FARM BOYS' AND GIRLS' LEADER

JAN. - DEC. 1919

Return to Miss Warren

JUNIOR SOLDIERS OF THE SOIL

Jan. 1919

VOL. I

A Service for Farm Boys and Girls and the Federal Club Work

"A personal interest in the farm plan for each boy and girl"

NO. 1

ISSUED MONTHLY BY THE BOYS' AND GIRLS' CLUB DEPARTMENT

E. T. MEREDITH
Publisher

SUCCESSFUL FARMING
DES MOINES, IOWA

E. N. HOPKINS
Editor

A New Champion For Farm Boys and Girls

Junior Soldiers of the Soil

A PERSONAL interest in the farm plan for each boy and girl." This is the text chosen as a basis for what will appear in this new publication, the "Junior Soldiers of the Soil." It will be issued monthly by Successful Farming, in the interest of farm boys and girls and the federal boys' and girls' club work. It is a service publication and will accept no paid advertising. Our plan of loans thru which we are encouraging farm children by giving financial assistance where needed, will be presented from month to month. What these boys and girls have accomplished and are accomplishing thru these loans, and other encouragement, will be given more or less space. Their achievements will encourage other farm children to take up some branch of farming, and form the nucleus for more successful farmers and farm wives.

Some $60,000 has already been loaned to worthy farm boys and girls, ten to eighteen years old. Some have made a beginning with pigs, others with calves, sheep, poultry, and seed for a crop. Loans are made on the basis of one year at 6 percent interest without security other than the name of the boy or girl making the loan. The contract requires that they become members of the federal boys' and girls' clubs and work under the supervision of the club leaders. This requirement is insisted upon and no loans are made except to those who qualify—secure the recommendation of the county agent or local club leader and join one of the regular club projects of the state in which the applicant lives. Several thousand boys and girls have taken advantage of our loans, and all those who qualify may have the benefit of this financial assistance.

However, the great majority of boys and girls on the farm need no financial assistance, as they are able, or can get help from their parents, to take up anything in the way of club or farm projects. These boys and girls along with those financed, become members of our Junior Soldiers of the Soil army, now numbering over 50,000, and come together in community or squad gatherings, discuss their projects, etc. By this coming together as squads or in the regular club work, leadership, social activities and community development is brought about and a better, broader view of farm life is obtained.

These squads meet as units and follow a regular program of song, discuss the club work activities, contests arranged by Successful Farming mentioned later in this article, hear committees reports on birds, conservation, food production, etc. These meetings are addressed by parents and local citizens. In the regular club work, boys and girls are trained in leadership, develop initiative, and find out about many worth while things in connection with rural life. Cooperation in furthering all their interests results, ideas are exchanged pertaining to schools, good roads, club work, and just as important, social relations are built up which will last for a life time. Isolation and ignorance disappear and prejudices are removed.

Thru the boys' and girls' clubs, agriculture is introduced in the schools, demonstration plots follow, either on the school ground or at the home, and the teacher finds the opportunity of vitalizing and visualizing the school work. A more intense and practical interest in school work follows.

As one of the means of encouraging farm children to investigate questions beneficial to farm life, efficiency, home comforts, etc., contests are carried on each month pertaining to some phase of farming activities or questions affecting the farm home. In December a contest with prizes was arranged for farm boys and girls regarding home lighting and power plants. The first three prize stories are published in this issue. A poultry contest has been launched for the hatching season now before us, the details of which appear in this number. Club leaders andothers are invited to encourage farm boys and girls to take up this practical work. The prizes offered will stimulate interest and large number will become familiar with hatching and other phases of poultry culture. Last fall a rat contest was arranged for boys and girls. Details of the contest are announced in this

A JUNIOR AGRICULTURAL PAPER FOR FARM BOYS AND GIRLS

The new year has brought something which farm boys and girls have needed and wanted for sometime. It is something new and very appropriately begins with the new year. It is a paper which boys and girls may call their own and feel that at last they have a champion. The stories of farm boys' and girls' achievements will find place in the columns of this paper. Problems concerning the welfare of junior farmers will be discussed and encouraged. The great army of Junior Soldiers of the Soil are to have an organ of their own and so at the beginning of this new year this publication is launched and dedicated to the coming generation of farmers.

The federal boys' and girls' club movement will be featured in every number. This is the recognized organization of farm boys and girls, and every agency should work in harmony and in cooperation with that great organization whose head in the north and west is O. H. Benson of Washington, D. C. In replying to our announcement regarding the launching of this new publication and service for farm boys and girls, Mr. Benson writes:

"The publication of a junior agricultural paper will be a very interesting thing, and I am sure has possibilities, not only for your concern, but also for the boys and girls of the country. I have often thought that a distinctly agricultural journal for boys and girls would be a great thing and would be just as popular as the Boys Scout Magazine or even more so."

We want the boys and girls and the club leaders to feel that this is their paper and every effort will be made to serve their interests. Stories of boys' and girls' achievements, pictures of themselves and stock and crops, etc., will find place in the columns of this paper, and such contributions will be gladly received for this purpose.

number of the Junior Soldiers of the Soil, and there is yet time for many boys and girls to qualify and win the prizes offered. The contest will close April 1st. Rats destroy $200,000,000 worth of food and feed annually, and it is necessary that farm children bec me interested in this question if we would conserve our food and feed and be ready to meet the world's needs. Other contests will be announced from month to month in Successful Farming and in this paper, and we will be glad to have suggestions from club leaders and others pertaining to questions that boys and girls might well consider.

It is hoped that this publication will serve the purpose intended. The columns are open to club leaders, county agents, and those interested in farm boys and girls. Photographs and stories of boys' and girls' achievements and other data affecting farm youth will be gladly received and will find place in this paper. It is dedicated to the farm boys and girls and the club work.

Successful Farming's service to the boys and girls on the farm is carried out on a broad basis. This service which is gladly extended and is not dependent upon subscriptions to our paper or other activities calculated to directly benefit our paper.

WHAT AN INDIANA BOY THINKS OF OUR PLAN OF LOANS

I am enclosing you money order for my note, $26.25. The $1.25 is what I thought the interest would amount to. I do not know the date of note, but if I have not sent enough, let me know so I can send full amount.

My sow farrowed eight pigs, July 16. I just sold five of them for $21.00 each. I have my sow and three gilts weighing 100 lbs. each. My feed bill is very low. They had milk and blue grass until in November; since then corn and pure water, also slop from kitchen. My money out-lay for feed has run near $30.00 while milk, slop and grain would not exceed $10.00. So my account would stand:

Loan, cost of feed, etc.		
Note	$ 25.00	
Interest on note	1.25	
Corn and other grain	30.00	
Milk and pasture	10.00	
Delivery of hogs to market	4.00	
Total cost		$70.25
Sold and on hand		
5 hogs at 21c	$105.00	
Sow on hand	50.00	
3 gilts	50.00	
Total		$205.00 $134.75

The $34.25 is cash. I bought some clothes and a book, and had a little cash left. My county, Brown, has no county agent or pig club, or any representative. I wrote to the state agent and he told me to see my county agent and state pig club representative, and as my first letter told him the situation, I did not answer again. I have done well and thank you very much for your kind helpfulness. My papa and mamma feel grateful to you.

Thanking you very much for the past favor, I am,

Very sincerely yours,
Alva Carl Buser, Morgan Co., Ind.

SEND IN YOUR GAMES

We propose to carry a column devoted to games suitable for club meetings, Junior Soldier squad meetings, etc. Please send in a list of the games you are familiar with and tell how they are played. Play life should be a part of all activities of boys and girls, and grown-ups, too, as far as that's concerned. Please write us about the games you are familiar with for our games' column.—Club Editor.

TO OTHERS

"Not what has happened to myself today—but what has happened to others thru me—that should be my thought."

INDIANA BOYS NET $5.50 PER TREE ON HOME ORCHARD

"I haven't time to care for my orchard." How often we hear this coming from the farmer who has all, and more than he can do, in caring for the main lines of work on the farm. It is natural for any one to let a minor line of work suffer when it comes into competition with some big thing he is doing.

The farmer and his family like apples and he himself appreciates the fact that a certain amount of care must be given his orchard to enable it to produce palatable fruit. He is willing to furnish pruning tools, a spray pump, spray materials, straw for mulch and all equipment, but he feels that he must spend his own time in looking after the stock or the field crops. So then who is to take a personal interest in the orchard?

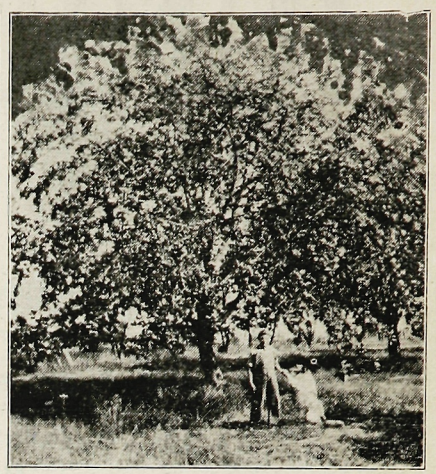
Keller E. Beeson, club leader at Columbia City, Indiana, suggests that a large percent of the Indiana farmers have a boy who with a little encouragement and instruction from the father, club leader, or county agent, would be glad to make the home orchard his special project. In support of this idea Mr. Beeson organized an Orchard Club in the spring of 1918. There were seven applications for membership in the club. A horticultural specialist from the Purdue Extension Department visited the boys' homes, and felt that their orchards were too nearly dead to rejuvenate. A pruning demonstration was held in each orchard which all the boys attended. A representative tree was pruned, and the boys at that farm completed the work on the nine other trees, making a block of ten trees in all, on each farm.

Some of the trees were thick and bushy. These were thinned out, being careful to make each cut close to the limb and to thin out the outside circumference of the tree rather than to take all the limbs out of the center of the tree. In case the trees were tall, 4′ to 8′ of the main upward growing branches were sawed off just above a limb running out more or less parallel to the ground. Only a moderate amount of pruning was done as the trees had in most cases never been pruned, and it is not best to take out in one year all the branches which should have come out over a ten year period.

After the pruning was completed one of the sprayer manufacturing companies furnished the boys a barrel sprayer and spraying equipment which they hauled from orchard to orchard in an old spring wagon, each one helping the other spray his trees. The first spray applied was a lime sulphur spray, using one gallon of the commercial liquid to eight gallons of water. The greatest care was taken to thoroly cover both sides of the tree with the spray. In case of the old, tall trees, this spray was put on, say, with a south wind, and then again with a north-east, north or northwest wind. This insured covering the entire tree surface.

The first summer spray was applied just as the buds were showing pink. A gallon and a half of lime sulphur and one pound powdered arsenate of lead was used to each 50 gallons of water. This spray was repeated just after the petals fell, again three weeks after the fall of the petals, and the last time the second week in July, making one dormant spray and four summer sprays in all.

The boys enjoyed the work and took a great interest in it, especially as their parents had promised to give them all the crop from their ten trees. Instead of receiving a little care now and then which the home orchard usually gets, the boys found time to always do the right thing at the right time. Three or four hundred pounds of manure were scattered under each tree and half rotten straw was piled about the trees three or four inches thick, and as far out as the limbs extended. The straw conserved the moisture as well as thoro cultivation, which is usually a



Made $20.00 from this tree

difficult operation to accomplish in the average farm orchard.

The crop of apples harvested was almost totally free from worms and the fungous diseases of that locality. After deducting 25 cents per hour for all the time spent in any of the orchard operations, and also the cost of the spray material, pruning tools, etc., the lowest net receipts from any of the bearing orchards in the club was $35.83, and the highest $72.94, or an average net per tree of $5.49. One boy sold $20.00 worth of fruit from one Duchess tree alone. The total cost of spray material, pruning tools, etc., for his ten trees amounted to $10.96.

The uncared-for trees in the boys' orchards were fair examples of what the other ten would have been without care. Practically no fruit remained at picking time, and this was of a quality scarcely fit for cider.

Why not encourage the farm boys to take an interest in the home orchard? Every line of work on the farm must have some one to take a special interest in it. Give the boy what he can make out of the home orchard and see how quickly his interest will be aroused.

Twenty to twenty-five home orchards in Indiana, when cared for, have been netting from $50.00 to as high as $463.68 per acre in the past few years.

Give the home orchard an application of barn yard manure, a little pruning and apply the spray program as recommended by the State Experiment Station, and there will be no more profitable block of land on the farm, nor one which will afford the family more personal satisfaction. Don't forget "An apple a day drives the doctor away."

C. L. Burkholder,
Horticultural Extension Dept.,
LaFayette, Indiana.

JOIN THE BOYS' AND GIRLS' CLUBS

If you have never been a member of the boys' and girls' clubs in your state, or county in which you live, see your club leader or county agent without delay. If you have none, write to your state club leader listed in this paper, and learn all about the club work, also help organize a club in your community.

PATRIOTIC TO RAISE FOOD NOW

One Junior Soldier writes as follows:

"We are glad that the war is over but I am not going to stop raising food. It is just as patriotic to raise food now as ever, so let all Junior Soldiers raise more food and make ourselves known as loyal Junior Soldiers."

THAT MAKE MEN HAPPY

To watch the corn grow, and the blossoms set, to draw hard breath over plowshare or spade, to read, to think, to love, to hope, to pray, these are the things that make men happy.—Ruskin.

"SHORT COURSE TRIPS" FOR JUNIOR SOLDIERS AND CLUB MEMBERS

DEAR Junior Soldiers and Club Members: The war is over and world peace will soon be a reality. Uncle Sam and our allies can be safely trusted to work out a peace treaty and a league of nations that will make it impossible for another "Kaiser" to attempt the crimes committed by Emperor William and his allies. Our boys "over there" and our "boys and girls over here" have helped whip the Kaiser and all may share in the victory that is now ours.

We have changed our loan plan from "liberty loans" to "victory loans" and will be glad to assist all worthy farm boys and girls in a financial way in order to help them finish the job before us. We must help Hoover feed three hundred million starving people in war-ridden Europe and this means we must raise more calves, pigs, poultry, sheep, gardens and crops. Everything that will yield food and feed must be produced this coming year, as it will take Europe several years to recover from the devastation brought about by Germany and her allies in France, Belgium, Serbia, and other countries.

Millions of breeding stock such as dairy cattle, hogs, etc., have been slaughtered for meat and we must not only furnish milk products, beef, pork, flour, etc., but supply breeding stock to many countries in Europe.

$1,000 in Prizes!

In order to encourage greater production of food and feed and to increase the membership in the Boys' and Girls' Clubs of the middle west, I am glad to offer the following prizes to the 1919 club winners in the states of North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, Wisconsin, Illinois, Michigan, Indiana, Ohio and Arkansas. I will give a free trip to the state "short course" to the winners in the following clubs: dairy calf, pig, poultry, sheep and corn clubs. The short course trip includes railroad fare, both ways, and meals and lodging while attending the annual agricultural college short course. Second and third prizes will be announced in our February number. Fourth and fifth prizes will be ribbons.

Conditions of Contest

These prizes are open to all farm boys and girls, ten to eighteen years old, who enlist in our army of Junior Soldiers of the Soil, and who become members of the Boys' and Girls' Club of the state in which they live. These prizes are for the 1919 regular club contests and it is important that farm boys and girls in the states mentioned above get in touch with their state club leaders or local leaders at once and join some of these clubs. Many boys and girls are already enlisted as Junior Soldiers and will only need to become club members in order to qualify for the contests. There are others who will need to enlist in our army in order to compete for the short course trips and other prizes to be announced later. Boys' and Girls' Clubs are formed by the state club leaders, and local leaders, where five or more boys or girls take up a club project. See your club leader, county agent, or county superintendent of schools, who will tell you about the club work, or write to your state club leader listed below and he will be glad to advise you regarding the club work. Fill out the pledge found in this number and send in to Successful Farming and enlist as Junior Soldiers of the Soil. Join the clubs of your state thru your Club leader.

The short course trips cover a week's training at your agricultural college and every boy and girl should plan to attend the "short course." Your state club leader will tell you all about these "short course trips."

The State Club Leaders in the middle west and their addresses are as follows: (You should give their title in writing them.)

H. E. Dixon, Fargo, N. Dak.; P. J. Scarbro, Brookings, S. Dak.; Otis E. Hall, Manhattan, Kans.; C. W. Watson, Lincoln, Nebr.; E. B. Shotwell, Stillwater, Okla.; T. A. Erickson, St. Paul, Minn.; E. C. Bishop, Ames, Iowa; R. H. Emberson, Columbia, Mo.; T. L. Bewick, Madison, Wis.; J. H. Greene, Urbana, Ill.; R. A. Turner, East Lansing, Mich.; Z. M. Smith, LaFayette, Ind.; W. H. Palmer, Columbus, Ohio; W. J. Jernigan, Little Rock, Ark.

Who will be the first to enlist in this great contest and then help organize a Boys' and Girls' Club in your community? Help recruit our army of Junior Soldiers of the Soil to 100,000 and let's finish the big job before us. I am sure every boy and girl will consider it an opportunity and privilege to help feed starving Europe. In doing this you will develop the home community and benefit yourself. Boys and girls, this is your opportunity, and President Wilson expects every farm boy and girl to do his or her duty.—E. T. Meredith, Publisher.

(Note: To county agents and club leaders: It is hoped that club leaders, county agents, and others interested in the boys' and girls' club work in the states listed, will make use of these short course trips when enrolling boys and girls in the club work this year. These trips are offered to encourage more farm children to take up the club work and connect up with the agricultural college work. These short course trips might be listed with other club prizes so that all farm children might know about them.—Club Editor.)

FAITH IN BOYS AND GIRLS

"I believe that every farm boy and girl should have a personal part in the farm plan. Nothing else will go as far toward making the farm attractive to our farm youth. In giving each boy and girl a real interest and the advantages of the boys' and girls' club training, the foundation for successful, contented farmers will be laid.

"In order to give ambitious and worthy farm children needing or desiring financial assistance such an opportunity, I am willing to loan them money without security for the purchase of calves, pigs, poultry, sheep, seed, etc. I believe farm boys and girls are honest and if given an opportunity, will make good, and the movement of our farm youth to the city will cease."—E. T. Meredith.

THE NEW YEAR

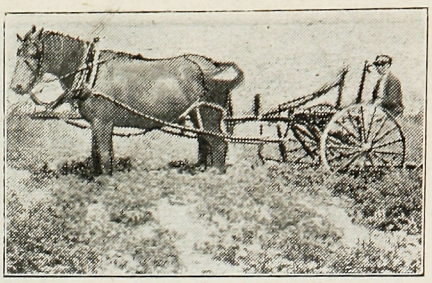
By Edgar A. Guest

Last year the world was in despair, war reigned upon the land and sea,
But now we know how vain it was to wish that Belgium might be free.
Unless unitedly we stood with willing hearts to dare and do
And even die upon the field to make the joy we wished come true.

We wished that men might live in peace and children romp and shout and play,
Each soldier brave who went to France wished many a happy New Year's Day
To all the troubled lands afar, and wishing it faced the strife
And for another's happiness ungrudgingly he gave his life.

I think I have learned from war that as I wish so must I toil,
'Tis vain to wish for flowers to bloom if I refuse to till the soil.
Each kindly thought becomes a pledge of service to the friends I know,
And when I wish them happy days then I must help to make them so.

I can't express it as I would, but this I hope this New Year's Day
That I may be of service here and gladden all who come my way.
I hope that this will be a year of happiness for all I know,
And in some little way I pray that I may help to make it so.



Harvey Scoville and His Potatoes

MADE MONEY FROM POTATOES

About two years ago, our state club leader came out to our school house and organized an agricultural club. The first year my crop was a failure. But when Mr. Turner came out this spring, 1918, I thought I would try my luck again, so I began.

First, I asked my father what kind of an offer he would make me. He said, "I will let you have those little potatoes and let you have one half acre of the alfalfa for your potatoes if you will keep it clean and keep a record of your work." I said, "I will take you up." So I began to make plans. I thought that I would get my potatoes in early, and get a good price for them. But this spring when it was time to put manure on the plot I came down with the measles and my father was so busy that he could not do it, so I didn't get it manured. But I got well in time to plow it. When I got it plowed I began to drag it. I dragged it three times and then it was ready to mark. My father said, "If you will help me plant the sorghum, I will mark your potato ground." So I helped him plant the sorghum and he marked my potato ground.

On June 19th, I planted my potatoes with a hand planter. I planted them 36 inches apart each way. In about ten days my potatoes came up. And I dragged them with a spike tooth drag. On July the 3rd, I sprayed my potatoes with Paris Green and on July 25th and August 10th, I sprayed again with Paris Green. During this time I cultivated them three times, and once after this. I did not do anything more until I dug them.

I would dig a few and then I would pick them up. After three days of work I got my potatoes dug and picked up. On October 25th, I took them to market receiving $1.10 a bushel for them, making a total value after cost of work and other things were figured out, of $86.55. I did not save any of my potatoes for seed because I thought it would not be best to plant them another year because I planted small seed that year, and was afraid they might be run out.

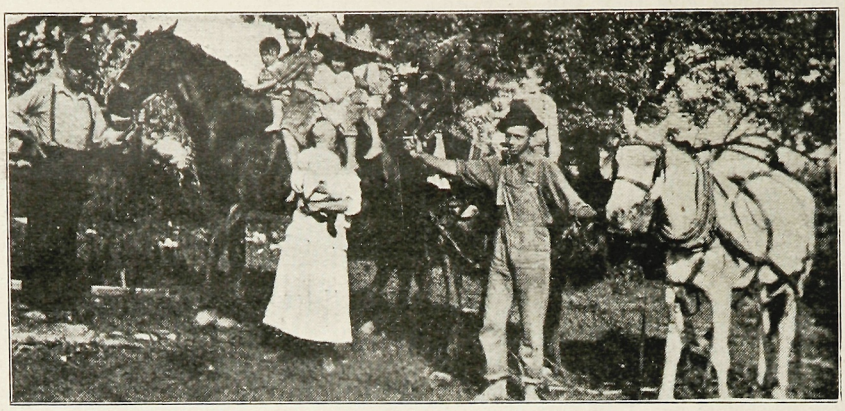
I figure by this the boys' and girls' club work has helped me to make my profit of $86.55, which I would not have made had it not been for the club.

Next year I think I will be able to prepare my plot a little better by fertilizing it and top-dressing it with stable manure and hope to receive more from it."—H. E. S., Hillsdale County, Wis.

CLUB WORK IN THE SOUTH

The club enrollment in the southern thirteen states nearly doubled last year. O. B. Martin, of Washington, D. C., who is in charge of the club work in the south announces that the regular club enrollment totalled for last year, 204,869. The enrollment of the emergency clubs totalled, 202,671, making a total enrollment in the southern thirteen states of 407,540.

The financial results of the club work in the south and other details will be announced in the next issue. The south is not only keeping pace but is introducing many original club ideas.



HOW OUR LOANS HELPED IN MISSOURI

A little over a year ago a loan of $15.00 each was made to James, Harry and Bessie McElheran, of Hannibal, Missouri. They purchased registered O. I. C. pigs thru these loans, and we submit pictures and letter from the mother of these Missouri children, showing what has been accomplished in this family thru our plan. James, the oldest boy, one of our Junior Soldiers of the Soil, enlisted in the army, July 1st, 1918, and was at the battle front in France when peace was declared. Many Junior Soldiers became members of Uncle Sam's army before the war was over, but their greatest service has been rendered on the farm in raising food and feed to help win the war. Herbert Hoover said that food would help win the war and it has. What Junior Soldiers of the Soil have produced would amount to several hundreds of thousands of dollars.

The letter of Mrs. J. A. McElheran follows:

"Dear Mr. Meredith:

I am sending enclosed some pictures of the three pigs the children bought thru your aid. The three children, James, Bessie and Harry, got 3 O. I. C. pigs, registered free in their names. They were three months old when we got them. The male was no kin to sows. They farrowed the 27th and 30th of August, 1918, and James' sow, Bridget, farrowed seven fine pigs, five sows, and two males. Bessie's sow farrowed six pigs, three sows and three males. They are doing fine now. James enlisted in the army and went July 1st. He will not be eighteen years old till February 2nd. He is now on his way to France as he left about the 6th of October. So Harry is taking care of his sow till he comes home.

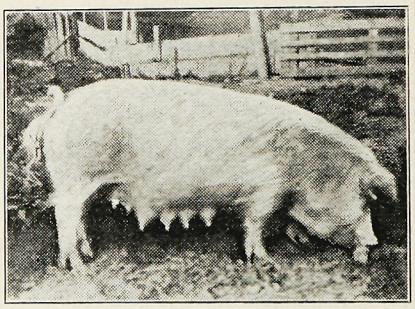
James McElheran, one of our Junior Soldiers who enlisted in Uncle Sam's service.

I am sending James' picture in uniform, also a picture taken just before he enlisted. He was ready to go to the field to plow, as he put in about 15 acres of corn and put up our hay before he went. The children will meet their note when due and are certainly proud of their pigs which they never would have had without your generous assistance.

Wishing you the best of success for all time. Will renew our subscription soon, as we could not get along without Successful Farming.

Yours truly,
Mrs. J. A. McElheran,
Hannibal, Missouri, R. 3."

(Note: These loans were paid in full with interest, November 16th, and the money was re-loaned out to other boys and girls who desired to take up some branch of the club work.)



One of the pigs furnished James, Harry and Bessie McElheran thru our plan of loans.

A BOY'S VACATION

By Nixon Waterman

Little Tommy Doodle and his mother spent a week
At Gran'pa Doodle's farm, where Tommy tumbled in the creek
And got his lungs so full of wet he couldn't get his breath
Till poor old Gran'ma Doodle had been frightened 'most to death.

He ate some poison berries that he found along the lane:
It took a doctor half the night to soothe away the pain.
He tried to ride a "kicky" colt—a risky thing to do—
'Twas quite a little while before they really brought him to.

He stuck a stick into a hive of bees—oh, sorry day!
He couldn't see a thing until the swelling went away.
He teased the goat to see if it was cross as he had heard:
They had to work with him awhile before he spoke a word.

And then he climbed a cherry-tree—just like a boy—and fell
And broke his arm, and—sakes alive! you ought'a heard him yell.
His mother took him back to town to get a little rest,
But Tommy says of all his life that week was far the best.

SUGGESTIONS FOR CONTEST

We would like to have suggestions for contests from club leaders, county agents, and boys and girls. These contests should apply to some of the farm activities, home conveniences or home equipment, the best club story, etc. Let us have your suggestions.

BOYS' AND GIRLS' FRUIT CLUBS

During the Mid-West Horticultural Exposition held in Des Moines, in December, the fruit growers and college extension men, also manufacturers and others, met at Successful Farming for a day's conference on horticultural matters.

At that time there was a good deal of discussion regarding boys' and girls' fruit clubs, and before the day ended those present decided to inaugurate boys' and girls' fruit clubs thruout the country. A committee of ten was appointed representing the publishers, nursery interests, spray manufacturers, college men, producers, and two state club leaders will be added to the committee.

E. N. Hopkins, Des Moines, Iowa, director boys' and girls' club work for Successful Farming, was made chairman of the committee, and would like to have all information and suggestions regarding boys' and girls' fruit clubs. Whatever has been accomplished along this line or contemplated for the coming year, will be of interest and Mr. Hopkins will be glad to have such information by early mail, to submit to the committee. The complete personnel of the committee and the interests represented are as follows: Farm press, E. N. Hopkins, Des Moines and Samuel Adams of Chicago; producers and growers, Cyrus Harvey of Altoona, Iowa, and Mrs. Nora Dunlap of Savoy, Ill.; college men, V. C. Holsinger of Ames, Iowa, and C. L. Burkholder of Lafayette, Ind.; manufacturers of fruit spraying machinery, H. C. Lisle of Hudson, Mich.; and E. H. Favor of Galva, Ill.; nurserymen, P. C. Stark of Louisiana, Mo., and Earl D. Needham of Des Moines, and two State Club Leaders.

The committee will meet shortly and work out a plan for each state which will be recommended by national and state club leaders, so that whatever is undertaken will be along practical lines and have the supervision of the state and county club leaders of the various states.

It is apparent that we should raise more fruit and vegetables, and so relieve the pressure on wheat and meat, and because the orchard and garden provide so much of the home living, they should have serious consideration. Boys and girls like fruit and gardening and will take an interest if given a plan and encouragement.

Indiana and one or two other states have taken up fruit clubs in a small way. A story found elsewhere in this paper tells what Indiana has accomplished and what may be carried out in a practical way with boys and girls everywhere. One can find on almost every farm neglected orchards which might be rejuvenated if turned over to boy and girl fruit club members and linked up with the federal club work. In this way boys and girls will learn about spraying, pruning, fertilizing, and general care of the orchard. They will begin to study markets, packing, and the marketing end in general, and thru their clubs exchange ideas and form a nucleus for growers and shippers associations later on. Cooperation will come thru boys and girls clubs in all lines of farm activities.

Farm bureaus might well encourage these fruit clubs and all other boys' and girls' club projects, and doubtless will.

Parents are urged to turn over ten trees to the boys and girls and help the children get a start with some bush fruits—strawberry plants, etc. As soon as the fruit club plans are in shape, they will be announced in every state and prizes arranged for club competition. The old saying, "An apple a day will keep a doctor away," is still true and some one has added this query, "If one apple a day will keep the doctor away, what will two do?" Let us find out and in the process build up the home orchard on every farm.

Have you joined the poultry contest? Write Boys' and Girls' Club Department, Successful Farming, for details and list of prizes.

LIGHT AND POWER ON THE FARM

During the month of December a farm lighting and power contest was arranged for farm boys and girls. Successful Farming offered three prizes, $5.00 1st, $3.00 2nd, $2.00 3rd, for the best stories on home lighting and power plants. The conditions of the contest required that these stories should bring out the various uses and benefits of lighting and power on the farm. Convenience, comfort and efficiency, were other points to be brought out in the contest. It is very important that farm boys and girls take greater interest in everything that will save labor, make farming more profitable and make the farm home the best home there is to be found anywhere.

The three prize stories follow in their order and will be of interest to agricultural workers, Junior Soldiers and club members:

(First Prize, $5.00)

ELECTRICITY ON THE FARM

We have on our farm a ——— lighting system manufactured by the Domestic Engineering Company, Dayton, Ohio.

We use 16 cells 160 ampere hour batteries. We use 19 lights on our farm. We have lights in the house, barn, chicken house, milk house, garage and on the tower of a 35 foot windmill. We have a 250 Watt light which when in use lights the barn lot like the sun and can be seen in all the neighborhood.

We have an electric motor that runs a washing machine, corn mill, churn, cream separator, grindstone and pumps the water. We use an electric iron and electric vacuum cleaner and electric fan.

We certainly enjoy the electric lights even better than we do the automobile. Everywhere you go on the farm you have a bright light and you are not bothered with an old lantern or lamps. There is no danger of fire whatever.

Our system is the unit system and therefore very easy to operate. We use coal oil in our engine instead of gasoline and it runs just as good. We do not charge our batteries more than once a week. I can operate the engine as good as my father or brother can.

The handiest of all electric conveniences I think are the electric vacuum cleaner and iron. When you iron you never have to have a fire and you can iron much faster and just as good or better than you could with the other irons. As for the vacuum cleaner it is one of the handiest things I have ever seen. You never have to take up carpets or rugs and it gets the dirt in the corners better than any old broom and you can get thru in about half the time. There is an attachment to it that can be used for blowing the dust from walls, stove pipes, flues, etc. The electric iron and vacuum cleaner are therefore time and labor savers which is a big item in a day's program for the farmer.

Kate Bowen,
Chillicothe, Mo., R. R. No. 2.

(Second Prize $3.00)

OUR ELECTRIC LIGHT PLANT

We have an electric light plant in our home, which consists of a two kilowatt ——— generator a thirty-two volt S. O. S. storage battery of a hundred and twenty-hour ampere capacity, a three horse power ——— a switch board which has a volt meter, amphere meter, a rheostat, a reverse current cut-out and three switches with fuse plug.

The plant is located in the basement of our home. We use the engine to wash with, also pump water from a spring near by into a large pressure boiler, and this furnishes us a complete water system. The engine also operates a cream separator.

When the engine is running any of these machines it is generating electricity from the dynamo at the same time.

We have the house all wired up for our light and power, we have a large garage also wired up and intend putting lights in the barn in the near future. With several other outside lights, we will have about 60 lights when it is all wired up.

We have an electric iron, electric vacuum cleaner and an electric fan. These all save mother lots of work and certainly make it much nicer and more comfortable.

I live in the country but our house has all of the modern improvements just like the city folks. We have a hot water heating plant, a complete water works system, running water all over the house any place, but the best of all and one of the most important of all is the electric lighting plant. The electric storms do not bother our lights like they do in some of the cities. There is no danger from fire or asphyxiation with the low voltage electric lights.

We would all be lost if we did not have our electric lights.

Kathleen Troop,
Plattsmouth, Nebr.,
R. F. D. No. 1.

(Third Prize, $2.00)

LIGHT AND POWER FOR FARM

In regards light and power will say I think the light plant on the farm is one of the greatest comforts and helps we have.

With the light hung from the ceiling one can read in any part of the room where if the lamps were used all would crowd around the location of the lamp and most of the time some one would be in your light, or you in theirs, so there is not near the pleasure and contentment in the long winter evenings. At least it was that way at our house until we got the lighting system.

We have an electric plant in our home, the——— lighting system put in by a firm at ——— Iowa. Our plant has been in use four years last fall. We have an engine dynamo and batteries in basement in laundry room. Have a foundation of cement built up from floor one and one-half feet next to wall for engine. Batteries and switchboard are lined up side of wall, so our plant doesn't take so much room.

We burn kerosene in engine. There is a belt running from engine to dynamo and we leave it on all the time so when we wash or pump water the batteries can be charging. Generally the washing and pumping keep them up in summer but in winter we run the engine much oftener as we use more light.

We see that all the working parts are kept greased and distilled water kept over the plates in batteries as this is essential to the life of the batteries. We put distilled water in batteries about four times a year.

Our plant is an eleven storage battery plant, 22 volt system, when we have to get new batteries we will put in a 32 volt system, 16 batteries. We have 27 lights in house and one on front gate and one to north of the house in a big tree. There are ten in the barn and outbuildings. We men folks think the lights in the barns are great compared to carrying a lantern to do chores. If one gets home late he doesn't have to go to the house for a lantern but just turns on the lights and goes to work. We have never had to use lamps or lantern but once for a short while when a little wire became disconnected.

We try to take care of our lights, turn them off when not in use, but sometimes the light in the hay mow or attic is forgotten and burns all night or ..Gal. 77-C 11374 Hopkins Dept...Schaben..8-a longer than that and burns up a great deal of electricity.

Mamma says she would rather be without the automobile than her lights. The first cost is about the only expense we have but we can't say that about the auto.

We have quite a few bulbs in use that were first put in, for they very seldom burn out but sometimes they are broken.

I don't see how we could do without our lighting system now, no lamps to fill or flues to shine or wash, or matches lying around everywhere. I don't know of anything on the farm that gives more pleasure than a good lighting system and a boy of fourteen or seventeen can operate one easily. I prefer the electric to gasoline or acetylene plants because there is less danger and it takes very much less to run it.

Come spend some evening with me and enjoy good lights.

Alton H. Wells,
R. R. No. 2,
Milo, Iowa.

FOR MY RECORD, PAST, I SHED A TEAR—BUT I'LL SCORE A HUNDRED THIS NEW YEAR!

(By W. E. Vaplon, Colorado State Club Leader.)

I'm going to quit the bloomin' club. I'm not a-going to be a dub and work and sweat to raise a crop to win a prize, then see it drop into the hands of Sammy Grubb. I didn't win a single prize, another kid just half my size got all the coin and ribbons too and I'm a-feeling mighty blue. I thought my crop was pretty fine, of bushels, I had thirty-nine. I thought I planted just on time, I thought my chances pretty prime but never won a single dime. I handed in my record sheet and story too and thought them neat, and showed my corn just like the rest and could have bet I had the best. "Your corn's not ripe," the judges said, "your lessons you could not have read; you planted very much too late, you know that old Jack Frost won't wait." I guess my ground was pretty rough, I may have plowed not deep enough; I hadn't time to test my seed and father said, "Oh, what's the need," and then the day I meant to plant I went a-fishing with Joe Gant. The prairie dogs were kinda bad but seems to me I never had the time or pep to hustle out to put the pesky pests to rout. I most forgot to cultivate, but did it once tho rather late and tho the weeds got rather bad they helped to feed the bugs, said Dad. But reading over what I've writ makes me feel that I shouldn't quit—maybe I've been somewhat to blame, the crop might not have been the same, the records too might have been good, if 'stead of fishing, I'd sawed wood. And so I'm going to mind the hunch, I'm going to show the whole club bunch that I can raise a finer lot of yellow corn than they have got. My records too will not be guess, the figures true, no more, no less. I'm going to limber up my joints, I'm going to score a hundred points.

STORY OF PIG CLUB CHAMPION OF IOWA, 1918

George Deahl, of Exline, Iowa, broke all state Pig Club records in the state Pig Club feeding contest when he finished a 121 day feeding period by making an average daily gain of 2.39 pounds during the entire feeding period. He has been declared state champion for 1918 in the Iowa Pig Club contest over a field of 399 opponents who finished the contest and submitted complete reports to the judges.

In this contest conducted by the Agricultural Extension Department of the Iowa State College in cooperation with the Farm Bureaus of the state, George took a Duroc Jersey Poland China pig weighing 42 pounds. His records show that the gain the first month was 59 pounds at a cost of 7¾ cents; the second month a gain of 57 pounds at a cost of 11 cents; the third month a gain of 79 pounds at a cost of approximately 11 cents; and the fourth month a gain of 95 pounds at a cost of a little over 11 cents. The total cost of his feeds was $30.44, making the cost per pound of gain—10½ cents. He sold the pig to the local butcher, dressed weight.

THRIFT PLEDGE FOR CLUB LEADERS, BOYS AND GIRLS

We have learned something about saving and economy during the past four years, and the lesson of thrift learned during the war period should not be forgotten. It is necessary that we continue to invest our funds in war saving stamps, liberty bonds, and other government securities, and at the beginning of this new year, let us resolve to continue in this good work. We should study the thrift principles of Benjamin Franklin. He perhaps more than any other man has given us real lessons in thrift, and proved the great benefits to be derived from the practice of it. We urge all readers of our Junior Soldier publication to sign this thrift pledge and mail in to Club Editor, Successful Farming, Des Moines, Iowa.

THRIFT PLEDGE

"Because I am a loyal American; because my country needs my help; because what I save will help me and what is saved in America will help the whole world, I promise to live economically and save all that I can during the coming year; to set aside regularly a portion of what I earn and loan it to my Government by investing it in War Savings Stamps and Liberty Bonds."

Name..... Town.....

Age..... County..... State .....

MINNESOTA BABY BEEF CONTEST

The photo above shows the Minnesota baby beef club champion in the foreground and his prize baby beef. This is Irving McKay, and his prize winner, Prince Hoover. The calf when sold brought 35 cents per pound while the average for all of the baby beeves was a little less than 20 cents per pound. The boys and girls were given a free trip to the show and were royally entertained during their entire stay in the city. The baby beef club show was held under the auspices of the Minnesota Live Stock Breeders Association, cooperating with the College of Agriculture, and the livestock interests of south St. Paul. The baby beef project was organized in Minnesota, last year, sixteen counties participating, with a membership of 512 boys and girls. Forty-eight boys and girls qualified to show at the first annual baby beef club show, which was held at south St. Paul, December 11 and 12. State club leader, T. A. Erickson, announces that the first event was very satisfactory from every standpoint.

HOW OUR PLAN OF LOANS HELPS BOYS AND GIRLS

"You will be pleased to receive this letter which I am enclosing, from one of the boys you have evidently been very helpful to. I shall be pleased if you will return it to me after looking it over and taking a copy of it if you wish."—T. L. Bewick, State Club Leader, Madison, Wis.

(The letter referred to.)

"At the time I wrote to Mr. Meredith of my boy's and my troubles,I asked him not to make it public for a while and he surely has proved himself a friend and helped us to such an extent that Harold is now attending high school on the money he made on the $10.00 borrowed. He had been working for his board and one pig a year, and in due time his pet pig gave him eight baby pigs, and he came home and we had nothing to feed her or her babies, so we asked Mr. Meredith for help. He sent Harold $10.00 with which he bought feed. In the fall when Harold sold his pigs, they brought him $145.00, and he is now attending high school and may not need any more help, as his father is able to work again and he is a doctor, and is doing fine here.

"Harold is a bright lad of 13 years and has always had to work hard, but in spite of all he is coming to the top and he knows how hard it was to get there, so is very thankful to you all for helping him out of his troubles.

"I wish you would send this letter to Mr. Meredith so he may know how we appreciate what he has done.

"Thanks to all who helped us.

Respectfully yours,"

(Signed) Mrs. Matilda Robey,
Burnett Co., Wis.

BANKS SEEK OUR PLAN OF LOANS

The following inquiry from a Kansas bank is like many others we receive asking for our plan of loans. Our plan is gladly furnished bankers and others interested in boys' and girls' club work, and will be sent on request.

"We notice you are interested in the Farm Loan for boys and girls in cattle, pigs and sheep. We are thinking of doing something along this line in Clay Center. Could you give us the address of the banks in Kansas which have used this Club System? If you have any data or suggestions for the good of the cause, that you think would be of interest in starting us, we would be pleased to have you send it to us.

Sincerely yours,"

(Signed) Geo. W. Hanna, Cashier
The Farmers State Bank,
Clay Center, Kans.

LIVE STOCK FOR BOYS AND GIRLS

We have many inquiries from farm boys and girls for pigs, calves, sheep, etc., and the announcement just received from T. A. Erickson, state club leader, St. Paul, Minnesota, may be of interest to other state club leaders and club workers. Other states may have made similar arrangements and if so, we would like to announce the fact, as many inquiries come from every state for high grade, and thorobred stock of various kinds. Mr. Erickson writes as follows:

"By the way, if some of these boys and girls do not know where to get their calves, pigs, etc., we have made arrangements with those who have good stock so we can refer boys and girls to those having good stock at reasonable prices."

Successful Farming employees bid goodbye to the old year and pledge support to Uncle Sam's food program in 1919.

"GOODBYE OLD YEAR"

(Tune: Goodbye Broadway)

Goodbye Old Year—Hello New,
We will work you hard,
This old world will know who's who,
In Uncle Sammy's yard.
We will feed the hungry world,
We're raring up to go,
We're full of pep—just watch us step, we're
Successful Farming's racing "pard."

—By W. C. Blake,

FOR SQUAD AND CLUB MEETINGS

This paper is being mailed out to squad leaders, club leaders, and others, and will be found useful in many ways. Information about our contests and the club work will be of interest to our Junior Soldier squads, as well as to club gatherings, and may be read or passed around so that all may benefit from the information contained herein.

Will squad leaders, club leaders, and others, please pass it around so that all may learn of these contests, join them and become more active in the production of food, etc.?

Tell your friends about the short course trips and urge all boys and girls ten to eighteen years old to become club members and compete for these short course trips and other prizes offered by the club forces of your state. Other prizes for the short course trips will be announced in February number, Junior Soldiers of the Soil paper. Send us your suggestions for 1919, club and farm work, also send photographs and stories covering your achievements for the past year. What has been accomplished by boys or girls in raising pigs, calves, sheep, poultry, crops, etc., will be of interest to others, so let us have your experience.—Club Editor.

P. S. Be sure and fill out the Junior Soldier pledge found in this paper, send in the stamp and join this great army, and share in all of its benefits.

KILL THE RATS

In October, 1918, Successful Farming arranged a rat contest for boys and girls. It is conceded that rats destroy at least two hundred million dollars worth of food and feed every year, and it is very important that every means be taken to eliminate them. There are many ways for exterminating these pests, such as traps, various kinds of rat poison, the rifle and other available means.

The rat contest organized for farm boys and girls will close April 1st, and it is hoped that more will enter the contest and report results from month to month.

Following are the conditions of the contest and club leaders, county agents, and others are invited to encourage more boys and girls to enter the contest and eventually rid our country of the rat.

Conditions of Contest

When you send in your statement giving the number of rats killed, it must be signed by yourself and by your teacher or club leader, one merchant and one farmer. Or if it is a squad report, it should be signed by the corporal or leader, and also by your teacher, merchant and one farmer. I want your letters or stories telling how you organized and carried on your campaign as soon as possible. *I want your report the first of each month, telling how you are killing the rats and all about the contest in your district.* This monthly report need not be signed by the teacher, merchant and farmer. Part of these I will publish in our club department for the information of our readers and boys and girls who may wish to know how to conduct these rat campaigns. The story will count ten percent, the number of rats killed, ninety percent.

Prizes for Killing Rats

For the next six months ending April 1st, I am going to wage a campaign against the rats and I am calling on the Junior Soldiers as well as all boys and girls to take part in this campaign. To the squad of Junior Soldiers that kills the most rats and sends in the best story on how they organized their campaign and carried it out, I will give the following prizes at the close of our contest, April 1, 1919: To the squad that wins first, I will give $5. To the next, $2.50. To the third, $1.

Second: To the Junior Soldier or boy or girl that kills the most rats and writes the best story on how they did the work, I will award the following prizes: First prize, $3. Second prize, $2. Third prize, $1.

HELPING FARM BOYS AND GIRLS

From August, 1918, bulletin National City Bank, New York City.

It is the testimony of all who have been interested in the improvement of farming methods that the best results are obtained by working with the boys and girls, and remarkable reports are made about the response which is forthcoming from that quarter. Mr. E. T. Meredith, of Des Moines, publisher of Successful Farming, a farm journal of large circulation, has been offering for the past year to lend money to any boy or girl whose home is on a farm; money to buy a calf, pig, sheep, pen of chickens or pure seed, and has made over 3,000 such loans. The experience of the first year has been so satisfactory as to payments upon these loans and interest stimulated that he is largely extending his operations, and his example has caused many others to adopt the policy within a more limited area.

One of Mr. Meredith's aids, writing of the experiment, says:

Banking and business interests can render no greater service than to back up farm children in every community with loans where needed and with encouragement of every possible kind. We cannot do much with many of the farmers who are set in their ways and will not take up modern methods but the boys and girls will respond readily, and the faith Mr. Meredith has placed in their honesty and integrity has proven to be a wise move from every standpoint.

PARTIAL CLUB FIGURES, 1918

O. H. BENSON

We are glad to anounce some figures just received from O. H. Benson, National club leader, in charge of the northern and western states. These reports cover results in twenty-seven of the thirty-three northern and western states for last year. Complete reports covering every state in the union will appear in March number of this paper.

The total number of club enrollments in the north and south will run between two and a half and three million members, and the results of the club work in dollars and cents will figure up several millions of dollars.

The report is as follows:

Project	Enrollment	Quantity Produced	Value
Potato	20,268	160,568 bu. at 60c	$96,340.80
Home Gardening	207,179		515,957.42
Home Canning	141,253	1,580,103 qts. at 40c	632,041.20
Poultry	40,250		384,013.14
Pig	363,331	4,296,047 lbs. at 16c	787,367.52
Bread	17,596	201,422 loaves at 12c	24,170.64
Garments	282,549	225,124 garments at $2.50	562,810.00
	1,072,426		$3,002,700.72

"THE LONG, LONG TRAIL"

This shadow cartoon by J N. Darling, ("Ding"), of the Des Moines Register, expresses what we all feel toward our late honored ex-president, *"Teddy"* R. Roosevelt. He was a great American citizen and a hero in the eyes of every boy and girl. We may well emulate his principles of integrity, industry and other good qualities. He has departed on the *long, long trail,* but he will ever live in the memory of this and succeeding generations for what he accomplished and what he stood for.

CLUB WORK IN VERMONT

We are glad to give space below to resolutions affecting the club work in Vermont, adopted at a recent meeting of the county agents, home demonstration agents, and leaders of boys' and girls' club work of that state. We are under obligation to Mr. O. H. Benson, national club leader at Washington, for these resolutions, and publish same in the interest of the club movement in other states.

Recommendations of the committee on boys' and girls' club work for Vermont.

WE RECOMMEND:

1. That Boys' and Girls' Club Work, as part of the Farm Bureau activities, be so planned as to make every project a year's work instead of a season's and in so far as possible to point the way to a longer period of time.
2. That boys and girls be organized into club groups with their own officers and local leaders, and that the club articulate in the Farm Bureau thru its elected delegate.
3. The definite development of the practical phases of Boys' and Girls' Club Work together with careful personal follow-up work as well as printed instructions.
4. The necessary organization, the necessary leadership in order that those who start in Boys' and Girls' Club Work may have a fair chance to finish, and that full time leadership be provided as soon as possible.
5. That Boys' and Girls' Club Work be regarded as one of the Farm Bureau agencies for improvement of the Agricultural Community and home life.
6. For boys and girls, demonstrations in their projects, with their groups, by their leaders, and by their own demonstration teams, of the subject matter facts of Club Work.
7. For Boys' and Girls' Club Work, practical club work credits for net profits in their own work, thru public press, and public platform recognition, and thru achievement medals.
8. That enrollments be secured by contrast form, instead of by loose system.
9. That a program of publicity in county be carried on in which achievement stories, plans of work and instructions be given the public.
10. That there be a limited number of projects in the county and but few in any community, based on available leadership.
11. That Boys' and Girls' Club Leaders give a greater amount of time to the organization of the work, to making of programs and development of methods of work, instead of subject matter.
12. That caution be practiced in matter of *under* organization and *over* organization in dealing with boys and girls.
13. To the Farm Bureaus of Vermont, the building of permanent programs of work, including Boys' and Girls' Club Work, with leaders for full time.
14. The definite shaping of programs of work for boys and girls to give both winter and summer activities with adequate leadership.
15. The retention of boys and girls in the same project until they shall have derived adequate efficiency and experience in that line.
16. That all Club Leaders have a regular time each week for office work, known to the county, members, teachers, etc.
17. That there be no set division in Club Work, so far as possible.
18. The elimination of the following terms from Club Work; inspector, supervisor, pin, button, emblem, badge; and substitute leader, direction, help, co-worker and medal.
19. That Boys' and Girls' Extension Work, as a practical method of interesting boys and girls in regular agriculture and home economics under the provision of the Smith-Hughes Act, and like courses in educational institutions.
20. A permanent program of work for Club Leaders, club groups, as definite parts of the Farm Bureau permanent program.
21. That permanent funds from the Smith-Lever, U. S. Department of Agriculture, State and County, be made available for permanent full time County Club Leaders, and that the money for the Farm Bureau budget be increased to meet this leadership need.

VERMONT EXTENSION SERVICE
Committee on Farm Bureau Organizations
(Family Type)

This Committee recommends:

1. That the County Farm Bureaus of Vermont be organized on the family and community basis.
2. That the membership of the bureaus be made up of men, women and standard club groups.
3. That all standard clubs be entitled to one full paid membership and delegates, the club to elect the president or other member or delegate.
4. That the County Farm Bureau officers, executive committee and community committees be composed of people interested in the work for men, women and boys and girls.
5. That the permanent program of work of each county be so planned *now* that it will provide all around extension work with three full time permanent leaders for work for boys and girls.

ORGANIZE A JUNIOR SOLDIER SQUAD

Herbert Hoover said that food would win the war, and it has, but the job is not yet finished. We must export ten times as much food if we prevent Europe from starving during the coming year. Let every one of us raise food and feed and help save Europe from Bolshevism. The boys in town may join the Boy Scouts, but the farm boys and girls may become Junior Soldiers of the Soil. Send in a 3 cent stamp as part expense of mailing the badge and literature telling how to organize a squad.

The Rural Schools Bulletin contains a list of questions that are answered in Successful Farming. The Bulletin also contains other interesting features. Both teachers and pupils will find the bulletins a wonderful help in the agricultural classes. The study of agriculture will be made so interesting that all will enjoy it.

The boys and girls can take their copies of Successful Farming to school and look up the answers to the questions the teacher wishes to use as lessons from day to day. The Bulletins are furnished free to teachers. Just ask your teacher to write us a letter or post card like this:

Rural Schools Bureau,
Successful Farming,
Des Moines, Iowa.

Please send me, free and postpaid, and without obligation to me, a copy of your Rural Schools Bulletin each month, which I will use in my school work.

.....
(Name and address of teacher)

RURAL SCHOOLS BUREAU, SUCCESSFUL FARMING
DES MOINES, IOWA

SHEEP OR DOGS—WHICH?

According to a bulletin sent out by the International Harvester Company, there are now about 30,000,000 dogs in the U. S. The company estimated that a common dog consumed $34.00 worth of food yearly. This amount of money put into hog feed would keep a brood sow for ten months. Since the above estimate was made on the value of food consumed by a dog, in 1913, prices have advanced over 60 percent, so that today every dog is consuming food valued at $50.00 per year. A little figuring will show that these dogs are consuming at least a billion dollars worth of food annually, and it is well-known that the food which ordinarily goes to dogs, makes fine feed for poultry, hogs, etc.

Dogs not only consume a lot of food and feed but many of them destroy $100.00 of neighbors' sheep or poultry during the year. The dog is a carrier of hog cholera and other diseases as well as insects, etc. The dog in most cases is an all around nuisance as well as a destructive animal.

While it is true that the dog is the friend of the boy and girl on the farm, there should be a law or some restrictions that would put the dog on the same legal status with livestock, and so take away his right to run at large day or night. Every person on earth should be compelled to keep his dog on his own premises and under control when away from home. A dog to be of any value to his owner must be about his owner's business. No longer will people on the farms or in the cities allow livestock to roam at large, and neither should the dog. What do you think of it boys and girls?

BABY BEEF CLUB RESULTS IN IOWA, 1918

That the baby beef club members in Iowa in 1918 did their share in food production is shown by data compiled from the final report in the state contest by the state club leader at Ames. These figures show that 249 boys and girls fed 261 calves for an average of 299 days.

The 261 calves had an initial weight of 105,466 pounds, gained 139,153 pounds and weighed 244,619 pounds at the end of the contest. The total initial value was $10,546.60, and the feed cost $21,011.51, making the total cost $31,558.11. With the final sale value at $44,680.97, the total profit made by the youngsters was $13,-122.86.

The average calf weighed 404 pounds at the beginning, gained 533 pounds and weighed 933 pounds at the end. The calf cost $40.40 at the beginning, ate $80.50 worth of feed, cost $120.90 in all and sold for $171.19, making the owner's profit at $50.29. Each pound of gain cost 15.8 cents.

PARENTS ENCOURAGED TO HELP

The following letter from a Michigan girl indicates the influence our offer to loan farm children funds to give them a personal start, is having on the parents. This little girl had applied for a loan and the application blanks and literature were furnished her. On realizing that Successful Farming was willing to trust this little girl and help her get started, the father decided he wanted to make the loan himself.

We are glad our offer has caused others to take a greater interest in farm children so that all may have a personal part in the farm plan. The letter follows:

"Dear Mr. Meredith:

"I received the blanks you sent us but we have changed our minds about borrowing the money to buy some pigs. Our father is going to help us. He got them for us last week. They are white and they are about eight weeks old. We will return the blanks.

"Yours truly,
"Katie Foe Lamson."

MORE FOOD TO STOP BOLSHEVISM

President Wilson asked Congress to appropriate $100,000,000 for European food relief. Congress has approved the President's request, and the food purchased with this money will go to Poland, Austria-Hungary and the Balkan nations. The people of these countries as well as Russia are starving and our country must come to their rescue.

The war is over but for two or three years we must be able and ready to export ten times the food that we supplied in 1918.

Our President is on the ground and knows what should be done. Let us heed his call and double the production of food this year.

A CANNING CLUB PRIZE WINNER

I thank you for the pin you awarded me in my canning club work, and I sure will try to do better this year.

I joined the canning club that was organized in Goff in 1917 and did my first canning in May. I made my own canning outfit using a wash boiler, then taking a dripping pan that would just fit into the boiler, putting wire handles on the ends so I could lift the jars out of the boiler.

I canned nine different kinds of greens and forty-one different kinds of fruit and vegetables during the year, then after my report was sent in I canned nine more different varieties in which was a "one man's lunch" which was canned by putting a layer of turnips, then squash, hominy, potatoes, rabbit, and pork and cooking in hot water, sixty minutes.

I did all my canning and out of my 335 quarts I just lost eleven quarts and it was the first time I did any canning all by myself.

As soon as weather permits I will help to organize a squad of Junior Soldiers in my neighborhood.

Gertrude Roach,
Goff, Kansas.

I am sending you a check for $20.35 to pay my note and interest from March 14. I have a credit of forty cents on the note. I thank you very much for the loan. I bought my sow of a neighbor for $25.90—she weighed 165 pounds and we sold her today for $42.70. She weighed 280 pounds. We only got 15¼ cents a pound so she gained 115 pounds. On April 30, she had nine of the biggest, strongest pigs you ever saw, and raised every one of them. We still have all of them and they are doing fine, and weigh 125 to 150 pounds. I have never been able to get a picture taken—they have had the run of a bluegrass pasture all summer. I fed slop and three ears of corn a day until the first of May, then began feeding some shorts until June 25, when we had to begin feeding oats instead of corn and weaned the pigs. Fed three gallons a day until August 7th, when we began feeding green corn and dropped the oats as soon as they were on full feed. We have since fed about 100 bushels of corn at $1.25 per bushel, so I will not have much money to spend yet. Thanking you again for your loan, your friend.—From Duane McCreight, Union Co., Iowa.

LOAN MEANS AN EDUCATION

I am a farmer girl, eighteen years of age, with an ambition for a college education. My folks are anxious for me to go, but feel they are not able to send me at present. I would like to make some money to *help* pay my way thru school. My brother, D. M. Drown, joined the Junior Soldiers of the Soil about five months ago. He secured a loan of $30.00 with which he bought a pure bred pig.

In one of your letters to him, you stated that loans to exceed $50.00 could not be given in one family. I would like to get a pig and probably $20.00 or $30.00 would cover the expense.

Please send me literature concerning the regulations of the Junior Soldier Club and the amount you could loan me. I would like to join the "Junior Soldiers of the Soil".—From Miss Gladys Drown, Cameron, Clinton Co., Missouri.

Dear Sir: As I have sold my chickens I will send you the amount of my note which is $15.65. I thank you very much for the loan. I bought one dozen hens the first of April for $12.60. I set 6 hens about the middle of May and hatched 72 chickens, a few of them died and the rats and crows got a good many, so that I just had 36 to sell. One of my old hens died and I sold eleven hens and 36 young ones on November 30th at 21½ cents per pound, which brought me $40.50. I sold 64 dozen and eight eggs for $24.75 making a total of $65.25. I fed my hens corn and oats in the spring and fall and in the summer I did not feed them at all. I fed my young chickens on commercial chick feed and oats and cracked corn when they grew older. My expenses for feed were $11.33 making a total expense of $41.80 which leaves me a balance of $23.45 for my summer work —From Mildred McCreight, Union County, Iowa.

Dear Sir: Find inclosed money order for $15.50 for the loan I received from you with which to buy a pig. I found the rat contest interesting and have killed 88 rats so far. I will have some pictures taken of me and my pig right soon and will send you one. I belong to the Boys' and Girls' Club and have trapped, caught and sold $49.00 worth of furs since November 15th.—From Ruie Adkins, Pike County, Ky.

A RISING MAN

Manager—"In the next play I shall give you a substantial raise."

Actor—"Oh, thank you, sir."

Manager—"Yes, in the third act a bomb sends you up thru the ceiling."

BY ABE MARTIN

"Th' trouble with farmin' is that ther's allus somethin' t' do when you're loafin'.

"It makes me as hot as a Ford," said Tell Binkley, when he heard th' Crown Prince talks some o' runnin' fer city clerk o' Berlin."

Poultry Contest For BOYS and GIRLS

How to win an Incubator and $15.00 in cash prizes

Herbert Hoover says we must raise more poultry this year not only for our own needs but to help feed starving Europe. By raising more poultry and eggs, we will relieve the pressure on meat, flour and other food products that can be more readily exported to feed other countries. Every boy and girl should know how to hatch chicks with an incubator as well as with hens. By entering this contest you will get some valuable experience, win some prizes and raise some food. Read the details of the contest on Boys' and Girls' Club page, this issue. Every boy and girl should enlist as a Junior Soldier in this contest.

Short Course Trips For Junior Soldiers and Club Members

In the January number we announced five "short course trips" in each of the middle western states to the state winners in the pig, dairy calf, poultry, sheep and corn clubs. These trips mean $1000.00 in prizes to boys and girls who take up these projects, enlist as Junior Soldiers of the Soil, and become club members of the state in which you live. Read details of the contest, club page, January issue, or write Boys' and Girls' Club Department, Successful Farming. See your county club leader, or county agent, and compete for at least one of these short course trips.

ENTER THE CONTEST NOW

Those needing financial assistance may send for our plan of loans to boys and girls, and it will be sent free on request. I am glad to trust all worthy farm boys and girls, and will loan money on your own signature to help you take up the club work.

Sign the pledge below, and send in today with a three cent stamp, and I will enroll you as a Junior Soldier, send our army badge and complete literature, and details of the contest.

PLEDGE.--Junior Soldiers of Soil Army, U.S.A.

As a loyal comrade of the Junior Soldiers of the Soil,

1--I pledge my support to my country in the production of food and feed in time of war and peace.

2--I will encourage the U. S. boys' and girls's clubs; follow safe methods of farming and so maintain the fertility of our farm for future generations.

3--I will help prevent waste on the farm, practice thrift and economy and invest what I can in U. S. Thrift Stamps or Liberty Bonds as long as there is need.

4--I will cultivate integrity, honesty, industry and other traits of good citizenship.

5--I will always champion liberty, righteousness and government by the people; honor my Creator and my Country and practice the Golden Rule in dealing with others.

Name.....
(Junior Soldier of the Soil)

Town..... Age..... R. F. D.....
(Age 10 to 18)

County..... State.....

If you want a loan write "Yes" on this line.....

E. T. MEREDITH, Publisher
Commander-in-Chief

SUCCESSFUL FARMING
Des Moines, Iowa

Motto: "Loyalty and Service"