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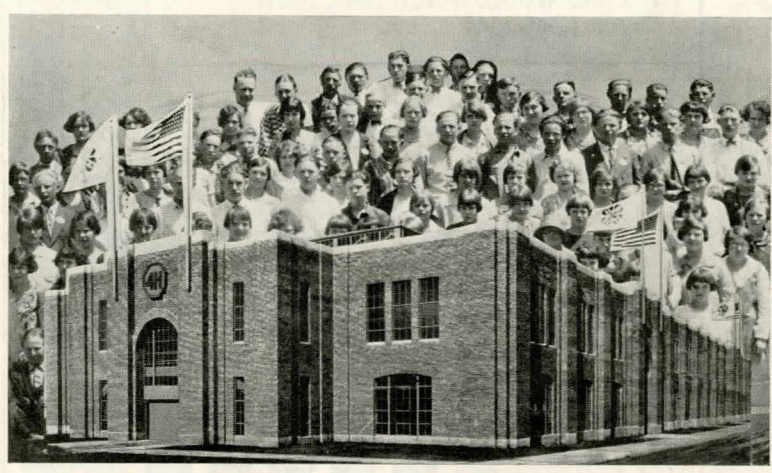


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The Progress of Boys and Girls 4-H Club Work



The new 4-H club building at the state fair grounds is only a show window of Nebraska boys and girls club work. It typifies the progress made in all phases of the educational program connected with 4-H clubs

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The University of Nebraska Agricultural College
Extension Service and the United States De-
partment of Agriculture Cooperating
W. H. Brokaw, Director, Lincoln

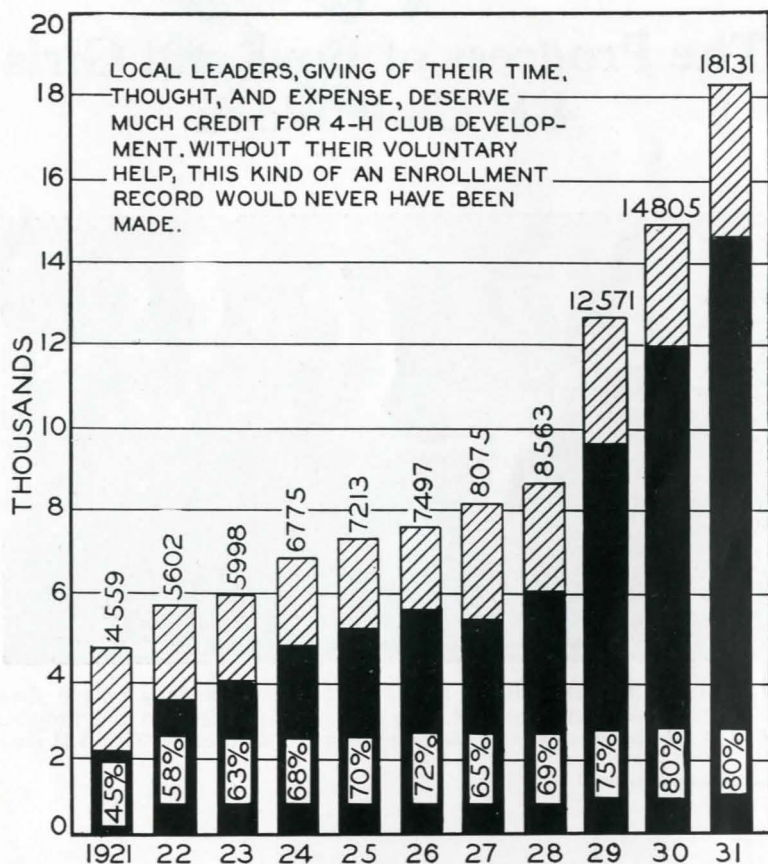


UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA-LINCOLN



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Local Leaders Help Make Club Work Grow



Nebraska's 4-H club enrollment has increased 400 per cent in the eleven years. The figure at the top of each column is the enrollment for the year. The black part of each column represents the number of boys and girls who completed their projects and records. Percentage of completions has increased right along with the increase in enrollment.

The Progress of Boys and Girls

4-H Club Work

The general public has endorsed 4-H club work as "a good thing for the boys and girls." Club work has been called the greatest educational movement for rural boys and girls in history. No better summary could be written of the progress made by 4-H club work in the last few years.

From a small beginning when a boy grew a tenth of an acre of corn and a girl embroidered a sofa pillow, 4-H club work has developed until it now includes the production of a worthwhile project, and the development of the boys and girls as judges, public speakers, experienced exhibitors, and healthy individuals.

Back in 1902, W. H. Brokaw, who was then farming in Seward county, went to a meeting at York called by E. C. Bishop, then county superintendent of York county schools. Bishop had heard of boys corn growing projects in the southern states. He wanted to start something of the kind in Nebraska.

Bishop collected ears of seed corn from good farmers all over central Nebraska and in the fall of 1903 called in boys from York, Fillmore, and Seward counties. They came to get a free ear of seed corn apiece and hear a lecture on how to grow corn. Bishop asked them to plant the seed corn on a tenth of an acre of land and to bring back ten ears of their 1904 crop to a state corn show.

Boys and Girls Association

The first meeting of the "Boys and Girls Association" and a corn show were held in Lincoln in December, 1905. By 1910, the Association was holding a corn show, apron show, sofa pillow show, an essay contest, and a short course at the agricultural college. The annual meeting in January, 1910, was supported by the department of farmers institutes at the agricultural college as well

The Agricultural College Extension Service thru its County Extension Agents has charge of 4-H club work in Nebraska.

as the state department of public instruction.

In 1914, the passage of the Smith-Lever Act by Congress created the agricultural extension service and

gave the boys and girls association a new parent. When the World War made it necessary to conserve foods, garden clubs and canning clubs sprang up like mushrooms. Men and women in charge of organization of club work met the boys and girls in the school room, appealed to their patriotism, and had them sign a membership card if they were interested. They enrolled members by the thousands, and only one out of ten finished up their work or their records.

Foundation for Standard Clubs

New standards and goals came into the picture after the war was over and the readjustment began. Boys and girls and leaders seemed anxious to get the greatest benefits they possibly could both educationally and financially out of their club projects. They often took the lead in working out new ways of organizing clubs, giving demonstrations, judging products, making exhibits, and holding achievement day programs. 4-H club work has grown in size and

in favor because of the interest they took in it, and because of the fundamental principles set up during those years of readjustment.

Leaders began to emphasize the importance of completing 4-H club projects. They believed boys and girls should not form the habit of entering into things with a lot of enthusiasm only to drop them unfinished within a few weeks. As a result, three out of four who start now finish their projects, compared with one out of ten in the war time clubs.

Leaders recognized that the primary purpose of 4-H club work is to develop practical skills, common sense, an appreciation of health, a wholesome respect for farm life, and a desire to amount to something. They put the production of a prize product secondary to this principle.

Educational Program Has Improved

Back in 1903, the boys listened in mid winter to one oral lecture on how to grow corn the next summer. The Nebraska club member today gets five or more written lessons, each dealing with timely problems of his project. In addition, he can get personal help from his club leader, the county agent, and the state specialist at club meetings, tours, camps, conferences, and fairs. Leaders have had special training meetings and help from state specialists of the agricultural extension service. In short, the boys and girls now have available, without direct cost to them, the practical results collected from experiment station tests and from experience of farmers and homemakers of the entire country. The local, state, and national exhibit is only the show window of the great educational program being carried on in the 4-H clubs quietly from day to day and week

to week by the boys and girls, their leaders and extension agents.

Demonstrations of Speed

Demonstrations began in Nebraska club work in 1916, and were contests of speed and skill. Four to seven boys and girls canned food as fast as they could while an adult leader stood at the end of the work table to give the "spiel" about the demonstration. Modern demonstrations usually include but two club members who take turns talking and

working on a definite phase of their own club work. Thousands of boys and girls have gotten over their stage fright and become better public speakers thru 4-H demonstration experience.

Nebraska demonstration teams have won two national championships and also won regional honors a number of times at the Interstate Fair contests at Sioux City.

Interest Keen in Judging

Five pig clubs sent their best judges into a pig judging contest at the state fair in 1919. The next year the pig club boys took on the calf club boys in a livestock judging contest and the calf club boys won. Since that time judging contests in dairy, crops, poultry, clothing, canning, cooking, and girls room projects have been added to the state fair program. Nebraska has sent 49 teams into national judging contests, to win seven national championships, eight seconds, seven thirds, and a number of other awards.

Interest in judging products of 4-H club work has increased greatly in the last three years. 9303 members and leaders have come to 45 district judging days for special training, and the judging contests are among the most popular features of the state fair program. Boys and girls have learned values and been able to

About half the counties of Nebraska have county agents. Ninety-one per cent of the 4-H club enrollment in the last three years has been in these counties.

The Best of 10,000 Girls



Neva Peterson of Webster county is the outstanding girl among 10,000 members of Nebraska home economics clubs in 1932. She won the honor because of her leadership among the girls of her county, and because of her consistent club activities over the past nine years. In that time she has taken one or two projects a year and has done well in each of them. She is still making use of the training she received in eleven cooking, canning, clothing, and girls room projects.

Neva has been secretary and vice-president of the 4-H fair in her county since 1929. Practically every girl member of the county knows her as a dependable leader.

choose, buy, and sell more wisely due to their judging experiences.

State Fair Exhibits Have Grown

In 1919, the state fair board allowed those in charge of 4-H club work to put up an exhibit in a ten foot booth in the corner of the balcony of agricultural hall. By 1922, club exhibits had grown until the state fair managers set aside the old automobile building for extension service exhibits. In 1931, the boys and girls helped the state fair board dedicate the finest 4-H exhibit building in the world. In 1932, 4-H club exhibits were the bright spot of a depression-struck state fair. Nebraska's 4-H entries in national competition have won more than their share of awards. For two years straight, Nebraska dairy calves won more awards than calves from any other state. At the 1931 Club Congress, Nebraska boys and girls shared high honors for major awards with members from Indiana.

Camps Offered Recreation

Nebraska boys and girls have enjoyed three-day summer camps at very little expense. The programs have included recreation and work intended to develop

citizenship. An easterner told Nebraska leaders they were giving the Nebraska boys and girls more for two or three dollars than eastern boys and girls could get in professional camps for ten times that cost.

A camp in Washington, D. C. each of the last six summers has been the climax of all activities of this kind. Two boys and two girls have represented Nebraska at each camp. Nebraska delegates won the honor on their club records and on their record for leadership of other clubs.

Prize Trips Appreciated

Prize trips given by business organizations and individuals have made it possible for outstanding boys and girls to attend an annual Clu Week at the Agricultural College each June of the past 17 years, and the Club Congress in Chicago each December for the past ten years. The trip to Club Week has given many boys and girls a desire to continue their club training in a University course of study. Practically all the Nebraska delegates to the Club Congress have come home with a greater appreciation of farm life in preference to the bright lights of the big city.



The Health "H" Emphasized

Gertrude Heikes of Dakota county drew every Nebraskan's attention to the Health H of 4-H club work when she won the national health contest at the 1931 Club Congress. She scored 99.9, the highest score ever made by a boy or girl in such a contest.

In order to win, Gertrude followed the 4-H Health suggestions for four years and competed in three state contests before she won first and the right to represent Nebraska in the national contest.

Gertrude, like many other Nebraska champions, credits her good health to the guidance of wise parents, and to the fact that she has lived the life of a normal farm girl with wholesome food, long hours of sleep, and plenty of fresh air and Nebraska sunshine.

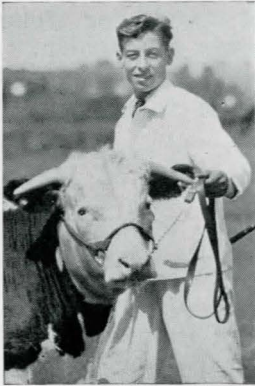
Nebraska doctors and dentists have helped the Extension Service conduct a health contest at each state fair since 1924. For almost as many years, the doctors and dentists have offered 4-H club members county health examinations.

Each year since 1924 also, the Extension Service has sent out a special health problem to all club members. These problems called attention to such things as posture, teeth, feet, and safety first.

Club Program Has Changed With Conditions

Leaders of Nebraska 4-H club work have tried to keep the club program in step with changing conditions. Club problems have been revised several times in the last ten years. A committee meets each year to study and bring up to date the rules governing exhibits. Now that people are trying to get along with what they have for another season, the club leaders are organizing a "Fix It" project including suggestions for fixing up rural recreation as well as material things.

Three Livestock Winners From Same Clubs



Mervin Aegerter



Harold Eberspacher



Walter Hentzen

These young men are the three outstanding livestock club members of Nebraska in 1932. They belong to the same clubs in Seward county.

Walter Hentzen won a special award as the best 4-H club member in all meat animal projects. On his home farm, Walter replaced the old herd of hogs with a new one of his own breeding. He had two litters of pigs in 1927 and in 1928, six litters in 1929, ten in 1930 and 1931, and nine in 1932. He fed three baby beeves in 1931 and seven in 1932, and also raised ten acres of corn in corn club work in 1932. His gross returns from the sale of stock and corn total \$4,503.25.

Harold Eberspacher is the 1932 swine club champion of Nebraska. He summarized his 1932 year as follows: "I will never forget the 4-H motto, 'Make the Best Better.' I fed my pigs a balanced ration so they could make the very best growth possible. Finally it was state fair time again. My litter of Poland Chinas was there and the time had come to show. They were the fourth generation of my own breeding. I groomed the pigs the best I knew how and drove them in the show ring. The ring was full of Poland Chinas and room to show a pig was scarce, there being 25 boars, 55 gilts, and 25 litters to compete with. After the showing was over, I had the blue ribbons for the boar, gilt, litter and barrow, then later received the grand champion ribbon on the fat barrow over all breeds."

Mervin Aegerter has felt the thrill of being first in Nebraska on five different occasions. He is the champion baby beef club member of 1932. He has fed a grand champion baby beef, been the high ranking judge in the livestock judging contest, showed a grand champion fat lamb, and won a baby beef showing contest.

Mervin writes about his first year: "I could write a book on what I learned that year. Pansy stood eleventh at the state fair, and although she was not a show calf, she taught me the value of proper feeding and care and inspired me on to higher ideals. I realized that the 4-H was not just a symbol but that it really constituted something from which a great deal could be obtained."

What Does This 4-H Mean?

The question is often asked. One H stands for Head, one for Hands, one for Heart, and the other for Health.

The PLEDGE tells what the 4-H means to every club member.—

I pledge—

*my HEAD to clever thinking
my HEART to greater loyalty
my HANDS to larger service, and
my HEALTH to better living,*

for my club, my community, and my country.

The MOTTO has inspired thousands of boys and girls to
MAKE THE BEST BETTER

The Ten Standards of Club Work

People familiar with 4-H club work speak of “standard” clubs and “the ten standards of 4-H club work.” These standards are:

1. Five or more members 10 to 20 years of age in one club project.
2. A local leader in charge who is general adviser.
3. A club organization with its own officers having charge of business meetings.
4. A program of work for the year.
5. At least six meetings during the year. These are to include organization, and goals 6, 7, 8, and 9.
6. A judging contest during the year.
7. A demonstration team giving at least one public demonstration locally.
8. An exhibit of club work.
9. An Achievement Day.
10. At least 60 per cent of the members filing final reports.

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