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I PUT 4-H INSTRUCTION TO WORK ON A FARM.

A radio talk by Max Schomberg, club boy, Louisa County, Iowa, delivered in the National 4-H Club radio program, National Farm and Home Hour, Saturday, October 7, 1933, and broadcast by a network of 58 associate NBC radio stations.

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This is a pleasure and honor that I have received and I want to thank those who are responsible for asking me to talk on this Farm and Home program, especially the County Agents and Farm Bureau of Louisa County who have helped me with my club work. I am not an orator, but I am going to tell you to the best of my ability just how I am putting 4-H instruction to work on a farm.

I have had five years of club work. In the first two years I exhibited my calves at the county and state fairs. The remaining three years I exhibited calves at three fairs, including the International Livestock Exposition at Chicago. During 1932 I won a first at the Iowa State Fair, a second at the International and also showed at the American Royal at Kansas City. These winnings have helped me in my selection of the proper types of stock to feed.

I have been operating a 120-acre farm since I was 16 years of age. I have only my mother to depend upon for help and advice. Therefore, club work has meant a great deal to me.

On our farm I have a car load of feeding cattle which will be ready for market soon. Since I have fed several baby beeves in my club work, I have found out for myself just what feeds are the most profitable. Of course, the individual attention cannot be given to a whole car load as I did to these calves in my club work, but the same feeding rations can be used. I am feeding my cattle the same rations as I did to my baby beeves and I am finding that my cost per pound of gain is greatly reduced.

I have had to change both crops grown and rations fed so that they would correspond, thus eliminating the buying of expensive feeds. I am finding out every day that it costs less to feed cattle if one can just work out a correlation between the grains fed and the crops grown. For example, I have found that soybeans as a feed is very economical so I am putting that into my rotation.

I have also been enrolled in the 4-H Corn Project which has given me a good perspective of crop growing. For example, in my test plots I have found out the kind of fertilizer necessary for various soil types to make the largest yield. At first thought a larger yield may sound to you like it is going against the present Agricultural Adjustment Act, but I can cut my total production and still make larger gains by raising 50 bushels of corn on 40 acres than 40 bushels of corn on 60 acres.

Another thing which was stressed in club work was that of keeping records. Now as I look back over my record books I realize that we were not making them for some one else, but they were for our own benefit.

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Keeping those records has helped this year in figuring the cost of production on my own cattle which I am feeding. In keeping my farm account book, I find that records are not only necessary for feeding cattle but for the whole farm. Unless I were keeping a farm account book I would not know whether my farm was being over-stocked or under-stocked. I have found through keeping these records where the leaks are and where I am operating my farm unprofitably. These I am trying to correct at the earliest convenience. If time just permitted me to, I could go on and on listing particular things which I am putting to work on a farm.

Therefore, I feel that I am just beginning to actually gain something now through club work, by putting those ideas which we receive in club work into operation on the farm. In conclusion, I know of no better words to leave in the minds of the many people who are listening to me than the 4-H Club Pledge:

I Pledge:

My head to clearer thinking  
My heart to greater loyalty  
My hands to larger service, and  
My health to better living, for  
My club, my community, and my country.

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