1973

History of Extension

Cooperative Extension Service, South Dakota State University

Epsilon Sigma Phi, South Dakota Chapter

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HISTORY OF EXTENSION
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Introduction

Development of the Extension Service

The College had been doing a certain amount of Extension work since 1901, 13 years before the Smith-Lever Act was passed. This work consisted mainly of holding farmers' institutes, addressing farmers' meetings and judging at county fairs.

During this 13-year period (1901-1914), four different superintendents were employed. Stacy Cochran served for two years. The work was dis­continued for two years, and in 1905 it was reestablished under M. F. Greeley. He was succeeded in a short time by A. E. Chamberlain. The last man to hold the position before the work finally merged into Extension work was H. F. Stoner of Highmore.

In connection with the work of the Farmers' Institutes, there was gradually developing a conscious need of more definite help in solving the farmers' urgent problems. They included control measures of certain crop diseases and pests, as well as animal diseases, especially hog cholera.

From 1908-1912 much attention and publicity was given to the Roosevelt Country Life Commission. This report called attention to the unequal development of rural life compared to urban life and it stressed the inadequate opportunities existing in the rural areas.

From 1908-1911 farmers cooperative demonstration work, carried on in the South by Dr. Seaman Knapp, received large publicity. Businessmen's organizations, bankers' conventions and state educational associations were endorsing the work and discussing the possibility of having demonstration agents in their communities.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), through its farm management section, was offering $1,200 per year in federal aid to a limited number of counties that would meet certain requirements in employing a farm demonstration agent. By 1914, when the Smith-Lever bill was finally passed, there were 843 county agents employed in the United States. There were also 349 home demonstration agents.

Congress was also getting enthusiastic over the possibilities of farmers' demonstration work. Legislators from ten states were vying with each other to introduce a bill to grant federal aid for this work. Six of the states represented were from the Midwest. Seventeen different bills were introduced from 1910-1915 before the Smith-Lever bill became a law.

S. D. Placed County Agents

H. F. Patterson was South Dakota's first county agent. In 1912 he became a cooperative employee of the better farming associations of South Dakota and the United States Department of Agriculture for Brown County. A year later, A. W. Palm and John Larson became county agents for Spink and Codington Counties, respectively.

Dr. A. N. Hume, College agronomist was appointed in 1913 by USDA as the first county agent leader and he served in that capacity until 1915.

Also in 1913, W. M. Maier was employed as superintendent of boys' and girls' club work. At that time the work was mainly done in connection with the schools. Clubs were organized for corn growing, pig raising, gardening and canning.

The Smith-Lever Act

The first thing the Smith-Lever Act of 1914 did for South Dakota was give prestige and stability to the county agent idea.

The cooperative aspects of the Smith-Lever law was something unique in federal legislation. It was the first of a series of laws to provide for cooperation between federal and state governments in carrying on a common enterprise. It also contemplated further cooperation between counties, local governments, various associations and individual farmers.

It is doubtful if county agent work, embodying the field demonstration idea, would have come into existence if it had not been for Dr. Knapp's demonstration work in the South.

As Congressman Lever said in a speech on the floor of the House while his bill was still pending, "We have accumulated in the agricultural colleges and in the Department sufficient agricultural information which, if made available to the farmers of this country and used by them, would work a complete and absolute revolution in the social and economic financial conditions of the rural population. The great problem which we are up against now is to find the machinery by which we can link up the man on the farm with these various sources of information."

"We have expended in the neighborhood of one hundred million dollars in the last half century gathering together valuable agricultural truths. We have spent fifty years trying to find an efficient agency for spreading this information throughout the country and putting it into the hands of the people for whom it was collected. We have tried the farmers' bulletin, we have tried the press, we have tried the lecture and the institute work. All of these agencies have done good. They have been efficient in a measure but there is not an agricultural student in the country who does not realize that the greatest efficiency is not being had from these agencies."

"This bill proposes to set up a system of general demonstration teaching throughout the country and the agent in the field of the Department and the college is to be the mouthpiece through which this information will reach the people—the man and woman and the boy and girl on the farm. You cannot make the farmer change the methods which have
been sufficient to earn for himself and for his family for many years unless you show him under his own vine and fig tree, as it were, that you have a system better than the one which he himself has been following.

"The plan proposed in this bill undertakes to do that by personal contact, not by writing to a man and saying that this is a better plan than he has or by standing up and talking to him and telling him it is a better plan, but by going on his farm under his own soil and climatic conditions and demonstrating there that you have a method which surpasses his in results."

The Smith-Lever Act did not limit the scope of the work to certain restrictive phases of agriculture or home economics. It included almost any problem vital to agriculture or to the rural home, varying with the state or local conditions. Work carried on under the Law included not only teaching phases of production and marketing and bettering home and community conditions, but also social and spiritual development of rural people.

South Dakota's Extension Law

In January, 1915, a law was passed by the South Dakota legislature accepting in full the provisions of the Smith-Lever Act. It provided for carrying on the work cooperatively with the USDA and recognized the agricultural college as the administrator of the law in South Dakota.

The state law was drawn up more specifically than the federal act, and it definitely provided for both statewide workers and county Extension agents. The South Dakota Law also provided for a local cooperating agency within each county, which is the county Farm Bureau. Up until 1919, the county organization was called the county agricultural Extension association.

South Dakota also provided a voting clause, where under certain conditions, the question of raising funds for Extension work within the county could be voted upon at a general election.

In 1915 the provision for farmers' institutes was absorbed into regular Extension work under the name of "short courses." Provisions were made for at least three days of short course work in each county of the state not employing a county agent.

The South Dakota Extension law became operative July 1, 1915. At this time, there were already six county agents on the job with a district agent placed in each one of three congressional districts.

The main contribution of the state law was to bring the state into a cooperative relationship financially, making it possible to expand work much faster and to standardize the methods used. It also brought assistance to county agents with educational matter supplied by Extension specialists.

Taken from the 10th Annual Report of the S.D. Extension Service, W. F. Kumljen, Director.
Ag Engineers Plan Systems to Better Economy

Ralph L. Patty began as the first Extension agricultural engineer in 1936, and he was also the first head of the Agricultural Engineering Department. He is especially known for his work with the Renner Test Line, an experimental electric line among farms in the Renner, South Dakota, area and with rammed earth construction. With little money for travel and expenses much of his work was accomplished by writing bulletins and designing buildings.

An Extension agricultural engineer was not available through the war years of 1941-1945.

In 1946, Merle Esmay is reported to have done work with machinery shows demonstrating labor-saving devices, some of which were invented by farmers. He also assisted with the formation of rural electric cooperatives.

Louis Lubinus, who began in 1947, worked with developing the 4-H tractor maintenance program, home sewage disposal systems, weed sprayers and farm building. By 1960 there was a dramatic increase in requests for help in farm building design and planning.

The same year George McPhee worked on a grant from the Rural Electrification Administration on uses for electricity on the farm.

In 1950, Martin Fogel was hired on a grant as "Farm Land Service Engineer," and worked with the development of irrigation systems. A year later William (Ted) Welchert promoted the idea of hay-stack movers and other farm machinery problems.

In 1952 the mechanical corn picking contest was begun with agricultural engineers supervising the scoring. Emphasis was on safe and efficient corn harvest. The contest continued until 1969 with South Dakota hosting two national contests and agricultural engineers heading all aspects of the contests.

George Durland, working with power and machinery, and William Peterson, rural electrification specialist, came in 1955. At this time most farms had electric service and activities hinged around insulation and ventilation systems, crop drying, 4-H electric projects, 4-H automotive projects, and short courses for electric power supplier personnel.

The 1960's saw increased activities in several areas. As "Water Resources Engineer," Fay Kerr worked with the formation of water conservancy subdistricts and other state-related programs. The first to be formed was the Oahe Subdistrict. Feedlot expansion created a demand for planning assistance with feedlots. Confinement feeding and labor-saving systems were in demand. Crop drying became an accepted part of farming operations with the introduction of the field shelter for corn.

Fred Schmer was stationed at Yankton in 1963-64 as irrigation engineer after a sugar company became interested in the possibilities of stimulating sugar beet production in the Yankton-Vermillion area.

Art Vandal worked on a federal grant in rural civil defense work from 1963-1969. Dwayne Konrad became irrigation specialist in 1964 and was replaced by Sidney Black in 1968. Darrel Pahl came to work in irrigation management in 1970. Demonstration work was developed at the irrigation research farm near Redfield with the anticipated development of the Oahe Unit Irrigation Development.

The 1970's provided emphasis on concern for the environment and work involved assisting with writing of regulations for pollution control, controlling runoff on livestock feedlots, and with the effects of irrigation development on economy and environment.

During much of this time farm population was declining at a rate of about five per cent per year but farm production continued to increase. Agricultural engineering had a part to play in helping provide the machinery, equipment and structures by which fewer farmers could produce more and remain competitive with farmers in other areas.

By the 1970's interest was extremely high in community water system development and agricultural engineers helped pioneer an effort to create community water systems after the pattern used to create rural electric systems. Agricultural engineers worked closely with Farm Home Administration officials to plan systems that would take into account benefits not only to people but to the livestock economy.

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Extension Ag Engineer Specialists

Ralph L. Patty--agricultural engineer 1936-1940
Merle Esmay--agricultural engineer 1946 (8 months)
Louis Lubinus--agricultural engineer 1947-
George McPhee--rural electrification 1947-1948
Martin Fogel--farm land service engineer 1950-1960
William Welchert--farm machinery 1951-1954
George Durland--power and machinery 1955-
William Peterson--rural electrification 1955-
Fay Kerr--water resources engineer 1957-
Fred Schmer--irrigation engineer 1963-1964
Art Vandal--rural civil defense work 1963-1969
Dwayne Konrad--irrigation specialist 1964-1968
Sidney Black--irrigation specialist 1968-1972
Darrel Pahl--irrigation specialist 1970-
Delvin Brosz--irrigation specialist 1973-
Animal Science—from “Big Team Hitches” to Prosperous Livestock Production

In April, 1916, J. C. Holmes, the first Extension livestock specialist was appointed. His work featured a two-way approach to livestock improvement. Breeding programs, particularly the use of purebred sires, were stressed. He also organized a number of 4-H clubs for fathers and sons to carry on feeding demonstrations.

As livestock improvement continued, aided by the formation of baby pork, sow-litter, cow-calf, baby beef and sheep 4-H livestock clubs, the livestock Extension worker became more interested in producing a better finish on the animals to be marketed.

Demonstrations were held throughout the state featuring “big team hitches.” Cooperative livestock shipping associations were formed, balanced rations were advised and purebred livestock sales were promoted.

I. B. Johnson was named to the post in 1931. During the 1930’s emergency meat canning plants were operated at Milbank, Huron, Mitchell and Rapid City, which meant added instruction in meat cutting, curing demonstrations, plus instruction in the handling of beef carcasses and meat. The Extension animal husbandman bought and distributed hay for the American Red Cross during the extreme drought period.

Between 1933 and 1936 the livestock specialist was charged with the responsibility for developing and operating the Wheat Allotment and Corn-Hog Allotment programs in the state. They also helped form the State Livestock Committee which was changed to State Livestock Council in 1952 and Purebred Sheep Association. The South Dakota Production Records Association and the Swine Evaluation Station were major accomplishments of 1956 and 1957 respectively. They have been, and still are, closely associated with all state and county livestock associations.

During the war years increased production of fats and oils was extremely important and farmers were urged to put every pound possible on cattle and hogs before they were marketed. In 1945 James O’Connell was named beef specialist and an assistant position was created to handle the hog work.

During the 1960’s beef production and marketing programs concentrated on research in feeding cattle, updated information on storage and feeding of silage and high moisture grain, and created an awareness for testing and standards.

Swine specialists began to promote cooperation and understanding among the swine industry, allied industry and the consuming public. The program made available information promoting the meat-type hog. They encouraged the use of recommended testing and breed improvement programs, and assisted swine producers in developing sound selection programs to improve efficiency of production.

The sheep production program was also important and the work was shared by swine and beef specialists. Farm units that would lamb out 200 or more ewes annually were promoted. Information enabled producers to increase income by producing lambs that could meet the current market demand. The program developed an awareness among livestock producers of the opportunity to increase their income by using sheep in their farming operations. A full-time sheep specialist was added to the staff in 1973.

As a part of today’s Extension livestock activities, animal scientists conduct meat evaluation clinics in cooperation with stockyard companies, meat packers and locker plants, advise engineers on plans for construction of feedlots and the remodeling of older farm structures, promote livestock field days, and assume responsibilities for holding and judging the 4-H livestock shows at State Fair.

Poultry Producers Have ‘Ups’ but Mostly Downs

Extension work with poultry started on an organized basis when Clara M. Sutter was hired as Extension poultry specialist on August 1, 1921.

At that time Miss Sutter said the problems included a general lack of flock records, poor housing and poor stock. Too many flockowners also had the false notion that hens can find their own living most of the year.

Her first report covered 395 days and showed that she spent only 98 days in the office. She drove 11,732 miles by Model T Ford and traveled over 16,000 miles by train. She spent five weeks each in Beadle, Brookings and Day Counties and four weeks in Pennington County carrying out an intensive training program in culling, disease control, feeding, brooding, caponizing and flock record keeping.

Contrast that with today’s (1973) industry which has a wide range of sizes of units. There are specialized egg production units, with as many as 16,500 birds per house and up to ten houses on one farm, or a farm will have a small flock of 100 birds in the same house that was used in 1921.

In the 1920’s killing and marketing meat birds increased returns from 75 cents to $1.80 per bird. Blueprints for poultry houses were sold or given away and work was done to help control poultry disease. A “Grow Healthy Chicks” campaign was conducted to help curb the high death rate of baby chicks.

By the 1930’s poultry prices dropped and the semi-confinement method of raising turkeys was advocated. State 4-H poultry judging contests were started at the State Fair. Poultry was a valuable food source during the drought and grasshopper plagues. Although fewer chickens were being raised the value per head raised from 28 cents to 41 cents. In 1936 high feed grain prices forced poultrymen to sell and caused prices to fall. The National Poultry Improvement Plan was put into effect in the state and poultry raisers began improving their stock. By the end of the 30’s poultry production was again increasing.
In 1940 the Extension poultryman organized and supervised a federal-state egg grading program in the state. One year later a drive was put on to get people to increase production to meet defense demands. Poultrymen were asked for a large increase in production for an all-out war effort which led to 95 percent of the farms in the state raising poultry. The "Chicken of Tomorrow" contest was held in 1946 and the Hayme Poultry Farm took first place with an average chicken weight of 6.6 pounds. Pheasants were tested for diseases. Recommendations for insulation and forced draft ventilation for South Dakota poultry houses were being made.

Poultry housing was still important in the 1950s, and it supplied materials for a traveling exhibit. Extension poultrymen began working with the state Department of Agriculture in training buyers in methods of producing and handling high quality eggs. Egg law regulations were changed and schools were held for egg candlers and graders. The first TV programs, range shelters and culling poultry, were shown in 1954. The Black Hills High Quality Egg Producers Association was formed the same year. The Chicken Bar-B-Q circular was published, and Bar-B-Q demonstrations were started. Set-in-stations, where farmers delivered their eggs to a central point twice a week, were started. Wire floor poultry housing began to catch on rapidly.

Late in 1958 the South Dakota Poultry Improvement Association met and began to develop the South Dakota Egg Council. The Egg Council had its first meetings in 1959 and in 1960 articles of incorporation were written.

The 1960s called for a push to raise pheasants for release. Four-H'ers began raising pheasants for projects and the state prison farm raised pheasants for release.

On July 1, 1967, Extension poultrymen joined the Animal Science Department of South Dakota State University. A new poultry research building was dedicated in 1968.

In 1970 poultrymen had difficulty selling old hens because of the possibility of contamination with chlorinated hydrocarbons. By 1971 the goose business in South Dakota had developed into a sizable industry.

By 1973 there were over 10,000 breeder geese and South Dakota was estimated to raise and process over 50 percent of the nation's goose population.

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**Vets Battle to Free S.D. of Brucellosis**

Dr. J. R. E. Dinwoodie was employed as the first Extension specialist in Animal Disease Control on July 1, 1916. His work consisted of demonstrations and educational campaigns in animal disease eradication. He cooperated with country agents and participated in the Farmer's Institute programs.

During his first year he made 151 farm visits, held meetings on animal diseases, diagnosed 134 cases and did 34 post mortem examinations. He also vaccinated 176 cattle against anthrax, 40 hogs against cholera, and 30 cattle against contagious abortion.

Dinwoodie was succeeded by Dr. G. S. Weaver in 1919. Weaver's main projects were prevention and control of contagious diseases of livestock. Educational programs were carried out on all contagious diseases, but anthrax, hog cholera, swine enteritis, black leg, infectious abortion (Brucellosis), and pneumonia held the main focus of attention.

Through the 1920s hundreds of outbreaks of anthrax occurred causing an embargo against South Dakota's livestock by Iowa, Nebraska and Wyoming. More cattle were being tested for TB, and there was an increase in hogs vaccinated against cholera. Extensive educational campaigns were initiated to encourage farmers and ranchers to test their cattle for TB. Miner County was claimed accredited with less than one-half of one percent incidence of TB. In 1929 an area law was passed for the control of tuberculosis with accredited counties being retested every three years. An Extension veterinarian was one of the first specialists to make radio talks that year.

By 1932 anthrax was more widespread in the state than any other year with the largest number of outbreaks in Beadle County. Swine erysipelas made its first appearance this year but it did not kill many hogs. A tuberculosis exhibit was set up at the Morrell Packing Plant in Sioux Falls, and state, Federal and Extension veterinarians conducted demonstrations on tuberculosis information. A new project on hog-lot sanitation was introduced, with results showing that better feeding, care, and management caused sows to farrow more pigs, meaning more pigs could be sold at an earlier age and worms and enteritis problems could be prevented.

In 1933 special emphasis was placed on anthrax and hog cholera. A year later much of the efforts switched to the TB program because TB caused a greater loss to the livestock than any other disease. Three years later (1936) all the cattle west of the Missouri River had been tested by the Bureau of Animal Industry. Sleeping sickness (equine encephalomyelitis) became a problem and caused an extensive loss of horses.

With the exception of a few individual herds of cattle, every county in the state was tested for TB at least once by 1936. There were 108,998 herds consisting of 2,159,098 cattle under supervision. In 1938 a new state law cleared the way to test hold-out herds that had blocked the TB accreditation program. The Livestock Sanitary Board was created in 1937.

In the 1940s, a strong emphasis was placed on controlling Brucellosis or Bang's disease. By 1946 uniform recommendations were adopted by state and federal officials, and promiscuous vaccination of adult cattle was not advised.

Poultry diseases were also causing an extensive loss to the industry and only about half of the chicks hatched reached the market.

The 1950s began with parasite work with cattle. Although DDT had been used it had not been as effective as hoped.

The department went without an Extension veterinarian for ten years beginning in 1952.

A grub free area was attempted over a five-year period involving about 15,000 cattle. Heel fly activity was reduced about 90 percent.
The Brucellosis control program received special attention during the middle of this decade. A bill was passed by the legislature to help provide a successful eradication program but it did not force anyone to test their cattle. Four producers in one county refused to test preventing the county from becoming accredited.

Work continued on bovine and swine Brucellosis in the 1960's. An Extension veterinarian was again added to the staff in 1962. Dr. Gordon McNeilly was hired to work primarily in the field of poultry health. The Swine Brucellosis Control Program was started however the modified live hog cholera vaccine was banned. In 1970 South Dakota was declared hog cholera free.

Plans were formulated for conducting education programs for practicing veterinarians. Veterinarians discussed bovine reproduction, feedlot diseases, diseases of young pigs, nutrition, management and clinical pathology.

The incidence of Brucellosis was so low that the state would have become modified free in 1970 except for eleven hold-out herds, if the herds had all been tested once.

By 1971 legislation was passed forcing owners of eleven hold-out herds to test cattle for brucellosis and South Dakota became modified-certified free of Brucellosis July, 1971.

Veterinary Extension Personnel

Dr. J. R. E. Dinwoodie--animal disease specialist 1916-1919
Dr. G. S. Weaver--veterinarian 1919-1952
Dr. Gordon McNeilly--veterinarian and poultry improvement specialist 1962-1965
Dr. M. Weldon Glenn--veterinarian 1965-1966
Dr. J. M. Bailey--veterinarian 1968-

Extension Poultry Specialists

Clara Sutter--1921-1925
O. C. Henderson--1926-1928
O. J. Weisner--1929-1937
M. H. Simonson--1937-1941
Ralph Mernaugh--1940-1941
Raphael Brandriet--1941-1942
Richard Heeren--assistant specialist 1941-1942
Boyd A. Ivory--1943-1945
J. Ervin Boyd--1945-1951
Norman Martin--assistant economist in marketing 1947-1948
Boyd J. Bonzer--assistant economist in marketing 1948-1951
Boyd J. Bonzer--Extension specialist 1951-
Dale Dunn--assistant specialist 1951-1952
Glen Hart--assistant specialist 1952-1955
F. Lloyd Shinnick--assistant specialist 1955-1959
Clayton Sloat--assistant specialist 1959-1960
Richard Peiper--assistant specialist 1961-1962

Livestock Extension Personnel

J. C. Holmes--livestock specialist 1916-1923
Paul P. Banker--livestock specialist 1922-1923
Gerald Heebink--assistant specialist 1923-1926
Turner H. Wright--livestock specialist 1923-1927
W. R. Hauser--assist. specialist 1926-1928
I. B. Johnson--animal husbandman 1931-1938
Guy A. McDonald--animal husbandman 1937-1944
T. O. Larson--animal husbandman 1944-1945
James J. O'Connell--animal husbandman 1945-present
Frederick Wilson--assist. animal husbandman 1946-1948
Clifford Iverson--assist. animal husbandman 1947-1951
Henry P. Holzman--assoc. animal husbandman 1948-1961
LaVerne J. Kortan--livestock specialist 1952-present
Danny Fox--nutritionist 1970-1972
Wm. Schneider--nutritionist 1973-1977
Herley Miller--sheep specialist 1973-present
Extension Helps Dairies
Shift from Cream to Whole Milk

H. M. Jones, the first Extension dairyman in South Dakota, organized his educational program under five sub-projects in 1921: (1) Systematic feeding of dairy cattle; (2) Use of purebred dairy sires; (3) Cow testing; (4) Junior dairy clubs; and (5) Importance of dairy cattle.

G. Heebink, who took over the work in 1926 after Jones was named State 4-H Leader, was a production man and stressed herd improvement through dairy feeding schools. He was a promoter of purebred sires and acquired a reputation with his project of building pens for handling dairy bulls safely.

Starting in 1935 the work of Roy Cave reflects attempts to help dairymen recover from the dry years. Farmers were very short of funds, cattle were in poor condition, and pastures were run down. Cave devoted his efforts to pasture improvement and improved feeding practices. He also stressed dairy herd management and promoted the idea of selling cream to make extra money for the farmstead. An assistant, Donald Hanson, was hired in 1948 to work specifically with dairy processors and producers on improving quality. The appointment was a joint one between Cooperative Extension and the South Dakota Dairy Herd Improvement Association. Other assistants have continued this work.

Ervin Kurtz was named project leader in 1953 in dairy production and marketing. At this time the trends of dairying in the state were ready for changes in processing and marketing areas. Assistance from Leonard Benning in economics was enlisted. Emphasis also shifted from selling farm-separated cream and producing sour cream butter to selling sweet whole milk for manufacturing cheese, powder and sweet cream butter.

In 15 years a 100 per cent conversion from separated cream to whole milk sales was accomplished. A complete reorganization in processing plants within the state was needed. Small creameries and cream receiving stations were replaced by 18 cheese plants and four large drying plants. SDSU marketing studies helped determine the location of these facilities. This change doubled the income to dairy producers in South Dakota.

In 1956 assistant dairyman Hollis Hall was hired to develop and expand the production record project. The work evolved into the use of electronic data processing of production records. When Hall resigned in 1966 Ed Kleen took over this aspect of the work.

Only two office secretaries have been employed in the Extension dairy office during this period. Mabel Otterness worked with Jones starting in 1926 and Leonore Graves, the present secretary, who began working in the same capacity in 1944.

Dairy Extension Personnel

H. M. Jones—Extension dairyman 1921–1926
G. Heebink—Extension dairyman 1926–1935
R. A. Cave—Extension dairyman 1935–1952
Donald Hansen—assist. dairyman 1948–1949
W. Allen Goodbary—assist. dairyman 1949–1952
Kenneth Gross—assist. dairyman 1952–1953
Ervin Kurtz—Extension dairyman 1953–
Hollis Hall—assist. dairyman 1956–1966
Ed Kleen—assist. dairyman 1966–1972
Myers Owens—assist. dairyman 1972–

Economics Programs Fluctuate Dramatically

The first specialist to be named in the field of economics was Ward A. Ostrander, whose title was "Farm Management Demonstrator." His principal work, starting in 1916, was the gathering of farm records in five selected areas of the state. Records were analyzed according to labor income and compared to other farms in the area.

The term "specialist" came into use with the appointment of H. D. McCullough as Farm Management specialist in 1918.

A specialist was added in marketing in 1924. W. F. Schnaidt is reputed to be the person who initiated the first outlook information work in South Dakota. He gathered information from the various crop and livestock specialists on the staff regarding expected production and prices. The material was put into a publication for public distribution. This procedure continued until the mid-thirties when the National Agricultural Outlook Conference was begun by USDA in Washington, D.C.

The Extension economics staff grew to four in 1929. Two assistants, L. Mossing and T. S. Thorfinnson, were used to help organize county farm management clubs. Codington and Brown Counties were the first to form such groups.

Extension economics work became a casualty of the economic disaster of the depression and the drought of the 1930's. Schnaidt resigned in 1931. Leo Mossing was dropped from the staff in 1933, and T. S. Thorfinnson in 1934. A. M. Eberle became Extension director in April, 1933. Gabriel Lundy, head of the Economics staff at South Dakota State University, assumed the duties of Extension economist on a quarter-time basis starting in 1933. He was the only Extension worker in the projects after Thorfinnson resigned.

Funds were again made available for agricultural economics work in 1935 with the passing of the Agricultural Adjustment Act. Steven Jones, then manager of KFDY the college radio station, was hired. For the next two years he worked in farm management, but he continued to manage the radio station on a part-time basis. His appointment to the economics staff was necessitated by the demand for education work in farm records, a requirement of the AAA program.
The Agricultural Adjustment Act was declared unconstitutional in 1936, but the farm record book developed by early economists was such a success that it was revised by Jones and continued to be distributed. Periodic revision of the South Dakota Farm Account Book and its distribution has been a continuing activity of Extension economists up to the present time.

George Anderson was named the second farm management specialist in 1940 with the primary mission of continuing the farm record book and economic outlook information. Jones was named State Land Use Specialist in 1940 and in 1942 he became Agricultural Planning Specialist. Much of his service dealt with national priority programs, with much of his salary and expenses coming from federal funds.

National strategies shifted to the concept of planning as a means to avoid another dust bowl experience in the early 1940's. Committees of farmers were organized in every county for the purpose of making recommendations on tillage practices for all areas of the state.

Priorities Shift as War Begins

National priorities shifted drastically with the advent of World War II and the emphasis now was shifting to wartime production of food and fiber. Land use planning efforts changed to planning production potentials for farm products.

In 1944 concern increased for peacetime adjustment and priorities changed to making plans to avoid the adjustment problems following World War I. This concern was spearheaded by the Committee of Economic Development (CED). Jones was assigned the task of making a survey of production potentials under peacetime conditions. The report was not completed before the war ended and Jones was employed by the Greater South Dakota Association and was asked to complete the work he had started. As a result, South Dakota was the only state to complete their part of the nation-wide project.

The committees Jones organized predicted the demand for new farm equipment after the war, but they failed to take into account the technological advances that would come with new machinery. Consequently, estimates were low. They also had no way of knowing that millions of tons of food would be shipped to Europe under the Marshall Plan.

Jones was also assigned the task of organizing rural fire fighting units during WW II. These were organized to fight potential fires which might occur as part of enemy espionage activities. Fortunately, they were never called into use.

The Extension Service was again without an economist between October, 1944, and February, 1945. Qualified and trained economists were difficult to find. Manpower in general was scarce due to World War II while the major emphasis of all Extension programs was on all-out agricultural production for the war effort between 1942 and 1945.

When Lyle Bender joined the staff in 1945 major farm management emphasis was on planning adjustments in crop and livestock production to produce the greatest amounts of food. Shortages in farm labor and machinery were common. Programs stressed sharing of farm machinery and labor and the use of labor saving equipment. Land values rose 55 per cent between 1940 and 1945. Purchases of savings bonds and other securities were encouraged to cushion the post war adjustment.

With the hiring of Arthur W. Anderson in 1946 the Extension economics section again became a two-man operation. Anderson concentrated on farm management with Bender devoted time to marketing, agricultural policy, government farm programs and public affairs.

Increased Production Efficiency Stressed

In post war years of the late 40's, emphasis was placed on increasing efficiency in crop and livestock production. Farm record studies were expanded to the north central and southeast areas of the state. Educational assistance in farm income tax preparation and reporting was started. Much interest developed in farm rental arrangements, plus father-son operating agreements, reflecting the return of war veterans and defense workers to agriculture. A mimeographed "Farm and Ranch Economic Review" newsletter was prepared monthly for agents and leaders starting in the late 1940's.

Expanded Extension work in marketing was again possible in 1949 when additional federal funds became available. The special funding continued until 1958.

In 1957 Leonard Benning was hired to work on marketing in the fields of dairy and poultry. He worked closely with dairy science specialists in an educational effort that changed the dairy operation from cream to an all whole milk operation. Dairy income in South Dakota doubled due to this conversion.

A major farm management activity called the Farm and Home Development Program was started in 1954. All Extension personnel in the state attended training sessions. In some states the activity was called the "balanced farming" program.

Essentially it was a planning method for examining potential changes in income under different organizational and management systems. By 1957 the program was carried on to some degree in 41 counties. One special aspect of the program was carried on in Deuel County and involved the services of a special fieldman, Leonard Ladd. There were 45 families in the Association. Special farm management schools were conducted in 1958 and 1959. The schools involved a series of six or seven meetings with organized classes in four counties of the state.

Marketing activity during the 1950's involved teaching of seasonal market price fluctuations and their causes, farm to retail marketing margins, grade standards and quality improvement, marketing costs and possible alternatives to reduce them. In addition there were classes on livestock loss prevention, milk marketing orders, shifting from cream to whole milk sales, butter grades and bulk tank versus milk can systems. Increased work with cooperatives was started in 1958 and leadership training for managers and directors was held in five locations that year.
Government farm programs, information on agricultural adjustment and the "Soil Bank Program" were important areas of emphasis in the late 50's and 60's. Information was also provided on subjects such as the rural economy of South Dakota, our agricultural capacity to produce, foreign trade, and vertical integration in agriculture.

Lyle Bender completed his D.P.A. degree from Harvard University in March, 1956. His thesis, "The Rural Economy of South Dakota--An Area Analysis Aimed at Extension Program Development," was mimeographed and made available throughout the state for suggested Extension improvement. Bender left in mid-1959 to become Associate Director of Extension in Nevada.

Leonard R. Benning might be called the "mainstay" in Extension marketing. When first employed in 1955 his work was primarily in the dairy and poultry marketing fields, but it gradually broadened to include educational work about all types of cooperatives and studies for potential processing plants.

In 1960 Dr. Rex D. Helfinstine became a part-time Extension economist. His work was mainly in the farm management and agricultural policy areas, preparing input-output data for farm planning, and comparing alternatives for participation in government farm programs. In July, 1966, he was named acting head of the Economics Department at South Dakota State University.

Dr. John E. Thompson joined the staff in 1960 to work in public affairs, agricultural policies, and taxation problems. In 1963 he also worked with the Rural Areas Development. In 1967 he was named head of the Economics Department at SDSU.

Byron E. Taylor began as the Extension livestock marketing specialist in 1961, but he left a year later to continue graduate study.

In 1962 the position was filled by Wayne Schulte, who expanded Taylor's projects with livestock market agencies, county agents, and managers of livestock auction markets.

Extension work expanded in rural development in the early 1960's. Galen Kelsey, who was a county agent, became a Rural Area Development Agent in 1963 and later became Resource Development Specialist.

Dr. Gordon Rose replaced John Thompson as Extension economist in public affairs in 1967. He was assigned to handle educational programs in agricultural policy and taxation. He also headed Extension work in rural and community development.

The same year Dale Roth was hired as a Community Development Specialist. Working as a team, Roth, Kelsey and Rose, organized and developed a series of intensive community development training seminars for rural and community leaders in five major areas of the state.

Dr. Wallace Aanderud was employed in 1963 to work specifically in the farm management field. He developed some outstanding farm management planning and budgeting materials. His planning workbook, "Ten Steps in Planning Your Farm or Ranch Business," and the accompanying reference manual, "Guidebook for Planning a Farm or Ranch Business," were used throughout the state.

Two area Extension farm management agents, Merlyn Dahl, Brookings, and Myron Barber, Yankton, joined the staff in 1966.

Robert J. Antonides has assisted in Extension marketing work since 1965, particularly in the work with managers and directors of cooperatives, and also with private business firms. In 1968 Arthur B. Sogn began duties in a split position involving both research and Extension in grain marketing.

By 1971 ten men were employed on the Extension economics staff, either on a full or part-time basis. There was considerable more interest in public policy kinds of educational programs such as taxation, constitutional revision, and land use planning.

In 1972 John Maher, Davis County Extension agent, was named an area farm management specialist to replace Myron Barber in the southeast area of the state. Perry Fales, county agent for Webster, took over as the northeastern area farm management specialist to replace Merlyn "Mike" Dahl.

Economics Extension Personnel

Ward A. Ostrander--farm management 1916-1922
H. D. McCullough--farm management 1918-1930
W. F. Schnaidt--marketing specialist 1924-1931
Leo Mossing--assist. farm management 1929-1933
T. S. Thorfinnson--assist. farm management 1929-1933
Gabriel Lundy--economist 1933-1935
Steven Jones--radio and farm management 1935-1944
George E. Anderson--farm management 1940-1944
Lyle Bender--economist 1945-1959
Arthur W. Anderson--economist 1946-
J. Harvey Glover--assist. marketing 1949-1951
Edward Dailey--assist. marketing 1951-1958
Joshua F. Robinson--assoc. farm management 1954-1963
Leonard R. Benning--marketing economist 1955-
Dr. Rex D. Helfinstine--economist 1960-1966
Dr. John E. Thompson--public affairs economist 1960-1967
Byron E. Taylor--livestock marketing 1961-1962
Wayne Schulte--livestock marketing 1962-1965
Galen Kelsey--resource development 1963-
Dr. Wallace Aanderud--farm management 1963-
Robert J. Antonides--marketing specialist 1965-
Merlyn Dahl--farm management 1966-1973
Dr. Gordon Rose--public affairs economist 1967-1974
Arthur B. Sogn--grain marketing 1968-
Myron Barber--area farm management 1971-1972
John Maher--area farm management 1972-
Perry Fales--area farm management 1973-
Entomologists Hard to Find; Program Develops in 1960's

In 1937 Geo. I. Gilbertson became the first Extension entomologist. He taught in the Entomology Department in addition to his Extension responsibilities. In 1945 Gilbertson was named Director of the Extension Service.

Because qualified candidates were not available, the position was vacant for seven years. In 1951 John A. Lofgren was named Extension entomologist. He continued until 1954. Three years passed before the position was again filled. In 1958 Wm. M. Hantsbarger was hired on a part-time basis.

In 1961 Gale Mast joined the staff and worked full-time in the position. Dr. Ben Kantack was named Extension entomologist in 1963. Two incidents underscored the need for this type of educational work.

An army worm invasion hit South Dakota in 1960, and Dr. Kantack became heavily involved in control and eradication efforts. At the same time there was greatly expanded interests in farm use of commercial pesticides.

Dr. Wayne Berndt was named to the staff to assist in this work in 1964. Public concern increased over need to help farmers understand how to use the new insect control measures in a safe manner.

Insect educational work has developed into a constant surveillance program. Specialists keep close watch on potential insect problems and keep farmers and ranchers informed on movements and emergency control measures.

It was estimated that Extension educational efforts to control the army worm outbreak in 1960 probably saved farmers and ranchers about $ . Mass media in educational effort.

In 1970 entomologists demonstrated that a program of spraying standing water with a larvicide was much cheaper and more effective for controlling mosquitoes than fogging operations. Brookings was used as a demonstration site in 1971 for this procedure and many cities have adopted similar control procedures.

Other important insect problems that entomologists have been heavily involved in have included greenbugs in grain and sorghum, and fly and mosquito control programs.

In 1970 entomologists demonstrated that a program of spraying standing water with a larvicide was much cheaper and more effective for controlling mosquitoes than fogging operations. Brookings was used as a demonstration site in 1971 for this procedure and many cities have adopted similar control procedures.

Educational programs on insect and pest control were also developed to assist low-income families with common household pest control problems such as mice, flies, cockroaches and ant control. The training was a part of the educational material provided under the Expanded Food and Nutrition program.

Extension Takes Over Radio Programming

In the early 30's, the college could no longer effectively operate KFDY, the campus radio station, and it became inoperative for two years (1929-1931).

Through an agreement made with the Extension office the radio station was put back into use. Extension was in charge of all programming while the college operated the transmitting.

The first radio specialist, Steven W. Jones, was hired in 1931 on a half-time basis. Although written information sent out by the radio specialist was sporadic, the Extension editor regularly sent agricultural news to radio stations.

During the first six months Jones was on the staff, the station was off the air due to the installment of a new transmitter. Throughout this time, Jones worked after 1 a.m. testing the new equipment and programming techniques.
KFDY had a budget of $400 per year and the entire amount was spent for the rent of a special power line.

In 1937 Jack Towers began as Jones' student assistant. He soon assumed all the specialist's duties as Jones became more involved as an Extension farm management specialist.

That same year (1937) disc-cutting equipment was installed at the station. Since this was the only type of equipment around other stations received discs from KFDY. Towers would make programs, many of them out in the counties, and mail them to stations on discs. He worked primarily with six stations, including WNAX, Yankton; KSOO and KELO, Sioux Falls; KWAT, Watertown; KABR, Aberdeen; and KGFX, Pierre. All his material was sent out on discs, no written news was distributed.

Acceptance of Farm News Grows

In 1931 editors also began taking photographs and sending them to newspapers. South Dakota newspapers were becoming more receptive to news published by the Extension service. A program called "Question Box" was aired over the campus radio station twice a week. A year later (1932) editors began sending some releases to county agents, who in turn would submit them to local newspapers. A monthly publication called 4-H Club Doings, which was initiated in 1927, was taken over by the editorial office in 1932.

By 1934 the visual education department was set up to aid Extension editors and specialists. George Thompson assumed the duties of Extension editor that year. By 1936 news releases from the Soil Conservation Service and the State Planning Board were included in weekly news packets from the State Extension Office. Many newspaper editors expanded the size of their newspapers and included a farm news section.

H. D. Aspleaf was named Extension editor and John Ryan was named assistant in 1936. One year later a news packet entitled "Extension Farm and Home News" was begun, and more emphasis was placed on column writing by individual agents. Jack Towers, who became radio director in 1937, put out the "Rural Monthly Program Service."

John Rohlf was named assistant Extension editor in 1940 and John M. Ryan was named chief following the departure of Aspleaf. Carl W. Sorenson, a senior journalism student, also worked on a part-time basis starting in 1939.

CRUTCH, a weekly internal house organ filled with tips on news story suggestions and media training ideas, was initiated in 1940. Another successful effort was made during this period to get county and home agents to work more closely with newspapers on a local level, and many stories were written by county personnel that year.

The war years had a striking and far-reaching effect with the loss of experienced personnel among county Extension staffs and the state staff. The paper shortage caused shortened press releases and smaller publications.

Gerald Doyle was hired in 1942 as a radio specialist, but resigned the following year. Gladys Wrey was hired as an assistant editor. She also left a few months later. Elizabeth Pringle was hired in 1943 as the first home economics editor. Her main news features fell into three categories: garden hints, household hints and canning hints.

War Intensifies Activities

The war brought the need for intensified information activities. The Farm Labor Program and the promotion of gardens for the war effort were important information thrusts. Cooperation was extended to the War Food Administration efforts, USDA War Board and AAA in promoting production goals. A constant turnover of personnel in the editorial office compounded the problems.

After the surrender of the Japanese in 1945 Extension information shifted to answering questions of what lay ahead and adjustments needed. The need for paper and clerical help was more critical than before and many publications could not be printed. Part-time people were hired to help out. CRUTCH was dropped and news output suffered except for radio broadcasts.

Milo Potas and Eldon Wich were named assistants in visual education in 1946. Robert Nord was named assistant farm labor information specialist. The visual aids and editorial sections combined to form the "Office of Information and Visual Aids" that year.

By 1947 the staff became more stabilized. Caroline Biggar became the second home economics editor and John Gerken joined the staff as an assistant in visual aids in 1948. CRUTCH was reinstated in 1948.

The main information emphasis for the Cooperative Extension Service in the 1950's was the traveling exhibit, which was taken to various areas of the state. The editorial office provided advance publicity, helped design and build the exhibits, and supervised setting it up at each location. Some of the topics included in the exhibit were forced reduction of cash crops, encouraging livestock production, and more grassland agriculture. Milo Potas did all of the design and exhibit work. Extension specialists in animal science, economics, agricultural engineering, visual aids, dairy and home economics, accompanied the booths and answered questions of visitors.

Tape recording equipment was purchased in 1950, and by 1951, 267 broadcasts were made available to stations on a request basis. The demand for publications at the Farm and Home Shows increased causing increased interest in publication preparation.

In 1952 C. Burton Seeker was named assistant Extension editor and Carl W. Sorenson was named acting Extension editor. Leland Sudlow joined the visual aids staff. John Arnold was named to the editorial staff in 1953 as an assistant.

At this time all material for weekly newspapers was sent to county Extension offices. Weeklies in some counties complained that they did not receive material regularly. Others complained of low quality news written by untrained county agents.
The 4-H Roundup became popular in 1939 combining State Club Week and state judging contests. The Young Men and Women (YMW) was formed to help provide activities for young people who were beyond club age.

In 1940 plans were made to build a centrally located camp near Madison. Twenty camping sessions were held the first year that Camp Lakodia was opened. Lakodia is an Indian name meaning "meeting place of friends." Camp Box Elder, northwest of Nemo in the Black Hills, was also built at this time.

When World War II developed 4-H members began to join "Jobs for Victory" to help produce food, labor, and supplies during the war. In 1944 Milo Opdahl was named 4-H club leader. In recognition of their contribution to the war effort, South Dakota's 4-H members and leaders named a Liberty ship after Cyril G. Hopkins, who was outstanding in the field of soils. The ship was launched November, 1946, in Houston, Tex.

The 4-H Advisory Committee was organized in 1946. The purpose of the Committee was to study, evaluate, and make recommendations concerning all 4-H activities, projects, and events. Members enrolled in range management projects attended the Denver Stock Show. The same year the first tractor clinics were given to train boys in the operation and care of the tractor.

National 4-H Club Week was observed for the first time in 1946. A radio speaking contest was initiated a year later. Junior leadership awards were now available. The International Farm Youth Exchange program (IFYE) was started in 1948. South Dakota has had participants in the program since it began. In 1949 4-H members participated in the first 4-H Marketing Trip to Minneapolis. That was the year that Merlin Hodgson was named leader of the 4-H program.

During the fifties a new lamb feeding project was started. John Younger was named state leader in 1953. About that time recreation training schools were held in the state, and a new 4-H Thrift Program called, "Earn, Save, Serve," was initiated. Its purpose was to demonstrate the wisdom of thrift, to encourage wise use of savings, and to help establish savings accounts. Plans for a new State Fair building were made and carried out. A new pie baking contest was initiated. Share the Fun was introduced, and it consisted of vocal, instrumental, dramatic, acrobatic, and novelty numbers. Four-H alumni were recognized with a special Alumni Award. Junior Leader Camp became a new event and 4-H clubs were started in Indian reservation communities.

The Junior Leader Camp, Conservation Camp and State Club Week were combined into a single event, with boys and girls 14 and older attending. Schools for achievement days began during this decade, and the top winners in the home economics judging contests received an educational trip to Minneapolis. County exchanges had begun.

Community Projects Started

During the sixties 4-H clubs cooperated with the State Historical Society and conducted a cemetery survey as a community project. They updated the former records, which had only listed graves back to 1906.

A public speaking contest was conducted to help 4-H'ers develop the art of platform and radio speaking. A new 4-H Leadership Development Program was introduced. The purpose of the program was to strengthen and expand the structure of the County Leaders Association and to give training to leaders in specific areas. The first series of Shortcourse training schools was held and the ninth Annual IFYE mid-point Conference was held on the campus of South Dakota State University in July, 1962.

In 1963 the 4-H Foundation of South Dakota, Inc. was formed to support educational efforts that could not be financed by tax funds alone. This private support encourages development of new or broader program opportunities. The Foundation sponsored the first 4-H Donor Recognition Banquet in 1967. The "Friend of 4-H" certificate award was developed for regular sponsors and made available for use in the counties, so members could recognize people who made contributions to the programs.

The "Guidelines" was established in May, 1961, as a newsletter to be sent to Extension personnel with information from the State 4-H Staff. New program ideas were adopted in the areas of science, family economic management, child development; literature was also developed to support a career exploration program. New and prospective leader training was given to agents to help them better prepare local people as leaders.

South Dakota had the first Rural Youth Leader Training Program, a short-term international training program for Extension workers. In 1966 a new system for selecting officers of the 4-H Members Association was adopted at State 4-H Club Week. Instead of popular elections a board was made up of delegates from each area. A 4-H TV series, TV Science, was started in 1967, and new projects were added to the program. South Dakota was now able to participate in the Citizenship Workshop at the National 4-H Center in Washington, D.C.

The State Leader Association adopted a new constitution and a re-organization plan in 1969. It called for a 15 member board. The Leaders Institutes had begun a year earlier to bring special programs to more 4-H leaders than was possible at the State Leaders Conferences. The 4-H Advisory Committee also adopted new rules, regulations, and procedures.

Four-H expanded to include youth not enrolled in rural clubs in 1969 when the Food and Fun program was begun. The purpose of the program was to help improve youth's nutrition, especially those in low-income groups.

The Urban 4-H Expansion program was started in fall of 1972 with the help of federal funding. This program was designed specifically to fulfill needs of urban youth, and to involve youth who had not been reached by any other groups. The projects are tailored toward needs of urban youth. Para-professionals were hired as 4-H Urban program assistants. They made personal contact with people to generate adult interest in leading prospective 4-H groups and encourage membership.
4-H Club Leaders

William M. Mair--state club leader 1913-1918
Agnes Morten--assistant leader 1917-1918
Homer W. Smith--district club ldr. 1918 (8 mo.)
Paul J. Scarbo--state leader 1918-1926
Selma Rangstød--assistant leader 1918 (4 mo.)
Horace M. Jones--state leader 1926-1942
Agnes M. Hansen--assist. state club ldr. 1935-1943
Tyrus Thompson--state club leader 1942-1944
Geraldine Fenn--assist. state club ldr. 1944-1946
Milo Opdahl--state club leader 1944-1949
Ima R. Crisman--assist. state club ldr. 1946-1969
Anna Walker--assist. rural youth ldr. 1946-1947
John F. Younger--rural youth leader 1949-1953
Merlin Hodgson--state club leader 1949-1953
John D. Orr--assist. rural youth ldr. 1953-1956
John F. Younger--state club leader 1953-

4-H Agents and Assistants

Mae Kliethline--assist. in club work 1918-1931
A. L. Haynes--state club assistant 1918-1919
Irene Dunne--state club assistant 1918-1919
Lewis M. Halverson--club agent 1926-1927
W. R. Hauser--assist. in club work 1928-1931
J. W. Howe--district club agent 1928-1929
Louis I. Thompson--district club agent 1928-1929
D. E. Cass--district club agent 1928-1937
C. H. Thompson--district club agent 1928-1931
Beulah M. Rodgers--assist. in club work 1929-1937
H. A. Mateer--district club agent 1929-1930
F. E. Willrett--dist. club agent 1929 (4 mo.)
Henry H. DeLong--district club agent 1930-1935
J. C. Shaw--district club agent 1930-1931
W. W. Guthrie--district club agent 1930-1933
Elmer Bjerke--district club agent 1930-1934
Leonore Gitchell--assist. in club work 1931-1932, 1935-1936
Kenneth Anderson--district club agent 1934-1937
George Sanderson--district club agent 1934-1935
Earl F. Harris--district club agent 1935-1941
Geraldine Fenn--assist. in club work 1936-1944
P. Jerome Olson--district club agent 1936-1942
Tyrus Thompson--district club agent 1936-1942
Esther Taskerud--assist. in club work 1937-1943
T. H. Young--district club agent 1941-1946
John F. Younger--dist. club agent 1942, 1944-1949
Milo Opdahl--district club agent 1942-1944
T. O. Larson--district club agent 1942-1943
Vivian Verry (Iverson)--assist. in club work 1943-1945
Albert Face--district club agent 1943-1945
Cleo Scott--assist. in club work 1944-1945
Mary Frances Lyle--assist. in club work 1944-1959
Myron Barber--district club agent 1945-1947
Bettie Dawson (Kiser)--assist. in club work 1946-1948
Merlin Hodgson--district club agent 1946-1949
Leonard Schrader--district club agent 1947-1948
Carl Ham--district club agent 1948-1950
Wilma Wait--assist. in club work 1948 (7 mo.)
Marie Curry (Beck)--assist. in club work 1949-1956
Martin Kaspersen--dist. club agent 1949-1951, 1953-1950
Roger Johnson--dist. club agent 1950 (4 mo.)
Herbert Lippert--dist. club agent 1950-1952
Kenneth Leslie--district club agent 1950-1952
Ray Weick--district club agent 1951-1953
Frank J. Heitland--district club agent 1952-
Lyndell Petersen--state club agent 1953-1958
Ella Ollenburg--state club agent 1956-
Delphia Bielemaker (Dirks)--club agent 1957-1963
Ivan Sundal--state club agent 1957-1963
Ramon Larsen--state club agent 1958-1961
Henrietta Goehring--club agent 1959-
Lyndell Petersen--state club agent 1961-1963
Eliizabeth Speckels--state club agent 1961-1963
Lenore Paulson--state club agent 1963-1968
Kenneth Nelson--state club agent 1963-
Lloyd H. Hansen--state club agent 1966-1972
Mary Ellen (Piper) Amott--club agent 1968-
Roy Beaird--state club agent 1969-
Richard Howard--state club agent 1973-

Extension Home Economics

Started with Homemakers Clubs

Community clubs of rural women, who belonged to the Farmers' Institute, preceeded Extension clubs in South Dakota. These community clubs supplied their own programs and they met in rural churches or in larger homes.

Venia Keller was appointed as the first woman Extension worker after the Smith Lever Law of 1914 was enacted. Meetings generally lasted all day. There were 141 homemakers clubs with many of them holding monthly meetings.

The work of the first Extension specialists was almost entirely in connection with Farmers' Institute and homemakers clubs but some demonstrations were given at county fairs. With very few exceptions each group had a woman member who demonstrated and lectured on some phase of food preparation. The canning of meats and other foods was always popular.

In 1918 there were many changes. Work in foods consisted of preservation and conservation, and poultry raising and child feeding were adopted as topics for the specialists.

But during WWI the Federal Food Production Act provided money for the employment of county home demonstration agents. All of these agents worked with the Food Administration during the war. Their projects included saving wheat, fats and sugar, and the use of meat substitutes and canning campaigns. During the summer special demonstrations were given on uses for cottage cheese.

The 1920's began with plans for holding nine demonstrations on foods and nutrition for organized homemaker's clubs in four counties. More and more home demonstration agent districts were being added. Leader training meetings in foods and nutrition were initiated. In 1923 the nutrition program was broken up to include three food, three clothing, and three home management meetings.

During the late twenties Mary Dolve supervised a drive to find out what the needs of the homemakers were concerning foods and nutrition. Questionnaires
Family Economics Stressed in 1960's

By 1950 the family had become a consuming unit more than a producing one. The consumer needed guidance and protection in making decisions and purchasing things for the home. Women were interested in insurance, investments, taxes and government services. A specialist in family economics, Lila Dickerson, was hired to help advise families, especially those with financial troubles. A state Consumer's League was organized with the specialist as secretary. Leader training schools and workshops were given about credit and the use of family resources.

The late sixties and early seventies showed a marked increase in housing and home furnishings. Many new fibers, fabrics, and building materials complicated homemakers' choices. The traveling exhibit of 1967 was about rugs and other furnishing problems a farm or ranch family might encounter.

Home Furnishings and Housing

In 1965 a home furnishings specialist was named. Donna Spooner created a package program which was a self-contained teaching unit. The idea was to help meet the housing needs of homemakers without involving training the home agent. It consisted of samples, slides, and a cassette tape player for showing and telling about housing and home furnishings.

Regular Extension lessons about home furnishings have included everything from antiquing to buying major equipment. New products have been shown along with ways to use them. By using the packaged programs women no longer ask only about cost. Now they can ask what the fiber content is, what the backing is made of, and how it is cared for.

As a result several other specialists began to use the slide-tape concept for teaching.

Personnel

Mary A. Covert--home economist 1930-1942
Kathryn Webster--home management 1938-1940
K. Lorette Nelson--home management 1940-1946
Mable Bryan--home management 1946-1947
Vivian Verry Iverson--home management 1947-1948
Isable McGibney--home management 1948-1965
Lila Dickerson--family economics 1963-1965
Mrs. Alverda Moore Lynch--Extension family economics 1965-
Donna M. Spooner--home furnishings 1965-68
Carol Jo Thompson--home furnishings 1968-
Robert Thee--housing 1973-

Family Life Education

Starts with Children’s Projects

World War II forced the country to notice that many of its inhabitants did not meet the high standards that had been set in physical and mental health. With such a high percentage of boys rejected from the service for physical, mental and emotional reasons, following the war, the country responded with an emphasis on physical fitness, the formation of mental health associations and programs, school lunch programs, and concern for adequate food for all.

When looking for the causes people became concerned about life within the home. In 1947 the first child development specialist was hired at SDSU. Amy E. Wold began with children's play as a teaching base for her club meetings. She taught club members how valuable play was to the development of a child. Many clubs devised boxes of materials for children to play with during their meetings. Bulletins were written about how children grow and how to live with the preschooler, the school-aged child, and the teenager.

Special problems concerned with raising children were discussed. Cooperation in program planning and giving the program was received from the P.T.A., churches, and school groups.

By 1954 the state council had chosen two special projects, which were guided by Mrs. Merle Gunsalus, family life specialist. Children and youth projects included emphasis in family values. Family life was integrated into the senior citizens' project and cultural arts. Over half of the clubs, through slide sets, learned about the creativity of children in the "Children Grow with Art" project.

Family members had difficulty adjusting to all the pressures of a rapidly changing environment. Program requests came with many different problem approaches which created a burden for new materials. Social problems such as alcoholism, young marriages, and drugs became the concern of homemakers. One of the most asked for lessons was "Coping with Pressures and Tensions."

Parents attended sessions where personal values in today's society were discussed. In one county the need for family life sex education in homes, schools, and churches was discussed. Presentations were given on drug problems. Many counties had programs dealing with the effects of physical, emotional and social pressures, and tensions.

Extension family life seeks to improve the quality of living throughout the range of human, emotional, physical and social development. Study emphasis in the 1970's was on parent-child relationships, discipline, tensions and stress, values, child development, bridging the generation gap, drugs, alcohol, sex education, leisure time and on the entertainment media.

Personnel

Amy E. Wold--family life specialist 1947-1949
Merle L. Gunsalus--family life 1954-
South Dakota Homemakers Club History

The founding meeting for the South Dakota Federation of Home Demonstration Clubs, which is now the South Dakota Extension Homemakers Clubs, was on Sept. 12, 1928, at the State Fairgrounds. Mrs. Perry Clifford of Cresbard was named chairman.

The first organizational meeting was held during the Farmer's Short Course in February, 1929. Nineteen official delegates from fourteen counties voted to make the Federation a reality and a constitution was adopted. Two yearly meetings were held: a business meeting during State Fair and an education meeting during Farm and Home Week at South Dakota State University. Individual clubs were encouraged to join by paying dues of 50 cents per club.

Later the dues were charged on a membership basis with the minimum of $2 per county. During difficult financial days the raising of the dues from two to three cents per person was debated thoroughly before adoption.

The purpose of the State Federation was to exchange ideas about homes and the Extension service did their part by offering educational materials and planning help.

In 1934 the program included topics on the post-war era and how it affected home and family life, recreational and cultural values, and health needs.

Early projects of the Federation included contests, which supplemented the educational lessons of the clubs. A statewide contest included publicity, awards for poultry and egg recipes; and ironing, bread baking, and vegetable preparation contests. One project (not a contest) was making United Nations flags and studying the United Nations.

In 1938 the first district meetings were held in four areas of the state. Depression days limited travel so the Federation went to the members. The meetings were in February or March when weather and attendance were unpredictable. Until Farm and Home Week was discontinued in the 40's speakers and demonstrators for that event also spoke at the district meetings. District meetings were changed to April and May and 13 meetings were planned each year.

In 1950 the first money-raising project was begun. Clubs contributed about $2,300 to bring Anke Berendes from Husum, Germany, to study home economics and Extension at South Dakota State University for one year. Extension clubs have also contributed money to the Crippled Children's Hospital and the Pioneer Memorial Art Center project.

During the 1970's a new policy was developed and each meeting was to be planned separately by local leaders. The chief function of the meeting is to strengthen county participation, promote the projects and activities of the Council, and foster old and new friendships.

South Dakota Extension Homemakers Clubs State Chairmen

Mrs. Perry Clifford, Cresbard 1928-1932
Mrs. George Ernst, Aberdeen 1931-1934
Mrs. H. A. Brooking, Onida 1934-1936
Mrs. E. Swenson, Brandon 1936-1937
Mrs. Leo Rupple, Alpena 1937-1939
Mrs. C. Tate, Volga 1939-1941
Mrs. E. Tyler, Crooks 1941-1944
Mrs. R. P. Johnson, Rapid City 1944-1946
Mrs. Wm. Paulson, Centerville 1946-1948
Mrs. George Becker, Onida 1948-1950
Mrs. Theo. Sander, Howard 1950-1951
Mrs. Ray Clark, Putney 1951-1954
Mrs. Christine Gaffin, Harrisburg 1955-1957
Mrs. Elvira Kittoe 1958-1960
Mrs. Joe Schlim 1961-1963
Mrs. Martin Muchow, Sioux Falls 1964-1966
Mrs. Ted Arnold 1967-1969
Mrs. Lloyd Jones 1970-1972

Horticulture Improves
Home-grown Fruits and Vegetables

The early years of horticulture (1920-1934) were handled by A. L. Ford, who also worked half-time as an entomologist.

Through the twenties the specialist worked with the farmer to show him how to develop a home fruit supply for the farm, and how to improve the home garden. In 1921 126 new orchards were planted and a fruit growers association was formed with 18 members. In 1925 women's Extension clubs voted to include a home gardening demonstration in their series, which was handled by the specialist. Demonstrations for 516 clubs were shown that year.

By 1926 blueprints had been made of seven recommended types of shelterbelts for use by the South Dakota farmer. Nurseries reported that more shelterbelt trees were sold in the state this year than in any of the previous four.

In the late twenties and early thirties beautification of home grounds was stressed. A circular was written by the specialist on this topic and he built 25 sets of models for county and home agents to use while giving the demonstration. As a result of these demonstrations 1,208 homes in the state adopted new landscaping practices. Farm forestry (developing windbreaks and shelterbelts) and 4-H garden clubs were also starting.

The first full-fledged Extension horticulturist was Leonard Yeager, who began as an area horticulture specialist in Lawrence County. In 1947 he transferred to Brookings to work on a statewide basis. Emphasis at that time was on the commercial growing of horticultural crops.

During WWII the Extension horticulturist spent time on the Victory Gardens program.

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Since 1950 more emphasis has been placed on farm and home landscaping and the use of ornamental plants for the home, public, and recreation use. Dean Martin took over this area of emphasis in 1955 following the resignations of Lloyd Ayres, who started this aspect of the program. Considerable cooperation has been extended to the State Federation of Garden Clubs and the State Horticultural Society.

We Found Trees Could Break the Wind

From its beginning the emphasis of Extension work in forestry has been to establish trees in grassland areas. The plantings were considered to be environmental improvers for people living on windswept plains. They range from single tree plantings for shade, block plantings for recreation and income purposes, and windbreak plantings for protection purposes.

During the early forties Frank Rockwell, the first Extension forester, integrated forestry with two other areas of emphasis: conservation of soil and water and home production of food as a national defense measure. Trees were located along contour terrace ridges to prevent runoff and conserve moisture. Extension foresters helped other Extension specialists conduct a series of 13 district training schools for agents and community leaders. The aim of these schools was to teach farmers how to put their farms on a self-sustaining basis. Over 950 home sites planted windbreaks and shade trees in 1941.

Under the Extension forester's supervision, county agents became involved in handling tree orders for the State Department of Agriculture. They advised farmers on selection of species and their arrangement. He conducted demonstrations explaining and showing soil preparation, terracing, planning and planting.

By 1942 the Cottonwood Experiment Station in Jackson County had experimental windbreaks planted by State College students; high school boys planted windbreaks and did landscaping at the schoolgrounds at Pollock; a seven-acre community forest on the Brule County Fairgrounds was planted by businessmen of Kimball; and farmers and businessmen around Britton did the terracing and planting of a community forest area on White Lake. All of these projects were developed with the help and supervision of the Extension forester.

In 1947 the 4-H Wildlife Cover Project was established in five counties. The main purpose of the plantings was to establish cover for upland game birds. Four-H'ers planted 26,650 trees. Time was spent developing a farm beautification program in cooperation with the horticultural specialist. Demonstrations on how to establish new plantings and caring for existing plantings were the major activities of the later years of the decade. An Arbor Day observance was planned and carried out in 1948 when the Governor planted a Black Hills spruce, the official state tree, on the Capitol grounds.

About 1946, when E. K. Ferrell was named Extension forester, cultivation demonstrations were used to show farmers proper tillage methods and equipment. Tests were run on four new herbicides to determine their usefulness for weed control in shelterbelts. Tree planting demonstrations were held and 23,000 trees were planted in 1949. Assistance was given to the C&NW Railway System in developing plans for snow-catch plantings along their right-of-ways.

In 1950 five counties purchased tree planting machines and more demonstrations were conducted on machine tree plantings. Shelterbelt and crop tours were used to show the importance of tree cultivations and how to use various types of tillage equipment. Exhibits were built by the specialist to be used by the South Dakota Natural Resources Commission.

Two booklets, "Shelterbelts for South Dakota" and "Trees of South Dakota" were prepared by the specialist, Jim Ferrell, during this decade. A film entitled "Guardians of the Plains" was released. "South Dakota Forestry Notes," a bi-monthly newsletter, was started in 1955. South Dakota gave a Black Hills spruce to the Nation's Capitol to be used as the official Christmas tree in 1955.

By 1958 there were 151 certified tree farms in South Dakota. Over 27,000 acres of trees had been planted. In recent years time has been spent to make the windbreak system more efficient through the use of evergreen plantings. Three rows of evergreens can do the job of seven rows of deciduous trees, which means less land will be involved in tree plantings. Even though survival problems exist with the establishment of the evergreen the tree gives South Dakota's winter landscapes bits of color. That was the work stressed by L. L. Helwig, who was named forester in 1955.

Tree establishment along the Missouri Lakes, better management of private timber land in the Black Hills, and block tree plantings for small communities and large cities, were other areas of forestry education involvement.

Personnel

Anson L. Ford--entomologist and horticulture
1920-1934
Frank I. Rockwell--forester 1936-1945
E. K. (Jim) Ferrell--forester 1946-1965
L. L. Helwig--forester 1965-
Edward O. Olson--horticulturist 1944-1945
Leonard Yeager--horticulturist 1947-1949
John Noonan--potato specialist 1949-1969
William Snyder--horticulturist 1950-1952
Lloyd Ayres--horticulturist 1953-1955
Dean M. Martin--horticulturist 1955-
Work Stressed in Reservation Communication

In 1953 the Bureau of Indian Affairs asked the Cooperative Extension Service to aid them in placing trained personnel, home economists if possible, in reservation communities. These people worked with women and children in an effort to raise the standards of home life and family living.

Money was allocated for the project and the Extension Service placed the first home agent for reservation communities in Bennett County. Margaret Nelson received her appointment October 15, 1953, and she worked with Indian families on the Pine Ridge Reservation. All phases of the homemakers program were adapted to suit Indian homemaker needs.

By 1963 there were 17 women working on the project. An effort was made to integrate this program with the state program. The entire program was carried on by agents and specialists through meetings, training schools, workshops and individual help.

The first project offered was in the area of foods, nutrition and health. By concentrating on the needs and availability of supplies and cooperating with the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), Welfare, nursing, school and surplus commodities offices, the agents were able to hold demonstrations and supervise small groups of homemakers and 4-H members.

Transportation was a problem so the agents set up demonstrations in their offices, in a school room or a local home. With the introduction of federal housing on the reservation programs included furniture repair, use and care of equipment, and management of time and money. Special literature was compiled by state specialists and agents set up repair workshops in different areas of the reservation to train local men and women. The program expanded to include curtain making, rug weaving, and refinishing furniture. Much local leadership was developed during these projects.

The problem of money and time management was studied and simple account books were put into use. A regular meeting schedule was followed with both the husband and wife attending. A home furnishing specialist, Lila Dickerson, from South Dakota State University pioneered the project.

Clothing was a popular topic and it was not as difficult to promote as other projects. The agents taught care, use, remodeling, construction and buying of clothing, and they used the materials they had on hand. Most of the homemaker were interested in clothing, especially when fabrics for madeovers, machines, and patterns were available.

All age groups were encouraged to seek gainful employment and provide their own entertainment through community activities, committees and small libraries. The agents cooperated with the BIA, Tribal Councils, schools and churches, in every way possible to raise the standard of living by supplying resource material and help at all times.

Agents encouraged Indian families to continue their native craft and art activities. Handicraft was presented on a workshop basis and help was given to secure materials for art. An effort was made to find a market. One drawback was that the younger people felt that working with the crafts was too time-consuming and they were not especially interested in learning this trade from their elders.

By 1965 the low-rent housing projects were in various stages of planning, construction, and preparation for occupancy. Extension agents were involved in the planning, housing application procedure preparation, and they served as advisors to the housing authorities and planning commissions that were formed. By 1971 over 1,000 housing units had been built in various reservation communities and the educational program was in full swing.

In the fall of 1970 the Rosebud Housing Authority entered into a contract with SDSU to conduct a program of training for the occupants of new housing. Funded by Housing and Urban Development (H.U.D.), the purpose of this program was to recruit para-professionals and train them to work with homemakers in the "Sioux 400" housing projects. These aids were to provide educational help in areas of home management, upkeep of the home, plus proper care and care of household appliances.

Extension agents assisted in determining programs, writing up applications, and serving as advisors for the programs that were formed under the "Economic Opportunity Act of 1964."

The 4-H program grew and expanded in reservation communities. The development of leadership for the clubs has been the most challenging part of this program. Three of the reservations now have 4-H leaders associations and leaders help plan the programs.

A Tradition of Music

The first four years in music appreciation, 1931-1934, consisted of two essentials, listening to and participating in musical expression. The first program prepared included selections of the folk music of many countries. The second year people studied the music of the American Indian, the Black man, and other American composers. Studying the works of the world's best-known composers was the next program. The fourth year included a study of the songs that have been a part of America's religious life. Harry L. Kohler, assistant professor of music at SDSU, and Susan Z. Wilder prepared these programs for the home Extension clubs.

A community club program leaflet was prepared and sent to county offices and to community clubs. This monthly leaflet brought ideas for community singing, poems, games, stunts, short plays, topics for speakers and other ideas.

After World War II ended, a specialist, Edith Cheney Sears, was responsible for the adult and 4-H music programs, plus working with outside groups like the P.T.A., church groups, farm organizations, and dance groups. The first musical pageant, "Music Wherever She Goes," was given at the 1946 State Fair. County 4-H chorus groups were being started, as were 4-H band and orchestra groups.
In the early fifties festival groups from the State Fair and the South Dakota All National Group met at Mitchell to give a cultural and recreational program to the public. Booths displayed native craft, costumes, artifacts, and food. Songs and dances were presented by various ethnic groups.

Music was in the home now more than ever before with the use of radio, record players, television, and musical instruments. Training workshops were given for agents and representative leaders. Dramatic schools, which covered staging, acting and makeup, were taught. Counties were encouraged to have play contests with the winners competing during Farm and Home Week. Bulletins were developed by Donald Clayton and Marvel LaBrie on "How to Plan a Party," and "Meet Music" during the mid-1950's.

Technological advances gave people more leisure time, and they looked for more ways of self-expression and for ways to develop abilities and initiative. A musical television program, "The Night Before Christmas," was produced and a choral workshop was designed to help county directors and their accompanists. "South Dakota Sings," a printed booklet containing folk songs, patriotic and religious songs, was compiled. Adult clubs used this publication as well as the National 4-H song book. The National Council of Home Demonstrations Clubs held a contest and chose a homemakers club song.

More and more leaflets were being published. "Growing With Music" included the importance of music in our lives, the musical growth of a child, and parental suggestions for helping a child with music. "Music in Your Club" gave specific ideas for each month for a club's use.

Although an individual specialist for music appreciation was dropped in 1959 more counties formed choruses, 4-H bands and choral groups through the sixties. Music became part of the "Personal Enrichment Project" in 1970. "Music and You" and "Don't Let the Opera Scare You" were written. The opera, "Madame Butterfly," was sponsored by the Watertown Fine Arts Council.

Agronomists Study Crop Plots, Green Gold, Plant Disease

Ralph E. Johnston was appointed the first Extension agronomist in 1937 by Dr. G. S. Weaver. He resigned one year later and Rex Bankert assumed his duties until the end of the year. U. J. Norgaard became Extension agronomist on Feb. 15, 1939, and held the position until 1958.

Under Norgaard's leadership the Extension agronomy department organized the County Crop Improvement Associations. These county groups assisted in producing certified seeds, increased the amount of newly developed seed varieties released by the Experiment Station, and supported the Extension agronomy program. The Associations were instrumental in obtaining many buildings for the Plant Science Department.

Elmer E. Sanderson joined the staff in 1945 as Extension agronomist, and Ralph A. Cline became a member of the staff in 1949.

In 1960 Lyle A. Derscheid joined the Extension agronomy staff as project leader. He eventually assumed the educational programs concerned with forage crop production and pasture improvement.

The crop variety demonstration plot program heads the list of activities in the Extension educational program. The demonstrations began before the County Crop Improvement Associations were formed, and the Extension agronomist prepared seed sets for the county agent to plant and supervise. When the Associations began the variety plots became a definite activity for the Associations to sponsor and finance and it was a way of tying the county agent to a group of interested farm leaders.

The first issue of the Crop Improvement Reporter came out in 1946. The purpose of the publication was to inform crop people about the work of their Experiment Station, the activities of the Seed Certification Service, and to supply them with the latest information on crop improvement. The Crop Improvement Reporter continued until 1955 when it was dropped due to lack of finances.

Similar efforts were made to continue to print some type of publication, but none of them were completely successful. "Soil-Crop-Pest" and "Certification News" were both published for a time, but both suffered the same fate.

During the late 40's, and 50's Extension agronomy featured several large educational displays. One exhibit, "South Dakota's Green Gold, Preserve-It-Improve-It," was 8 feet by 64 feet, and was first displayed in Rapid City in 1949. Tom Strachan, Lyman County agent, had a large part in making this exhibit.

Personnel

Edith Cheney Sears 1946-1951
Donald W. Clayton 1951-1955
Adele Clark 1952-1955
Marvel LaBrie 1954-1955
Shirley Adams Heitland 1956-1959
Other exhibits included: "Story of Sorghum Production in South Dakota," "What's Your Hay Worth," "Grassland Plants--Good and Bad," and "Steps in Wheat Improvement."

From 1939 until today the Foundation Seed Stock Division has developed and released improved crop varieties developed by the Experiment Station. The Extension Service has not been involved in the actual crop breeding phase of crop improvement, but it has been actively involved in increasing the amount of seed that’s distributed and in getting farmers to accept new crop releases.

In 1949 the position of potato specialist held by John Noonan was changed to Extension plant pathologist, which covered all disease problems.

Throughout the 1940’s, the specialist cooperated with county demonstrations agents to conduct demonstration plots. In 1941 they organized 31 wheat, 45 barley, 43 oats and 17 flax demonstration plots.

County weed control programs dealt with duckfoot tillage, and weed demonstrations featured the control of annual weeds, especially Russian thistle and foxtail.

In 1947 43 hybrid corn demonstrations were given, and performance records were taken on standability, disease resistance, maturity and yields. At this time about one-fourth of all cultivated acreage in South Dakota was put to corn (about four million acres).

The specialist and county agents also conducted 270 weed meetings during 1947. Demonstrations were given on different types of spraying equipment, how weeds should be sprayed and various chemicals. Publications with colored illustrations were written on these noxious weeds: creeping jenny, perennial sow thistle, perennial peppergrass and leafy spurge.

By 1950 199 small grain variety test plots were developed, and 460 weed meetings were conducted. Weed identification slides were made for the agents’ use at the meetings. The use of sprayers, rates of application of 2,4-D, and time of application were timely subjects discussed at the meetings. South Dakota had 2,236,000 acres of crops treated with chemicals for weed control during this year.

Crop hazard schools were regularly conducted through these years.

In 1962 Dr. Leon S. Wood was hired as plant pathologist. His program was based on serving rural and urban populations in regard to plant disease problems and their control.

Through plant disease clinics the Extension plant pathologist gives assistance to many people in preventing and controlling disease problems involving shade trees, shrubs, flowers, fruits, vegetables, turf and house plants.

In 1969 the Plant Pathology Department combined with the Agronomy and Soils Department to form the Plant Science Department.

### Plant Science Specialists

- R. E. Johnston--agronomist 1937-1938
- Rex Bandert--assist. agronomist 1937-1938
- U. J. Norgaard--agronomist 1939-1958
- Elmer E. Sanderson--assoc. agronomist 1945-1973
- John Noonan--potato spec. and plant pathologist 1949-1969
- Ralph A. Cline--assoc. agronomist 1949-1972
- Dr. L. A. Bershcheid--agronomist 1950-
- Dr. Leon Wood--plant pathologist 1962-
- Duane Colburn--associate agronomist 1973-present

### Traveling Libraries Begun in Early 1900’s

The Extension reading program was formed and grew through the South Dakota Free Library Commission. The South Dakota Federation of Women’s Clubs made its first effort to get the legislature to appropriate and establish the library commission in 1905. The bill wasn’t passed until 1913, after the Women’s Club had appropriated $50 themselves and initiated a system of traveling libraries.

The department was set up July 1, 1913, in the state house with a desk, two book stacks, and a meager supply of books. A spacious, efficient area was included when the annex to the capitol building was built.

In 1920 the mission of the state library was changed to establish county libraries to get the service closer to the people. With 80 per cent of the population living on farms or small towns, the library was challenged in offering service. Hyde, Potter, Tripp, Moody, and Buffalo counties were the first to establish a county tax-supported library. However, the first city library was built in Aberdeen with a circulation of 192,000 books in 1934.

Through the thirties the traveling library program began. About thirty books were sent to rural communities, which included 58-75 towns. One family would keep the library in their home for six months; then it was sent to another community. Another goal of the state library was to promote reading activities leading to an increased demand for better books.

Through Extension the first book lists were mimeographed. Book lists were published each year and included novels, learning about America, and other countries through books, biographies and reading for all the family.

The Free Library Commission has continued to provide a reading list, which Extension has printed, but they were changed to serve a two-year period. Books now recommended concern happenings around the world, in cities, education, cultural arts and homemaking. Non-book materials, such as filmstrips, scripts, records and cassettes were included to support the earlier projects. A special reading list of books, designed to help a person understand the culture of the Black man and Indian, have also been provided.

Through the “personal enrichment” program for children poetry has also been stressed.
Conservation and Fertilizer Use Grows

Ralph E. Hansen was named the first Extension soils specialist in 1937. His main responsibility was to work with soil conservation service personnel; his work continued until 1944.

L. L. Ladd took over the work, and R. L. Venard became an assistant in 1945.

During the 1940’s the Extension soil’s educational program concentrated in the field of soil conservation, water and wind erosion, and the use of grasses and legumes to maintain organic matter contained in the soil, with special emphasis on sweetclover, “the king of soil builders.” The specialist conducted demonstrations on the importance and effectiveness of organic matter for easy infiltration of water and maintainance of good soil structure. Soil specialists continued to work closely with soil conservation specialists and soil conservation districts.

In the 1950’s a number of changes took place on the staff. Merle Switzer joined the staff in 1951 as Extension soils specialist, and Gene Gresham joined in 1955. Clarence Nelson was added in 1956, and Lloyd Davis joined the staff one year later. Reinder Mesdag became Extension soils specialist in 1958.

In the early 1950's added emphasis was placed on the use of commercial fertilizer for obtaining more profitable crop yields and on the maintainance of an adequate level of soil fertility. Fertilizer test-demonstrations were carried out through the state in cooperation with the Tennessee Valley Authority.

Fertilizer use in South Dakota grew from 7,000 tons applied in 1950 to over 267,000 tons applied in 1969. Extension soils specialist dealt with fertilizer recommendations for various crops and soil types, methods of application, placement of fertilizers, and the types of fertilizers available.

In more recent years the deficiency of minor food plant elements in crop production has presented some problems. These elements included zinc, iron, copper, and sulfur.

Weed Regulations Difficult to Enforce

South Dakota has always had a weed law in its statutes, but the law was difficult to enforce and no one was specifically delegated the responsibility for a statewide educational program.

The directors of the South Dakota Crop Improvement Association realized the importance and need for a strong and balanced weed control program during the 1940’s. They wanted a program that would include research, educational information and enforcement.

In 1943 the groundwork was laid by the Association's directors. The weed law was passed in 1945, with an appropriation to finance the activities of the newly formed State Weed Board. The educational phase of the project was delegated to the Extension Service.

Leonard Schrader became the first full-time Extension weed specialist in 1948. Other Extension weed specialists that have served include: Lloyd Wilson, Keith Wallace, Kenneth Frost, Robert Parker and Leon J. Wrage. An assistant state weed supervisor was also located for some time on campus.

The State Weed Board has considerable responsibility in directing the program and in allocating state appropriated funds. Extension Service covered the educational programs, the Experiment Station did the research, and the Department of Agriculture received some of the funds for enforcement.

In 1957 weed research funds became a part of the Experiment Station budget, and funds for the educational program became a part of the state Extension budget. Other reorganizational activities were carried out.

Even though the assistant state weed supervisor position was later eliminated, the Extension Service has continued to emphasize a strong educational program in weed control.

Extension Soils Personnel

Ralph E. Hansen--Extension soils specialist 1937-1944
L. L. Ladd--soils specialist 1944-1956
R. L. Venard--assistant soils specialist 1945-1946
Merle Switzer--soils specialist 1951-1957
Clarence Nelson--soils specialist 1956-1957
Lloyd Davis--soils specialist 1957-1963
Ed J. Williamson--soils specialist 1957-1962, 1967-
Reinder Mesdag--soils specialist 1958-1959
Ed Langin--soils specialist 1962-1967
Earl Adams--soils specialist 1963-

Extension Weed Personnel

Leonard Schrader--weed specialist 1948-1951
Lloyd Wilson--weed specialist 1952-1954
Keith Wallace--weed specialist 1954-1961
Kenneth Frost--weed specialist 1961-1966
Robert Parker--weed specialist 1967-1969
Leon J. Wrage--weed specialist 1969-
Wildlife Management in Youthful Stage

The position of Extension wildlife specialist for South Dakota was created by the 1969 legislature based on a recommendation from the Governor's Advisory Board of Predator Control. This position was filled July 1, 1970 by Dr. John L. Schmidt, and the position was jointly funded.

His duties include habitat management for game and non-game species by enhancing or discouraging wildlife living in a specific area. The relationship between landowners and sportsmen is improved by working with the State Wildlife Federations, sportsmen's and wildlife-oriented clubs, landowner and other civic groups, and related activities.

Dr. Schmidt was concerned with the effects of pesticides upon the environment, particularly fish and wildlife. He worked to construct, manage, stock, fertilize and control weeds, and fishing in fish ponds. His work relates to the income-producing aspects of hunting, including shooting preserves, and daily and seasonal hunting leases. Depredating animals are stopped from destroying crops through cooperation with the Division of Wildlife Services, Bureau of Sport Fishers and Wildlife.

Dr. Schmidt resigned in 1972, and Vic VanBallenberghe was hired to replace him.

Wildlife Specialists

Vic VanBallenberghe--wildlife specialist 1972-
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