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AN Editorial

Extension Helps Democracy Work

GROVER B. HILL, Assistant Secretary of Agriculture

■ Extension work among farmers takes on an added importance in this time when we are putting forth every effort to coordinate our national life and make America impregnable. The most important thing you extension folks can do to contribute to our national program of defense is to stay on the job that you are doing and carry on in your same efficient manner. Your job is important. You are helping to make democracy work.

The weight of your responsibility makes it more imperative than ever before that unity prevail in your ranks. All petty jealousies should be avoided. You should pull together and work together as never before.

Let me say right here that cooperation and service have been the watchwords of the Extension Service ever since it was founded a quarter of a century ago. Yours has been the task to go out into the field, to meet the people, and to work with them. You have had the task of taking to the land the improvement and discoveries which have been worked out in the laboratories and on the testing grounds.

Extension Aids Adjustment

It was only logical that in 1933, when the first adjustment program came into being, that the Congress and the Department of Agriculture should look to the Extension Service, an agency which had proved its effectiveness in the past, to assist in putting into quick action an emergency program to help withstand the disaster of overwhelming surpluses and ruinous prices which was then threatening the farmers of America.

Emphasis was first placed on crop adjustment. It was necessary to get our production back into line. We have taken 30,000,000 acres out of soil-depleting crops, and this has eased the surplus problem. By resting our poorer lands and putting our labor on the best land, it was evident that we could get more cash crops from a good acre at less cost, and we have therefore developed a program which places more and more emphasis on soil conservation.

The adjustment program in its effect has been a soil-conservation measure because the production of more than we can use and sell, or need for ever-normal supplies, actually creates physical waste—waste of our

soil—and the soil is not only robbed of its fertility; we lose the soil itself. Our recent history has demonstrated the truth of this. The lands we exploited in the last war to raise huge crops, the prairies we stripped of grass, gave us their answer in devastating duststorms, which took away millions of dollars in topsoil that cannot be replaced in our lifetime.

I think it is a tribute to our American way of doing things that you have cooperated with the other agencies of our Government in the fine way that you have, helping to make the farm program work. Alone, we are limited, but together we can do anything that we set our hearts and minds to do.

The Extension Service has been doing a great work in helping farmers to realize the value of conservation. Among its tasks are other things which at first glance do not appear to bear a very close relationship to conservation. But let us examine them. When you help a man to a better living condition on his farm, when you help him raise better livestock and better poultry, and help him achieve a more convenient and healthy life, are you not creating in that man's heart a love and appreciation of the farm that is taking better care of him? It is not so hard for that man to realize what it means to take better care of his soil.

I have been closely associated with the Extension Service for a good many years and have watched with interest its steady growth. In the past few months I have had particular occasion to observe its operation at first-hand. It has been my privilege to have a part in the development of the Department's mattress-demonstration program.

It has been an inspiration to me to see the way that extension agents have taken hold of the mattress program and have put it across.

4-H Club Work

Another phase of extension activities that has been of great interest to me is 4-H Club work. Here you have a chance not only to build for our agriculture of the future; you have a serious responsibility in helping to build good citizens.

You have been building strong citizens

of democracy in 4-H Clubs. There is something about contact with the soil that builds a great and stable people—something that is lacking in our cities.

You have been helping our agriculture to make great strides forward, and during the past 7 years you have aided in the various new programs that have been developed, until today farming in the United States is at the highest point of efficiency ever known in this or any other nation. The teachings that the Department of Agriculture has made available to the people, through the Extension Service and other agencies, are definitely bearing fruit.

Agriculture Ready for Defense

When the Defense Council calls the roll, agriculture can answer, "Ready!" We have banished the dread of hunger and want, insofar as supply is concerned. Our distribution methods have not kept pace with our production, but we have tackled this problem and are beginning to see results. The oversupply that we have heard complaints about appears today in a new light. In a world of uncertainty it is a blessing that our storehouses are full.

I only wish that other industries were as well prepared nationally as agriculture. If that were the case, no one would dare attack us. Agriculture has done its part well.

The task that lies before us now is to maintain the gains we have made and to keep improving. Let us remember that these gains were not easily made. The betterment of agriculture is a part of our national development just as surely as our first struggles for independence—just as surely as our conquering of the frontiers and the building of our cities; and in the times that lie ahead of us let us go forward, with an abiding faith in the Creator, who has made all these things possible, doing our part to make sure that those who follow us will inherit the liberty we have known.

So let me say again: Stay at your jobs and give the best that is in you. As extension workers, you have built up an enviable record of service. Keep that record living because upon you depends, in no small part, the task to preserve a land where free men are proud and safe to walk.

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EXTENSION SERVICE, U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, WASHINGTON, D. C. • M. L. WILSON, Director • REUBEN BRIGHAM, Assistant Director

Our Homes Have Fostered Democracy . . . What of Tomorrow?

MRS. NELSON HICKMAN, Farm Woman of Franklin County, Ohio

■ Home extension council members from 10 of our southwest Ohio counties felt such great concern about keeping the purpose and meaning of democracy clear, about preserving it through helping young people to understand it, cherish it, and live for it, that they chose as the theme of our annual conference the subject, *Our Homes Have Fostered Democracy. What of Tomorrow?* Two hundred and fifty of us gathered at the Miami Valley Chautauqua grounds for this meeting. We thought that discussion of the privileges of living in a democracy might make these privileges more real and might help to safeguard them for the future. Obtaining and maintaining a high degree of civic welfare has been a goal in our home demonstration program for years, and we felt that something more might be done to foster the democratic spirit in our homes and communities.

Mrs. E. F. Kuester, homemaker of Darke County, gave the keynote address, setting forth the principles of democratic living and raising thought-provoking questions. Following her presentation, the assembly divided into 15 discussion groups with rural women from the various counties acting as leaders and secretaries.

One of the questions which seem to arise early in all groups was "Just what do we mean by the democratic way of life?"

Each woman had her own interpretation, but most of us agreed that freedom of speech, freedom of the press, the right to think and worship as we please, tolerance of other people and their ideas, even those of other races and nations, were fundamental. We also agreed that democracy is much more than a political theory or system. It is a way of life.

In a democracy, we respect the personality of the individual, and there should be an opportunity for each person to develop his best possibilities. The family should serve the best interests of each of its members; the State,

the best interests of each of its citizens. There should be guidance but not dictation, tolerance but not weakness. There should be fostering of cooperation, faith in, and patience with each individual. Discipline should be according to laws based on the understanding of needs and good judgment and not upon the emotions of men and women. One of the women quoted William E. Dodd, former Ambassador to Germany, as saying: "Any form of government which suppresses the freedom and initiative of the individual cannot be anything but dangerous to the human soul in the long run."

The Jeffersonian idea of democracy included discipline, and it should still be included in good home life and government today. We felt that discipline does not necessarily mean dictation. Our homes should not be dictatorships with fathers or mothers saying "Do this," or "Do that or else . . ." A home life in which each member has his place in the family council and in which he learns just what it means to the others if he does not cooperate gives training in democratic procedure. In rural life, husband and wife must stand shoulder to shoulder in partnership, for the success of the farming business depends upon their mutual interest and effort. Our young people should be included in this partnership. We learn the meaning of democracy by practicing it.

We also felt that we did not fully appreciate our religious freedom and privileges, that spiritual things have been neglected, and that a return to definite religious ideals and a more rigorous observance of religious practices would avail much in the development of our youth. We felt, in the words of Thomas Jefferson, that "We can have something unique in America, a great body of citizens trained from childhood to be sovereign in their own rights. They look to no others to conquer their difficulties. They face them squarely

themselves, and such leaders as they will recognize are those whose character compels a following."

If a democracy is based on the rights of the individual, it also involves the responsibility of the individual toward it, and this fact cannot be too strongly emphasized. Individuals must be taught their responsibility toward their government. They must learn to give and not to stand with open hands saying, "Give to me."

We agreed that homes must cooperate with schools, church, and State in an effort to develop in America a people who are capable of governing themselves. We have a bad habit of speaking of the Government as "they" when it should be "we," for, after all, we, the men and women of America, are the Government. As one of the women reminded us, poor officials are elected by "good" citizens who do not vote or do not vote intelligently. We realized the truth of the statement and decided to take more interest in candidates for public office and the issues at stake so that voting could be done more intelligently.

One of the facts we faced in discussion was that democracy is in danger in a warring world. We felt it our duty as mothers to help in guarding this heritage for the next generation. Each woman present asked herself if her home had fostered these ideals. The younger women, especially, seemed to feel their keen responsibility in this respect as mothers and as partners in setting family ideals and standards.

We must work with our young people to set up the sort of home and community programs that will engage their energies and abilities and develop leadership. Good leadership in all walks of life is a crying need today.

To sum up the whole discussion, the women decided that we must read, think, and practice democracy and that democratic family living is one of the greatest national defenses we have. Let us accept the challenge of helping to build and keep the democratic way of life.

The County Learns About School Lunches

CAROL ASHBY, Home Demonstration Agent, Barbour County, W. Va.

■ In October 1939 a small group of farm women, mothers of school children in Barbour County, W. Va., met to scan important phases of their home and community living. Looking over the school-lunch situation, they were amazed at the lack of really adequate meals for their boys and girls. They appointed a committee to obtain the aid of interested educational and civic departments and to work with them. In November a general meeting was held. Representatives from the Farm Women's Bureau, Farm Security, and vocational home economics teachers' group, teachers, principals, the W. P. A. nutrition worker, and agricultural extension workers came, greeting the proposed plan for making a drive for better school lunches with enthusiasm. Miriam Birdseye, Federal extension nutrition specialist, and Mrs. Inez Prudent, State extension nutrition specialist, met with the group. The committee organized, appointing me, the home demonstration agent, as chairman, and the assistant farm security home economist as secretary and publicity director.

The initial step taken by the committee was to make a comprehensive survey of the school-lunch situation in the county. The assistant county superintendent of schools asked that every teacher have each child fill out a check sheet to be returned to the committee, which would summarize the figures.

Out of the 4,766 school children enrolled, 3,312 reported. It was significant that 3,466 boys and girls did not go home for lunch. More than three-fourths of them! Eighty-five percent received raw fruit or vegetables for some meal during the day, all or part of the time; 52 percent reported that they took at least 20 minutes to eat their lunches, and 15.5 percent—almost one-sixth of the children bringing in reports—ate no breakfast. Not half the boys and girls received milk for lunch; and meat and bread were more frequently used for breakfast than brown cereals, eggs, tomatoes, or fruit juices.

At the time of the survey, about 600 children were being served hot lunches by the W. P. A. nutrition program in six centers. This included 375 of the children reported in the survey. Sixty-four teachers reported that they were interested in school-lunch programs; 48 needed foods, and 55 needed equipment.

Using the facts obtained from the survey, the county nutrition committee set to work to relieve the situation. The entire program was much publicized through local weekly papers. With encouragement, teachers began to establish centers in their one- and two-room schools. The committee made them conscious that W. P. A. commodities were available for their schools if they would make arrangements to get them and to use them

properly. Suggestions about equipment needed were made to these teachers. Miss Forrest Stewart, one of the vocational home economics teachers on the committee, had her classes make up menus based upon actual foods and commodities available in various communities and sent them to teachers with suggestions for preparing the foods. She solicited the help of the typing department of her school, where they were made up; and, furthermore, she obtained commercial booklets on good lunches for each school family.

A public service company lent five electric grills, which were placed in feeding centers. Five farm women's clubs, working in close harmony with the parent-teacher associations of their communities, purchased grills for their schools. Seven clubs donated equipment. In five of these clubs the members actually gave time to the cooking of foods.

Presentations of school-lunch programs were made in eight different community P. T. A. meetings. Thirty 4-H Clubs conducted a program on each of these subjects: A Good School Lunch and Food for Health. One hundred and fifty-seven 4-H Club members scored themselves for 1 week on their own lunches, and 561 additional school children scored themselves for 1 day. One hundred farm women, mothers of school children, studied a series of three lessons on school lunches and scored demonstration lunches typical of those usually packed in their homes.

School-lunch week was conducted February 4 to 10, 1940. The nutrition committee selected subcommittees including almost every interested person in the county.

The newspaper committee, headed by Mrs. Clarence Herriss, Farm Security home supervisor, obtained the aid of the two weeklies in publishing, for a nominal sum, a school-lunch bulletin. Three pictures made at the expense of the local hospital authorities were included in the bulletin. The pictures were typical scenes in feeding centers, arranged by the teachers, cooks, and W. P. A. nutrition supervisor. The articles written were typed by the Philippi High School classes, censored and proofread by the committee. One of the weeklies gave a full-page spread at the same time to lunch news, including the pictures.

The store-window display committee, headed by Mrs. Marie Kittle, vocational home economics teacher, and Mrs. Genevieve Boyles, farm women's club member, arranged with merchants of Philippi, Belington, and Junior to make displays of lunch foods and equipment for the week. A total of 24 displays were made. Children of the three schools made posters in their art classes, supervised by their art teachers. The Farm Women's

Bureau obtained a State exhibit of the "Perky and Pokey Families," showing a family with and a family without adequate food supply for the year and its relationship to their health. The committee furnished posters to 30 rural merchants to place in their stores. It is roughly estimated that 8,000 persons saw the displays.

The contest committee, headed by Mrs. D. R. Stemple, County Farm Women's Bureau health chairman, set up four contests and obtained sponsors for them. The school essay contests on Why I Like Milk for Lunch were sponsored by the general nutrition committee and the two Kiwanis Clubs in the county. A word contest, open to all, and a menu contest, open to all mothers who pack lunches, were sponsored by a dairy pasteurization company. In each case, generous prizes were given to winners. A total of 62 entries were made in the contests. The judges selected were women trained in home economics.

Mrs. Inez Prudent, extension nutrition specialist, spoke in high-school assemblies to 700 students, presenting a lecture demonstration on Filling the Day's Food Needs. Results of her presentation were indicated by increased sales of milk to students, new supplies of metal lunch boxes appearing in stores, and better lunches carried from home as reported by mothers.

By the end of February, 12 W. P. A. feeding centers had been established as regular programs, providing 780 students with hot foods, furnished partly by the Surplus Commodities Corporation and partly by the students themselves. In these centers, paid W. P. A. cooks were used. Twenty-two other schools set up small cooking-feeding units to take care of 500 more students. Foods were provided from the same source, but the work was done by the students at the direction of the teachers. For part of the winter, 2,280 boys and girls received hot lunches, including the 1,200 who daily went home.

A definite check-up by the committee, with the assistance of the Board of Education and the W.P.A. supervisor, revealed that 25 schools had improved attendance, and 32 schools reported 803 students had gained an average of 3 pounds over and above normal growth.

■ Over 2,800 frozen-food locker plants are now operating in 44 States according to reports received by the Federal Extension Service. In this third annual count of locker plants made by State extension workers, some plants may have been overlooked, but a representative picture of the current situation is believed to be given.

Working on the Defense Commission

HARRIET ELLIOTT, Consumer Adviser on the Advisory Commission to the Council of National Defense

Of the seven advisory commissioners to the Council of National Defense, the work of the consumer adviser, Miss Elliott, and the agricultural adviser, Chester Davis, are most closely related to the work of the extension agent. This brief statement of the field in which the consumer adviser operates and how the commission is doing its work was condensed from Miss Elliott's remarks at a recent conference in Washington.



Miss Harriet Elliott.

■ When the President called me by phone on a Tuesday afternoon last May to tell me that I had been named Consumer Adviser in a National Council of Defense, the world crisis was brought very intimately into my personal life. The fact that a Defense Council had been created intensified my realization that our country was being affected by events beyond our national political boundaries. I was deeply moved by the fact that the moment had come when we, the people, must take more seriously our responsibility for the welfare of our country and our way of life in the United States of America.

We who were called on to assume the Defense Commission responsibilities have since that time, been studying our immediate responsibilities in preparing a program for securing strategic and essential materials, building ships, tanks, and planes, and training workers for defense activities. We are taking stock of our national resources for total defense, our human and social resources as well as our material resources.

The Commissioners meet regularly twice a week to formulate an integrated defense policy, and once each week we meet with the President to make a progress report to him and to discuss procedure and plans with him. At our regular Commission meetings the work of the seven divisions is discussed at length. Each Commissioner reports on his work and problems to the Commission as a whole. We discuss policies, analyze questions of mutual interest, and we come to some agreement.

Conferences among two or more Commissioners on matters of common concern are frequent. Commissioners have pooled parts of their respective staffs to work on common problems. May I use one illustration which I think will help you to understand the way we are trying to work together as a unit, integrating our different areas of responsibilities, so that we may do the best work possible on the defense program as a whole. We are thinking of the Nation as a total picture; we are not thinking of it in individual compartments.

Take, for example, the housing question.

You certainly would realize that in the consumers' division, we would be definitely concerned with the problem of housing. But when you take the housing problem in an emergency defense program, and think about it in terms of the whole picture, then you realize that Mr. Knudsen would be concerned with housing from the standpoint of construction; Mr. Stettinius' division would be concerned with it from the standpoint of materials; Mr. Henderson in price analysis. Mr. Budd has a concern in the problem of transportation, and the question of getting workers and materials to centers where houses may be built, or perhaps how to transport workers to certain localities and eliminate the necessity of building houses.

Mr. Hillman has an interest and a concern in housing, naturally, from the standpoint of the supply of labor to build the houses, and the places where the laborers may live. Then from the consumer point of view we are concerned with the standards of living, the kinds of houses, and the question of rents.

The question came up as to whether the question of housing should be assigned to any one of the individual Commissioners, or whether we should look upon it as a whole. We discussed that for quite some time, analyzed suggestions that had been made, and then, out of our deliberations and considerations, we came to the conclusion that we should have a housing coordinator responsible to the whole Commission. Mr. C. F. Palmer, from Atlanta, has been appointed as the coordinator of housing. Each of us will work with him in the aspects that fall into our particular field.

The responsibility of the Consumer Adviser's office extends in two directions: On the one hand, to the protection of American consumers against the hardships and maladjustments to which they might be subjected in the course of armament construction if attention were not continuously directed to civilian as well as military needs; on the other hand, to a positive responsibility for strengthening the human defenses of the country through achieving and maintaining standards of health, nutrition, physical fitness, and social

well-being necessary for adequate defense. In assuming this responsibility, we are thinking of consumers in the broad meaning of the word, and are viewing our task in terms of the realities of the American situation today.

In my office, we are, therefore, concerned with the following aspects of the national defense program. These are the areas in which we are working, but we are trying to integrate our work with the whole program. We are concerned with the flow of goods to consumers through the regular channels of trade; we must watch and consider the prices consumers pay for their food, clothing, and living requirements; the quality of the things they get for these prices; and the income from wages and salaries with which to buy these goods.

Then we are concerned with the nutrition, health, and welfare of consumers. We must remember that national defense is more than planes and guns; it is "total defense." As I have said before, hungry people, undernourished people, ill people, are a national liability. This is doubly true in an emergency. By making health and welfare a defense concern, the President has emphasized the fact that human welfare is as important to the national defense as the manufacture of arms and the mobilization of material resources. At a recent meeting, the Defense Commission expressed its unanimous conviction that health and welfare are an integral part of the national defense program. Someone has said that in the United States we can have guns and butter too. You might say that one of the functions of the Consumer Adviser's office falls under the word "butter." It falls clearly, too, in the field of health, of housing, of recreation, of child welfare, of the maintenance of those services which contribute to the vigor, not only of our men, but of the women and children upon whom heavy burdens and responsibilities rest.

Florida Cooperatives Organize Council

D. E. TIMMONS, Extension Economist in Marketing, Florida

■ The Florida Council of Farmer Cooperatives, although organized only about 1 year ago, today has in its membership cooperatives which represent more than 75 percent of the business done cooperatively in Florida. Most of the larger associations and a large proportion of the smaller ones are members. Its membership and application for membership include every type of agricultural cooperative operating in Florida—citrus, vegetables, livestock, dairy, poultry, flowers, tung oil, purchasing groups such as fertilizer, spray, and crate materials, and service organizations.

On first thought, one would say that the Florida Council has grown too fast, so let us examine some of the procedure and the precautions taken before actually organizing. About 3 or 4 years ago some of the cooperative leaders in the State were asked what they thought of the idea of organizing a group of cooperatives who would come together from time to time and discuss collectively some of their problems. These leaders were asked to talk with others to see what they thought of the idea. After considerable discussion, a petition from the industry signed by a number of the cooperative representatives was sent to the State extension service requesting that it take as one of its primary projects the further discussion with other representatives of the question of a cooperative council, what might be the purpose of an organization of this kind, what the industry thought were the main topics a council of this kind might discuss, and what projects they might undertake in their program.

Practically every individual approached contributed ideas as to what could be done by a collective educational organization of cooperatives. These ideas were brought together in a general summary. The group then requested that the Extension Service call a meeting of all cooperatives for the purpose of discussing these proposals and determining whether or not they wished to go further in the organizing of a State council.

Cooperative leaders and the Extension Service thought that it might be a good idea to hold this first meeting at the same place as and immediately following the annual meeting of the Bank for Cooperatives, which was held in Orlando, Fla., November 10, 1939. A letter to the bank officials requesting permission to hold this meeting in conjunction with their meeting met with a favorable reply.

The National Council of Farmer Cooperatives was asked to supply information on what other councils were doing and to present their suggestions concerning the program for a State council in Florida. The Farm Credit Administration in Washington helped to develop the program for this first meeting called by the Extension Service.

Fortunately for the Florida group, Judge John D. Miller, president of the National Council, was in the State and consented to speak. Ezra T. Benson, secretary of the National Council, and W. T. Nettles, extension district agent, both addressed the group on the benefits derived from cooperation.

It was surprising to note at this meeting that there were cooperatives in citrus the directors of which did not know there existed a cooperative dairy-marketing organization, and practically no one knew that there was a flower cooperative. They immediately saw that if nothing more than becoming acquainted with one another could be accomplished by a State council, the council was well worth while.

A temporary chairman was selected from the group, and cooperative representatives were encouraged to take the active leadership from the beginning. After discussions at the first meeting, an organization committee was appointed to draw up a constitution and bylaws for the council and to do all else necessary to get the organization started. An attorney who has been quite active in cooperative marketing was appointed on the committee and contributed much to the development of a constitution and bylaws for the association. A committee from the organization group acted as applicants for the charter and as directors of the council until a formal organization meeting could be held. Representatives of the Extension Service and of the Bank for Cooperatives met with these organizing groups in an advisory capacity three times before completing the proposed charter and bylaws.

Charter and Bylaws Submitted

The first draft of the charter and bylaws was submitted back to the industry for comments before finally being presented to the authority with an application for charter. All members and prospective members were furnished a copy of the final constitution and bylaws adopted.

Between the time of receiving the charter and the organization and membership meeting, prospective members were encouraged to send in formal application for membership in the council. During the course of these contacts, prospective members were told that the Florida Council of Farmer Cooperatives is primarily an educational institution and organized under that type of law. It is not permitted to do any marketing whatsoever. It is linked very closely with the Agricultural Extension Service, and the extension marketing specialist is acting secretary for the council. The membership fee

for the first year is \$10 for an association, and in no year can the annual dues exceed \$25 per organization. If the council wishes to undertake a project which will cost more than can be provided by the \$25 maximum membership fee, additional levies can be made on members with their unanimous consent, but only by unanimous consent. Directors are elected for 3-year terms, one-third being elected each year; and no director who has served a full 3-year term can immediately succeed himself.

The Florida Council held its organization and first membership meeting in the city hall, Lakeland, Fla., June 7, 1940. Agricultural organizations represented included the Agricultural Extension Service, Farm Credit Administration, Florida Citrus Producers' Trade Association, Florida Citrus Growers, Inc., Farm Security Administration, Agricultural Marketing Service, Florida State Marketing Bureau, Florida State Agricultural Marketing Board, Florida Citrus Commission, Agricultural Experiment Station, Agricultural Adjustment Administration, Florida Citrus Control Committee, United Growers and Shippers, and 27 cooperatives constituting the Florida Council of Farmer Cooperatives.

C. H. Walker, president of the Florida Citrus Exchange and one of the original incorporators of the Florida Council, gave a brief résumé of the history of the Florida Council of Farmer Cooperatives, outlining some of the work of the National Council and telling how the Florida Council hopes to cooperate with the national in its cooperative-marketing educational program.

A. P. Spencer, vice director, outlined the work of the Extension Service, the problems confronting any cooperative work, and what, in his opinion, could be done by the Florida Council of Farmer Cooperatives.

Gov. A. G. Black of the Farm Credit Administration was the principal speaker and discussed The Banks for Cooperatives in the Field of Agricultural Cooperation.

The Florida Council is an associate member of the National Council of Farmer Cooperatives. They had two representatives attending the annual meeting of the National Council in March 1940, and three representatives at the semiannual meeting held in East Lansing, Mich., July 9, 1940.

The Florida Council is at this time working on another program which will probably be held in cooperation with the Farm Credit Administration some time in the latter part of October or early November. A number of speakers who attended and took part in the program of the National Institute of Cooperation have agreed to take part in this next program of the council.

Nutrition Institutes Study Mississippi Problems

■ What stands in the way of better foods for rural families in Mississippi? What is it that keeps the tenant from planting a garden? Is it because the landlord discourages the idea; because the tenant wants to be free to move after Christmas; because there is no seed available; or what is it? Why doesn't the tenant own a cow? Is it because he has no barn or no fences to keep the cow in bounds or no place to keep the milk fresh while all the family work in the fields? These are some of the practical questions that county workers discussed at the five nutrition institutes held last spring in five different type-of-farming areas in the State.

The institutes were held at Tupelo, Meridian, Hattiesburg, Jackson, and Greenwood. Each was located to reach a group working in an area that represented one or two definite types of farming, each with its own distinctive situation in regard to tenancy, farm income, home food production, health, and living standards. Those working in the rich delta region were not asked to consider the very different problems of the cut-over highlands. About 75 county health nurses, home demonstration agents, Farm Security home-management supervisors, Jeanes teachers, representatives of the public-welfare department, W. P. A. lunchrooms, and the T. V. A., attended each of the institutes, which were held in the local health centers. Colored nurses, home demonstration agents, and teachers were invited, and their presence in full force added much to the value of the discussions.

The best part of the program was the open discussion which followed each of the principal talks. Both white and Negro county agents participated. During the noon hour, members of each organization represented met and chose one person to present the problems and plans of that organization in carrying forward the program.

The 1-day meeting started with a presentation, by Dr. Dorothy Dickins of the Mississippi Experiment Station, of the economic facts applicable to soil type in that particular area. Dr. Dickins refreshed the minds of those attending with the main facts regarding land ownership, soil types, cash income, market organization, home food production, and storage as they apply to the nutrition of people living in the area. She pointed out that the precedence given to cash crops had retarded adequate production of food for the families growing these crops, and that attitudes of mind slowed up adjustments even after food requirements were known.

How to build a well-balanced diet with the foods at hand was next presented by Miss Marjorie Heseltine of the United States Chil-

dren's Bureau. Using such foods as sweet-potatoes, turnip greens, cabbage or tomatoes, pork chops, molasses, corn bread and whole-wheat muffins, eggs and milk, she illustrated how a good diet strong in protective foods could be developed.

How to get these foods into the everyday diet of farm families was then discussed under the leadership of Miss Miriam Birdseye, Federal extension nutritionist. The problem proved far from simple. This work through the years had familiarized many with nutritional requirements. Many landlords were reported as eager to have their tenants grow gardens, keep chickens and a cow, but tenants were unwilling to do so. There seemed to be many reasons for this. In fact it appeared that a better food supply and better food habits might require the readjustment of attitudes toward life in general, housing standards, family relationships, working hours, habits, and many other things. Each of the organizations represented outlined the work it was doing toward better nutrition for farm families and the problems they were meeting. It was felt that if a few simple things could be chosen as most essential at present or for the coming year, all efforts might be focused more effectively on these few things: the children would hear about it at school and in 4-H Clubs, the mother in her home demonstration or P. T. A. meeting. The health nurse would carry the message; the lunchroom manager would carry out the same idea in her work, and thus more progress might be made.

In the field of coordination of all agencies toward definite goals, the district home demonstration agent discussed at each institute the functioning of State and county coordinating councils which have been doing excellent work in Mississippi for several years by bringing together all professional workers interested in better living. The groundwork laid by these councils and the habit of cooperation developed between the Public Health Service and the Extension Service in the State were the reasons for the success of the institutes.

The institutes were planned at a meeting called by the Mississippi Public Health Service last November. Representatives of all the agencies in the State concerned with child

and adult nutrition were invited, and the time was chosen to precede the public welfare workers' conference and follow the State convention of nurses so that more workers could attend. Each agency agreed to notify its own workers and urge participation in the institutes.

Local county workers were faced with the serious problem of adequate food for home owners as well as for a large and shifting tenant population, many of whom do not plan to lay in food for the winter, as they expect to move after Christmas. These workers felt that they had gained a great deal by thinking through their problem and planning a concerted approach to it.

Have You Read?

Rural Community Organization, by Dwight Sanderson and Robert A. Polson, 448 pp. New York, N. Y. John Wiley & Sons, Inc. 1939.

"Every community in which there is any ambition strives to improve its condition. * * * It is possible for a community * * * to determine how it may adapt its life to changing conditions * * * A national, realistic approach to the social problems which affect its people in common is the essential idea of community organization, whatever its methods or mechanisms may be." This excerpt from the preface illustrates the broad philosophy underlying the authors' interesting treatment of a field in which the extension worker is functioning every day.

The rural community takes on added "personality" as the book guides one in how to observe its "growth" and "character." A better understanding of neighborhoods and communities has become increasingly important to the extension worker as he assists with land-use planning.

The chapters on Community Leadership and Techniques for Making Organizations Effective have been read by most of the extension workers taking extension courses at the 1940 summer sessions held in several States. Comments as to the usefulness of these chapters to workers "on the job" have been highly favorable.

Robert A. Polson, the junior author, has grown up in the Extension Service. Formerly a 4-H member in the State of Washington, he is now extension rural sociologist in New York. His intimate knowledge of the problems of the extension worker is reflected throughout the book.—*Barnard Joy, United States Department of Agriculture.*



Use of Surplus Commodities Strengthens Health Defense

The Nation's health defenses are being strengthened at the same time that wider-domestic markets are being found for agricultural surpluses produced by the country's farmers. Through the food-stamp plan and other Department of Agriculture measures, millions of men, women, and children in low-income families are now able to get more adequate diets. Farmers now have outlets for surpluses which formerly glutted their markets or else were wasted.

Although the war in Europe has complicated the problem of agricultural surpluses in this country, the job ahead is to make up for the loss of foreign markets by putting these surpluses to use at home. The machinery for doing this is already available and functioning.

If the country cannot sell its surpluses abroad, it obviously makes sense to use them domestically. More than half of the farm problem stems from underconsumption among people who need more food but who do not have the necessary buying power. The seriousness of this underconsumption is indicated by the fact that two-thirds of this country's people—80 million persons—have been living on an average of only \$69 a month for a whole family. If every family making less than \$100 a month could bring its income up to \$100 a

month, the national expenditure for food alone would be increased by 2 billion dollars a year.

While the Nation is moving forward toward fuller employment and increased buying power, measures such as the stamp plan, the school lunch, and the low-cost milk-distribution programs serve to bridge the gap between agricultural surpluses and the need for more food among the millions of families primarily dependent on public aid. Enabling low-income families to get a more adequate diet helps to conserve the Nation's human resources and to build the Nation's health and economic defenses.

The food-stamp plan, started as an experiment a little over a year ago in Rochester, N. Y., is proving an effective means for moving surpluses off the farms into the hands of hungry people through the use of regular channels of trade. This method for increasing the distribution and consumption of agricultural surpluses raises the food-buying power of participating low-income families from 5 cents to 7½ cents a meal per person. This is done through the issuance of 50 cents worth of free blue stamps for each \$1 worth of orange-colored stamps bought. The orange-colored stamps, good for any food in local stores, serve to maintain the family's regu-

lar expenditure for foodstuffs. The blue stamps are good in local stores only in exchange for officially designated surplus commodities, thus increasing the total amount of food consumed. These blue-stamp foods have represented surpluses of fruits, vegetables, pork, cereals, dairy, and poultry products—health-giving foods sorely needed in the vitamin-poor diets of undernourished millions.

Today the food-stamp plan, giving needy families a chance to eat the surplus, is extended to 150 areas throughout the United States. It is bringing new health to 2 million persons, a figure that the Department of Agriculture's Surplus Marketing Administration expects will be doubled during the current fiscal year. These low-income families are obtaining surplus foodstuffs at the rate of approximately 3 million dollars a month. This new food-purchasing power acts as a siphon pumping nourishing food from the farms up through normal channels of retail trade to the tables of families who need it badly—a mighty buttress to the health defenses of the Nation.

In addition to the supplies of food now reaching low-income families through the food-stamp plan, the Surplus Marketing Administration purchased, direct from farmers and farm groups, over 3 billion pounds of commodities during the 1939-40 fiscal year. Under this direct-purchase method, the Surplus Marketing Administration distributed carloads of agricultural products to welfare agencies throughout the country for allotment locally to public-assistance families totaling 3 million monthly, and representing 11 million persons.

Out of this direct-distribution method has grown the school-lunch program—a measure for putting surpluses to work in fighting malnutrition among millions of school children. The idea of serving free school lunches to undernourished children was developed largely by the Nation's womenfolk, representing parent-teacher groups, women's clubs, church organizations, and others. Nearly 100,000,000 pounds of vitamin-rich surplus commodities were served to some 3 million boys and girls in 43,000 schools of the country during the 1939-40 school year. Nine million children are eligible to participate in the program, and the Surplus Marketing Administration hopes to reach 6 million during the coming year.

Groups sponsoring school lunches purchase tremendous quantities of nonsurplus foods to supplement luncheon menus, thereby increasing the outlet for farm products as well as national farm income. Primarily a means of improving the health resources of the Nation's future manpower, the school-lunch program is also accomplishing a great deal in utilizing surpluses of food.

Low-income families now are not only eating surplus farm produce, they are drinking their way to better health by consuming surplus milk. Under low-cost milk programs of the Surplus Marketing Administration, now operating in Boston, Chicago, New Or-

Fresh fruit and vegetables at the grocery store for millions of low-income families obtained with free blue surplus stamps put protective foods where they are most needed to reinforce the health of the Nation.



leans, and Washington, needy families receive milk at about 5 cents a quart. A cooperative undertaking between dairy farmers, milk dealers, local and State welfare agencies, municipal authorities, and the Department of Agriculture, low-cost milk programs answer two direct needs by offering dairy farmers wider markets for their surplus, and by making milk available to millions of undernourished families at a price within their reach.

Contour Farming

A. R. HAGAN, Farm Management Specialist, Missouri

■ Contour farming, with and without terracing, was slow to get under way in Grundy County, Mo., when I was agent there. The most capable farm leaders, with whom we ordinarily got new practices started, seemed most hesitant to adopt "crooked row" farming. Their reputations as good farmers in the community were based partially on their ability to plant straight rows of corn regardless of the handicap of hilly land.

Harold Witten, a prominent young livestock farmer near Trenton, was typical of this group and one of the most loyal supporters of extension work in the county. When I first went to the county in the spring of 1937, I talked with him about contouring or terracing a field for a demonstration. He said he had studied the practices when he attended the college of agriculture several years before, and realized they were very important on most upland farms. He added, however, that he did not think them necessary on his farm because he followed a good rotation system (leaving his upland fields in corn only 1 year at a time), fertilized all his small grain, limed and grew legumes, fed much livestock, and returned the manure to the soil. He suggested that I start the demonstration on a farm where contouring was really needed. We failed to get a demonstration in his community that year but did get a few—that were quite successful—started in other parts of the county.

The following year Mr. Witten attended several meetings and demonstrations where conservation practices were discussed and observed more closely the results of some heavy rains on his own farm. One day early in the fall, he remarked that he believed he had been "fooling himself" about not needing any contouring and terracing and that he had been losing soil from erosion in spite of his care in crop and soil management.

Later in the fall, when a whirlwind terracer was brought to the county to do custom terracing, Mr. Witten was one of the first to put in his order for work. He had more than a mile of terraces constructed on one field in October. A neighbor also was convinced of their importance and had 1¼ miles constructed a short time later.

Developed primarily to assist farmers in improving marketing conditions for their products, these Department of Agriculture programs for encouraging increased consumption of agricultural surpluses are helping millions of needy persons in this country to better living. In addition to strengthening the Nation's economic resources, these programs are conserving and building its human resources.

During the spring of 1939, the county soil improvement association, of which Mr. Witten was vice president, started a contouring program which involved setting up demonstrations on a community basis. Mr. Witten offered to contour a field of corn for the demonstration in his community.

When the field was staked for planting, the lines were quite crooked, as the slopes were rather steep and irregular. He said he did not think it possible to plant and cultivate such crooked rows, but since we had them staked out he would try. He used a planter with furrow-openers and got the field planted in excellent crooked rows, with much less difficulty than he anticipated, but jokingly remarked that it was fortunate the field was off the main road because those rows surely looked crooked to anyone driving by the field.

A few days later, Mr. Witten came by the office to get help in contouring two other fields of corn. His experience in planting the first field showed that it could be done without too much difficulty, and he concluded he might as well have the protection on his entire 77 acres of upland corn. One field that had not been worked was also plowed on the contour.

About the middle of June, a torrential rain caused severe erosion throughout the county. When I visited one of Mr. Witten's fields a few days later, practically no erosion was evident. In nearby fields planted "up and down" the slopes, ditches had cut their way between the rows and tons of topsoil had been lost. The contoured field was still too wet to cultivate, in contrast to neighboring fields which had been dry enough to work for several days, indicating that much valuable water had been held on Mr. Witten's fields for the dry weather later in the summer.

Mr. Witten was no longer ashamed of the crooked corn rows. During a county-wide field day tour early in August, 150 farmers and businessmen visited his farm to look over the terraced and contoured fields. In telling the group of his experiences, Mr. Witten stated that he considered contour planting an essential practice in farming upland fields.

During September and October, Mr. Witten attended an 8-day training school, together with 36 other farm leaders from all parts of

the county, to learn more about the details of contouring, terracing, and other conservation practices. Small hand sighting levels were awarded to all leaders for perfect attendance, and the county association announced that a \$20 farm level would be awarded to the one who got the highest acreage of crops contoured on his own and neighboring farms during the remainder of the year. Mr. Witten won the level, but stated that he planned to leave it at the county office where it would be available for use by other leaders when they needed it for contouring and terracing work.

When the county association was reorganized during the winter, Mr. Witten was elected president for 1940. Although he owns and operates a large farm on which his full time could be spent to advantage, he is continuing to give his time to furthering conservation work in his community and in the county.

A Gully-Control Contest

A gully-control contest sponsored by the Shawnee, Okla., Chamber of Commerce, with \$165 in cash premiums, was a new feature in the soil conservation work in Pottawatomie County last year. Credit for the original idea that developed into this contest belongs to John S. Malone, secretary-manager of the chamber of commerce, says County Agent James Lawrence, who carried out the program. Sam B. Durham, pasture specialist, assisted in outlining the score card and in the judging. A member of the county agricultural committee made sketches of the demonstrations in the contest soon after the entries were made and before work started so that comparisons of "before and after" could be made along with the score-card ratings.

The score card used in the contest totaled 1,000 points, distributed as follows: Diversion ditch or terrace, 200 points; contour furrows, 100; baffles (wire, brush, anything, 200); planting grass, trees, shrubs, vines, 300; and economical use of labor and material, 200 points.

Mr. G. E. Yarbrough, who won first prize in the contest, based his demonstration on 20 acres of gully land that he had recently purchased. The demonstration included a diversion terrace just above the gullies, with a system of terraces laid out covering the field. Dirt fills were made on terrace lines across all the gullies, and the fills were sodded with Bermuda grass, the plan being to control the gullies first, then later on to complete the conservation work by building the terraces. Mr. Yarbrough hopes the entire field will be sodded with Bermuda as soon as the conservation work can be completed.

■ Marinette County, Wis., established something of a record when it completed a planting of 2,600,000 trees last spring, bringing the grand total to 11,000,000 trees planted since forestry work was started, says County Agent Charles Drewry.

From Research to Everyday Practice

MARGARET WYLIE, Extension Specialist in Family Life, New York

■ For the solution of basic problems, surveys and research studies are as necessary in the field of family life as in other subjects. Extension specialists have felt it as one of their responsibilities to share with the people in the field, the research work done at the college. Control and use of human resources, like control of the physical environment, ultimately depends on adequate knowledge of personal and social forces in human behavior.

Since the department of child development and family life was established in 1925 at the New York State College of Home Economics, research in family life has been under way. The emotional life of the child and the development of personality growth were the first aspects studied. From 1927 to the present, Mrs. Ethel B. Waring has been in charge of research. The studies carried on by the students in the department have been organized, in part at least, around the home, since the department as a part of a college of home economics has its major responsibility there. The findings are therefore serviceable to the home, and the methods so far as possible are feasible for home use. The research during this period can be grouped under three fields of investigation: Studies in techniques of observing, recording, and analyzing behavior, personality development studies, and studies of special problems.

In the extension service groups genuine interest has been shown in the studies which have aided mothers in the guidance of their children in cooperative and responsible behavior. For many years the nursery school staff has been studying child guidance and has been especially interested in how a child takes over for himself the goal of the adult. From observation records of the eating behavior of nursery school children, and from a 3-year study of the moving-picture films of young children at the noon meal in the nursery school of the New York State College of Home Economics at Cornell University, the students of guidance have tried to discover what adults do to induce a child to take over as his own, the goal the adult has for him. Out of these studies have come nine tentative principles of guidance which have been checked at the nursery school and in many homes of the State for their value. Many mothers have reported the contributions of these principles to progress in their home guidance.

To show how the women in the field use the results of research let us consider the activities of one of the extension study groups. A typical one is the East Homer child study club in



Rural mothers come to Cornell for the May family-life conference and learn by observing the nursery school children in the play-yard.

Cortland County. This club has 21 members with 45 children ranging in age from infancy to over 14. They came together to study home problems. The home demonstration agent in the county, Beatrice Fehr, helped them to organize and to find the materials needed to solve their problems. Mrs. Edward Gates has served as their chairman and Mrs. George Pachta as their secretary this year. Their first meeting considered the questions of home management and child guidance. In child behavior they were concerned with how to direct the physical growth and foster the mental, social, emotional, and spiritual development of their children.

It was encouraging to each member to find that other mothers had the same problems as they had and that the State college had materials to help them that were "common sense," and founded on the facts of everyday living experience with the everyday variety of normal children. The women were especially impressed with the guidance principle which emphasizes the adults' part in setting the stage for success. The principle is stated as, "prepare for success and confidently direct the child toward such achievement." This led the mothers, with the fathers' help, to make play materials, arrange play spaces, and plan for the supervision of play activities so that the children could make social contacts successfully and engage in the wholesome activities that have been found valuable in contributing to social, mental, and physical growth.

The group had monthly meetings to discuss progress and to share experiences and sugges-

tions. They came over to the college and spent a day at the Cornell nursery school observing the guidance principles at work in the school situation and went home encouraged with their own progress to date and with a spur toward further action and achievement.

Research studies from other colleges were also brought to the attention of the group through listing of bulletins and through news letters to the group chairman to be shared with the group. For example, one study has shown that the happiness of older people in the home depends on their being of use and having things to do that call out their creative ability and add to their importance. It emphasized the value of interests and hobbies for older family members. This has resulted in members of groups providing opportunities for the older members to carry on activities of interest to them and of use to the family.

The college specialist helps not only in the above ways but by talks, interviews, and home visits in which she uses the findings of research studies in the help that she gives.

The home demonstration agent is the most important aid in helping farm families to make use of research findings, for she has contacts that are intimate and well established. In her demonstrations, talks, radio programs, news letters, and dramatic work, she can bring to families facts that will help them to solve many current problems and can give them understanding of the significance of human behavior, thus helping them to bring about happier homes and more satisfying community life.

Claude R. Wickard Takes the Helm

THE FARMER FROM INDIANA BECOMES SECRETARY

■ A few years ago, the National Broadcasting Co. quizzed Farm and Home Hour listeners after a series of broadcasts, asking them which speaker in the series they most enjoyed. First choice was—and this is how a majority of listeners identified him—"that farmer from Indiana who talked about the Farm Program."

"That farmer from Indiana" was Claude R. Wickard, successor to Henry A. Wallace as Secretary of Agriculture of the United States. Nominated on August 19 by President Roosevelt to succeed Secretary Wallace and confirmed by the Senate without a dissenting vote, he was sworn into office on September 5.

The new Secretary is no stranger to the Extension Service. First as an Extension cooperator in his home State of Indiana and later as an officer of the Department, he has become known to thousands of county agents and other Extension workers.

Secretary Wickard was and is an Indiana farmer. Home—the place where he rides the corn planter and feeds yellow corn to Angus cattle and Hampshire hogs—is the farm in Carroll County, Ind., where he was born 47 years ago. It includes 380 acres, the nucleus of which has been in the Wickard family since the 1840's.

Since the early 1920's Secretary Wickard has been recognized as one of Indiana's outstanding farmers, winning frequent awards for his use of soil-building practices to increase the fertility and the production of his farm. In 1927, he received the "Master Farmer" award for Indiana of the *Prairie Farmer* magazine.

He was serving in the Indiana State Senate when in 1933 he was named as a member of the first National Corn-Hog Committee which drafted the corn-hog program, enacted into law in the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1933.

In the fall of that year he became assistant director of the AAA corn-hog section. In February 1935, when Director A. G. Black resigned, Mr. Wickard succeeded him. When the AAA changed from a commodity to a regional basis in 1936, he was named assistant director of the North Central Division. He became Director of the Division in November 1936, upon the resignation of G. B. Thorne.

In February 1940, M. L. Wilson resigned as Under Secretary of Agriculture to become Director of Extension Work, and President Roosevelt named Mr. Wickard to succeed him.

The new Secretary is as earthy as the Indiana soil he loves. He has well-conditioned farmer muscles and a ruddy farmer complexion. He speaks farmer language. His hobby is not unusual—he's an amateur photographer—but he goes in for it in an unusual

To All My Friends in the Extension Service:

In assuming the office of Secretary of Agriculture, I feel extremely humble. I know quite well just how big a job it is. It is even more formidable when one follows Henry Wallace, to whom we are all indebted for his contribution to the high regard in which the Department is held today throughout the United States.

A great many of you, particularly in Washington and in the States of the North Central Region, have known me for a long time. You know what I believe and what I stand for, and just how vital I think agricultural well-being is to the welfare of the Nation as a whole.

These are trying days—for farmers as well as for Americans in all professions and businesses. Complacency must be a thing of the past, if we are to maintain our identity and preserve the democracy we have cherished so long. I am proud of the response that farmers, in cooperation with the land-grant colleges and the Department, have made to national needs.

Just in the 7 years since I have been in the Department, it has grown much larger than it used to be. Its functions have taken many new forms. But the fundamental goal of all of us—the promotion of the welfare of the 30 million Americans who live on the soil—has not changed.

We have come a long way. Our farmers are providing more food than they ever did before. They are devoting larger acreages to soil conservation. Agricultural income is on the upgrade. More and more farmers are participating actively in our programs.

Of course, many problems lie ahead, the solutions shrouded in war clouds. Whatever the outcome of the present war may be, we must anticipate that world trade in farm products may have permanently diminished. We must realize that keeping the incomes of farmers in balance with those of their city customers will become increasingly difficult. We must face the fact that, in the greatest democracy the world has ever known, there are thousands, even millions, of persons to whom democracy is still only a word because they have never shared in its greatest blessings.

The future holds a challenge for those of us who believe in the future of agricultural America and who have been placed in the forefront at this crucial time. In meeting that challenge, I know that the Extension Service, as always, can be counted upon for steadfast service.

CLAUDE R. WICKARD.

way and has made unusual success of it. He takes color stills and movies. He knows the technical side of photography as well as the average professional. Perhaps his hobby explains why he was one of the first AAA officers to see the importance of visual education, one of the ablest originators of visual ideas, a valued counselor with any photographic problem.

Mrs. Wickard is the former Louise Eckert of Logansport, Ind. They were married in 1918 and have two daughters, Betty, who was graduated from Purdue University last spring, and Ann, a 1940 graduate of Washington's Central High School. She entered Purdue this fall.

New Under Secretary

Paul H. Appleby, Under Secretary of Agriculture, has been Assistant to the Secretary of Agriculture since Henry A. Wallace took office in March 1933. Before coming to Washington, Mr. Appleby had been an editor, editorial writer, and publisher; and his work had directly touched many phases of agriculture.

As assistant to the Secretary of Agriculture, Mr. Appleby has been in close contact with both the research and action programs of the Department. He has taken a leading part in developing the plans which during the past 7 years have reshaped the Department of Agriculture to meet expanding needs.

Mr. Appleby was born September 13, 1891, in Greene County, Mo. When he was of high-school age his family moved to Newton, Iowa. Upon graduating from Grinnell College at Grinnell, Iowa, in 1913, he went into newspaper work, publishing and editing county newspapers in the States of Montana, Minnesota, and Iowa. In 1920, Mr. Appleby became editor of the *Iowa Magazine*. Four years later he joined the staff of the *Des Moines Register and Tribune* as editorial writer and served there from 1924 until 1928. In that year he moved to Radford, Va., and bought weekly newspapers in East Radford and Christiansburg, Va.

In the Secretary's office, one of the special assistants to Secretary Wickard is James L. McCanny, who was also one of former Secretary Wallace's assistants. Mr. McCanny will continue to act as liaison officer for the defense agencies. In this he will be aided by J. Donald Parel and Leon O. Wolcott. Carl Hamilton continues to assist Secretary Wickard, having been with him in the office of Under Secretary. Herbert W. Parisius has been detailed from the Farm Security Administration to the Secretary's office. Mr. Parisius is the State FSA director for Wisconsin.

Good Growing Season Plus AAA Multiplies Texas Home Gardens

■ "Those making the AAA check-up in Shackelford County, Tex., report more and better gardens in the county this year than during any year they can remember—possibly in history. AAA payments on gardens constitute an advertising program for gardens so that even people who are not getting AAA payments hear about the garden payments; and they, too, become garden-conscious. Many of our home demonstration club members live on oil leases and in oil camps and cannot comply with the AAA program. But they all have gardens in their yards or on a lot between two houses where two families share the same garden. Frame gardens have tripled this year."

This from Home Demonstration Agent El Fleda Harrison could be duplicated from 250 Texas counties, for the State is garden-conscious. With slightly more than half of the counties heard from, a total of 138,870 home gardens are reported for soil-building payments under the 1940 agricultural conservation program. There are 500,000 farmers and ranchers in Texas, so that the total figure may show an impressive proportion of them living on the fat of the land from their home gardens. Perhaps the results might best be measured in terms of rosy cheeks, bright eyes, happy smiles, and alert minds in these Texas families.

The idea of the AAA home garden started late in 1938. At that time the Agricultural Adjustment Administration, liberalizing its program in many ways, announced that for 1939 home gardens would be classed as a neutral crop and pointed out the possibilities of growing food and feed for home use on general and neutral acres. This got the attention of the Texas homemaker. It set her to working. It set her to thinking. If acres planted in home gardens could be classed as neutral, why couldn't the practice of planting a home garden be considered soil building? The garden soil is well tilled. Much humus is turned back into it. More barnyard manure and commercial fertilizer are used on it than on many other acres on the place.

Texas farm homemakers talked to each other about gardens, to their club members, and to club members in other States. They talked to their husbands and to their community and county AAA committeemen. They wrote to their State AAA board and administrator, to their Congressmen, to the Agricultural Adjustment Administration, and to the Secretary of Agriculture. They talked; they wrote letters; they passed resolutions. And when the 1940 agricultural conservation program was prepared, it contained a provision making the growing of a half acre of vegetables of at least 10 different varieties for

home use a soil-building practice that would earn one unit of payment, \$1.50.

The next thing to do was to see that all farm people knew about the garden provision of the 1940 program—not only knew about it but felt inspired to grow a garden and knew how to grow it and then how to can and store for non-growing months. Women must know how to cook and serve the produce from the garden. And so, at State, district, county, and community meetings in late 1939, everybody, everywhere, talked about gardens.

AAA officials and committeemen explained the garden provision. Extension and other agricultural workers talked about beans, beets, and broccoli—about cabbages, carrots, and cauliflower—about peas, peppers, and potatoes—about home and field and frame gardens—minerals, vitamins, and roughage.

Programs in women's home demonstration clubs and girls' 4-H Clubs were built around vegetables—how to prepare good seedbeds; how to supply plant food; how to save soil fertility and soil moisture; how to keep the soil in good tilth; what kinds and varieties of vegetables to plant, when and where to plant them, and how to make repeat plantings; how to make vegetable seed germinate quickly and thrive; how to make frame gardens, subirrigation tile, windbreaks, hotbeds, and coldframes; how to get rid of insects

and diseases through crop rotation, general sanitation, insecticides, and fungicides; how to save and store seeds for future plantings from carefully selected varieties; how to make kraut and chow-chow, and how to cure and can vegetables and store them in ventilated mounds and in cellars and pantries; also how to make vegetable salads and how to cook mild-flavored and strong-flavored vegetables so as to save all the vitamins and minerals and flavors—vegetables buttered and baked and scalloped and creamed.

Community agricultural association programs dealt with some of these topics. Land-use planning committees considered the subjects of home gardens and production of abundant home food supplies and made recommendations for further expansion. Over the radio in north, south, east, and west Texas, vegetable lore was chanted by good gardeners and good cooks and by agricultural workers. The press of the State carried stories galore. Special garden literature was prepared by extension specialists.

And so, as the fall check-up figures come in, hundreds of thousands of families tell of their stores of home-garden products. A woman in Posey Community, Lubbock County, says that her garden is larger and better, because if the Government pays people to have gardens, they are worth a little more care and attention. Women in Atascosa County are improving their gardens. Some are spending the \$1.50 for strawberry plants, and some are planting a greater variety of vegetables. From Johnson County the home demonstration agent reports:

Vegetables from a ¼-acre garden supply a bounteous table for this Mexican tenant family in Milam County, Tex. This family is one of 24 on the same plantation to grow a garden that qualifies under the soil-building program of the A. A. A.



Rural Youth Study Democracy

ROBERT C. CLARK, Extension Specialist in Rural Youth Work, Iowa

"In addition to the report of 247 AAA gardens which I made in June, I have received reports from 205 more. Of these, 93 enlarged their gardens because of the AAA program, and 154 will qualify for AAA payment. Fifty-three of the qualifying gardens belong to club members and 101 to nonclub members. It is the first year that 10 of these families have had any kind of garden."

If the Johnson County average holds good for the rest of Texas, this means that 5 percent of the more than 138,000 gardens already reported are first gardens for these Texas families. Encouraged by AAA benefits and a good garden season, many families will get a taste of better living; and the total value to the country in terms of well-fed, sturdy citizens cannot be estimated. Good nutrition for every American citizen is important in the Nation's total-defense plans. One big little thing that everyone can do toward this is to grow a home garden of vegetables, small fruits, and berries, and then eat all the food that it takes to keep one physically fit.

Tuscaloosa Negro Market Anniversary

Recently the Negro Curb Market of Tuscaloosa, Ala., observed its fourth anniversary. One of Alabama's outstanding curb markets for colored farmers, this market has in 4 years netted the sellers more than \$14,000. In the first month of operation the total receipts were \$34. Since then monthly sales have run well over \$500 during active seasons. In 4 years the sellers have increased from 4 to 72 and the market has operated every Wednesday and Saturday the year round.

An enthusiastic crowd gathered early at the market which was all dressed up for the occasion. Trade was unusually lively. Special offers were made to regular customers. Five baskets of produce contributed by the sellers were given away to the persons holding lucky numbers.

The Negro extension staff in Tuscaloosa, Farm Agent C. E. Trout and Home Agent Ida Belle Crosby, who had worked hard to make the market a success, took part in the celebration. Speaking in behalf of the market sellers, Farm Agent Trout sketched the growth of the market, the efforts of the Negro farmers to improve their market produce, and pointed out that the support of the buying public had made it possible for improvements to be made in the homes and on the farms of the sellers. The curb market had become a regular meeting place for the Negro farmers when they came to town.

Through the years, the extension agents had given demonstrations on growing vegetables, control of insects and diseases, grading and processing, and on sanitation and the proper way to display produce.

The influence of these demonstrations is noted in the improvements of the produce offered and the sellers themselves.

■ Our Place in Democracy was the theme of the sixth annual State-wide conference of Iowa rural young people held at Iowa State College in February.

The 525 young men and women who attended the 2-day conference discussed job opportunities, preparation for a fuller life, the role of rural youth in community organization, and other activities of special interest.

A State-wide music and drama festival proved to be an outstanding feature of the rural youth assembly. The State-wide festival represented the pick of talent uncovered in 6 district festivals where 12 one-act plays and 27 different musical numbers were presented. These district gatherings were held in connection with the 1940 officers' and leaders' conferences, conducted by the Extension Service during January.

Featured on the festival program were three one-act plays; three mixed choruses; an orchestra; girls' sextet; instrumental trio; piano, flute, and vocal solos; and group singing. Fannie Buchanan, Mrs. Pearl Converse, and Zaneta Eager of the rural sociology extension staff assisted the young people in developing the various music and drama numbers.

A pageant entitled "The Growing Circle of Democracy," written and directed by Mrs. Converse, depicted how democracy has been handed down to young people through the ages and its particular significance to the present generation of voting citizens.

Panel and group discussions, addresses, and the annual banquet and party provided opportunity for young people to share experiences and develop friendships among themselves and with adults.

"How much democracy do we want" was the keynote raised by Clifford Gregory, associate editor of Wallace's Farmer, in his stimulating talk on The Role of Democracy in America. Mr. Gregory concluded that democratic procedures must guide our activities in government, in business, in organized groups, and in our homes.

"If rural youths are to make a place for themselves in a democratic society, they must think and act wisely," stated Mrs. Raymond Sayre, chairman of the women's committee of the Iowa Farm Bureau Federation. "There must be a thorough understanding of the meaning of democracy by both youth and adults," she said.

Dr. J. A. Starrak, of the Department of Vocational Education, chairman of a panel on satisfying employment in our present society, summarized by saying, "Special training for a particular field of service, an understanding of job opportunities, hard work, pleasing personality, and determination are primary essentials."

Rural and urban young men and women cooperated in staging a most successful party as a conference climax. Rural young people from Webster County were assisted by the Ames Junior Chamber of Commerce in conducting a progressive game period, folk games, and dancing, and in serving refreshments.

The program for the State rural young people's assembly was developed by a committee representing the rural young people, the State department of vocational education, the Iowa Farm Bureau Federation, and the Extension Service.

Parasite Control

Wisconsin agents are alert to the growing problems in parasite control which have arisen from the expanding sheep and pig production throughout the State, says James Lacey, livestock improvement specialist. County agents in some 30 counties have been carrying on educational campaigns by furnishing to livestock producers the information needed for efficient control measures in their communities. Agents have arranged meetings and in many cases have promoted the purchase and arranged itineraries of portable equipment, and have given valuable help in community plans.

For sheep, portable and permanent dipping vats have become the answer to wholesale effort. The portable vats, which may be moved from farm to farm, offer a chance to do good work, and lend themselves to effective teaching as well. Demonstrations with these outfits, which attract from 10 to 60 persons each meeting, have already been held in 14 or more counties. Demonstrations with the permanent vat were held in Sauk County. At these meetings flocks were not only dipped to eradicate external parasites but were drenched with copper sulfate-nicotine sulfate solution to eliminate internal pests as well.

Oneida County sheep breeders dipped and drenched about 60 percent of the sheep in the county at demonstrations last springs. Nearly 3,000 head of sheep in Pepin County were treated through a cooperative arrangement between the Smith-Hughes Department and the county extension office. The sheep-improvement program in Vernon County finds cooperators of all ages. County Agent O. G. Johnson reports that the boys operating an outfit there dipped 3,810 sheep and drenched 1,244 last spring.

In swine management, demonstrations have been limited to Green and Lafayette Counties. The use of cheap waste crankcase oil as a dipping solution has been popularized with swine producers, and oil of chenopodium for internal pests has been demonstrated at these sessions.

A Home-Grown Vitamin Program

LUCY A. CASE, Specialist in Foods and Nutrition, Oregon

■ Farm families throughout Oregon, and particularly in Clackamas County, are finding increased interest in raising and preserving their own vitamins, obtained from their own gardens or other nearby sources. In Clackamas County, 375 farm families in 97 communities have been carrying on such a project, conducted by Helen Ann Thomas, home demonstration agent, and J. J. Inskeep, county agricultural agent. Sources of their vitamin-filled food products have been their home gardens and the nearby Columbia River with its seasonal runs of huge red salmon.

Clackamas County has been filling up rapidly with part-time farmers who obtain some of their income from seasonal employment in mills and nearby metropolitan industries. Farms have been subdivided until they now average only 22 acres in size. Raising their own vegetables is an essential part of the family feeding program. Many of these residents had recently arrived from the Middle West and were unfamiliar with gardening conditions in their adopted State.

The joint home-gardening project reached more isolated communities than other home-economics projects, because it was conducted mainly by correspondence. It reached many people who, because of the lack of transportation or time, or the isolation of their community, would not otherwise have been able to participate in an extension program. With many older inhabitants of the county, good gardening practice was a custom of long standing, but even they were interested in changes and improvements in garden culture and food preservation.

Enrollment was obtained through the general mailing list and Farm Security Administration clientele. The first letter in this project started with plans—what and how much to grow and where to grow it and an offer to examine samples of soil so that appropriate fertilizers could be applied. Some of the essentials listed for a good farm garden were: A convenient location for small vegetables with separate truck garden, control of moles and gophers before planting, a well-planned sequence of seeding, and control of insects.

With each monthly what-to-do letter, extension publications containing technical data and garden charts were enclosed. Information was timely for each step in gardening, such as treatment of seed to prevent "damping off," control of flea beetles and cabbage maggots, and irrigation. Information was also sent on preparation of equipment for food preservation, canning, freezing, vegetable cookery, and vegetable storage. The last letter of the series of nine included a questionnaire for report of improved practices and

amount of food preserved. A few cooperators volunteered to keep more detailed records of the value of all crops produced.

Some enrollees in the garden project were members of the regular home economics extension units and attended demonstrations on canning and preparation of food for the frozen locker. For the most part, the project was conducted by short, well-organized letters. They were illustrated and mimeographed on different colors of paper.

The use of the pressure cooker in canning vegetables and other nonacid foods was emphasized. Newcomers to Oregon were greatly interested in preserving the big fish which run up our coast streams.

The response to this project indicated that it was appreciated. One homemaker reported that she could not have carried her tomatoes to maturity successfully without the information on mulching which was obtained through the project. Many cooperators used the suggestion to grow radishes under a screen in order to prevent injury by maggots. Several reported better quality of vegetables grown. Treatment of seed with a mercury compound was found in many cases to produce a higher proportion of germination. The encouragement of early perennial stock such as asparagus and rhubarb resulted in many new beds being started.

Reaction is measured partly by a deluge of requests for bulletins listed in letters. These bulletins were on a great variety of subjects, including cookery of vegetables, salad making, food value, and food preservation.

Many cooperators reported that they were better able to feed their families balanced dietaries during the entire year by planning a vegetable garden ahead.

"As far as the extension program is concerned," says Miss Thomas, "this project influenced a large group of people who otherwise would probably not have been reached. It

Vitamin gardeners meet to study better gardening methods as explained by the vegetable-crops specialist.



also reached additional communities. For the small amount of time spent by the agents, the results have been highly gratifying."

Other counties used different methods in developing the home-made living project. In Coos County, under the joint supervision of Julia Bennett, home demonstration agent, and George Jenkins, county agricultural agent, the procedure of garden planning received special emphasis. A great many cooperators were enrolled at meetings. The agent asked the women questions on the food supply, such as: How did your garden turn out this year in regard to meeting food requirements? Did your root vegetables hold out till spring? Did you grow leafy vegetables all winter long? Did you have a surplus of some and a lack of other canned vegetables? In other words, does it help to plan?

A planting and canning schedule for Coos County was prepared by the two agents and the county agricultural committee and was distributed in mimeograph form.

The Coos County agents arranged two tours in July to visit typical family gardens. Demonstrations were given by the extension horticulturist on dusting with rotenone, trapping for moles, standards of quality, and pruning of berry bushes. The meetings were thrown open to questions which came in rapid succession. The main problems of the growers were on rodent, insect, and disease control and on fertilizers and varieties.

Demonstrations were given in unit and district meetings on home food preservation, including preparation for the frozen pack.

Additional service in this project was given through local broadcasts. The first was on Planning the Vegetable Garden. The second was on The Importance of Vegetables in the Dietary. Timely news articles were also issued through five local papers on the planting and preservation of vegetables.

The agents report an increased consumption of vegetables over the entire county as a result of this project. Cooperators have begun to realize that the vegetable garden is the best-paying part of the farm financially.

A sample of the records on the money value of home-preserved foods for the family is taken from the Multnomah County reports. This sample farm family was composed of seven members—four boys in their teens and a girl of 11 years. The mother was an active homemaker and community worker. The food canned was raised at home or obtained by trade with neighbors. As jars were emptied, they were filled with apple butter. Stored foods were used 10 months, and canned and dried foods, 8 months. The money value of home-preserved foods was \$318.76.

Reaching 50 Percent More

DAISY DEANE WILLIAMSON,

State Home Demonstration Leader, New Hampshire

■ "You are not reaching enough people. You are not reaching the people who need the assistance most."

This challenge has been made many times in home demonstration work. Last year we in New Hampshire decided that we would analyze the situation more carefully; and, if the criticism was a fair one, we would get busy and do something about it with a determined and planned procedure.

At each county-wide meeting—and one was held in each county—the challenge was passed on to the women who had gathered to consider their extension needs for 1939. Information was given at each meeting as to the number of farms in the county, the number of families worked with the year before, and the percentage of the women worked with who lived on farms, not in villages. Then the women were asked what they were going to do to reach more of those farm people.

For several years the home demonstration agents have made it their goal to reach at least 100 new women in each county during the year, and they have consistently exceeded this goal. They have extended their contacts to mothers of young children who could not get to meetings and to those who live in tiny temporary houses along the roadways. But still the challenge persisted—not enough people being reached; not reaching those who need the help most—because the check-up showed that the agents were working on the average with about 25 percent of the farm families in their respective counties.

As an outcome of the discussion at the county-wide meetings the women set their own goals for increase in spread of influence. These goals ranged from 10 percent increase in some counties to 50 percent in others. They decided to use the "Sister Sue" plan. Each woman in the regular home demonstration groups was asked to adopt some neighbor who could not get out to the meetings. She agreed to see that the one she adopted got all the material and other information given at the meetings, to keep a record of what she had passed on, and to see that a record of how the woman used the information was made available to the agent.

Some of the home demonstration agents were amazed when their women set 50 percent increase as their goal. With the steady gain in contacts their counties had made yearly, they just could not see how it could be done. But one home demonstration agent, Miss Marion Davis, of Sullivan County, N. H., decided that, in spite of the fact that a 50-percent increase seemed almost impossible, she would give her ability a real test. She talked with the women about those folks who

should be getting extension help. They got the "Sister Sue" plan operating. She visited women in every community where there was no organized group and got a group started in every one. When a check-up was made at the end of the year in preparation for her annual report, not only did every community have a program of work but the 50-percent increase in participants had expanded to 75 percent.

Miss Davis was asked, "Now, what about 1940?" She replied, "We'll give the 50-percent increase another try."

The other agents did a fine job, too. Regular organized groups had 1,718 new members; 547 new mothers of young children had been reached and had used the information; and 2,154 other new women had participated in home demonstration activities—a grand total of 4,419, and an average of 441 per county.

More Steam Behind the Nutrition Program

Coordination of community effort for better nutrition was the theme of the New York second annual nutrition conference held in Ithaca, July 15, 16, and 17, under the auspices of the New York State Departments of Education, Health, and Social Welfare and the New York State College of Home Economics. More than 150 extension nutritionists, home demonstration agents, public-health nurses, welfare workers, and other professional workers interested in nutrition, attended the conference.

For years these agencies have been cooperating in many places, but it was felt that the possibilities of the team approach had never been fully developed. Many methods of further cooperation were suggested. The program committee offered to spend a day of the next week in canvassing to determine needs, possibilities, and methods of cooperation at State, county, and community levels. The value of a State nutrition committee including all agencies working toward nutrition goals was discussed and steps were taken to bring such a committee into being. The family approach was a strong note of the conference, and emphasis on the family approach was felt to be a means for accomplishing a great deal in coordinating effort at a community level.

The results of recent research in nutrition were presented as well as educational psychology and sociology. Practical methods of getting nutrition facts into everyday practice as radio, newspapers, magazine articles, ex-

hibits, demonstrations, and moving pictures were presented by specialists in their particular field, and their general use was considered by the conference.

The place of nutrition in a program for national defense was discussed. It was felt that the importance of home production to food as a means of promoting health and conserving income should be emphasized, but that large-scale food-preservation was not thought advisable at this time.

The conference agreed to prepare a register of all home economists, nurses, and social workers both in and out of professional employment, so that all such available persons in any community could be utilized in an emergency.

British Countrywomen's War Work

Word comes from London of a contemplated film to serve as a record of the war work of the women's institutes there. The activities of the British countrywomen include wartime cookery and food campaigns, the women helping in growing, cooking, and preserving food; holding training courses in fruit bottling; organizing cooperative depots for bottling and jam making; and distributing vegetable seeds for gardens, for they are busily "digging for victory." The women are also providing hospitality and canteens for the service men and women, teaching lonely service units simple handicrafts such as rug-making and knitting comforts. The institute members are organizing work parties to make hospital supplies; are forming national savings branches, are giving a hand with the salvage campaign by the collection of waste paper and of garbage for the pigs; assisting with the evacuees; and helping to organize temporary squads of labor at the request of the county agricultural committees.

■ Statements from 49 North Dakota farmers using the trench silo over periods ranging from 1 to 15 years, showed that 27 had used the silos 5 years or more, 44 had found the trench silo satisfactory, and 2 had not found it satisfactory. The silos varied greatly in size, ranging from 20 to 110 feet in length, most of them ranging from 50 to 70 feet in length. One man reported a silo 500 feet long. Most of the silos were 8 to 12 feet deep.

Corn was the principal crop ensiled, though three reported having ensiled Russian thistles and corn, and one each reported ensiling Russian thistles alone, sweetclover and thistles, and sunflowers and corn.

■ Seven counties are laying ground work this year for an extensive program of rural electrification studies among Iowa 4-H Club boys.

Georgia Rural Markets Convert Yearnings Into Earnings

For more than 23 years, Mrs. Leila R. Mize has played an integral part in the farm women's marketing activities in Georgia, where she has served as a county and State extension worker. Since becoming a marketing specialist in 1932, Mrs. Mize has emphasized the live-at-home program and has urged selling surplus products to increase depleted farm income. Believing that better products make better markets, she has emphasized the standardization of products sold, and relates some of the methods she has used to develop the work into a State industry.

■ There's better living in many Georgia farm homes today because homemakers are adding to the farm income by selling their surplus farm products. Last year approximately 14,500 home demonstration women and 4-H Club girls in 70 Georgia counties engaged in marketing work of some kind. Their total sales amounted to \$574,765. These women have reported that they used their earnings for insurance premiums, home improvements, medical and dental care, clothes for the family, and groceries. Many of them have used part of their income to send their children to high school and on to college. One woman bought cow feed with her earnings, and another paid for the family's first vacation away from home. Mrs. J. E. Milne, of Spalding County, sold enough Christmas wreaths last year at the Griffin market to buy a much-needed mule, which she named "Living," for she expects "better living" from his labors.

Farm products are sold in a variety of ways. The types of marketing that these farm women have found suited to their local situations include curb and roadside markets, bartering, and miscellaneous types such as producer-to-consumer delivery, retail grocers, rolling stores, community trucks, hotels and boarding houses, tourist homes and tea rooms, and by parcel post through post-card contacts.

This marketing industry has been developed step by step. In the early part of extension work it was seen that a large number of home demonstration and 4-H Club members could not make any material advancement in their living conditions without first finding means of providing for the cost. Many times they had to be assisted in obtaining jars for their canning and material for their uniforms and sewing activities. The State leader of 4-H Clubs became an enthusiastic advocate of money-making projects for club girls. These projects usually took the form of finding a market for fresh vegetables or fruits or berries, chickens, eggs, and special canned products such as fig preserves, blackberry jam, jellies, and conserves. The problems of exhibiting and marketing

forced specialization in certain products. Particularly satisfactory was the work with peppers and figs. Fig preserves are still much in demand by our buying public in Georgia. All club girls were encouraged to plant a perennial garden of berries, figs, fruit, grapes, and asparagus, to provide a source for the money-making project, in addition to the vegetable garden. By 1922, considerable progress had been made by community groups of women who focused their efforts on standardizing the surplus products for market. By 1927, the farm women had developed individual projects such as cream, poultry, vegetables, and crafts.

In response to the pressing need for additional farm-family income in the post-war period about 1918, and with some leadership from the Georgia Federation of Women's Clubs and the untiring efforts of Mrs. Bessie Troutman, who was active in getting the movement in Rome started and acted as market master for several years, the first farmers' cooperative curb market was begun at Rome, in Floyd County. The city of Rome gave good support to this enterprise, later providing a building to house the market, which was started on the curb. This market, providing for sales of approximately \$30,000 worth of local farm products yearly, has been in continuous operation for more than 20 years, and of inestimable value to the families selling there. In 1939 the market was renovated and improved throughout, and the market group was reorganized under the leadership of the county home demonstration council and Mrs. Pearl Camstra, county home demonstration agent.

Since the opening of the Floyd County Market, some 35 curb markets have been organized for a number of years and continue to flourish with total annual sales averaging approximately \$200,000. Organized with the cooperation of local businessmen, the markets afford a selling channel for home-made and home-grown products such as pies, cakes, dressed poultry, fresh eggs, butter, vegetables, canned foods, cut flowers, and other farm products. A standardized vegetable mixture made of corn, okra, and tomatoes is featured at some

of the markets, notably the two large markets in Atlanta. All the cans carry the special home demonstration label designed for this purpose. Reports from 21 counties show that 8,894 cans of this vegetable mixture were sold last year. The home manufacture of such products is encouraged only when there is a good yield for which no market is found for the fresh product.

Impetus has been given to the marketing activities of the home demonstration and 4-H Club members of Georgia by the retail marketing contests started in 1935 to create a wider interest in the income possibilities of surplus farm products. Separate contests have been conducted for the home demonstration and 4-H Club members by the Extension Service and six Georgia banks, which have contributed the prize money. For each of the first 2 years the banks contributed \$150. Each year since, they have donated \$250 for the prizes because they considered the results of the first contests so satisfactory.

The rules for both contests are the same. Separate prizes are offered to individual sellers and to the market group as a whole. Contestants are judged 60 percent on the market project itself, which is considered from the standpoint of sales, productiveness, and standardization of the products sold; 25 percent on service to the community; and 15 percent on business management, as shown by the use of the money made. Records of the market activities, which include daily sales accounts, must be kept. Each individual contestant must submit a detailed story on "How I developed my market project and what it has meant to me."

Market Prize Awarded

The 1939 market prize was awarded to one of Georgia's newest curb markets, the Barrow County Farmers' Market, which had been operating less than a year. The phenomenal growth of this market is a story of cooperation—cooperation of the people of a county with the home demonstration agent. Barrow County had been without a home agent for 10 years until Miss Evelyn Redfern took over the work in September 1938. With the help of the home demonstration council, Miss Redfern soon sounded out public opinion regarding the opening of a curb market at Winder. Market possibilities were discussed with the mayor, the county commissioners, the Kiwanis Club, and the grocermen. All thought it was a progressive move to give farm families a chance to sell their surplus produce. Many of them aided the market in a financial way. The mayor and council gave the use of a building for summer months. Two refrigerators were furnished by business firms. The editor of the Winder News published a market edition of his paper containing congratulatory advertisements contributed by local businessmen on the opening of the market.

The market had a successful opening month with total sales of \$450. At the end of 7 months, 56 farm people selling on the

market had taken in \$2,135. Some of them sold for homemakers who could not get to the market, thus making a total of 72 families having some farm produce sold at market. The sales of the five highest sellers ranged from \$127 to \$642.

Oddly enough, the second 1939 market prize went to Georgia's oldest curb market, the Floyd County Market operating at Rome, Ga. A number of the same women have sold their wares at this market for years. The market story of Mrs. Mark Davis, one of the most successful sellers and the winner of the first prize of \$25 in the 1938 marketing contest, gives some idea of what the market has meant to the happiness and comfort of a rural family.

Mrs. Davis has been very active in the marketing project of Floyd County. As marketing chairman of her club, she advocated the sale of first-class standardized products. She gave demonstrations on the importance of standardizing market products, illustrating her talk by comparing a package of butter that was not standard with a standard package.

In January 1938, she decided to keep a record of all produce sold during the year at the curb market and at stores in Rome. As early as possible she began planting vegetables. She ordered 300 baby chickens in February to raise for the market. The entire family entered into planning and working out the year's marketing enterprise. A son and daughter helped to work the garden and prepare the produce for market, and they kept the record of sales. In the summer, her son helped her to sell at the market. Each day Mrs. Davis would jot down her market sales. That night at home she would go over the transactions with her children, who would make the entries in her record book. Mrs. Davis was very much surprised at her total gross sales, \$652.75 for the year. Her selling expenses were \$61.20. By careful planning, the money was used for various things. Half of the money was expended for wiring the home for electricity and purchasing electrical equipment, which included a washing machine, refrigerator, churn, and an iron. The remainder of the money bought groceries, clothing for the family, and helped to start a newly married daughter in housekeeping.

Style Show on Farm

One hundred and seven members of homemakers' clubs in Garrard County, Ky., attended a county style show at the farm home of Mrs. James Sanders. Construction of clothing and correct clothes for all occasions were studied by the women, and they went to the show to see what others had done and to show what they had done. Practically every woman wore and modeled a dress she had made. Eleven women let it be known that they had learned to sew for the first time in the year's work as members of a homemakers' club.

Choric Reading in Iowa

ZANETA EAGER, Extension Assistant in Rural Sociology, Iowa

■ Oral group reading was started in Iowa in 1936. For several years Iowa rural women had taken part in one-act plays. Play production was found good in itself, but the number of persons who could take part was limited.

During the first year, the main emphasis was placed on materials that might be used at farm-bureau programs, which seemed to be the greatest need at the time. Magazine and newspaper articles having special bearing on vital subjects were read and discussed.

This, however, was still a program largely for individuals and did not meet the needs of all women in the group. So, the next year, poetry selections were chosen for study and use in the home-project training schools. A few were given on year-end achievement-day programs and became very popular. From then on, the use of poetry was emphasized. A choric-reading bulletin was produced which dealt with the five different methods of interpretation—group, antiphonal, solo and chorus, line-a-person, and unison reading. Later, attention was given to divisions of light, medium, and dark voices.

In studying requests from the field, it was discovered that poetry and materials were needed for three general types of occasion. First, mothers wanted poetry for home reading—poetry for children and poetry that all members of the family might read together for recreation. Poetry for very small children was selected in consultation with Mrs. Alma Jones, specialist in child care and training.

The second need was for materials that might be used in church and Sunday-school services and for other special occasions. The third included requests for poems for "fun," materials that might be used at township farm-bureau meetings and at social gatherings.

The next problem was how to get poems into the hands of those who requested them. Poems by many of the modern authors are under strict copyright and may not be mimeographed. As local library service in Iowa is somewhat limited, women find it difficult to get books of poetry except from the State traveling library in Des Moines. The staff there was interested in the project and cooperated by supplying a list of anthologies that might be borrowed from the traveling library or from local libraries. But even this left many requests not supplied. To meet this need, a new service was developed called the Poetry Exchange, arranged jointly through the cooperation of the Iowa State College Library and the extension specialist. Poems are typed on cards, and the cards are grouped together to form the Poetry Exchange. These poems may not be mimeographed, but they may be copied by indi-

viduals in personal notebooks for their own use. The exchange material may be borrowed by any person in Iowa for a period of 2 weeks. There is no expense except the return postage of 6 cents. The women are encouraged to contribute poems of their own choice to this exchange at any time. In fact, it is by their contributions that variety is introduced and the exchange made more interesting.

As an outgrowth of local interest in both drama and choric reading, rural people are making greater demands for library service. County superintendents of schools are also requesting the services of the extension specialist for 1-day county institutes for rural teachers. Many of them have attended home project choric-reading meetings and feel that the material should be made available to rural teachers and to the youngsters in rural schools. In one county, a special experimental educational project has been developed this year for eighth-grade students, and a pageant featuring choric reading and music was presented at the time of the county commencement exercises in June.

Early last fall, a survey was made by questionnaire to determine the group uses of the project and the individual values of the study. Replies were received from 390 rural women in home-project study groups. They indicated that the highest group use was with children in the home. Use of choric reading on home-project and achievement-day programs came next, with church and Sunday-school services, club and lodge programs, and rural-school exercises following in the order mentioned.

In surveying the women who attended the training schools, it was found that 249 held some office in their extension group. There were 148 holding offices in one or more community organizations. A total of 103 held no office, and 110 held both extension group and community offices. These figures indicate that a high percentage of those attending the training schools were women who have leadership positions and are interested in developing their own abilities, as well as enriching the programs of the groups with which they are associated.

■ The Rural Electrification Administration's third annual survey reveals that nearly 9 out of 10 farm homes on REA-financed electric lines have radios, more than 8 in 10 have electric irons, more than half have electric washing machines, and nearly a third have electric refrigerators. During the years 1932-38 the number of farms served with electricity in the United States increased from around 700,000 to 1,400,000.

Community Surveys

To get some accurate information on the number of Negro homes that were screened and the number having a garden, a cow, and a poultry flock, three community surveys were made by Bessie L. Walton, assistant State agent in Negro home demonstration work in Tennessee.

In one of the good communities she found only one family with a cow among the 26 families living there—only one family that served milk regularly. The others bought some now and then but mostly did not use it.

The surveys were completed in January and the needs summarized. With this information in hand, plans were outlined in each community to increase the number of gardens, cows, and hens and to encourage the people to screen their homes where needed. A report of the accomplishments in meeting these needs with extension activities will be made by the 18 Negro home demonstration agents at their annual meeting in November.

Georgia Potato Show

Georgia's first home-grown Irish potato show was held in Atlanta the second week in August at the Farmers' Market. Sponsored by the market and the Georgia Extension Service, the show was designed to acquaint the people with the quality of Irish potatoes grown in the State. Individual bushel-basket exhibits with about 10 varieties of Georgia-grown potatoes were on display. Both table stock and certified seed were featured. Educational exhibits were shown, and farmers from 10 Georgia counties took part in the show.

More than 7,500 bushels of certified Irish potato seed were purchased by farmers in north Georgia counties, says Elmo Ragsdale, extension horticulturist. The crop is growing in popularity among these mountain farmers, and their seed potatoes have been purchased by growers all over the Nation.

Farmers Solve Harvesting Problem

Threshing equipment has been purchased in two communities of Calhoun County, Ark., to harvest the increasing oat crops farmers are producing for feed. The oat campaign that County Agent D. D. Dodd carried on last fall was based on the 20-year findings of the experiment station, and convinced many farmers that oats are more dependable than corn as a feed crop. The problem was how to harvest and thresh the oats.

With the assistance of the Farm Security Administration, plans were worked out for the purchase of a 6-foot combine as a community and cooperative-service project. Later, a second combine was purchased by a farmer in the Summerville Community.

Even though the fall-sown oats were severely damaged by extreme weather, many farmers obtained yields of 23 to more than 45 bushels an acre. At least three combines will be needed to handle next year's oat crop Mr. Dodd believes.

4-H at the World's Fair

At the World's Fair, August 13, 4-H Club girls from seven New York counties modeled clothing which they had made, remodeled, or purchased. They represented the counties of Dutchess, Nassau, Orange, Rockland, Suffolk, Sullivan, and Ulster. Harriet Clausen, 4-H Club agent of Rockland County, was chairman of arrangements.

The revue at the fair was one of six annual district 4-H revues held in New York State in August. Each girl who received an award of excellence took part in a similar event at the State fair in Syracuse.

Play-Lending Service

Ohio's play-lending service, which began in 1925 with 500 plays, now has more than 2,500 plays of from one to three acts. These plays are of many types and are adapted to casts of various size. About half of the plays require payment of royalties for production.

The six most popular lent by the Ohio State University are *Here Comes Charlie*, *Waiting at the Church*, and *Aunt Tillie Goes to Town*, each in three acts; and three one-act plays—*In Doubt About Daisy*, *One Way Out of It*, and *Mrs. O'Leary's Cow*. All six can be produced without payment of royalties.

The Cave Creek Livestock Association

The Cave Creek Livestock Association was organized last spring in the Cave Creek community in Newton County, Ark., to protect the cattle and other livestock that had been suffering from body parasites, particularly ticks, reports County Agent Thomas J. Silvey.

An old Government dipping vat, which had been built years ago, was put into condition for about \$11, and another \$14 was spent to charge the vat with dipping solution. Each member of the association can dip his cattle, horses, and mules for 3 cents a head, and his hogs for 1 cent a head. Nonmembers are charged 10 cents a head for dipping their livestock.

■ 4-H campers of Robeson County, N. C., get out their own camp newspaper which is published each year by *The Robesonian*, the county newspaper.

■ DR. C. B. SMITH, formerly Assistant Director of Extension Work, United States Department of Agriculture, has become a contributing editor to the National 4-H Club News, beginning with the September issue. Each month one or more articles by Dr. Smith will appear in this publication of the National Committee on Boys' and Girls' Club Work.

■ FLOYD W. SPENCER, an outstanding agricultural leader and AAA administrative officer for Louisiana, died August 4 in Baton Rouge, La., following a prolonged illness.

His death terminated a distinguished career of agricultural teaching and organization in the Extension Service and the AAA and caused profound regret among innumerable friends, including thousands of Louisiana farmers who knew him personally and admired and loved him.

Mr. Spencer was 52 years old. Born on a farm in Webster Parish, La., he had a life-long interest in promoting the welfare of the farmer and in improving farming methods and living conditions.

A graduate of Louisiana State University, Mr. Spencer entered the Extension Service as swine specialist in 1915 and after service overseas in the World War, became successively organization specialist, district agent, and assistant director of extension. In 1936 he obtained his master's degree from Louisiana State University, and on July 1, 1937, he was granted a leave of absence as assistant extension director to become AAA administrative officer in Louisiana.

National recognition of Mr. Spencer's services to agriculture was accorded in 1938 when Epsilon Sigma Phi, national honorary extension fraternity of which he was a member, bestowed an achievement scroll upon him. He was also a member of Phi Kappa Phi, international honor society.

■ FRED C. JANS has recently joined the Federal staff of the Extension Service as field agent in the division of field coordination to work in the 11 Western States. Mr. Jans has been with the Colorado Extension Service for the past 12 years—first as county agent at large, then county agent in Kiowa County. After 3 years as agent he came to the State office to do farm management work; and 2 years later, in 1932, he became administrative assistant to Director Anderson. For the last 3 years he has served as county agent leader.

Mr. Jans is a graduate of the State Agricultural College of Colorado. He will have headquarters in Fort Collins, Colo., for the time being.

Rural Youth

Rural young men and women between the ages of 18 and 25 years make up an important segment of the rural population that extension workers must take into account when building programs for the future. Especially to be considered are those youth who have literally been "backed up" on farms. This condition has existed for 10 years, and from all indications is not likely to be reversed. Many youth have not found employment elsewhere and, because of mechanized farming, are not needed to carry on farm work.

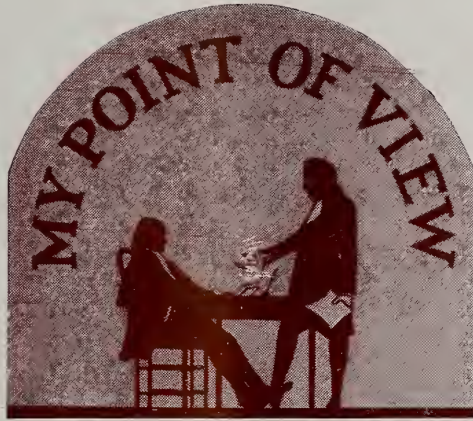
The rural-youth program in Tazewell County has been largely recreational, social, and educational for the past 5 years. The broad features of the program remain essentially the same as those laid down in the original rural-youth program in Effingham County, Ill., in 1931.

New officers for the year were elected last November. The general outline of the rural-youth program for the coming year was drawn up by the county committee, guided by extension specialists and farm and home advisers. Two planning meetings were held. Special committees were named to look after the various events during the year. Township representatives surveyed their areas for prospective new members. A list was compiled from their returns, and special invitations were sent to all those listed, inviting them to the first two county-wide "mixers" in the fall and to take part in the rural-youth program.

The result was the replacement in the group of those members who for various causes had left it. Also, 25 or 30 new names were added. The rural-youth group demonstrated its ability to function in its own right, under its own steam, and with a minimum of supervision on the part of its advisers. If this experience is typical of the way rural folk will function

ON THE CALENDAR

- National Dairy Show, Harrisburg, Pa., October 12-19.
- American Country Life Association, Purdue University, Lafayette, Ind., November 7-9.
- Fifty-fourth Annual Convention of the American Association of Land-Grant Colleges and Universities, Chicago, Ill., November 11-13.
- Annual Meeting Future Farmers of America, Kansas City, Mo., November 11-14.
- Annual Meeting of The National Grange, Syracuse, N. Y., November 13-21.
- National 4-H Club Congress, Chicago, Ill., November 30-December 6.
- International Livestock Show, Chicago, Ill., December 1-8.
- National Association of County Agents, Chicago, Ill., December 2-4.
- Annual Meeting American Society of Agronomy, Chicago, Ill., December 4-6.
- Annual Convention American Farm Bureau Federation, Baltimore, Md., December 9-12.



This is a place where agents are invited to express their ideas and opinions about anything which seems important to them. Those things which please, bother, or help one agent in his work are just the things which prove valuable to other agents.

through organization in the future, extension work will have much smoother sailing.

Two features might well be considered in the future. The program will soon be 10 years old. During this time its characteristics have been recreational, social, and educational. To these might be added financial and community service or altruistic features. Rural youth are facing problems of a financial nature. This program might aid them in finding ways to earn money of their own. No worth-while organization justifies its existence unless it renders a service to those beyond its group. A community-service program would make it possible for the members to give something in return for their "take."—*G. H. Iftner, county agricultural agent, Tazewell County, Ill. (Early in 1931, Mr. Iftner helped to organize in Effingham County, where he was county agent at the time, the first Illinois older-youth group.*

Tools of Our Trade

Every one of the 9,000 extension workers in our country has his own personality which determines his methods and colors them. One man thinks it fun to spend his nights in the office digging for buried gold in statistics and minting it in the form of charts. Another displays genius and brightens the day of his director by doing very little himself and accomplishing wonders all the while by getting flocks of farmers to work for him. One spreads his gospel on the printed page, and converts come weeping and penitent, whereas a neighboring county agent flees the news article as a pestilence, but brings joy and gladness to the visiting specialist by pulling out crowds as nonchalantly and efficiently as the modern young dentist pulls a tooth.

And that brings us to the one fundamental

tool that it seems to me we must know how to use if we are going to be good extension workers—the demonstration. It does little good to be an excellent writer if one has nothing to write about. It avails not to make the welkin ring with golden oratory if the listening inhabitants eventually discover that the oratory has no facts behind it. In spite of larger issues and grave sociological trends, the Extension Service has a job to do as definite as that of the local fire department. Now, it is fine for the fire boys to mend toys for poor children at Christmas. One can get a lump in his throat and mist before his eyes in no time over it. But who wants a fire department so immersed in good works that it hasn't time to put out fires? So, in these days of restless change and inarticulate yearnings, we must remember that our job is to take the new and the practical, whether developed by science or by chance, and, by demonstrating it to farmers, obtain its widest possible application.

Our work originally was founded on the demonstration, and it remains our greatest tool. If we have good demonstrations, then we have a chance to hold some excellent meetings, send out admirable letters, and give superior radio talks. If we have no demonstrations but continue to use the other tools, we shall soon be building something pretty flimsy that will not stand the first, warning, light winds of adversity. People will soon be rehearsing the old comment, "Funny thing about Jones. I don't believe he's as good as he used to be, and sometimes I figger he never was." Shortly after that, a new county agent is seen thereabouts.—*E. R. Jackman, extension specialist in farm crops, Oregon.*

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for DEFENSE



We need a vigorous people, a high standard of living, unbiased thinking, responsible citizens, and an agriculture that can supply the people's needs.

- Do you know the situation in your own community, in your State, in the Nation?
- Do the children get enough of the right food to eat?
- Does preventable disease weaken people?
- What is the housing situation?
- What of soil conservation in an emergency?
- Do young people learn good citizenship?

These and other important phases of national defense need study and discussion in 4-H Clubs, in home demonstration clubs, in farmers' committee meetings, and wherever rural people meet to discuss their problems. A list of Government bulletins and pamphlets useful in such discussion and study is now available. It may be procured from the

EXTENSION SERVICE

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

WASHINGTON, D. C.