

offered for sale. While it is hard to point to any direct benefit from the program, the results will be forthcoming through the coming years. Proper handling of milk and cream so as to prevent dirt and bacteria from entering the milk, proper cooling, proper storing, and proper hauling---these are the factors that enter into a Quality Milk program making it possible for all farmers to produce a quality milk without additional expense.

Tri-County Holstein Picnic

Holstein breeders of St. Croix, Pierce, and Dunn counties joined in a tri-county picnic and program at Spring Valley July 12. This meeting was well attended and the program which had been arranged was well accepted by the Holstein breeders and others who attended.

Cooperative Trucking Association

Many farmers who are patrons of the River Falls creamery felt that they were paying an unjust trucking charge for milk and cream. A group of these farmers solicited my cooperation in helping them to lower their trucking costs. As a result of contacting other similar creameries we felt that the trucking costs were relatively high. A cooperative trucking association was proposed and after due consideration the River Falls Cooperative Trucking Association was formed. The original intention was for the association to buy one truck and hire a hauler to operate it. This would serve a group of farmers located largely in the town of Kinnickinnic. However, as a result of the first work done by this association the request came from many farmers in adjoining areas for a similar service. As a result, this same association has expanded to the point where they have five routes of hauling milk to the River Falls Cooperative Creamery. Not only are they getting lower hauling charges, but the cooperative is paying a percentage dividend to its members. This association is proving very popular in the area it serves, and we have every reason to believe its success will continue.

LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY IMPROVEMENT

We have devoted considerable time to improvement of livestock, including hogs and sheep in particular, and poultry. We feel that a well-balanced farm program should include not only the production of dairy cows but hogs, sheep, and poultry. One of the things that our farm management survey has indicated is the need for diversification of farm enterprises.

The Wisconsin Ram Truck made its annual stop in the county this year and many of our farmers took advantage of the chance to buy good rams at reasonable prices to head up their flocks. Several good rams were sold at the Ram Sale held in connection with the annual Bull Sale. A wool marketing meeting was held in December, at which time much valuable information was given to the sheep raisers of the county relative to marketing their wool and managing their farm flocks. Several farmers purchased boars at the Boar Sale which was also held in connection with the annual Bull Sale. Hog Cholera came into the picture this summer and was a real threat to the hog industry for a time at least. Many of the farmers in the community in which the infection occurred vaccinated their hogs

to prevent an outbreak of Cholera.

We have had some very interesting meetings on poultry work and the testimonial given by the poultry breeders who are making a success of poultry as a sideline contributed much to the success of the meetings.

HOMEMAKERS

Our Homemaker Clubs have remained active during the past year, and helped to serve the needs of some 600 farm women folks who have taken part in the program. Our State specialist, Miss Brady, conducted the leader training meetings held in the county this past year, foods and nutritions being the subject discussed at the meetings.

WEED CONTROL

A county-wide meeting of the town chairmen and weed commissioners was held, at which time Henry Lunz of the State Weed Department was present and discussed with us the weed law and weed control measures. St. Croix county now has two patches of creeping jenny, or field bindweed, and two or three patches of leafy spurge. Both of these weeds need our consideration in controlling their spread. We assisted the town chairmen in the communities involved in controlling them by the use of chemical weed killer.

SEED CERTIFICATION

Several farmers are still actively interested in producing certified and registered seed to be sold to other farmers in the county. We have assisted these farmers in their seed certification by making the necessary inspections on the fields before harvest. Just as it is necessary to keep our purebred cattle, so is it necessary to keep our registered and certified seed available to farmers of the county. Better crops can be produced by the use of better seed, and certainly our work with fertilizer and lime can be enhanced by the use of good seed.

NATIONAL DEFENSE PROGRAM

Your County Agent was appointed as a member of the County National Defense committee and has assisted in making a survey on the labor situation available to farmers, and assisted in the Foods for Defense program. Under the Foods for Defense program the farmers of St. Croix county have been asked by the Secretary of Agriculture to increase the production of milk 11% in 1942 over 1941, hogs 8%, and a 6% increase in the production of eggs. We feel reasonably certain that this goal will be reached by the farmers of St. Croix county, and we hope that the increased production will come through better feeding, better management, and better care, rather than an increase in capital investment.

COOPERATION WITH OTHER AGENCIES

This office has endeavored at all times to cooperate with all other county, state, and federal agencies working in the interests of promoting better agriculture for farmers of St. Croix county.