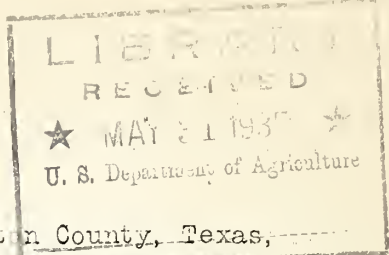


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WHEAT 4-H CLUB WORK HAS TAUGHT ME

A radio talk by Alvin Wilkins, 4-H club boy, Wharton County, Texas, delivered in the National 4-H Club Radio Program, May 4, 1935, and broadcast by a network of 59 associate NBC radio stations.

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For three years I have been an active member of the 4-H Club of Wharton County, Texas. I am 16 years old and am in the 9th grade. There are twelve boys in our club. We have for our slogan, "More feed and food on the Farm" and our goals are, a one acre demonstration in field crops and better hogs for pork and profits. I rented the land and team from my father and selected corn growing for my project. This is the way I went about it.

Each year I have flat-broken my land in December, according to the instructions which I have received in the club meetings. I followed this with disking and harrowing. Later I laid off the rows 6 feet apart and planted the corn, using always, certified seed. I cultivated every 8 days until the crop was matured.

The first year the yield was only 30 bushels per acre. The next, 1933, the yield was 76.64 bushels. This exceptional yield won for me the first State prize in corn production and a trip to the State Fair at Dallas.

In 1934 the demonstration did not stand the drought, so the yield fell to 35 bushels. This wasn't so bad because the average yield for the 4-H boys over the state was only 20.2 bushels per acre.

Foreseeing the effects of the drought, I planted hogari in the alternate rows which produced 1 1/2 tons of head and 3 tons of fodder which I sold along with corn crop to a local dealer.

By thorough preparation of the soil, careful selection of the seed and regular cultivation, I have been able each year to lead my club in the production of corn.

The income from my demonstrations and prizes for the past three years has amounted to \$309.25, most of which I am saving for my college education.

4-H Club work has taught me the best practices in corn growing and has helped me to prove to my community, that the yield per acre can be increased by using improved methods.

I have learned, not only how to grow corn in my 4-H Club work, but have acquired a greater appreciation for pecan growing on the farm since I learned how to bud and graft pecan trees. Now I understand why we get such scrubby fruit from seedlings. I plan to have a large pecan orchard some day and expect to do much of my own budding and grafting.

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Last summer, I took part in a Table Etiquette Contest at the State 4-H Club Short Course. This may seem strange, but boys need to know the nice things in manners and behavior too. I was glad of this opportunity to learn more about table manners.

4-H club work has taught me that play has an important place in the life of a boy. We have got a great deal of fun and enjoyment from our baseball and volley ball contests as well as pleasure from the many group games which have been taught us in our club meetings, camps and short courses. This form of recreation has taught me good sportsmanship, honesty, fair play and a sympathy for the fellow who refuses to be a good loser.

Club work has taught me the value of cooperation. In our meetings, in our work and in our play, there is always the necessity for cooperation which has resulted in a kind of team work that has caused me to win three prizes in judging hogs and dairy cattle at our State Short Course.

I have been able to broaden my acquaintance and increase my friendships through club work. Last year I went on a tour through my County, visiting 30 other club members and inspecting their projects. This has created a sort of friendly rivalry among the club boys and has made each of us work harder this year, hoping to win the state championship.

Since becoming a 4-H Club member it has been my privilege and pleasure to exhibit products and records at one community, three county and 2 state fairs.

I have attended all regular meetings of my club. I have taken part in 3 state short courses, 2 county encampments and 3 health campaigns.

My experience in 4-H Club work has been helpful to me in many ways. It has given me the privilege of helping others with their records, taught me how to select and set up exhibits at fairs, how to select seed corn, how to cultivate the crop and the best methods of storing farm crops. Forty-five other boys in Wharton County are club members and enjoying the work the same as I am.

The other things which I have learned in club work make me more determined to struggle for an education and stay on the farm and take my chances with farming people. My training in 4-H Club Work has meant food, clothing and a saving for further training. I owe whatever I have accomplished to the efforts of my County Agent, M. H. Tarver, the State Extension Service, my parents and local supporters, all of whom have helped me in trying "to make my best better."

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