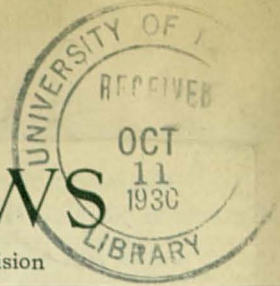


# MINNESOTA EXTENSION SERVICE NEWS

Published Monthly by the University of Minnesota, Department of Agriculture, Extension Division



Vol. X

UNIVERSITY FARM, ST. PAUL, MINN., OCTOBER, 1930

No. 1

## Cleland to be Farm Management Specialist

S. B. CLELAND, assistant county agent leader since 1916, is leaving the supervisor work to take up a position on the specialist staff as farm management demonstrator. This shift is something of a reversion for "Spence" as he held a similar position from 1914 to 1916, right after his graduation from the Minnesota College of Agriculture.

It appears that Mr. Cleland's bent for farm management work has in fact persisted right through the years as he has completed the required course work for an M.S. degree in farm management and recently has been working on his thesis. As the first official act in connection with his new duties, Mr. Cleland attended the Interstate Mid-Western economic conference at Iowa State College the fourth week of September.

Mr. Cleland succeeds R. L. Donovan who is now superintendent of the School and station at Grand Rapids. In his new capacity, Mr. Cleland will continue the preparation of the program material for farm clubs which has been issued for several years. All extension folks wish him the very best.

## Margaret Vaule Is New Brown County H. D. A.

MISS MARGARET VAULE of Crookston is the new Brown county home demonstration agent succeeding Miss Amy Wessel. She began work at Sleepy Eye, Friday, September 19, after spending two weeks at University Farm in training with Miss Julia O. Newton, state home demonstration leader.

Miss Vaule was graduated from the Minnesota College of Home Economics in 1922. Since then she has taught home economics in high schools at Morris, Sandstone, and Hibbing. During the summer of 1926 she had charge of 4-H club work at Hibbing. We welcome Miss Vaule into the extension fold and wish her happiness in her new work.

Miss Vaule began her work in Brown with the assistance of Miss Wessel who remained to help the new agent get off to a good start.

## Zavoral's Address

We have been informed that the address given for H. G. Zavoral in last month's News was not entirely correct. The right address is as follows: *Khrustalnyi Per No. 1, Apart. 105, Moscow, Russia, U.S.S.R.* Letters from "Zav" indicate that he had an interesting trip and is enjoying his work with the Soviet Government. We have some interesting details of his experiences which space will not permit us giving you until another issue. In the meantime, Henry will be glad to hear from you. Regular letters require 9 cents postage, 23 days, while airmail takes 23 cents and only 11 days.

## GILBERTSON LAUDS PROJECT BOOTHS

In a letter to F. E. Balmer, H. W. Gilbertson of the Extension Office at Washington, D. C., pays high tribute to the county project exhibits staged at the 1930 state fair. He writes: I want to congratulate you on your success in arranging for the best group of county project exhibits ever shown at your state fair. Each had a finished appearance. I believe they are the best group of project exhibits I have seen in any state, considering effectiveness and pleasing appearance."

## Faribault Project Booth First On Score and Beauty in Fast Competition

By F. E. BALMER, State County Agent Leader

THE six Minnesota county agents who staged county project exhibits at the 1930 Minnesota State Fair did great credit to themselves, to the extension programs of their respective counties, and to the extension service in general. Every exhibit scored high. The counties exhibiting, the names of the agents in charge, the subjects of the exhibits and the scores were as follows:

COUNTY	AGENT	PROJECT	SCORE
Faribault	A. E. Engebretson	Windbreak	919
Martin	A. R. Karr	Poultry Sanitation	910
Waseca	M. C. Hansen	Phalaris	902
Rock	C. G. Gaylord	Rat Control	896
Pennington	R. M. Douglass	Sheep Production	848
Traverse	H. C. Pederson	Improved Crop Varieties	819

## Silcox Joins Staff as Marketing Specialist

W. BRUCE SILCOX joined the extension staff, October 1, as a new marketing specialist. Mr. Silcox came to University Farm from Madison where he has practically completed work for his Ph.D. at the University of Wisconsin, specializing in agricultural economics and marketing.

Mr. Silcox was born in 1899 on a farm in Ontario not far from Detroit. He was graduated from the Ontario Agricultural College in 1923 and until September, 1924, was employed by the Saskatchewan Cooperative Creamery company as assistant to the superintendent of branches. He then entered Iowa State College for graduate work on a fellowship, obtaining his M.S. in June, 1925. Mr. Silcox has had another fellowship and a scholarship at the University of Wisconsin and since 1928 has been an assistant in the agricultural economics department.

After leaving Iowa State College, he was connected with the Vermont College of Agriculture as assistant professor of dairy and animal husbandry for two years, during which time he also served as milk inspector for the city of Burlington, Vt.

## Four More Specialists Have Mats Available

WITHIN the past month newspaper mats for four more specialists have been made up and are available for use in connection with agents' publicity about project meetings or other events with which specialists are assisting. These specialists are A. E. Engebretson and the Misses Cora Cooke, M. Lois Reid and Mary May Miller. Address requests for mats to the publicity specialist, being certain to state exactly how many of the mats are wanted.

## Balmer Made Director of Washington Service

FRANK E. BALMER, state county agent leader in Minnesota since 1915 and a member of the extension staff since June, 1913, will leave about the middle of October to become director of the agricultural extension service of Washington State College at Pullman.

Having been connected with the Minnesota extension work for more than 17 years of its 21 years of existence, Mr. Balmer has become a landmark in agricultural extension work in the state and is known and esteemed by every member of the staff. Hence it is with considerable regret that extension workers see him go. They extend hearty congratulations and wish him unstinted success in his new and larger capacity for service.

## Began As Ag Instructor

Mr. Balmer's service to the cause of agricultural education in Minnesota dates back even farther than his connection with the extension staff. He came from his native state of Kansas to Lewiston, Minnesota, in August, 1909, where for two years he was agricultural instructor in one of the first consolidated rural schools in the state. The next two years he was superintendent of the County School of Agriculture and Domestic Economy in La Crosse county, Wisconsin.

In June, 1913, he returned to Minnesota as district supervisor of 15 county agents in west central Minnesota with headquarters at Morris. A year and a half later he was transferred to University Farm as assistant county agent leader and since July 1, 1915 has been state county agent leader.

## Is Kansas State Grad

Mr. Balmer was born and reared on a farm near Woodston, Kansas. After completing rural school he attended an academy at Stockton, and later the Kansas State Agricultural College, graduating in 1905. He also took a year of advanced study at Manhattan and the University of Kansas at Lawrence.

## Greetings and Good Wishes

Since I am leaving the Agricultural Extension Service in Minnesota during the coming month, I wish to give a word of final greeting to extension workers and friends. In the more than 17 years during which it has been my privilege to be connected with the service, I believe I have known every person who has been officially engaged in this great enterprise in Minnesota and have had for them all the highest regard.

It is, indeed, difficult to leave such an excellent state as Minnesota, the familiar and beautiful scenes and the fine folks who have been so cordial, cooperative and loyal. In saying goodbye to you all, I take a large measure of comfort in the thought that I shall still be working with you and for the same good cause, namely, the advancement of agricultural extension service.

I take with me many delightful memories of my pleasant associations with you all and trust I shall have the pleasure of meeting you all again many times. Call on me whenever you visit the Pacific Northwest.—Frank E. Balmer.

(Continued on page 3)

## Minnesota Extension Service News

Published monthly at University Farm, St. Paul, Minn., by the Agricultural Extension Service of the University of Minnesota and the United States Department of Agriculture co-operating.

WALTER C. COFFEY  
Dean of the Department of Agriculture,  
and Director of Experiment Station  
FRANK W. PECK  
Director of Agricultural Extension

W. P. KIRKWOOD HAROLD HARRIS  
Editors

Entered as second-class matter October 4, 1921, at the Post-Office at St. Paul, Minnesota, under the Act of Aug. 24, 1912. Accepted for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in section 1103, Act of Oct. 3, 1917, authorized Oct. 21, 1921.

OCTOBER, 1930

With this issue, Extension Service News begins the tenth year of its publication as a house organ for staff members of the Agricultural Extension Division and those closely associated with it.

### We Do March On

One would expect that the workers in this field of activity, intimately related to and intensively engaged in the doing of a more or less routine job, would fail to note the remarkable progress that has been made in the development of the agricultural extension system.

To those who have the opportunity of studying the growth of the service, it is quite apparent that each year contributes towards this progress and to the conclusion that we do march on. Each annual summary records the renewal of the setting of goals, of the reports of co-operation among rural people in the prosecution of the many county programs of work, and of specific measurements of results accomplished. All these things point conclusively to the fact that milestones of progress are being set that will serve as a guide in offering opportunities to rural people for self-improvement.

While the facts of progress cannot be questioned, and we realize that progress is being made, there is always present a very serious danger in measuring results and in acclaiming the position which has been reached in agricultural educational work through the extension system. This danger is that of self-satisfaction, or the feeling that we have arrived at our destination, or that we can ride along on our laurels and follow the lines of least resistance. This is a fatal danger in most types of public work. The safeguard is the practice of redoubling our efforts, of redefining our functions and objectives and of re-establishing additional goals for achievement.

As matters of recorded fact, we are not reaching as many people as we should, we are not always preparing ourselves for the development of higher standards and quality of accomplishment, and we are all of us inclined at times to become rutted in the old methods of action and procedure.

Therefore the real encouraging indication of the fact that we are marching on is that we are dissatisfied, we are seeking constantly to improve ourselves and our technique of handling our jobs, and we are manifesting that restless spirit of seeking new methods and new ways and new contacts that insure permanently satisfying progress.

*W. Peck*

### Aune Gets Scott Post; Stower to Sherburne

RAYMOND AUNE, agent for the past six years in Sherburne county, succeeded John Sheay in Scott county, September 16. Mr. Aune is the son of a leading swine and dairy farmer of Pope county, who was formerly president of the Pope county farm bureau.

Mr. Aune graduated from the Minnesota College of Agriculture in 1921 and secured an M.S. degree the following year in animal and dairy husbandry. For two years he was principal of the State Agricultural High School at Velva, North Dakota, in charge of the agricultural department. In Sherburne county, Mr. Aune not only carried on an effective extension program but was also actively connected with the Sherburne county fair, helping to reorganize it and put it on a sound financial basis.

C. E. Stower, for several months assistant agent in Hennepin, has been elected Sherburne agent, succeeding Mr. Aune. Mr. Stower was farm reared near Frederic, Wisconsin. He attended the School of Agriculture and later the College of Agriculture at University Farm, receiving his degree last June. During the summers from 1925 to 1929, Mr. Stower was employed by the soils division of the experiment station at the Coon Creek Experimental Fields.

### Putnam to N. Dakota; Denner Is Successor

HENRY O. PUTNAM, Fillmore county agent since July 1, 1927, left that position October 1 and became the county agent of Burleigh county, North Dakota, with headquarters at Bismarck, the state capital. This situation offers Mr. Putnam a good promotion, and a type of agriculture with which he is quite familiar, due to his background of farm experience gained in Ottertail county, Minnesota, and subsequent county agent service in South Dakota. The extension service of Minnesota wishes Mr. Putnam abundant success in his new field.

The Fillmore county office will be filled by Samuel G. Denner, beginning November 1. Mr. Denner is a native of Iowa and was graduated from Iowa State College in 1924, where he specialized in animal husbandry.

For a time after completing his college work, Mr. Denner was field solicitor for a livestock commission company and from May 1925 to May 1927 was extension agricultural agent of Butler county, Iowa. Thereafter he came to the University of Minnesota, attended the American Institute of Co-operation, continued his studies at University Farm and secured his Master's degree in the summer of 1928. Since October, 1928, he has been extension animal husbandryman at the North Dakota Agricultural College.

### Given Farewell Picnic

Fillmore county folks showed their appreciation for the faithful service of Mr. Putnam by arranging a surprise picnic for him on Sunday afternoon, September 21, at beautiful Syhon Park, near Lanesboro. Nearly 1,000 people gathered to bid farewell to the Putnam family. Talks were given by Everett Graly, junior club leader, who on behalf of the 4-H club members presented Mr. Putnam with a gold ring, and Gerhard Kaser, farm

bureau president, who told of the good work done in the county and presented a purse contributed by farm bureau members. Other speakers were C. L. McNelly, representing the state extension service, and Congressman Victor Christgau of Austin.

### Stevens, Mower Will Have H. D. Agents Soon

STEVENS and Mower counties are to have county home demonstration agents just as soon as the candidates can be selected and trained, announces Miss Julia O. Newton, state home demonstration leader. Farm bureau boards in these two counties, working with Miss Eva Blair, organization specialist, decided early in September to add regular home demonstration workers to the county extension forces.

The two agents for these counties will bring the total of county home demonstration agents in the state to 13. Lac qui Parle county recently brought the number to 11. Other counties or county units having agents include Steele, Rice Itasca, North St. Louis, South St. Louis, Freeborn, Blue Earth, Brown, Hennepin, and Faribault. In addition, Minneapolis, St. Paul, and Duluth each have an urban home demonstration agent, making a grand total of 16.

### Pine County Stages Big Aggie School Round-Up

W. F. HAMMARGREN, Pine county agent, has started the idea of a Send-Off banquet for all new students from the county, planning to attend the School of Agriculture at University Farm. On September 17 a banquet was held at Sandstone with an attendance of 65, including graduates, former students and prospective students of the School and business men of Pine county.

Congressman Victor Christgau, class of '17, spoke on the value of a School of Agriculture education. John O. Christianson, acting principal, explained the School and welcomed the new students who were to register on September 29.

It is anticipated that this affair, which was a big success, will be adopted in other counties in future years, as a School of Agriculture round-up before the fall term opens. Pine county is sending 20 students to the School this fall.

### New Picture-News Service Planned; You Can Help; Send Good Photos

The Division of Publications is planning to establish an illustrated news service to promote the use of improved farming and home-making practices in Minnesota. This means merely that the present news services will be supplemented with illustrations in mat form.

Series of pictures will be assembled illustrating the various extension projects and the activities of the University Department of Agriculture, especially those of the experiment station. Cuts will be made and reproduced in a printed catalog containing statements explaining their significance. Copies of this catalog will be supplied to extension workers and newspapers so that they may order mats to use in illustrating news or feature stories.

Such a series will make the news service of the division more attractive to the press and increase the use of extension publicity throughout the state, as well as adding to the effectiveness of the instructive articles offered to the press.

Extension specialists can help to supply desirable pictures by going over the projects which they are to carry for the coming year and submitting to the Division of Publications pictures which will illustrate the work and carry the lessons. County workers can do the same, supplying pictures which will illustrate projects to be emphasized in their several counties this year.

### Eight Farmers Finish Baby Beef Contest

EIGHT farmers finished in the 1930 Minnesota Carload Baby Beef Contest sponsored by the Minnesota Livestock Breeders' association and conducted by W. E. Morris, livestock specialist, with the co-operation of county agents.

The object of the contest is to secure the greatest average weight on 15 calves at 410 days of age. Winners and the average weights of their calves follow: first, O. A. Solve and Sons, Hancock, Stevens county, average weight 937.5 pounds; second, James Ellsworth, Magnolia, Rock county, 892.6 pounds; third, Daly Brothers, Granada, Martin county, 857.75; fourth, Ostrem Brothers, Lanesboro, Fillmore county, 855.25; fifth, Cox Brothers, Adrian, Nobles county, 846.41; sixth, John C. West-er, Adrian, 837; seventh, Bolstad Brothers, Winger, Polk county, 835; eighth, H. C. Hansen, Evan, Redwood county, 830.

Solve won first in this contest three years ago, while James Ellsworth, second place man this year, has three firsts to his credit, these having been won in 1926, 1928, and 1929.

### Hickman Quits To Take Job as Indian Agent

CHARLES C. HICKMAN, a 1920 graduate of the Minnesota College of Agriculture, is leaving the county agent service in Pipestone county, October 1, to become associated with the Bureau of Indian Affairs of the United States Department of the Interior.

Preparatory to entering the county agent service, Mr. Hickman assisted K. A. Kirkpatrick in Hennepin county. Mr. Hickman entered the county agent work in May 1920 in Sherburne county where he served for nearly three years. Since then he has been Pipestone county agent.

Historically Pipestone has an interesting Indian background and is the location of one of the Indian schools. The decision of Mr. Hickman is evidently another example of the influence of environment. For a time Mr. Hickman's work will be in the Dakotas with his headquarters temporarily at Pipestone. The best wishes of the extension service are extended to him and his family.

# 4-H CLUB NEWS

## St. Louis Trip Winners Will Leave October 11

THE 4-H dairy calf club members who have been selected for the Minneapolis Journal trip to the National Dairy Show at St. Louis will leave Minneapolis Saturday afternoon, October 11, arriving at St. Louis Sunday morning.

The counties represented in the party are as follows: St. Louis, Stanley Lindgren; Carlton, Cyril Dumas; Itasca, Walter Erickson; Freeborn, Ralph Ruble; Wright, George Schermer; Aitkin, Aldur Johnson; Wadena, Kenneth Smith; Douglas, Donald Graham; Beltrami, Robert Johnston; Winona, Adrian Ries; Goodhue, Roy Lapham; East Polk, Florence Simonson; Steele, John Grass; Dakota, Nicholas Liefeld; West Ottertail, Harold Schwendemann; Faribault, Russell Garlick; Waseca, Fred Schwenke; Sherburne, Carl Hamacher; Rice, Kenneth Miller; Roseau, Alvin Hagen; Morrison, Vergil Miller; Washington, Clifford Waltersdorff; Meeker, Howard Evenson; Blue Earth, Oscar Dagen; Chisago, Paul Erickson; Anoka, Ralph Westberg; Hennepin, David Dillman; Hubbard, Roland Rooney; Renville, Everett Hamrum; Watonwan, Arnold Sorenson; Mower, Edith Huseby.

Five of the above mentioned, namely, Kenneth Miller, Ralph Ruble, Edith Huseby, Everett Hamrum, and Arnold Sorenson, have entered their purebred Holstein animals and will show them at the National. These five animals will also be shown as a state Holstein group.

Minnesota will be represented with three demonstration teams. Teams composed of Irma Reineke and Dorene Smith of Rice county, and Ignatius and Raymond Brady of Jackson county will give dairy demonstrations, while a team composed of Dalton Seeling and Elroy Homuth of Itasca county will demonstrate some phase of the poultry project.

A new trip offered for the first time this year by the Dairy Supply Company of Minneapolis to the dairy calf club member making an outstanding record was awarded to Ralph Christianson of Kandiyohi county.

In addition to the above trip winners to the National Dairy Show, four counties have recommended girls as their outstanding dairy calf club members. These will receive The Journal trip to the National Club Congress at Chicago. Those recommended are: Crow Wing, Florence Jones; Scott, Marion Morley; Pine, Evelyn Swanson; and Benton county, Gladys Ingvaldson.

### 50 Per Cent More 4-H Exhibits

Six hundred and fifteen club exhibits were made at the 1930 Winona County Fair as compared with 403 in 1929. The total cost of premiums for the club department was \$1664 as compared with \$1317 during the previous fair. The average cost per exhibit, however, was reduced.



## Amy Wessel Will Join 4-H Staff at U. Farm

MISS AMY WESSEL, who for more than four years has been home demonstration agent in Brown county, will join the state club staff at University Farm this month, succeeding Miss Leona Peterson.

Miss Wessel was a 1919 graduate of the University of Minnesota and for five years taught home economics in high schools at Blackduck, Montevideo, Fergus Falls, and Mankato. She has been president of the Minnesota Home Demonstration Agents' association since it was founded in 1928.

Miss Peterson, a member of the club staff since August 1929, resigned to become Mrs. Theodore Christgau. The couple were married about the middle of September and will live at Dallas, Texas, where Mr. Christgau represents the Land O' Lakes Creameries, Inc. Miss Peterson made many friends during her 4-H club work who are sorry to see her leave but who wish her much happiness in her new life job.

## 30 Trips for Hort Show

Home beautification and garden club members are all interested in the State Horticultural and the Minnesota Garden Flower Societies' annual meeting and exhibit at Minneapolis, November 18, 19, and 20. Thirty winners in the above two projects will be given trips to this important meeting. Each county agent is asked to recommend two or three garden or home beautification club members for these trips. Recommendations, together with final reports, should be sent to the state office before November 1.

Minnesota will have a big delegation of 4-H club members going to the National Club Congress at Chicago in November.

## COMING 4-H CLUB EVENTS

### Biwabik Potato Show

Four-H potato club members are urged to send exhibits of 32 potatoes to the Potato Show to be held at Biwabik, October 23, 24, and 25. This event will be considered the state 4-H potato show. The state winner will be selected at that time. Liberal cash prizes are provided. Each exhibitor should be sure also to send his complete record.

A number of educational trips will be awarded.

County agents and leaders should encourage those having creditable yields and exhibits to take part.

### Junior Livestock Show

The Junior Livestock Show will be held at South St. Paul, November 10, 11, 12, and 13.

This 4-H club event promises to be bigger and better than any of those in previous years.

Names of county winners together with their final project reports are due.

## Many Prizes For New Meat Animal Contest

SCHOLARSHIPS, trips to the National Club Congress, fine gold watches and gold medals make up the list of prizes offered in the new National Meat Animal Livestock Project Contest recently announced to state club leaders. The contest is open to any 4-H club member carrying on one or more meat animal livestock projects, namely, baby beef, purebred beef animal, market hog, breeding hog, market sheep or breeding sheep.

The prizes are donated by Thomas E. Wilson, chairman of the National Committee on Boys' and Girls' club work and president of Wilson & Company, packers. Gold filled medals of honor will be given to county champions who will compete for the state prize of a \$50 gold watch. State champions will compete in sectional contests for trips to the National Club Congress. National prizes include three scholarships of \$300, \$200, and \$100.

Report blanks for contestants have been sent to county club leaders. These should be filled out and returned to the state leader by October 15.

## 4-H Program Over KSTP

A 4-H club program will be broadcast over station KSTP on November 8 from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The first quarter hour will be devoted to music and addresses by members of the U. S. Department at Washington, D. C.

From 11:45 to 12:15 a program will be given by club members and leaders of Minnesota. The program will close with music and other 4-H features from Washington, D. C.

## Erickson Assists On Training School Staff

T. A. ERICKSON, state club leader, was a member of the lecture staff at the International 4-H Leadership Training School at Springfield, Mass., last month. He spent two hours of each afternoon with the boys and girls, training them in field organization methods. Mr. Erickson was the only state club leader attending the school.

## Faribault Project Booth

### First On Score and Beauty

(Continued from page 1)

permanent solution of the rat problem is to construct rat-proof buildings. Several control methods were demonstrated including the use of poison, traps, and calcium cyanide fumigation. At stated times each day, rats were killed with cyanide gas to demonstrate its effectiveness. This booth won the special prize of \$10 for being the best demonstrated exhibit.

### Improved Crops

The Traverse county exhibit on improved varieties of crops was one of considerable interest. The lessons taught in this have application throughout the entire state. The results from the use of new varieties such as Velvet and Glabron barleys, Gopher and Anthony oats, Marquillo wheat, Buda and Bison flax were compared with common varieties. Samples of grain both threshed and in sheaf were exhibited, accompanied by attractive placards giving essential information on each variety.

### Producing Sheep Cheaper

The subject of the exhibit from Pennington county, "Sheep Production," is one of growing interest among Minnesota farmers. Two roads to market were contrasted, the high cost road and the low cost. Two strings of miniature lambs traveling these contrasting roads to the packing plant served as an appropriate device to secure attention. Sheep in Pennington county increased from 7,132 head in 1925 to 14,500 in 1930. Figures were presented giving results secured by seven co-operators.

Every exhibit was highly creditable and attractive and each taught some important practice not only for the county but also for the state at large. All but one had leaflets to distribute, supplying additional information on the subjects featured.

### Booths Grouped Together

The fair management contributed splendidly by setting aside space so that all counties could be grouped in the southeast wing of the exhibition hall. It is believed the fair management is so well pleased that it will increase the awards to \$250 per county next year.

Approximately 100 people participated in the public scoring of the project exhibits. F. L. Liebenstein was awarded first place, receiving a special prize of \$15. He submitted a score which most nearly coincided with the detailed scoring of the official judges. On the Martin county booth, Mr. Liebenstein's detailed scoring varied only 11 points from those of the official judges, while his total score differed but five points.

## Worth Emulating

On September 15, John Sheay, retiring Scott county agent, mailed to four Scott county papers his final weekly news letter on extension work. This letter represented the last one of a series running unbroken for nearly seven and a half years. Not for a single week in all that time did Scott county papers fail to receive the county agent's news. Considering that news stories are the most effective extension method, this is a record worth emulating.

## Cooke Jots Glimpses of European Journey

THE Fourth World's Poultry Congress was "bigger and better" than ever according to Miss Cora Cooke, specialist in poultry, who recently returned from this meeting. The Congress was held in London the last 10 days of July. Miss Cooke is preparing a list of answers to principal questions asked her since her return, a few of which follow:

About 60 countries were represented at the Congress. National exhibits were staged by 22 countries. The Crystal Palace is enormous, otherwise it could not have held on one floor all these exhibits, together with many commercial exhibits, conference rooms, business offices, lounging rooms, beautiful floral displays and a concert hall with the choir loft alone seating 2,000 singers. Balconies held other commercial exhibits and about 300 pens of rabbits. The ground floor and two large tents contained something over 3,000 exhibits of live poultry.

### Premier's Daughter Fetes

A few of the big thrills in connection with the Congress were:

A visit to the Central Markets of London, "The largest dead meat and poultry market in the world." The finest quality meats from all over the world were displayed without refrigeration. Following the inspection the London Central Market Tenants' association entertained the group at a breakfast in Butchers' Hall.

Tea with Miss Ishbel MacDonald, daughter of the British prime minister, at 10 Downing Street.

Reception and dance in the Guildhall, received by the Lord Mayor and Mayoress. "Evening dress with decorations."

The time after the Congress was spent in touring the British Isles with five days in Paris. Some highlights of this trip:

Glorious Devon by motor coach, with plenty of antique shops.

An eight mile pony ride over the Gap of Dunloe in Killarney.

By air to Paris! Planes should be provided for all extension workers.

Visits to two famous poultry farms—Tom Barron's—where we get so many of our English Leghorns—and the Buttercup Farm at Edinburgh with its 100,000 pullets, 90 girl operators and factory methods.

Miss Cooke reports she was not seasick and says she would recommend a walking trip through England as a welcome change from the usual American "dieting method."

### Poultry Work Gets Results

More than 240 homes in Clearwater county were reached by the poultry project completed in June, according to County Agent Engene. Eleven communities participated in the project, with 114 members enrolled. These members gave 92 other people information received in the project. The total attendance at meetings was 443. There were 43 flocks of poultry culled with 807 birds discarded; four new laying houses were built and 12 brooder houses; 26 houses were improved; 53 flock owners fed a more complete balanced ration, and 41 added cod liver oil. The project was presented by Miss Cora Cooke, extension poultry specialist, University Farm.

## Kittson Mother Finds Growth Charts Help

GROWTH records of children do help. A Kittson county mother who tried one for her little daughter not only corrected a disease condition in the little girl but caused her to gain 10 pounds during last winter and during this hot summer has brought her to within three pounds of average weight.

The mother, as a member of the home demonstration nutrition project, started a growth chart for her daughter which she carefully kept up for more than three years. At the start of the project the child was seriously underweight and made no gain, but maintained a constant weight. The record was carefully checked each month by Inez Hobart, extension specialist in nutrition, and suggestions made for improving the program.

At the end of the second year the child was given a careful examination by a child specialist. The examination showed that during those first discouraging months there had been a tubercular infection which had been arrested by the careful program of rest, right food, fresh air and sunshine. The physician was very generous in his praise of the fine, intelligent care which the mother had so persistently given.

During the past year, 300 mothers in Faribault, Houston and Dakota counties and the city of St. Paul have been conscientiously keeping growth records and have demonstrated not only to themselves and the children, but also to group members and friends, the value of a good nutritional program in building for strength and vigor.

## Gaylord's Circular Locates Co-operators

GAYLORD of Rock county used a circular this spring which helped materially to advertise the county program of work and secured a number of co-operators for various projects. Six hundred of the circulars were mailed to farmers. A brief letter at the top stated that the county agent desired to give as much service as possible to Rock county and the kind of service most wanted.

Underneath were listed 22 projects or activities comprising the county program. These were arranged in double-column order with a little ballot square opposite each item. The recipient was asked to check the projects in which he desired help during the year, to sign his name and address and send the circular back.

Shortly after the circulars were mailed, Gaylord wrote as follows: "I am very well satisfied with the results obtained so far, as I have been able to line up definitely co-operators widely scattered over the county for method demonstrations on rat control, pruning, spraying, poultry culling, pocket gopher eradication, windbreak planting, and weed control. I likewise have been getting some very valuable requests leading towards prospective cow testing members, as well as the livestock contests in beef, sheep, and swine work."

F. E. Balmer suggests that a similar plan, used in November or December, might help in lining up good features to be included in the program of work. He also suggests inviting the farmer to turn the circular over and use the back for remarks or other communications to the agent.

# Farm Economics

By W. L. Cavert

## Minnesota Favored on Feed Supplies

DIRECTOR PECK and Economic Specialists Dvoracek, Cleland and Cavert represented Minnesota at the Regional Outlook Conference at Ames September 25 to 27. The following are a few of the high spots in the reports adopted by the conference on the general price and business situation.

### General Business Situation

L. R. Bean of the U. S. bureau of agricultural economics stressed the importance of the general dullness in business as a big factor in the present low prices for agricultural products. This is shown by the fact that agricultural prices are decidedly lower than a year previous, in spite of the fact that in most cases there has been no increase in marketings. In September, farm product prices were down to 118 compared to 147 a year previous. In the same period, general commodity prices were at 125 compared with 148 a year previous. This is on the basis of 1913 prices being figured as 100 per cent.

Manufacturing in August was 20 per cent below normal while in mid 1929, manufacturing was 10 to 15 per cent above normal. Building activity in August was only about 50 per cent of normal. While one cannot be certain, it is the consensus of opinion that we have already reached or nearly reached bottom. The big question is when conditions will show improvement. Wool, cotton, and meat are products that are particularly affected by the business situation.

### Feed Situation

Minnesota is one of the favored states as regards feed supplies. Calculations by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics indicate that Minnesota has 94 per cent of her normal feed supplies, while the average for the United States is but 70 per cent. This indicates that many Minnesota farmers can go ahead with their normal livestock program at a time when other sections will find it necessary to curtail.

Reports to a questionnaire sent to county agents indicate the following situation in Minnesota as regards roughage:

- Ten counties will need to ship in roughage
- Twelve counties will have alfalfa to spare
- Seventeen counties will have prairie hay to spare
- Eleven counties may need to ship out livestock to a greater extent than usual.

Extension workers will do well to emphasize that farmers should carefully estimate the amount of feed required and set this against available supplies. If a deficiency appears probable, either make arrangements at once for necessary feed, while it can be had at present reasonable prices, or else sell enough livestock to meet the lessened feed supply. Much more use than usual can be made of inferior roughages such as shredded fodder, straw and slough hay by increasing the allowance of oil meal or other high protein concentrates.

### Beef Cattle

The cattle report is relatively optimistic, especially for those who have liberal supplies of local feed and who time their feeding operations so as to sell their cattle in the summer of 1931. The report says, "In previous years of short corn crops and declining cattle prices, there was a pronounced tendency for cattle feeders to curtail feeding operations. This resulted in smaller supplies of fed cattle, particularly long fed, well finished cattle, coming on the market during the following year, and this in turn caused a marked advance in the price of such cattle."

### Hay Situation

The consensus of opinion is that hog producers are in a favorable position for the coming year as expansion for the country as a whole is impossible with present feed supplies. It is likely that feeder pigs and light hogs will be at a discount during the fall and early winter. In years of short corn crops, there is usually decidedly more than the seasonal advance in hog prices between early and late winter marketings.

Most Minnesota producers have fairly adequate feed supplies and are in a position to continue operations on a normal basis. A few sections that have a better-than-normal corn crop might find a conservative increase in the number of sows profitable.

### Dairy Cattle

The present low level of production and recent increases in price of butter are due primarily to the very poor pastures. September 1 reports indicated that pasture conditions were the poorest in more than 50 years. Farmers throughout the country are faced with a shortage of hay as well as of grain. The cows in many localities will enter the winter thin in flesh and, even if well fed, will produce less than a normal milk flow. Minnesota is fortunate in that most sections are fairly well supplied with both hay and grain. Present low prices for oats, barley and protein concentrates suggest that it will be good policy to feed grain liberally. However, those who will need to purchase grain should make sure of an adequate supply at present low prices. Farmers who are short of hay and fodder should in many cases cull their herds. To some extent, cheap oats may be used as a hay substitute. It is usually unprofitable to buy shipped-in hay, in any quantity, except for especially high class animals.

### Sheep

Prices of both lambs and wool have been hard hit by the industrial depression as well as by the large supply. Many Minnesota flocks have been started in recent years and are a minor part of the business. Minnesota farmers are in better position to maintain their flocks than those in sections where sheep are a major enterprise.

Over a period of years, sheep are a good kind of livestock for many Minnesota farmers and they can expect that in the long run sheep will be a profitable investment.