

Federation of Young Farmers' Clubs

Meeting of Canterbury Y.F.C. Council

GENERAL policy and inter-district activities were discussed at a meeting of the Canterbury Y.F.C. Council held at the Canterbury Chamber of Commerce, Christchurch, on August 27.

Reporting on the inter-district debating competition held at Ashburton on August 21, in which club teams from South, North, and Mid-Canterbury took part, the chairman announced that the competition was won by the Methven Club team, with Waihaorunga second, followed by Darfield and Cannington. It was decided to invite the winning Otago-Southland Club team to compete against the Methven team at a competition to be held in South Canterbury on September 27. Arrangements for the inter-district stock judging competition to be held at Winchester on the same date were well under way, and it was

expected that good support would be forthcoming.

An interesting discussion on stock judging systems took place in which the point system, the Federation's system, and the oral system were reviewed. Points arising out of this discussion were: the necessity for providing adequate pen space for stock, that too many competitors should not be allowed to judge in a pen at any one time, and the desirability of parading stock so that competitors get every opportunity of seeing the stock properly. It was decided to suggest to the South Canterbury District Committee, which is organising the inter-district competition to be held in Winchester, that oral questions might be asked competitors who place their stock in good order.

Various means of maintaining interest among the clubs were discussed, and among these the formation of discussion groups in which a group of

club members would meet at some convenient centre within their district to discuss a project of some kind, which would later be discussed at the club meeting, was considered likely to prove of great value and well worth a trial.

It was decided to send a copy of the minutes of the meeting and also of the annual meeting of the Federation to the past Chairman of the Council, Mr. D. Coleman, who is at present serving with the forces overseas.

The following were present at the meeting:—Messrs. A. D. Talbot, chairman, Alan Grant, J. Barclay (South Canterbury), H. L. Chisnall (Mid-Canterbury), F. A. Sheat (North Canterbury), J. W. Calder, J. W. Stewart, H. G. Stephens, T. E. Streeter, L. W. Blackmore, Secretary (Christchurch), and R. J. Low and S. Freeman, Dominion Organising Secretary.

Horowhenua District Field Day

By G. F. GIMBLETT, Levin Y.F.C.

A SUCCESSFUL field day was held recently on Mr. H. J. Lancaster's property, "Fairfield," Levin, under the auspices of the Horowhenua Y.F.C. District Committee. The programme consisted of stock-judging competitions, demonstrations, and lectures. There was a large and representative attendance, including members from the Levin, Shannon, Opiki, and Tokomaru Clubs, and the Dominion Organising Secretary, Mr. S. Freeman, was present.

The first event, a dairy cow judging competition, began at 10.45 a.m., Mr. I. D. Parsons being the supervising judge. This was run on the usual lines, the three animals being paraded in a ring for five minutes and then lined up for handling by the competitors for 25 minutes. The cards giving the placing and the reasons had also to be filled in during this time.

This was followed by a demonstration on a dairy cow by Mr. Lancaster. In a general outline, Mr. Lancaster said that conformation was the first thing to look for in a dairy animal, whether she were for dairying or breeding purposes. Constitution came next. He

then went on to describe the triple wedge-shaped body of a good cow, the points to look for in a good head, and how a good udder should be well caught up both before and behind. Other points mentioned were the pin bones, the tail setting, and the back line, all of which combined to make the perfect animal.

The winners of this competition were:—A. Horn (Levin), 1; N. Liggins (Tokomaru) and R. Vile (Opiki), equal, 2; A. Moody (Tokomaru), 4.

The sheep judging competition was something new in the judging line. Mr. S. B. Mexted was the supervising judge. Three Southdown rams and three Romney ewes were separately penned, and had to be placed by the competitors in pairs as they thought most suitable for fat lamb production. Mr. Mexted then gave his placing and a short demonstration. He pointed out that most people would agree that a big-framed sheep with fine dense wool, a sheep standing square on its legs, with a short neck and with a minimum of wool on the head, was most suitable for fat lamb production.

The winners of this competition were:—B. Bartholomew, 1; P. Carter, 2; R. Speedy and O. Candy, equal, 3.

Mr. V. C. Lewis, chairman of the district committee, presented a cup for a teams competition, and this was won by Messrs. A. Horn and B. Stewart, of the Levin Club.

After lunch had been served by Mrs. Lancaster, the afternoon's programme opened with an address by Mr. E. Bruce Levy, Director of the Grasslands Division, Palmerston North, on "Recent Grassland Developments." Mr. Levy stressed the importance of certified seed, and contended that really permanent pastures on ploughable land should be restricted to first-class land on which it was possible to carry one cow or six to eight ewes per acre. Stock manure should be used to the greatest possible extent, especially with restricted phosphate supplies. On land carrying one cow to the acre their residue was worth £2 per acre. Early cutting of silage was of great importance if full productive value was to be obtained from this supplementary feed.