



MINNESOTA EXTENSION SERVICE NEWS

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

Vol. VII

UNIVERSITY FARM, ST. PAUL, MINN., MAY, 1928

No. 8

Junior Short Course Slated for June 4-8

Juniors from all parts of the state—probably 800 of them—will attend the annual 4-H club short course to be held at University Farm June 4 to 8 inclusive. Several speakers and leaders from the outside will assist the state leader and his staff in conducting the course.

Study of service which leadership entails will be the biggest feature of the course, says T. A. Erickson, state leader. A daily training school in leadership will be held for the older boys and girls and adult leaders in attendance.

Three assembly periods will be arranged for each day—morning, noon, and evening. There will be a stunt night and also an evening picnic. Regular classes in the various club projects will be conducted forenoons by faculty people at the farm, and excursions and side trips afternoons will furnish education and recreation.

For the second time the preliminary contest in livestock judging, to select 20 contestants in each class for the finals at the State Fair, will be held at this course. The Minnesota Livestock Breeders' association will pay the traveling expenses of either a general livestock or dairy cattle judging team from each of the first 60 counties applying for this recognition.

The Minneapolis Journal will pay all expenses of 225 outstanding members of baby beef, poultry, swine, and sheep club projects attending the course. The Kerr and Ball Brothers Glass companies will bring two teams each of canning club members having superior records. The Farmer of St. Paul will take care of the expenses of five winners in the poultry project.

The Great Northern, Northern Pacific, Soo Line and the M. & St. L. will also co-operate in providing part of the expense fund for four club members each living in counties in which they operate. Winona county business men, the county fair association, service clubs and other interests will provide free trips for 52 club youngsters. Other counties are also arranging to send club representatives to the course.

News Writing to Be Studied

Junior and adult 4-H club leaders in Rock county plan to study journalism at a meeting which they will hold May 9 in County Agent Gaylord's office. A local editor will conduct the school and show the members how to write up the minutes of their meetings and how to prepare news stories for the press. Garment work was offered club girls of Rock county this year for the first time. Eighty have enrolled and are trying to finish the work by May 25 so as to exhibit at the county contest.

The Meat of the District Conferences

District conferences of county agents were held in April at Rochester, Mankato, Marshall, and Duluth, attended by agents from southern, central, and northeastern Minnesota. In addition to about 50 of the county agents, several of the home demonstration agents, specialists, supervisors, and others associated with county extension work attended.

As is the custom at district conferences, the principal topics for discussion had to do with the subject matter with which the agents are working. Being small groups, free discussion was engaged in on any subject that came before them.

One of the important subjects for discussion was the new plan of poultry sanitation. In southern Minnesota this was of particular interest because of the relation between tuberculosis in poultry and in swine. It was the consensus among the agents that best results would be achieved by working out result demonstrations—perhaps 10 to 15 in a county—which could be carefully supervised and through which the results could be brought to the county as a whole. The importance of this project in relation to poultry improvement, disregarding its effect on swine, was recognized at all the conferences.

Use of Economic Material

Another subject that aroused much interest was the proposed use of economic material in extension work in the counties. Director F. W. Peck, W. L. Cavert and D. C. Dvoracek led this discussion. The suggestion was made to hold county conferences in a few counties, and the agents voiced approval of this plan. The plan would be to have a conference of leading farmers of the county to discuss the economic relationship of the various farming enterprises to each other and the emphasis that should be placed on these different enterprises in the extension program of the county.

The matter of meetings was the subject of another discussion. In some counties the farmers' institute type of meeting has grown up and the relation between it and the regular monthly unit meeting was discussed. At the Duluth conference the development of definite programs of work by the units was discussed by means of outlines which had previously been prepared of five of the counties in that area.

Land clearing was another subject for discussion. The pyrotol supply has been exhausted and the relation of the new powders to the present land clearing program and the prices and comparison of these new explosives were discussed by B. H. Gustafson, land clearing specialist. In northern Minnesota, where the ex-

plosives are usually brought in in car-load lots, the pooling of explosives was discussed, the question being raised as to whether or not the present method of handling funds and pooling explosives was in harmony with extension policies. It was felt that some adaptation of the methods was necessary.

Balmer Sees Progress

At each of the conferences F. E. Balmer gave a splendid outline of the progress of extension work the last few years, with special emphasis placed on the permanent improvement which is apparent in many directions. He emphasized the steady growth in the number and character of contacts of the county agents with the people of the counties and the added recognition which the work is constantly receiving.

At each conference also Miss Julia Newton discussed briefly with the agents the new plans in home demonstration work. In particular she announced that beginning July 1, 1928, a new home project dealing with child training is to be started.

T. A. Erickson, state club leader, brought forward the problems and plans in boys' and girls' club work. Other matters were taken up at the various conferences, some of which were local in character.

As a whole the county agents expressed approval of the district conferences as a satisfactory opportunity for discussion of their mutual problems.

Poultry Sanitation Plan Launched

The sanitation plan for poultry improvement has been launched in a few counties. Nine project leaders in Pipestone county and six in Lyon county have signed up as demonstrators. Others will be secured from among the project group members, says Miss Cooke. County Agent Liebenstein of Mower county writes that several members of the group which took the poultry project last year have requested that the advanced sanitation project be presented to them this year.

Club Alumni Association Formed

Down in Watonwan county several former club members have formed an alumni association in order to keep up their acquaintance and also to co-operate in keeping club work on the go in their communities.

Blue Ribbons for 56

Owners of 56 pound a day dairy cows in Scott county in 1927 have been handed the blue ribbons awarded annually by Farm, Stock & Home.

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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 rate of postage provided for in section 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized October 21, 1921.

MAY, 1928

PRACTICE WHAT THEY PREACH

Executive committee men of the Blue Earth county farm bureau recently passed a resolution urging every farmer in Blue Earth county to grow enough alfalfa to meet his own feed requirements. Then they proceeded to check up upon themselves. They found that every one of the seven members of the committee raises alfalfa and that the seven have a total of 116 acres of alfalfa on their farms, or an average of better than 16 acres per farm, which is more than three times the average acreage of alfalfa per farm in Blue Earth county.

The total alfalfa acreage in Blue Earth county likely approximates 6,000 to 7,000 acres. If each farmer in the county grew approximately as much alfalfa as the members of the farm bureau executive committee, the county would have no less than 40,000 acres of this valuable crop.

Undoubtedly one of the greatest improvements that can be made in Minnesota agriculture is to grow more worth while hay and pasture crops. Minnesota's alfalfa acreage of 600,000 acres in 1927 ought to be increased to more than a million acres the next two or three years.

CLUB BOY'S PIGS MADE \$519.61 FOR HIM IN 1927

Kenneth Smith of St. Charles, Winona county, 15 years old and in club work four years, made such good use of his instruction and experience that he realized in 1927 a gross total of \$519.61 from his work as a pig club member. The figures have been handed the News by his county agent, J. B. McNulty.

A gilt which Kenneth exhibited at his county fair and the state fair brought him \$17 in prize money. Then a barrow which he took to the county fair and the Junior Livestock Show won \$25 more. Cash prizes on his ton litter plus railroad fare to St. Paul aggregated \$57. The barrow was sold at the Junior Show for 55 cents a pound and added \$186.95 to the boy's income. Then his ton litter sold for \$11.60 a hundred pounds, or \$233.66.

Add these four items and the grand total is \$519.61. Kenneth had a busy year, but he enjoyed it all, he says, and is planning to do even more in the club years to come.

Farmers' Potato Dipping Plant Saves Labor

If county agents and plant specialists have read the signs aright more seed will be treated, more spraying will be done, and more improved cultural practices will be followed by Minnesota potato growers in 1928 than ever before.

Down in Dakota county a farmer has so improved upon seed dipping plants in use in previous seasons that this item of expense can be trimmed. The plant was



made of picked-up materials and is operated by two men at the rate of a bushel a minute.

Running above and parallel to the platform and the tank and supported by uprights is a shaft to which a wheel from some worn-out machine has been firmly attached. Chains connect the shaft and the baskets containing the potatoes. By turning the wheel one set of baskets is lowered into the solution as

another set containing disinfected seed is being raised.

Many thousands of bushels of seed have been treated in this home-made custom plant, which has been duplicated in near-by sections as a labor saver. Many of the growers will plant treated seed alongside of untreated in order to obtain an accurate checkup on yields.

R. C. Rose of the extension service says that all certified seed grown in this state has been sold. Test plots will be established on a dozen farms to compare Dip Dust, Semesan, and hot formaldehyde. Individual farmers by doing one thing will get the benefit of all the trials. County agents will co-operate in this work.

Fifteen co-operators have been signed in Pine county for the spraying program advised by the extension service. All localities in which potato schools were held will be toured during the growing season.

Club boys at Remer in Cass county will plant the school's farm of ten acres to potatoes. They have bought certified seed from Hollandale. Members of the American Legion and the school superintendent at Remer are backing them. Orvie Anderson has 23 potato club boys under his watchful eye in the Forest Lake country. All the seed has been treated with hot formaldehyde.

Will Increase Alfalfa Acreage

McCann of Norman county can figure out an increase of 3,000 acres in the alfalfa acreage in his territory this year. Requests for 10,000 pounds of alfalfa seed followed his questionnaire, and many growers had ordered seed before the questionnaires were sent out.

Lawson of Freeborn can also foresee a big increase in the alfalfa acreage this spring. There was a shortage of feed last year and the farmers do not propose to be caught again.

Miss Currier Regains Health

Miss Sadie Currier is convalescing at the home of a sister in South St. Paul from illness which made a serious operation necessary several weeks ago. She is hopeful of being able to resume her duties as supervisor of the stenographic room at extension headquarters by the first of June.

Douglass Organizes Community Club

The organization of a new community club at Morris, Pennington county, is reported by County Agent Robert Douglass. This group, consisting of more than 100 members, is enthusiastic for community development.

HOW TO GET LEGUME INOCULATING MATERIAL

Word comes from Washington that the free distribution of legume inoculating material has been materially curtailed by the Department of Agriculture, that, in fact, none will be distributed except for experimental or demonstration purposes. However, the Bureau of Chemistry and Soils will honor requests from county agents so far as possible, provided the requests are made through the extension director and approved by the agronomy division of the agricultural college; that a detailed plan, showing that a legume campaign is a major project, is furnished; and that information is supplied to show that farmers are not familiar with the use of inoculating material for the special legume desired, and that a satisfactory supply is not available for demonstration purposes.

Carlton Maintains Its Lead

Carlton county juniors seem likely to maintain their lead for enrollments in dairy calf club work. County Agent Aldrich says there will be about 250 calf club members. The garden project is also coming along strong.

Thorfinnson Reviews Six Months of Service

Upon closing his term of service in Kittson county, prior to leaving for his Montana ranch, M. A. Thorfinnson made the following significant statement:

"Five pieces of work stand out in my last six months in Kittson county. They are—

"(1) The farm bureau membership drive, in which motion pictures were used to attract crowds, resulting in an attendance of 1,655 at 14 meetings and helping to strengthen the county organization.

"(2) The 'TB' area test drive which resulted in the signing up of 67 per cent of the livestock owners and putting Kittson county on the map in the area test.

"(3) The putting across of the county seed loan through the combined efforts of the farm bureau and the committee of county bankers, thus furnishing seed to 150 or more farmers who were otherwise unable to buy it.

"(4) The starting of two advanced 4-H clubs, the first an advanced turkey project limited to 12 members to raise turkeys on the Minnesota plan; the second an advanced potato project limited to 30 members on certified seed and hill unit plan fostered by the Kennedy Potato Warehouse company, which gave \$150 for trip and cash prizes.

"(5) The certified seed potato special train, consisting of 44 carloads of Kittson county Early Ohio and Irish Cobblers, run through Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio under the auspices of the Kittson County Certified Seed Potato association and the Kennedy Potato Warehouse company, Purdue University, and the Ohio Farm Bureau Federation.

"We feel there is a splendid future for extension work in Kittson county. We have passed through some of the poorest years in the history of this section from the standpoint of financial returns to the farmer. In spite of this, the support for extension work is strong in all parts of the county and the attitude is much more favorable than it has been at any time in the past. We have an excellent board of county commissioners, who see the work big enough to make a substantial county appropriation. We have on the farm bureau board a fine lot of men who are thoroughly familiar with the different phases of the work and who appreciate its value. There is also a splendid group of advisors who will give good backing to the new county agent taking up the work. As a whole over the county there is an excellent class of people to work with, all being ready and willing to co-operate."

CLUB WORK BOOMING IN MORRISON COUNTY

Two weeks ago County Agent Henry Werner of Morrison reported an enrollment of 350 members in club projects, or double the total enrollment for 1927. Crawford Sheldon, county superintendent, and Mrs. Val Kaspersek, his assistant, are co-operating and much of the progress made is to be credited to their help. Thirty-one rural teachers have been signing club members, the number ranging from two to 40 per school. Miss Gertrude Anderson of route 6, Little Falls, has enrolled 40, some of whom will take two and three projects each. Plans are being laid for finishing the project work in the very best manner. Achievement Day exercises will be held May 5.

CLIFFORD H. SCHRADER MURRAY'S NEW AGENT

With the beginning of May, Clifford H. Schrader becomes agent in Murray county, succeeding A. G. Mereness, who resigned after seven years of faithful service to take charge of organization work for the Minnesota Farm Bureau Federation.

Mr. Schrader was born and reared on a Rice county farm. After graduating from the Minnesota School of Agriculture he operated a farm for three years, then spent a year in army service. On his return he entered the Minnesota College of Agriculture and was graduated in 1926. At Elkton in Mower county, where he spent the last two years as teacher of agriculture in the high school, he doubled his enrollment, organized a cow testing association, and helped to promote junior club work. All boys in his classes were club members.

Mr. Mereness will have headquarters in St. Paul, but as organization director for the farm bureau will visit officers and other members over the state. Murray county was fortunate in having his leadership so many years in extension work. All parts of the county were reached and a strong active organization was built up in 18 of the 20 townships. Membership in 4-H clubs was multiplied many times; the alfalfa acreage is now past the 10,000 mark, and sweet clover is now a common crop. Murray county is a leader in "TB" eradication, having been on the list of modified accredited areas for more than two years.

UNTIMELY DEATH OF ALTON HANSON SADDENS

Faculty men and students alike were shocked by the death Tuesday, April 17, from complications following an operation for appendicitis, of Alton Hanson, a sophomore in the College of Agriculture and brother of E. A. Hanson of the extension service. Alton had made many friends at University Farm and his untimely death is deeply and sincerely regretted. He was a past president of the Y. M. C. A. and of the 4-H college club and a leader in many other student activities. As organizer of club work in his home county, Freeborn, he had given splendid service, and was looking forward to continuing that work the present season. Brief funeral services, attended by a hundred or more from the campus, were held in Minneapolis the following day, the remains then being taken to his home at Albert Lea, where final services were held in Trinity Lutheran church on Friday, April 20.

Boy's Litter a Money Maker

A boy's pig litter of 10 made more money net on a farm in Warren township, Winona county, than did six other litters produced on the farm. The boy's litter weighed 2,640 pounds when 180 days old and sold for \$11.10 per hundred early in October. For lack of feed the remainder of the pigs on the farm were not pushed as they should have been and were not ready for the market until December. They then sold for only \$7.10 per hundred.

Left Over Explosives Bought Freely Here

From the time that government war salvaged explosives became available August 1, 1921, to the time that the supply was exhausted, April 1, 1928, farmers and land owners of Minnesota purchased 10,562,700 pounds, or 425 carloads, or five trainloads of 85 cars each.

These explosives, beginning with picric acid, then sodatol, and for the last three years and a fraction, pyrotol, were comparatively cheap, but they actually represented an investment of nearly one million dollars.

The figures are taken from a summary report made by B. H. Gustafson, land clearing specialist of the university. All the explosives were distributed through the agricultural engineering division at University Farm.

St. Louis county took 1,361,200 pounds, or about one-eighth of the total. Pine county was second with 907,000 pounds; Beltrami county third, 676,150 pounds; Itasca fourth, 603,600 pounds; Aitkin county fifth, 543,400 pounds; Carlton county sixth, 524,900 pounds, with Koochiching, Mille Lacs, Crow Wing, and Stearns following in order. Shipments were made to all counties in the state. Wilkin was the low point buyer with only 400 pounds. St. Louis and Pine counties alone took more than one-fifth of the total.

A noticeable feature of the distribution was the increasing use of the material for stone and stump removal in the southern part of the state. In the first year of pyrotol Brown county, for instance, bought 12,900 pounds; the second year 15,400 pounds, and the third year 41,000 pounds. Mower county ordered 15,000 pounds the first year, 23,100 pounds the second, and 27,800 the third.

This trend in increased use, which held good in most of the southern counties, is to be attributed to educational work and particularly to the demonstrations given by Mr. Gustafson and others.

The University of Minnesota gave free use of a carload of the explosives in putting on the demonstrations. County agents and bankers were important factors in extending land clearing work.

MISS BLAIR REJOINS THE EXTENSION STAFF

Miss Eva Blair has taken over the duties of home management specialist to supply the vacancy created by leave of absence granted Miss Mary L. Bull because of illness. Miss Blair is a graduate of the University of Illinois, and for three years was a home demonstration agent in Minnesota. She was serving Brown county in that capacity when she resigned to accept a position with the Hawaiian Department of Education. While regretting the particular circumstances that have returned her to the staff, Miss Blair's many friends are glad to know she is identified with the extension service again.

Area Test Voted Unanimously

Eighty farmers of Cottonwood county called upon the county board which gave them a unanimous vote in answer to their petitions for the area test.

Turner of Washington Spends Week in State

Even Friday the 13th with its jinx storm, which spread a heavy blanket of snow over Minnesota, failed to put a damper on the visit and work of R. A. Turner who, as field agent for the central states, office of co-operative extension work, came from Washington to spend a week at state headquarters and in the field.

Mr. Turner was here to confer with club leaders and specialists, to meet with the father and son partnership groups in Redwood and Martin counties, and to attend club rallies at Mankato and Blue Earth. The program was carried out except for the Redwood county meeting. An "extra" was the holding of a conference with Agent Matthews of Cottonwood.

About 300 club members attended the Mankato meeting. Messrs. Turner and Erickson with County Agent McMillan visited the schools and addressed hundreds of the pupils in groups. Mr. Erickson spoke before 500 seniors and 400 or more in other classes. Despite the bad condition of the roads more than 400, including club members, leaders and parents, attended the Faribault county rally at Blue Earth. More than 30 local leaders were present. Talks were given by Mr. Turner, Mr. Erickson, the president of the city council, and leaders of the Kiwanis and Community clubs. Prizes were handed club members coming the longest distance and having the largest delegations. Fourteen members of the advanced club project turned out for the conference at Fairmont in Martin county.

In a statement given the News while at University Farm, Mr. Turner said that extension work with rural young people above 4-H club age is being emphasized in Harford county, Maryland; Middlesex county, Connecticut, and Redwood and Martin counties, Minnesota. In Maryland the plan is to transfer the juniors at the end of their 4-H club experience into established adult organizations. In Connecticut efforts have centered on the organization of Young Farmers' Clubs. Emphasis has been placed on the farm-account project and much has been done to popularize an unpopular practice. In Minnesota the father and son partnership plan of working with older boys has been instituted. Twenty-two co-operators in Redwood county and 18 in Martin are grouped for work in dairying, poultry, baby beef, swine, and sheep projects, and a rental lease partnership for the farm business by two of the oldest boys enrolled.

"While a final recheck has not been made," said Mr. Turner, "club memberships in the United States as a whole increased approximately 6 per cent in 1927. The increase in the number completing the work was about 8 per cent. The total membership is around 618,000."

Morrison Dairymen Organize Another

Morrison county dairymen are gradually moving towards the head of the class. On March 30 the fifth cow testing association was organized at Motley by Agent Henry Werner.

M. H. OSTREM NEW AGENT UP IN KITTSON

M. H. Ostrem, agricultural instructor at Fisher, Minnesota, was the unanimous choice of the Kittson county agricultural extension committee to continue the county agent work so well started by W. V. Longley ten years ago and effectively carried on the last four years by M. A. Thorfinnson.

Mr. Ostrem was born near Fosston in Polk county in 1895 and received his early education in the rural schools of Polk county and at the Fosston high school. After completing his high school work he enrolled for the four-year agricultural course at the North Dakota Agricultural College at Fargo.

World war service, including six months or more overseas, interrupted college training, however, but the agricultural field still called after the muster out and he returned to the North Dakota Agricultural College and was graduated from that institution in 1922.

Following graduation he served two years as high school instructor in agriculture at Beach, North Dakota, later a year at Gettysburg, South Dakota, and then two years at Fisher. All furnished admirable training for his new job. He started work in Kittson county April 16.

Mr. Thorfinnson resigned to engage in ranch operations near Kalispell, Montana. "Our fullest appreciation is extended Matt for efficient and untiring services," says his district supervisor.

Runs Into Big Money

Even with an average production of only 176 pounds of butterfat per cow, dairymen of Ottertail county delivered 7,173,341 pounds of butterfat to creameries in 1927 and received \$3,826,544 in payment. Patrons received \$786 on the average, or an average of \$84.91 per cow owned.

Rural School Athletics Featured

Athletic events are being featured in all schools of Roseau county by the extension interests, the Roseau County Teachers League, and the county superintendent of schools. The events are staged on achievement day for the rural schools, and the winners are entitled to take part in the county meet at the county fair in August.

Anti-Smut Campaign Pushed

Bankers and other business men of Waseca financed page advertisements in a newspaper to point out the losses caused by smut on grain and the treatment necessary to overcome the trouble. Circular letters were sent to the farmers and the subject was discussed at all farm meetings. Posters were displayed in all public places.

Nobles County in the Fold

A new cow testing association, its first in fact, is ready to go in Nobles county the first of May. Nobles has been known as a corn, hog, and beef cattle county, but dairying is taking hold and the new association is not likely to stand alone for long. Worthington is the central point of the new organization.

Farmers Appreciate Dairy School Series

Donovan's series of four dairy schools in Carlton county were greatly appreciated, says Agent S. A. Aldrich. In summarizing the benefits received from the course one farmer said:

"I am getting 15 per cent more production at least because of putting into practice the things I learned at this feeding school. The work has been especially helpful to me since I have obtained some high class cows to replace common cows."

Another farmer said he was helped by learning to feed salt properly, and another has been following the specialist's suggestion about watering the cows and finds that it pays big. His next step, he says, will be to provide running water in the barn.

"I would not have missed one of the meetings for anything," said another farmer. "My cows are responding to the things I learned at these meetings."

A resolution of appreciation of the extension service for giving the work, and asking that it be repeated next season with advanced material was unanimously adopted by the group.

The last three schools held by H. R. Searles, dairy specialist, in Wadena county drew a combined attendance of 875. The last meeting, held at Sebeka, where the creamery organization formed a big herd test association last fall, was attended by about 500 persons.

"The schools of the past winter were the best we have ever had," says Mr. Searles. "The attendance was larger and the interest greater. Several agents have already made requests for these schools next winter."

A Visit from Miss Cordiner

Miss Lucy Cordiner, formerly nutrition specialist at this station, now in charge of the Preventorium at Deerfield, Illinois, spent several days in the cities and at University Farm in April. She was returning from a leave of absence trip to the Pacific coast. Former colleagues were happy to meet her again.

Then and Now

Patterson of Lac qui Parle records a complete reversal of form in the matter of locating baby beeves for club members. In most years, he says, it has been very easy to locate good calves, but difficult to get club members to buy them. This year the reverse is true; it's easy to find members who want to purchase calves, but hard to find the calves.

Sheldon Plans Farmstead

One recent call on Sheldon of Redwood was an appeal from a farmer for help in planning a farmstead. This was a new farmstead and a special effort was made to place the buildings for the greatest convenience and protection.

Some Difference

Each of the ten best cows in the Scott county cow testing association No. 1 gave their owners a gain over feed cost of \$174.95, while the ten poorest cows returned to their owners, to pay for labor, taxes, barn expense, etc., only \$9.31 each.