

MINNESOTA EXTENSION NEWS

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Poultry, Clothing Attract Women

Poultry extension work in Minnesota reflected returning confidence in the poultry enterprise as a part of the farm business in 1936, says CORA E. COOKE, extension poultry specialist, in a summary of her annual report.

This confidence was shown, not so much in the number of counties taking the project as in number of members enrolled per county and in the practices adopted by these members. Total enrollment increased from 783 in 1935 to 948 in 1936. Tour attendance leaped from 216 to 675 and number of members adopting improved housing practices and equipment rose nearly fourfold. Demonstrations carried on by project members which showed results inspired confidence by the profits shown. Sixty-two demonstrations of one month's duration in feeding for egg production showed a return of 10 cents per hen above feed costs for 9,500 hens. Chick raising demonstrations kept losses down to 10 per cent on 60,589 chicks and showed a return above expenses amounting to 16 cents per chick hatched.

Clothing projects were conducted in 13 counties by Acting Home Demonstration Leader M. LOIS REID and Specialists ANNA OLSON and EYES WHITFIELD. Five hundred eighty-three local leaders carried information to 291 communities and directly reached 3,582 enrolled members. Local leaders and group members passed clothing information on to 12,563 other Minnesota homemakers, also.

The enrolled clothing project members reported making a total of 62,131 garments. The average homemaker, saved a considerable amount of money on practices obtained from the clothing work and a large percentage of them adopted improved practices.

In home demonstration counties results were particularly gratifying. The percentage of the enrollment completing projects in these counties was well over 90 per cent, with Houston county claiming the high of 98 per cent.

• • • COUNTY AGENT K. A. KIRKPATRICK of Hennepin county was honored by Epsilon Sigma Phi, extension fraternity, at the recent meeting of the land grant colleges in Houston, Tex., where he was awarded a certificate of recognition. Each year one extension worker in each of 12 states, plus three other members selected by the grand council of the organization, may be selected for this honor. Mr. Kirkpatrick was nominated by the Minnesota chapter for his extension achievements.

• • • In order that it not be confused with other conservation programs, DIRECTOR F. W. PECK has requested that the farm program be called the "Agricultural Conservation Program." This title is to be used in all publicity, correspondence and other work in which the farm program must be named.

Coming Events

January 16-18	State Agricultural Society Meeting, St. Paul
Jan. 25-Feb. 5	Vegetable Growers Short Course
February 8-12	Red River Valley Shows and Northwest Farmers Week, Crookston
February 10	Central Co-Operative Association Meeting, St. Paul
March 1-5	Greenskeepers Short Course
March 5	Farm Structures Conference
March 15-20	Ice Cream Manufacturers Short Course
March 15-20	Home Demonstration Agents' Conference
March 23-25	Horticulture Short Course

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

• • • W. D. STEGNER, former Minnesota extensioner, has received wide recognition as a successful insurance salesman since he became head of the State Farm Mutual Insurance company about 2 years ago. Since Steg took over the reins, the Minnesota branch has taken national leadership away from California and during 3 weeks of November and December, Steg was called to assist in a special campaign with the Indiana branch. A telegram from the Indiana headquarters announced recently that their goal had been passed in this drive.

• • • ENOCH NORUM, who left an assistant county agent post in Pennington county, April 1, to join the Soil Conservation Service, visited University Farm about Christmas time. He was on his way to Hallock to spend the holidays with his parents.

Until July, Norum was stationed at Springfield, Mo., working southern Missouri and northern Arkansas. Then he was shifted to Winona county, Minn., but November 15 was moved to Georgia, headquartering at Lawrenceville for the winter. He will come back to Winona county next spring.

Norum is with the division of conservation surveys which takes care of survey work outside of established project areas. The work demands a lot of moving about which Norum finds very interesting.

• • • A guest at the county agents' training meeting on farm prices at Rochester, January 13, was A. F. Borchert, Olmsted county's first agricultural agent, who held the post from 1918 to 1922. Mr. Borchert, a classmate of Dr. Andrew Boss at the School of Agriculture, entered agent work in North Dakota in 1912. He was one of the three original county agents employed in North Dakota by Better Farming clubs, consisting of local businessmen who helped county boards finance the work prior to the establishment of regular federal and state extension work. Thomas Cooper, another Minnesota graduate, now dean of agriculture at Kentucky, headed this movement in North Dakota.

• • • MISS JULIA O. NEWTON, state home demonstration leader on leave, spoke on "The Homemaker in the Rural Credit Program" at the annual convention of the Associated Women of the American Farm Bureau at Pasadena, Calif. Miss Newton is now serving as chief of the family credit section, Farm Credit Administration, Washington, D.C.

Group Organizes to Improve Potato

Designed to aid the Minnesota potato industry by promoting the improvement of existing potato varieties and the introduction of new seed, the Minnesota Potato Improvement association was organized at University Farm during Farm and Home Week.

Among the various activities of the organization, will be its work to improve both table and seed stock and the supervision of the distribution of new and improved varieties.

COUNTY AGENT A. H. FRICK, Grand Rapids, Itasca county, was elected president of the newly organized association and A. G. TOLAAS, University Farm horticulturist was named secretary-treasurer. Vice-presidents from the various potato growing sections in Minnesota include William F. Haenke, Gilbert, Arrowhead section; William Challeen, Pine City, sandy land district; Herman Skyberg, Fisher, Red River Valley; H. A. Burgin, New York Mills, North Central district; Ben Picha, Hollandale, Southern district.

• • • Two county agents, F. J. MEADE of Lyon county and DON MARTI of Rice county, added colored supplements to their December reports. These supplements showed 1936 extension achievements illustrated in picture form and served to pictorially impress upon people the results obtained in these counties.

• • • STATE CLUB LEADER T. A. ERICKSON has been confined to his home for several days with a bronchial cold, and it is expected to be two weeks more before he will be on full duty.

• • • The state 4-H and home demonstration staffs will cooperate in conducting a conference for all county home demonstration agents at University Farm, February 5 and 6. All phases of 4-H home economics work will be treated.

• • • H. G. ZAVORAL, extension animal husbandman, spoke at a luncheon January 9 given for 4-H club members of Freeborn county. The Albert Lea Rotary club, an organization that is cooperating with club work, was host. Seventy-five baby beeves have been placed with club people in the county. This work has been aided by the Rotary club.

Changes Occur in Personnel

The first of the year brought several changes in extension personnel, both in the county and state forces.

ARTHUR C. LIBBY, formerly a member of the soils staff at University Farm, was appointed assistant to M. A. THORFINSON, soil erosion specialist. W. A. PETERS, who for some time served as rural youth specialist, has been named agricultural conservation district agent. He has taken over the district formerly supervised by W. E. MORRIS, who is now working on his regular animal husbandry project. L. P. ZIMMERMAN resumed his work as rural electrification specialist January 1, also.

CLARENCE POWELL, who has been assistant county agent in Mower county, was transferred to Martin county. He replaces FRANCIS BRADY who was appointed Houston county agent. LESTER W. JUSTICE, formerly with the Soil Erosion Service at Spring Valley, becomes a new member of the extension staff. He became assistant agent in Freeborn county. Mr. Justice was graduated from Iowa State College in 1934 and since has been engaged in Smith-Hughes teaching, 4-H club and soil erosion work.

• • • Reports indicate increased interest in the baby beef 4-H club project throughout the state, and splendid progress is made in the various counties. O. R. GROVER, Wilkin county, reports 35 calves on feed to date; in 1935 there were 11 calves and in 1936 club members had 28 calves on feed. Frank Svoboda, Renville county, reports 32 calves on feed. Mr. Svoboda is planning a monthly trip of inspection during which he will contact all beef club members, following which a circular letter will be issued telling of the progress made, and suggestions for feeding calves will be given.

• • • Special training on meat canning was given to all home demonstration agents during Farm and Home Week by Extension Nutritionists Inez M. Hobart and Ina B. Rowe, and C. Vacha, canning bacteriologist of the State Department of Agriculture. Many of the agents reported that the work was especially good in helping them check up on 1937 canning information. Numerous meat canning demonstrations have been scheduled in home demonstration counties during January.

• • • Three Minnesota extensioners are having an active part in the activities of the Minnesota Wild Life federation, an organization just newly formed.

At the meeting of the federation, held in Minneapolis, PARKER O. ANDERSON, extension forester, was elected secretary and treasurer of the organization. Two other men represent the division on the board of directors—agricultural extension division, A. E. ENGBRETSON; 4-H club office, KENNETH INGVALSON.

FLASHES from AFIELD

AITKIN. The Aitkin County Farm Bureau sponsored the first statewide turkey dressing contest December 22 with much success, reports COUNTY AGENT A. R. ROLLIN. In the singles, Howard Hoffman of Aitkin was named state winner after he had dressed a bird in 7 minutes and 25 seconds. In the doubles competition, Henning Johnson and Robert Cook were first place winners by dressing two birds in 7 minutes.

ANOKA. One hundred twenty-five farmers attended a Farmers' Institute at Bethel December 11, indicating that the meeting was successful in spite of unfavorable weather. Speakers were H. R. SEARLES, extension dairyman, and W. W. BROOKINS, extension agronomist. The Bethel Commercial club furnished the dinner and entertainment.

EAST POLK. COUNTY AGENT RUDOLPH STOLEN reports much interest in the discussion work conducted by D. C. DVORACEK at McIntosh. Thirty-five people were in attendance at the first discussion meeting. All four of the meetings in East Polk county will be devoted to discussing the various phases of cooperation and cooperative marketing.

FREEBORN. The second annual Freeborn county egg show was held during December. Although there were fewer exhibits than in 1935, MISS CORA E. COOKE, poultry specialist, who judged the show, stated that the quality of exhibits had been improved. Cash prizes were provided by three local organizations.

HUBBARD. Plans are being developed in Itasca county for the introduction of a program of dairy improvement that will fit the needs of the county. The foremost objective is the organization of a cow testing association. Several dairy farmers have expressed the feeling that with a cow testing association as a foundation, many other essential supplementary practices favorable to a long-time improvement plan would be possible.

JACKSON. With the purpose of presenting latest feeding facts which might be of value to farmers during this period of high feed prices, a lamb feeders meeting was held at Lakefield. Speakers included P. A. ANDERSON, University Farm meats specialist, the president of the Iowa Lamb Feeders association and the agricultural agent of the Milwaukee railway.

LAKE. A conservation program has been worked out for Lake county with the cooperation of the American Legion, reports COUNTY AGENT TORSTEIN GRINAGER. The program includes activities connected with forestry, fish and game, water power development, bounty on groundhogs, elimination of protection for the bear, and other such work.

LE SUEUR. Taking advantage of an opportunity to demonstrate their leadership, two 4-H clubs, the Cleveland Pioneers and the Kasota Kan Do Its, entertained their parents and other persons at two successful Christmas events. Dinner was served to about 80 people by the Kasota group with Mr. Lundin, editor of the Mankato Free Press, an honored guest.

MEEKER. RALPH WAYNE, county agent of Meeker county, has from time to time reported splendid progress in the development of the rural electrification project. An interesting account is found in Mr. Wayne's December report. Says Mr. Wayne; "Part of the Meeker county line was electrified before Christmas, and as a result a special message of Christmas cheer was brought to the farm homes in that section of the county. There was a real celebration for the congregations of two of the rural churches and for the first time their Christmas trees were illuminated by electric light provided by the Meeker County Electrification association. This is an illustration of the change electricity brings to farm communities."

MOWER. The board of directors of the Freeborn-Mower Cooperative Light and Power association held their annual meeting this month. The group entered into a contract with the Rural Electrification Administration at Washington, D.C., for a loan of \$175,000. By-laws and a seal were adopted and other business contracted.

NICOLLET. At the annual meeting of the Nicollet county Farm Bureau, Dr. ANDREW BOSS, former vice-director of the Minnesota Agricultural Experiment Station, was principal speaker. Dr. Boss spoke of British and Scottish

agriculture as he observed it during his recent across-the-sea journey.

NORMAN. GEORGE LANDSVERK, county agent, reports progress in his sheep project. At three drenching demonstrations held in this county 234 people were in attendance. One of the groups arranged to hold a sheep tour and picnic in June, 1937. Plans are also being developed for a purebred ram sale and exchange in the fall of 1937.

PENNINGTON. As a part of a 5-year-sheep program, a series of four drenching demonstrations were held in the county during December. These were conducted by Extension Animal Husbandman H. G. Zavoral. The attendance was very good.

PIPESTONE. Plans for the annual Farmers' Institute to be held at Jasper February 3 and 4 are being formed by COUNTY AGENT EBENHARD GANDRUD and C. J. Jonason, superintendent of schools at Jasper. Mr. Jonason is chairman of the institute committee.

RAMSEY. COUNTY AGENT R. FREEMAN aided in the development of the 2-week short course for vegetable growers—a new short course initiated this month. The short course, designed for persons who intend to follow commercial vegetable growing, is being held at University Farm, January 25 through February 5.

REDWOOD. A survey of the past season's weed spraying activities showed that 79,000 pounds of Atlacide and chlorate had been used in Redwood county. Of this amount, 21,140 pounds were applied on state primary noxious weed areas. The biannual weed meeting was held in Redwood Falls, December 22 with 27 counties in attendance. A resume of the work was presented and an organization planned to provide a more comprehensive program in the future.

ST. LOUIS. ACTING COUNTY AGENT D. T. GRUSSENDORF, through the action of the county planning committee of the county library plan, the libraries at Duluth, Hibbing, Virginia and Ely will establish branch libraries in rural areas.

SCOTT. Says COUNTY AGENT WALLACE MILLER, perhaps with a sigh of relief, "There was somewhat of a release of tension in December after November with the grand rush of 4-H achievement meetings, annual Farm Bureau meeting, annual reports, R.E.A., etc."

SHERBURNE. COUNTY AGENT C. E. STOWER reports that Mrs. P. H. Garner who won fourth place in the Farm and Home Week statewide letter writing contest was given the opportunity to read her letter over radio station KSTP.

WASECA. The addition of Rice county to the Steele-Waseca County Electric group increases the membership to 1,200, says COUNTY AGENT CLETUS J. MURPHY. At the stockholders' meeting December 21 about 300 people were present to ratify the loan agreement. The stockholders voted to amend the constitution so as to change the limit of indebtedness from \$500,000 to \$1,000,000.

WEST POLK. Owing to the high price of feed grains, many farmers requested COUNTY AGENT CARL G. ASH to obtain prices at which Canadian grains could be laid down in their county. Rumors were that both oats and wheat screenings could be purchased much cheaper in Canada than in the states. As a result of this request, Mr. Ash made a trip to Winnipeg to investigate grain prices. It is of interest to know that he found oats much higher in Canada than at home, even without transportation charges or custom duties. Wheat screenings could be purchased from \$7 to \$9 per ton cheaper at Crookston.

WINONA. Poultry project leaders are providing evidence that good feeding and care pays. Records are kept by leaders, or by group members, to show how much it costs to feed a flock of hens for one month and what returns may be expected with present prices at different levels of production. At leader training meetings in January, these records showed that 100 hens laying a total of 100 eggs in a month would show a loss of \$8. When the 100 hens laid 700 eggs, there was a profit of \$8. When this same number of hens laid 1,800 eggs, the profits increased to \$37. The leaders agreed that early hatching and good housing contributed to these better results.

• • • MRS. BELLE OSBORN FISH, child development specialist, has announced the birth of her first grandchild. A daughter, Marjorie Ann, was born to Mr. and Mrs. Donald Fish recently. Donald is in the Iowa extension service at Ames, Iowa.

• • • A new assistant county agent appeared in Nicollet county New Years' eve. In other words, COUNTY AGENT and MRS. E. M. NELSON are announcing the arrival of a son, Larry Elgar. Mr. Nelson traditionally passed cigars around at an agent's meeting in Rochester, January 12.

• • • The Redwood county weed killing plan was given additional publicity in the January issue of The Agricultural Leaders Digest by H. L. HARRIS, agricultural editor. Mr. Harris explained how the plan was originated by Nate Bovee, former Redwood county agent, and how it had been adopted in 40 Minnesota counties and attracted national recognition.

• • • EXTENSION ANIMAL HUSBANDMAN H. G. ZAVORAL has been hitting the ball in getting timely and valuable advice in regard to hog feeding and breeding publicized. The Interstate Packing company at Winona has broadcast two of his News Letter articles about hog sanitation and feeding, and the January issue of the Hog Breeder held his chapter on hogs which was part of the book, "The Mortgage Lifter."

• • • M. LOIS REID, acting home demonstration agent leader, announces that the annual home demonstration agent conference will be March 15-20. A committee will meet February 4 to outline the program. This committee includes Miss REID, MARY MAY MILLER, and CORA A. COOKE of the state staff, and two home demonstration agents, MISS JOSEPHINE BURKETT of Brown county, and MISS MAYBELLE GAME of Faribault county.

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