The county agent was made chairman of the Wood county National Defense Scrap Aluminum collection campaign. Township chairman, City Council officials, representative of Service Clubs, Church Organizations, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts and 4-H Club Leaders were called in to two regional meetings after the county had been divided into two areas. These leaders were informed of the need for the collection of scrap aluminum. Plans were made for the collection of the material by districts and more than 500 local leaders began a house to house canvass for the material. Citizens of the county responded in an "all out" and whole hearted way. More than 7,000 pounds of scrap aluminum was collected in two bins, one located at Marshfield and the other at Wisconsin Rapids. Collection bins were guarded night and day. At the end of the drive, the scrap aluminum was trucked to Wausau by Wood County Welfare trucks where the material was deposited and taken charge of by the Mayor of Wausau. The scrap aluminum was sorted and shipped to a smelter who paid for the material directly to Mayor LaGuardia, chairman of the National Committee for Defense.

The county agent has been made a member of the Wood county Defense Council for Agriculture. During August and September the main duties of the Defense Council were to secure information and make reports on conditions to the state committee.

In October, the entire defense committee attended one of five district meetings held for the purpose of explaining the county goals for production in 1942. Wood county's allotment or goal for milk amounts to a 25,000,000 pound increase. The increase in pork production asked for is 2,000 - 180 pound hogs. An additional 1,000,000 eggs have been asked for in 1942.

Wood county farmers and poultrymen have the necessary number of hens to produce the additional eggs asked for. It will require better feeding, better care and better management for the poultry flock if the new production goal is to be realized.

There are sufficient hogs on farms in Wood county at the present time to successfully meet the 1942 production goal, unless they are sold out of the county before maturity.

The increased dairy production asked for will be much more difficult for Wood county to meet than will be the increased pork and egg production. Obviously the number of cows cannot be increased only slightly. The increased production will have to come through better feeding, better care and better management.

A program for local discussion of the problems ahead was set up. A launching meeting was held at Arpin, October 13th which was attended by leading dairymen and members of the several action agencies functioning in the county. Ninety-five leaders answered the invitation and attended. The program was explained and after some discussion it was unanimously and enthusiastically approved by those present. Town chairman, AAA committeemen and school clerks nominated local leaders for each of the
93 school districts in the county. These local leaders were called in to a leadership training meeting on the evening of October 17th. Two hundred twelve responded to the call. These leaders were trained in the methods of conducting meetings in their local school houses. Complete and detailed information on the technical problems of increased production was given each of the leaders selected to call the meeting to order in their local school house on the evening of October 24th. The October 24th meetings were advertised by letters, by the press, by radio and by hand bills carried home to parents by 3500 rural school children.

These 93 rural school house meetings were held on schedule. Reports of attendance were made out and sent to the county agent's office immediately after the meetings. The following is a summary of 88 reports.

1. Approximate number of farmers in the school districts covered 2200
2. Number of farm families represented at the meeting 1320
3. Total attendance at meetings 2508
   Average attendance 28

Average Leaders Comments.
1. How did the meeting go over? Ans.: Good—plenty of discussion.
3. Was there a definite interest in better feeding practices? Ans.: Yes.
4. What more could you suggest be done? Ans.: Use increased income to pay debts. Conduct evening schools. Send information to farmers on balanced feeding. Release some corn and wheat from storage. Start a quality improvement program for milk. Assist some farmers in securing loans for feed. Send farmers feeding suggestions once a month during the winter.

The 93 school house meetings, the stories in the press, the leaders and the radio talks serve to arouse the interest of Wood county farmers in the added market for at least $800,000,00 in 1942. This increased income can mean about $200,00 per farm on the average. The program is one that appeals to every farmer. He now has a market for all the goods that he can produce next year and at a better price. The meetings on the 24th of October did not end but merely began a new program for hundreds of Wood county farmers. In the past farmers have received too low a price for milk and pork and eggs to allow for much enthusiasm or much planning. If the price index remains favorable and weather conditions are normal, 1942 will be the biggest and best year ever experienced by farmers in Wood county.

Immediately following the school house meetings on October 24th, 60 AAA committee men began contacting farmers in their township. The 1941 production of milk, of eggs, of pork, and of calves sold was asked of each farmer. The purpose of these questions was to find out the amount of farm goods being produced this year. Farmers were also asked to estimate their 1942 production of these same commodities. These figures and estimates were tabulated on the 1942 Farm Defense Plan for each farmer. These figures have been listed and totaled for each township and for the entire county and will be forwarded to the state AAA office late in November. The figures showing an anticipated increase in production must not be merely figures showing the enthusiasm of the farmer or the AAA committee men. The figures must be backed up by sound dairy management, good feeding, good care and good management of the dairy herds and flocks. If the production goals
asked for are to be reached in 1942 it will mean that Wood county farmers will have to do the best job of farmers that they have ever done. The production increase will have to come from the poorer producing herds and flocks rather than from those with high producing records. The owner or manager of a poor producing herd will have to adopt many of the sound, efficient and economical practices of the successful dairymen who have been proving them sound for the past 25 years.

The county agent, through the mediums of the press, the radio and in meetings has cautioned farmers not to plunge into debt and not to launch out too far with only one year of pegged prices in sight. We have urged farmers to buy feed only when it could be bought and paid for out of the increased returns that it will bring in the next 15 months.

FARM LABOR

Due to high wages being paid in industries throughout the county as well as in nearby cities, many farm boys have secured employment in factories. A large number of boys have entered the army, navy or marine corps through enlistments or selective service.

The county agent has furnished the selective service boards with information regarding several young men who were badly needed at home on the farm.

The county agent has served on the county Farm Labor Committee in cooperation with the State Employment Office and Agricultural Committee and the Director of Welfare. Many farmers have had to purchase machinery and labor saving devices to take the place of farm help.

EQUIPMENT

Many farmers will experience difficulty in 1942 in securing parts for machinery and other items necessary to carry out the farm practices made necessary by the added production of 25,000,000 pounds of milk, 2,000 more hogs and an additional 9,000 dozen of eggs in 1942.