Happy 100th Anniversary to the El Dorado County Farm Bureau!

The University of California Cooperative Extension and the Farm Bureau have a long history. In fact, without the farm bureau we wouldn't have a county based cooperative extension system. Really!

Let's take a stroll down memory lane....

The earliest organizations of farmers began to develop in the late 1800s. Those groups organized under a variety of names and philosophies, including The Grange, The Farmer's Alliance, The Agricultural Wheel, The Ancient Order of Gleaners and the Equity.

The origin of the Farm Bureau followed a different path and didn't occur until shortly after the turn of the century. Farm Bureau grew out of the Extension education movement occurring at land grant colleges across the nation.

The land grant colleges were established under the Morrill Act of 1862. The Hatch Act of 1887 established agricultural experiment stations. Each had provisions for "farmer's institutes" and other forms of off campus education for farmers.

The Extension concept, however, did not take root until the early 1900s, when the agricultural colleges developed Extension departments and staff. The devastating boll weevil gave an unexpected boost to the concept of traveling professors and field demonstration projects.

With a financial assist from the Department of Agriculture, Dr. Seaman Knapp took to the road to "teach by doing rather than telling." The field trials were developed to deal with the boll weevil. It had the effect for the first time of taking the classroom to the farm. Texas has the distinction of assigning the first "county agent."

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 19, 1917

WHY WE NEED A FARM ADV

Agriculture was not only the primary eval occupation of man, and the pursuit which all men in all ages have followed, but it has been, is, and ever must be the mainspring of all industry, All classes and conditions are dependent upon it for their daily sustenance. Nothing can supply the place of the products of the soil. Agriculture not only gives life to man and beast, but is the foundation of all other business, all trades, all manufactures, all commerce; in short, all basiness is the result directly or indirectly, of agriculture. When the labors of the husbandman are rewarded with bountiful harvests, the spin-dies multiply, the ships are rewarded with bountiful harvests, the spin-dies multiply, the ships are heavily freighted, and money plentiful. The nation that relies upon agriculture as its main product is independent and averagences.

prosperous.

The adaptation of agriculture to all ranks and conditions of society is wonderful. A king himself, without any loss of dignity, can be a farmer. Most of the Presidents of the United States have retired from their high positions to the cultivations of broad acres, and were just as dignified, and the public as proud of them, as when in the Presidential chair. Washington, Adams, Jefferson, Jackson, Van Buren, Clay, and Webster prided them selves upon their skill in farming, as much as in their guidance in the affairs of State.

Many a professional man and merchant, with his head aching with the perplexities of his business, sighs for the quiet simple pleasures of farm life. By living in the open air, and exercising his muscless most vigorousby, and his brain more gently, he feels that the nerve exhaustion and consumption of vital forces that have rendered life a burden will disappear

It is a fact, patent to all, that the really prosperous class, as a whole is the agricultural. The farmer is demonstrably better off, more independent, fares better, lodges better and gets better returns for his la bor than the worker in the city. We often witness the anomaly of thrift farmers and starving tradeamen. The country must be fed and the farmer feeds it. There is nothing that en prevent the steady prasperity of its American farmer but the combinations and "correns" that force un natural conditions upon the finance and markets of the country; the gains of the farmer are also be sure; speculation is not legitimat farm business. Farm stock cannot be watered like railroad stock, and afto expand at pleasure. Those who ginto farming expecting to make suiden fortunes will be disappointed. It is a highway to beath and complete tence, but not to sudden wealth an

Agriculture is an art and a science the individual the artist; the science consisting in the combined experience of the most successful men of the

To avail one's self of the benefit of cience, the farmer should be a regular subscriber and constant reader of agricultural and horticultural periodicals, and a purchaser of the best cooks bearing on his husiness, together with the scientific advice received through the farm advicer, he result will be a model farm with ample indicates, and all the best scientific leps in agriculture manufactured; is stock the best kept, and of a good reced, and the enry of all. It has been those who study the tendencies and novements of American society, that here is, on the part of the youth in he country, quite generally, an eager, state of the part of the youth in the country, quite generally, an eager, state of the part of the youth in her with the part of the youth in her with the part of the youth in the country, quite generally, an eager, and the state of the youth in her work in the part of the youth in her work in the part of the youth in her work in the part of the youth in her work in the part of the youth in her we know not of," and the remark holds good in its application to lay to the subject in hand.

by looking at the outside, can begin to tell the amount of magnificien misery and gilded poverty which exists within city walls. Besides ther is as much drudgery to be done in the city as in the country, and, if any hing even more; the work is as harr and steady; while different from farm ife, it tires one out just as soon, and ife, it tires one out just as soon, and t is impossible to find that rest and juict found amidst the unexcitable country life, surrounded as they are n the city with the noise and confution of passing multitudes.

The time was when young busines men could go into cities and do well but that time has gone by and wil probably never return, for the sim ple reason that our cities are over erowded already, and there is no

ware then of that foolish fascination which the idea of living in the city is liable to exercise over every young seart and mind. With proper care and effort a country life can be made inst as enjoyable as a life in the city, and much more healthy and profitable. How can it be done! By following out these suggestions: Fill decode books. Establish farm centers. Encourage the social meetings of the young. Have concerts, lectures, amateur dramatic associations. Establish a bright, active, social life that shall give some significance to labor. It is the isolation of American farm life that is the curse of that life. The man who ought to be the happiest of all men, is he who has a good farm, free from debt and under a good state of cultivation, with a careful, loving wife, and a number of healthy, bright, and dutiful children around to make music and assist in keeping his homestead.

The capacities of American agriculture, as a whole, have only been be gun to be developed. There never wa a time when, and never a country where, husbandry could be carried or to such an advantage as in this country. Very truly yours,

FRED W. WALLRAFF, resident El Dorado Co. Farmers Betterment Association.

Figure 1 Why we need a farm advisor.

In 1911, John Barron, a farm boy who graduated from Cornell University, went to work in Broome County, New York. He was the first county agent to serve as a "farm bureau" representative. The Farm Bureau venture was financed jointly by USDA, the Binghamton Chamber of Commerce and the Lackawanna Railroad.

The new function operated as a "bureau" within the chamber of commerce, hence the name for the early organization. The Broome County Farm Bureau eventually separated from the chamber and began functioning as an independent entity in 1914.

Similar farm organized educational efforts quickly sprang up in Missouri, North Dakota, Vermont, Minnesota, Iowa, West Virginia and Illinois. The passage of the Smith Lever Act in 1914, providing added funds for education efforts, greatly boosted the effort. The local Farm Bureaus served as the organizational network needed to further the Extension education efforts of the county agent. It was during a 1916 meeting of state county agent leaders that the designation "county farm bureau" was formally adopted. The county Farm Bureau, or occasionally smaller units called parishes, initially served a social and educational function. But as the farmers met, they realized the broader potential of the new organization.

County Farm Bureaus throughout the nation started forming their own independent organizations similar to Broome County. The counties then quickly affiliated into statewide organizations. In March 1915, Missouri became the first to form a statewide organization.

Locally, it was the year 1917, when farmers in EI Dorado County began to organize. An article that appeared in the local newspaper, on Friday, October 19th, 1917, read "WHY WE NEED A FARM ADVISER." Figure 1 The editorial written by Fred Wallraff, President for the I Dorado County Farmers' Betterment Association wrote about the benefits of agriculture to the local economy stating, "Agriculture not only gives life to man and beast, but is the foundation of all other business, all trades, all manufacturers, all commerce; in short, all business is the result directly or indirectly, of

PLACERVILLE CENTER OF FARM BUREAU ORGANIZED

Six Farm Bureau Centers in County and Four More Expected to Organize Within Ten Days.

At a spirited meeting in the Chamber of Commerce rooms Wednesday night, Placerville Farm Bureau Center was organized with ten members and with Charles Rayburn as director, The principal speaker was Prof. Ben A. Madson of the Agricultural Department of the University of California, who is here for a four-day campaign to assist the county farmers to secure a farm adviser under the new Federal law.

Members Number 118.

There are now six farm bureau units in El Dorado county, and 118 members are included in the County Farm Bureau. It is necessary that one fifth of the farmers in the county become members of the bureau before a farm adviser can be secured. It is estimated that 150 farmers are necessary, and leaders of the movement expect to have more than that number of members within the next week.

A party of Farm Bureau leaders went to El Dorado Thursday night and conducted a meeting for the purpose of forming El Dorado Farm Bureau Center Arrangements have been made for a farm bureau meeting at Fairplay Friday evening, and at Coloma on Saturday evening. Officers of the County Farm Bureau will accompany Prof. Ben A. Madson on these organization trips, each of which is expected to prove successful. Liberty Loan campaigners have been invited to join the parties and speak at the meetings.

Officers are also confident that a unit will be formed within the next week at a meeting at Union school house, the date of which has not been arranged. This unit will include the farmers of Fruit Ridge district. The centers already formed and the directors of each are: Camino, J. C. Rasmussen; Gold Hill, B. R. Veerkamp; Penobscot, A. B. Atwater; Reseue, August Ebbert; Hanks Exchange, W. S. Dean; Placerville, Charles Rayburn.

To Petition Supervisors.

As soon as the ten centers have been organized and the Farm Bureau has the necessary number of members, a petition for the appointment of a farm adviser will be presented to the Supervisors. It is probable that the petition will be presented at the November meeting of the Board. It is necessary that the Supervisors appropriate \$2000 annually for the expenses of the adviser, which is the only cost to the county, the State and Government paying the salary.

Figure 2 Placerville Center of Farm Bureau Organized.

agriculture." Wallraff also expresses the value of education to the farmer, the importance of keeping abreast to recent science and research and the need for a farm adviser. "The farmer should be a regular subscriber and constant reader of agricultural and horticultural periodicals and a purchaser of the best books bearing on his business, together with the scientific advice received through the farm adviser, the result will be a model farm with ample buildings, and all the best scientific helps in agriculture manufactured; his stock the best kept, and of a good breed, and the envy of all."

In the same newspaper issue, October 19th, 1917, another article titled, Farm Bureau Organized, Six Farm Bureau Centers in County and Four More Expected to Organize Within Ten Days. The story highlights the need for organized farmers to be a part of a farm bureau to secure a farm advisor. "It is necessary that one fifth of the farmers in the county become members of the bureau before a farm adviser can be secured. It is estimated that 150 farmers are necessary, and leaders of the movement expect to have more than that number of members within the next week." Figure 2

Those numbers were reached, and it January 1918, the first farm adviser, Burle J. Jones started in El Dorado County.

Figure 3

As the University of California Cooperative Extension in El Dorado County prepares for its celebratory 100th Anniversary in 2018, we will continue to highlight stories from the past. We again want to congratulate the El Dorado County Farm Bureau on their huge milestone and thank all the members both present and past for everything they have done to promote, preserve, and protect agriculture in El Dorado County.

Farm Adviser Arrives

Burle J. Jones, of Berkeley, newlyappointed Farm Adviser for El Dorado county, arrived in Placerville
Thursday, coming here from Nevada
county. A meeting of the El Dorado
County Farm Bureau will be held in
this city at 10 o'clock this (Saturday)
morning. All members are requested
to be present to meet the official and
other representatives of the agricultural department of the University
of California, and to perfect organization. Mr. Jones would like to meet
as many as possible in order to learn
the agricultural needs of the county.
The first matter to be considered is
a suitable location for an office. There
are twelve centers in the county, all of
which will be visited by the Adviser
every month; but on Saturdays Mr.
Jones will be in his office in this city.

Figure 3 Farm Advisor Arrives

Scott Oneto
Director and Farm Advisor