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MORGANTOWN

College of Agriculture
Extension Department

Extension Plans

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Faculty of The College of Agriculture

Daniel Boardman Purinton, LL.D., President.

Thomas Clark Atkeson, Ph.D., Dean, Professor of Agriculture.

Daniel Webster Working, A.M., Superintendent Agricultural Extension Work.

Aretas Wilbur Nolan, A.B., Assistant Professor of Horticulture, Forestry, and Entomology.

Frederick Random Whipple, M.D.V., Instructor in Veterinary Science.

Charles Augustus Lueder, D.V.M., Instructor in Dairying.

For catalogues or information concerning the University and its work, address the President.

For the special announcement or information concerning the College of Agriculture and its work, address the Dean.

For additional information concerning the work of the Agricultural Extension Department, write to D. W. Working, Morgantown, W. Va.

What Agricultural Extension Means: What It Means to Do

THE EXTENSION IDEA

Schools, colleges, and universities exist primarily for the direct benefit of those who are able to leave their homes and their home occupations to receive the advantages which these educational institutions offer. It is fortunate that this is so. There are many good reasons for going away from home to study and to receive instruction and the discipline of regular work under new conditions and in new surroundings.

The world unfolds in new and helpful ways to those who see it from new points of view. The world of knowledge becomes larger and fuller of meaning to those who find new knowledge in new places. In the end, the world of knowledge is fullest of meaning to those who have become able, by study and observation, to relate the new knowledge to the old in such ways as to make their powers

more available for work and for enjoyment—more directly useful in getting a living and in doing the things that constitute worthy living.

But schools, colleges, and universities exist also for the direct benefit of those who are not able to leave their homes and their home occupations to receive educational advantages. It is fortunate that this is so. While there are many good reasons for going away from home to study and to receive instruction under competent leadership, there are not a few reasons for striving at home for these benefits.

The world unfolds in new and helpful ways to those who go from home to see; and it also unfolds in new and helpful ways to those who look a little more deeply at home. The world of knowledge is everywhere; it is not shut within college walls, but is found wherever men seek it with due diligence. Those who seek it find it, away from home or at home; those who do not desire it, to them it is never revealed.

The Extension Idea, then, stands for the instructor away from the seat of learning and for the student at his own home. Agricultural Extension means the influence of the College of Agriculture in every rural home where men and women and boys and girls are hungry for the knowl-

edge that may become to them the bread of a better life on the farm and in the farm home; it means that the College and the Farm shall get close together in order to work together for the improvement of farming and the uplift and enlargement of farm life.

THE EXTENSION PURPOSE

The purpose of the Extension Department is to give to the country people of West Virginia in their own neighborhoods and homes some of the benefits which the College of Agriculture of the University offers to those who go to Morgantown for instruction and study.

It is frankly admitted that, under present conditions, the Extension instruction can not but be a poor substitute for the College instruction. The most effective instruction requires a long period of time. The College offers a "short course" of four weeks, a Certificate Course of one year, a Diploma Course of three years, and a Degree Course of four years. The student who has completed the Diploma Course is prepared to begin the Degree Course, which is the real College Course of instruction.

For the season of 1908-9, the Extension Department offers courses of one week, two weeks, and three weeks. It is not to be expected that instruction can be given in such brief periods that will

compare favorably in thoroughness with the kind given at the University. Still, it is hoped that what is offered will be sound and helpful as far as it goes; and it is hoped that the work can be carried on with larger and better facilities in succeeding years. In other words, it is hoped that a good beginning can be made this year for better work next year and in other years.

Already a considerable number of farmers in West Virginia have profited by the work in the College of Agriculture. Some of them have been helped by the new Extension Department. There is reason to believe that great good can be done by means of the Extension Schools which this Department is prepared to conduct where sufficient interest shall be shown.

It is not intended that the Plan described below is to be taken as an arbitrary one. If some one can propose a better plan, or a more workable modification of the one announced, the better plan or the the more workable modification will be promptly accepted. The chief thing now is for the Extension Department and the farmers to combine their efforts for the purpose of mutual helpfulness. None of us know the best solution of our problem; but every one of us can help a little toward the right solution. We need to get

together and to work together in order that farming may become more profitable and that farm life may increase in attractiveness.

A part of the Extension Purpose is to be accomplished through Reading Courses, which will be described in another leaflet. Those interested are invited to ask for information.

THE EXTENSION PLAN

The Extension Work will be developed along more or less closely related general lines, as indicated below:—

1. Rural Betterment Conferences.—These will be organized in favorable farming sections in different parts of the State where a large church or hall can be secured and where local conditions are such that the active support of professional and business men, as well as farmers and their families, can be depended upon. The purpose of the Conference is to consider the problem of Rural Betterment in relation to the existing social, religious, educational, and other agencies which are intended to promote better living and better life in the country. The school, the church, the farmers' institute, the College of Agriculture, the State University, the Normal School, the Grange, the local newspaper, business organizations, the legal and medical professions,—all of these have a mission of service to the country

which should be presented at these Conferences. A free and frank discussion of their relations to rural progress will be sure to result in good—perhaps in some definite plan for promoting what is here called Rural Betterment.

2. Extension Schools.—These will be conducted in a limited number of places where those interested will furnish a suitable hall or other room for the school and pay a registration fee of one dollar each. The school will consist of two forenoon and two afternoon lectures each day for five days, with four popular night lectures. The lectures will be planned to develop in systematic order subjects of particular local interest, and will be delivered by members of the Faculty of the College of Agriculture. Those attending these schools will not be required to buy books, but will be expected to attend regularly. Among the general subjects will be the following: Farm Management, Soils and Soil Management, Tillage and the Implements of Tillage, Animal Breeding and Feeding, Common Diseases of Farm Animals, Horticulture, Gardening, Forestry, Dairying, Agricultural Economics, and Home Sanitation.

3. Text-Book Courses.—The Head of the Extension Department will give as Vivian's First Principles of Soil Fertilization Courses of instruction based on such texts

ty, Bailey's Principles of Agriculture, and Taylor's Agricultural Economics, requiring each student to supply himself with the book used. The intention is to give two lessons a day, supplemented in some cases with popular addresses at night. One plan is to use two books, First Principles of Soil Fertility and Agricultural Economics, giving one lesson a day in each; another plan is to give two lessons a day from one book; while a third is to have two distinct classes, each using a different text and meeting at different periods. Each plan assumes that the students will study and recite, in addition to listening to discussions supplementary to the text-book. The plan requires a registration fee of a dollar in addition to the purchase price of the book.

4. **Lecture Courses.**—Courses of lectures will be given by the Head of the Department when it seems desirable to those locally interested, though it is suggested that the Extension School (2) or a Text-Book Course (3) will be more helpful where the people are willing to give the time. Any two of the three series below will be given during a period of five days at such places as may be agreed upon. Each student will pay a registration fee of one dollar.

Series A: The economics of agriculture; The soil and its function; The plant

and its relationships; The animal and its offices; The farmer himself and his business.

Series B: The minerals in the soil; The organic matter of the soil; The moisture of the soil; The air and the soil; The living soil in use.

Series C: Tillage and Fertility; Rotation of crops and fertility; Fertilizers and fertility; Stock farming and fertility; Implements and prosperity.

5. Special Lectures.—Single lectures will be given at suitable times and places by different members of the College Faculty. The Superintendent of Extension Work offers the following list of subjects: The problem of rural betterment; Reading on the farm; The young folks as partners; The woman's side of farm life; The education that pays best; The farmer as a citizen.

6. Fruit-Growing Schools.—A few Fruit-Growing Schools will be organized in cases when not less than ten nor more than fifteen persons agree to pay the fee of one dollar each and to devote not less than six hours a day for three weeks to the work, besides furnishing a suitable place for lectures, study, and laboratory work. The plan is to devote the time from nine till ten o'clock each day to a lecture; from ten to twelve to the study of books furnished by the Department;

and from one to four in laboratory work. Unless this work can be done very thoroughly it will not be undertaken. Through the liberality of the State Board of Agriculture, the Department will have the help of Mr. S. W. Moore in these Schools.

NOTES AND SUGGESTIONS

No plan of Agriculture Extension Work is complete that does not attempt to satisfy the needs of the women and the young people of the farms. The present Plan is incomplete; but another booklet will be issued which will outline courses of reading and study for the women and the young people, as well as for the farmers themselves. It is understood that only a few of the farmers of West Virginia can be reached by the teachers and lecturers sent out by this Department; and it is also understood that there is no sufficient reason why a great many more can not be reached and benefited by means of suitable reading courses. Ten thousand persons ought to have the joy and the benefits that come to those who read good books and good papers and magazines; and the Extension Department of West Virginia University is ambitious to guide that number to good reading before the year ends.

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It is understood that those who wish

to secure the benefit of the courses of instruction offered in this booklet will furnish a suitable hall or lecture-room in addition to paying the merely nominal registration fee required in certain cases.

*

Whoever reads this booklet and thinks any offer it makes is a good one for his neighborhood, is invited to talk the matter over with others and agree to form a committee of arrangements to secure a school, a lecture, or a course of lectures. Some one must begin the work in order that others may carry it on with the beginner's help. The result may be greatly to the advantage of a whole neighborhood or county.

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It is to be understood that the aim of this Department is to do the greatest amount of good with the resources at its command. The purpose is to reach the largest number of people of the country. So those who wish to secure the service of the Department are invited to become partners in the service of the farm people of West Virginia.

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It is the business of a university to find knowledge and to impart knowledge. It is the business of those who manage a university to find men and to approve methods worthy of a great educational in-

stitution. It is the business of all of us who are connected with the West Virginia University to serve the people of the State as energetically as we can, as wisely as we may. The Agricultural Extension Department desires to serve the people of the farms in their own neighborhoods and homes. May it have their help?

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THE WINTER COURSE

This booklet is printed to promote the Extension Work of the College of Agriculture. The aim of the College is to be useful in all parts of the State. But the fact is not to be lost sight of that at Morgantown there is an accumulation of books and other teaching aids. The College of Agriculture can do better work at home than its Extension Department can do away from home. So there will be no letting up of effort to make the work at the University increasingly effective.

The Winter Course given in January, 1908, was the most successful short course in agriculture ever given by the College of Agriculture. Nearly half of by earnest and ambitious men. The regular College courses are for young men the counties in the State were represented who can give years to preparing themselves for life; but the Winter Course is for mature men—for farmers who are established in the business of farming and

who can not well be absent from the farm more than four weeks at a time. With the encouraging experience of the last Winter Course, strong efforts will be made to make that of January, 1909, still better.

Men who spend year after year at home, in the steady work of the farm, are not able to appreciate the benefits which they can secure by spending a month or more away from home, studying the principles and practices of their business under competent instructors. Those who have had experience know. A hundred successful farmers in West Virginia know by experience that it is profitable to go to College for what they can get out of a four-week course of instruction. The College of Agriculture is ambitious to prove to a hundred men and women in January, 1909, that it pays to spend money to get the new agricultural knowledge. Young men, middle-aged men, and even old men can afford to invest in themselves—to buy knowledge for their own use in the business in which they have spent their lives.

A special announcement will be printed as soon as the plans are worked into final shape. Those interested are asked to write to the Dean of the College at Morgantown.

West Virginia University

D. B. PURINTON, LL.D.,
PRESIDENT.

THE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE

T. C. ATKESON, PH.D.,
DEAN.

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Is provided by a new Department, which will carry a part of the work of the College to the people of the farms in their home communities.

THE UNIVERSITY

In all its departments has more than 1200 students, 70 instructors, and 11 buildings. For a catalogue, address the President or the Dean. For information concerning the Extension Work, address Prof. D. W. Working, Morgantown, W. Va.

HOW EDUCATION PAYS THE FARMER

First. By increasing his earning power. The mind is master of the body; and the mind developed by education is better able to direct the body than the mind not so developed. The educated man knows his job, and does his work right the first time.

Second. By increasing his ability to choose and plan and direct. The leaders in agriculture are men of education. It must be so, because choosing, planning, and directing require thinking power. The educated man has been trained to think. He sees into his problem quickly, and solves it surely.

Third. By giving him the power and the place of leadership in the community. In a government like ours, leadership is needed in the country as well as in the city. The man who knows has the equipment of the leader. For knowledge is power; training is power to use the forces that make for progress. The educated man knows men, and is accepted as their leader.

Fourth. By developing his character. The educated man is more of a man than the uneducated man who was his equal. He sees more, appreciates more, knows more, and in every worthy way stands for more and becomes greater. He radiates power. His developed personality draws men to him and makes them wish and strive to be like him. He is the man worth while.