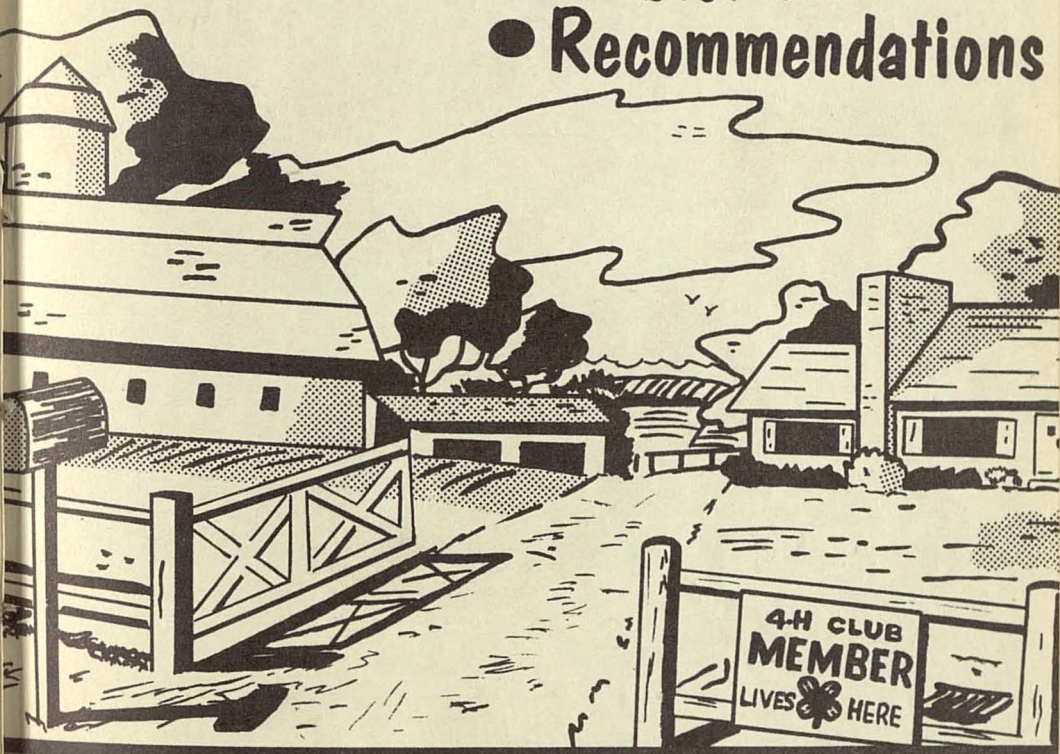


Looking Ahead in
Extension Work
in
Houston County

- Situations
- Problems
- Recommendations



Prepared Cooperatively by
Houston County Extension Committee
and
Long Range Planning Committees

TO HOUSTON COUNTY FAMILIES:

Since 1917 the Houston County Extension Service program has been planned with farm people through countywide meetings, questionnaires, organized groups, and committees. The final approval of the program has been the responsibility of the County Extension Committee.

Prior to January 1, 1954 the County Extension Committee included the chairman of the County Board of Commissioners; one other board member elected by that board; the county auditor; and the president, vice president, secretary-treasurer, home chairman, and one other elected member of the Houston County Farm Bureau.

Since January 1, 1954 the County Extension Committee, by law, has been a committee of nine members. This includes the chairman of the County Board of Commissioners; one other commissioner elected by the board; the County Auditor; and six members appointed by the County Board of Commissioners, one for each commissioner district, and one member appointed at large by the commissioners.

To project its thinking and planning ahead five years or more, the Houston County Extension Committee, working with the Extension Agents and District Extension Agent Supervisors A. E. Engebretson and Caroline Fredrickson, University of Minnesota, St. Paul, decided to study the county situation and the Extension program.

The County Extension Committee and numerous committees (see lists on last page) worked with the County Extension Agents to:

1. Study the changes and recent trends that have taken place in the county, and on the basis of these facts consider what future trends will be.
2. Review past accomplishments of the County Extension program.
3. Recommend changes needed and point out the direction in which the emphasis of the County Extension programs should be placed in the future.

The findings, the recommendations, and suggestions of these committees are included in this report. They will be used as a guide for the County Extension Committee in planning the County Extension program for several years.

Sincerely,

YOUR COUNTY EXTENSION COMMITTEE

Carmen Nohre, President
Grant Lapham
Ed Veglahn
Mrs. Clarence Eikens

Dolores Hauge, Secretary
George Bissen
John Goetzinger
Mrs. George Kelly

Irvin Ingvalson

Farm and Home Situation

Houston County is the southeastern county of the state of Minnesota. It has a total of 361,000 acres in 17 townships.

The average rainfall is 31.17 inches and its average temperature is the highest in the state. The average frost-free period is 162 days from April 29 to October 9.

The highest point in the county is the depot at Spring Grove, 1,322 feet above sea level. The lowest point is in Reno, 636 feet above sea level.

The topography is rough with hills like Mount Tom at Hokah, 530 feet above the Root River and the bluffs at Sheldon, 420 feet above the village.



Houston County Extension Committee: (left to right) Mrs. Clarence Eikens, Caledonia; Irvin Ingvalson, Caledonia; Carmen Nohre, Houston, George Bissen, Caledonia; Mrs. George Kelly, Houston; and Ed Veglahn, LaCrescent. Not shown: Grant Lapham, Caledonia; Delores Hauge, Caledonia; and John Goetzinger, Brownsville.

Members of the County Extension staff who worked on this report include:

Wayne Hanson - County Agricultural Agent
 Mary Buol - County Home Agent
 Harlie Larson - Soil Conservation Agent
 Betty Thomford and Marjorie Ballard - Secretaries

About 30 percent of the soil is Fayette, 17 percent Dubuque, 10 percent Tama, 27 percent Rough Stony, and the remainder is small percentages of various other classes of soil.

THE GENERAL PICTURE

Farm Size Changes

Of the total acreage of 361,000 acres in the county, only 125,169 acres were used as cropland on the 1,619 farms of the county in 1954. The number of farms decreased by 171 in the 10-year period, 1945-1954. During the same period the average size of farms increased from 187.9 acres to 202.2 acres.

Number of Farms by Size in Houston County

Size of Farm	1945	1950	1954
Less than 30 acres.....	95	87	78
30 - 99 acres.....	264	257	195
100 - 179 acres.....	634	604	547
180 - 259 acres.....	413	401	383
260 - 499 acres.....	347	336	371
500 and more.....	37	44	45
Total no. of farms	1,790	1,729	1,619
Avg. size of farms (acres)	187.9	190.0	202.2

The farms under 259 acres decreased during the 10-year period by 203. Farms over that size increased by 32.

Population Changes

From 1930 to 1950 the Houston County farm population decreased 1,611 and the village population increased 2,201, according to Dolores Hauge, county auditor, Caledonia. Specific changes are as follows:

	<u>1930</u>	<u>1940</u>	<u>1950</u>	<u>Change</u>
Farm population	9,384	9,005	7,773	- 1,611
Village population	4,461	5,730	6,662	+ 2,201
Total population	13,845	14,735	14,435	+ 590

Young People Changes

In 1955 there were 5,390 people age 20 or less in Houston County. In the age group, 0-10 years, there were 1,450 more than in the group, 11-20 years, reports Gladys Lapham, county superintendent of schools, Caledonia.

Types of Farms

Dairy and hogs are the major enterprises on the majority of the farms. Poultry ranks third as a source of income. Sheep and feeder cattle are minor enterprises. More than 1,000 acres of apple trees are in production in the LaCrescent Area along with a sizable acreage of raspberries and strawberries.

Gross Sales

In 1954 there were 215 farms with gross sales over \$10,000, 550 farms between \$5,000 and \$10,000, and the remainder sold \$5,000 or less.

Tenancy

Owner-operated farms have always been in the majority in Houston County. During the past 15 years better financial conditions have increased the percentage of owner operators. The percentage of owner operators increased from 69.1 percent in 1940 to 76.6 percent in 1945 and to 80.4 percent in 1954.

LIVESTOCK

Cattle numbers increased by nearly 10,000 head from 1945 to 1954. This increase was in beef cow herds and purchased feeder cattle. The change in dairy cow numbers was minor. Hog numbers decreased about 9,000 head, and sheep numbers dropped to less than half of what they were in 1945. Turkey numbers increased by 74,281 from 1950 to 1954; chickens increased by 95,000 during the same period.

Livestock on Houston County Farms

	1945	1950	1954
Total cattle.....	45,000	47,900	54,200
Milk cows.....	22,000	19,800	20,300
Hogs.....	65,000	56,000	56,800
Sheep.....	7,400	2,400	3,500
Turkeys.....		86,553	160,834
Chickens.....	107,000	205,000	202,000

Livestock and Poultry Income

In 1954 hogs gave the greatest total income followed by dairy, turkeys, chickens, and sheep.

Market Value of Houston County Livestock and Dairy Products

Hogs sold.....	\$ 3,475,509
Milk and cream sold.....	2,184,259
Cattle and calves sold.....	1,389,798
Turkeys and eggs sold.....	809,395
Chickens and eggs sold.....	782,966
Sheep and lambs sold.....	30,740
Total.....	\$ 8,672,677

CROPS

During the 1945-55 period corn acreage increased 11,200 acres. Oat acreage decreased 1,600 acres, barley acreage decreased 6,600 acres, soybean acreage increased 600 acres, and hay acreage increased 3,100 acres.

Houston County Crop Acreages and Yields

Crop	1940	1950	1955	Avg. Acre Yield 1955
	acres	acres	acres	
Corn	31,200	39,000	42,400	65 bu.
Oats	35,200	39,400	33,600	40 bu.
Soybeans		400	600	19 bu.
Barley	6,800	290	200	35 bu.
Hay	46,900	49,110	50,000	1.94 tons

Value of Crops in Houston County, 1955

Corn.....	\$ 3,043,600.00
Hay.....	1,164,600.00
Oats.....	806,400.00
Fruits and vegetables sold.....	204,489.00
Soybeans.....	22,800.00
Barley.....	7,700.00
Total.....	\$ 5,249,589.00

FARM EQUIPMENT

There was a big increase in the number of pieces of large equipment on farms in Houston County from 1950 to 1954.

	<u>1950</u>	<u>1954</u>
Combines.....	80	290
Balers.....	40	305
Corn pickers.....	405	655
Forage harvesters.....		135
Milking machines.....	685	895
Tractors.....	1,310	1,440
Trucks.....	570	855
Autos.....	1,816	1,820

MARKETING SYSTEMS

During the past ten years three creameries--Bee, Wilmington, and Money Creek--have gone out of business. Seven creameries and cheese factories remain in the county. All but one creamery now purchase whole milk.

Two livestock sales barns and four livestock buying stations operate within the county.

Nine produce stations within the county and numerous truck routes from produce plants outside the county purchase eggs and poultry.

Five elevators in the county purchase grain and corn for resale or shipment.

Four large sawmills, one portable mill, and numerous small mills operate in the county on a custom basis. Two of them purchase ties and logs. The two largest mills cut more than two million board feet of lumber per year.

The LaCrescent Valley Fruit Growers Association acts as marketing agent for a large percentage of the strawberries and raspberries and for some of the apples. Most of the apples are sold at roadside stands or for truck shipments to retail outlets.

STANDARD OF LIVING

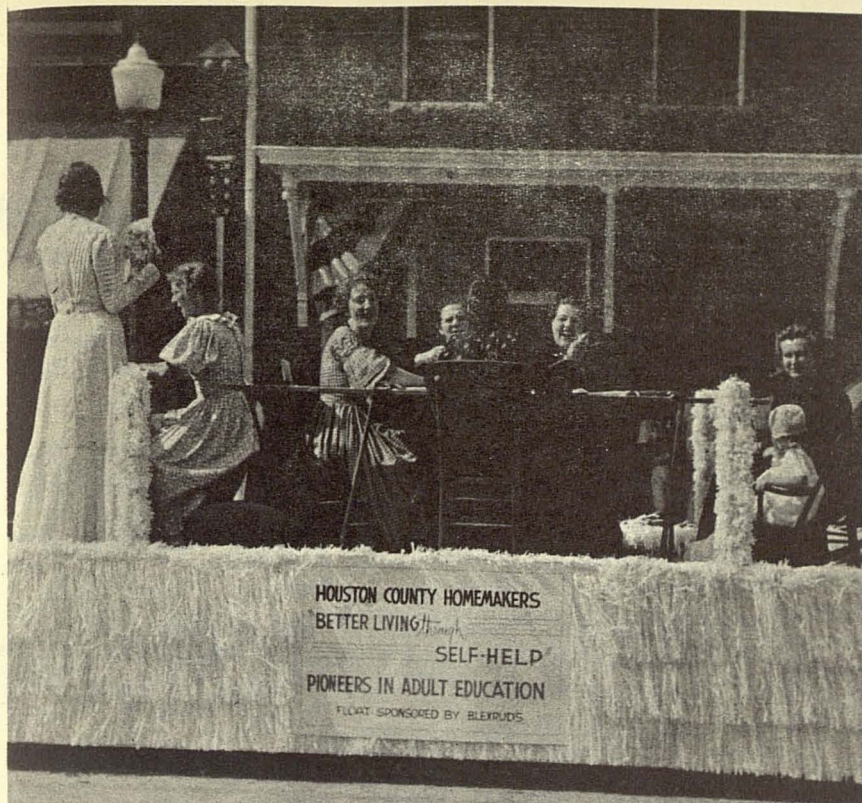
The standard of living in Houston County is high. Only 17 Minnesota counties have a higher place on the index. This index is based on the average value of products sold or traded and the percentage of farms with telephones, electricity, automobiles, etc.

During the past 12 years a large percentage of the farm homes have been remodeled, bathrooms have been added, kitchen cupboards built in, and electrical equipment of all kinds purchased.

In the past three years, with the coming of the TV station in LaCrosse, about 80 percent of the farm homes have purchased TV sets.

HOME PICTURE

Membership in the home extension program has been from 500 to 700 in 35 to 50 groups well distributed over the county. Both village and farm women have taken part in the program.



Parade float illustrates spirit of Houston County Homemakers groups who pioneered in adult education.

In 1954, 72 percent of the farms in Houston County had piped running water. Since then this percentage has gone up. The homemakers of the county are concerned about the safety of the water their families drink, and many feel the need for water testing.

Because of the influence of the REA the percentage of farms having electricity has gone steadily upward, until today more than 95 percent of the farms in the county have electricity. There is a great difference in wiring done when electricity was new and wiring done in the last few years. In some homes wiring is worn out and in others it is inadequate for the demands made upon it by present day equipment. Houston County families need to be informed about wiring requirements and electrical safety.

In the past few years clothing construction has not been emphasized in the Extension home program. Many young married women have enrolled. These women feel the need of education in the basic fundamentals of construction. Many

of them have small children and would like to learn how to make over clothing for them. There have also been requests for information on the qualities, selection, and care of natural and synthetic fabrics.

The quantity and variety of equipment increases each year. Housewives feel they need more information on selection, use, and care of appliances.

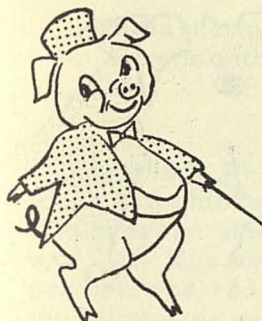
Farm families are purchasing more items of food. The abundance of food products, frozen, canned, and packaged, has increased. From a nutrition standpoint there is still much work to be done to improve the diets of both farm and city families.

Women in the home program indicate interest in all phases of homemaking, but show a greater response to the meetings concerned with food preparation and food preservation.

Recommendations for Extension Programs

LIVESTOCK

Hogs



Eighty percent of the farms in the county had hogs in 1954. The average number of litters farrowed per farm was 13.2. The average pigs raised per litter was 7, which is slightly over the state average. Nearly half of the livestock and poultry income in the county is from hogs.

Problems in Hog Raising

1. Lack of meat type hogs.
2. Loss of hogs through inadequate care, management, and equipment.
3. Inefficiency in feed conversion through poor sanitation, breeding, and feeding.
4. Marketing at wrong times when prices are unfavorable.

Recommendations for Extension Work

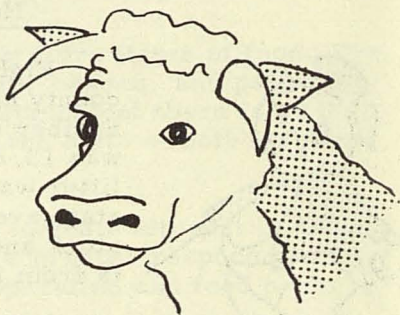
The Extension program should emphasize:

1. Pointing all work on breeding and marketing toward the meat type hog.
2. Reduction of feed cost through use of formulas from Experiment stations and use of pasture.
3. Saving more pigs through such practices as sanitary farrowing, use of rotation pasture, and use of farrowing stalls.

4. Better use of labor-saving equipment.
5. Farrowing hogs to be ready for market at time of highest prices on basis of long-time price cycles and farrowing several times during the year.

Beef Cattle

Between 10 and 14 percent of all farms in the county had beef cows in 1954. Most of the beef cow herds are kept on the rough land. The beef calves are usually dropped in the spring and sold in the fall as 400- to 500-pound feeders.



In the past 10 years there has been a rapid increase in the number of farms purchasing local feeder calves or calves shipped in from the west. These calves are fed silage hay and a little grain through the winter, pastured during the summer, and finished out with grain the following winter.

Problems in Beef Cattle Production

1. Too little income from feeding a beef cow all year to produce a 400- to 500-pound calf to sell.
2. Need for better quality and type in beef cow herds.
3. High cost of grains for feeder cattle.
4. Not enough labor-saving equipment for feeding cattle.
5. Marketing and purchasing at wrong times when prices are unfavorable.

Recommendations for Extension Work

Emphasis should be on the following:

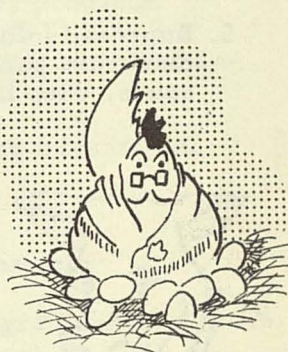
1. Improved feeding information with emphasis on formulas worked out by Experiment stations.

2. Farm management information to be used so farmer can determine whether beef breeding herd will pay on his farm.
3. Use of pasture, silage, and hay to replace grain.
4. Cutting costs through such practices as use of pole barns, self feeding bunker silos, and other labor-saving equipment.
5. Marketing on the basis of long-time cycles and month-by-month changes.

Poultry and Eggs

In 1954, 79 percent of the farmers had chickens on their farms. The average size of the farm flock was 201. The average egg production per hen was 183 or 11 eggs less than the Minnesota average.

The income from turkeys and eggs is larger than the income from chickens and eggs.



Problems in Poultry Production

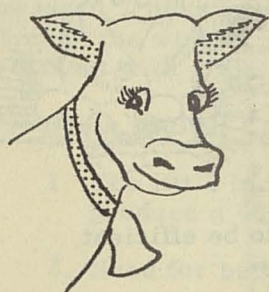
1. Most farm flocks are too small to be efficient.
2. Egg quality needs improvement.
3. Need for special market for quality eggs.
4. Need for improvement in feeding and management.
5. Income from poultry is poor in comparison to other livestock.
6. Inadequate or poor poultry housing and equipment.
7. Turkey growers need better information on disease control, sanitation, and equipment.

Recommendations for Extension Work

The Extension program should emphasize:

1. Larger flocks--500 or more.
2. Improved quality egg production through better nests, cooling, cleaning, and storing.
3. Improved feeding practices using feeding trial information from Experiment stations.
4. Disease control, sanitation practices, and equipment information for turkey growers.
5. Improved information on housing and equipment for chickens, such as insulation, ventilation, adequate space, deep litter, and dropping pits.

Dairying



Dairy cows are kept on 83 percent of the farms. The average size herd is 13.7 cows, which is 2.7 cows more than the state average in 1954.

The average milk production per cow in 1954 was 5,400 pounds, which is 780 pounds less than the Minnesota state average.

Dairymen are rapidly changing from selling cream to selling whole milk. The change was from 29 percent sold as whole milk in 1949 to 58 percent in 1954.

More than 10,000 cows were bred artificially in the county in 1956.

Thirty-five dairymen belong to the DHIA, and 10 are owner sampler testing.

Problems in Dairy Production

1. Low production per cow--less than state average.

2. Need for more cow testing association records and culling.
3. Very limited outlet for grade A milk.
4. Inadequate and inefficient dairy housing and equipment on some farms.
5. Rising production costs. Examples are barn remodeling costs and bulk tanks.
6. High milk hauling costs caused by hilly roads and muddy driveways.
7. Need for improved quality of dairy products.
8. Too many beef cows, or dairy cattle with beef ancestry, kept for milk.
9. Lack of dairy feeding and breeding information.

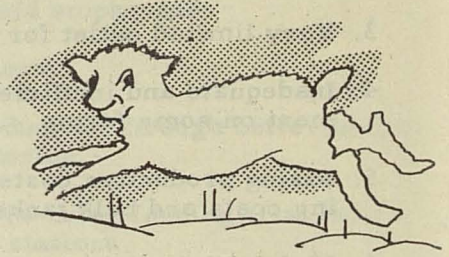
Recommendations for Extension Work

The Extension program should emphasize:

1. Continued expansion of DHIA program.
2. Continued expansion of artificial breeding program.
3. Consumption of dairy products through such activities as County Dairy Day.
4. Improved feeding practices through proper use of grain and concentrates, better pasture management, and production of better quality forage.
5. Improved quality milk and cream through electric coolers, bulk tanks, and sanitary conditions in barn and milk houses.
6. Lower cost housing and use of labor-saving equipment to increase herd size with available labor.

Sheep

Sheep are a minor enterprise in the county, with sales of only \$30,740 in 1954. Most flocks in the county are small and are kept to clean up pasture that would be wasted otherwise.



Problems in Sheep Production

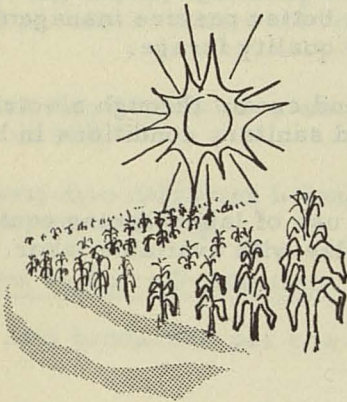
1. Need for special fencing.
2. Loss by dogs.
3. Heavy losses from parasites.
4. Low income because of poor management.

Recommendations for Extension Work

The Extension program should emphasize:

1. Parasite control and improved feeding and management practices.
2. More information on the economics of raising sheep.

FIELD CROPS AND SOILS



Corn is the major crop in Houston County, having a value of more than 3 million dollars annually. Although the oat acreage is greater than corn acreage, the value of the oat crop is less than one million dollars annually.

The hay acreage is larger than either the corn



County Agent W. H. Hanson looks over Mindo oat field with farmer.

or oat acreage and has a value of slightly more than one million dollars annually.

In the past 10 years about 10,000 acres of land that was in crop rotation has been put in permanent pasture for erosion control. More than 10,000 acres of timberland that was grazed 10 years ago is not pastured now.

In the past 10 years acres contour stripped have increased from 23,392 to 42,940 which is about one-third of the cropland in the county. There has been an increase each year in the acreage terraced. For the past 10 years about 50,000 trees have been planted each year.

About 25,000 acres of Kentucky Blue Grass pastures need improvement.

Progress is being made in weed control. Canada thistles, sow thistles, and giant foxtails are prevalent.

Corn yields have been increasing rapidly with the use of fertilizers and heavier stands. Oat yields have been lower in recent years.

Alfalfa-brome mixtures are gradually replacing red clover.

Soybean acreage is very limited because of the erosion problem created by growing soybeans on sloping land.

The Houston County Crop Improvement Association has been effective in getting new varieties used, in the production of certified seed for the county, and in conducting variety plots and weed control plot demonstrations.

Problems in Crops and Soils

Weeds

1. Lack of weed sprayers and lack of time.
2. Too many weed seeds planted in seed purchased from neighbors or out of farmers' own bins.
3. Lack of law enforcement and lack of knowledge of seriousness of the weed problems.

Rotations and Land Management

1. Too much land in row crops that should be in hay. Need to set up a good rotation plan and plant crops accordingly.
2. Not enough soil testing done and fertilizer not applied according to test.
3. Control of quackgrass on contour strips.
4. Control of pocket gophers.
5. Getting farmers to use soil-saving practices, such as building terraces on gentle slopes, contouring, and controlling gullies.
6. Planting less oat acreage without decreasing new seedings of alfalfa-brome.

Other Crop Problems

1. Lack of information on better seed, better seedbeds, and time of planting.

2. Too much use of timothy-clover mixtures rather than alfalfa-brome mixtures.
3. Lack of information on how to increase corn and hay yields.
4. Improved varieties of farm crops not accepted as rapidly as they should be.

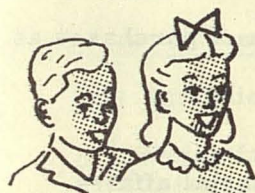
Recommendations for Extension Work

The Extension Program should emphasize:

1. Modern weed and insect control methods. Working with township boards and county commissioners and the county weed inspector in furnishing information for effective control work. Using demonstrations to show how weeds and insects can be controlled.
2. Use of improved varieties of farm crops and better cultural and management practices to increase yields.
3. Improved soil fertility through correct use of proper rotations, conservation practices, and application of fertilizer according to soil test.

HOME AND FAMILY

Family Relationships



All aspects of family living are of deep concern to homemakers. General and specific



knowledge of the subject will help homemakers to create a more satisfactory home, community, and personal life for themselves and for their families.

Needs

The committee felt that the important needs include:

1. Better family financial education.

2. Improved family relationships and cooperation.

Recommendations for the Extension Program

The Extension program should emphasize:

1. Information on family finances including money management, household accounts, budgeting, loans and wise use of credit.
2. Shared family planning.
3. Planning ahead for education of children.
4. Learning to live together, such as adjusting age and personality differences.
5. Recreation for the family and for different age groups.

Home Management

Home management is important to every homemaker and her family. Good home management practices will help the homemaker spend her time, energy, and money to the best advantage.

Needs

The committee felt that important needs include:

1. Understanding of quality and prices of purchases as related to intended use.
2. Better knowledge of credit.
3. Better understanding of family financial affairs.

Recommendations for the Extension Program

The Extension program should emphasize:

1. Information on quality and prices as related to intended use.

2. Types and costs of credit.
3. Information to help the family plan and regulate its financial affairs.

Home Improvement

Improving the home to make it more attractive, more comfortable, and safer requires good planning, time, and money management. Families feel they should learn how their resources can be put to the best use.

Needs

The committee felt that the important needs include:

1. Protection of the health and safety of the family through adequate electrical wiring, water sanitation, waste disposal, and lighting equipment.
2. Better use and care of household equipment.
3. Making the home more comfortable and functional with such installations as central heating and adequate storage.
4. Improving attractiveness of the home interior.
5. Improving the landscape and garden.

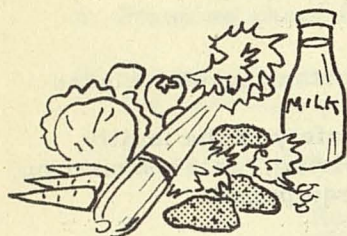
Recommendations for the Extension Program

The Extension program should emphasize:

1. Helping families to protect themselves by assisting in programs to check electrical wiring, water sanitation, waste disposal, lighting equipment, and general safety in the home.
2. Information to aid in better use and care of household equipment.
3. Information to help families increase the comfort and function of their homes through installation of such conveniences as central heating systems, insulation, and increased storage.

4. Improving the attractiveness of home interiors through such practices as: remodeling; selection and care of furniture, draperies, carpets; reupholstering, slipcovering, recaning, and refinishing furniture.
5. Improving the attractiveness and usefulness of the home yard through information on landscaping and care of outdoor plantings, outdoor living areas, best varieties for vegetable gardens.

Food, Nutrition, and Health



Food, nutrition, and health go hand in hand toward the goal of happiness, accomplishment, and prosperity. Homemakers are interested in providing their families with nutritious, interesting, and attractive meals. They are receptive to new ideas and to

time and money-saving plans for food preparation and food preservation.

Needs

The committee felt that the important needs include:

1. Greater use of milk in the home.
2. Improved food preservation practices.
3. More information to help with food preparation; for example, in methods of baking bread and rolls and in use of the broiler.
4. Information to aid homemakers in planning nutritious, well-balanced meals, particularly for persons wishing to maintain normal weight.
5. More information on preventing and caring for home accidents.

Recommendations for the Extension Program

The Extension program should emphasize:



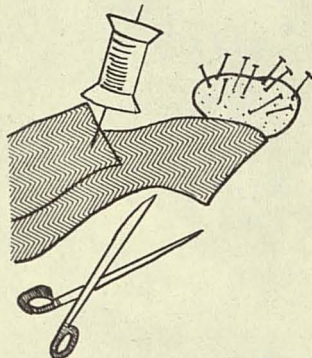
Food preservation is part of both the 4-H and Homemaker programs to improve health of Houston County families.

1. Increased use of milk in home and community. Serve milk at 4-H and other meetings and encourage milk programs in the schools and milk vending machines in public and business places.
2. Better food preservation practices through information on canning, use of pressure cooker, care of freezer, procedure and length of storage in freezing, foods best suited for freezing, and materials suitable for packaging frozen foods.
3. Preparing interesting and attractive meals. Possible demonstration and discussion topics include: variety in breakfasts, methods of baking bread and rolls, use of the broiler in food preparation.
4. Planning nutritious, well-balanced meals. Low calorie and high protein meals can be well-balanced to maintain normal weight. Encourage use of more

leafy green and yellow vegetables, family gardens, and variation in preparing vegetables and salads.

5. Prevention and care of accidents in the home through information on safety hazards, how to administer first aid, essentials of an adequate first aid kit for the home, and use and care of fire extinguishers.

Clothing



Each year brings to the consumer a wider variety of fabrics available for home sewing. Because of the new blends and synthetic fibers, homemakers need to become acquainted with new methods of clothing care,

construction, and safety. Increased interest in clothing is accompanied by a desire for learning better grooming practices.

Needs

The committee felt that important needs include more information on:

1. Qualities of synthetic and natural fibers.
2. Fundamentals of clothing construction.
3. Practical good grooming practices.
4. Safety precautions in clothing.

Recommendations for the Extension Program

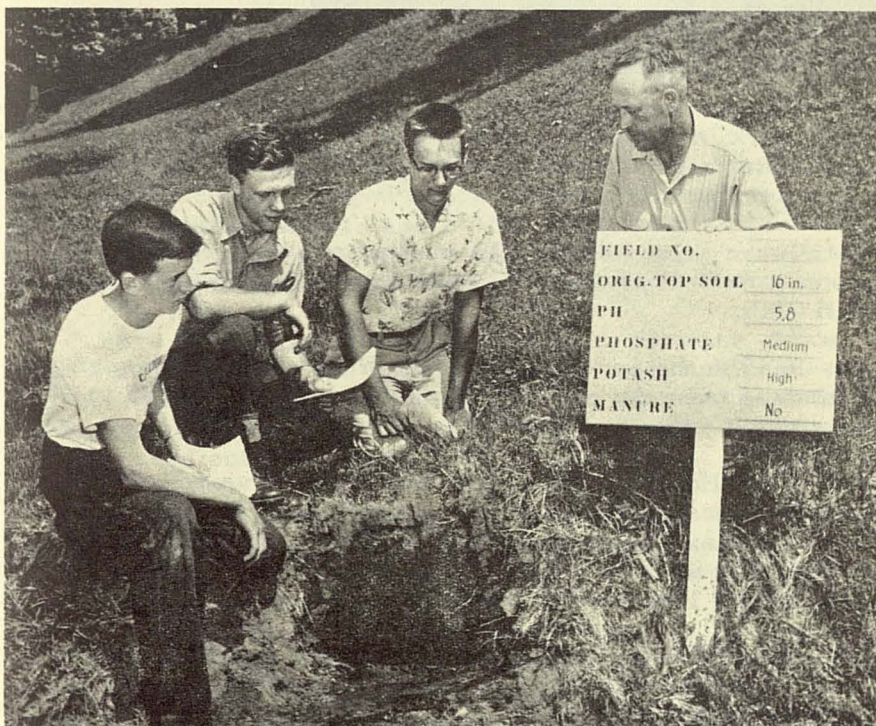
The Extension program should emphasize:

1. All fabrics, both natural and synthetic. This information should include properties, quality, care, and labeling.

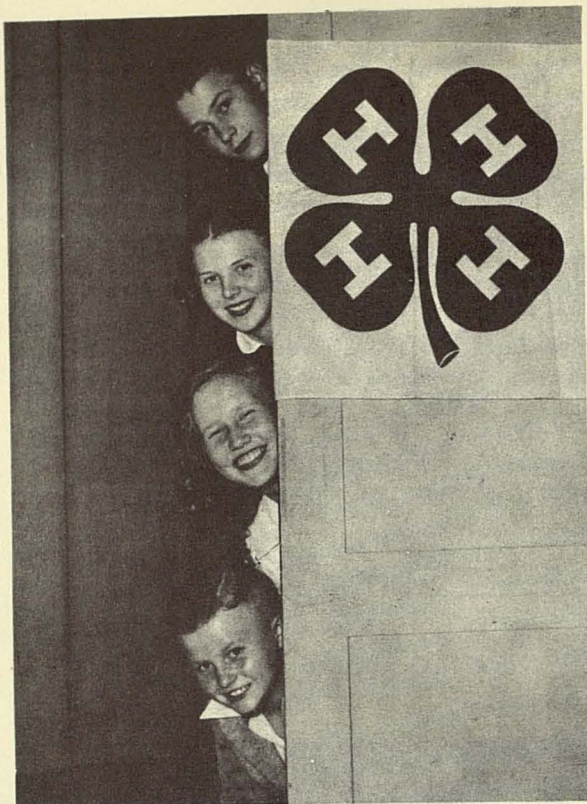
2. Basic fundamentals in selecting proper sewing equipment and in construction and finishing techniques.
3. Good grooming for attractiveness, good health, and personal satisfaction.
4. Thrift in clothing construction through techniques for sewing make-overs and fitting and altering ready-to-wear garments.
5. Safety precautions with clothing--for example, while cleaning, at night, and around machinery.

4-H CLUB WORK

Four-H membership has been stable for many years, the 1956 membership of 755 being slightly over the past 5-year average.



Winning 4-H team studies soil judging.



4-H
builds
personality
as
well
as
providing
education.

The percentage of boys and girls of 4-H Club age in 4-H Club work in the county is now one of the highest in the state. The Houston county percentage is about 68 compared with a state average of about 33.

There are 34 4-H Clubs making one or more in each township. Every family in the county is within 3 miles of a 4-H Club.

In 1956 the percentage of finish up was 90.6 percent. Finish up over the past 10 years has varied from 85 to 90 percent.

More Houston County 4-H members have received the 4-H Key Award than in any other county. Since a 4-H member must have had 5 years of 4-H Club work and 3 years of 4-H Club work beyond the age of 14 to receive the Key Award, it indicates long-time membership in the county.

In practically every 4-H Club in the county there are 4-H members whose father or mother or both were 4-H members. The leadership of these former 4-H members is a big help in the program.

Problems in 4-H Club Work

1. Boys and girls dropping out of 4-H Club work after one or more years.
2. Lack of trained leadership to develop boys and girls in 4-H Club work.

Recommendations for Extension Work in 4-H

The Extension program should emphasize:

1. Projects and activities that will fill the needs and desires of younger as well as older 4-H members.
2. Leadership training programs for adult, project, and junior leaders in 4-H Club work.

RURAL YOUTH

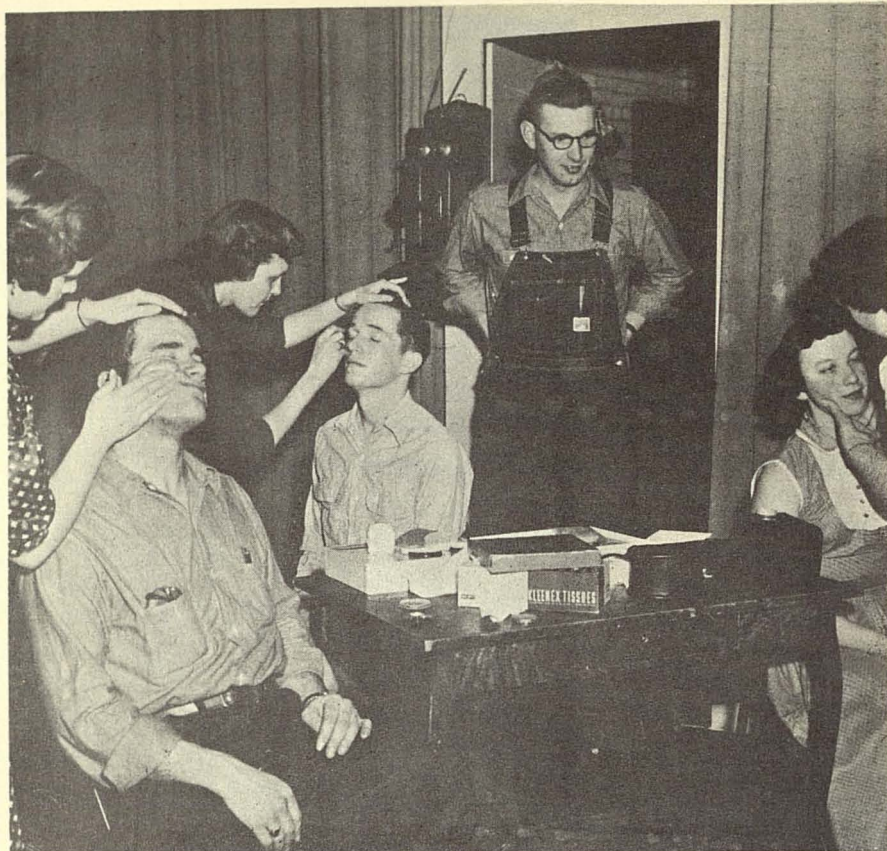
Rural Youth, the Extension program for young men and women, was organized in Houston County 20 years ago in 1937.

Those people who have reached 17 or are seniors in high school are encouraged to join. The greater share of the Rural Youth members are 4-H Club members or former 4-H Club members. However, a number of these young people have had no previous affiliation with 4-H Club work.

A core of enthusiastic men and women remains stable, while another part of the enrollment increases and decreases in cycles. At present, the enrollment is somewhat less than some previous years, but that fact does not make the members any less enthusiastic.

The executive committee, which is made up of the group's officers and advisers, meets twice a year to plan the program for a 6-month period. Each month's meeting includes an educational and a recreational program.

Six times a year the group publishes a newsletter, "The Rural Youth Rouser," which is sent to all members on the mailing list. Each year the members select and produce a play to be given in several areas of the county. Group activities such as these make for a more closely knit and cooperative organization.



All set for Rural Youth play.

Problems in Rural Youth

1. Lack of job opportunities in the county. This causes many young people to move out of the county after high school graduation.
2. Boys and girls marrying at an earlier age and usually dropping out of active work in Rural Youth at the time of marriage.
3. Rapid turnover of membership in the Rural Youth group. This necessitates continual training in leadership.

Recommendations for Extension Work With Rural Youth

The Extension program should emphasize:

1. Developing an educational program in Rural Youth that will be of help in getting started in farming and homemaking.
2. Attracting young men and women of senior high school age into Rural Youth by gearing the program to their needs and desires.
3. Development of leadership through participation in community service in addition to regular training sessions.



Recreation is an important part of the Rural Youth program.

Committees Working on Program

- I. County Extension Committee -- Ed Veglahn, LaCrescent; Carmen Nohre, Houston; Grant Lapham, Caledonia; Irwin Ingvalson, Caledonia; Mrs. Clarence Eikens, Caledonia; Mrs. George Kelly, Houston; John Goetzinger, Brownsville; A. B. Rosaaen, Spring Grove; George Bissen, Caledonia (1957); Dolores Hauge, Caledonia.
- County Board of Commissioners -- A. B. Rosaaen, Spring Grove; Sigurd Evenson, Spring Grove (1957); John Goetzinger, Brownsville; Bern Orr, Houston; George Bissen, Caledonia; Joseph Wieser, LaCrescent.
- II. General Planning Committees:
- Houston Area -- Donald Carlson, Bob Haralson, Lowell Nelson, Vincent Poppe, Ralph Lee, Jay Summers, Ed Dvorak, Roland Fitting, Roland Dubbs, Wesley Happel, Lester Beckman, Sanford Vathing, Maurice Knutson, Donald Runnigen, Mrs. Henry Nelson, Mrs. Allen Orr, Mrs. Harley Rostvold, Mrs. Charles Wilsey, Mrs. Sidney Burfield, Mrs. Harold Missell, Mrs. Sumner Sheldon, Mrs. Billy Joe Eglinton, Mrs. Harold Eglinton, Mrs. Gilmer Kragness, Mrs. John MacLean, Mrs. Herbert Hanson, Mrs. Art Johnson.
- Hokah Area -- A. C. Wieser, Lawrence Graf, William Ideker, Arnold Veglahn, Mrs. Victor Liedel, Mrs. E. D. Hanke, Mrs. Joe Lorenz, Mrs. W. Minor, Mrs. Joe Serres, Mrs. Orville Kile, Mrs. Oscar Bernsdorf.
- Caledonia Area -- Mrs. Eugene Schiltz, Mrs. Eugene Kohlmeyer, Mrs. Isaac Tollefson, Mrs. Art Burmester, Mrs. Bernice Wild, Mrs. Fremont Staggenmeier, Mrs. Paul Meyer, Mrs. William Beneke, Mrs. Wilford Pohlman, Mrs. Orlin Arneson, Pierce Engen, Arlo Myhre, Elmer Thies, Howard Thies, George Hendel, Jr., Lloyd Schauble, Elmer Bunge, Mrs. William Dvorak, Mrs. Art Kennedy, Mrs. Harold Bolduan, Art Flatten, William Leary, Roland Bolduan, Leo McCormick, Raymond Frank, Albert Eglinton, Victor Schroeder, Arlie Kubitz, Art Gran, Mrs. Cletus Schleich.
- Spring Grove Area -- Mrs. Allan Morken, Mrs. Edwin Solum, Mrs. Arnold Onstad, Mrs. James Jetson, Mrs. Elling Solum, Mrs. John Bergsgard, Mrs. Arnold Guberud, Mrs. Arnold Sanness, Mrs. Tilford Ike, Mrs. John Blegen, Mrs. W. J. Wilhelmson, Mrs. Nora Sundet, Howard Haugstad, Norris Storlie, Henry Haugland, Alden Solum, Larry Meyer, Art Burtness, Jerome Lanswerk, Sigmund Bergerud, Ted Espelien, James Sylling, Leslie Ingvalson, Clifford Narveson, Nels Gulbranson, Finley Flatin, Arnold Ness.
- III. Special Committees:
- Dairy -- Julius Ernster, Caledonia; Art Flatten, Caledonia; Jerome Frank, Caledonia; Lloyd Schauble, Caledonia; Alden Solum, Spring Grove; Sigmund Bergsrud, Spring Grove; Ted Espelien, Spring Grove; Kenneth Bratland, Spring Grove; Julian Landsom, Spring Grove; Norris Storlie, Spring Grove; Robert Anderson, Houston.
- Livestock and Poultry -- Alf Bjorge, Houston; Vincent Poppe, Houston; Roger Jore, Houston; George Schroeder, Hokah; Fremont Deters, Eitzen; Charles Albee, Caledonia; Wm. Huesmann, Caledonia; Pierce Engen, Caledonia; Ole Sanness, Spring Grove; Milton Howard, Spring Grove; Larry Meyer, Spring Grove.
- DHIA Board -- George Bissen, Caledonia; Rainer Klug, Caledonia; Ted Dewitt, Caledonia; Ellsworth Tweitto, Spring Grove; Alan Huesmann, Caledonia; Julius Ernster, Caledonia.

Crops and Soils -- Levi Halvorson, Spring Grove, Orval Omodt, Spring Grove; Vernon Wold, Spring Grove; Theodore Kruse, New Albin, Iowa; Erling Burtness, Caledonia; Clarence Eikens, Caledonia; Merrill Krueger, Caledonia; Lawrence Wagner, Caledonia; Wilfred Pohlman, Caledonia; R. C. Walker, Caledonia; Wm. Cornforth, Houston; Herman Forsyth, Houston.

County Crop Improvement Committee -- Orson Hempstead, Houston; George Hendel, Caledonia; Reuben Anderson, Spring Grove; Hildus Wold, Mabel; Art Burmester, Caledonia; Theo. Kruse, New Albin; Erling Burtness, Caledonia.

Root River S. C. D. Board -- James McManimon, Rushford; Harold Davy, Brownsville; Ed Albrecht, LaCrescent; Arnold Onstad, Spring Grove; Clarence Eikens, Caledonia.

Home Management and Clothing -- Mrs. Robert Clarkin, LaCrescent; Mrs. Allan Morken, Spring Grove; Mrs. Fremont Deters, Eitzen; Mrs. Gerhard Hauge, Houston; Mrs. Al Huesmann, Caledonia.

Family Life -- Mrs. Joe Serres, Brownsville; Mrs. Clarence Jetson, Spring Grove; Mrs. Victor Leidel, LaCrescent; Mrs. Alfred Albee, Caledonia; Mrs. Howard Lee, Houston; Mrs. Arnold Sanness, Spring Grove.

4-H Club -- Gerald Bratland, Spring Grove; Gary Olson, Spring Grove; Hildus Wold, Mabel; Donald Flatten, Houston; John Hempstead, Houston; Mrs. Franklin Fruechte, Eitzen; Mrs. Arnold Veglahn, LaCrescent; Mrs. Tom Solie, Caledonia; Lois Solie, Caledonia; Marion Schuldt, Caledonia; Marilyn Knutson, Rushford.

Rural Youth -- Donald Norgard, Houston; James Wilhelmson, Spring Grove; Audrey Morken, Spring Grove; Mr. & Mrs. Harlan Ingvalson, Spring Grove; Warren Deters, Eitzen; James Tschumper, LaCrescent; Dorene Stoskopf, Caledonia; Delores Hewlett, Caledonia; Mrs. & Mrs. Bert Dibley, Caledonia; Norman Corpstein, Caledonia.

Home Improvement -- Mrs. Walton Minor, LaCrescent; Mrs. Harlan Tweeten, Spring Grove; Mrs. Lloyd Jennings, Caledonia; Mrs. Walter Haar, Eitzen; Mrs. Art Johnson, Houston.

Foods, Nutrition, and Health -- Mrs. Styrk Myhre, Caledonia; Mrs. Alden Solum, Spring Grove; Mrs. Gladys Meyer, Caledonia; Mrs. Eugene Kohlmeyer, Caledonia; Mrs. Allan Orr, Houston.

Summary of Recommendations

General recommendations of the planning committees for Extension program emphasis are:

- 4-H Club Work -- Continual emphasis on projects and activities that will fill the needs and desires of boys and girls and expand leadership training programs for adult, project, and junior leaders.
- Rural Youth -- Leadership development through participation in community service as well as formal training. Emphasis on training for farming and homemaking. Encourage membership starting at senior high school age.
- Hogs -- Emphasize fitting hog type to consumer demand and marketing on basis of price cycle. Application of Experiment Station results on feeding, sanitation, and equipment.
- Beef -- Emphasize increased use of pasture, silage, and hay and use of pole barns, bunker silos, and other labor-saving equipment. Use of farm management information to determine marketing and management system.
- Poultry -- Emphasize production of product market desires. Increase size of flock and use of labor-saving equipment. Use Experiment Station results on feeding and management.
- Dairy -- Emphasize need for increased production per cow through better breeding, feeding, and management. Cut costs through lower cost housing and labor-saving equipment. Improve quality product through sanitary conditions, bulk tanks, and electric coolers.
- Sheep -- Emphasize importance of parasite control and using best methods of feeding and management.
- Field Crops and Soils -- Emphasize balancing livestock to the crop rotation that will conserve the farm's soil and water. Encourage the use of conservation practices that fit the needs of the farm. Expand the use of fertilizer according to soil test. Increase the alfalfa-brome acreages.
- Family Life -- Emphasize a more satisfactory family life through wise management of finances and good use of available time. Stress shared family living.
- Home Management -- Emphasize using good management practices to spend time, energy, and money to the best advantage. Stress relationships of quality and price.
- Home Improvement -- Emphasize using the family's resources to best advantage to make the home more attractive, more comfortable, and more safe.
- Foods, Nutrition, and Health -- Emphasize the importance of developing nutritious eating habits to promote good health. Stress proper food preparation and preservation methods. Encourage greater use of milk and serving nutritious lunches at meetings.
- Clothing -- Emphasize new methods of clothing construction, care, and safety. Stress qualities and properties of synthetic and natural fibers and their blends. Encourage good grooming practices.