

# MINNESOTA EXTENSION SERVICE NEWS

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## Team Demonstrations Make Many Converts

More than 100 bucking ropes were sold as one result of the first series of 15 or 16 big team hitch demonstrations given in Minnesota by men representing the extension department of the university and the Horse Association of America. These ropes were bought by farmers for the purpose of hitching four, six, eight, or more horse teams for carrying on field work in a more economical and less laborious manner. The May reports of county agents give a pretty good idea of how these demonstrations have been going over. For instance:

Lyon county—Five farmers immediately put to use the big team hitching principles presented by Mr. Young and Mr. Zavoral. It was one of the most popular demonstrations we have had in this county.

Redwood county—Several of the hitches have been adopted by farmers and many others have become interested as a result of the demonstration given here.

Brown county—No extension project tried in this county in the last year and a half has met with so much enthusiasm as the big team hitch. Many farmers said they would carry out some forms of these hitches. The agent is planning to give additional demonstrations in different townships the latter part of August. It certainly looked good to see farmers following these various hitches with open notebooks, making sketches, and taking measurements as they went along.

Waseca county—Sixty farmers attended the multiple horse hitch demonstration and several have started to use the big team hitch methods.

Lincoln county—The demonstration left a very fine impression. Forty real dirt farmers attended and all carried away ideas of the big team hitch which, it is safe to say, will be put to use some day. All hands made a visit to the Fourhouse farms near Tyler where a team of eight purebred Suffolk mares are used to do the plowing, discing, and harrowing on a farm of 360 acres of crop land.

Rock county—The bucking back and tying in methods of controlling the big teams in doing farm work was sold to 75 farmers who witnessed the demonstration in this county.

Traverse county—Farmers who attended the multiple horse hitch demonstration on the Wheaton fair grounds were well pleased with results. Many of them plan to adopt the system.

Nicollet county—Several farmers attending the demonstration in this county purchased bucking ropes and have since made some of the eveners used with the hitches. After witnessing the demonstrations of four, five, six, and eight horse hitches, these men believe they can cut down production costs.

Big team hitching demonstrations have only just got a good start in Minnesota, for, under the plans of the Horse Association of America and the agricultural extension service of the university, they will be held over a wide area during July, August and September.

Clarence Turner, a student at Ames, Iowa, who has been coached and trained by Lafe Young of the horse association, will have charge of the new series of demonstrations in Minnesota. More time than formerly will be used in follow-up work in the field. Farmers will be assisted in working out eveners and in making the hook-up for the operation of the larger types of field machinery. Regular demonstrations will be followed by a period for personal advice and counsel.

### BIG CROWD EXPECTED ON FIELD CROPS DAY

The Minnesota Crop Improvement association, the Minnesota Experiment Station, and the agricultural extension division are co-operating in preparations for Field Crops Day at University Farm Tuesday, June 12. Reduced rates will be given by the railroads. Advices to date indicate a large attendance. After a noon lunch on the campus and a brief speaking program the visitors will be escorted to fields and plots where station men will explain plant breeding methods and diseases to which field plants are subject. Approximately 10 acres at University Farm are sown to small grain breeding nurseries. Opportunity will be afforded for a study of recommended varieties which yield 20 to 30 per cent more than the varieties many farmers are growing.

### STEGNER TO RETURN TO EXTENSION WORK

It's good news that W. D. Stegner, who made such an outstanding record as county agent in Houston county from July 1, 1923, to May 1, 1926, will again become a member of the extension staff on August 1. He has accepted appointment as district club supervisor in southern Minnesota. Mr. Stegner is a native Minnesotan and a graduate of the West Central School of Agriculture at Morris and the Minnesota College of Agriculture at University Farm. In the summer of 1921 he was field editor of the Brainerd Tribune and in the summer of 1922 he was with the Montana extension service. For the past year he has been with a co-operative egg exchange association having headquarters at La Crosse.

## Wondrous Week for Juniors at Capital

Minnesota's delegation to the first National 4-H Club Camp in Washington, D. C., returned Saturday morning, June 25, having been absent from the state about two weeks, eight days of which they lived in army tents on U. S. D. A. ground in the shadow of the Washington monument.

It was a wonderful experience for Minnesota's quartette, Alice Landro of Norman county, Irene Haseman of Watonwan county, Arvid Sponberg of Waseca county, and Walter Blakeslee of Fillmore county. A. J. Kittleson, assistant state leader, and his wife were in charge of the party.

Forty-one of the 48 states were represented by 167 club boys and girls, says Mr. Kittleson. Sixty-seven leaders, either state, assistant state or county, were there. The objectives of the meeting were leadership training, understanding of club objectives, citizenship training, and recreation. Separate conferences were held daily by club members and the leaders in the new National Museum. Among the speakers were Secretary W. M. Jardine, Assistant Secretary R. W. Dunlap, Dr. W. M. Mann of the Smithsonian Institution, J. J. Tigert, commissioner of education; Mrs. Mabel Walker Willebrandt, assistant attorney general; Hanford MacNider, assistant secretary of war; Director C. W. Warburton, and Dr. C. B. Smith.

Dr. Tigert told the juniors he was originally a country boy and, like many others, had suffered from the slurring term "hick." "But I want you to know my definition of a 'hick town,'" he added. "It is a place from which came 27 out of 29 men who have been president of the United States."

Sight-seeing trips left no room for a dull moment. Visits were made to Mount Vernon, Arlington cemetery, Indian Head via a big boat down the Potomac, Mount St. Alvan's Cathedral and the tombs of President Wilson and Admiral George Dewey, and the government's farms at Beltsville, Maryland. Most of the government buildings and monuments were visited, and an evening was spent in the wonderful Congressional Library. In the ancient Christ church at Alexandria Mr. and Mrs. Kittleson were seated in Washington's pew. Bird tours at 5:30, swimming at 6, and setting up exercises marked the mornings for many in the company, while at night there were banquets, campfires, and special exercises. At 10 p. m. taps were sounded for the tired but happy campers.

This was only the forerunner of other camps to be held at the national capital. Four more Minnesota boys and girls will have a chance to attend next year. Who will be the fortunate ones?

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### AGENTS AND CO-OPS

Secretary W. M. Jardine, as might be supposed, believes wholeheartedly in the soundness and value of co-operative marketing. In a recent letter to a southern man he discusses the proper attitude of department and extension agents towards co-operative marketing in the following words:

"Department and extension officials should have no hesitation in supporting the principles of co-operative marketing. The support which they give individual associations, of course, should be based on the knowledge of the services of the association, the soundness of its methods, and the ability of the management. In order that they may obtain this knowledge, there is need for further contact between extension officials and the associations."

"It is not our view that county agents should engage in commercial activities in connection with the organization or operation of co-operative associations. Their work is educational, and in this field there is much that they can do to encourage the sound development and efficient operation of co-operative enterprises. I wish to emphasize that I believe it to be as much a part of their job to do this as to carry on educational and demonstrational work in production."

In closing his communication the secretary points out some of the ways in which county agents especially may aid in advancing the co-operative marketing movement. They may, he says, take part in meetings held by co-operative associations. They may advise and assist the farmers in developing the type of organization best adapted to meet conditions. They may assist existing associations by making available to them results of marketing research carried on by the states and the department. County agents can work with farmers for the standardization of products handled by co-operative organizations. They may also assist in the promotion of co-operative marketing schools in connection with the marketing associations, agricultural high schools, county farm bureaus, or other agencies.

### Ton Litter Prizes Renewed

For the third successive year the Fillmore county farm bureau has appropriated \$50 to help finance ton litter project work in that county.

### EXHIBITS THAT TELL A STORY, HAVE A PUNCH

"Exhibits that tell a story" has been the idea in the minds of committees planning recent poultry project achievement days.

Washington county told the story of "The Road to Profitville" with a road leading from Lossville to Profitville. Needless to say, the road at the Lossville end of the trip was a single-track, muddy trail that was almost impassable, but as one approached Profitville the way grew wider and better until the full-width pavement was reached just at the entrance to Profitville. This street was paved with a poultry Institute Annual and several poultry bulletins. Exhibits along this road, prepared by the different project groups, emphasized good poultry practices.

In Dodge county one of the men leaders provided the idea and acted as chairman of the committee on exhibits. The subject was "Twelve Months in Poultry Raising" and it was worked out in a series of twelve exhibits, each one representing one month. In most cases a miniature poultry yard with surroundings to suit the season furnished a concrete idea of the things to be done that month. In July the observer was able to see just what was the best arrangement for culling and what equipment was needed to make the work easier. In October the three different types of house were shown—a bare tree, a ramshackle building and a Minnesota model poultry house. Other exhibits featured hatching, chick rearing, fattening, selection of breeders, equipment, and diseases.

### \$2,000 EXTRA CASH FOR JUST A LITTLE BOther

Up to the first of May farmers of Scott county had received an additional sum of \$2,123.98 on hogs sent to market as the result of the extra 10 cents per hundred weight premium which is paid by the packers because Scott county since the last county-wide cattle tuberculosis test is on the accredited livestock list. The Scott county receipts would be even larger but for what some swine growers characterize as "the bother of filling out a certificate," says the county agent. Certificates may be obtained without charge from farm bureau officials, shipping managers, and from banks. The name of the chairman of the county board should be printed or stamped on the certificate. Each shipping place has its agent of the county chairman who is empowered to sign his name as agent for the county board. He may be a shipper himself or any business man who is acquainted with the farmer and is in position to certify to certain facts in the certificate. When the farmer who owns the hogs signs the paper in ink or indelible pencil the formalities have been complied with.

### Helping Mother Nature

The late planting season has stimulated the use of acid phosphate among farmers of Pennington county. Many are applying phosphate to corn and potatoes in order to give the plants the quickest start possible and thereby hasten maturity. Phosphate applied to corn as an experiment caused it to ripen 10 days before the corn on untreated plots.

### MORRIS CHANGES JOBS; NOW STOCK SPECIALIST

W. E. Morris succeeded officially at the beginning of the new fiscal year, July 1, to the position of livestock specialist held by A. A. Dowell who resigned to become superintendent of the Northwest School and Station at Crookston. Mr. Morris is a graduate of the Wisconsin College of Agriculture. From 1918 to 1927 he was assistant state leader with headquarters at the central office at University Farm. From 1913 to 1918 he was county agent in Renville county where he made a fine reputation in hog cholera control work in co-operation with government veterinarians.

Another contribution which he made to the agriculture of Renville county was by helping to organize co-operative livestock shipping associations at every railroad point. When county agent and assistant state leader he was in great demand as judge of livestock at county fairs and has probably done more of this work than any other man in the state. From the time that he taught animal husbandry in the La Crosse county, Wisconsin, school of agriculture, he has always been interested in livestock pursuits.

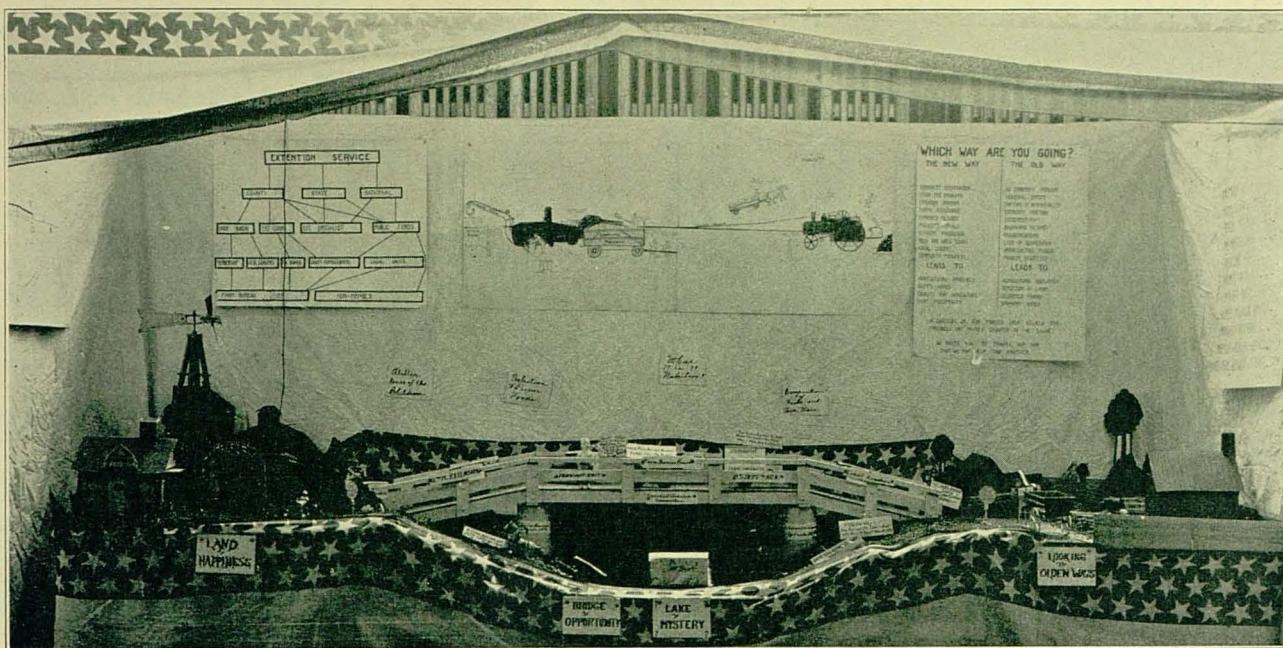
Mr. Morris has really been on the livestock job for two months and in that interim has the third annual carload baby beef contest well organized, with a prospect that 35 carload lots will be entered. Nobles county comes to the front with six loads entered, Redwood and Martin with five each, and Mower and Fillmore with four each. Other entries are assured, as this is written, from Faribault, Rock, Stevens, Pipestone, Brown, Murray, Cottonwood and Houston counties. Calves dropped between February 1 and July 31, provided they were sired by a purebred, may be entered in the contest, the feeding period of which has been cut from 450 days to about 400 days. Some feeders desire to market their calves before they have reached the age of 15 months, experience having demonstrated that the heifers finish more rapidly and need to be marketed earlier than the steers.

### 100 PER CENT OUT FOR MILLINERY CHECKUP

Steele county local leaders and group members of the millinery project held their checkup day June 17 at Owatonna with 100 per cent attendance despite a drizzle which lasted the entire day. The business meeting disclosed that 88.3 per cent of those enrolled made reports; that 88.3 per cent reported making a new hat; that 33.3 per cent remodeled a hat, and that 12.6 per cent other reports were available. This meant a 100 per cent report from the Steele county enrollment. The average amount saved on each new hat made was \$5.02.

The feature of the noon hour was a picnic dinner with all the trimmings. The afternoon program, in charge of the county chairman, Mrs. William Masche, consisted of community singing, talks by Mr. Lawson, president of the Steele County Farm Bureau; Miss Mary Vos, the Steele county home demonstration agent; Russell Seath, county agent, and millinery stunts by local groups and a demonstration on soft hats from the cap crown pattern by Eves E. Whitfield, specialist in millinery.

## HOW EXTENSION SERVICE AIDS COMMUNITY PROGRESS



The relation of the extension service to community development was portrayed in graphic manner by County Agent Hudson in an exhibit at the nutrition achievement day for Watonwan county. The object was to impress upon visitors the value of the extension service in assisting community progress, compared with the old way of individual effort.

Extension service was represented by a bridge over a river, taking the place of the old crossing which had been abandoned except by those who were not willing to co-operate. The piers of the bridge represented organizations supporting extension work. The floor of the bridge represented the farm bureau mem-

bership, and each part of the structure stood for some group of extension workers.

Over the bridge cars and trucks were passing, each representing an extension project. On the old crossing was a wayfarer who was attempting to go it alone. His car was stuck in the mire and a fellow traveler who was going that way in a covered wagon had stopped to pull him out with his horses. A neighbor was standing on the bridge and urging him to go the new way the next time, as there was no need of using the old way when the new bridge was available.

On the side of the river from which they were traveling was an old-fashioned

farmstead, with its rail fences and log houses, while on the other side appeared a modern farming community. A diagram of all features of the booth gave an idea of the co-operative organizations of the extension service and how they work together.

The contrast between the old way and the new way was so clear that all observers were impressed. They felt that the extension service represented by a modern bridge and the old methods represented by the old crossing gave a true picture of the situation. The exhibit will be improved upon and exhibited at the Watonwan county fair.

### ANNUAL PICNIC ONE OF BEST OF LONG SERIES

"We have met the enemy and they are ours," said the supervisors at the close of the annual extension picnic at Phalen Park Monday, June 27; then they added, "two kittenball games (one for men and one for women), the men's horseshoe pitching contest, and the women's ball throwing event." Women specialists managed to win the horseshoe pitching contest. But regardless of the discrepancy in points, the picnic was one of unalloyed enjoyment for all hands—specialists as well as the lordly supervisors. Eighty-five persons, young and old, big and little, sat down to the picnic dinner which had been prepared in the caterer's best style.

The annual outing of county agents was held June 24-26 at Bowen's resort, Perham, Minn. Excellent weather, good accommodations, splendid fishing, and the hospitality of local people combined to make the outing a very enjoyable occasion.

#### Heavy Increase in Alfalfa

An alfalfa acreage increase which will approach 50 per cent is reported by True of Lincoln county.

### FARMERS HOLD BEE TO QUARRY LIMESTONE

Seven portable pulverizers and a local quarry have been furnishing lime for alfalfa fields in Fillmore county. An Iowa pulverizer operated near the state line has also been filling orders for lime for Canton township farms in Fillmore county. Other communities are waiting for pulverizers to begin operations. A limestone quarry bee was held by nine farmers who in six hours quarried approximately 75 tons of lime. County Agent McNelly says that as near as can be estimated the alfalfa acreage at the close of the 1927 season will be more than 50 times the total acreage three years ago.

#### Carload Contest Stimulates

Agent Lynn Sheldon notes an increasing interest in beef cattle production and in the carload baby beef contest. The contest, he says, has opened up greater possibilities for the beef cattle producers.

#### Getting Ready for Olmsted's Show

Sixty-two boys and girls have obtained their calves and are feeding them for exhibit at their livestock show in the fall, says Ausen of Olmsted.

### BUNNY IN THE DUMPS UNTIL GIVEN GREENS

The local leaders of the Carlisle Oscar unit in the West Ottertail county nutrition project carried out an interesting demonstration to prove to themselves and their group the value of greens and whole grains in the dietary. Mrs. Clarence Lehboken caught a young rabbit and fed it only bread and water for three weeks. During this period it showed no growth and was very quiet, staying in a corner all the time. She then changed the diet to oatmeal and green grass and in a very short time the rabbit began to grow and became very active. In fact it was so lively that it was impossible for the leaders to keep it until achievement day, as was their original plan. However, they told the story of the rabbit in a playlet which they put on very effectively on the achievement day at Fergus Falls.

#### Less Corn; More Flax

Less corn and more flax, buckwheat and millet is the outlook on Brown county farms, according to the agent. Land originally intended for corn has been put into flax and more buckwheat will be grown in the county than ever.

## Juniors Spend Four Happy Days at Farm

Outstanding among features of the 4-H club short course held at University Farm June 6 to 10 was the organized class work conducted daily for the study of leadership. No less an authority than T. A. Erickson, state leader, says the course was the best of all the long series held at University Farm. The actual registration of juniors was 725—420 boys and 305 girls. Counting county agents and other leaders and their assistants the course was attended by about 800 club workers.

Between 150 and 200 enrolled in the class for the study of leadership which was directed by the state club leader and his assistants and T. L. Bewick, the Wisconsin state club leader, who gave two days to instructional and recreational work. A. E. Anderson, director of extension in South Dakota; H. M. Jones, the South Dakota club leader, and Earl J. Cooper, leader of the club department of the Holstein-Friesian Association of America, were introduced and complimented the young leaders. Minnesota, they said, was outstanding in boys' and girls' club work and in the development of leadership that will later count for so much in the development of citizenship. Director F. W. Peck in an address to the class emphasized the importance of vision, ability to plan, initiative, and enthusiasm in the program and work of prospective leaders.

Following the original program, the forenoons were used for class room work and livestock judging, the afternoons for educational trips, and the evenings for entertainments in the auditorium. All the young club people and their leaders and a few invited guests took part in a picnic supper and frolic in the natural amphitheater fronting the gymnasium. Early the same evening the big company packed the auditorium to enjoy a program of music, stunts and short speeches. This was the big event of the week, although the juniors agreed there was not a dull moment during the entire course.

Marked interest was taken in rope work, the class numbering 180 as compared with 86 at last year's course. Elsie Haack, club girl of Springfield, won the halter making contest over the entire field. Lester Carlson of Thief River Falls was second, and Stanley Halvorsen of Milan third. Prizes were awarded the first ten in the competition.

Nearly 100 juniors took the poultry course and carried back well-filled notebooks for study at home. Douglas Davidson of Mankato made the best record in judging poultry. Others who won prizes were Charles E. Ellison of Elbow Lake, Arthur Johnson of Callaway, Willmar Marten of Wendell, Clyde B. Rennbold of Farmington, Harold Wiese of Olivia, Lauren Arndahl of Mabel and Carroll Frederick of Westport.

The advanced breadmaking team, composed of Hazel Hintz and Gladys Amundson of Becker, Sherburne county, was first in the contest for the selection of a team to represent the central district at the Minnesota State Fair and Northwest Dairy Exposition. The Excelsior team, from Hennepin county, placed second.

More than 170 juniors, a dozen or more of them girls, took part in the

## C. L. McNELLY JOINS "U" EXTENSION STAFF

Chester L. McNelly, born in Houston county, Minnesota, farm reared, graduate

of the Minnesota School of Agriculture in 1905, and the College of Agriculture in 1909, comes to University Farm July 1, 1927, as the assistant county agent leader for the northwestern district which includes west central Minnesota and the

Red river valley counties, succeeding W. E. Morris who has been assigned the livestock extension work of which A. A. Dowell formerly had charge.

Mr. McNelly has an extended acquaintance with Minnesota agriculture. He worked with the Minnesota Experiment Station for three years, a part of which time was spent on the statistical route at Northfield for the farm management division. He served as the high school agriculturist at McIntosh, Polk county, from 1909 to 1911 and in a similar capacity at Willmar from 1911 to 1914; then for three years he operated his own stock and dairy farm at McIntosh. He has given conspicuous service as county agent in both Dodge and Fillmore counties, having served for a period of nearly seven years in Dodge county, beginning in March, 1918, and for three years in Fillmore county where his services began in April, 1924.

### Leafy Spurge Given Fair Warning

Extension people and local weed inspectors in Cottonwood county held a conference with C. P. Bull, state weed inspector, and organized a weed control campaign. A special grudge is held against the leafy spurge, a weed pest which is making its presence felt along the eastern border where it touches Watonwan. The two counties will unite to conduct experimental plots to determine the best control methods.

### Thirty Selections Under Test

Thirty selections of corn were planted in the variety test plots on the Albert Grunewald farm in Cottonwood county.

livestock judging contests. Classes organized for the study of types of farm animals, care and management, fitting and showing, were largely attended. Medals were presented to Carl Radke of Steele county, Vernet Stottereau of Pipestone county and Paul Jurgenson of Steele county, who were first in the order given in general livestock judging. Of the teams the Rock county trio was first and the Steele county trio second. In the dairy cattle judging contest Alfred Mueller of Sherburne county scored the most points, with Ezra Reineke of Todd county a close second, and Lucille Lehn of Douglas county third. The first team honors were won by Hubbard county and the second by Todd county.

Winona county was represented by 51 juniors and was awarded the banner for having the largest attendance.

## MUSIC HAS CHARMS TO SOOTHE COWS, MILKERS

The radio is finding many new uses these days and now comes the story of the man who has one in his barn. J. F. Couture of Marshall, Minnesota, has a radio with two loud speakers, one in the house and one in the barn. In the evening while the 25 cows are being milked he has the radio turned on and gets the full benefit of the programs which are presented at that hour. Since there is usually some very fine material coming over the air at that time of day, Mr. Couture has a regular evening concert for the milkers and cows to enjoy.

Ordinarily the radio does not interfere in any way with the evening chores, but there has been at least one exception. It was the night of the Dempsey-Tunney fight. The static, coupled with a better loud speaker in the house, led Mr. Couture to abandon his milking for a few minutes and dash madly to the house for a good story on the event. Ordinarily the effect is quieting, however, and Mr. Couture goes the "contented cows" slogan one better by announcing that milk from his dairy is from contented cows and contented milkers.

### Hot Bath for Three Cents

About four carloads of seed potatoes were given a hot formaldehyde bath for scab, black scurf, and stem diseases, says Agent Shaw of East Ottertail, at a flat rate of 3 cents a bushel to cover the cost. The formaldehyde was, of course, purchased in large quantities. Most of those having seed treated also planted some untreated tubers to test the efficiency of the treatment. Everybody conceded that it was no trick at all to treat the potatoes and that the cost was very low. Nearly 700 bushels of seed potatoes were treated by 52 farmers at four centers in Winona county.

### No Joy Ride, But They Get There

Everybody will agree, in these days of rush and speed, that driving 15 miles in lumber wagons over muddy roads is no picnic, but that is exactly what women in the nutrition project in Pennington county did in order to be present when the second lesson was given by the extension specialist. The project has made so good an impression, the agent says, that if enrollments were still open the number could be increased by 10 per cent.

### Change of Entomologists

H. L. Parten of the division of entomology of the university has taken over the work of C. E. Mickel as entomologist with the extension division. Mr. Mickel will now be associated on a part time basis with his former chief, Dr. W. A. Riley, who is now head of the department of biology on the Minneapolis campus.

### Former Soldiers Help Club Work

Members of the American Legion Post of Hendricks in Lincoln county want to be of help to farm boys and so have a committee at work to increase club enrollments. They admit they are starting rather late for this year, but say a great deal of good foundation work can be done for another year, and that they purpose to stay in the game.