

A NATIONAL FARM JOURNAL PAYS TRIBUTE

The COUNTY AGENT



"Roused from his sleep in the bitter winter night, the country doctor, ploughing through drifting roads and ministering to a child gasping in the throes of diphtheria, has long been a dramatic figure in the life of a country-side and in the eyes of the world. The country lawyer who acts as father confessor and guide to his neighbors has deserved praises sung. So, too, does the editor of the weekly paper who sees all, knows all, and keeps his trust.

"But there is another person on the rural scene who shares the burdens of his community and gives his knowledge and skill to the solution of his people's problems. He is the county agent.

"No quick crises and quick cures mark his accomplishments with the drama of the doctor's work. Results of his remedies for faltering farms are slow, as is the seed producing the harvest.

"He makes no stirring pleas in court that brand him as an orator, for he must quietly go on, tactfully advising, patiently teaching the things he knows about the soil and growing things.

"There are no gaudy news breaks for him to turn into moving, exciting copy. He must deal with cold facts as scientists discover them in laboratories and experimental fields. He must carry them to the farmers that they may bring them to life in better crops and better farms.

"There are 3,000 county agents doing their daily arduous stint on the farms of America. Their monuments are healthy herds, lush pastures, abundant grain crops, a little more money in the farmers' bank accounts, and the dignity that comes to men and women who have been taught a better way of life."