

THE VISITOR

Devoted to the Interests of Agricultural Education in Minnesota Schools

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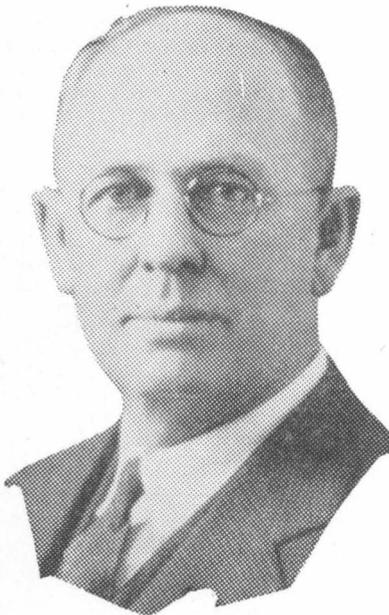
NOVEMBER, 1930

No. 3

GREETINGS FROM DEAN W. C. COFFEY

BRAINS VERSUS BRAWN

Fifty years ago a boy would have been wholly misunderstood if he had engaged in schooling beyond the eighth grade for the purpose of becoming a farmer. In those days it was thought that man was fully equipped to farm if his back was strong and his hands were powerful. The bright boy was sent away from home to be educated for some profession, while the less gifted, plodding lad was frequently kept at home to till the soil.



Dr. W. C. Coffey, Dean Department of Agriculture, University of Minnesota

This was not true in every instance of course because it was simply impossible to send away all of the bright boys and that was particularly fortunate for agriculture. There was, however, the idea that the dull witted boy, if he was healthy

and strong, had as good a chance as anyone else to develop into a successful farmer.

Now all of that is changed. In our modern complex conditions we realize that it takes brain as well as brawn to farm and, in fact, more brain than brawn. The modern farmer must be both a scientist and an economist. He must work of course, but he must also know about the supply and the demand relative to the products he grows; he must handle capital and direct labor; he has no hope of success unless he is competent in managing the entire farm enterprise. In other words, he must use his head.

Two years ago I heard a woman say a most significant thing. It was, "My husband has worked more with his head during this past year than ever before." That truly is the point. The modern farmer must work with his head—*hands* alone will not suffice.

Therefore, you who are interested in establishing yourselves on the land, are to be congratulated in that you have turned to a course in agriculture in your high school. I see no reason why your study in agriculture should not be as fruitful as your study in any other field relative to the gaining of knowledge that will be useful to you no matter what lines of work you might later take up. By this I mean that a study of the structure and behavior of the corn plant should be just as valuable as a problem for study in botany as would be the case should the structure and behavior of a wild flower be studied. It would also seem to me that an essay on wheat should yield as much value to you in your study of language as an essay on wild ducks or wild rice. In other words, you have the opportunity, because you are interested in agriculture, of improving your mind, of advancing your education in general and at the same time gathering specific information which should be of untold value to you when you go back to the land.

Since I am thoroughly convinced that what I have said above is true, I think you are most fortunate in having selected an agricultural course for your high school work.

W. C. COFFEY, Dean
Department of Agriculture.

THE VISITOR

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THE STAFF

A. V. STORM A. M. FIELD
V. E. NYLIN

FUTURE FARMERS OF AMERICA



F. F. A. Activities at Swanville

The Swanville F. F. A. chapter played an important part in the Community Fair which was held the 19th and 20th of September. The members took entire charge of entries, and had charge of the care and management of the livestock and poultry exhibits. As entries in livestock are open only to 4-H Club members the F. F. A. boys had the opportunity of acting as big brothers to the beginners.

In addition to making themselves generally useful the boys planned and decorated a booth. It was thought best to make the booth of an educational nature as well as pleasing to the eye. So Dairy Feeding and Testing, topics of general interest in the community, were selected and developed with the aid of charts, pictures and display material.

To secure a little publicity for the chapter the boys used the design of the F. F. A. emblem and worked it up into a plaque two feet square. This was entirely covered with grains of various colors which brought out the design in a striking manner.

A corn show and judging contest was held on the 20th of October. All corn growers of the vicinity were invited to enter samples and to participate in the judging. The business men of the town cooperated by liberally donating prizes to stimulate interest. A film showing approved methods of corn growing was a feature of the evening program.

As another form of community service the Chapter, with the cooperation of the local creamery, has offered to test the herds of a limited number of patrons not belonging to testing associations. Each boy is already testing a herd for farm practice work so this is a voluntary contribution toward community herd improvement.

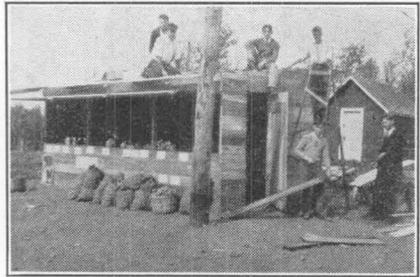
Looking a bit farther into the future we find the Chapter planning a father, mother and son banquet as the big event of the winter.

NATIONAL PUBLIC SPEAKING CONTEST

The National Future Farmers of America Public Speaking Contest to be held at Kansas City, November 17, will be broadcast over the Columbia Broadcasting Chain during the hour 10:00 to 11:00 p. m., Central time.

WE SELL 'EM

Esko's Corner (Special to Visitor).—Tomatoes, potatoes, onions, carrots, beets, rutabagas, cabbage, kohlrabi, squash, pumpkin, lettuce, honey, also eggs and dressed chicken are on sale by the Future Farmers Association and the 4-H Clubs of the Town of Thomson at a roadside stand on highway No. 1 at Esko's Corner. The aim is to see products produced by the boys at a price fair to both consumer and producer. The venture is a



The Vocational Agriculture Boys Built Their Own Roadside Stand

lesson in roadside marketing for the agriculture classes of the local Lincoln high school. L. I. Knuti, vocational agriculture instructor, is in charge. A roadside stand 10 by 16 was constructed by members of the agriculture classes in the school farm shop and is equipped with electric lights, thereby enabling the boys to take advantage of evening trade. The Future Farmers and 4-H club members operating the stand are keeping accurate record of all receipts, purchases, and sales in order to determine whether the stand is profitable. As high as \$46 has been taken in in a single day, the average daily business is set at \$20. A boy employed as full time clerk receives \$1 a day. The outstanding feature of the stand's business was an order received for 1,000 bushels of potatoes. Plans are under way to fill the order with quality produce. As many as 20 chickens, fifteen dozen eggs and 30 bushels of potatoes have been sold in one day. A Duluth purchaser buying 87 bushels of potatoes reported resale at a profit. Signs have been made including the Future Farmers emblem. These signs are erected 300 feet from the stand with smaller follow-up signs leading to them such as "Farm Crops" "Sold By" "Farm Boys" "And Future Farmers."

Next year local farmers plan to plant a variety of truck garden products to sell by this direct method. This is the only stand within 100 miles of Duluth on a busy highway where an average of 5,000 cars pass a day.

ST. PETER CHAPTER ACTIVE

The local chapter of the F. F. A., St. Peter, Minnesota, has held their regular bi-monthly meeting during the fall and plans have been made for an active season. New officers have been elected and twelve new members have been elected and initiated. The program of activities for the chapter includes a parents' night in the form of a banquet and program. The boys put on a wonderful display during the recent Diamond Jubilee held in St. Peter. The parade which the boys planned and put through was one of the leading features of interest. The parade was made up to present a historical history of the St. Peter community. The complete pageant had seventy people, twenty-five horses, three wagons, one cart, one buggy, one surrey, one ford, three tractors, eight trucks, and two cows. Thirty-two steps in agricultural progress were depicted by the boys in their historical pageant. In addition to the serious part of the parade ample

attention was given to the clowns and other merrymakers.

The preparations for this feature of the Diamond Jubilee took much planning and many hours of hard work, but the complete success of the activity abundantly rewarded the boys.

F. F. A. INSIGNIA

A cut of the insignia for the F. F. A. may be secured from the Central Publishing Co., 1536 E. Broad St., Richmond, Va. The price is \$1.80. Each chapter should have one for use in the local paper.

DID YOU KNOW THAT

A cow does not give the same kind of milk from all quarters of her udder. In fact, the department has found that each quarter works independently of the others. Tests in the dairy research laboratories showed that milk from one quarter may differ greatly from that of another in volume, percentage of butterfat, percentage of serum solids, acid concentration, reaction to alcohol, ease with which it is coagulated by heat, and the abundance of bacteria contained.

The Official Record, U.S.V.A.

October 30, 1930.

FEED THE PIGS, AND HOW

Minnesota Swine Feeders' Day Draws a Good Crowd

The largest attendance of any of the series of meetings was attracted by the program of the 8th annual Swine Feeders' Day at University Farm, St. Paul. Four hundred fifty farmers showed keen interest in the feeding experiments which covered the substitution of wheat for corn, slop feeding contrasted with dry feeding, a comparison of the five common grains, hogging off barley and feeding tests with different varieties of barley. The Record of Performance plan was explained also and the results for 1929 and 1930 to date presented. The hog outlook and crossbreeding as a plan for producing market hogs were discussed by Director F. W. Peck and Prof. L. M. Winters, respectively, of the University of Minnesota. Dr. Gus Bohstedt, in charge of Animal Husbandry research at the Wisconsin Experiment Station, gave the principal address upon the subject, "Recent hog feeding facts."

The economy of substituting ground wheat for shelled corn when the price of wheat is the same as or lower per hundredweight than corn was illustrated by

three lots of pigs which had been fed for a period of 105 days. The same mixtures of protein and mineral supplements were self fed with the separate grains. The pigs getting shelled corn as grain made an average daily gain of 1.17 pounds while those receiving ground wheat gained 1.28 pounds daily. With shelled corn at \$1.25 and ground wheat at \$1.06 per hundredweight, the cost of 100 pounds gain with corn was \$5.14 and with wheat, \$4.34. In the third lot, adding one pound of middlings daily per pig to the corn ration increased the gain of each pig by 25 pounds in 105 days. The middlings was mixed with water and fed as slop and because this feed was low in price it reduced the cost of gains as compared with the corn lot.

Slop feeding growing pigs twice daily was a more economical method of feeding than three meals a day which increased the labor cost without raising the daily gain or lowering the cost of gain. Both the self feeding plan and the feeding of slop twice a day were preferable to the method of dry feeding by hand morning and night.

Trebi barley did not give quite as good results as Manchuria barley because the pigs made slower gains by 12 pounds per pig in a 60-day feeding period. The same amounts of each variety of barley and protein and mineral supplements were eaten from the self feeders in making 100 pounds gain.

Hogging off smooth awned barley was not a successful experiment in spite of the fact that the cost of harvesting and threshing amounted to 12 cents per bushel. Pigs in the field required 3 bushels more of barley to make 100 pounds gain than similar pigs which were self fed ground barley in a dry lot.

The prices of grains this year show wheat and rye much below the usual level, oats and barley somewhat low and corn not far from the normal price. In order to have information covering this unusual condition, fifty pigs were self fed in five lots on one of each of these grains with the same protein and mineral supplements added. The protein mixture consisted of 2 parts tankage, 1 part linseed meal and 1 part alfalfa meal, while the mineral supplement was a fairly complex mixture. Since grinding pays with each of these grains except corn, the small grains were coarsely ground and a charge of six cents per hundredweight made for this work. The prices at which the grains were charged were: corn, 90 cents; durum wheat, 70 cents; barley, 50

cents; oats, 35 cents, and rye, 55 cents per bushel. The pigs fed ground wheat made considerably the cheapest gains—\$5.23 per hundred pounds, followed in order by rye, barley, corn, and oats. The gains of pigs on shelled corn cost \$7.47 and on ground oats, \$7.68 per 100 pounds.

The Record of Performance plan is attracting the interest of many breeders of purebred hogs. Up to date pigs from 24 litters have been fed at the Minnesota Station and most of the breeders sending in pigs the first year also have pigs in the second test.

The hog outlook for 1931 was described as favorable with a smaller supply of hogs to go to market than last winter and a smaller storage supply of lard and pork by 18 per cent than the five year average.

Experimental work in crossbreeding hogs for market which is under way at the Morris and Crookston sub-stations indicates that there is a little stimulus in crossing as the crossbreds have in most cases grown more rapidly than the purebreds. The margin while small has been consistently shown.

Dr. Bohstedt urged hog feeders to study the feed price situation and make gains on their hogs at the smallest possible cost with the expectation that pork production will be at least fairly profitable for a year or more to come. He recommended alfalfa hay strongly for brood sow feeding and for dry lot rations of all hogs. Anemia, a recent disease of young pigs, has been prevented at the Wisconsin Station by the use of small amounts of iron and copper. Mr. Bohstedt emphasized the fact that feeding pigs is becoming more and more a complicated problem as the conditions under which hogs are grown are steadily becoming more artificial.

E. F. FERRIN,

Division of Animal Husbandry.

"Dairy Cattle," Yapp and Nevens, \$2.50, 378 pages, published by John Wiley & Sons, New York. The content is organized on the operative plan—What to do and how to do it. Fully illustrated, second edition, 1930.

"Milk and Milk Products," C. H. Eckles, W. B. Combs, H. Macy, \$3.50, 379 pages. Published by McGraw Publishing Co.