

# Minnesota Extension News

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## "Needed Adjustments in Agriculture" To Be Conference Theme

### Big Clothing Check-Ups In 4 Northern Counties

CLOTHING I check-up days held in Koochiching, Lake of the Woods, Roseau and Kittson counties about the middle of October were outstandingly successful and emphasized clearly that home demonstration work in the far northern counties is triumphing over obstacles that have long made it difficult to conduct the work, such as long distances, bad weather and other factors. Furthermore, each of these counties made definite plans to continue with Clothing II next spring and summer.

Miss Eva Blair, organization specialist, was a guest speaker at each of these check-ups, while Miss Eyes Whitfield, clothing specialist, discussed highlights of the accomplishments in each county and organization plans for the advanced project.

Koochiching's check-up, October 13, was carried on very creditably by the local leaders although their new county agent, R. C. Shaw, had not yet begun work.

County Agent Ronald McCamus presided at the Lake of the Woods check-up, October 14, at Baudette. Thirty-one were present, some coming exceptionally long distances.

Roseau's check-up, October 15, at Roseau, was attended by 52 persons. Final reports were made by all but one group where the leaders were unable to hold the final meeting. The group was represented at the check-up, however.

Thirty-seven attended the Kittson check-up, October 16, at Hallock. Ninety-one percent of the 186 project members completed. It was also reported that 181 members had cleaned their sewing machines during the project.

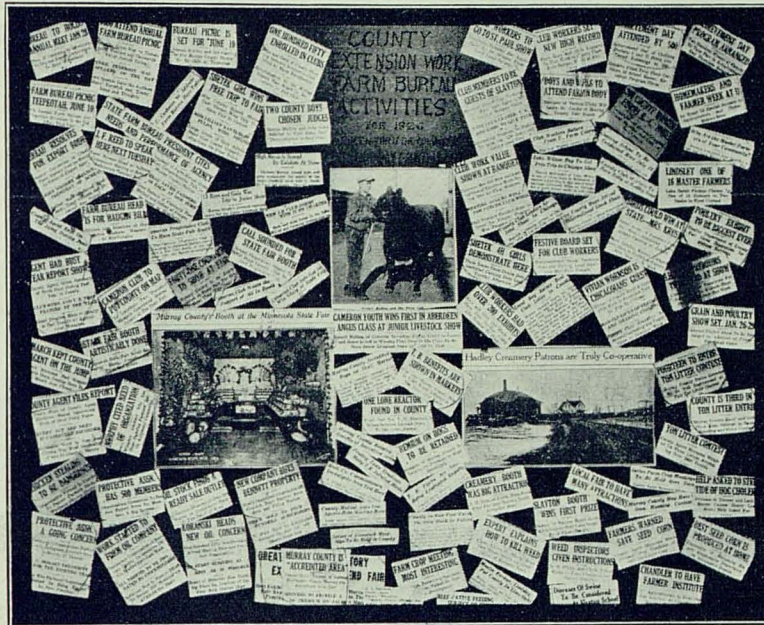
### Big Increase in Use Of Specialists' Mats

TWENTY or more county agents have ordered mats of specialists during the past month, following the issuing of a circular showing the mats available and calling attention to their use. A number of counties have sent in repeat orders.

Editors are taking the initiative in securing mats in increasing numbers. Editors report they find the mats from University Farm give very satisfactory results in a mechanical way and that they regard the illustrations as a real asset to the reading content of their papers.

Since the circular was issued, new and more satisfactory portraits have been secured for E. A. Hanson and W. A. Billings and mats of W. P. Kirkwood have also been added to the list of available. More are being secured right along. Ask for the mats you want.

### Press Is Extension Looking-Glass



NEWSPAPERS are the mirrors of their times and their communities. Whether or not they are mirrors of county extension work depends on the efforts of the county agent or the home demonstration agent. The accompanying photograph shows how the Murray County Herald in 1926 mirrored county extension work and farm bureau activities under the direction of A. G. Mereness, now organization director for the Minnesota Farm Bureau Federation.

Mr. Mereness saved all of his clippings from the Herald for the entire year, and then assembled the headlines and photographs on a piece of cardboard and had it framed as pictured above. Perusing these headlines and pictures one sees that they tell a remarkable story, including a great variety, of extension activities. Consider for a moment what an impression of extension work the constant reader of the Murray County Herald must have secured through the year, reading not only the headlines shown here, but the articles which accompanied them. Check your

own publicity with this, and see whether you are presenting as complete a picture.

### Drews Visit Colorado

Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Drew spent 2 weeks of Mr. Drew's vacation in Colorado in October. Mr. Drew spent most of the time visiting and working with his friend, Lester Griswold, who has a handicraft studio at Colorado Springs and who recently issued a book on handicraft with a section on rope and cordage by Mr. Drew. Most of the original 5,000 copies have been sold and a new edition is to be printed each year. This time Mr. Drew helped on rope and iron work for the next edition. A week was spent in Mr. Griswold's stone cabin on the side of Cheyenne mountain near Pike's Peak. Mrs. Drew also visited a sister at Denver.

"Spiritual values have taken refuge in rural places," said Frank O. Lowden at the Country Life Conference.

### Prof. Asher Hobson of Wisconsin U. to Speak

"NEEDED Adjustments in Agriculture" will be the theme of the annual extension conference which begins informally, Monday, December 14, and formally takes up at 9, Tuesday morning, December 15, announces Director F. W. Peck. The meeting will run to Thursday noon.

The entire day of Wednesday, December 16, will be devoted to discussions of the theme topic from several points of view. "International Relationships" will have as its leader, Professor Asher Hobson of Wisconsin University, and "Needed Adjustments from a National Standpoint" will feature Dr. Mordicai Ezekial, economist for the Federal Farm Board. "The View Point of a Large National Farm Organization" will be presented by M. S. Winder, secretary of the National Farm Bureau Federation, while Dr. O. B. Jesness of the University Farm staff, will discuss "The Adjustments as Seen Through the Eyes of a State Economist." Plans are being made to secure one or two other outstanding contributors to this important program.

On Thursday morning, December 17, "The Application of these Adjustments Effected by the Extension Service" will be the general topic, with Director R. K. Bliss of Iowa and Miss Minnie Price of Ohio State University, leading the discussions from the viewpoints of agriculture and homemaking, respectively.

Minnesota extension workers will join the discussions of these subjects freely. Specific details of the entire conference will be sent shortly to each worker.

"It is hoped," Director Peck says, "that we will have 100 per cent attendance, inasmuch as special effort should be made at this time to obtain as many ideas as possible that can be developed into a strong, active and pointed extension program for the coming year."

### Ghostley Engaged for Series Poultry Talks

GEORGE GHOSTLEY, well known poultryman of Anoka, has been engaged by the extension division for 40 days of work in counties during November, December, January, and February. In addition to general poultry management, these meetings will stress housing, feeding and raising of chicks. This is not the first time Mr. Ghostley has assisted with extension work, as he conducted some meetings two years ago and has frequently spoken at University Farm short courses. He is recognized as one of the state's foremost poultrymen, having a large flock of one of the best laying strains of White Leghorns and running his own hatchery. He is a graduate of the University medical college.

### Coming Events\*

- November 28-December 5, 1931—International Livestock Exposition, Chicago
- November 28-December 5, 1931—National 4-H Club Congress, Chicago
- December 3-12, 1931—Ice Cream Makers' Short Course
- December 14-17, 1931—Annual Extension Conference
- January 18-23, 1932—Farmers' and Homemakers' Week
- January 18-21, 1932—Annual Convention, Minnesota Farm Bureau, St. Paul
- February 8-12, 1932—Red River Valley Winter Shows, Crookston
- February 29-March 5, 1932—Annual Home Demonstration Conference

\* Events will take place at University Farm, unless otherwise stated.

## Minnesota Extension News

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NOVEMBER, 1931

### Better Corn—More Cash Is Lyon County's Goal

THE progress of Lyon county's corn improvement project is very encouraging to those who have been participating in the effort to get better corn with a greater return to the producer, says Ralph F. Crim, extension agronomist. Following is Mr. Crim's statement of what has been done and the results:

In 1930 a survey of corn shipped out of Lyon county was made in co-operation with the Northwest Crop Improvement association, the Lyon county extension service and elevator managers and the Minnesota Agricultural extension service. The results were extremely interesting, inasmuch as they indicated that a relatively large amount of corn shipped out of the county graded below four.

The price differential between grades is sufficient to justify raising the grades if possible; that is, if it can be done through the use of more suitable varieties, proper methods of storage and fertility.

On studying the results of the survey, the Lyon county corn improvement program was initiated, those co-operating including the Lyon county corn improvement committee, the Minnesota experiment station and agricultural extension service and the Northwest Crop Improvement association.

The first year of the program is almost completed. A meeting will be held in Marshall, November 18, to check results and review the work accomplished.

Corn demonstration trials were carried on in every township, an experimental trial including 22 varieties was carried out in the county, and a large number of cribs have been improved. In a number of cases, more suitable types of corn have been grown.

### Mittens from Old Coats

Duluth women are learning how to make warm, durable mittens out of old overcoats through a series of 16 mitten demonstrations being put on under the supervision of Miss Matilda Nelson, urban home demonstration agent. Coating material is used for the outside of the mittens, soft wool material for the lining and sateen or heavy silk for binding at the tops. Miss Nelson is stressing that either new or old materials may be used.

### Crib Silos Interest Watonwan Dairymen

A SMALL, but interested, group of Watonwan county dairymen toured the county, visiting 10 outstanding dairy farms on October 8. The dairymen were optimistic over the recent strengthening of butter prices and there was no evidence of gloom or discouragement, according to E. A. Hanson, who assisted County Agent J. I. Swedberg. Each farm visited brought out some feature of value.

Herds visited represented five of the major dairy breeds. All the herds were in cow testing associations. Several had yearly production records with averages of over 400 pounds.

One item of special interest was corn crib temporary silos, on three farms. The users seemed well satisfied with results. While there is some loss from spoiling, yet the users feel that the loss is far less than producing corn fodder and the silage is much more convenient to handle.

One farm showed a trench silo, constructed this year. On two farms, Sudan grass was utilized to good advantage. Being short of hay due to failure of the clover crop on one farm, Sudan grass and soy beans were planted together and cut with a grain binder. The green bundles were cured and shocked like grain. The hay was of fine quality and an excellent yield was secured. On another farm visited, fall pasture was desired, so a mid-summer seeding of Sudan grass provided an excellent growth.

### Pick Gold Star Leaders In Home Management

THIRTY-TWO of the 38 home management leaders in Morrison county were classified as "Gold Star Leaders" at the check-up held recently, according to Miss Mary May Miller, specialist. These thirty-two leaders did not miss a single meeting during the 5 months of the home management project. Four leaders were awarded the silver star, because they missed but one meeting and sent substitutes. There were only two leaders who missed meetings without sending a substitute. Similar records made in Winona, Renville, and Jackson counties were not quite as high as Morrison's.

The record of those finishing the project in the four counties was especially fine. Ninety-two per cent of the 203 enrolled in Winona county completed. Ninety-one per cent of the 280 enrolled in Morrison sent in reports, 95 per cent of the 370 in Renville, and 96 per cent of the 308 in Jackson.

### Hagstrom Giving Food Preparation Project

WITH 400 women enrolled, Miss Marion Hagstrom, Blue Earth home demonstration agent, is conducting a five months' project in food preparation. The first lesson on "Using More Milk and Eggs" was presented to local leaders during October. Subjects for the remaining lessons are as follows: "Serving Two Vegetables a Day," "Raw Vegetables and Fruits; Their Use in Salads," "Meat Cookery," and "The Community Meal."

The project, which aims to present food preparation from the standpoints of good nutrition and economy

in the selection and use of foods, was worked out by Miss Hagstrom with the assistance of Miss Inez Hobart and other food specialists at University Farm.

Miss Hagstrom promoted interest by a publicity campaign which featured short, snappy articles showing one by one how the lessons would answer specific problems of the homemaker. General articles were also used to give a complete picture of the work. Miss Hagstrom says, "Many have mentioned seeing my articles in the papers and I attribute the large enrollment to the steady run of publicity."

### N. W. School Entertains West Polk Turkey Tour

MORE than 100 persons representing four counties in Minnesota and North Dakota attended the West Polk county turkey tour held October 13. Fourteen growers from Grand Forks county, North Dakota, came with their county agent, William Page; fourteen from Clearwater county with County Agent Clement C. Chase; and four growers from East Polk with County Agent Russell Morgan. Twenty-eight hundred turkeys were seen at the five farms visited.

At noon a dinner was enjoyed at the Northwest School of Agriculture, Crookston, followed by a tour of the buildings and a general meeting in the new auditorium. A. A. Dowell, superintendent, extended a hearty welcome. Short talks were given by the visiting county agents, and the principal address by Dr. W. A. Billings.

### Agents Helped Swell Swine Feeders' Crowd

Swelled by parties of interested hog men brought in by county agents, Swine Feeders' Day, October 30, proved a big success in spite of bad weather. Prof. E. F. Ferrin, in charge of the event, has asked Extension News to extend his thanks to all agents who co-operated by interesting local farmers in the event.

### Farewell for Dyer

As a farewell to W. K. Dyer, who left Meeker county, October 1, to become secretary of the newly-formed Minnesota Poultry Improvement board, about 200 people, representing organizations from every section of the county, attended a party at Litchfield. Talks were given by a number of leading farmers and others, including the new county agent, R. H. Steidl. J. H. Lawrence, president of the Meeker county farm bureau, presented Mr. Dyer with a traveling bag on behalf of those present, Mr. Dyer responding with a talk. Following a social time, lunch was served.

### New F. & H. Week Film

A new film strip illustrating activities of Farmers' and Homemakers' Week has been prepared and is ready for use. County and home demonstration agents are urged to make use of this in interesting local people and letting them know about this big event. W. A. Billings worked on the film strip this year and has succeeded in making a real improvement over those prepared in the past. The strip may be secured on application to J. F. Kuehn, assistant to the director.

### Murray County Avers That Weeds Must Go

MURRAY county was one of a number to organize a strong weed control program last spring. The organization was accomplished early in 1931 prior to seeding. A thoroughly organized project was set up including the county agent, county commissioners, weed inspectors and minute men, explains Ralph F. Crim, extension agronomist. We have learned, he says, that the organization has been working hard during the season. They have discovered a weed which has been in southwestern Minnesota for many years but which has been previously overlooked by farmers and extension workers. The weed referred to is commonly called creeping jenny (*Convolvulus arvensis*). It is commonly referred to as small morning glory, because it is much like the morning glory in appearance and behavior.

The chief reason that this weed is so objectionable and should be regarded as one of the serious noxious weeds is that it very frequently escapes attention. It is very persistent in its habits of growth, and its roots often go down 10 or 15 feet.

Representatives of the Minnesota agricultural experiment station and extension service met with the Murray county folks, October 12, to outline an eradication program which not only includes creeping jenny, but leafy spurge and other noxious weeds as well. At the conclusion of field meetings on several farms, a planning meeting was held in which a weed program was mapped out. The underlying fact considered in outlining the program was that it should be carried on as rapidly as possible and yet be within the means of the farmer operating the land, which meant that expensive methods could not be recognized.

The important methods of attack are indicated as follows:

1. Clean seed on every farm.
2. Cultural methods including tillage and suitable crops
3. Chemical methods
4. Experimental field trials

Under the first point, clean seed, it is recognized that most of the bad weeds have been brought in through seed. Clean seed is a preventive. The second would be tillage, fallow and smother crops in the proper combination. Third is the use of chemicals on small areas, including sodium chlorate and sulphocyanate. The latter is a new chemical which has given excellent results in trials by the Minnesota experiment station.

"Those outlining the program agree that it is not one that can be completed quickly and easily. It must be followed accurately and persistently, but we all have faith that it can be done," Mr. Crim says.

### Anderson Demonstrating Farm Meat Cutting

PHILIP A. ANDERSON of the animal husbandry division has been scheduled by the extension service for a series of meat cutting demonstrations in southern Minnesota counties during November and December. About 10 counties have applied for the work taking all the available dates. Mr. Anderson will spend a full day in each county and may conduct more than one demonstration in each.



### 4-H Achievement Good Way to Close Year

AN excellent way in which to close the year's 4-H club program is to hold an Achievement Day. The writer had the privilege of attending the achievement day program for Ramsey county, October 18.

The plan seemed so successful that it is given as a suggestive one. It was held in the fine gymnasium of the North St. Paul high school on the evening of October 18 with an attendance of more than 500 persons from every part of the county. The 21 organized clubs in the county were all represented.

One strong feature was the reports by representatives of each club. These were all good. Eight clubs reported 100 per cent completions, while the average for the entire county was given as 93 per cent. Another feature was a play contest among the district winners. The music during the evening was provided by the North St. Paul 4-H Band, and 4-H songs by the whole group. Special awards won at the county and State fairs were announced and presented. The distribution of county and State fair checks was done efficiently by handing to leaders of clubs, and took very little time. Generally this feature lays.

Congratulations on the past year's work and suggestions for the coming year were given by the county superintendent of schools, the president of the county fair, a member of the State Fair board, and representative business men. The program was in charge of the president of the Ramsey County 4-H Club Federation, Virginia Dose, assisted by the county agent, Robert Freeman, and the county club leader, Mrs. Clara Oberg.

### To Train 4-H Leaders

Six leader training meetings for 4-H adult and junior leaders will be held in Mower county the coming year. A committee from the leader group met recently with the home demonstration and county agents, and a member of the state club department, and planned the year's activities. At the October meeting, the completion of records was stressed, and plans made for the county achievement day, November 14.

### Get Junior Leaders Now

Getting new boys and girls interested in 4-H club work is an important job of the junior leader. Therefore boys and girls over 15 who have been in club work 2 years or more should be encouraged to enroll early for the junior leadership project so they might get busy and obtain new members for 1932. Having junior leaders enroll early will give a better chance for an early start with leader training meetings.

### How Many Counties On the Honor Roll?

COUNTY extension agents and 4-H club leaders will remember that an "Honor Roll" was established for all counties which, during 1931, were successful in securing 80 per cent or more completions on the 4-H club enrollment.

Ramsey, Washington, and Douglas are the first names on this roll of honor.

What county will be next?

### County 4-H Programs To Be Given Over KSTP

A NEW plan will be tried for the state 4-H club radio programs over KSTP. Beginning October 31, each program will be given by one county. The program will be in charge of a member of the state 4-H office. An effort will be made to vary the programs as much as possible so as to make them interesting. The length of the period is 20 minutes, from 12:30 to 12:50 p.m., each Saturday.

It is suggested that good features for these programs would be brief talks, not over 4 minutes each, by county extension agents, a club boy, a club girl, or by a local leader; songs or special instrumental music, demonstrations, playlets, etc.

All parts should be carefully prepared, and always given from manuscript. Every county giving one of these programs should take pride in presenting the best program possible. Counties wishing to take a date are asked to write the state club office, giving date preferred. The plan is to make out the entire program until June 1, 1932, as soon as possible.

### 4-H Junior Leadership Members Number 800

THE junior leadership project is one of the most important in the entire list of projects. The enrollment this year is above 800.

Two hundred and twenty-four excellent leadership reports were exhibited at the State Fair. Helen Christensen, Martin county, Harvey Kuchenbecker, Steele, Otto Walberg, East Polk, Evie Atwood, Carlton, and Helen Burfield, Houston, were awarded educational trips to the National Club Congress because of their excellent records.

Among those whose reports have come in after the State Fair, six others will be selected for Chicago trips. The following is the list of counties with the number of leadership reports received from each for the State Fair: Aitkin 1, Beltrami 3, Blue Earth 1, Brown 1, Crow Wing 2, Faribault 2, Fillmore 14, Goodhue 2, Carlton 1, Clay 1, Hennepin 7, Houston 21, Lac qui Parle 6, Mahanomen 1,

Martin 1, Mille Lacs 1, Nicollet 2, Nobles 6, Norman 7, Olmsted 2, E. Ottertail 2, W. Ottertail 8, Pine 1, Pipestone 1, W. Polk 5, E. Polk 7, Pope 1, Ramsey 7, Renville 1, Rock 2, Roseau 2, Scott 17, Steele 3, Todd 4, Traverse 3, Wadena 4, Washington 1, Watonwan 7, Wilkin 3, Winona 1, Wright 1.

### 'Farmer' Medals for 4-H Potato, Corn Winners

COUNTY agents and leaders are urged to check up the corn and potato projects before December 1. The publishers of *The Farmer* are providing beautiful medals for the winners on the following basis:

Counties having five or more corn club members will receive one of these medals for the county winner. Counties with 10 or more potato members will receive a medal for the county winner.

Trips to the National Club Congress are awarded state winners in each project.

### Health Contest Essay Prizes Announced

A SPECIAL essay contest was conducted for the county health champions taking part in the health contest at the State Fair. Each one was asked to write a story on the visit to the headquarters of the Minnesota Public Health association. Separate prizes were offered for boys and girls. The educational director of this association has just reported the awards, which are as follows:

First—Bernice Olson, Fulda (play ball) and Ellsworth Ewy, Westbrook (baseball and bat).

Second—Marie Hoffman, Caledonia (flashlight), and Clint Peterson, Kinbrae (flashlight)

Third—Rosemary Hoffman, R. 4, Mankato (first aid kit), and Stuart Dumanson, Bryan (first aid kit).

The health work will be continued as one of the strong features of the 1932 program.

### Who Has Largest 4-H Poultry Club?

Freeborn county lays claim to the largest 4-H poultry club in the world, at least until their right to this title is disproven. County Agent Willis Lawson and Home Demonstration Agent Therese Pfaender report 330 poultry club enrollments in Freeborn in 1931, and that 87 per cent completed.

The foregoing statement was submitted by W. D. Stegner, district 4-H club agent. Any other county, in or out of Minnesota, that can top this record is urged to write the Extension News editor.

### More Home Partnerships

Club members of Murray county who have passed the regular 4-H Club age are being assisted in forming partnerships with their parents by C. H. Schrader, county agent. About 20 boys have started in this work. A number will carry the advanced beef and sheep projects as their share in the family partnership. The group plans to hold three meetings during the coming year.

### Minnesota 4-H'ers at National Dairy Show

MINNESOTA maintained a high standard in both exhibits and demonstrations in the recent National Dairy Show at St. Louis.

The two dairy demonstration teams both received second places. The poultry team was awarded eighth place. On their three groups of club dairy calves the Gophers received third on herd of Guernseys, fourth on Brown Swiss, and fifth on Holsteins. The following individual prizes were won: Holsteins—two seconds, one fifth and one tenth; Guernseys—two thirds, one seventh and one twelfth; and Brown Swiss—one fifth, one eighth and one ninth.

In the showmanship contest, Irma Reineke, Rice county, was awarded first. Helen Johnson, Olmsted county, was selected as the most typical 4-H club girl among all the 4-H girl exhibitors and demonstrators at the National Dairy Show.

In the national essay contest on the subject, "My Trip Through A Dairy Plant," Alvar Nelson of St. Louis county was awarded second. The dairy judging team won twelfth with 21 teams competing, Harold Arneson receiving second on Jerseys.

Fifty-five 4-H boys and girls were given the trip, the largest club group that has ever attended this event, and the largest from any state.

It is suggested that county agents and club leaders who had representatives to the National Dairy Show have them tell about their trip at club meetings and other events during the fall, and that brief trip reports be given to local newspapers.

### 50 Minnesota 4-H'ers To National Congress

MINNESOTA will be represented with a full quota of 50 4-H boys and girls at Chicago for the National Club Congress held during the International Live Stock Exposition, November 28 to December 5.

The following will take part in national competitions at the Congress: Milton and Virgil Lyndgaard and Arnold Kruse, Lincoln county, in the general livestock judging contest; Clint Peterson, Nobles county, and Bernice Olson, Murray county, in the health contest; Helen Miller, Rice county, in the canning contest; Roger Sundgard, Ramsey county, Lloyd Flint, Kittson, and Gordon Sundby, West Ottertail, in the crops judging contest; Lila Todnem, Lyon, in the style revue; Ruth Lohman, Goodhue, room furnishing, and Martin, Winona, Hennepin, and Fillmore counties with exhibits.

Helen Christensen, Martin county, and Harvey Kuchenbecker, Steele county, will represent Minnesota at the Moses leadership contest.

### Start 1932 Program Now

Pipestone, Mower and Fillmore counties report having already outlined their programs of work for the coming year. Plans include a definite time for securing enrollments and leaders. A number of leader training meetings have been planned for each county, with a definite and timely discussion for each.

This is an excellent plan and it is hoped that all counties will organize the new year's program early.

**R. C. Shaw Is New Agent In Koochiching**

R. C. SHAW, agent in E. Ottertail for the past 9 years, has moved to International Falls as agent in Koochiching, succeeding R. J. Bibelhausen. Mr. Shaw took up his new duties October 27. It is understood that on account of schooling the children, his family may remain at Henning for some time yet.

Mr. Bibelhausen, on advice of his doctor, has gone to the home of his parents in Wisconsin for some time. He did not enter the automobile business as it was formerly announced he intended and his plans for the future have not been made known.

**Christmas Gifts Helped Annual F. B. Meetings**

AMONG the outstanding annual county farm bureau meetings held last year were those in Hennepin and W. Polk. Ideas from these meetings may be of interest to other counties working on programs for this year.

At the Hennepin meet, everyone present was registered for participation in a drawing for farm bureau Christmas packages. The regular reports were all gotten out of the way in the forenoon. From lunch up to 2 p.m. came a program of old-time dancing, with music furnished by 4-H club musicians.

The afternoon program included a recognition ceremony for leaders of 4-H clubs. Certificates of recognition were also later sent by mail to these 50 men and women, as well as to 39 home project leaders. These certificates, signed by the president of the county farm bureau, read: "Certificate of Recognition Awarded by the Hennepin County Farm Bureau to (Name) for community service as local leader of the . . . . . Project, Agricultural Division, University of Minnesota, and Hennepin County Farm Bureau Co-operating." The certificates were printed on white paper, roughly 5.5 by 7 inches.

Another high light of the afternoon program was a series of nine 3-minute talks on "Why I Believe in the Farm Bureau." These talks took the form of an "I'll tell 'em" prize contest. Other features included a recognition of the "old guard"—farm bureau members who had paid dues for 10 or more years, and a welcome and initiatory talk to new members by A. G. Mereness.

Community singing and musical numbers were introduced frequently throughout the day. The announcement of speaking contest winners and the drawing of Christmas packages came just before closing.

W. Polk also used the Christmas package idea, calling the occasion an annual farm bureau meeting and Christmas party. The program was in the afternoon only, 1 to 4:30. Everyone registered for the gift drawing which came at 4, following the singing of some Christmas carols. "Santa Claus" handed out the gifts as they were drawn. Included in about 50 prizes were several bushels of Marquillo wheat, Anthony oats, and Glabron barley contributed by premier seedsmen of the county. Other gifts included a sack of flour and other merchandise, as well as candy for the young folks.

Several additional gifts were pre-

sented for amusement. For example, one man farming largely with horses was given a toy horse, another who was a tractor addict was handed a toy tractor, while a third reputed to have killed three deer that fall was presented with a toy gun.

A. W. Aamodt, agent in charge,

said, "This part of the annual meeting seemed to add a lot of interest; at least it helped considerably to increase the attendance. It looks as though next year we will have to secure larger quarters if we carry on the Christmas party with the same idea in mind."

**Farm Economics**

Conducted by W. L. Cavert

**Dairy Feeds Are Cheap**

In September of this year, 100 pounds of butterfat would buy more pounds of corn, oats or bran than at any time since 1921, the year of the big drop in prices immediately following the war period. In the case of oilmeal, the 100 pounds of butterfat will buy more than at any time for a longer period.

In Table I is found the bushels of corn or oats that could be purchased with 100 pounds of butterfat in each September beginning with 1921.

Year	Price butterfat (cents)	Bushe's 100 lbs. butterfat would buy in September	
		Oats	Corn
1921	39	177	103
1922	35	146	72
1923	43	143	62
1924	38	95	37
1925	44	142	52
1926	43	139	63
1927	45	118	53
1928	49	158	60
1929	47	121	56
1930	40	138	50
1931	29	171	79

In each case, the data are based on prices received by Minnesota farmers, as reported by the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

In September, 1931, 100 pounds of butterfat would buy 171 bushels of oats, compared with an average of 135 bushels in the Septembers of the years 1926-1930. In the case of corn, 100 pounds of fat would buy 79 bushels, compared to 56 bushels in the five preceding Septembers.

In Table II is found the hundredweights of linseed oilmeal or wheat bran that 100 pounds of butterfat would purchase in each September beginning with 1921.

Year	Hundredweights 100 lbs. butterfat would purchase in September	
	Oilmeal	Wheat bran
1921	18.2	60.0
1922	16.2	41.5
1923	16.5	39.9
1924	15.8	38.3
1925	18.4	40.0
1926	18.0	37.8
1927	18.2	41.9
1928	19.7	38.5
1929	15.8	32.2
1930	17.5	37.4
1931	22.5	51.8

The data on linseed oilmeal and wheat bran are average monthly quotations at Minneapolis. The comparison would not be so favorable, if based on prices that farmers pay at local points. However, the relative number of hundredweights that 100 pounds of butterfat would purchase in each year gives a good picture of the fact that at present bran and oilmeal are very cheap as compared to butterfat.

During October, butterfat sold at 32 to 35.5 cents as compared with 29 in September, so that the spread be-

tween butterfat and feed prices was greater in October than September.

Some farmers have told extension workers that they could not afford to buy protein supplements for their dairy herds this year. The foregoing figures indicate that there is more than the usual advantage in so doing. In addition, in some sections there is more need for them than usual due to the fact that the hay shortage is being met by increased use of shredded fodder and other low-grade roughages.

The foregoing figures all lead to the conclusion that under present conditions it pays much better than usual to feed cows a liberal grain ration and to use in the ration as much of the high protein concentrates as are necessary to give an adequate protein content.

**Chart Aids Planning Of Cropping Program**

A CHART containing the following figures has been used in farm management meetings in southeastern Minnesota and usually arouses vigorous discussion:

	Bushels or tons	Lbs. digestible nutrients per acre	Pct. protein in digestible nutrients	Cost per acre	Cost per cwt. digestible nutrients
Oats	43.8	987	13.8	\$16.21	\$1.64
Barley	32.1	1224	11.4	15.74	1.29
Corn	41.6	1904	8.7	22.20	1.16
Corn silage	7	2752	6.3	28.02	1.02
Wild hay	1.1	1060	6.2	10.31	.97
Corn fodder	3	2886	7.7	21.10	.73
Timothy and clover	1.5	1467	5.7	10.61	.72
Clover	1.8	1775	10.3	11.71	.66
Clover	2	1984	14.9	12.81	.65
Alfalfa	3	3060	21.0	17.37	.57

Yields are 10-year averages for southeastern Minnesota; costs are based on Steele county data reported in Bulletin 44; amounts of digestible nutrients are based on Table 4 of Bulletin 218, "Feeding the Dairy Cow."

Some of the points of discussion are: The low cost of nutrients in roughages, as compared to the grains; the economy of the corn plant over small grains; the low cost of nutrients in alfalfa or clover compared to corn silage.

It is obvious that one cannot organize a cropping system to best advantage, based only on high profit crops; nor can he feed to best advantage with only these crops. But the combination of crops containing the largest per cent. of high profit crops consistent with good farm operation and good feeding methods should be aimed at. It will be found worthwhile to study the chart both from the point of view of crop production and from that of feeding efficiency.

**New York Points Way To Idle Land Solution**

SUGGESTIONS for a state governmental policy with regard to an agricultural land problem such as Minnesota has, are contained in an editorial in the Washington News for June 9, which says:

Upwards of 100,000,000 acres of former virgin forest and farm land in the United States has come limping back into public ownership in the past few years as the result of tax-delinquencies . . . bring with it new burdens to counties and states. . . . Far more alarming than the immediate losses in taxable property are the losses in spiritual values following the impoverishment of whole countrysides, the dispossession of thousands of once-happy farmer folk, the abandonment of rural schools, the steady trek of country people from the land they loved to over-crowded cities. Toward this rather tragic situation the States generally are apathetic.

"An exception is New York, where Governor Roosevelt has begun an intelligent program to put the idle lands to work and halt the processes of making more acres idle. New York's '10 year plan' is now well under way. It contemplates, first, a survey of every acre of farm land in the State to determine its best economic utility; next, the planting to forests of the idle and sub-marginal 'farms'; and finally, creation of a new class of New Yorkers who are neither rural nor urban but both. This is to be brought about by encouraging small factories to locate in the country to give winter work to farmers' families and country life to factory workers. . . . New York's example should be an inspiration to other states. . ."

**What "Going Off the Gold Standard" Means**

ONE extension worker asks what it meant when it is said that "England goes off the gold standard."

The essence of the gold standard is the ability to exchange paper money for gold. Gold in the United States has a fixed price of \$20.67 per ounce. Until recently it had an equivalent value in Great Britain. A mining corporation can exchange its gold for dollars at this ratio at the mint. When a country goes off the gold standard, it means that it is no longer giving out gold in exchange for paper money.

When a country is on a paper basis, the value of its currency depends on the confidence that the public has that the paper eventually can be redeemed in metallic money. Since England went off the gold standard the value of the English pound seems to have been stabilized at about \$3.00 as compared with the old par of \$4.86.

This means that prices of import articles in Great Britain rise at once, and it takes more of the depreciated British pounds to buy the same quantity of wheat, cotton, wool or other commodities. The prices of articles produced within the country rise more slowly, but none the less surely. As prices rise, wages and interest payments will buy less goods, so that the effect of going off the gold standard is to reduce real wages and the burden of the national and private debts.