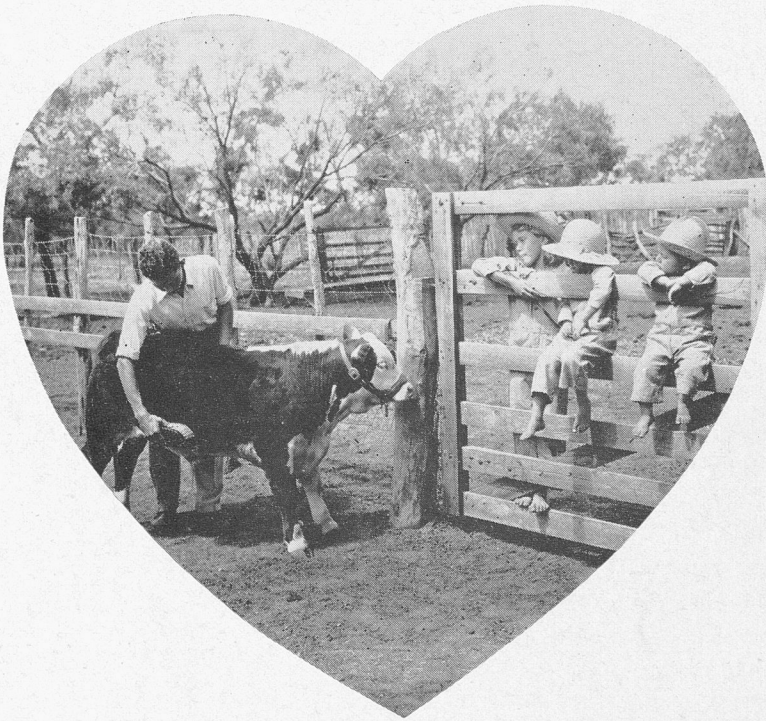


"I Pledge My Heart"



The Story of Boys' 4-H Club Work in Texas

issued by
The Extension Service
Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas and
The United States Department of Agriculture
H. H. Williamson, Director, College Station, Texas

CLUB COLORS

Green and White

CLUB MOTTO

To make the best better

TEXAS 4-H CLUB CREED

I believe in boys' and girls' club work because of the opportunity it gives me to become a useful citizen.

I believe in the training of my head because of the power it will give me to think, to plan, and to reason.

I believe in the training of my heart because it will help me to be kind, sympathetic and true.

I believe in the training of my hands because it will make me helpful, skillful, and useful.

I believe in the great trinity of club work: the community, the home, and achievement.

I believe in my country, in the state of Texas, and in my responsibility for their development.

To the fulfillment of all these things I am willing to dedicate my service.

STATE BOYS' CLUB AGENT

L. L. Johnson

"I PLEDGE MY HEART"

"I pledge

"My head to clearer thinking,

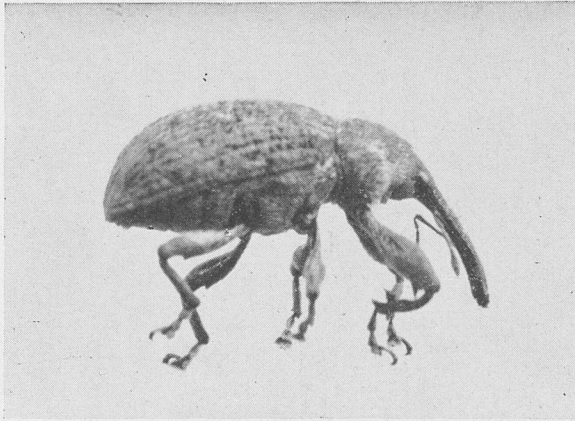
"My hands to greater service,

"My heart to truer loyalty and finer sympathy,

*"And my health to efficient living in service to my
home, my community, my country, and my God."*

The Story of 4-H Club Work In Texas

The pledge that more than twenty-three thousand Texas 4-H boys repeat in support of their motto, "To make the best better," is repeated also by a million and a quarter 4-H boys and girls throughout the United States.



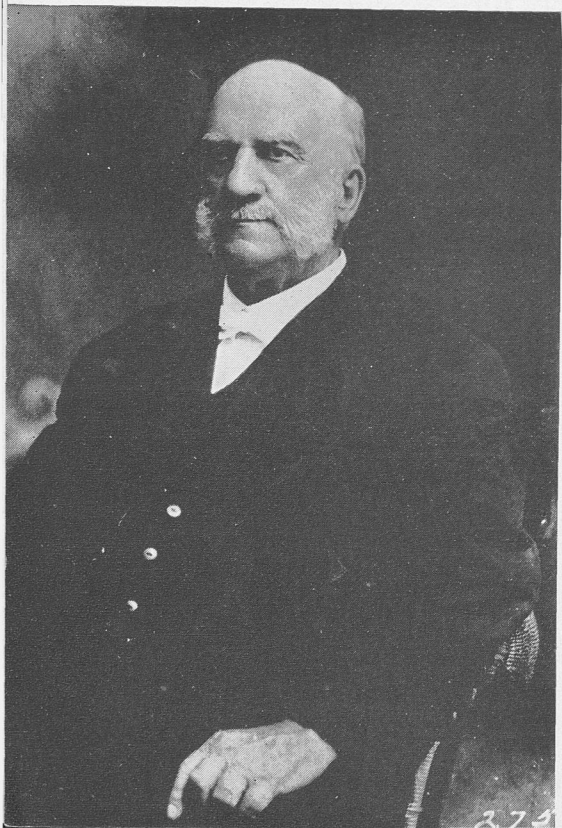
The boll weevil brought Dr. Knapp to Texas.

This great organization, which had its beginning under Government supervision in Texas, has its counterpart in Finland, Sweden, Latvia, China, and South America. The boys and girls throughout these countries might well have as their emblem the cotton boll weevil instead of the four-leaf clover. It was this insect enemy of the cotton farmer that brought Dr. Seaman A. Knapp to Texas and caused him to develop the demonstration idea, upon which the Extension Service operates, and brought 4-H club work into being.

In 1892, near Brownsville, Texas, the cotton boll weevil was first found in the United States. By 1904 it had extended its range to the more important cotton producing countries in the state and to parts of Louisiana. As the weevil advanced, panic and ruin followed, and it seemed in 1903 that the whole cotton industry of the South would be destroyed. Appeals for aid were sent to the U. S. Department of Agriculture, and Dr. Knapp was sent to Texas to study the situation. His idea was to teach crop rotation and diversification and the planting of pure seed by doing rather than by telling.

Boll Weevil Brings First Demonstration

The first demonstration was set up near Terrell on the farm of W. C. Porter, who planted and cultivated 40 acres of cotton under Dr. Knapp's supervision. Mr. Porter was skeptical at first, but the business men of Terrell guaranteed to insure him against loss. When the picking season was over Mr. Porter found that he had made a profit of more than \$700.00, which proved that cotton could be grown profitably under boll weevil conditions.



Dr. Seaman A. Knapp, founder of the demonstration plan on which the Extension Service operates, who accorded young people a place in agriculture and gave 4-H club work a firm foundation.

O. B. Martin, in 1909, was appointed as assistant in charge of club work under Dr. Knapp, and later served as director of the Texas Extension Service. It was Martin who designed the 4-H club emblem.



This was in 1903. In a short while Dr. Knapp employed field agents who traveled by rail and in buggies establishing demonstrations, and by 1907 a number of county agents had been appointed. The first one was W. C. Stallings, who began his work in Smith County, and soon thousands of demonstrators in Texas and other southern states were working in cooperation with county agents.

The work was growing, but Dr. Knapp was not satisfied, for he felt that it was not reaching enough people fast enough; so he recalled that in 1889 William B. Otwell, a country school superintendent, had distributed corn seed to farm boys in Macoupin County, Illinois. This idea had spread: the same plan was used in other midwestern states with attractive prizes offered to the boys for the best samples of corn shown at county and state fairs.

Near the turn of the century the program of giving seed corn to farm boys had begun to die out, but Dr. Knapp thought that if farm boys were to grow corn and other crops besides cotton and take into consideration efficiency in production, which would bring about a greater net profit, it would hasten the spread of his better farming program.

Boys Take Part in Demonstrations

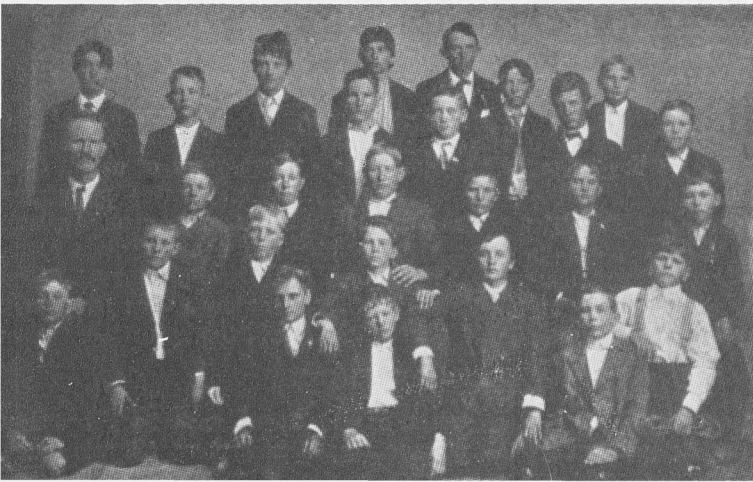
The first boys' club to be organized by a county agent was formed by T. M. Marks in Jack County, Texas, in 1908. Dr. Knapp and his assistants had worked out a formula for evaluating corn club work. The plan assigned 30 points to yield, 30 points to profit, 20 to the story of the demonstration, and 20 to an exhibit.

With this new evaluation the movement spread, and club work as we now have it was born. In 1910 the first girls' club was organized in Aiken County, South Carolina. The movement had grown so quickly that it was necessary for Dr. Knapp to have an assistant in charge of club work, and this work was assigned in 1909 to O. B. Martin, who later became Director of the Extension Service of the Texas A. and M. College.

4-H Insignia Is Designed

In 1911 O. H. Benson, a country school superintendent in Iowa who had organized a number of clubs, was called to Washington by the Department of Agriculture to assist with club work. Benson, at a meeting of club boys and girls, had been inspired to talk about developing the head, the hands, and the heart, because the club members had handed him some four-leaf clovers that they had found. Some years later another "H", for health, was added to the other three, and the emblem of the four-leaf clover with the four H's was born. It was Martin who designed the "4-H" insignia.

Not long after club work went on a demonstration basis boys began to report yields of more than 200 bushels of corn an acre, produced at a reasonable cost. There were hundreds of boys in the South who made more than 100 bushels an acre. The average yield in Texas at that time was around 17 bushels an acre.



The Jack county 4-H club, formed in 1908, was organized by T. M. Marks and was the first boys' club to be organized by a county agent. There are now more than 25,000 4-H club boys in Texas.

This group of county agricultural agents of the Texas Extension Service received their early agricultural training as 4-H club boys.



On March 16, 1912, C. M. Evans, now Regional Director of the Farm Security Administration, was appointed through a cooperative agreement between the U. S. Department of Agriculture and the Texas A. and M. College to have charge of boys' and girls' club work.

Williamson Takes Charge of Texas Club Work

The present director of the Texas Extension Service, H. H. Williamson, succeeded Evans on October 1, 1912. He had been an assistant to Evans for about six months. The Smith-Lever Act was passed by Congress in 1914, and the Extension Service was established as a branch of the Texas A. and M. College. Williamson remained in charge of club work until he became State Agent on August 10, 1920.

Under Williamson's guidance, Texas club boys began to include livestock and crops other than corn in their demonstrations. In 1912 club boys exhibited crops at the Dallas State Fair.

Sam Matthews exhibited the first club beef calf at the Ft. Worth Fat Stock Show in 1910. He later entered Texas A. and M. College and majored in animal husbandry. From this beginning plans were formulated for the 4-H baby beef demonstration in which boys bought beef calves, demonstrated feeding practices, and exhibited them at club shows before offering them for sale.



C. M. Evans
March, 1912
October, 1912



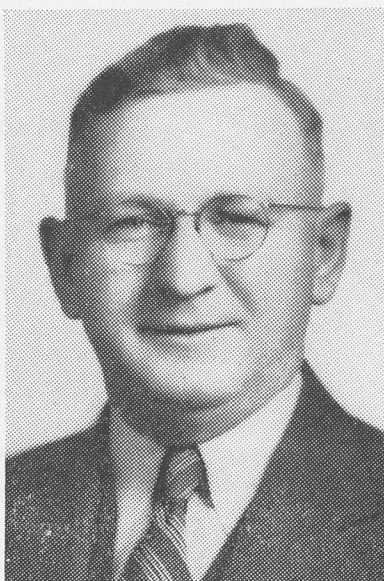
S. C. Evans
July, 1926
August, 1928



R. W. Persons
August, 1920
July, 1926



These Men Have Served Texas 4-H Club Boys As Leaders



H. H. Williamson
Present Director of the Extension Service
October, 1912
August, 1920



M. T. Payne
May, 1930
April, 1933



E. C. Martin
September, 1933
October, 1935



L. L. Johnson
October, 1935
Present club agent

Successful 4-H club demonstrations require planning and record keeping. This young club member is going over his beef feeding records with his county agricultural agent.



In 1937, 2,821 Texas 4-H club boys fed out one or more beef calves. At 13 major district and state livestock shows, \$8,930.50 was offered to club boys in premiums on beef calves, dairy heifers, hogs, and sheep. The club animals sold at auction at the close of these shows brought \$69,234.89.

Club boys, in their beef calf demonstrations, learn to select animals on the basis of quality. In addition to finding for themselves the make-up of a balanced ration, they learn to provide shelter, shade, and plenty of fresh water.

The finishing of beef calves for show requires a fine technique which has been highly developed by Texas 4-H club boys. Texas club members have won grand championship honors in competition with college and professional feeders at the major state livestock shows.

Texas club boys learn to select their animals on the basis of quality. These future champions have just been placed on feed.



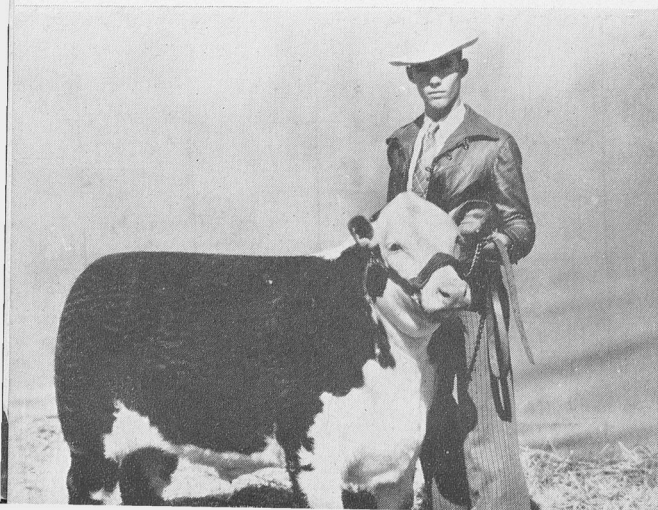


In addition to providing their beef calves with a balanced ration, 4-H boys learn to furnish their animals with brush arbors for shade and with plenty of fresh water.

In 1937, Texas 4-H calves entered in the open classes took grand championship awards at the Denver National Western Livestock Show at the Kansas City Royal.

Club boys also feed out livestock under commercial conditions. Such animals are fed primarily for market, not for show. In April of 1938, 4-H club boys of Hale and neighboring counties shipped a trainload of calves and lambs to Kansas City. From Hale county alone came 173 beef calves and 352 lambs.

Texas 4-H club boys are entering a new type of demonstration, that of "junior ranchman". In this enterprise, sons of ranchmen take over a portion of the range and a few cattle, and work to improve the range and the quality of the animals.



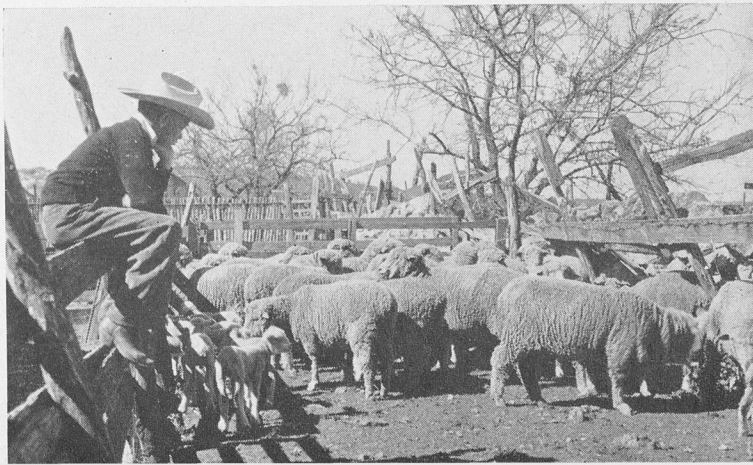
This calf, owned and fed by a Texas club boy, won grand championship honors at the Kansas City Royal in competition with animals finished by college and professional feeders.

4-H club lamb feeding demonstrations have resulted in an improvement of the type of sheep in many counties.



There were, in 1937, 710 club boys who had sheep as their demonstration. The primary object in the past has been to raise lambs for show, but in Southwest Texas, where most of the state's sheep production is centered, 4-H boys are undertaking a range demonstration which involves a breeding herd of 25 animals. Included in the demonstration is improvement of the range and of the quality of the herd.

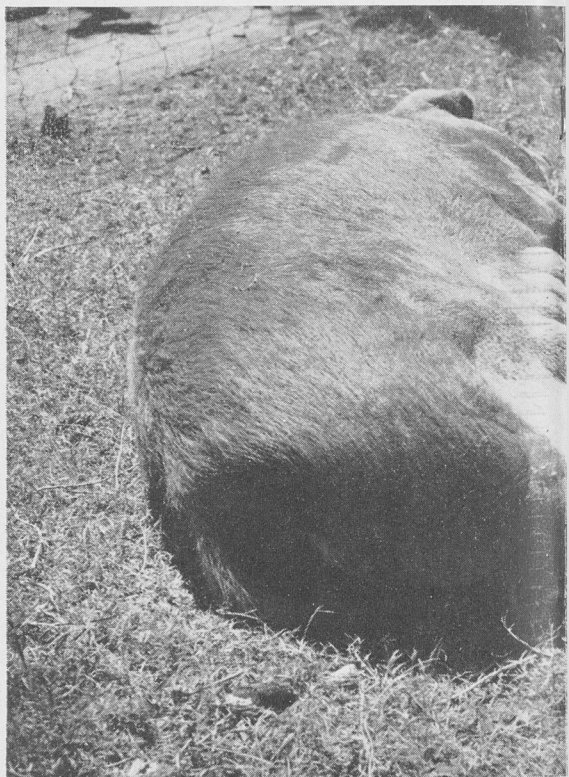
Range sheep demonstrations have as their object the improvement of both the range and the breeding flock.



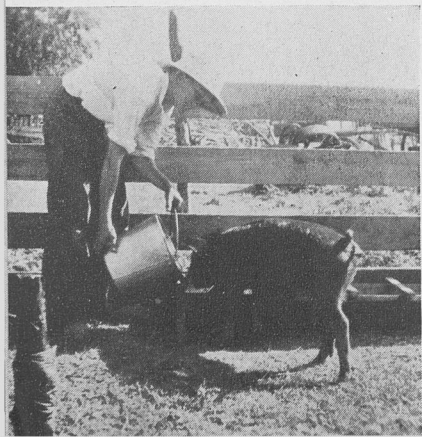


"From Marbles to

"From Rags to Riches" is the story of a Bank Account" tells of the account of a 4-H club.



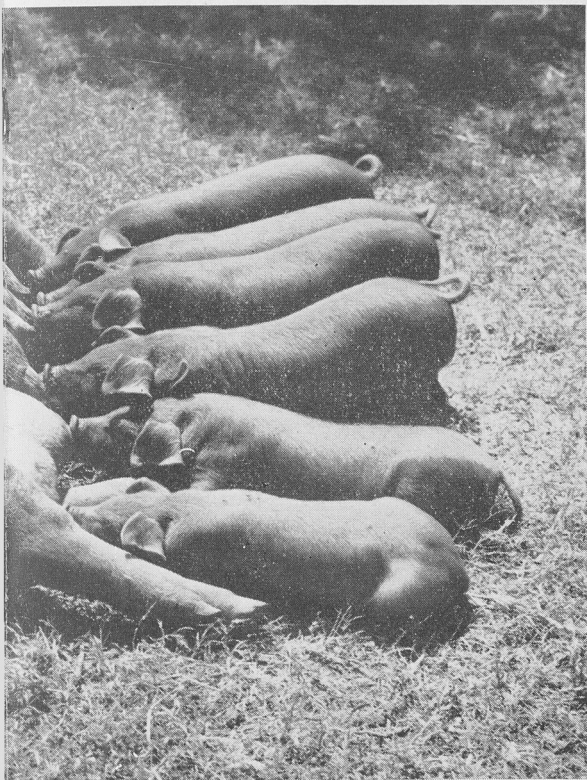
The swine demonstration included Texas club boys. In 1937, from one pig up to several litters were fed for their swine.



In many counties, the qualities have been improved through the use of Registered gilts and boars are used. The result is that the resultant litters are more numerous and of turning feed into pork quickly.

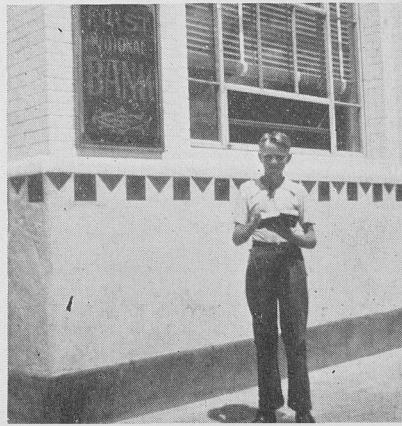
a Bank Account"

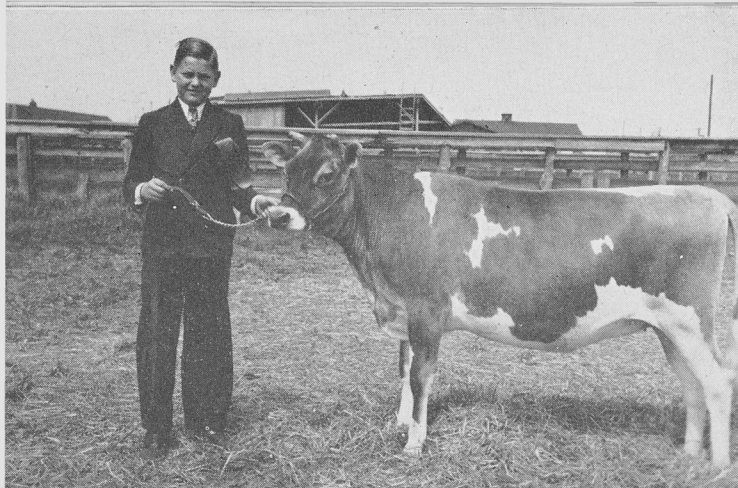
story of a city boy, but "From Marbles
uphishments of a farm boy through his



is one of the most popular offer-
4,518 4-H club members owned
rs. Most of these boys also grew

tity of the pigs in entire commu-
rough the club demonstrations.
bought and farmers soon learn
made up of pigs that are capable
kly and economically.



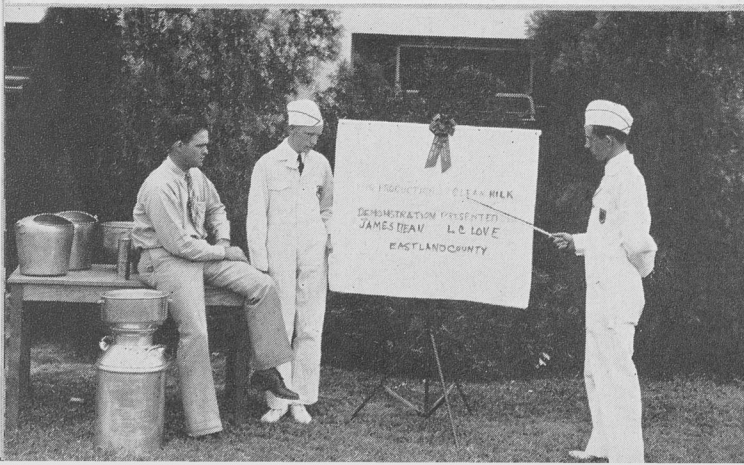


This dairy heifer, a winner at a state livestock show, is the foundation of a 4-H dairy herd.

Many of the good dairy herds in the state have their origin from 4-H club dairy demonstrations. The year 1937 saw 1,248 boys with dairy heifers as their demonstrations.

Club boys learn to know the points which indicate a money-making milk animal. They grow their feed crops, fill trench silos, learn the value of records and the part heredity plays in the foundation of a dairy herd.

The dairy club members bring what they have learned to other club members and their community through demonstrations. County agricultural agents have learned that such demonstrations are valuable not only to the club boys, but to the neighboring farmers as well.



These boys won the state dairy demonstration contest and represented Texas at the National Dairy Show.

4-H clubs developed from the corn clubs of the Mid-West, and more than 3,000 Texas club boys still conduct grain demonstrations. These boys proved the value of fertilizer in corn production.



Crops still attract the interest of Texas 4-H club members. There were 3,857 boys who grew corn or grain sorghum in 1937. In many cases these crops were planted to provide feed for livestock owned by the boys.

Cotton, the major cash crop of the state, was carried as a demonstration in 1937 by 9,372 4-H club boys. The major aim of the demonstration was to show the value of quality cotton.

This club boy dug and filled a 140 ton trench silo. Almost 10,000 trenches were filled in Texas in 1937, and many belonged to 4-H boys.





Club boys who had cotton as their demonstration included control of insects in their program. Increases of up to 100 pounds of lint cotton per acre were reported.

A cotton production program was carried by 56 counties. Each county had 20 or more boys with cotton, and each boy planted a minimum of three acres. Club members in these counties bought seed, ginned, and sold their cotton on a group basis.

Both local and state commercial and civic concerns cooperated in making the program a successful one. A number of county agricultural agents have reported that one variety cotton communities organized for 1938 had their inception through the 4-H club cotton demonstrations.



The planting of seed of a desirable variety and the production of quality cotton was the first aim of 4-H cotton demonstrators.

Club boys specialize in simple, inexpensive, but practical equipment in their poultry demonstrations.



Poultry demonstrations made up a part of the work of 3,576 club boys in 1937. Flocks ranged from a few birds for home use to large commercial ones. To manage a poultry flock successfully requires constant attention to details, but Texas 4-H club boys were eager to assume responsibility.

Healthy, productive poultry flocks were the pride of 3,576 Texas 4-H club boys in 1937.





The growing of sufficient vegetables for the family is one of the requirements of the garden demonstration. This boy, in addition, sold \$186 of tomatoes from his acre plot.

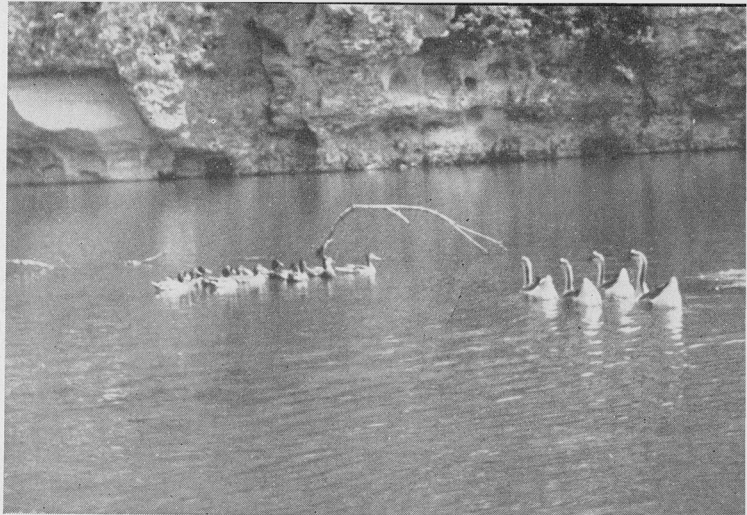
Many 4-H club boys have found pleasure and profit in growing fruits and vegetables. In 1937 753 boys reported 6,802 fruit trees in production plus 1,795 young trees.

Many farm orchards in the state owe their existence to a group program carried in a number of counties whereby a club plants seeds on a farm in the community. When the trees are large enough, the boys are taught how to bud them. The trees are then divided among the club members who plant them on their home places.



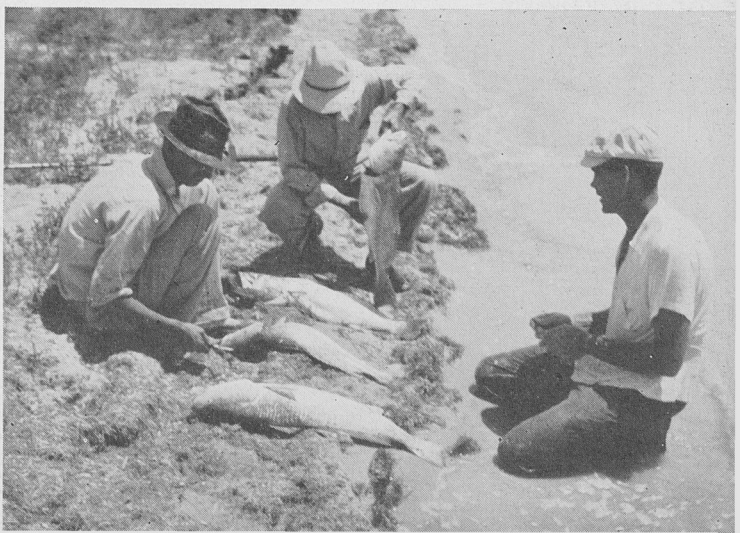
One of the duties of orchard demonstrators is to study insect control. These club boys are learning the PDB method of combating the peach borer.

Club boys are looking to the future as they include the conservation of wild life in their work. This artificial lake provides a refuge for ducks and geese.



Game conservation demonstrations were introduced for Texas club boys in 1936. The work, by the end of 1937, had spread to 30 counties, with 285 boys and 18,220 acres involved in the game preserve demonstrations.

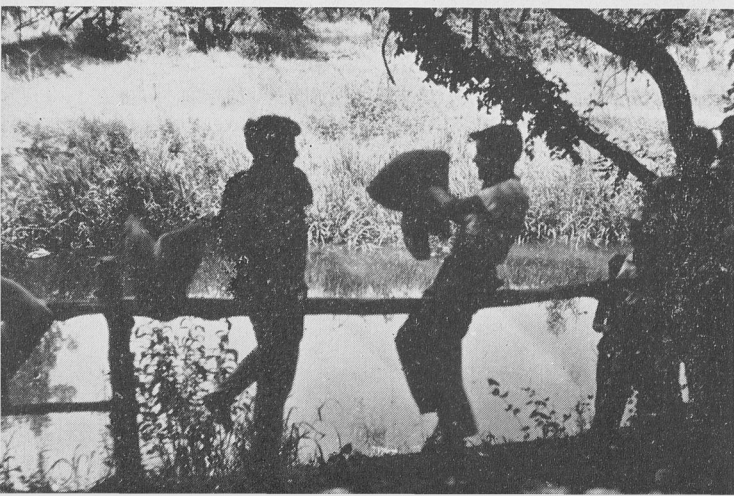
There are a number of lakes and farm ponds which have been stocked with fish by 4-H members. Fishing is a fine form of recreation, too.





A former 4-H club member, now a member of the Texas A. & M. College faculty, and active club member, and a club boy now attending college on the air to tell of their conception of 4-H club work.

The demonstration is the heart of Texas 4-H club work, but club boys have many other activities. Not the least of these are club and county tours in which the demonstrations are visited and explained. Club boys these days are experiencing a new thrill as they tell the story of their work over the radio.



The fellow who gets socked also gets a ducking—one of the many games club boys enjoy at their encampments.

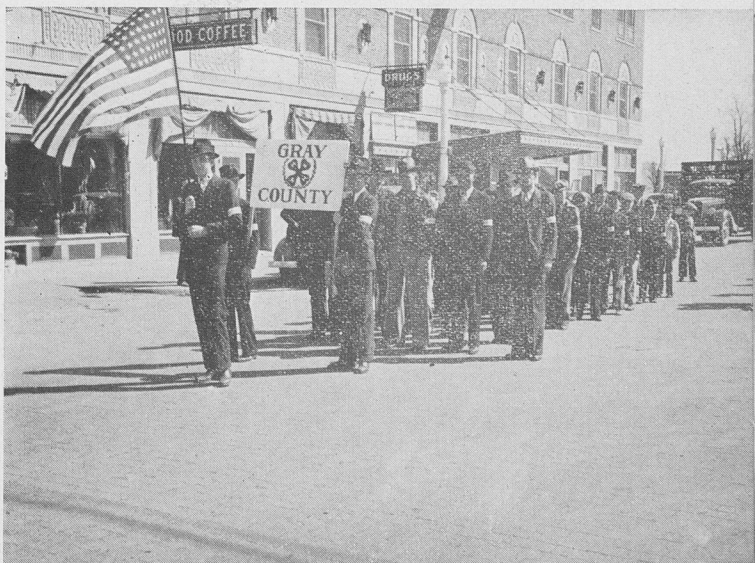
Encampments are the high points in the year's work. Only club boys who keep accurate records of their demonstrations are eligible to attend.

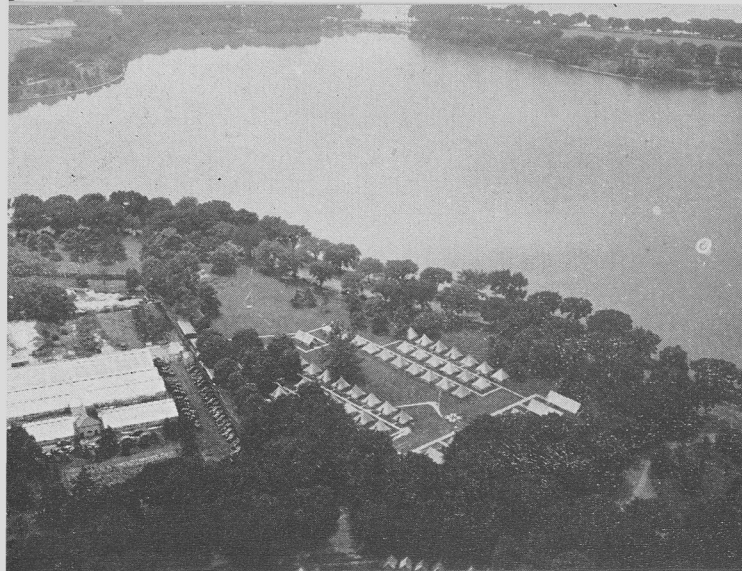


Days spent at a 4-H club camp are days that are long remembered by club boys. There were 276 such camps held during 1937 with an attendance of 4,216 boys.

Every club in the state took part in local or county rally days. Such occasions give club members new opportunity to form or cement friendships, enlarge their acquaintanceship, and to exchange experiences.

This district rally day was opened with a parade in which more than 800 boys took part.





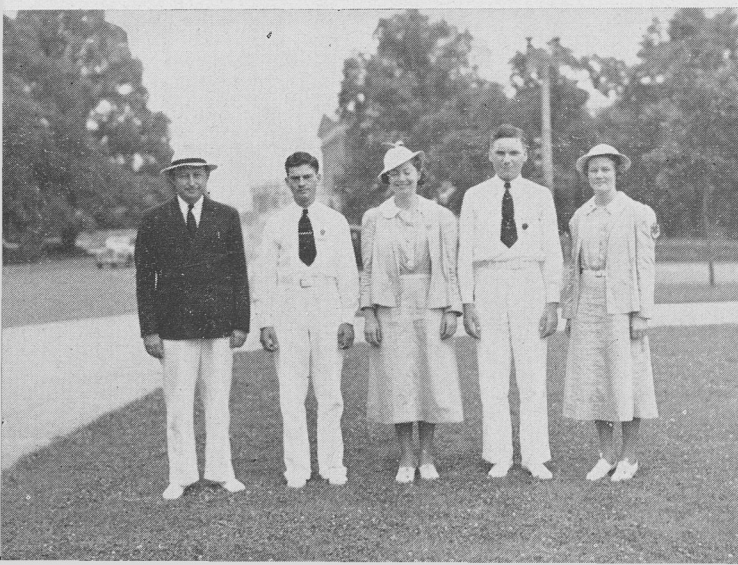
The camp grounds of the National 4-H Club Encampment at Washington, D. C. where the nation's outstanding club members meet each year.

Each year the achievements of 100 outstanding Texas 4-H club boys are recognized with the presentation of the coveted gold star pin at a colorful ceremony during the Texas A. & M. College Short Course.

The most sought after prize offered to 4-H club members is the trip to the National 4-H Club Encampment at the nation's capitol. Two boys and two girls take this trip each year, and a week is spent at Washington, D. C., in sight seeing and attending group meetings where the nation's leaders appear.

Each year, too, outstanding club boys are selected to represent Texas at the National 4-H Club Congress at Chicago.

In the ranks of agriculture, business, and professional life are found many men who are grateful to the training received in 4-H club work.



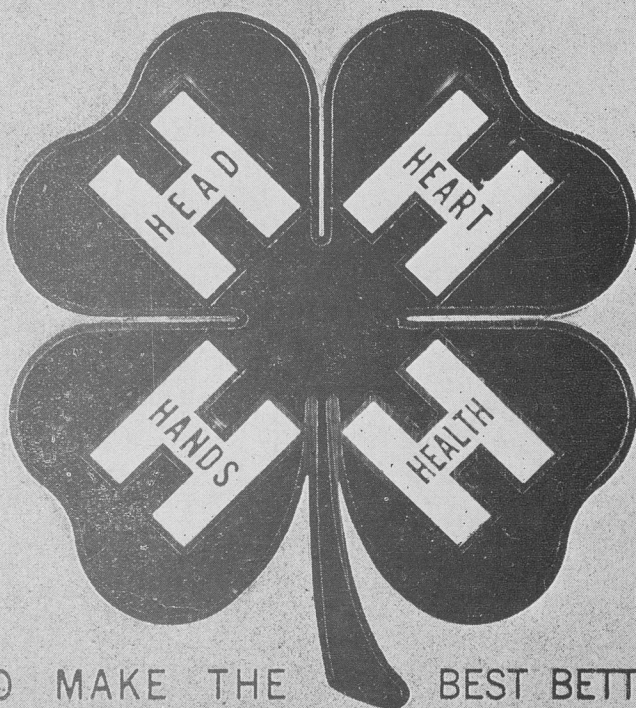
Texas Representatives at the National 4-H Club Encampment in 1937.

GOALS FOR 4-H CLUB BOYS

1. *Find useful things to do.*
2. *Give the best that is in you to the task at hand.*
3. *Consult with your parents, your leaders, and the representatives of your agricultural college.*
4. *Explore as many club projects as you can and discover what you like to do best.*
5. *Accept offices of responsibility.*
6. *Do your tasks cheerfully.*
7. *Do more than your leaders and parents request—not just enough to “get by”.*
8. *Do not be discouraged by temporary disappointments.*
9. *Acquire all the education you can, especially in the field you like best.*
10. *Plan ahead—set a goal for your future.*
11. *Play the health game. Sleep regularly, eat a balanced diet, breathe fresh air, and keep clean. Avoid the use of narcotics.*
12. *Cooperate with others. Learn to follow as well as lead.*
13. *Think. Read good books.*
14. *Have courage. Do not be afraid to undertake a new task. Overcome fear by knowing facts.*
15. *Be thrifty. Have a budget. Buy what you need and do not spend recklessly.*
16. *Make friends.*
17. *When you play, do so with as much zest as when you work.*
18. *Be thoughtful and kind to others.*
19. *Be observing. Learn to see the beauties and mysteries of nature, animals, and birds which are all about you.*

THE CLUB PRAYER

“Help me, O Lord, to live so that the world may be a little better because Thou didst make me. Amen.”



"TO MAKE THE BEST BETTER"

4-H CLUB

Cooperative Extension Work in Agriculture and Home Economics, Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas and United States Department of Agriculture Cooperating.
Distributed in furtherance of the Acts of Congress of May 8 and June 30, 1914.

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