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Fourth annual report, St. Croix Co. Agricultural Extension Service: Nov. 1, 1940--Oct. 31, 1941. 1941

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FOURTH ANNUAL REPORT

**ST. CROIX CO.
AGRICULTURAL
EXTENSION
SERVICE**

NOV. 1, 1940 - OCT. 31, 1941

**CLIFFORD H. NELSON
COUNTY AGRICULTURAL AGENT
BALDWIN, WISCONSIN**

AGRICULTURAL COMMITTEE

WALTER KARNES, Spring Valley LOUIS DRAXLER, Glenwood City

EARL BUSHEY, Cylon CECIL HEEBINK, Baldwin

R. J. SORENSEN, Hammond

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ST. CROIX COUNTY EXTENSION PROGRAM FOR 1941

The following program of work has been adopted jointly for St. Croix county for 1941 by the county agricultural committee, county extension agent and extension supervisor.

<u>MAJOR PROBLEMS</u>	<u>PHASES OF WORK</u>	<u>GOALS</u>
1. Youth	4-H Club Work	500 members - 32 clubs 75% achievement - Achievement Day Summer Camp - 4-H Club Fair. Special effort on development of leadership
2. Erosion and Soil Fertility	Soil Improvement and Erosion Control	District office in St. Croix Co. Continue lime program 400 soil testing - farms 20 meetings on commer- cial fertilizers. 20 educational meetings on control practices - strip cropping, pasture improvement. 20 demon- strations on fertilizers Plots
3. Economical Product- ion of Milk	Dairy Cattle Improve- ment with following goals	Maintain 4½ DHIA's Ed. phases of Bang's program countywide. Ed. and promotion of better sires. Bull sale. 200 owner-samplers CTA mem- bers. Ed. phases of Quality Milk Program.

OTHER WORK:

Rat Control
Home Economics work
Insect Pest Control
Poultry Improvement
Cooperative Marketing
Livestock Improvement
Weed Control
Farm Management

Approved: B.H. Rusy
Extension Supervisor

Signed: E. P. Miller
Chairman of Agric. Committee

Extension Supervisor

C. H. Nelson
Agricultural Agent

Date: October 17, 1940

1941 ANNUAL REPORT

This narrative report is to be a resume of the activities carried on by your County Agricultural Agent under the direction of your County Agricultural Committee in cooperation with the State and Federal extension service. On page 2 you have seen the program of work of 1940-41 as outlined by the County Agricultural Committee for your County Agent. This program of work has served to direct my activities during the past twelve months. As you will notice, certain goals have been set up; most of these goals have been reached. At the time this program was written on October 17, 1940, indications were that all of the goals would be reached during the year. However, conditions arose which made it virtually impossible to obtain all of the goals set forth by the program of work.

4-H CLUB WORK

393 St. Croix county farm boys and girls were enrolled in our club program during 1941. The principal projects carried by the club members included dairy calf work, clothing, food preservation, foods and nutritions, and garden project. Other projects were participated in by smaller numbers.

National Club Congress

As a reward for being the outstanding club member in St. Croix county in 1940, Pearl Marty of the Worthwhile Club in the town of St. Joseph, was awarded a free trip to Chicago in December to the National 4-H Club Congress. This trip is one which is much sought after by club members in all counties. This trip proved a real experience for Pearl, and she has brought back to club work some very fine experiences encountered on the trip.

State Club Camp

The annual State 4-H Club Camp was held at the College of Agriculture Campus at Madison. Six delegates, accompanied by Miss Snoeyenbos, Summer Club leader, attended the conference from St. Croix county. The delegates were: Margaret Brown, Betty Schafer, Marion Sontag, Pearl Marty, Frances Jagg, and Janette McPhetres. This Camp is sponsored primarily for older club members and Junior leaders, and we were glad to have the group attend for St. Croix county so they might bring back to our clubs many of the things they learned while at State Camp.

4-H PICNIC

Our annual 4-H picnic was held at the Glen Park at River Falls on July 10. This was a joint picnic with 4-H club members from Pierce county. Over 700 club members, leaders, parents, and friends from the two counties attended. A full program was arranged, including crops judging, training work on clothing, handicraft, songs, stunts, and swimming. The Dairy Queen contest was conducted at this picnic, and Miss Ruth TeBeest of Baldwin was declared the Dairy Queen for 1941. Her two attendants were Miss Frances

Jagg from the town of St. Joseph, and Miss Kathleen Ryan from the town of Troy.

The business men of the city of River Falls cooperated splendidly in helping make this an enjoyable day, not only in giving us the facilities of their fine park, but by contributing a large part of the dinner and supper, and helping prepare and serve these meals. This certainly was a fine gesture on their part and was appreciated by all who participated in the day's activities. Prizes for the various contests were also furnished by these same business men. Mr. Varney and Miss Amundson, assistant state club leaders, assisted us with the program for the day.

4-H Round-Up

The annual 4-H round-up was held in connection with the Glenwood Fair August 11, 12, and 13. The round-up is the one chance the 4-H members have of putting on public display the results of their project work. Over 200 club members exhibited their various phases of project work in the club department, winning a total of \$600 in premium money. Forty club members took advantage of the facilities which we provided for them and ate their meals at our camp dining hall and slept at the dormitories. This arrangement always meets with the approval of the parents because they have the assurance that their boys and girls are getting a well-balanced diet and are properly housed and chaperoned. While the 4-H round-up is not the only incentive for club work, it certainly helps promote club work because club members have a chance to display their project work so that the public might see it, and also have a chance to win some premium money for work well done.

Wisconsin State Fair

The following people represented St. Croix county at the 1941 State Fair: Mary Simpson, Foods and Nutrition Judging; Shirley Schnitzler, Foods and Nutrition Judging; Betty Holman, Clothing Judging; Pat Caldwell, Crops Judging; Billy Gavin, Crops Judging; Ruth TeBeest, Lairy Queen; Lola Marshall, Food Preservation Judging; Miriam TeBeest, Style Revue; Maxine Brandt, Dairy Products Judging; Margaret Brown, Dairy Products Judging; Pearl Marty, Demonstrator; Norman Hill, Livestock Judging; Frank Slama, Livestock Judging; Warren Wasson, Dairy Cattle Judging; John Hawkins, Dairy Cattle Judging; Charles Dow, Poultry Judging; and Billy Enloe, Poultry Judging.

The State Fair serves a real need in the life of youth activities because here club members have a chance to see the best project work of the State on display. It helps to set the pace for the State and encourage club members within the county to strive for the quality of exhibit reached at the State Fair.

River Falls 4-H Festival

The City of River Falls sponsored a 4-H calf club exhibit on August 15. This was in connection with their annual Fall Festival and Homecoming program. Several club members from the Hudson and River Falls area participated in this festival, and were well rewarded for their efforts.

Poultry and Grain Show

Several 4-H Club members participated in the Poultry and Grain Show held at River Falls January 21 and 22. This event, which was sponsored by the business men of River Falls, made it possible for our club members in that trade area to participate in the activities there. While our members were competing with members from Pierce county, their winnings were equal to those of Pierce county and the educational value of this show was hard to measure. Many of the club members who took part in the exhibiting also had a chance to take part in the educational work carried on in connection with the show.

Junior Livestock Show at Menomonie

The first Northwest Wisconsin Junior Livestock Show was held at the Dunn County Fair grounds at Menomonie September 15, 16, and 17. This show was inaugurated to keep pace with the increased interest in fat stock project work in northwestern Wisconsin. Because of a favorable fat stock market in recent years, and because of the increased yields of matured corn through the use of hybrid seed, the fat stock project has gained considerable momentum during the past few years. This Livestock Show was sponsored jointly by the Wisconsin Livestock Breeders' Association, the College of Agriculture, and fifteen northwest Wisconsin counties. This county was represented at the Show by Anita Stork, Leon Stork, Kenneth Geurkink, Pat Caldwell, Robert Ash, and Donald Braun. At the conclusion of the show the animals were sold at public auction. The packing industry purchased most of these animals and contributed much to the success of the show and sale.

4-H Achievement Day

The annual 4-H achievement program was held at the Hammond Community Hall Saturday, October 11. Achievement pins were awarded to 218 4-H club members. This means that 55% of those club members who started the club year actually carried through and completed their projects. This probably is one of the lowest achievement percentages we have had for many years in this county. We used the same yardstick as we always have in determining those club members who were eligible for achievement. Mr. Varney, assistant state club leader, was the principal speaker at the program, which was also participated in by a number of our club members who gave short talks and entertainment numbers.

4-H Goals

The purpose of a 4-H program should be to help teach rural boys and girls more of the fundamentals of farm and home life. Any educational work should be in the interests of promoting better methods so that our boys and girls can and will learn to do farm and home work a little better so that as they grow up they might share in more community activities which will in turn help them to live a fuller and richer life. The project work which we carry on is, at the best, a device by which this end might be reached. We appreciate that many times a club member is carrying a project in which she or he will have no real interest. If the project will serve as a guide in helping a boy or girl to develop a keener int-

erest in the farm and farm life, then the project work is justified.

A sound 4-H program should be well-balanced to the extent that it will have an appeal for every rural boy or girl between the ages of ten and twenty-one. The program should be made attractive enough so that the boys and girls are actively seeking membership in the organization rather than the organization having to go and solicit membership as we have had to do in the past.

It is my sincere hope that the day might come in the near future when seven to eight hundred rural boys and girls in St. Croix county might be taking part in the 4-H program. While this number may seem large, it means only about forty members in each township, which certainly isn't too many. Even then we would be reaching only a relatively small percentage of the boys and girls who are eligible for our club program. The success of our club program depends largely upon the interest shown by our adult leaders. Their sound judgment in program planning should be considered in helping to plan the club activities for the county. The fine contribution that the adult leaders have always made has helped to make club work an interesting and pleasant experience in the life of the County Agent. We well realize that without their efforts, little can be accomplished in a club program.

EROSION AND SOIL FERTILITY

Appreciating that a large part of our feed used in the county comes directly from the soil in the county, the Agricultural Committee has been interested in writing into our program of work a soil improvement and erosion control factor. The soil conservation district has operated under the direction of the Agricultural Committee. Its work is to provide technical assistance and advice to farmers having erosion control problems. The erosion office has been maintained at River Falls. Over 100 farmers in the county now have a complete set of farm plans on their individual farms. These plans have been prepared by the technicians working in the soil conservation district.

The management of our soils is an important problem to which we must give much consideration. Continued croppings are depleting our phosphorous and potash supply. In many cases our nitrogen has run low and our humus or organic matter is likewise low. Much of the original calcium previously found in the soil has been depleted through our cropping system and leaching or run-off. Considerable attention has been given to the wise use of commercial fertilizer. In our grain trial plots we have found that an application of 125 to 200 pounds of 0-20-10 has given very satisfactory returns. The fertilizer not only pays its own way, but gives an additional profit to the farmer the first year. The unused fertilizer carries over into the next year's crop and shows up there. Where the grain is used as a nurse crop the stand of alfalfa or clover is very definitely better the following year, because it not only gets a better start, but has more reserve available elements on which to feed.

All of our recommendations for fertilizer work have been

based on soil analysis of the various fields involved. We think it is good business to test the soil for available phosphorous, potash, and calcium before making a definite recommendation on the kind and amount of fertilizer to use. Our soil testing project has been carried on throughout the year in cooperation with the Works Project Administration. The WPA has furnished us with the services of a soil tester through a large part of the year. Through our soil testing project we have tested all the samples brought in by individual farmers and the samples brought in by the technicians working in the soil conservation district.

Erosion Control Assistant

Because our Agricultural Committee felt that there was a need for more emphasis and work on soil improvement and erosion control they asked the State Soil Conservation Committee and the State Extension Office to furnish us an erosion control assistant who would devote full time to erosion control and related problems. These two agencies collaborated with the committee, and as a result on October 1 they made available the services of N. O. Stephenson. During the first month of Mr. Stephenson's work in the county he contacted forty-three farmers on their farms and discussed with them their immediate erosion problems. He assisted them in constructing four diversion dykes, one tile bleeder, and got one drop inlet under construction. While all of these structures involved an expenditure of less than \$50 on the farmer, they have definitely contributed much to the farms and farmers involved. Three farm buildings were in danger of being washed away, and these new structures were used to keep the buildings where they were.

The type of service rendered by Mr. Stephenson is somewhat different than that which is available through the soil conservation district, in that much of the preliminary planning work can be eliminated, and no binding contribution is expected of the farmer. The services of the erosion control assistant and the services of the technicians working in the soil conservation district are both working towards the same end---that of conserving soil and keeping silt on the hilltops. While Mr. Stephenson is working to solve the immediate problems of erosion control on a particular farm, he is also interested in getting a complete farm program set up for the entire farm, which is available through the soil conservation district.

While it is true that our cropping system has removed a large part of our fertility from the soil, there still is a big chance for improvement in the manner in which barnyard manure is handled so that all possible fertility can be returned to the soil. On some farms not over 25% of the original fertility of the barnyard manure is actually put back into the soil. There is no cash outlay involved in conserving barnyard manure. It is a matter of preparing, handling, and wise judgment in where and when to apply it. The past few years we have found that because of dry seasons very little organic matter is being plowed under. As a result our soils are low in organic matter and readily subject to erosion. Because of a lack of humus our soils are not in a condition to absorb and hold the natural rainfall, and as a result much of it runs off without doing the soil much good, and also takes much valuable top soil with it.

Soil Erosion School

A soil erosion school was held at Hammond May 16, at which time 65 FFA boys from all parts of the county came in to learn soil erosion control methods. The forenoon was spent in discussion of erosion control problems and their solutions. Technicians from the soil conservation district and state extension service assisted in the program. During the afternoon the entire group went out to the Ervin Wright farm a mile north of town and put into practice some of the things which they had discussed during the forenoon program. The FFA boys were divided into four groups and each of them had a chance to participate in demonstrations on tree planting, methods in construction of sod hump dams, running levels for contour plowing, and sampling soil for soil analysis.

Contour Plowing Contest

Much interest in contour plowing in connection with erosion control was stimulated by the contour plowing contest held this fall. A district contest was held at Eau Claire September 29, at which time a contestant from St. Croix, Dunn, Eau Claire, and Jackson counties participated. John Williams of River Falls represented St. Croix county at the contest and won first place. He went on to the inter-state contest held at LaCrosse on October 8 and placed sixth in that event. He used a John Deere tractor and plow in the contest. Mr. Williams has been practicing contour plowing on his farm during the past two years.

DAIRY CATTLE IMPROVEMENT

Considerable time was devoted this year to the matter of dairy cattle improvement. Considerable time was given to the testing associations which are operating in the county, and several new members were secured for the various associations. The owner-sampler system has been promoted and at the present time we have 86 herds all testing under the standard testing plan. This is the system where the tester stays at the farm, taking the samples himself, making a complete analysis of the test, and completing the herd book. We have over 100 herds under test under the owner-sampler plan. Under the owner-sampler plan the farmer takes his own samples, which are tested by the field man. These records are not recognized as being official, but are for the use of the farmer in selecting and improving his herd. Testing work is at the highest peak it has been for many years. More farmers are taking part in the standard testing plan than have been in the past seven years. While still a relatively small percentage of the farmers in the county are testing their milk, we have felt justified in giving the time we have to the testing associations this past year.

Bull Sale

The second annual Bull Sale was held at the Highway Shop at Hammond October 30. This sale met with the approval of both the consignors and the purchasers. Eighteen purebred dairy bulls, all from cows with 400# of fat or better were sold, averaging \$102.00 per head. Combined with the bull sale this year, we held our first Boar and Ram sale. Feeling that there was a need for better boars

and rams on the farms and a better distribution of them, we worked in cooperation with the Bull sale and put on the Boar and Ram sale.

Artificial Insemination

We have been working towards an artificial insemination set-up for the county. Several plans have been considered; the one we would like best would be the plan whereby our organization can be set up in the county for servicing the needs of the farmers, working in cooperation with an adjoining county. This plan would mean we would not have to buy our own bulls nor set up our own breeding stalls.

Many farmers are now for the first time realizing the harm that has been done to their herds through the use of scrub bulls. During the past six months there has been a very favorable milk and butterfat price. The natural tendency is to crowd these cows a little harder at this time to secure a maximum production of milk. Many of our farmers are finding that their cows do not respond to heavier feeding. Much of this can be attributed to the fact that the cows now in production in their herds are off-springs of the cross between good cows and poor bulls. As a result of this there is a very active demand for good bulls at the present time. This certainly was a favorable situation and we hope the interest in better bulls continues through the coming years.

County-Wide Bang's Test

Last November the Agricultural Committee met and recommended that we start a county-wide signup for compulsory Bang's test for all cattle in the county. As a result of mailing out individual petitions to all the farmers in the county, 950 signed petitions were returned by mail. Farmer committeemen have solicited 450 farmers so that at the present time we have a total of 1400 signers for the county-wide test. While the going is slow we are still keeping at it and hope that the test might be made within the coming year.

It is a generally recognized fact that Bang's disease localizes in one of three places. The disease can settle in the productive system of a cow which will generally cause abortion; the disease may settle in the udder of a cow making conditions favorable for the development of mastitis or other garget troubles; or the disease may localize in the joints of the knees causing swollen knees which many times result in a stiffening of the joints and general loss of milk production as a result of it. While there may be some question in the minds of some farmers as to the accuracy of the test in Bang's disease, it is generally recognized as being an accurate test. While there have been hopes for the development of the vaccination of calves as a means of preventing loss due to Bang's disease, thus far the vaccine has not proved as satisfactory as had been hoped for.

Dairy Cattle Sale

Many carloads of dairy cattle have been shipped out of the county the past year. A large part of these shipments have gone to eastern herds. Some of the cattle, of course, have gone to

southeastern Wisconsin and other adjoining states, including Iowa, Ohio, Illinois, and Indiana. This has provided an outlet for a large number of surplus dairy cows which are being raised in St. Croix county. We sometimes question the practice of shipping these fine dairy cows out of the county because usually the buyers select the best cows of the herd which means that many of our herds are left with only the poorer cows as foundation stock. Certainly this year the farmers who have raised their heifer calves and have a surplus of dairy cows have benefited by the increased demand for dairy cows.

Bull Association

We now have three bull associations or bull rings operating in the county. Each ring is made up of four farmers who cooperatively own four bulls. These bulls are used on a herd one year and then rotated to the other herds. All the members are testing milk for production so that the bulls in use will be proven during the course of the next two or three years, as soon as their daughters come into production in the herds. All of the bulls which are being used are sons of proven bulls with productivity indexes of 450# of fat or better, and from normal cows with twice a day milking with 400# of fat or better. At the present time we have four Holstein breeders, four Guernsey breeders, and four Jersey breeders in organized cooperative bull rings. St. Croix county has the honor of having the only Jersey ring in the State of Wisconsin.

Meetings With Dairy Industry

Meetings were held with the creamery and cheese factory operators and boards of directors during the year. These meetings were particularly to discuss possibilities of diversion of milk and cream to meet market trends. During the past year the Federal government has been making heavy purchases of condensed milk and certain types of cheese. As a result of this, butterfat prices, where the butterfat is to be used in butter, have been relatively low compared to prices paid for fluid milk which is being used for condensed milk or certain types of cheese. Several of the creameries have diverted all of their fluid milk to condensaries, thus affording their patrons a better price than would be possible through making butter. Some of our creameries have been putting in equipment to handle fluid milk, and they are now sending their fluid milk to condensaries. The trend over the county has been for farmers to quit separating and sell whole milk. While the spread between milk and cream looks favorable, we have continued to encourage farmers to use skim milk for dairy calves, hogs, and poultry. There seems to be no substitute that can be used that gives the same results at the price of skim milk.

One of the things which the creamery and cheese factory operators discussed at these meetings was the Quality Milk program for St. Croix county. All operators were enthusiastic about the Quality Milk program and solicited our assistance in conducting it on a county-wide basis. We all appreciate that the success of a Quality Milk program depends upon the whole-hearted cooperation of the plant operators, and with this assurance it was a pleasure to go ahead and conduct the Quality Milk program.

Quality Milk Program

In putting on the Quality Milk program it was necessary to ask the cooperation of two or more farmers from each school district in the county to conduct the schoolhouse meetings. A county-wide meeting of plant operators and interested farmers was held on September 11. This group was heartily in favor of the program, and as a result, two leaders' training meetings were held on September 17 and 18, at which time two farmers from each school district in the county were invited in and the Quality Milk program was explained to them, and they were asked to go back to their respective communities and conduct an educational meeting for the farmers of their district. These schoolhouse meetings were held on September 23. At these schoolhouse meetings 60% of the farmers of the county attended. This certainly was a very satisfactory turnout.

The purpose of the Quality Milk program was not to go out and promote milk houses and other expensive equipment. The program is a part of a state-wide move to maintain its supremacy in the dairy world.

A great deal has been done along the line of advertising dairy products and more must be done in the future. Considerable work has been done in packaging cheese, in particular, so that a small package of natural cheese can be offered the consumer in an attractive and practical sized package. Regardless of the advertising and the work the quality of the dairy products offered for sale must be maintained and improved. We well appreciate that probably 90% and more of our farmers are producing a quality product today. However, there are those farmers who still feel they can get by with an inferior product and as long as creameries and cheese factories are willing to accept that type of product they will continue to produce it. Certainly the plant operator does not want an inferior product, but he has hesitated on cramping down on quality because of a fear of losing patronage. We have put too much emphasis on volume, and as a result have sacrificed quality. In cooperating with other parts of the state, a quality for products is now so that the farmer who is producing an inferior quality milk will find he has no outlet for his product. He in turn must meet the requirements for a quality product or refrain from offering for sale his inferior product. Sediment tests and Methylene Blue tests are now being run in all plants in the county on all milk taken into the plant. All cream is graded. A report is sent back to every farmer in the county. If the milk or cream does not meet requirements, he is given a warning to that effect, and encouraged to improve his quality. The state inspector and the plant operators are interested in helping him meet the requirements. They are working with him and giving him every assistance possible. If the farmer is not interested then the plant operator and inspector have no alternative than to refuse to accept his milk or cream. Other plants are not allowed to take on this customer until he has had a satisfactory release from the previous plant. In other words, there are no loop holes left so that the farmer must improve his quality to meet requirements, or he will have no market. We have had a great many fine compliments on the program thus far, and with the continued cooperation of our plant operators we feel that much is being done and can be done to improve the quality of dairy products

offered for sale. While it is hard to point to any direct benefit from the program, the results will be forthcoming through the coming years. Proper handling of milk and cream so as to prevent dirt and bacteria from entering the milk, proper cooling, proper storing, and proper hauling---these are the factors that enter into a Quality Milk program making it possible for all farmers to produce a quality milk without additional expense.

Tri-County Holstein Picnic

Holstein breeders of St. Croix, Pierce, and Dunn counties joined in a tri-county picnic and program at Spring Valley July 12. This meeting was well attended and the program which had been arranged was well accepted by the Holstein breeders and others who attended.

Cooperative Trucking Association

Many farmers who are patrons of the River Falls creamery felt that they were paying an unjust trucking charge for milk and cream. A group of these farmers solicited my cooperation in helping them to lower their trucking costs. As a result of contacting other similar creameries we felt that the trucking costs were relatively high. A cooperative trucking association was proposed and after due consideration the River Falls Cooperative Trucking Association was formed. The original intention was for the association to buy one truck and hire a hauler to operate it. This would serve a group of farmers located largely in the town of Kinnickinnic. However, as a result of the first work done by this association the request came from many farmers in adjoining areas for a similar service. As a result, this same association has expanded to the point where they have five routes of hauling milk to the River Falls Cooperative Creamery. Not only are they getting lower hauling charges, but the cooperative is paying a percentage dividend to its members. This association is proving very popular in the area it serves, and we have every reason to believe its success will continue.

LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY IMPROVEMENT

We have devoted considerable time to improvement of livestock, including hogs and sheep in particular, and poultry. We feel that a well-balanced farm program should include not only the production of dairy cows but hogs, sheep, and poultry. One of the things that our farm management survey has indicated is the need for diversification of farm enterprises.

The Wisconsin Ram Truck made its annual stop in the county this year and many of our farmers took advantage of the chance to buy good rams at reasonable prices to head up their flocks. Several good rams were sold at the Ram Sale held in connection with the annual Bull Sale. A wool marketing meeting was held in December, at which time much valuable information was given to the sheep raisers of the county relative to marketing their wool and managing their farm flocks. Several farmers purchased boars at the Boar Sale which was also held in connection with the annual Bull Sale. Hog Cholera came into the picture this summer and was a real threat to the hog industry for a time at least. Many of the farmers in the community in which the infection occurred vaccinated their hogs

to prevent an outbreak of Cholera.

We have had some very interesting meetings on poultry work and the testimonial given by the poultry breeders who are making a success of poultry as a sideline contributed much to the success of the meetings.

HOMEMAKERS

Our Homemaker Clubs have remained active during the past year, and helped to serve the needs of some 600 farm women folks who have taken part in the program. Our State specialist, Miss Brady, conducted the leader training meetings held in the county this past year, foods and nutritions being the subject discussed at the meetings.

WEED CONTROL

A county-wide meeting of the town chairmen and weed commissioners was held, at which time Henry Lunz of the State Weed Department was present and discussed with us the weed law and weed control measures. St. Croix county now has two patches of creeping jenny, or field bindweed, and two or three patches of leafy spurge. Both of these weeds need our consideration in controlling their spread. We assisted the town chairmen in the communities involved in controlling them by the use of chemical weed killer.

SEED CERTIFICATION

Several farmers are still actively interested in producing certified and registered seed to be sold to other farmers in the county. We have assisted these farmers in their seed certification by making the necessary inspections on the fields before harvest. Just as it is necessary to keep our purebred cattle, so is it necessary to keep our registered and certified seed available to farmers of the county. Better crops can be produced by the use of better seed, and certainly our work with fertilizer and lime can be enhanced by the use of good seed.

NATIONAL DEFENSE PROGRAM

Your County Agent was appointed as a member of the County National Defense committee and has assisted in making a survey on the labor situation available to farmers, and assisted in the Foods for Defense program. Under the Foods for Defense program the farmers of St. Croix county have been asked by the Secretary of Agriculture to increase the production of milk 11% in 1942 over 1941, hogs 8%, and a 6% increase in the production of eggs. We feel reasonably certain that this goal will be reached by the farmers of St. Croix county, and we hope that the increased production will come through better feeding, better management, and better care, rather than an increase in capital investment.

COOPERATION WITH OTHER AGENCIES

This office has endeavored at all times to cooperate with all other county, state, and federal agencies working in the interests of promoting better agriculture for farmers of St. Croix county.

Your County Agent has served as secretary to the County Committee on the AAA program. We have attended and conducted a number of educational meetings in behalf of the AAA program. We have the participation wherever possible. We have cooperated with the Farm Security Administration, the Rural Electrification, the Production Credit Association, Federal Land Bank, Farmers Equity Union, Home Economics and Agricultural departments in the high schools, rural school teachers, and assisted in P.T.A. programs and in general, tried to fit into the picture wherever possible, helping to lay the ground work for a better farm and home life for the farmers of St. Croix county so that they might in turn enjoy that satisfaction which comes from serving an active part in the community in which they live.

IN CONCLUSION

This report would not be complete unless we gave due credit to the newspapers of the county who have at all times cooperated in publishing our news stories and in giving information to the farmers of the county regarding the work which we are carrying on. We always appreciate this fine cooperation and know that the farmers of the county will likewise appreciate it. The business people in the various villages and cities have likewise cooperated in helping make our work a little easier and their cooperation is likewise appreciated. Many accomplishments which we have pointed to in this report are possible only through the fine cooperation of everyone concerned. This report is the fourth annual report made by your present County Agent. I have enjoyed the work in your county a great deal and have always enjoyed the support given me by all the members of the County Board. There have been times when all of us have not seen eye to eye on certain issues; nevertheless, the hope that your County Agent has always had is that he was working in the interests of the farm people in St. Croix county, and has tried to keep their interests foremost in mind.

COUNTY AGENT ACTIVITIES

	1938	1939	1940	1941
Miles traveled.....	17,022	15,674	20,148	18,717
Farm and Home visits.....	402	325	456	892
Circular letters.....	38,570	39,729	45,620	40,120
Personal letters.....	2,381	6,788	6,215	6,980
Telephone calls.....	2,311	3,566	4,475	4,156
Office calls.....	3,125	7,004	6,522	6,654
Number of meetings.....	255	154	224	212
Attendance at Meetings....	4,587	13,271	26,630	16,072