

Minnesota Extension News

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Farm Tax Study To Be Made at Once

The University of Minnesota is to make a general analysis of the system of taxation in the state, which will include a sub-study of the tax burden and different types of real property, including the farm. This special study of the tax burden on real property will be made by Dr. George A. Pond, of the division of agricultural economics, assisted by Dr. W. L. Cavert, extension economist. Graduate students in agricultural economics, Joseph Day, Dana Frear, Harold Hollands, Wallace Ferrier, and Clifford Smith will gather the data.

The general study is provided for under a grant of funds from the Rockefeller Foundation and will be under the direction of Prof. R. G. Blakey of the School of Business Administration.

Dr. Pond says that a survey of farms in four sections of the state, Jackson county, Stevens county, Polk and Marshall counties, and Pine county, will be pushed through in July. Through personal interviews, the net incomes secured, and the amount of taxes paid, on at least 150 owner-operated farms in each of the four sections, will be reported. This will be supplemented by similar information already available in records obtained by the division of agricultural economics. In addition, the net incomes and tax burdens of both rural and urban landlords in different parts of the state will be studied. The field work will be completed late in September. The data will then be summarized and consolidated into a report to be made available for the next session of the legislature, at which tax legislation is expected to be a paramount issue.

"Peps Up" Cattle Feeders

Van M. Storm, Faribault county, came up with a group of cattle feeders for Cattle Feeders' Day at University Farm. The way in which he persuaded 'em to come is interesting. He made up a list of the cattle feeders of the county, and then he sat down and wrote a letter—a characteristic letter. This told how a North Dakota man shipped a load of mixed cattle, steers and heifers, to South St. Paul, and sold them for \$7.75 on a day when the top of fancy prices was \$8.00. Then it asked why, if a North Dakota man could produce well finished cattle on barley, Faribault cattlemen could not do as well or better, with corn, pasture, and alfalfa. Toward the close, he threw in this peppy paragraph:

"Let the Russian raise his wheat, the Chinaman his rice, and the Californian his prunes, but, for heaven's sake, let's feed cattle in Faribault county. There isn't a better place on earth, for we have everything on earth to do it with."

Van is a real pencil-pusher—and a lot besides.

Coming Events

July 2-3, 1931—Veterinary Short Course, University Farm
July 7-8, 1931—Cow Testers' Conference, Anoka
July 9-10, 1931—Cow Testers' Conference, Wadena
July 13-14, 1931—Cow Testers' Conference, Rochester
July 14-17, 1931—Conference on University Training for the National Service.
July 15-16, 1931—Cow Testers' Conference, St. James
September 5-12, 1931—Minnesota State Fair, St. Paul
September 5-12, 1931—Livestock Judging Contest, State Fair
September 11, 1931—Livestock Judging Contest, State Fair

Miss Olstad Succeeds Miss Juni in Steele

Miss Freda Olstad succeeds Miss Viola Juni as home demonstration agent in Steele county. Miss Juni has done excellent work in Steele county the last two and a half years and her colleagues in the division deeply regret that her mother's illness has necessitated her resigning.

Miss Olstad, who will begin work June 16, was born on a farm near Hanska in Brown county. After being graduated from the New Ulm high school, she attended the University of Minnesota, where she obtained a B.S. degree, majoring in home economics. Since leaving college, Miss Olstad has taught home economics in the high schools of the state.

McNelly's Daughter Wins a Scholarship

Gertrude McNelly, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. L. McNelly, on the strength of her scholarship and all-around work in the Anoka High School, has been awarded a \$200 scholarship, offered by the Minnesota Home Economics Association, and will enter the College of Agriculture, Forestry, and Home Economics in September. Miss McNelly has had her mind set on a home economics training since she completed her seventh grade work in school. Her interest in this work was heightened by participation in 4-H club work. C. L. says that Gertrude would have entered the university this fall in any event, but that the scholarship will be a welcome assistance.

Getting a County Picture

Frank Brown, at the Central States Conference in Lincoln, Nebraska, discussed the factors involved in the supervisor's acquaintance with the county unit, placing special stress upon the necessity of obtaining a working knowledge of the attitude of individuals, communities, and local organizations toward the extension program. Summing up, he said:

"Getting a complete picture of the situation in a county requires an ability on the part of the supervisor to meet local people and to gain their confidence readily; to maintain a friendly personal acquaintance with them; to gather significant bits of information from these many contacts, and to piece them together in such a way that the picture becomes true and clear."

Morris Calling For Stock Judging Teams

W. E. Morris has issued a letter calling on county agents to select livestock judging teams for a new general livestock judging contest for farmers to be held at the State Fair, Friday, September 11. Each team is to consist of three men to be selected by the county agent. The teams will be required to judge two classes each of beef cattle, horses, sheep, and swine.

Mr. Morris suggests that county agents train teams and notify him by August 15 of their intention to have a team in the competition.

The Minnesota Livestock Breeders' Association will give \$100 toward defraying expenses of the winning team and its coach to the International Livestock Exposition in Chicago in November. Medals will also be given for first, second, and third places in the contest and for the high man in each of the classes.

Harris Elevated To High Church Place

Harold L. Harris, extension publicity specialist, a few days ago was advanced to a high position in the church. No, he has taken no religious orders. The Catholic church near his home was struck by lightning and the insurance adjuster asked his father to make some repairs. Mr. Harris was unable to attend to this and delegated the climbing to his son, while he bossed the job, as Harold says, from terra firma. Well, that is one way to become a church dignitary.

Harold says he is having a good time, getting in some swimming and hoping to do some fishing before vacation is over. The taste of fish on his recent tour in northern Minnesota evidently has created in his mind a desire for more.

He sends his regard to all of the staff.

Hanson on Sick Leave

E. A. Hanson has been missed through June, from his regular haunt at the south end of the Administration building. He has been absent on sick leave, and, as he expects to take his vacation in July, will not be back at his work for some time yet.

Van Storm, of Faribault county, says it is good business to spend the price of one pound of pork to get rid of the worms in one pig.

Weather Couldn't Spoil the Picnic

The weather tried to play practical jokes on the Extension picnic, Monday, June 22, but the joke was on the weather, after all, for the picnic was held, the crowd was large, the dinner at top-notch, and the ball game of the afternoon was a real thriller—one of the kind you read about in books but do not often see. In fact, plans were carried out as if the weather had been manufactured to order according to carefully drawn specifications.

The real disappointment of the day was the absence of Director Peck, who was kept away by the death of his father, which occurred late Saturday night, when the members of the Extension staff were so scattered that it would have been impossible to get word to them announcing a postponement. So the plans were allowed to stand. But Mr. Peck was, of course, unable to be present, and the disappointment of the staff under the circumstances was the deeper.

Rain Threatened

The morning broke with fair promise, but soon after 8 a heavy cloud overcast the sky, and rain began to fall. The more it rained, the more it looked as if it would rain all day. As a result, the efficient committee sent out word, as best it could, announcing that the picnic would be held in the Hippodrome at the Fair Grounds instead of at Lake Nokomis. "Doc" Billings even went over to Nokomis and notified the picnic ground attendant, so that any escaped members of the force might be directed where to go.

Generous Feast

By noon, 116 had assembled, and shortly after, Frank Brown issued the lumberjack call, "Come and git it," and the crowd responded and dealt generously with a generous repast, from which, however, the potato chips were missing, having gone astray owing to the change in the plans.

Under the dome of the Hippodrome, no one cared anything about the weather, though the rain had gone and the sun was out. Following the dinner, there was a blowing up of toy balloons, the tooting of whistles, and much merriment.

Historic Ball Game

Then came the call for the kitten-ball game between the supervisors and the specialists, and everyone got set for a real spectacle, and none was disappointed, unless it was the specialists who went down to defeat by a score of 14 to 10. But even they went down with colors flying, after a great rally in an effort "to pull the game out of the fire."

The game was a tie at 7 to 7 at the close of the fifth inning. Then the supervisors came to bat. They scored one run, and got three more men on bases. Thereupon Geddes saw a

(Continued on page 3)

Minnesota Extension News

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Entered as second-class matter, October 4, 1921, at the Post-Office at St. Paul, Minnesota, under the Act of Aug. 24, 1912. Accepted for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in section 1103, Act of Oct. 3, 1917, authorized Oct. 21, 1921.

JULY, 1931

Mr. Edward O'Neal, president of the American Farm Bureau Federation has completed a series of talks to farm audiences in Minnesota at County Farm Bureau picnics. Mr. O'Neal very properly lays stress upon the development of changes in many lines relating to organization and the development of power and influence as a result of organization of individuals into groups, representing various occupations, various interests, and various activities.

Leaving out for the moment the type of reaction or even the methods used by organizations to further their ends, the simple fact remains, and it seems to be amply proved in human experience, that modern influence and power is largely effectively generated into action by groups and not through individual opinion or individual efforts.

Mr. O'Neal aptly illustrates the point. The agricultural industry represents at least a nominal amount of wealth as its capital value, ranging perhaps, depending upon personal opinion, somewhere between thirty and sixty billion dollars. It is common knowledge that even with such a large capitalization, agriculture has had relatively little influence in obtaining favorable consideration of its needs. Contrasted with this influence is that, for example, of the railroad trainmen or locomotive engineers. They represent a very small capital as their share of the industry, and yet through organized efforts and common agreement upon grounds for taking aggressive, positive or defensive action, whichever it may be, these organizations wield a tremendous power and influence in legislative matters.

I am thinking of the application of the point made by Mr. O'Neal to the best type of extension work. It is generally understood by extension administrators that field extension workers achieve at least a goodly share of their success through perfecting types of organization that permit attacks upon farm problems by groups rather than by scattered individuals. In other words, while we like to think of the field extension worker as primarily being a teacher and a demonstrator, he is at the same time an organizer. Perhaps the greater share of the success of the results may be attributed to his ability as an organizer.

The extension type of education has changed with the times. No longer can we dissipate our energy, our time, and the time of those with whom we work by giving individual service and assistance. The most effective progress is made through group action; through cooperating with active, virile local associations of farm people with common problems, with common knowledge of how to attack the problems, and with a common desire to use the influence of cooperative group action rather than dependence upon individual initiative alone.

A word of caution here may not be amiss. Such power or influence improperly directed or used for ulterior motives or for types of activities inimicable to the public welfare holds grave danger, both to the groups using the power and to those affected by it. It is just as important to have the proper motives and to maintain the high ideals of public welfare in organizations as it is to perfect the organization itself and proceed into various types of activities. Constructive leadership in extension will only endure where the public welfare is served through our work as a public educational agency.

W. Peck

Death Takes Father of Division Director

Uri A. Peck, 83, father of Director Peck, died after several months' illness, at his home, 826 Iglehart avenue, St. Paul, Saturday night, June 20. The funeral took place Wednesday, June 24, from the chapel of Listoe & Wold, St. Paul, under the auspices of the Daughters of the Veterans.

Mr. Peck was born near Marion, Ohio, in 1848. At the age of 15 he enlisted in an Ohio cavalry regiment and served throughout the remainder of the Civil war, participating in Sherman's March to the Sea. Following the war, he attended, and was graduated from, Butler university, Indianapolis. He practiced law in Indianapolis for several years, and then, in 1882, came to St. Paul, where for a time he was connected with the circulation department of the Pioneer Press. Later he became circulation manager of the Minneapolis Tribune. In 1894 he returned to Indiana to engage in farming, in which he continued until 1908. He withdrew from business about fifteen years ago.

Through the years of his residence in the Twin Cities, he was an active member of Garfield Post, Grand Army of the Republic.

Surviving him are Mrs. Peck and four children, Director Peck, W. A. Peck, and Mrs. T. K. Cummins, St. Paul, and Mrs. William Geier, Ottumwa, Iowa.

The members of the extension staff of the University Department of Agriculture extend to Director Peck and other members of the family their sincerest sympathy.

An increasing part of Minnesota's timber and wood products of the future will come from woodlots now owned, or being planted, by men whose first interest is in farming, says Parker Anderson.

Federal Officials to Confer With U. Men

A conference of great interest in agricultural education, a "conference on university training for the national service" will be held at the University of Minnesota July 14-17, with a day's, or two half-days', sessions on the campus of the agricultural college. The conference is sponsored by the University of Minnesota and the United States Civil Service Commission and other agencies and departments of the national government, and its aim is to discuss common problems with respect to the training and recruiting of university graduates for the national service.

Among the questions to be discussed will be: The career aspects of the national civil service for college and university graduates; student and faculty attitudes toward the public service; universities as centers of training for public service and resulting curricula; courses now offered by colleges and universities as training preparatory to such service; existing methods of informing qualified students regarding vacancies; the form and content of the specifications promulgated by the national government relative to the training required for various positions; types of examinations; salary ranges, opportunities for promotion, and other conditions affecting career aspects of the national service; possibilities for pursuit of graduate work within government departments.

Among those who will represent the government at the conference will be Dr. A. F. Woods, former dean and director of this institution, now director of scientific work for the United States Department of Agriculture. The list of those scheduled to attend, from government departments and from colleges and universities, is a long one, and is evidence of the importance of the conference.

Dean E. M. Freeman is a member of the university committee on arrangements.

Country Life Meet Report Is Issued

The fact that Minnesota sent its entire extension staff to the National Country Life Conference in Madison, Wisconsin, October 7 to 10, 1930, is recorded in a book. This book bears the title, "Standards of Living. Proceedings of the Thirteenth National Country Life Conference, Madison, Wisconsin, 1930." The statement as to Minnesota's representation appears in the foreword which says that the total attendance at the conference was estimated at about 2,000; that 29 states were represented; and that "Minnesota sent its entire extension staff."

Minnesotans who attended the conference, the records of which are included in the book, will be somewhat disappointed that the book does not contain all of the contributions to the conference. For example, the address of Glenn Frank, president of the University of Wisconsin, is omitted. The foreword, prepared by W. H. Stacy, field secretary, says that a number of contributions are not printed in the proceedings but have been, or will be, published in "Rural America," the monthly journal of the association. The book, however, contains Carl C. Taylor's interpretation of the confer-

ence; the presidential address by Frank O. Lowden on "Rural Standards of Living"; Ray Lyman Wilbur's address on "Continental Conservation"; also, the addresses of J. C. Stone, Arthur M. Hyde, George Russell, the Irish poet, and Grace Abbott. The reports of the sectional meetings are given in considerable detail. The sectional meetings, it will be remembered, had to do with "Ability to Pay and Standards of Living"; "Electrification and Transportation"; "Making the Most of Home Resources"; "The Artistic in Country Life"; "Community Opportunities and Policy"; "Public Relief and Rural Families"; "Basic Elements of Rural Culture."

The final pages of the book are taken up with the reports of secretaries and the minutes of the business meeting of the association.

Speaking of Names And Their Spelling

The editor's apologies to Miss Jones for the omission of the final "t" of her first name, in the May issue of Minnesota Extension News, attracted attention far afield, as is disclosed by the following letter received from Honolulu, dated May 22.

Dear Sir: I saw your lengthy apology to Miss Jones in the May issue of your paper. You have much to be thankful for. Just think what might happen if I were in your state service. There are 57 variations to the spelling of my name as shown by letters delivered to me. For years the motto of the post office has been, "When in doubt send it to Zschokke."

With best wishes for perfect spellers.

Very truly yours,
Theo. C. Zschokke
(Extension Forester)

The letter bears the seal of the University of Hawaii. Mr. Zschokke's complacency in the face of frequent misspellings of his name indicates a generous spirit. Persons with names difficult to spell, or spelled in an unusual way, need to be forebearing in this careless world,

New Law for the Dog

W. E. Watson, of Dakota county, calls the attention of his people to the law passed by the last legislature to protect farmers against the loss of livestock by dogs or wolves. In part, his statement of the law which is worth keeping in mind follows:

"Any person damaged by the killing or injury of his livestock, sheep, dairy cattle, hogs, turkeys, poultry, etc., by dogs, or wolves may be reimbursed for the loss under a law passed by the last legislature.

"Under the terms of this law county boards of commissioners are permitted to license dogs in the county. The license fee is one dollar for male dogs and three dollars for female dogs. The money obtained is used to create a livestock indemnity fund from which losses caused by dogs are to be paid.

"Every year in Dakota county, and, undoubtedly, in every county, there are cases of loss, sometimes very severe loss, caused by dogs. Under former conditions, unless the dogs were identified the person having such a loss had no way of protecting himself. The new law gives protection."



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No Depression Seen in 4-H Club Groups

Two things marked the recent junior short course as outstanding. First, there were more 4-H club members in attendance than at any previous short course. Second, it was quite noticeable that the average age of the members attending was higher. This is especially pleasing, as the older 4-H boys and girls get much more out of an event of the kind than do the younger ones.

The leadership classes for both junior and adult local leaders were well attended. Building the 4-H club program was the main topic of the conference. The leaders entered most heartily into the discussion, and, no doubt, carried away with them many ideas which will aid them in their local clubs.

Instruction which will help the 4-H boys and girls in their project work was given by the regular college staff.

Judging by the enthusiasm expressed by both boys and the girls and their leaders, there is no depression in 4-H club work.

Loan Fund for 4-H Club Members Given

The International Livestock Exposition, the Union Stock Yards, and the Transit Company of Chicago have provided a fund of \$5,000 to establish as a special loan fund for 4-H club members wishing to go to college and desiring a loan.

Worthy 4-H club members may make a loan, of not more than \$250 for each one, to help pay their expenses at college. The amount may be paid back after graduation from college. Preference will be given to boys who have made outstanding records in livestock projects in what is known as the corn belt. The loans are made without interest for five years for those who enter as freshmen.

Anyone interested should write the state club leader for special information.

Club Enrollments Due

Blanks for the purpose of reporting the club enrollments were mailed to the county agents and club leaders the latter part of May.

The reports are to be made out in triplicate, one copy being kept on file in the county agent's or club leader's office, and two copies forwarded to the state club office. These lists are due July 1.

Representation at state club events such as the State Fair and Junior Livestock Show is based on these enrollment lists. It is, therefore, important that they should be complete and forwarded on time.

Three Named Advisers for 4-H Association

Three members of the extension staff were chosen advisers of the Minnesota 4-H Club association at the association's annual meeting in connection with the Junior short course at University Farm, St. Paul, June 9 to 12. The three chosen were H. J. Aase, club agent, St. Louis county; Sophia Boerboom, club agent, Pipestone county, and Therese Pfaender, home demonstration agent, Freeborn county.

The officers of the association, elected at the same meeting, are: Lawrence Biever, of Lake Benton, Lincoln county, president; Marvin Clark, Stewartville, Olmsted county, vice president; Elvira Ewart, Janesville, Waseca county, secretary; Elmer Ziegenhagen, Bertha, Todd county, treasurer. In addition, directors from each of the 55 counties represented were chosen.

In the stunt contest, in connection with the short course, Pipestone county won first place, with a stunt showing the history and development of 4-H club work; Martin county, second place; Fillmore, third; Houston, fourth; and, Watonwan, fifth. Ramsey county won highest honors in the athletic contest consisting of kittenball, track, and other events; Hennepin county, second; Jackson, third; Brown, fourth; and Goodhue, fifth. Houston and Fillmore counties tied for sixth.

The attendance for the short course this year was about 1,000.

Bridging a Gap

The problem of reaching young persons from 18 to 25 years of age, through extension activities, was discussed by L. A. Churchill at the Central States Conference in Lincoln, Nebraska. Mr. Churchill outlined the Connecticut plan of organizing groups for farm management study; the Kentucky plan, which is somewhat similar to the Connecticut plan but ties the individual up a little more closely with the project; and the Minnesota plan "based on the individual farm or home project along farm management lines, with each member carrying on a partnership agreement with his, or her, parents."

Wanted: Club Band

The secretary of the Minnesota Farm Bureau Federation would like to have a 4-H boys and girls club band to play during the two days of their association's annual meeting. If you have a good band composed of 4-H club members, please report to the state club leader.

FOUND

Small boy's coat and vest and boy's sweater at Hippodrome after the Extension picnic, Monday, June 22. Apply, J. F. Kuehn.

Bulletin Tells Of Farm Partnerships

W. D. Stegner's bulletin, "Farm and Family Partnerships," Special Bulletin 136 in the extension division series, is now available through the Mailing Room at University Farm. This bulletin is a report of work "undertaken in an effort to bridge the gap between the maximum 4-H club age and the age of active investment and proprietorship in farming and farm-home making." The bulletin, after telling how the idea for such activities developed, outlines the partnership agreement used, the responsibilities of parties cooperating, the development of the work in Martin and in Redwood counties, the financial progress of those completing two years' of work, and the success of the parents' business in such partnerships. It also gives the opinions of members as to the success of the plan, followed by suggestions for partnership agreements.

The results of the work in Martin and Redwood counties are summed up as follows:

Partnerships between parents and the older children will help bridge the gap between the club age and the age of active investment and proprietorship in farming.

This work with young people develops their interest in further education and supplies the necessary funds with which to secure it.

Sharing in a family partnership develops initiative, and gives business training and confidence.

Partnerships give young people a greater interest in agriculture and the home-farm business.

The handling of money, while under their parents' supervision, and the checking up on financial worth each year, has developed thrift and the habit of saving.

Capital is accumulated for use in furthering education or starting a business which makes easier the step from a place as a worker at home to that of a farm operator or owner.

The development of definite plans for the future and the stimulus of ownership and mutual partnership have made for excellent family relationships.

New Club Material

The bulletin on Farm Family Partnerships prepared by W. D. Stegner has just been received from the printer and is available for distribution.

A helpful circular entitled "20 Important Points of Good 4-H Demonstrations" has been issued and copies sent to all leaders.

A new collection of songs, games, stunts and other items for the recreation program, prepared by Miss Ella Gardner of the U. S. Department of Labor, is available.

Circular by A. E. Engebretson; catalog of all 4-H club awards.

Leaders who have not received copies of the above should write for them.

Farmers Plant More Trees

Parker Anderson reports that Minnesota farmers this year planted more trees for shelterbelts and windbreaks around their homes than in any previous year. About 127,000 trees, he says, were planted by farmers this spring. The favorite trees were spruce and pine, with the generous use of green ash, elm, soft maple, and, where conditions were suitable, hard maple, willows, Norway poplar, and Canadian poplar. Trees used in the "snow catch," that is, for the two rows outside of the main windbreak, were Chinese elm, Russian olive, and Caragana.

Gaylord Seeks Criticism

C. G. Gaylord, of Rock county, in a budget of news items for the papers of his county, recently included the following note to editors:

"I have been sending news of an agricultural nature to local papers for five years, and during that time have received wonderful cooperation from the editors receiving it. Lest I may be getting into a rut on what the public wants, I would appreciate comments from you on the material, and any suggestions you may have concerning proper style of writing, etc. I wish to improve my material to make it more attractive and readable by more people, as well as try to fit the space available for it. Your comments will be appreciated."

An appeal of this kind to editors ought to be a good thing. Readers of the News will be interested to know what response Gaylord got from his publishers.

WEATHER COULDN'T SPOIL THE PICNIC

(Continued from page 1)

chance to shine, and he shone. He swatted a long drive which brought in the three men on bases and enable him to make the circuit. That seemed "to sew things up." But Sjowall was not satisfied, and, just to cinch things, he stepped up and clouted out another home run. The specialists could do nothing in their half of the inning. The supervisors came along in the seventh with another run, as a margin of safety. It was well they did, for the specialists staged a fine rally, but it spent itself after 3 runs had been scored, and the game was done, with loud acclaim from supervisor sympathizers. Morris and Searles did some fine clouting for the losers.

The Score in Detail

The box score of this historic game is as follows:

Supervisors				Specialists			
	ab	h	r		ab	h	r
Jake, c	5	2	2	Morris, c	4	3	3
Lynsky, p	5	3	3	Anderson, p	4	1	1
Kuehn, 1b	5	4	1	Searles, rs	4	3	2
King, 2b	5	4	2	Nesom, 1b	4	2	1
Kelly, rs	5	4	2	Watson, 2b	3	1	1
M'insen, 3b	4	2	1	Menness, 2b	1	1	1
Geddes, ls	4	1	1	Curran, ls	4	2	1
Sjowall, m	4	2	2	Schultz, 3b	3	1	0
Hansen, lf	4	0	0	Silcox, rf	3	1	0
McNelly, rf	4	0	0	Dvor'k, m	3	1	0
				Eng'son, lf	3	0	0
				Crim, 3b	1	0	0
Total	24	14		Total	16	10	

Inning	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Total
Supervisors	..	4	1	0	0	2	6	1=14
Specialists	...	4	2	1	0	0	0	3=10

In the girls' game which followed, a team chosen by Miss Cook won from a team selected by Miss Schenck, by a score of 17 to 13. Gail Nesom pitched for the winners, and starred as a batter, getting 4 hits including a home run. Margaret Peterson also had 4 hits to her credit.

Dangerous Shooters

J. M. Drew, with his archery outfit, furnished much enjoyable entertainment. Several of the young ladies showed ability in the breaking of toy balloons with arrows at considerable distances. The question was raised whether they had been taking lessons from Drew or Cupid. Warning is hereby served.

Altogether, the day, despite the threatening weather of the morning, was one long to be recalled with pleasure.

Farm Economics

Conducted by W. L. Cavert

Most Farm Products Are Lower in Price Than They Were Before the War

By W. L. CAVERT, EXTENSION ECONOMIST

The prices of Minnesota products at the farm for May, 1931, are compared with the May average for the period 1921-1930 inclusive and with the May average for 1910-1914 inclusive, in the following table:

	May		Average percentage decrease	
	1910-14	1921-30	1931	1921-30
Wheat	\$.91	\$1.18	\$0.62	47
Corn	.51	.65	.43	34
Rye	.64	.82	.24	71
Oats	.35	.37	.21	43
Barley	.65	.56	.29	48
Flax	1.99	2.26	1.34	41
Potatoes	.55	.77	.65	16
Beef cattle	5.06	6.96	5.40	22
Milk cows	47.60	68.90	54.00	22
Hogs	7.16	9.01	6.20	30
Butterfat	.27	.41	.23	44
Lambs	5.88	11.30	7.50	34
Wool	.17	.28	.13	53
Eggs	.16	.21	.11	48
Chickens	.10	.18	.13	28

Every one of the products listed is now cheaper than the corresponding average May prices of 1921-1930. The only products that are above the average pre-war prices as represented by May prices of 1910-1914 are potatoes, beef cattle, milk cows, lambs, and chickens.

If one weights the price of the various products according to their relative importance, it roughly appears that Minnesota farmers for the same quantity of product are receiving about two-thirds as many dollars as during the average of 1921-1930. For the same quantity of products, they are receiving about eighty-four per cent of the money received in 1910-1914.

The following figures show some relative price comparisons for May, 1931 with pre-war conditions:

1910-1914=100	
Price received by farmers, Minnesota	84
Price received by farmers, U.S.	86
Prices paid by farmers for articles used in family and on farm	131
City wage level	*215
Retail price of food	*128
Wholesale prices, of all kinds	*107
*Figures for April, 1931.	

The city wage level of 215 of the 1910-14 level represents the earnings of those city workers who had full time employment.

The interest and tax burden would still weigh heavily on farmers who owe substantial sums, even though the price of things that they buy dropped to the level of farm products, as it takes a greatly increased quantity of products to meet these fixed charges.

It is becoming more and more clear that we are on a permanently lower price level than prevailed during 1921-1930. The present inequalities are such as usually characterize the period following a violent drop in the general price level.

Man has learned to sail in the air, and in the ocean depths and to avoid the depredations of invisible organisms, but as yet, he has failed to stabilize the purchasing power of money so that borrower and creditor both may receive approximate justice. This should be the next great forward step in promoting economic welfare. However, it is not probable, that anything can be done along that line in time to be of assistance in the present situation.

The phrase, "Stabilization of the purchasing power of money," has reference to arrangements that would tend to give a uniform general price level, not a fixed price for wheat, hogs, or any one item. Under a stabilized price level, the price of each commodity would vary according to the supply and demand situation without being influenced by the world supply of gold and monetary substitutes.

Farms Decrease in U. S. and Minnesota

By L. F. GAREY

Assistant Professor Agricultural Economics

The number of farms in the United States decreased 2.3 per cent from 1920 to 1930. The number of farms as reported by the federal census April 1, 1930 was 6,297,877.

From 1920 to 1930 the New England group of states had a decrease in the number of farms of 19.7 per cent, the Middle Atlantic group 16.1 per cent, the East North Central group 10.7 per cent, the South Atlantic 8.5 per cent, and the Mountain group 1.3 per cent. The Pacific Coast group of states had an increase in the number of farms during this period of 12.3 per cent, the West South Central group 10.9 per cent, the West North Central group 1.6 per cent, and the East South Central group 1.1 per cent.

From 1925 to 1930 the number of farms in the United States decreased 1.2 per cent. The greatest decreases occurred in the New England and the Middle Atlantic groups of states. Small decreases occurred in the East North Central, the South Atlantic, and the Pacific Coast groups of states. All other groups of states had an increase.

In general it appears that the greatest decreases in the number of farms occurred in the industrialized sections of the United States. One significant reason for this undoubtedly was the opportunity for farm labor to secure comparatively higher wages in industry. With less opportunity for higher wages in industries in the middle west, the farmer continued to farm in spite of the declining prices for agricultural products.

The number of farms in Minnesota decreased 1.5 per cent from 1925 to 1930. However, there was an increase of 3.9 per cent in 1930 over the number in 1920. There were 185,-

476 farms in 1930, 188,231 in 1925, and 178,478 in 1920.

The greatest decrease occurred in the northeast dairy section. The decrease from 1925 to 1930 amounted to 16.9 per cent. The next greatest decrease occurred in the northwestern part of the state. In the counties adjacent to the Red River the number of farms decreased 2.7 per cent and in the area adjoining these counties on the east the decrease was 2.0 per cent. Small decreases occurred in the eastern part of the state. In the east central dairy area there was a decrease of 0.7 per cent and in the southeast livestock and small grain area, which is increasing in dairying, the decrease was 1.4 per cent. In the west central small grain area the number of farms increased 4.1 per cent, in the southwest livestock and small grain area 2.5 per cent, and in the beef and hog area 2.2 per cent.

The greatest decreases came in the portions of the state in which farmers depended on some outside income or to a considerable extent on the sale of small grain.

Any tract of land from which the gross income was \$250 was classed as a farm.

Where Wheat Belongs

Among Farm Products

How many persons engaged in agricultural education can tell offhand, what is the most important farm product in the United States from the standpoint of cash income?

A group of urbanites were asked the question recently, says a report from Washington, D. C.

"Wheat!" they replied. "The newspapers are full of it."

"That's wrong. Cotton is first. What's next?"

"Wheat!" they said.

"Wrong again. Milk is next. What's third?"

"Wheat!"

"Still wrong, hogs are next, then cattle and calves, then eggs and chickens—"

"Eggs and chickens ahead of wheat?"

"The cash income from eggs and chickens, five-year 1925-29 average, was \$813,445,000 or 8.13 per cent of the cash income from all farm commodities. The cash income from wheat averaged \$790,129,000, or 7.89 per cent of the total," says the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

Practically 60 per cent of farmers' cash income from agricultural products is received from cotton, milk, hogs, cattle, calves, eggs, and chickens, according to compilations by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

Cotton and milk vie for first place as cash income products, the income from cotton lint and seed being estimated by the bureau at \$1,460,107,000 as an average for the five-year period 1925-29, or 14.59 per cent of the cash income from all farm commodities, and the cash income from milk at \$1,453,646,000 or 14.52 per cent of the total. The five-year average total is computed at \$10,008,450,000.

Charles Geddes II

Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Geddes are smiling over the arrival of a second son in their household. He came onto the stage on June 8, and bears the name of Charles Roger. He is, in short, Charles II. May he prosper mightily!

U.S.D.A. Issues An Economics Monthly

"Agricultural Economics Extension" is the title of a new mimeographed publication issued by the division of extension in agricultural economics, Office of Co-operative Extension Work in co-operation with the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, United States Department of Agriculture.

The first number of this new publication contains an announcement by C. W. Warburton, director of extension work, to the effect that the rapid development of agricultural economics extension work has created a demand for such a publication and that through its pages an effort will be made to help the busy extension worker, whether county agent or specialist, to keep informed of developments in the field of agricultural economics extension work. The plan is to record economics extension activities in Washington and in the states and counties, through comments, discussions, and information on programs, plans, successful methods, results, and similar matter.

One of the articles in this issue discusses "The New Extension Unit for Economics Work." This says that the extension service, in co-operation with the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, has established in the Office of Co-operative Extension Work a new unit to be known as "Extension in Agricultural Economics." This unit will assist the state extension services in formulating and carrying out economics extension programs.

H. M. Dixon, formerly in charge of farm management extension, is chairman of the unit. F. A. Merrill will assist in preparing the publications issued by the unit.

Another Churchill

There is joy in the household of L. A. Churchill. A brother to Billie, their firstborn, arrived Wednesday, June 17. At this writing Mr. Churchill is out of town, but information received is to the effect that the new arrival is being called "Pete," pending the finding of a name more satisfactory to his parents.

An Opportune Arrival

A daughter was born to Mr. and Mrs. Carroll Blakeslee of Wadena county, Tuesday, June 23. Miss Blakeslee came just in time to give emphasis to the organization of a child training project in Wadena county by Mrs. Fish. The child training group was organized the day of her birth.

A Detroit dispatch today states that Henry Ford has taken up intensive farming on a 3,000 acre tract of land in Lenawee County, bordering on the southern line of Michigan. A large group of ancestral farms in Malon and adjoining townships have been purchased by him and are to be operated as an experiment designed to solve some of the problems of agriculture, and to open doors of progress for the farmer.

A rational farm program includes the growing of timber for the home use. On many farms timber also brings in a substantial part of the income.