

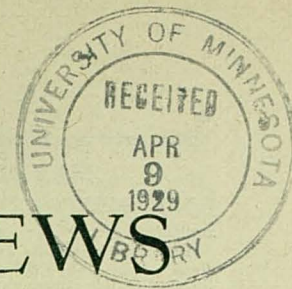
# MINNESOTA EXTENSION SERVICE NEWS

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No. 7



## Inspirational Conference Held by Home Demonstration Forces at University Farm, March 4 to 9

The annual home demonstration conference was held at University Farm March 4 to 9. Eleven home demonstration agents, 36 county home chairmen representing 32 counties, two city chairmen and the state staff of seven were present.

The first three days were devoted to the study of problems in organization and subject matter by the agents and state staff. During the last three days problems of mutual interest to county home chairmen and the home demonstration workers were considered.

Director F. W. Peck opened the conference with a talk on "How to Sell Home Demonstration Work." That the extension agent's job is to know people was the outstanding thought of his discussion. He assumed that we are all agreed on the fact that we have a service to sell, something of real value, and that we as salesmen must study the consumer so as to recognize his characteristics. We take too much for granted and depend too much on the appeal to reason rather than recognizing the limiting factors and using the methods of appeal that fits the case, he said.

The value of community singing at gatherings was shown by the way in which the conference group responded to the leadership of Paul Leach of the School of Agriculture. In his talk on "How to Use Music as a Factor in Community Development," he gave many helpful suggestions.

### Home Work; Rural Organization

Dr. Carle C. Zimmerman, of the department of rural sociology, gave a series of talks showing where the home demonstration agent work fits into rural organization at the present time and the part it will play for some time in the future. As a result of a comprehensive study of Minnesota farm family budgets he is of the opinion at present that home demonstration work must progress along non-economic lines rather than economic.

Miss Esther McGinnis, representing the Institute of Child Welfare, gave an enlightening talk on the work being done. The Institute is associated with the University of Minnesota and is principally a research organization, though teaching is also an important service rendered.

"How to Prepare a Talk" was the topic ably presented by R. C. Lansing of the department of English of the College of Agriculture. He emphasized the following main facts: Store your mind with speech material; enlarge your usable vocabulary; know your audience; take the right attitude towards your audience; be tactful; make the speech

### MANY SUBJECTS BEFORE DISTRICT CONFERENCES

Notice is given from the office of the county agent leader that the annual district conferences will be held at—

Owatonna, April 30, May 1  
Marshall, May 2 and 3  
Duluth, May 7 and 8  
Crookston, May 9 and 10

Among important subjects that will be discussed are the following:

Outlook material, dissemination of economic material through the year, marketing and farm records. This program will be presented in connection with key bankers and teachers of agriculture and will occupy a half day.

Recent developments in cow testing association work.

Livestock sanitation, with special emphasis on abortion in cattle, and progress in poultry sanitation.

Club work, giving interpretations of rules and receiving suggestions from the agents.

Financing the county extension work, and discussion of relationships with various groups and organizations.

In addition to these general subjects time will be allowed for informal discussion of current problems in the various districts.

extemporaneous if possible; organize the speech; speak distinctly and maintain poise and posture.

A friendly relationship between newspaper editors and home demonstration workers is the first essential towards obtaining good publicity, according to Miss Lenore Dunnegan of The Farmer's Wife. Include local names, write short articles, and give facts were points also emphasized.

### Miss Koch Brings Message

A broader vision of home demonstration work and its problems was brought to us by Miss Adele Koch who has had extensive extension experience in Minnesota, Michigan and Ohio where she is now assistant state home demonstration leader. Discussions on problems of leadership in project work, a home demonstration agent's time budget, and how to develop new communities were led by Miss Koch.

The discussions brought out the importance of getting in touch with the right leaders to meet the organization and subject matter problems. It was decided that the home demonstration agent needs a well planned time budget and schedule to carry out a balanced program of work successfully. This guide will help her to see the need for more time for planning her work as well as for leisure. The discussions further brought out that new communities can be developed by making use of every available agency from circular letters, newspapers, existing organizations to achievement days. It was a pleasure for new members on the home demonstration staff to meet and know Miss Koch, but for those who were able to renew former friendships it was a special event.

Developing community and county programs of work was the subject for discussion on Thursday afternoon. S. A. Aldrich, county agent of Carlton county, presented their method of developing a community program of work planning by a demonstration put on by a group of Carlton county young people who are attending college. Miss Koch followed this demonstration. She showed how the score card used in judging communities can be used to make communities conscious of their needs and possibilities. She also suggested that by means of a questionnaire of community analysis a long time program can be planned, based on the needs as recognized by the people themselves. S. B. Cleland, district county agent leader, carried on the discussion by emphasizing the facts that we plan programs of work; that these be definite and place responsibility for each part of program, and that the community assume the responsibility for carrying out its own program of work.

### Visitor from Canada

One of the special pleasures of the conference was learning to know Miss Esther Thompson, extension leader of home economics of the province of Manitoba, who spent the entire week with us. Her talk to the members of the conference on "Home Economics Extension Work in Canada" showed the development of extension work through the Women's Institute which was an outgrowth of the need of the women as they themselves saw it. She brought suggestions for broader phases in home demonstration work because of the accomplishments in cultural and civic improvements made through the Canadian extension service.

"The Farm Home in Agricultural Adjustment" was the subject of an address

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APRIL, 1929

### BUYING EXPLOSIVES

It has come to our attention that salesmen of explosives for land clearing and other farm operations continue to call upon county agents to interest them in recommending the purchase of explosives that may be used by the farmers of their counties.

Probably this practice is followed because of the former activities of the agents in handling war explosives, and it appears that the solution of the problem, if there is one, rests entirely with the county agents themselves, rather than with the salesmen. In other words, the county agents should advise all salesmen of commercial products that they have nothing whatever to do with the purchase of commercial supplies and should refer them to the proper agents or agencies that have been set up for the purpose of dealing in such commodities.

For example, salesmen of explosives, minerals, or fertilizers, might well be referred at once to the individual in the county who is in charge of the farm bureau service corporation, or to local business agencies that handle other commodities. In no instance should the agents accept orders, collect money for same, or be responsible for any of the business transactions that may be involved in the purchase of farm supplies. This does not in any way limit the agent in his discussion of principles or practices in which the farmers may be concerned, but the responsibility for selling and buying surely should be in the hands of the farmers themselves, or in the commercial agencies already set up for this purpose.

### CONCENTRATING ACTIVITIES

Circular 58C, "Planning and Conducting Extension Campaigns," from the United States Department of Agriculture, is well worth studying by every county agent. The author, Mr. Hochbaum, advocates the selection of one or two of the major problems of a community or a county, with definite concentrated plans for immediate attack for a year or two by using various methods designed to bring about improved practices in regard to the problems that have been identified and analyzed. Concentration on one or two major problems will in the long run undoubtedly focus attention of many persons upon the definite results accomplished, and the treatment

will stand out more prominently than it will if a large number of projects are undertaken with relatively a small amount of emphasis on any one.

This presupposes of course that the problem must represent a real want or need on the part of a goodly number of people in the county. Usually the solution also must be in a simplified form of a practice that can be demonstrated and that can be applied by a large number of individuals. While the term "campaign" has different meanings to different people, it is clear that in the extension sense it implies a definite series of steps that must be taken in the planning of the project and carrying it out to its logical completion. Because of the importance of the step plan of analysis, we are glad to recommend the careful reading of this bulletin.

### HERD IMPROVEMENT WORK

From the reports of the agents, it is apparent that the so-called mail order plan is being attempted in perhaps a rather haphazard way without due regard to the need of careful organization and large volume of testing in order to make it a fair trial. We seriously question the advisability of starting with 25 or 30 men enrolled in such a plan, for one of the lessons apparently learned by those more familiar with this plan than we are is that it takes a large amount of field work and that it would be much better to have 200 or 300 signed up, properly financed and organized rather than a small number without proper financing organization. It would apparently be best to go slow and not rush into the plan without clearly understanding the entire procedure.

### WIN ESSAY CONTEST FOUR YEARS RUNNING

Four-H club boys and girls from 18 states entered essays in the 1928 national contest conducted by the Holstein-Friesian Association of America, but as usual the Minnesota entries walked off with the honors. All the essays were on the subject, "What I Learned Through Calf Club Work in 1928." Viola Ellison of Elbow Lake, Grant county, placed first, and Mary Hepola of Menahga, Wadena county, second. This may not be all for Minnesota, for the other awards are yet to be announced by the association. It was in 1925 that Minnesota juniors began winning this contest. Gladys Lang of Litchfield placed first that year. Theodore Domke of Rochester was first in 1926, and Mary Hepola first in 1927. Miss Ellison's victory marks the fourth successive year that Minnesota dairy calf club members have taken first honors. It will doubtless be a long time before this record is equaled.

### CATTLE FEEDERS' DAY APPOINTED FOR MAY 7

Is it advisable for Minnesota farmers to feed molasses to fattening cattle? If so, how should it be fed and how much? These and other questions are answered by feeding tests which will be reported at University Farm on Tuesday, May 7 by W. H. Peters, chief of the animal husbandry division, and members of his staff. Other problems relating to the raising and marketing of beef cattle will be discussed. It is hoped that county agents will again head delegations of farmers.

### HOME DEMONSTRATION CONFERENCE AT FARM

(Continued from page 1, col. 3)

given by W. C. Coffey, dean of the department of agriculture of the university, at the Friday morning session. He advanced the thought that the farm home has been passing through a period of internal revolution simultaneously with economic depression. The educational and cultural phases within the home have been advanced. Recognition of the child's rights, of the importance of home beautification, of the maintaining of common interests between parents and children, and of the importance of healthy community activities are evidences of this.

"The key to successful planting is arrangement," said Professor H. H. Cornell in his talk on "The Farm Home Grounds." The house must be the dominating factor in all planting, he said, and all planting should follow the rule of maintenance—that is, the largest amount of planting should require the least care.

Professor H. B. White emphasized the fact that the agricultural engineering department is ready to be of service to home demonstration workers at all times, by furnishing house plans and assisting in engineering problems.

### Master Homemakers Presented

The Master Farm Homemakers of 1929 were presented by Miss Bess M. Rowe at the annual conference luncheon at which time members of the home economics staff joined the group. "The foundation of home demonstration work is already well laid," said Director Peck. "The building of the rest of the structure is yet to be accomplished, but we must first overcome the obstacle of psychological, political, and economic reactions."

The objective of the clothing project is to aid in the development of a higher standard of living through better standards of dress and improved personal appearance, according to Lois Reid, clothing specialist. The project was further analyzed from the standpoint of content, presentation, check-up and agencies co-operating. The thought was expressed in the discussion which followed, that after a community has participated in some extension activity it is noticeably easier to get the same people interested in other ways of improving the neighborhood.

Public recognition of the 1929 Master Farm Homemakers was given Friday evening by The Farmer's Wife of the Webb Publishing company. This movement not only pays tribute to individual achievement but also places homemaking among the worth while professions.

Brief, pointed, well planned three-minute talks, outlining their plans for home demonstration work in 1929, were given by the home chairmen at the closing session Saturday. These reports revealed the constructive thinking and work that the home chairmen are doing.

Mrs. E. V. Ripley, state home and community chairman of the Minnesota Farm Bureau, presented the well rounded out state wide program of that department.

Respectfully submitted by the committee, Miss Amy Wessel, chairman, Mrs. H. W. Brodt, Mrs. Fred Ward, Mrs. Agnes Erkel, and Miss Mary May Miller.

## Sebeka Cow Testing System Wins Favor

Because many of its members have learned to base rations upon actual production, and because others investigated and found it profitable to feed some grain to cows on pasture, officers of the Sebeka Co-operative Creamery Dairy Improvement association are able to report the very satisfactory average of 6,533 pounds of milk and 254.85 pounds of butterfat for the 752 cows under test the first year.

The high record herd, a herd composed of 20 cows, averaged 10,235 pounds of milk and 351.4 pounds of butterfat to the cow. The average cost of feed per unit in this herd was \$69.56 and the average return over food costs \$116.69. The seven cows, constituting the low herd, reported an average of 3,720 pounds of milk and 153.6 pounds of fat at an average feed cost of \$18.36 and return over feed cost of \$61.75.

Forty-one members of the association fed their cows according to production and 24 fed grain in summer to supplement the pastures and roughages available.

The Sebeka association differs principally from the standard association in that herds are tested but once in every three months, or four times a year. By calculating the averages for the intervening months the members are given complete records at low costs, the yearly fee being \$18, \$20, and \$22 a herd, depending on the size.

The directors of the Sebeka creamery and a committee of the test group are in charge of association work under the general supervision of Ramer Leighton and his colleagues on the cow testing staff of the agricultural extension service of the University. The field man not only tests the herds for milk and butterfat production and keeps feed cost summaries, but also serves as an extension representative of the creamery to help members and patrons over the rough spots and to promote dairy calf club work and improve the standards of dairying in the community.

Members of the association feel that the plan has made good the first year and they have high hopes for the future, says Mr. Leighton.

## MINNESOTA'S FOUR IN NATIONAL CAMP CHOSEN

Jeanne Tellier of Dakota county, Annie Pederson of Hubbard county, Alden Flygare of Martin county, and Donald Gibson of St. Louis county have been selected by a committee of the state club staff at University Farm for membership from Minnesota in the National 4-H Club Camp at Washington, D. C., June 19 to 25 inclusive. The alternates are Lillian Rose of Rice county, Madeline Rienke of Traverse county, Robert Ash of Kittson county, and Elwin Busian of Olmsted county. Pictures of the "Big Four" and a statement of their achievements will appear in the May number of Extension Service News.

### All Set for a Big Club Year

Fischer of Nicollet foresees a big year for club work. Old clubs are adding to their enrollments, he says, and new ones are being organized. Interest is particularly strong in the girls' projects.

## 76 Per Cent of 32,045 4-H'ers Finish Projects

Without blare of trumpets or anything like a special membership drive, 32,045 Minnesota boys and girls enrolled in 4-H club work in 1928 and 76 per cent of them held on faithfully to the end and completed their projects.

This was a gain in membership of 3,408, or about 12 per cent, over the record for 1927. The per cent of completions also showed a fine increase.

St. Louis county, with enrollment of 3,019, again led the field. Winona was second, 1,560, and Itasca third, 1,114. Others making up the high ten were Scott, 671; Rice, 666; Dakota, 656; Faribault, 653; Houston, 627; Carlton, 616, and Beltrami, 602. Enrollments in all counties having county agents are given in the following table:

| Counties          | Boys  | Girls | Total | Completions |
|-------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------------|
| Aitkin            | 169   | 225   | 394   | 267         |
| Anoka             | 20    | 14    | 34    | 30          |
| Beltrami          | 317   | 285   | 602   | 526         |
| Blue Earth        | 206   | 360   | 566   | 528         |
| Brown             | 70    | 273   | 343   | 286         |
| Carlton           | 367   | 249   | 616   | 583         |
| Carver            | 18    | 12    | 30    | 13          |
| Chisago           | 47    | 10    | 57    | 46          |
| Clearwater        | 106   | 151   | 257   | 187         |
| Cook              | 29    | 21    | 50    | 36          |
| Cottonwood        | 132   | 120   | 252   | 146         |
| Crow Wing         | 210   | 187   | 397   | 353         |
| Dakota            | 207   | 449   | 656   | 398         |
| Dodge             | 74    | 145   | 219   | 151         |
| Faribault         | 281   | 371   | 653   | 479         |
| Fillmore          | 288   | 281   | 569   | 385         |
| Freeborn          | 255   | 255   | 510   | 446         |
| Goodhue           | 165   | 240   | 411   | 264         |
| Hennepin          | 165   | 356   | 521   | 451         |
| Houston           | 240   | 381   | 627   | 538         |
| Hubbard           | 251   | 175   | 426   | 156         |
| Itasca            | 469   | 645   | 1,114 | 839         |
| Kittson           | 176   | 169   | 345   | 294         |
| Koochiching       | 98    | 195   | 293   | 242         |
| Lac qui Parle     | 125   | 73    | 198   | 141         |
| Lake              | 15    | 130   | 145   | 144         |
| Lake of the Woods | 71    | 87    | 158   | 115         |
| Lincoln           | 99    | 147   | 246   | 206         |
| Lyon              | 235   | 351   | 586   | 383         |
| Martin            | 191   | 293   | 484   | 264         |
| Meeker            | 63    | 45    | 108   | 85          |
| Morrison          | 156   | 233   | 389   | 231         |
| Mower             | 242   | 205   | 447   | 332         |
| Murray            | 218   | 229   | 447   | 277         |
| Nicollet          | 160   | 115   | 275   | 212         |
| Nobles            | 259   | 212   | 471   | 367         |
| Norman            | 141   | 207   | 348   | 309         |
| Olmsted           | 297   | 195   | 492   | 247         |
| Ottertail (west)  | 225   | 235   | 460   | 367         |
| Ottertail (east)  | 136   | 217   | 353   | 299         |
| Pennington        | 80    | 130   | 210   | 178         |
| Pine              | 100   | 113   | 213   | 203         |
| Pipestone         | 150   | 235   | 385   | 274         |
| Polk (west)       | 202   | 109   | 311   | 311         |
| Polk (east)       | 42    | 15    | 57    | 57          |
| Ramsey            | 189   | 270   | 459   | 326         |
| Redwood           | 190   | 227   | 417   | 198         |
| Renville          | 111   | 50    | 161   | 126         |
| Rice              | 287   | 379   | 666   | 437         |
| Rock              | 86    | 186   | 272   | 203         |
| Roseau            | 139   | 180   | 328   | 255         |
| St. Louis         | 1,031 | 1,988 | 3,019 | 2,473       |
| Scott             | 208   | 463   | 671   | 356         |
| Sherburne         | 226   | 71    | 297   | 282         |
| Steele            | 186   | 248   | 434   | 327         |
| Stevens           | 147   | 170   | 317   | 192         |
| Traverse          | 99    | 134   | 233   | 151         |
| Wadena            | 211   | 249   | 460   | 323         |
| Waseca            | 131   | 198   | 329   | 291         |
| Washington        | 171   | 240   | 411   | 258         |
| Watsonwan         | 150   | 335   | 485   | 330         |
| Wilkin            | 173   | 184   | 357   | 300         |
| Winona            | 375   | 1,185 | 1,560 | 1,308       |
| Yellow Medicine   | 169   | 112   | 281   | 230         |

Of counties having more than 500 members each, Blue Earth and Carlton ran a dead heat in the matter of completions, each scoring the impressive percentage of 93. Beltrami and Freeborn tied for second place, 87 per cent. Hennepin's percentage was 86, Houston's 85, Winona's 83, and St. Louis' 81. The enrollments and completions by projects follow:

| Counties                                       | Boys  | Girls | Total | Completions |
|--|-------|-------|-------|-------------|
| Baby beef                                      | 787   | 145   | 932   | 713         |
| Bread and cake                                 | 24    | 2,505 | 2,529 | 1,897       |
| Canning  | 35    | 2,157 | 2,192 | 1,628       |
| Colt   | 145   | 9     | 154   | 98          |
| Corn   | 584   | 9     | 593   | 463         |
| Dairy calf                                     | 2,908 | 661   | 3,569 | 2,861       |
| Dairy judging                                  | 685   | 83    | 768   | 690         |
| Garden, home beautification                    | 1,865 | 1,601 | 3,466 | 2,602       |
| Garment  | 11    | 7,473 | 7,484 | 5,683       |
| General livestock judging                      | 323   | 33    | 356   | 350         |
| Health   | 372   | 487   | 859   | 816         |
| Leadership                                     | 165   | 250   | 415   | 317         |
| Pig  | 1,783 | 216   | 1,999 | 1,453       |
| Potato   | 962   | 69    | 1,031 | 672         |
| Poultry  | 2,301 | 1,635 | 3,936 | 2,700       |
| Room furnishing                                | 20    | 294   | 314   | 247         |
| Sheep  | 1,005 | 410   | 1,415 | 1,064       |
| Bee, thrift, alfalfa, forestry, and sugar beet | 92    | 108   | 200   | 143         |

It is worthy of note that more standard club charters were granted in 1928 than in any previous year; that 2,610 county club winners were given trips to state events in the Twin Cities and that 98 state winners enjoyed trips to national events as special rewards for their good work. Twenty-two counties tried the plan of employing a part-time leader to assist the county agent with the 4-H program. In every instance the plan was reported a success.

"In many ways the year 1928 emphasized the permanency of 4-H club work as a feature of our educational program," says T. A. Erickson, the state club leader. "The number of young people putting into practice in actual farm operations the better methods learned through 4-H club work is increasing each year. Recognition of the value of this work for the betterment of rural life by city people as well as by the farm people themselves was more pronounced last year than ever before.

"Four-H club work is doing a great deal to develop its own leadership. One of the most encouraging phases of the work is the fact that 400 of these young folks who have been club members three to ten years were active in the leadership project the past year. The Gopher 4-H Club, composed of 60 former club members now attending the Minnesota Agricultural College and the School of Agriculture 4-H Club with 100 members, indicate the permanent tendency of the work in developing rural leadership of the highest type."

### High Fat Average on Cutover Farm

Nash of Aitkin reports with justifiable pride that George Boyer, who is managing a herd of 11 cows in the cutover country, tied for first place in the state in butterfat production and led in milk production for the month of January. Mr. Boyer's cows averaged 1,747 pounds of milk and 58.2 pounds of butterfat. M. F. Rittman of the Upsala-Swanville association averaged 1,652 pounds of milk and 58.2 of butterfat.

### "Zav" Competes with Fire Alarm

Speaking at Ivanhoe, Zavoral thought he wasn't putting it over because his hearers on the rear seats moved out on him. Finally it dawned on all hands that there was a fire in town. Everybody then took time out but returned to hear Zav's peroration.

## County Agent Ranks Recruited from Farm

Frank Marshall, Minnesota's first county agent, was taken directly from the farm. After two years of noteworthy service in Traverse county he returned to his Meeker county farm where his family has resided since.

All county agents employed in Minnesota at any time have had a background of practical farm experience. That the farm is an important recruiting field for county agent timber is evident in the fact that in Minnesota 32 men were taken directly from farms to engage in the county agent service and that among those who have left the service 47 became farmers.

Late changes in personnel indicate a continuance of these tendencies. As recently noted in these columns O. R. Grover was taken from his farm in Clay county to become agent of Wilkin county.

C. D. Patterson, who since May, 1919, has rendered faithful service in Lac qui Parle county, left the work early in March to begin farming operations for himself at Dante, Charles Mix county, South Dakota. He begins with a 200-acre farm and will likely have charge of a larger plant in a year or two.

The Lac qui Parle committees have taken W. A. Dickinson from his farm in Kanabec county as Patterson's successor. Dickinson was farm reared in Wright county, Minnesota. He was graduated from the Minnesota School of Agriculture in 1904. From 1905 to 1911 he served as farm manager at Morris, Minnesota, at the St. Charles School for Boys, and at Elgin, Illinois; then for four years had charge of the Meadowlands demonstration farm in St. Louis county. He spent a year starting the development of a cutover farm in Kanabec county, served seven years as county agent of Floyd county, Iowa, then two years similarly in Waseca county, Minnesota, and since 1924 has been clearing and operating his own 280-acre farm. In these last five years all but 50 acres have been cleared and put under the plow, and in the meantime he has developed a dairy herd of 13 Holstein cows producing an average of 351 pounds of butterfat per year. He raises certified grains and potatoes and has 20 acres of alfalfa. That Mr. Dickinson and his family dislike to leave the farm goes without saying. It is being done only to locate where better educational opportunities for the two children are offered.

E. C. Lenzmeier, who for three years did a fine piece of county agent work for Brown county, became a Carver county farmer on March 1. His plant consists of 200 acres. His plan includes dairying, but he will supplement his income with beef cattle, sheep, hogs, and poultry including turkeys. Breaking eight mules was one of his first jobs, with a hundred others awaiting attention.

Lenzmeier urged "Please do not make a 'big fuss' about my plans." We inquired as to the underlying motive that drew him back to the old farm. He hopes to succeed but implied that profitable farming alone is not a sufficient object in life. Likely Lenzmeier's deeper purpose is as a better keeper of the earth.

Paul W. Kunkel, native farm boy of Blue Earth county, a graduate of the Minnesota Agricultural College in 1923,

with graduate work at Ames and with several years' experience as a high school agricultural instructor, has been selected as Mr. Lenzmeier's successor. The Kunkel family has been active in local extension work and other community affairs.

After nearly nine years of splendid work in Aitkin county and almost two more in Wadena, A. W. Jacob has gone back to live with the Redskins. He left Wadena with his family in mid-February for Sapulpa, Oklahoma, where he became agent for Creek county. His new headquarters is about 15 miles from Tulsa, Oklahoma, the famous oil center. Mr. Jacob will find Creek county an interesting contrast to Wadena. Creek county has two beef and two dairy cows per farm as an average to nearly seven dairy cows per farm in Wadena. Mr. Jacob in Creek county will find himself wrestling with the problems of sweet potatoes, yams, sorghum, 40,000 acres of corn and more than 50,000 acres of cotton. Evidently he will keep close to the soil.

Carrol L. Blakeslee, farm reared at Spring Valley, Fillmore county, a graduate in 1926 of the Minnesota College of Agriculture in dairy and animal husbandry, will succeed Mr. Jacob April 1. For the last three years Mr. Blakeslee has been instructor of animal husbandry at the North Central School of Agriculture at Grand Rapids. He lived on the farm until entering college and worked his way through college largely in the dairy department where he fed the milking and calf herds and the official test cows. He was president of the Block and Bridle Club, a college organization of animal husbandry students, and also served on both the International livestock judging team at Chicago and the National Dairy Show team at Syracuse, New York, in 1925.

It is evident that the men in county agent work and those contemplating entering the service have a wholesome regard for the life of the soil. The Great Book says, "The first man is of the earth, earthy."

### State's Help Sought in Weed Fight

Leafy spurge and Austrian field cress are due to take a beating, in spots at least, if the legislators look with favor on appropriation bills urged by the Hennepin, Olmsted, and other delegations. Funds are asked for an attack on leafy spurge on a 100-acre infestation in Hennepin, another in southwestern Minnesota, and a third in the Red river valley. The Olmsted county members take the position that no single farmer or ordinary group of farmers can eradicate Austrian field cress, and that it is a job for the state.

### Here's Telling the World

Much publicity work was carried on by the Mower county office in February. Liebenstein's report shows 23 articles prepared for county papers in addition to the regular section for the Minnesota Farm Bureau News. Six circular letters, with a total circulation of 800, were mailed and several posters and charts for dairy meetings were arranged. A sales and exchange list was also issued.

Two meetings called in February for the organization of a home economics project had to be postponed because of snow blocked roads, says Larson of Chisago. Finally, at the third attempt in March, the business was put through.

## LAWSON LETS IN LIGHT ON SWINE TATTOOING

Repeated complaints from Freeborn county farmers led County Agent Lawson to investigate the tattooing of hogs to find out why some farmers who shipped a dozen hogs received the premiums on perhaps only three or four, while others got 100 per cent remittances.

Says Mr. Lawson, "I spent two full days at the local packing house watching and checking several hundred hogs as they came along the rail after being slaughtered. In some carloads, all the hogs were marked perfectly, while in others almost all were illegibly tattooed. In some instances, 90 per cent of a carload would be legibly marked, while 10 per cent might not be marked at all.

"After various data were obtained at the packing house, including several records from their books, a general explanation was made to the farmers. Several tattoo specimens have been cut off the hogs' backs and preserved in bottles as examples of good and poor work. Whenever a thorough explanation is offered, the farmers see the proposition in an entirely different light and are willing to co-operate fully in having a good job of tattooing done. When they understand that the plan helps trace back avian tuberculosis, the majority are very much interested and want to find out if they have the disease on their farms."

## BUTTERFAT PRODUCTION MEASURED BY TESTING

Hammargren of Pine gave several days in February to attendance upon co-operative creamery meetings and obtained a new slant on the value of herd improvement work. In one district, where very little work of this kind has been done, the average production was placed at about 170 pounds of fat yearly. In another locality, where a little more work has been done through the associations, the average was approximately 200 pounds to the cow. But at a third creamery center, where more than half of the patrons have at some time belonged to a testing association or a cost accounting route, it was estimated that the production was close to 300 pounds to the cow. The agent says he is "sold" more thoroughly than ever before on the value of "careful breeding, feeding, and weeding."

### Want More Training Schools

Local leaders in Norman county attended a 4-H club training school at Ada, says County Agent J. J. McCann, and were so well pleased with this type of meeting that they indorsed it as a regular feature of the club program.

### Two Crop Associations Planned

Fillmore, Houston, and Winona counties are committed to the organization of another tri-county crop association. A meeting will also be called, says Agent J. B. McNulty, to form a Winona county crop organization.

### Six Successful Institutes Held

Six one-day farmers' institute meetings, held in Faribault county in February, brought out an aggregate attendance of 650, in spite of cold and blocked roads.