Annual Report: 1987

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COUNTY ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
CHERRY COUNTY COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE
(October 1, 1986 through September 30, 1987)

CHERRY COUNTY EXTENSION BOARD OFFICERS AND MEMBERS

Mr. Ken Stephens - Chairperson
Mrs. Betty (Les) Kime - Vice-Chairperson
Mr. Wally Bazyn - Secretary-Treasurer
Mrs. Candi (Keith) Dusenberry - 4-H Council Representative, Board Member
Mrs. Jackie (Roger Chenoweth) - Home Extension Council Representative, Board Member
Mrs. Shirley (Kenneth) Kime - Board Member
Mr. Lowell Belville - Board Member
Mrs. Ardith (John) Burton - Board Member
Mrs. Janet (Robert) Parkhurst - Board Member

CHERRY COUNTY EXTENSION STAFF
Mrs. Lynda (Larry) Radant - Extension Agent Chair - Home Economics
Mrs. Thomas O. Dill - Extension Agent - Agriculture
Miss Susan Schlichting - 4-H Assistant (to December 15, 1986)
Mrs. Lucinda (Dick) Ferrett - 4-H Assistant (March 1 to October 15, 1987)
Miss Delaine Sell - Office Assistant
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CLIMATIC CONDITIONS

The people of Cherry County reported that this past winter "they must have been livin' right for a change" as the winter was mild and almost considered a "banana belt". The 36 inches of snow and precipitation brought sharp contrast to the seventy plus inches the winter before!

Spring rains were just right for the majority of the county with the exception of the extreme eastern middle edge of the county. Refuge lakes overflowed into one another causing flooding and a back up of waters that were never ever observed by old timers before. Heavy rains in the summer left some central Cherry County ranches having well into school starting time while others fully appreciated their lush meadows and good calf crops. Late summer produced a hail storm that virtually wiped out several south Merriman ranches along the Niobrara.

ECONOMIC CONDITIONS:

Ranchers and merchants were fully appreciating the better cattle prices in 1987. While prices increased, the passage of tax reform laws and Chapter 12 Bankruptcy allowed many ranchers/businesses to reexamine options. Economic education was of prime emphasis by the Extension Service.

The trade center of Valentine became completely absorbed in a community revitalization effort, seeking physical improvements and clean-up and economic development pursuits. The Nebraska Council of Home Extension Clubs - Annual meeting in June brought 600 women to Valentine and the Regional (5-State) Range Judging Contest of the Society of Range Management brought an additional 250 guests the first of October. These activities helped bring outside farm/ranch diversification to Cherry County.

STAFFING CHANGES:

Thomas O. Dill was hired as the new agriculture agent for Cherry County in August after a seven month vacancy of the position. Tom has a background of Range Management and four years experience from Logan-McPherson Counties where he was the only agent.

Cindy Perrett filled the position of Susan Schlichting, 4-H Extension Assistant, who resigned in December. Cindy started her position March 1 and resigned her position effective October 15.

Lynda Radant maintained the position of Extension Agent - Chair - Home Economics. Delaine Sells provided continuous assistance to the operation of the Extension Service functions as Office Assistant.

Lynda Radant
Extension Agent - Chair
Planning and Organizing Information

Cherry County, Nebraska

October 1987

EXTENSION BOARD

Chairperson: Ken Stephens
Vice-Chair: Betty (Les) Kime
Secretary/Treasurer: Wally Bazyn
Board Members: Shirley (Kenneth) Kime
Jackie (Roger) Chenoweth
Candi (Keith) Dusenberry
Ardith (John) Burton
Janet (Robert) Parkhurst
Lowell Belville

Major Actions: Hiring an Agriculture Agent and a 4-H Assistant
Budget preparations for FY 88 hit mill levy ceiling;
equipment replacements
Retroactive Social Security payments for agents Radant and
Dill were reinstated

HOME EXTENSION COUNCIL

Chairperson: Jackie (Roger) Chenoweth
Vice-Chair: Diana (Larry) Ostrander
Secretary: Betty (Roger) Quick
Treasurer: Sandi (Don) Ormesher
Representative Presidents:
Cherry Homemakers - Brenda Daum
Cozy Fireside - Kelley Rothleutner
Emanon - Mary Ward
Happy Homemakers - Ruth Stiefel
Kewanee Homemakers - Gyla Bowden
Merriman Homemakers - Meredith Daly
Pine Creek - Lois Janssen
Prairie Flowers - Deb Traudt
Simeon Sandcherries - Barb Harms
Sunshine Sisters - Janet Laleff
Table Top Talent - Patty Colburn
Town & Country Gals - Priscilla Wobig

Functioning Committees:
1987 Convention
Pioneer Picnic
Membership
Family Life
Nominations
Constitutional Revision

Music
Health
County Fair
Publicity
Cultural Arts
Citizenship
Major Actions:
- Conducted the N.C.H.E.C. Annual Meeting for 596 registered participants
- Nominated and honored Les Kime Family for the Great Nebraska Family Contest
- Hosted Pioneer Picnic
- Hosted an Accessories presentation by TRIPPS of Norfolk for Spring Tea
- Christmas Tree Fair of decorated trees
- Cooking Booklet sales for convention proceeds
- District Director Pat Steffens, Family Life, Achievement Night Speaker

4-H Council
Chairperson: Candi (Keith) Dusenberry
Vice-Chair: Tom Higgins
Secretary: Shirley (Kenneth) Kime
Treasurer: Pat (Paul) Young
Concil Representatives: John Ravenscroft, Janet (Robert) Parkhurst, Rita Schneider (Stan), Galene (Merrill) Feller, Roseanne (Rod) Elliott, Betty (Les) Kime, Chris Buechle

Functioning Committees:
- Agricultural
- Awards
- Achievement Night
- Horse
- Leader Trainings
- Home Economics
- Livestock
- Public Relations
- Small Animals
- Style Revue
- Public Speaking/Demonstration/Music
- Trophy & Ribbon
- Shooting Sports

Major Actions:
The 4-H Council made some major goal setting in 1986-87. The committees and officers of the Council set the goals of which the new 4-H Assistant would be asked to work towards those goals with the 4-H Council.

The five goals were not listed by any degree of importance. They are all major concerns and areas where we feel we must increase our effectiveness to continue a strong 4-H program.

1. Increase effectiveness of the 4-H Council through committee work.
2. Educate and publicize the benefits of 4-H.
3. Provide assistance to 4-H Leaders with educational/organizational sharings and appropriate recognition.
4. Develop a curriculum flow for 4-H projects.
5. Increase teen enrollment and recruitment.
CHERRY COUNTY EXTENSION STAFF

Mrs. Lynda (Larry) Radant
Extension Agent Chair - Home Economics

Mr. Thomas O. Dill
Extension Agent - Agriculture

Miss Susan Schlichting
4-H Assistant (to December 15, 1986)

Mrs. Lucinda (Dick) Perrett
4-H Assistant (March 1 to October 15, 1987)

Miss Delaine Sell
Office Assistant
As the result of the efforts of combined staff and the Cherry County Extension Board, the following managerial efforts to improve the efficiency and image of the Cherry County Cooperative Extension Offices were made:

1. County Staff Positions Filled
2. Environmental and physical facilities of office improved
3. Budgetary requirements met within restrictions

AUDIENCE

County Staff and general public and County Extension Board

METHODS USED

Cooperation was solicited between Cherry County Commissioners, Cherry County Extension Board, West Central District Administration and County Staff members with the aid of the building landlord.

RESULTS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Personnel:
- Full-time office assistant hired from 47 applicants
- Coordinated personnel and programming/training during Ag Agent vacancy
- Agriculture Agent Dil leadership to fill Ag Agent position
- Proceeded with probationary staff review and termination
- Helped secure and train substitute-secretarial assistant
- Coordinated Stokely Retirement recognitions on local level and NACEB nomination
- Retirement program of TIAA-CREF cost sharing program for County Staff initiated
- Assisted 4-H Council and County Extension Board in establishing guidelines for a new 4-H Assistant
- Initiated weekly staff meetings for office personnel to improve planning, coordination and cooperative program efforts and communication
- Position descriptions written with help of Extension Board staff

Environmental and Structural Changes:
- Reworked office floor plan to improve heating/cooling efficiency due to computer and staff needs
- Electrical system in office remodelled to accommodate larger office machines and improve safety measures
- New carpeting and paint on all walls
- Created an office area for 4-H Assistant
- organized a public information bank for printed materials
- updated other storage needs for Home Economics, Agriculture and 4-H
  and Reception area as well as closet, restroom and storage areas
- Equipment breakdowns and replacements:
  - reel to reel recorder replaced with personal recorders/dictation system
- Panasonic copier rebuilt and later replaced
- new telephone system
- IBM Memory Writer motor replaced
- Audio-visual equipment needs updated for program needs:
  - overhead projector, video monitor and stand (caramate secured with EPA funds)
- miscellaneous small office equipment replaced after being worn out.

Other Administrative Management Tasks:
- Set up budget proposals for fiscal years for Extension Board and
  County Commissioners
- Investigated legal-liability and fire/disaster insurance omissions
- discovered and explored remedies for Social Security payment deficits of
  County Agents
- coordinated contracted payments for Nebraska Job Training and Placement
  for training new 4-H Assistant
- established a new bookkeeping system
- pursued reduced cost equipment needs through Educational Service Unit
- obtained office credit card for less "handling" on agent/county expenses
- attended Managerial Inservices:
  - The Agent Chair as a Mid-Manager
  - Managerial Leadership and Motivation
- assisted in transition of Assistant and As Agent positions, training and
  programming efforts with CRP and Pesticide Training Programs
CLIENTELE OBJECTIVES

As a result of this emphasis participants will:

1. understand the basic principles of financial management and be exposed to new ideas, approaches and tax law changes
2. gather, organize and analyze their financial situations to make more constructive decisions
3. formulate plans for a management process to analyze or re-evaluate farm/ranch and household management
4. see the Cooperative Extension Service as a resource base for family financial assistance

AUDIENCE

Sandhill area farmers, ranchers and Home Extension Club members, accountants, lawyers, FLB and PCA officials and members

METHODS USED

Three meetings on financial reorganization were held pertaining to tax law changes and information on Chapter 12 bankruptcies. Private consultations provided assistance in creating cash-flow and financial statements for loan agencies. Home Extension club members and other interested individuals were presented the lesson on *File It Easy, Find It Fast*. Inservice methods for agents provided more indepth training or financial backgrounding.

RESULTS

As a result of this emphasis, *Managing Mainstreet* became a topic of interest as businesses serving the agriculture area identified a need for business analysis. Consultations with ranchers by Ag Financial Managers of the University met at our Extension Office. Greater Nebraska Job Training Program provided information; bankers and accountants sought out Extension Service cash flow and financial record forms, additional information on filing, household budgeting and "Your Child and Your Money" Learn-at-Home packets were distributed. Radio and newspaper features and columns emphasized finance information.
ACCOMPLISHMENT DATA

As a result of this program, 150 people attended three Chapter 12 and Tax Law meetings; 194 family units reorganized their family-financial files. Managing Mainstreet was planned for fall 1987. Numerous consultations were provided.

Radio and newspaper covered approximately 200 square miles of Sandhills and Southern South Dakota. Efforts are being made to expand this area of emphasis due to the positive response and resources available for the public.
Success Story

Thrust: 417 and 630
Staff: Dill and Radant

CHERRY COUNTY Farmers in a Changing Economy

A Touchy Subject - Handled Well

When many calls started coming into both agents in the Cherry County Extension Office a plan was begun. With the new Chapter 12 Bankruptcy Laws came some major questions and controversy. In an attempt to answer some of those questions and hopefully relieve some controversy the Cherry County Extension Service and other organizations embarked on a mission to supply needed information to the public.

Three meetings were held in the past year to provide a public forum and provide sound information. The first in the series of meetings was held in November 1986 and was co-sponsored by a Support Group from Cody and the Extension Office. This first meeting was to talk about the provisions in the Chapter 12 Laws. A bankruptcy lawyer from Lincoln presented the program. We had 84 producers, lawyers and business people in attendance.

The second meeting, co-sponsored by Cherry and BKR Extension, was entitled Chapter 12 for creditors. The meeting was held in February 1987 and information was presented by Dave Aiken from UNL. Attendance was very low (7). However, the information presented was valuable to two businesses that used the information to help solve some customer problems. The third meeting held in March 1987 was co-sponsored by the County Bar Association and the Extension Service. Judge Mahoney, Nebraska's Bankruptcy Judge, presented information on Chapter 12 Bankruptcy laws to 56 producers, lawyers, County Judges and businesses.
The series of meetings was intended to allow a wide spectrum of views to be heard. With three different approaches we were able to inform many different people of the Chapter 12 Bankruptcy Laws. Viewpoints from a lawyer, representing people filing for bankruptcy, from a lawyer looking at the creditor's side, and the State Bankruptcy Judge were presented. The results of the three meetings are still being observed. The number of bankruptcy filings has decreased in Cherry County and many rumors have been stopped in their tracks. Producers, bankers, and businesses are all better informed and feel more comfortable talking about Chapter 12 bankruptcy.
As a result of this emphasis, homemakers and 4-H members will develop personal skills in refinishing furniture, restoration skills and recycling of family furnishings. General value awareness and heritage appreciation for older furnishings will be developed while provided with economical redecorating ideas.

AUDIENCE

Home Extension Club members, 4-H members and general public

METHODS USED

One week of furniture refinishing skills were taught in workshop sessions at the Cherry County Fairgrounds. 'Sewing for the Home' session was conducted by Shirley Niemeyer, Home Interiors Specialist. 4-H projects - Create Your Corner, Home Building Blocks, and Design All Around You - were promoted and project meetings held.

RESULTS

As a result of the Furniture Finishing Finesse' workshop, ten people refinishing twenty furniture or wood items. Two participants were professional wood crafters or furniture restorers. Twenty-five people attended the Sewing for Your Home session. Advanced 4-H projects in Home Environment had displays and county fair entries for the first time in years.

ACCOMPLISHMENT DATA

The physical and psychological stress due to economic conditions was lessened for participants by learning recycling and reconditioning of their existing properties. Emotional stability was added by helping participants personalize their homes with family keepsake furniture and low cost furnishings.
CLIENTELE OBJECTIVES

Provide nutrition updates on the latest food and nutrition problems and resources available to the public in educational presentations, news releases to all media.

Promote and provide an opportunity for Cherry county residents to participate in Eating Today for a Healthier Tomorrow that includes osteoporosis, cancer, fiber, obesity, and disease prevention training.

Promote 4-H nutrition and food preparation through 4-H Outdoor Cooking Project

AUDIENCE

All youth and general public of Cherry County.

METHODS USED AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Eating Today for a Healthier Tomorrow program
Newspaper columns and radio programs
Mini-lessons at Senior Citizen Center in Valentine
4-H Outdoor Cooking Contest at County Fair promoted via 4-H newsletter

RESULTS

Feedback from the radio programs was very positive. Little feedback was gained from newspaper. The EHTH program garnered interest because of support articles written by state staff in the Omaha World Herald.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Eating Today for a Healthier Tomorrow program was dropped from the fall-winter line of work because of the “Willpower” healthy eating program sponsored by the local hospital. A rural area cannot support two programs of the same emphasis at the same time. However, interest continues and a fall target date has been established.

The Outdoor Cooking Contest garnered one contestant. The other known contestant dropped out due to county fair schedule changes.
CLIENTELE OBJECTIVES

To provide an educational and personal growth opportunities for members.
To instill and encourage leadership development in convention attendees.
To provide an opportunity for economic gains for the local area surrounding Valentine, Nebraska.
To offer families as well as members a recreational and informative vacationing opportunities while hosting the convention, June 17-19, 1987.

AUDIENCE

Nebraska Council of Home Extension Club members and officers
   Cooperating - neighboring host counties
   Cherry County Home Extension Club members
   Nebraska Cooperative Extension Club State leaders

METHODS USED

A brainstorming session of community resource people for meeting convention needs
A networking structure of co-chairpersons (east and west end of county), club representatives, convention committees with co-chairpersons and community leaders and state leader.

Observation of the Annual Meeting in Hastings 1986.

RESULTS

The management networking proved to be highly successful within a hierarchy setting for communications and activities.
500 participants was the goal for our geographic area and 594 registered for the annual meeting.

ACHIEVEMENTS

By now the Nebraska Council of Home Extension Clubs-Annual Meeting in Valentine is history and wonderful memories. Everyone is still talking about what a good time they had and the Cherry County Home Extension Club members are still full of pride and good feelings about a job well done. The entire community has a strong sense of new confidence for “handling” the 596 conventioneers.
And now... for the rest of the story...
In June 1984, the Cherry County Home Extension Council extended an invitation to the annual meeting to be in Valentine. In August 1984, I started as the Extension Agent and became aware of some rumblings within the clubs. The complaint was that the membership had never been asked if they wanted to help with the convention! The Fall Council meeting recommended each club member vote and the overall majority would rule.

Discussion was rampant, split feelings and I visited a lot of club meetings to help clarify a few issues of confusion. At this particular point I would support either decision to continue or to rescind the invitation. Many members seemed still exhausted from the convention 30 years ago. Others put the question to economic hard-times: Could Cherry County afford NOT to offer the convention? The exposure and outside income would be a boost to the community.

The voting proceeded and majority ruled. The convention was to be and it would take 100% cooperation to produce such an event. The "ownership" of this upcoming convention would be the responsibility of the Cherry County Home Extension Club women; not one single person as a "ring master" for the circus of activities.

The community became involved in a brainstorming session. A fictitious story was presented to the brainstormers that a jumbo jetliner had just had an emergency landing in Valentine. The safe and sound passengers would be unable to leave Valentine for several days. Question: How would the community of Valentine feed, house and entertain their sudden guests. The answers were entertaining, resourceful, fun and provided unheard of ideas that gave fantastic resources for a convention committee to work from.

The clubs established a convention contact spokesperson; eleven committees were established and two co-chairpeople coordinated the meetings and progress. Thirteen women attended the Hastings annual meeting to observe their roles. Goals were set: Registration at 400 would be disappointing; 500 just right and 600 would put us at PANIC level.

The plans and convention went smoothly as 596 women registered! Memories and special moments were created. You've heard the tales, seen the momentos and recall the excitement about the convention.

The most outstanding outcome of the convention was not an actual event at the convention for this Extension agent. The success of the three year event was seeing attitudes and beliefs take shape; overcome the economic depressions and downed attitudes within our community. It was the entire city and county pulling together to offer a cleaned up and revitalized city; a tourism board; and service organizations pitching in to help the Home Extension Club women. It was seeing women in little known leadership roles pulling together groups and resources 150% of their time; energy and talents; and seeing a newer person emerge.

Valentine and Cherry County Won't ever be the same after that convention...and we can thank everyone we had the opportunity to tap new talents; resources; knowledge and renew spirits.

"And now, you know the rest of the story!"
Success Story

ECONOMIC IMPACT OF NCH-EC CONVENTION
by
Lynda Radant

The Nebraska Council of Home Extension Clubs annual convention in Valentine is now history but the applause is still rolling in from those who attended. The two plus years of efforts by the Cherry County Home Extension Club volunteer women have been richly rewarded from outsiders as well as personal satisfaction of a job well done.

The "convention" was most timely for the Valentine community with its "revitalization" efforts. Not only did businesses roll out the red carpet but homeowners spruced up, cleaned up, and pitched in royally. Many, many compliments were received on the superior hospitality.

One of the favorite events was the Moonlight Madness on Main Street. The convention participants were anxious to walk, explore, and collect some moments after sitting in sessions all day. Coupons offered in the favor bags seemed to entice conventioneers to spend $8500 in businesses in less than a four hour period. This figure did not include any food service establishments (other than Father Carl serving spices of pie and coffee yet at midnight!).

The motel businesses were booked solid for months in advance and over one hundred conventioneers found the hospitality in private homes. Many new friendships were kindled and this produced $2000 outside revenue to local residents.

Food Service for the meals received rave reviews for being delicious and fast. A total of 2371 meals were served to the tune of $14,300. A majority portion of that money stays in the community due to groceries and the hiring of many youth to help serve the meals. The churches and their groups were most
Success Story Continued

generous in their hospitality and helping out. The Chamber of Commerce in Valentine showed locals how to serve 329 people a Chuckwagon style breakfast of biscuits, gravy and sausage in an hour and a half at the beautiful Sweetheart Garden. (Many of those Chamber members making gravy at 4:30 a.m. were the store owners still helping shopper at twelve o'clock midnight that same day!).

The tours were coordinated by another Extension Club woman on a volunteer basis. When the "Cowboy and Indian Tour" exceeded our expectations by 600 percent, transportation was our major concern. However, congenial busdrivers from Cody-Kilgore and Breuklanders came through in a pinch! One hundred twenty-six people toured our rangeland beauty spots and the Rosebud Indian Reservation.

How do you thank a retired county agent that hand cranked fifty women across the Niobrara River in a cable car so the conventioneers could see our beautiful waterfalls and river country? And how about the businesswoman who led a canoeing tour, sprained her ankle, saved two lives, then helped provide music, make gravy and biscuits and help keep the stores open til midnight! The fishing tour was very meager in participants but overboard in hospitality by our local guide. The historic places in the heart of Valentine represent the many long hours and years of care of our keepsakes and heritage by our local residents.

The tours were a breakeven venture but the exposure level cannot be measured in dollars. As one woman wrote in a thank you letter, "I hope to come back and bring my husband with me. He lives for his cattle, as your ranchers do, and I know he would love to see your Sandhills and have that beautiful grasss to run his cattle on."

In all, 230 people (including husbands and entire families) participated in our tours. Its been many years since any NCHEC Convention had that type of
Success Story Continued

interest in coming early to convention to partake in the tours! And for those coming Tuesday night, a celebration in pioneer heritage by Cherry County’s Marianne Beel, another estimated 300 people took part in the Armchair Tour.

The facilities of Valentine Rural High School were perfect in every way for general sessions to individual learnshop sessions. We were commended on having such a gorgeous facility in our community.

What does this all say? Well, to me it says volunteers such as the 150 active Extension Club women in Cherry County can have a tremendous impact when promoting Cherry County as a convention center. To all the people in Cherry County, anything asked to be done was done very well and way beyond expectations! We have such talents, resources and energy! Economically, look what it did for the county, two weeks ago and its potential influences later due to exposure we’ve created.

This convention proves one thing for sure. Cherry County and Valentine are the greatest! I challenge anyone belonging to an organization of any type to offer our hospitality to the rest of the state and nation!
CLIENTELE OBJECTIVE

As a result of this emphasis participants will:

1. Increase awareness of the individual growth and skill development benefits through association of 4-H.
2. Provide a resource base for 4-H personnel and leaders needing additional information of ideas for working with handicapped audiences.
3. Create more awareness of the versatility and needs met with special audiences through 4-H programs for the Cherry County and the State of Nebraska.

AUDIENCE

Primarily County Extension Agents - State Leaders, 4-H Assistants and Aides, 4-H Club leaders and potential 4-H members that are handicapped.

METHODS USED

- A resource base and collection of materials and methods from other states was established and bibliography printed.
- A promotional flyer was developed promoting "4-H for Special Kids".
- Inservices for special education teachers and 4-H Professional.
- Guidelines for leaders working with handicapped 4-H children was provided in new 4-H manuals and leaders guides.

RESULTS AND ACCOMPLISHMENT DATA

Program directions, maintenance help and continued support of developmental level 4-H projects for handicapped and gifted audiences was provided.
- Thirty-five special education teachers, eighty Cooperative Extension Service program leaders and approximately thirty 4-H Club leaders received awareness training and instructional teaching aids.
- State 4-H Staff was assisted with manual writing guidelines and several projects were noted in State Fair competition.
- A resource listing and promotional flyer was developed for state distribution.
"Special Kids" in 4-H
by
Lynda Radant

When you really believe in a cause, you’ll do anything to promote the effort. Including the fact of saying “yes” to providing an inservice session on Handicapped and Special Kids in 4-H. That’s what we did last fall, but when the moment cam closer, the other two volunteer agents and I began to panic. How could we be most effective? How could we convince 4-H volunteers to help include “special” 4-H’ers? Would we be able to hold the attention of the (hopefully) twenty people who might attend? Oh wow! Worry!

Our noon luncheon time arrived — and so did the eighty agents, assistants and specialists that ventured into our presentation! We captured their attention by imposing a handicap of blindness, learning disabilities, hearing or limb restriction with a collection of bandages, crutches, wheelchairs, and mittens. The self-serve buffet luncheon became a REAL challenge. The opening of the luncheon began in sign language. Activities and lectures challenged the Extension personnel to use 4-H projects to capture special talents in 4-H’ers and allow them to work to their potential. Special tips and guidelines were provided and a table of resources were open for viewing.

At the end of the luncheon, participants shed their handicaps to be more aware of others handicaps and to learn a motto in sign language...

"TO MAKE THE BEST BETTER"!
Personal in-depth service to the IRM cooperator in areas of financial management, winter cow/calf nutrition, grazing management, and breeding. Encourage rancher attendance at meetings and workshops on all areas of the ranching business.

RESULTS

Worked with rancher to obtain feed analysis of hay. Determined winter ration through use of agent and based on feed the rancher had available. Assisted rancher in determining proper summer stocking rate and pasture rotation. Selected possible sites for meadow improvement or alfalfa establishment to increase protein of winter feeds.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Nutrition program was updated and the purchased protein supplement costs were reduced. This was accomplished by determining which protein supplement cost the least on a pound of protein basis. With a complete feed analysis done on hay a least cost ration was formulated. As a result the herds conception rate increased from 78.6% in 1986 to 84.6% in 1987. The total number of cows was increased from 309 in 1986 to 369 in 1987. This was a result of a leasing arrangement and was accomplished by determining the carrying capacity of pastures and winter feed supply. A reduction in calf losses from birth to weaning was accomplished by a more complete health and nutrition program. The calf loss in 1986 was 22 while in 1987 it was 11. Sixteen of the calf losses in 1986 were of unknown reasons while only 3 were unknown in 1987. It was thought many of the 1986 calf crop losses could be attributed to either C & D toxoid or general nutrition. Balanced rations and an improved herd health program reduced the calf losses in the 1987 calf crop.
The program has helped the operator to reduce costs and obtain a much better handle on the entire enterprise. Work will continue and further progress will be accomplished.
CLIENTELE OBJECTIVES

To increase quality and quantity of hay produced on wet meadows in the Sandhills. Learn to adjust haying time, when possible, to allow higher quality hay harvesting. Accept a procedure to renovate meadows by vegetative control and interseeding suitable species.

AUDIENCE

Cherry County and BKR District ranchers, local NRD, and SCS personnel.

METHODS USED

Continued demonstration plot work and establishment. Tours, presentations at professional meetings and one-on-one contacts will be used to explain the process.

RESULTS

I have been asked to present a paper with Dennis Bauer at the State meeting of the Society for Range Management in October 1987. We have selected two additional sites to put demonstration plots on and these will be seeded this winter.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Two plots of garrison creeping foxtail seeded in 1983 are still being observed and data is collected from them. Three other plots were seeded in January of 1987 and data has been collected on them. Fertilizer was applied to one of the new seedings to determine the effect. The fertilizer was applied at rates of 30 and 60 pounds of nitrogen, 15 and 30 pounds of sulfur, and 23 and 46 pounds of phosphorus. There was no evidence of increased yield the first growing season. One of the established plots was fertilized with 40 pounds of phosphorus and did respond with a higher yield. Dennis Bauer and I have been asked to present a paper to the Nebraska Section Society for Range management on the garrison creeping foxtail plots. We will attend the meeting on October 15 and 16 to present the paper.

We have sprayed approximately 20 acres for a producer to establish a larger scale demonstration plot. The area will be seeded in the fall of 1987.
Audience:

Ranch Operators and 4-H Youth

Methods Used:

Personal contact with ranchers, small coffee-shop meetings, field days and work with the SCS Conservationists.

Results:

Held two coffee-shop meetings on Range nutrition and Range Management practices.
Held three range field days and worked with SCS personnel to develop plans for C.R.P. seedings.

Accomplishments:

Attendance at coffee-shop sessions averaged six operators per meeting. We held sessions at Merriman and Valentine on two dates. The response was very good as most of the operators said they learned more and enjoyed this type of meeting. The set up allowed them to visit about specific problems or questions they had on their own operation.

The Range Field Days were set up and carried out with the cooperation of the Soil Conservation Service District Conservationist. They were held at three locations across the county and centered on plant identification, range site determination, estimating range condition and management techniques. The main audience was 4-H youth, but there were several parents and operators at each field day. By working with the youth we were able to reach adults. Attendance averaged nine youth and four adults. The number of 4-H’ers enrolled in the Range Management Project increased over previous years. The range plant books exhibited at County Fair were excellent, with one going to State Fair and selected as the top book and range exhibit in Nebraska.

Working with the Soil Conservation Service plans were completed to seed over 13,000 acres for the Conservation Reserve Plan. While working with the SCS I was able to visit with many of the operators about the CRP seedings as well as overall range management practices on their place. Three operators have planned and began a grazing rotation system based on information
gained from these visits. Plans were finalized by the Extension Office and SCS office to set cages and measure yield on one of the operators' system. This will begin in 1988 with the start of the grazing system.
CLIENTELE OBJECTIVES

To promote leadership skills along with practical experience to 4-H members and parents in beef cattle production and marketing.

AUDIENCE

4-H Members
4-H Parents
4-H Leaders
Interested Public

METHODS

1. Grooming Clinic - gave demonstration on fitting a calf, market beef, or breeding heifer for the show ring as a marketing tool. This included judging an animal for its strengths and its faults in order to groom accordingly. Included was also discussion of the purpose of that animal and feeding to promote growth not necessarily fat.

2. Judging Clinic - Judge different classes of livestock to understand purposes of different production practices and animals use. Required being able to pick out differences between animals and judging according to animals purpose, stage of growth, and time involved in reaching that intended purpose. Opinions and placings of judges were discussed.

3. Showmanship Clinic - To give practical, hands-on, learning experience for 4-H'ers in how to best show and handle an animal for the show ring. This included being able to present (or market) yourself and your animal to the judge as being "the best" there. Again, showmanship requires a knowledge of the animal's strengths and weaknesses in order to promote it to the judge according to what he is looking for as dictated by the demand for that finished product.

RESULTS

Grooming Clinic - 40 people attended
Judging Clinic - 50 people attended
Showmanship Clinic - 7 people attended

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

We had many entries in County Fair classes. There were 17 entries in Jr. Beef Showmanship. One new 4-H member went on to have Champion Breeding Heifer
at a later show. The Livestock Judging Contest had 51 entries. One 4-H youth went on to be ninth high individual in Sr. Division of Livestock Judging Contest at State Fair.
CLIENTELE OBJECTIVES

To get volunteers and committee people more involved in the overall management of the 4-H program.

AUDIENCE

Volunteers
4-H Committee Members

METHODS

To simplify details of management that needed to be done. Provide lists to work from. Be specific about jobs or tasks. Where to get information. How to go about doing their job. Provide one on one personal instruction along with written details. Do not demand more effort than originally asked and agreed to by the volunteer.

RESULTS

Most leaders, parents, and committee members are willing to volunteer their time and efforts if they know specifically what they are to do. After working under positive, friendly, easy going atmosphere, many were more willing to volunteer again. Volunteers are easily able to cover tasks when provided written lists and personal support.
Due to the resignation of Susan Schlichting, the following thrusts were not implemented into the 4-H program from her plan of work.

- #728 4-H Ag Involvement
- #710 Teenage Personal Growth
- #700 Leadership Development 4-H
- #741 Awards System Revision
4-H Programs
by
Cindy Perrett

Trophies/Awards - A great deal of time has been spent on developing a comprehensive list of donors, trophies, and awards given along with the financial analysis of the awards programs. We have a trophy and an awards committee but without information to work from, their impact and control is small. They need to have a thorough understanding of the whole program in order to make future decisions. This effort has taken at least 30 days work on my part as extension assistant and continuous hours from committee members.

Radio Programs

In Cherry County the radio programs (five minute spots over Monday noon hour) are alternated between the three county agents.

I am very pleased that my radio programs are so very well received. I have people come up to me on the street, in stores, restaurants, many places and comment on hearing me on the radio. This is a success story because I’ve had many people comment that other agents are hard to listen to or simply not noticed when they’re on. Having people pay attention to information being given out by extension personnel is one of the constant struggles of our jobs in extension.

Recordkeeping/Calendar System - One of the things the 4-H program needs is a simple way to keep records in order to promote application for recordbook awards etc. My plan of work included a program of an integrated recordkeeping system with use of a calendar. This was to have been tied in with our monthly
newsletter and the calendar update that is sent with that. It was to be a three-hole punched calendar with 4-H activities and due dates already plugged in. After adding their own information as to what was done when, the 4-H could put it in a notebook to be used when filling out records books, job applications, resume's etc.

Copy of Plan of work attached.
Success Story

CHERRY COUNTY
OCTOBER 1987

4-H Interview Judging
by
Cindy Perrett

This was the first year Cherry County had interview judging for all exhibits entered in the 4-H Exhibit Hall at County Fair. Many people were very anxious about what this process would mean since most had had no experience with any kind of interview judging. The only place this kind of judging had been used before was in sewing project entries.

The goal was to make county fair and exhibits more of a learning experience for the 4-H members, parents, and leaders; This gives a better evaluation of project completion so the 4-H'er has a better idea of how it could be improved.

The result was a complete success. We had three very good judges. They worked very well with the 4-H'ers in giving them the time and explanations needed. The 4-H'ers, parents, and leaders were very pleased with how the interview judging process went. They did feel they learned a lot about the projects carried, mistakes made, and how to select and exhibit for county fair.

The volunteers who worked the entry system for interview judging were extremely pleased. Especially those who had worked the previous entry system. Entries flowed through the system to the judges very smoothly. There were no long waits for the 4-H'ers and volunteers didn't have them stacked up at any one point. All day long the entries kept coming in; therefore, the volunteers were relaxed and enjoyed themselves. They will be much more willing to help again.
8th Grade Conservation Day
by
Tom Dill

Plans began in January 1987 to pull together five or six professionals to talk to 20 or 30 eighth graders about conservation. That was the easy part; next came the job of finding a rancher willing to host the day and then try to pick a date in April that all 36 rural schools in Cherry County could agree on.

All those tasks were completed with the help of Barb Reed, the County Superintendent, and on April 24, 1987, the first 8th Grade Conservation Day in Cherry County was held. Twenty-six 8th graders converged on the West Spear Ranch south of Nenzel at 9:00 a.m. MT. The program consisted of representatives from the Soil Conservation Service, Nebraska Game & Parks Commission, Middle Niobrara Natural Resources District, the ranch operator and myself. The morning was lecture sessions on the History of Conservation in Nebraska, Soil, Water, and Wildlife Conservation and Conservation Practices Seen Over the Years. The afternoon was spent in the field looking at several conservation practices.

The feedback from the 8th graders, school superintendent and other adults in attendance was very positive. I have since received a request to plan and hold an 8th Grade Conservation Day in 1988.
In an approach to conduct a more appropriate "needs survey" to the programming of the Nebraska Cooperative Extension Service, a survey was developed and used in West-Central District of Nebraska. This survey was sent to Home Extension Club presidents, Extension Board Members, handed out at public meetings, leader training lessons and 4-H Council meetings.

The results of 110 surveys distributed in Cherry County resulted in 76% return (in time for tabulation) with respondents being 94% female and 4% male. The top six categories for Cherry County in the three categories were identified with a comparison of the results of the West Central District. The results are as follows:

**Physical Well Being**

#1. 49% - Changing my eating habits to reduce the risk of disease (cancer, coronary heart disease, diabetes, osteoporosis, obesity). (WC - #1)
#2. 46% - Increasing physical exercise and/or establishing an exercise program (WC - #4)
#3. 42% - Modifying recipes to reduce fat, salt, and sugar in my diet (WC - #2)
#4. 40% - Nutritious snacks for children and adults (WC - #3)
#5. 35% - The principles of weight maintenance (WC #5 tie with Eating Well on a limited budget)
#6. 34% - How lifestyle effects health (positively/negatively)? (WC #12)

**Psychosocial Well Being**

#1. 48% - Dealing with criticism, blame, anger, depression and fear (WC #1) (four way tie)
#2. 34% - How to "accentuate the positive and eliminate the negative" through positive strength bombardment techniques (WC #2)
  34% - Non-blaming responses to emotional situations (WC #8)
  34% - Hurtful and helpful communications strategies in stressful times (WC #4 tie)
  34% - Interiors that reflect me and my personality (WC #5)
#3. 33% - Effective grandparenting (WC #4 tie) (tie)
#4. 30% - Coping with crisis, loss, divorce, death (WC #3)
#4. 30% - Effective communication (verbal and non-verbal) and listening skills (WC #7)
Special Report Continued

ECONOMIC WELL BEING

#1. 46%—home improvement projects I can do myself (WC #4)
#2. 42%—make your house a home (low cost items you can make, using materials on hand) (WC #1)
#3. 41%—investments (WC #3)
#4. 38%—how to be a discerning consumer; getting the best buy, regardless of the product (WC #8)
#5. 37%—record keeping—doing an adequate job without getting bogged down with details (WC #6)

(WC #2—how to be financially comfortable in retirement)
(WC #5—living on an irregular income)
(WC #7—water quality in my home...)

Some consideration factors of this survey:
- interested may be of needs and/or from desires and interest created by workshops/learnshops/seminars recently conducted in Co.*
- omission of clothing construction skills from survey

One of ten nominal group processes "for evaluating and prioritizing needs for the University of Nebraska and the Cooperative Extension Service was conducted in Cherry County. This process helped introduce national issues and concerns. Cherry County had a supportive but not traditional entrenched in extension audience for this survey.

The final ranking of social and economic concerns from within Cherry County were:

1. Health Care—need for Doctors in Cherry County
2. Quality and affordable K-12 education
3. Time management—hassle
(tie) Financial stress, coping skills and finding a sense of direction
4. Personal relations
5. Economic education (financial) for adult and High School Age groups
6. Double standard of alcohol and drugs
7. Too much government
8. Knowledge and utilization of community people and their talents
9. Motivation
(4-way tie) Act and think as a community
(tie) Work together constructively
Water Quality
10. Farm Credit System legislation
(tie) Off-farm income/cottage industry at home resources
4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Please provide data and information in each of the following areas relative to the 4-H program in your unit. Please interpret the word minority to include racial and ethnic minorities, the handicapped, males in program areas which have traditionally involved primarily females and females in program areas which have traditionally involved primarily males.

Describe briefly accomplishments made to achieve more minority participation:

1. Through increased involvement in planning and advisory committees.

    Committees are made up of volunteers according to areas of expertise and interest.

2. Through increased interracial membership in all ongoing and newly organized 4-H Clubs and special interest groups.

    Recruitment is targeted at the whole community, minorities included.

3. Through involvement in volunteer leadership.

    Volunteers come from the entire population.

4. Through improved program management.

    Programs are emphasized according to the individuals ability and interest.
5. Through increased involvement in educational activities and events.
   Minorities are included in participants. Publicity encourages all people to attend.

6. Through ascertaining whether any organization follows discriminatory practices.
   No discriminatory practices found.

7. Through adjustments in management of meeting schedules and locations.
   Meetings are adjusted according to our county members needs.

8. Through the removal of economic and social barriers.
   Major social and economic barriers do not exist.

9. Through increased agent efforts to work with all races, regardless of sex.
   Agents strive to work with all people equally. We do not discriminate by race, sex, or handicap.

10. Through results of activities carried out to meet targeting goals set in the Plan of Work.
    Males and females do participate in non-trational areas. Home Ec and Ag projects are carried by both male and female 4-H'ers.
NEBRASKA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE
CIVIL RIGHTS AND EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY REPORT

DATE PREPARED  OCTOBER 1987  UNIT  CHERRY COUNTY

REPORTING AGENT  LYNDIA RADANT - EXTENSION AGENT - HOME ECONOMICS

HOME ECONOMICS

Please provide data and information in each of the following areas relative to the Home Economics program in your unit. Please interpret the word minority to include racial and ethnic minorities, the handicapped, males in program areas which have traditionally involved primarily females and females in program areas which have traditionally involved primarily males. Describe briefly accomplishments made to achieve more minority participation:

1. Through increased minority and increased interracial membership in all ongoing and newly organized Home Extension Clubs and special interest and/or study groups; and through increased involvement in planning and advisory committees.

Cherry County Cooperative Extension Service encourages participation and Home Extension Club membership by use of administrative committees publicizing events in all media available to Cherry County and surrounding areas.

2. Through adjustments to program content, teaching methods, including leader-training meetings, special interest sessions, workshops, conferences and other similar special activities.

Program teaching methods are emphasizing learning experiences for audio, visual, tactile and kinestetic varieties to accommodate the various learning modes and individual abilities.

3. Through ascertaining whether any organization follows discriminatory practices.

Membership records of Home Extension Clubs indicate a screening of black, Spanish American, Caucasian, Oriental or American Indian. At present the 1/2% population of minorities are members of the Cherry County Home Extension Clubs.

4. Through adjustments in management of meeting schedules and locations and the removal of economic and social barriers.

Home Economics programs have been offered throughout the entire county in various locations with little or no admission fees and more evening meetings are being offered to accommodate the day laborers.
5. Through increased agent efforts to work with all people, regardless of race, color or national origin.

The Cherry County Cooperative Extension Service provides educational programs and assistance to all people without regard to race, color, national origin or county and state boundaries or economic status or handicapping conditions.

6. Through results of activities carried out to meet goals for minority participation in the Home Economics program as described in your Plan of Work.

Emphasis is being placed on publicity in surrounding communities via newspapers, television spot announcements and radio station broadcasts in Cherry County, Nebraska; Todd, Tripp and Bennett Counties in South Dakota and Lakota Sioux sponsored radio station KINI, St. Francis SD for the Rosebud Indian Reservation.
NEBRASKA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE
CIVIL RIGHTS AND EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY REPORT

DATE PREPARED October 1987
UNIT Cherry County

REPORTING AGENT Thomas O. Dill - Extension Agent - Agriculture

AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES/COMMUNITY RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

Please provide data and information in each of the following areas relative to the Agriculture and Natural Resources and Community Resource Development programs in your unit. Please interpret the word minority to include racial and ethnic minorities, the handicapped, males in program areas which have traditionally involved primarily females and females in program areas which have traditionally involved primarily males.

1. How have minorities been included in Planning and Advisory Committees?

   Extension Board, 4-H Council elected by districts. Committees appointed by districts.

2. Have any ANR or CRD organizations been found to be discriminatory? No

   If yes, which alternative was chosen:
   ___ a. Remedied situation ___ b. Withdrew assistance

3. What efforts have you made in meetings planned or held to help reach the minority audiences? (Example: location of meeting place, advertisements or meetings, etc.)

   Hold meetings at several locations across the county.

4. Was there a restriction on participation at any meetings this past year? No

   If so, please explain.
5. Were there any programs in Agriculture and Natural Resources and/or Community Resource Development which were specifically designed to increase minority participation? Please identify and briefly describe the program involved.

Chapter 12 Bankruptcy meetings to draw more lower income people to provide help. Allowed people who are financially in trouble an arena to express concerns and see they are not alone.

6. Please provide any additional information which you feel should be included in the State Civil Rights and EEO Compliance Report.
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## INVENTORY. EQUIPMENT, FURNITURE & FIXTURES

**COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE**

**CHERRY COUNTY**

**OCTOBER 1987**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>QUANTITY</th>
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INVENTORY, EQUIPMENT, FURNITURE & FIXTURES

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE  CHERRY COUNTY  OCTOBER 1987

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OCTOBER 1987

EXCELLENT

GOOD

EXCELLENT

GOOD

GOOD
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# Financial Statement

**Cherry County**

**For the Month of May 1987**

**Paid by Tax Phase**

## Code No. | Object of Expenditure | Budget for Fiscal Year | Spent This Month | Total Spent to Date | Unspent Balance | Percent Spent
--- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | ---
1.0901 | TIAA CREF | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00%
1.0100 | AG Agent Salary | 6576.00 | 502.24 | 5524.64 | 0.00 | 92.39%
1.0201 | Home EC Agent/Chair | 6576.00 | 793.95 | 6576.00 | 0.00 | 100.00%
1.0202 | Ext. Asst. 4- | 4337.00 | 312.50 | 3321.26 | 1015.74 | 76.58%
1.0301 | Clerical Office Asst. | 10815.00 | 1190.00 | 10815.00 | 0.00 | 100.00%
1.0405 | Pt Clerical | 180.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 180.00 | 100.00%
1.0306 | Janitorial | 150.00 | 4.50 | 150.00 | 0.00 | 100.00%
1.0323 | Central Supplies | 6000.00 | 331.69 | 6000.00 | 0.00 | 100.00%
1.0901 | Retirement Co. Share | 1015.00 | 293.70 | 629.44 | 389.56 | 61.62%

**Total Personnel Services** | 35073.00 | 3669.59 | 33148.34 | 1924.66 | 94.51%

2.0100 | Postal Services | 300.00 | 27.20 | 234.70 | 65.30 | 72.23%
2.0200 | Telephone | 3000.00 | 340.16 | 4123.14 | -1123.14 | 137.44%
2.1200 | Equipment Repair | 200.00 | 126.57 | 1279.58 | -1019.58 | 60.79%
2.1700 | Travel Expense/Staff | 6500.00 | 843.24 | 6286.86 | 213.14 | 95.72%
2.1708 | Travel Expense/Board | 700.00 | 36.00 | 736.97 | -90.07 | 101.00%
2.0500 | Utilities | 1600.00 | 65.12 | 1164.87 | 435.13 | 72.82%

**Total Operating Expenses** | 12300.00 | 1402.29 | 13820.12 | -1520.12 | 112.36%

2.0508 | Building Rent | 4350.00 | 350.00 | 4235.00 | 115.00 | 97.36%

**Total Building Rent** | 4350.00 | 350.00 | 4235.00 | 115.00 | 97.36%

3.0101 | Supplies/Stationery | 500.00 | 5.00 | 1093.92 | -593.92 | 218.79%
3.0118 | Miscellaneouse | 400.00 | 18.00 | 141.98 | 258.02 | 35.52%

**Total Supplies** | 1300.00 | 173.63 | 1836.15 | -536.15 | 14.24%

5.0500 | New Equipment | 600.00 | 0.00 | 206.19 | 393.81 | 34.37%

**Total Equipment** | 600.00 | 0.00 | 206.19 | 393.81 | 34.37%

**Total Expenditures** | 53523.00 | 5344.50 | 53245.80 | 377.20 | 97.33%

---

We hereby certify that the above is a true statement of expenditure for county extension work for the month of May 1987.

Disbursing officer: [Signature]

County Extension Agent: [Signature]
M and F Contacts for FY 1987  
Due Date: October 9, 1987

Throughout the year, you've reported contacts made in "direct teaching." For the annual report, record in the table below your best estimate, by area of emphasis, of what portion (%) of these contacts were male and what portion were female.

Most of you have a very good intuitive sense of the male and female distribution in your direct teaching activities. Some of you may even keep track of this on your monthly activity report.

Note: If you resign before September 30, 1987, we need this count before your last work day.

Thanks,

Christine Delich Starr
Extension Administrative Assistant

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area of Emphasis</th>
<th>Direct Teaching Contacts:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>% male  + % female = 100%</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 Agriculture and Natural Resources</td>
<td>______  +  ______ = 100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Community Resource Development</td>
<td>______  +  ______ = 100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Home Economics</td>
<td>9  +  10 = 100%</td>
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<tr>
<td>4 4-H Youth Development</td>
<td>80  +  20 = 100%</td>
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</table>

Note: Enter 0% if you had no direct teaching contacts in a particular area of emphasis.

Lynda Radant
Signature

Lynda J. Radant  
Extension Title Chair

UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA-LINCOLN, COOPERATING WITH THE COUNTIES AND THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
M and F Contacts for FY 1987  Due Date:  October 9, 1987

Throughout the year, you've reported contacts made in "direct teaching." For the annual report, record in the table below your best estimate, by area of emphasis, of what portion (%) of these contacts were male and what portion were female.

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Thanks,

Christine Delich Starr
Extension Administrative Assistant

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ID number</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Area of Emphasis</th>
<th>Direct Teaching Contacts:</th>
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<td></td>
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<td>% male           +   % female       = 100%</td>
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<tr>
<td>26621</td>
<td>Lucinda Perrett</td>
<td>1 Agriculture and Natural Resources</td>
<td>___  +  ___  = 100%</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2 Community Resource Development</td>
<td>___  +  ___  = 100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3 Home Economics</td>
<td>___  +  ___  = 100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>4 4-H Youth Development</td>
<td>___  +  ___  = 100%</td>
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<td>40  +  60   = 100%</td>
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Note: Enter 0% if you had no direct teaching contacts in a particular area of emphasis.

Cindy Perrett                                      Extension Title

Signature

UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA-LINCOLN, COOPERATING WITH THE COUNTIES AND THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln  The University of Nebraska Medical Center  The University of Nebraska at Omaha
M and F Contacts for FY 1987 Due Date: October 9, 1987

Throughout the year, you've reported contacts made in "direct teaching." For the annual report, record in the table below your best estimate, by area of emphasis, of what portion (%) of these contacts were male and what portion were female.

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Note: If you resign before September 30, 1987, we need this count before your last work day.

Thanks,

Christine Delich Starr
Extension Administrative Assistant

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Area of Emphasis</th>
<th>ID number</th>
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<th>% female</th>
<th>= 100%</th>
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<td>Tom Dill</td>
<td>62</td>
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<td>3 Home Economics</td>
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<td>4 4-H Youth Development</td>
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<td>54</td>
<td>46</td>
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Note: Enter 0% if you had no direct teaching contacts in a particular area of emphasis.

Signature: Thomas O. Dill
Extension Title: Extension Agent - Ag
Economic Outlook of Cherry County:

What was an Extension Agent - Home Economics doing at an inservice on crop-hail insurance, grain drying options and government subsidy programs? What was a Farm-Crisis Hotline staff person doing at an Extension Service Financial Risk Management inservice? They were doing some of the best networking and "goal-tending" Cherry County could ask for!...and becoming more sensitized and educated to the option management each has to offer with the other's agencies.

As a management tool to all the inservices available to Extension agents - Cherry County is alternating agents at all financial inservices; farm-ranch or main street, to look at viable options. The Financial Risk Management program caught the interest of our area's new Farm-Crisis Hotline staff person, Loretta Barnes. With the permission of the Ag-Economics department, these two "ducks" were not out of their water, but into new ponds!

The benefits are limitless! As a Home Economics agent, I have broadened my educational background about options I've only heard about, but never worked through with cash-flow management techniques. I received a broader outlook to the options and those options not viable or saleable to range country with limited diversifications. Due to the opportunity to attend the FRM session with a key support person from our area, I gained valuable history, backgrounding and resource networking with a vivacious and sincere resource person.

Loretta was provided the opportunity to gain more risk management background, first hand information gathering from the University of Nebraska Extension Specialists and become more familiar with local Extension resources (as information sharing continued long past inservice hours into the night.)

As a result of the FRM inservice training in Ogallala, more specific goals have been coordinated between the Cherry County Extension Service, the Cody Support Group and the area's Farm Crisis Hotline.

1. update the Cherry County Yellow Pages of Helping Services
2. provide informational meetings on
   a. Chapter 12 Bankruptcy laws
   b. farm debt reorganization
   c. 1986 Tax Laws
   d. improve and open more channels of cooperation with FDIC: Farm Credit System, Farmers Home Administration and the Small Business Administration and banks
3. provide workshop sessions on 'cash-flow' and options managements
4. provide emotional support with informal "koffee klatch" and crackerbarrel sessions in rural communities

"Food and Drug Interaction" - Leader Training -

Amidst comments of, "Boy! I didn't know that!" and "think of what I have been unintentionally undoing!" and "this was a super lesson", women in the Central Sandhills and Cherry County Extension units were provided training in food and drug interaction. The major factor was the money savings angle of not to "undo" the workings of our miracle drugs and make them more cost effective. Club leaders expressed the desire to keep more accurate records of drugs taken by family members and make the records accessible at times of doctor visits or emergencies. Most leaders were pleased with additional resources awareness and availability. Most leaders said they were going to promote posting the NebGuide where prescription drugs were stored or consumed in the home by their families, neighbors and extended
families.

Leader training was provided in Halsey, Mullen, Valentine and Merriman.

"Sewing for the Home"

Housing and Interiors Extension Specialist - Shirley Niemeyer - provided a day session of sewing options for the home. In keeping with the economics situation of Cherry County, low cost window treatments and decorating tips for the home were demonstrated and displayed to 20 persons. Four "walk-ins" attended the noon-hour display and 5 people purchased packets of "how-to's" and ideas. The audience consisted of a professional drapery maker, fabric store owner, craftpersons and homemakers. Many of the participants were impressed with the number of low-cost gift ideas they gained for the upcoming holiday season.

Other October activities -

Home Based Business Conference in Ainsworth was attended with an interested Cherry County resident. The resource packet will be available to county residents on a check-out basis.

Annual reports were prepared and presented to the Cherry County Commissioners (in person) and to District and State offices.

Home Economics Inservice - Leader Training Lessons for 1987 was attended in North Platte. The Leader Training Lessons for Cherry County will be: Home Filing System; Grandparenting; New Fabrics; Microwave Cookery and Women and the Law.

District Fall Conference was attended in North Platte where 4-H Update; District Update; retirement dinner; 4-H Adventures in Sewing project share-meeting and Home Economics conference call kept activities at "pace pace".

4-H Constitutional Revision meeting was attended at the beginning of the month with Achievement Night plans also shaping up.

Media releases - five weekly news columns and two radio programs were prepared.

Grant Applications - as a means of looking for supplemental monies for program offerings, two grant applications were made in October.

(1) Dr. Scholl Foundation - $500 to expand 4-H outreach to handicapped youth
(2) Creative Program Grant - Nebraska Extension Home Economics - 4-H outreach also
Many calls on livestock nutrition and health were received this month. After last year's winter, people were surprised by this year's mild winter with no snow cover. Most people were able to graze green forage in meadows longer this year. Concerns over the lush, green fall growth were high. One producer was in a visit about Stooking rate and AUM calculations. I have worked with him twice with the more session set up. A meeting at the McKelvie forest on range management and browse habitat was held. Input from organizations was solicited to establish a management plan. A tour of one of the nine Integrated Reproductive Management herds in Nebraska was held on October 30 near North Platte. The new Cherry County designated herd is Dick Ballard. Dick and I went on the tour which was very informative and interesting. The need for native grass seed is still high. Seven calls have been from producers or seed companies requesting information about selling or buying seed. Calls on home horticulture are beginning to slow down. One request for information on raising meat pigs in the house. How to toilet train the pig, and the same question along with feeding requirements. Several individuals requested information on the new tax laws the week after my radio program on the subject. I spent a week with Mick Helberg, the new Central Sandhills Agent. We visited about combining programming and plans to work together to have some combined programs. Due to the usually warm weather the interseeding of meadows on Bud Reecer's and Tom Reecer's has been delayed. Hopefully we can seed in early November after a couple of days of freezing temperatures.

4-H AND YOUTH

The Feeder Calf Show and Sale went fairly well this year. The new hardship judging method went very well. Many positive and helpful comments were heard. I met with the NRE and asked if they would provide trees to the schools within their boundaries. The board agreed and suggested a tree planting program up and requested the respective School Board for approval. We discussed and requested a 2-year commitment from the school to care for the trees. Developed the School Environment program on “Plant a Tree” to one school. Next spring trees will be provided for the kids to plant. I was asked to be one of the judges 4-H record books top achiever, and 4-H State Conference Scholarships. The record books were very well done and in the interviews the maturity and consideration of the youth was a surprise to all the judges. I visited with Jan Josephson NGN Dick Gillette Conservationist, about becoming a leader for the Shooting Sports Club in Cherry County. He agreed to be a leader and plans on attending the training to be presented this winter.

Fall Conference held in North Platte was interesting this year. Parts of the Conference lacked interest but some good ideas were presented and will be tried in Cherry County. I took three days vacation in October, plan to attend the Nebraska Section Society for Range Management Meeting in North Platte November 30. The meeting will focus on Finding Profitability in today’s Range Management. I will also receive training in Finpak, a computer financial analysis package during the evenings of the 5 and 6.

Lynda and I are trying to set up some coffee meetings with producers to discuss topics of concern. Garth and Loretta James are very active in helping us and have asked for our help in sponsoring a meeting for the new Chapter 12 Bankruptcy law. We are also hoping to get something going on the lobbying Main Street Business program within the next two months.
Spotlight on 4-H
October 1986
Susan Schlichting
Extension Assistant

The month of October was packed full of 4-H Happenings.

SCHOOL ENRICHMENT

Journeyed out to Merriman to conduct school programming in the areas of Bird Behavior & Heritage. Know Your Heritage has been introduced as a new project this year. It has been received well and fits into many facets of the school's curriculum. Seven students were served at District #78, while 17 students are taking part in the Know Your Heritage project in the Merriman school, District #70.

STOCKER FEEDER SHOW & SALE

Despite the freezing temperatures, twenty-seven 4-H members braved the elements to show their 53 head of calves at the annual 4-H Stocker Feeder Show & Sale. Twelve of these members were first timers at the Show & Sale. This kept the judge and ring man on their toes! The new herdsman guidelines that were put into effect during the weekend spurred the kids on to keeping neat and attractive displays. The barns looked great during the weekend and were left in great condition.

The number of calves shown & sold was up by nine head this year. Hopefully this fact, along with the great number of new members enrolled in the project will make for a good outlook on the future of this important educational event.

PUMPKIN PATCH

On the heels of the Stocker Feeder Show, the 4-H Council sponsored a food stand at the Pumpkin Patch Craft Fair. This is the sole County wide 4-H fund raiser. 4-H families responded well to a plea for pies, hamburger and help during the day. Approximately $400 was made through the effort. Not bad for a day's work!

AWARDS & ACHIEVEMENT NIGHT

4-H members were busy completing project records and 4-H award books during this month, as well. Fourteen members successfully completed award books, many using the new format. Nine of those members went on to interview for the Top Achiever honors this year.

A new incentive of State 4-H Conference scholarships involved several other 4-H Her's in the awards process this year. The scholarships, donated by the 4-H Council, were given to 3 teenaged 4-H members, based solely on an interview about their 4-H career. The State Conference is a strong leadership building experience for teens statewide. Hopefully these teens' involvement in the program will encourage them and help to spread the enthusiasm to other teens about the 4-H program.

Achievement Night will be held November 1, at the Valentine Rural High School, with a full night of events planned.
The whole crew attended the annual 4-H update meeting and the Fall Extension Conference in North Platte on the 21st & 22nd. We were given a look at the new materials available for use in all Extension programming, as well as having a chance to share ideas with fellow staff members.

I had the super opportunity to attend the Sandhillers 4-H Club of Cody's club Achievement program. Following the potluck supper, we acknowledged each 4-H member for achievements they had made during the year. Each was presented with a small gift that dealt with a project that they are especially interested in. What a neat way to recognize each member for their accomplishments and make them feel great about what they're doing!!

Until next month . . . . . .
November brought an interesting array of new and old challenges to focus.

A Creative Program Grant was written for obtaining funds for 4-H "Outreach" to mentally handicapped audience development. The Grant, sponsored by the Nebraska Extension Home Economists, was not received. The monies were awarded to a Nutrition project but the "first" hand experience of ever writing grants proved to be challenging, stimulating and promising.

A new audience for my presentations was with the area staff of the Social Service Agency administrators. This program opportunity has led to more contacts and networking and program development. Please see the attached special report.

The Nebraska Cooperative Extension Association (NCEA) annual meetings were held in Lincoln this year. These informative days of professional growth speakers and administrator's inspiration provided some valuable growth and insight to my career. I served on the Legislative and Administrative Review Committee. I was appointed Chairperson of the Public Issues Committee for Home Economics agents. The 4-H Section elected me to the Executive Board as the Section Secretary. Several 4-H "Outreach" Committee meetings, "Agent Chair" meetings and District Home Extension Agents Thrust meetings were sandwiched into early and late unscheduled hours. One half day was spent in consultation with campus specialists, picking up county supplies and meeting with Associate Director, Bobbie Sward, for the Nebraska Council of Home Extension Clubs annual convention in Valentine this summer.

The Cherry County Home Extension Council sponsored a Christmas Tree Fair in conjunction with the holiday shopping kickoff by the Valentine Chamber of Commerce. The Main Street location and excellent weather cooperated to allow approximately 300 people to view twelve decorated Christmas trees provided by Extension Clubs. A fifty cent admission charge helped provide working capital for the Convention fund while spectators could view and purchase hand crafted ornaments.

The response from the local businesses and general public has been overwhelmingly positive. The Cherry County Clubs will individually vote on a possible repeat of this public display for next year.

The Cherry County Extension Board met November 24 to interview two candidates for the 4-H Assistants position. Annual Staff Activity Reports were written. An uneventful and brief encounter with UNL President Koskins occurred at a citizens meeting on November 17th.

Christmas may have come early in Cherry County this year...

'Twas the day after Thanksgiving when eighty-four people met at the Catholic Church in Valentine for an informational and educational meeting on the 1986 tax laws and the new Chapter 12 Bankruptcy law. The Farm Crisis Support Group of Cody and the Cherry County Cooperative Extension Service co-sponsored the meeting at the request of area ranchers. A display of literature and free handout materials with Fact Sheets on the basic highlights of the new laws and tax reforms were provided by the Cooperative Extension Service. Speakers, coordinated by the Farm Crisis Support Group, included local CPA, Lewis Johnson, and Ag Law Specialist, David Hahn. Other paralegals, County Extension Service personnel, and clergy from the Ag Hotline were available for consultation.
Billed as a meeting that would last as long as questions were asked or until speakers had to go home, ranch couples endured the steel folding chairs for five hours determined to dig deep into all the Pro's and Con's.

The meeting continued with intensive discussions on farm debt reorganization, tax changes FmHA and the Small Business Administration, FDIC farm credit systems and the new Chapter 12 Bankruptcy law. Farm-ranch couples and business people asked all the angles to the information. For some, the information was way too late to be of any hope, yet for others, it might provide some new alternatives; a glimmer of hope.

So what does this all have to do with an early Christmas? As I was last-minute shopping in our local farm store, I greeted many friends, wishing them a Merry Christmas. As I left the store and got into my vehicle, one of my Extension club women chased down the sidewalk after me. She said, "Lynda, I just wanted to thank you and the Extension Service for having the tax law and Chapter 12 meeting a couple of weeks ago. We’ve been in an impossible situation for two years now and because of that meeting we are able to do something really positive now! Thanks so much!"

...and then my friend gave me an early Christmas present. It was the first time I’ve seen her smile since I met her three years ago!

Merry Christmas to us all!
Extension Agent Trains Social Service Workers

Child Protective Service workers, Family Support Workers, Aid to Dependent Children Workers, and Social Service Directors from twelve north-central Nebraska counties gained parenting and counseling skills in October. An Effective Parenting Resource Seminar sponsored by the Cherry County Cooperative Extension Service in Valentine, taught parenting skills in communications, effective listening, discipline and financial management skills and total family wellness.

Extension Agent - Home Economics, Lynda Radant, introduced the Social Service workers to the resources available from the Cooperative Extension Service by using "Learn-At-Home" packet entitled "Effective Parenting". The participants role played family councils, stroking and did family life inventories and personal marriage assessments. The workers expressed their appreciation for emphasizing the positive aspects of child discipline and marriage assessments. As one worker reported, "I like the approach of focusing on a single concern at a time. Too often we work with persons that have more than one problem and we need to be able to focus on the problem and not so much the causes."

A session on financial planning and how to use a household cash-flow sheet provided new concepts and approaches to helping families ease money burdens. More resources including NebGuides and the reference index, Fact Sheets, more Learn-At-Home packets and listings of program offerings were explained. 4-H materials were highlighted as how they could be used to develop special interests and skills, build self-esteem and provide social skill development for youth.

The Resource Seminar was interspersed with special education teaching techniques that helped train the Social Service workers to better meet their clienteles' needs. Although the Extension Service materials were praised as "clear, concise monographs" that would serve as excellent resources for the professionals, the social service workers tooled up their personal skills to better reach their audiences. In activities directed by Agent Radant, who holds an advanced degree and endorsements in 'Special Education', the seminar participants re-wrote printed information to simplest language, pinpointed 'key concepts', interpreted and made suggestions for simplifying group activities to focus on a single positive concept or to special single parent audiences.

At the close of the day, a group of public workers left the seminar with their stack of information received from the Cooperative Extension Service. Written evaluations expressed appreciation for the exposure to the Cooperative Extension Service as unlimited resources (so it seems!), and praised efforts at networking and sharing potentials between agencies. Eighty-seven percent of the participants reported an excellent rating to "learning something new that could be incorporated in their work". They viewed the seminar as "very helpful in delivery approaches to clientele"; and "a way to promote in-home instruction and learnings". They rated the County Extension Offices and agents as "well-informed" and "a valuable and available resources" for their needs as well as the clientele they serve.

Lynda Radant
Extension Agent - Home Economics
November 1986
It seems like time is moving too fast to get things done, then before you know it, it is done and behind you. November just got started and the next time I turned around, it was gone. Several calls came in on swine. Two were producers interested in beginning hog operations. The most interesting and unusual was a call on how to house train a pig.

I attended the Range Management Symposium in North Platte with several other Cherry County residents. Three agency people and four ranchers attended. The program had a few low spots but the majority was excellent. At the same time I took training during the evenings on Finpack, which is a Financial package of computer software including Balance sheets, Trend Sheets, Cash Flow, and Financial statement analysis and alternatives.

Dennis Bauer came over and we interseeded some Garrison Creeping Foxtail and Switchgrass into Bud Reece's meadow. Plans are to seed Hoffman's and two sites in Brown County next month.

I am currently talking with three other producers about meadow management and improvement. I hope to have at least one more demonstration set up for next year. A call on diversification of a current operation came in. I visited with the producers about alternatives and they are looking very hard at several of them.

The Integrated Reproductive Management Team for Dick Ballard was established and we met on the 26th to tour the ranch and make initial suggestions. The team members were impressed with the current operation, but did pick up on several management practices that could be changed or need changes that could add more flexibility while cutting the expenses of the operation.

A meeting co-sponsored with the Farm Crisis Support Group of Cody was held on the 28th. The new tax and Bankruptcy Chapter 12 laws were the topics. Attendance was very high (84) and the program was well worth it. Comments from both the participants and presenters were very positive.

In December there will be meetings for producers on Retained Ownership of livestock and the Range Cattlemen's Roundups. I am also required to go to North Platte for a week of inservice training.

4-H AND YOUTH

Achievement night went very well. I have received many positive comments and I was pleased with the number in attendance and response from the 4-H'ers toward our program.

County Government Day was held on the 21st. We had seven youth come to the office. They were here for only 45 minutes but seemed to get the information they needed or wanted.
Spotlight on 4-H
November 1986
Susan Schlichting
Extension Assistant

The month of November has been somewhat of a relaxing one. 4-H Achievement Night was held on November 1. The weather held and we had a super evening. Over 90 4-H’ers and leaders were recognized for their accomplishments in the 4-H program during 1986. A number of 4-H supporters were on hand for the potluck supper and evening program. Dallas Kime, former Cherry County 4-H’er and International 4-H Youth Exchangee to the Netherlands provided a special slide program on his experiences. Following the presentation of awards, a dance sponsored by the 4-H Council was held. The evening full of excitement was a great way to top off the 4-H year.

I had several opportunities during the month to help spread the word about 4-H international programs by speaking to 4-H’ers and their families at Achievement Night programs in Burt and Brown Counties.

After the Achievement Night activities settled down, I took to cleaning house. Things tend to pile up, with the little time to devote to filing, sorting and organizing during the “busy months”. Besides the house cleaning tasks, I have spent time completing the annual activities reports, attended the Sparks Livewires Organizational meeting, attended the NCEA Conference in Lincoln and took several days off to catch up on some much needed rest.

Until next month . . . .
Monthly Narrative
December 1986
Lynda Radant
Cherry County

A Month of Inservices

Agent Inservice Training (or County Agent's Held Hostage in Educational Attempts!)

Staff Development Training -

In an approach to update, expand knowledge (and posteriors) and provide in-depth training, the State Extension staff called weeklong seminars for agents vs. training throughout the year at various locations. In this attempt to save the state staff monies, the training proved to be extremely intense for the five day offering in North Platte. While some agents opted for the Lincoln session, they received the presentations live, while North Platte recipients received video-taped presentations of a few guest speakers for various sessions. This was good because it saved the state money for speaker fees and expenses and we didn't miss the juicy parts. It was bad because some of the quality of videos didn't come off very well. (Face it, we are spoiled by high tech, professionally produced competitive TV productions!)

I view the five full days of nutrition sessions, detailed Farm Financial analysis, how to be competitive in grant writing and nutritional computer analysis as very valuable to my programming in Cherry County.

Friday noon brought the formal release of the hostage situation. I can feel true empathy for those political prisoners. and now...to steel myself for the week-long mandated session in May in Lincoln!

As a result of requests from several administrators and other County Agents, a special summary report has been written on Agriculture Stress support Groups and Activities. Please see a copy of the attached report.

Intensive Home and Family Inservice - In addition to several Extension Clubs and 4-H meetings, an intensive session was spent in "hands on" and practical experience in an almost forgotten skill level. More commonly termed "Annual Leave or Vacation", this County Agent spent 8 days getting reacquainted with immediate family and preparing for Christmas while still unpacking 'packing boxes'. The "inservice" was deemed extremely valuable, rewarding and long overdue.

Happy New Year!
Summary Story
December 1986

Agriculture Stress Support Groups and Activities
in North Central Nebraska - Cherry County

In the fall of 1984, two banks and the Production Credit Association in Cherry County closed their doors. Business was shut off and the anxiety and stress levels of all ranchers and businessmen reached an all time peak level. Many remembered the 'dirty thirties' and many holders were determined not to let history repeat itself but to do everything within their power to protect their families and their land.

In February, Dr. Herb Lingren, University of Nebraska-Family Life Specialist and Lynda Radant, Cherry County Agent-Home Economics presented Farm and Ranch Family Stress Workshops in the Cody and Valentine, Nebraska towns. Fifty people attended the sessions while several others later reported, they "circled the block because they didn't know if they would fit it". News columns on ways families could cope with stress, identify stressors and ease financial pressures were published in Radant's weekly news columns. One local newspaper gathered extra resources and ran special features on stress management. Check-out packets on Dr. Lingren's presentation were made available to the public. "Managing For Tomorrow" financial program netted 14 families participation due to Agriculture Agent, Harry Stokely's efforts with ranchers and bankers.

In December, five ministers, a high school home economics teacher, a minister's wife and representatives of Home Extension clubs traveled two-hundred and fifty miles to attend Stress Support Group Training in North Platte. Those in attendance held a follow-up meeting and due to requests from the county seat Chamber of Commerce, put together a "Stress in Living" workshop - panel presentation for community members not able to attend Dr. Lingren's session. Packets and a sampling of other helpful stress-related topics of financial and emotional support were distributed at the "Stress in Living" presentation conducted by a ranch-wife, medical doctor, minister, local business representative and mental health counselor. The presentation was video taped and has been shared with groups in Nebraska and South Dakota.

Also included in the packets were copies of the Cherry County "Yellow Pages of Helping Agencies and Resource People". This multi-page resource list was coordinated by representatives from sixteen various agencies; ranging from PCA representatives, food pantry leaders, the Ministerial Association, businessmen, farmers-ranchers and health representatives. The agencies and resource people listed were explained in a descriptive paragraph of services, contact people and volunteers. The "Yellow Pages" are now ready for their third year revision and updates. Several Home Extension Clubs furnish the reams of paper while the Cherry County Extension Service furnishes the printing and helps distribute. The "Yellow Pages" have been shared with various support groups and County Agents across the state. South Dakota County Agents and Farm Bureau Members have also asked for example copies.

Six months later, several ranchers attended another stress workshop in Valentine and took a stress inventory again. One rancher's wife reported, "I didn't realize how well we were coping until I took the inventory over again. You're workshops helped in more than one way."
The 'networking' created by the Stress Support Group has opened doors to the sharing of programs, speakers, cooperative planning among agencies and a vast awareness of other local agencies and their objectives. The networking has continued with the interaction of groups with their ears to the needs of people and their hearts open to helpful service and a meshing of services versus an overlapping of efforts.

The Cody Support Group and the PCA shared expertise through caring, listening and asking. Support Group meetings with various government agencies helped get more direct answers. Knowing neighbors slipped boxes of food into people's cars that were having trouble finding food for their next meal, but too proud to ask the "food pantry" for help.

"Our Cody-Kilgore area support group has been like a "bandaid" society," reports Helen Kroeger. Helen and her husband Jim have been officers in the support group formed as a result of the two banks closing in October 1984. "I guess you might say the same story for 3 hours helps the aching heart ease the pain and lets the listener realize he isn't the only one with the same problem.

"The listening and sharing are our bandaids" reports Helen, and a group of people can share material goods and knowledge. "This type of sharing is our bandaid brigade. It helps make the hurt feel so much better instead of waiting for the situation to worsen. Splints immobilize you!"

By October, 1985, one in every sixty residents of Cherry county has attended a "stress information session." More public informational and educational meetings have been sponsored by the Cherry County Cooperative Extension Service. Two hundred Home Extension club families received training in "Listening with Your Heart...As Well as Your Ears".

One hundred fifty high school students attended Dr. Herb Lingren's sessions on family communications. Eighteen mothers and fathers and Day Care personnel attended "Stress in Children" seminars and some recorded the session to share with neighbors and friends. "From Family Stress to Family Wellness" was attended by twenty people who gave up their Halloween activities. Forty-nine people attended Dr. Lingren's session on "Listening and Loving with Children... and Parents". It is estimated now at the end of 1986 that one in every fifteen people have attended a mental wellness seminar or session.

Agent Training for the Cherry County Agriculture and Home Economics Agents has concentrated on intense studies of farm-financial record keeping, risk management and household accounts. This has proven to be invaluable for consultations and background knowledge. The need for creative, low-budget recyclable materials for the home and family has been emphasized. The renewal or redoing helps keep mental attitude alive with the fact something still can be done. Lessons on accessorizing your present clothing, how to re-establish credit, protecting and storing family keepsakes with emphasis on transition and emergency family life cycle planning kept the Home Economics angles in balance. More interest is being garnered from community businesses and individuals to have business operation evaluations and home entrepreneurship.
The accomplishment reports are rewarding but it still isn't a rose garden crop in Cherry County. The mental depression and withdrawal does not go unnoticed. There have been several suicides. The frustration was exemplified when a highly trained Farm Crisis Hotline staff person who walked off his ranch never wanting to see or hear of it again. The strain shows in the eyes of businessmen and merchants as well as the ranchers. All are scrimping and "doing without" to have gas money to get to town for basic groceries. There is no money available for "Managing For Tomorrow" sessions or other farm analysis seminars from ranchers or area bankers. In that desperation to salvage the remains of the ranchers and farms, their vulnerability peeks at "too-good-to-be-true" scams from outsiders.

If every cloud has a silver lining, the silver is gleaming in Cherry County through the use of banding together to share resources, education and talents through the cooperative awareness of individuals, agencies and volunteers. That gleam is helping keep spirits higher through America's crisis.

Written by:
Lynda Rainte
Extension Agent - Home Economics
December Narrative
Thomas O. Dill
Cherry County
Extension Agent - Agriculture

Agriculture & Natural Resources

December has been an interesting month, to say the least. On December 2 the Range Cattlemen's Roundup was held in Ainsworth. The program this year was centered on developing efficiency and profitability in beef herds. The presentations were very good except for the main speaker was snowed in at the airport in Denver.

The Resource Conservation and Development Council held a Retained ownership meeting on the 17th. The attendance was very low and the meeting actually was an advertisement for a Co-op Feedlot in Iowa.

I attended the RC&D Interagency meeting in Bassett and expressed concerns about the use of private industry representatives only on the meetings the RC&D are presenting. There seemed to be one-sided presentations and are biased. Calls in the office have been few but very diverse. Information requested has included catfish farming, worm farming, cattle rations and bugs. I met with Dick Ballard about his feed rations. The IRM program with Dick is progressing very well.

I have started to write a grant proposal for an expanded meadow renovation project. Working with Dennis Bauer on expanding the work previously done we hope to use the practice to improve meadows in the Sandhills. Two entire meadows in Cherry County and one in each of Brown and Rock counties would be seeded if the grant monies are received. The weather and other business did not allow us to complete seedings on Reese's and Hoffman's meadows this month. We plan to try again in January if the snow holds off.

4-H and Youth

I met with Barb Reed to discuss beginning an 8th grade Conservation Day with the rural schools in Cherry County. We plan to hold it on April 20th with an April 24th snow/rain date. The Soil Conservation Service, Game and Parks Commission, Natural Resource District, U.S. Forest Service, and Extension will be involved. The day will be held at the McKelvie Forest. If this works out well, we may try to have a fall Conservation Day with the City Schools.

Several 4-H Clubs have started to re-organize and pick up project materials. The 4-H Council met and adapted the revised constitution and made plans to set goals for the 4-H program.

Community Resource Development

I have began to contact businesses in Valentine about the Managing Main Street Business program. There seems to be little interest in the program. I will continue to check businesses before making a decision to hold the workshop or not.

Other

The one week of training held in North Platte was very good. I did not set a goosy but the meetings were much better than I anticipated. Much of the information will be put to use in Cherry County.
The beginning of a new year...and the beginning of new activities; or new approaches to older activities.

The Extension Board met January 16 for the purpose of interviewing a 4-H assistant. In a new approach to try to solve the turnover rate, the Board agreed to offer the job to Cindy Perrett on the conditions the Assistant be willing to work to the goals of the 4-H Council. The 4-H Council in turn, will set general goals for the Cherry County program while the Council sub-committees will meet to provide specific yearly objectives.

A new professional experience was provided as this agent started serving as secretary to the Nebraska Cooperative Extension Association - 4-H Section. Again, goals and objectives were the prime issue for new 4-H Section officers. The committees for the Nebraska Section will definitely help advance 4-H programming in Nebraska due to the excitement and professional approaches held by those agents.

A meeting in O'Neill with a special task force of agents is making efforts at securing a new audience with Handicapped 4-H potentials. Plans were made for presenting a program to new potential leaders, the teachers and Teachers Aides for Educational Service Unit #8 at Neligh.

A new 4-H Club needed programming assistance and a sequential learning program for the "Ghost Riders" meeting was established with some assistance from this agent.

Valentine played host to a different approach for 4-H Leader Trainings this year. Three area meetings were established for the North Central District in Imperial, Lexington, and Valentine. 4-H Leaders from B-K-R, Central Sandhills, and Cherry County scored the biggest attendance of the three centers to share and learn from State 4-H Leaders: Virginia Gobeli, Ken Schmidt, Karen Johnson, and Doyle Wolverton. Special presentations and workshops with a catered meal kept 44 leaders informed, entertained and challenged. (The State Staff made special note of the number of young leaders at this training!)

A new lesson helped Cherry County Home Extension Club members and 3 other attendees contend with old, inefficient filing systems to help get family records off to a new start in a new year. File It Easy, Find It Fast leader training lesson garnered all hands of accolades and praises. Some of the comments reaped from a lesson feedback form were:

File It Easy, Find It Fast - Leader Training Lesson

- "everyone enjoyed the lesson and everyone needed this lesson!"
- "lots of items brought out that a person would not think of in case of death"
- "lots of new ideas acquired"
 *social security numbers for children
 *blood donors cards needed for Cherry County residents
 *color coding an excellent help
 **"active" vs. "inactive" files in same or different locations
 *like the idea of someone else (children) knowing where important papers are
 - "glad to receive the the incentive and encouragement" to create a more efficient filing system..."this should spur me on!"
 - "Most helpful lesson I've had in a long time!"

Now that type of lesson can help renew an agent's spirit!

2
The Keya-Paha, Cherry County Developmental Center became a new audience and client for this agent. After an extensive search of the Neb Guide and even 4-H files, it seems very little "print" exists to aiding those wishing to assist others in equipment identification, basic measuring and kitchen safety. Those counties, such as Cherry County, possibly need to have more access to "Expanded Nutrition" (EFNEP) resources.

Several days were spent in Lincoln as the District G & H Director for Nebraska Council of Home Extension Clubs. Goal setting was a primary objective for 1988 and carrying out plans for District meetings and State Annual meetings.

A new personal and family adventure happened at the end of a rewarding January...downhill skiing! Can't wait to go again for a week of R & R!
AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

I attended a Ranchers Workshop in Murdo SD put on by the Extension Service and SCS. The workshop was very informative and included information on harvesting grass seed, forage testing and rotational grazing comparisons. The Nebraska Forage and Grassland Council met in Lincoln on the 8th. The meeting was also attended by several Cherry County producers. The information on harvesting grass seed was very informative other topics discussed included Fee hunting, Backgrounding with forages and Grazing Systems. All of these contained useful information for Cherry County producers.

I visited three ranches and talked about livestock performance on range forage and nutritional needs of different livestock classes. I ran feed rations for two producers and showed one a ration saving him $350/per ton of feed used. This ration cut out a supplement he was purchasing and I later received a call from the feed representative complaining about the elimination of his feed from the ration. Several other producers have contacted me for information on less expensive protein supplements.

It was requested I attend an inservice on the 1987 Farm Program in Ogallala. After attending I felt the inservice would have been useful in December but January 27 was much too late.

I also attended the Crop Protection Clinic in Broken Bow. This was a useful meeting to get a handle on how some new herbicides and insecticides work. Several bug questions have come in. Carpet beetles and moths are turning up in many homes due to the mild winter.

Mick Helberg from Central Sandhills came up and we worked on some combined programming ideas for the future.

I have contacted Dave Aiken and he agreed to come up and present a meeting on Chapter 12 Bankruptcy, the creditors side on February 23. This meeting will be co-sponsored with BKR Extension and be held in Valentine.

Dick Clark has asked me to set up a meeting with several ranchers to discuss costs related to harvesting forage with livestock. Several letters were sent to producers and a meeting will be held on February 12.

Bud Reece's and Tom Hoffman's meadows were finally seeded.

4-H AND YOUTH

A 4-H Council meeting was held on January 6 to discuss goals and get some ideas for future programming.

The District Leader Training in Valentine went very well. We had 43 leaders from BKR, Central Sandhills, and Cherry County Extension Units. This was more than the other two trainings combined had in attendance.

Lowell Belville, Merrill Feller, and I attended the Shooting Sports Leader Training in North Platte. The information was useful and will help in getting a Cherry County Club started. Another training will be held on February 14 in Chadron. Several other people have expressed interest in attending to help with the program.

COMMUNITY RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

The Rotary Club asked me to speak on January 30. I visited with them about the Managing Main Street Business Program. There were four Rotarians who were very interested in the program and said they would attend and promote the program. Several other businesses have been contacted and expressed interest. More contacts will be made and a schedule will be set up.
Cherry County
Lynda Radant
Extension Agent - Home Economics - Agent Chair
February 1987

Women and the Law - February is a month to celebrate the birthdays of some of our greatest law makers. What better way to emphasize our constitutional rights and observations than through the awareness lesson of Women and how laws affect them.

The leader training lesson was made open to the public as well as Extension Club leaders and as a result, 3 new Mailbox Members were gained from the evening trainings. They attended because "the topic sounded so interesting".

The interest of the lesson ranged with the age groups of the clubs. Older members found wills and Medicare of primary interest and of help. Others found marriage, divorce and child support, juvenile delinquency, and care for their parents as they approach older ages. "It was very interesting in regards to what our rights really are and how many times we are mislead because we do not know the changes that have been made or our neglect to know", reported one club. "Everyone thoroughly appreciated the booklet (Nebraska Bar Association) for study and reference". Another club was so engrossed in the lesson they reported, "I feel (this was) one of the best lessons given and we could have sat there until midnight".

Agent note: A short quiz and "report back" form was developed by this agent for the Women and the Law lesson as a result of the excellent feedback and responses from the File It Easy lesson. This is working quite well in Cherry County! (A review of literature by the County Attorney was most helpful to agent and leaders also!)

1987 NCHEC Convention Plans -

Many days of February were spent in committee meetings with some of the thirteen committees of the Nebraska Council of Home Extension Club meeting in June in Valentine. Endless entwining details of the meals, favors, learnshops, tours and hostesses were nailed into place. As a result, carefully balanced yet nutritious meals will be served and accentuated with top quality favors and centerpieces. Tours were "tried out" and a hilariously, interesting day resulted in providing an education to the tour committee, also! Learnshops will emphasize the talent and expertise that lies out there in "them thar Sandhills"! (The hardest part of putting on a convention is getting everyone to adhere to deadlines for the other persons sake!)

4-H Activities -

As the word "goals" seemed to dominate January's summary, February was the month to enact the word "GOALS" for a District 4-H Council Meeting in Broken Bow. "Goals" were then discussed in a day long meeting for the Cherry County 4-H Council. The objectives for these goals were then planned with a 4-H Home Economics Committee meeting. New writing projects and reinforcements were planned!

The 4-H newsletter, The Cherry Pit and a Home Ec'spressions flyer were both written by the agent.
Community Interactions -

"Cogging wheels"...that's what I like to call the positive interaction that goes on between community agencies when one can intermesh and lend support to another area agency. Contacts made for one purpose tend to reinforce the next contact and efforts can become shortcuts. Some of the community contacts I made this month were:

Valentine Chamber of Commerce - NCHEC Convention plans in the host city were shared with merchants and business persons to facilitate services and merchandising. (A "commercial" was given to promote "Project Mainstreet").

Citizens Education Committee for Abused and Neglected Children - As a Committee person I find serving on the library/purchase committee extremely valuable to working with the home economics teacher, school psychologist/learning disabilities director and registered nurse for learning about Cherry Counties educational resources on better parenting. This committee opens doors of communication with law enforcement, mental health professionals, doctors, lawyers, school superintendents and those interested in better parenting programming.

Keya Paha - Cherry County Developmental Center - A January contact for kitchen safety resources led to my appointment to the Behavior Modification Review Board for the Center. This contact not only challenges me professionally in my degree area but provides an excellent sounding board for 4-H for Special Kids!

Educational Service Unit #8 in Neligh was a trial sight for two other agents and myself to explain the virtues of 4-H projects for "special kids", physically or mentally handicapped and "gifted" children. The audience at ESU 8 was 32 teachers from various schools. In a survey/feedback form, all teachers commended us for exposing them to "a wealth of information 4-H had to offer!". (Early education here will eliminate needs at a later age such as the KPCC Developmental Center!)

Administrative Duties - GOALS were achieved to freshen the office when negotiations with the landlord netted a "paint day" to paint all offices and new carpeting throughout! The office is now "smelly-fresh" and looking forward to the day when all "junk" is thoroughly sorted, filed or retired.
THOMAS O. DILL
CHERRY COUNTY
EXTENSION AGENT - AGRICULTURE
FEBRUARY NARRATIVE

AG & NATURAL RESOURCES

Plans were completed and we had nine producers and one vet attend the coffee shop session with Don Hudson. The discussion turned and was centered on questions dealing with economical veterinarian practices. "Where can I cut costs without cutting my throat," was the main question asked.

I held my private pesticide applicator training and certified 14 producers. I attended a Weed Science, Entomology and Chemigation update in North Platte on the 13th. The time was wasted and material presented was of no use in Cherry County.

The Regional Irrigation Short Course held in O'Neili was excellent. Attendance was very good and material presented was well worthwhile to our local producers.

The meeting held for creditors in a Chapter 12 Bankruptcy situation was very poorly attended. We had two business people and one banker in attendance.

I have had several calls to run rations for beef cows. Calving has started and nutrition is becoming more important. I have pushed this idea and more producers are calling to check their post-calving rations. Dick Clark, the Economist from North Platte, was up and met with myself and some producers to establish average costs for livestock operations in Nebraska Sandhills.

The Crop Focus held in Bassett was informative and the information on alternative crops was interesting.

4-H & YOUTH

The 4-H Council met and set goals for 1987. The meeting went very well and I feel we are on an excellent track for the future. The 4-H Livestock Committee met and made some suggestions to improve our program in the future.

COMMUNITY RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

I have continued to contact businesses about the Managing Main Street Business program. So far, interest is mixed and about half of the business people are very excited about a program of this type. I plan to visit with all the businesses in Valentine, and all the Highway 20 towns in Cherry County next month to determine interest.
Orientation II

Although I wasn't on the payroll yet, I spent many hours in Feb. feeling more and more like an extension assistant. First I drove to Lincoln to spend Febr. 11, 12, & 13 in Orientation II. It was hard to follow some of the topics since I had not yet had contact with the programs but the sense of being in a group of similar people was great! We dealt with conflict management, relationships, personal contacts, and dealing with others "on their wavelength". A lot of time was also spent in program planning (which is still confusing.) How to give a sense of direction...? I left Lincoln feeling like I had known those there for much longer than 3 days.

District 4-H Council

On Feb. 19, Candi Dusenberry, Council Pres., Lynda Radant, Home Ec Agent, and I traveled to Broken Bow for the District 4-H Council meeting. We did much talking on issues and concerns for Cherry County during the trip to and from. The Council was able to then formalize their goals for Cherry County to help give us all a sense of direction. Maybe we can get more interaction between groups of people. Since I am starting at the time of year when everything takes off, I am going to need it.

Otherwise...

To help me get an idea of Cherry County programs specifically, I spent several afternoons in the office. Much of this time was spent trying to find things—my desk included, since it was hidden under a stack of mail!

Now I feel like an extension assistant!
Home Economics Programming

The leader training lesson entitled Grandparenting was presented to twelve Extension Clubs and an extra audience of grandparent "experts" - the Valentine Senior Citizens Center. The lesson was greatly enjoyed by the mixed audience that received "Gifts for Grandchildren" from the gift wrapped box. Attendees either had fond memories of their grandparents or tips on handling their grandparenting roles. The audience was challenged by the activity quiz on their grandparenting knowledge and didn't easily agree with the answers on the quiz. Many thought our geographic location and midwest culture influenced slightly different answers. These sharp "experts" were quick to point out that although the lesson was recently written, the specialists/authors' research was already over ten years old! (Nothing like a group that keeps you on your toes!)

Convention plans were accelerated as the print deadline for the program for the 1987 Nebraska Council of Home Extension Clubs - Annual Meeting in Valentine was met. Nine meetings with publicity, tours, hostesses and learnshops helped put together the convention format. West-end and east-end convention co-chairpersons Ormesher and Burton continue to be present as coordinators from one committee to another while Council Chairperson Chenoweth keeps the club activities and citizenship emphasis coordinated.

A focus on the Health and Safety emphasis of the Cherry County Home Extension Council was discussed with Rita Schneider. The plans for the program - Eating Today for a Healthier Tomorrow - was postponed till autumn due to duplicated program emphasis by the Cherry County Hospital. The need for cholesterol screening, blood pressure clinic and perhaps free diabetic screening was still an area the county needs to address.

Community Resource and Development

The Valentine Economic Development Committee continues to meet at least twice a month. This committee continues to make plans for the Revitalization of Valentine by seeking methods to attract economic growth and development to Valentine. Professional evaluation teams are being explored.

Meanwhile 56 ranchers, businessmen and professionals attended the public meeting on Chapter 12 Bankruptcy with Judge Mahoney at the Cherry County Fairgrounds. The Judge presented excellent printed resources as well as an extremely informational meeting. Once again, the Cherry County Cooperative Extension Service co-sponsored the meeting, this time our co-sponsor being the Cherry County Bar Association. We hope to continue facilitating informational meetings for our economically depressed clients that wish information from all sides.

(On the lighter side - THIS TIME - we used Cooperative Extension Service styrofoam cups for coffee at the meeting. It never hurts to advertise...but the reception was more positive than when we inadvertently served coffee in Federal Land Bank cups at another Chapter 12 meeting! One man laughingly pointed out it was probably the only thing he'd ever get from FLB!)
More hours were spent on the Literary selection committee for the Citizens Education Council of Abused and Neglected Children (Cherry County). This project hopes to establish a reference section within the public library on the topic of abused and neglected. Other committees are working on a public presentation, school programming, foster homes and a "safe house".

4-H and Youth Programming

March officially welcomed our new 4-H Assistant to Cherry County Office and weekly staff meetings have been used to acquaint Cindy Perrett with the calendar, Cherry County structure of 4-H and the office resources. Activities have been reviewed by staff assignment and files. Cindy will be a very welcome addition for our staff. She seems to bring some re-organization and structure to the 4-H program. We are happy to have Cindy agree to work to the 4-H Council goals on her new job.

This agent continues to oversee the 4-H Dog Training sessions on Sunday afternoons. Enrollment of 4-H'ers and adults is again proving to be well attended with 20 students and dogs as we enter the fourth year of trainings with 4-H Volunteer, Pastor Doug Fusselman.

Inservices, Meetings, and Administration

In addition to working closely with the new and current staff on job assignments, many hours have been spent working on the Extension Office Budget.

WCREC District - Spring Conference was attended in North Platte. A pilot session "Goal Setting" for Extension professionals and spouses was attended in North Platte. The sessions will be directed by Paul Gessaman, a UNL Specialist who has written many materials for MFT and Managing Mainstreet. The first sessions have proven to be extremely helpful to my husband and me.

A committee meeting in Grand Island with the Legislative/Administrative Relations Committee for the Nebraska Cooperative Extension Association (professional organization) proved very interesting. Not only was the dialogues with the directors informative, but the unexpected stay overnight during the worst blizzard of the season provided indepth study of human resourcefulness in motels without power. The next day's trip home yielded a white knuckle trip down a steep embankment and a bruised fender. (One snow day kept our office closed for a first day in many years.)

This agent also participated in the interviewing of a new Home Economics District Coordinator and 4-H Coordinator. March looks very promising for filling vacancies!
Agriculture and Natural Resources

Chemigation training took up almost all of the first week of March and after that the dam burst. The area Swine Day held at Ainsworth was very worthwhile. I learned quite a bit about swine health and, even though we don't have many swine operations in Cherry County, there have been five producers stop in the office and request information on beginning swine production.

The coffee shop sessions with Ivan Rush went very well. There were lots of questions and some very good discussion. Attendance was very low, but we did help some people.

The visit by Judge Mahoney was very informative and there were 56 people in attendance. There has been three meetings on Chapter 12 Bankruptcy sponsored or co-sponsored by Extension. Each one was from a different angle and met the needs of different people. The first one held last November 26 was geared toward providing information to the producers. The second held February 24 was providing information to creditors (mainly unsecured creditors), and the final one held March 10 was for everyone. The first presentor was a lawyer, the second was a University lawyer, and the third was a Judge. Attendance was very high for all but the creditors meeting.

I have had lots of calls about trees, shrubs and flowers being hurt by the cold snap and heavy snow.

Several individuals have renewed their pesticide cards through the home study packet.

Two people have been in to discuss interseeding or management of their meadows to improve hay quality. I have scheduled three times to travel out and look at some of the meadows and Mother Nature prohibited my traveling.

The RC&D meeting on Prescribed Burning was well attended and the information was well worth while. Some of the recommendations made by the RC&D personnel do not fit with the results of research conducted by the University. I have some reservations in their recommendations without more research or information being made available.

A couple more tree orders have come in and been forwarded to Clarke-McNary. The total trees ordered through this office this year was 1500 compared to 2100 in 1986.

Reports on calf losses have been very low and scattered from around the county. I plan to attend the Fish Farming Workshop in North Platte on April 8. We have had twelve producers come in or request information on fish farming.

Jim Gosey will be out on April 21 and 22 to give coffee shop sessions on Matching the Cow to the Environment and Breeding for Boxed Beef. On the 21 we will have a session in Merriman from 6:30 to 8 p.m. MT at the Sand Cafe. We will be at the Home Cafe from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. CT on the 22nd.

Community Resource Development

The Valentine Economic Development Committee met on the 2nd to determine interest in having a private company come in and evaluate Valentine for economic development. The Committee met with the City Council to request funding and has scheduled the seminar and evaluation for April 16th.

I have contacted 17 businesses in Valentine, 5 in Merriman, and 2 in Cody. Crookston and Nenzel, about the Managing Main Street Business program. Of those I have contacted only 6 have said they are not interested in any type of program. I am trying to contact all the businesses and we may have to set up more than one group.
4-H and Youth

A meeting was held to determine interest in a Shooting Sports Club. We had 14 in attendance and will plan on holding an organizational meeting on April 6th. We also have had some interest in a club being organized near Cody.

Also a meeting was held to finalize plans for the July Teen Retreat. Plans are progressing very well and we have 5 from Cherry County, 5 from BKR and 5 from Central Sandhills interested in attending.
Administrative activities dominated the month of April. Budgetary plans hit the tax levy ceiling with the discovery that Social Security payments had been inadvertently omitted from agents' salaries for the past two and one-half years. Many hours were spent seeking information with County, District, State and interagency personnel. After two meetings, the Cherry county Extension Board felt it was also in the best interest to have a University audit performed to "clear the books" and start fresh. While hopefully the Social Security is being straightened out, word of an audit is yet to be received.

Also in the line of administrative functions, I traveled to Scottsbluff to attend training for Agent Chair positions. An excellent program dealing with office setting, managerial levels, goal setting and marketing the Extension image was uplifting after some tension producing budget sessions.

The Valentine Community was presented an interesting challenge to "Revitalize" after a public meeting with a commercial marketing/analysis evaluation by a company named CityMark. The company's evaluation of schools and services were higher than any city they've worked with. Natural Beauty and recreational opportunities were cited as being the number one resource Cherry County should market, even over outside industry.

On that note, the community set the 1987 June Annual Meeting of the Nebraska Council of Home Extension clubs as a target date for some efforts. Block chairpersons were established in ten sections of the city for localizing neighborhood eyesores and planning clean up campaigns. (This agent ended up professionally and personally involved!)

More meetings for convention took place in April as registration begins and housing forecasts indicate having to rely on private homes. A definite computer program for the convention is needed as the Cherry County office expertise can handle the basics but not the unexpected errors.

Program planning for Cherry County got an extra boost when Cherry County was identified as being one of the ten areas in the state to identify "Issues and Concerns" pertinent to the Cooperative Extension Service in Nebraska. An unexpected emergency provided this agent the opportunity to step into the program leaders place and conduct the "Nominal Group Process" with community members.

The results of the Nominal Group process provided interesting insight and verification to an informal survey of Home Extension Club members identifying program needs. While the Nominal Group identified major concerns, the Cherry County Extension Club women seemed to be more specific within the same topics with suggested program topics in their separate program selection method.

The process and surveys provided great satisfaction to this agent that our programming areas are essentially on target and meeting the needs of general public and traditional Extension audiences. It was a valuable experience right before Annual Plans of Work were due. (See special report written on the results of this process.)
4-H and Youth programming areas emphasized in April were with the 4-H Cherry Pit Newsletter, the general 4-H Council meeting and preparations with the Style Revue Committee. Nancy Kobliska, 4-H Youth Specialist from North Platte, visited our office and related areas she may provide assistance.

"Special Kids in 4-H", a specific project by this agent to include handicapped children in 4-H projects, had a planning meeting for outlining a program to be presented at the Annual Staff Development and inservice meeting in May in Lincoln.

Home Extension Club Annual Spring Tea was held in Cody on a beautiful spring day after the spring council meeting. "Hats Off to Home Extension Clubs" gave tea attenders a chance to don their pretty (or silly) spring bonnets. A clever skit set to rhyme by Marguarite Wobig kept everyone entertained. "Tripps" of Norfolk presented their Spring fashion accessories.

Later in the month, a carload of Extension Club women set off to Ainsworth to hear the Nebraska Humanities Speaker. She presented some very challenging thoughts but lacked in presentation qualities.
I visited the J. B. Fischer ranch and talked about meadow improvement and alfalfa renovation. He plans to proceed with his alfalfa renovation this year. I also visited several operations to look at their Conservation Reserve land and made recommendations to the landowners and the SCS personnel on seeding practices. The Fish Farming workshop held in North Platte was very informative and some of the information will be very useful in Cherry County. Jim Gosey's presentations went very well. Attendance was low, as most of my coffee shop sessions have been. We had nine in Merriman and four in Valentine. This is more than in the past and the discussion was very good. There were lots of comments on this type of program from the participants. Most of those attending were very pleased with the set up because they can get down to problems or questions they have on their operations and don't feel inhibited about asking a question. The time of year seems to be the biggest problem. Dennis Bauer, Bruce Treffer and I are trying to plan a system to hold a series of meetings this fall and winter. We would line up a week when a specialist would come and work through our area giving meetings of the coffee shop approach.

I have had lots of calls on weeds come into the office this month. Many calls have also been handled dealing with fungal diseases of lawn and flowers.

COMMUNITY RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

I have visited with 10 more businesses about Managing Main Street Business program. They are all positive about what the program has to offer and are interested in participating. The Valentine Economic Development Committee co-sponsored a seminar put on by Citymart to help the community improve itself and try to bring an industry to Cherry County. The seminar was well attended and the information very valuable to Valentine and the County. Action was taken by several committees formed to help clean up Valentine and improve the City.

4-H AND YOUTH

The Shooting Sports 4-H Club in Valentine has begun to meet and go through the Nebraska Game and Parks Hunter Safety Program. They will meet on Monday nights for five weeks to meet the requirements. The Eighth Grade Conservation Day went very well. All the adults in attendance felt the program is something that needs to be continued and possibly expanded to include the town school. The twenty-six youth that attended thought the part on history was boring but they enjoyed the rest. A meeting on the Teen Retreat to finalize plans took place and we have made a decision on topics to be presented. The Annual Camp Planning meeting also was held and Bruce Treffer will be camp director this year. The 4-H Council met and heard committee reports.
"On the Road Again" could have been the theme song for my May schedule. Lincoln could have been my second home, but each of the three trips proved beneficial to programming or backgrounding.

The first trip in May was for "Staff Development". Special sessions were held on water quality and program emphasis for Home Economics subject areas with specialists furnishing extra background. Staff Development week gave agents from across the state the opportunity to meet with the Home Economics professional Section meeting and committee work, a 4-H Section meeting, a NCERA-Legislative Committee meeting. As chairperson for the Home Economics Section, I chaired a Public Policy committee meeting in which Dean Lucas provided some insight for our goal setting.

When you really believe in a cause, you'll do anything to promote the effort. Including the fact of saying "yes" to providing an inservice session on Handicapped and Special Kids in 4-H. That's what we did last fall, but when the moment came closer, the other two volunteer agents and I began to panic. How could we be most effective? How could we convince 4-H volunteers to help include "special" 4-Her's? Would we be able to hold the attention of the (hopefully) twenty people who might attend? Oh wow! Worry!

Our noon luncheon time arrived -- and so did the sixty-eight agents, assistants and specialists that ventured into our presentation! We captured their attention by imposing a handicap of blindness, learning disabilities, hearing or limb restriction with a collection of bandages, crutches, wheelchairs and mittens. The self-serve buffet luncheon became a REAL challenge. The opening of the luncheon began in sign language. Activities and lectures challenged the Extension personnel to use 4-H projects to capture special talents in 4-Her's and allow them to work to their potential. Special tips and guidelines were provided and a table of resources were open for viewing.

At the end of the luncheon, participants shed their handicaps to be more aware of others handicaps and to learn a motto in sign language... "TO MAKE THE BEST BETTER"!

Another quick trip to Lincoln facilitated participation as the only Extension Agent - Home Economics represented on the University - Issues and Concerns - Nominal Group Process. The meeting was a duplicate of the meeting I conducted for the Cherry County input. Interestingly enough, the issues were basically the same except the University faculty and staff interjected more complexity to the same issues identified in Cherry County.

The third trip at the end of May provided Food Preservation Update by the University of Nebraska and Kerr Canning Corporation. The workshop, lecture and hands-on experience emphasized the many changes in time tables and processing. Background reference materials and assistance with prepared news releases will assist agents with calls during the busy canning season.

Office time was dominated with final preparation time for the Annual NCHEC Convention in Valentine. May also brought a huge response to the city-wide cleanup and Revitalization. The Chamber of Commerce meetings I attended were to explain to merchants our convention schedules, details for their sponsorship of a Chuckwagon Breakfast and merchant participation in the Moonlight Madness during the convention. Radio and newsprint coverage helped provide extra housing needs as the registrations continue to add up.
We are presently hoping for 500 convention attendees. We know now we will exceed the 400 goal, but if we hit 600, we will be in genuine PANIC!

Many hours were spent on the phone with convention details and with pencil flying to prepare the Annual Plans of Work. The Cherry County Extension Board met and the Home Extension Council had executive sessions for spring and summer plans. Several longer staff meetings were planned to assist with 4-H activities; fair judges and events such as the Help Day and Home Ec Contest and Clothing Day.

*Agent's Footnote: During a day of annual leave, my ten year old and I toured Morrill Hall Museum. While we were enjoying the mineral and rock displays, I was very surprised to see the Nebraska Water Quality exhibit looked very ancient and dated (1950's?).

Nebraska has better water and concern that that!
AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

The lawn and garden questions have started to come in. It seems everything is about two weeks ahead of where it should be. Most calls are dealing with fungi, as the basic cause.

The meetings in Lincoln went well and some material will fit Cherry County needs. I also attended a meadow management tour held on the South Refuge. The areas we looked at were very interesting and with modifications could be used very efficiently to improve meadows.

Gene Deutscher and Jim Nichols came up and we looked at Dick Ballards pastures and visited about his feelings as a participant in the Integrated Reproductive Management program so far.

I also went to North Platte to their Integrated Pest Management training day on May 28. The talks presented were well worth going to. The most useful were on alfalfa and pasture diseases and insects. I was asked by a lawyer from David Haun's office to help a couple with a cash flow projection to use in their Chapter 12 bankruptcy. The couple was unable to come in when we first scheduled a meeting but will come in next month.

Plans are also set to have three Range Field Days during the next 3 months. By holding one each month, at different locations we should be able to attract all interested parties. Plans are also finalized to have Jon Wilson, the new District Forester, come up for two days next month.

COMMUNITY RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

The Managing Main Street Business Project has had to be postponed till later in the year. Most of the businesses I had talked to that were interested have run into snags with the timing. We are going to try to set up a session to run in October and November this fall.

4-H AND YOUTH

I ran the Tractor Safety Training this month on the 19th and 23rd. There were twelve youth certified. I also helped Craig Anthony teach a Hunter Safety course in Cody as a preliminary step to establish a Shooting Sports Club. The first of the 3 Niobrara Horse Shows was held. It was a good show even though entries were down.
The BIG MONTH finally arrived. The many, many hours of meetings, phone calls, endless detailing and working with some pretty fantastic people culminated in the presentation of the Nebraska Home Extension Clubs, Inc. Annual meeting in Valentine.

The registration fell at 596 participants, only four short of the 600 level we joked about being our "panic level". Not only were about 150 Extension club ladies involved, but so were their families, the neighbors, 4-H'ers, merchants, and even the mortician - he was a learnshop presenter! One regular cattle buyer came to Valentine during the convention and upon entering an evening entertainment spot, remarked "Why! Where did all these women come from?! There must be a hundred of em!" And a good hearted conventioneer yelled back, "Correction sir! There's six-hundred of us!"

Rainshowers dampened the State Board Meeting evening B-B-Q at the agent's home but set temperatures for the week at "perfect". The Armchair Tour by Marianne Beel proved to be a good money maker for the Cherry County Home Extension Council as it was very popular with local residents. The meals were excellently prepared by Church auxillaries and caterers and recipes were sought as a "take home" item.

The Chamber of Commerce provided a chuck wagon style breakfast and stayed open late to accommodate an "exercise" break for convention attendees. The two block Main Street closed down $9000 richer that night!

Tours created memories and discoveries for Mom to bring the entire family back to Cherry County. Many river "tubers" said they couldn't believe they actually floated the river but had such a good time they couldn't wait to bring back their families. The Cowboy and Indian Tour also proved to be six times more popular than planned for -- with 126 people touring the prairie highlights in school buses.

The hours of coordinating learnshops and workshops proved 100% successful. Extension Club members went home wiser and were also inspired by the Dean of the College of Home Economics and a Nebraska Humanities speaker.

When the six hundred participants left for their homes, they took part of "Heart City" with them...hearts on candle holders, badges, suckers, tin punch and wheat weavings. They also carefully packed prickly cactus gardens, barbed wire hearts, branding irons and wheat weaving mailboxes, windmills and and straw dolls and lots of good memories.

And as the host county waved good bye...it was very difficult to remember a county that two years ago had entertained serious thought of cancelling their invitation to host the event! Instead, they filled the hearts of many with genuine Sandhill hospitality and set their goals for "nothing less than the best"...and they achieved it!
The week after convention was a very feeble attempt to take a week's vacation. However, although mostly home based, news releases and radio programs were prepared about the aftermath of the convention. A walking tour of Main Street Valentine by this agent extended personal thank-yous and surveyed the economic impact of the State NCHEC Convention. Nine thousand dollars had been spent by four hundred women in three hours shopping time -- and Main Street Valentine businesses open that evening was only one block long!

Other activities (during vacation - ha!) included one day of rewriting the County Fairbook and another halfday with the 4-H Council summer meeting. Several hours were spent visiting with the new 4-H District supervisor. News releases were written.

Other June activities included a one day trip to 4-H Camp to observe BKR agent, Carol Plates "Bread Making" program. A professional "Goals" inservice training in North Platte was attended to follow up the series by Paul Gessaman, Extension Specialist.

An evening supper meeting with District Staff Sumption and Dearborn and Central Sandhills agent Mick Helberg headed a discussion about the potential of program sharing between Central Sandhills and Cherry County. Ideas were brainstormed and discussed. No conclusions were reached but an effort to establish more communications between offices was a priority.
AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

June was a very full month. The annual meeting of all the Integrated Reproductive Management participants. The meeting was in North Platte and it was nice to hear what other participants were doing. The garden questions now are out numbering the lawn questions coming in. Most of them are still related to the fungal diseases. With the cool wet weather this is expected.

The Range Field Day went very well. We had seven youth and six adults. This first one was held at Rob Ravenscroft's ranch.

I went out with SCS personnel on two days to help evaluate cover crops for the Conservation Reserve Program. Jon Wilson, the District Forester, spent two days in Cherry County and we looked at five sites in Valentine where people were having problems with their trees. We also went out to look at the area on Schlagel Creek where the fire was. The Natural Resources District had made some replants in the area and survival was very poor in the canyons. We also checked the plantings at the Boardman Bridge Wildlife area.

4-H and Youth

Our 4-H Camp at Halsey went well this year. Cherry County had 17 youth at the camp. The two Niobrara Horse Shows in June went very well. The week at Range Camp was very well planned and educational for me and the youth. It was fun as well.

We had a grooming clinic on June 11 and had 40 youth and adults in attendance. The clinic was put on by Keith Dusenberry and Ronna Pinney. Keith put on the grooming portion and Ronna put on the showmanship portion. Comments were very positive on both portions.

Doyle Wolverton was up for a Livestock judging Clinic on June 19. It was held at the sale barn and there were 32 youth and adults in attendance. The clinic was very informational and comments were positive. Several in attendance said they would like to have future clinics of this type.
Firecrackers couldn't have started this month off with a bigger BANG! The fury of the Home Extension Club Convention was over, but definitely not everything pertaining to it! Several meetings helped summarize some finances and tons of thank you notes are to be written. The impact is still reverberating in Cherry County and only great memories remain!

Pat Steffens, District Home Economics Coordinator, visited our office. I will appreciate her new outlook and helpful insight to programming in Cherry County. Associate Director Del Dearborn also visited during the month to assist with office management and budget assistance.

Representatives from the Cherry County Home Extension Council Executive Board met to assist with programming of lessons for club work. The Home Extension Club survey and the "Nominal Group" priorities were used to help structure needed programs.

The Extension Board overcame schedule conflicts and had a suburban load of members and spouses attend the join meeting of Central Sandhills and Cherry County Boards. The meeting at Gudmundsen Ranch proved to be a very educational as to the programs and research being conducted within the Sandhills.

4-H and Youth

4-H activities gained momentum during July. Some of the activities I participated in or coordinated are listed.

4-H Presentations participation was low again this year. More efforts need to be made to promote first year participation. Guidelines for several trophy/awards need criteria for team situations and special promotion areas. Volunteer coordinators Pam and Doug Fusselman audio taped the presentations for radio and personal improvement uses. Next year we will try to video the presentations by using the County Superintendent's camcorder. I handled the photos for newspaper coverage.

A lengthy staff meeting helped define activities and events during the fair for the new 4-H Assistant. Each specific activity was outlined and a staff person put in charge to balance the workload. Several meetings were held with staff walking through the new "Interview Judging" process for all fair entries. Last minute judges adjustments and schedule announcements were made after the Cherry County Agriculture Society decided to change rodeo/activity dates of the fair. Fairbook changes were made at a late date also.

The 4-H Home Economics Contest was run during the Clothing and Styling Day had its biggest attendance yet! Forty-eight contestants judged and the majority gave reasons. There weren't any team presentations to the reasons judge, but high point qualifiers will be eligible to form the Home Economics team for Cherry County for the State Fair.

Styling and Clothing Construction ran very smoothly. Improvements for next year will include a slight tightening of the modeling schedule and practice modeling before the time in front of the judge. This year narrations were read for the stylist when she modeled before the styling judge and things went very smoothly. Construction judging and interviews went smoothly with projects primarily in the beginning and middle units. Advanced seamstresses seemed to have run out of time to complete their garments.
The **Talent and Music Contest** had twice as many participants as last year. Including talent and individual competition seems to be a positive move and provides a nice interlude to the hectic modeling schedule.

The **4-H Help Day** had popular Home Economic sessions. While judging and mock-showmanship sessions progressed, fifteen girls learned to weave Friendship bracelets with embroidery floss. A volunteer 4-H member taught the session. Mothers, daughters, and 4-H friends flocked to the Strip Quilting session done by volunteer Deb Pitkin. Deb demonstrated strip quilting in garments and home furnishings as well as rag-coil basketry and got everyone's creative juices going!

The "Back-Snacking" session done by this agent proved popular also because of the tasting and sampling. Ten boys and girls sampled treats from the Outdoor Cooking manual and other collected recipes.

Painting ceramic miniatures closed the day's activities. Attendance was better than last years; however, more "helping" activities for projects could be included next year, such as modeling practice, etc.

The Hyannis Dog Show was observed by this agent (and mother). This Dog Show provided many fun events and great competition from the Panhandle. The main observation was the number of adult participants and the more advanced degrees of working dogs. It is hoped we will be able to encourage more second and third year participation in the Cherry County Dog Show. (This family sure learned a lot!)
The hectic race continues into July. Garden and tree calls made up the majority of questions this month. Del Dearborn, Associate Director of WCREC, was up for a tour of the demonstration plots I have been working on with Denny Bauer. We also visited Dick Ballard's ranch so Del could see what we are doing in the IRM program here in Cherry County.

Jan Joseph, SCS District Conservationist, and I harvested hay from the Garrison Creeping Foxtail demonstration plots on ABC Ranch and Tom Hoffman's ranch. The data collected will be presented at the Annual Society for Range Management meetings in Kearney on October 15 and 16.

The Range Field Day for July was at John Eatinger's ranch and went very well. There were only seven youth and two adults that attended. We went over the logistics of an actual Range Judging Contest and had a very short walkthrough on a contest. This was to prepare people for the county contest and encourage enrollment for the regional contest.

The local committee for the 5 state Regional Range Judging Contest met. The members other than myself are Jan Joseph, SCS; Bob Hilske, NRD; Greg Nollette, Vo-Ag; and Bob Ellis, Fort Niobrara Refuge. Plans are going very well for the contest to be held on October 3.

Jim Bushnell, from the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources, was also up to tour the demonstration plots. He had worked with some of the same techniques in Utah and in visiting with him I gained some knowledge and experience through his trials and errors.

The R.J. Lovejoy show was one of the largest they have had. There were 102 head of cattle shown.

I attended and helped with a tour for the Nebraska Holistic Resource Management group on the 31 and 1. There were 60 in attendance and we toured areas of non-use, 3 pasture rotation, season-long use and an HRM cell. It was interesting and some very thought provoking questions were asked.

4-H AND YOUTH

I drove 168 miles to tag 19 stocker feeder calves for 4-H'ers one day. I enjoyed visiting with the 4-H'ers and seeing their calves.

I also attended two days of the State Horse Show in Grand Island. As superintendent of Reining, I saw all of the reiners and Brad Higgins was just out of winning the Reserve Champion Junior Reining. Cherry County 4-H'ers presented themselves very well in the competition and away from the arena. We all need to be very proud of our youth when they represent Cherry County as well as they do.

Help Day for the 4-H'ers was held on the 30th. Attendance for the Ag portions was not very high, but, it allowed more individual work with those in attendance. The Beef Showmanship session had seven youth that participated. They were allowed to work with calves while Chris and Jody Lovejoy gave them pointers. The Oral Reasons portion, given by Greg Nollette, was also attended by seven youth and one adult. The session was very informative and helpful for those attending.
Cherry County
Lynda Radant
Extension Agent - Chair - Home Economics
August 1987

Home Economics

Coping with Today's Fabrics was the Home Extension Club Leader Training lesson given in August. The participants rated the lesson as extremely interesting, great topic, very informative and glad to be made aware of the manufacturers number within the garments. One lesson leader was very disappointed more information was not received on new fabrics.

The evaluation form was primarily handed out after the club training rather than waiting for a month to pass-by. But the information returned can tell about Cherry County consumers in Extension clubs:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Behavior</th>
<th>Always</th>
<th>Usually</th>
<th>Sometimes</th>
<th>Never</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I make it a habit to read the fiber content labels to know what I am buying before I purchase a garment or fabric</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I make it a habit to read care labels so I know how to care for a garment or fabric before I buy</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I follow care label instructions as given on garments and fabric</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I am able to make a legitimate complaint for poor garment/fabric performance after proper care</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The lesson was very well received and leaders especially appreciate the visuals flip chart booklet. Several comments were pertaining to the fact that while most of the information was written - the poor layout of the Leader's Guide - Coping With Today's Fabrics made it very difficult to find. Subdivisions and subheadings with more spatial visual relief would aid the older (85%) of the club members in using the booklet again.

Home Extension Club Status

Preparations for August-September club meetings found us short one club in Cherry County. The membership of that "west end of Cherry" club has decided many of their members needs could be met via mailbox participation or by joining in with "the town club". We won't be loosing our 'Pine Creek' gals but hope to continue to stay in contact with them throughout their lifestyle changes and travels!

The Nebraska Council of Home Extension Club's convention in Valentine created enough interest that about seven new Mailbox Members proved the mailing list and activities. Some of our Mailbox Members proved to be that extra helping hand needed at convention!
4-H and Youth Activities

The Cherry County Agricultural Society presented the Extension Office with some interesting challenges this year by changing the schedule of the events six weeks before fair. This posed some schedule changes to meet the "distant families" economized travel schedules.

One day was spent preparing the exhibit hall for the new approach of interview judging all exhibits. Next year we should have some volunteers to help clean, set up and organize. The interviews and schedule went extremely smooth and even the adult skeptics were pleased with the results. Entries were immediately displayed and everything looked super when the fair opened.

The 4-H Futurity in Lexington was attended by a volunteered MOM and the reports back from the six girls was very positive. They were especially excited about KVRN, antiques and accessories for clothing that they could make. The girls did miss out on interview judging but their exhibits were judged and displayed.

Only one contestant participated in the 4-H Barbecue Contest this year as the fair schedule change caused another contestant to drop out. The change also produced a problem with the judge but a substitute was quickly found. The contest was held in a small roped off area next to the exhibit hall doors. It was an excellent location for exposure and mouth watering advertisement of the contest.

This agent also assisted Shooting Sports leaders with the County Shoot Off. Since the group was short of funds, "Moms" were strongly encouraged to pay $1 for a six B-B shoot off! The contest was in its first year and all had a great deal of fun at it.

State Fair invitation letters and instructions were placed on the exhibits before leaving County Fair this year. This helped elevate questions and mailing problems.

Major suggestions for next year's fair include adherance to County Fair schedules, obtaining several new display cases (especially for more fragile and valuable collections), utilizing a suggestion box as suggested by the 4-H Council and more complete news coverage. Although the staff had specific responsibilities for each event, not all media coverage was carried out and some hard feelings resulted!

The 4-H Home Economics Team for State Fair trained under this agent's supervision. Three meetings were established with three veteran members and three new members. General project information, team responsibilities and actual team situations practices helped the team present a "practiced" approach to the state contest. We hope they do well!

Miscellaneous

One full week of vacation was finally achieved the week after County Fair. It was extremely rewarding after a super busy summer to have some family time before the hectic school schedules begin!
4-H and Youth Activities

A super packed month of Home Extension Club activities. State Fair and 4-H activities dominated the month of September, not leaving much time to breath or organize for anything. Priorities were dictated by "what's happening now" instead of the "what's next approach.

4-H Activities were culminated with 34 entries being delivered to the Nebraska State Fair for Cherry County participants. Although it seemed blue and purple ribbons were hard to come by this year, Cherry County edged slightly more blues and purples than red and whites.

Cherry County proudly claims four other 4-Her's from Cherry County as Gwyn Vaughn won first place in the Home Economics contest; Jeff Chenoweth won ninth place in livestock judging; Jess Ravenscroft had the top Range Management collection and Doug Schneider was invited to participate in the Mechanized Agriculture Contest of the Western States at Ak-Sar-Ben.

The State Fair entries were made on Tuesday by this agent. I also helped in the Human Development area with toy display. A State 4-H Section meeting of which I serve as Secretary provided more information on changes in Judging contests, policy setting and National meetings. A meeting with State 4-H Staff for preparation for National 4-H Congress in Chicago helped revitalize this agent before heading back to Valentine after a raft of errands.

Plans to revitalize Cherry County's 4-H School Enrichment program were made with the new 4-H Wheat Science project. The program integrates areas of social studies, math, composition, science and economics and culminates with bread baking. Plans fell through though with 4-H Assistant, Cindy Perrett submitting her resignation after her vacation. Plans may be postponed or rescheduled for next spring. County Superintendent Barb Reed will assist to help get the information to the rural teachers if we can obtain the need materials and kit information.

Other September 4-H Activities included helping coordinate 4-H Achievement Night plans and participating in a marathon 4-H Council meeting that lasted seven and one-half hours.

Home Economics Programming

The Cherry County Home Extension Councils Achievement Night proved to be a celebration of families, past officers, and council achievements. Membership awards and county fair exhibits and volunteer hours were recognized with certificates. An installation ceremony of the new and retiring officers followed the "many hats of Extension Club leaders" theme.

Pat Steffens, District Home Economics Coordinator, presented a delightfully inspiring presentation on Families in the Nineties. Election of a new Council Chairperson and Council Secretary was achieved after much arm twisting and salesmanship. It became more apparent that the nominating committee should present specific office responsibility job descriptions and improve their sales pitch for opportunities through Home Extension Club work.
In addition to other home economics programming, weekly news columns, radio reports, and publicity for leader training lessons for "New Waves in Cooking" was prepared. Three meetings for the Citizens Education Council for Abused and Neglected Children - Literary selection committee were attended and a Sandhills Home Economists meeting. Preparation for leader training lessons and Eating Today for a Healthier Tomorrow series were made.

Coping with Today's Fabrics was presented at the Valentine Garden Club with fifteen members present. The club expressed an interest in the possibility of becoming an "associate club".

The Happy Homemakers Extension Club invited me to participate in the planning and exchange supper with a sister club from Brown County. The theme of "Edible Flowers" from a lesson I had developed gave the hosting club their menu of Gladiola Salad, with Poppy Seed dressing, Chicken Casserole, Carnation Muffins, Herbal Tea, and Marigold Cake. The table appointments, decorations, and evening activities were all based on different types of flowers.

Administrative Functions

In addition to Annual Report preparation, some file reorganization and preparations for the autumn Extension Board meeting, I had the opportunity to participate in a course within the Executive Development Series from the University of Nebraska. The course emphasized managerial leadership and motivation, leadership styles and behavior modification to improve internal and external communications within offices. The two hundred dollar tuition fee for the course was paid for by the District Director and other conference fees were incidental to the return trip from the Nebraska State Fair.