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South Dakota Rural Yourth

Cooperative Extension South Dakota State University

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South Dakota

RURAL YOUTH

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SPECIALIZE ♦ SOCIALIZE ♦ STUDY ♦ SERVE

*A Program Planned by
Young Men and Women*

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AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE

SOUTH DAKOTA STATE COLLEGE ♦ BROOKINGS

U. S. DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE COOPERATING

In Furtherance, Acts of Congress May 8, June 30, 1914

George I. Gilbertson, director

The Objectives Are

1. *To provide activities* which lead to the improvement, enrichment and appreciation of rural life.
2. *To teach youth* how to plan and carry out programs and develop democratic organizations which will meet their educational and vocational needs and social interests.
3. *To provide an opportunity* for youth to work together for fuller personal, group and civic development through sharing responsibilities.
4. *To train for citizenship* by developing leadership abilities among our youth and thereby strengthen democratic procedures.
5. *To foster understanding* between religions, races, nationalities and rural urban groups and encouraging attitudes of respect, tolerance and consideration of others.
6. *To encourage cooperation* between all organizations and agencies interested in promoting the welfare of rural life.

Advantages of Rural Youth

1. Teaches and develops leadership.
2. Creates friendly understanding and the sharing of responsibilities.
3. Builds better rural communities.
4. Develops individual integrity.
5. Stimulates youth to think and plan cooperatively.
6. Teach youth to cope with real life situations, problems and opportunities.
7. Learning to work and share with other organizations.
8. Assists many young people to make proper adjustments in their communities.

A Young Adult's Program

Young people aspire to be accepted as adults. They cooperate and work most effectively with others of their own age. Many dropped out of other youth programs because the programs lacked challenge or stimulation. Young men and women have different problems, interests, goals and reactions from those of either juveniles or older adults. A specialized educational program is needed to help them.

All county, state and national young men and women's programs should be planned as an integral part of the overall Cooperative Extension program.

A FOUR PHASE PROGRAM

1 SPECIALIZE [*special interests*]

This phase of the program will give each individual in the organization an opportunity to develop or achieve any special talent or skill that may be of interest to share with the group.

Examples of this might be, radio, photography, music, art, drama, television, aeronautics, crafts, or other skills or hobbies.

2 SOCIALIZE [*recreation & social activities*]

Opportunities should be provided for young people to participate in their own social and recreational activities. Varied examples include, music, song leading, picnics, folk games and dancing, athletic activities, outings, dramatics, parties and many other social activities.

3 STUDY [*educational activities*]

If our standard of living is to be improved, young people must have the opportunity and cooperation in developing and acquiring knowledge of the skills in farming, home-making and other vocations.

Examples of how this phase may be carried out includes inviting prominent men or women such as lawyers, doctors, ministers, eminent farm and home makers to speak to your group. Movies, slides, debates, tournaments and family relations, panels might be used. There are many other suggested educational phases.

4 SERVE [*community service activities*]

One of the most important phases of this program is the opportunity to be of service to the community. Through a little cooperation, planning and assistance, these young people can share in making their rural community a more wholesome place to live. Some examples for this service includes clean-up campaigns, various community drives, sponsor rural contests and plays, help needy families or assist with 4-H county events.

Young Married Folk Welcome

Young married couples fit into the Rural Youth program very nicely. They add prestige and help to share the many responsibilities. Married couples are urged to belong and assist.

Some counties have large enough memberships to make a division, having complete single and married group organizations. A wider range of interests are sometimes met with this arrangement.

Special interests of young married couples might include family life problems, credit and finance, child development and many other home interests and problems.

Find out who these young couples are in the community. Encourage their participation in meetings. Establish a desire for continuous enlightenment among rural young people. Education is a continuous journey, not a destination reached on graduation from a formal institution.

RY's Status in Extension Work

The three major divisions of Extension work include the 4-H club, home demonstration and agricultural programs. Rural Youth work occupies a parallel position with these three, but it also should be a part of each of them. It is not to be considered as a "fourth branch of Extension." All extension specialists, supervisors, and administrators, as well as county and home agents should assist in working with the program.

However, in South Dakota a State Rural Youth Leader has been appointed for this distinctly different kind of a program. This is done because a separate system for evaluating and reporting results is desirable.

How To Join and Organize Rural Youth

1. Consult about 12 young people and discuss their interests in organizing.
2. Consult your local county and home Extension agents.
3. Set a date and place to meet.
4. Notify the State Rural Youth Leader. He will attend and assist in getting started.
5. Elect officers, draw up a constitution, set of by-laws, and program of work.
6. Appoint important committees to carry out program.
7. Offer membership cards and become affiliated with the state organization.
8. Keep an active program in process by giving every member a job responsibility.

Rural Youth's *Challenge*

No other agency more than Extension concerns itself with the destinies of the entire farm family. However, we have been slow in servicing one important part of the family—the young people—those between adolescence and mature adults. These young men and women need our help and guidance. Their interests and problems must become our interests and problems.

People are agriculture's basic resource. The rural family of today, and especially the youth of that family, holds the unique responsibility of transferring our pattern of living to the citizens of tomorrow.

Recognizing this fact, let us as Extension workers coordinate our efforts in strengthening this phase of our young adult program, namely "RURAL YOUTH," in our state of South Dakota.—GEORGE I. GILBERTSON, *S. D. Extension Director*

Your County Extension Service *Will Help You*

Additional information about organizing a Rural Youth Group in your community may be had from your County Extension Service. Your county agent and home demonstration agent are always ready and willing to assist with suggestions, bulletins, and many other materials in forwarding this youth program.

In each county and state the Agricultural Extension office is at your service. The state and county staffs are employees of the U. S. Department of Agriculture and members of the South Dakota State College staff.

Consult your local county agents for needed assistance with your local program. A state Rural Youth leader is available to work with all organized counties over the state and meets with groups as the need arises. Let's strive to keep Rural Youth in South Dakota alive, alert and progressive.

The Rural Youth Program
For Young Men and Women

HOW TO ORGANIZE

In The County

Any group of young people married or single that are 18 years old, living in the country or rural small towns, are eligible to belong to the Rural Youth Organization. Young men and women from all other organizations such as—past 4-H members, FFA Chapters, YMCA or YWCA, Grange, Farm Bureau, Farmers Union, churches and hostels are potential members.

In organizing a Rural Youth group, 12 to 15 interested young people meet, elect officers—a president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, and publicity chairman. A county constitution and set of by-laws are drawn up along with a program of work for the year after a second meeting.

The County Extension Agent and Home Agent are responsible for meeting with this group and assisting with the organization.

After a committee has agreed upon a specified time, meeting place and a name for the organization, they are ready to offer membership cards and become duly organized and automatically become a part of the state Rural Youth organization.

In The State

The State Rural Youth Organization is headed by a State Rural Youth leader, who is an employee of the U. S. Department of Agriculture and a member of the South Dakota State College staff. The state officers comprised of the same number as in the county are elected at the annual summer camp and carry their duties for one year. A state constitution and set of by-laws are followed by the state organization. A county membership card automatically makes all members qualified to vote and attend any state meeting. A specified amount of the county membership fee goes to the state office. There are usually two state meetings each year—one conducted on the State College campus in the spring in conjunction with Farm Home Week and the other at the State 4-H Camp during the late summer.

omen; Married or Single