In My Opinion; Extension Circular 0-18-2

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In My Opinion

THE REAL PURPOSE OF 4-H DEMONSTRATIONS
IS TO HELP BOYS AND GIRLS LEARN TO
THINK CLEARLY
WORK SKILLFULLY AND
TALK CONVINCINGLY

WHILE ON THEIR FEET BEFORE AN AUDIENCE
The most important 4-H demonstrations are those given at local club meetings by boys and girls who have never tried to do it before. Some of these demonstrations may be only 30 seconds long, but if they get the 4-H member on his feet to tell how he did something, that experience is vitally important to that club member.

Let me urge local leaders to plan with the members for short individual demonstrations at club meetings, and insist that they be given one or two at each meeting. Topics can be the common things being done at that season of the year in the club program.

If a little girl can choose a good needle and thread it with the right kind of thread, and think of the right words to say while she is doing it, she has given a demonstration. If a boy can show what he looks for when he is buying his feeder calf and tell why, he has given a demonstration.

It really makes no great difference whether or not the other members and parents learn anything new from these club meeting demonstrations, the important thing is to give the member the experience of talking and acting before an audience.

Some folks have the "gift of gab" and all the nerve and poise it takes to give a demonstration. More should be expected of those boys and girls. They can take it, if the other members want to kid and criticism them.

When the shy, "picked on", awkward member's turn comes, the leader may help him live through it by rehearsing it ahead of time and arranging everything so there will be no embarrassing moments. Have him stand where he is, and also plan what he can do as soon as he finishes. Coach him just a little if he forgets, and don't be impatient with him if he does poorly. Ask the others not to whisper or giggle or squirm around. Be ready with the praise as soon as he has completed all he can do and say.
Most good demonstrations are from 10 to 20 minutes long. Long ones often cover too many subjects or too much detail of one subject. Practice will show where cuts can be made or what parts might be partially prepared ahead of time.

ADULT OR TEEN AGE

Most demonstrations are outlined and written by someone. If the leader does it, the words may be those of an adult. If the members try to do it, generally it does not get done. A combination is ideal. The good leader will help the members, but let them express themselves in words of their own age.

EXPERIENCE OR

The best demonstrations talk about what they have in their club work, even though it may be out of place. If a new idea is discussed, the members clearly that this is a new idea, tried and proven. Never adopt practice at home.

IN MY OPINION

There is an advantage to a team demonstration. Several expressions team demonstration contest phrases are about worn out, all day long will welcome. Start the demonstration friendly introduction is the topic without defining our demonstration is ---.

In recent years, someone will say, "My teammate will now give the opening." He just begins to talk. Likewise, they have now conclude our demonstration. When questions are asked, they will say, "The question and then try to repeat the answer so everyone can hear it. Large groups, when the turnover gets monotonous, however the judges solve the problem and then try to repeat the word the answer so everyone can hear it."

OLD STUFF OF

MEMORIZE OR OFF THE CUFF

Too many demonstrations have been heard by leaders and agents and memorized by members, making them sound like a couple of parrots. If both leader and plan the members write the demonstrator give a little variation and the action, then the demonstrator give a little variation and the members from an outline with a little variation and the judge will like it better.
OR BOOK THEORY

OPINION

DIFERENCE

NEW VERSIONS

MANY OR FEW CHANGES

"How to" or illustrated lecture

Some people contend that all 4-H demonstrators should make something in the demonstration. If the members only show how it ought to be done, they have given an illustrated lecture. If the primary purpose of demonstrations is to develop the boys and girls so they can pass on their actual experience, why fuss.

The judge or in the clouds

Expert demonstrators look right at the audience, not off up in the clouds or down at the floor. If they are scared, they do their best not to show it. Practice is the best cure for shaky knees. Shortening the introduction may be helpful. Generally the sooner a boy or girl starts doing something, the less scared he is.

Oratorical or conversational

Very few winning 4-H demonstrations have been dramatic oratory. Most people take that kind of stuff with a grain of salt. They like to hear boys and girls be natural and act their age. Neither does the carnival "spieler" type of delivery seem to belong to 4-H demonstrations.

Many or few changes

One member of a team should introduce the members and the topic. The second member may assist with demonstration material. There should be about an equal amount of demonstrating done by each member with changes made at logical stopping points. The demonstration assists are arranged so the person not talking person has nothing constructive to do, he should stand quietly. They should start and close with a clean, orderly table or area. The product of the demonstration may be left on display for a few minutes while questions are answered.

OR BOOK THEORY

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Opinion

Difference

New versions

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