Big Events in the Lives of Little Men

(Copyright, W. N. U.)

County Bureaus Seek Better Rural Health

County farm bureaus are seriously concerning themselves in rural health. Recently figures have been released which show more uncorrected physical defects among country children than in the city. The death rate among children in New York state is higher than in New York city

The Elizabeth McCormick Memorial Fund of Chicago, quoting from "Health Essentials for Rural School Children," issued by Columbia university, gives the following comparative figures as to relative defects of children in country and city:

	Country Percentage.	City Percentage.
Teeth	48.60	33.66
Tonsils	28.14	16.42
Adenoids	23.40	12.60
Eye defects	21.00	13.40
Malnutrition	16.60	7.65

In Mansfield and Richland counties, Ohio, extensive child health demonstrations are being put on by the Farm bureau in co-operation with the Red Cross.

Many farm bureaus have contributed liberally of their membership dues to foster milk campaigns. Much nutrition work has been done through the county home demonstration agents, and county school nurses, using the farm bureaus as mediums.

Expert Grading Makes Money for Cotton Growers

Through expert grading the Alabama Farm Bureau Cotton Association Exchange found 152 bales of long staple cotton in shipments of short cotton in the first 15,000 bales graded last fall. Based on fall cotton quotations, this represented an additional $4,890 to the individual cotton grower.

Out of 19,462 bales only 1,885 were below middling grade. Before the co-operative association became the largest factor in the Alabama cotton market, cotton was generally bought as middlings and the grower informed if the grade did not show that good.

The federation is trying to do big things. It not only requires big men at the head but big men as members.

Steps in Building Bureau Work Program

The first step in building a county farm bureau program of work is an enumeration of the sources of revenue of the farmers in the county. An analysis of the factors limiting these revenue sources is the second step. Naturally, the third step is the program of work aimed at these specific limiting factors.

One large Mid-West county farm bureau, noted for its definite results, followed this plan. The officials of the county organization found that the principal revenue sources were corn, dairy products, poultry, wheat and fruit.

The limiting factors in the production of each commodity were in turn: Poor seed, freight rates and soil depletion; border cattle, markets and scrub sires; egg production and markets; markets, freight rates and car shortage; markets, canning and quality.

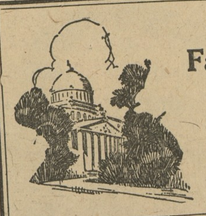
With this list before them the executive committee had little difficulty in building a program of work that has returned thousands of dollars to the farmers of this Mid-West county.

First of all they found the words transportation and marketing running all the way down the list. Transportation was beyond their control, but the county farm bureau had a national office—the American Farm Bureau Federation. The county transportation problem became the care of this national office.

Marketing was another word appearing as a limiting factor all through the list. The county could make the first move in remedying the market situation. So establishment of local co-operative commodity marketing organizations was put down as a definite object.

After the county products left the county they entered the world's markets—then marketing like transportation became a national problem. Again the county turned to the state and national offices.

The remaining program followed the same definite schedule—organization of a cow testing association, a pure-bred sire campaign, calf clubs, culling among [illegible] demonstration



Farm Bureau Keeps Its Eye on Washington

Representation of the farmer in all matters governmental is the task of the Legislative Department in Washington, D. C., maintained by the American Farm Bureau Federation. This department takes instant cognizance of any proposed legislation affecting the farm industry. It studies the proposal and then makes known to the farmers of America the true significance of the measure.

Through the efforts of the Legislative Department, legislation necessary to agriculture is brought to the attention of congress. The congress which adjourned last September was distinctly a farm congress. It had to its credit more legislation of benefit to the farmers of the United States than any preceding session. Expert observers say that the activity of the farm bureau was responsible for that record.

Legislation affecting farm finance has been the chief concern of the Legislative Department this year. It has been particularly active in its efforts to secure an increase in the federal farm loan limit, in securing legislation providing a new form of intermediate farm credit running from six months to three years, and in securing a law prohibiting the further issuance of tax-free securities.

Want the Facts.

Early in the year it became plain to all that the prosperity of the farmer and the whole nation is inextricably linked with the European market. The farm bureau through its department in Washington presented an insistant demand that the proper governmental agencies make a strenuous effort to secure facts on which to base a sound policy in regard to Europe.

Acting on the resolution, "We approve the extension of such credits as will facilitate the financing of exportation of surplus agricultural commodities through the War Finance Corporation and its successor," adopted at the annual convention of the American Farm Bureau Federation, the Legislative Department supported the Norbeck-Nelson bill before the senate agriculture committee.

Our Surplus Market.

Commenting on this legislation, Gray Silver, director of the Legislative Department, said: "Europe is practically the only market for our surplus wheat so we must take care of that market in order that we may continue to be a surplus producing nation.

"If our wheat is to be consumed, we must adopt instrumentalities which will get it to the consumer. We therefore ask the government to extend this instrument whereby the needy of Europe may be able to purchase our surplus.

The completion of the dam at Muscle Shoals, the Truth-in-Fabric bill and legislation making illegal the manufacture of filled milk are matters which have been given primary attention by the Legislative Department this year.

In 1922 the American Farm Bureau Federation interested itself in some thirty bills of importance to American farmers. Many of the bills backed by the federation are now laws. Congress required considerable help and not a little prodding. The farm bureau furnished both and got satisfactory results.

Legislation Backed by Bureau.

The farm bureau backed the following measures:

Agricultural credit act, extending the life of the War Finance Corporation.

Bill legalizing co-operative marketing.

Bill regulating packers and stock yards.

Federal farm-to-markets road program.

Bill providing funds for tuberculosis eradication.

Grain exchange regulation.

The Capper-Volstead co-operative bill is the biggest farm bureau legislative accomplishment to date. Congress by this act definitely authorized co-operative marketing and stamped its approval even to the extent of the existence of a monopoly, providing it does not enter into an agreement in restraint of trade or to enhance prices unduly.

By the passage of this act congress agreed that the mere existence of large co-operative associations, corporate or otherwise, with or without capital stock, doing a business collectively does not constitute a crime. The removal of the menace of misinterpretation of the Sherman anti-trust law was one of the most important pieces of legislation enacted in 1922.

In addition to its other work, the Legislative Department gives state federations and local county farm bureaus much service. The presentation of facts and data to congress favorable to the passage of certain laws and unfavorable to others is only a part of the work of the Washington office. Once a law is passed there is a continuous demand for the straightening out of problems connected with its administration.

It should be clearly understood that the farm bureau would be unable to secure all this farm legislation without the support of the farm bloc in congress. The farm bloc was organized in the Washington office of the American Farm Bureau Federation in May, 1921.

G. E. LEARY & SON
Rock Hall, Maryland
Lumber Dealers
Asparagus Crates a Specialty

C. W. KIBLER & SONS
—Dealers in—
Grain Feeds
Fertilizers Coal
Your Patronage Solicited
CHESTERTOWN, MARYLAND
Phone 149

—CULP—
LUMBER
COAL AND CEMENT
BUILDERS SUPPLIES
W. S. & A. M. CULP
Chestertown, Maryland
PHONE 5

©Maryland State Archives, msa_sc6000_43_1-0258