

Special Circular.

Ames, Iowa, Nov., 1917.

IOWA STATE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE  
AND MECHANIC ARTS

AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION DEPARTMENT.

R. K. Bliss, Director

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE CO-OPERATING.

## War Emergency Farm Bureau

The food production bill recently enacted by Congress provides a special appropriation for extension work in agriculture and home economics and enables every county not already organized to establish a War Emergency Farm Bureau. Federal aid will be granted each farm bureau, as explained in this circular. This will not alter the work of the farm bureaus in counties organized on a permanent basis.

The best recommendation for the work of such organizations in Iowa is in their results in five years of successful experience. Forty-two counties now have well established farm bureaus and over 50 other counties have started the necessary organization.

Farm bureau work is no longer an experiment. It has been in operation over 40 years in Europe, and the plan has been adopted in the United States by more than 1,400 counties, representing every state.

### WHAT THE WAR EMERGENCY FARM BUREAU IS

The War Emergency Farm Bureau is an organization of farmers and business residents of a county, co-operating with the Agricultural Extension department of the Iowa State College and the United States Department of Agriculture during the time of the war. Each farm bureau is supported by the federal and state governments in co-operation with all local forces to promote the agricultural interests of every individual. It is not designed to take the place of other useful organizations already operating within a county, but to work with them for greater efficiency.

### WHY A WAR EMERGENCY FARM BUREAU IS NEEDED

Such a bureau is needed:

1. To secure the mutual benefits of co-operation. The average county in Iowa represents an enormous agricultural plant capitalized at about \$50,000,000. The problems of profitable production and equitable marketing demand organization. They cannot be solved by individuals working independently. Social, educational and moral problems also require organized community action.

2. To get more profitable results from experiment stations, agricultural colleges and the United States Department of Agriculture. The combined expense of the experiment stations, agricultural colleges and the United States Department of Agriculture represents about one per cent of public revenues. Trained specialists are employed with these funds and their services are best utilized in organized communities. A county having a farm bureau gets a much larger direct return for this portion of its taxes.

3. To serve as a clearing house and exchange. The farm bureaus are helping to standardize the most profitable farm methods and products; to furnish clearing houses for the best available agricultural information, and to provide an effective exchange for farm labor, live stock, feeds, seeds and other products.

## **WHAT THE WAR EMERGENCY FARM BUREAU DOES**

The function of the War Emergency Farm Bureau is to correlate all the agricultural activities of a county within one organization and to employ a county food agent to act as a leader. A district home demonstration food agent will be provided to assist in the work with women and girls.

The work of the bureau may be outlined as follows:

### **County Agricultural Organizations and Demonstrations**

1. Establishing and maintaining farm labor bureaus.
2. Organizing exchanges for seeds, feeds, livestock, etc.
3. Organizing livestock breeders' associations.
4. Organizing cow test associations and dairy marketing associations.
5. Organizing egg marketing associations.
6. Home economics demonstrations, campaigns, etc.
7. Poultry demonstrations.
8. Horticultural demonstrations, spraying, pruning, etc.
9. Alfalfa and clover demonstrations.
10. Finding and distributing of high yielding grains.
11. Soil demonstrations and surveys.
12. Organization for the control of hog cholera and other animal diseases.

### **Co-operation with the Individual Farmer**

1. Testing soils.
2. Feeding problems.
3. Horticultural problems, pruning, spraying, etc.
4. Treating oats for smut, potatoes for scab, etc.
5. Control of hog cholera and other livestock diseases.
6. Landscape gardening.
7. Farm management.
8. Water, light and labor saving devices in the farm home.
9. Canning, drying, storing and saving of food products.
10. Poultry raising.
11. Planning of farm buildings, construction of silos, etc.
12. Inocuation for alfalfa, etc.

### **Co-operation with Agricultural Meetings**

1. Fairs.
2. Short courses.
3. Farmers' institutes.
4. Livestock and grain shows.
5. Farmers' clubs, unions, granges, etc.
6. Women's clubs.

### **Aid to Rural Schools**

1. Interesting the children in seed selection.
2. Seed testing, weed seeds, etc.
3. Boys' and girls' corn clubs, garden clubs, pig growing contests, baby beef clubs, poultry contests, canning clubs, sewing clubs, thrift clubs. etc.

The food agents will have the help and co-operation of specialists provided by the state and federal governments in carrying out this program of work.

## HOW THE WAR EMERGENCY FARM BUREAU IS FINANCED

The necessary finances for this organization must be raised by membership fees, subscriptions and county, state and federal appropriations.

### Federal and State Appropriations

The salaries of the war emergency food agents will be paid by federal and state appropriations.

### Membership Fees, Subscriptions and County Appropriations

The traveling and office expenses of the food agents will be paid by the county bureau thru funds provided by membership fees, subscriptions and county appropriations. The estimated annual expense will range from \$500 to \$1,000.

### County Appropriations

Whenever the articles of incorporation have been filed as provided by law, and the secretary and treasurer of the farm bureau have certified to the board of supervisors that the organization has among its membership at least 200 farmers or farm owners in said county, and that said organization has raised among its members a yearly subscription of not less than \$500, the board of supervisors may and is authorized to appropriate to such organization a sum not to exceed \$2,500 per year, the same to be paid from the general fund of said county.

## HOW TO ORGANIZE A WAR EMERGENCY FARM BUREAU

### Temporary Organization

A meeting of representative farmers and land owners should first be arranged at some central point within the county. In order to insure the success of this meeting the following plan is recommended:

First: Select at least twenty of the most successful and public spirited farmers and land owners in each township or community within the county. This may be done by some local person who is familiar with the county in co-operation with others who may be chosen to assist. These lists should be completed and sent to the Agricultural Extension Department previous to the preliminary organization meeting.

Second: As soon as the lists have been received by the Agricultural Extension Department and the date of the organization meeting has been agreed upon a letter announcing time and place of proposed meeting will be mailed to each individual, enclosing a circular explaining the work of the war emergency association.

Third: Some time previous to the meeting some local person in each community should call by phone or see personally the persons whose names have been presented, reminding them of the meeting and urging them to attend.

Fourth: Announcements will also be furnished all newspapers within the county previous to the meeting.

Fifth: A representative from the Agricultural Extension Department will be present at this meeting for the purpose of explaining the work and plan of organization, to answer questions and to assist in effecting the temporary organization.

### Officers for Temporary Organization

The following officers and committeemen are needed in effecting the temporary organization:

President and secretary-treasurer.

A committee of at least two men with automobiles from each community who will be willing to spend from one to two days in assisting with the membership campaign.

#### **Membership Campaign**

The following suggestions are made for the success of the membership campaign:

First: A definite time should be agreed upon for the campaign in each township.

Second: It has been found desirable for the two representatives chosen from each community to make the membership canvass, either going together or securing one or more other persons to go with them who are reasonably well acquainted and friendly to the work.

Third: In so far as possible, assistance will be furnished by the Agricultural Extension Department. Such assistance is to be used at the discretion of the local people in the territory where further explanation of the work is most needed.

Fourth: All membership lists when completed should be turned in to the secretary-treasurer of the temporary organization.

#### **Permanent Organization Meeting**

When at least 200 members have been secured a meeting should be arranged to effect the permanent organization and to elect the officers and board of directors for the first year's work of the War Emergency Farm Bureau.

Announcements of this meeting, giving exact time and place, will be sent to each person who signed for membership and will be published in all papers within the county.

It is also suggested that each man who helped with the membership campaign see that all who signed the list be given a personal invitation to be present at the meeting.

#### **Officers for Permanent Organization**

President, vice-president, secretary and treasurer,

A board of directors of at least nine members of the War Emergency Farm Bureau, representing every community, and the different agricultural interests represented within the county.

An executive board consisting of the four regularly elected officers and three other members to be elected from the board of directors.

### **WAR EMERGENCY FOOD AGENTS**

The work of the War Emergency Farm Bureau and the selection of the food agents shall be under the supervision of the regularly elected officers and board of directors in co-operation with the Agricultural Extension Department of the Iowa State College.

The War Emergency Farm Bureau of each county shall be provided with one Agricultural War Emergency Food Agent, and, in co-operation with adjoining counties, shall be entitled to the services of a Home Demonstration Food Agent.

The work of the home demonstration agents is explained in a separate circular, which may be secured from the Agricultural Extension Department, Ames, Iowa.