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TO EDITORS.

The University Farm Press News prepared with a sole view to the use of the matter in its columns by the editors of Minnesota papers. It has no subscription list, and is not sent to farmers. The endeavor is to fill its six columns with short articles relating to the various phases of rural life and industry—articles which every intelligent farmer will read with satisfaction, but which we want him to read in your paper, not in ours. You are at liberty to use the articles with or without credit or name of author—as editorials or as clippings, just as you may prefer.

Improving the Farm Home—1.

Appliances for the comfort and sanitation of the farm home, as well as for the saving of "steps" and labor in almost every one of that home's varied industries, are now so numerous and so cheap that—whatever the case may have been in years gone by—there is today practically no excuse for the primitive conditions which yet prevail in too many households. The coarse jest, that "Woman's time, like hens', ain't worth nothin'," long since lost its point—if it ever had one—in the presence of the patent fact that on the use made of the woman's time depends the question, not merely of her family's advancement in a pecuniary sense, but of its standing in the community. Her time is now recognized, by every man gifted with the faculty of thought, as something extremely precious—something that she should never be forced to waste when a small expenditure of money will effect a daily saving. Such a saving is effected whenever, for instance, a kitchen sink, connected with a drain, takes the place of the clumsy "dish pan on a table;" whenever the pump is brought close to the door, or, better still, inside the kitchen; whenever a bath-room is introduced; whenever an inexpensive engine is made to run the churn, the wringer, the washing machine, or the sewing machine; whenever a meat-chopper, costing only \$1.25, takes the place of the old chopping-bowl, and enables a dish to be prepared in half the former time; whenever a steam "canner" enables her to get through in an hour with canning processes that once took a day; and when the purchase of "ready made" garments relieves her of long hours now unnecessarily spent over the sewing-machine or needle—since such garments may often be purchased for little more than the price she pays for the material.

If a study of this question is made, many a farmer will be surprised at the smallness of the outlay necessary to cut his wife's household burdens in half, while increasing the comfort of the home and affording its members opportunities, now seemingly lacking, for social and other enjoyments.—C. R. Barns, University Farm.

Corn Acreage—1.

In nearly every quarter of Minnesota, farmers will find it very decidedly to their advantage to cultivate a larger acreage of corn than heretofore, in proportion to the area given to small grains. Why raise so many oats, for instance, when the profit on corn is more than twice as great? If, with an increased acreage, the improved methods of seed selection, and of cultivating the ground, advocated by the University Farm, are followed, the increase in the farmer's income will generally be very marked.

Having the corn, the reflecting farmer very quickly discovers that he can make more by feeding it to live stock and marketing the beeves, hogs and other live stock products, than by selling the corn itself. He discovers also, that the extra profit thus gained is accompanied, each year, by an increasing increment of value to his land.

Viewed from whatever standpoint—whether that of a market for the

grain and fodder, that of a grand auxiliary in the raising of stock, or that of a contributor to the value of the land on which it grows—it is becoming increasingly apparent that Corn is not only "King," but the most broadly beneficial of our common field crops.—C. R. B., University farm.

"Why Should I Remain on the Farm."

Mr. Joseph Chapman not long ago offered a series of prizes for the best essays on the above topic. Mr. Charles M. Loring, of Minneapolis, thinks that along with this discussion there should go a discussion of the counter proposition. Therefore, for the best articles on the topic, "Why I Remain on the Farm," he offers \$100 in prizes, as follows: 1st, \$20; 2d, \$15; 3d, \$10; next ten best, \$5 each; 14th, \$3; 15th, \$2. The competition is open to all Minnesota boys and girls in the seventh and eighth grades, living on a farm. Essays must be written on ruled paper. They should not exceed 500 words in length. Each must be marked with the name, age and post-office address of the writer, and be mailed so as to reach the Extension Division, St. Paul, not later than Jan. 1, 1911.

Short Course for Farmers.

The next term of this course—provided by the Faculty of the Minnesota School and College of Agriculture to meet the needs of men and women of mature years who are actively interested in farm work—will open on Friday, Jan. 13, and will continue for four weeks, closing on Feb. 10, 1911.

At the last term, the attendance on this course was 236. The indications are that the enrollment next January will be between 400 and 500. To meet this influx, new arrangements are planned. The general lectures will be given in the large assembly hall of the School, while for other purposes the students will be divided into sections, meeting in various class-rooms.

The topics handled will cover the more important branches of agriculture, horticulture, live-stock, farm botany, farm chemistry, entomology, poultry, dairying, etc. Ladies interested in any of these will find the daily program arranged for their accommodation. Special instruction will be given in the judging of grains, soils and animals.

It is planned to have a series of special lectures every day and every evening, by specialists from the Department of Agriculture at Washington, and by others from the Agricultural Colleges of other states; beside some from distinguished men not so connected.

It is evident that farmers coming to the Course will find their time fairly well "filled up." Indeed, as some one remarked, it looks as though the purpose was to keep them at work "all day and all night."

The recent great enlargement of the dining facilities of the School will make comparatively easy the regular supplying of meals for the expected throng.

For catalog giving complete information about the course, write to J. M. Drew, University Farm, St. Paul.

The Dairy School.

The annual session of the Dairy School at University Farm opened Monday, Nov. 14, and continues for four weeks.

This course yearly attracts an increasing number of students, mainly from among persons who are actually engaged in the manufacture of butter and cheese, and who desire to perfect themselves in their work and to be informed of the "latest improvements." For in dairy operations, as in everything else, the law of progress prevails, and "the best" of one year may become a "back number" ere the next.

The school has been powerfully influential in elevating the standards of dairy manufacture in Minnesota, and consequently in giving Minnesota a better ranking place in the markets of the country. No better illustration can be found, than is here afforded, of the profitableness of the application of modern scientific methods to the prosecution of ancient callings. The world would appear to have only recently awakened

to the actual golden possibilities of the dairy cow. Of that awakening the dairymen—actual or prospective—who take advantage of such schools as that now in session at St. Anthony Park, are to be the foremost beneficiaries.

Had the same progress been made in production, on the dairy farm, as has been made in the manufacturing department of dairying since 1891, the annual receipts of our farmers would today be greater by \$15,000,000. The Dairy Division of the School of Agriculture is now making a special effort to enlist farmers and students in the work of increasing production. The average amount of butter produced by the Minnesota cow today is only about 160 pounds. To increase this amount to 200 pounds is, with fairly well-directed effort, an easy possibility. Supposing we have a million cows, the increase of 40 pounds per cow, with butter at 30 cents, would bring our farmers \$12,000,000 a year.

That the day of awakening is upon us is evidenced by the coming, during the past year, of many car-loads of cows, of the very best dairy types, to Minnesota. The number of registered herds in the state is constantly mounting upward; and the introduction of pure-bred sires, for mating with common stock, is having its share in making effective, for the near future, the teachings of that most valuable feature of our "Farm School," the Dairy department.—C. R. Barns, Extension Division.

Poultry Schools.

In holding a poultry school at Barnum, Minn., the Extension Division last month entered on a new line of educational endeavor. The school was held under the auspices of the Farmers' Co-operative Association of Barnum, Oct. 24 to 29. Tickets for the five-day course were sold at \$2 each for individuals, or \$3 for a family. The attendants numbered forty in all; their ages varying from ten to sixty-one years. They included representatives from five different towns. Regular "school hours" were observed, with the customary recess.

The School was conducted by Mr. N. E. Chapman, of the Extension Division, assisted by Professors Gaumnitz and Lane of the School of Agriculture, and by Editor Nourse, of the Poultry Herald. On each evening there was a lecture. One evening the Public School entertained the Poultry School; and on another the Poultry School reciprocated the courtesy.

The text-book used—"Bingham's Progressive Poultry Culture"—was presented to each pupil by the State, which also supplied note-books and pencils, and a copy each of "Egg Money; How to Increase It," and "Chicks: Hatching and Rearing," to every ticket-holder. In addition to the valuable instruction imparted during the session, he thus received about \$2.50 worth of books in return for the price of his ticket.

At the close of the session, those in attendance organized the Carlton County Poultry Association. This body will hold monthly meetings, and will do much to foster the poultry interests of the section. It will also prove a valuable auxiliary to the County Fair.

The Extension Division proposes to hold similar five-day Poultry Schools in different parts of the state, wherever a sufficient number of persons can be found to pay the small fee required for the course.

The State Industrial Contest.

How a "good thing" grows, when people are found appreciative enough to "push it along," is illustrated in the remarkable success attending the "State Industrial Contest for Boys and Girls," held in St. Paul during the last days of October. It is only six years since Principal Mayne first proposed the organization of these contests; and now they are held in all quarters of the state, with a constantly increasing interest in their proceedings.

For the State Contest this year—to which only winners in local contests were admitted—there were considerably over 2,000 entries. This is a number considerably in excess of the entries at an ordinary county fair. The exhibits of the girls, in needlework, etc., were divided into

three classes; one for girls under 13 and one for those between 13 and 18, in common schools; and one for girls of all ages in high schools. Exhibits of agricultural products, from boys and girls alike, were classed together.

Prizes to the value of \$1,000 were distributed; and the Contest was unanimously voted a "great success." The Contest work will be promoted more extensively than ever during the coming year, under the auspices of the Extension Division. Those desiring to participate should send for Extension Bulletin No. 3, of which a revised edition is in course of preparation.

The International Live Stock Exposition.

The International Live Stock Exposition, the premier event of the year in the life of nearly every good live stock man, will be held at the Union Stock Yards, Chicago, on November 26 to December 3, 1910.

The International, since its inception, has grown by leaps and bounds. Each show has been so much better than the one preceding that it has been almost impossible to comprehend how the next was to make still greater improvement. But, from the present outlook, the exposition for 1910 will eclipse all of its predecessors, and the show will be larger and better than ever.

The International—in addition to being an educational institution of the first rank, at which the picked animals from all the fall shows meet for the final verdict, and where live stock enthusiasts from all sections meet to compare notes and keep in touch with the progress the Live Stock Industry has made during the year—also serves as the annual round-up of Exhibitors, Breeders, Feeders, Herdsmen, Flock-Masters, Agricultural College Professors, Alumni and Students. To any one interested in Live Stock, who has never attended the show, a week at the International promises an educational advantage worth many times its cost in time and money.

Breakfast Bacon Special.

On Wednesday, November 9, the Chicago, Rock Island Railway ran a special train over its lines in Minnesota, in the interest of the production of more and better pork. This train had a separate car for men, one for women, and one for children. Different phases of pork production and its uses were discussed by men and women from the Agricultural College. Stops were made at Faribault, Owatonna, Ellendale, Clark's Grove, Albert Lea and Glenville. The total attendance at these meetings was 1,500, and every one seemed well pleased with the lectures given.

Professors Boss and Gaumnitz had charge of the men's car, and discussed the various phases of hog-raising. In the selection of hogs, they advocated more attention along the line of selecting better brood sows; laying special stress upon the thick, deep and growthy kind; to pay more attention to the size of litters and to keeping a record of the number of pigs farrowed; to discard the animals that are not prolific, and retain only those that produce large litters; as these qualities are inherited and transmitted to the offspring. Also, to select young sows from prolific stock.

One of the important factors in profitable pork production is the reduced cost at birth. The annual cost year. Figuring on this basis (fig of keeping a sow is about \$10. Figuring on this basis, if she raises only four healthy pigs, the initial cost at birth would be \$2.50 apiece; whereas, if the sow will raise eight pigs, the initial cost at birth would be only \$1.25. This may not seem a large amount, but if one hundred hogs are raised, it would mean the difference of \$125 to begin with; thus making a material difference in the profit from such a number of hogs.

Special stress was laid on providing plenty of pasture for the brood sow, so as to reduce the cost of maintenance; and experiments also show that sows kept under such conditions are more prolific and will farrow healthier pigs than those that are confined to pens and fed entirely on grain.

The need of attention to the brood sow at farrowing time was fully dis-

cussed, and the people were told to provide warm, comfortable houses, or shelter of some kind, for the sows during this period. It is highly important that a warm, clean place be provided for the young pigs, so as to give them a good start in life. The feeding of the brood sow at farrowing time must not be neglected. It is well to give her no feed at all for from twenty to thirty hours after farrowing, but plenty of warm water, with possibly a small amount of shorts mixed with it, is enough. This method of caring for the sow will prevent too rapid a flow of milk, and also keep the sow from getting milk fever.

As soon as the small pigs are old enough to eat, a little feed should be given them, mixed with milk. Care must, however, be taken not to feed them coarse, fibrous feeds, as their digestive system is not strong enough to digest such food, and it will cause an irritation which will retard their growth. It is recommended that the pigs be weaned when from ten to twelve weeks old. To wean the pigs at this time will not check their growth, especially if they have been trained to eat a small amount of grain feed.

Other phases of pork production, such as the feeding and care of pigs after weaning, the curing and cooking of meats, were discussed.

Winter Sheep Feeds.

As indicated by the make-up of its stomach, the sheep is an animal designed for the consumption of rough feeds, such as various sorts of hay and fodder. To keep up the fertility of our soil and to keep our land clean, it is necessary to grow hay crops containing some clover, in rotation with crops that may be cultivated, such as fodder or shock corn. Such hay feeds have no particular market value, and should be valued according to the cost of producing them. Grains have a market value, and may be disposed of. A dollar invested in producing rough feeds will produce more feed than a dollar invested in grain at market price. Rough feeds, therefore, should be grown and used as feed for sheep.

Breeding ewes, if in fair condition when put into winter quarters in the fall, are sufficiently prepared for their work by a gain of from 15 to 25 pounds per head. This gain allows for the development of the unborn lamb and the wool crop. Rations to make the ewe gain slightly and yet keep her thrifty, must be carefully made. Some rough feeds contain considerable fibre. With them it is necessary to feed succulent or oily feeds. For example, with oat straw, timothy or oat hay, roots or oil-cake should be fed. With clover, which is naturally laxative in effect, such a supplement is not needed. Exercise for the ewes, regularity in feeding, watering and salting, are factors that count in sheep-raising.

Rations for Ewes in Lamb.—A few rations that have been fed to ewes in lamb with good results follow. They are the daily feed per 100 pounds live weight:

1. Second crop clover hay alone, 3.5 to 3.7 pounds.
2. Corn fodder in which are nubbins, 3.7 pounds.
3. Second crop clover hay, 1.5 lbs.; corn fodder, 1 lb.; oats and corn, 3 lbs.
4. Second crop clover hay, 1.8 lbs.; roots, 1.5 lbs.; shelled corn, .3.
5. Second crop clover, 2.5 lbs.; barley, .55 lb.
6. Corn fodder, 2.6 lbs.; roots, 1.5 lbs.; oats and corn, .3 lb.
7. Oat hay, 1.5 lbs.; and .7 of a pound of grain composed of barley, 98 parts; flaxseed, 2 parts.
8. Oat straw, 2 lbs.; roots, 1.6 lbs., and .6 of a pound of grain composed of oats and bran, equal parts.

—D. A. Gaumnitz, University Farm.

The land-owner who plants no shade trees deprives himself of two sources of lifelong enjoyment. First, he misses the beauty which the growing tree imparts to his surroundings, and the comfort its shade may afford the dwellers in his farmstead, both human and four-footed. Second, he loses the exaltation of feeling that ever comes from the exercise of the altruism which plans for coming generations regardless of one's self.