

Misc
(3)

February 1959

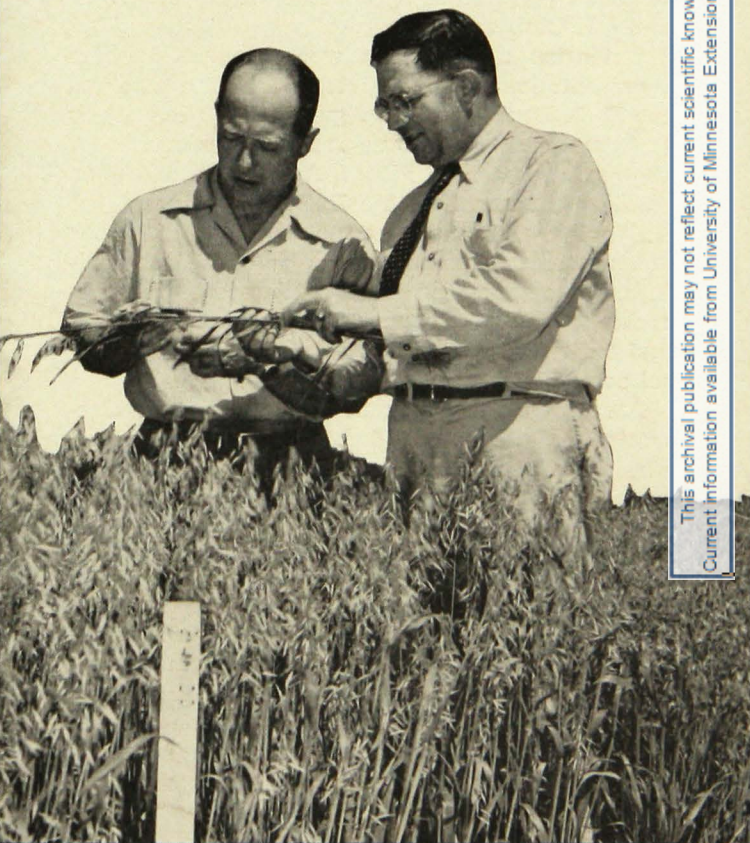
(4)

YOUR Agricultural Extension Service



Education in

- Agriculture
- Home Economics
- Youth—4-H



This archival publication may not reflect current scientific knowledge or recommendations.
Current information available from University of Minnesota Extension: <http://www.extension.umn.edu>.

YOUR Agricultural Extension Service

JUST WHAT is the Agricultural Extension Service? That familiar name appears on the sign outside of every county Extension office in the state today. In your hometown newspaper you may read about the county agent reporting on recommended grain varieties, about meetings on dairy production or home furnishings, or about a local 4-H Club activity. Or your radio or television carries news of the agent's work and recommendations to the farmers and homemakers on their problems. In these and many other ways you will recognize the Extension Service.

The county Extension office is usually located in the courthouse or post office in the county seat in each county. Here, and out in the county, too, agents are always willing and ready to give information or help on farm and home problems. These agents are responsible for the Extension Service's program in agriculture, home economics, and 4-H Club work.

Extension agents don't work alone. They are representatives of the University of Minnesota and the U. S. Department of Agriculture. Their job is to bring local people the results of research for use on farms and in homes. Agents can call upon specialists from the state Extension office at the University of Minnesota for assistance and for the most recent recommendations and research findings. If you have problems in farming or homemaking, visit your county Extension office. You'll find bulletins and folders as well as personal counsel available there.

All this points to a great educational and information program which has brought the Agricultural Extension Service recognition as the greatest out-of-school teaching service in the world today.

When Did It Start?

Shortly after the turn of the century a few far-sighted agricultural workers started farm demonstrations. Working with farmers, they placed the latest scientific methods into operation on selected farms where they could be observed by other farmers. This practice was the beginning of Agricultural Extension work which was organized on a national basis with the passage of the Smith-Lever Act by the U. S. Congress in 1914. This Act created the Cooperative Extension Service and appropriated funds for its support. There is now an Extension

Service in every land-grant college in the United States. This Service directs the work in the state.

From a small beginning in 1914, with a few agents employed even before the national act was passed, Extension has grown until now there is one or more agents in every county in the United States. These agents—agricultural agents, home agents, 4-H Club agents, and others—are carrying on rural educational programs for both adults and youth.

What Is Its Purpose?

Extensive research programs in agriculture and homemaking are carried on by the state agricultural colleges and the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

It is the Extension Service's job to make this information rapidly available to local people. The Extension agent is a representative of the University of Minnesota and the U. S. Department of Agriculture, who furnish this information. Extension education, however, goes beyond furnishing of new information to farm people. It develops people and leadership through participation in county programs. It helps them to better understand and analyze their problems, and, through individual and group action, to do something about them.

Who Directs the Work in the State?

The Director of the Agricultural Extension Service, which is a department in the Institute of Agriculture of the University of Minnesota, directs Extension work in the state. The Director is responsible to the Dean of the Institute. The Director has a small administrative staff and a staff of specialists who work with the county agents. Each state has a similar organization. The Federal Extension Service in the U. S. Department of Agriculture maintains a small staff whose members serve as consultants to State Extension Services to see that funds are used as specified in the legislation.

In the county, under the laws of 1953, the county Extension committee, composed of nine local men and women, works cooperatively with the State Agricultural Extension Service in guiding and planning local programs.

Who Finances the Work?

Actually the Agricultural Extension Service is cooperatively operated and directed. Nationally it is called the Cooperative Extension Service. Funds for Extension work come from three sources: the federal, state, and county governments. Each contributes a share in support.

County support comes from appropriations made annually by the board of county commissioners. The amount of county support needed is determined annually by the county Extension committee and a representative of the Agricultural Extension Service of the University of Minnesota.

State support comes from legislative appropriations made to the University of Minnesota for the Agricultural Extension Service. Federal support comes from appropriations by Congress through the U. S. Department of Agriculture. Federal appropriations come as grants to states according to their rural population and other factors.

How Is the Extension Committee Organized?

The county Extension committee of nine members is organized according to state law (see back pages). Included on the committee are: the chairman of the board of county commissioners; one other county commissioner selected by that board; the county auditor, who by law is secretary of this committee; and six members selected by the board of county commissioners (at least two must be women). The Extension committee selects its own chairman and vice-chairman, who serve for one year.

The members appointed to the Extension committee by the board of county commissioners serve for three-year terms, with two members to be appointed each year.

What Are the Duties of the County Extension Committee?

The committee represents the county in the conduct of the county Extension program. It is a committee that the Extension agents can consult in developing and carrying out the program and to get advice, help, and encouragement in their work.

Following are specific duties of the county Extension committee:

1. In cooperation with representatives of the University of Minnesota Agricultural Extension Service, prepares annually the budget for Extension work and determines the amount of county funds which needs to be appropriated to support Extension work in the county for the coming year.

2. Employs Extension agents from approved candidates presented by the Agricultural Extension Service of the University of Minnesota. Agents employed must have the approval of the Director of Agricultural Extension Service. Agents must have at least a bachelor's degree in a suitable college curriculum. When Extension agents are employed in the county, they become members of the staff of the University of Minnesota and agents of the United States Department of Agriculture.

3. Initiates and supervises the preparation of the year's program of work for the county and periodically checks to assure it is being followed. The county Extension committee usually does not actually prepare the program of work, but appoints a county program planning committee.

Here is how the county Extension committee initiates and supervises the preparation of the program of work in cooperation with the agents:

- a. Receives annual reports of the Extension program.

- b. Discusses the procedures and methods, including types of meetings, committees needed, and general plans to be used in planning long-time programs.

- c. Selects additional county people to work as members of the program planning committee.

- d. Calendarizes the program planning procedure to insure completion in a reasonable time.

- e. Takes part in the program planning meeting as members of the program planning committee.

- f. Determines those phases of the long-time programs to receive emphasis during the year ahead.

4. Approves the agents' yearly plan of work.

5. Holds other meetings during the year as needed to advise and assist the agents with the county Extension programs and transact such new business pertaining to other matters as may be necessary.

6. Encourages individuals and organizations in the county to make profitable use of Extension activities and to cooperate in their conduct.

The success of the county Extension programs in the counties depends to a large extent upon the participation by the people in the county. The committee can be of great assistance to the Extension agents in encouraging this local participation.

What the Law Says . . .

Minnesota Statutes 1949, Section 22.42, reads:

22.42 The purpose of this act is to coordinate the work of the federal government, the state, the several counties of the state, and the division of agricultural extension [Agricultural Extension Service] of the University of Minnesota in the maintenance of county extension work in agriculture and home economics.

Minnesota Statutes 1949, Section 22.43, reads:

22.43 The county commissioners of the several counties of this state are hereby authorized and empowered to incur expenses and to expend money for county extension work in agriculture and home economics as herein-after provided.

Minnesota Statutes 1949, Section 22.45, reads:

22.45 All moneys appropriated by the state for the purpose of aiding in the maintenance and expenses of county extension work in agriculture and home economics shall be expended under the direction of the dean of the Institute of Agriculture of the University of Minnesota, or his delegated representative, who, acting with the county extension committee, is hereby empowered to carry out the provisions of this act.

Minnesota Statutes 1953, Section 22.46, as amended by Laws 1957, reads:

22.46 There shall be provided in each county an extension committee, consisting of nine members, of whom two shall be members of the board of county commissioners, including the chairman and one other member of the county board selected by the board, the county auditor, and six additional members—five of whom shall be selected and appointed by the county board, one from each of the several commissioners' districts and the remaining sixth member of the county extension committee shall be selected and appointed at large by the county board.

If in any county at any time there be less than five county commissioner districts, then the county board shall select and appoint at large from the county one or more members to the county extension committee, so that the full membership of the committee will be maintained.

If at any time there be more than five county commissioner districts, then the membership of the county extension committee in any such county shall be increased in number to provide representation for each commissioner district on the county extension committee of that county.

In 1954 two of the members of the county extension committee shall be appointed for a term expiring on the date of the annual meeting of the board of county commissioners in 1955, two for a term expiring on the date of the annual meeting of the board of county commissioners in 1956, and two for a term expiring on the date of the annual meeting of the board of county commissioners in 1957.

In 1955 and each year thereafter, the board of county commissioners at their annual meeting shall select and appoint that number of the county extension committee as is required to fill the membership on that committee expiring at that time.

Except for the two members of the board of county commissioners and the county auditor, only persons actively engaged in agriculture as their principal source of livelihood shall be eligible for appointment to or membership on the county extension committee, except in any county where one or more commissioner district or districts lies or lie entirely within the corporate limits of any village or villages, or city or cities, or any combination of the same, one member may be a person who is not actively engaged in agriculture providing his principal source of livelihood is closely associated with or dependent upon agriculture.

Not more than one member of the county extension committee shall be selected from or reside in a particular township, city, village, or other municipality, but there shall always be at least two women members of the committee.

Where more than one commissioner's district lies entirely within a city or cities, or within a village or villages, or within any combination of the same, such additional persons as are required to provide a complete committee membership beyond those selected in the normal manner hereinbefore provided shall be chosen at large from the other commissioner districts.

The county extension committee, each year, on or before the second Monday of July, shall prepare a budget showing the total funds available and needed, and shall recommend by resolution the amount of county funds necessary for the maintenance, support, and expenses of the county work in agriculture and home economics during the following year, which shall not be less than \$1,500, and shall not exceed \$25,000, and except further that in counties having a total area of 150 or more full or fractional congressional townships the sum shall not exceed \$55,000, and in such counties such money may be levied over and above any tax limitation now existing, and a copy of such budget and resolution shall be presented by the county auditor to the board of county commissioners.

It shall be the duty of the board of county commissioners at its regular meeting in July or January, as the case may be, to consider the recommended county share of money necessary for the maintenance, support, and expenses of county extension work in agriculture and home economics during the following year. For these purposes the board of county commissioners may appropriate annually not less than \$1,500 and not to exceed the specified limits hereinbefore provided, and may include the same in the annual levy of county taxes.

The amount so set aside shall be appropriated from the general revenue fund of the county, and the board of county commissioners may make a special levy for county extension purposes. The amount of money so set aside and so appropriated by the board of county commissioners for any county for these purposes shall constitute a fund to be known as the county extension fund, which shall be paid out by orders of the dean of the Institute of Agriculture of the University of Minnesota, or his

delegated representative, for salaries of the agents employed, their employees, and other expenses incident to the work of such agents in improving agriculture and home economics and improving and bettering the marketing of farm products within the appropriation available.

No order for the application of these funds for the purposes named shall be issued until the expenditure shall have been audited and signed by the county auditor. In the event there is an unexpended balance of the county extension fund at the end of any year, this balance shall be carried over or reappropriated within the limits of the appropriation hereinbefore specified.

Minnesota Statutes 1953, Section 22.47, reads:

22.47 The county extension committee shall, annually, formulate a program of work in agriculture and home economics in cooperation with the agricultural extension division (Agricultural Extension Service) of the University of Minnesota and the United States Department of Agriculture. For the purpose of putting this program into operation it shall be the duty of the county extension committee, acting with the dean of the Institute of Agriculture of the University of Minnesota, or his delegated representative, to engage a suitable and qualified person or persons for such work to be known as county extension agents. No county extension agent shall be continued in any county whose services prove unsatisfactory to the county extension committee.

Minnesota Statutes 1953, Section 22.48, is amended to read:

22.48 The duties of the members of the county extension committee, in addition to those hereinbefore specified, shall be to encourage the cooperation of all individuals and organizations to make profitable use of extension activities. It shall elect its own chairman and vice-chairman, who shall serve for one year. The county extension agent shall give aid and advice to all residents of the county when called upon when the object is to improve the science, art, and business of agriculture and home economics. The county auditor shall act as secretary of such county extension committee, and keep a record of all its proceedings, and shall forward copies of all resolutions appropriating funds by the county commissioners to the dean of the Institute of Agriculture of the University of Minnesota.

The members of the county extension committee shall serve without pay, provided, however, that they may be paid at customary mileage rates for the county for miles necessarily traveled in attending meetings of the committee, and be reimbursed from the general revenue fund of the county for such mileage and other necessary expenses incurred, except members who are also members of the board of county commissioners who may be entitled to such compensation and paid in like manner as for committee services as county commissioners.

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA, INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE, ST. PAUL 1, MINNESOTA

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Home Economics Service, Home Economics Department, University of Minnesota, St. Paul 1, Minnesota

3 1951 D02 586 106 1