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“THE OUTLOOK FOR AGRICULTURE” Davenport and Boss Speak at Extension Conference

Wars and their immutable effects on agriculture and the industries were described by Eugene Davenport, former dean of the Illinois College of Agriculture, at the opening session of the twelfth yearly conference. Mr. Davenport said in part:

I think I know some of the troubles that county agents are up against these days. They hear complaints from farmers about a great variety of things. To help these people is no small part of your job. You can't turn a deaf ear to any man who is in deep trouble and there are many such now.

What we must try to do is to at least make farmers understand how they happen to be in the fix they are in. I have seen in my lifetime five good big wars and a whole lot of little ones. They run back to the Civil war, when I was a child. After the Civil war people in need went west where land could be had for the asking. Now there is no such relief.

Every man is right up against an economic proposition during and immediately after the close of a great war. We repeat just about the same history after every war, but the situation is not so intense after a little war.

It will help some, in discussing these matters with farmers who feel dissatisfied, if we sketch hastily what is bound to happen when a great war is declared. Some said when war was declared, "Now we will have good times." That is exactly where they were mistaken. Big wars mean great times for the farmers at first, but hard times in the end. We have to pay the bill just as truly on the farm as on the battlefield.

Wheat First Affected

What must happen if war were declared today in Europe? In three hours, up will go the price of wheat because every nation on earth would know its power of producing food would be curtailed. Every nation would hasten into the market to insure a good supply of wheat. The price will go up and up. During the late war it reached \$3 a bushel.

What happens next? The price of all food commodities will begin to go up. Food is the one great thing in demand when war is declared. We had four million people in this war and it took seven persons behind every soldier to keep him in action. Thus there were 30 millions or more drawn

out of our industries and engaged in the war.

What happens next? Because food goes up and because men are drawn away from manufacturing, everything goes up. The government goes into debt head over heels. Nobody said inflation in the early days of the war, but there was inflation. The high wages laborers demand and get increase the cost of production. You have a general run of high prices with the people buying right and left. Land begins to go up. People go into debt to buy things. They feel that we are going into a permanent era of high prices and that everybody is going to make money.

When money gets so plentiful that prices go sky-high people say there is not enough money to do business with. We have to have more money. In the days of the greenback excitement in the seventies sensible men, farmers, people working for wages by the million wanted greenback currency. A man said he had a friend in the grocery business and when war broke out, bringing this period of high prices, he sold a barrel of molasses he had on hand and found he had doubled his money. But when he was to buy molasses he did not have enough money to buy a whole barrel so he purchased half a barrel. Every time he went for molasses prices had risen so he could not buy as large a quantity as he had sold. At last he was doing business with a jugful. In terms of money he was getting rich, but in terms of molasses he was not.

We get into this period of enormously high prices and speculation in a war. It can't be avoided. Along with this period of high prices and speculation goes extravagance. We go into debt and get wild. Some people would buy everything.

Peace Declared. Then What?

Then peace is declared. What happens? Everything that goes up must come down; so with this. The first thing that is noticeable is the decline in the price of food. Orders are cancelled right and left. The farmer says that isn't so bad; it won't last long; people must eat. But that is where he is wrong. They didn't starve to death, but they starved down until they died of some disease or other.

Another thing—we had three or four tremendously productive years and that broke our markets at home. That

is a thing we must not forget. We have not had a crop failure of any magnitude since war times. We have gone right on producing at a tremendous rate. During the war production was stressed to the limit. Everybody helped to produce. We were asked to do it. In case of war we will be asked to do it again, for food wins wars.

Men put in long hours to produce food. They felt the obligation. This insured production of 150 to 200 per cent per man and this was carried over after the war. If we do not have a crop failure after a war, we become loaded up with food which the world cannot buy.

The farmer then finds himself with plenty of stuff on hand and no market. For a long time this does not affect the cost of what he buys. Labor is still high, prices, too, and when a farmer goes out to buy machinery or shoes or clothing he finds he is still paying a high price. These goods were the last to go up and are the last to come down.

Looking for a Goat

We always blame the other fellow in a war. Laboring men blame the farmers. Farmers blame the speculator. We all blame the bankers when the banks have been about the only stable thing we have had. Now we blame the government because it took a hand in prices. It had to as a war measure, but we say, if the government could handle prices during the war why not afterward? That is bad reasoning. Any man can place prices on his wheat and hogs, but who is going to find the buyer? You can't produce a buyer by law.

Up to the day of peace there was a general appearance of prosperity due to inflation of currency, the government and everybody going into debt. After a war comes the subsidence, first in the market. Then every speculator has to cash in on his investments. Every man must pay his share of war costs. The farmer will pay his debt first, and I think he will be the first man out of the woods. I am anxious about the professional laborer in this country, not only for his own sake but on account of the farmer. If people get out of jobs we have stuff to last us for five years now.

Whatever may happen to the farmer as long as he can hang to the farm he isn't going to starve or freeze; he will

have enough to eat and will have enough to keep warm. He can do lots of things, but the poor fellow in town has to pay rent. You don't know how many people are starving in these times of prosperity; laboring people who cannot labor. We don't hear about it. You can make a living on the farm, but it is hard on the fellow in the city.

I think we can help our farmers to see that what has happened to them will always happen. We go up hill and down again after the war. It is the down hill part that is the hardest. That is why we get grouchy and say ugly things and ask impossible things of the government. I can't help feeling that we will all do well if we simply state that in general this experience is the usual experience after every war. It will get worse and worse as wars continue. We must learn that these are things that go along with the luxury of war.

CROPPING PROGRAM OUTLINED BY BOSS

In his address at the extension conference on "The Outlook for Agriculture in Minnesota," Prof. Andrew Boss said it seemed to be wise to advocate for 1925 the maintenance of the present corn acreage in good corn growing territory and the substitution of legume hay for some of the land now producing wheat or other low profit grain crops; to maintain a high ratio of hogs and beef cattle in proportion to other kinds of livestock, and to expand the sheep business moderately on those farms adapted to sheep raising.

"For the entire state a program of pasture improvement and legume forage production would result in greater efficiency in livestock production," said Professor Boss. "In spite of the fact that potatoes have been a low profit crop for three years, largely because high yields have been obtained, it would still seem advisable to maintain a reasonable acreage of potatoes in the parts of the state naturally adapted to this crop. It is possible the adversities of the potato business the last few years may drive too many people out of potato production. Those equipped for it and on land well adapted to potato growing should consider the prospects before limiting the acreage too much.

As to Wheat and Flax

"Surplus acreages on large farms can well be devoted still to the production of spring wheat and flax in the small grain section and to winter wheat and flax in southern Minnesota. While no one can predict to a certainty what may occur next year, these look like safe ventures from the present point of view. This should not be construed as advice to return to wheat raising, but rather as advice to take advantage of circumstances and grow the crops that promise the best immediate returns.

"Beyond next year it is difficult to see. The direction taken in the past, however, and advised for next year leads to a conservative program of development of the enterprises that have proved most profitable. Improved pastures, better livestock, additional le-

DIRECTOR PECK SPEAKS TO WASHINGTON GROUP

Upon the return of Director Peck from the Washington state extension conference, where he discussed various questions of farm management and economic phases of certain farm problems, he summarized his experiences with the extension group as follows:

"The Washington state extension conference this year was in the form of an eight-day school and conference, stressing particularly the analysis of farm and extension problems and methods for making the extension service more effective. The length of the conference made it possible for rather a detailed discussion and from expressions of approval at the close a great deal of satisfaction was obtained from the school by the field workers. The very finest interest was shown in the discussion of the farm management subjects and a very high degree of morale seemed to permeate the entire extension staff. The agricultural problems of Washington in many cases are exceedingly complex, for the variations in rainfall, climate, topography, soil types, and transportation facilities with consequent types of farm production are so great as to make the problems highly localized and involved. I am glad to bring the greetings and best wishes of the county agents and extension workers of Washington state to those of Minnesota."

gumes and improved quality of land can only lead to a permanently improved condition of our farm land and that is the foundation on which a profitable agriculture is built."

Earlier in his discussion Professor Boss exhibited a map of the state which he had divided into four sections—the dairy, the corn and livestock, the small grain, and the undeveloped farming.

Dairy Section

What is commonly looked upon as the dairy area of Minnesota is in southeastern and east central portions of the state, he said. The south portion of this area differs somewhat from the north portion. In the south dairying is highly intensive and the agriculture is well diversified and balanced. The one outstanding need is for better pastures. More silos should be built and the acreage of legume hay increased. These three enterprises should be given attention if dairy production is to be made as profitable as it should be. In the north dairying is newer and less intensive and there are soil deficiencies to be made up. Good pastures are seldom found. If dairying is to succeed in this area in competition with other parts of the state, attention must be given to improving the pastures by growing sweet clover or alfalfa. If properly treated, peat lands will provide excellent blue grass and clover pastures. As pastures are developed and tame hay roughage provided, cows should be added to convert these crops into dairy products. Silos are essential to make up for short

pastures. Proximity to the cities will help to make this pre-eminently a dairy region. Fall rye and early oats would be comparatively safe crops for land not needed for the support of the dairy industry.

Other Divisions

Mr. Boss thought that southwestern Minnesota should continue to be a corn and livestock producing area. Tile drainage and better pastures are needed. Sweet clover would help to improve the latter. The extension people were told that a program for pasture improvement and more alfalfa and soybeans could well be put on in every county of the district.

As for the small grain section in western and northwestern Minnesota, the speaker said that cropping practices should be developed with a view to controlling weeds which have become a great pest under the grain farming system. To quote him, "More land in grass, early crops with provision for fall plowing and corrective tillage, coupled with better quality seed and preparation of the land will insure much better crops of small grain. Because the land is naturally suited to the growing of spring wheat a moderate acreage of such wheat and fall rye should be included in the cropping plan."

Intensive farming is needed in the northeastern part of the state because of the difficulties encountered in opening tillable areas. Dairying, poultry raising, and potato growing will probably continue to be the chief products of the farms of this region.

"It is a mistake in territory of this kind," said Mr. Boss, "to introduce or try to carry more livestock than can be fed on the roughage produced on the farms. Even poultry raising on purchased feeds is likely to yield low profits."

COUNTY AGENTS ELECT WATSON PRESIDENT

W. E. Watson of Dakota county was elected president of the Minnesota County Agents' association at the annual meeting held in St. Paul December 11. W. A. Peters of Wadena county was elected vice president and F. E. Krause of Freeborn county, secretary-treasurer. Directors were chosen as follows: J. B. McNulty, southeast district; L. E. McMillan, southwest district; F. F. Moore, northwest district, and D. C. Dvoracek, northeast district. M. M. Abbott, retiring president, reviewed the association's achievements in 1924 and told of the plans being made to aid agents in obtaining further training for their work. The summer outing was discussed and it was the unanimous opinion that Park Rapids was the place for it.

Howard on Leave of Absence

George F. Howard has gone to the Pacific coast and will visit a daughter at Portland, various relatives at Los Angeles and a second daughter at Floyd, New Mexico, before returning to headquarters at University Farm. He will be away until the middle of April under a four months' leave of absence.

PUBLICITY POINTERS BY HOPKINS AND FARRELL

A. W. Hopkins of the University of Wisconsin, in opening the conference discussion of publicity methods, said that every county agent should take a course in publicity salesmanship.

Means by which the county agent may obtain publicity include personal contact in office and field, personal letters, circulars, or news letters, the daily and weekly press, dodgers, pamphlets, window displays, bulletins, fair exhibits, cartoons, posters, lantern slides and films, attitude of the office help towards the work, and appearance of the agent's desk and office.

Mr. Hopkins said that some agents spend too much time on publicity; he thought one-half day a week for this work was about right. He read many examples of "how not to do it" from different college service sheets and from county agent departments in country newspapers.

Regarding the classification of county agent publicity under such heads as "county agent column," "county agent notes," "tips from the county agent," etc., he said he hoped the day would come when material furnished editors by county agents on agricultural and home projects would be good enough to compete with anything in the paper and would not have to be put in a corner under a label.

"I know a good many agents take the opposite view," he said. "They think the farmers know where to find it. The farmers do, but you might as well have over it a silver plate reading 'At Rest.' Your material can compete with anything in the paper. Putting it off in the corner has another bad angle, because you want to reach not only the farmers and homemakers but the bankers, lawyers and business men in general."

Mr. Hopkins said that real news conveyed in an article was often buried instead of being set out in the first sentence or paragraph. He deprecated the prosaic introduction and said that as there is no particular interest in dates it is a weak opening to start an item with "Wednesday, April 21" or "Today" or "Tomorrow." Another factor is the matter of accuracy. "We can't afford to trifle with our readers; if we haven't the facts we had better leave the press alone. We waste effort in putting out inferior material. There is no place for an inferior stencil or poorly typewritten letter."

Mr. Hopkins paid a fine compliment to the exhibits shown at the conference, particularly the alfalfa exhibit. He believed in exhibits and window displays, but said he was tired of charts, although at times it seemed necessary to have them. He thought an exhibit to be really effective must have some one in charge to explain and demonstrate.

Mr. Farrell, in following Mr. Hopkins, objected to the charity appeal in publicity and criticized the tendency to gobble credit. He stressed the importance of the agents having a professional attitude toward their job, saying:

"This means a good deal, because if

this great job we are going to do is worth while, I believe we will be classed right alongside with the best doctors, lawyers, merchants, judges, bankers and business men."

AGENTS' RELATION TO THE HANDLING OF SEED

General plans and policies with reference to the participation of county agents in the handling of seed were formulated at the annual conference. A committee consisting of six county agents and representatives of the extension service prepared recommendations, the purpose of which is to secure uniformity in the management of the problem within the state and to standardize the larger methods and relations. The following recommendations, while outlined with particular reference to alfalfa and sweet clover seed, should be applicable to any crop:

A. Educational Campaign

1. We recommend an alfalfa campaign in every county for 1923.
2. We recommend the Grimm variety because in general both experiment and experience have proven that there is no better alfalfa for Minnesota.
3. In said campaign, we recommend securing the co-operation of farmers, bankers, merchants, and other interested agencies.
4. We recommend meetings to be held in all important community centers to promote alfalfa growing.
5. We urge that the press of the county be given full information concerning the plans and the progress of the campaign.

B. Securing the Seed

1. Securing of known quality is more important than saving a few cents on seed.
2. It is recommended that the county agent does not handle seed, but that he furnish information and quotations, leaving it to the farmers to buy their own seed.
3. We recommend the buying of good seed from responsible seed companies or associations, complying with the Minnesota seed law.
4. The duty of the county agent concerning home-grown seed is to bring buyer and seller together through the medium of samples and price quotations.
5. Where farmers desire to pool orders for seed, the county agent should extend information on necessary local organization, including selection of local seed committees, who will receive orders, collect cash with orders, and who will purchase and distribute the seed ordered. In addition the agent should give seed committeemen the same information as to samples and prices as is given individuals.
6. We recommend that the county agent confer with local dealers urging them to handle standard seed of high quality at reasonable prices and recommend that preference be given local dealers within the county.

C. New Varieties

1. The county agent should endeavor to extend special information to farmers in procuring new varieties or strains of farm crops.

Poultry Project Popular

Kelehan of Ottertail county gives the poultry project credit for creating a lot of interest among the women. At the final lesson given groups of women at Pelican Rapids and Fergus Falls there was a 100 per cent attendance of local leaders.

Juniors Delighted

Livestock club members of Le Sueur county made such good records and enjoyed themselves so well at the South St. Paul Junior show that all but one will re-enter club work next year. Every project showed a profit for the members, says Agent R. R. Wheaton.

NEW SERVICE OFFERED TO FARMERS' CLUBS

A monthly letter will be sent to all farmers' clubs, farm bureau units, or other community organizations as part of the service offered by the agricultural extension division. Announcement was made by S. B. Cleland at the annual conference of county extension workers. This letter will carry announcement of available material and suggestions for programs and any community organization requesting it will be put on the mailing list without charge.

Mr. Cleland discussed the material which may be obtained through this service, such as prepared programs on alfalfa, poultry, and other topics; Americanization and patriotic material; plays, debates, recitations and readings; suggestions for tours, picnics, fairs, judging teams; assistance in formulating community programs of activities. It is also hoped to provide an opportunity for exchange of ideas between clubs, so that good ideas may be carried on.

"There are two great reasons why the extension service is promoting community development," said Mr. Cleland. "One reason is because extension work is more easily and more effectively done in the organized community. The other reason is because we believe in community organization for its own sake. It means a better social life in the country, a happier and more wholesome attitude toward farm life and the things that farming represents. This service will do what it can to assist the community to develop itself and to find a satisfying community life."

EASIER, QUICKER WAY SHOWN BY EXTENSION

There is a young woman in Sand Creek township, Scott county, who believes in extension clothing work because of the opportunity it has given her to learn to do things in an easier, quicker way. In a letter to the county agent she says: "In taking up this work all the leaders find there are some things about dressmaking which they do not know. They also find there are many things which can be done easier, better, and quicker than they have been accustomed to do, and as we all like to do our work in the easiest, quickest, and best way, we feel it is a day well spent when we take these sewing lessons which the university extension division is giving us."

53 in Lincoln's Essay Contest

The farm bureau essay contest in Lincoln county caused a real inundation of papers—53 in all. The banks, schools, and newspapers co-operated in making it a success, thus giving the farm bureau a great deal of publicity.

Studying Taxes

The executive board of the Blue Earth county farm bureau has appointed a committee to study taxes—how they are levied, and for what purpose and how distributed.

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MORE TRAINING FAVORED

The desire of extension workers for additional training to fit themselves better for their work and for larger service was recognized in the report of the committee on extension organization and policy, adopted by the Land-Grant College Association. The report recommended that members of the extension staff, including county extension agents and specialists, both men and women, and supervisors and administrative officers, be given opportunity for advanced study leading to professional improvement, equal with that afforded members of the resident teaching and research staff.

Work with boys and girls, a definite project in the extension program, should, the reports states, be maintained upon a definite educational basis,

as now. There is opportunity and need in this work for the co-operation of interested agencies, such as both individuals and organizations have rendered in the past. However, it is also important and necessary that private individuals or organizations wishing to assist club work should act through the regularly constituted governmental institutions in charge of the work—the land-grant colleges and the department—and it should be evident to all that assistance is given for the purpose of aiding boys and girls and not for commercial gain.

In further developing forestry extension work in accordance with the Clark-McNary forestry act, it is expected that the policy already established for the conduct of co-operative extension work will be followed.

MILLING COMPANY TO GIVE FOUR MORE TRIPS

Garments from flour sacks. Sounds rather funny, doesn't it, but many club girls of Minnesota will be making them in the next six months in an effort to win prizes offered by the Russell Miller Milling company.

The prize is to be a free trip with maintenance to the Junior Short Course at University Farm or to the State Fair to the girl in each of the four districts of the state having the best exhibit of three articles made from flour sacks. The winners are to be selected at the time of the county contest in the spring.

Club girls may make any of their required articles from these sacks or they may make extra garments, such as sewing or laundry bags, towels, pillow cases, silverware cases, etc.

Extension people in Cottonwood county are planning a midwinter seed show and the organization of a county crop improvement association.

MORE RECREATIONAL, SOCIAL WORK NEEDED

D. D. Mayne, principal of the Minnesota School of Agriculture, led the discussion at the conference on the question of developing social and recreational projects as a means of strengthening local organizations for extension work. His remarks were based largely on a house to house survey taken in six rural townships by men from the school. In one of the six, rather typical of the rest, the survey showed that beyond the grades the children are not being educated.

Mr. Mayne believed that such communities could be stirred to a desire for better things by reviving the old-fashioned singing school, by teaching music in every district, by organizing baseball clubs and promoting other forms of clean sports. These would serve as an entering wedge toward enlarged activities. "There are opportunities to build communities that will be ideal," he said, "but we have hardly begun to touch the problem on its social side. This is where most of our work should be done."

Results of a similar survey in a Redwood county township having 89 farms were given by County Agent Lynn Sheldon. It was found that many boys and girls of 17 to 19 years of age are working on the farms and are doing no educational work. Mr. Sheldon thought an effort should be made to reach these children out of school by organized club work. The survey demonstrated that more windbreaks should be started on the farmsteads and that more home project work was needed.

Outlook for Club Work Bright

McMillan of Blue Earth says the outlook for good club work is the best at this season he has ever known.



AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION FORCES UNDER THE CAMERA'S FIRE DAY

NUTRITION PROJECT TAKEN TO 6,439 WOMEN

Reports for 1924 show that 3,061 women were enrolled in the nutrition project and that they passed on the work to 3,378 others, making a total of 6,439.

Full reports have been received for part of the counties only, as the project has been completed in but six of the 12 counties enrolled. In the reports turned in by 65 communities completing the project, 1,958 new food practices have been adopted.

Evidence that work done by the leaders and the community members has been beneficial is shown in the improvement seen in dinners and refreshments served at community gatherings. These meals are better balanced; more well-cooked vegetables are served, more attractive salads and less of the old-time "hot dogs," or wieners and rolls. Milk is being substituted for coffee.

Twenty schools have installed hot lunches. Mothers have learned new and higher standards of health for their children and are working toward that end. Five hundred sixty-five report a definite improvement in health conditions as a result of the project. Posture, which had not been recognized by most of the members as a factor in malnutrition, has been a popular subject with the members, 100 of whom report that they are carrying on corrective posture exercises. Other groups report that as a result of interest in these exercises, physical training classes have been formed, hiking groups organized and even two hockey teams organized among the women. Seventy-eight report that they now are able to do their work with less fatigue, thus showing that through these health measures they are in better condition to compete with their daily tasks.

New food budgets are being worked out for the coming year; garden plans to meet the food need of the family are already on paper, and next fall one may expect to find these homes much better fitted to meet the winter's needs. It is hoped that in counties where the nutrition project has been carried the county agents will hold several spring meetings on the "Home Vegetable Garden" to help the women with their garden problems.

Use should be made of these able leaders in carrying on the "Let's Grow" project among junior club members. The exhibits and the programs worked out for achievement day should be used at club and community meetings time and again in order that the whole countryside may begin to appreciate the need of a good nutrition program in every home.

Mrs. Shiras Resigns

Mrs. Sylvia Shiras, who has been urban home demonstration agent in Duluth since July, 1921, has resigned in order to devote her full time to her duties as a homemaker. Miss Clover Sabin, who has been home demonstration agent in Koochiching county, will succeed Mrs. Shiras in Duluth January first. A home demonstration agent for Koochiching county has not yet been appointed.

HOME CONFERENCE SET FOR WEEK OF MARCH 2

Miss Newton announces that the home conference will be held the week of March 2. In addition to the home demonstration agents and the staff of the state home demonstration office, the county chairmen of home and committee work in all the counties are asked to attend.

HERDS IMPROVED AT A MINIMUM OF COST

That the expense of securing good bulls is often surprisingly low has been shown by the Douglas County (Minn.) Guernsey Bull association, which was formed way back in 1910 when T. A. Erickson was superintendent of the Douglas county schools and getting interested in club work.

Mr. Erickson says that in the Schelin block of this association the total expenditure for bulls from the beginning up to 1924 has been \$456.85. Seven members have constituted this block from the beginning, consequently the total cost to each, exclusive of maintenance of the bulls, has been \$65.26, or only \$4.66 a year. In this cost is included \$1 a year membership fee since 1917.

Well managed bull associations make it possible for farmers with small herds to obtain the service of sires having high production ancestry.

Director Peck Honored

Director F. W. Peck was chosen chairman of the section of agriculture and member of the national committee on extension organization and policy at the recent convention of the Association of Land-Grant Colleges in Washington. Dr. E. M. Freeman, dean of the Minnesota College of Agriculture, was appointed chairman of the subsection of resident teaching.

Badger Specialists Drop In

Miss Gladys Stillman, milk specialist, and Miss Gladys Meloche, clothing specialist, from the Wisconsin agricultural extension service, spent a day recently with the staff of the home demonstration office, discussing home project work. Miss Stillman accompanied Miss Hobart to Washington county to visit a group of local leaders in nutrition.



IRE DAY (WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 1924) AT UNIVERSITY FARM

CLUB WORK SHOWS STEADY GROWTH

(By T. A. Erickson, State Leader)

The year 1924 has seen a steady growth in boys' and girls' club work as a permanent feature of educational work in Minnesota. The support by public organizations for the general work and by business men for special incentives has been better than in previous years.

The following state events suggest some results of the work:

Club Short Courses

Short courses at University Farm, Crookston and Morris are the training schools for the older club members and junior leaders. Two hundred club members were given free trips to these events. The total attendance at the three courses was 832.

Thirty-five county, district and state club short courses were held with an attendance of 5,125 boys and girls.

Every county fair reports a club department with more than \$3,600 as a budget.

Club Department of State Fair

One thousand and ten club members this year put on an exhibit and demonstration program at the State Fair. They represented every county in the state as the county winners. The total exhibits numbered 2,674. The budget provided by the State Fair and co-operating agencies totaled more than \$26,000.

Junior Livestock Show

Four hundred twenty-five club members were given free trips to the Junior Livestock Show as county winners to exhibit their baby beef, fat barrow, fat lamb or fat poultry. There were 776 animals shown. The exhibits sold for \$45,000 at auction.

National Events

The state took part in two national events with 49 dairy calf club winners at the National Dairy Show at Milwaukee and 61 winners representing all projects at the National Club Congress at Chicago.

The club judging team won third place, and the dairy demonstration team second place at Milwaukee, while Monica Zurn, the health member, stood first.

At Chicago the judging team stood fourth and the bread and canning judge first.

At the interstate competition at Sioux City, with 12 states competing, the Buhl bread demonstration team won the grand championship, while Milo Richter won first in health contest. Three Minnesota teams attended.

Other Special Club Activities

The State Horticultural Society provided funds for 20 garden club winners to attend the annual meeting. At the same time 80 potato club members exhibited, showing a very high quality exhibit.

The corn club exhibit is being held during Farmers' and Homemakers' Week.

CONFERENCE EXHIBITS STUDIED BY AGENTS

A feature of the annual extension conference was the exhibits which were prepared for the purpose of assisting the agents in special ways.

The central exhibit was the story of an alfalfa campaign, the various steps in the campaign being outlined in a series of 17 exhibits. The whole was a study of the way to exhibit. The A. Dickinson Seed Co. furnished the miniature window display.

The nutrition booth attracted much attention. This was prepared as a good type of booth for use on achievement days. It was simple in design but told its story most effectively.

The boys' and girls' club exhibit was a display indicating methods of showing club material. A family budget of canned goods, rather than single jars, and similar effective ideas, were shown.

The home demonstration office had a fine display of posters collected from actual achievement days. These attracted much attention as indicating what women were actually doing in this connection.

The publicity exhibit presented samples of press and poster ideas effectively displayed so they could be studied.

Through the courtesy of the National Dairy Council there was shown an exhibit of dogs, rats and chickens, some of which had been raised without milk and some with milk. The value of milk was clearly shown. It was announced that these animals can be secured for a rental fee, or by buying, for use in showing the value of milk in the diet.

5,175 WOMEN WORK IN MANAGEMENT PROJECT

Minnesota women to the number of 5,175 were reached by the home management project during 1924. Of these, 3,059 were enrolled in groups in 225 communities; 446, or two from each group, acted as local leaders and attended training classes conducted by Mary L. Bull, state specialist in home management. Then some 748 women not enrolled in community groups were reported as receiving some phase of the work from group members, making a total of 3,807 women reached by the project conducted by the specialist.

Home agents conducting home management projects enrolled 1,368 women, 186 of whom acted as local leaders, making a total for the state of 632 local leaders in this project with an enrollment of 4,527 and 748 women not enrolled reported as profiting by information passed on by group members; 3,470 of those enrolled reported improved practices and 2,468 reported improved kitchens.

Interest in the local leader plan of conducting project work is steadily increasing as shown in the following comparison: In 1923, 250 local leaders representing 125 communities conducted work with 1,615 women in organized groups; last year 632 local leaders conducted work in 316 communities with an enrollment of 4,527 women in organized groups.

SUMMARY OF CLUB DEMONSTRATIONS OR PROJECTS IN 1924

Projects	Organized clubs	Enrollment		No. reporting	
		Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
Bread	252	19	2,809	19	2,526
Garment	297		3,165		2,667
Garden	180	1,483	1,061	1,193	913
Potato	162	553	120	425	83
Poultry	149	1,532	869	1,167	652
Health	26		270		
Pig	126	715	132	543	94
Sow and litter	59	476	93	360	68
Baby beef	68	666	126	520	97
Sheep	39	405	119	328	87
General livestock judging	57	298	28	262	24
Dairy judging	65	516	6	410	6
Dairy calf	226	1,643	365	1,296	281
Alfalfa	3	72	5	48	4
Corn	52	424	17	298	13
Canning	172		1,802		1,325
Room furnishing	7	83	121	83	121
Leadership		83	72		
Pastures	1	2			
Totals	1,941	8,970	11,180	6,952	8,961
Total enrollment: 20,150; number reporting, 16,042.					

New Flax Pleases Growers

New Chippewa flax, developed by plant and farm crops men of the university, shows at least 100 per cent better than the common variety, says the agent of Roseau county. Farmers are greatly interested in the new flax and there is much demand for seed, he adds.

64 Bushels Winter Wheat to Acre

Minturki and Minhardi are getting popular in Roseau county. From four fields of these varieties grown in the county this year the yield averaged 49 bushels to the acre. One field produced an average of 64 bushels to the acre.

AGENTS VISIT DAIRY AND SOILS DIVISIONS

The conference sessions on Thursday and Friday were varied by visits to the dairy and soils divisions to hear the story of what these divisions are doing of interest to extension workers.

Dr. C. H. Eckles was assisted by three members of his staff in sketching experimental work either in hand or already accomplished. The results from the studies for the control of the composition of butter ought to be used as an extension activity, he said. A year's experiments had shown that the feeding of bonemeal would prevent abnormal appetite in cattle. Crops more or less new to Minnesota were under test to determine feeding values. Information would soon be available as to the use of soybean hay, ground soybeans, sweet clover silage and beet top silage.

Heads of the dairy products, dairy production and official testing sections outlined the possibilities in the studies for more uniform butter and to determine the losses of fat in buttermilk; the experiments in calf raising, and the status of official testing. The last named section is experimenting with ground flax to increase the milk flow and will aid in a survey to determine breeding troubles in purebred herds.

Led by Dr. Eckles the agents made a tour of the new dairy hall and also looked over the cattle used in the experimental work.

"We are not going to tell you all we have done, but just the things you ought to know," said Dr. F. J. Alway, chief of the soils division, who presented a staffman to report the results from phosphate plots in Jackson, Lac qui Parle and various counties in southwestern Minnesota. County Agent Karr was called upon and said that phosphorous used on plots in Martin county had doubled the yield of red clover and in one instance had quadrupled the production of alfalfa hay when compared with the unfertilized part of the field.

The county agents were told there is no longer any question in getting alfalfa in southeastern counties. Liming builds up the crop in its early years. Later the check plots catch up with the treated plots because the roots of the alfalfa plant are then getting down to the lime. Thorough inoculation of the soil where there is much acidity is necessary. Sweet clover has proven more sensitive to the lack of lime than alfalfa.

An acre of peat land valued at \$6 had produced \$48 worth of alfalfa in a single season. Mixtures containing white clover and bluegrass had developed good pastures on peat soil; timothy and clover meadows had prospered when properly handled. Summer frosts did considerable damage the past season to potatoes and small grain. Liberal fertilization and packing the peat after planting would make for rapid growth and help in dodging frost.

MINNESOTA JUNIORS AT CHICAGO

Fifty-six juniors and five leaders composed the Minnesota delegation attending the third National 4-H Club Congress held at Chicago in connection with the International Livestock Exposition. T. A. Erickson, the state leader, was in command.

Thirty-one of the juniors were transported to and from the convention city without cost by the Chicago Northwestern, the Omaha, Great Western and Rock Island railroads. The Russell Miller Milling company paid all the traveling and living expenses of 10 girl breadmakers. The Pioneer Press-Dispatch paid expenses of Frances Nelson and Janet Fulton, both of Coleraine, who gave a truly wonderful demonstration in canning. The Swift, Armour and Wilson packing companies, Montgomery Ward & Co., and The Farmer's Wife paid the expenses of one junior each during the week.

The Minnesota junior livestock judging team, composed of George Chambers, Clarence Bundy, and Floyd Eskra, placed fourth in keen competition with 20 other state teams. Kansas was first, Nebraska second, Oklahoma third. Young Bundy won highest honors as an individual judge.

Erma Cronberg First in Judging

In canning and bread judging Minnesota fared even better, Erma Cronberg of Buhl being first in both events in which judges from nine states took part. Minnesota's state canning exhibit was placed fourth and its clothing exhibit seventh.

Girls from 12 states competed in the style show which was won by Wisconsin with North Carolina second, Illinois third, Indiana fourth, and Minnesota fifth. The girls exhibited garments of their own making.

A 16-year-old Mississippi girl placed first in the health contest for girls with a score of 99.4 per cent. A 17-year-old Michigan boy was found to be the healthiest boy in clubland. The Minnesota representatives, Lorna Tomhave of Fergus Falls and Levi Morlock of Jordan, were only a few points behind the leaders.

Jay's Barrow Close to Top

It was a matter of state pride and congratulation that the grand champion barrow of the Junior Livestock Show at South St. Paul, which was raised by Jay H. Seymour, a club boy of Eyota, Olmsted county, and sold for \$1 a pound, took third place in an open class of 36 Chester White barrows at the International Livestock Show. The first two places were awarded to Iowa pigs which were much older than the Minnesota entry. It was young Seymour who responded to the addresses of welcome for the boys and girls when the club congress was formally opened.

Minnesota corn club boys swept up everything clean in the White Dent competition for their class in Region 2 at the Hay and Grain show. Robert Blanchar of Sherburne was first, Loren Blanchar second, Albert Lau of Tracy

third, Justus Legvold of Frost fourth, and Louis Schmeising of Lucan fifth. In Region 1 Clarence Lien of St. Cloud carried off first honors for White Dent and Norman Lien did as well for Yellow Dent. Clarence Lohrback of Revere won the second prize for White Dent in Region 1 and Harold Haslach of Como Station third prize.

Some disappointment was felt that Minnesota failed to land the Horace A. Moses leadership trophy. A 19-year-old Oklahoma boy, who has been in club work since 1917 and has been active in leadership work for three years, carried off the trophy.

Will Boost Harder Than Ever

What with banquets and parades, special entertainments, and trips through packing plants and business houses, and a parade before President and Mrs. Coolidge, it was a week of thrills for the Minnesota juniors. Lee Fullerton, a Gopher club boy, expressed the sentiments of all when he said: "It has been a great revelation to me, and I am going to boost club work harder than ever as a result of this trip."

Forty-one states sent about 1,200 young champions to the congress. The Club Congress Courier, an official daily newspaper for the juniors, made its bow and reported the chief events in a workmanlike manner.

KIRKPATRICK HEADS NATIONAL ASSOCIATION

K. A. Kirkpatrick, agricultural agent for Hennepin county, was advanced from vice president to president of the National Association of County Agents at its annual convention in Chicago. County Agents M. M. Abbott, Lynn Sheldon, and M. P. Roske were the Minnesota delegates to the meeting. Mr. Kirkpatrick arranged the program for the meeting, which he attended, of the Southwest District County Agents' Conference held at Kansas City. A resolution calling upon the Association of Land-Grant Colleges to extend county agents and other extension people the same privileges accorded resident instructors and research workers was unanimously adopted.

Culling Their Own

Lots of interest is shown in poultry culling, says Hammargren of Pine county, with the culls running as high as 30 per cent of the flocks. The low number of calls for culling in Roseau county indicates to Agent J. W. Taylor that many poultry keepers are culling their own flocks from training received last year.

Buchanan Resigns

R. R. Buchanan, for the last year and a half agricultural agent in Big Stone county, has resigned to go into business for himself at Graceville. His successor has not yet been chosen.

CLUB WORK DISCUSSED BY FARRELL, ERICKSON

"That type of club work that meets the needs of communities has real educational value," said George E. Farrell of the Washington office in his discussion of "Fundamentals in Boys' and Girls' Club Work." "If the clubs are demonstrational the work can then be sold to the public."

The club movement had been started, he said, to train youths to cooperate and to keep them in touch with agricultural colleges. "There are about 460,000 club members in the United States. As the average tenure on farms is 20 years, we need 800,000 of new farmers yearly. We ought to have more than a million club members to do reasonably well the job that must be done and to break the chains of the apprentice system. The club is the elementary school of farming and the club movement can be considered as the safety valve of adolescence."

Mr. Farrell said that care should be exercised against placing too much emphasis on contests and prizes. "This may prove to be a national calamity in club work," he added; "also, it would be a national calamity to cut off all prizes. What happens is that sight is lost of demonstrations and other educational values. There is no need to offer \$500 for \$50 worth of work; there is no need to go 1,000 miles to win prizes. There is no community that cannot give enough prizes. We should stimulate but not enough to destroy."

Mr. Farrell emphasized the importance of club demonstrations and exhibits. Speaking of recreational phases he said the club movement now has more camps than all other junior movements in the country put together.

T. A. Erickson, state leader, said that real successful club work has in mind the organized group helping the community. Club work should be regarded as fit to be part of a well rounded extension program. Is your club program well balanced?

"How about distribution of club work in your county? Are we reaching the ones we ought? A large part of our work is done through the schools because it is the easiest way. Groups of boys and girls out of the public schools ought to be reached. We should try to keep the club members we have now and train them as they approach their majority to become leaders of beginners."

Mr. Erickson admitted that the matter of prizes has developed difficult problems. The kind of prizes offered makes a difference, he said. Educational trips and scholarships were to be favored. Nearly 2,000 juniors, coming from all parts of the state, won free trips last year. Use these boys and girls to tell of their trips; make more use of demonstration teams at home.

Summarizing his recommendations for the coming year's work the state leader presented the following:

1. An advisory committee of extension agents to work with the club office during the year.
2. More organized clubs.

POULTRY WORK SHOWS GOOD ADVANCE IN 1924

"A profitable flock on every farm in Minnesota" is the goal of the state poultry project. Local leaders have made a large contribution to the attainment of this goal. In the past year 315 leaders from 158 communities have received instruction from Miss Cora Cooke, extension poultry specialist, and passed it on to organized groups with an enrollment representing 2,045 families. Besides those regularly enrolled, some part of the information was received by 1,892 other persons, making a total of nearly 4,000 farm flocks affected by the work of local leaders.

This work was given in 13 counties, three of which also took the advanced project. County extension agents have given splendid co-operation in organizing the counties for the project and in following up the work of leaders with personal assistance and publicity.

The project this year emphasized feeding and housing, and reports of leaders show a decided improvement along these lines. Final reports do not do justice to the reports given by leaders, but they do show marked advance over the previous year. The following comparison of things accomplished in the last two years may be of interest:

	1923	1924
Houses built or improved....	145	357
Equipment added	77	417
Feeding improved	165	554
Flocks culled	179	388

One thing contributing to the success of the project is the increased number of communities enrolled per county. In 1923 the enrollment averaged nine communities to the county. In 1924 this average was increased to 12 per county with an enrollment of 31 communities in one county. This makes for a more widespread interest than where only a few communities are reached. Watonwan county had 19 groups organized in 15 townships, with every township organized. In some of the larger and more thinly populated counties it was impossible to reach every township. Clearwater county had 14 groups in 10 of its 25 townships. These represented a strip through the center of the county in which most of the farming is done.

Plans for improvement for 1925 include work in judging and poultry marketing for the advanced groups.

Zavoral Ready to Carry On.

H. G. Zavoral, who spent 10 days in a Minneapolis hospital following a minor operation, is back in the extension harness again.

Catnip Still to the Fore

Catnip figures prominently in a news item in the Official Record of December 10. Agents attending the gridiron party December 11 will be interested.

3. Use club records and story of work in local county and state contests.
4. Well balanced program of club work.
5. Use demonstration more in community.
6. Train older club members for local leaders as a new project.
7. Reach more farm boys and girls not now in school.
8. Use educational prizes.

REAL PROGRESS MADE IN CLOTHING PROJECT

Twenty-six thousand, two hundred and twenty women attended classes in clothing the past year, and 23,401 homes adopted improved practices. The work has been carried on in 33 counties. In some of these counties it has been necessary to give three days a week to the local leader training classes because so many are enrolled in the work.

In these counties it is the hope of the county agent to reach the women in every township. Many counties now finishing the first clothing project will continue with the advanced clothing project with 100 per cent enrollment.

In 1923 some 36 counties had the work, 20,549 women attended the meetings, and 19,467 women reported they had improved their home practices in clothing. Thus it is seen that in 1924, working in three less counties than in 1923, 5,671 more women attended meetings and 3,934 more women have reported improved home practices. This shows an improvement in organization over last year.

Personnel of the Project

Many women are engaged in the teaching of the clothing project. Miss Nora Hott and Miss Bessie Willis are the state clothing specialists. Miss Clover Sabin, home demonstration agent in Koochiching county, says many women wish to continue the work. Miss Edythe Turner in Steele county has had enthusiastic groups in the advanced clothing work. From St. Louis county Miss Anna Tikkanen reports splendid results. Miss Eva Blair divides her time between Brown and Blue Earth counties. Miss Mary Laycock is working in Mower county. It is the same in every county—the women are interested in the work and eager to get more.

The three urban home demonstration agents, Miss Lois Reid of St. Paul, Mrs. Shiras of Duluth, and Mrs. Beard of Minneapolis, have some enthusiastic groups. These agents have been visiting at least one of the local leader classes of every group and have been able in this way to see where there is a weakness, how to improve and also to check up on groups. In many cases the agent has been agreeably surprised to find that the leaders have spent much time in study and in the making of illustrative material. In Steele county one town librarian reported to Miss Turner that the clothing project has stimulated the desire for reading and study. Many more farm women are using the town library.

Year's Goal Attained

The goal for the year was set for the adoption of improved practices in clothing by 80 per cent of the women enrolled. This goal was reached and then passed. In each sub-project a goal was set and in six out of the eight sub-projects the goal was either reached or far surpassed.

The women are interested and want the clothing project or the leaders wouldn't travel 25 or 30 miles, as they do, on stormy days to get the work.