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Extension Circular No. 36

September, 1921

Boys' and Girls' Club Work

Dairy Clubs



Prepared by
STATE CLUB LEADERS AND
DAIRY EXTENSION SPECIALIST
Brookings, South Dakota

EXTENSION SERVICE

SOUTH DAKOTA STATE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND
MECHANIC ARTS AND U. S. DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE, COOPERATING
W. F. KUMLIEN, Acting Director

Distributed in furtherance of the Acts of Congress of May 8 and June 30, 1914.

OBJECTS OF DAIRY CLUBS

Dairy clubs under proper leadership are organized by and for the boys and girls, having for their object:

1. The elimination of inferior dairy cattle.
2. A means of income to the boy or girl.
3. To create interest and pride in ownership.
4. More efficient and economical feeding.
5. To demonstrate the superiority of good purebred dairy cattle.
6. To emphasize the importance of dairy products in the diet.

Not all dairy clubs will attain all of these objects in a single year. The work is arranged so that it may be carried on for a number of years, each year marking a degree of progress. For that reason there are three kinds of dairy clubs, namely: The milk testing club, the dairy calf club, and the dairy cow club.

THE MILK TESTING CLUB

The milk testing club represents the least outlay of capital. Upon joining this club, the boys and girls learn the principles and practice of the Babcock test. They meet regularly, carry on the testing of several herds of cows and thus fit themselves for more intelligent management of their own herds when they acquire them.

It is recommended that this work be carried on in the home herd, each boy or girl testing the milk of his or her father's cattle at regular intervals. Blanks are furnished for totaling up the yearly production of each cow and arriving at the profit or loss which she returns the owner. In this club, consideration will also be given to the proper feeding of dairy cattle and to the selection of the individual according to type.

THE DAIRY CALF CLUB

For the boy or girl who wants to get more thoroughly into the dairy business than is provided by joining the milk testing club, there is the dairy calf club. Upon joining this club, the member, with the assistance of the leaders, selects and buys a good purebred female dairy calf. The breed is optional with the club, but all members of one club must have the same breed. Each member cares for his or her calf in accordance with instructions furnished by the leaders from time to time, and agrees to show the calf in at least one show during the year. Clubs may hold a sale at the end of the year and sell their calves, but it is strongly recommended that they retain them and develop them into cows.

THE DAIRY COW CLUB

For those who have completed the work as members of either of the foregoing or similar clubs, there is the dairy cow club of which they may become members. In this case the boy or girl upon becoming a member buys a purebred dairy cow or heifer, preferably with calf at side and bred back. The problem now is to care for the cow, feed her, raise the calf, and keep records of feed and production. This will not be difficult for the boy or girl who has carried out successfully the work of the other two clubs. By special arrangement, older boys and girls may join this club without having previously been members of the other dairy clubs. It must be understood however that milk testing and calf raising must be studied along with the other dairy problems.

At this point the club member realizes a constant income from dairy products. In addition to this he has the nucleus of a herd of dairy cattle which will increase from year to year. He may sell off a part of the surplus but it will be found far better to retain as many as can be cared for, selling only the male calves. In this club also, the members agree to show their animals in at least one show per year.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. Any boy or girl between the ages of 10 and 18 years inclusive may enter.
2. Each club shall have at least five members and a local leader.
3. Enrollments close December 1 each year.
4. Each club must hold at least one public demonstration during the year in milk testing, judging, or some other phase of dairying.
5. Each club member owning stock must exhibit at one or more fairs or shows during the year.
6. Reports must be carefully made out when called for and a final report at the end of the year must show time spent, work accomplished, earnings, savings, and profits. The Junior Farm Account Book is furnished for this purpose.
7. An achievement story, written near the close of the club year is to contain an accurate account of the club member's activities, written in story form.
8. Members of cow and calf clubs are to have from one to five head of purebred cattle, all members of a club having the same breed.
9. Members of milk testing clubs must keep complete records on from five to twenty cows.
10. A club sale may be held with the consent of two-thirds of the members of the club.

BASES OF ACHIEVEMENT

Milk Testing Club

1. Efficiency in operation of test and ability to demonstrate.....	50 %
2. Percent unprofitable cows eliminated from herd	20 %
3. Reports	20 %
4. Achievement story	10 %
Total	100 %

Dairy Calf Club

1. Percent increase in value of herd	35 %
2. Condition, type, uniformity	40 %
3. Reports	15 %
4. Achievement story	10 %
Total	100 %

Dairy Cow Club

1. Percent profits from sale of dairy products	25 %
2. Percent increase in value of herd	25 %
3. Condition, type, uniformity	25 %
4. Reports	15 %
5. Achievement story	10 %
Total	100 %

TESTING OUTFITS

Testing outfits may be purchased by clubs or members through the club leaders and dairy extension specialist or with their assistance. These outfits cost anywhere from six to twenty dollars, depending upon the size. One outfit will suffice for about 20 club members. The only upkeep necessary is for sulphuric acid and replacing broken glassware, either of which items will not amount to very much.

DAIRY CATTLE

The club leaders and dairy extension specialist of the State College extension service will assist in securing good purebred dairy cattle. No special breed is recommended. Good dairy animals may be found in any of the following breeds: Jersey, Guernsey, Ayrshire, Holstein, Brown Swiss, Red Polled and Milking Shorthorns. It must be remembered that the selection of the *individual* is far more important than the selection of a *breed*.