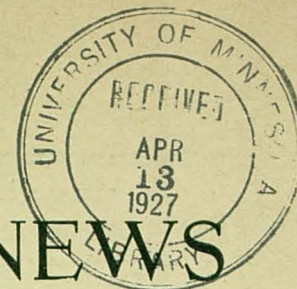


MINNESOTA EXTENSION SERVICE NEWS



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No. 7

“Best We Ever Attended,” Say County Home Chairmen of the Recent Home Conference

The first three days of the conference, February 28 to March 2, were devoted to the study of the various projects by the state leader, specialists and agents. Each project committee consisting of specialist and two agents, stressed the need of greater simplicity in the organization of subject matter, recommending that wherever possible more single practice demonstration be given by group members, and that the subject matter be divided into smaller units and be presented more in detail.

The possibilities of conducting the child training project under local leader methods was presented for discussion by Miss Edith Dixon of the Institute of Child Welfare.

Forty from 24 Counties

That there is a growing interest in home demonstration work throughout the state was again shown when in addition to the entire staff of specialists and agents, 40 women representing 24 counties and three cities came to the annual home demonstration conference March 3 to 5 for three days of intensive study on the problems of more efficient organization and more effective methods of getting the work across in their respective counties.

Dean W. C. Coffey in his inspiring talk said that the service of the Department of Agriculture of the University of Minnesota to home making is that of a truth discoverer and a truth revealer. He emphasized the importance of the home as fundamental, and of greater importance than the state, church, or university. Quoting Miss Maud Royden, he said, “that learning to live together in your own home prepares you for citizenship as nothing else can.”

Director F. W. Peck explained the financial conditions which have hampered further extending of the work in the state. He brought out the fact that at the present time there is a greater realization of the need of extending this work, as shown by the wording of a bill before congress that the increased funds made available for extension work by this bill should be equitably divided.

Both Dean Coffey and Director Peck emphasized the fact that our big job is to develop people.

Outstanding Features

Miss Fannie Buchanan's work on music appreciation was one of the outstanding features of the conference. Her charming method of presenting the subject not only awakened this appreciation, but by her interesting method of demonstration she inspired the group

with confidence in their ability to pass it on to others.

The talks by Miss Neale S. Knowles were most practical and helpful and were the high lights of the week. The theme of her discussion was the necessity of true vision and a good working organization. She emphasized the fact that without these little can be accomplished. She urged the building of a strong county extension and farm bureau organization which shall function effectively and thus make it possible for extension work to be carried to every farm home in the county.

The presentation by Miss Bess Rowe of The Farmer's Wife's plans for a master homemaker contest aroused great interest and much discussion.

The urban agents had a special session with the home chairman and committee members from Duluth, Minneapolis, and St. Paul. Questions of organization, project work and publicity were the main phases of the work discussed.

The home conference dinner Thursday evening gave the group a time for relaxation and fun as well as a chance to show their histrionic ability in depicting various historical episodes in home demonstration work.

Delighted with Conference

The county home chairmen expressed themselves in regard to the conference as follows: “We feel that the conference has been the best we have ever attended. Miss Knowles' talks on organization were especially helpful. They touched on really fundamental things. Her explanation of the relation of the farm bureau and the extension department should make us all have a clearer vision of the goal toward which we are working and also make us feel the importance of our job, be that what it may, because a chain is only as strong as its weakest link.

“We are going home from this conference feeling that we have touched upon more of the vital problems than ever before and at the same time there will linger with us for many days a memory of our altogether lovely time, where we talked of home and children, enjoyed beautiful music, made new friends, and became better acquainted with the extension people and the resident home economics staff, all of whom have done so much to make our stay an enjoyable one.”

Fair Board Gives to Club Work

Word comes that the county fair board of Douglas county will spend \$1,100 on club work this year. A leader is to be employed April 1.

GOAL, ORGANIZATION, AND PROGRAM VITAL

“Successful home demonstration agent work depends essentially upon two fundamental points,



namely, a comprehensive vision of the goal to be reached and a thorough organization through which to develop leaders who will reach the goal,” said Miss Neale Knowles, the Iowa state leader, at the recent Minnesota home conference.

“In this as in all undertakings there is too great a tendency to mistake the part for the whole and thus lose sight of the real goal which must be the guiding star. With the goal clearly in mind, the steps toward that end must be clearly and logically outlined. The first logical step must be careful attention to the setting up of a workable machine, an organization through which to work. The over-ambitious home agent may say, ‘I can't wait for other people, I must do the work myself. I can do it better than any one else.’ Perhaps you have heard thoughtless mothers say the same thing and have noticed the disastrous results in the home.

Organization and the Goal

“As we consider the subject may we agree that the goal to be reached is ‘a happy and prosperous farm family on every farm in America.’ With that goal in mind we must fully appreciate the importance of an organization which will lead our thought and effort away from our immediate and personal interests. The county organization does that. It is not too remote and abstract to make one lose sight of the home farm and it is not too near to personal affairs to allow each individual to overlook his personal responsibility in the success of this educational activity.

“The county is the middle ground between the home farm and the state. Successful county organization must include an elected leader for each small group of farm families. In Iowa we speak of that leader as a school district co-operator. She is responsible for becoming acquainted with the 12 or 15 farm women within her four square

(Continued to col. 2, page 6)

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APRIL, 1927

STATE FAIR TO DISPLAY COUNTY WORK

A new type of county exhibits has been included in the classification for the 1927 Minnesota State Fair. This is known as the county project exhibit. The object of the exhibit or classification is to make it possible for the county extension service to display some particular line of educational work being carried on in the county. The board of managers of the fair added this new classification with the understanding that counties having such an exhibit will substitute it for the regular county agricultural exhibit.

This is done so as to provide the necessary space for these exhibits, which will be limited to four in number in 1927. They will be judged on a score-card basis and each exhibit which makes a minimum score of 500 out of a possible 1,000 points will receive a minimum prize of \$150. Counties scoring first, second, and third will receive additional premium money for the prizes won.

It is anticipated this kind of exhibit will prove popular with county agents, especially with those agents who have taken a major part in putting on the county exhibit. For this reason it is thought these agents would much rather devote their time to an exhibit showing how they have developed a project and what has been accomplished by it, rather than devoting their work to an exhibit which shows only resources and not so much in the way of progress in extension work.

The extension office will be pleased to hear from any agent who thinks that a substitution might be made this year in his county to an exhibit of this kind. The first definite entry comes from Pennington county.

ALL RESIDENTS MAY USE COUNTY AGENT SERVICE

The 1923 session of the Minnesota legislature stipulated 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."

That the residents of Minnesota are complying with the law in relation to county agent service is well shown in a study which has been made recently by County Agent C. L. McNelly of Fillmore

county. During a two weeks period recently he kept a record of the requests which came to his office. Certainly a wide variety of problems were brought to him upon which "aid and advice" were desired. Following is the very interesting list:

Purchase of day old chicks.
Membership agreement plan for livestock shipping associations.

Co-operative marketing of eggs and poultry.
Method of ridding cattle and horses of lice without dipping.

Advisability of raising capons.
Possibility of securing better livestock shipping service.

Treatment for mange.
Assistance in securing analyses of rock material.

Advisability of starting a cheese factory in the county.

Mineral requirements for laying hens.
Commercial fertilizer for corn.
Practicability of using moldy silage.
Value of the "TB" test.

Egg production ration for laying hens.
Availability of pyrotol for land clearing purposes

Value of lime for alfalfa.
Sources of lime for alfalfa and sweet clover.

Assistance with community program.
Indemnities for reaction to "TB" test.
Assistance in securing speakers for co-operative creamery meetings.

Prizes awarded in the ton litter contest.
Information regarding county crop show.
Advice as to care and management of baby beeves.

Need for succulent green feed for poultry.
Farm bureau membership.
Claim for lost parcel post package.

Information relative to boys' and girls' club projects.

Fair price for seed oats.
Sources and prices of clover, alfalfa, and other grass seeds.

Sources of Gopher oats.
Assistance in securing Velvet barley.
Assistance in securing material for club work.

Assistance in locating a mature Shorthorn sire, a Polled Shorthorn sire, Shorthorn sire, Brown Swiss heifers, two Brown Swiss sires, Milking Shorthorn sire, purebred Guernsey calf, Bourbon Red turkeys, Toulouse gander, Barred Rock cockerels.

In making the statistical report, county agents are required to give the number of letters written. The foregoing itemization gives an insight into the nature of information requested and illustrates a phase of the work with which the general public is perhaps not familiar. During the past year 4,486 letters were written by the county agent of Fillmore county. Many of them were in connection with definite projects and the county program of work; however, as the above enumeration indicates, a great many had to do with daily problems that come to the farmers of the county, all of them practical, but many of them scientific and technical in nature. Rendering specific information through correspondence is a phase of the county extension work of which much use is being made.

Junior Short Course Season Here

The short course season for juniors opened as this number of Extension Service News goes to press. The courses at Crookston and Morris were scheduled for the week of March 28 to April 2. The first course at Grand Rapids has been appointed for the week of April 11 to 16, and the dates for University Farm are June 6 to 11. The aggregate attendance is placed around 2,000.

Pig to Have a Better Chance

The McLean county system of hog production and sanitation is being pushed in Waseca county through the medium of public meetings, newspaper articles, and motion pictures.

WHY THE DISTRICT CONFERENCES

The annual district conferences of county agents will be held at Rochester April 26 and 27, Marshall April 28 and 29, Duluth May 3 and 4, and Fergus Falls May 5 and 6.

Characteristic types of agriculture divide Minnesota into several rather distinct regions. Certain major enterprises such as dairying, beef and swine production, poultry raising, market milk production, small grain farming and potato production, and then again certain regional factors as soil types, undeveloped land, topography, prevalence of timber, climatic conditions and the like are factors which divide the state into several rather distinct areas.

The district conferences of agents, therefore, are needed to make local and regional application of the various farm enterprises characteristic of the several regions. State extension specialists and experiment station representatives are present at these conferences so that agents may in conjunction with them formulate plans and programs and thereby be better prepared to carry to the farm the approved methods and practices of the best farmers, the agricultural college and the experiment stations.

The agents at these conferences may compare their programs, study methods, improve plans for the management of their offices, develop the morale of the personnel, and as a result of these and other gains increase the effectiveness and usefulness of the county extension service.

SCHOLARSHIPS AGAIN

Minnesota boys and girls who are interested in livestock production, either in or out of organized club work, will be pleased to hear that for the fourth consecutive year the Chicago Association of Commerce will award agricultural college scholarships of \$500, \$300, and \$200 to the three highest ranking individuals in the non-collegiate judging contest to be held in Chicago November 26 in connection with the next International Livestock Exposition. At each of the recent Internationals 22 states have been represented by their champion junior judging teams. Boys of Nebraska, Kansas, California, Wyoming and other states have won these scholarships and Minnesota's turn is held to be about due. Who will be the lucky boy or boys?

Sheay Announces Candidacy

Sheay of Scott county reports the holding in February of 16 meetings, with an aggregate attendance of 2,793, at which the discussion turned mostly to alfalfa, sweet clover, and soybean cultivation. The agent says he is a candidate for the free trip offered the county agent who presents the best legume growing program and achievements to match.

Health Project Has Preference

Women directors of various township units and farmers' clubs in Olmsted county have expressed a preference for the "Feeding the Family for Health" project as their next extension work. Efforts will be made to sign up at least twelve communities with ten women enrolled for each community.

WHAT ALFALFA CAN DO FOR MINNESOTA AGRICULTURE

A Million Acres the Objective in Next Three Years

F. E. Balmer

Alfalfa has increased Minnesota's annual farm income no less than \$18,000,000 to \$20,000,000. Through increased plantings in the next three years this should be increased to no less than \$40,000,000.

The census of 1900 credited Minnesota with 658 acres of alfalfa, grown in only 30 counties, with one-third of the state acreage in Carver county, the original home of Grimm alfalfa in America. By 1910 the state alfalfa acreage had grown to 2,288 acres, found in all but twelve counties, though still not grown extensively outside of Carver and Hennepin counties.

By 1920 a remarkable increase to 45,410 acres had taken place. A few years previous to 1920 the county extension service became operative throughout Minnesota, with alfalfa growing a standing project with practically every Minnesota county agent.

The 1925 Federal census (a 1924 crop record) reports Minnesota having 220,258 acres and the Minnesota state census for 1925 reports 314,304 acres of alfalfa, as the crop cut in 1925. The latter figure does not include 1925 plantings. As yet there is no record of the 1926 crop cut except the United States Department December 1926 estimate of 370,000 acres which likely is alfalfa hay cut and does not include 1926 plantings.

Judging from the rate of acreage increase since 1919, the growing interest in alfalfa, and the fact that pastured acreages are not reported in the United States Department hay figures, it may be conservatively estimated that Minnesota has 425,000 to 450,000 acres and possibly 500,000 acres to be cut or pastured in 1927. This means an average of nearly two and one-half acres per farm for the 188,231 farms in the state.

Should Have a Million Acres

Farmers of Minnesota should more than double the state alfalfa acreage during 1927, 1928, and 1929 and so bring the total acreage up to 1,000,000 acres, an average of about six acres per farm. Ultimately ten acres per farm would seem advantageous for that would be only one acre in ten of the crop land of the average Minnesota farm.

But let us first undertake the immediate program to grow 1,000,000 acres of alfalfa in Minnesota. What should be the gain? Until 1900, possibly 1910, it may be assumed that Minnesota hay, outside of clover and timothy, meant wild hay of which the state then had more than 2,000,000 acres.

Alfalfa is rapidly replacing wild hay as a feed on Minnesota farms. The increased wealth coming to the state from say 500,000 acres of alfalfa, which may have replaced wild hay is a considerable item. Wild hay yields about one ton per acre and well established alfalfa from two and one-half to three tons per acre.

What is the comparative value of wild hay and alfalfa? In protein, alfalfa is three and one-half times as valuable as prairie hay and yields practically three

times as much per acre. According to O. G. Schaefer of the dairy division of the University of Minnesota, "one acre of alfalfa furnishes approximately ten times as much protein, eighteen times as much lime, and four times as much phosphorus as does an acre of timothy" (the analysis of which is almost identical with that of wild hay).

Also according to Mr. Schaefer, "Alfalfa furnishes two and one-half times as much protein, two times as much lime, and two and one-half as much phosphorus as does an acre of clover. It furnishes five times as much protein, 284 times as much lime, and two and one-half times as much phosphorus as the corn received from one acre."

Then, again, the farm management studies of the University of Minnesota at Owatonna and Windom when combined for the five years of 1920 to 1924, inclusive, indicate a gross return per acre from alfalfa of \$41.82 as against a gross return per acre from tame hay of \$14.70. The cost per acre of alfalfa was \$16.75 and of tame hay \$11.37, so the net return from alfalfa was \$25.07 per acre and the net return from tame hay \$3.33 per acre. By tame hay in this study was meant a mixture of clover and timothy.

Had it been possible to include wild hay in this study, it may be assumed that a positive loss would have been revealed instead of any net return on the wild hay crop.

In view of these several comparisons it seems entirely reasonable to state that an acre of alfalfa is fully ten times more valuable than an acre of wild hay.

Three Times as Valuable as Wild Hay

However, it is true that wild hay still commands a market, so to make a most conservative comparison, let us assume that alfalfa is only three times as valuable as wild hay and yields three times as much per acre. Then 500,000 acres of wild hay, producing one ton per acre, having a value of \$5 per ton on the farm as a feed, would be worth only \$2,500,000. But we now have this 500,000 acres of wild hay essentially replaced with alfalfa yielding three tons per acre worth \$15 per ton on the farm as feed, or a total of 1,500,000 tons valued gross at \$22,500,000. Deduct from that the value of the wild hay (\$2,500,000) and \$2,000,000 additional for cost of seed and planting leaves a value of alfalfa in excess of wild hay amounting to \$18,000,000 a year. There are other gains involved which undoubtedly bring the total increase of value now realized above \$20,000,000 a year.

It is entirely practicable and feasible to go definitely forward with the planting and maintenance of an additional 500,000 acres of alfalfa in Minnesota in the next two or three years with a view to realizing an additional annual farm income of \$20,000,000 or even more.

Minnesota then with 1,000,000 acres of alfalfa could claim an increase gain of fully \$40,000,000 annually due to alfalfa production. This means an average increase approximating \$200 per farm per year for the state. But there are

other gains than from the alfalfa itself. More profitable livestock production will follow, soil and cropping conditions will improve. Much sandy land now almost abandoned may be reclaimed. Moreover, the growing of more alfalfa will result in more emphasis on the growing of sweet clover and other legumes essential in systematic crop rotations. Crop yields of wheat, oats, and corn in four year rotations following legumes covering ten year trials at the Minnesota Experiment Station, as reported by A. C. Arny in Minnesota Special Bulletin 104, were from 20 to 25 per cent greater than where legumes were not included in the rotations.

There is a possibility then of 1,000,000 acres of alfalfa, in better combinations with other legumes, increasing the annual farm income of Minnesota far more than \$40,000,000.

Bushel of Seed Per Farm Will Double Acreage

The first step of this signal achievement can be attained by an action which is equivalent to each Minnesota farmer obtaining one bushel of 60 pounds of hardy northern grown alfalfa seed, preferably Grimm, and seeding it with due attention to necessary cultural practices, already commonly understood or information concerning which can be readily obtained from the county agent of the county or from the nearest state experiment station.

The maintenance, however, of such an alfalfa acreage will require reseeding or supplementary seeding from time to time depending on winter killing, the desire to rotate alfalfa, or other factors that require replacement or expansion of acreage.

Accompanying is an analyses of the alfalfa acreage situation for each county of the state. The data for each county need study, that is, the relation of the alfalfa acreage to sweet clover (the coming pasture crop in many sections), the tame hay and wild hay acreage, the crop land, plowable pasture and other pasture. The whole forage problem needs study in relation to the livestock population of the county and the phases of livestock development to be emphasized.

County Analyses of Alfalfa Production

The tabular data show an interesting development, particularly as the various county situations for 1925 are examined. There is a decided variation between counties as to the alfalfa and sweet clover acreage per farm. This may be in part determined by size of farm, extent of other forage crops available, variation in the suitability of soil conditions and the emphasis that has been put upon these two coming crops.

It is quite natural that Carver county should maintain a high average acreage of 4.6 acres of alfalfa per farm. Pennington county in 1925 led the state with 5.3 acres per farm, followed by Grant with 5.11 acres, Traverse 3.9 acres, Red Lake 3.8 acres, Polk 3.7 acres, Wilkin 3.6 acres, Rock 3.6 acres, Mahanomen 3.5

acres, McLeod 3.4 acres, Lincoln 3.4 acres, Marshall, 3.3 acres, Bigstone 3.25 acres, Lac qui Parle 3.1 acres, Pope 3.1 acres, and Meeker 3.1 acres.

The counties with the higher average acreages are largely, though not entirely, those in which wide spread introduction of alfalfa began in 1914 and which has been consistently followed up. The writer recalls four carloads of alfalfa seed distributed in west central Minnesota counties in 1914, largely in Traverse, Grant, Stevens, Wilkin, Pope, Lac qui Parle, Bigstone, Douglas, Chippewa, Clay, Swift, Kandiyohi, Renville, and Ottertail counties. Similarly a carload of alfalfa seed was secured and distributed in Polk and neighboring counties in 1914.

That Pennington county leads the state in average acreage per farm may be credited to the fact that a carload of alfalfa seed was pooled and distributed in 1924 and another again in 1925. The high acreage of Bigstone county is attributed to the procuring of a carload of alfalfa seed for distribution in the county in 1924. Similarly the very large plantings in Ottertail county were in part due to extensive plantings in 1914, but more particularly to plantings in 1924 and 1925, for in the latter year a carload of seed for the county was secured in one shipment. The high acreages in counties neighboring to Carver county are evidently the result of following a good demonstration in their midst.

Several counties, due to large area and a large number of farmers, have large acreages. In 1925 Ottertail led the state with 17,798 acres followed by Polk with 15,970, then Hennepin with 11,605. Every county in the state in 1925 had a considerable alfalfa acreage except those where farm development and the clearing and subduing of the land were primary needs.

However, Lake of the Woods, the youngest county in Minnesota, the point farthest north in the United States, largely in the development stage, has made remarkable progress in alfalfa culture, increasing its acreage from 655 in 1924 to 1210 in 1925 or an average of 1.3 acres per farm.

Every County Needs an Alfalfa Program

With the data presented herewith, the wealth of additional material available in each county and in particular the successful alfalfa experience of farmers locally, each county should definitely map an alfalfa production program which will have for its objective the planting and maintenance of an alfalfa acreage that will definitely contribute to the most economical and profitable livestock production possible. Alfalfa acreage must be based on feed requirements. Therefore, alfalfa production in relation to other crop production will be determined largely by the livestock population of the county.

Other phases entering into the alfalfa production program consist of certain soil problems and limitations, seed bed preparation, preferable crops to follow, soil acidity, drainage, liming, procuring of hardy seed stock, seed inoculation,

date and rate of seeding, nurse crops, and like considerations.

Every Farm Needs an Alfalfa Program

Similarly each farmer must plan his alfalfa production program and the place the crop will occupy in his scheme of farm organization. In every county there is a wide variation in size of farm. In the state farms vary from 3 acres to 5,000 acres or more. The great majority however range from 50 to 260 acres. In general the operator of the larger farm if interested in livestock production will need the larger alfalfa program.

Headings in the accompanying tabulation and their relation to livestock feed needs will require consideration as each farmer plans his alfalfa program. A well organized plan for the growing and utilization of alfalfa on the farm should contribute much toward the improved organization of the entire farm.

Alfalfa should be grown for feed and not for the market. No one should permit enthusiasm for this wonderful crop to cause him to plant acreages greatly in excess of what can be well utilized on the farm or right in the locality. Every alfalfa grower must appreciate that other localities can grow alfalfa, and the grower generally must have as his ultimate objective the conversion of his alfalfa into livestock or livestock products.

Growing Farm Wealth Will Make Minnesota Grow

To increase the annual farm income of Minnesota by \$40,000,000 to \$50,000,000 by alfalfa production is indeed a worth while objective. This means an average increase of nearly \$500,000 per county. For some counties it should mean an increase of more than \$1,000,000 annually.

Large gains can be secured to Minnesota by adding 40 to 50 million dollars to the annual farm income or an approximate average of \$500,000 per county. Such an alfalfa program as proposed fully carried into effect will produce an income equivalent to the cost of state government in Minnesota; for the average rural county it will pay one-half of the total taxes levied; the average county return will pay the bonded indebtedness in every rural county within four years and in 58 counties in less than two years; the average county return will maintain two-thirds of the cost of general education in the average rural Minnesota county; in fact, no end of benefits may come to Minnesota and to Minnesota farm families by such annual increase of the farm income.

Increasing the farm wealth and the farm income is a primary means by which Minnesota will grow. Growing more alfalfa in relation to other important crops and with a view to giving more definite direction to the development of the livestock industry can make a large contribution to a greater Minnesota. The past 25 years have been the testing period; successful methods are now known and available. Every county and every farmer in the state ought to study their alfalfa growing problem and go forward to fulfillment with a program suited to the need.

MINNESOTA PRODUCTION OF ALFALFA, 1925

County	Number of farms, 1925	Average acres per farm	1899 Total	1909 Total
Aitkin	2,509	117.0	...	2
Anoka	1,575	126.1	30	4
Becker	2,867	161.7	25	31
Beltrami	2,534	117.5	...	6
Benton	1,593	139.2	1	3
Bigstone	1,089	266.6	...	15
Blue Earth	3,070	142.0	52	10
Brown	2,008	175.7	...	6
Carlton	2,287	84.9	13	...
Carver	2,013	105.1	213	421
Cass	2,143	129.1	...	3
Chippewa	1,568	216.8	70	34
Chisago	2,128	107.9	...	2
Clay	2,032	264.8	...	58
Clearwater	1,539	145.2	...	...
Cook	192	121.7	...	1
Cottonwood	1,883	201.4	2	114
Crow Wing	1,452	142.6	4	...
Dakota	2,298	131.2	2	30
Dodge	1,736	150.6	...	2
Douglas	2,625	143.1	...	25
Faribault	2,455	177.3	12	12
Fillmore	3,287	157.7	...	6
Freeborn	2,731	155.0	20	2
Goodhue	3,084	145.8	...	28
Grant	1,255	223.2	...	28
Hennepin	4,313	57.2	30	218
Houston	1,964	168.4	...	9
Hubbard	1,442	140.4	...	8
Isanti	2,097	119.5	...	...
Itasca	2,148	106.8	...	2
Jackson	2,076	191.1	...	9
Kanabec	1,484	119.3	...	...
Kandiyohi	2,353	184.3	...	19
Kittson	1,452	293.3	...	10
Koochiching	1,474	125.2	...	...
Lac qui Parle	2,056	225.5	4	19
Lake	444	73.0	...	...
Lake of Woods	945	147.2	...	...
Le Sueur	2,263	119.9	...	93
Lincoln	1,561	202.1	...	55
Lyon	1,849	222.3	...	20
McLeod	2,464	121.9	5	8
Mahnomen	770	231.5	...	...
Marshall	2,693	261.3	...	18
Martin	2,511	168.5	72	21
Meeker	2,505	143.2	...	14
Mille Lacs	1,855	92.1	...	...
Morrison	3,163	138.3	1	...
Mower	2,501	164.4	...	8
Murray	2,027	209.1	...	27
Nicollet	1,499	174.2	25	49
Nobles	2,116	202.6	...	7
Norman	2,106	227.3	...	80
Olmsted	2,378	163.4	...	22
Ottertail	6,601	163.3	1	53
Pennington	1,184	225.6	...	11
Pine	3,326	101.0	13	10
Pipestone	1,208	224.0	...	12
Polk	4,310	227.7	...	45
Pope	1,789	215.7	5	2
Ramsey	1,106	44.0	...	23
Red Lake	918	221.6	...	5
Redwood	2,625	197.0	...	5
Renville	3,016	194.1	...	55
Rice	2,454	110.7	28	52
Rock	1,269	210.9	...	29
Roseau	2,045	216.2	...	10
St. Louis	6,951	78.4	7	...
Scott	1,534	131.5	...	81
Sherburne	1,354	161.4	...	6
Sibley	2,195	162.1	...	23
Stearns	4,533	168.4	11	40
Steele	1,997	132.2	...	40
Stevens	1,290	256.7	...	7
Swift	1,736	245.7	15	9
Todd	3,595	133.2	5	13
Traverse	975	297.9	...	28
Wabasha	1,810	172.2	...	5
Wadena	1,312	150.2	...	3
Waseca	1,702	144.6	22	16
Washington	2,955	104.6	15	5
Watsonwan	1,421	173.2	11	31
Wilkin	1,120	320.4	...	3
Winona	2,165	167.8	...	47
Wright	3,955	98.6	4	33
Yellow Medicine	2,179	212.9	...	26
State totals	188,231	...	658	2,288
State average acreage per farm	...	159.7	...	...

* 1925 State Census. (1) Woodland and other pasture.

FARMERS TESTING SEED; SITUATION BADLY MIXED

Many tests made at the seed laboratory at University Farm indicate that prime seed corn is scarce in Minnesota this year. While the situation in general may be disquieting, the fact remains, that there is a lot of good seed in different counties. The following reports have been summarized from statements of county agents:

Waseca county—Germination tests go to show that there is plenty of good seed corn in this county.

Rock county—Tests of seed corn made by the agent and by farmers themselves show good quality seed in general. The supply is plentiful. Many farmers have as high as 100 bushels of good corn in their seed supply.

Murray county—Considerable good seed is available here. What was saved early is in better shape than the seed that was planted last year. Many farmers are testing.

Fillmore county—Of the first 18 samples of seed corn tested for farmers all except three showed good germination percentages, indicating, says the agent, that so far as quality in seed corn saved is concerned, it is much superior to a year ago.

Pipestone county—For the second year a seed corn testing station has been organized and opened in Pipestone county for the purpose of ear testing seed corn for farmers. The station is operated strictly at cost. The seed situation in Pipestone county is pronounced acute by the agent although, he says, a fair supply of 1926 seed is suitable for planting.

Scott county—A seed corn testing station has again been opened in the basement of a bank at Shakopee, says County Agent John Sheay. A straight charge of half a cent per ear, to cover the actual cost of testing, is being made. More than 200 bushels of seed corn was tested at the Scott county station in 1926 and it is expected the quantity will be increased this year.

Winona county—The agent has been demonstrating the method of testing seed corn in dampened newspaper rolls enclosed in a tight two-quart jar. Demonstrations were given at 13 farm bureau meetings attended by 760 farmers. One farmer said: "I did not have much confidence in this method of testing, so I put some of my seed corn in a tester in which I used dampened soil. At the end of five days I compared them and found that I had secured practically the same results in both testers." Tests made to date have convinced the agent that late picked seed corn cannot be depended upon unless it passes the ordeal of testing.

Will Have Club Building at Fair

Club boys and girls of Nicollet county are to have their own building on the county fair grounds at St. Peter. A committee headed by County Agent R. A. Fischer has been appointed to solicit funds.

Tours to Follow Schools

The county agent and extension specialists have stirred up so much interest in the dairy feeding schools in Morrison county that members are planning dairy and alfalfa tours for next June in their communities.

GOAL, ORGANIZATION, AND PROGRAM VITAL

(Continued from col. 3, page 1)

mies. She also makes them acquainted with the plan and purpose of the work and creates a desire for activity in the work.

"Nine of these co-operators, together with a chairman, who is known as a township project leader and a woman who acts as publicity chairman, make up the township committee. The 1,311 committees of this sort in Iowa are responsible not only for promoting and conducting project work, but for activity along all lines which serve to reach the set goal. These township project leaders act as a county committee which is under the leadership of the county project leader. Each county must not only recognize and accept its responsibility toward reaching the county goal, but must see that activity as a part of the state and national effort to reach the goal we have in mind.

Meaning of the "Program"

"The organization is maintained and strengthened through the activity in some worth while program. The program is the lubricator and the adjuster of the parts of the organization. It keeps each part in harmony with the organization as a whole. The program then must be well balanced and well conducted. It must be selected by the people and to meet the wishes of the majority. It must be conducted to interest the greatest number of people with the least amount of time, money, and energy. It must not only teach facts and develop leaders, but it must create the spirit of service and the desire to co-operate with other constructive activities.

"The training school method of conducting program work is meeting these needs. Through this method, more people are interested and what is even of greater importance, real leaders are developing. One of these leaders said, 'I love all of this work because there is so much getting and giving about it.' That is the real spirit of leadership among the thousands of farm women who see the goal, 'A happy and prosperous family on every farm in America.'

J. M. DREW'S CONDITION TURNS FOR THE BETTER

News from the bedside of J. M. Drew, who has been desperately ill of erysipelas for many weeks past, has been more encouraging of late and it is now felt there is a fair chance for his recovery. Members of his family and a host of friends from the campus and in the park have alternately despaired as his condition grew worse and rejoiced as improvement has been noted. While the patient is a long way from being out of danger, he has made perceptible gains of late and the outlook for his recovery is declared encouraging by his physicians. Mrs. Drew is convalescing from illness which required an operation. She and her daughters, Helen and Margaret, are carrying a heavy burden of anxiety and have the heartfelt sympathy of all extension people and neighbors and associates.

JOURNAL GIVES \$5,000 AGAIN TO CLUB WORK

To enumerate all the prizes, trophies, free trips, and other emoluments and rewards offered the juniors of Minnesota by firms and individuals and to describe all the various offers would literally fill about half the space available in this issue of Extension Service News. Just a skeletonized statement must suffice.

Foremost in the list comes The Minneapolis Journal which has renewed all its propositions to the juniors, including scholarships, national trips and trips to short courses. The aggregate expenditures of The Journal for these prizes will amount to \$5,000.

Likewise the Russell Miller Milling company will again give the usual number of free trips to breadmaking teams, including those who take part in district, state, and national contests. In addition it will give a free trip to one of the girls selected to attend the national club camp in Washington. The bread club girl having the best record in leadership work will be given this trip.

The Farmer of St. Paul will again finance the champion pig club girl to a trip to Chicago; it will provide five trips for poultry winners to the junior short course and dairy medals for all club members making a creditable record.

The Great Northern, Soo Line, and Northern Pacific will help defray the expenses of four club members from each county which it traverses to junior short courses. The Chicago & Northwestern, the Omaha, Rock Island, Illinois Central, and Great Western will make some substantial contribution to the expense fund of a certain number of juniors attending the National Club Congress.

The State Horticultural Society will again use \$250 of its funds for prizes for the juniors, and the Garden Flower Society has given notice that its appropriation of \$50 has also been continued.

The Duroc Jersey, Chester White, and Poland China breed associations will put up \$50 each as special prizes for juniors exhibiting swine at the State Fair. Practically all the large packing companies and cattle breed organizations of the country will give trips to Chicago for work in the livestock projects.

For ten years the Dayton company of Minneapolis has been giving \$200 a year for prizes for canning. It gives notice that its money is up for 1927.

Publishers of Hoard's Dairyman will give 25 subscriptions of that paper to dairy calf club boys. The DeLaval separator will be another prize worth working for. Many manufacturers are giving educational trips and scholarships.

Pooling for Pyrotol

Farmers of the old settled and prairie or semi-prairie counties of Murray, Mower, and Brown are pooling their orders for carloads of pyrotol, to be used in blasting the remaining stumps and stones. Up in Koochiching county the bankers have promised to finance two-thirds of the cost of an extra carload of pyrotol in order to make sure of a fair supply of this explosive before it is exhausted.

Isanti to Have Club Leader

R. R. McCamus, a recent graduate of the College of Agriculture, will lead club work in Isanti county.

IOWA INVADES MINN.; TAKES FRANZ KRAUSE

After having served as county agent of Faribault county, Minnesota, for nearly eleven years, F. E. Krause on April 1 became the county agent of Jackson county, Iowa.

Mr. Krause to date holds the record in Minnesota of continuous tenure in one county. In fact his record is one of the best in the entire country. The average period of service of county agents on the rolls in the United States July 1, 1926, was five years, so the tenure record of Mr. Krause has been twice that of the average.

Faribault county serves as a splendid example in employing and maintaining capable and experienced agents. During the fourteen years that the county agent service has operated in that county, having been organized in September, 1913, only two agents have been employed. R. C. Palmer served for three years as the first agent and was then succeeded by Mr. Krause.

County agents of Faribault county have had the cordial support of the commissioners of the county at all times. The county has also developed and maintained an active farm bureau association with a large and well distributed membership.

A county program of work, which has been well suited to the needs of the county and in which signal results have been achieved, particularly in phases of livestock development, has been regularly maintained. The program has been well balanced between farm, home, and boys' and girls' club projects. The grand champion baby beef steer at the Minnesota Junior Livestock Show came from Faribault county in 1919 and again in 1920, having been won respectively by Mildred Oelke and Carl Oelke.

The leaving of Mr. Krause is Minnesota's distinct loss and certainly a gain to Iowa. The sincere good wishes of the Minnesota Extension Service are extended to Mr. Krause and his family.

MINSTURDI AND VELVET WILL BE COMPARED

Several farmers of Winona county will plant one-half of certain fields with Minsturdi barley and the other half with Velvet barley in order to determine which variety is best for their particular conditions. The county agent quotes a farmer as saying, "I planted six bushels of Minsturdi on three acres in 1926 and received 182 bushels, or more than 60 bushels to the acre. The crop stood up well and I had no trouble cutting it. On the remainder of the field, which was seeded with my own barley, the crop was so badly lodged that I had to cut it one way and received only a very small yield."

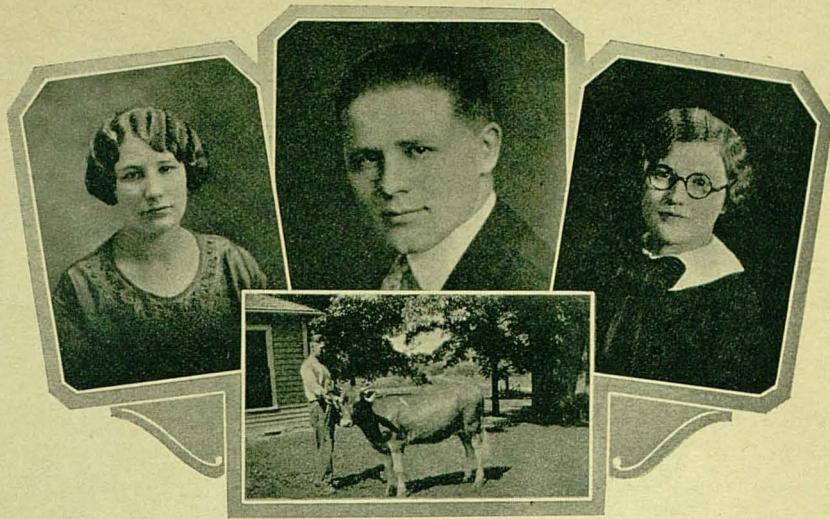
Getting Ready for November Show

Fruit and vegetable growers of Olmsted county are organizing and making preliminary plans for the annual show and meeting of the State Horticultural Society which will be held in Rochester next November.

New Junior Paper Christened

Juniors of Steele county have christened their new monthly club paper "The 4-H Broadcaster."

Will Spend a Week at the Nation's Capital



Left to Right—Irene Haseman, Arvid Sponberg, and Alice Landro.
Below—Walter Blakeslee.

Club boys and girls of Minnesota will be represented at the First National 4-H Club Camp in Washington, D. C., June 16 to 22 by Alice Landro of Norman county, Irene Haseman of Watonwan county, Arvid Sponberg of Waseca county, and Walter Blakeslee of Fillmore county. Outstanding records as club members for a series of years, particularly as club organizers and leaders, were the factors determining these selections, says T. A. Erickson, the state club leader.

Alternates selected are Otto Fahning of Le Sueur county, Theodore Fenske of Beltrami county, Clara Spangers of Big Stone county, and Leona Schmiesing of Redwood county.

Alice Landro has been a club member eight years and has had experience in the bread and livestock projects. She was president of the Norman County Dairy Club and for several years has practically been in charge of all club work in her county. She is the only Minnesota club girl who has won a place on a national judging team—a team which represented the state at the National Dairy Show in 1925.

Irene Haseman has begun her seventh year as a club member and this year is president of a room furnishing class of 16 and is leading a leadership club of nine. She has studied dairy calf raising, garment making, room furnishing, leadership, bread making, and poultry feeding. She is a student of the State Teachers' College at Mankato.

Arvid Sponberg says that receipts from his club work paid his way through a three-year course in the Minnesota School of Agriculture. He is now leading a large sized club in his home community and is in partnership with his father in a farm business. He was third in the baby beef contest at South St. Paul three different years and in 1923 won a free trip to the International in Chicago where he placed third in the national club health contest.

Walter Blakeslee is finishing high school this year and is planning to work his way through the Minnesota College of Agriculture. He has a club of 17

members in his home town and organized a second club in another community. He captured state honors in the corn club project a year ago and made a record in his county for two years in dairy calf club work. He is president of the Fillmore county 4-H club and last year was superintendent of the club livestock department at the Fillmore county fair.

Already ten states besides Minnesota have selected their delegates to the national camp. No efforts are to be spared for the entertainment and instruction of the club people. Members of congress and representatives of the executive branch of the government will speak to them. Forenoons are to be devoted to training in leadership and club objectives. Training in citizenship will be featured every afternoon, followed by visits to governmental institutions and places of historical interest. Educational trips will be so planned that many things of great interest can be seen by a minimum of effort. Each member of the camp is to have a half day which he may spend as he likes. There will be concerts by the United States Marine Band in the evening, a 4-H club radio program, and a candle lighting ceremony and council fire to be held in the Sylvan theater on the grounds of the Washington monument.

Ways and means of financing the trip are giving extension leaders food for thought in some of the states, including Minnesota. Club members of Minnesota are asked to contribute a small amount each for this purpose. In South Carolina a daily newspaper, which believes in club work, will pay the expenses of one delegate.

Minnesota extension leaders were among the first to suggest the establishment of a national boys' and girls' club encampment.

Home Projects Grow in Interest

Rutford of Yellow Medicine county says that interest in the home projects has never been so great as at present. Practically 100 per cent attendance was registered at the second series of local leader training classes held at three different points in that county.

GOPHER JUNIORS WIN ESSAY PRIZES AGAIN

For the second successive year a Minnesota junior club member has won first prize in the national essay contest carried on by the Holstein Friesian Association of America.

Theodore Domke of Rochester has been adjudged the winner of first prize, a true type medal finished in gold, for submitting the best essay on "What I Learned from Calf Club Work in 1926." First prize in 1925 was won by Gladys Lange, club girl of Litchfield. Miss Lange was presented to 500 guests at the annual junior short course banquet at University Farm, and was personally congratulated by Dean W. C. Coffey before the large company.

Second to young Domke in the recent contest was Edward Judd, an Iowa boy, but the next four prizes were won by Minnesota boys and girls, with Cora Torgerson of Albert Lea third; John T. Flynn of Caledonia fourth; Gladys Lange of Litchfield fifth, and Luella Lambrecht of Grey Eagle sixth. Minnesota took practically all of the honors.

The Minnesota state club leader says that young Domke has been in dairy calf club work for five years and has an excellent record all along the line. The boy writes like a philosopher. Read this paragraph from his essay:

"I think the outstanding lesson I have learned through club work is to take defeat. To see the judge place the long line of calves and find my calf at the end of the line is hard I know, but nevertheless there is no loss without some gain. This defeat put the fighting spirit in me—to do better next time, and it makes plain to my calf and me that we have superiors in this world of calf club history. This work has brought me face to face with boys and girls who otherwise, perhaps, I would never have known. I know that my life is richer because of this."

TRIALS PROVE CORN LIKES ITS PHOSPHATE

That corn grown in southwestern Minnesota responds to applications of phosphate fertilizer was demonstrated in 1926 on 81 fields in five counties—Renville, Lac qui Parle, Jackson, Rock and Nobles. The trials were under the direct supervision of members of the division of soils at University Farm, and the results are reported by R. M. Pinckney, a staff man of that division. The fertilizer used on all the fields was treble superphosphate applied at the rate of 100 pounds per acre. On 74 of the fields the yield of shelled corn was increased from one bushel to 21 bushels per acre. Forty-eight of the fields gave an increase of five bushels or more to the acre.

Growth of the corn was quickened by the use of the fertilizer, for the corn in the treated fields was more mature when frost came than the corn on fields which received no phosphate. The ears were gathered between September 21 and October 15, or prior to the time that the farmers of southwestern counties usually husk their corn. The better quality of the fertilized corn appeared in its plumper and smoother kernels.

CITIZENS VOLUNTEER TO LEAD CLUB WORK

Hats off to the good people of Menahga up in Wadena county. Feeling that his students should have a chance to do home work while they are in school, Superintendent F. L. Mills has made it possible for every boy and girl wishing to take up club work to do so. Many have taken advantage of his offer.

Every Monday and Wednesday morning a dozen or more of these young people study sewing, bread making, gardening, and livestock raising. Competent leadership has been provided them. Mrs. DuBois and Mrs. DeLaney have 45 girls enrolled in the garment making project. Every Wednesday morning the 45 are given instruction in the work and later cut out and sew their garments at home.

Mrs. Rackensrud and Mrs. Pelhan have 25 girls enrolled in bread work. At the last meeting an interesting lesson was presented. To determine the amount of gluten in the various kinds of flour used in the community, each girl brought a cup of flour from home and washed and analyzed each sample as directed by their instructor.

Mr. Anderson, a teacher, is conducting the home beautification project. W. A. Peters, the county agent, and his wife are helping the Menahga local leaders to build up one of the finest clubs in the state.

SINGS OLD-TIME JOYS OF BACON AND GREENS

Mrs. R. J. Holt, a Pine county nutrition leader, found the following parody of the "Old Oaken Bucket," dated, 1786:

I have lived long enough to be rarely mistaken,
And have had my full share of life's changeable scenes;
But my woes have been solaced by good greens and bacon,
And my joys have been doubled by bacon and greens.

What a thrill of remembrance now they awaken,
Of childhood's young morning and youth's merry scenes;
One day we had greens and a plate full of bacon,
The next we had bacon and a plate full of greens.

Our latest diet rules advise us to eat greens at least three times a week, better still, every single day. Experience is again a good teacher.

Velvet Barley Pleases

Velvet barley has made such a good impression on farmers of Brown county, says the agent, that it appears to be the coming barley in that locality. Growers of increased plots sold out all their seed at an early date. All growers of this particular variety will be called together in June to agree on a price to charge for next year's seed. Increase this year in the flax acreage is foreseen by the agent.

More Alfalfa in Fillmore

McNelly of Fillmore county has been putting in some good licks to increase the acreage of alfalfa. Alfalfa culture was discussed at 13 meetings with an aggregate attendance of 853, in February, and more missionary work was done in March. The farmers are signing up for certified Grimm seed and are arranging for lime.

DOWELL TO MOVE TO CROOKSTON ON APRIL 12

Austin A. Dowell, for nearly five years with the agricultural extension service, will move his family to Crookston about April 12 and on April 15 will become superintendent of the Northwest School and Station at that point. Since his appointment he has visited the Red river valley station to meet members of the staff and to speak to the students of the school at their assembly.

Mr. Dowell judged the fat cattle of the Manitoba Winter Fair and Fat Stock Show held at Brandon in March. All departments of this show were of superior character, he says. In the fat cattle department there were seven carloads in the carload class, 19 entries in the five steer groups, and 77 fat cattle in one boys' and girls' calf class. The horse show was particularly fine, he says.

MORE THAN 1,500 AT WESTBROOK'S INSTITUTE

Westbrook in Cottonwood county put on an institute which just about set the pace for all the rest of the state. The institute ran for two days with attendance of more than 1,500. The regular speakers were reinforced by specialists from the extension service and from other sources. An unusual feature was a meat cutting demonstration to show the difference between the well bred and properly fed steer and the low grade type. An excellent grain show was another well organized feature. Business men of the town furnished merchandise for prizes. Special sessions were held for the women with programs of instruction in the making of clay plaques, book ends, shelves, crepe paper flowers, and gift articles. More than 300 women attended.

ENGBRETSON CHOSEN AGENT FOR FARIBAULT

Word comes from Faribault county as this issue is made ready for press that Arthur E. Engbretson of Northfield has been appointed county agent to succeed F. E. Krause who resigned. Mr. Engbretson is a practical farmer and has had experience as a teacher and club leader. A further statement will be made in the May number of Extension Service News.

New Prague Club Gives \$170

The New Prague Community Club has voted to give \$170 in cash for the promotion of 4-H club work. The money will be used for prizes in the dairy calf, poultry, baby beef, pig, sheep, colt, corn, livestock, dairy judging, and leadership projects. Besides, there will be \$20 for the local ton litter contest.

Early Windbreaks Dying

Groves and windbreaks, planted many years ago with quick growing trees, are said to be dying in western Minnesota. The county agent of Yellow Medicine county has been studying the situation with P. O. Anderson, the extension forester, and feels that more work in farm forestry is needed in this territory at this time.