



Minnesota Extension News

Published Monthly by the University of Minnesota, Department of Agriculture, Extension Division

Vol. XII

UNIVERSITY FARM, ST. PAUL, MINN., APRIL, 1933

No. 7

Nutrition Achievement And Child Health Days

FOUR nutrition achievement days to be held soon have been announced by Miss Inez Hobart, as follows: April 29—Rice county, at Faribault; May 4—Brown county, at New Ulm; May 13—Steele county, at Owatonna; May 17—Hennepin county, at Mission Farm, Medicine Lake. "These are red letter days in the home demonstration project," says Miss Hobart. "Visit at least one. You will be more than welcome to them all. The exhibits will be open at 10:30 and the program at 1 p.m."

At these events, visitors may learn their futures at the "fortune wheel." Program committees are arranging for talks, music and playlets showing results of the nutrition work. Exhibits will deal with comparative values of home grown foods; family food budgets; use of oats, wheat, corn and cereals; new ideas in child feeding; meals for one day that score 100 per cent; invalid, regulatory and weight controlling diets.

Though National Child Health Day comes officially on May 1, the celebrations in the counties named will be tied up with their achievement days. Mrs. Belle Osborn Fish, child development specialist, says the Child Health Day observance, set aside by Congress and dedicated to the health of children, is a worth while project for agents in other counties to cooperate in, particularly as two major home demonstration projects deal with the subject of child health. Suitable phases to emphasize, include the 4-H health project, school lunches, child nutrition and mother's nutrition and the immunization of children against diphtheria, scarlet fever and other diseases.

Clearwater Stock Judges Win Four Championships

WITH his teams capturing one national, one state, and two district championships this year, County Agent C. C. Chase of Clearwater county has set a record in the coaching of livestock judging teams that undoubtedly will stand for a long time.

Clearwater's winnings in livestock judging began at the 1932 State Fair when its judges won the 4-H club general livestock judging contest. Then this same team won the national non-collegiate general livestock judging contest at the International Livestock Exposition at Chicago, receiving nation-wide publicity and acclaim.

The next opportunity for Clearwater county judges to show their superiority was in the 4-H dairy judging contest at the Crookston Winter Shows, where Clearwater's team led by 53 points and had the high man of the contest.

To wind up the judging year, the farmers' livestock and dairy team of Clearwater county took first in the contest at North Central School and Station, March 11, at Grand Rapids. Here again Clearwater had the high man in the contest, as well as runner-up and third high individual.

Coming Events*

- May 1, 1933—National Child Health Day
- May 11-13, 1933—Editors' Short Course
- June 1—September 30, 1933—World's Fair, Chicago
- June 6-9, 1933—Northwest Junior Short Course, Crookston
- June 12-16, 1933—State Junior Short Course
- June 15-17, 1933—West Central Junior Short Course, Morris
- September 2-9, 1933—Minnesota State Fair
- October 2-8, 1933—Dairy Cattle Congress, Waterloo

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

Meat Project Interest Unusual; Over 12,000 See 328 Cutting Demonstrations

THE extension meat project, which reached 61 counties during the winter, "has undoubtedly created more interest than any put over through the agricultural extension program for some time," to use the words of H. C. Pederson, Winona county agent. There seems no lack of unanimity on this point among agents and others generally. Reports have been very enthusiastic.

In one phase of the project alone, that of meat cutting, 328 demonstrations were put on by the five specialists, including H. G. Zavoral, W. E. Morris, Philip A. Anderson, Henry Werner, and J. A. Salisbury. Attendance at these demonstrations totaled 12,396. The tabulation made by J. F. Kuehn, assistant to the director, also shows that 105,000 copies of folders on meat cutting, canning, curing, and storage had been distributed up to March 1.

Interests New People

Speaking for the specialists regarding their reaction on the meat work, W. E. Morris says: "This type of work undoubtedly has proven to be the most popular of the subject matter work put on this past season. An interesting thing, from the standpoint of extension work, is that many new people have been reached. County agents have reported having seen many people at the meetings who had never attended any other extension meetings."

"The crowds have been good as a whole, and have been made up of adults. Quite a good percentage of women have been present. I believe it is safe to say that everyone attending these meetings, judging from their attention and attitude as well as questions asked, has gotten something out of them. This applies even to what you might call excellent meat men. I have had a great many men of this type tell me that they got new ideas from the meeting, either in cutting, or in the curing end of the demonstration."

Show Pork Utilization

"One surprising thing was the lack of knowledge, in so many cases, as to where pork chops come from and how to cut them to advantage. The best use to make of various parts of the carcass has been of interest to a great many. In pork, what part to take for their sausage meat and how best to utilize the various other cuts. How long to cure and how long to smoke, and the question of storage of cured and smoked meat has been a big problem on the farm and a discussion on this was very well received in all places."

In connection with and in addition to the meat cutting demonstrations, a great deal of other educational work in meats was carried on, including newspaper publicity and circular let-

ters; meat canning and cooking demonstrations, by home demonstration agents particularly; and meat exhibits. One outstanding exhibit was the Brown county meat show in connection with the Farm Bureau Rally, February 25. Nine townships displayed 175 exhibits of home preserved meats of many kinds.

Dozens of other interesting examples of meat work might be cited. Particularly might be mentioned the large number of additional meat cutting demonstrations put on by agents. Those especially active along this line were Engebretson of Faribault county, Lenzeimer of Stearns county, Svoboda of Renville county, and others.

Searles Is Dairy Editor For The Farmer & F.S.H.

H. R. SEARLES, extension dairyman, has been appointed dairy editor of The Farmer and Farm, Stock & Home, to succeed the late Dr. C. H. Eckles. In announcing Mr. Searles' appointment, The Farmer published the following statement:

"Mr. Searles is no stranger to the great bulk of our readers. He has for some years been dairy extension specialist of the University of Minnesota and he will be remembered as the author of the series of articles on feeding dairy cattle published in The Farmer and F.S.&H. five years ago under the title of 'Feeding for Profit.' The ability displayed by Mr. Searles in the preparation of these articles definitely stamps him as an authority in the field of dairying."

"Many of our readers told us that Mr. Searles in these articles had made clear to them for the first time the fundamentals of correct feeding. Many also told us that, with the knowledge gained from these articles, they felt equipped for the first time to manage and feed their herds so that they could look forward to both pleasure and profit in the dairy business."

Home Gardening To Be Major Summer Project

UNDER the slogan "Farm First for Family Food," county extension agents, both agricultural and home demonstration, are giving a great deal of attention this year to home gardening, and the equally important subjects of home canning and storage of vegetables. A number of home demonstration agent counties will carry this work as a major project. A state plan, worked out by Miss Inez Hobart, nutrition specialist, will be followed in Blue Earth, Steele, Faribault, Hennepin, Itasca, and Rice. Wilkin county is carrying a plan of its own, while North and South St. Louis are continuing their emphasis upon fruit growing work.

Miss Gwendolyn Watts, Rice county, says the aim of the project there will be to have every farm with a garden producing enough vegetables for table use during the summer and enough more for canning and storing sufficient food to keep the family well fed during the entire year. Letters giving gardening information will be sent to each project member at frequent intervals, one month apart or less; several garden demonstrations will be held during the summer; vegetable and fruit canning demonstrations by the home demonstration agent will be given where and when requested, and information broadcast on storing root crops.

Miss Clara E. Farstad announces that Blue Earth county plans include two district meetings on gardens, one of which was held in March and the other to be held in April or May, with R. C. Rose, plant disease specialist, and H. L. Parten, entomology specialist, as speakers. There also will be a series of vegetable canning or vegetable cookery demonstrations, and either a garden tour or a vegetable storage tour.

Miss Helen E. Kallenberg, Faribault county, says the gardening and home beautification work will be combined, with both Mr. Rose and Parker O. Anderson, extension forester, speaking. The foregoing examples illustrate the general plan of attack.

Federal Workers Here

Five members of the extension staff from Washington, D. C., were at University Farm during March, for meetings or informal conferences with Minnesota extension workers. These were Miss Grace Fryinger, home demonstration supervisor for the central states, Miss Gertrude L. Warren, of the federal 4-H club staff, W. K. Williams, extension forester, Fred D. Butcher, extension entomologist, and George E. Farrell, in charge of extension work for the north central states.

Farm Building Increasing

Farm building seems to be on the increase, reports August Neubauer, county agent in North St. Louis county. At least, he says, greater use is being made of the building plans in his office.

Minnesota Extension News

Published monthly at University Farm, St. Paul, Minn., by the Agricultural Extension Service of the University of Minnesota and the United States Department of Agriculture co-operating.

WALTER C. COFFEY

Dean of the Department of Agriculture, and Director of Experiment Station

FRANK W. PECK

Director of Agricultural Extension

W. P. KIRKWOOD HAROLD HARRIS
Editors

Entered as second-class matter, October 4, 1921, at the Post-Office at St. Paul, Minnesota, under the Act of Aug. 24, 1912.

Accepted for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in section 1103, Act of Oct. 3, 1917, authorized Oct. 21, 1921.

APRIL, 1933

The Agricultural Extension Service in Minnesota faces some of its most critical problems at this time. One relates to adequate finances. Under existing conditions, this represents a difficult situation in most counties. In the past year, county appropriations have decreased 27 per cent on the average. This represents a total of approximately \$38,000.

It is to be expected that economy moves will be the general rule in State appropriations for the coming biennium. Hearings on the agricultural extension work indicate a healthy interest in this form of rural education and a constructive critical attitude as to expenditures and types of service being rendered. We are hopeful that the state support for this work will not be too drastically reduced.

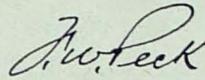
The outlook for Federal aid will depend upon the economies put into effect by the new administration, inasmuch as the regular appropriations are approximately the same as used this current year. Therefore we are expecting a reasonable reduction in the Federal funds that will be available beginning July 1.

County farm bureau collections will likely be less next year than last year. This means a curtailment in the use of such funds in connection with the expenses of extension agents. County agent salaries, on the average, are 20 per cent less than 2 years ago. Possibly there will be further adjustments. County expense allowances for maintaining the services of the agents decreased 17 per cent in the last year. Thus it is apparent that the extension service has taken its adjustment in finances in the county service and we are hopeful that more drastic reductions will not be necessary.

Another problem is the maintenance of favorable public opinion for the extension service in rural committees. There is no better nor more opportune time to set about, deliberately and consciously, to do our everyday work and so render this educational service, as to develop the favorable public opinion so much needed. This involves other problems, such as program planning and building; choices of important projects that particularly fit present economic conditions; cooperation with all agencies interested in the improvement of agriculture; constant preparation of our own staff, so as to be better-informed teachers, more successful planners, sincere cooperators and superior leaders. We need to grow

in all these directions, if we are to measure up to the challenge that faces us.

We have no idea what our responsibility may be in connection with the new farm aid program now being proposed in the National Congress. It is logical to suppose, however, that if the Secretary assumes the administration of the act, the extension services in the various states may be expected to assist in the educational phases of the plan by explaining necessary procedure to farmers who may desire to participate in the program.



Chase Baby Dies

Duane John Chase, 6-months-old son of County Agent and Mrs. C. C. Chase of Clearwater county, died March 4, following a brief illness. We extend the condolences of the entire extension group to the bereaved family. The Chases have two other children, Kenneth and Thelma.

Social Efficiency Must Go Along With Scientific Efficiency, Wallace Warns

"WHETHER he knows it or not, every farmer in the United States is farming differently today because of the scientific discoveries resulting from state and federal appropriations," said Secretary of Agriculture Henry A. Wallace, in a radio address March 22, discussing the objectives of the emergency bill to increase agricultural purchasing power. In opening his talk, Mr. Wallace referred to the "marvelous scientific accomplishments which have resulted during the past 30 years from the joint efforts of the Department of Agriculture and the experiment stations."

Continued Mr. Wallace: "The average hour of man labor and the average acre of land is undoubtedly 20 to 30 per cent more productive today because of this scientific work. From the fundamental point of view, the hundreds of millions of dollars spent by state and federal agencies during the past generation have been abundantly worth while.

"I do not need to go into many details. You are probably familiar with the fact that most of the wheats and oats grown in the United States are descended from improved varieties introduced by the United States Department of Agriculture or the experiment stations. The use of minerals and the knowledge of vitamins, and in fact nearly all of the modern knowledge of nutrition which enables one bushel of corn to go as far as two bushels did in the pioneer days, is the result of experiment station work fostered by Department of Agriculture funds. Without going deeper into this matter which is an old, old story, I wish to stab your consciousness awake with the following statement, which I trust will rattle in your mind: 'Any government which increases the efficiency of any class of people, without facing the undesirable social results which flow from that efficiency, is criminally negligent.'

"I am not one to ask for less efficiency. I want more, and know that we can get far more. But I want the efficiency to be controlled in such a way that it does more good than harm.

"I therefore throw out this challenge to the Land Grant colleges, to the experiment stations, to the Department of Agriculture, to the business men of the United States, and especially to the processors of farm products: 'Can we become as efficient in our social experimenting as we have already proven ourselves in scientific experimenting?'

"If this can be done, we can go

Ton Litters Are Now "Made In Germany"

Germany now has ton-litter contest work as a result of H. G. Zavoral's visits to that country in the interests of the Russian Soviet Government. On one occasion, Mr. Zavoral spent 6 weeks on a livestock buying trip through Germany, accompanied by Dr. Paul A. Plaas, representative of the German department of agriculture. From what Dr. Plaas learned about the ton-litter work in Minnesota, he has instituted it in Germany. Last month he sent Mr. Zavoral a German hog breeders' journal containing an account of one ton litter that attained a weight of 3,590 pounds at 180 days. Dr. Plaas has presented Mr. Zavoral with a splendid album of photographs taken on their trip.

Brevity in Publicity Especially Needed Now

WITH most newspapers short of editorial space these days, because of reduced advertising, it is more than ever necessary for extension agents to avoid wordiness in publicity articles. Inasmuch as articles briefly written are more effective, no harm is done but it behooves every agent to keep in mind the thoughts brought out in the following verses, reprinted from a little news sheet issued by the Northfield News to its correspondents:

BOIL IT DOWN

If you have a thing to say,
Say it—don't take half a day,
If your yarn has little in it,
Crowd the whole thing in a minute.

Life is short—a fleeting vapor—
Do not fill an eight-page paper
With a talk that in a pinch
Could be crowded in an inch.

Boil it down until it simmers,
Polish her until she glimmers,
If you have a thing to say,
Say it—don't take half a day.

Fame for Rice Pageant

Women organizations throughout the world may take a tip from Rice county when a new international booklet on pageantry, to be published by the liaison committee of the International Rural Women's and Homemakers' Organizations, appears. The pageant used at the Rice county clothing achievement day in May, 1931, has been sent to the committee for inclusion in this booklet. The pageant was the joint work of Miss Eva L. Blair, organization specialist, and Miss Gwendolyn A. Watts, Rice home demonstration agent. It contained five acts based on local history and is entitled, "Glimpses of Community Life in Minnesota from Early Days to the Present."

Achievement Chart Helps

Miss Helen Kallenberg, Faribault county home demonstration agent, reports that an achievement chart for the child development project has been of great interest to leaders at the training centers. This chart has listed all of the groups in the county, showing their enrollment, number of children and attendance at group meetings. It also indicates the leaders' attendance at training centers and promptness with reports. This chart has been completed to show the percentage of members finishing and the number of others helped, and will be displayed at the county child development check-up day, at Winnebago May 6.

Assists Red Cross Work

The Red Cross clothing relief cutting center at Grand Rapids has supplied over 3,800 families with ready-cut material to make up into needed garments, according to Miss Artaxa Denniston, county home demonstration agent, who with the county home chairman, co-operated with the Red Cross center in supplying patterns and checking on the rural families applying for clothing. Where the garments could not be made up by the families needing aid, the home chairman arranged for women in the communities to meet and make them.

ahead into one triumph after another in the scientific world. If it is not done, social anarchy will eventually stop our scientific progress and smash our civilization."

Yes, County Agents Are Going to the "Baa-Baas"

W. A. PETERS, Lyon county agent, is reported to have "gone Gandhi" recently, having purchased a milk goat to provide the family milk supply. Several agents had previously bought milk goats, including Harold Aase, St. Louis county 4-H club agent, Nate Bovee of Redwood Falls, and one or two others. As an illustration of the possibilities in milk goats, one of Bovee's does recently completed a record of approximately 2,500 pounds of milk in 10 months, which doesn't seem bad for a little goat weighing only a trifle over 100 pounds.

Important Radio Talk

A radio talk which farm people should know about, is the one to be given this month by Principal J. O. Christianson, University Farm, on "Minnesota's School of Agriculture, What It Means to the State." This talk will be given over KSTP for the Radio Council on Education. It is one of a series begun a short time ago with President L. D. Coffman of the University delivering the first address. Mr. Christianson's talk will be given at 5:30, Thursday, April 20. County extension agents might broadcast this information to their local farm bureau units and announce it at their meetings. Persons unable to hear the talk might be encouraged to write for copies. These might even be read at unit gatherings.

Diphtheria Protection at Low Cost by Group Plan

THAT rural children can be protected from diphtheria even in depression times has been proved in numerous communities in Minnesota where immunization clinics have recently been held, says Mrs. Belle Osborn Fish, child development specialist.

"For example," she says, "mothers in Houston county became interested in diphtheria prevention through their home demonstration meetings in child development. Each group reported the number of children who were protected at the beginning of the project and also at the end. Five hundred and forty nine children were represented by the 257 members in 20 groups. Only 12 of these 549 children had been immunized at the beginning of the project in 1931 and six more during the 6 months of this project.

"When the groups heard this report, they determined to do something about it in 1932. One clinic was held at the town of Houston, sponsored by a mother's club, which was an extension group. Two hundred and fifty children from rural communities around Houston received the two 'shots' of toxoid protection on January 28 and February 11. Dr. Canfield, the local health officer, gave his services at no cost to the parents and nearly \$100 worth of toxoid was sent from the State Board of Health. Other communities in this county are also sponsoring clinics.

"Many communities elsewhere are also sponsoring immunization clinics. These clinics are planned differently in different communities, but the results have been more than satisfactory everywhere. The toxin-antitoxin or toxoid are furnished free to the physician by the State Health Department. Occasionally the doctor donates his services, but usually there is a small charge, varying from 20 cents to one dollar a child. Clinics are held at school houses, at the doctors' offices, or at private homes. Mothers and teachers co-operate in handling the children and keeping records."

Soap-Making Live Topic

Demonstrations in soap-making at home will be given in a number of counties this spring. Brown, Hennepin, and Rice are among the home demonstration counties which have already scheduled series of such demonstrations. From each county comes the word that exceptional interest is already being shown.

Kirkpatrick Is President

K. A. Kirkpatrick, Hennepin county agent, was elected president of the Twin Cities Association of Iowa State College Alumni at a meeting last month. H. L. Harris, extension publicity specialist, was chosen St. Paul vice president. Both men have held these same offices once before.

Successful Seed Show

Itasca county's first annual seed show held in February was very successful as to entries and attendance. A. H. Larson, state seed analyst, University Farm, judged and spoke. County Agent A. H. Frick says a surprisingly large number of entries were brought in, there being 20 in the alsike class alone. Merchandise prizes were donated by Grand Rapids merchants.



The Rural Church and 4-H Club Work

MANY rural ministers have taken a great deal of interest in 4-H clubs and have encouraged the work by acting as leaders of 4-H clubs in their congregations.

The church is a common institution in rural communities in Minnesota. If the pastors of these churches more fully understood and appreciated the objectives, methods of work, and results of boys' and girls' 4-H club work, we believe the majority of them would see the value of a closer contact between church work for young people and 4-H clubs.

Practically every city church has its Boy Scout troops or Campfire Girls groups. Why not a 4-H club in every rural church?

The second H in our emblem represents Heart training. This may well include encouraging the young people in their religious activities.

The extension worker leading the 4-H boys and girls to love the rural home and all that belongs to country life, and helping them develop fine, clean recreation through their club meetings, camps and other 4-H events, can well join hands with the rural church in the development of the second H.

Wouldn't it be a good plan for us to develop this source of leadership during 1933?

National Boys' Week

All of the United States will observe a Boys' Week April 29 to May 6. Every organization interested in young people is supporting the movement. Parents, extension workers and 4-H leaders are urged to use the plan. A special program is suggested for each day, with subjects as follows: April 29, Boys' Loyalty Day; April 30, Boys' Day in Churches; May 1, Boys' Day in Industry; May 2, Boys' Day in Schools; May 3, Boys' Day in Athletics; May 4, Boys' Health Day and Evening at Home; May 5, Boys' Day in Citizenship; and May 6, Boys' Day Out-of-Doors. The week's program may be expended to include the girls as well.

A manual containing suggestions for each day's program may be had by writing S. Kendrick Guernsey, 211 West Wacker Drive, Chicago. Be sure to write for it.

Thrift Work Helping

The plan of being well dressed with very little cash expenditure is being applied by 4-H club girls more than ever, this year, by taking the thrift project and making their articles out of flour and feed sacks. Girls in St. Louis county are doing especially fine work along this line. Their leaders are demonstrating to them attractive dresses and undergarments made from flour sacks, as well as accessories suitable for room furnishing project material, such as wall hangings, lamp shades, luncheon sets, curtains and dresser scarfs. Remodeling garments to fulfill requirements in the various 4-H club projects is also encouraged. In this work, Miss Elizabeth Spriestersbach, county club agent, stresses to leaders the added importance of good technique, particularly in regard to stitching and careful pressing.

An Idea for Roll Call

Are roll calls at local club meetings made as interesting as they might be, with everyone taking part? At a Wadena county club meeting, the local junior and adult leaders had written

questions on subject matter on the projects which they were particularly emphasizing at that meeting. Answers were written on other slips of paper which were passed around to members before the meeting. Then the members answered roll call by reading questions or answers, thus giving definite subject matter information to the entire club. This is only one idea; many others can be worked out.

Unemployed Graduates Lead Local 4-H Groups

A real service to their local communities is being given by many university and teacher training graduates this year who have not been fortunate in securing positions following their graduation. During one week, one of the state club agents met six such young women attending 4-H local leader training meetings.

These girls said that they did not find enough to do at home to keep them busy and so were happy to take the responsibility of leading a 4-H club group. This gives them experience which will be valuable to them in working with boys and girls; it makes life more interesting for them; they are keeping in contact with educational developments; and they are giving their home communities benefits which they obtained in their own training.

There are very likely many such folks in communities throughout the state who will be glad to serve in similar capacities upon invitation.

Reminders

Have you sent in your enrollments in the Ton Litter Contest? June 1 is the closing date.

The State Junior Short Course will be held at University Farm, June 12, 13, 14 and 15. The one for West Central Minnesota will be held at Morris, June 15, 16 and 17, and the one for Northwestern Minnesota at Crookston, June 6, 7, 8 and 9.

Checking Projects Early Aids in Good 4-H Work

MISS ARTAXA DENNISTON, home demonstration agent in Itasca county, and Miss Peterson, the county nurse, set aside the month of March to get the health project started in their county.

They met with all of the rural clubs where a school nurse had not been employed and examined each club member as to height, weight and general health. Notations were made on the back of each member's health record as to what improvements and corrections the individual should work towards. Miss Denniston also checked on enrollments and program of each member's project work.

Miss Peterson will make another examination in July to see what improvements each member has made. The County Health association is giving a prize to the member making the greatest improvement during the 5 months. In addition to this recognition, the boy and girl receiving the highest score at the county health examination will represent Itasca county in the state health contest.

The checking of all of these projects early in the year helps in getting a good start and better work is carried on throughout the year.

National Fellowships Offered 4-H Winners

TWO \$1,000 national fellowships are provided by the Payne Fund, to be awarded to two outstanding 4-H club members who are graduates of a College of Agriculture, Forestry, and Home Economics. One boy and one girl will be selected who will spend one year in the Department of Agriculture at Washington, D. C.

Each state chooses two candidates. It is an outstanding honor to be selected as a candidate from the state for this national fellowship award. For 1933 this recognition in Minnesota has been awarded to Mary Perkins, Goodhue county, and Earle Hanson, Traverse county. These two young people have made outstanding records and will make a creditable showing in the competition.

Hurrah for Cottonwood

Ten 4-H clubs of Cottonwood county, by March 1, had made up booklets containing detailed plans for their 1933 4-H club programs. In addition to having organized, these clubs have selected their leaders and appointed committees to handle all their activities during the coming year. They have selected topics for discussion at each meeting. As a result, each member will have a definite knowledge as to what his organized club activities will be.

W. A. Dickinson, county agent, states that clubs have never been so well organized at this date in previous years. He expects these detailed organization plans to make for a considerably better program in the various communities.

Girls' Uniform Patterns

Leaders of 4-H clothing club members, interested in making the girl's club uniform, may secure patterns by writing to the Pattern Service Department, The Country Gentleman, 200 Fifth Avenue, New York City. In writing for this, ask for pattern C2507 and enclose 10 cents.

Humorous Letter, But Has a Point To It

IN these dark, depressing days, an occasional flash of humor helps to keep up the morale. For that reason, the following letter, written by A. E. Engebretson to H. L. Parten, extension entomologist, is worth reading. More particularly, it exemplifies the type of letter which shows the specialist exactly what he is being scheduled for in a particular county, a point which is being emphasized in the state as a desirable extension policy. The body of the letter follows:

"It isn't very often that the Norwegians have to consult the Swedes for advice, but since the Swedes appear to be authority on killing gophers, rats and moles, it becomes necessary for us to ask for advice along these lines.

"A woman stopped into the office the other day and asked me to write you for a definite, absolute 100 per cent method for getting rid of moles. I informed her that instead of investigating 'how far a flea could jump or how far a frog could jump' you had been carrying on some research work to find out what time of day one could see the moles travel underneath the ground, and also at what rate of speed one would have to travel with a pitchfork in order to make a successful kill.

"May I receive a reply from you, stating your suggestions as to how best to control the trouble from moles. I am quite familiar with some methods employed; however, I thought there might be some new methods developed along that line.

"One farmer in the county responded to some information sent out by Henry Field. I do not remember the name of the gas that was used, but this party seemed to be of the opinion that he obtained some satisfactory results.

"Would you be kind enough to check over your schedule and suggest to Joe Kuehn a couple of dates that you would have available for Faribault county, at which time we might put on some gopher and rat killing demonstrations?"

Frick Urges Potato Law

A. H. Frick, Itasca county agent, did considerable in February to promote the interests of the Arrowhead Potato Growers' association. He came to St. Paul to appear before the House committee on marketing to furnish information in connection with the new potato-grading bill sponsored by the Arrowhead growers' organization. He addressed the state convention of Federated Women's Clubs on the Arrowhead potato marketing program and the potato-grading legislation. An appointment to give a similar talk to the St. Paul Housewives' league was postponed from February 13 to March 13.

Locally, several potato-grading demonstrations were put on for groups of farmers and several new members joined the marketing association, Mr. Frick says.

Weeds Balk Farm Sale

Nate H. Bovee, Redwood county agent, calls attention in his February report to what he calls, "The first instance in this part of the country where the existence of weeds has proven a factor in negotiating a farm sale.

"Incongruous as it may appear," says Mr. Bovee, "the weed connection made its appearance during February. It was my pleasure to appear as an expert witness at a weed trial at Olivia where one good farmer sued

for recovery of some \$5,700 on a farm purchased with the understanding that it was free of noxious weeds. Having purchased the farm and moved on it, he discovered he had unwittingly acquired some considerable acreage of leafy spurge. In spite of all he could do, the weeds threatened to get the best of him. Naturally this man felt he was now in a position to demand a return of his money. The trial proved that his method of thinking was sound and, of course, decided the case in his favor."

Finish 4-H Work Early

Rice county this year plans to have all home economics project work completed one month ahead of time, so that all records will be in the extension office in July. Then August will be taken for the careful planning of 4-H club exhibits at the club fair, of excellent tours and of the coming year's program. This arrangement seems to be received with a great deal of favor, says Miss Gwendolyn A. Watts, county home demonstration agent.

Poultry Plan Popular

That the poultry sanitation project, conducted with the help of Miss Cora Cooke, poultry specialist, stood the test in Rice county last year is indicated by the February report of Miss Gwendolyn A. Watts, home demonstration agent. Enrollments for this year's project are coming in far in excess of what they did last year. This plan, Miss Watts says, very definitely results in having pullets laying in the fall and early winter when egg prices are highest and greatly reduces the death loss of baby chicks. This loss in Rice county last year was cut down below 10 per cent. Records in 13 flocks last year showed a net profit of \$1,600 by October 1.

Film on Curing Pork

"Curing Pork on the Farm" is a new film strip of 27 frames obtainable at 21 cents a copy from Dewey and Dewey, 5716 Thirty-fifth Avenue, Kenosha, Wisconsin, upon authorization by the United States Department of Agriculture. Lecture notes will be supplied upon request.

Farm Economics

Conducted by W. L. Cavert

Interesting Price Comparisons From Southeast Minnesota Farm Records

FARM records have been kept continuously in southeast Minnesota, in cooperation with the Division of Agricultural Economics, University of Minnesota, and the U. S. Department of Agriculture, for the years 1928 to 1932, inclusive, on 124 to 180 farms per year.

The following are interesting comparisons for the 5-year period:

	1928	1929	1930	1931	1932
Prices received:					
Butterfat, lb.	\$0.53	\$0.50	\$0.40	\$0.29	\$0.22
Hogs, cwt.	8.23	9.60	8.94	5.33	3.18
Wool, lb. ....	.42	.30	.18	.13	.08
Eggs, doz. ....	.27	.28	.22	.16	.13
Feed costs:					
Per cow	\$70.85	\$68.16	\$61.38	\$53.98	\$41.46
Per cwt. gain on hogs	7.98	7.34	6.32	4.03	3.14
Per horse	57.11	53.07	43.21	36.74	28.44
Prices at which important feeds were charged:					
Shelled corn, bu.	\$0.66	\$0.73	\$0.64	\$0.46	\$0.36
Barley, bu. ....	.67	.52	.42	.37	.29
Oats, lb. ....	.49	.40	.31	.24	.19
Alfalfa, ton	15.00	14.50	13.09	13.00	10.00
Returns above feed cost:					
Per cow	\$77.43	\$75.56	\$45.17	\$21.54	\$17.78
Per cwt. of pork ....	.54	2.46	1.69	Loss -.24	Loss -.56

A glance at the foregoing comparisons reveals in striking manner the extent of the change in the price situation as it affects some leading products.

Education as a Success Factor in Farming

THE table below presents the comparative earnings of 264 farmers in 1928 in Livingston county, New York, ranked according to their schooling. It is cited from "An Economic Study of Agriculture in Northern Livingston County, New York," Cornell University, Agricultural Experiment Station, Bulletin 539; Warren, Stanley Whitson, May, 1932.

Schooling	No. in Group	Labor Income*
Attended common school	135	\$380
Attended common school and also a business school or non-agricultural college	16	72
Attended high school, normal school, seminary or academy	96	958
Attended Cornell winter short courses, state agricultural schools, or agricultural college	17	1,219

* Earnings above 5 per cent on the investment and business expenses.

Only farmers under 50 years of age were included in the study.

The author concludes that one of the factors in the greater success of the agricultural-trained group was their greater ability to adapt themselves to changed conditions. For example, the college for some years has been emphasizing the superior advantages of alfalfa as compared with other hay crops for this area. The men with agricultural college training had 66 per cent of their hay crop in alfalfa as compared with 49 per cent for the high school group, 46 per cent for the business school and agricultural college group, and 38 per cent for the common school group.

Apparently a good education is one of the safest investments a farmer can make.

How Much Does It Cost A Farm Family To Live?

DATA on farm products used by farm families are an interesting feature of the farm account records kept in southeast Minnesota for 1932. The figures are as follows:

Whole milk, 1,333 quarts	\$25.44
Skim milk, 175 quarts	3.38
Cream, 313 pints	20.30
Farm-made butter, 10 lbs.	2.18
Eggs, 192 doz.	22.83
Poultry, 46 head	14.54
Beef and Veal, 349 lbs. (live basis)	12.00
Hogs, 761 lbs. (live basis)	22.00
Mutton, 10 lbs. (live basis)	3.30
Potatoes, 34 bu.	10.30
Vegetables and fruit	31.70
Wood, 8 cords	35.48
Total	\$197.60

The foregoing data are the averages for 143 families. In the group are 8 farm families for which a record of household and family expenditures are available. The figures are as follows:

Food	\$201.22
Operating expenses and supplies	72.14
Furnishings and equipment	16.33
Clothing and materials	87.96
Doctors, dentists, hospitals	33.26
Development, schools, and recreation	72.19
Life insurance and other investments outside of the farm	87.67
Family share of auto expenses	78.20
Repairs to dwelling	5.08
Other personal items	38.78
Total	\$692.85

The average size of family was the equivalent of 4.2 adults.

The co-operators in farm records are probably much more prosperous than the average southeast Minnesota farmer. Therefore it is likely that their living expenses are decidedly above the average. The average charge for interest at 5 per cent and depreciation on the farm dwelling was \$138.83.

The foregoing information was gleaned from the annual report of the Farm Management Service in southeast Minnesota for 1932 by W. P. Ranney and G. A. Pond.

Question Is, "Are We On the Gold Standard?"

A country is unreservedly on the gold standard when it stands willing either to buy or to sell gold freely. Since 1834, the gold dollar has contained 23.22 grains. As there are 480 grains in a fine ounce, each ounce will make 20.67 dollars (480 ÷ 23.22 = 20.67). Hence gold is worth \$20.67 per ounce. As long as we were unreservedly on the gold standard, the government was ready to buy at this figure, or to redeem paper money in gold at that figure. It is still ready to buy gold, but refuses to redeem paper money in gold, or to permit the export of gold.

One of the major objections to reducing the gold content of the dollar has been the fact that an active discussion of the matter in Congress with the prospect that such a measure would be enacted, would encourage people to convert their bank deposits into gold. Then, when the gold content of the dollar had been reduced, they would be able to exchange each gold dollar of the old issue for \$1.45 of the new currency.

There is some disagreement among economists as to how much and how quickly reducing the gold content of the dollar would raise prices. All will agree that now we are free to discuss the proposal on its merits, without considering the possibility that such agitation will get us off the gold standard.