

EXTENSION
HIGHLIGHTS

1942

Circular No. 382

The Agricultural Extension Service— It's Purpose and Objectives

There is presented in the following pages a bird's-eye view of a few of the major activities sponsored by the Extension Service during the year just past. It is realized that little more than the high points of the year can be mentioned in this publication, but it is hoped that this brief summary will show something of the scope and type of work that has been done by farm people during 1942.

This is, in truth, a total war and the life of every single individual is directly affected. Some are on battle fronts in all parts of the world; others are fighting the battle of production on the home front, but all are making a contribution to the job at hand.

Farm people have the responsibility of producing food for the world and the farm family that produces more pork, more beef, more milk, more eggs, or more of any of the essential commodities in operating a factory that must continue to produce to the maximum capacity for the duration. Planes, tanks, and guns are essential; the production of food is equally important.

This has been a year of production—production and still more production. The primary job has been and will continue to be the production of those commodities which are essential to the successful prosecution of the war, and the whole program of the Extension Service is concentrated upon this objective.

Farm people have responded magnificently to the call and have stepped up production in the face of labor shortages, lack of equipment and other handicaps. They will continue to improvise and make adjustments to meet new difficulties as they arise, and when the final chapter is written they will not be "too late with too little."

Shawnee Brown,
Director.

INTRODUCTION

Oklahoma is proud of its farm people. Throughout 1942, the United States' first year in the global war, they had a hard job to do, and they did it well. Rural people are to be commended for the way they have met the harsh demands of war and made the complete change in the pattern of their business and personal lives. They adapted themselves quickly to new conditions and accomplished much in the face of labor and transportation difficulties.

The state's farmers have done a monumental job of increasing their production of food and fiber and harvesting a record-breaking crop in the face of many difficulties—shortages of machinery and labor and the departure of members of family groups to join the armed services.

The year's agricultural accomplishments were achieved despite many difficulties. The job ahead in 1943 is even bigger and will take more of the work, faith, and



courage which saw us through the dark days early in the year and helped us to make contributions which brightened the picture in the later months of 1942. There is more work to be done and fewer to do it.

County farm and home demonstration agents will work with the farm folk of the state and will put forth

every effort to meet the increase in the demand for food. Our program for the year 1943 is outlined and underway; the pattern calls for those products most necessary to the prosecution of the war—an increase in meats, poultry, dairy products, vegetables, and fruits.

Essential war crops will be grown more extensively than ever before, and though this means shifts to meet the war demands, it will be done because the people of Oklahoma are determined to do their part in the “all out” war.

VOLUNTEER LEADERS

Of invaluable aid to the county farm and home demonstration agents in their work of taking the A. and M. College to the farm and farm home are the volunteer leaders who contribute their services to aid their neighbors.

During 1942 there were 42,377 volunteer leaders, and each of these devoted an average of a little over two days in helping with the Extension educational program. There were leaders in all of the 77 counties, and they worked in 4,100 neighborhoods, conducting 14,133 meetings which were attended by some 200,000 adult farm people.

These leaders assisted the agents in many different lines of work, going into the homes and the fields with their neighbors to give them the assistance they asked for. They worked in all of the 1,730 farm women's clubs and in the 1,830 4-H Clubs, in addition to helping with the many drives directly connected with the war effort.

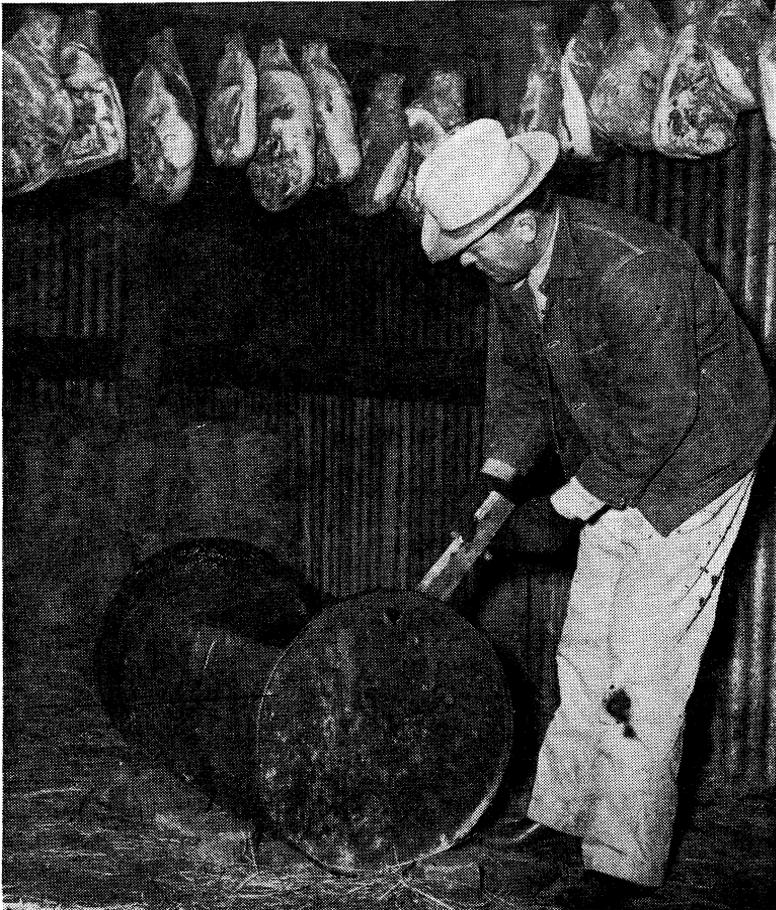
FARM FAMILY FOOD SUPPLY PROGRAM

Recognizing food as a “weapon of war,” more than 100,000 farm families in Oklahoma participated in the farm family food supply program in 1942; their goal—to produce at least 75 percent of their total food supplies on their farms.

In the production of the home food supply, better gardens were grown, more poultry was produced for meat and eggs, increased supplies of milk and dairy

products were produced, and beef, hogs, and mutton were produced for the home meat supply. In many instances there were surpluses for market.

The majority of these farm families were able to reach the family's food production goals. A good production season and the impetus of war needs, together with persistent and organized effort on the part of Ex-



tension workers and the people themselves, assured success. Extension agents made food guides available to all families and provided necessary information on food production. Making a better choice of food for the daily

diet was the highlight of the utilization phase of the food program.

The Oklahoma Food Standard, an adaptation of the national nutritional yardstick, was presented to all groups of farm people meeting during the first half of the year. Practically every farm family had the opportunity of hearing, directly or indirectly, a discussion of the importance of a protective diet for the good health of civilians and those in the armed forces. Over 100,000 copies of the food standard were distributed to farm people.

More than 10,443,582 quarts of fruits, vegetables, and meats were canned by farm women in home demonstration clubs in addition to the thousands of quarts of food canned by other women and girls. In storage there are 30,393,690 pounds of food, and 9,207,762 pounds have been conserved by drying and curing.

MINERALS

To help build back the starved, impoverished soils of eastern Oklahoma, 12,000,000 pounds of superphosphate were delivered to 40 counties in the east half of the state during 1942, or more than the total amount used during the preceding 10-year period. Calcium and phosphorus have both been desperately needed to make possible the growth of highly nutritive grasses and forages which will double and treble the annual production of beef and butterfat per acre.

The use of superphosphate in connection with the growing of alfalfa, sweet clover, hairy vetch, Austrian winter peas, and other soil building crops has greatly expanded. Permanent pastures of adapted grasses and legumes have likewise been treated. LeFlore county used 500,000 pounds of superphosphate during 1942. County agents working with farmers have established demonstrations in every county where soil deficiencies are known to exist.

The use of limestone has increased in corresponding proportion during 1942. Thousands of tons of ground limestone have been applied to soils in deficient areas. Each county, under the direction of the county agent, has organized and conducted its own lime program. In Wagoner county alone 3,252 tons of limestone were spread during 1942.

FARM-TO-MARKET PROJECT

When the call was sounded for increased production of meat, 4-H Club members responded by producing and marketing 67,577 meat producing animals.

A total of 3,785 Club members have participated in this project and have produced 19,149 beef cattle, 42,812 hogs, and 5,616 sheep. This has been a genuine contribution to increased livestock production in Oklahoma and in addition has served as a demonstration of the possibilities of feeding livestock on small farms.

The farm-to-market project, which was started in 1940, has grown so rapidly that today every county in the state participates. It is designed to encourage practical methods of feeding market classes of livestock for profit



without regard to premiums or prizes. It emphasizes the use of home grown feeds and pastures through the feeding of livestock produced on the farm. It offers young feeders an opportunity to accompany their animals to market and to observe and study marketing practices and procedure. Through the project boys and girls learn to keep accurate production and marketing records.

Not only has the project opened up a way for the

boy or girl who is not financially able to feed out pure-bred calves, to take part in a livestock project, but it also has resulted in increased meat production for Uncle Sam.



NEIGHBORHOOD LEADERS

Through the neighborhood leader system an army of 21,632 men and women throughout Oklahoma is helping rural families to keep abreast of what is new in agriculture and agriculture's part in the war effort. (Volunteer leaders have been used for many years. The neighborhood leader system has been instituted as a wartime measure to supplement the work of the volunteer leaders.) The volunteer workers were selected by their neighbors, and the 10,946 men and the 10,686 women represent all of the 4,185 neighborhoods set up by the farm people of the state. This makes it possible for every farmer in Oklahoma to be contacted within 24 to 48 hours concerning any program which will help to win the war.

These neighborhood leaders were used in many ways during the year, and assisted in conducting many



programs directly connected with the war in rural areas. They have participated in all scrap drives, bond and stamp drives, the victory garden program, food conservation programs, farm labor program, in USO and Red Cross drives, cotton insect control, share-the-meat program, inflation control, gasoline rationing, tire rationing, rural fire prevention, rural transportation efforts, and livestock disease prevention and control.

In addition, county agents furnished leaders timely information on dairy, livestock, farm home food supply, nutrition, farm machinery, and other programs of importance in the war effort. The objectives of this neighborhood leader plan are,

first, to make maximum use of local voluntary leaders in every rural neighborhood on agriculture's part in the "all-out" wartime program; second, to make it possible for additional leaders to be located and trained in an organized way; and third, to make it possible to contact every farm family, in every neighborhood of the state, in all activities pertaining to agriculture's part in the war effort.



SPECIAL WARTIME ACTIVITIES

Oklahoma's farm people have done a magnificent job of meeting the wartime emergency — a job that has strained their available resources of equipment and labor. With the aid of Extension agents they have not only increased their production of food and fiber; they have given freely of their time and efforts in scrap campaigns, in the drive to sell bonds and stamps, and other special war activities.

Rural Oklahoma has actually carried out three separate scrap drives. First, farm people participated in the campaign for metal, rubber, and paper; then during the summer they assisted in the national scrap harvest; and following this, they assisted with the national newspaper scrap drive. With the first scrap drive they helped conduct a machinery repair program, ordering necessary new parts to keep their equipment in working condition and junking that which was beyond repair.

In each of the counties there was set up a labor committee designed to assist other governmental agencies in (at least partially) solving the acute farm labor problem throughout the state.

One of the most difficult problems facing the farmers during 1942 has been that of transportation of farm products to markets and trading centers. As a result of the cooperative efforts of individual farmers in neighborhoods and communities, trucking has been pooled in order to expedite the transportation of farm products to market.

PRODUCTION ON THE FARM FRONT

Food and essential crop production reached a new high in Oklahoma during 1942 as farmers turned their full attention to the problem of providing food in sufficient quantities for use at home, for our fighting men abroad, and for our allies.

Especially outstanding was the increase in the number of home gardens, which totaled 165,000, exceeding those in 1941 by 38,000. This work was conducted under an organized state-wide victory garden program and as a part of the Extension Farm Family Food Supply program. The number of city and town families gardening in 1942 was more than double the number gardening in 1941.

Egg production was increased by 21 percent, and the number of laying hens was 15 and a half percent more than the year before. In Oklahoma, 164,838 farms produced poultry; approximately 14,000 farms were without poultry. This shows there were farm flocks on nine out of ten farms. Egg production was stepped up to an average of 108 eggs per hen during the year.

Meat animals were produced in greater numbers than ever before in Oklahoma. In 1941 there were 2,682,600 head; in 1942 there were 3,447,000. Hogs increased 43 percent, while cattle and sheep each increased 18 percent.

One of the state's essential war crops for the year was peanuts. The national goal called for more than trebling the acreage, and in Oklahoma the acres of peanuts jumped from 88,000 in 1941 to 340,000 in 1942, which created an acute marketing and storage problem. The Extension Service and other agricultural agencies worked with farmers in setting up 70 warehouses in 61 counties to take care of the crop.

A total of 46 counties participated in the cotton improvement program in 1942. The one-variety cotton improvement project included 175 communities with a total membership of 26,409 producers, who planted 619,579 acres of cotton with pure seed of standard varieties and produced an estimated 335,929 bales.

Twenty-two cars of seed were purchased from other states for use in one-variety cotton communities, and in addition, the available supply of Oklahoma certified seed was placed in one-variety communities. When these failed

to meet the demand, numerous cars of selected and certified seed were secured from Texas, Arkansas, and Mississippi.

To support the increased demands of meat and poultry production, better and more abundant pastures were established. Three million pounds of Korean lespedeza seed, half a million pounds of rye grass, and a quarter million pounds of sudan grass seed were planted. Other factors in the pasture improvement program have been controlled grazing, mowing of native pastures, and fire control.

One significant accomplishment of the year has been increased native grass seeding. The demonstrations started in 1940; in a number of the western counties, have begun to pay dividends, and have attracted attention. The 1940 seedings pastured in 1942 indicated a much heavier carrying capacity than native pastures.

Farmers in eastern Oklahoma made extensive plantings of Korean lespedeza and rye grass. In some of the counties 95 percent of the farmers grow lespedeza. In counties where hay for dairy cows is always scarce as many as 400 farmers harvested lespedeza hay. There were 2,000,000 pounds of lespedeza seed harvested from 1942 crops.



4-H CLUBS

Since Pearl Harbor, Oklahoma's 54,113 Four-H Club members have contributed to the Nation's war effort by producing more food and fiber, and participating in all drives essential to winning the war.

Club boys and girls have fattened out 19,149 head of beef animals, 42,812 pigs, and 5,616 lambs. They own and care for 3,533 dairy animals, 532,205 chickens, and 1,596 colonies of bees. They grew 35,343 victory gardens and cultivated 538,900 acres of feed crops. Eighty-six percent of the club members completed their projects.

They have purchased enough war bonds and stamps to supply Uncle Sam's training schools with 318 airplanes, have collected and sold 215 freight car loads of scrap metal, 10 freight car loads of old paper, and contributed 38 freight car loads of scrap rubber in recent campaigns.

Club members are helping to relieve the farm and

home labor shortage by performing an extra amount of labor on the farms; 12,188 are caring for and repairing farm machinery; 7,122 are participating in 4-H fire prevention activities; 614 are acting as air raid wardens and spotters; 3,794 are taking first aid and home nursing.

WARTIME CONSERVATION AND PRODUCTION

Important in our national war effort is the conservation and utilization of equipment already on hand and the conservation of materials produced on the farm.

Food is a "weapon of war," and folks on the home front as well as our front-line fighting forces must have plenty of it. Home demonstration club members canned 10,443,582 quarts of fruit, vegetables, and meat during 1942 in addition to the amounts canned by other farm women. The 30,000 farm club members have stored 30,500,000 pounds of food and have cured and dried approximately 10,000,000 pounds.

In 74 of the 77 counties, farm women remade and remodeled 26,000 coats, suits, and dresses, and have made 200,000 new garments.

At clinics conducted by the Extension Service, 7,000 sewing machines and pressure cookers have been checked and repaired.

Oklahoma stockmen were in an excellent position to respond to the increased demand for meat during 1942 because of three years of preparation for the emergency. During this three-year period they built over 10,000 trench silos and since 1937 have constructed 23,095 ponds.

Farmers have not overlooked the importance of terracing. More than a quarter of a million acres on 6,952 farms have been terraced under the leadership of the county agents and their trained leaders during the year.

County agents and neighborhood leaders assisted in conducting a farm-to-farm survey on machinery parts and a repair program during 1942 in order to keep every piece of farm machinery rolling to meet war needs.

PUBLICATIONS

Because the farm people were asking for information on the various war emergency programs in addition to

the usual subject matter material, the Extension Service experienced one of its heaviest years in the field of publications. During the year there were published 16 Extension circulars; 35 Extension pamphlets, and 12 issues of the Oklahoma Extension News, bringing the total number of pieces to 2,600,500. This figure represents 236,000 circulars, 1,642,500 pamphlets, and 744,000 copies of the Extension News.



1942 OKLAHOMA EXTENSION STATISTICS

There are farm and home demonstration agents in each of Oklahoma's 77 counties.

The Rural Population of Oklahoma was 1,456,771 in 1940, 1,574,359 in 1930, 117,588 loss.

There were 179,687 farms in Oklahoma in the 1940 census.

There are 1,877 **men** volunteer leaders in **4-H Club Work** in the State.

There are 2,665 **women** volunteer leaders in 4-H Club Work in the State.

There are 755 **older club boys** as volunteer leaders in **4-H Club Work** in the State.

There are 921 **older club girls** as volunteer leaders in **4-H Club Work** in the State.

The number of **farm** and **rural home visits** by Extension agents in 1942 was 71,296.

The number of **different** farms and homes visited by Extension agents was 45,798.

The number of **bulletins** distributed by Extension agents was 1,001,559.

The number of **method demonstrations** held by Extension agents was 27,655. **Total attendance** was 663,371.

Number of **farms making changes** in practices under Extension guidance was 138,358.

Number of **homes making changes** in practices under Extension guidance was 88,118.

Number of **different farm families** influenced by some phase of Extension work was 162,397.

Number of farmers assisted in developing supplemental sources of income was 12,189.

Number of families assisted in making adjustments in home making to gain a more satisfactory standard of living was 21,059.

SOME EXTENSION WORK IN COOPERATION WITH FEDERAL AGENCIES

By County Extension Agents	A. A. A.	S. C.	F. S. A.	R. E. A.	War Board	Employment Service	Social Security	Civilian Defense
Number of Communities in which work was conducted	2,826	1,188	1,277	358	2,605	2,200	775	2,467
Number of Volunteer local leaders or committeemen	1,937	1,123	452	172	5,243	2,674	998	9,116
Number of meetings held	2,229	732	354	98	1,598	675	168	1,886



**COOPERATIVE EXTENSION WORK IN
AGRICULTURE AND HOME ECONOMICS**

State of Oklahoma

SHAWNEE BROWN, Director
OKLAHOMA AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL
COLLEGE AND UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE, COOPERATING.

