

Cooperative Extension Centennial Celebration
Your Trusted Partner...Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow

As Cooperative Extension marks 100 years of working for Wisconsin, the following is an excerpt from Cooperative Extension in Grant County – The First Forty Years by Wilfred Pierick, written in 1963.

Livestock Sales Pavilions

At a meeting of businessmen and farmers held early in 1919 in the county agent's office, the question of a sales pavilion for Grant county was discussed with the result that a committee was appointed to solicit subscriptions for the building of a sales pavilion adequate to accommodate not less than fifty head of cattle or 100 hogs. The work started as soon as the plans and funds were available with the result that there was erected on the fairgrounds at Lancaster, a pavilion, costing approximately \$10,000. The total amount was from contributions by the business men and stockmen of the county.

The new building furnished much needed accommodation for livestock exhibits at the Lancaster fair. On September 22, 1919, the first sale held in the new building was conducted by L. D. Eastman of Lancaster, which was a sale of purebred Poland China hogs. During the first two months after completion, five sales were held in the pavilion, the gross amount of the sales amounting to more than \$31,000.

Livingston Livestock Sales Pavilion

Clifton township, in eastern Grant county, had long been recognized as a community that appreciated the value of purebred livestock, according to G. Davies (county agricultural agent from 2/1919 to 9/1920). The names of Rundell, Griswold, Gruenwald, Biddick and others were indelibly associated with purebred Guernseys, Jerseys, Shorthorns, Percherons, Durocs and Poland Chinas.

To provide an outlet for surplus stock, the public sale became a necessity to the breeder and a convenience to the public. Griswold Brothers sale of Shorthorns in March, 1919, held in a tent, brought an average price of \$512, followed by the Guernsey Breeders consignment sale in May, establishing the necessity of a permanent sales barn at Livingston. Funds were subscribed by farmers and other business men, the amounts collected ranging from \$25 to \$500. Plans were drawn; the contract let; builders went to work with cement, tile, steel and wood; and the Livingston sales pavilion was about completed by the end of the year.

The Edgington Shorthorn sale, January 28, 1920, was the opening event. Hauk Brothers and Chris Kartman of Cassville; Ed and Joe Hendricks of Hazel Green, all Poland China breeders of note; with Runde Brothers of Cuba City; Edge, Croft, Magee, Bartholomew and several other good Duroc breeders of Fennimore, were only a few of the distinguished breeders of purebred livestock that helped to place Grant county on the map as the foremost county in Wisconsin, according to the observation of Davies.