

MINNESOTA EXTENSION SERVICE NEWS

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Vol. VII

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No. 1

All Project Exhibits Are Winners at the Minnesota State Fair

Martin county, swine lot sanitation, 863 points.
Wadena county, dairy development, 840.
Pennington county, alfalfa growing, 794.
Cottonwood county, crop improvement, 741

Above are epitomized the results of the first county extension booth competition at the Minnesota State Fair and Northwest Dairy Exposition. Unlike the usual type of agricultural booths, these displays centered on definite and separate lines of extension work carried on in the counties named. Awards were based on power to attract attention, success of the project in the county, and arrangement, general appearance, etc.

The McLean county system of raising hogs was contrasted with great effectiveness in the Martin county booth with the common hit and miss system or no system at all. A poster in the booth gave information that "under unsanitary conditions about one-third of the pigs die before they are weaned, one-third are very runty and unthrifty, make poor gains and are unprofitable, leaving only at the most one-third to make fair market hogs." The way was made clear just how these tremendous losses can be checked. Sanitation and success are synonymous. The experience of individual farmers was cited to prove the premises, that the pig responds to a wholesome bringing up and that its reputation as a lover of dirt and filth has been largely forced upon it by the careless methods of its owner. This exhibit was in charge of A. R. Karr, the Martin county agent.

Wadena and Pennington

The Wadena county exhibit, in charge of W. A. Peters, county agent, and his wife, pictured the influence of the dairy schools held in five communities in the last four years. Each school consisted of four meetings at which a dairy specialist from the agricultural college station gave lessons in feeding, management, and breeding. Before they went to this school only 13 per cent of the farmer pupils fed balanced rations. Now, it was said, 82 per cent are doing so. The pupils learned that by feeding alfalfa hay instead of timothy and wild hay, which they had always fed before, they could save a nice bit of cash which they had formerly spent for high protein feeds necessary to balance the ration. Charts showed that the alfalfa acreage had been increased from 625 in 1922 to 3,533 in 1927, and it was estimated this home-grown alfalfa would replace about \$90,000 worth of high protein feeds. Examples were given to prove the direct financial benefit received by farmers from the increased production of their

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PETERS AND JACOB GO TO NEW ASSIGNMENTS

Following nine years of county agent service in Wadena county W. A. Peters was transferred to Lyon county on October 1, succeeding L. S. Kelehan who recently resigned. Outstanding achievements to Mr. Peters' credit have been in the field of legume expansion, marl bed development, peat reclamation, club work, home projects and dairy development, not to mention the fine social influence of the agent and his wife on the life of the county at large.

On October 1, A. W. Jacob became county agent of Wadena county, succeeding Mr. Peters. Since 1919 he has been the efficient agent of Aitkin county. Projects in which he did excellent work included extensive land clearing by the use of war explosive, peat fertilization, alfalfa expansion, dairy development, animal disease control, poultry improvement, promotion of co-operative marketing, home projects, and junior club work.

NO CHANCE TO FORGET

December 13, 14 and 15, annual meeting and conference at University Farm of the agricultural extension service.

The dates are repeated here because they are of first importance to members of the extension staff.

Some details of the meeting will be given in the November issue of Extension Service News. The program will be printed in the December number.

One hundred per cent attendance is the goal.

Flax Yield Doubled on Peat

Fertilizers on peat land in Wadena doubled the yield of flax and produced potatoes at the rate of 300 or more bushels to the acre. Also two and a half tons of alsike and timothy per acre were harvested on peat that was fertilized and seeded last spring.

Corn Appreciates Phosphate Diet

One farmer in Brown county is not worrying over the seed corn situation. He applied 4,000 pounds of treble phosphate to 80 acres of corn and the big field stepped right along to maturity.

More Pyrotol; More Trench Silos

Brown county recently received its third carload of pyrotol, and a large part of it will be used in making trench silos, says the agent.

1,100 Juniors Take Part in Activities at Fair and U. Farm

Every county in Minnesota was represented by 4-H club boys and girls at the Minnesota State Fair and Northwest Dairy Exposition. Dean W. C. Coffey and T. A. Erickson gave them a hearty welcome in behalf of the university and organized club work.

Camps for the juniors were maintained at University Farm with about 900 present. Close to 200 boys lived in the camp at the fair grounds. Everything possible was done to give the boys and girls a really good time. Trips were taken afternoons to points of interest in the two cities. A movie was staged the first night, a picnic and stunt program the second, a parade before the grandstand at the fair the third, the Civic and Commerce association's annual banquet and party at the Radisson the fourth, and a visit to the horse show the fifth. Honors of the parade were awarded for numbers, attractive costumes, floats, stunts, banners, music, etc. The Fillmore county delegation placed first, Redwood county second, and Houston county third.

Featuring the events of the week at University Farm was the recreation training school conducted by John Bradford of the American Playground Association of New York. Mr. Bradford gave his forenoons to teaching and demonstrating. Usually he attended the general assembly, which was in charge of W. D. Stegner, from 8 to 9. He gave the next hour to a group of junior leaders and the third hour to the adult and older leaders. Each was taught how to organize communities for recreation under club auspices. Many new games which can be played without expensive equipment were demonstrated in the open.

Quickly establishing himself in the confidence of the juniors, Mr. Bradford kept the general interest at a high pitch all through the week. Club members frequently voiced their appreciation of his leadership. Mr. Bradford himself was so well pleased with results that he will return to carry on follow-up work at points over the state. The club department at Washington is co-operating with the New York association in carrying on this phase of club work.

Week of Demonstrations

During the week 82 home economics teams and 37 agricultural teams gave demonstrations in the 4-H club building at the fair. There were 45 canning teams, 15 garment teams, 14 breadmaking teams, and 4 each in room furnishing and cakemaking. The individual bread demonstrators numbered more than 100, and 78 individual garment makers ap-

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WALTER C. COFFEY

Dean of the Department of Agriculture and
Director of Experiment Station

FRANK W. PECK

Director of Agricultural Extension

W. P. KIRKWOOD

Editors

E. C. TORREY

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Extension Service News enters upon its seventh year with this issue.

In keeping with the name it bears, its columns, especially since the number of its pages was reduced from eight to four, have been filled largely with news of the department and suggestions from various reports which it was thought might be of help to someone on the extension staff. This has served to make the paper local in its character—a house organ of interest to the staff in general if not of particular interest outside the state.

This policy will be continued the coming year. But in this connection let us repeat what Director Peck said in this identical space a year ago: "If this little publication is to mean as much as it can mean, there should be an intense interest among those who receive it, in not only reading it but in furnishing it items of interest and value for publication."

Real team work will make this tabloid paper worth while to every person connected with the extension service. Can we count on you the coming year?

STEELE COUNTY FAIR

Steele county recently gave a successful demonstration of the project of holding a fair without paid admissions. The gates were thrown wide open or removed altogether and 71,841 entered the grounds as compared to 40,183 who either paid to get in or were holders of passes last year.

If the measure of the success of a fair is really the number of persons who see and enjoy it, rather than the piling up of gate receipts, then the 1927 Steele county fair was a great success. But we are advised further that the income this year, accruing from admissions to the grandstand and receipts from concessions, surpassed the total receipts last year. The fair was therefore a financial as well as an educational success. This success was further rounded out by the quality and quantity of the exhibits to which the boys and girls of the county made no small contribution.

The admissionless fair seems a winner—in Steele county. But many counties in the west are not in Steele county's class and could not make the same good showing. Large crowds are needed to patronize the concessions and amusements. In the newer sections of the

state this financial support might prove inadequate. However, Steele county has made a start and set an example and the idea may gain momentum in time.

It is no doubt true that the Steele county fair with no admission charge profited to some extent at the expense of adjoining county fairs where admission had to be paid. If all the fairs in the region had been free, Steele county's success might not have been so conspicuous.

Agriculturally-minded people regard the fair, and rightly, as an educational event. And in a state like Minnesota many such are to be found in the cities and the urban centers. Amusements of the right kind will always have their place and can doubtless be made to "pay the freight" in many cases. While the free fair may be on its way, the millennium will have been reached, as a Texas writer says, "when folks compete wholly for the honor of excelling, with the ribbon, the satisfaction, and the education gained the sole motives."

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herds due to the lessons learned in the dairy schools.

The Pennington county exhibit brought out in strong contrast the advantages of growing and feeding alfalfa hay instead of wild hay. On a poster one could read that "alfalfa yields three tons an acre, income \$60; wild hay yields one-half ton an acre, income \$5." A fine appearing dairy cow was represented as saying, "I eat alfalfa hay, and my annual production record is 602 pounds of butterfat." Near her a thin and disconsolate specimen of the bovine family was lamenting, "I eat wild hay, and my record is 67.4 pounds of butterfat." It was good to learn from charts that Pennington county's alfalfa acreage increased from 268 in 1919 to 10,000 in 1927, while wild hay decreased from 40,000 to 9,000 acres in a similar period. There is hope for all Pennington county cows. County Agent J. J. McCann, who knows his alfalfa, and his good wife received visitors at this booth.

Cottonwood and Crops

The Cottonwood exhibit was presided over by County Agent Charles Matthews and wife. It pointed the way to definite progress in the adoption of crop varieties recommended by staffmen of the Minnesota Experiment Station. As one result of extension work in that county 1,000 farmers are now producing these varieties. In 1920 only seven farmers were growing Silver King, Murdock, Rustler White Dent and Minnesota 13, corn varieties recommended for southwestern Minnesota. In the good year 1927 some 500 farmers are growing one or more of them. Other field crops in which progress was shown were Gopher oats, Velvet barley, Minturki winter wheat, Winona flax, and Grimm alfalfa. Repeated tests have shown that these varieties outyield the old-time ones in local use.

Many thousands lingered at these booths and were impressed with the lessons in good husbandry which they carried. Iowa and Wisconsin have been doing something in this line but it was the first time it has been tried in Minnesota. To supplement rather than to supplant the county agricultural booths, so long a feature of the fair, is the purpose of the extension service booths.

REAL DEMONSTRATION OF NUTRITION PROJECT

Polk county's nutrition project leaders were delighted to have Dr. Locken of the Polk County Health association call upon them at their third training class to help find 20 boys from different parts of the county to attend the county health and recreation camp. Because these nutrition leaders represented nearly every section of the county, knew how important good nutrition is to growing children, and were already keeping growth records of boys and girls in their community, Dr. Locken felt this group of leaders was unusually well fitted to recommend boys who would make the most of their opportunity.

The camp was held for three weeks under the direction of Dr. Locken in cooperation with the Northwest School of Agriculture and upon its campus. The funds from the sale of Christmas seals of the Anti-Tuberculosis Association made the camp possible.

As the mother of one of the boys said, "This camp has been a real demonstration of the nutrition project to us and has made us feel more keenly the need and the value of the project. Our boys at camp have lived as we were taught and they have grown strong, vigorous, and are so brown and happy." These little lads averaged a gain of two and a half pounds and one boasted five pounds to his credit, but they were proudest of their brown backs or, as they termed it, their fine new "khaki shirts."

April last 14 groups were organized for the nutrition project by G. U. Kappel, county agricultural agent. The leaders met with Miss Inez Hobart, nutrition specialist of the agricultural extension division, at four leader training sessions over a period of four months and presented the work each month to their groups at home. Some 240 women were enrolled in the project.

Cocoanut Cow Unmasked

The importance of butter in the diet was studied by patrons of the Chisago county fair. Two rats of the same age and sex, each weighing 45 grams when an experiment was started April 1, were used in the study, the National Dairy Council co-operating. Ten per cent of the ration of one rat consisted of butter; oleomargarine in like proportion was given the other. August 20, when the fair was held, the butter rat had gained 235 grams, while the other trailed along with a gain of 125 grams. It was a knockout, with the cocoanut cow taking the count, says Agent George W. Larson.

Genuine Object Lesson

Co-operators in the sanitary production of swine in Rock county have had no trouble with "necro" or worms, says Agent C. G. Gaylord. At the same time disease is prevalent where old hog lots are used by the swine herds. The agent gives his word that more attention will be paid another year to sanitation and new pastures.

Miss Bull Resumes Office Duties

Miss Mary L. Bull, who has been ill several weeks is expected to be able to return to the office about October 1. She will not resume field work until the middle of the month.

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JUNIORS AT STATE FAIR AND UNIVERSITY FARM

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peared on the platform. Sixty-three were enrolled in the muffin making contest. Cakemaking was demonstrated by four.

The agricultural teams were divided into 16 demonstrating phases of poultry keeping, 7 dairy husbandry, two each in swine growing, beekeeping, potato raising, alfalfa, and home beautification, and one each representing the sheep, garden, forestry, and leadership projects. Redwood county furnished the team which for the first time put on at the fair a demonstration in leadership. Prof. A. M. Field of the university faculty has judged these demonstrations for several years and of those of 1927 he says: "There was not a poor demonstration in the lot and the week's work proved to me that the boys and girls are getting real training and are profiting by it. There were so many good teams that the average for all was better than ever before."

The number taking part in general livestock and dairy cattle judging was smaller than last year because of the elimination contest which was held for the first time at the June short course for the juniors at University Farm. Seven teams contested for the Chicago trip and 14 individuals entered the lists for positions on the team going to Memphis.

Calf and Pig Club Shows

Eighty of the state's 87 counties sent one to three juniors to the junior calf club show. This was the largest number of counties so far represented in the nine years of calf club work. A few more calves were shown this year than in 1926. Holsteins ranked first in numbers, but there was a noticeable increase in the number of Guernseys and Jerseys. Twenty-five juniors and their calves entered the showmanship contest which was pronounced by Earl J. Cooper, one of the judges, the best he had ever witnessed, and he has seen a good many. Mr. Cooper is connected with the extension service of the Holstein-Friesian Association of America.

Sixty-eight boys and girls from 50 counties entered purebred gilts in the annual pig club show which in quality of animals surpassed any yet held.

Extension Service News has room only for the principal awards, as follows:

Teams Winning Trips

Dairy cattle judging team, National Dairy Show at Memphis—John Flynn of Caledonia, Walter Schultz of St. Peter, Warner Nettleton of Lewiston, with Alfred Miller of Elk River alternate.

Dairy demonstration team, National Dairy Show at Memphis—Warren DeWolf and Harold Albers, both of Rice county.

General livestock judging team, International Livestock Show at Chicago—Ralph Horstman of Round Lake, Raymond Johnson of Round Lake, and Frederick Bjornstad of Worthington.

Champion Teams and Individuals

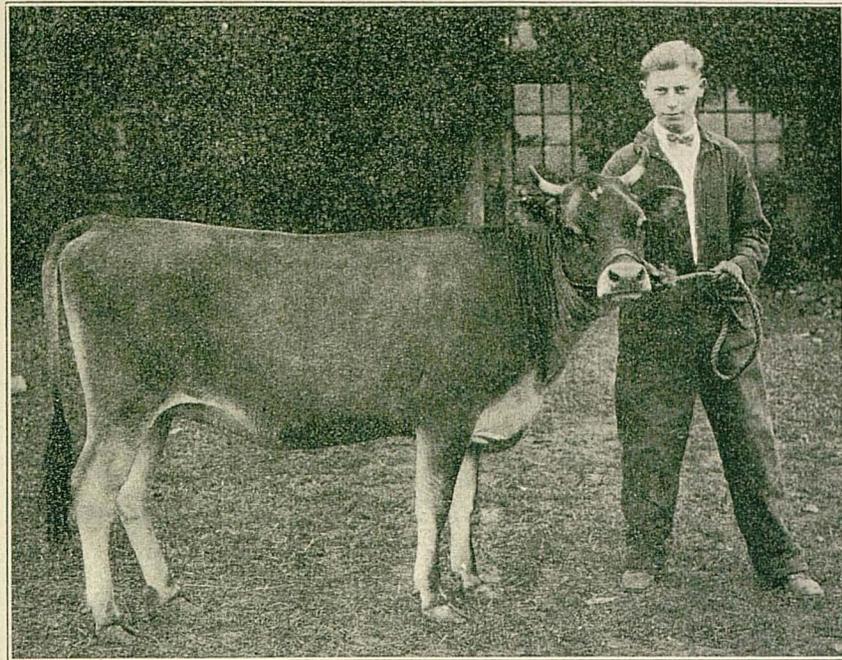
Breadmaking—Advanced, George Rose and Otha Ziebell of Winona county; class A, Beulah and Twyla Plummer of Clay county; class B, Louise Hoefs and Alta Cassady of Hubbard county.

Champion individual breadmakers—Class A, La Verne Wittwer of Glenwood; class B, Ruth Griffen of Hallock.

Grand champion breadmaker—Ella Kooda of Buhl, St. Louis county.

Bread judging—Class A, Marie Degner of Owatonna; class B, Muriel Ziegler of Hinckley.

Sewing—Class A, Janet King and Elsie Bun-



HAROLD LARSON AND HIS GRADE YEARLING JERSEY

nell of Itasca county; class B, Eleanor Andrews and Avis Hawkins of Hennepin county.

Garment judging—Class A, Helen Van Deer of Freeborn county; class B, Evelyn Foster of Blue Earth county.

Champion canning team—Helen Robbins and Dorothy Peterson of Itasca county.

Best individual canner—Helen Robbins. Champion cake team—Esther and Harriet Peterson of Kittson county.

Best individual cakemaker—Coral Hemmingson of Kittson county.

Room furnishing—Ruth Bang and Mary Perkins of Goodhue.

Home beautification—Iris Egell and Margaret Meyer of Dakota county.

Garden—Margaret and Mary Moonan of Waseca county.

Alfalfa—Vernon Perkins and Frederick German of Goodhue county.

Beekeeping—Swan and Brita Anderson of Kittson county.

Poultry—Edwin Baaken and Maurice Tevieto of Houston county.

Potato—Glen Pierson and Robert E. Johnson of Washington county.

Sheep—Robert Ash and Lawrence Ward of Kittson county.

Swine—Evelyn Rognley and Helga Jacobsen of Rock county.

Forestry—Albert Pluth and Arthur Kerson of St. Louis county.

Health—Nellie Nicols and Marion Jacobs of Pine county.

Leadership—Leona Schmiesing and Josephine Sabin of Redwood county.

Kerr prize for canning—Ida Landro and Bernice Naugle of Norman county.

Dairy Calf Club Awards

Grand champion dairy calf club member—Harold Larson of Redwood county.

Breed champions—Holstein, Avis Wilson of Yellow Medicine county; Guernsey, Ellen Hardy of Meeker county; Jersey, Irwin Armstrong of Freeborn county; Ayrshire, James Bull of Rice county; Brown Swiss, Eugene Friton of Brown county.

Showmanship—Glenn Von Wold of Goodhue county.

Pig Club Awards

Grand champion—Evelyn D. Johnson of North Branch.

Reserve champion—Ray Sash of Brownsdale.

Best Duroc Jersey—Evelyn D. Johnson.

Best Yorkshire—Ray Sash.

Best Poland China—Roger Anderson of Houston.

Best Chester White—Addison Kramer of Bigelow.

Best Hampshire—William Kehr of Elbow Lake.

Best Tamworth—Martin Head of Albert Lea.

"There's nothing about dairying this boy doesn't know," said one of the judges who helped to put a group of dairy calf club juniors through their paces in the oral tests which go a good way to determine the grand champion dairy calf club member in Minnesota. With such a showing there was nothing to do but to hand the championship banner to Harold Larson of Redwood county. This particular contest is based on the record of the boy or girl as a dairy calf club member, the record made at the State Fair, and an oral examination.

"I selected a Jersey for that is my favorite breed of cattle," says Harold. "I named her Babe and kept her on pasture the first month and a half. In the evening I turned her into the barn and gave her two pounds of a mixture of equal parts of ground oats and cracked corn together with a handful of oilmeal. She had free access to alfalfa until morning when she again received her grain and was turned out to pasture.

"For the last 45 days I kept her in the barn and increased the grain to five pounds per day. In the evenings I exercised and trained her and she surely enjoyed it after a hot day in the barn. After washing and polishing her for the show ring I felt I had been well repaid for my efforts."

Showmanship—LeVerne Leeman of Winnebago.

Corn and Potatoes

Sweepstakes on White Dent and grand champion of the corn club exhibit—Irvin Gilbertson of Pelican Rapids.

Sweepstakes on Yellow Dent—Frank Chromy of New Prague.

Sweepstakes on other varieties—Lloyd L. Johnson of Fergus Falls.

Sweepstakes on early varieties and grand champion of the potato club exhibit—Maxine MacIlwane of Grand Rapids.

Sweepstakes on late varieties—Vernon Cyrus of Bovey.

Club Booths

Hennepin, first, complete outfit of girl's wearing apparel and bedroom arrangement and decoration; Redwood county, home beautification, and Pine county, growth of 4-H club work, tied for second; Watonwan county, third, room furnishing; West Ottertail county, fourth, Dakota county, fifth; East Ottertail county, sixth; Le Sueur county, seventh; St. Louis county, eighth; Washington county, ninth; Norman county, tenth; Isanti county, eleventh, and Ramsey county, twelfth.

HALE'S COUNTY CLEANS UP AT THE STATE FAIR

Goodhue county swept the boards clean in the county booth competition at the fair, and it was no empty honor either. Agricultural products from 35 counties were shown in these booths and the display was something to be proud of. Goodhue's booth not only was first in the southern section, but first in the state at large and first for beauty of arrangement and appearance. Credit is due County Agent Preston Hale, A. L. Ballard, and A. L. Scofield, all of Zumbrota, who prepared the exhibit.

Dakota county was second in the southern section, and Rice county third. Pine county led central counties, with Ottertail second, and Todd third. Aitkin triumphed as of old in the north, followed in order by Roseau and Crow Wing. Roseau topped the north section booths for beauty, and Douglas won the beauty prize in the central section.

The Redwood county booth was prepared and sponsored by the Senior 4-H Club, a county-wide organization of older young folks. The Minden 4-H Club put on the Benton county exhibit. Neither ranked very high, but paraphrasing the immortal words of John Paul Jones, "They have just begun to fight."

FRIDAY, OCT. 21, FIFTH SWINE FEEDERS' DAY

Animal husbandry division men have set Friday, October 21, for the fifth annual Swine Feeders' Day at University Farm. Nearly 200 pigs have been used in five or six experiments which will be reported to swine growers on that day. Opportunity will be given to inspect the different lots. A program will be arranged for an afternoon session, with an animal husbandry staffman from some outside institution as the principal speaker. Several county agents are planning to attend.

No Walkaway at Memphis

Minnesota's 4-H club judging teams will find some stiff competition at the National Dairy Show at Memphis. Twenty-eight states have entered dairy cattle judging teams, and 23 states have entered demonstration teams. It is said there will be more teams at Memphis than ever appeared at the show when it was held in the heart of the dairy country.

Erickson Judges at S. D. State Fair

T. A., our own state club leader, judged the club demonstrations and booths at the South Dakota State Fair at Huron. He has only high praise for the club work which is being done in that state, and for the fair itself, which this year surpassed all exhibit and attendance records of past years.

Mr. and Mrs. Stegner Drop In

Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Stegner were callers at extension headquarters Saturday, September 24. Mrs. Stegner was Miss Stella DeWitz and the romance budded and bloomed when Mr. Stegner was agent in Houston county. They were married September 14; followed a honeymoon trip by auto to Duluth, Itasca State park, and Lake Superior. Their home will be at Fairmont. The staff extends its heartiest congratulations.



ELLA KOODA,

Grand Champion 4-H Club Breadmaker Ella signs herself "A Happy Club Member," and well she may, for in two years of club work she has won conspicuous honors at two Minnesota State Fairs, and in club circles at home and club camps outside she has, to use her own words, "received more training and had more fun than in all her years previous." At the 1926 fair she won first place in Class A individual bread demonstrations and placed second when all the classes were together. This year she was awarded championship honors for her demonstration which was pronounced almost perfect by the judge. Ella is 17 and lives at Buhl in St. Louis county. Of club work she says: "It is the most helpful and progressive club a boy or girl can join. Every community ought to have a club of this kind. 'Keep on trying until success is won,' is my motto."

And Now Master Farm Homemakers

Recognition of the five Minnesota Master Farm Homemakers will be given by The Farmer's Wife at the time of the annual home demonstration conference which is usually called by Miss Newton for the first week in March. All nominations of candidates must be in the office of The Farmer's Wife by October 10.

Clubs Unite to Build at Fair

Members of farmers' clubs and 4-H clubs recently put the finishing touches to an exhibit building of their own on the Aitkin county fair grounds.

HITCH DEMONSTRATIONS MAKE BIG HIT IN STATE

"No project tried in Brown county since the present agent was employed has caused so much interest and discussion as the horse hitch demonstrations," says Lenzmeier of Brown. "More than 250 farmers attended the demonstrations and more than fifty of them are now putting the hitches into practice. There is a call for more demonstrations and if assistance can be received more will be scheduled."

Engebretson of Faribault reports a marked interest in his county even though the demonstrations were given in the busiest farm season. "Groups of farmers are requesting this office to arrange for more demonstrations when the busy season is over," he says.

Regarding two demonstrations in his county Putnam of Fillmore says: "A great deal of interest was shown and a large number of farmers plan to use some of the hitches this fall."

Fischer of Nicollet submits the following report: "Although our hitch demonstrations were given in a very busy season 59 farmers attended. The four and five-horse hitch proved most popular and many of the farmers are using them for plowing. Invariably they say that the five-horse hitch is the best and most practical they have ever seen."

TRIAL TRENCH SILOS PLEASE TWO FARMERS

Two trench silos were built in Cottonwood county last year under the supervision of County Agent Charles Matthews and A. J. Schwantes of University Farm. "If it had not been for this silo," said L. L. Johnson, who co-operated with the extension men, "I would have had to sell a large part of my cow herd. As it was, I brought the cows through in fine shape and they produced well all winter." A. A. Janzen, the second co-operator, said the results were excellent for the expense involved. Both farmers had good drainage from their trench silos and fed out all the silage before the heavy spring rains.

Worthy of Imitation

The farmers' dairy cattle judging contest proved a drawing card at the Hennepin county fair at Hopkins. About 30 men judged three classes of mature cows and gave reasons on their choice of two classes. The high man scored 1,040 points out of a possible 1,100 and won a gold watch. Substantial prizes were awarded down the line.

Seed Growers in Clover

Farmers of Koochiching county are being assisted by their agent in working out a plan for the co-operative marketing of clover seed. Clover seed yields are exceptionally high and at the prevailing price of 20 to 24 cents a pound farmers of the district will have a cash income of a quarter of a million dollars, says the agent. Old loans will be paid and many fine improvements made from this seed money.

Sow Thistle in Hay Shipments

Seed of the perennial sow thistle was carried into Chisago county in hay shipments and brought forth plants this year, the first to be reported in the county.