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AUG 7 1937

U. S. Department of Agriculture

4-H CLUB WORK TAKES ITS PLACE IN THE COMMUNITY

A radio talk by Mr. C. E. Potter, U. S. Department of Agriculture, delivered in the National 4-H Club Radio Program, August 7, 1937, and broadcast by a network of 77 associate NBC radio stations.

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The 4-H club members from the State of New York have pictured for you ** how the 4-H clubs take their place in the community. A guiding principle in program development for the 4-H clubs is that by cooperation with their elders young people can improve rural life.** Here's an illustration of how the 4-H boys in Georgia have gone about conserving the farm income. With their parents, local club leaders and county extension agents, the boys surveyed the horse and mule situation. They learned that Georgia farmers were sending \$5,000,000 out of the State each year for farm workstock. Wouldn't it be good economy, *** someone asked, for the farm to produce its own workstock and keep this money at home? To meet this situation, ** the boys talked the matter over with their parents, ** bankers were asked for their opinion, ** and the State College of Agriculture was consulted. As a result 500 Georgia boys have purchased good brood mares. At their club meetings, those boys are discussing methods of feeding, breeding and management of their animals. A colt show is to be arranged and the 4-H club members will exhibit their best colts.

Furnishing library service, ** was the job tackled by the Indian Trail 4-H Club in Northampton County, Pennsylvania. The club made arrangements with the Traveling Library Association to borrow 50 books each month. The club pays the express on the books and is responsible for the circulation throughout the neighborhood. Two club members were sent to a library in a large city to receive instructions on the best methods of handling the books.

What kind of trees will add beauty to our farmsteads and at the same time grow during periods of scant rainfall? That is a question confronting many 4-H club members living in the Great Plains area. The members of seventy-five 4-H clubs in Nebraska ** planted on their farms last year 60,000 drought resisting trees. Neighbors and friends can observe these demonstrations. In addition, the clubs have organized demonstration teams which show the general public the methods which the club members are using.

The 4-H clubs of Mineral County, West Virginia adopted the slogan "Be your own best exhibit" as a part of their health program. These young people began to ask "What, if any, physical defects do I have, and how may they be corrected?" "What can I do to prevent the spread of disease in my community?" The answers came when parents, club leaders, young people, public health officials and doctors devised a plan for giving each 4-H club member a physical examination. The health committee of each 4-H club keeps a record of the recommendations made by the examining physician and checks the improvement made by each member of the club.

When young people have the experience of participating in activities for the public welfare, ** they develop an understanding of the part that

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individuals and groups can play in the general welfare of the community. Here's an example from Massachusetts: The tent caterpillars play havoc with the trees on the farms, in the towns, ** and along the highways. Each spring the 4-H clubs conduct a campaign for the destruction of tent caterpillar egg clusters. Last spring ** over 1,300,000 of these egg clusters were destroyed in the campaign.

In Montana, 4-H beef club members are adding to the farm income by combining the good quality beef animals, produced on the ranges with the high quality hay and grain grown in the irrigated valleys. For many years it was the practice to send the feeder calves to the cornbelt to be fattened. Now ** the 4-H beef club members in Montana know that they can feed their own hay and grain to their own feeder calves and produce a product that will meet the requirements of the large cattle markets.

Illustrations similar to these can be found in every community where there is a 4-H club. The 70,000 clubs with 1,200,000 members, guided and directed by volunteer leaders, sponsored and backed by the people of the community, furnishes an outstanding example of modern education in a democracy.

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