



Northwest School of Agriculture Farmers' and Women's Week

The Northwest School of Agriculture Farmers' and Women's week is a means of rendering an educational service to farmers and their wives, who are unable to spend a longer time at the school. Its purpose is to extend the influence of the University to as many people of the State as possible. This week, therefore, is an inspiration to all and offers an opportunity to those interested in Agriculture to become acquainted with new views and ideas dealing with home and farm life.

The first Farmers' and Women's week, called the farmers' Short Course, was held at the Northwest School of Agriculture December 19-24, 1910. The movement originated at the School and was the result of plans made by Superintendent C. G. Selvig, Mr. J. D. Bilsborrow, Agronomist, and other members of the faculty. Emphasis at the first meeting was placed on the importance of pure seed. Over 300 exhibits of grains were shown in the school gymnasium. All the meetings were held at the School and most of those who attended roomed in the dormitories.

The second Farmers' and Women's week, January 7-12, 1912, as well as the third week, February 10-21, 1913, was also held at the School. Each year demonstrated that within a short time it would be impossible to conduct the meetings at the School and properly care for the enrollment and the exhibits. In 1914 the Farmers' week was divided into two parts. From February 10-17 inclusive, the meetings were held at the School. On February 18, 19 and 20 the meetings were conducted in the Grand Opera House in Crookston.

In 1915, Harold Grandy, a graduate of the School, drew a design for the Farm Crops Show premium list. This design has been used ever since and is now the official symbol for the Farm Crops Show. Special meetings for women were held that year in the new Presbyterian church. The dates for the week were February 16-19 and all the meetings were held in Crookston excepting the stock judging, which took place at the School.

The fifth annual week, February 7-12, 1916, and the sixth week, February 5-9, 1917, were held in Crookston. A wonderful growth was beginning to take place. More extensive programs were carried out, and a greater number of prominent speakers were secured. In 1917 there was held an exhibit of what was considered the best animals in the valley. An exhibit of live stock was also held during the week of the seventh annual Farm Crops Show, February 11-15, 1918.

The eighth Farmers' and Women's week held February 10-14, 1919, will be sure to go down in history as it marks the beginning of a new era in the Red River Valley. The livestock pavilion was built at a cost of about \$25,000. There were exhibited in this show over 300 head of stock. On February 12, a sale of high grade stock was held. One hundred and fifteen head were sold and the sales amounted to \$23,359.00. A Holstein cow, Dora Johanna Fayne Homestead, owned by E. C. Schroeder of Moorhead, was sold to Senator R. T. Buckler of Crookston for \$2650.00. A Poland China boar was bought by Mr. Helgeson of Crookston for \$480.00. Thirty-two Duroc Jerseys sold at an average of \$130.00 each. The Alumni of the school not only won prizes at the Show but several of them were among the purchasers of pure bred stock.

The livestock pavilion and sale has demonstrated that the people in the Red River Valley are anxious to secure and maintain the best of livestock. It has been a wonderful addition to the Farmers' Week. The influence of this week will create thruout the entire Northwest a greater appreciation of the work of this school and demonstrates that the University thru its experiment stations is meeting the needs of the communities more and more as the years go on. The work of this annual week will continue and judging the wonderful achievements of the past few years, one cannot help but realize the increased interest and enthusiasm there will be in the agriculture of this Valley.