

MINNESOTA EXTENSION SERVICE NEWS

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- - SIDELIGHTS ON TWO DISTRICT CONFERENCES - -

District meetings of county agents are in progress as this number of Extension Service News is made ready for press. Reports of the southwest and southeast district conferences will appear in the March number.

NORTHWEST DISTRICT

Expansion of the livestock business of the farm chiefly through a better feeding system; more attention to corn growing, selecting early maturing varieties and giving good cultivation; increased plantings of flax on land that will likely give a fairly good crop. These were some of the recommendations made at the county agent district conference at Moorhead, January 17 and 18, by W. L. Cavert, farm management specialist.

Mr. Cavert told the agents that the hog production outlook is favorable and that an upward swing will likely be noticeable in 1925. Extent of the spring wheat acreage in 1924 should be determined in large part, he thought, by early spring weather conditions. Early planting is a big factor in getting a good crop and in case of a late spring more of a shift than otherwise to oats, barley and corn is desirable. Surveys recently made in the Red river valley had shown that the wheat acreage ranged from 13 to 40 per cent of the total crop acreage including hay.

Best to Go Slow

The agents were advised to counsel the farmers to go slow in making long-time investments and that the dairy business will have its ups and downs like any other branch of farming. An important thing to do, Mr. Cavert said, is to determine as near as possible the sweep and trend of price cycles, and then "to go against the crowd." Cessation of the city building movement will lessen costs of labor and building material for farm improvement.

R. F. Crim, farm crops specialist, said that farmers are reaching a better understanding of the importance of pure seed adapted to the region where it is to be used. He recommended Grimm alfalfa and wilt resistant flax such as Chippewa and Winona varieties for planting.

Home Extension Work Vital

Director F. W. Peck of the extension service told the agents that the problem of what to do had probably been pretty well worked out and that

the question of how best to do the work is now uppermost. He stressed the importance of home projects, and said that home work ought to be a part of every county extension program.

Several county agents were called upon to explain methods used in putting over successful projects. County Agent J. J. McCann outlined the sugar beet development in Pennington county since 1918 when four acres of beets were grown purely as an experiment. In 1923 the return above cost of seed and hired labor on 2,200 acres of beets was about \$100,000. County Agent R. R. Buchanan of Big Stone described a campaign in which 45,000 pounds of alfalfa seed had been sold to farmers. This amount of seed, he said, will sow 4,500 acres and multiply the acreage of that legume in his county nearly six times.

Other Examples

County Agent W. V. Longley of Kittson county told of the methods employed by which 445 potato marketing contracts, embracing 8,655 acres or 99 per cent of the allotted acreage, have been signed by potato growers of his county. Since this report Kittson county has come under the wire with 100 per cent plus. County Agent Stitts of Meeker and Moore of Traverse explained in detail the methods used in "TB" eradication campaigns in their counties. County Agent Kelehan of Ottertail analyzed the effective organization of home project work which has been built up in his county.

The agents and their leaders discussed the functions of the different forces that are promoting county agent work—the county farm bureau, county board, the new county extension committee, and the agricultural extension division of the university. It was brought out that these forces are working in absolute harmony and that the average county appropriation for county agent service is now larger than ever before.

W. E. Morris, district leader, presided over the conference which was attended by 15 agents from 14 counties.

F. E. Balmer, state leader, and some of the county agents attended a meeting of the executive committee of the Clay County Farm Bureau to consider informally the question of reviving the county agent service in Clay county. Farmers and business men who were present agreed that Clay county has been falling behind agriculturally because of a lack of this service the last two years.

NORTHEAST DISTRICT

Every county agent in the northeast district attended the conference at Duluth, January 23 and 24. S. B. Cleland, district leader, presided.

Coincident with the conference the second day was the meeting of the Tri-State Development Congress called to consider forestry, taxation, transportation, and other common problems of the states of Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan. Agents from the timber counties of the three states improved the opportunity to meet together to compare methods and exchange ideas.

Projects for 1924

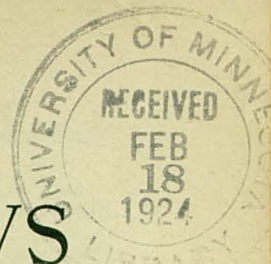
Extending the cultivated area by land clearing so as better to organize farms and produce needed feed for livestock; growing more legume crops, particularly alfalfa; use of better seed; strengthening the county extension organization and improving methods of doing work were outstanding subjects considered at the district conference.

Director F. W. Peck emphasized the importance of thorough organization in his discussion of county extension work. Successful people, he said, are good organizers. The things to do had been well planned and were now well understood, but just how to do them needs to be better planned. Each step in county extension effort should be organized in advance, he said.

Methods and Results

Several county agents were asked to illustrate points advanced by the director. E. G. Roth of Crow Wing county told of methods used in putting on a campaign for more alfalfa whereby 200 farmers and 63 juniors were enrolled in 1923. County Agent S. A. Aldrich of Carlton, who has helped to develop 13 strong community units and farmers' clubs, gave credit largely to inspiration which he derived when teaching in Winona county from studying the methods of Agent J. B. McNulty of that county. Mr. Aldrich has made it a practice at the beginning of the year to meet with the program committee of each unit for the purpose of laying out programs for each meeting the entire year.

County Agent Ben Hensel of Kanabec explained the effective organization which had been developed to push the nutrition and poultry projects. So much enthusiasm had been developed, he said, that twice the number of communities represented in the first series has responded for the second series.



Director Peck said that the various phases of club work for boys should be correlated so far as possible with the work for men. Likewise, the work for club girls and homemakers should be along parallel lines so far as possible. The local leader plan was considered. Its success in most instances where used was ascribed by one agent to the more thorough organization which it permits.

Should Have Definite Goals

The value of planning definite work was stressed and it was agreed that programs of that character mean that definite records can be kept. In this discussion F. E. Balmer quoted W. A. Lloyd of the United States department who, in stating what reports were for, said: "They are to determine the character, extent, organization, and efficiency of county agent work; character, what is being done; extent, how much is being done; organization, how it is being done; and, finally efficiency, how well it is being done."

Mr. Balmer gave illustrations of definite project work that had been planned and carried out in all the counties having extension service. He mentioned tuberculosis eradication in Meeker, Traverse, Kittson and other counties; analysis of the soil problem in Anoka and Crow Wing; egg and poultry marketing in Rice; poultry culling in Winona; land clearing in all cutover counties; peat soil reclamation work in Aitkin; legumes and livestock in Lincoln; potato seed treating in Winona; sugar beet development in Pennington; swine feeding schools in Steele; the clothing project in Kanabec; the home management project in Waseca, and junior club work which has influenced almost every locality within the state.

Publicity for Programs

Director Peck offered the co-operation of the extension division in preparing a county summary of work planned for 1924, this summary to be distributed throughout the counties for the information of the public as to the service available.

In taking a stand for good, hardy northern grown seeds, the agents requested the Minnesota Crop Improvement association to enlarge its premium list so as to include a Minnesota potato show.

M. J. Thompson, superintendent of the Northeast Experiment station, asked for an expression of opinion as to the advisability of running a land clearing demonstration train this year. A verdict favorable to the train was given and the last two weeks in June recommended for its operation.

Tri-State Agents Meet

Objectives in land clearing were described by the specialists from the three states at the joint meeting of county agents from the timbered sections. Director F. W. Peck presided and about 60 persons attended. The program of potato marketing in each state was discussed and Minnesota, which reported 7,640 growers who have signed contracts pledging 115,000 acres, was given the lead in potato marketing on a state-wide scale. Because the

three states have so many problems and enterprises in common—land clearing, farm development, drainage, road construction, reforestation, fire protection, waterways, etc.—it was felt that occasional conferences of their county agents would be desirable. A committee of three, one from each state, was appointed to arrange for a meeting next year.

GOOD CARE, SANITATION WILL CURB "HOG FLU"

What is commonly called "hog flu" is taking toll in scattered herds over Minnesota.

"This is a very contagious disease of hogs," says Dr. W. A. Billings, veterinarian with the agricultural extension service of the university. "It is especially fatal to the younger pigs. The period of incubation, from the time the pigs are infected until symptoms of the disease are apparent, is short, usually about 72 hours.

"As a rule a large number of pigs become sick at once, or within a short time. One instance is given when as many as 200 pigs became sick within ten days. Animals more than one year old are said to be relatively immune. The symptoms are complete loss of appetite, high temperature, rapid breathing, coughing and reddened eyes which may show a discharge.

"Hog flu has a rather low death rate in spite of the high temperature it causes. When a pig dies a postmortem examination usually shows a pneumonia. The treatment is very simple. Reduce rations, house the animals carefully in warm, clean and well bedded quarters, and provide plenty of fresh air and lots of water.

"So far as known, the vaccines have not been entirely successful. Good care and sanitation are most essential."

\$834.87 NETTED FROM 325 HENS IN A YEAR

Interest taken in poultry keeping is nothing less than remarkable, says E. G. Roth, agent for Crow Wing county. The agent mentions the success of Mrs. S. S. Rood with a flock of 325 White Leghorn hens. The total income from the flock from November 1, 1922, to November 1, 1923, was \$1,302.01 and the total feed cost for the year was \$467.14, leaving returns of \$834.87. The number of eggs laid was 48,280, or an average of 148.5 eggs to the hen. The profit from the eggs per hen was \$2.56 plus. Poultry sales or present value of the hens on the farm are not included in these figures, says the agent.

Lincoln Improving Livestock

County Agent A. A. Kosmoski says that 20½ carloads of dairy animals were shipped into Lincoln county last year. He believes there is room in his county for more testing associations.

Stitts Doing Follow-Up Work

Having helped to put over area tuberculosis testing in Meeker county, Agent T. G. Stitts is now helping to keep the county clean—to bar all cattle shipments that do not pass the test.

"LOOK HERE, UPON THIS PICTURE, AND ON THIS"

That quality counts is one of the lessons indelibly stamped on the minds of farmer students attending the beef cattle demonstrations and schools held by A. A. Dowell, livestock specialist, and W. L. Cavert, farm management specialist, of the agricultural extension service.

Interesting comparisons have helped to drive the lesson home. One of these was staged on the farm of Bert Malmquist of Rushmore. Among the 30 good Hereford calves on the place was one very plain calf which was driven into a corner. One of the best Hereford calves was then placed beside it. Mr. Malmquist said the two calves were the same age—both calved in February, 1923. The good Hereford calf was out of one of his good cows and had of course suckled its dam during the summer. The other calf, which he had purchased from a neighbor, was out of a common red cow.

The farmers present were asked to estimate the weight and value of the two calves. The plain calf was estimated to weigh 300 pounds and was valued at \$3.50 per hundredweight, or a total of \$10.50. The good calf was valued at \$7 per hundredweight and estimated to weigh 550 pounds, or \$38.50, a difference of \$28 in favor of the good calf.

"True it was the good calf had had better feed and care than the common calf," says Mr. Dowell, "but the chief difference was in quality and conformation. One was a long faced, narrow bodied, stunted calf in very thin flesh; the other was wide, deep and fleshy enough to make good beef as he came from the pasture."

MRS. WILSON WORKS WITH POULTRY GROUPS

Extension people will be interested in the work done by the poultry project group at Guthrie, of which Mrs. A. D. Wilson is assistant leader, and Mrs. O. F. Lindstrom leader. There are nine members. At the third meeting of leaders in November, Mrs. Wilson reported that all members had culled their flocks and reported to the leaders, and that four other flocks in the community had been culled. Mrs. Lindstrom and Mrs. Wilson say they are asked to review culling at nearly every meeting. At the final meeting of leaders in December, Mrs. Wilson reported a growing interest in the work of the project. Five of the local members had agreed to carry on demonstrations in the use of a properly-balanced laying ration. One new poultry house had been built and several had added poultry house equipment.

Local Leaders Push Club Work

After noting that many boys and girls have signed up for club work in the livestock projects, County Agent Kelehan of Lyon county says: "We are trying out the local leader idea with junior clubs this year. We have five local leaders who are taking active parts, and personally I believe this system will work to perfection."

LADD ANALYZES OUTLOOK FOR FARMING

Dr. C. E. Ladd, farm management extension specialist from Cornell University, gave several lectures during Farmers' and Homemakers' Week at University Farm that had to do with the future business outlook as affecting farmers. He seemed to get at the fundamentals and to express them in non-technical language in a way that pleased his hearers. The following is a summary of the outlook for farmers as he presented it.

1. Wars always bring a great rise of prices followed by a violent decline. He exhibited charts showing the similarity of the rise and fall of price during 1812 and the Civil War periods. Upon the basis of Civil War experience, he would expect a period of violently fluctuating prices with the long-time trend toward the pre-war price level. This would mean that the tendency would be for other commodities to come down to the level of agricultural commodities, rather than the reverse. After the close of the Civil War, in 1865, prices did not reach the pre-war level until 1877.

Debt Reduction Urged

2. In order to be better prepared for a general decline in prices farmers should make every effort toward reducing their debts rather than incur greater ones. Wherever possible, short time mortgages should be converted into long time amortization mortgages such as are offered by the Federal and Joint Stock Land Banks and the state rural credits act so as to avoid the possibility of having the mortgage come due during a time of financial stringency when it might be impossible to renew the loan except at excessive interest rates.

3. Every phase of the farm business has its ups and downs, and the better the good times are the more violent is the reaction. At one extreme are horses; in this case, the price chart shows a long time swing of 10 to 15 years in each direction. Upon the other hand, in the case of a crop like potatoes, we have violent ups and downs in price every year or two. In the case of potatoes, the weather has more to do with the price than the acreage. The up and down swings in the case of horses occupy 10 to 15 years in each direction because it is five or six years after one decides to raise colts before he has any work horses to sell, and after he decides to stop raising colts he still has the usual number of work horses to sell for five or six years.

City Folk May Not Escape

4. The city building boom is caused in large part by the fact that people who are getting war wages and at the same time buying cheap food demand more rooms per family. When we have a period of unemployment, they will seek less commodious quarters, with the result that many houses will be thrown on the market and those who have bought on a small equity will be likely to suffer the same fate as farmers who bought land on small payments.

5. Dairying is no exception to the general rule that everything has its ups and downs. However, high wages favor a large consumption of butter and in most of Minnesota we have feed that is nearly as cheap as anywhere in the United States, so that a moderate expansion through the raising of high grade dairy calves may be warranted.

Central West Bound to Prosper

6. Good farm land in the central west in the long run is bound to be valuable property. Only those who have had experience with some of the thinner and rockier soils can fully appreciate the intrinsic value of the fertile prairies of the central west.

490 PUREBRED BULLS SOLD IN 8 COUNTIES

The placing of purebred sires at the head of Minnesota dairy herds, major project of the Minnesota Holstein Breeders association, was carried on in eight counties—Blue Earth, Mower, Hennepin, Washington, Olmsted, Nicollet, Goodhue and Waseca—in 1923 and the way is now being prepared for drives in Redwood and other counties of the state. Secretary Robert Geiger reported to the association's annual meeting at University Farm that 490 bulls were sold in the eight counties at an average price per head of \$120. Forty-seven per cent were Holsteins, 25 per cent Shorthorns, 24 per cent Guernseys, and 4 per cent other breeds. The Holstein breeders selected three projects for special effort in 1924—more purebred bulls, more junior calf clubs, and more cow-testing associations. The directors were empowered to appoint official representatives to assist in carrying on extension projects in counties that are co-operating with the state and national associations.

Chapman Convinces

Ever since N. E. Chapman spoke at the Carver county poultry show there has been a steady demand for information on housing, culling, and the securing of breeding stock, says the new agent, E. D. Byrns. Nearly 600 fine quality birds were shown and 100 were kept out in the cold because of lack of sufficient space.

No Time to Say Prayers

Mild weather and good roads gave decided help in speeding up extension work in December. Most of the agents were kept on the jump. Roth of Crow Wing reports attending 28 meetings officially, besides six or eight others unofficially. He traveled approximately 1,000 miles and had opportunity to spend only three evenings at home during the month.

Egg Marketing Association Popular

Good progress has been made in Lac qui Parle county in organizing an egg and poultry marketing association. More than 90 per cent of those solicited are signing contracts.

DUNLOP AND FLINT HAND IN RESIGNATIONS

W. C. Dunlop, for three years and a half agricultural agent of Jackson county, has resigned, and with his wife plans to take a year's vacation which will include a motor trip to California the coming summer. Mr. Dunlop helped to make a conspicuous success of boys' and girls' club activities in which 225 Jackson county juniors completed their work last year. Fourteen boys and girls received free trips to the state fair, 14 others won free trips to the Junior Livestock Show and five others free trips to the International at Chicago. Approximately \$3,000 in cash prizes and trips were received by club members of Jackson county in 1923.

"Those present at the farm bureau meeting and who heard this report," says a Jackson county paper, "felt that this line of work carried on by the county agent more than paid for the cost of the entire county agent service which included several other important projects. The sentiment of those present was that the good work should be continued."

Another resignation is that of Victor Flint, county agent for Olmsted. J. J. Ausen, who was transferred from Todd county to Olmsted county to take charge of club work, has been appointed agent to succeed Mr. Flint.

Another Big Legume Year in Sight

County Agent R. C. Shaw is already pushing his campaign for still more alfalfa in east Ottertail, and says that a questionnaire forecasts a great increase this year. Work has been started on another legume special which will be issued in up-to-date newspaper style as was the alfalfa special last year.

Traverse County Buying Dairy Stock

The Traverse county agent is helping farmers to get into dairying. Recently 22 Guernseys and seven Holsteins were purchased in Wisconsin and shipped into the county. The purchase price and freight charge to Wheaton averaged around \$72 per animal. Some of the better cows cost as high as \$125, while 18 months old heifers were obtained for \$30 and \$35.

Werner Making Friends

County Agent Henry Werner of Red Lake feels sure he is gaining friends among men who have not been in sympathy with the work. "I am satisfied I am winning them over," he writes. "Just talk livestock, care and management, and you can get a farmer interested. Livestock feeding, silage, alfalfa, sweet clover, and better dairying are subjects which have enabled me to establish a friendly relationship with men who have been opposing county agent work."

Dairy School Work Approved

Forty-two farmers attended the first of the series of dairy schools for Anoka county, says Agent L. O. Jacob. "Nothing but favorable comment concerning the meeting has been heard," he says, "and a still larger attendance is assured for the rest of the meetings."

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FEBRUARY, 1924

COOLIDGE FOR CLUB WORK

Calvin Coolidge is not only president of the United States but also honorary chairman of the National Committee of Boys' and Girls' Clubs. In his letter of acceptance of the chairmanship he said:

"It is of the utmost importance that we all take an active interest in the clubs to which the farm boys and girls belong. I have been personally interested in the growth of these clubs, and their present membership of over 700,000 is a source of great satisfaction to me. We must double and treble this number, for there are 8,000,000 children on the farms of the country.

"Probably no activity is of more importance to the future standing, prosperity, and social position of agriculture than the boys' and girls' farm clubs. Their activities warrant the belief that they will greatly aid in the solution of many of the problems of farm life, and it gives me very great pleasure to accept the honorary chairmanship of the National Committee of Boys' and Girls' Club Work."

GETTING RESULTS

Junior club work has been the starting point in the development of many Minnesota boys and girls—a development that promises much for the future welfare of the state. Many instances of what club work has done for these boys and girls might be given; likewise many instances of what boys and girls are now doing for club work.

At the recent tri-county fair at Tracy 25 juniors took part in demonstrations which were a decided feature of that event. It is only fair to say that Kenneth Kellar, a school boy, exhibited the bread which won the sweepstakes at the fair.

Many of these breadmaking, garmentmaking, and canning club girls taking part in the fair were instructed by young women who themselves have had four years of club training and have now been advanced to responsible positions in school and community work. Conspicuous among these, says

Mrs. Margaret M. Baker, who attended the Tracy show, are Blanche Kellar of Lambertson, now a consolidated school teacher; Amy Kellar, a sister of Blanche; Henrietta Wansted of Tracy, high school teacher; Hattie Phillips, Winona Normal School student; and Cora Low, graduate of the Minnesota School of Agriculture and now in charge of home work on her father's farm near Tracy.

These young women, as well as others whose names have not been obtained, have been conspicuous in organization work among juniors in their home communities. The good work they have done is another fine example of the benefits to be derived from club work as supervised by the agricultural extension service of the University.

MAKING GOOD

(Roseau, Minn., Times-Region)

We have styled him county agent, and in spite of the handicap of the title he has been able to make good. To a great many people, including ourselves, an agent is a personage whom we sometimes wish transferred to a warmer climate. It is a general term which oftentimes calls to mind a pest.

After keeping tab on his activities and noting the conscientious and untiring efforts to help the people of the county in a material and social way, we have thought of him more as a physician who seeks the causes of ailment and then prescribes. It is not always that the physician's advice is followed, and undoubtedly the same holds true in Mr. Taylor's case. Mr. Taylor's work is mainly to help the people of Roseau county to better themselves in a financial way, and in so doing, get more joy out of life through better living conditions. He tries to do it in various ways: by testing the cows, culling chickens, supplying seeds or securing markets for same, assisting with soil experiments to prove their potential productivity, arousing interest in boys and girls for better farming, certifying crops so that their market value is increased and greater demand created, and in numerous other ways clearing the way for Roseau county people's road to economic independence.

His work concerns the business man behind the counter and the wicket as well as the business man and woman on the farm. The long hours from early morning to late at night spent in the work for the people of the county are not going by without results, and time will emphasize the fact.

If we think of him in the light of an economic doctor instead of an agent, the scope of his work and the results can be more readily visualized.

Agent Demonstrates Farm Meats

Farm meats, how to produce them, and how to preserve for summer use, compose a subject which the agent for Red Lake has been presenting at meetings for farmers' clubs. "So far it has been difficult to get farmers to furnish animal carcasses for demonstration purposes," he says, "but I hope to be able to give some real demonstrations the coming month."

'SOYS' GIVEN HIGH RANK IN DAIRY COW RATION

Dr. C. H. Eckles, chief of the dairy division, University of Minnesota, strongly indorses the use of soybeans in the ration of dairy cows. Soybean hay is a close second to alfalfa, he says, while experiments have shown that ground soybeans have a feeding value equal to that of linseed meal. Dr. Eckles' statement in full follows:

"Wherever dairy cows are kept with any degree of success the ration is based upon a succulent feed and a legume hay. Unquestionably alfalfa must be conceded first place among legume hays. Soybean hay, however, is a close second to alfalfa. In chemical composition it ranks fully equal to alfalfa and carries the digestible protein in quantities almost equal to wheat bran.

"Soybean hay is very palatable. One unaccustomed to feeding soybean hay would expect the cows to refuse a large amount of coarse stems. However, the reverse is true. Animals seem to find the stems especially palatable and consume even the coarsest parts.

"The importance of a sufficient supply of mineral matter in the ration for cows has only been appreciated in recent years. Like all legumes soybean hay carries liberal supplies of mineral matter. One pound of soybean hay supplies nearly as much lime as a hundred pounds of corn.

"With high producing cows even when legume hay is fed home grown grains do not supply sufficient protein. The only escape from buying high protein concentrates under these conditions seems to be to feed ground soybeans. Soybeans carry 33 per cent of protein compared to 30 per cent in linseed meal.

"Feeding trials last winter with the University Farm dairy herd showed ground soybeans to have a feeding value fully equal to linseed meal. Cows milking up to 45 pounds daily were fed a ration entirely home grown consisting of alfalfa hay, corn silage, with a grain mixture of corn, barley, oats and ground soybeans.

"Excellent results have also been obtained from the dairy herd at the Waseca experimental farm using a ration entirely home grown. The roughage is silage and soybean hay cut somewhat more mature than usual for hay, with a grain mixture composed of corn, barley and oats.

"Ordinarily it is better to make soybeans into hay rather than to put them in the silo. However, they make good silage when mixed with corn. The common plan is to put in one load of beans to two of corn."

Half of Homes in County Reached

Three hundred farm and village women of Scott county are enrolled in the 19 sewing classes which are being conducted by the agricultural extension service and the farm bureau, says Agent John Sheay of Scott county. "Since each of these women have promised to show two more," says the agent, "it can be seen that approximately one-half of the rural homes in Scott county are being reached with extension work."

MINNESOTA AGENT WINS NATIONAL HONOR

With the story of his long-time project for soil improvement in Crow Wing county E. G. Roth, county agent and Minnesota College of Agriculture graduate, won the second highest honors in a nation-wide contest and a free trip to the annual meetings in Chicago of the American Society of Agronomy.

Forty to fifty county agents entered the contest. Only six won the free trips which were gifts of the National Fertilizer association. An Ohio man ranked first and Roth, the Minnesotan, second.

Three Things to Be Done

Light sand and peat bogs are the chief characteristics of Crow Wing county soil which once supported majestic pine forests. Analyzing the problem placed before him, the county agent found—

That more land must be cleared.
That sour soils must be treated
so that legumes could be grown,
and

That good dairy livestock must be introduced.

5,200 Acres Cleared

Attacking the first horn of the dilemma, he sought and obtained the co-operation of the county's business interests and the agricultural extension forces of the university.

Then he organized land clearing clubs and helped to round up \$500 worth of prizes for the men doing the most and best work. A land clearing train crew demonstration and an acre blast constituted the finishing touch.

Result, 5,200 acres cleared in a single season, or five and one-half acres per farmer, as against one acre per farmer as the previous five-year average.

Sour Soil Made Sweet

The campaign for liming was waged just as aggressively and successfully. Some of the things done at the outset were—

Beds of marl found in nearly every township.

Aid of the soils division, University of Minnesota, enlisted.

Experimental field located at Crow Wing.

Eight farmers induced as a starter to grow alfalfa with and without marl.

School boys and girls drafted to grow alfalfa plots.

Then a county-wide alfalfa campaign was put on in 1923.

Marl used wherever soils tested sour.

More than 300 fields tested.

Two crops of alfalfa hay cut from the experimental field at Crow Wing and from the fields of each of the co-operators.

Results: Business men and farmers thoroughly "sold" to alfalfa; 260 farmers now growing it and planning to increase their individual acreage eight to ten times. Alfalfa and corn which can be grown in large quantities counted upon to give dairying a tremendous boost.

Lime, marl, treble superphosphate and potassium sulphate were applied to peat soils. All grain on plots where phosphates were used either singly or in combination with any of the other fertilizers yielded many times the amount taken from check plots. Peat experiments to be extended to every township.

Dairy Program a Winner, Too

Last, but not least, the dairy program. Young stock from high producing herds of Wisconsin imported for nuclei for 40 herds of high grade Holsteins, Guernseys, and Jerseys. Bull rings organized. A fifth co-operative creamery established. Sixty silos built in 1923. Acreage of corn more than doubled. Hogs and chickens, sidelines to dairying, increased materially.

Definite plans have been made by Mr. Roth for a follow-up campaign the current year. All phases of the three projects will be pushed vigorously and, when more land is cleared, the value of systematic crop rotations will be brought home to the farmers through a series of farm management schools.

"The momentum of this program is self-sustaining," says Agent Roth, "and will continue. We believe that our program is a sound one, that it means diversified farming, adaptation of practices to our soil, and prosperity for all our citizens."

PENNINGTON'S TURKEY SHOW STATE'S BIGGEST

Pennington county boasts of the largest turkey show in the state. It consisted of 78 poults which were exhibited with 600 chickens at the seventh annual poultry exhibit in the county. Four thousand persons attended the show in three days. Standard bred poultry of nearly every variety was sold at auction to the highest bidder the last day, prices on 165 birds ranging from \$1.50 to \$10. Many poultry breeders of the county took advantage of the sale to obtain breeding stock for 1924, reports J. J. McCann.

Kirkpatrick Approves

The question and answer method of getting the meat of co-operative marketing studies appeals very strongly to Agent K. A. Kirkpatrick of Hennepin county. Of this method, which was used at the last state extension conference, Mr. Kirkpatrick says: "The agents got the facts without having to listen to long drawn out speeches discussing the beauties of the universe, the principles of theology, and various other things that are thrown in by speakers on such occasions."

Erickson Convinces Kiwanis Club

Members of the Kiwanis club of the city of Pipestone, after listening to an address by T. A. Erickson, state club leader, appointed a committee to co-operate with the county agent in promoting baby beef club work.



YEAR-OLD ALFALFA FIELD IN CROW WING COUNTY BEFORE AND AFTER TAKING

Marl at the rate of two tons to the acre was used on the left. No marl was applied to the plot at the right. The marled tract produced a thrifty, even stand of alfalfa, while the unmarled tract by comparison was uneven and stunted.

Inset (at left)—E. G. Roth, agricultural agent for Crow Wing county.

PROGRAM FOR ANNUAL HOME CONFERENCE

(University Farm, February 4-9)

Monday, February 4

- 9:30-10:15. "Importance of Home Projects in Developing an Agricultural Program in Minnesota," Director F. W. Peck.
- 10:15-10:45. "The American Home Economics Association in New Orleans," Miss Mary L. Bull.
- 10:45-11:45. "The Electric Power Project in Goodhue County," Prof. E. A. Stewart.
- 1:30- 2:00. "Relationship of the Agricultural College to Extension Work," Dean W. C. Coffey.
- 2:00- 4:30. Present Home Projects. Set up by state staff.

Tuesday, February 5

- 9:00-10:00 "Publicity," Berry Akers.
- 10:00-11:45. "Furnishing a Modest Home," Mrs. Ruth Gerth.
- 1:15- 2:30. "The Place of Extension Work in the Home Economics Movement," Miss Wylle McNeal.
- 2:30- 3:00. Talk by Mrs. Frank Warren.
- 3:00- 4:00. "Home Economics Extension Development of the Future," Miss Grace Frysinger.
- 4:30- 5:30. Tea. Fireplace room in Home Economics Building.

Wednesday, February 6

- 9:00-10:00. "Carrying Out the Sheppard-Towner Act," Miss Ruth Houlton.
- 10:00-11:45. Program of Work. Set up by Miss Frysinger. Discussion led by Miss Clover Sabin and Miss Mildred Wood.
- 1:15- 2:00. "Relationship between State and County Farm Bureaus and the Home Project Work of the Agricultural Extension Service," Mrs. E. V. Ripley.
- 2:00- 4:30. Free for conferences, looking up illustrative material, etc.

Thursday, February 7

- 9:00-10:00. "Recent Developments in Child Nutrition," Miss Alice Biester.
- 10:00-11:45. "The Means, Agencies, and Tools Employed in Extension Work in Home Projects and Their Uses in the Three Stages of Improving Practices in the Community." Set up by Miss Frysinger. Discussion led by Miss Cora Cooke, Miss Eva Blair, Miss Edith Hoffman.
- 1:15- 4:30. "Community Development." Set up by Miss Frysinger. Discussion led by Miss Nora Hott and Miss Edythe Turner.

Friday, February 8

- 9:00- 9:45. "Report on Survey of Children of Kindergarten Age in Minneapolis," Miss Inez Hobart.
- 9:45-11:45. "Leadership." Set up by Miss Frysinger. Discussion led by Miss Mary L. Bull, Mrs. Sylvia Shiras, Miss Anna Tikkanen.
- 1:15- 2:15. Report of Homemakers' Section of American Home Economics Association at Chicago, August, 1923, Miss Lucy Studley.
- 2:15- 4:30. Conferences.

Saturday, February 9

- 9:00- 9:45. "Need of Home Economics Trained Women in Promoting Junior Home Projects," T. A. Erickson.
- 9:45-11:00. "Suggestions for Securing Better Records and Reports," Miss Frysinger.
- 11:00-11:30. Report on Home Conference, Mrs. Lillian Beard and Miss Lily Anne Lenhart.
- 11:30-11:45. "Our Job for 1924," Miss Julia O. Newton.

TWO FARM MANAGEMENT PICTURES POINT MORAL

Down in Winona county there is a farmer who has appealed to the county extension people to show him the way out. This farmer says he has not been able to make expenses, though his farm is practically unincumbered. County Agent J. B. McNulty was called in and found through accurate tests made in November that the farmer's herd of seven cows produced only an average of 13 pounds of butterfat for the month although several of them had recently freshened. During the month this farmer fed only corn stover, and a calculation showed, says the agent, that his cows were getting only about 20 per cent of the amount of protein needed.

"An inventory also showed," adds the agent, "that he had on hand 150 pullets and 70 old hens, all housed in a 12x14 building, the capacity of which was not more than 45 or 50 birds. The flock had practically ceased producing. It was recommended that he supply more protein in his dairy ration, and that he reduce the size of his flock by culling and selling to meet the capacity of his henhouse." The farmer has agreed to keep records and to try a few acres of alfalfa. He is beginning to realize, says the agent, that good livestock feeding and management are needed to save the day.

As presenting a noteworthy contrast in poultry management, the agent reports the case of another Winona county farmer who marketed 119 roosters averaging eight pounds at 16 cents per pound and netted about \$152.

New Club Leader in St. Louis

T. A. Erickson, state club leader, says Harold Aase is giving a good account of himself as new club leader in St. Louis county. Mr. Aase was graduated from the Minnesota College of Agriculture in 1918 and was agricultural instructor in the Aurora high school for two years and agricultural agent in Biwabik one year. St. Louis county now has six active representatives of the extension service—three county agents, two home demonstration agents, and one fulltime club leader.

Sodatol Orders Pooled Through Banks

Bankers of Pine county are giving hearty co-operation to the settlers, says the agent, in purchasing sodatol. Orders are now being pooled through the banks for four carloads to be delivered this winter. "The demand for this war explosive is very strong," says Agent Hammargren, "and we find that by co-operating with the banks we can reach more men in need of this explosive than we could in any other way."

Soil, Not Weather, Found at Fault

Investigating a complaint that alfalfa will not stand the Pine county winters, Agent Hammargren found that instead of the alfalfa freezing out it was killed by the strongly acid character of the soil. "With this acidity corrected," he says, "I believe that alfalfa will do very well in most parts of the county."

RECOMMENDATIONS OF CLUB WORK COMMITTEE

Recommendations that the ton-litter pig club be promoted as a state project, that another class be added as advanced work in the sheep project, that special prizes be offered club members on animal carcasses dressing out the highest percentage at the Junior Livestock Show, that beekeeping be made a club project in communities and counties where sufficient interest is developed, that strawberry growing be a part of garden project work, and that the holding of leader conferences and training schools be made special features for this year were adopted by the special county agent committee, appointed by Director F. W. Peck, which held several conferences at University Farm with the state club leader and various extension specialists. This committee consists of K. A. Kirkpatrick, chairman; W. E. Watson and L. O. Jacob.

As reported in the January issue of Extension Service News, the committee took a decided stand for increasing corn club work until it has become a major project for juniors in all corn growing sections of the state.

Ton Litter; Advanced Sheep Class

T. A. Erickson, state club leader; W. E. Watson, the Dakota county agent; and H. G. Zavoral, livestock specialist, were named as members of a sub-committee to work out details for the ton-litter pig club. Under the committee's plan any boy or girl who has been a club member for two years, or a pig club member for one year is eligible for the ton-litter work. Any pig club member who has won a championship in the individual work is also eligible. Members must own a litter farrowed not earlier than February 1, 1924, and fed for 180 days, careful records being kept of feed and management. The weighing date is to be not later than November 1, 1924, and within three days of the 180-day limit. Weight of the litter will count as 90 points in determining winners. Feed records and story will count as 10 points.

To be eligible to the proposed advanced sheep class the junior must have raised not less than three lambs, ewes or wethers, born after January 1, 1924. The junior taking this work must have been a sheep club member one year and be not less than 15 years old. If a county has 10 or more sheep club members enrolled, two winners with single lambs and the one making the best record with three lambs should go to the Junior Livestock Show.

Dual Purpose Cow Class Proposed

The committee also recommended that if five counties show their interest in dual purpose cattle by a calf club enrolment of not less than 10 in each county, a special class be arranged for this work at the state fair. A club member competing in the dual purpose class will not be eligible to compete at the Junior Livestock Show.

At the suggestion of N. E. Chapman, poultry specialist, poultry club members will be urged to start their

project with chickens hatched earlier in the season. The committee recommended that advanced project work in bread, sewing, and canning be offered to girls who have successfully completed two years of elementary club work.

While making no recommendations regarding the matter of moving the Junior Livestock Show or retaining it at South St. Paul, the committee took the stand that conditions under which future shows are given should be materially improved.

Summer Club Camp Suggested

The matter of a special state event to take the place of some of the interstate events was discussed. If funds can be provided, the sentiment was favorable for a summer club camp. It was felt that members of a state club department should give their time to training leaders rather than working directly with members, and that before any substantial aid from the state is given for leadership of club work in a community or county, some organization or special leadership should have been provided.

Juniors between the ages of 10 and 20, inclusive, are eligible to participate in the bee project. They must manage two hives or more and prepare exhibits of 12 one-pound bottles of extracted honey, one case of comb honey, and one pound of beeswax. Counties having a minimum enrolment of 10 members may send a bee demonstration team to the state fair as one of two regular teams.

MISS HOBART RETURNS AS NUTRITION SPECIALIST

Miss Inez Hobart has been selected to fill the position of nutrition specialist in extension left vacant by the resignation of Miss Lucy Cordiner. Miss Hobart is a graduate in home economics of the University of Minnesota and received her master's degree from Columbia University, where she majored in nutrition. She has had several years of experience in both county and state extension work. The last year and a half she has served as nutrition specialist in Minneapolis under the guidance of the Woman's Community Council.

Another Question-Answer Conference

Following the example set at the state-wide extension conference held in November at University Farm, a marketing conference taking the form of questions and answers featured the annual meeting of the Rice County Farm Bureau. Marketing specialists were present to answer questions concerning the handling of livestock, milk, butter, wool, eggs, and poultry.

Minnesota Plan No. 200 Proves Worth

Poultry kept in houses built according to Minnesota Plan No. 200 is doing better than in any previous year, says A. W. Jacob, agent for Aitkin county. "There has not been any material change in feeding and the housing is the principal improvement," he says. "Egg production for December was greater than for the same month the year before."

LINCOLN FARM BUREAU STRONGER THAN EVER

More than 400 persons attended the annual farm bureau meeting and banquet in Lincoln county. The president of the bureau said it now is in the best financial condition it has been for some time. "In paid up members it has the greatest number since the organization started," he said, "and it is also doing the best extension work." Local leaders added interest to the meeting by narrating some phase of profitable extension work performed in their community; other leaders demonstrated some definite agricultural project.

Interest Maintained Despite Cold

The clothing project which was started in Scott county in November by Lily Anne Lenhart, clothing specialist, promises to be a very successful one. The cold winter days have not lessened the interest in the work. Several of the women made a trip of ten miles by horse and cutter in order to attend the last meeting. The women have just completed the third lesson in the series of four which the project offers. There are 17 groups at work, comprising 34 local leaders and a total enrolment of 310 women.

Anoka Producing Good Stock

Shipments of purebred cattle from Anoka county to points in Canada and to International Falls in this state serve to convince Agent L. O. Jacob that "Anoka county is coming right along not only for its dairy production but as a foundation stock producing county. Careful breeding, clean herds, cow testing, and official records have already established some outstanding breeding herds in Anoka county."

Freeborn Believes in Testing

Freeborn county has acquired the cow testing habit. Five associations have been organized and five more are in process of organization. Young men of the county have been attending a school conducted by E. A. Hanson of University Farm, the state supervisor, for instruction in testing work and the figuring of rations.

Murray County Has Model Creamery

The dedication of the Dovray co-operative creamery in Murray county was the culmination of an extension project in the Dovray community the last two years. The building and equipment, including a refrigeration machine, lot, well, etc., cost \$23,000. "A model layout for any prospective co-operative creamery to look over before building," says County Agent A. G. Mereness.

Organizing for Pure Seeds

As a sequel of the tri-county corn show held annually at Tracy, it is predicted that a pure seed growers association will be organized to handle seeds for Lyon, Redwood, and Murray counties. A temporary organization was formed by R. F. Crim to conduct the business the coming spring.

HOME MANAGEMENT GROUPS DOING THINGS

Miss Mary Bull, the home management specialist, says that reports gathered from the December meetings of the Steele county home management groups, organized by Miss Edythe Turner, the home agent, show some very interesting features. One woman had made a two-well fireless cooker, the only money outlay being the price of the castors.

The value of this fireless cooker has been demonstrated in the preparation of meats, cereals and escalloped dishes. Tests as to time required to heat the radiators (homemade cement) and prepare foods for the cooker were made and compared with time consumed in preparation of the same foods without the cooker. The results showed the cooker to be a time-saver and a great convenience. "It is such a help I hardly see how I managed without it," is the busy housewife's verdict.

Small Boy Sees Point

The same housewife constructed a service cart from a small kitchen table. This is being used daily with such success as a step-saver that a small boy in the family said: "My, but mother's cart saves her lots of steps in getting dinner."

One local group is making a fireless cooker for the school to be used in connection with serving hot lunches to the children at noon.

Another housewife who has a large but rather inconvenient kitchen-dining room longed for a smaller workshop where she could prepare foods, and has realized her dream by remodeling a shed adjoining the kitchen. She lined the shed with plaster board left from building the new barn, covered the floor with linoleum, put up some shelves, moved her cabinet and stove in and now has a comfortable, cheerful little work room at an outlay of only \$5 in money.

Water Piped to Kitchen.

In three homes well water has been piped to the kitchen. In two cases the water comes to the sink, in the other the pipe ends close to the stove. In the near future there is to be a hot water tank installed, but at present water is drawn from a faucet. When someone in the group questioned having the faucet at the stove instead of the sink, the housewife replied, "Having it there saves me in many ways. I use the well water in all my cooking and it's so handy to be able to fill kettles, teakettle, and coffee pot right at the stove."

One cupboard was built over a worktable, furnishing a place for supplies and utensils, thereby making a more convenient working center. One worktable was raised by putting on an extra top six inches above the other with a drawer beneath. Friend husband said, "There is plenty of space between the new top and the old—why not have a drawer?"

Handy Contrivances Installed

Twenty-seven handy shelves, rubber and mitten racks, and window ventilators have been installed. Numerous small, useful utensils have been purchased, floors refinished, and six

kitchens made lighter. Many other worth while things are reported, showing that all of the groups are making a real study of home management problems and of individual home problems particularly.

Cavert-Dowell Combination Attracts

Meetings and demonstrations held by Messrs. Cavert and Dowell in Nobles county during a two-day stay were attended by 230 persons, mostly growers of livestock.

Promoters of Fair Right on Job

W. D. Stegner, agent for Houston county, says a seed exchange is being organized for handling alfalfa, clover, and soybeans at cost for the farmers. Also that plans are already being outlined for next year's county fair.

Good Word for New Institute Annual

County Agent Stitts of Meeker county notes an unusually large demand for Institute Annual No. 36, "The Dairy Cow." "This is one of the best institute annuals that has been published as far as our farmers are concerned," he says.

Stronger Than Ever Before

The Lyon County Farm Bureau had a paid-up membership in 1923 of 729 members. This was 166 more members than in 1922, or 87 more members than it has ever had paid up in the past, says County Agent Louis Kelehan.

State Soybean Meeting Proposed

The city of Tracy would like to be host next summer to a state-wide soybean meeting. First plans are already being made for such an event.

Dodge Plans Crop Association

Farm bureau and extension people in Dodge county have planned to organize a crop improvement association which will be all that its name implies. Temporary officers have been elected. Plans for putting on demonstrations with wilt resistant flax and also developing a variety corn test plot are being made.

Scrub Bull Convicted Again

Trial and condemnation of the scrub bull was a feature which marked the annual meeting of Holstein breeders and dairymen at Kasson, says C. L. McNelly, county agent. More than 200 persons attended.

Faribault to Test for Tuberculosis

Faribault county has practically perfected plans for testing its cattle under the county area system and stands No. 8 in the list of counties which have provided for this work. Many other counties are getting ready for similar campaigns.

Land Clearing in Hennepin

Student engineers under the direction of Prof. G. R. B. Elliott are preparing plans and estimates for a new drainage project taking in about 600 acres in the Minnetonka district. According to Agent Kirkpatrick, drainage is a live subject in his territory. Some new land clearing is also being done with the new explosive.

FARMERS' CLUBS KEEP WILSON AS PRESIDENT

The annual meeting of the Minnesota Federation of Farmers' Clubs was held at University Farm January 11, during the Farmers' and Homemakers' Short Course. A. D. Wilson of Guthrie, member of the university board of regents, was re-elected president of the federation. Mrs. H. W. Brodt of Fairmont was chosen vice president, Sam Hammerbeck of Little Falls secretary, and E. V. Ripley of Park Rapids treasurer. F. W. Peck, director of the agricultural extension service of the university, gave an address in which he assured the federated club people of whole hearted co-operation by his department.

35 Leaders at Work

The Hubbard county agent reports an enrollment of 35 for the first lesson of the dairy school. These leaders, he says, have been passing on the lesson as given by the extension specialists to the farmers of their own communities.

Busy Land Clearing Season Foreseen

Neubauer of St. Louis county forecasts a busy spring in land clearing work. Orders for sodato for future delivery keep coming, he says.

Best Yet Held, Says Hickman

Speaking of extension conferences, Agent Hickman of Pipestone says the one held recently at University Farm was the most interesting and valuable that he has yet attended.

How They Do It in Lincoln-

Agent Kosmoski reports that committees chosen by the farm bureau sponsored a banquet at the annual farm bureau meeting in Lincoln. Each township supplied food for its own group. A chairman was appointed in each township and a standard menu adopted.

Lessons Carried to 418

Willis Lawson, agent in Brown county, says 418 farm and urban women are now being instructed by 56 local leaders in five classes in his county.

Soybean Experiments Please

Returns from a questionnaire prepared by the agent in Dodge county show that the practice of growing soybeans with corn for silage proved highly satisfactory last season. Soybeans grown with corn for hogging off also gave good results, he says.

Club Formed on County Lines

As one result of the boys' and girls' short course in agriculture and home economics given at Stillwater recently, the Washington County Boys' and Girls' club was organized. According to County Agent A. P. Henderson, 54 joined the club. Russell Malone of Lake Elmo was chosen president, Georgina Wolfe of Stillwater vice president, Kenneth Krongard of Lake Elmo secretary, and Ruth Heifort of Stillwater treasurer. "Better Boys' and Girls' Club Work for 1924" is the slogan of the organization.