

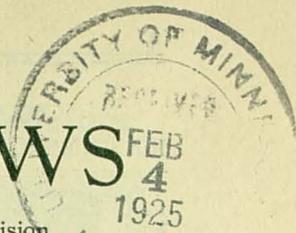
# MINNESOTA EXTENSION SERVICE NEWS

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## COUNTY AGENT WORK IN 1924 REVIEWED

Minnesota's county agent service, now in the twelfth year of its operation, moved forward to new heights of achievement in 1924.

F. E. Balmer, state county agent leader, says that practically one million instances of service were extended by Minnesota county agents in their work in 1924. This means an average of approximately 50 instances of service by each agent each day of the 300 working days of the year, a result readily achieved where work is well organized and the people served largely through groups.

Summarizing the annual reports of the county agents, Mr. Balmer and the assistant state leaders find that—

Soil demonstration work made distinct progress. Farmers co-operating in using limestone to correct soil acidity numbered 2,246 in 1924 as contrasted with 1,023 in 1923. Tons of limestone used by these farmers increased from 7,040 in 1923 to 20,096 in 1924. In addition, in 1924 a total of 975 farmers used 2,271 tons of commercial fertilizer in demonstration work and a total of 3,562 different farmers attempted improved practices relative to soil management.

Every county but one included alfalfa growing as an important project in its extension program. Farmers co-operating with county agents in alfalfa production numbered 8,029 in 1924 as against 5,696 in 1923. The area planted in direct co-operation with the county agent service increased from 26,289 acres in 1923 to 37,600 acres in 1924. Alfalfa is now grown on approximately 200,000 Minnesota acres. Sweet clover plantings increased in 1924 by 16,060 acres.

Livestock projects were emphasized in every county program. Nearly 6,500 farmers were aided in rationing livestock. More than 10,000 farmers were assisted in the testing of cattle for tuberculosis. Nine vaccination schools were organized in counties where outbreaks of hog cholera threatened, and 538 farmers were aided in vaccination for this disease. Active co-operation was given cow testing work, associations in counties employing county agents increasing from 46 in 1922 to 77 in 1924. County agents assisted in obtaining for farmers a total of 2,690 purebred sires, and helped to place high grade or purebred females on 1,830 different farms.

County agents report that 5,762 farmers co-operated in 1924 in clearing 31,079 acres of land. The agents helped to distribute 1,703,700 pounds of explosives. They also assisted in organizing 90 new co-operative associations having 20,134 members. The county agent service was an important factor in the signal achievements of boys' and girls' club work and local leader projects in 1924.

After a two-year trial Mr. Balmer says the new county extension law has furnished the best basis of operation yet employed in the state. County farm bureau executive committees continue to be potent factors in the promotion of extension projects. Because of the new law county commissioners have felt freer than ever before to use the county agent service. The average county appropriation for extension work in 1924 was slightly more than \$2,300 per county.

Another outstanding feature of the year was the enlarged participation of communities in extension projects as conducted through local leader groups, township or community farm bureau units, farmers' clubs, and other local organizations. County agents of high standard are employed. Fewer resignations occurred in 1924 than in any preceding year since the service was extended to all counties, in itself a decided gain contributing to the improvement of the service.

## STATE LEADER PLANS FOR HOME CONFERENCE

Tentative plans are developing for the home conference to be held at the Home Demonstration office, University Farm, March 2 to 7.

Miss Grace Frysinger from the office of co-operative extension work, United States Department of Agriculture, will be in attendance the entire week. Miss Frysinger always brings much helpful information, based on her experience in many states, and, in addition, inspires the home workers with renewed enthusiasm, vision and faith in their job.

One session will be devoted to consideration of the particular problems of urban home demonstration agents. If enough county home and community chairmen signify their intention to attend, a special session will be planned to discuss ways and means of strengthening the work.

Opportunity for gaining information as to recent developments in subject-matter lines will be provided for by setting aside three sessions for round table conference, one on foods and nutrition, another on home management, and the third on clothing and textiles.

Consideration of community activities, publicity, and a continuation of last year's study of means and agencies in extension work will be included.

Each agent will report on outstanding results of 1924, and discuss means and agencies by which they were obtained.

A detailed program will appear in the March issue of Extension Service News.

## THE RELATION OF EXTENSION WORKERS TO THE FARM BUREAU

(Some statements given at the annual meeting of the Farm Bureau Federation by Director F. W. Peck.)

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This agreement entailed the use of local farm organization funds, privately subscribed, in the support of an extension agent and program. This agent, however, was hired solely and specifically for educational work with all members of the public, whether members of the farm organization or not.

Public service can recognize no class or group or specific membership and continue to live by public support. We want increasingly to co-operate with all organizations and agencies, but we must serve all interests.

The local dues, memberships, and collections are wholly outside of the province of the county agent. That portion of dues contributed to the extension service become public funds to be disbursed as provided by law. Only the local governing board of the county organization has a jurisdiction over the remainder which is entirely a private association fund and is now placed in a separate farm bureau budget.

Can any large group of people be permanently organized with a function of public educational improvement, on the basis of personal economic gain or class development, or is it true and fundamental that the general good to the industry should be the basis of appeal?

The local, state, and national executive bodies can do many things with their own membership and private association funds for which the county agent, for example, cannot assume any responsibility. This is because the county agent is a publicly supported agent and not a farm organization employee. The funds set aside for other than co-operative extension work can be used as the governing officers dictate. This is as it should be for any group using its own funds should not be expected to depend on any public educational officer for carrying out any commercial or promotional enterprise.

You recognize, I am sure, that there is a fundamental difference between the business management of a farm organization and the county agent who is hired to serve all agricultural interests in a public way. For example, many people confuse the county farm bureau and the extension service in commercial and even semi-political activities.

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FEBRUARY, 1925

### WALKED MILES DAILY TO KEEP FIRE GOING

Use of the pedometer showed that one woman in a home management project traveled three and one-half miles daily in carrying cobs for her kitchen stove. This demonstration resulted in the perfection of a plan by which a large supply of the home-produced fuel was brought to the house by other than woman power.

A home demonstrator in the study of the task of breadmaking found that she saved 10 minutes in the operation if she used the bread mixer instead of making it by hand. The bread was just as good as that made by hand, and the work much easier. Another woman found that by making a study of the simple matter of sweeping her kitchen she saved 30 minutes a week, or 24 hours a year.

Lac qui Parle local leaders, at the last meeting of the training class in home management conducted by the state specialist, Mary L. Bull, decided to hold meetings once a month until May when they will have an Achievement Day.

Mrs. Yeager and Miss Miller, from the Dawson training class; Mrs. Hagge and Mrs. S. Roise of the Madison training class, and Mrs. Tenney, a member of the farm bureau board, were selected as a general committee to act with County Agent Patterson to outline plans for the day and appoint the necessary committees to work with local leaders and group members.

### COLT PROJECT ADDED TO CLUB WORK FOR 1925

Minnesota farm juniors will have a chance to tell "How I Raised My Colt," a colt project having been added by the state club committee to the regular club projects. At a recent meeting at University Farm the committee went on record as favoring such a project provided the counties entering it be limited to 12 the first year. A special committee was appointed to prepare the rules for the project. The Minnesota Horse Breeders' association has offered to pay for special educational trips for the winners.

This will be a county project and will culminate at county fairs.

Dairy calf club representation from each county to the State Fair was put on the following new basis: Eight enrollments, one representative and calf; 15 enrollments, two representatives and two calves; 25 enrollments, three representatives and three calves; 35 enrollments, four juniors and three calves; 50 enrollments, five juniors and three calves. The county herd group was reduced from five calves to three.

Upon vote the minimum requirement in the poultry project (three settings of 13 or 15 eggs each) was left unchanged, but the requirement for five settings, in order to compete at the Junior Livestock Show, was dropped. The rule requiring an exhibit of 10 cockerels was changed to five cockerels.

The minimum age limit in competition for interstate trips was placed at 14 years. The minimum age limit for club members competing for state trips was left unchanged.

### GOOD YEAR FORESEEN FOR ALFALFA PROJECT

The Goodhue county agent says the alfalfa acreage in his county will be increased at least 150 per cent in 1925. The project is one of the most popular the county has known, he says.

Many calls are coming in for alfalfa for next season's seeding, says the agent in Le Sueur county, thus showing that the work in this line in 1924 was satisfactory both as to quality and price of seed.

From East Ottertail county the agent reports that a 30,000-pound car of Grimm alfalfa seed has been ordered and it is hoped to distribute it all within the county.

Tentative plans have been made for a full carload of seed for Sherburne county, says the agent.

Pennington county growers have ordered a car of 30,000 pounds of alfalfa seed for delivery the middle of February. They will pay 45 cents a pound for pure Grimm seed.

S. A. Aldrich, agent for Carlton county, reports a successful alfalfa campaign the week of January 19 to 24. Meetings were held at various points in the county. The Barnum Herald issued an alfalfa edition, and merchants of Barnum, Moose Lake, and Kettle River had attractive window displays featuring the alfalfa plant.

Orders for alfalfa seed have already been assembled in Aitkin county and prospects for an active campaign are good, says A. W. Jacob. Farmers who grew alfalfa last year are giving information drawn from their own experience as to feeding values. This will be used for publicity purposes.

Roseau county farmers are ordering their alfalfa seed through the Pennington county farm bureau.

### Mrs. Gregg Joins Staff

Mrs. Mary Gregg, former home demonstration agent in Marshall county, Iowa, has been secured to serve as half-time home agent in Ramsey county. Mrs. Gregg began work February 1.

### POINTS FROM FARRELL'S ADDRESS ON PUBLICITY

"There is one other thing I would like to bring to your attention, and that is the tendency we have to gobble up the credit. I hang up on a hook in my office all the rich and rare specimens collected and I have one down there now.

County agent in the course of a single year in the annual report had done everything worth while in that county. He was intending to do good, but the fact of the matter was he was overanxious in selling that job. This is a hard trait to overcome. The Department of Agriculture is guilty. I think we have it in our extension service a good deal. I think we can correct that a little bit.

"Another thing I see in publicity material is that the most difficult step we have to take when we are writing is to remember that the editor is writing this; that the editor is the newspaper; that the newspaper says so. We write as if the county agent or extension man is the owner of the newspaper. Write it from what the newspaper says about your job and be conservative in it.

"I don't believe personally that a man can go around with a crippled Ford and he himself looking as though he had been left out all night. I don't believe that fellow or woman is a good publicity person. I don't believe he can get by as the man who commands the respect of the public in the county. A good clean office and personality are publicity features. I don't know whether it is absolutely essential, but a county agent's office is a picture. I can tell one. You see a lot of wisps of grain crossed, a picture of a good sized bull, three or four bags of seed, a blown out tire and chains, and on his desk a perfect filing system. You know what I would do? Instead of a wastebasket, I would have a barrel and I would file regularly in the morning. Maybe there is something in piling up the newspapers, that probably will be referred to some time next winter. The thing I would do is to take a chance and put them in the barrel.

"The people of this country are trying to determine what kind of a person the county agent is. They are wondering if he is a good hired man, a good mechanic, whether he is a horse doctor, or whether he is a real professional man. I think they are going to determine his salary after they determine what he is. We lose sight of the fact a good many times that we are professional men. Our attitude toward our office, or our machine, or our general makeup is not professional."

### New Agent in Renville

Commissioners of Renville county having renewed the appropriation for county agent service, E. N. Johnson was elected to the office and entered upon the discharge of his duties January 15. Mr. Johnson was graduated from the Minnesota College of Agriculture, class of 1917, and for seven years has been teaching agriculture in high schools. He resigned his position in the high school at Sleepy Eye to accept the Renville county appointment.

## CORN CLUB WINNER GROWS 81.4 BU. AN ACRE

William Lord, 14 year-old farm boy of Walnut Grove, Redwood county, was the state champion junior corn club member in 1924, according to findings of T. A. Erickson, state club leader, and his assistants. The boy produced an average of 81.41 bushels of dry corn to the acre on a five-acre patch.

Roy Johnson of Northfield was the "runner-up," or reserve state champion, and first in the single-acre event in the central section, with a yield of 84.63 bushels. Paul Palmer of Excelsior was second. The five-acre contest for the central section was won by Melvin Hermanson of Boyd, Lac qui Parle county, with an average yield of 66.54 bushels to the acre. Alfred Aselson of Northfield scored second.

Lee DeGriselles of Pipestone won first prize in the acre contest in the southern section. His yield was 78.58 bushels to the acre. Ole Legvold of Walnut Grove was a close second. Casius French of Le Sueur won the five-acre contest for the southern section with a yield of 75.67 bushels an acre. Clayton Evanson of Fairmont was second.

Only the single-acre project was given attention in the northern section. Joseph Kopecky of Angus, Polk county, had the best yield, 46.11 bushels. Chauncey Johnson of Detroit came second.

In his story of "How I Made My Crop of Corn," William Lord attributes his success to the fact that he planted 100 per cent ear tested seed on rich land plowed and pulverized until it was almost like a garden and cultivated four times during the season. Selecting 20 bushels of seed corn, young Lord puts a valuation of \$427.05 on all his corn, both common and seed, and after subtracting costs of production figures his profits at \$382.35.

Juniors from 47 counties took part in corn club work last year. Corn clubs enrolled 441 members as against 295 members in 1923, a gain of more than 66 per cent. One hundred one members took part in some state exhibit and thereby completed the year's program of work.

Various interests combined to give added impetus to the corn club project in 1924, and had weather conditions been favorable some 100 bushel yields to the acre might have been reported. Under the circumstances, it is regarded remarkable that so many boys were able to produce 70 bushels and upwards to the acre.

The Minneapolis Civic and Commerce association gave \$500 and the St. Paul association \$250 for prizes on yields, and the Minnesota Crop Improvement association gave \$200, and the State Fair management \$150 for prizes on exhibits. The South St. Paul Stockyards company will provide funds for several educational trips, and The Farmer of St. Paul will give medals of merit to all lads who grew 50 bushels or more of corn to the acre in the southern section, 45 bushels or over in the central section, and 29 bushels or more in the northern section. Fifty-three such medals will be awarded. The State Fair management will provide free transportation and maintenance for the week of the State Fair to about 20 boys who did the best corn work in their respective counties.

## Local Leaders Learning to Refinish Furniture



"It was an off corn year and the effects were only too evident near the close of the contest when many were forced to drop out by conditions beyond their control," says the state leader. "However, we feel that it was a year of remarkable progress and that the outlook for 1925 is decidedly encouraging."

### HOME PROJECT WORK GAINS IN BLUE EARTH

In Blue Earth county, where Miss Eva Blair is home agent, the home project work is gaining interest, as a report from the South Lincoln group shows. Real enthusiasm was shown at the last meeting. The group was very anxious to continue the work and every member present signed up for continuation work. This comes from Kennedy Bridge: "Local leaders held the meeting as usual, with very good results. Much interest is shown and all members want to continue; new members are joining and are getting the back work." From Mapleton this report comes: "The interest continues good and the spirit fine. Several groups are planning to hold additional meetings so as to be able to spend more time on work already taken up."

### COW TESTING RECORDS IMPRESS CLAIM AGENT

The value of having cow testing association records was illustrated in quite a different way in Winona county recently. According to J. B. McNulty, the county agent, a farmer had two heifers, each about 18 months of age, killed on a railroad crossing. One was from a dam which, under test in 1923, produced 11,874 pounds of milk containing 419 pounds of butterfat. The farmer submitted a claim for \$100 on the heifer out of the cow with the record and \$50 for the one from a cow having no record. The railroad agent acknowledged the justice of the claim for the \$100 animal, but would pay only \$40 for the other. In a note to the county agent the farmer said: "I got \$140 for the two heifers. Without the cow testing association record I would not have obtained more than \$80. Therefore, I am \$60 to the good for having my record."

Local leader training classes in home management have been doing good work and getting results at Pipestone and Ruthton in Pipestone county. Local leaders in the Ruthton class, shown in the picture above, are putting into practice instructions from the state specialist, Mary L. Bull, on refinishing furniture. Each leader is at work on an article which will be used later in presenting the subject to the local units.

"Isn't this grain pretty?" "I had no idea this old stand was of such good material." "I believe I'll give this an oil finish that brings out the grain so well." These and many kindred remarks from local leaders in the Ruthton class in home management show how interesting the work may be made. Old varnish, paint, and stains are removed and the surfaces rubbed smooth with sandpaper and steel wool.

Many unattractive and long banished pieces will be reclaimed and put to practical use as a result of the refinishing lessons.

### FARM LECTURE RADIO DATES FOR FEBRUARY

The agricultural radio committee announces that the following program will be presented by WCCO station from 8 to 8:30 Monday and Thursday nights during February. The talk by Prof. Andrew Boss will be given at 7:30 o'clock; all others at 8 and 8:15:

Monday, Feb. 2—"Radio and Agriculture", Walter C. Coffey, dean of the University Department of Agriculture.

Thursday, Feb. 5—"Outlook for Northwestern Agriculture in 1925", Andrew Boss, chief of the agronomy and farm management division, University Farm.

Monday, Feb. 9—(1) "Minnesota Poultry Problems", N. E. Chapman, extension specialist in poultry, University Farm. (2) "Testing Cows for Profit", E. A. Hanson, in charge of cow testing associations, extension division, University Farm.

Monday, Feb. 16—(1) "Poultry Feeding", N. E. Chapman. (2) "Care of Brood Sows", E. F. Ferrin, professor of animal husbandry, University Farm.

Thursday, Feb. 19—(1) "Beef Cattle Outlook", J. S. Montgomery, manager Central Co-operative Commission company. (2) "Feed Lot Problems", W. H. Peters, chief of division of animal husbandry, University Farm.

Monday, Feb. 23—(1) "Poultry Housing and Care", N. E. Chapman. (2) "Good Seed and Good Crops", Mr. Burnham of Northrup, King & Co.

Thursday, Feb. 26—(1) "Agricultural Legislation", (member of the state senate). (2) "Agricultural Legislation", (member of the house.)

## LOCAL LEADERS MAKE SUCCESS OF PROJECTS

Yellow Medicine and Fillmore counties completed the work of the first clothing project in January. In each it was the first project carried on under the local leader plan. The work was highly successful. In Yellow Medicine county 26 groups, with a total enrollment of 337, took part, while in Fillmore county there were 25 groups with a total enrollment of 354. Many of the leaders are planning to give the work to other groups before the specialist visits the county for the second clothing project.

Leaders have been very faithful in attending local leader training classes in spite of drifted roads and other obstacles. Mrs. Horihan of Fillmore county, who was unable to get to the meeting over the regular route on account of snow-drifts, drove 38 miles in order to reach Preston for the local leader training class. Leaders from two other groups, in order to make train connections, were obliged to spend two nights in Preston while they were in attendance at the local leader training class.

Yellow Medicine county boasts of six home economics trained women as leaders in the clothing project. One of the leaders studied in Germany and took design in New York City. She exhibited a sampler showing expert darning in which the weaves of different fabrics and the knitting of the stocking were duplicated by the needle.

Both countries are making plans for Achievement Days and for carrying on other home projects.

## COW TESTING BOOTH PUTS THE IDEA OVER

The three testers in Martin county are satisfied that a cow test association booth at the county fair is a good way to present the benefits of testing to a large number of people in a comparatively short time. They tried out the plan last fall and were greatly pleased with the results. Bulletins and pamphlets relating to alfalfa and soybean growing, better feeding, and adequate testing were distributed free. Signs giving 13 reasons for joining a test association and comparing alfalfa with timothy hay for milk production were conspicuously displayed.

### Nine Cents a Dozen More

Egg marketing association co-operators in Roseau county have reason to be well pleased with results so far, says Agent J. W. Taylor. Prices realized by the association have been averaging 9 cents a dozen over the local market.

### Short Courses for Gardeners

Kirkpatrick of Hennepin and Freeman of Ramsey county will hold four one-day meetings, two in each county, for the benefit of vegetable growers. Men from University Farm will help present the program.

### Dairymen Organize to Test

Farmers about Moose Lake, Carlton county, have organized a cow testing association.

## 10 MORE SCHOLARSHIPS FOR CLUB BOYS-GIRLS

From funds left the University of Minnesota by the late Caleb Dorr of Minneapolis scholarships of \$100 each will be awarded yearly to ten farm club boys and girls to be used by them in the Minnesota School of Agriculture at University Farm. Awards have just been made for the school year beginning next October, as follows:

Elmer Lidke, Fairmont, Martin county.  
Edgar Bachtle, Easton, Faribault county.  
Lee DeGriselles, Pipestone, Pipestone county.  
Gerritt Douwsma, Milaca, Mille Lacs county.  
John P. Jones, Oak Park, Benton county.  
Vera Fisk, Jeffers, Cottonwood county.  
Lee Fullerton, Faribault, Rice county.  
Fremont Deeters, Eitzen, Houston county.  
Julia Reiling, Como Station, St. Paul.  
Myrtle Hunstad, Butterfield, Watonwan county.

The scholarships are a development of the leadership club project which was organized for older boys and girls by T. A. Erickson, the Minnesota state leader, through the agricultural extension service. Juniors to be eligible must have been club members three years, in leadership work last year, and have to their credit some outstanding achievement in club activities.

## FLOCK OF 187 EWES BRINGS OWNER \$2,000

From a flock of 187 ewes William Ash of St. Vincent took in \$2,000 last year, says County Agent M. A. Thorfinnson of Kittson county.

The wool clip weighed 1,550 pounds and sold for \$484. The receipts from the marketing of fat lambs, culls and old ewes amounted to \$1,613.52, making a total of \$2,097.52 from the flock. Fifteen ewe lambs were kept to replace older stock.

Mr. Ash grows sweet clover for both hay and pasture and pins his faith to sheep and sweet clover as a money making combination.

### Sugar Beets as Cash Crop

Up to December 24 Pennington county growers had shipped 108 cars of sugar beets. This amounted to approximately 5,500 tons which brought on an average \$7 a ton. Pennington county has been allotted 800 acres of beets again this year. It is expected the new sugar plant at East Grand Forks will be ready to receive the new crop.

## DISTRICT CONFERENCES

Dates for four district meetings of county agents and other extension workers have been arranged as follows:

Duluth (northeast district), April 21 and 22.

Morris (northwest district), April 23 and 24.

Mankato (southwest district), April 28 and 29.

Owatonna (southeast district), April 30 and May 1.

Look for further notice in the March issue.

## EGG LAYING STANDARD EQUALED BY 10 FLOCKS

Co-operators in the poultry record farms project show a good production for November. The highest production for that month was 11.5 eggs per hen, laid by the 208 Single Comb White Leghorns owned by Hugo Johnson of Chisago county. The standard production for November, according to the Reliable Poultry Journal, is four eggs per hen. This standard is based on a production of 130 eggs per hen yearly. Ten of the 22 flocks, from which records for November were received, reached or surpassed this standard.

Records have been received from 38 co-operators in 15 counties. These flocks contain 7,642 hens and pullets and are divided by breeds as follows: Sixteen Single Comb White Leghorns; one Brown Leghorns; one Buff Leghorns; five Barred Rocks; one Partridge Rocks; three White Wyandottes; one Rhode Island Reds, and one Buff Orpingtons. Seven have two or more breeds and two have mixed flocks. Of the 10 highest flocks for November, five were Single Comb White Leghorns, and the other five were Barred Rocks, Rhode Island Reds, and Buff Orpingtons.

This work is under the supervision of county agents in the counties where it is carried on, with some assistance from the poultry specialists. A monthly summary will be sent to county agents and co-operators, showing production of the 10 highest flocks for the month, and from time to time a report will be made showing total production and returns.

### For Crop Improvement

Extension people in Fillmore county have made preliminary plans for a county crop improvement association to test new and improved varieties, such as Gopher oats and Winona flax. Several co-operators have already signed up to grow Gopher oats.

### Reward Money Posted

Farm bureau directors of Brown county announce that a standing reward of \$100 will be paid for information which will lead to the arrest and conviction of anyone stealing personal property from any farm in the county.

### 800 Attend Annual Meeting

Eight hundred persons, among them 100 business men, attended the annual meeting of the Brown County Farm Bureau at Sleepy Eye. Six hundred fifty men and women sat down to the noon hour lunch as guests of the business men of the place.

### Another in Scott County

An outstanding piece of extension work in Scott county in December was the organization of Cow Testing Association No. 2, reports Agent John Sheay.

### Sheldon on History

"Making Local History Vital to the Community" was the subject of a discussion led by County Agent Lynn Sheldon of Redwood county before the annual meeting of the State Historical Society in St. Paul January 19.