

FARM-FAMILY PARTNERSHIPS

Better
Agriculture for
Boys & Girls

by
W. D. Stegner



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION DIVISION

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Partnerships between parents and the older children will help bridge the gap between the club age and the age of active investment and proprietorship in farming.

This work with young people develops their interest in further education and supplies the necessary funds with which to secure it.

Sharing in a family partnership develops initiative, and gives business training and confidence.

Partnerships give young people a greater interest in agriculture and the home-farm business.

The handling of money, while under their parents' supervision, and the checking up on financial worth each year, has developed thrift and the habit of saving.

Capital is accumulated for use in furthering education or starting a business which makes easier the step from a place as a worker at home to that of a farm operator or owner.

The development of definite plans for the future and the stimulus of ownership and mutual partnership have made for excellent family relationships.

THE work described in this bulletin was undertaken in an effort to bridge the gap between the maximum 4-H club age and the age of active investment and proprietorship in farming and farm-home making. The program was aimed to assist a most desirable group of farm young people to maintain and develop their interest in agriculture; to encourage boys and girls just past the 4-H club age to continue in educational effort through the state's agricultural extension service or through attendance at agricultural schools, high schools, or in the College of Agriculture, Forestry, and Home Economics; to point the way to the accumulation of money for educational or farm investment purposes; and to plan wisely for a farm or farm-home future, or for such other future as they may choose. It has shown definitely that family partnerships may be worked out to fit the needs of any type or size of farm without impairing the regular farm income; often, in fact, to its betterment.¹

Such a program was decided on because surveys and estimates disclosed the fact that on Minnesota farms there were at the time more than 65,000 boys and girls between the ages of 14 and 21 who are not in school or sharing to an appreciable extent in the home-farm business, though many of the group have had several years' work in regularly organized 4-H clubs and have reached an age when they should be assuming farm or home responsibilities and developing aptitudes for particular phases of farm or home work. Experience indicated that large numbers of these boys and girls, as they reached or passed the maximum 4-H club age, lost all interest in educational effort and developed no interest in farm or home activities; that if they attempted to establish farms or farm homes of their own, they would be lacking in the capital or training needed to achieve success; and if they entered other lines of endeavor it would be with insufficient capital or preparation.

The need of a program through which to reach this group was apparent. In 1925 Dr. C. B. Smith, chief of the Office of Co-operative Extension Work of the United States Department of Agriculture, at a meeting of the Association of Land Grant Colleges, said: "From the standpoint of the public, I think we are specially obliged to enroll and help direct the boy or girl out of school. Fully one-fourth of the 3,600 boys and girls of club age in the average rural county are not in school. Just because these boys and girls drop out of school, they should not be left without guidance." The purpose of the program finally worked out was to follow boys and girls of such limited training and assist in

¹ Lynn Sheldon and Nate Bovee, county agricultural agents in Redwood County, and A. R. Karr, county agricultural agent of Martin County, have given excellent co-operation in the promotion of the work outlined in this bulletin. Miss Fern Kennedy, county superintendent of schools, Redwood County, and R. A. Turner, field agent, central states, United States Department of Agriculture, have also assisted materially.

establishing them in useful and profitable activities. The program was described by F. W. Peck, director of Agricultural Extension, University of Minnesota, as "an advanced 4-H club, farm-management project with the following objectives in mind":

To assist in keeping a most desirable type of farm young people interested in agriculture.

To get the members of the older group to continue their education through contact with the extension service or through attendance at agricultural schools, high schools, or colleges of agriculture and home economics.

To provide for the accumulation of money to assist members in attaining this goal.

To teach members the value of extension practices by actual demonstrations on their home farms.

To encourage methods of self-help and business analysis through keeping farm records.

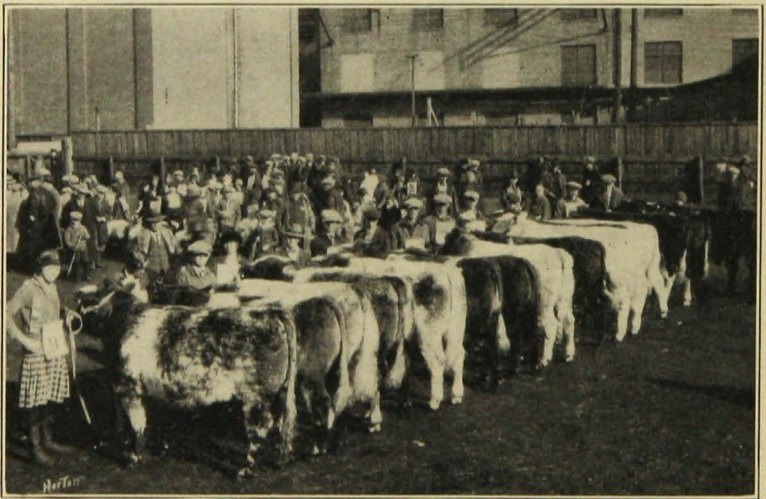


Fig. 1. Competition of this sort trains young people for meeting the problems of farming.

To keep 4-H club members who have reached the age limit, interested in a worth-while program, and give similar service to young people who could not take part in regular 4-H club work.

To assist young people to secure more experience in the business of farming so that they may develop self-reliance, individual initiative, and confidence in their ability.

As a part of the program, it was decided in 1927 to develop a plan for family partnerships whereby members of the group of older young people could be given a share in the responsibilities of managing their

home farms as well as a share in the farm incomes. This was with the hope that young men might be enabled to gain capital with which to acquire an education or with which to establish farm enterprises of their own. The writer was assigned the task of developing such a program for Redwood and Martin counties.

Lynn Sheldon, county agent of Redwood County, co-operating with the county superintendent of schools and the state extension service, through a survey, found that in Redwood County there were more than 1,200 rural boys and girls between the ages of 14 and 21 who were not actively engaged in business or attending school. Following the survey, more than a hundred of these young people had responded to an invitation issued by the county extension service to attend monthly meetings at which specialists of the state extension service conducted classes in advanced clothing work, leadership, and farm-business analysis.

Beginning in October, 1927, the two county agents, accompanied by the writer, in each county visited about thirty families in which conditions seemed favorable for the development of family partnerships. The young people were much interested in plans which might enable them to assume greater responsibilities and to share in the income of the farm business. The parents acknowledged that one of their major problems was to assist the young people to accumulate capital for furthering their education or starting in business; also that it was difficult to keep the young people interested in farm and home activities during this period of life and considered the development of thrift an important factor in their future success.

PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT USED

On the first visit, possible partnership arrangements were discussed and later a typewritten agreement was prepared covering the partnership finally selected. This was signed by both parties and by witnesses. Written agreements were used because they were more business-like and gave the agreement greater validity. Copies of some of the agreements are given later in this bulletin.

In one month, 44 boys and girls and their parents were secured as co-operators. In all cases, some study was made of the farm business and family relationships. Types of projects were suggested which seemed to fit the needs of families visited. The projects finally selected depended upon the size of the family and their financial status, the size of the farm business, the ease with which land could be rented, and other conditions. In Redwood County, for example, land could be rented at favorable rates; in Martin County land was difficult to secure, so livestock projects were in most cases more desirable.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF PARTIES CO-OPERATING

An attempt was made to delegate certain responsibilities to each of the parties. The parent and boy or girl were charged with the responsibility of carrying out the agreement. The junior member was supplied with a farm account book and requested to make an inventory and keep a record of all personal and project receipts and expenditures, and, where possible, records of the home-farm business. The county and district agents agreed to help with the records at the outset, to keep in touch with the families during the year, to make suggestions to the junior members concerning records or new developments in livestock or crop production, and to assist in checking up at the end of the year. They also agreed to arrange for county meetings of project members.

After organizing a family partnership, three trips a year were made to each farm by the county or district agent—the first visit to find out whether the project had been begun and that required records had been made. The second visit was for the purpose of helping with suggestions as to records, subject matter, or other follow-up work. The final visit was to check-up when the project had been in effect about a year. At the time of the check-up, net assets owned by the junior members at the beginning and end of the year were listed. The difference in the two figures represented the gain in net worth during the period. On the same sheet were listed project receipts and project and personal expenses for the period. This showed what the gross income had been and gave the boys an opportunity to know whether they had spent more for personal purposes than was desirable.

The members and their families were much interested in finding out what the net gain in worth for the period had been and the record also gave them an opportunity to compare their earnings with those of other young persons who had left home to work on neighboring farms or in villages.

MARTIN COUNTY PARTNERSHIP CLUB

To give members the benefits of personal association, to develop leadership, and to make it easier to assist the group, the members in Martin County were asked to meet for the purpose of organizing a county partnership club. A club was organized which held three successful meetings a year. One of these meetings each year was for a farm tour on which several farms that were outstanding in one or more enterprises were visited. Parents attended in large numbers and the group felt that this was one of the most worth-while events of the year. The other meetings were held when some state extension specialist was in the county and some phase of livestock production or farm management was discussed.

The preamble, constitution, and by-laws adopted by the Martin County group are given on page 20.

Martin County Summary—1928

At the end of the year a table was prepared covering the individual summary sheets from each county. This summary showed the age of members, type of partnership arrangement, net income from the project, gain in net worth, and plans for the following year.

The summary of the Martin County group for the first year is shown in Table 1.



Fig. 2. Alden Flygare, Dunnell, Martin County, raised more than 200 turkeys during 1930, "according to the Billings plan," and received as his income \$400.

Similar Plan in 1929—29 Members Retained

In making the 1928 check-up in December, most of the members re-signed for 1929. Of the original 44 members, 29 continued. Those not co-operating in 1929 discontinued for the various reasons.

Seven continued land rental agreements on such a large scale as to be considered actual farm managers, or were dropped because they were not interested in keeping records.

Two were married and established homes of their own.

Two discontinued the regular partnership arrangement to work at home for a salary.

One attended the School of Agriculture and the family discontinued a partnership arrangement until after graduation.

One girl did not wish to continue as a project member, but continued in partnership with her mother.

One farm suffered a severe financial setback due to hog cholera. As a result the boy did not go through with the first year's work.

One found it necessary to leave the farm because of ill health.

Table 1
Summary of Partnership Work in Martin County—1928

No. of co-op-erator	Age	Project	Net income from project*	Gain in net worth during year†	Plans for following year
24	20	Income from two sows and litters.	\$286.90	\$236.00	Received income from 3 sows and litters.
25	20	Rented farm, 40 acres; 20 acres corn, 20 acres oats, two sows and litters	518.00	435.00	Rented 80 acres and kept sows.
26	18	Income from one sow and litter.	103.00	42.00	Attended School of Agriculture.
27	23	Received increase in value of 5 Holstein cattle and progeny. Worked for neighbor.	482.00	317.00	Continued plan.
28	21	Income from sow and salary of \$40 per month during busy season.	402.00	231.85	Two sows and salary.
29	21	Income from 5 cows, 100 hens, and \$35 per month. Must pay store bill for himself and grandmother.	545.00	126.00	Attended school one quarter. Continued plan.
30	29	Income from 15 head of beef cattle, 5 to 7 sows and litters.	1,036.00	355.00	Continued.
31	26	Rent, on 25 per cent basis, 362 acres	609.09	256.37	Continued.
32	25	Rent, on 25 per cent basis, 362 acres	609.08	41.87	Continued.
33	21	Twenty-five per cent of cream check, 12 cows, sow and litter, 7 acres flax.	626.50	203.00	Same.
34	22	Fifteen per cent gross income 160-acre farm.	574.77	474.77	Same.
35	19	Income sa'e of 50 cockerels, 5 acres corn, baby beef calf.	275.93	211.93	Same.
36	19	Sow and litter, one cow.	196.00	171.00	Two sows and litters.
37	18	Income from sale of 50 turkeys and 50 chickens. Increase in value of two heifers.	323.20	323.00	Same.
38	20	Fifteen per cent income from 160-acre home farm, 90-acre rented farm.	446.54	338.00	Same.
39	25	Twenty per cent of beef herd sales. Approximately 26 head sold each year.	372.60	372.60	Same.
40	21	Salary and turkey percentage. Turkey business was dropped. Received \$30 a month.	360.00	60.00	Worked at home for salary.
41	23	Fifty per cent cream check, 9 cows and privilege of selecting one heifer calf. Increase in value of 8 hogs.	591.28	283.00	Worked at home for salary.
42	17	Sow and litter.	147.00	69.00	Same.
43	18	Sow and litter.	140.00	45.00	Same.
44	26	Sow and litter. Did not complete project.	.....	....	Practically whole herd taken with cholera. Dropped from group.
Total net income from projects completed...			\$8,644.89		
Average net income per member.....			432.24		
Total gain in net worth.....				\$4,592.39	
Gain in net worth per member completing...				229.61	

* Net-income column represents return for time of junior member after deducting all expenses paid by the junior partner in connection with the enterprise.

† Column showing gain in net worth represents savings by members after deducting personal expenses.

Martin County Summary—1929

Martin County members showed larger net incomes and greater increases in net worth during the second year of work, as indicated in Table 2.

Table 2
Summary of Partnership Work in Martin County—1929

No. of co-op-erator	Age	Project	Net income from project	Gain in net worth during year	Plans for following year
24	21	Two sows and litters.	\$323.41	\$ 12.84	Married during year. Plans pending.
25	21	Two sows and litters. Rented 40 acres. Planted 15 acres corn, 23 acres oats, 2 acres barley.	671.00	421.00	Kept 5 sows. Rented 80 acres.
27	24	Worked for neighbors when not needed at home. Received increase in value of 7 head of Holstein cattle and progeny.	456.05	202.32	Rented farm in neighborhood. Father furnished equipment.
28	22	Half of income from 2 sows, and salary of \$40 during work season.	503.16	261.84	Salary, two sows and litters.
29*	22	Salary during 6 months of summer. Attended School of Agriculture during balance of year.	310.00	Loss 130.00	Did official cow testing work. Can not stand farm work at present owing to sunstroke.
30	30	Income from herd of 15 beef cattle and returns from 5 to 7 sows and litters.	683.00	Loss 94.00	Rented farm, co-operating with father in use of machinery.
31	26	Renting 202-acre farm from father on 50 per cent lease.	623.19	473.19	Continued.
32	25	Renting home farm of 160 acres on 50 per cent lease.	560.32	253.28	Continued.
33	22	Twenty-five per cent of dairy income, 1 sow and litter, 7 acres corn.	743.20	187.00	Rented home farm; married during summer.
34	23	Fifteen per cent gross income. Payment of 15 per cent of mill feed, and labor costs.	563.48	463.48	Same.
35*	20	Received 30 per cent of income from 200 hens. Used assets to complete work at School of Agriculture.	286.00	Loss 259.93	Income from 6 sows and litters.
36	20	Two sows and litters. Increase in value of 2 head of cattle.	650.26	433.00	Income from 2 sows and litters. Increase in value of 3 head of cattle.
37	19	Privilege of raising and receiving income from 75 to 100 turkeys. Also increase in value of 2 Holstein heifers.	518.63	348.63	Same.
38	21	Fifteen per cent of entire farm business—120 acres in home farm, 90 acres rented.	454.20	124.75	Same.
39	26	Twenty per cent beef and swine sales. Planned to sell 25 cattle and \$1,000 worth of hogs a year.	901.50	821.15	Same.

* Numbers 29 and 35 invested the major part of their earnings in a course at the School of Agriculture, so their gain in net worth was not averaged, owing to the difficulty of estimating the value of such a course.

Table 2—Continued
Summary of Partnership Work in Martin County—1929

No. of co-operator	Age	Project	Net income from project	Gain in net worth during year	Plans for following year
42	18	Sow and litter.	137.00	112.00	To rent neighboring land in addition to owning litter.
43	19	Sow and litter.	162.75	112.75	To rent neighboring land in addition to owning litter.
52	22	Fifty per cent of dairy income from 5 to 6 cows. Income from 2 sows and litters.	467.86	287.86	Same.
Total net income from projects completed...			\$9,015.01		
Average net income per member completing..			500.83		
Total gain in net worth.....				\$4,515.09	
Less loss by one party.....				94.00	
Gain in net worth per member completing...				\$4,421.09	
				276.31	

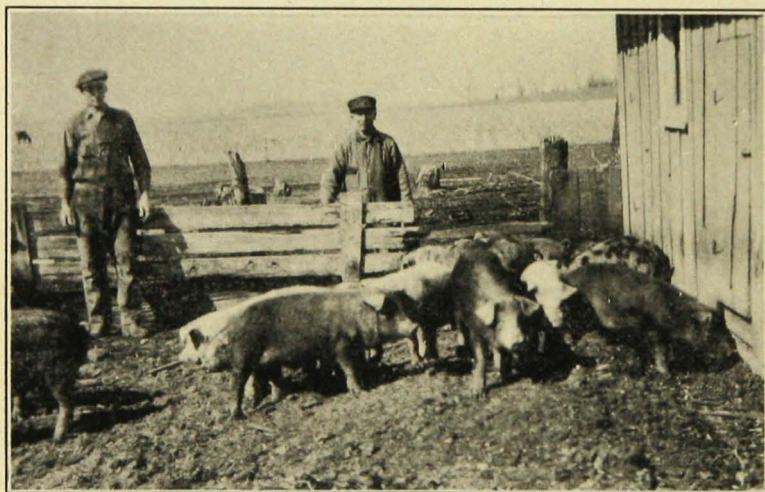


Fig. 3. Rollo Campe and his father, Fairmont, Martin County, have enlarged their swine partnership. In 1931 each will share equally in the returns from 20 purebred sows.

Factors Affecting Profits

Owing to the variation in the projects and agreements, no table could be worked out that covered the specific reasons for lower profits in some cases than in others. However, generally approved farm practices that developed large yields per acre, large production per cow, and proper disease control, resulted in larger profits to the members.

FIRST YEAR'S RESULTS IN REDWOOD COUNTY

The 1928 summary for the Redwood group is shown in Table 3.

Table 3
Summary of Partnership Work in Redwood County—1928

No. of co-op-erator	Age	Project	Net income from project	Gain in net worth during year	Plans for following year
1*	27	Received 25 per cent of poultry income from flock of 175 hens.	\$128.03	\$128.03	Started home of own.
2	22	Received 20 per cent of dairy income from 10 cows.	205.00	92.10	Signed new agreement.
3	21	Received 1/9 of 27 acres barley, 1/8 of 11 acres corn, 1/2 of 18 acres wheat.	842.46	842.46	Continued project.
4	19	Received 3/10 of crop from 68 acres: 12 acres oats, 18 acres barley, 30 acres corn, 8 acres wild hay.	363.02	363.02	Continued project.
5	23	Received 3/10 of crop from 68 acres: 12 acres oats, 18 acres barley, 30 acres corn, 8 acres wild hay.	363.02	363.02	Continued project.
6	20	Received 1/5 of crop from 140 acres: 80 acres corn, 60 acres oats.	581.65	511.65	Continued project.
7	18	Received 1/5 of crop from 140 acres: 80 acres corn, 60 acres oats.	581.65	511.65	Continued project.
8 &	21	Brothers. Farmed 160 acres 30 miles from home, using parents' equipment. Net income from farm to apply toward purchase. Received all of returns from 50 acres barley, 6 acres flax, 30 acres wheat, 15 acres rye, 24 acres oats. Pasture, cash rent.	402.50	402.50	Continued project.
9	23		402.50	402.50	
10	28	Received 3/5 of income from 51 acres: 23 acres wheat, 11 acres rye, 17 acres corn. Crop was ruined by hail.	110.25	Loss 73.45	Planned to enter business coming year and to be married soon.
11	18	Received 20 per cent of poultry income from flock of 200 hens.	161.34	140.00	Continued project.
12	25	Received heifers from father's herd of 11 cows. Owned 1 sow and litter.	435.00	435.00	Continued project.
13	27	Ownership in livestock. Privileged to have increase in value of 10 cows and their progeny. Opportunity to work when not needed at home.	270.00	195.00	Continued project.
14	21	Received 20 per cent of dairy income from 10 cows.	289.00	289.00	Continued project.
15	18	Received 50 per cent from sale of 8 baby beeves.	157.50	157.50	Project not finished at check-up; carried into following year.
16	27	Bought feeder pigs and fed on father's farm and received crop from 66 acres: 11 acres rye, 10 acres flax, 20 acres corn, 11 acres oats, 14 acres wheat.	1,047.00	1,047.00	Continued project.
17 &	24	Brothers. Received 3/5 of crop from 74 acres: 10 acres rye, 14 acres wheat, 30 acres corn, 15 acres oats, 5 acres barley. No. 18 received increase in value of 2 head of cattle.	252.69	252.69	Rented 80 acres.
18	21		387.33	387.33	Rented 120 acres.

Table 3—Continued
Summary of Partnership Work in Redwood County—1928

No. of co-op-erator	Age	Project	Net income from project*	Gain in net worth during year†	Plans for following year
19	19	To have received income from 5 acres corn.	.....	.....	Left farm because of ill-health.
20	22	To have received 10 per cent of gross income from 240 acres. Left farm to take highway position.	.....	.....	Carried partnership project.
21*	23	Received 50 per cent of gross poultry and egg sales. Increased flock to 600 laying hens and 100 capons.	781.27	781.27	Continued partnership.
22	22	Ton litter. Project not completed, began farming.	.....	.....	In farm business with brother-in-law.
23	24	Received 50 per cent poultry and egg sales from flock of 430 hens.	604.80	504.80	Continued plan.
Total net income from projects completed...			\$8,366.01		
Average net income per member completing..			418.30		
Total gain in net worth.....				\$7,806.52	
Less loss by No. 10.....				73.45	
Gain in net worth above losses.....				\$7,733.07	
Gain in net worth per member completing work				386.65	

* Numbers 1 and 21 were girls.

Financial Progress Greater in 1929 Than in 1928

Net income and gain in net worth increased in the second year. Part of this increase came from parents' enlarging their projects as junior members advanced in age. The rest of the increase was brought about by the excellent crops in the territory in 1929. The Redwood summary for 1929 is shown in Table 4.

Table 4
Summary of Partnership Work in Redwood County—1929

No. of co-op-erator	Age	Project	Net income from project	Gain in net worth during year	Plans for following year
2	23	Twenty per cent of dairy income: 10 cows, 3 acres flax, 1 sow and litter.	\$488.90	\$297.90	Same.
3	22	One-eighth of 42 acres flax, 1/2 23 acres wheat, 1/2 24 acres corn.	723.13	680.56	Same.
4	20	One-fifth of income from 80 acres: 10 acres oats, 40 acres barley, 25 acres corn, 5 acres wild hay.	493.50	408.50	Same.
5	24	One-fifth of income from 80 acres: 10 acres oats, 40 acres barley, 25 acres corn, 5 acres wild hay.	493.50	408.50	Same.

Table 4—Continued
Summary of Partnership Work in Redwood County—1929

No. of co-operator	Age	Project	Net income from project	Gain in net worth during year	Plans for following year
11	19	Twenty per cent of poultry income from 200 hens.	171.26	123.38	Twenty per cent of swine business.
12	26	Heifers from father's herd of 11 cows. Bull calves from brother's herd of 10 cows.	374.00	189.00	Increased livestock value, 3 sows.
13	28	Worked out when not needed at home. Received increase in value of 10 cows and progeny kept on home farm.	782.00	403.00	Married and ran farm in neighborhood. Kept farm account record.
14	22	Twenty-five per cent of dairy income from 15 cows.	635.00	510.00	Similar plan.
15	19	Fifty per cent of sale of 8 beef calves.	460.00	290.00	Fifty per cent of 10 beef calves.
16	28	Rented land from father, grew crop on 49 acres: 20 acres corn, 11 acres barley, 9 acres oats. Fed hogs.	801.73	461.00	Same.
20	23	Purchased 80 acre farm from father. Used parents' equipment. Grew 55 acres corn, 12 acres succotash, 13 acres slough grass.	784.40	455.00	Same.
23	25	Fifty per cent of poultry income, 800 hens, paid 50 per cent of expense.	587.00	587.00	Same.
45	25	Crop from 40 acres: 20 acres corn, 11 acres barley, 8 acres oats. Fed hogs.	906.25	745.00	Same.
46	24	Eight and one third per cent of farm income from 400 acres. Paid $8\frac{1}{3}$ per cent of expense.	732.41	379.38	Same.
47	20	Eight and one third per cent from 400 acres. Paid $8\frac{1}{3}$ per cent of expense.	832.41	487.88	Same.
48	17	Eight and one third per cent from 400 acres. Paid $8\frac{1}{3}$ per cent of expense.	857.41	582.11	Same.
49	22	Twenty-five per cent farm income 400-acre farm. Paid 25 per cent of expense.	1,220.35	1,163.00	Same.
50	23	Rented neighboring land, $\frac{3}{5}$ lease. Planted 24 acres oats, 26 acres barley, 32 acres corn.	910.40	701.61	Same.
51	18	Rented neighboring land. Planted 20 acres oats, 25 acres corn, 30 acres barley.	822.18	728.20	Same.
Total net income from projects completed... \$13,075.83					
Average net income per member completing			688.20		
Total gain in net worth.....				\$9,601.02	
Gain in net worth per member completing..				505.31	

FINANCIAL PROGRESS OF THOSE COMPLETING TWO YEARS' WORK

In Table 5 is found the net income and gain in net worth for members who carried the project both years. Five from this group attended the School of Agriculture for one or more terms, which required a large share of their net savings. Three members were married during the

second year and part of their incomes was used in establishing new homes.

Table 5
Net Income and Gain in Net Worth of Partnership Members in Redwood and Martin Counties Who Completed Two Years' Work

No. of co-operator	Age	Net income from project, 1928-29	Gain in net worth, 1928	Gain in net worth, 1929*	Total gain in net worth, 1928-29
2	23	\$ 693.90	\$ 92.10	\$ 297.90	\$ 390.00
3	22	1,565.59	842.46	680.56	1,523.02
4	20	856.52	363.02	408.50	771.52
5	24	856.52	363.02	408.50	771.52
11†	19	332.60	140.00	123.38	263.38
12	26	809.00	435.00	189.00	624.00
13	28	1,052.00	195.00	403.00	598.00
14	22	924.00	289.00	510.00	799.00
15	19	617.50	157.50	290.00	447.50
16	28	1,848.73	1,047.00	461.00	1,508.00
23	25	1,191.80	504.80	587.00	1,091.80
24	21	610.31	236.00	12.84	248.84
25	21	1,189.00	435.00	421.00	856.00
27	24	938.05	317.00	202.32	519.32
28	22	905.16	231.85	281.84	513.69
29†	22	855.00	126.00 Loss	130.00 Loss	4.00
30†	30	1,719.00	355.00 Loss	94.00	261.00
31	27	1,232.28	256.37	473.19	729.56
32	26	1,169.40	41.87	253.28	295.15
33	22	1,369.70	203.00	187.00	390.00
34	23	1,138.25	474.77	463.48	938.25
35†	20	561.93	211.93 Loss	259.93 Loss	48.00
36	20	846.26	171.00	433.00	604.00
37†	19	841.83	323.20	348.63	671.83
38†	21	900.74	338.00	134.75	472.75
39	26	1,274.10	372.60	821.15	1,193.75
42	18	284.00	69.00	112.00	181.00
43	19	302.75	45.00	112.75	157.75
Total		\$26,885.92	\$8,636.49	\$8,522.07	\$16,768.63
Average		960.21	308.44	327.77	598.87

*Gain in net worth of Nos. 29 and 35 was not averaged in the 1929 column as most of their earnings were spent in attending the School of Agriculture.

† No. 11 attended the School of Agriculture one quarter; No. 29, four quarters; No. 35, two quarters; No. 37, one quarter, and No. 38, two quarters. Nos. 7, 9, and 26, who carried their projects only one year, also attended the School of Agriculture.

CAN PARENTS CARRY PARTNERSHIPS AND MAKE HOME FARMS PAY?

The success of the parents' business is one of the first considerations in any permanent family partnership plan, and a junior partnership arrangement could not be recommended if there were indications that it would prevent the parents from increasing their assets for use in old age, improving the farm home and equipment, and educating the other members of the family.

To secure information as to the financial progress by parents while one or more members of the family were sharing in the farm business, farm records were kept on several of the co-operating farms. Confidence of the families had to be gained before a large number could be interested in the record work, hence the reports submitted in Table 6 cover only twelve farm records for the second year of the project. While they are not so complete as desired, they give a fairly true picture of their financial progress in 1929. The cost of the partnership was in some cases more than the cost of a hired man. Despite this fact, most of the parents expressed general satisfaction that the junior member had received a good income, and in no case did they indicate that the partnership had impaired the farm efficiency. The young men who received the higher incomes were mature and in some instances would have been working for themselves if the partnerships had not been in effect.

Table 6

Summary of Business on 12 Farms Managed During 1929 by Parents of Partnership Members in Martin and Redwood Counties

No. of farm*	Investment above mortgage	Receipts	Expenses	Gain in net worth
4 & 5.....	\$29,876.75	\$ 7,354.16	\$ 3,702.07	\$ 3,652.09
11 & 14.....	25,661.00	6,110.08	4,683.08	1,427.00
31.....	30,000.00	2,306.11	1,610.85	695.26
32.....	30,790.00	2,380.25	838.15	1,542.10
33.....	15,444.00	3,584.44	3,163.94	420.50
34.....	20,093.00	4,680.98	3,195.84	1,485.14
36.....	8,452.85	4,565.25	3,309.09	1,256.15
37.....	14,489.00	4,370.53	3,164.53	1,206.00
38.....	15,361.00	4,289.61	3,409.05	880.56
39.....	40,085.20	10,517.28	6,387.21	4,130.07
42 & 43†.....	19,410.40	.....	.....	1,978.60
52†.....	32,074.00	.....	.....	3,277.81
Total.....	\$281,737.20	\$50,158.69	\$33,463.81	\$21,951.28
Average.....	23,478.10	5,015.86	3,346.38	1,829.27

* Home farms of junior members are represented by junior partners' numbers.

† Records of receipts and expenses were not kept on home farms of Nos. 42, 43, and 52, but inventories were taken at the beginning and end of the year, so gain in net worth could be determined.

OPINIONS OF MEMBERS, AGE, AND 4-H EXPERIENCE

In order to gain some information as to the opinions of the co-operators, a questionnaire was answered by members during the latter part of the two-year period. This was designed to bring out the attitude of junior and parent members concerning the project, the age of junior members, size of farms, extent of ownership among the families co-operating, and the 4-H club experience of members. The results are indicated in Table 7.

Table 7
Size of Farms, Owners, Renters, Age of Members, etc.

No. of farm*	Size of farm, acres	Tenure of parent			Children still at home		Age of members	Years in club work
		Owner	Renter	Additional land rented	Boys	Girls		
2.....	160	X	..	..	2	1	23	..
3.....	575	X	..	..	5	4	22	3
4.....	260	X	..	X	..	..	20	3
5.....	260	X	..	X	2	1	24	..
11.....	160	X	..	..	2	1	19	3
12.....	160	X	..	..	3	1	26	..
13.....	160	X	..	..	3	1	28	..
14.....	160	X	..	..	2	1	22	3
15.....	300	X	..	X	2	..	19	..
16.....	400	X	..	..	5	5	28	..
20.....	320	X	..	..	1	1	23	4
23.....	160	X	..	..	3	4	25	4
24.....	160	X	..	..	..	..	21	3
25.....	240	X	..	X	1	2	21	1
27.....	160	X	..	..	2	1	24	3
28.....	160	X	..	..	..	..	22	4
29.....	400	X	..	X	4	1	22	2
30.....	180	X	..	..	1	..	30	10
31.....	202	X	..	..	..	..	27	..
32.....	160	X	..	..	..	..	26	..
33.....	160	X	..	..	2	..	22	..
34.....	160	X	..	..	1	2	23	2
35.....	125	X	..	..	1	..	20	5
36.....	164	X	..	X	4	4	20	3
37.....	160	X	..	..	2	1	20	8
38.....	196	X	..	X	1	1	21	..
39.....	240	X	..	..	1	4	26	..
42.....	160	X	..	..	2	2	17	3
43.....	160	X	..	..	2	2	19	3
45.....	400	X	..	..	5	5	23	..
46.....	460	..	X	..	6	1	24	1
47.....	460	..	X	..	6	1	20	..
48.....	460	..	X	..	6	1	17	..
49.....	340	X	..	..	2	..	22	2
50.....	280	X	..	X	2	2	23	1
51.....	260	X	..	X	2	3	18	..
52.....	320	X	..	..	1	2	22	4
Total ..	9,242	34	3	9	139			
Average	249	..	..	..	...		22.4	3.4
Percentage of group completing two years' work					75.6			
Percentage of group enrolled for first time....					24.4			
Percentage with 4-H club experience.....					59.0			
Average years in club work.....					3.4			
Average other children at home per family.....					3.7			

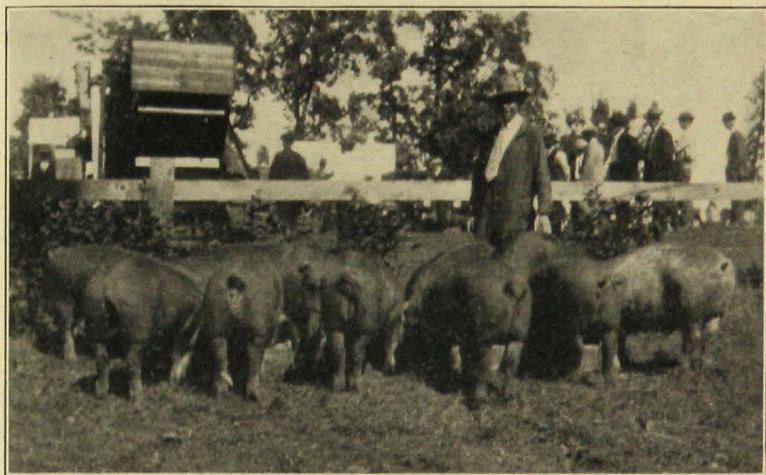
* Junior members' numbers are used in designating their home farms.

Majority Had 4-H Club Experience

Fifty-nine per cent of the members had been in club work for an average period of 3.4 years. This indicates that former club members and their families that have maintained contacts with the extension service, are the most fertile field for the development of any program that will serve a group of older young people.

The general attitude of the members was well expressed in the questionnaire returned by one member. When asked his opinion concerning the partnership work he replied, "Because of this idea, I am beginning to see my dream of a poultry farm materializing, and because of keeping records, I know just where I stand and that I am moving ahead."

Those who have visited the co-operating farmers have been impressed with the fine family relationships existing and with the working knowledge of the business of each junior member. The mothers were as much pleased with the arrangement as the fathers and junior partners.



4. A Tón Litter in the Making

This young man is getting a running start in the hog business.

TYPES OF PARTNERSHIP

Partnerships developed varied from simple poultry partnerships with girls to agreements between young men and their parents involving a partnership in the whole farm business. One of the most popular forms of partnership in Redwood County was the crop-share rental plan where boys received from $\frac{1}{8}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ of the income from land rented from either their parents or neighbors. Equipment owned by the parents was in most instances used in the work. Varying percentages of the beef, dairy, or poultry incomes were popular in both counties. Some members received from one to three brood sows. When brood sows formed the basis of the partnerships, the members ear-marked the sows and their pigs and the herds were not separated until they were sold in the fall. Another agreement that worked well was that of a percentage of gross sales. In this arrangement the junior member was given from 10 to 15 per cent of the gross sales from the farm and was required

to keep a record of the entire farm business so that any increase or decrease in the amount of grain and livestock at the end of the year could be adjusted. If the value of grain and livestock at the end of the year was greater than at the beginning, the senior member owed the junior member 15 per cent of the increase. If the inventory decreased, the junior member owed an equal amount. The adjustment to take care of increased or decreased inventories need be made only when the partnership is terminated. It is understood by both of the contracting parties that the settlement on basis of inventory shall be based on conservative sale values at the time the inventories are taken.

SUGGESTIONS FOR PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS

The prospective income from the partnership should depend on the financial status of the family and should be adjusted to the type of farming in operation.

Crop and livestock combinations diversify interest and give to the member greater experience than a single-enterprise project. This is especially applicable to older members.

A small percentage of the entire income, with the junior member keeping a farm record, seems to work out satisfactorily, and gives a financial summary of the entire farm business, which is very desirable. Such a partnership also helps to keep the junior member interested in all farm enterprises and gives him farm-accounting experience.

When a junior member has difficulty in saving part of his steady cash income, the giving of a small percentage and an animal or two at the end of the year may be advisable; or a part of the income may be kept by the parent and payment of the balance made by note or in a lump sum when there is opportunity for immediate investment.

Where additional land can be rented and sufficient equipment is available, junior partners may make a good profit and not curtail the regular farm income to any appreciable extent.

Where labor is plentiful and land scarce, the raising of an intensive crop or type of livestock that requires considerable labor may be a solution to the problem; for example, on small farms, expanding the dairy or poultry enterprises, or raising a certain acreage of potatoes or other intensive crops for which there is a local market.

The signed agreement puts the proposition on a business basis, makes it definite, and gives the junior member a different status in the family relationship that is desirable from the standpoint of mutual cooperation and the development of self-reliance.

The prospective income should be adjusted to the age of the member and his labor contribution to the farm business, as men 25 years of age can safely assume larger responsibilities than boys under 20.

Partnerships should be selected that do not necessitate the separation of products or animals, if such separation entails greater labor in handling the chores or field work.

The plan of family partnerships is a natural one and has been very successful for many years. The forming of these partnerships on a small scale is not an experiment but essentially a demonstration. Most

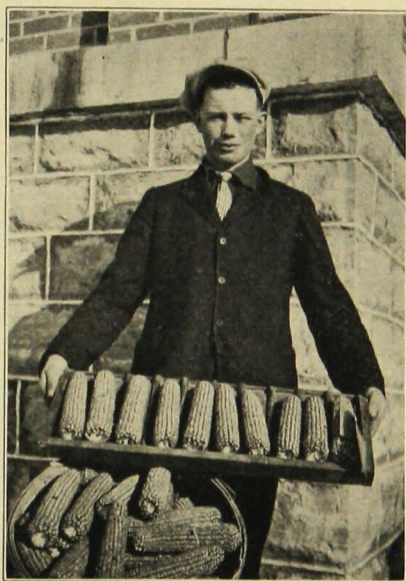


Fig. 5. Enthusiasm, pride of achievement, and scientific knowledge are combined here—primarily for the boy's training and incidently in the interests of better corn.

communities have one or more examples of successful family partnerships.

The results of the last two years indicate that definite family partnerships may be worked out to fit the need of any type or size of farm business without impairing the regular farm income. In fact, the farm income may be increased by the greater interest that the boy or girl may take in all the activities of the farm.

Projects may be devised that are satisfactory for girls. Two girls successfully carried through poultry agreements. Several successful partnerships between girls and their parents have been observed by the writer during the last two years.

AGENCIES THAT CAN PROMOTE PARTNERSHIP WORK

The county extension service represented by the county agricultural agent will assist farm families in arranging family partnerships if young people are interested in securing farm business training and the opportunity to accumulate capital.

The parent, if interested, should call on his agricultural agent and go over the proposition from all angles. The parent's function in connection with the project will be to encourage the junior member, advise with him concerning the business management of the enterprise, and assist him in the investment of any profits in order that capital may be accumulated and habits of thrift developed.

The junior member should consult his partner on all policies, keep records of his own enterprise, and, where possible, of the entire farm. He should attend any meetings of the group that may be held and co-operate with the county extension service when possible and help to develop the partnership work in his community.

Other agencies that may co-operate in the extension of the partnership idea are teachers of agriculture, banks, farm clubs, farm bureau units, or individuals who have friends or relatives that they think may be interested in this form of co-operation.

CONCLUSIONS

Partnerships between parents and the older children will help bridge the gap between the club age and the age of active investment and proprietorship in farming.

This work with young people develops their interest in further education and supplies the necessary funds with which to secure it. (Note: Eight members attended schools of agriculture one or more terms and all of the group secured information from the extension service on new and approved farm practices.)

Sharing in a family partnership develops initiative, and gives business training and confidence.

Extension contacts with this group enable the members to learn new and approved farm methods, many of which are immediately put into practice.

Partnerships give young people a greater interest in agriculture and the home-farm business.

The handling of money, while under their parents' supervision, and the checking up on financial worth each year, has developed thrift and the habit of saving.

Capital is accumulated for use in furthering education or starting a business which makes easier the step from a place as a worker at home to that of a farm operator or owner.

Family partnership projects offer older club members an opportunity to engage in a program suited to their age, and a similar opportunity is available to young people who for various reasons have not engaged in 4-H club projects.

The development of definite plans for the future and the stimulus of ownership and mutual partnerships have made for excellent family relationships.

FORMS FOR PARTNERSHIP CLUBS AND AGREEMENTS BETWEEN PARENTS AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Martin County Partnership Club

Preamble

We, the undersigned members of the Martin County Partnership Club, to improve our agricultural practices, and to further our experience by learning the problems of others in the county and their methods of solving them, purpose to form a county-wide association and get together at various times during the year to talk over agricultural and community problems to the end that we may be of greater service to our communities and our county.

Constitution

Article I. Name—The name of this organization shall be "The Martin County Partnership Club."

Article II. Object—The object of this organization shall be to encourage greater co-operation between members and their parents. To assist members in securing more training concerning the business of farming, to encourage the co-operation of members in promoting local activities in the community of a worthy nature, and to assist members in making plans for securing equipment with which to start farming or business, with the ultimate view of farm or business ownership.

Article III. Membership—Any boys or girls who have signed partnership agreements with their parents are eligible to membership in this club.

Article IV. Officers—The officers of this club shall be the president, vice-president, secretary, and treasurer, who shall perform the usual duties of such offices.

Article V. Meetings—The plan will be to hold three or four winter meetings and one or two summer meetings, the time, place, and type of meetings to be arranged by the officers in co-operation with the county agricultural agent.

Article VI. Amendments—This constitution may be amended at any regular meeting by a two-thirds vote.

By-Laws

Section I. It shall be the aim of the members to encourage other farm families to enter into family partnership agreements and become members of the Partnership Club.

Section II. The officers of this club shall be elected by ballot and shall hold office for one year, or until their successors have been elected and qualified.

Section III. The following club business shall be conducted at regular club meetings:

1. Call to order.
2. Roll call.
3. Reading minutes of last meeting.
4. Unfinished business.
5. New business.
6. Reports of committees.
7. Program of work.
8. Adjournment.

AGREEMENT TO GIVE PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL SALES

This Agreement, made this 1st day of January, 1928, by and between George Jorgensen, father, party of the first part, and Frank Jorgensen, son, party of the second part:

Witnesseth: That the party of the first part agrees, for services to be performed about the farm by second party, to enter into a partnership agreement whereby, for the period starting January 1, 1929, and continuing until January 1, 1930, he will allow Frank Jorgensen, second party, to share in all crop, cattle, swine, and dairy product sales. The share which shall accrue to second party shall be 15 per cent of the total.

It is further agreed by both parties that an inventory shall be taken at the beginning and end of each year and that second party shall keep an accurate farm record of the business, entering all receipts and expenses in a farm account book approved by the county agricultural agent. In case this agreement is discontinued at the end of the fiscal year and the inventory is larger than on January 1, 1928, then second party shall receive upon settlement 15 per cent of the increase, but if the inventory is smaller upon date of settlement than when agreement started, second party shall pay 15 per cent of this decrease to first party. It is understood by both parties that this settlement on basis of inventory shall only apply to increases or decreases in the value of livestock and feed supplies and that conservative sale values at the time inventories are taken shall be the basis for determining the value of the inventory.

It is understood and agreed to by both parties that if livestock or feed is purchased, first party shall pay 85 per cent of the purchase price, and second party shall pay 15 per cent; also that inventory shall be taken as near the first of the year as is convenient.

This agreement is made for the purpose of giving second party additional experience in farm management, to assist him in creating a fund which may later be used for starting in business, for educational purposes, or for such other worthy purposes as may arise.

_____ Witness _____ 1st Party
 _____ Witness _____ 2nd Party

AGREEMENT FOR LEASING LAND

This Agreement, made this 16th day of April, 1929, by and between N. L. Quisenberry, father, party of the first part, and Irvin Quisenberry, son, party of the second part:

Witnesseth: That the first party, for services to be performed about the farm by second party, agrees to furnish the necessary equipment and horsepower, and lease to said second party, approximately 23 acres to be planted to wheat, 38 acres to be planted to flax, and 25 acres to be planted to corn. Second party shall receive one-half (½) of the grain from the land planted to wheat and corn, and one-eighth (⅛) of the crop from the land planted to flax.

The time of this lease shall be for the crop season of 1929. This agreement is made for the purpose of increasing the general interest of the second party in the business management of farming and to give him business experience in dealing with actual farm problems. It is hoped that second party may accumulate assets which will later help him in starting the business of farming or for such other worthy purposes as may arise.

_____Witness _____1st Party
 _____Witness _____2nd Party

AGREEMENT TO KEEP TWO SOWS AND LITTERS

This Agreement, made this 1st day of January, 1929, by and between Ida Streit, mother, party of the first part, and Otto Streit, son, party of the second part:

Witnesseth: That the first party, for work to be performed on the farm by second party, agrees to allow him to keep two sows and raise litters of pigs from said sows during the year of 1929. First party will furnish feed for said sows and litters, and second party will receive the returns from sows and litters when they are sold. Sows and litters belonging to second party shall be ear marked but shall run with regular herd.

It is understood that second party will endeavor to co-operate with first party in helping her to run the farm in the most efficient manner possible.

This agreement is made for the purpose of creating greater interest on the part of the second party in the farm business, to enable second party to gain greater experience in swine management, and to help him create a fund which may be used when he starts business for himself, for securing further agricultural education, or for any other worthy purposes which may arise.

_____Witness _____1st Party
 _____Witness _____2nd Party

DAIRY AGREEMENT GIVING MONTHLY PERCENTAGE OF GROSS RECEIPTS

This Agreement, made this 1st day of November, 1928, by and between G. A. Larson, father, party of the first part, and Andrew Larson, son, party of the second part:

Witnesseth: That the party of the first part, in consideration of services to be performed about the farm by second party, agrees to turn over the management of the dairy herd to second party for a period of one year from above date, it being mutually agreed that said first party will have a voice in management and shall furnish all equipment and feed necessary to keep herd producing at maximum efficiency.

Second party, in return for considerations mentioned, will receive twenty-five (25) per cent of the gross receipts from the sale of butterfat, it being understood that such amount shall be deposited at interest in a local bank or other place of

safe keeping so that a fund will be created which second party may use to start in business or for such other worthy purposes as may arise.

In case second party does not manage and care for herd in a manner generally approved by good dairymen, first party may annul contract and second party will forfeit all rights to the commission stipulated.

_____ Witness _____ 1st Party
 _____ Witness _____ 2nd Party

BABY BEEF PARTNERSHIP

This Agreement, made this 1st day of November, 1927, by and between L. A. Schultz, father, party of the first part, and A. G. Schultz, son, party of the second part:

Witnesseth: That the party of the first part, in consideration of services to be performed about the farm by second party, hereby agrees to turn over to said second party the management, care, and feeding of the crop of calves born after November 1, 1927, and before March 1, 1928, it being understood that the first party will have a voice in the management of said herd. The general plan will be to carry calves through the winter of 1927 and 1928 on full feed and finish as baby beeves during the summer of 1929.

Second party, in return for considerations mentioned, will receive 50 per cent of the gross sales from said calves, it being understood that said second party will plan to use the fund to a large extent for reinvestment in the herd, to further his education, or for use in starting business.

In case second party does not live up to agreement and manage and care for livestock in a manner generally approved by good farmers, this contract shall be null and void.

_____ Witness _____ 1st Party
 _____ Witness _____ 2nd Party