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PRELIMINARY ANNOUNCEMENT

OF THE ORGANIZATION OF

YOUNG PEOPLE'S

FARM-LIFE CLUBS

IN

NORTH CAROLINA

INSTITUTED BY

N. C. DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

N. C. A. AND M. COLLEGE

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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ISSUED FROM OFFICE OF

SUPERINTENDENT PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

RALEIGH, N. C., 1909



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RALEIGH, N. C.

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FEB 5 1910

*a. J. S. Mayall*

LETTER OF STATE SUPERINTENDENT  
TO COUNTY SUPERINTENDENTS.

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OCTOBER 15, 1909.

MY DEAR SIR:—I am sending you for distribution to each teacher of your county copies of the Preliminary Announcement of the Organization of Young People's Farm-life Clubs. Please read the announcement carefully.

Knowing that you are in hearty sympathy with our plans, as discussed and explained at the recent meeting of the county superintendents at Hendersonville, for stimulating interest in farm life and for working out a successful method of utilizing the public schools for providing better preparation for it for the masses of the people, I feel sure that you will give your hearty co-operation to Professor Schaub in the organization and direction of these Farm-life Clubs in your county. As you know, Professor Schaub has been employed, without expense to the State, to give his entire time and attention to aiding us in making the schools a more effective means for the preparation of our people for a more profitable, more comfortable and more attractive life on the farm. I know that you agree with me that this is perhaps at present the most important educational problem for at least eighty-two per cent of the people of the State, and that it is our duty to give our active and hearty support to every effort for its successful solution.

Professor Schaub will work under the direction of the State Department of Public Instruction and the North Carolina College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts. The United States Department of Agriculture and the North Carolina Department of Agriculture will heartily co-operate in this work.

The success, however, of the work in each county will depend mainly and almost entirely upon the active efforts and hearty co-operation of the county superintendent and the public-school teachers. The interest and co-operation of the teachers of your county will of course mainly depend upon the county superintendent. I beg, therefore, to urge you to get into communication at once with Professor Schaub, to bring this matter at once to the attention of your teachers, in your teachers' association, to urge them to bring it at once to the attention of the children in their schools, and to use your county paper constantly to arouse the interest of all the people of your county in it.

J. Y. JOYNER,

*Superintendent of Public Instruction.*



## INTRODUCTION.

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Farming in North Carolina is both a business and a mode of life. As you know, eighty-two out of every one hundred families in our State depend directly on the soil for their living and their comforts. Therefore, if these families ever increase in wealth, in comfort, in ability to educate their own children and the children of others, in ability to help their church and their State, they must get this increase by better and more economic farming. Any movement, then, to increase our farm yields is a direct movement to enlarge the comforts of our homes, and to make greater our capacity to contribute to good government, State improvements, education and religion.

Unfortunately for all these interests, the average yield of crops in our State is far too low. Compared with the other States and Territories, North Carolina stands forty-seventh in its average corn yield. Only three States, namely, Georgia, South Carolina, and Florida, make on the average less corn per acre than we do. New Hampshire, with a soil very similar to ours, makes three and one-half times more than North Carolina. Our average yield of corn for the past thirty years has been only 13.7 bushels per acre.

It has been again and again demonstrated that the corn crop can easily be doubled by the application of a few simple, practical, scientific principles. Our North Carolina crop of corn was last year valued at \$39,000,000. Suppose we could double this value in two years. This increase in value would raise thousands of families from poverty to comfort. If by better methods of planting, of cultivation, and of selecting seed one thousand boys, can be taught to produce twenty-

six bushels to the acre instead of thirteen bushels, there is no way of measuring the economic good that would result; for these boys would then extend these better methods to all their crops and hundreds of slower men would follow their example.

The principles that would lead to such an increase can readily be taught in school and are being successfully taught every day in some schools. Our State law directs that the elementary principles of good farming shall be taught in our schools. This law is already enforced in our grammar schools, and in many of them excellent results are obtained. With the establishment of our rural high schools, the way seems clear to give farm-life training a place in the curriculum worthy of its importance. This office is planning to do this faithfully.

As one of the preliminary steps in this new teaching, clubs of boys and girls will be organized for study, experimenting, and for work outside of class hours. The interest of these pupils will be quickened and their knowledge made more accurate and practical by this objective work. For these clubs to succeed and to fill a vital mission in the life of the young people and of the schools, they must have the hearty aid of every county superintendent and of every teacher.

The following is a preliminary outline to aid in organizing working clubs of boys and girls. Fuller information will be furnished in later bulletins.

#### **PLAN OF STATE ORGANIZATION.**

The name of these clubs will be:

**North Carolina Boys' Farm-life Association.**

**North Carolina Girls' Home-life Association.**

#### **OBJECT.**

The objects of this Association are: to quicken an interest in school life by linking the school more closely with the industries

of the farm home; to direct into active, intelligent service the native power in young people and to develop this power; to teach them that taking thought will increase many times the return from their fields and add immensely to the pleasures of their country life; to awaken by a first-hand study a wise interest in the simple and beautiful laws of Nature that underlie all good farming and all domestic industries.

#### OFFICERS.

1. General Manager. The State Superintendent of Public Instruction has appointed Prof. I. O. Schaub, who is connected with the Department of Education and the U. S. Department of Agriculture, as General Manager of the Association. Professor Schaub is employed to give his entire time to this line of educational work.

2. A President, Vice President and Secretary will be elected by the active members at each regular annual meeting.

3. The Advisory Council will consist of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, the State Commissioner of Agriculture, the President of the Agricultural and Mechanical College, and the Director of the Experiment Station.

#### MEMBER.

1. Any public-school pupil between ten and twenty years of age may become a member.

2. Any boy or girl who is a member of a County Farm-life or Home-life Club, or a School Farm-life or Home-life Club, may also become a member of the State Association.

3. Any teacher or other person interested in the welfare of the Association may become an Honorary Member.

#### MEETINGS.

The State Association will meet annually at the Agricultural and Mechanical College in Raleigh. This meeting will be devoted to

business, instruction, entertainment, and to an exhibit of the work done by members of the Association. Prizes will be offered for the best exhibits of specified work.

### COUNTY ASSOCIATIONS.

County Associations will be organized as follows:

#### NAME.

- ..... County Boys' Farm-life Association.
- ..... County Girls' Home-life Association.

#### OBJECT.

The object of the County Association will be: to unify the work of the individual school clubs; to offer prizes for successful contestants, and to provide ways for judging these contests; to select exhibits for the State exhibit, and to co-operate with that body; to bring into closer relation the workers in the county.

#### MEMBERS.

Any school club or any member of such a club, or any pupil in the public schools, may become a member of the County Association.

#### OFFICERS.

1. The County Superintendent or some capable person appointed by him will be the Manager of the County Association. The County Superintendent is asked to associate with himself two or more interested citizens of the county, and these with the Superintendent will constitute an Advisory Committee.

2. A President, Vice President, and a Secretary for the County Association will be elected at each annual meeting.

#### MEETING.

The County Association will have one regular meeting a year to transact business, and at this meeting exhibits will be displayed, judged, prizes awarded, and exhibits for the State meeting selected.

## SCHOOL ORGANIZATION.

School clubs will be formed as follows:

### NAME.

- ..... School Boys' Farm-life Club.
- ..... School Girls' Home-life Club.

### OBJECT.

These school clubs will take up directly the work to be done. They will follow the directions for planting, cultivating, and harvesting such crops as may be undertaken, and the girls will follow directions for work in domestic science. These employments will be supervised by the teachers, who in turn will be aided by the General Manager, the County Manager, and by others appointed for this purpose.

### MEMBERS.

1. Any pupil enrolled during the year and during previous years may become a member of the club.
2. Any resident of the school district, who is interested in the objects of the club may be elected to honorary membership.

### OFFICERS.

The teacher or principal of the school, or some other competent person appointed by the County Superintendent, will be General Manager of the club.

2. A President, Vice President, and Secretary will be elected by the active members, and will serve for the school term.

### MEETINGS.

Meetings will be held as often as may be necessary for the welfare of the club. The teachers will in a large measure guide these meetings into useful channels, and supervise the work of the club.

The first work undertaken by the club will be the growing of corn.

## SUGGESTIONS TO THE COUNTY COMMITTEES AND TEACHERS.

The first thing to be done is to arouse an interest among the patrons and pupils of the schools and to secure a sufficient number of boys as contestants to create rivalry, stimulate enthusiasm and justify the payment of prizes.

To accomplish this the County Committees should enlist the support of their local papers to give the proposed contest the greatest publicity and urge the boys of the county to take part.

Each teacher should explain the contest to his or her school and urge the pupils and the boys of the school district, whether in the school or not, to enter their names as contestants.

In each school district will be found one or more progressive farmers who will be glad to assist the teachers in arousing local interest, if requested to do so.

If any society or other social gathering of the patrons of the school is held at the school-house, or in the district, the teacher or some interested patron, should take this occasion to outline the work and urge that the school district be well represented in the County Contest.

Finally, each teacher after enrolling as many boys as possible should forward their names and addresses to the County Superintendent. He will make a record of such names and in turn forward the list to the State Manager.

## CONTESTANTS, STATE AND NATIONAL DEMONSTRATORS.

Every boy entering the contest will be enrolled with the United States Department of Agriculture at Washington as a co-operator. He will be sent printed instructions and suggestions as to the best methods of preparing land, planting, fertilizing and cultivation to secure a large yield of corn. He will, also, receive from time to time other lessons on the

value of good seed, how to judge corn, how to select seed, how to build up the soil, etc.

As far as possible, also, the General Manager and special agents of the Department engaged in farm demonstration work in this State will in their rounds visit these boys and advise and encourage them in their work.

There should be at least fifty boys entered in each county. Indeed, it is hoped that from one hundred to five hundred contestants will be secured in each county.

It should be easy to do this if all teachers and county committees show sufficient enthusiasm. An enrollment of only four or five boys in each school district will give an imposing total for the county.

In addition, the State Committee expect to arrange for State prizes, to be competed for by the winners of the county contests.

#### **GENERAL RULES.**

**Who May Contest**—Any boy over ten and under twenty years of age.

**How He May Enter**—By giving his name, age and address to the County Superintendent or any teacher and expressing an intention to contest under the rules of the State Committee.

**How Much Ground He Must Cultivate**—Any area he pleases from one acre up.

**Other Requirements**—None, except that he shall keep a record of all that he does in cultivating his plat of ground and forward an exhibit of the corn grown to the County Committee.

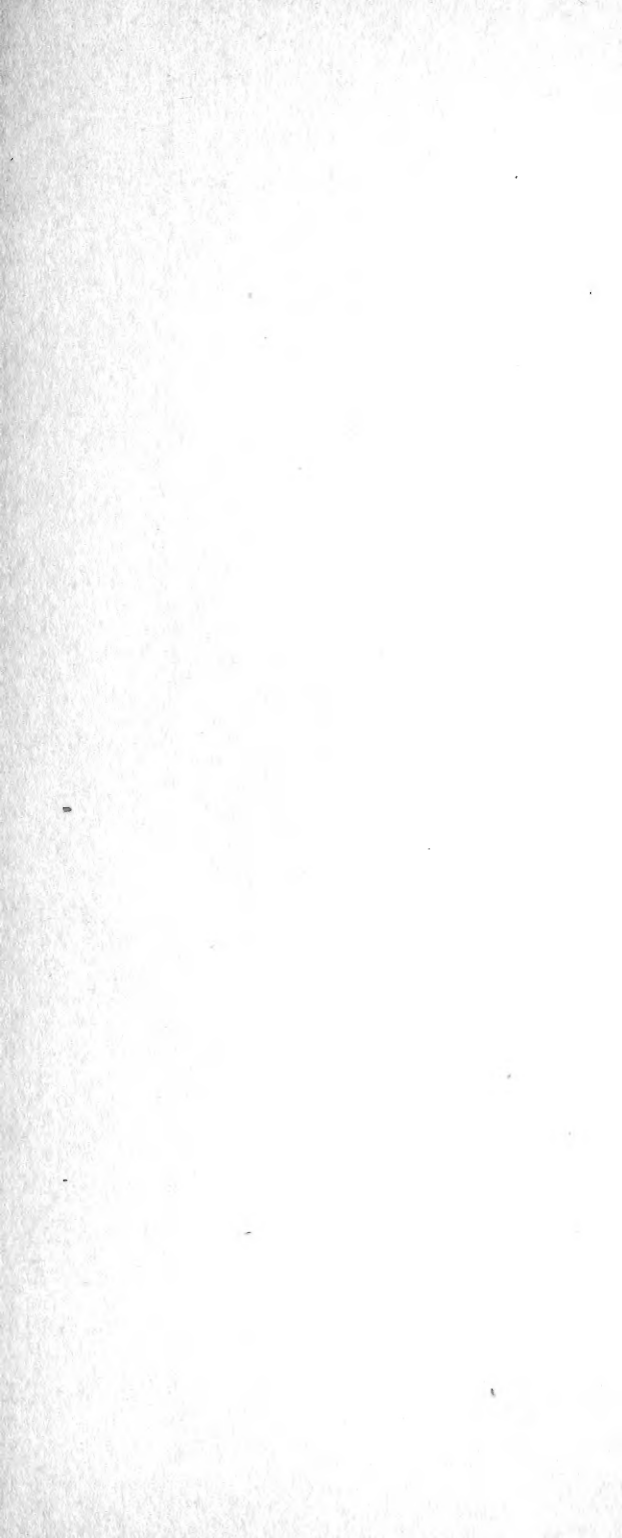
We invite the Farmers' Unions, Commercial Clubs and progressive citizens generally to co-operate with us and with the teachers of the State in inaugurating these Boys' Clubs in North Carolina.

We believe this movement can be, and will be, the means of accomplishing great and lasting good to the State.

Address all communications with reference to Corn Clubs to I. O. SCHAUB, West Raleigh, N. C.

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