

A N N U A L . R E P O R T

Arnold Z. Smith

C o u n t y A g e n t .

Santa Cruz County .

ARIZONA.

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A R R A N G E M E N T

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ORGANIZATION →

Farm Bureau -- Whent the County Agent entered the county on October 1st,he found an organization of the Farm Bureau existing there,but very litile results were be obtained from the organization. It had been organized on the old basis of organization,that is to say,a community unit form,in which each community had it's own organization somplete within itself,and each community was trying to carry on organized work without any cooperation or help from any other community or from the county organization.

Much time was spent during the first month,in getting acquainted with leaders in the different communities,and in studying conditions that existed in the different communities,and all the time keeping in mind the other form of organization,although very little was said in that regard. An effort was made to find out the reason for the existence of the old form of Farm Bureau but no satisfactory answer was found.

The Annual meeting of the Farm Bureau was held on Saturday,October 29th,at Sonoita Hall in the Sonoita community. The meeting was held in connection with the annual picnic. The meeting was fully advertised by two cicular letters,with a total circulation of two hundred and fifty, and six newspaper articles,together with the publicity given by the County Agent in farm visits. Forty five interested farmers and stockmen from represent-ative parts of the county were present at the meeting. The election of officers resulted in - Dr.L.W.Klene, of Elgin,Mr.A.M.Benjamin,of Sonoita,and Mr.J.B.Bristol,of Nogales,being elected president,vice-president,and secretary-treasurer,respectively. At this meeting a lengthy discussion on the reorganization of the farm bureau took place. The discussion was entered into by Director W.M.Cook,State President C.S.Brown,and County Agent Smith,and prominent leaders from the different communities. While no defenite action was taken at the meeting in regard to the reorganization,an expression was gained which indicated that members present were in favor of the change.

At a meeting of President Klene,Secretary Bristol and County Agent Smith,held on November 4th,at the office of the county ggent,it was ddcided to hold a series of community meetings for the purpose of organizaing and carrying out the program of work idea. It was decided to begin these meetings by holding the first one at Elgin on November 12th. It was further decided thateach community was to be notified of the action taken at this meeting and that the community should make some effort to get together in the near future for the purpose of reoganization. Notices for all meetings were to be sent out from the central office,and newspaper articles prepared and published for these meetings.

The meeting to be held at Eggin was advertised in that manner, 41 copies of a circular letter was sent out, and 2 newspaper articles were published. Twelve farmers and stockmen appeared at the meeting, and after a thorough discussion of the plan of organization, it was voted to proceed with the reorganization, and Mr. W. F. Niel was elected as community chairman. A tentative program of work for the coming year was adopted, with the project leaders to be selected later. The program as selected at the meeting includes work along the following lines -

- Organization of the Farm Bureau.
- Silo Construction.
- Importation of Better Dairy Sires.
- Orchard Growing.
- Poultry Improvement.
- Marketing of Range Stuff.
- Marketing of Wild Hay.
- Rural Telephones.
- Home Canning.

Dr. Kleene agreed to look after the telephone situation, and was appointed as community project leader on rural telephones.

Sonoita arranged for a community meeting on November 26th. Thirty two copies of a circular letter was sent out to farmers and stockmen in that community, and one newspaper article was prepared. Seventeen farmers and stockmen were present at the meeting and after a full discussion of the Farm Bureau scheme, proceeded to elect a community chairman, outline a program of work, and select their project leaders. A full program was not selected at this meeting, but it is to be completed at a very near meeting. Mr. Ed Hummel was elected as Community Chairman, and the following problems were considered important enough to be included in the program for the coming year -

- Marketing of Wild Hay, Charley Putman, Leader.
- Poultry Improvement, Mrs. L. M. Sprung, Leader
- Marketing of Range Cattle, Mr. A. M. Benjamin, Leader.

Much interest was manifested in these meetings, and some results from this project work can be expected in the future from these different communities.

Organization was taken up with some of the farmers of the Patagonia Community, and interest seems to warn an attempt to get those farmers and stockmen into the organization. It is the plan to continue the organization and reorganization of the county, so that every community will be reached by the Farm Bureau. In this work, the County Agent will be greatly assisted by President Kleene, and Secretary Bristol.

Miscellaeous - The County Agent sent a letter of inquiry regarding the organization of milk dealers' associations, with the idea of getting the dairymen of Nogales into an organization to improve their method of handling milk.

SOIL IMPROVEMENT -

Miscellaneous - The matter of summerfallowing was discussed with one farmer of the Elgin community with a view of conserving moisture, and especially so that enough moisture could be saved every two years that a successful crop of grain might be grown one of those years. It is possible to arrange a demonstration on this matter the coming year.

CROPS -

Crop Diseases- A letter from the University was delivered to one farmer who had been badly bothered with Crown Gall on fruit trees and Wilt on beans. This farmer was pretty much discouraged by the loss of trees but agreed to plant more trees with the County Agent's help to control disease.

Crop Pests - Grasshoppers were found to be very bad all over the county. As the season was over when the County Agent took up the work, nothing was done, except mention the means at hand for the control of grasshoppers, and two farmers agreed to use the hopperdozers next year, if the hoppers were as bad as this year.

Cereal Demonstrations - Farmers of the Elgin and Sonoita communities are anxious to secure a crop which will bring them in a cash return about the middle of the summer, and to that end Mr. S. P. Clark and the County Agent spent two days in going over plans and outlining what could be done in the manner of crop demonstrations.

Miscellaneous - The County Agent furnished one farmer with information in regard to the grafting of cultivated walnut onto the native walnut, as found in the mountains of the county. The County Agent prepared a crop census blank, and fifty percent of the time of the month of November has been spent in securing a crop census of the county. This is secured by making personal visits to each of the farmers in the county.

LIVESTOCK -

Range Cattle - In traveling about over the county, the County Agent found many of the cattlemen having trouble with the Spânose

Ear Tick, and seven Farmers' Bulletins No. 980, dealing with the eradication of the ear tick were distributed.

Feeding - One dairyman near Nogales asked the County Agent to go over his feeding ration. It was found that the ration being fed to dairy cows was very narrow, having a N.R. of 1 - 3. A change in the ration was suggested, and the dairyman adopted the changed ration. However, in the short time, no results have been seen yet.

Silos and Silage - Advise was asked by one dairyman on the feasibility of using an old cistern, 25 feet in diameter and 9 feet deep for a silo. Under the existing circumstances it was deemed a good thing to do, although the County Agent suggested that a heavy loss would be met with. A later visit to this "make-shift silo" found that the silage was keeping in very good shape, but with a great percentage of loss, due to the large area exposed.

A silo was found which had been filled during the summer with pigweed silage. Part of the silage had been fed out soon after it was put in, then the silo refilled with corn silage. The owner stated that the dairy cows ate the fresh pigweed silage in very good shape, and seemed to be a very good quality of silage. He stated that the cows kept up in their milk flow, while on this silage feed.

About the middle of November, the corn silage had all been fed, and the dairyman started to feed again on the pigweed silage. By agreement with the County Agent, the dairyman is to keep a record of how this silage compares with other silages. At the present time, the cows are eating 20 pounds of the silage per day, and are keeping up in their milk flow without an increase in their grain or hay ration. An examination of this silage by the County Agent showed it to be sweet smelling, however, lacking in the acid odor of good corn silage, of good silage texture, of a bright color, and well preserved. It seemed to turn dark in color just as soon as the air came in contact with it.

Goats - One farmer was found that was interested in the milk goat industry. Two letters of inquiry were sent out to get information of goats. Two bunches of goats were located in the county.

Miscellaneous - In connection with the crop census blanks, a livestock census blank was also prepared, and with crop census, the livestock census is being taken.

MARKETING -

Miscellaneous - One inquiry from a Tucson grower, in regard to the marketing of sweet potatoes. However, after careful inquiry about the county, it was found that very little opportunity presented itself in this county.

A good suggestion was made that a booth be secured in the newly prepared public market in Nogales, to be used by members of the Farm Bureau for the distribution of such articles that they may have for sale. The County Agent made inquiry as to the possibility, costs, etc., and found that costs of the booth would be practically out of the question. However, it was decided to keep this matter in mind and see what could be done at a later time.

FARM and HOME -

Annual Picnic - Due to the fact that the Annual Meeting and the Annual Picnic were held together, a great deal of the work for the preparation and advertising of the one was necessarily work for the other.

The Annual Picnic of the Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau was held on October 29th, at the Sonoita Hall. The arrangements for the picnic were in the hands of the general committee appointed by the president, with special committees for special arrangements. Advertising was done from the president's office by two circular letters, and 8 newspaper articles.

A basket lunch at noon, followed by speaking in the afternoon and a dance in the evening brought the people together for a day of recreation.

Dr. von Elein Smid, Director Cook, State Farm Bureau President Brown and Miss Alice Joyce were outside speakers.

One hundred and fifty-five people enjoyed the day.

Rural Telephones - At the meeting of the Elgin Community, rural telephones were considered as a thing most needed by the community. Dr. Klene, was appointed as community project leader for the Elgin community. At the project leader's request, the County Agent got in touch with a company which handles telephones suitable for rural use, and asked for information regarding these telephones. It is the hope of the people of Elgin that the other communities will take action on the telephone project, and in the near future, all the communities will be linked together by a telephone system.