

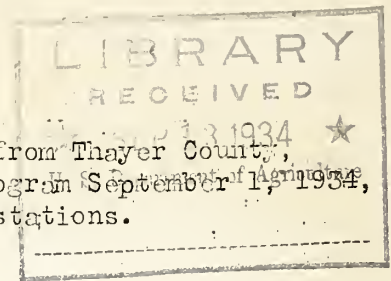
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OUR 4-H EXHIBITS AT THE FAIR



A radio talk by Francis Woodard, 4-H club boy from Thayer County, Nebraska, delivered in the National 4-H club radio program September 1, 1934, and broadcast by a network of 58 associate NBC radio stations.

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4-H livestock exhibits have been a major part of livestock exhibits in Nebraska county fairs for a number of years. In my own county, Thayer, the livestock exhibits have been entirely 4-H for the last two years, and in our State Fair a large number of open class prizes have been won by 4-H club exhibitors in the dairy division. I mention this because I am a dairy calf club member myself. The Grand Champion Guernsey in the open class in 1933 was a 4-H club heifer. The Champion 4-H Holstein heifer, my calf, placed fourth in the open. Since approximately 200 dairy calves are exhibited in the 4-H class at the state fair each year a 4-H exhibitor is able to compare his own dairy animal with many other good ones. This has created among many boys and girls a greater desire for better livestock.

Through judging, demonstrations and exhibits better farm practices which are taught in our 4-H clubs are brought to the attention of the public. I have mentioned some of the effects of exhibits. As a club member on a judging team I was trained to recognize the characteristics of a good animal. There are some fifteen judging days held in different parts of Nebraska each year where club members learn things to look for in livestock in the judging contests held later. Our team matched their skill in judging with other county teams attempting to place the classes of dairy animals at the State Fair. Ten different kinds of judging contests are held at the Fair each year. At most county fairs three or four contests are held, depending on the enrollment in the various projects. These contests give club members experience in selecting the more desirable breeding stock.

The State Extension Service gives help to all of the demonstration teams in a county during the early part of August. All of the teams assemble in a single place and are assisted by a man and a woman from the central office. These days are called demonstration schools. After a team gives a demonstration they are allowed to suggest improvements. Later other club members present give suggestions for betterment of the demonstration. A great many benefits are given by other club members and leaders so that in many cases the state club folks have little left to suggest. This year 412 teams put on demonstrations at the county schools, 3,293 club members and leaders heard the demonstrations and their suggestions for bettering them. At our State Fair there are two types of dairy demonstrations. One deals with the production of milk, the other with the consumption of dairy products. The team of which I was a member, placed second in the state contest with a demonstration on "Producing Clean Milk."

We believe that there are two very valuable results obtained in 4-H club demonstrations: First, they pass on to other people the things that we have learned, thus showing them the value of 4-H club work. We believe there is a greater value to the club members for when they give a demonstration of their own experiences they will never forget the practices themselves.

(over)

I have told you a little about exhibits of dairy in Nebraska at county and State Fairs. What I have said about dairy so far as exhibiting, judging and demonstration is concerned applies to every other 4-H club whether it be animal, crops, or home economics projects, for we are taught judging, demonstration, and exhibiting in every one of them. A number of our county fairs have put up 4-H club buildings for exhibiting their county work and even in this year of drouth in Nebraska one new 4-H club building has been built. This is in Saunders county.

We club folks in Nebraska are very proud of the building that our State has provided for us at Lincoln on our State Fair grounds. We are told by many visitors that there is no other such building anywhere in the country. All of our material, livestock, crops and home economics are housed under one roof. The new portion of our building has a large arena in one end where 150 cattle can be cared for in a single class. On each Wednesday this arena is litterally transformed into a flower garden where the county song contest and 4-H style review is staged. The building contains three fine demonstration booths each of which will seat 250 persons comfortably. One-half of the upper floor is devoted to home economics exhibits where all of our girls' exhibits are displayed in a convenient way under glass. The lower floor of this building cares for exhibits of dairy. The building is 420 feet long and 120 feet wide, in addition to this and connected with it is our old building the same size. It houses a swine showing arena and 400 swine and sheep pens, and space to house 400 baby beeves. On the second floor we have our poultry, crops, and engineering exhibits.

We are proud of what Nebraska county and state fairs have done for 4-H club work and likewise we are proud of what club work has done for fairs. This is in the midst of our fair season and we invite the listeners today who visit Nebraska to stop in and see us. This very hour while I am speaking, there are eight judging contests going on in Lincoln, Nebraska at the state fair. The show continues through September 7th. We would be pleased to have you visit us there.

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