

# AGRICULTURAL SECTION FAIR'S BIG FEATURE

### All Subjects Pertaining to Farms Are Covered in State School of Agriculture.

The Nebraska College of Agriculture will be one of the points of interest for many visitors to the state fair at Lincoln. Every farmer comes into frequent touch with the work that centers about the farm scientists who teach and work there. The work of the college is not confined to class room teaching. Through its experiment stations, extension lectures and co-operation with the United States Department of Agriculture farm bureaus and county agents, it reaches into many homes. One can even remain on the farm and receive instruction from the college.

Herds of cattle, hogs and sheep are maintained for the use of students in live stock breeding, feeding, dairying and animal diseases. Large, well-equipped buildings are provided for the study of farm problems. Boys enrolling for the four-year course study crop production, crop rotation, management, soil fertility, breeding and all questions concerning live stock. There are courses in rural law and marketing. In addition they are given practical knowledge of farm blacksmithing and carpentering, and courses in handling and repairing machinery, tractors and automobiles.

#### Courses for Girls.

Farm girls receive an equally valuable course, including cooking, baking, sewing and all the household arts. Upon receiving her diploma the girl graduate of the Nebraska College of Agriculture has learned to make her own clothes, how to nurse enough to save many a doctor's bills, how to furnish and care for a home, and even how to draw the plans. In addition most of the girls study dairying, buttermaking, cream manufacturing, poultry raising or gardening. Girls as well as boys are taught how to use a hammer and saw. Girls learn how to refinish floors and furniture and how to plan a labor saving kitchen. A large new plant at the college will open this year to study the prevention and cure of animal diseases. This branch is one of the most valuable ones to the farmers. Under the direction of a noted scientist, Dr. L. Van Es, much effective work has been done in testing the reliability of certain immunizing agents against animal diseases.

#### Hog Cholera Eliminated.

The state maintains its own hog cholera serum plant. In addition to having saved thousands of swine by inoculation, this plant has forced down the price of hog serum and saved money in this way. All serums are tested here by the state. The state has been practically freed from hog cholera by this activity. The serum plant, the department of animal pathology and hygiene, in conjunction with the United States Department of Agriculture, and the farm agents, have saved the farmers of Nebraska enormous sums by protecting the lives of their herds. Last year more than 100,000 hogs were vaccinated by county agricultural agents at demonstrations to show farmers how to administer the serum.

Seventy thousand head of cattle were rendered immune to blackleg by the county agents. The extension service of the college has been of great further benefit by encouraging the movement for better live stock. Scrub sires are being eliminated and now nearly every county has its pure-bred live stock association. The college gives certificates to all farms where nothing but pure-bred sires are used. It is said that few farmers once using a pure-bred ever goes back to a scrub.

Great emphasis is placed on the dairy industry. Travelers from the Scandinavian countries, famous for their dairy products, have been deeply impressed by the thoroughly modern teaching of this department. It has a perfectly equipped dairy barn, herds of cows of the best breeds, and a trained staff of teachers. Buttermaking and the care of milk also are taught by actual practice.

#### Crop Pests Eradicated.

Beef herds also are maintained and the students, besides learning stock judging, learn at first hand from the experiments in feeding, breeding and handling stock. Control of insect pests is another important part of the college activity. The Department of Entomology is constantly engaged in eradicating crop pests. In the western part of the state grasshoppers have been a great menace. Large poison mixing plants have been established at various points and poisoned bran was distributed to farmers by the truck load. Twenty-five freight cars of bran and a car load of white arsenic were used in this huge fight. Farmers estimated their losses from grasshoppers in 1918 at \$1,500,000. This was reduced to almost nothing the following year.

The sugar beet webworm is another pest that this department has aided in controlling. Nursery and orchard insects, pocket gophers and many other menaces have been checked through this medium.

#### Engineering Department.

In this day of power farming, the engineering department of the college has taken on high importance. For the protection of farmers, the state law requires all models of tractors to be tried out by the college before they are allowed to be sold in Nebraska. The claims of the manufacturers are compared with actual performance, one of the tests being that of hauling a regulated load 10 hours without a stop.

The building used for farm engineering cost \$240,000. Boys there learn how to construct hog houses, wagon boxes, gates, hayracks and fences. They study the best plans for farm houses and barns and learn how they should be constructed. Sharpening plowshares, welding, thread cutting, pipe fitting and other work with iron is taught. Blueprint plans and lists of material for any kind of farm building may be obtained from the college for a few cents. This is one way of modernizing the farm homes.

In addition to production problems, those of marketing are given equal attention. The department of

## Omaha's Corps of Visiting Nurses



Reading left to right, front row: Katherine Sweeney, Frieda Johnson, Hazel Drake, Mildred Huntington, Nettie Wattles, Myrtle McGior. Second row: Edith Coury, Elfrieda Teeck, Harriett Brenenstall, Alla Corn, Dora Petersen, Attilia Czaplak, Elsie Spurrier, Josephine Albricht. Third row: Eva May, Arvilla Timme.

rural economics has made a special study of marketing, with emphasis on the co-operative features. These lessons have had a wide influence among Nebraska farmers and the spirit of organization is strong. The extension service had aided the formation of 50 co-operative societies in the last year. The pooling of the farmers' wool in 20 counties in 1919 brought the growers an average of 3 cents a pound more than the price given those who marketed their clip individually.

#### Farmers Keep Books.

The college extension service has encouraged farmers to organize on business lines, just as merchants have their commercial clubs and exchanges, to get better freight service and fairer prices. Farming is being made a commercial pursuit through the activity of the farm school. The farm record book designed by the faculty provides a system of bookkeeping by which the tillers of the soil can estimate their cost of production. It is said that 25,000 farmers of the state are now keeping books and figuring the basis on which their crops should sell in order to return a fair profit.

#### Potato Industry Grows.

Nebraska rapidly is becoming a great poultry state, and the college is sending out lecturers to demonstrate the best methods of egg production. Twenty-two demonstration farms were established last year to show the possibilities of profiting with hens, and to act as community centers for distributing standard bred fowls. A national egg-laying contest that is being conducted by the school has entries from all over the United States. Chickens owned in Nebraska are

said to be holding their own with the best.

#### Fruit Growing Industry.

Sixty million dollars' worth of poultry products are produced in Nebraska each year, and a number of farmers have made more money from their chickens than from grain. The college also is back of a movement for more fruit growing. Pioneers set out large orchards, but in too many cases they have been neglected in recent years. Interest in wheat and live stock has been detracted from the fruit industry, although Nebraska has several districts that give it high rank as an apple state and promise as much as a strawberry producer. The college has demonstration orchards at Lincoln and Union. Special breeding is being done to develop high yielding strawberries. Many farmers are getting assistance from the state to establish orchards.

Other experiment stations to develop improved methods of crop rotation and all other agricultural processes are maintained at Lincoln, North Platte, Mitchell and Valentine. Two improved varieties of wheat developed at the main station are being widely used in the state to give larger yields.

#### Potato Industry Grows.

By the aid of co-operative tests made with farmers last year in various parts of the state, Nebraska oats 21, originated by the experiment station, made an average yield of eight bushels more to the acre than ordinary oats. Experts hired by the state are at work on all farm problems, whether of soil erosion, land tenancy, irrigation, sugar beets, or what not. Potato raising is rapidly being

## STRONG CIVIC SPIRIT IS FOUND IN CAPITAL CITY

### Chamber of Commerce Heads Organization Which Promotes Co-operation.

That the people of Nebraska are particularly interested in Lincoln is one of the beliefs on which the Commercial club there operates. Great sums raised by statewide taxation are spent there in maintaining the state capital, and Lincoln more than any other city of the state is one in which every taxpayer can feel a sense of proprietorship. This feeling is fostered by the work of the inter-club relations committee of the club.

#### Committees Are Active.

It hopes by drawing close bonds of friendship and understanding with commercial organizations elsewhere to give the people of the state a better idea of what Lincoln stands for. E. C. Hardy is president of the Lincoln Commercial club, which serves as a clearing house for civic progress. The city planning com-

brought to the fore, especially in the western part of the state. The college has done much to encourage this. A seed inspection service has been established for the benefit of the growers. Tests in southern states have shown Nebraska seed potatoes to be excellent, and a large market is being opened in the south for Nebraska seed potatoes.

mittee has been active in carrying charter amendments for a zoning system to protect the university, capitol and high school from being hedged in by unsightly building. Improvements in the fair grounds and boulevard system have also been aided by the club.

#### Improve Working Conditions.

A committee on legislative research devotes particular on-the-ground effort to protecting business interests through lawmaking. A committee on the welfare of labor is designed to bring closer understanding between employers and employees, and co-operates with the Y. M. C. A. in plans to improve working conditions and quiet unrest. Public health, railroad rates and trade promotion are other branches of work that are being pushed to the fore since the war ended.

#### Accommodating Operator Is Killed by Lightning

Florence, Kan., Sept. 3.—Had Harry M. Harpster, 35, an employe of the electric power plant here, been less accommodating he probably would be alive today. When Harpster's day was up a heavy electrical storm was at its height, so he telephoned a co-worker who was to relieve him to "take his time about getting to work."

Two hours later, when the co-worker arrived, he found Harpster lying dead under a switchboard. He had been killed by a bolt of lightning that had "gotten by" the arrester.

All workers in the building trades in Denver, Colo., have received increases in wages ranging from 60 cents to \$1.50 per day.

## NEBRASKA ONE OF LEADERS IN HORTICULTURE

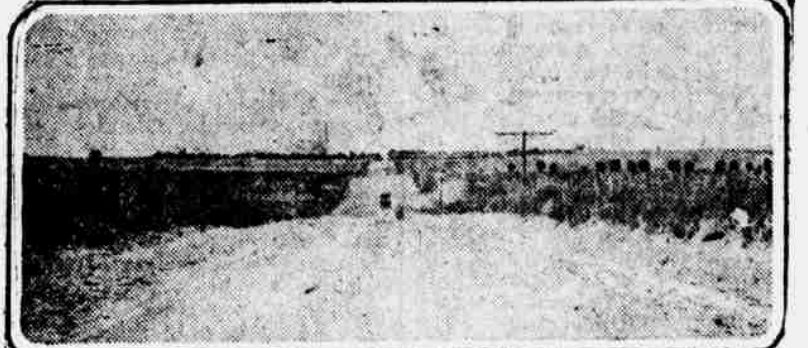
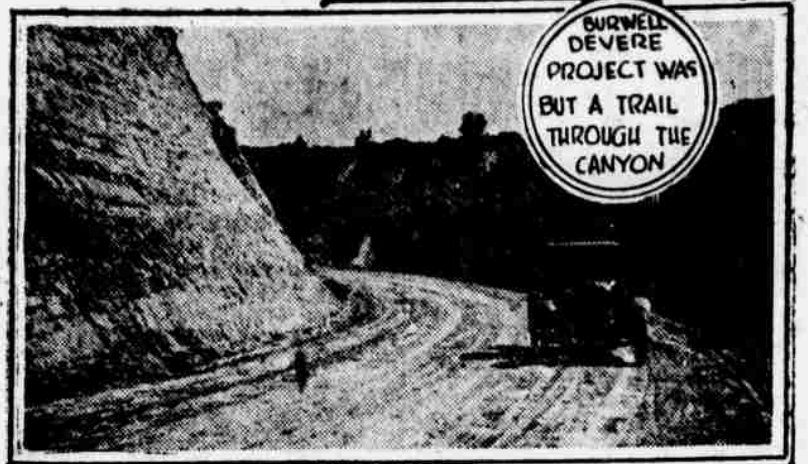
### Pioneers of State Worked Against Great Odds In Propagating Flowers and Fruits.

The horticultural men of Nebraska have made extensive plans for advertising the state as a place of fruit and flowers at the state fair at Lincoln September 5 to 10. It is said that there are 60 different kinds of native trees in Nebraska, not including the woody shrubs, such as sumach, choke cherry and alder. The larger trees are found along the rivers in the eastern part of the state and in the far west. In the central and northern sections the smaller varieties are found.

#### Worked Against Odds.

"The Nebraska State Horticultural society is 51 years old," says F. R. B. Weber of Lincoln, secretary of the organization, and editor of Nebraska Horticulture. "It has done much in that time to add to the life and beauty of the state. The early members fought long and hard against great odds to prove what the world now knows—that a portion of the state now produces as fine fruit as can be found anywhere. Through the strenuous pioneer work of the florists and gardeners,

## Highways of Nebraska



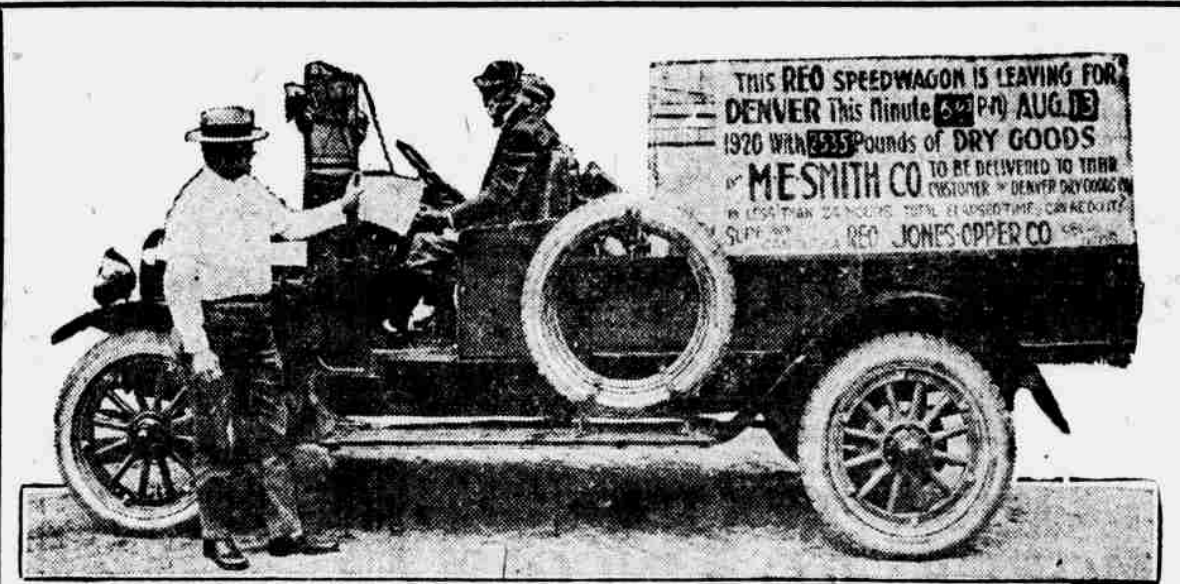
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the society has made good in beautifying and feeding our great commonwealth. "I wish to call the attention of fair visitors to the men whose portraits can be seen on the walls of the Hall of Achievement at the state farm."

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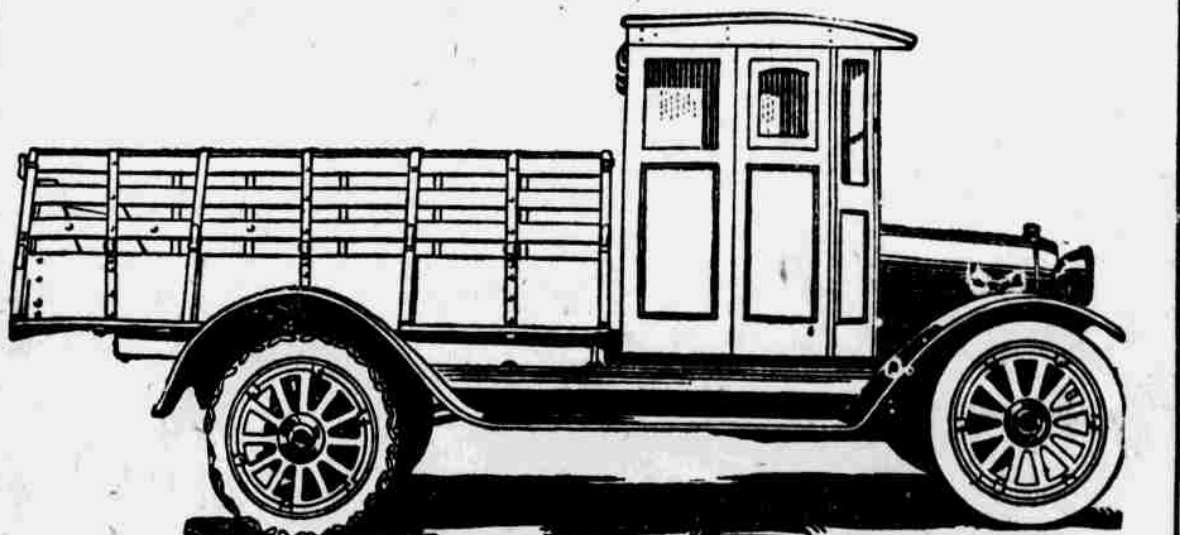
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