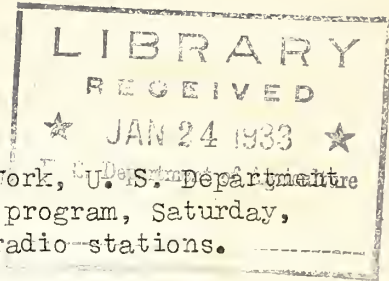


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THE NEED FOR 4-H CLUB WORK



A radio talk by C. W. Warburton, Director of Extension Work, U. S. Department of Agriculture, delivered during the national 4-H club radio program, Saturday, January 7, 1933, broadcast by a network of 58 associate NBC radio-stations.

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4-H boys and girls and friends of 4-H club work:

Here we are, taking part in the opening 4-H club radio program of the new year. It's a good time to take stock. It's a good time to look over the things we are planning to do and see whether or not we should make any changes in these plans. In particular, I want to consider 4-H club work with you. What club activities are you going ahead with this year? What do you expect to get out of them? Do your parents feel that the time you are giving to club work is being spent wisely? Do the people of your community see good coming out of what your club is doing? How real is the need for your 4-H club? Suppose we try answering these questions.

First, let's follow through and see what a club member gets out of club work. The theme for this year's series of 4-H club radio programs is "4-H club work has educational value." Without question, 4-H club work educates. Lucille Morisey of Ohio and Edwin Lowe of Connecticut showed us that in their talks of a few minutes ago. Each club member grows a garden, raises a calf or pig, keeps a flock of poultry, cans food, makes clothing, furnishes a room attractively, or carries on some other useful club project. To do any one of these things, he must have knowledge. He must learn new ways of doing things that a scientist has discovered or that his parents or his neighbors have gained from experience. Club work educates him in these new methods. When this club member has tried out the new way, it becomes his duty to tell about it at the next meeting of his club. Again, club work educates him. This time, in what he owes to his community and to his neighbors. Later, when he has finished his 4-H club project, the particular job of growing or making something, the club member competes with other club boys and girls in an exhibit on achievement day or at the county fair. Here he gains more education. So 4-H club work leads you to adventure in new ways of doing things. You are given the public responsibility of telling others how you obtain results. You have the fun of competing with other boys and girls, and, if you have done your work well, you win a well deserved reward. Certainly, in all these ways and many more you can gain much from 4-H club work.

As we go on with this check-up, we find that 4-H club work has given you the opportunity to earn money for yourself. To learn how to earn money for present or future needs is a real step forward. Particularly, on the farm such education through club work should bring father and son and mother and daughter closer together. Your father and mother can give you much from their farming and home making experience. This working together of members of the farm family is one of the very real benefits of club work.

There is something else that I think you will find you can get from your 4-H club. Each of us hopes to find some day the particular work for which he is fitted. Club work helps you in finding your natural bent. Not every boy born
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on a livestock farm has a special gift for growing livestock. He may be much better fitted to grow crops, or to do something entirely different. His experience in 4-H club work may help him to determine what he can do best. It may do more. It may help him pay for his education or provide a start in the business to which he is best suited.

There are now about 900,000 boys and girls in 4-H club work. Each year a considerable number of you progress to your own farming business, to your own homes, or to whatever occupation you have chosen. In a few years, the effects of your early training are going to be felt in the communities where you live. 4-H club members get much out of their club experiences that continues to be of value to them. They learn how to do certain things profitably. They learn that there are always new and improved ways of doing things. They learn something of the possibilities in farming and farm life. It costs something to give you boys and girls on America's six million farms the opportunity to get such training. Yet surely, this training is worth its cost, for in a very few years we shall be living in a country which you will be running. Can anyone doubt that 4-H club work has educational value, that there is a real need for it?

7/7/77