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## Boys' and Girls' Club Work: Corn Club

C. Larsen

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Extension Circular No. 23.

November, 1918

# BOYS' AND GIRLS' CLUB WORK

## Corn Club



### EXTENSION DIVISION

SOUTH DAKOTA STATE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND MECHANIC ARTS AND U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, CO-OPERATING. C. LARSEN, DIRECTOR

### JUNIOR EXTENSION WORK

- Paul J. Scarbro ..... State Club Leader
- Irene Dunne ..... Assistant State Club Leader
- A. L. Haynes ..... Assistant State Club Leader
- Selma Rongstad ..... Assistant State Club Leader

Brookings, S. Dak.

## REGULATIONS

1. Any Junior between the ages of 10 and 18 years may enter.
2. Enrollments close May 1.
3. A club shall consist of not less than five members and local leader.
4. Each member shall plant not less than one acre.
5. Not more than one breed of corn shall be planted by a club member.
6. Letters of instruction will be sent to each member regarding the testing of seed corn, preparation of the ground, planting, care, selection and care of seed and selection for exhibit purposes.
7. Periodical reports are to be made as called for by State Club Leader.
8. Each member does his work, follows instructions, keeps a good record and writes a story of his work prior to the closing of the project.
9. An exhibit shall consist of ten ears.
10. An exhibit will be held in each county or for each club to determine the exhibits eligible to entry at the State Corn and Grain Show.

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## BASIS OF ACHIEVEMENT

Yield per acre .....	40 %
Profit .....	25 %
Exhibit (10 ears) .....	15 %
Best kept record book .....	10 %
Best written story .....	10 %
Total .....	100 %

## THE PROJECT

Perhaps the most interesting line of work among boys and girls in South Dakota is the study of the soil and its products. There are three projects in club work that aid directly in this study: corn, potatoes and garden.

The boy or girl who becomes efficient as a corn breeder and raiser, automatically equips himself in a vocation second to none. Uncle Sam is looking for men and women with this knowledge.

The raising of corn involves the study of nature from many angles.

First: The composition of seed and its ability to sprout and feed itself until it can adapt itself to the food found in the soil.

Second: The conditioning of the seed so it can resist unfavorable weather and soil conditions.

Third: The preparation of the seed bed so it will afford the seed the most amount of nourishment in the best possible form.

Fourth: The working of the soil so it will give over its every effort to the production of a successful crop.

Fifth: The maturity of the crop to get it safely out of the way of frost.

Sixth: The gathering of seed for next year.

Seventh: The care of the seed to rid it properly of excessive moisture content.

Eight: It has been demonstrated that seed corn kept through the winter without freezing will produce quicker growth, stronger and better plants and larger yield than will seed that has been subject to freezing conditions.

The corn project is an all-year-round enterprise and it is the aim of the State Leader to make it a vocation among the members, rather than a one-season experiment.

## A FEW POINTS TO KEEP IN MIND IN CORN RAISING

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1. Always ear-test your seed and use only that which responds 100%.
2. February and March are the months to test seed corn. The fall is a poor time.
3. The best tester is that which subjects the seed to as nearly as possible the same conditions as are found at planting time.
4. Don't shell your seed corn until about time to plant it.
5. Use good, clean ground for your plot, plowed either early in the fall or late in the spring.
6. The depth at which the ground should be plowed will depend upon whether it is fall or spring plowed.
7. Fertilize your ground with well rotted barn-yard manure.
8. The soil should be perfectly mellow and free from weed sprouts when corn is planted.
9. The depth at which to plant is judged somewhat according to the amount of moisture in the soil at planting time.
10. Begin cultivation with the harrow and continue until the corn is large enough to plow. Use care not to harrow just as the plants are coming thru the ground.
11. Cultivate deep and close to the plants the first time thru. Let each cultivation be more shallow and farther from the plants than the first.
12. Leave the ground clean and level when you lay the corn by. See that a soil mulch is left on the surface.
13. Select your seed corn as soon as the kernels are dented. Don't wait for the danger of frost to prompt you.
14. Hang the seed ears up immediately upon gathering in a dry, well ventilated place.
15. Read all letters of instruction carefully as they come from the State Leader and follow their direction.