

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.

Beef Cattle Tour

A beef cattle tour of eighty miles extent was conducted in the summer of 1919 for the purpose of making comparisons and studying steer feeding practices. Prof. Fuller and Ray Baker of the College of Agriculture, Burlie Dobson of the *Wisconsin Agriculturist* and E. R. McIntyre of the *Wisconsin Farmer*, accompanied the party of seventy farmers.

At the Williams Brothers farm, two carloads of two year-olds were being given a ration of ground barley and corn silage. These feeders were raised on the farm. Native cows, chiefly grade Shorthorns were crossed with a purebred Angus which produced animals of good beef conformation.

At the Bailie farm, three carloads of heavy hogs were being prepared for market by the use of ground barley and other feeds from self-feeders.

The third stop was at the Maple Grove Stock Farm, the home of the Walter Steinhoff's and purebred Angus cattle. Walter demonstrated what can be accomplished in building up a farm and making life in the country worthwhile through the use of purebred cattle.

At Homer Biddick's, the group visited a high-grade herd of Angus cows with good records as milk producers. A fine bunch of silage fed baby beeves was the principle object of the visit there.

At the next farm visited, that of George Chamley, just across the line in Iowa county, 163 head of three year old Hereford steers were grazing in luxuriant bluegrass. Most of these cattle were bought at high prices. Some had been fed a generous corn ration during the winter, which made the group of visitors feel that George had a right to

be concerned with the "agitation then at full sway in the newspapers and in the public mind with regard to the high cost of living."

The Griswold Brothers farm was the next to be visited. It was a typical purebred farm where pedigrees went with all the livestock, whether they were Percheron horses, Shorthorn cattle, Poland China hogs, or purebred poultry. The barns which were well arranged, clean and with good light and ventilation, made a very good impression on the visitors. The house and outbuildings were furnished with electric lights and running water. Davies (county agent from 2/1919 to 9/1920) noted that "honesty, hospitality, and determination to succeed were elements that were in evidence on the part of the owners and operators of the farm." He said that all were impressed with the fact that farm life appeared both satisfying and attractive.

The last stop on the return trip showed not merely purebred Shorthorns and the fine farm home of William McCormick, but brought out three keen and sturdy farm boys who were rather proud of the opportunity to show the baby beeves which they were feeding for the Junior Livestock Exposition at Madison. McCormick, who acted as pilot for the beef tour, was deeply interested in developing better livestock. At the same time, he was not overlooking the more important question of interesting his boys in the life on the farm.

Accredited Herds, Wool Pools, Silos

County agent Davies continually urged farmers to take advantage of free testing of livestock for tuberculosis. By having their herd of cattle tested by a Federal veterinarian, they could get on the "accredited herd list."

Farmers interested in pooling their wool and selling it according to grade, "with the result of receiving from five to ten cents a pound more," were encouraged to write to the county agent.

Figures showing increased profit from the use of silos in both dairy and beef cattle feeding were listed in Davies' report in the interests of promoting more silos in Grant county.