

MINNESOTA EXTENSION SERVICE NEWS

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CHANGES OCCUR IN COUNTY AGENT STAFF

A. W. Aamodt has been elected county agent of southern St. Louis county, succeeding A. S. Grant. Mr. Aamodt begins work August 1.

From March 1918 to March 1920, Mr. Aamodt served as county agent of Beltrami county and was known at that time as one of the successful agents of the state. He left that position to become manager of the Clay County Certified Seed Potato Growers' association, and after one season in that position resigned to become general manager of the newly organized Minnesota Potato Exchange, which position he held for two years. Since that time he has traveled in the west, making a study of co-operative marketing in Arizona and other states. He is known as a specialist in potato and truck crops, having given unusual attention to these crops while at University Farm and in his later work. The importance of these crops in southern St. Louis makes his training and experience of special value.

Cort Succeeds Reike in Freeborn

Ben Reike on July 1 resigned as county agent of Freeborn county, to become field representative of the Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance company, having charge of that company's work in Steele, Waseca, and Freeborn counties. The local committee in Freeborn county, at the time candidates were submitted, expressed a preference for E. G. Cort of Chippewa county, and Mr. Cort began work in Freeborn county, July 16. Mr. Cort is a graduate of Iowa State college, class of 1911, was instructor in agriculture in the Browns Valley, Minn., schools from 1911 to 1914, and since that time has been operating his home farm in the northern part of Chippewa county, except for three months service last winter in charge of part time work under the Smith-Hughes organization for the Albert Lea high school. The Albert Lea Community Magazine in the leading editorial of its July issue pays Mr. Cort a very nice compliment on the success of his work in conducting classes in rural districts in Freeborn county.

Henderson Succeeds Brown

A. P. Henderson, beginning August 1, 1923, becomes the county agent of Washington county, succeeding R. V. Brown, who goes to Hoard's Dairyman. Mr. Henderson for five years has served as the county agent of Pope county, Minnesota, having come to that county in 1918 after five years' service in Bottineau county, North Dakota. It is hoped that county agent work will be continued in Pope county. A new agent will be employed to succeed Mr. Henderson as soon as the resources of the farm bureau are organized and made available for the work.

WOOL POOL PREVENTS DUMPING OF THE CLIP

In the last few weeks the comparatively small amount of business in the wool market has not resulted in discouragement on the part of the dealers, says J. S. Jones, secretary of the Minnesota Farm Bureau Federation. Actual transactions are few, yet sales have been made at prices which indicate sustained confidence in the future on the part of the mills. Foreign markets have been taking the lower grades of wool, owing to the fact that the foreign market has been higher than the domestic. Manufacturers have been holding out of the market, buying on a hand-to-mouth basis, realizing that if they go into the market for the higher grades the tendency will be to raise the price because of the actual scarcity of wool. Contrary to the idea now prevalent, the price is already established on manufactured wools. Owing to the recent slack depression, country buyers have practically withdrawn from the market. As a result, many growers are holding their wool at home. It is in a time like this that the state wool pool is fulfilling its purpose by preventing, with the first decline in the market, a rush in dumping and trying to sell for fear that prices will go lower, causing the market to go to unwarranted levels. The price situation does not warrant any great fear on the part of the wool producers.

The mills of the United States in 1922 consumed three times as much wool as was produced in the country, adds Mr. Jones. For a normal period of years the mills have used twice as much wool as is produced in the country. This, with a decrease in production in wool throughout the world, ought at least to indicate that there can be no great reason for present prices.

The Minnesota Wool Marketing association this year in its warehouses at Wabasha and Farmington has in storage a far greater percentage of Minnesota wool clip than it had last year. In 1922 the Farmington warehouse made its first sales in August and they closed out the pool in December. Already on this year's pool they have received offers for carload lots of 46 cents per pound.

The officers in charge of the pool say that they do not expect to be the first to market their wool, nor will they make any great concessions from the early season price.

Livestock Shipping Men Meet

Co-operative livestock shipping was discussed at meetings held at six points in Beltrami county, by R. P. Roethle of the Central Co-operative Commission association. County Agent D. C. Dvoracek discussed the need of culling the dairy herds and shipping out the boarder cows. Beltrami county has now six active livestock shipping associations.

DROWNING OCCURS AT COUNTY AGENT OUTING

The county agents' outing at Gull Lake, July 21 and 22, near Brainerd, was largely attended by county agents and members of the extension staff, and the various features of the program were much enjoyed, until the drowning of Andrew Montgomery, little son of J. S. Montgomery, formerly of the extension staff, brought sorrow to the whole company.

The kittenball game between the county agents and members of the extension division staff was closely contested, but went to the county agents finally by a score of 7 to 6.

A horse-shoe pitching tournament resulted in a victory for F. W. Peck, director of extension, with a set of pitching shoes as the prize. In the finals, Mr. Peck was matched with Charles Kelehan of Otter Tail county. The finish was very close. The contest stood 20 to 20. Mr. Kelehan then placed two good shoes, but Mr. Peck, hitting one of Kelehan's shoes, dropped his own inside for the winning score.

Mrs. T. A. Erickson finished first in the croquet tournament for women, winning a two-pound box of candy.

Harold Baker, son of Mrs. Margaret Baker of the boys' and girls' club section, won the honors as a fish catcher, receiving a rod and reel as a prize for a black bass weighing four pounds and two ounces.

The drowning of Andrew Montgomery drew the group at the outing together in sympathy for the stricken parents, and resulted in changes in the later parts of the program. Andrew was bathing with other children in the lake at a point which was believed to be perfectly safe, but got into deep water and was carried down by a current near the outlet of the lake. The body was recovered after several hours, and brought back to St. Anthony Park where the funeral was held Monday afternoon.

Using Low Cost Hay Sling

Several Renville county farmers having barns too low or with roof construction not strong enough for the regulation overhead hay track and carrier have installed what may be called a low cost hay sling. It usually costs about \$10 to equip an average barn with this rig, says F. C. Hathaway, county agent, but it enables a farmer to unload his hay with a team as quickly as is commonly done with the regulation track and carrier.

Nicollet Farmers at Waseca

Earl Springer, county agent in Nicollet county, reports that about fifty of his Nicollet county farmers visited the Waseca agricultural experiment station Sunday, July 15, on a tour of inspection and study.

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AUGUST, 1923

PROGRAMS FOR FARMERS' CLUBS

(A Plan to be Criticised)

We are exceedingly anxious to establish a better form of service for the farmers' clubs of the state. We believe the time is especially opportune for bringing new life into many clubs that have been more or less inactive during the last two or three years. We are raising several questions with county agents and other local leaders of agriculture as to what is the best way in which this office can co-operate for furthering the interests of farmers' clubs and for developing constructive programs that will mean local improvements. We would welcome suggestions on the subject and we ask your frank criticism of a plan that we are working on at the present time.

1. The preparation of programs for different seasons of the year in sufficient numbers to be available to as many farmers' clubs as care to use them. At the present time, there are four programs available and we feel that ten or twelve are desirable.

2. The adoption of the same program by all the clubs or township units of a county for the same month, making, thereby, a recognized feature of a program subject, as dairying, economical poultry production, purebred sire movement, more legumes, and others of like nature.

3. The bringing together in a county of one or more representatives (either the chairman of the program committee, the president of the club, or a committeeman) to one central point to meet with the extension specialist on the subject to be discussed during the month; the club representatives there to agree to obtain the consent of members of the club to present material both from a published program and also from a demonstration which the specialist will give at the central meeting.

4. Consideration of a card system—club representatives to sign a sort of enrollment card for a demonstration; and a report system for club members themselves—members to report in a month or two, following a given program, as to whether actual results are being obtained.

In other words, is it possible to expand the machinery of the farmers' clubs as a nucleus for practical extension work and to carry into the system some method of measuring the results of the plan? If there are not enough farmers' clubs in a county the same plan would work with township units perhaps, or with the appointment of a local extension committee that would result in the same local nucleus for more effective extension service.

Will you please let us know what you think about the idea?

CO-OPERATIVE MARKETING

It is becoming apparent that there is a distinct difference between theory in co-operative marketing and actual practice in organizing, promoting, and developing a working plan that will meet the demands for an economic, sound system of distribution.

We are right in the midst of organization plans in potato marketing, in egg-marketing, and in handling of grain.

The plan for handling potatoes and also for marketing eggs includes a producer's membership contract with a definite system of procedure from the producer to the market. The proposal as to grain-marketing contemplates the making of plans with co-operative elevators with an agreement to consign grain to the United States Grain-Growers' Sales Company in Minneapolis. With potatoes, the warehousing plan is fundamental, demanding specific attention to sound financing on an adequate basis.

All this means considerable detail, every step of which should be thoroughly understood by the producer, and it is right here that the extension service takes a stand for doing all in its power to disseminate the best information to the grower on the definite plans and procedures proposed in the marketing programs.

Obviously, people who are publicly employed can not act as solicitors for any business organization, either private or co-operative. We can not collect fees or dues or obtain signatures to contracts but we can, and should, do all in our power to provide information to farmers who ask for it, to the end that they may judge intelligently as to the soundness and the adequacy of proposed plans. We are, therefore, glad to co-operate on this basis with every agency that is sound and that looks forward constructively to the permanent advancement of agriculture in the state.

McNulty Demonstrates Economy

The June expense account of J. B. McNulty, county agent of Winona county, contains a very good illustration of how economies may be effected in using the railroad or bus service instead of traveling by automobile altogether. Trips were made by rail and bus service during the month from his headquarters at Lewiston to St. Charles, and to Winona which cost only \$3.66. Considering the distance actually traveled, if these trips had been made by automobile the cost would have been \$9.40, and it is known from experience, of course, that the distance by wagon road is always greater than by rail, so that a larger cost would have been involved.

REDWOOD QUALIFIES FOR ALL CONTESTS

Redwood county has qualified for all the state prizes offered in boys' and girls' club work and will have nine trip winners to the State Fair, possibly more; thirteen to the Junior Livestock Show, and two to the International Livestock Show. Total enrolment in farm and livestock projects is 250. One dairy calf club is organized with fifteen members.

Organization work is progressing with 17 townships organized and conducting a definite program of work. Two others will complete their organizations soon, leaving seven to be completed.

"Our aim," says Lynn Sheldon, county agent, "is a definite organization in every township, holding regular meetings and carrying a regular program of work for the year. The total membership at present is 915 and is growing. A club of any number of members, well organized and carrying on carefully planned work, will develop leaders and be a great asset to any community."

Livestock improvement, adds Mr. Sheldon, is at the top of the ladder, being developed through the breeders' association. One cow-testing association is already in operation and two more are being organized. The increase in legume acreage is estimated at 15 per cent over 1920. The aim is to weed out all low-producing cows, and scrub sires; replacing the scrub sires with purebred bulls and breeding better stock, and providing plenty of good legume pasture and hog crops.

The nutrition project for the women was completed this month except for "Achievement Day" to be held Oct. 19 in connection with the club contest.

The clothing course will begin August 1, and will be largely attended by other women, thus developing more local leadership, an achievement always in mind.

Farm Management Tours Popular

In June and July farm management tours were held in Jackson, Redwood, Wilkin, Olmsted and Pipestone counties. Farmers on the Jackson county tour visited farms among those which have co-operated with the Minnesota Agricultural college in maintaining the cost-of-production routes. On the other tours, representative farms were selected and the discussion centered around the merits of the practices of each individual farm. All those attending the tours seemed to be impressed with the value of alfalfa hay and sweet clover pasture in increasing livestock returns. Several tours are being planned for the early fall.

County Fair Judges Available

L. V. Wilson, extension specialist in dairying, has sent a letter to county fair secretaries asking them to inform the agricultural extension division, University Farm, St. Paul, as soon as possible, if they wish to schedule livestock judges through the division. Men in state employ can be secured as judges by paying their traveling expenses only. Judges not in state employ are paid \$10 a day in addition to traveling expenses.

POTATO CAMPAIGN IN VALLEY IS ASSURED

Definite plans for a campaign to organize potato growers in the Red River Valley on the California plan were formulated on July 17 at a general meeting at Halstad in Norman county. Present was S. G. Rubinow, state manager, who took up with the growers present the question of forming a special pool for Red River Ohios. Valley growers were interested in this, because they wanted to be sure that such a pool could be formed, so as to take care of the consumptive demand between the early and late crops.

Thus far, organization work has been carried on extensively in Red Lake, Clearwater, Winona, Beltrami, Itasca, Chisago, and Becker counties. Contracts also have been signed by farmers living in counties joining these. Red Lake has obtained its quota of 50 per cent of the commercial acreage and that goal has almost been reached in Clearwater, Winona, and Beltrami counties.

Late July and early August plans of S. G. Rubinow, state manager, called for work in Kanabec, Benton, Isanti, Dakota, and Norman counties. Other county campaigns will be arranged as quickly as possible.

Representatives of the Minnesota Farm Bureau Federation and the Department of Agriculture are working with the potato leaders. In the state for six weeks are L. J. Steele and B. H. J. Rikert, manager and field representative of the New York potato growers' organization. They are here to study the organization in Minnesota. E. W. Smith has been added to the potato organization's staff of field representatives.

Thus far, 700 contracts have been signed, the aggregate acreage of which is about 10,000. The state office actually has received and recorded 548 contracts.

MACKINTOSH IS IN CHARGE OF EXHIBITS

R. S. Mackintosh will give all of his time to the preparation and presentation of exhibits for the University Department of Agriculture, according to an announcement recently sent out from the office of Dean W. C. Coffey.

Mr. Mackintosh is now at work on plans for a departmental exhibit at the coming state fair. He has taken time, however, to drop a few hints for the use of those who may be planning exhibits for county or local fairs this summer and fall. Here is what he has to say:

A fair is an educational institution, when care is used in selecting, preparing, and showing the products of the farm, garden, or home. In the first place, the premium list must be carefully prepared so as to include the articles grown or made in the community. The exhibitor should have the list in time to plan for exhibiting his best products. He should study the premium list so as to observe all rules and regulations. It should not be necessary for the judge to throw out an article because it was not properly classified. Many judges, when considering collections, allot 40 per cent—100 being perfect, of course—to quantity, and 60 per cent to

CLOTHING SPECIALIST



MISS LILY A. LENHART
New Member of the Staff of Home Demonstration Section.

quality. Quality should always have more weight than quantity.

In exhibiting fruits and vegetables try to have all the specimens as nearly alike as possible and without a blemish of any kind. Each should have the proper amount of color and be of good size. Overgrown specimens are not always of highest quality.

More persons should make exhibits in order to make fairs larger and better.

1923 Annual to Be Early

The next Farmers' Institute Annual, which will be Number 36 of the series, is to be printed earlier in the year than formerly, says J. M. Drew in charge of the annual. Bids for the printing will soon be requested, and it is expected that the book will be out early in the fall. The general subject will be the Feeding and Care of the Dairy Cow, and 40,000 copies will be issued.

Going to California

Miss Susan Hough, who has been identified with home demonstration work in Minnesota since 1917, will leave the state early in August to take up home demonstration work in California. Miss Hough spent several successful years as home demonstration agent in Morrison county. For the last year she has been district home demonstration agent in Blue Earth, Faribault, Watonwan, and Steele counties.

SPIRIT OF SERVICE IN WINONA COUNTY

Winona county's second meeting of local leaders in the home management project which is being carried on through the co-operation of the farm bureau and the extension service was an excellent demonstration of the spirit of service shown by the women.

Each of the 19 communities was represented by the leaders chosen, except in two cases in which the leaders were detained by sickness; but each of these sent a substitute.

The training class at Winona was visited by four leaders representing two groups from the St. Charles local leader class who felt that they wished to hear the reports and discussion of leaders from the other parts of the county.

Following is a report given by Mrs. Frank Rowekamp of South Warren and Hart community, which shows that local leaders with their groups are doing real work.

Knowledge Is Applied

"Of the thirteen ladies present at the community meeting, six have thus far reported to the local leader. The reports are somewhat varied but all give evidence of real kitchen study. All who reported are very enthusiastic over the work and express their intention to continue making improvements in their kitchens.

"One lady reports having put a spice shelf over her work table. Others have contrived in some manner to have containers with flour, salt, sugar, and meat fryings, placed near the cooking center.

"Light has been improved in one kitchen by a bracket lamp properly put up, two work tables have been rearranged and replaced. Two floors have been improved, one by oil, and one by wax.

Better Place for Frying Pan

"One particularly ingenious lady reports having placed a wire band on the back of her range on which she hangs frying pans, stew pans, etc.

"One interesting report reads like this: 'The only definite thing I have done so far is to put a fork into my warming oven where it is handily gotten when I need it, but oh, I did get so much help from the meeting. Ever since then my kitchen seems so much more interesting and I find myself planning continually on the improvements I intend making as soon as I have a little more time.'

"Another lady reports having painted several floors, covered her pantry walls and shelves with white oilcloth and put heavy cheesecloth shades in the pantry and kitchen to make things brighter."

Sheay Co-operating With Press

John Sheay, of Scott county, is doing effective publicity work through the Scott county newspapers. He is regularly providing the papers with the news of the Scott county farm bureau's activities. As a result, no farmer in Scott county need go uninformed as to the work or play of the organization. He is also including in his material much that is of general interest to farmers and business men in Scott county outside of the exclusive work of the farm bureau organization. This is a good plan, inasmuch as it keeps the whole public informed as to the importance of the farming industry.

CLUBS GIVE PAGEANTS AT THE HALLOCK FAIR

W. V. Longley, county agent in Kittson county, reports that pageants were a new feature at the county fair at Hallock, July 5-7. Five were staged—four by farmers' clubs and one by the women's club.

The Red River club won the banner of the farmers' clubs pageant with a parade depicting the progress of wheat raising, showing all stages from hand-seeding to the use of the modern drill, from harvesting with the sickle to harvesting with the modern binder, and from the flail to the gas engine separator. The stunt features of their parade represented the Red River Valley as "The Bread Basket of the World."

The Happy Corner Club presented "Crop Systems," and won a first prize on parade and stunt features.

"Progress in Stock Raising" was presented by the Hallock club, with the burial of the scrub sire as its stunt feature. Comparisons were made between the old brindle cow and the modern high grade cow, and between the scrub sire and the purebred; also between poor and good feeders, poor and good hay, and old and new ways of milking. Club stock was shown in the parade.

Two Rivers presented "Farm Improvements," showing the old sod house and barn, and roads, as compared with modern buildings and well drained, gravel roads.

The women, who were not in the competition, took for their subject the "History of Women," giving scenes showing the progress in the northwest country from the days of the Indian to the present time.

The J. E. Sundberg trophy was this year won by the Lancaster Bread team consisting of Pearl Holmquist, Ruth and Ruby Smith. Ten teams competed, six home economics teams, with the Lancaster team winning, and four agricultural teams, with the Humboldt Farm Management or the A. E. F. Sheep team winning.

The Hallock Commercial club stock-judging trophy was won for the second time by the Hallock Farmer's club with Teddy Carlson, Oscar Johnson and Carl Anderson as members. Happy Corner, last year's winners, came second.

BUSINESS METHODS A NEED IN CO-OPERATION

In sections where farmers have had any bad experience with co-operative enterprises, the farmers are usually divided into two groups. The members of one group are skeptical, discouraged and feel there is no chance for them or that the cards are hopelessly stacked against them. The other group's opinion was expressed by a Benton county farmer after a hearing on the new potato marketing plan. This farmer stated: "We should either go into this on a business basis with a definite membership agreement or else stop growing potatoes. We have had enough of this heart co-operation. What we need is a business organization based on up-to-date methods."

It is interesting to note that a majority of the level-headed leaders in these communities are squarely behind a binding membership agreement as a basis for a

sound business organization. One Dodge county farmer recently said that in the past those who stuck to co-operative enterprises were often left holding the sack because they were not organized on a definite contract basis. No other large business corporation would consider such a foundation for its organization.

MISS CORDINER WILL SPEND YEAR IN STUDY

Throughout the Extension Division, and among those with whom she has worked out through the state, are heard these days expressions of regret that Miss Lucy Cordiner is to sever her connection with the University Department of Agriculture.

Miss Cordiner has been with the Extension Division, doing work as a nutrition specialist, for six years. She began her work in Minnesota during the World War, when problems of food conservation were of the utmost importance, and she quickly won the attention and respect of both men and women throughout the state. Since then, by her ability, effective methods, and fine personality, she has been adding to the esteem in which she is held. She has acquired a wide acquaintance with home conditions in practically every part of the state, and speaks with enthusiasm of the progress being made by the women of the farms. She says that everywhere there is a call for more, and still more, such work as the home demonstration section of the Extension Division is doing.

Miss Cordiner's resignation takes effect on September 1, when she will go to Columbia university, New York, to pursue further studies in the field of nutrition. From August 1 until September 1 she will be on vacation leave.

Itasca Holds Sectional Picnic

Several farm bureau picnics instead of one for the county is the plan being followed in Itasca county this year. Eleven such picnics were arranged to cover the county. Under date of July 1, County Agent A. H. Frick writes: "Six farm bureau picnics were held, some in combination with other agricultural organizations, and a total of twenty-five units from this county and two from Koochiching county took part in these various picnics. Speakers were provided for all, and assistance was given in connection with the rest of the program of sports, etc. The picnics held so far have been attended by crowds averaging well up toward two hundred. The plan is evidently better in a large county such as this than to try to get the entire county into one large picnic. The agent attended and took active part in all the meetings."

More Cow-Testing in Dodge

Twenty-six members, who have recently joined the Southern Dodge County Cow-Testing association, met July 6 and elected H. A. Whittington, president; P. C. Helmick, vice-president; G. F. Riedel, secretary-treasurer; and C. H. Welch and Louis Baudoin, directors. Bruce Gochner is in charge of the test work. Mr. Gochner was last year with the New Richland Cow-Testing association of Waseca and Freeborn counties.

GRAIN-SELLING NOW UP TO THE FARMER

T. H. Hagen, secretary of the United States Grain Growers' Sales Company, says that the most important contribution to progress in the successful marketing of grain by farmers is the arrangement by which the federal intermediate credit banks will supply funds to farmers' elevators for the purchase of grain and shipment to terminals. The loans are made in multiples of \$5,000 with a limit of \$15,000 to any one elevator. These loans are on storage tickets covering grain in the elevator. If an elevator has not a cash surplus or working fund, the initial loan of \$5,000, which, of course, is a part of the \$15,000 limit, can be had on the elevator plant.

Commenting on this, Mr. Hagen says in substance: This is by all odds a most important undertaking on the part of the government, and farmers must realize that they must take a hand in the marketing of their products. They must co-operate—the present day economic fight demands it, and with the government ready to finance farmers' elevators, the only stumbling block in the way will be a possible holding back on the part of the farmers, and a waiting for the other fellow to put it over.

OTTER TAIL IS FOR RYE AND SOYBEANS

R. C. Shaw, county agent in Otter Tail, says that in co-operation with R. F. Crim, extension specialist, and A. D. Haedecke, secretary of the Minnesota Crop Improvement association, an effort will be made to create in eastern Otter Tail county a seed-producing center for Minnesota No. 2 rye. He says that local yields of this rye have exceeded 25 bushels to the acre, and that the hardness of the rye is unexcelled. Already 110 acres have been subscribed.

Manchu soybeans are being tried out by 45 farmers in eastern Otter Tail county, each having planted a bushel of the beans. All but 14 acres was planted with corn for silage, though several farmers are keeping seed lots of from a quarter of an acre to seven acres. Only five farmers in this region had ever grown soybeans before.

Three cow-testing associations are doing a good work in eastern Otter Tail, where 912 cows are under test, and a new association this fall is a possibility.

North St. Louis County Picnic

August Neubauer, county agent in northern St. Louis county, says that the county picnic is to be held at Pike Lake, August 16. It is being arranged by the farmers' division of the St. Louis County club co-operating with the retailers of Duluth. Speakers thus far engaged are J. F. Reed, Sydney Anderson, congressman from the first district, and Henrik Shipstead, United States senator.

The booster trip and annual event will start at Duluth, August 11, making Cotton, Kelsey, Zim, and Forbes the first day, and then after a night at Eveleth, making Angora, Cook, Meadow Brook, Celina, Bear River, and Hibbing the second day. The close at Hibbing will be at a farmers' picnic.