

MINNESOTA EXTENSION SERVICE NEWS

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Wadena County Board O K's Farm Program

A strong program for the advancement of the farming business of Wadena county was agreed upon through the action of the county extension committee and the board of county commissioners in session March 1 and 2. In connection with the presentation of plans of work submitted by County Agent W. A. Peters, the county extension committee and the entire county board thereafter reviewed in detail data which had been assembled setting forth the size of the farming business of the county, information on the crop and livestock production for the county at large and in terms of the average farm, and the annual gross returns from the agriculture of the county which approximate \$2,000,000 per year.

Particular consideration was given to certain definite problems of Wadena county agriculture based in part on the data referred to and otherwise apparent from observation. These major farm problems of the county were deemed to be as follows:

1. Land development.
2. The soil problem.
3. Liming and marl bed development.
4. Soil fertility and crop yields.
5. Tame vs. wild hay.
6. Crop rotations.
7. Annual seed needs.
8. Improved crop varieties.
9. The weed problem.
10. Seed producing opportunities.
11. Dairy improvement possibilities.
12. Increased livestock returns.
13. Boys' and girls' farm future.
14. Home projects.

Essentially the fundamental agricultural problem of the county relates to soil needs. As pointed out by S. A. Robertson, chairman of the county board, the ultimate success of farming in Wadena county will depend largely upon the intelligent development and cultivation of the soil. County Commissioners Clark Hastings and A. M. Anderson expressed particular interest in marl bed development, reclamation of peat soils, and the weed control program.

PUREBRED YORKSHIRES OFFERED AS PRIZES

Having inspired the organization of the first bacon type pig club in Minnesota, the George A. Hormel company of Austin recently announced that it will give purebred Yorkshire pigs to the club members making the best records at the State Fair in September and the Junior Livestock Show in November. These purebreds, it is said, will be worth about \$50 each. Sixteen boys are in the Hormel bacon pig club. Each received a purebred Yorkshire gilt on a share basis from the Hormel company, which is providing breeding stock for the young farmer in order to stimulate the production of bacon class hogs.

"EXTENSIONERS" PLAN HOUSE WARMING PARTY

Moving time nears. Opening the season, the extension forces on April 10 will begin moving their office effects and all appurtenances thereunto belonging to the new quarters on the third floor of Haecker hall, otherwise known as Dairy hall.

For the first time nearly all the extension workers will be housed on a single floor and under one roof—immediately under, in fact.

The new quarters are commodious and have been subdivided and arranged to good advantage.

In celebration of the new home the big extension family will have a house warming party on Saturday evening, April 10. Music, stunts of various kinds, and dancing will feature the evening. County agents and their wives and home agents are cordially invited to be present.

NATIONAL CLUB CAMP SCHEDULED FOR 1927

Minnesota, a leader in the leadership project of boys' and girls' club work, should and doubtless will be represented at the first annual national 4-H club camp to be held in Washington, D. C., June 15 to 22, 1927. Minnesota will be entitled to four and possibly six representatives.

The camp will be on the grounds of the Department of Agriculture in Washington. Club members and their leaders will live in tents. The department will furnish the camp, housing facilities and equipment free of charge; the different states must provide for the expenses of travel and subsistence of its delegates.

Each forenoon will be devoted to training in leadership and club objectives. Training in citizenship will be featured every afternoon, followed by visits to governmental institutions and places of historical interest. Entertainment will be provided for the evenings. When the weather conditions permit the Sylvan theater on the Washington monument grounds will be used for evening programs.

Directors of extension, including our own, were the pioneers of the movement for this national club camp. At their annual meeting last November they joined in a request to the United States Department of Agriculture to establish such a camp at the national capital.

The Joe Redder family of Ellsworth, Nobles county, keeps in the limelight by enrolling five children in club work.

Need of Leadership, Recreation Stressed at Home Conference

If we could stand upon some lofty hill above the hubbub of the every-day things in life, then we might grasp and express what the week of the home conference meant to us. One may sum up the material side of the gains we receive at such a time, but to measure the inspiration is an impossibility.

One of the strongest notes sounded in this conference was the need of leadership among farm people to carry on this community spirit which was our goal to arouse last year.

Never have we had as clear an understanding of what this leadership should be as we have now after the analysis of the attributes for a leader. Every worker can measure her own characteristics and find where she falls below the standard. The help given in analyzing projects and the need for the project in a county showed clearly to each one of us the need of long and short-time goals with definite standards to work toward. The importance of the need for recreation was taken into consideration in the carefully-planned program of the week and has given every worker an enthusiasm to see that the communities they come in contact with take this need in consideration in planning their extension program.

From the standpoint of the home and club chairmen this conference gave a broader vision and appreciation of the farm bureau and extension service co-operation and the opportunities offered farm people through this co-operation. A better acquaintanceship with state workers of extension and with active women of the state has been gained through the work and the recreational activities.

No county woman feels in doubt as to the part she must play in helping to put across the work in her community in order to help develop the home life of America to its maximum possibility.

The urban agents feel that, aside from the help of the whole conference which was applicable in most respects to urban workers as well as to county workers, the afternoon devoted to strictly urban problems was most helpful. The discussions of organization, the summer project work and the relation of social agencies to home demonstration work was of material benefit.

The extension staff, both resident and rural, gaining from this conference a clearness of plan, a renewal of enthusiasm and a vision from contact with leadership which inspires, can now carry on with unreserved belief in the importance of the farm family to the commonwealth.

While the message of the week made its appeal to each of us in our role of leader-

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APRIL, 1926

FARMERS' INSTITUTES

The series of recent Farmers' Institutes has been termed the most successful, considering the entire series, of any held in late years.

Sixty one-day meetings were held, with a total attendance of 9,706, or an average attendance per meeting of 162. The attendance ranged from 29 at an afternoon meeting in Martin county to 350 at an afternoon meeting in Scott county. There were also several other meetings approximating the larger attendance in other counties.

Of the 60 institutes 48 were held in counties with agents. In 12 counties there were two-day institute meetings. Altogether 45 counties were represented.

The average attendance of 162 per meeting represented an increase of 30 per cent over the attendance in 1925. The speakers reported much better interest and indicated a prevailing practice of more discussion from the farmers than in previous years.

We take it this is a good indication of the value of this particular type of service when the speakers are farmers direct from their own successful experiences, thereby promoting confidence in the type of material which is presented.

HOW COLONEL HOUSE DID IT

"It has been my habit," writes Colonel House, "to put some one else nominally at the head, so that I could do the real work undisturbed by the demands which are made upon a chairman."

In the days between 1892 and 1902 House was a great political power in Texas, the actual, if not the nominal, manager of the political campaigns of one successful candidate for governor after another. He himself might have been governor, it is said, and later when he became a power in national politics, he might have had a cabinet position or other high office. Instead, he chose to work in an entirely unofficial capacity undisturbed by the demands which are made upon a chairman.

The regulation which prohibits county agents from holding office in business organizations is sometimes looked upon as a piece of red tape which serves only to hamper their actions. Yet, the regulation

is based upon the experience of many cases which indicate that the county agent is freer to go about a larger leadership if he is unhampered by official connection. County fairs frequently raise the question why the county agent should not serve as secretary, losing sight of the fact that the agent can usually be far more effective in securing exhibitors, assisting with boys' and girls' club work, encouraging community booths, co-operating with judges, and in other ways, than if he is tied down to the detail and the responsibility of the secretary's position. The successful county agents have a large measure of Colonel House's system in their methods—let the other fellow have the honor of the office, but work through them.

RARE OPPORTUNITY TO STUDY CO-OPERATION

County agents, farm bureau officials, operators of creameries, managers of elevators—all persons, in fact, interested in co-operative business dealing—will have a wonderful opportunity to study co-operative methods and enterprises at the second annual summer session of the American Institute of Co-operation which will be held at University Farm, St. Paul, for four weeks beginning June 21. Separate courses of from three to six days duration will be given for the study of the co-operative marketing of grain, dairy products, livestock, eggs and potatoes. Tobacco, cotton, fruit and vegetable marketing will also have places on the program.

Classes for regular instruction in co-operative marketing will be held the first two hours of the day. The remainder of the forenoon and the afternoon hours from 2 to 4:30 will be used for addresses by noted authorities from all parts of the country and for roundtable discussions led by specialists.

Committee men at University Farm have already drawn up tentative programs for short courses in the management of farmers' elevators and co-operative dairy enterprises. Persons interested can attend these courses and meetings by registering and paying a nominal fee. There will be no charge for general evening meetings.

The American Institute of Co-operation is of recent origin and its first session was held last summer at the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia.

MATERIAL RELATING TO FARM HORSES

Our attention has been called recently to Circular 159 from the Horse Association of America dealing with the situation that exists in connection with the horse industry. We believe this material could well be studied by each county agent, and plans laid for a definite extension project looking towards an increase in the number of colts of the right type and breeding in order to take care of the farm labor requirements that we will surely face in the next few years. We anticipate that interest in horse breeding and in methods of obtaining better colts will increase as the shortage becomes more apparent and prices of good work stock improve.

"FOREST WEEK" SET FOR APRIL 18 TO 24

President Coolidge has designated April 18 to 24, inclusive, as American Forest Week.

"Too long have we as a nation consumed our forest wealth, without adequate provision for its wise utilization and renewal," he says. "But a gratifying change is taking place in the attitude of our industries, our land owners, and the American people towards our forests."

The Canadian government has also appointed April 18-24 for Canada's annual forest week, thus unifying the efforts of the two countries.

As this is written it is said that Governor Christianson will proclaim Friday, April 23, as Arbor Day in Minnesota. Groups of citizens and children in school will be urged not only to hold exercises commemorative of the day, but to plant trees and shrubs for improvement and utility. It is felt that the movement will be more general in Minnesota this year than ever before.

Parker Anderson, extension forester, says the university's station at Cloquet will furnish 41,000 trees this spring to co-operative windbreak demonstrators for new windbreaks and shelterbelts or for replacements in those already established. The trees will be supplied at the uniform price of \$1 a hundred plus the transportation charges from Cloquet.

WOMEN OF SHERBURNE PUSH SECOND PROJECT

Raymond Aune, agent in Sherburne county, in co-operation with the home office in extension is conducting Home Management II with a group of 44 local leaders from 22 communities and an enrollment of 326 women. The training meetings conducted by Miss Bull are held at Princeton, Becker and Elk River, as were those in Home Management I which was completed in January.

Mr. Aune is to be congratulated on the splendid way in which the women of the county have co-operated in carrying on the project. A check up on Management I shows that more than 80 per cent of individual final reports were in his office at the beginning of the second project.

Home Management II deals largely with a study of homemakers' time schedule, the living room, sleeping room, and refinishing of furniture.

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ship, we recognize that there must be *followship* as Director Peck pointed out in his talk to us. We realize that we are members in this followship program inspired to carry on the work under leaders of broad vision, high aspiration, and, most of all, with the ability to appreciate what each one of us contributes in our united effort to make a richer home life in America.

By the Committee:

Ethyte M. Turner, Home Agent,
Steele County
Mrs. E. V. Ripley, Minnesota Farm
Bureau Federation
Inez Hobart, Nutrition Specialist
Clover Sabin, Urban Agent, Duluth

Ferrin Gives Advice on Swine Production

Prof. E. F. Ferrin of the animal husbandry division at University Farm made so many good points in his talk to county agents on swine feeding in Minnesota that it is impossible to list them in the space available here. Following were some of his conclusions:

Swine production should be a regular part of the farm program; no hit and miss affair, but planned to fit into other operations with little variation in the number of hogs grown from year to year.

If only one crop of pigs per year is raised, they can be produced cheapest from gilts which farrow when they are approximately one year of age.

Lots adjoining the farrowing pens should be small in size and concreted in order that they may be kept more nearly free of disease germs and parasites than is possible with dirt lots.

Use of movable houses, with sows farrowing in clean pastures, is the most satisfactory plan from the standpoint of sanitation.

"I want to commend county agents who are putting on demonstrations of the McLean county system. This is the only way swine producers can be made to appreciate the immense losses suffered from worms and diseases of the filth type and to recognize the possibility of avoiding these losses."

Rape, mixture of oats, peas and rape, rye for early spring and late fall grazing, with some use of blue grass or alfalfa, is the logical forage plan.

The sow and her litter should be fed generously. Pigs which grow rapidly have more resistance to parasites and diseases, stand weaning better and are less likely to become runty than pigs which grow slowly.

Milk is a splendid feed for young pigs; it goes a long way to correct the deficiencies of the average ration.

Growing pigs can be kept thrifty by feeding not less than a half feed of grain—two pounds of feed daily per 100 pounds live weight of the pigs.

Milk is first among the high protein feeds, tankage second, and linseed meal a poor third.

A last word—watch the markets. Unless feeds are cheap it no longer pays to sell a heavy hog. Lard is not in sufficient demand to justify a high finish.

Pig packers are looking for butcher class material suitable for the sale of pork loins and the curing of hams weighing 10 to 12 pounds and sides of bacon showing a good proportion of lean.

Juniors Set Good Example

The community of North Star in Kittson county has a new farmers' club which meets regularly every month. The young people of the neighborhood first set a good example by organizing a club of their own. The older people saw the point and in course of time and with the help of the juniors organized a club, too. Now young and old are pulling for the community by building up a co-operative spirit and strengthening the bonds of friendship.

The Country Bookshelf

Crop Production, Soil Management

Methods used by successful farmers in the northern and corn belt states in crop production and soil management are discussed in detail in a recent addition to the Wiley Farm Series, which bears the title "Crop Production and Soil Management." The author is Joseph F. Cox, professor of farm crops of the Michigan Agricultural College and head of the farm crops section of the Michigan Experiment Station. Practices which have been developed on the farm or which have been contributed by scientific investigations, bearing on the reduction of costs, the improvement of the market quality of crop products, and the maintenance of soil fertility, receive emphasis.

The book is divided into two parts. Part I dealing with operations which the farmer performs in growing crops and in maintaining fertility, and Part II discussing the growing of specific crops. At the close of each chapter, under the heading "General Information," are included facts and related knowledge such as give the reader a broader point of view.

The discussions are clearly presented and are supplemented by pictures, charts, and tables of great value. An interesting feature in this, as in other books of the series, is provision for community surveys in order to develop information of local value in conjunction with that covered by the various chapters.

The publishers of the book are John Wiley & Sons, Inc., New York.

Science and Art of Poultry-Raising

Poultry-raising as a science and as an art is discussed with great thoroughness in "Practical Poultry Management" by James E. Rice, professor and head of the department of poultry husbandry, and Harold E. Botsford,

extension professor of poultry husbandry, Cornell university; published by John Wiley & Sons, Inc., New York, in the Wiley Farm Series.

The book is crammed with suggestions for the poultryman, whether he is operating on a commercial scale or merely caring for a small flock as a side-line. It opens with a chapter on culling as a factor of prime importance, and then develops the general subject in a seasonal sequence.

Pictures, diagrams, charts, and other illustrative material are used in great profusion, not with the idea of attracting attention merely, but for the conveying of explicit information.

To the layman the book, in fact, looks like about the "last word" in the literature of poultry raising. At least, it contains a wealth of material, simply stated for the average rather than for the technical reader.

Consumer's Place In Farm Marketing

"The consumer dictates both production and price," says James E. Boyle in his new book, "Marketing of Agricultural Products," just issued by the McGraw-Hill Book company, Inc., New York. This statement of the author does not apply to agricultural products alone; he means it to apply to "all goods," agricultural or manufactured.

In these days of much agitation as to the marketing of farm products and continued discussion of co-operative methods, the book is one which should attract attention. The author is professor of rural economy in the college of agriculture, Cornell university, and treats his subject from two points of view—from that of principles of marketing, as these have been developed in the marketing of all kinds of commodities, and from that of programs or the application of principles.

The book is clearly written and fully illustrated, and easily understandable.

SEATH STARTS FATHER AND SON PARTNERSHIP

Partnership in the home is one of the real objects of boys' and girls' club work. Along this line club leaders and county agents are urged to recommend that purebred club stock be registered in the name of the father and son as a partnership. Russell Seath, agent in Steele county, has already begun this plan in the dairy calf club work. Several new farm partnerships have been started there by having the club dairy calf registered in this way.

Sampson Rides Circuit

Agent S. E. Sampson of Traverse county calls Wheaton his home, but he spends half of every Monday in Brown's Valley and every Wednesday afternoon in Dumont. These appointments were made, he says, at the request of farmers and business men of the two towns and has made friends for the service.

GOOD RECORD MADE BY NEW ASSOCIATION

Owners of some of the largest herds in southern St. Louis county have joined the new cow testing association which had 382 cows and 28 herds the second month. Agent A. W. Aamodt opines that this will be one of the best cow testing associations in the state. Forty-seven of the 382 cows produced more than 42 pounds each of butterfat during the month, several were in the 50-pound class, one had a record close to 60 and another of 73 pounds of butterfat.

Good Corn in Carver County

Carver county corn designed for seed continues to show a high degree of germination. Samples recently brought to the agent from several different farms tested 93 or more. Only one sample tested as low as 93.

NEW PLAN FOR WCCO FARM RADIO SERVICE

Beginning the first Tuesday in April there will be inaugurated by the WCCO Gold Medal station a new method of presenting agricultural material over the radio. This service will be entitled "Timely Farm Flashes" and will consist of questions and answers dealing with farm problems of a timely nature interspersed between musical numbers that make up the regular noon hour concert.

It is being planned that the questions will be received from farmers and other interested persons and will be prepared for the radio and presented by some one from University Farm on Tuesday and Friday noons.

These questions and answers will probably be given at three different times during the noon hour, from 12:10 to 12:15, from 12:25 to 12:30, and from 12:40 to 12:45, with musical numbers taking up the remainder of the hour.

We would like to have county agents submit questions and answers on timely subjects that they think will be of interest to their farmers. A general invitation for questions will be broadcast when the first flashes are given on April 6.

FARM SERVICE FOR FINNISH NEWSPAPERS

Matt Saari, a graduate of the Minnesota College of Agriculture where he specialized in agricultural journalism, has organized a special new educational service for Finnish newspapers of which there are 11 or 12 in the United States.

Mr. Saari, who is a Finn and is thoroughly conversant with the Finnish language, furnishes all these papers each week with several typewritten pages of timely agricultural material in the form of digests of the reports of the United States Department of Agriculture, the Minnesota station and various others in the United States. Constant reference is made by him to the colleges and departments, and special emphasis placed upon the practical application of the information furnished.

Finnish people are great readers and are influenced greatly by the printed page. Papers carrying Mr. Saari's service reach about all the Finns in the United States. This constant support of the projects which extension people advocate should mean much in our relations with the Finnish people. We are fortunate in having so good a service supporting the best things in agriculture.

Ventilation Faulty; Hens Strike

A marked decline in egg production prompted many poultry keepers to call in Agent August Neubauer of northern St. Louis county, who diagnosed the cause as lack of ventilation which made the poultry houses cold and damp. Many poultry raisers have changed their practices to overcome this trouble and the grateful fowls are responding with more eggs.

Picnic Planning Begun

Before February had passed out and the March lion had come roaring in, plans had been started for the annual summer picnic by several farmers' clubs and livestock organizations.

4-H CLUB OF SCHOOL RE-ORGANIZES FOR YEAR

The 4-H Club of the School of Agriculture, University Farm, has organized for 1926 with a membership of 61 boys and girls. More than 100 members of clubs, or former members, are enrolled in the school, and a largely increased membership of the school club is forecast the present year. Only students who have been in club work at least a year are eligible for membership.

Merton Head of Albert Lea was elected to succeed Alton Hanson, who was graduated from the school this year, as president of the club. Edgar Bachtle of Easton was chosen vice president; Clara Meyer of Sanborn, secretary; Raymond Sullivan of New Prague, treasurer; Harvey Dankers of Lake City, sergeant-at-arms, and Frederick Johnston of Hines, cheer leader.

An interesting incident of the annual meeting was the presentation to T. A. Erickson, the state club leader, of a gold mounted fountain pen as a token of appreciation of what he has done for club juniors.

Many of the school club members have had several years experience in the work and are planning to organize clubs and start the young people of the neighborhood along pathways which they have followed with such success.

WATSON'S BOOKLET ON COW TESTING PLEASURES

County Agent W. E. Watson's second annual report of Dakota county cow test association work has received high praise from livestock specialists and dairymen at University Farm. Mechanically the booklet of 28 pages, exclusive of covers, is about all that could be desired. The illustrations are appropriate and the advertisements are well displayed. Prof. O. G. Schaefer of University Farm has contributed an article and William Carroll gives the history of three years of cow testing in Dakota county. For the most part the book is made up of association statistics, rosters, testimonials of members, and comparisons of dairy stock.

"Best Oats I Have Ever Raised"

Inquiries come in every day regarding Gopher oats, says McNelly of Fillmore, and indicate that the acreage of this variety will be increased as far as the available seed will permit. The men who grew them last year, the agent adds, were so well pleased that every neighbor man plans on seeding Gopher oats this year. One grower says: "They are the best yielding oats I have ever raised."

Just One Meeting After Another

Every month is a busy month with the county agent. In February Karr of Martin attended 28 different meetings, or an average of one a day for the month.

DISTRICT MEETINGS

County agents should not forget that the following dates have been reserved for the annual district meetings:

Mankato—May 11 and 12.
Owatonna—May 13 and 14.
Morris—May 18 and 19.
Bemidji—May 20 and 21.

ACHIEVEMENT DAY IN MEEKER DRAWS CROWD

Fourteen groups in Meeker county held their nutrition achievement day at Litchfield March 20. In spite of bad roads, Watson hall, the largest auditorium available, was packed to the limit and many persons turned away. Fourteen groups took part in the program and 13 had arranged interesting booths, each an exhibit of some phase of the project. The Spring Grove group took as its subject the child's lunch and ably demonstrated its part by serving a nutritious and attractive noon lunch to all the children present.

Meeker county started home project work in the spring of 1925 with a few groups in Clothing I, organized 15 groups for nutrition in September, 1925, and now has 23 groups ready to start with the initial clothing project and five which are already signed up and waiting for Clothing II project.

HOME BEAUTIFICATION IS ADDED TO PROJECT

County Agent Robert Freeman of Ramsey last year successfully emphasized flower growing as a special feature in his program for juniors. Garden club members learned the value of flowers for beautifying their homes.

Many of the girls enrolled in the room furnishing project have asked that their project be enlarged so as to include the beautifying of the home yards.

In order to encourage these interests the club department will add a new line of exhibits and demonstrations at the State Fair this year. This will consist of team demonstrations on "Home Beautification" by the use of flowers, shrubs, etc.; exhibits of posters, photos and plans showing what has been done; home yard plans, as well as exhibits of flowers. Shrubs, bulbs, and perennials will be given as prizes.

Best Yet, Says Hammargren

Hammargren of Pine county says the institutes recently held at Willow River and Kerrick were the best since he became agent. The one at Willow River attracted the largest attendance of any strictly farmers' meeting held in that place in many years. Business men of both towns furnished lunch for the country visitors.

Gopher Oats on 200 More Farms

Two hundred farmers in Houston county will plant Gopher oats this year, says the agent. Seed for the new Velvet barley has been secured for a dozen or more.

Sixty in Baby Beef Club

Sixty boys and girls had enrolled in the baby beef club project when Ausen of Olmsted wrote out his report for February. About 40 have their calves and are ready to start feeding.

Some Good Seed Corn in Cribs

Corn selected from the crib is testing from 70 to 95 per cent in Traverse county. Corn which has a germination of 85 per cent or better is selling for \$5 to \$6 a bushel for seed.