

sults will be good." Improvements in agricultural production was the primary purpose, however, after 57 years, the value of this program was found to be much more than "purebred eggs" and "purebred corn"; it has been shown to be a strong force in aiding rural boys and girls to learn to accept and effectively carry out their responsibilities as citizens of Canada.

Two of the earliest clubs to organize in the Virден district was one at Oak Lake around 1915 and one at Kenton around 1917. Since these first clubs organized in the province, a wide variety of projects have been added to the 4-H project.

In chronological sequence, the following projects were offered to rural boys:

- 1913 – Corn, potatoes and poultry projects were started.
- 1915 – Swine, peas, beans and farm mechanics projects were added.
- 1916 – Grain, dairy and weeds projects were initiated.
- 1917 – Calf, dairy and weeds projects were added.
- 1921 – Junior livestock, bacon hog, grain, poultry and potato clubs were formed.
- 1923 – Boys' and Girls' Club were placed under the Department of Education except the bacon hog clubs which remained under the Department of Agriculture.
- 1928 – Individual project clubs were reorganized by the Department of Agriculture. These were Junior Clubs in beef, swine, grain, dairy and sheep projects.
- 1929 – All club work was placed under the Extension Service, Department of Agriculture. All clubs were single project clubs. The garden, potato and poultry projects were re-introduced.
- 1930-1950 – There were no major changes in the type of projects offered to rural boys.
- 1951 – Farm and home project initiated and continued for four years.
- 1952 – Tractor project initiated for older rural boys.
- 1955 – Sugar beet project was started.
- 1956 – Sheep project was reorganized.
- 1957 – Beef heifer project and specialized vegetable projects were initiated.
- 1960 – Light horse, woodworking and automotive projects were introduced.

Since that time projects such as photography, hunter safety handicrafts, teen projects, pet projects and any self-determined project where the individual member decides his own project have been introduced.

This article has focused on the types of projects that have been offered rural boys. There have always been a large number of girls participating in these projects as well as the clothing and foods projects.

With the Virден district being a livestock area, most of the boys' clubs have been livestock clubs. At the present time in the Virден district, there are eight beef clubs, one swine club, and two light horse and pony clubs for a total membership of 182. As well, there are nine home economics clubs carrying projects in clothing, foods, home design, handicrafts, photography and woodworking. There are a total of 287 4-H members in home economics clubs at the present time.