Minnesota Extension News

Published Monthly by the University of Minnesota, Department of Agriculture, Extension Division

Vol. XI UNIVERSITY FARM, ST. PAUL, MINN., OCTOBER, 1931 No. 1

Zavoral Returns From Year's Work in Russia

OCTOBER 1. The weather is balmy. The sun beams brightly. The purple haze of perfect autumn hovers over the landscape. An ideal day for drowsing. Yet no one drowses. Banners are out. The air is charged with expectancy. "How will the world series opener come out?" No, that is not the query, but "Will Henry come home today?"

That question has University Farm all agog as we trundle off to the printer with the last bit of copy for Extension News. Even the newspapers are calling to ask it. Word is around that H. G. Zavoral may be expected to arrive at any minute following his year of leave in Russia, where he acted as adviser to the Soviet Government in its livestock improvement program.

Newspapers already have proclaimed the arrival of Mr. Zavoral in New York City late in September. Zav's leave was a year of adventure and romance. In addition to his experiences as Soviet adviser, there was his marriage, which took place in Berlin last April. Honeymooning back to Moscow, Mr. and Mrs. Zavoral remained there until last month, when they started back to Minnesota to make their home here. Mrs. Zavoral was formerly Miss Angie W. Keenan of Minneapolis.

County Project Booths Attract Fair Visitors

ROCK county's rat control extension project booth at the Minnesota State Fair brought out 477 requests for information, according to the registry book kept by County Agent C. G. Gaylord. The requests represented persons from Minnesota, North and South Dakota, Wisconsin, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Washington, Oregon, Canada, Canal Zone, Germany, and the Philippine Islands.

Counts made at various times during the 7 days gave an average of 11 persons per minute or a total of about 46,200. Twelve method demonstrations were conducted, a live rat being killed with calcium cyanide each time. An average of 45 persons witnessed each demonstration. The booth this year attracted greater interest on the part of more people than last year.

Rock's booth won first prize, and was named as best-demonstrated booth. H. C. Pederson's booth from Traverse county won second. The Itasca county booth, arranged by A. H. Frick, was third, also taking first in beauty. Freeborn county's booth was fourth.

All of the booths were of an especially high caliber, each with a definite story to tell and each telling it briefly and with some real punch. To those who have observed the project booths from year to year, a big, steady improvement is very evident, and without doubt these booths are one of the finest agricultural attractions of the entire Fair.

*Coming Events**

October 10-18, 1931—National Dairy Show, St. Louis
October 30, 1931—Swine Feeders' Day
November 2-5, 1931—Junior Livestock Show, South St. Paul
November 28-December 5, 1931—International Livestock Exposition, Chicago
November 28-December 5, 1931—National 4-H Club Congress, Chicago
December 3-12, 1931—Ice Cream Makers' Short Course
December 14-17, 1931—Annual Extension Conference
January 18-23, 1932—Farmers' and Homemakers' Week
January 18-21, 1932—Annual Convention, Minnesota Farm Bureau, St. Paul
February 8-12, 1932—Red River Valley Winter Shows, Crookston
February 29-March 5, 1932—Annual Home Demonstration Conference

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

Ray Stiedl To Follow W. K. Dyer in Meeker

W. K. Dyer has decided to leave agent work in Meeker county to become executive secretary of the newly created Minnesota State Poultry Improvement Board, which was established by the last legislature. A. C. Smith, chief in poultry husbandry at University Farm, is president of the new board, which will have its headquarters in St. Paul. The board is to have charge of accrediting poultry flocks on health and quality.

Mr. Dyer will be succeeded by Ray Stiedl of Wheaton, Minnesota, who will begin work October 1. Mr. Stiedl is a former student of the Minnesota College of Agriculture, and has a wide experience, leaving college in 1921. He has done considerable livestock pedigree work with the Peterson-Melin company, sales agency for Holstein cattle. For several years he was a herdsman and farm manager and at one time had charge of the famous Erickson Holstein herd at Waupaca, Wisconsin.

As secretary of the Wheaton Businessmen's association and member of several other organizations, Mr. Stiedl has had a great deal of contact with people, which will be a big asset to him in his county agent work.

Mr. Dyer leaves Meeker county after having been there since July 1, 1929. He began his county agent service in Renville county in January, 1918, following several years of teaching agriculture in high schools.

Eleven Attend Outlook Meet From Minnesota

MINNESOTA'S representatives at the Central States Outlook Conference, Urbana, Illinois, about the middle of September, included F. W. Peck, W. L. Cavert, S. B. Cleland, W. B. Silcox, D. C. Dvoracek, G. A. Pond, W. C. Waite, W. P. Ranney, G. A. Sallee, W. H. Dankers, and R. C. Bevans. All are members of the extension or station economics staffs except Mr. Bevans, who is stationed at Owatonna as fieldman for the southeast farm accounting route.

Mr. Peck also attended a meeting of farm leaders and extension directors which met at Chicago in September on call of the American Farm Bureau Federation.

Willrett To Succeed Hammargren In Pine

FRED B. WILLRETT will be county agent in Pine after October 1. W. F. Hammargren has resigned to become appraiser for the Minnesota Rural Credits Bureau. Mr. Willrett comes to Minnesota from Redfield, South Dakota, where he has been county agent of Spink county since November, 1929. He also spent more than a year with the South Dakota extension service as district 4-H club agent and multiple-hitch demonstrator. He was graduated from the Iowa State College in 1929, specializing in animal husbandry.

Mr. Willrett was born at Malta, Illinois, attending high school at DeKalb, Illinois. As a boy, he received plenty of experience helping his parents run a 348-acre livestock farm.

Mr. Hammargren, the retiring agent, has been employed at Hinckley since November, 1923, and has kept a fine program of work going since that time.

Pederson to Winona, Abrahamson to Traverse

HAROLD C. PEDERSON, Traverse county agent for the past 2 or 3 years, will transfer October 1 to Winona county, succeeding J. B. McNulty. Lyle Abrahamson, assistant agent in Jackson, will take up the work in Traverse on the same date. Both these men are well known to Minnesota extension workers, who wish them success in their new fields.

Curran Assistant Agent

James Curran, assistant specialist in agronomy for the past 6 months, began work October 1 as assistant county agent in Fillmore county. Jimmie is well known to the extension staff and had his history told in a recent issue of The News, so we merely announce the change and holler "Good Luck, Jimmie."

Liebenstein On Job

F. L. Liebenstein is now back on the job in Mower county, after several weeks' rest in Wisconsin. "Lieb" began work again September 15, and according to reports is feeling and looking fine. While Mr. Liebenstein was away, his work was handled by Walter Boeke.

Peck Best Golfer in "Farm Relief" Tourney

DIRECTOR F. W. Peck won first prize and a good time was had by all, at the "Farm Relief" golf tournament, Sunday, September 27, at the Mississippi golf course near Anoka. L. O. Jacob, Anoka county agent, who converted 80 acres of his farm on Trunk Highway 62 into a golf course this summer, invited the University Farm staff, and all extension, Farm Bureau and agricultural press workers to play off a tournament at his course.

"Jake" donated a dozen golf balls as prizes, awarded as follows: six balls to Mr. Peck for first prize; four to W. A. Peck for second prize; and two to W. Bruce Silcox for third prize. Frank J. Brown, playing his initial game, won the booby prize by a large margin, and was presented three beautifully-wrapped, used golf balls by the first prize winner.

The tournament was based on the first 18 holes played, each player being assigned a handicap. Victor E. Anderson turned in the lowest total score, 80, but his handicap of 9 left him a net of 71 for fourth place.

In addition to those named, others playing in the tournament were W. E. Morris, L. A. Churchill, H. L. Harris, A. E. Engebretson, J. F. Kuehn, Billie Peck, D. C. Dvoracek, F. A. Dvoracek, W. L. Cavert, L. O. Jacob, James Curran and L. Kelehan.

Mrs. Jacob served a delightful waffle breakfast to members of the tournament committee, as well as noon lunches for everyone. The day was ideal, and many expressed a desire to play again at "Jake's" course. This year the course consisted of nine holes laid out on two 40-acre fields, but "Jake" has plowed up some additional land and next year expects to have an 18-hole course.

General Motors Cut On Autos Cancelled

ARRANGEMENTS with the General Motors Fleet Sales Corporation for special discount privileges to extension employes has been called off. The agreement with the Ford company, allowing 7 per cent discount, still obtains.

C. B. Smith, chief of the Office of Co-operative Extension Work, Washington, D. C., makes the following explanation in a letter to Director Peck:

"The General Motors Corporation felt that their dealers would be unduly penalized with this arrangement, and found also that many requests were reaching them as a result of this plan for discount privileges to other departments of the Agricultural Colleges. Accordingly it was decided that this discount be withdrawn.

"The withdrawal of this privilege makes it necessary that agents of the Extension Service deal as heretofore directly with the individual General Motors dealers in their localities, and make their own local arrangements without reference to a national agreement."

Minnesota Extension News

Published monthly at University Farm, St. Paul, Minn., by the Agricultural Extension Service of the University of Minnesota and the United States Department of Agriculture co-operating.

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Entered as second-class matter, October 4, 1921, at the Post-Office at St. Paul, Minnesota, under the Act of Aug. 24, 1912.

Accepted for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in section 1103, Act of Oct. 3, 1917, authorized Oct. 21, 1921.

OCTOBER, 1931

Signs of Hope

On page four of this issue of the Extension News is a fall outlook statement prepared by Mr. Cavert after attending the Central States Outlook Conference at Urbana, Illinois. The statement is not particularly optimistic, but at the same time it contains rays of light that may be indicative of some improvement in at least two of the major Minnesota farm enterprises.

The rise in the price of butterfat has been rather remarkable, and while it may have been caused to some extent by the short production due to drouth conditions and other factors not particularly favorable to farming as a whole, the relation of the cost of feed to the present butterfat price is more encouraging than it has been for some time. As someone recently remarked, if butterfat could stay around 35 cents a pound through the winter months, with the prospective low cost of feed, it would constitute a real ray of hope for the dairy farmer.

The second commodity which seems to have some optimism in its outlook is poultry and poultry products. The number of chickens on farms and the storage situation indicate possibility of an improvement in the prices of these products through the winter months. This will likely not be spectacular, but may be encouraging to those in position to produce a satisfactory quality product without excessive cost.

In both the dairy and poultry enterprises, cost of production will be of primary importance and the quality of product more important than usual. When prices are low, the differential between the prices of low quality and high quality in the same commodity is such as to constitute a much larger difference than when the prices are very high. The price of eggs recently in St. Paul varied from 13 to 25 cents per dozen, depending upon the quality. This represents a difference of 100 per cent. When first quality eggs were selling at 50 cents per dozen, and lower quality at 38 or 40 cents, the difference represented but 25 5per cent. Hence, quality is particularly important when prices are low.

In order to capitalize upon the opportunity of obtaining increased income from these two enterprises, it would seem important to emphasize a rigid culling program, basing the amount of livestock in many communities upon the amount of available feed rather than planning on buying too much feed on a cash basis. Likewise "hard-times" rations designed to keep the cost of production at a minimum and at the same time be balanced so as to obtain the largest amount of nutrient for the kinds of feed available should be planned and such rations made available to all producers in the counties.

It is not so clear from the outlook report that hogs, beef cattle and sheep are as promising or hold the opportunity for better returns that farmers would like. In fact, these statements, when analyzed closely, contain more pessimism than we wish prevailed, but they seem to be based upon the best and most accurate type of economic information available.

F. W. Peck

"Farmer" Speaks Praise Of County Agent Work

EXTENSION workers who may not have seen the article entitled "Your County Agent," in The Farmer, Farm, Stock & Home for September 26, 1931, will be interested in seeing it. Perhaps those who have seen it will find it worth reading again, so we quote it below:

Despite many ups and downs, the county agent movement goes steadily forward as the years go by and as the worth of the idea becomes recognized. This publication has always believed in the value of this type of extension work, and we have been sold on this belief purely as a result of our observation of results obtained. It is true that some county agents make good in a big way while others fall down. This difference in human efficiency is found in every walk of life. Generally speaking, if any community is half-way fair in extending co-operation to even a mediocre county agent, the results obtained fully justify the modest expenditure involved. The better the man and the more cordial the co-operation extended, the better the results that can be expected.

With much interest we note in one of our exchanges some interesting comments about county agents made by Albert Hines of Bedford County, Texas. Texas, by the way, was one of the first states to adopt the county agent idea. In response to criticism Mr. Hines writes:

Our County Agent—

Is simply our hired man, yet to hear some folks talk one would think he is our boss.

Is not a magician. He cannot, by waving a wand, raise the price of corn.

Does not claim to know it all.

Has no cure-all for farm ills.

Is always on the job.

Cannot make any farmer prosperous over night.

Cannot help if you do not give him a chance.

Does not come on the farm to tell you what to do, but to discuss your problems.

Wears a collar and tie, because it is standard equipment. How would he look in overalls, hickory shirt, and brogan shoes?

Has an orderly, well-arranged office where the farmers can meet and discuss their problems.

Welcomes sincere criticism.

Is a human being. After doing his best he does not like to be kicked.

Promotes boys' and girls' clubs, and this keeps them interested in farming. This alone is worth what he costs us.

Has to have a salary, else how would he live?

Cannot give lectures that will keep the weeds down, or the fences up.

Believes in a better agriculture.

We believe that Mr. Hines is not overly extravagant in his generous support of the large group of sincere young men known as County Agents who are doing their level best to co-operate with farmers in building a better agriculture.

Saturday Eve Broadcasts Will Be Educational

WEEKLY radio programs on present-day economics and psychology, sponsored by the National Advisory Council on Radio in Education, will be given Saturday evenings over the National Broadcasting company network, including KSTP.

On the initial program will speak President Nicholas Murray Butler of Columbia University, President James R. Angell of Yale, and Dr. Ernest L. Bogart, president, American Economic association. Dr. Butler's speech will be introductory to the series of 30 programs. Dr. Angell will open the series of psychology programs and Dr. Bogart the economics series.

The October 17 program will be on the air from 9:15 to 10 C. S. T. The other programs will be given Saturday evenings from 9:30 to 10 C. S. T., and each broadcast will be divided into two 15-minute periods so that an address in each series may be presented every week.

There will be 30 lectures in each series. The first 10 in the economics series will deal with causes of the economic depression and possible ways out. Unemployment insurance, national economic planning, the merger movement and other problems of modern economics will be discussed in future lectures. The series on modern psychology will cover such subjects as child development, adult learning, changes in personality, animal behavior, and the social and industrial implications of scientific psychology.

Searles Made Show Head, Official Holstein Judge

H. R. SEARLES spent several days at Waterloo, Iowa, the latter part of September and early October, superintending the cattle department of the Waterloo Dairy Cattle Congress. He succeeds J. P. Eves, superintendent since 1917, who resigned.

Mr. Searles had been assistant cattle superintendent since 1921, when he had charge of dairy extension work in Iowa. For the last 7 years he has judged 4-H calves at the Congress.

Recently Mr. Searles was notified by the Holstein-Friesian Association of America that his name had been placed on the list of official Holstein judges.

Frysinger To Visit

Miss Grace E. Frysinger, extension home economist of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C., planned to be in Minnesota October 8 to 12, spending her time with Miss Newton and the home demonstration staff. From October 8 to 10, Miss Newton and Miss Frysinger expected to visit two home demonstration agent counties, while on Monday, October 12, an all-day conference with the staff was to be held.

New Scoring Method For Community Booths

GOOD success is reported from the use of a new method of scoring community booths at county fairs. The method is based on the use of a large chart on which the scores are posted as completed. One place at which the plan was used very successfully was the Itasca county fair, R. C. Rose and S. B. Cleland being the judges.

A large chart was prepared in advance and posted on the front of the building. The first item scored was sheaf grains, and as soon as the score was determined on this class for each of the nine booths exhibiting, the figures were marked on the chart. While the next class was being judged, the representatives of the various booths had an opportunity to study the placings on the sheaf grains and determine why one or another exhibit was considered better or poorer than the others. Since several hours were consumed in the scoring of these booths, a splendid opportunity was given for the adherents of the various booths to get well acquainted with the different classes of products exhibited.

Observers of this method of scoring booths commented that it had several advantages over ordinary methods. For one thing, as the scoring progressed the booths were placed somewhat in the position of racing with each other. As one after another of the classes was added, comments such as the following were heard: "Well, we are still ahead. If we can only keep it up at this rate we will win." "We are in third place now, but the remaining classes are our good ones and we should move up when they get these judged." Each time, as the judge stepped up to mark up another class, a crowd gathered hastily to see what the scores would be. The representatives of each booth made copies of the large chart as fast as the figures were entered.

Another value noted was the more thorough study made of the products exhibited. While the judges made it clear that they would not be in a position to discuss placings until after the entire judging was done, the individual study made of the various exhibits usually brought out the reason for the rankings without the necessity of asking the judge to give reasons. It was apparent that the educational value of the community booths was very greatly increased by this open chart method of scoring.

A third value secured from this method was the assurance that the scoring was absolutely fair and above board. In other words, the judges exposed their scores as fast as established, and the booths ranked themselves accordingly without any question of favoritism on the part of the judges.

This method of scoring booths was first tried out at the Itasca county fair in 1929, and was requested again this year when the same judges were to be present. It has also been used at a number of other fairs with equal success.

"Time-Out" For Watson

Suffering from nervous debility, W. E. Watson, Dakota county agent, is taking a 6-weeks lay-off at Danbury, Wisconsin. At this writing, it is expected that Walter Boeke will take his place for a part of his absence. We trust that Mr. Watson will return feeling much improved.

4-H CLUB NEWS

Horticultural Society To Meet Nov. 17-19

THE final round-up for the year for garden and home beautification 4-H members will be held in connection with the annual meeting of the Minnesota Horticultural Society at St. Paul, November 17, 18 and 19.

The 25 counties with strongest 4-H garden and home beautification programs each will be entitled to send one delegate. Extension agents and county leaders are asked to report number enrolled and number showing at local and county fairs, and to send to the State Club Office, with the above information, the name of the county candidate for this trip, together with his or her record and story. Send this information as soon as possible.

Here Are Entry Dates National Club Congress

COUNTY AGENTS and leaders should remember that entries for 4-H baby beeves, fat barrows or lambs at the International must be sent before November 1. Poultry may be entered up to November 10.

Corn club boys with excellent samples, are urged to enter them before November 9. Entry cards for all classes may be had by writing B. H. Heide, Union Stock Yards, Chicago, Illinois.

Biwabik Potato Show

The Biwabik Potato Show will be held October 22, 23, and 24. This is being made the final show for potato club members. All 4-H potato members with creditable exhibits are urged to send samples of 32 potatoes. The premium fund will be divided pro-rata. The best exhibits will be sent to the National Club Congress and to the Minnesota Horticultural Society Exhibit. The final state awards will also be made in connection with this show. Everyone sending an exhibit must also send his report.

Reports Due October 7

THE 1931 Junior Livestock Show will be held at South St. Paul, November 2, 3, 4, and 5. More than 900 exhibitors have been listed. Because of the large increase, no exceptions can be made to regular plan of representation as announced early in the season. A statement of representation per county, based on enrolment sent to the club office, has been sent each county. Refer to basis of representation on club project outline.

County agents and leaders are urged to report representations and to send the record for each club member selected as soon as possible. The show is held one week earlier than usual so complete reports should be in the State Club Office not later than October 7.

Urge Good Behavior Among Trip Winners

GROUPS of 4-H club members generally are very well behaved young people. But because they are wide-awake, full-of-life boys and girls they need to be guided in their relations with each other, in their personal behavior as it affects others, and in their obedience to accepted standards of the group.

The number attending our state 4-H events is now so large that rule are necessary, and obedience to these rules must be secured. This is especially true where large groups are housed together.

Before your group leaves for the next event, The Junior Livestock Show, explain to them how necessary it is that each of them remember the high standards of a 4-H group. Urge every 4-H'er who comes to remember the following special motto: "Do your best, act your best, be your best."

Former Club Girl On Indian School Staff

Vivian O'Connor of Jackson county, who has been in club work for 10 years, has accepted a teaching position in an Arizona Indian Mission School.

Vivian is located 27 miles from any trading post. She and the other teachers must do their own housekeeping. She writes that her 4-H club work comes in handy.

Prince Loans Apply In Schools of Agriculture

ANNOUNCEMENT has just been received that loans may be made from the Prince Loan Fund by students of the Schools of Agriculture, as well as for the College. Loans bear no interest and may be repaid after graduation.

Seals for Club Charters

The club charter is given when the 4-H club is organized. At the close of the year, each club having finished the year's program creditably may secure a seal for the charter. Send application through County Agent's office to the State Club Department.

National 4-H Radio Round-Up November 7

THE National 4-H Achievement Day radio program given November 8 last year was such a success that it will be repeated this year, Saturday November 7. Minnesota will co-operate with a 4-H program from two stations. The first part from 11:30 to 11:45 will be given by the Washington office. From 11:45 to 12:15 Minnesota will give a program through KSTP from St. Paul and combine with North Dakota on the program through WDAY, Fargo. The closing part from 12:16 to 12:30 will be given from Washington. The detailed program will be given in the next issue.

Dakota Demonstrates Canning of Chicken

HENS culled out of their flocks by women in the Dakota county poultry project raised the question of how they should be disposed of. The question was whether to sell the hens or can them for winter use. To give assistance, several chicken canning demonstrations were arranged by County Agent Watson with Jeanne Tellier, now of the Kerr Glass company, showing several of the best and most convenient ways of canning chicken. One hundred and thirty housewives attended three demonstrations.

To extension folks, it is interesting to know that Jeanne began her canning career as a 4-H canning project member, becoming so efficient that for the past several years she has given many commercial demonstrations.

Gets 102 Health Reports

Martin county 4-H club members were enthusiastic about the new health work this year and made strenuous efforts to "be their own best exhibit." says W. D. Stegner. Under the leadership of A. R. Karr, county agent, and Miss Bertha Soules, club leader, 102 members submitted health reports. The county nurse co-operated and gave health examinations to the 18 boys and girls who were eligible for State Fair trips. William Wood, Granada, scored third in the state contest and Eleanor Johnson, Sherburn, placed in the upper one third.

Girls Learn By Doing

The Golden Rule Store in St. Paul is making it possible for the room furnishing girls in Ramsey county to study room furnishing problems by actually furnishing rooms. The girls will work in groups of two and select the entire furnishings for a room. These rooms are to meet the needs of the average person and means of a moderate income.

4-H CALENDAR FOR OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER, 1931

October 1—All 4-H leadership records due
October 7—Names of delegates with reports for Junior Livestock Show to be in State Club Office
October 10-19—National Dairy Show at St. Louis, 50 Minnesota 4-H'ers attending
October 15—County winner in garden project to be in State Office
October 22, 23, 24—State 4-H Potato Show at Biwabik
November 17, 18, 19—Minnesota State Horticultural Meeting with 4-H garden and home beautification winners attending
November 30—Select and report delegates for 1932 Farm Boys' Camp

Steele County Holds Farm Management Tour

INTEREST ran high at Steele county's farm management tour, September 29, according to S. B. Cleland, farm management specialist. The tour was the third of a series being held in counties in the Southeast Minnesota farm accounting project. Waseca and Rice were the first two counties. Three Steele county farms were visited. At each place, outstanding features about its management were presented through discussion and charts.

At the Stanley Newhall farm, the point of special interest was the dairy herd, which has shown consistently high production and has contributed a large share of a good farm income. The hog and poultry enterprises were given attention at the William Ost farm, where also the cropping system was studied. Maps showing the field arrangement in 1930, and that proposed for the future were presented, along with charts showing the increase in feed which Mr. Ost expects to secure under the new arrangement. This reorganization plan aroused lively discussion and proved to be one of the high spots of the tour.

Dairy management and cropping system reorganization were taken up at the Hiram Johnson farm. Though Mr. Johnson's farm business as a whole has been consistently good, each year placing him near the top in earnings among the accounting project cooperators, his dairy herd has not been as productive as it should. Mr. Johnson has taken definite steps to bring his dairying up to the high standard of his other operations, having begun testing, changed his feeding practices, and culled out several low cows.

Following lunch at the Ost farm, Dr. George Pond reported on the progress of farm accounting work in Illinois, carried on for 7 years.

Bibliography On Farm Living Standards Issued

"RURAL STANDARDS OF LIVING" is the title of Miscellaneous Publication No. 116, U. S. Department of Agriculture, which is a selected bibliography of books, pamphlets and periodical articles dealing with the rural standard of living. This publication should be of great help to extension workers who want a guide to current literature on rural sociology.

This bibliography was first issued in mimeographed form in August, 1930, and used at the meeting of the American Country Life association at the 13th National Country Life Conference at Madison, Wisconsin, last October. Most of the publications listed in the bibliography have been issued since 1920. The bibliography is compiled by Louise O. Bercaw, junior librarian, U. S. Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

Exhibit Attracts Notice

Janet Anderson, a Hennepin county 4-H club girl, has been asked to loan her clothing outfit. exhibited at the State Fair, to the Field-Schlick Company in St. Paul. The garments were exhibited in one of the most prominent show windows. This is a splendid recognition of Janet's excellent work.

Billings' Articles On Chick Diseases Popular

"TIMELY Truths About Poultry Troubles," the series of News Letter articles by Dr. W. A. Billings, veterinary specialist, proved very popular with newspapers and their readers. Twenty-seven newspapers wrote for mats of Dr. Billings to use with this series, and a check-up in the Office of Publications indicates that approximately 200 papers ran the series or parts of it.

Numerous letters have been received by Dr. Billings from persons who have read these articles. Veterinarians have complimented Dr. Billings, and a number of flock owners who had had experiences with poultry remedy pedlers wrote to relate them. Compliments were also received from some of the drug trade magazines, as well as from manufacturers of some of the materials Dr. Billings mentioned as being legitimate and reliable poultry medicines.

So far nothing has been heard from the pedlers whose operations this series was designed to interfere with. What is hoped, of course, is that less and less will be heard of these fakers. Dr. Billings or the publicity department would appreciate hearing from county agents or other extension workers who have heard comments on this series one way or the other.

One comment by an editor seems worthy of special note. The Aitkin Independent Age, writing in for Dr. Billings' mat, said, "Dr. Billings has been and is now a blessing to poultry growers of Aitkin county."

Clever Acrostic Bears Achievement Day News

HERE'S an achievement day publicity suggestion from Carlton county that seems worth passing on. A news article in the local papers was written in the form of a letter of invitation to "Mr. and Mrs. Citizen." Signed by Mrs. Clyde Mason, chairman of the publicity committee, the letter outlined the program and ended with an acrostic, cleverly arranged by Mrs. Mason. It follows:

A big day in Carlton.
C hickens hold the center of the stage.
H ousing properly demonstrated.
I nteresting exhibits on display.
E very poultry problem considered.
V ery interesting program.
E conomical equipment shown.
M ayor Harper to speak.
E veryone invited to a
N ice lunch and to learn
T he Key to Poultry Success.

D on't forget, you
A nd
Y ours, are welcome.

Carlton High School Auditorium,
September 26.

The rural child should have as satfactory school, health protection, and welfare facilities as the city child.—From Children's Charter drawn at the White House Conference.

Well managed farm woodlands have been the means of lifting many a farm mortgage and on the farm account book of shifting the balance from a loss to a profit.

Farm Economics

Conducted by W. L. Cavert

Farm Outlook Favors Dairy, Poultry

THE Regional Outlook Conference for the Central states was held at Urbana, Illinois, September 16, 17, 18.

The reports indicate that poultry and dairy producers are in a relatively more favorable situation than other farm producers. The long time hog outlook is clouded by the fact that wheat and cotton producers seem to be turning to the hog business. The general business situation is so confused that no one was willing to make any definite estimate as to the future.

The following extracts from reports are of interest to Minnesota producers:

Dairy

Indications are that no more dairy products will be produced in the Central States from October 1 to May 1, than in the same months of the preceding year. The important producing sections in Minnesota and Wisconsin are decidedly short of winter feed as compared to a year ago, while in the eastern Corn-belt states, feed conditions are more favorable than in the previous year.

For the central states as a group, the total tame and wild hay production, as shown by the August 1 crop report, was only 76 per cent of the 1925-29 average and 92 per cent of the low 1930 production.

Indications are that, up to September 1, the calves were doing more of the milking in dual-purpose herds than in the previous year. The recent rise in butter prices and decline in hog and cattle prices will have a tendency to cause more milking of dual-purpose cows, but there is not likely to be any material increase in supplies of butter from dual-purpose herds during the winter, as a large proportion of such herds freshen in the spring.

The decrease in storage stocks is due to the increase in consumption of dairy products, particularly butter, and the recent curtailment of production in important states as a result of low feed supplies and hot, dry weather. The increase in consumption was stimulated by the low summer prices.

The production of butter during the first 7 months of 1931 was 1,003,000,000 pounds compared with 987,000,000 pounds last year, an increase of 1.6 per cent. For July, 1931, it was 5.6 per cent less than for July, 1930. The apparent consumption of butter during the first 7 months of 1931 was 1.6 per cent larger than for 1930. The consumption in July, in spite of the appreciable decrease in production was 1 per cent larger than 1930.

Current production in July was less than consumption, and resulted in an increase in butter prices. This situation brought about an out-of-storage movement of butter which resulted in September 1 stocks of butter being about 10,000,000 pounds lighter than those of August 1.

Farmers who have ample feed supplies are likely to find that the dairy cow offers a relatively good market for feed and liberal feeding of grain may be expected. Farmers in sections facing a shortage of roughage are likely to find close culling of dairy herds preferable to shipping in hay.

Numbers of milk cows will probably increase some during 1932 because of the large number of dairy heifers now on farms. Thus favorable pasture and feed conditions might cause a burdensome production a year hence. Fewer heifer calves have been raised in 1931 than for several previous years.

Many farmers could utilize a heifer or some veal calves advantageously for home consumption to avoid paying retail prices for meat.

Beef Cattle

The number of cattle in the United States is larger than a year ago, but 13 per cent fewer cattle were on feed for market on August 1. Feed supplies in a number of range states are short, resulting already in some forced marketing of cattle. Feeders reported a considerable decrease from last year in the proportion of cattle weighing over 1,100 pounds to be marketed in the next 4 months.

The condition of ranges in 17 Western states, as reported August 1, was 73 per cent of normal, as compared with 79 per cent on July 1 and 82 per cent on August 1, 1930. It was the lowest condition reported in the 9 years covered by range reports.

Cattle numbers on farms and ranges have been on the upswing since early 1928, having increased 5.9 per cent. This increase was not reflected in slaughter until this year. The per capita supply of beef from total slaughter in 1930 was the smallest for 31 years that records are available and the per capita supply so far this year has been about the same as in the corresponding period last year.

Hogs

The expectation is that hog numbers will expand materially during the next two years in the United States, due to cheap grain in the corn belt, an effort in the wheat belt to market through livestock, and a probable stimulation of pork production in the South due to the very low cotton prices. With a weak domestic and foreign demand, the situation is not encouraging. As far as Minnesota is concerned, we have the lowest yield of corn since 1924, the lowest yield of oats since 1927, and the lowest yield of barley since 1921. With short supplies of grain, and an expanding hog production in other sections, it would seem wise for Minnesota farmers to plan for no more hogs than can be well handled and at the same time have adequate feed for other livestock.

Poultry

The number of hens and pullets in the United States farm flocks September 1 was 3.3 per cent less than on September 1, 1930 and 4.5 per cent less than the 5-year average for that date.

However, the average number of eggs laid per 100 hens in farm flocks, September 1, was about 7 per cent greater than last year and about 2.4 per cent greater than the 5-year average. The increased production per 100 hens as compared to 1930 is largely due to low production in drought areas in 1930.

Cold storage holdings of shell eggs in the United States, September 1, were 13 per cent lower than last year and 6 per cent under the 5-year average. In making the comparison with 1930, one should keep in mind that 1930 holdings were unusually heavy. The low price of meats is a factor in holding down egg and poultry prices.

Sheep

The expectation is for continued heavy receipts of lambs during the current season. The estimated amount of wool shorn in 1931 in the United States was 368,000,000 pounds. This is about 7 per cent greater than the 343,000,000 pounds clip of 1930.

Since 1923 the national production of both lambs and wool has been on the increase. The 1931 crop is estimated to be 8 per cent larger than the large 1930 crop. It is likely that the peak of production has now been reached, and that there will be some reduction in sheep during the next few years.

As far as Minnesota is concerned, it seems that those who have started small flocks in recent years, would do well to stay with them.

1,000 Farmers at Farm Accounts Project Meet

SOME 1,000 farmers gathered at the coliseum at Bloomington, Illinois, September 15, for an all-day session to hear Illinois farm economists and fellow co-operators discuss the results of the farm bureau farm management service that has been in operation in Livingston, McLean, Tazewell, and Woodford counties for the last 6 years.

The auditorium was filled at 10 o'clock. Close attention was given throughout the day. Such attendance and interest is eloquent testimony that these farmers found the service well worthwhile.

Four hundred co-operators in the four counties pay $12.50 to $25 per year toward the expense of the service. Two field men are employed.

The whole service is similar to the Southeast Farm Accounting Project in Minnesota. This has about 175 co-operators in Steele, Freeborn, Waseca, Goodhue, Rice, Dodge, Mower and LeSueur counties.

Many Minnesota extension workers will recall hearing Professor M. L. Mosher outline the results secured from this project at the 1926 extension conference. He is now in charge of the work in Illinois with four field men and about 800 co-operators in three areas.

Dairy Outlook Bulletin

"The Outlook for the Dairy Industry and Some Essentials of a National Dairy Program," Miscellaneous publication 124, is the title of a recent bulletin of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. This bulletin is worthy of careful study by extension workers, farmers, and others interested in getting a good understanding of the present economic situation of the dairy industry.