

Minnesota Extension News

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No. 10

Wisconsin Man Lauds Redwood Weed Plan

I AM surely enthusiastic over the whole scheme," George Briggs, extension agronomist and assistant county agent leader, Wisconsin extension service, thus expressed himself to Frank J. Brown, following a visit to eight counties in southern Minnesota to study the Redwood county plan of weed control.

"The way the county commissioners and county auditors (who correspond to our county clerks here in Wisconsin) sponsor the work makes one appreciate the opportunities of the system," continued Mr. Briggs. "You men in the extension work and the State Department of Agriculture deserve a lot of credit for this set-up and the effective weed control work being accomplished."

"Our problem in Wisconsin has been to develop a weed consciousness, and this visit assures me that the Redwood plan gets people to thinking and talking weeds more than any plan I have ever known anything about."

"While there are a few basic principles involved in this plan of organization, methods of procedure differ just enough to assure me that the county agents themselves are using their own initiative successfully."

"The splendid opportunity of developing contacts, both on and off the farm, makes the system very worthwhile. Getting the people acquainted with the new weeds that might become serious, is in no way a minor side line. Traveling through this fertile area of Minnesota and seeing only small spots of weeds here and there, I can not help but think how encouraged farmers should feel that so far their patches of weeds have not united, and that by community action the weed nuisance can be mastered."

Stevens Likes Weed Plan

The discovery of small infestations of noxious weeds before great damage is done, and before the cost of eradication becomes too great, is one of the primary functions of the Redwood county plan of weed control. That this is being done in Stevens county is indicated in a recent report by F. A. Douglass, who states, that, as a result of township weed meetings, five new patches of Leafy Spurge have been discovered. A patch of Creeping Jenny was also found. The township chairmen were very much surprised to find that this noxious weed was already in the county. The survey by section men had not yet been completed.

Here's A New One

Something ought to be done about funeral processions, which recently have added themselves to the hazards of extension work. Dr. W. A. Billings, reaching his last appointment in Itasca county an hour behind schedule, explained to A. H. Frick that he had been held up by a funeral procession which prevented him from making proper speed.

Peck Placed In Charge 'U' Farm Short Courses

DEAN W. C. COFFEY announced this week that, through administrative readjustments effective July 1, F. W. Peck, director of agricultural extension, is now in complete charge of all short courses offered by the University Department of Agriculture. In preparation for this change, Director Peck has had an active part in administering the short courses for the last two years.

C. B. Smith, Extension Chief, Says Press Reaches Both Farm and Urban Homes

"THE press is one of the most effective ways of reaching both more farm homes and more farm homemakers." This is the statement of C. B. Smith, chief of the Office of Co-operative Extension Work, Washington, D.C., who spoke at the Central States Extension Conference at Lincoln, in April, on "Reaching More People Through Extension." Continuing his remarks concerning the press, Mr. Smith said:

"It is also about the only way we have of reaching the urban dweller and keeping him intelligently informed about agriculture and the farmer's problems, and we need to keep the urban man informed, for his representatives go to Congress and State legislatures and help to make laws governing agriculture."

"Farm papers, and especially the county weekly papers, are powerful agencies in helping us to reach more farm men and women with our extension message. Locals in the weekly newspapers are read and reread by every farm family. Examples of the success of local farmers or farm women, told in the weekly press, carry a sure message and such examples should be more largely reported to local papers by county agents and home demonstration agents."

"Men and women extension specialists should supply information in their fields to state farm papers. They should stimulate county agricultural and home demonstration agents to tell their story of local accomplishments in the weekly papers and show them how to report the news regarding projects in their counties if we are to reach more people. Especially is this help needed in our home economics work. The information project should be one of the strongest features of each state's extension program."

"A county agent must keep in mind that he is an agent of the public, that he is paid by the public to serve the public, and that this public is entitled to a full knowledge of what he is doing in the discharge of his responsibilities. The county newspaper, interested in and serving this same public, is entitled to a thorough understanding of extension objectives, and to a regular delineation of extension activities and accomplishments among and by its people. The county agents are responsible for providing this information to the county newspaper because it represents the public which he or she serves. The newspaper's co-operation in telling the extension story affords the county agent a means of discharging an obligation to his or her community to keep it informed of the aims and progress of this public work."

Conference Transferred

The American Country Life Conference, which was scheduled to take place at University Farm, St. Paul, next October, will not be held in Minnesota but in Morgantown, West Virginia, according to an announcement by Director Peck.

The proceedings of the last conference, held at Ithaca, N. Y., were recently issued in book form. The subject of that conference was "Rural Government."

The subject of this year's conference will be "Adult Education and Rural Life."

Coming Events*

September 3-10, 1932—Minnesota State Fair, St. Paul
October 3-8, 1932—Dairy Cattle Congress, Waterloo, Iowa
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
November 12-19, 1932—American Royal Livestock Show, Kansas City
November 26-December 3, 1932—International Livestock Exposition, Chicago

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

Itasca, Pipestone Hold Good Clothing Events

ITASCA county's clothing achievement day and Pipestone county's check-up day were two very successful clothing events, according to Miss Eves E. Whitfield, clothing specialist, who attended these meetings late in May. The Itasca achievement day was held at the North Central School, along with a community picnic. The School held an open day for all visitors, contributing building space for the achievement exhibits, program and picnic party. A talk by Director F. W. Peck was a high light of the program which depicted clothing in the early days.

Interesting facts from the project included the following: 32 per cent of Itasca's homes were reached; 96 per cent of the 303 members completed; over 50 per cent were keeping clothing records; over 5,000 new garments and more than 1,000 miscellaneous garments were made during the project; and more than 2,000 made over. On the average, each member assisted 5 other folks with clothing problems, made 17 garments or miscellaneous articles, and saved approximately \$21. The total savings for the entire group, as estimated by the members, was \$6,357.

Forty-eight leaders, township chairmen, and members of the farm bureau board attended the Pipestone check-up. County Agent E. W. Rieke discussed organization for project II, complimenting the local leaders on their splendid work during the first project. Miss Whitfield outlined the 1932 clothing project II, which will begin in the county early next fall.

Interesting facts in the county report were the following: Local leaders made a 100 per cent attendance at training meetings; 267 members helped 427 other folks; 20 communities were represented in the membership; members reported estimated savings of \$2,323; over 4,000 garments and articles were made.

Annual Picnic Was One of the Best on Record

A RARE day, even for June; a charming environment, L. O. Jacob's farm on the majestic Mississippi, not far from Anoka; a group of the best of folks, joyous in having put off for a day the tension of care and work; a diverting program, and an abundant and delectable feast—that was the 1932 Extension Division picnic. If you missed it, you really did miss something. If you were there—well, you will be thankful to have the event called to mind again.

The morning was spent as individuals chose, mostly at golf. Then a deliciously satisfying picnic lunch was spread under the trees in the picnic grove. There was no sign of absence of appetite on the part of any—the spread was too tempting even for a stoutly stubborn appetite.

Next came that classic event, the kittenball game between the supervisors and the specialists. The honors went to the supervisors by a score of 10 to 9. While the game was on, an archery contest, under the direction of J. M. Drew, ended with honors going to Bernice Gjovig, first, and Mrs. Dorothy Peterson, second.

About the time the ball game was coming to an end, dark clouds, with flashes of lightning and rumbling thunder, rolled up, and "the party broke up." But everybody had had a good time and left feeling that Jake was a wonderful host, and that the committee, which consisted of Miss Wessel, Miss Currier, and Messrs. Kuehn, Morris and Churchhill, knew picnic-making from the ground up.

TWO Ohio counties, Coshocton and Mercer, are selecting their "master plowman" every year at plowing contests, according to an item in the Ohio Extension Service News for September. Held in August, the two events brought in 40 men contestants and one woman. The contestants were carefully scored and the master plowman awarded silver loving cups.

Minnesota Extension News

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JULY, 1932

Whether or not this time of year is particularly favorable for the development of rumors affecting extension work is not definitely known, but the number of rumors that have come to our attention, of misunderstandings concerning the number of agents being employed, the loss of counties, the actions of boards of commissioners, the cost of the extension work, and many other phases of the work are more numerous than we have experienced heretofore.

Rumors

A case in point, is a rumor spread in some counties that the Redwood commissioners have failed to appropriate and that the work would be dropped in that county. The facts are that on June 7 the board unanimously appropriated for the county co-operative extension work, and passed a resolution commending the services rendered through extension activities.

Another illustration may be in point. It was reported to this office, on what seemed to be good authority, that the chairman of the county commissioners in Blank county had circulated the information that the extension work cost \$20,000 annually for that county. Instead of attempting to answer such a preposterous statement, the chairman involved was visited, and it was found that the rumor was groundless and that someone had added a 0 to the figure.

There came to the office recently a copy of a California publication which goes to all the towns in this state with more than 10,000 population. The leading article in this particular issue stated that farmers in Faribault, Minnesota, had stormed the Court House for 3 days, and the county commissioners had responded by eliminating the county agent and the county home demonstration agent. The facts, of course, are entirely to the contrary, for both the home demonstration agent and the county agent have been employed constantly, and an appropriation has been made for the coming year.

Recently one of the county agents reported that the people of a certain county had indicated their wishes regarding the county agent, and that the agent had lost overwhelmingly in the township straw balloting. The facts were again entirely on the other side, for the work was approved by a large majority in the districts that attempted to obtain the sentiment of the people relative to the continuation of the

county agent's services, and the appropriation has been granted.

During the fall and winter months, statements were constantly coming to this office to the effect that the entire county agent system was in jeopardy, that many counties were eliminating the agents, and that this was but the start of a general clean-up of services of this nature.

The facts up-to-date are that for the last 12-months' period, there has been a net loss of but one county agent in the state and one county home demonstration agent, and it has been stated that in one county in question it is quite likely the work will be reinstated before the first of January, 1933.

These and similar rumors characterize a type of propaganda that, in many instances, may prove detrimental to the best interests of the extension work. Wherever such rumors persist, they should not be violently condemned, but rather a serious effort should be made to give the people the facts in a straightforward manner, without attempting to belittle the importance of the issues or the statements made.

A thorough understanding of the situations that exist is always wholesome and worth while. Certainly none of us should be guilty of passing on rumors of any kind unless they are substantiated by what we believe to be correct evidence. It is but human to repeat news of various kinds, particularly that which relates to people. We should be very careful that we are not guilty of extending the type of rumors that tend to injure rather than to help. In every way that we can, therefore, we should nail all of these rumors and deliberate misrepresentations by facts and constructive evidence, courteously and kindly, but firmly and positively presented.

Neubauer Agent 12 Years

The Extension News offers its apologies to County Agent August Neubauer for omitting his name from a list of agents who had served 10 or more years in Minnesota county agent work. He began work at Virginia, North St. Louis county, Oct. 4, 1920.

'Frog Love' Bulletin A Myth—Secretary Hyde

THOSE who remember the recent newspaper agitation concerning the expense of publishing bulletins issued by the U. S. Department of Agriculture, may be interested in the following excerpt from a radio talk by Secretary Arthur M. Hyde. We quote from "The Smoke Screen," Minnesota department of forestry, issue of May, 1932:

"Another 'hot one' which originated on the floor of the Senate, and has spread from New York to the Golden Gate, is that merry gibe at the Department of Agriculture about a bulletin, alleged to be entitled 'The Love Life of a Bull-frog.' It was such a 'rip rarin' good one that it is a pity to spoil it. The cold facts, however, are:

"1. No bulletin of that name was ever issued by any Governmental Department.

"2. No bulletin dealing with frogs, their lives, legs, or loves, has ever been published by the Department of Agriculture.

"In spite of the fact, that the original gag isn't true, there is, nevertheless, a 'good one' in the yarn which I must let you in on.

"1. The gag was originated by Democrats to show how silly the Republicans are.

"2. The only basis for it is a bulletin entitled 'Frogs,' which was published in 1919 by the then Democratic Administration of the Department of Commerce.

"3. The Democrats not only paid the expenses of printing and circulating the bulletin, but they paid a Cornell Professor \$1,700.00 for writing the manuscript."

The Wonders of Surgery!

Science at last has revealed a physiological basis for a quality that may often have been taken for modesty, in a certain handsome, ruddy-faced, county agent leader for southern Minnesota. Tests made by the University Health Service upon this individual recently showed only 71 per cent lung capacity, due to interference with diaphragmatic undulation, or whatever it is, resulting from an operation.

County Agent Bulldozes Elk

* * * *

Believe It or Not

THREE elk, excitable and untamed, were recently acquired for the city park at Roseau. Unwilling to submit to the ignominy of captivity, one of the elk with a desperate leap for liberty, scaled the high bounds of the wire enclosure, and started on his way back to his native home in the foothills of the Sierra Nevadas.

The keeper of the park was on his job. He immediately telephoned the most famous big game hunter of the region—none other than County Agent John W. Taylor. In less than a minute, John was speeding down the road in his trusty Ford. A spectacular chase ensued. The elk was overtaken 3 miles down the road and headed across a large open field, John and his Ford in hot pursuit. The going was somewhat rough, but John was determined and the Ford proved fleetier than the elk. Whenever the elk started from the field, he was headed off. After several hours of this maneuvering, the animal showed signs of fatigue. This was John's opportunity. He leaped from the speeding Ford, grabbed the elk by the horns, and, after a desperate struggle, threw the elk to the ground. With the aid of a friend, Carl Listug, John gentled the elk and broke it to halter.

First reports were that John rode the elk back to Roseau. John says this was somewhat exaggerated. He and Carl, however, did lead the elk back to the park, where the animal, apparently broken in spirit, can be seen at any time with his two companions.—C. L. McNelly.

Add Surplus Farmers To City's Unemployed

THE solution lies in the progressive elimination of the surplus farmer, that is, the submarginal farmer on submarginal land, and in shifting the unsuccessful farmers into urban production and occupation where their income will be larger and their purchasing power correspondingly higher. Thus transferred, it will be an asset to the economic community, whereas on farms, they are liability."

The foregoing is the conclusion reached by Bernhard Ostrolenk, in recent book, entitled "The Surplus Farmer."

He suggests that governmental policies may be planned with a view to encouraging a shift from marginally high land to cities. Among the suggested possible policies is the purchasing of submarginal land for recreation and reforestation. Something also might be accomplished, he thinks, by encouraging industries to locate in rural sections.

In view of the present industrial situation, it would appear that encouragement of the cityward movement of farmers would not be welcomed by the city laborer. From the farmer's standpoint, the marginal farmer will be having a hard time of it, but any rate, he usually gets sufficient interest because of the contrast it presents to recent agitation for putting city unemployed on idle farms. While the book is dated 1932, one would guess it was written before the employment situation became high acute.

One major factor in the problem seems to have been overlooked; namely, that any material reduction of production will need to come largely from the good land. The good land produces the bulk of the crops.

Mr. Ostrolenk, from 1913 to 1914 was high school agriculturist at Canby, Minnesota. In recent years, he has been lecturer on rural finance at the University of Pennsylvania.

Tips for Local Check-Up

Miss Freda Olstad, Steele county home demonstration agent, reports an idea that proved very popular at a nutrition project group check-up meeting. A committee appointed to plan a means of summarizing the five nutrition lessons, formulated a specific question covering each lesson, giving this to a group member who led the discussion on that point. One question was: "What is one reason for not having better posture? What can be done about it?" Another dealt with home marketing and planning of meals. The result was very interesting and everyone took part in the discussion.

Another interesting stunt for such check-up meetings is reported by Miss Charlotte Kirchner, Wilkin county home demonstration agent. The Doran group in Wilkin county arranged to have the family of each member, as well as two other families invited by her, attend the check-up. One hundred fifty were present. An excellent review of the home management project was given by the members in a program of reports, readings and songs. Following was an hour devoted to stunts and another in which Miss Kirchner led the entire group in recreational activities.

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Summer Camps for 4-H Leaders Attract 180

ONE hundred eighty junior and adult 4-H leaders attended the three leader camps held May 30 to June 4 at Itasca Park, Grand Rapids and Lake Schetek.

The mornings at the camps were devoted to discussions on club organization, club meetings, club events in the communities, 4-H club membership, demonstration work in the club program, and factors in understanding the boy and girl of club age, as well as problems in working out the club program.

The afternoon sessions were devoted to the teaching of games for 4-H club meetings, picnics and camps. Special instruction was also given in swimming and life saving. For the evening programs, there was community singing and other program numbers which the leaders might use at their local 4-H club meetings, such as the 4-H club initiation, a short pageant of the dreaming song, and the candle lighting service. Several numbers were also given in recognition of the George Washington Bicentennial Celebration, one of them being in the form of a historical pantomime.

County agents attending camps presented short discussions on methods used in their counties to help solve the various problems. They also summarized the discussions at the close of the camp.

The success of the camps was proved by the fact that on the last day of each camp there was a unanimous request for a similar event next year.

4-H Music Appreciation

The music evening at the annual 4-H short course at University Farm was one of the finest 4-H programs ever given at a Minnesota 4-H event. This program suggested what 4-H clubs may do along this line.

Another program of this kind will be given at the State Fair. Counties should prepare for it. The winning members will be given recognition at the banquet.

Reminders

1. The complete lists of club enrollments were due in the State office on July first. Is yours in?
2. Bear in mind that a music contest will be held in connection with the club program at the State Fair instead of the stunt program as in previous years.
3. Have you checked to see whether purebred animals owned by your club members are registered in the club members' names?
4. If you are planning to send a livestock judging team to the State Fair, have you reported to the State Club office the names of those enrolled in the judging work? Bear in mind that only the first 30 counties in each line of judging work to qualify can be accepted. They will be accepted in the order received.
5. Records and reports on your county home economics achievement day should be sent to the State Club office as soon as you have held that event.
6. If you are planning to send an agricultural or crop demonstration team to the State Fair, be sure to notify the State Club office, giving demonstration topic.

Stress Live-At-Home

This is a good time to emphasize a "Live-at-Home" program in our 4-H clubs. The garden club members can plan a better supply of fresh and stored vegetables for the home. The canning club girls have an opportunity of saving cash for the home by providing full shelves of canned fruits, vegetables and meats. In the clothing work, the club members may make good garments from old ones and learn how to keep them in better condition.

The same plan can be followed in all projects.

Instead of spending money on movies, let the 4-H club meetings supply some of the recreation.

This is a good year to help our boys and girls appreciate home in a great many ways.

New 4-H Material

An initiation service, which may be used effectively for accepting new members into a 4-H club, has been prepared and is available.

The plan for presenting a good stunt, called "Sailing with the 4-H Fleet," at 4-H meetings, may be had on application.

A new circular giving suggestive outlines for using home economics demonstrations at club meetings is also available.

A Special Award

The Minneapolis Civic and Commerce association has provided a special prize for the club member at the 1931 State Fair, who turns in the best 4-H record in the record books presented to those who attended the banquet given by the association last year.

New Club Music

Four-H Friendship, is the newest club song written by Miss Fannie Buchanan. The music and words may be secured from the Home Publishing company, Grinnell, Iowa.

Orchestration of the Ploughing Song and Dreaming, for nine different instruments, including piano accompaniment, may be had from the National Committee on Boys' and Girls' Club Work, 360 North Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

Plans Achievement Tie-Up

St. Louis county is already at work on a plan to hold local achievement day programs over the entire county on the day of the national 4-H achievement radio program, next November.

Demonstrates Docking

Five docking and castrating demonstrations were conducted during May by E. C. Lenzmeier, Stearns county agent, 187 farmers attending. These demonstrations were part of the better lamb campaign being conducted by the Stearns county extension organization this year. At two other meetings held on this project in May, Art Bayne, sheep salesman for the Central Co-operative association, discussed the qualifications of high class, market lambs. Mr. Lenzmeier discussed control methods for stomach worms at each demonstration and meeting. Lamb grading demonstrations are being arranged for the county during August, just prior to the marketing season.

750 Attend 'U' Farm's Best Junior Short Course; Music Contest New

SEVEN hundred and fifty 4-H boys and girls attended the Junior Short Course at University Farm, June 7 to 10.

In many respects this short course was the best one ever held at University Farm. It was very noticeable that the average age of those in attendance was much higher and that a larger number of junior and adult leaders came.

The forenoon of each day was devoted to instructional work under the regular college faculty. The boys and girls were given help that will be valuable to them in making their club project work the best possible. Three hours each day were devoted to leadership training with the junior and adult leaders by encouragement.

Miss Ella Gardner of the Children's Bureau, Department of the Interior, Washington, gave the leaders instruction which will be of great help to them in planning the recreational part of their club programs.

A new feature of the program this year was the music contest held on Wednesday evening. Twenty-two counties participated. County placings in the four classes were as follows:

- (a) Vocal, three members or less—
Hubbard—vocal solo
Nicoret—vocal solo
Watsonwan—vocal solo
- (b) Chorus, four or more voices—
Lyon—mixed quartet
Freeborn—chorus of 24 voices
Houston—chorus of 10 voices
- (c) Instrumental solos—
Jackson—piano solo
Steele—harmonica solo
- (d) Orchestra—
Anoka
Ramsey

In the field meet, Thursday afternoon, Ramsey county captured first honors, Hennepin second, and Lincoln third.

The short courses held at the West Central School, Morris, and the Northwest School, Crookston, the week following, drew 681 boys and girls at Morris and 400 at Crookston. "The best ever" was the report.

LAC QUI PARLE GRAND CHAMPS AT MORRIS

SIX hundred and eighty-one boys and girls from 12 counties of West Central Minnesota took part in the annual 4-H club short course at the West Central School, at Morris, June 15 to 17. Activities included instructional work in garden, crops, livestock, poultry, and home economics projects, demonstration teams, athletic events, dramatics and music contests. All events were competitive, the grand championship plaque going to Lac Qui Parle county. Reserve championship was won by Stevens.

In the one-act play contest, Lac Qui Parle won first, Todd second, Meeker third and Renville fourth. There were 12 counties competing. Nine counties entered quartets or choruses in the music contest. Kandiyohi placed first, Lac Qui Parle second, Pope third and Todd fourth.

In the agricultural demonstration team contest, Kandiyohi won first, Pope second, Stevens third and Todd fourth. Kandiyohi made a clean sweep of the demonstration team contests by also winning first in the home economics division, with Lac Qui Parle second, Wilkin third and Todd fourth.

57 Counties Enter Well-Groomed Girls

FIFTY-SEVEN counties recommended girls to take part in the Best-Groomed-Girl Contest at the Junior Short Course. The contestants were divided into two age groups, those over 17 and those under 17. These girls were enrolled in the clothing club work or had been enrolled at some time in this project. Upon arrival, each girl was given a county sign to wear, so that the entire group would know that she was a representative taking part in this contest.

The girls were observed during the entire week. They were judged not only on the way they were dressed, but also on their general attitude. Personal grooming, shoes, hose and accessories were taken into consideration. As the girls were told at the beginning of the contest, they were judged as 4-H club girls attending a Junior Short Course. Friday morning, the final contest was held, with results as follows (girls ranking in order listed):

- Girls over 17**
 - Goodhue Shirley Emerson
 - Renville Frances Pullen
 - Houston Barbara Roverud
 - Dakota Mary Lois Grabenstein
 - Lac Qui Parle Stella Sather
 - Martin Peggy Greeley
 - Wilkin Lillian Johnson
 - Ramsey Mildred Devine
 - Douglas Margaret Sletto
 - Girls under 17**
 - Wabasha Jeanette Lehnertz
 - Fillmore Isabel Kjos
 - Nicollet June Hanson
 - Faribault Hortense Peters
 - Mower Wilma Hotson
 - Watsonwan Marcella Nelson
 - Freeborn Eva Kraay
 - West Polk Dorothy Pester
 - Winona Alice Pike
- The nine highest in each class received cash prizes and each entrant received a box of soap flakes.

State 4-H Body Elects

The annual meeting of the State 4-H Association was held Thursday of short course week. Officers for 1932-33 are: President, Barbara Malmen, Fillmore county; vice president, Barbara Roverud, Houson; secretary, Alvar Nelson, St. Louis; and treasurer, Chester Engebretson, Norman.

The following were appointed to the advisory board: A. J. Kittleson, state club staff; Clara M. Oberg, Ramsey county club agent; Sophia Boerboom, Pipestone and Rock county club agent.

This Picnic Story Has Real "Come On" Flavor

IT'S the sparkle of a diamond that makes it such an interesting gem. And it's the interest and sparkle of the following picnic story that makes it a journalistic diamond. We haven't space to quote the whole story, but it is so "dog gone good" in our opinion that we are going to set it in six-point and shoot the whole works.

Pack up your picnic lunch and meet 10,000 of your friends at Antlers Park, Lakeville, on Wednesday, June 15. This is the date of the seventeenth annual Dakota Picnic.

If it is baseball you like, or kittenball, or music, or comedy, or a tax talk by a real authority, or a horseshoe game, or golf, or dancing, or just a visit with your neighbors from far and near, or just a lazy day in the shade—whatever it is, you will find it at Antlers Park, Lakeville, on Wednesday, June 15, at the annual Dakota County Picnic. This is Dakota county's own holiday. Stores all over the county will close, business will be at a standstill. Farm work will be done the day before and the day after. Everybody will be at Antlers Park. This year more than ever will the day of recreation be enjoyed by all.

George E. Wallace, state tax commissioner, will discuss the very appropriate topic of taxes. Mr. Wallace is, without question, one of the outstanding tax authorities of this state. He knows whereof he speaks and you will be interested in his discussion.

Everybody, at least nearly everybody, loves a real baseball game. There will be one. Castle Rock and Burnsville will meet. These are two of the outstanding teams in the fast Dakota County League. Castle Rock, always a baseball hotbed, has not yet been defeated this year. Burnsville and their host of followers believe that they are capable of turning the trick. We will find out Wednesday, June 15.

The annual Rural School Graduation will be held in the pavilion at 10 a.m. The rural school pupils who have completed their eighth grade work this year will receive their diplomas on that day. This is a new feature of the Picnic and it is with pleasure that we welcome our school friends to this county day for their activity. Everyone is urged to come at 10 a.m. and help our young graduates celebrate this achievement.

Horseshoe enthusiasts will find real competition in the county tournament that will be held on the beach starting at 10 a.m. Raymond Erickson, the county champion for the past 2 years, will be on hand to give everyone a chance to dethrone him. He is now only 16 years old. His championships were won at the age of 14 and 15. Never has a county champion repeated the third consecutive time. It will be interesting to see what Oscar Christenson, Chas. Weber, Dr. Cremer, Louis Keiffer, Steve Ersfeld, Ben Oliver, Joe Molitor, J. L. Madison, Adam Schaeffer and the many other followers of the game can do about the monopoly this boy has made of the horseshoe crown.

The 4-H clubs of the county will hold a kittenball tournament starting at 10 a.m. The girls and the boys will have separate tournaments. Each team will play until eliminated. The team going through undefeated will be the county champion.

The Farmington High School Band will give a concert at noon and another after the program. Don Sampson will be on hand with his readings and his songs. Many have heard him. Those who have not should not let this opportunity pass by.

A new feature of the picnic will be the appearance of Captain Billy, the one-man band. Music, comedy, magic are some of his wares. He will keep you on edge for the day.

Golf all day. Dancing afternoon and evening to Louis Epstein and his famous orchestra.

Remember the date, June 15, all day at Antlers Park, Lakeville, a whole year before you will have another opportunity to attend the Dakota County Picnic.

Needless to explain to extension folks, the author of the above is County Agent W. E. Watson, whose writing long since won our admiration for clearness and brevity. If there is anything that good picnic publicity ought to do, it is to convince the reader that a good time awaits him and make him want to go. As an inviting opening, "Pack up your picnic lunch and meet 10,000 of your friends," certainly packs a wallop, but the real masterpiece is the second paragraph which certainly suggests a picnic "as you

like it" regardless of your individual preference for outdoor amusement.

In like manner we could wax enthusiastic about every paragraph, but suffice it to say that this yarn is "good to the last drop"—which "last drop" in our opinion is extra good.

Farm Economics

Conducted by W. L. Cavert

Agricultural Earnings In Northern Minnesota

THE earnings of 55 northern Minnesota farms, for the year ending April 1932, averaged 5 per cent on an average investment of \$10,664 and \$316 for family labor. The value of unpaid family labor was estimated at \$260. This would leave \$50 to pay for the labor and management of the operator.

On these records no depreciation was figured on cows, due to the general decline in cattle prices. If this item had been considered, the earnings would have been less. These farms were in St. Louis, Carlton, Itasca, Wadena, Hubbard, Clearwater, Beltrami, and East Polk counties. Complete data are contained in mimeographed report No. 55, of the Division of Agricultural Economics. Each farmer paid \$4 to cover the expense of summarizing his account book and preparing a report that gave each operator a chance to compare himself, item by item, with the other 55.

The operators' earnings varied from \$1,173 to minus \$1,477; that is, the operator with the lowest income lacked \$1,477 of making 5 per cent on his investment, and had nothing for his work.

In general, the farmers with the largest investment had the biggest losses. That is in line with what one would expect, as in an unfavorable situation, a large business can lose more than a small one, just as it can make more when conditions are reasonably favorable.

One of the interesting features of the report is that showing the household and family expenditures of the 55 farmers. These figures are as follows:

	Average 44 farms
Number persons (adult equivalent)	4
Household:	
Food	\$219
Fuel	12
Furnishings	7
General supplies	16
Hired help for the house	11
Electric bill or plant expense	6
Gas engine	1
Repairs and expense on dwelling	5
Total household cash expenses	\$277
Personal:	
Clothing and dry goods	73
Doctor, dentist and medicine	30
Railroad and travel expense	11
School expense	6
Reading matter, etc.	4
Church and benevolence	12
Clubs and organizations	2
Amusement	7
Life insurance, investment	84
Auto expense	55
Miscellaneous	39
Given to members of family	12
Musical instruments	13
Total personal cash expense	\$348

In addition, these families used farm produce and wood valued at \$252, and had the use of a house worth \$1,678.

The \$252 worth of farm produce included 972 quarts of milk, 427 pints of cream, 70 pounds of butter, 150

dozens of eggs, 20 chickens, about 450 pounds of meat, 33 bushels of potatoes, 14 cords of wood, and vegetables and fruit estimated to be worth \$44.

The detailed report is contained in mimeographed report No. 55 referred to above.

Southwest Cost Report Is Valuable Handbook

MIMEOGRAPHED report No. 54 of the Division of Agricultural Economics, by G. A. Salles, G. A. Pond, and R. H. Loreaux, will be a valuable handbook for extension workers in southern Minnesota. It gives data on the cost of all the principal crops and kinds of livestock in that section. The figures can be readily adjusted to current conditions, as in each case quantities of feed and hours of labor required are given.

One of the interesting features is the data on the cost of horse labor and cost of operating tractors. The following is a summary of the cost per hour of horses and tractors in 1931:

Farms not having tractors:	
Hours worked per horse per year ..	825
Cost pr hour of horse labor086
Farms having tractors:	
Hours worked per horse per year ..	753
Cost per hour of horse labor084
Hours 2-plow tractors were used yearly	364
Hours 3-plow tractors were used yearly	451
Cost of 2-plow tractors per hour ..	.60
Cost of 3-plow tractors per hour ..	.75

It is interesting that only 16 per cent of the use of 2-plow tractors was for belt work, while 58 per cent of the use of 3-plow tractors was for belt work. Doubtless, the cost of horse labor has dropped decidedly more since 1931 than have tractor costs.

Cow Testing

WHAT type of publicity on dairy herd improvement associations do the dairymen themselves like best? Some light was shed on this question by a recent questionnaire mailed to dairymen in East Polk county.

Publicity was divided into four classes:

1. Column news, to include information on purebred sires, feeding, minerals, outlook, etc.
2. High cows and five high herds.
3. Feature articles, stories of individual achievements.
4. Statistical comparisons, comparisons of association averages of current month with previous month and years.

General favor of column news was shown by the fact that 60 per cent of those replying voted for it, with statistical comparisons polling about 20 per cent. These two methods can be very successfully combined, and, to be most effective should appear in each issue of local weekly newspapers.

Publicity in the form of high cows and high herds, as generally used in many associations, was objected to by several.

Partnership Boys On Farm Management Tour

UNDER the leadership of W. D. Stegner, partnership boys of seven southwest Minnesota counties gathered, June 16, to study the methods and results of farming on beef and hog farms, as brought out in the course route conducted by the farm management division in Rock and Noble counties.

The farms of Victor Anderson, Bert Malmquist and Cox Brothers, all in Nobles county, were visited. Under the leadership of Dr. George Pond and S. B. Cleland, the pertinent facts that had been learned about farming in this area were discussed. At the first stop, Dr. Pond compared the factors governing farm profits of 1922 and 1931. At the second and third stops, Mr. Cleland discussed the important factors of livestock and crop production, respectively, in their bearing on the profits during the last 10 years.

During the noon lunch hour at the Rushmore school, an innovation in a farm tour was introduced in the form of an exciting kittenball game between the east and west counties represented.

Among the visitors on this tour were a group from South Dakota, including two county agents and three staff members from the Agricultural Extension Division. They were interested in studying, not only the farm management results, but the progress made and methods used in the partnership project.

Owing to extremely busy conditions on the farms, as a result of rains which delayed corn plowing and haying, the attendance was smaller than anticipated. About 50 made up the tour.

Extension Agents Not Exempt From Gas Tax

CO-OPERATIVE extension agents are not entitled to tax exemption on gasoline purchased for use in their automobiles. That is the opinion given Dr. C. B. Smith, assistant director of the Extension Service, Washington, D. C., by Solicitor Elton L. Marshall, June 10, 1932.

Following is the essence of Solicitor Marshall's statement, as contained in a letter from Dr. Smith to Director F. W. Peck, under date of June 16:

"From a Supreme Court decision of May 14, 1928, it is clear that the states are without authority to tax gasoline sold to the United States for its official consumption. In the instant case, it does not appear that the gasoline is being sold to the United States in that relationship covered by the rule in the above decision. Although the United States pays part of the salary of some of these agents, it is not directly concerned with the use of the automobiles while such agents are engaged in extension work. Even though such agents and collaborators work in conjunction with this Department in furthering the interest of agriculture, they are under the control and authority of state officials."

New Radio Program

A new radio program for WLB and WCCO, giving the subjects and speakers for the University Farm Hours—or half-hours—through the months of July, August, and September, will be distributed soon.