

MINNESOTA EXTENSION SERVICE NEWS

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No. 1324

POTATO SCHOOL WORK WILL BE CONTINUED

E. C. Johnson and R. C. Rose had held about 15 potato schools in Todd, Clay, Norman, Polk, and other counties in the region up to December 1 and may continue them after the holidays in north central and northeastern parts of the state. Seventy-five farmers enrolled in the school at Nielsville which was the largest so far held. Mr. Johnson usually leads off with a discussion of the factors affecting prices and the importance of systematic grading. Mr. Rose follows with a talk on potato diseases, insects, seed treating, storage, etc. Various charts and colored pictures showing practically all the common diseases and storage rots that affect quality are used effectively in illustrating the talks. The general purpose of the schools is to improve the quality of Minnesota grown potatoes.

MARKETING SCHOOLS SET FOR JANUARY 19-31

Practically everything connected with the handling of Minnesota market eggs will be taught at a marketing school to be held in Minneapolis January 19 to 31 under the direction of I. M. Borders of Washington, Hugh J. Hughes, N. E. Chapman, Miss Cora Cooke, and others. Everybody interested in the grading and shipping of eggs is invited to enroll. There will be no fees to pay.

Mr. Chapman assisted by Prof. A. O. Barton of the North Dakota Agricultural College and other able instructors will have charge of a poultry short course each afternoon and evening at the Minnesota State Poultry Show in Minneapolis, January 22 to 25. The business of selling eggs will be featured in the course.

Sheep Do Well in Kittson

Thorfinson of Kittson county says a flock of 209 ewes on the A. L. Janes farm produced more than \$2,600 worth of lambs and wool the past year. The wool clip weighed 1,509 pounds and sold at 33 cents a pound. The lambs brought 13 cents a pound.

Fastest Worker Loses

The fastest worker in the turkey picking contest at the Lancaster, Kittson county, poultry show had to be content with third place because he bruised the turkey in picking. A Donaldson community man was first. The contest created decided interest.

Baby Boy in Hickman's Home

Congratulations are due Agent and Mrs. E. C. Hickman of Pipestone. It's a boy.

ANNUAL EXTENSION CONFERENCE AT UNIVERSITY FARM, ST. PAUL, DEC. 10-12

Wednesday, December 10

- 9:30 a.m. Opening of conference—Announcements
9:45 Topic, "The Outlook for Agriculture"
Discussion led by Eugene Davenport and Andrew Boss.
11:00 "Methods of Reducing Cost of Production"
George A. Pond and Wm. L. Cavert
12:15 Get-together luncheon
Speakers, Dean W. C. Coffey and President L. D. Coffman.
2:00 p.m. Topic, "Developing Social and Recreational Phases of a Program as a Means of Strengthening Local Organizations for Extension Work"
J. R. Batchelor and D. D. Mayne
Discussion led by Lynn Sheldon, Allen Aldrich and William Peters.
4:00 "Plans for Providing Material for Farmers' Clubs and Farm Bureau Units"
S. B. Cleland
General discussion led by John Sheay and A. W. Jacob.

Thursday, December 11

- 9:00 a.m. Topic: Diagram analysis and step study of local leader projects. (1) Introduction; (2) Organization; (3) Teaching; (4) Results.
Nora Hott, Cora Cooke, L. V. Wilson, J. B. McNulty, Edythe Turner
General discussion.
11:00 Report of committee on handling seed.
L. E. McMillan
General discussion.
12:15 Luncheon.
1:15 p.m. "What the Dairy Division is Doing of Interest to Extension Workers."
Dr. Eckles and staff
2:30 Tour through the new dairy building.
3:00 County agents' meeting.

Friday, December 12

- 9:00 a.m. "Fundamentals in Boys' and Girls' Club Work."
Rules and regulations; present tendencies.
T. A. Erickson and George E. Farrell.
General discussion.
10:30 Visit to Soils Division.
"What the Soils Division is Doing of Interest to Extension Workers."
Dr. Alway and staff.
12:15 Luncheon. Question Box opened.
2:00 p.m. Topic, "Publicity Methods," showing methods, progress, and results of Extension Service.
A. W. Hopkins, University of Wisconsin
George E. Farrell, U.S. Department of Agriculture
W. P. Kirkwood, University Farm
General discussion.

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WALTER C. COFFEY

Dean of the Department of Agriculture and
Director of Experiment Station

FRANK W. PECK

Director of Agricultural Extension

W. P. KIRKWOOD

E. C. TORREY

Editors

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DECEMBER, 1924

SOMETHING SPECIAL OFFERED EACH DAY OF FARMERS' WEEK AT "U"

Something special every day, in addition to classroom work, noon-day mass meetings and evening entertainments, is scheduled for Farmers' and Homemakers' Week Short Course at University Farm December 29 to January 3.

The Minnesota Farm Bureau Federation will open its annual state convention Monday, December 29, with exercises of special interest. The second day will be Minnesota Crop Improvement association and poultry breeders' day, with an address in the evening at the auditorium by Samuel R. McKelvie, publisher of the Nebraska Farmer and for two terms governor of that state. Wednesday the separate livestock breeders' associations will hold their annual meetings. Thursday afternoon the new dairy hall will be dedicated with an address by A. J. Glover, editor of Hoard's Dairyman. Friday the Minnesota Livestock Breeders' association, the parent organization of all the others, will hold its annual meeting.

The annual big farm meal, when the people from the farms and from the university sit down together, is set for Friday evening.

Problems in relation to the training of parents will have a prominent place on the program of the home economics division. Women from the farms will have opportunity to hear Dr. Nellie Perkins, director of the Wayne County Psychopathic Clinic, Detroit, Mich.; Dr. Smiley Blanton, in charge of the Child Guidance Clinic of Minneapolis; Dr. Max Seham, pediatrician, University of Minnesota; and Miss Isabel Bevier, lecturer in home economics, formerly with the University of Illinois. Resident instructors of the division will give lectures and demonstrations through the week on a great variety of subjects of special interest to women. The annual dinner for homemakers will be on Thursday evening, January 1.

Speakers engaged for meetings for both men and women are Dr. H. J. Waters, formerly president of the agricultural college of Kansas and now editor of the

farm edition of the Kansas City Star; C. J. Galpin, economist in charge of farm publications and rural life, U.S. Department of Agriculture; L. G. Michael, foreign agricultural economist, U.S.D.A.; Miss Neale Knowles, state home demonstration leader in Iowa; J. F. Reed, president of the Minnesota Farm Bureau Federation; A. D. Wilson, member of the university board of regents; President L. D. Coffman and Dean W. C. Coffey of the university, and N. J. Holmberg, state commissioner of agriculture.

Classroom work in all lines of farming and home keeping will be featured all through the week, with nearly 100 school and college faculty men and women as instructors.

Special railroad rates on the certificate plan will be available. Good living accommodations can be obtained at University Farm at cost price. Remember this is to be a solid week of classroom work, mixed with good fellowship, recreation and entertainment.

December 29 to January 3 inclusive.

HOME PROJECT LOCAL LEADER AIDS JUNIORS

Local leaders in home projects do not confine their efforts entirely to working with the women in their groups. Mrs. R. G. Chapman of Scott county, who acted as a local leader in the poultry project under Miss Cooke, also organized a poultry club composed of about 12 boys and girls.

One of the attractive features of achievement day in Scott county was a program put on by this group of juniors. The program consisted of original dialogues, readings and songs, prepared by Mrs. Chapman and illustrating the various phases of the poultry project. The exercises explained to the audience why one should feed a balanced ration. The boys and girls exhibited various pieces of equipment with a song to explain each. Sanitary precautions explained in rhyme told how to drive the germs away. Following is one rhyme used. It might be entitled

"When All Else Fails"

When potatoes fail to grow,
And we don't reap the things we sow;
When the clover fails to bloom,
And every prospect's wrapped in gloom;
Who cheers us with a serenade,
Makes announcement that she's laid;
Who saves us from distress, despair,
Who's on her job, is always there?

THE HEN!

The program ended with an invitation to the audience to go to the poultry club with them. This material will soon be available for use at farmers' club meetings.

Alfalfa Drive Started

A campaign for more alfalfa will be waged in every town in Pine county this winter, reports County Agent Hammargren. Town folks will aid farmers in putting the campaign over. A county seed chairman has been appointed by the farm bureau to make sure there is no shortage of seed.

Houston's 400 in Poultry Work

Four hundred women have signed up for the poultry work in Houston county. All of them will set an example for their neighbors by culling their flocks.

HONORS IN LEADERSHIP CLUB WORK AWARDED

Jay Seymour of Eyota, Olmsted county, and Blanche Keller of Lamberton, Redwood county, are state champions of the club leadership project and are representing Minnesota at the National Boys' and Girls' Club Congress in Chicago. The awards were based on records and service.

About 200 Minnesota boys and girls enrolled in this particular project which was only organized one year ago. Any boy or girl who has been in club work two years and is more than 15 years of age is eligible to membership. Minnesota led all the states in enrolment this year. Members act as local leaders besides carrying on their own projects.

T. A. Erickson, the Minnesota club leader, was chairman of the committee which worked out the plan.

MORE THAN 50 GOPHER JUNIORS AT CHICAGO

More than 50 Minnesota club juniors, led by Messrs. Erickson and Kittleson and Mrs. Meybohm, are at the International Livestock Exposition at Chicago. Railroads of the state carried 31 of the juniors without charge, and the Russell Miller Milling company, the St. Paul Pioneer Press-Dispatch, the Farmer's Wife, and other concerns are paying all expenses of other members. Breadmaking club members from Ulen, Odin, Buhl, Excelsior, and Polk county, a livestock judging team from Owatonna, a garment making team from Winona county, a canning team and cake team from Coleraine and two health club members, a boy and a girl, selected at the State Fair, are representing Minnesota in demonstrations and contests.

Pure Sire Campaign for Lincoln

Cattle owners in Lincoln county have invited the Minnesota Holstein association to put on a purebred sire campaign and the work will be started in January. Publicity will be carried on through the press and by means of the films, "Tale of Two Bulls," "Guarding Livestock Health," "Uncle Sam, World's Champion Farmer."

Powder Fire in East Felt Here

Land clearing in St. Louis county slowed up because of difficulties in getting supplies of pyrotol, says Agent A. W. Aamodt. The movement of pyrotol from Barksdale, Wis., was checked by the fire which destroyed about 20,000,000 pounds of smokeless powder at Tulleytown, Pa. This powder had been made available for the manufacture of pyrotol, and one effect of the fire is that the maximum output at Barksdale will be only 40,000 pounds a day instead of 60,000 pounds as was originally planned.

Retest Results Please

Results of recent retest of infected herds in Murray county are even better than expected, says Agent A. G. Mereness. In the first area test 2,000 reactors were found in 760 herds, the percentage standing 4.3. The retest in October showed 315 reactors in 150 herds or a percentage of about 1.7.

The Big Four of the Junior Livestock Show for 1924



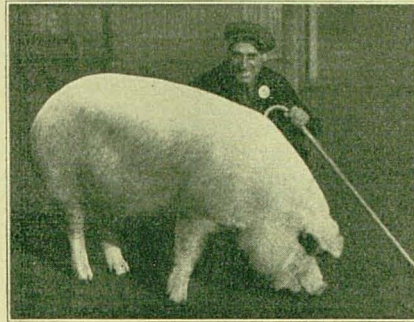
George Tellier of Farmington, Dakota county, and his purebred Shorthorn calf, Red Superb, the grand champion baby beef of the show. Louis W. Hill, as chairman of the First National bank of St. Paul, bid in the calf at 80 cents a pound, or about \$800, and later gave it back to George on the understanding that he would exhibit it at the International and present it to President Calvin Coolidge.

Jay H. Seymour of Eyota, Olmsted county, and his grand champion Chester White barrow which weighed 420 pounds and sold for \$1 a pound to the St. Paul Daily Dispatch.

Marie Sullivan of New Prague, Le Sueur county, and her grand champion purebred Shropshire lamb which weighed in at 112 pounds and was sold to Witt's Market House of Minneapolis for \$4 a pound.

Jean Middleton of Marshall, Lyon county, and one of his pen of ten Buff Orpington cockerels which won the grand championship in the poultry department. Jean's birds averaged 6.9 pounds each and were sold to McHugh brothers of Farmington for 47 cents a pound.

"Bigger and better than ever."



Every year we say it—because it's so. Distinct gains were made this year in the number and quality of baby beeves, pigs and lambs. Poultry exhibits far surpassed those of 1923.

Show and sale animals and poultry sold for a grand total of \$44,963.41, or \$5,000 more than was realized in 1923. Baby beeves sold for \$30,060.88, pigs for \$3,234.69, lambs for \$2,139.21, and poultry for \$528.63.

The highest level of prices known for market stuff was paid for the three classes of farm animals. World record prices were realized for the champion pig and lamb. A record price was paid for the grand champion calf except that the winning baby beef last year brought an even dollar a pound.



The co-operative spirit shown by business men was truly inspiring. South St. Paul interests opened their purses and spent thousands for new and enlarged quarters for the juniors and their stock. The St. Paul Association acted as host at a magnificently appointed banquet. A program absolutely unique, in that the grand champion animals and first prize winners of the baby beef breeds were introduced on the stage, was presented at the Auditorium. Mayor Arthur Nelson of St. Paul presided and that part of the program devoted to the awarding of prizes was broadcast over the radio.

Juniors who could find time for sight-seeing were taken on tours of inspection to the great packing plants, the state capitol and large stores of St. Paul.

Of the factors making for the success of the Junior Show, T. A. Erickson, state leader of clubs, emphasizes the work of the juniors themselves and their county and local leaders. Records of performance in feeding, training and fitting were better than ever before, he says. Second in importance was the wonderful co-operation given by the State Livestock Breeders association and the business men of the Twin Cities.

Traverse County Herds Near Goal

Traverse county cattle herds passed the second complete test for tuberculosis with flying colors, says Agent F. F. Moore. Seventeen men retested 18,952 cattle and found only 140 reactors. Another retest will be made in a few months with good prospect that the percentage of diseased cattle will be under one-half of 1 per cent and the county be fully accredited.

"Soys" Show Value

Based on present linseed prices, soybeans on the farm of Dunn brothers were worth more than \$30 an acre, says Stegner of Houston county.

"Post-Graduate Course" in Feeding

What they called a post-graduate course in feeding cattle, because all the feeders present were men of large experience, was directed recently in two Fillmore county townships by Messrs. Cavert and Dowell. Both men were encouraged with the keen interest taken. Fat cattle on the Dick Hughes farm in Amhurst township were pronounced by Mr. Dowell the best lot of finished steers he had ever seen in Minnesota.

Not an Egg from 100 Culls

Neubauer of St. Louis county culled about 100 birds out of a flock of 280. The culls were kept by themselves for a week thereafter and never laid an egg.

Roth Almost Stumped

Roth of Crow Wing has encountered a new stunt in county agenting. Requested to separate the sexes in a flock of 60 geese he had to call in an experienced poultry specialist. "Between the two of us we managed to separate the geese," he says, "but believe me, it was some job."

Soybeans Do Well in Hubbard

While the season was unfavorable from the weather standpoint and lack of experience caused losses in harvesting, soybean trial fields in Hubbard county made a pretty good showing. E. V. Ripley reports a yield of 15½ bushels to the acre.

FARIBAULT COMMUNITY MEETING A HUMMER

Analyzing the results of a trade center survey that he made in southern Minnesota, W. P. Clark, a minister of Mankato, gave an interesting address recently at a big community meeting in Faribault. Members of the Faribault Chamber of Commerce were hosts and about 350 farm men and women were guests. Luncheon was served all the visitors in the auditorium of the high school.

The pastor-speaker gave a demonstration in buying at established trade centers in contrast with buying of mail order houses. He made his statements the more convincing by having trade center goods of all sorts arranged on one table and mail order house goods on a second table. Contrasts which he brought out in the quality and workmanship of trade center merchandise as compared with mail order stuff packed a real punch.

F. W. Peck, director of agricultural extension, talked on "Present Day Farm Problems." Mayor Thomas Quinn of Faribault presided.

RICHVILLE CLUB BOY IS CHAMPION GARDENER

Clarence Mielke of Richville, Ottertail county, is the state champion gardener among 1,700 garden club boys and girls in Minnesota. On an acre of his father's farm he grew 168 different varieties of plants, including peanuts and herbs. He raised 12 kinds of beans and six kinds of potatoes. His total income from the garden was \$476. He is a senior in his home town high school and intends to enter the Minnesota College of Agriculture in the fall of 1925.

The champions in garden work in four districts of the state are: Southern, Christena Christensen, Fairmont; central, Ernest Hegland, Cyrus; northwest, Maurice Locke, Remer, and northeast, Forest Stillwell, Cloquet.

This was the best year since the war for garden club work, says Mr. Erickson. Clubs in 32 different counties of the state have reported to him.

"Fireworks" Wake 'Em Up

Agent Charles Matthews of Cottonwood county praises the university demonstration crew which introduced pyrotol, the new explosive, to nearly 100 farmers of his county. "The fireworks seemed to be very effective in waking up some enthusiasm in formerly dormant territory," says the agent.

Liars and Layers Part Company

Thirty per cent of the birds in three flocks in Pine county were thrown out for being "liars and not layers." The county agent hazards the opinion that 10 per cent of the poultry in Pine county is affected with tuberculosis.

Farm Water System Impresses

Nothing like the force of a good and successful example. A gravity flow water system in the house and barn on the Lief farm in Cook county has attracted great interest and will inspire other farmers to put in similar systems.

CLOTHING PROJECT IN SHERBURNE PROMISING

Sherburne county, with 350 enrolled in the groups and 50 local leaders, has started in the clothing work with much enthusiasm. The first lesson of the project was given by Bessie C. Willis, extension specialist in clothing, at Clear Lake and Big Lake. Because of the large enrollment there will be three sessions in Sherburne county each month, the third meeting place being at Becker. The spirit shown is splendid. As an example of this, one group member in Big Lake asked the local leaders not to take time to clean up after having their lunch together at the school, for since local leaders gave up two days a month for the benefit of their groups a few group members would be glad to help by coming in after the local leader meeting and doing the necessary work. In Sherburne county, with such an abundance of good material to choose from, it must have been hard for the county agent or the clubs to pick the local leaders.

Find Common Meeting Ground

The harvest festival and crop show at Harris in Chisago county has done a great deal in developing the right kind of community spirit between farmers and town people, says Agent George W. Larson. Five hundred persons attended. All hands were so well pleased with the venture that a second show will be held next fall.

900 at Creamery Dedication

Nine hundred persons attended the dedication of the new creamery at Preston, Fillmore county. The dedication was featured by a parade of floats. An old-fashioned one-horse cart showed the ancient method of bringing in cream as contrasted with the modern farm truck.

Impressive Object Lesson

Fields of potatoes, the seed of which was treated with hot formaldehyde, were practically free from scab and rhizoctonia, while check rows, the seed for which was not treated, showed 50 per cent of scab, says Freeman of Ramsey county.

Pictures Help Poultry Work

Pictures illustrating important points in culling have increased interest in poultry work in parts of St. Louis county. Farmers are saying, "Bring your movie machine every time."

Beet Acreage to Be Increased

Four thousand acres planted to sugar beets in and around Pennington county is forecast by County Agent McCann as a development for 1925.

Clothing Work Favored

Extension clothing work has spread to all parts of Roseau county, and, according to County Agent Taylor, is one of the most popular local leader projects ever put on in his territory.

Want Herds Tested

Farmers of Fillmore county are moving for a tuberculosis eradication campaign; petitions for favorable action by the county commissioners are now being circulated.

WINTER MEETINGS IN FARM MANAGEMENT

During January, February, and March it is planned that Wm. L. Cavert, farm management specialist, will hold about 50 farm business schools, says Director F. W. Peck. The subject discussed will usually be one of the following:

- I. The agricultural outlook for 1925 with particular reference to leading Minnesota products.
- II. The economics of hog production, covering cost of production, the seasonal trend of markets and a production policy for 1925 and 1926 as based on the corn-hog ratio chart.
- III. The economics of dairy production, covering cost of production and a production policy for 1925 based on the outlook for butter and feed prices.
- IV. Principles of successful farming for the timber country covering kind and amount of livestock to keep, rotations and farm development.
- V. The economics of beef production, covering conditions under which beef cattle are likely to be profitable, the seasonal trend of market, the amount of margin between purchase and selling price needed on fattening cattle and cost of raising a beef calf to weaning age.
- VI. How to keep and use simple farm records, including taking of inventories, making of net worth statements, and drawing conclusions from the completed accounts.

LESSONS OF THE DAY PUT INTO PRACTICE

Midway local leaders in home management, Carlton county, have a convincing way of emphasizing the lessons which they pass on to their group. Meetings are held at the homes of the members and after a discussion of the subject for the lesson, some phase of the work is put into practice. For instance, at one meeting all members came equipped with work dresses and everyone helped to remove the paint from the kitchen woodwork, leaving it ready for refinishing. At another time a fireless cooker was made for the hostess; at another a kitchen was re-arranged even to moving the stove. "We have such good times and help each other through a difficult situation," said one member.

More Than Sauerkraut

Sauerkraut was by no means all of Sauerkraut Day in Springfield, Brown county. Exhibits of farm crops and poultry, nearly 1,000 entries in all, were placed on Main street. Among the entries were 61 samples of yellow corn, 34 of white corn, 15 of spring wheat, 34 of cabbage, and other products in proportion.

Good Results from Treating Potatoes

Exhibits at farm bureau unit meetings in Winona showed unmistakably that a hot formaldehyde bath was effective in reducing the amount of scab on potatoes, reports Agent McNulty.

Nobles Swings Into Line

Nobles county will have its first dairy calf club in 1925.

Aalfalfa Gets Good Start

Alfalfa fields started on or about September 10 in Waseca county are very promising, says Agent Henry Werner.