

# MINNESOTA EXTENSION SERVICE NEWS



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## Kittson Attains High Standard in County Extension Movement

A study of the progress of county agent work in Kittson county covering a period of seven years was made by F. E. Balmer, county agent leader, in the summer of 1924. An account of this progress was reported in a feature article of *The Farmer* of November 8, 1924. After making this study, Mr. Balmer was more convinced than ever that counties without county agent work organized and maintained on a substantial basis, such as in Kittson county, were decided losers. He raised the question whether counties without county agents can show such progress in agricultural development as is evident in Kittson and other counties where the service has been substantially organized and regularly maintained.

Some of the outstanding factors that have contributed to the success of the work in Kittson county and are important lessons for both counties with and without county agent service, are:

1. Many of the leading and substantial farmers of the county from the outset have consistently stood back of the movement and endeavored to extend its usefulness. They exercised the leadership to develop the farm bureau, farmers' clubs, boys' and girls' clubs, co-operative marketing organizations and the like.

2. Likewise the board of county commissioners personally and officially have consistently supported and promoted the movement from the time of its introduction into the county. In recent years the county board has appropriated from \$2,000 to \$3,500 annually in support of county extension work.

3. A first class county agent was employed in the beginning and was retained for as long a time as possible, namely, seven years. The agent in this case wasn't lost to another county after having been given the training necessary to do the job.

4. The county agent position through well-earned advances from time to time has been made more attractive to correspond to the agent's greater value to the county.

5. When the first county agent resigned, those charged with the responsibility to hire another secured the most promising man available as successor.

6. Competent office assistance has been employed regularly from the beginning to handle correspondence, telephone calls, routine office work and records, to answer requests of office callers in the absence of the agent and in general to have charge of the office wherein the "facts pertaining to the agriculture of the region are assembled and where they are available for the use of any person who desires them." In 1923, for example, the office calls numbered 3,200, telephone calls 1,950,

letters written 4,850, and circular letters prepared 6,300.

7. Convenient and adequate office quarters have been maintained. These quarters consist of two well lighted offices, one for the assistant equipped for the clerical work, the second with the necessary equipment for the work of the agent, committee meetings and the like. Adjoining these is an ample store room. The offices and store room throughout are orderly and any important material connected with any phase of the work from the time the work started in the county can be readily found. The atmosphere of the office throughout is business-like.

8. The well organized and smooth running office releases the agent for maximum field service. Extensive field work characterizes the Kittson county extension service. Farm visits annually during a period of six years ranged from 600 to 1,900 per year, meetings attended from 85 to 200 each year. As a result the work has been well projected into the various sections of the county.

9. A well balanced and practical program of work has been organized each year, dealing not only with the major farm enterprises of the county, but also with the needs and interests of the farm women and the farm girls and boys. In addition the extension work has been localized so far as practicable by communities and townships with local organizations and leaders sharing responsibility for the work with the agent.

10. The extension service in Kittson county has not hidden its light under a bushel. The people of the county and the public at large have had a chance to learn of the success of the movement. This has been done by supplying live news service regularly to the press of the county, contributing feature articles to farm journals, and extending project activities so that they culminated in regional and state-wide events such as the Crookston winter shows, the Minnesota State fair, the Junior Livestock show, the Inter-State fair, and the like.

Other factors explained by Mr. Balmer have contributed to the success of the Kittson county work, but the foregoing sets forth some fundamentals or ideals that have made possible the immense accumulation of good results that have been gathering momentum in Kittson county.

### Two at 'Frisco Convention

Miss Bessie Willis, state clothing specialist, and Miss Lois Reid, St. Paul home demonstration agent, are attending the annual meeting of the American Home Economics association in San Francisco.

### Guernseys in Demand

Guernsey breeders in Pennington county were well pleased with the results of their annual sale. One hundred three animals sold for an average sum of \$83.48, or more than \$8,500.

## Cow Testing Work On New Plan Tried Out in St. Louis Co.

In co-operation with the extension service a new type of cow testing work is being developed in South St. Louis county. In April the directors of the St. Louis County Club and farm bureau authorized the use of county extension funds at the rate of \$50 a month for each of three associations, two in the south end and one in the north end of the county. After consulting with E. A. Hanson, in charge of cow testing work, and others it was decided to try a special form of testing in the case of the two associations authorized in South St. Louis. The plan was to have one tester handle both associations and include from 50 to 70 herds in this testing. This would be made possible by having the farmers take their own weights and tests under the direction of the tester.

Ben Fisher was engaged as tester to start May 1. He followed the plan of visiting each herd and taking the tests himself in the usual way the first month, instructing the farmer on the method of handling it next time. County Agent Aamodt visited the territory in advance of Mr. Fisher and secured herds so that the tester was kept busy testing the herds as they were added to the list. For the second and later months' testing, Mr. Fisher follows the plan of visiting the farm during the day, leaving the test bottles and record blanks together with a scale. The farmer takes his weights and samples at milking time that night and the next morning, and the samples and records are picked up the next day by Mr. Fisher. Results are mailed back to the farmer. This plan is working out in fine shape. Mr. Fisher arranges to take all new herds the first round and to test personally all herds occasionally as he has opportunity. There are now 50 or more herds included in the two associations and it is expected that the number will be increased to about 60.

The charge to the farmer is on a per cow basis. First cow is 50 cents a month and each additional cow 25 cents a month. This is paid quarterly in advance. A few of the herds are very small, and some are fairly large, the average being eight cows per herd. Total resources and expenses of the two associations are more than those of the average association. The tester is paid a somewhat higher salary than the average tester, but offsetting that is the fact that he does not live with association members. He is a married man and maintains a home where he does his testing and record work. The expenses also include mileage to the tester, as much traveling is required in distributing and collecting the sample bottles.

Organization of the two associations

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### POTATO BUYERS AND EXPERTS TOUR VALLEY

For the purpose of showing prospective potato buyers, especially buyers of certified seed potatoes, the great care with which Minnesota's product is guarded, also to stimulate interest among growers in putting out a product of the highest possible quality, R. C. Rose and A. G. Tolaas led the fourth annual state potato tour which started at Moorhead July 28 and terminated at Northcote July 31.

On the first day, the tourists ran into evidences of diseases—blackleg and rhizoctonia. J. G. Leach, a plant disease specialist of the university department of agriculture, who has been making a special study of blackleg, expressed the belief that the germs of that disease persist in the soil somewhat as flax-wilt germs do. He said, further, that the disease was also spread by the use of infected seed and by certain insects. He gave lectures on potato diseases along the way.

Tuesday was spent in Clay county; Wednesday in Norman and Polk counties; Thursday in Polk and Marshall, and Friday in Marshall and Kittson. In Clay county the tourists were especially interested in tests being made under the direction of the Moorhead Commercial Club to determine just what strains withstand disease best and yield most largely.

In the party were E. M. Page of the College of Agriculture of Missouri; Charles Metcalf, representing a large distributing house of St. Louis; C. L. Fitch of Iowa State College, who is making a study of Red river valley seed potatoes for use in his own state; H. O. Merrill, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, another large distributor; P. N. Davis of Hollandale, Minn., a grower and shipper of certified seed potatoes; several members of the department of agriculture of the University of Minnesota, representatives of the South Dakota potato industry and extension work, and many others.

#### Land Clearing Contest Entries Increase

Fifteen farmers had entered the land clearing contest in Lake of the Woods county when the agent wrote his report for April.

### GOPHER OATS, WINONA FLAX MEETING TEST

Gopher oats and Winona wilt resistant flax are making a splendid showing in variety demonstration plots on farms in six Minnesota counties, says R. F. Crim, crop specialist in charge. Certain farmers in Fillmore, Le Sueur, Watonwan, Brown, Cottonwood, and Redwood counties were furnished seed by the Minnesota station and planted it in strips alongside fields of their own grain. At the end of the season the improved varieties on these strips will be checked up and compared with the farmers' field varieties. The object is to create more interest in varieties of grains and seeds originated or improved by the University plant breeders. Mr. Crim reports that Winona flax is demonstrating its wilt resistant qualities alongside of flax varieties that have suffered severely. Gopher oats is also showing its ability to stand up well on rich soil and promises yields which will compare very favorably with those of last year.

### Dozen Attributes of The Ideal Extension Worker

- Abounding Faith**  
in the importance of the work;
- Infinite Tact**  
in meeting trying situations;
- Unlimited Patience**  
in overcoming community inertia;
- Endless Good Nature**  
in the face of all trials;
- A Saving Sense of Humor**  
when nothing else will meet the situation;
- A Large Vision**  
of the work to be done;
- Ability to Lose Gracefully**  
and to rebound after each defeat;
- Indomitable Courage**  
in standing for the right;
- A Grim Determination**  
to see the work put through to its completion;
- A Contagious Enthusiasm**  
that inspires local leadership;
- Unquenchable Optimism**  
in spite of all Discouragements;
- Unreserved belief in the importance of the farm family to the commonwealth**  
—Dean Alfred Vivian, University of Ohio.

#### Weeds and Water Hurt Beets

Heavy rains took a big toll of the sugar beet acreage in Pennington county, says the agent. Fields could not be cultivated when needed; in consequence, weeds and water destroyed a large percentage of the acreage.

#### Sixteen in This Spray Ring

Sixteen farmers in Brown county have organized a ring for spraying their apple trees with a power sprayer. If the season's results are satisfactory several such outfits will be operated next year, says the agent. Practically no spraying at all has been done in the community.

### LOCAL LEADERS STUDY COMMUNITY RECREATION

Community recreation that is participated in by a lad of 17 and a man of 64 certainly seems to fulfill the requirements of meeting all ages.

This is what the Recreational Institute, conducted by the St. Louis County Club June 26-28, aimed to do and succeeded far beyond expectations.

Fifty communities sent delegates to the institute. These leaders were taught how to carry on various types of recreation, such as quiet indoor games, "ice breakers," pantomimes, simple dramas, community music, handicraft, novelty picnic games, championship tournaments in horseshoe, volley ball, baseball, and swimming. The people in charge of each phase always had in mind that the community leaders were there not to play and be amused, but to learn how to teach the various things to their own home groups.

J. R. Batchelor of the Playground and Recreation Association of America was the conductor of the institute. The presence of Miss Grace E. Frysinger of the United States Department of Agriculture, who was anxious to study this important type of extension service, was much appreciated. At her request the Department of Agriculture sent George Ackerman to take pictures of each phase of the work.

Aside from the great value of the institute from the standpoint of community development, it was a splendid example of co-operation. The vision of training local leaders in community recreation originated with Miss Anna Tikkanen, the home demonstration agent, and the plan was developed by the home and community section of the St. Louis County Club. When it came to carrying out the vision and the plan, the hearty co-operation of many agents and agencies made genuine success possible. County Agent August Neubauer; Club Leader Harold Aase, and the assistant club leader, Miss Bender; Mr. Marvin, recreational director of Duluth; Mr. Lippovetz, physical director of Chisholm; A. H. Lewis, physical director of Eveleth; Mr. Chase, superintendent of Camp Siegel; County Superintendent C. H. Barnes, besides many capable community leaders, worked together with fine spirit. The moral and spiritual development of individuals and of communities was at all times stressed as essential outgrowths of proper recreation.

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was completed July 17 and 18 with meetings at Twig and Meadowlands. Separate associations were formed, officers selected and the usual form of cow testing organization completed. The two associations co-operate in the employment of the tester and handling of finances.

The project is recognized in the county as a demonstration. Whether the two associations will wish to carry on the present arrangement after the first of the year, or whether they will separate into two associations of the usual type, remains to be seen. In either event, they are being given a splendid demonstration of effective testing, something that would have been difficult to work out as quickly without special assistance in this way.

## 17 PROJECT MEMBERS IN RAMSEY HELP 287

Real responsibility for sharing benefits with others was surely felt by a group of 17 Ramsey county women who started the nutrition project in February with Mrs. Mary Gregg, the home demonstration agent. When the four months' project was finished and reports were in the following interesting results were shown:

The 17 women represent six communities. Ninety-six families have shown greater interest in foods. Two hundred eighty-seven persons have been helped, and 273 have adopted suggestions. One hundred fifteen of these are children in the homes who are working on the posture exercises. Two children have been brought up to weight, and nine adults have improved their posture.

One hundred seventy-seven persons are using more milk, 202 more foods rich in iron, 150 more raw vegetables and fruits, and 199 are eating more vegetables, and 144 more whole grains.

## SWEET CLOVER AND ALFALFA GOING BIG

The sweet clover pasture campaign is going strong in Meeker county. "The largest area of sweet clover the county has ever known has been seeded; many farmers put in as high as 40 acres," says Agent W. K. Dyer. All the alfalfa planting enthusiasm was not used up in the big campaign of last year, for the agent reports that an additional large area has been seeded this year. Some of the fields which were cut very late a third time during the 1924 season suffered to some extent from winter killing.

### Potato Acreage Cut to One-Fourth

After the potato acreage in Kittson county had been reduced materially by the growers themselves, heavy rains came along and destroyed from 33 to 50 per cent of the crop. The actual acreage left is probably not more than 25 per cent of last year's, according to the county agent. Only 51 potato growers in the county have applied for inspection this year as compared to 71 last year. Their combined area of both Ohios and Cobblers amounts to 500 acres only as against more than 1,500 acres in 1924.

### Aitkin Shepherds Learning How

County Agent A. W. Jacob of Aitkin can trace many benefits to the organization of the Aitkin county wool pool six years ago. Quality of the fleeces has improved steadily, he says, with the result that a much higher standard of wool is being produced in Aitkin county. "Poor fleeces are the exception now," the agent says, "while five years ago the good fleeces were hard to find. Because of better feeding and management fleeces weigh from a pound to two pounds more than usual."

### Plan to Burn Peat

An interesting experiment will be tried out by a group of householders at North St. Paul next fall and winter. Supplies of peat have been located, a drying shed leased, and equipment secured for drying peat for next winter's fuel supply. The Ramsey county agent is helping the movement along.

## New Officers of the Junior State Club Association



Left to right: Ralph Phillips of Detroit, president; Evelyn Bergman of Markville, secretary-treasurer, and Lucy Palmer of Excelsior, chairman of the program committee.

## 3 CUTTINGS IN YEAR HELD ONE TOO MANY

Only two cuttings of alfalfa a year and careful pasturing of the third crop growth are recommended by Agent L. O. Jacob of Anoka who recently completed an inspection tour of fields in his county. He found that practically all fields where there had been late cutting or pasturing had winter killed to some extent, but that where a 6 to 12-inch growth was left no particular damage had been done. Another interesting fact, he says, was the severe winter killing of the late 1924 seeding, although many growers had perfect stands last fall. From his observations he deduces that only with favorable winters can late seeding be expected to survive.

"When the alfalfa project first began to receive serious attention in 1920 and 1921," says Mr. Jacob, "it seemed as though the extension service might have difficulty in securing general use of lime, inoculation and Grimm seed, a basic trio in growing this crop. Some fields at that time seemed to indicate that probably either one or two of these so-called essentials might not be necessary. Actual field results have since demonstrated that all three are necessary, and the idea seems to have been thoroughly sold to the farmers interested in this crop."

### Pets and Hobby Show Attracts

County Agent L. E. McMillan of Blue Earth believes that a pet and hobby show, put on recently by the Y. M. C. A. of Mankato, can be made very much worth while. The agent assisted in judging the ponies, dogs, chickens, guinea pigs, rabbits, and cats. Manual training exhibits, drawings and collections of curios and shells were features of the show.

### Heavy Traffic in Lime

In April eight carloads of lime, to correct soil acidity in preparation for seeding, were distributed among farmers of Pine county. The same month farmers of Chisago county invested in seven carloads.

The Minnesota State Boys' and Girls' Club association elected new officers and made new plans for achievements in 1925 at its annual meeting at University Farm junior short course week. Other officers in addition to those given are Irwin McKay of Delhi, vice president, and Jay Seymour of Eyota and Lucille Rowell of Farmington, members of the program committee. With the help of county agents and county club leaders the officers hope to organize county associations which will affiliate with the state organization.

## CLEARWATER CHILDREN EAGER FOR CLUB WORK

When he made up his February report County Agent A. A. Lund of Clearwater wrote: "I have 90 per cent more club membership requests in the office than for any year previous. I can recall nothing like it since extension work was started in the county. This early enrollment is going to be a great aid in working for a fine finish in projects and will give more time to coach the members. The 35 members in a new club at Bagley purpose to complete all project work and set a mark of 100 per cent. The grown-ups of the county are supporting club work as never before."

### Pocket Gophers a Plague

Nearly every alfalfa field in Stevens county has its pocket gopher colony, says I. W. Meade. Many of the farmers have begun a poisoning campaign. Printed information and verbal instructions regarding the proper placing of baits are being given.

### Hogging-Off Rotations Studied

Farms on which a continuous hogging-off rotation program is followed were toured by various farmers of Fillmore county on July 22. The attendance was good despite the busy season. Canadian field peas and oats, used in the rotation, were ripe at the time the tour was taken and were to be followed by Gehu flint corn. The demonstration, as well as the testimony of the owners, made an excellent impression. Various pure seed field plots were also inspected.

### SAMPSON NEW AGENT IN TRAVERSE COUNTY

Silas E. Sampson has been elected to succeed F. F. Moore as county agent of Traverse county and began his duties August 1.

After completing the course at the Minnesota School of Agriculture in 1915, Mr. Sampson operated a farm at Motley in southern Cass county for six years. He returned to the Minnesota Agricultural College in 1921 for further training and completed the college course this year, specializing in animal husbandry. The last three years he has had charge of the care and feeding of experimental beef cattle at University Farm. During the years he was farming, he was an active participant in the affairs of farmers' clubs, local cooperative business associations and similar organizations.

Mr. Moore, following six years of county agent service in Traverse county, joins Harry E. Kiger, also a former county agent of Traverse county, as a partner in the seed, feed and flour business, it being their purpose to operate like establishments, Mr. Kiger at Alexandria and Mr. Moore at Wheaton.

Traverse county, first in Minnesota to establish county agent service, has in a sense been a "pace-setter". Frank Marshall, the first county agent employed in Minnesota, Harry Kiger and Fred Moore made up a splendid line of capable county agents. The Traverse county committees in employing Mr. Sampson feel that they are prepared to maintain the high standard of performance started on September 1, 1912, and which has continued regularly since.

### ALFALFA BUILT UP BY LIMING PROCESS

That liming can be done successfully after alfalfa has started has been proven on the August Wickstrom farm near Pine City, says Agent W. F. Hammargren of Pine county. At the time of the renovation of the old seeding, says the agent, the alfalfa looked very sickly and yellow. At the check-up some time after the treatment the stand of alfalfa was estimated to be good for two and one-half tons of cured hay to the acre. "Results are very encouraging and we feel that we need not hesitate in advising the liming of fields," says the agent. Liming is shown to be of distinct advantage in Pine county. One example of many cited by the agent concerns the farm of J. F. Pehler where the limed areas yielded at the rate of two and one-half tons to the acre as against less than one-fourth ton on the unlimed tracts.

### Ten Boys Join Alfalfa Club

Ten boys of Winona county have enrolled in the alfalfa growing project. Winona firms are furnishing seed and limestone, and the Rotary and Kiwanis clubs are offering cash prizes and free railroad trips to the Junior Short Course as rewards. Soils are tested and general instruction furnished by the county agent.

### Ten Thousand at One Picnic

June picnics of farm bureau and county extension folk seem to have been well attended. The farm bureau picnic for Brown county was backed by the business men of Sleepy Eye and the attendance was estimated at 10,000, says Agent Willis Lawson. All business houses of Sleepy Eye were closed for most of the day. New Ulm sent two bands and Springfield one. A close second in point of attendance to this picnic was the one for Winona county, reported by County Agent McNulty. The attendance on this outing was estimated at 8,000 or better.

### Pays to Inoculate

In the Grygla district in Beltrami county one-half of a field of alfalfa was inoculated and the other half left without such treatment. The uninoculated part had only about one-third of a stand says the agent, with the plants weak and lacking thrift, whereas the inoculated fields showed at least a 90 per cent stand with splendid color. It was also noted, the agent adds, that wherever alfalfa seed was rolled in, either with a roller or planking float, the stands were much better.

### Marl and Lime Stimulate

Agent F. S. Idtse of Hubbard county says the university experiment plots show marked beneficial results from the application of marl and lime. The growth of sweet clover and alfalfa on these plots is much more uniform and vigorous, he says, than the growth on the untreated plots. Farmers of the county are adding 1,000 acres to the alfalfa growing area this year.

### Pyrotol Gets Monster Stump

Farmers attending a demonstration of pyrotol in Winona county were impressed when a stump about four feet in diameter, long a hindrance and an eye sore, was blown out at a cost of 75 cents. Old hands at the business said it would have taken a man about two days to have grubbed it out, provided a man could have been obtained for love or money to do the work.

### Potato Gets Real Surprise

Seed potatoes were brought in from miles around for a hot formaldehyde bath in a plant at Rich Valley, Dakota county. A stock tank and a boiler of a steam engine, a lever for the lowering and raising of the potatoes, and a stand for loading and unloading were the chief items of the plant. A flat rate of five cents a bushel was made.

### Nobody Overlooked

Extension people in Aitkin county will put out every quarter a bulletin of information on county agent work in order to reach farmers who are not subscribers to county papers. The first bulletin, issued in January, gives the program for 1925 and also discusses economic conditions with particular reference to Aitkin county. This practice is also being followed in Scott county. County Agent John Sheay is contributing editor of the Scott County Farm Bureau Member.

### LOCAL LEADER WORK IMPRESSES VISITOR

"Homemakers in the United States are most fortunate in that their government feels their problems are of enough importance for them to have federal and state aid in helping solve these problems," said Fru Maren Michelet, of Norway. Fru Michelet, who was one of the main speakers at the Norse Centennial, is the founder and president of an association of homemakers in Norway which has more than sixty local chapters and several thousand members. She spent several days studying home demonstration work in Minnesota in order that she might strengthen the Norwegian associations. She was intensely interested in the method of local leader work, which she felt was creating not only greater interest in the profession of homemaking, but was developing real leadership in community life.

### MOWER COUNTY LEADS BABY BEEF CONTEST

Mower county cattle growers, with seven carload entries of calves, lead cattle men of all other counties in the "Carload Baby Beef Contest" originated by the agricultural extension division of the university. Martin county is in second place with six carload lots entered, and Redwood and Nobles counties are tied for third place with five carloads each. Entries for 45 carloads have been received as this is written. With an average of 15 calves to the carload, 675 will take part in the contest.

### Waseca Dairymen Doing Well

Agent Henry Werner of Waseca says that reports from the nine creameries in the county show that farmers made money in dairying last year. Increased interest is being taken in better sires, higher producing cows, and better herd averages.

### Definite Results from Poultry Work

Looking for definite results from extension work? Then consider this one reported by Agent W. D. Stegner of Houston: One hundred eighty-two poultry houses remodeled or otherwise improved; 46 straw lofts installed, and 10 new houses completed.

### For More and Better Potatoes

Sensing the need for better potato seed stock, with only two men in his territory raising certified stuff, the east Ottertail agent induced several of the best farmers to purchase certified seed from the Potato Exchange.

### Sir Alfalfa Shows Supremacy

Sir Alfalfa is putting it over Sir Timothy in Houston county where most of the alfalfa fields, says the county agent, produced double the amount of hay at the first cutting than was secured from timothy. In many cases, the agent adds, the second crop of alfalfa was ready to cut within a month.

### Land Clearers Busy Again

Renewed interest in land clearing is reported by Roth of Crow Wing,