

MINNESOTA EXTENSION NEWS

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Explains Extension's Part in AAA

The Minnesota agricultural extension service has been designated to work with county and community committees in supplying information and educational services that will make it possible for farm people to understand the set-up and purposes of the new farm program, Director P. E. Miller told an audience of over 4,000 attending the statewide AAA meeting in St. Paul, April 11.

"Being a cooperative service between the federal government, the state and the county for the dissemination of information that will improve farm practices and rural living, it was only natural that the extension service should be requested to assume the responsibility of handling the informational end of the farm program," said Director Miller, who explained extension's part in the new farm program. "It is not an easy assignment and we fully realize that with our best efforts we cannot fully inform all farmers concerning the program, its objectives and purposes. Nevertheless, there are types of information and services which we may reasonably be expected to furnish the committees. As an educational program, they cover a broad field."

Director Miller also explained Minnesota's program planning work, stressing how its object was to determine good farming practices. In conclusion, he said, "The agricultural extension service pledges its full support to the educational work so necessary if farm people and all others are to understand the full significance of the 1938 agricultural allotment act and the soil conservation program."

Recognize 4-H With New Building

The value of 4-H work in Minnesota was recognized when early this month the state executive council approved the construction of a 4-H club building on the state grounds.

T. A. Erickson, state club leader, says, "This is a real recognition of 4-H club work, and despite the fact that the building has been needed for many years, it shows the interest that Minnesota people have in club work."

The new building is to cost about a half million dollars and construction is to begin at once. It probably will not be completed in time for the 1938 state fair, however. The state executive group appropriated \$50,000 for the building, about \$300,000 will come from federal funds and the remainder from state fair resources.

The new building, to be located near the grandstand, will have three floors. The first floor will house exhibits and other club work, the second floor will have an auditorium, dining room and kitchens, while dormitories will be on the third floor.

Coming Events

Apr. 19-20	District County Agent Conference, Owatonna
Apr. 21-22	District County Agent Conference, Marshall
Apr. 26-27	District County Agent Conference, Grand Rapids
Apr. 28-29	District County Agent Conference, Crookston
May 2-5	Cow Testers' Conference
May 5-7	Editors' Short Course
June 3	Dairy Farmers Day
June 6-8	State 4-H Week
June 9-11	Itasca Leadership Camp, Itasca

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

Lohman Writes 4-H Bulletin

Ruth Lohman, former Minnesota 4-H'er and Payne fellowship winner, continues to do things "the 4-H way."

Miss Lohman has written "Teaching Conservation of Wildlife Through 4-H Clubs," a new publication of the United States Department of Agriculture. She was awarded the Payne fellowship in 1935-36. While in Minnesota, Miss Lohman did outstanding 4-H club work, particularly in junior leadership. At present, she is a home demonstration agent in New Jersey.

In her bulletin Miss Lohman pays tribute to Minnesota: "Minnesota, under the guidance of T. A. Erickson, state 4-H club leader, was one of the first states to adopt conservation of wildlife as a part of a statewide program. In 1934 it was introduced as a 4-H club activity carried on by the entire club, and by individual members. Each club member was given the opportunity to choose the work he would undertake. The whole plan was outlined in the form of a general contest. Winners were chosen on the basis of actual accomplishment plus the narrative report on 'My Contribution to the Conservation of Wildlife in 1934.'"

Eva L. Blair, extension nutritionist, reports a splendid piece of organization work on the part of County Agent Ross Huntsinger and the home and community committee of Jackson county. At the county organization meeting in February, said Miss Blair, the committee reported women of the county were interested in the relation of foods to health and asked the privilege of organizing more than the 21 groups ordinarily carried in county agent counties. When the county report was made, there were 27 groups with an enrollment of 389. At the time of the first series of leader training meetings, March 28, 29, and 30, the enrollment had reached 400.

Extension Economist William H. Dankers was elected president of the Central School of Agriculture's alumni association during the school's alumni activities March 20 and 21. The election of officers climaxed the forty-seventh annual reunion of the association. Some 500 members took part in the activities.

William Kirchner, 86, father of Charlotte Kirchner, home furnishing specialist, died at the home of his son, Avery Kirchner, at Peterson, Iowa, March 27. Miss Kirchner was called home after her father had sustained a broken hip when a horse kicked him. Pneumonia quickly followed the injury, and Mr. Kirchner passed away Sunday, March 27. Peterson is the location of the Kirchner family farm home.

Co-operation on Monday morning was the subject of an all-Ag campus Alpha Zeta lecture given by Former Director F. W. Peck, Wednesday, April 13. The lecture, sponsored by Alpha Zeta, national honorary agriculture and forestry fraternity, was the last in a series of three lectures given this year.

Gets 100 Per Cent Project Finish-up

"Well begun may be half done," but what happens at the finish is sometimes the most satisfying achievement. That seems to be true with Clara Bly, who ended her home demonstration activities in Meeker county in a blaze of glory.

Before she left her county to be married, Miss Bly finished up a nutrition project, and at her final achievement day, late in March, the reports showed a 100 per cent finish-up on the part of the 296 women enrolled. The achievement, says State Leader Julia O. Newton, is to be lauded. This, however, is indicative of Miss Bly's success during her 2 years in Meeker county. Her future home will be in Duluth where her husband is a minister.

Lois Miller, a 1938 graduate of the University, has been appointed to the Meeker home demonstration post. Miss Miller, who enters the extension service with a wealth of rural experience and associations, comes from a family long active in Blue Earth county extension activities. She has 4 summers of temporary 4-H club agent work to her credit, in Pipestone, Murray, and Washington counties.

Miss Miller's association with extension first began with membership in her local 4-H club. She was a club member for 7 years, 2 of which she was a junior leader.

37 Attend Rural Dramatics Course

When local play casts from 37 counties "trod the boards" this year, the chances are they'll produce better plays.

Representatives from these counties attended the first rural dramatics short course at University Farm, March 24, 25, and 26, where they learned valuable information about play production from Dr. C. Lowell Lees and his staff from main University campus. This information will be of use to local play casts and directors from the time the first curtain goes up until the stage manager calls, "Strike the set!"

A. E. Engebretson, district county agent leader, says that the purpose of this short course was to develop a better foundation for the part amateur dramatics may play in rural community activities through training in the selection, direction and staging of one-act plays.

Approval with which this short course met is indicated in a letter from Mrs. John Trachsler, Janesville, one of the attendants.

Writes Mrs. Trachsler: "That you and your staff are doing more intensive dramatic work in rural communities is very gratifying. Most of us plod along, not realizing that we have something, which if brought out, dusted off and developed, could be a bright little candle. So glad the festival idea is predominating. . . . The work at the short course, it seems to me, was very beneficial, helpful and stimulating. . . . Now if we can be alive back here, perhaps you won't be too greatly disappointed."

To Discuss Visual Aids at Meets

How visual aids can be used in extension methods will be subject of discussion and demonstration at district county extension agent conferences this month, announces L. A. Churchill, state leader.

Recently at University Farm a visual aids committee was set-up under the chairmanship of District County Agent Leader C. L. McNelly, who will head-up the visual aids discussion at the district meets. The first day of each conference will be given over to discussion of this subject, while the demonstrations will come the second day. Other subjects to be discussed at the conferences include extension program planning and relationships.

Each evening preceding the beginning of the district conferences, agents having Rural Youth groups will meet to discuss educational plans for the fall of 1938, short courses, and Rural Youth camps.

Karl Knauss, extension fieldman for the U. S. Department of Agriculture, was at University Farm Tuesday, April 12.

FLASHES from AFIELD

Beltrami—Ada Todnem, home demonstration agent. The first of three lessons in home nursing has been given with the cooperation of the county nurse and the school nurse from Bemidji. Topics to date: 1. Preventing accidents and illness in the home. 2. Suggestions for the care of the sick in the home. 3. Giving treatment frequently ordered by physicians.

Clay—Donald A. Peet, agent. A new plan used in selecting the county one-act play winner from among the nineteen contestants worked very well. Five sub-county contests were held as a new feature this year, and a single judge scored the plays as though they had all been in the same contest. Four high scoring plays were selected for the finals, regardless of district. None of the winners were announced until the day before the county contest.

Chisago—George W. Larson, agent. Edward A. O'Neal, president of the American Farm Bureau Federation, will be the speaker at the county Farm Bureau picnic, June 15. Arrangements were completed for obtaining O'Neal when the board met to set the picnic date and plan 1938 membership work. The picnic will probably be held in Lindstrom.

Dodge—Victor T. Sander, agent. Considerable information about legumes has been given out this month. So far, alfalfa stands appear to have come through the winter very well. High prices have caused many inquiries about low quality seed, particularly as to adaptability and possibility of weed infestation.

Faribault—C. G. Gaylord, agent. The cooperation of the two rural electrification associations in the county, and business men and farmers of Wells and Blue Earth made possible two successful electrical meetings and shows, March 17 and 18. Attendance was 2,000. The meetings were held to acquaint people of town and country with the uses of electrical appliances and equipment. These events proved to be the most popular and successful of any projects carried this

• • • Monday, June 27, has been set as the date for the annual extension picnic, to be held again at Lake Nokomis, Minneapolis. Joe Kuehn, who usually gets the job of secretary to all committees (and does all the work) will head up the list of committees as chairman of the committee on general arrangements and program. A tip for Joe might be to wield the scepter from afar, let the committees do the work, and enjoy an extension picnic for once. But we sort of suspect Joe'll be in the swing of things to make the picnic the biggest and best ever.

• • • W. E. Morris, extension animal husbandman makes known that the Minnesota Aberdeen Angus association will offer a cash prize of \$10 to the champion 4-H beef heifer at the 1938 state fair, provided she is an Angus.

• • • ATTENTION—Farm Management Specialist J. B. McNulty reports that the state office needs copies of Special Bulletin 153, "Suggestions for Farm Leases." He requests that where there are supplies not being used, the county agents send copies to him at University Farm.

• • • News came recently of the birth of a son to Mr. and Mrs.

year. The greatest result obtained was the welding of town and country people in their ideas concerning rural electrification.

Freeborn—Willis Lawson, agent. One hundred thirty-two farm tenants in this county applied for farm ownership under the provisions of the Farm Security Act. Under the present allocation, only five can purchase farms. The agent has assisted in examining applicants, and 14 are still on the preferred list, from which the five are to be chosen.

Hennepin—K. A. Kirkpatrick, agent. Group hospitalization was one of the significant achievements during the month. Several years ago the agent heard the California plan of hospitalization explained and later presented it to the three-town unit at Maple Plain. Last December the plan was explained at the annual Farm Bureau meeting by representatives of this unit. A committee was appointed to contact the Minnesota Hospital Service association and later it circularized families in the county. Through the work of local committees from this unit, 24 families were qualified for hospitalization as of March 1. The agent directed committees in Minneiska and Eden Prairie and each of these qualified with a minimum of 10 families, effective April 1.

Lake—Torstein Grinager, agent. Points of importance in discussions on cropping systems in this county are crop rotations and increasing the acreage of clover and alfalfa to enable farmers to grow more feed per acre. An important factor brought out is the substitution of higher protein roughage for grain, by which the quantity of grain being shipped into the county could be reduced. This, of

Ray Ostrander of Mariners Lane. Mrs. Ostrander will be remembered as Theresa Pfaender, formerly a Minnesota home demonstration agent. This is the second son in the Ostrander family.

• • • The March issue of Extension Service News carried an interesting account of Minnesota's "know your hybrid corn" days, which told the story of hybrid seed corn to more than 1,000 farmers in the state. Conducted last fall, the series of days were headed by R. F. Grim, extension agronomist.

• • • County Agent A. H. Frick of Itasca temporarily became an opportunist when Judy Garland, youthful songbird of the movies, recently visited Grand Rapids, her old home town. Arrowhead potatoes have long been the object of much educational and promotion work under Arts' direction. So, when Judy was in Grand Rapids, Art arranged for a picture with young La Garland showing a sack of Arrowhead select potatoes. Helping Judy hold the sack was Art's daughter, Shirley. (We'd like to add that when it comes to looks, Judy hasn't a thing on Shirley.) The picture, by the way, was published in the April 8 issue of the Itasca Independent.

course, would result in more economical production.

McLeod—R. A. Fischer, agent. REA engineers are staking out lines for the construction of a second block of rural lines. About 250 miles of lines will be added to the original block, mostly tap lines. A major part of the construction will be in communities in three counties, Carver, Renville and Sibley.

Murray—A. B. Hagen, assistant agent. Certified seed of Warba, Cobbler and Early Ohio potatoes were ordered for farmers through facilities of the Pipestone and Murray county Farm Bureaus. Nearly 100 farmers took advantage of this service. About 23,000 bushels of certified seed were distributed this month.

Norman—George C. Landsverk, agent. Interest of leading dairymen in cow testing was climaxed when 27 farmers, owning 397 cows, signed an agreement last month for the organization of a cow testing association. An organization meeting is to be held in April, with Extension Dairyman E. A. Hanson in charge of the set-up work.

Olmsted—Harold A. Peterson, assistant agent. Plans are going forward for the annual Gypsy Frolic, sponsored as a 4-H benefit by the Rochester Chamber of Commerce. All local clubs are busy selling tickets and receipts of the event will be used for local 4-H awards.

Pipestone—Clement C. Chase, agent. An interesting development in crop trends has been the swing to Thatcher wheat and Velvet barley. A few farmers grew Thatcher in 1937 and this year a good many more are planting it. The premium which has been paid by maltsters for good malting barley, plus good yields the past 2 years, has turned many producers toward better varieties.

Red Lake—Ernest A. Palmer, agent. Though six veterinarians started the Bang's disease test only March 7, approximately 450 herds have been tested at this writing, leav-

ing about 500 herds yet to be reached. Nearly 90 per cent of the cattle owners in this county have signed agreements.

Rice—Don Marti, agent. Treating and testing seed have been stressed the past month. A seed treater was built and displayed at meetings and in the extension office. The importance of planting good seed and testing seed has been thoroughly emphasized.

Scott—Wallace W. Miller, agent. After a barley school in February, 104 farmers purchased over 1,640 bushels of registered Wisconsin 38 and Velvet barley seed, all of which was trucked in from Cottonwood county. Before this year, all barley grown in the county was badly mixed with other varieties or other grains, but now about 10 per cent of the farmers have registered seed. In 2 or 3 years most farmers in the county may be growing good barley.

Stevens—S. C. Martensen, agent. A mock court trial with all the trimmings of a real one drew record attendance at a Rural Youth meeting March 22. A member of the group was charged with arson in the first degree and the trial was conducted according to court rules and regulations. Details of the case were worked out by three local lawyers who also acted as judge, prosecuting attorney and defense attorney. Other court officials, witnesses and jurors, selected from the membership, were given preliminary instructions before the case was tried. This affair provided good experience for spectators as well as those who participated.

Wascea—Juanita F. Silcox, home demonstration agent. Twelve of the groups in nutrition projects finished 100 per cent, as compared with three last year. Everyone reported an improved food supply, including an average of 140 quarts of farm products canned and 15 bushels of vegetables stored for winter use. Fourteen rural schools, heeding the interest of mothers in better nourished children, now serve hot food to students at noon.

Winona—Beatrice A. McGrath, home demonstration agent. Farm Bureau Institutes evoked considerable interest in extension work in three communities during March. Nearly 800 people attended, regardless of the rainy season, and many have asked that similar meetings be held later.

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