

THE NORTHWEST MONTHLY

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CROOKSTON, MINN., FEBRUARY, 1917

No. 3

The University of Minnesota Northwest School and Station

Crookston, Minnesota

The Northwest School and Station as an Organization Centre.

FARM CROPS AND LIVE STOCK MEETINGS. This is the Northwest School's Farmers' Week. The Red River Valley Development Association conducts annually an exhibit of grains, corn, potatoes and live stock. This is a week of greatest importance to Northwestern Minnesota. Live Stock Judging, Corn and Potato Judging, Farmers' Club Stock Judging, Rural School Spelling Contest, and High School Declamatory Contests participated in by high school and rural school students from ten counties are promoted by this organization which began in 1910 at the Northwest School. 2200 were in attendance in 1916. Addresses and practical demonstrations covering all farm and home topics are the strongest feature and have been productive of much progress.

R. R. V. DAIRYMEN'S ASSOCIATION. Thirteen years old. Organized by the Northwest Station. It has four hundred members. Assistance from the school with the Superintendent serving his fourth term as president.

R. R. V. LIVE STOCK BREEDERS' ASSOCIATION. Organized in 1915 with ninety-two members.

NORTHERN POULTRY ASSOCIATION. Station poultryman is president and adviser in development of this business.

PURE SEED ASSOCIATION. An association of pure seed growers with station agronomist as secretary.

R. R. V. HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY. The station horticulturist is secretary. It promotes windbreak and ornamental planting, and fruit production.

BOYS' AND GIRLS' CLUB WORK. This form of agricultural and home instruction carried on in the different counties is encouraged and assisted in every way possible.

NORTHWEST SCHOOL AND STATION WORKERS have an interest in

- (1) Northwestern Minnesota Educational Association.
- (2) County Live Stock Breeders' Associations. Four are organized and breeders in the other counties are considering the plan.
- (3) Eighty-five farmers' clubs in Northwestern Minnesota. Extension services frequently called for by these clubs.
- (4) Work of sixteen high school agricultural departments to the extent of co-operating with them in their work. Annual conferences are held, and plans are made providing for this co-operation.
- (5) Alfalfa growing, introducing 40,000 pounds of alfalfa seed in 1914, also distributing seed corn and pure seed. Farmer co-operators in every county.
- (6) Community purchases of breeding stock. Several carloads selected. Quarterly "stock for sale" and "stock wanted" lists are distributed.
- (7) Problems of hundreds of farms through correspondence and visitation. This is one of the most important phases the Northwest Station's work.
- (8) Extension work in Northwestern Minnesota. This is outlined briefly under the heading of extension.
- (9) Rural plays before farmers' clubs and meetings. School debates before clubs.
- (10) Important meetings held at Northwest School. Usually two or three are arranged each year. Summer visiting day to inspect Station work.
- (11) Concerted attack on valley problems initiated and carried on by the School and Station in co-operation with all town and country agencies.
- (12) The work of 205 graduates and 450 former students as well as over 4000 short course students through whom contact is established for improving farming and living.

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OPENING OF THE WINTER TERM.

Large Enrollment.

The new school year began with a rush. The enrollment has exceeded all expectations, equalling the high record for the school established last year. The three dormitories are taxed to the limit with three students in some of the corner rooms.

On January 20th it was necessary to use rooms in the Farm House for students on account of overcrowded dormitories.

The students are showing a great enthusiasm and capacity for work. In addition to a full program during the five regular days, many are registering for shop work, blacksmithing, carpentry, and engineering on Monday, which is the regular "day off."

Leighton Joiner, a graduate of the engineering course of North Dakota Agricultural College, who has had several years of experience as an instructor in engineering, has been added to the faculty in the Farm Mechanics Department, and devotes his entire time to assisting Mr. T. R. Sewall in Gas Engine and Farm Tractor instruction. This has made it possible to divide the engineering laboratory class into six divisions, permitting each student the chance to secure the individual instruction desired.

Many are Taking Music.

One of the busiest departments in meeting the requirements of the large enrollment this semester is the music department. Besides the various classes of the regular course, many are taking private lessons in piano, voice and violin. At present fifteen are enrolled for piano, twenty for voice, and several for violin.

Miss Kohler, of Crookston, has been added to the staff of instructors in music, taking a number of the students in piano.

The coming musical event of the school is the Cantata to be given during the Farm Crops Show. "A Nautical Knot," by Maude Elizabeth Inch and Rhys Herbert, has been selected for presentation, and the students are hard at work preparing for their various parts.

More Girls Than Ever Before.

The new courses arranged for girls are proving popular, and more girls are enrolled than ever before.

BASKET BALL.

The "Aggie" basket ball team has a full schedule for the season, games being scheduled with the fastest teams in the northwestern part of the state. The team is getting into good form under the coaching of Mr. M. Stenseth and promise to give good account of themselves before the end of the season.

A great deal of rivalry has been aroused over the class basket ball games. The first game of the class series will be between the Seniors and Juniors.

It has been rumored, quite authentically, that the girls' gymnasium class has two basket ball teams.

THE Northwest Monthly

Issued Monthly by
THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
NORTHWEST SCHOOL OF
AGRICULTURE

C. G. SELVIG, Superintendent

OFFICE

Northwest Experiment Station,
Crookston, Minnesota

A monthly publication in the interest of agricultural education and home training for Northwestern Minnesota.

This issue of the NORTHWEST MONTHLY is devoted, mainly, to setting forth the plan of organization and scope of work at the University of Minnesota, Northwest School of Agriculture and Experiment Station, at Crookston.

Beginning on the first page the statement outlines the activities of agricultural organizations with which the members of the Northwest School's staff are intimately associated. This is followed by an account of the different departments of the school which is now in its eleventh year. The work of the Northwest Experiment Station is given, followed by the extension activities. To many who are not familiar with these divisions of work, it is hoped this article may be of some service.

The supplement gives a summary of the experiment station projects for 1917. Most of these projects were started in 1911 with additions and extensions each year as conditions and funds permitted. The report of the Northwest Experiment Station for 1910-1916 is on the press. Taken in connection with this report the summary shows the rapid development of experimental work.

Other phases of agricultural work will be fully outlined in later articles. At the present time data from more than four hundred farmers giving their experiences with alfalfa is being summarized. A survey of farm marketing conditions in Northwestern Minnesota is being made.

PROGRAM

FARM CROPS MEETINGS.

New Armory, Crookston.

SPEAKERS.

MONDAY, Feb. 5. HIGH SCHOOL DECLAMATORY CONTEST in evening. Stock, Corn and Potato Judging Contests during the day.

TUESDAY, Feb. 6. Prof. Andrew Boss; C. E. Brown, of Elk River, on "Potato Growing and Marketing"; O. I. Bergh; J. G. Haney; C. B. Waldron and others. Dr. Wetmore will speak on Home Health subjects at the Women's Meetings. SPELLING CONTESTS and CANTATA in evening.

WEDNESDAY, Feb. 7. Prof. H. H. Kildee, W. A. McKerrow, N. E. Chapman, and others. In evening N. E. Chapman and R. E. Denfeld, of Duluth. Dr. Wetmore and Miss Goldstein at Women's Meetings.

THURSDAY, Feb. 8. Prof. C. W. Gay, H. R. Smith, L. E. Potter, D. A. Wallace, and others. MISS JOSEPHINE T. BERRY and an illustrated lecture, "Birds", in evening. Miss Berry and Miss Goldstein during the afternoon.

FRIDAY, Feb. 9. President E. F. Ladd, North Dakota Agricultural College; Prof. E. Dana Durand; G. E. Wallace, Bismarck, N. D.; and others. DEAN A. F. WOODS and PRESIDENT G. E. VINCENT in evening.

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- (13) Constant calls to render service to this section of Minnesota in these ways.
- (14) The distance of the Red River Valley section of the state from the State University and College of Agriculture makes it imperative that a strong School and Station be maintained within this area.
- (15) The problems of Northwestern Minnesota are not the problems of other portions of the state. They must be studied and met by workers on the ground.
- (16) Hundreds have been attracted to attend the Northwest School who would not have gone 300 miles to attend the Central School.
- (17) Experimental work in soils and crops must be carried on in this area.

The Northwest Agricultural School Work.

ANIMAL AND DAIRY WORK

One instructor and one extension assistant. Five classes, enrolling one hundred eighty-five students. This number includes the total number listed in instructor's class record. Strong emphasis is placed on live stock farming. Work covers Study of Breeds, Dairying, Breeding, Stock Feeding, Animal Hygiene, and Stock Judging.

AGRONOMY WORK

One instructor and one extension assistant. Five classes, enrolling one hundred twenty students. Strong emphasis upon cultivated crops and legumes. Exclusive grain farming is breaking down in favor of diversification. Work with weeds is emphasized. Work covers Soils, Cereals and Forage Crops, Corn, and Farm Management.

HORTICULTURAL WORK

One instructor. Five classes, enrolling ninety-three students. Experimental investigation of Potatoes, Small and Tree Fruits, Wind Break Planting, Root Crops and Vegetables. Very important teaching work is done which includes Plant Life, Forestry, Fruit Growing, Gardening, Potato Culture, and Bee Culture.

POULTRY WORK

One instructor. Three classes, enrolling one hundred twenty-four students. Much time is given to Station and Extension work. School work covers Farm Poultry, Young Poultry, and Poultry Farm Management.

FARM MECHANICS WORK

Two instructors. Six classes, enrolling two hundred eighty-eight students. Much laboratory work. Instructors are also in charge of school buildings and repairs. School work includes Machinery, Gasoline Motors, Carpentry, Blacksmithing, Drainage, Cement Work and Drawing.

ENGLISH

Two instructors. One is in charge of library, and the other is Preceptress of the girls' dormitory. Seven English classes, enrolling one hundred ninety-two students. Large Scandinavian element requires extra time for drill work in English. Work covers English Composition and Literature, Public Speaking, Literary Society Work and Debating.

HOME ECONOMICS

Two instructors. Nine classes, enrolling one hundred one students. Complete secondary work in Home Economics. Work covers Foods and Cookery, Food Study, Home Sanitation, Home Accounts, Home Nursing, Garment Making, and allied sciences.

HISTORY, CIVICS, FARM ACCOUNTS, AGRICULTURAL PHYSICS

Two instructors. Nine classes, enrolling two hundred one students. Includes subjects listed above and AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS, RURAL SOCIOLOGY and FARM MATHEMATICS. These instructors are in charge of the two boys' dormitories. In addition, one of them is acting as School Registrar.

Additional information regarding dormitory life and other work is included in Station section under 'School Activities.'

MUSIC

One instructor. Four classes, enrolling two hundred eight students. All students enrolled in chorus work. Provision is made for lessons in Voice, Violin, and Piano for which special fees are paid.

NORMAL TRAINING

One instructor with some assistance in the model school given by English teacher. Six classes, enrolling thirty-eight students. Model school, enrolling eighteen, provides facilities for practice teaching.

MILITARY DRILL, GYMNASIUM, PHYSICAL TRAINING, BAND, ORCHESTRA AND DEBATING

This work is done by various members of the faculty with outside assistance for the band.

ADMINISTRATION

Superintendent, Accountant, Registrar, (work done by one of the

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instructors), Stenographer, Clerk, Matron of Dining Hall, and School Nurse. The school nurse also acts as Dormitory Supervisor and Steward, and is paid from special fees.

GROWTH OF SCHOOL

The school has grown from 31 to 208 in ten years. A summer school for teachers was organized in 1911. Short Courses, enrolled last year in Farmers' Course, 476, and in Junior Short Course, 81. Counting summer school, the total enrollment was 980. A large increase in administrative work has come on account of broadened scope of activity of the School and Station resulting from demands upon it.

NOTE: Figures used refer to 1916 records.

The Northwest Experiment Station Work.**DAIRY AND ANIMAL HUSBANDRY**

This section of the Northwest Experiment Station has charge of horses, dairy and beef cattle, sheep and swine. Experimental projects include cost of maintaining fall litter of pigs, study of acquired characteristics in swine, and the use of self-feeder in swine feeding. Two helpers employed. Annual cash receipts, \$6,862.07. Dining Hall provided with dairy products. Breeding stock is sold. Bulletins and circulars giving results of feeding experiments are published.

AGRONOMY

Projects in cultural methods, varietal testing, farm rotation, fertilizer tests, weed eradication, and corn breeding. 500 plots embracing 400 acres. Six helpers are employed during the summer, and one during the winter. Extent of Station projects in Agronomy and Horticulture can best be seen in 1916 report, published in January, 1917.

HORTICULTURE

Projects in tree planting and growing of shrubs, fruits, bush fruits, vegetables, root crops and potatoes, and fertilizer tests. 20 acres including more than 200 plots. Three helpers are employed during the summer. Horticulture has charge of the dining hall garden.

POULTRY WORK

Projects in feeding, care, housing, and improvements of chickens. 700 in flock, using four houses. \$808.23 annual sales. Much breeding stock sold. This work has been of distinct value in building up this industry in Northwestern Minnesota.

FARM ENGINEERING

In charge of station machinery, heating plant, school and station repairs, and janitor service. Frequently called on to plan farm buildings and lay out farms.

STATION ADMINISTRATION

Superintendent is in direct charge of drainage project and of cooperative work with 629 alfalfa growers, 60 pure seed co-operators, 425 farm management co-operators, and in other lines. Experimental work was begun in 1911, five years ago. The first five year report covering 96 pages was issued in January, 1917. Considerable progress has already been made in study of regional problems in relation to farm crops and horticultural work. Practical work in feeding, breeding and caring for live stock is also done. Drainage project includes eight miles of tile and two miles of open drains. Complete records are kept and important data gathered. Co-operative work with farmers is planned to include every township in Northwestern Minnesota. Careful surveys are made to enable the Station to keep authentic records of farming progress.

The Northwest School and Station Extension Work.**LIVE STOCK**

One man is engaged to give all his time to this work from December to April of each year. The regular instructor filled 30 appointments during the year, 1915-1916. Both are called on to advise regarding kind of stock, feeding, breeding, where to purchase stock, and animal diseases. Additional assistance is needed to hasten better farm organization and diversification. Live stock extension work in Red River Valley is the greatest present need.

AGRONOMY

One man is employed for the entire year to do extension work in farm crops, live stock and farm management. He has 425 farmer co-operators using account books. Other co-operators are visited, as are the students of the school. The regular instructor filled 22 appointments during the year, 1915-1916. This work supplements the live stock work.

HORTICULTURE

The Station horticulturist fills as many extension appointments as his school and station work will permit. 24 appointments last year. Windbreak planting is urged. School districts are co-operating. Great demand for information regarding potato growing, potato store houses, marketing and fruit growing. Additional man for outside work could be used to good advantage now, especially in potato work.

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**SEASONABLE HINTS IN
HORTICULTURE.**

Is the windbreak giving good shelter from the cold winds? If not, place your order for more trees at once while the necessity is apparent. Untrimmed evergreens make the best shelter from ground winds.

Snow that drifts in and covers fruit or evergreen trees or weights down the branches should be removed at once to prevent the stripping off of branches.

The vegetables in the root cellar should be examined at this season of the year, and the decayed ones removed. If moisture collects on the vegetables that is in an indication that better ventilation is needed. The temperature should be kept near 36 degrees F.

The apple and crab trees should be protected from sun scald. Exposed trunks of these trees scald badly these days of bright sunny weather. Wrap the exposed stems with burlap, paper or veneer. The wrapping also prevents girdling by rabbits.

Do you have variety of vegetables and fruits for the table each day in the winter? Home canning solves this problem. It is not too late yet to can vegetables such as carrots, parsnips, beets and squash if sound perfect specimens are used. Such crops will keep for months in cans, but may spoil in one week in the cellar bin.

Purchase seeds of crops to be planted indoors at once and be ready to plant your tomatoes, celery, peppers, etc., early in March. It is a good policy to get all of your garden seeds now.

Make a garden plan now while you have time and see how much labor you can save by arranging your crops in a logical order, then if you follow your plan, gardening will become a pleasure.

**MANY ASSOCIATIONS TO MEET DURING
Farm Crops Show Week.**

Northwestern Minnesota agricultural interests have expressed themselves in various organizations which carry on definite lines of work. There are state organizations covering the same ground, but the distance from the various parts of northern and northwestern Minnesota to the Twin Cities where most of the state organizations have their headquarters and meetings is so great as to exclude nearly all from being actively associated in their work. This distance varies from 200 to 400 miles, and is as great as the distance from St. Paul to the capital of Iowa, Wisconsin or South Dakota.

The Red River Valley Dairymen's Associations was the first to be organized. In 1903 Mr. T. A. Hoverstad, then the superintendent of the Northwest Experiment Farm, called the first meeting of what were almost curiosities in those days, dairy farmers. In 1916, this association had grown to a membership of over 400, while at its recent Thief River Falls, Fergus Falls and Crookston meetings the daily attendance has averaged over 800. The work of this association has been done with very little financial assistance from the State Dairymen's Association. The impetus given to dairy farming and to better creamery methods by this association can hardly be overestimated. Its record is an enviable one, and its future will be watched with interest by the growing number of dairy farmers residing in Northwestern Minnesota.

The Northwestern Horticultural Society was the next to be organized, but the records of its early meetings are not available. This

association was resurrected in 1912 and now enrolls the leading tree and fruit growers in this section of the state. The problems of Northwestern Minnesota in relation to tree and fruit planting and gardening are so distinct and separate from Southern Minnesota that a strong and vigorous organization of horticulturists is a necessity.

The poultrymen have been fortunate in having spokesmen within legislative halls. The Northern Minnesota Poultry Association was organized nine years ago. Its annual meetings and shows place that division of animal husbandry in the forefront. This is evident to anyone traveling about. The poultry is well bred, well fed and properly housed. The annual sales have multiplied many thousand fold during nine years. The results of an efficient organization are evident on every hand.

The Red River Valley Live Stock Breeders' Association first saw light in 1915. It will hold its second annual meetings on February 8th and 9th at Crookston during Farm Crops week. This association includes 142 active members and nearly 400 additional associate members. It is affiliated with the Minnesota Live Stock Breeders' Association and has directly associated with it four county associations including Kittson, Pennington, Marshall and Becker counties. Polk, Red Lake and Norman counties will organize similar associations in the near future. Otter Tail and Wilkin counties are included in this group as are several counties adjoining the Red River Valley on the east. Much work has already been done by this association in bringing in more and better stock, in facilitating sale and exchanges of stock among its members, and in holding meetings in various parts of the district. It will hold its first live stock exhibit at Crookston the week of February 5th.

The Pure Seed Growers organized in 1916. The Farm Crops organization preceded it, being organized in 1910 as a part of the Farmers' Short Course of the Northwest School of Agriculture. The annual Farm Crops Show has been one of the great events of Northwestern Minnesota. At the first exhibit, in 1910, there were 227 entries of grains, corn and potatoes. This number has increased to over a thousand. The county commissioners have assisted in financing this exhibit which has been of great value to the farmers of this section of the state. Likewise, generous financial assistance has been received from the Commercial Club of Crookston, individuals and firms in the Twin Cities and Duluth, as well as donations in the form of implements, silos, and valuable household articles from manufacturers and dealers. This organization is worthy of larger support, and it is hoped legal provisions for such assistance may be made. Thousands attend this annual exhibit and the meetings held at the same time.

This is the story of northern and northwestern Minnesota's agricultural associations. They have never lacked in enthusiasm and in determination to do something. Much could be written regarding their achievements. The future looms large to their members and officers. There is much to be done. All are ready to do a part, be it large or small.

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POULTRY

The poultryman spends four months each year doing extension work, besides filling appointments during the other months. He filled 27 last year outside of the four months.

FARM BUILDINGS AND DRAINAGE

Considerable work is done in providing farmers with farm building plans and suggestions for draining their farms.

RURAL PLAYS

The English department trained students to give "Back to the Farm" and "Kindling the Hearth Fire" at farmers' meetings and in several towns during the past two years. Community leadership along lines of cultivating higher tastes in recreation is encouraged.

HOME ECONOMICS

The Home Economics Department does as much extension work as class schedules permit. 23 appointments last year. The staff must be increased to fill more nearly the needs of this section of the state. Lack of funds has prevented meeting the needs more fully in the past.

EDUCATIONAL MEETINGS

Various members of the faculty are in demand as speakers before clubs and educational gatherings. Through these meetings and teachers' institutes, the school is brought into direct contact with the problems of rural education and life.

MUSICAL PROGRAMS

Music is furnished at educational meetings and at local farmers' meetings and club meetings. The school band encourages the organization of rural bands. Community singing is made a strong factor.

NORMAL TRAINING

The instructor does considerable work in conducting teachers' institutes each year, meeting 11 appointments last year. In many other ways this department is of service to the rural schools.

DEBATING TEAMS

These teams go to farmers' club meetings. Debating and public speaking are encouraged in order to train for rural leadership. School graduates are members and officers of farmers' clubs and are actively interested in community welfare.

ADMINISTRATION

The superintendent attends as many meetings as administrative duties permit, 35 last year. The sow thistle and live stock problems confront Northwestern Minnesota now. They will require most persistent work. Other problems are engaging the attention of the institution. The following summary of appointments for 1915-1916 gives an idea of the extent of the Northwest School and Station's extension service:

Total meetings and appointments.....	231
Farmers' club meetings.....	80
Agricultural fairs.....	40
Teachers' institutes.....	7
Farmers' institutes.....	48
Short courses.....	20
Miscellaneous	36
	231

In addition news articles are sent to Red River Valley papers. Circulars and bulletins are issued. THE NORTHWEST MONTHLY is issued nine times a year. Special matters are taken up such as Flood Water Control, Pure Seed, and Potato Diseases.

SCHOOL ACTIVITIES.

The Northwest School is a dormitory institution located two miles from Crookston. The advantages of these facilities are greatly appreciated by the students.

BOYS' DORMITORIES

Two dormitories for boys, Stephens Hall and Senior Hall, provide rooms for 140 young men, two in each room. They are in charge of a preceptor and his assistant, although a self government plan is in vogue. The dormitories are well lighted and heated, and equipped with shower baths. Students are taught lessons of community group life that are of value to them.

GIRLS' HALL

Robertson Hall is in charge of a preceptress and assistant. There are rooms for 70 girls. Many influences promoting general culture are active in the girls' hall, making living there more wholesome and attractive.

DINING HALL

The school dining hall is located for the present on the first floor of Stephens Hall, one of the boys' dormitories. It is hoped it will be located in a separate building within two years. Food and service are provided at cost. Fuel, light, and water are paid for by the students that board at the dining hall.