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THE LONG TIME PROGRAM OF FARM PRACTICE

One of the essential features of the program of activities of each student enrolled for instruction in agriculture is the farm practice work. In Minnesota two types of farm practice are recommended for each boy. One type is referred to as the short time farm practice program. This is also called a project. The definite project, or short time farm practice, makes it possible for the student to select a definite piece of practical work which may be completed within the time required for making the necessary yearly report to the state supervisor. These special projects can be made to serve many useful purposes to the students, to the home farms and to the teacher and his teaching procedures. Frequently, however, the nature of the projects limits the possibilities for influencing the home farm practices in many enterprises, or activities, that require a long time for effective completion.

To meet this second need the long type of farm practice program has been developed as an additional feature of the home practice activities of the students. The long time program of farm practice is also referred to as the broader program of work. The two connotations are descriptive of the scope and duration of the activities. The long time program of activities is not supplementary to the projects in the form of additional experiences. The specific project is frequently a part of the long time program of work.

Some of the essential features of the long time program of farm practice are that several enterprises, or activities, may be involved and that no time limit is set for the completion of the activities. The entire home farm becomes the basis for intensive study which makes possible a better and broader coordination of the learning activities at school and the farming activities on the home farm. Learning takes place best when the student feels the need for gaining information regarding vital problems that arise from actual life experiences.

Occasionally the teachers of agriculture find difficulty in arousing the interest of the parents in the home practice work of

the students. The broader program of farm practice involves the management activities of the entire home farm. To arrange a program of this scope the teacher needs to spend considerable time on the home farm of each boy and these purposeful visits and conferences are sure to interest the parents of the boys. It is a rare father who does not become interested in the work of his son when the activities so definitely involves the general improvement in the home farm practices. It is needless to say that most farmers are too busy to become greatly excited about the small and unsuitable projects some teachers permit the students to take as a means of meeting the farm practice requirement. What a teacher needs anyway is not only the friendly interest of the parents but also the whole hearted cooperation of the parents and others concerned.

What we started out to do in this preface was to introduce the following example of a long time farm practice program planned by one of the boys in the agriculture class at Long Prairie. Mr. Wogensen, the teacher of agriculture at Long Prairie states that each boy prepares a long time program in cooperation with his parents. A number of other teachers also report excellent results from similar activities on the part of the boys. Parents just naturally become interested in a program of education that has such an immediate social and economic value.

The following long time program of farm practice is presented with the permission of Charles N. (that is all the name his modesty would permit). The writer does not think that Charles needs to make any apology for the type of farm practice work he has planned and hopes to put into operation.

In going over this outline, the reader should keep in mind that it is a preliminary plan of a farm boy in the early years of his high school course in agriculture. To some people, it may be just another outline but to Charles it is the skeletal expression of the objectives, mental attitudes, concepts, appreciations, knowledges, ideals, and skills that are to become an integral part of his life

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THE STAFF

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

as a result of his activities in carrying the plan forward to its successful completion.

A. M. F.

Long Time Program of Farm Practice Activities

I. Dairying

A. Present conditions

1. Five cows over five years old, four cows over four years, seven cows over three years, three cows over two years, two yearlings, and two under one year old,—all Jerseys.
2. Herd B. F. average two years ago was 305 lbs. Since then some heifers have freshened which have never been tested.
3. Most of our cows freshen during the period from the 20th of August to December 20th.
4. We have about one-fourth acre of alfalfa for each producing cow.
5. We lost about half our last crop of calves, due to contagious abortion.
6. We have a new bull that is a great-grandson of one of the highest producing cows on record.
7. Our barn needs repairing.

B. Objectives

1. To raise the herd average to 400 lbs. of butter-fat per year.
2. To get rid of abortion.
3. To improve dairy barn.

C. How objectives are to be achieved

1. Put herd on test for butterfat.
2. Keep feed and milk records.
3. Cull out all cows that do not produce:
 - 250 lbs. at 2 years old
 - 275 lbs. at 3 years old
 - 300 lbs. at 4 years old
 - 350 lbs. at 5 years old
4. Have the cows freshen between Sept. 1 and Nov. 15.

5. Selecting bulls backed by high production.
6. Keep calves away from cows and maintain two separate herds, one free from abortion.
7. Blood test regularly all the cows in the herd that are to be kept free from abortion.
8. Eventually sell all cows except those not having abortion.
9. Feed the cows according to production.
10. Remodel the barn. Put in stalls and mangers.
11. Put in cement mangers to replace wooden two-by-fours to which the stanchions are fastened.
 - a. This will reduce the places for germs to live by using concrete instead of wood to fasten stanchions to.
12. Raise enough alfalfa or oat and pea hay to feed the cows.

II. Swine

A. Present conditions

1. This spring nine sows farrowed about 80 pigs and saved 70—all grade Durocs.
2. The hogs were kept on an old yard where hogs have been kept as long as I can remember.
3. I am pretty well satisfied with our methods of feeding. We had 8 acres of corn, that we turned the hogs into when it was matured.
4. I am pretty sure that some of our feed, however, went to feed worms instead of hogs, because I know that some of them had worms.
5. We have no method of hog lot rotation.
6. We always pick brood sows from large litters. We sometimes keep over some old brood sows that raise the largest and best litters.

B. Objectives

1. To secure an average of 1,800 lbs. of pork per sow.
2. To raise hogs under more sanitary conditions.
3. To save higher percentage of pigs.
4. To improve pasture facilities.

C. How objectives are to be achieved

1. Keep feed cost record each year.
2. Have pigs born in clean sanitary quarters and keep them on clean ground until they are about 2 months old.

3. Continue to raise corn for hogging off.
4. Mark each litter when born and save sows from the most desirable ones.
5. Select boars from good type and large litters.
6. Have sows gaining in weight during breeding time.
7. Put guard rails in pens to protect young pigs.
8. Change our hog lot to a different location.
9. Follow McClean County system of hog raising.

III. Poultry

A. Present conditions

1. About 30 hens and 50 spring pullets all white Wyandotes.
2. We do not get as many eggs as we should.
3. They are all young hens and have never been culled.
4. We seldom feed any mash.
5. Our poultry house needs to be repaired.
6. Frequently a hen will become droopy and die, and I believe it is caused from T. B. I also believe that they are bothered with lice and worms.

B. Objectives

1. To increase egg production.
2. To do away with pests and diseases.
3. To improve housing facilities.

C. How objectives are to be achieved.

1. Remodel chicken house.
 - a. Haul in enough sand or gravel to raise the floor about 6 or 8 inches above the ground outside.
 - b. Install dropping boards.
 - c. Provide good system of ventilation.
2. Cull chickens every fall.
3. Spray hen house regularly.
4. Kill all chickens that are droopy or sick.
5. Feed them a balanced ration of mash and scratch feed.
6. Select good breeding stock that comes up to the standard of the breed they represent.

IV. Horses

A. Present conditions

1. Five horses over five years old, one over four years and three two year old colts.

2. Two of our horses prance and tear around so that they are worn out before the work is done in the spring. They are not much good toward the end of the season.
3. One of them is rather touchy and sometimes kicks especially when hitched to a hay rack.

B. Objectives.

1. To keep six good dependable work horses.
2. To improve feeding and general care of horses.

C. How objectives may be achieved.

1. Keep our three colts and ascertain the kind of horses they are going to make.
2. Raise one or two colts every year from the most desirable mares.
3. Replace the horses that are unsound, old, or otherwise undesirable with colts that are better.

V. Corn

A. Present conditions

1. Our yield for this year was about 25 bu. per acre.
2. We usually have about 60 acres of corn. About 8 acres are for hogging off.
3. We generally have good germination but we never get a very good yield.
4. We never have as much corn as we would like to have for feed.

B. Objectives

1. To improve methods of selecting and handling seed corn.
2. Increase yield to 50 bu. per acre.

C. How objective is to be achieved

1. Use only varieties recommended for this section.
2. Select seed for the next year.
3. Test seed for germination and grade all seed.
4. Do not plant corn heavier than 7 lbs. per acre. (Checked)
5. Try to plant corn only where a leguminous crop has been raised the year before.
6. Always select about twice as much seed corn as is needed.

VI. Oats

A. Present conditions

1. Our average yield is about thirty bu. per acre.
2. We generally raise about 30 acres of grain and 15 for hay.

3. Our oats generally suffer from the heat in the summer about the time it is developing the kernel.
- B. Objectives
1. Determine best oat variety for this section.
 2. Increase yield to 60 bushels per acre.
- C. How objective is to be achieved
1. Plant only early varieties that are recommended for this section.
 2. Manure soil before planting.
 3. Use late varieties for hay.
 4. Plant the oats early so that it will be matured before the hot spell in the summer.
 5. Select good seed for planting.
 6. Treat seed for smut.

VII. Barley

- A. Present conditions
1. Our yield is about 30 bu. per acre.
 2. We generally raise about 30 acres of barley.
 3. It generally suffers from the heat.
 4. We never raise as much as we would like to.
- B. Objectives
1. Increase yield to 50 bu. per acre.
- C. How objectives are to be achieved
1. Follow same outline as for oats except use no barley for hay and plant more barley than oats for grain.

VIII. Alfalfa

- A. Present conditions
1. We have only about 5 acres of alfalfa.
 2. We plowed up our alfalfa this fall because it was a very poor stand.
 3. Our field this year did not yield over a ton to the acre.
 4. The hay had too many weeds in it.
 5. We harvested about 200 lbs. seed this year.
- B. Objectives
1. Raise one acre of alfalfa per cow.
 2. Increase yield to four tons per acre.
- C. How objectives are to be achieved
1. Raise the seed needed to fit into rotation.
 2. Manure soil.
 3. Have the soil in good condition before planting.
 4. Sow wheat as a nurse crop.
 5. Never cut alfalfa later than Sept. 1.
 6. Plant a desirable crop rotation system.

Annual Program of Work

I. Dairying

- A. Objectives
1. Raise herd average to 325 lbs.
- B. How objective is to be achieved
1. Put herd on test for butterfat and cull out poorest producers.
 2. Feed all cows a balanced ration.
 3. Keep feed records.

II. Swine

- A. Objective
1. Produce at least 1,500 lbs. pork per sow.
- B. How objective is to be achieved.
1. Raise hogs under more sanitary conditions.
 2. Keep only the largest, best built sows from largest litters for breeding.
 3. Raise corn for hogging off.

III. Poultry

- A. Objective
1. Increase egg production to 200 eggs per hen.
- B. Methods
1. Remodel poultry house as in my long time program.
 2. Feed balanced rations for growth and egg production.
 3. Cull chickens.

IV. Horses

- A. Objective
1. To replace one or two of the most undesirable horses with colts.
- B. Method
1. Substitute the best colts for the most undesirable horses.

V. Corn

- A. Objective
1. Increase yield to 40 bu. per acre.
- B. Methods
1. Test seed for germination.
 2. Manure ground.
 3. Plant home grown seed of as large a variety as will mature.

VI. Small grain

- A. Objective
1. Increase yield to 40 bu. per acre.
- B. Methods
1. Treat seed for smut.
 2. Manure ground.
 3. Use good seed and plant only yearly varieties of known worth.

VII. Alfalfa

- A. Objective
1. Increase acreage to 17 or 18 acres.
- B. Methods
1. Plant about 12 or 13 acres this year.
 2. Spring tooth our present field of alfalfa and manure.
 3. Plan a system of rotation.