

# MINNESOTA EXTENSION SERVICE NEWS

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No. 1

## CLUB WORK IMPRESSES STATE FAIR VISITORS

Exhibits and demonstrations of 950 club boys and club girls at the 1923 state fair, representing as they did the junior extension program in every county where extension work is carried on, furnished an impressive showing of the results of this work.

There were six boys' and girls' club centers on the fair grounds. In the main boys' and girls' club building all exhibits and demonstrations in home economics were presented. In this building crop and livestock teams also gave demonstrations. Thirty-four counties had garment teams, 37 counties had canning teams, and 65 counties had individual breadmakers. There were 12 district bread teams, four district cake teams, and four district cakemakers. Twelve counties sent poultry demonstration teams, eight had dairy demonstration teams, and six others presented work of a varied nature. Nine counties made county exhibits of club work representing 42 individual clubs.

The crop and stock teams also demonstrated, giving a continuous second program in the old Minneapolis fire barn.

The third center was in Barn D, where 149 club dairy calves were exhibited by 28 many boys and girls representing 58 counties. These juniors were the leaders in a total enrollment in the state of more than 1,400.

The fourth club center was the pig club barn where 54 counties had their prize winning pig club members and pigs.

The Farm Boys' Camp was made up of 160 of the older club boys who had made the best records in 1922. Other club members were taken care of in two "camps" at University Farm, the girls in the girls' dormitory and the boys in the boys' dormitory.

The features of special interest, perhaps, were the dairy calf exhibit, the demonstration by the large number of garment teams, a new feature, and the banquet given by the Minneapolis businessmen. The potato exhibit of 40 samples, also the first of the kind at the state fair, was a decided success.

The banquet deserves special mention. Nearly 700 bright boys and girls, seated together in a banquet room, made an exhibition which in itself seemed to demonstrate to the adults present, better than anything else, the value of this work.

The high quality of the dairy calves shown, and especially the interest and skill displayed by the boys and girls in fitting and showing them, was another feature which caused many favorable remarks.

The list of winners is so extensive that it has been found necessary to send it out in a special form.

## BETTER DAIRY TRAIN WELCOMED IN WEST

The Minnesota Better Dairy Train, with its university speakers and workers and its exhibits arranged to stimulate interest in increased profits from dairying, is having a very successful run in western counties as this issue of the News is put to press. Good sized crowds are reported at every point. At Graceville 1500 persons either studied the exhibits and charts on the train or attended an evening meeting addressed by Dr. C. H. Eckles, A. J. McGuire and others. The biggest day of all was scheduled for Kerkhoven in Swift county on Saturday, Sept. 29.

## EXTENSION CONFERENCE SET FOR NOVEMBER 19-20

Director F. W. Peck of the extension service gives notice that the annual conference for county agents, home demonstration agents, club leaders, specialists, and other extension workers will be held at University Farm, Monday and Tuesday, November 19 and 20. The committees will meet at the farm on Saturday, November 17. The conference will follow the Junior Livestock Show, which is scheduled for South St. Paul on November 14, 15 and 16. The full program for the conference and information concerning the Junior Show will appear in the November issue of Extension Service News. Keep the dates in mind and make no appointments which will conflict.

## FIRST EGG SHIPMENT SHOWS CLEAN PROFIT

The first carload of eggs shipped to the New York market for farmers of Rice county under the co-operative plan has brought home the bacon. According to W. J. Corwin, the shipment netted the producers four cents a dozen more for eggs and three cents more a pound for poultry than they could have realized in local or state markets. Four cents a dozen means \$1.25 extra money on every case, and around \$600 for a carload shipment.

## New Agent in Martin County

Arthur Karr, formerly of Indianola, Iowa, has been appointed county agent of Martin county to succeed Paul Johnson who resigned to teach agriculture in the high school at Faribault. Mr. Karr was brought up on a farm and was graduated from the Iowa State College, and has had much practical experience as a farmer and agricultural extension worker since his graduation.

## CLUB BOYS AND GIRLS GATHER MORE LAURELS

Three Minnesota club boys, Willie Pontius, Harris Ward, and Anthony Bokinski, composing the Long Prairie dairy management team, won grand championship honors over all the boys' and girls' club demonstration teams at the recent Interstate fair at Sioux City. They competed against teams from 11 other states, winning first in the contest for agricultural teams, then proving their supremacy as a demonstration team over all the home economics and livestock teams. The team as a whole was awarded a silver loving cup, while each boy was given a beautiful gold watch. All are farm boys and attend high school at Long Prairie.

Thirty-two teams took part in the demonstration work at Sioux City. Nebraska was first and Iowa second in livestock judging. Minnesota's team ranked fifth. The positions were reversed in the home economics team competition, Iowa being first and Nebraska second. In the agricultural team contest North Dakota was second to Minnesota.

## Minnesota Girls First in Canning

Minnesota's livestock judging team was composed of John Howland of Northfield, Alfred Steuernagle of Utica, Winona county, and Valdimore Kasper of Medford, Steele county. The home economics team was composed of Leslie Smith, Tillie Wadd and Barbara O'Donnell, all of Buhl.

Minnesota girls won first in vegetable and meat canning exhibits and third in fruit canning. They also carried off many of the high honors in the garment-making displays. In early varieties of potatoes Minnesota placed first and Nebraska second. The positions of the two states were reversed on late varieties.

Minnesota's teams were accompanied by T. A. Erickson, the state leader; Mrs. Margaret Baker, assistant state leader, and Miss Bender, home economics teacher at Buhl and coach of the home economics team. They report a very successful fair and a strong boys' and girls' department. Approximately 215 baby beeves and 100 pigs were shown by the juniors. The special building for club work had been remodeled, a full-sized stage with scenery, wings, and drop curtains having been added.

## Club Booth and Stunt Make Hit

The Minnesota club booth, representing such staples as wheat and bread, was highly praised. Minnesota and Kansas girls co-operated in serving old-fashioned biscuits and wild grape jelly from this booth. The stunt put on by the Minnesota juniors was one of the bright spots in an evening's program devoted to stunts.

## MINNESOTA EXTENSION SERVICE NEWS

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OCTOBER, 1923

### STARTING THE THIRD YEAR

This issue of Extension Service News starts the third year of its publication. It is somewhat smaller in size than the first year, but its confidence is as strong as ever that it has a distinct service to perform as a house organ of the extension service.

More and more we desire to make the News a clearing house for constructive ideas of extension workers, for improvement in the quality and quantity of work we are attempting. We wish every worker whether from the central office or located in the counties, would feel an obligation and a desire to send ideas to the paper that have resulted in obtaining desired results under trial. We believe that extension service must more and more promote those practical ideas that will result in an improved economic and social status of farming, and this means that our programs and methods must be of such a nature as to result in action on the part of individuals with whom we are working.

In other words, "brass tacks" can well be kept in the foreground in our minds the coming year to the end that we shall have definite results from definite programs with definite responsibilities and not merely talking theoretical, although perhaps highly desirable, principles of extension. We need not only be sound, but we need to be definite and sure and productive.

### WHY NOT TRY IT?

A county agent recently outlined the plan he had in mind to increase the effectiveness of a poultry housing campaign being planned for his county. He conceived the idea of having a model of a poultry house made on such a scale that it could be hauled on a trailer back of his automobile and used not only as a demonstration in local communities on selected farms, but to spread the idea of better housing of poultry after it was seen on the road. This is interesting to us because it involves trying a new idea and suggests the possibility of using improved methods and principles of salesmanship in promoting campaigns of this sort in the county. We shall be interested in following the success of the idea under actual trial.

## FIRST HOME ECONOMICS SPEECH BY A PRESIDENT

When the late president, Warren G. Harding, addressed a group of club women in Washington at the opening last spring of a model home he said:

"It is not so much the problem of housing as it is the problem of increasing the home comforts, of devising new conveniences, of expanding the understanding of domestic science which must make for the improvement of American homes.

"We have too often overlooked the fact that after all the greatest single industry in America is the management of the American home, where 20,000,000 women toil every day of the year, 18,000,000 of these women doing their own work without help. There is no other activity or industry comparable to this, in the numbers employed, the effort devoted to it, or the importance of its products; nor, in the significance of the spiritual forces that develop it.

"It is only a few years ago that this problem of deliberately developing better homes received its first consideration in the establishment of departments of home economics in some of our universities. Since then training in homemaking has become a feature of our educational system, but it should have wider projection.

"The problem of better equipment of the home, from the viewpoint of the home, from the viewpoint of economy in labor and effort, has received all too little attention. We have attached importance to making better-looking homes, to providing for home ownership; but this movement is designed to advance the creation of homes which require less effort in management, of homes equipped in better taste, of homes which leave to women who must manage them a wider opportunity, a greater range of privilege for social and spiritual improvement."

### CADY'S DEATH LAMENTED

The extension service lost a valuable helper along the line of horticulture and floriculture in the death of Prof. Le Roy Cady. Professor Cady was an enthusiastic and tireless worker and had an established reputation in his field in many states. His untimely death is lamented by all who enjoyed his acquaintance and companionship.

### Every Flock to Be Culled

Poultry keepers in Aitkin county have adopted the slogan, "Every poultry flock in Aitkin county culled during 1923." Farmers are taking an active interest in weeding out the boarder hen. Local leaders trained in Miss Cora Cooke's poultry culling classes are carrying on demonstration work with much success. Agent A. W. Jacobs says the attendance upon all meetings is much larger than anticipated.

### Money Seen in Caponizing

Swift county poultrymen, encouraged by county extension people, have started a movement to caponize cockerels on a county wide scale. "If this can be made a county project, it should mean a material increase in the price of every bird caponized," says the agent.

## BALED STRAW POULTRY HOUSE COSTS ONLY \$40



This is the house that Bill built—a house for poultry, if you please. Bricks may have been made without straw, but the bricks in the walls of this house are all straw, laid up row on row as bricks are laid. William E. Hargrave, agent in Swift county, is the "man behind."

This baled straw house stands 19 by 26 feet on the ground. The walls are six and one-half feet high, or five bales. The cost of construction is estimated at about \$40. The cost of baling is placed at \$7.50, lumber \$12.50, windows \$6, and hardware \$1.50—a total of \$27.50. The labor expense is estimated at \$14 or \$15.

The house rests on timbers to which the front, all of glass and board construction, can be fastened. The roof is formed by placing poles about 20 feet in length from side to side and covering heavily with straw, coarse slough grass well raked down being used for the outer cover.

The baled straw poultry house was exhibited at the Swift county poultry show at Benson and attracted universal attention. It can be equipped with all the furnishings needed in the most up-to-date house and can be kept snug and warm and well ventilated.

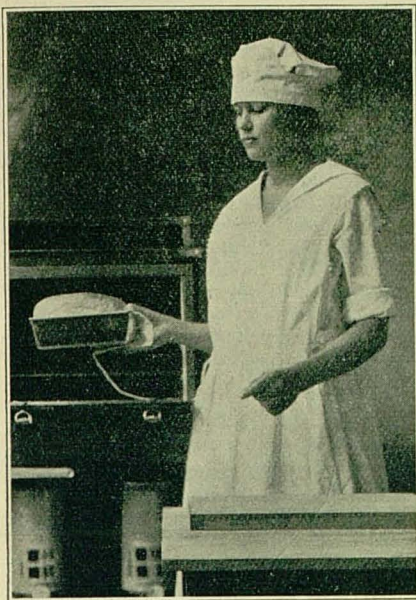
N. E. Chapman, poultry specialist, says this type of house should be very serviceable for those who are handicapped just now by lack of funds, and also for new settlers and renters who would like to raise poultry but who are often discouraged by landlords who do not want to build a more expensive house. Blueprints showing how the interior of the poultry house should be arranged can be obtained on request at University Farm.

### Soybean Project an Eye-Opener

According to the Swift county agent the soybean project is very promising, some fields looking as though they might make crops that would be worth \$60 or \$75 an acre.

### Mexicans Solve Labor Problem

Mexican beet workers are helping to solve the farm labor problem in Pennington county. Work is light in the beet fields when threshing and potato picking time rolls around. "Other years there has always been a shortage of help at such times," says the agent, "but the beet work is solving the labor proposition for the farmers."



MILDRED ONSTAD

Miss Onstad was the champion bread-maker among Class A breadmakers demonstrating at the state fair. She scored 95.2 points out of a possible 100. Her home is at Spring Grove, Houston county. Her ability as a breadmaker entitles her to a free trip to the National Boys' and Girls' Club Exposition in Chicago as the guest of the Russell Miller Milling company.

#### DAIRY SHORT COURSE SCHEDULE ANNOUNCED

The short course for advanced creamery operators, the first of the series given each fall and winter by the dairy division at University Farm, will open Nov. 12 and close Nov. 24. Other courses in their order are for ice cream plant operators, Nov. 26 to Dec. 1; milk plant operators, Dec. 3 to Dec. 8; creamery operators, Dec. 31 to Feb. 9; cheese plant operators, Feb. 11 to March 8. The annual conference for creamery managers will be held at the farm Jan. 10. The regular institutional staff will be re-enforced by several special lecturers, among them Chris Heen, dairy and food commissioner; James Sorenson, secretary of the Minnesota Creamery Operators' association; A. J. McGuire of the Co-operative Creameries association, and Dr. R. W. Archibald of the State Health Department.

#### Alfalfa Seed Growers Organizing

Plans are being perfected in Mahnommen county for the organization of a county Grimm alfalfa seed growers' association, says Agent F. L. Behling.

#### Legumes and Livestock Studied

Farm bureau and extension people in Lincoln county staged successful tours last month for the study of legumes and purebred livestock. The soybeans, alfalfa, and sweet clover seem to be the favorites among the legumes. Many farmers are planning purchases of better dairy foundation individuals and want to know all about the best forage plants and how to produce them.

#### FARRELL COMPLIMENTS MINN. EXTENSION WORK

George A. Farrell, the government's field agent in extension work for the 13 corn belt states, and T. W. Harvey, assistant to the chief in the office of extension work, United States Department of Agriculture, spent the week of Sept. 17 at University Farm in checking over accounts and records of the extension division.

In a short talk before the regular Monday meeting of the extension staff, Mr. Farrell spoke in high terms of the status of extension activities in Minnesota. Nowhere had he encountered such splendid team work in boys' and girls' club projects, he said, as was to be found in Minnesota. All the people and interests of the state seem to be pulling for club work, he added. He attributed much of the success to the leadership which the work is receiving. Mr. Farrell said the development of local leadership by the home demonstration section was the outstanding feature of extension progress in the states of which he has supervision.

Grace E. Frysinger, also from the Washington office, and Julia O. Newton, the Minnesota state leader, spent the interval from Sept. 18 to 21 in assisting E. M. Torblaa, county agent, and Miss Edith Turner, home demonstration agent, in developing community programs of work in Steele county.

#### LOCAL LEADER WORK IN CLOTHING EFFECTIVE

That home project work in a county is successful is being shown in many ways. Two recent events in connection with county fairs are worthy of comment.

The local leader work in clothing in Winona county, reported in the September Extension Service News, proved so valuable that the women decided to exhibit the articles and garments at their county fair. When the exhibit was arranged it was found so outstanding that many wanted it sent as a Winona county farm bureau exhibit to the state fair. However, when County Agent McNulty tried to secure space it was found none was available so near the opening of the fair.

In Lincoln county the women who had had the clothing project also prepared an exhibit for the county fair. Although no provision for such an exhibit had been made, the authorities of the fair thought it so well worth while and so commendable that they gave a special premium of \$30.

#### Farm Bureau Booth Starts Something

A farm bureau booth was a new feature of the Freeborn county fair this year and created marked interest among farmers, says Agent E. G. Cort. Many panels, each 4x3 feet in dimensions, were decorated by various farm bureau units. One exhibit out of the ordinary consisted of more than 40 weeds which afforded opportunity for a study of their chief characteristics. A tuberculosis exhibit was put on and a start made in an area eradication campaign.

#### "U" PLANS FOR FIRST "SWINE FEEDERS' DAY"

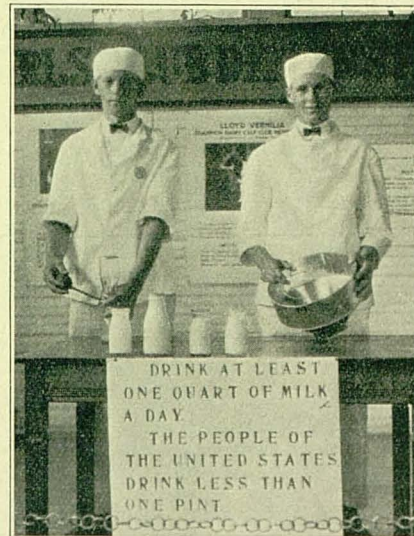
A Swine Feeders' Day program, brim full of information for swine growers of the state, will be put on at University Farm Oct. 26 by the animal husbandry division. Eventually it is hoped the new day will come to mean as much to the swine feeders as does Cattle Feeders' day to the men who are producing beef cattle.

Feeding experiments with 140 pigs, in lots of 10 each, were conducted at University Farm during the summer. Some of the groups were fed rations selected for future breeding stock, and some for the fattening of pigs for market. Questions that will be answered by the records of the different lots are, the importance and comparative value of feeding buttermilk in various forms, rye, wheat by-products, and other grains, and how does the spring farrowed pig compare with the fall farrowed pig in feed requirement, cost of gain and profits.

Forenoon and afternoon programs will be presented. Dean W. C. Coffey will preside in the afternoon. An interesting event at 12:30 p.m. will be a roast pork dinner in the college cafeteria.

#### Farmers Learn to Mix Bait

Poison bait prepared at the county agent's office was used for a demonstration in grasshopper control work on several farms in Stearns county where grasshoppers were damaging flax fields and meadows. One hundred farmers were instructed in mixing and distributing the bait to the best advantage.



WIN WAY TO BIG DAIRY SHOW

These two boys, from left to right, Theodore Fenske of Bemidji, and Marshall Nugent, also of Bemidji, won championship honors at the Minnesota State Fair over all boys' and girls' crop and livestock demonstration teams, and will represent Minnesota juniors at the National Dairy Show at Syracuse, N. Y. The boys are around 16 years of age and have been in club work several years. Both have been successful in putting into practice on their fathers' farms what they get out of club work.

### 5-YEAR PROGRAM IN POULTRY IS PLANNED

About 150 men and women interested in educational work in poultry in the United States and Canada met in Ottawa, Canada, August 21-24 for the fifteenth annual meeting of the American Association of Instructors and Investigators in Poultry Husbandry. Latest information in all lines of poultry work was presented to the conference in a series of excellent papers. Record keeping, egg laying contest, and registration of poultry received much attention. A feeling of closer co-operation between the so-called utility poultryman and the fancier was expressed on all sides.

M. A. Jull, recently appointed senior poultryman in the United States Department of Agriculture, discussed a proposed five-year program of investigation-al work in the federal department.

P. A. Francis, British poultry commission, and Edward Brown, president of the International Association of Instructors and Investigators, contributed to the success of the conference.

Minnesota was represented by N. E. Chapman and Miss Cora Cooke, extension poultry specialist.

### BROWN COUNTY FAIR'S CLUB CAMP A WINNER

One of the best attractions at the Brown county fair this year, says Agent Willis Lawson, was the boys' and girls' club camp maintained by the fair association. Every club junior who had exhibits was entitled to the privileges of the camp, and 52 boys and girls made their home there. The cooking was done in a large screen tent and a comfortable dormitory was provided for the girls in a large army tent. The boys slept in small army pup tents, three boys to the tent.

#### Egg Prices Boosted

Agent Paul A. Johnson says the Welcome creamery is making the price for eggs in Martin county. It is teaching patrons, he says, to grade eggs which are kept in cold storage in the creamery and shipped in refrigerator cars. The eggs are bringing quality prices.

#### Stubble Fields Planted to Alfalfa

August seeding of alfalfa is being tried out by several farmers in Lyon county. Two farmers have planted in their corn fields after stirring the ground with a one-horse harrow. Two others planted in stubble fields after they had been disked. All the new planting is looking good, the agent reports.

#### Hammargren to Pine County

W. F. Hammargren began work as county agent of Pine county Sept. 16. For the last three years he has been in the service in Mille Lacs county. Pine county had been without an agent since July, 1922, and Mr. Hammargren was fortunate to begin the work just before the county fair and a series of community fairs which afforded him opportunity to become acquainted with people from all parts of the county.



MISS EVA L. BLAIR

Miss Blair began work as district home demonstration agent in Blue Earth, Faribault, Lyon, and Brown counties the middle of September. She is a graduate of Illinois and has done some graduate work at Teachers' College, Columbia. She comes to Minnesota with a record of four years of home demonstration agent service, one in Illinois and three in West Virginia.

### ALFALFA FIELD TOURS SPUR LEGUME GROWING

Tours of inspection to the Coon Creek alfalfa fields will result in a decided increase in the alfalfa acreage in Sherburne county next year, in the opinion of the county agent, who says the most conservative estimate of the increase would be around 1,500 acres. Analyses made at University Farm show that several excellent marl beds have been discovered in the county. Through the good offices of Dr. F. J. Alway, chief of the soils division, the use of a marl excavator belonging to the state has been secured. It is planned to excavate 500 tons of marl from one of the most promising beds.

#### DATES TO BE REMEMBERED

October 1-6—National Swine Show at Peoria, Ill.  
October 5-13—National Dairy Show at Syracuse, N. Y.  
October 16-18—International Potato Show at Duluth.  
October 26—Swine Feeders Day at University Farm.  
November 13-15—Land Grant College Conference at Chicago.  
November 14-16—Junior Livestock Show at South St. Paul.  
November 19-20—Annual Extension Conference at University Farm.  
December 1-3—International Livestock Exposition and International Grain and Hay Show at Chicago.  
January 7-12—Farmers' and Homemakers' Week Short Course at University Farm.  
March 31-April 5—Boys' and Girls' Week Short Course at University Farm.  
May 8-10—Editors' Short Course at University Farm.

### EGG LAYING CONTEST RESULTS IN LINCOLN

Six poultry keepers who had flocks entered in the recent egg laying contest in Lincoln county reported profits for every month from January to July of the current year ranging from \$8.70, the lowest, to \$64.20, the highest.

The highest producing flock consisted of 210 birds, which laid an average of 2,646 eggs per month, or 12.6 eggs per hen, for which an average price of a little more than 34 cents was paid. The average total receipts from this flock for each month were \$75.63 and the average total expenses and feed costs for a like period were \$11.43, leaving an average return in excess of feed cost for each month of \$64.20, or a trifle more than an average return above feed of 30 cents per hen for each month.

The six flocks averaged 140 birds to the flock, laying an average of 1,827 eggs per month, or 13 eggs per hen per month. The average price per dozen eggs each month was 24 cents and the average total receipts for the same period \$40.13. The expenses averaged \$9.20 each month, leaving an average return over feed of \$30.84, or something more than 21 cents per hen for each month.

#### Minturki as a Cash Crop

Minturki winter wheat is being introduced in Scott county under favorable circumstances. One farmer living near Belle Plaine harvested 543 bushels from 17½ acres, or 31 bushels to the acre. A neighbor who planted Turkey Red harvested only 679 bushels from 52 acres. Minturki has been selling in the county for \$1.50 a bushel. Experiment station staff people recommend it in localities as a substitute cash crop for part of the oats acreage.

#### Hog Cholera Successfully Fought

There has been much hog cholera in Lincoln county, according to the agent, but losses have been kept to a minimum, he says, because of the publicity given the disease and the vaccination done in co-operation with the county farm bureau. By acting promptly and efficiently the disease has been confined to localities. An intensive campaign on tuberculosis in cattle will be started this month.

#### Free Trips for Farmers to Fair

Business men of Thief River Falls have enjoyed a reputation for enterprise and progressiveness for many years. A late instance in point was when the commercial club voted to pay the expenses of ten of the best dairymen in the county to the State Fair and Northwest Dairy Exposition.

#### 650 Out on Club Day

Six hundred fifty persons attended club day at Mountain Lake in Cottonwood county. Young John Moede was there with his purebred gilt which later won the grand championship in the pig club project at the state fair. Three girl champions demonstrated the dress form and cake baking.

#### Farmers Buying Purebreds

More purebred dairy stock is going into Stearns county. Two carloads of Holsteins and Guernseys were received in August.