

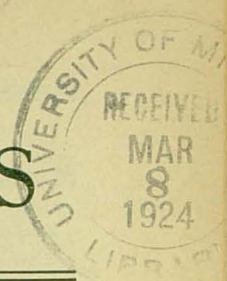
MINNESOTA EXTENSION SERVICE NEWS

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UNIVERSITY FARM, ST. PAUL, MINN., MARCH, 1924

No. 6



HOME SECTION HOLDS INSPIRING CONFERENCE

The home conference held at University Farm February 4 to 9 was attended by all the home demonstration workers, one club leader and several representatives from the counties and cities. Those in regular attendance were: Anna Tikkanen, home demonstration agent in St. Louis county; Mrs. Sylvia Shiras, agent in Duluth; Clover Sabin, agent in Koochiching county; Mildred Wood, agent in St. Paul; Mrs. Lillian Beard, agent in Minneapolis; Edythe Turner, home agent in Steele county; Eva Blair, district agent in Blue Earth, Faribault, Brown and Lyon counties; Edith Hoffman, home agent in Mower county; Ethel Regan, club agent in Watonwan; Mrs. J. S. Pardee and Mrs. Hanford representing the Duluth Home Bureau; Mrs. Bayliss of the St. Louis County club; Mrs. H. A. Clippell of the Redwood County Farm bureau; Mrs. Henry Woodfill of the Steele County Farm bureau; Mrs. E. V. Ripley representing the Minnesota Farm Bureau Federation; Mrs. C. N. Akers, chairman of St. Paul Home Demonstration Committee; Mrs. A. W. Strong and Mrs. Smith of the Woman's Community Council of Minneapolis; Miss Mabel Sensor of the Northwest Farmstead and The Dakota Farmer; Miss Lenore Dunnegan of The Farmer's Wife; and the six members of the state home demonstration office.

The big aim of the conference was to study the "how" of present day home demonstration work. Therefore, the major part of the time was devoted to roundtable discussions of methods of work. The keynote of each of these discussions was given by Miss Grace Frysinger of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. The inspiration and help given by Miss Frysinger each day of the conference will certainly show itself in better and more definite home demonstration work in Minnesota the coming year. The need of long-time goals with a definite yearly program of work based on both this long-time goal and the immediate needs of the communities was stressed.

Every discussion was participated in by field and state workers and by the home chairmen. This latter group contributed so much to the success of the conference by their willingness to express themselves freely and frankly on all points.

The workers all expressed themselves as knowing better how to plan, carry out and then check up on work than ever before.

Exceedingly helpful subject matter talks were given by Berry Akers of the Webb Publishing company, Mrs. Ruth Gerth, consulting interior decorator of Minneapolis; Miss Ruth Houlton, division of child hygiene, State Board of Health; Miss Alice Biester of the home economics division; E. A. Stewart of the engineering division;



MISS GRACE FRYSSINGER OF THE WASHINGTON OFFICE ADDRESSING THE HOME CONFERENCE OF EXTENSION PEOPLE AT UNIVERSITY FARM

Miss Inez Hobart, new extension specialist in nutrition. Most interesting talks which might be classed under headings of inspirational, viewpoint or relationship topics were given by Director F. W. Peck, Dean W. C. Coffey, Miss Wylle McNeal, chief of the division of home economics, Mrs. E. V. Ripley, member of the executive committee of the Minnesota Farm Bureau Federation, Mrs. Frank Warren, member of the board of regents of the state university, Mrs. Genevieve Meybohm of the boys' and girls' section.

Two reports of recent American Home Economics association meetings were given, one by Miss Lucy Studley of the home economics division on the Chicago meeting last August, and the other by Miss Mary L. Bull of the home demonstration office on the mid-winter meeting at New Orleans.

JUNIOR CLUB COURSE SET FOR APRIL 14 TO 19

General vacation week for the schools of Minnesota, April 14 to 19, has finally been selected for the week of the fourteenth annual Boys' and Girls' Short Course at University Farm. The course at the West Central School at Morris will be held March 25, 26, 27 and 28, and the course at the Northwest School at Crookston March 31 to April 4. In addition to these three, county short courses, with attendance ranging from 50 to 175, have been held in various counties of the state.

The University Farm course is open to any boy or girl in Minnesota from 10 to 20 years of age.

The program will be much the same

as in previous years. Class work which deals with subject matter entering into the various projects of the juniors will be presented every forenoon. The afternoons will be reserved for excursions to points and objects of interest in the twin cities, to the prison at Stillwater, and the stock yards at South St. Paul. Programs of play and of entertainment, the first in the early hours of the evening at the gymnasium and the second at the auditorium, will be given every evening.

Some of the counties have taken steps, says T. A.

Erickson, the state leader, to finance the week for a representative of each club in the counties. A prize will be given the club having the largest delegation enrolled for short course work. Advanced breadmaking teams will contest for central district honors and a free trip to the 1924 state fair, the expenses of which will be paid by the Russell Miller Milling company of Minneapolis. Club leaders will hold a one-day conference.

So far as they are able to accommodate those who attend, the dormitories at University Farm will be available for housing the juniors, and it is expected they will go around. The rate will be \$1.50 for the week. Good meals on the cafeteria plan, the patron paying for whatever he orders, will be served. It is confidently expected that railroad fare of half the rate for the return trip will be secured.

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MARCH, 1924

COUNTY AGENT WORK PRAISED BY RUBINOW

S. G. Rubinow, organization manager of the Minnesota Potato Exchange, pays a high compliment to the work done by county agents in promoting co-operative marketing organizations.

"As one who has been identified the last 15 years with both agricultural extension work and co-operative marketing organizations," he says, "particularly from the practical field view point, as a county agent, as an assistant director of extension work, as a marketing organization specialist, and as a farmer, I desire to add my tribute to the value of county agent work in solving farmers' marketing problems through co-operative commodity marketing organizations.

"No one has done more to teach the farmers the value of organization than the county agent. No organization has done more to educate the farmer along lines of self help than the county agent. In counties where there are no agents it is almost physically impossible to do any organization work among farmers. The county agent represents a clearing house for information, a direct educational contact with the farmer, a force for leadership, direction and guidance, a medium through which the educational part of organization work can be done most effectively.

"No force has done more in Minnesota in laying the educational ground work for the organization of the Minnesota Potato Growers Exchange than the county agent. The same is true for the campaigns now being waged in the Dakotas, New York, Michigan, and other states.

"Every time a county votes a county agent out it goes back just that much further in its progress. Farmers without a county agent don't know where to go for information and don't know what their neighbors are doing in improving conditions. They have no one to guide them in campaigns for betterment of conditions. They have no one responsible for calling meetings, writing articles for papers, calling confer-

ences, making surveys, and developing programs of work.

"So far as agriculture is concerned, county agents are just as invaluable to agriculture, both so far as production and distribution are concerned, as schools and teachers are to education."

LOCAL LEADERS DOING GOOD WORK

Local leaders in the clothing project are to be commended upon the splendid things they are doing and the manner in which they are putting the work across. They are not only interesting people in their own communities and counties in extension work in home economics, but also women in other counties where the work has not yet been carried on. In Big Stone county two large groups of local leaders have been organized and have received the first lesson in the project from Miss Lilv Anne Lenhart, state clothing specialist. The request for the work in this county and part of the organization and advertising came through a woman—now a local leader in one of the groups—who became interested in the work through the splendid instruction a relative felt she was receiving in a community group in Stevens county taught by leaders trained by Miss Lenhart.

HOUSTON'S FIRST HOME PROJECT GOING GOOD

The first home project carried on in Houston county started off with a bang February 14 and 15, when 46 leaders from 23 communities reported promptly for duty at the local leader training classes in clothing held by Nora M. Hott, extension specialist in clothing. Much enthusiasm was shown by the leaders, and the remark, "I didn't know I knew so little about sewing," was common among the women. W. D. Stegner, county agent, says it took about three months to organize for the project, but that now his greatest difficulty is in accommodating the number of groups wishing to take part in the work. The women of Houston county, he adds, had not been taking much interest in the farm bureau, so he had to take the matter up with the men first and have them talk it to their wives. When he told the men they might get new shirts out of it, they became enthusiastic. Mr. Stegner believes organized publicity is an effective means of initiating a county-wide project.

Abbott Talks in Canada

M. M. Abbott, agent in Koochiching, crossed the international boundary line recently to address an agricultural society at Elmo, Ont., on the way fair associations are conducted in his county.

Six Major Projects Selected

Land clearing, dairying, poultry, potatoes, alfalfa, and marketing are the major projects in the program of work for 1924 in St. Louis county.

MANKATO-OWATONNA CONFERENCE NOTES

All the agents of the southwest district attended the conference at Mankato January 29 and 30 except the agent of Watonwan county who was out of the state, the agent of Nobles county who had a poultry show at home to attend, and the agent of Le Sueur county who was called home on account of the death of his brother. F. J. Brown, assistant state leader, presided.

Subjects considered at the conference embraced co-operative egg marketing, general economic conditions, county organization of extension effort, fertilizers needed in southwestern Minnesota, "TB" eradication, work of the Southeast Experiment Station, club work, and revision of the reporting system. The speakers were Messrs. F. W. Peck, Balmer, Erickson, Hodgson, Corwin, Crim, W. A. Peck, and Miss Newton.

R. E. Hodgson spoke on soybean culture and the feeding value of the plant. He had found that the soybean is practically equal to oilmeal. If grown for seed the crop should be left standing, he said, until all the leaves have dropped off; if grown for hay, the crop should be cut when the lower leaves turn brown. A grain binder should be used for cutting. He recommended the Habaro variety over the Manchou.

Director Peck explained the plans developed at the farmers'-bankers' conference whereby agricultural committees are to be formed by the bankers' association in each county for the purpose of supporting the program of agriculture.

Southeast District

All the agents, 18 in number, attended the southeast district conference at Owatonna January 31 and February 1. F. J. Brown presided the first day and S. B. Cleland the second day. The features of this conference were similar to those presented at Mankato, Moorhead, and Duluth. Mr. Hodgson gave an interesting statement of the work of the Southeast Experiment Station, including plant breeding testing of new varieties, development of rust resistant crops, pasture practices, growing of nut trees and windbreaks, trying out fruits adapted to southeastern Minnesota, and the use of Short-horn cattle under farm conditions.

County Agent McPheeters of Rice county led a discussion on egg marketing the second day.

STITTS RESIGNS TO DO GRADUATE WORK

T. G. Stitts, agricultural agent in Meeker county since October, 1919, has resigned in order to pursue graduate studies in economics and dairy marketing at University Farm. Mr. Stitts is well known over the state for his work in organizing unit No. 1 for marketing dairy butter and also in putting through the campaign for eradication of bovine tuberculosis in his county. He is a graduate of Cornell University.

HOT BATH BEST FOR SEED POTATOES

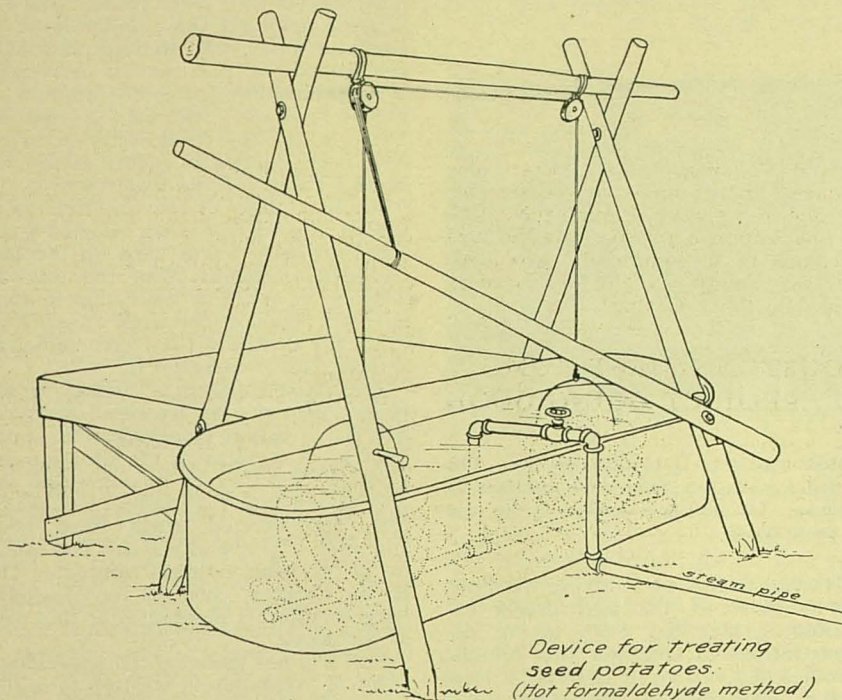
The hot formaldehyde method of treating seed potatoes for the control of scab and rhizoctonia diseases is recommended by R. C. Rose and other plant disease men at University Farm. In effectiveness it equals the corrosive sublimate method and, in addition, saves time as the tubers are soaked only two minutes instead of one and one-half hours. Again, formaldehyde does not corrode metals and therefore the solution can be used in metal tanks or containers.

The solution is made by adding one pint of formaldehyde to every 15 gal-

around the potatoes. The solution does not weaken with use, as does corrosive sublimate, and therefore can be used continuously. However, some of the solution is carried off with the potatoes and lost, and this must be replaced from time to time from a reserve supply.

Best to Work Together

Farmers living in the same neighborhood will find it to their advantage, says Mr. Rose, to establish a community seed treating station for handling all the seed for the group.



lons of water, says Mr. Rose. The water should be heated to a point between 118 and 122 degrees before adding the formaldehyde, and the temperature should be maintained between these points while the seed is being dipped. One good way to keep up the temperature is to use a metal stock tank with a tank heater, or to dig a trench and build a fire under the tank. Some growers use both the tank heater and the fire below the tank.

Two-Minute Bath

A good floating dairy thermometer will help check and regulate the temperature. When the temperature is at the required point, the potatoes should be lowered into the solution, as shown in the drawing, and kept there for two minutes. When removed they should be put in a pile or bin and covered with canvas or sacks for one hour. At the end of that time they are ready for the cutter.

Crates or wire baskets, like those shown in the picture, should be used in dipping the potatoes. Sacks soak up the liquid and interfere with the circulation and temperature of the fluid

If this work is done at a point where steam is available, it will simplify matters in maintaining the proper temperature of the solution. When steam is used, there will be slight dilution of the mixture and a small amount of 40 per cent formaldehyde should be added after each 100 bushels dipped in the solution. Perhaps about one-sixth of the original amount of formaldehyde should be added at such times.

Mr. Rose says the material needed for a community dipping station need not cost much, as most of it can be borrowed in the neighborhood. Items of equipment necessary are: one stock tank (about 200 gallons), four wire bushel baskets, six poles or timbers for scaffold, old planks for loading platform, two pulleys, 25 feet of rope, one dairy thermometer, and steam pipe or steam hose to connect the boiler and dipping tank.

Aitkin county farmers are buying potash and lime in large quantities for use on peat and alfalfa fields. A minimum car of 25,000 pounds of potash has been ordered and mostly sold, says Agent A. W. Jacob.

MARKETING PROJECTS GAINING MOMENTUM

Marketing, particularly egg marketing, is being given much hard study and thought by farmers in Minnesota, according to the county agent reports for January. Some of the activities noticed may be summarized by counties as follows:

Waseca—A county wide meeting, held at Waseca, adopted the report of a committee unanimously recommending that the farm bureau encourage farmers of Waseca county to join the Owatonna unit in marketing eggs. Plans were made for organizing local egg gathering stations.

Lincoln—Marketing is recommended as a major project in the extension program for 1924. "People seem enthusiastic about the egg marketing plan," says Agent A. A. Kosmoski, "and no doubt it will be acted on favorably by farm bureau directors at the next meeting."

Martin—The farm bureau has appointed a committee of seven to study the co-operative egg and poultry marketing plan in Rice county with the view of introducing it in Martin.

Watsonwan—Building leased for carrying on egg and poultry marketing starting about March 1.

Dodge—Organization committees appointed and an active membership canvass started at Wasioja, Claremont, Kasson, Dodge Center and Concord. Nearly 300 members have joined to date.

Lake—North Shore Poultry Producers association organized for egg marketing. The producers will take the eggs to the different stores which they have agreed among themselves to keep supplied. "The advantage over the old method," says one of the producers, "is that more is received for the higher grades than under the old system, and the producer receives cash for his eggs instead of having to trade it out in groceries. No one store is overloaded with eggs and the price is the same with all dealers. Eventually a manager will be engaged."

Carver—"Co-operative marketing is meeting with much favor and will probably have a fairly large membership in this county," says Agent E. D. Byrns.

Aitkin—Business men and farmers co-operating have put across the campaign for potato marketing, the minimum acreage for the county having been signed and additional contracts still coming in. County-wide meeting on egg and poultry marketing called.

East Ottertail—Co-operative egg marketing indorsed by the county farm bureau; Fergus Falls and Wadena incorporate.

Lac qui Parle—Marketing of eggs indorsed at six township meetings, nine special meetings, and by ten farmers' clubs. Committees appointed to solicit members. Other territory to be invaded.

Kittson—County Agent W. V. Longley reports 9,026 acres of potatoes in the county under pledge to the new exchange. "Thus 103 per cent of the allotted 1922 commercial acreage has been signed," he says.

TON LITTER CONTEST GETS A REAL START

Rules and regulations for the ton litter pig contest, which will be sponsored in 1924 by the Minnesota Livestock Breeders association and the Minnesota Swine Growers association in co-operation with the agricultural extension division of the university, have been prepared by a committee composed of E. F. Ferrin of the animal husbandry division, University Farm; H. A. Derenthal of Wykoff, president of the state swine growers association, and H. G. Zavoral, livestock specialist from the university.

To produce 2,000 pounds of pork in six months from a single spring litter of pigs by means of good breeding, care, and feeding is the goal sought in this contest.

About \$650 will be distributed as cash prizes for the heaviest litters produced in the state.

Ton litter contests were carried on last year in Rock and Dakota counties. This year it is planned to interest several other counties and gradually to make the ton litter a factor in livestock development in the state. For full particulars as to rules and regulations governing the contest write H. G. Zavoral, University Farm, St. Paul.

CLOTHING MEETINGS IN WINONA CONTINUED

Mrs. C. J. Goetzman of West Burns Valley, Winona county, says they have been continuing their meetings since they finished the clothing project in May. Because there were so many in the community who did not attend, but are now anxious to take the work, the original group decided to continue so they could show the other people the practices they were applying on garments. The women have also become interested in another community project, that of providing a hot lunch for school children. Funds were not available for this purpose, but women came to the rescue by holding a bazaar where they sold many garments they had made in their clothing project. They cleared enough to buy a splendid school hot lunch equipment and had \$30 to turn over to their local farm bureau unit.

MRS. MARGARET BAKER, CLUB AGENT, RESIGNS

Extension people over the state were surprised to hear of the resignation of Mrs. Margaret B. Baker, state club agent, who has accepted a position with the Russell Miller Milling company of Minneapolis. At the outset her new work will center in the organization and promotion of bread-making clubs and groups in eastern states.

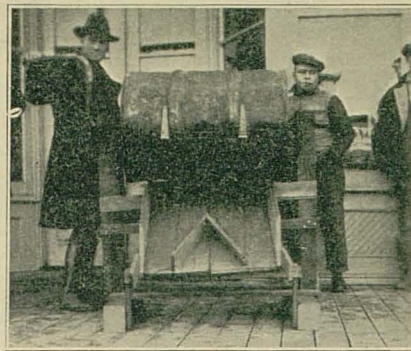
Mrs. Baker has been with the university's agricultural extension service almost from its beginning, first in the office of extension work with women and for the last ten years with the boys' and girls' club section. She has been especially active in developing the bread work among girls and has had great success in that field.

EASY WAY FOUND TO FIGHT WHEAT SMUT

For four seasons wheat growers of Washington state have been treating their seed wheat against stinking smut or "bunt" with copper carbonate dust and have found it good. In 1920 seed so treated was sown on ten acres only. In 1924, according to the plant disease specialist of the agricultural extension service of that state, seed so treated will be planted on 1,500,000 acres.

What has proved to be good for them ought to be worth trying by wheat growers of Minnesota.

Furthermore, experiment station men at University Farm and the outlying stations have found in a series of trials that copper carbonate is just as effective as formaldehyde and much easier to handle.



Most any farmer can make his own. This mixing machine was home made and does the business. The picture was taken in the town of Roof, Wash.

Having borrowed a mixing machine, R. C. Rose of the agricultural extension service has been giving demonstrations in Houston and Winona counties and will go to Ottertail, Clearwater, Kittson, and Pipestone counties for the same purpose.

Every wheat grower using the dust method should have some sort of a mixing machine, says Mr. Rose. Otherwise the farmer may inhale the dust and suffer temporarily from its effects. An old butter churn can be used, or, lacking that, a keg or box mounted on a revolving axis can be improvised and made to do. Two ounces of the dust to the bushel of wheat should be used, and four ounces to the bushel of oats. Copper carbonate has not given as complete control of smut in oats as of smut in wheat, but its use in treating oats is warranted, says Mr. Rose.

Copper carbonate dust has distinct advantages over formaldehyde for treating seed grain. No water is required, germinating ability is not injured, and seed can be treated quickly and easily at any time without danger from freezing. Further details concerning materials and methods can be obtained by writing to the Extension Division, University Farm, St. Paul. Special bulletin No. 70, "Dusting Seed Grain to Prevent Smut," will be sent free on request.

ABNORMAL APPETITE OF CATTLE STUDIED

Preliminary work which, it is hoped, will eventually lead to the solution of the problem of abnormal or depraved appetite among cattle has been carried on at University Farm since the middle of December. No developments of significance can yet be reported, says Dr. C. H. Eckles, chief of the dairy division.

Six cows affected with the disorder were bought in western Minnesota and shipped to University Farm for the experiments. Two of the six are being fed the same hay and grain rations and given water of the same composition which they had before shipment. Two others are on the same diet, but in addition have calcium carbonate, or lime, mixed with their grain. The remaining two get the same rations of feed and water, with sodium phosphate substituted for the calcium carbonate. Wild prairie hay fed to the animals in their old home and oats grown on farms where the trouble has occurred have been shipped in quantities to University Farm for the experiments.

Another phase of the experiments is the feeding of two cows selected from the University Farm herd on the hay and grain brought from the western districts in order to determine if they, too, will develop depraved appetite or if, on the contrary, they have sufficient reserve power to resist it.

Just what mineral is lacking in the feeds grown in western districts, whether it is lime or phosphorus, is not known. Complicating the situation developed by deficiency of mineral in the feed is the fact that samples of water from the affected areas have been analyzed at University Farm and found to be of high mineral content. Dr. R. A. Gortner, chief of the biochemistry division, is looking after this part of the work.

Still another phase of the experiment is being carried on in western localities where owners are co-operating with the university men in feeding bone-meal to their cattle in the hope of getting relief.

TESTING ASSOCIATIONS IN STATE NUMBER 76

Seventy-six cow testing associations were in active operation in Minnesota in February and more than 22,000 cows are now under test. At least one more association—in Scott county—will be ready for business March 1. Others are incubating in Olmsted, Murray, Blue Earth, and various other counties.

New associations to get into action are Meadowlands, St. Louis county; Faribault county No. 1; Glenville-Hayward, Twin Lakes-Emmons, Mansfield, all of Freeborn county; Le Roy, Mower county; and Aitkin, Aitkin county.

Farmers Petition for Testing

More than 1,100 farmers of Mower county have petitioned for "TB" testing on the area plan, says F. L. Liebenstein, county agent.