

MINNESOTA EXTENSION SERVICE NEWS

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Redwood Has Unique Weed Control Plan

NINE hundred and forty-one men in one county making it their business to fight weeds should make a real battle. Five county commissioners, the county auditor, the county agent, 78 members of town boards, 12 mayors and 836 section advisors make up such an army in Redwood county. A carload of sodium chloride has been shipped in for ammunition.

The county set-up includes the board of commissioners, the county auditor and the county agent as the chief advisory committee; ditch inspectors who are appointed by the county commissioners and whose duty it is to patrol all ditches in each district and to use chemicals on weeds found; township chairmen and village mayors, who are appointed as officers in their respective districts. The township chairmen act with other members of the town board in making township appointments.

The unique part of the whole plan is the appointment of section advisors or "minute men." These men work under the town boards and are responsible for their respective sections of 640 acres. They were selected at township meetings to which every farmer was invited.

This program is extensive, yet comparatively simple. There are no new officers, but all old officers are made use of. Each advisor knows what his duties are and the people clearly understand the entire set-up. The plan is not a police system. Its success depends almost entirely on public sentiment and compulsory enforcement will be the exception rather than the rule.

Stevenson to U.S.D.A.

Dr. F. J. Stevenson, who since 1925 had been a member of the University Farm Staff in the division of agronomy and plant genetics, left early in July for Washington, D. C., where he has taken up a position as geneticist in the office of horticultural crops and diseases of the United States Department of Agriculture. His special work will be potato breeding. Dr. Stevenson was born on Prince Edward Island and received his early education there. He was graduated from Washington State in 1922, and later received his M.S. and Ph.D. degrees at the same institution. His Minnesota friends are sorry to lose him from their midst, but wish him well in his new field.

Pflughoeft's Mother Dies

Word has been received that H. A. Pflughoeft's mother died recently at Madison, Wisconsin. Extensioners sympathize with Mr. Pflughoeft in his loss.

Look Out for Bears!

ACCORDING to the St. Paul Dispatch, Parker Anderson, extension forester, is going to recommend to the forestry department that all bears in the North Woods be equipped with four wheel brakes. From the Dispatch we quote:

"At 8 p.m. Sunday (July 27) Mr. Anderson was driving from Virginia to Duluth on the Miller Trunk highway when a 400-pound black bear came tearing out of the underbrush and crashed into the Anderson sedan. He hit the right front door where Mrs. Anderson was sitting and bent it in.

"Then he slid along the running board," says Mr. Anderson, "bent the rear fender down to the wheel and knocked a bolt off the rear bumper. He crawled slowly out of the ditch into the woods sort of dazed. I don't believe he was hurt. There was a lake across the road and I believe he was heading for that because it was a hot evening."

Beach Wear Revue Is Held at H. D. A. Outing

LATEST styles in beach wear were exhibited in great array at the recent home demonstration agents' outing, held the weekend of July 4, at the Janet Merrill Park on Lake Minnetonka. The outing was not primarily for the purpose of a style revue, but Miss Lois Reid and Miss Mary Jane Boyd added it as an interesting part of the program. As authorities on the subject, they are excellent.

This was the second annual outing held by the home demonstration agents and the state staff. The affair began Thursday evening, July 3, and lasted until Sunday, July 5. A full program of swimming, rowing, croquet, and golf made the short time very interesting.

Reports were given on the national H. E. A. convention at Denver by Mrs. Agnes Erkel and Miss Eva Blair. Others attending the outing were the Misses Amy Wessel, Artaxa Denniston, Gwendolyn Watts, Viola Juni, Marian Hagstrom, Anna Olson, Helen Gillette, and Inez Hobart, and Mrs. Belle O. Fish.

Save These Dates

October 6 to 11

Annual Conference

Watch for Special Letter

Miss Newton Charmed By Trip to Alaska

MISS JULIA O. NEWTON, state home demonstration leader, returned about July 25 from her vacation trip to Alaska and the Yukon Territory, whither she had gone in company with Miss Neale S. Knowles, state home demonstration leader for Iowa. Miss Newton reported a most thrilling trip.

We can mention only the barest details. The trip from Vancouver, B. C. to Skagway, Alaska was made in an ocean-going vessel with stops enroute at Alert Bay and Prince Rupert, B. C., Ketchikan and Juneau, Alaska. A short stop was also made near Juneau to allow the passengers to admire the splendors of old Taku Glacier, dipping its blue nose into the Pacific and extending, a mountain of ice, for 30 miles inland.

From Skagway, our travelers took the train to Whitehorse and embarked for a boat trip down the Yukon to Dawson and then retraced the entire route to Minnesota. Miss Newton was especially interested in the remnants of the old Yukon gold rush which may be seen in parts of the trail of '98, Dead Horse Gulch, and the villages of Skagway and Dawson, now only shadows of their former thriving selves.

Running through Miss Newton's vivid descriptions we get glimpses of flowers—canterbury bells and roses; caribou—hundreds of them, swimming the Yukon; huskies—dog teams are still a reality in Alaska. And no wonder, we think, for gasoline is a dollar a gallon in Dawson. Other living and travel expenses, however, seem moderate enough, Miss Newton says.

Sjowall, Chambers—Benedicts

Two Minnesota county agents have surrendered to Cupid within recent weeks, according to announcements received at the state office. The extension service offers congratulations and best wishes to the happy quartet.

Alfred Sjowall, agent in Washington county, was married on Saturday, June 14, to Miss Jeannette Eitens, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Albert J. Eitens of Sandstone.

George W. Chambers, Carlton agent, was married on Tuesday, July 15, to Miss Maude Esther Castle, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John R. Castle of Marshall.

Winter's Book Revised

L. M. Winters of the animal husbandry division has recently revised his book on "Animal Breeding" which has been published in the second edition by the Wiley Corporation of New York City. The first edition was printed in 1925 when Mr. Winters was connected with the University of Saskatchewan.

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AUGUST, 1930

Agents Visit Beltrami, Study Bull Association

COUNTY agents and farmers from eight northern Minnesota counties spent June 23 and 24 in Beltrami county studying the organization and functioning of the Red Lake Guernsey Breeders association, a highly successful bull association. Agents present were M. B. Taylor, Beltrami; Roy Bibelhausen, Koochiching; Ronald McCamus, Lake of the Woods; Christian Nash, Aitkin; E. G. Roth, Crow Wing; Torstein Grinager, Lake; S. H. Rutford, South St. Louis; and George Chambers, Carlton. Frank E. Balmer, state county agent leader, and S. B. Cleland, district leader, were also in attendance.

The meeting opened on the afternoon of June 23 with talks by Stuart McLeod, Land O' Lakes; Clarence Cole, livestock specialist of the Grand Rapids station; and a discussion of the bull association organization led by Mr. Cleland. The next day was spent in visiting five of the blocks and attending the association's annual picnic.

This association was started in 1923 under the leadership of D. C. Dvoracek, county agent. From three blocks it has grown to eight, including 49 herds with 403 cows. All bulls are owned by the association, one being assigned to each block. Bulls are rotated between blocks every two years. The cost is small, each member taking out a \$15 share for each five cows and paying a replacement fee of 25 cents per cow annually. The only other charge is for maintenance, this being prorated among the members of each block.

Extensioners Help on Soo Line Bull Train

SEVERAL members of the extension staff, including S. B. Cleland, C. L. McNelly, H. R. Searles, S. C. Martensen, and C. G. Geddes, spent some time during the first half of July assisting with the programs on the Purebred Sire Train operated by the Soo Line for two weeks in northern Minnesota. The train came to Minnesota following a month's

run in North Dakota and proceeded on into Wisconsin and Michigan.

Exhibits and programs were devoted to the need for better bulls. One car consisted of exhibits and charts stressing the value of purebred bulls; another carried five Jersey cows and a calf representing six generations of good breeding. Placards displayed over the older animals gave their records as producers. Two carloads of purebred sires for exhibition and sale were carried. An accommodation car for the train's personnel and a car for carrying feed completed the train.

An interesting feature of each program was a mock trial of a scrub bull. Principals in the trial were a cow as plaintiff and the scrub bull as defendant, the bovines being represented by large papier-maché models in which loud speakers were installed, so that they actually "talked." At stops where local bulls were brought in for sale, an auctioneer from the train personnel conducted a sale.

Can You Beat This?

Miss Mary May Miller, home management specialist, believes that a record for attendance of local leaders at training meetings has been established in Lyon county during the past five months. There were 42 leaders and five meetings, making a total of 210 possible attendances or absences. During the five months there were but four substitutions and only one absence, this being due to a funeral in the family of the absent leader.

Miss Miller reports that the interest and capability of the Lyon county leaders were superb, a statement that is not hard to accept in view of the remarkable attendance. Can any of our agents or specialists cite a better record?

Jackson Has Job Bureau

Jackson county has set up a county employment service which promises to give farmers wanting help and men looking for farm work a better opportunity of getting together. Local representatives have been arranged for in each town in the county. These men will keep in touch with the county agent's office, the latter in turn maintaining contact with federal employment offices and other sources of labor. Workers or farmers needing help may apply to their local labor representative who will arrange to take care of them either locally or through the county headquarters.

Will Help Trust Company

Dr. W. L. Cavert, extension economist, has been engaged by the Minnesota Loan and Trust company of Minneapolis to spend his vacation, from August 1 to September 15, traveling with its field representatives and counseling them in regard to the handling of farms held by the trust company and operated by tenants. There are six such field men and Dr. Cavert will spend a week with each one, mainly in Minnesota and North Dakota.

Koochiching Organizes Pioneer Ram Rings

UNDER the leadership of County Agent Bibelhausen and Livestock Specialist W. E. Morris, Koochiching county has just completed the organization of two purebred ram associations which are believed to be the first organizations of the kind ever formed among sheep breeders. In general the plan is patterned after the familiar bull ring, its purpose being to furnish high quality rams at low cost. This it does by providing the machinery for rotating the rams among different flocks and thereby keeping them in service several successive years.

The articles of incorporation and the by-laws were drawn up by Mr. Morris with the advice of Dean Coffey and other authorities on sheep. The plan was presented to the flock owners at meetings attended by Mr. Morris and the county agent, the articles and by-laws being adopted with but minor changes.

Since most of the sheep in Koochiching county are produced in two widely separated communities, a separate association was formed in each. The north group, known as No. 1, decided to purchase 10 Shropshire rams, while the south or No. 2 group will probably take part Shropshires and the remainder Hampshires. Plans were made to have the county agent, Mr. Morris, and a local representative from each group, select the rams from flocks in southern Minnesota.

Each association will consist of about 10 blocks of 50 ewes each. At the start each block must furnish \$50. The association will purchase as many rams as it has blocks, assigning one ram to each for the season. All rams will be owned in common by the group and each year the rams will be rotated. After the first year, a service fee of \$10 per block will be charged, the money to be accumulated for the replacement of rams.

Attend Poultry Congress

Miss Cora Cooke, poultry specialist, is in Europe where she attended the World's Poultry Congress at London in July. Before coming home, Miss Cooke planned to pay Paris a visit, probably going via air from London.

Dr. F. B. Hutt also attended the Congress, taking with him his bride, who was formerly Miss Alice J. Bacon, a research assistant in the home economics division. The couple were married just before the voyage.

Nobles Group Hears Legge

County Agent Chas. J. Gilbert and four Nobles county farm folk made a trip to Brookings, S. D., recently to hear an address by Alexander Legge, chairman of the Federal Farm Board. The occasion was the annual Farm and Home Day at South Dakota State College. Mr. Gilbert was profoundly impressed. He says: "The impression gained by the entire Nobles county group was that of confidence in the man in his effort to build soundly for longer than a year or five years of time."



Special Awards for Older 4-H Dairy Club Members

MANY dairy calf club members are beginning herds of their own. In order to encourage all the older club members to develop producing cows a special contest has been arranged. County agents and leaders are urged to have all dairy club members who are working with one or more cows to report for this contest. Special blanks may be had from the state club office. Following are the rules:

1. Only 4-H dairy club members who have been enrolled for a minimum period of three (3) years may compete for these awards.
2. Competition will be based on the economical production of butter fat by one (1) or more cows owned and raised by the club member in 4-H Club work.
3. Fifty per cent (50%) will be allowed on the club record which must include a story of the club member's experience in 4-H Club Work and at least one photograph of the member with his animal or animals.
4. Fifty per cent (50%) will be allowed on the production record on the 4-H Club member's cow or cows. This record must be a cow testing association record, or a record kept under the supervision of the county extension agent. Records submitted must include the ration fed, the pounds of milk produced, percentage of butter fat, the amount of butter fat and the feed cost of producing such butter fat.
5. The records beginning September 1, 1929, and all subsequent records up to and including August 31, 1930, shall be submitted.
6. The credentials shall be mailed to the State Club Leader on or before September 15, 1930.
7. The decision as to the winners will be made in the counties by the extension agents, subject to the approval of the State Club Leader.

County Prizes.—A Gold Filled Medal of Honor will be presented to the county champion 4-H Club member in each county of the state, providing such county has a membership of five (5) or more 4-H Club members taking this advanced 4-H dairy project.

State Prizes.—An educational trip to the National Dairy Exposition held at St. Louis, Missouri, in October, is offered as a prize for the state champion. Funds for this trip are provided by the Linseed Meal Educational Committee of Chicago, Illinois.

Get New Club Buildings

The Douglas County Agricultural Society has just completed a fine 4-H club building on the fair grounds. The building is 50 feet wide by 83 feet long, has dormitory quarters for both boys and girls, and a large exhibit and demonstration hall. The dormitories are equipped with double-deck steel cots. The total cost of the building and equipment is

about \$3,000, most of which was provided by popular subscription.

Jackson county is also planning a new building with space for 12 to 15 booths and room for other exhibits. The upstairs will provide sleeping accommodations.

Women's Clubs Give 4-H Award

The Federated Women's Clubs of Lac qui Parle county are awarding a \$75 scholarship to the outstanding 4-H club girl in the county. The girl winning the scholarship this year will attend the West Central School of Agriculture at Morris.

Observe Shipping Rules

County agents and club leaders are urged to read carefully the instructions relative to shipping livestock to the State Fair. Heretofore it was permissible to send pigs by express collect. This rule has been changed and each county will receive a certain amount to apply on transportation of the pig to the fair and return. The point to bear in mind is, *Do not ship by express collect.*

Each county agent will receive notice soon of the exact amount allowed for transportation on calves, pigs, sheep, and colts. Be sure that the sanitary regulations on pigs and calves are complied with before animals are shipped.

Help Transport Campers

The Faribault county business men cooperated with County Agent Engbretson and Home Demonstration Agent Mary Jane Boyd, by transporting all club members from the county to Fox Lake Park in Martin county where the annual club camp was held. Business organizations in each town of the county took the club members from their own trade territory.

Clubs Send Delegates

Two Brown county 4-H clubs paid the expenses of delegates to the Junior Short Course at University Farm in June. Besides the money from dues, the Comfrey club raised funds with a bake sale, while the Burnstar group put on a float.

Garden Work Grows

Thirty-two boys and girls in Brown county are raising gardens in 4-H work. According to Miss Amy Wessel, this is an increase of 18 per cent over the 1929 enrollment and is more than five times the number in 1928.

Home Ec. Achievement Days Register Progress

AS this issue of Extension Service News is being prepared, the home economics achievement days are drawing to a close and August 1 will find practically all of the reports in. Each county office will receive the announcements of district teams who will compete at the State Fair just as soon as they can be made up.

From all reports, county contests on the whole have had more complete clothing exhibits this year than before and more people taking part in the individual bread, clothing team, bread team, room furnishing team, and cake demonstration work. This shows that a larger proportion of the members are taking advantage of the demonstration phase of 4-H work.

Jackson county reports nine individual bread bakers, 82 complete clothing exhibits, seven clothing teams, and eight cake demonstrators taking part in the county contest. This is but one example of the many fine contests that have been held. Many parents and friends have attended entire days' programs, some counties reporting as many as 450 visitors. This is conclusive proof that interest in club work is increasing.

36 Counties Hold Camps

Thirty-six counties held club camps this summer. Out of this number, 12 counties had their own county-wide camps and 24 counties held joint camps, each including from two to four counties. From reports, approximately 4,000 boys and girls and leaders attended these camps.

The consensus of opinion is that in general the camps were very much worth while. The programs consisted of instruction work in all projects represented at the camp, an afternoon of supervised play, and swimming contents. The evenings were devoted to campfire programs put on by the boys and girls.

Goodhue Bankers Give Medals

Standard 4-H club medals will be given to all club members in Goodhue county who successfully complete their projects. The Goodhue County Bankers association will furnish the medals. The association unanimously adopted this plan recently as a means of encouraging good club work. The plan will be continued for five years. Bronze medals will be given members completing one year of work, while those who complete two or three years will receive silver and gold medals, respectively.

Rock Has Dairy Team

This year, for the first time, Rock county will have a 4-H dairy judging team at the State Fair. Training meetings in judging different breeds are being conducted by Walter Backe, assistant county agent.

The Pipestone Civic and Commerce Association, hearing that a 4-H camp was to be held in their county, provided two policemen for continuous duty and assistance at the camp.

Horse Hitch Exhibit

Popular at Picnics

THE new miniature multiple horse hitch exhibit owned by the extension division proved a very popular attraction at four county farm bureau picnics where it was exhibited in June. J. F. Kuehn, assistant to the director, attended picnics in Winona, Houston, Fillmore and Mower counties on June 17, 18, 19 and 20 where he took charge of the exhibit to observe its effectiveness and to determine the best plan for arranging it.

"The attendance at the picnics ranged from 600 to 2,000, and approximately all of the men present, ranging from 100 to 350, came to see the exhibit," said Mr. Kuehn. "As actual demonstrations had previously been conducted in these counties, most of the men had heard about the hitch and were anxious to know just what equipment was necessary. I found that there was little demand for an 8-horse hitch, but that most of the farmers were interested in four, five or six-horse hitches."

Several other counties have reserved the horse hitch exhibit for use in August and September at county fairs. Numerous requests have also been made for the dairy and poultry panels which were used on the dairy-poultry special train last fall. Several conflicting requests for these exhibits have had to be refused.

Sweet Clover Boosts

Wheat Protein Content

A. W. Aamodt, of western Polk county, has issued a letter to grain growers urging the growing of sweet clover as a means of maintaining the protein content in wheat grown on land previously seeded to sweet clover. He gives figures showing the protein content of wheat following various crops. The protein content of wheat following alfalfa was 13.85 per cent; following sweet clover, 13.65 per cent; following sugar beets, 13.46 per cent; following summer fallow, 13.08 per cent; following corn, 12.92 per cent; and, timothy hay, 12.80 per cent. He also gives figures showing an increased yield of wheat following sweet clover. His letter closes with this query: "Inasmuch as sweet clover, not only helps to increase the yield, but, also, the protein content, isn't it advisable to study the possibilities of putting your wheat on soil on which was grown sweet clover the year before?"

Barberry Medals

The barberry eradication office at University Farm calls to the attention of all county agents the medals presented to boys or girls who find locations of common barberry. Minnesota is one of the states designated for the medal contest by the Conference for the Prevention of Grain Rust. One medal will be given for every new location of common barberry found by a boy or girl. It should be remembered that these are given only to boys and girls and not to adults.

News stories are more than twice as effective as any other extension method except bulletins.

Farm Economics

By W. L. Cavert

PRICE DECLINES ARE WORLD WIDE

FARMERS may derive some consolation from the fact that recent declines in prices of their products are a part of a world wide situation.

Unrefined sugar in Cuba has recently been at the lowest figure in over half a century. Raw silk at \$2.75 to \$2.80 a pound on July 15 was at the lowest price on record. In addition, rubber, cotton, copper and coffee have all had drastic price declines.

For the week ending July 15, the Analyst Weekly Index of commodity prices stood at 123 upon the basis of 1913 as 100. This was a decline of 18 per cent from the corresponding date in 1929. The New York Analyst index of business activity stood at 86.9 in June, 1930, compared with 107.5 in June, 1929. The figure of 86.9 for June, 1930, was the lowest point reached in the present decline. The general trend of comment in financial reviews is to the effect that business conditions are scraping bottom and that some improvement may be expected during the fall and winter.

Some Minnesota Price Comparisons

The following table gives an opportunity to see how the Minnesota farm

price of several leading products compares with the lowest price reached since the war and with the 1910-14 average.

The figures given are all Minnesota farm price figures of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, except butterfat, which is the New York quotation for 92 score butter. All of the grains, except corn, are below the pre-war average price. At this time (July 20) wheat, oats, rye and barley are all decidedly lower in surplus sections than the June figure reported by the U. S. Department of Agriculture. Barley, rye and wheat are lower than at any time since the war. In general when grains have been lower than at any time in 10 years there has been a good profit in holding them for higher prices.

Commodity	June, 1930	Lowest price since 1920	Date of low since 1920	1910-14 average
Wheat	\$.86	\$.86	June 1930	\$.90
Oats	.30	.21	Nov. 1921	.35
Rye	.48	.48	June 1930	.68
Barley	.42	.34	Nov. & Dec. 1921	.61
Corn	.63	.27	Nov. 1921	.51
Hogs	9.20	5.70	Dec. 1923	7.16
Beef cattle	8.30	3.90	Nov. 1921	4.80
Butterfat	.33	.33	June 1930	.30

Agents Assist Northwest

Farm Managers Tour

MORE than 125 men and women from the Dakotas, Minnesota, Canada and Germany participated in the tenth annual tour of the Northwest Farm Managers' association. The tour covered points in central and southwest Minnesota. All enjoyed themselves and found much of interest in the methods of handling beef cattle, hogs and field crops. In each case the local county agent acted as pilot. County Agents F. A. Douglass, Sheldon, Towler, Kaldahl, Peters, Schrader, Gilbert, Dickinson, Kunkel and Bovee all had an active part in making local arrangements. Their efforts were a big factor in making the tour an outstanding success.

The event was a good demonstration of how to run a tour. Members were provided each morning with mimeographed sheets giving the day's schedule, the route to be followed and a list of points to be visited. A service car brought up the rear and took care of any cars that were having difficulty.

The party included the editor of the leading Canadian farm paper, a group of other Winnipeg business men, and Dr. Seedorf, professor of agricultural economics at Gottingen, Germany. Among the North Dakota delegation were two former Minnesota county agents and their wives, J. W. McNary of Ellendale and Roy Johnson of Casselton.

Doctors Andrew Boss and G. A. Pond and R. L. Donovan laid out the route to be followed. The tour started at the Morris School. The following farms were visited: O. A. Solvie, Hancock; Tillman Thompson, Appleton; Leo Henges, St. Leo; Glen Armitage, Canby; Dan Dybsetter, Porter; Joe Boulton, Porter; Arthur Frese, Marshall; F. E. Lindsley, Garvin; Murray county, Slayton; John Wester, Adrian; A. F. Malmquist, Adrian; Milford Davis, Wilmont; Peter Nelson Soris, Westbrook; L. E. Potter, Springfield; F. J. Sheffield, Springfield, and the Gilfillan farms, Gilfillan.

The Canadian and North Dakota visitors were particularly interested in the summer fattening of beef cattle in dry lots and asked many questions along this line. A number of them had never seen any summer fattening of cattle on dry lots.

As the visitors entered Cottonwood county they observed two boys carrying home a fish 36 inches long from a nearby lake. There was considerable argument among the veteran fishermen of the crowd as to whether it was a muskie or a pickerel. Great surprise was expressed at the size of the fish, as southern Minnesota has made no claims to large fish. The boys and fish appeared again 20 miles farther on with a seven foot fish. At this point it was discovered that both fish were creations of G. George, University Farm artist.