ANOTHER WISCONSIN GRADUATE MADE EXPERIMENT STATION DIRECTOR

F. J. Sievers who graduated from the Long Course in Agriculture in 1910 has just been chosen as Director of the Massachusetts Experiment Station at Amherst. Mr. Sievers was instructor in Soils in this college for two years following graduation, leaving us to take a position with the Milwaukee County Agricultural School. Since 1917 he has been head of the Soils department at the Washington State College at Pullman.

This appointment makes the third Wisconsin man in the past four months to assume administrative responsibilities in the guidance of experiment station work. F. B. Morrison and F. M. Gonzalez were recently chosen to head up respectively the work of the New York Station and the deanship of the Agricultural College of the Philippine Islands.

OLD BOSSY FAILS TO RESPOND TO THE "LIME-LIGHT"

Dairy cows are able to assimilate lime just as well while kept in a dark basement as when out of doors exposed to the direct sunlight, according to the recent findings of E. B. Hart and Harry Steenbock (Agricultural Chemistry).

Recent experiments, both at this Station and elsewhere, have shown that light plays an important part in the anti-rachitic property of hay and other feeds. Hay cut in the early morning before the sun comes up, and cured indoors out of the sun, has no anti-rachitic property. Exposing young chicks, goats, and many other animals to the sun's rays greatly increases the ability of the particular animal to retain and utilize the lime in the ration.

Hart and Steenbock undertook to answer the practical question, "Does exposure of heavy milking dairy cows to summer sunshine enable them to obtain and utilize from their pasture grasses sufficient lime to keep them on a positive lime basis?"

Last June, when the anti-rachitic properties of the sun were at a peak, careful metabolism experiments were carried on with cows placed in direct sunlight for six hours daily as compared to standing in a darkened barn. They were fed a grain mixture, silage, and 40 pounds daily of freshly cut green grass. The data obtained showed practically no difference in the assimilation of lime when the cows were in the sunlight or the darkened barn. Apparently then, the rays of the sun have a remarkably beneficial effect on lime assimilation by little chicks, pigs and goats, but with cows no such positive benefits can be observed.

TON LITTER CONTEST WINS WIDENING INTEREST

Exactly twice as many counties made entries in the 1927 ton litter contest as in 1924. The three year period saw an increase from 17 counties represented to 34. In all there were 103 litters entered this past year, of which 34 qualified with a weight of 2,000 pounds at the age of 180 days or younger.
H. J. Brant (Animal Husbandry) who has this extension project in charge, reports that the entries averaged 10.7 pigs per litter, while the litters that made the ton figure at six months of age averaged 11.2 pigs per litter. The winning litter was made up of 12 pure bred Chester Whites that weighed 3,598 pounds, or an average of 300 pounds per pig, when 150 days of age. They were bred and fed by August Speerschneider, New Franken. The ton litter contest is accomplishing much in bringing to light the factors that make for low costs of pork production and greater hog profits.

TWENTY-TWO NEW ENROLLMENTS IN SHORT COURSE

The 160 students enrolled in the Short Course have had their number increased by 22. This number of new students entered at the beginning of the second term on January 5, thus making the total enrollment 182 as compared to 128 at the corresponding date a year ago.

SON FOLLOWS FATHER IN THE SHORT COURSE

A survey brings to light the interesting fact that five of the boys enrolled in the Short Course this term are sons of former students in our Short Course. All five of these former students are now operating farms, three in Wisconsin, one in Iowa, and one in Illinois. We are glad to welcome these sons to our campus and classrooms. We are offering them opportunities and facilities far beyond that available to their fathers who were here when the short course was an educational experiment. If they can make as good use of these opportunities and facilities as did those early graduates of our short course, we surely will have reason to be proud of their records.

CORN BELT STATES URGE CONTINUANCE OF BORER CLEAN UP

The Secretary of Agriculture has recommended to budget director Lord that no special appropriation be made by the Federal Congress for the purpose of a corn borer clean up campaign.

Of last year's $10,000,000 appropriation, approximately $1,000,000 remains which will be used in cooperation with the various states on: (a) interstate features such as the cleaning up of river valleys where floods might carry infested material long distances; (b) that the regulatory campaigns within the states be carried by the states; (c) that the Federal Government carry on educational campaigns and investigational work.

The attitude of the representatives from the corn belt states, at the corn borer conference held in Washington on December 19, 1927, was, however, that another large appropriation was necessary and a strong presentation of this matter was made to the Secretary of Agriculture. He stated, at this time, that he did not oppose any such movement, but that since early in the summer the policy of the department had been determined this could not now be modified.

The International Corn Borer Committee is strongly in favor of the continuation of the 1927 policy to apply to all of the one per cent area and have asked for an appropriation of $20,000,000 for the next two year period.

The 1927 campaign reduced the rate of increase in the number of borers in the infested area. Official counts showed one and a half times as many borers in 1927 as in 1926, compared with four times as many in 1926 as in 1925, when no clean up campaign was put on. But it did not stop the spread of the pest to new areas. In the opinion of the Federal Department the spread of the borer to the entire Corn Belt is inevitable.
TREE TRIMMING SHORT COURSE FEBRUARY 7 TO 10

For a second time the College of Agriculture, through the Department of Horticulture, is offering its services to the Wisconsin Utilities Association and the Wisconsin State Telephone Association in order that a school of instruction may be provided for the foremen of telephone, telegraph and electric utility organizations, who desire to learn the better care of trees along public highways. The course is scheduled for February 7 to 10, and will emphasize the identification of varieties of trees, proper pruning methods, and the care and treatment of wounds.

RURAL ELECTRIFICATION SHORT COURSE FEBRUARY 14-15-16

In connection with our research and extension activities with relation to the more effective utilization of electricity on farms, a short course for rural fieldmen of Wisconsin electric utility companies is to be held at the College February 14-15-16. Many special problems on farms make it necessary for methods different than those used in the city to be followed in installing electric service, and in operating the various motorized and electrified equipment suitable for farm requirements. The recent studies carried on in our Department of Agricultural Engineering have thrown new light on many of these problems, and it is the purpose of this school to make this new information available to the electrical fieldmen who are serving the farmers of the state.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION HONORS H. F. WILSON

At the recent annual meeting of the American Association of Economic Entomologists, held at Nashville, Tennessee, H. F. Wilson, Chief of the Department of Economic Entomology of this College, was elected vice-president (section of agriculture) of the Association.

ANNUAL EXPERIMENT STATION REPORT TO BE RELEASED FEBRUARY 2

The annual report of the Director of the Experiment Station for the fiscal year 1926-1927, which is compiled from the reports of research work carried on in the various departments, has been in the hands of the printer for the past six weeks and will soon be available. It will not be released to the public until February 2. The report carries the title, "Forward Steps in Farm Science", and will be known as Bulletin 396.

CLAYTON HOLMES MADE INSTRUCTOR IN POULTRY DEPARTMENT

Clayton Holmes, '27, has been appointed by the Board of Regents to fill the vacancy in the Department of Poultry Husbandry caused by the resignation of C. E. Lempman, who was recently made head of the Poultry Department at the University of Idaho. Mr. Holmes was one of the three students in the College of Agriculture to receive senior honors at 1927 Commencement. For the first semester of this academic year he has been engaged in research work in the Poultry Department of Pennsylvania State College.