

# 4-H Club Work in Northwestern Minnesota

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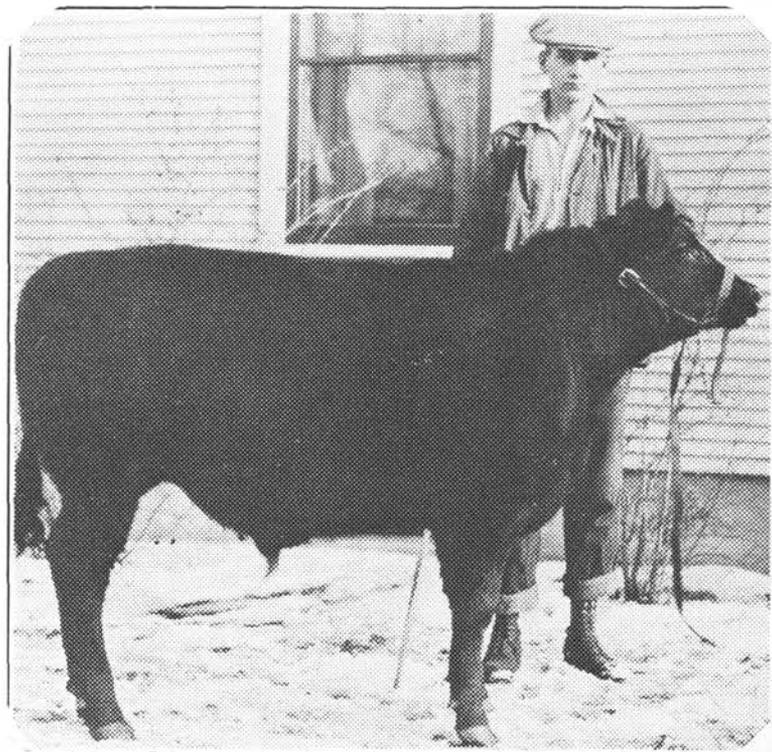
Boys' and girls' 4-H Club work was started in the Red River Valley during the early years of the movement in Minnesota. As early as 1914, Margaret Lofgren of Clay county was one of the Minnesota breadmaking winners who won a trip to Washington, D. C., one of the first national trips to be awarded in the state. County and city superintendents of schools were instrumental in starting club work in a number of counties. County agents from the beginning featured club work in their extension program. The Northwest School of Agriculture held its first Junior Short Course in 1912, the main purpose of which was to instruct boys and girls in farm and home projects.

In 1919 a district club agent joined the Northwest School faculty to supervise 4-H club work in nineteen northwestern Minnesota counties. Increased interest was reflected in larger enrollments, more organized clubs, and demonstration teams. The total enrollment in 1921 was 3,043, which was an increase of nearly fifty per cent over the previous year. Four-H club work has had a steady growth each year up to the present time. In 1935, the total project enrollment was 11,551.

With increased numbers, the responsibility of super-

vision and leadership increased also. Older club members were encouraged to take junior leadership and more adult leaders were asked to help with the 4-H club program. Stronger organization of the local clubs was stressed. Leaders' conferences were held in counties to help leaders become acquainted with the club program. At present, nearly all counties have leaders' councils. In recent years, district leaders' meetings and camps have been held at the 4-H Club Weeks at St. Paul, Crookston, and the other schools of agriculture. Another district leaders' conference is held at the Winter Shows, Crookston. In 1931, a leaders' camp was started at Itasca Park which has become an annual event. An entire week of leadership discussion was held in 1934 at the Farmer's and Homemaker's Week, St. Paul, and again in 1935. Four club members have thus far received trips to the National Club Camp in recognition of effective leadership and their project record.

During these years, the club program has expanded. Projects have been introduced to meet the needs of the older girl and boy. Some of these are advanced bread work, room furnishing, partnership, junior leadership, farm accounts, poultry production record, dairy production record, ton-litter and ten-ewe contests, and others.



Benny Strickler's Champion Steer—1932 Winter Shows

