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WARTIME WORK OF STATE EXTENSION SERVICES

(Digested From Reports of State Extension Directors)

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Summary No. 37

ARKANSAS (November 1).--Efforts of extension workers during October directed toward winding up year's work in which it is thought all production record figures with food and feed crops have been broken. Emphasis continued on marketing, storage, food preservation, and other special wartime activities.

Leader-training meetings continued; 369 held with 4,502 in attendance. Of these meetings, 128 were for Negroes attended by 1,549.

Food-for-Victory Program indicates that more grain will be fed to hogs and cattle this fall. Inferior cattle being culled from breeding herds; additions being made to both beef-cattle and swine herds. Farmers rearranging dairy programs for production of more and better-quality milk. As result of work done by marketing specialist, 22 peanut warehouses and 7 egg-grading stations approved. The limited number of county fairs have been built around Food-for-Victory Program.

During month, 2,081 meetings of all kinds held with 46,369 persons attending. Of these, 294, attended by 7,011, were held by Negro agents. Discussions included special war-production goals, fire prevention, gasoline rationing, harvesting and threshing of peanuts, fall Victory Gardens, marketing, farm-machinery care and repair, scrap collection.

At rural committee meetings home demonstration agents discussed price regulations, fat salvage, food substitutes, school lunches, and food preparation. 33 cooking schools under way attended by 732 women; 20 of these schools conducted by Negro home demonstration agents with an attendance of 305. Assistance given 202 schools participating in hot-lunch program which serves 20,763 pupils.

Effort being made to make all 4-H Clubs "Victory Clubs," in that all members carrying a project are contributing directly to the war effort. 188 such clubs organized during month with membership of 5,541. Clubs have continued active participation in scrap-metal campaign, sale of war bonds and stamps, participation in Red Cross nutrition courses, organization of fire-prevention crews, preservation of food, harvesting of crops. 799 4-H Club meetings held with attendance of 20,176 boys and girls. Of this number, Negro agents held 158 with 4,004 in attendance.

33 news releases prepared by State staff for use in farm war-production program. County workers prepared 255 local stories emphasizing and illustrating war-production practices. Editorial staff adapted 136 stories for radio releases.

DELAWARE (November 1)--Staff members and agents assisted war boards in registration of farm trucks for certificates of necessity. County agents teamed up with county war-board chairmen in locating local storage space for soybeans. Especially fine job done in Sussex County where space in sweetpotato houses, poultry houses, empty stores, and all other available buildings was located. Agents also assisted in recommending buyers to represent the processing company authorized to purchase oil beans in Delaware.

Spot survey being made to determine extent of farm-labor shortage, its causes and probable effect on 1943 production. Neighborhood leaders utilized, each leader to fill out questionnaire for his own farm and the next four farms down the road. Returns already in cover 10 percent of all farms. Specific facts on summary will be given when complete.

Home demonstration agents held meetings with all their clubs to discuss fire prevention, salvage, packed lunches, and wartime clothing.

Farm news releases and radio scripts prepared on numerous wartime topics.

KANSAS (November 12).--Neighborhood-leader program progressing rapidly. Meeting of neighborhood-leader committee held October 12, when definite plan of procedure was compiled and approved. Later annual extension conference program included time during conference week for training agents to carry on program in counties. Neighborhood leaders used in all counties to some extent but organization needs strengthening for definite movement all along the line of information to bring about best results. All counties beginning to tie up loose ends.

As result of plan proposed by State agricultural planning committee to obtain cooperation of school system in meeting farm-labor problem of harvesting alfalfa and silage crops, 48 counties had meetings of county farm-labor sub-committee and school officials, resulting in 4,057 high-school students assisting with this labor in week ending October 10; 45 businessmen also assisted. Approximately 100 agricultural-college boys spent each week end on farms in October.

At request of Selective Service, planning-project leader assisted in preparation of a score card for determining the necessary farmer. This score card will be used on all men subject to draft beginning November 9.

Marketing specialist reached large number of farmers' elevator managers to discuss wartime problems. Information given on price-control measures and commodity loans, particularly with regard to storage and handling of soybeans. Pooling of farm products for delivery to market and of farm supplies for delivery to farmers discussed in connection with transportation regulations. Farmers advised to obtain and conserve good-quality seed stocks for planting next fall.

Plans made and material prepared for State-wide program on Home Care of Meat. Emergency nutritionists holding meetings in one-agent counties for neighborhood leaders, and leaders in nutrition, 4-H and other work to acquaint them with the Share the Meat Program, in which neighborhood leaders will assist.

State-wide educational program on wartime clothing under way in cooperation with Committee on Clothing and Textiles of State Home-Economics Association. Meeting for all agencies planned for the near future, when further plans will be developed.

Training school on renovation of furniture held for home demonstration agents, who will now apply this work in their counties where needed.

A special 4-H project has been planned and approved designed to enable great numbers of farm boys and girls to enroll under the 4-H banner in their efforts to help win the war.

Publicity included release of 4 stories to 55 daily newspapers; 11 to 500 weekly newspapers; and 14 to county agents. Two talks prepared and broadcast over KSAC; 65 articles released to 29 cooperating commercial radio stations; several county agents conducted regularly scheduled programs over local radio stations; twice a month, program over KMBC, Kansas City, cooperatively undertaken by State AAA and Extension.

KENTUCKY (November 15).--Committee, appointed to cooperate with other agencies and farmers to study farm-labor situation, now gathering information on ways to save labor in growing and harvesting crops, including greater use of machinery, home-made labor-saving devices, harvesting crops with livestock, use of self-feeders, cooperation among neighbors, work that can be done by women, boys, and girls.

In their food-conservation program, members of many State homemakers' clubs helped nonmembers can fruits, vegetables, and meats. In Calloway County, women who accompanied their husbands to help neighbors cut tobacco, took pressure cookers with them. After the dinner was prepared and served, the women spent afternoons canning. Several hundred jars of vegetables, fruits, chicken, soup mixture, and other products put up in one community. In Grayson County one member of a homemakers club helped six families with their fall canning. Members of clubs in Bourbon County gave the families of nonmembers enough vegetables and fruits to make 558 quarts.

An exceptionally fine record of food production and conservation is reported by the home demonstration agent in Mercer County. One farm woman, whose family numbers five, has canned 600 quarts of fruits and vegetables for her family in addition to 30 quarts of tomato juice for a sick neighbor, and 130 quarts of fruits and vegetables for a church orphanage. Later in the year she will can meat from hogs being fattened for home butchering. A flock of 500 chickens furnished meat for the family table. The family garden furnished not only the vegetables for use and for canning, but sales of surplus vegetables added \$200 to the family income.

A farmer's wife in McLean county has demonstrated what a woman can do to help in the labor situation. She helped put out and harvest the tobacco, and will also help strip it. She plowed the tobacco, corn, and hemp crops, and helped cut, shock, and thresh the latter. When the time came to harvest hay she helped by cutting, mowing, and raking it, and with the baling. In addition she worked in a cooperative cannery in the county, grew 33 varieties of vegetables in her garden, canning 790 quarts, and raised 350 chickens. She has also found time to act as president of the county homemakers' clubs.

Kentucky farmers have just harvested another war crop, castor-beans. Farmers and 4-H Club members in 58 counties grew 511 acres this year for seed only. A large acreage may be grown for oil next year.

Club members are devoting a large part of their time to food production and preservation, though not neglecting their clothing, room improvement, and health programs. Members grew 10,000 gardens, totaling 2,500 to 3,000 acres; girls' 4-H Clubs canned 600,000 quarts of fruits and vegetables; in clothing projects 22,000 girls made 46,000 articles. Members have taken an important part in salvage campaigns. A Boyle County 4-H Club boy furnished the grand-champion calf, and Garrard County had the grand-champion carload of calves at the annual State fat-cattle show in Louisville.

MINNESOTA (November 15).--Neighborhood leaders are set to work with Civilian Defense and Extension on Share-the-Meat campaign. In farm communities Share-the-Meat tied in with renewed appeal to raise more meat. Campaign "sparked" by neighborhood-leader letter on meat production and conservation.

Labor saving on farms attacked from a new angle. Lumbermen of State enlisted, locally and through their state Association, in promotion of self-feeders and many other labor-saving equipment items of wood construction. Series of leaflets with plans for construction of time-saving equipment to be distributed through lumber dealers. Publicity campaign to combine press stories with dealer advertising campaigns.

Battle against nodular worm in sheep being carried systematically to all sheep-raising areas. Extension working closely with State veterinarians and livestock loss-prevention board. State committee has mapped plan appointing county committees of leading sheep men, who in turn work for complete coverage of phenothiazine treatment among sheep flocks.

Agents holding plan-of-work meetings with neighborhood leaders to line up activity for winter. At State level, plans made for leader-training course during Farm and Home Week.

Reports from neighborhood leaders indicate production intentions of Minnesota farmers are high, in spite of serious labor shortage. About a fourth of dairy farmers polled indicate they are going to increase production, whereas a third of poultry and pork producers hope to increase. Majority of farmers expect to hold their own in 1943; about one-sixth may have to reduce for lack of help. Increases will be accompanied by many difficulties. Neighborhood leaders in polling their neighbors are combining their survey in many cases with neighborhood clinics on sharing machinery, arranging change work, etc. Survey cards issued to men leaders by agent, sent to State office for compilation.

State-wide publicity campaigns have stressed best possible use for feed of frozen soybeans and frozen or "soft" corn.

Outlook work this winter to concentrate largely on treating handicaps to production. Folder in process will give practical tips on three big problems, feed, transportation, and labor.

NORTH DAKOTA (December 1).--At request of Governor, Extension completed survey of actual labor situation in State and its effect on 1943 production. Data gathered by agents with cooperation of neighborhood leaders indicate most plans involve increases, especially in dairy herds and poultry flocks. Plans contingent on current labor supply remaining on farms.

With 25 percent more poultry on North Dakota farms this year, emphasis being continued on program to encourage farmers to finish poultry before marketing. Campaign being supported by State and county war boards. Information going out to farmers discusses market situation and describes benefits of marketing finished poultry. After establishment of price ceiling on turkeys, Extension cooperated with AMA in arranging and conducting turkey-grading schools for poultry dealers.

Nine leader-training meetings for 88 homemakers clubs in 7 counties held to promote program for better planned, prepared, and served meals. Work is reaching 1,275 homemakers. Share-the-Meat Program being incorporated in this activity and also stressed in publicity and information to neighborhood leaders. Cooperation given in utilization of Victory food specials designated by AMA.

Arrangements being made for conference of State workers on clothing needs, as a follow-up of similar meetings held on regional basis. At conference, joint and comprehensive program for State will be developed.

Extension workers each county handling major portion of educational and administrative work in connection with completing certificates of war necessity required of farm truckers.

Replies to Victory Garden questionnaire indicate 95 to 100 percent of all homes had adequate garden past season. Most reports indicate surplus of vegetables, and sharing of such surpluses. Fruit-tree plantings receiving attention and plans under way for making this addition to 1943 program. Proper storage of winter fruits and vegetables emphasized.

Plans developed for State farm-machinery reconditioning program. Meetings on grain-insect and rat control held, with publicity and circulars prepared and given wide distribution.

4-H livestock club members produced approximately 7,000 animals in 1942. State 4-H leaders met at annual 4-H institute to discuss principal problems facing club work and to develop a wartime 4-H program for 1943.

WYOMING (November 15).--Agents in beet and bean sections continuing to give service in helping growers get labor to harvest their crops. Assisted in obtaining itinerant labor and organizing squads of high-school boys and leading groups of businessmen for field work.

All county agents and their office staffs assisted in truck registration. Twelve registration centers set up by war board. Some confusion experienced because large percentage of truck owners did not receive applications. Agents assisted such owners in obtaining proper blanks and filling them out properly.

Campaign for carrying on another bond sign-up drive among rural people, using neighborhood leaders to reach personally all rural families, now getting started under direction of county agents.

Extension representatives participated in meeting of State nutrition committee to make plans to help with educational work on meat rationing.

Data collected on results of club members' work in 4-H Victory program show 3,400 helped to relieve home and farm labor shortages. Pounds collected by members: 705,000, scrap metal; 100,000, paper, burlap, and rags; 176,000, rubber. Members purchased \$30,000 in war bonds and sold \$5,200 worth. Already clubs that will aid in greater food production are getting under way for next year. Beef-club members getting calves to start feeding. Other members taking up winter feeding of lambs.