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# 4-H Clubs

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# 4-H CLUBS



South Dakota Group at the National 4-H Club Camp, 1928, one of the many special events of interest to all 4-H Club members

THIS BOOK DO

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## 4-H CLUBS

Thousands of boys and girls have benefited themselves through their activities in the 4-H clubs. They have real achievement to their credit. They have worked hard, but along with their work has been a certain amount of recreation This same opportunity is open to all boys and girls between the ages of ten and nineteen years.

#### WORK

The work of the club member varies according to the conditions of the community and the wishes of its people. Club members carry projects in clothing, foods, canning, room improvement, garden, poultry, baby beef, sow litter, purebred gilt, baby pork, sheep, bee, dairy calf, corn and potato club work. All members in a club carry the same project. There is an established minimun of required work but credit is given for extra work done.

#### INSTRUCTION

Most of the instruction is carried on by a local club leader who receives printed bulletins and circulars from the State College Extension Service. The clubs meet about once a month. A feature of each program is a demonstration on some phase of the club work. This may be given by the club members, the local leader or other person qualified to give such work. Some of the instruction is given to the group at meetings and some by personal visits of the leader to the club member's home.

#### DEMONSTRATION

Demonstration is one of the watchwords of successful 4-H club work. It simply means to "show how." If a local leader shows the club members how to remove kernels of corn from the ear without injuring the germ, that is a demonstration. Demonstrations have a definite place at each club meeting. They are one of the most effective forms of instruction. Demonstration teams are quite common. Two club members make up a team, demonstrate some phase of the work they are doing and present that work before groups other than their own club. This affords them valuable training. Prizes are usually offered for the best demonstration teams.

#### OWNERSHIP

Boys and girls are interested in the things the own. Ownership is one of the foundation stones of 4-H club work whether it be livestock, corn or clothing. A better realization of value exists when the club member has to pay for the equipment and stock he uses. This is perferable to being given the stock outright.



Baby Beeves Raised by 4-H Club Members

#### EXHIBITS

The excellence of the completed job in club work is known by the exhibits made, whether they be local, county, state or interstate. Ample opportunities are provided for club members to exhibit their products, to have them judged and to receive awards for them. The fact that there is to be an exhibit day serves as an incentive to do the best work possible..

#### CAMPS

Camps for 4-H club members are located at convenient points about the state. These are usually of four days duration and include instruction as well as recreation. In 1928 twelve camps were attended by almost 1700 boys' and girls' club members. These camps are usually held in June and July and are open to all 4-H club members in good standing. The only cost is for board.

#### GAMES

Rare indeed is the club meeting that does not allow some time for games and other forms of recreation. Club members have their own songs which they sing heartily. Yells, songs, games and stunts serve to liven up any club program and help to make the work interesting.

#### AWARDS

Pins, ribbons, medals, banners, silver cups, educational trips and cash are available to winning 4-H club members. The county fairs, the State Fair and interstate events all have liberal awards for 4-H club work. In club work each member is a winner even though he does not receive a trophy. Any member who has done the very best that he could under the circumstances is a winner.

#### EDUCATIONAL TRIPS

There are literally hundreds of educational trips open to boys' and girls' 4-H club members in South Dakota. A number of the counties make provision for sending their county champion club members to the State Fair as demonstration team members or livestock exhibitors. Some counties also provide trips for their champion members to the Junior Short Course. Railroads and other interests provide fifty trips for South Dakota club members to Chicago each December, five or six to the National Dairy Exposition at St. Louis in October and four to the National Club Camp at Washington, D. C., in June. Trips are not the ultimate aim in club work, but are interesting events, incidental to the regular work.



4-H Club Members Exhibiting Fat Lambs

#### HOW TO ORGANIZE

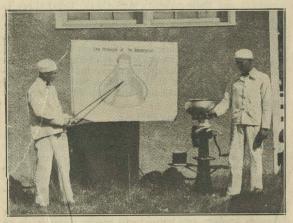
Any community having five club members and a local leader interested in the same project may organize a club and thus receive some benefit from the work. The first step is to get in touch with the county agent, the home extension agent, or the district club agent, secure enrollment cards, and have the members and their parents sign them. Send these in to the extension agent, together with the names of the officers elected at the meeting. Within a few days instruction manuals and record books will be in the hands of the local leader and the club will be ready to go ahead with the work. Each club has a president vice-president, secretary, treasurer, and news reporter. At the beginning of the year, a program for the entire year is made up and the club follows that as closely as possible.

#### RESULTS

When local leaders and club members do their work thoroughly, as most of them do, excellent results may be expected. These results take the form of an awakened community interest, more information on farm and home problems by the boys and girls, financial gains by the club members and the ability to work together in perfect harmony using the same organization for any other community project. Club work develops leaders and helps to fit the boys and girls of today for their work as farm and home makers of tomorrow.



Jessie Bannerman and Anna Cork, Fall River County, Grand Champion Girls' Demonstration Team, 1927



Kenneth Henneghan and Raymond Olson, Brookings county, State and National Champion Dairy Demonstration Team, 1927



The Junior Short Course for 4-H Club members is becoming one of the most popular events on the calendar, a week of instruction and fun at State College. Two hundred club members attended in 1928; more than 300 are expected December 27 to 31, 1929.