

NEWSLETTER
KANSAS ASSOCIATION
of
FUTURE FARMERS OF AMERICA

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FROM THE STATE ADVISER

We hear much these days about "Economic Conditions", "Lack of Adjustment", "Depression", etc. Probably there never was a time when the world had on hand a larger supply of the essentials of life. Food, clothing, shelter, facilities for education, etc. are had in abundance. We are told from seemingly authoritative sources that money is plentiful. For a number of years many authorities believed the nation had built up an economic structure that would make business depressions of consequence impossible.

What is the cause of it all? Nobody seems to know. At any rate no one with leadership comes forward with a solution. "Ignorance" is an ugly word. One hesitates to use it in speaking of the good people of America, but it seems that human errors and mistakes have brought on the difficulties in which we find ourselves.

These remarks are not made in an attitude of complaint and fault finding. There has been too much of that already. They are made in an effort to point out the fact that if such difficulties are to be avoided in the future, it will be due to the intelligence and leadership of youth now enrolled in our public schools. This is nothing short of a challenge. Probably no other organization is in position to do more to develop intelligent rural leadership than the F.F.A. There is more justification at the present moment for such an organization than ever before. The boy who acquires membership in the F.F.A. assumes a responsibility. His local chapter will be made either stronger or weaker because of his membership. If each officer and member determines that the local, state and national organization of the Future Farmers of America will be stronger because of his affiliation with it, possibilities for achievement are unlimited. The coming year should hold great possibilities.

ATTENTION: REPORTERS AND ADVISERS



The executive committee of the Kansas Association of the Future Farmers of America decided at their spring meeting to issue the News on the 15th of each month beginning with September 15th. In order to do this the State Reporter must have help from the local advisers and reporters. The plan is to ask for news from only part of the chapters for each issue. Each chapter will likely be given an opportunity to contribute three times during the year. This will allow every chapter to get some of their programs and achievements before the public at sometime during the winter.

So be ready for your call to contribute. Items of interest are bound to happen every day. Let us all hear about what your chapter is doing. Make the F.F.A. News a real live monthly newspaper.

Concordia Chapter:

Activities of the Concordia chapter this summer have consisted of a project tour held early in the summer at which time most of the projects were visited and discussed.

Recently an open air meeting and watermelon feed was held. The meeting was held out in the country at a lake. Several prospective students were present as visitors. After the business meeting, swimming and other fun, the group enjoyed eating watermelons grown by one of the boys.

Shawnee Mission Chapter:

Shawnee Mission chapter was well represented at the Johnson County Fair, August 27, 28 and 29 this year. Twenty-nine pigs, two calves, and one cow made up the livestock shown by the boys. Due to limited space each boy was limited to three pigs from each litter. In addition to the livestock several pens of poultry and a quantity of crops were shown. The Shawnee Mission Aggies won more than their share of the prizes in each department of the fair. Winners of the project contest, for which silver trophies were awarded, were: Livestock, Fred Vanschoelandt; Crops, John New, Jr.; and Continuation project, William Trager.

In addition to a fine showing in the livestock and crop departments of the fair, other members of the chapter conducted a pop stand on the grounds. The stand was built by the boys, and the business of buying pop and managing the stand was done unaided by the boys. This was quite a job considering that a record of more than 40,000 people were in attendance during the fair. One cold day cut down the sale of pop, nevertheless the chapter realized \$35.00 after dividing half the net profit with the fair board. This money will be used to meet the chapter's share of the expense of the permanent camp being built at Tonganoxie.

A carload of Shawnee Mission boys met one day in August with representatives of chapters from Tonganoxie, Lawrence, Oskaloosa, and McLouth at the camp site near Tonganoxie and laid the foundation

for a new 28' x 48' camp building. Construction will be completed some time in September. Much of the lumber to be used is from native walnut taken from the lake bed, and sawed free by the American Walnut Company of Kansas City, Kansas.

George Smith, sophomore, and a member of last year's judging team was seriously injured in a car accident near Topeka early in August. A slight concussion of the brain made it advisable for him to not enter school the first semester. While he was confined to bed, other members of his chapter saw to it that his pigs were taken to the fair and cared for. He placed fourth in the livestock project contest with his pigs.

Mound City Chapter:

On Thursday, May 14th, the F.F.A. boys of the Mound City Chapter turned out 100% for the last meeting of the school year. The attraction was home made ice cream and angel food cake. The boys furnished the milk, eggs, and cream, and Mr. and Mrs. Raines furnished the cakes and the place for the party. Every boy had his fill of home made ice cream. Three local farmers, friends of the F.F.A. boys were elected and received into the F.F.A. organization. The livestock judging team that represented the vocational department gave an account of themselves while in Manhattan. The adviser gave a talk concerning plans for the summer and following year.

Fairview Chapter:

The Fairview Chapter had a project tour and picnic August 7. A truck was rented for the tour. Ten livestock and crop projects were visited. At noon there was a picnic dinner at "Sun Springs" followed by a brief program. A snappy five inning baseball game and a swimming contest completed the day's program. The 8th grade graduates in Fairview territory were guests of the chapter on this tour.

Washington Chapter:

The animal husbandry class have held meetings once a month during the summer at their poultry brooding project. We have 80 Leghorn pullets. The board of education is furnishing the material for an 18 x 20 laying house which the class will build during September. The house will be of the sectional type and we hope to get it completed and the birds in it by October 1st.

The second year class will carry this as a continuation project during the crops year.

The instructor and several of the boys have been attending 4-H livestock judging schools held by the Farm Bureau during the past 6 weeks.

Prospects are good for an average or better attendance this year. At present there are eleven enrolled for the second year and 10 or 12 freshmen.

The department is planning a booth for exhibition at the Washington County Fair in September. The booth is planned to illustrate and explain the value of instruction in vocational agriculture and of membership in the F.F.A.

The Washington Chapter of the Future Farmers of America will build its program around the following large activities:

- September: Washington County Fair. Exhibit products and F.F.A. booth. Assist with fair and judging contest.
- October: Social and initiation meeting. Help organize 4-H clubs.
- November: Attend American Royal, as many boys as possible to go.
- December: Christmas party.
- January: Father and Son Banquet.
- February: Project tour.
- March: Washington County Judging Contest.
- April: State and district contests.
- May: Fishing party.

The chapter also plans to assist with an evening school for adult farmers and to sponsor the adoption of one or more improved practices in the community such as the keeping of farm accounts, field selection of seed, the use of tested seed, or the terracing of farm land.

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Abstracts from the Annual Report of the Kansas Association, Future Farmers of America, for year ending June 30, 1931.

Total enrollment in vocational agriculture in the 115 departments in the state was 2515. Sixty-four departments had chartered F.F.A. Chapters, with an active membership of 1076. Twenty-four local chapters were organized during the year. The membership by grades in the state association follows: Green Hands, 613; Future Farmers, 425; State Farmers, 36; American Farmers, 2; Associate members (local and state), 82; Honorary members (local and state), 61; Grand Total Membership, 1219.

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BOYS

High School Supervisor, J.E. Edgerton, of the State Department of Education, Topeka, Kansas, has made a study of graduating classes of 1930 in all the high schools of Kansas. Future Farmers are especially interested in what the boys did. Mr. Edgerton states there are 740 accredited high schools in Kansas, and these schools graduated 7619 boys in 1930. Sixteen of these graduates enrolled in dental colleges, 245 were attending commercial schools, and 2,329 were enrolled in colleges and universities in and out of Kansas. This constitutes a total of 2,590 boys, or approximately 34% of the number of boys graduating. Boys engaged in farming numbered 1,445, or approximately 19% of the graduates. In the trades we find 523 boys represented, 6.8%; while 497 turned to business, 6.5%; and 117 engaged in teaching, 1.5%. When we consider the fact that approximately 60% of the high school enrollment in Kansas comes from cities of the 1st and 2nd class, where a small percentage of total high school enrollment would be from the farm, it is evident that an unusually high per cent of the farm boys enrolled in the high school are returning to the farm.

Since Kansas has vocational agriculture in less than 16% of her accredited high schools, it would appear that there is much room for expansion. Active successful Future Farmer Chapters can do much to bring about an expansion in number of departments offering Smith-Hughes agriculture. Vocational agriculture is not intended to direct boys back to the farm but it is intended to offer opportunity for training for those desiring to enter upon the business of farming.

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This is the time of year many chapters build their annual program of work. In listing activities it would seem advisable to keep the following eight points in mind: Supervised Practice, Scholarship, Conduct of Meeting, Earning and Saving, Leadership, Community Service, Cooperative Activities, and Recreation.

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If boys are to get the most out of Future Farmer work, local advisors must see to it that meetings are held in accordance with the plan proposed in the Manual. The thing that is likely to impress the "outsider" most is the splendid ritual designed for opening and closing meetings. Proper conduct of the meeting in accordance with correct parliamentary procedure is essential. The rituals for the different degrees are meaningful and rich in beauty. They can be used to give training to individuals, or they can become colorless and meaningless - depending largely upon the officers and local adviser.

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To the Lawrence Chapter goes the honor of being the first petitioning group of the school year 1931-32. Congratulations and best wishes to the newest chapter.

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"I AM EDUCATION"

"I bear the torch that enlightens the world, fires the imagination of man, feeds the flame of genius. I give wings to dreams and might to hand and brain. From out of the deep shadows of the past I come, wearing the scars of struggle and the stripes of toil, but bearing in triumph the wisdom of all ages. Man, because of me, holds dominion over earth, air, and sea; it is for him I leash the lightning, plumb the deep, and shackle the ether. I am the parent of progress, creator of culture, molder of destiny. Philosophy, science, and art are the works of my hand. I banish ignorance, discourage vice, disarm anarchy. Thus have I become freedom's citadel, the arm of democracy, the hope of youth, the pride of adolescence, the joy of age. Fortunate the nations, and happy the homes that welcome me. The school is my workshop, here I stir ambitions, stimulate ideals, forge the keys that open the door to opportunity. I am the source of inspiration, the aid of aspiration. I am irresistible power." - Author not known.

