

READ BY EVERY MEMBER NEBRASKA STOCK GROWERS ASSOCIATION. ALL THE NEWS OF ALLIANCE AND WESTERN NEBRASKA OFFICIAL ORGAN NEBRASKA VOLUNTEER FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION. IT REACHES HEADQUARTERS FOR 15,000 FIREMEN

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Box Butte County Agent's Annual Report, 1916

INTRODUCTION

(By the Editor)

It is a great pleasure to again publish the annual report of Farm Management Survey Work in Box Butte county, as conducted and reported by County Agent F. M. Seidell.

The Box Butte County Farm Management Association was organized in February, 1915, by farmers who wanted the county to have a farm demonstrator, or county agent as now commonly called.

Extended commendation of the work of F. M. Seidell is unnecessary. His report speaks for itself and shows something of the good already accomplished, altho farm management survey work in Box Butte county is only well begun.

Every farmer in the county ought to join the association. With only a partial membership, much good work has been done within less than two years past that is proving profitable, being without doubt already worth several times the cost.

SUMMARY REPORT OF COUNTY AGENT

Crop Demonstrations, 1916

Table with 2 columns: Item and Value. Includes Oat Smut Control, Potato Improvement, and Work Done in Relation to Crops.

Table with 2 columns: Item and Value. Includes Work Done in Relation to Live Stock, Registered stallions, Registered bulls, Registered sires, etc.

Table with 2 columns: Item and Value. Includes Work Done in Relation to Soils, Fertilizers, and Fertility, Farm analysis records, etc.

Table with 2 columns: Item and Value. Includes Extending the Agent's Work in the County, Total number of farm visits made, etc.

Table with 2 columns: Item and Value. Includes Total circulation of all such circulars and circular letters, Letters mailed, Local extension schools, etc.

FARM MANAGEMENT SURVEY WORK IN BOX BUTTE COUNTY

Progress Report, Jan. 1 to Dec. 1, 1916

Farm Management is a study of the business side of farming. Its purpose is to determine the causes of success and failure under given conditions.

Farm Management Survey work was continued in the same project form as in 1915. The only change is that the bulk of the co-operators are now keeping the records themselves.

All the records of the 1915 season were secured by the County Agent. One record was taken in January, six in February, thirty in March, ten in April, five in May, and eleven in June, making a total of sixty-three records.

Farm Management work is considered fundamental in County Agent work as it enables him to study the real needs of the people, to determine most successful type of farming for the county, and be of real assistance to the co-operators.

It is so basic in principle that changes made upon strength of the Survey, that make the farm business more successful, would last for a long time and the results would be felt after the work is discontinued.

As a result of the 1915 Farm Survey for the 1914 season, twenty farms have recorded seventy changes, agreed upon by the operator and the County Agent. The average labor income of the farms in 1914 season was \$30, this being an extremely dry season.

After completing the record taken in June, the records were figured up and summarized by the Farm Management Extension office. A preliminary report was returned in person to the most of the co-operators during August.

During this year the work was presented at ten meetings including the paper presented at the Inter-State County Agent Conference, at St. Joseph, Missouri, July 5-6.

Thirty-two personal conferences were held with farm operators on farm management problems other than at the farm. Twenty-three similar conferences over phone. Ninety-seven farms were visited in follow-up work.

In conclusion some results accomplished and opinions of this line of work may not be amiss. In the first place, the seventy-six different co-operators in the past two years of survey work, only five were found who had been keeping a record of the farm business.

On the one farm the operator had been cutting over about 600 acres of low yielding hay meadow, and sending a large amount of stock to pasture. It was apparent from the survey data that he was using too much land to cut hay from, making the cost per ton high.

The second case was of a young farmer on a small farm, who was enthused about the possibility of intensive dairying, selling the sour butter fat to creamery, feeding all feed at home, raising no cash crops, and who on the average was making a minus income when interest, expenses, etc., were allowed.

said that if no change had been made in his business as a result of the first farm management survey it would have been worth at least \$150 to him, because of the source of satisfaction that he had made 5 per cent on the entire investment and a good return for labor in 1914.

BOYS' AND GIRLS' CLUB WORK IN BOX BUTTE COUNTY, 1916

Progress Report, Jan. 1 to Dec. 1

Boys' and Girls' Club work made its first real start in Box Butte county this year. Its purpose is to give training in agriculture and house duties to the boys and girls.

The first thing done in this year in the way of presenting club work to the boys and girls was a meeting held, Jan. 6, at which Prof. C. W. Pugsley addressed the patrons, the school board, and the school children of Alliance on "Boys' and Girls' School Gardens".

Work was presented to the teachers of the county in general letter, 18, 1916. Rules were also sent the teachers. On Jan. 18, a circular letter was sent all the boys and girls in the county, of club age, explaining club work.

On the 12th, 13th and 14th of April, the state club leader, Mr. L. T. Skinner, County Superintendent Miss Russell and the County Agent visited the schools of the county that were still in session.

Following these meetings considerable personal work was done by the County Agent with boys and girls and their parents. As a result, fifteen boys and girls joined the potato club, four joined the pig club, two in each the garden and poultry clubs.

The County Agent organized three clubs in the county with a total membership of seventy boys and girls: "The Blue Bird Club," composed of girls, met each month in Alliance, and Miss Russell, county superintendent, was appointed their local leader.

It was through the organization of these local clubs that interest was held throughout the season of work. During the summer most of the club members were visited at their homes by the County Agent.

At the county fair seventy exhibits were made by thirty-one club members. The exhibit attracted the attention and was very favorably commented upon by the patrons of the fair.

The following club members will complete their work and will be awarded the regular membership button by the Box Butte Farmers' Association. Ten high Potato Club members receive free trip to the Boys' Potato school to be held in Alliance next spring.

Potato Club—Clifford Bergfield, Archibald Davig, Adolph Fostrom, Carl Fostrom, John Gerdes, Kenneth Gilmore, Arthur Grove, Herbert Purinton, Howard Robinson, Clara Sisley, Owen Stewart, Roy Trabert.

CLUB RESULTS TO DATE, DEC. 1, 1916

Table with 6 columns: Member, Days fed, Total gain, Cost of feed, Cost per lb. gain, Net profit. Includes Adolph Hucke, James Watson, Clarence Gaghagen.

Table with 6 columns: Name, Area, Total, Total, Cost, Total. Includes Adolph Fostrom, Karl Fostrom, Archie Davig, Arthur Grove, Clara Sisley, Kenneth Gilmore, Clifford Bergfield, Roy Trabert, John Gerdes, Herbert Purinton, Owen Stewart, Howard Robinson.

Table with 6 columns: Name, Eggs set, Hatched, 4th month, Value, Per cent. Includes Cecil Beal, Margaret Schill.

Table with 6 columns: Name, Area, sq. ft., Receipts, Cost, Profit per 100 sq. ft. per A. Includes Alice Schill, Ethel Trabert.

POTATO IMPROVEMENT PROJECT AND MARKETING, BOX BUTTE COUNTY, 1916

The potato improvement work which was started in 1915 was continued during the 1916 season. Because other western Nebraska counties, of the potato section, having county agents, desired to fall in the line of potato improvement. A potato conference was arranged for April 1 and 2 in Alliance.