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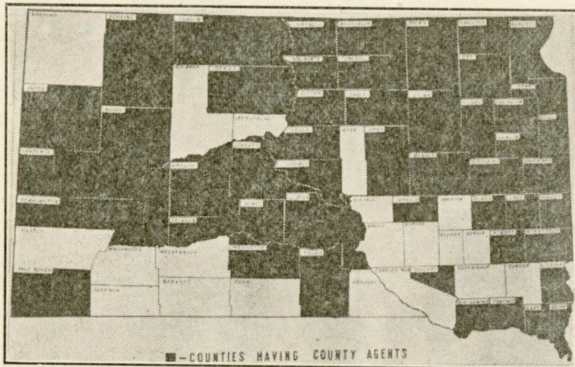
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An Item of Forty-nine Cents and Its Relation to County Agent Work

(By A. J. Dexter, Assistant County Agent Leader)

Forty-nine cents per quarter section of land is the average cost of maintaining a county agricultural agent in South Dakota through appropriations made by county commissioners. The average tax per quarter section for all purposes is \$95.39. The tax for county agent work is so infinitesimal when thus compared to all the taxes, that if it was taken off altogether, the difference in taxes per quarter section would be so slight that very few would realize that any change had been made.



County agent work has grown so rapidly in South Dakota, it is not strange that many people have misconceptions concerning its cost. Many ridiculous statements are made by irresponsible individuals. One man in a northern county maintained publicly that the county agent in that county was costing him personally \$60.00 per year in increased taxes. This leaflet was prepared to put the facts regarding the exact cost before every taxpayer.

The cost is figured in two ways, namely, per quarter section of land, and per each \$100.00 actually paid the county treasurer in taxes. The figures from which the calculations were made were secured from the State Tax Commission.

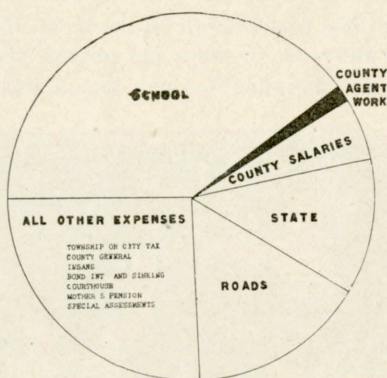
From these figures it is hard to see how any man can object to county agent work on the basis of cost in dollars and cents; however, there

are two ways to determine whether this cost is high or low. First, how anxious are the farmers to have this work? Second, are the farmers receiving "value returned," for the cost.

To prove that farmers are demanding more and more county agent work each year, your attention is directed to the following table which shows the number of county agents employed in South Dakota each year for the past 10 years.

Year	1912	1913	1914	1915	1916	1917	1918	1919	1920	1921	1922
Agents	1	3	3	9	12	14	16	39	41	43	49

From one county having an agent to 49 having agents in 10 years, would certainly indicate that the 49c a quarter tax has not worried the progressive farmers pushing this work.



The portion of the tax dollar that goes for County Agent work is very small

Growing Demand For County Agents Work

To prove the second point that the farmers are receiving "value returned" for the cost a few illustration touching on certain lines of county agent work might be convincing.

When a farmer attends a poultry culling demonstration put on by the county agent and learns how to cull out 50 percent of his hens, and then sells them, and still receives as many eggs from the remaining birds as from the whole flock before, it is not hard to convince that farmer the county agent is worth 49 cents per quarter section to him.

When the farmer's wife can attend a meeting arranged by the county agent where a specialist from the agricultural college demonstrates the use of the dress form or how to make hats at a very slight cost, it is mighty hard to convince that woman that the county agent is not worth 49 cents per quarter section to their farm.

It is a busy harvest day. A farmer needs an extra hand but cannot spare the time to go to town and look around for a man. He calls the county agent's office and is informed at once that help is or is not available. That farmer cheerfully pays the extra 49 cents a quarter, for this one service has many times more than repaid him.

The hogs are dying. The local veterinarian calls it cholera. The

County	No. of quarter sections of land	Total general taxes paid to County Treasurer in 1922 except special assessments*	Total taxes paid by "Land" or farms	Percent of total general taxes paid by "Land" or farms <i>Col. III divided by Col. II</i>	Present appropriation made by County for Agricultural Extension Work	Part of appropriation for Agricultural work paid for by "Land" or farms	Cost per quarter section of land		Cost of county appropriation for agricultural work per each \$100.00 in taxes actually paid to County Treasurer <i>Col. V divided by Col. II</i>
							of County appropriation for Agricultural work <i>Col. VI divided by Col. I</i>	of Total general taxes <i>Col. III divided by Col. I</i>	
I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	
Aurora	2,716	\$ 349,421.26	\$258,156.70	74	(\$2,500)	\$1,850.00	\$.68	\$ 94.31	\$.72
Beadle	4,806	1,174,983.03	584,622.93	50	3,000	1,500.00	.31	121.64	.26
Bon Homme	2,237	493,515.33	291,472.55	57	1,600	912.00	.41	130.29	.32
Brookings	3,090	711,926.83	421,021.75	59	(2,500)	1,475.00	.44	136.25	.35
Brown	6,596	1,926,168.47	767,163.50	40	4,500	1,800.00	.27	116.31	.23
Brule	2,951	382,915.90	227,552.58	59	(2,500)	1,475.00	.50	77.11	.65
Buffalo	1,345	91,451.41	77,869.53	85	(2,500)	2,125.00	.16	57.90	.27
Butte	5,019	501,698.28	274,670.57	55	3,000	1,650.00	.33	54.73	.60
Campbell	2,807	206,582.61	153,050.42	74	1,850	1,369.00	.49	54.52	.90
Charles Mix	3,740	621,613.76	384,880.12	62	(2,500)	1,550.00	.41	102.91	.40
Clark	3,694	636,376.01	423,528.96	67	3,000	2,010.00	.54	114.65	.47
Clay	1,577	483,693.23	288,226.82	60	2,200	1,320.00	.84	182.77	.45
Codington	2,628	935,952.51	329,625.90	35	3,000	1,050.00	.35	125.43	.31
Corson	3,497	431,368.41	177,348.48	41	3,000	1,230.00	.35	50.71	.70
Custer	2,493	196,321.89	72,535.66	37	(2,500)	925.00	.37	29.10	1.20
Davison	1,683	753,845.29	248,541.85	33	(2,500)	825.00	.49	147.68	.33
Day	3,961	637,783.52	394,698.80	62	3,000	1,860.00	.47	99.65	.47
Deuel	2,430	395,474.00	273,655.46	67	(2,500)	1,675.00	.69	112.62	.63
Dewey	1,939	274,245.44	116,745.55	43	2,500	1,075.00	.55	60.21	.99
Douglas	1,678	301,938.19	193,008.95	64	2,000	1,280.00	.76	115.02	.66
Edmunds	4,045	492,203.84	309,101.89	63	2,500	1,575.00	.39	76.16	.51
Fall River	4,160	386,872.68	136,311.37	35	3,000	1,050.00	.25	32.77	.78
Faulk	3,651	408,184.24	277,109.94	68	2,500	1,700.00	.47	75.90	.61
Grant	2,650	431,195.81	276,152.42	64	3,000	1,920.00	.72	104.20	.70
Gregory	3,706	532,791.47	319,598.68	60	(2,500)	1,500.00	.40	86.24	.47
Haakon	6,353	310,796.85	224,982.45	72	2,200	1,584.00	.25	35.41	.71
Hamlin	1,991	421,201.73	273,429.26	65	2,000	1,300.00	.65	137.33	.47
Hand	5,350	541,026.08	415,065.72	77	2,850	1,194.50	.22	77.58	.53
Hanson	1,697	342,959.26	246,203.74	72	(2,500)	1,800.00	1.06	156.88	.73
Harding	6,318	196,742.72	152,070.23	77	(2,500)	1,925.00	.30	24.07	1.27
Hughes	2,576	418,470.51	165,317.44	39	2,000	780.00	.30	64.18	.48
Hutchinson	3,246	608,462.00	412,328.48	68	(2,500)	1,709.00	.52	127.03	.41
Hyde	2,899	243,562.38	183,810.54	75	(2,500)	1,875.00	.65	63.40	1.03
Jackson	2,200	224,425.12	134,998.27	60	1,500	900.00	.32	61.36	.67
Jerauld	2,052	355,636.46	216,105.88	61	1,800	1,098.00	.54	105.31	.51
Jones	3,723	215,680.76	139,651.70	65	2,400	1,560.00	.42	37.51	1.11
Kingsbury	3,175	621,238.33	367,026.42	57	2,000	1,140.00	.36	115.60	.32
Lake	2,214	575,655.54	325,485.64	57	2,350	1,339.50	.60	147.05	.41
Lawrence	1,076	728,659.21	314,649.24	43	3,000	1,290.00	1.19	292.42	.41
Lincoln	2,267	593,402.71	357,867.14	60	3,000	1,800.00	.79	157.86	.51
Lyman	4,901	458,736.93	303,907.43	66	2,000	1,320.00	.27	62.01	.44
McCook	2,243	408,534.14	272,472.66	67	2,800	1,876.00	.84	121.48	.69
McPherson	3,845	319,599.22	214,464.46	67	1,850	1,239.50	.32	55.78	.58
Marshall	2,933	482,696.28	308,653.23	64	2,400	1,536.00	.52	105.23	.50
Meade	10,429	464,649.14	328,037.25	71	4,000	2,840.00	.27	31.45	.84
Mellette	2,322	146,562.72	112,522.10	77	2,000	1,540.00	.66	48.46	1.36
Miner	2,169	428,813.59	299,990.49	70	2,000	1,400.00	.65	138.31	.47
Minnehaha	3,105	2,203,455.92	601,610.70	27	3,000	810.00	.26	19.37	.14
Moody	1,999	429,671.05	290,430.94	68	(2,500)	1,700.00	.85	145.29	.58
Potter	2,898	256,861.79	172,139.95	67	2,500	1,675.00	.58	59.40	.97
Pennington	6,306	875,651.09	283,161.73	32	2,500	800.00	.13	44.90	.29
Perkins	9,950	445,103.44	310,001.42	70	3,000	2,100.00	.21	31.16	.67
Roberts	3,746	629,296.36	408,995.41	64	2,000	1,280.00	.34	109.18	.49
Sanborn	2,203	442,559.66	308,641.59	70	(2,500)	1,750.00	.79	140.10	.56
Spink	5,779	1,018,410.33	640,241.64	63	1,850	1,165.50	.20	110.79	.18
Stanley	4,525	271,763.91	169,299.66	62	2,500	1,550.00	.34	35.43	.92
Sully	3,476	247,484.91	187,652.98	76	2,500	1,900.00	.55	53.70	1.01
Tripp	4,954	685,148.19	479,439.54	70	2,500	1,750.00	.35	96.78	.36
Turner	2,432	656,605.84	403,350.36	61	(2,500)	1,525.00	.63	169.97	.38
Union	1,734	515,683.28	346,670.76	67	2,300	1,541.00	.89	199.93	.45
Walworth	2	451,527.70	265,658.81	46	2,000	920.00	.36	80.90	.44
Yankton	1,89	610,191.50	290,407.74	48	2,500	1,200.00	.61	146.01	.41
Ziebach	2,419	159,805.63	101,896.64	64	(2,500)	1,600.00	.66	42.12	1.56
Average					2,497	1,429.91	.49	95.39	.60

The data in columns, I, II, and III was taken from the report of the South Dakota Tax Commission. The sum of \$2500.00 in parenthesis is inserted as a basis for calculation in counties not appropriating. *Special assessments such as hail insurance, dog tax, etc.

farmer has not heard of cholera in the county and is reluctant to go to the expense of vaccinating unless there is no question but that he has the dread disease on his farm. He calls the county agent, who, if he cannot immediately convince the farmer, sends one of the sick pigs to the Animal Health Laboratory at Brookings, or calls in the extension service veterinarian. Thus the county agent's office is a place through which the farmer has received quick service and definite information. *One* deal of that kind will more than pay that man's tax of 49 cents per quarter for the next 10 years or more.

Perhaps a farmer wants to improve his seed by getting a new variety or an improved strain. The county agent locates the seed without extra cost. Maybe he wishes to build a barn or put in a septic tank. The latest approved plans for this work can be found at the county agent's office. A farmer wants to secure a purebred bull or register some pigs from a purebred sow he purchased last spring. He consults the county agent who helps him fill out the necessary blanks. Farmers that learn that the county agent's office is their office and that through its use they can secure many helpful services, are very seldom critics of county agent work, especially if they know that its average cost to them is only 49 cents per quarter of land.

But in every county there are men that do not know the county agent, have never been in his office, have never called on him even to get acquainted, and believe that if this office were abolished it would cut their taxes in half, or at least make a difference of many dollars. It is for this latter class of men that this story on the cost of county agent work is written.

Why Support County Agricultural Work ?

1. Your county agent is the only man in the county working strictly and solely for the interests of all the farmers.
2. Because you have a source of definite agricultural information available at all times within your county.
3. Because you are helping support the county agents in other counties through federal and state funds.
4. Because every progressive farmer and farmers' organization is solidly behind this movement.
5. Because the average cost of the appropriation made by county commissioners in South Dakota to carry on county agent work is only 49 cents per quarter section of land.
6. Because the total average cost per quarter section of all taxes is \$95.39. Your taxes would still be \$94.84 even though you did not have a county agent.