

# Minnesota Extension News

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## Carl G. Ash Succeeds Engene in West Polk

CARL G. ASH began work in West Polk county, March 15, succeeding O. K. Engene. Mr. Engene resigned to take a position with the Connecticut Life Insurance company in farm management work. Anent this change and the men involved, C. L. McNelly, district county agent leader, says:

"Carl G. Ash, St. Vincent, Kittson county, enters county agent work in Minnesota with a splendid background of experience and training in northwestern Minnesota. Carl was active in 4-H club work for many years under the able leadership of W. V. Longley and Matt Thorfinnson, early county agents in Kittson. Mr. Ash was graduated from the North Dakota State College of Agriculture in 1930. He worked his way, spending the spring quarters and summer vacations on his father's 1,500-acre grain and stock farm in Kittson county.

"Mr. Ash spent one summer vacation of 3 months in England, Scotland, and western Europe, visiting famous breeders, and studying livestock conditions. In 4-H work he won the state championship in livestock judging. While in college, he twice participated in International judging contests, in poultry and livestock. His training and experience qualify him well for county agent work.

"We regret that Mr. Engene is leaving. Engene's work, both in Clearwater county and in West Polk, has been of the highest order, always well organized and aggressively carried out. His many friends in these counties, as well as in the extension service, regret to see him leave, but congratulate him on his advancement."

## Stearns Renews Work With Lenzmeier Agent

STEARNS, one of Minnesota's leading dairy counties, has renewed its agricultural extension service and has selected E. C. Lenzmeier as the man best qualified to re-establish the work. Mr. Lenzmeier was formerly agent in Brown county. He was graduated from the Iowa State College, Ames, in 1924, where he majored in animal husbandry.

Mr. Lenzmeier was raised on a farm near Shakopee, Scott county, and was graduated from the Shakopee high school. He had a great deal of successful 4-H experience, among other honors, winning a state championship in corn growing. Two years of successful experience as agricultural instructor at Renville, together with his farm experience and college training, qualified him for county agent in Brown county, where he was elected in February, 1926.

The death of his father necessitated his attention to home affairs in the spring of 1929 and he resigned after three successful years in Brown county. "Ed" took up his duties in Stearns county, March 19. He is most cordially welcomed back to the fraternity by extension workers and all his old friends in the service.

## Coming Events\*

May 12-14, 1932—Editors' Short Course  
June 7-10, 1932—State Junior Short Course  
September 3-10, 1932—Minnesota State Fair, St. Paul  
October 24-28, 1932—Annual Extension Conference  
October 26-29, 1932—American Country Life Conference

\*Events will take place at University Farm, unless otherwise stated.

## Agents Asked to Aid In Egg Essay Contest

MISS CORA COOKE, poultry specialist, desires to call the attention of agents to the National Poultry Slogan and Essay Contest which the National Poultry Council is sponsoring in connection with National Egg Week, May 1 to 7. Co-operating with the Poultry Council are the state extension departments, Miss Cooke representing Minnesota.

Anyone is eligible to enter this contest on the general subject, "Food Value of Eggs." Appropriate slogans are to be written, not over 10 words, setting forth the peculiar and wonderful food value of eggs and their place in the human diet. This slogan is to be accompanied by an essay, not over 200 words, setting forth in detail the description, meaning and intent of the slogan.

Minnesota entries are to be mailed to Miss Cooke, postmarked not later than May 7. The best 10 from this state will be selected by a committee and forwarded to the Poultry Council for entry in the national competition. Cash prizes totaling \$200 are offered as follows: First prize \$50, second \$40, third \$30, fourth \$20, fifth \$10, and ten additional \$5 prizes.

To judge the Minnesota entries, Miss Cooke has appointed the following committee: Inez M. Hobart, nutrition specialist; A. C. Smith, chief in poultry husbandry, and W. P. Kirkwood, agricultural editor.

## Great Emphasis on Home Gardening This Year

TO encourage home gardening in Kittson county and to assist in making these gardens successful, County Agent J. A. Salisbury has compiled a list of the best varieties of vegetables for the locality with selections based on the results by experiment stations in northern United States and Canada, as well as on observations made locally.

Planting tables have been devised giving the length of rows necessary to supply the average family with each kind of vegetable and showing the amount of seed required. Approximate requirements for a family, based on local yields, are included. This information has been sent out to farmers through a circular and is being followed up with instructions relative to the making and operating of a surface hot bed. Arrangements were under way to make available bulk seed of

approved varieties with the aim of enabling farmers to secure quality seed at the lowest prices.

The foregoing is but one example of the promotion extension workers are giving home gardening this year. County Agent Lynn Sheldon and Clara Farstad, home demonstration agent, are carrying on a three-lesson project in Lac qui Parle. South St. Louis county has a project expected to reach 16 communities, with tours planned to reach all communities.

In Minneapolis, Mrs. Sylvia Shiras, urban home demonstration agent, is conducting an interesting series of five garden lessons, with R. S. Mackintosh of the state agricultural extension service and secretary of the State Horticultural Society, as the instructor. Likewise many counties are tying up local work with the series of garden articles which Mr. Mackintosh is preparing for the University Farm weekly News Letter.

Numerous other examples might be cited, were space available.

## Druggist Co-operates In Gopher Control Drive

FOLLOWING up an idea started in Winona county by the former county agent, J. B. McNulty, H. C. Pederson has secured the co-operation of a Lewiston druggist in waging the pocket gopher control campaign.

With copy furnished by Mr. Pederson, the druggist used an attractive advertisement, 3 columns by about 10 inches, in a local newspaper. Headed "TAX RELIEF," the advertisement explained that "over \$2,200 of tax money was used in our own township—Utica—for gopher bounties last year (this amounts to more than \$15 per ¼ section) when \$25 worth of gopher poison, properly used, would have given better results. Poison these underground thieves. Save the bounty. Reduce your taxes."

More copy followed telling of the results secured by hundreds of Winona county farmers and describing the process. The ad closed with the suggestion, "For detailed information regarding the use of this poison, secure from your County Agent, Extension Folder No. 30, or ask him to sponsor a demonstration in your community."

The ad carried a good illustration of a pocket gopher at work. This kind of advertising used in former years has been very productive, both for the druggist and for the extension gopher control campaign.

## R. D. Evans Takes Over Agent Post in Le Sueur

ROBLEY D. EVANS, since May, 1931, assistant county agent in Kittson, succeeded Hugh Firmage in Le Sueur county. He began work there March 15.

Mr. Evans was born and raised on a farm near Pipestone, attended the Pipestone high school, and was graduated from the Minnesota College of Agriculture in 1921. He specialized in animal husbandry and farm management. Following his graduation, he worked as field man for the Webb Publishing company of St. Paul, was teacher of agriculture at New Richland for 2 years, and operated a farm from 1926 to 1931.

In Kittson his duties were expected to pertain largely to 4-H club work. However, the grasshopper situation necessitated his spending a large part of his time in the late summer and early fall entirely on that project.

Mr. and Mrs. Evans have moved to Le Center. Mr. Evans' first work there was in connection with farm management returns. He will spend a large part of his first month in 4-H club work.

## Swenson Is Assistant Agent in Mower County

WALTER D. SWENSON has been selected for training in county agent work in Mower county, beginning April 1. Mr. Swenson's major activity will be swine production work, and his minor, 4-H club work. He has just been graduated from the Minnesota College of Agriculture, where he majored in animal husbandry and agricultural economics.

Mr. Swenson was born and raised on his father's farm near Chisago City, Minnesota. He had 2 years in the School of Agriculture previous to attending college, and for more than a year was cow tester for the Bitter Root Valley and Missoula county cow testing association, located in Montana.

This experience, together with a period between his school and college years spent in direct assistance in operating the home farm, should help greatly in preparing him for county agent work. C. E. Swenson, W. D.'s father, was a master farmer of 1927.

## Hennepin Takes Palmer For Agent Training

ERNEST A. PALMER begins work as assistant in Hennepin county, April 15. Mr. Palmer, while at home on the farm near Warren, Minnesota, was very active as a 4-H club member, and later assisted in leading the local 4-H club. He will complete work at the Minnesota College of Agriculture and be graduated in June, specializing in animal husbandry and agricultural education. He has earned part of his way through college by feeding experimental steers and assisting generally in animal husbandry.

# Minnesota Extension News

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Whether or not it is good business, under present conditions, to advance federal money to farmers for production purposes may be a matter of individual opinion. The stark facts are that many farmers find it impossible to carry on without some outside assistance in purchasing seed and providing feed for work stock or fuel for mechanical power, in order to plant cash and feed crops in 1932 in this state. To pass judgment upon the worthiness of applicants for this purpose is not the duty of the extension service. To aid in distributing these loans is a matter of emergency relief in which the extension service, operating in the agricultural field, has a very definite and direct responsibility.

The extension service has, at the request of the authorities in Washington, assumed the responsibility of setting up county seed loan advisory committees and has suggested types of local organization and types of local publicity enabling farmers in need of loans to make proper applications. At best, the process is complicated and delays are inevitable in securing the actual funds with which to purchase seed. The extension service assumes no responsibility for these delays, nor for the regulations surrounding the procuring of such funds. We act only in an advisory capacity. The local committees assume no financial obligations whatever in passing upon the applications for loans. The whole procedure is one of emergency relief, because of the unfortunate losses suffered by many farmers through drouth, grasshoppers or other unavoidable disasters.

It should be pointed out, however, that the extension obligation does not end with setting up the local county committees and assisting farmers in making proper applications for loans. The real job of the extension service is to "follow through" these applications, by offering the best assistance possible in locating sources of good seed, by urging the seeding of clean seed only, and by offering all assistance possible to the end that the production obtained through the seed loans will represent profitable investments. After all, this type of service, while having many elements not strictly educational, is another example of the usefulness of a county agent in working with groups of rural people and in making possible the proper functioning

of the organization set up to take care of this emergency. Similar service will need to be rendered possibly in connection with the grasshopper situation in many counties this spring. Another example is the assistance rendered by agents in the distribution of free wheat for human and livestock feeding purposes.

This work is distinctly in the line of duty of county agents and represents a sort of service that will be more and more appreciated by those who are helped in these emergencies. Perhaps the final values that will be obtained will compensate, in some measure, for the large amount of "grief" that always accompanies such relief activities.

## "Money Saving" Talks Very Popular in Rice

WIDE and deep has been the interest created in Rice county by the home demonstration agent's illustrated talk or demonstration on "Ways to Save Time and Money." Miss Gwendolyn A. Watts has presented this feature at scores of meetings throughout the county, beginning early in the winter. Subjects included home cooking, sewing, things about the house, and more recently, gardening.

Originally about 50 "ways" were included. To a remarkable degree the demonstration has been made practical by illustrative material. When possible, actual samples of things to be made are shown or things to be done demonstrated. In other cases, posters convey the idea, or actual patterns are included for such things as play suits, children's sleeping garments, overcoats, slippers and mittens. Moreover, Miss Watts has mimeographed her talk and hands out copies, enabling her hearers to carry home all of the helps.

Many of the ideas, as well as samples to illustrate them, were furnished by the women themselves. Other ideas were drawn from Miss Watts' own experience, from bulletins, magazines and other sources. New ideas that have come out at nearly every meeting have been added constantly.

In her latest report, Miss Watts says the women in several communities have arranged to enlarge upon the work by holding community institutes. Each woman will bring samples of her work and display them for the benefit of all. Comments have been most enthusiastic everywhere.

## Gives Dairy Feeding Help

Dairy feeding problems have required considerable attention in Mower county, said F. L. Liebenstein in February. "Due to extreme shortage of roughage considerable work has been done," he says, "in figuring substitute rations and writing articles for papers, compiling tables giving comparative feed value of available feed and especially bringing out the information that such feeds as middlings, bran and corn are most economical at present, and can be used to a large extent, rather than buying roughage at present prices. A number of bankers in the county were furnished similar analyses for use in advising their patrons. This material was also presented in chart form at meetings."

## 'Capone' Gives Billings His Slant on Turkeys

THE shadow of Leavenworth which has hung over Al Capone for many months apparently has set him cogitating about confinement, even about the well known confinement plan of raising turkeys, advocated by W. A. Billings.

Among replies to Dr. Billings' recent turkey questionnaire, mailed to co-operators asking for results of last year, has been found one from "Al Capone," giving the address "Detroit Lakes or Leavenworth." "Al's" answers clearly indicate that his thinking on turkey raising is influenced by his occupation and his general slant on affairs of business and society. For example, to the question, "Do you rotate, that is, will you use different land for your turkeys this year?" Al replied, "No, same old stomach, I hope," and to the question, "What else of your farm pays better?" he replied, "Mostly barley or corn mash."

Dr. Billings is inclined to feel very much elated that he has interested one of the country's "biggest shots" in his proposition, but those to whom he has shown the questionnaire declare he has been the victim of a practical joker.

## Salisbury's Busy Month

Typical of the county agent's busy month is that reported for February by J. A. Salisbury, Kittson county agent. During the month, 18 news articles were prepared, 7 circular letters sent out with a total circulation of 2,175, 131 individual letters written, 104 office calls pertaining to farm problems taken care of, 122 farm visits and field calls made, 5 pork cutting and curing demonstrations conducted with an attendance of 209, and 22 meetings held with attendance aggregating 1,535.

Work participated in covered a wide range, including organizing 4-H clubs, inaugurating home project work (by holding the first leaders' training meeting), preparing a seed exchange, for sale, and wanted list, participating in the winter shows at Crookston, organizing for the marketing of certified Red River Valley seed potatoes, setting up the county seed loan office and appointing the county seed committee, starting a better home garden campaign, and handling 40 samples of cereal and legume seeds which were either tested at the office or forwarded to the state seed laboratory. A busy month, typical of the busy county agent.

## Give Miss Boyd Farewell

As a farewell to Miss Mary Jane Boyd, who left the home demonstration work in Faribault county to become agent in North St. Louis, the Faribault home and community committee held a special meeting, February 11, at which women who attended the home demonstration camp joined with home and community committee members in wishing Miss Boyd good luck and good health for her new job. A pink and white quilt, begun last summer at camp, was finished and presented to Miss Boyd.

With 25 4-H father-son partnerships arranged in Cottonwood county last year being completed this spring, a drive for not less than 50 such enterprises has been launched, says County Agent W. A. Dickinson.

## Lyon Units Put Year's Program Into Booklets

SEVEN Lyon county farm bureau units are now using the annual programs prepared individually for them in the office of County Agent Peters. Each program consists of 20 pages, with an attractive cover containing a drawing suggesting the township's project. The first page lists the unit's officers; the next describes the township's project and names the committee in charge. The fourth page lists the permanent committees and 4-H leaders. On each succeeding page a month's program is outlined, giving the date and place of meeting, program, program committee, and refreshment committee.

"The program makes the work of the unit an active force for improvement in that township," explains Mr. Peters. "It designates a definite job to do. It also gives every member of the unit a particular job sometime during the year, and helps him realize his responsibility for the successful completing of the unit's work in his community. It is very noticeable that each member scans through his program, on first receiving it, to see his name and the work assigned to him."

Last year, six units worked out yearly programs and this year eight units will have them, Mr. Peters says.

## Club Institutes Succeed

Six 4-H club institutes in St. Louis county in February were very successful, both in attendance and in the interest created in new project work, says Miss Elizabeth Spriesterbach, assistant county 4-H leader. Attendance at four of these meetings ran from 250 to more than 300.

Programs included reports from championship winners, a 4-H movie, group singing of 4-H songs, project discussions by groups, and a speaking program in the afternoon with talks by club work sponsors from Duluth and the range territory. One institute at Cook had T. A. Erickson as the principal speaker.

## Five Pages of Publicity

Eighteen separate news stories supplied to six local papers in Kittson county during February, resulted in a total of 397 column inches of publicity, says J. A. Salisbury, county agent. This would be equivalent to three or four average newspaper pages with no allowance for advertising on such pages. Such allowance might increase the estimate to the equivalent of the news contents of perhaps five average pages. A very popular feature of Mr. Salisbury's news with both readers and editors, is a series of short items, "Bureaugrams." These are interesting bits of news picked up on farm visits, through office calls, or other such contacts. A wide variety of subjects treated in this way is an excellent means of advertising the services of the county agent's office.

Miss Helen E. Kallenberg, Faribault county home demonstration agent, was invited to speak on 4-H club work at the Faribault Rural Teachers Institute in February and to attend the banquet. Miss Kallenberg expected to follow up this contact with a letter to rural teachers asking assistance in enrolling 4-H boys and girls.



## G. Kohler, 1931 Health Champ, Tells Other 4-H'ers How Success Was Won

Dear Friends of the 4-H Club:

I AM indeed very proud and happy to have been a successful contestant at the first Minnesota State Fair 4-H boys' and girls' health contest. I never dreamed when I joined in the health work that I would be the medal-winning girl.

"I cannot take all the credit for myself. My teacher, Gertie Scheldorf, got me interested and helped me join the contest. I feel that much credit is due the Miss Scheldorf; Mr. Dickinson, the county agent; Mrs. Eidem, the county nurse; and Miss Hanson, the county club leader. Much of the credit goes to the untiring efforts of my mother to make me exclude tea and coffee from my bill of fare and to drink six glasses of water daily. At first, it was quite a task to consume a quart of milk daily, but I soon mastered that difficulty and gained 11 pounds from April until the end of the contest.

"Many evenings when I would have liked to sit up and read, my mother made me lie off to bed to get my required hours of sleep. Many hours of sleep insured me of clear, bright eyes. I ate all the iron-rich vegetables I could, as we had learned in 4-H work that they brighten the cheeks, lips and eyes.

"One of my important daily practices was the care of my teeth. After the contest at Delft, Doctor Crowthers filled and cleaned my teeth, bringing my score to almost perfect.

"When the state contest doctor examined my feet he remarked on how perfect they were. It was through Dr. Sogge's efforts, and a built-up shoe I wore that they became almost 100 per cent perfect.

"They also gave me credit for my vaccination scar. "The contest was conducted under the direction of T. A. Erickson, state 4-H club leader, and Dr. E. A. Meyerding, executive secretary of the Minnesota Public Health association. The judging was done by five doctors and four nurses.

"I was very proud to receive my beautiful plaque that was presented to me by Governor Olson."

Miss Kohler is a Cottonwood county 4-H girl.

## Russell Miller Again Supports 4-H Program

THE Russell Miller Milling company, Minneapolis, is again showing its interest in the 4-H club program by contributing its usual amount towards prizes in the bread, cake and thrift projects.

These prizes are trips to the State Fair, the National Club Congress at Chicago, and the state Junior Short Course at University Farm, and a \$100 scholarship good in the Schools or the College of Agriculture.

Each girl who takes part in the bread baking contest at the State Fair will also receive a 49-pound sack of flour as a special prize.

## Older Club Members May Take Advanced Projects

THE question frequently is asked if boys and girls who have never been in club work must take the first year's work in projects such as clothing, canning, dairy calf, and others, which extend over more than one year.

The answer is "no." In the case of older club members, they should be permitted to take the year's work for which they are fitted. An older girl, entering club work for the first time this year, might well take the third or fourth year in clothing work or canning, and an older boy, who has had some experience in livestock work, might be encouraged to take an advanced project.

## Learning to Know America's Music

HOW generally are 4-H club members tuning in on the national 4-H radio programs transmitted over the National Broadcasting chain from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30, the first Saturday of each month? These programs are featuring America's music this year and should be of interest to all 4-H members.

In order to stimulate interest in our American music, it might be a good stunt for each club to devote part of certain meetings to putting on a music appreciation contest. Boys and girls will be more interested in musical compositions if they know something about their histories and authors. Here is a suggestion that might be tried, using a well known American musical number. Have a club member read the history of Dixie, after which someone will play it.

Dixie, song of the sunny south, was born in a northern city on a cold, gray morning. Dan Emmett, who wrote both words and music, was the end man in a New York minstrel show. He designed Dixie for a "hooray" song, or "walk around," in response to his manager's order for a tune that people would whistle on the street. A cold rain was pelting at his windows. Emmett stood looking down into a slushy street where shivering people were hurrying to work. He sighed for the lovely, lazy southland which he had just left and wished he were in Dixie. Then the inspiration

came. Emmett little realized that he was naming one of America's song favorites. Civil War days called for a southern marching tune. Dixie graduated from the banjo into a fife and drum corps.

## Minneapolis Journal Renews 4-H Support

THE Minneapolis Journal has renewed its support of 4-H club work in Minnesota by continuing for 1932 its annual appropriation of \$5,000 for educational trips and scholarships.

One outstanding dairy calf member in each of the 35 counties with the strongest dairy programs will receive a trip to the National Dairy Show. Outstanding members, on a county-wide basis, in pig, beef, poultry, and sheep projects, in the counties qualifying as to enrollments, will receive trips to the 4-H short course at University Farm in June. The rest of the fund is for scholarships and educational trips for 4-H'ers making the most outstanding records in livestock projects.

## Health Scholarships

The National Dairy Council is offering, for the third year, a \$200 scholarship for the best program of health activities carried on by a county group of 4-H club members over a period of at least 6 months ending November 1, 1932. The second and third place winners will receive \$50 and \$25, respectively.

Any county interested in competing for this scholarship and cash prizes should write the National Dairy Council, 221 North LaSalle Street, Chicago, for application blanks. Entries will be received until May 1. Reports must be in the office of the National Dairy Council by November 5, 1932.

## Suggested 4-H Program

Meeting called to order by president

Roll call

Minutes of last meeting

Unfinished business

Reports of committees

Program—

Club Singing—4-H Friendship Song (No. 37 in song book)

Making Gingerbread—by a baking club member (directions and recipe in bread bulletin)

How to Take Posture Tests—by a 4-H club boy or girl, or an adult

Club Singing—Smile Awhile (No. 27 in song book)

Ration and How to Mix for the Young Chicks (see poultry club material)

Making a Flat Fell Seam (See discussion on seams in the clothing bulletins)

Club Singing—Where Is John? (No. 33 in song book)

Adjournment

Recreation—relay races (divide group into 2, 3, or 4 equal parts and have relay games using potatoes, clothes pins, balls, etc., for passing). Charades.

Redwood county veterinarians were busy during March treating horses for bots and bringing this project to a close, according to Nate H. Bovee, county agent.

## Reminders

ARE YOU using permanent record cards for all 4-H club members? These may be had by writing the State Club Office.

## Ramsey Uses Letter To Boost Tree Planting

STRONG effort is being made in Ramsey county, by County Agent Robert Freeman and Club Agent Mrs. Clara Oberg, to have each 4-H member plant a tree commemorating Washington's bicentennial. A letter mailed to all club leaders in the county by Mrs. Oberg read in part:

"Every 4-H club member and leader who plants a tree will receive a certificate from the Commission at Washington, D. C., and will have his or her name placed on the National Honor Roll.

"In planting trees to the memory of George Washington," the Commission announces, "there is also planted with them all that honest, loyal service that means immortality. What a record it will be—those thousands of tree-planters' names on the National Honor Roll! May the tree you plant live for years to come to glorify the memory of the Father of our Country and express our gratitude to George Washington, the man."

"We suggest that a hardy tree be selected—one which will add to the beauty of the home grounds. If we may be of assistance in the purchasing of trees, let us know.

"Please do not put this off. If you have not time to get out this information, won't you ask the President to appoint a committee of club members to do so? Early planting is urged.

"As soon as a report of the names of tree-planters is available, submit report to me so that I may send it in and apply for certificates.

"Let's put Ramsey county on the 100 per cent list of tree-planters in commemoration of our first president, George Washington."

## Plant a Tree!

"Plant a George Washington tree" is the slogan for all 4-H club members and leaders for 1932. Every 4-H'er planting a tree will receive a beautiful certificate from the American Tree association. As soon as each member of a 4-H club has planted a tree, the leader should report all names to the State 4-H Club Office, which will order the certificates.

## Payne Award Candidates

Miss Carol Kesler of Nicollet and Nelvin Haugland of Houston county have been recommended as the two Minnesota candidates for the \$1,000 Payne fellowship for study and research work in the U. S. Department of Agriculture. This award is national, each state being permitted to recommend two outstanding 4-H members who have been or will be graduated this year from a college of agriculture or home economics.

## Leaders' Summer Camps

Arrangements are being completed for three local 4-H club leaders' training camps. As an experiment, such a camp was held last year in Itasca Park. This proved such a success that another will be held there May 30 to June 1, in addition to one at Grand Rapids, June 3 and 4, and another at the same time in southern Minnesota, at Lake Shetek, Murray county.

A new 4-H song bulletin has just been published by the Extension Division. It will be distributed to counties upon request, on the basis of one book for every three club members, as the supply is only 15,000 copies.

## Mats of Specialists Greatly In Demand

DO newspaper editors appreciate the mat service which county agents have the opportunity to furnish through the co-operation of the state extension office? This question has been thoroughly answered by the wide use being made of the mat service. However, another reply received a few days ago from M. G. Jurgenson of the Clarkfield Advocate, Clarkfield, Minnesota, will be of interest. In writing the News Letter for a mat of R. S. Mackintosh, Mr. Jurgenson said, "Please send same, and please enclose mats of such 'big shots' as Eckles, Searles, etc. In fact, all of the hogmen, cowmen and birdmen of the department, as we understand that cuts are available upon request. Have seen some of your big fellows featured in neighboring weeklies. Appreciatively yours."

To this might be added the recent testimony of a county agent. W. A. Peters of Lyon county, in his February report, said, "The mats of speakers, furnished by the state extension division are a big help in advertising farmers' institutes and other meetings." That other agents have the same opinion is apparent from the fact that since January 1, 500 mats have been distributed of 36 individuals. Rarely a single day goes by that does not bring one or more orders. Whenever mats requested are available, return mail service is given.

### Revolving 4-H Sheep Fund

H. J. Aase, St. Louis county 4-H leader, says outlines of project requirements have been sent to each leader. Notice regarding assistance available through the county club office in securing stock and seed potatoes has been given and means available for financing club members in obtaining sheep, calves, poultry, and potatoes. Two lots of Shropshire sheep have been purchased through the sheep revolving fund of the Duluth Council of Agriculture. Ten very fine Shropshire ewes were purchased and distributed at \$7 per head, and 27 high grade Shropshires from another flock at \$5 a head.

### His Publicity "Talks Fast"

H. O. Anderson of Houston county has been using organized publicity to push 4-H club enrollments. A news article a week is planned, each featuring the experience, achievements and plans of some outstanding club member. The publicity specialist says these articles have been very cleverly and carefully done, and make 4-H club work very attractive. He adds that Anderson's publicity "talks very fast without seeming to hurry," meaning it is concise and full of punch.

C. H. Schrader, reports the forming in Murray county, during February, of a father-son organization with 15 members. Three or four meetings will be held during the year. Two members have completed the first year's work.

Making bedroom slippers will be a new feature of the clothing clinics and mitten-making demonstrations planned for South St. Louis next fall, says Miss Florence Lang.

## Bovee Advocates New 4-H Project in Goats

"JUST who is holding up this parade, anyhow?" demands Nate H. Bovee, Redwood county agent, in concluding an article in the December Dairy Goat Journal. Mr. Bovee's article advocates goats as a new 4-H club project, which he thinks would be especially appropriate for a great many youngsters living in town.

Says Mr. Bovee: "A boy with a doe kid would take excellent care of her, grow her out well and have her in fine condition for her first lactation period. He would also have a complete record of the cost of raising her. In the meantime, he would proudly exhibit her at the fairs. After freshening, her milk would be weighed, tested, etc. All feed records would continue and the world would learn what it costs to produce good goats and good milk.

"Within a few years' time the youngsters living in town would, by proper selection, feeding, breeding and care, develop the dairy goat industry to the place of importance it should command.

"The 4-H club work has developed until today it is one of the greatest means of training future American citizens who will not keep rocking the boat. Why not give them a chance to get into the goat business and why not give the goats a chance to get into the business of raising better babies, boys, and girls?"

A goat raising project has been added to 4-H work in Redwood this spring.

Enrollment cards for 4-H home economics projects sent out in Mower county during February were accompanied by a general circular letter, in which all home economics projects were written up in detail and 4-H club news given. Miss Vivian Drenckhahn, home demonstration agent, says all who carried 4-H home economics in 1931 were circularized.

H. J. Van Metre sent 2,000 circular letters to Steele county farmers during February, emphasizing the testing of grain and other seeds for germination and purity, the necessity of using the fanning mill to clean grain, and the importance of treating for smut.

Willis Lawson, Freeborn county agent, says P. O. Anderson's talk at Clark's Grove in February created considerable interest in windbreaks. Seventy were present, and following the meeting eight inquiries about windbreak plans were received.

Strawberry growing has been added to 4-H projects in Cook county, says William Clinch, county agent. Each member will receive 50 plants and instruction in planting and care of plots.

J. I. Swedberg, Watonwan county agent, announces 20 clothing groups organized with about 275 members. Every township is represented. Three groups are in entirely new territory.

Steele county reported 318 boys and girls enrolled in club work by March 1.

With four new 4-H clubs organized during February, Itasca county now has 34 standard clubs.

# Farm Economics

Conducted by W. L. Cavert

## 1931 Farm Management Service Report

THE recent report of the Farm Management Service for farmers in southeast Minnesota is a mine of information to extension workers on farm earnings, feed requirements of cows, horses, and hogs and factors that influence farm profits. The number of farms in 1931 was 147. The following are a few of the data that are of general interest:

Farm Income	1928	1929	1930	1931
Cash receipts .....	\$4,464	\$5,043	\$4,476	\$3,800
Farm produce used in house.....	323	326	304	24
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$4,787</b>	<b>\$5,369</b>	<b>\$4,780</b>	<b>\$4,044</b>
Cash expenses .....	\$2,266	\$2,614	\$2,390	\$2,176
Board for hired labor.....	95	110	113	10
<b>Total expenses (except interest).....</b>	<b>\$2,361</b>	<b>\$2,724</b>	<b>\$2,503</b>	<b>\$2,277</b>
Receipts above expenses.....	\$2,426	\$2,645	\$2,277	\$1,768
Increase of inventory.....	387	847	375*	97
<b>Return to capital and family labor.....</b>	<b>\$2,813</b>	<b>\$3,492</b>	<b>\$1,902</b>	<b>\$1,791</b>
Interest on farm inventory @ 5%.....	\$1,182	\$1,274	\$1,278	\$1,150
Family labor earnings.....	1,631	2,218	624	35
Unpaid family labor except operator's.....	354	361	381	26
Operator's labor earnings.....	1,277	1,857	243	62

\* Decrease. † Minus.

A perusal of the foregoing figures indicates that expenses have changed relatively little during the four-year period. Cash receipts declined from a peak of \$5,369 in 1929 to \$4,046 in 1931. There was a decrease of inventory of \$375 in 1930 and \$971 in 1931. The labor earnings of the operator, that is, return above five per cent on investment and family labor, increased from \$1,277 in 1928 to \$1,857 in 1929, then fell to \$243 in 1930 and in 1931 was nothing for the operator's labor and earnings lacked \$622 of returning five per cent on the investment.

The 1931 receipts above expenses of \$1,769 (not including decrease of inventory and interest on investment) are larger than one might expect, but in this connection one needs to remember that the real low prices, particularly on hogs, were not reached until the latter part of the year.

Interest as the farmer usually experiences it, consists of two items—one, a certain definite sum due each year on loans; two, a charge for the use of his own capital actually invested. However, the data were not complete as to interest actually paid so that it does not appear as a separate item. The average amount available for living expenses would be the receipts above expenses of \$1,769 less the amount paid on interest and principal of loans.

The prices received for a few of the leading products have been as follows:

	1928	1929	1930	1931
Butterfat per lb. ....	\$0.53	\$0.50	\$0.40	\$0.29
Hogs per cwt. ....	8.23	9.60	8.94	5.33
Eggs per doz. ....	0.27	0.28	0.22	0.16

A few of the more important data relating to the dairy business are given below:

	1928	1929	1930	1931
Cows kept .....	14	15	15	18
Butterfat per cow, lbs. ....	241	247	242	241
Returns above feed cost per cow.....	\$77	\$76	\$45	\$22
Pork produced, lbs. 12143 13270 14974 18886				
Pigs raised per litter .....	6.2	6.4	6.3	6.4
Returns above feed cost, cwt. ....	\$54	\$246	\$169	*\$24
Eggs per hen	93	96	110	119
Price received per doz. ....	\$0.27	\$0.28	\$0.22	\$0.16
Returns above feed cost per hen.....	\$1.86	\$1.78	\$1.35	\$1.24

\* Minus.

In the case of poultry, the average eggs produced per hen increased from 93 to 119, so that the income has not shown the decrease that would have come with the 1928 level of production.

In considering these figures, one should keep in mind that the farmer who co-operate in these records has much more than average ability. Furthermore, there is a tendency over a period of years for the farmers with poor earnings to drop out and for those with good earnings to farm still better so that with stable conditions as to prices and weather, the tendency would be for the average earnings of such a project to increase from year to year. Therefore the drop in earnings of average farmers would be materially greater than with this group.

A copy of the report may be had upon request.

## Establish New 3-Year Cost Route at Morris

PROFESSORS G. A. POND and G. A. Sallee, division of agricultural economics, spent a week in Stevens county early in March taking inventories on 30 farms that comprise a new cost route. The plan is to continue the project for 3 years.

This is the first time that cost studies have been made on the type of farming that prevails in the vicinity of Morris. When the work at Morris is completed, cost studies will have been conducted in all the major agricultural areas of the state.

## Rock and Nobles Cost Project Is Completed

FIELD work on the cost route in Rock and Nobles counties was completed in March, terminating a 3-year project started March 1, 1928. The object was to study costs on a farm organization on farms majoring in beef cattle and hogs.

Mimeographed publications are available giving reports as to the costs and labor requirements of field crops for 1929, 1930, and 1931. Reports on live stock costs are available for 1929 and 1930. A mimeographed report on 1931 livestock costs and feed requirements will be available in a few weeks.