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THE FIRST EXTENSION WORK IN CLINTON COUNTY, IOWA
by
M.L. Mosher, First County Agent

This little history was prepared for and read
at the
50th Anniversary of the organization of the
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE
June 2, 1962

The work in Clinton County was the first organized
in Iowa. It began September 1, 1912

Martin Luther Mosher

First writing → 1957

First Extension Work in Clinton County, Iowa

M. R. Mosher, 1962

Prepared for and read at the
50th Anniversary of Clinton County, Iowa,
Cooperative Extension Service,

The first county in Iowa to be
organized,

838
8122
16
14
28

8144
8152
8

*I followed this quite closely
from 1st to last.*

M.L.M.

8136
8123.95

849

9151

823

28

THE FIRST EXTENSION WORK IN CLINTON COUNTY
by
M.L.Mosher/1

The first event in the Clinton County Extension Service program, which was also the first County Extension event in Iowa, was a seed corn demonstration in School No. 3, Brookfield Township, at 9:00 A.M., Monday, September 2, 1912. School No. 3 was ~~at~~ the *Northwest school in Brookfield Township.* *Mrs. Merinke*
~~cross-roads about three miles east and two miles north of Elwood.~~


Three other meetings in the other three corners of the township were held that day and a general meeting in Elwood where the seed corn demonstrations were repeated and plans for the newly organized county program were explained was attended by about 125 people that evening.

During the following five weeks, ^{*such*} 78 other schoolhouse meetings and 19 night meetings attended by 1,169 school children, 85 teachers and 1,926 men and women were held. The Clinton County Extension Service was off to a good start. (I wonder how many here today remember attending one of those schoolhouse meetings when I had some boy or girl help me string up seed corn with binder twine.)

What had happened in Clinton County? I have often been asked how it happened that Clinton County was the first county in Iowa to organize for a County Extension Service and why M.L. Mosher was selected as the first County Agricultural Adviser, as he was then called.

1 Prepared for the 50th Anniversary of the Cooperative Extension Service in Clinton County, Iowa, *at Le Witt, Iowa, June 2, 1962.*

A combination of several developments and events led to those choices. The first incident that may have had a small part in both choices occurred at Lost Nation on February 20, 1905. Lost Nation was the 72nd stop of the famous Iowa Seed Corn Special which travelled all over Iowa that spring. The report of the Lost Nation stop read, "Most interested crowd yet found". I was one of the two speakers at Lost Nation and wrote the report.

The idea of a County Extension Service which would be initiated by local people and conducted in cooperation with the Iowa State College and later the U.S.D.A. had one of its beginnings in Sioux County in northwest Iowa in 1903. It was then that Professor Holden, Head of Agronomy, helped the local people start the County Farm Corn Demonstrations. The idea spread rapidly into nearly half of the counties of Iowa by 1915. I was more closely associated with Professor Holden in the conduct of those demonstrations than anyone else. *Com books - 1914* 

Another important event marking the spread of the County Extension Service idea happened in Montgomery County in southwest Iowa. Two prominent farmers of that county came to Ames in 1904 and asked the college to conduct a week's Short Course, similar to the one held at Ames. This was done in January, 1905. During the next ten years well organized Short Course Schools of one week each were conducted on request of farmers and business men in many Iowa counties. Again as Crops Extension Specialist it was a part of my work to help with those schools.

The third development which led to the County Extension Service was the work of several County Superintendents of Schools in introducing simple lessons in agriculture into the rural schools

and their organizing Boys and Girls Clubs. Among these who did this was George E. Farrell, Superintendent of Schools in Clinton County from 1910 to 1915. It fell to my lot to help several of the superintendents with their Club Exhibits and meetings.

A fourth development which led to the County Extension Service was down in the Cotton Belt. Seaman A. Knapp, formerly a Professor of Agriculture in Iowa was employed in 1903 to organize county demonstrations to show farmers how they might combat the cotton boll weevil. So-called County Agents of the Department of Agriculture were put in charge and proved very successful in their efforts to help the farmers increase their ~~earn~~ings in spite of the weevils.

The idea of having a County Agricultural Agent in charge of a County Extension Service began to take shape in the northern states by about 1910. We in the Iowa Extension Service became much interested. I was so much so that I paid my own expenses to Columbus, Ohio, in 1911 to attend the Annual Meeting of the American Association of Agricultural Colleges and Experiment Stations where the idea was thoroughly discussed. I came back enthusiastic about it and told Professor Holden, Director of Extension, that I would like to ~~XXXXXX~~ ~~first~~ go into the first county to be organized for the work.

Why was Clinton County first? It seemed rather strange that Clinton County should be the first county to be organized. Clinton County had not had the demonstrations on the County Farm. There had been no Short Course Schools in the county. We of the Extension Service had given less help to the County Superintendent of Schools in his work with boys and girls than we had given in Keokuk, Wright, Page and other counties.

The answer was a simple one. George E. Farrell, your County Superintendent and C.F. Terhune, Secretary of the Clinton Commercial Club, called together a few of the leading farmers of the county and the directors of the Clinton Commercial Club in April, 1912, and after discussing the matter requested help from the Extension Service in organizing the county. They were the first to make such a definite request. Their request was granted and I was asked by R.K. Bliss then Acting Director of Extension to come to Clinton County and help with the organization. ✓

Nature of the first organization. The work began as a project of the Clinton Commercial Club under what was known as the Clinton Plan. Organization meetings were held throughout the county in June, 1912. George E. Farrell, C.F. Terhune and I attended the meetings and explained the plans. (I wonder how many here today remember attending one of those meetings.)

Under the Clinton Plan the work was to be directed by the Agricultural Committee of the Clinton Commercial Club. The committee was to consist of ten members from the Commercial Club and twenty farmer members. One farmer member of the committee was to be the President of a Township Better Farming Association in each of the twenty townships. Each township association was to elect one man to be recognized as a member of the Clinton Commercial Club for each ten members of the Township Association.

I spent much of my time during the fall of 1912 helping to organize the township associations. The first official meeting of the Agricultural Committee was held December 31, 1912. Directors, or their representatives, from sixteen of the twenty township associations were present. At that time there were from

two members in Spring Valley to fifty-nine members in DeWitt Township Better Farming Associations. There were a total of 443 members in the twenty townships.

The financial support the first year came from four sources. The Council of Grain Exchanges of Chicago contributed \$1,000 from what was known as the Sears Roebuck Fund. The Bureau of Plant Industry, under which the County Agent System of the South had been conducted, contributed \$100 per month until in 1914 when the Smith-Lever Act became effective; that \$100 per month came direct to me as County Agent of the U.S.D.A. The members of the Township Better Farming Associations subscribed \$1,139.35 that first year, three-fourths of which was paid to the County Agricultural Committee and one-fourth retained for their local use. The Clinton Commercial Club paid the balance. The total cost of the service the first year, including the adviser's salary, was \$3,229.22.

For that first year, George E. Farrell was the logical Chairman of the Agricultural Committee. However he resigned at the end of 1913 and refused to serve longer. He insisted that the chairman should be a farmer. Elmer C. Forrest of Elk River Township served as chairman during 1914.

The Clinton County Farmers Rebellion. Very few farmers in Clinton ^{County} were happy to be receiving advisory service from the Clinton Commercial Club. They wanted the service but wanted it to be their own. (This reaction helps us here in America to understand why people of Asia, Africa and Latin America resent our help even while they accept and appreciate it). This ~~help~~ idea of separating the

service from the Commercial Club took definite form when on May 5, 1914, the directors of the ^{Welton}~~Dewitt~~ Township Better Farming Association called a joint meeting with the Executive Committee of the Clinton Commercial Club and declared their independence.

The Commercial Club leaders approved of the farmers taking over just as soon as proper arrangements could be made with the Iowa State College and the U.S.D.A. and a strong farmers' organization formed to take over all financial and other responsibilities.

A county meeting to decide whether to continue the work in Clinton County under a farmers' organization called by the Agricultural Committee of the Commercial Club was held in Clinton December 11, 1914. About 200 men from 19 townships were present. Professor W.A. Lloyd of the U.S.D.A., Dean C.F. Curtiss of Iowa State College, ~~Mr.~~ J.W. Coverdale, State Supervisor of County Agents under the new Smith-Lever Act, G.W. Dulaney, President of the Commercial Club and E.C. Forrest, Chairman of the Agricultural Committee spoke.

The meeting was rather hectic at times but the motion to organize under the name of the Clinton County Farm Improvement Association carried almost unanimously and as one Clinton paper reported, "Men vied for recognition from the chairman to pledge the amounts asked for from their townships". Warren Walrod of Welton Township, president, and J.O. Shaff of Camanche Township, vice-president, were elected.

Following the reorganization meeting a new contract with the farm adviser was written by the newly organized Clinton County Farm Improvement Association and the office moved to Dewitt, where an office with heat and light was furnished by the Dewitt Commercial Club.

The Clinton Commercial Club continued to help finance the Service through 1915 and the bankers of the county helped to balance the budget at the end of 1915. The total cost of operation for the year of 1915 was \$4,453.06.


WORK OF THE FIRST THREE YEARS

As mentioned in the beginning of my talk, the the work of the Clinton County Extension Service began with a series of schoolhouse and township meetings where methods of seed corn selection and storage were demonstrated and when plans for the new county Extension work were explained to about 3,000 people.

During the first meeting of the newly organized Agricultural Committee a definite ~~a definite~~ ^{program} plan calling for three lines of work were planned. The Agricultural Adviser, my official title, was asked to write to the Bureau of Soils of the U.S.D.A. and request that a soil survey of Clinton County be made. Such a survey made cooperatively by the Iowa Experiment Station and the Bureau of Soils was completed in 1915.

The committee drew up a resolution asking that the State of Iowa begin the manufacture of hog cholera serum to be sold at cost and replace much bad serum that was on the market and establish standards of quality for serum companies to follow. Minutes of the meeting show that Charles Coverdale, today's chairman, seconded the motion regarding serum. Such a State Serum Plant was established under the supervision of the Head of the Division of Veterinary Medicine soon after.

Minutes of that first meeting include the following:



Plans for collecting samples of seed corn from about 100 Clinton County farmers to be planted in yield tests on the County Farm and elsewhere for the purpose of finding the best available strains of corn for Clinton County conditions were presented and approved.

Years later this was considered the most valuable work that was done during the first three years. I believe that the work of combatting hog cholera was of more immediate value.

I shall now tell briefly of the more important projects carried out during those first three years.

Hog Cholera Control. Hog cholera was then the farmers' greatest enemy. I spent much time during the fall of 1912 and during 1913 and 1914 on control work.

The serum treatment was new. I made a special study of its use on 126 farms and the Agricultural Committee published a special report which showed that 73 percent of hogs that were sick when treated lived while 87 percent of the untreated hogs in the same herds died. That report was a great stimulus to the use of the serum treatment.

In view of the present efforts to eliminate the use of live virus in order to eradicate hog cholera the following statement in my report of the week ending November 2, 1913, is of interest. The report read:

In regard to the serum treatment for hog cholera, I find a very common impression is that where the simultaneous treatment (that is serum and virus injected at the same time) is being used generally that it will be impossible to eradicate hog cholera. We feel the need of more information from the specialists in regard to this point. *Complete eradication of hog cholera is only now, 1914, being effected.* It has taken a long time to get that information and to

act on it.

Cow Test Association. Another important project was the organization of the Clinton County Cow Test Association, later known as a

Improvement
Dairy Herd Association. It began work August 1, 1914, with 23 members who had 537 cows entered. J.O. Shaff of Camanche Township was president. Nis Ostergaard of Eden Township was a leading spirit in its organization.

Introduction of Silos. Silos were new in 1912 and many questions about them were asked of the Agricultural Adviser. There was still a question in the minds of many about their economic value. I made a special study on the farms of 24 farmers who had recently built silos. They had used them an average of only three years. Detailed estimates of the cost of silage per ton, the quantities and values of feeds fed with silage and the quantities and values of feeds fed without silage to the same kinds of livestock during the years just preceding the introduction of the silos were made. ~~The~~ A report which had wide distribution was published. The final conclusion read:

Men who have silos can feed or milk at a profit when prices are ~~low~~ so low that other men are working for nothing and can secure a splendid profit when prices are good.

Foot and Mouth Disease. A scourge of foot and mouth disease struck the midwest in 1914. One herd in Clinton County was infected and all cattle and hogs destroyed. About my only connection with the quarantine and control was to represent Clinton County farmers and bankers in a successful effort to get the quarantine lifted as soon as possible after danger of infection was past. The county quarantine interfered seriously with plans for county meetings including some Short Course Schools that had been planned.

The Clinton County Corn Yield Test. Many considered that the Clinton County Corn Yield Test conducted during the three years of 1913, 1914 and 1915 in which the Studeman corn was found, was the most valuable

project conducted during those first three years. Considering its longtime value it probably was the most important.

The Studeman corn which finally proved most acceptable was selected from about 150 samples from as many Clinton County farmers. *that were*
Those 150 samples were all field tested for one to three years.
Anyone interested in knowing all of the particulars about the way in which the Clinton County Corn Yield Test was conducted ~~may~~ and the names of other farmers who had good quality and high yielding seed may be interested in reading Chapter VII of the new book, Early Iowa Corn Yield Tests and Later Related Programs, just now being published by the Iowa State University Press.

Alfalfa. Next to corn the introduction of alfalfa was probably the most important crops project. My annual report estimates that only about 50 acres of alfalfa were being grown in 1912. I reported that about 100 acres on 50 farms were seeded according to our advice in 1913, 200 acres on 40 farms in 1914 and 200 acres on 40 other farms in 1915. The U.S. Census reports that 53,969 acres of alfalfa hay were grown in 1959 and it is estimated that nearly as many acres were grown in pasture mixtures.

Limestone. The need for using lime in order to grow alfalfa, sweet clover and red clover succeeefully on sour soils was just beginning to be recognized. I demonstrated the use of litmus paper to detect acidity at farm meetings and teachers' institutes. Strips of litmus paper with instructions for their use were mailed to all association members.

The first demonstration in the use of lime which I remember was in an alfalfa field on the farm of E.C. Forrest in Elk River Township. He had spread the old plaster from a house which he

had torn down on part of an alfalfa field. It was a fine demonstration.

Oats. Oats were then considered an important crop. Variety tests were conducted on the County Farm and on the farm of A.F. Whyte in Orange Township. Oat smut was causing great losses in Clinton County. A vigorous campaign to prevent smut was put on. Demonstrations of the proper method of treating seed oats with formaldehyde were given at every opportunity. During February and March of 1914 large posters giving instructions for treating oats and on which were mounted ~~a~~ bottle of formaldehyde and small bundles of good and of smutted heads of oats selected the previous summer, were put up in banks, grain elevators, drug stores and other places where farmers congregated. These exhibits were very effective. ~~D~~ Drug stores reported greatly increased sales of formaldehyde because of the exhibits. This was, of course, long before dust treatments for smut were developed.

Horticulture. Most farms had small orchards and some grape vines. There were a few commercial orchards and vineyards. Pruning and spraying demonstrations were conducted by R.S. Herrick, Extension Specialist in Horticulture.

Boys and Girls Clubs. Two hundred, twenty-five boys and girls were enrolled in a Poultry Club in 1913. Egg exhibits were shown during the winter meetings of the Better Farming Associations.

Corn Clubs were organized all three years. The county bankers subscribed \$500 for trips and scholarships in 1915. Johnnie Turner of DeWitt Township won a trip to the Panama-Pacific Exposition in 1915. I have a copy of his report.

Township auto tours for the boys were arranged in most townships. The boys were taken to see Canada thistles and quack grass and other things of interest and value.

Short Course Schools. One of the selling points for the County Extension work was that the Agricultural Adviser would help to organized and conduct Short Course Schools in Agriculture and Home Economics. Such schools were conducted with the help of instructors from Ames in Elwood and Welton the winter of 1912-13. Two hundred, forty men and boys paid tuition fees of \$1.50 each and 125 women and girls paid \$1.00 each to pay the expenses of the schools.

No course was held the winter of 1913-14 because of foot and mouth disease quarantine. Plans were made the fall of 1915 for a Short Course to be held in DeWitt in January, 1916.

Exhibits. Educational exhibits at the county fair and at winter meetings in the different towns of the county brought to the attention of many people valuable lessons regarding hog cholera control, value of limestone and inoculation for alfalfa, oat smut and potato scab control, results of corn and oats variety field tests. Much time was spent in 1915 preparing and looking after a county exhibit at the State Fair. Parts of the State Fair exhibit were later put up in show windows in Clinton and DeWitt.

A FEW MEMORIES

Everything that appears in the preceeding report is based on documentary evidence. A bound copy of ~~the report~~ a more detailed report, including more than thirty photographs, and including, as an appendix, the documentary evidence has been sent to the Iowa State University. A few memories of those formative years of County Extension work are of such interest to Mrs. Mosher and me that I thought they might be worth ^{bringing to you} recording here.

The Old Regal Auto. My contract with the Clinton Commercial Club provided that I ~~should~~ should buy an auto, keep careful cost records and receive "cost of operation per mile used in the county work." When I told the Secretary of the Club that I had ordered a Ford he "blew his top" saying that the Ford was very unsafe and that they would object to paying the expense if I went ahead with the purchase. It so happened that the same dealer who sold me the Ford sold the Regal also. So I changed my order and bought a Regal. Both the Commercial Club and I were the loser by several hundreds of dollars.

I paid \$1,350 for the Regal, drove it 15,000 miles in two years and traded it in, on a new \$500 Ford for \$150. The total cost of operating the Regal 15,000 miles was about 15 cents per mile. Depreciation was six cents and the tire costs four cents per mile. Tires were guarantined for 3,000 to 3,500 miles and rarely lasted that long. I got 7,000 miles on one Firestone tire: it was the talk of the county.

Several rear axels broke. Once as I pulled up to a farmstead on the right-hand side of the road, the left rear wheel came off and rolled on down the road for several rods ahead of the auto; it sure looked funny. One other time when I was leading an

auto tour, I realized that an axel had broken. I let the car roll over carefully to the side of the road, got into the next car behind and went on with the tour.

I bought that new Ford the spring of 1915 when Ford advertised that ~~if~~ if 300,000 Fords were sold before July 1, a refund of \$50.00 on each would be made. We received our check about August 1, put \$5.00 with it and bought our first electric washing machine. I still use the one-fourth horse power motor from that washing machine on a lathe which has been in use for nearly 40 years.

Working on Sunday. I was brought up in a family and community where no work was done on Sunday, and have observed that rule throughout life. Young people may be interested to know that I did not even study on Sunday during High School and college days.

But I did break that rule "with a vengeance" one Sunday in Clinton County. It was Sunday, May 31, 1914. A fresh supply of serum and virus had come in from the State Laboratory the day before. Three men, J. M. M. Federson, M. H. Federson and J. P. Murphy of near Bryant were waiting and anxious to have about 400 hogs treated. After arranging with them and the veterinarian Saturday evening, I left home about five o'clock Sunday morning, delivered the serum and virus and helped catch and hold 30 to 60 pound pigs and some old sows all day. When I reached home about six o'clock that evening I found a rush call from Bruce Kelly ten miles west of Clinton to see if his hogs had cholera. They had. It was eight o'clock or later when I finally reached home to spend Sunday with my family. Bible students will agree, I believe, that that breaking of the Sabbath will not be held against me.

The Farmers' Protective Association. It must have been during 1914 that the Farmers' Protective Association was organized in Clinton County. It was organized ~~to~~ to protect the farmers' rights" and was anti-Extension Service. This story went the rounds:

First farmer; What does that Farmers' Protective Association protect from?

Second farmer; Oh, don't you know? It protects us from that pesky County Agricultural Agent.

Monday, January 20, 1913 - a Boy is Born. That is a memorable day in our family life and to a lesser degree to Clinton County. At about 1:30 o'clock that morning our second boy, M.L. Jr, came into the world in what was then known as the Agatha Hospital on the bluff in west Clinton. *I was standing by* Yes, fathers did stand by in those days. The boy and his mother were coming along so well by four o'clock that our doctor, Dr. Mershner, told me that I was no longer needed. So I hurried to the depot and took the 4:30 train to Goose Lake where I had a two-day meeting scheduled.

It was a good day. The boy is now a practicing physician and surgeon in Iowa City where he has had a good practice since returning from service in World War II. It was a good day for Clinton County because it was one of the days when we were selecting samples of seed corn for the Corn Yield Test which meant so much to Clinton County in later years.

The Extension Service and the Farm Bureau. People of today who have witnessed the long-drawn-out controversy regarding the relation of the County Agricultural Adviser and the County Farm Bureau will be interested to know of the relation that existed in the beginning. All three of my reports for 1913, 1914 and 1915 were prepared on printed forms sent out from the United States Department of Agriculture.

On the outside of the front covers were places for signatures of a approval by local officers as follows:

1913 (Signature) (C.F.Terhune)/1
Secretary of Farm Bureau or
other official

1914 (Signed) (O.T.Roberts)/1
Secretary of Farm Bureau
or other official

1915 (Warren Walrod)/2
President or Secretary of Farm Bureau

/1 Secretaries of the Clinton Commercial Club
/2 First president of what was later named
the Clinton County Farm Bureau.

9:06
8:52
14

This section was not read - no use
was ^{ever} made of it.

M. R. M.
later - Note the similarity to the
Prairie Farmer article in Mar. 2, 1968 issue.

CLINTON COUNTY IN ²⁰¹²~~1912~~

This is not a prophesy. It is merely a brief statement of what may be if you people of Clinton County want it that way.

During the past 50 years your fathers and you have doubled feed crop production. You have done most of this by more than doubling the bushels of corn produced. More has been done by replacing the oldtime bluegrass, timothy and clover with alfalfa or alfalfa mixed with brome or other grass.

You will double feed crop production ~~again~~ again during the next 50 years if you and your children do as good a job of adopting new practices as your fathers and you have done during the past 50 years.

You will increase effective feed crop production even more by growing corn with a higher feed value per bushel and realizing a higher feed value of legumes and grasses by adopting more effective harvesting and storing methods which are now being developed.

During the past 50 years your fathers and you have doubled the quantity of meat and animal products sold. You will double the production of livestock products again during the next 50 years if you and your children do as good a job as your fathers and you have done during the past 50 years.

So, what! Will that doubling of production be fatal to our agricultural economy? Not if the Western World citizens and ~~st~~ statemen of this generation and the next will solve the problem ^{of our present surplus production and} of the distribution of food products on a world basis. I don't know how but I am sure that it can be solved. It will not be easy. It will take "blood, sweat and tears". It will require

a Christian attack. We ^{help} and better ^{food} solve ~~ix~~ the ^{the world} problem of ~~feed~~ ~~distribution~~ or the Mongol races of Asia will again invade the Western World, including America this time, and take away our surpluses and all that we have and leave our children and grandchildren in poverty and slavery.

WHAT KINDS OF FARMING WILL IT TAKE?

Farms Are Rapidly Growing Larger

During the past 50 years Clinton County farms have increased from an average of 149 to 179 acres per farm. At the rate of disappearance of small farms during the past 20 years Clinton County farms will average about 240 acres ~~in size~~ per farm by the end of another 50 years. Some of you will remember that Earl Heady and his associates of the Iowa State University reported several years ago that there was no advantage in rate of return to ~~land, labor and capital~~ ^{the factors of production} for farms larger than 240 acres. In Illinois studies, where there is less livestock we found that the optimum size was reached at 260 to 400 acres depending on the amount of livestock and quality of land. Indiana reported ~~the leveling off point at a little larger size of farms.~~ ^{similar conditions.}

The number of farms of more than 500 acres has more than doubled in Clinton County during the past 20 years. One or two are added each year. If ~~th~~ it keeps up for 50 years there will be about 100 of them. The owners of those 100 large farms will tend to dominate the political and economic life of rural Clinton County.

The ~~A~~gricultural ^Press and we in Agricultural Extension have been inclined to glorify the large farm because of the large labor and management earnings of the operators and the positions

of such operators in public life.

However, I wonder how many realize that if Clinton County were divided into farms of 500 to 1000 acres rather than into farms of 240 to 320 acres there would be more hired men than operators and from \$4,000,000 to \$6,000,000 less income per year available in the county for ~~farm~~ family living and savings of farm families. Under present income tax regulations, about \$1,000,000 more income tax money would go to Washington annually from a county of 500 to 1000 acre farms than from a similar county of 240 to 320 acre farms.

Rural bankers and directors of farm and production credit agencies may well ponder these facts when they are inclined to favor the large farm operators on the idea that they were better credit risks. *and lessens credit servicing costs.* Merchants who sell building materials, home furnishings and other living needs may well ponder these conditions when they are inclined to cater to those few who can buy "mink coats and Cadillacs" because there is a wider margin of profit on luxuries. *Extension workers may well ponder those facts when they encourage increasing the size of business because of the larger management returns to efficient operators of large farms.*

A large part of my job during the 46 years since I left Clinton County has been to help farmers keep records and analyze their business. Two facts ~~stand out~~ which will have a great influence on the future of Corn Belt farming and farm life stand out.

First. A two-man farm large enough to occupy the full-time labor and managerial abilities of two men provides the most economical use of land, labor, ~~and~~ capital and management. Fifty years ago that meant 160 to 200 acres of good Corn Belt land operated as a livestock farm. Today it means from 240 to 400 acres *aside from more or less non-tillable pasture.* In later years it may mean more.

Second. The second fact learned from farm records is this; among farms of the same size, on the same quality of land, with the same products sold and the same markets, one-fifth of the operators earn enough more than another one-fifth that the difference in earnings will pay for the better operated farms in 10 to 20 years, the time depending on the economic conditions that prevail at the time. *It is largely these "one-fifth most profitable farmers" who are "bidding up" the price of neighboring small farms as they come on the market.*

WHAT FARMING MAY BE LIKE IN FUTURE YEARS IN CLINTON COUNTY

If the owner-operated family size farm is to be maintained in the Corn Belt, the most successful farmers who are now on farms of optimum economic size must find other outlets for investment than additional land. My suggestion after more than 50 years of Extension work with farm people in Iowa and Illinois, is that they consider the investment of some of their surplus earnings in the processing, distributing and marketing of their own farm products. It seems to me as I have watched the increasing ability of farmers to conduct large business enterprises that Corn Belt farmers are ready to take over many of those enterprises which have been widening the gap between what they receive for their products and what the consumer pays for the finished product. *Co-operatives or Corporation stock.*

This is not the time or place to go into details. I merely throw this out as my conclusions after these many years of observation.

A Challenge. In closing I wish to challenge you to a race.

I was 80 years old last April. Mrs. Mosher who is here with me is a little younger. Our family doctor of 35 years tells us that there is no reason why we should not continue to be more or less active for another 15 to 20 years.

My challenge is this: that you plan for another celebration ten years from now. I want to attend that celebration and here is what I want to find in 1972.

As we drive over the county in 1972, as we did yesterday, I want to find:

1. Wide level grass waterways in every hollow where water runs with a swift current after heavy rains.
2. Corn growing on the contour on all land subject to erosion. On medium slopes the corn will be in even-width strips of 8, 12 or 16 rows of corn and uneven strips of alfalfa and grass wide enough at all places to harvest with hay machinery. Steep slopes, especially ^{on} the smaller farms, will be terraced so as to grow corn ^{where at} ~~on~~ all possible without erosion.
3. Corn ^{will be} growing on 60 to 80 percent of all land suitable for cultivation, with or without contours, strip cropping or terrassing.
4. Alfalfa, with or without grass ^{will be} on most farm land not in corn.
5. Oats ^{will be} used only as a nurse crop for alfalfa and grass and cut in the dough stage for hay or silage. A livestock farmer cannot afford to own a combine or hire oats cut for grain. ^{Clinton County} corn, hay, silage and pasture are the feeds that the livestock farmer ~~needs to~~ may best produce.
6. By 1972 I expect ^{much many} 20 percent more beef ^{as ever will} ~~will~~ be produced on Clinton County farms; a rapidly increasing proportion of which will have been produced from performance ~~is~~ tested bulls.

7. High quality beef cow herds, ^{will prevail} on farms having ^{much} land not suitable for corn or hay. Artificial insemination makes it possible for those having relatively small acreages of such rough land to raise ^{good} beef calves profitably. I will hope to see very few ~~if~~ any bulls but will realize that calves, beef as well ^{and} as dairy, are from very high performance bulls by means of artificial insemination.
8. Universal use of meat type hogs produced from high-performance mating boars. ^{will prevail.}
9. I will hope to see much more being done to conserve and use effectively farm manures. About 75 percent of the fertility value of all feed ~~from Clinton County~~ is retained in the solid and liquid manure. At prices now being paid for commercial fertilizer, the N. and P. in the manure now being produced in Clinton County ^{each year from} is worth about \$2,350,000 or about \$1000 per farm. It seems to me that the family sized farm ^{where most feed is produced and fed} will be better served if more research is done on the preservation and effective ^{use} of the farm manure. ^{Sewerage disposal plants seem better adapted to intensive feeding enterprises}
10. As Mrs. Mosher and I drive through the county ten years ^{where most feed is purchased} from now I will expect to see all roadsides ~~and fence rows~~ free from weeds and brush with grass kept mowed in front of all farmsteads.
11. We will expect to see ~~many~~ many more simply but neatly landscaped farmsteads with well kept lawns and shrubbery.
12. We will expect to see farmsteads entirely free from idle machines and trash. They can be kept out of the way ^{plans are made and} and out of sight if proper habits are formed.

13. I will expect to see more small but attractive houses built a few rods away from the "big house" where the son ~~will live~~ or son-in-law will live until his family needs the big house and where the "old folks" will then live without having to care for the big house.

When I come to your celebration ten years from now, I hope to see a big parade led by a massed band of High School boys and girls from all over the county.

Following the band should be a thousand or more 4-H Club, Future Farmer and Future Homemakers marching ~~sight~~ abreast.

Then in the parade will be scores of cooperative service trucks in which fuel, feeds, fertilizers and other farm supplies are being delivered to your farms. There will be livestock trucks in which your cattle and hogs will be delivered to what I hope will be the beginning of a great farmer-owned and operated meat processing plant in this part of Iowa. There ~~may~~ ^{will} be a few refrigerated trucks in which meats and other livestock products are being delivered to retailers in the Great Lakes Metropolitan areas.

In the parade will be floats showing what the merchants/and credit agencies of Clinton County have to offer to farm people.

The entertainment for the celebration will be led by a grand chorus of several hundreds of men and women and boys and girls who have been trained in High School community groups throughout the county.

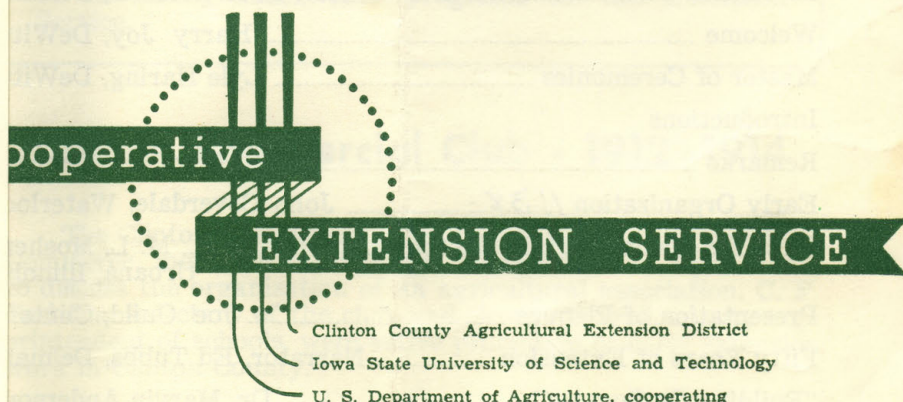
Among the floats will be several calling attention to the many kinds of recreation that have been organized on a county and inter-county basis. Young people and mature people who sing together and play together under good leadership learn to work together and live together.

The address of the day at this celebration will be by some prominent leader who will be an inspiration to all, both young and old, and who can be had only by engagement a year or more in advance. I will be here to see and listen but not to talk. I have talked enough already.

It is good to be here. I thank you for inviting me. Success to you in whatever you undertake.

50TH ANNIVERSARY

CLINTON COUNTY



. . . An educational program in agriculture,
home economics, 4-H and related activities . . .

4-H Club Show Grounds

DeWitt, Iowa

June 2, 1962

PROGRAM

10:00 a. m. Informal Get-together
11:30 a. m. Beef Barbecue
1:00 p. m. Formal Program

Charles Coverdale, Presiding

Chairman, 50th Extension Anniversary Committee

Presentation of Colors

Solo Carol Ann Smith, DeWitt

Invocation Rev. R. H. Schmitz, Delmar

Welcome Harry Joy, DeWitt

Master of Ceremonies Lyle Haring, DeWitt

Introductions

Remarks Roy Cain, Delmar

Early Organization 1138 John Coverdale, Waterloo

First Extension Work in Clinton County M. L. Mosher
Urbana, Illinois

Presentation of Plaques Joe Guild, Clinton

Fifty Years of Extension Narrator, Ed Tubbs, Delmar

"Building On Success" Dr. Marvin Anderson
Associate Director
Iowa Extension Service
Ames, Iowa

50TH ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE

Charles Coverdale, Chr.
Mrs. C. V. Carlson
Bruce Kelley
Gertrude Rutenbeck
Mrs. L. C. Meinke
Charles Martensen
Frank 'Pat' Hubbard

Leo Harmsen
Roger Shaff
Noel Olson
Harry Joy
Ray Green
Al Creger

This committee acknowledges the assistance of many leaders, organizations, and media who helped in planning and carrying out the 50th Anniversary program of the Clinton County Extension Service.

The Clinton Co. Extension Service . . .

The following report covers briefly the organization of the Cooperative Extension Service in Clinton County from 1912 to 1962. It is divided into four periods to coincide with four different county sponsoring organizations which co-operated with Iowa State University in conducting the extension program.

Fifty annual reports are on file in the County Extension Office which contain over 5,000 pages of information on the many educational programs of the Extension Service.

Clinton Commercial Club - 1912-1914

The Clinton Commercial Club, now the Clinton Chamber of Commerce, met with farmers and businessmen in April, 1912, to discuss the organization of an agricultural association. C. F. Terhune, secretary of the club, and George Farrell, county superintendent of schools, were active promoters of early extension work in Clinton County.

During June, 1912, Farrell and Terhune organized meetings in most towns within the county explaining the plans for an agricultural worker and soliciting the interest and cooperation of farmers and business men. M. L. Mosher, representative of the Iowa Extension Service, accompanied them and explained the proposed work of an Extension Agent.

On July 6, 1912, a three-year contract to put the proposal into operation was signed by F. H. Van Allen and C. F. Terhune, president and secretary of the Commercial Club. Mr. Mosher also signed the agreement as county agent. The signatures were witnessed by George Farrell, chairman of the agricultural committee. Mosher was the first County Extension worker in Clinton County and in Iowa.

Farmers who supported the work virtually became members of the Clinton Commercial Club. The president of each township Better Farming Association became a member of the club's agricultural committee.

Major interests of cooperative extension work centered around soils, crops, livestock and 4-H club work.

... thru **50** YEARS

Clinton County Farm Improvement Assn. 1915 - 1917

This association was organized late in 1914 and farmers took full charge of the program Jan. 1, 1915.

The main projects for that year were corn improvement, control of livestock diseases, and a State Fair exhibit. Minor projects included: oat smut treatment, alfalfa introductions, breeder's association, orchard demonstrations, poultry meetings, silo introductions and soil improvement.

L. O. Wise was hired as County Agent on January 1, 1916, and Julia Brekke became Home Demonstration Agent on October 4, 1917.

During World War I major projects turned to food production and conservation, farm labor recruitment, Red Cross and Liberty Loans.

The Iowa Extension Service cooperated with the Farm Improvement Association in employing extra workers. Florence Hansen, home economics teacher at DeWitt school, was added to the staff as canning demonstrator and girls' 4-H club leader for June, July and August. F. F. DeButts was assistant county agent in charge of boys' 4-H clubs.

Clinton County Farm Bureau - 1918-1955

In 1918 the Farm Improvement Association elected to change its name to Farm Bureau and affiliate with the other Farm Bureaus throughout the state.

Many programs were actively pursued by the Extension Service during the thirty-seven years of Farm Bureau and Iowa State University sponsorship.

Production and conservation of food, and war activities were important during World Wars I and II, as well as adjustment programs following the wars.

Extension programs were developed and put into action in soils, crops, livestock, 4-H club work, family living, and community and public affairs.

OF COUNTY SPONSORSHIP

County Extension Staff Members Cooperatively Employed by Iowa State University and Co. Farm Bureau

Extension Directors

M. L. Hooten <i>all</i>	1- 1-12 <i>12-31-15</i>	
L. O. Wise	1- 1-18 to	1-15-22
O. H. Joy	2- 1-22 to	10-31-26
A. M. Kirby	11-22-26 to	5- 7-33
M. D. Lacy <i>at other local Sp. 2</i>	5- 8-33 to	2- 1-46
E. L. Molln	2- 1-46 to	9-30-46
Ed F. Stout	11- 1-46 to	9-30-51
Norman J. Goodwin	10- 1-51 to	6-30-55

3-4
4-1
4-8
7-6
12-9
6
5-2
10-8
47-49
3-

Home Economists

Julia Brekke	1917 to	1923
Ella Jean Woods	4- 1-43 to	8- 1-43
Claudia Weinman	3-15-44 to	1-20-45
Helen S. Whittington	5- 1-45 to	6-30-55

Youth Assistants or Associates

F. F. De Butts	5-10-17 to	8- 1-17
Mervin Zeller	3-21-34 to	9-17-34
Daniel Petersen	4- 1-36 to	2-28-38
John L. Dooley	3-21-38 to	12-31-39
Jacob Stimson	1- 1-40 to	9-30-41
J. E. Ellis	10- 1-41 to	2-28-42
E. F. Stout	6- 8-42 to	9-30-43
Lyle Haring	11- 1-44 to	9-30-50
Alger Buech	11-15-50 to	9- 1-51
Gene Heintz	6-16-52 to	2-15-53
Wayne Tabor	3- 1-53 to	8-31-54
Jimmy Miller	9- 6-54 to	6-30-55

Clinton County Extension Council

1955-1962

The Iowa General Assembly passed a new Extension Act in 1955 known as the Agricultural Extension Law. This action established a County Extension District in each county and transferred the responsibility of conducting the Extension Program from the County Farm Bureau to the County Extension Council. This council consists of one elected representative from each of the 21 townships in the county.

The Extension Council assumed the responsibility of cooperating with Iowa State University in conducting the Clinton County Extension program on July 1, 1955.

Programs were developed in land use, crops, livestock, 4-H club work, farm and home development, family living, and community and public affairs.

The Extension Office was moved from the Farm Bureau Building to the Post Office on April 24, 1961.

The present extension staff is Norman J. Goodwin, County Extension Director; Helen S. Whittington, County Extension Home Economist; and Jimmy Miller, County Extension Associate.

1962 EXTENSION COUNCIL

Bloomfield	Virtus Scott
Brookfield	Sheldon Rittmer
Camanche	Frank Hubbard
Center	Donald Stuedemann
Clinton	Wilfred McDonald
Deep Creek	Arion Potter
DeWitt	Mrs. Robt. Schuster
Eden	Adolph Dohrmann
Elk River	Donald Dierks
Grant	Roy Cain
Hampshire	Arnold Horst
Liberty	Donald Stevens
Lincoln	Don Sievers
Olive	Pershing Johnson
Orange	Hubert Green
Sharon	Mrs. Hubert Glynn
Spring Rock	Charles Shaver
Spring Valley	Donald Hildebrand
Washington	Lloyd Lawrence
Waterford	Russell Paulsen
Welton	James Poutney

PRESIDENTS OF ORGANIZATIONS SPONSORING EXTENSION SERVICE

Agriculture Committee, Clinton Commercial Club

1912 - 1913 — George Farrell*
1914 — E. C. Forrest*

Farm Improvement Association

1915 - 1916 — Warren Walrod*

Farm Bureau

1917 — Warren Walrod*
1918 - 1919 — Charles Coverdale, Clinton
1920 — William Burke*
1921 — Chris Jensen*
1922 - 1923 — O. C. Mowry*
1924 — Ralph J. Walls*
1925 - 1926 — Hans P. Heldt*
1927 - 1928 — H. E. Wilkinson, DeWitt
1929 — L. C. Meinke, Delmar
1930 - 1931 — Herman Schultz, Lost Nation
1932 - 1934 — Edward Ruggeberg, Lost Nation
1935 - 1936 — Roy Traver*
1937 - 1942 — Charles Martensen, Delmar
1943 - 1946 — Bruce H. Kelley, Miles
1947 - 1949 — V. C. Rutenbeck*
1950 — Herb Carlson, Maquoketa
1951 - 1952 — Joe Carber, Des Moines
1953 - 1955 — Lewis Rathje, Clinton

Clinton County Extension Council

1955 - 1957 — Raymond Green, DeWitt
1958 - 1959 — A. H. Keen, DeWitt
1960 — Frank 'Pat' Hubbard, Clinton
1961 - 1962 — Roy Cain, Delmar

* Deceased

