

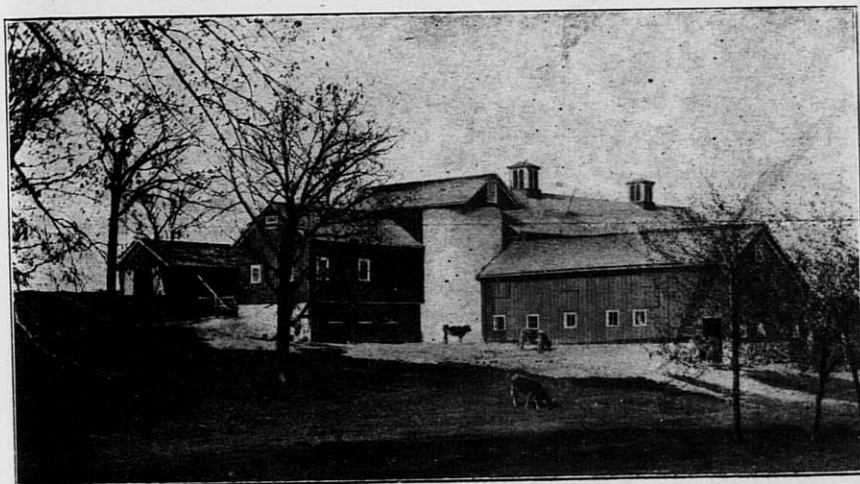
WISCONSIN BANKERS' FARM BULLETIN

How The Short Course Helps

By

CHARLES L. HILL

Member, Wisconsin State Board of Education



ON A SHORT COURSE GRADUATE'S FARM

Many of Wisconsin's most successful farmers have graduated from the Short Course in agriculture given by the University of Wisconsin. Nearly 5,000 have taken the course since it was first established in 1885.

File this bulletin where you can find it

Distributed by

Wisconsin Bankers' Association

Burton M. Smith,
Chairman Agricultural Committee,
North Lake

George D. Bartlett,
Association Secretary,
Pabst Building, Milwaukee

"See your County Agent. He will gladly help you."

How The Short Course Helps*

When a boy on a Wisconsin farm goes to his father with one of the circulars telling of the Short Course, and expresses a wish to attend, doubtless the question in the father's mind is—"Will it pay?"

From a personal knowledge of hundreds who have taken the course the writer can answer "yes"—and that from every standpoint.

First, but by no means of greatest importance would be the financial end of the situation. I know that this training has made it possible for hundreds of young men, now on Wisconsin farms, to take these farms valued at from \$100 to \$200 an acre, for which their fathers paid but \$50 an acre and for which their grandfathers paid \$1.25—stock these farms with pure bred live stock, until the investment on many 160-acre farms exceeds \$50,000, and still not only make 5 per cent on the investment but to receive in addition each year from \$1,000 to \$5,000 for their managerial services. Not only do they do this but they build on these farms homes that compare in size, comfort, and even luxury, with many of the best city homes; to have these homes furnished and equipped so that the family can enjoy all that is best in life, including books, pictures, and music; to send his children, possibly not to the Short Course but to take a full four-year course in agriculture which now really means four years of the best training along the lines of scientific agriculture.

*Charles L. Hill, a member of the Wisconsin State Board of Education and a successful breeder of pure bred dairy cattle, is a graduate of the Short Course of the University of Wisconsin, Class of 1888.—Editor.

TWO WINTERS OF TRAINING PAY

The young men who go to the Short Course for the two winters of training are practically always hard at work on the farms for the balance of the year. While they may be slow at first to grasp all that the course may mean, or to gain all that is possible to gain from it, still most of these young men, I think, realize that this is the supreme opportunity of life, and few of them let anything divert their attention for these fourteen weeks from the main object of gaining all possible from the work.

WHO ARE THE BEST FARMERS IN YOUR COUNTY?

It might not be out of place to tell of some particular young men who have taken the Short Course, and have become leaders in one or more lines of agricultural thought in Wisconsin, but that is unnecessary. If you who read this circular want to know where these young men are, just count up the ten most successful farmers in your county and there is little doubt that you will find that at least six or eight of them, and possibly all of them, are graduates of the Short Course.

One thing that makes the Short Course appeal is the fact that the young men taking the course go back to the home farm and make good. Of course, they are often ridiculed at first, but that is the common lot of anyone who wishes to blaze new trails. These young men have become leaders in Wisconsin agriculture and in practically every line.

If you will take up the directory of the Wisconsin Live Stock Breeders' Association, and check off the names of the men who are today Wisconsin's leading breeders of pure bred live stock—many of them national leaders in this line—you will find that at least nine-tenths of them are graduates of the University of Wisconsin Short Course.

A TOUCH OF REMINISCENCE

The thing that I best remember of the winter that I spent there was something that Dean Henry said one day in class; it was this: "Young men, remember it is not what you can

remember, so much as what you can remember to find, that is going to make this course worth while to you." It was, indeed, a question of the inspiration for study and experiment, rather than just listening to the lectures for these few weeks, that made the determining factor in the young man's future successful life as a farmer.

There was a time when too much emphasis was placed in the taking of the Short Course upon the fact that if a young man took this course he could get a good place as manager or workman on some one else's farm.

Today, the emphasis, which is the proper one, is upon the fact that these young men are now largely developing their own or their father's farms. They are not only the seedsmen and breeders of pure bred live stock, but they are the home builders of Wisconsin, and there is no other state in the Union where there are such large and beautiful farmsteads as can be seen along Wisconsin's highways. They stand for the best in civic and community life, and I personally know where scores of communities are being led to community betterment by some young farmer who secured his first inspiration for such work when taking the Short Course.

THE COUNTRY NEEDS TRAINED MEN ON THE FARM

The need for men trained along agricultural lines is greater today than when this course was started. We are facing the days of \$200 an acre as the minimum price for land, increasing prices for feedstuffs and farm labor—and anyone who would "keep up with the procession" will need a technical training that would have been entirely unnecessary when this course was started.

Farms are to be smaller, crops must be larger, live stock better, highways greatly improved, community, social and religious life enriched, politics made cleaner, and Wisconsin greater in every way. And if you, young man who reads these words, wish to claim your heritage as one of the leaders of the Badger State, the results of those who have gone before you show that there is no surer way of doing this than to take the Short Course in agriculture at the University of Wisconsin.