

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.

#### 4-H Club Work

##### Enrollment

The decline in 4-H enrollment from the peak of 900 reached in 1930, continued to 1935. At this time enrollment sank to 304 members. Only nineteen Clubs were active in the county as compared to the forty-five Clubs existing in 1930 and 1931.

Following this there began a slow and gradual increase in both membership and number of clubs, so that by 1941, there were 710 members enrolled in thirty-three 4-H clubs in Grant county.

##### Leader Activities

No formal 4-H Adult Leaders organization existed in Grant county at this time and was not to come until a few years later. However, annual meetings of the 4-H leaders in Grant county were held throughout this period, usually at Fennimore. The first leader executive committee was elected at a 1933 meeting, the purpose of the executive committee being to formulate "4-H policy, rules and regulations." The county-wide 4-H picnic also began here, the first being held at Fennimore in 1933.

##### The Vo-Ag Teacher Helps

In 1935, county agent Ben Walker divided the county into six districts to "facilitate supervision of 4-H club work." Six Grant county vocational agriculture teachers served as

"district leaders." They were M. W. Cooper, Fennimore; LeRoy Reese, Mt. Hope; M..S. Murray, Bloomington; J. S. Smith, Lancaster; L. A. Bensed, Platteville; and P. J. Zerbolio, Cuba City.

The following Grant county vo-ag instructors were listed by county agent Walker as helping with the 4-H program in 1938: Qrlie Baker, Muscoda; L. A. Bensed, Platteville; William Brewer, Montfort; M. W. Cooper, Fennimore; R. W. Davis, Boscobel; Donald Kolar, Mt. Hope; Peter May, Cuba City; Donald Morrissey, Bloomington; and Jess Smith, Lancaster.

#### The County 4-H Round-Up

First mention of the annual Grant county 4-H "Round-Up" was made by county agent Walker in 1935. The Round-Up was held, according to Walker to select the best demonstration team, the best demonstration, the best home economics judging team, the best farm crops team, and the healthiest 4-H boy and girl. Top individuals then became eligible to compete in these various activities at the State Fair.

Several of the first Round-Ups were held at Fennimore. In 1940, the event was held at Lancaster. Six hundred people attended, according to Walker.

Competitive events were extended later to include clothing judging, foods judging, and the judging of canned foods. By 1941, the Round-Up also took in such events as judging contests in poultry, dairy products, crops, dairy cattle, and livestock. Previous to this, most of the agricultural judging contests were held as separate events in the county.

#### County Fairs

Thirteen fairs were held in Grant county in 1941. The location of ten of these is known to be at Lancaster, Platteville, Bloomington, Boscobel, Muscoda, Fennimore, Cuba City, Montfort, Livingston, and Blue River. An eleventh might possibly have been located at Mt. Hope, as it is known that Mt. Hope did have a Community Fair up until fairly recent years. The annual Platteville Dairy Day began in 1940.