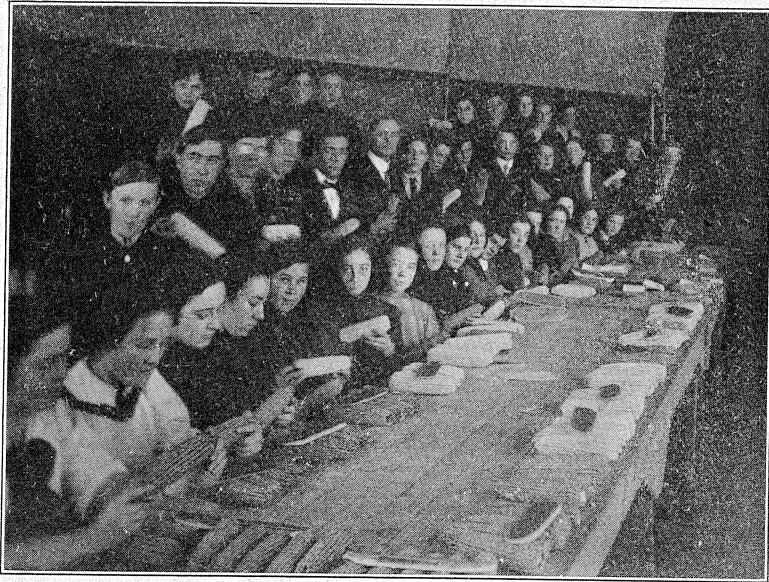


PURDUE UNIVERSITY
Department of Agricultural Extension

G. I. CHRISTIE, Superintendent

EXTENSION BULLETIN No. 3

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Class in Agriculture—Winamac High School—Corn Scoring.

Agricultural Work in the Schools of Pulaski County

By H. L. ROGERS,
County Superintendent of Schools.

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Class in Agriculture—Pulaski High School—Examining Brown Rot.

INTRODUCTION.

This bulletin by Superintendent Rogers gives the story of the agricultural work carried on through the Young People's Contests and the schools in Pulaski County. This work is of particular interest and importance, since it answers in a direct and positive way, the question as to the value of Young People's Contests and the place and importance of agriculture in the schools.

Many other counties in Indiana are doing most creditable work along these lines and are accomplishing much.

It is the purpose of Purdue University to collect and publish, from time to time, information relative to these movements, in order that those interested may become familiar with the work under way in the state. All inquiries and requests for information relative to the organization of clubs; outlines for contests; rural school agriculture, etc., should be addressed to

**AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION DEPARTMENT,
PURDUE UNIVERSITY, LAFAYETTE, INDIANA.**

Agricultural Work in the Schools of Pulaski County

By H. L. ROGERS,
County Superintendent of Schools.

The Pulaski County Corn Club was organized in the spring of 1909, by the trustees of the county and the county superintendent of schools. Rules governing the contest were published in all the county papers and circular letters were sent to all the teachers in the county, asking them to co-operate in the work and to send in the names of pupils who wished to take part. At that time there was no age limit, though the minimum has since been placed at twelve years. Prizes were offered to the boys on ten-ear exhibits, and to the girls for one loaf of bread or one pound of butter. Seed corn was furnished to the boys and about two hundred took part in the contest. The first exhibition was held in the fall of that year during the street fair at Winamac. At that time there were one hundred eighty-three exhibits of corn, forty-two of bread and twenty-one of butter. That exhibition was held too early, as much of the corn had not matured at that time.

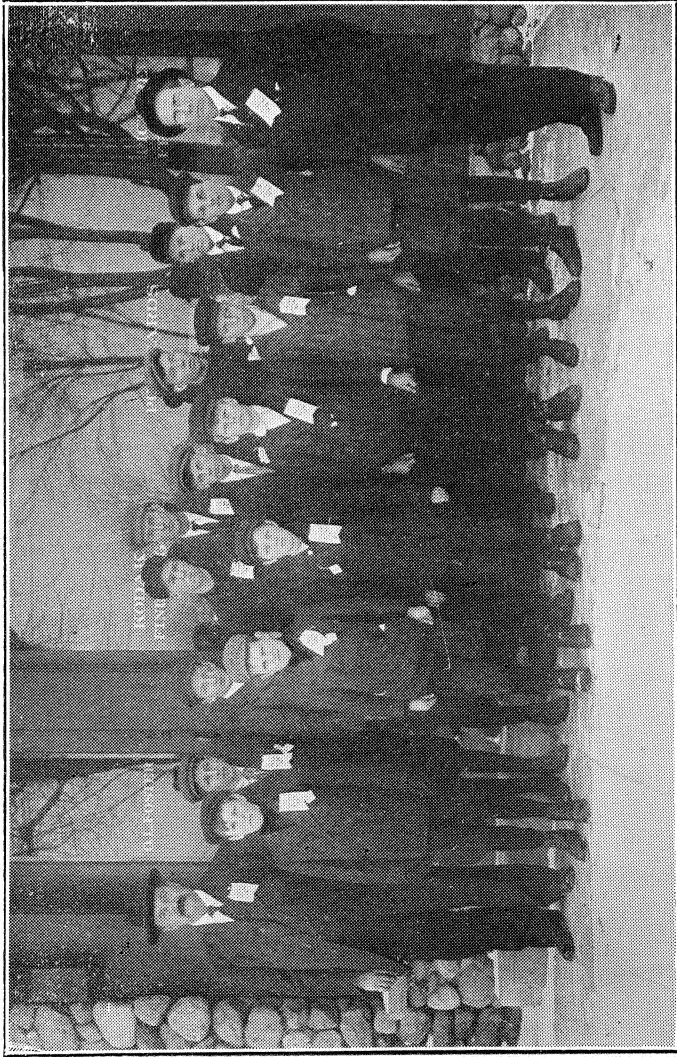
The prizes for that year were a trip of one week to Purdue, with all expenses paid, for the best yellow corn, best white corn, best loaf of bread and best pound of butter. For sweepstakes we gave silver cups for highest scoring exhibit of corn and for the highest score on either bread or butter. For the second prize we gave \$5.00 and for the third \$3.00.

We had a very successful exhibition, but the trustees decided to eliminate the butter contest as it was too difficult to handle and was not considered as important as bread. It was also decided to give no scholarships to girls the next year, as we had so much difficulty in securing a lady to take care of them while at Purdue.

This contest was financed by the trustees and by donations.

The second contest was held in the court room on the two days following Thanksgiving, 1910. This was much more satisfactory, the later date giving the boys more time in which to prepare their exhibits. The number contesting was not so large, but the quality was 100% better. The exhibits were arranged

by townships, with first, second, and third prizes in each township. The first was a week's trip to Purdue during the short course; second and third were cash prizes. Some of the boys used the money they received for second prize and went with the others to Purdue. The bread exhibit was also held, but there



Class Attending Farmers' Short Course at Purdue, 1912. Accompanied by Supt. Rogers and Trustee Boyman.

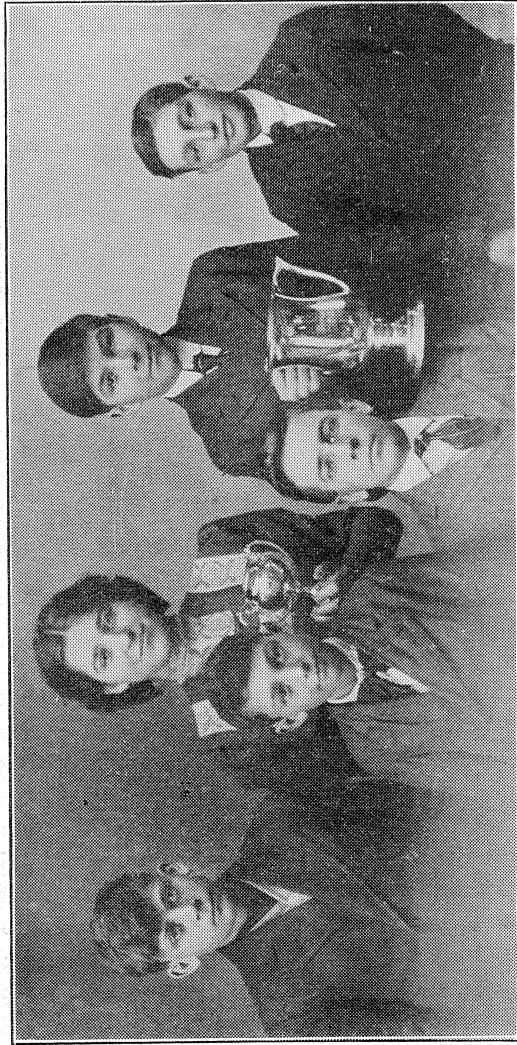
was not as much interest in it as we thought there should be, so we decided to offer no prizes to the girls the next year. I think, however, that it was our fault that we did not have a better exhibit, for we placed all our energy on the corn. The county council appropriated \$100.00 to pay expenses of this contest, and the balance was raised by the teachers in each district.



Class in Agriculture—Star City High School—A lesson in Budding.—The Peach Tree is One Upon Which the Pupils Placed Buds During the Early Fall.

The county council appropriated \$200.00 for the work the next year and we decided to send one boy to Purdue from each township, as before, and for the second prize in each township to send one boy to the International Stock Show at Chicago for one day. This was an additional inducement and the boys manifested more interest than ever. The county board of education adopted a text on agriculture for the eighth grade and required that it be taught in every school. The same book was adopted by the township institutes to take the place of one adopted by the state reading circle board. This has proven to be one of the best books we have ever had in institute work and every teacher is interested.

The third exhibition was held December 1st and 2nd, 1911, at the court house, while the Farmers' Institute and Teachers' Association were in session. The quality and quantity of the corn exceeded, by far, the exhibited corn of previous years and the exhibit room was crowded with visitors during the two days.



Class of Prize Winners Who Attended Farmers' Short Course at Purdue, 1909.

For next year the trustees have voted that seed enough be furnished each contestant to plant one-half to one acre of corn and that prizes be awarded partly upon the largest yield per acre. There will also be prizes upon the best ten ears, single ears



A Non-Commissioned High School at Pulaski—Some Excellent Agricultural Work is Being Carried on Here.

and bushel exhibits. Each boy who takes part will be required to make three different reports to the county superintendent of schools,—one in May, giving size of plot, kind of fertilizer used,



Class in Agriculture—Star City Commissioned High School.—Judging Poultry.

previous crops, etc., one in July, giving condition of crop at that time, number of stalks, etc., and one when the crop is harvested, giving number of bushels raised, cost per bushel, and any other information of importance. The purpose of this is to secure a complete record of each contestant and to prevent the entering of corn not raised by boys who have taken an active part in the work during the summer.



Class in Agriculture—Winamac High School—Judging Horses. This Class Also Judges All Kinds of Live Stock and Many of Them Are Teaching Their Parents a Few Things Concerning Good Animals.

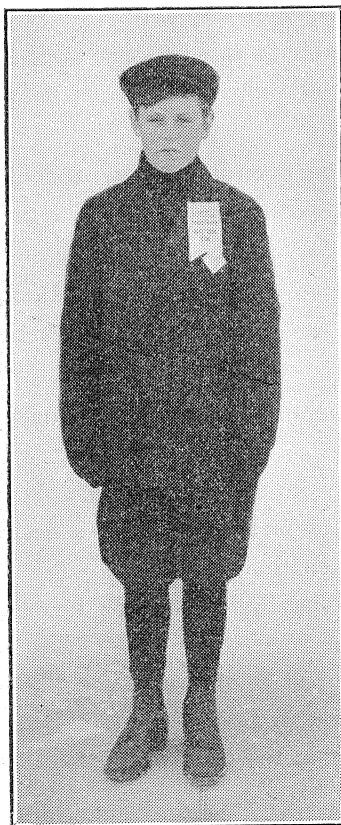
I have taken up the work through the trustees and teachers. All literature is sent either to the teacher direct or to the trustee to distribute. The contest is now financed wholly by the county; the expense this year being about \$250.00. This is the best method, as each tax-payer bears his share of the expense, and no one has the embarrassing position of collecting contributions.

The county commissioners fully endorse the work. During a recent board meeting one of the commissioners remarked, "The corn club money is the best money spent in the county." The

other members concurred in the sentiment and they stand willing and ready to help when needed, urging that the contest be pushed even more vigorously this year than ever. The county council has promised the same support and the township trustees are always willing to do their share of the work.

The following results are noticeable in this county:

1. Farmers who have never tested their seed corn before are now testing every ear.
2. Some very good seed corn has been distributed through all parts of the county and has shown farmers what an advantage it is to have good seed.
3. There are few boys over twelve years of age who do not know the requirements of a perfect ear of corn. Every teacher in the county has taught them.
4. It has stimulated many farmers to raise a better quality of other crops.
5. Twenty-seven different boys in the county have been shown what is being done at Purdue, which has created a desire among them to take up the work given there.
6. It has shown twelve boys what kind of stock is exhibited at the Stock Show in Chicago.
7. It has created a greater interest in the high schools of the county, as we have a regular course in agriculture in them.
8. It has awakened a new spirit in the township institutes, where better work is being done.
9. It has been the means by which some of the boys earned their first dollar, received their first ride on a train or visited for the first time a large city which was unknown to many of them.
10. The girls, with their mothers, have been interested in bread making, butter making, etc.
11. The contest has done much to stimulate among the boys and girls a respect for the work of the farm and the home.



GRANT CHAPMAN

Winner of first prize in township. He raised 112 bushels and 50 pounds of corn on one acre.



VERNON JOHNSON

Winner of sweepstakes on corn—1909. He won the silver cup, \$5.00 in cash and free trip to Purdue.

A WORD TO THE FARM BOY

You are growing restless on the farm. The writer knows just how you feel, for he has traveled after the plow many a weary day thinking the thoughts that you are thinking now. You know that there is a great outside world which you desire to enter and which can only be entered satisfactorily through the portals of an education. You believe that an education would be worth more to you than father's farm, and would give that farm, if you had it, for that education. We sympathize with you, for that was our dream for long years by day and by night. We approve of the feeling that inspires it. We would like to see every bright boy have an education, but we would not like, unless you are particularly qualified for it, to see you secure an education which would land you in one of what are called professions.

The country is full of lawyers, the majority of them briefless and obliged to get a living in real estate, insurance, or some other business quite apart from the law. They have been driven out practically from the profession for which they spent thousands of dollars and years of time to acquire fitness. The same may be said of doctors and preachers. If you are qualified for it by nature and grace, there is no profession more honorable, nor, in fact, so honorable, as that of a minister of the Gospel, but, unfortunately, many a man who has had in him the making of a good farmer has been spoiled by becoming a poor preacher.

We know of but one branch of education that has a certain, definite job waiting for the graduate when he gets his diploma, and that is an agricultural education. Every other profession is overcrowded. In this the supply is not equal to the demand, and will not be in the next twenty years. The farm boy who, having learned the practical part of farming, having familiarized himself with the machinery and become qualified to handle farm animals as they are handled on his father's farm, will take a thorough course at the Agricultural College and be just the kind of a man, provided, always, he has the brains and the grit, that the world is looking for today. You may devote yourself to horticulture, to stock-breeding, to dairying, to butter-making, to cheese-making, or to cattle-feeding, and, if you have the stuff in you, you will find a job, and a good-paying one at that, waiting for you at the end of the course. The colleges and experiment stations will require the services of a great many educated young farmers. It will not be many years before every line of railroad in the West will have an industrial department, which no one can run who does not combine the theoretical with the practical. A railroad official told us the other day that they needed a man of this kind, and we pointed out the kind of man required, he said: "Why, that man would cost \$5000.00 a year." The Department of Agriculture needs more than anything else this kind of men, and boys without capital, who will qualify themselves for this kind of work, will not need to wait ten or twelve years before they see a living clearly ahead of them.

As the years go on, it will become more apparent that the man who will farm successfully must have the "know how," which he can gain only by long experience and reading at home, or by an education plus experience and reading. Four years at college, or even two years, will be worth to you twenty years of farm life without it. Therefore, we say to the young man, not "Go West," but "Go to college if you possibly can. Go to an agricultural college."

Don't start out to be a pure scientist; you want a broader education than that. It will pay you if you go back to run your father's farm. It will pay you if you buy a farm of your own. If you are not able to do this, somebody who has a farm will need you. The oil-meal folks were not long since looking for a young man to act as their agent who knew how to feed cattle and how to compound rations of which oil-meal is a part. Every line of business that has to do with farmers greatly prefers a man who not only knows how farming is done, but why it is done, and hence is in touch with the farmer.

Don't go West, young man; don't go to the city; go to the Agricultural College, and to the agricultural end of that college. This would be our advice to you if we never wrote another line. It would have been worth fifteen years of life to the editor of this paper if he had had the opportunity at your age to follow the line which he maps out to you.—Dr. Henry Wallace.



Class in Agriculture—Pulaski High School—Examining Brown Rot.