WAR SERVICE WORK

New and serious agricultural and economic problems have arisen this year because of the world war. The county agent's office has tried to meet and solve some of these problems.

Early in 1942, through the advice and with the cooperation of the U.S. and State Departments of Agriculture, it was deemed wise to set up "Volunteer War Service Committees". With the aid of the county agricultural committee, chairmen for each of the following committees were selected in each of the thirtyfive townships in Dane County with the approval of the rural supervisors:


In order to carry the information and aid to each of the 6200 farm families in Dane County these Township Volunteer War Service Chairmen also appointed a committeeman in each school district; therefore, completing the "Neighborhood Service Plan".

We will discuss briefly the service rendered by these various war service committees. Some of this service somewhat parallels the work of the War Board which will be discussed later in this report.

LABOR -

The county agents' office assisted the township labor committees as follows:

1. Early in May of this year sent "farm labor wanted" questionnaires to all high schools in Dane County.
2. Result: 63 high school boys signed up for farm labor.
3. Cooperaed with County U.S. Employment Agency in making the names of these boys and other workers available to the farmers in Dane County.
4. Held six district meetings with Labor Committeemen and farmers to help plan how to handle the labor shortage on farms.

WAR FOOD -

The work of this committee included the economical production of both food for human consumption and feed for livestock. The county agents assisted these committees:

1. By arranging community meetings where important information was given in regard to:
   (1) Economical production of food and feed
   (2) Economical buying of food, feed, grains, livestock and dairy products.
   (3) Economy of buying Government grains, for example Wheat for Food and Feed.
   (4) Advised the proper use of commercial fertilizers to increase the production of food, feed and fiber.
GARDEN –

Due to the anticipated shortage of certain imported foods, fruits and some vegetables, the work of this committee was to encourage every farm family:
1. To grow a well planned garden.
2. 4-H club members to raise a family sized Victory Garden.
3. To store or preserve an ample supply of vegetables for winter use. (see circular next page)
4. To keep the family well by using the proper amount of good fruits and vegetables and thus aid our country in this great war effort.

NUTRITION –

The work of the nutrition committee, closely correlated with that of the garden and war food committee, will be discussed by Miss Violet Blodau, Home Agent, in her part of this annual report.

CIVILIAN DEFENSE –

The work of the county civilian defense committee has been well organized with the chairman of the County Board and the Mayor of Madison as co-chairmen. The regular civilian defense organization had already made town chairmen responsible for civilian defense activities. Therefore, to avoid duplication, the volunteer war service committee asked these supervisors to serve as chairmen of this work in their respective townships.

The principal work on civilian defense done by the county agents' office, in cooperation with the civilian defense committees, may be stated briefly as follows:

1. Discussed at joint meetings of labor and civilian defense committees practical methods to prevent inflation (see enclosed sheet)
2. Upon the advice and recommendation of the Dane County Board of Supervisors and the civilian defense committeemen, important information and check sheets on a county-wide campaign to Prevent Farm Fires was sent out to all farm families through the rural and graded schools in Dane County.
STORING VEGETABLES AT HOME

The three chief essentials of successful storage of home grown vegetables, according to Professors J. G. Moore and C. B. Combs, of the College of Agriculture, are as follows:

1. Select only sound vegetables. Do not attempt to store vegetables which show signs of decay.
2. Maintain the proper temperature. Root crops and many of the leafy crops require a temperature of between 35° and 40° for successful storage.
3. Provide proper moisture and ventilation. Root crops and most of the leafy vegetables keep best where the air has a moisture content of 85%. Proper ventilation of the storage room is necessary if the correct temperature and moisture content are to be maintained.

Careful handling of vegetables and root crops is also a requisite if they are to be kept successfully in storage throughout the winter months. Bruising vegetables usually starts decay.

The following vegetables should be stored in a room where a temperature of 35° to 40° can be maintained:

GROUP I - Temperature 35° to 40° -- Moisture 85%:
Beets Kohlrabi Potatoes Salsify
Carrots Rutabagas Parsnips Celery
Cabbage Turnips Winter radishes

If these vegetables are to be stored in a basement containing a furnace or other heating unit, a separate vegetable storage room should be provided where the temperature and moisture can be regulated as indicated above. Insulated, or double walls, and a window for ventilation is usually necessary. The window should be easily adjusted according to the outside temperature in order to maintain a temperature of 35° to 40° and yet prevent freezing.

Parsnips and salsify can be left in the ground over winter. It is desirable to put a mulch over the row to prevent alternate freezing and thawing which favors decay of the tops of the roots.

MATERIALS AND METHODS OF STORAGE - Some people have successfully stored root crops, such as carrots and beets, in soil or sand, or by piling them on the cellar floor and covering with old rugs or burlap bags. The illustration below shows how root crops have been successfully stored without the use of sand.

Such vegetables as beets and carrots may be stored in crocks, milk cans or similar containers.

Old rug or sack on top

Next page -
GROUP II - Temperature 40° to 60° - Keep Dry. ONIONS, PUMPKIN, SQUASH, SWEET POTATOES.

Some vegetables keep best when stored at a higher temperature and also where the moisture content of the air is much dryer than 35%.

ONIONS - Select well matured onions grown from seed rather than from sets. Harvest early, sort out soft bulbs, store in a fairly cool (about 40°) dry place.

PUMPKINS AND SQUASH demand full maturity for successful storage. Harvest before hard frost, leave the stem on and store in a dry place where the temperature is 50° to 60°. They can usually be stored on shelves in the furnace room or in a warm attic.

SWEET POTATOES are now being grown by many gardeners. They may be successfully stored by wrapping them separately in paper and storing them at about the same temperature as pumpkins. CAUTION: Let sweet potatoes grow as long as possible in fall until danger of frost. If vines are frosted - immediately cut off vines at the top of ground to prevent potatoes from becoming bitter and spoiling.

- Special Suggestions -

CAabbage - Late cabbage stores best. Select sound heads, cut off stems, leave on most of the outside leaves, wrap head in paper and place on cellar floor.

CELERY - Leave celery in garden as late as possible without severe freezing. Set in soil in coolest part of storage cellar. Keep tops dry; apply water only occasionally at roots.

BUTABAGAS may be waxed using melted parafin and a small amount of mineral oil or other light oil.

PARSLEY may either be dried or grown as a house plant and used throughout the winter.

- LET'S SELECT AND STORE GOOD VEGETABLES -
TO ALL DANE COUNTY RURAL AND GRADED SCHOOL TEACHERS.

Dear Friend:

No doubt you are being asked to do a lot of extra work during these years of war, but those of us who are still safely here at home must do everything in our power to aid in this all out effort to end the war.

During world war No. 1 there was a popular song written, Keep the Home Fires Burning. It was a beautiful sentiment when properly understood. Today we are faced with a terrible shortage of certain kinds of metals and building material — a REAL FIRE OF THE HOME BUILDINGS today would indeed be a tragedy even if there were no loss of human life or livestock since it might be impossible to replace the materials burned even at any cost.

Enclosed you will find a special circular entitled "Prevent Farm Fires" written by the Wisconsin College of Agriculture. Please read this carefully, especially the statements on the front page and We Don't Fight Fire, We Prevent It, on the inside cover page. You will also find a supply of check sheets, Farm Fire Hazard Removal.

WHAT WE ARE ASKING YOU TO DO:

Study this circular and check sheet. Discuss with your pupils the methods of preventing farm fires. Ask them to take this check sheet home. Encourage them and their parents to honestly check up on all items included in this check sheet. They need not return this check sheet. They should post it in their home. Perhaps you may wish to put on an essay or poster contest, or an evening program with the parents on PREVENTING FARM FIRES AS A PATRIOTIC DUTY.

We presented this farm fire prevention program to the Dane County Board of Supervisors. They voted to back it 100%. We are sending a copy of this letter to your township or village chairman. He is the fire warden in your township.

Thanks for your cooperation in preventing farm fires.

Very truly yours,

J. W. Clark
Asst. County Agent

R. V. Hurley
Dane County Agr'l Agent

353 W. Johnson St.
Madison, Wisconsin
November 9, 1942
Wisconsin Farmstead Check Sheet for
FARM FIRE HAZARD REMOVAL

Name ............................................................... County ........................................
P. O. Address .................................................... Township ....................................
Date Inspection ..................................................

The Home

CHIMNEYS
Is there an opening in attic so flues can be inspected? ......................................................
Are chimneys free from cracks and breaks? .................................................................
Do chimneys rest on the ground? on brackets? ..............................................................
wood? metal? ......................................................................................................................
Was chimney cleaned this year? ........................................................................................
Is chimney equipped with a spark arrester? .................................................................

HEATING EQUIPMENT
Are stove pipes passing through walls equipped with ventilating thimbles? ....................
Are all stove and furnace pipes at least 18 inches from wood? ........................................
If not, is the wood insulated with asbestos? ....................................................................
Are wood floors under stove protected with asbestos and metal? ..................................
Are ashes placed in metal container? ..............................................................................
Are they dumped outside away from combustible material? ........................................

ELECTRIC INSTALLATIONS
Type of circuit protection. Fuse box circuit breaker ..........................................................
Are all fuses in lighting circuit of 15 ampere rating? ..........................................................
Are extension cords in good condition? ...........................................................................
Are oil lamps in good repair? ............................................................................................
Are electric motor housings kept clean and free from all combustible material? ............

ACCUMULATED RUBBISH
Is attic free from combustible material such as paper, clothing, rags, wood? .................
closets? hallways? cellar? ..................................................................................................
Are oily rags kept in metal container? ..............................................................................
destroyed after use? ...........................................................................................................
Has grass or weed growth been removed from house? ..................................................
Is there a cleared area around house for distance of 25 feet? .........................................
CLEANING FLUIDS
Are inflammable cleaning fluids used? Are they stored away from house? Are they used only outside in the open?

The Barns and Outbuildings
Are buildings far enough apart so the burning of one will not set fire to the others? Is barn equipped with lightning rods? Are they in good state of repair?

BROODER HOUSE
Does stove set directly on sand? Are electric brooders cleaned regularly? Are light bulbs high enough so chicks do not come in contact with them?

GASOLINE
Is gasoline kept underground? In special building or shed? If in a shed, is it at least 25 feet from other buildings? Is tractor, truck or car stored on concrete or dirt floor? If stationary gasoline engine is in building, is it mounted on metal or concrete base?

Does exhaust pipe extend at least a foot out beyond building? Is exhaust pipe insulated from wood wall?

HAY
Are hay and straw well cured before storing? Is hay checked after storing to see if it is heating?

Facilities for Fighting Fire
Is there a telephone in house? In barn? Is there a fire extinguisher ready for use? When last inspected?
Is there a ladder handy to reach eaves of house or barn? Is there a good water supply available? Well? Cistern? Drums or barrels? Pond?
Is there a pressure system on the farm? Are threaded faucets on outside of house or barn? Is hose available?
Is there a box of sand and shovel near or in shed with gasoline and oil? In garage or machine shed?

Do All Members of the Family Know What to do in Case of Fire? Do your neighbors know what equipment to bring to your home if they are called to fight fire?