

MINNESOTA EXTENSION SERVICE NEWS

Published Monthly by the University of Minnesota, Department of Agriculture, Extension Division

Vol. VI

UNIVERSITY FARM, ST. PAUL, MINN., MARCH, 1927

No. 6

Judging Semi-Finals Changed to "U" Farm

Directors of the Minnesota Livestock Breeders association have approved the recommendation of the county agent club committee that the preliminary livestock judging contests be held at University Farm the week of the junior short course instead of at the State Fair, as has been the custom heretofore.

These preliminary contests, it is estimated, will bring about 150 young judges of livestock to University Farm. The best two teams in general livestock judging and the best two in dairy cattle judging will represent each of the four districts of the state in the final contest at the State Fair. Then the two class teams winning at the fair will represent Minnesota in the national contests.

By this change more time will be given the contestants to prepare for the national contests. The preliminary will be an outstanding feature of the junior short course week, which will offer opportunity for special training. The railroad fare of the contestants will be paid by the Livestock Breeders Association.

The three boys or girls having the highest standings in general livestock judging at the International Exposition at Chicago will share in a \$1,000 prize fund raised by business men of that city. The junior with the highest score will receive \$500, the second \$300, and the third \$200. Gold medals and watches will also be given the winning trio.

The county agent club committee, composed of L. E. Hudson, L. E. McMillan and S. A. Aldrich, recommended several other changes at conferences held with members of the club department and specialists at University Farm. The committee approved a rule barring purebred ewe lambs from the Junior Livestock Show because of their value for breeding purposes. Another new rule provides that lambs will be judged by breed hereafter.

The age at which a club member may represent a county at a state event was raised from 10 to 12 unless the member has been in club work two years. National trips to dairy calf club members will be limited to those members who have been in dairy calf club work two or more years, unless the contestant has at least two years' club experience besides the one year in dairy calf club work.

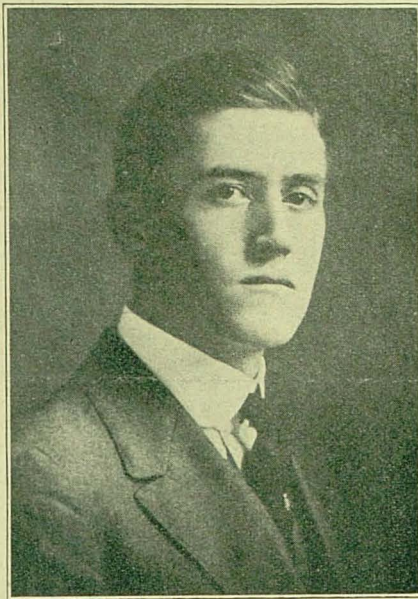
All entries for the junior show must be selected after August 1, and all must be in the hands of committeemen 10 days before the show opens. Sales animals will no longer constitute a part of the show.

Certified Grimm Their Choice

Thirty-four Fillmore county farmers have clubbed orders for 1,500 pounds of certified Grimm alfalfa seed.

Lantern Slides Available

Director Peck is advised that a limited number of lantern slide sets, Series 204, dealing with the control of smut in wheat, are now available. As the time is narrowing, it is recommended that extension people who can use these slides to advantage communicate at once with F. C. Meier of the United States Department of Agriculture at Washington, specifying the number of sets desired.



AUSTIN A. DOWELL

Whose appointment as superintendent of the Northwest School and Station has just been announced.

HOMEMAKER DELIGHTED WITH U FARM COURSE

Mrs. Sidney Andersen of Upsala community, Morrison county, attended the Farmers' and Homemakers' Week Short Course in January. At the opening of the February meeting of the nutrition project she put on a clever stunt in which everyone present took part. Mrs. Andersen said the stunt was developed from a suggestion given in one of Mrs. Lott's talks at the short course. Following this she gave a report of her visit at University Farm and said she was so favorably impressed with the college, the friendly faculty, and the fine attitude of the student body that she is satisfied she wants to send her children there when they are ready for college.

Limestone Crushers in Demand

Two communities of farmers in Fillmore county are arranging for a portable crusher for use in preparing limestone for alfalfa fields.

Dowell Named Head of Northwest Station

By the appointment by the university regents of Austin A. Dowell to be superintendent of the Northwest Station and School of Agriculture at Crookston the extension service loses one of its most efficient members and a man with whom it has been a privilege and a pleasure to work.

Mr. Dowell came to the service August 1, 1922, to lead extension work in sheep, horses and beef cattle. In the four years and a half which have elapsed he has achieved results in his field of an enduring character; results which have been particularly helpful in developing the sheep business and of putting beef cattle feeding on a surer and sounder basis.

Mr. Dowell was graduated in 1915 from Iowa State College at Ames and for two years thereafter was an instructor in the Ames department of animal husbandry. He resigned that position to become head of the animal husbandry department of the Agricultural College of Alberta, Canada. He remained there five years, or until he resigned to come to University Farm.

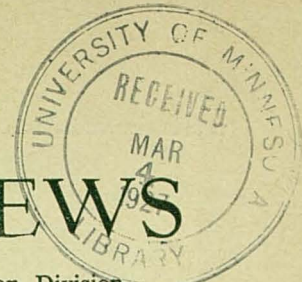
In 1925 Mr. Dowell originated the Minnesota carload baby beef contest—the first of its kind in this country. This attracted national interest in livestock circles and similar contests have since been organized in several states. With the culmination of this project in 1926 the information which it furnished as to breeding, the feeding and management of calves and baby beeves, and the comparative value of different forages and grains was summarized by Mr. Dowell in a bulletin which has been widely circulated among men interested in livestock production and which has brought him recognition from the foremost editors and livestock specialists of the country.

The second contest of the series was immediately started by Mr. Dowell and co-operating county agents and is now in progress with practically all the feeders of the first contest and several new ones taking part. The Minnesota Livestock Breeders association, all the livestock interests at South St. Paul, and national breed associations are giving their co-operation, as before.

"Glad for his sake, sorry for our own," said an extension specialist when he heard of the appointment. This sentiment is shared by all members of the extension family whether at the home station or scattered over the state.

Pine Orders 80,000 Pounds Pyrotol

Much new land clearing is forecast in Pine county. Forty thousand pound cars of pyrotol for shipment to Hinckley and Askov have been ordered.



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Published monthly at University Farm, St. Paul, Minn., by the Agricultural Extension Service of the University of Minnesota and the United States Department of Agriculture, co-operating in the interest of extension work in agriculture and home economics.

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Entered as second-class matter October 4, 1921, at the postoffice at St. Paul, Minnesota, under the Act of August 24, 1912.

Accepted for mailing at special rates of postage provided for in section 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized October 21, 1921.

MARCH, 1927

EXTENSION PROSPERING, GILBERTSON DECLARES

Confidence of the farmers in the extension service is growing steadily, said H. W. Gilbertson, a specialist in extension teaching methods, who visited University Farm recently on one of his periodical trips from Washington.

"County agent and home demonstration agent work is becoming more firmly established every day," he said. "It is bound to stay, not only in this country but in practically all of the leading European countries. Agricultural extension in some of the European states dates back to the time the work was started in this country. As the system has developed here, old world countries have not hesitated to send their representatives to the United States to study and make use of new features. Thus our plan of boys' and girls' club work has been carried to several foreign countries."

Mr. Gilbertson finds that the farmers of the corn belt are particularly interested in the hog-lot sanitation project, and in the growing of legumes, especially alfalfa and sweet clover for pasture. Farmers are thinking in terms of legumes, he said, for two principal reasons, soil improvement and the lessened cost of feeds. They are satisfied that their farm animals make greater gains on the proteins that the legumes supply, therefore they want more of them and are going to have them.

Much interest is taken by farmers in the impending invasion of the European corn borer. Iowa, Nebraska, Kansas, Missouri, and other states are as greatly concerned as is Minnesota, he said.

Northern Seed Potatoes for Winona

Interested by the statement of R. C. Rose, plant disease specialist, that on 97 farms in Iowa northern grown certified potato seed yielded an average of 30 bushels more per acre than did native grown seed, co-operators in Winona county are planning to ship in a carload of the good stuff from northern Minnesota.

No Farmer To Be Missed

"Every Farmer with Some Alfalfa" is a 1927 slogan in Carver, old home of Wendelin Grimm.

CONFERENCE OF STATE, COUNTY, AND CITY HOME DEMONSTRATION WORKERS

Room 310, Haecker Hall

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 28

- 9:00-9:30 Opening of Conference, Miss Julia O. Newton
9:30-12:00 Committee work. Personnel of Committees: Home management, Miss Bull, Miss Wessel, Mrs. Beard; poultry, Miss Cooke, Mrs. Erkel, Miss Laycock; nutrition, Miss Hobart, Miss Lang, Mrs. Shiras; clothing, Miss Reid, Miss Terrill, Miss Olsen
1:30-4:00 The Clothing Project, Miss Reid and committee

TUESDAY, MARCH 1

- 9:00-11:00 The Nutrition Project, Miss Hobart and committee
11:00-12:15 What Other States are Doing, Miss Fannie R. Buchanan
1:45-3:45 The Poultry Project, Miss Cooke and committee

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2

- 9:00-11:00 The Home Management Project, Miss Bull and committee
11:00-11:45—How to Start the Musical Appreciation Project, Miss Buchanan
1:45-12:30 Round Table on Child Training Project, led by Miss Edith Dixon
1:30- Individual conferences arranged by agents as desired

CONFERENCE OF HOME DEMONSTRATION WORKERS WITH COUNTY AND URBAN HOME AND COMMUNITY CHAIRMEN

Room 107, Engineering Building

THURSDAY, MARCH 3

- Miss Newton presiding
9:00-9:30 Welcoming home chairmen
9:30-10:00 Why Home Economics Was Included in the Smith-Lever Act, Director F. W. Peck
10:00-11:00 Report of agents
11:00-12:00 Miss Buchanan, Miss Whitfield presiding
1:30-3:00 County Organization for Home Demonstration Work, Miss Neale S. Knowles
Discussion by agents and chairmen.
3:00-4:00 The Master Home Maker, Miss Bess Rowe
1:30-4:00 Urban agent conference, Room 310 Haecker Hall, Miss Terrill in charge
6:30- Home conference dinner

FRIDAY, MARCH 4

- Miss Cooke presiding
9:30-10:00 The Responsibility of the College of Agriculture to Minnesota Home Making, Dean W. C. Coffey.
10:00-11:30 A Balanced Home Demonstration Program, Miss Knowles
11:45-1:30 Luncheon, Miss Reid presiding; talk by Miss McNeal
Miss Bull presiding
1:45-3:15 Ways by Which More People May Be Reached Through Home Demonstration Work, Miss Knowles
Discussion
3:15-4:15 Miss Buchanan

SATURDAY, MARCH 5

- Miss Hobart presiding
9:00-10:00 Round Table on Place of Achievement Days in Home Demonstration Work, Set up by Miss Newton, Mrs. Beard, Miss Wessel
10:00-11:00 What My County Needs, county chairmen
11:00-11:30 Summary of Conference. Committee: Miss Olsen, chairman, Mrs. Ripley, Mrs. Shiras, Miss Laycock, Miss Whitfield

PEDERSON TO SUCCEED SAMPSON IN TRAVERSE

Some time this month Harold Pederson will succeed S. E. Sampson, whose untimely death was recorded in last month's issue, as county agent of Traverse county. Mr. Pederson was born and reared on a Renville county livestock and grain farm and will be graduated from the Minnesota College of Agriculture at the end of the present quarter. During his student days he has specialized in dairy production and has taken considerable work in agricultural economics. He was a member of the dairy cattle judging team which represented the Minnesota College at the Dairy Congress at Waterloo, Iowa, and the National Dairy Show at Detroit, Michigan, last fall. He has also been a member of a general livestock judging team which represented the college at the International Exposition at Chicago.

Sixteen club and community meetings held in Lyon county in January were attended by 2,000 persons, says Agent Louis Kelehan.

SOME BRIGHT SPOTS IN SEED SITUATION

The seed corn picture isn't all dark. Meade of Stevens county says the seed supply seems better than last year. Some corn picked early in Winona county tested 100 per cent, but some saved at shredding time was found to be below par when a recent test was made.

"The seed corn prospect is much better and prices are lower than a year ago," says the Fillmore county agent. "Seven bulk samples tested at my office gave a far better germination than did the first tests in 1926. The lowest test showed 91 per cent germination, with most of the other running 98 per cent."

Down in Pipestone county the agent has been requested to set up his ear testing plant again and it is probably in operation now. Marked interest is being taken in seed supplies, he says.

Hens Responding to Cod Liver Oil

Poultry keepers in and around Two Harbors are dosing their flocks with cod liver oil and are getting results to show for it, says Peterson of Lake.

POTATO PRIZES WON BY UPSTATE CLUB JUNIORS

Most of the club boys and girls enrolled in the 1926 potato growing project were from northern Minnesota, hence it is not surprising that practically all of the honors go to that part of the state.

First place was won by Charles Rintala of St. Louis county, whose Green Mountain potatoes yielded at the rate of 464 bushels to the acre. His score was 94 out of a possible 100. Alfred Kaiser of Bemidji was second with an acre yield rate of 432 bushels and a total score of 88 points. His potatoes were Bliss Triumphs. Harvey Cartwright of Shevlin was third with the same acre yield as young Kaiser and only one point lower in the total score. Other winners in their order are given below. All will receive free trips to the farm boys' camp at the State Fair, or to the short course at University Farm, or to some point outside the state:

Robert Burroughs, Malmo, 86 points; Clara Trygstad, Aurora, 85; Milton H. Tonn, Ranier, 84; George Lemmon, Little Fork, 82½; Mike Lucachick, Rauch, 82; Dale Olson, Hill City, 81; Harry Nesseth, Rosy, 79; Theo. Thompson, Swatara, 78½; Floyd Farmer, Littlefork, 78; Dean Horsewood, Swatara, 77; Tom Shuster, Ranier, 73, and Shirley Cook, Fort Ripley, 67.

Charles Rintala, the winner, grew his potatoes on sandy land which had been used for clover and timothy the year before. He had his land plowed in the fall in order, as he says, that the air might help to pulverize the soil. Then early in the spring he went over the plot three times with the harrow and twice with a roller harrow and the same number of times with the spring tooth harrow.

He was particular about how his tubers were planted. He used a one-horse shovel plow, explaining that he doesn't really like the way a potato planter plants them because it leaves big spaces and doesn't plant them deep enough for a dry season. During the summer he cultivated the plot four times and went over it once with a shovel plow. Every week he went through the patch to cut out the weeds.

"There is lots of fun in club work," he writes. "I tried always to do my best. I wish for good luck to other potato growers, too. I wish I could make boys and girls who aren't in this club to understand that they are missing a great deal."

Robert Burroughs and Dean Horsewood constituted the winning potato demonstration team at the State Fair and made such a fine record there that they were invited to go on the Better Seed Special Train. The boys gave demonstrations of seed treating in 16 different counties and were complimented again and again for their proficiency in presenting various points of potato production.

Gets Stronger Every Year

Enrollment in boys' and girls' club work in this country increased 10 per cent in 1925 over 1924. Completions increased more than 15 per cent during the same period. These figures are from the United States Department of Agriculture.

CORN CLUB WINNER IN 1926 OPERATES A FARM



HOWARD SANFORD,
Of Rice county, whose acre and five-acre yields, records, and story gave him 97 points out of a possible 100, the highest score in the 1926 corn championship race. Howard won a trip to the next National Club Congress in Chicago and is planning to be there.

225 IN HOT LUNCH CLUBS IN ST. LOUIS COUNTY

St. Louis county club workers have a new project, the hot lunch, which they will carry on in connection with state health work, says H. A. Aase, county club leader. It is interesting to know that 25 hot lunch clubs, having an enrollment of 225 boys and girls over 10 years of age, have been organized and are serving lunches to all pupils in their schools. Every month the members answer a health questionnaire.

Having had 2,824 club members last year in St. Louis county, the leaders are ambitious to enroll 3,000 this year. They seem likely to do it, for the home economics projects already have 1,379 members. Garment club enrollments are particularly heavy. The bread clubs are also doing well.

Everybody Strong for the Legumes

The hay famine in Brown county makes it comparatively easy, says the agent, to gain an audience for the alfalfa-sweet clover crusade. He foresees the greatest alfalfa increase in his county in years. Little red clover will be sown, the preference being for sweet clover because of its greater pasture qualities and cheaper seed. Alsike clover is recommended as a legume plant for the low and peaty lands.

CONFERENCE DATES

Dates for the annual district conferences have just been agreed upon. They are:

Rochester, April 26 and 27.
Marshall, April 28 and 29.
Fergus Falls, May 3 and 4.
Duluth, May 5 and 6.

SVOBODA CHECKS IN AS AGENT IN RENVILLE

Frank D. Svoboda, at present county agent in Eddy county, North Dakota, has been selected by the Renville county extension committees to begin work March 1 as their county agent.

Mr. Svoboda comes especially well qualified to carry on this work in his new location. He is 28 years of age and has had an abundance of farm and livestock experience. He was born and reared on a farm in Illinois, later moving to Minnesota where his experience continued with dairy cattle, sheep and hogs.

In 1924 he was graduated from the Minnesota College of Agriculture, where he added to his farm experience by specializing in animal husbandry, taking all the work offered in those lines. To supplement this training and experience, Mr. Svoboda for three summers fitted and exhibited Shorthorn cattle at the leading fairs of the northwest. This gave him a good opportunity to learn the methods followed by breeders in feeding their cattle and in breeding up their herds.

"As a county agent in North Dakota his work has been very successful and he comes highly recommended from that state," says F. E. Balmer, the Minnesota state leader. "His livestock training and experience especially fit him to meet the demands for successful work in Renville county."

Like the Brown County Way

Agents of five southern and southwestern counties met recently to consider the Brown county plan of handling hay shipments for farmers. A saving of \$1.50 per ton is being made, says the Brown county agent, by dealing directly with growers in the west rather than with hay dealers in the large cities. The Brown county agent also reports that cottonseed meal has proven popular with both dairy and beef cattle feeders, and that its use in that county will be continued as long as the price is under or on a par with the price of oilmeal.

Good Audiences for Searles

Dairy herds may be small in the cut-over districts around Menahga, Wadena county, but the dairymen have a good creamery and are interested in improving and enlarging their herds. Therefore, they turned out in large numbers to the dairy feeding schools held by H. R. Searles at Menahga. More than 250 attended the second meeting, and more than 200 were on hand for the third lesson on February 10. The editor of the Menahga Messenger says that wonderful interest has been taken in the school not only by farmers but by business men of the community.

Land Clearers Pleased

rown county farmers continue to order pyrotol for land clearing purposes in carload lots. Another car is to be shipped in about March 15. A survey shows that the farmers are delighted with results obtained from the use of this explosive. One farmer said his 38-acre meadow was worth only \$25 an acre before the rock was cleared from it. Now he is holding it for \$100 an acre. Other land owners say the clearing means an increase in rent from \$2 to \$3 an acre.

CLUB JUNIORS STAR AT CROOKSTON SHOWS

Much of the credit for the success of the Winter Shows at Crookston belongs to club boys and girls of the valley, say the managers of the show. All the classes were well filled. A poultry department was new this year. The winners from nine counties were eligible to show four pullets and one cockerel each. Eight exhibitors brought their birds.

A new feature which was enjoyed by visitors of all ages was a short course for juniors the last three days. Judging demonstrations, conducted each forenoon, were largely attended and were followed by classroom instruction in the different livestock projects. W. E. Morris, W. H. Peters, Robert Geiger and faculty members of the Northwest School conducted the classes.

The leaders' conference was also well attended. Several junior leaders gave short talks on what their clubs had done and proposed to do. Among the speakers were A. J. Kittleson and R. C. Shaw who discussed the club program for 1927.

Thirty dairy calf and beef club members took part in the junior showmanship contest. This attracted a large crowd and was so close that the judges had real troubles of their own. Carl Carlson of Detroit Lakes was finally declared the champion junior showman of the Red river valley and was awarded the silver cup offered by the Crookston Rotary Club. Wayne Naugle of Ada, John Letnes of Thief River Falls and Royal Campion of Angus pressed the winner for honors and were the last to leave the show ring.

Myrtle Hinnum of Lake Park had the grand champion dairy cow at the show. Natalie Woolson of Thief River Falls won the grand championship with her cow in the club division. She also won the championship in the open class for the breed (Guernsey). Arnold Vanseth of Angus, exhibiting a Hereford steer, won the silver cup.

Elnora Johnson of Hallock exhibited the championship gilt in the club class and the champion Yorkshire senior sow pig in the open competition. John Cheney of Warren had the champion Duroc Jersey gilt in the club class and was first in the open competition in the senior sow class. Robert Ash of St. Vincent won the championship with his ewe in the sheep class.

Herbert Hanson of Crookston had the champion Holstein in the junior class and the champion heifer in the open class. Carl Carlson led the Jersey exhibitors and John Letnes topped the Ayrshire exhibitors.

The chief poultry awards went to Ruth Briden of Polk county, John Remington of Clay, Natalie Woolson of Pennington, and Roland Munro of Kittson.

Demonstration Convinces

The first two cuttings of alfalfa on nine demonstration plots in Pleasant Hill township, Winona county, where limestone had been used, yielded 4.3 tons, while the plots which received no limestone gave an average of but 2.6 tons. The demonstration has quickened the interest in liming, as might be supposed, and farmers are organizing for a supply.

MANY INTERESTED IN NEW PIG CROP CONTEST

Inquiries are being received at the university station regarding the new Minnesota Pork Production Contest which has just been launched by the extension service and representative livestock men of the state to supplement the pig ton litter contest. H. G. Zavoral will be in charge of both.

To enter the new contest the swine grower must have at least litters from five or more sows farrowing within a period of 42 days between February 20 and June 1. Enrollments can be made with the county agent, club leader or the extension division at University Farm.

When the pig crop from the five or more sows averages 180 days of age, the weights must be determined by weighing all the pigs or, in cases where it is impossible, ten representative pigs from the different litters. The farmer who produces within the prescribed time the most pork per sow will be the winner of the contest.

Liberal prizes in cash will be paid to winning contestants in this contest and also in the 1927 ton litter race which has been organized for the year. One change made in the latter is that only 60 per cent of the cash prizes available this year will be distributed on the basis of the heaviest total weights per litter. The remaining 40 per cent of the prize money will be awarded for the heaviest average weights per pig. Up to this time all of the money has been distributed on the basis of the weight of litters. Special contributions, of course, will be placed according to the specifications made by the donors.

LOCAL LEADERS MAKE HIGH ATTENDANCE MARK

At the fourth meeting of the Hennepin county local leader training group in home management, 93 per cent of the leaders were present. Others could not leave home on account of illness. Interesting reports on local meetings were given, among them reports of some excellent home demonstrations. One on time saving in food preparation and one in the use of the pressure cooker as a time saver were especially fine. The local groups will hold two more meetings to finish the work of Project I. One of these meetings will be to present the work of the fourth training meeting in the project, and the other to check on the final reports for the project. The groups are planning to take Project II in home management in the fall.

Feeding Schools Well Attended

Donovan's dairy feeding schools are going over good, says the Pine county agent. At the first meeting at Kerrick 48 farmers signed up to attend, but a count of noses showed that 52 were present. At Finlayson 35 had agreed to attend and 42 turned out although thermometers read 40 below zero. Splendid interest was also reflected by the attendance and the questions asked at similar schools in Morrison county, according to the agent.

BETTER SEED TRAIN HAS SUCCESSFUL RUN

Making stops in 42 towns in 21 counties in western and northwestern Minnesota, the Better Seed Special Train was visited by some 12,000 to 15,000 persons. The attendance ranged all the way from 100, in a few places where weather and road conditions were decidedly unfavorable, to from 500 to 600.

Dockage losses for each county were set out in placards. These losses ran all the way from 36,000 bushels to 361,000 bushels. The average was more than 100,000 bushels, at a cost of more than \$200,000. The annual dockage bill of the average 160-acre farm in Minnesota was given as \$264 as against a property tax of \$144.

Plant disease specialists of the university urged the treatment of wheat, oats, barley and rye for the elimination of smuts. Farmers exhibited keen interest in seed treatment as a means of stopping one of the most serious leaks in their business. Lively interest was also shown in an exhibit which emphasized the relationship between the barberry and the spread of blackstem rust of wheat.

The reaction to short talks on the farm outlook for 1927 made it clear that farmers are interested in the effort to adjust production to probable demand. Several university men took part in the presentation of this feature.

A desire for economy in producing a higher quality of farm crops was manifested in the interest taken in the exhibit of varieties of crops tested and approved by the Minnesota Experiment Station. An increasing number of farmers were found to be using approved varieties such as Gopher and Minota oats, Velvet barley, Swedish Minnesota No. 2 rye, Grimm alfalfa, Minnesota No. 13 and other varieties of corn.

\$41 Check Represents "TB" Bonus

Growers of livestock are finding that it pays to live in a "TB" accredited county. Agent John Sheay of Scott county reports an interesting instance in point. Maerz brothers of Sand Creek sold 159 hogs weighing 41,370 pounds for which they received a check for \$4,863.45. A separate check from the packers, written in the sum of \$41.37, represented the 10-cent premium per hundredweight for livestock coming from a county practically clear of tuberculosis.

Four Millions Cash for Products

McCann of Pennington turns in the figures to show exports of farm produce from his county in 1926 worth four millions of dollars. Dairy products topped the list with a value of \$900,000. Among the products shipped to market were livestock, eggs, poultry, including 40 cars of dressed turkeys, hay, wool, sweet clover and grass seed.

Two New Home Organs

Juniors of Steele county have launched a county club newspaper of their own. County Agent Seath says it has already helped by creating greater interest in club work. In Koochiching county the Extension News Letter is now being issued to take the place of the old Farm Bureau News, says Agent Bibelhausen.