

# Extension Service *Review*

## Working together for victory

CLAUDE R. WICKARD, Secretary of Agriculture

■ We are just beginning to realize how hard we shall have to work, how many sacrifices we shall have to make. This is going to be a long, hard war. The people of this country and the other free people of the world are waging a fight to the finish against the forces of tyranny and aggression. We realize fully now how strong and ruthless those forces are, how well they prepared for their effort to enslave the world.

Here in this country, only one thing really counts today. That is what we can do to bring final victory, how well we support the men at the battle fronts who are fighting for us. We all know how much American farmers must do. They must feed our own soldiers and sailors, must help to feed our allies, and must feed our civilian families as well. This is a tremendous responsibility. All of us who work with farmers must help them all we can.

The land-grant colleges and universities, which performed such notable services in the last war, are proving their ability to serve equally well in this one.

You are the people on the ground. You are in the position to serve the Nation by fully serving the local needs of the farm people of your respective States. The Washington staff of the Department of Agriculture is devoting its best efforts to measuring the total war requirements for American farm products, to shaping general policies to assist farm families in meeting those requirements, and to anticipating the wartime needs of farm people as an entire group. We in the Department are looking, as we always have looked, to the land-grant colleges and the Extension Service to help every farm family to carry the wartime policies into action.

The problems growing out of the scarcity of agriculture manpower offer an outstanding example of the vital war services which your group can perform. Shortage of manpower is by far the most dangerous threat to adequate farm production next year. There will, of course, be other serious obstacles. Many materials and many kinds of new farm equipment will become increasingly scarce. Most barriers can be surmounted, however. For the most part, the outlook for farm prices is favorable.

Ingenuity and cooperation will go far toward offsetting the scarcity of new machinery and materials. But, unless we take steps far beyond those now in effect, the shortage of farm labor will seriously impair production in 1943.

Broad Federal programs, along the lines of that announced today by the War Manpower Commission, will have to be put into execution. Many phases of the problem, such as selective service policy, transportation of workers from one section of the country to another, and admission of workers from foreign countries, can be dealt with only on a Nation-wide basis.

On the other hand, other essential phases of the problem can be dealt with only on a State or local basis, and the Federal Government will look to the land-grant colleges and the Extension Service to give the people of each locality help in solving these problems. For example, there is vital need for training thousands of persons who have no previous experience in farm work. To be effective, this training must take account of local require-

ments, farming practices, and customs. The Extension Service is well equipped to help in this type of training and also to assist in fully utilizing the available labor supply in each State.

In addition to augmenting the numbers of the farm working force, it also is essential to increase the effectiveness of those who are at work—to make the most of each man-hour of farm labor. Once again, this is a task that can best be done by the land-grant colleges and the Extension Service. In fact, your group is the only one with the experience and the trained personnel for making the findings of research available to farm families. This function, the keystone of your work in peacetime, is no less essential in war.

I have named only one of the many vital responsibilities which the Nation is looking to your group to perform. There are many others which I know you're accepting gladly and discharging with skill.

Please accept my best wishes for a successful year, my congratulations for difficult tasks already accomplished, and assurance of my desire to work with you wholeheartedly in the still more difficult tasks which lie ahead. (Message sent by Secretary Wickard to the annual conference of the Association of Land-Grant Colleges and Universities meeting in Chicago, October 28, 1942.)

## Extension in wartime

Dr. C. B. SMITH, Formerly Assistant Director of Extension

■ Men always want bread and meat. Extension is concerned in helping rural people to produce these things. Growing food may not be as glamorous or exciting as fighting in the front lines, but it is just as necessary. Extension's peace work intensified becomes, therefore, part of the Nation's war work and essential to the Nation's welfare. Extension forces who want to help the Nation win the war can do so by sticking to the job they are now at. What the Nation asks of Extension and farmers is that, in harmony with the times, they speed up their efforts and enlarge their production in various food essentials.

Abounding health is wanted in the front

lines, in war industries, in the building of youth. And, this comes largely from eating the right foods in the right proportions and right amounts. Every table in America should be a nutritious, diversified, and well-prepared table.

America has the soil; it has the equipment; it has the knowledge; it is Extension's business to help the Nation formulate plans for coordinating the Nation's natural resources, equipment, and knowledge into a working plan that will bring about health and vigor to the Nation. There is no bigger or more important job either in war or peace. Extension forces need not look longingly for service in other fields. They are in a wartime job now.



# 4-H Clubs gird for war

■ Mobilization of 4-H Club members enlisted a million and a half rural boys and girls in a seven-point program for victory this past season. More than 650,000 new members contributed their share. Adding together the year's work, the results proved stupendous when reviewed during achievement week, November 7 to 14.

Believing with Secretary Wickard that food will win the war and write the peace, 4-H Club members put food production at the top of their victory program. Adding up the harvest from their Victory Gardens, they counted more than 3 million bushels of fruits and vegetables, thus swelling the Nation's food supply. 4-H poultry flocks numbered 6,500,000 birds, and with Secretary Wickard calling for even more poultry, many boys and girls have made plans to further increase their flocks. The meat shortage might be even more acute without the 300,000 head of swine and 250,000 head of other livestock which these young people contributed during the past season. To store some of this food for the winter months, 4-H girls canned more than 14 million jars, using the best recommended methods of canning and preserving.

One of the most valuable of 4-H contributions has been on the labor front. More than 15,000 Pennsylvania boys and girls reported a definite job undertaken to relieve the shortage of help on the farm. The Michigan 4-H Farm Volunteers Work Project organized in May enlisted 4,000 village and city youths as 4-H farm volunteers who worked on farms and joined the local 4-H Club for help in farm methods, recreation, and any other needs in their new environment.

More than 24,000 Texas girls have done field work such as driving tractors, plowing, and planting, and hauling cotton. Betty Major, a 12-year-old club member in Nevada, ran a buck rake in the hayfields all summer, taking the place of the hired man. Massachusetts 4-H boys and girls have given 4,000 man-months of labor on the parents' and neighbors' farms.

A 4-H Club boy in Clark County, Wash., took over the 80-acre farm, managing it and caring for 10 head of dairy cows during the summer months while his father went into the ship-building yards at Vancouver. Georgia boys worked more than 306,000 hours on farms other than their own, and the girls rolled up a record of 481,000 hours. In the Utah beet fields, more than 4,000 young folks helped with the thinning and harvesting.

The late summer peach crop on a Virginia farm never would have been picked but for the girls of the Sea Gull 4-H Club. Three thousand trees were loaded with the best crop of Hales and Albertas that the owner had had in years, but there was no labor to pick them. The club leader, Jean Bunting, rallied the 20 Sea Gulls for the emergency. The girls started

work at 9 a. m. and continued until 3 or 4 o'clock, picking from 100 to 125 bushels each day until all the fruit was gathered. These are but samples. Similar reports came from every State to mark 4-H achievement week.

Save for Victory was number 3 on the victory program, and here too 4-H Clubs can survey their achievements with satisfaction. The records show more than 146 million pounds of scrap metal, 23 million pounds of rubber, and 24 million pounds of paper and burlap collected. In Whatcom County, Wash., boys and girls made a house-to-house survey of every farm for scrap metal. In Kentucky, every county salvage committee included one 4-H Club member who kept the young folks busily collecting scrap.

4-H boys and girls have heard their country's call and bought \$6,000,000 worth of war bonds. War bonds and stamps were given as premiums in exhibits and fairs; profits from 4-H animals and Victory Gardens were invested in war bonds; and, in addition, parents and neighbors were persuaded to buy \$2,600,000 worth of bonds and stamps.

To save the waste by fire, 415,000 boys and girls have participated in fire-prevention activities. In strategic Puerto Rico, 370 wide-awake 4-H Club boys and girls are on vigilance and fire-protection squads. Utah boys and girls surveyed all the farms in the neighborhood for fire hazards and made recommenda-

tions for their removal. A contest added punch to the work, and excellent surveys were made. More than 6,000 Michigan youth are engaged in specific forest-fire control activities.

Health on the home front is number 4 in the victory program, and 4-H Club members found many ways of working on this front. Regular health examinations were reported by 200,000 club members, and 800,000 checked their food and health habits to find wherein they fell short, making themselves "sturdier in body, steadier in nerves, surer in living." The 4-H health-improvement project developed in New York State in early 1942 was based upon a score sheet providing opportunity to check health examinations, correction of defects, health and safety training for the individual, as well as community health and safety education and improvement. Among the other noteworthy achievements were the work done by the 11,600 boys and girls on a school-lunch project to improve nutrition, the 7 million meals planned and prepared by 4-H girls with an eye to nutritional needs of their own particular families, and the 140,000 4-H Club members who took the Red Cross course in first aid or nutrition.

In working on the victory objective number 5, to acquire useful technical and mechanical skills for wartime needs, members learned to remake and repair their clothes, care for and repair farm and home equipment, and special safety, air raid, and defense activities. In Minnesota, "flying squadrons" demonstrated all kinds of farm and home skills for many

This book recording progress on the 4-H Mobilization Week goals was presented to Secretary Wickard during 4-H Achievement Week. It contains accounts of club members' achievements in each of the 48 States, Alaska, and Puerto Rico. Nancy Morrison, member of the 4-H Club of Annandale, Va., and Mack Crippen, Jr., of the Herndon, Va., 4-H Club represented the million and a half 4-H Club members in the presentation.





local groups. The Ramsey County 4-H Flying Squadron demonstrated different phases of food production and conservation and gave 100 different demonstrations.

In Georgia, 3,000 farm implements have been repaired by 4-H Club members; 900 Utah boys and girls learned to repair farm machinery, and 5,000 Texas girls repaired some piece of farm machinery.

Points 6 and 7 have to do with citizenship, practicing democratic procedures, and studying important social and economic questions. In California, Washington, and a number of other States, 4-H Club members have become skilled in discussing various phases of citizenship at service club luncheons, farmers' meetings, and women's clubs. The 4-H citizenship ceremonial featured in many States inspired patriotism and impressed the young voters with their responsibility. In Alaska and Hawaii, 4-H Club members studied their local, State, and national governments. In Connecticut, the 4-H candle-lighting ceremony took on new significance with the development of the theme, "Spreading the Light of Freedom." As "good neighbors," 4-H Clubs in Iowa and New York made a special study of life in South American countries, and in

many States South American music was featured.

Carrying out their wartime slogan, "On the alert always; learn and earn; save and serve," 4-H Club members acted as airplane spotters, made up evacuation packages, learned how to effectively black-out farm buildings and how to care for livestock in an air raid, carried messages for air raid wardens, and many other similar useful activities. In Delaware County, N. Y., 4-H Club members cooperated with the sheriff in learning to take fingerprints, using the sheriff's finger-printing outfit in a plan to cover the whole county in a short time.

4-H Club members have also given good account of themselves in the armed forces. The fact that all senior 4-H Club members called to the service in Los Angeles County, Calif., have become officers, even those who entered the ranks as privates, is a tribute to their 4-H training. Many older and former members have gone to fight for their country; for example, 13 have gone from Humboldt County and 11 from Lander County, Nev. On many fronts, 4-H Clubs gave good account of their work in their first wartime achievement report.

ilar difficulty in getting families who produce and butcher more meat than the 2½ pounds standard to consume at the sharing level. This question will bear considerable thought and discussion in the light of the facts about the war needs of our armed forces and our fighting allies.

The interest in meat is being used by many home demonstration agents as an added incentive in teaching nutrition. In studying alternate foods which carry some of the nutritional values of meat and in ways of preparing the unrestricted meats so that they are appetizing, many fundamental facts of nutrition can be emphasized. The coordination of work of educational, informational, and trade agencies offers new and effective channels for extension teaching.

#### Farmers Can Calculate Amounts

Many questions of interpretation will arise among farm families who produce their own meat. Tables of conversion factors by which farm families can calculate the amount of rationed meat to be expected from average animals dressed at home will soon be available and prove helpful to them. These factors take into consideration both dressing and cutting shrink, which brings them into conformity with factors used in the retail trade.

An important byproduct of the campaign will surely be increased emphasis on joint planning for an adequate community food supply obtained from nearby sources to save transportation. In such planning, consumers, producers, distributors, civic, and educational groups will need to work together.

## Leaders carry forward on "Share the Meat"

■ During the first week of December, wartime leaders—extension neighborhood leaders in rural areas, and OCD block leaders in cities—are visiting every home in America as special emissaries of Uncle Sam to bring the message of sharing the meat to every citizen, face to face.

Armed with their own set of directions in War Food Communiqué No. 1, and with a supply of the leaflet, Share the Meat for Victory, they have gone down the road explaining the facts in the meat situation and the plans for meeting the emergency. Thirty-five million of these leaflets are being made available to leaders.

The training of neighborhood leaders, as well as the block leaders, has been the responsibility of the State and county nutritional committees in cooperation with the Extension Service. Extension nutrition specialists and other extension workers have taken a leading part in organizing local campaigns and training leaders. Extension agents have called meetings, made visits, kept the telephones busy, written letters and news stories, following up the neighborhood leaders with all the help and encouragement they can give. Keeping all groups functioning effectively has been their duty.

To back up the face-to-face messages on "share the meat," a complete campaign has

been planned by the campaign bureau of the Office of War Information. Advertising by the American Meat Institute, other packers, and the food industry generally, has been coordinated and focused on the one idea of sharing the meat. Through the cooperation of the Advertising Council, a plan has been put into motion calling for full-page advertisements, outdoor billboards, posters, radio programs—in fact, every way used by advertisers. These will be devoted to the service of the citizens in holding their consumption within the share.

The efficiency of the neighborhood leader in this emergency was first tested in 4 counties of 3 States—New Jersey, Virginia, and Maryland. Fourteen neighborhood leaders were trained on the why, what, and how of the meat-sharing program. These leaders interviewed 30 farm families and explained the meat-sharing program.

From this small sample, it appeared that neighborhood leaders could successfully carry the program. The farm families interviewed were willing to share the meat but believed that meat rationing was essential for fair distribution. Emphasis on the voluntary program as a stopgap to ease the emergency while more complete plans for rationing are being developed proved popular. These leaders encountered and perhaps others are having sim-

#### 4-H Club Beef Work Far Reaching

Scattered throughout Kansas are more than 2,000 4-H Club members who are carrying 4-H beef projects. Some have 1 calf, others have 2, and still others have a project of 3 or more calves. The number may vary, but the lessons learned are the same.

This beef project has been carried on more than 20 years in Kansas. Sufficient time has elapsed to study results. Briefly, here is the answer: First, the members who carried this project 15 to 20 years ago are now some of our leading cattlemen in the commercial field. Secondly, these former 4-H Club members have stepped up the work of improving Kansas purebred beef cattle. At the recent Kansas Free Fair at Topeka, approximately one-third of the breeders exhibiting in the open classes were former club members and had learned the value of good stock in their own demonstrations in that field. Thirdly, they are not only taking the lead in cattle production but they are taking the lead as citizens, being leaders in their own counties as well as in the State. Numbers of them are now members of our State Legislature.—*J. J. Mowley, Kansas extension animal husbandry specialist.*



# Organizing the block plan

HUGH JACKSON, Chief of Operations, Civilian Mobilization Branch,  
Office of Civilian Defense

**Teaming with the neighborhood leader in rural areas, the block leader in urban areas is carrying the message of share the meat and other war programs to every home. Mr. Jackson explains the block system for readers of the EXTENSION SERVICE REVIEW.**

■ The block plan of organization for civilian war services is one of the most significant developments which has arisen in America during the present war emergency.

As the realities of this war are brought closer and closer to the American people and it becomes more apparent that all of us must radically alter our accustomed patterns of living to make our full contribution as civilians to the war effort, it becomes increasingly necessary to develop an organization within each community which can quickly and efficiently mobilize all households and all people in vital civilian war services.

The American machinery for democratically planning, coordinating, and promoting our total community and civilian war effort is the machinery of civilian defense—the thousands of defense or war councils which have been established in cities, counties, and towns throughout the Nation. The activities of these councils naturally fall into two major divisions—the task of organizing civilian and community forces for protection against attack by the enemy and of organizing for aggressive and affirmative community and civilian action on the home front for such vital tasks as salvage, conservation of transportation, health, nutrition, housing, consumer interests, war savings, services to children of working mothers, and other problems which have arisen from or been aggravated by the war emergency. These latter tasks are known as the “civilian war services.” Volunteers who enlist in these activities are eligible for membership in the United States Citizens Service Corps—the counterpart of the United States Defense Corps which carries on our community civilian protection services.

Many of the civilian war services depend for success upon the cooperation of all households within the community.

In many communities block-by-block organization has arisen spontaneously as the most effective means of carrying on civilian war activities. Recognizing the important role which the block plan can play in civilian contributions to the war program, and building upon the pioneering work which has been done by many local defense councils, the Office of Civilian Defense is now urging the establishment of block plans throughout the Nation and has just issued a 12-page publication, *The Block Plan of Organization for Civilian War*

*Services* (September 1942), describing its organization and operation in detail.

Block leaders are being appointed in communities of 2,500 or more and work throughout the country to carry the challenge of the home-front battle to every home. The block organization typically uses the same geographical subdivisions of sectors and zones which is used for the local air raid warden organization. Under a sector leader, who is usually responsible for about 500 people or 120 families, a block leader is appointed for every 10 or 15 families. Specifically, the purposes of the block plan are:

1. To carry forward civilian war activity quickly and effectively.
2. To get vital war information into every home rapidly and accurately.
3. To collect information which may be needed for community war planning and to bring back to the homes answers to the questions which have been raised.
4. To promote a spirit of cooperation in neighborhood enterprises such as block discussion meetings, rallies, car-sharing plans, the sharing of scarce mechanical and household equipment, and any other activity of the civilian war services.

Various titles have been used by cities to designate block plan workers—block captains, victory aides, and liberty belles, among others. The OCD suggests the title, “block leader.” Block leaders can bring to every family official information about rationing, price control, car sharing, and conservation. They can determine the number of spare rooms available for war workers, the number of mothers who are employed in war production and whose children would, therefore, require some form of day care, and the number of aged and infirm persons who would need special care in the event of evacuation.

The chief of the block leader service is a member of the executive committee of the Civilian War Services Branch of the local defense council and operates under the direction of this committee. He is frequently a member of the local defense council itself, which has the final responsibility for all phases of civilian defense activities.

This is a workable arrangement, as simple as can be devised to deal successfully with the complicated problems of modern war.

Cities which pioneered in the establishment of the block plan have found that it worked remarkably well. In San Diego, Calif., women have selected a leader in virtually every one of the 5,300 blocks of that city. Dallas, Tex., will train 2,500 “block information wardens,” 1 for each city block. In Chicago, thousands of block leaders have galvanized that city for aggressive civilian war action. In many other places, equally outstanding results have been achieved. “Block mothers” of Plainfield, N. J., now supervise the play and care of the children of war-working mothers.

The block leader is the logical ally and counterpart of the neighborhood leader. Neighborhood leaders can be of the greatest value to local defense councils, and their work can be coordinated with that of the urban block leaders. The defense council in rural areas can assist the county agent and the local extension advisory board in the organization of the voluntary system of neighborhood leaders. Neighborhood leaders should be enrolled in or registered with the Civilian Defense Volunteer Office; and, after they have completed approved training courses or 50 hours of volunteer service, they can be certified by the county agent to the defense council and granted the insignia of the United States Citizens Service Corps. This is the same insignia granted to block leaders and indicates full membership in the Civilian War Services branch of Civilian Defense. Neighborhood leaders and block leaders form a natural team for war work, the one to inform and advise farm families of vital civilian defense programs in their county, the other to serve a like purpose in their city block. Little ground exists for friction, though some overlapping is inevitable; and the local defense council can act as a headquarters for close relationship and greater organizational efficiency.

## Hard Work Precedes Victory

In cities overseas, this war is being fought block by block and even house by house. Civilians in America can fight it the same way here, in a very real sense, for they strike offensive blows against the enemy when they unite, in city and country alike, in conserving rubber, buying war bonds, and turning in scrap. All civilian war services are war weapons against the Axis. Through the block plan almost every man, woman, and youth can wield these weapons, each in the way best suited to his talents and training. There is much to do; many battles are to be lost and won, and monumental efforts along every line of action to be made before this war can be won. In concrete terms, the local defense council and the committees form the staff headquarters for civilian war work, and block and neighborhood leaders are on the firing line. They must advance together and bring with them the support of all who cherish freedom and know that hard work must precede victory.



# Fighting fire in the range country

EDGAR VAN BOENING, formerly County Agent, Cherry County, Nebr.

■ The greatest menace confronting residents of ranching areas of Nebraska is fire. Cherry County is in a range area, and the industry of the country is dependent on vegetation for feed. Fire hazard to vegetation in the range country is a great one that extends through the greater part of the year instead of only when small grain is ripening, as in some farming areas. If grass and hay are destroyed, the greatest asset of the ranch is gone. The ability of the rancher to fulfill his obligation in producing more food for the war effort is gone, and his morale is seriously impaired.

The possibility of extensive fires caused by lightning is and always has been serious. The added dangers involved in possible fire sabotage could not be overlooked. Moisture conditions during the past spring produced a heavy crop of grass and, with the heavy growth of last year, made fire hazard in the fall even more menacing.

Realizing that our country was a vulnerable area, a campaign was started in the early spring to make the people fire-conscious and to locate equipment and to give adequate training in fire fighting.

The Cherry County Extension Service and the county defense organization planned the fire-control organization.

J. G. Lord, forest ranger of the Niabrara Forest Reserve, was appointed as the chief fire warden for Cherry County.

The county was then divided into nine districts, and meetings were held in each district to elect precinct fire wardens. Some of the larger precincts, especially those that were more isolated from a rural town, chose to elect more than one fire warden.

Precinct fire wardens were called together in each district to elect their district warden. The district wardens functioned under Mr. Lord's supervision.

The time element in fire control is vital. Rapid communication is important, and in this the manager of the telephone exchange at Valentine helped by plotting all the exchanges in the county on a large map in the county courthouse. A directory of the different exchanges is planned for all telephone operators, which will be very useful in notifying people on the exchanges if a fire should occur. Cherry County, 96 miles long and 63 miles wide, had to have a good system of communication to develop a fire-control organization.

When fire breaks out, the person making the discovery immediately telephones the local telephone operator or gets in touch with someone who has a telephone, giving the general location of the fire and in which direction it is burning. He then takes what equipment is available to the fire.

The telephone operator immediately calls out an emergency warning, reports the fire over the local line, and then calls the operator in the direction that the fire is burning, who in turn also puts out an emergency call.

Suitable equipment in a place where it could be found was one important part of the fire-control program in Cherry County. Standard equipment put in a definite place and ready to go when the fire broke out included shovels, water barrels and buckets, container for drinking water, plows with doubletrees or ready to hitch to tractor, fire drag if possible, and full water tanks.

It was realized that many fires could be prevented by careful planning and by reducing the fire hazards. Suggestions to prevent fires were given wide publicity.

The educational program of the Cherry County Extension Service is one of trying to keep people on the alert. Circular letters, cards, signs on the roads, pamphlets, and other material urge people to be careful with fire. All correspondence going out of the extension office carries the slogan, Be on the Alert and Avoid Fire Loss.

Each community is an important part of the fire-prevention and fire-control program. In Cherry County, the community is established on the precinct basis. All precincts are urged to handle their fire organization as they see fit, thus making the organization more democratic and more likely to function.

The organization seemed to function well. Several fires were reported, but very little damage occurred. There was always a good group appearing at the scene of the fire, and everyone came properly armed with fire-fighting equipment.

## Food-Preservation Trailer

A trailer exhibit, parked on the main streets of important centers, was used in Suffolk County, N. Y., to spread information on food preservation to the woman on the street who does not usually attend training schools or public demonstrations. This was a joint project of the home demonstration and 4-H Clubs and was visited by approximately 500 people in a single week.

The exhibit was based on the daily food guide and the minimum amounts of food needed to be stored for one person for a year. A home-made top of the stove dryer, a storage box for root crops and equipment for brining, pressure cooker and boiling water bath canning were of main interest in the exhibit. Typical examples of canned, dried, brined, and stored food gave an indication of what can be done easily at home. Mimeographed material and leaflets on canning, dry-

ing, and brining and a daily food guide were given to all who were interested. The assistant county home demonstration agent and the associate county 4-H Club agent were with the exhibit to answer questions, talk over food-preservation problems and give suggestions on methods.

The Victory Garden program this summer included work on food preservation aimed at getting information to as many women not already enrolled in the Extension Service as possible. Through cooperation with garden clubs and women's civic organizations, a series of training schools and demonstrations on canning, drying, brining, and salting have been held in all sections of the county, followed by visits to strategic points by the trailer exhibit.—*Martha Jane Schwartz, assistant home demonstration agent, and Mrs. Eloise G. Jones, associate 4-H Club agent, Suffolk County, N. Y.*

## Neighbor Tell Neighbor

On account of the wartime ban on general weather forecasting by radio, farm people are receiving weather information by telephone and other nonradio channels.

During and after a hurricane that struck the Texas coast and swept on toward San Antonio, neighborhood leaders kept in contact with farm families when all other lines of communication were destroyed. In Jackson, Goliad, Medina, and Calhoun Counties, for example, this neighbor-tell-neighbor chain of communication performed one or more of these services: Helped to supply water where wells were contaminated, notified families where they might obtain typhoid "shots," helped to estimate storm damages, and assisted the Red Cross in setting up its relief services.

■ "Pack Victory in the Lunch Box" is the slogan of the campaign carried on in Elmira, N. Y., to improve the industrial worker's lunch box. A survey was made of extension homemakers who pack lunches daily, and information was obtained on the number of lunches packed and the type of food prepared. Planned and carried out by the home demonstration agents and the nutrition committee of Chemung County, managers and executives of Elmira's industrial plants were visited and enlisted in the program. Newspaper publicity, radio talks, exhibits in store windows and public demonstrations were features of a week's intensive drive.

■ A sudden September freeze in Ellis County Kans., made necessary the immediate harvesting of thousands of acres of sorghum. It had to be harvested before the leaves were lost and the feeding value of the crop reduced. The county agent, working with the labor office, obtained the release of schoolboys in the high schools and the State Teachers College at Hays for work on the farm; and in 3 days the sorghum crop was safely harvested.



# Fighting the battle on the land

Women are taking over more and more farm work. In running their double-barreled job in the home and on the farm, they need help of a different kind from the Extension Service. As a basis for such a program, the home demonstration staff in 25 States, representing all parts of the country, estimated the amount of farm work being done by women and listed the problems facing them. Some high lights brought out in this survey follow.

■ Farm women and girls have taken the place of sons, husbands, and hired men who are fighting for their country in the Solomons, in Egypt, on the high seas, or wherever the battle of democracy is being fought. They can be found doing practically any kind of farm work in every part of the country. This year twice as many are working in the fields as did last year. Three times as many operate tractors and other power machinery. Statements from extension workers in 25 States indicate a wide variety in the tasks done. Iowa women have detasseled and husked corn, painted barns, built fences and run threshing machines. In Massachusetts women have plowed the land and planted the seed; they operate milking machines and strip and pack tobacco. Delaware women haul milk and feed, drive teams and tractors. Texas girls say they can do all kinds of farm work such as plowing, hoeing, cotton picking, driving tractors, caring for livestock, and baling hay. Virginia apples were sprayed and picked by many Virginia farm women. Arizona women are helping with irrigation. New Mexico women worked in beanfields and grainfields on dry-land areas. Oregon women and girls planted and harvested fruits and beans. They operated hay mowers and tractors and, in addition, in the western part of the State, operated air-raid warden stations on a 24-hour schedule.

As labor shortages increase on farms, the chores are usually the first thing to be taken over by the women. In 1941, according to these estimates, one-fourth of the farm women and girls were doing farm chores; but in the war year of 1942 more than one-half of the women were doing chores around the farm, such as feeding the chickens and livestock, and milking the cows. In peacetimes it is estimated that one-fifth of the farm women work in the fields; but the number has doubled this year, with about 40 out of every 100 farm women working in the field with the men or in place of the men during rush seasons. Even the heavy work like shocking and haying is done to a limited degree by some of the stronger women; but, in North Dakota at least, farmers generally feel that this work is too heavy for women and girls and depend on them to drive tractors, go on errands between farms and to town, and do more of the chores ordinarily done by men.

The increasing part which women are taking

in farm chores and field work seems to be almost uniform in the different regions, but the increase in percentage of farm women and girls operating power machinery is greater in the Corn Belt States of the central region. In Iowa only a very few did such work last year, but this year the estimate shows nearly half of the girls and women are running tractors and other farm machines. About 30 out of every 100 women in South Dakota, 28 out of every 100 in Minnesota, and 30 out of every 100 in Oklahoma appeared to be operating power machinery.

In the country as a whole, approximately 7 out of every 100 farm women and girls ran tractors and other power machinery last year; and about 21 out of every 100 are doing it this year, according to the observation of home demonstration workers.

## Home Demonstration Programs Change

This change in the activities of farm women is altering the home demonstration program to meet the new problems. In listing the home-making activities most affected by war, more than half of the States reporting mentioned care of children and house cleaning. One-third mentioned the regular routine of getting meals and laundry which had to be worked into the day's busy schedule. Home demonstration club programs have kept up with the times by including such subjects as one-dish meals, short cuts in laundering and cleaning, and organizing labor and equipment exchanges. Information on care and repair of equipment, and rearrangement of the work areas for more efficiency have filled a real need in the busy lives of farm women.

Any instruction or help in doing more efficiently their new jobs is welcomed by the women. In Louisiana, classes have been offered on how to care for and operate a tractor. Iowa women in 49 counties welcomed business pointers to help them run the farm in the absence of their husbands. Safety rules in lifting heavy loads and in handling machinery and farm animals met with instant favor. In North Dakota, extension workers are giving thought to the problem of the right-sized tools and equipment for women and girls to handle.

Suitable work clothes have been a subject of study in many States. For example, Arkansas women in 1,432 clubs made 5,842 garments

designed for field work. Clothing designed especially for field work and other outdoor activities has helped to dignify such work in the eyes of the women. In Oregon, the safety factor in suitable work clothes has been emphasized as well as the factor of ease in laundering.

4-H Clubs are making a contribution by encouraging boys and girls to take entire responsibility for tending the garden, canning the produce, getting the meals, or raising the pigs.

The care and training of children while the mother is in the field is a problem to which extension agents are giving thought. In Oklahoma a cooperative plan for caring for small children in groups is being developed. In other States the problem is being studied in relation to home management and family relationships.

In many parts of the country a need for a reevaluation of the home activities so that essential things can be preserved and time be planned more efficiently is receiving attention from farm women and their extension agents.

Another way in which the Extension Service is helping farm women in wartimes is organizing activities which help to maintain morale. The Virginia emphasis on neighborliness and exchanging work, the simple home recreation ideas for family use offered to Oregon women, the family relationship helps in North Carolina, the facts on beds and bedding for good rest made available to women in Wisconsin, the teaching of patriotic songs in Iowa, and the wholesome-recreation project in Minnesota, all help farm women to keep up their own morale and that of their families.

The contribution which farm women and girls have made to the bumper harvest this year has been given wholeheartedly as their part in winning the war. The problems in home and family living which follow increased labor on the farm are a challenge to the Extension Service.

## Good Neighbors

Colorado rural women are carrying out the good-neighbor policy in earnest by exchanging labor, household equipment, transportation, and farm products. Many home demonstration clubwomen have helped one another with outdoor work and in preserving the home food supply. Home equipment, such as pressure cookers and washing machines, has given double duty in serving more than one household, says Helen Prout, assistant home demonstration leader.

In several areas, farm and ranch women have found it practicable to exchange transportation. These busy homemakers are taking turns using their cars to pick up neighbors for a ride into town, to a club meeting, or for some other purpose. Some homemakers take turns in shopping for one another in town.



# Twice as many gardens grow in Florida

Wintertime is gardentime in Florida; and as extension workers plan for more and better gardens in 1943, they review some of the high points in their 1942 program.

■ The "teeming gardens" which Henry W. Grady envisioned for his beloved Southland are at last coming to realization under the stimulus of a world-wide war. Encouraged and assisted by Federal, State, and county agencies and business organizations, Florida farm families grew about twice as many gardens in 1942 as they did in 1941 and will grow more gardens, larger gardens, and better gardens this winter and spring.

For years, strangely enough, the growers who have produced fresh winter vegetables for the Nation's tables have seldom thought that they should have home gardens. They have had enormous quantities of particular vegetables at harvesttime but have had to go to market for their own vegetables at other times. Now, nearly every farm family in Florida has a good home garden, as it is believed that they practically reached the United States Department of Agriculture goal set early this year of 62,000 farm home gardens, an increase from 31,500.

This great upsurge in gardening resulted from a combination of conditions and suggestions. People are garden-minded during war, anyway. Then the great national nutrition program had been stressing the importance of fresh garden vegetables and had reached the hinterlands with its message. The Agricultural Adjustment Administration had been encouraging better gardens by paying for more than 13,000 in 1941. Farm Security clients were required to grow adequate gardens. Vocational agriculture and other teachers helped to establish school gardens. Every farm journal, every woman's magazine hammered home the idea that home production assures an adequate supply and finest quality.

The State Defense Council appointed Mary E. Keown, State home demonstration agent, its garden chairman; and in her dual capacity she was able to work with farm families in every county, whether or not a home demonstration agent was in the county. County garden chairmen, many of whom were home demonstration agents, lent splendid encouragement to the program.

The State Extension Service, realizing that the gardening goal was one of the most difficult of attainment, appointed a garden-goals committee to formulate plans and suggestions and to check on progress. Wherever the work seemed to be lagging, committee members stimulated interest and rendered assistance.

Red, white, and blue Victory Garden signs, telling the world that each family displaying them is growing a Victory Garden, were used effectively to stimulate interest in Lake, Suwannee, and other counties. The county agent

or an AAA compliance man checked the garden to see that it met requirements before he issued one of the signs.

Extension editorial offices, through newspapers, radio, farm journals, and other available media, hammered constantly on the idea of growing gardens and utilizing their products. "Vitality for Victory can come from the home garden's vegetables" was the theme emphasized.

County and home demonstration agents wrote every farm family about the Food for Freedom program, in which they stressed home gardens and presented suggestions for growing them. They distributed Florida and United States Department of Agriculture bulletins and circulars on gardens, insect and disease control, and related topics.

Usual methods of Extension work were employed intensively on a widespread scale. Typical is this report from Mrs. Bonnie J. Carter, home demonstration agent in Jackson County: "County and home agents held county-wide meetings, presenting need for production of food and feed. Used motion pictures, posters, charts, and circulars. Sent circular letters to all members of Agricultural

Young James Albert Burry did some good work in the school garden at McIntosh, Fla.



Planning Council and local leaders. Stimulated interest in proper use of foods through nutrition and canteen classes. Featured exhibits from family gardens at local achievement days for 4-H Club girls in 7 schools, 218 participating."

The farm plan sheet sign-up of the Agricultural Adjustment Agency last spring, in which each family was asked about its plan for a garden and at the same time urged to grow a good garden, added interest at a propitious time. Seedsmen advertised and displayed their wares attractively, further stimulating people to "yield to that irresistible urge to make something grow."

Negro families throughout the State, but especially in counties having Negro farm and home agents, realizing perhaps more keenly than their neighbors the necessity for growing their own food lest they might find themselves without it, made an especially impressive record in gardening this year.

Not the least item of interest in this connection is the fact that farm families have canned and preserved more home products during 1942 than ever before, using 2 million new tins and many thousands of both new and old glass containers. Products of home gardens, as well as those of commercial plantings, which often go to waste near the end of the season as the market breaks, were utilized. County commissioners and school boards and the WPA assisted in establishing and operating community and county canning centers. Civic clubs contributed funds for equipping the centers in many places, thus giving a close tie-in between rural and urban groups.

As Isabelle S. Thursby, extension economist in gardening and food conservation, says: "Florida may not have put over a big campaign of words and awards, but we have answered the needs of national defense just the same."

## Homemakers' School Lunches

Hot lunches are being served to rural school children of Jeff Davis County, Ga., in the home demonstration clubrooms. The clubwomen have equipped their rooms with stoves, tables, benches, cooking equipment, dishes, and silver for this purpose. During the summer, a county cannery operated under the direction of Mrs. Mamie E. King, home agent, canned more than 3,200 cans of vegetables from the county school garden for use in the lunch program.

A MENDERY has been opened by Albany County, N. Y., home demonstration groups. How to mend all kinds of clothing and household textiles can be learned at the mendery. Thirty carefully trained local leaders serve Tuesday and Thursday afternoons. Thursday evenings are for soldiers and sailors who want to learn to sew on buttons and to mend their socks.



# The world we live in

## Facts about the danger and opportunity of the present crisis in a warring world

ELMER DAVIS, Director, Office of War Information

■ The Chinese word for crisis, I learn from James B. Reston's recent book, *Prelude to Victory*, is written with two characters, meaning, respectively, danger and opportunity. There is opportunity as well as danger in this war; and there will be danger as well as opportunity in the years of transition when we are trying to bring the world back from a state of war to genuine peace. Just now the danger is the more apparent; yet I sometimes wonder if it is apparent enough to people who by the accident of geography live far away from any scene of action, and it is the job of education to make it real.

The earth is round. We all know that; but we are so used to looking at flat maps that at best we are likely to think of it as round like a cylinder; not round like a ball. The real relations of space and distance on this globe are apparent in the fact that although we talk now of a two-ocean navy, we may eventually have to think of a three-frontier air force for the continent of North America. The shortest route from this country to a good part of the Old World is across the North Pole; and that frontier may need defense, in the next war if not in this one, unless we are smart enough not to have a next war.

A global war means—that what happens in Libya or in Malaya may make a difference in what happens in Oklahoma or Nebraska. Why has the boy who used to live next door to you gone off to the Solomon Islands, which he had probably never heard of a year ago? Why, he is fighting in the Solomons to keep the war away from home; and any of the people who have experienced the war at home can tell you that keeping it away is worth a considerable effort. We are trying to win a war in Europe and the far Pacific because we have a better chance to win it there than if we wait for it to come home to us.

### Teach Value of the Commonplace

A total war affects the life of every citizen, and its outcome will be affected in some slight degree by what every citizen does. There is no question of the willingness of the American people to do what may be necessary to win the war; but it is our job to show them how many things, different and sometimes apparently irrelevant things, are going to be necessary. There are plenty of men who would be willing to die for their country, if the occasion arose; but the occasion does not arise, and in the meantime they are unwilling to drive so slowly as 40 miles an hour for their country. There are plenty of women who would be willing to

take into their homes children who have been bombed out in an air raid—take them in and look after them; but we have had no air raids, and there is less enthusiasm for looking after the children of women who might go to work in munitions factories if they could get somebody to take care of the family. There is no question of the general willingness to do the obvious things, the spectacular things; but plenty of people are going to have to do dull and drab and uninteresting work besides, if we are to win the war.

Remember that the men we are fighting, the leaders and many millions of their followers, believe that anything goes, if it advances the interest of their own nation. We were infuriated by the treacherous attack on Pearl Harbor while the Japanese were still talking peace; but Hitler has attacked half a dozen nations in Europe while he was still talking peace. Remember that, when he starts talking peace again—as he conceivably might this winter, by roundabout methods, if the fighting does not go well enough to suit him this fall. Remember that to make peace with men like Hitler and the Japanese militarists would only be to let ourselves in for new and bigger Pearl Harbors, whenever they thought the moment was favorable; that we should have to remain so heavily armed, so heavily militarized, in anticipation of such attacks; that peace would be very little different from war; that there is no use making peace with men who attack you in time of peace; that there is no safety for us or for anybody till those men are beaten down. This is, in short, the kind of world we live in. It is not the kind of world that any of us would like to live in; and we are not going to live in it very long, or very successfully, unless we know what it is like and what we have to do about it.

Well, after we have done something about it, after the enemy is beaten down, then education is going to have its toughest job. For it is going to have to fight the natural human tendency, after a great effort, to sit back and rest, to take it easy for a while. And every educator will have the unpleasant duty of teaching that then, above all times, we cannot afford to take it easy, unless we want to run the risk of having this thing to do over again in another 25 years. H. G. Wells, writing just after the last war, described the situation of humanity at that time as a race between education and catastrophe. As we all know, catastrophe won that race; but if the United Nations win this war, education has one more

chance. And quite possibly just one more chance; for if we lose the next race, the next catastrophe will be a bigger and better catastrophe, which might close this phase of the development of the human species and compel such specimens of it as might survive to start all over again, from the point we started from several thousand years ago.

This crucial point in human development—a point from which we may go onward and upward fast, or backward and downward even faster—this point has been reached, of course, because of technological developments; but primarily because of one single invention which has changed human life more than anything else since the discovery of how to make fire. This world would be a far more comfortable place to live in, and the prospects of the human race would be considerably more encouraging if two young men in Dayton, Ohio, some 40 years ago, had been content to stick to their business of repairing bicycles instead of wasting their time and what little money they had on an enterprise which the best scientific opinion of the day agreed was impossible. But the Wright brothers stubbornly went ahead and ate of the tree of knowledge; and the result was the transformation of human life from a two-dimensional to a three-dimensional activity, several thousand years before human nature was ready for the additional responsibilities thus entailed. The problem of education, and of statesmanship, after this war, is basically the problem of how, or whether, the human race is going to be able to live with the bombing plane—a symbiosis apparently never contemplated by nature, but one of which we have got to work out if we are to go on at all.

### Keep Eyes on Essential Points

And what can the intelligent educator do about all that? Well, he can keep his eyes fixed on the essential points. He can keep in mind that practical operation is more important than theoretical principles; that slogans such as nationalism versus internationalism are likely to be misleading and confusing, in a situation where practical success is likely to call for a mixture of both. In the latest official pronouncement of our policy, Secretary Hull's speech of July 23, it was declared that "it is plain that some international agency must be created which can—by force, if necessary—keep the peace among the nations in the future." But Mr. Hull also said that "the nations of the world will then be able to go forward in the manner of their own choosing." Here, obviously, is neither complete nationalism nor complete internationalism, as now understood; people who stand on either as a principle are likely to be less useful than those who are willing to mix them up in whatever proportions prove most practically useful.

Further, the educator should remember that, as Mr. Hull says, "neither victory nor any form



of post-war settlement will of itself create a millennium." Millennial hopes were widely current at the end of the last war; the great collective effort of 1918 had made people realize what the human race could accomplish, with a reasonable degree of cooperation; and when cooperation failed, when the millennial dreams were disappointed, too many people rushed to the opposite extreme of cynicism and apathy. We ought to know better this time. As Alexander Hamilton said, it is use-

less to expect a perfect work from imperfect man. Hamilton said that, however, in discussion of a constitution which in his opinion was quite imperfect but which he was prepared to accept and try to operate because he thought it was the best that could be got. And, in fact, it operated and is still operating pretty well, which may be a hopeful omen if we can be as realistic as Hamilton and take the best we can get.—(From an address before the National Institute of Education.)

About 56 percent of the flock-improvement lambs graded "choice" and sold for 50 cents to \$1 per hundred pounds above the market. The next 18 percent graded "good" and sold for the top market price.

The average value of all lambs sold by the cooperators last year was \$9.39 each. These lambs consumed 43 pounds of grain each which was valued at 71 cents.

Though the preliminary work was done before Pearl Harbor, these farmers are in the best situation to increase their meat production and to help other farmers in the practices which promote economical production. They are ready to take a leading part in meeting the meat emergency.

## One way to get more meat

**The Nation needs meat. A group of Pennsylvania farmers enrolled in a flock-improvement program have found a way to help meet this need. They have increased their lamb production 30 percent, reports H. R. McCulloch, county agent, Lawrence County, Pa.**

■ This is the second year of a flock-improvement program which has successfully increased lamb production in a sound and economical way for the farmers enrolled from 3 Pennsylvania counties. The first year 55 flock owners enrolled; this year, many more are cooperating, with good results. Records of these farmers in Lawrence County show that last year 110 lambs were dropped from each 100 ewes bred as compared to an average of 79 before the program was started. Of these 110 lambs, 99 were marketed as compared to 69 the year before. The farmers enrolled in the flock-improvement program had increased their production by 30 lambs for each 100 ewes.

This result was accomplished by certain definite management practices. The real way to show farm people what can be done is to get some of them to try the proposed plan. Many times we have told farm people what could be expected by following these same recommended management practices. We had conducted many management method demonstrations and mailed circular letters regarding sheep management in Lawrence County. These had been helpful, but the desired results still were not being achieved. There was need for something in the way of a complete result demonstration—some method of carrying the flock through the specific management practices for at least 1 year. The flock-improvement idea seemed to be the answer to this need.

To qualify for the flock-improvement program, all flock owners agreed to cull the ewe flock before breeding, drench the ewes twice after October 1, use a good registered ram not later than November 1, feed good legume hay, and start feeding the ewes ½ pound of grain daily at least 1 month before lambing. They docked and castrated the lambs, provided separate pens for new lambs and ewe, and creep-fed the lambs. Both lambs and ewes were dipped once each

year. The lambs were weaned at 4 to 4½ months of age and put on supplementary pasture. One acre of improved pasture was provided for every 10 ewes. Grain finished the lambs for market. Drenching was started July 1 and continued every 21 days until October 1. All lambs were marketed through the Lawrence County Sheep and Wool Growers' Project.

If a project of this nature is to fulfill its greatest usefulness, it must include more than just production. The commodity, in this case lambs, must be followed through to market. This was done by having marketing arrangements made even before the ewes were bred to produce the lamb crop. Cooperating flock owners were promised a premium of 25 cents per hundredweight for each 1 percent dress above 47 percent on their lambs.

The flock-improvement plan was based on information gained in a survey of farm flocks in western Pennsylvania in 1940. Replies to this questionnaire represented 12,000 ewes and showed a similarity of management problems in all counties surveyed. Some facts uncovered in Lawrence County show that only 33 percent of the owners dipped regularly, 59 percent drenched regularly, 23 percent flushed their ewes, and 38 percent used registered rams. A study of the information indicated a definite need for certain better flock-management practices. With only 79 lambs dropped per 100 ewes and 13 percent of them lost before they reached the market, there were only 69 lambs being sold per 100 ewes.

With these facts in hand, the livestock specialist, the marketing specialist, the officers of the County Sheep and Wool Growers' Association, the Producers' Livestock Commission Company of Pittsburgh, and a few leading flock owners in the county together planned the Lawrence County flock-improvement program which has increased the production 30 percent by correcting the management practices shown to be common in the survey.

## 4-H Straight Shooters

Texas 4-H Club boys are carrying on the tradition of their State—know how to shoot, and shoot straight.

In Texas frontier days there was an adage that "the six-gun makes the difference." It brought the big man down to the level of the shorter one and made a physical weakling the equal of the brawling ruffian.

Frontier days have passed and survival no longer depends on who is quicker on the draw. But members of boys' 4-H Clubs in about 25 counties are members of rifle clubs, many of which are affiliated with the National Rifle Association. Rifle shooting has been a part of the program at Texas 4-H district camps for the past 3 years. In 1941, about 2,500 club boys were given instruction in rifle shooting; and although wartime conditions sharply reduced the number of district camps held this year, 1,268 boys received instruction. An unknown number took part in rifle shooting at county camps.

## Columnist Comments on Extension Service

In her regular syndicated column, "On the Record," of October 19, Dorothy Thompson suggests that the Extension Service take over the work of enlisting high school boys to relieve the farm labor shortage, a movement which she has carried on during the past summer in Vermont and New Hampshire. She writes:

"This agency has all that it takes to handle this problem: Inspired and imaginative leadership under Director M. L. Wilson, experience with the organization of youth—the 4-H Clubs; techniques of integration with educational institutions through the land-grant colleges, understanding of decentralization—integration between Federal and State agencies; long-established contacts with every rural community in the Nation through the county agents; and, finally, an elastic administration that understands the nature of drawing in and working with voluntary committees."



# Women pull together on war work

ARDATH E. MARTIN,  
Home Demonstration Agent, Washington County, Md.

■ What can be done to help win the war is of paramount interest to each of the 545 women in Washington County, Md., home demonstration clubs. Many have sons and brothers in the service and even before Pearl Harbor were considering ways and means of making their war work count for just as much as possible. Mrs. Norman McCardell, president of the county council and vice president of the State Council of Homemakers' Clubs, saw this interest developing and, with the home demonstration agent, worked out a plan of organization. To meet the need for each war activity to be sponsored by the county council of home demonstration clubs, a county chairman was selected who in turn worked through a chairman in the local clubs.

Achievements in agriculture and Victory Gardens, nutrition, war stamps and bonds, sewing and knitting for the Red Cross and similar organizations, Victory book collection, and salvage are reported at the club meetings each month, and this report is turned over to the county chairman. All war activities are thus kept uppermost in the minds of the membership with results which have exceeded all expectations.

The necessity for food production and conservation was widely publicized by Mrs. Fred Cunningham, county agricultural chairman, and her committee. They helped to sponsor a Victory Garden school held in Hagerstown under the auspices of the Extension Service of the University of Maryland. One hundred and seventy-five people attended and received information on vegetable gardening, and the county as a whole became Victory Garden-conscious. Through this committee's work and through the local home demonstration office aid in the form of bulletins, mimeographed material, and lectures on gardening was given to 835 families in Washington County. The result was an awareness of the necessity for increased food production that led to farm families planting larger vegetable gardens adequate to supply the families' needs.

In line with "Making America strong through improved nutrition," members of the homemakers clubs throughout the county are receiving at the regular monthly meetings a series of demonstrations and much helpful literature on nutrition. Each member is in turn pledged to carry back some of this information to three of her neighbors. This should go far toward spreading the gospel of improved diets in the county. The nutrition committee, of which Mrs. V. O. Wallace is chairman, is also conducting nutrition meetings in country communities among nonclub members and for those who cannot attend regular nutrition classes. More than 150 fam-

ilies have been reached by this community service project sponsored by the local clubs. In addition, 2 members of the committee are assisting the home demonstration agent with dietary consultations at a prenatal clinic in connection with the Washington County Public Health Service.

Twelve of the 14 local homemaker clubs submitted reports on sewing and knitting done for the Red Cross during the first six months of this year. Mrs. Hugh Hege, chairman of this section, stated that the reports showed 7,446 hours of knitting and sewing and 963 garments made during the period. This is an average of 2 garments per member. Groups gather at a club member's home or community building and give 2, 3, or more days a month to this work.

A committee sees to arrangements for machines, materials, and lunch. Recently, many local club representatives have been attending schools of instruction on making bandages at the Red Cross headquarters. These women will act as supervisors and bring in club members to assist with the job. Washington County had a very large quota of these bandages to be made by December 1.

The goal of the county council is 100 percent of the membership buying war savings stamps and bonds. Mrs. John Carnochan, chairman of the stamps and bonds committee, reports that 2 clubs have already reached this goal. During the past 3 months, reports turned in from 13 local clubs show \$13,540 worth of stamps and bonds purchased during that period, or an average of \$25 per member invested in stamps and bonds. Several clubs are raising funds to invest in war bonds for their organizations.

Mrs. George Hertel, as chairman of the salvage committee, has had her problems. Attics and farmyards were cleared of old papers, metals, and rubber; but the collection end of it has been difficult since the advent of tire and gasoline rationing. The newest item for salvaging, though, seems to present fewer difficulties, and so these war-minded women are saving every bit of left-over fat and turning it in for glycerine to be used in the manufacture of munitions.

Among the other war activities of this organization, several local clubs have furnished the workers for sugar-rationing stations in their communities. Demonstrations of sugar-substitute recipes and on preservation of food without sugar have been given in many parts of the county, and homemakers have pledged themselves to try these recipes in their homes.

Homemakers are willing and eager to carry their share of defense work and to do their

part in helping to win the war. Many of them have heavy home burdens but still are just as eager to participate in the war effort as are those women who go into the war plants. Given some guidance and encouragement and working together in an organized manner, their combined efforts give amazing and very satisfactory results.

## Club Leader Studies County 4-H Councils

The way county 4-H councils are organized and the functions they are performing form the basis of a study made by J. Harold Johnson, assistant State Club leader in Kansas, while on sabbatical leave in Washington, D. C. Information on County 4-H councils operating in 44 States was obtained from annual reports of State 4-H Club leaders and county agents, and from questionnaires which they filled out.

More than half of the counties in the country have some type of county 4-H council. They are called by various names including 4-H Leaders' Association, 4-H Advisory Committee, as well as 4-H Council.

Of the councils studied, even though the organizational pattern showed much variation, the functions of the various types were quite uniform. All the councils assisted in the conduct of county-wide events and in sponsoring or conducting county 4-H activities. Nearly all (98 percent) assisted in planning the annual 4-H program of work.

The author suggests the following basic principles which may serve as a guide in the organization and functioning of 4-H councils: (1) Preparation of annual programs of work to increase and maintain interest; (2) regular schedule of meetings to stimulate attendance; (3) wide use of committees for more efficient functioning; (4) more training for local 4-H Club leaders and officers; (5) election of members for 2-year terms, with half the membership elected each year; (6) a membership including both local leaders and 4-H members; (7) provision for coordination with other phases of extension program and with other youth-serving agencies; (8) democratic selection of members to serve on councils; (9) provision for measuring progress.—ORGANIZATION AND FUNCTIONS OF COUNTY 4-H COUNCILS, by J. Harold Johnson, Kansas Extension Service. (Typewritten thesis, June 1942.)

■ "On to Victory" pennants have been awarded to 285 farm families in Macon County, Ga., for their work in helping in the war effort. As a result of this movement, farmers increased their peanut acreage more than 300 percent this year and also made substantial increases in other emergency crops. The Macon Farm Bureau and the Agriculture Council cooperated with the agricultural agent in this program.



# How to save for war stamps

■ The home demonstration agents of Mercer County, N. J., realizing the necessity for helping homemakers to visualize ways in which to make plans for saving for the purchase of war savings stamps, staged an exhibit for 2 days in the courthouse at Trenton. This exhibit was made possible through the cooperation of the homemakers.

The exhibit consisted of garments that had been made over, with a display of garments that showed possibilities for making over. One coat had a label which read: "1924 coat will make 1942 dress and give family another war savings bond." Another: "Jacket made from 1935 suit—more money for war stamps."

On one coat which had been made from a man's coat, the story was as follows: "It is patriotic to show a patch. Patch pockets cover some of the wear. Father's discarded coat will now be worn by daughter or mother. Instead of a new coat the family owns another United States savings bond. So why worry about worn places when it shows good style and is warm? Don't waste wool."

Another exhibit showed worn-out night clothes and read: "Out of worn nighties can be made panties."

From the time the exhibit was opened until it closed, there were women in the room viewing and cutting patterns. Several women spent as much time as one-half day, and many comments were made that it was an exhibit that gave them many suggestions and that they would try to put into practice some of the hints that were given so that they may have more money for savings bonds.

A pair of trousers was mounted on canvas and a pattern for a small girl's jumper dress pinned on it. A suit for a small boy, which was made from a woman's coat, was displayed, showing the possibility of making a boy's suit from Mother's old coat.

An exhibit of steps in coat construction was looked over in great detail by many visitors.

Much interest was shown in a display of quilt patches.

Realizing the importance of planning for the children in the home, an exhibit of home-made toys was shown. Some of these toys were made from spools and boxes. The label read: "Boxes and spools—make toys children will enjoy and release more money for savings stamps."

On a display of dolls, the sign read "One yard of percale—Five dolls—Money for war savings stamps."

Over three animals, the sign read: "One yard of Turkish toweling makes three animals—Money for war savings stamps."

Over a set of doll's furniture, a peg and a marble game, the sign read: "Father's saws make toys out of scraps of material for daughter's Christmas."

On another table was shown a display of men's shorts. There the sign read: "Shorts that are made at home can be made to fit and release money for savings stamps."

On another table was a carrying bag made from string. On the bag was a sign, "Carry a bag and help save rubber."

Another exhibit was a shirt for a 3-year-old. The card read: "Made from father's shirt tail."

There was also an exhibit of patches showing various methods of mending a man's suit. Actual men's clothing was shown, part of which was mended, showing the before and after.

An invitation was issued to homemakers through the mailing list and radio. Due to a strike at the local newspaper office, it was not possible to give any newspaper publicity. Through the radio and mailing list, homemakers were invited to view the exhibit and to bring their paper and scissors for cutting patterns.—*J. Kathryn Francis and Mrs. Anna Lewis Logg, home demonstration agents, Mercer County, N. J.*

throughout the State is being made by neighborhood leaders—some of the same "Minutemen" who have been so active in the entire food-preservation program.

Some 2,000 neighborhood leaders in all have taken part in Maine's nutrition campaign which has been carried on by the home demonstration agents under the guiding leadership of Home Demonstration Leader Estelle Nason and Foods Specialist Kathryn E. Briwa.

Governor Sewall and Council authorized the allocation of \$43,200 to the Maine Extension Service to assist in the food production and conservation program. Of this amount, \$11,300 was allotted for employing 14 emergency home demonstration agents to help conduct the 2 months' intensive drive to stimulate interest in food conservation. Dr. Marion Sweetman, State chairman of the nutrition committee, was a constant adviser of subject-matter information.

A 2-day institute was held at the University of Maine for training the home demonstration agents in the latest preservation methods. A schedule of meetings was prepared by the home agents to cover each county. Afternoon or evening meetings were held to accommodate "neighborhood" units. Larger communities were divided into neighborhood units to make attendance possible even though gas and tires were scarce.

## 4-H Members Attend Meetings

Nearly 10,000 people, including 645 4-H Club members, attended the 828 meetings at which demonstrations were given on the best ways of canning fruit with little sugar, canning tomatoes, storing, salting, and drying foods, and on the use of the pressure cooker for nonacid foods. More than 1,500 neighborhood leaders attended these meetings and later visited their neighbors and distributed nutrition leaflets. In this way, more thousands were reached.

In Oxford County, many women set a goal to preserve and can at least 600 quarts of food. Some homemakers reached this mark and raised their goals. One home demonstration club member canned 100 jars of chicken, some of which she sold for additional income for her family. With her pressure cooker she has canned hundreds of quarts of fruits and vegetables. She estimates that it would cost at least \$3.50 a week to buy commercially canned products. The family also has adequate milk, butter, and eggs.

"More than half of the Oxford County women attending the food-preservation meetings have been nonmembers of Extension Service groups," said Home Agent Ethel A. Walsh who has carried on a successful program in her county. "Defense project meetings have introduced many women to the activities and opportunities of the Extension Service. The enthusiastic women attending declare that these special meetings were the most interesting and helpful they have ever attended," she said.

# Maine homemakers preserve vitamins for victory

■ "Rural homemakers in Maine will not suffer if there is a shortage of commercially canned food for civilian use, if they produce, can, and conserve food for the duration, as some of the women have this summer," said Director A. L. Deering in discussing the success of Maine's food production and conservation program.

Maine homemakers realize that food is one of war's most powerful weapons and have wholeheartedly entered into this extension wartime drive. They have planned their busy days so as to be able to attend extension food

conservation meetings where the women have learned the correct and most up-to-date ways of canning, salting, drying, and storing food to help Uncle Sam.

With characteristic thoroughness, patriotic women in every county in Maine have been producing foods and storing away adequate supplies against shortages for the coming winter. Conservative estimates indicate that hundreds of thousands of quarts of fruits and vegetables have been canned and stored in this way.

A check-up of the actual amount canned



## Leaders Get Tire Information

As vice chairman of the Commodity Rationing Board and specialist on tire-rationing rules in Crawford County, Ohio, I felt the need for more accurate information on the farmers' situation to insure getting the tires into the hands of those contributing most to the essential war effort.

Naturally, the first group of people I thought of who could give me this information was the group of community and neighborhood leaders. The War Board readily agreed to a survey, so a letter was sent to each of the 562 leaders in the county. A leaflet on "Facts About Rubber and Tires" was enclosed, and the letter explained the problem in Crawford County where there were simply not enough truck tires to supply the registered trucks. I suspected that the trouble lay in the supply needed for farm machinery other than trucks.

Each leader was asked to write down the names and addresses of his 10 or 15 nearest neighbors and check their rubber-tired machinery. The reports came back surprisingly quick and accurate. The extension secretary checked each sheet for duplication of names, correct townships, and township coverage as they were received. In one township, reports were received on 208 of 223 farms there.

The survey showed that on the 2,023 farms in the county there were 4,280 pieces of farm equipment other than trucks using tires which had to be rationed from the truck quota. These included tractors, combines, trailers, plows, farm wagons, manure spreaders, hay balers, corn pickers, and others. After they had seen these figures, the County Commodity Rationing Board was convinced that rationing of truck tires according to numbers of registered trucks within the county or according to the population is not an equitable means of setting quotas, as only 869 trucks were registered in Crawford County using 5,214 tires, whereas there were 4,280 other pieces of equipment using 12,762 tires on the farms of the county.

In this case, our community and neighborhood leaders furnished the needed information quickly and efficiently.—*Russell L. Miller, county agent, Crawford County, Ohio.*

## Single Frame Versus Double Frame

For several years the Extension Service has been making many slidefilms in both single- and double-frame sizes. The reason for this has been that many agents make their own slides, using colorfilm and frequently find they can combine the Federal strips with their slides. If the smaller picture were used, the size change on the screen would be distracting. The double-frame picture is the same size, either in the strip or the slide.

Mechanically, it is possible to insert material in single-frame slidefilms, but aesthet-

# ONE WAY TO DO IT! Methods tried and found good

ically (!) it just doesn't work. Splices are made by overlapping the two ends of film, and the added thickness causes lack of sharp focus on the screen, and the overlapped edge of the film introduces an ugly black line across the picture.

Several recent films have served to emphasize the advantages of double-frame films over single-frame. The difference in clarity of the projected image is remarkable. If prints of "Pigs Can't Shoot" or "Farm Women in Wartime" are available in both sizes, examine them side by side on the screen and see the difference. There are good technical reasons for this improvement, involving lenses, resolving power, circles of confusion, and similar 75-cent words; but you really aren't interested, are you?

One feature of the double-frame strips has caused some question. It is our practice to utilize all the advantages of the larger frame by placing vertical pictures on a vertical axis. This practice trebles the size of the image. When used in the strip, this results in pictures being projected sideways. The double-frame strips are intended to be mounted as slides. If you must use them in the strip, place a tiny dot of red ink in an inconspicuous corner of the frame ahead so you will be prepared to rotate the projector as you turn to the vertical frame.

Three recent publications will be of interest to agents who use slides. Planning and Making Color Slide Sets, Filing Color Slides, and Titles and Graphs for Color Slide Sets. All contain useful information for the worker using slides.—*Don Bennett, visual instruction specialist, United States Department of Agriculture.*

## Something New in Tours

Something new in 4-H Club work? Maybe not new, but a new way of looking at it. 4-H Club work means more to John Walker and his club than just projects carried out, record books completed, and work exhibited. John is one of the outstanding farmers and Jersey breeders in Licking County, Ohio, and a very busy man but not so busy as to overlook 17 farm boys in the township and their need for training. He and his group work hard. They

don't overlook giving proper attention to project and record-book completion, nor do they make it the whole show. It is only the peg on which they hang their program.

The idea may become clear if we repeat a tour the boys held this fall, which was kind of a finale to their club season. The tour had 17 stops, 1 for each project. The project, of course, was the first thing hunted up when the gang invaded a barnyard. The usual order was first a good quizzing by the members: "What'ya feed it?" "What's the gain?" "What ya goin' do with it?"—the expected questions and answers. This, however, was preliminary to the main feature which would let go when John asked: "What about this farm, boys?" Jack: "Fences run the wrong way. Should be north and south. It would save work hauling stuff to the barn." Fred: "Milk house below the barn is bad. Drainage is that way." Richard: "Having pasture on the hills and cropland on the level land is a good idea." Questions would keep coming thick and fast until John slowed them down and backed up to go over the farm thoroughly. How about the fields, the crop rotations, then the buildings, water supply, labor saving, and the like? The club boy on whose farm they happened to be would explain the practices and give reasons to defend them. This procedure of analysis on the farm would take place at every visit. Whatever presented itself was a subject for discussion, such as judging a ring of sheep, picking out the best hog or calf in the barn, value of the hay in the mow, and grain in the bin.

To work out this program, the first step was taken last spring. A committee of the members was given the job of planning the season's program. Material for the committee to work on was obtained by having each member submit a subject on what interested him most about the farm. The program committee had but to arrange in order all these offers. The result was a season's program on general farming. There were sessions on livestock, crops, drainage, machinery, and forestry. A program of this kind required much advising on the part of the adviser. The tour turned out to be a field day on all these subjects—a farm-planning field day.

We haven't been able to run off programs like this one on a mimeograph. We have to find advisers with the foresight, originality, and ability of John Walker. We have to make the possibilities of 4-H work important enough to attract this type of leadership.—*Palmer Jones, assistant agricultural agent, Licking County, Ohio.*

■ In their all-out war effort to meet food goals, 16,873 Texas Negro farm families have started production in livestock and poultry this year. Reports from 47 of the 51 counties having Negro extension agents show that 1,564 farm families obtained milk cows for the first time for production of milk for home use and for marketing.



# Have you read?

**Parity, Parity, Parity.** John D. Black, Harvard University. 360 pp. The Harvard Committee on Research in the Social Sciences, Cambridge, Mass., 1942.

Here is a clear, readable book about parity. It does much to define and illuminate the issues involved in parity prices, parity wages and incomes, inflation, wartime price control, and other subjects of great current interest to farm people.

No agricultural worker need shy away from this book. The chapters are not too long; the tables and charts are easy to read, and the book itself is not too big. Although technically accurate, it is written in clear, journalistic style. Included are many interesting side lights on personalities and events associated with the parity idea in years past and present. These side lights give color to the exposition and aid in understanding the main current of serious argument.

The book is of immediate and practical usefulness. It contains valuable background material for educational work concerning agricultural prices, price control, and the cost-of-living program. Many of the materials can be adapted for use by study and discussion groups of farm people. It will be of greatest value to agricultural workers themselves in their study of parity and parity problems. The author has made a special effort to make the book useful for this purpose. As he says in the foreword, the attempt is to look at the problem from all sides, introducing all the factors in the problem and trying to give each of them its due weight.

Of deep and special significance to extension workers is the author's expressed concern in developing and maintaining a solid foundation for action through popular government. Early in the book, he points out that the first requirement for such action is a good understanding by each group—Agriculture, Labor, and Industry—of the conditions within the other groups. Given such an understanding, all three can put their feet under a common table and can usually work out measures that are good for them all.

Here is a high challenge to extension workers and their colleagues in agriculture to assist families on the land in developing and maintaining this fundamental understanding, both during wartime and in the years to follow.—*Virgil D. Gilman, extension economist, United States Department of Agriculture.*

**This Land We Defend.** Hugh H. Bennett and William C. Pryor. 107 pp. Longmans, Green and Co. New York-Toronto. 1942.

The authors of this book tell the history of the United States from the standpoint of the land. Briefly and vividly they tell the story

of the pioneers wresting their livelihoods from the rich prairies and forests of the New World. They relate that these riches had rapidly deteriorated when fertility depletion and erosion resulted from the emphasis given to production rather than to the care of the soil. The evidence submitted of soil losses clearly indicates the scope of soil conservation as a national problem.

Against this background of land mismanagement, the progress of land protection is told through planning for soil conservation. Sufficient details of farm planning are described to acquaint the reader with the methods of planning and the conservation practices employed as determined by research and demonstration. Stories of farms and communities bring out the advantages of the new "pattern" of soil-conservation farming.

Although organized efforts by farmers in this direction are comparatively recent, their great progress is reviewed. The authors describe soil-conservation districts and how they operate to the benefit of the land, individuals on the land, and communities. Production is actually increased as a result of good soil-conservation farming.

Extension workers will find this book valuable in their work because the philosophy embodied recognizes an urgent need for adjustments in land management in the interest of the welfare of the people for everyday living and for the protection of the land resources of the Nation. As stated, "the soil is truly our first line of national defense." Acceptance of this philosophy by farm people will speed up the application of protective practices on the land.—*Wendell R. Tascher, soil conservationist, United States Department of Agriculture.*

**The Book of Home Economics.** Mary M. Leaming, home demonstration agent, New Jersey State Extension Service. 507 pp. The New Home Library, New York, N. Y. 1942.

Mary Leaming, home demonstration agent, Camden County, N. J., is the author of *The Book of Home Economics* recently published by the New Home Library—"A practical manual of tested information on every phase of home economy."

Extension workers may recall a story in the REVIEW some months ago by Miss Leaming, "The Newspaper Works for Me," telling of her experiences in writing a daily column in a Camden, N. J. newspaper and of the readers' response to the column. Letters and questions from thousands of homemakers resulting from this column suggested to Miss Leaming the need of a book for the average homemaker who is concerned with the many family-living problems she must meet every day in the year.

The parts of the book dealing with the selection of living quarters and the purchase of

home furnishings were planned to help the new as well as the well-established families.

The chapters on food were designed for the woman who wants to feed her family scientifically but appealingly, with the minimum of effort, time, and money. The clothing chapters aim to help the homemaker with selection, care, and repair of clothing. The section on family finance includes chapters on such topics as: Establishing Family Financial Planning, Children's Allowances, Insurance, Investments, and Credit.

The book is on sale at drug and five- and ten-cent stores for less than a dollar.—*Florence L. Hall, senior home economist, United States Department of Agriculture.*

## New Books Received

**Nutrition.** Fern Silver, Supervisor of Home Economics, Lincoln High School, Albuquerque, N. Mex. 168 pp. D. Appleton-Century Co., New York, N. Y. 1941, 1942.

**Rural America Today—Its Schools and Community Life.** George A. Works, Professor of Rural Education, Cornell University; and Simon O. Lesser, a writer in the Bureau of Intelligence, Office of Facts and Figures, Washington, D. C. 450 pp. The University of Chicago Press, Chicago, Ill. 1942.

**Soils and Fertilizers.** Firman E. Bear, Ph. D., Professor of Agricultural Chemistry, Rutgers University; Soil Chemist, New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station. Third Edition. 374 pp. John Wiley & Sons, Inc. New York, N. Y. Chapman & Hall, Ltd., London. 1942.

## Negro 4-H Poultry Members Compete

A State-wide poultry flock record for Negro 4-H Club boys and girls is helping to boost Georgia's poultry production. The contestants will take inventories at the beginning and end of the contest. They will keep records on the number of eggs laid, cost of feed, returns from eggs, and poultry sales, average cost of producing a dozen eggs, labor income, the rate of mortality, and miscellaneous expenses.

Prizes from 5 to 50 dollars in war stamps and bonds will be awarded the 5 girls and 5 boys with best records. Those completing records but failing to win any of the 10 prizes will receive 4-H Club pocketknives.

**BANKERS' MEETINGS** in Louisiana early in August were attended by 309 bankers and agricultural workers. Four representatives of the Extension Service presented specific recommendations for the bankers' contribution to the Food for Freedom program. Particular emphasis was given to increasing livestock and poultry production and soil improvement.



## Missouri and Iowa Take Inventory of Their Neighborhood-leader Systems

To check the success of neighborhood leaders in putting over extension wartime programs in Iowa and Missouri, studies were recently made in those two States. Brief summaries of the findings have been prepared and made available to Iowa and Missouri extension workers to enable them more readily to gather useful ideas best adapted to their localities.

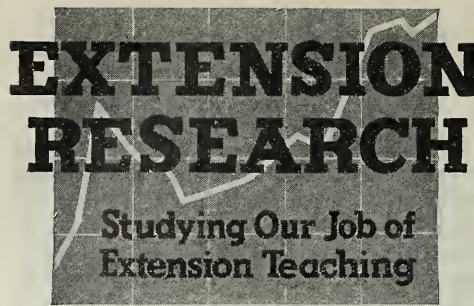
Based on the study of the neighborhood-leader system in five Missouri counties—Crawford, Linn, St. Clair, Dunklin, and Howell—a committee of extension staff members has prepared a summary of findings with recommendations for distribution to all county and State extension workers. Some of the more significant recommendations are:

1. Each leader should be requested to compile a list of all families in the school district or neighborhood, one copy to be kept by the leader and one filed in the county extension office.
2. More attention needs to be given to informing "followers" of the scope and functions of the neighborhood-leader system.
3. All training materials should be organized and presented in such a way that every leader will understand. Each leader should be given a complete set of all materials used in the training meeting and encouraged to study them thoroughly. The materials include both subject matter and methods of procedure.
4. A copy of the duties and responsibilities of leaders should be placed in the hands of all leaders. These duties and responsibilities should be discussed with the leader so that he understands them and agrees to perform them.
5. County agents should make frequent visits to key leaders and occasional visits to others. Agents are thus able to keep abreast of local developments and give immediate assistance where needed.

This study, entitled, "Summary of Study on Functioning of the Neighborhood Leader System in Missouri" was made by R. B. Almack of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, U. S. D. A., together with Missouri extension workers. Report processed, 1942.

### Iowa County Surveyed

Interviews with 26 Franklin County educational cooperators, as neighborhood leaders are called in Iowa, brought to light several special problems which suggested the following recommendations:



1. The idea that the neighborhood leader is a war worker should be emphasized. The notion that this is just "a part of the regular program" must be removed.
2. Leaders contacted personally at the time of appointment and who understood their duties and functions are doing a superior job. Any further appointment of a neighborhood leader should be by personal contact.
3. Additional training in techniques of leading discussion and approaching neighbors is needed.
4. With one exception, printed material released for use by the neighborhood leaders has been too late. More attention must be given to timeliness of its release.
5. The material prepared for use by neighborhood leaders should contain more "reader appeal."
6. Through the neighborhood-leader system, many people are being reached who never attended extension meetings.

This study of The Functioning of Educational Cooperator System in Franklin County, Iowa was made by *E. F. Graff and F. A. Kutish of the Iowa Extension Service in 1942.* (Report typewritten.)

### Training Schools Effectual

Special training schools appear to be the most effective manner of training Iowa's neighborhood leaders, according to the opinions of a representative group of Iowa county and State extension workers, all experienced in training leaders. Personal contacts with leaders were rated second, and meetings other than training schools were considered third by the extension personnel furnishing information in the study. Eighty-three percent favored holding leader-training schools for neighborhood leaders in areas of 4 townships or less in extent. The remaining 17 percent favored slightly larger training-school areas.

It was the consensus of the extension workers that more emphasis should be placed on radio programs, film slides, panel discussions, illustrated talks, motion pictures, charts, and graphs. Less emphasis should be placed on result demonstrations, plays and pageants, tours, personal visits, score cards, and true or

false questionnaires.—TRAINING EDUCATIONAL COOPERATORS IN THE WARTIME PROGRAM, by *Robert C. Clark, Iowa Extension Service.* Processed, May 1942.

## Extension Club Worker Studies Parent Cooperation in 4-H Work

Particularly in wartime Extension is a program to help the farm family make the best use of its farm, the best use of its home, and achieve the best development of its members. The 4-H program can function more effectively when the parents cooperate fully with 4-H members.

This is brought out in a study made by Erna Ruth Wildermuth, 1941-42 National 4-H fellow, during her fellowship year in Washington, D. C. Personally interviewing 32 4-H leaders and 81 4-H mothers in farm and non-farm areas of Maryland, Ohio, and Virginia, Miss Wildermuth obtained first-hand information on the extent to which parents are cooperating in 4-H Club work; the importance of parents taking part in 4-H activities, especially in wartime; what is expected of leaders and parents in contributing to the 4-H effort; and some of the difficulties involved in obtaining parental cooperation.

It was the consensus of the leaders interviewed that to be good cooperators parents should: Show an interest in their children's club and club activities, encourage them to do good club work, and give them helpful supervision and instruction in carrying on their projects; provide adequate financial aid to the club members for necessary project equipment, and arrange for their transportation to club events; make 4-H Club work a topic of family conversation, and tell the neighbors and others in the community about the 4-H program.

The study shows that the more contacts parents have with 4-H Club work, the more willing they are to cooperate. Some methods considered by leaders and parents to be most important in developing parent cooperation are: (1) Hold community meetings for parents; (2) Prepare written instructions for parents, setting forth what is expected of them; (3) Make visits to club members' homes; (4) Write letters to parents; (5) Invite parents to attend club meetings; (6) Present programs about 4-H work at meetings of community organizations; and (7) Encourage parents to attend county 4-H Club events.—PARENT COOPERATION IN 4-H CLUB WORK, by *Erna Ruth Wildermuth, California Extension Service (formerly New Mexico Ext. Serv.) Typewritten thesis, 1942.*

■ Thirty-seven Sumter County, Ga., Negro neighborhood leaders mobilized local labor to harvest the county's peanut and cotton crops and held a Food for Victory exhibit in November.



# Training Negro neighborhood leaders

J. T. ALEXANDER, Negro Agricultural Agent  
and  
ANNIE M. BOYNTON, Negro Home Demonstration Agent  
Montgomery County, Ala.

■ Traveling along the Extension way, organized communities have grown in Montgomery County, Ala., from 8 with 16 leaders in 1928 to 31 with 68 leaders in 1941. As roads were improved and better transportation facilities became available, the Extension Service expanded through the years. Unorganized communities that were once visited by extension agents on foot, from the nearest passenger traffic depot, now have organized communities and good roads. This growth has made it possible for the agents to conform to a regular monthly schedule of community meetings, set at hours convenient for the participants; and the old schedules of the common passenger carriers have practically faded out of the picture.

With the call of the Extension Service for more volunteer local leaders to cope with the increased duties and responsibilities caused by the present war, we divided communities into smaller units so as to reach more farm people. Using the 31 organized communities located strategically to cover the county, the neighborhood organization was set up. The 31 communities with 68 leaders were broken down into 171 neighborhood groups, with a man leader and a woman leader for each group, thus increasing the number of our local leaders from 68 to 312.

While making contact and carrying forward the survey in each community, at its regular monthly meeting, effort was made by everyone present to enroll every family in the respective neighborhoods. To date, 171 neighborhoods have enrolled an aggregate of 2,845 families and are cooperating and continuing their efforts to add other families where they have been left out by oversight or for some other reason. All rural families were listed, whether owners, sharecroppers, wage hands, or public workers.

Recently we held an inspiring county-wide leadership training meeting. Extension speakers and teachers who visited this meeting and assisted in training the leaders were N. Kollock, State agent for Negro men; T. M. Campbell, field agent, USDA; and Lem A. Edmonson, county agent (white).

At this meeting, one of the community leaders, P. C. Pinkston from Mt. Meigs community, conducted the spirituals and devotion; and T. H. Taylor, Jr., from Taylors community, recorded the minutes.

Following the devotion period, Agent Alexander explained that the purpose of the training meeting was to teach the leaders their duty in the many jobs that lie ahead. For example, such projects were taken up as the stamp and

war-bond campaign; the scrap-rubber drive; the scrap-metal program; the method of constructing a home-made peanut picker suitable for the small grower, and its use; and how to organize the junior leadership organization, including boys and girls, into groups similar to that of the adults.

Home Agent Boynton explained to the group the functions of the community and neighborhood leaders.

In introducing Field Agent T. M. Campbell, Mr. Kollock said that "our plan is to use this leadership set-up not only for the duration of the war but in the post-war period in scattering much information among farm folks." "This is one way," he said, "of reaching most of the Negro farm population in Alabama."

"National defense means a great deal more than simply training soldiers to fight," said Mr. Campbell. "They must be fed, and our only source of food is the farm. This calls for a strong, healthy force of workers—men, women, and children—who are not sick. So you see that we not only have to fight an enemy abroad, but we must also wage war against disease, poverty, and ignorance here at home.

"I am confident that all Negro farmers will shoulder their part of the national responsibilities in proportion as the facts are made clear to them. You owe it to yourselves to take back home whatever information you have received here today and spread the news to the masses whom you represent."

Agent Alexander used "The Negro Farmer" publication to demonstrate how the community leader was expected to receive and pass on information to his or her neighborhood leaders. A community leader was given sufficient copies for the number of families in all of his neighborhoods; then he was guided in dividing the papers into as many bundles as he had neighborhoods, considering the number of families in each. Then the neighborhood leaders (man and woman) got together on distributing the papers to the families in their neighborhoods. It was further explained that when any and all projects are handled in this manner every family will be reached with a very little effort.

The stamp and war bond pledge campaign was explained, and since that time every group of the 171 neighborhood leaders has contacted families on its respective list and made good reports which showed 707 pledges amounting to \$6,351.26. These pledges ranged from the small sum of 10 cents to \$18.75 per month.

In the scrap-metal harvest, the 171 neigh-

borhoods have reported 47,172 pounds of scrap metal to date, and the program is still under way. Also 1,222 pounds of scrap rubber were collected.

In the junior neighborhood organizational project, 30 communities from 99 neighborhoods reported 943 boys and 1,098 girls, making a total of 2,041 young people to date.

## Negro Feeder Sale

The first beef-cattle feeder sale ever to be conducted wholly by Georgia Negro farmers was held at the Log Cabin Community Center in Hancock County, August 12. This event was sponsored by President B. F. Hubert of the Georgia State College and paved the initial step for stimulating greater interest in beef-steer production in that area by growing out first-class animals from native stock, reports Agent W. A. Hagins.

Forty-three animals, costing approximately \$2,000, were purchased by colored and white farmers to begin beef-cattle improvement and production so that others might immediately grasp the inspiration of this venture.

With the advancing purchasing price of beef steers, several 4-H Club members also bought calves to begin feeding out for the annual Augusta show and sale in order that they might realize larger incomes for feed and labor. These boys were inspired by the success of Nathaniel Dixon, a club boy in the same section, who recently made the largest income among club members in the State from his home-raised steer.

C. L. Tapley, Negro county agent, Greene County, was the auctioneer; C. O. Brown, Baldwin County Negro agent, the ring manager; and Alexander Hulse, Negro State club agent for the Georgia Agricultural Extension Service served as secretary.

## On the Calendar

- Chicago International Poultry Exposition, Chicago, Ill., December 11-14.
- Child Health and Welfare Exposition, New York, N. Y., December 14-19.
- Entomological Society of America, San Antonio, Tex., December 27-30.
- American Farm Economic Association, Cleveland, Ohio, December 28-31.
- American Marketing Association, Cleveland, Ohio, December 28-30.
- American Historical Association, Columbus, Ohio, December 29-31.
- American Economic Association, Cleveland, Ohio, December 29-31.
- Rural Sociological Society, Cleveland, Ohio, December 29-31.
- American Association for Advancement of Science, New York, N. Y., December 28-January 2.
- 4-H Club Radio Program, Farm and Home Hour, Blue Network, January 2.
- American National Livestock Association, Phoenix, Ariz., January 6-8.



# The once-over

## Reflecting the news of the month as we go to press

FOOD PRODUCTION GOALS for 1943 are the theme of the month. They are being announced at a series of four regional conferences, beginning November 30 in Denver, December 4 in Chicago, December 7 in Memphis, and December 14 in New York City, when Secretary Wickard explains the food requirements for the armed forces and lease-lend and the national goals set to meet these needs to a group including extension directors and editors. Each State is then taking up its own goals and the problems that may be in the way of reaching these goals. This month and next every State is being visited by a member of the staff of the Federal Extension Service. Fred Jans, C. A. Sheffield, Karl Knaus, and C. E. Potter will make these visits. The problem simmers down to what can be done in each county, in each community, on each farm. Neighborhood leaders will visit every farm to check with farmers on essential practices to be followed. Where can more meat, milk, eggs, peanuts, potatoes, dry beans, and essential vegetables be grown? How can the necessary machinery and labor be brought to bear on these necessary crops in places where they can best be grown?

THE TOUGHEST WARTIME PROBLEM, said Secretary Wickard in a radio talk, is "Where can we get help?" Because of its importance, the Secretary has appointed Lyle F. Watts, formerly regional forester from Portland, Oreg., as special assistant to coordinate farm labor activities of the Department. Regional Department representatives have also been designated to work with regional offices of the War Manpower Commission which is putting into effect a stabilizing program on dairy, poultry, and livestock farms. The Selective Service System has also asked local draft boards to defer men who are necessary on essential dairy, poultry, and livestock farms; and the Army and Navy will continue the policy of not recruiting skilled workers from these branches of agriculture. The Office of Education is working on training programs. "Nevertheless, farmers next year will have to rely more and more on many kinds of help that they have not been used to—more women and girls, more older people," continued the Secretary; and the problem will still be one of organizing local resources, making the very best and efficient use of all available local labor.

THE 1943 MACHINERY PROGRAM calls for all farm machines running at full capacity, with few replacements for the duration. Extension engineers meeting in four regional conferences in October and early November outlined an action program on care and main-

tenance, pledging from 40 to 50 percent of their time to the biggest reconditioning job which has ever been attempted. The training of new operators, "lend lease" or "share use" plans, and home-made equipment will be developed to help meet the emergency, for manufacture of new machines will be cut to 20 percent of the average production in 1940 and 1941. Machinery will be scarcer, but it is even more important to meet production goals.

A SERIES OF INTERSTATE MACHINERY BULLETINS was one of the ideas introduced at the Central States machinery conference by Prof. F. W. Duffee, of Wisconsin. By pooling their efforts, more and better leaflets might be made available at less cost of time, money, and effort. Cover pages and introductory statements could be distinctive for each State and the subject matter passed upon by a committee of State extension engineers.

SPENDING AND SAVING IN WARTIME is just such a cooperative bulletin planned for use in seven Northeastern States. The eight-page publication about ready to come off the press was written by Beatrice Billings, assistant home demonstration leader in Massachusetts. Each State is paying for its own cover. The one change which had to be made in the Maine bulletin to conform to the State income law cost but \$2.

THE 4-H CLUB PROGRAM FOR 1943 was studied by State club leaders attending the National Club Congress in Chicago, November

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## 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*

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30 to December 2. The wartime program for 4-H clubs under discussion was that adopted by the Committee on Extension Organization and Policy of the Association of Land-Grant Colleges and Universities, which was based on a report of a subcommittee on 4-H Club work under the chairmanship of J. W. Whitehouse, club leader in Kentucky. Plans for a 4-H mobilization week, February 6 to 14, were a feature of this plan. Such subjects as ways and means of increasing enrollment, finding and training more local leaders and special 4-H neighborhood leaders, and adjustments to make the war program more effective were studied.

PERMANENT PRICE CEILINGS were announced on November 9 for onions, potatoes, dry beans, and turkeys. These are the first permanent ceilings following the temporary maximum price regulation on certain essential food products. The latest information and amendments to price regulations which affect farmers are being sent to State extension economists as soon as they become available in Washington so that the latest authentic information will be available to all extension workers for interpretation in the light of their own situation and needs.

THE RECORD PIG CROP MOVES TO MARKET, and packers are handling more hogs this month and next than they ever have handled before. A special Market News Service in the Corn Belt during the marketing peak helps to keep farmers informed of hog supplies at individual markets. Under authority of WPB directive issued October 20, market embargoes can be ordered whenever necessary to prevent market gluts. Producers must then have permits to ship hogs to that market. Permits are obtained from the market committee or the usual firm or individual who handles his hogs. AMA is administering the hog-marketing plans, and county agents are active in telling farmers the details of the plan and keeping the market committee informed of local conditions.

BIGGER AND BETTER VICTORY GARDENS in Illinois are being planned, according to Lee A. Somers, extension horticulturist, who recently visited the Department. Help will be offered to gardeners, both back yard and farm, in a 15-minute radio talk starting February 23 over the university station and continuing every Tuesday to July 1. Neighborhood leaders will present Victory-garden material in late January and February and, at the same time, enroll gardeners for the radio programs.

THE CATTLE GRUB is still being chased out of Anderson County, Tex., as described in last month's REVIEW. A clipping sent in by Dr. Laake tells of the work of the 800 4-H club boys in the county who know by actual experience how to treat for cattle grub and intend to see that all herds are treated as their "biggest piece of war work."



