

# UNIVERSITY FARM PRESS NEWS.

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## To Editors.

The University Farm Press News is 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 columns with short articles relating to 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.

Because of the importance, to farmers, of an early use of the suggestions contained in a number of articles from the State Entomologist, for the destruction of insect pests, the present issue is sent out a week in advance of the usual date.

## Naming the Farm.

To encourage the naming of the farms of its members, may well be part of the mission of the Farmers' Club. Why should everybody and everything, raised, fed and housed on the farm, have a distinctive name, and the farm itself have none? Once the farm has a name, its owner is stimulated to make for it also a reputation; so that the mere fact of its coming from that farm will be accepted as a guarantee of good quality for everything he offers for sale.

Furthermore, the giving of a name to the homestead increases one's attachment to the place, and gives it a sentimental value which is well worth considering. It makes the identification of the owner easier, where several personal names are confusingly similar; and it soon becomes as familiar to residents of the country around as that of the postoffice.

Local features should be considered in giving a name, lest it do not "fit." Such features, and possible historical episodes, may often suggest a combination of words or syllables which will make a name original and musical as well as appropriate. Meanwhile, the following list may be conned as pointing to the sort of name desirable:—

Airy Knoll,	Jacqueminot Lodge
Airy Hill,	Jerseyland,
Airy Mount,	Hazelnook,
Arrowdale,	Kenilworth,
Breezy Point,	The Knolls,
Bannetland,	Lyndale,
Branching Brook,	Lakeside,
Blover Crest,	Maple Grove,
Bloverdale,	Morning Glory,
Bedarcroft,	Northwood,
Beepdale,	North Star,
Baisy Meadow,	Oakland,
Beer Lodge,	Oaklawn,
Bairy Downs,	Overview,
Bagle View,	Plainview,
Bceelsior,	Pinehurst,
Borest Hill,	Rockwood,
Bountain Home,	Robin's Lane,
Bair Oaks,	Still Water,
Bendale,	Sunnyside,
Baceland,	Sunny Slope,
Brand View,	Willowdale,
Bope Station,	Willow Copse,
Blayercroft,	The Willows.

## Tent and Forest Caterpillars.

These two different species of hairy caterpillars are to be found on fruit and shade trees. If a grower is spraying his fruit trees faithfully with arsenate of lead in any shape, this of itself, will prevent injury from tent caterpillars, since any internal poison is fatal to them; or, the tents may be crushed with the gloved hand, when they can be reached, at a time when the caterpillars are inside; or, they can be burned by a torch on the end of a pole; or, they can be twisted out of their place by means of a wire brush made for the purpose attached to the end of a long pole. These remedies are effectual only when the caterpillars are on their tents, as said above, early in the morning, or in stormy, wet weather. Even on trees which are not ordinarily sprayed, a single spraying of arsenate of lead, when caterpillars are observed, would probably stop their depredations. Caterpillars sometimes gather in masses on the trunk of a tree, or on a large branch within reach. At such times large numbers can be killed by being crushed with a piece of wood, or scraped off to the ground, and then killed.

When full grown, these caterpillars spin cocoons, whitish or yellowish in color, from which emerge brownish moths that lay their eggs in a ring around the small twigs of fruit and shade trees. These eggs go through the winter, and frequently will observe a farmer or orchardist will observe them, and can prune off the twig holding the eggs, and destroy the same. —F. L. Washburn, Division of Entomology, University Farm.

## The White Grub in Lawns.

So far we have had no complaint, this season, of white grubs working in lawns, but we have seen and caught a large number of brown May beetles or June bugs, which lay eggs in the grass which produce the white grubs, so that, even if we do not have complaints this year, we are very likely to next summer. It takes two years or more for these white grubs to reach maturity from the egg. In the first season they are so very small that the effect of their work is not noticeable, but the second year after the egg is laid we are apt to receive dozens of complaints from citizens.

There are several ways of combating this injurious insect, which not only attacks lawns, but also the roots of strawberries and other plants, and this Division is earnestly seeking for even better means of control, if it is possible to obtain such. Copious watering of the lawn, where possible, will sometimes keep the grass ahead of the ravages of this grub. The robins, too, seek out and devour these, to them, delicious morsels. An entomological friend—a practical man—claims that he has got rid of them by putting tobacco stems thickly on affected parts of the lawn, allowing rain to leach them, as it were, and take the tobacco solution into the soil. Of course, water from a sprinkler, where possible to obtain, would take the place of rain in a rainless season. We have caught with lantern traps, this season, a large number of mature June beetles or "June bugs," and eggs have been laid after females were trapped; indicating that lantern traps are a very good thing, used early in the season, and may attract females before the period of egg-laying. At Lakewood Cemetery, Minneapolis, following our suggestion, they have used lantern traps made by placing lighted lanterns over tubs, and in each tub a little water covered with insecticide—which latter is deadly to all insect life—and caught hundreds of these brown beetles. Of course, the effect of this wholesale slaughter of the brown beetle would not be seen on the lawn the summer the lantern traps were used, for the grubs doing injury at that time came from eggs laid a year or so before. It is possible that some apparatus may be devised for piercing the grubs as they lie, an inch or so below the surface of the ground—some kind of "pounder," filled with spikes closely set together, might be used with success, where the sod has begun to show brown.—F. L. Washburn, Division of Entomology, University Farm.

## Clothes Moths.

Woolens and furs may be kept from injury during the summer months by enclosing the same in air-tight receptacles, preferably in a perfectly tight chest made for the purpose, and placing in a shallow dish on the top of the goods some bisulphide of carbon, at intervals of three weeks, two or three times during the summer. The odor of a cedar chest, and of moth balls, may be repulsive to the insects, but does not kill. It is usually unsafe to allow woolens or furs to remain undisturbed a long time in an ordinary trunk, since as a rule such trunks are not moth-proof. Some owners of furs place them with cold-storage firms in our cities during the summer season, since the pest cannot work in a temperature below forty degrees Fah. In our own home we use a galvanized iron chest, two feet square at the ends, and three and one-half feet long. Six hooks on the cover serve to hold it tight to the chest. A chest of this size takes four tablespoonfuls of bisulphide at an application, and is not opened for three or four days after the liquid is placed therein. No light should be brought near bisulphide of carbon, as the gas coming from the same is explosive.—F. L. Washburn, University Farm.

## Stalk-Borers in Flower Gardens.

These are the worms which make holes in the stems of lilies, dahlias, golden glow, peonies, etc., causing the stalks to fall over. They come originally from weeds, and the eggs are laid at the base of certain weed-stalks in the fall, and hatch the following spring. A garden adjoining a weedy, neglected lot is apt to be troubled.

Sticky tanglefoot of medium thickness, which can be bought easily in large quantities, applied over a space of three inches wide on the outside of the base-board of a fence, or a board barrier placed for the purpose, we have found to be an effective preventive, since the worms cannot cross the sticky band. This should be done early in June, and might call for more than one application, in order to keep the barrier sticky.—F. L. Washburn, Division of Entomology, University Farm.

## Marketing Eggs Through the Creamery.

The greater part of the eggs produced in this country have been, "since the year one," gathered and marketed in such a way as to make it impossible that the farmer should receive for them the price which consumers would willingly pay under a better system. Large as have been the contributions of the hen to the farm revenues, they might have been very much larger. And that business methods, such as will secure this larger revenue, are already being applied, is shown in the publication, by the United States Department of Agriculture, of "Farmers' Bulletin 445," in which is described the plan adopted, in several Minnesota communities, of "Marketing Eggs through the Creamery."

This description is preceded by a recital of present methods in the Middle West. The average farmer gathers his eggs at irregular intervals, and keeps them in the house, with little care as to the temperature of the room, until enough are collected to make it worth while to carry them to the village store. There they are mixed with similar lots, good, bad and indifferent, clean or dirty, large or small, from other farmers; and paid for, in trade, at a price which necessarily allows for a considerable loss by deterioration. They may be kept at the village store for two days or two weeks before they are sent to the city; and are eventually sold to consumers at a vast reduction from the figure they would have brought if all were known to be "strictly fresh."

Contrasted with this is the method of co-operative marketing through the creamery. The members of the association sign an agreement to gather their eggs twice a day; to deliver none more than eight days old, and only such as are of uniform size, casting out all that are too small or too large; to keep all eggs clean and in a cool, dry place until delivered at the creamery; to place white and brown eggs in separate cartons, and to mark the cartons with the color of the eggs therein; to stamp each egg on the side, and the carton on the top, with the mark of the association and the number of the producer; and to sell no eggs thus marked to any one else but the creamery company. The creamery company markets the eggs in the cities, for cash, and pays the farmer in cash. Consumers quickly discover the superior quality of the eggs, and willingly pay a far higher price for them than for even the choicest of the eggs, selected by "candling" or otherwise, from among those shipped in bulk by the country dealer to the city commission houses. The better price stimulates production, stimulates care in the selection of fowls; and the enforcement of a severe penalty against any member who places the stamp of the association on any but a perfect egg tones up the morals of the business. The adoption of the plan will "pay" in any community where there is a creamery or other convenient agency for handling the business of the co-operating farmers.—C. R. Barns, University Farm.

## Striped Cucumber Beetle and the True Squash Bug.

The first of these, a biting insect, and the second, a sucking insect, attack melons, cucumbers and squashes; and they are often confounded, both being called "squash-bugs." This is unfortunate, because they call for radically different treatment. We would suggest planting an excess of seed; for the first named insect, dusting plants with one pound of Paris green mixed with fifty pounds of lime or cheap flour. The beetle can be to a certain extent driven away by air-slaked lime alone, dusting it liberally on and about the plants in each hill. In the true squash-bug we would recommend hand-picking of bugs in the early morning, also hand-picking of the large yellow eggs. Destroy all vines after harvesting crop. Plants can be kept covered with light frames of cheese-cloth while small.—F. L. Washburn, University Farm.

The Holmburg law, passed by the Legislature of Minnesota at its last session, apparently places it within the power of every fairly well-populated township to maintain a graded school "as good as any in town." Such a school is created by consolidating a number of districts and uniting their resources for the support of one first-class school, which supersedes from one to four or more of the little one-room schools; children living at a distance being transported in special wagons to and from school. As an inducement to such consolidation, the Holmburg law provides State aid to the amount of from \$750 to \$1500 a year, in addition to the amount regularly apportioned from the state school fund. It also provides for a contribution from the State not exceeding \$1500 or one-fourth of the cost, toward the election of a consolidated school building.

## Spraying Dandelions.

From the large number of inquiries received at the Experiment Station regarding the eradication of dandelions, it is apparent that dandelions this year are more numerous than ever on our lawns.

For the past two years, iron sulphate has been used at the Minnesota Agricultural Experiment Station for the eradication of dandelions in lawns. Fairly good success has resulted from these experiments. Although spraying the dandelions does not by any means mean absolute destruction of this pest, it at least kills many of the flowering stalks, and keeps hundreds of dandelions from coming to seed. It also kills many of the younger plants. If one were to spray a lawn carefully once a month for an entire season, the results would possibly warrant the time and expense connected with the spraying. Sulphate of iron is a by-product in the manufacture of wire, and costs from one to two cents per pound. Sulphate, at the rate of 1½ pounds to 1 gallon of water, is the proper proportion to use on the lawns. The solution should be applied with a sprayer which gives a very fine, mist-like spray. This is possible only with a sprayer that has a pump attached so that considerable pressure can be obtained. Apply the solution about three days after the lawn is cut, on a day that is bright and warm. The grass will be somewhat blackened, but little damage results. Some of the white clover, owing to its broad leaf, is somewhat injured. The lawn should be sprayed about once a month. Care should be taken, when spraying, to keep the solution off of the cement walks, as it discolors them.

Prof. LeRoy Cady, of the Horticultural Division, advises that lawn grass seed be sown about two days after the lawn has been sprayed the first time. It has been found at the Experiment Station that the mixture which makes the best lawn-grass seed is made up of blue grass, white clover and red top, at the rate of 14 pounds of blue grass to 2 pounds each of red top and white clover. This seed should be sown broadcast and raked in. Besides this, nitrate of soda at the rate of 150 pounds to an acre should be scattered over the lawn. The nitrate of soda should be applied before a rain, or should be applied in the evening and the lawn sprinkled. The grass will burn if it is not wet after the nitrate of soda is applied. The object sought is to thicken up the grass and thus allow less chance for dandelions.—W. L. Oswald, University Farm.

## Plant Lice or Aphids.

They can be killed on golden glow, sweet peas, rose, buckthorn, plums, or any plant, by applications of soap solution. This is perfectly safe to use, and leaves no bad odor, and a few applications apparently are sufficient to rid a plant of its unpleasant parasite.

Dissolve a five-cent cake of Ivory soap in five or six gallons of hot water, and apply forcibly with a spray-pump when lukewarm. The insects must be hit with force. Occasionally bending over the twigs and immersing the affected leaves, shaking them back and forth in the liquid, is more effective than spraying. Directing a stream of water from a garden hose against plant-lice colonies is of some help, if the water strikes them with force. Spraying with "nicofume" liquid is also effective.—Division of Entomology, University Farm.

## The House Fly.

This fly, called "Typhoid Fly" on account of its being known as a carrier of typhoid germs, is one of the filthiest insects with which we have to contend. It also carries the germs of tuberculosis and other diseases, and is a menace to the health of the family. It breeds in fresh horse-manure and other filth, hence, when the stable is near the house, flies are apt to be more numerous. Use screens on the windows; resort to the use of sticky fly paper; keep garbage-pails and privy vaults securely closed; if possible, keep stable manure covered. Some farmer's wives hang sticky fly paper, sticky side out, on the outside of their screen doors, at the top; which, in warm weather, catches flies which gather there. Flies are attracted, and can be killed by the following solution: Place in a room two teaspoonfuls of formaldehyde (formalin) in a pint of water. Flies drink this and shortly die. This not only kills the fly, but serves to disinfect the spot after death. Intestinal discharge from patients suffering from typhoid, or any other fever, should be sterilized before being emptied into sewer or cesspool.

This Division of the Experiment Station can demonstrate at any time that flies carry infectious germs on their feet.—F. L. Washburn.

## Cutworms.

Cutworms have been very injurious this spring. Reports of their destructiveness have come in from various quarters.

This Division has found poisoned bait, made of bran mash, sweetened with cheap sugar, or molasses, and made decidedly green with a liberal application of Paris green, to be a very good remedy in a garden. A tablespoonful of this should be put at frequent intervals among the plants subject to attack, not, however, nearer than twelve inches to the plant; for, in case of rain, the Paris green might be washed against the roots, and would injure or kill the plant. Thorough cultivation is an aid. Pieces of shingle or board, placed at intervals over the garden, serve as traps under which the cutworms hide toward morning, and where they can be found and killed. Frequently the depredator will be found within an inch or so of the plant cut, buried an inch under the soil. Young plants, like cabbage, cauliflower, etc., when first set out in a small garden, should be protected by paper, or tin, or a barrier of some sort, which should extend into the ground an inch or so, and two or three inches above the surface. This can be removed when the plant becomes tough enough not to invite attacks from the cutworm. On large acreages, fall plowing and thorough cultivation is perhaps the most practical treatment.

Cutworms are always bad the next year after sod, since they normally live in such situations. Some farmers this year have reseeded their grain field with flax on account of the former being destroyed by cutworms.—F. L. Washburn, Division of Entomology, University Farm.

## The Green Cabbage-Worm.

Give children a few cents to make nets of mosquito bar and catch the white butterflies flitting over your cabbage and cauliflower fields, since the female moths deposit the eggs from which the cabbage-worm comes. Children might well be paid, also, for picking off the green worms before they have done much injury.

Spraying with Paris green is quite commonly practiced, and cabbage will stand a strong application. A market-gardener of our acquaintance uses a spray as strong as five pounds of Paris green in a fifty-gallon barrel of water. Cabbage may be sprayed up to within a week or so of being gathered, when necessary, without any damage whatever, or any danger.—Division of Entomology, University Farm.

The Faculty of the Crookston School of Agriculture has been increased to include men and women trained in every department of farm and home work. There is a person in charge of each of the following departments: Agriculture, Poultry, Dairying, Animal Husbandry, Farm Mechanics, Horticulture, Farm Accounts, Domestic Science and Art, and English. Beside these there are assistants in Farm Drawing and Cooking. The Farm Mechanics building is being enlarged in order to accommodate the increased enrollment and next year a large and well-equipped Agricultural Building will be constructed. Particular emphasis is laid upon the special farm problems of northwestern Minnesota. The graduates of the school are doing splendid work for themselves and for the communities in which they live. The new bulletin of the Crookston School of Agriculture gives a detailed outline of the work pursued. It will interest any farmer's son or daughter in Northwestern Minnesota desirous of getting a practical training. Send to the Superintendent, School of Agriculture, Crookston, Minnesota, for a copy.

The fall term of the Crookston School of Agriculture opens October 3, 1911. This will be the sixth year of its existence. It has grown from an enrollment of thirty in 1906 to 140 in 1911, with an additional 115 in attendance at first Short Course held last year. The school is located on the Northwest Experiment Farm, one and one-half miles north of Crookston, and has for its special problem the training of young men and women for the farmers of the Red River Valley. Thirty-four have already graduated. They are all on farms in Northwestern Minnesota carrying out the practical lessons received at the School. The new school bulletin is ready for mailing. Address the Superintendent, School of Agriculture, Crookston, Minnesota.

Let our farmers now take note of the superior results which follow the sowing of wheat on land which was for a season or two previously occupied by a cultivated crop. The wheat gets the benefit of that cultivation practically to the same extent as the preceding crop, in the diminution of weeds and of certain insect pests.