

Minnesota Extension News

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No. 5

Farm Week Draws 1,866 And Interest Is High

WITH registration totaling 1,866, the 1932 Farmers' and Homemakers' Week was an outstanding success, the more so because of the adverse economic conditions. If anything, interest in class work and in the various special meetings held at Farmers' Week was even stronger than usual. Each division had strained every resource to put on programs of the most practical and immediate benefit. The registration was only 194 less than the 1931 short course, one of the largest ever held.

Three hundred and eighty-seven guests jammed the dining hall for the Friday night supper, the largest crowd ever attending one of these annual events. One reason was the Master Farmer recognition held in connection with the supper.

County and home demonstration agents, as usual, played a big part in boosting the attendance. Good-sized delegations were brought in again this year from St. Louis county, under the leadership of S. H. Rutford and Florence Lang, and from Houston county, led by H. O. Anderson. The St. Louis county delegation had a chartered bus. Jay Seymour, high school agriculture instructor, also led a delegation of 15 from the Plainview Farmers' Club. County Agent Eugene Stower of Sherburne county, commuted daily, bringing a new group in his car each trip. Many other agents brought delegations or encouraged local farm people to attend.

Firmage Quits Extension To Teach at Le Center

HUGH W. FIRMAGE has resigned as county agent in Le Sueur county to become high school agriculturist at Le Center, succeeding B. B. Zimmerman who plans to take up turkey raising on an Iowa farm. The change was to take effect February 5.

As this was written, Mr. Firmage's successor had not been selected. Mr. Firmage went to Le Sueur county June 1, 1930, and has re-established the extension work on a firm basis. An illustration is the fact that last year he had 289 club members, carrying 516 projects, of which 85 per cent finished as compared with 50 per cent the previous year. Fourteen organized clubs have been formed, one in each township. Fifteen groups in 10 townships carried the home project in nutrition. Outstanding work in several other lines has been carried on, making up a strong extension program, and Minnesota extensioners regret to see Mr. Firmage leave the work.

Before coming to Minnesota, Mr. Firmage was high school agriculture teacher at Osceola, Wisconsin, for 3 years. He is a native of Lyon county, the son of one of Minnesota's master farmers, and was graduated from the Minnesota Agricultural College in 1927.

Coming Events*

February 8-12, 1932—Red River Valley Winter Shows, Crookston
February 9-10, 1932—Annual Meeting, Central Co-operative Ass'n, Lowry Hotel, St. Paul
February 10-11, 1932—Land Management Short Course
February 25-26, 1932—Farm Buildings Short Course
March 10-11, 1932—Annual Meeting, Land O'Lakes Creameries, Inc., Minneapolis
March 23-25, 1932—Horticulture Short Course
September 3-10, 1932—Minnesota State Fair
October 24-28, 1932—Annual Extension Conference
October 26-29, 1932—American Country Life Conference

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

Morgan to North Dakota, McCamus Is Successor

RUSSELL C. MORGAN, county agent in East Polk since December, 1929, will leave February 15. He will become county agent of Ramsey county, North Dakota, with headquarters at Devils Lake. Ronald McCamus, county agent in Lake of the Woods since November, 1927, will succeed Mr. Morgan in East Polk.

In an editorial in this issue Director Peck explains Mr. Morgan's reasons for leaving Minnesota and expresses the regret of the extension division at his departure. Morgan was graduated from the Minnesota Agricultural College in March, 1929, where he made a splendid record in his classes and student activities. April 1, 1929, he went to Winona county as assistant agent in training. There, as well as in East Polk county, he thoroughly demonstrated his outstanding ability as a county agent.

Mr. McCamus, who has a splendid record of service in Lake of the Woods county, was graduated from the Minnesota College of Agriculture in March, 1927. For 7 months he served as 4-H club leader in Isanti county. For his work in Lake of the Woods county, "Mac" is credited with an excellent record in promoting 4-H club work, increasing the county's alfalfa acreage, helping to promote land clearing, improving the grade of dairy cows, introducing a large number of purebred bulls, assisting with the completion of the area T.B. test of all cattle, promoting lamb production, and many other projects.

Extensioners to Confer At County Life Meet

DIRECTOR F. W. PECK announces that the annual State Extension Conference will be held at University Farm in connection with the American Country Life Conference, the week beginning October 24. It is hoped that a large group of extension workers from nearby states will be present for these events. This will be an unusually fine opportunity for Minnesota extension workers to secure new ideas and get fresh inspiration for their work in rural development. One of the six forums on the Country Life Conference program will deal especially with extension problems. About 1,000 delegates from all over the United States are expected at the conference.

State Fair Sets Up New Fat Lamb, Pig Classes

ANNOUNCEMENT is made, following a conference between C. F. Jenness, St. Paul Union Stockyards company, and H. A. Derenthal, Wykoff, member of the State Fair Board, that a new departure at the 1932 State Fair will be an exhibit of market barrows and fat wether lambs. The co-operation and financial assistance of the South St. Paul marketing interests make possible the establishment of these classes. The exhibits, which will show the types of hogs and lambs that bring the best prices on the South St. Paul market, will be of special attraction and educational value to farmers. Approximately \$1,200 will be offered in the various classifications and lots.

Friday of Fair week, the exhibits in these classes, both hogs and lambs, will be transported from the Fair grounds to the South St. Paul stockyards and sold at auction. The entries are open to the entire states of Minnesota and North Dakota, and 16 western counties in Wisconsin, and the counties in the north one-third of South Dakota.

Curran in Hennepin

James M. Curran began January 1 as assistant agricultural agent in Hennepin county, where he will assist K. A. Kirkpatrick for three months or longer. Mr. Curran is being trained in the general phases of county agent work, but because of his specialized college training in agronomy, he has been given a big part in the farm crops and weed work. Previous to coming to Hennepin county, Mr. Curran served a three months' assistantship in Fillmore. Prior to that, he had been assistant extension farm crops specialist and a graduate student at University Farm.

H.D. Conference Cancelled

Miss Julia O. Newton, state home demonstration leader, announces the calling off of the annual State Home Demonstration Conference, scheduled for February 29 to March 5, 1932. The economic depression, which would make it difficult for many of the counties to send their home chairmen, was given as the principal reason. It was also felt that the pressure of emergency work would make it more difficult than usual for county home demonstration agents to attend.

Potato Week Boosts Home Market Outlook

PROSPECTS for an increased home market for Minnesota potatoes received a big boom from the first Minnesota Potato Week, January 24 to 30. Governor Olson's proclamation setting aside the week and calling attention to the importance of a greater local market for the state's potatoes received wide publicity from the daily and weekly press, in both the news and editorial columns.

Several radio talks were given over stations WCCO, KSTP, KGFK—Moorhead, and WEBC—Duluth. A. H. Frick, Itasca county agent, participated in the first of these broadcasts over WCCO, January 26; other speakers included R. F. Hall, director of produce markets, Minnesota Department of Agriculture; Commissioner R. A. Trovatten; and A. G. Tolaas, in charge of seed potato certification, University Farm. A new Minnesota potato song, by one of America's leading composers, was introduced at the Minneapolis Auto Show and also put on the air.

Stores Stress Gopher Spuds

The quality of Minnesota potatoes and the importance of this crop also was stressed at the numerous local programs throughout the state. Stores gave special emphasis to the exhibit and sale of Minnesota potatoes. One outstanding bit of advertising was the furnishing by the St. Louis County Club of Arrowhead brand potatoes from that county for the annual Farmers' and Homemakers' supper at University Farm, January 22.

The extension division will co-operate throughout the winter and spring by showing potato growers how to grade their stock. County agents have received information from R. A. Trovatten, commissioner of agriculture, concerning the provisions of the new state potato law and how growers may take advantage of it.

Grading Meetings Popular

S. H. Rutford, South St. Louis county agent, stated that five potato grading meetings held in January had proved the most profitable series of extension meetings put on since he has been in the county. To test out interest, a publicity story in the Duluth papers advertised that a grading meeting would be held at the county agent's office. About 30 growers turned out, one coming 80 miles.

Following this manifestation of interest, five other meetings throughout the county were held with some 60 to 85 growers attending each. Each man was asked to bring 25 pounds of potatoes graded to the U. S. No. 1 specifications, and also 25 pounds of ungraded stock. About two-thirds of those present brought samples. George E. Hall, potato inspector, Duluth, assisted in conducting these meetings by checking the work of the growers and showing them how to grade properly.

The importance of careful handling naturally was brought out, and Mr. Rutford stated the interest shown in this phase was remarkable.

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FEBRUARY, 1932

Exceeding the most optimistic prediction as to the number who would attend the Farmers' and Homemakers' Week, the registration showed a remarkable interest on the part of rural people to attend worthwhile programs of vital concern to their welfare.

Over 1,800 registrations were recorded, and remarks were heard on all sides about the intense interest indicated by those attending. In addition to the numbers in attendance, a wholesome, relatively optimistic, attitude characterized the meetings and discussions that is significant in this time of depression.

To me, this exemplifies the courageous attitude of farm people to make the most of the existing condition and to make the good fight for such improvement as can be achieved by the use of knowledge, experience and incentive in their everyday problems.

Unless those of us in positions of responsibility strive to meet the demands illustrated by this attendance and the interest indicated, we will have missed a great opportunity to serve constructively and effectively those people looking to this institution for leadership, counsel and guidance. We should all feel tremendously heartened and encouraged by this demonstration of faith and confidence in the future of agriculture in Minnesota. It should serve to enthuse us with the spirit of service and a sincere desire to cooperate in every way possible in bringing about solutions to those practical everyday problems with which these fine people are especially concerned.

Those of us in the Extension Service may well catch some of this enthusiastic atmosphere left on the campus from last week and respond with constructive emphasis upon those portions of the program designed to meet present day adjustments in farm and home affairs.

The law of competition still operates. A neighboring state, North Dakota to be specific, had the resources in one of its good counties to make a strong appeal, with an appreciable increase in salary, to Russell Morgan, county agricultural agent in East Polk county.

In all of the conferences we have been holding with local county boards on this matter of reducing salaries of agents, or in many counties considering eliminating the service because it would at least sound as though it were reducing taxes, we have attempted to point out very definitely the danger of reducing salaries of good men because of competition in this field.

Time and time again we have been advised that there were no other jobs and that no counties could afford to pay the salaries some of the agents were receiving. Here is a very good case in point. This salary was reduced to such a point that Mr. Morgan felt justified in accepting a place in another state, wholly because of salary differences.

It will require years of patient rebuilding if we continue to lose our agents in this time of economic distress when all the emphasis is placed on reduction of salaries. When the upswing comes, as come it will, it will be much more difficult to raise salaries than it is to lower them. In the meantime we run the very grave risk of depleting our ranks, of lowering our morale, of destroying the confidence in the values of county extension work, and will lose thereby a good deal of the progress made in the last 15 years.

We all sincerely regret seeing Mr. Morgan leave the state.

Home Management Shows Marked Gains in 1931

SUMMARY figures for home management in 1931 afford some interesting comparisons with those of 1930.

	1930	1931
Counties	8	8
Groups enrolled	314	382
Enrollments	2,041	2,885
Members reporting	93%	95.5%
Others helped	9,530	6,340
Practices adopted	34,204	54,957
Members keeping note books	90%	95%

All of the figures for 1931 are somewhat higher with the exception of "others helped." The reason for this, Miss Mary May Miller explains, is that a special point was made last year to count as "helped" only those outside of group members who were definitely known to have made improvements and reported same. In 1930 the report included all those to whom group members had passed on ideas, but the member did not know whether the practices were carried out or not. Therefore the 6,340 reported as helped in 1931 are definitely known to have adopted some of the practices.

The eight counties which carried the home management project during 1931 are Freeborn, Stevens, Winona, Renville, Morrison, Jackson, Meeker, and Lac qui Parle.

Township Tax Meetings

Under the direction of the county extension service, Washington county will conduct a county-wide tax educational program. A county-wide tax committee has been formed and will arrange meetings in every township, at which various county leaders, including the county agent and county auditor, will discuss the tax situation from all angles.

Mail Testing Growing In Favor and Numbers

MINNESOTA Statewide Cow-Testing association directors held their annual meeting, January 22, at University Farm. Dr. C. H. Eckles was re-elected president for the coming year and Axel Hanson, manager of the purebred sire campaign of the Minneapolis Tribune, was elected secretary. H. R. Searles, extension dairyman, who is in charge of the project, reported on the year's activities. Four hundred and twenty herds were tested in December, a gain of 376 herds over December a year ago.

Mr. Searles reported that a good percentage of the men who started early last year had completed. Of 38 herds starting in November 1931, 31 completed the year. Of the 48 starting in January 1931, 47 completed. He reported further that about 80 per cent of the men completing the year are continuing.

There are about 440 members in 41 counties of the state, 1 in Iowa and 3 in Wisconsin. Creameries making deductions at present number 116. Counties having the largest number of men testing the first of the year were Freeborn with 108; McLeod with 65; Cottonwood with 47; Steele with 43, and Pine with 34.

The soliciting of members by canvass has been discontinued. Not only was it expensive, but a large percentage of the men so secured discontinued under the discouraging dairy conditions. Last November, members testing were offered one month's free test for each new member secured, credit to be given after the new number had tested 6 months. This has brought a very nice response. Up to January 1, 22 men had been given credit for 66 new members. Mr. Searles stated that the response from those testing shows that this form of testing is filling a real need and justifies looking forward to a steady growth.

The testing laboratory and office equipment are the most up to date in the country and afford facilities for testing a much larger number of herds. The Statewide has been paying operating costs and has been on a self supporting basis since last March.

Chick Sanitation Work Begun in 8 Counties

REDUCED losses in chicks and better pullets next fall is the object of the chick sanitation project, which will be conducted in eight counties the coming season.

About 125 co-operators are being secured in each county. They will raise their chicks on clean ground away from old stock to avoid contamination from coccidiosis and worms. In the fall, they will dispose of all old birds, or keep old and young separate in a well-cleaned and disinfected poultry house, as a further protection against tuberculosis. Twenty-five in each county will receive two visits from Miss Cora Cooke, extension poultry specialist. These 25 will furnish complete cost records at the end of the season. Meetings for those taking part in the project will be held at the demonstration farms. News letters, twice each month, will offer suggestions for improving management. Counties taking the project are Blue Earth, Faribault, Freeborn, Hennepin, Itasca, Rice, Steele, and Wilkin.

Big Enrollments Mark 1931 Clothing Projects

THE outstanding feature of clothing project work for 1931 was the large number reached in four counties having home demonstration agents. Forty-eight groups, totaling 624 women, were reached in Mower County. Completing the series of five lessons were 603 women, 96 per cent of all who enrolled.

Faribault county reported 506 women completing, or 94 per cent of all enrolled. Homes reached were 2,317, or 44 per cent of all the homes in the county. Estimated savings on garments by group members exceeded \$5,200.

In Itasca, 397 women enrolled and 369, or 93 per cent finished. With the 2,109 others helped by group members, the project reached more than 2,500 women.

Rice county completed Clothing II with 314 women enrolled and 311 finishing. This was a 99 per cent completion, the highest percentage ever achieved in the clothing project in Minnesota. More than 1,900 Rice county homes received help.

Clothing work also was conducted in 13 other counties under the supervision of the county agricultural agents. In these counties the specialists, Miss M. Lois Reid and Miss Eves E. Whitfield, gave all of the leader training work, so that the number was necessarily smaller. These counties included: Clearwater, Cottonwood, East Polk, Martin, Koochiching, Kittson, Lake of the Woods, Roseau and Washington.

In all 17 counties, 4,748 women were enrolled of which 92 per cent completed. These women passed on some help to 20,450 others, making a total of 24,228 persons during the year adopting better practices with regard to selection and construction of clothing.

Hands 'Question' Folder To County Editors

NEWSPAPERS being the principal factor in public opinion, it is apparent that, of all people, editors should be especially considered when it is desired to clear up any public misunderstanding. K. A. Kirkpatrick, Hennepin county agent, evidently appreciates this fact as shown by what he did with the new Extension Folder No. 34, dealing with questions and answers on agricultural extension work. In one of his weekly news letters, Mr. Kirkpatrick included the following note to editors: "There is handed you herewith a copy of Folder No. 34, dealing with the question of County Agricultural Extension Work. At the present time, according to the belief of the Extension Division, University Farm, many rural people do not know and do not appreciate the significance and the economy involved in this fine rural movement. This is particularly true when certain groups in our commonwealth and elsewhere are making a determined attempt to throw the movement into politics, or to hurt it by statements of half-truths regarding it."

"Any question that may arise from your casual reading of this circular, that has to do with any feature of the work in Hennepin county, will be gladly answered by a personal letter, by conference, or by securing for you 'An authoritative information based on records.'"



Important Changes in 4-H Club Rules for 1932

1. **Cake Project**—
 - a) Elementary Requirements—12 butter cakes and 12 bakings of drop cookies.
 - b) Advanced Requirements—18 butter cakes, 8 sponge cakes and 12 bakings of rolled out cookies.
2. **Canning**—
 - a) Four canning demonstration teams, regardless of whether Class A or B, will be selected from each of the four districts for competition at the State Fair. Selection of the State Fair teams will be made at the time of the sub-district contest. Two jars of canned products are to be exhibited by teams at the sub-district contest.
 - b) Each county having an enrollment of at least 15 canning club members may send its best individual canning demonstrator to the State Fair providing there are at least five taking part in the final county contest.
 - c) Each canning club member selected for a trip to the State Fair (whether member of team or individual) must exhibit six jars of canned products at the State Fair as follows:
 - First year canning—6 jars fruits (preferably different varieties) or 6 jars vegetables (preferably different varieties)
 - Second year canning—6 jars meats or 6 jars vegetables.
 - Third year canning—6 jars of food that might be used for an emergency dinner or hearty supper, with menu for meal.
3. **Baby Beef**—
 - a) Basis for representation to Junior Livestock Show:
 - 8 enrolled—1 representative
 - 10 enrolled—2 representatives
 - 12 enrolled—3 representatives
 - 14 enrolled—4 representatives
 - 16 enrolled—5 representatives
 - 18 enrolled—6 representatives
 - 20 enrolled—7 representatives
 - 25 enrolled—8 representatives
 - 30 enrolled—9 representatives
 If a county has three or more carrying the advanced beef project, feeding five or more heaves, one representative to Junior Livestock Show.
4. **Poultry**—
 - a) Basis of representation to Junior Livestock Show (there must be at least 30 enrolled in poultry project before county may have representation):
 - (1) One pen of market poultry to Junior Livestock Show provided at least 10 pens are exhibited at county show.
 - (2) One pen of breeding poultry to Junior Livestock Show provided at least 10 pens are exhibited at county show.
 - b) Poultry to be selected on following basis:
 - (1) Exhibit—quality, etc. (for market class include finish) 70
 - (2) Percentage of chicks reared 10
 - (3) Record and story 20
5. **Pig**—
 - a) Basis of representation to Junior Livestock Show:
 - 10 enrolled with barrows—1 representative.
 - 15 enrolled with barrows—2 representatives.
 - 50 enrolled with barrows—3 representatives.
 - b) Basis of representation to State Fair:
 - 10 enrolled with purebred gilts—1 representative.
6. **Sheep**

There will be a regular project for club members growing purebred sheep. However, club members competing for the State Fair trip cannot compete for the trip to the Junior Livestock Show the same year with the same lamb. Purebred lambs are eligible for competition at the Junior Livestock Show but must be enrolled in the market project.

 - a) Basis of representation to Junior Livestock Show:
 - 5 enrolled—1 representative.
 - 10 enrolled—2 representatives.
 - 15 enrolled—3 representatives.
 - 5 enrolled with purebred sheep—1 representative.

Purebred Livestock Must Be Registered in Name of Club Member

Registration papers for all purebred animals exhibited at the State Fair, must be filed with the superintendent of the 4-H livestock department not later than the opening day of the State Fair. The principle of ownership and management of project by the individual owner must be adhered to.

If funds can be raised for premiums, etc., a class for purebred beef heifers will be added at the State Fair.

Work with Older Boys and Girls

It is recommended that every agent should organize a few home partnerships for the older boys.

It was also recommended that this plan be carried on with home economics work for the older girls, in from four to six counties, directed by Miss Schenck and Miss Wessel.

Health Work

The health work should be made an important feature for 1932. It will be continued on the same plan as last year. A 5 month's record is to be required.

George Washington Club Program Suggested

THIS year, 1932, is the two hundredth anniversary of the birth of Washington. It is especially fitting that every 4-H club have a special program to honor his memory. Special program material for 4-H clubs may be had free by writing to the United States George Washington Bicentennial Commission, Washington, D. C.

Excellent material for a program of this kind was also contained in the community program service for February, prepared by S. B. Cleland and recently sent to county agents.

Suggested Program

- Roll Call—Each member respond with quotation or brief anecdote concerning Washington
- Song—"America, The Beautiful"
- Recitation—Washington's Birthday
- Songs—"Old Black Joe"; "Carry Me Back to Old Virginia"
- Talk—George Washington, Farmer
- Recitation (5 boys)—"I Would Tell"
- Talk—Martha Washington, Home-maker
- Song.

The program may be varied by adding one or more of the short plays provided by the commission.

Plant a Washington Tree

Every 4-H member is urged to plant a tree in memory of Washington. Each 4-H member, who plants a tree, will receive a beautiful certificate from the commission. Be sure to write the commission for its "Bicentennial Tree Planting Book."

Home Partnership Work Should Be Emphasized

THE development of partnerships between older boys and girls and their parents, in home and farm enterprises, has always been an important feature in 4-H work. This special feature, emphasized in a few counties, and directed by Mr. Stegner, has been a decided success.

Wouldn't it be a good plan for every county to develop a few of these home partnerships along the lines suggested in Mr. Stegner's bulletin? If each county would set a goal of five of these partnerships, the state would have more than 300 during 1932.

Girls' Home Partnerships

Miss Schenck and Miss Wessel are anxious to assist three or four counties to develop this feature along home economics lines.

Rock county has issued a very attractive 4-H club calendar accompanied by a cleverly-arranged club manual.

Music Study Suitable For 4-H Club Programs

"LEARNING to know America's music" is a good topic for 4-H club programs. If members are interested in doing something with the music appreciation work the following suggestions may help:

Select one or two well known pieces from the Indian music, negro spirituals, patriotic music, religious songs, country dances, the favorite American songs, or the favorite American composers for each meeting. The one in charge of the music part of the program could look up something about the author as well as about the piece being played. Tell and spell the author's name so that each member present will be able to remember. If this information is given before the piece is played the audience will be better able to enjoy it.

"By the Waters of Minnetonka" is a familiar piece to many Minnesota people. Thurlaw Lieurance, the author, spent many years among the Indians, studying their music. Each of his compositions of this type is built upon some bit of Indian music which he discovered and some Indian legend which he heard.

The composition tells the interesting old Omaha Indian legend of a young brave belonging to the Sun Tribe, and an Indian maid of the Moon Tribe who loved each other against the tribal law. Like other Indian lovers, the brave made up his own flute call and wooed his sweetheart by playing on his flageolet, made, possibly, from a hollow reed or from two pieces of the hollowed-out cedar, bound together. Tribal councils sentenced the lovers to separation, but to escape that torture they fled together to the shores of a beautiful lake, probably Lake Minnetonka. Then, hand in hand, they walked out and down beneath the tranquil waters of the lake, and so were united forever in the Happy Hunting Ground. By listening carefully you can hear the flutelike call of the Indian brave and also the rippling of the water on the shore of the lake as the piece is played.

Play the piece so that the audience can hear each note. This piece can be repeated as some later date with all the introduction. After playing the piece ask the audience for its name and the author.

Washburn-Crosby Offers Livestock Awards Again

THE Washburn-Crosby Company in 1932 will again provide three educational trips to the National Club Congress and a \$75 scholarship good in either the Schools or the College of Agriculture. These awards will go to 4-H members making the most outstanding records in livestock projects on a long-time basis. Winners will be selected at the 1932 Minnesota Junior Livestock Show.

Apply Now for 4-H Booths at State Fair

APPLICATIONS for 4-H club booths at the State Fair should be made now. Plan early in order to make the very best exhibit next September. Send your application to the 4-H club office at University Farm at once, if you plan such an exhibit. Only 15 booths are available, so applications will be accepted in the order received.

Reminders

Are your clubs holding meetings during the winter months? Stress the importance of well planned programs during this season.

Are you encouraging your clubs to send in a complete enrollment now?

If you have not already done so, February is a good month to start your demonstration teams in home economics, livestock and crops.

Have you checked over your club material to determine what your needs will be for the coming year?

Co. Dairy Improvement Groups Being Formed

ENCOURAGED by the splendid progress of the Goodhue county dairy improvement committee, several other counties are taking up the idea. H. R. Searles reports that the Freeborn County Livestock Breeders' association, meeting at Albert Lea January 13, appointed a committee to formulate a county dairy improvement committee. Dodge county took similar action on the fourteenth. Preliminary countywide meetings were arranged for Winona county on the twenty-eighth, for Steele on the twenty-ninth, for Dakota on February 2, and for Anoka on February 6. A number of other counties interested are planning meetings.

The Goodhue county dairy improvement committee grew out of a countywide meeting the evening of November 20, at Goodhue, called by M. A. Thorfinnson, county agent. H. R. Searles and Emil Boie of the Minneapolis Tribune, spoke. A committee was appointed to organize a permanent county dairy improvement group. Organization was completed on November 27 at the county agent's office. The permanent committee is made up of representatives from every farm bureau unit and community club in the county, from the commercial clubs, the county bankers' association, the creamery operators' association and the newspapers.

This permanent committee met for the first time, January 15, at Red Wing to formulate a program. August Lohman, Zumbrota, was named chairman. Mr. Thorfinnson, Mr. Searles and Mr. Boie were present. After a discussion of the problems facing dairymen of the county, subcommittees were appointed on eliminating low-producing cows, purebred sire promotion, disease control, dairy products quality improvement, and consumption of dairy products.

These subsidiary committees will meet with the county agent in the next few weeks and formulate a county program on their respective problems for the next meeting of the main committee, March 3, at Cannon Falls.

19 Carlton Co-operatives Unite for Education

FARM co-operation in Carlton county attained a high stage of development with the organization in December of the Carlton County Co-operative Federation, uniting 19 different farm organizations, representing more than 2,500 families, in a movement to promote education in co-operative buying and marketing.

One representative from each of the member organizations serves as a director in the new federation. County Agent George W. Chambers, who assisted in forming the federation, was also named a director, and his office was made the headquarters.

Mr. Chambers worked out a program of activity for the federation, which has been adopted by the program committee. The first open meeting of the federation was held at Moose Lake on January 14, with J. H. Hay as speaker.

Groups holding membership in the new federation include the Cloquet Co-operative Society; Cloquet Co-operative Women's Guild; Barnum Farmers' Co-operative Association; Barnum C-A-P Co-operative Oil Association;

Wrenshall Community; Kettle River Farmers' Co-operative Mercantile Association; Kettle River Co-operative Creamery; Cromwell Farmers' Co-operative Creamery Association; Cromwell Farmers' Co-operative Mercantile Association; Arrowhead Creamery; Trico Oil Association; Mahtowa Co-operative Creamery; Moose Lake Farmers' Co-operative Produce Company; Wright Farmers' Co-operative Store; Wright Farmers' Co-operative Creamery; Carlton County Livestock Shipping Association; Carlton County Farm Bureau; Carlton County Extension Service; and Carlton County Wool Growers' Association.

Seven More Counties To Adopt Weed Control

SEVEN additional counties in southern Minnesota—Martin, Faribault, Freeborn, Steele, Nicollet, Le Sueur, and Scott—plan to initiate the Redwood county plan of weed control in 1932, following a big meeting held at Mankato in January. Nine counties, Blue Earth and Rice in addition to those named above, attended this meeting which was called by the Blue Earth county board of commissioners. Twenty-two county commissioners, three county auditors, and nine county agents were present. The meeting began at 11 and lasted through the afternoon, with W. C. Minks, chairman of the Blue Earth commissioners, presiding.

The meeting called attention to the weed problem, outlined the Redwood county plan of control, and reviewed results secured last year in Blue Earth and Rice counties. Besides Mr. Minks, speakers included B. D. Hughes, Blue Earth county commissioner; L. E. McMillan, Blue Earth county agent; Harry Illsley, township chairman from Rice county; Harry A. Hass, Rice county agent; R. A. Trovatten, commissioner of agriculture; and C. P. Bull, special assistant to Mr. Trovatten.

At the meeting's close, spokesmen for the seven county groups of commissioners said they were favorable to initiating the weed control work in 1932.

Honor Roll Diplomas Turned Over to Agents

DIPLOMAS for 1,087 Minnesota dairymen who have their names inscribed on the Honor Roll of the National Dairy association for the fiscal year, 1930-31, have been mailed to county agents or testers.

Special attention has been called to a change in diploma, inaugurated for the first time this year. Herds are now classified in various ranges of production, subdivisions being made for each 50-pound increase in butterfat production above the 300-pound average. Formerly, diplomas bearing a red, blue or gold seal indicated the first, second or third time respectively, the dairyman had won this honor. With the new classification, a green seal on the diploma indicates a herd average of from 300- to 350-pounds of butterfat; an orange seal an average of from 350- to 400-pounds, and a red, blue or gold seal an average of 400-, 450- or 500-pounds, respectively. Each of the new diplomas is engraved to show the classification to which it belongs.

Agents or testers are responsible for distributing these certificates. Special dairy meetings, banquets or recognition assemblies might well be

held for presentation to dairymen who have achieved this honor. Where this cannot be carried out, other means must be taken, since the diploma rightfully belongs to the person to whom awarded, and should not be held indefinitely by the agent or tester, nor be forgotten, says Ramer Leighton of dairy herd improvement headquarters.

Peck to Speak

Director F. W. Peck will speak at the annual meeting of the Central Co-operative association. His topic, "Economic Signs of the Times."

Before W. L. Cavert left the WLB studio, February 1, a phone call for his speech was received.

Farm Economics

Conducted by W. L. Cavert

Warren of Cornell Suggests Adjustments

ACCORDING to Associated Press dispatches, the following are some of the suggestions for meeting the present situation offered by Dr. C. F. Warren, Cornell University, at a lecture January 7 in connection with the Nebraska Farmers' Week:

"Scientific research, agricultural extension teaching, the use of improved machinery, greater output per man," said he, "are not the causes of the depression, but are the major ways in which the depression can be met."

"Unless monetary changes are made that restore the collapsed prices," he said, "prosperity is not in sight."

He recommended these adjustments: "The farmer should not work land that does not give a high output per hour of labor. He should have a business large enough fully to employ all his time and that of his labor. He must get more bushels of grain and more pounds of milk per hour of labor. The chief ways of doing this are by obtaining more milk per cow, higher crop yields per acre, and by using labor more efficiently."

"Higher crop yields should be obtained by dropping out of use the fields that do not give high yields. Such fields may be used for pasture, or, if very poor, may be left idle. This often means renting, or buying all or part of an adjoining farm and working only the best land on both."

"More care in using good seed, attention to disease control, and the like are essential. Such changes mean more production per man, but mean fewer men and reduction in total agricultural production. How much reduction occurs depends on how many acres are thrown out of use or into lower classes of use."

"Labor saving plans are often more important than machinery."

"Since the primary difficulty at the present time is the discrepancy between producers' prices and consumers' prices, this is particularly severe on agriculture. Most manufacturers buy at wholesale prices which are low and sell at wholesale prices which are also low. But in general agriculture buys at retail prices which are high and sells at wholesale prices which are low."

It is particularly important that farmers attempt to get nearer to consumers before they sell and that they reach nearer to wholesalers in their buying, he emphasized. "Some farmers are so near cities that they can truck their products to the city, but for most farmers, the feasible way of doing these two things is through co-operative associations."

"If the government wishes to encourage co-operatives," said Dr. Warren, "it should encourage buying associations as well as selling associations."

Corn Prices Highest in Western Corn Belt

ACCORDING to December 15 farm price figures of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, corn prices in the western corn belt are decidedly higher than in the eastern corn belt. The following table shows the data for some of the leading corn states for December 15, 1931, compared with the 5-year average for that date:

State	December 15 1931	Av. 1925-29
Western Corn Belt		incl.
Minnesota	36 cents	60.6 cents
S. Dak.	40	59.8
Eastern Corn Belt		
Illinois	27	65.4
Indiana	26	63.2
Ohio	31	69.6

This year, the prices in Minnesota and South Dakota are substantially higher than in the eastern corn belt; for example, the Minnesota price is 9 cents above the Illinois price, but for the 5 years, 1925-29 inclusive, the Illinois price was 4.8 cents above the Minnesota price.

Usually, southwest Minnesota, southeast South Dakota and adjacent portions of Iowa and Nebraska have the cheapest corn in the United States. This year, these sections have the highest-priced corn of any region in the principal corn belt. As usual, the price of hogs in the western corn belt is somewhat below that in the eastern corn belt. For example, the December 15 hog price in Minnesota was \$3.40 compared with \$3.70 for Illinois.

It is quite evident that low hog prices, and corn prices at the farm that are about the same as those at Chicago, are making a hard situation for those Minnesota hog producers, who, because of a short crop, must buy corn. It is likely that this relatively high corn price will continue until 1932 grain is available. There is every reason to believe that in the future, as in the past, average corn crops will cause the surplus sections of Minnesota and adjacent sections of Iowa and South Dakota to have corn as cheap as anywhere in the United States.

Attends Outlook Meet

D. C. Dvoracek represented Minnesota at the annual National Agricultural Outlook Conference at Washington, D. C., January 25 to 29.

Approximately 45 economists were present representing 32 states. Mr. Dvoracek reported briefly on the conclusions of the conference at the state office staff meeting, Monday, February 1.

The state outlook report will be prepared as a basis for county meetings throughout the state.