

УДК 94(477.46)»19»

DOI: 10.31651/2413-8142-2022-27-Svyaschenko

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Bibliographic Description of the Article: Svyaschenko, Z. (2022). Activities of Uman zemstans regarding the dissemination of agronomic knowledge. *Ukrainskyi Selianyn. [Ukrainian peasant]*, 27, 37-42. (In Ukrainian). doi: 10.31651/2413-8142-2022-27-Svyaschenko

ACTIVITIES OF UMAN ZEMSTANS REGARDING THE DISSEMINATION OF AGRONOMIC KNOWLEDGE

Abstract. Purpose. The author of the article aims to find out the regional features of the zemstvos of the Right Bank of Ukraine on the dissemination of agronomic knowledge on the materials of the Uman zemstvo.

Scientific novelty. On the basis of the involved sources and the application of current methodological approaches, an attempt was made to find out the regional peculiarities in the activity of zemstvos of the Right Bank of Ukraine regarding the dissemination of agronomic knowledge based on the materials of the Uman zemstvo. It has been proven that the implementation of agronomic measures in peasant households contributed to their profitability and a closer connection with the needs of the market, their further commodification.

Conclusion. It is noted that the Uman zemstvo carried out agricultural education in various forms. The most common of these were the organization of courses for peasants and teachers, the distribution of popular literature. The students studied the issues of agriculture, horticulture, gardening, beekeeping, silkworm breeding, etc. The basis of the courses for teachers was the Uman school of horticulture and agriculture. The Zemstvo administration tried to arm the peasants with at least basic knowledge of the basics of agronomy and veterinary medicine. The Zemstvo also set up a mobile museum and introduced the position of agronomist-lecturer, arranged demonstration fields. There was an award for high-quality spring plowing, the opening of rental stations for agricultural equipment, providing interest-free loans for the purchase of agricultural machinery.

This was very important, because in this way the zemstvos gradually taught the peasants to turn to new progressive methods of management, its rationalization. This case was new, it took a lot of effort and time to get the desired results. Information about these and other events was widely covered in the press of the time. An example is publications in the newspaper «Kievlyanin».

It is noted that zemstvos often provided agronomic assistance through various types of cooperatives. Another area of work of zemstvos was the study of the development of the cooperative movement in order to determine what kind of help the society needed. There have been cases of zemstvos joining cooperatives.

The Uman county zemstvo played a significant role in disseminating agronomic knowledge among the peasants of the region, which was an extremely important matter, because the peasants were gradually taught to turn to new progressive methods of management, its rationalization. This case was new, it took a lot of effort and time to get the desired results. The experience of the best, showy peasant farms contributed to the gradual involvement of others in the processes of improving agricultural culture, made the production of agricultural products profitable. The introduction of agronomic measures in peasant farms contributed to their profitability and closer connection with the needs of the market, their further socialization.

Keywords: district councils in Right-Bank Ukraine, Uman district, local self-government, Uman district council, agronomic knowledge.

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Бібліографічний опис для цитування: Священко З. Діяльність Уманського земства з поширення агрономічних знань. *Український селянин*. 2022. Вип. 27. С. 37-42. doi: 10.31651/2413-8142-2022-27-Svyaschenko

ДІЯЛЬНІСТЬ УМАНЬСЬКОГО ЗЕМСТВА З ПОШИРЕННЯ АГРОНОМІЧНИХ ЗНАНЬ

Анотація. Мета. У статті проаналізовано діяльність повітового земства одного з найбільших повітів Київської губернії – Уманського з питань поширення агрономічних знань.

Наукова новизна. На основі залучених джерел і застосування актуальних методологічних підходів зроблено спробу з'ясувати регіональні особливості у діяльності земств Правобережної України щодо поширення агрономічних знань на матеріалах Уманського земства. Доведено, що впровадження агрономічних заходів у селянських господарствах сприяло їх прибутковості та тіснішому зв'язку з потребами ринку, подальшій їх товаризації.

Висновки. Агрокультурне просвітництво населення Уманським земством здійснювалось у різних формах. Найпоширенішими з них були влаштування курсів для селян та вчителів, розповсюдження популярної літератури.

Курсисти вивчали питання землеробства, садівництва, городництва, бджільництва, шовківництва тощо. Базою курсів для вчителів було Уманське училище садівництва та землеробства. Земська управа намагалася озброїти селян хоча б елементарними знаннями з основ агрономії, ветеринарії. Земством також було облаштовано пересувний музей і запроваджено посаду агронома-лектора, влаштовувались показові поля. Мало місце преміювання за високоякісну весняну оранку, відкриття прокатних станцій сільськогосподарського реманенту, надання безпроцентних позик на придбання сільськогосподарських машин.

Це було досить важливим, адже таким чином земства поступово привчали селян звертатися до нових прогресивних методів ведення господарства, його раціоналізації. Справа ця була новою, вимагала багато зусиль та певного часу для отримання бажаних результатів. Інформація про ці та інші заходи широко висвітлювалася у тогочасній пресі. Прикладом можуть бути публікації у газеті «Киевлянин».

Дуже часто земства надавали агрономічну допомогу через різні види кооперативних об'єднань. Ще одним напрямом роботи земств стало дослідження розвитку кооперативного руху з метою з'ясування, якої саме допомоги потребували товариства. Мали місце випадки вступу земства до кооперативних об'єднань.

Уманське повітове земство відіграло значну роль у поширенні агрономічних знань серед селянства краю, що було надзвичайно важливою справою, адже селян поступово привчали звертатися до нових прогресивних методів ведення господарства, його раціоналізації. Справа ця була новою, вимагала багато зусиль та певного часу для отримання бажаних результатів. Досвід кращих, показових селянських господарств сприяв поступовому залученню й інших у процеси поліпшення землеробської культури, робив виробництво сільгосппродукції прибутковим. Впровадження агрономічних заходів у селянських господарствах сприяло їх прибутковості та тіснішому зв'язку з потребами ринку, подальшій їх товаризації.

Ключові слова: земства на Правобережній Україні, Уманський повіт, місцеве самоврядування, Уманське земство, агрономічні знання.

Problem statement. In the modern period of the development of the economy of Ukraine, as before, agriculture plays an important role, as evidenced by the priorities in the socio-economic policy of our state. The current state of affairs in the agricultural sector requires the active assistance of local self-government bodies in solving the problems of rural producers. It is they who should pay more attention to the dissemination of advanced methods of agricultural production, support its modernization. Promotion of agricultural knowledge should occupy an important place.

In the conditions of the transition to a market economy, land privatization and the creation of farms, the use of the historical experience of such transformations as, in particular, the introduction of agronomic measures and the small credit system, the spread of the cooperative movement in the countryside, etc. will contribute, from our point of view, to certain adjustments in the implementation current agrarian policy. At the beginning of the 20th century agronomic assistance to peasant households from the zemstvo administrations was of great importance. The competence of the zemstvos included economic issues at the local level, established since the reform of 1864. In Right-Bank Ukraine until 1911, the role of the zemstvos was performed by the provincial administrations. Only in April 1911 did the regulations on zemstvos of 1864 come into full effect, and even then, with some changes.

Research analysis. Considering the time of existence of right-bank zemstvos, they could not become the subject of comprehensive scientific analysis in pre-Soviet historiography. Soviet ideo-

logical stereotypes regarding the history of local self-government are also well-known, which led to the small number and involvement of works of this period on zemstvo issues, in particular, the number regarding the specified region. Modern domestic historical science takes into account that the problems of the formation and functioning of zemstvos are significant for today, but the main attention is drawn to the longer-term experience of the zemstvo self-government bodies of Left Bank and Southern Ukraine. At the same time, the history of the zemstvos of Right Bank Ukraine has also found coverage in domestic historical science. In the field of research interest of O. Ohienko, the organizational and legal status and social functions of zemstvos of Right Bank Ukraine in 1904–1917¹. I. Verkhovtseva examined the political, organizational and legal foundations of the Zemstvo self-government of Right Bank Ukraine, its economic and cultural-educational activity². Some aspects of the history of zemstvo institutions of Right Bank Ukraine are traced in the scientific work of D. Beauvois³.

It is quite important to study the activity of the zemstvos of Right Bank Ukraine within the narrow boundaries of the powiats, since the activity of local self-government bodies is most clearly expressed at the level of microhistory. Regarding the coverage of the activity of the county zemstvo, one of the largest powiats of the Kyiv province – Uman powiat, we recall the publication by T. Kuznets and O. Skus, in which the materials of the newspaper «Kievlyanin» about the cultural and educational activities of the zemstvo are systematized and researched⁴ [4].

1 Огієнко О. Земства Правобережної України: організаційно-правовий статус та соціальні функції (1904–1917 рр.). Автореф. дис. ... канд. іст. наук. Київ. 2010. 18 с.

2 Верховцева І. Діяльність земств Правобережної України (1911–1920 рр.). Автореф. ... канд. іст. наук. Черкаси. 2004. 18 с.

3 Бовуа Д. Битва за землю в Україні 1863–1914. Поляки в соціо-етнічних конфліктах. Київ: Критика. 1988. 334 с.

4 Кузнець Т., Скус О. (2020). Культурно-просвітницька діяльність Уманського земства у висвітленні газети «Киевлянин». *Сторінки*

The purpose of the article. The author of the article aims to find out the regional peculiarities in the activity of the zemstvos of Right-Bank Ukraine regarding the dissemination of agronomic knowledge based on the materials of the Uman zemstvo.

The statement of the basic material. During the years of the Stolypin agrarian reform, agronomic assistance to peasant households from the zemstvo administrations and land management commissions was of great importance. The general management of affairs in the provinces was concentrated in the hands of the Agronomical Committee under the provincial land management committee, which was headed by the provincial agronomist. Special attention of zemstvos and land management commissions was paid to individual owners who moved to hamlets and cuttings – this provided them with some support in their desire for a rational system of managing their households⁵.

One of the areas of activity of the zemstvos was agro-cultural enlightenment of the population, which was carried out in various forms. This was quite important, because in this way the zemstvo gradually taught the peasants to turn to new progressive methods of farming and its rationalization. This case was new, required a lot of effort and a certain amount of time to obtain the desired results.

The Uman powiat zemstvo played a significant role in spreading agronomic knowledge among the peasantry of the Kyiv province.

The organizational design of the Uman powiat zemstvo was completed at an extraordinary meeting of powiat councilors, which was held in Uman on July 30, 1911, under the chairmanship of the powiat leader of the nobility, Baron Yury Fedorovich Meyendorff. The powiat zemstvo administration was formed in the following composition: Yu. Meyendorff, O. Eliseev as his deputy, L. Kostenko and T. Domanyskiy were elected members. O. Feshchenko, V. Chernov, prince S. Dolgoruky, M. Yashchyk, I. Shteinberg were elected as provincial representatives, from the peasants – D. Gulko, from the Polish curia – O. Ivanskyi. G. Yanevskyi, M. Yashchik and K. Mulenka were elected members of the land management commission; the members of the school council are M. Kovesnikov and M. Kryzhanovskiy. I. Popandopulo and V. Kozakovskiy were delegated to the provincial agronomic society, and its powiat branch consisted of I. Popandopulo, D. Dunin, M. Bazilskyi, E. Naumenko and K. Prytyka⁶.

To popularize agronomic knowledge, zemstvo workers arranged courses for peasants and teachers, distributed popular literature. Zemstvo administrations tried to arm peasants with at least elementary knowledge of the basics of agronomy and veterinary medicine.

The powiat zemstvo administration of the Uman powiat also organized such courses, as reported by the newspaper «Kievlyanin». On July 8, 1912, the newspaper reported that the one-month agricultural courses organized by the powiat zemstvo administration for 30 peasants of the Uman powiat ended on July 1 in Uman⁷.

The attendees at the courses were peasants not only from Uman, but also from neighbouring powiats. All attendees were issued certificates of completion of the courses, as well as several books related to agricultural issues were given to the attendees as a gift⁸.

In the newspaper of July 15, 1912, information was published about 10-month agricultural courses in Uman, in which theoretical and practical classes were held daily for no less than nine hours, from 6:30 a.m. to 12 a.m. day, as well as from 2 p.m. until seven o'clock in the evening⁹. The correspondent reported that course participants not only diligently take notes of lectures, but also perform various practical tasks, such as collecting herbarium and creating various collections. The participants of the courses appealed to the director of the school with a request to provide them with assistance for the purchase of everything necessary for the performance of such tasks. It was reported that the aid was issued in the amount of 3-4 rubles.

The courses were popular and needed by the local population. Evaluating them, the correspondent of «Kievlyanin» noted that they «once again clearly demonstrated how much the countryside needed to transition to more advanced and skilful ways of managing the peasant economy»¹⁰. It was emphasized that the zemstvo could not accept all those willing to attend the courses: they were designed for only 40 people, and 43 people from 28 villages of the Uman powiat were accepted. It was also noted that there is an insufficient number of visual aids in the courses, in order to compensate to some extent for this lack, excursions were conducted to the Uman School of Horticulture and Agriculture. The attendees were given a course of lectures and a number of practical classes were held.

The zemstvo held similar monthly courses in subsequent years, but it was not the only form of promotion and dissemination of agronomic knowl-

історії. 2020. Вип. 50. С. 50–63. DOI: 10.20535/2307-5244.50.2020.210120

5 Власюк І. Впровадження агрономічних заходів і системи дрібного кредиту в селянських господарствах Правобережної України у 1906 – 1914 рр. *Український історичний збірник*. 2000. К. С. 103.

6 Чрезвычайное земское собрание. *Киевлянин*. 1911. № 212. С. 3.

7 Корреспонденция «Киевлянина». *Киевлянин*. 1912. № 187. С. 5.

8 Ibid.

9 Корреспонденция «Киевлянина». *Киевлянин*. 1912. № 194. С. 4.

10 Корреспонденция «Киевлянина». *Киевлянин*. 1912. № 230. С. 3.

edge. «Kievlyanin» dated June 12, 1913 contained information that the Uman Zemstvo Council, chaired by Baron Y. Meyendorff, held an «agronomic meeting dedicated to solving issues related to the transfer of agricultural knowledge to the people»¹¹.

In the decision of the meeting, it was noted that in the case of providing agronomic assistance to the population, the main attention should be paid to the spread of agro-cultural knowledge among the entire population. Not limited to annual monthly courses, readings and discussions of agronomic staff, periodic two-week courses (from 10 to 14 days) should also be held. For this purpose, it was decided to arrange a mobile museum and introduce the positions of agronomist-lecturer with a salary of 3,000 rubles per year, his assistant with a salary of 2,000 rubles per year and a museum worker with a salary of 500 rubles, and 2,500 rubles will be allocated for the establishment of the museum. The estimate of agronomic measures for 1914 was approved in the amount of 173,859 rubles. This amount included expenses for the maintenance of agronomists and the museum, for courses for the organization and management of manual labour, a loan for the fight against field pests (mice and gophers), for inviting instructors from handicrafts, for the introduction of a new – the sixth position of a powiat agronomist located in the town of Dubova, Uman powiat, for the arrangement of agronomic plots with apartments for agronomists. Rewards for high-quality spring plowing, opening of rental stations for agricultural equipment, provision of interest-free loans for the purchase of agricultural machinery were planned. It was also planned to organize an agricultural exhibition in Mankivka village from August 25 to 27, 1913¹².

The Zemstvo also planned to organize courses for teachers. The purpose of such courses «is to communicate basic agricultural knowledge to those workers in the field of public education who would like to use this knowledge in the field»¹³. There were always many teachers who expressed a desire to learn, and in June 1914, 170 people were enrolled in the courses. Financial aid was paid to course participants. Attendees studied agriculture, horticulture, vegetable gardening, beekeeping, sericulture, etc. The Uman School of Horticulture and Agriculture was the basis of the courses for teachers.

Dissemination of agronomic knowledge in the Uman Zemstvo was accompanied by a wide deployment of scientific and applied research. On June 8, 1913, the newspaper «Kievlyanin» wrote about the successes of Uman Zemstvo veterinarians in experiments on artificial insemination of horses, which were filmed and sent to St. Petersburg to be demonstrated at lectures for Zemstvo veterinarians¹⁴. The correspondent emphasized the scientific nature of the film and recommended that it be used during lectures by Zemstvo veterinarians.

In the Kyiv province, 111 demonstration fields were set up, on which yields were much higher than on neighbouring peasant fields. This, of course, interested the peasants in adopting the experience of proper soil cultivation¹⁵.

The participation of Uman zemstvo officials in the field experiments was reported by the correspondent of «Kievlyanin», who wrote in the newspaper on October 29, 1913 that a member of the Kyiv provincial zemstvo administration (delegated from the Uman zemstvo. – *Auth.*) O. Feshchenko, together with a special zemstvo commission, chose for the establishment of a powiat experimental field in the Uman powiat of a plot of land that belonged to the Uman School of Horticulture and Agriculture¹⁶. On November 20, 1913, «Kievlyanin» reported in the «Local News» column that land had been allocated in the Uman powiat for an experimental station, the construction of which would begin in the spring of 1914¹⁷. In the same section of the newspaper dated November 28, 1913, it was reported that 55 dec. the land for the research station of the Uman Zemstvo has already been demarcated¹⁸. The experience of the best, demonstrative peasant households contributed to the gradual involvement of others in the processes of improving agricultural culture.

The implementation of agronomic measures in peasant households contributed to their profitability and a closer connection with the needs of the market, and their further commodification. During the years of the Stolypin agrarian reform, the market increasingly influenced agricultural production. A peasant-entrepreneur was gradually formed in the countryside, who produced products not only for his own consumption, but also for selling them on the market, while receiving his own profit.

At the beginning of the 20th century the cooperative movement developed rapidly. Thus, in 1912, Kyiv province ranked first in the Russian

11 Корреспонденция «Киевлянина». *Киевлянин*. 1913. № 160. С. 4.

12 Ibid.

13 Корреспонденция «Киевлянина». *Киевлянин*. 1914. № 193. С. 3.

14 Опыт искусственного оплодотворения. *Киевлянин*. 1913. № 156. С. 2.

15 Власюк І. Впровадження агрономічних заходів і системи дрібного кредиту в селянських господарствах Правобережної України у 1906 – 1914 рр. *Український історичний збірник*. 2000. К. С. 107.

16 Уманское районное опытное поле. *Киевлянин*. 1913. № 298. С. 4.

17 Опытная районная станция. *Киевлянин*. 1913. № 320. С. 3.

18 К утверждению районной опытной станции. *Киевлянин*. 1913. № 328. С. 4.

Empire in terms of the number of consumer associations¹⁹. It should be noted that by the middle of 1910, the largest number of consumer associations was founded precisely in the Uman powiat – 56 (for example: in Cherkasy powiat – 47, Kyiv powiat – 48)²⁰.

One of the factors with the help of which cooperation turned into a powerful economic and social force was the activity of zemstvos. It should be noted that zemstvos could not engage in planting cooperatives from above, but only contributed where people consciously approached the matter²¹. Otherwise, Zemstvo aid became ineffective.

It is known that very often zemstvos provided agronomic assistance through various types of cooperative associations. Thus, in 1912, the Uman Powiat Zemstvo equipped a fruit and vegetable processing facility at the Dzengelivka Savings and Loan Society (founded in 1899 in the village of Dzengelivka, Uman Powiat). In it, the peasants dried fruit, prepared wine, apple paste or lozenge (they had no idea about the latter before) for free²².

Another direction of the zemstvos' work was the study of the development of the cooperative movement in order to find out what kind of help the societies needed. The disadvantage of such attempts was that each zemstvo conducted accounting independently of other provinces, at different times, using different methods. Most often, information was collected using questionnaires. M. Boikov, instructor of cooperation of the zemstvo administration under the Uman powiat zemstvo, developed such questionnaires for the survey of consumer associations²³.

The Zemstvo also published cooperative leaflets and brochures. The instructor M. Boykov wrote the brochure «How to Open and Lead a Consumer Association in the Village»²⁴.

There have been cases of zemstvos joining cooperative associations on the Right Bank. Thus, in the fall of 1913, the Uman Powiat Small Loan Fund decided to join the local purchasing society with a contribution of 1,000 rubles²⁵. On the one hand, it strengthened the financial position of such associations. However, weak associations, along with financially strong zemstvos, could not participate in them to the same extent, which could lead to a violation of the main principles of cooperation. Therefore, at the All-Russian congress of zemstvo funds in Moscow (September 1911), it was decided that the union of funds with cooperatives should be

temporary – until the creation of strong cooperative unions²⁶.

Among the zemstvo officials who distinguished themselves by their work in the «cooperative field», it is worth mentioning the above-mentioned instructor of cooperation of the zemstvo administration under the Uman powiat zemstvo M. Boykov. It was he who played a significant role in the creation of a cooperative association in the Uman region.

On his initiative, on July 1, 1912, the first congress of representatives of cooperative societies of the Uman region was convened. The Congress decided to develop the Statute of the Union of Consumer Societies of the Uman Powiat and founded the Zemstvo Small Credit Fund. Taking into account the negative attitude of the authorities towards cooperation, the congress adopted a resolution on petitioning the Moscow Union of Consumer Societies to open a branch in Uman. The second cooperative congress in 1913 again raised the issue of establishing a cooperative union in the form of a «Contractual Faith Society».

In 1914, a meeting of the representatives of the «Land Cooperative Purchasing Society» was held, at which the board of the society was elected, but in connection with the beginning of the World War I in 1914, the society ceased to exist due to the mobilization of the newly elected board members into the army. In 1916, the cooperators of the Uman region once again petitioned for the opening of the Union under the name «Consumer Association of Wholesale Purchases», the charter of which was approved by the governor only in January 1917.

The conclusions. Thus, the Uman powiat zemstvo played a significant role in the spread of agronomic knowledge among the peasantry of the region, which was an extremely important matter, because the peasants were gradually accustomed to turn to new progressive methods of farming, its rationalization. This case was new, required a lot of effort and a certain amount of time to obtain the desired results. The experience of the best, demonstrative peasant households contributed to the gradual involvement of others in the processes of improving agricultural culture, making the production of agricultural products profitable. The implementation of agronomic measures in peasant households contributed to their profitability and a closer connection with the needs of the market, and their further commodification.

19 Хейсин М. Развитие кооперативного движения потребителей в России. *Вестник кооперации*. 1912. Кн. 5. С. 61.

20 Пак В., Ленченко Ф. *Нариси з історії споживчої кооперації Київщини*. К.: Ірідіум. 2002. С. 198.

21 Хижняков В. *Земство и кооперация*. М. 1918. С. 36.

22 Корольков Б. Корреспонденция. *Киевская земская газета*. 1912. № 34. С. 19.

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Надійшла до редакції / Received: 28.12.2021

Схвалено до друку / Accepted: 20.01.2022