



**The Extension Service
Reports Progress**

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The Extension Service Reports Progress

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University of Missouri College of Agriculture
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Seasoned veteran of war and adversity, the Missouri Agricultural Extension Service moves forward to meet the equally important calls of peace.

Thirty-three years of service to agriculture and rural life is the record, to date, including two world wars and between them the hard decades of deflation and economic struggle. Results show the degree to which this service was effective.

Missouri farm families met all the demands of war, making new records of efficiency to overcome shortages

of material and labor and to exceed all former marks in output of food, fats and fiber. With production were joined conservation of basic resources and sound planning for the aftermath of war.

Long before VE Day and VJ Day, the farm people of Missouri, working with their Agricultural Extension Service, had planned and set in motion major statewide programs that would carry over from wartime to peacetime. They had surveyed local conditions, taken inventory of their resources, drawn up plans of work,

Missouri farmers marketed 2½ million beef cattle in 1945. Improved grain, grass and legume pastures and roughage produced most of this beef.



to receive the strong support of sponsoring organizations and county courts. Funds supplied from local sources for Extension work in Missouri in 1945 were the largest ever set aside for this purpose.

Balanced Farming

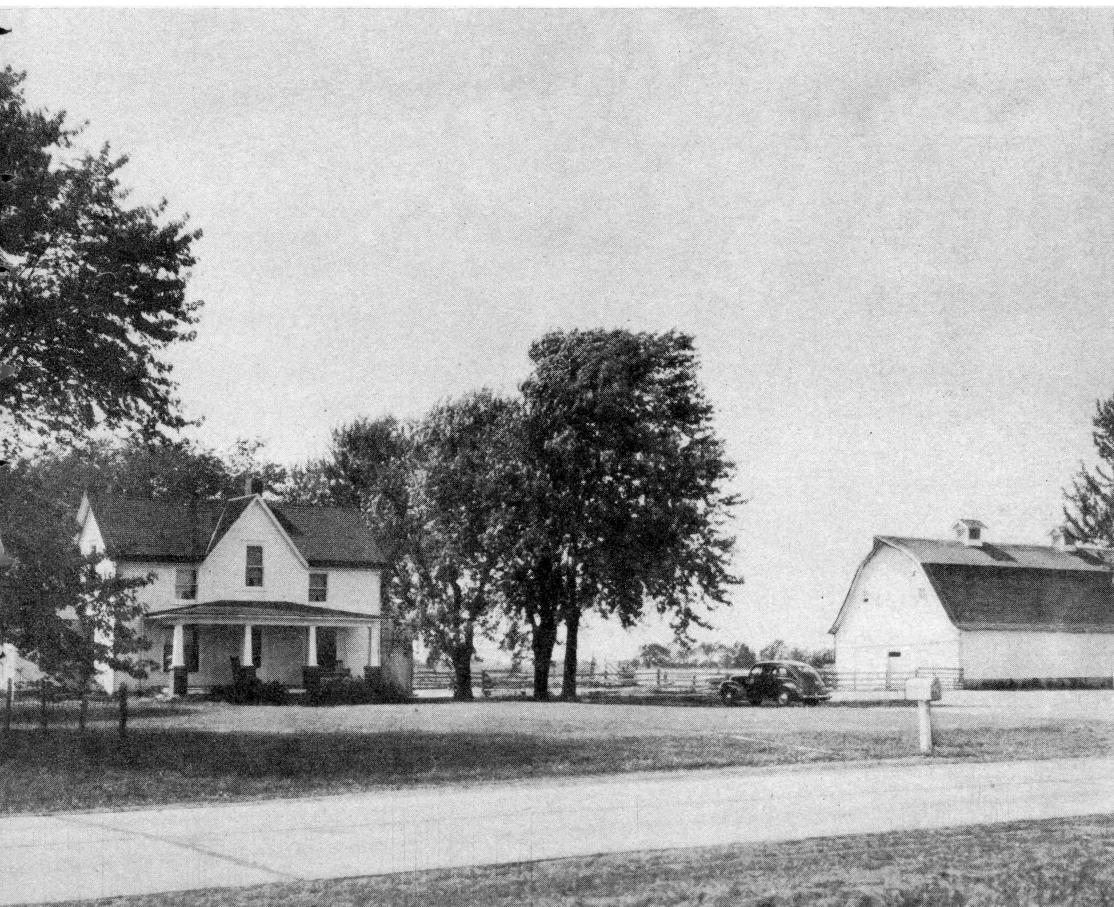
Balanced farming went forward in 1945 despite critical shortages of labor, equipment and materials. Balanced farm and home plans were drawn up and put into operation by 1,337 families, in addition to some 3,000 already established.

Families now operating a balanced farming system are obtaining consistently higher acre yields of all crops, have doubled the livestock

carrying capacity of their pastures, and reduced losses of soil and cost of harvesting. They are using their larger income to improve their homes and to increase the efficiency of farm and household operations.

Training schools were held for both old and new county agents, Vocational Agriculture teachers, and for Farm Security supervisors. A 6-day school was held in Southwest Missouri at which 15 young farmers representing as many counties were trained as local leaders. Eleven district conferences, attended by practically all county agents and home demonstration agents in the state, gave intensive training in balanced

4500 farm families now use the Balanced Farming system. It increases production and net income, improves land, lifts plane of family living.



Farmers improved their herds and flocks by purchasing 17,156 additional purebred sires during the year. Swine sanitation was more widely practiced. The number of purebred herds of cattle increased 6 per cent and that of purebred sheep flocks increased 7 per cent.

Wool production during the year reached a total of 8½ million pounds.

Farmers continued their fight to protect and improve the health of livestock. They treated 49,262 cattle for grubs, dipped 170,504 sheep for lice and ticks, vaccinated 29,109 herds of calves for blackleg, treated 62,893 herds of hogs for lice and mange, and vaccinated 56,819 herds of hogs for cholera. In addition, 26,161 horses and mules were vaccinated for sleeping sickness.

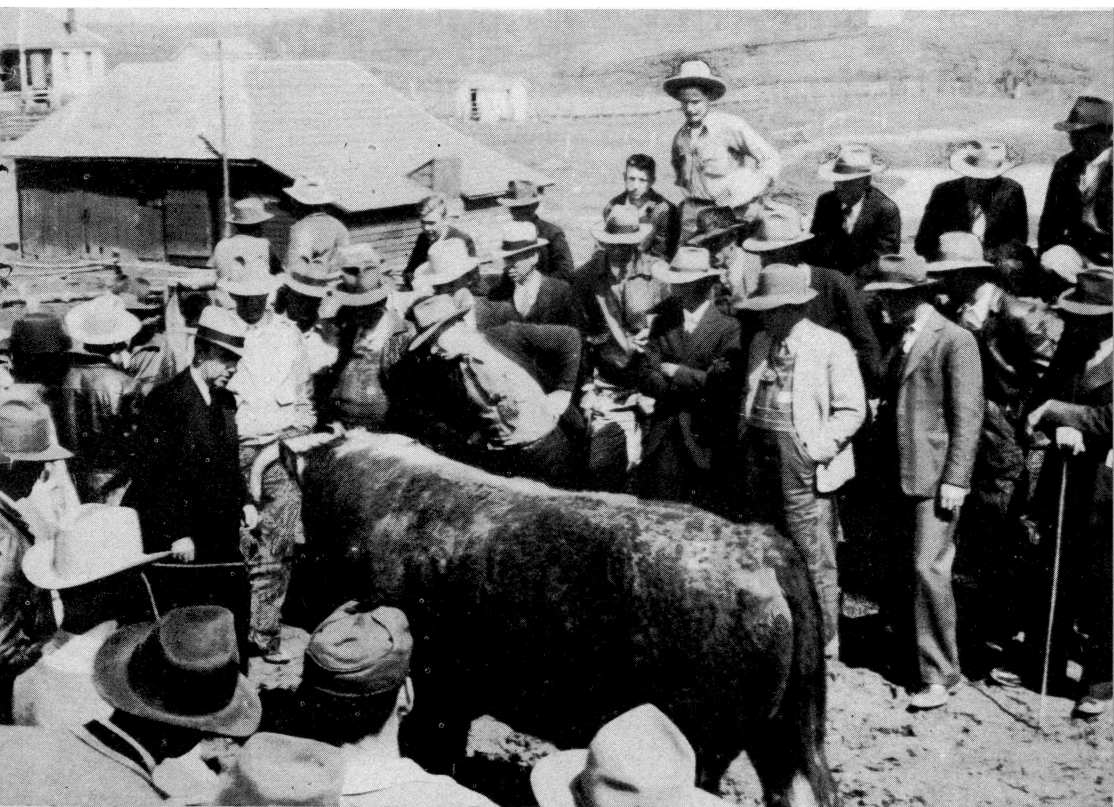
More Crops per Acre

Yields on 4⅓ million acres of corn were 12 per cent higher than the 10-year average. This comparatively good yield in a poor crop year was due to the use of hybrid seed on 88 per cent of the acreage, soil improvement work and a tendency to use only the best land for corn growing.

The cotton improvement program of Southeast Missouri paid off in a poor season as definitely as it had in better years. In this markedly poor cotton year 98.1 per cent of the lint measured one inch or longer as compared to 73.1 per cent of the lint throughout the United States.

Soybeans grown on 600,000 acres produced 8 million bushels of grain.

Bull shows and sales were used to spread the use of good sires. Registered bulls were bought by 4911 farmers.



4 $\frac{1}{4}$ Billion Lbs. of Milk

Missouri dairy farmers finished the year with a production increase of 226 million pounds of milk, or 5 $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent more than in the banner year 1944. The total output was more than 4 $\frac{1}{4}$ billion pounds of milk. Drouth-resistant pastures of les-pedeza, sweet clover, oats, and balbo rye and increased yields of legume hay gave farmers the necessary low-cost feed to produce more milk with greater profit than ever before. Dairymen also culled their herds, used more good sires, built up their soil, and worked longer hours.

Aiming toward still higher production to meet critical postwar demands, dairy farmers kept more

complete records, spread the benefits from good sires by the greater use of artificial insemination, and followed the National 8-Point Dairy program. They improved the quality and increased the quantity of dairy products.

More Eggs per Hen

Poultry raisers did well for their country and for more efficient poultry keeping in 1945. With 8 per cent fewer hens they lacked but 5 per cent of reaching the preceding year's record mark of 3 billion eggs.

Though faced at the beginning of the year by predictions of burdensome surpluses, they held to efficient methods and were ready for high production in a rapidly changing sit-

Missouri dairy farmers produced 4,260 million pounds of milk—5 $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent more than in 1944. Also improved quality of product with better care and equipment.





More than 1,290,000 tons of ground limestone were spread on the farms of the state to grow legume crops for better feed and for soil building.

Production of food and feed was kept up by high grade fertilizers. New high mark was set for the state in the use of 180,000 tons.





Modern cold storage was used by 37,000 Missouri farm families last year to preserve meats, vegetables and fruits.

urban area of St. Louis were reported to have produced food worth \$1,800,000. The city of Springfield had 4,000 gardens, and 90 per cent of the families in small towns near Springfield followed through on their wartime gardens.

Greatly increased interest in quick freezing to preserve maximum food value is shown by the fact that more than 20,000 persons asked and received help on some phase of frozen foods during 1945.

Improved Homes

Conservation of household furniture and furnishings was stressed because new ones could not be

bought, old ones could be made to serve longer and the money saved could be used to further the war effort.

Long-time plans for home improvement were made by 4998 families. During the year 435 new homes were built, and 1371 houses were remodeled. Nearly 5000 kitchens were improved according to recommendations. Other home improvements included 121 heating plants, 364 sewage systems and 705 water systems. Sanitary toilets were provided for 228 homes and screening for fly control was done in 4739 homes.

Improved housekeeping methods



Farm women made their own coats, suits and dresses. They remade 39,700 garments for children, used machine patching to save time.

Nearly 5000 kitchens were improved by adding cabinets, sinks, better lighting, labor saving devices. 705 water systems were installed.



Rural Youth Organizations of young people from 17 to 28 years of age were carried on in five counties with a total membership of 153. This number included 75 young women and 78 young men. The counties were as follows: Howard, Jackson, Perry, Pettis, and Saline.

The place of these groups in community life is well illustrated by the report of the R. Y. O. group in Pettis County. This group, organized in 1933, has had 12 years of continuous activity.

Insect Control

Farmers and Extension workers fought hard to protect food and seed crops from insects and to control livestock and household pests. Crops valued at more than \$85,000 produced on 17,509 acres were protected from chinch bugs by oil bar-

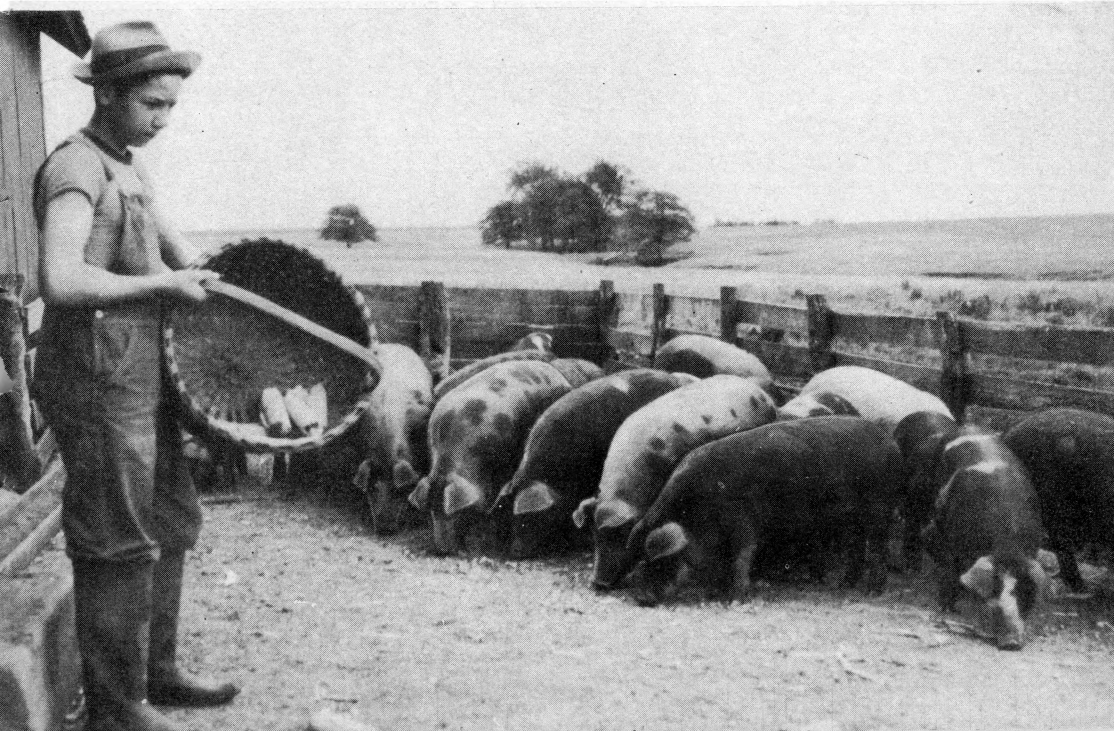
riers. Grasshopper baiting was done in 78 counties, protecting a total of 18,370 acres of crops from the ravages of this pest.

Other pests which were the objects of control measures were: army worm, Hessian fly, European corn borer, cotton leaf worm, cutworms and corn root worms.

Outlook and Marketing

Farmers of the state kept up to date on the economic information needed to help them achieve maximum production and good distribution. More than 500,000 persons attended some 30,000 meetings where such information was given. News on day by day developments in the market situation was set forth in 1614 outlook news stories published in county papers throughout the year.

Missouri 4-H Club members last year owned and cared for 11,755 head of livestock, 47,191 head of poultry. They made 22,000 garments, canned 66,000 quarts of food.



Missouri Farm Bureau Federation, Missouri Farmers Association, Missouri State Grange, Missouri Bankers Association, Missouri Press Association, State Council of Home Economics Extension Clubs, Missouri State Departments of Agriculture and Education, State Board of Health, State Conservation Commis-

sion, and Chambers of Commerce of St. Louis, Kansas City, St. Joseph, Springfield, Joplin, and others.

County courts, civic and business organizations, church groups, rural school teachers and county superintendents, vocational agriculture and home economics departments, newspapers, and radio stations.

The Extension Programs for 1946

The working plans of the Agricultural Extension Service for 1946 are a streamlined continuation of the plans set up years ago to help farm families build farming systems that will work under all conditions. Assistance in this planning has been given by the State Advisory Committee representing the farm people of the state.

People and Extension Service together have moved forward from war to peace on a four-lane highway securely laid and tested in the four major long-time programs of the Extension Service. These programs are the following:

Expansion of Balanced Farming. This work must go forward to more families in every county, tying good farm and home practices together into a closely knit, efficient system. Demonstrations all over the state have proven this plan of management effective in getting high production, high net income, soil im-

provement, and better family living.

Better Homes and Farmsteads. This line of work is based on the fact that far too many farm families still are poorly housed, poorly equipped, and burdened by lack of home conveniences. Home and farmstead improvement goes forward as rapidly as industrial production permits.

Development of Rural Youth. Farm leaders ask that 4-H and rural youth programs be made available to much larger numbers of youth in Missouri. Highly effective last year in teaching some 23,000 boys and girls the essentials of happy, useful rural citizenship, these programs must reach several times that number in the years ahead.

Problems of Rural Policy. By request of the advisory committee the College of Agriculture is committed to the task of assembling and distributing facts for discussion groups on rural policy programs.

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