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MINNESOTA EXTENSION SERVICE NEWS

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No. 2

Minnesota Juniors Make Great Record at Big Dairy Show

Minnesota's 4-H club juniors, 19 of them, and four vocational school boys, made an exceptional record in the junior competitions staged at the National Dairy Show at Memphis. Their combined winnings include—

- Second place in the National 4-H club dairy cattle judging contest.
- Second place in the National 4-H club dairy demonstration contest.
- Fourth and sixth places in individual dairy cattle judging, 104 4-H club boys participating.
- Third place in the national stunt night program.
- Second place in individual dairy cattle judging for vocational school boys.
- Sixth place in the national team dairy cattle judging for vocational school boys.
- Second only to Tennessee, the host state, in the number of juniors present.

"It was the best showing we have made in the years that the state has been represented," says T. A. Erickson, state club leader. We feel that Minnesota made the most impressive record of any of the states. The results speak for themselves."

Mr. Erickson was assisted by H. A. Pflughoeft, district club agent, and R. L. Donovan, coach of the judging team.

Nebraska was first of 26 teams in judging dairy cattle, but was fourth in the demonstration. South Dakota was first of 20 teams in demonstrating, but was well down the line in judging.

While the Minnesotans very properly spent most of their time at the show they were given auto trips about the city and country and across the lines into Mississippi and Arkansas so they might say they also visited those states. They invaded cotton fields and studied the operation of cotton gins. They actually saw figs, pecans, and persimmons growing on trees. It was a new experience and everybody was on edge. The southern people lived up in all respects to their reputation for fine hospitality.

On Sunday the pastor of a leading Memphis church called attention to the presence of the Minnesota juniors and invited their leader to speak a few words to the audience. In a 10-minute talk Mr. Erickson pictured club work and some of the things it has done for Minnesota boys and girls.

The long journey to and from Memphis was broken by stops in Chicago and St. Louis. In Chicago the juniors were taken to Lincoln and Jackson parks, the Field museum, Chicago university, Soldier field, and up in the Tribune's tower. They rode the length of Michigan boulevard and took a turn through some of the big department stores. In St. Louis they embarked in autos to gather first-hand information of the ravages of the tornado.

Mr. Erickson was re-elected chairman

of the club committee in charge of the department at the National Show for a term of three years.

As for the show, it was the best in point of exhibits and attendance since it was held in Minnesota, say members of the delegation. St. Louis is forecast as the 1928 show city.

LEADING FEATURES OF EXTENSION CONFERENCE

Some of the more important features of the annual extension conference December 13, 14 and 15 are given below. A complete program will be printed in the December issue of Extension Service News:

Project exhibits and their use in extension work.

"The History and Present Status of the European Corn Borer," by T. H. Parks of Ohio, Dean W. C. Coffey, and A. G. Ruggles, state entomologist.

"What Farmers Say About Extension Methods," by M. C. Wilson of the United States Department of Agriculture and others.

"Organization of County Agent Offices, Field Work, and Time." Discussion to be led by supervisors and county agents.

"Agricultural Conditions in Europe," by Dr. R. N. Chapman, chief of the division of entomology.

"Important Research Projects Under Way in the Experiment Station and Their Significance in Extension Work," by chiefs of divisions and research workers in charge of projects.

NORMAN COUNTY BEGINS EXTENSION WORK AGAIN

Norman county has reestablished extension work. Early in November it is expected the farm bureau executive committee and the extension committee will meet together to interview candidates for county agent with a view of getting extension work started not later than December 1. The county has been without the service for the last four years. The farm bureau has been reorganized and 210 members have been obtained at \$5 a year for a period of three years. An appropriation of \$2,000 a year, beginning October 1, has been granted, with assurance that like support will be forthcoming the following year. Reorganization has brought to the front several projects, including the growing of more alfalfa, dealing with the soil problem, potato production and certification, area test for the control of tuberculosis, weed control, livestock improvement, club work, and home projects.

256 Calls for Fair Judges Responded to by Extension Group

During the county fair season just closed, requests were received by the extension division for a total of 419 judges from 86 different county fair associations says J. F. Kuehn, assistant to the director.

A total of 169 livestock judges were furnished, all but 37 being from University Farm or sub-stations. Seventeen requests were taken care of by nearby county agents, while it was necessary to obtain breeders or other outside judges to respond to the other 20 requests.

University poultry judges visited 37 different county fairs and it was necessary to arrange for 26 outside judges to take care of other requests received. At one county fair a county agent judged poultry.

Ninety-eight requests were received for field crop judges, including grains, vegetables and fruits. All but eleven of these requests were filled by university staff members. Three were handled by county agents and eight outside judges were secured.

For women's work the university has been unable to furnish anyone. A total of 88 requests were received for this work, and these judging assignments were necessarily given to persons not connected with the university.

Except for a few in the Red river valley, these fairs were held during a five weeks' period beginning August 15 and ending October 1. A summary shows judges supplied, as follows:

	University	County Agents	Other
Livestock	132	17	20
Poultry	37	1	26
Crops	87	3	8
Women's Work	88
Total	256	21	142

Gaining Year by Year

S. B. Cleland—The county fair season of 1927 had in general a better brand of weather than in some years and this helped to make the whole fair program seem better. There were good crowds and a good spirit. The crop shows of the early part of the season were poor, due to a backward season, but the later shows indicated that the season was closing not far from normal. Vegetable, root and grass crops were good but late in maturing. Wheat and oats were mostly poor; corn was only fair, considering its condition in midseason. At some fairs junior club work is rapidly becoming the outstanding feature, and is recognized and welcomed as a permanent development.

H. R. Searles—Dairy cattle exhibits at county fairs coming under my ob-

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MINNESOTA EXTENSION SERVICE NEWS

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servations were somewhat better than last year. Some of the fairs had made great improvement, but managers in general have not fully grasped the educational opportunities offered in the livestock exhibits. Many of them failed to provide a place or to advertise a definite time for the judging. Other events are carefully scheduled, but livestock judging is left to the convenience of the cattle people and the judge. Part of the purpose of holding the show is lost when there are so few people to see the judging.

C. L. McNelly—I found an apparent improvement in the type and quality of dairy cattle over previous years. After several years of serious depression in the purebred business, breeders are becoming more stouthearted. Other indications point to a more hopeful trend and a renewed and increasing interest in better livestock. Exhibitors at all times displayed the best of sportsmanship and a keen desire to learn the reasons for the placings.

R. F. Crim—Standard varieties of farm crops are receiving more recognition in our county fair premium lists. There was noticeable improvement in the arrangement of exhibits, adding to the beauty and attractiveness of the corn, small grains, fruits, and vegetables displayed. One of noteworthy features of improvement was the more efficient system of making entries.

Junior Club Work Helps

H. G. Zavoral—Our county fairs are keeping progress with the times. A great improvement has been made in boys' and girls' work, in buildings and exhibits, and in the type and quality of livestock shown. Years ago much of the livestock was brought in from pasture with little or no preparation, and the judge had a difficult time to pick his tops. Today most of the stock is conditioned, trimmed and trained. Junior club work has been an outstanding factor in raising the standard of exhibits.

W. L. Cavert—The most significant change in county fairs in recent years has been the increasing part that boys' and girls' club work occupies. This change has certainly added wonderfully to the educational value of county fairs. In the crop departments the educational benefit would be greater if most of the money were spent on the more important crops. For example, in southern Min-

nesota it is not uncommon to find nearly as much prize money offered on potatoes as on corn. In Meeker and Swift counties the interest in leading crops has been increased by offering as many as five to eight prizes in the principal classes for corn. Thus a fair may offer in each of the white and yellow dent classes as much as \$5 for the best ten ears, \$3 for the second best, \$2 for the third, and \$1 each for the five next best entries. The same method is applicable in the horticultural department—seven or eight prizes each for standard varieties, of which in apples the Wealthy is one, and only one or two prizes on the less important varieties.

W. E. Morris—Well balanced exhibits of most classes of livestock marked many of our fairs this year. Improvement in quality is apparent year to year. Interest is reviving in horses. This was noted in the larger shows of horses at many of the fairs, especially in the larger classes of spring foals. Liberal prize money must be offered if livestock exhibits are to be kept up to a high standard. To most farmers a good livestock exhibit is of more interest than anything else at the fair. At those fairs where the premiums for stock were reduced in order to lower expenses, the livestock exhibits were small and the interest rather apathetic.

THE JUNIOR CLASSIC

Extension Service News doesn't have to tell its readers much of anything about the Junior Livestock Show at South St. Paul for 1927. What we should all do is to remember the dates and try our very best to attend.

The show will be held November 7 to 10 inclusive, with the judging of baby beeves on Tuesday, November 8. The juniors will exhibit approximately 200 baby beeves, 100 to 125 fat barrows, about the same number of fat lambs, and 30 to 35 pens of poultry.

Mark G. Thornburg, Iowa's commissioner of agriculture, will judge the baby beeves. Dean W. C. Coffey of the University's Department of Agriculture and P. A. Anderson of the University Farm staff will place the lambs. E. F. Ferrin, also of the animal husbandry division of the university, will again judge the hogs.

It will be a great show, with all the old outstanding features and some new ones.

Worthington Kiwanis Take Hold

Members of the Kiwanis club of Worthington are going to boost club work for all they are worth. They started out by giving a luncheon to county club winners and the county agent. Members of the state champion livestock judging team and the county champions in the bread making, sewing, pig club, and leadership work were there. Talks were given by the agent, the juniors themselves, and the Kiwanis president who pledged the support of his club.

Getting an Early Start

Nothing like being forehanded. The News is informed that some county agents have begun training teams for the dairy cattle and general livestock judging contests at next year's junior short course at University Farm.

Dairy "Biz" Studied by Agents at Askov

A county agent's conference of a new kind was held at Askov, October 7, when the results of three years of intensive study of farm management principles as applied to cutover conditions were studied at first hand. County agents of Pine, Carlton, South St. Louis, Lake, Crow Wing, Morrison and Washington counties, and specialists from University Farm were present.

Because of the importance of the dairy business in northern Minnesota, the various phases of that enterprise were given special attention. The methods by which the Danish farmers at Askov had attained an average production of 250 pounds of butterfat per cow—with many herds averaging more than 300 pounds—were of particular interest. The careful study of rations, use of legume hay, purchase of grain feeds to attain a nutritive ratio of about one to seven, liberal feeding of silage and roots, plenty of good water and good pasture, appeared as the principal means of achieving the good results.

The utilization of skimmilk was discussed at length. Askov farmers feed skimmilk to pigs, calves, chickens and in some cases to cows, and the relatively large amounts available make this a matter of importance. Data at hand seemed to indicate that when pigs are fed more than four pounds of skimmilk to a pound of grain they derive very little benefit from the surplus milk and that it would be better to feed it to other livestock. It was agreed that light young pigs make better use of skimmilk than do the older ones.

The dairy specialists said that eight pounds of skimmilk can be substituted to advantage for one pound of oilmeal in the ration of dairy cows.

Visits were made to the farms of Chris Frederiksen, N. B. Miller, and Christian Sorensen, and the factors leading to the success of each were discussed with the farmer himself present to answer questions and explain his methods.

TWO HUSKING CONTESTS FOR IDES OF NOVEMBER

Minnesota gets both the northwest and national corn husking contests this year. The first, under the auspices of The Farmer of St. Paul, is for Minnesota and the Dakotas and will be held on the A. J. Nourie farm, four miles south of Nicollet, November 4. The Farmer will pay \$200 in cash prizes to the five fastest huskers in this contest. The first two may enter the national or midwest meet which is to be staged on the Walter Springer farm, west of Winnebago, November 15. Eight states will be represented in this contest by their champion corn huskers.

100 New Silos Rear Heads

More than 100 new silos were erected in Morrison county last summer, says County Agent Henry Werner.

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Women of Nobles County Casting Out the Boarder Hens



Nobles county presented a brand new feature in its fair attractions this year—a poultry culling contest for women. Forty-one women took part. This diversion was planned by County Agent A. A. Toole as a suitable follow-up for the poultry project of the year. Prizes of pedigreed males from 200-egg dams were given to winning individuals and to the group of three members making the highest total score. The highest score was 460 out of a possible 500 points. According to Miss Cora Cooke, extension poultry specialist, the contest aroused much interest and others like it should prove a real addition to any county fair or county poultry show. The scheme is adapted for use by adults or by club boys and girls.

LINCOLN GROUPS FIRST WITH THEIR REPORTS

Lincoln county carries off the honors for getting in monthly reports in Home Management Project I, says Mary L. Bull, specialist. Only one of the monthly reports is missing from the 20 groups which finished the series of four meetings in Home Management I. Credit for this fine record is due to the splendid spirit of co-operation among the women in the project and the fine follow-up work of County Agent True.

Following are some results of group meetings reported by leaders: The Go Getters, All Day Club, Nightingales and Altonas put on pressure cooker demonstrations at their local meetings when making a study of kitchen equipment. An old fowl or some food requiring long cooking was used, and the food prepared was served as part of the noonday meal which these groups enjoy together. Thus all were given an opportunity not only to see how the work was done and note the short time required, but to eat of the food prepared which is the "proof of the pudding."

Five groups gave demonstrations in the making of the fireless cooker. Many women reported the great value of their home-made kitchen carts as time and labor savers. "With my kitchen cart and better arrangement of my working centers, I can do my work in one-half the time formerly spent," says a member of the Hillcrest group, and "there is such a saving of steps and energy I don't know how I managed before."

Bound To Have More Alfalfa

"More alfalfa on every farm" is the motive for a campaign recently started in Houston county, and the goal is 1,000 more acres to be added to the 1,500 acres the county already has.

NASH GOES TO AITKIN; McCAMUS NEW AGENT

Christian Nash, county agent of Lake of the Woods county two years, has been transferred to Aitkin county and assumed his duties there on November first, succeeding A. W. Jacob who transferred to Wadena county. Mr. Nash has been succeeded in Lake of the Woods by Ronald McCamus.

Mr. Nash leaves a strong record of achievement, some of the more noteworthy of his projects being the promotion of dairying, the securing and use of improved purebred dairy sires, the delivery of cream in larger quantities to the co-operative creamery at Spooner, the introduction of legume feed, the introduction of more sheep to utilize the pastures and feed available, instruction in the handling and sale of lambs and wool, the sale of surplus stock to advantage by co-operative shipping methods, boys' and girls' club work, testing of livestock, and continuation of the home demonstration project and the addition of new projects as opportunity permitted.

Mr. McCamus was graduated from the Minnesota College of Agriculture in 1927. During the summer of 1927 he was employed as boys' and girls' club agent in Isanti county. His training and experience have fitted him for the work which he is now assuming.

J. M. Drew on Active List Again

After a siege of sickness, beginning in February and marked by many dark days for those who watched, J. M. Drew is again pulling in the harness with his co-workers of the extension service. All are cheered by his recovery and are a unit in wishing him many happy days at the old farm.

More Winter Wheat

Marked increase in the acreage of winter wheat is reported by the agent of Brown county.

JUNIORS MAKING READY FOR THE 1927 CONGRESS

Minnesota will have a delegation of 60 junior club members and leaders at the sixth National Boys' and Girls' Club Congress to be held in connection with the International Livestock Exposition in Chicago November 26 to December 3. T. A. Erickson, state leader, will have charge of the agricultural exhibits of the club department.

Among the teams from Minnesota will be the three boys from Nobles county, Ralph Horstman, Raymond Johnson, and Frederick Bjornstad, state champion livestock judges, also their neighbors, Helga Jacobson and Evelyn Rognley, both of Rock county, who were the grand champion demonstration team at the State Fair, also the bread and garment making teams from the home economics section.

Several new classes of exhibits have been organized, and the Gopher juniors plan to be in about all of them. They will enter their best canning products, also clothing exhibits, potatoes, and corn. They will be in the style show, the Moses leadership trophy contest, the health contest, and the baking, canned goods, and clothing judging competitions.

New features are being arranged for the educational and recreational program which it is said will be more varied than ever before. Forty-three states and the dominion of Canada will be represented at the Congress. Watch Minnesota.

Strong Lime Sulphur Kills Scale

One-to-eight lime sulphur solution sprays will probably destroy the oyster shell scale which has killed many apple trees in Winona county. Visits to farms where demonstrations were given show that the spray has killed most of the scale on the old wood and that very few were to be found on the growth of wood for this year. Says County Agent McNulty: "It was not expected that all the scale would be killed the first year, but the spray will be used next year and perhaps in later years."

APR 25 1928 J. CH. M. BENDIS

Fifth Swine Feeders' Day is Best of All

Pigs were pigs at University Farm Friday, October 21, when nearly 200 porkers used in feeding experiments, as well as barrows all fixed up for show purposes, and noble specimens of the breeding stock, were assembled for the critical inspection of 200 or more farmers attending the exercises of the fifth annual Swine Feeders' Day.

Results of recent experiments in feeding hogs were reported by Messrs. Ferrin and McCarty of the animal husbandry staff. When oats replaced any part of the corn in the diet of the pigs the rate of gain was reduced and the amount of feed to make gains had to be increased. It was shown that corn properly supplemented with protein and minerals is superior to combinations of corn and oats similarly balanced, also that unless oats is less than half the price per bushel of corn it is not an economical feed for growing pigs.

Mixtures of protein supplements for growing fattening pigs in dry lots were compared in another experiment. All lots were fed shelled corn and a complex mineral mixture. Three mixtures produced equivalent results, but the one containing 45 parts of tankage, 45 of linseed meal, and 10 parts of alfalfa meal cost less per hundredweight and brought about the cheapest gains.

Continuing a project started and reported upon last year, to compare the costs of gains and the quality of pork produced by three breeds of hogs, it was reported that the Poland China and Duroc Jersey lots made more rapid gains on less feed and finished out more uniformly than the Yorkshire. As to quality, determined by cooking tests and palatability, the Yorkshires had a slight lead, with the Durocs second, and the Poland Chinas third. The carcasses are graded and scored in the same way that the Danes grade and score their bacon carcasses. This particular feeding trial is to be continued and further report made next year.

The addresses of the day were given by Andrew Boss of the Minnesota station and L. A. Weaver of Missouri. In presiding over the two sessions Dean W. C. Coffey and W. H. Peters contributed a lot of good counsel to the discussion. County Agent A. R. Karr of Martin worked hard to get his swine sanitation booth in shape. This was something new for Swine Feeders' Day and attracted general interest.

County Agent J. B. McNulty led a delegation of 22 farmers from his county. Several other agents were present and remained over, it is said, to attend to certain business on the Minneapolis campus the following day. Of the five annual Swine Feeders' Days at the university the 1927 event is regarded the most successful.

From Club Work to College

That club work leads to school and college work is shown in a census recently taken in West Ottertail of club boys and girls attending various agricultural schools and colleges. Of 24 attending these schools, says the county agent, 20 were enrolled in club work.

AGENT McCANN WINS STATE ALFALFA CONTEST

County Agent J. J. McCann of Pennington is the winner of the county alfalfa contest conducted in Minnesota in 1927.

The award conferred upon him is a five-day trip to Chicago the week of the 1927 International Livestock Exposition and Grain Show, including the meetings of the International Crop Improvement association and the National Association of County Agents. In addition, he is eligible to compete with the champions of 12 other midwest states for the sweepstakes award, which is a two-weeks' trip, including entertainment, through the chief alfalfa producing sections of such states as Kansas, Nebraska, Idaho, Montana, and South Dakota. This trip will be taken about August 1, 1928.

Mr. McCann made a remarkable record in developing the alfalfa program in Pennington county in 1927, features of which are herewith listed:

Number of farmers counseled individually on use of alfalfa between January 1 and October 1, 3,465.

Meetings held during period at which alfalfa growing was discussed, 53.

Attendance at these meetings, 15,711.

Increase in alfalfa acreage per farm in 1927, 3.2 acres.

Report of average alfalfa acreage per farm January 1, 5.1.

Report of average alfalfa acreage per farm September 1, 8.3.

Report of total alfalfa acreage January 1, 7,700 acres.

Report of total alfalfa acreage September 1, 10,080 acres.

Number of farmers sowing alfalfa for first time between January 1 and September 1, 176.

The Minnesota state census for 1920 credited Pennington county with just 317 acres of alfalfa. For this acreage to be increased to a total of more than 10,000 acres in 1927 is a remarkable achievement.

Pennington county has under consideration the development of a livestock program which will make possible the production of 15,000 acres of alfalfa. With this result achieved it is conservatively estimated that the yearly gross income of the county will be increased no less than half a million dollars.

CLOTHING PROJECT IN STEVENS GETS RESULTS

"The idea of pressing with a wool board cloth and a canvas pressing cloth is worth \$5 alone," said Mrs. E. A. Nelson of Morris. "I always did wonder why the seams were shiny. Now I know."

Another leader said: "I know my husband will press his own trousers if I get a canvas pressing cloth."

County Agent Irving Meade said: "Well, even I learned something at that meeting. Guess I'll get one. It sounds good."

Mrs. A. G. Moffat of Chokio said: "I have sewed a lot for my neighbors and friends since I took the Clothing I project and I have taken \$5 of the money I made and joined the Stevens County Farm Bureau."

The foregoing are a few of the comments Miss M. Lois Reid received when she returned to Stevens county to begin the Clothing II project in which 19 groups and 261 women are enrolled.

Big Team Hitches in High Favor in State

Records kept of the attendance show that approximately 7,000 farmers attended 75 demonstrations of big team hitches in 34 Minnesota counties between May 11 and September 29. All were put on by the agricultural extension service and the Horse Association of America.

We have the testimony of Mr. Turner and of numerous farmers, county agents and other extension men that the demonstrations were a success from first to last. Mr. Turner says the interest among farm people exceeded all his expectations. "Farmers who were more or less skeptical at first," he says "were soon convinced that big teams could be used on their farms to the greatest advantage. The five-horse hitch was the most popular, but there was a steady call for the eight-horse. Hundreds of the big teams have been pulling plows on Minnesota farms where none was in use before the practicability of the system was demonstrated. Hundreds more will be put to work when the spring season opens."

"As a result of horse hitch demonstrations held in the county last spring, and personal work done throughout the summer, many farmers of Rock county are using the many hitches in driving horses," says the agent. "Farmer after farmer has adopted a partial system of the hitch at least, and no doubt will be won over to its full value and complete the hitching system."

The agent of Brown county says that not many days pass when he is not called upon to help someone sketch and measure up eveners or help start somebody with his big horse teams. "The results of the hitching demonstrations put on in August are still in the limelight," he says. "Since those demonstrations nearly 100 tie-in chains and buck-back ropes have been placed in the hands of farmers, in addition to the large number distributed by the demonstrator when he was in the county."

Remarkable interest and attention were displayed at three horse hitch demonstrations given in Scott county, says the agent, who strongly recommends that more demonstrations be put on.

Miss Frysinger Coming

Miss Grace E. Frysinger, extension home economist of the United States Department of Agriculture, will spend the second week of November in Minnesota. She will assist members of the home demonstration staff in some work in methods study. November 7 and 8 Miss Frysinger, Miss Reid and Miss Newton will be at Mankato with Mrs. Agnes Erkel, home demonstration agent in Blue Earth county. The two following days, Miss Frysinger, Miss Newton and Miss Cooke will spend in Sleepy Eye with Miss Amy Wessel, the Brown county home demonstration agent.

Dakota county poultry growers have organized a protective association to fight chicken thieves and other "vermin."