



*"The fellow who does just what he is told
will never be told to do big things."*



Future Farmers of America

A. W. TENNEY

Fun Feeds Are Popular

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WINTERTIME is fun-feed time for F.F.A. chapters in Nebraska. It's the time when the boys act as hosts and the parents and friends are the guests. This winter, over 40 local chapters in Nebraska sponsored fun feeds for their mothers, fathers, neighbors, and teachers. Each chapter's program, dinner, and activities are different. All groups, however, follow the same general rules of plenty to eat, good entertainment put on by the boys, and plenty of time to visit and look around the vocational department.

At Broken Bow the guests ate pheasant. The 42 F.F.A. members furnished 76 pheasants for the 84 boys, their fathers, and guests. The homemaking class at the high school cooked the birds and served the meal. The feature of the program was a trip thru the shop and a visit to and explanation of the cooperative broiler project. Colored slide pictures of projects were shown. A father, as he stopped to tell the adviser good night remarked, "Mr. Huntzinger, you should have these meetings about every three

months, in order to keep us dads pepped up." Then he added, "I believe I can be of more help to John in his farming program from now on out."

The ranch boys at Bassett forgot about their beef for a night and served oyster stew. They ordered six gallons of fresh oysters, and they brought the milk from home in five-gallon cans. Jerry Sandall, local chapter president, was toastmaster. Harry Hull told about the F.F.A. chapter's plan for insurance. Stanley Iverson gave a talk on F.F.A. activities. Then Asa Carpenter, a little freshman, started singing southern melodies and cowboy songs as he strummed his guitar. The rafters vibrated from the applause when Asa bashfully smiled and took a bow after a few numbers.

At Neligh, it was baked chicken, oyster dressing, mashed potatoes, creamed corn, a salad, and all the pie and ice cream one wanted. The program included a song by the F.F.A. chorus, short talks by seven F.F.A. members, and a special talk by the state F.F.A. president. A quiz program provided the fun for the

evening. When their local adviser, R. A. Pilster, failed to answer his question correctly, he was requested to give his tie as a forfeit. Later this was auctioned off to the highest bidder. His wife bid it in for \$2. Henry Hansen, father of one of the members, was made an honorary member. This honor was bestowed upon Mr. Hansen because of his assistance to the chapter. Other awards made at this meeting included: Kenneth Hoefs, heaviest ton-litter of hogs, and Richard Peterson, highest in scholarship.

The Fremont chapter sponsored a potluck basket supper. It was held in the farm shop. The program was in the form of a regular chapter meeting. The boys started the program with the official F.F.A. opening ceremony. Dick Mason, local chapter president, welcomed the guests and parents. He said, "We are greatly honored tonight by the presence of our high-school superintendent, our state F.F.A. executive secretary, and others, but we are honored most of all by the presence of our mothers and fathers. The purpose of this banquet is to promote a closer comradeship between parents and sons; to provide an opportunity for the development of a stronger bond between parents and the school; and to make it possible for you



Fun feeds are popular events in the social activities of Nebraska chapters. With parents and other honored guests to be entertained, with attractive waitresses, neatly gowned, serving, with a capable toastmaster introducing speakers, with an abundant evidence of F.F.A. teachings in the ceremony, the station insignia, and the usual F.F.A. finish on the part of each member speaker, and with noticeable effort expended throughout the evening to make the guests welcome, acquainted and entertained, every event becomes a highlight of a chapter's social program. We need more banquets conducted on a genuinely educational basis with studied planning, careful execution and critical after-examination

to become better acquainted with us Future Farmers of America and with our accomplishments."

The Fairbury chapter makes the crowning of an F.F.A. queen the highlight of their fun feed. This chapter claims to be the originator of this popular ceremony. They crowned their first queen in 1936. Now at each fun feed one of the much-looked-forward-to events is the introduction of the "queens of yesterday."

At Red Cloud it's always roast turkey. Last year the chapter had to husk almost 1,000 bushels of corn at 10 cents per bushel to pay for the 14 turkeys consumed at the fun feed. The boys take over the high-school gym for this occasion. Around the sides are the shop projects recently constructed. Laborsaving devices are always stressed. On one table the project books are placed. The sentinel and his committee meet the parents at the door. They make the necessary introductions, take their wraps, and then one boy acts as guide thru the shop exhibits. He explains the value and cost of the various laborsaving devices. The adviser, Victor Anderson, believes that all departments in the school should have a part in the F.F.A. fun feed. The music department furnishes an orchestra for the dinner; the homemaking girls roast the turkeys and serve the meal; the typing department makes the invitations; the art department, the programs; and the normal-training group decorates the tables. The athletic department is always invited to act as a cleanup committee, but training rules usually prohibit the carrying out of the assignment.

The Ladies' Aid of the local church always serves the meal at the DeWitt fun feed. But the boys still have plenty to do. Alvin Reimer, the local adviser, says that every member of the chapter is assigned a job on some committee. They plan the program, send invitations, arrange the menu, decorate the tables and the room, and set up displays of their activities. The only thing that gripes the members is being selected for the cleanup committee. This group always invites the F.F.A. officers from nearby chapters to attend their fun feed. The program put on might be termed a variety show. It includes the invocation by the local pastor and the address of welcome by the vice-president. The mother of one of the members gives the response. The officers, with all paraphernalia in place, put on the opening ceremony. Then everyone sings. The last song is always "Hail the F.F.A." Then the girls, with caps of national blue and corn yellow, start bringing in the food. A platter piled high with T-bone steaks is started down one side of the table. Following the steaks are baked potatoes, green beans, gravy, country butter, and home-baked rolls. Everyone eats and talks for a while. Then the young ladies in the blue and gold caps come back and ask, "Won't you have another cup of coffee?" "We have cherry, chocolate, and apple pie—which do you prefer?" After the meal the real program begins. A Freshman lad gives the F.F.A. creed, a Sophomore boy tells about his farming program, the chapter's news reporter tells about some of the chapter's activities, and then the adviser announces the winners of certain chapter awards. Now it's time for some fun. A group of boys puts on their interpretation of a "truth or consequence" show. And then the last number, a short

An F.F.A. Swine Breeders' Association

RUBEN S. HOVLAND, Teacher, Owatonna, Minnesota

THE farmers in Steele County in southeastern Minnesota are becoming "hog conscious" due to the efforts and organization of the Owatonna Future Farmer Swine Breeding Association. Steele County is primarily a dairy area specializing in the production of sweet creamery butter.



Ruben S. Hovland

In the winter of 1942 five boys in the department of vocational agriculture became interested in raising purebred swine. A search locally was begun for good, purebred breeding stock. It was soon found that Steele County did not have a surplus supply of purebred hogs. In order to provide the farmers of Steele County with good, production-tested, purebred boars and to teach the boys sound and efficient methods of swine production, the Owatonna Future Farmer Swine Breeding Association, a subsidiary of the local chapter of the Future Farmers of America, was organized in the fall of 1943. A constitution was formed and officers elected for a term of one year. Some of the provisions in the constitution were: all litters must be purebred; all litters must be earmarked at birth; all litters must be weighed at 56 days of age; and all litters must be farrowed between March 1 and April 15.

The first year 9 boys raised 12 litters of purebred hogs. As these hogs were growing, the problem arose as to what to do with the surplus breeding stock, so it was decided to hold a purebred-boar sale in the fall. Some new standards had to be set up to eliminate poor-quality individuals and to consign only the fastest-gaining hogs with the best type and from the larger litters. It was decided that one of the big qualifying factors would be the 56-day litter weights of these pigs, and 200 pounds was set as the qualifying weight.

A survey was made of the available number of qualified boars, and it was found that there were 27 pigs in the Duroc Jersey, Spotted Poland China, Poland China, and Chester White breeds. The sale was held in October, 1944, with a good crowd of farmers attending. All boars were sold to local farmers.

Enthusiasm grew among the students of vocational agriculture, and during the winter 19 boys joined the organization and raised 29 litters of pigs during the

talk by a state F.F.A. officer.

In many communities, the F.F.A. fun feed is traditional. It gives the farm families a chance to visit the local school. It provides a fine opportunity for development of certain phases of community-social leadership. It tends to foster a closer relationship between the parents and sons. It is a means of enlisting the cooperation and help of the parents in developing the farming programs.

summer of 1945. The standards of the organization had to be revised so the litter weight at 56 days was raised to 225 pounds, with the stipulation that each boy could consign only two boars from each litter to the sale.

Another purebred sale was held in October, 1945, with 44 top-quality, purebred boars consigned. A much larger crowd attended the sale, and it was observed that people came from greater distances.

From an educational point of view there are several worthwhile accomplishments of the Swine Breeding Association. It has developed a great interest among farm boys in vocational agriculture, and it has been a "learning by doing" method of teaching efficient hog production to the boys enrolled in vocational agriculture. All equipment used in the production of hogs has been made in the farm shop at high school. Most fathers have become better hog men after their boys have raised a litter of pigs. It was very noticeable that many "approved practices" that they boys were using soon were being carried out by the dads also. Another accomplishment is the better quality of boars that are going into the herds of hogs in the community. The boys have also made some well-earned money in their farming programs. At the last sale, the average price received was about \$20 above the market price. It has also taught cooperation because an undertaking such as a purebred sale, with the different breeds of hogs represented, requires cooperation.

Owatonna F.F.A. Swine Breeders' Association

Following are some statistics gathered in 1945:

1. No. litters of pigs	27
2. No. pigs farrowed	256
3. Av. pigs per sow farrowed	9.5
4. No. pigs weaned	
Boars	100
Sows	94
5. Av. pigs per sow weaned	7.2
6. Av. 56-day wt. per litter	249
7. Av. 56-day wt. per pig	34.5

Housing Bulletin

(Continued from page 213)

and unfinished, the doors and windows broken or inadequate. These houses lack facilities for sanitation, convenience, livableness and beauty. The teacher-trainers hope to change these drab conditions thru a well-planned educational program of home improvement. Since the home is the first unit in fitting children into society, the housing program is an undertaking of national importance which every American will no doubt be glad to see go forward."

The housing bulletin is the second of a series of handbooks which the Negro teacher-trainers have developed to assist vocational teachers in improving the rural living conditions of Negro people. Their first publication, entitled "Negro Farm Families Can Feed Themselves," dealt with greater production and utilization of food for farm families. It has been widely used by teachers in stimulating a greater production of food for both war needs and adequate family diets. It was completed at a time when it met a most urgent need. This housing bulletin comes out when the housing shortage is acute and is expected to serve a most useful purpose in improving farm homes.

