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Silcox Explains Dairy Changes

Important post-war developments in the creamery industry were pointed out in the state staff conference of February 28 by Dr. W. Bruce Silcox, senior extension economist, United States Department of Agriculture. Dr. Silcox will be remembered by Minnesota extensioners as marketing specialist on the state staff, until July, 1937, when he resigned to go to Washington.

The tendency toward large scale organization in the manufacture and distribution of dairy products has been one of the most important developments, said Dr. Silcox. The period of most rapid expansion was from 1925 to 1930, after which the depression affected this movement. He also pointed out that along with the long-time tendency toward large scale operations, new problems had arisen with respect to price control and bargaining relationships between economic groups.

Other significant developments in the marketing of dairy products which Dr. Silcox touched upon were changing methods of procurement, state and federal regulations in fluid milk markets, trade agreement progress, increase in the use of advertising, and improvement in quality.

Miller Speaks At Ortonville

Return of farms lost through drouth and depression into the hands of farm owners was stressed by Director Paul E. Miller as the big problem in Big Stone county at a recent gathering of farm people and agricultural leaders meeting in Ortonville to observe the twenty-fifth milestone of county agricultural extension work. This was one of several addresses given or soon to be given by extension's new chief.

Saturday, March 19, Director Miller will be the speaker at the Freeborn county achievement day. He addressed the home demonstration conference on the problems of farm families the afternoon of March 3; that same evening he spoke before a consumers cooperative wholesale meeting in Minneapolis. Friday, March 4, he pointed out the need for farm buildings at the annual Farm Structures Conference held at University Farm.

• • • The March issue of Successful Farming announces the appointment of Fred Idtse, former East Polk county agent, as fieldman at large for the Brown Swiss Cattle Breeders' association. For the past 8 years Idtse has been serving as fieldman for the American Jersey Cattle club. The magazine says, "Very popular with Jersey breeders, Idtse is credited with having inaugurated the parish-show plan in its present form in his territory. He will be located at Beloit, Wis., national Brown Swiss headquarters."

Coming Events

Mar. 14-19	Ice Cream Makers' Short Course
Mar. 23-25	Horticultural Short Course
Mar. 24-26	Rural Dramatics Short Course
Mar. 28-29	Regional Bang's Disease Conference, St. Paul
Apr. 19-20	District County Agent Conference, Owatonna
Apr. 21-22	District County Agent Conference, Marshall
Apr. 26-27	District County Agent Conference, Grand Rapids
Apr. 28-29	District County Agent Conference, Crookston
May 5-7	Editors' Short Course

Unless otherwise specified, events listed will take place at University Farm.

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48 Counties Carry Home Work

The influence of home demonstration work reached out to nearly 51,000 Minnesota homes last year, helping farm women to keep abreast of new and improved methods of homemaking.

The report of M. Lois Reid, acting home demonstration leader last year, shows that 48 counties carried home demonstration work. Of the six regular projects offered, clothing had the most counties entered, 14 in all, with a total enrollment of 13,819. Nutrition came second in number of counties, but first in total enrollment with 14,508 women on the rolls.

Figures comparing enrollment between home demonstration agent counties and non-home demonstration agent counties indicate the value of having a full time leader for the home side of extension work. In 24 counties in which there are home agents, the enrollment was 34,230, while in the other 24 counties not having home agents, the enrollment was 16,464—considerably less than 50 per cent. The percentage of families reached varied from 7 to 53 per cent, the latter in Faribault county.

Blue Earth county recorded the largest number of groups carrying a special project. This was the "Living in the Home" project given by Clara Farstad, home demonstration agent, Belle Osborn Fish, child development specialist, and E. M. Hunt, extension horticulturist. Fillmore county women were organized in 46 groups and carried clothing work presented by Mildred Sailor, home demonstration agent, and Eves Whitfield, clothing specialist. As a whole, achievements included the adoption of improved homemaking methods by 21,765 women, while 106,000 households took on improved practices.

Among the new features in the 1937 home demonstration program has been the appointment of three assistant home demonstration agents. By this method, the assistants are prepared for county positions by receiving training in counties having well planned farm and home programs. Self-determined programs planned by women who enrolled for them, and 2-day 4-H subject matter training meetings for home demonstration agents were also new this year.

• • • Eight state staff members attended the Central States Regional Conference at Davenport, Iowa, March 14, 15, and 16. Director Paul E. Miller, Home Demonstration Leader Julia O. Newton, State County Agent Leader L. A. Churchill, and District Leaders C. L. McNelly, A. E. Engebretson and R. M. Douglass attended all three days. Farm Management Specialist S. B. Cleland went down for the first day, while S. H. Rutford, agricultural conservationist, attended a meeting on agricultural conservation Thursday, March 17. Minnesota, Iowa, Illinois, Missouri and Wisconsin were represented.

To Have Bang's Control Meeting

Problems of preventing and controlling Bang's disease of cattle will be threshed out at a 2-day conference to be held in Hotel Lowry, St. Paul, March 28 and 29.

Dr. C. P. Fitch, chief of the division of veterinary medicine at University Farm, reports that representatives of nine states will be present. These will include breeders, veterinarians, control officials, county agricultural agents and representatives of extension divisions of agricultural colleges of nine north central states. The conference is being sponsored by the Minnesota and Wisconsin Livestock Breeders associations. Other states include North and South Dakota, Iowa, Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan and Ohio.

The program will include such subjects as progress in Bang's disease control, Bang's disease from the standpoint of the breeder, vaccination, and the area plan of control.

• • • Under the leadership of Frank Brown, former extensioner, Minnesota again led the "parade of states" at the annual convention of the State Farm Insurance company at Chicago in February. It was the fourth straight year that the Gopher Farm Bureau insurance department has out sold the 38 states covered by the national agency. Wesley Brown, a chip bigger than the old block, and a star salesman on the Minnesota force, marched in the parade as Paul Bunyan, toting a barrel of applications. High on the speaking program were Frank, J. S. Jones, and another former extensioner, W. D. Stegner, who meteored from the state insurance post here to manage the life sales at headquarters, one of the big reasons why that department doubled its business in 1937.

• • • Miss Julia O. Newton, state home demonstration leader, was a speaker on the program of the North Dakota Winter Show at Valley City, March 11. Miss Newton's talk was "The 1938 Model Farm Family."

• • • Mrs. Dorothy Peterson, for several years record clerk in the dairy extension office, has resigned her position. "Homemaker" will be Mrs. Peterson's title henceforth.

• • • Karl Knaus, field agent for the federal extension service, was at University Farm, March 8, for a conference with Director Paul E. Miller and the county agent supervisors.

• • • George F. Howard of Mapleton, former 4-H club agent, was a University Farm visitor, February 28. Howard entered agricultural extension work in 1909 and served for many years as state club agent. He retired in 1927.

Personnel Changes

Personnel changes this month include the appointment of Miss Helen M. Stensgaard, McIntosh, as Nicollet county home demonstration agent, effective March 28. Miss Stensgaard will be graduated from the University of Minnesota this month. She received her B.A. from Concordia college, Moorhead, in 1929, and for 6 years was a member of the high school staff at Boscobel, Wis.

W. H. Olson, former Hubbard agent, resigned February 28 to become head of the Minnesota state dairy industries committee, designed to promote wider use of dairy products. Olson's post was taken by Chester W. Graham, formerly assistant agent in Wilkin county. Norman Goodwin is now regular agent in Douglas county, following the county's decision to go on the regular extension basis.

Richard Hamilton, a native of North Dakota, went to Itasca county as county club agent, February 16. Hamilton, farm reared, was born at Rugby, N. D. He was graduated from North Dakota State college, Fargo, in 1937.

Miss Ellen Moline, Detroit Lakes, will go into Stearns county as home demonstration agent, March 28. Miss Moline, who will receive her degree from the University of Minnesota at the end of the winter quarter, has had considerable extension experience. She served as adult 4-H club leader for 5 years and as county club agent in Stevens county from April to September, 1935. She also has had several years of teaching experience.

Walter Boeke, emergency agent in Mille Lacs, became regular agent in that county after it went on the regular extension basis.

FLASHES from AFIELD

Aitkin. United States Department of Agriculture film strips were recently used in a discussion on the control of diseases and insects of vegetables. This illustrated talk was given before the Nordland Grange members at a meeting, February 21.—**A. R. Rollin, agent.**

Benton. Twenty-five articles were written for county papers this month giving the public information on extension activities. We find that we are able to obtain help from the public more readily if people are given some publicity for their efforts.—**Paul Lindholm, agent.**

Blue Earth. Twenty-one townships were represented by 120 men at a grasshopper control meeting in Mankato, February 9, at which H. L. Parten, extension entomologist, discussed the grasshopper situation and the problem of heavy infestation. All of the 23 townships are organized and ready for an anti-hopper campaign this spring. Six carloads of poison are ready for use with one additional carload of unmixed materials on hand.—**L. E. McMillan, agent.**

Carlton. Since alfalfa and other legumes have a large place in the farm program of 1938, charts have been prepared to show the value of alfalfa and other dairy feeds, and the cost of production per 100 pounds of digestible nutrients. These charts were used in talks at various farm unit meetings.—**L. A. Reiten, agent.**

Clay. The 4-H membership goal for this year has been set at 775, and junior leaders are being urged to contact boys and girls in each community. Clubs have been encouraged to initiate new members with a special ceremony which serves to make them feel the dignity and responsibility of their membership.—**Margaret Opp, home demonstration agent.**

Dakota. The highlight of this month's activities in agricultural conservation was the farmers' and business men's banquet sponsored by the Agricultural Conservation association. Over 250 committeemen and business men, with their wives, attended the banquet in Farmington, February 28. The theme of the banquet was "Farmers and Business Men Prosper To-

• • • When Herb Parten "shoots off" on the subject of grasshoppers he makes a whale of an impression, judging from the March issue of the Farmers' Elevator Guide. Its report of Herb's talk at the state convention of the Farmers Grain Dealers association, is accompanied by a "candid" camera shot of a hunter who rests a rifle in one hand and in the other holds up by the hind legs a grasshopper bigger than a jackrabbit.

• • • Sixty temporary county 4-H club agents who will go into as many counties April 1, met at University Farm recently to organize themselves and elect officers. Don Hotchkiss, who will go into Goodhue county, was named president. Cecil Fausch, to be club agent in Carlton county is vice-president. Anna Rose Gallagher, who will go to Lincoln county, was elected secretary-treasurer. Nearly all the 60 temporary club agents have been appointed and will lead club work in their counties from April 1 to October 1, when many of them will return to the University. This is the first time the temporary agents have had a formal organization.

gether." S. H. Rufford, state extension committeeman, discussed tariff policies and reciprocal trade agreements.—**H. L. Lawrenz, agent.**

Freeborn. To obtain a correct and up-to-date mailing list of all farmers in the county, the agent secured the last personal property tax list and contacted post offices and instructors. The result was a good mailing list which can be used when a general letter should be mailed to every farmer in the county.—**Willis Lawson, agent.**

Itasca. It required only 15 meetings to reach the goal of 2,000 cows for the new Itasca county cooperative creamery group. These meetings were held as part of a campaign to complete the organization of a new cooperative dairy marketing association. With dairymen still coming into this new organization, the total number of cows will be close to the 3,000 mark.—**A. H. Frick, agent.**

Mahnomen. Plans are being made for a tree planting campaign this spring, and 2 bushels of ash seed have been obtained from the Northwest School, Crookston, for distribution among farmers. Forestry will also be one of the leading projects in 4-H work this year.—**W. O. Woodman, agent.**

Martin. A 4-H club council consisting of 13 members has been organized to assist in administering, sponsoring and determining policies of 4-H clubs in this county. Representatives of the Martin county Farm Bureau, the county extension agent, the chairman of the county board and the president of the junior leaders group automatically became members of the committee by virtue of their position. Representatives of schools will be appointed by the county extension committee. Beginning next year, 4-H leaders will be elected to the committee by the adult leaders in each of the four divisions of the county.—**C. G. Powell, assistant agent.**

• • • Varied, indeed, are methods employed in community organization work. Up in Wright county a series of educational meetings to acquaint farmers with the work of the Farm Bureau have been in progress since March 1. Agent E. W. Alton cites two units at Maple Lake and Howard Lake as being particularly active, having sponsored two institute meetings during February and March. One activity of the Maple Lake unit is of more than ordinary interest. The unit has been holding a series of whist tournaments, attended by an average of 11 tables of players. The group meets weekly in different homes, and through it a number of additional memberships have been obtained.

• • • Kenneth W. (Kenny) Ingwolson, state 4-H club agent, who recently purchased a house in the Falcon addition, St. Paul, has proved that the light of leadership ability just can't be hidden. No sooner had Kenny got settled in his new home when he was drafted to participate in community betterment, as chairman of the nuisance committee. So, if you want to know where to find a big, healthy nuisance, Kenny's the contact man.

McLeod. Fifteen hundred people who attended the third annual meeting of the McLeod County Cooperative Power association made this event the largest of the season. Especially attractive was the display of electrical appliances shown by dealers and jobbers. Exhibits ranged from time clocks to milking machines and gave prospective customers a good opportunity to compare electrical goods.—**R. A. Fischer, agent.**

Nicollet. Another 50-year program for the improvement of the dairy industry in this county was outlined by the county's dairy committee, February 23, with E. A. Hanson, extension dairyman, present to assist in the discussion and suggest possible aims. Advertising dairy products was considered an outstanding objective at the present time and the committee recommended that every creamery in the county subscribe to the state dairy industry committee's plan to create a fund to promote wider use of dairy products. Other major points to be considered are improvement of herd sires, improvement of the entire herd, improved feeding and management, production of better quality products, further work for disease control and legislative and marketing programs to aid dairy industries.—**E. M. Nelson, agent.**

Norman. One of the big jobs of the month was locating sources of good seed potatoes, but with the assistance of one dealer some very good seed was found. Price quotations were received and information released to interested growers. As a result of this work, six carloads of certified seed have been purchased by growers. Many producers are being encouraged to divert poor seed to livestock feed. Although the crop here was heavy, the quality was particularly bad, due to stem end rot.—**George Landsverk, agent.**

Pine. Following the dairy school in Askov when E. A. Hanson, dairy specialist, discussed the feeding of bone meal to dairy cattle, one dealer reported that he had sold more meal

that evening than during the past year. One dairyman reported a 5 per cent increase in milk production after he had changed to recommended feeding practices.—**Max McMillin, agent.**

Pope. Organization of the county for home demonstration projects has been started and arrangements are underway for nutrition work this spring. A group of community leaders met at Glenwood recently to set up the organization under the direction of Inez M. Hobart, nutrition specialist.—**N. P. Hanson, agent.**

Red Lake. "One hundred per cent free of Bang's disease" is to be the keynote in the Red Lake livestock industry. Dr. H. A. Wilson, who represents the Bureau of Animal Industry, Washington, D.C., has selected Red Lake as the second county to have the 100 per cent test for Bang's disease in Minnesota. About 65 per cent of our cattle owners have already signed agreements to have their cattle tested; the remaining herd owners are being urged to contact the county agent's office as soon as possible.—**Ernest A. Palmer, agent.**

Washington. A new plan of publicizing a dairy and poultry institute met with considerable success this past month. About 2 weeks before the meeting a card was sent to all farm families within a radius of 10 miles of Lake Elmo, asking them to hold February 11 open for an all-day meeting; the card indicated that details would be issued later. A week before the meeting a full letter of explanation was sent to the same families while a second card was mailed to each of them the day before the event, reminding them of the meeting time, place, and subjects to be discussed. This was supplemented by local paper publicity and an article in Farm Bureau News.—**Lester W. Justice, assistant agent.**

Winona. Two hundred homemakers came to Lewiston recently for a kitchen clinic, a special event which evoked much interest from the women. Subjects of discussion included color schemes, kitchen floor plans, what to look for in cooking utensils, convenient cupboard set-ups such as pan files, knife racks, canister shelves and shelf space. Another attractive feature was the film showing the Farmers' Wife country kitchen.—**Mrs. Beatrice McGrath, home demonstration agent.**

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