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Garden and Strawberry Clubs

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GARDEN AND STRAWBERRY CLUBS

Prepared by the
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Brookings, S. Dak.

Extension Service
South Dakota State College
W. F. Kumlien, Director

The purpose of this leaflet is to give a better understanding of garden and strawberry clubs for the boys and girls of South Dakota. After receiving an explanation of what these clubs are, who are eligible, what is expected of members and local leaders, what is available from the Extension Service at Brookings, and educational and financial advantages gained by the members, we feel that the leaders will be in a better position to accept or reject this club work in their respective communities.

REGULATIONS

1. Any junior between the ages of 10 to 18 years, inclusive, may enter.
2. Each club shall have at least five members and a local leader.
3. Enrollments close April first.
4. Each member plants, cares for, markets or conserves the products from his garden plot or strawberry bed.
5. Size of garden: minimum, two square rods; maximum, one acre. Size of strawberry bed: minimum, one square rod; maximum, three square rods.
6. Each member does his work, follows instructions, keeps a record, and makes a report. At the close of the project he makes a final report and writes a story of his achievement.

JUSTIFICATION

Garden clubs and strawberry clubs are ideal for the boys and girls of South Dakota for the following reasons:

Garden Clubs—Fully 90% of the families in South Dakota have available some sort of garden spot whether living in the country or in town. Every family can use the products of the gard-

en either fresh or canned. The expense necessary to plant the garden is negligible and within the reach of every family's pocketbook. Gardening is a job that the average boy or girl is fully able to perform. Financial gain can be realized from three angles, value of fresh products consumed, value of products canned, and value of products sold. For these reasons we believe the garden club is an ideal one for boys and girls.

Strawberry Clubs—South Dakota imports most of her fruit from other states which shows there is a lack of fruit grown here. The strawberry is not only most excellent fruit both fresh and canned but it is very easily grown and requires but very little room. The Progressive Everbearing and the Dunlap varieties have proven highly successful in practically all parts of South Dakota when handled right. The expense necessary in starting a bed is so small that it need not be considered. A two square rod bed will produce plenty of fruit for the average family. The boy or girl club member has four sources of financial gain; namely, value of fresh berries consumed, value of canned fruit, value of berries sold, and value of plants sold for setting new beds. We believe that the boy or girl who enrolls in a strawberry club and works can in many cases startle their communities with their production records.

MONTHLY LESSONS

The local leader is to meet with the club once each month (from March to September, inclusive), arrange the program, and take up the regular monthly lesson with the members. The monthly lessons are furnished free of charge by

the Extension Service at the College at Brookings to each club member and local leader. These lessons are sent out the first of the month. They take up topics which are timely for the particular month in question. Appropriate state and government bulletins, report cards, and record books will also be sent with the lessons. The monthly lessons are as follows:

GARDEN CLUBS

March—Plans for the Club Member's Garden
 April—Garden Seeds and Seeding
 May—May Garden Activities (cultivation, weeds, etc.)
 June—Insect Pests and Plant Diseases of the Garden
 July—Succession of Garden Crops
 August—Preparation of Vegetables for Exhibit
 September—Vegetable Storage

STRAWBERRY CLUBS

March—Planning the Strawberry Bed
 April—Planting the Strawberry Bed
 May—Late Spring Care of the New Strawberry Bed
 June—Insect Pests and Plant Diseases Affecting Strawberries
 July—Picking and Marketing
 August—Care of Runners, New Plant Production, Summer Mulching, etc.
 September—Winter Protection for Strawberries

BASIS OF ACHIEVEMENT

Yield and Quality.....	20%
Economy of Production.....	25%
Record of Year's Work.....	20%
Achievement Story Showing Member's Knowledge of Gardening.....	2%
Exhibit at Local or County Fair.....	15%