

MINNESOTA EXTENSION SERVICE NEWS

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

Vol. VII

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

No. 11

Big Things Planned for Juniors at Fair

Wonderful things are in store for the thousand or more 4-H club boys and girls who are coming to the Minnesota State Fair and Northwest Livestock Show September 1 to 8. About 200 boys will live in the camp on the fair grounds; other club members will make their home for the week at University Farm.

Beginning at 6:15 a.m., the day will be crowded with interesting events well into the evening. Early every forenoon for an hour and a half there will be an assembly or short course for the study of leadership. These meetings will be led by the two boys and two girls who represented Minnesota in the National Club Camp in Washington where the value of leadership was emphasized at daily conferences. The four will review so far as possible the leadership work in the National Camp.

The rest of the day will be divided between recreation, demonstration work at the fair and trips about the two cities and to the fair. The evening entertainments will be featured by the club parade in front of the grandstand at the fair Wednesday night, September 5, and the annual banquet of the Minneapolis Civic and Commerce association for the juniors the following night.

Department premiums provided by the State Fair and special premiums given by various other interests amount to the splendid total of \$23,546.50. Some of the items making up this sum are: Home economics, \$5,161; breadmaking contest, \$2,725; canning contest, \$1,349; agricultural exhibits and team demonstrations, \$2,200; pig show, \$1,275; junior dairy show, \$8,885; livestock and dairy judging contest, \$1,930; other smaller sums make up the total.

Forty juniors have won the right to take part in the finals of the general and dairy livestock judging contests. The big four in each will be able to read their title clear to a national trip—the dairy quartet to the dairy show at Memphis and the other to the International in Chicago.

Two 4-H features added this year are the sheep club exhibit and the colt club show. Every county having an enrollment of at least ten sheep club members with at least three raising purebred lambs can send its winning member and a purebred ewe lamb to the fair. The lambs will be judged by breeds, with a special grand championship award. Cash prizes hung up for this event amount to \$70. A showmanship contest for special prizes will also be held.

The Minnesota Horse Breeders' association is giving the money for the colt club show. Counties having at least five members, three of the five having competed with yearling colts, may send one

PLACE THESE DATES ON MEMORY'S TABLET

While it is yet a long ways ahead dates have been selected for the annual meeting and conference of the extension service. Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, December 12, 13 and 14, are the important days in the extension calendar. It will be the sixteenth annual conference. We're growing up.

junior each to the fair. Counties having 12 or more members, eight of whom have yearling colts, may send two juniors each to the fair. There will also be a showmanship contest. The first prize will be a free trip to the National Club Congress in Chicago. Cash prizes will be given other winners.

Clubs to the number of eight will have booths. For the first time at the fair there will be a beautification club booth, the project of Ramsey county clubs.

T. A. Erickson, the state club leader, is superintendent of boys' and girls' club work at the fair. His assistants will be: Club camps, W. D. Stegner and Miss Edna Brown; home economics exhibit and demonstrations, H. A. Pflughoeft and Miss Mildred Schenck; junior dairy exhibit, A. J. Kittleson; pig club exhibit, R. H. Giberson.

Depraved Appetites Doomed

A Polk county farmer whose cattle were found to be suffering from phosphate deficiency has been advised by the county agent to feed bonemeal, use phosphate fertilizer on his crop, and to get a change of water inasmuch as the drink which he is giving his cattle is alkaline. The agent feels that the depraved appetites will be removed when these little things have been attended to.

F. B. Picnic Breaks Up Drouth

It took a farm bureau picnic to break up a drouth of about five weeks in Brown county. While matters looked distinctly dismal and discouraging for the picnic early in the day, there were no complaints, and by noon the weatherman swept the sky clear of rain clouds and a large crowd came to enjoy the outing.

Signal Honors for Two

Upon invitation of the Wisconsin Agricultural Board, A. E. Engebretson, the Faribault county agent, will judge the Yorkshire swine show at the Wisconsin State Fair at Milwaukee August 27 to September 1. Frank Svoboda, agent for Renville county, has been appointed judge of the Milking Shorthorn class at the Minnesota State Fair and Northwest Livestock Show.

State Potato Tour Now in Full Swing

William Stewart, in charge of potato work for the United States Department of Agriculture and an international authority on potato culture, is taking part in the 1928 Minnesota potato tour which started at University Farm as the News goes to press. Led by R. C. Rose of the extension service and by A. G. Tolaas, who is in charge of seed potato certification for the State Department of Agriculture, the tour is attended by farmers, college station men, manufacturers of fertilizers, and representatives of potato machinery and spray material concerns.

The forenoon of July 31 was spent at University Farm while tuber index, potato breeding, and disease treatment plots were inspected. The tour then led to peat lands in Anoka and Sherburne counties for the study of conditions in fields of Irish Cobblers, Bliss Triumphs and Spaulding Rose. August 1 was given to the inspection of certified Triumphs in Beltrami county. August 2 found the tourists in western Polk county, starting the day at East Grand Forks and ending at Crookston in the evening. Minnesota Point, a locality particularly adapted to potato growing, was visited. Demonstrations of high pressure spraying and new seed treating methods were given. Fertilizer plots and plots showing the difference between certified and run-out seed were studied.

The pilgrimage was finished August 3 with a visit to certified Early Ohio and Cobbler fields in Kittson county. Seed treating and plant spraying were again demonstrated.

Local potato tours have already been held in East Ottertail, Wadena, and Morrison counties. Beginning August 7 others are planned for Washington, Pine, South St. Louis, and Aitkin counties.

Prospects for the potato crop are very good, says Mr. Rose, except around Meadowlands in St. Louis county, where so much rain has fallen that the crop is a failure. Mr. Rose notes increased interest and distinct progress in potato culture in Minnesota. Much more seed was treated this year than ever before, he says. Potato schools held last winter were the forerunners of this activity. The sequel of a three-day potato school in Pine county was the organization of two spray rings with more growers applying for membership than could be taken in. To help the cause along a hardware dealer bought two high pressure sprayers which he rents out to members of the spray rings. The dealer employs a man to go from farm to farm with the sprayer, but the farmers furnish and mix their own materials.

Charges for this service are usually \$1.50 for an acre or less, and \$1.00 an acre for sizeable tracts.

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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.

AUGUST, 1928

EXTENSION WORK GROWING UP

The fact that Texas Agricultural College authorities are already taking steps for the observance next February of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the beginning of farm demonstration work in the state by the United States Department of Agriculture, suggests that at the proper time an anniversary celebration in Minnesota might be the means of creating a still greater interest in the extension service and possibly of interesting counties not now employing county and home demonstration agents.

The first field representatives of the department were appointed in February, 1904, to serve an area in southern Texas, and the anniversary program is to mark this beginning. The first demonstration work in cotton was so successful that work in other lines of farming was added. In 1906 the first agent was employed to serve exclusively in one county.

In recording the fact that extension work has reached its quarter century period in the southern state, *The Farmer of St. Paul* says editorially:

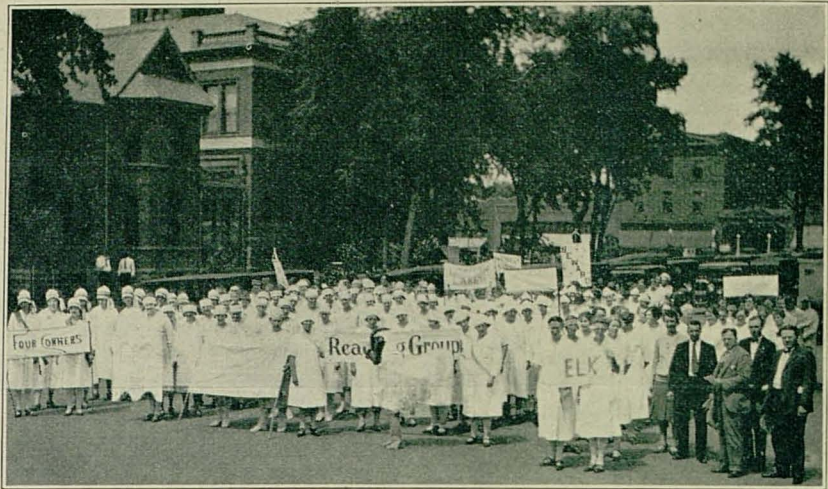
"We believe the time is coming when every county in the west at least will avail itself of all the advantages accruing from extension work. Farm people have come to understand that the county agent or the county home demonstration agent is chiefly a medium of contact between farmers, and between farmers and educational institutions of the state and government. Their job is not to teach the farmer how to farm or the homemaker how to keep house, but rather to put the farmer in touch with other farmers and the homemaker in touch with other homemakers in such a way that they can learn from the experience of one another. Furthermore, the agent becomes the point of contact between the farm and the outside world. The cost of this service is a trifle compared with the advantages that accrue."

NOT ALL PROFIT BY JUGFUL

Many persons never seem to realize that it costs a lot of money to produce crops. When a farmer markets something they take it for granted that his receipts are clear gain.

These persons should study the costs of grain production reported recently by the United States Department of Agri-

Poultry Project Princesses Pose for Picture



One hundred fifty-nine members paraded by groups on poultry project achievement day in Nobles county. The members represented 14 community groups. Each group had a distinctive costume and nearly all groups carried banners. The parade led through the auditorium where the audience was seated and out to the street to be photographed.

culture. After making a survey on 4,778 farms the government men found that the cost of producing a bushel of corn on those farms last year averaged 70 cents. Wheat on 3,119 farms cost \$1.18 a bushel, and oats on 3,590 farms 54 cents a bushel.

Corn production costs on these farms ranged from an average of 57 cents per bushel in the west north central states to 85 cents a bushel in the North Atlantic states. Wheat production costs ranged from \$1.06 per bushel in the western states to an average of \$1.51 in the South Atlantic states. Oat growing costs varied from 50 cents a bushel in the west north central states to an average of 72 cents a bushel in the south.

These cost figures relate of course only to the farms covered by the survey.

ENGLAND'S JUDGES WIN AGAIN

England's team won the international junior livestock judging contest by a score of 666 points compared with 647½ points scored by the Nebraska 4-H club team. The contest was held at Kent, England. The international has been held annually since 1922 and the score now stands, United States 4 and England 3. Some day a Minnesota team should represent this country in this contest. It can be done. The 1929 team will be chosen at the National Dairy Show at Memphis in October.

McNulty Edits Club Bulletin

County Agent J. B. McNulty of Winona recently put out a 20-page illustrated bulletin furnishing complete information on 4-H club projects and containing cuts of club members. All this material, he says, will go into the county fair premium book. In addition, the county fair association has had 1,000 separate reprints of the material published and copies have been mailed to each family having boys and girls in club work.

121 LITTERS IN SIXTH TON LITTER CAMPAIGN

Minnesota's sixth annual ton litter contest is away to a good start with 121 litters entered by 107 individuals or farm firms in 34 counties. "There would have been more," says H. G. Zavoral, who is in charge of the project for the agricultural extension service of the university, "but for the low price of pork and the high price of feed. Decrease in the spring pig crop in Minnesota of about 19 per cent also had some adverse effect." Swine growers of Winona county lead this year with 17 litters entered as compared with 15 litters in Lyon county, 10 in Nobles, 8 in Mower, and 7 each in Scott and Yellow Medicine. Prizes will be awarded the owners of the heaviest litters and those producing the heaviest average weights per pig.

Swine Will Be Tattooed

Liebenstein of Mower county has obtained orders for several tattooing instruments and has made arrangements for their distribution in order that farmers may tattoo their swine and secure the 10 per cent per hundred premium offered since July 1. Registration of tattoo marks is going forward in the farm bureau office. Every farmer will be assigned a permanent brand. Records of the brands will be kept in offices of county agents.

Parten's Poisoned Bait Makes Hit

Fifty or more Norman county farmers have declared war on the pocket gopher since witnessing three demonstrations given by H. L. Parten of the extension service. Agent J. J. McCann says the demonstrations were very successful and that in only one place was a gopher mound discovered afterward. Parten's poisoned bait is being recommended in that territory as sure death to the gophers.

HOW WEEDING, FEEDING ENHANCE PRODUCTION

The importance of efficiency in production was brought out very clearly at the final meeting for the consideration of data from the Askov farm accounting route. By weeding out poor producers and doing a better job of feeding, dairymen on the route increased their production of 245 pounds of butterfat per cow in 1925 to 250 pounds of butterfat on the average for 1926, and 270 pounds for 1927. Special study was made of the organization and management of one farmer who had an average return per hour of 31 cents compared with the route average of 15 cents. This was found to be due to crop yields 23 per cent above the average and to production per cow of 314 pounds of butterfat compared with the route average of 255 pounds. It was shown that this farmer was getting from eight cows what the average ten cows on the route were producing. By comparing six dairy farms, three of which had a production of 354 pounds of butterfat per cow and a net return per animal of \$58, as contrasted with three farms having production of 201 pounds of fat and a net return of only \$16 per cow, the importance of efficient production was again emphasized in an unmistakable way.

Tattooing Gains

Tattooing or individual branding of hogs is gaining ground in Freeborn county, says Agent Willis Lawson. The purpose is to make a well defined trail back to the farms where the hogs came from in order that disease can be traced to the fountain source.

Real Progress Reported

Nutrition project leaders in Freeborn county report decided progress in their groups. Mrs. V. L. Lenz of the Southeast Pickeral Lake unit says there are now five A postures in their group. Mrs. Otto Van Deer of Southwest Alden reports that group members and families are adopting many new practices as the result of the project; 69 had improved food practices, and 41 were taking an adequate amount of milk. Mrs. J. Cook and Mrs. E. Adams of the Pep unit report six members taking sun baths regularly. A nurse maid takes care of the little ones while the mothers are at the project meeting. Mrs. C. C. Shilling and E. E. Nelson of the Myrtle unit say that members are doing their best to attain the goals set. Mrs. Irma Ball and Kathryn Bump of North Star unit add that every member does her share gladly, sometimes offering to do more than her share.

Wool Deal Quickly Closed

The Brown County Wool Growers' association made quick work of the disposal of the 1928 clip. The wool was stored in the warehouse in a four-day period and three days later was sold on sealed bids for 45.3 cents a pound. On the following day the wool was weighed and shipped out, and the entire project closed so far as the growers were concerned.

170 at Hitch Demonstrations

Big team hitch demonstrations in Lac qui Parle were attended by 170 farmers. Agent C. D. Patterson says a lot of interest has been stirred up.

FARM WOMEN HAVE A HAPPY TIME IN CAMP

With attendance of 90 women, or more than double the number expected, the first Martin county camp for farm women was an unusual success in the opinion of those who took part. Under the leadership of Mrs. H. W. Brodt, the Martin county home and community chairman, and A. R. Karr, county agent, an excellent educational program, consisting of canning, salad and cake making demonstrations and short talks, was presented forenoons, while swimming and other recreations had the right of way afternoons. Julia O. Newton, state home demonstration leader, and J. S. Jones, secretary of the Minnesota Farm Bureau Federation, took part in the program. On the last day an athletic contest was staged, and the group discussed the writing of township histories. Four-H club work had an important place on the program. Home beautification project work was stressed. The best outing in years was the unanimous verdict, and everything points toward a still larger camp next year.

Mr. and Mrs. Hudson Lose Baby Son

Many friends of Mr. and Mrs. L. E. Hudson of Watonwan county mourn with them for the loss of their 2-year-old son who was taken sick at University Farm when the parents were attending the annual summer meeting of extension service people. Acting upon the advice of a physician, Mr. and Mrs. Hudson started homeward with the little patient. When Faribault was reached his condition appeared so critical that he was taken to a hospital there. The end came on Tuesday, July 17. This was the second son Mr. and Mrs. Hudson have lost. Two daughters survive.

Fine Start for Nutrition Project

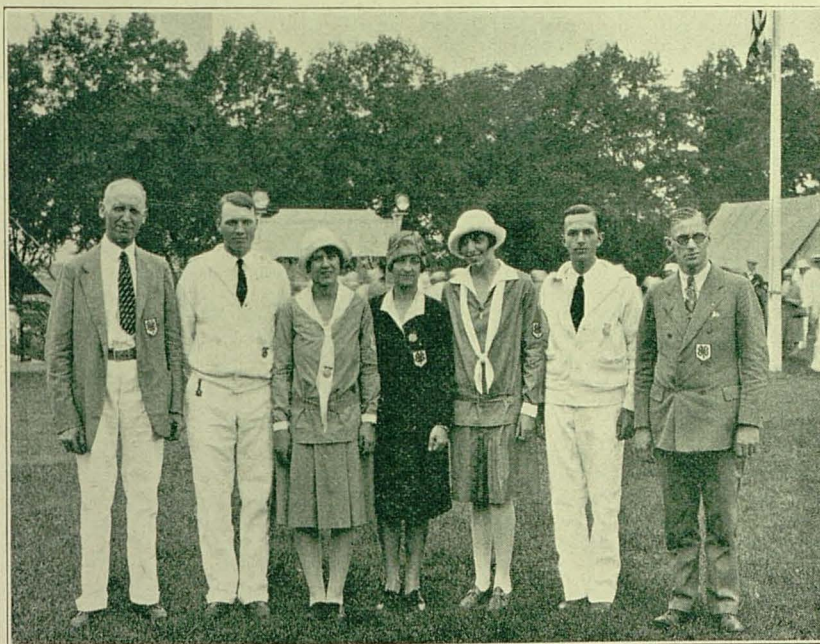
Attending the preliminary organization meeting of the nutrition project in Faribault county were township home chairmen from all townships except three. Also present were Inez Hobart, specialist; Mrs. W. F. Merrill, the county home chairman, and A. E. Engebretson, the county agent. Township chairmen will organize groups in their own territory, and there is a prospect there will be more groups than can be taken care of. The first lesson will be given project leaders the second week in October.

Good Demand Seen for Feeders

If the bright prospects for a big corn crop are realized, several county agents are of the opinion that good feeder cattle will be in demand at high prices the coming fall and winter. Good prices for wool have also quickened the demand for breeding stock in sheep. The Brown county agent says that the sheep population in his territory has shown a steady increase the last eight years, and that many farmers who hitherto have considered sheep a small sideline are now coming to regard them as a major project.

Pederson of Traverse reports a lot of interest in the two hitch demonstrations given recently. About 85 bona fide farmers turned out and the majority of them will use the hook-up in some form this fall.

Minnesota's 4-H Club Delegation at Washington



This picture was taken on the camp grounds at Washington. The faces are familiar, but to keep the record straight we give the names. Left to right: T. A. Erickson, state club leader; William Kehr, Grant county; Mildred Bennett, Steele county; Mildred Schenck, assistant club leader; Georgia Rose, Winona county; Frederick Welch, Carlton county; S. A. Aldrich, county agent Carlton.

Field Day Visitors Chaperoned by Agents

County agents were of great help in putting over Farm Crops Field Day at University Farm. The Scott county delegation, piloted by John Sheay, was composed of 51 farm men and women. A big delegation, led by Matthews and Leznmeier, came from the Watonwan, Brown and Cottonwood country. About twenty agents chaperoned parties. The total attendance for the day was estimated at 500. A poll of the biggest delegations was taken and first prize for the largest attendance was awarded the Minnesota valley contingent. There were 68 in this group. Second prize was won by the Wan-Bro-Cot combination which could count 55 noses. Meeker county was represented by 19 and won third prize.

This was the second field day of the Minnesota Crop Improvement association, held in co-operation with the Minnesota Experiment Station and the agricultural extension service. Proceedings were opened at a picnic lunch served on tables in the shade of campus trees. Dean W. C. Coffey welcomed the farm groups, and J. W. Evans, president of the association, gave the response.

A five-acre field of Marquillo wheat and even newer productions that are being grown in increase fields attracted general attention. Last year was a rust year, and Marquillo, rust resistant, yielded 31 bushels to the acre as against 19 bushels to the acre of Marquis. There was 95 per cent of rust on the Marquis and but 6 per cent on Marquillo. Marquillo also outyielded Ceres by an average of two bushels to the acre at all university stations in 1927.

Good as is Marquillo, the farm folks were told that the plant breeders are working for something better. Some of the new strains at University Farm, tested for the first time in 1927, yielded at the rate of 35 per cent more than Marquillo. And the latter, in a rust year, as has been told, far surpassed Marquis in yield. Staff men of the station said that hundreds of new strains of spring wheat are being tested for their reaction to disease and for yielding ability. Increase plots of the new smooth awned Glabron barley, of Anthony oats highly resistant to stem rust, of Red Wing flax resistant to wilt and rust, and rod row trials of smut immune and rust resistant oats of both early and medium maturity were inspected. A durum wheat that will resist rust and equal Mindum in quality and yield is coming.

Staff men explained how disease epidemic conditions are artificially induced in the plant disease garden to the end that varieties resistant to diseases may be selected and used in the breeding work.

The new method of corn breeding by controlled pollination was explained. More than 20 acres of intensive experiments are planted to corn. The method of using first generation crosses was described. Farmers were told that the work with corn promised increased yields eventually of 20 to 30 per cent.

Weeds were featured at one of the stations where sodium chlorate and sodium arsenite had been used on small patches. While sodium chlorate is the cheaper of the two and is not poisonous,

its cost does not warrant its use on large fields. Farmers were advised that from the middle of July on is the best time to strike quackgrass which, it has been demonstrated, can be killed by plowing the latter part of July and double discing every week or ten days thereafter to keep the land black. Canada thistle and sow thistle can be controlled by sowing alfalfa.

Directors of the crop improvement association, meeting in advance of the field day, approved a plan, outlined by R. F. Crim, for a seed conference next fall at University Farm. Enlarged use of pure seed of recommended varieties is the motive for calling the conference, which, it is hoped, will be participated in by all interests and organizations concerned with pure seed work.

Bindweed Under Chemical Attack

Bindweed, or the small flowered morning glory, is a tough customer when it gains a foothold as it seems to have done near Hills and Beaver Creek in Rock county. One patch of the weed was given two doses of kerosene, but only partial killing resulted. Where the weeds were hoed prior to the application the best results were obtained. The county extension people and the county commissioners then returned to the attack with light doses of sodium chlorate and sodium arsenite. The latter gave the weed a harder tussle than the chlorate, but neither treatment, says the county agent, killed all the roots, for new sprouts were soon appearing. Rough treatment of the weed will be continued and checked up through the season.

Engebretson's Club Record Thrills

A gain of 14 organized junior clubs in a year is the record made by County Agent Art Engebretson of Faribault county. Requests for assistance in organizing 4-H community clubs have been keeping him busy. There are now 17 organized clubs and more than 500 boys and girls enrolled. The Faribault county poultry club of more than 200 members is one of the largest in the state.

Henderson Back from Coast

A. P. Henderson, formerly agent in Washington county, has returned from a protracted stay on the Pacific coast and will make his home in St. Paul where he will be near old friends and acquaintances. All will be glad to learn that his health is somewhat better. Extension folks are pleased to have him near at hand again.

Alfalfa Light in Waseca

Because of winter killing, the aggregate yield of the first cutting of alfalfa in Waseca was very low compared with that of last year, says Agent M. C. Hansen. On fields where no winter killing occurred the yields were excellent.

Hardy Grimm Preferred

June showed a noticeable increase in the number of acres seeded to alfalfa, says Agent C. G. Gaylord of Rock county. Farmers who have been using South Dakota No. 12 or common alfalfa were more insistent upon Grimm or Cossack for this year's planting, according to the agent.

Aldrich Delighted With Washington Tour

"Let me tell you how much I appreciated the trip to the National Club Camp at Washington and how much I got out of it," says County Agent S. A. Aldrich in a letter to F. E. Balmer. "It is a good thing for county agents to know that there is some reward like this trip ahead of them and that sooner or later each man will have a chance to win one of them. It cannot help but give the agents a better understanding of the problems of the state office and better appreciation of the men with whom they are working.

"While I anticipated a splendid time, I hardly thought it possible that we could have a trip of that duration without a single occurrence that would mar the pleasures of the trip. Everything seemed to be so well planned that no difficulties were encountered. The biggest thing I got out of the trip, outside of visits to historical points and places of interest like Gettysburg, Mount Vernon, Arlington, Niagara Falls and the like, was a new set of standards for boys' and girls' club work. The quality of the delegates was certainly very high; one could not help but get new inspiration from meeting such a fine group.

"I also got a good deal from Dr. Kruse's discussion of the psychology of club work and the basis of educational objectives.

"Minnesota sent a club delegation of which we could all feel proud."

Everybody Happy Farmers' Night

McMillan of Blue Earth says the farmers' night programs brought out 3,000 persons who packed the armory. It was the Mankato business men's turn to entertain. They did it so well that town and country people alike reported one of the happiest evenings of their lives.

Turkey Co-operator Has 700 Birds

One of the 19 turkey co-operators in Aitkin county has 700 birds in his flock. Several others have up in the hundreds each. According to the agent, co-operators who worked with Dr. Billings last year are doing the best this year, which is as it should be and is to be expected.

First Year Results Encouraging

Taylor of Beltrami says that the first cow testing association in his bailiwick has just completed its first year and that the cows of 11 of the 27 herds returned an average of more than 300 pounds of butterfat during the year.

Extension Work Gains More Friends

No voice was raised in Brown county against increasing the appropriation for extension work. Sentiment in favor of the service was expressed this year by a section of the county which has opposed an appropriation for nine consecutive years, says the agent.

New Display Rack Starts Something

The rack for the display of bulletins in the office of Agent Neubauer of St. Louis county has started a regular run on reading material from the university station, he says. This is all to the good, he believes.