

# THE NORTHWEST MONTHLY



Published Monthly by the Northwest School of Agriculture of the University of Minnesota, Crookston. Entered as second class matter, December 2, 1916, at the Post Office at Crookston, Minnesota, under the Act of August 24, 1912.

VOL. X.

CROOKSTON, MINNESOTA, MARCH, 1926

NO. 4

## WHY A COUNTY AGENT

### MEMBERS FOR COUNTY AGENT ORGANIZATION

#### ARE BEING RAPIDLY SECURED IN POLK COUNTY

Several counties in Northwestern Minnesota that formerly had county agricultural agents but do not now have any are seriously considering the advisability of beginning this work again.

W. H. Frey, formerly of Mentor, has given pointed reasons in favor of the plan in a recent open letter to the farmers of Polk County. Marshall County folks are also agitating the matter. There is much interest in Norman and in other Valley counties also.

The Red River Valley area is losing out in comparison with other counties in the state due to a lack of organized effort in improving farm conditions.

All realize the value of planting only clean seed of the best yielding varieties and still thousands of bushels of inferior low-yielding seed are sown and planted.

All realize that smuts take a heavy toll and yet very little seed is treated to prevent loss from smut.

All realize that alfalfa is a valuable forage feed and yet only a few farms have alfalfa on them.

All realize the value of sweet clover as a pasture and a soil-building crop and yet only a few acres of sweet clover are grown.

All realize the loss caused by sow thistle and quack grass and yet very few practise the control and eradication measures that are in vogue.

All realize that boys' and girls' club work is worth while both in farm development and in character growth yet through lack of leadership our counties are far behind Ottertail county that has two county agents.

Why this inertia regarding county agents?

Why must our Valley counties lag instead of lead?

Why can't our Valley counties see the results in dollars and cents the same as the nearly fifty counties in Minnesota that annually provide funds for organized farm and community effort?

The Red River Valley counties secure annually much valuable publicity for their fertile soil, their adaptability for alfalfa, sweet clover and sugar beets, for their splendid herds of cattle and swine, poultry and flocks of sheep, but this publicity

must be backed up by real achievement on the farms if other farmers are to come and live here.

A constructive forward-looking policy on our farms will benefit the individual farmers who will profit from the results achieved. It will also attract farmers to purchase and improve our vacant lands. This in turn will increase the value of every farmer's holdings.

Mr. Frey will not be considered for the county agent position, at his own request. This is definite and final. He is securing the necessary memberships, that is all. The cooperation of those interested is earnestly requested in order that the organization may be made by March 31st. It's going over this time.

The county agent system is an organized form of collective effort. The farmers themselves direct the work of their paid hired man, The County Agent. In the long run the counties in which this collective work is being done will outdistance the other sections, just as surely as efficiency everywhere displaces lack of progress.

Why not a county agent?

#### Debating Teams Win and Lose.

Debate at the Northwest School has been unusually interesting this year. The teams that engaged in the inter-school contest made good preparation, and consequently a good showing.

The clash at Morris was hot enough to suit all who heard it. Supt. Miller said it was the best go that had been had between the two schools.

One of the judges said it was the best he had heard this year and he thought if the teams were participating in the Minnesota Debating League they might have a show for the championship.

The decisions were an even break for the Aggies, the affirmative winning from Fargo by a split decision and the negative losing to Morris by the same route.

## JUNIOR SHORT COURSE

The junior short course at the Northwest School begins Monday evening, March 29 at 7:30 P. M. No one should come before Monday. Everyone will reach home on Saturday. The Northwest School teachers will be in charge of dormitories and class work and they will be assisted by H. A. Pflughoeft, district boys' and girls' club leader and others interested in club work. Miss Leonora Dunnigan of The Farmer, St. Paul will be present.

The forenoons will be given over to class work with special instruction in boys' and girls' club projects. In addition, there will be demonstrations, contests, games, excursions, movies, lectures and community singing.

The entire cost for board and room at the school will be \$3.00. This will also include the entertainments and parties. The boys will have a little additional expense for rope and the girls for cloth, which will amount to from 10 to 20 cents for the boys and from 30 to 50 cents for the girls, but the material can be taken home.

Those who plan to come should write Supt. C. G. Selvig so that rooms may be reserved and detailed information sent inquirers regarding the week.

#### Registered Ewes For Sale.

The Northwest Station is offering for sale fifteen bred registered Shropshire ewes. The ewes that will be sold are not culls. The flock has always been well selected. A four year lambing record shows that 75% of the ewes have dropped twins or triplets. Fleeces have averaged 9.75 lbs. in weight for the past four years. These ewes are due to lamb the last of this month and the first of April.

Prices for the ewes will vary according to the age, ranging from \$25.00 to \$40.00 each.

Farmers clubs and other community organizations will be interested in sources of information for club programs. Our attention has been called to pamphlets on this subject printed by "The Farmer," St. Paul, "Wallace's Farmer," Des Moines, Iowa and by the Extension Division, University Farm, St. Paul, Minn. The farm magazines' material costs 10 and 5 cents, respectively, while the Extension Division will place the club on their mailing list to receive regularly a monthly program.

## 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.

### COMMENCEMENT, 1926.

The eighteenth commencement at the Northwest School will be held soon. It will mark the close of the twentieth year of the institution. Old graduates and former students are invited to return here for a day to join the Class of 1926 in observing this commencement day.

Perhaps sometime next summer appropriate exercises may be held fittingly to observe the twentieth anniversary. It is hoped that this will be done.

### Basketball Season Closes.

The 1925-26 basketball season at the Northwest School closed March 11 when the team and coaches were the guests at a banquet tendered them by Supt. C. G. Selvig. The season continued thru 56 days and has been one of the most successful of any year. Only one game was lost of the nine played.

Beginning the season with only a few old players, Coach D. H. LaVoi, assisted by D. A. Milligan, was able to turn out a record-making team which was a credit to the institution. From the stand-point of training, loyalty and good sportsmanship the present team is distinctive. There will be a total of 8 men who will receive letters.

At the election of captain for 1926-27 it was unanimously agreed that Joe Skatvold, Twin Valley, should be the new pilot to succeed Ernest Thompson, Fosston, this year's captain.

Mr. Selvig's guests at the banquet included D. H. LaVoi, D. A. Milligan, T. M. McCall, A. H. Larson and team members Ernest Thompson, Fosston, Joe Skatvold, Twin Valley, Elmer Krogstad, Fertile, Clarence Ofstedal, Winger, Oscar Forseth, Halstad, John Covlin, Erskine, Karrol Gandrud, Detroit and score keeper, John Heldblad, Saum.

The results of the games played, with the last score representing the Aggie score, follow:

Dec. 5, Fertile here, 7 to 21.  
Dec. 12, Thief River Falls here, 15 to 16.  
Dec. 14, Warren there, 5 to 10.  
January 16, Fosston here, 9 to 13.  
January 30, Bemidji Teachers here, 10 to 28.  
February 6, West Central School of Agriculture here, 18 to 25.  
February 13, Model High, U. of N. Dakota here, 15 to 14.  
February 19, Fertile there, 4 to 16.

February 27, Bemidji Teachers there 14 to 15.

### Team is Honored.

Coach D. H. LaVoi has been requested by A. G. Spalding & Bros. to submit pictures of the Northwest School 1925-26 successful basketball team. The picture will be used in the Interscholastic Guide which is the official guide book of basketball. This is a distinct honor for the team and Coach LaVoi as the number of teams whose pictures are sought is limited.

### Permanent Pasture Mixture.

The Northwest Experiment Station has imported some meadow fescue seed from Manitoba for the purpose of trying out a permanent pasture mixture in this section of the state. A standard mixture is 8 pounds meadow fescue seed per acre, 5 pounds alfalfa seed and 2 pounds of alsike clover seed.

Farmers in this vicinity who wish to try out this mixture can obtain a quantity of northern grown meadow fescue seed by writing to the Northwest Station, Crookston. The pasture mixture is seeded in June without a nurse crop. It has succeeded very well in Manitoba according to authorities at the Manitoba Agricultural College.

### Hatching Hints.

To insure satisfactory results in hatching and growing this year's crop of chickens, a definite plan for the spring hatching should be made. The effect of this spring's work with the young chicks will be felt in the poultry profits next year.

Six eggs should be incubated for each pullet needed in next year's laying flock. This number will allow for the usual losses in hatching and rearing and also for culling next fall before pullets go into winter quarters.

Late hatched chicks seldom, if ever, pay for their feed and are a menace to the health of the flock. Plan to have your chicks hatched between the 1st of April and the 15th of May.

### FOR SALE

15 bred Shropshire ewes due to lamb about April first; 3 bred Duroc Sows early April farrow; one yearling Shorthorn bull and 4 Holstein bulls 6 to 10 months old from A. R. O. cows. All registered. Write or call N. W. Experiment Farm, Crookston.

## PERSONALS

Alvera Applequist, who is working in a bank at Dunnell, Minnesota is planning to be present for commencement week.

Oscar Buhr, former registrar and secretary has recently been promoted to manager of the corporate bond division with the Detroit Trust company, Detroit, Michigan.

Mr. and Mrs. Carl Hvidsten (Jennie Peterson) visited at the school while Carl was attending a convention of Rumely dealers. Carl is in the implement business in Stephen.

Supt. and Mrs. C. G. Selvig were hosts at a dinner recently to the members of the Inter-School debating teams of the Northwest School. Those present were Coach and Mrs. E. W. Avery, Elmer Miller, Erie, Lester KenKnight, Clearbrook, Arthur Pederson, Clearbrook, Ray Magnuson, Grygla, Evelyn Sheldrew, Grygla and Ann Radniecki, Wanke.

The Moorhead Daily for February 25 contains a long writeup of Adolph Reski, Oslo '24 and mentioned his taking the leading role in the senior play of the Moorhead State Teachers' College, "Jeanne D Arc."

Louise Gunderson, '25, Gary, visited schoolmates on March 1 on her way to Grand Forks where she will begin training at the Deaconess hospital.

Mrs. Florence Haenke Engstrom, '18, Gilbert, Minnesota writes that they have adopted a baby girl.

Ray Hogenson, '25, has been doing testing work near Elgin, Minnesota but will enter the College of Agriculture for the spring quarter.

Mildred Dunn, '25, will register at the Bemidji Teachers' College the first part of April.

A baby girl was born to Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Rud, Viking, Monday, January 18.

Helge Krogseng '16 writing from Helsingfors, Finland on February 4 mentions that the harbor is frozen and mail is brought in from Esthonia three times a week.

Herman Skyberg, '16, and Ruth Gronvold were married December 31. They will live on Herman's farm west of Fisher, Minnesota.

The Manitou Messenger, official paper for St. Olaf College, on March 2 announced that Rufus Logan, '21, placed second for his college in the state oratorical contest. Hamline University won first and Carleton College, third. The subject of Rufus' oration was "The Power Within." A summary of his forensic activities mentioned that as a member of the Sigma Tau literary society, he has represented that organization in oratory and has for two years been a member of trophy winning debating teams. Upon winning second place in the annual Home Oratorical contest in 1924, he became the 1925 college peace orator.

Born to Dr. and Mrs. Harry Hedlin, Crookston a daughter, Irma Marie, on Feb. 4.

Born to Prof. and Mrs. A. M. Pilkey, campus, a daughter, Ruth Elizabeth, Feb. 20.

Born to Prof. and Mrs. R. S. Dunham, campus, a son, Raymond Elliott, Jan. 26.

**COMMENCEMENT PROGRAM, WEEK OF MARCH 21**

**Announcements**

**Commencement Sermon**

Sunday, March Twenty-First  
First M. E. Church, Seven-Thirty O'Clock

**Declamatory Contest**

Monday Evening, March Twenty-Second  
Auditorium, Seven-Thirty O'Clock

**Reception to Graduating Class**

Tuesday Evening, March Twenty-Third  
Superintendent and Mrs. Selvig at Their Home

**Concert Recital**

Wednesday Evening, March Twenty-Fourth  
Auditorium, Seventy-Three O'Clock

**School and Alumni Luncheon**

Thursday, March Twenty-Fifth  
Dining Hall, Twelve-Thirty O'Clock

**Senior Class Exercises**

Thursday, March Twenty-Fifth  
Auditorium, Three O'Clock

**Commencement Exercises**

Thursday Evening, March Twenty-Fifth  
Auditorium, Eight O'Clock

**Commencement Sermon**

Sunday Evening, Seven-Thirty O'Clock  
March Twenty-First  
First Methodist Church, Crookston

Processional March - Organ  
Opening Prayer - Rev. L. H. Benny  
Hymn - "Jesus Saviour, Pilot Me"  
Scripture Lesson - Rev. L. A. Roseland  
Anthen—"Morning" - Grieg  
Boys' Glee Club  
Hymn - "Faith of Our Fathers"  
Address—"Our Task for Tomorrow"  
Rev. Frank Davis, Pastor of Congregational Church  
Anthem—"Gloria" - From 12th Mass—Mozart  
N. W. School Mixed Chorus  
Hymn - "Lord, Dismiss Us With Thy Blessing"  
Benediction - Rev. F. J. Hibbard  
Postlude - Organ

**Inter-Society Declamatory Contest**

Monday Evening, March Twenty-Second  
Auditorium, Seven-Thirty O'Clock  
Agrarian—Home Economics—Lincoln—Pioneer—  
Sanford  
Mr. A. M. Foker, Presiding  
Overture - Northwest School Orchestra  
Home Economics Club—  
Frances Lindahl, '25, Hallock - "Lasca"  
Anne Flekke, '26, Thief River Falls  
"Lewis Rand"  
Maria Sanford Club—  
Victoria Lewis, '26, Warroad  
"The Perfect Tribute"  
Dorothy Chandler, '27, East Grand Forks  
"When Ma Rodgers Broke Loose"

Lincoln—  
Ray Magneson, '26, Grygla - "Abraham Lincoln"  
Arthur Peterson, '26, Clearbrook -  
"Home of the Republic"  
Pioneer—  
Lester KenKnight, '26, Clearbrook -  
"Sparticus to the Gladiators"  
Harold Ullstrom, '27, Rako -  
"Homes of the People"  
Agrarian—  
Harold Walters, '26, Beltrami - "Americanism"  
Joseph Skatvold, '26, Twin Valley -  
"Consecration to Country"

**Concert Recital**

by

**Department of Music**

Wednesday Evening, Seven-Thirty O'Clock  
March Twenty-Fourth  
Under the direction of Ruth Gurley, Reefa G.  
Tordoff and Alva Sherwood  
Auditorium

Du Bist Wie Eine Blume - Schumann  
Solveg's Sang - Greig  
Anne Flekke  
Minuet in G - Beethoven  
Doll Dance - Poldini  
Belinda Sletten  
One Fine Day—(Madame Butterfly) - Puccini  
Robin Robin - Spross  
Anne Flekke  
Anitra's Dance - Grieg  
Reveil du Printemps - Friml  
Belinda Sletten

Songs—  
(a) Praise Ye The Father - Gounod  
(b) The Old School - Parks  
Mixed Chorus

Declamations—  
Declamations by the winner in the boys' societies contest and by the winner in the girls' societies contest will be given as a part of this program.

**Senior Class Exercises**

Thursday Afternoon, Three O'Clock  
March Twenty-Fifth  
Auditorium

Ray Magneson, Vice President of Senior Class,  
Presiding  
Song—Selected - School  
Greeting - Miss Helen Rupert  
Class of 1926 - Doris Olson, '26  
Response for the Class of 1927 - Arnold Aakre, '27  
Music—"Summer Wind" - Branscombe  
Girls' Trio  
Class Prophecy - Edna Peterson, '26  
Class History - Eunice Wilkins, '26  
Music—"I Passed Your Window" - Brake  
Mixed Octette  
Class Will - Wesley Sheldrew, '26  
Address - Mr. R. S. Dunham  
Song—Selected - School

Note:—The Senior class play, "Only Thirty-Eight," was presented under the direction of Miss Anne Simley, head of the English Department, Thursday and Friday evenings, January 28 and 29.

## Commencement Exercises

Thursday Evening, Eight O'Clock, Auditorium  
 Processional March  
 Invocation . . . . . Rev. C. H. McCrea  
 Demonstration—  
 "The Biddy Business on a Business Scale"  
 Elmer Johnson, '26; Lester KenKnight, '26;  
 Henry Mackowaik, '26  
 Music—Selected . . . . . Orchestra  
 Demonstration—"Appropriateness of Dress"  
 Caroline Hruska, '26; Victoria Lewis, '26  
 Class Address—"From School Life to Life's School"  
 Harold O. Waters, '26  
 Music—"Sonny O' Mine" . . . . . Moore  
 Boys' Glee Club  
 Address—President L. D. Coffman, University of  
 Minnesota  
 Music—(a) O, Lovely Night . . . . . Ronald  
 (b) "Roses of Picardy" . . . . . Alyard  
 Miss Ruth Gurley, Mrs. R. E. Buckingham  
 Accompanist, Miss Reefa Tordoff  
 Presentation of Diplomas and Scholarship Awards  
 Superintendent C. G. Selvig  
 "Minnesota, Hail to Thee"

## Class of 1926

### REGULAR COURSE

Ella A. Christianson	Mentor
John Covlin	Erskine
Gertie Jorgine Dale	Fertile
Hilda Marie Dale	Fertile
Anne Flekke	Thief River Falls
Naomi R. Forder	Middle River
Karrol I. Gandrud	Detroit
Frances Luella Homme	Highlanding
Caroline Hruska	Lockhart
Benjamin L. Hurner	Glyndon
Elmer A. Johnson	Clearbrook
Rose Victoria Kozojed	Thief River Falls
Maltilda Kotrba	Erie
Lester O. KenKnight	Clearbrook
Mabel Mae Larter	Lancaster
Lawrence A. Letnes	Thief River Falls
Harry Albert Lewis	Warroad
Victoria E. Lewis	Warroad
Earl E. Luchau	Gary
Violet Ann Lundberg	Kennedy
Henry H. Mackowiak	Crookston
Ray Walter Magnuson	Grygla
Hazel Koerner	Euclid
Clarence H. Minske	Kennedy
Melvin A. Minske	Kennedy
Clarence Nelson	Gary
Alma Olive Odegard	Hibbing
Doris Evelyn Olson	Fertile
Violet Esther Olson	Williams
Alice Mae Parnow	Erie
Arthur L. Pederson	Clearbrook

Melvin P. Person	Ulen
Edna Peterson	Grygla
Wallace J. Quesnel	Mentor
Arthur M. Ramse	McIntosh
Wesley Butel Sheldrew	Grygla
Joseph L. Skatvold	Twin Valley
Phinny H. Stenborg	Clearbrook
Ernest B. Thompson	Fosston
Jerdis Mae Thorson	Kratka
Henry J. Vomacka	Ogema
Lillian Mary Ann Walhaug	Oklee
Harold O. Walters	Beltrami
Eunice Wilkins	Euclid
Theodore Oliver Ystenes	Bejou

### ADVANCED COURSE

Richard Aakre	Goodridge
Harold Amundson	East Grand Forks
Cecil Bergh	Halstad
Helen Flekke	Thief River Falls
Oscar Forseth	Halstad
Agnes Forsness	Greenbush
Ebenhard Gandrud	Detroit
Elmer Krogstad	Fertile
Frances Lindahl	Hallock
Einar Lovén	Gatzke
Walter Luchau	Gary
Eimer Miller	Erie
Julius Nelson	Crookston
Clarence Ofstedal	Winger
Cora Thompson	McIntosh
Walter Turgeon	Brooks
Margaret Woods	Winnipeg, Canada

## Scholarship and Special Awards

**CALEB DORR SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS**—During the present year, 1925-26, a scholarship of Seventy Dollars each was awarded for leadership in Boys' and Girls' club work to Theodore Carlson, Hallock; Paul Dobias, Angus; Albert Poppenhagen, Goodridge; Edward Solum, Barnesville; Chester Torgerson, Fergus Falls; Paul Urtel, Warroad.

On Commencement Day seven scholarships of Twenty-five Dollars each for diligence and progress made in school work will be awarded. In addition awards will be made for the best home project by a boy and by a girl; best declamation given by a student for each of the five student literary societies; to the six members of the Inter-School debating teams; and to two students who have made most progress in music.

**CLASS OF 1917 TRUST FUND**—The class of 1917 has provided \$140 to be used as a students' loan fund.

**FAIRFAX-ANDOVER SOCIAL CLUB LOAN FUND**—This fund of \$150 is used as a students' loan fund.

**STOCK JUDGING CONTEST**—The following students represented the school in the second Inter-School Stock Judging Contest, winning third place: Theodore Carlson, Hallock; Ebenhard Gandrud, Detroit; Randolph Ostlie, Gully.

**FARM CROPS JUDGING CONTEST**—The following students represented the school in the first Inter-School Farm Crops Judging Contest, winning first place: Elmer Johnson, Clearbrook; Lawrence Letnes, Thief River Falls.

**SELVIG DEBATING TROPHY**—Awarded in 1926 to Pioneer debating society, represented by Ole Breivold, Wanke; Selmer Harstad, Fertile; Melvin Hole, Dalton; Lester KenKnight, Clearbrook; Lawrence Letnes, Thief River Falls; Loren Parkin, Euclid.

**HOME PROJECT TROPHIES**—Awarded in 1926 to Lawrence Letnes, Thief River Falls, and Anna Hruska, Lockhart.

## Degenerate Diseases of the Potato

### The Tuber Index Test Explained

The growers of the Triumph variety of potatoes have been having considerable difficulty in getting their seed stock free enough from degenerate diseases to pass the Minnesota requirements for seed certification, according to T. M. McCall, horticulturist at the N. W. Station. It is imperative that growers who wish to continue with the Triumph variety clean up their seed stock and propagate only strains that are free from the degenerate disease, especially the mosaics.

The eradication of the mosaic diseases from the Triumph and other varieties will be profitable to the growers in that yields will be increased greatly, and clean seed sells on the market for a premium of twenty-five to seventy-five cents per bushel.

The yields from potato fields with from 15 to 25% mosaic may run from 75 to 150 bushels per acre, yet disease free strains should under the same soil and cultural conditions yield twice that amount.

The tuber index method of testing seed potatoes offers a solution for the vexing problem. To make the test select one hundred or more sound tubers, cut off one seed piece from the stem end of each potato taking care to number, with an indelible pencil, each seed piece, placing the same number on the tuber. The cut surface of the tubers and seed pieces can be dusted with sulphur to prevent rotting. The cut seed pieces should be planted in a mild temperatured hot bed from three to five weeks previous to the date for outdoor planting. The seed pieces can be planted in continuous rows in numerical order; where the index pieces are planted one-half inch apart in the row and four inches between rows but little space is required for the test.

The test can be read as soon as the first leaves become expanded which is usually when the potatoes are from two to four inches high. All tubers showing plants with curled, crinkled or rolled leaves should be discarded, also all plants with

leaves showing the characteristic mottling (green yellow blotches) of the mosaic should be discarded.

Plants from sound tubers have leaves which are smooth and naturally expanded and uniform in their green coloration. If a large percentage of the tuber indexes show disease it would probably be best for the grower to try a new strain. If a majority of the pieces produced strong healthy plants then the tubers producing them should be separated out, treated and planted in an isolated seed plot, and such isolated plots should be given as much care as any pure seed plot. One hundred sound tubers to start with should produce enough seed in one year to plant  $\frac{3}{4}$  of an acre and by the end of the second year produce enough seed for at least ten acres.

A test just completed at the Northwest School of six growers' lots of Triumph potatoes revealed the fact that the best lot was only 75% disease free while the poorest lot was only 16% disease free. The parent tubers were all apparently sound.