson with two training centers in the Farm Yard Improvement project. Mr. Jung, whose hobby has always been horticulture, did a splendid piece of work. Through his long experience in relation to the farmer's needs he was able to create a great deal of interest on the part of the leaders.

**STEELE.** One hundred fifteen attended the rural youth organization meeting March 25 with Lyle Churchill present. Agent G. A. Strobel says considerable interest has been shown in this work both by leaders and members.

**STEVENS.** Agent Sig Martensen reports progress in the woodlot and shelterbelt project. Windbreak trees

already ordered number 23,223. These farmers will receive an assortment consisting of snow catch trees, and trees of both the fast and slow growing deciduous varieties, including ash and elm. In most cases, farmers ordering approximately 800 trees get an assortment which will make a substantial and well-balanced windbreak. Evergreens to be added to the windbreak proper will be ordered within the next year or two.

**WADENA.** Agent Miles Rowe reports the organization of a cow testing organization. A tester has been secured and it is hoped to secure a sufficient number of members to assure starting the association at an early date.

**WILKIN.** O. R. Grover, county agent, took advantage of an extension service ruling permitting county agents to take graduate work and spent six weeks at the agricultural college in advanced study in economics. Six weeks additional study in absentia gave him credit for a full quarter's graduate work. Robert Jacobs, assistant county agent in western Otter Tail county, was transferred temporarily to Wilkin county and served as acting county agent during Mr. Grover's absence.

**WINONA.** Agent H. C. Pederson found interest in treating seed grains much stimulated by a series of meetings in March with R. C. Rose telling about the benefits of seed treatment. To drive home the simplicity of the process, Pederson had a gravity treating machine constructed as a demonstrator. It was taken along to the various meetings and at three, grain was actually treated. At least eight machines have been made by farmers since.

Winners in a number of 4-H projects were guest speakers at the March meeting of the Winona Rotary club, each giving a general outline of the project in which he or she was interested. Especially impressive to the Rotarians, Pederson says, was the fact that Winona county had five state winners last year in 4-H work.

**WRIGHT.** Agent E. W. Aiton reports the organization of a county rural youth group with about 60 young people in the membership. Officers will be elected at the April meeting and the topics and program started.

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• • • P. O. ANDERSON, extension forester, and J. M. DREW, former extensioner, assisted with the Northwest Sportsmen's Show in Minneapolis the week beginning April 11. Parker has been a wheel horse in the show for several years. Mr. Drew's specialty is taking charge of the archery. Several 4-H club members took part in demonstrations and exhibits.

• • • A. W. AAMODT, former Minnesota extension agent, is now with the Rural Resettlement Administration as state supervisor of the department of cooperative and community services, the agency through which loans for stallion, bull, and ram purchases are made to farmers. Many other services come under this department.

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