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The challenge of the 99 percent

FRANCIS FLOOD, Assistant to the Administrator, War Food Administration

The 99 percent of the Farm Labor Problem which Colonel Taylor says will be solved in the country is in the hands of three groups—extension workers, emergency laborers, and farmers.

■ It is both a compliment and a challenge to Extension when Lt. Col. Jay L. Taylor, deputy administrator of WFA in charge of farm labor, insists that the farm labor problem will be solved about 1 percent in Washington and 99 percent in the country. Colonel Taylor has made that statement repeatedly. He made it at each of the regional extension conferences held in April, and the streamlining of his program indicates that he intends it to work that way.

The Job Is Vitaly Important

It is a compliment because the larger share of the administrative responsibility has been handed to Extension—as every extension worker knows by now. It is a challenge because it is one of the biggest single assignments Extension has ever had in its history of big assignments, and because of the vital importance of the job itself.

But, although Extension has the administrative responsibility, the over-all responsibility for solving the farm labor problem is shared with two other groups. They are similarly responsible.

One of these groups is the available labor supply itself. There are hundreds of thousands of workers who can do farm work who are not on farms now. These include townspeople available for part-time of full-time work. They include high-school and college students who are willing and strong but inexperienced. They include women. They include retired people who have earned retirement and in peacetime should not be expected to work but who in wartime can make a hand.

It is the responsibility of these people to go out to the farms and prove their worth and work. It is from this group that the U. S. Crop Corps will be enlisted or not, depending on how this group meets its responsibility.

Last year the response was splendid. So far this year the response seems to be even better. Countless incidents are reported every day of the people responding to the call for farm help in the emergencies. During the sugar-beet season last fall, one western town practically closed up while the people worked in the beet fields; and on the door of one closed beauty shop a sign read: "Back at 6. Out in the beet field. Why aren't you?"

They seem to be meeting their responsibility.

The other group that shares the responsibility is made up of the farmers themselves. Theirs is a big share. The farmer wants skilled and experienced help, especially at this time when he is trying for greater production and perhaps has less machinery, equipment, and supplies with which to work.

But it is the farmer's responsibility to use this inexperienced labor this year. If he does use it, and if he trains it carefully, it will help to meet his labor problem. If he refuses

to use it, he has not done his part to meet the problem.

It is the farmer's responsibility to compete with the armed forces and the war industries for this labor supply. He can hire this labor, or refuse to hire it and watch it go to other employment.

Lieutenant Colonel Taylor said recently on the radio: "The farmer will not get his share of this labor if he refuses to hire a young man because he is inexperienced. Remember that thousands of young men who were not experienced as farm-tractor drivers are now driving General Sherman tanks and flying bombers—and, believe me, that is skilled work, too. It is the farmer's responsibility to be as willing to use this labor and to teach it as the Army and the war industries are."

Success Demands Teamwork

If the total effort succeeds, it will not be because of the Extension Service alone, or the labor supply alone, or the farmers alone. It will be because all the agencies, both official and unofficial, worked together to arouse in the consciousness of the potential labor supply the need to offer their services on farms and to arouse in the consciousness of the farmer the need to use this labor and make the most of it.

It is a joint responsibility, this 99 percent that lies in the country. Extension can be counted on to do its part.

Crop Corps gives certificate of service



■ When they are placed in their first job all workers in the U. S. Crop Corps will receive a certificate like the one shown. This certificate, to be given by the county agents, bears the signatures of the War Food Administrator and the chairman of the War Manpower Commission. It is countersigned by the State director of agricultural extension. The certificate is about 9 by 11 inches, but a small edition about the size of an automobile driver's permit will be given to migratory farm workers, both domestic and foreign. Some of these cards will be printed in Spanish for the Mexican workers.

A pinch of superior seed goes to Louisiana Victory Gardeners

CARY J. RICHARDSON, Louisiana Extension Service

■ One of the busiest men in Louisiana today is G. L. Tiebout, horticulturist with the Agricultural Extension Service of the Louisiana State University at Baton Rouge. Mr. Tiebout is practically a one-man mail-order house, with nothing for sale but plenty to give away. His whole stock in trade is seed, and he is mailing tens of thousands of free "Victory pinches" of his seed ("educated seed," he will have you know) to every corner of Louisiana.

Mr. Tiebout's mail-order business is more or less of an accident. It grew out of his desire to spread the word of the new and improved varieties of vegetables being bred or developed by Louisiana scientists at the Louisiana State University Experiment Station, varieties which, for one reason or another, are particularly well suited to our climate and conditions.

Under the stress of wartime conditions, the demand for the free Victory pinches has risen to monumental proportions. Mr. Tiebout's desk in the morning is snowed under with postal cards and letters, hundreds upon hundreds of them—some scrawled on scraps of old paper, some neatly typed, unmistakably feminine. The letters all want one thing, of course—seed, seed to plant in Victory Gardens now to grow vegetables that Louisiana families may eat later on!

Already this year, between 35,000 and 40,000 Victory pinches have been sent out; and thousands of envelopes—which have to be addressed by hand, remember—are waiting for their pinches of seed. A pinch varies in volume with the kind of seed, but it is supposed to be an amount necessary for an average family's planting of a particular vegetable.

"We're not sending out seed just for the sake of giving something away free," emphasizes the horticulturist. "Each pinch of seed must carry some lesson. It must be a superior variety, for instance, better than anything already in general use, or it must be resistant to diseases or free of seed-borne diseases. In other words, it must meet a real need of Louisiana farmers. We are encouraging all Victory Gardeners, as well as farmers, to save their seed for next year and so help to carry on the good work, with plenty of seed of the new varieties for themselves and their neighbors."

"Mr. T."—he's never called anything else by his coworkers in Agricultural Extension—has tried to emphasize the fact in his newspaper columns that all he wants is his correspondents' names and addresses and the kind of seed they are asking for. He cannot discour-



G. L. Tiebout starts off on his bicycle for a tour of Victory Gardens.

age garden-minded Louisianans so easily! They want to tell him of their troubles, and they want advice, and they want him to know what the bugs did to their collards and their okra and their tomatoes last year.

Mr. Tiebout is an enthusiastic gardener with 50 years of experience behind him and likes nothing better than discussing his subject; but it is manifestly impossible for one man, assisted by one secretary and a few part-time volunteer workers, to keep up a correspondence with all the thousands who write in for pinches.

"Mr. T.'s" office is so full of boxes of seeds, paper bags, stacks of mail, piles of sweet-potatoes, old bulletins and newspapers, and other miscellaneous souvenirs of 50 years of horticultural work that it has long since become practically impossible for him to reach his desk; and he directs most of the million and one garden activities in which he is concerned from a standing position in the middle of the room! His duties keep him on the go pretty constantly; but when he has a chance to rest, he doesn't sit at his desk but in a high-backed leather-covered "throne chair" which, he explains, belongs to him as "dean of workers" in Louisiana State Univer-

sity Agricultural Extension—in other words, as the oldest worker in point of years of service.

Mr. Tiebout is now distributing pinches of Louisiana Sweet collards, Spineless Green Velvet okra, White Velvet okra, and Surecrop Wax beans. The Louisiana Sweet collards are so superior in flavor to the old varieties, according to the garden specialist, that they will convert thousands of greens haters into collard enthusiasts. He points out that the collard is an ideal war food, rich in vitamins and minerals.

The two okras, bred at the experiment station, are outstanding varieties of the lady-finger type. The pods are practically free of the annoying and painful spines that ordinarily plague okra pickers. Only one variety of okra will be sent on request, because Mr. Tiebout is anxious for growers to save their own seed; and if both kinds are growing in one garden, they are likely to "mix."

The Victory pinches of Surecrop Wax beans carry a lesson in the use of disease-free seed. These seeds were given to the Louisiana horticulturist by a grower in California. The State of California certifies them as free from pod-spot and halo blight, diseases which have caused terrific losses to Louisiana bean growers in the past.

Rounding up labor

Most New York counties where canning crops are important have made plans for mobilization campaigns to round up labor both for farmers and canners. Many clerks, storekeepers, bankers, school teachers, and others have had some experience and are willing to help on a part-time or seasonal basis. House-to-house canvasses are being conducted by block leaders and Minutemen working through local war councils. Newspaper and radio publicity is also being used. The necessary transportation is also being planned. Households that cannot furnish labor are being solicited to care for children of workers, thus supplementing facilities of nurseries established by the YWCA, churches, Red Cross, and schools.

■ JOHN HALL BARRON, after 32 years of extension service, retired recently from active duty with the New York Extension Service. He received his first appointment in Broome County, N. Y., in March 1911, being the first cooperatively employed county agent in the Northern and Western States. His appointment marks the beginning of the farm bureau movement in the United States. At first Mr. Brown traveled about his county with a horse and buggy. The next year, he bought an automobile and found that he could reach many more farmers with his streamline transportation.

As the extension organization expanded, Mr. Barron was transferred to the State staff as extension specialist in farm crops, the position he held from 1914 until his retirement.

Food-production check list serves farmers

Neighborhood leaders trained in the use of check lists enthusiastically took these practical helps for streamlining production to their neighbors.

■ When 1943 food-production goals were announced, giving farmers their greatest job in history, extension workers in Washington State immediately wondered what they could do to help their farm families accomplish this herculean task.

A specific program was needed that would not only drive the importance of this great job home to the farmers but would provide, easily and quickly, some simple, specific information and timely production hints to help reach these goals.

To get such a program across, the help of neighborhood leaders was accepted as the ideal way. These volunteer farm folks would also have a specific job to aid in the war effort. Dr. J. C. Knott, the State extension director, then suggested the idea of having each specialist prepare four or five approved practices in his or her field that would increase farm production or help to provide for better family living.

These practices were to be simple, yet important enough to result in increased production if followed.

At first, some long-winded programs were submitted; but these were shortened, put in question form to attract greater attention, and prepared as a so-called food-production check list. A short explanation was given for each question, telling why the particular practice would help; and a bulletin number was suggested for more detailed information if desired.

Farm and Home Fronts

The check list is broken down into two main sections—The Farm Front and The Home Front. Topics in the farm front are farm equipment, 4-H Clubs, farm and home records, general crops, dairy, poultry, beef cattle, hogs, and sheep. The home front includes subjects such as producing the home food supply, meeting clothing needs for the duration, planning work to do the job better and easier, care and repair of home appliances and utensils, 4-H Club projects in the home, and prevention of fires and home accidents.

An example of farm front questions is:

"Are you feeding alfalfa meal or hay to your hogs? Alfalfa guards against weak backs and legs, pneumonia, and pigs born weak or dead. See Washington Extension Bulletin No. 296."

For the home front:

"Can you plan your work to do the job better and easier? Save steps and motions; get proper rest and recreation; observe safety practices. Washington Extension Bulletins 268 and 293."

After specialists had prepared their questions and explanations, the entire plan was taken up with county workers for their suggestions.

Director Knott explained that the State staff did not expect county agents to ask their busy neighborhood leaders to drop work immediately to take around this check list. Instead, he encouraged agents to explain that the list could be presented at farm meetings or when leaders saw the families on their list in town, at church, or elsewhere. In other words, it was to be just a friendly visit between the neighborhood leaders and families; the list to be used by the leader to show how Washington farmers could do a better job in this battle for food.

Agents Make Suggestions

Agents and some neighborhood leaders were asked for suggestions, after the entire State staff had worked on the list; and nearly every agent and assistant made some reply. These suggestions were all considered in making up the list in final form. It was printed in two colors and indexed to be attractive and easily read.

The neighborhood leaders were to begin visits to present the list just as soon as representatives of the War Board had finished farm-goal sign-ups. A good many press releases and radio programs were sent out in advance to acquaint farmers with the program.

But before visiting was started, neighborhood-leader training meetings were held in each county to acquaint the volunteers with best methods of presenting the list to their families. But even this was preceded by a training meeting in the State office, where demonstrations of these county training meetings were put on by the State staff. This State meeting proved of real value, as every specialist became thoroughly acquainted with the program and learned how to train agents and leaders.

After the State demonstration, specialists were chosen to work with county agents to put on community training meetings for the

neighborhood leaders; and it was at these meetings that the success of the check list was established.

A good many county agents, and even some specialists, were chary about the value of the program; but the way neighborhood leaders "took it up" and the enthusiasm they showed convinced even the most reluctant.

The general reaction was that the neighborhood leaders accepted the proposal wholeheartedly as a "must job" to help in the war effort. Information in the list was useful to every farm and home and was arranged so that topics of most interest to a particular family could be easily found. At some county meetings, leaders said that this list would give them the opportunity to visit neighbors they had not seen for a long time, or not at all.

Typical of reactions to training meetings and check list are the following statements from county agents:

George Burckhalter, of Adams County: "Our first meeting was held at Batum, and the attitude of the 10 leaders attending was very gratifying. We have 92 leaders in 11 of the 12 precincts of the county and have had 100 percent response so far."

C. Okerstrom, of Mason County: "Various of our leaders and farmers said they never knew such information was available. It is evident that individuals are being served who have not previously been aware of the service."

Valley Long, of Pend Oreille County: "Our training meetings are all well attended—in fact, the attendance is much better than the agent expected. We feel that the leaders are all on the job."

Arnold Z. Smith, of Snohomish County: "It is believed that much good will be accomplished."

Walter Click, of Spokane County: "I believe that most of the leaders were willing and eager to help where they felt it would do some good for the war effort."

LaVerne N. Freimann, of Whatcom County: "Although attendance was not large at our meetings, the interest and desire to help were very marked. It was encouraging to find a number of leaders contacting their families regularly and that these leaders were well pleased with the results and cooperation they had obtained from their families."

Similar reports of progress are being received at the State office regularly. Specialists visiting the field are finding that although the list "sells itself," the greatest success is in counties where community neighborhood-leader training meetings were held to really explain the program and its purpose to the leaders before they visited their families.

The check list has received considerable publicity through the press and radio of Washington State, and its contents were also used as the basis for a script for the USDA Western Agriculture program broadcast over the Blue Network in Western States.

City workers on English farms

MARY GRIGS, Women's Editor, *Farmers Weekly*, London, England

Many extension workers met Mary Grigs on her recent swing across the country from coast to coast, visiting home demonstration workers and farm homes in dozens of States. She was interested to see that home demonstration agents knew as much about what was being done for agriculture in their own counties as the men agents did. She follows plans for the American Women's Land Army with great interest because she believes so thoroughly in the English land girls, whom she describes for REVIEW readers in this article. As she sails for England, she sends a greeting to her many, many new friends in rural America.

■ In England, we also have a farm labor problem. Men, with us as with the United States, were wanted for the armed forces and for industry. All but the essential workers, in the essential aspects of food production, had to be taken from the land. We were, too, faced with the urgent need to raise more food from our own soil than ever before. There were various ways of raising it—by plowing up half as much acreage again as was in cultivation before the war, by more intensive production, by stepping up the quality as well as the quantity of crops. But all such plans turned on an adequate labor supply. It is largely due to the city people that farmers in the British Isles have been able to provide enough food to keep the people healthy.

The Women's Land Army is the most conspicuous organization of this aspect of the war effort, and perhaps it has made more difference to the farmer's opinion of townsfolk than anything else could have done. Sixty thousand women and girls who were stenographers, manicurists, college students, waitresses, or just leisured women who knew the rural areas only as holiday playgrounds are now working full time on the farms. They get very little pay compared with industrial workers. After deductions have been made for board and lodging, the guaranteed minimum is around \$3.50 a week. Theirs is a war job, and they have gone into it on that basis.

Being on a small island, importers before the war of two-thirds of everything we ate, we soon realized sharply that food is as vital a weapon as any in the armory.

Being a "land girl" means taking on one of the hardest, longest, and proudest tasks in the battle. It also means learning as much as possible of an entirely new skill in the shortest possible time. The Land Army has a 4-week training, either at an agricultural college or at a farm recognized by the authorities for this purpose. You do not learn in 4 weeks to be a farmer—or even a skilled farm laborer. But you learn how to milk by hand or by machine; you discover a little of what raising food means, your muscles get limbered up, and you acquire a rudimentary

understanding of a good many of the jobs you may be needed to do—and of the responsibility that goes with doing them.

After that training, the girls either go out onto individual farms or are given additional instruction in specialized work. Most are on individual farms. They are "billeted" either with the farm family or in a nearby cottage. Then, according to their aptitude, they will gradually take over more and more of the routine work so as to free the farmer and his keyman or men—according to the size of the farm—for the highly skilled and technical operations. Many farmers who looked on this whole scheme very doubtfully, and did not really believe it would be any good, have said candidly that in many respects these girls have turned out to be more efficient than the men—in the milking sheds, for example, and

with young stock; on truck farms; and in some of the fruit-growing work.

As for the more specialized training, that takes various forms. The County War Agricultural Committees, which in some ways do the work of your War Boards, have instructed hundreds of groups of girls in threshing grain, tractor driving, and plowing; in the maintenance and repair of farm machinery; in handling the difficult and often exceedingly heavy business of land clearance and drainage; in forestry and timber work; in pest destruction. Groups of girls are helping to free the farms of rats by taking a special course in using ferrets for this purpose. Lately, another special course has been taken in seed dressing, and WLA girls will this year be going around the countryside to dress home-saved seed with an organo-mercury compound. For some of the work, it is more sensible to house the Land Army in hostels than in private billets; and then they live very much as if they were in a real army—in wooden huts, sleeping in two-tier bunks, with a common recreation room.

But whatever their work or the conditions of living, the girls feel that farming gives them an opportunity nothing else can offer. It opens up a new skill and a new way of life. Their uniform—they have a good, free uniform: shirt, knee-breeches, knitted stockings, shoes, overalls, overcoat, hat, raincoat—is a symbol of a form of war work that has no room for fools or for slackers. It is bringing a new kind of mutual understanding between town and country. And it is a considerable part of the reason that Britain is now raising two-thirds of her own food instead of one-third.

Mary Grigs talks over some of the problems of a Women's Land Army with T. B. Symons, director and dean in Maryland, where one of the first short courses to train city women for jobs on the farm was offered. Miss Grigs talked with some of the 26 women just completing their 2 weeks' course.



School lunches prepared with a hoe

■ Nearly every family in Chase County, Kans., has a "school-lunch" corner in its spring garden this year. Here are planted rows of carrots, beans, peas, tomatoes—every vegetable needed to make up 9 months of balanced school-lunch menus, reports Juanita Riley, home demonstration agent. She started the ball rolling almost 2 years ago when she suggested to the county nutrition committee the establishment of a county school garden and preservation center. The idea found a warm reception and began to grow to its ambitious slogan, "Every family produce and conserve food for the school lunch."

There is nothing haphazard about the amount or the kind of vegetables being grown in each garden this summer. From a sheet giving the estimated amount of food needed for each child for 9 months, which was distributed by the county nutrition committee to a representative of each school, the amount of food needed for the 1943-44 school lunches of each district was computed. From this list of the total amounts of each vegetable needed by a school, each family indicated on a sign-up sheet the amounts they could raise in their home garden. Some are making their entire contribution in potatoes; others, by raising peas or beans; others, tomatoes, and so on. Dried corn and sauerkraut are included on the list of vegetables to be grown and preserved. Those families who own pressure cookers were urged to use them later in preserving the garden produce for the school rather than by raising vegetables in their home gardens.

This exemplary home food supply program did not just happen. It grew according to a plan—a plan conceived in the minds of a few people when they observed that only one town in the county was reaping the benefit of a WPA school-lunch garden project and that two towns, only 1 mile apart, were the source of nearly all the WPA labor of the county.

In January 1942, a county garden committee was set up with the chairman of the board of county commissioners, William Deitrich, as chairman, and Hilda Bennett, a former school-lunch food-preservation supervisor, as his assistant. John Whetstone, district WPA supervisor of the existing school-lunch garden, explained the proposed county-wide school-lunch garden plan to representatives of Chase County schools. Twenty of the forty-three school districts in the county responded enthusiastically. Ida Vinson, county superintendent of schools, has been an ardent promoter of the school-lunch program and is a member of the county nutrition steering committee.

Thus assured of support and cooperation, the county commissioners accepted the sponsorship of the garden, and furnished ground, seed, plants, and equipment. P. W. Ljungdahl, county agricultural agent, selected and purchased the recommended varieties of seeds and plants. The WPA furnished 4 to 6 men

for the garden work and 8 women for the food-preservation center, which was set up in an old armory building on the local fairgrounds. Earl Harlan supervised the garden, from which 550 bushels of potatoes and root vegetables were stored; and 7,519 quarts of food were canned under the supervision of Mrs. Bennett and Margaret Crumbaker, area WPA supervisor. The county commissioners furnished a truck for transportation of the vegetables to the work center.

Not one school stopped serving hot lunches when WPA support was withdrawn in February. The program had proved itself so successful in providing school lunches for more than 60 percent of Chase County's 1,112 grade- and high-school children this year that the nutrition committee and the county commissioners began at once to convert the centralized county garden and preservation center to a systematic network of portions of all the family gardens in the county. What is more, they "raised their sights and aimed at" 100-percent participation for 1943 and 1944.

Their first step was to distribute the food-estimate charts by which each school could

compute its total food needs for next year and the check lists on which each family was to indicate the quantity of vegetables they would pledge themselves to raise. Sheets of recommended varieties of vegetables, control of vegetable diseases, and seed-potato treatment were also given each school. Several schools have included the school lunch in their financial budgets. Nearly every school has its own local supervisor, and most of the town schools have one or more committees in charge. Planned sharing of pressure cookers is being emphasized, and the home demonstration agent plans to demonstrate storage of vegetables and the use of the pressure cooker. She will also test all pressure-cooker gages. A final check-up of the food pledge of each family is being planned for the "last day of school" dinner.

"There have been a lot of problems in connection with the program, but with the parents back of the program the school lunches have gone on," Miss Riley reports. "The plan has certainly opened up new avenues for contact with timely information. Of 253 women who attended food-preservation and storage demonstrations this year, one-half were not farm bureau members. Many people have made their way to the agent's office or telephoned for the first time."

A Kansas county has its own nutrition week

■ You often hear of a week for this or a week for that. We have fire-prevention week, safety week, and many others. Most of these weeks set aside for some special program are usually Nation-wide, or perhaps State-wide.

Pawnee County, Kans., recently publicized a program of its own. Officials called it Pawnee County Nutrition Week. From January 10 to 16, the entire county was made more conscious of the importance of an adequate diet. The planning was done by the county nutrition committee, under the direction of the home demonstration agent, Ellen Brownlee, who is chairman of the committee.

Posters and exhibits were displayed in grocery stores throughout the county. Restaurants and other eating houses planned and served special meals and sandwiches. Fliers, calling attention to good diets, were clipped to menu cards.

A poster contest for grade-school and high-school pupils brought enthusiastic response. The posters were used for display throughout the county. Prizes in the contest were war stamps. Each child submitting a poster in the contest was awarded a 10-cent stamp. First and second prizes awarded in the grade-school group, and also in the high-school group, were 10 stamps and 7 stamps, respectively.

The movie, *Hidden Hunger*, was shown in local theaters, and talks on nutrition were given at social and civic clubs. Special articles on the *Share the Meat* program were published in each issue of the newspapers during nutrition week.

Nutrition week for Pawnee County was declared highly successful by Ella M. Meyer, district home demonstration agent.

Their own handy men

Showing farmers' wives how to be their own handy men was the object of home equipment maintenance schools held in three sections of Idaho during April. Home demonstration agents, home economics teachers, and farm security home economists who attended the meetings at Boise, Pocatello, and Moscow are carrying to farm women what they learned about safety in the home, use of equipment, and care and maintenance of equipment, including care of irreplaceable electrical appliances.

Schools were arranged for the agents by Hobart Beresford, head of agricultural engineering at the University of Idaho; and Marion M. Hepworth, State home demonstration leader.

The reporter looks at the agent

Excerpts from two recent newspaper articles about a Utah home demonstration agent and a Washington county agent hold up the looking glass for two mighty efficient agents.

The rambling reporter

A Column in the Northwest Farm News

■ The Rambler dashed up the stairs two at a time, for, as usual, he was late for his appointment which, this time, was with the Whatcom County agricultural agent, LaVerne E. Freimann. Reaching the top floor of the Federal Office Building in Bellingham, the Rambler found his progress suddenly stopped by a huge mob of people that jammed the hall. The reporter was completely buffaloed. He couldn't imagine what could bring so many people together. He never had seen such a mob there before.

"Must be lined up to pay their income tax, or maybe to get those forms to fill out," he mused.

But closer examination, followed by a moment's study of the situation, proved this wasn't the case. The income-tax offices were way down at the far end of the hall. This mob was congregated at the upper end near the elevator.

This mob, the reporter soon discovered, was the overflow from the county agent's office.

"Gosh all hemlock!" the Rambler exclaimed under his breath, "Vern Freimann sure seems to be getting popular these days. Wonder what all these people could be wanting from him." The Rambler knew that county agents were tremendously busy these days with so many and varied wartime activities, but he had never dreamed that such large crowds as this descended upon the county agent.

The Rambler began to work his way slowly through the crowd and presently found himself edging through the doorway and into the outside office where Esther Brudwick, one of the staff workers in charge of all machinery-ration applications, was apparently swamped with inquiries as half a dozen persons crowded about her desk. Many were speaking at once, and all apparently had very important business. At the same time, the girl was trying to help them fill out forms and questionnaires. Most of the persons in the crowd appeared to be farmers in overalls and work clothes. There were even a few women.

The Rambler continued pushing forward and presently found himself inside the main office. But even here was a throng of people, most of them farmers, standing hat in hand waiting to see someone inside the small office where the door was closed. That was Vern Freimann's office. Every now and then the door would abruptly open; one or two persons would come out, usually with forms and

blanks and other papers in their hands, and immediately several more would go in.

Every now and then, too, the reporter noticed a familiar face—usually one of the farmers he had met in the country. But why all this going and coming? Why all this line-up?

In a moment the door swung open again, and this time it was R. P. Duxbury, chairman of the Whatcom County AAA and the County War Board, who came out. The Rambler called to him, hoping to find out what was going on, but Mr. Duxbury was in so much of a hurry that he never heard or saw the reporter. He dashed outside to talk to someone in the crowd in the outer office and, before long, dashed back again inside the office so fast that the Rambler couldn't get his eye.

"Gee whiz," the Rambler thought, "I'm snre glad I don't work here! They really work in this place!"

Presently the reporter moved up to the desk of Donna Buchanan, one of the extension office secretaries. "Is Vern in today?" he inquired.

"Yes," Miss Buchanan replied, "but you'd better not try to see him right now. He's awfully busy."

"Yes, so I am beginning to see," the reporter said.

"But if you'd care to wait awhile," the girl suggested, "I am sure you could see him."

The Rambler glanced again over the crowd. Gosh, if Vern had to see all those people, he would still be there at midnight—and the Rambler didn't know whether he cared to stay that long or not.

So he started strolling about the office, looking over the numerous placards and posters on farming and food production and sticking some of the newer extension booklets into his pocket. He stepped inside the nearby Triple A and War Board offices and said "hello" to the staff workers in there. There was Caroline Hanson, the chief clerk, and her aides, Bertha Fyfe, Ann Stock, Beverly Tarte, and Emalese Ottstead.

They all nodded a friendly "hello" to the Rambler. They all knew him, as he had pestered them numerous times, asking endless questions and prodding them for facts and figures. These girls, too, were all busily at work, and the Rambler soon found he could do very little visiting in there. Well, he would step over to the office of the home demonstration agents.

Poking his head in the door, he was surprised to find this was the first one of the offices where no one was at work. In fact,

neither Mrs. Carolyn Polstra-Marquand nor her assistant, Eunice Carlson, was present. Both were out on demonstration work for the afternoon.

The Rambler was beginning to think he had better be on his way, since everyone was either so busy or else out on business.

Then he happened to remember Fred Shelton, the assistant county agent, and director of all extension poultry work in the county. He was always sure of a pleasant visit with Fred. But Fred, too, he discovered, was out. Well, no wonder. Whatcom County was the biggest county in the State of Washington in poultry and egg production. It was easy to understand that Fred didn't have any time to fool. What's more, Fred was in charge of all 4-H Club work in the county.

"Sure am glad I'm not a county agent," the Rambler muttered. "Too much work!"

The reporter ambled slowly back into the main office when suddenly the door into Vern Freimann's office burst open and Vern himself dashed out. He spotted the Rambler at once and, hurrying over, grasped his hand. "Glad to see you—but I haven't got much time to talk. We've got all these people lined up, and the machinery rationing committee is working today. We have to use my office, you know."

"So—that's what all those people are lined up for out there?" the reporter asked.

"Yes—this is Tuesday, and that's gotten to be a regular event. We have dozens and dozens come in to sign up for machinery, to get information on how to get their boys and farm hands deferred, to ask about priorities, to get their gas and tire certificates straightened out so as to get better gas allotments, and so on. And that doesn't include the folks who call for the usual run of help we give in normal times on just everyday farm matters."

The Rambler's head began to swim. He wondered how on earth Vern managed to keep all these things going and keep them straight.

Thoughts and things

An Open Letter by Ray Nelson, published in the Logan Herald of Logan, Utah

Note to Amy Kearsley, Cache County home demonstration agent

■ In the county extension office the other day, you commented that any American girl having the necessary qualifications would do herself proud to join the WAAC's or WAVES or some other service corps for women.

You stated that serving such an organization would be a gallant way to serve the war effort, a magnificent way to show one's patriotism.

That is granted.

But, Miss Kearsley, did you ever stop to think how necessary are the services of people such as yourself in wartimes?

True, WAAC's and WAVES and the rest

of the alphabet women can do much for the Nation's welfare. Their services will undoubtedly become more valuable as their training progresses—valuable to the men on the battlefield, valuable in relieving men for combat service, valuable in doing many jobs which must be accomplished on the home front.

Home demonstration agents do not wear natty uniforms; bands do not play while they parade; seldom do they visit far-off States or cities or countries.

Home demonstration agents do not learn to salute and to march in ranks. The whirl of the international merry-go-round, its seeming glitter and blaring music, are remote.

But they also serve who only stay at home and teach others to raise Victory Gardens, bottle peas, and stitch mattresses!

The role of you and your colleagues is becoming increasingly important in this life-death struggle.

County agricultural agents, home demonstration agents—all agricultural extension workers and farm agency members have a pretty important part to play in this drama which approaches the gloom of a Shakespearean tragedy.

First, someone said "Steel will win the war." Lot of truth in that.

Then, someone contended "Food will win the war." Lot of truth in that, too. Matter of fact, without food men cannot dig the steel from the mines and scrap heaps. Without food they cannot transform the steel into tanks, airplane motors, guns, and ships, and all the other things used to fight the enemy. Without food the soldiers on the battlefield and the sailors on the seas cannot throw the steel at the enemy.

Fundamentally, without food man cannot produce more food.

So your job—facilitating and increasing the production of food—takes on pretty important proportions, doesn't it? It does even though you don't have a uniform, and you aren't sent off to Des Moines for training.

Mind you, the importance of the WAAC's is not minimized here. The importance of food producers is upped to the level they deserve.

Canned foods have been frozen throughout the Nation. Authorities tell Americans they must get along on less than half of what they have been used to. For families who have been used to living out of paper sacks, that pronouncement may mean some hardships.

Warnings of possible famine—unless more and more food is produced—have been voiced.

The issue is clear, then. American families, wherever possible, must return to the pioneer tradition of self-sufficiency. They cannot provide everything for themselves, perhaps. But they can grow gardens for fresh vegetables in the summer; they can store and bottle vegetables for the winter; they can preserve fruit, and dry it, too. In rural areas, they can raise a pig, bottle part of it, and salt down the rest. They can

raise a few chickens for family egg and meat needs. They who haven't a cow, but have facilities for keeping one, can provide their own milk.

Canning corn, storing vegetables, planting gardens, operating the pressure cooker, fighting the aphids, stalking the grasshopper—they are "musts" on the work lists of most of us in Cache Valley this spring and summer.

And many of us will have to be taught how.

Here is where you and your colleagues

come in. Encouraging us—yes, even prodding us—showing us, advising us, pointing out to us.

So that it never can be said America lost the war because she didn't produce enough food.

The WAAC's are important. Anyone who joins them is patriotic and willing to serve.

Agricultural agency workers are important. Go without 2 days' meals, and you'll find out just how important they are.

Arizona homemakers learn to make home repairs

JEAN M. STEWART, State Home Demonstration Agent, Arizona

■ Arizona farm women are rapidly learning to be "handy men" in the care and repair of household articles. They are doing their part on the home front.

Homemakers under the leadership of county home demonstration agents in Cochise, Graham, Pima, Yavapai, Navajo, and Apache Counties received instruction given by Donald L. Hitch, assistant specialist in soils and irrigation. Owing to the need of materials for the war effort, and the demand for men in the defense industries, these women realize that it is necessary for them to conserve the fewer supplies of household tools and utensils. To do this effectively, they are eager to understand the proper methods of repair.

Rural women are bringing to these demonstrations electric grills and irons that fail to heat, pots and pans full of holes, knives and scissors that are dulled from use and

age, and electric-light cords that have "gone up in smoke." Mr. Hitch has shown them how to sharpen a knife or scissors properly, how to repair an extension cord, how to solder holes that are in pails and washtubs, how to saw a board, and how to drive nails without hitting the thumb. Incidentally his explanation of the gage term "four- or eight-penny" nails was apparently needed, as one woman had recently asked a hardware store clerk for a pound of "8-cent nails."

The care of tools is being emphasized. Tool houses are being repaired so that tools may be stored in a dry place.

It all adds up to victory! Farm women when not up to their necks in gardening, canning, meal planning, home nursing, and first aid, are branching out into duties heretofore largely left to the men. Dwindling manpower on farms makes it necessary for women to take care of the household appliances.

Rural women of the Binghamton Homemakers' Club learn how to sharpen knives and scissors.



"Over at our house"

Radio brings homemaking helps to Wisconsin rural women

Radio is bringing to several hundred Wisconsin homemakers in these days of limited travel a weekly program that presents as an entertaining drama a radio home study program.

The weekly broadcasts have all the drama of real living and are presented by skilled actors. Listening in their own homes, or gathered in a group at the home of one member of the group, more than 400 Wisconsin homemakers are now members of the radio home study club of the Home Economics Extension Service, and many more listen individually.

Realizing that these are busy days for homemakers, the Extension Service has slanted these radio home study programs to their needs. The program, *Over at Our House*, is broadcast weekly during the college year, as part of the Wisconsin College of the Air series, over the university's station, WHA.

The first program in the *Over at Our House* series went on the air September 29, 1937. Grace Langdon, bulletin editor, with the help of students, prepared the scripts during the first year.

In the summer of 1938, Mrs. Alice Hantke took charge of this program. The plot was modified to fit the conditions of that year, and broadcasts were prepared in cooperation with members of the extension and teaching staffs of the home economics department of the University of Wisconsin.

Over at Our House received national recognition when it won a first award in the exhibition of educational broadcasts at Ohio State University in May 1941.

This plan was in effect until 1942 when Mrs. Elsa Bate of the home economics extension staff, took over the broadcasts. She added a number of new characters and made the theme of the series that of family relationships.

Each weekly presentation of *Over at Our House* gives an episode in the life of the Stevens family, an ordinary, everyday American family. The members of the family include Mother and Father Stevens, who live in a big rambling farmhouse just outside a small town; Rusty, their teen-age son who goes to high school; Helen, their 20-year-old daughter who attends a nearby college; Patricia, a married daughter who has returned home for the "duration" while her husband, Bill, is in the Navy; and Patricia's two children, Tommy, 10, and Nancy, 3.

"Cooperate and contribute" is the motto which the Stevens family has adopted this year, and each weekly episode in their lives shows how they are carrying out their goals. Their problems are many and varied; and

woven into the script by its author, Mrs. Elsa Bate, specialist in child development and family relationships at the University of Wisconsin, are suggestions and subject matter in various home economics fields.

Some of the problems which have been considered this year include helping the children to adjust to a new school situation, which was the first program of the fall; wartime marriages; family planning; world peace; radio programs for children; and ways of keeping children busy on rainy days.

The same motto, "Cooperate and contribute," might be claimed by the university in presenting these programs. Mrs. Bate writes the scripts, all of which are slanted for homemakers. Consulting with other State specialists, she prepares materials which are sent out to homemakers who request them. Her office—Home Economics Extension—handles enrollments of individuals or groups in the home study club, which was begun only this year.

The office of the extension editor cooperates in the presentation of the programs, handling the preparation of the scripts for the radio station and obtaining the needed radio time. The radio station on the campus edits the scripts and produces them with speech students at the university.

The cooperation continues on to the home agents, for it is through them that the listening groups have been developed. The programs are discussed in county home demonstration councils and various project leader training meetings, and enrollment blanks are distributed. In counties without home demonstration agents agricultural agents make the

enrollment forms available to homemakers in their counties. One county, Marinette, which has no home demonstration agent, is out of the range of the State station which handles the original broadcast; so its station rebroadcasts each program at a regular time each week with the help of the local high school dramatics department.

Homemakers may enroll in the radio home study club, either as individuals or as groups. At the time of enrollment, each individual, or each group chairman, checks the programs in which they are especially interested. Members then receive in advance study guides and other supplementary materials in the form of bulletins and leaflets. These supplementary materials, mentioned during the programs, are available to any listener who asks for them.

"These clubs are offering an excellent teaching device," says Mrs. Bate, "making it possible to reach more and different people than are reached through ordinary meetings. Especially is this true so far as young mothers are concerned."

The Wisconsin Home Economics Extension Service has found another way in which radio is used to extend its work. It has been used to help leaders to pass on information or lead discussion in their own local clubs. Many leaders, although trained in a preliminary meeting, feel that their background of knowledge in the field of child study, for example, is not sufficient for them to assume the full responsibility for the local meetings.

In such cases, and where the cooperation of a local radio station can be obtained, the extension specialist has helped the leaders by writing and, in cooperation with the home agent, broadcasting a script introducing the subject to be discussed by the local groups. In these cases, every effort is made to get as many local groups as possible to meet on the day of the broadcast. The method was first tried out, and with a high degree of success, in Manitowoc County.

Tips for teaching new farm workers

TYRUS THOMPSON, State Club Leader, South Dakota

Sleep ranchers and foremen in South Dakota trained more than 100 boys from the towns of Deadwood and Lead to help during the lambing season on the western ranges of the State. The ranchers and foremen were trained by State and county extension personnel.

Farmers and homemakers face a huge job of training new and inexperienced workers this year. Many inexperienced persons will be going onto farms and into homes to assist with the essential work of farming and homemaking. Every farmer and homemaker has a particular way of doing jobs on the farm or in the home, and usually has good reasons

for the methods used. It is logical that much of the training should be done by the farmer on his farm or the homemaker in the home.

Good instruction will greatly reduce the time required for new workers to learn new jobs, and also reduce wastage of materials, damage to equipment, and accidents.

Realizing this, the State Extension Service is attacking the farm and home labor problems with the slogan, "If the worker hasn't learned, the instructor hasn't taught."

The farm job-instruction program was started by first presenting and pointing out the possibilities of job-instruction training to all State and county extension workers at

two meetings held for county and State extension workers. One meeting for all east-river county extension agents and State workers was held at State College, Brookings; and the other meeting was held at Rapid City for all extension agents located in counties west of the Missouri River.

Following these two extension meetings, plans were made to have a job-instruction training institute under the direction of an instructor from the regional office of the War Manpower Commission at Minneapolis.

Extension Director John V. Hepler named me, as a member of the State Extension Labor Committee, to head the job-instruction program in the State. The job-instruction training institute of 4 days, which was held at the State College, April 5 to 8, was planned by W. E. Dittmer, district extension supervisor and chairman of the State Extension Labor Committee; K. Lorette Nelson, home management specialist, in charge of Women's Land Army activities; Milo S. Opdahl, district 4-H Club agent, supervising the organization and training Victory Volunteer Youth Corps, and me.

The 10 State extension workers selected to attend the institute conducted by A. B. Algren, regional chief of training, War Man-

power Commission, Minneapolis, were W. E. Dittmer; K. Lorette Nelson; Milo S. Opdahl; S. W. Jones, agricultural planning specialist; George Anderson, farm management specialist; Maude Stitt, extension nutritionist; Esther A. Taskerud, assistant in club work; Clarence Shanley, district extension supervisor; and T. O. Larson, district 4-H Club agent; and me.

After 30 hours of training, each was certified as a qualified war production trainer. The next objective was to use these qualified persons in training all the county and State extension personnel in order to make an educational contribution to the agriculture of the State. Two-day meetings were arranged for all county and home extension agents, meeting in groups of 7 to 10, the last 2 weeks of April to receive the 10 hours of job-instruction training.

County and home extension agents in every county of South Dakota then will conduct job-instruction meetings in their counties among farmers and homemakers.

Food production is essential to the Victory program; and the national production of foods, fats, and fiber can be greatly increased with few people if the inexperienced are properly instructed in learning new jobs.

Farm tools start to work

■ Victory farm equipment sales are keeping machines and tools in circulation in several Ohio counties.

The Clinton County, Ohio, Victory sales brought out 304 items of farm equipment which sold for \$6,770 at a community auction at the fairgrounds in April. Neighborhood leaders

played a major role in getting out the large consignment of unused machinery, visiting every farm to see that any piece of equipment not being used on the farm was brought to the sale.

The sale was proposed by County Agent Walter L. Bluck after the AAA survey showed

considerable machinery on Clinton County farms would not be used this year. Implement dealers and the county War Board cooperated. The fair board donated the use of the grounds, and the sale was conducted without charge. Everybody helped to make it a success so that when sale day rolled around, even though rain fell most of the afternoon, the buyers were there and 304 different pieces of equipment went back into circulation to help produce the war food supply.

Most of the equipment was horse-drawn and would not be used in 1943 by Clinton County farmers who have converted to tractor-drawn equipment. These items went to dealers buying for farmers in southern Ohio and Kentucky where horse-drawn equipment is still used. The highest price at the sale was the \$700 paid for the Chevrolet truck, and the smallest was 5 cents for a singletree.

A number of the pieces of machinery had a history. One farmer offered a corn planter which 40 years ago cost him \$35. When the corn planter was auctioned off, he got exactly the same price for it.

In discussing the merit of the sale which implement dealers, buyers, sellers, auctioneers, and onlookers all agreed was a tremendous success, one farmer said: "It was getting tools where they are going to do some good."

Preble County, too, has consigned its idle farm tools of all descriptions to be sold, reports W. H. Bruner, county agricultural agent. Working with local implement dealers, a sale was organized to get all possible farm tools into hands where they would be used in 1943. The tools were consigned for sale by 59 farmers and were bought by people in the crowd of 300 who attended the sale.

Mr. Bruner says the sale served three purposes: It put usable machinery into the possession of people who needed the equipment; it relegated unusable pieces to the junk yard to be broken up into scrap; and it helped the sale of war bonds and stamps. Consignments to the sale included practically all kinds of horse-drawn tools, along with a threshing machine, chick brooders, and a cream separator.

The 142 pieces in the sale brought a total of \$1,547.50, of which the sellers spent \$1,152 for war stamps and bonds. One binder brought \$150, a mowing machine \$75, and the threshing machine \$50. All machinery was sold by men who did not intend to use it in their farm operations this year.

This plan of putting every piece of farm equipment to work in 1943 proved to be very popular with buyers and sellers in Preble County.

Summit County worked out a scheme to set up machinery trading posts where owners can exchange unused tools for those which they need. This plan also includes an attempt to organize groups of farmers who will share the use of such equipment as tractors and power harvesters.

Preble County farmers gather for the farm implement sale.



Husking bee, 1943 version

Giving many of her Sundays and holidays to work on nearby farms, Ruth Dunbar Donald, a stenographer in the Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C., on weekdays, tells of her experience.

■ Farmers in the vicinity of Washington, D. C., are cooperating splendidly with the week-end farm workers of the American Women's Voluntary Services, and are appreciative of the help being rendered by them.

Sunday morning, April 18, a crew of 30 of these week-end farm workers—loaded into the AWVS station wagon and extra automobiles—headed for the Leeton farm in Fairfax County, Va., operated by Sidney Smith. Their assignment was corn husking.

Except for their work gloves, they looked like the usual city crowd off for a hikers' holiday. For some of them it was their first experience at the work. Others had been at it for several week-ends. All of them were stenographers, telephone operators, radio mechanics, or Government clerks during the week.

When the workers reached the Leeton cornfield at about 10 o'clock, Mr. Smith gave a few minutes' instruction and demonstrated by shucking a few ears. Then the 30 workers went to work, and in about 5 hours had shucked out the field, piled 250 bushels of corn, and tied 500 bundles of fodder, ready for the farmer to haul out of the field on Monday.

The work cost the farmer \$16, and 250 bushels of corn and 500 bundles of fodder were out of the way of the spring crop and added to the Nation's feed supplies.

AWSV week-end farm hands are paid according to the work they do, piece-work fashion. As their experience increases, the amount of work they do increases. They gather cress, pick fruit and vegetables, and do many other such jobs. They shuck corn and clear a field for the oncoming crop; and, at the same time, get a great amount of fresh air into their lungs, exercise into their muscles, and morale into their backbones.

Most important of all to them, they get favorable comments from the farmers: "They did good work. Will need workers again about June 20 to harvest wheat. Will call."

The Juniors, too, have been doing their share of farm work. On Saturday, April 17, for example, 12 of the Junior AWVS girls, under the leadership of Mrs. John McNamara, worked at the Leon Joyce farm near Camp Springs, Md., where they pulled and bunched 2,400 bunches of spring onions for market. Not the pleasantest kind of farm work, either; yet the youngsters wrote on their work slips such comments as "swell" and "fun." One girl wrote "I still like it." The farmer said: "Send them back again as soon as possible."

City workers who shuck corn and pull onions apparently are in earnest about wanting to help, as indicated by these examples of the many and varied types of farm jobs they are doing.

work in a group and go from farm to farm harvesting crops in their own community. However, farmers who desired to have their children assist in harvesting crops on their own farms soon realized that the group spirit which existed under the leadership of the local teacher proved even more valuable. The plan proved successful last year and will be followed again this year.

Another source of labor in Jones County, which is expected to be organized soon, is a lumber mill which is about to finish cutting most of its timber, when a number of its employees will be dismissed. Most of these laborers come from farms; and, according to farmers, this is the next most desirable labor to be obtained.

Still another source of labor, which will be utilized if needed for special jobs, is the

nonfarm high-school youth, including Boy Scouts, High School Victory Corps members, and others. However, this labor, it was pointed out, would necessarily require some special training and the direction of local leaders, teachers, or school principals.

Jones County leaders believe that there is an abundant supply of labor available for meeting all needs of production and harvesting of crops in the county if it can be organized and unified in accordance with the needs. Present indications are that prices of farm produce will be sufficient in 1943 to guarantee a desirable wage scale for farm labor.

A local committee is being organized, which will coordinate and unify all efforts of recruiting, training, placing, and handling local available labor in connection with the farm needs.

Last year in the Copiah County truck area, the public schools operated during rush seasons on a short-day schedule, which permitted the boys and girls to spend afternoons in the fields and help to harvest the heavy bean, cabbage, and tomato crops.

The rural boys and girls who were dismissed from school at noon went to their respective homes and helped to harvest crops on their own farms. The older boys and other available town laborers were organized into groups and transported by trucks to the farms.

Town women also played an important part in solving the labor shortage. Women replaced, in most cases, the men who had been employed at the packing and grading sheds, thus releasing more men to work in the fields.

With the help of city and county leaders Marion County farmers have set out to solve their labor problems. Approximately 2,000 farm laborers were pulled off the farms in Marion County as the result of new industrial enterprises established in Columbia.

The county farm-labor committee organized in Marion County consists of the county agent, home demonstration agent, assistant agent, superintendent of schools, secretary of the Chamber of Commerce, and the manager of the local canning plant.

This committee proposes to adjust the rural school program to permit farm boys and girls to assist in heavy-season jobs; to transport surplus labor from a submarginal area where lumbering is slowing up, to organize available idle labor in the towns, and to mobilize and utilize trained high-school and nonfarm youth.—*Jack Flowers, associate extension editor, Mississippi State College.*

■ Neighborhood leaders in Alaska took a census to learn what can be produced for the Home Food Supply for Victory. These leaders called on families in their sections or blocks to let them know the seriousness of the food situation and to enroll them in a food-production campaign. Extension workers and home demonstration clubs took the initiative in getting the roll call. In Fairbanks, more than 500 signed up to grow Victory Gardens.

Labor resources materialize in Mississippi counties

■ Organized harvesting groups of rural students in Jones County, Miss., not only proved satisfactory to the boys and girls who helped to pick beans, cut spinach and mustard, and dig sweetpotatoes, and to the farmers and the local canning plant, but also assured the producers of canning or processing crops of a labor supply sufficient to meet the needs for this production and harvest.

At a recent conference, officials of the Mayhaw Canning Co., at Laurel, Miss., leading farmers, and extension leaders recognized that past experience in adjusting the local school program to permit the use of farm boys and girls for work in their respective communities had proved satisfactory.

Some farmers were a bit skeptical at first toward a plan to have the students

Leadership in action

100 percent community demonstrations in South Carolina

■ The results obtained from a few well-organized rural community demonstrations in which 100 percent of all owner and renter families planned to participate or cooperate in reaching certain individual farm or community goals proved to be of much significance in the Better Farm Living Program in 1941. As a result, similar demonstrations were established in each county of the State in 1942. Forty-one of the forty-six counties completed and reported on their results.

This type of demonstration embodies in a workable way: (1) Definite planning on the part of farm people, extension agents, and specialists; (2) development and training of local leadership; (3) cooperation and coordination of activities between various agricultural agencies and farm people; and (4) lends itself to individual farm and community-wide activities for the advancement of better farm living among large groups of neighbors of more or less common interests.

Farm and Community Goals Reached

The 41 communities were made up of 2,285 owner and renter families and 994 sharecropper families. Local farm leaders in these groups in consultation with extension representatives established 251 farm and community goals in which they sought 100-percent participation and cooperation on the part of the local farm people. Of the goals established, 106 were reached and reported. Space will not permit an enumeration of all of the goals; however, a few are given to illustrate the type of demonstration or community activity: The establishment of various crop, forage, pasture, livestock, poultry, garden, and food-conservation demonstrations; a milk cow, hogs, poultry, garden, and essential food crops on each farm; the earning of all AAA payments; and the use of ground limestone on each farm.

The following specific illustrations are given to show the advantage that may come to individual farms and communities that establish and reach definite and worth-while goals.

The Oakdale community of Anderson County, which is composed of 94 farm families, established as one of its goals the growing of a family garden by each family. One hundred percent of these families grew a garden.

In the Paiges Point community of Beaufort County, made up of 24 farm families, the leaders set up the following goals: Participation by each family in the rubber-salvage campaign; metal scrap; use of ground limestone on each farm; the earning of all AAA payments; and the enrollment of all families in the 75-percent food- and feed-production program. All goals were met; and, in addition, a

marketing project was established in the community.

In the Center community of Georgetown County, which consists of 42 owners and renters, the leaders decided that they would enlist each family in the production of rice, wheat, and cane for sirup; the growing of vegetable gardens; the canning of surplus vegetables; and the use of a purebred sire for family cows. Forty of these families grew rice, wheat, and cane. Forty-one families produced gardens, and 32 families canned vegetables. Thirty-seven families used a purebred bull.

The Zoar community of Chesterfield County—a typical cotton community—continued its egg-marketing demonstrations established in 1941; and in 1942 the farmers of that area cooperated in the sale of 96,766 dozen eggs, or the equivalent of 8 carloads. In 29 communities composed of 1,310 farms the leaders set up as one of the goals the earning of 100 percent of the soil-building assistance available to them under the AAA. Notwithstanding the fact that a considerable number were unable to obtain ground limestone and winter legume seed, 77 percent of the farms earned 100 percent of their maximum soil-building assistance.

Among the community-wide activities were the establishment of home demonstration clubs and 4-H Clubs, where none had previously existed; establishment of a sirup mill, victory pig club, one-variety cotton, salvage collection, bond and stamp sales; organization of milk routes and egg circles; SCS agreements; and the cooperative purchasing of certain farm supplies and marketing of certain farm products.

The training of farm leaders was an important phase of the work. In the 41 communities, there were 476 active leaders, of whom 441 were trained to carry out 1 or more special activities such as vaccinating poultry, grading eggs, castrating animals, assisting their neighbors in the preparation and filing of applications with the AAA for limestone and superphosphate, salvage collection, bond and stamp sales, pruning and spraying home orchards, constructing hotbeds, poultry houses, demonstrating the use of food-conservation equipment, and the making and repair of clothing.

The number of days devoted by home and county agents to the 100 percent community work resulted in the equivalent of conducting two demonstrations, or conducting one meeting and training one volunteer worker for each day spent by agents in a 100 percent community. This is in addition to the visible, as well as the intangible, results which came to these communities

as a result of the efforts of extension agents.

As a timesaver on the part of extension workers, the development of local farm leadership and the establishment of worth-while community-wide activities, it is felt that the 100 percent community demonstrations point out one of the most effective ways of reaching a larger number of farm families. It also results in greater benefits to the communities from the Extension Service and other agencies, and in the development of leadership within their own groups.

Saving mileage

This year, when the twenty-first annual training school for leaders was held, we were a little fearful of the results because of tire and gasoline rationing; but we lived to carry out our usual practice of conservation to a fuller extent than ever. To see what savings had been made, a mileage chart was made showing the distances from each township. The number of people from each township was taken, and an average of four to each car from each township was allowed. This was about the right average.

In figuring up the mileage, we found that there were 354 women from the 29 units who attended. The total round-trip distance was 10,591 miles if they came alone. Averaging 4 women to a car, the round trip covered 2,647 miles, or a saving of 7,944 miles.

Our county is large, and the women have to drive long distances to go to and from a county meeting. It was suggested 21 years ago that we have a training school for all groups on the same day so that the women could come together and save expenses. This has been done each year since that time. The University of Illinois cooperated by sending their specialists to the county on the same day. This arrangement saves mileage for the specialists. It has worked so well that the women have never been willing to give it up; and this year, with a special need for conservation, we made an effort to make it an even more economical meeting.

The lessons received at this training school from the specialists were given by the local leaders to the members at their regular unit meetings in February, March, and April.—*Clara R. Brian, McLean County home adviser, Bloomington, Ill.*

■ Palm Harbor Boys' 4-H Club of Pinellas County, Fla., under local leadership of Prof. R. B. Van Fleet, is contributing to the community food supply.

A good school garden is producing vegetables for school lunches and for other local consumption.

Cooperative brooders for raising broilers have been built and are being operated by the club members. A small flock of laying hens is also kept on the school grounds so that the boys can learn the "how" of caring for a home poultry flock.

Neighborhood leaders help to raise second war bond quota

C. W. NIBLER, County Agricultural Agent, Scott's Bluff County, Nebr.

■ Neighborhood leaders in Scotts Bluff County, Nebr., assisted the county war bond committee in reaching the second war bond quota of 793,000 in 24 hours during the year's busiest planting time.

In making plans for the buying of war bonds, J. G. Elliott, county chairman, asked the county agricultural agent to serve as rural cochairman with the chairman of the local Underwriters Life Association War Bond Committee. The cochairman then used 14 local volunteer leaders who conducted training meetings with neighborhood leaders at 7 rural meeting places on 1 night, April 8, at 8 p. m. Two precincts were combined into one meeting place and, at the training meeting, more than 90 percent of the 160 neighborhood leaders were present. At the meetings, war bond kits were distributed, and territory to be covered by each leader was divided. The area to be covered depended upon the density of the population and varied from 2 or 3 sections to 10.

At the county war bond show on Tuesday evening, April 13, the neighborhood leaders were to report the results they obtained in the neighborhood. Typical neighborhood leaders who worked on the drive were Mr. and Mrs. George Cromer of Gering, Nebr., who have 3 sons in the service; and they at home farm 100 acres of irrigated land and feed 100 cattle. Mr. and Mrs. D. E. Walrath, who have a son in the Marines, milk 15 cows, feed 100 head of cattle, and produce potatoes and feed crops on approximately 250 acres of irrigated land, are also neighborhood leaders who helped.

The results can best be measured by reviewing the accomplishments of the leaders. The bond drive officially opened Monday, April 12, and Everett Clayton of Melbeta reported over local station KGKY by 7 p. m. that he had contacted 65 people in about 9 hours Sunday afternoon and evenings in his allotted 3 sections and collected \$1,925, which was \$3 more than the county's per capita quota. Mr. Clayton's 4-H pig club was the best in the State last year and eighteenth on scrap metal salvage; so he is accustomed to working for community betterment. Bus Steele of Minatare raised \$2,100 in his allotted area. Gerald Hanlon of Gering, in his small area, obtained a subscription from every one of the families. This young farmer used a Carl Raymond scholarship a few years ago to attend the farm operators' course at the College of Agriculture.

At the county bond show conducted from the high-school auditorium on Tuesday evening, April 13, reports were broadcast over local radio station KGKY as cities, towns, villages, and rural areas reported their war bond subscriptions. Rural areas finished their work as rapidly as blocks in towns. The leaders from Mitchell precinct reported \$18,000 subscribed. Winter Creek came along with \$8,000 subscribed, and by midnight the county passed its quota of \$793,000. Final figures indicate that \$900,000 or more will be subscribed, and Scotts Bluff County was the first in the State to reach quota.

Neighborhood volunteer leaders devoted approximately 1,000 hours to doing what they said was their easiest job—selling freedom.

to do. More meetings and more conferences! However, if I make a date, I find time to carry the meeting through. I think of it as putting myself on the spot. Once the date is made planning for the meeting is necessary; but if the date is never made, nothing is accomplished.



Victory hoe

If you're a new Victory gardener, just finding out how impossible it is to buy a wheel hoe, here is one built by a Wisconsin extension worker in a few evenings' work in his basement shop.

It contains bolts and nails, of course, and a metal cutting blade. But aside from the minor metal parts everything on it, including the wheel and handles, is of wood. The cutter came from an old hack-saw blade. Other odd pieces of scrap metal have worked equally well for the job.

Two metal washers are used in mounting the wheel, and a short piece of pipe running through it serves as a wheel bearing. As for the wheel itself, the inner part is cut from an ordinary board. The thick rim, also cut from ordinary wood, is made in sections and tightly glued to the inner wheel with waterproof glue.

A thorough paint job supplies the finishing touch and makes sure that weathering and warping won't throw the wheel hoe out of commission.

Beating their own record

4-H Club members of Rhode Island are beating their all-time high record of last year in food production. Garden enrollment of 8,000 is half again greater than last year, and 1,200 club members keeping poultry and 300 owning pigs more than doubles last year's record. More than 300 are also raising rabbits or goats. Food production is the big war job of the 4-H Club in Rhode Island, according to a recent issue of the Rhode Island 4-H Club News.

Teaching better practices

HARRY D. GLEASON, County Agent, Island County, Wash.

■ When I first started extension work, a woman called one day and asked that I come to her home and show her how to prune fruit trees. I made an appointment with her, and on that day I went to her place. With her were about a dozen neighbors who were also interested. To make a long story short, we spent a very profitable afternoon, and everyone went home feeling that something had been accomplished.

No publicity was given to this little pruning demonstration except what the woman gave it. She spoke to the people who she knew would be interested in learning how to prune fruit trees. They came because this neighbor asked them. It was her idea. All the agent had to do was to present the

subject matter in an actual demonstration.

The same idea was used in a Holland community where it was hard to get a good turnout for any kind of meeting. We went to one Hollander and asked him to get his neighbors together for a meeting. He jumped at this idea because he liked to entertain and at the same time spend a good evening or afternoon discussing a subject or some practical demonstration. Here again the individual gets the credit, and he will spare no effort to make the meeting a good one.

The agent has nothing more to do than know his subject and be able to present it; and, by the way, in a Holland community, be able to drink coffee.

In these times we are all rushed with things

A practical farm reference book

■ Authored cooperatively by a group of 36 agricultural specialists and extension agents, edited by former New Jersey Extension Editor Wallace S. Moreland (now special assistant to the president of Rutgers University), *A Practical Guide to Successful Farming* may well turn out to be the book-of-the-year in the realm of texts on practical farming. The authors have succeeded in presenting the wealth of scientific, sound, and practical information on farming available to agricultural college specialists and State and county extension workers in one compact volume. The text is arranged more along the lines of the practical old farm almanacs than any book published for many years. Yet it affords a comprehensive presentation of the latest facts, modern practices, and proved methods of up-to-date agriculture. The skillful cross-indexing, which provides the reader with a quick reference to any particular phase of farm operation, reveals a technique which reflects Mr. Moreland's 15 years of experience as an able extension editor.

A Practical Guide to Successful Farming will be a splendid reference book for everyday farmers, busy extension workers, persons planning to buy a farm or vacation property which can be used for part-time farming or gardening, and many other persons who have an interest in the soil. The book furnishes a quick and handy reference for all engaged in agricultural occupations. Although written entirely by Rutgers men and State and county extension agents in New Jersey, it will be of Nation-wide usefulness. Published by Halcyon House, Garden City, New York, 1943.—*Lester A. Schlup, Chief, Division of Extension Information.*

Cooperative furnishes labor for peak demand

Eighteen farmers in the Fairplay community in Saline County, Ark., have formed a cooperative organization to solve the labor shortage in their community. This problem is particularly serious in this locality because of the labor demands of a nearby aluminum plant. The Fairplay community is located about 8 miles southwest of Benton, the county seat.

Four of these farmers own tractors and tractor equipment. The other 14 are "two-horse farmers." They have worked out the cost of different types of equipment per hour and have agreed upon the amount to pay per man-hour. All of this is in their approved agreement. When one of the tractor owners needs some work done which could be performed more satisfactorily with horses, he employs the horses and horse-drawn equipment and the man at their fixed rate per hour. When the job is completed, a memorandum of the hours worked and the cost is made and given to the secretary. Then, perhaps, in

hay season, the tractor owner may plow for the "two-horse farmer"; and in like manner a memorandum is made, giving the hours worked and the cost, and handed to the secretary. At the end of the year, these memoranda are audited; and the farmers who are in debt to their neighbors for man-hours or services can pay in cash, feed, livestock, or any farm produce or service that the two agree on.

The primary purpose of this organization is to make every farm produce to capacity.

This group operated in 1942 as a farm-improvement club, and during the fall of 1942 worked out these agreements and the prices to be paid for services through the help of their county agent, E. H. Pritchett, Jr., and Extension Specialists J. O. Kumpe, economist in marketing, and Earle K. Rambo, agricultural engineer. This arrangement enabled all the 18 farmers to keep their entire acreage in production last year and to harvest all crops planted. The group is now incorporating as a nonprofit farmers' service cooperative.

4-H echoes from Maine

The recent issue of Maine 4-H Club Echoes proves that Maine young folks are on the job. For example, in Cumberland County, the American Farmers' Club of Scarborough reports that the boys have bought \$750 worth of war bonds and stamps, an average of \$107 per member. In addition, each boy is enrolled in one or more 4-H Food for Victory projects, including gardening, chick raising, and dairying. Seven 4-H Clubs in the county have joined the Red Cross. The Highland Lake Victory workers have collected at least 100 pounds of waste fat to start it on its way to ammunition. The residents of the community have agreed to save waste fat for the girls who will collect it regularly. These girls have also collected a large number of worn-out silk and nylon stockings which are needed to make powder bags.

Oxford County is specializing on demonstration tournaments. The Go-getters of West Paris, the first club to put on a public tournament, awarded first place to a demonstration on War Ration Book No. 2.

A new book list

A list of 103 books that comprise the best books on agriculture, both from a scientific and practical viewpoint, according to the judgment of the entire staff of the Purdue University School of Agriculture, has been compiled by a committee of staff members under the heading, *The Agriculturists' Book Shelf*.

These books were selected after an extensive and careful study had been made of the hundreds of books dealing with the various phases of agriculture. The list is designed with the hope that it will prove of practical value to

farmers, county agricultural agents, librarians, teachers, and other interested persons.

Classified according to the subject matter, the list includes books on agricultural chemistry, agricultural economics, agricultural engineering, agronomy, animal husbandry, dairy husbandry, entomology, forestry, horticulture, poultry husbandry, and veterinary science. Besides the name, author, date of publication, publishing company, and price, a brief description of the book and an estimate of its value to the reader is given for each book.

A copy of *The Agriculturists' Book Shelf* may be obtained by writing to the Purdue University School of Agriculture, LaFayette, Ind.

4-H Club members at college

More than one-third of the 23,539 students enrolled in courses in agriculture and home economics at land-grant colleges in 37 States and Puerto Rico during 1942-43 were former 4-H Club members. Nebraska, Alabama, Illinois, Indiana, and Kansas topped the 4-H student list, half of their enrollments in both agriculture and home economics being from 4-H Club ranks.

For the first time, similar data were obtained from Negro colleges of agriculture. Of the 1,675 students taking agriculture or home economics at Negro colleges, 310 students were former 4-H Club members—*THIRD ANNUAL STUDY OF FORMER 4-H CLUB MEMBERS ATTENDING AGRICULTURAL COLLEGES, 1942-43, by R. A. Turner, Federal Extension Service. U. S. D. A. Ext. Serv. Publication.*

Farm girl is cow tester

Jean Bostedor, a former 4-H Club girl of Eaton County, Mich., is the new supervisor for the South Eaton Dairy Herd Improvement Association. Previous to her starting the work, the association had been without a tester for 2 months. After a few days of intensive instruction, she started out as a "circuit rider," and so far the arrangement has proved satisfactory. Miss Bostedor is also the secretary of the Eaton County Purebred Sheep Breeders' Association.

■ Harry Slattery, administrator of the Rural Electrification Administration, says that on account of the critical farm-labor situation this year, he believes that extension agents have every right to expect full cooperation from the entire REA movement in our efforts to ameliorate the condition. Mr. Slattery has called upon the REA staff itself and upon the REA cooperatives to help extension to the full extent of their ability. He says that the REA power systems have already made a substantial contribution toward producing more food with less labor by making electricity available to about a million farms.

Wartime community councils

Since Pearl Harbor, rural people have been asked to do many things by different local organizations. Volunteers frequently receive conflicting suggestions from various groups on the same war activity. This often leads to misunderstanding, confusion, and consequent lost motion. Voluntary coordination of emergency programs is urgently needed to make war programs effective. Community councils can do this job.

What Is a Community Council?

A community council is a body of responsible citizens representing the organizations, agencies, and major interests of the community. It is open to every community group on a nonprofit, nonpartisan, voluntary basis, and organized so it is representative of both the farm and village interests of the locality. A typical council has a membership which is comprised of organization and agency officers, 60 percent; professional men and women, 20 percent; and outstanding local citizens, not included in the previous two categories, who are elected by the council as members-at-large, 20 percent.

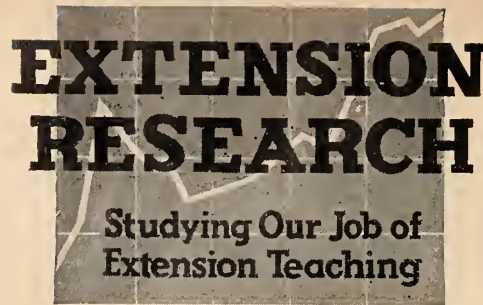
Some Hints on Community Councils

1. Make the council representative of the entire community area.
2. Invite the public to community council meetings.
3. Delegate community work to establish organizations whenever possible.
4. Council work should be done chiefly through committees.
5. Keep public officials and political leaders informed about the council's program, but avoid their domination.
6. Elect a council president who is more interested in the welfare of the community as a whole than in any particular organization or group.
7. Elect, for members-at-large, the most capable and public-spirited citizens.—**COMMUNITY COUNCILS IN WARTIME**, by Robert A. Polson, *New York Extension Service*. *N. Y. Ext. Serv. Pub.*, March 1943.

A Start Has Been Made

There are community committees in a large percentage of the counties where the neighborhood-leader plan is established under extension leadership. Community committees, by broadening their membership to include representatives of the various organizations and institutions in the community, can become the over-all community councils through which war programs can be coordinated.

This thought is brought out in a recent circular by Dr. Edmund deS. Brunner, who as a Federal extension consultant, has been in close touch with the development of the



neighborhood-leader system. In discussing the functions of community councils, he considers the following questions: Why a community council? What is a community council? Who should organize a council? How to perfect community council organizations? The function of the community council after the war.—**THE WHAT AND HOW OF COMMUNITY COUNCILS**, by Dr. E. deS. Brunner, *Columbia University*. *U. S. D. A. Ext. Serv. Circ. 403*—March 1943.

Extension wartime activities

It is desirable for extension agents to be taking an active part in the wartime efforts of their communities. There is danger, however, in becoming involved in so many war activities sponsored by other groups that no time or energy is left to carry out extension wartime programs.

A study made of the participation of Minnesota extension personnel in wartime activities sponsored by groups other than Extension reveals the following. The county agricultural agents' participation in these wartime activities is equivalent to the work of 16 full-time workers employed 26 8-hour days a month; that of the home demonstration agents is equivalent to the full time of 1.4 workers; club agents, one-fourth of a full-time worker each month; and the State staff members, 1 worker per month; a total of 18.65 workers per month for the entire extension staff.

A summary of 89 reports covering all but 2 Minnesota counties, shows that the county agricultural agents spend almost five 8-hour days a month on wartime activities other than extension. On the average, these 89 agents are associated with 5 wartime activities, including county-wide and local organizations or groups. Minnesota agricultural agents are either members or consultants of a total of 374 county committees of the USDA War Board, Civilian Defense, and Labor; and of salvage, bond drive, and nutrition subcommittees. Under Civilian Defense, a few of the agents serve as directors of the air-raid wardens for rural areas, or are in charge of the airplane spotting service in rural areas for the entire county.

County agents are associated with such county organizations as Victory Aides, consumers' interest committee, reemployment committee (works with local draft board),

Red Cross chapter, safety council, and machinery rationing committee. Many of them are advisers to selective service committees on special cases.

Local war activities take much of the county agents' time. Some of them serve as air-raid wardens in their own blocks, or serve in an administrative capacity over a larger area. Several agents report that they are members of the Home Guard that has been organized to take the place of the former National Guard. Agents also take part in such local activities as local scrap and bond campaigns, local safety councils, and nutrition campaigns. Some of the agents have served on county committees and have also assisted in these activities in their own localities, thus doubling the work that they have been called upon to perform.

Practically all the home demonstration agents reported participating in some wartime activity aside from their regular extension programs, averaging about 16 hours a month. They served as chairmen, secretaries, and members of county committees such as civilian defense, county labor, salvage, bond sales, and nutrition. The most common type of activity was in connection with county-wide nutrition committees. Several assisted the county civilian defense committees in organizing Victory Aides and two served as captains of the rural Victory Aides. Several agents reported taking the Red Cross course in first aid or home nursing.—**WARTIME ACTIVITIES OF MINNESOTA AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE PERSONNEL**. *Minnesota Extension Service Publication*. October 1942.

Many young people leave Ohio farms

The armed forces and urban industries have absorbed many of Ohio's older rural youths. However, a large percentage of them were still on the farms up to January 1943, when a survey was made in 44 neighborhoods of 17 Ohio counties. Between April 1940 and January 1943, about one-third of the young people 14 to 29 years of age had left the farms.

The rate of decline in the numbers of farm youths during the 1940-43 period was proportional to their age. The number of farm boys and girls 14 to 17 years old decreased only about 10 percent; those 18 to 19 years old declined 28 percent; and those 20 to 24 years old decreased 42 percent. The greatest exodus was in the 25 to 29 age group, which had a 58-percent drop.

The young people remaining on farms were either in school, working on farms, or commuting to nonfarm jobs. Most of the men of draft age still on the farms were deferred for doing farm work.—**YOUNG PEOPLE LEAVE THE FARMS: AN OHIO STUDY**, by A. R. Mangus and other members of *Extension Older Rural Youth Committee*, *Ohio State University*. *Ohio Ext. Serv. Publication*.

The specialist's job in wartime

■ During the last war, I gave 2 years to the Army. They were probably the best 2 years I have ever spent from the standpoint of personal development. The law of compensation worked overtime because, at the time, I felt that it was a handicap to withdraw from my field of professional agriculture and lose touch with that field by working with and thinking solely of instruments of destruction. Instead, I found that the discipline, the working with men, the wider knowledge, all helped me more than I could possibly have been helped by the same 2 years in my own field. So what started as an unproductive gift of time ended in a valuable 2-year course of advanced study at Government expense. Field artillery is a long way from a wheatfield, but lessons learned in one helped immeasurably with the other.

When the Nation was plunged into war this time, I was faced with the same question that every other specialist asked himself: "How can I best serve the Nation?"

First of all, it seems to me that we should be good soldiers. As an organization, we have been almost arrogantly independent. That has been a saving feature of extension work through the years. No — — — from Washington was going to tell us what to do. So each State developed its own character in extension work, and there was a minimum of numbing bureaucracy. That policy led to poor work in some lines, good work in others, wasted effort in some States, dynamic leadership in others. But the net effect was good. It was private initiative as compared with Fascist control. But now, in wartime, it is different. Each State can no longer hoe its own row, sublimely oblivious of everyone else. With that condition, any national or international strategy would be hopeless. Wars aren't won without over-all plans. Each of us, no matter how he dislikes the orders, is in duty bound to follow the orders from Washington. We must be good soldiers or we shall have agricultural anarchy; and, in the end, we shall be supplanted by other troops, better disciplined. In a similar way, we must be good soldiers within the State regiment. We must work on neighborhood-leader programs, farm goals, Victory Gardens, scrap collection, and many other things outside our fields.

Next, it is up to us to get along with the other soldiers. Perhaps in our State, we don't like the guy who runs the Forest Service or the unregenerate so-and-so in charge of AAA, or someone in our own camp. Right now the country can't afford clashing personalities if the clash interferes ever so slightly with the goal of utmost production. Jockeying for position after the war and refusing to play unless we can be "it" are right in line with pre-Pearl Harbor Army-

Navy jealousies. A stiff-necked pride isn't of much value to a dead soldier, and it may be the cause of countless other deaths.

In the hurly-burly of war activities, mistakes of all kinds occur daily. The OPA makes a national regulation that results only in friction and irritation in some communities and fails to accomplish its purpose. A fertilizer order is put out by FDA that is crippling to some needed industry. AMA has a buying program for lend-lease that is cumbersome, irritating to the trade, and expensive to the Nation. Maybe it results in tying up much-needed freight cars for days.

One can take his choice of several attitudes in connection with these things. He can join the storm of criticism and fan the embers of resentment. That way leads to disunity and crippling of the war program. He can stay aloof and go about his business. That is easiest and is not constructive. In all such cases, I have tried to calm the criticism, examine the program, and work out a reasonable remedy. After all, no national agency wants to be unreasonable or foolish. So I have concerned myself with grades, buying procedure, rules of all kinds governing the growing, packaging, grading, and moving of farm products. This has taken probably a third of my time in recent months, but I like to think that many war programs are running more smoothly because of it. If, by changing a procedure in lend-lease buying of dry edible peas, we can keep a freight car moving, then that is worth while, even if it isn't, strictly speaking, my business.—*E. R. Jackman, extension specialist in farm crops, Oregon.*

Minnesota gardens for Victory

"Patriotism," "better nutrition," and "to save money" were the chief incentives for larger gardens reported by Minnesota farm families visited in 1942 in a State-wide survey. Nearly all of the 1,598 families surveyed had gardens. They raised sweet corn, tomatoes, root crops, peas and beans, cabbage, and greens. More than half cultivated their gardens by hand; a third used machinery; and others gardened both by hand and with machinery.

The gardens varied in size but the average for the whole State was one-half acre. In 1942, 38 percent of the farmers were gardening larger plots than in 1941, and half of them had about the same size of garden. About one-fourth were planning even larger gardens for 1943, and the others expected to continue on the 1942 basis. The owners of the larger gardens said they had been influenced by newspaper items, radio talks, and extension meetings and circulars to expand their gardening activities.

The biggest gardening problems were pests (weeds, insects, diseases, poultry, deer); lack

of time (labor shortage); and weather (too wet or too dry).

Canning was the chief method of food preservation, nearly all of the families having canned some vegetables and fruits. There was a large increase in vegetable canning over the previous year. Some families used more than one method of canning. Approximately one-fifth of them used pressure cookers and most of the others used the hot-water bath method.

In addition to canning, the survey shows a trend toward other methods of food preservation, such as freezing of fruits and vegetables, and drying of peas and beans. Half of the families made sauerkraut. A very high proportion of the farmers stored apples and such vegetables as potatoes, squash, pumpkins, cabbage, and root crops (beets, rutabagas, parsnips, and carrots).—1942 FARM GARDEN AND HOME FOOD SURVEY, by *H. P. Hanson, Minnesota Extension Service, Minn. Ext. Serv. Pub., Dec. 31, 1942.*

To help Negroes grow more food

Negro farm and home agents in Butler County, Ala., cooperating with the county board of education, outlined courses of study for evening classes in defense food production which were held with success in several communities during the past few months. The classes were held by trained farm men and women leaders who have been working with the extension program for the past 4 years. The first 3 schools increased attendance from 37 to 120 men and women who gave 2 evenings a week for 5 weeks.

At a class held at Pine Level under the direction of Dave Marlow, community leader of Simpson Chapel, a fire-heated hotbed was built and 1 bushel of sweetpotatoes bedded. At the request of the county superintendent of education, the names of 18 Negro community and neighborhood leaders have been approved to teach classes in foods, poultry, victory gardens, egg production, peanut production, and milk, swine, and beef production in their respective communities.

On the Calendar

- 4-H Club Radio Program, Farm and Home Hour, Blue Network, June 5.
- American Association for Advancement of Science, regional, Corvallis, Oreg., June 14-19.
- American Association of Economic Entomologists, regional, Corvallis, Oreg., June 14-19.
- American Society Horticultural Science, Western Section, Corvallis, Oreg., June 14-19.
- National Editorial Association, Cincinnati, Ohio, June 18-20.
- American Society of Agricultural Engineering, Purdue University, LaFayette, Ind., June 21-23.
- National Education Association, Indianapolis, Ind., June 25-29.

The once-over

Reflecting the news of the month as we go to press

SEVEN AND A QUARTER MILLION farm families have indicated their determination to grow their own food supply in the recent Victory Home Food Supply extension campaign. The result exceeded all expectations. About 1,650,000 actually signed enrollment cards offered in 30 States, in which they pledged to produce 75 percent of their food supply. The campaign, with its radio talks, news articles, home demonstration programs, governors' proclamations, and other features, has aroused a large number of people to the seriousness of the food situation. More planning for food production, preservation, and utilization is a direct result.

YOUTH RECRUITMENT is well under way in most of the States. In Oregon, William H. Baillie recently manager of the Salem USES office, and a former 4-H Club leader, works with county agents and county committees in setting up and operating youth programs to meet the farm-labor need of each county. In Minnesota, Carl E. Bublitz, farm help supervisor, is coordinating enrollment, training, and placement of youth workers. About 2,000 boys 16 to 18 years old, recruited largely in the Twin Cities and Duluth, were ready as soon as the spring classes ended.

4-H CLUB MEMBERSHIP GOALS for 1943 have already crossed the 2,000,000 mark. All are working to produce and conserve foods, fats, and fibers. Georgia 4-H Clubs conceived the ambitious plan of filling a Liberty Ship; and then they saw no reason why they could not sell enough bonds to buy the ship, and they did. The food is being grown, the bonds have been sold, and they plan to name the ship the *S. S. Hoke Smith*, after one of the Georgia Senators who was coauthor of Extension's Smith-Lever Act. The REVIEW will carry a more complete story on this achievement in an early issue.

NEIGHBORHOOD LEADER PLANS take shape in Minnesota, which recently held a State conference similar to the one held earlier in Washington. This was followed by district conferences when county agents were given help in how to train neighborhood leaders in food-preservation methods and in working on certain phases of the program to meet farm-labor shortage in the counties. Recent reports from 47 States indicate that 606,453 neighborhood leaders are now functioning in their local neighborhoods on essential war programs.

WAR PROBLEMS take more of the Oregon county agents' time now than ever before. Typical problems reported are: How to ob-

tain rationed machinery, what items are rationed, where new or second-hand equipment can be bought, what are the regulations governing slaughtering and sale of meat, how sufficient gasoline for nonhighway use may be obtained, what are the regulations governing the sale of fertilizers and insecticides, and where seed potatoes, hay, and protein feed supplements may be purchased. Forty to 70 percent of the Oregon agents' time was spent on War Board activities, transportation, and labor.

KEEPING UP with all the details and new developments on the many war programs on which the Extension Service is working is one of the knottiest problems of a busy agent and one of the most frequent complaints of members of the State Extension staffs. Kansas is sifting the vast amount of material, mimeographed and otherwise, which comes into the office through the office of the extension editor who gets everything that comes in and issues each week a mimeographed sheet, *This Week's Mail*, which is placed on the desks of the Kansas State Extension staff members every Saturday morning. This sheet very briefly summarizes the releases, wires, letters, and publications that in any way concern the Kansas Extension program, and anyone interested in further information knows where to find it. Another publication, *Farm War News*, is prepared for county agents, and contains new developments from the Kansas War Board, as well as the latest facts from Washington. This is issued every Friday.

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EXTENSION SERVICE
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
WASHINGTON, D. C.

M. L. WILSON, *Director*
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4-H GARDENERS in New Jersey now number 8,554. The ways in which these young folks were interested in growing a Victory Garden and are being trained to be good gardeners will be told next month by Hubert G. Schmidt, 4-H Club agent in Warren County, N. J.

4-H GREET'S YOUTH OF CHINA on China Youth Day when Margaret Ringler, a former 4-H Club girl, a club leader, and a staunch supporter of 4-H ideals in Allegany County, Md., came to Washington to send these greetings over a short-wave broadcast. After telling of the war activities of 4-H Club members in the United States, she said: "The splendid accomplishments of young people in China will be an inspiration to us to do our utmost in the great fight for freedom."

VIA THE AIR, rabbits and ducklings are being sent to Hawaiian 4-H Club members on the off-islands. Since both ducks and rabbits do not have to depend upon imported feed, they are especially valuable at this time.

TEXAS 4-H PORK is swelling the nation's meat supply. Many 4-H boys produced and sold hogs in sufficient numbers to require making a report of income on the 1942 tax return. In Van Zandt County, 24 boys produced 584 hogs, or about 2 tons of pork per boy, surpassing the goal of "feeding myself and one fighter." Bobby Tipps of Hockley County topped the list with 35,893 pounds of hogs liveweight. Several thousand registered brood sows and boars are owned by 4-H Club boys. Last month, 1,450 registered pigs were placed with 4-H Club boys in 152 counties. A year hence these boys will own a sow with her first litter, and then will produce and feed out a litter of 7 or 8 pigs every 6 months.

LABOR RECRUITMENT is successfully under way in Johnson County, Wyo. Seventy high-school boys, enlisted to help in lambing, began their work in April. An arrangement was worked out with school authorities so that the boys could make up for time lost. Cooperating with the local post of the American Legion, 166 oil workers were signed up to work on ranches during the 2 days they have off each week and their 2-week vacation period.

WE SERVE ON THE HOME FRONT was the theme of the six annual district meetings of the Kentucky Federation of Homemakers attended by 2,443 Kentucky homemakers. In spite of travel difficulties and additional work, the women felt that they needed more than ever before the inspiration which these meetings give them. Thirty homemakers furnished the best part of the program when they reported on how they were gearing their activities to war needs. Hilda Beal of York, England, reported at each of the meetings on some of the war activities of British women.