BOYS’ COW TESTING ASSOCIATION.

F. G. Swoboda, Antigo, Wisconsin.

Getting the boys in line to help solve the dairy problems of the farm is being worked out with splendid success in the town of Peck, Langlade county. There at a cross roads school house, some of the older boys of the district meet once a month with the County Representative to test the milk from the cows in the home herds.

Results have been accomplished. The first year a dozen cows out of the seventy-five under test were consigned to the butcher because the tally sheets kept in the several barns and the Babcock test showed them to be “boarders” or small profit producers. Better methods of feeding were put into practice on most of the farms and all in all a more wholesome interest in better dairying was signified.

The enthusiasm for better dairying became infectious. Neighboring districts caught the fever. Two new clubs with better than a dozen members and over a hundred cows were organized in two adjacent districts. Men who because of advancing age put themselves in the class “too old to learn new ways” caught the inspiration and now in their barns hang milk scales and as regularly as the months go by the samples are brought to the school house to be tested. The discussion of Molly’s milk record or Susie’s high test is now a topic for conversation when neighbors meet.

Interest in better methods of breeding is being aroused. Over half the members of the original club now use pure bred sires and others aim to make a start. The mongrel has not entirely been banished from the community but his future lies dark before him.

The milk scales and the Babcock test areas are effective in battering down the scrub sentiment as the 42 centimeter guns in battering “European breastworks.”

How the Club Operates

Weighing the milk and taking the monthly samples is left to each farmer. The desire for a knowledge of actual production forestalls any tendency to manipulate for large records. The boys of the family bring the samples down to the school house. The County Representative is on hand with a liberal supply of testing glass ware. He draws off the sample, one of the boys adds the acid, a second shakes the bottles, a third turns the tester. When the test is completed, the Representative makes the readings and one of the boys records them. Division of labor is so complete and the work so well adjusted that one testing morning seventy-two samples were tested between the hours of nine and twelve with a twelve bottle machine. A report of the test is sent home on a blank prepared for the purpose. From the totals of milk for the month butter fat production is computed.

The secretary of the club keeps a complete milk test and butter fat record of each cow in the herd. A charge of five cents per cow per year is made to pay for the acid used.

Value of this work is seen in the increased interest in better dairy methods throughout the whole community. With many it is no longer just a question of grade or pure bred sires, but quality and record in the pure bred. Still in its infancy, the results of the community
An evening meeting at the Week's Institute and school where the Boys' Cow Testing Association was started. A fine community tucked away in the woods of the great north of Wisconsin.

The Boys' Cow Testing Association at it. You can't see the County Representative. He's taking the picture.
testing movement can only be partially foreseen, in addition to its immediate effect in raising the standards in the several herds of the community. The following of better practices of breeding and the better raising of calves, the maintaining of interest of the boys and young men is the big thing. As monthly they meet with the County Representative, better dairy practices are discussed. A higher ideal can not fail to be established.

(Note): This boys' cow testing association resulted from a week's school and institute conducted by Mr. Swo-boda in the spring of 1914 at the Friebel school, town of Peck, Langlade county.

The first three days of the week were given entirely to instructing the boys in agriculture. Then came two days in which the fathers and mothers and other members of the families gathered at the institute. Then effective "follow-up" work kept the interest aroused by this school and institute from dying out. Counties having Agricultural Representatives have this advantage over counties not having them, in that interest aroused by Farmers' Institutes, stock trains and so on is effectively followed up and definite and more or less immediate results are secured.

—Superintendent.

OUTLINE OF BOYS' AND GIRLS' CLUB WORK

T. L. Bewick.

I. Twenty-five thousand (25,000) boys and girls in state doing some phase of Agricultural or Home Ec. work.

II. Work established in forty-eight (48) counties of Wisconsin.

III. Agencies promoting the work.

(a) County Superintendents of Schools
(b) High School and Rural School Teachers
(c) Wisconsin Bankers' Association
(d) Wisconsin Live Stock Breeders' Ass'n
(e) Wisconsin Potato Growers' Ass'n
(f) Wisconsin Horticultural Society
(g) State Fair Managers
(h) State Department of Education
(i) County Y. M. C. A. Workers
(j) Newspaper—publishers
(k) Enterprising individuals

IV. Forms of Club Work promoted.

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In cooperation with the College of Agric. and U. S. Dept. of Agric.

V. General Plan of work.

1. Organize boys and girls of a community under a capable local leader.
2. Establish their own rules and by-laws.
3. Enter at least one but not more than two Agricultural projects, i. e., corn and poultry.
4. Agree to rules laid down by Local or State Leader.
5. Keep an accurate record and make reports.
6. Exhibit at some Local or State round up.
7. Hold monthly meetings.