

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE

Agricultural Extension Service

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Taking the University to the Farmer

Extension Projects in Agriculture and Home Economics

Project Announcement No. 5

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EXTENSION PROJECTS IN AGRICULTURE AND HOME ECONOMICS

The following statement presents a general outline of the help which Missouri farmers and their families may receive from the University of Missouri College of Agriculture through the recently organized Agricultural Extension Service, having in charge the expenditure of federal Smith-Lever funds, and state funds for extension work in agriculture and home economics in the state of Missouri.

Individuals or communities desiring help along any of the lines indicated should write to

AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE,
UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI,
COLUMBIA, MISSOURI.

MOVABLE SCHOOLS OF AGRICULTURE AND HOME ECONOMICS

In order to place systematic instruction in agriculture and home economics within reach of farmers and farmers' wives, schools of instruction ranging in length from two to five days are given in communities where the interest is great enough to justify the work. These schools are arranged primarily for mature people who are engaged in the actual business of farming or managing a farm home.

The movable schools of agriculture are five days in length and the movable schools of home economics are either two, three, or five days in length. Instruction in all movable schools is presented along lines which are of special interest to the communities in which the work is given. As a rule, an attempt is made to confine the instruction to relatively few lines but to go into those lines with a considerable degree of thoroughness.

COST TO THE COMMUNITY

Movable schools of agriculture. All who enroll must pay one dollar each to a local treasurer. At least fifty must enroll. All expenses must be paid by the community receiving the service.

Five-Day Movable Schools of Home Economics. The community pays half the salary of a teacher and all local expenses. These schools are held only in July and August and special teachers are engaged to conduct them.

Two and Three-Day Movable Schools of Home Economics. Only the local expenses are paid by the community for these schools.

In the fall of 1915, special movable schools were held at several county fairs and at the Missouri State Fair. These were designated as county and state fair demonstration schools. In connection with

both, a large amount of demonstration material formerly called "county and state fair exhibits" was carried and made the basis of the necessary informal instruction.

A few formal lectures and demonstrations were given and some special work was offered for boys and girls between the ages of ten and eighteen years. The service was given without charge to the different fair associations, on condition that each county fair should provide fifty dollars to be used as premiums for a series of boys' and girls' contests and, in addition to the premium money, should supply the tables, chairs, and other equipment required for properly furnishing the exhibit and demonstration tent provided by the college.

DEMONSTRATIONS ON FARMS AND IN FARM HOMES

All the activities of the Agricultural Extension Service are directed toward the improvement of farming and home-making methods. Recognizing that example is a better teacher than precept, the College of Agriculture offers to direct demonstrations of various kinds on farms and in farm homes in every county of Missouri. The persons who carry on the demonstration work with the assistance of the University will be known as cooperators. The demonstrations may be along any line of farm or farm home practice. In no case, however, will the College of Agriculture direct demonstrations which are not of general value to an entire surrounding community.

This extension project contemplates that the cooperator will follow the directions of the college in carrying on some farm or farm home activity. Demonstration work will deal only with materials and practices which have passed the experimental stage and are recommended for general adoption.

The College of Agriculture will try, through the proper representative, to visit each cooperator when the work seems to demand a visit. It can hardly be expected that a representative from the college will be able to visit each cooperator more than once a year. The college will furnish all regular instruction and supply necessary supervision of the work without cost to the cooperator. In turn, however, the cooperator will be expected:

1. To keep simple records of his work so that a statement may be made as to its value and efficiency;
2. To permit a demonstration meeting of neighbors on his farm or in the farm home once a year or oftener at times when demonstrations can be made of real value; and
3. To provide transportation to and from the most accessible railroad station for college representatives who come to give personal direction to the work.

FARMERS' NEIGHBORHOOD CLUBS

The College of Agriculture will make a special effort to help organize and direct the activities of farmers' neighborhood clubs. In order that this form of extension work may be made most effective, the following plan of county organization is proposed:

(1) At least three farmers' neighborhood clubs are to be organized in a county;

(2) The secretaries of these clubs will constitute a "county committee"; and

(3) The county committee will select its own chairman who may or may not be one of their own number.

Plan of cooperation. All college extension activities conducted in an organized county will be arranged by conference between the county committee and the Agricultural Extension Service. It shall be the duty of the various members of the county committee to make such arrangements as will enable the college to give the maximum amount of help with the greatest saving of time. This will require that the meetings of the neighborhood clubs be arranged in series and that each county series fit into the extended schedules of the college representatives who are delegated to give direct personal help to the various clubs in organized counties. It is expected that there shall be at least three persons in each club who will conduct farm or farm home demonstrations which may furnish the basis for some of the monthly meetings.

The College of Agriculture will help each club to plan its monthly meetings and as far as possible furnish material for study in preparation for club programs.

In counties which are properly organized, the help given by the College of Agriculture will be free, but communities will be required to provide local entertainment and transportation while a college representative is in the county giving help to neighborhood clubs. Clubs which do not hold at least ten meetings a year will be dropped from the list of those receiving free service from the college.

FIELD INSECT CONTROL

The work in field insect control will involve three distinct steps:

1. **The Survey.** Thruout the year a systematic survey of the state will be conducted by direct personal inspection, by correspondence, and otherwise, to determine the areas of possible insect infestation in order to have advance information relative to probable outbreaks.

2. **Campaign of Prevention.** In all areas where destructive insect outbreaks are indicated, thoro campaigns will be conducted so far as possible at the proper time in order to acquaint farmers with the means of preventing the outbreak or combating the insects at the earliest and most effective stage.

3. Demonstrations. In actual outbreaks, demonstrations by extension representatives from the College of Agriculture will be given in all infested areas in order to show methods of successfully combating the insects. Since most insect outbreaks demand immediate attention over a large area, it will be impossible for the college to conduct more than one or two demonstrations in any township. Local communities will be expected to cooperate to the extent of announcing demonstration meetings so that all farmers who so desire may attend a demonstration and see the work actually done.

COST TO COMMUNITY

In conducting campaigns and demonstrations, communities will be required to meet all local expenses but there will be no charge for railroad fare in going to or coming from a community. In all cases of special trips to respond to individual calls, the person or community receiving the service must pay all the expenses of the trip. In all cases, the actual services of the field demonstrator are free to the farmers of Missouri.

HORTICULTURAL DEMONSTRATIONS

Under this project the Missouri College of Agriculture will arrange with fruit growers and truck farmers, mainly the former, in various parts of the state to carry on certain profitable orchard and truck farm practices which may serve as models for the community and for farmers generally who are engaged in the same line of work.

A field demonstrator from the college will go to selected farms which are so situated that the greatest amount of good can be done to a large community and, by personal direction, conduct pruning, spraying, fertilization and cultivation demonstrations. It is expected that the person who receives the individual benefit of this assistance will cooperate with the college in placing these demonstrations before the entire community by inviting all who are interested to attend and take part in the demonstration while the work is being done. The demonstration grounds should be inspected from time to time, during the season, so that the effects of the methods used or the treatments given may be observed. All cooperators are expected to keep simple records so that the results of the work may be calculated with a reasonable degree of exactness.

This work is necessarily in a formative stage at present. Consequently, each community problem as it comes up will be treated individually until a definite and detailed plan of procedure has been evolved.

This project contemplates work in the field primarily, with such lecture work as is necessary to organize communities for field work.

COST TO THE COMMUNITY

1. There are no charges for the actual services of the field demonstrator.
2. Communities or individuals are expected to pay all the traveling expenses when a special trip is made by the field demonstrator for the purpose of visiting a single farm or a single community.
3. When a series of meetings or demonstrations can be arranged in a circuit, there will be no charge of any kind, but transportation from the most accessible railway station and between farms must be provided locally.

DAIRY DEVELOPMENT

The College of Agriculture will give help to dairy farmers along the following lines:

- (1) Demonstrations on dairy farms;
- (2) Organizing cow testing associations;
- (3) Giving practical instruction on dairy farm methods at farmers' meetings and movable schools of agriculture;
- (4) Assistance to creameries;
- (5) Judging at dairy shows.

Demonstrations on Dairy Farms. Under this head is included the main purpose of the dairy extension work and all other dairy extension activities are organized as feeders to this main line of effort. Any dairyman in the state who so desires may become a cooperator with the Agricultural Extension Service. As a cooperator, he will receive from the college regular information in regard to some phase of his dairy farming. He will be expected to keep a simple record of the more significant results obtained from following the plans of the College and at some time during the year will hold a demonstration meeting on his farm so that his neighbors may see the results of his work, thus making the work of value to the entire community as well as to himself. At all demonstration meetings, a representative of the College of Agriculture will be present to conduct the meeting. Cooperators will be at no expense for such service as the college may give as a part of the regularly organized plan of cooperation. When special trips are made at the request of the cooperator, the traveling expenses of the college representative are paid by the farmer receiving the service.

Cow Testing Associations. In communities where the dairy industry is predominant, the college will assist farmers in organizing cow testing associations for the purpose of employing a man who will give his whole time to the work of testing each cow owned by association members and keeping feed records so that the poor cows may be discovered and eliminated. Besides helping to organize, the

college will give such supervision as is necessary from time to time. A cow testing association should not be attempted unless there are at least 20 members with 250 cows to be included in the test. The members hire the official tester. Such help as the College of Agriculture gives is free.

Farmers' Meetings and Movable Schools. For the purpose of securing active cooperators in the various phases of dairy farming, the Agricultural Extension Service will provide speakers for farmers' meetings. Communities receiving the services of the college in this capacity will be expected to pay all expenses for travel and entertainment of the speaker. There is no charge for his services. Work of this nature is limited to those communities in which there is good reason to believe that permanent dairy demonstrations may be established.

Assistance to Creameries. When creameries are having trouble which directly affects the patrons, the college will send a specialist to help correct the difficulty. The creamery receiving the assistance is expected to pay the traveling expenses of the college representative.

Judging at Dairy Shows. The Agricultural Extension Service will be able, within very narrow limits, to supply judges of dairy cattle and dairy products for which there will be a uniform charge of \$5.00 a day and expenses.

FARM BUILDINGS AND CONSTRUCTION

This project was started in response to a demand from Missouri farmers who wanted information in regard to building concrete silos. In order to give this assistance, the college has prepared blue prints showing the construction of forms, scaffolding and method of operating the forms. Along with these blue prints, complete specifications are sent to Missouri farmers who are interested in building concrete silos. The project has been enlarged so as to include blue prints for simple farm barns, houses and other buildings.

Within limits, the college is able to send a representative to give some personal assistance in the starting of concrete silos. Where this is done, the person receiving the service is required to pay all expenses of the trip but does not pay anything for the actual services of the college representative.

MISCELLANEOUS FARMERS' MEETINGS

The College of Agriculture gives a limited amount of help to miscellaneous farmers' meetings arranged independently of regularly organized Smith-Lever projects, such as farmers' picnics, chautauquas, and lectures at community fairs. Meetings of this nature cannot take precedence of established projects. All expenses must be paid by the

community receiving the service. As in all other agricultural extension work, there is no charge for the actual service of the college representative.

EXTENSION PUBLICATIONS

The Agricultural Extension Service issues two series of publications. One series gives information on farm and farm home practice; the other announces extension plans and reports results of extension work.

Agricultural Extension Circulars. This series answers the questions that Missouri farmers commonly ask about soils, crops, orchards, livestock and homemaking. The circulars are written in plain language and the text is boiled down to the fewest words possible. This series has just been started. It will be added to as rapidly as funds permit until the entire range of farm and farm home activities have been covered. Any person living in Missouri may have his name placed upon a free mailing list to receive all extension circulars as they are issued.

Project Announcements. From time to time, the Agricultural Extension Service issues outlines of work contemplated and reports of work performed. Since these announcements are not of general interest, they are sent only to the special groups of people interested and to those who personally request them.

BOYS' AND GIRLS' CLUBS

In response to a demand for a uniform plan of instruction in agriculture and home economics in the rural schools of Missouri, the College of Agriculture has undertaken the systematic organization of boys' and girls' clubs making the school district the geographical unit and arranging the work so that it may be used if desired as a regular class exercise.

Help from the College of Agriculture. In carrying out this project the Missouri College of Agriculture offers the following assistance to school districts:

1. Complete and continuous instruction by means of pamphlets and instruction sheets or club lessons, along the following lines: stock judging, pig feeding, poultry management, corn growing, tomato growing, canning, bread baking and sewing.
2. All necessary report forms.
3. Direct personal assistance in organizing clubs and in presenting various phases of club work. This service is usually limited and can only be given where unusual interest justifies the effort and expense.

4. The college will keep the permanent records of individuals and clubs and will provide prizes for excellence in club work; will assist with county contests and provide for an annual state contest.
5. To all club members who complete the work outlined for one season, the college will give the official club button.
6. All the assistance of the College of Agriculture is given free, when such assistance is given directly to club members.

WHAT THE COMMUNITY MUST DO

1. In every school district where there is a boys' or girls' club, some person must be found who is willing to act as a local leader without compensation. The local leader may be the teacher but this is not essential to the success of the club work.
2. There should be at least six members in every club. If there are not enough boys and girls in one district, two or more districts should join to form a club. Club members must be between the ages of ten and eighteen years.
3. In districts where there is not sufficient interest to secure a club either entirely within the district or in combination with two or three adjoining districts, a county club should be organized. The membership of the county club will be made up of boys and girls who, because of their wide separation, cannot logically meet as a local club.
4. In each county where there are a number of organized districts, some person should act as county leader. The county superintendent of schools is the most logical person for this work but any one in the county who has the interest of the movement at heart and who is willing to give his time without compensation to its furtherance may act as county leader.

HOG CHOLERA ERADICATION

The purpose of this work is to familiarize farmers with the nature of hog cholera and the conditions under which it is spread so that measures may be employed to prevent the disease by proper methods of hog raising instead of trying to cure or control the disease by the use of serum.

In any county where the disease is prevalent and where there is a local desire to be rid of it, the College of Agriculture will send a hog cholera specialist to conduct a series of meetings. He will hold three meetings a day for an entire week in the county where the work is being projected.

The county receiving the service will be required to arrange the schedule of meetings, see that they are properly advertised and provide the transportation required in getting over the county to attend the various meetings.

At each meeting, the hog raisers present will be given an opportunity to form a local anti-hog cholera club. In any county where the membership in such clubs is large enough to justify the expense, the College of Agriculture will furnish a man to stay in the county for from three to six months to help farmers in the fight against the disease. The College will pay the salary and living expenses of the specialist detailed for this work but the county receiving the service will be expected to provide office room, telephone service, and traveling expenses within the county. The funds to support the work must be raised before a man will be assigned to a county.

In order to start this work in any county, it is necessary that some person or group of persons act for the common good as a self-appointed committee to look after all local arrangements and raise what funds are necessary to carry on the work.

A detailed plan of procedure will be submitted on application to the Agricultural Extension Service.

COUNTY AGRICULTURAL AGENTS

So far as funds are available, Missouri counties which meet the following requirements may secure the financial cooperation of the College of Agriculture of the University of Missouri in the employment of a county agricultural agent (farm adviser) as provided in the Farm Adviser Law of Missouri.

(1) At least ten per cent of the farmers in not less than three-fourths of the townships of the county must sign a petition calling for the appointment of a county agricultural agent. Upon presentation of the petition to the College of Agriculture, the latter will issue a formal statement with reference to cooperation from state and nation. This statement together with the petition should then be presented to the County Court which in turn will issue a formal statement as to its cooperation.

(2) Every farmer who signs the petition must agree to become a member, and give his active support to a county organization to be known as a County Farm Bureau, the purpose of which shall be the promotion of agriculture in the county concerned including the work of the county agricultural agent.

(3) While funds are available, the U. S. Department of Agriculture will pay \$600 toward the salary of a county agricultural agent. The remainder will be equally divided between the county and the University of Missouri College of Agriculture.

(4) In addition to paying its share of the salary, the county court must contract with the University of Missouri to provide an incidental fund of not less than \$1200 a year for traveling, stenographic, office and incidental expenses of the county agricultural agent. The county

court may subcontract with the county farm bureau or any other responsible person or organization for a portion of the incidental fund. The plan of subcontracting is not recommended. The county agricultural agent works for the agricultural interests of the entire county and the support of the work should, therefore, come from the county as a whole.

(5) The county court must also provide a suitable and satisfactory office for the use of the county agricultural agent, equipped with desk, typewriter, tables, chairs, book-cases and other necessary office furniture. The office should always be in the county court house if possible.

(6) All funds for salary and expenses must be paid quarterly in advance.

(7) As required by law, the county through its county court must contract with the University for a term of not less than three years nor more than four.

(8) For the sake of uniformity, all petitions, certifications and contracts must be submitted on forms prescribed by the College of Agriculture of the University of Missouri if the financial and administrative direction of the College of Agriculture and the U. S. Department of Agriculture are to be secured.

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