

MINNESOTA EXTENSION SERVICE NEWS

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New Legislation Affecting County Extension Service; State and Federal Aid Per County Next Year, \$1,760

(By F. E. Balmer)

On the last day of the 1923 session of the Minnesota legislature, by action of the house of representatives, Senate File No. 185, to be known hereafter as Chapter —, Laws of 1923, providing for county co-operative extension work, received final passage. The house passed on the measure as it came from the senate. It was signed by the governor April 21.

Changes Effected

In contrast to legislation previously in effect the new act provides for the following:

1. "The county farm bureau association shall be accepted as a co-operating agency in the promotion of county co-operative extension work when said organization has a membership equal to one-third of the number of farmers in the county as determined by the last official state or federal census, provided that in no case shall more than 200 members be required" and "has on deposit in local banks not less than \$200 available for use by such association in maintaining its organization and work."

2. "There shall be provided in each county having a county farm bureau association a budget committee to be known as a county co-operative extension committee consisting of seven members of whom two shall be members of the board of county commissioners, including the chairman and one other selected by said board, the county auditor, the president, vice-president, and secretary of the county farm bureau association, and one additional member selected by the farm bureau executive committee. The county co-operative extension committee each year on or before the second Monday of July shall prepare a budget showing the total funds available and needed and shall recommend by resolution the amount of county funds necessary for the maintenance, support, and expenses of county co-operative extension work in agriculture and home economics during the following year.

3. "A copy of such budget and resolution shall be presented by the county auditor to the board of county commissioners."

County Appropriations

4. "It shall be the duty of the board of county commissioners at its regular meeting in July or January, as the case may be, to consider the recommended county share" of funds required and "the board of county commissioners may appropriate annually not less than \$1,500 and not to exceed the specified limits" provided in the law for such purposes.

5. County funds may be "appropriated from the general revenue fund of the county except that in counties where the general revenue fund is exhausted, the board of county commissioners shall make a special levy for county co-operative extension purposes."

6. "In the event there is an unexpended balance of the 'county co-operative extension fund' at the end of any year, said balance shall be carried over or re-appropriated within the limits of the appropriation specified."

7. County funds "shall be paid out by orders of the dean of the department of agriculture of the University of Minnesota for salaries of agents employed, their employees, and other expenses incident to the work . . . provided that no order for the application of said funds for the purposes named shall be issued until the expenditure shall have been audited and signed by the county auditor and the secretary of the county farm bureau association."

8. Provision is made whereby state funds may be applied in a more flexible and equitable manner than formerly.

9. The executive committee of the county farm bureau association shall annually formulate a program of work in agriculture and home economics in co-operation with the agricultural extension division of the University of Minnesota and the United States Department of Agriculture."

County Agents—How Engaged

10. "For the purpose of putting this program into operation, it shall be the duty of the executive committee of the county farm bureau association and the county co-operative extension committee, acting with the dean of the department of agriculture of the University of Minnesota or his delegated representative, to engage a suitable and qualified person or persons for such work to be known as 'county agents.'"

11. "No agent shall be continued in any county whose services prove unsatisfactory to the executive committee of the county farm bureau association and the county co-operative extension committee."

12. The duties of agents employed are more clearly defined; specific mention is made that "the county agent shall give aid and advice to all residents of the county when called upon, when the object is to improve the science, art, and business of agriculture and home economics," and further, that the funds appropriated may be applied "to the work of such agents in improving agriculture and home economics and improving and bettering the marketing of farm products."

13. "The duties of the members of the county co-operative extension committee in addition to those hereinbefore specified shall be to encourage the co-operation of all individuals and organizations to make profitable use of co-operative extension activities and they shall elect their own chairman and vice-chairman, who shall serve for one year. . . . The county auditor shall act as secretary of such county co-operative extension committee."

Dean Charged With Administration

The new act delegates the duty of its general administration to the dean of the department of agriculture of the University of Minnesota. Pursuant to this provision, certain administrative requirements have been set forth by the dean, copies of which are being addressed to county farm bureau officials, boards of county commissioners, and county extension employees. It is set forth in the requirements advanced by the dean that sufficient funds, preferably public funds, must be available to finance whatever work is undertaken. In addition to salaries paid, funds should be available to maintain the service as follows: With the county agricultural agent employed, who represents all extension activities in the county with an allowance for office maintenance—\$1,500 to \$2,000 and for each additional county extension employee, such as a home demonstration agent or county club leader, there should be available for expenses from \$600 to \$1,000.

The chairman of the board of county commissioners and the president of the

county farm bureau association, acting together are requested to call a joint meeting of the board of county commissioners and the executive committee of the county farm bureau for the purpose of perfecting the organization of the county co-operative extension committee so that it may familiarize itself with its activities and duties and take such action as will insure continued progress of the service in the counties. This action is being urged though the formal organization of such committee does not go into effect until July 1 when the measure becomes effective.

Funds Available for 1923 and 1924

The combined federal and state funds available during the coming two years will not be as great as anticipated during the session of the legislature. These funds with the usual county aid will not be adequate to maintain the service on an entirely satisfactory basis in every county in the state. Therefore, since all counties cannot be favored with federal and state aid, it is felt that the counties which will first comply with requirements should be given the greatest aid possible within appropriations available with a view to maintaining the service on the highest order possible. Accordingly, announcement is here made that those counties which first comply with the requirements of the law will be the first to receive the increased grant of federal and state aid going to counties.

The essential requirement to be complied with is that the county farm bureau association shall have a "membership equal to one-third of the number of farmers in the county as determined by the last official state or federal census, provided that in no case shall more than 200 members be required." Furthermore, preference will be given to those counties where funds needed to supplement federal and state aid are derived from appropriation by the board of county commissioners, permitting the county farm bureau association to use more of its own resources for the needs of its organization.

Counties which make such compliance with requirements for the year beginning July 1, 1923, will receive \$1,200 state aid and \$560 federal aid, or a total of \$1,760 for the year as against \$1,360 for the preceding year.

On Solid Foundation

There was little opposition to Senate File 185 in either the senate or the house and it was only the rush of business that prevented the bill from receiving earlier

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FARMERS PLANNING TO GROW MORE LEGUMES

Increase in Acreage Forecast All Along the Line in Minnesota—1923 to Be Real Legume Year.

Since early last fall the extension forces have been placing emphasis on the slogan, "Grow More Legumes." The publicity section has played its part; the Minnesota Farmers' Institute Annual No. 35 has made a powerful appeal for the planting of more clover, alfalfa and soybeans; the county agents have co-operated in a very creditable manner.

But after all is said and done, the farmers are the men who have put this campaign over. Thanks to them, this is going to be a legume year in Minnesota—undoubtedly the first of a series of greater legume years that are destined to advance Minnesota to new commanding positions in dairy and general farming.

Typical reports from county agents concerning this successful campaign are given herewith:

Farmers Everywhere Interested

Crow Wing—The interest in alfalfa is county wide. Orders for seed up to April 2 exceeded a ton.

Hubbard—Nine additional co-operators secured for the alfalfa project, making a total of 35.

Kanabec—So far 105 farmers have ordered alfalfa seed. Close to 300 acres will be planted this year.

Lake of the Woods—More than 150 acres of alfalfa will be sown this year.

St. Louis—Interest continues at high point. Liming and inoculation are stressed at all meetings.

Blue Earth—Unusual interest in legumes. More alfalfa seed ordered than ever before. The Rapidan community alone took 11,510 pounds of Grimm alfalfa.

Brown—Many orders for alfalfa, soybeans and white blossom sweet clover seed. More than 4,000 pounds of Grimm alfalfa ordered through the county agent's office.

Jackson—Six hundred acres of alfalfa is the forecast for this county.

Lac qui Parle—Heavy demand for sweet clover seed. Thousands of pounds of genuine Grimm alfalfa handled.

LeSueur—Marked interest taken in growing all sorts of legumes.

Orders for Seed Heavy

Lincoln—Seeds ordered through the farm bureau office: Alfalfa, 2,570 pounds; soybeans, 6,708 pounds; sweet clover, 10,744 pounds.

Lyon—Orders for 105 bushels of soybeans taken in March. Farmers pooled their orders for three tons of Grimm alfalfa seed; 45,000 pounds of sweet clover will be sown the coming year.

Martin—More than 110 farmers have asked for soil acidity tests before sowing alfalfa or sweet clover.

Nobles—More than 3,000 pounds of certified Grimm alfalfa distributed to farmers. Approximately 5,000 pounds of white blossom sweet clover have been sold. The alfalfa seed will increase the acreage of that legume in Nobles county this year by 50 per cent;

the sweet clover acreage will be more than doubled.

Traverse—Marked increase certain in the sweet clover, alfalfa and soybean acreage.

Becker—Acreage of legumes will be increased from 100 to 150 per cent.

Kittson—Inquiries for seed heavy. Clover acreage will be largely increased.

Mahnomen—More than a ton of alfalfa seed, two tons of sweet clover and quantities of red clover, timothy and alsike purchased for spring seeding.

2,000 Acres in Meeker

Meeker—Alfalfa acreage will be trebled. Indications now point to about 2,000 acres. Unusual interest exhibited in clover for pasture.

Pope—Many orders for sweet clover, Grimm alfalfa and medium red clover.

Roseau—Exceptionally large increase foreseen of sweet clover and alfalfa.

Stearns—Acreage of both alfalfa and sweet clover will be more than doubled.

Swift—Acid phosphate will be used on land to be planted with alfalfa and soybeans. Sweet clover and alfalfa seed are being imported in large quantities.

Carver—More than 2,700 pounds of Grimm alfalfa seed ordered through the farm bureau. No common alfalfa will be planted. A great increase in the acreage of legumes assured.

Houston—Great interest taken here in soybeans. Manchu is the most popular variety.

Mower—Large quantities of alfalfa and clover seed distributed among farmers.

Washington—Alfalfa will get a good boost this year. Several farmers who have never had any particular co-operation with the county agent have come around to co-operate on the alfalfa game.

Winona—Farmers are planning to grow increased acreages of soybeans. One of the smaller farm bureau units voted to have at least ten farmers try alfalfa this year. A project leader was selected.

2,430 PERSONS ATTEND CAVERT'S MEETINGS

W. L. Cavert, farm management extension specialist, reports that during December, January, February, and March 67 farm business schools were held in 36 different counties with a total attendance of 2,430. The subjects most in demand for discussion were cost of producing butterfat, cost of producing hogs, and planning the farm business so as best to meet the present economic situation.

"These meetings brought home the fact," says Mr. Cavert, "that there is no exact figure that represents the cost of hogs, butterfat or any other product, but that there is a different cost for each farm, and that the farmer who adopts balanced rations and suitable rotations will have the lowest cost of production and thus will be best able to stand hard times and will also make the most money in good times."

HOLDS BEST TONIC IS MORE EXTENSION WORK

"It Has Done More for Women of Kanabec County Than Anything Else," Writes Mrs. Ravenscraft.

That local leader work in home projects has many values is testified to by Mrs. R. Ravenscraft of Ogilvie, Kanabec county, who has written the following to the state home demonstration office:

"I believe extension work has done more for the women of Kanabec county than anything else could have done. We who received the work firsthand have appreciated it and, in so far as we could, used it and lived it and have felt that it was a privilege as well as a duty to 'pay back' by telling and showing others. Hence it has brought us in contact with new women all over the county and thus has given us a wider scope of acquaintance as well as usefulness. It has done what I consider of equal significance in our rural communities—brought town women and country women together as mothers and homemakers and wiped out a great deal of that Hindu-like class difference.

"Your excellent 'follow-up' system has taken us out of the routine of our daily lives and given us something to in turn give our fellows. With her splendid enthusiasm, Miss Cordiner has buoyed our women over the discouraging places and made us realize that 'Rome was not built in a day'—nor while its workmen slept. The best tonic you can give Kanabec county is more extension work.

"I want to say, too, that our county agent, Mr. Hensel, has shown a splendid attitude towards this work and thus helped me to know the farm bureau. Living in town (less than 400) I hadn't met it previously."

Washington Has Club Leader

Boys' and girls' club activities in Washington county will be looked after by Donald Ferguson, a recent graduate of the Minnesota School of Agriculture, who on April 1 entered upon a six months' term as club leader in that county. Since his graduation Mr. Ferguson has had two years' experience in cow testing work with the extension service.

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consideration. In the senate an amendment was proposed which would have required an election on the appropriation to be made by boards of county commissioners. This was roundly defeated. Also during the discussion on the appropriation to be made for county agent work during the coming biennium, a motion was made by one house member to eliminate the appropriation to county agent work entirely. This also was decisively defeated.

The re-organization of the extension service which will provide for increased state and federal aid, and the passage of Senate File 185, make possible a decidedly improved basis for the operation of county co-operative extension work in Minnesota during the coming biennium.

SHORT COURSES LURE 2,500 BOYS AND GIRLS

Programs of Work and Recreation Put on in 13 Counties Besides Courses at U. Farm, Crookston and Morris

The boys' and girls' club short course has been one of the special features in the program of extension work for juniors during the winter and spring months. Besides the general week's club short courses at University Farm, Morris, and Crookston, such courses were held in Kanabec, Mille Lacs, Dodge, Le Sueur, Nicollet, Wadena, Lac qui Parle, Redwood, Todd, Itasca, Mower, Becker, and Beltrami counties. The programs included general club information, club organization, club programs, and recreation, including games, movies, etc. The important feature, however, was instruction work for the project each boy or girl is taking.

The total enrollment for all these short courses exceeded 2,500. A club leaders' conference was held in connection with each. County work was discussed and outlined. The state workers emphasized methods, organization, and details of the state part of the work, while the actual work of the short course and individual and team demonstrations furnished the basis of the subject matter work.

More than 250 teachers and others acting as club leaders attended this part of short course work.

Bemidji Course as an Example

A few details about the Bemidji short course will suggest the possibilities of this feature of club work. This course was held a full week. The enrollment was taken before hand, and totalled 250, representing practically every part of the county.

The course was in charge of the county agent, county superintendent of schools and local high school agriculturists, assisted by a committee of eight wide awake teachers, local leaders. The boys and girls were roomed in large halls, and fed in the home economics department of the high school. The commercial club provided funds for all expenses except \$1, which each junior was asked to pay. The extension service and Northwest School of Agriculture furnished the instructors. Movie programs and sight seeing trips added much to the program. The district bread team demonstration contest was held as a part of the program, together with team demonstrations in dairy, potato, and garment work.

Bring Definite Results

"The Beltrami county short course was in most ways the most successful county course held this year," says Mr. Erickson, the state leader. "Extension people, school folks and business men as well as every club member present seemed unanimous in voting it a success.

"Practically all of the county agents where short courses were held this year are planning to repeat the course next year. For the amount of time and effort spent we believe there is no phase of extension work with boys and girls that brings more definite results than the club short course properly organized and directed."

POTATO MARKETING WORK PROGRESSING

Active progress is being made in the potato marketing movement in Minnesota. S. G. Rubinow, who managed the successful campaign in Maine, will be in charge of the campaign here. He was due to arrive in the state April 26, and will be here until the organization has been completed.

Arrangements have been made by the executive committee for a loan of \$10,000 with which to finance the organization work. A supply of the contracts is being printed and will be available immediately.

Meetings have been held at important potato producing centers and the response has been good. The growers are open minded on the subject of potato marketing, and as soon as they understand the proposed plan are usually ready to undertake the organization.

Walton Peteet, marketing director for the American Farm Bureau association, is meeting at Fargo with North Dakota potato growers. He will visit Minnesota for one or more meetings. It is expected that both Mr. Peteet and Mr. Sapiro will be available for meetings in Minnesota later.

NEW AGENT NAMED FOR SCOTT COUNTY

John P. Sheay, formerly county agent of Meeker county, Minn., will serve as county agent of Scott county succeeding William L. McFetridge, who will undertake farming operations for himself in Wisconsin and serve part time with a Wisconsin colonization company. Mr. Sheay is a graduate of the Illinois Agricultural college; served one year as agricultural instructor at Stewart; five years in a similar position at Hutchinson, following which he was called to county agent work in Meeker county when it was first organized. During the last two years Mr. Sheay has been serving as marketing specialist for the state extension service in Missouri. As Mr. Sheay begins work, the office of the county extension service in Scott county will be moved from Shakopee to Jordan.

Hickman Succeeds Enerson

County Agent C. C. Hickman of Sherburne county has been transferred to Pipestone county, to succeed A. E. Enerson, who resigned. Mr. Enerson has become engaged as a district agent for Pipestone, Murray, Nobles, and Rock counties for the Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance company of Milwaukee.

Picha Submits Remedy

County Agent Ben Picha of Becker county recommends the feeding of steamed bonemeal as a measure of relief for cattle suffering from abnormal appetite. Mr. Picha believes in feeding the soil also with the desired constituents so that a normal balance of ash is present in the crop grown. When this is brought about, he says, bone diseases and depraved appetites will take care of themselves.

EGG-LAYING CONTEST IN WINONA A SUCCESS

Publicity and Prompt Reports Are Carrying the Enterprise Along in Good Shape, Says McNulty.

The egg-laying contest in Winona county is meeting with success, according to results observed by Miss Cora Cooke on a recent visit. This contest was begun on December first with 49 contestants, only seven of whom have dropped out. Some entries consist of the whole flock, while in other cases a certain number of pullets is entered. Each month publicity is given to the records of the 12 highest flocks. In December the average production per hen in these 12 highest flocks ranged from 3 to 19 while in February the range was from 8 to 18.

J. B. McNulty, the Winona county agent, says the two chief elements of success are ample publicity and time for preparation before the beginning of the contest, and some method of obtaining prompt reports. Notices and report cards are sent to contestants just before the close of each month. Any contestant whose report is not received by the fifth of the following month is reminded by card of that fact. Occasionally a second reminder is necessary.

Prizes are being offered by businessmen, although Mr. McNulty expresses the belief that prizes are not an essential feature and that the publicity given to results can be depended upon pretty largely in maintaining interest.

According to Mr. McNulty, the chief advantage of such a contest for the agricultural agent is that it is a comparatively easy way of making contacts that might not otherwise be possible.

H. A. Nourse, editor of the Poultry Herald, has offered 40 subscriptions of that paper to be used as prizes for the two flocks in each county which have the highest average production per bird during the first six months of the county egg-laying contest.

UNIVERSITY'S WORK IN PEATS PLEASES ANOKA

Anoka county people are strongly impressed by the work of the university department of agriculture in reclaiming peat lands. County Agent L. O. Jacob says that reports compiled up to March 31 indicate that close to 4,000 acres of peat land in the county will be cropped this year. This acreage is divided among 200 different farms. "On the basis of last year's yields of clover hay on peat lands," says the county agent, "these 4,000 acres will produce an income equal to that produced by the remaining 96,000 acres of peat which will not be cropped and will only yield wild swamp hay."

Clothing Club Work Leads

Abbott of Koochiching county reports the enrollment up to April 1 of 361 boys and girls in club work. The garment making project is the strongest in a list of ten projects, having an enrollment of 117. Forty-five girls have joined bread clubs. So far 11 standard clubs have been organized in the county.

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PERMANENT APPROPRIATIONS

One of the handicaps to efficient agricultural extension work in many counties has been the uncertainty each year of the continuance of appropriations by county commissioners of funds for its support, says The Official Record, United States Department of Agriculture. For this reason it has often been difficult to secure the best type of men for the work. However, The Record finds that a tendency on the part of county officials to regard county extension work appropriations as a permanent part of the budget is developing in many sections, as indicated by the following recently adopted by the county commissioners of Umatilla county, Oregon:

"In view of the fact that our county agent has received an offer to return to Montana and is strongly considering accepting the same, not because of the extra financial inducement but because of the uncertainty which exists for several weeks during the formation and passage of the budget each year, and inasmuch as a delegation of farmers has appeared asking for our attitude in regard to the matter, we desire to state:

"County-agent work has been firmly established throughout the United States; it is past the experimental stage. In spite of financial depression there were 42 more counties in the country having county agents January 1, 1922, than a year previous. In the 99 counties in Iowa there were 90 county agents, 80 in the 86 counties of Minnesota, and almost equally as good reports can be obtained in other middle western states.

"The controversy which arose in Umatilla county at the time that the 1922 budget was adopted arose not as a protest against county-agent work, but as a general protest against high taxes. Inasmuch as the future of county agent work in this county became involved in the general demand, a vigorous protest against any attempt to discontinue the work was launched. Petitions emphasizing the importance of county-agent work as a factor in the development of the agricultural interests of the county and urging the retention of

the work were circulated and signed by every bank in the county and by several hundred taxpayers. An overwhelming majority of those who appeared before the county court on taxpayers' day spoke in behalf of the work.

"While such a demonstration was very gratifying to the county court and the budget committee, in that it confirmed their judgment, the county court realized that such a demonstration involves considerable time on the part of a large number of taxpayers who appeared before the court on behalf of the county agent work. The agitation and uncertainty also lowers the efficiency of the work, decreases its stability, and makes the position less desirable to hold. We believe that the names of the taxpayers on the petitions which we have on file are of such a character that they are not likely to change their minds in a single year.

"In view of these facts, we do not believe that it will be necessary to secure a widespread general expression of the people of the county each year, and unless there is a decided reversal of sentiment on the part of those who signed petitions and appeared before the last budget meeting, the county court will continue as in previous years to make necessary financial appropriations for county agent work as provided by law."

CLUB WOMEN OF U. S. BACK EXTENSION WORK

The General Federation of Women's Clubs has pledged itself to further the movement for home improvement by organizing a home extension service division. The objects of the division are:

1. A home demonstration agent in every county. (As soon as finances permit).
2. To raise the standard of the American home.
3. To increase the extension service to all boys and girls.
4. To co-operate with and support home demonstration agents already established.
5. To support and encourage boys' and girls' club work already established.
6. To effect a clear understanding of extension work among club women.
7. To establish a realization of the interdependence of rural and urban people.

Windbreaks Thriving

Three new co-operators in demonstrating the value of windbreaks have brought the total number in Pipestone county up to 14. The county agent says that some of the windbreaks planted two and three years ago are showing up very nicely.

Bound to Have County Show

The county fair proposition having fallen through in Becker county, arrangements will be made for a boys' and girls' county club show, says County Agent Picha.

KINDS OF CO-OPERATIVE ORGANIZATIONS AT THE CENTRAL MARKET

(By Dr. H. B. Price)

There are probably 150 organizations in the United States that are selling agricultural products co-operatively on a rather large scale. There are many differences in purpose, business practice and structure of organization among the different associations. In general they fall into two important groups, the centralized or "commodity" type and the decentralized or "federated" type. The latter type is predominant in Minnesota and the adjoining states; the former prevails on the Pacific coast and in the south. Some of the chief differences of the two types are as follows:

1. Contract directly with producers vs. contract with locals and locals in turn contract with producers. The "commodity" organizations often have locals, but they are usually treated as advisory bodies and such services as they give are under the supervision of the central organization.

2. Long-term contracts with members vs. no contract at all in some cases. Most of the Minnesota federations have contracts with member locals. Contracts between the locals and producers are uncommon for the principal types of local co-operative associations; this undoubtedly explains the lesser importance given to the contract by the "federations."

3. Control of supply. The "commodity" organizations attempt to control more completely the supply, and along with this, to control the flow to market, to distribute to different markets, to advertise, etc.

4. Control of quality and preparation for market. The "commodity" type secures greater control by having direct contact with producers and by exercising greater authority over the local marketing.

5. Insistence by the "commodity" organization upon pooling quality over a considerable area. Exponents of this type of organization maintain that there is no reason for a commodity to maintain its community identity.

6. Setting up a separate organization for each commodity handled vs. less insistence upon buying and selling the different products separately. The "commodity" type attempts to secure co-ordination of the different commodities, using similar marketing facilities and marketing channels by using cross contracts.

7. Handling products for members only vs. handling business of non-members in many cases.

8. Non-stock, non-profit corporations with subsidiary stock corporations to furnish any needed capital for warehousing, financing, etc., vs. co-operative stock corporations.

9. Strong central organization which secures support by legal devices vs. weaker, more democratic organization that leaves more control to the local community and which depends more largely for its support upon public opinion.

These differences between the "commodity" and the "federated" types are not necessary in all instances. They may be only differences in degree in some cases; they may be due to historical, legal, or other factors. Keeping in mind the marketing problems outlined in the previous issue by Dr. J. D. Black, the question arises, Is the "commodity" or the "federated" organization better suited to marketing Minnesota's farm products, or what modifications of either type may provide the most satisfactory co-operative marketing machinery?

THESE FARMERS MADE GOOD IN BAD YEAR 1922

Farm Accounts Kept on Owatonna Statistical Route Analyzed by Farm Management Division of University

(By G. A. Pond)

Since January 1, 1920, a group of 24 farmers in Steele county have been keeping complete cost records on their farms. These records have been supervised by the farm management division of the University of Minnesota. At the close of each year the figures from each farm have been carefully summarized and analyzed by representatives of the university and each farmer furnished a comprehensive statement of his year's business. These reports include not only a summary of the year's business as a whole, but also detailed statements of the cost and returns from each class of stock and each crop.

With these statements as a guide these farmers have been planning their operations and adjusting their business so as to avoid losses that occurred with certain enterprises, and to increase the gains of others that showed up on the profit side of the ledger. Farm tours have been made to the more successful farms. Farm business schools have been conducted and in various ways attention has been called to the enterprises that have proven most profitable and to the most economical methods of conducting them. That these men have profited by the lessons learned through their accounts is amply indicated in the records of the third year's business on these farms. Below is presented the average financial returns from 22 farms in 1922. In spite of the continued low purchasing power of farm products these Steele county men have achieved a very fair degree of financial success.

Average Returns from 22 Farms

Receipts:	
Horses	\$ 35.00
Cattle	898.00
Dairy products	1,366.00
Swine	1,247.00
Poultry	157.00
Sheep	10.00
Crops	221.00
Miscellaneous receipts	115.00
Total	\$4,049.00
Expenses:	
Hired labor	\$ 217.00
Crop expense	171.00
Livestock expense	542.00
Feeds purchased	186.00
Machinery expense	501.00
Building and fence repairs	109.00
Taxes and insurance	253.00
Interest	179.00
Miscellaneous	35.00
Total	\$2,193.00
Excess of cash receipts over cash expenses	\$1,856.00
Value of farm products used in house	214.00
Estimated house rent (12 per cent of \$1800)	216.00
Increase inventory	713.00
Total income	\$2,999.00
Value of unpaid family labor, 2499 hours at 17½ cents	\$437.00
Excess of income over expenditures	\$2,562.00

Keeping Head Above Water

The receipts and expenses listed in the above statement are all cash receipts and expenditures. The excess of receipts, \$1,856, represents the actual cash the farm had available to spend for personal and living expenses as the result of his year's operations. In addition to this amount of cash the farmer and his family consumed in the house milk,

cream, eggs, meat, and other farm produce to the value of \$214. This is the farm value of these items and is much lower than the city man would have to pay for the same articles delivered at his door. The farmers also had the use of the farm house. In this statement this has been credited as income at a very conservative figure.

The inventory taken at the close of the year showed there were more stock and more feeds and supplies on hand than at the beginning, and the price of the feeds had advanced during the year. Since this represents potential income it also has been added to the other items of income, bringing the total up to practically \$3,000. This, however, cannot be considered as net income for the farmer. Members of the family performed 2,499 hours of labor on the farm during the year for which they received no cash wage. If this is valued at 17½ cents per hour, the average rate paid hired men, and the total value deducted from the income, the farmer has left a net return of \$2,562. This includes the reward for his own services as operator and the return on his capital invested. Analyzing this income further we find that after allowing 5 per cent interest on the average capitalization of \$35,000 in land, buildings, stock and equipment, the farmer has a little over \$82 per month left for his own wages.

More Efficient Production Shown

Several enterprises on these farms contributed substantially to the net income. Pork was produced at a cost of \$6.56 per hundredweight and sold for an average price of \$8.43. For the first time in three years butterfat was produced at a cost well below the selling price. This margin of profit contributed materially to the income. The receipts from the poultry flocks averaged \$171 above expenses. Most of the crops were produced at a cost less than the going market price for them.

The interesting thing about this study is the increased economy of production that has taken place during the three years of record keeping. It is true the general price situation has forced some of these economies on farmers in general, but it is equally true that the careful records kept by these men and the detailed analysis of their business by the farm management division enabled them to adapt these economies more intelligently than they could otherwise have done. They knew where their individual losses were occurring and they made their adjustments accordingly. Some were more successful with one enterprise while others were more successful with others. By exchanging experiences it was possible for each to profit by lessons from other farms. The keeping of records requires time and patience and it is particularly distasteful to a farmer whose business keeps him employed long hours out of doors. It takes time from other work and adds to the already long working day of the farmer, but results obtained by the Steele county men indicate it is time well spent.

"Silo Fever" Spreading

Neubauer of St. Louis says the silo fever is taking hold in great shape. Fully a score of new silos have been ordered and many more are in prospect.

PLANS MADE FOR WORK IN FARM MANAGEMENT

Cavert Will Respond to Calls for Farm Tours, Farmers' Meetings, Conferences and Picnics.

From May 1 to July 21 W. L. Cavert, farm management specialist, will be subject to calls for work along the following lines:

Farm management tours, not to exceed ten: The plan will be to visit three or four representative farms where the practice of the individual farmers will serve as a basis for discussions on the cost of producing farm products and the factors that enter into successful farming. The farms to be visited should be selected in advance after advising with the farm management specialist.

Rotation and weed control meetings: These will be held preferably at the farmstead of an interested farmer to plan the cropping systems with a view to maintaining yields and controlling such weeds as sow thistle, quack grass, etc.

Planning the business on a timber farm: This will consist of a discussion of the problems confronting the farmer in the timber country and the way in which they have been successfully met.

Assistance to boys' and girls' farm management clubs: Clubs that have already been organized in Kittson, Steele and Dodge counties will be assisted, if desired, in preparing demonstration material for the county and state fairs.

Landlord-tenant conferences: This program will aim to bring out the merits of the livestock share, crop share, and cash leases for various conditions and to outline the principles to be considered in drawing equitable lease contracts.

General meetings such as farmers' clubs and picnics, when the subject will usually be, "The Present Economic Situation, and What the Farmer Can Do to Improve His Financial Condition."

Fruit for Koochiching

Koochiching county farmers will experiment in growing fruit. A large consignment of plum trees, fruit bushes and berry plants from the state fruit breeding farm will be tried out under the supervision of the county agent.

Dodge County Women Interested

Thirteen groups of Dodge county women have arranged to take home management work in connection with the home demonstration department at University Farm. This work is divided into two schools, one to be held at West Concord and one at Dodge Center.

676 at Junior Short Course

Four one-day short courses for club boys and girls at as many different points in Mille Lacs county attracted attendance of 676. Of this number 275 enrolled in some project for the current year.

Little Journeys to Subject Matter Divisions

Extension people at headquarters have visited three subject matter divisions of the university since the last issue of Extension Service News.

That economic conditions will soon force the people of Minnesota into the practice of forestry was a conclusion laid before the extension visitors by T. S. Hansen of the division of forestry.

Mr. Hansen said the field of research had been better developed at the Cloquet forestry station than has the actual practice of forestry. This, he held, was wise procedure, "for in the not far distant future," he said, "we are going to raise timber in this state."

When people fully realize that forests constitute a crop that comes from the ground the same as other crops we shall make progress in reforestation, added Mr. Hansen. He thought extension people could do much to help this work along. In 1905 the proportion of northern softwoods handled in retail lumber yards of Minnesota was 84 per cent of the whole; in 1919 the proportion of northern softwoods had dwindled to 18 per cent. Imported softwoods made up the deficit. This partially accounts for an increase of 104 per cent per thousand feet of lumber to the farmer in the 14-year period. Mr. Hansen presented figures showing that in 1905 the farmer paid \$26 for 1,000 feet of lumber. The transportation charge was \$3.64, or 14 per cent of the total of \$26. In 1919 the farmer paid \$55 for 1,000 feet, the freight charge having mounted to \$11.55 or 21 per cent. The total mill cost of lumber shipped in 1905 to the average country lumber yard in Minnesota was \$1,064 and the freight paid on lumber shipped in was only \$186. In 1919 the mill cost of lumber shipped in was \$12,404 and the freight bill of the average yard had grown to \$5,316.

Land for Timber Crops

Mr. Hansen also gave figures showing that 35 acres of the average farm in 27 counties in southeastern Minnesota, or about 25 per cent of each farm, can be classified as potential woodland, making a grand total of about two million and a quarter acres for the 27 county. History showed that in certain New England states an increase in population always resulted in a decrease of improved land, and he therefore regarded it unlikely that a large part of the present day woodlands and unimproved areas in southeastern Minnesota will ever be farmed. All of this land, he thought, should be kept raising timber crops.

The extension people were told that the windbreak project is so popular that division officials are nearly swamped with applications. Co-operators in this project are selected upon recommendation of the county agent. Trees are supplied from the Cloquet station nursery at a nominal charge of \$1 a hundred. Already about 200 successful windbreaks have been established.

E. G. Cheyney, chief of the forestry division, said farmers frequently asked for help in marketing small lots of

logs. Trying to sell scattered logs, he said, was like trying to sell potatoes by the dozen; it can't be done. Logs and potatoes are not bought that way; they must be in goodly supply to attract buyers. If the logs of the community could be pooled, and he thought the county agent could start something in this line, then sales could be made. The portable sawmill as a community enterprise was also feasible.

Division of Horticulture

Visiting the division of horticulture the extension workers were told by W. H. Alderman, chief of university horticulturists, that fruit growing in Minnesota must no longer be regarded as an extra hazardous undertaking. Risks are no greater here than in most states, he said. Minnesota has a positive advantage in its comparative immunity from killing frosts in the spring. Southeastern sections of the state are just as safe for profitable fruit growing, he said, as any part of the country.

In an interesting talk on orchard costs W. G. Brierley presented the results of a survey of 64 orchards of a total of 487.4 acres. The per cent of tillable land in orchards was 33.9; the average area was 7.6 acres, average age, 16.6 years; average number of trees to acre, 122.3; average yield per acre, 149.8 bushels; and average investment, \$510 per acre. The gross returns were \$215.99 per acre or \$1.53 per bushel. The total costs were \$125.60 per acre or about 84 cents per bushel, leaving net profits of \$90.39 per acre or a trifle more than 69 cents a bushel. Interest on the investment was included in the costs.

W. T. Tapley discussed the work of the vegetable section in breeding and selection. There are 60 to 70 kinds of vegetables with something like 6,000 varieties. Only seven or eight kinds are grown on the average farm. The purpose of his section, he said, was to increase the list materially by developing varieties adapted to northern latitudes. The development of the Kitchennette squash was cited as an example of this work. Mr. Tapley thought there was a good field for extension work among the market gardeners of the twin cities who were embarking on an aggressive campaign of advertising and marketing.

Le Roy Cady said the work of his section with hedges has borne important results. Only one other station in the country was carrying on work of this character. Director F. W. Peck of the extension service said there was a big demand from farm women for instruction and help in growing flowering perennials for beautifying home grounds. Professor Alderman agreed with him that university horticulturists and extension workers should co-operate in helping to make the prairie farm home a real home of beauty and comfort by the cultivation of flowers and shrubs and the planting of trees.

J. H. Beaumont of the fruit breeding section said he was at work on three projects. These are hardiness, sterility as affecting the plum, grape, strawberry and other fruits, and a study of inher-

itance of characters in fruits. All of these revolve about the main proposition of breeding new fruit varieties for Minnesota. F. A. Krantz reported good progress in the potato breeding project to eliminate defects in early varieties.

Agricultural Economics

Dr. J. D. Black, head of the division of agricultural economics, said that several bulletins dealing with particular forms of the co-operative marketing movement were in course of preparation either by himself or members of his staff. Supplementing bulletins 184 and 202 on the general subject is a bulletin on marketing livestock which is expected from the printer daily. Another on creamery organization is about ready for publication. Drs. Black and Price also have in hand a bulletin dealing with overhead co-operative organizations.

Dr. H. B. Price, author of bulletin 202, said that information had been gathered as to the number and significance of co-operative associations, of which there are about 4,500 in the state. Dr. Price also outlined the contents of a monograph which he is preparing on the organization of the twin city market. This will include a study of the geography and a short history of the twin cities as markets for produce and their facilities for handling fruits, livestock, butter, eggs, poultry, grain, hay, and milk. The monograph will contain about 300 pages and will, it is expected, be issued in the fall.

Dr. Working sketched the work he is doing in connection with factors determining the prices of different products. "Eventually we want to be able to answer so far as possible such questions," he said, "as why prices are low, what's going to happen to prices, how the price of corn is going to run and when to sell."

Regulation of Bank Deposits

Dr. Working contended that changes in the general price level are subject to control through the regulation of bank deposits. He had in mind no attempt at price-fixing by legislative action, he said, but rather that by proper adjustments of discount rates the total of bank deposits can be regulated in such a way as to maintain control of price levels and prevent those wider fluctuations which work hardship to agriculture, the other industries and trade.

He thought that control of the volume of bank deposits by means of the discount rate will not be successful over long periods unless it is supplemented by some method, such as that advocated by Prof. Irving Fisher of Yale, which will vary the amount of gold exchangeable for a dollar bill. The one method is necessary to prevent the fluctuations covering periods of from one to five years; the other to prevent the long upward or downward trend of prices, such as the long period of falling prices from 1873 to 1896. The farmer suffers even more from a protracted downward trend of prices than from a business depression of one or two years, he said.

IMPROVE YOUR WOOL; HOW IT MAY BE DONE

Fineness of Fleece Should Govern Selection of Sire—Shearing Rules Which It Will Pay to Observe

"Improve your wool" is an injunction laid upon wool producers of the state by the managers of the Minnesota Co-operative Wool Marketing association. Means by which this can be done are given in a statement recently issued from the association's headquarters at Wabasha, as follows:

The prevailing breed in Minnesota, Wisconsin, North and South Dakota is the Shrop, which for this territory is eminently satisfactory both for mutton and wool. In selecting Shrop rams, more attention should be given to the fineness of the fleece of the individual. No ram should be selected that has not a three-eighth grade fleece. At present only about 25 per cent of Minnesota Shrop wool grades three-eighths and about 20 per cent grades low one-fourth. Under proper breeding these percentages should improve to about 50 per cent of three-eighths and practically no low one-fourth. A three-eighths fleece is worth about 10 cents per pound more than a low one-fourth fleece, which in the aggregate means thousands of dollars to the wool growers of the state.

Shear only when sheep are absolutely dry—skirts and belly dry. Pen the sheep the night before to keep them from the dew the morning of the shearing.

The shearing floor should be dry and hard and clear from straw or hay. The tags and dirty skirts should be separated from the fleece before tying and kept separate for sale. Some growers soak and wash them to advantage. Tags are never dry and if placed in the fleece will in a short time heat and burn the inside, causing material loss to the fleece.

All wool should be tied with regular wool twine—paper or jute—into neat tidy fleeces. Never use sisal or binder twine. Never tie two fleeces together.

The sheep yards or pens during winter and spring should be kept dry and clean; otherwise the fleece will gather mud and manure and a depreciation in price more than covered by any increase in weight of dirt.

Sheep should not be allowed to burrow into straw and clover stacks. Chaff gets into the wool and an otherwise good fleece becomes a "reject." Straw and clover hay should be fed in racks or on the ground.

Pile or store the wool in a dry clean room or place and cover over so as to keep dirt, dust or chaff from falling on the wool. Never place any wool on the ground or in a cellar or damp basement. Sacking the wool as sheared is the best plan and then pile the sacks in a dry place and never on the ground.

Miss Mallory Resigns

Owing to impaired health, Miss Fairie Mallory has, upon the advice of a physician, resigned her place as extension specialist in clothing and returned to her home at Freeport, Ill. Miss Mallory joined the extension staff last October and had proved herself a successful co-operator and worker.

SIRE CAMPAIGN GOING GOOD IN 3 COUNTIES

Purebred sire campaigns are in progress in Washington, Nicollet and Hennepin counties as this is written. H. O. Teller of Farmington, Minn., is managing the campaign in Washington county and 16 purebred bulls were sold there the first week. J. M. Peterson of Minneapolis, once a Holstein breeder in the Northfield country, is in charge of the Nicollet county drive. Eighteen bulls were sold the first week. Two salesmen are employed in each of the two counties. The Hennepin county campaign was started April 25 with C. D. Stevens as manager.

The purebred sire movement was launched in Blue Earth county the last of January. One hundred six purebred sires were sold in that county and 90 have been delivered. The remainder will be delivered when the type of animals wanted can be located. The Mower county campaign was carried on two weeks, until the condition of the roads made it advisable to suspend the work temporarily. About one-third of the county was canvassed and 41 bulls were sold. The work in this county will be completed later. Becker county in western Minnesota will also be canvassed.

BEST TO CROWD THE PIGS, SAYS ZAVORAL

Fifty-one swine feeding schools were held in 28 counties with an average attendance of about 55, says H. G. Zavoral, livestock specialist. More than 100 farm visits were paid during this time and observations made of the equipment and conditions. The chief problems that received attention were: Feed and care of brood sow, feed and care of litter, hog pastures, marketing, and disease prevention.

The discussions and questions during the schools and after added much to the value of the work. Economical production rather than increased production received special emphasis.

"Factors influencing the cost of production," says Mr. Zavoral, "are unbalanced rations, number of pigs raised per litter, diseases, pastures and marketing.

"I find that most of the hogs are being marketed after nine months of age and up to twelve months. With proper feed and care one should get the required weight on pigs in seven to eight months. This can only be done by crowding the pigs from the day they are weaned until they are marketed. By doing this hog men usually get cheaper gains, run less risk with disease and invariably hit a higher market."

Poultry Work Stimulated

"Improved feeding, improved poultry houses, and other things relating to poultry have been reported to this office since the meetings have been held," says Lawson of Brown county. The meetings referred to by the agent were held by Miss Cora Cooke, poultry specialist. "A lot of good work was done as a result of these meetings," says the county agent.

FINAL CONTESTS WILL SOON BE UNDER WAY

Bread, Cake and Sewing Club Members Now Preparing for Big Events of the Year.

Demonstration teams and individual members of bread, cake and sewing clubs are putting finishing touches on their work, preparatory to taking part in the final county contests.

All county contests will be held before July first. Individuals will compete to see who are the best bread-makers in their respective counties and the state award of a free trip to the State Fair will be made to the two standing highest in each county.

Bread, cake and garment making teams will also put on competitive demonstrations for the purpose of presenting to the community the results of their club work and emphasizing better methods and practices of home-making, thus setting standards and unifying the work.

The two best bread teams, the best cake team and the best individual cake girl will be chosen from each of the four districts of the state to put on demonstrations at the State Fair, where the results of club work will be brought before the people in a larger way.

The best garment making team of two members will be chosen from each county to demonstrate at the State Fair. All interested in club work are invited to attend these county contests.

All counties having team work will be scored by state judges. The judging work has been divided as follows: Mrs. Margaret Baker will have charge of northeastern and central Minnesota where the following dates have already been arranged: Lake county at Two Harbors, May 16 and 17; St. Louis county at Eveleth, May 18 and 19; Hennepin county, May 11. Mrs. Genevieve Meybohm will judge in southern Minnesota. The only dates arranged at this writing are for Redwood county, May 7 to 12, and Fillmore county at Preston May 18. Miss Mildred Schenk, home economics teacher at the Northwest School of Agriculture at Crookston, will judge in northwestern Minnesota. Counties which have not arranged for definite dates are urged to do so immediately.

Aitkin County Notes

Twice as much picric acid will be used this year as was used last year, says the agent.

Peat soil work is held in high regard. Complete tests will be conducted on 18 different farms in the county.

A ration of good corn silage and tame hay is being used to finish a carload of Red Poll steers for market. Excellent gains are being secured. This is the first time silage has been tested out for fattening cattle in Aitkin county.

Dowell's Meetings Helpful

Dowell's meetings in Faribault county were very helpful to livestock growers, says F. E. Krause, county agent.

GOOD WORK DONE AT JUNIOR SHORT COURSES

Six Hundred Registered at University Farm, Crookston and Morris—District Breadmaking Contests Held.

Junior short courses at University Farm, Morris and Crookston this spring were attended by approximately 600 boys and girls. The registration at University Farm was 225; Morris and Crookston broke about even in attendance.

An entirely new feature this year at University Farm and Crookston was a district contest for advanced breadmaking teams, a competition made possible by the liberality of the Russell Miller Milling company of Minneapolis, which agrees to pay the traveling expenses of all such teams to county, district, and state contests. Six teams entered the contest at University Farm, and the district championship was won by the Rush City team composed of Agnes Erhart, Edla Lundquist and Edna Lindberg. The winners were coached by Miss Muriel Rockwood and scored 92 points, or one better than the Buffalo team, which carried off second honors. Teams from Anoka and Farmington tied for third place with a total of 89 points each. Two other teams took part, a second one from Farmington and one from Mora. The Rush City trio will represent the central district in the State Fair contest in September to select Minnesota's champion team for the National Boys' and Girls' Club Exposition contest in Chicago. The expenses of this team will also be paid by the Minneapolis milling company.

Ten teams of three girls each entered the northwestern district contest at Crookston. Marebel Sylvester, Verta McCrystal and Margaret Ash, from Humboldt, Kittson county, won the district championship, with the team from Glyndon, Clay county, second. The northeastern district contest will be held at Virginia May 18 and 19. The southern district contest is yet to be called.

No breadmaking contest was held at the Morris short course, but other districts will pick their champions and help to make the State Fair competition a real event of the club activities there.

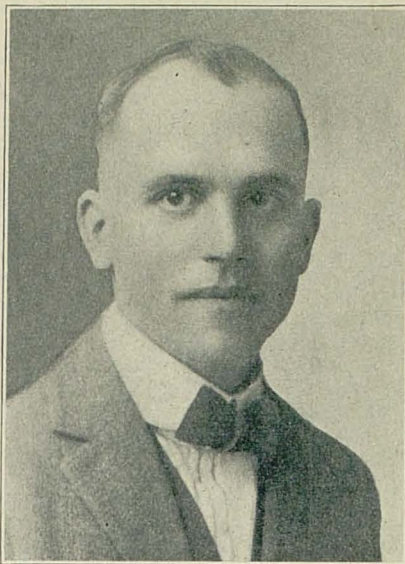
The juniors enrolling at University Farm spent a busy and happy week. Much new practical work had been provided for the girls; T. A. Erickson, state leader, says the program for the girls was the best ever presented at the central station. County club agents and leaders met two afternoons to plan and discuss programs of work for the year. Ivan L. Hobson of Washington, D. C., the national leader for the northwest district states, attended this conference.

Emphasis on Three Projects

While emphasis is being placed on three projects in St. Louis county—dairying, poultry, and potatoes—County Agent Neubauer says that land clearing, farm crops and marketing will be given much attention.

ANTI-POCKET GOPHER CAMPAIGN UNDER WAY

C. E. Mickel, entomologist with the extension division, has begun a series of demonstrations in the control of pocket gophers which will take him to Dakota, Olmsted, Winona, Crow Wing,



CLARENCE E. MICKEL

Ottertail, Kittson, and Kanabec counties and will not be finished until the middle of May or later. The demonstrations are being given at the call of county agents who report that the pocket gopher is a menace to alfalfa growing in parts of the state.

Mr. Mickel will demonstrate the formula for making poison bait. One-eighth of an ounce of powdered strychnia (alkaloid), one-eighth of an ounce of baking soda and one-eightieth of an ounce of saccharine are mixed and sifted upon four quarts of diced vegetables such as potatoes, carrots, parsnips, beets, turnips, etc.

The second phase of the demonstrations consists in showing how to locate the main runways of the rodents and how to place the poison baits in order to get the best results. Instruction is also given in "mopping up" the gophers after the first blow has been struck at them.

Alfalfa fields furnish ideal places, says Mr. Mickel, for the reproduction of the gophers because food is found in abundance there and the ground is disturbed only at rare intervals.

Dairy Meeting Enthusiastic

More than 20 communities were represented at a dairy meeting addressed by M. J. Thompson, Otto I. Bergh, L. V. Wilson, H. L. Hartlev, and others at Eveleth. Members of the commercial club were hosts at a luncheon for all visitors from the country. "Such an enthusiastic meeting has never before been held," says County Agent Neubauer, "and it would be interesting to measure the results as to the number of cattle bought and silos built, and the acreage of alfalfa."

WIVES OF VETERANS STUDY HOME PROBLEMS

Wives of ex-service men who are located at Veteransville are following the trend of the times by co-operating in their endeavor to solve some of their household problems. Miss Mary Bull, the state specialist in home management, attended one of their meetings recently and a most interesting meeting it proved to be, she says.

"The homey, cheerful community room furnished an ideal place for a social session to get acquainted," says Miss Bull. "Then we left the men in possession of this room and adjourned to the class room. Household problems which seemed most urgent were listed on the blackboard and discussed until the noon hour when the women served a basket lunch. After lunch and a pleasant half hour in the community room, the women, 16 in number, returned to the class room and the subject of budgeting or the best distribution of the income was discussed and several systems exhibited.

"Canning budgets were given and discussed as related to home management, with the result that most of those present will plan their gardens with a view to having tomatoes and greens sufficient to can a supply for winter use and other vegetables for storage.

"Problems in which all were vitally interested were the water supply and disposal of waste, and home arrangement to conserve energy and time. The group decided to carry on a program of study in home management using Institute Annual No. 34 as a text."

FARM LABOR SHORTAGE ACUTE IN MINNESOTA

The supply of farm labor in the United States April 1, according to a government report, was 83.6 per cent, while the demand was 94.6 per cent compared with normal. These figures are well supported by the reports of Minnesota county agents. For instance, the Jackson county agent says he has many inquiries for help, but has been able to supply only one man. Men available in Faribault county are asking \$50 a month. The Blue Earth county agent placed eight farm hands in March, but had calls for three times that number. In Kittson county laborers are holding off, says Agent Longley, for road and contract work. This tendency has been increasing the past few years, he says. In Traverse county the farmers are calling for help, but hesitate to pay \$50 per month, which is regularly demanded. The agent in Nobles reports there is no local help at all. In Nicollet the demand for farm hands is much larger than the supply. The farmers of Martin county are appealing for help, but only in a few instances have men been found. In Winona county wages have been increased about 20 per cent. In Wabasha county the wages range from \$40 to \$50 for the summer months. The county agent of Houston says there is no labor in sight to meet the strong demand from the farms.