

Extension Service REVIEW

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The Spirit of '42

M. L. WILSON, *Director of Extension Work*

With awesome suddenness, war struck on December 7.

With blinding clarity, we now see the grim path which lies before us. The Extension Service feels justly proud that it has the experience, organization, training, vision, and grit to serve our country as it did in 1917 and 1918. The spirit of '42 will strengthen our resolve to preserve our traditional freedom and give significance to the sacrifices all of us are facing just as the spirit of '76 strengthened our fighting forefathers.

We have seen that happen which we hoped would not happen. Never before have we had so much at stake. At no previous time has change been more real for every one of us. Never before has the issue been so clear-cut. Now we are in total war. We must rely on our total skill, energies, and fighting spirit to bring victory and to assure lasting peace.

The Cooperative Extension Service is on a war basis. Naturally, the first extension service to recognize this was that in hard-hit Hawaii. Director Warner cabled me on December 11: "Our organization functioning on a war basis. Assisting civilian defense agencies in conserving existing food supplies and implementing emergency food-production program previously planned. Serving as chief assistant director, Office of Supplies and Finance, Civilian Defense. Advise any special instructions."

This is the spirit of '42—the spirit in which we can meet our "Pearl Harbors"—a spirit which enables us to function efficiently as planned, cooperate with other agencies, and stand ready for further action on a national scale.

In times like this, it is necessary that we follow our leader. When a plan has been decided upon, it is up to us to put every last ounce of energy that we have into making the plan work, courageously believing in the justice of our cause.

We must do what needs to be done with the indomitable spirit of the marines at Wake Island. We are inured to hard work and know how to change our program overnight. We were ready to get into war stride early and effectively.

You will be called upon by your Government and by your local people to do many tasks, some of them not strictly in our normal field, but all of them vital in carrying out the national program for victory.

Your job calls for cooperation of a high order with many

groups and agencies. At times we may have to submerge our own specialty and our own organization to push toward our main objective. The war comes first. This will require reorienting of plans for the coming year in the light of the 1942 objectives of organizing our economy and our society to win the war. In this connection, I hope that you will read carefully the declaration of principles adopted by SPAB under the leadership of Vice President Wallace. It is reproduced on the back cover page.

To do well all the jobs that you will be asked to do may require more hours than you can possibly devote to them. It is important, therefore, that considerable thought be given to re-examining your job in terms of those duties which can be postponed or minimized in view of the war program. Perhaps you can multiply your efforts several fold by training additional voluntary rural leaders and delegating responsibilities to them.

At the same time, consider your need for normal, healthy living which is even more imperative in war than in peace if we are to have the nerves, the brain, and the muscles to do those things which we must do.

Secretary Wickard has told me that he places great confidence in the ability of the Extension Service and the land-grant colleges to make the agricultural program a decisive factor in the present conflict. The Secretary knows that the Extension Service will do its part fully and will capitalize effectively upon its professional training and organization. Thoroughness of effort and unstinting devotion to our work are characteristic of the training of every one of our 9,000 professional workers, our 700,000 local farm men and women leaders, our 1,500,000 4-H Club boys and girls, and our 1,150,000 members of home demonstration clubs. This makes a sizable organization, and its contribution to the victory effort will be large.

The flame of liberty will continue to burn brightly as long as we—men and women alike—insist that reason and humanity, rather than mechanical and military might, shall govern our institutions.

The spirit of '76 was a great passion for freedom. The spirit of '42 is an equally deep desire for freedom. With the will to work and fight together, we will retain that freedom.

EXTENSION SERVICE REVIEW

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

Driving Home the Point

CLIFFORD L. SMITH, County Agricultural Agent,
Washington County, Ark.

■ Production of food to win the war is uppermost in the minds of all of us. As a result of our community and neighborhood meetings, farm people of this country had begun to talk about how they could do a better job of living at home even before December 7.

Following our county farm defense board meeting, at which county farm production goals for 1942 were thoughtfully established by 42 representative farmers, farm women, and agricultural agency representatives, we held 34 community and neighborhood meetings which were attended by 1,850 farm people. Graphically presented at these meetings were the reasons and urgency of the new "all out" program of food and feed production, the largest in American agricultural history; county goals set by the county defense board; how these goals may and must be met, but with good land-use and farm-management practices constantly in mind; how overexpansion in land, equipment, and livestock should be wisely avoided; and, finally, why and how the live-at-home program is fundamental and of the utmost importance. These meetings were followed by others to present the farm sign-up phase of the program.

Based on our State extension service food standard for one adult person, a special chart was developed to show the types of

foods and quantities required for a year. Here we enumerated milk, butter, eggs, chickens, meat, fats, potatoes, vegetables, tomatoes, corn, wheat, sirups, and fruits, and the amounts needed either in numbers, gallons, pounds, or bushels. These amounts were then extended for a family of five. After presenting the chart at each neighborhood meeting, we called for estimates from the group on the total cash cost, if purchased. We had answers ranging from \$150 to \$1,500. Actually, according to current local market prices, the total amount for a family of five would cost nearly \$1,000; and all of these foods can be produced on Washington County farms. But to drive home the point that food acres are the most valuable acres on the farm, we listed the bushels of wheat, tons of hay, pounds of milk, hundredweight of hogs and beef, bushels of apples, crates of strawberries, and pounds of broilers required to net enough money to pay that \$1,000 grocery bill for a family of five. Simple as the method may be, it seemed to convey the story in a better fashion than any other method we have tried.

Prior to our community and neighborhood meetings, all local representatives of agricultural agencies formed a committee to plan and prepare local materials for the scheduled meetings, in order that each would "talk the same language." This committee, working as a group, developed the plan for presenting the information, with first thought on living at home.

The two production goals that may be difficult to meet are those for milk and eggs. However, it is the consensus of farmers that by increased use of roughage, by further improvement of pastures, and by improvement of housing, the milk goal, which calls for an increase of 12 percent, will be met.

Washington County is one of the four important commercial broiler counties in the State. This fall, much of our egg production,

Local representatives of agricultural agencies devised a simple method of presenting the story of Food for Freedom as it applied to their own communities so that they would all "talk the same language" when they told the story at community and neighborhood meetings.

has gone to hatcheries instead of consumer channels. Our egg production goal of 20-percent increase, therefore, represents a real problem in this area. To meet this, special emphasis is being placed on saving pullets in the broiler flocks and marketing the cockerels and culled pullets.

The emphasis of recent years on oat production will carry the county over its 20-percent increase called for by the program. We already have 12,000 bushels of spring oats listed in the county office, preparatory to launching a drive early in the year.

In view of the relatively high prices for beef, cattlemen of this county will do an extra job of culling their herds. It is a strategic time for them to get their cattle numbers down to a more normal level. We have no doubt that the 10-percent increase in beef will be reached without any special emphasis.

To date, neighborhood meetings have been our best approach. However, we are not overlooking our nearby radio station, KUOA, at Siloam Springs; newspaper articles; special letters; leaflets; and individual letters to key farmers in the county as ways of keeping the farm defense program constantly before Washington County farm families. We are proceeding on the basis that the hens and milk cows, particularly in our county, do not know their bosses have signed them up in the Food for Freedom program, so the owners will have to be reminded often until our goals are reached.

■ THE COVER shows County Agent Hans Kardel of Eaton County, Mich., talking over farm plans with Farmer Woodworth and his son Lawrence who work the Home Place Livestock Farm in Partnership. They are planning a fine new granary to store the year's crop of hybrid corn which they will need in meeting their Food for Freedom goals.

Let's Go Modern

J. M. ELEAZER, County Agricultural Agent, Sumter County, S. C.

■ Extension methods have changed tremendously in recent years. During the 24 years that I have been county agent we have passed from the horse-and-buggy days of travel and methods. At first it was a simple program of a few closely supervised demonstrations among the few who were progressive enough to let "one of those experts" come on his place. The masses of the people were not reached, but the effect of the successful demonstration in the community had its weight and soon crept to other farms. It was then that we started receiving calls. A demand was coming for our service.

This led to the necessity for meetings to handle groups and get to more people in less time. Then came our unified, long-time county agricultural development program that was worked out with the assistance of our program committee of 38 men and women who meet annually and help us to plan our year's work.

Since 1933, the year that marks the beginning of an era of serious effort to do something about the ills of agriculture, the calls upon the county agent have multiplied. What was a rather serene life, and one that carried some leisure and only a normal amount of work and duties, then became perhaps the most hectic and arduous that any agency has ever pulled through with colors still flying. On one 12-hour working day in 1934, my stenographer counted 437 farmers who conferred with me. Most of them had come to complain about their allotments and had to be reasoned with and convinced.

A Hectic Spot

But such were the pangs of birth to a great program designed to better the position of agriculture. Although many are the worse for the wear, the resulting period of fair prosperity that our agriculture in this section has had for these 8 years, during times that we could not have expected such but for the AAA, is a satisfying reflection for those who went through the shadows in 1933 and 1934.

With all that has happened in agriculture, and with all that channels through the county agent, his office is a hectic spot unless he organizes it well and uses the most modern techniques in doing his job.

We try to use the most modern means of handling ours. To illustrate: We suffered a disaster with cotton this year. That calamity carried only one advantage in its wreckage. That was an opportunity to destroy all growing cotton stalks early—long before frost.

We have long known the value of early stalk destruction. It takes the boll weevil's food and breeding place away from him before nat-

Streamline methods for the Food for Freedom program, advises County Agent Eleazer, who has been trying up-to-the-minute techniques since 1917, when he was first appointed a county agent in South Carolina.

ural hibernation starts at frost time and has a direct effect on the number of weevils that must be contended with the following year.

But we had never been able to cash in on this control measure to any very great extent for the simple reason that fields were white with cotton until long after frost. But this year it was different—quite different. Every farmer could destroy his stalks a month or more before frost time, and experiment station records showed that this would cut the winter live-through of weevils to practically nothing.

We marshaled all our means for getting this job done. The principal means of reaching our folks was not a long series of time-consuming community meetings as of yore. Not on your life! We never should have accomplished a thorough job that way, and where was the time coming from?

At our monthly conference of extension and allied agency workers, it was arranged for me to write all farmers about the opportunity of insuring next year's cotton crop a bit by early stalk destruction. The land bank agent agreed to contact his clients to the same effect. The production credit agent did the same, the seed loan agent did likewise, and Farm Security followed suit. The local banks went together and sponsored a joint ad that we prepared on the subject. (Incidentally, other banks and chambers of commerce over the State used this same ad in the same manner.) In this way, every farmer was approached through our educational effort and also through another very effective channel—that is, his financing agency.

We made full use of our weekly radio broadcast and weekly column in our two papers in furthering this detail, as well as all other phases of our program. Result—more than 80 percent of the stalks were destroyed before frost.

We have conducted a weekly newspaper column for 20 years and a weekly broadcast for 2 years. We have very definite evidences that both of these mediums reach the bulk of our people regularly.

In the column, we write in a simple

folksy way, just as if we were talking with them. Articles are short, and every one is written in our local language, and as it applies to Sumter County. We do not use prepared stuff we get from other sources directly but rework any such material and localize it. We put a bit of craziness in it at times, run short serials, and use the power of reiteration constantly on the things that are hot in our program. Say it a dozen times, but say it differently.

The coverage that we get with this established column is evidenced by the response we get to anything of general interest that we put in it. We put something entirely new, for instance, about some phase of the AAA program in it. In a few days it is hard to find a farmer who does not know about it. I made a mistake on a detail about wheat under the 1942 program there in the column the other day. The next day 12 farmers told me about it.

And the weekly radio broadcast is equally informal in nature. At first, we wrote out our script, but that was tedious and took time. Now we simply close the door of the office for 10 minutes and jot down the subjects that are hot right then in the county. From these we talk as informally as if the farmer had dropped into the office to talk with us about these things.

One farmer told me that 15 of his 17 tenants had radios and that all 15 of them told him they listened to our weekly broadcast regularly.

The seed loan agent for the county told me he went to see two of his Negro borrowers in the poor hill section of the county, and both were at a neighbor's house across the hill. He went there to see them, and as he approached the tumble-down shack of a tenant house he heard the radio inside going and my weekly broadcast was just closing. Five of them came out of the shack. He asked them what they had been doing, and they said they were listening to the county agent's weekly broadcast, as was their usual custom.

Radio Brings Them In

Each week we read the names of those who have AAA checks in the office that the time for delivery is about up on. Three notices through the mail have failed to bring them in, but the radio seldom fails. Of 15 such checks last week, all were delivered by 11 a. m. the next day.

Oh yes, the techniques for getting the job done have progressed a lot. If we had to use old methods today, we should be snowed under. I count the established weekly newspaper column and the weekly radio broadcast as our most effective means of getting our job done. Why should a farmer stop his work, take a bath, put on clean clothes, get someone to stay with the children, crank up the car, and go to a meeting, and lose a half day when he can go to his front porch at noon-time, pull off his shoes, prop his feet up on the

banister while sitting in his favorite rocker, and read it in the weekly column or hear it from the radio at his side?

For much of our work we can in a few minutes reach the majority of our folks through these mediums with a few minutes' effort, where it would take us weeks of meetings and many miles of riding to get at the same problem through community meetings, and then not reach as many people. I do not mean that meetings have entirely outgrown their usefulness, but where available, we can use these new approaches and get far more

done and save ourselves much wear and tear in handling a lot of our work.

I believe that most local newspapers and most local radio stations would welcome a well-handled local program of this sort. Commercial firms that have things to sell pay large sums for this service. It is free to us. If we have a mission, we certainly have a service to sell to our folks. It strikes me that we should embrace every opportunity to cultivate a modern approach to our work and get away from the horse-and-buggy approach as far as possible.

Training AAA Committeemen

L. W. CHALCRAFT, County Agricultural Agent, Menard County, Ill.

Menard County AAA committeemen, like those of Illinois' 101 other counties, went down the road on the recent farm-to-farm defense survey with a more thorough understanding of the war's farm implications, following a county farm planning school for committeemen sponsored by the Extension Service; cooperating with State and county AAA committeemen.

Using the farm of Joe Tibbs, Petersburg, as a laboratory, 1942 crop and livestock plans were worked out for the farm by committeemen representing the 15 communities in Menard County during the 1-day school held October 25. As a result of the school, which trained local leaders in the technique of short-time planning for 1942 in the light of a long-time plan and the Food for Defense program, the AAA committeemen more capably surveyed each farm's possibilities and made recommendations for 1942.

The Menard County school, like those held in the other Illinois counties, was an outgrowth of 8 area planning schools conducted during the fall of 1941 by the department of agricultural economics of the University of Illinois College of Agriculture. A sequel to a similar series of leader training schools in long-time farm planning held in 1940, the area schools were attended by 93 county agricultural agents, 10 assistant county agents, 23 extension specialists, 21 district field men, 74 district and county FSA supervisors, 55 SCS technicians, 2 United States Forest Service workers, 12 FCA supervisors, 7 farmers, and 2 representatives of life insurance companies. The area schools were conducted by J. B. Cunningham, extension farm management specialist; E. L. Sauer, Soil Conservation Service, and J. B. Andrews, leader of the county land use planning project.

In making the farm plans, it was recognized that increased production of essential defense food products such as pork, milk, eggs, and soybeans during 1942 will require individual farm adjustments in land use, livestock programs, labor, power, and machinery, but that

such adjustments, if properly made, will usually result in increased net farm income.

Each 1-day district and county meeting centered around a laboratory farm, visited in the morning prior to a period during which those attending, in pairs, worked out land use, livestock, marketing, expense, and credit plans for the farm.

Following the pattern of these area schools, county agricultural agents, assisted by AAA fieldmen, SCS representatives, and FSA supervisors, conducted the county schools such as the one in Menard County.

To acquaint everyone present at the Menard County school with the Joe Tibbs laboratory farm, we prepared several maps showing the location of fields and crops in 1941, soil types, soil deficiencies, and the long-time farm plan that was worked out at a similar school during 1940.

Besides the AAA committeemen representing the 15 communities, there were also present the county AAA committee and secretary, the Federal farm loan secretary, the district AAA field man, FSA supervisor, and several other farmers.

After the various plans were worked out, details of a few plans were placed on the blackboard where they were criticized and discussed. At the conclusion of the day's work, J. W. Dawson, a neighbor of Tibbs, said the school had shown him how good plans can be applied to increase the ability of the farm to produce and give a good net income and at the same time save much labor over the old plan which was being used habitually.

Harmon Winkelmann said he could use various facts learned during the day to help himself and other farmers to determine what crops and livestock to increase on their particular farms. Knowing how to determine pasture days and how to proportion them to the various kinds of livestock is a practical help, he said.

Don Waldron said he never knew before that chickens ate so much feed. He said poultry must be reckoned with as a real factor on the farm and made to produce a profit. He can now help farmers to estimate their poultry feed requirements much better than before the training school.

George Janssen now understands how important it is to plan the production of livestock for the highest seasonal market. This helps him to advise farmers he visits and to feed for the best market on his own farm. He said the type of farm determines the kind and quantity of feeds produced, and in turn would determine the methods of livestock feeding that are practical, and whether increases are practical.

"The farm planning school has helped me to arrange a farm so that rotations can be carried out to a better advantage," reported C. C. Stier.

Although it is impossible for the committeemen to give detailed farm plans to the individual farmers on their farm visits, it appears that they are better able to grasp the farmers' problems quickly and to give a few helpful points which were received at the school. This helps the farmers to make better plans for their farms.

A typical laboratory farm under discussion at one of the eight farm planning schools held in the fall of 1941 by J. B. Cunningham, extension farm management specialist, shown pointing at the blackboard.



Ready for Action

FRED W. AHRBERG, County Agricultural Agent, Osage County, Okla.



Officers of the Osage County Cattlemen's Association have an informal conference with County Agent Fred Ahrberg who is on the horse.

■ Osage County is range country. Originally an Indian reservation noted for its fine native grasses, it still has a large proportion of the land, or, to be exact, 1,250,000 acres, in native pasture, with a normal cattle population of 220,000 head in the grazing season, April 15 to October 15.

My story starts in 1934 because that was the time that I arrived here as county agent. It was also the year of at least one of the most severe droughts ever experienced in this county and throughout the Southwest.

Seasonal conditions were favorable early in the spring of 1934, and more than the normal number of cattle were brought into the county for summer grazing. These, plus the resident cattle, brought the total to about 235,000 head. Ranchmen depended primarily on the native streams and springs, with a comparatively small number of tanks and ponds to provide water for the livestock. With the drought drying up these sources of supply, cattlemen were faced with the necessity of disposing of many thousands of head of cattle, more because of the lack of water than because of a shortage of feed, although the grasslands were severely damaged from the heat and the continued drought.

There was no active cattlemen's association in the county to help in this emergency or to work for the common good in improving the breeding and marketing of the livestock produced here. So the first work in the extension program for 1935 was to form a rather loosely constructed organization of

the ranchmen of the county and to promote a tour of the ranches to be held in June of that year. Speakers who were recognized as national authorities on livestock marketing and range herd improvement work explained methods of production and the purpose of the program at each stop. At noon, three nationally recognized men on livestock problems spoke to the group of local Osage cattlemen.

That year, too, the chamber of commerce was induced to provide funds for the first annual 4-H Club livestock show held in a business building on the main street of Pawhuska. The tour and the spring livestock show still continue with annual additions and improvements.

The tour has developed into a cattlemen's convention and ranch tour. The first day is spent in the convention headquarters hearing a representative of the large packers from Chicago or Kansas City give the packers' outlook on the livestock industry for the coming year. We always have a large-scale range breeder or purebred breeder on the program to talk about the necessity for consistent work to improve the quality of the range cattle and to offer some suggestions on how this can be done under range conditions. We always have a representative of the commercial firms or marketing organizations from the Kansas City market, through which most of our cattle are sold, to give his picture of how and when the kind of cattle produced in Osage County can best be marketed. Then we have a repre-

Through the extension program in silage production and trench silos, the annual beef tonnage in Osage County can be increased any time from 35 percent to 50 percent. Through the development of the Cattlemen's Association, the ranchers are organized and ready to act in the defense program. Recognizing County Agent Ahrberg's part in this, the Association of County Agricultural Agents last year awarded him a certificate of distinguished service.

sentative of the animal husbandry department of the Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical College give the results of experimental feeding trials conducted there each year so that our people may adapt such of these results to their operations as they find desirable.

Early the next morning, the entire group starts on the tour of ranches. The county is naturally divided into 3 sections, and a tour of from 135 to 175 miles can be laid out in each of these sections. It is thus possible to take the group over a different area each year for a 3-year period. We usually visit 12 to 16 ranches and have each operator tell of his plan of operation, which he does in from 3 to 5 minutes—ranchmen are usually men of few words. On this tour, the visitors have an opportunity to see anywhere from 60,000 to 80,000 cattle. Somewhere along the route, a current demonstration brings out some recent and desirable practice in livestock production that may not be generally practiced among the ranchmen.

This program is bringing around 600 people to the convention and from 500 to 800 on the tour. Thirty-five representatives of the Kansas City market attended the last one of these programs with a smaller number of representatives from 5 other markets serving this area. It gives these men from the markets an opportunity to contact the producers of a very large amount of beef on the hoof; and although we do not encourage the transaction of business during this event, it gives an opportunity for a great deal of follow-up business later on.

Along with this program, we have tried to find a more profitable use for the cultivated land on the ranches. Many of these ranches have from 4,000 to 40,000 acres of grazing land and from 200 to 700 acres of cultivated land.

In 1935 only one silo in the county was filled for the feeding of range cattle in the winter. Through our trench-silo program and efforts to show the value of silage in beef cattle operations, either for feeding or wintering

cattle, more than 80,000 tons of silage were produced and put up in 1940. The acreage devoted to crops for silage was increased in 1941. Silage for feeding all classes of cattle on the ranches is by far the most valuable crop to produce on the cultivated land. Through increased silage production, we shall be able to greatly increase the tonnage of beef produced in this county.

The beef-cattle program is rapidly becoming one of breeding herds to produce feeder calves, either to go to the feed lots of the Corn Belt States or to be wintered here on home-raised feeds and finished on grain or summer-grazed on the grass the following season. Through the extension program of silage production, the annual tonnage of beef marketed from this county can be increased from 35 percent to 50 percent.

The 4-H Club program in livestock production has come along with the other work through the interest developed by the spring show and the fall fairs. Many of our boys have not only made profits on their show animals, but have founded breeding herds of purebred stock of their own and have developed into leaders among the young people of the county. Some of them have gained national recognition through work on judging teams and demonstration teams, and the number of livestock projects in the county is steadily increasing.

Used AAA Program Fully

The range-conservation program of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration has been made use of to the fullest extent. In the last 4 years, 2,150 farm and ranch ponds have been constructed in this county. A great deal of attention has been given to range improvement through deferred grazing and to reseeded depleted areas in the range lands with tame and native grasses and clover. Appreciation of proper range management so as to utilize grasses throughout a long season has been developed, and we now have eight principal native grasses.

Some of the oldest residents of the county who have made a study of actual grazing conditions and beef production say that this county now has a greater carrying capacity and a longer grazing season and that it turns off grass-fat cattle earlier than it ever has in its history.

The utilization of the best information we can get on marketing and market center contacts, herd improvement and feeding practices, with the addition of the water facilities and range-improvement work, has put the livestock production of this county on a much more stable basis. It is prepared to meet demands for increased production through better utilization of the natural resources of the county and proper care of these resources.

With a well-organized cattlemen's association to carry through any county program for the general welfare, we are in a position to contribute to the war effort.

Do You Know . . .

Curtis Lindsey Beason

Agricultural Agent in Brazos County, Tex., Hailed the County's "First Citizen" Upon His Retirement, September 1, After 25 Years of Continuous Service There



have won trips to Chicago, and 4 have been selected as gold-star boys.

Mr. Beason has promoted pecan development; livestock improvement; and the conservation of feed, soil, and water. Approximately 20,000 acres of land have been planted to improve pastures as a result of 20 demonstrations outlined and supervised by him. More than 80,000 pounds of legume seed were distributed by him in 1937. He first started the feeding of baby beeves in the county in 1935, and this has been responsible for many boys and farmers becoming interested in better livestock. He was also responsible for the organization of the Brazos County Livestock Improvement Association. He has always been a strong advocate of the live-at-home program and has perhaps held more night meetings than any county agent in Texas.

He Knows His County

Pioneers in Texas tell how Mr. Beason rode into Brazos County some 25 years ago on a big bay mare. The inventory of his possessions comprised mainly a fine wife and four young daughters, an enviable record as a school man and educator in Panola County, enthusiasm, a vision, and a genuine interest in his fellow man.

Today he is credited with knowing a record number of farmers in the county—knowing what they have and what they need, and how to get them to put their knowledge into action. With all his success as agricultural agent, Mr. Beason has found time to take active part in various town and county programs for civic, industrial, and social betterment. Because of his intimate knowledge of the people, he was chosen a member of the Brazos County Draft Board and is now serving in that capacity.

■ Some 500 western Washington farmers recently inspected the results of irrigation coupled with fertilization and good farm management on farms in that area on the second annual irrigation tour.

The tour, sponsored jointly by the Western Washington Reclamation Institute and the Washington Extension Service, visited 21 farms in 6 coast counties to give farmers an opportunity to study at first hand the irrigation practices being followed.

■ Brazos County citizens paid County Agent Beason rare tribute in the special "Beason" edition of the Bryan News. Testimonials of appreciation of his work were contributed by public officials and farm people. Businessmen ran panegyrics with his photograph in their advertising space.

"During Beason's long service in Brazos County he has made a million dollars' worth of friends who have confidence in and respect for him—many thousands who feel that life has been made more cheerful and profitable through his work and leadership," said Director H. H. Williamson. "His record of official achievements speaks for itself. It is written, not on records in dusty files but in the fields and pastures of Brazos County and in the lives of the many young people. Perhaps the most prized group of his friends are the hundreds of 4-H Club boys who have gone into life with the C. L. Beason brand on them. Among them can be listed many successful farmers, educators, and businessmen. His work with young folks has been outstanding because he never has lost the viewpoint of the ambitious youngster." During his extension career, 2 boys from the county have gone to the National Camp at Washington, D. C., 16

Group Planning Gets Results

AFTON ZUNDEL, County Agricultural Agent, Clatsop County, Oreg.

Occupying the northwest corner of Oregon, Clatsop County originally was abundantly rich in natural resources. Fishermen dipped a fortune from the broad Columbia River; woodsmen harvested a timber crop, centuries old, unrivaled in yields; early agrarians, with back-bending effort, reclaimed tidal land unmatched in fertility. Supported by water transportation facilities, these industries framed the economic, social, and cultural background of this 900 square miles of Oregon. Antedated only by fur trading, carried on in earlier days, timber, fishing, and agriculture have supported Clatsop County down through the years; indeed, timber has contributed greatly to the support of "up river" communities.

Within the last 2 decades, the scene has gradually changed. This natural abundance of resources is being depleted. The rapid removal of timber has dropped the taxable value of the county from \$41,550,000 in 1920 to less than \$15,000,000 in 1940. The great salmon-fishing industry has decreased in recent years. Agriculture, the only basic industry in Clatsop County to hold its own, has expanded very gradually. This change, this decrease of natural resources, has placed serious responsibilities on the farmers, 88 percent of whom own their farms. If the functions of democratic government were to be maintained in Clatsop County, the cost thereof would fall more and more on agriculture. The farmers have been quick to recognize the seriousness of their position.

Group planning for better county agricultural practices and for organized land use offered a solution. Group planning was not altogether a new idea to Clatsop farmers, for they and other interested groups had studied and taken action on problems of sand shifting on Clatsop Plains, a 16-mile area facing the ocean. Blowing sand was threatening and covering valuable land. As a result of group planning and group action, the Soil Conserva-

tion Service in 5 years has stabilized this entire area and is now working on crops to follow and replace the dune grasses—crops of economic value to the farmers.

In 1936, after the passage of the flood control bill by Congress, 10 diking districts were organized in Clatsop County as a direct result of farmer group planning and group action. Fourteen thousand acres of the most fertile and valuable land in the county were protected from the flood waters of the Columbia River and of coastal streams.

These group activities created a favorable attitude for further work. At a county-wide agricultural outlook conference, early in 1936, a committee on agricultural economics was organized. This committee pointed out that as a direct result of the rapid harvest of timber the tax base was changing and the farm and urban property would bear the tax burden.

In 1936, the county was in custody of some 60,000 acres of tax-reverted land, practically all of which was denuded timberland. Before the conference closed, a recommendation was made that the county government give the use of one section of cut-over timberland to the State experiment station to determine whether value might be restored to this type of land by seeding grasses for livestock grazing, by aiding reforestation, or by combining the two. Consequently, before the year ended, the Northrup Creek grazing experimental area was established. Because of the direct interest the county court had in the problem, it cooperated with the experiment station in getting this project started.

Other groups of this same conference studied the problems of soil fertility, of drainage, of land clearing, and of production and marketing. The resulting recommendations of that conference formed a basis for an agricultural program for all groups in farming and for those working with or interested in agriculture.

Early in 1938, a conference similar to the

one of 1936 was organized, not to rework the entire program but rather to revise and add to it. It was from this conference that a county land use committee emerged. The county land use committee is made up of farmers from all sections of the county and of representatives of the county government.

At the outset, due to the lack of basic information, a study was made of acreages of remaining timber, of trends in the cutting of timber, of the extent and use of the agricultural area, of the amount of logged-off land and of reforestation.

After a year of constant work and study by the committee, it was apparent that the over-all county problems needed the scrutiny of all the farmers; that problems peculiar to any one community had not had due study or consideration.

Beginning in 1939 and extending into 1940, community meetings were held throughout the county where the farmers listed the problems of importance to each district and elected a farmer-committee to map these problem areas. A report of problems was written; a map was made for each community; and both were reviewed and revised by the farmers in each district. These reports and maps have been combined by the county land use committee and are now ready for publication.

Problems considered important by the farmers throughout the county were: Taxation, forest management and practices, farm credit, grazing development on cut-over lands, soil fertility, drainage, adjustment of farm unit size, farm pasture improvement, land clearing, irrigation, and soil erosion. No one community listed all these problems, but the list gives a problem picture of the county.

Action was started on some of these problems immediately. Soil conservation districts were organized in two communities, primarily to regulate the use of sand-dune areas and to control stream-bank erosion. Organization of a third soil conservation district is now in progress comprising parts of four counties and covering more than 500,000 acres. This organization is being formed to effect group action on the important problems related to logged-off land and better utiliza-

Changing land now a liability to an income-producing area is the subject up for discussion with western Oregon farmers meeting at the Northrup Creek grazing experimental area.



tion of cropland within the Nehalem Valley watershed.

Results began to show at the Northrup Creek grazing experimental area. Sixteen thousand acres of logged-off land have been sold to bona fide livestock operators since late 1939. These operators are seeding grass, fencing, and otherwise developing these areas for year-round range. Farmers generally believe that such use of the 118,000 acres designated by the community group as suited for grazing will help to restore the county tax base.

As a result of community organization, farmers have studied soil fertility, drainage, irrigation, and pasture improvement in follow-up meetings. One hundred and twenty tons of "grant of aid" phosphate were distributed under AAA in 1940, compared with 30 tons in 1939. The number of farm irrigation systems doubled in 1940. The Extension

Service was asked and gave assistance to farmers on drainage, which the community groups agreed was an individual farm problem. Creamery receipts show an increase, particularly during the pasture season, although the number of cows has not increased. Part of this increase is due to a program of better pastures.

The county government, with assistance of the county land use committee, is now studying the problems of management of large areas of young timber held by the county.

Agricultural problems that have been listed by the farmers, the actions toward solution, and the work planned for the future are the results of organized group planning. Given the opportunity, the farmers have stated, mapped, and reviewed their problems. They have written a program for better agricultural practices and better farm living, the soundness of which cannot be questioned.

County Resources Mobilized

**GEORGE W. KREITLER, County Agricultural Agent,
Licking County, Ohio**

■ Food for Defense production quotas for Licking County, 11 percent more milk, 10 percent more poultry and eggs, 14 percent more pork, 10 percent more soybeans, seemed like figures of astronomical size. But within 10 days after the County Farm Defense Board finally got the green light, the County Board had been in session 3 times, one county-wide meeting for interested city people and 23 community meetings for farmers had been held, and committeemen were going down the road with the 1942 farm defense plan.

This was the result of organized effort, with trained leaders taking their places of responsibility without hesitation and with ability to plan and carry out their plans.

But the quick start was not the entire answer. There was still the problem of determining what help farmers needed, how they were to get this help, and what adjustments had to be made in the established county extension program to see that necessary information reached the farmers.

In a county which produces almost every crop and variety of livestock to be found anywhere in the State, and with a considerable number of crops and livestock of real importance, the extension program was complicated, with a long list of project activities. It became necessary immediately to sort out those projects, discard those of least importance, or which could be stopped and resumed with least inconvenience to people in the county, and to curtail others, whereas some must go on uninterruptedly.

With this we are to have the help of the county agricultural planning committee, a group of men and women deliberately selected

for their interest in the agriculture of the county, their ability to plan and make decisions, and their concern for the welfare of their neighbors. Without exception, they all agreed to accept this new responsibility and are examining the content of the extension program, balancing it against new demands, and sorting out that which can best be spared.

The adult and the junior programs, both in agriculture and home economics, are all to be examined; many projects will be reshaped to meet the new needs, others will be discontinued, and some new ones added. We should wind up with a program stream-lined to meet the present needs so far as the available facilities will permit.

The job of getting the right amount of correct information to the farmers in the county will also be one of organization. A vast amount of trained leadership exists in the county. Besides the general agricultural organizations, the Farm Bureau and the Grange, and the Federal agencies such as the AAA, SCS, REA, and PCA, there are a number of extension organizations: Farm management clubs, livestock associations, vegetable and fruit growers' groups, marketing units, home demonstration councils, 4-H Clubs, and older rural youth groups. In each of these are certain facilities that can be used. In some it will be merely the training certain leaders have had. In others it will be the actual facilities of the organizations, and in still others the supplies or equipment; but in every case each organization will have a contribution to make.

Plans already under way disclose that all are willing to work to the fullest extent.

With these facilities, full use of the power of the press through the six newspapers in the county, some direct mail, a limited use of the radio, speakers supplied for group meetings, talks illustrated with slides or charts, and other familiar extension devices, proper information will be quickly disseminated throughout the county.

And already the program is working. Farmers are adding more cows, hens, sows, and ewes to the herds and flocks, because they have learned that satisfactory market outlets are likely to continue for some time in the future. In addition to this economic information, the same channels are being used to distribute the correct information about the feeding, care, and management that will give maximum production from each unit.

People in Licking County are good extension cooperators. By making full use of all the customary and some new methods of distributing extension information, it is certain that nearly every one of the 5,000 farms in the county will be reached with extension information and, likewise, that these same 5,000 farms will be made by their operators to meet the quotas and adequately serve America in the Food for Defense program.

Reorganized for Wartime

The reorganization of the Department of Agriculture to meet wartime effort places 19 line agencies in 8 administrative groups and sets up an Agricultural Defense Board of 11 members.

Changes include the appointment of Milton S. Eisenhower as Associate Director of Extension Work, who will also continue his duties as Land Use Coordinator; Fred Wallace, formerly chairman of the AAA Committee for Nebraska becomes AAA administrator with E. D. White, assistant administrator; E. W. Gaumnitz becomes Administrator of Surplus Marketing Administration.

The new administrative groups are the Agricultural Adjustment and Conservation group, which includes the Agricultural Adjustment Administration, the Soil Conservation Service, Federal Crop Insurance Corporation, and Sugar Division, with R. M. Evans as administrator and Dillon S. Myer, assistant; the Agricultural Marketing group, including Surplus Marketing, Commodity Exchange, and Agricultural Marketing Service, with Roy Hendrickson as administrator and C. W. Kitchen, assistant; and the Agricultural Research group, including the Bureaus of Animal Industry, Dairy Industry, Plant Industry, Agricultural Chemistry and Engineering, Entomology and Plant Quarantine, Home Economics, Office of Experiment Stations, and the Beltsville Research Center, with E. C. Auchter as administrator.

The administrators of these groups with J. B. Hutson, C. B. Baldwin, A. G. Black, Harry Slattery, Earl H. Clapp, Clifford Townsend, H. R. Tolley, and M. L. Wilson comprise the Agricultural Defense Board.

Stepping Up the Vital Foods

A tour of some Eaton County, Mich., farms with County Agent Hans Kardel shows that this county's share of the needed animal protein and other vital foods asked for in 1942 will be ready on time. In this fertile county almost 93 percent of the land area is in farms. The average farm consists of about 100 acres, generally farmed by the owner. Farmers know what they are trying to do and why. They know the difficulties in the way, but they have the skill and the spirit to carry through.

In spite of Old Man Weather, white navy beans are rolling along to market in Charlotte, Mich. In spite of alarming labor shortage, there are more pigs, more cows, and larger poultry flocks on the farms of Eaton County. This is true because more of the vital foods must be produced on these farms than have ever been produced there before. The farmer's hope of achieving his food-for-freedom goal rests largely on better feeding and better management.

Last spring, when the call came from Britain for more white navy beans, it was relayed to Eaton County among other places where navy beans are grown. Eaton County bean growers were tending to decrease their acreage partly because of uncertain weather at harvest time. In fact, both the AAA and the extension programs called for a decrease in beans for soil conservation reasons and because as a cash crop it seemed to be a big gamble. But bean growers rallied to the call. Between 65 and 80 farmers attended each of the meetings called in the 16 townships and agreed to undertake a 35-percent increase in acreage. The beans were put in—24,000 or 25,000 acres of them—but at harvest time the rains began. With only about 20 percent of the crop harvested, the rain came down day after day until some beanfields looked more like ponds, and wagons driven into the fields sank in mud to the hubs. The only way to harvest those beans was to pull them by hand, a back-breaking job; but young and old stuck to it until the job was done.

At a county defense board meeting in November, a gray-haired farmer representing the Production Credit Association on the board proudly greeted the chairman:

"I pulled that 12 acres of beans all by hand. I just wouldn't let it lick me. First, I was rather ashamed—felt like a peasant in the old county—but now I'm proud of it and go around bragging. Who says Americans are soft?"

Farmers are agreed that labor and weather are the limiting factors in the job they have set out to do. The most common greeting for Agent Kardel as he drove up to the barn was: "You've got to help me find a hired man."

On farm after farm, sons had been drafted

and had gone to camp. Hired men and farm boys who missed the draft were getting big wages in Lansing or Detroit working in booming war industries. Chairman Smith of the county defense board said: "It is a tough proposition when you can't get help and have to get the biggest production you have ever had."

The defense board is working on this problem on two different fronts. At the November board meeting in the county extension office, six different cases of draft deferment were considered. The cases presented to the defense board had been thoroughly investigated. The AAA records on the farm and the farm plan were there to show the size of the farming enterprise and its contribution to the Food-for-Freedom program. The records of the farmer and the boy in the credit association, in FSA, and in 4-H Clubs were considered.

The first case concerned a farmer more than 60 years of age on a 263-acre farm with 35 acres in beans and considerable livestock to add to the Food-for-Freedom goals. He depended on his son, a boy who had come up through the 4-H Club and who took much responsibility in managing the farm. In another case, the boy had a reputation for not

working on the home farm any more than he could help. In still another, the farming operations were not of a size or of a kind needed in the Food-for-Freedom program. The comments and judgment of these agricultural leaders were conscientiously given. The board secretary, County Agent Kardel, framed the letters of comment and recommendations which went to the draft board the next day and which were much appreciated.

Another method of attacking the knotty farm labor problem is through the increased use of machinery. More than 300 tractors were sold in the county last year. Corn pickers, corn shredders, milking machines, and other equipment have appeared on many farms during the year, which was a good one for farmers. Generally, five or six farmers go together to buy the more expensive equipment such as corn pickers. Frequently the machinery is rented to other farmers.

Farm machinery dealers, because it was a good year, put in more than ordinary supplies. Storerooms were rented and machinery piled in to capacity. One dealer reported a shortage in haying machinery, but others felt at present that they had enough to meet the need.

It seemed to the defense board, however, that attention should be given to the problem of repairing farm machinery. Farmers had the skill and experience to do their own repairing, but the board advocated the holding of extension demonstrations and meetings throughout the county in machinery repairing as well as those in pig and poultry growing which already had been planned by the extension agent.

The 1940 census showed 3,354 farms in the county, and every one of them was visited between November 3 and December 1, 1941, by the AAA committeemen in order that everyone might thoroughly understand the Food-for-Freedom program and the county goals—8 percent more milk, 10 percent more

The Eaton County Defense Board holds its November meeting with AAA, FSA, Production Credit Association, and Extension Service represented.



pigs, 5 percent more cattle and veal, 6 percent more eggs, and 13 percent more poultry meat.

Farmer Woodworth visited 78 farmers in his township, as he said, "right in the middle of sugar-beet harvesting." But he did not mind the delay, for he found practically all his neighbors interested and anxious to understand and help with the goals. Of course, there was the man down the road who thought things would be all right if the Government would get out of his business, but Farmer Woodworth did not seem much worried about him. With two sons in partnership at the Woodworth Old Home Stock Farm he feels that he can do his share in reaching the county goals if the boys are not called to the Army. He has put in a big granary to hold 5,000 bushels of corn, and his dairy herd tops the records in his dairy herd-improvement association with an average of 400 pounds of butterfat during the last 5 years. The number of sheep, pigs, and poultry on the farm is being increased.

On another farm, with rows of snow-fence corn cribs full of golden yellow corn extending all the way from the red barn to the road, 5,000 bushels of corn were being stored as compared to 3,500 bushels last year. This is to feed 79 pigs, instead of the usual 50, and the 54 white-faced beef cattle munching hay

in the warm barn where they will spend the winter. Having bought 5 tons of soybean meal to supplement the home-grown feed, the farmer is ready to go ahead. He even has a good hired man, an older man who, he feels, will stay with him.

Down the road, a former dairy club boy was building a new dairy barn with a laminated roof, as recommended by the Extension Service. A bright-eyed little girl just 10 years old and in her first year of club work caught the spirit when she broke the news that their 200 pullets were just beginning to lay. "One egg yesterday and 2 today. We're all so happy that the pullets have begun to lay. We had to have a new brooder house so the weasel wouldn't get the chickens. We didn't have any chickens last year, but now we have almost 200."

Everywhere one hears news of expanded production, big feed crops, the big corn year, great difficulty in harvesting, who is going to do the work, retired farmers going back to hard labor, women riding tractors and working in the field, new machinery, balanced rations, more milk, more eggs, more chickens, more pork: everywhere there is an optimistic look to the future. "After everything is said and done, I believe we'll meet the goals," reports County Agent Kardel, and Chairman Smith of the county defense board agrees.

ects will be given advice and recommendations.

The fight against malnutrition has not just begun. Mrs. "A" is a hard-working housewife who lives in a community in the northern part of the county. She does all of her housework, the family sewing, and other chores. In rush seasons she helps her husband in the fields—chopping cotton, picking cotton, and gathering corn. She has entire charge of the gardening activities, including taking care of the hotbed and cold frame. She did not think she could afford to take time from her other duties to attend the home demonstration club meeting in her community. But, having entered into the activities of the club, she became impressed with the necessity of improving her family's health. By learning to cook vegetables so that the important vitamins and minerals would not be lost in the excess "potlicker" which she had been in the habit of throwing away, she has been able to get her little son to exhibit more alertness in his school work, and in every way he is showing more vitality.

Mrs. "B" is a home demonstration club member living in a different community. Her husband is manager of a large plantation and supervises 41 colored tenants. In previous years, she organized a missionary society among the women folk and in such a manner has been able to win their lasting interest. This year, Mrs. B has contributed her time toward teaching the best methods of preservation. She has also included instructions on how to determine the family food requirements and specific ways of preparing the essential foods to avoid the great loss in nutritive value which has occurred from improper methods of cooking.

Perhaps it is too early to hazard a guess, but it appears that improvements in the nutritional situation in Quitman County will be brought about by such efforts as these.

The Call Is "All Out"

**MRS. ANNA P. FELDER, Home Demonstration Agent
Quitman County, Miss.**

■ Malnutrition! Or what have you? The local draft board has called up 630 men for examination. Of that number 411 have been rejected. To be sure, there are the social diseases in the picture! But what is behind the underweight, poor vision, bad feet, deformities, and tuberculosis?

The Quitman County agricultural leaders are ready to shove off for national defense. It is agreed that good food and good food habits are necessary. Just how these 27,101 people can be educated to the need of eating more vegetables, fruits, dairy products, eggs, and meats is a hard nut to crack. Patriotic fervor—bells ringing, flags flying if need be—will probably offer a solution for reaching the older people. An appeal for trying new dishes or combinations and adopting scientific methods of food preparation will go out to the bigger half (the 13,842 who are under 21 years).

The county agricultural coordinating council, the USDA Board, and the agricultural committee for civilian defense are cooperating 100 percent. Food and nutrition goals for 1941-42 have been adopted. The AAA committee-men gave out two copies of these goals to the producers. Each family returned one of them after it was signed and filled out in detail.

The call is definitely "All Out." The WPA lunch room supervisors, armed with the proper food from the Commodity Distribution Division, will have an opportunity to help 722 children eat the right food. School teachers will cooperate in using the school lunch to teach better nutrition.

Among their clients, the FSA supervisors will strive to remove the causes of malnutrition. The home demonstration and 4-H Club agents will continue to promote better nutrition through method demonstrations, home visits, moving pictures, circular letters, and news articles.

By using the help of home economics teachers and other local home economists, the home demonstration agent expects to put groups to work in every community. In many instances the members of the home demonstration council will assume the task of helping families to make food plans and conserve surpluses after they are produced. Where possible the local home demonstration club and project leaders will be asked to spread this gospel of nutrition.

The part-time county health officer cannot be expected to reach all 4-H Club members. However, the contestants enrolled in the healthy-living and health-improvement proj-

Editors' Shop-Talk Dinner

County Agent H. G. Seyforth and the editors of Pierce County, Wis., papers are working together on a mutually helpful project for reporting the news about extension activities in that county.

Although Seyforth knows all his editors personally, calls on them frequently, and sends them news regularly every week, he recently invited them to a dinner conference to get the collective views of his editors upon ways of improving his news service to them. After a colored slide report on the county program of work, the editors were asked what additional material, if any, they would like to have on those projects from week to week.

R. H. Rasmussen, representing the State extension editor's office, was asked to lead an informal round-table shop talk. After an hour or more of frank and constructive discussion, during which many helpful suggestions were given, the meeting was concluded with informal visiting and getting better acquainted.

Mothers' Club Runs a Nursery School

DORIS B. CHILD, Home Demonstration Agent, Windham County, Conn.

■ The Woodstock Mothers' Club, a home demonstration club of Windham County, Conn., has been operating a nursery school each summer for the past 4 years and now considers it a necessary part of the year's program. The nursery school is an outgrowth of a study of family and child problems by young mothers who felt that their children needed the companionship of other children. The moving spirit in the enterprise was supplied by a former 4-H Club leader in the county who had married the county agricultural agent. The enterprise grew because many of the young women in the community had small children and were perplexed by health and training problems.

The Idea Grows

The school started with an enrollment of 15 youngsters between the ages of 3 and 5½ years for a 3-week period. It has developed each year, the enrollment for the past year being 27 youngsters for a 4-week period.

At the nursery school, each young child receives great benefit from the opportunity to associate with other children of the same age group. The experience of sharing toys and apparatus of all kinds, of taking turns, and of being generous toward other children is one that is too often neglected. Pushing one another on the swing, taking turns on the tricycle, playing peacefully and happily together in the sand pile or with the trucks serve to make better social adjustments and lead to easier association and comradeship with others.

Rainy weather gave good opportunity for interesting play with clay modeling and with large crayons of elementary colors. Creative and manipulative powers were thus developed. Painting at the easel proved one of the most fascinating occupations of all, and definite development from the inexperienced and rough splashes of color to the more dainty and purposeful painting was noticed.

Any plan to teach such young children must include an attempt to develop all-round personalities, with emphasis on physical well-being, mental growth, emotional poise, and social adjustment.

For physical health, there was a real attempt not to tire the children unduly. The session closed early (11:30). In the middle of the morning a lunch of fruit juice and crackers was followed by a 15-minute rest period in the church pews; quiet play followed activity, and short directed periods were interspersed in the freer program. Because this is the age of great activity, slides, seesaws, ladders, jumping boards, carts, saws, and hammers were provided for vigorous motor play. Because too fine coordinations



Painting at the easel proved one of the most fascinating occupations of all.

involve nervous strain, large paint brushes and large crayons and big sheets of paper were provided.

All this apparatus keeps a child mentally alert, for each bit of material is a challenge. In making puzzles and in building or painting, a child creates for himself. Instead of following a pattern, he makes up his own way of splashing the paint on the paper or of modeling clay, thus developing initiative and the art of self-expression. Certain toys en-

As parents participate more in civilian defense and with the concentration of defense populations, many problems are arising in the care and training of children. Some cooperative effort will be necessary in many places. The experiences of a Connecticut home demonstration club in conducting a summer nursery school is particularly timely.

courage dramatic play—the doll corner, the farm animals, the autos, and the trains. Stories, music, and pictures help to cultivate taste. Language abilities grow as the children learn to express themselves in a group.

Emotional poise grows with spontaneity. It is fascinating to watch different natures unfolding in an atmosphere of happy freedom, plenty to do, and companionship of other children their own age. The shy, reserved child gradually comes out of her shell; the fearful takes courage from the bold; the too aggressive learns to wait his turn with grace. Everyone learns the inevitableness and security of a fixed routine.

Social adjustment comes in accordance with one's age and state. Taking turns with coveted toys, playing happily at similar occupations with one's neighbors, or even engaging in some elaborate cooperative game wherein each must carry out his part, all these are fine elementary lessons in good citizenship.

And when, to this physical, mental, emotional, and social mixture, one adds a bit of imagination and appreciation and a dash of humor, one has a recipe for a nursery school. As the cook book says, "get ready your utensils beforehand and mix well the ingredients."

Each summer the mothers and interested friends lend the school useful equipment, such as slippery slides, swings, seesaws, toys, books, blocks, and puzzles. They also furnished fruit juice and crackers or wafers for the lunch.

A small tuition for each child was charged. This covered running expenses such as paying for the instructors who were either Wheaton College or Perry Nursery School students, and any necessary supplies.

The nursery school has had an "open house" day for the last 2 years. Many mothers and friends have visited the school at that time. Visitors are always welcome, for the school is serving as a valuable demonstration in the community. The home demonstration group at Warrenville realized the value of a nursery school and wanted to organize one but found too few preschool-age children in the vicinity to finance a school. However, they are cooperating with a local church nursery school. The mothers in Woodstock feel that the school has served as a valuable agent in helping their children to make social adjustments.

■ Colorado annual 4-H Club encampment held in connection with the State fair, used as their theme song "Any Bonds Today" written by Irving Berlin and copyrighted by Secretary Morgenthau. By the end of the week, 500 4-H Club members and local leaders had memorized the song.

Building Strong Citizens

**DOROTHY N. THRASH, Home Demonstration Agent,
Greene County, Ga.**

National defense requires strong citizens—men and women, boys and girls, with enough of the right food to eat, with adequate medical care. Everywhere groups of people are planning and organizing to meet this need. In some places, as in Hancock County, Ga., where Miss Thrash was formerly home agent, farseeing leaders recognized the problem early and have experience especially valuable at this time.

■ Home demonstration clubs are playing a vital part in Hancock County's health program. With emphasis on raising a variety of garden produce, and planning and preparing well-balanced meals, the club members have been adding greatly to the improvement of their families' health. Meetings on home gardens have been held in every community in the county. Timely garden hints have been given out in circular letters and news articles. Dust guns were ordered for home demonstration club members, and demonstrations given on the proper use of them.

Sixteen demonstration gardens of 1 acre each have been set up to be operated for a 5-year period by eight white and eight Negro farm families. Before the experiment was started, a survey was made of the members of each family, and the soil in every garden plot was tested. The State health department furnished seeds, fertilizer, dust and sprays. The gardens are being operated under the direct supervision of the county health director, agricultural agent, and State extension gardener. Canning budgets have been worked out for the eight white families.

More interest is being manifested in canning throughout the county. During the past year, seven community food preservation short courses were conducted, and adequate canning budgets for the various families represented were worked out. The homemakers attending received copies of the bulletin, *Canning for National Defense*.

Many of the home demonstration groups are making contributions to the health of the entire community by sponsoring various health clinics—even raising the necessary funds for maintaining the clinics in suitable buildings. Club members have been guided in their health ventures by the county health director and nurse, who visited their clubs and outlined the health program to pursue.

White and Negro home demonstration agents have conducted cooking demonstrations at the well-baby clinics held each week. The mothers attending these clinics filled out questionnaires concerning their food production at home. The information obtained in this survey is the basis of this year's nutrition program worked out by the nutrition steering

committee, of which the home agent is chairman. Organized last June, this committee is composed of representatives of all the Government agencies and civic organizations functioning in the county.

Teachers report a marked improvement in the health of the children fed in the well-equipped school lunchrooms. Every white school in Hancock County now has a lunchroom, and a high percentage of the children eat hot school lunches daily. I have assisted the lunchroom supervisor in planning the menus and school-garden and canning programs.

Health authorities report a general improvement in the health of Hancock County's adults. During 1940, more than half of the citizens of the county were immunized against typhoid and smallpox; 95 percent of the babies have been immunized against diphtheria; and 300 positive cases of syphilis were treated at the weekly venereal disease clinics. The health program is credited with improving the health of 175 home demonstration and 91 4-H Club members.

The child health demonstration has included both prenatal and well-baby clinics. In the prenatal clinics, emphasis has been given to the expectant mother's dietary needs. The well-baby clinics involve the doctor's examination of the infant and the advice given to the mother as to the type of food and how it should be prepared. The physician gives the mother one of the feeding cards prepared by the State health department, writing on it the various changes that he thinks necessary for her child and writing out a feeding formula where necessary. If suggested foods are not available, the mother is encouraged to get in touch with the county extension agents to find out about raising the commodities. Vegetables that the baby will need in the future are anticipated, and the mother is advised to plant a garden and to use the chickens and eggs instead of trading them for articles which would be of less value.

The clinic is followed up by the county nurse's home visit. The nurse checks to see if the mother is following the doctor's orders. If not, she finds out the reason, helps the mother to adapt the demonstration to the

home equipment. The nurse makes inquiry about the garden, the milk and egg supply, and, if necessary, shows the mother again how to prepare the baby's food. The nurse may report to the home demonstration agent or to the Farm Security staff if the mother needs a garden, or to the physician if medical help is needed.

To a pediatrician who came from the North, there seemed to be some paradoxical problems in this southern country. At his first well-baby clinic, he recommended orange juice for a baby—found it couldn't be had—then recommended tomato juice, and found that that was also unavailable. He found out also, after a few more conferences, that this situation was not unusual. Distressed at this condition, a general meeting of all the representatives of county agencies was called, and he asked that raising and canning tomatoes be set as a special goal for the following summer. As a result, more families planted tomatoes, and thousands of cans of tomatoes were canned under the home agent's supervision in such a way that the food value was retained. Canning plants were erected, and more thousands of cans of tomatoes were prepared there. People were soon begging for jars to can more tomatoes. There was enough tomato juice available for nearly every baby.

The following summer, extension workers continued to urge the planting of more tomatoes. With the cooperation of the AAA a more extensive garden program was worked out and a greater variety of vegetables has been available for the children's diet.

Long before the vitamin problem had been solved, the pediatrician found other problems. He heard people talking about farms without cows. Most of the children did not drink milk, either because of lack or of dislike. The FSA tackled this problem by requiring all of their clients to have cows. The home economics teacher, the vocational teacher, the school lunch committee, the farm and home agent, and all health teachers cooperated. The milk supply is gradually increasing in Hancock County, and the children are drinking more milk each day.

Hancock County's child health demonstration may seem to have involved a duplication of effort. But many of the mothers were in the submarginal groups, some barely able to read and write; so the follow-up after the physician's diagnosis, such as the nurse's home visits, the demonstrations of the home and agricultural agents, and the FSA efforts, was all important. The school training of the older children who would relay their instruction at home played a big part. The results obtained have been well worth the trouble taken and justify the time consumed. The mortality rate of summer dysentery for infants under 2 years has decreased from 22 in 1935 to 0 in 1938. The mortality rate of infants under 1 year has decreased from a rate of 80 in 1935 to 33 in 1939. The mortality rate of children under 5 years has decreased from 12 to 9.7.

They Laid the Ground Work

■ Thirty-five years ago, on November 12, 1906, Secretary of Agriculture James Wilson appointed the first demonstration agent to work exclusively with Negro farmers. He was T. M. Campbell, now field agent in charge of Negro extension work in the group farthest south, Southern States. One month later he appointed J. B. Pierce the second Negro demonstration agent who is now in charge of Negro extension work in the northern tier of Southern States.

Dr. Booker T. Washington, founder of Tuskegee Institute in Alabama, and Dr. H. B. Frissell, president of Hampton Institute in Virginia, had much to do with the beginning of Negro extension work and arranged with Dr. Seaman A. Knapp of the Department of Agriculture for the appointment of Mr. Campbell and Mr. Pierce.

From this beginning, these 2 men have laid the ground work for Negro extension work which now employs 555 agents and has a budget of more than 1 million dollars of Federal, State, and county funds. More than 338,000 Negro farm families participate in extension programs. Approximately 187,500 Negro boys and girls belong to 4-H Clubs.

To the work of these two pioneers these pages are dedicated, a tribute from Dr. Smith, formerly chief of the Office of Cooperative Extension Work, who knew them so well for many years, a reminiscence by J. B. Pierce of just how he got started down the extension path, and a look at some of the problems and activities of today by T. M. Campbell.

Two Great Americans

In these days of Thanksgiving and Christmas and New Years when we take stock of our blessings and bestow gifts, Cooperative Extension may congratulate itself on having on its national staff two great Americans, T. M. Campbell and J. B. Pierce; and it is fitting that Extension acknowledge publicly the esteem in which these men are held by all their associates.

These men have pioneered in the extension field now for 35 years. They have set the pattern and established the pace for farm and home extension work and rural culture for the Negro race in America.

That the whole Nation supports that work wholeheartedly and without reserve is due in large measure to the integrity, the great common sense, the modesty, the ability, and the Christian character of these two fine gentlemen.

From our long association with these men and their work, we know that their shadows will lengthen with the years ahead when men come to study and appraise the foundations they have laid and the things they have accomplished with their people.



Director M. L. Wilson congratulates the two Negro agents at a meeting of the Federal Extension staff and Department of Agriculture officials on November 24 to pay tribute to their 35 years of service.

Jefferson has waited more than 100 years for a national monument in his honor. Know that you have a monument to your memory now in the hearts of all those who work with you and that the records of your work even

now have a place in the Nation's archives.

And so all honor to J. B. Pierce and T. M. Campbell, two great Americans. May they live long to serve the Nation as they have in the past 35 years!— *Dr. C. B. Smith.*

A Vision for My People

J. B. PIERCE

■ My mother always took the local teachers to board in our home that her children might get the added touch of better training. So when Booker Washington visited our town he stopped at our home. He was a gentle and kindly spoken man with dynamic force. My parents were so impressed with him they decided to send me to his school that year. I was about 17 years old and had worked with my father, who was a brickmason. I went to work at my trade immediately after entering Tuskegee, helping to build the church, Phelps Hall, Thrasher Hall, and other smaller buildings on the campus.

The school then was mostly in woods—we lived in little shanties out in the field, slept on pine tags, wheat or oat straw, ate corn pone, molasses, and black-eyed peas. We had flour bread on Sundays, and dressed, in the most part, out of the missionary barrels sent by kind friends.

Mr. Washington was everywhere on the campus, in the trade shops and classrooms, when he was not away raising funds to carry on the work. We were much under his influence and inspiration. He had faith, great faith in God and knew that he was doing what was sorely needed—training the Negro to know the dignity of hand labor.

When the younger boys came to school, they were placed under the older students; many of these students were men and women. I, being younger, was put under one of the older men, and in turn I had to show one of the new buds how to shoot.

Then I decided to begin training for my life's work and came to Hampton Institute to study agriculture. Here I was fortunate enough to meet a wonderful man who was my teacher, counselor, and friend—Dr. H. B. Frissell, a modest, Christian gentleman. I still feel the blessing of these two great men. Dr.

Frissell, as did Dr. Washington, believed agriculture basic.

Dr. Seaman A. Knapp was a friend of Hampton Institute and came often for conferences with Dr. Frissell. He also met and talked to the teachers and students. After one of these visits, Dr. Frissell called me to his office and offered me the work that was closest to my heart, that of carrying the school to the farmer. He said that the General Education Board had given a small sum of money for that purpose, and he felt he would like for me to do this work. I was pleased, for it was what I had hoped to do. We were always glad when "Doc Frissell" picked us out for something special. In June 1906, I began work in Norfolk County, Va., working directly under Hampton and according to Dr. Knapp's plan. When school opened, Dr. Frissell wanted me to continue this work as he was pleased

with what I had done, so I did not return to my classes in September. In December 1906, Dr. Knapp offered me work directly under him, with salary paid by the General Education Board and Federal funds. Dr. Frissell decided that I should go to Gloucester County, Va., as it offered a chance to help round out special work that T. C. Walker, a Hampton graduate, was doing in the county.

I have had the rare privilege of working with wonderful men and catching the gleam of their vision for American agriculture and to interpret it for my people. I often think that if during the present time these leaders could be here in conference, they would fit right in—for it was in their minds, visions of a day when the lowest-income farmers in America could live at home, educate their children in nearby training schools, and build for themselves a satisfying farm life.

After 35 Years

T. M. CAMPBELL

I made a visit to the Library of Congress recently to satisfy a curiosity which I have had for some time. I wanted to see if extension work with Negroes had really been recognized as a regular form of education for rural people. To my surprise and great satisfaction I found it recorded there as a permanent record for all time to come. Now it can be truthfully said that this system of teaching low-income farmers how to help themselves become self-sufficient is no longer an experiment.

The 555 or more Negro county extension agents now employed in the 10 Southern States represent the dynamic force at work in rural areas; in the performance of their duties there is no sounding of trumpets and very little pleading as they move in and out of the humble homes of Negro farm families. The rural community is their classroom, and they teach better methods of living to thousands who have no other medium of receiving organized factual information.

Thirty-five years have shown many instances of substantial progress. Through the efforts of extension agents there is an increasing number of sharecroppers and tenants following the live-at-home program, and many landlords have adopted a more liberal attitude in providing better houses and long-time written contracts. Many Negro farmers have learned how to improve their homes through the use of native materials and surplus labor without any great outlay of cash. Some headway is being made in campaigns and demonstrations to improve the general health of the rural family. The necessity for greater efficiency and morale, as well as the selective draft, is bringing this problem to the front.

There is a great deal of need for further effort in providing community recreation. If young people are to be content on the farm

instead of moving to town, entertainment will have to be developed in rural communities.

To achieve some of these goals, the radio can be used to greater extent. Rural electric lines and the use of battery sets have brought the radio to hundreds of Negro homes. 4-H Club boys and girls often use their first profits to buy a radio.

We must not forget the country church which has always been a potent factor in the rural community. The Extension Service is fortunate in having the full cooperation of the rural preacher who is working toward the same objective of better living for Negro rural families.

We are looking ahead to even greater things. We are getting more data on which to base our work. For instance, the study of food habits among Negro farm families is furnishing useful data. Negro farm and home agents are conducting this survey in three counties in each of seven States. The object is to find out to what extent the average Negro farm family is getting a daily balanced diet, to learn how much food and feed is grown on the home farm and to get information as to general health and kinds of medicines commonly used. With such information our programs can be focused more surely on the needs as they exist.

Some people ask whether the Negro farmer will rise to the emergency which our country is now facing in the matter of increasing food and feed production. To this I will say, have no fear. The Negro farmer will shoulder his part of the Nation's agricultural burden just as he has always done in proportion as he is kept informed on what is needed. He is already adjusting himself to the changes taking place in the South's economy and to mechanized farming.

A Novel Windbreak-Planting Contest

In 1937, the Minot (North Dakota) Association of Commerce, at the suggestion of County Agent Earl A. Hendrickson and State Extension Forester John S. Thompson, initiated a contest among farmers of Ward County to see who could grow the best shelterbelt. Thirty-four farmers entered the 4-year contest, planting 55 acres of trees in 1938, to vie for the five annual individual cash awards which begin at \$2.50 and run to \$60, the total amount made available for the contest being \$250. The awards are based on clean cultivation of the plantations, replacement of weak seedlings that fail to grow, growth the trees make, fencing to exclude livestock, and general appearance.

A. A. Bortsfeld, 3 miles west of Deering, repeated his 1940 performance of winning first prize by taking first in 1941 and the \$20 cash. In 1940 he received \$15 as first prize. The first prize in 1942 is \$60, and many "dark horses" are being groomed for that year. Mr. Bortsfeld states that "Cultivation is absolutely necessary to successful farm forest tree planting. Weeds and trees just don't grow together. There is not enough moisture for both, and the weeds get it first." Mr. Bortsfeld added that as early as during the third growing season the protection afforded by the planting was noticeable, the cottonwoods and Chinese elm reaching a height of 12 to 15 feet.

Ben Benson of Douglas stated that he considers his shelterbelt, established under this contest, to have saved him several hundred dollars in the summer of 1941 when it protected his garage and automobile from a high wind which caused considerable damage to other unprotected buildings.

Several farmers who were not in the prize money the first 2 years have broken into the winning column. Only three farmers have dropped out—these due to moving from the county or sickness. The cost per acre of windbreak to the Government under this program was \$7.50—the AAA benefit payment.

A Milestone

Texas has passed the half-million mark in the number of cotton mattresses made under the Department of Agriculture's cotton-mattress program, according to Mildred Horton, vice director and State home demonstration agent. Tabulations through September show that 508,693 mattresses have been delivered.

Altogether, 3,573,213 mattresses have been made in the Nation under the program, with Texas leading all other States in number. Alabama is second with 478,534.

The total number of cotton comforts delivered through September is 673,591, with 139,085 of this number made in Texas. Tickling and percale are now difficult to get, so the program has slowed down somewhat.

Translated Into Action

WALTER L. BLUCK, County Agricultural Agent, Clinton County, Ohio

■ During a discussion group meeting in Wilmington, a prominent leader of this community said: "What is happening is that we are, in fact, passing out of the era of 'thoughts and words' into the new era of 'thoughts, words, and action.'" Agricultural extension has long claimed that application and not mere dissemination of knowledge was its goal. Sometimes we have fumbled the ball.

The use of "people to educate people," in which the satisfactions experienced by the active cooperator are carried "man to man" among the flock owners of the county, has been the main factor behind the success of the Clinton County lamb and fleece improvement program. Forty-four flock owners who purchased registered mutton rams in 1932 have done far more to influence improvement in the sheep industry of Clinton County than the speech making and literature on sheep husbandry put together. It put education on an actual experience basis. Well-timed publicity, tours, and demonstrations held closely relevant to the activities of cooperating flock owners have done the rest.

Since 1932, cooperating flock owners have purchased 956 registered rams from 141 different purebred breeders during 10 annual purebred-ram campaigns. This and other features of the sheep-improvement program are sponsored by the Clinton County Lamb and Fleece Improvement Association. Organized and guided by the county agent, the organization provides the means and gives expression to the coordinated efforts of flock owners, the Extension Service, and the terminal cooperative sales agency.

Includes Over Half of Flocks

The association now comprises 510 operators and landlords owning 473 flocks. This number represents 54 percent of the flocks and more than 60 percent of the ewes owned in Clinton County. Annual membership cards are issued only to sheepmen using purebred rams.

Of the 956 rams purchased since the first ram campaign in 1932, 612 have been Shropshire; 228 Southdown; 23 Corriedale; 24 Hampshire; and 9 represent the Dorset, Oxford, and Cheviot breeds.

Starting grading and pool sale operations in 1933, the association has now marketed 42,588 lambs, sired by purebred rams, for its members. By actual comparison with Government-issued price quotations for the Cincinnati market on the same days, the improved-quality lambs account for the return of more than \$40,000 extra income to Clinton County flock owners participating in the plan. The writer, who has served Clinton County for 11 years,

sees in these successes proof of a twofold function of the extension teacher.

First, adult education to be effective must be functional. It should be the function of the extension workers to actually "provide for," "lead to," or "bring to" our people a broadened and enriched experience as a teaching technique. Such experience should bring the improved practice into contrast with the established and traditional one. Call this "expanding experience," if you like; at any rate it is the "pedagogical gland" necessary to stimulate interest, motivation, and eventual change in concepts and practice. Seeing the actual practice in operation rather than listening to abstractions regarding advantages counts most in this business of influencing people.

The second broad function in extension teaching is to bring into focus the elements of the new experience. This vital aid to progress must be concurrent with the functional experience as a guide to change in the new direction. New experiences must "add up to make sense" to the individual; otherwise the old practice, less efficient but better understood, will prevail.

When people act as these Clinton County flock owners have for 10 years, "it's a take." The interpretation advanced here may seem like searching a lot of pedagogical chaff for the kernel, but let us never forget that influencing change among adults is no mere accident. Persistent quest into the factors behind successful and unsuccessful attempts at extension should guide us around pitfalls and light the way to higher roads of effectiveness. Farmers, like ourselves, can comprehend some rather complex relationships by just seeing things work.

With more than 80 percent of the pool lambs classing "single" and "double" blue (good and choice), prices received have exceeded all other terminal market lamb prices in the country almost without exception.

Effective, well-timed publicity setting forth these results and emphasizing the basic practices leading up to and making possible the higher prices is likewise essential to expansion of the program. Once we team satisfaction with understanding, we have helped the cooperator to develop the "twin motors" that enable him to exert a powerful influence among his neighbors toward adoption of improved methods. We must use people to influence people.

Advantages of coordinated action—the Extension Service, organized lamb producers, and cooperative marketing agencies in pursuit of a common goal—are well demonstrated in the 10-year record of achievement in the sheep-improvement program. In 1932, 44 registered rams were purchased; 983 lambs were mar-

keted through pool sales in 1933, and 104 flock owners participated. Five years later, in 1936, 97 registered rams were purchased; 5,583 lambs were marketed; 326 flock owners were members of the association; and Ohio, Indiana, and Kentucky counties adopted this plan. Ten years later, in 1941, 110 registered rams were purchased; 7,353 lambs were marketed in 1940; 510 flock owners were members of the association, all using registered rams; and 20 Ohio, Indiana, and Kentucky counties had adopted the plan.

As much of life depends on the flow of dollars back to the countryside, citizens here generally applaud the additional \$40,000 which has accrued to Clinton County sheepmen participating in the improvement program. Based on the average number of cooperating sheepmen for the 10-year period, this additional income is equivalent to the purchase price of a moderate-priced car for each family. Do education and cooperation pay? This is one answer. The above results are based on a comparison of prices actually received for Clinton County pool lambs with official Government price quotations for the Cincinnati market for the same days, weighted as to grade.

Reputation Grows

Influence of the program has now extended beyond county and State boundaries. Motion pictures of this program, principally of the grading and marketing operations, were filmed by the Farm Credit Administration here on August 21 for use in the new United States Department of Agriculture film, *Cooperative Marketing in United States*. Frequently delegations from other counties and States come here to see first-hand the operation of this program.

Policies of the improvement association are determined by the elected officers and 18 board members, half of whom are elected each year. Likewise, all operations involving assembly, grading, and marketing of the lambs are handled by a special sales committee, a producer field man, and volunteer help recruited from the membership. There are no dues; local expenses are paid by deducting a home charge of 6 cents per lamb marketed through pool sales.

Annual banquets have been sponsored by the association in February of each year. These functions serve to dramatize the achievement and satisfactions of the program as well as to promote acquaintance and friendship among the group. Each year more than 400 men and women have attended this gala event.

Other activities of the association include assistance with lamb-feeding tours, demonstrations by the Extension Service, and the development of a young farmers' lamb feeding project. Last year 14 young men out of school and under 30 years of age were enrolled in this project. They fed and maintained accurate records and marketed 1,082

Texas lambs during the winter of 1940-41. This group had the experience of cooperative purchase of feeder lambs, cooperative finance through the local Production Credit Association, and continued group action in holding a county-wide feeder lamb show followed by cooperative marketing of their project lambs on a graded basis at the Cincinnati terminal. No group in Clinton County finds its co-

operative activity met with more favorable response than that regularly experienced by the Lamb and Fleece Improvement Association. Agricultural extension plays a conspicuous role in every phase of the association program. No lines are drawn between the teaching, the learning, and the doing. The "doing" proves that something has happened to the sheepmen.

"She's going to land in Mr. Sparks' pasture."

By the time the home demonstration agent had landed and taxied up to the pasture gate, several of the members were on hand to greet her. They triumphantly escorted her back to the schoolhouse where, after the excitement had subsided, a business meeting was held, plans were made for a cakewalk, and girls' records were checked. When the time came for Miss Reid to return to Portales, the whole club saw her off from the pasture.

The Roosevelt County home agent does not make a practice of flying to all her 4-H and women's club meetings. For one thing, the State office accounting procedure has not been adjusted to make reimbursement for airplane mileage traveled in the discharge of official duty. Another reason is that Miss Reid is only 1 of a group of 15 enthusiastic Portales fledglings who together own a plane. It is not often that she can get the plane for a whole morning or afternoon. But she has found that an airplane has so far made it possible for her to maintain her reputation of getting to all her meetings, come rain or shine.

Abreast of the Times



The Agricultural Workers Council of Lincoln County, N. C., is an active organization keeping abreast of all agricultural activities in the county. When the council decided to back the State food and feed program, about 1,800 pledge cards were signed by individual farm families out of a possible 2,400 in the county.

The council meets the first Monday of each

month at a luncheon from 12 to 1 o'clock. The first half of the meeting is taken up with lunch and the last half with the program and business. Each month one organization has charge of the program. "We thought this would be the best way to familiarize ourselves with the duties and activities of our fellow workers," said County Agent J. G. Morrison, chairman of the council.

Come Rain, Come Snow The Agent Is There

"She has never failed us yet, and I'm betting she'll be here today," one member of the Perry 4-H Club in Roosevelt County, N. Mex., stated one Friday afternoon last June as the 4-H'ers assembled at the schoolhouse for their regular meeting.

"But she can't possibly get here this afternoon. Let's go ahead with the meeting," replied another member.

"She" was Aubrey Reid, the home demonstration agent, who was scheduled to attend the meeting, out 65 miles by road from the county seat. Almost continuous rains over a period of weeks had made all but first-class roads impassible, and the 21 members who were assembled at the schoolhouse were able

to be there only because they knew their country roads so well.

Finally, at the suggestion of the club leaders, the meeting was called to order. A song was sung, the roll called, and the secretary, Marie Propes, had just begun reading, "The Perry 4-H Club held its regular meeting at . . ." when the sound of a motor was heard overhead. The closer the sound came the less interested the club members became in the minutes of the last meeting. Finally, all rushed outside just in time to see a plane winging by. In a minute the plane returned, and this time all recognized the pilot as she waved at them.

"It's Miss Reid," several shouted together.

She Uses a Bobsled

Miss Reid is not the only New Mexico home agent who uses unusual transportation methods in performing her job. Mrs. Ruby Harris, the home agent in Colfax County, once sledged to a winter club meeting atop Johnson Mesa. The mesa is a plain of approximately 12 by 20 miles in size which lies on top of a mountain range at 8,000 feet elevation. By early winter the mesa is frequently covered by a blanket of snow which effectively blocks all but the main roads. When meeting day for the Johnson Mesa Woman's Club came one time last winter, Mrs. Harris left Raton, the county seat, earlier than usual and drove as far as a schoolhouse in her automobile. At the schoolhouse she was joined by other women going to the meeting. After all had assembled, a bobsled drawn by a team of horses pulled up, and off they went across snow-covered fields to the meeting.

"It was the most fun I ever had going to a club meeting," Mrs. Harris says. "I hope that this winter I shall have another ride of that sort."

On arriving at the house where the meeting was held, one of the club members explained: "We know that we promised to be a summer club so that we could be organized; but, as we have so much fun and as there is so much to learn, we decided that we should keep on meeting throughout the winter. Besides, winter would be worse if we had to stay home all the time. As we all have bobsleds, there is no reason why we can't keep on with our club."

Such a demonstration as that convinces Mrs. Harris that, whatever the weather may be, sunshine still spends the winter on Johnson Mesa in the hearts of the farm and ranch women. With such spirit, the women will go far in accomplishment.

How Useful Is Leader-Training Material?

Edith Rowles, a graduate student at the University of Wisconsin, studied the use which project leaders in adult home economics extension made of lesson plans and subject-matter circulars furnished them for teaching purposes. Forty-five project leaders representing 26 home demonstration clubs in Richland County, Wis., were interviewed. Mimeographed material used in teaching a nutrition lesson, *Meat for Health*, was chosen for the study. The questionnaire used covered the plan for demonstration and discussion, and two subject-matter circulars, *Meats*, and *Ways of Using Beef and Hog Liver*, the latter to be used for reference material.

The study shows that the lesson plan was not as useful to the leaders as the circulars which were used extensively. The leaders found the illustrations and simple charts very useful. The training literature provided seemed adequate. Many of the leaders are older women without much formal schooling and with no teaching experience. The study points out that the teaching material should be planned especially to help these women. It should be simple enough in vocabulary to be easily understood but broad enough in scope to develop the leader. The younger leaders having more formal training should be better able to adapt the material to their own use.

Because leaders do not spend much time at home preparing for the local meetings, the study brings out the importance of careful training at the central meeting so that the leaders in return can give careful instruction in their own local meetings. The difficulty that some leaders experience in applying the suggested methods to various local situations indicates the necessity of adapting the lesson plan to meet these adjustments.—**A Study of the Use Which Project Leaders Are Making of the Subject-Matter Circulars and Plans for Demonstration and Discussion Supplied to Them for Teaching Purposes.** Edith Childe Rowles, University of Wisconsin. Typewritten, 1939.

Effective Bulletin Distribution

Farmers' interest in sending for publications can be stimulated by the boxholder distribution of bulletin announcements, according to a recent experiment at the University of Wisconsin. In three successive surveys, each covering five counties, different types of cards with brief announcements of current bulletins published by the Wisconsin Extension Service were sent to approximately 50,000 rural boxholders.

In the first survey, an unstamped return card was attached to the announcement of 5 bulletins which was sent to 17,350 rural boxholders in 5 counties. Eleven percent of the

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boxholders sent back the return card with their choice of publications checked.

No return card was attached to the bulletin announcement sent to the 17,623 rural boxholders of 5 other counties, and the response fell to 3 percent. But when a 2-page folder with an unstamped return card was sent to 13,255 boxholders in the third survey, more than 13 percent requested some bulletins listed.

Names of those seeking bulletins in the first survey were checked with an extension mailing list, and it was found that about 81 percent were not listed. A classification of the names by the agents in the 5 counties revealed that from 18 to 42 percent of those requesting bulletins were entirely unknown to the agents.—**Bulletin Distribution by the Rural Boxholder Method**, by William B. Ward, U. S. Dept. of Agriculture. Col. of Agri., Univ. of Wisconsin Pub. (typewritten), 1941.

Home Agent Measures Work

A plan for evaluating the results of extension activities is set forth by Lita H. Luebbers, Morgan County, Ill., home agent, in the July 1941 issue of *What's New in Home Economics*. Cooperating in the measurement of their extension activities are the home demonstration club women who help evaluate the progress of their work by filling out check sheets which Mrs. Luebbers has prepared on various extension projects. About a month or two after the discussion of a particular subject, the women are given the sheets to check at the beginning of a meeting when the homemakers are more apt to give the checking their undivided attention.

All questions on the check sheets are asked in simple language. For instance, in the check sheet on *Selection of Dress Accessories*, there are 10 brief questions such as: Do you have a better understanding of the purpose of dress accessories as a result of our recent study? Have you selected your handbags according to the suggestions given? Have you considered the information as outlined on buying gloves in making your purchases? These questions are answered by checking X if the answer is "Yes" and left blank if the answer is "No." "Your answers to these questions will materially assist me in planning our next homemaking club units," points out Mrs. Lueb-

bers in directions which are easily understood.

Last year, the Morgan County homemakers filled out check sheets on two clothing and three foods projects, and on other miscellaneous activities emphasizing "What the family should know about legal matters," "Better banking practices for the family," and "Early American pressed glass."

What Training Do Specialists Need?

To assist prospective and in-service State extension subject-matter specialists to obtain the type of training best suited to their professional needs, a study was made to learn what subjects taken in college by the different specialists have been most helpful to them in their extension work, and what subjects they wish had received greater emphasis. The amount of time they devoted to the various subjects in college was also reported by the 1,239 specialists who furnished information for this study. Data on 20 different subject-matter groups are presented separately.

In general, the subjects in which the specialists experience the greatest need for further study, and those found most helpful to them in the conduct of their work are the subjects to which they devoted the most time in college. The home-economics specialists apparently do not find their training quite so well suited to their needs as do the agricultural specialists, although more of them reported undergraduate and advanced college training and more of them have degrees.

In the order named, the subjects in which the agricultural specialists experience the greatest need for more training are: Economics, technical agriculture, English, education, sociology, chemistry, and mathematics. For the home-economics specialists they are: Sociology, English, economics, education, technical home economics, and business administration.

Seventy-one percent of the specialists reported training beyond a bachelor's degree, and 45 percent have master's or doctor's degrees. The plant pathology, entomology, and parent education and child development groups have the highest percentage with advanced degrees. Forty-nine percent of the specialists consider training beyond a bachelor's degree to be of "much" importance for an extension worker, and an additional 41 percent think it is of "some" importance.

Practically all of the specialists think prospective extension workers should serve an apprenticeship period of about 1 year before being given a regular appointment and that college courses in extension organization and methods should be provided.—**Preparation and Training of State Extension Subject-Matter Specialists**, Lucinda Crile, Federal Extension Service, U. S. Dept. Agr. Ext. Serv. Cir. 371. 1941.

A Form Letter

A form letter resulted in the planting of 120 acres of windbreaks in East Otter Tail County, Minn., in 1941. The letter was sent to all farmers by Clifford L. Johnson, chairman of the agricultural conservation committee, and endorsed by Assistant County Agent Allan Hoff and State Extension Foresters Parker O. Anderson and Clemens Kaufman.

In 1940, when the letter was sent out for the first time, 45 acres of windbreaks were planted. In 1941, the figure jumped to 120 acres. About 48,000 trees were planted on 75 farms. It is planned to repeat the procedure in the spring of 1942.

The letter read:

"DEAR MR. FARMER: Everyone admires a good windbreak! We have just been advised by a local nurseryman that he will furnish labor for planting and sufficient tree stock for planting an acre of trees at the rate of \$8 to \$10 per acre, depending on the number of trees. You will, of course, be required to prepare the ground for planting and keep the trees cultivated afterward. As you know, you can earn up to \$7.50 per acre for planting and caring for up to 2 acres of trees under the A.A.A. program so that the actual cost will be only 50 cents to \$2.50 per acre."

The Extension and AAA representatives have had excellent support from the commercial nurseryman, and the farmers have shown keen interest in taking care of the trees. In August 1941, inspection of a number of these plantings showed excellent survival, growth, care, and cultivation. The farmers and the Federal and State workers involved were highly pleased with this procedure, and the net cost to the Government is only about \$7.50 per acre under the AAA program—the benefit payment for tree planting.

ON THE CALENDAR

- American National Livestock Association, Salt Lake City, Utah, January 7-9.
- National Council of Farmer Cooperatives, Atlanta, Ga., January 8-10.
- Seventeenth Annual Meeting of American Institute of Cooperation, Atlanta, Ga., January 12-17.
- Annual Outlook Conference, Washington, D. C., January 14-17.
- National Education Association, Department of Home Economics, San Francisco, Calif., February 21-26.
- National Education Association, Department of Rural Education, San Francisco, Calif., February 21-26.
- National Education Association, Department of Visual Instruction, San Francisco, Calif., February 21-26.
- National Council of Education, San Francisco, Calif., February 23-24.

ONE WAY TO DO IT! Methods tried and found good

Trains Recreation Leaders

Plans for a State-wide recreation program for Minnesota rural communities are rapidly taking shape. District training schools have been held throughout the State for representatives who will assume leadership in reviving music, dramatics, and folk games in their home counties.

Objectives of the program are to stimulate interest in home and community leisure-time activities; to train leaders in planning and directing recreation programs in their own communities; and to give special emphasis to music, dramatics, and social recreation.

The general theme of this year's program, "Pan-American Culture," emphasizes music, folk dances, games, and customs of American countries. The music work places a great deal of emphasis on community singing, encouraging participation of all-age groups and combining musical expression with other forms of recreation. It is planned that individuals and groups from all sections of the State will participate in a program to be presented during farm and home week in January.

One of the high lights of each 2-day training school was the drama workshop. County leaders joined in rehearsing and presenting a one-act play at the conclusion of the 2-day program

A Handy Handbook

The North Carolina Handbook for the Food and Feed Program is proving very useful to agents and to county agricultural council members.

The handbook is a mimeographed, loose-leaf publication compiled by Lewis P. Watson, extension horticulturist, from contributions of the various specialists working on the food and feed program. It contains a statement of the food and feed situation in North Carolina and recommendations for improving it. For instance, under agronomy are short articles on growing summer and fall grazing crops; how to grow corn, with a suggested mailing piece on the making and use of lye hominy; the making of sorghum; how to grow wheat, with a suggested mailing piece

giving whole-wheat recipes; and a sample lecture and method demonstration on milling at home.

Other subjects treated in the handbook, with a handy thumbnail guide so that subjects can be found easily are: Beef cattle, dairying, horticulture, poultry, sheep, and swine. Under each heading, the nutritional value and recipes are side by side with directions for producing and facts about the defense need, pointed up with small sketches which the agent can reproduce on his own circular letters.

The county agricultural council in North Carolina counties has assumed the responsibility of putting across in each county the food and feed program described in the July REVIEW and finds need for just such a handbook. The council is composed of the members of all the paid agricultural workers in the county, the number varying from 10 to 50 members, depending upon the size of the county and the agencies operating in them.

Have You Read?

Basic Photography—War Department, Air Corps, Technical Manual TM 1-219. 342 pp. Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C. Price 35 cents.

A new and completely revised edition of this old stand-by of photographic textbooks has just been issued. Although it has been written for use of the Air Corps, hardly any mention of aerial photography is included in this volume. (A companion volume, TM 1-220, is devoted to the intricacies of aerial photography.) Subjects covered include the practical aspects of chemistry, optics, sensitometry, ground photography, negative and print making, enlarging, copying, color photography, lantern slide making, and kindred basic subjects. For those extension workers interested in the technology of photography this book is recommended as basic study material.—*Don Bennett, Visual Education Specialist.*

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“Victory is our only objective . . .”

AT THE SUMMONS of Vice President Wallace, the Supply Priorities and Allocations Board held a special meeting December 9 in the Vice President's office and adopted the following declaration:

FROM NOW ON, every action by this Board and by the related civilian agencies of the Government must be keyed to one goal—complete victory in this war which has been thrust upon us.

FROM THIS MOMENT we are engaged in a victory program. We can talk and act no longer in terms of a defense program. Victory is our one and only objective, and everything else is subordinate to it.

IT IS CLEAR that a vastly expanded national effort is imperative. Production schedules for all manner of military items must be stepped up at once. Every activity of our national life and our civilian economy must be immediately adjusted to that change. To attain victory we aim at the greatest production which is physically possible; we call for the greatest national effort that can possibly be made.

THIS POLICY applies all down the line—in the agencies of Government, in industry, in agriculture, in commerce, in labor, in every phase of national life. There is but one standard for activities in all of these fields—the simple question, “Is this the utmost that can be done to bring victory?” Policies and actions which meet that test must be adopted; those which do not must be rejected.

A UNITED PEOPLE will harness the unparalleled might of the United States to one word and one slogan—**VICTORY**.

