Relation of County Agents' Work To The Farm Bureau is Explained

The relationship between the county agent and the Farm Bureau is clarified by statements from Secretary of Agriculture H. C. Wallace and Charles E. Gunnels, Director of Organization for the American Farm Bureau Federation. The statement by the Secretary of Agriculture as released by the Department of Agriculture at Washington is as follows:

"Sec. 3. That co-operative agricultural extension work shall consist of the giving of instruction and practical demonstrations in agriculture and home economics to persons not attending or resident in said colleges in the several communities. and imparting to such persons information on said subjects through field demonstrations, publications, and otherwise; and his work shall be carried on in such manner as may be mutually agreed upon by the Secretary of Agriculture and the State agricultural college or colleges receiving the benefits of this act.

Public Teachers

"It is thus made clear that the work of the co-operative extension employees, whether county agents, home demonstration agents, boys and girls club agents of other co-operative extension workers, is educational. These extension workers are public teachers paid with money largely raised from all of the people by taxation and are charged with giving instruction and practical demonstrations in agriculture and home economics. Their work covers the entire rural field, which includes economic production, economic marketing. and the development of better home, community and social conditions.

"As they are public teachers it is not a part of the official duties of extension agents to perform for individual farmers or for organizations the actual operations of production, marketing, or the various activities necessary to the proper conduct of business or social organizations. They may not properly act as organizers for farmers' associations; conduct membership campaigns; solicit membership; edit organization publications; manage co-operative business enterprises; engage in commercial activities; act as financial or business agents, nor take part in any of the work of farmers' organizations, or of an individual farmer, which is outside of their duties as defined by the law and by the approved projects governing their work. They are expected, however. to make available to organizations such information as will be helpful to them and contribute to the success of their work.

The Federal Laws

"The various Federal laws provide that co-operative extension work shall be conducted in such manner as shall be mutually agreed upon by the Secretary of Agriculture and the State agricultural colleges. By an agreement between these agencies an extension director located in each State is the representative of both the college and the Department. He submits projects for extension work to the Secretary for approval.

"In carrying out these projects the law provides that no Federal Smith-Lever money, except $10,000 per State shall be paid to the States for co-operative extension work until

"'* * * an equal sum has been appropriated for that year by the legislature of such State, or provided by State, county, college, local authority, or individual contributions from within the State, for the maintenance of the co-operative agricultural extension work provided for in this Act.'

"'* * * moneys contributed from such outside sources * * * shall be paid only through the Secretary of Agriculture or through State, county or municipal agencies, or local farm bureaus or like organizations, co-operating for the purpose with the Secretary of Agriculture.'

Organizations May Co-operate

"This makes it very clear that the law contemplates co-operation with farmers' organizations willing to co-operate in the work with which the co-operative extension agent is charged. It is the duty of the extension agents to render such assistance whenever possible in his teaching capacity to any agricultural organizations desiring it. Furthermore, the work of these extension agents can be the most effective where it is carried on with organized groups of rural people. It is entirely proper for any agricultural organization to co-operate financially in the work of the extension agents to contribute funds for the support of such work; and these funds may be accepted legally by the extension service of the agricultural colleges and by the Federal Government for work on approved projects.

"In short, is is the business of the extension agent to co-operate with all agricultural organizations which desire to co-operate on approved projects. If more than one organization exists in a county he must co-operate with all fairly and impartially in the educational work in which they are mutually interested.

"The Department of Agriculture must necessarily consider in its administration of Federal co-operative extension funds the laws which have been passed by the various State legislatures in accepting these funds and under which agreements have been made with those States for conducting this work. If special provisions relating to the methods of co-operation with agricultural organizations or other agencies are contained in the State laws, which do not conflict with the Federal laws, it is clearly the duty of the Secretary of Agriculture to accept such provisions in a co-operative project."

New Bureau Chief Well Known Farmer

Oscar E. Bradfute, of Ohio, is now serving his first term as president of the American Farm Bureau Federation. Mr. Bradfute is one of America's best known farmers. His home is on a farm near Xenia, Ohio, in Greene County, where his grandfather was one of the early settlers.

Mr. Bradfute was president of the Ohio Farm Bureau Federation, one of the trustees of the Ohio State University, and has held a score of other jobs which paid him nothing except the opportunity to serve his fellow farmers.

As a breeder of Aberdeen-Angus cattle, Mr. Bradfute rose to first rank in the live stock field. Year after year cattle of his breeding won the highest honors in the American showyard.

When the farm bureau came along Mr. Bradfute was one of the first men to see that it was founded on a rock and to be a boon to farmers everywhere. He was drafted into leadership.

Three hundred and forty-four thousand pounds of binding twine were purchased last year by the state marketing service of the Indiana Federation of Farmers' Associations.

Keep your eyes on the little things and not demand that the bigger ones come too quickly.

One of the first things I can do to boost my farm bureau is to keep my membership dues paid.

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FARM BUREAU —Help Yourself

By O. E. BRADFUTE
President American Farm Bureau Federation



The American farmer is the most efficient farmer in the world. He handles 30 acres to Russia's 9, France's 7 and Japan's 1½. In the last decade we have increased our farm efficiency 25 per cent.

Agriculture is back to normal in production; we stand in production about where we did before the war. But never have we been in such straits as today. Why?

If we traded among ourselves—hogs for cattle, cattle for wheat, wheat for corn—we'd be in good shape. The exchange values on the farm stand at pre-war.

When we trade with other fellows we get into difficulty, hogs for dry goods, corn for groceries.

Say that a young beef cattle farmer wants to get married. His beef cattle dollar is worth only 50 cents when traded for house furnishings. When we trade hogs for fuel the hog dollar is worth only 48 cents. When we trade wheat for clothing, the wheat dollar is worth only 67 cents. When we trade corn for lumber the corn dollar is worth only 60 cents. Or the average farm dollar is today worth only 65 cents when we trade for goods we need.

In other words, the other fellow hasn't got back to normal. We got back with a dull thud.

Need Market for Surplus.

Agriculture is overproducing when the market is considered. We have no satisfactory system of taking care of our surpluses. We have no satisfactory market at home or abroad.

We grow it; it is ours—ours to dispose of or not, as we will. A second big problem which we have to consider is a better form of financing, a better system of credits. The farm bureau program for improved credit is well under way in Washington.

A third big problem confronting the farmer is transportation. This problem begins with the road at the front gate. It goes from there to market, whether it is a few miles or across seas. The farmer must have more adequate transportation at less cost.

The other day I had occasion to see the farm bureau in operation. It was in a township farm bureau meeting—a township which is using every state and national farm bureau project. They—250 to 300 members—were using the livestock shipping association, the wool pool, the egg sales co-operative, the poultry association, the cream-shipping association, the apple sales co-operative and the purchasing department.

More Joy in Homes.

The total average net for the year in that township farm bureau was $20,000. The increase in joy and happiness in these farm homes was greater than the mercenary benefits. We don't have to beg for memberships in that township. We can't keep them out of the farm bureau.

Not long ago I visited a young man and his wife who were using the farm bureau on every occasion. This man showed me his books. They showed an actual saving of $475 on his $10 membership fee. Show me any other investment that will pay so well. This was a 400-acre farm.

But it shows that the farm bureau is a cafeteria business. You must help yourself.

While some of the shadows of the clouds of 1922 have passed away and agriculture is in some respects in better shape than for the past two years, there yet remains much to be done before we reach a proper level as compared with other industries and commodities. I am convinced that our greatest aid the past year came from within our own ranks and that in the future we will find self-help our greatest reliance. Agriculture will not and cannot succeed except through organization and co-operation. Agriculture must be put on its feet again and the business made so attractive that our young men will remain on the farms. But that problem is one for the farmers, themselves, to solve. The American Farm Bureau Federation is organized and equipped to work on just such a problem. That is our job.

Sponsors Co-operative Marketing.

The farm bureau is a service organization. Without doubt the greatest and most immediate service which can be rendered is help in more successfully and profitably marketing farm products. This undoubtedly means co-operative marketing and may be applied to every type of farm production and thus render a real service to every farmer in America.

Successful co-operative marketing means bringing into play all the departments of the American Farm Bureau Federation. The departments of organization, information, research, transportation and legislation will be called on and used to assist the marketing department in this great work. Each can render efficient help.

This work can only succeed with the aid of each one of our members. Let each one make good use of the facilities beng set up for your use and stand by it. Let the slogan for the year be:

"Service! The Opportunity, Co-operative Marketing! Forward, Farm Bureau!"

Wisdom Displayed by Bees.

It is the habit of bees to place their honey in the coolest place in the hive, and the young insects in the warmest.

Among Those Present.

"De big pertaters are allus found on de top o' de heap," philosophized Uncle Ned, "but if it wa'nt fo' de rest o' us dere'd be no heap."

Study In Which Japanese Led.

The Japanese were the first to make a scientific study of earthquakes.

Agricultural Finance

By BERNARD M. BARUCH



The statisticians of the Departments of Agriculture and Labor tell us that if prices of agricultural commodities were in a just relation to those of other commodities in 1913, they are now 36 points out of adjustment. That is to say, the purchasing power of farm products—their exchange value in other commodities — is only 64 cents on the dollar compared with what it was in 1913, and even then it was not equitable. An examination of Department of Agriculture figures will reveal the deadly effects of such economic injustice. Millions of good farmers on good land and with good crops are actually running their business, through no fault of their own or the mischances of nature, at a loss that spells ruin if continued.

Some time ago at the invitation of the Kansas state board of agriculture and the American Farm Bureau Federation, I made an investigation into the financial and merchandising aspects of farming, and came to the conclusion that modern business methods and the growth of legislation had put the production and distribution of farm products out of line with the rest of the economic structure, to the disadvantage of agriculture. Being asked to suggest a remedy, it seems to me that the proper theory for correction should be based primarily upon the fact that without regular access to commensurate financing, modern business, with its highly specialized production and distribution, would be impossible. Agriculture needs like facilities in order to be placed upon an equality with all the other industries with which it has to deal. And in order to accomplish this I have the following recommendations to make, regardless of whether you market co-operatively or as individuals—although I do not hesitate to say that I am unqualifiedly in favor of co-operative marketing.

Financial Requirements.

A new finance system should be set up to increase the volume of three classes of rural credits: (1) Credit for the more orderly marketing of crops; (2) credit for the purpose of raising and marketing cattle; (3) credit for productive purposes.

The basis of increased credits for this particular purpose should be the placing of the products in a modern warehouse or elevator where a neutral authority would register their grade and amount, and where a certificate would be issued for the amount so stored or warehoused.

"There is no reason why one central organization should not be the agency for more orderly marketing of crops, for the raising and marketing of cattle and for productive purposes. However, this institution should be rigidly departmentalized and a certain percentage of its funds allocated to each branch of the organization. Its obligations for the three different purposes enumerated would thus stand on their own bottoms, separate each from the other; each fund to be earmarked. Otherwise credit for the more orderly marketing of crops, which have the warehoused product as collateral, and for live stock, would have to pay as high a rate of interest as that which was granted for productive purposes, which has no such marketable collateral.

Must Have Market.

Again, in considering the whole subject, one must have in mind that no matter what credit facilities, no matter what transportation and what distributive agencies you may have, there must be a market; and that market as in any other business, you must continually endeavor to widen.

That brings us to another point concerning which I feel that I must say a few words—and that is the question of your foreign markets. The price of all products is finally made by their surplus. If you cannot sell your surplus abroad, you must take a much lower price for that portion of the product which can be consumed at home. A small exportable surplus often has a very disproportionate effect on the price of an entire commodity.

I affirm that there is nothing in the world that affects your credit so much as the shrinking of foreign markets for your products. There is nothing to which you can give your attention that is of greater moment to you in a practical way than the creation of the international relations that are precedent to the re-establishment of those markets. I do not speak of our moral responsibility in the matter, nor of the great opportunity that America has to lead a stricken world into a finer and better order of things—an opportunity toward which the noble thoughts of all men urge them, though I do think this consideration the most compelling of all. These thoughts are fundamental to all religions and to the hope of a better world for men and their children. Rather, I dwell merely upon what enlightened selfishness or even just plain greedy selfishness demands—the necessity of keeping open and enlarging an ever-increasing market for the products of your hands and minds.

An Early Start.

English Paper—He read the marriage service and heard the bride and bridegroom exchange their views.—Boston Transcript.

The Best of Reasons.

"I never ask others to think as I do," remarked the broadminded man "because tomorrow I may think differently myself."—Boston Transcript

Americans Eat Much Candy.

Americans have for many years past been the greatest candy eaters in the world.

TALKS to MOTHERS about THEIR BABIES



By DR. J. H. MASON KNOX, JR.,
Chief, Bureau of Child Hygiene, Maryland State Department of Health.

BIRTH REGISTRATION

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NOW that the period of waiting is over, and, under the skillful guidance of obstetrician and nurse the baby has arrived safely, there are still a number of important matters that must be considered, as they have to do with the return to normal health and activity of the mother and the proper growth and development of the baby.

You may think that it is not so important to consider these things as soon as the baby is born. This may be true of your baby, which perhaps is surrounded by every comfort, but there are many babies born in Maryland without these comforts, and some of them are so weak and feeble that only prompt medical and nursing care can pull them through to vigorous childhood. How are these needy infants to be reached unless health officials and nurses know about the birth and have the address of the baby?

Saving The Babies.

YOU will recall that a quarter of all the deaths that occur in the first year of life take place in the first week. Many of these young lives that now flicker out in the early days could be saved if an experienced nurse were at hand to properly advise the mother. At this time she can best point out the value of maternal nursing, and in these first days alone can she show the mother how to prevent the dreaded infection of the baby's eyes, which produces such a large proportion of blindness.

It is planned to have such nurses available in the county districts of the State as they are now at hand in the city, and the best way for each mother to help is to see to it that her baby is promptly reported as the law provides.

OUR country has been very slow among the civilized countries of the world in realizing the value of early birth registration. It is really a matter of good bookkeeping or keeping accurate record of the most precious assets that the country has—namely, the lives of its citizens. It is very important to know what proportion of the babies born die of the various complaints to which they are subject. This cannot be told unless we know how many babies are born.

It is likewise desirable to know the birth rate among the various races of peoples who come to America as immigrants, and how this rate is lowered in the varying climates of the country and under different industrial conditions. All these important facts depend upon the accurate recording of each baby born.

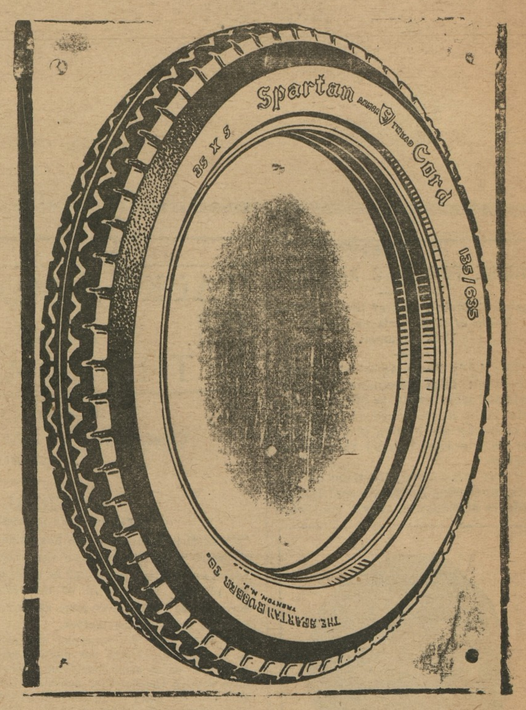
Registration Important.

THERE are, too, many legal reasons for birth registration. Sometimes an inheritance of valuable property depends upon one's ability to prove the date of birth. Whether the child is old enough to leave school and go to work; to serve in the army or navy, to be married abroad are also determined by a proven age, dependent, too, upon the birth certificate.

Maryland in recent years has entered the so-called registration area of the country because of the accuracy of its vital statistics, but there is still much to be done in securing prompter returns to the Health Department of these facts at a time when it can render the greatest service to the people.

If you live out of the city and are in doubt as to whether your child has been registered, inquire directly of the State Department of Health.

Spartan



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31x4	21 00	2.65	35x4½	31.00	3.90
32x4	23.00	2.70	36x4½	32.75	4.00
33x4	23.75	2.90	33x5	35.40	4.40
34x4	24 40	3.00	35x5	37.00	4.75
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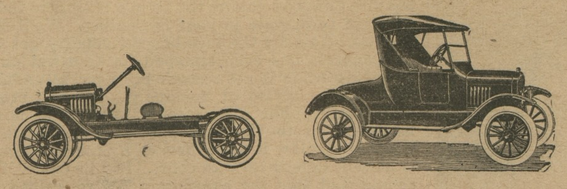
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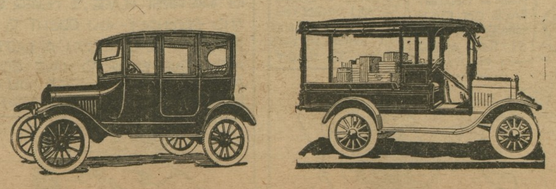
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