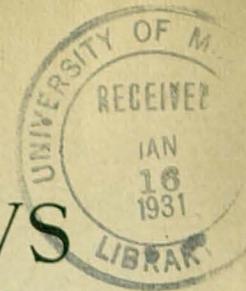


MINNESOTA EXTENSION SERVICE NEWS

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No. 4

Read Regularly; Hour a Day Keeps Dullness Away

By C. L. McNELLY

KEEPING up on one's reading means keeping abreast of the changing times and in step with scientific progress. It probably means also doing a lot of more or less random reading purely for its pleasure-giving or cultural value.

The never ending quest for knowledge is greatly facilitated through the reading of good books. The books

Coming Events

January 5, 1931, Lamb Feeders' Day, Morris Station
January 7 to February 18, Creamery Operators' Short Course, University Farm
January 19 to 24, 1931, Farmers' and Homemakers' Week, University Farm
January 19, 1931, Recognition Banquet, Minnesota Master Farm Homemakers
January 20, 1931, Recognition Banquet, Minnesota Premier Seed Growers
January 21, 1931, Annual Convention, Minnesota Crop Improvement Association
January 23, Annual Meeting, Minnesota Livestock Breeders' Association
January 20 to 22, 1931, Annual Convention, Minnesota Farm Bureau, St. Paul
February 9 to 13, 1931, Red River Valley Winter Shows, Crookston Station
February 10-11, 1931, Annual Meeting, Central Co-operative Ass'n, St. Paul
March 2 to 7, 1931, State Home Demonstration Conference, University Farm
March 4 to 6, 1931, Land Management Short Course, University Farm
March 12 and 13, 1931, Annual Meeting, Land O'Lakes Creameries, Minneapolis
March 26 to 28, 1931, Horticulture Short Course, University Farm
DISTRICT ANNUAL EXTENSION CONFERENCES:
April 28 and 29, Rochester
April 30 and May 1, Marshall
May 5 and 6, Grand Rapids or Duluth
May 7 and 8, Crookston

Freeborn County Leads Move For State-Wide Test

By R. W. SEATH

TESTING cows by mail through the Minnesota Statewide Cow Testing association is getting nicely started in some localities. Since the opening of the testing laboratory at University Farm, November 1, a number of herds have had their second test and many new herds are being added daily. So far, samples have arrived at the laboratory in very good shape so that accurate tests could be made. All of the boxes have been returned promptly, usually in 4 or 5 days from the date sent out. Much interest is also shown in the feeding service, many members having sent in lists of their feeds and asked for help in balancing rations.

Freeborn county, which was the pioneer county in establishing standard cow testing association work, again takes the lead in adopting this plan of testing. So far, 19 creameries in this county have signed agreements to make this testing service available to their patrons. Winona county ranks second with seven creameries signed up. Approximately a dozen other counties have done some work on the plan, so that in all about 45 creameries have agreed to cooperate.

Gus Knudson, buttermaker of the Manchester creamery in Freeborn county, stated that it was always easy to tell which of his patrons were testing because of the rapid improvement made in the herd as shown by size of cream check in comparison with other herds of like size not tested.

Many prospective members welcome the plan of testing because no publicity is given to the records and be-

(Continued on Last Page)

Clothing Project Helps Nearly 25,000 Women

THE clothing project in Minnesota was given in 15 counties during 1930 by the two specialists, M. Lois Reid and Eves Whitfield. The specialists have assisted Miss Gwendolyn Watts in Rice county, Miss Anna S. Olsen, Hennepin county, Miss Florence Lang and Helen Gillette in North and South St. Louis county and Miss Dorothy Iwig in Duluth in conducting leader training meetings. Mrs. Sylvia Shiras, Minneapolis, carried the work unassisted.

A total of 3,701 women were enrolled and instructed by 604 project leaders; 18,802 women were given some help in clothing problems by group members. Ninety per cent of all of the members taking the project reported that improvements had been made in methods of construction, that new time- and energy-saving sewing equipment had been provided and that more planning was done for economical and hygienic clothing for the family.

Many Notebooks Kept In Home Management

THAT 90 per cent of the women enrolled in home management in 1930 kept notebooks is one of the outstanding facts gleaned from the annual report of Miss Mary May Miller, specialist. The total enrollment for the year in eight counties was 2,041, including 314 local leaders. The number of notebooks kept was 1,847, the number of women completing the project being 1,895. The per cent finishing was 92.8.

In addition to the group members, 9,530 other women were helped, bringing the total number reached by the project to 11,571. Homes adopting improved practices numbered 9,959, individuals adopting improved practices totaling 10,723. The total of improved practices adopted was 34,204.

Poultry Work Culls 24,000 Slacker Hens

SLACKER hens numbering 24,000 went to the block in five counties during 1930 as a result of poultry projects conducted by Miss Cora Cook, extension poultry specialist. This number represented 25 per cent of the hens in the 531 flocks reported

culled in groups conducted by 174 local leaders.

Among other improvements made were 654 laying and brooder houses built or remodeled. A total of 1,191 home made mash feeders were added in 630 flocks. A new feature of the 1930 project were 22 poultry and egg marketing schools attended by 600 enrolled members in 11 counties. Sanitation in chick rearing was carried on with 34 demonstration flocks in two counties.

Result demonstrations conducted in 323 flocks showed a return above expenses of \$41,000. Of these demonstrations, 103 dealt with feeding for laying, 165 sanitation in chick rearing and 55 consisted of full-year flock records.

The project reached in all nearly 2,600 persons in 38 counties. Meetings were conducted in 21 of these counties.

Milwaukee Gives Trips

The Milwaukee railroad is very much interested in the progress of 4-H club work. R. W. Reynolds, agricultural development commissioner, has just announced that the Milwaukee will make a contribution which will enable 10 4-H members and two leaders to attend the 1931 National Club Congress at Chicago.

Come to Farmers'-Homemakers' Week

ALL readers of Extension Service News are invited to come to Farmers' and Homemakers' Week, to extend this invitation to their friends, neighbors, and co-workers, and to induce as many as possible to attend this year.

A week full of scientific and practical knowledge about farming and homemaking. Lectures, demonstrations, exhibits, discussions, talks and conferences about livestock, crops, dairying, farm power and machinery, poultry, bees, orchards, gardens, schools, farm managing, clothing, food and home managing fill every hour of every day. Ten different subjects each hour from which to choose.

Entertainments every noon and evening. Over a score of organizations, such as the Farm Bureau, Master Farmers, Crop Improvement association and Live Stock Breeders, hold their meetings at the Short Course.

No examinations to take, no fees to pay. Just come, participate and enjoy. Many farmers and homemakers make this their annual vacation, year after year. Meals on the grounds, and rooms in the neighborhood at reasonable rates.

The University cordially invites you to come.

A. V. STORM, Director of Short Courses.

New Extension Dairyman Visits University Farm

A. B. NYSTROM, extension dairyman of the U. S. Department of Agriculture for the north central states, spent several days at University Farm during December. He is especially interested in the better dairy sires project, and had a conference relative to the Minnesota purebred sire campaign with dairy specialists H. R. Searles and E. A. Hanson, and Axel Hansen, campaign manager.

Speaking before the Monday morning extension conference, Mr. Nyström explained that extension dairymen from the U. S. Bureau of Dairying had recently been assigned to the west, east, south and north central districts, thus giving the Bureau its first field contact with extension work in the various states.

A feature of the work, he said, will be introducing the application of Mendel's law to practical breeding problems. He pointed out that there is a growing demand for breeding schools at which livestock men may learn how to utilize scientific information in their breeding operations.

For 1931, the Extension Service News Wishes You the Best Year Ever!

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.

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Dean of the Department of Agriculture,
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FRANK W. PECK
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JANUARY, 1931

A very fleeting and altogether too brief perusal of many of the annual reports of the extension workers indicates an encouraging and commendatory growth of extension achievements during the past year.

In many respects it was one of the most unsatisfactory years that rural people have experienced. Not only was it a most difficult year from the standpoint of farm operations, with severe drouth and therefore lower yields per acre on the lighter soils, but the falling off of already depressed prices, entirely contrary to the expected and ordinary relationship between supply and demand, marked it as a year of paradoxes.

Fortunately the larger share of the income of Minnesota farmers is derived from the sale of livestock products. The ratio of feed costs to returns from these products, particularly butterfat, hogs and beef cattle, were such during the year as to leave a reasonable margin of profit. However, those farmers who depended upon the sale of grain for a cash income have suffered severe losses, even in crops like flax and potatoes, because of the low yields and relatively unsatisfactory unit prices.

The depression in industry has not only affected the actual economic situation, but is probably the largest factor in the psychology which seems to prevail in many sections. In order that the Extension Service may contribute towards agricultural improvement, it is essential that we give full recognition to this particular form of psychology and develop extension programs with it in mind.

It would seem that the New Year will demand more attention to definite economic information for the use of farmers. The cost of production will be more important, if that is possible, than in the past. Lower prices, tight buying, and an uncertain future are elements that surely demand all possible economies in agricultural production.

The spring outlook meetings, which are to be scheduled in as many counties as possible, will attempt to feature price trends, production statistics, the probable demand, so far as that can be intelligently discussed, and the advisable types of adjustment that seem to warrant consideration of farmers for the new year's work. This statement is made with full recognition that most farmers will of necessity continue rather closely along the lines for which they are equipped, for which their land is best adapted,

and with which they have had most experience. That is not to say, however, that certain adjustments are not possible dealing with efficiency of production, volume of business, and the adoption of the best marketing policies.

The central office staff wishes to be of the greatest possible service in the development of county programs for the coming year. In every way that we may be of assistance, it should be the co-operative effort of all of us to develop our work to its largest achievements. May the New Year bring the largest measure of satisfaction and reward to each Extension worker for the effort expended in doing his or her work a little more effectively this year than last.

W. Peck

International Crop Society Elects Crim

RALPH F. CRIM, extension agronomist, is the new secretary-treasurer of the International Crop Improvement association, having been elected at the annual meeting in Chicago during the International Livestock Exposition. Mr. Crim succeeds K. E. Beeson of Purdue University, who was advanced to the presidency.

Twenty-four states and two Canadian provinces are represented in the membership of the International association, Minnesota being represented by the Minnesota Crop Improvement association.

The general object of the association is to promote the agricultural interests of the various states and provinces, emphasizing the improvement of field crops and seeds. The association is working to develop a national trademark to be used on seed as a guarantee of purity and quality.

Dial for WLB Programs

Extension workers throughout the state who have radios are requested to try tuning in on the University Station, WLB, on Monday, Wednesday and Friday noons from 12:30 to 1:00, during which time University Farm broadcasts are made. Editor Kirkwood, Director Peck, and others connected with the administration of these broadcasts, are interested to find out how generally the programs are capable of being received. Kindly report to Mr. Kirkwood the results of your attempts to receive these broadcasts. Your co-operation in determining their effectiveness will be greatly appreciated. Also, if you have opportunity to ask farm folks in your community whether or not they are listening in on the University Farm programs, kindly report on what they say.

Searles Has Appendicitis

H. R. Searles, extension dairyman, had an unpleasant Christmas. Taken ill on Monday, December 22, he went to Rochester on Wednesday and was operated on for appendicitis on Christmas Day. A telegram received next morning at the state office from Mrs. Searles brought the glad news that Harold had survived the operation in good condition. No further word had been received up to this writing, but we trust his recovery will be speedy. Mr. Searles had not been entirely well for some weeks prior to the acute attack.

"Bill" Olson Takes Up Agent Post in Hubbard

AMONG the new agents in the extension family is William H. Olson of Cyrus, Minnesota. Mr. Olson's present address is Park Rapids, Hubbard county, where he succeeded John Horne as county agricultural agent, having begun work November 1.

Among the qualifications that fit Mr. Olson for the position of county agent are his experiences in extension work in cooperation with Frank Douglass in Stevens county, where he was leader of several 4-H clubs and assisted in many other extension activities. These activities were carried on, not only in Stevens, but also in Pope where he met with community groups and conducted extension meetings. His major line of work at the agricultural college of the University of Minnesota was in animal husbandry. He was graduated in 1926 and then returned to his father's farm at Cyrus, Minnesota.

"If you can't remember Olson, call me Bill," was the statement Mr. Olson made at one of his farm bureau unit meetings a short time ago. And so we welcome "Bill" Olson to the extension family.

Federal Poultryman Visits University Farm

L. H. SCHRADER, federal extension poultry specialist, Washington, D. C., spent December 7, 8 and 9 at University Farm conferring with Miss Cora Cooke, extension poultry specialist, mainly in regard to plans for sanitation projects. Last year Miss Cooke conducted sanitation work with co-operators in West Polk and Pennington counties, and plans to continue during 1931 on a somewhat different system.

Miss Cooke and Mr. Schrader also held a meeting with the Record of Performance committee of the Minnesota Baby Chick association. They likewise conferred with the extension marketing specialists, Dvoracek and Silcox.

Other features of Mr. Schrader's visit were a trip to the Land O'Lakes plant to study the turkey situation there, and a discussion of the poultry project with the 4-H Club department.

Book on Country Women

"WHAT the Country Women of the World Are Doing," is the title of a very interesting booklet chronicling the proceedings of the International Conference of Rural Women's Organizations, held in Vienna, Austria, May 28 to 30, 1930. This book contains more than 200 pages, and in addition to giving a formal report of the conference, presents a bird's-eye view of what rural women throughout the world are doing to better living conditions, further the aims of international friendship, and enrich country life generally. Miss Grace E. Frysinger, home economist of the central states, was one of the United States' delegates to this conference, and was a member of the Liaison committee. She announces that copies of the book may be obtained at 60 cents each. Orders may be sent to Miss Frysinger, care of the Office of Co-operative Extension Work, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

Houston News School Finds General Approval

REPORTS from Houston county indicate that the news school held there early in December for 4-H club and women's project reporters produced very satisfactory results. The school was sponsored by County Agent H. O. Anderson, in co-operation with the five editors of the county, who provided a free lunch at noon for about 40 project leaders and reporters and 4-H club members who attended. Both Caledonia editors, P. W. Steffin of the Journal, and P. V. Ryan of the Argus, were at the luncheon.

The program began at 10:30 with a talk on what to write and how to write it, using selected stories to illustrate. Following the luncheon, the women were provided with paper, pencils and prepared outlines giving instructions for writing news, and each wrote a story which later was used for discussion and criticism. Editor Ryan assisted with this phase of the program.

The day ended with visits to the offices of the Caledonia Journal and the Caledonia Argus, where the editors explained just how copy is handled, from the time it is received until it appears in the printed paper. Great interest was shown in this feature.

Following the meeting, many of the women expressed their enthusiastic approval of the event, and Miss Inez Hobart, extension specialist in nutrition, who conducted leader training schools in the county, later in the month, was also much impressed with the comments she heard regarding the school.

Increase in 1931 U. S. Pig Crop Over 1930 Unlikely

WILL more sows, or fewer sows, be kept for farrowing next spring than last? This question was asked farmers at many Swine Outlook meetings this fall, and some increase for Minnesota was indicated. At six meetings in Murray county, for instance, out of 345 persons representing 195 farms, 24 said they were keeping more sows and 9 said fewer.

Everything considered, however, it does not appear likely that more pigs will be in feed lots next fall than were there last year, say S. B. Cleland, farm management specialist. Although some increase in Minnesota is indicated, it should be kept in mind that this state is better situated with regard to feed than most others in the corn belt.

Moreover, it should not be overlooked that the number of pigs saved per litter in the United States last spring was the highest of the 8 years on record, something not likely to be duplicated in 1931.

Miss Currier Returns

Folks who attended the annual Christmas party, December 15, were delighted to see Miss Sadie Currier, extension clerical supervisor, among those present. Miss Currier returned to the office for the first time that day, although as yet she is working only a few hours daily until she fully recovers. Miss Currier was absent from the office more than two months, during which time she had three operations. Everyone is glad to have her back again.



Important 4-H Recommendations Adopted; Read Very Carefully

IMPORTANT recommendations adopted by a conference between the extension agents' committee on 4-H club work, state 4-H leaders and extension specialists at University Farm, December 15, are summarized below. Read carefully. Lynn Sheldon, C. G. Gaylord, R. A. Fischer, C. M. Kelehan, and Miss Gwendolyn Watts were the agents who attended the conference. One member, F. L. Liebenstein, was ill and could not be present.

1. That individual 4-H clubs and counties be urged to support and use the national radio music programs, sponsored by the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

2. That crop projects be emphasized more, and that crop judges at county fairs score 4-H club exhibits in garden, potato and corn.

3. That lambs in pens at the Junior Livestock Show not be allowed to compete for grand championship in the individual lamb class.

4. That more emphasis be placed on advanced project work in all lines.

5. That the following basis be used for representation in dairy calf class at state fair: 10 to 20 members—1 representative; 21 to 40—2; 41 to 60—3; over 60—4.

6. A dairy production contest was recommended, based on management of one cow, a committee composed of Kittleson, Searles and Hanson to work out details.

7. That a class for dual-purpose calves be made at state fair, when 10 counties qualify with enrollments as for other dairy calf work, and providing necessary funds can be raised.

Program for 4-H Music Appreciation Series

THE National 4-H radio program from 11:30 to 12:30, noon, central standard time, on Saturday, December 6, 1930, started the series of musical appreciation programs that will continue on the first Saturday of each month during the coming year. Following are programs for January and February:

Saturday, January 3, 1931—English, Irish and Scotch music: Shepherd's Dance, German; Pomp and Circumstance, Elgar; Loch Lomond, Folk tune; Annie Laurie, Scott; Believe Me, If All Those Endearing Young Charms, Moore; Shepherd's Hey, Grainger; Tune from County Derry, Grainger.

Saturday, February 7, 1931—Italian music: "The Storm," from William Tell, Rossini; O Sole Mio, Folk tune; "Anvil Chorus," from Il Trovatore, Verdi; "Sextette" from Lucia, Donizetti; "Quartet" from Rigoletto, Verdi; "Dance of the Hours," La Gioconda, Ponchielli.

Holstein Essay Contest

Leaders should urge Holstein calf club members to take part in the national Holstein essay contest. The subject is "What I Learned Through Calf Club Work in 1930." Write

8. That purebred calves to be exhibited at state fair must be registered in club members' name not later than August 1. Resolution passed with unanimous vote of county agents.

9. That an intermediate poultry project be added consisting of rearing 200 chicks, 50 ducks or turkeys, or 25 geese, artificially hatched; and an advanced project be added consisting of the managing of a flock of 50 producing pullets.

10. The boys' 4-H uniform selected by Texas and other states was recommended.

11. That forestry projects, suggested by forestry specialists, be carried on where feasible.

12. That instead of the present team demonstrations in room furnishing, demonstrations by individual club members be substituted and that a county enrollment of 15 be required to qualify a county for competition.

13. That health work be urged in all counties and that health examinations be conducted at the 1931 state fair.

14. That state garden winners be selected on a county basis.

about 500 words, and send essays to Earl J. Cooper, 230 East Ohio Street, Chicago.

Minnesota has the record of having had the largest number of essays of any state each year. See "Calf Club News" for details of the contest.

4-H Club Song Books

Publication of the 4-H club song bulletin will be discontinued, at least for the present.

For clubs desiring special song books, it is suggested that the National 4-H Club Song Book which contains the best club songs, also the music, be used. These may be had at a very reasonable cost from the National Committee on Club Work, 360 North Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

The 4-H club members Handybook, published by the national committee, contains many good club songs. Club leaders and officers may get a free copy of this upon application to the committee.

New 4-H Film Ready

A new 4-H club film is available. The title is "Partners Three." This film may be had free of charge by paying transportation expense. Write to C. L. Venard, 702 South Adams Street, Peoria, Illinois.

Urge Club Winners To Write "Thanks" Letters

LETTERS of appreciation serve as one of the most effective points of contact with those who support club work by providing educational trips, scholarships and other awards. Urge every club member receiving a prize to write a letter of "Thank You."

The one who received the following letter derived so much satisfaction from it that it is given as a good model:

"Dear Friend:
"Having attended the Junior Livestock Show this year, I wish to thank the people of South Saint Paul and Saint Paul for the splendid cooperation in entertaining the 4-H exhibitors and providing money for prizes and sale of animals and poultry.

"I have attended the last three shows and have enjoyed each more than the first. When I returned from my first trip I gave a report to the pupils in the country school which I attended. I will report this year at our 4-H club meeting or our local Farm Bureau meeting.

"In our local club of which my mother is the leader, we had 50 members enroll this year. Our club ("The Central Hustlers") was organized in 1927 with 27 members enrolled. We hold our meetings the first Friday in every month. We won a silver loving cup, last year, for the outstanding club in the county. We hope to win it again this year because then we keep it for good. We hold a tour every year. This year we held a tree planting ceremony on the local school grounds during the noon hour the day of our tour. Our goal is a hundred per cent finish up club.

"I enjoy 4-H club work and I am going to belong to it as long as I can and help it grow in every way I can.

"I have been a 4-H member for 4 years, my brother for 6 and my sister for 3 years. This year I enrolled in baby beef, sewing and poultry. The sewing booth from our club took second at the county fair.

"The first year I attended the show I exhibited a baby beef. This year and last year I exhibited a pen of fat turkeys. My brother attended four shows. Last year and this year he did not go. Last year he got the measles and could not go. This year I was the only one from our family to go.

"I hope I will be able to go next year.

"Yours for better club work,
SHIRLEY BASSETT,
Nobles County."

I.H.C. Giving \$50,000 In Ag College Scholarships

TO commemorate the one-hundredth anniversary of the invention of the reaper by Cyrus McCormick, the International Harvester Company offers 4-H club members 100 agricultural college scholarships of \$500 each. Any boy or girl in the United States who will be of college age by September, 1932, and who is a member of a 4-H club March 31, 1931, may compete.

A special judging committee will select the 100 winners on a plan based on the relative value to agriculture of the 4-H club service performed by the contestants between January 1, 1931, and October 1, 1931. The contestants from each state will be reported to the judging committee soon after October 1, 1931. All names must be submitted before November 1, 1931, together with details of the qualifications of each candidate.

In order to secure representation on all lines of work carried as projects in the 4-H club program, these scholarships will be allotted to the different projects as follows: corn 16, cotton 7, small grains 6, potatoes 3, tobacco 2, baby beef 6, pig 10, sheep 4, dairy 16, poultry 8, open, including home economics, 22.

Use of these scholarships must begin within one year of the date of the announcement of the award. Forty of the scholarships are allotted to the central section consisting of 14 states, including Minnesota.

Porter Grain Show Wins High Praise from Crim

WITH four counties participating and 89 different exhibitors showing high-class samples, the Big-4 Grain Show, held at Porter in Yellow Medicine county, December 10, 11 and 12, was one of the finest district crop shows ever held in the state, according to Ralph F. Crim, extension agronomist.

The event was sponsored by the Big-4 Crop Improvement association, which includes Chippewa, Yellow Medicine, Lac qui Parle and Lincoln counties. This organization originated more than 10 years ago as the Chippewa County Crop Improvement association, and later became the Tri-County Crop Improvement association, of Chippewa, Lac qui Parle and Yellow Medicine counties. This year Lincoln county was added. Each year the association sponsors a grain show, these events now being rotated between the counties.

In addition to the part it plays in the program of the general organization, the Porter Seed Growers' association carries on a worth-while program for crop improvement in its own community, in cooperation with the farm bureau, the agricultural extension service and the Minnesota experiment station. During the past 2 years this association has sponsored variety trials on barley, oats and flax, and put on a number of farm demonstrations with recommended varieties. An annual tour and picnic has been conducted to give local people an opportunity to study the results from the various trial plots and demonstrations. Plans are being made for the third year's trials during the coming summer.

Lake of Woods Sponsors Land Clearing Contest

Timber land burned over in a fire which swept about 90,000 acres in Lake of the Woods county a year ago is being put under cultivation through the stimulus of a land clearing contest. The Baudette Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring the event in cooperation with County Agent McCamus, a member of the chamber's agricultural committee. Up to December 1, 18 entries had been received, about 400 acres having already been cleared. One hundred dollars has been appropriated by the chamber for prizes, which will be presented in the form of clover or alfalfa seed. First prize will be \$25, and there will be others of \$20, \$15 and four \$10 prizes. The contest began October 1 and will end May 15, by which time it is hoped to have 1,000 acres cleared, says Mr. McCamus.

Buy Back Champion Beef

Brown county's champion baby beef, reared by Carl Sierk of Lake Wilson, furnished choice roasts for 475 plates at a barbecue banquet, sponsored by the Southwestern Minnesota Livestock Breeders' association, at Sleepy Eye early in December. The prize beef was purchased by the association at the Minnesota Junior Livestock Show. The banquet was attended by more than 400 livestock breeders, 4-H club workers, farmers and business men from Brown, Murray, Renville, Cottonwood, Watonwan and Redwood counties. Prof. W. H. Peters was one of the speakers.

State Staff Christmas Party Is Big Success

SIXTY-FOUR extension folks, including the state office staff and a number of county and district workers, attended the annual Christmas party held Monday noon, December 15. Good will and a good deal of hilarity pervaded the annual distribution of gifts and verses.

Out-of-town folks included County Agents Kelehan, Sheldon, Gaylord and Fischer; Home Demonstration Agent Gwendolyn A. Watts; and District Club Agents Stegner, Pflughoeft and Giberson. These folks happened to be at University Farm attending the 4-H club conference and joined in the merrymaking.

Some spirited singing was led by Paul J. Leach, music instructor of the School of Agriculture, who appeared in the guise of St. Nick. In a very brief ceremony, Frank Brown and Miss Julia O. Newton, last year's Christmas king and queen, passed their crowns and robes along to W. A. Billings and Miss Cora Cooke. This pair then parcelled out the gifts.

During the luncheon, a letter bearing Christmas greetings to H. G. Zavoral, ambassador to Russia in charge of *affaires* pork and bacon, was signed by all present. The committee in charge of the party consisted of J. F. Kuehn, chairman, Frank Brown, Parker Anderson, and the Misses Dorothy Strike and Eves Whitfield.

Back from Denmark

Mr. and Mrs. Martin Hansen returned to Waseca county early in December, following their three months' visit in Denmark where Mr. Hansen attended the golden wedding anniversary of his parents and called on relatives he had not seen for 18 years. The couple visited Norway, Sweden, and Germany also. We have requested Mr. Hansen to prepare some notes giving us the highlights of his observations with regard to extension work and agriculture in Denmark, and hope to be able to publish something on this next month.

The 1930 United States corn crop of under 2,100,000,000 bushels is the smallest since 1901.

Balmer Says "Merry Xmas" With Apples

THURSDAY, just a week before Christmas, brought extension folks of the state office a delectable surprise from good old Saint Nick, alias Frank E. Balmer, in the form of a large box of luscious apples. The wrappers indicated that Mr. Balmer believes in patronizing home industries, as the fruit was packed by the Wenatchee District Co-operative Association, Wenatchee, Washington.

Interestingly enough, the apples were of the "Jim Hill" brand, and the wrappers bore likenesses of the famous railroad builder and former St. Paul citizen. "From Nature's Chosen Apple Land" is the slogan under which the Wenatchee growers are marketing their very superb fruit.

Needless to say, we were very happy to co-operate with Mr. Balmer in disposing of any possible surplus, and we extend to him our warmest thanks.

Freeborn Leads in Move For State-Wide Test

(Concluded from Page 1)

cause they may start testing any month they wish. These points, and the fact that it is unnecessary to board a tester one day each month, are some of the main reasons why a number of farmers have adopted this test.

The procedure that has proven most effective in introducing this plan of testing is to secure a meeting with creamery boards, either at a regular monthly meeting or a special meeting, where the plan can be explained. A chance for discussion usually follows, before a vote is taken, so that each member of the board understands just how the test operates. Also there is a general feeling that this meeting should be held before the annual meeting so that it can be put up to the creamery patrons at annual meeting time as something the board has adopted for the benefit of patrons. This fact alone helps to build confidence in the various communities. Then, too, there will likely be a few members testing by the time of the annual meeting so that they may tell others just how the plan operates.

Read Regularly; An Hour A Day Keeps Dullness Away

(Concluded from Page 1)

other subjects available in every library.

What may we get from books? A partial answer might be:

The best use of English by the creators of the language.

Ideas and ideals of the world's greatest thinkers.

Wit and humor by the funny men of the past and present.

The folklore of our ancestors—the poetry of the bards.

Science written in popular or technical style as you want it, by those who have spent their lives in the search for truth.

An insight into human nature and a better understanding of human relationships.

These things and more may be gotten from books. In fact, most of the knowledge of the universe has been put in type and is on a nearby book shelf. Shall we not recognize this as an opportunity and resolve to read on the average of one hour a day during 1931? Books in the University Farm library are available to county agents by paying cost of postage.

Banks Back 4-H Calendar

Lac qui Parle county will have a fine 4-H club calendar this year financed cooperatively by the banks of the county. Many new ideas concerning 4-H clubs will be included, as well as a number of features of interest to rural schools. The calendar will be ready December 1 for distribution to every home from which enrollments are received for club work in 1931.

Jacob Goes Specialist

A. W. Jacob, former Aitkin county agent, and brother of L. O. Jacob of Anoka county, became marketing specialist for the Oklahoma ag college, on December 1. He had been county agent in Creek county, Oklahoma.

"Spiritual values have taken refuge in rural places." — Frank Lowden, County Life Conference.

Farm Economics

Conducted by W. L. Cavert

Commodity Prices Permanently Lower

THE recent drop in commodity prices is, in large measure, a permanent drop to a lower level. This is the view of Doctors Warren and Pearson, professors of agricultural economics at Cornell University. This is indicated by the following quotation from an article of theirs in the November issue of Farm Economics, published by the New York state college of agriculture.

"Business Cycle vs. Financial Deflation

"Periods of active business in their later stages usually develop into feverish activity, buying in advance of need, and speculation. Such periods are commonly followed by a business reaction. This is called the business cycle. We are now in the reaction period of a business cycle, but this is no ordinary business cycle, because we are in a period of financial deflation, with commodity prices moving to a permanently lower level, that is, a period when gold is rising in value. In an ordinary business cycle, some price recessions occur, but prices again rise to their previous level. The major portion of the drop this time is to a permanently lower level.

"Ever since prices began to rise in the war period, the normal expectation has been that money would return to its pre-war value as it did following the Napoleonic Wars and the Civil War. The high prices, that is the low value of gold, resulted in decreased mining and now we have an active demand of gold to build up monetary stocks. In order to have stable prices, the increase in gold production should keep pace with the increase in production of other commodities. Of course there might be a world-wide movement to use less gold and more paper, but most of the world has had such a flood of paper that it is very anxious to build up gold reserves. A world-wide movement to use less gold might develop after a period of war and inflation.

"Confusion of this phenomena with the ordinary business cycle has led most persons to believe that the trouble is world-wide overproduction of commodities. The present cessation of business activity will lead to a shortage of goods, but there is no expectation that prices will rise materially. Probably prices will rise somewhat when business begins actively, but only to drop to a still lower level with the next period of depression. There is every expectation that gold will become more valuable than it was before the war, that is, that in the next 10 years wholesale prices of other commodities will go below the pre-war level.

"The wholesale price level in the United States is now only about one-half of what it was at the peak in 1920. It is a serious mistake to assume that this decline is due to the increase in quantity of all commodities. When a striking decline in the entire price structure occurs, buying stops, unemployment occurs, and we have the appearance of a surplus of everything.

"Business cycles and unstable money are not inevitable, but much more scientific attention will have to be given to these before the problems can be solved."

Harder to Pay Debts

Evidently, if the Warren-Pearson view is correct, farmers who have a heavy load of indebtedness will find it harder to meet interest and taxes in the future than in the past 5 years, for as prices go down, it takes more

pounds of butterfat, hogs and cattle, and more bushels of grain to meet taxes and interest.

They suggest, in the article quoted, that while it is hard to tell normal value under present chaotic conditions, probably the best guide is by comparison with pre-war or 1910-14 values. In October, the farm prices of agricultural commodities, as reported by the U. S. Department of Agriculture, were 6 per cent above pre-war. At the same time, prices of non-agricultural commodities were 31 per cent above pre-war. By the pre-war price test, agricultural commodities are very cheap compared with other commodities.

The following table shows the Minnesota farm prices for certain commodities for October, 1930, compared with the average of the October prices in the years 1910-14, inclusive, as reported by the U. S. Department of Agriculture:

	November, 1930	Average November price, 1910-14	Per cent November price, 1930, is of 1910-14
Hogs, per cwt.	\$7.90	\$6.74	117
Beef cattle, per cwt.	5.90	4.64	127
Butterfat, per lb. . . . .	.36	.31	116
Chickens, per lb. . . . .	.13	.10	130
Eggs, per doz. . . . .	.27	.24	112
Wheat, per bu. . . . .	.57	.90	63
Corn, per bu. . . . .	.51	.51	100
Oats, per bu. . . . .	.23	.34	68
Barley, per bu. . . . .	.33	.60	56
Rye, per bu. . . . .	.29	.65	45
Potatoes, per bu. . . . .	.75	.45	166

* Average monthly prices for 92-score butter.

It is evident that, upon the whole, prices of livestock and butterfat have held up better than grain prices. While livestock and dairy producers have a reduced income, their income is holding up much better than that of those who depend on the sale of crops. Butterfat, eggs and hogs have fallen in price since November, but livestock prices are still holding up relatively well compared with grain.

Corn is the only grain crop that is up to the normal pre-war price. The relatively high price of corn is due to the fact that it is the shortest crop for the United States since 1901.

Grain is certain to be used generously at present prices, and with a short crop of feed grain, the supply will be closely used up by the time that a new supply is available.

According to the November Department of Agriculture report, Minnesota in 1930 was the fourth state in corn production, being exceeded by Iowa, Illinois, and Nebraska.

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