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A N N U A L R E P O R T

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WAUPACA
COUNTY
AGRICULTURAL
AGENT

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1934

Agricultural Committee

L. W. Eastling, Manawa, Chairman

H. P. Lea, Iola
Rob't Ferg, Manawa

Wm. A. Kramer, Fremont
Carl Bacher, Waupaca

ANNUAL REPORT OF WAUPACA COUNTY AGRICULTURAL AGENT

1934

I am pleased to submit the following report of County Agricultural Extension Work in Waupaca County for the period of January 1, 1934 to November 1, 1934:

At the beginning of the year your Agricultural Committee met with a representative of the College of Agriculture and outlined the County Agent's program for the coming year.

The following projects were included: Drought Feed and Seed Relief, Corn-Hog Program, Freight Rate Reduction, Emergency Crops, Farm Credit, 4-H Club, and other additional work that might develop.

Other work that was later included was Grasshopper and Army Worm Control, State Fair Exhibit, Forestry, Bang's Disease Control, Marl and Lime Projects, and Home Economics.

Feed and Seed Relief

Much of the work at the beginning was that of an emergency nature. Early in the year, in the neighborhood of 1000 farmers made applications for Feed Loans through this office.

Later, Government Seed Loans and Drought Relief Seed Loans were made available. Due to the extremely dry weather in the spring and early summer, considerable feed relief was necessary during a good share of the growing season.

This work was carried on in cooperation with the Drought Relief Committee and the County Director of Relief.

Data on Seed and Feed Relief

- 1,466 farmers filed applications for feed and seed relief.
- \$159,587 worth of feed relief was issued.
- \$20,272 in seed relief was issued.
- 210 Government Seed Loan applications were received totaling \$7,787.89.
- 1,741 applications for Freight Reduction were received.

Corn-Hog Program

Three hundred and seventy-three farmers signed Corn-Hog contracts. Fifteen temporary Corn-Hog committeemen were appointed by the County Agricultural Committee, three of which were to serve in each of the five districts to help farmers become acquainted with the program and assist with the sign-up.

Educational meetings were held in each district and the sign-up completed. Later permanent committeemen were elected by those who signed Corn-Hog contracts. A Board of Directors and Allotment Committee were selected by Corn-Hog signers which officers had charge of the administration of the Corn-Hog program.

Your County Agent acted as Secretary and took charge of the office work in connection with the program.

Of the total of \$37,829.00 benefit payments that were available, to date \$15,322.00 has already been paid. Another payment is due now as soon as the Compliance Reports are accepted.

At meetings held a short time ago 83% of the Corn-Hog signers attending indicated that they favored continuing the program for at least another year.

According to the latest information available, another program is to be offered for 1935.

Marl and Limo

Marl and ground limestone is being made available to County farmers for liming purposes. At the present five marl excavators are in operation. These machines will be moved to new locations as soon as sufficient marl is dug to supply the orders in the respective communities.

Two lime pulverizing machines are in operation in the area where lime rock is found.

It is hoped that this project can be continued long enough to make sufficient liming material available to supply the present needs. About 5000 yards of marl and 500 tons of limestone have already been made available.

Ernie Smith has been secured as Lime and Marl Supervisor without cost to the County.

Bang's Disease Control

Waupaca County has the distinction of being one of the first Counties in Wisconsin to appropriate money to aid in the control of Bang's Disease.

In the past session of Congress an appropriation was made to further aid dairymen in the clean up on this disease. Cattle owners who have herds tested in this program are paid up to \$20.00 indemnity for grade reactors and \$50.00 for purebreds. The tests are made with no charge to cattle owners.

Through circular letters and meetings the provisions of this testing program has been explained to County cattle owners. At the present 575 applications have been received.

The testing is now underway.

Forestry

A number of areas in Waupaca County are well suited for reforestation. In addition, protection needs to be provided the cultivated light soil areas in the County against damaging winds.

Through arrangements with the Wisconsin Conservation Department trees are to be provided for the light soil areas for Waupaca County for shelter belt and windbreak planting. A survey to determine the needs and the location of the plantings is now underway.

It is expected that this planting program will take several years to complete.

Insect Control

Early in the season several outbreaks of army worms were reported. In a few instances poisoned bran was used to check their spread, but in most cases the injury was slight and they disappeared due to natural enemies and other causes.

Grasshoppers were present in a number of townships in sufficient numbers to be serious crop pests.

Through the cooperation of the State and the United States Departments of Agriculture poisoned bait and liquid poison was secured to combat these pests.

Two carloads of poison bran and 1000 gallons of sodium arsenate were shipped into the County for distribution to the infested areas of the County.

Farm Credit

Refinancing of farm indebtedness together with the securing of adequate credit at a low rate of interest is one of the major farm problems.

Assistance was given in the organizing of the local Production Credit Association which is now supplying short time credit to farmers. These credit associations are under the supervision of the Farm Credit Administration.

In cooperation with the Clintonville National Farm Loan Association farmers were assisted in making applications totaling \$189,700.00 to refinance farm mortgages and other indebtedness. Many office calls were received by others inquiring about the various phases of farm real estate and chattel loans.

State Fair Exhibit

Assistance was given the State Fair committee in setting up their booth at the State Fair.

During the past two years the County Booth has been of a different type. That is, it has featured one of the County resources rather than just a display.

Waupaca County placed 5th in competition against 11 other Counties setting up this type of an exhibit.

Home Economics

Due to a number of requests from farm women for Home Economics extension work, arrangements have been made with the College of Agriculture to have a Home Economics specialist come to the County to meet with farm women at regular intervals.

The necessary organization is now being completed and regular meetings are being planned at Royalton, Iola, and Northland.

Leaders selected by Womens' Organizations will meet with the specialist at these centers. After each meeting the leaders will present this subject matter and give the demonstrations to the members of their organizations.

This service is secured at no extra charge to the County. It is expected as the work develops, new centers will be organized.

4-H Club

Agricultural extension with boys and girls under 21 years of age, which usually involves nearly all of the County Agent projects, is termed 4-H Club work.

In this project a local and a County organization is set up. Adult persons, in addition many of the older club members, serve as local loaders and have charge of the administration of the various activities in their respective communities.

The training these young people receive in organization and in better methods cannot be overestimated. On October 27 the County 4-H Achievement Day was hold and the club members who completed their year's work were recognized as Achievement Mombors.

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The above program was carried out through office calls, circular letters, meetings, farm visits, news articles, and through cooperating individuals, committees, and other organizations. This office is deeply indobted to these many men, women, boys and girls and organizations for their cooperation.

Additional Data From Office Records

- 6,268 individuals called at the County Agent's Office.
- 1,815 personal letters were written.
- 10,731 circular letters were sent out.
- 6,397 miles were traveled.
- 66 news articles were published.

Plans for the Coming Year

Feed and Seed Relief: Even though there were good rains to supply moisture to make a good corn crop, the hay and grain crops were short. Continued relief will be needed. The amount of relief that can be given will be entirely dependent upon the amount of State and Federal Aid that can be secured.

Adjustment Programs: Assurances have been given that there will be another Corn-Hog program. In addition there will be a Sugar Beet program that will soon be launched. Other kinds of adjustment programs are probable.

Forestry: The forestry program that is just beginning will no doubt need continuous attention.

Marl and Lime: Marl digging and lime grinding work will no doubt continue through a good share of the winter or as long as the weather permits.

Insect Control: Weather conditions next spring and summer will have a big influence upon the number of grasshoppers that will be present. Egg counts made in the County by representatives of the State Department of Agriculture reveal that eggs are present in much increased numbers over last year.

Home Economics: Efforts will be made to secure Home Economics specialists from the College to continue the meetings with farm women.

4-H Club: Club work will be continued and organized in new communities where requests are being made.

Other projects and various kinds of work will no doubt come up that will need attention.

The County Agent's Office will be in a position to keep in touch with things of an agricultural nature that appear and will secure for Waupaca County the full benefits of the opportunities that may arise.