

MINNESOTA EXTENSION SERVICE NEWS

Published Monthly by the University of Minnesota, Department of Agriculture, Extension Division

Vol. II

UNIVERSITY FARM, ST. PAUL, MINN., SEPTEMBER, 1923

No. 12

DAIRY TRAIN TO TOUR WEST CENTRAL AREAS

The community of Kerkhoven, Swift county, recently made the request, and other localities of the region backed up the idea, that the University of Minnesota run a special dairy train through west central Minnesota. Kerkhoven will again this year hold a two-day dairy show, the dates being Sept. 28 and 29.

The tour of the Better Dairy Train, to be conducted by the University of Minnesota co-operating with the Great Northern railway and other agencies, is to continue through the week of September 24 to 29. The Great Northern railway is furnishing two 65-foot baggage cars, one to be filled with exhibits from the dairy division of the University of Minnesota, the other with selected exhibits from commercial firms. Request has also been made of the dairy division of the United States Department of Agriculture to furnish an exhibit which in part will be similar to that made the last two years at the National Dairy Exposition, held at the Minnesota state fair grounds.

Exhibits; Tentative Schedule

Some of the features of the university exhibit will pertain to what crops to grow for dairy production, feeding dairy cattle, herd improvement by use of good purebred sires, and organization of cow testing associations, barn planning and equipment, disease control, care of milk and cream, dairy manufacturing, and marketing of dairy products. Part of the selected exhibits of commercial firms will feature barn planning, lighting and equipment, ventilation, cream cooling, silos, milking machines, cream separators, etc.

The train will be taken from station to station by means of the regular train service. The tentative schedule is as follows:

Sept. 24, Litchfield, afternoon and evening.

Sept. 25, Willmar, forenoon; Donnelly, evening.

Sept. 26, Morris, forenoon and afternoon; Graceville, evening.

Sept. 27, Hancock, afternoon and evening.

Sept. 28, Benson, forenoon; Kerkhoven, afternoon.

Sept. 29, Kerkhoven, all day and evening.

A program will be carried out at each stop.

Personnel

Prof. O. G. Schaefer, formerly county agent of Steele county, who for the past two years has been in charge of dairy extension work for the Pennsylvania Agricultural College, but who is now with the dairy division of the University of Minnesota, will accompany the train. It is likely L. V. Wilson or H. R. Searles of the dairy extension service will also be in attendance. R. S. Mackintosh, who was recently appointed to have charge of exhibits for the ag-

ricultural college, will co-operate in organizing the exhibits for the train.

The twin cities committee which has general charge of the organization and routing of the train includes F. E. Balmer, county agent leader, University of Minnesota; Kenneth Klein of the Webb Publishing company, and Edward Barr, who is in charge of the Northwest Dairy Exposition now being staged in connection with the Minnesota state fair.

COON CREEK ALFALFA PLOTS DRAW FARMERS

Hundreds of farmers in Sherburne county are learning all about alfalfa and how to grow it successfully by visiting and studying the university's alfalfa plots in the Coon Creek district in Anoka county. The trips were organized by Merrill Brobst, the county agent, who sent out a form questionnaire to the farmers to spur interest in alfalfa growing.

"It is very gratifying to note the results obtained from this sort of demonstration work," writes Mr. Brobst. "Large numbers took part in two of the trips, but I am of the opinion that smaller numbers, say 15 to 25, invited to go more frequently and from particular communities, can be handled more advantageously. It makes a nice showing to get a large group started, but it is much easier to hold the attention of a smaller group and answer the questions of all.

"The sentiment of most of the farmers who have visited the plots is expressed in a statement made by a member of a recent group: 'I learned more about alfalfa growing in one day at Coon Creek than I could learn in ten years by trying it out on my own farm,' he said."

Kienholz Resignation Refused

An event probably without precedent in county agent work occurred in Carver county August 21, when the county co-operative extension committee and the farm bureau executive committee, meeting jointly, refused to accept the resignation of County Agent Ben Kienholz. The committee quickly overruled his reasons for resigning, assured him his work was highly satisfactory and felt that his acquaintance with county conditions was too big an asset to take from the county, particularly in view of the fact that he intended to remain in county agent work. Mr. Kienholz thereupon withdrew his resignation.

Farmers Learn to Vaccinate

Cottonwood county farmers empowered to vaccinate their own hogs under the new state law report a saving of at least 15 cents a head. All are doing satisfactory work, says the county agent.

CLOTHING PROJECT IN 5 COUNTIES REACHES 2,347

Two thousand three hundred forty-seven women are profiting from the clothing project carried on under local leader plan in five counties. The counties and the agents who were largely responsible for the splendid organization are: Winona, J. B. McNulty; Wabasha, R. W. Bennett; Goodhue, V. H. Kingsbury; Nicollet, Earl Springer; Nobles, A. R. Miesen.

The county agent in each instance arranged for the state clothing specialist, Miss Nora M. Hott, to meet with groups of interested women to discuss general plans for organization. These women returned to their own communities, explained the exceptional opportunities and advantages of carrying on this home project to other members, and organized a definite group headed by a local leader and assistant. Practically all groups were organized the latter part of November and were ready to start on the subject matter by December. Two conveniently located places were chosen in each county as centers for the training classes which were held in two places in the county once each month for several months.

How the Project Developed

Fifty subject matter training classes were held in the five counties in which 83 leaders and 84 assistant leaders received instructions for carrying on the project in their own groups. These leaders in turn had a total of 1,172 women enrolled in their groups, while the women enrolled in groups reported that they had passed the work on to 1,008 others; 1,154 are known to have actually put into practice something learned at each meeting; 1,068 dress finishes were used as a result of this project; machine attachments which had not been used previously were used 1,412 times; 679 dress forms and 916 new garments were made and 173 garments remodeled; 445 patterns were cut or altered, and 323 dress trimmings made. The total saving, as reported by the women, was 1,118 hours in time and \$10,411.70 in money. Twenty-four community exhibits and four county exhibits were held by leaders to show to others what had been accomplished.

Winona's Fine Record

Probably in almost every case the work accomplished is almost twice as great as reported. Winona county stands out as the banner county. In Winona 642 women were enrolled. They passed on the work to 507 others, making 1,219 reached in that county alone. A report was received from every leader from Winona showing that the work had been completed as outlined. This means that 100 per cent of the leaders functioned in Winona county.

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Published monthly at University Farm, St. Paul, Minn., by the Agricultural Extension Service of the University of Minnesota and the United States Department of Agriculture, co-operating in the interest of extension work in agriculture and home economics.

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Entered as second-class matter October 4, 1921, at the postoffice at St. Paul, Minnesota, under the Act of August 24, 1912.
Accepted for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in section 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized October 21, 1921.

SEPTEMBER, 1923

CHAMPION GARDENER IS ALSO HOMEMAKER

Willard Weeks of Winona, the champion club gardener in the state last year, appears to have the stuff of which real men are made. In a letter to Prof. R. S. Mackintosh of University Farm he says:

"I have received the handsome collection of books sent to me as a garden prize from the Minnesota Horticultural Society. I extend you and the society my appreciation and thanks. I have looked through all of the books and have read most of 'Forestry in Minnesota.' In time I will have read and studied them all, for they appeal to me very much.

"For the last three years since my mother died I have tried to take her place as housekeeper in our home for my father, my younger brother and two younger sisters. Besides this I have managed to keep up my high school work. I am now a second half junior. I am also a Star Scout. I have cooked this summer for two scout camps, 26 days in all, for which I received \$3 a day or \$78.

"With all these distractions I have been able to keep my garden clean and I think it is fully as good as last year. Expect to realize a nice sum of money from it."

MAN AND NOT THE ACRE

"Europe gets more to the acre, America more to the man." In these words Dean Alfred Vivian of the Ohio College of Agriculture replies to critics of American farming methods. "If our democracy is to succeed, we must build on the basis of the man, not the acre," says Dean Vivian. "We can learn nothing about this from Europe or from any other country where the people who till the land are peasants. Ours must be a new agriculture, with a new type of farmer, efficient, intelligent, prosperous, virile, self-reliant, and with a real voice and sway in the affairs of the nation."

Most of us are benefited by learning how the other fellow does it. Potato, orchard, and alfalfa tours and community meetings give opportunity to rub elbows with the other fellow and get his view points. Thus one can profit by the experience of a neighbor or a chance acquaintance.

DEFINITE RESULTS OF BOYS-GIRLS CLUB WORK

That boys' and girls' club work is bringing definite results along two special lines, those of better practices in agriculture and homemaking, and in training for leadership among the young, is shown by two letters received from Kanabec county, one of them addressed to Dean W. C. Coffey. The points brought out in these letters are so good that we are giving extracts from them. Illustrations like these could be given from practically every community and county where club work has been carried on several years. The correspondents make the following statements:

"The improvement in our county is most noticeable in better hogs, better dairy cows, and better sheep."

"We could not close this letter without mentioning some names of boys and girls whose home conditions have been made better from their close association as club members. Freida Maurer, who now has a home of her own, has greatly added to the pleasures of that home by her knowledge of canning and baking learned while in club work. Fred, her brother, was one of our leaders in the past and now in his home are to be found many examples of the effects of club work. John Erickson, still in the work as a senior, has gained a high standing in feeding among his older neighbors, who prize his advice. Mr. Erickson, John's father, concedes he has profited as much as has John and that it has resulted in a very substantial financial gain to him. Like Mr. Erickson, I must admit that with the carrying out of the calf and pig contest by my young son I have been convinced that there is much more in intelligent feeding than one would think. J. W. Donovan, whose two sons have been in the calf and yearling contest and are now carrying out the third year project, is one of our most intelligent feeders as a direct result of the contest work of his sons, James and John. Without an exception, where the boy has been in club work with a grade calf, the father has greatly improved his herd and where the boy or girl started with the purebred, that father is on the road toward a purebred herd."

"In our earlier work with the crops we must note Rudolph Vedeon, whose splendid success in raising Green Mountains placed him high in the county, his only real competitor being Eddie Burnett, always a close follower with Rural New Yorkers."

"I think perhaps that Charlie Erickson's boys and girl, Johnnie, Carl, and Ellen, may have profited as much as any one else in this work. When Mr. Erickson came to Mora and picked out three good, high grade Holstein heifers for them, they were the first real dairy cattle on the place. Now they have 15 or 20 descendants from these three heifers and are interested enough now to buy more females. The Ericksons are considered among the best swine breeders in Kanabec county also. Their pigs are descendants of club pigs which were shipped into Kanabec county when the sow and litter club was started."

"Lucille Edwards and her sister were among the first to own a dairy herd and I believe Mr. Edwards' interest in dairy farming was really definitely founded at that time."

LOCAL LEADER WORK IS STRONGLY ADVOCATED

The following is a summary of the opinions expressed in the Farm Home Conference of extension workers, and is recommended to the 13 middle western states for careful consideration. It is furnished by Miss Julia O. Newton, state home demonstration leader:

The conference agreed that the goal is to place a home agent in each county as rapidly as interest and funds will permit, in order to carry out a complete farm and home program. The conference believes that this end can be brought about more quickly by using the following methods:

Development of a county program.

Use of local leaders.

Securing an adequate number of specialists and organization supervisors.

Fundamentals: Local Leadership

It was emphasized during the conference that a county program of work should include home projects which are based on the fundamental needs of the farm home. As soon as possible, more careful studies should be made of local conditions before programs are planned. Since the work is in its early stages of development and interest must be created in the home programs and leadership developed, it is wise at this time to limit the work to one major county-wide project supplemented by such other projects as may be determined by the local community.

The feeling was expressed that the most effective work and the greatest number of people, adult and junior, could be reached with the least expenditure of public funds by the use of local leaders. These local leaders should be trained to do a particular piece of work and should not feel that they can replace the specialist or a local agent.

Leadership Qualifications

The requirements for local leadership are:

Interest in the project.

Ability as leaders.

Respect of the local community.

Each local leader is expected to represent a definite area, attend the required number of meetings for training leaders, repeat the demonstration to local groups, and report results.

The method used in the 13 middle western states of developing home programs in counties having one extension agent is creating a widespread interest in the placing of home demonstration agents in these counties. The placing of resident home demonstration agents in the field makes possible the development of a more extended home program.

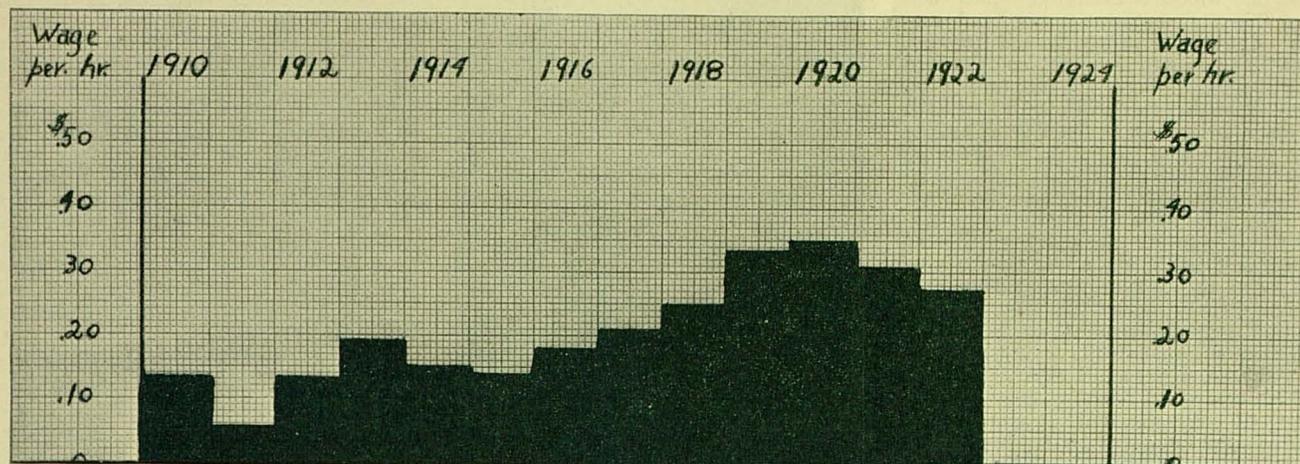
Agents a Necessity

It seems certain that a comprehensive program for the development of the farm home cannot be carried on without a home demonstration agent.

A reasonable increase of specialists should be urged so that effective work for the farm home can be done in counties without home agents to create an interest in having a home agent.

The number of organization supervisors and subject-matter specialists should always be sufficiently large to give adequate assistance to the agents in the field.

How the Dairyman Can Determine the Labor Return Per Hour From His Cows



RETURNS PER HOUR FROM DAIRY COWS FOR THIRTEEN YEARS

(By W. L. Cavert)

In 1922 a dairy herd that averaged 192 pounds of butterfat returned the owner 27 cents per hour for labor above market prices of feed. During the period beginning with 1910, the return per hour has varied from 6 cents in 1913 to 35 cents in 1920. The figure for each year is shown in the chart. In making the chart, feed prices were taken from prices on Minnesota farms as reported by the United States Department of Agriculture. The farm price of butterfat was assumed to be the average price of 92 score butter at New York. Some creameries pay several cents over this price, but the average farm price for butterfat is probably about the same as the New York price for 92 score butter.

The chart was prepared by averaging the feed used per cow per year on the statistical route at Northfield for 1908 to 1912 inclusive; at Halstad for 1912 to 1916 inclusive; at Cokato for 1913 to 1916 inclusive, and at Owatonna for 1920. These figures showed the average production of these cows to be 192 pounds of butterfat per year and that each pound of butterfat required the following:

Hay, 22 pounds, or equivalent amounts of hay, silage, and corn fodder
 Grain, 6 pounds, approximately equally divided between corn or barley, oats and bran
 Pasture .8 of a day
 Labor .8 of an hour

It was assumed that three pounds of silage or two pounds of average corn fodder were equal to one pound of hay.

How Wage Can Be Figured Out

Farmers who have cows that average 180 to 200 pounds of butterfat per year can find roughly the wage they are earning by computing the value of the feed on the foregoing basis and assuming the difference to be the return for .8 of an hour of labor. Thus, if a particular farmer figures his hay at \$10 per ton, ground corn, oats, and barley at one and one-fourth cents per pound, bran at one and one-half cents per pound, and pasture at 5 cents per day, the feed cost for a pound of butterfat would be 23 cents, and if the yearly average net price of butterfat

was 45 cents the return for the .8 hour labor on each pound of butterfat would be 22 cents. This would figure out a return per hour of 27½ cents. This method of calculation assumes that the skim milk, manure, and calf will offset all expenses except feed and labor. It should also be noted that this system gives results only in terms of yearly averages, as it makes no attempt to differentiate between the cost of winter and summer production.

Help the Farm Income

On the average, over this period, the return per hour has been about the same as the average cost of farm labor. In other words, cows have provided a home market for the labor of the farmer and his family, but there are occasional years when the return is much less than hired man's wages. Much of this labor comes at seasons when otherwise there is little productive work to be done, so that dairy cows of this character have doubtless helped out the net farm income very materially.

While the average production of the cows on these statistical routes was 192 pounds, one should keep in mind that the average herd probably produces only about 160 pounds of fat per cow. However, this average cow may add to her owner's income when used largely to utilize time and feed that could not otherwise be used to advantage.

Pine County Coming Back

The board of county commissioners by unanimous action at the July meeting voted for the renewal of county agent work in Pine county which has been without the service since August 1, 1922. Even in the busiest season of the year the Pine county farm bureau has been active in re-organizing its membership and otherwise preparing itself to comply with the provisions of the county extension law passed by the last legislature. A county roundup meeting has been called at Hinckley, Sept. 1 when the county extension and farm bureau executive committees are to consider the appointment of the county agent.

GOOD INTEREST TAKEN IN ACCOUNTING TOUR

Nearly every farm bureau township unit in Steele county sent a delegation to the cost of production tour led by Minnesota Experiment Station men to three statistical route farms in that county Wednesday, August 22. One hundred fifty persons gave the day to a study of the charts and reports for 1922. Prof. Andrew Boss, G. A. Pond, W. L. Cavert, O. G. Schaefer, and A. T. Hoverstad, all from University Farm, were present.

Professor Pond analyzed the accounts kept on farms in Steele county for the May and June issues of Extension Service News. The average financial returns from 22 farms of the route in 1922 were \$4,049. The expenses were \$2,193, or an excess of cash receipts over cash expenses of \$1,856. After adding the value of farm products used in the house, estimated house rent, and increased inventory, and deducting the value of unpaid family labor, the excess of income over expenditures was \$2,562.

It is true that the statistical route farms are in a region which was particularly favored by climatic conditions last year. This appears in the fact that the average yield of corn on these Steele county farms was 47.1 bushels as against 33 bushels, the state average. Oats yielded 54.8 bushels to the acre as against the state average of 35½ bushels.

Upon request all of the charts and material used in explaining results on the tour August 22 will be exhibited at the Steele county fair.

Alfalfa Growers Buying Limestone

Anoka county alfalfa growers shipped in five carloads of limestone in July to spread on alfalfa fields. Interest in this crop is growing by leaps and bounds, says the agent, as the result of demonstration work by university men in growing alfalfa on sandy land when clover had repeatedly failed.

WASHINGTON COUNTY JUNIORS HOLD FAIR

The boys' and girls' club fair at Lake Elmo August 17 and 18—the only county-wide fair which Washington county will have this year—was an unqualified success. Crowds of people turned out both days. The extension forces co-operating with the schools and business men stood squarely behind the project. About \$600 in cash prizes was distributed among club juniors, and special premiums were also provided for adult exhibitors. T. A. Erickson, the state leader, says the premium list was probably the best ever offered, the juniors at a community or county fair in the state. While the promoters of the fair concentrated on club lines, such as dairy calves, pigs, poultry, canning, sewing, breadmaking, etc., there were many special features and exhibits. Band music, a horse show, a ball game, and a horseshoe pitching contest gave plenty of entertainment. It was a great fair and the boys and girls deserve high praise.

Wheaton Succeeds Taylor

After nearly two years of fruitful effort, Milton B. Taylor left county agent work in Le Sueur county August 1 to take over the management of his father's farm in Crow Wing county, and specialize in dairying, swine production, and poultry raising. R. R. Wheaton of Houston succeeds Mr. Taylor, having been elected August 20 by the county co-operative extension committee and the farm bureau executive committee meeting jointly. He is a native of Minnesota and attended both Hamline University and the University of Minnesota, specializing at the latter in animal husbandry.

Co-operative Egg Marketing

Interest is rapidly growing for the co-operative marketing of eggs and poultry. To date 14 associations are in the process of signing up a sufficient minimum volume. The Rice county association has secured this volume and started shipping. As soon as the county fair season is over more definite attention will be given the egg and poultry marketing problem.

How Sheay Does It

In a recent communication John Sheay, the Scott county agent, tells how he gets his news into country newspapers which have no typesetting machinery. Usually editors of such papers do not have time to set up much type. Mr. Sheay aids them and his own cause by shipping metal plates of farm material used in the larger town newspapers. The plates are shipped by express or parcel post in boxes with a special top similar to that used by the Western Newspaper Union and other patent inside printing houses.

Growing Their Own

When farm bureau members of Dayton township met to discuss the question of feed purchases for fall and winter, everybody voted to feed home grown farm feeds, including the present wheat crop, in preference to paying present prices for feeds, says K. A. Kirkpatrick, the Hennepin county agent.



J. F. KUEHN,

Who on July 1 Succeeded C. H. Welch as Office Assistant to Director F. W. Peck of the Extension Service.

FARMERS IMPROVING PIG PASTURE POLICY

Lloyd E. Hudson, agent for Watonwan, is cheered by the fact that a large percentage of the farmers are plowing up their permanent hog pastures and placing their herds in pastures of soybeans, clover, oats, or rape. "It is safe to say that ten farmers are using these pastures now where there was only one four years ago," he says. The agent has noted that the losses from "necro" are generally on farms where the hogs have been confined to old lots and old sheds, and where no effort has been made to provide new pastures.

More Farm Building Plans

The agricultural engineering division at University Farm has issued in mimeographed form a list of farm building plans to supplement that contained in Special Bulletin No. 66.

CLOTHING PROJECT IN 5 COUNTIES REACHES 2,347

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Also in Nobles county 100 per cent of the leaders functioned, although there were not as many leaders nor as many women enrolled in the groups. One interesting development was the fact that eight leaders were trained by leaders who have received the original instruction from the state specialist. The work has not yet been completed in these groups, so reports are not available at present.

In Goodhue county reports were received from all groups except one. Some splendid work was reported by leaders in Nicollet and Wabasha counties, but on account of the failure of several leaders to send in reports, the totals from these counties were somewhat lowered.

SOW THISTLES OUT TO CONQUER MORE WORLDS

Patches of sow thistle have been found in Renville, Stevens, Lincoln, Itasca, and St. Louis counties, according to the July reports of agents. An active campaign has been started against the thistle in Renville. In Itasca county so many thistles appear along the highways that the agent is sponsoring a movement not only to have them cut down but burned and salted as well. Surprisingly large numbers of farmers, says Agent Frick, do not recognize the sow thistle when they see it and a large amount of educational work is still to be done. "The sow thistle is spreading very rapidly," says Agent Neubauer of St. Louis county. "Appeals have been made to all officers concerned to aid in its control."

Sapiro's Dates in Minnesota

Following his address on Farm Bureau Day, September 6, at the State Fair, Aaron Sapiro, California's noted leader of farmer co-operative marketing enterprises, will speak at Crookston Sept. 10, at Moorhead Sept. 11, Detroit Sept. 12, Brainerd Sept. 13, Sauk Center Sept. 14, Princeton Sept. 15. He will speak more directly to the potato growers of these communities, but will have something to say which will be worth hearing by everybody.

Carlton County Liming Soils

Seven carloads of ground limestone, about 300 tons, were shipped into the county this spring for demonstration work, says S. A. Aldrich, county agent. Some applied the ground limestone by hand, others put it on manure from a manure spreader, and still others had a limestone spreader. Members of the Iverson farm bureau unit made a limestone spreader, the plan of which they found in the April 23 issue of *Successful Farming*. It saved a great deal of time and did good work. Any farmer can build one.

Something to Work For

One of the county agents of Minnesota wrote recently: "The farm bureau in this county has approximately \$2,200 cash on hand July 1, 1923. The exact amount, I believe, is something in excess, but the farm bureau secretary-treasurer wants to be conservative in making his report. We have always tried to hold some reserve, as it makes for stability."

King Corn Marching On

Every year King Corn gains a little more ground. Taylor of Roseau county reports the best corn crop ever in his territory. Acreage was increased this year, and the sentiment is strong for a further increase next year as a means of meeting the livestock feeding problem, he says. The farmers are buying silos. Aldrich of Carlton county says Joe Putzke of Barnum had Minnesota No. 13 corn which was waist high on July 11, and that there is every prospect this corn will mature for seed.

Nutrition project schools reached a total of 887 persons in Redwood county, says Agent Lynn Sheldon. Nutrition achievement day will be observed October 19.