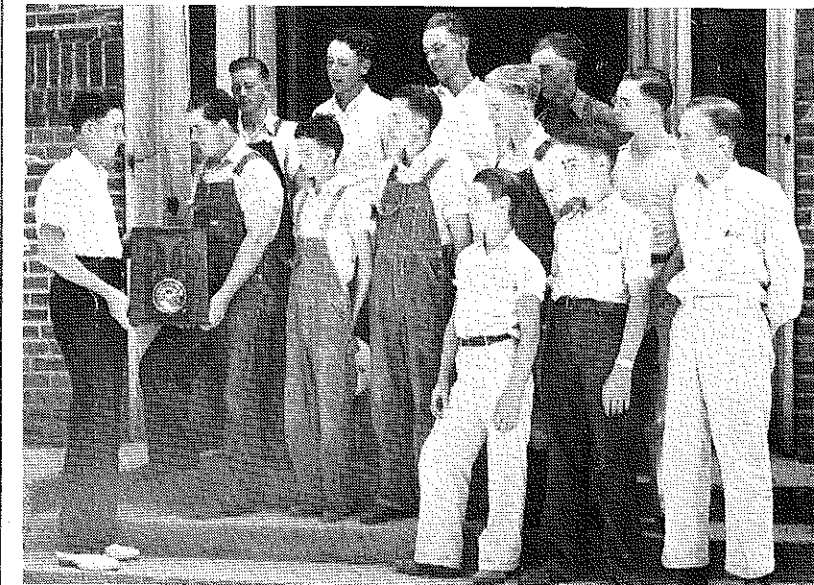


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Missouri Future Farmer

Gives Radio to Chapter. (See page 78.)

*"Doing is the great thing. For if, resolutely, people do what
is right, in time they come to like doing it."—Ruskin*

OUR COVER Gives Radio to Chapter

A. B. FOSTER, Teacher,
Keytesville, Missouri

STUDENTS differ in their ways of showing appreciation for the help they receive from their studies in vocational agriculture. Robert Friesz, senior in the Keytesville, Missouri high school, presented his local F. F. A. chapter with a radio as a means of demonstrating his gratitude for the training he had received.

Robert was president of the F. F. A. during his senior year, ranked fifth in his class in scholarship, was a member of the track and basketball team and carried much responsibility at home. His project record with hogs is remarkable and is briefly outlined here.

As a freshman Robert took a sow on shares with his brother. His second year, 1934, he borrowed \$200 from the Production Credit Corporation and fed out a bunch of fall pigs.

For his spring project in 1935, he had three purebred Hampshire sows. These sows saved 33 pigs. However, only 30 of these pigs were marketed, as one was sold at 100 pounds for breeding purposes, one gilt was kept for a brood sow, and one was killed by accident after reaching a weight of about 150 pounds.

The sows farrowed on red clover pasture which had not had hogs on it for several years. They received all the proper attention necessary as is shown by the average number of pigs saved per litter. The sows, before farrowing and after farrowing, and the pigs, after weaning, were fed ground wheat and tankage at the ratio of 12 to 1. This mixture was kept before the pigs at all times, in a creep at first and continuously after the sows were taken away. The price of wheat and corn at that time made this advisable. A mineral mixture consisting of equal parts limestone, bone meal, and salt was kept before them at all times. The pigs were vaccinated for cholera.

The 30 pigs were marketed at the St. Louis hog show for vocational agriculture students in September and brought \$687.22, a profit of \$332.85. All the wheat was bought at the local elevator at a price ranging from 87 cents to 95 cents per bushel. Corn was selling at \$1.00 to \$1.10 at this time.

While Robert was at St. Louis with his hogs, the three sows farrowed and saved 24 fall pigs. He bought 10 more from a neighbor later, making 34 pigs for his fall project. They were kept on the same ground that the spring pigs had been fed on and were fattened on corn and a protein supplement consisting of two parts tankage, one part linseed oil meal, and one part alfalfa meal. The mineral mixture was also supplied. These pigs were sold in April. Only 33 were sold as one was butchered. The 33 pigs weighed 8,540 pounds and brought \$776.60, a net profit of \$375.40 on the fall pigs.

For his 1936 project, Robert had the three sows and a gilt saved from the 1935 spring pigs. These four sows saved 39 pigs. He bought seven more, making a total of 46 pigs on hand now. These pigs were farrowed on another red clover

that the alfalfa meal is not included. He bought 400 bushels of corn from a car of 1,200 bushels which had been purchased co-operatively by the class, and has this stored in a steel crib right beside the feeder and houses.

The combined net profit for his spring and fall pigs was \$708.25. In the two projects he actually marketed at St. Louis 63 hogs weighing 14,430 pounds and bringing a total amount of \$1,463.82. The total expenses, not including his own labor, were \$755.57.

These results were not accidents but were made by planning projects in line with studies of marketing that were made in regular class work. The profits will enable Robert to enter the University of Missouri College of Agriculture.

Pioneering in Part-Time Work

(Continued from page 63)

to teach that unit? Should we divide the boys into groups and let them work for a time on the various phases of farm mechanics, or should we let each boy bring projects from home and work as he may wish?

The matter of time and place of meetings has not yet been solved to our satisfaction. What will eventually prove to be the best arrangements—short unit courses meeting at close intervals or one or two meetings a week over a longer period of time? Perhaps we shall discover that a year-round program interspersed with unit courses and single meetings may be the solution. Some men are actually considering the feasibility of holding small group meetings in the boys' homes. Will it work? We shall never know unless a number are bold enough to try it.

The F. F. A. has been a boon to the all-day work. Will a similar organization be equally as effective for part-time work? If so, what shall be the nature of its setup? If we propose an alumni organization we may find that we are limiting the field to former F. F. A. members. Is this group going to be interested in exactly the same things as the Future Farmers anyway? Are they perhaps more mature in their thinking? Many of these boys are not FUTURE FARMERS. They already are actually farming. Will the supervision of a separate and distinct organization add too much to the teacher's already heavy load? What will be the reaction of other groups which have had organizations for young people for some time? What type of constitution should be proposed in order that the teacher may keep the thing in hand? Experience alone will tell.

We are advised by some that this group should have special social activities. But what activities are most desirable? Should they be a part of the program of work for the group, or should plans for purely social get-togethers be more or less spontaneous?

If we are to follow the mandates of the Smith-Hughes Act, we must see that these boys carry on supervised practice over a period of at least six months. But what constitutes supervised practice, and how are we to interest such a group

project programs, but will these suffice for part-time groups? The all-day boys write plans and keep detailed records. Will this work with young men who are in class but a short time each year? If not, what will?

Some of us believe that the ultimate goal in part-time work is to establish in part-time farming. How are we going to do this? Shall we attempt first of all to get them started on the home farms or shall we encourage them to build up their resources in some other manner? Have we any ideas regarding the possibilities in the average community of starting boys out on places of their own?

Teacher-trainers and supervisors must also do some pioneering. The problem of training teachers for this important phase of our program is far from being solved. To be sure they are using what appear to be the best methods, but they must check closely as they go along. In the meantime, a part of their job will be to explore some unbeaten paths with the hope of finding the most direct roads for the inexperienced teacher to follow. Are they not justified in breaking away from the orthodox in order to discover these roads?

All the above mentioned problems are pertinent and some of them are far from easy to solve. They should not, nevertheless, prove more difficult than many which originally confronted us with the all-day group. If we assume our obligations and attack them with courage and an open mind, we should soon have a practical program meriting the respect of the public. The point is this—we have a job to do. If we do not do it, someone else will do it for us. To the teacher starting his first part-time class we should say: "Here are certain methods which appear workable. If you want to vary them slightly, or if you have a good idea which seems feasible under your particular conditions, go ahead and give it a fair trial. At least make an earnest effort because we are again in the place where we must do some pioneering. Out of that pioneering will come the ways and means of establishing truly commendable part-time programs in the years to come."

Pioneering in this field offers interesting possibilities, not only for service but for recognition. In the past, promotions have been based largely on achievements in all-day and evening school work. In the future, those who have responsible positions to fill will be looking for men who can show the way in part-time work as well. —H. E. Lattig, University of Idaho, Moscow, Idaho.

Testing Soil

P. S. LOWE, Vocational
Agriculture Instructor,
Frankfort, Indiana

ONE of the new undertakings being attempted by the boys of the Frankfort vocational agriculture department is a more or less scientific study of the soil needs on the home farm. Each student brought from his home farm a soil sample. This was tested by a rapid soil test for lime, phosphorus, and potash content. Following this test, pot tests were prepared, with combinations of fer-

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