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1944 ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT

OF

AGRICULTURAL AGENT

ST. CROIX COUNTY, WISCONSIN

Compiled by
OMER W. PECK
Baldwin, Wisconsin

ST. CROIX COUNTY, WISCONSIN
1944

ANNUAL REPORT

OF

ST. CROIX COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE

Omer W. Peck - County Agr'l. Agent
Walter Karnes - Farm Labor Assistant
Edria L. Sontag - 4-H Club Leader &
War Food Assistant

AGRICULTURAL COMMITTEE

Walter Karnes, Spring Valley, Chm.

Nels E. Erickson, Hammond, Sec.
Cecil Heebink, Baldwin

Ben Huenick, Emerald
Ed. Miller, Boardman

Respectfully Submitted,

Omer W. Peck
County Agr'l. Agent
St. Croix County

AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE

ST. CROIX COUNTY, WISCONSIN

OMER W. PECK, County Agri. Agent

BALDWIN, WISCONSIN

November 13, 1944

To the Honorable Board of Supervisors
St. Croix County, Wisconsin

Gentlemen:

We are pleased to submit this report, the second we have had the pleasure of preparing, to you. We now have a little over a year of work in your county behind us. It has been a very pleasurable one, to be sure.

Immediately following the table of contents will be found the Agricultural Extension Program as prepared and adopted by your Agricultural Committee for the year, 1944. It will be observed that most of our objectives have been reached. In the case of those that were not, the fact will be noted, that again this year our office was called on to spend considerable time and effort at various projects resulting from the war effort. Detailed information on several of these projects will be found within the report.

Our office was again fortunate to have furnished to us Federal Funds with which we could employ a full-time Farm Labor Assistant. Because of this assistance we have been able to keep up with the farm labor situation. We also had further funds available from special appropriation with which we were able to add to our office force beginning March 1st a War Food Assistant. Miss Edria L. Sontag was secured to fill this position. Miss Sontag had worked with our office a year previous as a Summer Club Leader, consequently she was able to fit into our program quickly and efficiently. Much of the credit for the fine, effective 4-H Club program this past year belongs to her.

We invite your comments and suggestions at any time. We shall be glad to come into your respective communities whenever we can be of service to you or your neighbors.

We wish to thank the farmers of St. Croix County for the fine cooperation we have received in the various programs we have undertaken. We also wish to thank the members of the Agriculture War Board, the Vocational Agriculture Teachers, the rural teachers, the 4-H Club leaders, and all others who have cooperated and helped make the 1944 Agricultural Extension Program successful.

Respectively Submitted,

Omer W. Peck

Omer W. Peck
County Agr'l. Agent
St. Croix County

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AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION PROGRAM
St. Croix County - 1944

Major Problem	Youth
Phase of Work	4-H Club Work
Goals	600 members; 75% Achievement; Centralization of club organization; Emphasis on development of leadership; Countywide 4-H Club fair; Older youth fairs; County 4-H Contests; Emphasis on projects supporting production of food for war; Food preservation and clothing repair; Demonstration teams.
Major Problem	Food for war
Phase of Work	Dairy Cattle & milk production; Sheep production; Swine production; crop production; poultry production.
Goals	Assist in educational phases of programs to step up production; maintain DHIA's; better bull calf program; better feeding; disease and parasite control and sanitation in all livestock phases; efficient production of farm crops with emphasis on good seed; seed sources, hybrid corn, vicland oats, potatoes & hay; Widespread coverage through neighborhood leaders and other tried procedures; Weed control; Farm garden program.
Major Problem	Conservation of men, land and materials
Phase of work	Soil improvement; Erosion control; Farm labor and machinery. Soil tests on 400 farms; Swine program; Educational effort on fertilizer combinations and application; Use work plan for soil conservation district as guide to educational work supporting erosion control; emphasis on pasture improvement; Farm labor service to County farmers as per state plan, to fill requirements as nearly as possible in full time and seasonal needs; Stress by meetings & N/L care & repair of machinery, Community use of farm machinery, labor saving devices and machines; Educational effort on reasons for rationing; County War Board activities.
Goals	Minor Projects Home Economics; Food preservation & storage, patching; Farm organizations - work with Income Tax service Cooperative testing association with Creameries.

Approved:

Walter Karnes

B. F. Rusy

Chairman Agr'l. Committee

Dist. Ext. Supervisor

Omer W. Peck

Co. Agr'l. Agent

ACTIVITIES OF THE COUNTY AGRICULTURAL AGENT

(2)

November 1, 1943 to October 31, 1944

Combined with those of the Farm Labor Assistant and the
Emergency War Food Assistant

* * * *

FARM LABOR

One of our biggest responsibilities, and the one which has demanded the largest amount of time on the basis of days of work devoted to it, has been Farm Labor. Mr. Walter Karnes, who has worked with us eleven of the past 12 months, has devoted full-time to the various questions arising from the problem. In addition, your County agent has found it necessary to devote many days of his own time to the program as well.

In 1943 St. Croix County was known quite widely for the effective way in which it took care of the farm labor shortage within itself. In that year a great deal of credit had to be given to everyone for the fine way in which they cooperated. This was especially true of the business men from the various towns who gave freely of their time in assisting with the harvesting of the crops.

In 1944, we have tried to carry on the fine program. Again we received splendid cooperation from everyone, and again the farm crops of St. Croix County were harvested practically 100% without damage due to scarcity of labor. As far as our office is concerned, we found the demands on us during the harvest season were not nearly as heavy as they were in 1943. This was also true of the various committees organized among business men over the county to offer part-time help. What the reason for this was is hard to say. We believe it to be the accumulation of several factors.

In the first place farmers had already been through one hard season and they were better prepared, either through better planning of their own work, or by arranging to exchange work with their neighbors, to face the situation. Also, they and their families realized the situation and were better prepared to work longer and harder than they may have been accustomed to get the job done. Too much credit cannot be given to the farm women, the boys and girls, and to the older folks, for their part in the harvesting of St. Croix County's crops.

In the second place we were also aided by the fact that our hay crop was somewhat short, and thus it was easier to take care of.

A third factor very important this past season was the ideal weather which existed during most of the season.

A good deal of our time was devoted to working closely with our various Selective Service Boards. While always being sure to play fair with them, we have left no stones unturned in pointing out to the various boards how all-important it was that our farm labor supply not be depleted to the point where it might become dangerous. Right here we would like to point out that St. Croix County farmers have been fortunate to have such a liberal, broad-minded Local

Selective Service Board. In our dealings with boards in many counties and several states, we have found that very few are as sympathetic of the farmer's position as is our own.

The placing of farm hands has been the smallest part of our program this year; not because the farmers did not need help, but simply because no help was available. Nevertheless, approximately 160 farmers were assisted in finding hired help through the facilities of our office this past year.

Many farmers and farm-hands came to us with their problems relative to agricultural deferments. We have given all the help we could along this line, and usually our assistance has proven satisfactory. As far as we know, not a single man has been drafted from St. Croix County who was deserving of a deferment, who honestly wanted to farm, and who came to us before it was so late our hands were tied. This was true whether the man was registered in our own county, in neighboring counties, in Minnesota, or in such far-off places such as Detroit, New Jersey, or California. In some instances we had to carry the cases to the respective State Directors of Selective Service, to get satisfactory settlement, but never to the President. In all, about 300 farmers were contacted or assisted in some phase of this problem.

Last spring it became evident that farmers were becoming confused by conflicting news articles and reports regarding the status of boys with 2-C classification. It also was evident that many folks, both rural and city, especially young folks of high school age, were not fully appreciative of the great contribution to the war effort our farmers were making. At the same time, both our office and the local Selective Service Office were experiencing a situation where more and more of our good farm boys were wanting to enlist believing they were not doing their part. Consequently, we arranged, in cooperation with the local Selective Service Board and various interested organizations and persons, to hold a series of meetings where some of these problems could be discussed. Evening meetings were arranged in eight places in the county. At most of the meetings a member of the draft board was present and in each case we showed two excellent movies dealing with the same subject. Anyone and everyone was invited to attend. The meetings proved highly successful. A total of over 600 people attended the eight meetings! In addition, on the afternoon of each day we went into the local high schools and showed the same movies and talked to the students about the situation. Over 900 students were present at these meetings.

Consequently, during the year, the various phases of good soil management have gone in for considerable emphasis.

Fertilizer Demonstrations

In 1943, your county agent, in cooperation with Mr. Chapman arranged for four demonstration plots on fertilizers of various kinds. Results of these demonstrations proved very successful. Consequently, we invited Mr. Chapman back into our county last winter for a series of meetings at which he discussed the results of the plots, and many other soil management problems as well. He also showed colored

St. Croix County, according to recently released Federal and State Statistics, although far from the largest county in the State in total area, ranks seventh among the 71 counties in area of cropland. We have in the county approximately 233,000 acres of cropland with almost another 95,000 acres of plowable pasture land. Five of the six counties ranking above us are in the southern section of the state, the sixth being Marathon, the largest county in the state.

These facts give us a right to be considered one of the most important counties in the state agriculturally--and we are; and have been for a long time! However, before patting ourselves on the back too much, we should stop to consider by what means we came to this high-ranking position.

The early settlers found that nature had blessed this county with excellent soil conditions. Thousands of acres of rich prairie soil were found, and much of the rest of the county was covered with hardwood timber, which when cut-off, opened up thousands more acres of highly productive land--and so, this county was settled early and farmed heavily. Grains became the leading crop. In fact, at one time, we were the leading wheat growing county in the United States.

However, although nature blessed us with thousands of rich acres, level enough for easy farming, she neither made the supply of plant foods unlimited, nor the topography level enough to keep all the top soil in its original place. Consequently, because of these facts, and because of the heavy grain farming carried on in most of the county over the years, we have come to the place where hundreds of acres of our once good land is now almost worthless. The majority of our soils are fast approaching that condition.

Realizing this situation, your Agricultural Committee at its Planning Meeting a year ago decided that the problem of Proper Soil Management was one of the most important facing our farmers. Fertile, productive soils are the basis of good farm management at any time. Unless we have soils that will produce, we have no foundation on which to build a sound farming program. A farmer may prepare his soil ever so carefully, he may use the best of seed, he may care for and harvest his crops according to the latest recommendations, and he may feed those crops to as good animals as money can buy; but, unless he has good, fertile soils to put his seed into, he has at least one strike against him before he even starts. Consequently, during the year, the various phases of good soil management have come in for considerable emphasis.

Fertilizer Demonstrations

In 1943, your county agent, in cooperation with Mr. Chapman arranged for four demonstration plots on fertilizers of grains. Results of these demonstrations proved very successful. Consequently, we invited Mr. Chapman back into our county last winter for a series of meetings at which he discussed the results of the plots, and many other soil management problems as well. He also showed colored

movies of the plots in 1943. The meetings were well attended and the farmers were much interested.

Because of the success of the 1943 program it was decided to carry on with the same type of plots in 1944. Five plots were planned on four farms. Again Mr. Chapman cooperated with us. Again the results were very outstanding. One plot, on the Vern Cuturia farm in Springfield was drowned out; the others came through fine.

Elsewhere in this report will be found inserted a separate sheet on which will be found the tabulated results of this year's program. The results speak for themselves. Certainly, after studying these results, and knowing that they only duplicate those of 1943 it would not seem that anyone could question the advisability of using fertilizers on grains. Yet we know there are many who still doubt that it is a paying proposition, so our job still looms big.

In studying these results it is interesting to note that almost invariably there was much greater response to the use of potash in the fertilizer than there was to using only phosphate. Also, usually the profits were multiplied several times over by use of potash. These results only substantiate our findings in the many soil tests we have made—that potash is more of a limiting factor in our soils than is phosphate.

On the tabulation sheet also will be found the results of two plots run on the use of Ammonium Nitrate on pastures. Four plots were put in, but because of wet weather, we were so delayed in applying with two of them that final results were almost worthless.

Ammonium Nitrate, a nitrogen fertilizer, was new last year. It is a by-product of the ammunition industry. In addition to the plots we put in, several farmers also tried it. We have yet to hear of one who didn't believe it to be a paying proposition.

Again the results speak for themselves. Ammonium Nitrate, however, can be used only for grass pastures. If the pastures are more than 40% clover or alfalfa it is doubtful if it would be a paying proposition. However, practically all of the 95,000 acres of pasture previously mentioned are in grasses and undoubtedly would profit from the use of this fertilizer.

Educational Phases of the Program

This past summer we took several moving pictures shots of the plots at various times to show the results. We also have obtained from Mr. Chapman the pictures he took in 1943. These we have combined to make a movie on Soil Management in St. Croix County. It is our belief that many farmers, although they may read of the results of an experiment many times, yet put little faith in it unless they can see it with their own eyes. Because it is impossible to have them all observe the plots during the growing season, we believe moving pictures to be the next best thing. Consequently, this following year, at every opportunity, we shall show these pictures and explain the results. We intend to continue to make Better Soil Management one of our biggest aims.

Soil Conservation District

A few years ago you gentlemen saw fit to organize St. Croix County into a Soil Conservation District. You were very wise in doing so. Over 400 farmers have already availed themselves of this opportunity to do something about soil losses on their farm. Four trained men are kept busy all the time, and still are unable to keep up with requests for assistance.

Our office has cooperated with the Soil Conservation Service Personnel on several occasions, as they have cooperated with us when possible. During the past year we have taken advantage of opportunities to bring to the farmers of the county the seriousness of the soil erosion threat, and the fact that in the services of the Soil Conservation District they have an opportunity to do something about it. There are a few areas in the county where farmers have not shown the interest in the problem, as they have in other areas. We have been especially interested in educating these areas in the situation.

In mid-summer, the Soil Conservation Service Personnel and our office took the members of your Agriculture Committee, who act as Supervisors of the District, and several other interested parties on a tour of the county to view their work. It proved interesting and educational.

Area Planning

During the past year from time to time and from various sources, came questions and suggestions regarding the seriousness of the soil erosion problem in the northwestern section of our county. This area, because of the combined effect of its topography and soil conditions, seems to be suffering from a situation somewhat different from the rest of the county. Consequently, in September, our office, along with the Soil Conservation Service Personnel and the Chairmen of three towns in that area, arranged to have six men from the College of Agriculture at Madison, each specialists in different lines, here to tour the area for observation and make suggestions as to future planning and management. One day was spent in visiting six farms in the area. The second day was spent in meetings. On the afternoon of the second day, a public meeting was held at Somerset. This was attended by about 65 farmers.

In brief, the recommendations of these men were to the effect that grass-land farming should be encouraged in most of this area. It was pointed out that the continued cropping of the land as now practiced could only result in still greater losses in the future.

ST. GROIX COUNTY

Name & address of cooperator	Soil Type	Kind of crop	Treatment	Rate per acre	Yield per acre grain	Yield per acre straw	Bushels increase grain	Pounds increase straw	*Value of Inc. Grain + straw	Cost of ferti- lizer	Net profit per acre
MARK SCHULTZ Cylon	Silt Loam (Light)	Gopher oats	0-20-10	200	40.2	1464	20.7	771	\$ 13.49	4.08	14.41
			0-20-20	200	32.6	1233	13.1	540	11.83	5.02	6.81
			Check		19.5	693					
MARK SCHULTZ Cylon	Silt Loam (Light)	Control Oats	0-20-0	200	41.3	1354	12.8	451	11.37	2.74	8.63
			0-20-10	200	43.6	1464	15.1	561	13.48	4.08	9.40
			Check		28.5	903					
R. W. JACOBSON Baldwin	Sandy Loam (Light)	Oats	0-20-0	225	58.2	2136	6.0	66	4.97	3.08	1.89
			0-20-10	225	61.2	2291	9.0	221	7.75	4.59	3.16
			0-20-20	225	74.9	2698	22.7	628	19.73	5.65	14.08
			Check		52.2	2070					
Henry DeMotts Hammond	Silt Loam (Dark)	Oats	0-20-0	200	42.4	1321	13.2	462	11.71	2.74	9.67
			0-20-10	200	49.2	1596	20.0	737	17.84	4.08	13.76
			0-20-20	200	64.2	2334	35.0	1475	31.68	5.02	26.66
			Check		29.2	859					
CHAS. HANSON Baldwin	Silt Loam	Oats X	(0-20-0 (1942 (0-20-20 (1943 Check	100 150	 60.2 36.8	 2225 1310	 23.4	 915	 21.00	 4.43	 16.57
FRANK HEIBEL Clear Lake	Silt Loam	Pasture	Ammonium nitrate check	150	Dry weight feed Increase		Yield per A. of Forage		Value of Inc. forage	Cost of Fert.	Profit
					2400 lbs. per acre		4700 lb. dry weight 2300 lb. dry weight				
MERLIN STRUMKE New Richmond	Silt Loam	Pasture	Ammonium nutrate check	150	1900 lbs. per acre		3600 lb. dry weight 1700 lb. dry weight		15.00	4.50	10.50

X Response due to residual effect of fertilizers applied in 1942 and 1943.
 * Oats figured at (80¢) per bushel. Straw at \$5.00 per ton.

LIVESTOCK

Dairying

Approximately 55% of the farm income in St. Croix County comes from milk. Add to that the income from the sale of surplus dairy stock and veal calves and we have almost 2/3 of the farm income coming from dairying. This classes our county as principally a dairy county, and rightly so for we have many conditions favorable to the production of milk.

That our dairy business is not an insignificant part of making Wisconsin "America's Dairyland" is shown by the fact that recently released government statistic show that our county out of 3,066 counties in the United States ranks 47th in the number of cows milked and 47th in milk produced on farms. We also rank 96th in value of dairy products sold by farms. To be ranked in the first 100 counties in the country on three separate tabulations, is something to be proud of.

Realizing this importance of the dairying enterprise, it is only reasonable to expect that it should receive the bulk of our efforts as regards to livestock. During the past year we have expended our time in several different directions in connection with this enterprise.

On March 14th several farmers interested in better breeding of Holstein cattle met at the County Asylum and organized themselves into a St. Croix County Holstein Breeders Association. The following officers were elected: Wesley Berend, New Richmond, President; Art Hanson, Baldwin, Vice-President; Oswald Nelson, Baldwin, Secretary-Treasurer. Other members of the board of directors were as follows: Joe Hellner, Glenwood City, H. B. Olson, Hammond; and Robert Drexler, Glenwood City. Since being formed little has been done in the organization; partly because farmers have been so busy and partly because the American Holstein Breeders Association has been without the services of a field man most of the summer. We plan to go ahead further with the Association soon.

Once the Holstein Breeders Association has been firmly established we hope to organize similar associations in some of the other breeds.

In April, 1944 we had the misfortune to lose to the Army the last of our Dairy Herd Improvement Association testers, Willard Voskuil. Since that time the only cow testing work being done has been that done by A. E. Hornig in his Pierce-St. Croix Association. However, we still have very much interest over the rest of the county and it is our belief that as soon as personel is again available we will be able to reorganize immediately.

Within the past year there seems to have been increased interest in eradication of Bang's Disease. We counseled with and assisted a great many farmers on one phase or another of this problem.

Last winter we held several meetings at which we discussed many questions connected with better dairy cattle management, with particular emphasis on feeding. This will be one of the things which

should come in for considerable emphasis this next year as well.

Swine

The hog population of our county has increased greatly in the past few years. 1944 saw a slight set back in this growth, but our numbers are still large. It is a known fact that when increased numbers of livestock are confined to the same territory, disease and parasites are sure to become more troublesome. Fortunately, we have had no serious out-break of communicable disease among our hogs, but parasites such as lice, mites and stomach worms have become more troublesome.

A hog covered with lice or mites cannot be comfortable, consequently it cannot be expected to conserve its energy or eat as thriftily as will a contented pig. Neither can one which finds up to $\frac{1}{2}$ of its feed used up by stomach worms be expected to make thrifty gains. If a farmer wants to make pork at the lowest possible cost and also make the most conservative use of the limited feed supply, he will have to do something to rid his hogs of these parasites.

Realizing this to be true we invited Mr. James Lacy of the College of Agriculture into the county for a series of meetings on proper hog dipping and drenching demonstrations. Following this, we took orders to help a number of our farmers obtain the proper materials for the work. About 15 gallons of oil was distributed, enough for about 1,200 pigs.

Sheep

Sheep are one of the minor sources of income in our county, yet in some areas they are very important. Again this year, as for several years previous, the University of Wisconsin Ram Truck stopped in our county. This truck, operated by the University of Wisconsin on a non-profit basis, tours the state buying and selling purebred, proven rams. This gives any farmer who is really interested in making sheep raising a profitable business, an opportunity to purchase rams of a quality, and from a much larger selection than probably would otherwise be possible. After all, the ram, like the bull, is half the flock.

Potatoes

A year ago the county agent's office carried on a very successful program by bringing into the county three carloads of certified seed potatoes. Last spring there again was some interest in such a program, although not comparable with the year previous, because many farmers still had good seed. As a result our office again assisted 47 farmers in getting clean certified seed. A large truck load came in consisting of 7800 pounds. Unfortunately, either because of poor seed, or because of the unusually warm, wet weather last spring, several farmers had poor luck with the seed, reporting considerable spoilage. This was particularly true of the Sabagos.

St. Croix County farmers of late years have not shown much interest in growing potatoes. Many claim they are lucky to get their seed back. Last winter we arranged a series of meetings with Mr. Milward of the College of Agriculture with the thought that it would be an excellent opportunity for our farmers to ask questions and get up-to-the minute information on the subject. Mr. Milward came especially prepared to discuss potato diseases and varieties. The meetings were not too well attended.

In 1943 potatoes in St. Croix County were hard hit by late Blight. 1944 was again a poor year for potatoes. Our office received many requests for us to come and inspect fields to determine if they were blighted and give recommendations. Not one case proved to be Blight. Instead the damage was due to leaf hoppers, which in contrast to Blight, are active in warm, dry weather.

Again in 1944, through the cooperation of Mr. Milward of the College of Agriculture and the Wisconsin Potato Growers Association, a variety demonstration plot was planted on Oscar Garlid's farm at Baldwin. Hundred pounds of certified seed of each variety were planted together under similar circumstances to determine which seemed to respond to our conditions the most favorably. Varieties used were:

Red Warba	Katahdin
Triumph	Sabago
Irish Cobbler	Sequoia
Chippewa	Pontiac

The first three mentioned are early varieties, the others are late. Red Warba, Sebago and Sequoia are the new Wisconsin developed varieties. The Pontiac is a new Michigan potato.

Although final results are not yet ready on the plot, it appears that all the varieties can be made to do well here. Yields this year ranged from 10 to 16 bushels from the 100 pounds of seed on the various varieties. Red Warba seemed to yield the heaviest of the early varieties, while Chippewa, Pontiac, and Sequoia yielded best of the late ones.

Evergreens

Our county has many hills unfit for cropping. Many of them also

make poor pasture. Most of those could very profitably be re-established in woods. Instead of letting them grow up to brush and scrubby trees of little value, it is to be suggested that the farmers plant trees of a type which will grow rapidly to produce timber or fire wood, as the case may be.

Our county is very open, also. The prairie area never had many trees. Consequently, many of our farmers would find it profitable to consider the planting of spruce and pines, not only as wind-breaks about their buildings, but to enhance the beauty of their home and the country-side, as well.

There is a source of good trees for such purposes at a reasonable price available to our farmers—the Wisconsin Conservation Commission. In 1944 our office assisted over 75 farmers in placing orders for approximately 50,000 such seedlings and transplants.

Corn Borer

Corn has come to be one of our leading crops in the county. This may not be too advisable a development. Our rolling, thin soils are not in condition to stand having such a large percentage of cropland open year after year. A more conservative crop rotation would be better for our soils in the long run.

Another thing which our large acreage of corn will encourage, is the introduction and spread of the European Corn Borer. The corn borer was first found in Wisconsin in 1933 in Sheboygan County. During the poor crop years of the "thirties" it was kept confined pretty well and in five years had spread to only six or eight counties. Then it started marching, however, and each year spread to a half dozen new counties. In 1943 it reached this section of the state but was not found in our county until 1944.

During the summer we were asked to inspect several fields where it was believed the borer was at work. Fortunately, it always proved to be some other insect. State Inspectors, however, reported to us they found it in two fields in the county.

In the years ahead we can expect that we shall have to take on the added responsibility of fighting this devastating insect. The longer we continue to crop corn so heavily, the sooner will we get to the fight and the greater will be the struggle.

Henry Wheat

Few are the farmers who will not concede that Vicland Oats increased their yields from $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{3}$ more. Recently our College of Agriculture has announced a new variety of spring wheat, named Henry Wheat, which promises to do for wheat what Vicland did for Oats. In 1944, our county had one grower of this wheat, Harry Haas of River Falls. As yet the seed is not for general distribution. Yet we have at least a half dozen farmers interested in trying some of it and we plan to get some seed for them, if possible.

Weeds

Last year our office distributed about 1000 pounds of Sodium Chlorate to our farmers as a weed killer. Sodium Chlorate is very effective in the control of most weeds if properly applied while the patches are still small. For large fields it usually proves too expensive. This is especially true when considered for controlling wild mustard.

During the past season we had several farmers approach us to state their concern over the growing menace of the wild mustard. Some sections of the county are more infested than are others. Recently, a new chemical has been released, called Synox which is recommended as excellent for the control of this weed in grain fields. It kills practically 100% without injury to the grain. The big problem is applying it, as it has to be applied with a power sprayer.

We plan to look further into this situation to determine what might be done along this line. Every farmer could not and should not attempt to own such a sprayer. We believe one or two such sprayers if available now before the infestation becomes too great, might be sufficient to keep wild mustard under control.

Fruits

Again in 1944, as previously, our office helped a number of our farmers place orders for fruit trees and bushes. This is a field in which there is room for great improvement. Very few well kept, adequate orchards are to be found in this area. Every farm should have its own supply of fresh fruit in season, and also a supply for winter storage.

Because a good many farms now have old orchards in need of pruning and spraying, we brought in Mr. Conrad Kuehner of the College of Agriculture this fall for three meetings on pruning of fruit trees. He also discussed other problems, such as recommended varieties for this area. A number of our farmers now show definite interest in continuing orchard improvement on their farms.

4-H CLUB WORK

Our second most important activity this year has been 4-H Club work. As I mentioned, we were fortunate to have with us, Miss Sontag from March 1st on. We believe that the fact we had additional experienced help from this date on, help that was in touch with the situation constantly has borne excellent fruit.

1944 has been a very successful year for club work in St. Croix county certainly this is evident when we contrast our 66% achievement of this year with the deplorable 41% achievement of 1943. Our greatly improved achievement percentage has not been the only improvement. The general quality of work done by the boys and girls with their projects has been head and shoulders over last year. Added interest has also been displayed in our extra activities such as demonstrations and music.

Most of the responsibility and credit for the part our office played in the 1944 club program, goes to Miss Sontag. More important than our part, however, has been the splendid cooperation we have received from the various adult leaders connected with the various clubs and from the members themselves, and their parents. As one works with these young folks, he can't help but feel that the future of our country will be in safe hands as long as we continue to educate such a fine group of boys and girls as can be found in the 4-H clubs of St. Croix County. We are proud of the part we have been able to play in this program.

Later in this report will be found a more extensive account of of the 4-H activities as prepared by Miss Sontag. She also will cover the activities in connection with the Homenaker's Clubs.

WAR PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIESWar Board

Again our office has been called upon to help in various ways with activities related to the War Effort. One of the more important of these has been our participation on the Agriculture War Board. Although the activities of the War Board have become somewhat curtailed in the past four months we still meet regularly every two weeks. Our biggest responsibility at present is with the issuing of building and lumber permits and electrical hook-up permits.

The Board is also charged with considerable responsibility in the field of farm labor, specifically as recommendations to the local Selective Service board in regards to releases and deferments of farm workers. In our county however, the board has seen fit to redelegate most of that responsibility to our office.

Dairy Advisory Committee to Office of Defense Transportation

Considerable time has been spent in working with the St. Croix County Dairy Advisory Committee of the Office of Defense Transportation, of which the County Agent is secretary, ex-officio. More than thirty regular meetings of the committee were held in addition to several special meetings. We also find it necessary to spend several days in investigating the work and in meeting with personnel of the Office of Defense Transportation in Minneapolis.

The committee has had a great responsibility in attempting to hold down truck mileage counted with the pick-up of milk. Trucks over the United States have been wearing out at the rate of over 50,000 a month. With the winter months ahead it is expected the break down will become still greater. Because of the war situation, it doesn't appear we can hope for any new trucks for some time. Consequently, it is highly important that every effort be made to conserve every possible mile.

In spite of some friction, and occasionally not the best of cooperation, the committee has been very successful in its efforts to date. It is estimated that better than 90% of the farmers, truckers, and milk plant operators in the county are in complete accord with the program.

Bond Drives

We have not had a great deal of responsibility in connection with the various bond drives and other such related activities, but have been called in occasionally. We have tried to do what we could when we could.

Servicemen's Reemployment Committee

Recently, under the leadership of the local Selective Service Board, a Servicemen's Reemployment Committee has been tentatively set up in the county. Your county agent has been appointed to the Advisory Committee of the Reemployment Committee. It shall be our

responsibility to keep the Committee in touch with the farm labor situation and the real estate situation of the county. We shall also act as a council for the returning veterans who are interested in agriculture but who have unanswered questions in their minds.

Milkweed Collection

Another activity demanding considerable of our time this fall has been the collection of milkweed pods for use in making life jackets and aviation suits. County Agents in all areas were asked to head up this program along with the help of the County Superintendent's Office. At this writing, before final results are obtainable, it appears that our county may be ranked third in the state in number of bags picked. Shawano and Grant Counties appear to be harvesting more than we have. Again we have a right to be proud.

Credit for success of the program rests largely with the teachers of the schools of the county, rural as well as urban. Our county was given a quota of 5,000 bags. The boys and girls, under the encouragement and leadership of their teachers went out to meet this quota. And meet it they did!! Almost three times over!! A total of approximately 13,500 bags have been picked. Also deserving of considerable credit in the success of the program are the 4-H leaders, Boy Scout leaders, ministers, and other interested parties who contributed much in leadership.

Deserving of special mention is the part played by the Baldwin Rod and Gun Club. They saw fit to offer a \$5 prize to the boy or girl in the surrounding area who picked the most pods. Unbelievable as it may seem, three boys were tied for high honors with 114 bags apiece. They were: Gaynor Merson, Woodville School; Raymond Wynveen, Lincoln School, Baldwin; and Alan Owens, Valley View School, Hammond.

Credit must also be given to the Doughboy Mills, Inc., and to the Friday Canning Company for graciously offering to each sponsor an advertisement in each of the newspapers in the county encouraging boys and girls to get behind the program and do their part.

GENERALIncome Taxes

Last winter, early in December and again in late February, we brought into the county Mr. Follette of the College of Agriculture for a series of meetings on Farm Income Taxes. Until the last couple of years the bulk of our farmers have not had to pay income taxes, consequently, they were not acquainted with the laws, nor familiar with how to fill out the forms. Many of those who for years had been filling out forms, such as bankers, etc., had had little experience with farmer's blanks and were not too sure of the proper procedures. Realizing this, we thought it wise to have the above mentioned meetings. Eleven different meetings covering the whole county were held. These proved very successful and interest ran high as is indicated by the fact that almost 500 farmers were present at the meetings.

Afterwards we had many comments indicating approval of this type of meeting. Many individual instances of savings to farmers in the amount of taxes were reported ranging from \$5.00 to as high as \$75. Plans at present call for something along the same line again this winter.

Victory Institute

In 1943 and again in 1944, the Wisconsin College of Agriculture, because of war conditions, did not hold its customary Farm and Home Week. Instead, members of the College Faculty and the Extension force toured the state putting on when it was desired one or two days of meetings called "Victory Institute". Pierce and St. Croix County went together and sponsored one at the River Falls State Teacher's College, February 8th and 9th. Morning, afternoon and evening meetings were arranged. A total attendance of about 900 took in the two days program.

Rodent Control

Two phases of Rodent Control came in for consideration this year. Early last spring we arranged to have Mr. G. C. Oderkirk of the Federal Department of Interior, Rodent Control Division in the county for a series of meetings on control and eradication of pocket gophers. A number of farmers attended, and those who did reported later that after practicing the control methods on their home farm the pest practically disappeared. In some areas of the county they have become quite serious. This is not necessary as control methods are very simple and effective when properly carried out.

This fall we declared war on another serious farm pest—the common rat. In a campaign only recently completed we took orders for and brought into the county 240 packages of prepared meat and fish poison bait for rats. This bait was put out on about 225 farms scattered over most of the county. Every year rats do hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of damage to farm crops and the farm feed supply. One package of this bait, costing only 60¢, was enough

to get rid of all the rats on any average sized farm. Surely one couldn't go wrong on that if he had any rats at all.

Bees

In July of this year, Walter E. Smith, Deputy Apiary, inspector for the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, spent several weeks in the county inspecting our bee colonies. This is carried on by the State Department on the strength of the \$100. your Board has seen fit to appropriate for that purpose each year. After working a few days, Mr. Smith contacted us and invited us to inspect a few colonies with him. His reason in doing this was to point out to us the serious situation which is developing within our bee industry. A disease of bees known as American Foul Brood has broken out in several places among our bee colonies. This disease, if not checked, may soon spread and wipe out most of our colonies. The disease is quickly and easily spread by bees flying from one hive to another. In this way it also spreads from farm to farm.

At the time Mr. Smith contacted me he was concerned because the funds were running out before he could get over even half the county. However, he contacted the State Department at Madison and they granted him additional emergency funds to keep on with the necessary work. As a result he got over all the county except the towns of Cylon, St. Joseph, Glenwood, and Springfield. In the county he found five farms on which the disease has a start—two in Somerset, one in St. Joseph and two in Cady. Also two were found in Pierce County close enough to infect colonies in our county. One near Troy and one near Cady. In all Mr. Smith inspected 178 farms, with 914 colonies and found 17 colonies infected.

He urges that your board give consideration to doubling your appropriation for 1945. If you do so he is quite sure the whole county can be inspected and close watch kept on the source of infection to keep the situation under control.

Farm Buildings

In June we had in the county Mr. LaRock of the College of Agriculture and Mr. Mathews of the American Zinc Institute to put on a demonstration on the care and repair of sheet metal roofs. The meeting on the Christ To Grotenhuis farm was attended by about twenty farmers.

Also during the year we had several occasions to counsel with farmers concerning building problems on farms, particularly milk houses and hen houses

Miscellaneous

During the year we have from time to time did what we could to cooperate with other agencies and organizations in various programs. We have worked with personnel of the R.E.A., the A.A.A. and the F.S.A. on several occasions. Also, we have attended at least 15 meetings of various Parent-Teachers Associations to talk and show moving pictures. We have close cooperation with the Vocational Agriculture Department

in the various high schools. In some cases we have talked to the boys or to the members of evening classes on problems of interest to them.

St. Croix County has a number of locals of the Farmers Union, and we have, whenever possible, lend what help and assistance we could. We firmly believe that only by organization can the farmer hope to compete successfully with his fellow men. Consequently, we are glad to support any farm organization that has as its aim organizing farmers along this line.

STATISTICS

Summary of activities; Nov. 1st, 1943 to Oct. 31st, 1944

Days devoted to Livestock Production-----	62
Days devoted to Crop Production-----	58
Days devoted to War Projects-----	52
Days devoted to Cooperation with other agencies-----	50
Days devoted to Program planning and Conferences-----	31
Days devoted to Farm Management-----	28
Days devoted to Miscellaneous-----	27½
Days devoted to Marketing and Distribution-----	25
Days devoted to Conservation of National Resources-----	24
Days devoted to Farm Buildings and Equipment-----	20
Days devoted to Family and Community Life-----	11
Days devoted to Economic Problems-----	10
Days devoted to work with Adults-----	211½
Days devoted to work with Youth-----	87
Total number of News Articles-----	82
Total number of different farms visited-----	160
Total number of farm visits-----	252
Total number of Telephone calls-----	3385
Total number of Office Calls-----	3794
Total number of Bulletins Distributed-----	5597
Total number of Personal Letters-----	2487
Total number of Circular letters-----	9952
Total number of meetings held-----	83
Total attendance at Meetings-----	5367
Total number of miles traveled-----	10342

STATISTICS

(18)

Specialists who worked in St. Croix County in 1944

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Days in Co.</u>
Grace Rountree Duffee	Hone Econ. Dist. Superv.	4
Edna Bauman	Asst. State 4-H Leader	1
Clara Jonas	Hone Furnishings Specialist	3
Gladys Stillman	Ext. Nutritionist	4
Agnes Hansen	Asst. State 4-H Leader	2
Burl Winchester	Animal Husbandry, Instructor	1
A. O. Follett	Farm Management Specialist	4
Wakelin McNeel	State Director of 4-H Clubs	3
John Brann	Asst. Prof. of Plant Pathology	1
James Milward	Potato Specialist	3
Asher Hobson	Agriculture Economist	1
Victor Burcalow	Asst. Prof. of Agronomy	1
George Werner	Dairy Specialist	2
L. G. Sorden	Asst. State Farm Labor Director	2
George Briggs	Farm Crop Specialist	6
Berry Hayes	Poultry Specialist	1
Gust Bohstedt	Prof. of Animal Husbandry	4
Otto Zeasman	Soil Conservation Specialist	4
T. L. Bewick	Asst. State 4-H Leader	3
Gerald Annin	Poultry Specialist	1
V.V. Varney	Asst. State 4-H Leader	2
C. J. Chapman	Soils Specialist	6
Max LaRock	Agricultural Engineer	2
G. C. Oderkirk	Director of Rodent Control	2
I. O. Hall	Farm Management Specialist	3
James Lacey	Sheep & Hog Specialist	2
Marvin Schwiers	State Director of Soil Cons. Service	1
Conrad Kuehner	Orchard Specialist	1
Peter McNall	Farm Management Specialist	3
Ben Rusy	Extension District Supervisor	8

COUNTY AGENT'S OFFICE FINANCIAL REPORT

Disbursements

Nov. 1, 1943 to Oct. 31, 1944

\$ 183.04	Eau Claire Book Co. (Office Supplies)
60.41	Fuel
28.95	Lights
160.16	Telephone
204.00	Rent
5.00	Water
10.00	Baldwin Insurance Agency
186.08	Petty Cash
495.67	Co. Agent Travel (Car Maintenance, Gas & Oil, Meals)
1000.00	Co. Agent's Salary
620.00	Clerk's Salary
34.50	Extra help
291.30	Misc. (Supplies, news ad., maintenance of office machines)
<u>\$3279.11</u>	Total

4-H PROGRAM

Compiled by Edria L. Sontag

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4-H PROGRAM — 1944Food Production and Food Preservation

During the past eight months in St. Croix County most of my time was devoted to the 4-H Club program. Although no goal for enrollment was set, a good deal of time in the spring was spent in organizing new clubs. The enrollment this year totaled 408 which was about 100 less than last year, but our main goal was to bring up the achievement record which was reached with a 25% increase over last year. In addition to this the goals set up by the county 4-H Leader's Federation, which had its meeting in February were as follows: (1) Have each club member carry at least one victory project, (2) Hold a County Music Festival, (3) Take part in the district 4-H encampment, (4) Hold a county 4-H picnic, (5) Have a county demonstration contest and stress demonstration work in local clubs, (6) Local clubs take part in collection of war materials, (7) Carry on a Fire Prevention and Safety Program in St. Croix County.

Of the 408 club members, 94 enrolled in the garden project. About a total of 20 acres was involved in the project. In two clubs garden tours were made and many gardens were visited by either the County Agent or myself. At the County Fair a total of 56 garden exhibits were shown. Another project stressed this year was poultry and 37 members chose to carry it. 75% of this number took care of the family flock and kept a record. Other projects, which stressed the point to produce more food, were beef, in which we had 10 enrolled, sheep, which 26 carried as a project, swine, in which 18 enrolled and dairy, where a total of 101 selected this as their project. A high quality of work was attained.

Tied directly with the garden project was the



4-H CLUBS IN ST. CROIX COUNTY

Somerset *	* Star Praire	Stanton	Cylon ○	Forest *
* Saint Joseph	* Richmond ○	Erin ○	Emerald	Glenwood
* Hudson	Warren ○	Hammond	* Baldwin *	* Springfield
* Troy ○	* Kinnickinnic *	* Pleasant Valley	* Rush River ○	Eau Galle *
				Cady ○

Total number of clubs-29

* New Clubs-9

○ Old Clubs-20

Total Enrollment-408

task of Food Preservation. Many girls enrolled in both of these projects so as to carry on and preserve the food they had produced. Three demonstrations were held, which many of the 54 enrolled in Food Preservation did attend. They were given instructions in the use of the pressure cooker to preserve non-acid vegetables and meats and the method of canning tomatoes in the hot water bath was also given. Through Federal Funds a pressure cooker was able to be had in the county and this was loaned out to 4-H members after they had been instructed in the use of one. An all time high was reached in the total number of quarts preserved in this county by 4-H members. According to 4-H records it totaled nearly 5,500 quarts. Enough for a good number of farm families in St. Croix County.

The ever important question of clothing was given considerable time during my time as County Club leader. Of the total 122 enrolled in clothing 62 were beginners. This past year many members had individual problems as to finding new material suitable to the articles they were required to make. Although making-over old dresses and the proper care and repair of clothes was suggested, it still became necessary to help eight members select and purchase new material. Three leaders whose membership was made up of clothing members had special sewing project meetings where members were given suggestions and helps as to pre-shrinking material, choosing material and patterns, and the proper care of clothing.

In promoting the important H which stands for health, the Leaders Council decided that the specific thing which should be encouraged was the holding of one meeting a year at which health would be the main topic and also to encourage members to carry on health demonstrations. Miss Kathleen Brown, County Nurse, was very helpful in giving

a suggested list to 4-H members to give demonstrations on and also in judging the County 4-H Health Contest. However, good health is based on proper food so through the Foods and Nutrition project in which 68 members took part a good deal was accomplished. "Grains in our Meals", being a group taken out of the basic seven, was the material on which the foods requirements was based for this year.

As a special project and one that fits into a wartime program is the maintenance and repair of sheet metal. Bill Schafer, Orval Lokker and Bob Kinney were the three boys who were selected to carry on this program. Bill gave his demonstration in his own community, at the County Fair, Northwestern Wisconsin District Fair and at the State Fair at Milwaukee.

Most projects and activities of any club center around the war effort. Eight clubs included in their program the buying of defense stamps. The Somerset Busy Bees and the Worthwhile Club of St. Joseph made special waste paper drives in their clubs in addition to the Valley Victors of Eau Galle and Kinnickinnic made special scrap drives. The boys and girls cooperated splendidly with the Milkweed pod collection program. Nearly 100% the 4-H achievement members took part in this program.

To date only one 4-H Club, Worthwhile of St. Joseph have definitely planned parties and programs in a vacant school to provide recreation for the community. First, they secured the school, secondly they started planning parties and invited their parents and all the friends in the community. This has proved very successful.

During 1944 in accordance with the prevention of fires the clubs sponsored a Radio Speaking Contest. Beatrice Lokker of Baldwin placed first and Charles Taylor of River Falls placed second. Seven participated in the contest. To do their part to aid the war effort by saving


lives and property three clubs did checking of fire hazards on their own farms. In this program there is a good deal of room for expansion.

In reviewing the contribution of 4-H members to the war effort we cannot fail to mention how vital a source they are of farm labor. Many 4-H girls took over man sized jobs.


Carrying on the 4-H Program

The success of a club program rests on the local volunteer leader. The 4-H leaders of St. Croix organized in February as stated before into a county group and elected officers. Officers elected were the following: Mrs. P.C. Schafer, President; Paul DeRoy, Vice-President; Mrs. J. S. Plourde, Secretary. Following under separate headings the activities of the 4-H clubs will be taken up.

County 4-H Music Festival



On May 28th the Third Annual County 4-H Music Contest was held at the Hammond Community Hall. A total of fourteen clubs participated. Three divisions were included; unison singing and part singing of a group and soloists. Miss Parker, Supervisor of Pierce County and Mr. Wagner of River Falls served as judges. Orval Lokker of the Hammond Christian Club and Norma Sather of the True Blues Club received excellent ratings in the solo division. Betty Lou Sontag received a very good rating in this division. Group ratings were given to the following:



Part Singing

Excellent--True Blues
Very good--Hammond Christian
Good-----Hudson Badgers

Unison

Excellent--Valley Victors
Very good--Glover All Starlites
Good-----Troy Trojans



Twenty-one older club members and leaders attended the 4-H Leadership training camp at Chetek from June 8th to 11th. Attending the camp were: Mrs. Rosella Henrickson, Beatrice Lokker, Orval Lokker, Mary Olsen, Betty Lou Sontag, Delores Newton, Marjorie Ruennele, Norma Sather, Mary Jean Schafer, Hazel Olsen, Dorothy Pundy, Billy Shay, Ann Marie Belisle, Mary Joan Boardman, Marian Jacobson, Bob McCarty, Dennis Kinney, Lorna Radke, Walter Johnson, Charles Taylor and Miss Sontag.

County 4-H Picnic

At the New Richmond Beach Park on July 19th a county 4-H Picnic was held. Mr. V. V. Varney, Assistant State Club Leader, was present and a program of games was planned. About 210 attended. The County Health Contest was held at the picnic and the winners to represent St. Croix County at the State Fair at Milwaukee were chosen. Miss Kathleen Brown, County Nurse, judged the contest. La Verne Strege of the Riverside Club of New Richmond was selected as the healthiest boy and Edith Hoffmeyer of the Challengers Club was selected the healthiest girl in the County. Second place winners were Marian Sontag of the Worthwhile Club of St. Joseph and Paul Early of the Hudson Badgers.

County 4-H Roundup

Again this year a County 4-H Roundup was held at Hammond on August 9th, 10th and 11th. Much of the success was due to the fine cooperation of the 4-H leaders and the business men of Hammond. A total of 247 4-H members exhibited and an approximate total of 3500 attended. Mr. Seyforth, County Agent of Pierce County; Mr. Durmond, County Agent of Eau Claire County; Mary Thomas, Home Agent of Pierce County; Miss Lois Strahn of Barron County and Mr. I. O. Hembre, County Agent of Barron County served as judges.

The number of exhibits were a few less than last year but the quality of each exhibit was far superior to those of the previous year. A county band was also organized which played at the fair.

The following boys and girls received champion ribbons:

Grand Champion of the show--Lucille Riek--Loyalty, Woodville
 Holstein Champion--Dale Frederick--Roberts Bongs
 Guernsey Champion--Lucille Riek--Loyalty, Woodville
 Jersey Champion--Donnie Jensen--Glover All Stars
 Shorthorn Champion--Robert Gifford--Hudson Badgers

Champion Beef, Fat Class--Lloyd Stork, Roberts Bongs
 Champion Beef, Breeding--Bill Schafer, Worthwhile, St. Joe
 Champion Gilt, Mary Olsen--True Blues, Woodville
 Champion Boar--Mary Olsen--True Blues, Woodville
 Champion Litter--Paul DeRoy--Baldwin Wide Awake
 Champion Sheep--Bob Kinney--Hudson Badgers, Hudson

Participation in the District and State Fairs

The winners in the County Demonstration contest were taken to the Northern Wisconsin District Fair at Chippewa Falls. The winners who attended were as follows:

	<u>Topic</u>
Bill Schafer, Worthwhile Club, individual,	Maintenance of sheet metal
Marian Sontag, Worthwhile Club, individual,	Quick Freezing of Vegetables
Maxine Orf, Riverside Club,	Home Ec. Team, Fitting a Commercial Pattern
Rosella Strege, Riverside Club,	

Bill Schafer received a placing in the blue ribbon group and a trip to the State Fair at Milwaukee. Maxine Orf, Rosella Strege and Marian Sontag were placed in the white ribbon group.



Members of the 4-H clubs of St. Croix County participated in both the Wisconsin and Minnesota State Fairs. Those winners in the county who received trips to the Wisconsin State Fair were as follows:

LaVerne Strege, New Richmond	Health Winner
Edith Hoffmeyer, River Falls	Health Winner
Joan Ryan, Hudson	Style Revue
Lorraine Jacobson, Hammond	Style Revue
Orval Lokker, Baldwin	Music
Bill Schafer, Stillwater	Demonstrations

Bill Schafer placed in the red ribbon group in the demonstration contest and Joan Ryan placed in the red ribbon group in the Style Revue

Due to transportation difficulties and the expense involved it was decided not to exhibit livestock at the Wisconsin State Fair. Because the champion winners at the County Fair had done such a splendid job it was decided to take a group to the Minnesota State Fair. Mr. A. J. Kittleston, State Club Leader of Minnesota, welcomed the group and gave them permission to eat with the 1500 4-H members from Minnesota as their guests. Twenty-one members and leaders were given the trip.

Marilyn Delander	Bernice Bosman
Betty Schafer	Ruth Hop
Bob Jagg	Bill Enloe
Benjamin George	Charles Taylor
Betty Sontag	Joyce Stockig
Lucille Riek	Kelna Fuller
Lloyd Stork	Donna Jensen
Delores Kruezigor	Ardyce Afdahl
Bob Kinney	Ralph Katner
James Ryan	Alice Gillis

Marilyn Plourde

Fall Festival

The third annual fall festival was held in conjunction with the Elks Carnival on September 28th, 29th and 30th at the Hudson Elks Building. Through the cooperation of the Elks Club and Mr. Bunker the clubs were permitted to put up display booths and prizes were awarded. Prizes on the booths were: 1st place to Troy Trojans, 2nd place to Worthwhile and True Blues 4-H Club. On the evening of September 30th a special 4-H program was given.

Achievement

Mr. Wakelin McNeel, State Club Leader attended the annual 4-H Achievement program held at the Baldwin High School on October 26th. Approximately 300 members, leaders, parents and friends attended this occasion when all 4-H members who had successfully completed the requirements for their projects and had handed in a record book received their Achievement Award. A 66% achievement was reached, which surpasses the 41% record of last year by 25%. Below are listed the outstanding members who received awards.

Bernice Bosman--True Blues--Baldwin--Outstanding girl, clothing winner top poultry raiser.

Bill Schafer--Worthwhile--St. Joseph--Outstanding boy, meat production winner, outstanding boy Junior Leader.

Kelma Fuller--Challengers--River Falls--Outstanding Girl Jr. Leader

Marian Sontag--Worthwhile--St. Joseph--Winner of Foods Preservation

Mary Jean Schafer--Worthwhile--St. Joseph--Foods and Nutrition winner and a second mile report

Paul DeRoy--Baldwin--Outstanding Second Mile Report.

Garden-winners

Bob Jagg-Worthwhile
Mary Olsen-True Blues
Betty Schafer-Worthwhile
Joyce Plourde-Somerset

Dress Revue Winners

Joan Ryan-Troy Trojans
Lorraine Jacobson-Valley Victors
Elsie Hargrave-Roberts Bongs
Clara Belle Foster-Hudson Badgers
Beverly Hop-True Blues

Jack Gillis--Willing Badgers, New Richmond--Holstein Record
Eugene Larson--Loyalty, Woodville--Jersey Record
Clarence Dow--Cranetown Hustlers, Glenwood City--Guernsey Record
Mary Olson--True Blues, Baldwin--Swine Record
Kenneth Enloe--Glover All Stars, Hudson--Colt Record

Seven clubs reached 100% achievement.. Three of which were newly organized clubs this year.

Challengers, River Falls--7 years--Mrs. A. Fuller, Leader
Worthwhile, St. Joseph--7 years--Mrs. P.C. Schafer, Leader
True Blues, Baldwin--3 years--Mrs. Harry Hop, Leader
Glover All Stars, River Falls--3 years--Bill Enloe, Leader
Landing Hill, Somerset--1 year--Mrs. Bill Bergeron, Leader
Glover All Starlets, River Falls--1 year--Mrs. Wm Jensen, Leader
Loyalty, Woodville--1 year--Mrs. Elmer Larson, Leader

WORK AS WAR FOOD ASSISTANT

Much of the 4-H program had to do with the production and preservation of food. Eight demonstrations were given on the canning of non-acid vegetables with the pressure cooker, the quick freezing of vegetables and fruits, and the canning of tomatoes in the hot water bath. The pressure cooker that was secured through federal funds and the cooker purchased by the county were used and loaned out. Instructions were also given on the care of a cooker. Containers for quick freezing were purchased in large quantities and sold to persons doing quick freezing.

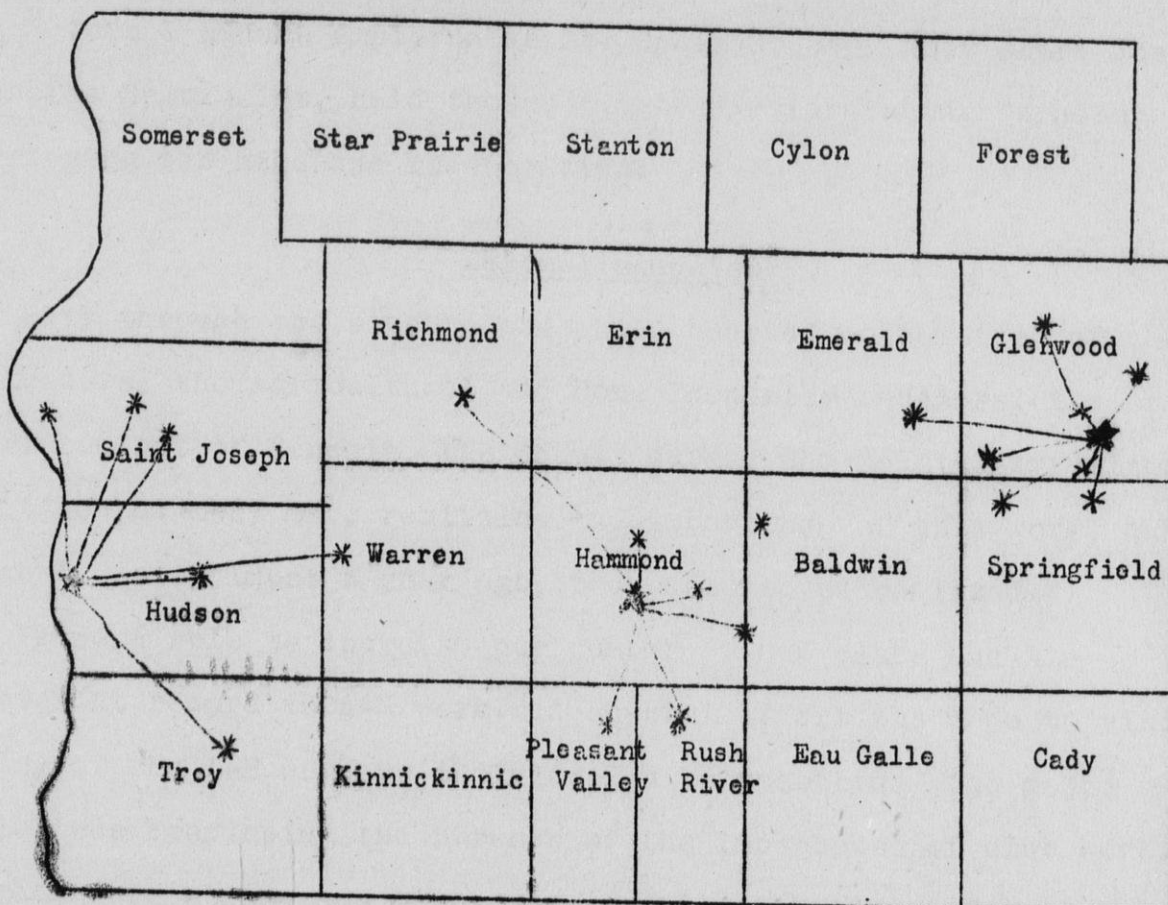
In March a survey was made of the six locker plants in St. Croix County. A spot check survey was also made in response to a request from the state office on canning. It was discovered that the farm families in Wisconsin can and throw out, due to spoilage, almost two and a half tons of food. A definite effort was made to save some of this food by pointing out the cause for spoilage and cautioning canners to be more sanitary in canning.

A display booth was put up at the County 4-H Fair and the Fall Festival on the preservation of food. Newspapers in the county were also given releases on canning information.

Adult Homemakers Program

On April 20, Mrs. Grace Duffee met with a council from each homemaker's center to decide the topic for discussion at the center meetings to be held this year and the dates of the center meetings. Mrs. Rudy Conrad was elected chairman of the Hammond Center and Mrs. Noel Moe of the Glenwood City Center. Meetings were scheduled as follows: October 19th & 20th Wartime Salads; November 29th, 30th and December 1st The Use of Eggs, Cheese & Milk.

HOMEMAKERS CLUBS IN ST. CROIX COUNTY



The three centers for Homemakers Clubs are at Hudson, Hammond, and Glenwood City. The center at Hudson was newly organized this year.

Four new Homemakers Clubs have been organized near Hudson and two more groups to date are interested. It is planned that a new center will be set up at Hudson. Miss Gladys Stillman, Extension Nutritionist, attended the center meeting in October to teach the leaders of the local clubs.

Before I became employed in St. Croix County, Miss Clara Jonas, Extension Specialist, Held two meetings on refurnishing furniture, rearranging the home and redecorating.

Accomplishments

Only through the sincere and whole hearted cooperation of the 4-H Leaders, the Agricultural and Home Economics teachers, the Superintendent of Schools, the County Nurse, the County Agricultural Committee and many more realizing the importance of this work, have the goals set, almost a year ago, been able to be realized.

We were able to increase our number of new clubs and the achievement record in 4-H work. A special effort was made to visit as many of the 4-H members individually as possible. One major problem was convincing the parents of the importance of club work. We feel a big stride has been made in this direction. Outsiders too have shown considerable interest this year.

SUMMARY--4-H PROJECTS

	<u>No. enrolled</u>
Clothing-----	122
Food Preservation-----	54
Foods and Nutrition-----	68
Beef-----	10
Dairy-----	101
Garden-----	94
Pig-----	18
Poultry-----	37
Sheep-----	26
Corn-----	11
Grain-----	4
Potatoes-----	12
Canning Crops-----	10
Colt-----	2
Farm and Home Service-----	9
Forestry-----	5
Farm Records-----	4
Sheet Metal-----	3
Handicraft-----	5
Home Improvement-----	15
Soil Conservation-----	3
Bees-----	1

THE 1945 PROGRAM

The room for expansion in almost every phase of extension work is very great in this county. The program for 1945 will include the aim to increase the 4-H enrollment, acquaint adults with the club program, hold a county 4-H Music Festival, enlarge the Fire Prevention and Safety projects, stress and teach methods of demonstrating, hold an inter-county 4-H Camp at the Y.M.C.A. Camp at Hudson for our club members, stress importance in keeping complete records and also 4-H'ers in collecting materials for the war, point out to members the importance of improving our homemaking and farm practices, help them to become patriotic citizens and hold a County 4-H Fair.

In the Homemakers program several new centers can be set up if new clubs were organized in sections of the county where we do not have Homemakers Clubs already.

A Home Agent could assist farm families with management problems, keeping home accounts, clothing construction problems, set up a child development program and aid communities in setting up recreational centers. A Home Agent also has a splendid opportunity to aid schools in setting up the hot lunch program.