BOYS AND GIRLS DO FINE WORK IN AGRICULTURAL CLUBS

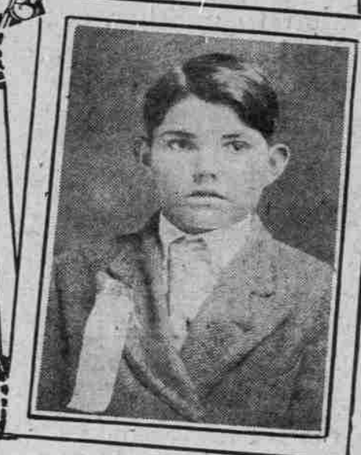
Contests in Gardening, Corn-Raising, Potato-Growing, Canning, Baking, Sewing, Etc., at State Fair Show Value of Movement.

Earl Conley of Independence, Winner in Dairy Herd Record Keeping

Florence Wharton of Roseburg

Gertrude Courtney And Her Potato Patch

Claus C Charley of Brownsboro, Or.



Warren M'Gowan

Carmen Jones of Vincent Or.

L. M. Bowles Dallas

Hazel Bursell of Monmouth, Or.

ONE of the most interesting buildings this year at the Oregon State Fair at Salem was the Educational building, in which were shown the results of the Boys' and Girls' Club work in gardening, corn raising, potato growing, cannig, baking, sewing, etc.—14 different projects in all.

Two hundred and fifty-seven boys and girls were prize winners at the fair, 21 winning grand prizes. The grand prize for each club project consists of a two weeks' course in the boys' and girls' Summer school at the Oregon Agricultural College. The money for these prizes was donated by public-spirited men of Portland. The children exhibiting at the State Fair were, in most instances, the prize winners in their home County Fairs.

The work of organizing and directing the work is carried on jointly by the Oregon Agricultural College, the State Department of Education and the United States Department of Agriculture. Each child is required to keep a complete record of his work including a statement of the cost and profit.

Awards Based on Various Things.

For example the basis of awards in the potato club work as outlined by the college is as follows:

(a) Greatest yield per acre	30
(b) Best showing of profit on investment	30
(c) Best exhibit of one peck market potatoes	20
(d) Best project report and story-telling "How I Made My Crop of Potatoes"	20
Possible score	100

The best agricultural practice is encouraged among the club members. Large yields must also be profitable, or they will not count; standardization and a knowledge of the market requirements is encouraged through the exhibits, while the fundamentals of farm management and farm bookkeeping are taught by means of the project reports and records.

Warren McGowen, of Independence, Or., is a Polk County boy who won a grand prize offered by William Daughtrey, of the Portland Union Stockyards Company, for the best records made in the pork production contest. Master McGowen became so interested in the pig club work that he stayed at home to take care of his pigs while the rest of the family went to the Coast.

His cost and profit sheet follows:

Cost of brood sow or pig	$32.07
Rent of building, yards used by pigs	.90
Cost of feed—	
540 lbs. shorts at 2c per pound	$10.80
2 sacks ground wheat at $1.40 per sack	2.80
3 barrels butter milk at 30c per barrel	.90
Value of pasture used ½ acre at $5	5.00
Value of labor required 20 hours at 10c	2.00
Total cost of raising pig or pigs	$54.17
Total gain, live weight, per pig, 105 pounds, 525 pounds. Cost per pound gain, live weight, $4.10 per hundred.	
Receipts—	
Value of brood sow	$40.00
Value of pig or pigs on hand	37.75
Total income from pig or pigs	77.75
Total cost of raising pig or pigs	54.17
Net profit	23.58

Boy Tells How He Succeeded.

Claus C. Charley, of Brownsboro, is a Jackson County boy who is a seed corn specialist. He won the grand prize offered by the State Bankers' Association, A. C. Shute, president, for the best agricultural club work. This boy won the state championship in 1914 in the corn club work and the good seed corn he produced has been scatered all over Southern Oregon. Claus tells his story as follows:

"I was a club member last year and won both a trip to the State Fair and to the exposition at San Francisco, but that is not the only thing that induced me to enroll this year. It was the education I got out of the work.

"The object of the boys' corn club work is not merely to see who can raise the most corn, but to get them interested in farming, which is the greatest occupation on earth.

"Columbus' discovery of America brought into the hands of the civilized world one of the world's greatest cereals. It is unknown how long the Indians used this great cereal before this time, but any way it was of an undesirable type up to about the 17th century, when they commenced to get the idea of breeding it up. There are few up to this day who thoroughly understand the breeding of corn.

Seed First Tested.

"Before planting I tested my seed corn in a contrivance which I made myself. It was a box one foot square and four inches high. First I put in two inches of sawdust, second one inch of soil, third a cloth. I then took 10 ears of corn, shelled 10 grains off of each ear and put them on the cloth. Then I covered it with a cloth, put in one-half inch of soil, one inch of sawdust and put it in a warm place, where I kept it moist.

"Corn should not be planted until the soil is warm and thoroughly pulverized. Early plowing is advisable. Don't have a fixed number of times for harrowing the ground, but harrow it until it is in good shape. If you plow 10 inches deep work it down that far. If you don't there will be an air space and the corn will dry out.

"It is a good plan to harrow the ground four or five days after the corn is planted, so as to give the young plants a fair start with the weeds. Then harrow it again lightly when the corn is from two to three inches high. After this don't cultivate it every two weeks and so on, but whenever it needs it. It needs it a few days after a rain and every two weeks is very well during a long dry spell. The first cultivations should be deep and the later ones shallow. A pulverizer is good after the corn is about three or four feet high.

Hardy, Early-Maturing Crop Needed.

"As to the management of diseases, I have had very little experience. All I know is to get a good, hardy, early-maturing variety of corn.

"When and how to harvest depends altogether on conditions. During the Winter the corn should be kept in a crib where it is dry and the air can circulate freely.

"Seed corn should always be selected in the field. Get a mental picture of the kind of corn you want and then select from that type. It is important to detassel all of the deficient stalks before the pollen is distributed.

"My yield was 25 bushels an acre. I intend to sell about 247 bushels, keep three for seed and feed the balance. My total expense was $192.70. I intended to make a profit of about $790. I don't value the prizes I won in the club work any higher than the experience.

"If I had my work to do over again I would not have so large an acreage, so that I could take better care of it."

Girl Wins Poultry Prize.

Hazel Bursell, of Monmouth, Or., was one of the poultry club winners last year who came back and won the first prize in the state contest again this year. In addition to making more than $35 net profit from her small flock, she won a grand prize offered by the Hicks-Chaffen Engraving Company, Portland, Or., for the best record made in egg production by poultry club members. Miss Bursell tells the secret of her success as follows:

"The object of this work is to show the value and importance of the poultry industry, and the marketing of only first-class, uniform products and to teach us how to take better care of our flocks, which means more and better eggs, better hatches, more and better chicks and incidentally better boys and girls.

"In 1913 I won one and bought another setting of White Wyandotte eggs from Archie McCauley, of Portland, who had the best chickens in the juvenile work at the 1912 State Fair, winning thereby a Shetland pony. This boy is making all his own college money right in the City of Portland, at the same time attending high school. I raised all the chicks hatched from these two settings excepting one, and it fell in a post hole and died before I found it. The next year I raised another nice bunch of chicks and this year am raising more chicks for next year. There are always a few Brown Leghorns at the house, as they are about the hardest fowl to keep where one wants them, and I use them in my club work also. My folks have raised pure-bred Brown Leghorns for 16 years, and we have some splendid layers. We get a dozen or so eggs when many people do not get a single one. Ours do not have very good care either.

Feed Is Detailed.

"During January and February I fed my chickens wheat at night and oats one morning and oat screenings the next. My chickens like the screenings better than the large oats. I fed my chickens between 6:30 and 7 in the morning, but in the evening it was necessary to feed them at different times during the six months because of the different times at which it began to get dark. During March, April and May I fed oats in the morning and wheat at night, with a potato-peeling mash at noon in March and April, but in May I did not think they needed it. In June oats predominated in my rations. In the latter part of June I fed a mash of milk, bran and shorts. I fed dry bran and shorts, also grit and shell in a hopper. I kept my grain in a barrel so that chickens could not tear the sacks and spill the grain, and also some few chickens would get too much to eat. I measured all grains, etc., in a quart measure, for I knew just how much a quart of each variety of grain, bran or shorts weighed, and kept it in the grain barrel. I cleaned the houses on Saturday, also put in clean litter, cleaned nests, etc.

"My method of managing disease is by applying the old proverb, 'An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure,' and by applying a 'stitch in time saves nine,' and a few simple remedies. I do not have any trouble with diseases. About once in so often I scald the milk and water dishes thoroughly and then put a tiny grain of copperas in the water. By seeing that the fowls do not get diseases I do not have to waste time treating. Once in a great while a hen gets some simple disease. One hen started to have the cholera, but the first day I forced her to eat coals and in a day or two she was as sound as ever. When my chickens begin to have looseness of the bowels I empty the ash box in their yard, where they can get all the coals they want and thus they cure themselves.

"I know that interest in your work helps you to do it well and this club work is the sort of a school for the practical side of life.

"When one works alone the task is not nearly so interesting as if they have a club and meet to discuss matters every so often. Besides this, the instruction and the experience we receive now will help us greatly in our work in the years to come.

"I sent eggs to town about once a week, sometimes more often, sometimes not so often. One cannot do everything just so or O. K. on the farm, for there always seems to be something else to be done when you want to do one thing. For a month I sold eggs to the Monmouth Dormitory, but after a while they would not pay as much in cash as the stores do in trade and it was more trouble for us to take them there, so after that I sold most of them at the Dallas grocery stores, using some at home and using and selling some for sitting purposes. I have not had White Wyandottes long, so do not sell many sittings of eggs, but each year I sell more."

Dallas Boy Wins Prize for Oats.

L. M. Bowles, of Dallas, specialized in seed oats and won the grand prize offered by J. N. Teal, chairman Oregon Conservation Commission, for the best record made in the seed grain production project. Mr. Bowles tells how he raised his crop as follows:

"The land on which my oats were raised had been set to strawberries and plowed about March 1. The soil is a clay loam. It has been used as a garden for years. It has been heavily manured several times. The ground was plowed about March 1 to a depth of seven inches. Three weeks after plowing it was cultivated twice with a rolling harrow. After this the ground was not cultivated until about April 1, when it was harrowed with a heavy harrow, commonly called a 'go-devil.' After this about April 7 it was cultivated twice with a spring-tooth harrow. Then came a thorough harrowing with the 'go-devil.'

"The name of the oats which I planted is Corn Belt No. 5. Last Spring (1914) I sent to the Garton-Cooper Seed Company, of Sugar Grove, Ill., for one-half pound of seed. This seed I planted and saved the seed from it for 1915. The Corn Belt oat is supposed to be a cross between the Swedish Select and the Senator. The kernel is of medium length, plump and with a moderate hull. Before planting I soaked the seed in a solution of 40 parts water to one part formalin. I planted the seed April 24. I don't know the weight of the seed planted. In sowing I made a row about six inches wide and two inches deep with a wheel hoe. I then scattered the seed in the row by hand. I tried to sow at the rate of three bushels to the acre. After scattering the seed in the row I covered it with a hand rake. After this the ground received no cultivation.

Grain Cut by Hand.

"On August 10 I cut the grain with a hand sickle. I then tied it up with binding twine in bundles the size of binder bundles. I then set the bundles up to dry. The grain was all hard when I cut it. It was ripe several days before I had time to cut it. On August 17 I had the grain hauled to the threshing machine for threshing.

"I had four rows 106 feet long and six inches wide and one row 52 feet long and six inches wide. The length of the rows is 542 feet. Reduced to inches, this makes 6504 inches by six inches. This makes 39,024 square inches. Dividing this by 144-271 square feet, the 271 square feet yielded by weight 44 pounds of clean oats. This would make 7084 pounds of oats to the acre, or 221 bushels to the acre. This yield seems too large to be true.

"I am computing the cost and profit on an acre of ground, at wages that are paid in this vicinity. I have not sold my oats, as I want to keep them for seed. Our local warehouse is paying 32 cents a bushel for oats at present (September 18)."

Boy Starts Right as Dairyman.

Earl R. Cooley, of Independence, is a Polk County boy who is getting started right in the dairy business. His milk, feed and butter-fat records on the cows in his father's herd won him the grand prize offered by C. C. Colt, president of the Union Meat Company, Portland.

"I first got interested in 'dairy herd record keeping' when Professor W. A. Barr, of the Oregon Agricultural College, came to Bethel School and explained to us about the record keeping," he writes. He also explained Babcock testing. "I entered for the record-keeping project.

"We have two different breeds of dairy cows, registered Ayrshires and grade Jerseys. We have found a great deal of difference between the two breeds. The Ayrshires are hardy eaters and will eat what you give them, while the Jersey will mince away and look for something a little better. The Ayrshire is more of a rustler. They will browse from trees and bushes and are always hunting for something to eat, while the Jerseys will be up to the gate waiting to get into the barn to see if you haven't got something better for them.

Jersey Cows Nervous.

"When the cattle are in the barn you cannot help noticing how nervous the Jersey is beside the Ayrshire. Of course we all know that the Jerseys

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THRONG ASSEMBLED IN FRONT OF STATE BUILDING JOIN IN OB