HEALTH AND MORALE

Gardens - The average farm garden is about one-half acre in size. Emphasis was placed this year on the planning, planting, and pest control problems. An effort was put forth to encourage farm families to plant more varieties of vegetables so as to more adequately meet their dietary needs.

The county agent held several meetings, conducted demonstrations and prepared information for use by farm and city garden folks alike. Soils tests were made, fertilizer applications were recommended and considerable emphasis placed on improvement of storage facilities.

A large number of Victory gardens were established for the first time in the cities and villages, which for the most part were successful.

As a result, a larger supply of home canned fruits and vegetables is available on the shelves of farm and city folks in the county than in previous years.

A model storage basement was prepared and exhibited at several meetings and at the Central Wisconsin State Fair.

CONSERVATION OF MEN AND MATERIALS

Machinery repair schools were conducted by the county agent and assistants in several central points in the county. Mowers, binders, manure spreaders, plows and other types of equipment were repaired earlier in the season so that spare parts might be obtained before the rush of the harvest season. Many farmers were able to improvise some machines that would make their jobs easier. Several buck rakes were built which enabled them to dispense with the hay loader in hauling in hay.
B. Iverson, Sherry, saves time, pace and labor by cutting the straw from the separator with the ensilage cutter.

Fred Trenk, inventor of mechanical tree planter, adjusting planting depth while Ed Hill plants and Bill Brenner and H. Menko observe.

Combination corrugated roller with grass seeding attachment — Curtis Ross, Aratoga.

John Heiser, Sigel, demonstrates a home-made seed grain treater to control smut on oats.

Dressing one of 8,000 cockerels on C. Grange farm, Babcock.

Adam Schmidt, Fort Edwards town, helps husk 1,000 bushels of hybrid corn — 3-12-12 fertilizer used following alfalfa.
Owners of combines were encouraged to do custom work for their neighbors who had no binders or who lacked the labor or power to operate them.

Corn borer control meetings were held. The county agent pointed out to farmers the necessity of doing a good job of plowing in order to control the corn borer. The corn borer has been found on a large number of farms and the population of the insect will no doubt increase so that it will become more troublesome in the future. Since there is no effective spray or dust control for this insect, it will be necessary that farmers learn to live with it the same as they do with quack grass, Canadian thistle, grasshoppers and other similar pests.

The county agent has been called upon to identify many diseases, insects and pests attacking gardens and field crops in the county.

A survey was conducted by a large number of 4-H club members as well as farmers to locate fire hazards. Fire prevention was the subject of study of the 500 4-H club members in the county. Inspections were made by club members of fire hazards found in their own and neighboring homes. Stories on "What I learned about fire hazards" were written by many 4-H club members.

The high cost of rebuilding farm buildings, the difficulty of securing materials and supplies made farmers and their families exceedingly cautious about fire. The number of farm buildings which burned during the year were possibly smaller than in any previous year.

The timber stand improvement demonstrations which have been held in the past years are showing up to excellent advantage. Many
of the wood lots in the county have been systematically thinned for the purpose of providing lumber and pulpwood for the mills. Many farmers are realizing that their timber stands are possibly their most valuable asset.

LONG-TIME IMPROVEMENTS

Wood County Soil Conservation District - The proper utilization of the soil in Wood county is one of the farmers most perplexing problems. Soils vary from light sand to peat and muck to the flat and cold Vesper soils and the heavy cold and poorly drained Spencer soils in the North part of the county.

Ninety per cent of the soils are low in phosphorus, potash and lime. Poor drainage limits the amount of available nitrogen that plants can obtain. Soil acidity help to lock up available phosphorus.

The wood county soil conservation district has been established for the express purpose of giving individual help to a large number of farmers. More than 200 farmers have asked for individual service varying from ditching of flat lands, terracing for erosion control, terracing for drainage control and strip cropping for control of both wind and water erosion.

Staff conservationists, Densmore, Stanek and Veum have worked in the county, but are now serving in the armed forces or private industry. Staff conservationist, Lee Bowen and Technician Elmer Miller have surveyed for possible outlets of ditches and terraces on practically all of the farms that have applied for service this year. Ditches have been built on 20 farms using the terracer or grader and caterpillar tractor which has been granted