

The epidemic of Sleeping Sickness which we witnessed in 1938 disappeared almost entirely in 1939. Its disappearance was one of the peculiarities of the disease. It came upon us fast and disappeared with the same speed. What the possibilities of its re-appearance are, is still a matter of question.

BEEES

The bee industry has been encouraged and this office has helped maintain a County Beekeepers Association. Inspection work was carried on this past year again and 26 colonies of American Foul Brood were discovered and destroyed by the colony owner and the inspector. The Beekeepers are aware of the fact that this disease is their worst enemy and when appraised of this information are willing to cooperate to eradicate the disease.

PRODUCTION CREDIT ASSOCIATION

This office has cooperated with the secretary and Board of Directors of the Production Credit Association wherever possible. The P.C.A. provides short-time loans to farmers who cannot obtain credit from the local banks and who have security to back their loan. I think it is noteworthy that the policy of the P.C.A. is to make loans for work stock so that the farmer can increase his income so that he can not only pay off the loan but pay off other loans and expenses as well.

FEDERAL LAND BANK

Because of economic conditions the past few years, a large number of farms in St. Croix County have now become the property of the Federal Land Bank. This office has cooperated with the officials of the Federal Land Bank to help alleviate the existing conditions for their present borrowers and to help them, wherever possible, to rehabilitate farmers on these already fore-closed farms.

SMALL FRUITS

Some work was done last winter with the boys in the Agricultural departments, encouraging them to take an interest in small fruits of the farm size orchard. As a result of this an order was pooled for apple trees which we obtained through a nearby nursery. These trees were of fine stock and were priced very reasonable. This coming year we have already made plans to order several times as many trees and small fruits as we did last year.

WEEDS

The one new weed which farmers will want to acquaint themselves with is Creeping Jenny or Field Bindweed. This has already

become established on six or seven farms in the county. I can say little here regarding it except to say that it is a weed whose damage can be much greater than Quack Grass and Canada Thistle combined, and that is saying quite a lot. Its control lies in getting at it before it is well established on a farm.

NEWS ITEMS

We have tried to keep timely information and notices of meetings before the public through our weekly news items in our papers of the county. We have not expressed our personal opinion but have tried to bring to the attention of farmers as much factual information and new developments in the field of Agriculture as possible.

AGRICULTURAL AND HOME ECONOMICS DEPARTMENTS

This office has devoted considerable of its time to the Home Economics and Agricultural departments of the county, in not only soliciting the help of the teachers in these departments to assist us, but also that we might be of assistance to them in their departments. We have had splendid cooperation from each of them and we feel that this cooperation has been well worthwhile.

This report is an attempt to review briefly the work carried on through the County Agricultural Agents office. We realize that there are some who have yet to make use of this office. The policy of the office is to be of service to anyone who wishes this service. In our work we have had whole-hearted cooperation of our Agricultural Committee, of our County Board members, both as county board members, and town chairman, village and city supervisors. Our newspapers have cooperated 100%. They have given us freely of their space and have been an important factor in disseminating information to the farmers of the County. Our Agricultural and Home Economics departments have all done their part in helping to promote our agricultural interests. We have not been able to give as much help on any one phase of the work as we would like. There are so many problems coming up day by day and each demands its fair share of attention. Sometimes we feel that we have slighted some of the projects that need our attention. Our services have extended out to 325 farms and homes by personal visits. During the course of the year there have been 7,004 office calls and 3,566 telephone calls in addition to the 6,788 personal letters sent out. We have tried to divide our time to give a fair consideration to all who have requested services through this office. The prime purpose of the County Agricultural Agent is to disseminate additional information. We have tried to fulfill that purpose and to work cooperatively, to not only make for a sound agriculture but to promote and inspire rural life.