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ANNUAL REPORT

OF

W. C. VOSKUIL
County Agricultural Agent

OF

Grant County, Wisconsin

1938 - 1939



Cooperating Parties: U. S. Department of Agriculture,
Extension Service Wisconsin College of Agriculture
and County Board of Supervisors

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Annual Report

OF THE
COUNTY
AGRICULTURAL
AGENT

For the Period November 1, 1938 to November 1, 1939

To the Members of the Board:

Gentlemen:

The work of the County Agent's Office is a public program supported by public funds. With that thought in mind I present this Annual Report for the year 1938-1939. This past year has been the first one in Grant County for the Agent and a very pleasant one it has been. It is a pleasure to present this accounting of the work to you.

In reviewing this Report please remember that much of the work was made possible only by the cooperation of interested folks all over the County. It is this help received from many sources that enables this office to be of greatest value.

The report contained herein is by no means the sum total of all activities carried on. It is but an attempt to give the high lights for the year. The statistics below indicate how the years time was spent, while the reports on individual projects show the various agricultural activities.

STATISTICAL REVIEW

Number of farm and home visits.....	395
Number of different circular letters.....	217
Number of personal letters.....	3,309
Number of telephone calls.....	2,636
Number of business office calls.....	6,799
Total number of meetings held.....	162
Attendance at meetings held.....	14,708
Days specialists aided in County.....	52
Days in field.....	199
Days in office.....	115
Days on vacation.....	0

BIGGEST 4 H YEAR SINCE 1931

Grant County 4 H Clubs totaled 578 active members this year to make the largest and most active enrollment since 1931. A steady gain has been noticed for several years. The twenty-nine clubs are well scattered over the county. Here we have a list of the clubs with the name of the leaders.

Badger Builders 4 H Club

Mr. Wayne Jenkins, Platteville

Bloomington Badgers

Miss Florence Boehlke, Bloomington
Mr. James Motl, Bloomington

Brodsville Busy Bees

Mrs. Virgil Johnson, Bagley
Mr. Virgil Johnson, Bagley

Busy Brownies

Mrs. Fred Eisele, Fennimore
Mr. Phil Bausman, Fennimore

Clifton-Liberty Leaders

Mr. Glen Kemper, Livingston
Miss Hazel Hill, Stitzer

Cuba City Cardinals

Mr. Peter E. May, Cuba City
Miss Janet Biddick, Cuba City

Farview Stars

Mrs. Theodore Spease, Lancaster
Mr. Earl Vesperman, Lancaster

Georgetown Boosters

Mr. Burnell Egan, Cuba City
Miss Lois Daniels, Cuba City
Mrs. Roy Greene, Cuba City

Green River Gallopers

Mr. Frank W. Kuchar, Muscoda
Mr. E. N. Brown, Woodman

Hickory Hustlers

Miss Marcella Kovars, Boscobel
Mr. Donald Kovars, Boscobel

Hurricane Hustlers

Mrs. Charles G. Wieland, Lancaster

Ideal Hilltoppers

Mrs. Harvey Lemanski, Fennimore
Mr. Raymond Baumgartner, Fennimore

Lancaster 4 H Club

Mr. Albert Cummer, Lancaster

Livingston Lifters

Mrs. Joe Gates, Livingston

Livingston Willing Workers

Mrs. L. E. Grunenwald, Livingston

Maple Glen Polar Bears

Mr. Leslie Lory, Platteville

Merry Mixers 4 H Club

Mrs. Ora Govier, Lancaster
Mr. L. L. Griswold, Lancaster

Mt. Hope Hilltop Helpers

Miss Fern Lockhart, Mt. Hope
Mr. Donald Kolar, Mt. Hope
Mr. Ed Ferguson, Mt. Hope

Muscoda Workers

Mr. Orlie T. Baker, Muscoda
Miss Genevieve Bartels, Boscobel
Miss Alice Nahley, Muscoda

Patch Grove Handy Helpers

Mr. Charles B. Finn, Bridgeport

Plum Valley Boosters

Mrs. Walter Ashmore, Fennimore
Mr. Richard Munns, Fennimore

Prairie Hustlers 4 H Club

Elva Stuckey, Fennimore
Mr. Kenneth Miller, Fennimore
Mr. Tony Bukowski, Fennimore

Rising Sun

Miss Norma Alexander, Fennimore
Mr. Milford Munns, Fennimore

St. Johns 4 H Club

Sister Digna, Muscoda
Rita Bremmer, Muscoda

St. Rose Blue Ribbon

Mr. Peter May, Cuba City
Sister Sara, Cuba City
Mrs. Anton Busch, Cuba City
Mrs. George Gierens, Cuba City
Mr. Delton Fleege, Cuba City

Stitzer Go-Getters

Mrs. Mike Novinskie, Lancaster
Mrs. Adolph Lenz, Stitzer
Mr. Mike Novinskie, Lancaster
Mr. Virgil Loy, Stitzer
Mr. Robert Rector, Stitzer

Wide Awake Willing Workers

Mrs. L. Uridel, Bagley
Mr. Keith Martin, Bagley

Willing Workers

Mr. Robert Swenson, Fennimore
Mrs. Peter Flathom, Fennimore

Woodchuck and Rock

Mrs. C. O. Manuell, Platteville

A few of the most important county 4 H events include Annual Leaders meeting held at Fennimore, four days of clothing and foods work for girls at various centers in the County, boys dairy and livestock judging contests, Annual 4 H Club Round Up, State Fair and Annual Achievement Day.

The leaders meeting was held April 6 at Fennimore. Thirty-six leaders from all parts of the County were present. The evening was spent in laying out a County 4 H Program for the year and discussing methods of improving the work in individual clubs.

Girl members of 4 H Clubs were each given a chance to attend meetings conducted by University specialists in foods and nutrition and clothing subjects. These meetings were held at five different centers and nine meetings were held with about 350 girls present.

Preliminary and final judging contests were held for both dairy and livestock club members. These were in the form of tours with stops being made on farms in all parts of the County. This means was used for giving training in livestock work as well as selecting the champion judges to represent Grant County at the State Fair.

The Annual County 4 H Round Up was held August 14th at Lancaster. This is the event at which county winners are selected in all judging, demonstration, health, style revue and other contests. Competent judges are secured from the University or other sources. Five hundred persons attended this years Round Up and most of those participated in one or more events.

The highlight of the years 4 H activity is the participation by county winners in State Fair events. Below we have a list of boys and girls who had the privilege to represent Grant County at Milwaukee.

Livestock Judging Contest

Theodore Griswold, Livingston
Claire Jerrett, Lancaster

Dairy Cattle Judging Contest

Albert Cummer, Lancaster
Howard Skaife, Bridgeport

Crops Judging and Identification Contest

Carson Wepking, Lancaster
Burnell Egan, Cuba City

Poultry Judging Contest

Robert Baker, Platteville

Dairy Products Judging Contest

Frederick Lenz, Stitzer
Grant Flathom, Fennimore

Foods and Nutrition Judging Contest

Eleanor Eisele, Fennimore
Lorraine Lenz, Stitzer

Canning Judging Contest

Joyce Schwer, Fennimore
Eleanor Brandt, Fennimore

Girls Style Dress Revue

Phyllis Thornton, Bagley

Demonstration "Wax Plucking of Poultry"

Maynard Nelson, Lancaster
Albert Cummer, Lancaster

Dairy Queen Contest

Helen Callaway, Platteville

Health Contest

Eleanor Eisele, Fennimore
Albert Cummer, Lancaster

Walter Hauk of Cassville won grand champion over all breeds with his Angus steer. Frederick Lenz of Stitzer received first in the Dairy Products Judging Contest. The County Demonstration team received second among all teams in the State. Helen Callaway was a member of the Dairy Queen Court of Honor. Several other minor winnings helped make Grant Counties participation an outstanding one.

The annual 4 H Achievement Day was this year held at Lancaster at the Grantland Theatre. Four hundred County club folks attended. The program was a potluck affair with each club contributing one number. Four hundred thirty-five boys and girls received achievement pins. This is a 75% completion, which is unusually high. To "achieve" a boy or girl must turn in an accurate, complete record, must have exhibited his project and attended at least four meetings.

The Agent attended many other tours, picnics, and other 4 H gatherings and aided in the program. Working with these wide awake farm boys and girls is a real pleasure. Watching these children develop and grow gives a solid satisfaction

not found in other types of work. The future of these boys and girls is very important to Grant County.

WEED PROGRAM ADVANCES

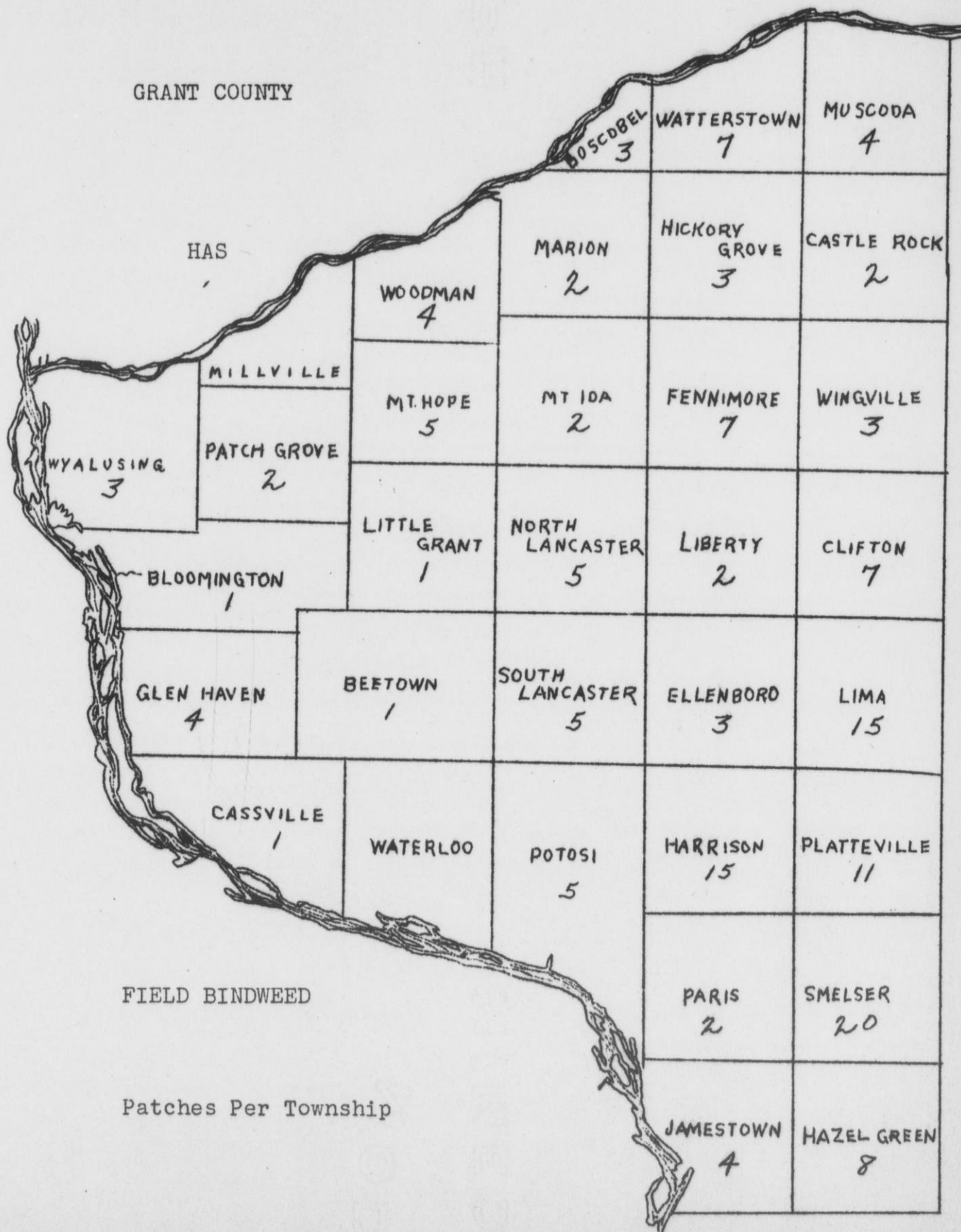
Aided by an appropriation for Field Bindweed control and excellent cooperation from weed commissioners and town chairman, this years weed program achieved excellent results. Field bindweed received the most attention.

The first problem was to secure an accurate map of Bindweed infestation in the County. Weed commissioners and A. A. committeemen did most of this work during the summer. The accompanying map shows the latest picture on infestation in each township. No doubt many patches are not accounted for.

All possible help was given to farmers on whose farms Bindweed was found. Personal visits were made to many of them. The appropriation made by the County has been used to pay half the cost of the sodium chlorate used on Field Bindweed. The fund will be depleted in another year.

An activity that helped spread Bindweed information was the erection of a County Weed Booth at all three of the County Fairs. Large crowds viewed the booth at Lancaster, Platteville and Bloomington. Half of the exhibit was devoted to identification of the weed while the other half gave control methods. This booth evoked more interest than any other method that we have used.

In distributing sodium chlorate care is taken to give out only the amount needed for the Bindweed patches at an application rate of four pounds per square rod. An O.K. is required from the Agent, weed commissioner or town chairman.



GRANT COUNTY

FIELD BINDWEED

Patches Per Township

Complete information is given the farmer so the best results will be received.

Many comments have been heard concerning the work done by weed commissioners in the entire field of weed control. Commissioners themselves have indicated that it is becoming easier to get farmers cooperation. A general circular letter was sent from this office last spring to make folks weed conscious. A very well attended Annual Weed Meeting was held in April. We hope the trend toward better weed control will continue.

FARMERS USE SOIL TESTING SERVICE

Fifteen hundred samples of soil were tested for Grant County farmers last year. The tests made were for phosphorous, potash and lime requirements. Some of these were made at township meetings held around the County while most of them were handled in the office.

The fact that so many tests were requested indicates that farmers are making heavy use of this service. These tests not only show the amounts of fertilizers that would pay, but the kind as well. Farmers are not fertilizing blindly, but are getting more for their money by using correct formulas. Each succeeding year will no doubt see more fertilizer used.

LIME PROGRAM CONTINUES

Seven thousand tons of lime were ground last year on projects sponsored through this office. The lowest delivered contract price was .65 cents per ton and the highest was .85 cents per ton. This makes a total of \$2,100.00 saved farmers in the County by this one service alone. Town chairman in several town-

ships took the responsibility for taking orders and making collections.

Lime still remains the element most needed on Grant County farms. The point has been now reached where many farmers are liming fields for a second time. The value of liming is no longer debated as was the case ten or fifteen years ago. Farmers realize that any program of building up a farm involves lime, legume seedings and fertilizer.

SOIL EROSION PRACTICES SPREAD

Farmers throughout the County are becoming soil erosion conscious to a greater extent than was thought possible in so short a time. An erosion program on a farm might be made up of one or more of the following practices: strip cropping, contour furrowing, buffer stripping, terracing, pasture renovation, legume and grass seeding, gully control and soil saving dams. The spread of these practices was given impetus by the work of the Soil Conservation Service for the past several years.

Soil erosion problems have become a major piece of work for the County Agent's Office. I venture to say that in a few more years this will become the number one problem on the County Program of Work. A small start was made this year when a series of soil erosion control meetings were held in several townships. The attendance at these meetings was excellent and interest very high. A larger number of these are planned for the coming winter. These will be greatly aided by the use of erosion pictures in the new sound moving picture machine.

Three tours of the Fennimore project area were held this year. The Agent hoped to make even greater use of these demonstrations in spreading soil erosion practices. The closest cooperation has been in effect between the Soil Conservation Service and this office.

A problem of significance to the Board at some future date will be the suggestion to declare Grant County a "Soil Conservation District" as defined under a new State Law passed last year. The purpose is to make it possible to secure the services, over the whole county, of a member of the Federal Soil Conservation staff working thru this office. The plan does not involve a cent of expense to the County either directly or indirectly, but does make it possible for farmers to secure the services of this technician on soil erosion problems. The study I have given this, leads me to believe it entirely feasible for Grant County in the near future.

SLEEPING SICKNESS DISCUSSED

Perhaps the liveliest farm subject in the County last spring was the matter of sleeping sickness among horses. Interest was high because accurate information was scarce and fake cures and remedies were numerous. The Agent has just been through the complete cycle of the disease in South Dakota so was able to discuss the problem at several meetings around the County. These meetings and other publicity helped to spread accurate information concerning the disease and vaccination methods. A large percentage of horses were vaccinated and sleeping sickness caused little damage this year.

SHEEP DIPPING PROGRAM STARTS

Grant County sheep producers this year had a portable sheep dipping outfit at their disposal for the first time. This dipping, along with drenching, takes care of ticks and worms which are each year causing thousands of dollars loss to county sheep men.

The procedure followed was typical of that used on many extension projects. First it was found that sheep producers were losing heavily thru ticks and worms. A series of meetings and demonstrations were then held with sheep men. Flocks were actually dipped by the portable method to show how it works. The next problem was to secure a good man to build a dipping outfit and then to establish a scale of prices fair to him and to the producers. H. R. Long of Glen Haven took on the job with the agent's help. Adequate publicity was given. About fifteen hundred head were dipped this first year and this will increase many times in 1940. It seems likely that the outfit will be used extensively for dipping hogs for mange in the future.

FARMERS GET ELEVEN THOUSAND TREES

Grant County farmers received eleven thousand wind-break seedlings free of charge thru this office in 1939. These were mostly of pine and spruce varieties although some ash, locust and hardwoods were distributed.

These trees were furnished by the State Conservation Department. Farmers securing them are asked to plant them in accordance with a plan drawn up by this office so that the most benefit will be secured and the best practices for getting a stand will be used. The plantings for this year came thru in excellent shape.

HOG MEETINGS DRAW GOOD ATTENDANCE

James J. Lacey of the College and the Agent this year conducted eight hog production meetings in the County. These were the first of their kind held for several years. The time was spent mostly on disease problems which have been steadily growing worse.

Worms and necro are a serious hog problem now while ten years ago they were doing far less damage. The Agent knows of farmers who have sold all the hogs on the place and started over with new stock and are keeping them on new ground. Evidence shows that prevention is far better than cure with these hog troubles. This will receive much more attention in next years program of work.

FRUIT PROGRAM BEGAN

Conrad L. Kuehner, College fruit specialist, spent several days in the County on fruit problems and meetings this year. The time was spent mostly on apple orchard and vineyard work. New grape diseases were investigated and experimented with. A tour of the Gays Mills orchards was arranged. Spraying schedule were sent to county apple growers.

COUNTY CORN HUSKING

The Grant County Corn Husking Contest, this year held on the Fred Vorwald farm in Beetown Township, attracted two thousand farm folks. The contest was held on Wednesday, October 18th, under very favorable weather conditions.

Fifty-three huskers indicated their desire to take part in the contest this year. This number was reduced to eighteen thru township eliminations. The winner of the contest

was Lawrence Hauk of Waterloo Township with Omer Koopman of Patch Grove, second. Norbert Reiser of Glen Haven was third and Alfred Johl of Bloomington, fourth.

A charge of ten cents per car was made and program books were sold for a nickel. After paying all prizes and other expenses a total of \$59.83 was left in the treasury for next years contest. Mention must be made of the wonderful cooperation given by all committeemen helping out. This is especially true of the following men who acted as committee chairman:

Concessions	Foster B. Porter
Finance	Alice Schneider
Field	Leonard Kalt
Entertainment	Roy Martin
Gleaners	Jay P. Martin
Public Aid	Ed Walz
Publicity	W. C. Voskuil
Reception	Minor Knapp
Traffic	Richard Metcalf
Weighing	Earl E. Raisbeck
Wagons	Fred Knapp

20,000 ATTEND STATE HUSKING CONTEST

Grant County played host to upwards of 20,000 people at the Third Annual Corn Husking Contest at Cuba City, October 26th. The planning and conducting of such an event necessitated a rather thorough organization. Let me right here congratulate the Chairman of the Committees who were largely responsible for the success of this gigantic event. Here is a list of those chairman and the committees they headed.

Concessions	Norman Ebert
Finance	Ed Schmeider
Field	Carl Wilkinson
Entertainment	Peter E. May
Horse Show	Reuben James
Public Aid	Ed O'Neil
Publicity	W. C. Voskuil
Reception	Foster B. Porter
Traffic	Charles Gibson
Weighing	LeRoy Reese

The Wisconsin Agriculturist sponsors these State Contests. It was a pleasure to work with Mr. McIntyre of that paper. The final financial balance showed receipts of \$785.00 and expenditures of \$781.00. The Committees were highly pleased to come out on the right side of the ledger.

The Grant County entrant, Lawrence Hauk, received second place and represented us at the National Contest at Lawrence, Kansas. Dick Post of Rock County won first place. The sponsorship of this spectacle was a real pleasure for all concerned. Weather was ideal, the corn was excellent, several husking records were hung up and local cooperation was very good. Above all the 20,000 folks seemed to enjoy the event as well as receiving some educational value from the exhibits.

OAT TEST PLOTS YIELD RESULTS

An oat test plot was this year run on the Robert Baumgartner farm in Fennimore township. An effort was made to get data on yield, disease resistance, lodging resistance, maturity and effect of fertilizer. The table below gives the information acquired.

OAT VARIETY PLOT

VARIETY	TREATMENT	DATE OF MATURITY	DAYS TO MATURE	CONDITION AT MATURITY	YIELD PER ACRE (LBS)		BUSHELLS
					GRAIN & STRAW	GRAIN	
State Pride #7	0-20-10	7-14-39	66	about 28" tall	3,250	1,250	39
	Unfertilized	7-18-39	70	standing well	2,812	937	29.3
Gopher	0-20-10	7-14-39	66	about 28" tall	2,437	1,000	31.2
	Unfertilized	7-18-39	70	standing well	2,937	687	21.5
White Cross #19	0-20-10	7-14-39	66	about 30" tall	3,125	1,000	31.2
	Unfertilized	7-18-39	70	standing well	2,562	1,000	31.2
Spooner	0-20-10	7-18-39	70	about 32" tall	3,562	1,312	41
	Unfertilized	7-19-39	71	standing well	3,375	1,000	31.2
Forward	0-20-10	7-18-39	70	about 32" tall	3,812	1,187	37.1
	Unfertilized	7-19-39	71	standing well	3,812	375	11.7
Wisconsin Wonder	0-20-10	7-22-39	74	about 36" tall	3,937	1,312	41
	Unfertilized	7-24-39	76	standing well	3,500	1,000	31.2
Home Early oats grown there for 12 years	0-20-10				2,937	1,187	

Notice that fertilization brought earlier maturity and an average of 10.7 more bushels of oats per acre. Bear in mind that only 40% of the fertilization value is used the first year while the rest is used in succeeding years. Little information could be obtained on lodging resistance, but the fertilizer data speaks for itself. 0-20-10 fertilizer was used at the rate of 200 pounds per acre.

AGRICULTURAL COMMITTEE SECURES VISUAL AID EQUIPMENT

The Agricultural Committee last summer decided to use an advertising method as a means of securing a complete motion picture and sound equipment for use by the office. This is a 16 mm set with amplifier, loud speaker, microphone and phonograph. This machine can be put to many uses and should be of inestimable value to the work of the office. The Committee are to be congratulated on their initiative in securing this equipment without expense to the County and in a manner which has been entirely satisfactory in other counties where it has been used.

ANNUAL HORSE SHOW HELD

Twenty-five hundred farm folks attended the four county horse show held this fall at Darlington. The counties included are Grant, Iowa, LaFayette and Green. About 100 horses were exhibited. Grant County won Grand Champion stallion in both Belgian and Percheron divisions. The Lancaster Company horse winning the award in the Belgian Class and the stallion owned by Carl Forck of Glen Haven winning the award in the Percheron Class. The enthusiasm of the crowd showed that good horses are still very much appreciated by farm people.

OFFICE TO REMAIN IN COURT HOUSE

The new Post Office recently completed at Lancaster was built to accomodate the work of the County Agent's Office. This space was offered to the Extension Service by the Postal Department. The Agricultural Committee after some deliberation decided to retain the office in its present location. It was felt that the office could render better service in the central location it now has.

COOPERATION WITH FEDERAL AGENCIES

The Agent during the year has cooperated to the fullest possible extent with Federal Agencies working in the County. These were mainly Agricultural Conservation, Rural Electrification, Soil Conservation Service, Farm Security and to some extent the Emergency Agencies. The only connection with any of these agencies has been to aid in the educational work wherever this fitted into the County Agricultural Program. The Agent served as Secretary for the County Agricultural Conservation Committee and the cooperation between them, and this office, has been especially close and mutually helpful.

SEED CERTIFICATION

There are several growers of purebred oats and barley in Grant County. This seed is put out by the University Experiment Station and produced for increase by these growers. The Agent takes care of the field inspection and certification for these men. The certification and inspection of hybrid seed corn grown in the County is carried on separately by men hired by the College.

BANGS DISEASE ERADICATION

Forty percent of the herds in Grant County have been tested for Bangs Disease under the Federal Indemnity System. This work is promoted thru this office to a large extent. Applications are received and submitted to the State Department of Agriculture. All county publicity is handled by the Agent. Bang's problems were discussed at many of the meetings held throughout the year.

At the present time no Federal Indemnity is available. As soon as this is again available preliminary work on an area test will begin. The first steps will be to get an accurate idea of the attitude of the farmers. If, after educational work is completed, seventy-five per cent of the farmers want the test, petitions for it will be started. The Agent feels that unless an area test is adopted little lasting good will be accomplished.

TWO ACTIVE HERD IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATIONS

At the present time two Dairy Herd Improvement Associations are in operation in Grant County. These contain members from all parts of the County. Donald Kovars is the fieldman for the Grant No. 1 Association and Joe Bowman is the fieldman for the Southwest Wisconsin Association.

The office has been of service to these Associations in sending monthly reports to all of the members. Along with these are sent suggestions and information of help to the members. Alice Schneider serves as Secretary to the Southwest Wisconsin Association.

COUNTY SCHOOL AND 4 H FAIRS

Fairs are held each year at many points in the County. These include Lancaster, Platteville, Bloomington, Boscobel, Muscoda, Fennimore, Cuba City, Montfort, Livingston and Blue River along with smaller exhibits. The Agent participates in most of these in some capacity. These events provide an excellent opportunity for publicity on work being sponsored by Grant County. The Agent appreciates the opportunity to be of service in these events.

MISCELLANEOUS ACTIVITIES

The Aberdeen Angus Sale held last spring at Lancaster received the fullest cooperation from the Agent. Prospects are bright for a bigger event in 1940. The other breed associations requested the help of the Agent at different times.

Farm record keeping received some attention last year. County wide publicity was given to the results of previous years records. These records showed concrete reasons why some farmers continually make a profit while others under the same conditions do not.

Poultry work included a county-wide hatcherymen's meeting and educational work on baby chick problems. One county 4 H boy, Richard Munns of Fennimore received a free trip to the World's Poultry Congress at Cleveland. This was made possible by poultry interests of the County and was an award for excellent poultry activities in nine years of 4 H club work.

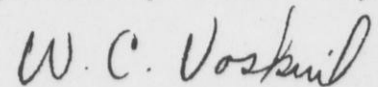
A Grant County poultry booth was on exhibit at the State Fair this fall. The Agent hopes to continue this booth activity in 1940 as a great deal of educational and county publicity value is derived therefrom.

Nearly all Grant County newspapers have this year carried weekly news events or a column from this office. This has been of such an immense value that it would be difficult to estimate. The Agent and Agricultural Committee wish to sincerely thank all county newspapers for this wonderful assistance.

There are ten Smith-Hughes Agricultural Departments in Grant County. Cooperation between the Agent and the instructors has been very close. Whenever possible the work has been coordinated to the benefit of the immediate community and the county as a whole. The Agent has thoroughly enjoyed the contact with these high school departments.

To close this report I want to take special occasion to show appreciation for the work of Alice Schneider whose work as County Stenographer has been outstanding. An Office Assistant in this office must be able to shoulder a wide variety of responsibilities and handle an immense amount of work. Miss Schneider has done these things extremely well.

Respectfully submitted,



W. C. Voskuil

Grant County Agricultural Agent