

homemakers' chat

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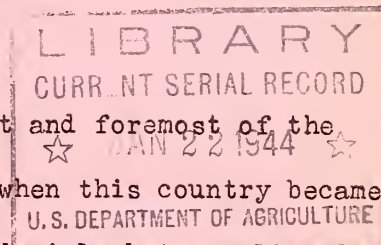
U. S. DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE

Friday, January 7, 1944.

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Subject: "4-H CLUB WINNERS IN WARTIME." Information from the Extension Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture.

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Food production and conservation ranks as the first and foremost of the seven special wartime goals set up by 4-H club members when this country became involved in the war. More than 1,700,000 rural boys and girls between 10 and 20 years old are now enrolled in the 4-H clubs, and they have measured up amazingly well producing food, even when compared with adults. Some 800 club delegates met at the 4-H Club Congress in Chicago recently and showed what they had done during the past year, both as a group and as individuals. These delegates, representing forty-six states and 2 provinces in Canada, which has similar clubs for farm boys and girls, won their chance to attend the Congress on their outstanding records in club work. Most of them also had their expenses paid by sponsors and at the end of the 4-day Congress, 55 of the delegates received college scholarships worth about \$200 each, \$800 in war bonds was awarded to other winners.



Before we hear the records of individual champions, let's listen to the total 4-H food production results reported for the year to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. That will give you some idea of the way these boys and girls, still in their 'teens, put in long hours of hard work to serve their country and their families and make records for themselves.

Last season the 1700 thousand 4-H club boys and girls produced 5 million bushels of Victory Garden products. They raised 9 million chickens and other birds in their poultry flocks, cared for 90 thousand head of dairy cattle, and fed 600 thousand head of other livestock. Some grew legume crops because the government urged them to--- 12 million pounds of peanuts, soybeans and other beans. They canned 15 million jars of home-raised fruits, vegetables and meats. Quite

a lot of food produced and conserved by these boys and girls!

Now for some stories from the Congress. Legions of farm boys and girls raise meat animals. Four of these 4-H stockmen, 17 to 19 years old, were especially honored for their high production. Records run something like this: Keith McMillin, Indiana, 207 hogs, 83 sheep, 17 baby beeves, in 8 years of club work; A.C. Newman, Alabama, 86 swine, 24 baby beeves, 78 beef cattle, in 7 years' membership; Benny Shader, Colorado, 133 sheep, 83 swine, and 31 baby beeves in 9 years. A 17-year old Illinois boy, T. Richard Lacy, won the grand championship for baby beef for the third consecutive year in the Junior Feeding Contest. His baby beef, called "T.O.Monogram" weighed 1010 pounds. As food alone, that's a pretty worth while contribution to wartime production, isn't it?

Some of the 4-H club girls also raise livestock, but generally their food production starts with the garden and ends beyond the kitchen---in the storeroom. Dorothy Pate of New Mexico is also 17 years old. She won a college scholarship on her six-year record. She has baked 2,150 products, prepared 8,575 dishes and 5,675 meals. That's equal to all three meals a day for 5 years. Dorothy has also canned 1,490 quarts of food and carried other home economics projects, and served for 3 years as assistant club leader.

Out of 40 girls who earned their trips to Chicago by home canning, 5 were winners of \$200 college scholarships. Here's what they did:

Mayne Olene Joseph of Kentucky was completely responsible for all the canning for her family of 5, and in 2 years of club work, she canned 7,450 quarts. Mildre Rieger, of Michigan, put up 2,314 quarts of food, raised a three-quarter acre garden, and did a lot of cooking and sewing besides. Marion Gould, a New Hampshire club member of 9 years' standing, reported 2,856 quarts canned; Nettie McNally, of Oklahoma, put up 2,348 quarts of foods and prepared a great many family meals, grew vegetables in her garden. Beth Holmgren, a Utah girl, canned 4,088 quarts

of food, besides considerable other food work.

Ten 4-H'ers, both boys and girls, received expenses for their trips because of their exceptional efforts to step up dairy production. To cite one example, Calvin Meyer of Illinois handled 62 animals altogether in 8 years of club work. He has a herd of 12 cows now, valued at more than \$4,000. Five of his cows produced 59,950 pounds of milk, and have an average butterfat production of 430 pounds each.

These examples of the results of livestock and food projects in club work are typical of the high production records in every field of club work. Most of the usual activities were represented, but now in wartime public interest centers on food production. A large number of the delegates to the club Congress at Chicago this year were named champions on their food work, even when they carried other projects, too.

However, girls' clothing work was represented by 43 state delegates; 39 states sent "all around" champion girls who won their trips by their intelligent general help at home based on 4-H club methods. Other club members reported on how they improved home surroundings with plantings, trash removal and landscaping. Four national safety champions came to the Congress, and won scholarships. These and many others represented the efforts of 4-H members to reach goals other than food---scrap and war bond drives, safeguarding their own health, substituting for the manpower gone from many farm homes, interpreting the nation's war program in their communities, practicing democracy and the good neighbor spirit at every opportunity.

Aiming at these goals is the wartime objective for all 4-H club members; going to the Club Congress in Chicago is just one chance for a few to check up on their accomplishments to date. Next summer you'll see these young people redoubling their efforts to meet the food production goal and all the less tangible aims in wartime club work.

