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[S.l.]: [s.n.], [1931]

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THE 1931

COUNTY AGENT'S REPORT

on

DEC 1 1931

THE PROGRESS

of

GRANT COUNTY'S AGRICULTURAL PROGRAM

Nov. 1, 1930 to Nov. 1, 1931

J. B. Keenan.

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In presenting this report to your Honorable Body I respectfully ask that you bear in mind that the County Agent is maintained by Grant County for the purpose of carrying out its Agricultural program, formulated by the Agricultural Committee. It is Grant County's Agricultural Program and it is my duty to assist in the carrying out of this great County-wide program. I ask that you bear in mind the size of Grant County and further that the activities of this office are varied and many. It is difficult to portray in this brief report all of the ways the County Agent has helped the agriculture of this County.

This report will be based upon the major projects of the County's Agricultural Program as outlined to me by your Agricultural Committee. There are many ways that the County Agent is of service to the Grant County Farmers other than the projects outlined in this program. Many emergency calls come that must be met when they arise.

It is true that the County Agent does not call on all farmers for that would be impossible due to the number of farms in Grant County, but by holding meetings, writing weekly news notes, holding demonstrations, correspondence and telephone calls, service is given to thousands of farmers each year. Many farmers are practicing the recommendations of the County Agent who have never called on the County Agent for help but they have secured the information from others who have availed themselves of this office.

I find that more people are availing themselves of the services of the County Agent every year. Requests on the County Agent for help have increased many times; attendance at meetings has increased. The adoption of recommended practices has increased and each mail brings more and more requests for help. I ask that you bear these points in mind when considering the activities of the County Agent in putting across your Agricultural Program.

RESULTS OF SECOND YEAR
OF THE COUNTY-WIDE
NOXIOUS WEED CAMPAIGN.

Due to your interest in this County-wide Control of Noxious weeds, work has been continued along this line.

The scope of this County-wide Noxious Weed Campaign can be best understood by observing the map on the next page. By this map we show where the 727 drums of Sodium Chlorate have been distributed.

COST OF HANDLING
REDUCED.

At the 1930 County Board session you expressed a desire to have a continuation

of the noxious weed campaign. Group meetings were held with town chairmen all over the County at which time ways and means of distribution were discussed and as a result of your suggestions, plans suggested were put into practice. It was not necessary for Chlorate to be paid for until it was received. We believed this method would simplify matters and get more people to work cooperatively in stamping out Canadian Thistles and other noxious weeds. Upon arrival of Chlorate it was delivered to points designated by town chairmen and cost of same was figured, including freight, truckage, labor and printing.

MEETINGS AND DEMONSTRATIONS HELD TO PUT OVER
CAMPAIGN.

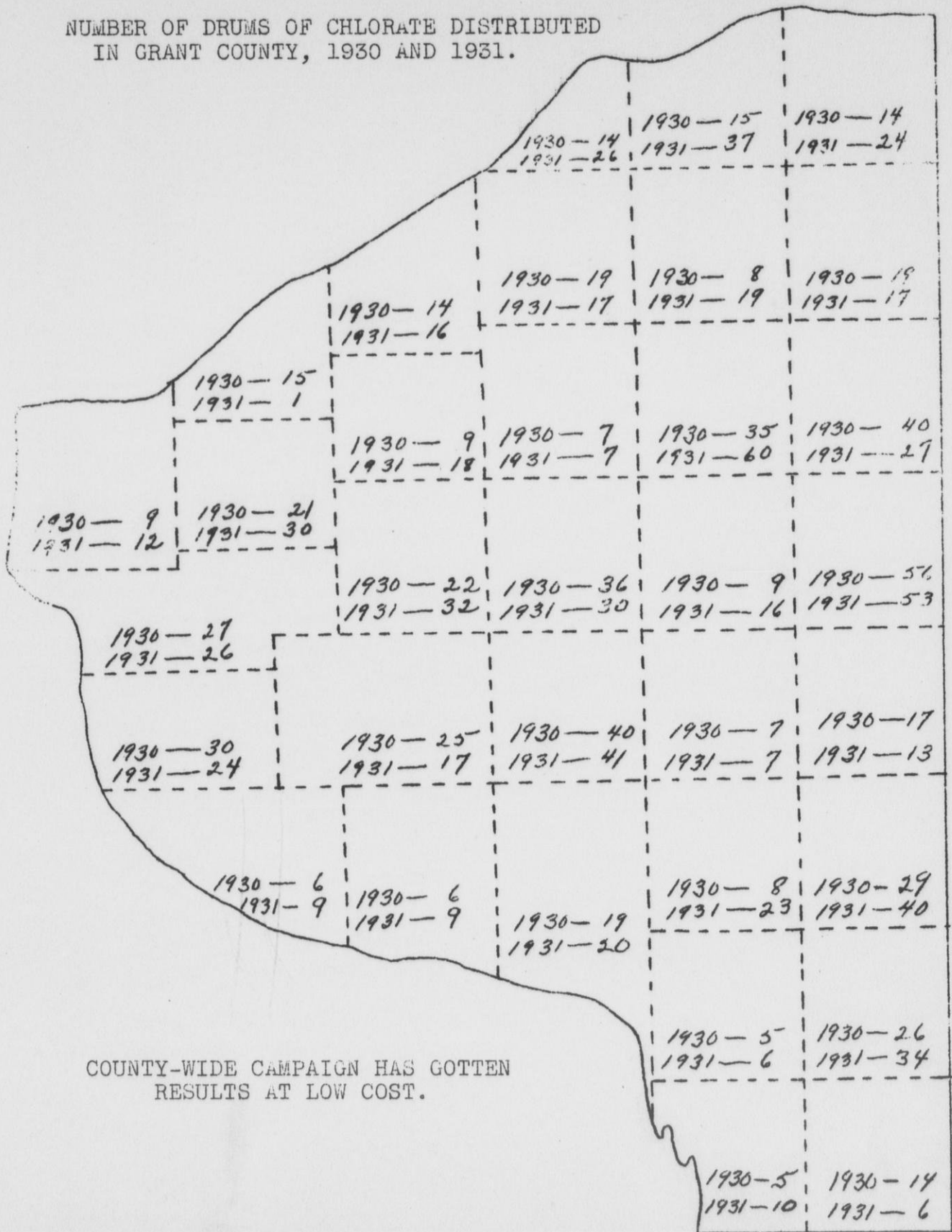
In accordance to resolution of your 1929 County Board a meeting was held on May 1st of the weed commissioners.

A. L. Stone, State Weed Commissioner, explained the weed law to the commissioners and others at this meeting held in the Court House. Aside from this meeting, demonstrations were held to show methods of application and results obtained by the use of chemicals.

\$2400 SAVED BY COOPERATIVE
DISTRIBUTION.

Through the cooperative campaign plan it has been found that by buying large quantities and through careful planning of deliveries the saving of considerable money to the users of the chemical has been made possible. It is safe to say that farmers of Grant County who have used Sodium Chlorate have been saved three or four cents a pound by having this Chlorate handled in this way. On the 79,790 pounds figured at a 3¢ saving per pound means

NUMBER OF DRUMS OF CHLORATE DISTRIBUTED
IN GRANT COUNTY, 1930 AND 1931.



COUNTY-WIDE CAMPAIGN HAS GOTTEN
RESULTS AT LOW COST.

approximately \$2400 saving on the purchase of Chlorate alone. Aside from the saving in dollars and cents we must not lose track of the value of the effect of Sodium Chlorate on our noxious weeds.

OTHER STEPS IN WEED CONTROL PROGRAM.

Much has been done in urging farmers to use proper methods in the control of noxious weeds by the use of special machines that are becoming widely distributed throughout this County. It has been found that by the use of certain machinery quack grass when in large fields can be eliminated very satisfactorily. Many such machines are now in use.

Another step in the eradication of weeds is work done in urging all to buy seeds known to be free of noxious weeds.

Another step in the campaign is the use of the fanning mills so as to guard against infestation of some of the more common weeds. We have asked the cooperation of the threshing machine operators to do everything within their power to prevent the spread of weeds between farms.

The County Agent has endeavored to keep information before the public through his farm news notes along these lines and has inspected many seed samples for contamination of noxious weeds.

4-H CLUB WORK BRINGS HONOR TO GRANT COUNTY.

The boys and girls enrolled in 4-H Club work are bringing honors to Grant County through their Achievements.

At the 1930 Junior Livestock Show Keith Vesperman of the Farview Stars raised and showed the calf that was declared the Grand Champion of the show.

This year at the State Fair Burdette Graney of the North Star Workers and Dale McFall of the Harrison Hustlers brought home considerable honors for pigs shown.

Lillian Heller of the Sinsinawa Sunshine Club, who had won the County Health Contest, was declared the healthiest girl in the State at the State Fair.

500 HOMES REACHED WITH
4-H CLUB WORK.

This work is no doubt the most human part of the work done by the County Agent in carrying out your Agricultural Program. Here we deal with boys and girls who will, in a few short years, be carrying the burden in the various walks of life in this County. Through work done with these young people the foundation can be laid for the carrying out of Grant County's Agricultural program that will mean better things for all. Boys and girls from approximately 500 homes make up the Club Membership.

EVERY ONE INTERESTED
IN CLUB WORK.

The success of the work done in 4-H Club work depends in a great part upon the fine cooperation received from teachers, rural people, city people, churches and the various fair associations. To the local leaders who direct the activities of the various 43 clubs much praise is due. Many of your Honorable Body have had direct contact with 4-H Club work and know what it stands for. Club Members learn better methods by practicing them. They learn through their organization business methods and they are taught the importance of keeping records.

CLUB WORK DEPENDS ON
COUNTY LEADERSHIP.

Club work demands much time of the County Agent, but the value of that part of the program is so great that it off-sets the amount of time spent in carrying it on. The County Agent's Office serves as the hub for this wheel of progress. Enrollment blanks and information are furnished. Membership is recorded. Record books are supplied. Projects are planned. Premium lists are worked out for four fairs. Demonstration contests are held. Leadership meetings are held. County winners are selected for State Competition. Achievement pins are secured and Achievement Day is held. All of these various things take time and require administration. The extent of 4-H Club work in Grant County today with its 827 members in the 43 clubs reaching approximately 500 homes must have leadership.

32 TOWNSHIPS REACHED
BY 4-H CLUB WORK.

Your County Agent, with the fine support of the volunteer leaders over the County, has built up Club work to the extent that is shown on the following map. Some Club work is done in every township with the exception of one in Grant County.

MONEY SAVED BY BETTER
SOIL MANAGEMENT.

One of the parts of the County Agricultural Program is to improve the soils and crops so as to grow the feeds needed on the farms. For eight years this has been a part of your County program. Some have been slow to adopt proven practices in the matter of soil improvement. This is one of the important parts of an Agricultural Program for a County located as Grant is. It is important to produce the feed necessary to maintain the livestock on our own farms without the outlay of cash for feeds.

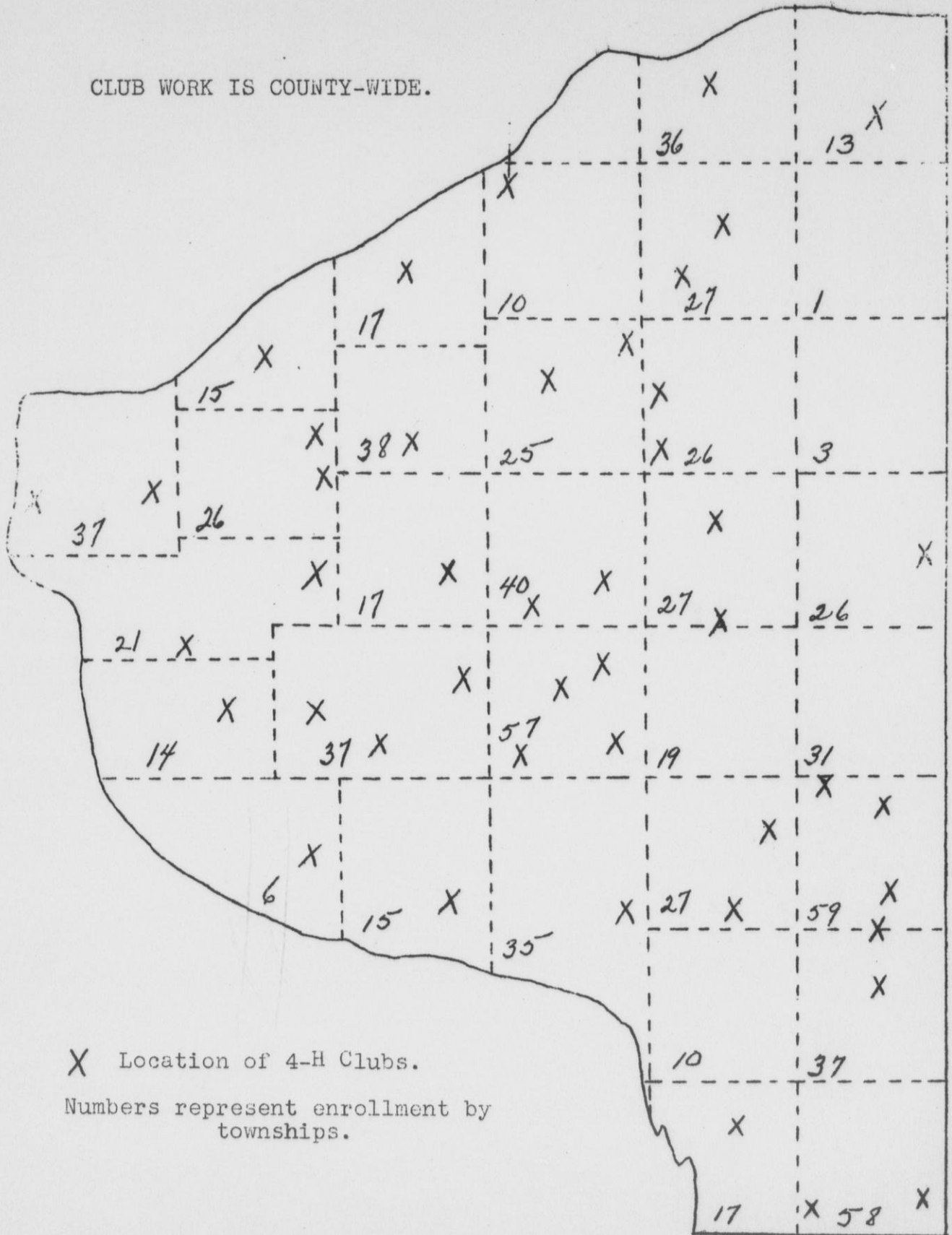
ALFALFA MEETS OUR NEEDS.

Some may question the advisability of this being included in the Agricultural Program, but one needed only to look around the County the past summer to have the answer to that question. What plant stood the test during our extremely dry hot weather other than alfalfa? We know that alfalfa must have certain soil conditions to be successfully grown.

LIMESTONE COST REDUCED
DUE TO WORK.

After eight years of constant work on soil program the use of lime on most farms has become a proven practice. Forty limestone pulverizers or more are being used in this County by individuals, farmers, groups or companies in the preparing of limestone to be used to correct the soil acidity that is found to be present in the soil. Approximately 30,000 tons of lime are used annually. The cost of lime has been decreased considerably due to making it more available to the user. Lime shipped in used to cost us \$3.00 to \$3.50 and today lime is available on nearly every farm in Grant County for prices from \$1.50 to \$2.00.

CLUB WORK IS COUNTY-WIDE.



X Location of 4-H Clubs.

Numbers represent enrollment by townships.

4-H CLUBS AND LEADERS IN GRANT COUNTY.

BADGER BUILDERS.....Elmer Wilkins, Platteville
Miss Eliza Jenkins, Platteville

BLAKES PRAIRIE 4-H CLUB.....Roy Martin, Bagley
Mrs. M. B. Knapp, Glen Haven

BLOCK HOUSE BOOSTERS.....Clay Robinson, Platteville

BLUE RIVER BEAVERS.....Lester James, Blue River
Miss Belle Chitwood, Blue River

BRODTVILLE BUSY BEES.....Clarence Brodt, Bridgeport
Mrs. Fred Moore, Bagley

BRUNSON BADGERS.....John Harney, Mt. Hope
Miss Vivian Millin, Bloomington

BUSY BROWNIES.....Philip Bausman, Fennimore
Mrs. Rube Wieland, Fennimore

CASSVILLE 4-H CLUB.....Forest Holford, Cassville
Mrs. Henry Breuer, Cassville

CORNELIA CRESCENTS.....Warner Stanton, Platteville
Mrs. F. Eastlick, Platteville

CO-WORKERS OF LIBERTY.....Ed Roth, Stitzer
Mrs. E. F. Hirsch, Stitzer

DODGE 4-H CLUB.....Robert Harrower, Bloomington

DRY HOLLOW 4-H CLUB.....Miss Gwendolyn Tanner, Lancaster

FARVIEW STARS.....Earl Vesperman, Lancaster

FENNIMORE 4-H CLUB.....Mrs. J. Michel, Fennimore
Mrs. W. Decker, Fennimore

FIVEPOINT STARS.....Chas Johnson, Lancaster
Mrs. M. Reynolds, Lancaster

FULL-OF-PEP 4-H CLUB.....F. A. Morehouse, Lancaster
Mrs. Harry Vesperman, Lancaster

GEORGETOWN RUSTLERS.....Geo. C. Wilkinson, Platteville
Miss Mary Louthain, Platteville

HARRISON HUSTLERS.....Dale McFall, Platteville
Mrs. Walter Steinhoff, Platteville

HAZEL GREEN 4-H CLUB.....I. J. Harvey, Cuba City
Mrs. L. B. Cairns, Hazel Green

HICKORY GROVE GO-GETTERS.....Leo Rusk, Boscobel
Mrs. Leo Rusk, Boscobel

HILLTOP HELPERS.....R. C. Hefferman, Mt. Hope
Miss Alice Nichols, Mt. Hope
Miss Jane Ferguson, Mt. Hope

HOLLOW HUSTLERS.....Ora Posten, Millville
Mrs. Clara Pease, Millville

HOME HUNTERS.....Miss Ruth Anstey, Beetown

HOMER HUSTLERS.....John Mallot, Boscobel
Mrs. Joe Trecek, Boscobel

TEST SAVES LOSSES.

In connection with this great saving goes work that is really a forerunner to the application of lime. Soil tests are made in the County Agent's Office to determine the amount of lime necessary to correct the soil acidity. Likewise tests are made to determine the amount of available phosphorus per acre. These tests remove the hazard connected with the getting of a good catch of alfalfa or clover.

DEMONSTRATION PLOTS VALUABLE.

By the use of plot tests that are run each year in different parts of the County firsthand information is available on the kind of commercial plant food that should be applied, and also at what rate. Many of these plot tests are so located as to make possible the observation of them by farmers at the many demonstrations.

\$1000 SAVED SOUTHERN GRANT COUNTY FARMERS.

Southern Grant County farmers have cheap delivery prices for ground limestone. This comes as a result of several conferences held with the Chamber of Commerce of Dubuque, the Dubuque Stone Products Company and the Bridge Company. The Dubuque Stone Products Company agreed to absorb part of the toll charges on Agricultural Limestone. This resulted in agricultural limestone to Grant County farmers costing only 30¢ a ton at the plant while farmers in other states pay the regular \$1.00 per ton price. According to the figures of the Dubuque Stone Products Company 5,000 tons of lime have been sold and delivered in Grant County the past two years. This would mean a saving to southern Grant County farmers of approximately \$1,000 from this source.

SHOWING BRINGS PROFIT TO OWNERS.

Eight carloads of hogs were entered at the Chicago International Livestock Show from Grant County in 1930. Only one of the exhibitors, Gus Kuenster, was able to place at this great show; his carlot placing third. All of these carloads sold for considerable over the market price and each owner felt that he had received considerable benefit by having entered them in this great show.

GOOD MANAGEMENT CUTS
COST OF PRODUCTION.

This year through the efforts of practicing recommended methods Grant County herds have won considerable recognition in the State Pork Production Contest. In this contest Thomas Holmes of Lancaster won the small litter class. Leonard Pleumer of Potosi won the class of eight to eleven sows, while the St. Clara Academy at Sinsinawa won the larger class.

One of the interesting features of this contest is that feed records are kept to determine cost of Pork production. Some interesting information will be available before long on the above matter. The success of those who win in this pork production contest may be attributed to the utilization of good pasture, in most cases alfalfa, and the proper feeding of the proper feeds.

GRANT COUNTY FLOCK
WINS RECOGNITION.

Aside from winning in the pork production contest and work done in swine by this office, considerable work has been done in the matter of sheep. Several Grant County flocks entered the Sheep Production Contest in which Mr. W. L. Morrissey of Glen Haven won in the class of twenty-six to fifty ewes by producing 129.5 pounds of mutton per ewe which is not a bad record to make. Profits are made, in part at least, by the number of lambs or pigs that are saved and sent to market. Mr. Morrissey from his thirty ewes marketed fifty-four lambs.

\$2.00 PER MINUTE MADE
BY MEETING MARKET DEMANDS.

In connection with the lamb work several castrating and docking demonstrations were held to show the producer easy methods whereby he could send his products to the market without fear of dockage. With an operation of one-half minute per lamb farmers can save a dockage of \$1.00 to \$1.50 per hundred pounds of weight on the Chicago market. Meeting the demands of the market necessitates the adopting of methods at home.

COUNTY AGENT ASSISTS IN
DISTRIBUTION OF HOME
GROWN SEEDS.

Higher yielding strains of smooth-awn barley have been distributed throughout the County so that practically every farmer in Grant County has an available supply of smooth-awn Wisconsin #33 barley. The distribution of this seed can mean much to the increased yield per acre and the decrease of the diseased condition of barley that is common to most other varieties.

It costs no more to raise 50 bushel to the acre than it does 40; therefore the 50 bushel has a lower cost of production per bushel. Aside from the distribution of barley, considerable home grown clover seed was distributed by the County Agent within the County and to other Counties and States, as was true of many other small grains and corn. Money brought in in this manner from the outside is of course acceptable.

GRANT COUNTY'S REPUTATION
MAINTAINED BY CORN GROWERS.

Within the past seven or eight years Grant County has secured a reputation within the State and Nation as a corn producing section. During the past years Grant County corn men have grown and selected seed so well as to compete in State and National Shows to the extent that Grant County's corn is recognized and Grant County Corn Growers are honored by all in competition.

The past year they won first at the International in yellow corn and placed second in white corn. At the State Fair this past fall not only did they win first but also sweepstakes and at the State Grain show that is going on at this time they will bring more honors back with their winnings.

FIRST COUNTY SHOW HELD.

In connection with the work that has been done in getting men to endeavor to grow and show this corn I respectfully suggest to your Honorable Body that you visit the County Show that is being held on Friday and Saturday, November 13th and 14th, here in Lancaster. It is anticipated that this will be one of the biggest shows ever held in the State of Wisconsin.

MEETING THE PASTURE
EMERGENCY.

As the result of the injury done by grubs in 1930 considerable work has been done in getting grub eaten pastures reseeded so as to grow something else besides weeds. Work along this line has been in part soils work and in part a matter of crops. If we are to have permanent pastures we must take care of our pastures and we must think about fertility. We likewise must think about what seeds to plant to improve the pasture so as to increase its carrying power. Most of our pastures are low in lime as well as phosphorus.

Several pasture plots have been seeded with the use of various kinds of fertilizer and various mixtures of seed to determine for the future what is best. Thousands of acres of land in Grant County have, this fall, been seeded to rye as a late fall and early spring pasture. Some of these fields will be plowed down to increase the fertility of the land in the spring and corn will be planted.

The spreading of the information pertaining to the emergency pasture problem, the assisting in the securing of rye and the recommending of methods of application have been a part of the County Agent's work.

MEETING THE HAY PROBLEM
FOR 1932.

With the exceedingly dry hot weather the past summer much of the shallow rooted clover was killed out. To the man that didn't have alfalfa during 1931 this problem points to serious trouble in the 1932 crop year. Through observation and the experience of others the following recommendation was made by the County Agent to meet this emergency at least in part. It was recommended that where seeding had failed that during the latter part of August and early September new seed should be sown by the use of a disk drill and cultipack. Many fields were seeded in this way and at the present time show prospects good for 1932.

NEW PRACTICE DEMONSTRATED.

On sloping land of which Grant County has considerable it is found that the loss of soil fertility is greater from erosion than from cropping. Aside from the loss of fertility in badly washed fields the inconvenience that goes with ditches that run in every direction prompt steps being taken to protect Grant County land.

16 TOWNSHIPS HAVE DEMONSTRATIONAL TERRACES.

The new practice to most of us is the terracing of land to stop the erosion. Grant County has serious loss from washing. For that reason your County Agent has planned the establishment of demonstrational terraces in each township in Grant County. He has had the cooperation of 22 farmers in the construction of these terraces and 15 others have made their requests for this work in the spring.

Terracing, like all other new practices, meets with argument because of lack of understanding, but it will be one of the important phases of the County Agent's work in Grant County for several years to come. Your County Agent hopes to be able to assist farmers in laying out terracing lines by the use of the level and so save costs of an engineer.

The map on the next page will show location of terraces.

COOPERATIVES ARE HELPED.

Much has been done by the County Agent in helping cooperative enterprises as outlined by resolution passed by your Honorable Body of last year. Many farmers have been reached directly or indirectly in this phase of the work.

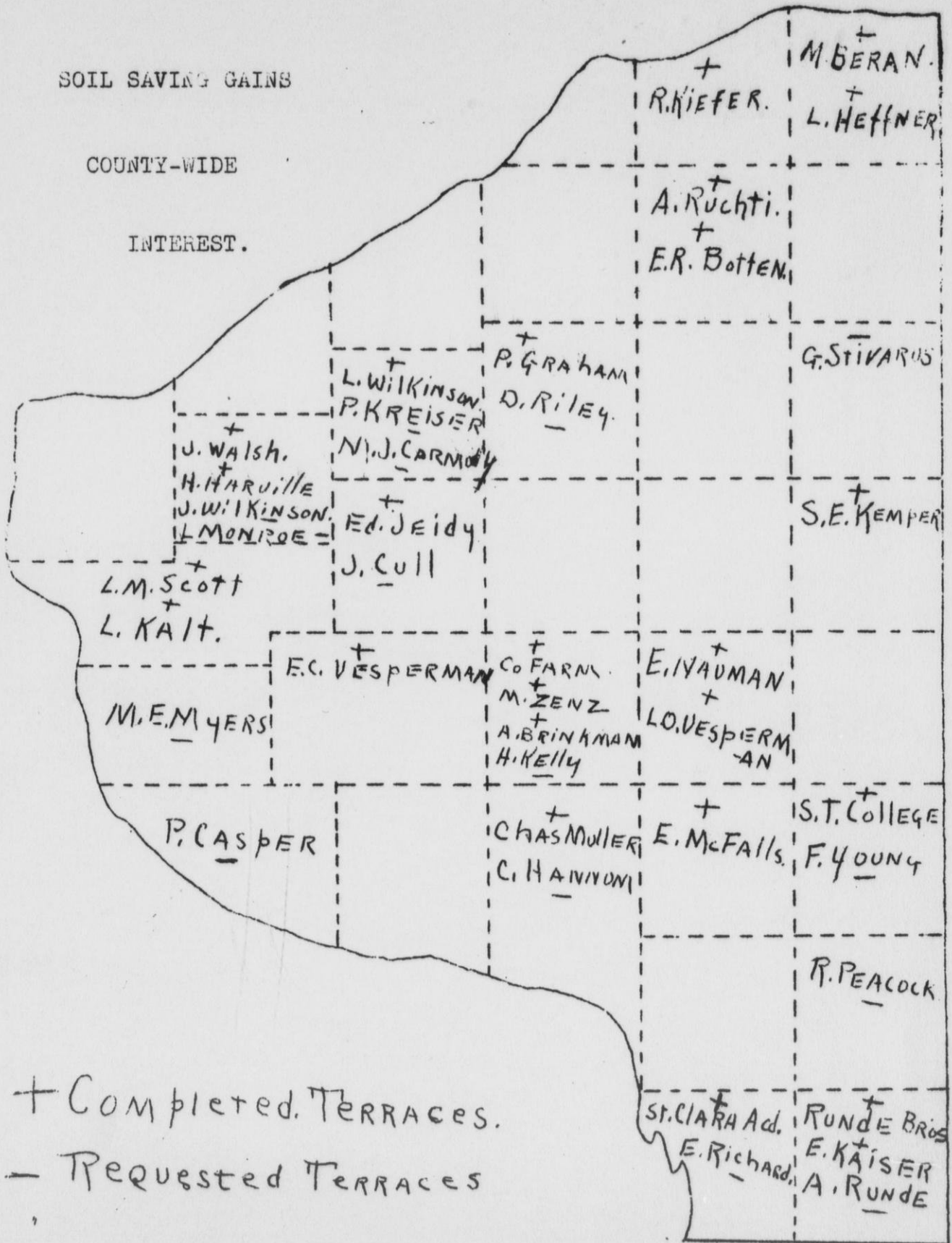
TWO CARLOADS OF WOOL POOLED.

Four meetings were held regarding marketing of wool cooperatively. These meetings were held in cooperation with the State Department of Agriculture and interested farmers. One carload of wool was pooled from the

SOIL SAVING GAINS

COUNTY-WIDE

INTEREST.



+ Completed Terraces.

- Requested Terraces

central part of the County while the second was loaded and shipped from Blue River.

SHIPPING ASSOCIATIONS. Meetings have been held with the directors of five of the Livestock Shipping Associations. The purpose was to get them to adopt a more uniform system of handling livestock. Other such meetings will be held in the near future. A better system of bookkeeping, better grading, and marking are some of the results hoped for. Cheaper handling at terminal markets is also aimed at.

NINE COOPERATIVE CREAMERIES COME TOGETHER. A group meeting held with directors and patrons of all nine cooperative creameries points the way to big things for dairy producers. By cooperative buying of materials, by cooperative marketing of products, by improved methods of handling, and by improved quality this organization of cooperatives will mean more returns for the producer.

A committee made of one director elected by each creamery board form a committee of nine that has gone ahead with hopes of perfecting a County Organization. Five meetings of this committee have been held and it is hoped that by perfecting a real association more money will be forth coming from the 3,025,000 pounds of butter made. Only one-half cent per pound will reflect value of work of office back to the fifteen hundred farmers who are patrons.

REPORT FROM NOVEMBER 1, 1930 to NOVEMBER 1, 1931.

Farm visits made.....	505
Circular letters.....	11,411
Personal letters.....	2,035
Telephone calls.....	374
Office calls.....	2,314
Method Demonstrations held.....	15
Attendance.....	351
Result Demonstrations held.....	15
Attendance.....	1,567
Meetings Relating to Projects.....	142
Attendance.....	16,498