

# Extension Service *Review*

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## 4-H clubs measure results

### National Achievement Week, November 3-11, highlights young people's contribution to victory

■ The close of the war and the easing up of wartime restrictions have made 4-H achievement celebrations gala occasions this year. Community exhibits, fairs, rallies, and achievement days have rounded up the results of a year's work for mothers, fathers, and neighbors to inspect; and newspaper articles, window exhibits, and local broadcasts told the story to the general public.

County fairs have flourished this year, some of them for the first time since 1941. The 4-H fair of Middlesex County, Conn., was one of these; and, though the time for preparation was short, everyone agreed it was good to have a county fair again. Club members were determined to have an even better fair in 1946. The San Fernando Valley, Calif., 4-H Fair held in Horton's barn with senior members in charge of the departments got some enthusiastic help from four 4-H veterans just returned from overseas.

State 4-H shows, besides selecting the State champions and reviewing 4-H achievements, are in many places honoring 4-H leaders. In Michigan, for example, 311 leaders who have served from 10 to 20 years will receive awards. The diamond clover pin for 20 years or more of service will go to 17 faithful leaders.

Add up these achievements for the whole United States, and you find that the total contribution of 4-H members is astounding. Imagine 1 million acres in victory gardens, or a flock of 43 million birds, or a colossal pantry with 74 million 4-H canned quarts of food on the shelves! Yet this is just

what 4-H Club members did through the war years since Pearl Harbor.

War demands called for all the scrap throughout the country. 4-H Club members responded with more than 400 million pounds collected. The country needed money to finance the war. 4-H Club members bought for themselves or sold to others more than 200 million dollars worth of bonds and stamps. For this last achievement, the Treasury presented a certificate of award to 4-H Clubs, which Director Wilson accepted on behalf of 1,700,000 4-H Club members.

This year, the 4-H Achievement Week marks the first national 4-H event since the end of the war. In this hour of victory every 4-H Club member should be proud of his own contribution during the war and should regard world peace as a heri-

tage to be cherished in the years ahead.

The keynote for National Achievement Week was sounded by Secretary of Agriculture Clinton P. Anderson in an open letter to 4-H Club members. He wrote: "A job well done is but a better job begun. On this occasion of National 4-H Achievement Week, 1945, the cumulative effort of 4-H Club members emerges as a significant contribution to victory on the food front. Unity and loyal devotion to a common wartime aim have brought achievements that can be the basis for even greater accomplishments in the future.

"As we emerge from this war, we stand on the threshold of an entirely new era in which the future of civilization depends on how well the youth of today learns to cultivate the virtues of cooperativeness, justice, tolerance, and wisdom. These virtues, so necessary to democracy, are one of the great values resulting from 4-H Club work for young people interested in developing their talents for maximum usefulness."

## Use these Victory Loan films

■ The finest series of 16-millimeter educational sound films ever offered county agents for free showings is being made available by the War Finance Division of the U. S. Treasury to run concurrently with the Victory Loan drive. Three of the films are U. S. Army Signal Corps pictures: *Diary of a Sergeant*, 22 minutes; *Stillwell Road*, 50 minutes; *It's Your America*, 35 minutes. Two are Army Air Forces pictures: *Target Invisible*, 15 minutes, revealing the role played in the war by radar; *Army Air Forces—Pacific*, 18 minutes, showing development of air power to the time of the atomic annihilation of Nagasaki.

Three are produced by the Navy: *Voyage to Recovery*, 10 minutes; *The Fleet that Came to Stay*, 22 minutes; *Conquest of the Night*, 10 minutes. *Peace Comes To America*, produced by the Treasury Department, shows President Truman, Secretary Vinson, and others, and deals with the man-sized job ahead. One or more of these films will be special attractions at any extension or farm organization meeting. Write your State Extension Service for a copy, naming several choices. Your county war finance chairman will be able to help you locate a 16-millimeter sound projector.



# Wyoming postwar houses

ELLEN L. BRAMBLETT, Specialist in Home Management, Wyoming

Wyoming families anticipating peace started making plans for their postwar houses early this year. In some cases the plans are still in the dream stage, but in many others the houses have been drawn to scale.

homemakers' club programs last spring has been justified.

In Albany County, Mrs. Ruth Yarling, home demonstration agent, gave a demonstration concerning "The postwar house" in the clubs.



Careful planning and the use of native materials feature the Wyoming postwar housing program.

Lincoln County, where native materials for building are abundant, has evidenced a building boom among the dairy farmers ever since VE-day. Driving down the highway in the Star Valley area, near Afton, one may see basements already excavated, new structures started, and a few new houses completed.

Persons in other areas of Wyoming, not so fortunate from the standpoint of native lumber, have confined their efforts to making minor changes in their present houses and to the preparation of house plans for which they have been saving and planning during war years.

Now that peace is an actuality, the members of the homemakers' clubs in Laramie, Albany, and Big Horn Counties can feel that their study of house improvements made in their

The local leaders in Laramie and Big Horn Counties were trained to teach the same material in their own groups. In presenting this demonstration, an effort was made to en-

courage families to discern their housing needs by filling out a questionnaire. Help was given women in the techniques of making house plans.

The main aims of housing demonstrations is to lead the homemakers' clubs toward long-time housing programs and to suggest the possibilities of forming family groups who would study their own housing problems. Those families desiring either to remodel or build houses are encouraged to meet in groups under the direction of the Extension Service to make their detailed plans for improvements. The families study in groups such problems as kitchen planning, planning for storage space, and provisions for heating and insulation.

The Wyoming Extension Service has prepared bulletins to guide families in the development of better rural houses in the State. Those bulletins include How to Make a Kitchen Cabinet, a reprint from an article in The American Builder; Our Clothes Closets; Our Kitchen Plans; Space Savers for Your Kitchen; and Our House Plans. For the drawing-up of house plans, dotted form sheets have been printed.

A health and sanitation campaign has been started in the homes of 5-V Club girls of Venezuela to emphasize the importance of cleanliness. In addition, girls are being taught to make utensils and other conveniences from materials at hand. By working with the girls in their homes, the home demonstration agent can become better acquainted with home conditions and is able to enlist the interest of mothers in the girls' activities.





# Connecticut demonstrates sheep dipping

D. C. GAYLORD, Animal Husbandman, Connecticut Extension Service

■ Connecticut is not a commercial sheep State. Its sheep industry consists of numerous small farm flocks ranging in size from 20 to 30 head. But, whether the flocks are large or small, sheep need to be dipped to control external parasites. Until 1944 very few of Connecticut's sheep-owning farmers bothered to dip their animals. Perhaps they did not appreciate its importance, or perhaps they felt their flocks were too small a part of their farming operation to justify the necessary equipment and time.

On the assumption that the latter was the reason, the Connecticut Agricultural Extension Service and the Connecticut Sheep Breeders' Association last year cooperated on a program that enabled the extension animal husbandman to stage a sheep-dipping demonstration.

A metal dipping tank was mounted on a rubber-tired farm wagon to provide a portable outfit that could be used as a trailer on an automobile. The ramps and draining platform were made demountable. The draining platform was constructed to serve as a lid on the tank while it was traveling from farm to farm. A gate at one end of the discharge ramp keeps the sheep on the ramp for a few minutes to permit the solution to drain back into the tank. As neighboring farmers sometimes brought their sheep to the demonstrating farm, the discharge ramp was constructed so that the sheep could be loaded directly into a truck.

Rotenone was used as the dipping solution, with entirely satisfactory results. Flocks that were heavily infested with ticks in 1944 were free

of them this year with two exceptions. On one farm the owner had added undipped sheep to his flock, and on the other the flock was re-infected by a ewe that escaped from the dipping crew last year. In addition to its effectiveness, requiring but one dipping, the inexpensiveness of rotenone is another factor much in its favor.

Dipping demonstrations were given on 28 Connecticut farms in 1944. The cost to the farmer was 15 cents a head for 50 or more sheep, with a minimum charge of \$10 if fewer than 50 sheep were dipped. This year's experience indicated that the minimum charge is too high to encourage owners of particularly small flocks to use the dipping service. Flock owners were encouraged to bring in their sheep to a central farm to reduce the number of setups and the cost to the individual.

Whether the Extension Service will continue this demonstration work will depend upon the demand from flock owners and the extent that they are encouraged by the demonstrations to do their own dipping.

# School leaflets appeal to children

■ Cornell has a publication especially for rural school children, which reaches 65,000 of them. The Cornell Rural School Leaflet, now in its fiftieth year, carries the nature-study idea, in its broadest form, to about 22,000 teachers and their students in communities smaller than 4,500 throughout New York State. Several thousand additional leaflets go elsewhere—many of them to extension agents.

## For Children and Teachers

Four leaflets are published during each school year—3 for children and 1 for teachers. The teachers' number—a 64-page issue—gives suggestions on methods of teaching the year's program in nature study. The 32-page leaflets for children deal with biological and other subjects. Typical titles are *Waterways in Fall*, and *Creeping, Sprawling, Climbing Plants*. Since the war, the timely topic of how to live safely and healthfully under all sorts of conditions has characterized such leaflets as *Fibers*, *Pounding and*

*Cutting Tools*, *Let's Play Safe*, and *Mystery and Mastery of the Air*.

Language that is simple and informal is a prime requirement for the leaflets. "Picture-words" are preferred, and technical terms are always translated into some everyday equivalent.

Attractive appearance and a wealth of illustrations help to make the Rural School Leaflets appeal to children. Covers are usually designed by the college artists, and the emphasis is on beauty and simplicity. Unusually striking photographs of outdoor scenery, with harmoniously designed lettering superimposed, are favorites, judging by popular comment. The leaflets are in bulletin size, and the text is 10-point type generously leaded, which makes for easy reading.

Accompanying the teachers' number of the leaflet, issued at the opening of school in the fall, is a question sheet on which the teachers indicate the number of copies of the children's leaflets they will need. Distribution to teachers is based on lists of names

supplied by district superintendents or centralized-school principals.

Last year marked a half century of uninterrupted service by Cornell University to rural schools in the form of regularly issued publications for teachers and pupils. The present-day Rural School Leaflets are prepared under the supervision of Prof. E. Lawrence Palmer of the Department of Rural Education. Although most leaflets are written by Professor Palmer, many are written by other members of the Cornell staff or by persons outside the institution. The current number of the leaflet, *Cover*, which deals with the cultivation of wildlife on the farm, has some delightful cartoon illustrations drawn by a conservation-education expert. A recent leaflet that ran into an edition of 80,000 dealt with the wartime subject of collecting and cooking wild foods; it was written by Eva Gordon, instructor in rural education.—*Fatanitza L. Schmidt, assistant editor, New York State College of Agriculture.*



# The farmers' part in industrialization

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and

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■ Full peacetime employment is not just around the corner. Yet full employment is necessary for farm prosperity. It means prices of farm products around parity levels and markets capable of absorbing a production somewhat above prewar levels. We have no assurance that full employment after the war will just happen. Thus, there is a need for providing new jobs in almost every village, town, and city. Most of these jobs must be in industry to prevent a post-war back-to-the-land movement which would be a real threat to satisfactory standards of living for both farmers and industrial workers. This business of providing nonfarm jobs is industrialization. It is what leads to full employment.

How can we provide the industrial jobs necessary for full employment? And what can farmers do? Part of the answer to these questions may be to apply the same methods farmers have already used in solving their own agricultural problems.

During the 1930's, in addition to emergency measures to combat depression, long-range steps were taken to achieve efficient use of the land. These steps and others were so successful that American agriculture was fully prepared to meet the test of the great war just ended. Now the problem is to prevent expanded production from becoming a troublesome surplus—surplus only in the sense that production in industries other than agriculture may not keep pace and provide the necessary markets.

How was efficient use of the land achieved? It was achieved with the technical help and guidance from the colleges, from the U. S. Department of Agriculture, and, close at hand, from the county agents. Technology played its part. So did farmers through soil conservation districts and as members of county and community committees handling local administration of crop programs.

Now, new kinds of long-range steps are needed to provide for efficient use not only of land but also of all the people who want to work. There is an analogy between achieving the efficient use of land and achieving the efficient use of manpower. We can find answers in agricultural experience to the question, "How can efficient use of manpower be achieved?"

Three basic ideas underlay the agricultural programs which were developed during the depression. First, the spearhead groups were local committees of farmers. Other people working in agriculture were trying to help these local groups of farmers. Second, the farmers needed facts. They required the most up-to-date technical advice from our scientific laboratories. They also needed men in their county or in their State to explain and demonstrate these facts clearly. Third, they needed appropriate underlying national policies and programs because every county is an important part of one great nation, and all counties must work together for common objectives.

## Put Businessmen on Committees

Industrialization to use efficiently all the people who want to work also can be tackled by local committees who lead the way. These committees would not be composed exclusively of farmers. To accomplish this program, farmers must work together with the local businessman with whom they deal every day, with labor leaders, and with government officials. The benefits of full employment are for all, and achieving full employment requires the cooperation of all. Of course, getting together with neighbors to work out common problems is nothing new to our farmers. In addition to the many times our farmers have worked together with other farmers, they have worked with most of the local people on such dif-

icult problems as drafting young men for the armed services, rationing, and the local government itself.

Technical help and advice are needed. The facilities of our colleges and universities, of State organizations such as the planning boards, of Federal agencies as well as private organizations, can be brought to bear on this problem of postwar employment. These groups must help the local people find answers to these questions: "How many jobs should the community provide? What industries are suited to the local community? How much money is needed to start them? How can they be run efficiently so they can earn a profit for the owner?"

This technical help can be successful only if capital is available to start new industries and only if there is the necessary good management to run them. Frequently, it is true that there are already enough wartime savings in a given area to provide the investment needed for new local industries. If not, ways can be found to see that capital is made available at reasonably low interest rates. This is one place where a national policy and program can help.

## Get Effective Managers

Of course, it is most important to find effective managers or owners for the new industries, the establishment of which is stimulated by the local committees. In many cases, local men and women will themselves be able and willing to set up and run new enterprises. Many men with outstanding management ability have been forced out of business through wartime shortages. They will be available for business after the war. In addition, there is talent in the younger generation. The war has demonstrated that our youth, with the proper training, can do man-sized jobs. Boys hardly out of their teens have managed crews of 10 to 12 men on flights of Fortresses and Superfortresses, each worth about half a million dollars. And we know they did it effectively. Their buddies on the ground managed the maneuvers of companies and troops in complex operations. Others managed the intricate flow of war supplies from the factories to the battle fronts. Regular educational institutions deserve



much credit for starting and helping to develop these management skills. Now that the war is over, these same institutions can provide effective training for peacetime jobs.

What does this add up to? It adds up to a recognition that (1) farmers have a stake in creating jobs in their communities through industrialization; (2) they can help by participating in direct measures to create rural industries; (3) it is possible for local action to stimulate efficient use of

manpower in much the same way that farmers organized to get efficient use of the land.

What does it add up to? It adds up to a realization that big businesses have the technical help they need whereas most of the people in or contemplating small businesses do not. It adds up to a homely recollection that a feed mill or broom factory back home may be as important to the local folks as the automobile plants are to Detroit.

## Models show how labor can be saved

■ Sore backs and strained muscles are getting fewer and less painful in and around Bay County, Mich., because of the work that Albert Festerling, emergency farm labor assistant, and W. E. McCarthy, county agricultural agent, are doing to encourage use of labor-saving devices.

To more effectively show what home-made equipment can accomplish about the farmstead, an elaborate project of building and demonstrating models of labor-saving devices was set up last winter.

Says Mr. McCarthy: "The project seems to have awakened the people of the county to the fact that they, with a little initiative and perseverance, can construct right on their farms many things that will save them much time and labor in the future. Their imagination has been stimulated and is resulting in action. Two farmers have built improved potato seed cutters; another is adapting his potato digger for picking up beets from the windrow; others are building baled-hay elevators and other machines.

The project was Mr. McCarthy's idea. Says Mr. Festerling: "He called me into his office one morning early in December. I could tell by the twinkle in his eye that he had something up his sleeve. 'Albert, do you think you could make some models of the grain elevators and the buck rake that we have been telling folks about?'"

Mr. Festerling thought he could and went to work. The first few models aroused so much interest that others were made. Many hours of work have gone into a total of 10 working

models. They are: Inclined grain elevator, vertical grain elevator, transport sweep rake and power lift, rat trap, chick brooder, pig brooder, power saw, gutter cleaner, grain bag holder, and drill press. The elevators were built full size except for length.

These labor-saving devices have been demonstrated at 18 meetings in various parts of Bay County before a total audience of 1,497. They were also shown at 4 meetings outside of Bay County with 815 attending.

Mr. Festerling is realistic when he puts on his demonstrations. He shows each machine in operation and even goes so far as to actually catch a rat in the rat trap. (Where he procures the rat each time at the right moment, he doesn't explain.) Details of each machine and its construction are pointed out, and interested farmers are told where they can get materials and how much they cost. Models have also been displayed in store windows, and considerable work has been done with Future Farmers of America chapters in the county.

■ Sheep flock improvement work in Griggs County, N. Dak., is getting a big boost through the operations of Gordon Hanson, former 4-H Club member.

Hanson became interested in sheep in connection with his club activities. Now he is running a traveling sheep-dipping tank and doing custom dipping for tick control throughout the county, according to George Simons, county extension agent. He expected to dip more than 5,000 head for sheep owners of the county.

## Teacher-agent association active

■ Much is being done to promote a unified and cooperative farm program in Polk County, Wis., through the Agricultural Teachers-County Agents Association.

This association is composed of the agricultural teachers of the county, the county agent, the county home demonstration agent, and the secretary of the extension office.

The members meet at a dinner once a month and talk over administrative problems of vocational education and extension and then enjoy a social hour. Wives and husbands of members also attend. The monthly dinners are rotated from place to place where the association has members. Dinners of this kind have been held each month, beginning in 1935.

County Agent Earle Sanford says the organization and monthly dinners serve to tie together the whole county farm program. For instance, when the labor-saving machinery and safety caravan visited the county earlier this year, the agricultural teachers helped obtain local exhibits. They also helped in the sheep-dipping project.

Sanford says that when there is an over-all agricultural job to do, it has been found that if everyone joins in united effort more can be done than through individual efforts. For example, if the county agent wants something done at Milltown, he calls the agricultural teacher there, and he helps out.

The association dinners also provide a means for an exchange of information and new bulletins on agricultural matters. They serve to keep the members posted on what is going on. At times, speakers are invited to address the association on topics of current interest such as soil conservation and Bang's disease control and laws.

The association expects to have the county agricultural committee attend one of its dinners this year. It will also have a dinner for high school principals and local officials of Government agencies such as land bank, Farm Security Administration, and production credit association.



# Education offers hope for West Africa

T. M. CAMPBELL, Field Agent, Extension Service

"Mr. Campbell's long experience with Negro farmers in the South gave him an insight into the problems of African life, especially those relating to the production of food crops," wrote Dr. Jackson Davis of the General Education Board to Director Wilson after Mr. Campbell's return. This, the second of two articles, gives his impressions of the Africans and their needs.

■ During our 6 months' stay in Africa, we traveled more than 10,000 miles by plane, train, automobile, truck, boat, hammock, and on foot. The time was divided among Liberia, Belgian Congo, French Cameroun, Nigeria, Gold Coast, and Sierra Leone. We covered much space in a short time because we traveled from one territory to another by plane.

My part in the survey dealt mainly with trying to find out what progress was being made by the African people in food production as fostered by the Colonial Governments and the various missionary societies; to study methods used by the African farmers in preparing their soil, planting and cultivating their crops; to visit research centers and experiment stations and get information on how solutions to farm problems are being passed on to the native African; and, without sampling too much of the native diet, to learn something of African food habits in regard to health and nutrition.

## Visits Thousands of Workers

We saw thousands of Africans at work on highways, railroads, docks, in cotton factories, lumber mills, communication lines, on small farms, large rubber, palm oil, cocoa, and coffee plantations, and in coal and tin mines. In fact, practically all the work in trades—semi-skilled and skilled, civil service and common labor—is done by the African under Colonial and native Government control.

We went into hospitals where male nurses and medical assistants were being trained for civil and military duties. We visited many schools where students are being taught vocational and literary subjects, also agri-

culture and a little home economics. Because of the scarcity of girls attending schools in all West Africa home economics was minimized. We visited classes in native music and art. We saw the development of crafts—weaving, dyeing, pottery, brick making, wood carving, canoe building and work in leather, iron, gold, and silver. We also visited many churches. In all these endeavors—religious, social, and economic, we found enough being done to prove conclusively that it is possible to lift these people out of their present low state of civilization.

## Disease Decimates Population

The high death rate is making fearful inroads on the African population caused by diseases such as malaria, typhoid, yellow fever, tropical ulcers, yaws, syphilis, leprosy, and sleeping sickness. Mosquitoes, carriers both of malaria and yellow fever, are still West Africa's public enemy No. 1. The great variety of food products, wild and cultivatable, in Africa, if properly grown and used, would go a long way toward making a stronger and more vigorous people. One limiting factor in the African's food production, however, is his wholesale use of primitive tools. Practically all of his farming is done with the short-handled hoe, the machete, and the ax. This practice is sometimes referred to as "hand-head" farming, because he rarely grows larger quantities than he can carry on his head; or perhaps I should say "she" because the women do so much of the subsistence farming.

The Christian missions have done, and are doing, an excellent job in Africa, although their work has been primarily concerned with religious education. If the missions would bal-



Traveling in a "unicycle" in Leopoldville, Belgian Congo.

ance this with a stronger course in agriculture and home economics, as we know and practice it here in Extension Service, their program would be essentially complete, except to add sufficient personnel for operation. Apparently the time is ripe in some of the territories for integrating trained American Negro workers among missions and government staffs.

There is also a crying need for trained African leadership in the fields of agriculture, home economics, medicine, nursing, and country or village school teaching. These agricultural leaders should teach the people to raise enough food for family or village use and a surplus for sale: The home economics group should teach the people how, what, and when to eat—in other words, a balanced diet. The services of doctors and nurses should be available to all the people in towns, villages, and in the "bush." Of course all of these agencies will need the strong support of government and church in order to do their best work.

## African Eager for Education

Some of the principal farm products of West Africa are bananas, cassava, citrus, cocoa, coffee, copra, cotton, kola-nut, ginger, ground nuts (peanuts), maize (corn), peas, beans, palm oil, sweetpotatoes, rice, sugarcane, wheat, gum arabic, kapoc, piassava, raffia, rubber, sesame, lumber, beeswax and honey, bacon, cat-



tle, dairy products, sheep and goats, hides and skins, and fish. Some of the minerals are bauxite, chrome, coal, columbite, diamonds, gold, iron ore, manganese, platinum, tin, and tungsten.

Cattle can be raised only in certain areas because of the prevalence of the tsetse fly which spreads the dreaded sleeping sickness disease, killing both cattle and human beings. This condition prevents large groups of Africans, living in infested areas, from getting any milk to drink.

The African's interest in education has been greatly increased. Large numbers of colonial soldiers who have been in other countries have seen the progress that is being made by other people. Upon their return they not only are unwilling to settle down into their old humdrum way of living, but they are literally clamoring for higher standards. Thus the colonial and native governments and also the mission boards are faced with problems of providing better houses, food, clothing, health, employment, education, and recreation for the native population.

I have come to the conclusion that the only hope for Africa and its people is education along broad lines.

This was evidenced in a statement made by Sir Hubert Stevenson, Governor of Sierra Leone, in his address before a large group of Africans composed of students, soldiers, and civilians celebrating "Empire Day" at Freetown, February 23, 1945, when he said: "When the war is won all must play their part in trying to improve the lot of their fellow men and women. In your schools you have the opportunity of preparing yourselves to play your part by learning how to conquer ignorance, disease, and oppression, and how to serve others."

#### Completes 30,000-mile Trip

We completed our work in West Africa, flew from Sierra Leone to England, and made verbal reports of our findings to the mission boards in London and Edinburgh. (While in London I was fortunate, thanks to the U. S. Army, in seeing two of our children then serving in the armed forces in England and France.) We sailed from Liverpool by boat to New York, landing there March 30, and made a similar report to the North American Mission Board. And so ended the trip of more than 30,000 miles to West Africa.

T. M. Campbell crossing a stream in Liberia on a raft.



## 4-H corn-borer scouts

Five 4-H Club members represented 4-H Clubs of their counties in the corn-borer training schools conducted in Iowa by Harold Gunderson, extension entomologist. The boys were trained in recognizing the European corn borer so they could act as 4-H corn-borer scouts. During the year, they will make three surveys in one field on their farms. The first was made September 15 to determine the population going into the winter. The second will be made in December after corn picking to find out the percentage of borers killed by mechanical pickers, by pasturing with livestock, and by birds. The final one will be made in April of next year to determine the winter mortality. Four farmers in each county took the same training as the boys, and they will survey the corn-borer infestation in each of several hybrids planted in five observation plots on their farms to get data on the relative resistance or tolerance of these varieties to attack by corn borers.

## Livestock conservation day

Livestock conservation days throughout Iowa during March and April wound up the 1944-45 4-H cattle grub control program. Tabulations of the 7 district meetings show that nearly 100,000 cattle have been treated for cattle grubs through the 4-H boys' campaign work.

Reports also show that the cattle grub control work was widespread. More than 2,000 club members were active in the campaign, and at least 500 demonstrations were given. Nearly 25,000 pounds of rotenone dust were sold in Iowa for cattle grub control use.

Iowa packing companies cooperated with the Iowa Extension Service and the State 4-H Clubs in sponsoring the livestock conservation program.

Awards within each district were made to the club in each county with the best cattle grub control program, to the counties within each district showing outstanding accomplishments in cattle grub work, and to the best individual or team demonstrating in each district.



# What is the community made of?

J. DOUGLAS ENSMINGER, In Charge, Rural Sociology Extension Work,  
Federal Extension Service

■ What should you know about the rural community to understand how it works and how to adapt an educational program to its interests and needs?

When working with rural communities you can generally depend on the fact that people are already organized to do what they think needs to be done. Their organization may not be entirely effective, but it is there.

The way people are organized will vary greatly. In some communities the best way to get acceptance of programs is through the informal patterns which are present in every community. In others the church, as it functions in a Spanish-American community, or the local town meeting, as found in New England, may be the medium through which people reach decisions on matters of concern to themselves.

A safe warning would be: Whenever possible, use—do not compete with, these established organizations if you want community cooperation.

## Community Must "Accept" Leaders

Most communities also have a status system. In working with rural communities it is necessary to know what groups there are and the relative importance of each. Frequently the dominant group has no name, no set of officers, no official meetings. The community has its own labels for its groups, such as "the four hundred," "the village people," "the old families," "landowners," "tenants," and the like. In communities where these groupings are present, one's social status is determined by such things as sex, race or nationality, economic dependence, occupation, length of residence, and family background.

If the cooperation of a given group is to be obtained, then positions of local responsibility must fall upon individuals whom the others in the community "accept."

To illustrate, in the usual Pennsylvania community there is little heredi-

tary class structure. In a New England community economic factors, family descent, and long residence make for group differences.

There are accepted ways of obtaining the cooperation of people.

From the point of view of an educator who is seeking to change or influence the thinking and behavior of people toward a new program one must know what pressures the people of the community customarily bring to bear to promote conformity and to lessen nonconformity. In some communities, people resort to gossip, gestures of disapproval or condemnation of nonconforming individuals, and for rewards offer praise, public recognition, and election to office.

## Use Existing Social Controls

In evaluating the importance of social pressure, remember that almost any new organizational effort or program will excite some opposition. By knowing what positive controls operate within the community, you can often counteract or nullify certain negative pressures. Social control is not undemocratic but rather is necessary in every form of social organization.

Your challenge is to recognize and use the desirable means of social control in gaining acceptance for your educational program.

Qualities desired in leaders vary from community to community and even from activity to activity.

Much talk about leadership misses the mark because it assumes that an individual possesses certain so-called "leadership traits" and will automatically function as a leader wherever he may be placed. Our observations in hundreds of communities support the fact that there are no leadership traits that hold good in all communities or in all situations within any one community.

To gain community acceptance, leaders hold the key. Know and work closely with leaders who can obtain acceptance of the people in the educational program.

Every community has its social values. If you know what the people in a given community consider the most important things in life, then you know their social values.

What does this have to do with educational programs? People are going to evaluate educational programs in keeping with their own scale of values. If you represent something the community considers important, then all the weight of tradition and group sentiment will be behind you. If, on the other hand, your educational program has little connection with what they consider important, then you are in for a difficult time. The successful way to approach the community would be to so define your educational program that it would tie in directly with the primary social values of the area.

The values of a certain North Dakota community are security, family status, home relations, religion, neighborliness, education for living, good citizenship, and personal industry. For a certain Idaho community, they are religion, large families, ownership of land, and desire for security.

Be sure in your approach that your educational program is associated with some of the outstanding values of the community in which you wish to work.

## Test plots valuable

Cooperative test plots to check yields and adaptability of forage and grain crops have been established in 60 Iowa counties. Sponsored by the local county extension agent and the Iowa Agricultural Experiment Station, these plots not only provide valuable data for the station but give farmers an opportunity to observe the characteristics of the crops included in the plots.

These demonstration plots are the site of meetings once or twice during the year. This summer, twilight sessions have been popular. Farmers are invited to assemble at 7:30. The county agent, and frequently an agronomist, is present to discuss the characteristics, breeding, and culture of the crops included in the plot and to answer other agronomic questions that arise.



# *We Study Our Job*

## **What is the function of the result demonstration?**

Extension field studies have indicated that approximately 20 percent of the county agricultural agents' time is spent on result demonstrations, and that the direct influence of adult result demonstrations bears a negative rather than a positive relationship to total extension accomplishments.

The county statistical reports present another angle. In 1944, over 29 percent of the counties reporting county agricultural extension work showed no result demonstrations; 13 percent showed result demonstrations but no meetings at such demonstrations; 57 percent showed that they held such meetings; but only 25 percent of the result demonstrations established were used for meeting purposes.

A comparison of figures for the last 3 years with those of the previous 3 years show that the number of counties reporting result demonstrations decreased 25 percent and the percentage reporting meetings at result demonstrations decreased from 74 percent to 57 percent.

The above findings raise the following questions:

1. *When are result demonstrations necessary to the carrying out of the extension program?*
2. *Where result demonstrations are established how should they be used?*
3. *What percentage of the county agricultural agent's time should be devoted to result demonstrations.*

## **Handbook for Extension secretaries**

This publication was intended especially for secretaries in county agents' offices but now is regarded as an exceptionally practical handbook for the use of secretaries in all extension offices and other USDA offices as well.

It was developed as a result of a nationwide study of the home demon-

stration agents' use of time, conducted by Mary L. Collings and reported in the January, March, and July issues of the REVIEW. The study brings out the office management problems of home agents. There has been a frequent turn-over among office workers and the agents need assistance in training secretaries to understand the extension job. It was thought that some help could be given through an office manual.

Credit for the authorship of this secretaries' handbook goes jointly to the USDA Office of Personnel and the Extension Service. To get well-rounded information, Mrs. Audrey Johndreau of the Division of Training, Office of Personnel, visited both State and county professional and clerical staffs. Based on their suggestions, Mrs. Johndreau prepared this manual in cooperation with Miss Collings of the Extension Service.

You will find it interesting and readable. It is as easy to read as, for example, the Farm Journal or the Saturday Evening Post.

## **Readability**

Some extension publications from nearly every State have been tested for readability in the Federal Extension office. In all, more than 2,000 random samples have been analyzed by a readability formula. Half of the samples checked out high school and college levels. About 40 percent were on a reading level that seventh and eighth graders can understand. Less than 10 percent of the samples were readable for people with less than seven grades of schooling.

The type of subject matter seems to influence reading difficulty. Most of the home economics material analyzed checked out easier than the agricultural material. Two-thirds of the samples analyzed in economic publications from 24 States were above the eighth grade level. A study of gardening information from 32 States showed more than half the samples below the eighth grade level.

Five garden publications that checked out from sixth to seventh grade levels are: Connecticut Garden

Primer, Maryland 4-H Garden Primer, Nevada 4-H Club Garden Book, Mississippi Year-Round Home Garden, and North Carolina Garden Guide.

Some other extension publications that checked out very easy are: Raising poultry the 4-H Way, Wisconsin Circular 47; Spot the Loafers in Your Flock—different versions put out by Minnesota, North Carolina and Wisconsin; Mr. Farmer, Can You Use This Boy? Illinois Circular 571; Wartime Shoes, Alabama Circular 278; Making Movements Count in Picking Tomatoes, Indiana Leaflet 258; Suggestions to Peach Pickers, Washington Circular 66; and How to Block and Thin Sugar Beets, Michigan Extension Folder F-82, which was put out in English, Spanish and German editions.

Other States putting out extension publications in different languages are Arizona, Colorado, Indiana, New Mexico, Ohio, and South Dakota.

## **Lay leadership research**

Federal and State extension workers have made many studies of the organization, functions, and effectiveness of local or project leaders and neighborhood leaders in all parts of the country. The most important findings in 57 of these studies have been brought together in Extension Service Circular 428, LAY LEADERSHIP IN THE EXTENSION SERVICE, by Lucinda Crile, Federal Extension Service. Data from the annual statistical reports of county extension workers are also included.

## **4-H demonstration plots**

Four crop variety demonstrations in widely separated parts of Burleigh County, N. Dak., have been planted by 4-H Club members, says Martin Altenburg, county extension agent. The Bismarck Lions Club is cooperating with the 4-H'ers.

Eighteen different varieties of small grains were planted side by side, in 10-foot drill widths, in all the 4-H demonstration plots, according to County Agent Altenburg.



# Labor-saving caravan shows to 60,000 people

■ "My husband just barely waited to get back home before starting to build a labor-saving device he had seen at the labor-saving caravan show."

The exhibits were assembled at Madison by members of the Extension Service under the direction of Arlie Mucks, State supervisor of emergency farm labor. The display was in-



A continuous demonstration of the "One-minute" patch made the homemakers' exhibit a center of interest for both men and women.

This incident reported by a farmer's wife occurred when the family visited the farm and home labor-saving caravan which toured 53 Wisconsin counties early last spring. The caravan of labor-saving devices was employed by the Extension Service as a means of demonstrating ways in which farmers and their wives could save hours of time and back-breaking work.

Every piece of equipment shown in the caravan was a device that could be made at home with materials at hand or with the help of the local blacksmith. Extension specialists accompanied the caravan on its entire tour, giving demonstrations and answering questions.

The interest aroused by the caravan and the benefit derived from the exhibits may be measured to some extent by the fact that 45 Wisconsin counties featured home-made labor-saving devices at their county fairs.

creased at most places by local farmers and their wives who had other handy devices to add to the list. The tour was started with about 100 separate items showing improved devices for such jobs as haying, handling grain, poultry raising, livestock feeding, kitchen and laundry improvements and hints for installation of building improvements. The exhibits were hauled from county to county on trailers and trucks.

The displays in the 53 counties were viewed by more than 60,000 visitors. Local county and home demonstration agents made all local arrangements, planned publicity, assisted with setting up exhibits, arranged for lunch service, provided local leaders to assist with loading and unloading exhibits, putting on demonstrations, answering questions, and getting the participation of farmers and homemakers.

Extension representatives were on

hand to answer questions regarding the labor-saving or safety features of the machinery or devices.

In the heavy machinery section, interest seemed to center around the tractor mounted buck rake, the wood-splitting machine, hay hoist, and barn cleaner.

Among the simpler labor-saving devices which brought many comments were a steel barrel split lengthwise used as a dipping tank, a sack filler using a pail with the bottom cut out, a two-wheeled cart to help in hanging out clothes, a feed cart, a milk can carrier, a sack carrier made out of an old lawn mower, and a home-made lime spreader.

The quick milking demonstration was observed by thousands of enthusiastic farmers from 10 a. m. until afternoon chore time.

Big machines and little gadgets were shown by farmers themselves in every county the caravan visited. Exhibits showing ingenuity of farmers included a home-made wood splitter which split wood any standard stove length just as fast as a man could pile it, a hand saw and sender, a tree cutter that cut 20 trees per hour, an open-end hay wagon rack that would crank half a load of hay to the front after the loader filled the back half, a device for rolling wire on a stone boat, lime and fertilizer sower, electric cellar pump, fence post puller, electric post-hole digger, sheep-dipping tank, stock feeder, and a garden cultivator.

A special section of the exhibit was devoted to ways in which women can save time in the farm home. Exhibits were designed to suggest easier ways of doing four big jobs—laundrying, meal preparation, sewing, and caring for children.

A model of a kitchen cabinet showed a good organization of materials for mixing and baking. A work table on wheels, handy for setting or clearing the table, canning or other kitchen tasks, had a top covered with linoleum.

On the theory that good posture makes work easier, a device for checking proper working heights was demonstrated. Other exhibits included ways of adjusting ironing boards for height and width and of correcting heights of tables and other working surfaces.



Homemakers crowded the sewing center all day where continuous demonstrations were given of methods for putting on a patch by using the sewing machine. Another interesting display for women showed convenient grouping of sewing machine, cutting table, pressing board, and sewing cabinet to bring everything needed within easy reach.

#### Safety Quiz Added Entertainment

A safety quiz program created interest and excitement during different periods throughout the day at every exhibit. Attendants who answered questions correctly received a silver dollar as a prize.

The large number of requests for plans and blueprints for the equipment shown on the caravan indicated the interest in the models displayed. More than 7,000 signed requests for designs, and plans were mailed. About 340 plans for buck rakes were sent out, 316 for hay hoists, 250 for

silage carts, 230 for orchard ladders, and instructions for making laundry carts and other equipment displayed in the homemaking section were sent out.

There were no long speeches and nothing to buy or sell. Farmers were permitted to study equipment at their leisure with the help of extension specialists, homemakers, 4-H Club leaders, Farm Security personnel, vocational agricultural and home economics instructors.

In an editorial entitled "Professors, Take a Bow" a leading State paper made the following comments: . . . "the university's demonstration of labor and time savers . . . ought to remind both town and city folks of the debt they owe to the colleges of agriculture all over America and to the professors and research assistants and field demonstration men. Because of their constant search . . . the depleted manpower on America's farms has been able to keep the Nation's larder from exhaustion."

## Jewell, Lurkins, and Walker retire

■ A total of 76 years of service to Michigan agriculture is represented in the combined careers of three county agricultural agents whose retirements were effective October 1. They are Donald B. Jewell, Benzie County; Harry J. Lurkins, Berrien County; and Lee Roy Walker, Marquette County.

Mr. Jewell has been a county agent for 24 years, having served in Cheboygan, Antrim, Tuscola, Benzie, and Leelanau Counties. He is a graduate of Michigan State College, class of 1901. Before his appointment to the extension staff in 1921, he had taught in an agricultural school in Minnesota and had been a field man for a canning company. Perhaps no other person in the Michigan Extension Service is a greater lover of the out-of-doors, particularly of hunting and fishing. His level-headed ability to appraise a situation objectively and realistically was recently praised by Dr. Floyd Reeves of the University of Chicago, also Michigan State College consultant.

Mr. Lurkins joined the extension staff in 1916 as county agent in Ber-

rien County and served continuously in that county, with the exception of 7 years when he was manager of a Benton Harbor canning company and a St. Joseph fruit cooperative. In commenting on the news of his retirement, an editorial writer of the St. Joseph Herald-Press said: ". . . there are few, if any, agricultural agents in the United States who have a greater understanding and knowledge of farming in all its aspects . . . To Harry Lurkins must go a great share of the credit for Berrien County's position as one of the richest and most productive agricultural areas in the world today." Because of the great storehouse of facts regarding Berrien County that Mr. Lurkin carries in his mind, he has never failed to astonish his friends with his almost uncanny ability to visualize every nook and cranny of the county—even the details of hundreds of farms.

Mr. Walker has the distinction of being the only county agent in Marquette County since the beginning of extension work in the State. His 30 years of continuous service to that county is unique, according to C. V.

Ballard, county agricultural agent leader. Such a record has never been equaled in the history of the Michigan Extension Service. His appointment as county agricultural agent was effective July 1, 1915, just after he had been graduated from Michigan State College. Prior to entering college he taught school for several years and also taught while completing his college work.

To quote Director R. J. Baldwin: ". . . these individuals made 'extension' their life work. They gave many of their active years to the advancement of rural living.

"The occasion brings to mind the early years when the effort was first made to inspire young men and women to embark on extension work as a career. At first many looked upon the new service as a stepping stone to other positions. Some used it as such, later going into teaching, business, farming, homemaking, or other vocations. The average term of service is still relatively short when all records are taken into account.

"However, the histories of these agents who have reached the age of retirement prove that extension work can be made a career and a profession. They have said that their work brought to them great and enduring satisfactions. They have expressed the belief that extension is a profession offering opportunities to know many people intimately and to influence their growth and development. While the first responsibility is to agriculture, they feel that no profession offers greater opportunity to contribute to the advancement of the general welfare.

"The Extension Service extends congratulations to these members who are retiring from official duties. High achievement marks the record of each one throughout many years of faithful, conscientious effort. All who have worked with them will echo the verdict, 'Well done.'"

■ Officers of the American Association of Agricultural College Editors elected to serve during the coming year are: President, L. L. Longsdorf, Kansas; vice president, C. R. Elder, Iowa; secretary-treasurer and editor of the ACE, T. W. Gildersleeve; executive committee members, Marjorie Arbour, Louisiana, and E. H. Rohrbeck, Pennsylvania.





## Extension agents in the armed forces

Nineteen extension workers have made the supreme sacrifice. More than 1,300 extensioners serve their country in the armed forces. These men and women are in many parts of the world and in various branches of the service. Sometimes their experiences are a far cry from those of pre-war days.

### Extension in southwest Pacific

Last spring, Sgt. Evans Banbury and Lt. John B. Hanna, county agents in Sherman and Butler Counties, Kans., respectively, were meeting twice weekly for evening classes somewhere in the Netherlands East Indies.

Sergeant Banbury wrote, May 27, as follows: "John and I go to a couple of classes to have something to do in the evenings. Otherwise, nothing but a few shows and the usual card games are available for amusement. Although both meetings have been interesting, one especially has turned out to be very much worth while. It consists of panel discussions, or more nearly round-table discussions, on various agricultural topics. Some of the topics to which we have devoted a 2-hour discussion are: Livestock production, feeds and the feeding of livestock, crop production, crop rotations, soil conservation practices, farm management, poultry raising and management, forestry land available for homestead, land reclamation, farm insurance, and several others. . .

"John usually acts as chairman, and both of us have taken the main discussion on the panel for several of the topics. Don't get me wrong and think that we furnish the bulk of the information presented, for we have specialists in nearly every line attending. There are SCS men, vocational agriculture teachers, horticulturists, real estate men, insurance salesmen, and many others with practical farm experience who have contributed their

part to the discussions. . . To be able to talk about things in which we are particularly interested and to get away from the regular routine gives us a lot of relaxation."

### Co-ops in France

Recently I had an opportunity to visit and study the operations of a cooperative organization of farmers who produce grapes for wine production. It was of considerable interest to me because of our association with farm cooperatives over a long period of years. LaCave Cooperative de Gaillac, at Gaillac, Tarn Department, was founded in 1903 by the monks of the Abbaye St. Michel and has been operating successfully ever since. This wine cooperative now has 850 members. The juice is pressed from the grapes by Kach members at home and brought to the plant for processing into wine and for cooperative sale of the finished product which is bottled into both natural and sparkling wine. The producer is paid a substantial advance at time of delivery of his juice. The profits from the sale of the crop are eventually divided among the members in proportion to deliveries.

The affairs of the cooperative are administered by a board of 12 members who are elected annually. Of course this board employs a director to handle the plant and the business. To qualify for membership one must own or operate a vineyard and purchase at least one share of stock, with the stock requirement depending on the size of the individual's vineyard.

The Co-op now has 2,800,000 francs of capital stock (50 francs to the dollar) which furnishes adequate money reserves to carry wine stocks for several years for proper aging. The stock usually pays the members 3 percent to 4 percent dividends a year. In order to retain membership in the organization each member is required to deliver a minimum amount of grape juice, depending on the size of his vineyard. The annual capacity of the plant is 100,000 hectoliters, which is some "Oh be joyful."—*Capt. Claude W. Davis, formerly district agent, Louisiana.*

### Calling all clothing specialists

Ens. Paul H. Sindt, York County agent, Nebraska, has written from the Southwest Pacific that he left the States early in November, passed by Pearl Harbor without stopping, past the Johnson Islands, through the Marshalls to Eniwetok, on to the Carolines to Ulithi, and then on to Kossol in the Palau group. He said: "Our port now isn't bad—fairly large and a good beach to go onto. They have an officers' club that is along the beach . . . We should have some of the clothing specialists come down here and attempt to hold a style show among the natives. We don't see them very often, but they come by the ship occasionally in their sail rigs. Their attire runs all the way from nothing up to a full regalia of a big felt hat, GI shirt, and maybe a red skirt, which of course the men wear. The women apparently stay at home most of the time. They really get their money's worth out of a cigarette. One day a bunch came by with what was apparently a community cigarette, for they passed it down the line, each one taking a few drags off it until it had gone to about six or seven of them."



## Grain schools

Seven grain schools conducted in North Dakota the last week in June gave special attention to barley problems, says L. A. Jensen, State agronomist. Grading factors of hard and durum wheats also were taken up.

Cooperating with the Extension Service in conducting the schools were the Northwest Crop Improvement Association and the Federal Grain Supervision Office, Minneapolis. Agronomist Jensen and Dr. F. Gray Butcher, entomologist and plant pathologist, were in charge for the Extension Service, together with local county agents.

Varieties, market grading, diseases, insects, and other problems were discussed and demonstrated. About 50 elevator managers and farmers were in attendance at each school.

## Payment made on postwar house

The Antioch home demonstration club members of Johnson County, Ark., have made another payment on their clubhouse—the one they are going to build after the war, reports Jessie M. Mitchell, county home demonstration agent.

They started their money-making campaign with a "floating bazaar." They donated staple groceries and canned food to fill a basket. This basket was passed from neighbor to neighbor for 2 weeks. Each woman who received the basket took out whatever she wanted, paid for it, and added something from her pantry shelves to the basket. Through these donations, the basket was kept filled, and the housewife who had an extra supply of some food shared with her neighbors. A tin can labeled with a picture of a war bond cut from the cover of a magazine was the money pot in the basket. All items left in the basket were sold at a club meeting for \$2.28. When the can was opened, it contained \$29.18, making a total of \$31.46.

To supplement this amount, the club sponsored a community box supper. Mrs. Robert Stumbaugh auctioned the boxes and set a ceiling price of \$1.50 on them. But the last box became involved in the black market and sold for \$4. The 20 boxes brought \$32.50. After the sale, the box lunches were spread together

for a picnic. Cold drinks sold at the picnic brought \$2.20, and a bingo stand yielded \$5.

The money from the box supper and picnic and the \$31.46 from the floating bazaar made enough, with a slight addition, for the purchase of a \$100 bond.

## 4-H Club stages war bond show

The Shikoma #33 4-H boys and girls of Ramsey County, Minn., staged a radio war bond show at their school. The admission was "Buy a War Stamp"; and everybody—Grandpa and little sister and all the neighbors—came out to see the "radio" folks perform. 4-H'ers played the parts of well-known radio characters; and they did the best show the 4-H Club has ever given, so the old-timers say. Enough war stamps were bought to exchange for a \$25 war bond which the club is adding to its post-war treasury. This treasury already includes several bonds obtained through club benefit programs.

Mrs. Victor Fitch is chairman of the 4-H leaders' committee. She has been leader at Shikoma for 19 years, having previously been a 4-H leader at Gladstone. Other 4-H leaders are Mrs. J. Tucci, Mrs. A. J. Linda, Mrs. Harry Belchere, Mrs. R. O. Holmberg, and Mrs. Peter Buesing.

The Shikoma 4-H Club has never been reorganized in 19 years and boasts a very large alumni 4-H group, with a large number of 4-H'ers in the armed forces. Such things as the war bond show and the numerous programs of service to the community and to themselves have kept the Shikoma 4-H Club way out in front.

Mrs. Fitch was recently proclaimed "The Woman of the Week" on the Star Spangled Action Radio Program on WMIN in recognition of her devoted service to youth and to the community.

## 4-H Clubs study forest acre

"You can eat your cake and have it, too," said J. J. Carruth, of Summit, Pike County, Miss., when 200 4-H Club boys and girls attended a timber-cutting demonstration on his woodland. Mr. Carruth "ate the cake" when he selectively cut his

timber and got more cash for it than he had been offered for all the trees together. But the cash gain is only part of the story. Instead of the destroyed forest he would have had by clear-cutting his woodland, he has a fine growing stand of timber left after the selective cutting. Sixty percent of the trees are still standing and are growing better because the ax was laid to 40 percent. Mr. Carruth left an acre on the highway as a demonstration plot, and 4-H Club boys and girls of Pike and Lincoln Counties were invited there for a lesson in good cutting practices, under the direction of County Agent James H. Price.

## What farmers want to buy

About one farmer in four is looking forward to the time when he can buy a tractor or some other piece of farm machinery, according to answers of representative farmers in a recent survey made by the U. S. Department of Agriculture. Almost as many expect to buy automobiles or trucks with some of their war-time savings.

Next to new machinery, the farmers said they want new home furnishings, improvements to the farm home and other buildings, and electric current and equipment. Some who do not own farms said they intend to buy land.

## Leaders' council takes charge

The Los Angeles County 4-H Club Camp last summer, in the San Bernardino Mountains, was in charge of the County 4-H Leaders' Council, which took actual control of all activities. With 280 boys and girls and their leaders there, it was a big job, reports Arthur Barton, in charge of 4-H Club work in the county; but it has proved of great value in developing ability in leadership. Recreation activities were built around a phase of the club program that is a part of every club meeting throughout the year. The practical training given can readily be used by the leader in his own club. Instruction is also given in forestry, nature study, swimming, farm safety, and handicraft.





# Flashes

## FROM SCIENCE FRONTIERS

A few hints of what's in the offing as a result of scientific research in the U. S. Department of Agriculture that may be of interest to extension workers, as seen by Marion Julia Drown, Agricultural Research Administration, U. S. Department of Agriculture.

■ **Rewards for scientists.** Many scientists toil unrewarded in their laboratories year after year; and it is heartening to know that once in a while public recognition, and even cash prizes, come their way. The City of Philadelphia has awarded the John Scott Medal to Lyle D. Goodhue, chemist in the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, and William N. Sullivan, former bureau entomologist, now Captain, U. S. Army. The joint award, consisting of a copper medal and a premium of \$1,000, was in recognition of their work in developing insecticidal aerosols.

John Scott, a chemist of Edinburgh, Scotland, in 1816 bequeathed to the City of Philadelphia the sum of \$4,000, the income of which was to be "laid out in premiums to be distributed among ingenious men and women who make useful inventions." This is the eighty-ninth award made since 1920 for inventions in the development of chemical, medical, or other science or of industry, the test being that it may add to the comfort, welfare, and happiness of mankind. Recipients include Mme. Marie Curie (1921) for the discovery of radium, Orville Wright (1925) for the development of flying machines, Thomas A. Edison (1929) for numerous inventions, and Sir Alexander Fleming (1944) for the discovery of penicillin. This is the first time the award has been made for an invention relating to insect control. It indicates both the value of the discovery and the wide interest in insect-control problems.

The aerosol "bomb", now well known as a dispenser of insecticides in liquefied gas that becomes a fine mist or fog when released, has been of great value in protecting allied troops from annoying insect pests and in reducing the incidence of insect-borne diseases. By the close of the war, more than 35 million aerosol bombs had been supplied to the armed

forces. Improvements are still being made, and the aerosol method of applying insecticides is expected eventually to become available for some civilian uses.

■ **Rogues' gallery of parasites.** Would you like to know what parasite is making your livestock or your pet animal sick? You can find everything but its telephone number in the directory of 100,000 kinds of animal parasites known as the Index-Catalogue of Medical and Veterinary Zoology. This is a card catalog kept at the Bureau of Animal Industry's zoological laboratory at the Agricultural Research Center, Beltsville, Md. It was started more than 50 years ago and is still growing as science learns more about parasites and methods to control them. The catalog now includes more than 1,047,600 entries in 3 main sections, one for the parasites themselves, one for the host animals, and one for the scientists who reported their observations.

A person wishing to identify a parasite from any part of the world and knowing the host goes to the host section of the catalog to see what parasites have been reported for that host. He then searches the parasite section for descriptions and illustrations to help him identify the parasite in question. In this section will be found: Name of parasite, name of host, location within host, locality in which host was found, name of author of paper reporting parasite, date of publication, and pages where the account appears. The combined references are based partly on reports appearing in about 8,000 publications printed in 33 languages and partly on information and specimens obtained by correspondence or original research.

The catalog is a good working tool that saves many hours of labor by

showing quickly what is known in this branch of science.

■ **Victories in another war.** The battle against leaf and stem rust of wheat has been going on continuously for more than 40 years. Some important victories have been won along the way. New wheat varieties have been developed, largely by the U. S. Department of Agriculture and the State agricultural experiment stations, that are in varying degrees resistant to leaf and stem rust. The 1944 crop of hard red spring wheat was about 100 million bushels larger because of the distribution of these varieties to farmers since World War I. During the 4 years of World War II, about 300 million additional bushels of wheat were produced owing to use of the new varieties. To this increase may be added the equivalent of 25 million bushels, the estimated additional amount of flour obtained from the new varieties because of their higher average test weight.

The first notable contribution to wheat improvement was the introduction from Canada of the variety Marquis and its extensive use by farmers. Marquis wheat is not significantly resistant to the rusts, but it ripened early as compared with the varieties it displaced, and thereby escaped much of the damage from rust. The distribution of Ceres in 1924, of Thatcher in 1934, and of Rival and Pilot in 1939 were all important advances, as these wheats not only were early but were also resistant to one or more of the rusts. In 1941 Thatcher was grown on about 12 million acres, but because of its susceptibility to leaf rust it has been mostly replaced by Rival, Pilot, and other varieties. At the present time less than 2 million of the 17 million acres in hard red spring wheat areas are planted to the old susceptible varieties. Three new varieties, Mida, Newthatch, and Henry, were released in 1944 for distribution to farmers and are expected to further reduce losses from these diseases.

■ **Sweater girl.** A very fetching one adorns the cover of a new publication of the Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics. The title is "Knitwear Make-Overs," and the number is U. S. Department of Agriculture Miscellaneous Publication 575.



# Among Ourselves

■ MRS. THEODOSIA D. PLOWDEN, South Carolina district home demonstration agent, resigned August 1, 1945, after 27 years of service.

She began work during World War I as an emergency agent in Clarendon County where she later served as home agent. In 1921 Mrs. Plowden became district agent for the Pee Dee section of South Carolina. In this position she made many valuable contributions to the rural life of South Carolina.

In addition to carrying on her regular duties of supervising 15 counties, Mrs. Plowden developed the home demonstration, 4-H, and community music project. She is a firm advocate of good music in the home, church and community. As a result, every home demonstration and 4-H Club in South Carolina includes music in all programs. Her music plans have had far-reaching results, not only in South Carolina, but numbers of other States have used these plans.

Mrs. Plowden is living with her husband and mother at their ancestral country home, "Marston," in the old Statesburg community, Sumter, S. C., R. F. D. 3, where she is continuing a busy life filled with home and community activities.

■ O. M. PLUMMER, manager of the Pacific International Livestock Exposition for 36 years and an enthusiastic supporter of 4-H Club work during practically all that time, died August 5. Older members who exhibited at the Pacific International and attended 4-H Camp Plummer knew him to be always rooting for the under dog. He would be found talking to the boys or girls whose animals were at the bottom of the class, giving them bits of advice and encouragement. He was a man with a great respect for 4-H Club members and their work, and he will be missed in 4-H Club circles.

■ MARY LOUISE RYE, former home demonstration agent and acting district agent in northwest Arkansas, on leave of absence from Arkansas to take advantage of a General Education Board fellowship, visited the

Washington office between summer and fall terms at Columbia University where she is studying. Miss Rye spent a couple of weeks in September helping with a study of home demonstration work in Massachusetts. Her work at Teachers College, Columbia University, is in the fields of rural social organization and adult education. The fellowship, available to extension supervisors or prospective supervisory agents in the South, was held last year by Lucy Blake, now home demonstration agent-at-large in Virginia, and Lois Scantland, district home demonstration agent in Arkansas.

■ JULIA STEBBINS, the popular and beloved home demonstration agent of Greenville County, S. C., retired from service August 15, 1945, due to the injury and illness of her mother.

Miss Stebbins has a long, valuable record of public service. She taught school in her native State of Virginia; served as home demonstration agent in Virginia and Arkansas; government clerk in Washington during World War I; agent in Colleton County, S. C.; assistant extension marketing specialist; operator of a tea room in Gastonia, N. C.; and agent in Greenville County, S. C.

She was home demonstration agent in Greenville County from 1925 to the date of her retirement, thus completing 20 years of unselfish and valuable service as a county public agent. Her love for people and her sympathetic understanding of their problems endeared her to both the rural and urban population of the county.

During Miss Stebbins' last 12 years in Greenville County, she assisted in training eight assistant agents, a number of whom are holding county home demonstration agent positions in the State. There again she demonstrated her love of young people and her sympathetic understanding of difficulties confronting them in assuming new duties.

■ WILKIE L. HARPER, secretary of the Iowa State College Agricultural Extension Service since 1920, and an employee of Iowa State College since



Wilkie L. Harper

1911, has resigned, effective August 25, to retire to a farm near Green Forest, Ark.

Harper's first job with the Extension Service was as property man, chart maker, and mimeograph operator. In 1913, he was put in charge of the college printing room. In 1916, he went to the Mexican border with the Iowa National Guard, and within a month of his return he was back in the service, this time to see duty in World War I. He was discharged June 21, 1919, with the rating of master sergeant.

Returning to Iowa State College, he became acting secretary and soon thereafter secretary of the Extension Service. His work included supervision of the stenographic force, the booking of the extension staff, and the dispatching of departmental cars.

Since 1928, the year when the Iowa Extension Service acquired its first car, it has owned 98 vehicles. Keeping these cars on the road became Harper's chief headache during the last few years. Wartime demand for specialist help, reluctance of individuals to drive their personal cars, tire shortages, and mounting miles, added to the difficulty.



# The once-over

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

THE NATIONAL OUTLOOK CONFERENCE, scheduled for December 3 to 7, will bring to Washington about 135 farm and home management specialists from almost all States and Puerto Rico. The Bureau of Agricultural Economics and the Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics are assembling all available facts on the outlook for agriculture and farm family living for the coming year to present to the State representatives. Speakers will include prominent officials from the Office of War Mobilization and Reconversion, the Federal Reserve Board, and other Government agencies, as well as high-ranking economists and officials of the Department of Agriculture.

ANOTHER DECEMBER MEETING is the 4-H Club Congress, scheduled for December 2 to 6. One feature will be consideration of the 10 guideposts for expansion of the 4-H Club program in the future. This platform was worked out by a committee of State and Federal 4-H Club leaders, who have met from time to time since the last Congress. If the 10 points are adopted by the leaders in Chicago, they will serve as a basis for developing 4-H Club programs in the coming year.

A DRIVE FOR BETTER HOUSING gets under way. News of training meetings for extension workers has come in from Alabama, Arkansas, Minnesota, Montana, and North Carolina. A feature of the North Carolina meetings was the use of room and equipment cut-outs on a master plan, taught by D. S. Weaver, the agricultural engineer. He said this was a substitute for the drawing board, T square, pencil, and eraser of the architect. Both county agents and home demonstration agents thought the device would be useful to farm families.

FARM AND HOME WEEKS in Indiana and North Dakota are featuring a housing session. A housing workshop for couples definitely planning to build houses is being held in Arkansas. Couples come in for 2½

days and learn construction principles, the laying of native stone and logs, as well as the planning of a home to suit their own needs. A 2-day short course for couples planning to build is also planned in Indiana.

A REMODELING CONFERENCE for New England State extension workers, including agricultural engineers and home management specialists, met in Boston October 31 to November 3. The economics of the rural housing situation, new materials and methods, heating systems, installing bathrooms and rural electrification problems were some of the subjects discussed.

SPECIAL AGENT FOR DEAF FARMERS in North Carolina. O. W. Underhill recently arranged a demonstration program on food preservation in Buncombe County put on by the county agent and the home demonstration agent. An interpreter was found in an Army man stationed nearby whose parents were deaf. The women were so much interested that they asked for a home demonstration club. There proved to be 20 deaf homemakers in the county to join the new club, and they themselves found a woman who will join as interpreter.

THE FIRST SESSION of the conference of the Food and Agriculture

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## EXTENSION SERVICE REVIEW

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Organization of the United Nations opened at Quebec, Canada, October 16. The delegation was headed by Secretary Anderson with Director M. L. Wilson advising on the assistance extension work can give in the development of better agriculture and a better food supply.

21 CHINESE STUDENTS are getting their first taste of the life of a county agent's assistant in Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Ohio, Oregon, Wisconsin, and Texas. After 3 months of practical experience in local extension offices, they will reassemble at Ames, Iowa, for some more formal classes on extension methods and philosophy.

A PROGRAM FOR SOUTHERN AGRICULTURE, including the fitting of cotton into balanced farming in the postwar world, has been developing for some time and was further crystallized at the recent meetings of southern directors in Atlanta. In line with the Land-Grant College Committee on postwar plans and the presentation made by Under Secretary J. B. Hutson at the meeting, the directors agreed on an educational program to give all the facts on the economic situation, as well as continuing education for efficient production. The directors wrote: "We believe that it is only on the basis of a well-informed rural citizenry that sound agricultural policies evolve." A seven-step program for more efficient production will be a part of the broader program.

THE 8-POINT DAIRY PROGRAM is taking on new steam this fall. A national multilithed circular has been prepared for the use of the States and is being made available in limited quantities. Among the interesting new materials to be ready sometime this month is a series of eight radio transcriptions of 15 minutes each for release to radio stations by the State extension editor.

THE EXCELLENT COOPERATION between Indiana veterinarians and extension workers was featured in an article by a veterinarian, Dr. York, in the Bio-Chemic Review. He cites the example of County Agent Emerson of White County.