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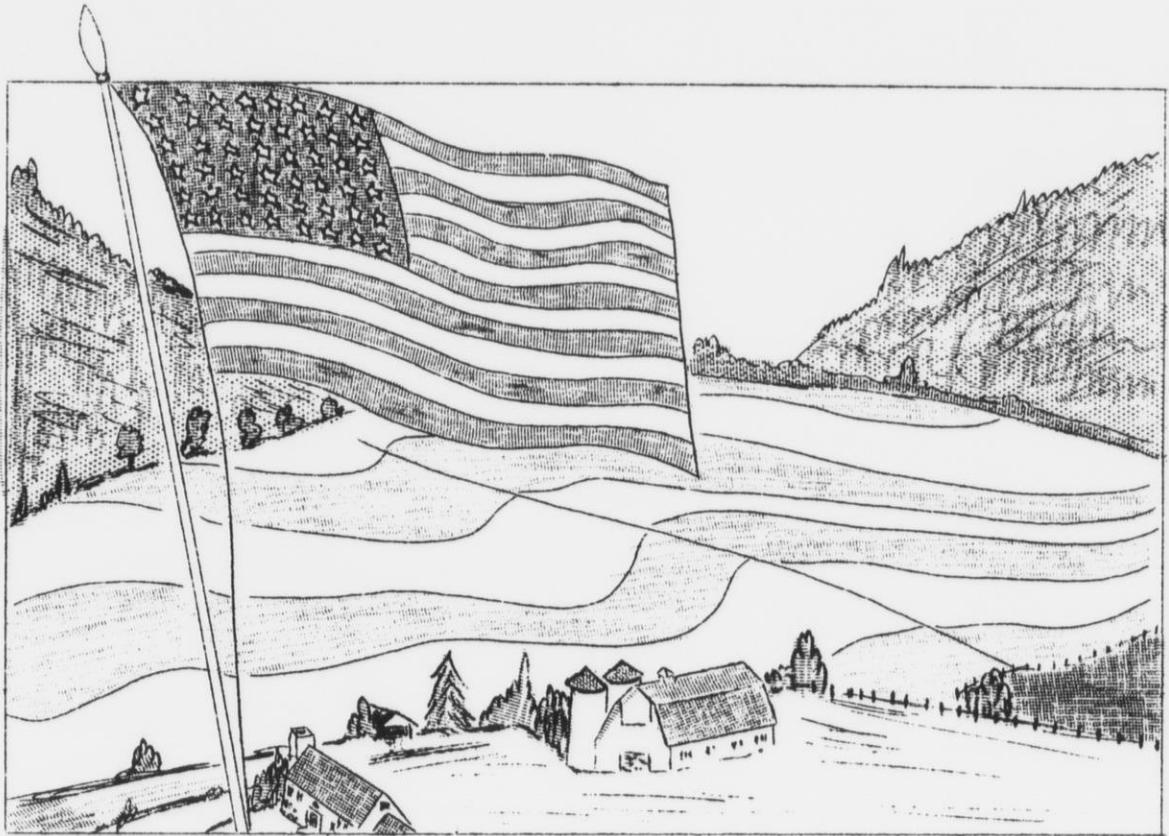
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DEC 4 1942

ANNUAL REPORT 1942



AGRICULTURAL
AGENT
TREMPEALEAU COUNTY

TO THE HONORABLE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
TREMPEALEAU COUNTY WISCONSIN

GENTLEMEN:

It is a pleasure to submit to you this report which is a summary, with analysis and interpretations, for presentation to the people of Trempealeau County, activities of the County Agent's office during the past year.

Because your present Agricultural Agent has been in official capacity only since July 15 this report cannot be quite as complete as it might otherwise be.

Your Agricultural Agent, however, was assigned to Trempealeau County by the State Soil Conservation Committee as an Erosion Specialist in April of this year. With the resignation of the former agent, Mr. E. H. Florence, on May 12th, your present agent was placed in an acting capacity until July 1st when the Agricultural Committee elected me to the position of County Agricultural Agent.

Your Agricultural Agent wants to express his appreciation for the friendly assistance and cooperation given by members of the board and the people of the county.

AGRICULTURAL COMMITTEE

R. H. Holtan - Chairman

Laura Little Pattridge - Whitehall
Albert Scherr - Trempealeau

Ole Mustad - Ettrick
Ed Thomasgaard - Strum

Respectfully submitted,



CHARLES E. NELSON JR.
Agricultural Agent
Trempealeau County

Whitehall, Wisconsin
November 10, 1942

GENERAL STATISTICAL REPORT

MEETINGS AGENT HELD AND ATTENDED -----	105
PEOPLE ATTENDING -----	5520
FARM VISITS MADE -----	174
TELEPHONE CALLS -----	2934
OFFICE CALLS -----	2581
INDIVIDUAL LETTERS WRITTEN -----	1409
DIFFERENT CIRCULAR LETTERS WRITTEN -----	32
CIRCULAR LETTERS ISSUED -----	3697
NEWS ARTICLES OR STORIES PUBLISHED -----	92
BULLETINS DISTRIBUTED -----	849
PUBLIC EXHIBITS MADE -----	3
DAYS IN OFFICE -----	107
DAYS IN FIELD -----	153
MILES TRAVELED IN COUNTY -----	6557
MILES TRAVELED OUTSIDE OF COUNTY -----	2454
DAYS IN ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS OUTSIDE OF COUNTY -----	43
RADIO BROADCASTS -----	17

* * * * *

STATUS OF AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE THROUGH

OFFICE OF COUNTY AGRICULTURAL AGENT

November 1, 1941 -- November 1, 1942

REPORT OF COUNTY AGRICULTURAL AGENT

TREMPEALEAU COUNTY, WISCONSIN

The office of Trempealeau County's Agricultural Agent has, to its best ability, assisted farmers in securing benefits under the Agricultural Adjustment Program, supplying any needy and timely information on agriculture that would benefit farmers, and communities, in this county. The program during the past year, was to a large extent carried out on the following projects.

PROJECTS

1. Soil Erosion Control
2. Agricultural Conservation Program
3. Soil Fertility and Crop Improvement
 - Lime and Fertilizer
 - Fertilizer Trials
 - Alfalfa Trials
 - Soils Tested
4. 4-H Club Work
5. Dairy Programs
 - Quality Milk and Cream
 - Bengs Disease
 - Dairy Advertising
 - Artificial Breeding
 - Cow Testing Associations
 - Bull Proving Associations
 - Dairy Exhibits
 - Dairy Day
 - Brown Swiss Show
 - State Fair
6. Sheep
7. Poultry
8. Horses
9. Cooperation of and with other Agencies
 - Cooperatives
 - Farm Security
 - Agricultural Instructors
 - Federal Land Bank
 - Community Organizations
 - County News Papers
 - Soil Conservation Service
 - County Superintendent of Schools



SOIL IMPROVEMENT

We fight to Save Our Soil

American farmers are asked to produce more than they've ever been asked to produce before. This is essential for the war effort. We have to produce more food and fiber and timber than ever before, for the use of the Army and Navy, for the use of the civilian population working forces, for the use of our Allies, and to help restore the world to an even keel after the War.

To do this job effectively, we have to protect our soil, water, timber, and other natural resources against the inevitable losses that would result from an unrestrained production spree. **WE HAVE TO GUARD AGAINST DESTRUCTION OF SOIL RESOURCES THAT MIGHT CATCH US SHORT BEFORE THE END OF THE WAR.**

THE ONLY WAY TO ACHIEVE THIS IMPERATIVE IS THROUGH CONSERVATION FARMING. THE PRINCIPLES SET DOWN IN THE FOLLOWING PARAGRAPHS ARE THE PRINCIPLES BY WHICH WE CAN DO THE JOB. THESE PRINCIPLES APPLY IN WAR AS WELL AS IN PEACE.

A complete plan for controlling erosion on a farm may include any or all of the following principles of correct land use and employment of special practices, depending on the complexity of the problem.

1. Rough, rocky land incapable of producing pasture worth a good cows time will be most profitable and useful to the farm if kept in woodlot and protected against fire and grazing.
2. The better quality rough land unsuited for fields ought to be in permanent pasture with fertilization and grazing practices that insure maximum production.
3. Erosion in fields ought to be minimized by use of suitable rotations reinforced by conservation practices such as contour cultivation, strip cropping on terracing.
4. The unavoidable run-off from large areas concentrates in draws and eventually in streams. Safe disposal may be secured by grass waterways and permanent dams. Streambanks can be protected by willow plantings, rip rap or deflecting dams.
5. Thousands of dollars of public money can be saved by proper soil and water conservation to control erosion of our highway system.

Trempealeau County is making progress in establishing erosion control measures. There are approximately 400 farms that have farm plans with the Soil Conservation Service totaling approximately 52000 acres.

We have a start, however, we have yet 3100 farms that are without conservation plans.

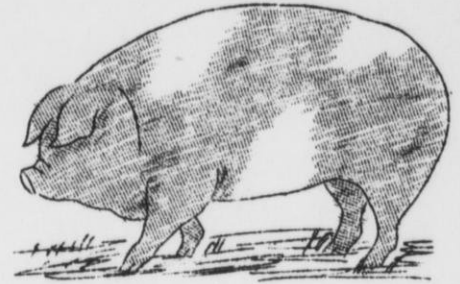
Your Agent feels, that because of the rough nature of the land, that conservation of the soil should be the first objective in furthering Trempealeau County's farm program. Trempealeau County has many areas totally beyond crop use as a result of soil erosion. The taxable wealth of these areas is lost and eventually they will revert to county land and become the same problem as are the cut-over lands of northern Wisconsin.

It seems imperative that all who are interested in the future of Trempealeau County recognize the dire need of or the control of soil erosion and do all in their power to avoid further destruction of our land.

* * * * *

WE FIGHT TO SAVE OUR SOIL NOT ONLY FROM INVADERS BUT
FOR THE FUTURE FARMERS OF TREMPLEALEAU COUNTY.

LIVESTOCK IMPROVEMENT



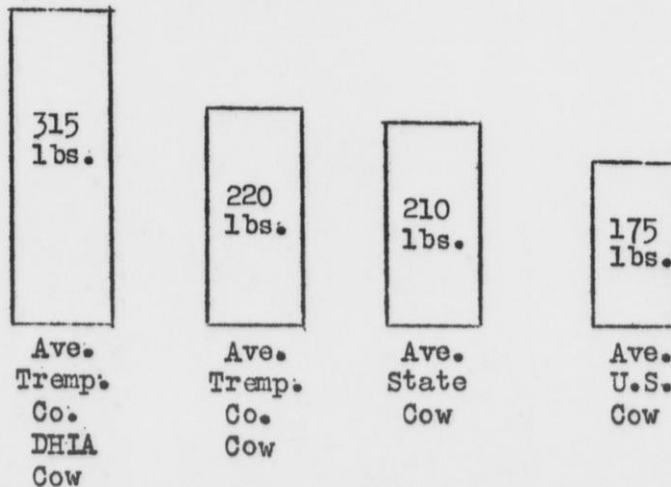
Dairy Cattle

- 1200 cows on test in four Dairy Herd Improvement Associations.
- 4500 cows in 360 herds in Artificial Breeding Association.
- County-wide test for Tuberculosis of cattle.
- Contemplated county-wide test for Bangs.
- 13 New herd sires brought into the county.

Milk and dairy products supply more than one-half of the county farm income. Anything that will bring about an improvement in the efficiency of dairy production or an increase in value of milk and dairy products will greatly affect the total farm income.

Trempealeau County's dairy cattle are shown with comparisons by the following chart:

Yearly Butterfat Production



Through our Dairy Herd Improvement Associations dairymen secure assistance in adopting better feeding, breeding, and management methods. These practices and other subjects including disease control were discussed with dairymen at general farm meetings.

Quality Milk and Cream Program

This program first began in the spring of 1940 and has been continued the past year. All of the counties in the State have now adopted a quality program as a result of higher standard of dairy products demanded by the Government. Trempealeau County was second to adopt a quality milk improvement program.

Agent has cooperated with the creameries and milk plant in furthering the quality program through meetings and newspaper articles.

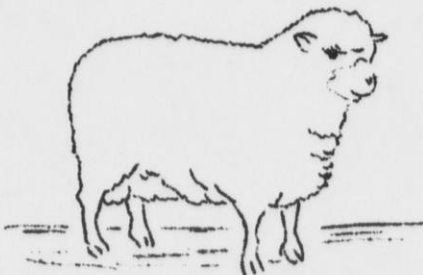
Plans and Recommendations

Because of the fact that over one-half of the farm income of Trempealeau County comes from dairy herds, it seems logical that a large part of the County Agents time should be devoted towards work on this project.

Plans are being made to continue to promote Dairy Herd Improvement Associations, assist the Trempealeau County Breeders' Cooperative in their educational work of breeding better dairy cattle; carry on disease control and general herd health promotion; and give assistance on feeding and other problems.

Seventy-five 4-H club members have carried dairy calf projects this past year. These members have now had a year of experience in better feeding, better breeding and better care of dairy animals. These are truly worthy projects for the future farmers of Trempealeau County.

SHEEP



- 12 purebred rams secured for county flock owners.

Sheep on dairy farms help diversity farm income. Trempealeau County farms have areas suited for sheep raising. These are not the steep slopes supporting woodlots nor areas particularly subject to erosion, but rather areas of lesser slopes, cleared, and suitable for renovation to legume crops.

Sheep are too often thought of as a "crop sideline" and when carried on a farm this way bring very little profit if any. A real profit can be made if these simple practices are followed: Good legume pastures, rotationed pastures, creep feeding for lambs to give them a quick start for an early trip to the market, a program of external and internal parasite control and better breeding.

Agent plans to encourage further adoption of improved sheep management practices and the use of purebred rams.

Several 4-H club members had sheep projects. Kenneth Kopp of Galesville gained State and National recognition by placing fourth in the National Shropshire show at the Minnesota Fair.

BEEF CATTLE

This year at the County Fair a notable increase in beef cattle was seen. Beef cattle for the feeder market are an excellent means of further diversifying incomes of Trempealeau County farmers.

There is a definite trend toward a grassland agriculture in Trempealeau County, therefore, I feel it should be a policy of the Agent to promote more and better beef cattle.

Plans are made to buy beef cattle for 4-H club projects.

SWINE

Swine provide an additional farm income. Further Agent activities on swine will center about management of sow and litter, balanced feed rations, and parasite control. Agent has noticed a definite need for educational work on hog pastures. Too frequently hogs are responsible for severe erosion as they are forced to pasture steep areas. A remedy for this situation would be a larger pasture area preferably on flat ground and have sufficient pasture area so that renovation to legumes and rotation of pastures could be controlled.

4-H club members exhibited 53 head of swine at the Wisconsin State Fair. Many prizes were brought to Trempealeau County.

POULTRY

Trempealeau County is one of the largest producing counties in the State.

This year poultry flocks have been increased 25 to 30 percent in an effort to satisfy the production demands of the Government.

Circular letters, office calls, and general farm meetings have been used to keep poultry raisers informed on feeding, disease control and management problems.

Continued extension work is planned on poultry, including meetings and demonstrations on management, feeding, culling, brooding, and disease control.

WAR SERVICE

Many of the Agents activities have been directed toward war service activities.

Two notable activities are the War Board and the development of a Neighborhood Leader organization for the purpose of quickly disseminating information vital to the war effort.

CONCLUSION

The accomplishments of the county agent's office are not due to an individual effort but they are the result of the cooperative efforts of many groups and individuals. I trust that the same good cooperation that has been given the county agent's office in the past will be continued.

To all who have assisted this office, I extend my sincerest thanks and appreciation.