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VOLUME XXIII

ALLIANCE, BOX BUTTE COUNTY, NEBRASKA, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1916

NUMBER 9

Farm Demonstration Report For Year of 1915

Report of Crop and Soil Demonstrations

INTRODUCTION

(By The Herald Editor)

The Box Butte County Farm Management Association was organized in February, 1915, by farmers of the county who realized the need 0 of a farm demonstrator. From among several applicants, F. M. M Seidell of Chadron, a graduate o fthe Chadron high school and of the Iowa Agricultural College of Ames, Iowa, was selected. Mr. Seidell had lived in western Nebraska since 1907 and it was believed that he would be better posted than anyone coming from a section where the elimate and soil were different.

County agent work was started in Box Butte county as in most every other place. Many people had one idea of its nature and object, while others had other ideas. Some were for it and others against it. As long as human nature remains the same, farm demonstration work will meet more or less opposition.

The work of the county agent is always difficult, for he has on him the eyes of the federal department, the state college of agriculture, the county organization, the private individuals and opposition constantly watching for success or failure. Many farmers do not realize that the farm demonstrator is not sent to them but that he comes by invitation and that his work is to assist.

During the past year Mr. Seidell has made it his aim to do such work as was in line with the needs of the county and would tend toward general agricultural improvement. Something that would not be of benefit to the individual alone, but to the general farming interests of the county. He believes that a small good to many is better than much good to a single individual. His aim has been to base his work on the weather and economic conditions in Box Butte county and to make the best of those conditions.

The office of the county agent in the court house is always open to visitors, who are welcomed by Mr. Seidell in a way that makes them feel at home. He is always ready to give a word of advice or help, and on his frequent trips throughout the county he is welcomed by those who realize that his work is for the betterment of the farmer. The officers of the Box Butte County Farm Management Association are to be commended for their spirit of hearty co-operation and helpfulness shown during the past year.

The following report shows not only what has been accomplished during the year 1915 but it gives an idea of the great agricultural future in store for Box Butte county. With only a small portion of the available farm land in the county under cultivation, there is room here for thousands of additional farmers and there is room for improvement among the farmers who will profit by the experience of the county agent. We believe that Box Butte county is to become one of the great agricultural producing districts of the state. Our hogs topped the South Omaha market last week and our eattle frequently bring the highest prices.

County Agent's Report for Year 1915:

Work Done in Relation to the People

Directly by Agent or on his Suggestion

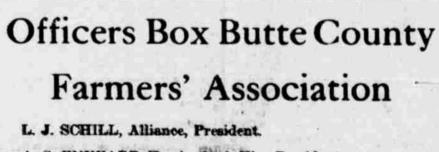
Miscellaneous: Potato scab control	Jat	smut control	April 1	16
Potato dry rot control				
Potato dry rot control		Potato scab control	April 1	6
Farm Management Survey June 1 54 Boys' and girls' club work Mar. 15 39 members Forage Crop, alfalfa inoculation. (Signed) F. M. SEIDELL, U. S. Dept. of Agriculture L. J. SCHILL,				5
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(Signed) F. M. SEIDELL, U. S. Dept. of Agriculture L. J. SCHILL,				members
U. S. Dept. of Agriculture L. J. SCHILL,		Forage Crop, alfalfa inoculatio	n.	
L. J. SCHILL,		(Signed)	F. M. SEIDELL,	
			U. S. Dept. of A	griculture.
Pres. Box Butte Farmers' Assn			L. J. SCHILL,	
			Pres. Box Butte Farm	ers' Asen.

Date mailed to state leader: December 31, 1915.

Lines of Work in Which Box Butte Farmers' Association Have Been Active this work.

	1918
	Potato disease campaign.
	Oat Smut campaign.
w.l	Bettering organization and fostering co-operative spirit.
	Cooperated in selection of agricultural displays.
	Cooperated in good-roads movement.
	Conducted a silo campaign.
	Cooperated in securing Burlington live stock special.
	Advocated field selection of seed corn.
	Conducted a farmers' exchange
	Cooperated with farmers' clubs.
	Maintained an information bureau on markets and assisted in market
ng	and bettering market conditions.
	Conducted Junior agricultural observation tour.
	Boys' and Girls' Club work.
	County-wide farmers' institute.
	Farm management survey work.

Progress Report of Potato Disease Demonstrations and Marketing of Pots toes in Box Butte County



A. S. ENYEART, Hemingford, Vice President.

A. H. GROVE, Alliance, Secretary.

and adopted by the county association. By this the county association Number agreed to permit the county agent to give sufficient of his time to carry this demonstra- work on to the best advantage during the potato growing season. An extions. 1915 pression of thanks is due the officers of the organization for the good will 16 they had in allowing so much time to be given over to this particular work.

The first potato disease project was work in the potate dry rot and wilt control. The purpose of this demonstration fro mthe county agent's view point was to answer the question that is many times asked; whether seed se affected with dry rot can be planted, and what effect would to have upon the production, etc. Another object was to show that with this disease that it bers would be impossible to control it by hand selection alone without proper seed treatment. Another thing shown by this demonstration was that the seed affected with dry rot gave a very unsatisfactory stand. Five co-operators were secured in this work.

The second potato disease project was to show that the disease scab could be controlled by proper seed treatment, and to determine the relative efficiency of the different treatments. Five co-operators were secured in

The dry rot project stated that observations should be made at regular intervals of two weeks; first, as to the number of tubers failing to produce plants, and the number showing wilt due to dry rot organisms. In all cases one hundred potatoes were planted in each row, and out of a possible five hundred potatoes in row A, 68 failed to produce plants; now B, 82 failed to produce plants; row C, 1 failed to produce plants; and rew D, 8 failed to produce plants. This showed conclusively that in order to secure a good stand, it was necessary to discard all potatoes affected with dry rot. Observations during the summer showed that in row A, 40 seems showed wilt; row B, 26; row C, 31; and row D, 40. Thus without seed treatment all showed the results of the dry rot organism through withing of the stems.

The potatoes from the different potato plots were day by hand, and weighed by the county agent with the assistance of the cooperators who can verify all figures secured in these demonstrations. A detailed report giving the summary tabulation is enclosed in this report.

Under the dry rot project (difference in yield, that is an average between the seed affected with dry rot, and clean seed) the clean meed gave an average yield of 188.97 bushels per acre, while the seed affected with dry rot gave a yield of 112.09 bushels per acre, or a difference of 76.88 bushels in favor of the clean seed. The difference in yield at 35e per bushel gives an increase of \$26.90 per acre.

In the matter of treatment for seab in which the seed from rows A. B and C were identical with the exception that B and C were treated, it shows that the average yield from rows B and C was 162.70 bushels per acre, while the yield of row A, which was untreated and the mame sort of seed, gave a yield of 132.73 bushels per acre. This gives us a difference in favor of the treated potatoes of 29.97 bushels per acre. This increased yield at 35c per bushel gives us a net difference of \$10.48 per aere.

Twelve of the leading farmers of Box Butte county who treated either the greater part or all of their potatoes have made the personal report to the county agent that they felt in placing their estimates very low that they had received an increase of at least ten bushels more of good marketable potatoes besides increasing the quality of all the others through these methods of proper seed selection and seed treatmnt. The average acreage growa by each of these men was about 30 acres. This at the price of 35c per bush-

Different farmers visited on their farms 18
Total number of farm visits made 47
Calls on agent at office relating to county agent work 75
Meetings held under auspices of farm bureau or agent
Total of all meetings addressed by agent 65
Total attendance at such meetings
Membership in farm bureau or county organization (Dec. 31, 1915) 28
Boys' and girls' clubs organized (1915)
Total membership in such clubs organized in 1915 3
Agricultural articles written by agent published in local papers 4
Local circulars and circular letters mailed under the frank
Copies of United States bulletins distributed
Copies of State bulletins distributed 28
Letters mailed under frank288
Letters mailed on which postage was paid 32
Days devoted by agent to short course or extension school work
Total from county attending short course or farmers' week at college
School visits made by agent
Schools assisted in developing agricultural instruction
Agricultural observation parties conducted (automobile, etc.)
Total number of persons in such parties
Meetings or demonstrations held at which assistance was rendered by
specialists from the college or U. S. Department 4
Per cent of agent's time spent in office 4
What portion of time spent in office was devoted to
(a) Answering correspondence? 2
(b) Conference with farmers? 2
(c) Miscellaneous office work? 5
Per cent of agent's time spent in field work 54
What portion of agent's time in field was spent in-
(a) Arranging and supervising demonstrations? 71
(b) Caring for miscellaneous farm visits? 16
(c) Attending meetings, short courses, etc.?

Work Done in Relation to Crops

On suggestion of Agent or under his directions during 1915	
Farms selecting seed corn in fall	
Farms treating seed oats for smut	
Farms on which the agent knows that potatoes were grown following his suggestions	•
Resultant increased potato yield per acre on 6 farms where yield was determined	
Farms on which the agent knows that alfalfa was sown following his suggestions	
Farms on which the agent knows that the sed or soil for alfalfa was	

Work Done in Relation to Live Stock

On suggestion of Agent during 1915

Registered bulls which the agent knows were secured on his suggestion Cows tested for milk production through associations Cows tested for milk production by individuals on suggestion of agent Farms on which balanced rations figured by county agent are known to have been adopted Animals treated for blackleg by agent or on his suggestion

Work Done in Relation to Farm Business

On Advice of Agent or under his direction during 1915 Farm analysis records taken by county agent 44 Farmers induced by the agent to keep farm accounts, partial or complete Farmers' exchanges organized in 1915 Farms supplied with laborers through exchanges or otherwise Total value of all business done in 1915 by all associations organized

W. F. PATTERSON, Alliance, Treasurer.

Directors

F. A. TRABERT, Alliance, Boyd Precinet.

WM. DAVIDSON, Alliance, Lake precinct.

F. H. NASON, Alliance, Box Butt eprecinet.

JOHN JELINEK, Hemingford, Running Water precinet.

ANTON UHRIG, Hemingford, Dorsey precinct.

E. F. ABLEY, Hemingford, Nonpareil precinet.

F. McCOY, Alliance, Wright precinct.

F. CRAWFORD, Alliance, Snake precinct.

NEILS PETERSON, Canton, Liberty precinct,

No director in Lawn precinct.

County Agent work was started in Box Butte county March 1, 1915 Box Butte county lies in the western part of Nebraska and is comprised local dealers and buyers were able to pay have come to this office. chiefly of level table land. The rainfall is limited, amounting to about seventeen inches of rainfall per year. Through years of experience, the farmly this has developed into an extensive potato section.

10 The county as a result was fast losing its reputation as a producer of good dealers. potatoes, due to the poor quality, lack of grading, scab, and losses of dry 16 rot in storage.

97 to start and carry on demonstrations. As a consequence a great deal of the proximately 600,000 bushels of potatoes, or a gain of \$30,000 to Box Butte county agents' time has been devoted to this line of work with the ultimate | potato growers.

11 aim of chiefly securing figures that would be a force in making the growers of this county realize the importance of proper seed selection, proper seed

inoculated 10 treatment and standardization, thereby hoping to make all these a common practice.

Active work in the stamping out of potato diseases in Box Butte county disease meetings to be held throughout the county during the week of April 12-17 inclusive. Seven meetings were held with an attendance of eightyfive farmers. This was the first time that any meetings of this special nawho said that they would give it a trial, while many others were skeptical. this question come up at that time. Some claimed that they had tried the treating for diseases or at least their neighbors had, and not received satisfactory results. However, many men were given their first impression of what potato diseases really were, and the causes and proper methods of eradication.

agent to the farmer members of the association where proper seed 30 1 all members who were not reached by meetings and personal visits re-Value of business done through such exchanges organized in 1915 ... \$905 ceived directions for the treatment of the different diseases both through the 5 local press, and by means of letters sent out by the county agent.

In line with the policy that is followed in county agent work in Nebr-

el to these twelve men would increase their returns by \$105 apiece.

Practically all of their neighbors have seen the difference in yields with their own eyes, and many have told these men that they will practice the same methods next year.

Marketing-Publicity was given Box Butte county potatoes through the different state papers, produce journals, etc., telling of the efforts that were being made in Box Butte county to eradicate potato diseases, and to increase and better the quality of her potatoes. Approximately three hnudred letters have been sent from the county agent's office to different potato dealers, buyers, county agents, and purchasers, throughout the central United States. As a result of this work the officers of the association agree that never before were there as many potato buyers brought into the county as this year. This has made competition strong, and prices very good. In fact, prices are better in this county than they have been is other counties in western Nebraska unorganized, and making an effort to better the quality of their production.

To show further that the proper seed treatment and selection of potatoes not only increase the yield which also increases the profits, but that in addition our local buyers have offered these men who have cooperated in seed selection, and seed treatment, prices ranging from two to ten cents per bushel higher, depending upon the quality, more than they were able to pay others, and to take the risk of handling potatoes of uncertain and unknown quality. The buyers were furnished with a list of car lot potato growers. Thus all were able to get in touch with the different growers, and consequently it has given a certain stimulus to the market within this county. No potato growers' association exists here at the present time, but simply due to the work of the local organization requests for approximately 70 cars of potatoes at prices ranging from two to ten cents per bushel higher than

Farmers themselves stated that it made them feel rather confident that they would be able to secure a little better price than the average if they ers have come to recognize the potato as their big cash crop and consequent- had good quality potatoes, and as a result of local buyers paying to these better prices for this quality of product the organization was unable to sup-As in any district where a special line of farming is carried on such as ply all demands for the potatoes wanted. Only three cars of potatoes were the potato industry, disease gradually creeps in, and with no efforts being sold and shipped through the organization, but these three care netted the made to suppress the diseases, the losses have grown greater every year. owners a total of \$142 more than could have been received from local

The directors of the association in their last meeting held November 30, agreed that the association had done good work through their organized The local organization and the Extension department, Nebraska College effort to eradicate potato diseases, to better the quality of potatoes, and of Agriculture, realized that this was a very important line of work in which through publicity secured an increased price of five cents per bushel on ap-

FARM MANAGEMENT SURVEY WORK IN BOX BUTTE COUNTY

Progress Report to December 31, 1915

Farm Management Survey work was first introduced into Box Butte started on April 5, by a circular letter and posters announcing the potato county at a meeting on May 8, 1915. H. F. Williams, in charge of Farm Management Extension work in Nebraska, presented the work. There were a small number of the directors present at this time, and it was decided to not vote on the adoption of the Farm Management Survey work as ture were ever held in the county. Many farmers were found at this time one of the projects for 1915, but that a later meeting should be held and

On May 31, R. R. Snafford, assistant in charge of Farm Management Extension work, presented the subject of Farm Management Survey Work to a meeting of the directors who adopted this line of work as one of the projects for this year. During part of the following week Mr. Spafford and Following these meetings personal visits were made by the county the county agent spent some time in going over the principals of taking farm records and taking of several records in the field. At a later date Mr. Wilselection, and seed treatment, was discussed. In addition to this turned, and he and the county agent spent some time in going over the ideas of Farm Management demonstrations, and some field records were taken at this time.

On June 30, twenty-six farm records had been taken in Box Butte county; thirteen of which were taken by county agent, and thirteen by Mr.