

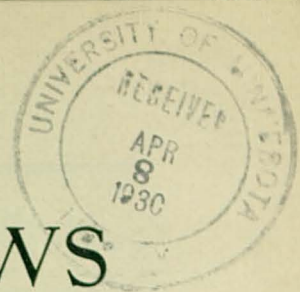
MINNESOTA EXTENSION SERVICE NEWS

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Home Demonstration Conference Stresses Need for High Professional Attainments; 36 Counties, 1 City Represented

MINNESOTA home demonstration workers held a very successful annual conference at University Farm, March 3 to 8, with 36 counties and one city represented by home chairmen or others acting for them, and with 43 county women attending, in addition to all members of the state home demonstration staff and the county and urban home demonstration agents.

Space does not permit us to report the entire proceedings, but the following excerpts from the summary report will give some of the more important points brought out. The report was prepared by a committee composed of the Misses Hellen Gillette, Marion Hagstrom and Eves Whitfield, Mrs. Sylvia Shiras and Mrs. Albert Ruble.

Miss Julia O. Newton opened the meeting and welcomed the agents. In setting up some of the ideals for home demonstration work, she stated that the challenge to the agent, both in training and in social qualifications, is the greatest in the history of home demonstration work. The standard of a fine professional worker is established not only by the public spirit of the individual but by his community and professional relationships as well, Miss Newton said.

"Constructive Criticism on Home Demonstration, Based on the Land Grant College Survey" was the subject of a careful analysis by Director F. W. Peck. The findings of the committee pointed out that the contributing factors to the position of extension education at the present time are due to (1) the ideal of service, (2) substantial federal support, (3) private economic advantage, (4) political consciousness and (5) co-operation supplemented by effective publicity.

The weakness of this type of education lies in the lack of close articulation between extension teaching and research findings. There is a need for (1) more system in our work and in our thinking, (2) to correlate more closely agricultural and home economics subjects in county teaching, (3) that there is a tendency to emphasize quantity rather than quality results in our extension programs. If extension education fails to reach its goal the primary blame may be placed either upon weak administration or upon a limited vision of the broad objective of "development of people."

T. A. Erickson, state 4-H club leader, led the round table discussion on new

developments in club work with helpful suggestions as to how the county club programs should be organized and enlarged.

At the conference of the city home demonstration agents, Merrill Burgess

permanent records, information material and reference bulletins should be arranged.

The program of work confronting the Federal Farm Board was ably presented by Director Peck. The Agricultural Marketing Act declares the policy of congress to be the promotion of effective merchandising so that agriculture will be placed "on a basis of economic equality with other industries," and provides that this shall be done by (1) minimizing the ill effects of speculation, (2) aiding in marketing a higher quality of product at quality prices, and (3) aiding in preventing and controlling surpluses in production and distribution.

On Thursday morning the meeting of the county home chairmen with the home demonstration agents began. An opening message of welcome was given to all county home chairmen by Miss Julia O. Newton.

Mr. Peck very interestingly discussed the measurements of progress in home demonstration work and its aims for the future. He indicated that the tendency to emphasize numbers is valuable both for comparison and as an indication of a growing sentiment to make use of extension service education. He stated that a quality measure is more accurate

since it indicates the degree of success in raising the standard of living and stimulating the desire for higher education through self-training. In establishing a home demonstration program the following objectives should be considered: income, health, labor saving equipment in the homes, clothing, reading habits, use of leisure time, recreation, social satisfactions and improvement of the physical environment. There is need to make the work attractive and to reach more homes.

"Knowing Your Public," was the subject of a talk by J.J. Louis of the Dayton Company, Minneapolis. He stated that the first need is to get the "you" point of view and to recognize the "self interest" quality in other people.

Dean W. C. Coffey presented an analysis of the present day position of woman and her relation to the agricultural program of today. Dean Coffey stressed three points in this development, (1) the franchise, (2) advances in the field of education and (3) economic independence. These developments have had a marked effect on the family and all institutions coming into contact with the home.

Say It With Ads

The accompanying illustration represents an advertisement, three columns wide by eight or 10 inches deep, which was run in a Winona county newspaper.

These Pigs Had Hair

No hairless pigs in this lot of 92, from 10 sows raised by J. H. Nahrgang and fed

Potassium Iodide
2 grams in slop daily for 60 days costs less than 12c per sow

J. W. Thompson another successful swine raiser says, "Without Potassium Iodide in 1928, 13 brood sows produced 183 pigs but 73 had no hair and died. Only 26 were marketed."
"In 1929 with Potassium Iodide, 9 of the same sows produced 87 pigs—all had hair, 73 marketed."

Did It Pay?
Further information on a leaflet on the Nahrgang method may be obtained from your County Agent

Lewiston Pharmacy
John H. Neumann, Proprietor

J. B. McNulty, county agent, assisted the druggist in preparing the copy and layout.

The photograph used in the ad showed the 92 pigs which J. H. Nahrgang, a Winona countian, raised from 10 sows to win the state pork production contest in 1928. This ad got results and pleased the druggist so much that a similar ad on pocket gophers has subsequently been used.

Study especially the very effective use of local data and testimonials. Interest in feeding potassium iodide resulted from the recommendation of H. G. Zavoral, extension livestock specialist, who for several years has been advocating this practice in areas deficient in iodine.

We cite this ad as a good way of bringing extension work to the public notice and of getting business men interested.

of Minneapolis spoke on the subject of "Preparing the Monthly Bulletin." Mr. Burgess said there were four things to consider in getting out this bulletin, (1) consider this as an opportunity for the expression of real thought rather than a necessary evil, (2) select the average person and talk to them, know what their real thoughts and desires are, (3) put self into the letter in a very natural way, (4) use courtesy and tact.

Discusses Home Buying

Mrs. Ruth Haynes Carpenter gave a very helpful discussion of the subject, "Helping Women to be More Intelligent Buyers." Two things necessary to consider are, (1) the needs, (2) what one can afford to pay. The lower the income, the more emphasis should be put on the fact that many of those things which contribute to a higher life really should be considered as necessities.

S. B. Cleland, assistant county agent leader, discussed files and filing system and with the aid of a very fine set of files illustrated how the county extension agents' correspondence, project material,

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APRIL, 1930

We have had several requests from agents and organizations for specific information about the grain marketing plans of the Farm Board

Do Not Be Impatient and the prospects for a more favorable price for wheat for the remainder of this year and for 1931.

We have been unable to find anyone who can give a clear picture of this grain marketing situation as it has developed and as it exists at present. Frankly, we had expected to be able to have the marketing specialists available to discuss the plans and policies of the Farm Board relative to grain marketing, and also to discuss intelligently the outlook for wheat for 1930, but developments have been so complex and so uncertain, and the opinions as to the future so varied, as to cause us to go very slowly in attempting an organized educational project in this commodity.

County agents in the grain-growing counties have been advised that Mr. Dvoracek will be available during April for meetings with elevator groups and interested grain producers to discuss the Agricultural Marketing Act, the set-up of the Farmers' National Grain Corporation, the provisions of the Capper-Volstead Act, and plans being made to market grain co-operatively for the coming year.

We still intend to go through with this program, providing there are demands for this service. It is clear that a representative of the University cannot represent any of the grain handling organizations from an organization or contract standpoint. We will confine our activities wholly to explaining the situation, insofar as that is possible. The whole picture has become clouded with uncertainty, with a distressing price situation and a wide divergence of views and opinions of those who are close to the general grain marketing situation. It is for these reasons that we have been going very slowly in the progress attempted in this commodity.

The livestock situation, from an organization-of-marketing-agencies standpoint, is little better, but we hope shortly to be able to make a definite pronouncement as to the plan of procedure. Several meetings have been held in connection with the plans for handling wool to make clear to the agents and to interested

growers what should be done to take advantage of the opportunity to pool the wool with the selected agency in this field.

All these are long-time plans and cannot be hurried if permanent growth is to be the result of our educational effort.—
F. W. P.

This Method Convinced

The necessity for special care in the purchase of alfalfa seed was emphasized by a novel method recently used in a series of farm meetings in Hennepin county. Several samples of alfalfa seed were displayed and those present were asked to vote on which ones farmers should buy.

Following the vote, an announcement was made as to the actual germination, per cent of weed seeds, noxious weeds per pound, inert matter and other points as determined by laboratory analysis. Certain samples contained large numbers of dodder seeds, quack grass and other weed seeds. Certain samples were low in germination.

The results of the voting in most cases demonstrated very clearly that it is impossible to ascertain the per cent of germination or purity without a laboratory test, and impractical to guard against weed seeds without such a test.

Nutrition Project Helped

Thirty-four Freeborn county groups recently completed the advanced nutrition project on special diets, given by Miss Inez Hobart. Eighty-nine per cent of members finished. Leaders reported 379 persons definitely improved in health, 289 improved in posture, 115 correcting digestive disorders, and 117 correcting constipation. Fifty-four overweights reduced their poundage, while 429 underweights gained. School lunches were established in 14 schools serving 517 children. Stores throughout the county are carrying stocks of green vegetables and whole grains as a result of demand created through the spread of information regarding the nutritional importance of these food products.

Nobles Bureau Fetes Editors

Eleven editors of Nobles county recently attended a banquet given by the Nobles county farm bureau in their honor. Charles Gilbert, county agent, outlined extension policies and told the editors some of the things that the Nobles county extension service was endeavoring to do to improve Nobles county agriculture.

Lloyd E. Hudson, former Watonwan county agent, in writing F. E. Balmer from Brownsville, Texas, under date of February 16, gives us an enlightening glimpse of Texas in winter. "Have been very busy since I arrived. Built a new cistern, picked fruit, pruned trees, built a chicken house, etc. Have 400 young chickens. Plan to plant beans tomorrow." Mr. Hudson says he misses county agent work and contacts very much and hopes to return soon.

Fulda business men served lunch to more than 700 persons who came to the town in February to attend the Farmers' Institute arranged by County Agent C. H. Schrader.

Le Sueur Reinstates Work; Firmage Hired

LE SUEUR county does honor to itself and the farming interests of Minnesota by again establishing the county extension service. The reorganization of the county farm bureau was completed late in 1929 and the county appropriation voted in January.

Hugh W. Firmage, native and farm reared in Lyon county, graduate of the Minnesota agricultural college in 1927, son of one of the Minnesota master farmers, and for the past three years agricultural teacher at the high school at Osceola, Wisconsin, has been elected as Le Sueur county agent. Mr. Firmage will assume his duties June 1.

In his agricultural training, Mr. Firmage specialized in dairy and animal husbandry, farm management and economics, farm crops, and educational subjects. He has always lived on a farm except when in school and while teaching. For five years, in co-operation with his father, he operated a large grain and livestock farm in Lyon county. In his teaching work, he has assisted in organizing 4-H clubs, cow-testing associations, co-operated with livestock breed associations, worked with the county fair and conducted evening classes for farmers.

The county extension work in Le Sueur county will be taken care of during April and May by Theo. A. Fenske. Mr. Fenske was farm reared at Bemidji. He graduated from the Minnesota College of Agriculture in 1929 and for several months has been teaching farm crops at the West Central School of Agriculture at Morris.

Mr. Fenske was enrolled in boys' and girls' club work for 11 years. In 1923, he was a member of the Minnesota 4-H dairy demonstration team which won the national grand championship at Syracuse, New York. Mr. Fenske made several winnings in club work in state events, among them being a scholarship to the agricultural college.

Rules on Agents' Pay For Co-op. Institute

COUNTY agents who might like to attend the American Institute of Co-operation at Columbus, Ohio, June 16-July 23 will be interested in the following excerpt from a letter by C. B. Smith, chief of the office of co-operative extension work, regarding salary arrangements:

"The extension director may authorize the agent to attend the Institute of Co-operation during the four weeks with pay on Smith-Lever funds, provided the attendance is taken on the annual vacation period. For one week a trade conference of members and officers of co-operative associations will be held. Extension agents may be authorized, if desired, to attend this conference on official time and salary.

"Agents receiving salary from the department from Farmers' Co-operative Demonstration funds may be allowed only 15 days' pay from this department while in attendance. The week for attendance at the trade conference will constitute official duty with pay."



Gopher Delegates to National Camp Named

HIGHEST honors in 4-H club work for the past year—the right to represent Minnesota's 37,000 club members at the National Camp at Washington, D. C., next June—have been awarded the following, who will be the official delegates with all expenses paid:

- Anne Schubring, Como Station, Ramsey County
- Helen Van Deer, Alden, Freeborn County
- Chelsea Pratt, Mankato, Blue Earth County
- Thomas Morse, Deer River, Itasca County

Four alternates, who will be given trips with all expenses paid, to the National Club Congress in Chicago next December, are: May Stephenson, Pelican Rapids, West Ottertail county; Frances Hopkins, Withrow, Washington; Theodore Larson, St. Peter, Nicollet; James B. Larson, Becker, Sherburne.

Anne Schubring began her club work in 1921. She won the state health contest in 1929 and took third place in a health contest at the National Club Congress in Chicago. She was president of her local club in 1922, '25, '26, and '27 and junior leader in 1928-29.

Helen Van Deer, with five years of club experience, has demonstrated in canning and clothing at the state fair several times. In 1926 and '27 she was champion clothing judge at the state fair and in 1927 her clothing exhibit at the fair won first place and her demonstration team won second. She has been president of her local club and junior leader for four years.

Chelsea Pratt first enrolled in 4-H Club work in 1921. He has a long list of achievements to his credit, including: championship poultry exhibit, state poultry show, Minneapolis, January, 1929; membership in state champion poultry demonstration team, state fair, 1929; membership in national champion poultry demonstration team, St. Louis, Missouri, 1929; membership in state poultry judging team at international livestock show, winning first place; and presidency of his local club.

Thomas Morse entered 4-H Club work in 1925. He has exhibited in the dairy and poultry projects in state fair club events and has also represented his county in livestock judging work. He was elected president of the Itasca County Poultry Association for 1930. Following the death of his father some years ago, he entered into partnership with his mother in the management of the farm and has built up an exceptional herd of Guernsey cattle.

4-H SUMMER CAMPS

Dates for a number of county club camps have been filed with the state club department as follows:

- Roseau and Lake of Woods, June 5, 6, 7
- West Ottertail..... June 6, 7, 8
- Steele and Waseca.... June (2d week)
- Beltrami..... June 16, 17, 18
- Stevens June 16, 17, 18
- Lyon June (3rd week)
- Wright June 20, 21, 22
- Dakota, Goodhue, and Olmsted—
June 25, 26, 27, 28
- Houston June 25, 26, 27, 28
- Redwood June 26, 27, 28
- Jackson..... June 29-30, July 1
- Clearwater July 2, 3, 4, 5
- St. Louis..... July 8, 9, 10, 11
- Scott and Le Sueur..... July 9, 10, 11
- Martin July 14, 15, 16

Chelsea Wins Again!

To win two outstanding honors in 4-H club work within a month is the remarkable achievement of Chelsea Pratt, Mankato, Blue Earth county, who is mentioned in the story of Minnesota's delegates to the National 4-H Club Camp. Within a few days following the announcement of his selection as delegate, the Poultry Tribune of Mount Morris, Illinois, notified state club headquarters that Chelsea was the winner of a \$150 scholarship given as first prize in a national contest sponsored for poultry club members by the magazine named.

The scholarship will be used by Chelsea to defray part of his expenses while attending the College of Agriculture at University Farm when he enters next fall.

Will Give 4 Scholarships

T. A. Erickson, state club leader, calls attention to the fact that the Minnesota Valley Canning company offers four scholarships for 1930 in a project for producing five acres of sweet corn. The age limits are from 16 to 21 years. One scholarship will be given in each corn canning center, including Watertown—Cokato—Winstead, Le Sueur, Montgomery, and Blue Earth. These scholarships will be for \$150 each and will apply to the School of Agriculture at University Farm. Club members competing are eligible to compete for other awards in regular corn club work.

Freeborn Rotarians Help

The Rotary club of Albert Lea is paying the railroad fare to the state junior short course in June and part of the living expenses for a member of each organized club in Freeborn county.

Minnesota's Alfalfa

By F. E. BALMER
State County Agent Leader

MINNESOTA will soon become a million-acre alfalfa state. Recently the increase plantings have been about 100,000 acres per year. From 1924 to 1929 the acreage grew from 220,000 to 640,000 acres, an increase from 1.2 to 3.4 acres per farm. The 1929 acreage noted does not include the 1929 seedings or alfalfa used for pasture. With these included, Minnesota probably has 800,000 acres of alfalfa for hay and pasture in 1930, or an average of 4.3 acres per farm. Two acres additional alfalfa per farm seeded in 1930 will most likely give Minnesota more than a million acres. Only seven other states now have alfalfa acreages that exceed Minnesota's, while in rate of gain in acreage, Minnesota surpassed every other state for the period 1927 to 1929.

A million acres of alfalfa in Minnesota is a desirable objective. No surplus now exists in the state and far less alfalfa hay is produced than is needed for livestock feeding. Dairymen frequently recommend an acre for each dairy cow. The last Federal census reported Minnesota having 1,300,000 dairy cows and, in addition, 1,500,000 other cattle, 500,000 sheep, 3,000,000 swine and 800,000 horses. All these animals eat alfalfa hay.

Farm management studies of the University in southern Minnesota indicate a net annual return from alfalfa of \$25.07 per acre, and in the Red River Valley a return of 89 cents per hour for labor, the highest secured from any crop in the region.

Thirty years ago Minnesota had less than 1,000 acres of alfalfa; 20 years ago slightly over 2,000 acres. By 1919, the state had 45,000 acres. Seven counties then each had more than 2,000 acres, Carver county leading with 2,497 acres. Seven additional counties had acreages ranging from 1,000 to 2,000 acres.

County Acreages

From 1919 to 1929 Minnesota's alfalfa increased nearly 15 times. By 1929, county acreages are significant. In total, Ottertail and Polk counties lead with 35,758 and 23,274 acres respectively, although the average farm acreage of alfalfa in the two is identical—5.4 acres. Twenty additional counties (note tabular data accompanying) in 1929 had 10,000 to 20,000 acres. Fifteen counties reduced their alfalfa from 1927 to 1929.

Total acreage per county, however, is not a sufficient measure. The per cent of crop acres in alfalfa is a better one. Hennepin county (note table) leads in this respect with 11.3 per cent. The state average is 3.6 per cent.

In terms of the average acreage of alfalfa per farm, Grant county leads with 9 acres, followed by Wilkin with 7.9 acres, Lyon with 7.1 and 20 or more other counties with averages ranging from 5 to 7 acres.

Another important factor is a comparison of the numbers of beef and dairy cows with the acreage of alfalfa, or the average alfalfa acreage per farm with the average number of cows per farm. Grant county has worked out the best

