DEMONSTRATIONS IN IMPROVEMENT OF CROPS

(By Geo. H. Valentine)

Corn improvement demonstrations have been carried out in several counties during the past year. One of the most thorough demonstrations was conducted in Lincoln county. Four demonstrations were planted in four different parts of the county. The largest demonstration had 17 cooperators and the smallest demonstration had 10 cooperators. Each cooperator furnished enough seed to plant four rows of his corn through the field. All corn was planted in the same way and on the most uniform ground. Then at harvesting time two rows of each man's corn was harvested and weighed. Moisture determinations were made by the regular Brown-Duvel method at the agronomy department of the State College. Forty pounds were saved at harvesting time for the determination of shelling percentage.

Variations of about 52 bushels per acre are noted in these demonstrations. The result of one year's work is not conclusive, but when concluded year after year some very valuable information is being gathered as regards strains and varieties of corn being grown within the county.

Similar demonstrations are being conducted in Codington and Fall River counties, but along slightly different lines.

Another outstanding plan for corn improvement was conducted in Stanley county where 18 farmers were enrolled in a 20 acre contest. Each field was scored according to a score card which is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yield of grain</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cost of production</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maturity and quality</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stand of corn</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Freedom from weeds</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purity of variety</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Condition of soil</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The highest yield in Stanley county was estimated at 78 bushels per acre and the average yield of all contestants was estimated at about 40 bushels per acre.

A $2,000 fire in Hamlin county with good high grade livestock as the fuel.

Many similar fires were held as a result of anthrax outbreaks in South Dakota this year. Burning the carcasses was part of the anthrax control campaign put on by all the county agents in counties where outbreaks occurred. The Jones County Farm Bureau came out with a public statement that if they had had a county agent during their severe outbreak it would have meant the saving of hundreds and hundreds of dollars to Jones County livestock interests.

The winning corn in Stanley county the past two years is Fulton Yellow Dent. Hughes county had 37 contestants in a 10 acre contest and used a score card similar to the one used in Stanley county, except that cost of production and moisture determinations were omitted and yield was given greater emphasis.

The club leader or county agent that finishes a poor year club program is the one that organizes the work after February first.

According to the United States Department of Agriculture some 115,000 head of livestock thrived under the latest approved methods of care and feeding in 1922, due to the fact that they were kept by boys or girls who had joined a pig club, a beef club, or a dairy club, the actual care and management of the animals being a major part of the club work. There were more than 78,000 of these young stockmen enrolled last year, throughout the United States, an increase of nearly 10,000 over the enrollment of the year before.

HOW TWENTY ACRE CORN CONTEST WAS JUDGED

The fields of 17 farmer corn contestants in the Stanley county 20 acre corn contest were inspected and scored, September 19 to 22, by a committee consisting of Deane G. Davis, county agent, George Valentine, assistant crops specialist of the Extension service, and Wm. O'Reilly of Stanley county. This contest is sponsored jointly by the Fort Pierre Commercial club and the Stanley County Farm Bureau. Ralph Vandercook, secretary of the Farm Bureau and the Commercial club stated, "The corn contest and the corn banquet is the best project we have ever put across."

Astonishingly high yields were obtained even after moisture tests were run to eliminate the excess moisture. One contestant's 20 acre field averaged close to 80 bushels per acre and another went over 60. The Fulton Yellow Dent variety showed up best in the year's contest.

The committee worked out an interesting method for determining the winners. At three different points in the field, a row was husked for a distance of 62 feet, 4 inches. Samples were selected from each lot to be sent to Brookings for moisture tests. Purity of corn was scored on the husked samples.

Many Annual Meetings Being Held

Many annual County Farm Bureau meetings are being held this month. Among the list are Brown, Grant, and Potter counties. There is a growing desire on the part of the county agents to get the new year's work planned and the annual meeting and community project meetings held and out of the way, prior to the beginning of the new year.
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 in agriculture 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
W. F. Kumbien, Paul W. Kieser, A. J. Dexter, Horace M. Jones, Paul J. Scarbro

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

Address correspondence to Editor, South Dakota Extension Review, Brookings, South Dakota.

November, 1923

A LETTER FROM A COMMUNITY LEADER


Extension Service, State College.

Gentlemen:

We have just put on your vegetable program at our community club and had good success in drawing and interesting a large attendance. I notice by the Extension Review that a community club in Lincoln county is going to use the program, "Advertising the Community." May we be favored by your office sending us this program in the earliest mail as our county agent, Mr. Osborne, is attending the Corn Show at Moberidge and it is too late to make application direct to him.

Very sincerely yours,

Henry W. Clark
President, Liberty Community Club of Corson county.

Community Halls to be Built

A recently organized women's Extension group in Hand county has started a movement to build a community hall. An election to issue bonds for $3,000 is contemplated in the near future. Plans and specifications as well as information on the legality of the movement were furnished by County Agent E. H. Aicher. Pearl township has already held and carried an election to build a community building and construction is already underway. The movement for this hall began at a meeting held at Earl Swab's farm house last fall. Mr. Swab is president of the county Farm Bureau.

A community consciousness has developed in many of these communities largely as a result of Extension activities. These communities had outgrown the school house meeting places and they desired more comfortable and commodious quarters.

VEY VALENTINE

Vey finds it necessary to camp for the night. Working in a more or less unsettled district of 80 by 3 miles, this is not an uncommon experience for him and to make a trip without the bedroll, skillet and a few groceries is an unusual occurrence.

Vey Valentine is now county agent for western Meade county, assuming his duties there on January 1 of this year. Prior to coming to his present position he was county agent in Jackson county for six months. However his connection with Extension work in South Dakota runs back much farther than this for on April 16, 1916, he began his duties as the first county agent for Stanley county at a time when that county included also what is now known as Haakon and Jackson counties. He had a splendid record of work behind him when he resigned on July 1, 1918, to go into a ranch proposition along the Cheyenne river in Haakon county.

Vey is a graduate of South Dakota State College with the class of 1915. What farmers think of his ability is best expressed by a statement made by a man from Stanley county before the Jackson County Farm Bureau directors. This man owned considerable land in Jackson county and hearing that the Jackson County Farm Bureau directors were considering Valentine as county agent, but that they didn't know whether he could handle the job and also that they were bothered by lack of finance, said, "I know Vey Valentine's record as county agent in Stanley county and if you will hire him for Jackson county I stand ready to contribute $40 for each of my two quarters of land if you need it."

Annual Conference in December

The annual conference of all Extension service workers in South Dakota will be held December 12, 13 and 14. Director Kumlein is arranging for a number of nationally known speakers to address the meetings.

SODATOL EXHIBIT: A sodatol exhibit was prepared for use at the State fair and the Mitchell Corn Palace. It consisted of exact imitation dummies and two fields, "before clearing" and "after clearing." Orders for about 1,200 pounds came in as a result of the Huron exhibit and about 9,000 pounds from the Mitchell exhibit. The first car was ordered in September at a saving of $5,000 to South Dakota landowners.—Ralph L. Patty.

STATE NEWS

Items of Statewide Interest as Taken From Specialists' Reports

Club Judging: I judged the girls' club exhibits and demonstrations at the Nebraska State fair in September. Our girls' work compares very favorably with the Nebraska club work. While their canning exhibit was superior to ours, our clothing work far excelled theirs. The demonstrations were about on a par.

—May Kiethline.

Fairs: Sixteen days were spent at fairs or enroute to fairs. Too much time was spent at fairs doing judging out of my line, and trying to interest people who were more interested in slide shows than anything else. I thought the time spent at the State fair was worth while.—Clara M. Sutter.

Crops Club Exhibits: The crops club exhibits at the State fair far exceeded those of any previous show, both in quality and quantity. There were entered 124 ten-ea.r corn exhibits and 69 peck exhibits of potatoes. This is to a certain measure an indication of work being done by the crops club members. About 10 percent of the total enrollment usually has been induced to exhibit but this year about 15 percent of the members sent in exhibits.—George H. Valentine.

Soybeans in South Dakota: The growing of soybeans for seed in South Dakota is a comparatively new farm enterprise and there are a number of rather difficult problems yet to be solved. These problems are mainly in the harvesting and threshing of the seed. Ten different growers were interviewed and their fields examined the past month, seven fields by the writer and the other fields by men appointed to do the work. These fields were divided as follows: Two in Clark county; three in Hamlin county; one in Moody county; two in Lincoln county; one in Davison county; one in Hanson county. One small field of three acres will produce no good seed, the early frost having hurt it. The other nine fields will total 188 acres and all will produce ripe seed. Most of these fields will be harvested with the grain thresher, the crop shocked in the field and threshed with grain separator. Two growers own a bean thresher in partnership; two others each own a thresher and can thresh when the beans are just right and can also make proper changes and operate it to suit themselves. Two others may use the harvester-thresher which threshes the seed from the standing stalks. South Dakota must "grow her own" soybean seed and a study of the methods employed by these pioneer growers gives much valuable information as to the best methods.

—Ralph E. Johnston.
Grain Weevil: Grain weevil has again appeared in the state. Ten cars of grain from Union county have been docked because of “live weevil” at the terminal markets. In addition to the money lost through dockage the elevators get a bad reputation on the big terminal markets, which really is worse than the money loss. The elevators in Union county were visited and instructed in fumigation methods. During the specialist’s visit no weeviled grain was ready to load out so no actual demonstration could be put on. Arrangements were made to obtain materials from Sioux City at low cost. Plans have been made to have elevator men load out weeviled grain, run the car off several hundred feet and fumigate it in the car. By doing this fire hazards and insurance difficulties are eliminated.

—A. L. Ford.

Health Clinic: One of the biggest health features ever attempted at the State fair was the joint effort of the State Board of Health and the Extension service which made it possible for every club boy and girl at the State fair camp to have a complete physical examination. This was under the complete direction of the State Board of Health. Everyone examined went through six examinations (1) history, (2) weighing, measuring, etc, (3) general physical, (4) nose and throat, (5) eyes, (6) dental. There were 82 boys and 85 girls thus examined. Among the many interesting facts revealed were that 24 boys and 21 girls were underweight; 40 boys and 29 girls had diseased tonsils; and 37 boys and 23 girls slept with windows closed in winter. One case of active tuberculosis was discovered. The clinic served not only to bring these conditions to attention but also to suggest remedies.

—Mary A. Dolve.

Animal Disease Meetings: Fifteen meetings were put on in Tripp, Mellette, Jones and Lyman counties. While these meetings were a little late for anthrax they were quite timely for hog cholera. Hog cholera is quite widespread over Tripp county and the east side of Mellette. It has never been known to exist in this part of the country before this year. The hardest thing to endure was the lack of heat at the camp. The South Dakota health exhibit attracted considerable attention.—Susan Z. Wilder.

Record Books: Two enterprise record books entitled, “How to Keep an Account with Livestock” and “How to keep an Account with a Crop” were prepared and sent to the printer. They will be used by members of sow-litter, baby pork, baby beef, sheep, poultry, calf, corn and potato clubs as well as by adults.

—H. D. McCullough.

War Eagle Camp: I accompanied the girls’ team to War Eagle camp at Sioux City. The camp and food were excellent. The health clinic for the club folks at the State fair was one of the most advanced steps in club work put on by any state of the union. The results are more than gratifying, as reports are received in the Extension office every day reporting corrections in health habits. One report came in something like this. “Had adenoids and tonsils removed, teeth all put in first class shape, never felt better in my life.” Miss Dolve is already making plans with Doctor Hayes of the State Board of Health for the 1924 club clinic.

The health clinic for the club folks at the State fair was one of the most advanced steps in club work put on by any state of the union. The results are more than gratifying, as reports are received in the Extension office every day reporting corrections in health habits. One report came in something like this. “Had adenoids and tonsils removed, teeth all put in first class shape, never felt better in my life.” Miss Dolve is already making plans with Doctor Hayes of the State Board of Health for the 1924 club clinic.

The junior farm account books and final reports of all club members of Lawrence county were sent to the club specialist for grading. The reports and farm accounts show a very definite year’s work accomplished, and a real club demonstration of better practices in agriculture and home economics. County Agent Hall and his local leaders are to be commended for the good work completed. “Plan your work and work your plan,” is evidently one of the extension ideas in Lawrence county.

A majority of the Aggies at State College are former club members. What a force and influence they will be in development of the agricultural possibilities of the Sunshine state.

One hundred fifty club boys and girls took part in the junior events at the National Swine show, October 1. One hundred sixty-four pigs from three states were shown. A lively judging contest was staged, Donald Cameron, Hanna City, Illinois, being the highest individual. John W. Coverdale, secretary of the American Farm Bureau Federation, was the chief speaker at the banquet tendered to the juniors by several Swine Record associations.

Kentucky club members exhibited 18 carloads of market pigs at the Louisville first annual Fat Hog Show and Sale, expressly for the benefit of junior club members.

At the Indiana State fair, reports F. M. Shanklin, assistant state leader, there were 400 entries in the sewing club; 750 plates of apples; 80 lambs; more than 100 pigs and about 80 beef calves.

Seven hundred of Minnesota’s brightest and best club boys and girls had a wonderful week at the Minnesota State fair.

South Dakota Grimm Growers: South Dakota alfalfa seed has been somewhat discriminated against by some of the buyers because of a feeling that the buyer did not receive adequate protection as to the purity of the seed. The purpose and aim of this association (South Dakota Grimm Growers) is to overcome this situation and to develop a better market for the output of the Grimm growers of this state along the lines of what is being done in Idaho and North Dakota.

—M. R. Benedict.

“It’s the way you show up at the show-down that counts.”

This is Harold Ross, of Sturgis, and some of his Durocs. Harold got second on litter and third on junior sow at the Meade County fair recently. He grew out eight pigs, not a runt in the bunch.
SOUTH DAKOTA EXTENSION REVIEW, BROOKINGS

**High Spots**

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

**W. E. Dittmer:** (Lincoln county) Instructions were given in checking over 20 cases of necro-bacillosis this month. A large herd in Norway township was visited and found slightly affected with necrotic enteritis. A salesmen selling some patent dope had about convinced a farmer of the advisability of buying his medicine at a cost of about $80 to treat the herd. After taking the matter up with the county agent, the farmer decided to use the standard blue vitriol treatment and save the exorbitant $80 charge.

Plans and instructions were furnished for the installment of a ventilating system for a new hog house on the farm of Charles De Neul of Lennox. The farm was visited, size and type of house taken, brood accounts made as to size of inlet and outlet flues. Two other farmers in that vicinity are interested in putting in a system.

**Henry O. Putnam:** (Union county) An outbreak of grain weevil occurred in the elevators in the southern part of the county. Methods of control were explained to the elevator men and two demonstrations with carbon-bisulphid treatment were given. Notices were put in the paper and recommendations made as to size of inlet and outlet flues. Ten people have already called at the county agent’s office.

Five hundred fifty pounds of sodatol have been ordered for the farmers in the county. One demonstration on vegetables and fruits, won first place by the girls in a canning club under the supervision of Mrs. C. E. Richards of Mcintosh. The work was made... (text continues with more detailed reports for each county and agent)

---

**W. F. Broich:** (Campbell-McPherson county) As a direct result of hundreds of demonstrations on blackleg control, this disease has been almost eradicated in Campbell-McPherson counties. Now and then a few isolated cases are reported, but the farmer who did not previously believe in vaccination, one farmer recently lost three head of cattle valued at $60. Since this man had always opposed vaccination, he did not have the courage to come to the office for assistance. However, his wife came and made the statement that they were now thoroughly convinced that vaccinating was practical, and that after this the county agent would not have to ask them to vaccinate again.

**O. M. Osborne:** (Corson county) A farmer from Hargus came into the office to make the following statement recently: “You have been wanting us fellows to grow Sudan grass. I thought possibly you were right for I read the results of some of your last year’s demonstrations. I put in 40 acres this year. I tried to cut it with a mower, but the stalks were too heavy. It was too long for my mower; I had to harvest it with a corn binder.”

Three hundred thirteen quarts of fruit were canned in the past season by the girls in a canning club under the leadership of Mrs. C. E. Richards of McIntosh. The work was done with a pressure cooker furnished by the Corson County... (text continues with more detailed reports for each county and agent)

**Edith Sloan:** (Brown county) Eighty-five home demonstration clubs in Brown county sent teams to the Tri-State fair to compete for the State fair trip. The Mercier township team, with a demonstration on vegetables and fruits, won the banner and the State fair trip. The stage was equipped as an attractive blue and white kitchen, arranged through the courtesy of the Home Furniture company. An auditorium space accommodated generous crowds during the demonstrations. Demonstrators came from eight to fifty miles, and all the demonstrations attracted wide attention around the county.

**Charlotte E. Biester:** (Grant county) Home Extension work made a hit at the Grant county fair. One demonstration on salad making was particularly successful. Although this demonstration did not begin until 4 o’clock in the afternoon, the demonstrators were asked so many questions they could scarcely break away from the crowd to get the items collected before dark. The home agent had general supervision of the women’s department and five coworkers took charge of the various booths. The Grant County Home Economics council had a tent in which milk drinks were sold. The milk drink booth was a money maker.

Ninety-eight percent of the women’s clubs in the county sent delegates to the county project meeting where clothing was chosen as the new year’s project. They had at this time, also, a training school for the club secretaries taking up the various projects relative to the reporting of work next year.

**L. L. Ladd:** (Pennington county) Twelve club members showed a total of 50 pigs at the county fair, winning $50. Three silver loving cups were given; one for the best litter of four, and breed; one for the best record of accounting and the other for the best junior boar pigs. One boy won a trip to the International Livestock Exposition at Chicago.

**E. E. Wilson:** (Lyman county) The Reliance Livestock Shipping association was organized with 24 livestock producers as charter members. Twenty more farmers will undoubtedly sign up with the next two weeks. The association will incorporate and each member signs a member’s contract agreeing to ship all his livestock through the association.

**Sumner E. Davis:** (Haakon county) Robert Jones, a member of the boys’ livestock judging team, went to the State fair and made the statement, “I learned more about judging by watching the judges at the fair than I would ever learn at home.” In addition to the livestock team, a crops judging team and a girl sewing team, the best baby beef and best litter of pigs were sent to the State fair. Fourteen ribbons were won on the club exhibits.

**A. W. Tompkins:** (HAMLIN county) Certified seed potato growers in Hamlin county under the supervision of the county agent had a fine display of potatoes at the South Dakota State fair. Hamlin county won first prize in the county exhibits, this making the fourth consecutive time that Hamlin county secured this honor. Seventy thousand bushels of Hamlin county certified Irish Cobbler seed potatoes have been purchased by Virginia growers for planting next year. These potatoes were purchased at a price in excess of the present quotation on market potatoes. In fact, the price is not only above the cost of production, but also includes a fine premium.

According to reports from the Dairy Cattle congress held at Waterloo, the club calves were the chief attraction and held the center of interest throughout the week.