

II.

Program of work, methods employed and results achieved.

(1). Factors considered and methods used in determining program of work.

Except for emergency projects and certain special projects that are primarily of county wide concern the program of work for the county is determined by the programs adopted by the various organized communities. The needs of the community are first listed. From the large number of projects which are usually listed as requiring attention, those which may most readily be taken up for immediate action are considered in determining the program of work for the year. In order to get the program of work into concrete form so that the most important projects as well as those of most general interest may be adopted the following plan has been followed with satisfactory results.

At the community meeting, when the program of work is to be adopted, a list of all the chief sources of income is made upon a black board. Opposite these items in a second column are listed the factors which are present to decrease or to make unsatisfactory the return from each source of income. With these two columns before the meeting we proceed to make a third column containing, opposite each item, the things that can be done to eliminate or to alleviate the troubles listed in the second column. When this has been done the program of work for the year is selected from among the projects contained therein. Great care must be exercised at this point in order to prevent the community from taking on more work than they will be able to take care of. When this has been done we have completed a fourth column in which are listed the different projects that the community has adopted as a part of its program of work. A fifth column which is also important especially with certain types of projects contains the goals which are set for each particular project. It is very good policy wherever possible to set a definite goal of accomplishment as it helps to a large measure in getting a definite amount of work done and in fixing definite responsibilities for the project leaders.

Projects which do not develop from the consideration of the sources of income, but which should be considered in adopting the program of work should be listed in a column so that all projects from which the program is to be chosen is before the meeting before the actual work of selecting the projects for the year is begun.

In every case where local community leaders can be of help to the extension office in furthering certain projects, project leaders should be chosen by the community at the time of the adoption of the program of work. It should be made clear also at the community meeting what the duties of the various project leaders will be and what part the individuals in the community must take in order to make the program of work carry thru successfully.

(2). Project activities and results.

A BOYS AND GIRLS PIG CLUBS

a. Organization It was generally agreed that one of the immediate needs in the county was a greater number of hogs on the farms to go along with the increasing corn acreage, and further that there was need for improvement in the type of hogs produced. We felt that perhaps the easiest and most effective way to gain the desired results was thru the organization of boys and girls pig clubs. A plan for this project was therefore formulated in the Extension office and then discussed with farmers at the community meetings. We found a satisfactory number of farmers favorable and the boys and girls, as usual, eager to have an opportunity to work at something worth while. The bankers were involved in the plan in the matter of financing. When we had determined that the farmers, and the boys and girls, were in favor of the plan as outlined we took the proposition to the seven banks in the county and found every bank ready to help make the project a success.

b. Financing Our plan called for the purchase of a purebred bred gilt by each club member. Very few of the prospective club members had the money with which to make such a purchase and their parents were also in many cases not in a position to provide the necessary funds. Further, we wished to give the club members as much business training as possible along with the other phases of the project so we preferred that these loans be made thru the local banks in the regular way.

As the boys and girls applications for membership in the pig clubs were received they were presented to the bank which the club member had indicated on the application for approval. If the banker approved the application for a loan his O.K. was marked on the application indicating that a loan would be made to such club member for the purchase of a pure bred gilt. A special form of note used for this purpose was then signed by the club member, the amount of the note to be filled in when we learned what the exact cost of the gilt together with transportation expenses, etc., would be.