EXTENSION AGENT IS NO AGRICULTURAL MESSIAH

An Accurate Diagnostician of Agricultural Ills of a County, Says Haw

The county agent was defined as an "accurate diagnostician of agricultural ills of a county and a successful demonstrator of remedial measures" by J. W. Haw of the North Dakota extension service in an address before the opening meeting of South Dakota extension workers in their ninth annual conference. This is what the county agent really is, according to Mr. Haw: An instigator, leader and organizer of business associations among farmers of the county; a leader of social and educational life of farm men and women, boys and girls; a teacher and demonstrator of animal disease control methods and farm sanitation; a teacher of practices proved by experimental work; a man who sees the livestock industry of his county in its relationship to other phases of farming.

These are the things a county agent is not: Professional booster or sales manager for livestock breeders; an agricultural circuit rider; an agricultural experiment station county politician. The county agent is not an agricultural Messiah sent to save farmers of the county financially, spiritually or mentally, but must pick out the essential difficulties and those which he can hope possibly to solve.

In summing up the county agent and his job, the North Dakota visitor said: "The county agent is the man with a vision of a profitable agriculture and a contented farm life for his county and who is willing to serve conscientiously a sometimes seemingly unappreciative public for a modest salary."

The training centers established in connection with the women's work have proved to be the means of reaching a great many people within a limited time. The various women's clubs send delegates to the training centers, who in turn demonstrate to their local clubs what they learned at the training center. This method is especially valuable under the four county plan.

The junior farm management club is now an accomplished fact.

EXTENSION FORCE MEETS

During the week of December 18 to 22 the county agents, home agents, and the extension specialists were in conference at Brookings. This was the ninth annual conference and marks the close of 10 years of county agent work in South Dakota. Representatives of the commodity marketing associations and farmers'-organizations were present and in each case expressed their appreciation of extension work. These are the organizations through which extension work is "geared" to the problems of the farmer. Fifty-three thousand of the 74,000 farmers in the state can now secure the services of a county agent within their own counties.

At this time of the year county agents are thinking about plans for the new year. The major part of the program was devoted to the discussion of the best methods of conducting extension work in a series of 4 minute talks by the agents and specialists.

Another important part of the meeting was the exchange of ideas, personal conferences, and the inspiration which comes with talking with men who have done good pieces of work. George Farrel of the states relations service pointed out the methods which get results. He said that one-tenth of 1 percent of the people who read newspapers act upon what they read, 5 percent act as a result of hearing a lecture, 8 to 10 percent act as a result of seeing a demonstration once, and 17 to 25 percent from seeing a demonstration and getting definite results on it.

The fact that man is a social being and can do worthwhile things and be happy in the leadership in our community for better club work and better boys and girls, interested in the happiness of others, then we have reached a real goal of a year's club achievement.

"For example, the boy in the picture with the Hereford bull is Harry Cole of Pierre. Harry believed that he could be a real breeder of good Herefords. He started with one heifer. At the end of 4 years he had the foundation of a real herd. One of the best breeders in the state wanted a herdsman. He employed Harry. "At the end of a year, when he showed at the state fair, Harry took first in every class he entered."

"Here is another example of a real achievement. Three Faulk county girls shown in another picture believed in their ability to be expert canners. At the end of the second year they took the state championship in their demonstration at the state fair. If you could visit our community for better club work and better boys and girls, interested in the happiness of others, then we have reached a real goal of a year's club achievement."

CLUB WORK SHOWS MORE THAN MERE MONEY PROFIT

At Same Time Figures Show Youngsters Created $100,000 In New Wealth

Almost $100,000 in new wealth was created in South Dakota in the year just closed by the 7,000 boys and girls enrolled in the agricultural and home economics clubs, according to state leaders. The youngsters completed club projects valued at $188,913.51 at a profit of $97,644.14—a real achievement.

However, the money value in the club achievement is the smallest item, points out P. J. Scarbro, club specialist. "If as a result of the year's work these same boys and girls are not bigger physically, morally, mentally, with a vision for service and leadership in their communities, the work of the year has been a failure," he says.

"It is a worth while job to raise a good field of corn or potatoes, to raise a flock of poultry at a profit, to produce a pig that will take a grand championship at the state fair, to bake a better loaf of bread, or fashion a pretty dress. If in doing these we develop a steadfast belief in our own ability to do worth while things and a desire to give of our time in the leadership in our community for better club work and better boys and girls, interested in the happiness of others, then we have reached a real goal of a year's club achievement."

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Oct., Nov., Dec., 1922

STAND BY FARM BUREAUS

"On the whole, county agents have not only been sound in their occupational judgments, but incalculably helpful in many practical ways in their communities and to the state and the nation," says the editor of the Breeder's Gazette in a recent issue of that publication. "The real value of their services can never be justly measured in dollars. It should not be necessary for them to prove their value on a financial basis alone. If a county agent is obliged to spend much of his time keeping records and statistically demonstrating that he is a profitable investment to his constituents, he is apt to neglect far more important business.

"The Gazette, therefore, urges its readers to stand by the local farm bureaus. They will continue to justify themselves wherever they are given a fair chance, and that measure of active, united and sustained cooperation which they have a right to expect from those whom they serve."

The Need for Extension Work

The seemingly unfavorable outcome of the recent vote on county agent work in certain counties of the state should not discourage extension workers. Likewise, it should not be interpreted as indicating a lack of need for agricultural extension work in South Dakota.

There has probably never been a time like the present in the history of the state, when agriculture was in such dire need of the particular kind of information and help that the Extension service is able to give. Whether in the field of more efficient production or more economic marketing, the opportunity for service is practically unlimited to the extension agent who is a worker and has a vision of the task before him.

If anyone doubts the accuracy of this statement let him examine carefully the annual agricultural census for the state of South Dakota, or, better still, certain farm management surveys that have been made in different sections of the state.

The need for certain drastic changes in farm methods, considering the state as a whole, will appear so imperative that no further comment is necessary.

Granting, however, this self-evident need of the agricultural industry and the consequent opportunity for extension workers, the latter may measure the methods and results of their teaching in the county to see whether or not they are "hitting the nail on the head" and actually meeting the real needs mentioned above. Farmers may be conservative and slow to act but they will not always begrudge a tax of 49¢ per quarter section, if it is demonstrated to them that they are getting value received.

"As the old year comes to a close and the new year's work is begun, every club boy and girl in South Dakota feels that the past year's achievement was well worth while and starts the new year with a resolution to beat his own achievement."

EXTENSION FORCE MEETS

(Continued from page one)

was not forgotten. On Monday evening the annual athletic contest between the east and west, the specialists and the county agents, was held. The results made it look as if the specialists "had organized against the whites."

On Thursday evening the annual banquet and dance was held. Lorenz Lippert was toastmaster. Lorentz enjoys acting as toastmaster at banquets. It helps to keep him in flesh. At the dance, a good time "was reported by all." The conference closed on Friday with everyone tired and happy.

The season of short courses is at hand. Such courses have been held at Pukwana, Goldies, Wagner and Ravina. Many more are scheduled for the next three months.
CROPS JUDGING SERIES

"Four crops judging demonstrations were held in Minnehaha county," reports Ralph E. Johnston. The principal crop was corn, then potatoes, then oats. Samples were brought to the meetings by farmers. These samples were placed and a thorough explanation made of the method and points concerned in selecting the best samples. An exhibit of different ears of corn, also grain samples and weeds was carried along and exhibited at each place."

Christian Larsen, former director of extension and professor of dairy husbandry at State college, but more recently director of dairy marketing for the Illinois Agricultural association, with offices at Chicago, has returned to State as dean of agriculture. Agricultural work of the instructional division, extension service and experiment station will be supervised by the dean. The operation of the college farms will also be under his direction. This arrangement, it has been announced, will not interfere with the autonomy and initiative of specialists or individual workers in these departments. The matter of coordinating the work of these various divisions, however, will be stressed. Dean Larsen has demonstrated a fine ability to work for and with the people of South Dakota and the news of his return is pleasing to them, and especially to his former associates of the Extension service.

ONE THOUSAND AT DAIRY SHOW

More than one thousand dairy boosters from South Dakota attended the National Dairy exposition at St. Paul in October. Codington county sent the largest delegation, 185 answering the roll call. Counties in which the county dairy committee took an active interest made the best showing in the matter of attendance. Many of these county committees are continuing the work of dairy development locally. The result of their work should be such that the thousands who were unable to attend the dairy show may reap some of the benefits derived by the hundreds who did.

The new farm accounts book is proving very popular in the public schools. It is used in the teaching of farm accounts. It has become necessary to have more of the books printed.

Paul Banker attended the National Swine show at Peoria, Illinois, in October. He reports that the show surpassed former events of its kind.

E. G. Rudolph was a Christmas visitor at his old home at Canton over the Christmas holidays.
Chas. J. Gilbert—A severe outbreak of hog cholera was checked through six demonstrations on vaccinating, through publicity in press meetings, and circular letters by Splendid cooperation on the part of the farmers.

J. H. Hamilton—Hog House Demonstration: Last spring a hog house was built as a demonstration on the farm of L. B. Overvaag, in Burke township. In the person of Mr. Overvaag we secured a good cooperator, and now, less than seven months after the demonstration house was completed, four others are being built like it.

C. D. Sayler—County Stock Show: The county repeated the stock show which was given last year. No entry fees were charged and no prizes given. There were no athletics or sports to detract from the judging. Although the day was warm and there was no shade, the crowd formed and watched through all the proceedings. There were 87 entries of livestock and 31 entries in the poultry show.

A. W. Tompkins—Poultry Improvement: One poultry demonstration was held for a woman who had attended a demonstration a year ago. During the demonstration it was noted that comparatively few birds were being culled out. Upon questioning the owner of the flock, the cooperators were informed that ever since attending the demonstration of a year ago the owner had followed, to the best of her ability, the instructions given by culling her own flock. A total of only seven birds were culled out of 100.

Eva Bickel—Club Achievement Day: Seventy-two boys and girls were awarded achievement pins at the Minnehaha county club achievement day held recently at Sioux Falls. All of the standard clubs in the county are working hard for the year's work. This makes a total of 208 achievement pins that have been awarded for club work this year.

George Winright—A livestock shipper's association was organized at Unityville. Arranged with three other associations to ship to the Cooperative Commission company at Sioux Falls.

George S. Hansen—Crop Demonstrations: Of the crop demonstrations listed in a previous report, the one arranged on hill selection of potatoes has been completed. The demonstration consisted of a plot of 100 hills, each hill planted from a cutting from a separate tuber. The plot was harvested September 25 and divided into the following classes: 10 hills were selected that had 6 or 7 good even sized tubers per hill; another selection of the good tubers in the hills where the tubers were of fair shape but not uniform in size; a third selection was made of good tubers from hills that were both poorly shaped and not uniform in size. There were three groups of seed which will be planted another year to compare the value of seed selection.

Deane G. Davis—Crop Improvement: In completing the work started the last of August in judging 10-acre corn fields, four corn clubs over the county were selected for special corn breeding work in 1923. A "corn growers" banquet will complete this project for 1922.

E. G. Rudolph—Corn Demonstrations: Ralph Johnston was in the county a week checking up on his ear-to-row demonstrations. The result in these demonstrations, where the corn had not dried out, were very interesting to the farmers, and all these men would like to continue the work.

Victor D. Basart—A very successful get-together meeting was held by the Chamber of Commerce at Willow Lakes recently. Men from the four townships near Willow Lakes were invited in to a big feed and program. One hundred and fifty-two were present to hear talks by farmers, business men, president of the county farm organization and the county agent. A community organization to link the town and farmers together was an outgrowth of the meeting.

Evan W. Hall—Livestock Clubs: The livestock club members showed pigs and lambs at the county fair and the teams from each club took part in the judging contest which was won by a small margin by the team from the Whitewood Valley Duroc club and second place by the Crow Creek Duroc club. The Whitewood club members went on a trip to the state fair. The judging contest was of interest to the people at the fair and was an important feature of the program.

Edith A. Sloan—Clothing: Two women's teams from Westport and Bath demonstrated "Short Cuts in Sewing" and the Bath team "Pattern Use and Alteration". The Bath team scored 93 and Westport 91. Both demonstrations were well presented. The Bath team was awarded a trip to the state fair where they gave their demonstration. Here they met teams from 12 other counties and saw their demonstrations. Both of these Brown county teams will demonstrate at other points in the county to strengthen the work in other communities.

Oscar Hermstad—Dairy Husbandry: Arrangements for a shipment of grade A Holsteins were complete but at the last moment one of the men changed his mind which forced us to postpone the shipment until later. At present it seems that sufficient orders are again at hand and a trip to Minnesota or Wisconsin will be made. Our aim is to secure high production grade Holsteins out of testing associations, producing 300 pounds of butterfat a year. The cows not yet 6 years old and T. B. tested. Also these cows are to be secured for men who really want better milk cows; who have the feed and shelter necessary for a dairy cow, and have the feed and shelter are advised to stay with the cows they have.

Alfred M. Eberle—Livestock Improvement: Two train loads of cattle were shipped through our shipping association. These shipments are the largest ever received by a commission association at the South St. Paul market. The trains loaded 97 cars, with 2,425 animals, valued at approximately $145,500.

Dick Lewallen—Animal Disease Prevention: A few serious outbreaks of hog cholera occurred in the vicinity of Wolsey. A circular letter on hog cholera and its prevention, pointing out the necessity of vaccination, was sent to every farmer in the four townships concerned. In addition to this, each farmer having a hog cholera outbreak is asked to notify his immediate neighbors at the time of the outbreak.

J. D. Morrison—County Fair: The revived Lake county fair was held at the fair grounds on the edge of the city of Madison. The fair was a success in every way. A large number of entries of all kinds were up for competition. Very few complaints were heard as to any feature of the fair. The fair was based on the proposition that the money should be largely spent on exhibits rather than on free shows and horse races. The business men advertised liberally in the premium list and made possible the complete financing of the fair.

L. V. Ausman—Dairy Projects: Trip to National Dairy show. At 6:30 on the morning of October 12, 200 farmers and business men left Codington county to attend the National Dairy show in St. Paul. This trip was made possible through the work of the Codington county dairy committee and especially Walter Shirley, secretary of the Watertown Chamber of Commerce, who secured the offer of the American Red Cross for the use of the towns of the county to furnish free transportation to and from the dairy show for all farmers who desired to attend. Five meetings were held throughout the county and county agents were used to explain the idea. As a result 42 cars left Watertown in a caravan with banners reading "Distance 230 miles, Codington county 290 strong." Every person who attended was highly pleased with the trip. Several farmers who attended had already purchased dairy cattle and many more will do so. The idea which has been so much talked and discussed during the past few years has been crystallized by this trip.

Mr. and Mrs. George Valentine are the happy parents of a 9 pound boy. And his name is to be George, Junior. Get another club enrollment card, George.

J. B. Hill has succeeded W. D. Griggs as county agent in Clay county. Mr. Griggs is operating a poultry and bee farm near Vermillion.

J. C. Holmes resumed his duties as specialist in livestock improvement on January 1. Mr. Holmes has been with the state Department of Agriculture since June, 1922.