A COW TESTING PROGRAM

Last spring W. P. Gamble, County Agent in Jones County, named cow testing as one of his major projects. In April he went out to secure cooperators. His report for April tells in a nutshell how this was done. "Twenty-four cooperators were secured to keep records of production in their herds. The plan adopted is as follows: Cooperators keep two daily milk records and take samples for the fat test from the four milkings weighed; cream station managers do the testing; and the County Farm Bureau office figures the month's production and returns to cooperators. This is repeated once each month. A dairy testing club of eight members was organized as a part of this project."

Growing Into An Association

V. D. Basart, County Agent in Clark County, thinks that by getting a few farmers interested in keeping milk and butterfat test of their cows for one year. "The ultimate aim of this project," says Mr. Basart, "is to develop an association of 20 to 26 members."

Joe Hamilton of Minnehaha County, is of the same opinion. In his March report, he says, "Cow testing demonstrations were held on two farms looking towards the organization of a cow testing association. The results showed a marked interest in dairying. Cooperating with the local dairymen's association a campaign for more and better dairy cows, more and better dairying and a cow-testing association is under way."

Brookings County is looking forward to a cow testing association. About half enough members have signed a tentative agreement. On the day that the twenty-sixth signer has been secured the agreement becomes binding and a tester will be employed.

MISTAKEN IDENTITY

A certain young newlywed couple in the county agent ranks were taking in the Midway at the State Fair this year in company with a man about forty-five years of age. A ballyhoo in front of one of the shows espied them.

"Hey! Hey!" he shouted to the old gentleman, "Bring your wife and son right in here."

George says the joke is on his wife, but she insists it is on him, whereas, the friend felt highly complimented.

DAIRY COWS PURCHASED

In the fall of 1921 there was a great demand for more and better dairy cows from nearly all parts of the state. The low price of feed and comparative high prices of milk and butterfat brought about such a condition. Whenever possible the Extension Service gave assistance to this very worthy project.

More Than Satisfied

"One carload of Guernseys comprising 21 head," says Mr. Gunning, of Day County, "were brought into the county at an average cost of $76. We bought these cows from $65 to $90. The farmer now only wishes that he had another silo and he would go back to Wisconsin and bring up another carload. These cattle were bought between Eau Claire and Chippewa Falls."

Proud of Purchase

"The F. K. Wing ranch near Owanka recently shipped in a carload of dairy cows from Wisconsin," says Leonard Ladd. "C. E. Wing went to Wisconsin and with the Extension Dairy Specialist, carefully selected each individual. The cows were good, high grade Holsteins and make a beautiful spectacle for sore eyes. The Wings are justly proud of the new acquisition. We know of nothing that will build up the community any faster than good dairy cows. Who is next to fall in line?"

Cows into New Country

A. S. Gray, former County Agent of Mellette County, reports, "Mr. E. Graham arrived with 22 head of high class grade Holstein dairy cattle, and 11 young calves which he purchased in Wisconsin, with H. M. Jones assisting in selecting the cows. He has arranged his farmstead buildings to care for the dairy herd and will build a silo and intends to purchase a purebred sire."

High Record Sires Secured

"Our dairy project received a real punch the first week of the month," said Henry O. Putman of Union County, "when we imported a carload of dairy cattle consisting of 19 cows and heifers, four calves and three sires. These were all young, 3 years old or under. Two of the bulls have grand dams with a record of over 758 pounds of butterfat. We have also placed one Holstein sire during the past month."
South Dakota Extension Review

Published monthly at Brookings, South Dakota, by the Extension Service of South Dakota State College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts and the United States Department of Agriculture, cooperating, in the interest of Extension work and home economics.

Entered as second-class matter April 27, 1922, at the post office at Brookings, South Dakota, under the Act of August 24, 1912.

Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Section 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized May 12, 1922.

EDITORIAL BOARD
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Composed and printed by Students in State College School of Printing.

September, 1922

Found Them in Minnesota

"We fully intended to cover the dairy section of Minnesota and a few points in Wisconsin," said Mr. Nelson when he returned from his trip last week. "But the men who needed just what we had in the vicinity of Minneapolis, St. Paul and Northfield. In Hennepin County, we bought 17 cows, five heifers and we are making one more deal. At Fairbault, we arranged for 10 cows and enough heifers to fill a car.

"The cows are all good producers. We aimed to buy, as far as possible, from testing associations and in every case the sire and dam we will pay $5. Thus a bull whose sire had a backing of 500 pounds and whose dam has a record of 400 pounds would draw a bonus of $55.

THE PLAN THAT FAILED

D. C. Jones, County Agent at De Smet was much worked up one day last June when it was reported to him that two small herds of blue sky promoters were at work in the Oldham community for the purpose of selling a creamery. No information could be secured about the two parties selling the shares except that they were selling shares at $100 each, expected to sell 100 of them and promised to put up a creamery which with equipment would cost $9,600.

Two of the farmers who subscribed stock had become skeptical and upon thinking the matter over had called a meeting. The two promoters were invited to the meeting. Upon questioning them it was found that they had secured no information as to the volume of cream produced in that territory any more than that "Ninety-four cans were shipped last Monday morning." D. C. had the edge on them, for he knew how much cream was going out. He had spent the afternoon figuring out from various sources the amount of cream that was going out. "If every bit of the cream which was shipped out of Oldham could be taken into the creamery," he said, "they would have enough to run a creamery in good shape. But when figuring that with three stations working in competition with the creamery they could naturally expect only about 50 percent, this would cut the amount to a little better than half of what would be required to operate a creamery."

"It was the unanimous agreement at the meeting that they were not ready for a creamery in that vicinity at that time. The organization was young, angry, immediately tore up the contracts and left town."

Adopt Bonus Plan

Under date of August 12 the Spearfish creamery makes the following announcement: The Spearfish Creamery Company will pay a cash bonus of $5 to their patrons for each real dairy cow imported to the company, if such cow must be purchased this fall, be free from T. B. and abortion, and a dairy breed. The Company will pay a further cash bonus of $25 to $60 for the first four dairy bulls accompanying these cows. The sire and dam to these bulls must have butterfat records of not less than 300 pounds, and for each bull having such a record we will pay $25, and for 50 pounds butterfat record in sire

Boys' milk testing club. They find interest in education in keeping tab on dairying. The American Farm Bureau Federation was interested in the movement, the Government is to be curtailed. It is undoubtedly true that mistakes have been made in allowing too free a rein to the county agents. They have in the main been mistakes made by the man not suited to the job, rather than mistakes of the movement itself. The taxpayers who resent these mistakes have a perfectly legal voice in the way of disapproving of such mistakes, and this disapproval has evidently been sufficient in volume to bring about the recent ruling.

A number of years ago, when the county agent movement was starting, we voiced the opinion that the county agent could scarcely become the business representative of the farmer so long as he was paid with public funds. We suggested that, if a county agent was desired to bring farmers together in organized effort and to serve as a purchasing and selling agent, he could doubtless prove a good investment but he should be hired with farmer's money and should be subject to their authority alone. The general activity of many county agents along just such lines has brought about the curb which the government now insists upon.

There is much room in this country for all of the strictly educational work that the county agents shall not do. And he will be a busy man in doing this work alone. The Government is justified in supporting such educational work. There is also room for business representatives acting for farmers in the promotion of those cooperative activities which are bound to come in the future. These men must be hired and directed by farmers alone.

-The Farmer.
it is a testimonial to the spirit of progress of the farming community, where their interest in agricultural progress is great enough to cause such diversified demands to be made upon the time of the county agent.

The county agent is come to stay. He is the indication of agricultural progress in any agricultural county.—Montana Extension News.

SUCCESSFUL POULTRY SCHOOL IN WALWORTH

Another successful poultry school was held under the direction of Miss Sutter at Selby, September 27 and 28, County Agents of the northwestern part of the state participated in the demonstrations. County Agents Eberle of Perkins, Hermstad of Dewey, Broich of Campbell-McPherson, Laney of Edmunds, Lippet of Walworth, and P. Smith of Spink attended, also Dr. Saul of Faulkton and Mr. Ideland of the Davison County. County Agent Laurence Lippert made arrangements for the demonstrational flocks.

The influence of culling was remarkably apparent in the course of the demonstrations. Last year, for instance, when the County Agent culled Herman....

Dr. Weaver returned early in the month from a convention of the American Medical Association at St. Louis. The doctor states that there was not very much new material brought out at the meeting but that several ideas previously put out were fully substantiated, one of these being that vaccination against infectious abortion is not practical and until further study of this disease it should not be used. The tuberculin test for tuberculosis is not nearly as accurate as first thought. He says, “It was a pleasure and a privilege to attend this meeting.”

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HIGH SPOTS

Items worth more than passing notice as taken from the County Extension Agents’ monthly reports.

R. R. Buchanan—Blackleg: Cattle suspected to have died of lightning stroke, it turned out were stricken by blackleg. H. L. Ecketter, John Nordstrom and Paul Siewert all lost animals in adjoining pastures. This looked suspicious and the local veterinarian and the County Agent were called into consultation. The rest of the flock was culled, but not and immediately vaccinated.

Guy W. Austin—Poultry Husbandry: Fourteen culling demonstrations were put on and attended by 135 people. Fourteen hundred hens were inspected, 500 being culled out. Tuberculosis was found in seven of the fourteen flocks, vent gleet in four, and roup in eight. Directions were given at each demonstration relative to control of mites and lice. A few more will be put on in September. The small attendance was due to hot weather and rush of work. Fifteen caponizing demonstrations were put on and attended by 140 people. Six caponizing sets were ordered for farmers.

Evan W. Hall—Woman’s work or Home Economics: Four meetings of the Whitewood Valley Poultry Club have been held this month and two of these have been public demonstrations held at two different farms in the county. The club was formed in connection with the trip to the State Fair. The club has done splendid work and the members have worked hard.

A. W. Tompkins—Potato Improvement Work: The 28 fields of certified seed potatoes, comprising approximately 300 acres, were visited during the month by the County Agent and Dr. A. T. Evans of the agronomy department, State College. It was found that the quality of potatoes raised in Hamlin County will be superior to that of a year ago but will be less in yield.

D. C. Jones—Home Demonstration Work: The intensified work in clothing which has been carried on in this county the past year was brought to a successful conclusion on August 31, when three demonstration teams, representing three different groups, competed for championship of the county and for the honor of representing Kingsbury County in the home demonstration work at the State Fair. These demonstrations were put on by the following townships: Whitewood township—demonstration in hat making, Baker township—demonstration on the uses of sewing machine attachments, Iroquois township—demonstration on the making of wool and organdie flowers. Whitewood township won the right to represent the county at the State Fair.

George S. Hansen—Insect Control: Grain weevils have been found in three elevators in the county. The operators have been very anxious to clean up and have used every food to eradicate the pest. Assistance in identifying the weevil and information on prevention have been given by the county extension service.

N. F. Nelson—Marketing: Melons—five days were spent on this project. On August 29, one meeting was held in which price and marketing plans were discussed. Seven hundred additional cantaloupe crates were secured, making a total of 900 crates. The money to pay for these was advanced by members of the Pierre Kiwanis Club. Considerable time and money has been used in finding a market. Sample crates of cantaloupes, have been shipped to most of the fruit commission houses in South Dakota. At the present time orders are coming in for our melons. So far about thirty crates of cantaloupes have been shipped. One car of watermelons is being loaded. All our melons are graded for uniformity in variety and size. The cantaloupes are of our own improved variety, uniform in size, and marketed in a standard crate of 36 melons, bearing our poster on one end, with stickers on each melon.

Ray E. Barnett—Dairy Husbandry: Calls came to the office for a County Cow Testing Association. Upon investigation by calling on farmers over the county it was found to be favored by 21 men whom we visited. A meeting was called to organize.

Roy E. Smith—Weed Control: Four spots of perennial sow thistle have already been found in Grant County so we can say that the sow thistle has made an advance upon us. The County Agent through newspaper articles, community club talks and personal visits has tried to impress upon the farmers how to recognize this weed, and something as to its economic importance and how to check it. The cooperation of the farmers has been gladly given and we believe that by taking immediate steps it can be checked.

R. H. Aicher—Farm Building: R. L. Patty staked off location for granary on Charlie Nicholson farm. This farm is a demonstration in the location of farm buildings from the standpoint of landscape and conveniences of service. As soon as a few changes are made a tour will be arranged to point out the advantages of properly placing buildings.

V. D. Basart—Crop Improvement: Soybean tour. On Monday, August 28, 57 farmers from Clark, Day and Kingsbury counties left the County Agent’s office on a tour for the purpose of visiting soybean plots and fields and to study the machinery which is found most practical in soybean culture. W. J. Morse, U. S. D. A., in charge of soybean investigation, was a guest of the soybean growers and gave some valuable information relative to the crop. A. J. Dexter, assistant county agent leader, attended this tour and gave the history of the mandarin variety in Clark County. Emphasis on the growing of seed was one of his main points. At the wind-up of the tour, the County Agent summarized the accomplishments of the day, each field and plot being used to demonstrate a particular phase of soybean growing. A novel treat of the tour was the dinner served at the W. C. Gates home, consisting in part of soybean soup, soybean coffee and baked soybeans, all of which were surprisingly appetizing.

L. C. Lippert—County Fair Exhibit: To give a definite idea of the project work in Walworth County, the County Agent designed a booth with a map of the County for a centerpiece. On this map were located the cooperators in the major projects of the County Farm Bureau, rodent control, seed certification, boy’s and girl’s club work. These points were connected with different colored ribbons to indicate the different projects, with a placard exhibiting stating the project. For example, yellow ribbon indicated boys’ and girls’ club work. A yellow ribbon was run from each of the points where a club boy or girl lived to a placard with shots of boys’ and girls’ club work on it. In like manner the green ribbon indicated the Ken­ned winter wheat growers; pink, Advance rye growers; white, Acme durum growers; brown, soybean growers; red, certified seed; pink, rodent control, etc. Only the larger projects were located as the map would have been too crowded had an attempt been made to show all the project work. Samples of grain and grasses, both wild and tame, were used to decorate the booth.

Illustrating not only a typical County Agent’s office but also a part-time dairy industry in his county through cow testing, boys club and separator efficiency test.