

# Minnesota Extension News

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## Hinton Will Replace Pfaender In Freeborn

FREEBORN county will have a new home demonstration agent, July 1, when Miss Jessie Hinton will succeed Miss Therese Pfaender. Miss Pfaender, Freeborn agent since February, 1929, recently resigned. Her work in Freeborn county has been of the highest caliber, and the Freeborn extension committee and farm bureau board have expressed deep regret at having her leave. Miss Pfaender has not announced her future plans. Miss Hinton is from Gaston, Indiana, where she was farm born and reared. She attended high school in Indiana, but took her first 2 years of college work at the University of Idaho and the last 2 years at Purdue where she secured her degree in 1929. For 3 years she has been teaching home economics in the high school at Elmore, Faribault county, Minnesota. Prior to taking up her work in Freeborn, Miss Hinton will spend several days at University Farm, and will also spend a few days in the county with Miss Pfaender, getting used to the work there before July 1.

## Elevator Man Suggests Opportunity For Agents

DO county agents take sufficient advantage of their opportunity to work with and through local elevator managers? This query is suggested by a case brought to light by the Northwest Crop Improvement association, which recently held a 4-weeks' series of meetings for elevator managers in Minnesota and North Dakota. One live elevator manager wrote the association, commending the meeting he had attended, and expressing the belief that county agents could work with elevator managers on problems similar to those discussed. "It cannot be denied," this man wrote, "that the elevator manager comes in contact with the farmer more often and at more opportune times than the county agent does, but if the manager could pass on information and suggestions as coming direct from the county agent, it would have more and better effect. Our organization has over 300 stockholders." In view of the large opportunity thus presented to the county agent, this elevator man said he could not understand why the agent, in the county for more than 2 years, had not even been inside the elevator manager's office. To those who understand the multiplicity of the agent's duties, this might appear no more than an oversight, yet the opportunity seems too good to be overlooked.

## 1,000 Attend Achievement

More than one thousand persons from all parts of Mower county attended the Clothing Project Achievement Day at the Austin High School, April 30, according to Miss Vivian Drenckhahn, home demonstration agent, who was in charge.

## Coming Events\*

- June 2-4, 1932—4-H Leaders' Camp, Itasca Park
- June 2-4, 1932—4-H Leaders' Camp, Murray County
- June 7-10, 1932—State Junior Short Course
- June 14, 1932—Livestock Feeders' Day, Crookston
- June 16, 1932—Southwestern Minnesota Swine and Beef Tour, Worthington
- June 22, 1932—Cattle Feeders' Day
- September 3-10, 1932—Minnesota State Fair, St. Paul
- October 24-28, 1932—Annual Extension Conference
- October 26-29, 1932—American Country Life Conference
- October 31-November 3, 1932—Minnesota Junior Livestock Show, South St. Paul

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

## Check In Meeker Shows Farms Use County Agent

FOLLOWING the statement of a well known Meeker county politician that farmers of the county did not want a county agent, a check was made on the use of the extension service by Meeker county farmers during April. Here are some of the facts:

Demonstrations were given in the hot water treatment of smut in barley, 625 bushels being treated for 54 farmers. Twenty-seven men were furnished information on emergency pasture and hay crops. The docking and castrating bulletin was distributed to sheep growers. Two hundred farmers attended a countywide grasshopper organization meeting. Collinwood township was organized under the Redwood county weed plan. One million, two hundred thousand pounds of Red Cross wheat and 62,000 pounds of Red Cross flour were distributed. One hundred seventy-two office calls relative to the Red Cross relief work were taken care of. Eight new farm bureau units were in process of organization. These included the Grove City, Cosmos, Dassel, Darwin, Greenleaf, and Watkins communities. There were 717 calls at the county agent's office relative to agricultural problems. Of these 161 dealt with labor and 192 with the Federal Seed Loans. There were 78 field interviews, 211 telephone calls, and 27 farm visits. One hundred sixty individual letters were written, all pertaining to miscellaneous farm problems brought to the attention of the agent.

In addition, 6 circulars, totaling 2,785 copies, were mailed out. The county agent held 28 meetings with a total attendance of 1,387; of these 11 were 4-H club organization meetings.

The range of problems on which advice or information was requested included:

- Soils and fertilizer problems; grains, forage, pasture, and other farm crops; 4-H club organization; farm bureau organization; poultry disease; smut treating of grain; balancing of livestock rations; landscape gardening; Red Cross relief; applications for Federal Seed Loans; grasshopper control organization.

"Yes," says C. L. McNelly, district county agent leader, "it is evident that Meeker county farmers have no use for a county agent."

Seventy-five people attended a flower exchange meeting at Brainerd, toward the close of April, says County Agent E. G. Roth, who sponsored the exchange. Seeds, plants and other propagation stock were traded freely.

## Rule Affects County Extension Workers

THE attention of county extension workers is called to a rule governing 4-H club contests, adopted by directors of extension at their meeting in Chicago in November, 1931. This rule reads:

Prizes and awards should not be accepted which specify that any particular brand of material, equipment, or supplies is to be used in the project.

Director Peck brings this rule to the attention of the staff at this time because it is understood that certain manufacturers are promoting contests which require that their products be used.

## Gopher Bounty Tax Lifted

Following a discussion of pocket gopher control with J. A. Salisbury, the Kittson county commissioners discontinued the appropriation for gopher bounties. A plan is being worked out whereby a new rodent control method will be adopted, the extension agent holding demonstrations throughout the county. Township boards likewise will be asked to discontinue gopher appropriations.

## Takes 13 Records Doing 'Daily Dozen'

WHO says it's a long, hard job for specialists to prepare project publicity articles that county agents can use for the local papers?

Late one May afternoon, Miss Mary May Miller, home management specialist, hung up the talking spout on her dictaphone and called it a day. She had dictated 13 cylinders of material, comprising 12 articles covering completely the organization and progress of home management project II.

Miss Miller has used similar publicity for her project I for the last year, and has decided that such material should be a regular part of each project.

Her articles have been turned over to the publicity specialist for final revision. Henceforth they will afford county agents a complete publicity campaign on project II, relieving the agents almost entirely of the work and worry of writing about a subject with which they can be nowhere near as familiar as the specialist.

## Annual Picnic June 13, All Extensioners Asked

MONDAY, June 13, has been selected as the date for the annual Agricultural Extension picnic. The committee, consisting of J. F. Kuehn, L. A. Churchill, W. E. Morris, Amy Wessel, and Sadie Currier, have lined up an exciting program, and invite all county extension workers, who can, to join the state staff in this big event. The picnic will be held on the farm of County Agent L. O. Jacob. This is located on Highway 62, 2 miles south of Anoka.

High spots on the program will be horseshoes and archery for men and women, in the forenoon, followed by horseshoes and archery, and the diamondball game between specialists and supervisors in the afternoon. The dinner will be the usual "all-powerful" attraction. The food will be provided by the committee, but each picnicker should bring knife, fork and spoon.

Picnickers will be assessed for the dinner at the following rates: 50 cents for adults, 35 cents for children 13 and over, 25 cents for children 6 to 12, those under 6, free. Picnic reservations should be made not later than June 4. All arrangements may be made with J. F. Kuehn.

## Peters Invites Agents Cattle Feeders' Day

PROF. W. H. PETERS of the animal husbandry division, especially invites all county agents to attend the annual Cattle Feeders' Day, Wednesday, June 22. The program will consist mainly of reports on experimental work carried on at University Farm, Crookston, and Morris.

Agents who can arrange to organize parties of farmers to attend this event are encouraged to do so, as such effort in past years has proven very helpful to everyone concerned. Attendance at the program is materially increased, and farmers who come, go away pleased and grateful to the county agent for his interest in having them attend.

## Watowan Pushes Health

One hundred thirty health club members in Watowan county have already received thorough physical examinations, according to J. I. Swedberg, county agent, and Miss Josephine Seymour, club agent. The county Red Cross organization, eight physicians and the county nurse assisted in putting on this extensive health program.

Recently, four clinics were held at various points in the county. The plan is to hold another examination at the time of the county fair when health winners will be selected.

Approximately 100 Kittson county farmers were assisted during April in obtaining garden seed of approved varieties not grown before in the county, says J. A. Salisbury, county agent.

## Minnesota Extension News

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State Extension Service administrators met with all agents of the state at 10 one-day district conferences. Some very definite impressions remain in our minds from this series

### The Once Over

of round table discussions of extension problems, policies and procedure. They may be mentioned in the following order:

1. The sympathetic attitude of extension agents toward the serious plight of farm people, and a determined spirit of service to assist in every way possible to protect farm interests and to advance every type of activity that will assist farmers in this period of distress. Regardless of reduced salaries, of reduced traveling budgets, of a scarcity of help in many of the offices, and despite the activities of opposition leaders who would have the counties discontinue extension work, this spirit of service predominates to a remarkable degree.

2. The remarkable spirit of courage and faith in agriculture on the part of the county extension agents. Despite the pessimistic environment in which the agents are forced to live and work, they have maintained a courageous optimism worthy of comment. Certainly downhearted, pessimistic leaders cannot embrace opportunities to encourage farm people to meet present discouraging situations with a grim determination to carry on, to fight through and to look for the better days ahead.

3. The strides being made by the extension agents in better analyzing problems; in better organizing their projects, their subject matter, their time, and their people. They have made real progress in systematizing their work, their office organization, and their field service. To me, this is fundamental. In many respects, good organization, preceding the prosecution of a project or program, practically guarantees its success. On the other hand, lack of this organization is almost a sure factor in causing either meager results, or a practical failure.

4. The increase in the demands of rural people for various types of county extension agent activities. One outstanding illustration was the demand for federal crop production loans by many people who heretofore had no relation with the county extension work, who have not been a part of the organized educational work of the county, and who for the first time have

### Book on Handling People

Director F. W. Peck suggests the following book as one well worth reading by all extension workers: "Strategy in Handling People," by Webb & Morgan. Publishers are Boulton, Pierce & Co. of Chicago.

Agents not caring to buy this book and unable to secure it from a local library, probably could secure it from the State Library Commission, Department of Education, Old Capitol Building, St. Paul, or from the University of Minnesota Library.

### Great Interest In Gardens

Gardening fever is widespread in North St. Louis county, according to Miss Mary Jane Boyd, home demonstration agent. Following the first lesson in the project, the women were so interested and talked so much about it that enrollment increased 25 per cent. Many requests came in for organizing new groups, and great interest was shown in the adoption of recommended varieties of garden crops. The use of flats and hot beds, for starting plants at home from seed, was another feature emphasized.

had an opportunity of becoming acquainted with the agents and of participating in the extension service. Herein lies an excellent opportunity for follow-up work that the agents can capitalize upon for the advancement of the entire program of work.

5. The change in emphasis of subject matter in the county extension program. Special attention is being paid to the relation between feed supplies and the amount of livestock carried in the county; upon gardens for winter supplies of family food; upon plans to carry a meat project in home butchering, curing and preserving meat; upon a canning project for vegetables, fruits, and meats for the family; and upon economic types of information designed to lower costs of production and an effort to obtain the best prices possible for high quality products. It is in times of low prices that these changes of emphasis tend to give increased values to the extension program.

6. The interest shown by the extension agents in initiating new plans in carrying on various phases of their regular work. They are asking for new types of literature, for different methods of carrying on demonstrations, for attractive types of appeals to carry the best advertising of their projects to their people. Their minds in this regard indicate a restlessness that speaks well for improving our methods of developing plans of work and programs in the counties.

In spite of the most difficult times that farm people have ever experienced, and with not the brightest outlook for immediate changes in the price level and in the income returns to farming, this series of conferences has led us to believe that the Extension Service stands better than it ever has and that it has new opportunities for service, of which perhaps it was not fully aware heretofore. We are confident that by the highest type of co-operation among all extension agencies very valuable contributions will be rendered the cause of agriculture and homemaking during the coming year.

*F. W. Peck*

### After Walking to Work, Finds Work Is Walking

WISE crackers frequently are heard to remark about the postman who goes for a walk on his day off. Here's a better one, and it's true. Mrs. Margaret Peterson, extension file clerk, decided on Monday morning, May 2, to enjoy a bit of exercise on her way to work. She walked from the Minneapolis campus of the University to University Farm, a distance of, roughly, 5 miles. Picture her enthusiasm when she learned that Miss Muriel Clauson, mailing clerk, was unable to work that day, leaving it up to Margaret to substitute as messenger girl.

This little incident recalls a story published in the Extension News of September, 1929, when Margaret was Miss Westergard, mailing clerk. We quote: "Margaret walks 7 miles a day, carrying letters, cards, papers, dictaphone records, packages and other materials of intra-division commerce. One day the ingenious Mr. Drew had her carry a pedometer on the rounds—that's how we found out about the 7 miles. Margaret's average load is about 3.5 pounds, and that figures out 129,360 foot pounds per day, the equivalent of transporting 65 wagon-size tons a distance of one foot, or say 6.5 tons across a 10-foot room."

### Peck Writes for Review

Minnesota's farm management service was explained to extension workers throughout the United States last month by an article in the National Extension Service Review, written by Director F. W. Peck of Minnesota.

Concluding his article on "A Paid Farm Management Service," Director Peck says: "The continuance of this type of service and the success of the entire plan rests primarily upon three factors:

"First, the manner in which the project is outlined, organized, and put into operation by experienced personnel in charge.

"Second, the interpretation of the data and their translation into a form that will permit their most valuable use by the farmers who pay for the service.

"Third, the extent to which extension agencies use the results of such studies in applying the practical interpretations to farms in similar types of farming areas."

Those wishing to see this article may find it on page 72 of the May Extension Service Review.

### Weed Plan Wears Well

In Redwood county, the home of the co-operative plan of weed control now so widely used in Minnesota, the weed project is going ahead beautifully with very little attention necessary by the county agent, says Nate H. Bovee. He reports inspecting in April a 13-acre plot of leafy spurge treated by the county authorities last year, which shows a 100 per cent kill at present. The Minnesota Highway Department, co-operating with the weed program in Redwood, has seeded 17 miles of roadside to alfalfa, totaling 126 acres of this crop which is controlling weeds and beautifying the roadways.

### 15 Agents Have Served 10 Years or Longer

THE permanency of extension work as a profession is often discussed. C. L. McNelly reports the results of a recent summary of personnel records as to length of tenure of men in the service in Minnesota.

Fifteen of the present agents have been on the county agent force 10 years or more. K. A. Kirkpatrick was appointed county agent in Hennepin county October 1, 1914, 18 years ago this fall. He subsequently served 3 years as county agent in Muscatine county, Iowa, and approximately 3 years as assistant county agent leader. He had previously been on the Minnesota extension staff as specialist in horticulture.

A record for the longest continuous service in one county goes to L. O. Jacob, who entered the work in Anoka May 7, 1917, 15 years ago. Three other agents, W. E. Watson, L. E. McMillan, and William Clinch, have been in county agent work for 14 years. C. M. Kelehan and E. G. Roth have served 13 years; Lynn Sheldon 13, 5 of which were in Nebraska; Robert Freeman 12; A. H. Frick 11; F. L. Liebenstein 10, all in Mower county. Henry Werner, William Lawson, and W. A. Dickinson each has spent 10 years in the service. Dickinson having served 7 years in Iowa. R. C. Shaw completes 10 years July 1. Henry Werner is the only agent having served in four counties—Lac qui Parle, Red Lake, Waseca, and Morrison.

### Asks Druggists to Aid In Drive On Gophers

FILLMORE county druggists were given an opportunity to co-operate with S. G. Denner, county agent, on the gopher control campaign pushed in Fillmore county this spring.

Under date of May 2, Mr. Denner circularized the druggists, enclosing mimeographed copy of a newspaper advertisement used by a Winona county druggist to sell the recommended poison.

Agents desiring more information about the Winona county advertisement should refer to page 1 of the April, 1932, Minnesota Extension News.

### Home Nursing Popular

An 8-weeks' course in home nursing participated in by groups organized through the county agricultural extension service, proved to be one of the most successful women's projects ever conducted in Rock county, says C. G. Gaylor, county agent. Seven groups held 8 weekly meetings each, during March and April, making a total of 56 meetings, the average attendance being 27. The project was conducted by Miss Laura Hegstad of the Minnesota Department of Health.

### S. W. Counties Broadcasting

Cottonwood county has joined four other southwestern Minnesota counties in giving half hour agricultural extension radio programs over KSOO, Sioux Falls. One program is to be given each Saturday afternoon, so that each county will have a program once in five weeks, the station donating the time. Cottonwood's first program was given April 16. The other counties in the arrangement are Rock, Nobles, Murray, and Jackson.



### 'Big 4' In State 4-H Club Work Will Attend National Club Encampment

THE four most coveted awards for Minnesota 4-H club members—the trips to the National 4-H Club Camp—have been won this year by the following: Helen Christensen, Martin county; Lelia Steiner, West Polk; Cletus Hallquist, Goodhue, and Paul Pierson, Scott.

These four young people will represent Minnesota's 35,000 club members at Washington, D. C., June 15 to 21.

Alternates named for the awards are as follows: Ruth McFarlane, Douglas county; Evie Atwood, Carlton; Brooks Naylor, Wadena; and Harold Anderson, Nicollet.

Helen Christensen, with a 7-year record of 4-H club work, won state championship in the thrift project at the 1931 Minnesota State Fair and first on her 1931 junior leadership record. She also won the championship in room furnishing team demonstration at the 1928 State Fair, being selected as an outstanding 4-H home economics girl for a trip to the National Club Congress that year.

Lelia Steiner made an outstanding record in the poultry project in 1931 with turkeys. She won fourth on her thrift exhibit at the State Fair and was a member of the grand champion clothing demonstration team. She won first with a health demonstration at the crop show at Crookston. She has also made a splendid record in leadership work, and has a club record covering a period of 6 years.

Cletus Hallquist has been a leading dairy calf club member for 7 years and now has a herd of seven dairy cattle which he maintains in a 4-H farm family partnership with his father. In 1929 he and his team mate, Ralph Grant, won the championship with a dairy demonstration at the State Fair, later representing Minnesota at the National Dairy Exposition at St. Louis, winning third place. In 1930, Cletus and Ralph presented a championship swine demonstration at the State Fair and were given a trip to the National Club Congress.

Paul Pierson has a dairy herd of four animals, including some producing cows, built up in 6 years of club work. Last year he was the grand champion dairy calf club member at the State Fair. He is also one of Scott county's outstanding junior leaders, at present leading the Barden 4-H Hustlers Club, which has a 100 per cent completion record for 1931.

The group will leave St. Paul, Sunday, June 12, in charge of State Club Leader T. A. Erickson, who will attend the National 4-H Leaders' Conference session at Washington.

#### Bureau Presents Trees

Each organized 4-H club in Brown county has been given two trees—an American elm and a Black Hills spruce—by the Brown county farm bureau. The trees, commemorating the George Washington Bicentennial, are to be planted on permanently public property within the boundaries of the club.

lowing, depending on whether producing a market barrow or a purebred gilt:

1. Feeding pigs for market
2. Feeding pigs to be used for breeding purposes

The dairy demonstration should emphasize the use of mixed feeds and other Minnesota farm grown feeds, while the pig demonstration should emphasize middlings and other Minnesota farm grown feeds.

The best individual dairy feeding demonstrator and the best individual swine demonstrator will be given free trips to the National Club Congress at Chicago.

The Russell Miller Milling company, Minneapolis, will provide the railroad fare of the winners to the State Fair and the free trips to the National Club Congress. Each demonstrator at the State Fair will receive a 100-pound sack of Occident mixed feed, bran or middlings, as desired.

The object of these demonstrations being to encourage better feeding methods, each demonstrator is urged to present his demonstration at as many local and county events as possible. The number of public presentations will be considered in making the state awards.

The contest is handled on a district basis. See the district club agents for further details. If located in the central district, write the State Club Office.

### Grooming Contests Adaptable to Counties

THE Well-Groomed-Girl contest, to be held at the Junior Short Course this year, might be used in the counties for different occasions. For the state contest each county is allowed to enter one clothing club member. In the county, each club might select a delegate to take part. A contest for the boys might be worked out on this same plan. The following score card is to be used in the state contest:

	Per cent
Personal grooming .....	25
Care of hands, complexion and teeth taken into consideration.	
Dress .....	20
Appropriate to the occasion; appropriate to girl; color and design suitable to material; buttons, snaps, collar, etc., sewed on securely and neatly; well pressed.	
Shoes .....	20
Appropriate to costume; color and type; in good repair and well shined.	
Accessories .....	10
Suitable to occasion; suitable to costume.	
Hose .....	10
Appropriate to costume; in good repair.	
General impressions .....	15
Posture; attitude; naturalness, etc.	
Total .....	100

The girls will also be checked on general conduct during the week. Members not conducting themselves in such a way as to be a credit to themselves or to their counties will be scored in proportion to the misdemeanor.

The contest does not necessitate securing new outfits. This contest might be adaptable to a county fair, a county club camp, or even a county style revue.

### New Pig, Calf Feeding Demonstration Contest

TO stimulate interest in better feeding, dairy and pig club members will have an opportunity to take part in a new contest recently adopted as a part of the 4-H livestock program.

Boys and girls enrolled in the dairy project may work up an individual demonstration on one of the following subjects:

1. How to feed the growing dairy calf
2. Feeding the producing dairy cow

Those enrolled in pig club work may demonstrate on either of the fol-

### 20 Counties Planning Summer Club Camps

TO date, 20 counties have reported that they will hold 4-H summer camps. The counties and dates are listed below. All dates are for June, unless otherwise specified:

Steele .....	13, 14, 15
Waseca .....	16, 17, 18
Hennepin .....	13, 14, 15, 16
Morrison .....	17, 18
Koochiching .....	20, 21, 22
Beltrami .....	23, 24, 25
Houston .....	22, 23, 24
Clearwater .....	20, 21, 22
Goodhue and Dakota .....	23, 24, 25, 26
Fillmore .....	20, 21, 22
Roseau .....	22, 23, 24
St. Louis .....	28, 29, 30, (July) 1
Kanabec and Isanti .....	27, 28, 29
Scott, Nicollet, Le Sueur .....	27, 28, 29
Winona .....	(July) 12, 13, 14
Hubbard .....	(July) 19, 20, 21

In addition to the above county camps, summer camps and short courses will be held at Morris and Crookston. Morris will include the club boys and girls from all of the west central counties, and Crookston all from the northwestern counties.

A number of counties have decided to hold a one-day county-wide 4-H picnic in lieu of the club camp.

### College 4-H Club Aids

The College Gopher 4-H Club again this year is paying the railroad fare to the Junior Short Course at University Farm, for three 4-H club members who have made outstanding records and who are interested in taking an agricultural or home economics course at University Farm. This is the fourth year that the College 4-H Club has brought outstanding 4-H club members to the short course.

### Enrollments Due July 1

Blanks for reporting the 1932 4-H club enrollments have been mailed to county agents and club leaders.

The enrollments are to be made out in triplicate, one copy filed in the county office, and two forwarded to the State Club Office. These lists are due not later than July 1.

As county representation to state club events, such as the State Fair and Junior Livestock Show, is based on these enrollments, it is important that lists be completed and on time.

### New 4-H Literature

The following is a list of new 4-H bulletins and circulars prepared during the past month. These are available for extension agents and club leaders.

- 1—4-H club demonstration bulletin No. 10
- 2—State Fair premium list for 1932
- 3—4-H club initiation exercise
- 4—The fourth H, Health work, bulletin No. 16
- 5—Recreation course by Dr. Parker.

### 4-H Leaders See Uniforms

Leaders attending the southwestern Minnesota 4-H leaders' training camp at Walhalla, Murray county, June 2, 3, and 4, were met by a reception committee wearing the standard 4-H club uniform. Miss Sophia Boerboom and Miss Esther Peters, county club leaders, decided this would be a good way to acquaint leaders with the uniform.

### Reminders

1. Have you reported a dairy or general livestock judging team to the State Fair?  
The first 30 counties to qualify in each line of livestock judging may send a team. The county qualifies by sending the State Club Office an enrollment list of at least 10 active members taking part in the judging work. Only one team per county may be sent to the state contest with railroad fare paid.
2. Your complete enrollment list is due in the State Club Office not later than July 1. It is important that it be on time.
3. Are you planning a club booth at the State Fair? If so, have you made application?
4. If you are planning to send an agricultural or crops demonstration team to the State Fair, work on the demonstration should be started now. Report to the State Club Office the fact that you will enter a team.

## F. E. Balmer Writes About This and That

FRANK E. BALMER, whom Minnesota extension workers still regard as "one of their own" even though he is now director of agricultural extension at Washington State College, recently favored Harold Harris with a very fine letter from which some excerpts are given below:

"May I assure you that I very much appreciate receiving the Minnesota Extension News. I wish we might afford a similar undertaking.

"I am hearing better news these days from Minnesota, particularly as to the crop outlook. Very gratifying, too, that the Extension Service is succeeding, so that additional counties, as Stearns, are taking up the work. We are quite fortunate in these times, we think, to maintain the same organization we had a year ago; in fact, we have added two additional extension employees—a poultry assistant in one county and a district dairy agent in another.

"I have been closely tied down to duties since coming to the state. Unfortunately I haven't even taken the time to get the fish lines wet. I happened to be chosen last year to represent the Pullman Chamber of Commerce as National Councilor and as a result of this have been asked to attend the meeting of the U. S. Chamber of Commerce at San Francisco, May 17 to 20, but indications are now that duties in the state will prevent me from going.

"By the way, there are some wonderful rates to the Pacific northwest from the mid-west and the east this year. For the cost of travel, one, if interested, could hardly afford to pass up the opportunities of seeing this very wonderful region, including some of the greatest wheat farms, apple orchards, mountains and other scenic points of interest that we have in the country. You had better plan to make the journey some time during June, July, or August."

Among other things, Mr. Balmer wished to inquire about the Minnesota plan of supplying local newspapers with mats concerning the personnel of the extension service and of project activities. Washington is considering a similar step.

Frank also exhibited his characteristic thoughtfulness by sending a clipping from the New York Times, giving an account of the latest Gridiron Club celebration at Washington, D. C. Mr. Balmer sent such a report last fall, which was passed around among members of the state staff and read with great enjoyment. The same is being done with the present contribution.

### Play Contest Raises Money

Twelve of Wilkin county's 15 4-H clubs participated in a one-act play contest during April, reports Miss Charlotte Kirchner, county home demonstration agent. Three district contests were held with approximately 1,000 people attending. The county contest, at which admission charges were made, netted the 4-H fund enough money to whitewash the interior of the 4-H building at the county fair grounds. Excellent work was done by the club members in putting on their plays, Miss Kirchner says. Some of the musical numbers put on by glee clubs, bands, quartets, and soloists were unusually good, as were the readings also given as between-acts features of the contest. The Doran 4-H club won the county contest, and will represent Wilkin county at the Morris district contest.

## Check-Up In Sherburne

Forty-four township chairmen and leaders attended Sherburne county's Check-Up at Clear Lake, late in April, says Miss Eves Whitfield, clothing specialist. Some accomplishments reported were as follows: Every member helped more than two others with some part of the clothing project; all 21 groups reported the progress made to their county agent, E. C. Stower; 256 of the 272 women, or 94 per cent

of those enrolled, completed the project; the average woman made over 11 garments and 3 household articles; 3,029 garments were made; 306 machines were cleaned and put in condition; 523 women not enrolled were helped; the total number of homes reached was 795 or 47 per cent of the farm homes in the county; \$2,046.39 was saved by the 21 groups, or an average of about \$7.50 per person.

The township chairmen made plans for Clothing Project II, to begin early next fall.

# Farm Economics

Conducted by W. L. Cavert

## Prices Now And In 'The Nineties'

"BUT you should have been around in the Nineties," is the frequent remark of the old-timer when his boy or girl refers to the present low prices of farm products.

Recently the South Dakota Experiment Station published bulletin 259, "Prices Paid Producers of South Dakota Farm Products, 1890-1930." J. L. Orr, the author, compiled prices paid in the '90's from files of local papers, old farm account books, and local elevator records for corn, wheat, oats, barley, flax, hogs, cattle, and eggs.

The following table gives a comparison of the lowest South Dakota farm price for these products in the Nineties with the lowest South Dakota farm price recorded in the present depression. The recent figures are from the U. S. Monthly Crop Report.

Commodity	Lowest farm price in S. D. in the '90's		Lowest recent S. D. farm price	
	Price	Date or dates	Price	Date or dates
Corn, bu. ....	\$0.10	Dec., 1896; Jan., Feb., Mar., Apr., May, June, 1897	\$0.32	Oct. 15, 1931
Wheat, bu. ....	.38	Sept., 1897	.39	Aug. 15, 1931
Oats, bu. ....	.10	Oct., Nov., 1896; Feb., Mar., Apr., 1897	.17	June 15, July 15, 1931
Barley, bu. ....	.13	Aug., Sept., Nov., Dec., 1896; Feb., 1897	.21	June 15, July 15, 1931
Flax, bu. ....	.54	Nov., Dec., 1897	1.11	Apr. 15, 1932
Hogs, cwt. ....	2.20	June, July, Aug., Sept., 1896	3.10	Apr. 15, 1932
Cattle, cwt. ....	2.00	June, July, Aug., Sept., 1896	4.40	Apr. 15, 1932
Eggs, doz. ....	.06	July, 1896; Apr., May, June, July 1897	.08	Apr. 15, 1932

The South Dakota publication gives no data on butter prices. Hoard's Dairyman reported the top quotation at New York as 15 cents during most of June, July and August, 1897. These were probably the lowest quotations for the '90's. However, a complete search of the records was not made. The lowest top quotation in 1896 was 15½ cents in June. On May 9, 1932, the quotation for 92-score butter at New York was 19 cents, so that butter prices are close to the low point of the '90's.

The foregoing figures indicate that wheat is the only one of the commodities listed that has been approximately as low as the lowest recorded in the '90's. However, feed prices in South Dakota during the last year have been high compared with other sections, due to the crop failure in 1931. On May 4, corn for May delivery was \$0.28 at Chicago. Upon the basis of the usual differential between Chicago and the South Dakota farm price, corn would have been about \$0.10 in South Dakota. It would have been about \$0.12 in southwest Minnesota. Hogs have declined since April 15. On May 11 the average at South St. Paul was \$2.89. This would mean about \$2.00 on South Dakota farms, or substantially the same as the low point in the '90's. Wholesale prices at the present time are about 41 per cent above the level of 1896 and 1897. Farm debts and taxes are decidedly higher. Ordinarily, farm products are somewhat

lower in South Dakota than in Minnesota.

According to the Federal Census reports, the average mortgage debt of mortgaged owner-operated farms in Minnesota was \$712 in 1890, \$2,897 in 1910, \$4,419 in 1920 and \$4,734 in 1930. No mortgage debts reports were secured in the 1900 census. If one assumes that the 1900 average mortgage debt was the average of the 1890 and 1910 figure, we would have a figure of \$1,905 per farm compared with \$4,730 in 1930, or the present figure is about two and one half times as great as in 1900.

Taking into consideration the greater amount of debts, the greater tax burden, the higher standard of living to which we have become accustomed, and the discrepancy between the prices of farm products and the retail price of commodities used in the home and on the farm, it seems safe to conclude that these are the most difficult times through which the agricultural population of the central west has passed since sod-house days. Following the '90's there was the period from 1900 to 1920 that was recently described by a leading economist as the "Golden Age of Agriculture." We are making no prediction of another "Golden Age," but the boys of club age, and other young people who were not born in time to acquire a load of debt by 1929, are likely to find that farming in the future will be a business that will compare favorably with other callings.

## Does Farm Production Rise In Depressions?

RECENTLY, the writer attended a conference of agricultural leaders where the question was raised as to whether farmers, impelled by a desire to get money for fixed obligations, increase production in a depression. One view was that there is such a tendency. Another quoted data from Warren and Pearson to the effect that per capita production of food and feed crops declined during the 1920's.

The following quotation from the National City Bank letter for May as to what is happening to fertilizer sales in the cotton belt, has considerable bearing on the question as regards the cotton crop: "The peak of fertilizer use was in 1930; 29 per cent less was used in 1931 and another cut of 50 per cent is being made this year according to the tag sale to date." The foregoing figures indicate that less than 35 per cent as much fertilizer will be used on cotton as in 1929.

The U. S. Department of Agriculture report for May shows the daily production per cow for that date was 7 per cent lower than the average of the last 5 years. In parts of the Northwest, this could be explained by a shortage of farm feeds, but for the country as a whole, there has been no acute feed shortage. The number of cows was 3 or 4 per cent above the number a year previous, so that the decrease in total dairy production, as compared with a year previous, was about 4 per cent.

Farmers are reducing cash outlays wherever possible. This leads to reduced production. However, in some cases, the decreased production does not show up for several years. Large farms will employ less hired help; less purchased concentrates will be fed to hogs, cattle, and poultry; less fertilizer will be used; less use will be made of veterinarians; and buildings, fences and machinery will deteriorate. The May 1 crop report stated that in the United States, on farms of crop reporters, there were 93 hired laborers per 100 farms. This was 9 per cent less than on the corresponding date in 1931, 15 per cent less than in 1930, and 18 per cent less than on May 1, 1929. The surprising feature was that the number of family laborers on these farms has also decreased slightly. The decrease as compared with May 1, 1931, was 2 per cent, 3 per cent as compared with 1930 and 4 per cent as compared with May 1, 1929.

The writer's opinion is that, over a period of several years, there will be a marked decrease in agricultural production. On some farms with an abundance of family labor, the result will be to increase production, but this will be more than offset by decreases.

Our major difficulty is a decline in the general price level, rather than too much of any one commodity. In this connection, it is interesting that, in April, 1932, the inspected slaughter of hogs was 3,714,147 as compared with 3,488,480 in April, 1931, an increase of only 6 per cent. The corresponding slaughter for April, 1930, was 3,480,000. Yet the average South St. Paul price for April, 1932, was \$3.39 compared with \$6.92 a year previous, or a drop of 57 per cent in price. How much of a reduction in receipts would it have taken to keep the price at the April, 1931, figure of \$6.92? Or at the April, 1930, level of \$9.56?