

MINNESOTA EXTENSION SERVICE NEWS

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No. 5

Short Course Visitors Have Faith In Farming

With the closing of the fifteenth annual Farmers' and Homemakers' Week on January 19, another bright page was added to the annals of University Farm short courses. Attendance was very satisfactory, being about 2,000 or close to the average for the last five years, according to Dr. A. V. Storm, director, who notes, however, a number of other points about the course just finished which are particularly gratifying.

"The spirit of faith in agriculture, as manifested by those present, was more dominant this year than at any other time since the depression," said Dr. Storm. "There was very little of a pessimistic strain or nature noted in the comments and conversations of the visitors. It was apparent that these people realized the seriousness of the agricultural situation, but they believed also that increased intelligence in farming practices, together with the general improvement which is taking place in the industry as a whole, will make agriculture a safe occupation for the future.

"Our short course visitors appear to regard farming not only as a mode of living, but also as a business which should adopt the scientific practices and improved methods such as are taught at Farmers' and Homemakers' Week.

"One very gratifying feature of our short courses in recent years, and particularly this year, is the regularity and unanimity with which the visitors attended classes throughout the day. There was no loafing about the halls, no time wasted. Everyone seemed eager to take advantage of the instruction offered. Further evidence of genuine interest is the increasing number of people in attendance who have been present many times before."

Dr. Storm observes that the folks who attended averaged somewhat younger than those who made up the bulk of visitors in former years. This he interprets to mean that young men who have recently taken over the responsibility of managing farms come to short courses to get practical information. Farmers' and Homemakers' Week is becoming less of a lark for the retired folks and more of a school for the active young folks.

"Two very noticeable things about the attitude of short course visitors," says Dr. Storm, "is the growing kindness toward and appreciation for scientific farming and homemaking, and a growing spirit of co-operation and support for the institution."

Each year an increasing number of groups make Farmers' and Homemakers' Week the occasion for assembling and for the promotion of activities related to the betterment of life in the country, according to Dr. Storm. An illustration

of this, he says, is the Ten-Year Club whose members show a remarkable enthusiasm for the short course and who have voluntarily set for themselves the task of encouraging as many people as possible to come. These folks have no ulterior or selfish motives, whatsoever, Dr. Storm explains. They have merely been so impressed with the benefits which they have received that they desire to urge others to take advantage of this opportunity.

This same feeling was shown by members of the delegation from St. Louis county who chartered a bus and came down here representing the county club. They expressed themselves as going home determined to come back next year bringing with them just as many of their friends as they could possibly induce to come.

Officers of a number of associations which met on the campus during the week told Dr. Storm that they had enjoyed the best meetings in the history of their organizations. Among these were the Minnesota Livestock Breeders' association and the Minnesota Farm Bureau Federation. In these statements, Dr. Storm sees more than a mere statement of fact. He senses a spirit of hopefulness and optimism on the part of the members which made possible the success of these meetings.

Speaking of the part which county agents and home demonstration agents have had in promoting Farmers' and Homemakers' Week, Dr. Storm said they have been very helpful in bringing the event to the attention of the people in their counties and many have actually headed delegations to University Farm. The agents are in full accord with the movement and program and so far as their own duties will permit they are active in promoting and supporting the event, said Dr. Storm.

FARM WOMEN MAKE SHORT COURSE TALKS

Minnesota farm women played an important part on programs during Farmers' and Homemakers' week. Mrs. L. E. Potter of Springfield and Mrs. H. W. Brodt of Fairmont, both Master Farm Homemakers, and Mrs. E. V. Ripley of Menahga, home and community chairman of the Minnesota Farm Bureau Federation, spoke at the homemakers' luncheon on Tuesday. Mrs. W. H. Merrill of Winnebago took part on the rural community activities program.

Miss Amy Wessel, Brown county home demonstration agent and president of the Minnesota Home Demonstration Agents association, contributed to both these programs. Miss Florence Lang, southern St. Louis county home demonstration agent, also participated in the rural community activities program.

County Agents Help Distribute New Seeds

Three new varieties of grain recently developed by the Minnesota Experiment Station are being distributed for the first time to approved growers for planting in 1929. These varieties include Marquillo wheat, Anthony oats, and Glabron barley. The distribution of this seed is being handled in co-operation with the Minnesota Crop Improvement association which has been organizing county crop improvement committees to assist locally.

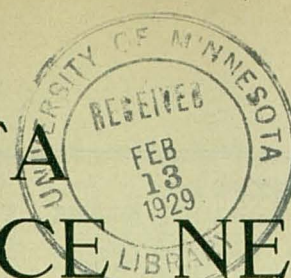
R. F. Crim, extension agronomist at University Farm, who is managing the distribution through these county crop improvement committees, has reported to F. E. Balmer, county agent leader, that splendid progress is being made in counties where agricultural agents are employed. On the other hand, the project is proving somewhat difficult to handle in counties without agents.

As stated by Mr. Crim, "Where a county agricultural agent is employed he acts as an acknowledged leader and makes the necessary contact with farmers who are especially interested in crop improvement. The agent takes the lead in organizing the local crop improvement committee and getting it lined up with the State Crop Improvement association. His county-wide acquaintance enables him to recommend outstanding growers of improved seeds to receive the grain so as to insure the proper increase for a larger distribution the second year. Where an agent is employed, personal contact can be made with farmers, whereas in counties without agents, arrangements must be made by letter and therefore are less satisfactory. Then where an agent is employed, the entire project can have the necessary supervision and follow-up throughout the year so as to conserve the supply of new grains produced."

According to Mr. Balmer, "Some counties not employing agents are important grain producing counties. The gain which can come to the farmers of these counties in taking effective advantage of new varieties of grains produced by the Minnesota Experiment Station will, in the course of two or three years, pay many times over the cost of maintaining the county extension service. In addition, farmers of the county will have the benefits of the county agent service in relation to soil problems, livestock improvement needs, boys' and girls' club work, activities of interest to the farm women, and many other benefits."

Director Called to Washington

Director F. W. Peck spent the last week in January in conference with headquarters men at Washington, D. C., in the interests of federal appropriations for extension and in taking part in the discussion of extension policies.



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FEBRUARY, 1929

Chiefs, Agents Meet To Talk Things Over

County agents and specialists gave several hours of the recent state conference to a discussion of methods, practices and problems with divisional chiefs and staff members.

W. H. Peters, who presided at the animal husbandry round table, said the lamb feeding work at Morris and the calf feeding experiments at Crookston are being continued. He described a simple but interesting and timely experiment which is being conducted at University Farm to determine the value of molasses in feeding fattening steers, as well as to compare it with oilmeal. The trials will also show whether or not both oilmeal and molasses may be used to advantage, and whether or not self feeding of molasses pays, and will indicate the relative values of ground hay and ground barley in such rations.

E. F. Ferrin described some new swine experimental work which is being undertaken in co-operation with other stations and the United States Department of Agriculture. The purpose of this is to test breeding stock for breeders with a view to finding out which pigs make the cheapest pork of the highest quality, thus enabling the breeders to build up pure strains of superior hogs. These tests mark the beginnings of Record of Merit work in hogs, paralleling the work which has been going on for some time among dairy cattle breeders.

Some inbreeding experiments with swine which are to be conducted at the Waseca station were outlined by L. M. Winters. An attempt will be made in these trials to carry inbreeding down to the sixth or seventh generation, eliminating the weaker strains and finally crossing the resulting stronger strains to produce animals that are distinctly superior to the original stock.

Crossbreeding experiments with hogs were begun this fall at both the Morris and Crookston stations to determine whether or not crossbreeding is practical for the average breeder, said Mr. Winters. These experiments will show three main comparisons, namely, purebreds versus crossbreds, first crosses versus a cross of hybrids from two breeds crossed, and purebreds versus hybrids crossed with a third breed.

Study of Circular 27 was recommended by Dr. C. H. Eckles in response to questions asked at the dairy round table concerning feed mixtures and the supplementing of farm feeds by commercial feeds. The farmer with some home grown feeds needs to buy protein, either in linseed or cottonseed meal or in a 32 per cent commercial mixture, Dr. Eckles said. The man with a few cows often finds ready mixed feeds meet his conditions especially well, because by this means he can get variety and still buy in small quantities. High class mixed feeds usually give good results in the way of production. The real question usually is the economy of such feeds compared to home mixed. The material in Circular 27 gives a basis for deciding this point.

Mineral feeds are being sold to many farmers who have no real use for them. If a dairy herd is fed legume hay in winter together with a fair grain ration and is on pasture in summer the owner is wise to forget all about minerals, unless his herd shows abnormal conditions, such as chewing bones or gnawing. Bone-meal alone, or mixed with ground limestone, supplies the minerals usually needed when a deficiency occurs.

As to feeding in Northern Minnesota, Dr. Eckles said it is still an open question as to the best plan to be followed. The facts are not at hand to make definite recommendations. Where grain has to be shipped in by local freight and the creamery is the market, it is probable the man who has his cows freshen in the spring, getting most of the production in the summer, and wintering the cows mainly on roughage, will be ahead in the long run of the farmer who follows the practices recommended for the southern part of the state.

Animal Diseases

Decided interest was taken in the informal discussions with the veterinarians. Dr. C. P. Fitch told the agents that vaccines and serums are of no account in controlling bovine infectious abortion. Measures of control are found only through the application of the blood test and the separation of infected and non-infected animals. The Livestock Sanitary Board is devising plans for official operation of the segregation method, he said.

Dr. W. L. Boyd, questioned about the control of garget, said there was no universally successful treatment. There are several different forms of the disease which spreads by the hands of the milker. Hygiene and sanitation are important in dealing with this disorder.

Dr. H. C. H. Kernkamp said that swine flu is apparently increasing. Loss is inevitable when the flu runs into pneumonia, as it frequently does. To dodge the flu, swine should be kept in dry and well ventilated quarters. They should be sheltered from drafts and prevented from crowding. The best thing to do for flu, he said, is to keep up a high degree of resistance in the herd.

The discussions also dealt with parasitic diseases of all kinds of animals and with diseases to which poultry is particularly subject.

Much Interest in Soils

Many county agents attended the round table discussion on soils which

Results in Norman Show Agent's Value

On December 1, 1927, Norman county re-established the county extension work. Its value to the farming interests of the county can be well judged by the following brief summary of the results of the past year's work:

The development of community activities and the organization of farmers' clubs and township units have been emphasized. A farm bureau picnic was held last June. Soil fertilizer plots were maintained in 22 of the 24 townships of the county. A favorable response was secured from the use of phosphate fertilizers. Alfalfa acreage was increased by 3,000 acres, making possible much better rationing of livestock in the future. One thousand acres of potatoes were inspected for certification. Potato and pure seed schools have been arranged for the coming year in co-operation with the state extension service. The county is signed up for the area tuberculosis test. Four cow testing associations have been organized, consisting of 140 members. A dairy feeding school for farmers has been held throughout the present winter. One hundred forty-two farm women owning 6,300 birds are enrolled in the home poultry project. One hundred of these members have improved their poultry rations. Nine farmers are enrolled in the farm management correspondence course. Three hundred forty-eight boys and girls are enrolled in club projects and \$1,000 was won in premium money, while 41 of the members were awarded state trips.

County Agent J. J. McCann made 1,064 farm visits during 1928. There were 2,041 office calls; 2,188 telephone calls; and 1,538 letters written. A total of 167 meetings were held with a total attendance of 4,676.

"These results are by no means all, but they indicate some of the splendid services that are available to the farmers, the farm homes and the farm families of the county," says F. E. Balmer, county agent leader. "These may not be the same problems that the people of another county would request help on from the extension service, but it is evident that the agricultural affairs of any county will be greatly benefited through the operation of this movement."

Fewer Potatoes; More Beets

Fewer potatoes and more sugar beets may be grown in parts of the Red River Valley the coming season. Poor returns from the 1928 potato crop have prompted more consideration of the beet crop. Officials of the American Beet Sugar Company have announced a new minimum price of \$7 a ton for beets, which is much better than previous contracts, says J. J. McCann, the Norman county agent. A special sugar beet train bearing speakers, educational exhibits and publicity material has been touring parts of the valley.

was held with Dr. F. J. Alway in charge. Other members of the soils staff were also present to assist in answering questions. Subjects discussed and questions asked included practically everything pertaining to soils work.

HOUSTON AT THE TOP OF CLOTHING PROJECT

The clothing project has been given in Houston, Steele, Stevens, Pine and Cook counties by M. Lois Reid, and in Renville, Waseca, Morrison and Winona counties by Eves Whitfield, extension specialists in clothing. Miss Amy Wessel in Brown county, Mrs. Agnes Erkel in St. Paul and Mrs. Lillian Beard in Minneapolis carried clothing as their major project during 1928.

The 272 organized groups had 3,598 members enrolled for the clothing project; 520 project leaders held 3,120 local meetings during 1928; 4,414 other women were helped by leaders and group members. Of the 2,245 women enrolled in groups carried by the state specialists, 89 per cent completed and reported on work done.

The counties having the highest percentage reporting are Houston, 96¼; Steele and Stevens, 94, and Pine, 90. Houston county had the highest percentage reporting ever attained in the clothing project in Minnesota.

There were 6,657 women reached in 1928 as the result of organized work done by the two clothing specialists, the home demonstration agents, and the project leaders; 10,727 improved practices in clothing construction and selection were adopted by the enrolled members.

TESTING ASSOCIATIONS IN STATE NUMBER 118

Cow testing associations in Minnesota number 118, the most the state has ever had, says Ramer Leighton. In these 118 associations are approximately 2,500 farmer members and 40,000 cows. The net gain in number of associations in 1928 was 11.

Forty-one men enrolled in the short course for testers held at University Farm in January. Thirty-six finished the course and 23 qualified for positions as testers. A few of these have already been given places, and others will be taken care of as vacancies occur.

Sheep Production Spurred by Publicity

Increased interest all over his county in sheep raising is reported by Bibelhausen of Koochiching. This interest has been largely created, he says, by the publicity given K. O. Johnson, winner of the first Minnesota lamb production contest, and other sheep raisers who took part in that project. Farmers are buying registered stock and planning to enter the project the coming season. It is expected another carload of breeding ewes will be brought in.

What Sanitation Does

Necro and worms had no chance at all on five farms where the swine sanitation program was followed, says Gaylord of Rock. In former seasons all five farm owners had sustained losses from these troubles. Two poultry sanitation co-operators also dodged all attacks from worms, coccidiosis, and "TB."

Six Hundred Members Their Goal

Delegates to the annual meeting of the Rice County 4-H Club planned on 600 members and a club paper in 1929. They voted unanimously to raise \$125 for the fund needed to help employ a county club leader.

National Honors Won By a Minn. Club Girl



IRMA REINEKE,
Champion Holstein dairy calf club member
of the United States

Champion Holstein dairy calf club member of the United States is the distinction which has just been won by Irma Reineke, 4-H club girl of Morristown, Rice county, Minnesota. This is the second time the honor has been conferred upon a Minnesota club member. Six years ago Walter Engel of Olmsted county was awarded the national championship.

The award is made annually by the Holstein-Friesian Association of America. To win it a club boy or girl must have an outstanding record in feeding and caring for a Holstein calf, must demonstrate real ability in preparing it for exhibition purposes, and must have won high honors with it at county, state, and interstate fairs.

Irma's record and work as a club girl met all the specifications. Dairy calves raised and exhibited by her won "firsts" at two county fairs. Exhibiting at two Minnesota State Fairs her entry in one placed second in the purebred calf division, and in the other ranked third in the open class. In 1927 she won a trip to the International Livestock Exposition in Chicago for being the best calf club member in Rice county, and in 1928 she captured the grand championship of the 4-H club Holstein classes at the Dairy Cattle Congress at Waterloo, Iowa.

Irma has been in club work about three years. At first the only club member in her community, she organized and became the first leader of a 4-H club boasting 42 members.

Dairy cows should not be left out on cold nights. Exposure to wet and cold will have adverse effect on milk production.

COLLEGE SEEKS MORE STUDENTS FROM FARMS

Dean E. M. Freeman of the College of Agriculture, Forestry, and Home Economics spoke of the enrollment and status of collegiate work at the recent conference. He requested the co-operation of county and home agents in encouraging more rural boys and girls to enroll in agriculture and home economics, particularly those boys and girls who possess strong qualities of leadership and a high type of intellect.

Not only is the agricultural college not getting a high enough percentage of rural students, he said, but there is plenty of evidence that it is not getting enough of the better class of students from the rural districts.

County and home agents are in close touch with outstanding farm boys and girls, he explained, and if each one of these workers would secure the enrollment of one such student to the agricultural college each year, the total enrollment would be boosted about 35 per cent and the general level of scholarship elevated materially.

Dean Freeman believes that one of the reasons why more of the better class of farm boys and girls do not enroll in the agricultural or home economics courses is that they feel such courses fit them only for a return to the farm. If they were made to realize how many other worth while opportunities are open to graduates of these courses, large numbers of them would be only too eager to continue their education in them, he said.

REMAINED TO SCOFF; SIGNS UP AS LEADER

Carlton county students at University Farm collaborated with S. A. Aldrich, county agent, in giving a demonstration before the class in rural community activities of Farmers' and Homemakers' Week Short Course. What a farm bureau unit program can do to awaken a community was the motif of the demonstration. While a meeting of the unit was being staged at the farm home of a member, an overall-clad neighbor called to borrow a cleaver, and remained, when he saw what was going on, to scoff. But the sequel developed when he became so interested in the proposed program that he signed up as a local leader. The little drama went over in good shape and was a decided feature of the series of meetings held daily during the short course.

Velvet Makes a Hit With Growers

Twenty Velvet barley growers in Rock county are more than pleased with the performance of that station variety. On an average for all 20, Velvet outyielded other varieties grown under similar conditions by 4.6 bushels per acre. Its better handling qualities was another strong point in its favor, says Gaylord.

Crim, Tolaas, and Sumner There

R. F. Crim of the extension staff was at Pierre week before last in attendance upon the annual South Dakota State Crop Show. He was on the program for an address, as were A. G. Tolaas of the Minnesota State Department of Agriculture and H. R. Sumner of the Northwest Crop Improvement association.

4-H Members Star In 1928 Ton Litter Work

Four-H club members carried off the bacon in the 1928 ton litter contest.

Twenty of the 30 litters that weighed a ton or more at the end of the 180-day feeding period were raised by the 4-H'ers. The champion and the first high six in the project are club members.

Arthur Bohnsack, club boy of Scott county, was first. He saved 14 purebred Chester Whites which weighed 3,280 pounds, an average per pig of 234.2 pounds. Juel Stephenson of Ottertail county was second with 16 purebred Duroc Jerseys weighing 3,082 pounds, an average of 192.6. The next four in their order, all club boys, were Gilbert Holstein of Redwood county, Ralph Horstman of Nobles county, Weir Langford of Pipestone county, and Walter Scharf of Scott county.

T. A. Erickson, state club leader, says: "Arthur Bohnsack made a fine record in his own pig club work and turned to good use the practices there learned in this larger project in which he competed with adults. The same might be said of the others who made the best records. This is the second year that Gilbert Holstein, who won third place, has been right up near the top. He has been a club boy seven years.

"One of the things which is selling club work to the public so strongly is the fact that so many of our club members are applying in actual experience the things learned in their 4-H clubs. The ton litter contest for 1928 is certainly a good illustration of this."

Sheep Awards Made

First prize in the advanced junior sheep project contest for 1928 was won by Marvin Nelson, Cyrus, Pope county, a student of the West Central School of Agriculture, who was awarded \$40 by the Minnesota Livestock Breeders' association. Marvin had a flock of 10 ewes from which he raised 16 lambs weighing 1,629 pounds at an average age of 150 days, an average of 162.9 pounds of lamb per ewe.

Robert Grant of Granada, Martin county, placed second with 15 lambs raised, weighing 1,400 pounds or an average of 140 pounds per ewe. Third prize was captured by Erwin Howard of Chokio, Stevens county, who raised 14 lambs weighing 1,325 pounds, or an average per ewe of 132.5 pounds. Others in the order of placings were Vernon Rairdon, Montevideo; Floyd Tonn, Morris; Harold Getchell, Kensington, and Nettie Eklund, Chokio. Miss Eklund was the only girl enrolled in the project.

The project was generally profitable for the young shepherds as shown by the earnings of Marvin Nelson, first place winner, who sold his lambs at 14 cents a pound. They brought him a total of \$228 or \$22.80 per ewe. In addition, he sold better than \$3 worth of wool from each ewe. His ewes, which were purchased in the spring after being bred, cost \$15 apiece, but he still has them left to continue in the business.

This project was conducted by W. E. Morris, livestock specialist, assisted by state club leaders and county agents. The contest was open to 4-H club boys and girls between the ages of 18 and 24 years.

PRESIDENT OF HOME AGENTS' ASSOCIATION



MISS AMY WESSEL

First president of the Minnesota Home Demonstration Agents' association which was organized at University Farm conference week.

FRATERNITY PAYS ITS TRIBUTE TO MISS BULL

Special exercises to honor the memory of the late Mary L. Bull were held in the auditorium at University Farm January 17 by Epsilon Sigma Phi, the extension fraternity of which she was a member. Miss Julia O. Newton presided, and Rev. A. H. Gilmore, pastor of St. Anthony Park Congregational church, offered prayer. Two hundred persons were present. Special tributes to the work and influence of Miss Bull were paid by C. L. McNelly, K. A. Kirkpatrick, and Miss Wylie McNeal. Miss Nannie Nelson of Hallock read "The Minnesota Homemakers' Creed," of which she is joint author and which was a favorite with Miss Bull, and Miss Newton recited the lines of the beautiful poem, "The Rose Still Grows Beyond the Wall."

BETTER FARMING CLUBS SQUARED AWAY FOR 1929

Better Farming Clubs, organized in six counties the first of 1928 for the keeping of simple farm accounts under the supervision of the University of Minnesota, have squared away for the second year with increased membership. The six clubs are in Rice, Steele, Freeborn, Dodge, Goodhue, and Waseca. A seventh club was organized in Scott county in March, 1928. A large percentage of the old members have signed up for another year, and enough new names have been added by the help of county agents to bring the total membership for 1929 up to 200 or more.

Miss Hott to Rhode Island

Miss Nora Hott, formerly Minnesota extension specialist in clothing, has accepted a position as home demonstration agent in Rhode Island.

117 Pounds of Lamb to Ewe Wins Contest

Grand championship honors in the Minnesota lamb production contest, believed to be the first of its kind, were captured by K. O. Johnson of Frontier, Koochi-ching county. Thirteen of the original entrymen completed the project and will share in the prize money given by the Minnesota Livestock Breeders' association.

Mr. Johnson placed first in the class for owners of 25 to 50 ewes, raising 50 lambs from 35 ewes. During the 135 days of the contest, he brought the 50 lambs up to a total weight of 4,110 pounds, an average of 82.2 pounds per head, and an average of 117.4 pounds of lamb to the ewe. He was awarded championship honors for all classes by producing and saving a large percentage of his lambs and bringing them up to more than average weight. He raised a lamb crop of 142.8 per cent, or almost a lamb and a half per ewe.

Second place in the 25 to 50 ewe class was won by Frank Passi of Pitt, Lake of the Woods county, who secured an average lamb production of 103.6 pounds for his 38 ewes. The average weight of his lambs was 87.5 pounds, or 5.3 pounds more than Johnson's average. However, he raised five fewer lambs than Johnson, although having three more ewes, so that his total weight and average were lower than those of the first place winner. Other contestants in this class averaged from 95.4 pounds of lambs per ewe down to 68.8 pounds.

Sever Trehus of Caledonia, Houston county, took first place in the class for owners of 50 to 100 ewes. Mr. Trehus raised 117 lambs from 82 ewes. His lambs weighed 7,663 pounds, averaging 65.5 pounds per head, and making an average lamb production per ewe of 93.4 pounds. Second place in this class went to C. E. Tatge of Luverne, Rock county, who raised an average of 91.4 pounds of lamb to the 68 ewes with which he started.

MISS PFAENDER NAMED FREEBORN HOME AGENT

Miss Therese Pfaender, a graduate of the University of Montana and for five years a teacher of home economics in Minnesota high schools, has been appointed home demonstration agent for Freeborn county and will begin her new work early in March. Recently she has been teaching at Springfield in this state. She is a native Minnesotan and comes from a family that has been prominent for years at New Ulm, Brown county, and in the state at large. Her colleagues on the extension staff will give her cordial welcome.

Fine Club Record in Waseca

Of the 300 4-H club members in Waseca county in 1928 more than 90 per cent completed their projects.

Seek Potato Market in South

Agent A. H. Frick of Itasca is helping farmers having seed potatoes to establish a direct market with growers in southern states. About 450 county agents in the south have been circularized, he says. This plan was in effect several years ago and brought good results.