

Minnesota Extension News

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No. 1

A Few Sharp Echoes From the State Fair

RESPLENDENT almost beyond recognition, Nate Bovee spent considerable time at the State Fair introducing himself to old friends and acquaintances. Not that Nate has changed, but because he was wearing one of the natty blue uniforms of the Redwood Falls Scenic City band which furnished music during a three-day engagement at the big exposition. Mr. Bovee is manager of this classy organization, as well as its piccolo player. (Yes, he called himself just that.) It was through Nate's efforts that the Redwood band realized its ambition to secure a place on the State Fair musical program, which in appearance and performance alike, it carried off with great credit.

EXTENSION project booths at the State Fair, though they numbered only two this year, were outstanding attractions. A. H. Frick, Itasca county, competing for the second consecutive year, was awarded first on his booth on potato marketing. Second place went to Nate Bovee of Redwood county, with an unusually clever booth on the Redwood county weed control plan. Both booths were characterized by their attractiveness and pointedness.

SOMEWHAT self consciously it must be admitted, but nevertheless conspicuously, Miss Marion Hagstrom, Blue Earth county home demonstration agent, was displaying during the State Fair a brilliant assembly of jewels on the third finger of her left hand. The meaning, of course, was unmistakable, but who was the man? That fortunate individual, it transpired, was Mr. Leland J. Melrose, publicity director of the State Farm Bureau.

AN outstanding exhibit in the dairy building at the State Fair was that arranged by the Agricultural Extension Division, with C. C. Geddes in charge. Several large panels featured the story of a cow, emphasizing the importance of testing and the operation of the State-wide Cow Testing association. Visitors were greeted at the beginning of the display by a small mechanical cow with a deep bass voice, who said "hello" and carried on a very entertaining monologue of cow chatter. Behind the scenes Mr. Geddes was speaking into a microphone, with a peek-hole conveniently placed, so that he could vary his remarks according to his audience.

GETTING a big thrill out of the 4-H activities at the State Fair this year were 27 Canadian 4-H visitors from the Fort Williams district of Ontario, their trips provided by business men of Fort Williams. The delegation was in charge of A. A. Toole, agricultural representative and 4-H leader of the Fort Williams district. Mr. Toole was county agent of Nobles county, Minnesota, during 1927 and 1928.

This is the third year of 4-H club work in Ontario and the third time

Coming Events*

October 3-8, 1932—Dairy Cattle Congress, Waterloo, Iowa
October 14, 1932—Swine Feeders' Day
October 20-22, 1932—State 4-H Potato Show, Biwabik
October 31-November 3, 1932—Minnesota Junior Livestock Show, South St. Paul
November 12-19, 1932—American Royal Livestock Show, Kansas City
November 25-December 3, 1932—National 4-H Club Congress, Chicago
November 26-December 3, 1932—International Livestock Exposition, Chicago
November 28-30, 1932—Annual Meeting, Minnesota Horticultural Society, Minneapolis
December 13-16, 1932—Annual State Extension Conference
January 16-19, 1933—Annual Convention, State Farm Bureau, St. Paul
January 16-21, 1933—Farmers' and Homemakers' Week

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

Home Agents' Efforts Give Impetus To Gardening, Canning and Storing

MANY evidences of outstanding work by home demonstration agents in promoting home gardening, canning and storing of fruits and vegetables, appear in the reports for August.

St. Louis county, including both the north and south divisions, was a leader in this work. Numerous garden tours and canning demonstrations were put on by both home agents. At the various stops on these tours, the owners discussed their gardens, describing cultural methods and control of insects and diseases; the amount of food to be canned and stored from the garden, the amount already used, and their pet varieties.

Five such tours were conducted in North St. Louis county by Miss Mary Jane Boyd, and in South St. Louis county, Miss Florence M. Lang accompanied nine garden tours. Three others were held.

Great Activity In Canning

Miss Boyd reports that "everywhere, everyone is canning every available fruit and vegetable." Between June 13 and the first of September, Miss Boyd gave 28 fruit and canning demonstrations, with a total attendance of 1,747 or an average of more than 60 to a meeting. These demonstrations took up not only the cooking and canning of all kinds of vegetables and fruits, but also chicken, pork, beef and fish.

Miss Lang put on nine canning demonstrations during August alone, and she is now planning a series of meat and fish demonstrations for November and December in connection with meat cutting and curing demonstrations. Miss Lang put on exhibits at the Hibbing and Proctor fairs, featuring recommended varie-

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that a delegation has attended Minnesota's State Fair. Mr. Toole stated that although boys and girls' club work is carried on in many parts of Canada, only the Fort Williams district has the regular 4-H plan as followed in the United States. His district now has about 350 members, comprising more than 50 per cent of all eligible boys and girls.

EACH afternoon of the Fair, J. M. Drew could be found in the 4-H dairy calf department, teaching the club members how to make attractive, but inexpensive, leather halters for their animals. Mr. Drew concluded, however, that such instruction would be more useful if given at club camps. By the time club members get to the State Fair, most of them already have leather halters for their animals.

Cooperation Asked On Swine Feeders' Day

ALL extensioners, both specialists and field workers, have been requested to assist in calling the attention of Minnesota hogmen to the Swine Feeders' Day at University Farm, Friday, October 14. Several lines of experimental work will be reported on, including recent tests in feeding large amounts of buttermilk. Trials comparing dried buttermilk and tankage for hogs on dry lot, will also be reported on, as well as Record-of-Performance tests and experiments dealing with individual differences in pigs.

A carcass demonstration is planned to show the advantages of light finished hogs over the heavier kind, from the standpoint of market price. In connection with this will be a talk by C. A. Cushman, manager of Swift & Company, South St. Paul.

Other speakers will include A. R. Karr, Martin county agent, and either Dr. Andrew Boss or Dr. W. L. Cavert on the hog outlook.

Agents who can, are urged to organize parties of farmers to attend this event. Such cooperation from agents in the past has resulted not only in making Swine Feeders' Day a bigger success, but also in appreciation toward the agents on the part of farmers who have been encouraged to attend one of these worthwhile events.

Kelly Attends Cornell

The opening of the new college year will find Philip L. Kelly on the Cornell College campus at Ithaca, New York, beginning graduate studies in dairy husbandry. Mr. Kelly resigned his position at University Farm as assistant in Dairy Herd Improvement work, several weeks ago, to make preparations. During his 2 years in extension work, Phil made a host of friends, both on the campus and in the field. He was a 1930 graduate of the Minnesota College of Agriculture. He was born and raised on a dairy farm at Hudson, Wisconsin, and has assisted his father in developing a high class Jersey herd.

Tone Halvorson Raised

Word comes from the West Central School of Agriculture at Morris that Miss Tone E. Halvorson has been advanced to the head of the home economics department. She succeeds Gladys E. Hinson, who resigned last July to be married. Miss Halvorson was for several years a summer employe of the state 4-H club department, spending the balance of the year teaching at Morris.

Morris Writes Circular

W. E. Morris, extension livestock specialist, was called upon last month to prepare copy for a publication on stomach worms in sheep. The Agricultural Credit Corporation, Minneapolis, requested this discussion and will print a circular for distribution in the northwest.

A. W. Aamodt Visits

A. W. Aamodt, former W. Polk county agent, now connected with the North Dakota state department of agriculture, headquartered at Minot, spent a few days visiting at University Farm the latter part of September. Mr. Aamodt was taking his vacation and with Mrs. Aamodt and their youngest child, visited several Minnesota cities, including Crookston, Bemidji and Duluth.

Minnesota Extension News

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OCTOBER, 1932

A birthday may or may not be significant. Custom has brought the idea of celebration or commemoration.

The Extension News We Have a Birthday achievement to celebrate, unless it is the fact that it has lasted 11 years. However, if birthdays have any value, in such instances, it should provide an occasion for retrospection, introspection and possibly prospection.

The News has attempted to serve primarily as a house organ, bringing to the Extension field force those items of peculiar interest and value to those in the front line trenches. We have attempted to build good will, to provide stimulus to better and more effective Extension service in the field. It has been what the name implies, namely, a service monthly, aiming to give its readers constructive ideas and incentives for maintaining the highest type of Extension teaching.

Looking on the inside at our weaknesses is never as pleasant, though many times more profitable, as enumerating our values. Those responsible for editing the News realize the shortcomings of this publication. The editors have not had sufficient funds to produce an ideal, well illustrated magazine, of sufficient size, color, diversity, balance and completeness to suit them. The holder of the Extension purse strings has often decided against certain journalistic improvements and, in fact, has been guilty of killing "news" articles that might have made this monthly effort, at least, more readable.

The field force has not always responded with alacrity, punch and point with material for the paper. The central state staff must be literally pumped, urged and even hounded to produce essential items. This is not a confession, nor an expose of a carefully-guarded secret. These are the ordinary troubles of an editor with such a responsibility.

Now the real point is at hand—the future. We want to make the News more serviceable, more worthwhile—we desire to strengthen its influence as a morale builder—as a stimulant to bigger and better Extension results. So, on its eleventh birthday, it is asking for any and all sorts of ideas for improvement. It is your effort, my effort, everyone's effort—at all concerned with the quality and quantity of Extension work—to make the most with what we have. That fits into the trying times of 1932 and 33—"making the most of what we

have." We are going to be more economical, more jealous of quality output, more concerned with what we say—each month. And we need the help of every Extension worker.

How many of us have been impressed with the popular explanation of agriculture's present prostrate position, namely, "over-production brought about by too much efficiency"?

This is the way it runs:—The U. S. Department of Agriculture is to blame—its annual expenditures in behalf of agricultural improvement total millions—the agricultural colleges with their highly organized extension services—the county agricultural agents (most pernicious of all)—all this boys' and girls' club work—the numerous publications, bulletins, demonstrations; all teaching and practicing more efficiency, greater individual achievement, more output per unit of cost. It is perfectly clear. It is no use looking elsewhere to place the blame. There is too much education—too much cooperation—the farm surpluses and low prices for farm products prove it.

Not only do many of the rank and file of farmers believe this, but some of the so-called leaders of agriculture teach it. Recently this argument has been used by industrial leaders in their zeal to attack Governmental expenditures, but it is an appeal to unsound thinking. This is the "philosophy of inefficiency" with its implied conclusion that the less each one of us produces the more each one of us can have.

To follow out such teaching in our thinking and in our action, we should teach each farmer to produce as little as possible. Teach him to use only part of the farm, let the fertility waste away as rapidly as possible, use the poorest seed, obtain the lowest possible yields, feed the crops to the poorest quality of livestock, kill every other calf and drown part of the pig crop, work as little as possible; for the less he produces, the more he will have. *Ad absurdum*. A wonderful philosophy!

The very opposite is true in every field of human endeavor. High standards of living depend upon this truth. All the progress in our economic, social, moral and spiritual worlds has always been made by increasing efficiency in all human activities. The facts are that there has not been over-production of farm supplies as a causal factor of our present situation. Even if it were true in the classical example, wheat, one could rather support the premise that such surplus as exists was produced on marginal and submarginal land by those who are inefficient and who should not be producing at all. We cannot support the theory that the less we know and the less we do—the more abundantly and the happier we shall live. Those that believe it are following false prophets.

Frank W. Peck

Poison Bran Satisfies

Of 1,225 East Ottertail county farmers who took bran during the grasshopper season to distribute on their fields, only one has stated that he was not satisfied with the control. says John E. Grathwol, assistant county agent.

Try "Open" Meeting

Responding to the ever-present demand of members enrolled in home demonstration projects for the opportunity for direct contact with the specialist, several of the home demonstration specialists are trying out in their projects this fall, the plan of having a so-called "open meeting" for one lesson. These open meetings are held at the regular training centers, but instead of being for group leaders exclusively, they are open to all project members and the public. In this way the members receive the lesson direct from the specialist, so that local group meetings for that particular month are unnecessary. For the other four lessons, the usual procedure will be followed.

Lang Is Radio Speaker

"Home Demonstration Work in St. Louis County" was the subject of a talk given over the Superior radio station, WEBC, August 31, by Miss Florence M. Lang, South St. Louis county home demonstration agent. This talk was requested by the Duluth Chamber of Commerce, as home demonstration work is one of the agencies with which the Chamber's council of agriculture aims to cooperate.

Home Demonstration Agents Promote Canning, Storing

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ties of vegetables for St. Louis county. The booth displayed over 115 varieties of fruits and vegetables. It also included a display of the amount of fruits and vegetables required to be canned and stored, or purchased, to feed one person for 9 months.

Steele's Booth Outstanding

An unusually instructive booth was put on at the Steele county fair by Miss Freda Olstad, home demonstration agent, stressing fruit and vegetable storage. This was worked out to represent the type of storage cellar recommended for the average home, with bins around the floor filled with potatoes and root crops, and above these, shelves storing other vegetables and canned goods. Several large store boxes represented the bins, while the shelves consisted of 9-foot planks set on cement blocks. Several people since the fair have reported that they plan to adopt the identical arrangement in their own storage cellars.

Miss Vivian Drenckhahn, Mower home demonstration agent, staged a gardening and canning booth at the Mower county fair showing how to store vegetables, featuring varieties, and including a yearly canned goods budget for one person.

Helps Needy to Can

In Hennepin county, Miss Anna S. Olsen has been busy supervising the canning work at the emergency gardens sponsored by the Minneapolis Civic and Commerce association for needy families. Last year, Miss Olsen organized this canning project, setting up a canning tent near the garden plots and showing the owners how to can their surplus for winter. Jars and other facilities were donated. The work this year, she says, had been progressing most satisfactorily. More jars had been collected and the canning was being done in less time than last year. By the middle of September, over 4,500 jars had been canned, and it was expected that 5,000 would be put up by the close of the season.

In addition, much canning was done at home this year by needy families who learned to can last year. This year, Miss Olsen also assisted the women of Bloomington and Osseo communities in a canning project for relief purposes.

All three of the urban home demonstration agents have also been very active in canning demonstrations and supervision. In St. Paul, Mrs. Agnes M. Erkel planned and supervised the community canning center for the United Charities at the gardens for the unemployed, along the same line as the Minneapolis project handled by Miss Olsen. About 17,500 jars of products were canned, including all kinds of vegetables. Most of these were grown in the emergency gardens, although a large quantity of tomatoes and fruits were donated by the Market Gardeners' association, University Farm, and other donors. The last 2 days, 1,500 jars were put up.

Canning Tithing Drive

In Minneapolis, Mrs. Sylvia R. Shiras assisted with two canning projects, one of which was to supervise the canning at the emergency relief headquarters, where about 3,400 jars were canned. She also acted as advisor for the central canning committee of the Organized Unemployed, instructing the canning chairmen and giving demonstrations. These chairmen report more than 15,000 jars. The Minneapolis home committee, during August, launched something new in the way of a canning tithing campaign, with the idea of getting as many women as possible to set aside one-tenth of their home-canned products to be given to charitable organizations or to needy families. A friend of the Home Center furnished gummed labels which cooperators could use to mark jars that were to be donated. These labels carried the inscription, "Home Demonstration Friendly Service."

Miss Matilda Nelson in Duluth had made plans for a series of canning schools to be conducted in several districts where emergency garden plots were located. One meat canning demonstration, featuring chicken, was given in August and Miss Nelson was seeking to interest churches, lodges or other organizations in establishing canning kitchens and putting up canned products to be distributed to needy families in which the sponsoring organizations were especially interested. The plan was that for each organization desiring to start such a kitchen, the home demonstration agent would give a canning demonstration to a group of at least 10 women. Following the demonstration, the women attending would, by taking turns and working in groups, do what they could in helping to furnish or collect fruits and vegetables, jars, and other supplies. Each woman also would try to enlist two or three additional women, not included in the original demonstration, to help in canning. The agent would assist or supervise, furnish recipes, and provide the use of pressure cookers and cold pack canner. One such demonstration had already been scheduled for a Methodist church kitchen.

Other Agents Active

In addition to the foregoing special activities, all of the home demonstration agents, and many of the county agents as well, have devoted considerable publicity to the importance of canning and storing, to methods and to other points of vital importance in the present emergency.



Four-H Program at 1932 State Fair Was Most Complete Ever Presented

MORE complete than in any previous year, was the program of the boys' and girls' 4-H club department at the 1932 State Fair. When properly prepared, the new quarters in the grand-stand for demonstrations and exhibits have big possibilities for future events.

The new class of exhibits in livestock, that for purebred beef heifers, was very successful with 18 counties represented. The colt exhibit was 40 per cent larger than in 1931.

Sixty-nine agricultural demonstrations were given, the largest number presented any one year. The "better feeding" demonstrations by pig and dairy individuals were excellent. These were sponsored by the Russell Miller Milling company with funds and prizes. Scott and Wabasha counties won the national trips for best demonstrations.

The girls' dress revue drew more than 1,000 spectators. Faribault county was winner. All demonstrations likewise were well attended.

The music contest was an outstanding feature. Three counties—Norman, Lac qui Parle and Hennepin—sent entire 4-H bands. The music feature can well be stressed more at future 4-H events.

Forty-eight boys and girls were sent as special health contestants, a total of 98 competing, representing 55 counties. The counties not represented are missing one of the best features of the 4-H program. Champions came from Aitkin and Martin counties.

The parade, with 1,500 members and leaders in line, the candle lighting service, with 1,100 around the campfire, and the banquet given by the Minneapolis Civic and Commerce association, gave 4-H'ers ideas and inspiration. Barbara Malmen of Fillmore county and Kenneth Angstrom of Sherburne county, very worthily represented the high ideals of 4-H work, in their brief talks at the banquet.

Countywide or Local Achievement Days Fine

COUNTY achievement days have become very popular and more counties have already held, or are planning to hold, such events than ever before. In many instances, local clubs hold achievement day programs.

It is a fine idea to devote one of the regular autumn club meetings to recognizing the year's achievements. In counties with county-wide 4-H club associations, these organizations may well be used to help put on the achievement day programs.

To be worthwhile, the day's program needs to be well planned. While such an occasion is a good place to hand out premium checks and other awards won by club members at county and state club events, this feature should be very brief. There should be opportunity for reports from all clubs—short summaries of the clubs' activities and achievements, together with a statement of plans for the coming year. At local achievement day programs, reports might be given by one of the club officers or by some club member.

The members of the state 4-H staff and other leaders assisting during the week are unanimous in the opinion that no group of 4-H'ers ever attending a state event in Minnesota were more of a credit to the work than the 1,400 this year. It was a wonderful response to the following "welcome" suggestions, which, in printed form, were put in the hands of each one registering:

Be Your Own Best Exhibit

Read Carefully and Keep This

4-H club membership carries important responsibilities because 4-H club work is recognized as the most important organization of rural young people of our times.

As a representative of your club and county at this state event, it is especially important that you conduct yourself according to the fine ideals of 4-H work as expressed in the motto and pledge.

Let all your relations with the other club members, and others, be such in word and action that we may all be proud of you.

Short talks by parents on the effect of club work in the home, demonstrations by teams or individuals winning county or state recognition, and brief accounts of state trips by various club members, are other good features.

50 Will Get Trips To National 4-H Congress

FIFTY outstanding 4-H boys and girls will be selected to represent Minnesota at the National 4-H Club Congress, to be held in Chicago in connection with the International Livestock Exposition, November 25 to December 3.

As the National Dairy Show will not be held this year, Minneapolis Journal dairy calf trip winners will be sent to the Club Congress. The winners of these trips will be selected from the counties having the largest enrolment of active club members in the dairy calf project.

A county-wide 4-H leaders' club has been organized in Washington county, under the direction of County Agent A. L. Sjowall.

REMINDERS

AFTER checking up your potato and corn club members, be sure to report the best yields in each project to the state club office. The record and story of the club member should accompany the report.

THE reports for the county winners in the various national contests should be made at once to the state club office, filled out on the standard report form. The two winners in the county style dress revue, the Montgomery Ward candidate and the county winner for the Kerr contests are to be included.

THE state 4-H potato show will be held at Biwabik, October 20, 21 and 22, 1932. Every county should be represented with its best sample of 4-H potatoes. There are \$300 in cash prizes and a trip to the National Club Congress for grand champion.

THE annual meeting of the Minnesota Horticultural society takes place in Minneapolis, November 28, 29 and 30. Thirty winning 4-H gardeners and home beautification members will attend. Every county should report candidates, on or before November 1, for these trips. Send records of county winners. Final selections will be made by the state 4-H staff.

REPORT of delegates and their records for the Junior Livestock Show are due in the state office on or before October 15.

YOUR county 4-H winners in various projects are entitled to beautiful medals. Look up previous announcements and take advantage of every one. Your boys and girls need this encouragement. Send your reports to state club office before October 20.

BEGIN the new year's 4-H program now.

New 4-H Broadcasts

A new series of weekly 4-H programs are being broadcast over station WCCO, Minneapolis, from 5:15 to 5:30, Tuesday evenings. These programs, which began September 27, will be arranged to appeal directly to 4-H club members and will tell the story of the development of 4-H club work, the plan of organization, and the kind of work carried on. Interesting achievement records will be given as well as project instructions.

The joint federal-state 4-H achievement day radio program will be given from 11:30 to 12:30 (noon), November 5. Minnesota will broadcast over station KSTP, St. Paul; station WEBC, Superior, Wisconsin; and station WDAY, Fargo, North Dakota. Extension agents are asked to announce these programs locally.

Hold 4-H Pig Auction

A pig auction at which Freeborn county club members sold their fat barrows, was held at Albert Lea the last afternoon of the county fair. Eighty-two head of pigs, including a few gilts, were sold at prices ranging from \$5.50 to \$7.50 per hundred-weight. The market that day was \$4.25. A large crowd attended the sale, but only a few of the buyers were present. The county agent had bids for practically every pig, so they were sold in rapid succession.

Four Are Selected As McKerrow Scholars

FOUR boys selected for the McKerrow scholarship awards this year are Carl Hamacher, Becker, Sherburne county; Wellington Schroeder, Bemidji, Beltrami county; Cecil Berg, Caledonia, Houston county; and Melvin Kullhem, Palisade, Aitkin county.

These boys were selected because of their outstanding records over a period of years in 4-H livestock club work.

Carl Hamacher has been a 4-H club member for 8 years. In partnership with his father he has built up a fine herd of 30 head of Holsteins on their home farm.

Wellington Schroeder has had 10 years' experience as a club member. As a result of his club work he now owns a fine herd of Guernsey cattle.

Cecil Berg has 10 years' experience in 4-H club work. Cecil bought his first purebred heifer calf in 1926 and now owns a fine herd of Guernseys.

Melvin Kullhem is 20 years old and has had 6 years of club experience. His purebred Duroc Jersey gilt, bought in 1926, was the first purebred hog in his community.

Five Receive Junior Leadership Awards

TWO HUNDRED FIFTY 4-H junior leaders competed at the State Fair through their reports. The following received the highest scores and were awarded trips to the National 4-H Club Congress at Chicago: Barbara Malmen, Fillmore county; Marion Eckblad, Goodhue county; Ida Posther, Ramsey county, and Earl Carlblom, Hennepin county. Esther Erdahl, Faribault county, was also selected as an outstanding leader, but is ineligible for the Chicago trip because of trip previously awarded her.

Eight more trips to the National Congress will be awarded junior leaders. Four will be selected to represent Minnesota at the national 4-H camp at Washington. All junior leadership reports should have been sent to the state 4-H office not later than October 1, 1932.

Junior Chambers Help

In offering to provide trips to the National 4-H Club Congress for the two Minnesota health champions, the State Association of Junior Chambers of Commerce recently added its support to the 4-H movement. The association held its convention in Minneapolis about the middle of September, and invited T. A. Erickson, state 4-H leader, to sit with a committee on 4-H club work. Present at the convention was the president of the national association of junior chambers who said that 4-H club work was one of the major projects of the national association. The health champions who will receive trips this year are Earle Teeter, Martin county, and Dorothy Eiler, Aitkin county.

"Who's Who" for 4-H'ers

A "Who's Who" column for club work has been started by the Faribault County Register, Blue Earth. A. E. Engebretson and Miss Helen Kallenberg, extension agents, will supply the paper with timely information from time to time.

Trying New Ideas In Home Management

SOMETHING new in home management achievement days is being tried out in Minnesota this fall. Instead of the usual program of individual talks and stunts, the main feature is a pageant in which the two principal characters are a bride and the spirit of homemaking. During the six short scenes of the pageant, the spirit of homemaking succeeds in instilling into the bride her own ideas of effective home management.

This pageant, selected by Miss Miller and supplied to the county extension agents in charge, has been used in Morrison county and will be used in Jackson county this fall. Following the opening scene, introducing the two main characters, come scenes featuring "Mrs. Slack," "Beauty," "The Model Family," "The Creed for Homemakers," and "The Light Received." The final act is particularly impressive, taking the form of a candle service, in which all local leaders appear, wearing white robes and bearing lighted candles.

Renville county elected this year to do away with the regular achievement day altogether. Instead, 15 groups put on exhibits at the county fair, with women in each booth to explain the work. County Agent Frank Svoboda estimated that 6,000 people viewed these exhibits during the week. The Renville county fair board was so favorably impressed that it has requested the home project group to adopt this plan of county fair exhibits as a permanent feature of the extension program.

In both home management projects this fall, an attempt is being made to build up more interest and improve attendance, by a series of clever cartoon letters worked out by Miss Miller and sent out by county extension agents in advance of each lesson. Each letter carries a catchy headline and relies mainly on cartoons for its story, the wording being very brief and pointed.

Cereal Demonstrations Were Popular at Fair

VERY effective for increasing interest in the use of home grown grains as breakfast food, was a special demonstration repeated nine times during the Steele county fair, each time being put on by six home project members, leaders or older 4-H club members, under the direction of Miss Freda Olstad, home demonstration agent.

The demonstration included the washing of the cereal, cooking it in a pressure cooker, and the distribution of recipes, together with small samples of cereal served with cream and brown sugar. Approximately half of those who stopped were men, Miss Olstad said, and she estimated that about 1,000 persons stopped for a part or all of one of these demonstrations.

Atmosphere for the booth was obtained through the use of grain shocks placed in the rear corners. An illuminated moon, peering over a silhouette of trees and blue sky background, appeared underneath the caption, "The Harvest Moon Smiles On The Family Income." Posters on the walls called attention to the great saving of money through using home grown grains, and the saving of time and fuel through the use of a pressure cooker.

Duane John Chase Arrives

"They did win, and his name is Duane John," writes County Agent C. C. Chase, Clearwater county. "They" refers to Clearwater county's 4-H general livestock judges which were champions at the Minnesota State Fair, winning the trip to Chicago. "Duane John" is the new 7.5 pound boy which arrived at the Chase home, September 4, while his daddy was at the State Fair. Just before sending his judging team into the State Fair contest, Mr. Chase promised them if they won, he would name the boy for them. He kept the promise.

Miss Boerboom Honored

Miss Sophia Boerboom, who recently completed six months' work as 4-H club leader of Rock and Pipestone counties, was presented with an electric table lamp by the Rock county 4-H local leaders in appreciation of her good work in that county.

Makes 158 Home Visits

Methods used to give extra impetus to the 4-H club exhibits at the Fairbault County Fair resulted in many worthwhile contacts with parents, as well as bringing a splendid response in the number of exhibits at the county fair, says Miss Helen E. Kallenberg, home demonstration agent.

A special fair meeting was called for 4-H local leaders in the county, and an issue of the county club paper prepared, giving detailed information about 4-H club exhibits and demonstrations at the county fair. In addition, Miss Kallenberg scheduled field trips, accompanying local leaders of 4-H girls, and visited 158 homes during the last 2 weeks of August. On these visits, approximately 200 club girls were seen, and 95 of the visits were to "new" homes, that is, those not before reached by the home demonstration agent.

Farm Economics

Conducted by W. L. Cavert

Some Aspects of the Farm Outlook

BUSINESS

THE experience of the past 3 years has convinced nearly everyone that there is a decided inter-dependence between agriculture and other business. Business depends on agriculture. Agriculture depends on business.

Roughly 15 per cent of our crop acres have, during the past 10 years, been used to produce export commodities. Hence agriculture is intimately tied up with business in foreign countries, as well as with that of our own country.

Raw Materials Lowest

The general situation is that we have had a drastic decline in the general price level from about 140 per cent of the 1910-14 level in 1929, to 94 per cent in July. As has happened in other periods of declining prices, farm products and other raw materials have dropped far more than other commodities. Thus, the average U. S. price of farm products in August was 59 per cent of the 1910-14 level, compared with 94 per cent as the average of all commodities.

The general drop in prices means that debts of all kinds, whether owed by farmers or city dwellers, are exceedingly difficult to pay. Economists generally attribute the low prices to a world shortage of gold and to barriers to world trade such as tariffs, quota systems for imports, and European debts owed to the United States.

On September 10, the Annalist's index of business activity was 54.4 compared with 52.2 on August 20, a gain of 3.4 per cent from the low point. In July 1929, the index was 108, so that even though we have had a slight improvement, activity is only about 50 per cent of that in the summer of 1929.

Cotton, Wool Higher

Recently there has been some rise in certain raw materials, notably cotton and wool. However, even those prices that have risen are still at a level where they are little or nothing in the way of debt-paying power.

The probability is that there will be no sudden general recovery in commodity prices. Rather, we will gradually attain a position of fuller employment and improved purchasing power. Most economists do not expect prices to return to the 1926-29 level within the next few years. This assumes that there is to be no change in our monetary system.—W.L.C.

HOG SITUATION

THE outstanding factors in the corn-hog situation are the large corn crop and the low state of consumer demand, both in this country and in Europe. The 1932 national corn crop of 2,850,000,000 bushels (September 1 estimate) is the largest since 1925. It compares with 2,560,000,000 bushels in 1931 and the very short 1930 crop of 2,060,000,000 bushels. A favorable factor is that the national spring pig crop is 7 per cent smaller than that of 1931.

More Corn, Fewer Hogs

The size of the corn crop is of outstanding importance, because 40 per cent of the crop is fed to hogs. If the hog supply is short, that means that about all that can be done with a big corn crop is to feed the hogs on hand to heavier weights and keep a portion of it until the hog supply is increased.

Hogs Still Best Market

During most of September, No. 2 corn for December delivery at Chicago has been selling at 29 to 32 cents. This indicates that traders are expecting that No. 2 corn in southwest Minnesota will be selling at 14 to 17 cents at local elevators, with the usual discount of several cents for the higher moisture content that goes with new corn. If the anticipations of the traders should prove correct, we may expect that there will be a decided tendency to carry hogs to heavy weights and to breed more than the usual number of sows for spring farrowing. In other words, even at very low prices for hogs, they are

still likely to pay more for corn than the elevator.

In view of the situation, one may anticipate a liberal discount on heavy hogs, especially in late winter, as occurred in the winter of 1921-22, when corn was cheap enough to burn.

Those who have facilities for early farrowing probably will find that larger returns for the corn will be secured by having March pigs and forcing them for the late August and September market, than by feeding the present crop to heavy hog weights.

Those who have experienced feed shortages during the past year will realize that a good reserve of feed is highly desirable, and those who can possibly manage it, will find the present an opportune time for establishing such a reserve.—W. L. C.

DAIRY SITUATION

By W. BRUCE SILCOX

AN increase in dairy cows, and liberal supplies of hay and grains for dairy feeding, are in evidence in Minnesota and other principal dairy sections of the United States this fall.

During the past 4 years, a steady increase in the number of cows on farms in the United States has taken place. This tendency continues at the present time. During the early part of 1932, more than the usual number of heifers came into milk, while old cows and low producers were not closely culled. This has increased the dairy cow population in the United States 3.5 per cent over one year ago.

Production per Cow Less

However, a reduction in milk production per cow took place during the summer of 1932. Fall freshening is becoming more popular. With this shift, a larger number of cows were dry or nearly dry during the summer. This, together with reduced grain feeding and relatively poor pastures, reduced production of milk per cow to the lowest level on record for the summer months.

Although summer pastures have been short, the supplies of hay and other home grown feeds for winter are, for the most part, abundant in Minnesota and other dairy states.

Total factory production of dairy products during the summer of 1932 has been lighter than usual. This was reflected in higher prices for dairy products in July. Dairy markets remained steady to firm until late in August, when declines occurred. Since that time, the market has been characterized by a feeling of uneasiness.

Storage Stocks Still Low

Storage stocks of butter, September 1, were slightly larger than a year ago, but except for 1931, were the smallest since 1923.

The movement of creamery butter into consumptive channels shows considerable reduction from last year. Little improvement in the consumption of dairy products can be hoped for until more people are employed and payrolls increase. Recently, there has been some improvement in employment in textile lines, but this has been partly offset by decreases elsewhere. Any improvement in the business situation would probably be reflected rather quickly in a brisker demand for dairy products.

Although the price of butter is lower this fall than in recent years, the dairy cow still offers a better market for feed than the cash market for hay and grain.