

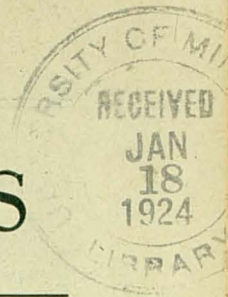
MINNESOTA EXTENSION SERVICE NEWS

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MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS OF COUNTY AGENTS IN 1923

F. E. Balmer, County Agent Leader

"Genuinely serviceable" appropriately describes county agent work in Minnesota as revealed in the reports of the agents for 1923. Real needs of Minnesota agriculture are being served.

In 1922 a major project of county agent work was assistance in the development of better marketing facilities for farm products. In 1923 this effort has been continued with more results gained than in 1922. Increasingly, however, county agent work in 1923 has meant direct benefit to the individual farmer. It has dealt particularly with both adjustment and economy of production, toning up the management of the farm, growing more feeds of the right kinds, better feeding of livestock, culling out unprofitable stock, improving the quality of products grown, and corresponding adjustments whereby the individual farmer is bettering his own situation.

Notwithstanding the depression in agriculture and somewhat more limited resources to operate on, the county agent work grows in results achieved.

The increased effectiveness may no doubt in large measure be accounted for in the greater emphasis placed on conducting work through demonstrations which carry proof. For example, demonstrations in soil, crop and forestry projects were completed or carried through the year totalling 6,500 with 61,419 acres involved. Similarly livestock demonstrations were completed or carried through the year totalling 1,383 involving 126,653 animals. Furthermore, the results of demonstrations were made known through 3,063 demonstration meetings held, attended by 94,740 persons.

Character of Work Done

Some outstanding types of work done are:

Every county agent in the state included in his activities for 1923 the promotion of the growing of more home grown protein feed, necessary for proper and economical feeding of farm animals. Every agent reported results achieved in extending the alfalfa acreage. Farmers co-operating in growing alfalfa increased from 2,639 in 1922 to 5,696 in 1923. The acreage planted in 1922 was 12,629 and in 1923, 26,289. All except seventeen county agents report work in soybean growing, the number of co-operators increasing from 2,289 to 2,483 from 1922 to 1923, and the acreage increasing from 22,273 to 26,788. Similarly the co-operators in sweet clover growing increased from 2,228 in 1922 to 2,651

FOUR DISTRICT MEETINGS ARRANGED FOR AGENTS

District or sectional conferences for county workers of the state will be held at—

Moorhead—(northwest district)—
January 17 and 18.

Duluth—(northeast district)—
January 23.

Mankato—(southwest district)—
January 29 and 30.

Owatonna—(southeast district)—
January 31 and February 1.

Director F. W. Peck and F. E. Balmer, the state leader, plan to attend all the conferences which have been arranged with a view to attendance of agents from counties having similar problems. The Owatonna meeting will open at noon; the others will get under way at 9 or 9:30 a.m.

in 1923 with the acreage practically maintained, being 29,245 in 1922 and 23,383 in 1923.

Formerly it was an event when several neighboring counties secured a carload (30,000 pounds) of alfalfa seed, enough to plant 2,000 to 3,000 acres. Pennington county has already procured a carload of hardy northern grown alfalfa seed for 1924, and Red Lake county at the close of the year is prepared to secure 15,000 pounds.

Farmers co-operating in using limestone to correct soil acidity numbered 316 in 1922 and 1,023 in 1923. Limestone used increased from 1,687 to 7,040 tons. In addition 1,173 farmers co-operated in using commercial fertilizer in which project 18,059 acres of land were involved.

Land Clearing; Livestock Development

A particularly significant piece of work accomplished in the cutover section of Minnesota consists of the distribution of 1,076,600 pounds of picric acid and sodatol, the war salvaged explosives, for land clearing purposes. This work was done by the division of agricultural engineering of the University of Minnesota through the co-operation of the county agent service. During 1921 to 1923, a total of 2,415,900 pounds have been distributed. An estimated saving to farmers in the distribution of the total is \$220,000.

Work in livestock development continues to be a major activity. Farmers aided in the better rationing of live-

stock numbered 2,210 in 1922 as against 6,692 in 1923. Cattle tested in tuberculosis eradication campaigns increased from 52,454 in 1922 to 100,449 in 1923. Further suppression was made of outbreaks of hog cholera, 54,172 animals being vaccinated in 1922 and 34,340 in 1923. Cow testing associations in operation increased from 46 in 1922 to 65 in 1923. The number of cows under test in associations and by individuals increased from 18,751 in 1922 to 23,035 in 1923. The tendency to secure improved livestock in general grew as is evident from the following data:

| | Secured in 1922 | Secured in 1923 |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Registered bulls secured—Dairy | 834 | 1163 |
| Beef | 344 | 321 |
| Registered cows secured—Dairy | 815 | 1854 |
| Beef | 204 | 197 |
| Registered sheep secured—Rams | 121 | 130 |
| Ewes | 124 | 1767 |
| Registered hogs secured—Boars | 1034 | 864 |
| Sows | 1399 | 987 |

More Farmers Keeping Accounts

The tendency for farmers to make a more careful study and examination of their farming operations is evident in the fact that more farmers are co-operating with county agents in keeping farm accounts, making an interpretation of same, and changing their business as a result, than in the preceding years.

In promoting the development of better facilities for the marketing of farm products, county agents report assistance given in the organization of 78 co-operative marketing associations in 1923 with a membership of 7,189. They report 471 co-operative associations having 41,643 members with which they have advised or counseled.

In examining the results achieved by county agents it appears there were altogether more than 950,000 instances of service extended or made available to the farmers of the state or practically a million points of service contacts extended by county agents in their work in Minnesota in 1923.

It is appropriate to report further that the county extension act enacted by the 1923 Minnesota legislature has exerted a most wholesome influence on county agent work, particularly in providing for greater participation in the management of the work by boards of county commissioners. The average county appropriation made to county extension work during the present year is \$2,200, which is the highest in the history of county agent work in Minnesota. This is certainly an excellent endorsement of county agent work by boards of county commissioners.

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JANUARY, 1924

FARM EXTENSION SERVICE

Agricultural extension service—what is it and what is it trying to do? Many persons either do not know or have only a hazy idea at best.

Answering the questions recently in a radio address, Director F. W. Peck said the service is an organized publicly supported effort to do three very necessary things—

Increase the profits of farming,
Raise the standard of farm living, and
Create desirable rural communities in which to live, work and play.

"The agricultural extension service through its county agents, its subject matter specialists and its publicity," said the director, "is planning in 1924 as a production program greater emphasis upon improvement in practices leading towards lower cost of production and higher quality of product, together with a greater volume of business per farm and a more economical, constructive method of marketing for the distribution program.

"This means in our state the use of better seed, the growing of more high grade feed crops, better feeding practices, more thoughtful breeding practices, more intelligent uses of land and conservation of fertility, more economic buying and selling operations, closer grading and better preparation of products for market—in short, good farm management and use of common sense rather than widespread disturbance of types of farming already fairly well established."

Believing in the principle of co-operative marketing, the director said the extension service is "attempting to provide the kind of information that will permit any interested farmer to judge the advantages and disadvantages of various methods, and to point out steps that are necessary in the development of any adequate constructive system that will prove an improvement for the farmers."

Along with the program for better selection of farm enterprises and more efficiency in production and marketing, Director Peck emphasized the mission of the home demonstration agents and women specialists and the work with boys and girls through organized clubs.

20,000 WOMEN REACHED BY CLOTHING PROJECT

The clothing project as carried on through the extension division has meant something very definite to the 19,467 women of Minnesota who have improved their home practices in clothing as a result of co-operating in this field. Everywhere women who were enrolled in the group are telling others of the many helpful things gained through this project, while others on the outside are deploring the fact that they did not realize what the work was going to be and did not enroll when the group was organized in their community.

The two clothing extension specialists, Lily Anne Lenhart and Nora M. Hott, together with the eight home demonstration agents working on the project, completed it in thirty-six counties.

In the Various Fields

Miss Susan Hough, joint home demonstration agent, efficiently carried on the work in Watonwan, Faribault, Blue Earth, and Steele counties the first half of the year, when her place was taken by Miss Eva Blair, who has ably conducted the work in Brown, Lyon, Faribault and Blue Earth counties.

Miss Clover Sabin as joint home demonstration agent, carried on the project until July 1 in Koochiching, Beltrami, Itasca, and Hubbard counties when she became full-time agent in Koochiching county. Splendid reports have come in from each of the counties.

Miss Anna Tikkanen, assisted by Fairie Mallory, former clothing specialist, has carried on some very creditable clothing projects on the local leader plan. On account of the amount of clothing work done previously in Steele county, Miss Edith Turner has given much attention to other projects. However, she has some very enthusiastic groups just starting.

The three urban agents, Miss Mildred Wood of St. Paul, Mrs. L. P. Beard of Minneapolis and Mrs. Shiras of Duluth, have been able to do a large amount of clothing work of high quality. The nature of their work permits of greater variety. Mrs. Shiras sent in some splendid photographs of hats made in her millinery schools.

Attendance of 20,549

In the thirty-six counties in which the project was carried on 388 communities participated in the work, 773 leaders attended the training schools and passed on the work to local groups, and 1,578 demonstrations were given with a total attendance of 20,549. The following home practices were reported:

| | |
|---|-------------|
| Number short cuts used without use of machine attachments | 2864 |
| Number of short cuts used with use of machine attachments | 7476 |
| Number of dress forms made | 2160 |
| Number of patterns altered and used | 1438 |
| Number of dresses cut and fitted | 2025 |
| Number applying selection of color and design | 584 |
| Number of garments made | 1838 |
| Number of garments remodeled | 252 |
| Patterns for garments and toys cut | 1576 |
| Total saving from home practices | \$26,584.58 |

"Privilege to Be a Leader"

These results were made possible by the splendid co-operation of county

FARM MANAGEMENT CLUB WORK TO BE EXTENDED

With a view to maintaining the interest of the older boys and girls in the affairs of the home farm, to provide them with money of their own, and to give them business experience, a start was made in farm management club work during 1923.

The plan suggested was for the boys to enter into a partnership with their father on potatoes, sheep, hogs, wheat or other leading product. Each boy was to have the equivalent of two acres of potatoes, ten ewes, two brood sows or ten acres of wheat. In some cases, the boy secured the required acres or numbers of livestock and had it for his own. In the cases where he had it in partnership, the plan was for the boy to take charge of one enterprise in partnership with his father. Thus in the case of hogs, if the father kept ten brood sows, the boy might buy a fifth interest in the farm herd and have a fifth of the income. The boy would be expected to keep records on the enterprise and in co-operation with his father to take charge of the management.

Kittson and Steele counties sent demonstration teams to the state fair. The Kittson county team demonstrated the economic factors connected with the production of sheep, while the Steele county team demonstrated the economics of hog production. County Agent W. V. Longley of Kittson had twelve boys enrolled, and the twelve finished their records. Four farm management teams demonstrated at their county fair.

Up to five counties may enroll for this work in 1923. It fits in particularly well as projects for Smith-Hughes students and counties having strong Smith-Hughes departments are likely to find this a good project. Those who are interested should make early application.

PUREBRED SIRES TO BE GIFT TO FARMERS

Business men of Brainerd and the Crow Wing County Farm Bureau will co-operate in furnishing purebred bulls free of charge to farmers, one bull to be given to each group of farmers that has 25 cows. That is, the business men will supply the bulls and the farm bureau will help in placing them to the best advantage. The business men purpose to raise from \$3,000 to \$5,000 with which to purchase dairy bulls.

extension agents and local leaders. Leaders are unanimous in saying, "It is a special privilege to be a leader."

The clothing project in many instances has proved a means of interesting women in other worth while projects such as home management, nutrition, and poultry, which they have subsequently found exceedingly enjoyable and helpful. Everywhere women are asking, "What can we have next?" Many counties in addition to asking for other home projects are asking for more clothing work. One county agent says: "It's the biggest thing in the county farm bureau program."

CLUB WORK ATTAINS NEW HEIGHTS IN 1923

By T. A. Erickson, State Club Leader

The year 1923 was the best year for boys' and girls' club work in Minnesota as judged by the interest of the people in it. It has been an important feature of every county extension program. The public schools have made this work a stronger part of their program than ever before. Business men have been more generous in supplying funds for special rewards. In many ways during the year the junior work has proven itself a basic part of extension work.

The following state events suggest some of the results of the work:

Club Work at State Fair

Nine hundred sixty club members representing every county in the state except one, as county winners in the different projects, were given free trips to the fair, for demonstration and exhibiting the results of their work. There were 1,650 exhibits. The total budget provided by the State Fair and co-operating agencies totaled more than \$25,000.

Junior Livestock Show

Three hundred thirty-two boys and girls were given free trips for them-

Minneapolis on funds provided by that organization.

Other Free Trips

Fifteen state winners in demonstration and judging work had trips to the National Dairy Show at Syracuse or to the Interstate Fair at Sioux City, Iowa. One hundred twenty-five potato club members, representing the best from different counties where potato clubs are emphasized, exhibited potatoes at the potato show in Duluth, at the State Fair and at the horticultural show.

Forty-one county, district, and state club short courses have been held with an attendance of 4,933 boys and girls. The annual report of county fairs shows that more than \$35,000 have been spent on club departments with club work emphasized by nearly every fair. Many community fairs, local, and club fairs have been held.

Interstate Records

Minnesota made a good showing in all 1923 national and interstate competition. At the Interstate Fair at Sioux City, Iowa, competing with 22 teams, the Todd county dairy demonstration team won grand championship. At

SUMMARY OF CLUB DEMONSTRATIONS OR PROJECTS IN 1923

| Projects | Organized Clubs | Enrollment | Members reporting | Value of products | Total costs | Return above cost |
|---------------------------|-----------------|------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------|-------------------|
| Bread | 295 | 3,864 | 2,804 | \$ 12,567.00 | \$ 5,792.21 | \$ 6,774.79 |
| Garment | 261 | 2,616 | 2,162 | 22,416.12 | 13,314.15 | 9,101.97 |
| Canning | 211 | 1,854 | 1,096 | 21,920.10 | 6,423.15 | 15,496.95 |
| Garden | 187 | 2,976 | 1,710 | 20,520.04 | 5,230.18 | 15,289.86 |
| Potato | 204 | 1,421 | 1,042 | 11,462.10 | 7,894.13 | 3,567.97 |
| Poultry | 110 | 1,524 | 1,039 | 28,053.00 | 9,861.14 | 18,191.86 |
| Health | 12 | 134 | 134 | Non-profit | project | |
| Pig | 138 | 794 | 631 | 17,037.00 | 8,763.24 | 8,273.76 |
| Sow and litter | 60 | 712 | 506 | 66,792.00 | 39,316.32 | 27,475.68 |
| Sheep | 27 | 384 | 281 | 11,893.12 | 6,192.24 | 5,700.88 |
| Baby beef | 62 | 791 | 678 | 61,698.00 | 32,716.23 | 28,981.77 |
| General livestock judging | 56 | 389 | 334 | Non-profit | project | |
| Dairy judging | 67 | 582 | 501 | Non-profit | project | |
| Dairy calf | 124 | 1,510 | 1,223 | 182,227.42 | 113,739.10 | 68,488.32 |
| Alfalfa | 1 | 50 | 50 | Not reported | | |
| Corn | 31 | 295 | 231 | 16,412.25 | 9,360.11 | 7,052.14 |
| Total | 1,846 | 19,896 | 14,422 | \$472,998.15 | \$258,602.20 | \$214,395.95 |

selves and their exhibits to the Junior Livestock Show, where they exhibited 580 baby beeves, fat barrows, lambs, and poultry, representing the best of these clubs. The budget of expenses, prizes, et cetera, totaled more than \$11,000. The exhibits were sold at auction for more than \$40,000.

National Club Congress

One hundred twenty club members, representing state and county winners, were given free trips for attending the International Livestock Show and National Club Congress at Chicago.

Eighteen garden club winners were given trips to the annual meeting of the Minnesota Horticultural Society at

the National Dairy Show the Beltrami county dairy demonstration team won first, while the state club judging team won fourth. At the National Club Congress and International Livestock Show at Chicago, Arvid Sponberg won third place and Mildred Sailor fourth place in the health contest. Eileen Beystrom won second in the canning contest. The state club judging team was given tenth place.

Farm Bureau Flourishing

Agent Hudson says the Watonwan County Farm Bureau is in the best condition, numerically and financially, it has ever been.

HOME WORK PROJECT HAD GOOD YEAR IN 1923

Thirteen counties co-operated last year with the state office in conducting a project in home management. In three of the counties the work was carried on by the state specialist working directly with community groups, three in each county. Through this method nine communities were reached with an attendance of 130 women at these regular meetings and approximately 100 at special meetings.

In the ten remaining counties the work has been conducted under the local leader plan. In these counties the specialist met in training classes 250 leaders from 125 communities. These 250 leaders gave the work to 1,615 women in their home management groups and report having passed on some phase of the work to 780 more women not members of groups. These results show a wonderful spirit of service on the part of local leaders.

Four of the counties adopting this project held achievement days. These were a decided success in that they showed in a county-wide way some things accomplished through the study of home management problems, which stand for not only a saving of time and energy for the housewife, but for greater satisfaction and pleasure in the job of homemaking and a keener appreciation of the value of home projects in the county program of work.

Six counties are now finishing the project and will hold achievement day programs in the late spring. Mary L. Bull, the state specialist in home management, feels that all who have been working in the project will be gratified to know that through their combined efforts 3,431 homes in Minnesota are reported as having been influenced to make some change in practices, methods, or arrangement which is an improvement.

NEW HOME AGENT IS APPOINTED IN MOWER

Beginning with the new year Miss Edith Hoffman became home agent of Mower county in charge of club work, taking the place of Miss Jessie Partridge as the club leader and, in addition, doing home demonstration work. Miss Hoffman is the holder of a teacher's diploma from Milwaukee-Downer College and is a graduate of the home economics course at Columbia University. She has had three years practical experience in the extension field—two years in North Dakota and one year in Oregon. Miss Partridge, who gave five years to the club leadership in Mower county and helped to make a signal success of the work, has returned to the University of Minnesota, of which she is a graduate, to take additional instruction in home economics.

Juniors Shine as Hosts

Juniors in a Martin county community recently put on a program and banquet to which they invited their parents and other kin and the business men of Triumph and Monterey. Arthur R. Karr, the new county agent, was impressed by the good work of the juniors as entertainers and hosts.

RECENT CHANGES IN COUNTY AGENT FIELD

Reflecting the general interest taken throughout the state in county agent work is the action of officials of Yellow Medicine county to take up the work actively again and the appointment of Skuli Hrutfiord as county agent beginning January 15. Mr. Hrutfiord was born at Duluth and was graduated from the Minnesota College of Agriculture in 1922. Until recently he has been employed by the division of soils at University Farm. His headquarters as county agent will be at Clarkfield.

Charles A. Matthews, a graduate of the Minnesota College of Agriculture in 1911, has succeeded R. E. Blackburn, resigned, as agent in Cottonwood county. Mr. Matthews has lived most of his life on a farm near Ortonville. Between his high school and college courses he spent one year in a bank. He operated a farm for himself for 12 years. He was president of the Big Stone County Farm Bureau five years and has also been a state director of the farm bureau. Mr. Blackburn, the retiring agent, has identified himself with a company manufacturing minerals for livestock.

Still another graduate of the Minnesota College of Agriculture, Vard M. Shepard of Park Rapids, member of the class of 1923, has entered upon extension work by accepting appointment as agent of Mahanomen county beginning January 1. Mr. Shepard specialized in animal husbandry at University Farm. He succeeds F. L. Behling, who resigned to conduct fertilizer demonstration work in northwest Minnesota for the American Chemical Society. Mr. Behling will continue his residence temporarily at Mahanomen.

Merrill Brobst, who has been county agent of Sherburne county since May 10, resigned January 1 to accept a position with the federal board, with headquarters at Chicago. Though he was in Sherburne county only a short time, Mr. Brobst left a good record of work accomplished, especially in legume development. He has made many friends and has their best wishes for success in his new position.

EXTENSION OF CORN CLUB WORK PLANNED

More and better corn and more efficient production are motives animating a movement for increased interest and enrollment in the one-acre and five-acre corn growing projects which are part of club work for Minnesota boys and girls. K. A. Kirkpatrick and W. E. Watson, members of a county agent committee appointed by Director F. W. Peck, met recently with T. A. Erickson, R. F. Crim and A. D. Haedecke at University Farm to consider plans for making the cultivation of corn a major project for juniors all over the state.

Club leaders, county agents, teachers of agriculture and farm bureau members will aid the cause, and business men and organizations will be given opportunity to offer suitable prizes and rewards. The plan is to have each county build up its own local organization. The climax will come at the

midwinter meeting of the Minnesota Crop Improvement association when juniors competing for state prizes must make exhibits and when junior teams will take part in a crop judging contest.

All the committeemen were agreed that the corn project can be materially enlarged by the right kind of effort. They revised the basis of award so that yield of dry corn and quality will count as 70 points, with 10 points each for production records, quality of exhibit at local or state show, and story, "How I Grew My Corn."

LOCAL LEADERS HELP THE POULTRY PROJECT

Local leader work was responsible for an increase in the effectiveness of the poultry project last year. The work was carried on under the direction of Miss Cora Cooke, poultry specialist in the home demonstration office, who gave about half her time to the development of the local leader plan, with the result that the number of practices adopted by farmers increased about 100 per cent over those reported for 1922.

Outstanding results were shown in housing. In 1922 forty-three houses were reported as built or improved. Reports for 1923 show 123 houses built or remodeled. Seventy seven families reported the addition of new poultry house equipment. Improved feeding practices were reported by 121 families. One hundred seventy-nine flocks were culled and forty-four flock owners adopted suggestions as to hatching and rearing of chicks.

In all, the reports show suggestions as to culling, housing, feeding, disease, marketing and incubation and brooding were adopted by 653 families in 1923 as against 327 in 1922. Still more time will be given to local leader work the coming year.

FARMERS OF RENVILLE BUYING HOG MINERALS

Many farmers in Renville county are buying minerals for livestock, especially for their hogs, says F. C. Hathaway, county agent. Orders are being pooled into carlots for minerals composed of 40 per cent bone black, 40 per cent ground limestone, and 20 per cent salt. Mr. Hathaway points out that in certain Iowa experiments an outstanding result was the effect of continuous feeding of minerals on successive generations. This was especially marked in the third generation, when a decided gain in size and weight was apparent. The pigs of the second generation were merely a bit larger. Mr. Hathaway recommends that those buying these minerals follow the example of Iowa and keep them before their hogs the year round.

Bureau Employs Detectives

The Watonwan County Farm Bureau has organized a protective association and through the public prints has given out word that a detective agency has been employed to assist members in running down thieves.

RENVILLE RURAL GIRLS FIND NEW LEADERSHIP

Home economics teachers in high schools of Renville county are helping to solve the problem connected with leadership for rural girls in club work and other phases of extension activities. The movement has been helped along by R. H. Giberson, district club agent, and F. C. Hathaway, county agent.

Without the stimulus of increased compensation, home economics teachers at Bird Island, Buffalo Lake, and Hector are giving a day each month to the instruction in club work of girls from rural communities where school facilities for giving such work cannot be found. Instruction and practical training in breadmaking and sowing are being featured. In addition, 24 girls from the town of Sacred Heart have organized a club, and the home economics teacher at Renville will meet with them once a month. Big Stone county also is planning to develop leadership and promote club work after the precedent set by Renville.

The state meeting in November of the Minnesota Education association adopted a resolution that, inasmuch as junior club work is fast becoming recognized as an important phase of education, a close and direct contact should be established between school administrators and the boys' and girls' department of the extension division of the university.

JUNIORS DELIGHTED WITH CHICAGO TRIP

Minnesota juniors who worked for and won the trip to Chicago seem to have fully appreciated the opportunities for study and observation offered them. Herewith are a few comments which, no doubt, reflect the sentiments of all:

Lee DeGriselles, Pipestone—I really can't think of words to express my gratitude.

Myrtle Hunstad, Butterfield—It was an enjoyable as well as an educational trip—one never to be forgotten.

Julia Reiling, Como Station, St. Paul—I have learned many things. I saw many things which formerly I scarcely believed.

Lucille Hanson, Rose Creek—The trip was of great educational value to me. I surely am glad I took up club work.

Mildred Sailor, Eyota—The trip exceeded any pleasure I have ever had except my club work this year.

Laurean Shearer, Birchdale—My trip has made many things which seemed vague and far away very near and real to me.

HOME DEMONSTRATION AGENTS WILL CONFER

Miss Julia O. Newton, state leader, announces that the annual conference of home demonstration agents will be held at University Farm February 4 to 9 inclusive. Miss Grace Frysinger of the Washington office will be present. Invitations to attend will be sent to county representatives of home project work throughout the state.