Pages 2 Sections

READ BY EVERY MEMBER NEBRASKA STOCK GROWERS ASSOCIATION. ALL THE NEWS OF ALLIANCE AND WESTERN NEBRASKA OFFICIAL ORGAN NEBRASKA VOLUNTEER FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION. IT REACHES HEADQUARTERS FOR 15,000 FIREMEN

VOLUME XXIV

ALLIANCE, BOX BUTTE COUNTY, NEBRASKA, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 28, 1916

NUMBER 4

# Box Butte County Agent's Annual Report, 1916

#### INTRODUCTION

(By the Editor)

It is a great pleasure to again publish the annual report of Farm Management Survey Work in Box Butte county, as conducted and reported by County Agent F. M. Seidell. The Alliance Herald favored the organization of the Box Butte County Farm Management Association before it came into existence. Since then we have consistently supported its work and given publicity to the same. For these reasons, as well as on account of our interest in the development of this great country, we are glad to publish herewith the report of the county agent, read at annual meeting of the association, held at Alliance, December 16, 1916.

The Box Butte County Farm Management Association was organized in February, 1915, by farmers who wanted the county to have a farm demonstrator, or county agent as now commonly called. Some farmers believed that the benefits to be derived would be worth more than the cost, others were doubtful but wanted to see the experiment tried out, while others were opposed to the proposition. The results already attained have proved the wisdom of the enterprise.

Extended commendation of the work of F. M. Seidell is unnecessary. His report speaks for itself and shows something of the good already accomplished, altho farm management survey work in Box Butte county is only well begun. Mr. Seidell has been farm demonstrator or county agent since the organization of the Box Butte County Farm Management Association, and we are glad to say will continue in the same position during the coming year, notwithstanding flattering offers to go elsewhere.

Every farmer in the county ought to join the association. With only a partial membership, much good work has been done within less than two years past that is proving profitable, being without doubt already worth several times the cost. If the association and the county agent had the active co-operation of every farmer in the county, the amount of work done could be greatly increased and the good'results therefrom doubled or trebled within a few years' time.

### SUMMARY REPORT OF COUNTY AGENT

	Crop Demonstrations, 1916
at	Smut Control— Number of demonstrations
	Number of meetings at demonstrations
	Notal attendance at meetings

Yotal attendance at meetings
Total units in demonstrations
Resultant increase 3.5 bushels per acre
Profit due to increase \$1.75 per acre
Potato Improvement—
Number of demonstrations
Number of meetings at demonstrations 26
Total attendance at meetings
Total units in demonstrations
Resultant increase 10.9 bushels per acre
Profit due to increase \$10.90 per acre
Work Done in Relation to Crops
Farms selecting seed corn in fall
Acres planted with fall-selected seed corn 500

	WORK DONE IN METALION to Crops
	Farms selecting seed corn in fall
	Acres planted with fall-selected seed corn 500
	Faming testing seed corn for germination
	Acres of corn planted with tested seed
	Farms growing corn for silage
	Acres of corn grown for silage
	Total acres of corn included in above
	Farms on which the agent knows that wheat was grown following his
	suggestions4
	Total acres of wheat so grown
	Farms treating seed oats for smut
	Acres sown with treated seed
J.,	Farms on which the agent knows that oats were grown following his
	Parms on which the agent knows that dats were grown following his
	suggestions
	Total acres of oats included in above 2770
	Farms on which the agent knows that seed potatoes were treated for
	disease following his suggestions
	Acres of potatoes planted with seed treated for disease 1793
	Farms on which the agent knows that potatoes were grown following
	his suggestions
	Total acres included
	Farms on which the agent knows that alfalfa was sown following his
	suggestions 10
	Total acres of alfalfa so sown on above farms
	Farms on which the agent knows that sweet clover was grown follow-
	ing his suggestions 4
24	Acres of sweet clover so grown
	Farms on which the agent knows that barley was grown following his
	suggestions 2
	Total acres of Darley so grown 80
	Farms on which the agent knows that rye was grown following his sug-
	gestions

Registered boars the agent knows were secured on his suggestion	-
Registered sires (all kinds) transferred from one community to anoth-	
er on his suggestion	3
Farms on which balanced rations figured by county agent are known to have been adopted	0.
Animals treated for blackleg by agent or on his suggestion	
	4
	4
Cattle treated for pinkeye	7.
Work Done in Relation to Soils, Fertilizers, and Fertility	
Crop-rotation systems planned and adopted	
Farm analysis records taken by county agent in 1916	6
Farm analysis records returned by county agent	4
Farms on which the agent knows the management has been modified	
as a result of farm analyses	2
Farmers induced by the agent to keep farm accounts, partial or complete	7
Value of business done in 1916 through all such exchanges organized	
by agent or his predecessors	2
Farms supplied with laborers in 1916 through such associations or ex-	
changes, or by county agent	1
Total number of laborers so furnished to farmers	1

Work Done in Relation to Live Stock Registered stallions the agent knows were secured on his suggestion.

Total acres of rye so grown .....

	changes, or by county agent Total number of laborers so furnished to farmers Water supply and sewage disposal systems introduced Farmers keeping cost accounts on potatoes
	Extending the Agent's Work in the County
	Different farmers visited on their farms
	Total number of farm visits made
	Calls on agent at office relating to construct the call of the cal
	Calls on agent at office relating to county agent work
	Meetings held under auspices of county organization or agent 1
	Total of all meetings in which agent took part
	Total attendance at such meetings
	Membership in county association promoting your work
	Boys' and siris' clube arganized in 1918
	Boys' and girls' clubs organized in 1916
Z.	Total membership in such clubs organized in 1916
	Agricultural articles written by agent published in local papers

Local extension schools, including farmers' institutes, in his county at which agent assisted Total enrollment at these local extension schools ......... Agricultural observation parties conducted ...... 

# FARM MANAGEMENT SURVEY WORK IN BOX BUTTE COUNTY

specialists from the college or U. S. Department ......

Progress Report, Jan. 1 to Dec. 1, 1916

Farm Management is a study of the business side of farming. Its purpose is to determine the causes of success and failure under given condi-

Farm Management Survey work was continued in the same project form as in 1915. The only change is that the bulk of the co-operators are now keeping the records themselves. The work was introduced into this county in 1915.

All the records of the 1915 season were secured by the County Agent One record was taken in January, six'in February, thirty in March, ten in April, five in May, and eleven in June, making a total of sixty-three records. Seventy co-operators were secured, who agreed to keep a record of the farm business during the 1916 crop year in record books furnished by the Extension Service, Nebraska College of Agriculture. They further agreed to turn in the books to the County Agent upon completing the record of the year, that they might get the benefit of the survey and would re-

ceive another record book if they desire to continue the work. Farm Management work is considered fundamental in County Agent work as it enables him to study the real needs of the people, to determine mest successful type of farming for the county, and be of real assistance to the co-operators.

It is so basic in principle that changes made upon strength of the Survey, that make the farm business more successful, would last for a long time and the results would be felt after the work is discontinued.

As a result of the 1915 Farm Survey for the 1914 season, farms have recorded seventy changes, agreed upon by the operator and the County Agent. The average labor income of the farms in 1914 season was \$30, this being an extremely dry season. The fifteen least profitable averaged labor incomes of -\$595, while the fifteen most profitable averaged \$763. It is on the basis of the most successful that changes are recommended

After completing the record taken in June, the records were figured up and summarized by the Farm Management Extension office. A preliminary report was returned in person to the most of the co-operators during August. This preliminary report contained explanation of how the farm business was figured, summary of the farm business, relation of co-operators' farm in size and labor incomes to all other co-operating for years 1914 and 1915. Later the factor sheet was figured and returned to those who already received the preliminary report. The average labor income for 1915 was \$1,189. The fifteen poor paying farms averaged \$144, the fifteen most profitable averaged \$2536.

## OFFICERS BOX BUTTE COUNTY . FARMERS' ASSOCIATION

L. J. SCHILL, Alliance	President
A. S. ENYEART, Hemingford Vice	President
LOUIS F. POWELL, Alliance	Secretary
W. F. PATTERSON, Alliance	Treasurer
DIRECTORS	

JOHN JELINEK, Hemingford	Running Water	Precinct
E. F. ABLEY, Hemingford	Nonpareil	Precinct
F. H. NASON, Alliance	Box Butte	Precinct
F. M. McCOY, Alliance	Wright	Precinct
G. W. NATION, Alliance	Lake	Precinct
J. H. ROHRBAUGH, Hemingford	Dorsey	Precinct
BROWN GRIFFITH, Alliance	Boyd	Precinct

Directors for Liberty, Lawn and Snake Precincts for the ensuing year have not been chosen yet but will be elected in the near future.

During this year the work was presented at ten meetings including th paper presented at the Inter-State County Agent Conference, at St. Joseph Missouri, July 5-6. A total of forty records were returned in person. Fou farms are keeping complete diary records for the solution of some question relating to cost of production not already solved.

Thirty-two personal conferences were held with farm operators of farm management problems other than at the farm. Twenty-three simila conferences over phone. Ninety-seven farms were visited in follow-up work. A total of about 500 letters (follow-up) were sent out bearing or Farm Management Work.

In conclusion some results accomplished and opinions of this line of work may not be amiss. In the first place, the seventy-six different cooperators in the past two years of survey work, only five were found who had been keeping a record of the farm business. There are now seventy four keeping the farm record and farm diary books, furnished by the Ex tension Service. Besides about forty co-operators are keeping cost accounts on their potato crops, in a uniform record book. The seventy changes on twenty different farms was already referred to. Changes were made on three of the farms already keeping farm records for sometime before survey work started. In fact, two of whom had kept most complete typof records for twenty years, and probably not equalled in the state of Ne

On the one farm the operator had been cutting over about 600 acres of low yielding hay meadow, and sending a large amount of stock to pasture. It was apparent from the survey data that he was using too much land to cut hay from, making the cost per ton high, because of big labor expenses and expense for pasture bills was unnecessary. It was decided to cut only the best, pasture the rest and sow sweet clover or alfalfa as rapidly as the land could be prepared. Hogs were being kept on the above farms, which were being disposed of in a manner that the survey showed to be unprofitable. As a result of the high price of small grain, the hogs were Name reduced in numbers and the grain sold at a greater profit alone. The opin-Alice Schill, Alliance ion of the co-operator is that "he has been many times repaid for support- Ethel Trabert, Alliance-Not complete. ing county agent work, by these changes alone.

fat to creamery, feeding all feed at home, raising no cash crops, and who on the average was making a minus income when interest, expenses, etc., were allowed. After making a farm survey of the farm, the first things recommended were growing a cash crop, leasing more pasture land, farms ped during the 1916 season. Because other western Nebraska counties, of ing more for efficiency and improving the quality of the cattle. The only the potato section, having county agents, desired to fall in the line of potato possible thing that could be done under the conditions the first year was to improvement. A potato conference was arranged for April 1 and 2 in Alliadd the cash crop as suggested. Eight acres of potatoes were grown. Pasture land has been leased for next year. The co-operator expressed him-which the Extension Service through the County Agent could best meet the self by saving approach to the purpose of this meeting was to talk over and devise methods by the purpose of this meeting was to talk over and devise methods by the purpose of this meeting was to talk over and devise methods by the purpose of this meeting was to talk over and devise methods by the purpose of this meeting was to talk over and devise methods by the purpose of this meeting was to talk over and devise methods by the purpose of this meeting was to talk over and devise methods by the purpose of this meeting was to talk over and devise methods by the purpose of this meeting was to talk over and devise methods by the purpose of this meeting was to talk over and devise methods by the purpose of this meeting was to talk over and devise methods by the purpose of this meeting was to talk over and devise methods by the purpose of this meeting was to talk over and devise methods by the purpose of this meeting was to talk over and devise methods by the purpose of this meeting was to talk over and devise methods by the purpose of this meeting was to talk over and devise methods by the purpose of this meeting was to talk over and devise methods by the purpose of this meeting was to talk over and devise methods by the purpose of this meeting was to talk over and devise methods by the purpose of this meeting was to talk over and the purpose of this meeting was to talk over and the purpose of this meeting was to talk over and the purpose of this meeting was to talk over and the purpose of this meeting was to talk over and the purpose of this meeting was to talk over and the purpose of this meeting was to talk over and the purpose of this meeting was to talk over and the purpose of this meeting was to talk over and the purpose of self by saying, "This change of adding a cash crop has meant on top of the problems of the potato section of Nebraska. The meeting consisted of accost of production at least \$650 to me."

his county at because of the source of satisfaction that he had made 5 per cent on the entire investment and a good return for labor in 1914. Further, he stated institutions. but had no chance to make changes in his business for a greater profit already demonstrated by his-neighbors. This way he could. Upon the strength of the survey figures on his farm he has purchased additional land because he thought that having it leased and making five per cent over on the land he had just as well own it. This man was sent as a delegate to the Federal Farm Loan Board meeting at Lincoln and Omaha, and was pleased when the Box Butte Farm Management survey figures were shown, and be states, "This was the first real and substantial evidence that the Federal Loan Board received as to the stability of business and safety of investment west of the twenty-four inch rainfall line anywhere in the United States. It was better publicity for Box Butte County and western Nebraska than all the advertising that has been done in the past twenty years."

### BOYS' AND GIRLS' CLUB WORK IN BOX BUTTE COUNTY, 1916

Progress Report, Jan. 1 to Dec. 1

Boys' and Girls' Club work made its first real start in Box Butte county this year. Its purpose is to give training in agriculture and house duties to the boys and girls. It is to teach and interest them in rural life, to train the hand and the head and to furnish profitable employment for the boys

The first thing done in this year in the way of presenting club work to the boys and girls was a meeting held, Jan. 6, at which Prof. C. W. Pugsley addressed the patrons, the school board, and the school children of Alliance on "Boys' and Girls' School Gardens". This work was adopted by the school board, and faculty members put in charge of local school gardens.

Work was presented to the teachers of the county in general letter, 18, 1916. Rules were also sent the teachers. On Jan. 18, a circular letter

was sent all the boys and girls in the county, of club age, explaining club work. On the same date a circular letter was sent to all the members of the Farmers' Association, and the school patrons of the county, explaining the object of club work. Some boys and girls sent in application cards as

On the 12th, 13th and 14th of April, the state club leader, Mr. L. T. Skinner, County Superintendent Miss Russell and the County Agent visited the schools of the county that were still in session. At each place the boys and girls were advised that enrollment closed May 1. As a result of these meetings, ten in number, practically all the members of the cooking and sewing club joined.

Following these meetings considerable personal work was done by the County Agent with boys and girls and their parents. As a result, fifteen boys and girls joined the potato club, four joined the pig club, two in each the garden and poultry clubs.

The County Agent organized three clubs in the county with a total membership of seventy boys and girls. "The Blue Bird Club," composed of girls, met each month in Alliance, and Miss Russell, county superintendent, was appointed their local leader. The "Pleasant Prairie Club," a mixed club, met each month at the home of some member north of Alliance. Miss Laura Hawkins was appointed their local leader. The members of "Clove Leaf Club" met regularly at Hemingford with their appointed leader, Mrs. W. T. Ragan. Each club had its officers and had a program of interest at nearly all meetings. The County Agent usually met with the clubs to discuss the progress in club work

It was through the organization of these local clubs that interest was held throughout the season of work. During the summer most of the club members were visited at their homes by the County Agent. Considerable time was given to assisting in the digging and certifying of the yield of po-

tato club members. At the county fair seventy exhibits were made by thirty-one club men bers. The exhibit attracted the attention and was very faborably comment-

ed upon by the patrons of the fair. The following club members will complete their work and will be awarded the regular membership button by the Box Butte Farmers' Association. Ten high Potato Club members receive free trip to the Boys' Potato school to be held in Alliance next spring.

Potato Club—Clifford Bergfield, Archibald Davig, Adolph Fostrom, Carl Fostrom, John Gerdes, Kenneth Gilmore, Arthur Grove, Herbert Purinton, Howard Robinson, Clara Sisley, Owen Stewart, Roy Trabert.

Garden Club—Alice Schill, Ethel Trabert, Poultry Club—Cecil Beal, Margaret Schill.

Member

Alta Hucke, Hemingford . . .

Sewing and Cooking Club-Eva Beal, Neva Beal, Laura E. Calmer. Vivian Gilmore, Asenath Schill, Mary Kaper, Meta Koester, Lizzie Mabin, Sara O'Keefe, Ruth Muirhead, Katherine Schill, Pearl Trabert, Margaret Wiltsey, Irma Wright.

Pig Club-Clarence Gaghagen, James Watson, Alta Hucke.

# CLUB RESULTS TO DATE, DEC. 1, 1916

Pig Club

Total

		P	otato Clu	b			
	Area Acres	Total per A.	Total Cost	Cost per bu	Total value	Cert. yield	Prof. net A
Adolph Fostrom,				HALL STATE		A STATE OF	
Hemingford	1.1	120.0	11.00	\$.122	150.00	120	\$92.25
Karl Fostrom, Hemingford	1.1	105.0	10.08	.140	132.25	104.9	79.46
Archie Davig,				The second		0.0	
Alliance	1.0	77.1	13,22	.171	96.37	85.6	62.4
Alliance	.59	31.0	4.04	173	38.75	57.7	42.4
Clara Sisley,	No. of the	HE THE				1.010	11/7/19
Alliance	1.04	139.0	8.24	.079	173.75	145.2	117.38
Kenneth Gilmore,							
Alliance	,85	128.2	8.76	.091	160.26	189.2	142.6
Clifford Bergfield, Hemingford	3.4	248.4		202	310.50	109.6	57.42
Roy Trabert.	5.4	248.4	34.07	2.02	310.50	100.0	04.44
	2.12	200.0	21.40	142	250.00	130.4	78.35
John Gerdes.	7025	5000	ALC: N	1.4.4.		77776	11200
Alliance	.85	100:0	12.55	166	125.00	129.4	81.30
Herbert Purinton,			100		100		
Alliance	2.24	300.0	25.51		375.00	144.8	114.36
TOTAL 14			148.87		1811.88	Tuesday	868.11
AVERAGE 1 Owen Stewart, Hemi	1.4	102.0	14.88			121.68	86.8

		latching ar	nd Raising		
Name Cecil Beal, Alliance Margaret Schill, Alliance	Eggs set . 110 . 30	Hatched 65 10	4th menth 33 10	Value 16.50 5.00	Perci Raise 50.
	Gard	en Club			E 8 2

Area, sq. ft. Receipts 100 sq. ft. \$2.25 336 \$10.41

## The second case was of a young farmer on a small farm, who was enthused about the possibility of intensive dairying, selling the sour butter COUNTY, 1916

The potato improvement work which was started in 1915 was contintual demonstrations, variety and disease studies, commercial growing, stor-

A general method of improvement dealing with varieties, seed selec-