

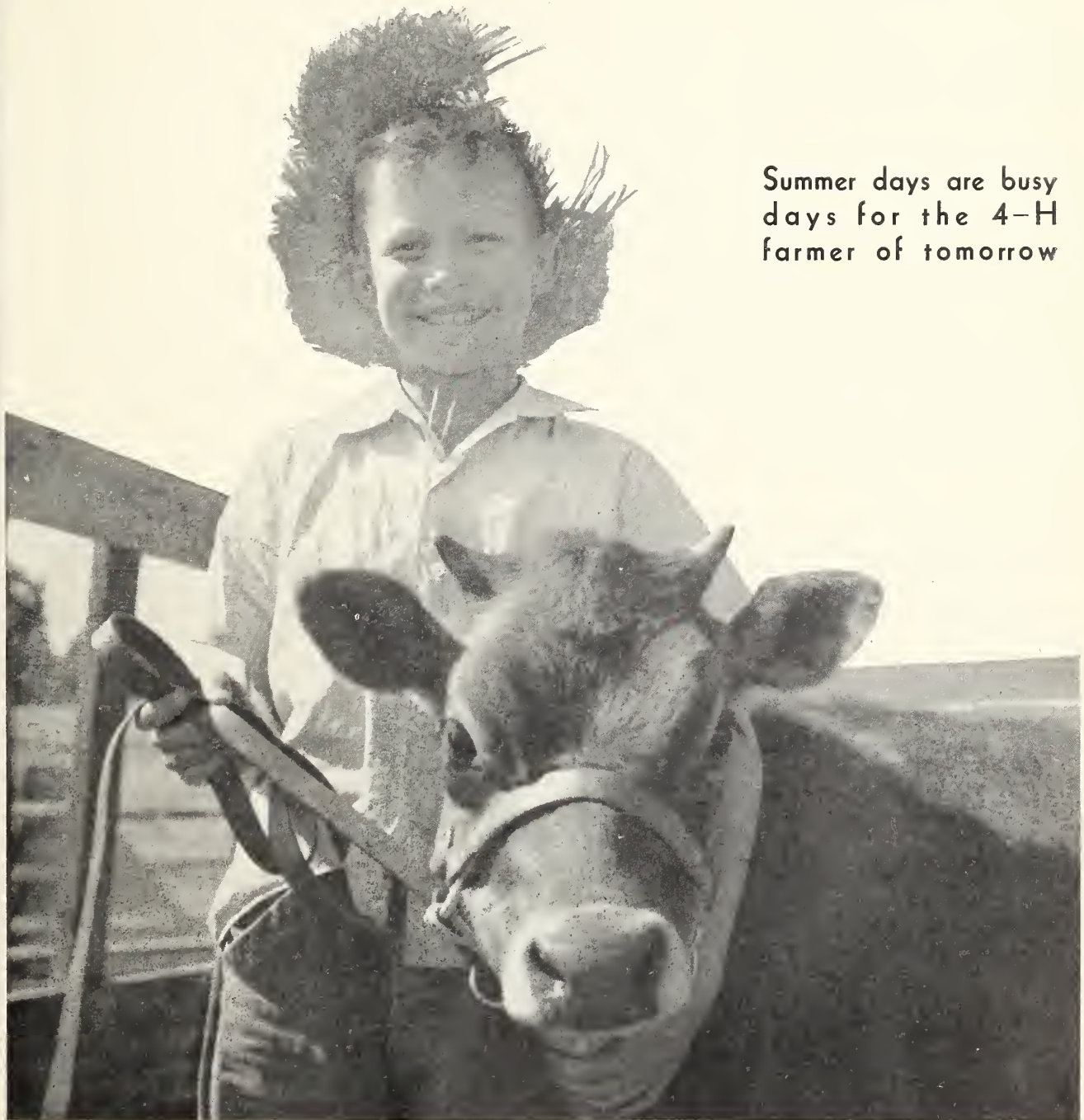
Extension Service *Review*

VOLUME 19

JUNE-JULY 1948

NOS. 6 & 7

Summer days are busy days for the 4-H farmer of tomorrow



Conservation—a way of life

EARL C. RICHARDSON, Extension Editor, Michigan State College

■ Because of his background as a poultry specialist, Leo Arnold was picked as county agricultural agent for Ottawa County, Mich., back in 1934. This county, in which Zeeland and Holland are located, has the heaviest concentration of hatchery enterprises in the State, and perhaps in the Nation.

Today, 14 years later, County Agent Arnold is recognized as a leading soil conservationist in Michigan and the United States. The hatchery industry in Ottawa County still flourishes.

It was all because of a remark made by Arnold's wife as they drove up highway U S 31 between Holland and Grand Haven that Leo Arnold turned conservationist. Winds from off Lake Michigan were driving sand across the highway. Scant vegetation and buildings were being covered.

"I can't see any need for an agricultural agent in such a devastated place," Mrs. Arnold remarked. Leo was on his way to Grand Haven to take over his new job.

That remark set the new county agent to thinking. "Something should be done about this wind erosion," he muttered to himself.

And since that day he has been doing something about it. At first it was a "one-man campaign." But today everyone in Ottawa County talks and thinks soil conservation—even the children in grade school.

Arnold made some progress before the legislature passed the "District Act" in 1938, which provided for the organization of soil conservation districts in cooperation with the Federal program. He spearheaded the drive for the first soil conservation district formed in Michigan in May of 1938.

"Leo Arnold is a real conservationist—one of the best in the United States," reports Robert E. Briola, district conservationist for the United States Soil Conservation Service. The two have worked closely together in recent years. Briola believes that if the soil conservation district is to be really successful, it must have the support of the agricultural agent.

County Agent Leo Arnold (left) and Farmer Frank Gerbrecht talk over the Christmas-tree harvest. The Ottawa County agricultural agent promoted the idea of tree planting 10 years ago. Today farmers like Gerbrecht are harvesting thousands of dollars' worth of trees annually. These are only thinnings of the plantations. Remaining to protect the land are many pines that will be cut later for pulpwood and timber. Conservation brings profit, too.



"He can and should become the 'king-pin' in this new conservation movement," Briola stated.

They make a perfect team. Arnold carries on the educational program. With movies, charts, slides, and an information program through the press he convinces the public of the need and that something must be done. Briola supervises the technical farm planning.

Many problems of soil conservation exist in Ottawa County. The sandy soil along the coast once possessed mighty white pines. They were stripped away in the boom logging years of the eighties and nineties. For a few years farming operations were successful. But this light soil soon started blowing. Abandonment was growing. Farming communities deteriorated. Land went back for taxes.

Arnold saw a need for tying down the soil. First he encouraged the planting of beach grass to tie it down. Then small pine and spruce seedlings were planted. For more than 10 years now, no fewer than a million trees have been planted in any year. The conservation district maintains its own nursery, and cooperators are supplied seedlings at a low cost.

About a thousand trees are planted to the acre. After about 8 years, trees need to be thinned. Arnold helped organize a cooperative to market the thinnings for Christmas trees. In 1946 the farmers realized more than \$50,000 from the sale of 70,000 thinned trees. In 1947 more than 200,000 trees were thinned out, and farmers took in more than \$100,000 in cash.

There remains, holding the soil, a heavy growth of trees. Later, some will be cut for pulpwood. Twenty-five years from now the large pines may be cut for lumber.

Not only has the land been stabilized, but the farmers are getting income from this previously worthless land.

Farmers are now soil-conscious. It is easier to talk conservation today with now more than 1,200 cooperators in the district.

A committee of teachers and soil conservationists have planned a program to teach conservation in the schools. Contests are held each year. Most rural schools and some high schools have school forests.

Radio is a good tool

A. McCALL SMITH

Extension Specialist in Information, California

■ Radio can be a valuable asset to extension work, says Winifred Jecker, home demonstration agent in Santa Clara County, Calif., and she has proved this in her own instance. She presents a program for rural women every morning except Saturday and Sunday over KSJO, San Jose.

Mrs. Jecker has been using radio as an extension tool for 2 years. She started once a week on a program presented daily by the Agricultural Extension Service in San Jose. This program is still on the air daily at 12:45. Six extension agents in the office take turns in presenting timely discussions on the wide variety of agricultural interest in this county.

Last summer Mrs. Jecker conducted a 5-day radio school on freezing storage. Directions were given over the air, and the women actually prepared the foods for freezing while they listened. Mrs. Jecker knew farm women could not be expected to leave their families at mealtime to follow a radio discussion such as this and prepare foods for freezing storage, so she asked KSJO for a 15-minute period in the morning. This was cheerfully provided, and the program was scheduled.

Considerable promotion was necessary to insure an audience. Newspapers, the extension mailing list, announcements at all extension meetings, radio promotion, locker plants, and appliance stores were used in a campaign to inform homemakers of the time and purpose of the radio school.

When the first broadcast went on the air, 268 women had enrolled and requested the list of materials they would need for each of the 5 lessons. On the final broadcast Mrs. Jecker asked her listeners to write to her and give their opinions of this manner of teaching. Eighty-five women replied. The mail was most enthusiastic. All 85 women wanted more such courses, and many suggested subjects. The letters were filled with remarks like these:



"It only took 10 minutes in my own kitchen."

"I didn't have to get ready to go to a meeting."

"There was no confusion."

"I have a baby and cannot come to your meetings."

In the month of May, the home demonstration agent had 55 telephone calls to her office. In June, when the promotion for this radio school was under way, the telephone calls increased to 174. In July, when the promotion was continued and the course was broadcast, telephone calls increased to 206.

Mrs. Jecker was so enthused with results that she continued to give her broadcasts daily except week ends at 9 a. m. Here is what she has to say about radio in home demonstration work:

"Conducting a daily radio broadcast pays dividends many times over, not only to the home demonstration program but also to the agent as well. First of all, radio gives the agent a means of entering the homemaker's home at a time when you're sure she will be there. You can catch her ear in the morning while she does her kitchen chores and acquaint her with home demonstration activities. By maintaining a daily broadcast you become a familiar voice to your county women. It is amazing to find just how far-reaching the effect of the broadcast can be. If you attend a meeting in a rural area and begin to meet some of the people there, you are surprised to find how many times someone says 'Oh, I know you. I listen to you every morning.'

"If we think of the twofold purpose of our National Home Demonstration Week, which is to give recognition to volunteer leaders and to acquaint more people with our program, then

we see that radio offers an opportunity to do both of these things every day.

"Certainly the recognition of volunteer leaders is immediate and far-reaching. When a project leader listens in the day after she gives a demonstration and hears an enthusiastic report of her meeting, plus some well-timed praise from the agent, her satisfaction grows. Many of the women tell me how thrilled they are to hear their names mentioned over the air. Radio does make it possible to give immediate recognition to the fine work that volunteer leaders are doing.

"Radio can be a valuable asset in building up attendance at meetings. Women who hear about hooked rug meetings or dress form meetings over the air often get their first taste of home demonstration and make the effort to come to a meeting to see what it's all about. Radio is really a grand way of advertising our wares and interesting women in all the aspects of our program.

"There is a prestige value to a radio program which cannot be overlooked. Radio is still a magic word to most people. So often at meetings women say to me 'You're on the radio, aren't you.'

"It is possible, also, to build up good-will relationships with our group chairmen and with representatives of other agencies by including them frequently on our program as guests. Homemakers are interested in what services may be available to them from county agencies.

Radio Can Be Localized

"Women who are in home demonstration activities also make excellent guests. It is possible to give recognition to local leaders in this way.

"From the standpoint of the agent there is a definite value in conducting a daily radio broadcast. For one thing, there is the immediate reward which comes in the way of increased letters, telephone calls, and office visitors. It is always a good feeling to know that one's work is recognized, and it is especially gratifying to receive letters with remarks such as the following:

Your time on the air is not nearly long enough.

Every day I learn some new thing on your program.

We homemakers are never too old to learn something new.

"It is a good feeling also when you pick up the telephone to answer a call and have someone say immediately, 'Oh, I know your voice; I hear you on the air every morning.' Recognition of this type builds up an agent's position in the county and establishes for her a definite rating as a home economist in the eyes of the women.

"The agent has an incentive as never before to read all the professional material that comes over her desk. Home economics magazines, reports of specialists, government publications all furnish meat for daily broadcasts. As a result, the agent is better informed.

"Planning a daily broadcast is not so difficult if one thinks of it from the standpoint of a pattern. In a given 15 minutes a certain amount of time each day is devoted to announcements of meetings to come or discussion of meetings which were held. Each day there is some mail to be answered over the air and a few news items about women in different parts of the county. A feature of about 5 minutes' length on some timely topic can be planned for each day. On certain days you may discuss what's new from the standpoint of new equipment, furnishings, or homemaking techniques. Features can be scheduled generally as follows: Monday, laundry items; Tuesday, ironing tips; Wednesday, mending, sewing, or fashions; Thursday, recreation, home management; Friday, cleaning, party ideas, menus, and shopping tips. This is not a hard-and-fast pattern and may be varied at will. By keeping a file with an envelope for each day of the week, it is possible to file items so that they are ready for immediate use.

"In Santa Clara County we have seen the volume of office and phone calls just about doubled as a result of the daily broadcast. Incoming letters in response to broadcasts average about two or three a day, with a sharp rise if a timely bulletin is mentioned. This is proof in itself that radio really is a tool for doing a more effective job. Most of all, it is an exhilarating new phase of extension work."

More light on public policy

E. J. Niederfrank, rural sociologist for the Federal Extension Service, and author of this article, is a firm believer in discussion methods to solve some of the agents' problems. He has prepared some helps for extension workers who want to use this method, which you can get as long as the supply lasts by writing to the REVIEW editor.

Public policy is more and more in the extensioner's vocabulary. The welfare of the rural family extends beyond the fence lines and the latest scientific method for farming and homemaking. This fact has been given notice in such basic documents as the report on postwar planning by the Noble Clark Committee of the Land-Grant College Association, by Director M. L. Wilson and others. Facts about the United Nations, the Marshall Plan, food conservation, and agricultural adjustments take their place in extension programs and publications.

Such fields of endeavor present a different problem from that of pure seed and some of our older projects. Methods such as the result demonstration and even our accustomed sources of information do not exactly fit. We are experimenting with the best way to handle this subject matter.

One successful way in which public policies have been used in the extension program is through discussion groups or other joint participation methods. Sometimes it is just furnishing the idea, the know-how, and the background material for other groups, such as the parent-teacher associations, granges, farm bureaus, lodges, or youth agencies.

The extension job in this field of public policy and community welfare is often one of promoting the idea, or training leaders, or working the idea into some of the regularly planned programs and meetings. The agent does not have to be a specialist, but he does need to have some authoritative subject matter on hand. He should also possess some skill in drawing out the ideas of the group.

The fact that some of these policies are controversial is no reason for omitting anything vital to the welfare of rural people, locally or nationally. One of the beauties of the discussion method and of cooperation with other

agencies and groups is that these steps help to take controversy out of questions; they lift it to a higher plane, to that of welfare of the people. "History shows that those agencies which accept this responsibility without shirking generally end up in the strongest position with the people over the long pull," said Noble Clark of Wisconsin recently before the Land-Grant College Association.

The discussion of a particular policy or problem is not the major object but rather public policy as a whole. Today extension workers are urged to discuss the Marshall Plan and the conservation of food; yesterday it was wartime labor needs, depression economics, the Dumbarton Oaks agreement. Tomorrow other policies and problems will surely arise for attention. We are living in a dynamic world and in a world in which interdependence and human relations are as important in affecting individual welfare as individual action itself. Public policy education will be with us for a long time. It will be found in the extension program according to the needs and wants of the people. Let us make it public policy education, though, and not simply discussion of one emergency after another in episodic fashion.

Discussion is a method and not a program and follows general principles for effective use, as in other methods. There is a technique to it, just as there is to testing soils or baking bread.

The Woman's Institute of Chorleywood, Hertz, England, a suburb of London, recently exchanged programs with the Burlington, W. Va., home demonstration club. The American women had a great deal of fun with their program, especially the debate called for by the Chorleywood program on "Resolved that skill with the hands is more useful to the community than intellectual ability."

Good will garden seed to Germany

A. P. PARSONS, Extension Youth Editor, Iowa

■ When spring came to Europe this year it brought more than sunshine, warm days, and renewed hope for people whose stomachs had drawn into hunger knots as they shivered through the weeks of winter. It brought tokens of good will from Iowa's 4-H Clubs—tokens that, with a plot of ground, sunshine, and spring rains, would grow into stomach-filling, nutritious, vitamin-rich vegetables.

For 3,158 families, packets of garden seeds were provided by the Hawkeye State's clubs. Each packet—the standard ASTA collection—contained seeds of 25 varieties. They were purchased with a \$9,474 fund collected by the clubs. The cost was less than the \$3.95 price for individually mailed packages because bulk shipments were made by Church World Service, Inc., to whom the money was sent.

The campaign started at the 1947 National 4-H Club Congress. There Iowa's 25 delegates were thrown into contact with student representatives from foreign countries attending the Congress. The girls and boys from the Hawkeye State visited with the young people. They heard about the hunger, desolation, and distress of the war-torn European countries. They not only were sympathetic but were stirred to do something to relieve the situation.

At an evening house meeting the subject was discussed. Let's take up a collection, someone suggested. They did, and \$25 soon was on hand. Someone proposed that it be used as the nucleus of a fund to be promoted when the group returned home. That was the decision, and the matter was laid on the shelf until Club Congress was over.

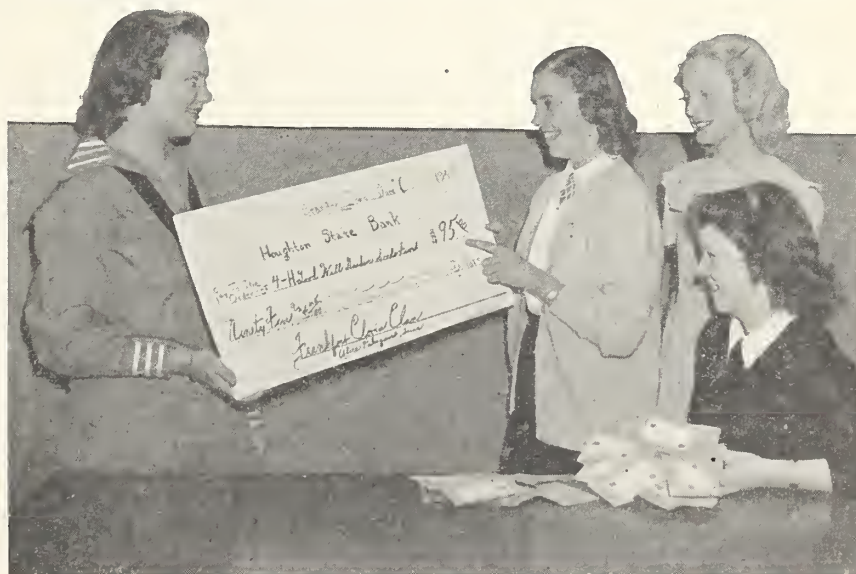
But the idea didn't stay on the shelf. A letter and literature describing the ASTA plan for seed distribution came to the attention of the State 4-H office. It was relayed to the State 4-H officers, and the way the Iowa clubs could help relieve a critical European food situation was indicated.

State 4-H Presidents Bob Smith

and Mary Jo Cornelison wrote a letter to each county 4-H president. They sent copies to the county extension office. They outlined the need for food, the part family gardens would play in providing food, the shortage of seeds and of the money to buy them in European countries. And they proposed a simple plan for raising a fund to buy seeds. Every local 4-H Club was invited to give at least \$3, the cost of one seed packet. This was set as a minimum. Larger contributions were urged. Ways of raising money were left up to the clubs. They could dip into their treasuries, solicit contributions from members and friends, stage benefits, or devise other methods.

Within the counties the 4-H presidents called meetings of club officers and county 4-H adult committees. These groups set county goals and mapped programs for reaching local 4-H Clubs. Funds from the clubs were channeled through county extension offices to the State 4-H office and on to Church World Service, Inc.

The Clovia Clan Club of Montgomery County, Iowa, gave \$99 to the 4-H Good Will Garden Seed fund. Holding a check for \$95 of the amount is Alice Palmquist, treasurer of the club and county 4-H girl's president. At her right are Lavose Dahlstrom, vice president; Joan Swanson, secretary; and Jean Bergren, president of the Clovia Clans.



This organization obtained the seeds, shipped them to its distribution agencies in Europe, and gave them where the need was greatest.

Each club was permitted to indicate to which country it wished its seeds to go. Most clubs did not indicate a preference. In response to a request from Al Hoefer, New York State club leader, then in Germany assisting with agricultural rehabilitation, 484 packets were sent to him for distribution to youths with whom he worked.

Each packet of seeds contained a card, and on the outside was an identical sticker. They gave the name of the club sending the seeds and the name and address of its president. An invitation to write to the donor and tell how the garden grew was included in the message.

As the campaign got under way the reaction was instantaneous. Greene County 4-H Clubs put on a whirlwind drive that brought in \$307. They finished their work early in January. Roger Clause, one of the club congress delegates, headed the campaign committee.

In Ida County a local club of eight members made a house-to-house solicitation. This club raised \$156 and took the honors for a single club in the State. A club congress delegate, Lois

Jean Segerstrom, spearheaded this canvass. And in the same county another club raised \$100.

Bremer County's clubs topped the State with a \$526 gift. The main-spring in this county was Eugene Woodcock, also a club congress delegate. A benefit basketball game between 4-H members, individual solicitation, club contributions, and other devices were used to gather the money.

In Montgomery County a local club raised \$99 and made the front page of the local paper by writing a check for the amount on a mammoth-size sheet of paper.

Other counties, although not reaching the high totals of these leaders, swelled the total. By February 15 more than \$9,000 had come in. The balance quickly followed, and by garden planting time the seeds were in Europe.

For Iowa 4-H Clubs the campaign represented the biggest fund-raising effort ever undertaken. The previous record was in 1946 when 4-H girls raised \$3,600 to buy food for European children. The current drive followed closely on the campaign for the Friendship Train and an Iowa farm organization drive that raised about \$300,000. Many clubs had given liberally to these campaigns.

■ ADELAIDE A. BARTS, home demonstration agent in Nassau County, N. Y., for the past 10 years, retired February 1 after completing 30 years of service.

Under Miss Barts' leadership, extension work in home economics became one of Nassau County's most important and far-reaching adult education institutions. Home Bureau membership there increased from 600 to 2,877, and in 1946 the county was awarded the State trophy for greatest increase in membership.

During the past 10 years, Miss Barts has been president of the Home Demonstration Agents Association of New York State and chief, Lambda Chapter, Epsilon Sigma Phi, honorary extension fraternity. In 1946 she was chosen outstanding agent in New York State by the National Association of Agents.

The prospect of retirement holds no regret for Miss Barts. On the contrary, she is looking forward to "busy years of learning and enjoyment."

Nobody ever died for dear old Rutgers

C. A. THOMPSON, County Agent Leader, New Jersey Extension Service

■ So says the hit song in the current Broadway show, "High Button Shoes." But how many of us in Extension are impairing our eyesight because of bad lighting, or working in overcrowded offices?

These and 20 other questions were asked in a survey recently conducted by the writer in the 21 county extension offices in New Jersey.

A well-organized and attractive office pays dividends and makes friends for the Extension Service. In our study we tried to look at our offices through the eyes of an impartial visitor. What we found wasn't entirely good.

Only six counties had enough space to satisfy the workers. Floor space ranged from 77 square feet per person to 394. Office arrangement was a more vital factor in some cases than size. The space factor is also complicated by the fact that in the State as a whole about one-third of the people in county extension offices are other than extension workers. This is bound to create some "bulges" but farmers like to go to one place and not have to run all over a county to contact this or that agency.

Sixteen of the twenty-one offices were well labeled. The main reason for hanging out a sign is to help people find the office. The merchant does it to get business, and so do we. It goes without saying that every extension office should have an attractive sign advertising its location.

Do you have good lighting? The answer to this question was astounding. Only six offices had good lighting; seven were fair and eight poor. Both natural light from windows and artificial lights were considered. Rearranging desks so the workers did not sit in their own shadows or face the glare from a window was possible in some cases.

Eyestrain from poor lighting is one thing that can cut down efficiency and develop unhappy workers as much as any other condition in an office. Headaches never promote happy dispositions.

What is the general appearance of your office? Is it orderly, clean, painted; and are the walls free from excess calendars, etc.? This question brought to light the quality of house-keeping practiced in our offices. Some said the janitor dragged a mop behind him when he came to empty the waste-paper baskets and that was the extent of the cleaning done!

Are your telephones well located with necessary extensions and buzzer systems? Six were excellent, eight good, four fair, and three poor. Those classed excellent had interoffice communication in addition to their regular telephones.

We also considered drinking-water supplies and rest-room facilities. Most counties indicated that their rest rooms might better be called "relief rooms" because of the lack of rest facilities.

From the standpoint of equipment, mailing lists, visual aids materials, filing systems, reference libraries, and so forth, most of the offices rated high.

We found considerable room for improvement in our methods of handling the traffic of office callers and providing adequate waiting room space and reading tables where current farm magazines and other literature are available.

Many changes have taken place in our county offices in New Jersey as a result of this survey, and more will be made in the months to come, despite the fact that here, as elsewhere, we are afflicted with the very human reluctance to alter our established way of doing things.

■ An 11-year-old Finnish girl, Iris Karpanen, has been "adopted" by the home demonstration groups of McPherson County, Kans. During the past year the women of these groups have grown increasingly interested in the whole family—the sick father, the mother, and the two younger children. The Kansas women receive many brief letters, written in Finnish, from the mother. Miss Ida Hildibrand is home demonstration agent in McPherson County.

National 4-H Camp—laboratory of democracy

■ The last piece of clothing has been neatly folded and packed. A boy or girl stands contemplatively receiving last-minute instructions from an anxious parent preparatory to leaving for the Nation's Capital. This scene is being enacted all over the country this month. From Maine to Florida, from Washington State to New Mexico, hundreds of young people—4-H Club members—are enthusiastically making plans to attend the Eighteenth National 4-H Club Camp, June 16 to 23.

Encampment in a Hotel

This year, delegates and leaders will be bivouacked in the Raleigh Hotel on historic Pennsylvania Avenue and will hold their meetings in the beautiful Departmental Auditorium on Constitution Avenue. This is a vast difference from the first National Club Camp in 1927 when delegates were tented on the Mall opposite the Administration Building of the Department of Agriculture. That year, the old-timers recall, the floodgates of heaven literally opened, and the delegates had to fight the pouring rain to get to and from their quarters. Everyone in the Cooperative Extension Service and in the Land-Grant College Association is hopeful that just over the horizon lies a permanent camp site for 4-H members.

While in the Nation's Capital, delegates will become better acquainted with all three branches of government, legislative, judicial, and executive, through visits to the Capitol, the Supreme Court, and the White House. On the Hill, they will participate in actual committee hearings in both Senate and House and be shown the legislative processes through which a bill must pass before being enacted into law.

Mount Vernon, the impressive memorials to Jefferson and Lincoln, the Washington Monument, and other shrines dedicated to the memory of the men and women who founded and developed the democratic system of government in the United States, will also be visited. For the first time, a trip to Annapolis is planned where

the delegates will attend Sunday morning services in the famed chapel of the United States Naval Academy. Here are interred the remains of the great naval hero, John Paul Jones.

Good Neighbor Ambassadors

The 20 youths who have been selected under the International Youth Exchange Program to visit Britain and other European countries will be guests at National Club Camp. They will embark from New York the day after the camp closes and spend from 4 to 6 months abroad, familiarizing themselves with the agriculture, the customs, and the cultures of rural Europe. A package of food, representative of the agriculture in their State, will be brought to camp by each State delegation and, amid special ceremonies, entrusted to the international exchange delegates to be carried by them to England for distribution to rural hospitals there.

Members Discuss Problems

The 4-H delegates will devote much time to the discussion of problems that face rural people on the home, community, State, national, and international levels, in light of the camp's theme, "Creating Better Homes Today for a More Responsible Citizenship Tomorrow." The conclusions reached by means of these discussions will be taken home by the delegates and integrated in the 4-H programs in the States and counties and villages throughout the United States. Lecturers and discussion leaders will be prominent national and international figures.

4-H members will have a brief look at yesterday and today when they visit the pink-marble National Gallery of Art, the Smithsonian Institution, and other national museums in which repose the arts and examples of the skills of generations long past, as well as achievements of the present. And for a glimpse into the agriculture and homemaking of tomorrow, they will be conducted on a tour of the Agricultural Research Center at Beltsville, Md. Here department scientists are constantly experiment-



ing to make farming and homemaking brighter, more profitable, and more efficient.

National camp will also be the occasion for the official annual meeting of State 4-H Club leaders. Here the leaders will discuss plans, programs, and professional improvement, and, through the Extension Subcommittee on 4-H Club Work, make recommendations regarding National 4-H Club policies.

Camp will come to a climax on the last evening with the inspiring citizenship ceremony and a review in pictures and words of the events that highlighted the camp. This will be followed by the always beautiful candle-lighting ceremony that officially closes the camp.

The magic of camp over, 4-H members will return to their hotel to repack traveling bags for the journey home to their mothers and fathers—happier and wiser for their attendance. With them they will take home more, much more, than they brought. They will take home a better understanding of the democratic heritage of this Nation and a clearer comprehension of the democratic processes that assure "liberty and justice to all." And behind them? Behind them, with those with whom they have come in contact, they will leave the fresh viewpoints of youth, the courage and enthusiasm that assure the steady progress of 4-H achievement.

Prints of Progress

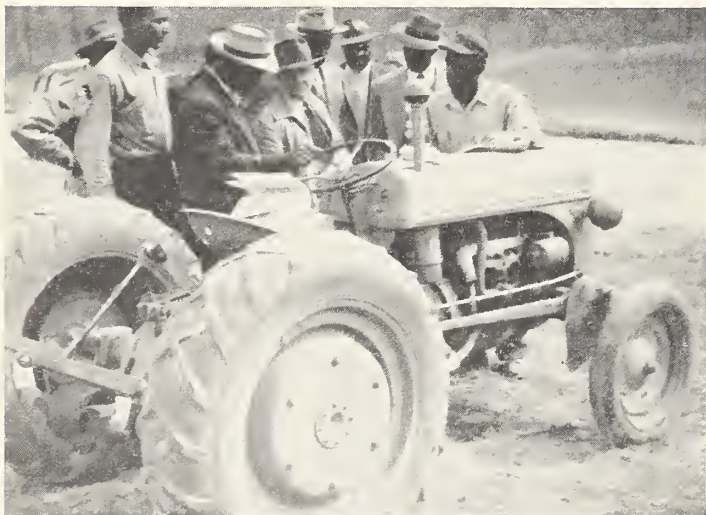
The blue-ribbon ham at the thirty-third annual Ham and Egg Show, Fort Valley, Ga., was something to remember.



An abundant store of first-rate hams and eggs rewarded exhibitors at the Second Bibb County Ham and Egg Show, Macon, Ga., reports Agent Sanford H. Lee whose excellent work was written up in the January 1947 REVIEW.



The mechanical cotton picker operated by an ex-service man fascinated visiting educators from England and New York studying the educational problems and achievements of Negro extension work in the South.



The first Negro tractor maintenance school held at State 4-H Club Camp, Dublin, Ga., brought out 98 agents, farm leaders, and 4-H members from 36 counties.



An Alabama 4-H girl tells Dr. John H. Reisner, of New York, about her turkeys while visiting English educators listen in.

Program planning takes the spotlight

EDNA SOMMERFELD, District Older Rural Youth Agent, New York

■ "Let's have more meetings like *this* program planning workshop." "I got plenty of ideas on how to plan interesting programs for young people." These were typical remarks made at the close of each of the nine district program planning workshops for young people held in New York State last February.

To learn techniques in the art of planning programs of interest to, for, and by young people was the real purpose of the workshops. This series of all-day meetings was sponsored by the New York State Older Rural Youth Conference in cooperation with the Extension Service, the Grange, the Dairymen's League, and the rural churches.

In spite of severe cold, snow, and sleet, an average of 43 persons—390 in all—attended the 9 district meetings. Attendance at each workshop was about evenly divided between young people—18 to 25 years of age—and adults. Those present were selected young people, leaders, and adult advisers representing all the organizations or departments of the cooperating agencies and others interested in young people's programs. Also present at some meetings were delegates from the Y. M. C. A. and the Y. W. C. A. Several Negro young people and leaders attended one meeting.

Three Different Ways Tried

The workshops provided the young people and their adult advisers an opportunity to discuss problems in program planning for the 18-to-30-year-old age group. After a general assembly, small groups tried out one of three different techniques for planning programs. With the help of a leader, each small group used one of the following methods for determining interests and needs of the group: The use of small cards, the use of a check sheet; or by group discussion. Each group planned a program around expressed interests.

In the general assembly the group

secretaries reported on the technique used, the program developed, and their evaluation of the technique. There was considerable discussion on how the different methods might be used by local groups or individuals. Ideas for source material for young people's programs also proved helpful.

The important feature of the day's procedure was that everyone present had the opportunity to express his or her opinion and have a part in the meeting.

As these workshops were planned for demonstration as well as training meetings, every effort was made to have them well organized and carried out. Young people as well as adults were asked to assume certain responsibilities. Here is an example of how the young people assumed their responsibility at one meeting:

The Young Folks Took Over

The Poughkeepsie Workshop served nine counties in southeastern New York State. Gifford Marshall, a Dutchess County young man, helped make the arrangements for the meeting place at the Poughkeepsie Grange Hall. He acted as chairman for the day. Other Dutchess County young people served on the reception and registration committees. One delegate remarked: "I was greeted at the door and at once felt welcome even though a total stranger in the county."

Margaret Brundage and the Ulster County delegation had charge of the lively get-acquainted period and group singing. Rodney Miller and the other young people from Greene County presented a skit on parliamentary procedure. New York State Older Rural Youth Conference was represented by Leon Mehlenbacher, treasurer. He explained the purpose of the State conference.

Robert C. Clark, extension rural sociologist from Cornell University, worked with representatives of the cooperating agencies in plans for the

workshops. He was responsible for coordinating the plans and attended all of the workshops. He was assisted at each meeting by Mrs. Mildred Wellman or Dr. C. A. Bratton, extension specialists from the university. These three specialists are interested in and actively engaged in the older youth program under the direction of the New York State Extension Service.

The four district older youth agents from the Extension Service—Lacey Woodward, Robert Marsh, Doris Rice, and I—were responsible for local arrangements of the workshops in their areas. We worked with the county extension agents and representatives of the cooperating agencies on local plans, and we sent summaries of the meetings to all present.

They Want More

Favorable comments on this first series of program planning workshops have been received from the young people, adults, and professionals. Those present were definitely interested in similar meetings another year. In addition to help on program planning, there was expressed interest in other types of help such as recreation training, officer training, group and panel discussion techniques, and organization problems.

This series of workshops was an excellent demonstration of cooperation among agencies and people interested in the same problem. It also was an excellent opportunity to train leaders in the techniques of program planning for young people's groups. A few outstanding reasons contributing to the success of these nine district program planning workshops in New York are these: They apparently met a definite need; all cooperating agencies had a part in the plans; the local arrangements were well cared for; the subject matter was timely and ably handled; and, most important—everyone present took part in the discussion and day's program.

■ In Japan, too, 4-H is popular. A former Illinois member, Corp. Lloyd Holt, now a clerk in the Air Forces stationed at Johnson Air Base in Japan, walked 4 miles and missed his supper to tell 123 young Japanese youth about the 4-H Clubs at home.

Fellowships, scholarships, and leave for professional improvement

■ Yes, fellowships and scholarships are available for extension people. There are still not enough in quantity or free enough of restrictions to be available to all who want to apply. The trend is toward an increase. The ones described on this page do not comprise the entire list of those now available to fit the needs of extension workers. Every institution lists many fellowships and scholarships, but generally they are restricted in availability and to a special course of study. The ones listed here are those known to the United States Department of Agriculture Extension Service at the present time:

The Farm Foundation

This Foundation offers six fellowships for a period of 9 months at \$1,500 each. This scholarship is available to extension workers recommended by State directors of extension and the dean of the college of agriculture or by the Director of the United States Department of Agriculture Extension Service for Federal employees. It is limited to extension workers who are in, or will be in, the administrative field. Applications are made through the State director of extension to Frank Peck, Director of the Farm Foundation, 600 South Michigan Avenue, Chicago 5, Ill., and to any one of the following universities: California, Chicago, Cornell, Illinois, Minnesota, Wisconsin.

Harvard University

The Carnegie Corporation has made \$20,000 a year available for the next 3 years for fellowships to agricultural and home economics extension workers to enable them to study at Harvard University. The men will be registered in the Graduate School of Public Administration and the women in the Graduate School of Radcliffe College, but the same courses will be available to both.

Individual programs of study can be developed to fit the needs of the student. The organization and conduct of this training program is

guided by an advisory committee from the Cooperative Extension Service. There is a fellowship committee at Harvard and Radcliffe to assist the fellows.

Applicants must be recommended by the State extension director or by the Director of the United States Department of Agriculture Extension Service for Federal workers to Dr. John D. Black, Graduate School of Public Administration, 205 Littauer Center, Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass., not later than April 15.

The awards are made more or less geographically among different ranks and types of extension personnel. The amount of each award is varied according to the needs of the student, but it is hoped that those receiving the awards will receive supplemental aid from their own institutions.

The General Education Board

This board offers fellowships which are available to extension workers in the South. These carry stipends ranging between \$100 and \$135 per month during the school year, plus a nominal monthly allowance for dependents, if any. Tuition and certain fees are paid by the board. An allowance is made for travel to and from place of study.

Applications are made through the president of the institution to Dr. Fred McCuiston, Assistant Director of the General Education Board, 49 West 49th Street, New York 20, N. Y. Applications for awards beginning between June and September must be received before March 1; for awards beginning in January or February, before November 1 of the previous year. The board must approve the institution where the program of study is to be carried out.

The National Committee on Boys and Girls Club Work Cooperating With the United States Department of Agriculture Extension Service

These institutions sponsor two fellowships of \$1,200 each for 10 months of study in the United States Depart-

ment of Agriculture under the guidance of the Extension Service. The National Committee on Boys and Girls Club Work, 59 East Van Buren Street, Chicago 5, Ill., provides the \$1,200.

One fellowship is awarded to a boy, one to a girl from nominations by State 4-H Club leaders through State directors of extension to the Division of Field Studies and Training, United States Department of Agriculture Extension Service, Washington 25, D. C. Applications must be received by May 15.

Teachers College, Columbia University

Several types of fellowships and scholarships are available to extension workers for study in Teachers College, Columbia University, New York City. They are handled individually and generally require a recommendation from the State director of extension. They depend upon the amount needed by the individual and the availability of a fellowship or scholarship at the time needed. Information may be obtained from Dr. Edmund deS. Brunner, 525 West One hundred-twentieth Street, New York 27, N. Y. Applications are to be made by January 1, if possible, and under no circumstances later than February 1.

University of Chicago

Fellowships and scholarships are available to extension workers for study at the University of Chicago. They are handled individually, generally upon recommendation of the State director of extension. Information may be obtained through Dr. Ralph W. Tyler, chairman, Department of Education, University of Chicago, 5835 Kimbark Avenue, Chicago 37, Ill.

Horace A. Moses Foundation, Inc., West Springfield, Mass.

This Foundation has made available 24 scholarships of \$100 each to extension youth workers in the 12 Northeastern States in 1948 under a plan drawn up and approved jointly by the Horace A. Moses Foundation, Inc., the Northeastern State Extension Directors, the Northeastern State 4-H Club Leaders, and the United States Department of Agriculture Extension Service. If the plan proves satisfactory consideration will be given to offering it on a

continuing or even expanded basis in future years. Applications are made through the State director of extension. Two scholarships are available to each State in the northeastern region. Preference is given to a man and woman worker from each State. Awards are limited to extension staff members who are devoting one-third time or more to work with rural youth.

Sarah Bradley Tyson Memorial Fellowship of \$500

For a number of years the National Farm and Garden Association has offered annually the Sarah Bradley Tyson Memorial Fellowship of \$500 for advanced study in agriculture, horticulture, and the related professions. The term "related professions" is interpreted broadly. The award is intended for young women who, after graduation from college have worked in their chosen fields for several years and have need of financial aid in undertaking a year of graduate study.

Applications are made to the Chairman of the Education Committee of the National Farm and Garden Association, Mrs. Raymond A. Pearson, Chairman, 3000 Thirty-ninth Street NW, Washington 16, D. C.

Epsilon Sigma Phi Loan Fund

This fraternity provides scholarship loans, for a year or less time of advanced study, to approved extension people. The loan is to be used for advanced study at any educational institution of recognized standing within the United States.

The maximum loan to any one individual can be \$600. A smaller loan can be made, but in no case will the loan be less than \$200. An extension worker can be considered for a second loan at a later date. Loans will be granted to members of Epsilon Sigma Phi or to nonmembers who have had at least 5 years' experience. The applicant must be employed as a full-time extension worker when the loan is made. Loans are made for 3 years or less, beginning at 2 percent interest, beginning with the period for study. Repayments are required of half the amount of the loan during the first year following the period taken as leave for study, while the balance of the loan can be repaid during the second year. Names of borrowers will not be published. A note

or contract signed by the borrower will be required.

An application form can be obtained by writing to the Grand Secretary Treasurer, Epsilon Sigma Phi; State director of extension; or chapter secretaries.

Health Education

The Public Health Service probably has available a small number of fellowships in Health Education. These fellowships provide a stipend of \$100 a month for a year's study of an academic year plus 3 months of supervised field experience; tuition at one of the approved institutions; and travel expenses for field experience. Approved institutions are Yale University, University of North Carolina, North Carolina State College for Negroes, University of Michigan, University of California, University of Minnesota, and Columbia University.

Those eligible are men and women, between the ages of 22 and 40. Further information may be obtained by writing to Miss Elin Anderson, Rural Health Specialist, Extension Service, United States Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C. All applications must be in by March 15.

Provisions of the United States Department of Agriculture Extension Service for Leave for Study or Professional Improvement

Sabbatic Leave

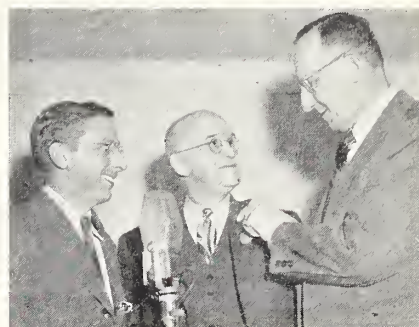
Should colleges desire to extend sabbatic privileges in whole or modified form to extension employees the Department desires, in case funds of Federal origin or offset thereto are used, to have each individual case made a project mutually agreed upon, such project to show the name of the individual desiring to take such leave, length of time in the extension service of the State, studies to be pursued or investigations to be made, the institution at which such studies or investigations are to be made, period of leave covered, rate of compensation and source of funds involved, likelihood of the one taking sabbatic leave returning to the State extension service following sabbatic leave, and like matters.

Federal funds should bear their proportionate share of the salary of an extension worker while on sab-

batic leave. For example, if a county agent's salary is paid at the rate of \$1,800 from Federal funds, \$1,800 from State funds, and \$900 from county funds, the Federal cost of his sabbatic leave should not exceed \$1,800 per annum.

Other Leave for Professional Improvement

The statements made for sabbatic leave apply for a semester, quarter, 3 weeks, or other type leave for professional improvement.



A. J. BRUNDAGE, State 4-H Club leader of Connecticut, receives medal from Gov. James L. McConaughy, of Connecticut. Frank Atwood of Radio Station WTIC is at left. Mr. Brundage, who retired on January 31, was an early organizer of 4-H Club work and for 33 years was State leader.

This spring Mrs. Brundage accompanied Mr. Brundage on a trip through the Midwest and South, where he made many 4-H Club contacts and talked at meetings. Now residing on a farm near Storrs, Conn., he will carry out an assignment by the college to write a history of 4-H Club work in his State.

Mr. Brundage, a graduate of the University of Connecticut, began his work with youth as an experiment in 1913 as "supervisor of agriculture" in the town of Mansfield. A year later he was named State club organizer in anticipation of the passage of the Federal Smith-Lever Act. Since then he has seen 125,000 rural youth enrolled in clubs, and the club agent system developed until there are today two club agents in each county of Connecticut. E. W. Aiton, field agent of 4-H Club work in Northeastern States, says he believes that Mr. Brundage knows more rural people in Connecticut than any other person.



Flashes FROM SCIENCE FRONTIERS

A few hints of what's in the offing as a result of scientific research in the U. S. Department of Agriculture that may be of interest to extension workers, as seen by Marion Julia Drown, Agricultural Research Administration, U. S. Department of Agriculture.

Handle the New Chemicals With Care

■ The theory on which some people take medicine—"If a little is good, more will be better"—is warned against by the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine and Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering as it might apply to the use of insecticides and weed killers. Follow the instructions on the label, they recommend, or consult Federal or State authorities about amounts to use and methods of application.

Benzene hexachloride, for example, though an excellent insecticide for the control of cotton insects, should not be used at all on vegetables because it may cause an undesirable musty flavor. If used on fruit trees, it should be restricted to early season application. When used to control certain poultry pests, benzene hexachloride has been known to impart an off-flavor to both eggs and meat.

Some of the new materials are so new that there is still little information about their toxic effects. The research people advise that such chemicals as chlordane, chlorinated camphene, benzene hexachloride, tetraethyl pyrophosphate, and parathion be used for controlling insects on food crops only where it is certain that no residues will remain on edible products. Parathion is known to be especially toxic.

The days have gone when farmers had to be talked into trying materials or methods recommended as the result of research. Now they are eager to use anything the scientists produce. The weed killer 2, 4-D and some related herbicides promise to become one of the farmer's greatest helps, but caution is needed in using these poisonous substances. There have been some losses of crop plants from the use of 2,4-D in both dust and spray form. Either dust or spray may drift for considerable distances and

injure such crops as cotton, beans, and peas, as well as ornamental plants. Esters of 2,4-D give off vapors that may damage nearby susceptible plants.

Warnings have also been issued against storing weed killers containing 2,4-D near fertilizers, seeds, insecticides, or fungicides which they may contaminate.

Tests of Drugs for Removing Internal Parasites

■ A 5-year experiment in the Gulf coast region of Texas resulted in proving the efficacy of hexachlorethane for removing liver flukes from cattle. A suspension of hexachlorethane in bentonite has been used for a number of years for this purpose by cattlemen in the region. The Bureau of Animal Industry scientists used the same suspension in their tests on 463 infested cattle. Two to 3 weeks after treatment, 428 of the cattle showed no evidence of the presence of liver flukes, and in the remaining 35 fluke eggs were greatly diminished in number. Autopsies on treated and untreated cattle confirmed the good results from the use of the drug. The hexachlorethane was well tolerated by all the animals except a few that were in a greatly weakened condition as a result of liver fluke or other disease.

As cattle in the Gulf coast area are also often infested with stomach worms as well as liver flukes, further tests were made to determine whether the hexachlorethane-bentonite suspension would remove the worms along with the flukes.

Another drug, toluene (methyl benzene) was found to remove parasites, including ascarids, hookworms, and whipworms, from dogs, ascarids from pigs, and roundworms from chickens. In the doses given, the drug was practically harmless to the animals

treated. These findings are promising, but the use of toluene for this purpose is still in the experimental stage.

Basic Research and Egg Whites

■ Discoveries concerning the fundamental nature of things often pack a powerful punch. The results may be slow in getting started; but they sometimes have profound, even revolutionary, effects. We won't even mention the atom. Mendel's discovery of certain laws of inheritance is a classic example in the field of genetics. From it eventually came hybrid corn, which has caused a revolution in the Corn Belt.

A research result in the field of nutrition that is of a fundamental nature because it deals with the structure of proteins, has just been announced by the Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics. Frank A. Csonka has been working, in cooperation with the Bureau of Animal Industry, on the effect of the hen's diet on the proteins of egg whites. Proteins are made up of different complex combinations of amino acids, and it has been believed that these combinations in individual proteins of plants and animals were fixed by nature and unchangeable. Dr. Csonka's work shows that diet has the power to change the make-up of these proteins.

Csonka analyzed proteins from eggs laid by hens fed on rations differing in amount and kind of protein but otherwise identical. One group of hens received casein and the other soybean meal as the source of protein. When chicks were hatched from eggs laid by the two groups of hens, on identical rations the chicks from the hens that had the casein gained weight faster than those from the hens fed soybean meal. In seeking the cause of this difference, Csonka studied two amino acids, cystine and methionine, in the proteins of the whites of eggs laid by the two groups of hens. The proportions of these two important amino acids in the egg-white proteins, which it had been supposed never varied, were different in the eggs of the two groups. This indication that diet can affect the structure of animal proteins is one of those discoveries that may have far-reaching implications.

A cotton dress workshop epidemic

VIOLA HANSEN, Home Demonstration Agent, Linn County, Oreg.

The sudden growth of Jack's beanstalk in the mythical "Jack and the Beanstalk" could not have been any more interesting or amazing than the growth and development of the cotton dress workshops in Linn County, Oreg., during the months of January and February this year.

For the past 3 years, rural homemakers in Linn County have been interested in a project whereby they could learn the principles of dress-making. The majority of homemakers had done some home sewing. A few women had received training when they were 4-H Club members; others had been enrolled in high school home economics classes. But the majority received their training by the "trial and error method" which many times proves both expensive and discouraging.

At the 1947 county program planning meeting, the representatives of 27 extension units voted unanimously to have cotton dress workshops as part of their 1947-48 program. Picture the dilemma of trying to plan a program that would accommodate an average of 8 women in each of the 27 extension units.

Some units had 10 to 20 homemakers who wanted training. Upon the recommendations of Lucy Lane, Oregon State College clothing specialist, a 3-day workshop conducted for project leaders was planned. The project leaders were trained at a centrally located workshop conducted by the home demonstration agent.

It was planned for project leaders to attend the training workshop 1 day each week for a period of 3 weeks; and during the following week they were, in turn, to conduct a local workshop in their unit with no more than eight women enrolled.

Project leaders were recognized leaders in the units with previous sewing experience who enthusiastically and wholeheartedly believed in the project.

The "proof of the size is in the measuring" could well be the slogan of these Linn County seamstresses; as

one young homemaker laughingly said, "Now I know I wear a 44 and not a 20." Many homemakers found that their greatest difficulty was buying patterns that were too small. Complete measurements were taken of all project leaders and enrollees at a preliminary meeting 6 weeks before the workshop began. Detailed instructions on buying material, shrinkage, and the requirements of the project were also discussed at the meeting. All dresses were to be one-piece dresses with set-in sleeves, placket zipper, bound buttonholes, and a stitched waistline.

Line and design in clothing were taught by the agent at regular unit meetings. The making of buttonholes and putting in of the zipper were taught by project leaders during the months of November and December. These meetings proved to be excellent ground work for the school.

The first day's work proved to all enrollees that very few women are built after the model plan. One project leader had 2 schools with a total of 18 enrollees, and much to her disappointment not one was a perfect 34. Pattern alterations by the use of measurements proved most helpful as well as consoling. At the end of the first day, all dresses were cut out and basted together.

The second day was devoted to fitting and stitching the garment on the machine. The third day was devoted to finishing. Of course, "the new look" was a much discussed subject; and the majority of hems were lower than most of the clothes in the wardrobe, and much to the homemakers' surprise "they liked it."

Four schools were conducted by the agent for 28 project leaders. The 28 project leaders trained 172 enrollees in their first schools. Five leaders have conducted their second workshop, and several are planning to have another in the fall. Making a cotton dress was an epidemic—the kind of an epidemic that everyone enjoyed. It is estimated that more than 300 homemakers will have received the



Viola Hansen, right, home demonstration agent, is pictured using a hemmarker at one of her four workshop schools for project leaders.

training by summertime. Each will also have a new dress.

All dresses made at the workshop were shown in revue at the annual Homemakers Festival, April 29, in Lebanon.

Next year's project will be devoted to better dresses and the following year to tailoring of suits and coats.

There were many hidden values in the cotton dress workshop—values that cannot be measured in the terms of dresses but which were expressed by a homemaker in a letter.

"Dress workshops taught us the need for following instructions exactly, the fun of working together, and the joy of creating something worth while.

"But most of all is the importance of measuring yourself and fitting the pattern to oneself and the material at hand. Over and above that, there stands out the importance of details in the finished product."

I always say: "The flaw in a catsup bottle matters little but if transferred to a diamond would render its value nil.' Fine character and fine dresses cannot have careless details and cheap accessories. They stand out in such startling fashion."

So like Jack's beanstalk, the cotton dress project grew, and grew, and grew.

It pays to recognize the young folks

■ Three years ago County Agent Harry J. Poorbaugh of Schuylkill County, Pa., invited his young farmers into Pottsville, the county seat, for the first of what have become annual 2-day conferences. He had three main objectives in mind. The first was educational. He wanted them to benefit from formal instruction which they could put to practical use. Most of them were still helping Dad; a few had farms of their own. They were Schuylkill County's "farmers of tomorrow," and he would be working with them more and more. Any added training, Agent Poorbaugh reasoned, would find fruition over a long period.

Another objective was to give these young fellows a greater sense of "belonging." Their elders, naturally, were giving active direction to their respective farm programs and were supplying leadership for farm organizations. The young farmers, many of them mature men and carrying man-size responsibilities, had little voice in agricultural affairs. Poorbaugh believed they were entitled to feel keener interest in "their" farms; that these were their communities, this their county, and that they were an important part of its agriculture. The first conference confirmed his view that, meeting together in their own age group, they could be articulate on both farm and community affairs. They welcomed the chance to "talk things over," to be seen and heard. There were no elders present to overawe. Agent Poorbaugh called in extension specialists from the Pennsylvania State College as discussion leaders. In all four conferences held to date the young farmers have had the floor most of the time in spirited give and take. Topics, of their own choosing, have ranged from choosing a wife to soil erosion control. Looking to the future, they want a more substantial agriculture in their community.

The county agent's third objective, incidental to the other two but also paramount to them, was leadership. Here, collectively, was a great reservoir of enthusiasm and talent. With

proper encouragement and guidance it could help shape and improve the whole life of the county, agriculture included. At each conference the young farmers have rubbed elbows with businessmen of their county seat. Both have emphasized the dependence of each group upon the other. Rural-urban good feeling has grown. Some of the young farm group have found places in the business and professional life of the city. Others on the farm have been improving marketing techniques to develop and hold outlets for their produce. They have tackled the problem of soil erosion with refreshing vigor and ingenuity. They already know from their own testing what practices aid and what can prevent the waste of topsoil. Better pastures, which they developed, and their own version of scientific hay harvesting, have increased the production of milk—their leading agricultural industry.

At the time of the first conference one of the group held a place on the county agricultural extension executive committee. In 3 years this number has increased to five. Some fill similar offices in similar organizations. Realizing at their first meeting that, alone, they represented only half of the farm picture, the young farmers have since been inviting the young farm women of the county to hold concurrent conferences for the distaff side. About half in each group are married. The "girls," with the help of their extension aide, Miss Nelle Stasukinas, have centered their interests on homemaker roles ranging from foods to child care. Both groups join in a final noon dinner meeting at the leading Pottsville hotel, with a concluding program of inspiration and entertainment.

Each conference starts generating momentum for the next session. New general committees are nominated and elected in open meeting by both men and women. Each committee selects its own chairman. These committees, working cooperatively with the county agricultural agent and the



Left to right: Warren Snyder, Pitman, general chairman for the 1949 Schuylkill County, Pa., Young Farmers' Conference; Mrs. Newton Zehner, chairman of the young farm women's section for 1948; and Bruce Troutman, Pitman, general chairman of the 1948 conference.

home demonstration agent, plan their own conference programs.

Announcements concerning the conferences go by mail from the county agent's office to more than 600 young farmers and farm women. This mailing list, compiled with the help of these young people, is constantly being revised and enlarged. Attendance at the conferences averages around 200 and is about evenly divided between men and women. Assisting Poorbaugh and Miss Stasukinas on the extension staff are M. R. Lynch, assistant county agent, and Miss Adeline Shull, assistant home economics extension representative. They contribute guidance and help, give the movement continuity, but insist in looking on with a considerable degree of detachedness. This they have been able to do without relinquishing any of their prerogatives or losing hold of the conference as an extension activity. They vouch for the fact that "it pays to give youth deserved recognition." Young farmers in other Pennsylvania counties have adopted their own versions of the Schuylkill plan.

■ The Wide Awake home demonstration club of Williamstown, Vt., is sponsoring a fire-prevention drive.

Members of the club, in cooperation with other extension clubs in the vicinity, are making a survey of the town to find out what protection each family has against fire. The club is also endeavoring to locate all possible water supplies for use in case of fire.



Have you read

TWO BLADES OF GRASS, a humanized history of USDA scientific progress. T. Swann Harding. 352 pp. University of Oklahoma Press, Norman, Okla. 1947.

■ Not until he has spent years getting acquainted with the many researches in which the Department of Agriculture, in cooperation with State experiment stations and other research agencies, is engaged does the average student in agriculture and home economics or the average career worker in agriculture and home economics begin to get an idea of the vast contributions made by agricultural research toward improving the welfare of mankind. The shelves of agricultural libraries throughout the country are filled with volumes of yearbooks and other important documents reporting the projects and facts unearthed through research. But it is necessarily in the nature of official documents that they play up the subject matter and give little, if any, information about individuals whose personal contributions and devotion to the field of science meant so much. Fortunately, this lack of personalized facts in official documents has been complemented this past year by *Two Blades of Grass*. The author, T. Swann Harding, began his career in the Department in 1910 as a scientific research worker. He later became editor of scientific publications for the Department and now is editor of *USDA*, which tells of people as well as of scientific developments. Mr. Harding had the vision to go behind the volumes of scientific documents and reports, published and unpublished, to ferret out the truth about the men and women who carried on the research work. The book is an excellent source of humanized information dealing with the Nation's and the world's progress in agricultural research during the 85 years dating from May 15, 1862, when President Lincoln signed the law creating the United States Department of Agriculture. Throughout the text we read also of the great value in dollars and

cents of the work of these scientists to farmers and the country generally. *Two Blades of Grass* is an excellent book for the professional bookshelf of career workers in agriculture and home economics. It is well indexed and affords ready reference to many of those little details one learns about in undergraduate days but which slip one's memory until one is suddenly confronted by a question from an inquisitive 4-H Club boy or a farmer who wants to know.—*M. L. Wilson, Director of Cooperative Extension Work.*

DISEASES OF FIELD CROPS. James G. Dickson. 429 pp. 102 fig. McGraw-Hill, New York, N. Y. 1947.

■ Dr. Dickson's new book, *Diseases of Field Crops*, fills a long-felt need. Because of his many years of research and teaching experience with cereal diseases, particularly diseases of barley, wheat, and corn, he is recognized as an authority and is eminently qualified to write such a book. Some 20 years ago he prepared a mimeographed text for his classes in cereal diseases at the University of Wisconsin. Later, these texts were improved and published under the title, *Outline of Diseases of Cereal and Forage Crops of the Northern Part of the United States*. The present publication represents a complete rewriting and expansion of the *Outline*.

The body of the text is divided into three sections, namely, diseases of (1) cereals and grasses, (2) legumes, and (3) fiber and other field crops. The latter includes cotton and tobacco. Field beans, field peas, potatoes, and sugar beets are not included. The crop plants are arranged alphabetically within these three sections, and under each crop the diseases are grouped according to cause. In general, a standard outline for describing each disease has been followed—geographical distribution, symptoms, cause, conditions influencing the disease, and control. More than usual emphasis has been placed upon description and illustration of the causes

of the various diseases. Control measures have not been emphasized, and detailed descriptions of the various processes of seed treatment are not given in detail.

The book is written more for the teacher and the student in plant pathology and mycology than it is for the county farm agent or farmer. Extension specialists in plant pathology or agronomy will wish to have copies, and county agents will profit by having the book handy for ready reference.

Although there have been certain omissions of recent information concerning some of the diseases, this first edition is quite complete. It is very well illustrated, referenced, and indexed.—*Dr. R. J. Haskell, extension plant pathologist and acting horticulturist, Federal Extension Service.*

WELDING HELPS FOR FARMERS. The James F. Lincoln Arc Welding Foundation, Cleveland 1, Ohio. 448 pp.

■ *Welding Helps for Farmers*, by the James F. Lincoln Arc Welding Foundation, illustrates and describes how hundreds of farmers have repaired and built essential equipment. Many ingenious tools and machines are shown in 310 illustrations and described in 448 pages.

Welding Helps for Farmers is a story of the resourcefulness of farmers working under difficulties. The book is a handy manual for farm owners who seek ways of saving time and labor. Examples of mental alertness and of mechanical skills answer persons who question the resourcefulness of farm people. Stories written by farmers throughout the Nation show their acceptance of new ways of improving working conditions or working methods. Electricity and welders provided farmers with the means of translating ideas into practical working tools.

The book is divided into 16 sections. The first 6 sections give general information about the use of welders on farms and also detailed directions for operating an arc welder. The remainder of the book is devoted to stories told by farmers of tools and equipment they build, along with accounts of how the work was done.—*A. T. Holman, Extension Agricultural Engineer. Federal Extension Service.*

Among Ourselves



■ **AMY KELLY** retired as State home demonstration leader in Missouri, May 1, after half a lifetime of active service in extension work. For it has been 35 years since 1913, when Miss Kelly first entered extension work in Idaho as State leader of home economics. After 10 years' work in Idaho she accepted the same responsibilities at Kansas State College, working there 13 years prior to going to Missouri in 1936.

Commenting on Miss Kelly's retirement, Director J. W. Burch said: "Miss Kelly has made a remarkable contribution to extension teaching in Missouri, for it was she who introduced the family approach. We now approach every problem from the standpoint of the family—there is no special break-down into various departments. Home economics work has grown in our State under Miss Kelly's leadership, but she has boosted every phase of extension as wholeheartedly as her own field. I would call her entire attitude one of complete unselfishness. Her retirement as State leader is a distinct loss."

Coming to Missouri 12 years ago, Miss Kelly served as State leader in a period of rapid expansion in extension work. During this time the number of county home agents in Missouri has increased from 17 to 91.

In complete accord with Director Burch, Miss Kelly has worked for a

unified extension program which would help every farm family achieve a better living. Missouri home agents are chosen and trained to understand and promote the entire extension program.

To achieve this goal, Missouri has developed a broad program known as balanced farming. It is in this program that Miss Kelly has steadfastly held to the family approach. Together, husband and wife make plans for both farm and home, guided by both farm and home agents. Together, they study the farm and its facilities, the conditions in the home, the needs and dreams of the family. Then, with the best help available, they make a long-time plan to improve their farm plant and provide their family a more satisfying living. In Missouri such a plan in action is called balanced farming.

A leave of absence was granted Miss Kelly for the period May 16, 1948, to December 31, 1948. Though she has resigned as State home demonstration leader, she will doubtless serve in some capacity when she returns in January 1949.

■ **WALTER C. KOLB**, of the Indiana State 4-H Club staff, died March 5 on his way to a Boone County leader training meeting. He was well known in 4-H circles by both young and old. He was a familiar figure at the State fair in charge of junior livestock and dairy judging competition and, for the last 3 years, he was also superintendent of junior livestock judging contest at the International Livestock Exposition in Chicago. The recently inaugurated and popular tractor maintenance school and better farming and home methods school were under his direction as well as the annual 4-H club round-up.

■ **D. H. ZENTMIRE**, county agent for 30 years in Iowa County, Iowa, was honored by about 250 of his friends, neighbors, and coworkers at a reception, when he was presented with a fine watch in appreciation of his years of faithful service to the county. The women of the State extension staff,

wanting to express some appreciation on their own account, sent him an orchid. He is not only the oldest agent in Iowa in point of service but he is also the only agent who has worked his full 30 years in just one county.

■ **PROFESSOR and MRS. ALBERT HOEFER** of Ithaca together have served the New York State Extension Service a total of 50 years, a distinction unique in the institution's annals.

This year Mr. Hoefer rounds out 30 years and Mrs. Hoefer 20 years. Both graduated from Cornell University; both were pioneers in their fields—4-H Club and home demonstration work, respectively.

Mrs. Hoefer graduated from that college in 1927 and was sent to Wyoming County, N. Y., as its first home demonstration agent. Organizing the work there was "probably the most exciting part of my career," she said. "They were wonderful women and so anxious for the homemaking help the Extension Service offers."

Subsequently she was agent in St. Lawrence County and was assistant State leader in home economics until 1945 when she resigned to take charge of training undergraduates. This year she is setting up a field training program for prospective extension agents similar to that required for teachers-to-be.

Mr. Hoefer, city bred, learned to love outdoors and farm life as one of Rufus Stanley's "Omega Club" boys in Elmira, N. Y., and it was through Mr. Stanley, whose work with boys helped pave the way for State-wide 4-H work, that Mr. Hoefer entered the Agricultural College at Cornell. He graduated in 1916, and when this country entered World War I in 1917, he became war gardens supervisor in Rensselaer County.

His fine record during the war won him appointment as Rensselaer County's first 4-H agent in 1919. The program flourished and grew, and it was with reluctance that Mr. Hoefer accepted advancement to assistant State 4-H leader in 1931. In 1943 he was appointed State leader.