Seed Train Special

Many farmers living in remote parts of the state cannot attend the meetings of the Experiment Association or the Grain Show at Madison. The association provides for a pure bred seed train every two years. The train consists of several coaches, including exhibition and lecture cars. If the places where it stops are large, the local banks and merchants usually provide for a hall and often provide entertainments in connection with lectures.

This train is run jointly by the Experiment Association, College of Agriculture, and Wisconsin Bankers’ Association.

Boys and Girls Corn Growing and Judging Contests

In order to train the boys and girls in corn judging so that they learn to know the desired characters of the different standard varieties of corn, a corn growing and judging contest was inaugurated. This work was started in 1906 when Prof. R. A. Moore in cooperation with the county superintendent of schools at Richland Center started to help disseminate pure bred Silver King corn among the boys and girls in Richland County. Samples were given to the boys and girls with full directions for growing them. In 1907 the work had spread to 13 counties, and in 1910, 52 contests were held in 50 counties of the state when 28,600 boys and girls took part in the work. Later, growing and judging
contests were held in each county. The winners of these contests were awarded scholarships which entitled them to a week’s course at the University for a study of grains and corn. This contest work spread so rapidly in the state, that in 1915 it was placed in charge of a state boys’ and girls’ club leader whose office is at the College of Agriculture. In 1918 over 37,000 boys and girls took part in club work.

The boys and girls are encouraged to grow one acre of one of the standard varieties of corn. Some time during late fall or early winter a corn judging contest is held in each county or other local unit. Each boy and girl who grew an acre of corn may participate in this contest. The winners of these contests then compete at the state corn judging contest.

The seed secured by the boys for their acre corn growing contest and the funds for paying the expenses of the winners to the state contest are furnished by the Experiment Association. The seed corn is distributed directly by the State Boys’ and Girls’ Club leader, by the different Agricultural High Schools, or by the county superintendent in all the counties of the state. Many farmers, not otherwise connected with the Experiment Association, are now growing the standard varieties of Wisconsin corn, the seeds of which was secured through the children attending the rural schools.

The State Boys’ and Girls’ Club Leader, College of Agriculture, Madison, Wis., will send a free bulletin on how to become a member of a boys’ or girls’ club to any boy or girl who writes to him for such information.

[11]