

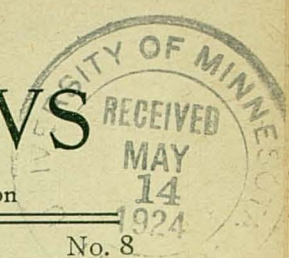
# MINNESOTA EXTENSION SERVICE NEWS

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## 71 COUNTIES SEND 443 TO JUNIOR SHORT COURSE

Seventy-one of Minnesota's 87 counties were represented at the 14th annual short course for boys and girls at University Farm by 201 girls, 197 boys, and 24 women and 21 men teachers or leaders, a grand total of 443. Registration upon this course a year ago was only 225.

Four clubs, each furnishing a delegation of eight, tied for attendance honors. These were clubs from Excelsior, Waconia, Sherburn, and Monticello. The prize in each case was a box of club stationery for the use of the secretary. The Brainerd club enrolled seven members in the course. Of the counties, Isanti had the largest attendance, 26, with Carver county registering 24.

More significant even than the increase in numbers, says T. A. Erickson, the state leader, was the fact that many more older boys and girls than usual, some of them representing group and community organizations, attended the course.

Seven teams of advanced breadmakers gave demonstrations for the honor of representing the central district in the state contest at the next state fair. The Excelsior team (Lucy Palmer and Hilda Knutson) was first, scoring 90 points; Waconia (Lillian Gotts and Phyllis Barr) second, 83 points; Forest Lake (Helen Hayden and Frances Schmidt) third, 82 points. Teams from North Branch, Farmington, Anoka, and Jordan were also entered in the contest. Teams from Ortonville and Kerkhoven gave their demonstrations and received their ratings at the short course for juniors at Morris.

While at University Farm the juniors gave their forenoons to study and classroom work and their afternoons to recreation and sightseeing trips. One of the big events of the week was a family supper the evening of April 16. Director F. W. Peck served as toastmaster and Principal D. D. Mayne of the School of Agriculture, D. D. Tenney, business man of Minneapolis and dairy cattle breeder; H. W. Byerly, development agent of the Northern Pacific, and J. J. Louis of the Dayton company gave addresses. Several of the juniors, when called upon to tell what they had done in club work, reported in an entertaining and impressive manner. Others took part in club stunts which were enthusiastically cheered. A. H. Larson, registrar and instructor at the Northwest school, led the singing.

Three thousand boys and girls have attended these short courses since the beginning of the year. In addition to the station courses at University Farm, Crookston, Morris, and Duluth, short courses have been held in the counties of Beltrami, Clay, Dodge, East Ottertail, Grant, Kittson, Koochiching, Mower, Morrison, Norman, Olmsted, Pine, Polk, Renville, Watonwan, West Ottertail, and Wilkin.

The annual conference of club leaders

was attended by about 50. Director F. W. Peck gave a clean-cut analysis of leadership and service. Professor Paul Scarbro, principal of the South Dakota School of Agriculture, was one of the special speakers. E. E. Bloomquist, superintendent of schools for Washington county, said that club work had influenced school work for the better in that it had raised the standard in character and attainment of those attending the schools.

## CRUCIAL FARM FACTS TO FACE THIS YEAR

"Facing the Facts in Agriculture"—this was the subject of a radio talk given recently by Director F. W. Peck, in which he reviewed conditions affecting dairying, poultry keeping, hog raising, and other phases of farming and drew the following interesting conclusions:

1. Agriculture is still handicapped with a three-fourths exchange value of its products.
2. Debts were contracted in war times and must be liquidated and the interest and taxes paid with a lower price level.
3. This means abandoned farms, loss of savings, going to the cities, and finally the turning point with some foods relatively higher compared to wages, rents, clothing, etc.
4. Emphasis must be laid in 1924 on lower cost of production, not so much by cutting down cash expenses except for feed, but by using the best acres, keeping better cows, hens, sows, and sheep. It apparently is not a time for undue expansion in the dairy and poultry business. The best stock men will have the better chance. Men on poor land with poor stock, and those that are not good farmers will be handicapped.
5. Farmers and their organizations should be doing for themselves what it is hoped legislation will do for them. This means business-like management of their distributive machinery, where that seems practicable, with the merchandising and advertising of quality products to fit more nearly consuming demands.

## M. L. Armour New Agent in Dodge

M. L. Armour of Wisconsin began work early in April as agent for Dodge county, succeeding C. L. McNelly who resigned to accept a similar appointment for Fillmore county. Mr. Armour was graduated in 1918 from the Wisconsin College of Agriculture and since then has been farming at Mondovi, Wisconsin, where he was known as a successful breeder of Jersey cattle and Poland China hogs. He comes to the Minnesota county agent service with the best of recommendations from the staff of the Wisconsin Agricultural College and from farm leaders in his home community.

## DISTRICT CONFERENCES WILL BE HELD IN MAY

F. E. Balmer, state leader, announces that the spring district conferences for county agents will be held at—

- Moorhead, May 8 and 9.
- Cloquet, May 13 and 14.
- Mankato, May 20 and 21.
- Owatonna, May 22 and 23.

"Application to Minnesota conditions of the agricultural outlook recently outlined by the United States Department of Agriculture, and problems of seed distribution, egg marketing, and county extension financing will be the principal subjects before the conferences," says Mr. Balmer. "Farmer-banker co-operation, auto mileage, and the use of revised report forms will also be considered.

"The northeast district conference will be held for the first time at Cloquet. In addition to subjects already mentioned, the conference there will give attention to extension work in forestry and the utilization of forest products. The mills and manufacturing plants of Cloquet will be visited as time permits."

## 1,250 FARMERS ATTEND FARM BUSINESS SCHOOL

Thirty-nine farm business schools with a total attendance of 1,250 were held during the winter months by W. L. Cavert. One of the most popular topics of these schools was that of price trends for leading livestock products. In presenting this discussion, charts were used to show the long-time up and down trends of the market for cattle, hogs, dairy products and horses.

These charts brought out the facts that on a purchasing power basis hogs and common grades of cattle and horses were all selling very low compared to dairy products, prime steers and lambs. The conclusion was that, judging the future by the past, one would expect those products that were selling at a high figure to become cheaper and those that were selling at a low figure to rise in purchasing power.

Other topics discussed were the economics of dairy and hog production. The total number of farm business schools was somewhat less than in recent years because a part of the time was spent on livestock schools in co-operation with livestock specialists.

## Miss Koch Accepts Ohio Position

Miss Adele Koch, formerly assistant state home demonstration leader in Minnesota, and for the last year and a half in Michigan, will go to Ohio May 15 to assume a similar position.

## Four Girls in Baby Beef Club

Eighteen juniors, four of them girls, have entered the beef calf project in Dakota county.

## MINNESOTA EXTENSION SERVICE NEWS

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WALTER C. COFFEY

Dean of the Department of Agriculture and  
Director of Experiment Station

FRANK W. PECK

Director of Agricultural Extension

W. P. KIRKWOOD

E. C. TORREY

Editors

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MAY, 1924

### OUR ATTITUDE TOWARD THE EXPANSION OF THE DAIRY INDUSTRY

Recent articles appearing in the twin city daily press, particularly from the standpoint of the headlines carried by these articles, might lead people to the belief or impression that there had been a decided change in policy in the agricultural extension service relative to our dairy extension project.

Most certainly there has been no change in our attitude. The same kind of definite publicity and specialist service in the counties of the state is operative at the present time and will be in 1924 as obtained in 1922 and 1923. There has been a drop in the price of dairy products and considerable agitation is apparent because of this more or less adjustment of the price of dairy products to prevailing conditions. We are not unduly alarmed about the status of good dairy practice nor do we feel that the proper natural growth of good dairying will be appreciably affected by the turn in the market price.

We believe there should not be any undue expansion of the dairy industry or of any other particular type of farming, because the industry of farming above all others should grow naturally into its various types of production, more from the standpoint of development than from that of promotion. We are more than ever convinced that good dairy products will be profitable in the future for the better dairymen as they have been relatively profitable in the past, and we should expect at least reasonable price fluctuations with some lowering of the dairy price level because of foreign and domestic competitive production. The present tariff on dairy products is too low and the wide spread and increased interest in dairying by many people who were attracted to it by the relatively better price of this product tends to make the price fluctuations more pronounced at this time.

We do feel that increased emphasis must be laid this coming year and in years to come upon the practices that

will lead towards more economy in producing a high quality product per individual animal. We feel that there are greater opportunities for profit with a higher average production per cow even though we may maintain eventually relatively fewer cows. This is along the line of economy of operation that we are attempting to stress in practically all lines of farm production and marketing through the extension program.

### FALSE EGG GRADING REPORTS CLEARED UP

To the Extension Service News.

In a recent issue of the Lake Crystal Union it was said that the United States government and the state of Minnesota were requiring the grading of all eggs offered by the producer on the market, and that a certain sizer, 1 $\frac{5}{8}$  inches in diameter, was required and was being sent out by the State Department of Agriculture.

The fact is that as yet there are no federal grades, and when they are finally adopted they will be optional; likewise there are no state grades yet adopted and when they are adopted they also will be optional.

The sizer in question was not recommended by the State Department of Agriculture for the reason that it merely gives a certain diameter of the egg without regard to its weight. Eggs varying from 19.5 to 24.5 ounces have been found to fit exactly this diameter. In other words, if the attempt is to size eggs to the 24-ounce standard, this scale is too variable to use as an official state standard. It is serviceable in a general way as indicating approximately what eggs should be placed in the No. 1 grade. Incidentally the same objection is said to lie against an egg scale recently put out by a novelty firm in the Twin Cities. Further tests of both scales will be made and the results reported to those interested.

It is entirely proper to say that the State Department of Agriculture believes that the selling of eggs on grade and according to the proposed federal standards will do much to better the general egg marketing situation, but the story now going the rounds in the newspapers is entirely misleading and calls for this statement as to its lack both of authority and legality.

Hugh J. Hughes,  
Director of Markets

### St. Paul Firm to Finance Trips

Schuneman & Evans of St. Paul will pay the expenses of the winners of the boys' and girls' ton litter contest in Washington and Dakota counties to and from the National Club Exposition in Chicago next fall. Second and third place winners will be rewarded by free trips to the junior short course at University Farm in April of 1925.

### Birth Card From the Engles

A card from Keokuk, Iowa, announces the arrival of Robert Henry, Junior, in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Engle. Mrs. Engle was Miss Fairie Mallory, clothing specialist in the home demonstration office.

### LEADER GROUP STUDIES PROBLEMS OF KITCHEN

The second meeting of the local leader training class held in the home of Mrs. Vigan at Rothsay, Wilkin county, was most satisfactory. Mrs. E. A. Parker, chairman, and Mrs. R. M. Carlson, secretary, were in charge. Response to roll call showed 100 per cent attendance of leaders representing seven township units and there were in attendance at their several group meetings 108 signed members and 23 visitors.

Some results of these meetings were telephoned to the leaders as follows: One pantry remodeled and improved by putting in more and better arranged shelves; five women made some changes in arrangement of kitchens which resulted in a saving of time or steps or both; one woodbox on castors made sweeping and cleaning in the kitchen much easier. Three or four leaders presented plans of kitchens in their group which were difficult problems and the leader group studied and discussed them, making suggestions for changes to be tried out and reported on at the next group meeting.

At 12 o'clock a picnic lunch was enjoyed. At 1 p.m. the group adjourned to an upstairs room which Mrs. Vigan had arranged for the work of refinishing furniture, which was the subject presented by Mary L. Bull, the state specialist in home management. Every woman had brought some small article on which she made practical application of instructions given. Then most of the articles were cleaned and rubbed smooth for the refinishing which was to be done at home according to directions furnished by the state department of home economics extension service.

Comments such as, "Now I know what to do with that old dresser of mine," "I'll refinish that little old rocker for my bed room" and "I'm so glad we had this lesson before housecleaning," showed that the women intended making use of the work to dispose of their home problems.

### ANOTHER WOOL POOL TO BE CONDUCTED IN 1924

Dean W. C. Coffey and Director F. W. Peck are advised by officials of the Farmington wool pooling agency that the national wool department has decided to conduct another pool in 1924. At a board meeting held in April, O. A. Alfson, president, and A. L. Sayers, warehouseman, were appointed managers of the pool for 1924. The management has made arrangements to maintain a bonded warehouse, a bonded warehouseman and a state licensed wool grader, all under the supervision of the state department of agriculture. A. L. Miller of Farmington has been appointed secretary of the wool pool, the funds of which will be kept entirely separate from other funds of the organization.

### Quota More Than Doubled

Kittson county potato growers pledged 9,819 acres for the new Potato Growers' Exchange, although the county's quota was only 4,364 acres. Some 519 contracts were signed.

## JUNIOR POULTRY CLUB ENROLLS 145 MEMBERS

Stewart, in McLeod county, has the distinction of organizing the largest boys' and girls' poultry club in Minnesota. A total of 145 juniors—68 from McLeod county, 42 from Renville county, and 35 from Sibley county—have enrolled and at a recent meeting in the new community building 435 settings of standard-bred eggs, or three settings for each club member, were distributed among the juniors. Harold Sanders of Stewart was chosen club president.

E. N. Schmitz, a banker of Stewart, is the "man behind" the new club. It was his idea and he it was who circularized the community, enrolled the young people, bought and packed the 6,525 eggs given out, and made arrangements for the meeting which was attended by 500 persons. Each boy and girl is pledged to give one pullet from each setting of eggs to Mr. Schmitz.

County Agent Hathaway is co-operating with Mr. Schmitz in making the club a success. While it will function as a single club, it will have a unit organization for each county and each unit may compete for prizes offered to the respective counties by various organizations.

## CHANGE IMPENDING IN SHIPMENT OF FILMS

The motion picture division of the U. S. Department of Agriculture announces that after June 30 the practice of the department paying transportation charges on films for the use of agricultural extension workers will be discontinued.

Therefore, after the above date, film shipments to agricultural extension workers will be made by express collect, and the consignee will be required to arrange for the payment of transportation charges of the films from Washington, as well as for their return to Washington.

All requests for the loan of films should be addressed to the office of motion pictures and not to the office of co-operative extension work as heretofore.

### Clothing Project Appreciated

Lake of the Woods, Roseau, and Kittson counties have organized and begun the clothing project under the direction of the state clothing specialist, Miss Lily Anne Lenhart. Lake of the Woods county has 12 local leader groups organized, Roseau county 14 and Kittson county 14. In spite of bad roads, the meetings have been especially well attended. It was not uncommon to hear a woman say that she had walked three or four miles that morning in order to attend the meeting.

### Counties Co-operate in Egg Marketing

Stevens, Big Stone, and Traverse counties have combined to organize a poultry and egg marketing association.

## MISS VELMA SLOCUM SUCCEEDS MRS. BAKER

The vacancy left by the resignation of Mrs. Margaret B. Baker as state club agent was filled in April by the appointment of Miss Velma Slocum



VELMA SLOCUM

of Madelia, member of the graduating class of 1922 of the Minnesota College of Agriculture. Since her graduation Miss Slocum has been teaching home economics in the schools of Sherburn, Martin county. She was leader of the Class A breadmaking demonstration team which won the state honors at the state fair last September and was rewarded with a free trip to Chicago.

## STATE HEALTH BOARD ASKS HELP OF AGENTS

In several instances Minnesota county agents have been of material assistance to the State Board of Health in securing the adoption of ordinances for the safeguarding of milk by villages, towns, and cities. Officials of the state board appreciate this help and are asking for more of it. Seventy municipalities in Minnesota have adopted ordinances for the sanitary treatment and distribution of milk. Officials of the state board assert that the consumption of milk has steadily increased in centers having such ordinances. They want the co-operation of county agents in extending this work and invite correspondence. Address the State Board of Health, Division of Sanitation, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis.

### Rock County Has Purchasing Agent

The Rock county farm bureau has elected a purchasing agent to transact the business in seeds. A fund was set aside for the purchase of alfalfa and sweet clover.

## KANABEC LEADERS PLAN FOR ACHIEVEMENT DAY

Kanabec county leaders in the poultry project are making attractive plans for their achievement day program to be presented May 16. Each group will report definite things accomplished. A chart made by members of each group, will emphasize certain phases of the project as carried out in the communities. A large county map will show the location of all groups and their members, and, as far as possible, will indicate others outside the group who have been reached by members. Ten exhibits are planned, each one dealing with one of the subjects taken up in the project. One group will demonstrate the making of a feed hopper. Plans for other demonstrations are shrouded in mystery, only the program committee having been informed regarding them.

## CLOTHING PROJECT IN FAVOR OVER THE STATE

Home agents over the state report an active interest in the clothing project. Eva L. Blair, joint agent in Blue Earth, Faribault, Brown, and Lyon counties, says that the groups which just completed the nutrition project at Lake Marshall are now talking clothing. New members have been joining and the five groups now have 84. In Mower county, where the work is conducted by Edith Hoffman home agent, some splendid community work is being done. At the third meeting at Leroy the forenoon was spent in making foundation waist patterns for those present. The regular presentation of subject matter took place after lunch and was followed by fitting of foundation patterns, cutting off of patterns, and by general discussion.

### New Honor for Zavoral

Since the last issue of the News, H. G. Zavoral, livestock specialist, has been elected general manager of the National Swine Show, which is held annually at Peoria, Ill. Mr. Zavoral has received congratulations all along the line for this recognition of his abilities in livestock work.

### Extension Teachings Effective

Work done in Watonwan county on swine disease has shown wonderful results, says County Agent Lloyd E. Hudson, who writes as follows: "In checking up at a largely attended meeting some time ago we found that 90 per cent of those present had changed their pastures and also improved other practices in handling hogs at the suggestion of the county agent and specialists. In every case, good results were reported."

### Winona Co. Gives for Club Work

The Bay State Milling company of Winona has appropriated \$150 for club work. The money will be used for cash prizes and to provide eight free trips to the boys' and girls' short course at University Farm in 1925. Two of these trips will be awarded corn club members.

### HIGH QUALITY MARL FOUND WHERE NEEDED

Three deposits of high quality marl have been found in Beltrami county, says D. C. Dvoracek, county agent. One of them is right where it ought to be, in an area of sour soils as indicated by tests. A second deposit is on high dry land and is more than ten feet in depth. Assurance has been given, says the agent, that the university will send a marl excavator to Beltrami county for at least one setting this spring. The plan is to excavate a large quantity of marl for distribution among farmers for experimental purposes.

#### Dodder vs. Clover

Samples of alfalfa seed sent to a grower in Kittson county by an outside seed company yielded a lot of dodder seed when put under test. "We are informed that this seed was shipped later to another county in the state," says Agent W. V. Longley. "If we are going to cash in on the seed clover business, a business which is already bringing into the county \$60,000 a year, we have got to keep out dodder," he adds.

#### Beekeeping Club in Sight

Boys and girls of Kittson county, always keen for club work under the tutelage of County Agent Longley, are planning to organize a beekeeping club, a new project this year. Kittson has an immense acreage of clover, especially sweet clover, and is, therefore, in position to produce honey in abundance.

#### Finds It Easy to Treat Seed Wheat

An upper Red river valley farmer says there is no trick at all in treating seed wheat with copper carbonate. He used a wagon box in measuring the wheat and weighing out the dust, spreading the wheat and dust in layers in the box and then shoveling over. With a light breeze blowing—and it can be counted upon usually—he felt no ill effects from the dust.

#### No Stopping This Combination

Extension people in Blue Earth county are co-operating with the county bankers association in holding a series of meetings to urge the planting of more legumes and the keeping of better livestock. The combination of business men and farmers puts a great deal of snap into the meetings, says County Agent L. E. McMillan, and much good is expected to come from them.

#### Big County Fair Projected

Pennington county is already working out plans for the most pretentious fair it has ever held, according to County Agent J. J. McCann, secretary. The fairs in Thief River Falls and in Roseau county will be held the same week, so that many of the same attractions can be used at each and the costs divided on a 50-50 basis.

### MORE FARM TOURS TO BE LED BY CAVERT

The summer schedule of W. L. Cavert, farm management specialist, will undoubtedly provide for several farm management tours after the plan used in 1923 when such tours were held in Jackson, Steele, Redwood, Pipestone, and Wilkin counties. "The most successful tours seem to be held where the area covered is limited to a small portion of the county," says Mr. Cavert. "In some cases a tour might take the place of a township unit picnic, or several picnics might join in such a tour. In large counties, a tour might be held on each of two successive days. The best time for holding tours seems to be between spring planting and the beginning of harvest."

### 590 HERDS RETESTED; NO "TB" FOUND IN 367

County Agent W. K. Dyer of Meeker county reports gratifying results from tuberculosis retests of cattle herds. Some 590 herds, which contained reactors on the first test, were retested; 367 herds were found to be clean on the second test, while only 635 reactors were located in the remaining 223 herds. The latter will be retested in about 60 days. It is predicted that the percentage of reactors found in the second area test the coming fall will be very small.

#### Farm Boys' Camp Honors Awarded

Approximately 175 club boys of the state have been selected for membership in the Farm Boys' Camp at the 1924 state fair. If all the counties qualify, there will be 185 boys in the camp. R. C. Coffin of Minneapolis, assistant state secretary of the Y.M.C.A., will again be in charge. All expenses of the boys for traveling and subsistence will be paid by the state fair.

#### Daytons Renew Contribution

The Dayton company of Minneapolis, staunch friend of junior club work in Minnesota, has renewed its contribution of \$200 for canning club work in 1924. The money will be spent for educational trips and prizes.

#### \$3,000 Raised for Purebred Sires

Business men of Brainerd have raised \$3,000 for the purchase of purebred bulls to be distributed among farmers through the farm bureau. Applications have been received for 30 sires under the plan, says Agent E. G. Roth. A purebred sire association has been organized.

#### Fifty Bulls Sold in Redwood

The purebred sires campaign in Redwood county resulted in the placing of about 50 bulls, reports Lynn Sheldon, county agent. A similar campaign has been started in Watonwan.

### BIG STONE WILL SOLVE THE PASTURE PROBLEM

Alfalfa for hay and sweet clover for pasture is a favorite combination in Big Stone county. According to the March report of County Agent R. R. Buchanan, nearly 40,000 pounds of alfalfa seed and more than 75,000 pounds of sweet clover seed will be sown in the county this year.

"To solve the pasture problem this year," says the agent, "it may be advisable to plow up the old timothy and wild pasture and seed to flax, and then sow down another piece to fall rye with 12 pounds of good clean scarified sweet clover. This makes an excellent hog pasture as well as being good for all kinds of stock. The carrying capacity is far more than old timothy or prairie pastures."

#### Getting Ready for Fall Fairs

The Dodge County Shorthorn Breeders' association has already had a committee out selecting animals to be fitted for the county show herd next fall. Two herds of the same breed will also make a circuit of county fairs, one representing the milking Shorthorn type and the other the beef type. The plan is to show at fairs in neighboring counties, and probably also at district fairs and the state fair as well.

#### Member Last Year; Leader Now

Miss Clover Sabin, home demonstration agent in Koochiching county, writes that Gust Larson, who was a regular member of the Ranier poultry project conducted by Miss Cora Cooke last summer, is now acting as leader of a boys' poultry club in his community.

#### Not Enough to Go Around

Pennington county farmers applied for 3,800 acres of sugar beets, but in the apportionment which it was necessary to make in considering the total crop they were assigned only 750 acres by the Minnesota Sugar company. The Mexican labor for the season is already on the ground.

#### Business Men Give Helping Hand

Bankers, elevator men, and hardware dealers have been helping to distribute 27,000 pounds of Grimm alfalfa seed for planting in east Otter Tail county this spring.

#### One Way to Handle Seed

Sweet clover will be used extensively for pasture this year in Brown county, says Agent Willis Lawson. One farmers' elevator, which is handling seeds practically at cost for farm bureau members, has distributed more than 8,000 pounds of sweet clover seed.

#### 455 Women Enrolled in Project

Miss Eva Blair, joint home demonstration agent, has enrolled 455 Brown county women in home management extension work. Fifty-six local leaders represent the 455 at the different classes.