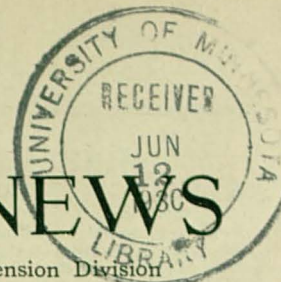


MINNESOTA EXTENSION SERVICE NEWS

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No. 9

District Annual Conferences Give Impressive Picture of Comprehensive Nature of Extension Work in Counties

THROUGH reports by county, home and club agents at the district annual conferences, a striking picture was presented of the comprehensive service that is being maintained by the several counties in cooperation with the Agricultural Extension Division. A half day's session at each conference was devoted to these four-minute reports, each dealing specifically with some representative activity, project or method of work under way in the county of the agent reporting.

Problems relating to soils, crops, county fairs and shows, farm forestry, turkey raising, livestock sanitation and diseases, cow testing, purebred sires, county organization of 4-H clubs, farm bureau meetings, farmer-banker cooperation, rural dramatics, cooperative cream marketing, greater butter consumption, livestock marketing problems, rural recreation, publicity, home demonstration projects; these are suggestive of the great variety of topics that are engaging the attention of extension workers throughout the state.

The Minnesota state wide cow testing plan, extension publicity, specific 4-H club problems and economic activities in which the extension service is concerned, were the major topics of the conference programs.

Director F. W. Peck quite appropriately opened each conference with a discussion of "Objectives in Extension Work." He emphasized that the first objective of agricultural extension education is the development of rural people and that this is accomplished by fostering attitudes of mind and capacities which will enable rural people to meet the individual and civic problems which confront them. He argued that such purposes as increasing the fertility of the soil, securing a larger farm income and raising the standard of rural living must be related to the development of rural people as a means of reaching the main objective.

It is the belief of Mr. Peck that every extension worker needs to find time for reflection and study. One should not be so tremendously busy that he has no time to study the philosophy of his job. Possibly then the extension worker needs to have one or more hobbies, so that occasionally he may get away from his

work enough to have a better perspective of it.

The state-wide cow testing plan being set up in Minnesota was explained at each conference by H. R. Searles, dairy extension specialist. The State-Wide

sized the common interest which every member of the family has in the extension program. Having dependable groups to work with, getting people to decide on the county program, stressing the building of attitudes rather than the adoption of practices, and getting more people to work together to build a better agriculture were emphasized by Miss Newton.

The legal requirements as to county programs, the responsibility of the agent as to the program, whether each county or each extension worker should have a program, the common interests of all extension workers in the comprehensive extension program, and what the program of work outline should call for, were discussed by Mr. Balmer.

Both Miss Newton and Mr. Balmer discussed specific farm and home projects that offer the best opportunities to unify and correlate the related lines of work. Both sets of home and farm projects should have economic, social, educational, and cultural objectives.

One entire day of each conference was devoted to economic questions. The results of the farm management service being carried on with two hundred farmers in six southeastern Minnesota counties were described by R. L. Donovan at the Rochester and Brainerd conferences, and by W. L. Cavert at the Marshall

and Crookston sessions.

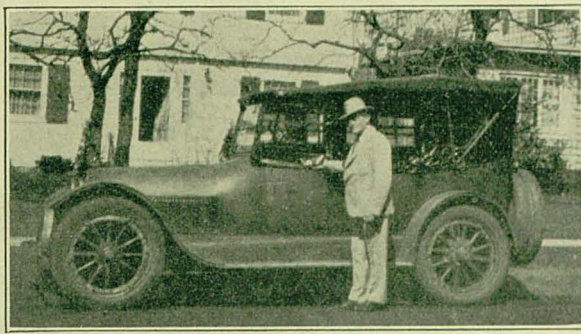
The average labor earnings of these 200 farmers was \$600 larger in 1929 than in 1928. The records make it possible to study earnings as influenced by seven major factors:

- Pounds of butterfat per cow
- Returns above feed cost
- Productive livestock per 100 acres
- Crop yields
- Productive work provided
- Relations of equipment and expense to productive work
- Size of business as expressed in productive work

At each of the conferences, Director Peck, or specialists in economic material, discussed the application of outlook material and its use throughout the year. The main provisions of the Agricultural Marketing Act were discussed at each conference by D. C. Dvoracek, extension

(Continued on page 4)

"Ring Out the Old"



The twain pictured above—too well known to every extension worker to need introduction—is no more. After 111,000 miles of concordant association, Frank Balmer decided to retire "The Old Open Buick" for one of more modern vintage and is shown in a farewell handclasp. Inspired by the seeming indestructibility and unflinching faithfulness of the craft, one of the poets in our midst has contributed the following, with apologies to Oliver Wendell Holmes:

BALMER'S MASTERPIECE

Or The Wonderful "One-Hoss Shay"

Have you heard of the wonderful Buick shay
That was driven in such a logical way?
It ran a hundred thousand and a day
And then, of a sudden, it—ah, but stay

(Continued on back page)

Cow Testing association has been incorporated; it has secured resources as a revolving fund to start operations; it has been approved and accepted by the Board of Regents to operate for two years in connection with the dairy division at University Farm. At the end of two years it is expected that the management and control of the project will be taken over by the dairymen of the state who become members. The plan has been approved and endorsed by the leading farm and dairy organizations in Minnesota, and will be set in active operation as soon as the necessary equipment and facilities can be procured and 600 members signed up.

Building the Program

The need for unifying farm and home projects was discussed by Miss Julia O. Newton and F. E. Balmer. Both empha-

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One of the popular interpretations of the function of the agricultural extension service is that it is primarily intended to assist in the development of the economic resources in agriculture, or as some one has said, to place a sound economic foundation under agriculture.

It is but natural to visualize the objective in these terms, because of the fundamental emphasis that has been placed upon the business projects in agriculture that deal with prices, costs and profits, and those changes in enterprise practices that tend to increase the farm income. However, there is another phase of the general agricultural problem in which the extension service is not only interested, but exceedingly active, and that is the living or civic side, as related to the individual farm home and to the development of desirable communities or trade centers in the state.

If one goes back to the primary objective of extension work, namely, the development of people themselves, and visualizes the changes that have taken place in the last 20 years in the essentials that make for a satisfying life in the open country, one will find ample authorization, it seems to me, for an agricultural extension service to stimulate opportunities for people to develop along cultural lines, as well as along vocational lines in agriculture and homemaking.

For example: The subject of rural beauty might not appeal to some as a worthy agricultural extension project, but this term includes not only home beautification and home decoration, but roadside improvement, farmstead improvement, painting of farm buildings, planting of ornamental trees and windbreaks, and care of farm machinery, and is a subject worthy of discussion from many angles. Likewise, consideration of the entire problem of the best use of leisure time is essentially an agricultural extension problem, tied closely to the art of agriculture and to the art of living, as well as to the cultural development of the people themselves. Good literature, the drama, wise recreation—these are a part of modern farm life as well as of modern urban life; and any program of education intended to satisfy the needs of people must take these projects into the program and make it possible that oppor-

tunities will be developed for the people to satisfy their needs along these lines.

Therefore the agricultural extension service, as it grows, will attempt to assist in making opportunities which people in the open country who desire to grow intelligently as well as vocationally may use for their self improvement; perhaps first in an objective way, but more fundamentally as an aid to better living satisfactions and for the development of highly desirable rural communities.—F. W. P.

Director Peck Heads Educational Council

The Minnesota Council of Adult Education selected Director F. W. Peck as its president at its annual meeting May 16 and 17 at South St. Paul. This council is an association of educational agencies interested in the development of adult education. It serves as a co-ordinating body and as a clearing house of information pertaining to the activities of the many agencies operating in this field of work.

More Horticulture Help

Beginning July 1 more assistance will be given in horticulture, says an announcement by J. F. Kuehn, assistant to the director. Horticulture staff members will be available for 40 days of field work during the year. Projects to be emphasized will include orchard management, variety planting, pruning and spraying. Agents should make their requests for this service through the extension office.

Did This Ever Happen to You?

The following letter by Ted Fenske, temporary agent in Le Sueur, to John Sheay under date of May 2 has come to our notice. Sheay calls Ted's sad experience a "baptism under fire" and wonders how many extension workers have had similar trials.

"Dear Mr. Sheay:

"I suppose you were present at the Boosters' Club meeting in New Prague last night. I had intended to go and had spent the afternoon in that territory making some visits. Along toward six o'clock I decided to make one more, and in so doing got stuck in the mud. Before I got out of it, my shoes, suit, and top coat were one mass of mud, and my hat had blown away. By the time I got back to Le Sueur Center it was too late to make the New Prague meeting."

To which the veterans will reply, "Yes, yes, Ted. We know just how you felt."

Fenske opened up the work in Le Sueur in fine shape during the two months he was there. Mr. Firmage was scheduled to take over the office on June 1.

Taylor Leaves Hospital

J. W. Taylor, Roseau county, was among those missing at the district annual conference at Crookston. Mr. Taylor was taking time out at the Veterans' Hospital at Fort Snelling for the removal of his tonsils and some other surgical attention. He returned to work in May.

Clothing Achievement And Check-up Held

DULUTH held its clothing achievement day on April 29 with about 225 women attending the afternoon program and about 170 at the noon luncheon. The program included talks by Miss Eves Whitfield, clothing specialist, and Miss Dorothy J. Iwig, home demonstration agent. An interesting feature was a "Cycle of Fashions" review in which styles for each decade from 1840 to 1930 were modeled by group members.

Sixteen exhibits were prepared by groups. The final report on Clothing II showed 212 women enrolled in 18 groups, with 678 outside the project helped, making a total of 890 reached. Adult garments made during the project numbered 978, children's garments 922, and made-over garments 594. Estimated savings totaled \$3,213.54.

Goodhue county staged its check-up on Clothing I, at Red Wing, May 15. Significant facts from the statistical report are: 19 groups with 254 women enrolled and 241, or 95 per cent, completing; 1,019 others helped or an average of 4 for each project member; 2,154 garments made at estimated savings of \$1,961.05, or an average of \$8.90 per member. Fifty-eight were present at the check-up event. Speakers included Miss Whitfield, Miss Julia O. Newton and County Agent Thorfinnson. An organization meeting for Clothing II is called for July 18.

Billings Veterinary Book Off the Press

RESPLENDENT in a snappy-looking bright blue cover, Dr. W. A. Billings' book on "Livestock and Poultry Diseases" has just come off the presses of the MacMillan Company as the forty-sixth volume of the widely-known rural science series, edited by Liberty Hyde Bailey.

The book consists of more than 500 pages and contains a large number of illustrations. In five parts, it deals with diseases of cattle, horses, sheep, swine, and poultry, respectively. The book is designed to serve as a practical guide for farmers and others who want to know something about sanitation and disease as applied to livestock, without becoming involved in technical language. County agents and high school agriculture teachers should find it especially helpful.

Agents Are Invited To Annual Extension Picnic

COUNTY agricultural and home demonstration agents and other field workers are invited to attend the annual extension picnic and outing to be held Monday, June 16, on Gerber's Grounds, Lake Josephine, about five miles north of University Farm on Lexington Avenue. Among the attractions will be sports for everybody, including bathing, a big feed at noon, and other features now being worked out by a committee consisting of Frank Brown, chairman, J. F. Kuehn, Sadie Currier, Cora Cooke, and Parker Anderson.



New Ideas Evolved at 4-H Achievement Days

TWENTY counties held 4-H club achievement days for the home economics projects during April and May. Jackson county had the record as to size of program. There were 82 clothing exhibits, seven clothing team demonstrations, 13 room furnishing exhibits, two team demonstrations, five thrift exhibits, 11 girls demonstrating cake making, and 11 bread making.

A 4-H girls' style revue was an interesting feature at several of these events. At a designated hour on the program, the clothing girls, wearing the dresses they had made, put on this practical style show. Wabasha county made this feature especially interesting by using their 4-H club orchestra. Several used the plan of having the clothing girls who were not modelling and others presenting for the revue. Other interesting plans were used to make the style revue a very attractive feature of the achievement day.

The care of hosiery has been the most popular subject for the 4-H clothing demonstration teams so far this year. Eight teams have given demonstrations on this subject. Cake making is one of the very popular projects. Eighteen of the 20 counties had cake demonstrations. New methods have been used in several counties for putting across the program in a more efficient way. Dakota county used two rooms—one for clothing and one for baking. Several new things have come up in connection with the best way of exhibiting the clothing articles. Lac qui Parle county had very attractive cards made with the name of each girl so that visitors could see who had made the exhibits.

Club Picnics and Tours Substitute for Camps

BETWEEN five and six thousand club boys and girls will have an opportunity to attend 4-H summer camps during June and July. What can be done for the less fortunate ones, those who do not have the opportunity to attend one of these camps? A club picnic or club tour is a good substitute.

To be a real success, a picnic or tour needs to be well planned in advance. Nearly every county has a number of junior leaders who will make good helpers in club events of this kind if given a job. The most successful event of this kind also includes the parents of the club members.

While the eats may seem the all important thing in connection with the picnic, it is just as important that the pro-

gram of sports and games receives due consideration. If a tour is planned, the schedule of stops should be worked out and the boys and girls whose homes are to be visited should be notified in advance of the approximate time the tour will arrive. A picnic dinner and a program of sports and games is usually included in a club tour.

In many counties a club tour or picnic takes the place of the regular club meeting for that month.

"Looks In" on Hoosier Annual 4-H Club Rally

T. A. ERICKSON, state club leader, reports having spent a very interesting four days during the week of May 5 at the annual 4-H club rally of Indiana. Purdue University was host to 1800 4-H members during the week. This rally is the one big club event during the year for the state, and includes all demonstration contests, judging team competitions in all projects, the health contest and the style show, besides several other interesting contests. Unlike Minnesota, Indiana has no separate junior short course, state fair club program, junior livestock show or any other state-wide event, except the rally. This one event includes all the state-wide club activities for the year.

The most outstanding event of the week was the award by President Elliott of the University of the 31 scholarships provided by the University for the outstanding 4-H club winners during 1929. These scholarships include all fees for the entire 4-year course.

Mr. Erickson acted as judge of the agricultural team demonstrations, and gave several talks to the entire group attending the club rally. Indiana has an enrollment of 27,000 4-H members.

Fifty Grow Sweet Corn

About 50 boys in Martin, Faribault, Le Sueur, Nicollet, Wright, and Carver counties have enrolled in the sweet corn growing project sponsored by the Minnesota Valley Canning Company. This firm is co-operating with the Agricultural Extension Service by providing four \$150 scholarships. These scholarships apply to the School of Agriculture and will be awarded to four club members making the best records in growing five acres of sweet corn.

Enrollment Lists Due July 1

Lists of 4-H club enrollments in all projects are due in the state office on July 1. Blanks have been sent to all extension agents, who are urged to include all information requested in so far as this is possible.

Farm Bureau Offers Yellowstone Trip

The Minnesota Farm Bureau in co-operation with the Northern Pacific Railway has arranged for a vacation trip for Minnesota farm folks to Yellowstone Park with many interesting stops en-route. The dates for the trip are June 28 to July 6, inclusive. The special leaves St. Paul at 10 p.m., Saturday, June 28. Rates apply either from Minneapolis or St. Paul or will be quoted from other points in the state on request.

This trip offers an unusually fine opportunity for farm folks to take an enjoyable vacation and one having distinct educational advantages.

Dvoracek Assists in Land Economics Study

D. C. DVORACEK, extension marketing specialist, is headquartering at Park Rapids for the next few months where he is assisting in the land economics survey of Hubbard county. Dan has let it be known that some of the lakes and streams in the Park Rapids region abound in piscatorial phenomena and invites any extension folks who happen up that way to join him in some hook-and-line explorations.

Wessel Pleases Editors

Amy Wessel, Brown county home demonstration agent and president of the Minnesota Home Demonstration Agents' association, did honor to herself and the home demonstration cause with a splendid talk delivered at the Editors' Short Course, June 10. Her topic was "Home Demonstration Extension Work and Its Influence on Standards of Living and Advertising Results." The enthusiastic reception given her remarks was indicated by the remark of one editor who stated that after hearing Miss Wessel's discussion he would not be satisfied until he could have a home economics specialist on his staff.

Balmer "Re-Uns"

Mr. and Mrs. Frank E. Balmer headed their new Buick toward the Sunflower State, Sunday, May 25, planning to spend the week at the Kansas State Agricultural College attending the twenty-fifth anniversary and reunion of the class with which Mr. Balmer was graduated.

Nutrition Exhibits Popular

The exhibits at the Freeborn county Nutrition Achievement Day were so effective that they have been in demand in various parts of the country. Twelve of the booths are now being used in store windows and in creameries. The exhibit showing the value of Vitamin A has become very popular, according to reports from Miss Therese Pfaender, home demonstration agent.

The skits used in the program have been given in connection with health and May-Day programs throughout Freeborn county.

Brown county will have the child development project for this fall, the work starting in September under Mrs. Belle O. Fish, specialist.

District Conferences

(Continued from page 1)

specialist in marketing, and Mr. Peck outlined the principal features of the grain and livestock marketing agencies, the organization of which has been stimulated by the operation of the Federal Farm Board.

At the Brainerd conference, County Agent Roth and several of his farm co-operators discussed the Crow Wing county purebred sire association. Started in 1924 with a fund created by business men of Brainerd, this association has constantly maintained from 22 to 25 pure bred bulls in as many "blocks," well distributed over the county.

The Rochester conference was fortunate in having Dean W. C. Coffey present for a talk on education and for informal discussions with the agents.

"Ring Out the Old"

(Continued from page 1)

I'll tell you what happened without delay.

Nineteen thirty on a certain day,
There were traces of age in the Buick shay,
A general flavor of mild decay,
But nothing local as one might say.
There couldn't be, for Balmer's art
Had tinkered and mended in every part,
So there wasn't a chance for trouble to start,
For the engine was just as strong as the tires
And the brakes held just as well as the pliers,
The top was good, neither less nor more,
The hood was first class and so was the floor,
The headlights, transmission, starter and
crank.

Were all of them good and equal in rank.
And yet, as a whole, it is past a doubt,
It seems almost certain, it was worn out.

But did it collapse, like the one hoss shay,
And leave Balmer sitting on a stone by the
way?

Not by a jugful; this was a car
That didn't consider a hundred thousand far,
Its trade-in value was still so great
That a new car stands by Balmer's gate,
And Balmer's old Buick that everyone knew
Is showing a new owner just what it can do.

Miss Newton In Print

"Rural Organization," a book of about 200 pages recently published by the University of Chicago Press, gives the proceedings of the twelfth American Country Life Conference, held at Ames, Iowa, last year, and contains an address given by Miss Julia O. Newton, state home demonstration leader for Minnesota. Miss Newton's address was entitled "Services of Home Demonstration Agents." In it she called attention to the inter-relationships of farm and home interests and stressed five outstanding results of a home demonstration agent's services, namely, the adoption of improved practices, the development of a broader vision among farm women of homemaking and the importance of the home; the development of leadership, of fellowship, and of community consciousness.

Coming Events

Junior Short Course.....	June 3-6
Master Farmers' Picnic.....	June 10
Midsummer Reunion, School of Agriculture	June 14
Extension Picnic	June 16
Cattle Feeders' Day.....	June 25
Veterinary Short Course....	July 8-9

Farm Economics

By W. L. Cavert

SOUTHWEST AGENTS STUDY COST RECORDS

SOUTHWEST county agents visited the farms of co-operators on the cost accounting route in Rock and Nobles counties, May 26, to study livestock costs under Dr. G. A. Pond and Prof. G. A. Sallee. Hogs are the livestock of outstanding importance on these farms which produced more than 29,000 pounds of hog gains each, or the equivalent of 116 hogs weighing 250 pounds apiece.

In addition to covering all other costs, the hogs returned 81 cents per bushel of corn, or for each 56 pounds of other grain. Each 250-pound hog required 6.75 hours of labor. The return per hour above feed and other cost was 50 cents. Therefore, whether one views the hog crop as a market for labor or for corn, they gave a reasonably good account of themselves.

The average farm produced over 20,000 pounds of gains on cattle and, in addition, dairy products worth over \$1,000. The cattle enterprise returned 60 cents per bushel of corn, or 56 pounds of other grain, compared with 80 cents for hogs. If one figures results in terms of returns per man hour, the cattle returned 23 cents per hour compared to 50 cents for hogs. However, the cattle consumed considerable quantities of poor quality hay, corn fodder, stalk pasture and other feeds that could not be utilized by hogs. In addition, the hogs secured some of their feed by following cattle.

The farms visited were those of Victor Anderson, Worthington; James Ells-

worth, Magnolia; and John Wester, Adrian. The Victor Anderson farm was notable for the fact that cattle were handled with less than four hours for each 100 pounds of gain. This was the lowest labor requirement of any one of 22 farms and was due to the fact that around 100 head were kept, the feeding was done directly from wagons to bunks, and practically no milking was done.

James Ellsworth produced nearly 55,000 pounds of gains on cattle and hogs and had a return of over 90 cents per bushel of corn, or 56 pounds of other grain, above labor and all other costs. The John Wester place is notable for the fact that it combines in one farm better than average results with beef cattle, hogs, poultry and crops. His hogs were raised with only one hour of labor per 100 pounds of gain, or 2.5 hours per 250-pound hog.

Dr. Andrew Boss urged that attention be given to getting better pastures, and plenty of cheap forage from such sources as alfalfa, fodder corn and silage. He emphasized that the better crop yields secured on livestock farms are indirect profits from the livestock.

Prof. W. H. Peters said the three big opportunities for increased profits from beef cattle in the order of their importance are better breeding, better feeding and better disease control. In the case of hogs, the biggest problem is disease and parasite control, followed in order by breeding and feeding.

Agents who attended were Messrs. Bovee, Churchill, Dickinson, Engebretson, Karr, Gaylord, Gilbert, Kaldahl, Kunkel, Peters, Swedberg, Schrader, Van Metre and District Club Leader W. D. Stegner.

A mimeographed report of the 1920 livestock costs may be had on application.

Crookston Cost Records Favor Wheat, Alfalfa

RESULTS of three years of cost records in the vicinity of Crookston and Fisher were presented by W. L. Cavert at the Northwest Extension Conference on May 1. These records indicated that the high profit crops for this locality are alfalfa, wheat, and sugar beets.

The following table presents three-year-average results for 1926 to 1928 inclusive, on the leading crops:

	Yield bu. or tons	Local price Dec. 1	Return per man hour
Wheat	15.9	\$1.05	\$0.70
Flax	6.7	1.97	.36
Barley	27.5	.53	.40
Oats	34.3	.35	.20
Potatoes	87.2	.57	.46
Sugar beets ...	9.8	6.00	.72
Alfalfa hay ...	1.4	11.67	.91

The conclusion from the cost records seems to be that for a crop that can be handled on a large scale, wheat is still one of the most satisfactory small grain crops for that section, insofar as it can be put on land that is in good condition and can be seeded early. Mr. Cavert suggested that as a long-time proposition there is a place for considerable livestock development, but that many farms are faced with the problem of cleaning up weeds, and getting an immediate income to meet pressing obligations. On such

farms, there is a place for a decided increase of black summer fallow in the case of fields that are too weedy to give a worthwhile crop. The introduction of stiffer strawed varieties such as Marquillo, favor summer fallow. Frequently a certain amount of summer fallow can be done with equipment and labor that are available on the farm so the cash outlay is comparatively small. In favorable seasons much can be accomplished by plowing promptly after getting off the shocks and keeping a black fallow for the rest of the season.

The findings at Crookston confirm the familiar story that low cost per bushel ordinarily goes with high yield, especially where the good yields are secured by such practices as use of suitable varieties, good weed control, disease control, and maintenance of soil productivity by inexpensive methods. For example, in 1928 there were six farms that harvested 16 to 24 bushels of barley per acre. After allowing for rent and other expenses, there was no return for man labor on these farms. Six other farms that secured an average yield of 36 bushels returned 44 cents per hour in addition to all expenses.

In the case of dairy cattle, the return per hour was 24 cents. The average production per cow was 184 pounds of fat. Six herds with an average production of 225 pounds or more returned 41 cents per hour while nine herds with 92 to 174 pounds of fat per cow returned 18 cents.