

*Electricity File*

**AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE  
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA**

UNIVERSITY HALL  
2200 UNIVERSITY AVENUE  
BERKELEY 4, CALIFORNIA 94720

March 22, 1968

To: 4-H ADVISORS CONCERNED WITH 4-H ELECTRIC PROJECT PROGRAM and  
4-H ELECTRIC LEADER TRAINERS

From: *Robert F. Davis*  
Robert F. Davis, 4-H Club Specialist

Subject: 1967 4-H ELECTRIC CLINICS - COUNTY IDEA EXCHANGE

At the electric clinics in 1967 a number of excellent ideas were shared. Attached is a copy of the notes taken as counties shared ideas they have used.

If you wish more detail, write the county identified. If we were all using half the good ideas available from our neighbors, we should be able to improve and enlarge our 4-H electric programs and attract more boys into 4-H.

Attachment

Distr.:

2 each county  
15 Southern California Edison Company, % Francis Coover  
2 San Diego Gas & Electric Company, % William Neild  
40 Pacific Gas & Electric Company, % Frank Miramontes

RFD:3-15-68:200

1967 4-H Electric Clinics  
Suggestions from Counties

San Luis Obispo

Suggests leaders use more kits to teach with -- to teach fundamentals. Do more teaching this way. More time on electricity, and less on mechanics. Built switching demonstration kits on 3-way lighting circuits for use in clubs.

Monterey

Held training meetings on a week night. One in fall - one in spring. Encouraged 4-H electric groups to prepare booth on electricity.

Lake - Mendocino

Project members built a safety feature booth for the fair. Two-story house and buttons to push to light up safety hazard in each area.

Placer - Nevada

Working on getting more new leaders for the project.

Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, San Benito

Encourage ingenuity. Used the "Random Flasher" in a fair exhibit. (Bentson)

What we have is new to new members. Let's do a better job with what we have so more kids will stay with us longer. Emphasize safety. (Melendy)

Humboldt

Questions from leaders. Need for more information on how to use the voltage tester. How to avoid pilferage at fair exhibits. Why the voltage tester works. Tell how and why it works. (Mac Armstrong)

Dennis Cousins will prepare a sheet showing what it does.

San Mateo

Need for more detail on leader manuals. Need for a how-why statement showing what each project does. Perhaps the most important thing is to provide more help for leaders.

Contra Costa

Used "Basic Electricity" books as a leader aid.

Yolo - Solano

Battery source - burglar alarm system companies. Find the maintenance man. Use their rejects -- D cells. Make better use of junior leaders. (Fred Jacob)

Sutter - Yuba

Developing separate unit for girls, on small appliance safety and maintenance. Need for women and girls to have basic understanding of the home electrical system. New electric pencil developed. (Bob Davis to get photo and description out.) Some groups are getting experience in doing real wiring jobs on farm and home buildings. Provided a kit to members who reenrolled for second year. Used the voltage tester kit.

## Fresno

Older boys need to be handled separately. Leader needs to have the kit components at the meeting. Looseleaf new idea sheets sent to a county once and not kept in stock.

Dennis Cousins: New voltage control 0-15 volts variable voltage control.

Jerry St. Andre: Use of overlays in instructions to show how to put units together.

Herm Fisher (Kings County): How to get good leaders. Wiring circuit kit done on a board using nails for switches. Using "junk" meters to check on power use of appliances, motors, etc.

Dennis Cousins: Supplies the materials but leaves room for kids to do plenty on improving it.

Electric quiz board with contacts and lights to light up when the right answer is selected. Steady hand tester. 4-H in outline. Buzzes when you goof. Continuity tester made of plastic pipe parts -- 2 caps and a  $\frac{1}{2}$ " nipple as a battery holder. Field day with program put on by a line crew showing how to hook up a hot wire.

## Merced

Giving kit to second and third year reenrollees. Merced and Madera got together to assemble ideas into demonstration and judging materials for leaders. "Instant programs" set up a number of judging classes. Found a need for more basic electrical information on the part of members.

## Sonoma

Kick-off dinner for electric leaders included wives of leaders. Had them bring tools. Had 20 leaders plus wives. This year used the circuit board kit and the movie on building it.

## Sacramento

Have four training meetings supplied by the sponsor. Enrollment on the way up again. This year county winner in electricity developing basic training in ABC's for younger members. (Vern Tanner)

## Stanislaus

New leaders at the kick-off. Training by four display areas, one for each year of the project. Each project is there and a member there who has had it and has built the units. The member explains what was done and why. Second meeting includes junior leaders, which builds enthusiasm. Had judging classes brought by project groups. Need a note to omit the test bulb from the premium list. (Alex Gibson)

## Arizona State - Jack McDonald

Company has bought an electric automobile and is trying to lead off in finding out what the thing can do. Our job is helping to develop leaders. Need to do more experimenting with ideas. Arizona leader training program is done at a power plant where there are power company lakes. They throw in fishing. People enjoy seeing a power plant. Can see that people are involved in producing and delivering power. Use tables with fixings and all kinds of electric appliances. They fix their own. Helps to bring home to leaders the value of electricity. Have a dryer at poolside.

Need to tell management what they get out of the meeting. The exchange of ideas is the important thing. Teach creative methods. Get electric groups to help in all kinds of community activities. Use of isometrics.

#### Ventura

October: banquet for old, new and junior leaders. November: leader training for 1st and 2nd year leaders. January: second meeting, for advanced leader trainers.

Four-pole motor from Fred Ackerman - reversible motor.

#### Los Angeles

Three meetings to cover the 5 districts - all but 2 leaders came - leaders' wives invited - 118 came to the meetings. Bought a soldering gun for each leader.

Using transistor alarm, showed 5 minutes of each movie to leaders; had 3 to 4 orders for one of the films.

Used junior leaders - one gave demonstration on building the voltage tester - good demonstration.

One leader gave meeting on 4-H electric project - how to start the project group. Others demonstrated use of kits.

Had a drawing and gave an electrical toolbox to the winner. Had a grab-bag box for 3 or 4 more leaders.

Next year, want more of the "doing" in the meeting.

Gave out a reference sheet.

Leaders really like the ABC's as a lesson plan outline. There was a substantial increase in ABC's items shown at fairs. Emphasis on some originality and ingenuity in preparing items for show. Suggested: Need guide for judges on what to look for in each project that is exhibited. Need to be able to test for whether they work or not.

#### Orange

End of October: Dinner at Edison Living Center. Have junior leaders with idea exchange from experienced leaders. Have a project plan calendar sheet and a suggestion sheet for project meetings. Have a winning demonstration to show what a demonstration is. Use a judging class as an ice-breaker. Award the county electric clock at the electric dinner. Honor a leader with a Reddy Kilowatt tie clip.

November or December: Have a follow-up meeting with a question-answer session. Do a "make" unit where everyone puts something together. Have a field trip - tour for leaders at a power company installation or other place of interest.

4-H Fair in spring, county fair in July: Too many little items get handled or stolen. Information on how and where to join a 4-H Club. Have a judging contest in ag mechanics to help add glamour to the program.

Westinghouse manual given to each club - Electricity in Wheels from G.M.

#### Southern California Edison Company

Need to involve division managers in the program as a public relations gesture.

## San Diego

First meeting of year is more of an orientation meeting - met in San Diego Gas & Electric Company room - dinner served - invited wives of leaders. Used one of the films. Had program on how to interest girls in the project. How to encourage and challenge members to do a better job. Had a former member give reactions from the members' viewpoint. Need for the simple approach was stressed.

Tours used annually as a means of interesting leaders and members.

Clubs visit farms to make farm safety checks.

Tried to find out from leaders how leader trainers could be most helpful. Thinking of a mailer to go to all leaders before the dinner.

## Imperial

Have a five-meeting training program providing some materials for the leaders. Many scrap materials made available to the project groups.

## San Bernardino - Riverside

Dinner twice a year. Involve local club leaders as well as electric leaders to help get new groups started. Have wives of leaders, as well as junior leaders. Riverside and San Bernardino team up. Use Rialto facilities. Southern California Edison puts on a program for the leaders by the power company home economist.