



MINNESOTA EXTENSION SERVICE NEWS

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

Vol. VIII UNIVERSITY FARM, ST. PAUL, MINN., MARCH, 1929 No. 6

Conference of Home Demonstration Agents and State Staff

Room 115, Administration Building

MONDAY, MARCH 4

- 9:30-9:45 Announcements, Miss Julia O. Newton, State Home Demonstration Leader
- 9:45-10:00 Group singing led by Paul Leach
- 10:00-11:00 How to Sell Home Demonstration Work, Director F. W. Peck
- 11:00 "Listening in" on President Hoover's Inauguration
- 2:00-3:00 Relation of Agricultural Business Cycle to Home Demonstration Work, Dr. Carle C. Zimmerman
- 3:00 Home Demonstration Agents' Association, Miss Amy Wessel, President

TUESDAY, MARCH 5

Miss Inez Hobart, presiding

- 9:00-10:00 How to Use Music as a Factor in Community Development, Paul Leach
- 10:00-11:00 How the Institute of Child Welfare is Reaching the People, Miss Esther McGinnis
- 11:00-12:00 How to Prepare a Talk, R. C. Lansing
- Miss Eva Blair, presiding
- 1:30-2:30 How Minnesota Farm Families Spend Their Incomes, Dr. Carle C. Zimmerman
- 2:30-4:30 Problems of Leadership in Project Work, Miss Adele Koch, assistant state home demonstration leader, Ohio; Miss Inez Hobart, Miss Mary May Miller, Miss Anna S. Olsen

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6

Miss Lois Reid, presiding

- 9:00-11:00 A Home Demonstration Agent's Time Budget, Miss Adele Koch, Miss Amy Wessel, Mrs. Agnes Erkel
- 12:10-1:05 Joint meeting with the home economics extension methods class, Room 213, Home Economics Building; Publicity Methods, Miss Leonore Dunnegan of The Farmer's Wife
- Miss Eves Whitfield, presiding
- 1:30-2:30 The Farm Family as a Unit in Rural Organization, Dr. Carle C. Zimmerman
- 2:30-4:30 How to Develop New Communities, Miss Adele Koch and Miss Eva Blair

CONFERENCE OF HOME DEMONSTRATION WORKERS AND HOME CHAIRMEN

Room 105, Administration Building

THURSDAY, MARCH 7

- 8:30-9:15 Registration
- 9:30-9:45 Welcome to Home Chairmen, Miss Julia O. Newton
- 9:45-10:00 Community singing led by Paul Leach
- 10:00-10:45 Home Economics Extension Work in Canada, Miss Esther Thompson, Director Women's Work in Manitoba
- 10:45-11:45 Outstanding Extension Activities in 1928, Home Demonstration Agents
- Miss Amy Wessel, presiding
- 1:30-4:00 Developing Community and County Programs of Work, Miss Adele Koch, S. B. Cleland, and S. A. Aldrich
- 6:30 Home Demonstration Dinner, Atkinson's Tea Room, Nicollet and Seventh, Minneapolis

FRIDAY, MARCH 8

County Workers, Miss Mary May Miller, presiding

- 9:00-9:45 The Farm Home in Agricultural Adjustment, Dean W. C. Coffey
- 9:45-10:45 The Farm Home Grounds, H. H. Cornell
- 10:45-11:45 The Farm House, H. B. White
- Urban Workers, Room 115, Mrs. Sylvia Shiras, presiding
- 12:00-2:00 Luncheon in the Party Dining Room, Master Farm Homemakers introduced How We May Increase Home Demonstration Work in Minnesota, Director F. W. Peck
- Cora E. Cooke, presiding
- 2:00-4:00 Analysis of Problems Underlying the Clothing Projects, Miss Lois Reid and Miss Eves Whitfield
- 6:30 Master Farm Homemaker Recognition Dinner, Guests of The Farmer's Wife

SATURDAY, MARCH 9

- 9:00-10:30 Home and Community Plans for Home Demonstration Work in 1929, Three minute talks by home chairmen
- 10:30-11:15 The Minnesota Farm Bureau Home and Community Committee's Program of Work for 1929, Mrs. E. V. Ripley, chairman
- 11:15-11:45 Summary of Conference Committee, Miss Amy Wessel, chairman; Mrs. H. W. Brodt, Mrs. Agnes Erkel, Mrs. Fred Ward, Miss Mary May Miller

How County Agents Serve Agriculture

By F. E. Balmer

A new record for county agent service in Minnesota was made in 1928. The total of individual instances of service for the year is 1,588,148, an increase of 248,447 over 1927. This means an average daily increase per agent from 70.8 in 1927 to 83.4 in 1928. The record in 1924 was 46 a day, so relatively county agent service has nearly doubled in its effectiveness in the last five years.

Ten years ago the county agent service was extended throughout the state. Before 1918 a limited number of counties were receiving the benefits of this service. From 1918 to 1928 it has operated continuously, or substantially so, in most of the counties.

The growing usefulness of the county agent service to Minnesota agriculture may be well illustrated by a comparison of results on representative activities in 1918 and 1928. The following data will illustrate:

	1918	1928
Office calls	71,671	142,692
Telephone calls	79,762	99,092
Letters written	114,354	153,268
Total meetings held	8,248	9,782
Attendance at same	327,480	702,752
Farmers using lime	115	1,404
Tons limestone used	960	16,878
Farmers using commercial fertilizer	35	3,722
Tons fertilizer used	93	13,163
Farmers growing alfalfa	1,217	6,279
Farmers growing sweet clover	64	2,193
Cow testing associations	16	108
Unprofitable cows discarded	234	3,379
Farms aided in livestock rations	379	5,594
Animals tested for TB	5,825	
Farmers influenced to test for TB		39,271
Boys' and girls' club members (counties having agents)	12,976	27,714
Boys' and girls' club enrollments (all counties)		32,045

Minnesota county agents have witnessed an increase of the alfalfa acreage from less than 50,000 acres in 1918 to 600,000 acres in 1928 and have had the satisfaction of playing an important part in stimulating this increase. In like manner they have co-operated in encouraging the growing of more sweet clover until the acreage in 1927 totaled 182,764 acres.

Land Clearing Largely Pays County Cost

County agents in Minnesota, co-operating with the agricultural engineering division of the University, have rendered a signal service in land clearing. Beginning in 1918 demonstrations were started by county agents in the clearing of stump land suitable for agriculture and in removing troublesome rock in fields under cultivation. County agents acted as direct local representatives of the federal government in handling war salvage explosives from August 1, 1921, to March 31, 1928, when distribution was completed.

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MARCH, 1929

For the last six years the agents have recorded each year the number of farmers co-operated with in clearing land and the acres of land cleared, as follows:

	No. of farmers	Acres cleared
1923	8,103	62,379
1924	5,812	31,329
1925	8,445	42,506
1926	8,378	41,793
1927	10,569	36,382
1928	3,884	15,654

Grand totals 45,191 230,943

A tabulation of the total distribution by counties of the war explosives furnishes an interesting revelation of the value of county agent work. These explosives were distributed to all of the 87 counties of the state and totaled 10,416,650 pounds. The 62 counties employing county agents at present secured 8,551,450 pounds or an average of 137,926 pounds per county. On the other hand, the 25 counties not now employing county agents secured 1,865,200 pounds, or an average of 74,608 pounds per county. Therefore, taken as a whole, the counties with agents fared nearly twice as well in relation to this service. It is known, moreover, that farmers in counties without agents secured their explosives to a large extent from agents of neighboring counties.

On the basis of saving 15 cents per pound, the increased efficiency of county agent service to Minnesota farmers in securing additional war explosives has amounted to enough to pay more than half the county cost of the extension service for the seven years of distribution.

County Agent Service Doubles Club Work

Boys' and girls' club work is carried on in every county in Minnesota. The total enrollment in Minnesota in 1928 was approximately 32,000. Of this number, 4,331 were enrolled from the 25 counties without county agent service, or an average of approximately 175 per county. The remainder, 27,715, were from the 62 counties with the service organized, or an average of 447 per county. If we leave out of the comparison the enrollment of club members by county club leaders and home agents and compare the enrollment by county agents only, or 22,882, this means an average per agent of 381 enrollments. Therefore, the results in terms of enrollment are more than doubled by the leadership of the county agent service.

More Business in Farming Wanted

That farmers have a decided interest in improving the business of farming is indicated in the co-operation asked of county agents in the use of better farm management methods. The number of farmers securing farm account books from county agents in 1928 was more than double the number in 1927. The number who kept these books through the year more than trebled. The number of farmers aided in interpreting accounts increased nearly five times. More farmers changed their management as a result of accounting, more adopted complete farm systems, and more farm management schools were held during the year.

Likewise with a view to more efficient operation there is a growing interest in larger horse hitches, tractors, better types of machinery, building repairs and similar factors.

The strong trend toward the improvement of the livestock industry is a healthy indication, particularly better feeding and the production of better feed crops to make this possible. This tendency is particularly strong in the Red river valley section where it is asserted no section of the United States outside the irrigated lands can produce alfalfa hay and sweet clover pasture so luxuriantly. Sheep production in particular has been increased markedly in this region the last three or four years.

The increased number of farmers advising with the county agents relative to credit, financing, livestock loans, cost records and the like are indicative of the desire and need for improving the farming business.

A healthy interest continues among farmers in co-operative marketing and to some extent in co-operative purchasing. The county agent force has been called upon to extend the usual assistance to new associations and to these already going concerns.

"These Changing Times"

Undoubtedly agriculture is undergoing a great transition. There is almost no end to new developments and movements in the field of agriculture of which county agent service is a part of the warp and woof. Many were comparatively new ten years ago but in large measure have now become almost commonplace and necessary. These things are too evident to enumerate.

"Things," however, must not become an impediment to objectives. The federal law defines extension work as the giving of instruction and practical demonstrations. The state law indicates in part that "the objects shall be to improve the science, art and business of agriculture and home economics." The county agent service then must be expected to teach better farm and home practices and improve the farming business. It must help people become more capable and they must experience development as a result of the service. It must enrich their lives, impart to them vision, and widen their horizon. It must work sincerely and genuinely for them. It must set in motion many forces that will persist.

Fifty Keeping Records

Rice county now has 50 Better Farming club members who are keeping detailed farm business records. All are good co-operators, County Agent Hass says.

Potato Club Honors Won by Finnish Lad

Of 1,031 Minnesota boys and girls enrolled in the potato growing project of 4-H club work in 1928 Eino Kangas, 16-year-old Finnish boy of Aurora, St. Louis county, won the state grand championship and a \$20 Planet Jr. cultivator, the gift of a Philadelphia manufacturing company. Eino raised Irish Cobblers at the rate of 584 bushels an acre.

Other winners in their order were Ernest Madsen of Askov, Pine county, and Gladys Hamm of Menahga, Wadena county, both of whom will receive a lower priced cultivator; Laurence Johnson of Malung, Roseau county, and Eldon Fogt of Askov, free trips to the annual junior short course at University Farm, and Kenneth Hamm of Menahga, a free trip to the Farm Boys' Camp at the 1929 Minnesota State Fair. Madsen, the runner up, produced the spuds on his plot at the rate of 555 bushels an acre.

Potato club work for 1928, just summarized in the office of T. A. Erickson, also won trips to the Farm Boys' Camp for Clayton Schiller of Greenbush, Roseau county; Duane Saunders of Roseau, Henry Leifeld of Hastings, Richard Purrier of Mankato, Milton Huldeen of North St. Paul, Robert Erlandson of Aitkin, Maurice Taylor of Mineral Center, Cook county, and Hugo Opsahl of Grand Marais. Eino is also assured of a free ride to the fair and maintenance for a week in the camp.

The project showed substantial growth in 1928. The 1,031 members are to be compared with 772 in 1927, 602 in 1926, and 743 in 1925.

Eino, the champion, bought the best seed obtainable, and gave it a formaldehyde bath to minimize the danger from scab, rhizoctonia, and blackleg. As the vines grew he sprayed them diligently and learned to identify diseased plants and so was able to cull them out and to keep the patch clean. He escaped a heavy attack of blight, from which the fields of his neighbors suffered, by the fortunate circumstance of having located his patch on high ground.

"I selected seed for my next year's potato plot from the healthiest plants in the field," he writes, "and am anxious to try my luck again in the certified seed potato game. I feel that I have profited from my club work in a way that cannot be expressed in dollars and cents."

Death of Mrs. Leighton

The many friends of Ramer D. Leighton in the extension service will be grieved to hear of the death of his mother at her home near Stockton, Winona county, Saturday afternoon, February 23. Burial services were held at Winona the following Tuesday afternoon.

Junior Show Moving Pictures Ready

Two copies of a moving picture film taken at the 1928 Minnesota Junior Livestock Show are now available and may be had on application to T. A. Erickson at University Farm. The film is short and should be shown with other films. Some of the winners at South St. Paul appear in the pictures.

Club Classes Larger, Better at Crookston

Boys and girls from 12 Red river valley counties exhibited sheep, swine, poultry, dairy and beef calves, potatoes, and corn at the Red River Valley Winter Shows, Crookston, the week of February 4 to 8. The club classes were larger in all departments than in previous years. The quality, too, was of the highest order in both the livestock and crops exhibits. Judges and visitors agreed that the fitting and preparing for the show were far superior to previous years.

Many of the boys and girls remained for the entire week in order to attend the special meetings, demonstrations and contests for club members. T. A. Erickson, state club leader, talked on the objects of 4-H club work and led the discussion in a leadership conference. W. E. Morris, H. R. Searles, O. M. Kiser, and W. E. Stanfield put on sheep, dairy, feeding and poultry demonstrations. Judging contests were conducted in general livestock, dairy and poultry on Friday.

The boys and girls were guests of the Red River Valley Livestock Breeders association at a banquet on Monday night after which they were given free admission to the evening program in the armory. A get-together party, movie and trip to the Northwest School of Agriculture were other activities arranged for the juniors.

M. H. Ostrem, county agent of Kittson county, and A. W. Aamodt of West Polk county had charge of the livestock and crops exhibits. R. H. Giberson and Mrs. Braamse (Edna Brown) assisted with the club program.

Silver trophies were won by Johnny Meyer of Ada, who had the grand champion dairy calf in the club show, and by Wayne Naugle, Ada, who had the grand champion beef calf in the club class and the champion steer of the show.

Grace Anderson of Warren won the cup a second time with her sheep, placing first in both the breeding and market classes as well as the champion market sheep of the show. Carl Hartke of Hawley won a cup with a Poland China gilt. Carl also placed first with his gilt in a strong open class. Edith Mosteller of Felton won the cup with her pen of White Rocks. Wayne Naugle won the showmanship contest for the second successive year.

HOME AGENT APPOINTED FOR FARIBAULT COUNTY

Julia O. Newton, state leader of home demonstration agents, announces the appointment of Mary Jane Boyd as home demonstration agent for Faribault county with headquarters at Blue Earth. Miss Boyd will begin her work early in March. She is a graduate of the four-year home economics course at Stout Institute at Menomonie, Wisconsin, and has taught in high schools of Nebraska and Wisconsin and for nearly three years at Winnebago, Minnesota. She is a native of Nebraska.

Fourteen Groups in Project

Fourteen groups are studying home management projects this year in Yellow Medicine.

CHANGES IN PERSONNEL

C. D. Patterson, in Lac qui Parle county, goes to Wagner, South Dakota, this month to begin farming operations. W. A. Dickinson, of Ogilvie, Minnesota, has been elected to succeed him.

On March 1 E. C. Lenzmeier, agent in Brown county, became a Carver county farmer. His successor is Paul W. Kunkel, high school agriculturist at Adams, Minnesota.

In mid February A. W. Jacob accepted the county agent position at Sapulpa, Oklahoma. Carrol L. Blakeslee, instructor in animal husbandry at the School of Agriculture at Grand Rapids, will succeed him April 1.

Some interesting particulars regarding these men will appear in the April 1 issue.

Crow Wing Re-appoints Johnson

Fred N. Johnson, Deerwood, who served as assistant club leader for six months last year in Crow Wing county, has been re-appointed and began his work March 1. He will work three days a week for six months. He is a graduate of the Minnesota School of Agriculture, having received his diploma in 1926, and has had life-long farm experience. Crow Wing has the distinction of being the first county to re-appoint its club leader out of 25 which had leaders last year, says Mr. Erickson.

Peck Speaks at Winnipeg

Answering the appeal to "Come on over into 'Canada' and help us," Director F. W. Peck appeared at Winnipeg before the annual convention of Agricultural Societies of Manitoba on February 6, where he spoke on "An Educational Service to Rural People." Specifically, Mr. Peck explained the Minnesota plan of county agricultural extension work. Manitoba at present has nothing of this sort, but is considering establishing such a service.

77 One-Act Plays Listed

A list of 77 one-act plays suitable for rural production is now available on request to the Mailing Room, University Farm. These plays were selected and the list compiled by Miss Florence Lang, home demonstration agent of St. Louis county. All types of one-act skits are included. Information given includes the titles, authors and publishers of the various plays, brief descriptions of plots, number and kind of characters needed, settings required, and the amount of royalty attached, if any.

Watonwan Office In Court House

Lloyd E. Hudson, Watonwan's agent, reports new headquarters, his office having been moved to the court house in St. James, January 12, where it now occupies what was formerly known as the grand jury room.

New Club Paper for St. Louis

Copies of The Lone Pine, a nicely printed and well made up organ of St. Louis county 4-H clubs, have been received at extension offices at University Farm. The goal in St. Louis county this year is a club enrollment that will equal or surpass the membership of 3,019 in 1928.

Cold and Drifts Slow Up January Activities

"January was an exceptional month in that every day had sub-zero weather," remarks H. C. Pederson of Traverse, who adds that "this had somewhat the same effect on extension work that it would have on molasses." From Kittson, M. H. Ostrem headed his report with a paragraph entitled "Snowbound." From every county it was the same story of cancelled and postponed meetings, and reduced attendance due to raging blizzards, blocked roads, extreme cold, sickness, or what have you?

A large number of the meetings and demonstrations for which specialists had been engaged had to be called off, while many of those held were reached only by dint of a good deal of "git and grit," judging from accounts. Nevertheless much constructive work was accomplished.

With travel minimized, the agents spent an unusually large share of their time in doing office jobs, outlining plans and projects, getting out circulars and press material, putting their files in shape and in general adding to the efficiency of their respective headquarters. Telephone traffic was heavy, naturally.

January is the month of annual meetings for farmers' co-operative associations, and nearly every agent spent several days attending these events, taking part in the programs and assisting with the general arrangements. Reports in regard to the status and outlook for these co-operatives are highly optimistic and it is evident that much of their success is due to help and advice given by the local agents who find in this work excellent opportunities for real service as well as means for extending their own acquaintance and influence.

FOUR CLUB MEMBERS

IN FUTURITY PROJECT

Viola Verdoorn, Arthur Vermeersch, Frank Senden, and Norman Orsen, 4-H club members of Lyon county, have entered upon their fourth year of dairy club work and, in addition, have enrolled in the Jersey Cattle Club futurity project promoted by the national Jersey cattle organization. All four will feed and care for heifer calves, the progeny of the three-year-old cows which they used in the first years of club work. As members of the futurity project they must keep accurate production records.

Club Leader, County Agent Wed

Edna Alice Brown, an assistant state club leader in Minnesota, was married on Monday, February 4, at the home of her parents at Rock River, Michigan, to Byron L. Braamse, agricultural agent for Midland county in that state. Members of the extension staff unite in tendering hearty congratulations and best wishes.

Doing Their Bit for Club Work

Just to do their bit for club work, directors of the Ottertail Power company will give a scholarship worth \$140, good at the Northwest School at Crookston, to the winner of the dairy calf club project in Ottertail county. The offer is not only for the present year but for 1930 and 1931 as well.

OUTLOOK CONFERENCE ATTENDED BY DONOVAN

R. L. Donovan, farm management specialist, was Minnesota's representative in the Washington conference called for the purpose of preparing the Agricultural Outlook Report for 1929. Forty-five states were represented by 63 extension service men; the territory of Hawaii sent a county agent.

Three sessions were held nearly every day either to consider the report or to discuss methods of doing the outlook work in the field. Regional conferences were a new feature. Mr. Donovan took an active part in the deliberations, and on Thursday, January 24, gave a radio address on "The Northwestern Agricultural Situation." This address was broadcast through station KSTP and was heard in all parts of the northwest.

As a quarter of a million copies of outlook bulletins have been distributed, and as 38 or more states have issued state and regional reports for 1929, outlook information has been given wider distribution in a shorter period of time than has been given to any other kind of useful information in the past, says The Official Record. The press and radio services also gave nation-wide publicity to the report.

WAN-BRO-COT EXHIBITS WIN IN STATE SHOW

Although Watonwan, Brown and Cottonwood counties are not generally considered as being especially well suited for flax and red clover, exhibits of these crops shown at the Wan-Bro-Cot crop show early in January carried off top honors at the state exhibit the following week at University Farm. The top three samples of red clover and the top five samples of flax at the Wan-Bro-Cot show were awarded similar standing in the state competition, says Lenzmeier of Brown, who cites these examples as an indication of the high type of exhibits displayed in all classes at the tri-county show.

Soilvita Bulletin To Be Reprinted

County agents are advised that the extension bulletin on trials of Soilvita is being reprinted and that a new supply will soon be available. In this connection Dr. F. J. Alway calls attention to the fact that the United States Department in Farmers' Bulletin 1,496, revised to August 10, 1928, refers to such preparations as Soilvita in the last paragraph of the summary and on pages 19, 20, 22 and 23. Agents should send for copies of this bulletin.

13 Institutes Planned

L. O. Jacob of Anoka was "in conference" much of January and as a result speakers were scheduled and arrangements made for holding 13 one-day farmers' institutes in as many communities throughout the county. Dates for these events run from February 16 to March 28, according to the tentative schedule. The American Farm Bureau movie film, "Uncle Sam's Choice," has been secured for showing at these events.

738 Join Farm Bureau

Lyon county reported 738 farm bureau members at the close of its campaign in January.

DAIRY EXTENSION WORK PUSHED IN CLEARWATER

Chambers of Clearwater reports a large share of his time in January spent in conducting dairy feeding meetings, of which 14 were held in six different communities. Attendance fluctuated with road and weather conditions, but butter-makers in the various communities attest to much favorable comment heard from farmers.

At requests from several interested farmers, an attempt is being made to organize a cow testing association in the southern part of the county. Fifteen members signed up in January. Area T.B. testing is being promoted. A talk by W. A. Peck, livestock commissioner, did much to win the approval of the county commissioners, while general sentiment favoring the test is being built up through publicity and talks by the county agent.

Fischers Welcome Baby Daughter

Cards followed by cigars received by friends at University Farm announced the birth on Saturday, February 23, of Barbara Jean to County Agent and Mrs. R. A. Fischer of Nicollet county. The News in behalf of the force extends its congratulations.

Gets Kiwanis Post

Willis Lawson, Freeborn, has been made chairman of the agricultural committee of the Albert Lea Kiwanis club. During January, the Kiwanians gave programs for two meetings of Farmers' clubs and have scheduled others for coming months. The programs make for much closer contact between farmers and business men, Mr. Lawson says.

Five Nutrition Groups Formed

Five groups enrolled for the nutrition project in Roseau in January began work March 1. Mr. Taylor reports also that three dairy feeding schools were conducted during the month and arrangements made for a series of farm institutes to be held in co-operation with the Great Northern railway.

Business Men Continue Support

The Business Men's association of Marshall, Lyon county, is helping to promote baby beef club work this year, as it has in years past. Whenever necessary, association members will advance funds which will be paid back in the fall. Each business man will sponsor the work of some particular club member.

18 New Co-operators Secured

Hansen of Waseca reports that 30 farmers in that county co-operated with the farm management and extension divisions last year in keeping farm accounts and that every one completed the work. The first week of January, this year, 28 of these signed up again, while 18 new co-operators were secured.

Nearly 500 Poultry Show Entries

The Pennington county poultry show attracted 460 entries, of which 140 were turkeys. This was one of the largest entry lists ever obtained in Pennington and would have been even larger, had the weather been more favorable. Premium money amounting to \$432 was distributed.

NEW AGENT GETTING A GOOD START IN WILKIN

Judging from his first report, O. R. Grover, the new agent in Wilkin, is getting off to a fine start. Early in January he met with the local executive committee and mapped out a comprehensive program of work for 1929. Plans call for 20 fertilizer trials, the introduction of new crop varieties, smut control and seed corn campaigns, livestock feeding schools and the greater use of purebred sires, 20 members for the turkey project, nearly 400 junior club members, and 10 farmers to make and adopt permanent farming plans, while the bureau will strive to bring the membership in the county to 300. These are only a few high spots from the agent's report. A very successful annual meeting was held with F. E. Balmer and A. J. Olson as speakers.

WILL MAKE TEST OF MAIL ORDER TESTING

McNulty of Winona reports that following conferences with 14 farmers in his county, in which the mail order plan of cow testing was explained, three of them have enrolled for the work with the Monroe county, Wisconsin, group. The cost for Winona farmers will be the same as for those in Wisconsin, although the former do not get any field service. The object is to try out the system with a small group with the idea of starting a local association in Winona next year if the plan meets with sufficient approval.

Sheay Had Busy Month

Although January was the coldest month in 10 years, the Scott county agent had a busy time of it. There were 107 office callers and 194 telephone calls during the month. Twenty-two farms were visited, 3,060 copies of 28 different bulletins distributed, 42 articles published in the county press, 406 miles traveled, and 12 meetings held with aggregate attendance of 1,265 persons.

4-H Enthusiasm High

"Enthusiasm in boys' and girls' club work seems to be greater than at any previous time," remarks R. A. Fischer, Nicollet county, in his January report. "Workers are starting their projects earlier this year; 11 in the baby beef project are already feeding their calves. Plans are being made to secure a club leader for this season."

Club Enrollment Heavy

Nearly 200 club members were signed up in Aitkin county in January. Mr. Nash visited several organized clubs and called at schools to arouse interest. The dairy calf, sewing, and sheep clubs proved to have a strong appeal.

Interest in Testing Grows

Blue Earth county farmers are taking greater interest in cow testing this year than at any time since the work was begun, says L. E. McMillan in his January report.

Seed Exchange Established

A pure seed exchange has been established at the Rock county extension office.