

# The School of Agriculture News

Published Monthly by The School of Agriculture, University of Minnesota



Vol. XI, No. 8 | no. 1

University Farm, St. Paul, Minn.

October, 1934

## School of Agriculture Will Open Its Doors Monday Oct. 1, For Its Forty-sixth Year



### Ralph Miller To Head Y.M.C.A. Activities

Ralph E. Miller is the new Y.M.C.A. director of the School of Agriculture, coming from Ames, Ia., to fill the position held formerly by Jack Sleeper. His training and experience peculiarly fit him for his work at University Farm.

He lived on a farm in Iowa until he entered college at Iowa State, Ames. In high school he was active in 4-H work as a member of both the school and county judging teams.

During the fall of 1924, he was a member of a horticulture demonstration team which competed at the Midwest Horticulture show. He was also a member of the state dairy demonstration team and was awarded a free trip to the National Dairy Show where his team won the national demonstration contest.

Later, when Mr. Miller went to college, he was elected president of the Y.M.C.A., and on graduation received an offer to become associate secretary of the Iowa State College Y.M.C.A. with the privilege of carrying graduate work toward a Master's degree. He received his degree in rural sociology in 1933.

It is Mr. Miller's desire to be of help to students of the School; to work with them and for them. In an interview he said: "My message to the incoming students is that they become acquainted with the Y.M.C.A. program as soon as possible. Let us help you with some of the problems which you will have to face during your first year on the campus.

"We aim to encourage the living of a finer life through experiences shared together, helping each student in making him a part of the Y.M.C.A."

### WELCOME

PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS AND FORMER STUDENTS AT THE SCHOOL OF AGRICULTURE:

On Monday, October 1, the School of Agriculture opens for its forty-sixth year. I sincerely hope that all who wish to do so may find it possible to enroll here at the beginning of that term. We shall do all possible to help you. At present, many plans are under way to provide work for you whereby you can meet a part of your expenses.

Application blanks have been sent out to those who have requested help through student employment. They are being filled out and returned to us each day. If you have received one of them and have not yet sent it in to this office, do so at once in order that we may have every opportunity to provide help for you.

Even if you haven't enough money to meet all of your expenses for the year, do not hesitate to come. "Where there is a will there is a way" still holds true. Come along! We will figure out some way to carry on. These are your best years. Do not let them slide by.

As usual we have many interesting projects for our school year; band concert tours, quartet tours, basketball teams, debate, oratory and others. Dramatic productions will get under way as soon as the fall term opens. Students will try out and begin training for "The Messiah," which will be given at the Christmas assembly. The basketball team will begin training early. Prospects are for the best material we have had in years. Cross-country teams will begin training early. All classes will begin Tuesday, October 2.

On behalf of the faculty of the School, and personally, I say welcome.

Sincerely,

Superintendent

### Large Number of Students Expected to Attend

Now that the potatoes are in the cellar and the apples are made into apple butter, farm boys and girls from all parts of Minnesota will come to the School of Agriculture at University Farm, leaving the turkeys to fatten until Thanksgiving and the mince meat to wait for its crust.

October 1 the fall term of the School of Agriculture at University Farm, the oldest and largest school of its kind, will open its 46th year. Superintendent Christianson reports that over 500 students have made application to enroll.

The attendance of many of these, however, is contingent upon financial aid through student work. Superintendent Christianson says that every effort is being made to provide opportunities for needy and worthy students to work to pay part of their expenses. However, students enrolling for the first time should try to devote as much time as possible to their regular school program.

With practical courses suited to the needs and interests of farm young people, the School of Agriculture at University Farm is unique and significant in its service. Organized in 1888, it provides a specialized curriculum for young men and women who seek to live happily and richly in rural communities.

Superintendent Christianson explained and interpreted the School in speaking before the Farm Bureau Training School in Chicago: "The interest and activity and objective of the School of Agriculture is along the line of agriculture, of farming, and of agricultural organization. During the 46 years of the School of Agriculture's existence, over 19,000 young men and women have attended that institution, and 85 per cent of all who have completed the work are engaged in Agriculture.

"The School of Agriculture idea in education has always been to study life as it is, social, political, economic, and cultural, rather than to set up a world of thinking aside from the real. Our objective is to train young men and young women from the rural communities better to take their places as active citizens in those communities. We need to develop intelligent follow-ership as much as courageous and capable leadership."

The School of Agriculture is ready for its fall students.

### Fine Student Work Done on Summer Projects

Another successful season of summer project work is drawing to a close despite spring dust storms and severe summer droughts, project field men report.

When the School students returned to their farm homes in March, they left with knowledge and enthusiasms acquired through the fine cooperation of Superintendent J. O. Christianson and the rest of the faculty. What they had learned they were eager to put into practice through their project work.

Production projects this summer, however, tested the determinations of the students. In some cases three plantings were necessary to make a crop finally grow. Home improvement projects, dependent on seasonal fluctuations, also tested the calibre of each student. Lawns were hard to start the early part of the summer. Landscaping work was accomplished only with a great deal of attention and special care. But in spite of these handicaps some fine work was done this summer by project students.

Project supervisors, P. L. Johnsrud, Philip Swenson, and William H. Dankers, congratulate project students on finishing a successful summer.

### Omar Holland Killed In Auto Accident

Omar Holland, '31, of Pine City, was killed in an automobile accident September 2, when the automobile he was driving crashed into the rear of a load of silo lumber.

The news reached Mr. Christianson and other members of the School staff at the Alumni headquarters during Fair Week and was a tragedy bringing deep grief.

As a student in the School, Mr. Holland distinguished himself as a wholesome personality and a leader in extra-curricular activities. He was treasurer of the S.A.U.M. Literary; a member of the Y.M.C.A. Cabinet; freshman athletic manager, and member of the Glee Club and Dramatic Club.

The Pine County Pioneer wrote of Mr. Holland: "Omar Clayton, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Holland, was born January 25, 1909, at Farmington, Ia. Two years after his birth the family came to Pine County and settled on a farm north of Pokegama lake. Omar attended the country school there, later attended the Pine City High School and was graduated from the School of Agriculture of the State of Minnesota with the class of '31. He was a member of the double

quartette at that school, and in the early part of 1931 toured the state with that organization in behalf of the School. He was treasurer of the Pine County Alumni for three years.

"Surviving are his mother and father, three brothers and three sisters, Clarence W. of Mora, Wayne and Ivan at home, Mrs. Luella Christianson of St. Paul, and Eileen and Myrna Rose at home."





Left to right: Joe Shaw, P. L. Johnsrud, Ward Marshall, Harry Trelogan, Iver Johnson, Will M. Myers, William Dankers, Ludwig Sederberg, Richard Eldred

### Alumni Reunion in June Forerunner of Summer Reunions in Every Part of the State

These kittenball players may be good sports but they relish victory as indicated by clapping hands and smiling faces. The picture was taken June 16, at the first Aggie reunion of the season held at University Farm.

The program began with the kittenball game, followed with a picnic supper on the School grounds. More than 400 graduates, with friends, were present. Later in the evening an assembly program was given similar to those conducted three times a week for School students. From 250 to 300 alumni attended the assembly. The reunion ended with a School dance in the gymnasium.

It was a successful forerunner to many Aggie reunions held throughout the state this summer. From every part of Minnesota letters similar to the following came to us: "The Jackson County Aggie Alumni Association held its annual reunion at Lakefield City Park on August 26. The pro-

gram included a band concert, a group of selections by a Ladies' Quartet from Heron Lake, and an address by Superintendent J. O. Christianson. There was a kittenball game between the Petersburg and Okabena 4-H clubs. The program began after a picnic lunch."

If possible Superintendent Christianson, or a member of the School staff, attended each reunion. The School is proud of the loyalty of its alumni and hopes to increase, yearly, interest in reunions.

A late season reunion was the Faribault County Reunion held Sunday, September 23, at Blue Earth. Both Dr. Andrew Boss and Superintendent Christianson were on the program.

One of the final reunions of the year will be held Sunday, September 30, when the Ottertail County Alumni meeting will be held at Crystal Lida, eight miles east of Pelican Rapids.

### Christianson Featured At Farm Bureau Banquet

Superintendent Christianson gave approximately 75 speeches this summer. The peak of his speaking program for the season, however, was in August, when he was featured at the banquet of the Farm Bureau Training School in Chicago. His talk, "The School of Agriculture Idea in Agricultural Education," was enthusiastically received and has stimulated interest in the farm school plan.

Following the banquet he received invitations to speak at the annual meetings of the Farm Bureau organizations in Illinois, Ohio, Kansas, Michigan, and Missouri.

The Andrews Nursery at Faribault, owned by J. K. Andrews, '04, is one of the largest and most successful in the state. Mr. Andrews has 200 acres of raspberry bushes, 90 acres of orchard and more than 900 acres of nursery stock. Mrs. Andrews (Helen Dixon, '05) is president of the Nature Study Club of Faribault. She recently left for a three weeks' vacation in Boston.

Reuben Potter, '08, is actively engaged in buying and selling livestock.

He is also feeding a large number of sheep at Springfield.

Oliver Engene, '21, is employed in the Wilmington Creamery.

Frances Meyer, '26, was married to William Oitzman on June 28. They are making their home on William's farm.

Lora Fruechte, '27, is head nurse in the Caledonia Hospital.

Arnold Myhne, '29, is the owner of a hardware and repair shop in Spring Grove.

Lincoln Hamilton, '30, of Milaca, was married July 29 to Miss Florence Swanson.

Arthur Blomberg, '31, is working at the No. 2 Gluek Dairy Farm in St. Paul.

Barbara Hallquist, '31, Red Wing, is teaching at Hay Creek.

David Johnson, '32, is farming at Evansville with his brother.

Melvin Kulheim, '32, is assistant drought relief manager in Aitkin.

Mrs. Rhoda Kind, who was Mr. Christianson's secretary for three years, resigned in August to give all of her time to her home. Miss Margaret McEachern, who worked in the School office during the past school year, was promoted to Mrs. Kind's position.

## TENTATIVE SOCIAL PROGRAM Fall—1934

Oct. 1 Monday	Registration Day	
	Movie—David Harum	Aud. 8:00 p.m.
2 Tuesday	Boys' Dormitory Jamboree	
		Pendergast Hall 8:00 p.m.
	Girls' Get-Together	Girls' Dorm. 8:00 p.m.
3 Wednesday	Organization Meetings	
	Mens' Self Government Association	
		Aud. 8:00 p.m.
	Girls' Self Government Association	
		Girls' Dorm. 8:00 p.m.
4 Thursday	All Class Organization Meetings	12:10 p.m.
	Freshmen	Aud.
	Juniors	Band Room, Music Hall
	Seniors	301 Admin.
	Intermediates	105 Admin.
	Y.M.C.A. Fellowship Hour	301 Admin. 6:15 p.m.
	Y.W.C.A. Girl Reserves	
		Fireplace Room, Home Economics 6:15 p.m.
6 Saturday	Literary Organization Meetings	6:15 p.m.
	Owls	108 Old Dairy Hall
	S.A.U.M.	106 Engineering
	Y.M.-Y.W. Mixer	Gym. 8:00 p.m.
7 Sunday	Sunday Night Hour	Aud. 8:00 p.m.
	F.E.R.A. Symphony	
13 Saturday	Movie	Aud. 2 & 8 p.m.
20 Saturday	Movie	Aud. 2 & 8 p.m.
27 Saturday	All School Party	Gym. 8:00 p.m.
28 Sunday	Sunday Night Hour (Chinese Treasure Chest)	Aud. 7:30 p.m.
Nov. 3 Saturday	Movie	Aud. 2 & 8 p.m.
4 Sunday	Student Faculty Hour	Pendergast Hall 3-10 p.m.
10 Saturday	Special Armistice Assembly	Aud. 12:10 p.m.
	Movie	Aud. 2 & 8 p.m.
	Dramatic Production	Aud. 8:00 p.m.
17 Saturday	Movie	Aud. 2 & 8 p.m.
24 Saturday	Student-Faculty Hour	Girls' Dorm. 8-10 p.m.
25 Sunday	Thanksgiving Eve Ball	Gym. 8:00 p.m.
28 Wednesday	Thanksgiving Day—Holiday	
29 Thursday	Priscilla Parade	Dining Hall Morning
	Y.M. & Y.W. Party	7:30 p.m.
Dec. 1 Saturday	Movie	Aud. 2 & 8 p.m.
8 Saturday	(Entertainment to be announced)	
15 Saturday	Movie	Aud. 2 & 8 p.m.
19 Wednesday	Christmas Assembly	Aud. 7:30 p.m.
20 Thursday	Christmas Parties	Girls' Dorm. 6:00 p.m.
		Pendergast Hall 8:00 p.m.
21 Friday	Carol Singing	Early Morning
	School closes	Noon

### New Books Added To Dorm Libraries

New books for both the girls' and boys' dormitories have been purchased during the summer.

A few new titles in the boys' dormitory are: *Boys' Book of Newsreel Hunters*; Knapp, *Uncle Sam's Government at Washington*; De Kruijff, *Microbe Hunters*; Lawrence, *Bernt Balchen*; Harron, *Rockne*; Kipling's *Stories for Boys*; Doubleday, *Cattle Ranch to College*; Barry, *A Texas Ranger*; Brooks, *Big Emigrants*, and others equally as intriguing in title.

Titles suggestive of the complete new library in the girls' dormitory are: Evarts, *Tumbleweed*; Lull, *Blue Mountain*; Lovelace, *Early Candlelight*; McNeely, *Way to Glory*, Means, *Candle in the Mist*, Holton, *Blue Junk*, and many others.

Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth A. Larson of Fulda announce the birth of a daughter, Sylvia Joan, August 12. Mrs. Larson will be remembered as Esther Peters, '31.

Lloyd Madison of Slayton, a former student, is now manager of a grain elevator at Garvin, Minn.

### Dankers, Swenson Again Give Famous Debate

Again this summer the famous Christgau-Froker debate, "Does Agricultural Education Pay?" was given in a number of towns in the state by William Dankers and Philip Swenson.

This dramatic debate was originally written by Victor A. Christgau, '17, and Rudolph Froker, '21, two graduates who are now both holding distinctive positions. Rudolph Froker is a marketing specialist at the University of Wisconsin. Victor Christgau is Assistant Administrator of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration.

The debate today is essentially the same as when it was first written, except for changes made in bringing facts and figures up to date.

Several good movies have already been tentatively selected by Superintendent Christianson to be shown in the School auditorium. "David Harum," featuring Will Rogers, will be shown Monday night, October 1. "Change of Heart," with Janet Gaynor, will be presented at a later date. Harold Lloyd in "The Cat's Paw," and Shirley Temple in "Baby, Take a Bow," are being considered.

## Dean Coffey Describes Study of Drouth Effects in a Series of Interesting Letters

Dean W. C. Coffey, since he was asked by the Federal Government six months ago to become Regional Director of Drought Relief, has been one of the busiest men in the country.

His work has necessitated several trips by plane throughout the United States, writing reports on drought conditions as he personally saw them. All who have read his letter reports have found them extremely interesting, and we are passing them on to you in the thought that you might also find them of interest.

"July 21, left Minneapolis airport 7:45 a.m. Arrived Omaha 10:30. Passed over south central Minnesota and northwest Iowa. Best looking crops Minnesota and Iowa. In most instances small grains looked subnormal. In Minnesota very much below normal, apparently a little better in Iowa.

"All farm land in Minnesota seemed to be given over to some crop. In Iowa and Nebraska there is much bare land, apparently idle because of compliance in crop reduction programs.

"Perhaps Minnesota got active in planting emergency crops because drought conditions there were much more severe early in the growing season. Corn in both Minnesota and north Iowa unusually promising. As we approached Omaha, however, drought conditions showed on corn crop but nothing in Iowa compared with distressed conditions from Lincoln territory on west in Nebraska.

### Nebraska Serious

"We were at great altitude in most of Nebraska and hence it was difficult to observe conditions accurately. A great deal of threshing has been done. The straw piles looked small, indicating a very short crop. Judging by the small number of hay stacks it would seem that the alfalfa crop is very short.

Most of the corn fields in Nebraska looked as bare as the day they were planted. Pastures were parched and brown and in a number of cases we saw cattle clustered about water holes that were dry or almost so. With the high temperatures prevailing and no rain it was quite apparent that there cannot be a corn crop of consequence in that part of Nebraska over which we passed. Farmsteads, save the livestock we now and then saw wandering about, seemed like centers of desolation, mere ghosts of former times and of what they should be now. Beyond any question there must be a heavy liquidation of livestock and I do not see how the people are to survive until another growing season without a very large amount of relief help.

One wonders as he views conditions we witnessed yesterday, how rapidly rehabilitation can occur. One thing can be relied on, that is the persistence of people to stay with their homes and particularly in times like these when there are so few other places to go that promise and assure better conditions for living.

### Is Fortification the Answer?

As we look at this drouth we wonder if we can develop better fortification against periods of calamity such as this drouth has brought us. Can we build granaries, cribs, and sheds for food storage when crops are plentiful? Can we lay land down to pastures which are to be held in reserve

for use when normal pasture acreage becomes short and inadequate? Or, if we do such things, will we when we come into a cycle of plenty laugh in derision at those who advocated storing up in fat years in protection for ourselves when lean years come?

I cannot help but feel how much better off we would be if we would not attempt to keep so many head of livestock and if we would provide more feed per animal, and if we would bestir ourselves in breeding animals that could handle feed more efficiently than the animals we now have.

### Letter from Plane

Friday, July 27

It occurs to me that you might be interested in a letter written from the plane. We are now in eastern Colorado on our way to Kansas City. It is a quarter past seven in the morning. We left Denver about an hour ago and we expect to be in Kansas City about eleven. It may be nearer noon, however, bearing in mind that we turn our watches forward one hour and we may stop in Topeka for refueling.

We had a most wonderful trip yesterday from Salt Lake. That city is at the base of the Wasatch Mountains and our pilot had to spend considerable time circling the city in order to climb high enough to take the mountain pass. Tuesday afternoon Mr. and Mrs. Marshall took me to the country club for golf. It is an interesting course and yesterday I had a good opportunity to study it from the air because we circled it four or five times.

Circling about to get elevation seems like mere fooling around and I found myself speculating as to when we would shoot into the pass. Well, we did finally, and our pilot did it beautifully. He is always so careful. I talked to him before we took off and asked if we would climb as we came into the mountains. "No, sir, I do not think so, I want to make sure of being above the mountains before we start toward them. Otherwise we might get too close before we could rise or turn away."

### Much Seen from Air

The mountains near Salt Lake are rugged and hence present many beautiful scenes, but, as I think I wrote you, the detail of mountain scenery can be best appreciated from the auto. There are so many things to see, however, from the air which one cannot possibly get from the ground, for instance the winding course of streams and canyons. In so many instances the streams in the inter-mountain country seemed to have changed their course somewhat over and over again so that one sees a maze of one-time stream beds which wind and loop in an almost incredible manner.

### Mountains in Colorado

We came out of the mountains near Fort Collins, Colorado, and from there into Denver flew along the side of the Valley. On our left we saw the vast expanse of irrigated fields of alfalfa and wheat; on our right the forested mountains with their captains Pikes Peak and Longs Peak. Day was drawing to a close and preparation was under way for a gorgeous sunset which we did not stay up quite long enough to see. We came down at 6:45 after a cool journey which

had made us more eager for dinner than for the sight of an unusual sunset. Denver was cool, and what a sleep we had, with but one defect—too short.

In comparison with what I have attempted feebly to describe the scenes now below us are very tame, land as flat as the Red River Valley, beet fields, corn and alfalfa. But, for a time out of Denver, the jack-rabbits furnished amusement. We saw them in singles, doubles, triplets and flocks. I think the noise of our plane rather than the sight of us startled them for they ran toward us as often as away. Sometimes we would see a pair running like mad down the course of a small stream, one on either side of it, as though racing for a known hole to jump into. Often we would see one all by itself, darting and circling as though chased by an enemy bearing down hard upon him, and occasionally we would see a flock dispersing in all directions with a speed indicating that they though the devil had surely come and they had been caught in very bad company.

### Salt Lake City

It was hot in Salt Lake City yesterday and when we left we were in our shirt sleeves, but after an hour we were glad to put on our coats and I as gratified over the fact that I was wearing my heavy suit. My toes got cold, how's that for late July?

I referred to Mr. and Mrs. Marshall taking me for golf last Tuesday. We played on the country club course and it gives a poor dub plenty of trouble. On one tee the shot is from a bluff across a highway into a valley. Fortunately I made it, but I didn't in another case where I landed in a dry stream bed and took six for a par three hole. In another case one has to shoot a narrow fairway uphill. If you shoot all the way up, you climb into a bus and ride; if you don't you walk. Being fortunate again, I got a ride. The second shot from the eighteenth tee is across a canyon and if you land in it, the rule demands that you must shoot out—I got across, so did Mrs. Marshall, but her husband did not. However, in driving off the tee of that hole I went into the rough at the left and had to make a second drive. When we got around to the thirteenth hole a rainstorm came and drenched us. After a little while the sun shone and we kept on the course. By the time we were through we were dry. After the storm passed us it continued in the mountains and gave us two exquisite rainbows.

The Marshalls took me home for dinner. We have field grown tomatoes as we had had on Sunday night also when the Marshalls entertained four of us. Were they (the tomatoes) good? The quantity I ate quite exceeded the bounds which any polite guest should go.

### Dean Coffey in Texas

August 11

We traveled by plane from Washington to Fort Worth, Texas, Saturday and Sunday, August 4 and 5. Crop conditions in the eastern mountain region seemed about normal. The only place on the trip where I saw stacks of hay in fair abundance was in the region south of Wheeling, West Virginia. In Ohio and Indiana all crops looked short. If these states are going to pull through on their own resources they will need to cut down in livestock holdings and conserve their feed with a great deal of care. We did not pass, however,

through the better farming sections of Ohio, Indiana or Illinois. I thought conditions in Illinois were somewhat better, however, than in Ohio and Indiana.

From St. Louis we traveled southwest through Springfield, Mo., and Muskogee, Okla., to Fort Worth. Immediately after leaving St. Louis, the severity of the drought became apparent. The normal green of corn to be expected at this time of year was not to be seen anywhere along the route. A few fields had been cut and shocked. All fields—except occasional ones, which I should judge were planted to soybeans, cowpeas or possibly alfalfa—were very brown and bare. Most of the reservoirs were dry. All the rest were low, except here and there where local rains must have fallen lately.

In Missouri and Oklahoma we skirted the forest area, and I could see the smoke from numerous fires, indicating very dry conditions.

I picked up newspapers along the way and noticed that all contained articles about the drought. Some commented on what the government is doing about it; others described local conditions and situations. One paper called attention to the fact that 800,000 people in western United States are on relief because of drought conditions. Another mentioned the holding of meetings where prayers for rain were offered.

Last evening I asked O. B. Martin, director of extension in Texas whether this drought is worse than others that Texas had experienced. He replied, "Yes, sir, by far. We have had it just as bad in spots before, but I have never heard of its being so widespread." I believe he gave a pretty good summary of the situation. The real seriousness of the drought is the fact that it is so extensive. In other drought periods stockmen have been able, usually, to turn to some place not so very far away for feed and water, but in this case practically all near-by localities are also in distress.

### Conserve Feed

I must repeat what I have been saying so often lately: All farmers should conserve every pound of livestock feed regardless of the feed supply in the localities in which they live. Here in the south rains would bring feed, and a period of good rains would ease conditions tremendously. But the rains do not seem to be coming and we have no warranty to assume that they will come. If hopes and prayers avail anything rains will come, for with pastures dried up, hay crops lacking, water holes dry and fires in the forests, one and all realize what a Godsend rain would be.

George Barnes, who is in active charge of the cattle buying program in Texas said he would appreciate a daily shipping quota of 70,000. That statement eloquently pictures the drought situation in Texas. The present daily quota is 10,000. This number permits purchases in only the very worst areas; for example, in districts where the water supply is exhausted or very low. Condemnations in Texas are very high, due to the thin condition of the cattle and the percentage of little calves too young to withstand the hardships of trailing and railroad hauls.

I again wish to emphasize the fact that this drought is different from previous droughts in that it is so widespread that stockmen are helpless.

Very truly yours,

W. C. COFFEY,  
Regional Director Drought Relief