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Prepared for Radio Broadcast, April 18, 1942, by J. H. Williams

TEXAS NEGRO 4-H CLUB BOYS AND THEIR PART IN PRODUCTION FOR WAR NEEDS BY
J. H. WILLIAMS, NEGRO DISTRICT AGENT FOR SOUTH TEXAS DISTRICT, PRAIRIE
VIEW STATE COLLEGE, HEADQUARTERS-

More than 7,516 Negro 4-H club boys in the 45 counties where Negro Extension work is being conducted by Negro County Agricultural agents have rallied to call of their country's need for increased production of certain food and feed crops to supply oil and in the maintenance and repair of farm machinery. These boys were enrolled during the early part of the present year and the extent of their efforts are reflected in the attendance and participation in the annual observance of National 4-H Club Mobilization Week, April 5-11; during the meetings which were held in all of the 45 counties, in connection with this activity, progress reports were made, demonstrations were conducted, and visited in an effort to get as many 4-H club boys in the state to go "all out" in the production of war needs of dairy and poultry products, swine and beef, for meat purposes, gardens and fruit plots, and peanuts for feed and oil.

The enrollment records for the state show that these boys are working with 471 dairy cattle, 320 beef cattle, 1,795 flocks of chickens, totalling 11,987 birds, 977 head of swine, 322 acres of gardens, and 175 acres of fruit. 2,701 boys are planning to plant 3,027 acres of peanuts. Most of the efforts listed above will go toward meeting the families food supply budget.

In an effort to repair and maintain the machinery on their farms, 107 boys have enrolled to accept training in this work. No part of the state has a monopoly on this work. In Brazoria County, Robert E. Franklin of Burrell Chapel Community, Snipe, Texas, manages 3 milk cows for home use; he has planted two acres of corn and plans to plant two acres of peanuts; the feed crop will be used to provide feed for his registered gilt.

Searcy Tolliver of this same county owns one dairy cow, has planted 5 acres of corn and plans to plant 3 acres of grain sorghum to feed his 100 white leghorn pullets. Clint Brown of Colorado County is now selling 25 to 30 dozens of eggs per week and has planted his corn and peanuts to be used as feed. The boys in Newton County are going strong on peanuts; to date 20 boys are planning to plant 56 acres of peanuts for sale. Lloyd Newsome, Blackjack Community, Troup, Texas, Smith County, during the past month, sold 20 pigs at \$10.00 each. His 2 Poland China sows at present have 15 pigs. Newsome also owns a registered boar.

Mason Fontenot of Raywood Community has started his herd with a registered Hereford cow which has a heifer calf two months old. Alfred Wickcliff of this same community has a registered Brahman bull which he is using for service. Roy Floyd Wilson of Lee County, a typical 4-H club boy, has just completed a splendid job of feeding 11 pigs which he raised; he is present so, "Roy, suppose you relate to our audience what you consider your outstanding participation in 4-H club work in the production of war needs?

Boy: Mr. Williams, I borrowed \$136.00 from the F. S. A. to buy feed for my 11 pigs. After _____ weeks I was able to sell these hogs for 13¢ per pound, totalling \$319.00. This meant a net profit of \$140.00 for me. Of course, you can see how I can contribute to war needs in such a project as this.

Mr. Williams: What general things can 4-H club members do to further the extent of their participation in the production of war needs.

Boy: We can continue all morale building events; be alert to the times; adapt projects and demonstrations to war needs; promote food and feed production and conservation; further health improvement; and secure recognition of 4-H Defense services by national organizations. Of course, there are other phases of 4-H club work we will continue to execute.

Mr. Williams: How do you propose to go about such a large undertaking?

Roy: Mr. Williams, we think that with the help and supervision of county extension agents and volunteer leaders we can accomplish all these undertakings.

As for my part, I pledge

My Head to clearer thinking,
My Heart to greater loyalty,
My hands to larger service and
My health to better living for
My Club, My Community, and My Country

With this pledge before us we feel sure we can meet the demands of this emergency.

These boys and a great many more over the state are conscious of the fact that this country is at war and each one, with his means, is trying to contribute fully; hundreds of them participated in the aluminum drive and are now busy all over the state gathering scrap iron and papers, and when the program was explained to them they went back to the farms they live on with the honest intention of doing what they could to help get as much of their living as possible from these farms, and if possible a surplus to aid the cause. This, they believe is their part in the war effort. I thank you-