

HISTORY OF 4-H CLUB WORK IN OKLAHOMA

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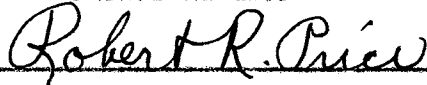
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PREFACE

This history of the movement in Oklahoma, which is now known as 4-H Club work, was undertaken for the purpose of compiling, analyzing and preserving the essential facts of a movement that has had a very significant influence in promoting a more satisfying farm and home life in Oklahoma.

The facts are found in many places and in many forms but they have never been collected and organized for publication so that the important facts can be found in one publication.

It is with full knowledge that just credit cannot be given here to the noble work of thousands of men and women in Oklahoma who have made valuable contributions to the development of boys' and girls' 4-H Club work in this state. However, the author acknowledges with gratitude the assistance of the following persons: Ben M. Orr, Acting Head of the Department of Agricultural Education and advisor of the author, who suggested this study and who offered valuable suggestions in its preparation; Shawnee Brown, Director of Extension, who aided materially in securing data on 4-H Club work; Ira J. Heller, State 4-H Club Leader and Alice W. Carlson, Associate State Club Leader, who assisted by making available data for the most recent years of club work; two former Oklahoma club girls; my wife, Sylvia, who offered encouragement and valuable assistance, and our daughter, Mary Ann, who typed the original copy of the manuscript; and to Mrs. George Phibbs, who placed the material in final form.

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CHAPTER I

THE FORMATIVE PERIOD 1900-1908

The 4-H Club movement has been called one of the most unique educational programs of our time.¹

Oklahoma has proved to be a fertile field for the development of this inspiring program dedicated to the interests and needs of farm boys and girls. The work in Oklahoma has become a vital part of a national program in cooperative extension work in agriculture and home economics throughout the United States and its possessions, and 4-H Club work in this country has served as a model for similar work with rural youth in many countries around the world.

The earliest work with rural boys and girls in the United States which served later as the background and foundation for organized 4-H Club work was conducted in a number of states during the early years of the present century. These early efforts were usually the work of inspired rural teachers and educators who were reared on the farm and who had an intense love for the land, a real desire to help farm boys and girls appreciate their own rural environment, and a firm belief in the dignity of farming and homemaking as worthy occupations.

¹Franklin M. Reck, The 4-H Story-A History of 4-H Club Work (Chicago, 1951), p. 3.

Dr. Liberty Hyde Bailey of Cornell University at the turn of the present century had pointed out how unrelated much of the teaching in the rural schools of that period was to the daily life of farm boys and girls. As early as 1896, he had prepared and distributed "Nature Study Leaflets" that were intended to assist rural teachers in making the work in their classes more interesting and more meaningful to the farm boys and girls and to inspire the students to study and appreciate the beauty of their own environment.

Dr. Bailey encouraged educators to teach rural young people about the things most closely related to their daily lives and thus he helped to encourage an active interest among teachers in new objectives and new methods of teaching in rural schools.²

In Ohio, A. B. Graham, superintendent of rural schools in Springfield township in 1902, formed "Boys Experiment Clubs" for the purpose of vitalizing the school studies of the boys under his supervision. He gave them instruction outside of the classroom on subjects relating to activities on their farms. The first meetings were held once each month in the basement of the county courthouse building. Graham demonstrated the use of litmus paper in testing the reaction of soil and encouraged each boy to test a sample of soil from the farm on which he lived. He also gave the boys instructions on the selection of seed corn and suggested the idea of planting experimental plots at home to compare varieties. The interest among the boys in these activities so encouraged Graham that he asked and received help from the Agricultural Experiment Station at Wooster and from the Dean

²A. C. True, Practical Education for the Farmer (Washington, D. C., 1897), U. S. D. A. Yearbook, 1897, p. 284-286.

of Agriculture at Ohio State University in developing his ideas. In 1903, the University of Ohio published a bulletin relating to Graham's work under the title, "Rural School Agriculture". At that time the clubs were called "School Agricultural Clubs".

The clubs elected student officers and met more or less regularly outside of school. They conducted mainly four projects: corn growing, soil testing, vegetable garden growing, and flower garden growing. Other activities were collections of wild flowers, weed seeds, and insects. At the annual exhibits, almost any kind of agricultural or domestic science demonstrations could be presented by the members. Club members conducted their projects at home and filled out regular reports on their work. In 1905, Graham was employed as the first Superintendent of Extension of the College of Agriculture at Ohio State University. Under his direction school clubs reached a high of sixty with an enrollment of 3,000 in 1906, after which they were gradually replaced by the introduction of agriculture into the school curriculum.³

In Illinois, O. J. Kern, located at Rockford as superintendent of schools of Winnebago County, was conducting work with boys similar to the work of Graham of Ohio and at about the same time. His program was widely recognized in connection with a vigorous corn improvement campaign. His work with the boys was so successful that there was a great demand for similar work suited to the needs of girls. This resulted in the formation of a "Girls Home Culture Club" which

³George Farrell, Boys' and Girls' Club Work, 1914-1924 (Washington, D. C., U. S. D. A. Misc. Cir. #85, December, 1926) p. 12.

was organized in September 1903 with a membership of 216.⁴

Mr. William Otwell, Secretary and later President of the Farmers' Institute of Macoupin County, Illinois, became interested in a boys' corn contest as the result of the small attendance and lack of interest at the annual institute program for farmers which he had widely publicized in thirteen newspapers and had invited a number of noted out-of-state speakers to appear on the program. When the hour arrived for the program only the officers of the institute, the Chaplain, and the janitor were present. This was an embarrassing situation for Mr. Otwell and he decided to do something about it. He held a conference with some of the officers to determine the preferred varieties of corn for the community and then purchased some of the best improved varieties of seed corn he could buy and distributed it among 500 boys under 18 years of age with the understanding that they would make an exhibit during the next institute program. When the event opened, the corn was judged and a number of prizes were awarded. Otwell stated that there were more than 500 adult farmers present and he knew from the interest manifested that he had solved the problem of attendance at the institute program and had made real progress in a crusade for corn improvement in the area.

At the Louisiana Purchase Exposition (World Fair) held in St. Louis in 1904, Otwell was selected by the Governor of Illinois to take charge of a corn exhibit in which two huge pyramids of white and yellow varieties of corn were displayed with a large banner reading

⁴Dick J. Crosby, U. S. D. A. Yearbook, 1904 (Washington, D. C., 1904), p. 492.

"8,000 Farm Boys in Contest".⁵

In Iowa, Perry G. Kolden, who was the first Superintendent of Extension at the Iowa State College, was a pioneer and inspiring leader in promoting club work among farm boys and girls. He began his long and fruitful career in a short course at Ames as an extension worker in 1902 when he instructed farmers on corn improvement. In 1904 and 1905 his work attracted national attention through the "Seed Corn Gospel Trains" that made it possible for the college to present the message of better seed at 1,235 meetings, reaching 145,363 people in 10,000 miles of travel. He started his teaching experience as a rural school teacher in Michigan. He relates that for 17 years the school had not been visited by a parent or patron except on state occasions. He had told the boys in his class that about the biggest thing in this country around here is corn and when anything threatens the corn crop you can read it in your father's face. He told the boys that he would like to have every boy ask his father to pick out the best ear of corn grown in his field and then get them together and talk it over. When this suggestion was made he saw a new light appear in the face of Dick, the dullest boy in school. He seemed to awaken suddenly. Book lessons were remote and unreal to him, but corn was tangible and interesting. Every boy brought an ear of corn selected as being the best that the home farm produced. To the teacher's regret, Dick had brought the poorest ear of all and was more embarrassed over this failure than he had ever been when he flunked in reading, writing, or arithmetic. The following morning, the teacher

⁵Ibid., pp. 489-491.

had an early visitor who came in without knocking and exclaimed, "Dick says my ear is the poorest of any. I don't believe it."

The corn was laid out on the teacher's desk and the teacher asked Dick to pick out his ear of corn. He did so in a sheepish, shamed-faced manner. His father then said, "Well, it was kind of dark when I picked it out. I know I've got better corn in the crib than that." After a friendly discussion on corn, in which Dick spoke more words than he had ever spoken in the classroom before, the meeting ended in good spirit. Mr. Holden related that this experiment was a revelation to him and that this experience influenced his whole career. He said:

Instead of burying myself in books, I studied the boys in my district and spent every available hour of my time in their homes or working with them in the fields and barns, finding out in what they were interested. From these researches I framed the work in the classroom and made a consistent attempt to hook up all the lessons with the actual life of the pupils.⁶

Perry G. Holden had the inspirational and spiritual qualities of a great teacher whose message appealed to rural people. He made many trips to Oklahoma as an extension worker and created a lasting interest in better agriculture among a large number of farm boys and girls, including the author of this club history.

Among other pioneer leaders in the boys' and girls' club movement in Iowa who deserve mention are O. H. Benson and Miss Jesse Field. Mr. Benson as county superintendent of Wright County did some excellent work with boys and girls as early as 1906. His work is given credit for suggesting the national emblem for 4-H Club work, although

⁶R. K. Eliss, "Perry G. Holden, A Great Teacher," The Spirit and Philosophy of Extension Work (Washington, 1952), pp. 45-50

O. B. Martin who was assistant to Dr. Seaman A. Knapp from 1909 until 1911, and who was later Director of Extension of Texas is given credit for suggesting the use of the 4-Hs'. Mr. Henson was assistant in Boys' and Girls' Demonstration Work in the Southern States, Bureau of Plant Industry, United States Department of Agriculture working under the direction of Mr. O. B. Martin from 1911 until he was transferred in charge of club work for the northern and western states in 1912.⁷

Jessie Field was County Superintendent of Page County, Iowa. She became interested in club work through Perry C. Holden and received a gold watch from her club members in appreciation of the excellent work and good leadership she displayed in the county. The watch had a three-leaf clover with an H engraved on each leaf.⁸

Corn Clubs in the South

The work done with boys corn clubs in a number of the northern states and more particularly in the Corn Belt had attracted national attention through the press, bulletins, and expositions such as the World Fair held in St. Louis in 1904. They had been based largely upon individual interest and enrollment was often by mail without the benefit of close contact between the sponsors and the corn club members. The emphasis had been largely upon the basis of each boy producing an exhibit of ten ears of corn from a recommended variety, but without rules requiring a minimum sized plot or the keeping of cost and production records.

A few alert educators in the South realized the possibility of

⁷George Farrell, Boys' and Girls' Club Work, 1914-1924 (Washington, D. C., U. S. D. A. Misc. Cir. #85, December, 1926) pp. 12-13.
⁸Beck, p. 43.

using "corn clubs" as a means of stimulating interest among the boys in the rural schools in their school studies and as a means of keeping them in school.

G. C. Adams, County School Commissioner of Newton County, Georgia, appears to be the first man in the South who undertook to organize a "corn contest". Adams announced a corn contest on December 23, 1904. He specified that the contest was open to boys 6 to 18 years of age, that the contestant must do all the work himself, and that a disinterested committee must husk and weigh the corn. Any amount could be planted, but the winner would be judged on the weight and excellence of a twenty-ear sample. Thirty-two contestants exhibited their corn at Covington in October, 1905.⁹

In 1906, Professor Joseph Stewart of the University of Georgia, in charge of secondary education in the state, worked out a system of corn and cotton contests in the state. He secured \$500.00 from the State Fair Association offering cash for the best ten ears of corn and the best five stalks of cotton exhibited at the State Fair in Macon. To be eligible to enter the state contest, boys had to win in their counties. Eight hundred boys in 35 counties entered the 1906 contests. Georgia was the first state to declare a state corn champion. In 1907, Georgia held a corn, cotton, and chicken contest for Georgia boys and girls.¹⁰

In 1906, William Hall Smith, a tall rural school teacher in Holmes County, Mississippi, spent many hours at night and after school in studying a plan intended to interest and improve a number of boys

⁹Reck, p. 34.

¹⁰Ibid., p. 35.

in his district who detested school work. Due to his success in organizing a corn club he became known throughout Mississippi as "Corn Club Smith". He later became County Superintendent of Holmes County and at a still later date became President of the Mississippi A. and M. College.¹¹

The first effort on the part of the Federal Government in sponsoring and directing club work was in Mississippi when Smith was appointed by Dr. Seaman A. Knapp as a special agent to work with the boys' corn clubs.

Since Dr. Seaman A. Knapp was destined to have such a great influence on the development of extension work generally in the South and on the development of boys' and girls' club work in particular, a brief review of his career as an agricultural leader and as a teacher may be helpful in understanding the basis of his influence in establishing the Farmers' Cooperative Demonstration Work in the South.

Dr. Knapp was born at Schroop, New York, December 16, 1833, and died in Washington, D. C., on April 1, 1911. He was well educated and taught school during his early years. He served as President of The Iowa State College for a few years and was a friend of James Wilson who served as Secretary of Agriculture in Washington for many years.

In 1886, Dr. Knapp went to St. Charles, Louisiana, as manager of a land development project. He became interested in the growing of rice. In 1898, Secretary of Agriculture Wilson asked him to visit

¹¹O. B. Martin, The Demonstration Work (Boston, 1921), p. 27.

the Orient to secure all available information about rice varieties, methods of production, and rice milling. He visited Japan, China, and the Phillipine Islands. Again in 1901, Secretary Wilson sent him to the Orient for the United States Department of Agriculture. As a result of these trips he contributed a great deal of information and introduced improved varieties of seed. This helped to develop the rice industry in Southern Louisiana and Texas.

In 1902, Dr. Knapp was sent to Puerto Rico to make a special report with regard to the agricultural resources of the Island.

In 1903, the boll weevil began to attract widespread attention in the South and Dr. Knapp and the Secretary of Agriculture made a trip to Texas that fall to study the situation. As a result, Congress appropriated \$250,000.00 to combat this devastating insect. One-half of the fund was placed at the disposal of the Bureau of Entomology and the other half at the disposal of the Bureau of Plant Industry.

In 1904, Dr. Knapp as an employee of the United States Bureau of Plant Industry organized the Farmers' Cooperative Demonstration Work.¹²

Senator Lever in speaking of the demonstration method developed by Dr. Knapp stated:

The inroads of the boll weevil into the cotton fields of Texas threatened the cotton industry. The situation presented a world problem. The best minds of the country concentrated their efforts to discover a defense. Out of all the thinking the only solution discovered was good farming. Logically, the next step was easy. If good farming is the best defense against ravishes of the most destructive of cotton pests, good farming might likewise and should solve the problems of rural life in its broader aspects. This line of reasoning developed not only

¹²Beverly T. Galloway, "Seaman Asahel Knapp", U. S. D. A. Year-book, 1911 (Washington, 1911) p. 285.

the ideas underlying the plan of extension teaching, but more important than that, it gave birth to the great ideal which underlies all of this work, namely, the enrichment of country life.¹³

Mr. O. B. Martin, State Superintendent of Public Instruction of South Carolina, was appointed as a special agent in the Bureau of Plant Industry on March 5, 1909, with the specific duty of developing club work. He became Dr. Knapp's disciple in the South.¹⁴

Speaking of the earliest efforts in interesting boys to enroll in corn clubs in the South Mr. O. B. Martin stated:

From 1906 to 1908 the enrollment in the corn clubs began to show up in several of the states. Some agents interested the boys and started them to work. Some county superintendents helped to enlist the boys and aided in the instruction of the group.

The first county superintendent of education who thus organized federal corn clubs was H. H. Smith of Holmes County, Mississippi.

The first demonstration agent to take up this phase of work and promote it actively and successfully was Tom W. Marks of Jacks County, Texas; 1909 was the first year in which the Corn Club Work was organized and promoted generally throughout the Southern States.¹⁵

John E. Swain states that, "In 1907 after Smith's successful experiment, Dr. Seaman A. Knapp authorized the formation of Federal Corn Clubs, modeling the organization after the one formed in Mississippi."¹⁶

Dr. Seaman A. Knapp at that time was in charge of the Farmers' Cooperative Demonstration Work in the South working under the direction of the Bureau of Plant Industry of the United States Department of Agriculture.

¹³Martin, Introduction by Hon. A. P. Lever.

¹⁴Joseph Cannon Bailey, Seaman A. Knapp - Schoolmaster of American Agriculture (New York, 1945)

¹⁵Martin, p. 47

¹⁶John E. Swain, Oklahoma Extension Circular #43 (Stillwater, January 1917), p. 6.

In speaking of the corn club work, J. C. Bailey said, "The demonstration Club for boys was an unavoidable deduction from demonstration projects for their fathers."¹⁷

Bailey further stated:

He [Knapp] took over a rather superficial corn contest idea which in the North was generally conducted as a race between individuals to grow a few 'prize' ears of selected varieties and made it an enterprise of deep educational significance."¹⁸

This background of information regarding Club Work will indicate how Oklahoma Club Work was influenced by work that had been done in other Southern states. W. D. Bentley was one of the first five agents in the United States appointed by Dr. Seaman A. Knapp. Tom Marks also spent a number of years as County agent in Oklahoma until his retirement from the Oklahoma Extension Service.

Dr. Bradford Knapp, who was an assistant to his father for two years before the death of Dr. Seaman A. Knapp, took over the responsibilities of his father in 1911 and continued with the United States Department of Agriculture until 1920. He was President of the Oklahoma A. and M. College during the period from 1924 to 1928. These men had an intense interest in 4-H Club Work and due to their continuity of service helped to develop a vigorous club program in Oklahoma.

¹⁷J. C. Bailey, Seaman A. Knapp - Schoolmaster of American Agriculture (New York, 1945), p. 230.

¹⁸Ibid., p. 233.

CHAPTER II

THE DEVELOPMENT PERIOD 1909-1914

Earliest Club Work in Oklahoma

In order to understand how the earliest club work was organized in Oklahoma, it should be pointed out that from 1909 until after the Smith-Lever Law was passed by Congress in 1914 two different agencies were conducting club work in the state. These agencies were:

1. The Farmers' Cooperative Demonstration Work of the United States Department of Agriculture whose agents organized corn, cotton, and kafir clubs and a pig club for boys and a canning club for girls.
2. The Extension Division of the Oklahoma A. and M. College whose representatives organized the Boys and Girls Agriculture Clubs. These included crops clubs and a pig club for boys and canning, cooking, sewing, and poultry clubs for girls.

The First Club in Oklahoma

Walter Dimsitt Bentley is credited with organizing the first club in Oklahoma in 1909. This was a boys' corn club of 50 members which he organized while serving as State Agent of Oklahoma for the Farmers' Cooperative Demonstration work with headquarters at Tishomingo.¹

¹John E. Swain, Oklahoma Extension Circular #43 (Stillwater, January 1917), p. 8

At that time Dr. Seaman A. Knapp was directing this work in the Southern States with headquarters in Washington, D. C.

Mr. Bentley was appointed as a Special Agent for the Farmers' Cooperative Demonstration Work on February 18, 1904 and was stationed at Wichita Falls, Texas. He became interested in the boy's corn club work while serving as District Agent for Northwest Texas and Southwest Oklahoma.

In 1907, Thomas Meriwether Marks, who was then serving as County Agent at Jacksboro, Texas, in collaboration with W. D. Bentley and others, promoted a corn show for adults. Only three men sent exhibits and when the event was held only about twenty indifferent spectators visited the show and listened to the speeches.

The event was a disappointment to the sponsors of the show. The men had to hold a post-mortem at the hotel at the close of the show and one of them remarked that, "You can't teach old dogs new tricks." Mark's reply was, "Then next year we'll try the pups."

A year later (1908) a highly successful corn show was held with the members of the boys' corn club furnishing the exhibits.²

In 1908, Mr. Bentley was transferred to Oklahoma as State Agent for the Farmers' Cooperative Demonstration Work and established his headquarters in Tishomingo.

John E. Swain states:

During the fiscal year, 1908-1909, the rules for a Federal Corn Club having been drafted, Mr. Bentley formed the first corn club organization in the new state.

²Franklin M. Beck, The 4-H Story A History of 4-H Club Work (Chicago, 1951), p. 56.

The entire work at this time was under his direct charge and was supervised from the office at Tishomingo.³

The general rules and plan of conducting corn clubs that had been adopted by the Farmers' Cooperative Demonstration Work for the Southern States were followed by Mr. Bentley in organizing corn clubs in Oklahoma.

Mr. O. B. Martin, who had been appointed to organize Federal Club Work in the South, states in his book, "The Demonstration Work", that:

In the beginning of the systematic efforts to organize boys wherever the Farm Demonstration work had gone, the following objects were held up to the agents, school officers, teachers, and others interested in promoting corn clubs:

1. To place before the boy, the family, and the community in general an example of crop production under modern scientific methods.
2. To prove to the boy, his father, and the community generally that there is more in the soil than the farmer has ever gotten out of it; to inspire the boy with the love of the land by showing him how he can get wealth out of it by tilling it in a better way and keeping an expense account of his undertaking.
3. To give the boys definite, worthy purposes at an important period in their lives and to stimulate a friendly rivalry among them.
4. To furnish an actual field example in crop production that will be useful to rural school teachers in vitalizing the work of the school and correlating the teaching of agriculture with actual practice.⁴

It was stated further that, "The Farmers' Cooperative Demonstration work is not undertaking the organization of these clubs to teach agriculture in the public schools, but it is seeking through

³Swain, p. 6.

⁴O. B. Martin, The Demonstration Work (Boston, 1921), p. 41.

its field force to instruct boys in practical agriculture on the farm.⁴

Dr. Knapp insisted upon standardization — every boy to demonstrate with an acre of land so that if he broke any records it would be on a full-acre basis.

"It was his suggestion that the cost of production should figure as one of the main items. It was at his suggestion, also, that each boy should write a history of his crop."

"He realized the beneficial effect on schools and teachers, when thousands of boys began to write upon living themes, in which they were intensely interested, instead of upon abstractions."

The basis of awards agreed upon and adopted generally in the Southern States were:

1. Yield - 30%
2. Showing of Profit - 30%
3. History - 20%
4. Exhibit - 20%

These ideas entered into the judging of other crop and livestock work organized later.⁵

In 1909, the first state winner in the Oklahoma corn club was selected on the basis of the above score card.

Lester Brown of Lexington, Cleveland County, was declared the state winner. His yield was 68 bushels of corn on his measured acre of ground.⁶

That year state corn club champions were selected in four South-

⁵Ibid., pp. 41-53.

⁶Swain, p. 8.

ern States and were awarded trips to Washington, D. C., where they were royally treated and honored by President Taft, Secretary of Agriculture James Wilson, and others.

Dr. Seaman A. Knapp had personally offered the trip to the state winner of Mississippi. As a matter of interest, the first trip winners to Washington were: DeWitt Landy of Mississippi; Elmer Halter of Arkansas; Bascom Usher of South Carolina; and Ralph Bellwood of Virginia.⁷ These corn club boys created much favorable attention in Washington.

Among those who were so favorably impressed with the records of these boys and the potential value of the corn clubs was Senator Robert L. Owens of Oklahoma.

He offered a thousand dollars to be used in promoting corn club work and asked how it could best be used. Dr. Knapp advised that he give it to the teams from the clubs who would make the best average records on the basis of the score card that had been adopted.⁸

Oklahoma Selects a Corn Club Champion

The interest in the corn clubs in Oklahoma was increasing rapidly in 1910 and a State Champion was selected to receive a trip to Washington, D. C. in December. On the basis of the score card used to determine awards, Floyd Gayer of Tishomingo was selected as State Champion Corn Club member to represent Oklahoma. This was the beginning of many educational trips to sectional and national events that have since served as a reward for work well done in the 4-H Clubs. Floyd Gayer produced 95.1 bushels of corn on the acre he used for his

⁷Martin, pp. 48-49.

⁸Ibid., p. 49.

demonstration.⁹

The First Boys Cotton Club

Mr. Bentley stated that the first boys' cotton club under the rules of the United States Department of Agriculture was organized in Oklahoma in 1910. He said there was considerable reluctance on the part of his immediate superiors in Washington to approve the formation of cotton clubs. Dr. Seaman A. Knapp felt that club work was developing faster than it could be handled properly at that time and that it would be an added burden on the county agents. However, the demand for the cotton club work in Oklahoma was so great that he finally approved it in time to enroll members for the crop year in 1910.

The Oklahoma Cotton Crushers Association actively sponsored the boys' cotton club work and gave it liberal financial support. The Association offered a trip to Washington, D. C. that year as a prize for the cotton club member who made the best showing in the state on the basis of yield, showing of profit, exhibit, and a history of how the crop was grown.

The state award was won by Charles Brannon of McIntosh County with a yield of 2,896 pounds of seed-cotton per acre.¹⁰

The Kafir Club is Organized

The success of the corn and cotton clubs had created a great deal of interest and many of the county agents located in counties

⁹Swain, p. 8.

¹⁰W. D. Bentley, Oklahoma Extension News (Stillwater, Vol. X, No. 11, October, 1929), p. 3.

where corn growing was hazardous due to low average rainfall or drouth felt that a boys' kafir club should be organized. Fred H. Ives became Assistant to the State Agent in 1911 and was placed in charge of club work. He reported a total of 7,366 boys in the corn and cotton clubs that year and made a preliminary study of plans for a kafir club.

N. E. Winters was appointed Assistant in Charge of Club Work in 1912 after Mr. Ives resigned. He completed the details of the kafir club and reported that there were 674 boys enrolled in 1912; 4,676 in the corn club; and 2,972 cotton club members. The state office at this time was located in Yukon. The following year it was moved to Oklahoma City.¹¹

A Pig Club is Organized

In 1913, T. M. Jeffords was placed in charge of club work. He organized a pig club during the year and the records show there were 466 boys enrolled for 1914. There were 4,854 club members reported for 1913, but the number enrolled in each club was not indicated.¹²

This gives a summary of the work of the boys' clubs up to the time that the State and Federal Clubs were combined in 1914. The next few pages will be devoted to a summary of the activities of the Boys' and Girls' Agricultural Clubs for the same period.

The Boys and Girls Agricultural Clubs of the Oklahoma A. and M. College

Even before Oklahoma became a State on November 16, 1907 the

¹¹Swain, p. 7.

¹²Ibid., p. 7.

A. and M. College was receiving many requests from rural teachers for materials and assistance that would aid them in teaching agriculture, nature study, and domestic science. In order to be helpful in meeting these demands the Extension Division was established and three departments were organized, namely, the Department of Short Courses; the Department of Agriculture for Public Schools; and the Farmers' Cooperative Experiment Association. Mr. T. H. Jeffords, who had previously served as Secretary of the Farmers' Institute conducted under the direction of the State Board of Agriculture with headquarters at Guthrie, was selected to head the Department of Agriculture for Public Schools.

The Boys' and Girls' Agricultural Clubs were organized under authority of the State Board of Agriculture under the supervision of T. H. Jefford's in 1909. Plans for the clubs during the first year permitted individual boys and girls to enroll in a "State Club" when their application was approved by the local teacher or the president of the local school board. There were 569 active members enrolled during 1909.¹³

The A. and M. College catalog for 1908-1909 had the following announcement regarding these clubs:

The Boys and Girls Agricultural Clubs - the purpose of this organization is to enlist the interest of boys and girls of Oklahoma farms in the work of the farm and home by distributing to them improved seeds of various kinds and literature upon various phases of work. Also to encourage them in making public exhibits of their products and handiwork.¹⁴

¹³Oklahoma A. and M. College, 23rd Annual Oklahoma A. and M. College Catalog, 1913-14 (Stillwater, Vol. X, 88, Gen. Series 23), p. 160.

¹⁴Oklahoma A. and M. College, 18th Annual Oklahoma A. and M. College Catalog, 1908-09 (Stillwater, III, No. 1, June, 1909), p. 72.

In 1910, the Extension Division created the Department of Boys and Girls Clubs with John W. Wilkinson as Supervisor and Irma E. Mathews as Assistant in charge of the girl's phases of club work. The report for that year states that there were 1,000 local clubs and 35 county clubs organized in the state with a total membership of 25,000 boys and girls.¹⁵

In 1911, the Extension Division consisted of four departments headed by a Dean of Extension, B. C. Pittuck. These departments were: Agricultural Extension; Agriculture for Schools; Boys and Girls Clubs; and College Publications. Henrietta Kolshorn was added as an assistant in the Boys and Girls Club Department and plans were put into operation to stimulate enrollment.

The rules at that time provided that, "All boys and Girls of white parentage not under nine nor over eighteen years of age are eligible". There were three classes of membership, namely:

1. Local Club members - Five or more members in any school district could organize a local club by making application on blanks provided for this purpose and adopting a constitution and code of by-laws approved by the A. and M. College. A charter was issued to each club upon completion of its organization and approval by the club authorities.
2. County Club members - The club work in each county was under the supervision of the County Advisory Committee consisting of the County Superintendent of Public Instruction, the Sec-

¹⁵Oklahoma A. and M. College, 21st Annual Oklahoma A. and M. College Catalog, 1911-12 (Stillwater, Vol. VIII, No. 25, Gen. Series 9), p. 145.

retary of the Farmers' Institute and the Secretary of the Women's Auxiliary of the Farmers' Institute. The County Superintendent of Public Instruction in each county was authorized to act as the county manager of the club under the direction of the Advisory Committee.

3. State Club members - Any boy or girl living in a county where there was no county or local club could apply directly to the Club Department of the A. and M. College for membership in the State Club.

The report for 1911 shows that the peak of enrollment in the Oklahoma A. and M. College Boys and Girls Clubs was reached this year when 31,603 boys and girls enrolled in 1,278 organized local clubs, 58 county clubs, and the State Club. There were 16,261 boys and 15,432 girls enrolled.¹⁶

In 1912, there were 570 local clubs and 58 county clubs organized with a total membership of 14,250 boys and girls. The report does not indicate the number of boys and girls separately.

In 1913, Mr. T. E. Wortman became Supervisor of the Department of Boys and Girls Clubs, with Mr. H. R. Hedger as his Assistant, and Mrs. E. W. Mull served as Instructor in Domestic Science and Art. No report of enrollment could be found for 1913.

However, the 24th Annual Catalog reports that for the crop year 1914, "The total number of Boys' and Girls' Club members enrolled by the A. and M. College was 20,500 while the enrollment by the Farmers'

¹⁶Oklahoma A. and M. College, 22nd Annual Oklahoma A. and M. College Catalog, 1912-13 (Stillwater, Vol. IX, No. 51, Gen. Series 12), p. 139.

Cooperative work was 6,398.¹⁷

The pattern for club work had been fairly well established by 1914 in both the Federal and A. and M. College clubs. There were no rules preventing boys or girls from joining the club of their choice and in many cases there were dual memberships in the Federal and College sponsored clubs.

Much of the work had been standardized at this time and rules required a definite minimum for the size of plot used in the crop clubs; the keeping of records on cost of production; the measurement of plots and two disinterested witnesses to weigh and certify per acre yields; a standard exhibit; and a written history of the methods the club member followed in producing the crop. Perhaps too much emphasis was placed upon the economic values of club work in this period and too little emphasis on the development of a well rounded program dedicated to the equal training of the head, heart, hands, and health of the club members. This emphasis came soon after the passage of Smith-Lever Law that united all extension work in the State and had the effect of making club work throughout the nation more uniform in character.

¹⁷Oklahoma A. and M. College, 24th Annual Oklahoma A. and M. College Catalog, 1914-15 (Stillwater, Vol. XI, No. 99, p. 149.

TABLE I
 OKLAHOMA BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB ENROLLMENT
 1909-1914

Year	Federal Clubs	Oklahoma A. and M. College Clubs
1909	50	569
1910	2,463	25,000
1911	7,366	31,603
1912	9,369	14,250
1913	10,405	17,375
1914	6,398	20,500

The data in the table were secured from the Annual Catalogs of the Oklahoma A. and M. College for the years, 1909-1914, and from Oklahoma Extension Circular, Number 252, "Early History of the Farmers' Cooperative Demonstration Work in Northwest Texas and Oklahoma" by W. D. Bentley.

CHAPTER III

A UNITED FRONT 1914-1917

For a period of eight years before Congress passed the Smith-Lever Law and President Woodrow Wilson signed it on May 8, 1914 the Land Grant College Association had made a careful study of extension work in the agricultural colleges throughout the United States. The first report of a committee of this association made in 1906 recommended:

.....that each college represented in the association organize as soon as possible a department of extension teaching in agriculture, coordinate with other departments or divisions of the agricultural work with a competent director in charge and if possible with a corps of men at his disposal.¹

There was an ever increasing demand for information and assistance with farm problems by farm people. The best and most practical means of extending the findings of the agricultural experiment stations to farm people who were ready and willing to place such recommendations into practice became one of the problems of greatest consideration for many of the men in administrative positions with the land grant colleges. The state experiment stations at that time had far more information than the members of their staffs could possibly convert into good farm practices on the land with the means at their disposal for doing so.

¹Report of the Extension Committee of the Land Grant College Association, 1906, p. 2.

Representatives of the Land Grant College Association and other agricultural leaders continued to study the most practical means of inaugurating a national system of extension work whereby the state agricultural colleges and the United States Department of Agriculture could cooperate effectively in extending useful and practical information to farm people on various subjects relating to the farm and home. There appeared to be no difference of opinion regarding the need and value of such a system but there was difference of opinion sufficient to delay action on the part of Congress in approving a national system of agricultural extension work until every proposed law had been carefully considered.

R. K. Bliss stated:

Finally the proposed legislation was thoroughly and critically discussed by Congress. That discussion clearly shows that the law was intended to benefit boys' and girls' club work.²

Congressman Lever, Chairman of the Agricultural Committee of the House, in reporting the bill indicated the viewpoint of the Committee regarding extension work with boys and girls. His report in part stated:

The system of demonstration teaching so far developed in this country has confined its activities to the work of teaching the adult farmer and -- in a limited way only through the "boys' corn clubs" and "girls' tomato clubs" -- the boys and girls of the farms. Your committee believes that this bill furnishes the machinery by which the farm boy and girl can be reached with real agricultural and home economics training through the country schools.....

The whole trend of our system of education is calculated to minimize agriculture as a profession. Its logical tendency is to create a feeling of dissatisfaction with

²R. K. Bliss, "The New Education - Significant Papers," The Spirit and Philosophy of Extension Work, (Washington, D. C., 1952), p. 6.

farm life and to get away from it. Such a situation is unfortunate; it is most dangerous. The farm boy and girl can be taught that agriculture is the oldest and most dignified of the professions, and with equal attention and ability can be made as successful in dollars and cents, to say nothing of real happiness, as any of the other professions. Your committee believes that one of the main features of his bill is that it is so flexible as to provide for the inauguration of a system of itinerant teaching for boys and girls.

Chairman Lever also pointed out that the bill was intended to aid farm women and farm girls in the field of home economics and home management. In discussing this point he stated in part that:

Our efforts heretofore have been given in aid of the farm man, his horses, cattle, and hogs, but his wife and girls have been neglected almost to a point of criminality. This bill provides the authority and the funds for inaugurating a system of teaching the farm wife and the farm girl the elementary principles of homemaking and home management, and your committee believes there is no more important work in the country than is this.³

At the time the Smith-Lever Law was passed, no less than eight agencies were conducting extension work in some form in Oklahoma. These included: the U. S. Department of Agriculture through the Farmers Cooperative Demonstration Work; the Oklahoma A. and M. College through its Extension Division; the Oklahoma Experiment Station; U. S. Experiment Stations; the Oklahoma State Board of Agriculture through the Farmers' Institutes; Chambers of Commerce; Railroads; and various Agricultural Associations.

The Smith-Lever Law had the effect of combining and coordinating all of these extension efforts under the leadership of the Oklahoma A. and M. College. It also provided a plan and specified Federal funds whereby the state agricultural college, the county government,

³Report of the Agricultural Committee of the House of Representatives of the United States, 63rd Congress, 3rd Session, House Report 110.

and the United States Department of Agriculture could establish a system of extension work in each county on a cooperative basis and a plan whereby other agencies could cooperate in carrying out extension activities.

Franklin M. Reck in commenting upon the various influences that brought about the inauguration of our national system of extension work in agriculture and home economics stated:

Today, all extension work both adult and youth, is conducted as a cooperative enterprise of the college, county, and local community, and the Federal Extension Service, and this is the accepted order of things. Few realize that the boys' corn clubs paved the way for this cooperation.⁴

The important part played by girls' club work in influencing Congress to include a provision for home demonstration work in the Smith-Lever Law, according to O. B. Martin, was due to the constructive and popular work of the girls' canning clubs in the South. He states:

The fact that home economics has a place in the Extension Act alongside of agriculture is directly traceable to the work done by the women agents who began with girls canning clubs.⁵

The Girls Club Work has opened the doors of the homes for the agents to do demonstration work among the adult women.⁶

Girls club work in Oklahoma has been an important phase of home economics extension work from the very beginning and prior to 1914 it received a great deal more of the time and energy of the home demonstration agents than work with adult women. In Oklahoma as in other Southern states, it provided the opportunity for home demonstration agents to develop an effective program with farm women's clubs.

⁴Franklin M. Reck, The 4-H Story A History of 4-H Club Work (Chicago, 1951), p. 6.

⁵O. B. Martin, The Demonstration Work (Boston, 1921), p. 63.

⁶Ibid., p. 82.

Union of State and Federal Extension Work

The State Board of Agriculture in early July, 1914, held a meeting to consider the action necessary to comply with the provisions of the Smith-Lever Law which would have the effect of uniting and coordination all extension work relating to agriculture and home economics in the state. The Board voted to abolish the position of ~~Dean of~~ Dean of Extension of the A. and M. College which was vacant at the time and create the position of Director of Extension.

On July 25, Mr. W. D. Bentley, State Agent of the Farmers Cooperative Demonstration Work was elected to the position of Director of Extension. At that time Mr. Bentley was located in Oklahoma City.

During the first week in August, the Federal records, supplies, correspondence, and office furniture were moved to Stillwater and placed in Morrill Hall with similar records and supplies of the College Extension Division. All of these materials were burned in a fire that destroyed Morrill Hall on August 6, 1914.⁷ The destruction of both the Federal and State records relating to boys and girls club work was responsible in a very large measure for the fragmentary story of club work in Oklahoma prior to the fire. However, much of the story was preserved from information that came from the daily diaries of the county agents and home demonstrations who were required to keep a daily record of their activities under Mr. Bentley.⁸

As a result of the union of Federal and State Extension work

⁷Oklahoma Extension Division, Annual Report of Extension Division for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 1915. (Stillwater, Circular No. 12, August, 1915), p. 1.

⁸John E. Swein, Handbook for Boys Agricultural Clubs (Oklahoma Extension Circular No. 43, Stillwater, January, 1917), p. 6.

under the Smith-Lever Law the new work was designated "Cooperative Extension work in Agriculture and Home Economics, State of Oklahoma, Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical College and United States Department of Agriculture cooperating - Extension Service, County Agent Work, Stillwater, Oklahoma."

The men agents working in the counties were called "county agents", and the women serving in the counties were designated "county home demonstration agents." Both men and women supervisors working in a district were called "district agents."

Before the passage of the Smith-Lever Law the clubs organized by the Extension Division of the Oklahoma A. and M. College had been called "Boys and Girls Agricultural Clubs" almost without exception whereas the Federal Clubs were usually designated simply as the "corn club", "cotton club", "tomato club", "pig club", or "poultry club."

When the Memorandum of Understanding was signed by the authorities of the Oklahoma A. and M. College and the United States Department of Agriculture in July, 1914, provisions were made for the development of the boys' and girls' demonstration work in the state.⁹ Funds were made available to employ Club Agents who would devote their time to preparing suitable materials for the guidance and instruction of club members and to assist the extension agents in organizing and conducting club work.

In addition, the plan called for "Specialists" in club work. The district men agents were encouraged to promote club enrollments in counties under their supervision and to secure completed reports

⁹Oklahoma Extension Circular, No. 12 (Stillwater, August, 1915), pp. 12-13.

at the end of the crop year.

John E. Swain, who had done some outstanding work with the boys clubs in Beaver County while serving as County Superintendent, was appointed as State Agent in Charge of Boys' Club Work on January 1, 1915. H. E. Hodger, who had served as Assistant Supervisor of the Oklahoma A. and M. College Boys' and Girls' Clubs was appointed as Assistant State Agent.

Miss Emma A. Chandler was appointed as Assistant State Agent in Charge of Girls' Clubs. She was also given the responsibility of supervising the Home Demonstration Work in sixteen counties of the state where home demonstration agents were employed.

Mr. C. L. Chambers of Louisiana was appointed as Specialist in Pig Club Work as a representative of the Bureau of Animal Husbandry in Washington to organize and supervise a pig club program in Oklahoma.

In 1916, Harry Eshleton was appointed as a Specialist in Poultry Club Work representing the Bureau of Animal Industry.

These agents and specialists were responsible for giving added stimulus to club work during the period covered in this chapter. They organized the work for boys' and girls' demonstrations, prepared rules, instructions, and information for the club members, served as superintendents of state club exhibits, and state club events and set the pattern for club work in Oklahoma that was not materially changed until the close of the First World War.

The first bulletin published outlining plans for club work under the state-federal cooperative plan was titled, "Plans for Boys' and Girls' Demonstration Clubs".

The idea conveyed was that every boy and girl belonging to a club should be a demonstrator of one or more good farm or home practices and make a public exhibit of his or her work. This is also the first reference in Oklahoma club literature the writer found making reference to the Club Emblem and the meaning of the four-leaf clover and the 4-Hs'.

The emblem of the demonstration clubs at that time was a pin. It had an open book as the background, the word "Demonstrator" at the top of the open book, a four-leaf clover in the center of the pin with an H on each leaf, and the words, "Boys' and Girls' Clubs" at the base of the pin.

For the members of a specific club, appropriate words at the bottom of the pin were substituted. For example, in the Corn Club, "Boys' Corn Club" and ear of corn served as the background; "Boys Cotton Club" and an open ball of cotton serving as the background; "Girls P. and C. Club" standing for "Girls' Poultry and Canning Club".¹⁰ The poultry club work in Oklahoma was started in 1915 as a demonstration for girls. Boys were permitted to participate in 1916.

The main features of the 4-H Club Emblem and the 4-H Club Pledge as they were finally adopted were used in Oklahoma as early as 1915, but not until the first National 4-H Club Camp held in Washington, D. C., in 1927 were the National 4-H emblem and pledge agreed upon by the state and national leaders and adopted officially.

¹⁰ Oklahoma Extension Bulletin (Vol. I, No. 6, General Series No. 2, Stillwater, February, 1915), pp. 11-12.

Report of Boys' and Girls' Clubs of Oklahoma - 1914

Among the purposes of the Boys' and Girls' Demonstration Clubs as stated in 1914 were: constructive endeavor by every club member; to make the home a place of interest; to stimulate a feeling of responsibility; to appreciate the beauties of nature and to teach the real lessons of clean and wholesome living; to look with respect on physical labor; to develop leaders for the neighborhood; to respect the rights of ownership by permitting the child to own his own project; to teach the important lessons of cooperation in community life; and to connect the home and school and bring about closer sympathy between teachers and parents.

The cooperation and financial support of business men, commercial clubs, organizations, and individuals interested in rural community advancement was earnestly solicited in order to create a greater interest among club members and to make the work of the club department more effective.¹¹

Boys' Club Organization

Perhaps the most significant improvement in club organization in Oklahoma up to this date, was the plan announced in January 1917 to form local B-G Community Clubs of ten or more members; each club to receive a charter upon adopting a standard constitution and set of by-laws; and each club to elect an adult Supervisor and a President, Vice-President, and Secretary of the local club.

In addition to the officers, each club was to have five sub-

¹¹James A. Wilson, H. E. Hedger, and Emma A. Chandler, Oklahoma Extension Bulletin Demonstration Club, Series No. 1, (Stillwater, January, 1915), pp. 3-4.

officers each with specified duties to perform in behalf of the club. These were plowman, seedman, tiller, harvester, and herdsman. Monthly meetings were specified.

The constitution also provided for an adult advisory committee to arrange for all public contests and exhibits, procure awards, make public awards, and report statistical and other information to the County Extension Agents.

The Ritual used for the opening and closing of club meetings with very few modifications is still being used by local clubs in 1954.

In 1918 there were 1,043 chartered community clubs with regularly elected officers and supervisors.

Girls' Club Work in Oklahoma

The first extension work with girls in Oklahoma was a series of canning demonstrations conducted for girls and women by special agents during the summer of 1912. These women agents were employed only a few months during the year. One thousand dollars was donated by the General Education Board to start the girls canning club work in Oklahoma. Twenty-one hundred dollars was added to this amount from business men, chambers of commerce, railroads, and local sources to apply on the salaries of the women agents.

No formal enrollment of girl club members was made in 1912. However, the work was so popular that the General Education Board doubled the amount of its contribution for 1913 and local funds were

increased. This made it possible to place the girls work on an organized basis.¹²

The first organized club work with girls was started in 1913 when the women agents working with the Farmers' Cooperative Demonstration Work enrolled 1,175 girls in nine counties. Each girl was expected to plant one-tenth acre of tomatoes as her project. During the summer "canning demonstrations" were held at the homes of selected members for the purpose of instructing not only the girls but their mothers and other women in the community who were invited to attend.

In 1914, this work was increased due to the success of the previous demonstrations and 1,915 girls were enrolled in 20 counties under the supervision of seventeen women agents. Dry weather was extremely disastrous to gardens in 1914 but 186 girls reported canning 54,837 pounds of tomatoes and 68,232 pounds of other vegetables with an average net profit of \$8.32 per member.

One-hundred and three girls made exhibits at the Oklahoma State Fair at Oklahoma City and eighty-one at the New State Fair at Muskogee which later became the Oklahoma Free State Fair.

Club Work with Negro Girls

According to Franklin M. Reck, the first Negro home demonstration agent appointed in the United States was Annis Peters Hunter of Daley, Oklahoma. Mr. Reck secured this information from the personnel records

¹²Oklahoma Extension Circular, No. 252, General Series No. 91, "Early History of the Farmers' Cooperative Demonstration Work in Northwest Texas and Oklahoma by W. D. Bentley", (Stillwater, 1929), p. 15.

of the United States Department of Agriculture Extension Service.¹³

Annie Lee Peters of Boley was the only woman agent working with the Home Making Clubs for Negro girls in 1914. She enrolled 300 girls in five counties. In some of these counties she organized Mothers' Clubs as auxiliaries to the Home Making Clubs. An appropriation of \$500.00 from the General Education Board¹⁴, \$500.00 from locally contributed aid, and \$500.00 from the Oklahoma State Board of Education supplied the funds to carry on club work among Negro boys and girls during 1914.¹⁵

"Farm Makers Clubs" was the name given to the agricultural clubs for Negro boys whose principal projects were corn, cotton, crop rotation, and pig club work at this time.

Girls Club Work increased rapidly after the passage of the Smith-Lever Law since Federal funds made it possible to employ more home demonstration agents and provided additional funds for extension work with girls and farm women.¹⁶

"Better Bread" clubs were organized in 1915 to provide club girls with new information and ideas on modern methods in the kitchen. There were 1,575 girls enrolled in this club the first year. It became one of the important activities for girls during the early years of club work.

¹³Franklin M. Beck, The 4-H Story-A History of 4-H Club Work (Chicago, 1951), p. 137.

¹⁴The General Education Board was established in 1902 by funds from the Rockefeller Foundation of New York to encourage education in the South regardless of race, creed, or religion.

¹⁵Oklahoma Extension Bulletin Vol. I, No. 15 General Club Series No. 1 (Stillwater, January, 1915)

¹⁶United States Department of Agriculture Circular No. 248 (Washington, D. C., November, 1922), p. 15.

First Poultry Club Organized

A Poultry Club was established in 1915, primarily for farm girls and farm women. There were 1,741 girls enrolled the first year. A year later the club boys were permitted to enroll and 776 participated. A Poultry Club specialist was added to the extension staff to encourage this project among boys, girls, and farm women. The Poultry Club work became a popular project and was stimulated by the passage of the Jackson School House Poultry Law passed by the Oklahoma Legislature in 1917. The number of poultry club members approximately doubled during the first three years of poultry club work.

CHAPTER IV

CLUB WORK DURING THE WAR PERIOD 1917-1918

Club work had made considerable progress in Oklahoma by 1917 and it was receiving excellent support from the rural teachers, county superintendents, state and county officials, bankers, business men, chambers of commerce, railroads, womens' clubs, and numerous organizations interested directly or indirectly in agriculture.

The work had become better organized and was receiving greater attention by the extension agents, both men and women. The demonstrations for the various clubs for boys had been standardized and the peanut, poultry, and crop rotation clubs had been added in 1916.

The canning, better bread, and poultry clubs for girls had proved their worth and there were demands for additional club activities suitable for the girls such as sewing.

The bright prospects for the future of club work in Oklahoma caused John E. Swain to say:

The Oklahoma Club work is now only in its infancy. It is being recognized by the business men's associations, State Board of Agriculture, State Board of Education, and educators in general as being the most permanent form of our extension work. Its influence for good is now being felt over the State, and it is destined to become one of the leading factors in placing Oklahoma in the front ranks of the agricultural States.¹

Plans for 1917 called for the following demonstration clubs for

¹Oklahoma Extension Circular No. 43 - Handbook for Boys' Agricultural Clubs (Stillwater, January, 1917), p. 12.

boys: corn, grain sorghums (kafir, milo, feterita), peanuts, cotton, crop rotation, beekeeping, poultry, pig, and beef calf.

The crop rotation demonstration required that legumes be included in a three-year cropping plan as a soil-fertility maintenance effort. At least three acres were to be planted by the club member each year in the crop rotation club. This demonstration was later replaced by the legume clubs in 1922.

Girls' Club Work

Girls' Home Demonstration Clubs organized and supervised by the County Home Demonstration Agents for 1917 included: Canning, Poultry, and Better Bread Clubs.

At this time the Canning Club work had been placed on a graded basis so that different requirements for the kind and amount of canning for the girls in their first year of club work became increasingly more challenging for girls enrolled in the sixth year canning demonstration. However, all canning club members were expected to plant and cultivate no less than one tenth acre of garden, keep a daily record of their work, do the amount of canning required according to their experience in club work, make an exhibit of their work, and write a story of the work they had done during the year. Although the sewing club for girls was not yet organized, each girl enrolled in a canning or better bread club was expected to do some sewing under the instructions of the home demonstration agent as a part of her club activities. The sewing done by the club members ranged from hemming dish towel and making an apron by first year club girls to the making of a woolen dress by fourth year club girls.

Better Bread Clubs

Four years of work were outlined for members of the better bread clubs. First-year work consisted in making batters and soft and stiff doughs; second-year work consisted of breadmaking, poultry, and vegetable cookery, and preparation of meals; fourth-year consisted of breadmaking, home management, and preparation of meals. Printed leaflets of instruction were provided for each year of work. The club girls were expected to use the recommended recipes in their cooking demonstrations.

Club girls were encouraged to exhibit their work at the county fair. Fifty-two of the seventy-seven counties in the state had organized "county free fairs" in 1918. Due to the war and drought conditions twenty of these counties failed to hold a fair during the year.²

The County Agents played an important part in the management of practically all county fairs, and especially in the free fairs. The "free" features of these fairs were:

1. No exhibitor was charged a fee to enter exhibits.
2. No charge was made for admittance to see the exhibits.

The local, county, and state fairs offered special awards to club members in a junior department of the fair. These awards offered incentives to the club members to exhibit their products and to improve the quality of their club demonstrations. Cash prizes as well as "free trips" to a state club event were awarded county winners. Many of the county fairs offered the first prize boy and girl winner in the principal demonstration clubs an expense paid trip to the

²Oklahoma Extension Circular No. 91, "Annual Report of Extension Division, 1917-18", (Stillwater, 1917-18), p. 33.

Oklahoma State Fair School held at Oklahoma City under the direction of the Extension Division of the Oklahoma A. and M. College. The second prize winners in the county were often awarded an expense paid trip to the Farmers' Short Course held at the Oklahoma A. and M. College, usually in January. A program of instruction was arranged for club members by club leaders and extension specialists. A few judging contests were held for club boys which included crops and livestock judging.

The club members were permitted to attend the general sessions of the Farmers' Short Course program and had the opportunity to hear speakers of national reputation discuss a variety of subjects relating to agriculture and the home. Boys and girls had an opportunity to participate in supervised recreation during the evenings but the days were devoted fully to instruction by members of the college and extension staff.³

The Jackson Poultry Law

The Oklahoma Legislature which convened in January, 1917 passed a bill prepared by Mr. Clifford L. Jackson of Muskegee that has had profound influence in improving the poultry industry in the state. In a large measure, this law has helped to develop a greater interest in boys' and girls' poultry club work and has had the effect of improving the quality of farm flocks. The bill was approved as House Bill Number 642 on March 10, 1917. It is commonly known throughout

³Oklahoma A. and M. College Bulletin No. 105, Vol. XIII (Stillwater, November, 1916), "Program, Twelfth Annual Short Course for Farmers and Eighth Annual Winter Meeting for Agents", Stillwater, Oklahoma, December 27, 1916 to January 4, 1917, p. 13.

Oklahoma as the Jackson Poultry Law. The bill provided a plan for holding school house poultry and egg shows, county poultry shows, and a state poultry show for educational purposes and in furtherance of the study of agriculture. The law provided a plan for appropriating public funds to conduct poultry shows and specified that at least sixty percent of the premium lists at the county shows and at the state show should be used for awards in the junior departments of such shows.⁴

The continuing influence of the Jackson Poultry Law and the leadership of the Oklahoma Poultry Federation in cooperation with the Extension Service of the Oklahoma A. and M. College has developed one of the outstanding state poultry shows in the nation. This show has greater participation in the junior department for boys and girls than any state show in the United States.

Uncle Sam Enters the War

War clouds were gathering in early 1917. Unrestricted warfare by German submarines and the sinking of American ships caused Congress to declare war against the German Government on April 7, 1917. Soon the slogan was heard, "Food Will Win the War."

All other plans for extension work and club work were placed aside and every effort was made to help win the war. The county extension agents were asked to serve as leaders in stimulating the production and conservation of food. They enlisted the aid of every club member and the boys and girls gladly accepted the challenge.

⁴Oklahoma Extension Circular No. 91, "Report of the Extension Division of the Oklahoma A. and M. College", 1917-18. (Stillwater, 1918), p. 30.

The need for wheat and meat to send to Europe was very great. A wheat club for boys was organized in the fall of 1917 with a membership of 1,563.⁵

The pig club work was greatly expanded and club boys were urged to fatten a few additional pigs for the benefit of our soldiers and sailors in the armed services. Poultry club work more than doubled.

Although a few boys had enrolled in beef calf work in 1916, the need for beef and the favorable prices hastened the formation of a boys' beef calf project in 1917. A fattening phase and a breeding phase of the beef club work was established and the Oklahoma State Fair saw the beginning of boys' and girls' baby beef clubs that have become more popular and more important in Oklahoma as the years have passed.

Our soldiers needed woolen clothing so the aid of the boys' and girls' was enlisted. In 1918, the first sheep club work was organized in Oklahoma. Both the fattening and breeding phases were emphasized and many farm flocks were established. The sheep club work during the first year had a modest beginning with 322 club members enrolled in the state.

Sugar like flour was a scarce and rationed article during most of the war. Club girls were taught how to save sugar and flour. Potatoes became a scarce article due to a short crop in most areas of the nation.

⁵28th Annual Catalog, Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical College, 1918-1919 (Vol. XVI, No. 2, Quarterly Bulletin, April-May-June, 1919), pp. 193-194.

To aid the war effort a beekeepers club was formed in 1917 as well as a potato club.

Boys' and Girls' Clubs throughout Oklahoma engaged in many special projects related to some phase of war service. These ranged from selling Liberty Bonds and Thrift Stamps to making articles of clothing to be distributed through the Red Cross. Even the saving of fruit pits to make carbon for gas masks became an important activity for club girls in response to an appeal from the Chemical Warfare Service since our soldiers were being subjected to poisonous gas along the battle front.

Emergency Funds Are Provided

During 1917 Congress passed the Food Production Act which provided funds for employing additional extension specialists to work with the boys' and girls' clubs and to enlist boys and girls in emergency phases of food production.

Seven specialists were employed by the Oklahoma Extension Service to work with the boys' clubs in 1917. These included John E. Swain and William J. Green as Assistant Boys' Club Agents; Otto J. Moyer as Emergency Boys' Club Agent; Charles M. Smith in charge of Poultry Club work and Phillip Henry Hayes as his assistant; Devitt Talnage Meek as Livestock Club Specialist representing the Bureau of Animal Industry, Washington, D. C., and Earl Russell Cass as Assistant Pig Club Agent.

The girls club work was directed by Miss Emma A. Chandler and the four women district agents.⁶

⁶Oklahoma Extension Circular No. 91, "Report of the Extension Division of the Oklahoma A. and M. College for the year of 1917-18", (Stillwater, 1918), p. 24.

On July 1, 1917 there were 62 county agents and 23 home demonstration agents serving in the counties. A year later there was a county agent in each of the 77 counties of the state and 50 home demonstration agents employed in as many counties.⁷

The tempo of club work was increased with patriotic fervor and club members made an impressive record as soldiers of the soil.

In 1917, 27,035 boys were enrolled in regular club projects and 5,220 more were enrolled as emergency members as a war measure, a total of 32,255 boys earnestly engaged in food production.

There were 16,730 girls enrolled in regular projects for girls and 2,000 enrolled as emergency members, making a total of 18,730 club girls enrolled in 1917. These 48,985 boys and girls were organized in 1,028 local clubs with regularly elected officers and an adult supervisor.⁸

In 1918, the enrollment was further increased with 28,500 boys enrolled in regular club projects and 11,485 enrolled as emergency members. There were 14,952 girls enrolled in regular projects and 5,426 enrolled in war emergency projects.

This represented a total of 60,363 boys and girls working together with a common purpose in 1,043 local clubs.⁹

⁷United States Department of Agriculture Department, Circular No. 203, "Statistics of Cooperative Extension Work, 1914-1924," (Washington, D. C., 1925), p. 17.

⁸27th Annual A. and M. College Catalog, 1917-18 (Vol. XV, No. 2 Quarterly Bulletin for April, June, 1918), p. 178.

⁹Ibid., p. 179.

Dairy Club Work Organized

During 1917, a number of extension agents requested that a dairy calf project be organized for club boys. The interest in this project was primarily around the larger centers of population in the state. The extension dairy specialist, J. W. Radway, assisted in formulating plans for a dairy club that was announced for 1918. The enrollment the first year was 248 members. The dairy club work in Oklahoma, Tulsa, Muskogee, Carter, and Kiowa Counties made a very creditable showing the first year. In each of the counties purchased dairy animals were purchased and placed in the hands of the club members.

The war period saw a marked expansion in club work in Oklahoma. Some of the changes were the formation of new clubs such as the baby beef, sheep, dairy, wheat, Irish potato, garden, and bee clubs.

The work was done with groups organized on a community basis under the leadership of an adult supervisor who in the majority of cases was the local school teacher. This trend toward group organization helped to conserve the time of the extension agents and to teach boys and girls how to work together as a group, cooperating with one another to attain common objectives. It also developed leadership among the boys and girls and skill in conducting meetings.

The value of education was emphasized by numerous college scholarships awarded to outstanding boys and girls on the basis of their club records. In order to give club members an equal chance to win a college scholarship, a score card system was used to select the winners. Yield and exhibit score alone would often favor the club member who had the good fortune to be located on the most fertile

soil and favorable weather conditions, so the scholarships in this period were awarded on the following point basis:

Crop clubs: Yield, 30; profit, 30; exhibit, 20; and written records and reports, 20.

Livestock clubs: Exhibit, 45; profit, 25; total gain in weight, 15; and records and reports, 15.

First Year Poultry club: Number of birds raised to weaning time, 40; exhibit, 25; reports, 35.

Second to Fourth Year Poultry club: Size of poultry flock, 15; profit, 30; number of birds at weaning time, 25; exhibit, 15.

A similar system was used to select scholarship winners in the girls' demonstration clubs.

The State Board of Agriculture and the Oklahoma Banker's Association offered scholarships to the white boys and girls to be used at the Oklahoma A. and M. College in the study of agriculture and home economics.

The Oklahoma State Board of Education offered two scholarships to the A. and M. University at Langston to the Negro boy and to the Negro girl who scored the highest number of points in their club work.¹⁰

In order to further encourage club work among Negro boys and girls the State Board of Education paid the travel expenses of two Negro extension supervisors who traveled out of Langston and paid

¹⁰ Oklahoma Extension Circular, No. 64, W. J. Green, "Facts About Boys' Agricultural Clubs" (Stillwater, November, 1917), p. 7

part of the salaries of seven Negro men and five Negro women working in the counties as extension agents.¹¹

When the Armistice was signed on November 11, 1918 the club program had developed to the highest peak of its history in Oklahoma with 69,363 members for the current year and with a national enrollment of more than 1,000,000 club members.¹² The number of persons working with club members in Oklahoma had greatly expanded during the war period. The plan of organizing club members into community clubs under the supervision of local leaders had proved its worth and the contribution to the war effort by the youthful army of farm boys and girls had attracted nation-wide attention to the value of club work.

Prices for farm crops, livestock, and dairy products had reached a very high level. All of these signs pointed toward a period of re-adjustment. It came soon thereafter as the next chapter will indicate.

¹¹Oklahoma Extension Circular, No. 91, "Report of the Extension Division of the Oklahoma A. and M. College for the year 1917-18.", p. 14.

¹²Cooperative Extension Work in Agriculture and Home Economics, 1918 (U. S. D. A., Washington, D. C., May, 1919), p. 18.

CHAPTER V

ADJUSTMENT PERIOD 1919-1924

After the armistic was signed on November 11, 1918 the Extension Division immediately began to shape its plans and policies to get back to a pre-war basis in the conduct of a program to realize the educational objectives of extension work. Farmers and club members realized that many adjustments in their farming operations would be necessary in the very near future. Every effort had been made by the Extension Service to aid the government in producing food to win the war. The campaign in 1918 to increase wheat acreage in Oklahoma had been so successful that 975,000 more acres of wheat were sown in 1918 than in 1917. The wheat club had become a popular project in the wheat growing counties of the state. The 1,561 wheat club members in 1918 reported an average yield of 18.6 bushels per acre produced at an average cost of 99 cents per bushel. Wheat yields of the club members ranged up to 43 bushels per acre. The state average for 1918 was 11.5 bushels per acre. Wheat prices had soared to around \$3.00 per bushel and many acres of cotton and pasture land were used to plant wheat. In 1919, the wheat club members reported an average yield of 19 bushels per acre with a high yield of 32 bushels per acre.

Corn club members in 1918 reported average yields of 28 bushels per acre with 87 bushels as the highest yield.

Grain sorghums averaged 21.5 bushels with 72 bushels per acre as

the highest yield reported. Peanuts in club projects averaged 21.5 bushels per acre with 118 bushels reported as the highest yield. Cotton club members reported an average of 612 pounds of seed cotton per acre with 2,800 pounds as the highest yield reported.

Pig club members reported an average net profit of \$70.00 per club member; beef calf club members an average net profit of \$106.37 per member and sheep club members reported an average net profit of \$114.88 per club member.¹

Livestock numbers had been reduced by the demands of war and by drouth and there was a strong demand for breeding stock to serve as replacements. The year 1919 proved to be the peak of post-war inflation. Livestock prices continued favorable until the disastrous break started in late 1920 and continued through 1921.

Club work was soon to feel the effects of these changes. On June 30, 1919 federal emergency appropriations for extension work were terminated. Funds for club work were reduced, and consequently personnel was also reduced.

Perhaps the boys' phases of club work suffered more than any other line of extension work due to the readjustments made necessary by the close of the war. The boys enrollment immediately fell off.

Mr. John E. Swain, state leader of the boys' club work resigned in December, 1918 and W. J. Green, his assistant, accepted a position with the United States Department of Agriculture on the Island of Guam; D. T. Meek, livestock club agent, resigned to become County Agent of Garfield County; and before the close of 1919, six of the

¹28th Annual Catalog of the Oklahoma A. and M. College, 1918-1919, Vol. XVI, No. 2, Quarterly Bulletin for April, June, 1919, (Stillwater, 1919), p. 194.

seven men employed to work with the boys' clubs had resigned to accept better paying jobs.²

Early in 1919, Elijah Bernard Shotwell, district agent for the northeast counties, was selected to serve as the state boys' club agent. With the aid of four assistants, the men specialists, and the district agents, he earnestly undertook the task of organizing a peace time program for the club boys.

Resignations of the boys' club staff continued and during 1920, T. H. Mittendorf, L. H. Needham, E. V. Morrison, L. E. Rathun, and Ward Chase resigned to accept better paying positions.³

Phil H. Lowery was appointed as Assistant Boys' Club Agent and was responsible in a large measure for placing livestock club work on a sound peace-time basis. He also developed the earliest interest in livestock judging schools for 4-H Club boys.

At the State Fair Schools held at Oklahoma City and Muskogee in the fall of 1920, schools of instruction were held in livestock and crops judging. On the basis of judging scores made in these schools, a livestock judging team of three members was selected to represent Oklahoma in a 4-H Livestock Judging Contest at the Southeastern States Exposition held at Atlanta, Georgia, and seven boys were selected to attend the International Livestock Show at Chicago.

These trips were the beginning of many out-of-state trips made by livestock club members to sectional and national events as judges, exhibitors, or as members of demonstration teams.

²Oklahoma Extension Circular, No 91, "Annual Report of Extension Division, 1917, 1918", (Stillwater, 1917-1918), p. 27.

³Oklahoma Extension Circular, No. 114, Report of Extension Division, 1918, 1919, (Stillwater, Oklahoma, 1920), p. 27.

Phil H. Lowery was transferred from the boys' club department in 1922 to serve as the first extension livestock specialist. His duties then included work with the adult livestock producers of the state and the livestock clubs.

The following table shows the number of livestock judging schools he conducted while serving as extension livestock specialist.⁴

TABLE II
LIVESTOCK JUDGING SCHOOLS
1921-1924

Year	Schools	Attendance
1921	9	150
1922	35	1,800
1923	98	2,941
1924	120	3,550
Total	262	8,441

Club Activities Expend

Participation at the Oklahoma State Fair School at Oklahoma City and at the Oklahoma Free State Fair at Muskogee had increased and the State Legislature made an appropriation of \$5,000.00 to take care of the expense of holding these two events.

The Oklahoma State Fair completed a new dormitory for club girls in 1919 and the Muskogee Fair enlarged the Club Building to accommodate

⁴Oklahoma Extension Circular, No. 213, Report of the Extension Division of the Oklahoma A. and M. College, 1923-1924, (Stillwater, January, 1925), p. 27.

a larger number of boys and girls attending this event. There were 201 boys and 93 girls at the Oklahoma State Fair; 54 boys and 40 girls at the Muskogee State Fair. All of these boys and girls were first-prize winners in their respective counties and were awarded expense paid trips to the State Fair School where they received instruction and recreation in a well-planned program conducted by extension specialists from the Oklahoma A. and M. College.

The canning club exhibits at the State Fair this year were larger than ever before. Thirty-six counties sent county canning exhibits to the state fairs. Each of these represented the work of a county team of ten girls.⁵

County Club Rallies

By 1920, County club rallies were being held in many counties for the purpose of recognizing the achievements of club boys and girls. These were usually county-wide events held at the county seat for a one day period where club members, their parents, friends, and club leaders met to participate in a program dedicated to club work. Often the club members themselves arranged and conducted the program but invariably awards and recognitions for the club members were made an important part of the event by the county extension agents and friends of club work. Every local club was usually represented at the County rally and a business session was often held to make plans for club work during the year. The County Club Federation was a natural outgrowth of these annual events. By 1924, practically every county in

⁵Oklahoma Extension Circular, No. 118, Annual Report of Extension Division, 1919-1920, pp. 27-30.

the state had organized a County Club Federation and the County federations had organized four district club federations and a State Federation, each with a set of elected officers.

County 4-H Club Camps

Club leaders had come to realize that recreation played an important part in creating and holding the interest of club members in the work they had undertaken in their club projects. As a reward for work well done, county camps were held in a few counties as early as 1922. These were usually held for three to five days at the best recreation location in the county and only club members who had completed their work and whose club records were up to date were invited to attend the county club camp.

At first the camps for boys and girls were held at a different time but as facilities became available to house and feed club boys and girls, their club camp activities were held at the same time and place. These camps were very popular with the club members. They provided a few days vacation from the daily routine of farm and home work and offered the club members an opportunity to meet club members from every part of the county and exchange club ideas and experiences. Often swimming, boating, fishing, nature hikes, songs, games, music, movies, or special entertainment features provided by club members caused the boys and girls to return to their homes full of enthusiasm to improve their own records and win the privilege of attending the county 4-H club camp the following year.

One of the earliest county camps for club boys and girls was established in Carter County. The Turner Falls Company had decided a

camp site in the Arbuckle Mountains north of Ardmore to the Boys' and Girls' Clubs of Oklahoma in 1920 and club houses were built for a summer camp for Carter County club members in 1921.⁶

By 1924 some twenty-five counties were holding annual 4-H Club camps. They have added a great incentive for better club work as the years have passed.⁷

4-H Short Courses and Training Schools

During the period of adjustment discussed in this chapter (1919-1924) the extension specialists inaugurated short courses for club members to give them training in work related to their projects. These schools included instructions and practice in livestock and dairy judging, poultry judging, poultry culling, terracing, crop judging, leadership training, and instruction for club girls relating to the girls' home demonstration work.

The 262 livestock judging schools in which 8,441 boys and girls participated during the period 1921-1924 trained a large number of club members in the selection of animals for the market as well as for breeding stock. This training was reflected in the rating of Oklahoma club teams competing in the Non-Collegiate Livestock Judging Contest held at the International Livestock Show at Chicago during this period. The first Oklahoma team took part in this contest in 1922. The Oklahoma team tied for seventh place with 19 states represented.

⁶Oklahoma Extension Circular, No. 118, "Annual Report of Extension Division of the Oklahoma A. and M. College", (Stillwater, 1919-1920), p. 30.

⁷Oklahoma Extension Circular, No. 213, General Series No. 51, January, 1925, (Stillwater, 1923-1924), p. 17.

In 1923, a team of club members from Garber, Oklahoma, composed of Nelson Davis, Albert Schnaitman, and Fred Single won second place with Davis tying for highest individual honors. This team was coached by the writer who was teacher of vocational agriculture at Garber at that time. Eighteen teams from the states and Canadian provinces participated.

In 1924, a team from Wellston, Oklahoma, composed of Ford Mercer, Arthur Petermann, and Bert Webb placed third with 21 teams competing.

Oklahoma had to wait until 1925 for the honor of winning first place in the Non-Collegiate Livestock Judging Contest. Another team of club boys from Garber composed of Clarence Kingery, James Gibson, and Ralph Blaser won against 23 teams from the United States and Canada. Clarence Kingery won highest individual honors and James Gibson was second. This team was also coached by the writer. This was the beginning of a record that has not been equaled by any other state in the Nation in the history of this annual event.

Terracing Schools

In 1922, W. H. McPheeters, Extension Agricultural Engineer, inaugurated a plan for training club boys in running contour lines for building terraces and conserving the soil. He believed that the older club boys could do a better job of learning how to operate a farm level and make the necessary calculations for constructing terraces than their fathers. He knew from experience that it took a lot of walking and a lot of care in handling a rod and level with correct calculations to properly layout terraces. He also realized that training young men was an excellent way to get farms terraced in the future.

His plan was to train two young men from the same community as a "terracing team". McPheters conducted two-day terracing schools in six counties with "fair success" in 1922. In 1923, he conducted schools in 13 counties and in 1924 club boys from 30 counties received instruction in terracing.

Three hundred and twenty boys were trained in these schools and many "terracing teams" built terraces on their home farms and made their services available to farmers in their own community or county with a nominal charge for their services. These teams also trained other club members in the use of the rod and level. This was the beginning of a movement that had a profound influence on soil conservation in Oklahoma.

McPheters had faith in a plan that has proved of untold value to thousands of Oklahoma farms.⁸

First Health Examinations

What proved to be the fore runner of the 4-H Health demonstrations for boys and girls in Oklahoma took place at the Oklahoma City and Muskogee state fairs in 1920. At that time Dr. Dixie Tucker was serving as extension specialist in rural sanitation and had enlisted the aid of club girls in a program of health and sanitation for rural areas. She had covered the state by horse and buggy, train, bus, and automobile lecturing and giving demonstrations on rural sanitation. Dr. Tucker told farm women and girls that in order to be happy and efficient they must feel equal to the task at hand; that good health

⁸Oklahoma Extension Circular, No. 213, General Series No. 51, January, 1925, "Annual Report of the Extension Division, 1923-1924", pp. 16-17.

would help them to feel and look their best.

Dr. Tucker was the mortal enemy of the common house fly. To aid her in discussing this important subject she carried with her a large roll of charts with a portable stand, a full-sized "fly trap", and a miniature sized "sanitary privy". With these she lectured on good health and demonstrated with skill how the control of house flies could be accomplished. She was also interested in girls' club work. Through her interest and the aid of the women district agents and home demonstration agents nine doctors were secured to give three hours of their time each day during the State Fair Schools at Oklahoma City and Muskogee to health examinations for the club girls.

The doctors made thorough physical examinations and provided each girl, her agent, and the state club office with a chart of their findings. A total of 185 girls took the examinations and only five were found without defects of any kind. The teeth and throat accounted for most of the defects found. The girls were given aid in correcting any defects found and they made every effort to follow the suggestions that were offered.

The activities of Doctor Tucker started the first steps for the 4-H Health Project for both girls and boys, and it has become more important each year. Today the 4-H Health Activities represent one of the most important phases of club work in Oklahoma.

National Committee is Formed

In 1921, a National Committee on Boys' and Girls' Club work was formed in Chicago by a group of public spirited citizens to promote the welfare of club work in the United States. The National 4-H Club Congress in Chicago was organized by this group officially in 1922,

although some club activities had been sponsored at the International Livestock Show as early as 1919.⁹

Mr. Thomas E. Wilson has served as Chairman of the Committee since it was formed while Mr. Guy L. Noble has served as Managing Director of the Committee. Both have served the best interests of club work continuously through a period of 32 years. (1922-1954)

During that period boys' and girls' 4-H Club work has become the largest youth organization in the world. More than 16,000,000 boys and girls have been club members since club work was inaugurated.

Oklahoma is Represented at Chicago-1921

The first group of Oklahoma club members to represent the state at the International at Chicago was composed of :

Ira J. Moller, Garfield County
 Clarence Broyles, Payne County
 Harold Gould, Major County
 Ford Mercer, Lincoln County
 Noel Jones, Ottawa County
 Marvin Solomon, Stephens County

This group was selected on the basis of the scores they made in livestock and crops judging at the state fairs in the fall of 1921. They were accompanied by Mr. B. A. Pratt who had been appointed State Club Agent earlier in the year. The packing plants, stockyards company, and other livestock interests at the Oklahoma City livestock market sponsored the trip of the group.¹⁰

⁹Franklin M. Reck, The 4-H Story A History of 4-H Club Work, (Chicago, 1951), pp. 170-179.

¹⁰Oklahoma Extension Circular, No. 130, "Annual Report of the Extension Division of the Oklahoma A. and M. College, 1920-21", (Stillwater, January, 1922) p. 35.

Boys' and Girls' Club Work Combined-1922

Prior to July 1, 1922 the organization and supervision of club work in Oklahoma had been conducted separately. On that date, Mr. B. A. Pratt was designated State Club Agent in charge of all boys and girls demonstration work in the state. Mrs. Daisy M. Frazier and Mr. E. E. Shotwell were designated as Assistant State Club Agents.

This provided for better organization of all club activities in the state since a greater number of club activities were being planned for joint participation by groups of boys and girls working together.

Enrollment began to increase, teachers serving as local supervisors took a renewed interest in club work, and older boys and girls were enrolling in larger numbers because of added club features such as leadership training and judging schools, team demonstrations, county camps and a greater variety of local, county, and state club activities.

Director W. A. Conner in his annual report for 1922 stated that no phase of extension made greater progress during the year than boys' and girls' club work.

The year 1924 saw the approval by the Cooperative Extension Service in Washington of "Boys' and Girls' 4-H Club Work" as the official name by which this movement was to be known in every country around the world.

The term "club coach" became a common designation for the local supervisor. The idea was introduced by Mr. B. A. Pratt who believed the term was appropriate. In 1940, the term "local 4-H club leader" was substituted for the term "club coach" in all newly printed and revised club literature in order to use a term that had been adopted

by the federal extension service and most of the states.

The term "club project" came into general use in Oklahoma during the period 1920-1924, to mean a definitely outlined undertaking for an individual club member that required a minimum amount of work and a report when the work was completed. Prior to 1914, such work was designated simply as a "corn club" or "tomato club", for example. After the passage of the Smith-Lever Law of 1914, the individual tasks of the club member were usually called a "demonstration". For example, there were "corn club demonstrations" for boys and "canning club demonstrations" for girls. The term "club project" as it was adopted in Oklahoma some thirty years ago has been adopted in practically every state and country in which 4-H Club work is found.

The Moses Leadership Trophy Comes to Oklahoma

Oklahoma club work and club leaders received a distinct honor during December, 1924, when the first winner of the Horace A. Moses Leadership Trophy was announced. The place was the National 4-H Club Congress in Chicago and the winner was Ford Mercer of Wellston, Oklahoma. The trophy was awarded on the basis of outstanding community service and junior leadership.

Although other Oklahoma club boys and girls were winners of similar honors in later years, Ford Mercer set a high standard for others in club work in this state and his winning of this coveted honor was a fitting climax for the club period reviewed in this chapter.¹¹

¹¹ Extension Circular, No. 213, General Series No. 51, "Annual Report of Extension Work of Oklahoma A. and M. College, 1923-1924, (Stillwater, January, 1925), p. 17.

Negro Club Work Expands

In 1919, five more Negro county agents and an additional home demonstration agent were added to the extension staff. W. A. Hill of Guthrie was made District Agent for Negro extension work. Both the men and women agents gave a great deal of attention to Boys and Girls Club Work. There were 2,060 boys and 872 girls enrolled in club projects during 1919.

Negro club work had made much progress during a five year period ending in 1924. A larger number of club members were completing their projects and making reports of their work. More boys and girls were going to college, and the Negro extension agents reported in 1924 that fifty-nine boys and girls had entered college as a direct result of their 4-H club work.

CHAPTER VI

TOWARD GREATER ACHIEVEMENTS 1925-1934

By 1925 there was marked improvement in 4-H Club work over the previous decade. The beginning of this period saw a significant improvement in 4-H Club organization. The community 4-H Club had become the unit of club organization. This gave the agents an opportunity to arrange a regular schedule to visit each local club once a month and to present information and instructions to club members as a group.

Group activities had been developed in which both boys and girls jointly participated. Team demonstrations had received considerable emphasis. Club members had begun to take responsibility as superintendents of the various departments of community, county, and state fairs. The local clubs were taking part in county federation planning meetings by sending delegates to help develop county-wide 4-H Club programs. The county officers were enlisting the support of local clubs in carrying out the plans developed by the members of the county federations.

Leadership training became an important developmental activity for both boys and girls in 1925.¹ Club members were encouraged to develop their ability to express their ideas in local club meetings,

¹Oklahoma Extension Circular, No. 221, General Series No. 59,
"Annual Report of Extension Division, 1924-25," (Stillwater, 1926),
p. 17.

to serve as chairmen of a meeting, to study parliamentary rules, and to practice using them in club meetings. The "model club meeting" was established as a means of giving club members training in leadership and developing skill in self-expression.

The work of the "Club Captain" became important since each club captain was assigned the responsibility of making a monthly report on the work of the boys and girls in a particular project during each month of the year. Captains were elected for each line of club work, such as poultry, livestock, garden, canning, clothing, and other projects. The captains also took responsibility in trying to get the club members to complete their project, make an exhibit, and complete a report of the project. The captains aided the local leaders and the county extension agents in improving the percentage of completed projects and reports.

Livestock Club Work Increases

There was an increased interest in livestock club work in 1925. Prices had improved and enrollment in the baby beef, pig, and lamb clubs had increased. There was also a marked improvement in the conformation and finish of the beef calves that were exhibited at the state fairs.²

Livestock Judging Schools Produce Results

During this period, county livestock judging schools were conducted in the counties for the purpose of giving club members experience in the selection of purebred and market classes of livestock.

²Oklahoma Extension Circular, No. 221, General Series No. 59, "Annual Report of Extension Division, 1924-25", (Stillwater, 1926), p. 31.

County agents found that these schools helped club members in selecting calves, pigs, and lambs that they would use in their feeding projects. The training received also aided club members in selecting animals for purchase as the foundation for a breeding herd or flock.

W. L. Elizzard, as head of the Animal Husbandry Department and A. E. Darlow, as head of the Sheep Department of the Oklahoma A. and M. College made valuable contributions in the training of club members in livestock judging and selection. They assisted the extension livestock specialist and county agents in developing competent judges among the club members.

Oklahoma 4-H livestock judging teams set a record in winning high honors in regional and national judging contests that has not been equaled by any other state. Oklahoma 4-H Club teams won first in the Non-Collegiate Livestock Judging Contest at Chicago five times during the period 1925-34 and won the 4-H Livestock Judging Contest at Kansas City seven consecutive times during the earliest years of this period.

In 1931, Leslie Oberlander of Garber exhibited the first club calf from Oklahoma to win the Grand Championship in the club division at the American Royal Livestock Show at Kansas City. His calf was a purebred Hereford. It weighed 800 pounds and sold for one dollar per pound.³

Dairy Club Work Expands

Interest in dairy club work increased rapidly during this period. In 1924 more than four times as many boys and girls were enrolled in

³Oklahoma Extension Circular, No. 225, 18th Annual Report of Extension Division for 1931, (Stillwater, 1932), p. 66.

dairy club projects as in 1919. The quality of the dairy club animals was greatly improved during the six-year period. Until 1924, instruction in dairy judging and selection was conducted jointly as a part of the county livestock judging schools. In 1925, ten counties conducted special work for dairy club members. This work included instruction in judging and selection, care and management, and the fitting and showing of dairy animals. Three state-wide courses were also given during the year. This program under the direction of John W. Boehr, Extension Dairyman, soon showed favorable results in both the quality of club animals exhibited at county and state shows and in the ability of club members to judge dairy animals and give oral reasons to justify their placings.

In 1928, a 4-H dairy judging team composed of Forest K. Burns, Hillsdale; Holland Williams, Altus; and Harold Woodson, Comanche, won first as a team at the National Dairy Show held at Memphis, Tennessee. This entitled the Oklahoma team to represent the United States in an International dairy judging contest which was held at Brighton, Sussex County, England on July 13, 1929. This team won first in the contest and a Gold Challenge Cup. The group was accompanied by John W. Boehr and P. A. Prett, State Club Agent. They traveled more than 2,700 miles in Europe and 2,600 miles in the British Isles during the trip.⁴

A team composed of James Childers, Hillsdale; Howard Nelson, Duncan; and Halley Kennedy, Ardmore represented the United States in

⁴Oklahoma Extension Circular, No. 275, General Series No. 210, "Annual Report of the Extension Division for the year 1929", (Stillwater, 1930), p. 50.

the International dairy judging contest at Manchester, England on July 8, 1930. The team placed second in the contest.⁵

At the National Dairy Show held in St. Louis in 1930, a group of ten head of Jerseys owned by Oklahoma club members won first award as a state group and Juliet Johnstone of Lawton exhibited the Grand Champion Jersey in the club show.⁶

In October, 1931, the Oklahoma 4-H dairy cattle judging team again won first in the National Contest held at St. Louis. The team was composed of Milford Brown, Marlow; Forrest Fansher, Edmond; Orville Siegenthaler, Stillwater; and Albert Conley, Britton, alternates. Again Oklahoma won the right to represent the United States in the International Contest in England. They won first place as a team.

Poultry Club Work

The Oklahoma poultry club members had been receiving instructions in judging and selection in county schools during the early part of the period 1925-1934. H. C. Ware, and Ira J. Hollar, Extension Poultrymen, working with the county extension agents, had created an increasing interest in judging and better poultry club exhibits at the county and state fairs. It was due to the high quality of work done that an Oklahoma 4-H poultry judging team composed of Marion Spore, Butler; Bill LeBorde, Lyman; Hugo Graumann, Granite; and A. J. Clubb, Stratford, as alternate, won the National 4-H poultry judging contest in 1932. Oklahoma poultry judging teams won the national

⁵Oklahoma Extension Circular, No. 285, General Series No. 216, "Annual Report of the Extension Division for the year 1930", (Stillwater, 1931), p. 34.

⁶Oklahoma Extension News, Vol. X, No. 12 (Stillwater, November, 1929), p. 1.

contest in 1933 and 1934.

Girls Club Work is Intensified

The girls club activities were increased after the demonstrations were graded and manuals were prepared to outline the work from the first to the sixth years in 1924. The girls demonstrations now included sewing, food preparation, food preservation, home improvement, gardening, handwork, health, and poultry.

Each girl was expected to perform the required work outlined in her demonstration manual, keep a record of her work, attend club meetings, make an exhibit, and write a story of her club experiences.

In 1924, when the first state 4-H sewing contest was held at the Oklahoma State Fair only twelve counties entered exhibits. The next year thirty-four counties were represented by the exhibits of 241 club girls.

One activity added in 1925 created interest immediately. This was the Girls Style Revue. Pauline Still of Chickasha was selected to represent Oklahoma in the National contest at the 4-H Club Congress in Chicago. She represented Oklahoma well for she was selected as the National winner. The extension clothing specialist in her annual report stated:

The clothing selection contest has been one of the best features of all our work and will probably grow from now on by leaps and bounds since an Oklahoma girl won first place at the National Club Congress in Chicago in the Style Show.⁷

⁷Oklahoma Extension Circular, No. 221, General Series No. 59, "Annual Report of Extension Division, 1924-1925", (Stillwater, 1926), p. 40.

This prediction proved to be quite accurate. In 1926, a girls' style show was added for the local club. The winners were permitted to enter the county style show. A state contest was established and two girls from each county were permitted to enter the contest held at the Annual 4-H Club Round-up at Stillwater. Two classes were provided; one for girls above 16 years of age and another for girls 16 years of age or less. The first year the style show was held 133 girls participated in county contests and 49 girls participated in the state contest.⁸ The state champion was selected to represent Oklahoma in the National Dress Revue held at the National 4-H Club Congress in Chicago. The Girls' Dress Revue became one of the most popular events for club girls during this period. It had practical value as well as aesthetic value, because it taught club girls how to invest their money wisely in selecting clothing materials; to construct clothing appropriate for the individual member for any occasion. This activity also had the added value of developing poise and assurance on the part of the club girl. She knew that her clothing was not only appropriate, well designed, and durable, but that its cost was usually a factor that made her parents take pride in the training she was receiving in club work.

The girls "appropriate dress contest" had such a popular acceptance that very soon there was a demand for a similar activity for club boys.

In 1933, the first "appropriate dress contest for boys" was inaugurated in Oklahoma. This was the first activity of its kind in

⁸Ibid., p. 31

the United States. It had as a primary aim, "teaching boys how to spend wisely for clothing for work or public appearance".⁹ This activity for boys proved to be very popular for it had many of the values that had demonstrated the merit of the girls' "dress revue".

4-H Health Project for Boys and Girls

In 1925, a definite 4-H Health Project for boys and girls was outlined which required that each club member completing the project observe good health habits and use every effort to correct any defects that might impair the health of the club member. The project involves the keeping of a record of the food and health habits by the club member and periodic health examinations. Oklahoma selected a boys "State Health Champion" in 1925 who represented the state in a national contest during the 4-H Club Congress in Chicago. The state winner was Earl Hayes, Wellston, Oklahoma. He won second in the national contest but scored only one-half point less than the winner.

In 1926, forty-three counties held county health contests and each county had a boy and girl entered in the final contest at the Oklahoma State Fair. The boys and girls were examined by members of the Oklahoma State Health Department and were rated in the final contest.¹⁰ This practice was continued until the late 1940's when the score card used in the National 4-H Health Achievement Contest was adopted. This score card placed greater emphasis on the improvements

⁹Oklahoma Extension Circular, No. 313, General Series No. 88, "20th Annual Report of the Extension Division for 1933", (Stillwater, 1934), p. 104.

¹⁰Oklahoma Extension Circular, No. 226, General Series No. 75, "Annual Report of the Extension Division, 1925-1926", (Stillwater, 1927), p. 39.

made by the boys and girls during the year in their health activities and less weight on the score made by the individual on the final health examination.

The First National 4-H Club Camp

In June 1927, the first National 4-H Club Camp was held in Washington, D. C., under the auspices of the United States Department of Agriculture. This was the first time that club members and their leaders from all parts of the United States had come together to visit the National Capitol and discuss ways and means of improving 4-H Club Work. Oklahoma was represented by Ford Mercer, Wellston; Carl T. Sturdivant, Vinita; Francis Smith, Geary; Thelma Kinney, Okmulgee, and their leaders, B. A. Pratt, State Club Agent and Daisy M. Fraizer, Assistant State Club Agent in charge of Girls Club Work.¹¹

The National Club pledge was officially adopted by the club delegates and leaders at this first national camp. Since that date millions of club members throughout the nation have been inspired to improve their own record.

The pledge officially adopted is:

"I pledge

my head to clearer thinking

my heart to greater loyalty

my hands to larger service and

my health to better living

¹¹Oklahoma Extension Circular, No. 251, General Series No. 90, "Annual Report of the Extension Division for 1927", (Stillwater, 1928), p. 31.

For my club, my community, and my country."¹²

4-H Leadership Training

The period 1925-1934 showed a marked increase in boys and girls leadership activities. Older club members were encouraged to aid younger club members with their projects, records, demonstrations, and judging activities. They were also encouraged to take greater responsibility in community improvement activities. As early as 1926, one hundred sixty-five leadership conferences were held in the state to train older club members and local leaders.¹³

Ford Mercer had won the first Moses Leadership Trophy in 1924 based upon his leadership in club work and community improvement activities. In 1925, Frances Smith of Geary won the National Leadership Trophy. Later she became the wife of Ford Mercer.

Aubrey Conner, Hillsdale, Garfield County, won the coveted Leadership Trophy in 1928 and Theodore Lorenz, Hitchcock, Kingfisher was the winner in 1929. At this time separate awards were made in the National Leadership Contest for boys and girls. Velma Milstead of Logan County won second national honors in the girls leadership contest of 1929. In 1933, Hugo Granmann, Granite, Oklahoma, won the national leadership contest for boys.

President Franklin D. Roosevelt offered the "President's Trophy" in 1934 to the boy and girl with the best all-around 4-H project work

¹²Clarence Deaman Smith and Merideth Chester Wilson, The Agricultural Extension System of the United States, (New York, 1930), p. 73.

¹³Oklahoma Extension Circular, No. 236, General Series No. 75, "Annual Report of the Extension Division, 1925-1926", (Stillwater, 1927), p. 39.

in the United States. William Kiesel, Pryor, Mayes County had the honor of winning the first trophy for boys as a result of his project work.¹⁴

Radio Program Established

On October 7, 1926 the Oklahoma A. and M. College inaugurated the "Oklahoma Farmers' Hour" over radio station KOTV by remote control through studios at Bristow and Tulsa. Two hours each week were devoted to broadcasts relating to the farm and the home by representatives of the Extension Service, 4-H Club members, and local 4-H Club leaders. This program reached a large number of farm families in the state and created a wider interest in the activities of 4-H Club members.¹⁵

This was the beginning of many regular and special 4-H Club radio broadcasts that followed during the next few years. In 1931, club members in Oklahoma participated in 26 special broadcasts and one arranged by the United States Department of Agriculture dedicated to the achievements of Oklahoma club boys and girls.

Negro 4-H Club Work

The period 1925-1934 was one of steady growth and achievement among the Negro 4-H Clubs in Oklahoma. In 1925, there were 1995 Negro boys enrolled in 131 local clubs and 1,286 girls enrolled in 61 local clubs. By 1934, the club enrollment had more than doubled

¹⁴Date was taken from the Annual Reports of the Extension Division for the years 1924 to 1934.

¹⁵Oklahoma Extension Circular, No. 226, General Series No. 75, "Annual Report of the Extension Division, 1925-1926", (Stillwater, 1927), p. 9.

and the number of club activities had greatly increased.

The National Club encampment for Negro 4-H Club members was held in 1925 at Tuskegee, Alabama. Oklahoma was well represented by a group of boys under the leadership of J. E. Taylor who spent more than twenty-five years as District Agent working for the welfare of Negro club members in Oklahoma.

In the contests held at Tuskegee, the Negro boys from Oklahoma won first in the livestock, poultry, and sweet potato judging contests. In 1927, the Negro boys and girls from Oklahoma won a National Trophy offered to the state delegation demonstrating the best all-around knowledge of improved farm and home practices.¹⁶

The quality of work done by Negro club members improved throughout this period. More of the boys participated in livestock, poultry, and dairy projects each year. Leadership training for both boys and girls was emphasized and the number of activities for group participation was greatly increased.

The Passing of a Pioneer Club Leader

On July 5, 1930 one of the great pioneer leaders in boys and girls club passed to his reward. Walter Dimmitt Bentley had served continuously in the Extension Service for a period of slightly more than twenty-six years at the time of his death. At that time he had the longest continuous record of service in extension work in the United States. He was affectionately called, "Dad Bentley" the "Father of Oklahoma Extension Work". He was a firm believer in the value of club work:

¹⁶Oklahoma Extension Circular, No. 251, General Series No. 90, "Annual Report of the Extension Division for 1927", (Stillwater, 1928), p. 36.

for farm boys and girls and devoted much of his time and energy in developing a sound club program in the state. As editor of the Oklahoma Extension News from the date of its first publication in 1918 until the time of his death he always gave club news important consideration in the columns of the extension publication.

Mr. Bentley had written only a year before his death about the significant part that club work had played in securing the general acceptance of extension work by farm people in Oklahoma. He said, "The boys and girls club work without doubt did more to make the demonstration work popular than anything else."¹⁷

¹⁷Oklahoma Extension Circular, No. 252, General Series No. 91, "Early History of the Farmers Cooperative Demonstration Work in Northwest Texas and Oklahoma" by W. D. Bentley, (Stillwater, 1929), p. 16.

CHAPTER VII

TOWARD A MORE SATISFYING FARM LIFE 1935- 1941

At the beginning of this period, the Extension Division of the Oklahoma A. and M. College had been given the responsibility of conducting the educational phases of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration programs of the federal government in the state. The county agents and most of the men specialists and district agents, had been assigned specific responsibilities in connection with the program. This meant that the county agents would have less time to spend on club work during the days immediately ahead. To meet the situation, added emphasis was placed upon training local leaders to handle many of the details of conducting the boys' phases of club work. There were 1,358 local men leaders and 2,375 women local leaders supervising slightly more than 1,500 community 4-H clubs in 1935.¹ In addition, 747 older boys and 968 older girls were serving as local leaders. The girls' work at this time had the benefit of more local leaders than the boys' work. Many of the women leaders were teachers who took the added responsibility of serving as local leaders for the boys as well as the girls. In order to aid the adult leaders, a series of training schools were held in the counties to discuss club work. These were usually one or two day schools conducted

¹Oklahoma Extension Circular No. 337, General Series No. 234, "22nd Annual Report of the Extension Division, 1935", (Stillwater, 1936), p. 7.

by members of the state 4-H Club staff, specialists, and the district agents when they could attend. They were arranged by the county extension agents. In many cases the officers of the local 4-H Clubs were invited to attend. The Training Schools proved to be an effective means of improving the quality of club work in counties where they were held. The local leaders took a greater interest in their work and the older club members accepted the challenge of greater responsibility.

County 4-H Achievement Programs

In order to recognize the achievements of the club members publicly and to give the parents and friends of the club members an opportunity to see the boys and girls present demonstrations, timely topics, business meetings, and other club activities, many of the counties arranged a county-wide achievement program. Representatives of all local clubs were invited to attend with their parents. In some instances, a banquet was arranged as a part of the achievement event. Within a few years most of the counties established an annual achievement program, preceded in many cases by local achievement programs. These added interest to the project work and leadership activities of the club members and stimulated the local leaders to greater pride in the importance of their work.²

District 4-H Judging and Recreational Schools

In 1935, district schools were held in each of the four extension districts to give boys and girls training in judging and recreation.

²Oklahoma Extension News, Vol. XVII, No. 1, January, 1936 (Stillwater, 1936), p. 3.

These schools were arranged in each district by the men and women district agents in cooperation with the county extension agents located in the counties where the schools were held. District schools were held at Warner, Wilburton, Lawton and Enid. At a later date such schools were held at Miami and Goodwell. The judging instructions for the boys and girls were given during the day by the extension specialists and the evening programs were devoted to training in recreation and leadership. The schools were usually held during a three-day period during the summer months. Lodging, dining, auditorium, and classroom facilities of the district agricultural colleges were made available to the club members and their leaders. Hotel facilities were used at Enid. Livestock, dairy, poultry, and crops judging instructions were included for the boys. The judging of clothing, canning, food preservation, food preparation and poultry were the principal lines of work for the girls. The keeping of 4-H Club records was usually discussed by members of the club staff and specialists for the benefit of both boy and girl groups. These schools and similar schools held in many of the seventy-seven counties of the state were responsible in a large measure for the high rating of Oklahoma boys and girls in sectional, regional, and international judging contests held during the following decade.

Wild Life Conservation Project is Established

In 1936, a new club project was added. This was the 4-H Wild Life Conservation project. Ford Mercer was placed in charge of the project on a part-time basis and 1,600 club members enrolled in 37 counties of the state during the first year of the project. Two conservation camps were held in 1935. Similar camps have been held

annually in Oklahoma since that time. These camps have had the effect of creating a better appreciation of the value of conserving wild life on the farm in the minds of thousands of 4-H Club members in every section of the state. A short course in wild life conservation was a new feature at the State 4-H Club Round-up at Stillwater in 1936.³

4-H Club Projects and Activities are Added

A number of new projects and activities were added during the period 1935-1936. These included a 4-H pasture project for club boys. Sam E. Durham, extension pasture specialist, inaugurated this project in 1935 and 300 club boys were enrolled during that year. The activities of club members had become interesting news for many local papers and with the purpose of training club members in reporting the news from their local clubs, the extension editor held a state-wide school for "4-H Club Reporters." In 1935 the first year a school of this kind was held, 360 club members attended. A 4-H cotton marketing and grading activity was established in 1936. The 4-H Meat Judging and Identification Activity for boys and girls was made a part of the club program in 1939. It has become an important activity for club girls to serve as a means of training them in the selection and buying of retail cuts of meat on the basis of price and quality.

In 1940, a commercial livestock feeding project known as the "4-H Farm-to-Market Livestock Project" was made a part of the club program. This project was established primarily for club boys, 15 to

³Oklahoma Extension News, Vol. XVII, No. 9 (Stillwater, September, 1936), p. 3.

21 years of age, who wished to engage in the commercial feeding of calves, pigs, and lambs for the market and not for exhibition in the show ring. This project is still serving its original objective in 1954.

The first "4-H Photographic Project" in Oklahoma, of which the writer has any knowledge, was conducted in Oklahoma County under the direction of J. R. Spencer, Assistant County Agent, who arranged a county-wide contest with awards for the best photographs of 4-H Club projects. The idea Mr. Spencer had in mind was to help club members improve their skill in taking pictures that would show the progress club members were making with their projects and to have the club members include the best photographs in the record books that served as the basis for achievement awards.⁴

Farm Appraisal School for Club Members

A farm appraisal school held in Grant County in 1937, was one of the first of its kind conducted in the United States. The 4-H Club members were given training in appraising farms. Following the field work, the appraisals of the club members were constructively criticized and they were given information on the basic principles of farm appraisal by farm management specialists and representatives of the Farm Credit Administration.⁵

⁴Oklahoma Extension News, Vol. XXI, No. 6 (Stillwater, June, 1940), p. 3.

⁵Oklahoma Extension Circular No. 369, General Series 300, "24th Annual Report of the Extension Division, 1937", (Stillwater, 1938), p. 16.

Wayne C. Neely, in 1935, indicated the importance that fair associations attached to the activities of 4-H Club groups when he stated:

County fairs, state fairs, and the larger specialized shows, find the 4-H Club department the means of injecting new and powerful forces into their exhibitions, have devoted increasing attention to the enlargement of this phase of the fair. County and state fairs have not only increased the amount of prize money offered for boys' and girls' exhibits, but they have in numerous cases erected special club buildings as a part of their permanent equipment.⁷

The 30th Anniversary of the founding of club work in Oklahoma was appropriately observed during the Annual 4-H Club Round-up at Stillwater on June 1, 1939. On that date, the 4-H Club and Student Activity Building was dedicated on the campus of the Oklahoma A. and M. College. The building cost \$600,000 and was erected in honor of the achievements of Oklahoma 4-H Club members.⁸

First Annual Oklahoma 4-H Club Leaders' Short Course

In 1941, the first short course was held on the campus of the Oklahoma A. and M. College for local club leaders. This short course was conducted in cooperation with the School of Education of the Oklahoma A. and M. College. Two hours of college credit was given each local leader who completed the course. This course was primarily to give training to the local 4-H Club leaders on the organization and supervision of 4-H Club projects and activities in the 4-H Clubs. This annual course was offered until War conditions made it necessary to discontinue it.⁹

⁸Oklahoma Extension News, Vol. XX, No. 3 (Stillwater, March, 1939), p. 3.

⁹Paul G. Adams, Alice Carlson, Ford Mercer, and E. W. Cinnamon, Annual Narrative Report of Oklahoma 4-H Club Work in 1941 (Stillwater, Oklahoma), p. 10.

4-H Health and Appropriate Dress Activities

The 4-H health project attracted increasing interest for both boys and girls. "Be your own best exhibit" was a slogan that came into use in connection with 4-H health work as early as 1935. There were more than 10,000 boys and girls carrying out "health demonstrations" in 1937. Every county in the state was represented by a girl "county health winner" at the state contest held in Stillwater in 1937 and 76 of the 77 counties in Oklahoma were represented by a boy "county health winner."

The appropriate dress activity for boys and girls had become so popular with the club members, their parents, and leaders by 1939, that every county in the state was represented by a girl and a boy in the state contest. The Girls' Dress Revue was called "the most colorful and attractive event" of the Annual 4-H Club Round-up.⁶

4-H Club Buildings

In 1932, the Oklahoma State Fair, had erected a modern brick building on the fair grounds at Oklahoma City to serve as the home of the County 4-H Club delegates during fair week. In 1935, the Oklahoma Free State Fair at Muskogee erected a modern club building of colorful native stone, with an auditorium, dining hall, and a dormitory for girls and another for boys. It was dedicated to the "Oklahoma 4-H Clubs" during the state fair of that year.

⁶Oklahoma Extension News, Vol. XVII, No. 6 (Stillwater, June, 1936), p. 3.

4-H Club Achievements, 1935-1941

The value of the 4-H leaders training schools and the judging schools for both boys and girls was reflected in the high honors that Oklahoma club leaders won in sectional and international events during this period. Livestock club work was expanded greatly during the period and the quality of livestock showed continuous improvement. The following outstanding honors were won by Oklahoma Club boys:

Exhibits

Arnold Moore, Union City, exhibited the Grand Champion barrow at the International Livestock Show in Chicago in 1937. He exhibited a purebred Poland China for the Grand Championship of the entire show. Arnold exhibited the Grand Champion barrow in the junior division of the International Livestock Show in 1938.

Aaron Gritzmaker, Lehomn, exhibited the Grand Champion barrow at the American Royal Livestock Show in Kansas City in 1938. This barrow was a purebred Chester White.

Melvin Matthews, Butler, exhibited the Grand Champion pig in the junior division of the World Fair and Golden Gate Exposition in San Francisco in 1939. This pig was a purebred Chester White bred by another Custer County 4-H Club member, Roscoe Chitty.

Dwight Winchester, Waukomis, exhibited a Southdown Lamb that was declared Grand Champion of the junior division of the American Royal Livestock Show in 1940.

Judging Teams

Livestock - The Oklahoma 4-H Livestock judging team won first at Kansas City and Chicago in 1937 and first in Kansas City in 1941.

Bob Morford of Amorita was the highest scoring individual in the contest at Chicago in 1936.

Dairy - The Oklahoma Dairy Cattle judging team that participated in the Centennial Exposition at Dallas in 1936, won the National dairy cattle judging contest for the fourth time. This entitled the Oklahoma team to again represent the United States in the International Dairy Cattle Judging Contest held in England the following year.

Poultry - The Oklahoma Poultry judging team won first in the National judging contest held at Chicago in 1936 and 1937.

Crops - The Oklahoma 4-H Club judging team won first in the National contest held at Chicago in 1937. This was the first time that a crops judging team from this state had won in a national contest.

Meat Animal Achievement Contest

Franklin Spore, Kildare, was the first winner of this award from Oklahoma in 1937. This contest, held in Chicago, was based upon livestock production records of club members from 46 states. A \$500. college scholarship was the award offered by Thomas E. Wilson, Chairman, National Committee on Boys and Girls Work, Chicago, Illinois.

Dayton Rose, Bearden, was the winner of this award in 1940.

Junior Livestock Feeding Contest

This contest, held annually in Chicago, was limited to exhibitors in the junior department of the International Livestock Show. The awards are based upon livestock production records and a calf, pig, or lamb exhibited at the show by the contestant. Forest Skaggs, Hillsdale, won this award in 1940 and Don Provost, Cherokee, won the award in 1941.

National 4-H Health Contest

Oklahoma had two winners in this contest during the period 1935-1941. Edith Reynolds, Seminole, was a national winner in 1940. Lucille Hall, Arnett, was national winner in 1941.

National 4-H Dress Revue for Girls

The fact that Oklahoma had four national winners in this contest during the period 1935-1941, is a real tribute to the excellent training that Oklahoma club girls have received in clothing selection and construction. Wilma Jane Albrecht, Edmond, was the national winner in 1935; Lois Trosper, Kingfisher, in 1938; Betty Jo Etchison, Cushing, in 1939; and Eugenia Martin, Elgin, won the honor in 1941.

National 4-H Leadership Contest

The emphasis that was placed on 4-H leadership training in the various counties in the state during the early part of this period was responsible in a large measure for three national winners during the period of this chapter from Oklahoma. Viley Johnson, McAlester, won this national honor in 1935; Bonny Phillips, Belva, in 1938; and Wayne Thorndyke, Lambert, in 1941. Wayne was the seventh Oklahoma club member to win this distinctive honor since 1924, the year the national leadership contest was established.

President's Trophy

During the period of this chapter, President Franklin D. Roosevelt offered a trophy called the "President's Trophy" to the boy and girl who attained the highest achievements in their project work. This coveted honor was won by: Bob Morford, Amorita, in 1937; Lloyd

Hawkins, Foss, in 1938; and Sawatha Krebs, Bufaula, in 1940.¹⁰

This period was characterized by improved 4-H Club organizations, greater interest among club members in self-development activities, better project work, and the training of a larger number of Oklahoma 4-H Club leaders.

Study of the Problems of Local 4-H Club Leaders

In 1941, a study was made in ten representative counties of Oklahoma to determine the major problems that local 4-H Club leaders face, according to their own opinion, in helping to direct 4-H Clubs in their communities. Personal interviews were used as the method for conducting the study. The men leaders gave their occupations, on a percentage basis, as follows: farmers, 5.8; teachers, 78.8; students, 3.8; and other occupations, 11.6. The women gave their occupations, on a percentage basis, as follows: farm women, 9.6; teachers, 73.9; students, 1.7; and other occupations as 14.8. Teachers represented the largest percentage in both groups. The study revealed that 78.8 percent of the men leaders and 73.9 percent of the women leaders were college graduates. Many of the men did not study agriculture and many of the women did not study home economics while they were in college. The local leaders named the following as their most difficult problems in developing the community 4-H Club program:

1. Developing community and parental cooperation.
2. Learning the interests and needs of boys and girls.
3. Distributing responsibility among others.

¹⁰Taken from the "Annual Narrative Report of Oklahoma 4-H Club Work" for the years, 1935 to 1941. (Typed copies in State 4-H Club Office at Stillwater)

4. Training officers and other leaders
5. Explaining the aims and objectives of 4-H Club work.
6. Helping members to select projects.
7. Planning club events such as parties, tours, exhibits, and field trips.

The leaders listed the problems they considered most difficult in supervising and carrying out the club program as follows:

1. Group instructions on demonstrations and other group methods of teaching club members.
2. Training judging teams
3. Training members in demonstration work and other activities.
4. Arranging tours, achievement days, field days, and exhibits at fairs.
5. Transportation for members to special club events

Since local 4-H Club leaders serve on a voluntary basis without pay for their services, they were asked to name the greatest satisfactions they received from serving as 4-H Club leaders. The satisfactions listed most often were:

1. Service to boys and girls, the community, and the state.
2. Opportunity for personal growth through leadership experience.
3. Opportunity to receive more information on subjects relating to agriculture and home economics.
4. Opportunity to meet people
5. Appreciation expressed by club members, parents, and extension agents.¹¹

¹¹Erwin H. Shinn, Paul G. Adams, and Alice Carlson, A Study of 4-H Club Leadership in Oklahoma (U. S. Department of Agriculture, Extension Service Circular 383).

This study served as the basis for representatives of the Extension Service to develop methods that proved to be very helpful to local leaders during the following years.

CHAPTER VIII

4-H CLUB ACTIVITIES IN WORLD WAR II 1941-1945

Oklahoma representatives to the National 4-H Club Congress in Chicago had just returned when the bombing of Pearl Harbor was announced over the radio on December 7, 1941. Sons of Oklahoma's National 4-H winners were ready to appear on a radio broadcasting program arranged in their honor. The State 4-H Club officers were among those who participated in the radio broadcast. Very soon after this broadcast, a plan was formulated for 4-H Victory Activities that began in earnest early in 1942. The principal objectives of this Victory program were: (1) to have 4-H Club members produce and conserve needed food supplies for home and abroad, (2) to eliminate waste and save for victory, (3) to develop the health of 4-H Club members and that of the community, and (4) to acquire useful technical and mechanical skills. Production projects were emphasized, especially meat animal production, poultry, dairy, and gardening. Clothing conservation and food preservation for the girls were given special emphasis. A survey during 1942 revealed that 42,409 club members had participated in this program.

Farm labor became a problem in producing needed food supplies. 4-H Club members spent long days and many extra hours in labor on the farm to aid the war effort. Many of the 4-H Club girls took First Aid and Home Nursing courses. The boys participated in schools for the repair and maintenance of farm machinery, participated in 4-H fire prevention activities by joining community 4-H Fire Patrols. Many of the

club members acted as junior air raid wardens, airplane spotters, and otherwise cooperated with local agencies in defense activities.

A conference of local 4-H Club leaders was held at Oklahoma City during the annual state teachers conference in January. The group adopted as an objective, "Every eligible youth a 4-H member actively engaged in a project for National Defense in 1942." Guy Brichard, Chairman, President; Oscar Rose, Boardman, Vice President; and Una Lee Voight, Secretary, served as an executive committee of the local leaders association to work out a plan to carry out the objectives of the 4-H Victory Program for the duration of the War. National 4-H Mobilization Week was held in April, 1942. Oklahoma 4-H Club members used this week as an opportunity to encourage club enrollment and to promote the aims of the 4-H Victory Program.

Due to the rationing of gasoline and tires, club activities requiring travel were greatly restricted. Restrictions were also placed upon train travel. The American Royal Livestock Show and the activities at the National 4-H Club Congress were greatly modified. The number permitted at the Chicago event from each state was reduced sixty percent. Judging contests were eliminated and only a few of the achievement contests were retained. The livestock exhibits at Kansas City and Chicago involved only market classes of fat animals.

Oklahoma club members and their leaders were called upon to participate in every worthy drive that related to the war effort. The Oklahoma club members engaged in an intensive campaign to sell war bonds during 1943. The United States Treasury Department permitted club members to name and dedicate a heavy bomber for every two and a half

million dollars worth of war bonds sold. The flagship "Oklahoma 4-H Liberator" was purchased through the efforts of the county 4-H federations in the state. Virtually every one of the 64,774 club membership had a personal part in purchasing the flagship. Seventeen counties sold sufficient bonds to name and dedicate a Liberty bomber. The Oklahoma 4-H Bomber Squadron was presented to the United States Army Air Corps in a public ceremony held in the grand stand at the Oklahoma State Fair in Oklahoma City on September 26, 1943. The Maritime Commission of the United States permitted the Oklahoma 4-H Club members to name a libertyship in recognition of their contributions to the war effort. The liberty ship was named "The S. S. Clarence Roberts" in honor of his many contributions to club work. The ship was launched on November 6, 1944, at the Todd Houston Shipbuilding Corporation near Houston, Texas. Mrs. Clarence Roberts christened the ship and Dorothea Legins, Ardmore, and Fayllis Jo Beckelman, Buffalo, served as Maids of Honor.

In 1944, there was an eighteen percent decrease in club enrollment. This appeared to be due to many farm families leaving the farm to work in defense or war production plants at more remunerative compensation, and to the increased number of club members entering the armed services and to the lack of specialized persons to serve as local 4-H Club leaders. Many of the local leaders were teachers who had joined the armed services or found employment in war production plants. This situation made it necessary to intensify the 4-H training schools for local leaders. A large number of the older club members took the responsibility of serving as local leaders. One of the requests for aid from club members came from the War Department. This was a request that Oklahoma Club members collect millioned pads to be used in making life

jackets for men in the United States Navy. Craig County club members collected 886 sacks of milkwed pods. Washington County members collected 300 sacks and club members from many counties collected smaller amounts. 4-H livestock conservation was stressed particularly during 1944. The control of cattle grubs to conserve both meat and leather was an important project in which the club boys participated. The control of livestock parasites was also stressed throughout this period.

A 4-H soil and water conservation project was established in 1944. This project has become more important each year since that date.

A few of the outstanding achievement honors won by the Oklahoma Club members during the war period were:

National Winners of the President's Trophy

Robert Nash, Ryan, Jefferson County, in 1942.

Eldora Jansson, Kremlin, Garfield County, in 1945.

National Health Winners from Oklahoma were:

Paul Wayne Tomlinson, Daugherty, Murray County, 1942.

Delmar Couch, Rattan, McCurtain County, 1943.

Bob Tolbert, Pauls Valley, Garvin County, 1944.

Louise Hale, Randlett, Cotton County, 1945.

Oklahoma 4-H Club members made many valuable contributions to the war effort. The war period proved the value of a strong organization of farm youth in the State who were in a favored position to produce and conserve food. They met the challenge in true 4-H tradition.¹

¹The information contained in this chapter was taken from the annual narrative reports of Oklahoma 4-H Club Work for the years 1941-1945 inclusive. These are typed copies on file in the State 4-H Club office in Stillwater, Oklahoma.

CHAPTER VIII

FARM YOUTH IN A CHANGING WORLD 1946-1954

During 1946, the activities of the Oklahoma 4-H Clubs were directed towards a peacetime program. Plans were adopted at the National 4-H Club Congress at Chicago in December, 1945, to serve as a basis for developing a national peacetime program. In Oklahoma a number of new activities were introduced in 1946. These included a 4-H Farm Forestry Program developed by Harry Bigdon, Extension Forester. There were 924 members enrolled in this project the first year and 4,839 additional club members were trained in forestry methods. The Oklahoma 4-H Tractor Maintenance Activity was introduced in 1946 for the purpose of training older club boys and local leaders in the proper methods of operating and maintaining farm tractors. Three training schools were held in April for the purpose of introducing this project. A plan for presenting local 4-H Club leaders "Service Awards" was introduced in 1946. These awards were for the purpose of recognizing the service of volunteer local leaders. The "Clover Service Award" was made available to local leaders who had served from five to twenty-five years or more as local leaders. In 1949, records showed that Miss Icie Lee, Tribbey, Pottawatomie County, and Jess Cox, who had served as local leader in Lincoln and Creek Counties, had completed thirty years service as local leaders. Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Oyler of Okmulgee County had completed twenty-seven years. Miss Lola Shelton, Jefferson County, had completed

twenty-six years of continuous service as a local club leader.¹

The 4-H Farm-to-Market Livestock Project increased in importance during this period. Tom Morris, county agent from Hobart, Kiowa County, was one of the first agents in the state to develop this project. His initial work on this project was in 1938.

Due to the rapid expansion in rural electrification in Oklahoma, the 4-H Rural Electrification Project made rapid progress during this period. Numbers enrolled in the project were approximately doubled in a two year period, 1946-1948. There were 4,389 club members enrolled in this project in 1953.

In 1950, eighteen new projects were made available to Oklahoma club members. These included projects appropriate for boys and girls living in the small towns as well as those living in the rural areas. Some of the principal additions were such projects as: "Good Grooming", "Everyday Courtesies", "Everyday Manners", "Flower Arrangements", "4-H Fishing and Hunting", "Household Insect Control", "House Plants", "News Writing", "Photography", and a "4-H Rabbit Project". The 4-H Health Project became more important each year of this period and there were 65,068 club members of the 74,977 in the state, enrolled in the health project in 1953. The Good Grooming Project became very popular with both boys and girls and there were 39,165 enrolled in 1953.²

¹Annual Narrative Report of 4-H Club Work in Oklahoma for the Year 1949. (Typed copy of report on file in State 4-H Club Office).

²Annual Narrative Report of 4-H Club Work in Oklahoma for the Year 1953. (Typed copy of report on file in State 4-H Club Office).

Oklahoma 4-H Hall of Fame

One of the highest honors that can come to an Oklahoma 4-H Club member is to be selected for the Hall of Fame that was inaugurated at the State 4-H Round-up in 1950. Each year two club members are selected on the basis of their leadership and club records to have their portrait hung in the Blue Room of the State Capitol Building for a period of one year. There-after the portrait is placed permanently in the Oklahoma Historical Building in Oklahoma City. The club members who have received this distinguished honor are:

Audell Murray, Custer County, 1950

Bill Carmichael, Kay County, 1950

Joy Alexander, Washita County, 1951

R. J. Cooper, Woodward County, 1951

Gordon Dowell, Payne County, 1952

Nancy Brazelton, Kay County, 1952

Charles Chambers, Jefferson County, 1953

Carolyn Crumm, Caddo County, 1953

International Farm Youth

In 1948, Ernest Hellwege, Kingfisher, was selected as Oklahoma's representative to spend four months in England, France, Switzerland, and Italy in the International Farm Youth Exchange sponsored by the State Department of the United States and the National Extension Service. David B. Noble, North Meles, England, spent the summer with Oklahoma 4-H Club members and their families as a representative of the Young Farmers' Club of England in the International Farm Youth Exchange.

In 1951, Nyunt May and Aung Khin, two Burmese college students, studied 4-H Club work in Oklahoma with a view of establishing a similar organization in their own country. Both were brought to the United States in a program sponsored by the United States State Department. While in Oklahoma, they were made honorary members of the Oklahoma 4-H Clubs.

Land Judging Contest is Introduced

In 1951, Edd Roberts, a former 4-H Club member employed by the Oklahoma Extension Service, introduced a "Land Judging Contest" for 4-H Club members. Thirty-eight teams participated in the first contest. A year later a national land judging contest, the first of its kind in the nation, was held at Oklahoma City in May. This national contest has been held annually since 1952.

Oklahoma Club Members Win High Honors

Throughout this period, Oklahoma club members continued to win many of the highest honors in the nation at the National 4-H Club Congress in Chicago. To mention only a few of the top honors, the following are presented:

The President's Trophy

The Oklahoma club members who won this distinguished honor during the period of this chapter are:

Majorie Ann Bell, Canadian County, 1949

Joy Alexander, Washita County, 1951

Carolyn Grumm, Caddo County, 1952

Health Contest

Winners in the National 4-H Health Contest were:

Robert Ferry, Ellis County, and Nancy Jean Davis, Pittsburg County,
1946.

Shirley Johnson, Carter County, 1947.

Carolyn Crum, Caddo County, 1950.

Mary Joyce Kerr, Cotton County, 1951.

Virginia B. Hall, Tillman County, 1952.

In 1951, Oklahoma had sixteen champions at the National 4-H Club Congress in Chicago. No other state has won so many top honors in a single year at this great National 4-H Club event.

TABLE III

ENROLLMENT IN 4-H CLUB WORK IN OKLAHOMA
1915-1953

Year	Enrollment	Year	Enrollment
1915	11,973	1934	44,533
1916	11,464	1935	48,208
1917	41,765*	1936	54,457
1918	43,452**	1937	50,535
1919	42,328	1938	60,000
1920	36,204	1939	58,265
1921	29,301	1940	57,324
1922	29,601	1941	54,333
1923	32,823	1942	54,113
1924	31,174	1943	64,744
1925	36,148	1944	53,842
1926	40,198	1945	50,910
1927	36,738	1946	53,182
1928	40,456	1947	64,666
1929	39,778	1948	61,773
1930	42,774	1949	60,717
1931	43,717	1950	77,676
1932	43,384	1951	77,510
1933	47,964	1952	76,322
		1953	74,977

*In 1917, there were 5,220 boys and 2,000 girls enrolled in Emergency War Service projects in addition to the regularly enrolled club members.

27th Annual Catalog of the Oklahoma A. and M. College, 1917-1918, Vol. XV, No. 2, Quarterly Bulletin, April-June, 1918 (Stillwater, Oklahoma, 1918), pp. 178-179.

**In 1918, there were 11,485 boys and 5,426 girls enrolled in Emergency War Service projects in addition to the regularly enrolled club members.

28th Annual Catalog of the Oklahoma A. and M. College, 1918-1919, Vol. XVI, No. 2, Quarterly Bulletin, April-June, 1919 (Stillwater, Oklahoma, 1919), pp. 193-194.

Data showing enrollment for the years 1909-1914, inclusive may be found on page 24 of this thesis.

Data showing the number of club members for the years 1915-1948, inclusive were taken from the Annual Reports of the Extension Division on file in the Oklahoma A. and M. College Library.

Data for the years 1949-1955 were taken from the annual Narrative Reports of Oklahoma 4-H Club work on file in the State 4-H Club Office at Stillwater.

CHAPTER IX

SUMMARY

A study of the history of 4-H Club work in Oklahoma reveals the following:

1. In the early years of club work, especially during the period prior to 1922, the greatest emphasis in club work was placed upon the economic aspects of farming. A great deal of attention was focused on securing large yields of crops and the profit motive was stressed. As the work developed, greater emphasis was placed upon the development of leadership and good citizenship.
2. Club work has served as a means of establishing better farm and home practices on thousands of individual farms in Oklahoma and in hundreds of communities.
3. Club work has been the means of establishing excellent herds of purebred cattle and hogs, and flocks of sheep and poultry on hundreds of farms in Oklahoma. Some of the outstanding herds and flocks in the state have been established as a direct result of livestock and poultry club work.
4. Club work has been a strong influence for better health among farm boys and girls. In the last decade, the 4-H health program has been directed not only toward safeguarding the health of its individual members, but the health of entire communities as well.

5. Club work has been the means of aiding hundreds of farm boys and girls to secure a college education.
6. The activities of 4-H Club members have developed a greater interest in community, county, and state fairs.
- ✓7. Club work has provided boys and girls with strong incentives for ownership. As owners of valuable property, club members have developed a deep respect for the property rights of others.
8. Club work has implanted the concept of good citizenship in the minds of its members and has given them actual practice in democratic procedures.
9. 4-H Club work in the United States has been responsible for the training of a large number of farm boys and girls to become useful citizens and leaders in their respective states and communities. In 1952, the Federal Cooperative Extension Service reported that there had been a grand total of 16,266,982 different boys and girls who had participated in club work.¹

* The 4-H Club movement has made a most significant contribution to better agricultural and homemaking practices in Oklahoma since it was established in 1909.

¹U. S. D. A. Extension Circular No. 487, "Extension Activities and Accomplishments, 1952", (Washington, D. C., May, 1953), p. 11.

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THESIS TITLE: HISTORY OF 4-H CLUB WORK IN OKLAHOMA

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